

## NCAA TOURNAMENT: UCLA 73, Gonzaga 71

## Memphis ends Bradley's run

BY JANIE MCCAULEY  
Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Rodney Carney counts on his first dunk of a game igniting his teammates' intensity.

He dunked all right, he jumped in the passing lanes on defense, and Carney kept top-seeded Memphis from becoming another victim of Bradley's surprising NCAA run.

Carney contributed on both ends of the floor Thursday, scoring 23 points and leading a stingy defense that gave Memphis an 80-64 victory and put the Tigers in the regional final for the first time since 1992 — back when Anfernee Hardaway was their star.

"That's what my dunks do," said Carney, who added three steals. "I spark the team with run-through dunks. It gives the team intensity. I want to dunk on 7-foot guys."

Darius Washington Jr. added 18 points and

Shawne Williams had 12 points, eight rebounds and four blocks as Memphis won the third round of the Oakland Regional for its seventh straight victory.

Carney raised his arms in the air in celebration after a two-handed jam midway through the second half, one of several emphatic dunks by the 6-foot-7 forward who was nearly unknown when he first arrived at Memphis. Now, he is one win from finishing his stellar collegiate career in his hometown of Indianapolis for the Final Four.

Coach John Calipari's young Tigers (33-3), an NIT team last season, advanced to Saturday's regional final against UCLA. The Tigers beat UCLA early this season.

"We really guarded. We rebounded in the second half, and my stars were stars — all three of them," Calipari said. "We're pretty good when that happens.... Your senior better do his thing, and he's doing it."

Patrick O'Bryant had 11 of his 14 rebounds in the

first half and only scored eight points for Bradley (22-11), which at No. 13 was the lowest seed still in the tournament. The Braves will return home to another hero's welcome after they turned the program into a household name and brought national attention to their town of Peoria, Ill.

"I think we put Bradley basketball back on the map," O'Bryant said.

The Braves had been the NCAA spoiler so far after beating Kansas and Pittsburgh to reach their first regional semifinal since 1955 when it was 24-team tournament, but they began the second half 4 for 16 and struggled to get open looks at the basket against speedy, aggressive Memphis.

The Tigers took Bradley right out of its preferred half-court offense.

"They wanted to run, and we run," Washington said. "That's Memphis basketball."

Bradley committed 14 first-half turnovers, then took better care of the ball after halftime but couldn't make shots.



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Memphis' Darius Washington Jr., reacts from the bench during the second half of his team's win.



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UCLA's tough defense surrounds Gonzaga junior Adam Morrison during Thursday night's first-half action at Oakland, Calif.

BLANCHETTE  
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doubt already cursed it among themselves as they did a year ago.

But, of course, they left so many teams cursing likewise this remarkable season.

"This team has been so incredible for digging games out, making the big shot, making that last stop," sighed Gonzaga coach Mark Few. "It finally caught up to us in the end."

Actually, it cascaded over them, leaving them stunned, vacant and beaten — 73-71 losers at the hands of UCLA in the Sweet 16 of the NCAA basketball tournament and victims of a brand of Bruins toughness of even a different sort that once took the school to 10 NCAA titles in 12 years.

And no one felt emptier than Morrison, whose college career almost certainly came to an end Thursday night, despite a 24-point performance marked again by one defining shot.

But this time, that shot came too early.

With the Bruins making their predictable charge early in the second half after being a mess for the first 20 minutes, Gonzaga's lead had been whittled to six points with about 15½ minutes to play.

Here Morrison rose up to take a 3-pointer from the right

wing and took a hard whack on the elbow from Afflalo — his fourth foul — yet still managed to bury the shot, along with the foul shot for a rare four-point play.

The lead was still 10 points with 5 minutes to play — but Gonzaga never made another point.

Three of Morrison's seven missed shots came in the last 3 minutes — all tough, all under duress, but shots he has made often as not this season.

"We had control of that game for most of the game," Morrison said. "It just happened in a blur, but that's the way the game works. If you don't execute down the stretch, you pay for it and we just had a few missteps. You have to take your hat off to UCLA."

"I hate losing, period. In anything. Especially basketball. So obviously, I'm going to let it hang out and that's what I did."

He was speaking of his face-down breakdown after teammate J.P. Batista's off-balance 16-footer to tie the game bounced hard off the glass at the buzzer.

But the tears had started to come even before that, when the Bruins came up with two quick steals in the last 12 seconds of the game and the last of a Gonzaga lead that had once reached 17 points completely disappeared.

One second the Zags were a

win from the Final Four, and the next they were one of the tragically disposed in which March Madness so cruelly traffics.

At that moment, Morrison — often derided as something less than the most sportsmanlike of competitors — got a full appreciation of graciousness, courtesy of Bruins Afflalo and Hollins.

"That's just a sign of a great program and great people," Morrison acknowledged.

"They had enough guts as a man, in their moment of victory, to pick someone up off the floor. If I could thank them, I would. That's more than basketball."

And so was UCLA's comeback.

The Bruins are not a gifted offensive team and Gonzaga — derided for its defense this week and nearly every week this season — managed to make them look less than ordinary in that first half.

UCLA was better at it after intermission, but mostly what the Bruins did was ratchet up their defense — holding the Bulldogs to 36 percent shooting, and zero percent when it counted.

And that's mostly a function of desire and will.

"We had the ball in the people's hands we wanted to have the ball in," Few said. "Adam had one where he drove down the lane and he makes

that thing 95 of 100 times. He's made it all year. That's why we're here. He had a step-back that I've seen him make 1,000 of those.

"We had Derek (Raivio) wide open in the corner once. Either of those three shots would have effectively ended the game."

The Zags will mourn this loss in much the same way they did the Texas Tech game in last year's tournament, which they lost with a poor performance at the free-throw line.

As he should, Few tried to "protect them a little bit in a vulnerable moment" — only to find that a fellow competitor, Afflalo, did it even better.

"I just felt for him a little bit," he said, recalling going to comfort Morrison. "He's a great player. There's really no reason for him — outside of the fact that he's a competitor and wanted to win, he has no reason to cry. He's a great player. He's going to have a great career."

"He should definitely keep his head up. I mean, that's hard to say, you know, when you won the game and your opponent lost. But I just really wanted to see him in a good mood."

Maybe later. But not for the Zags, not in this cruel month.

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## ZAGS

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disbelief at an unexplainable defeat.

The Bulldogs' Adam Morrison, after scoring a game-high 24 points in what was probably his final college game, collapsed to the floor in despair after teammate J.P. Batista's last-second desperation shot from the left wing failed to fall.

GU's late-game collapse sent the Bulldogs home with a 29-4 record, while the resilient Bruins (30-6) advanced to Saturday region championship against top-seeded Memphis.

"We just didn't quite finish that one off," Zags coach Mark Few said after watching his team blow a nine-point lead in the final 3½ minutes of the game. "But UCLA deserves a lot of credit down the stretch for just hanging in there."

"Obviously, we were pleased to get the win," said coach Ben Howland, whose Bruins trailed 42-29 at halftime.

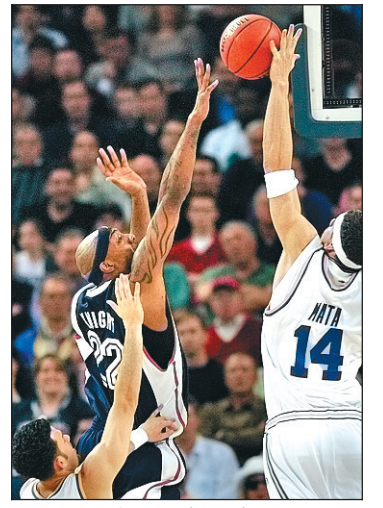
"That was a great finish for us and a testament to the character, the toughness, the heart of our players. I'm really, really proud of them."

The Bruins, who got 30 points from their sophomore backcourt tandem of Arron Afflalo and Jordan Farmer, trailed 71-64 with 3:27 remaining, but then held the Bulldogs scoreless the rest of the way.

They closed to within 71-70 on a pair of free throws by Ryan Hollins and came up with a huge backcourt steal on the GU's next possession.

The biggest play of the game played out when the Bruins' Cedric Bozeman stripped the ball from Batista. It was picked up by Farmer, who fed a high pass to Mbah a Moute for the go-ahead bucket.

Shortly after GU's ensuing inbounds pass, the Bulldogs' Derek Raivio had the ball tipped away near midcourt and Mbah a Moute made a diving attempt at a steal and ended up forcing a jump ball that gave UCLA another possession.



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Gonzaga's Erroll Knight has a first half shot blocked by UCLA's Lorenzo Mato, right.

The Zags, trailing 72-71, put Afflalo on the line immediately and he hit 1 of 2 free throws for the final margin.

GU tried a long inbounds pass to Batista, who made the catch in traffic but couldn't convert on an off-balance jumper from about 16 feet out.

"We had control of that game for most of the game," said Morrison, the nation's leading Division I scorer, who is expected to forgo his senior year at GU and declare for this summer's NBA Draft. "It just happened in a blur, but that's the way the game works."

"If you don't execute down the stretch, you pay for it."

The Bulldogs, who shot 57.7 percent in the first half, made only 9 of 25 shots after intermission and missed their last six of the game.

Still, they earned plenty of praise from Howland, once a graduate assistant at GU.

"We beat a great team today," he said. "As I said going into the game, that was the best team we've played all year, with the possible exception of our next opponent, Memphis (which beat the Bruins 88-80 early in the year)."

"Gonzaga is terrific. Adam Morrison is special. We feel very fortunate to have pulled out this victory."



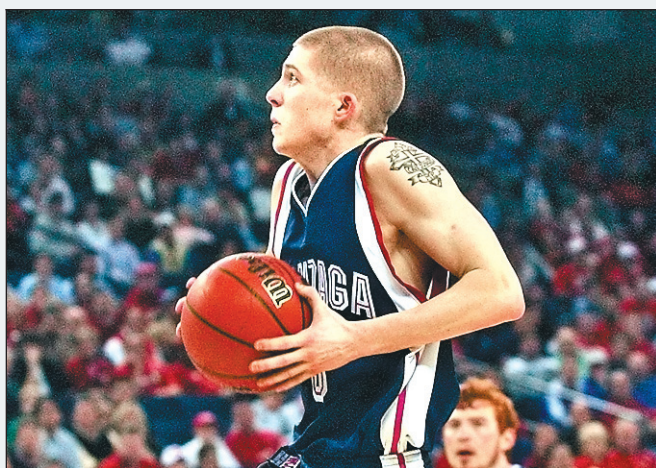
Associated Press  
UCLA's Ryan Hollins and Sean Mallon, right, struggle for rebound.

## First half

## Derek Raivio, Gonzaga

The Bulldogs point guard pushed the action from the start, creating scoring opportunities and putting in 10 points as the Zags led 42-29 at halftime. Raivio was 3 of 5 from the field, including 2 of 3 from beyond the 3-point line. His last 3-pointer closed the scoring for GU in the first half.

Raivio also played a key role in disrupting the UCLA offense. The Bruins hit just 7 of 27 shots from the field (25.9 percent). The Bruins did hit 13 of 15 free throws to keep the score respectable.



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## KEY PERFORMANCES



Associated Press

## Second half

## Luc Richard Mbah a Moute, UCLA

The 6-foot-7 freshman from Yaounde, Cameroon, scored the winning layup on an assist from Jordan Farmer with 10 seconds left. The basket, coming off a steal by Farmer, capped an 11-0 run to complete the comeback.

Mbah a Moute had just four points in the first half, but scored 10 in the second half, including six of the Bruins' last 11 points. After scoring the winning basket he raced down the court and stole the ball from Derek Raivio.