

Toreros advance

Former GU assistant Bill Grier coaches San Diego to upset over UConn.

NCAA ROUNDUPS, C3



SATURDAY
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THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

Braking for Irish

Cougs need to stall up-tempo Notre Dame

BY VINCE GRIPPI
Staff writer

DENVER – When Tony Bennett looks at tape of Notre Dame, Washington State's opponent today in an NCAA East Regional second-round game, the WSU men's basketball coach sees a team in transition.

Not one that is changing, but one that changes ends in a hurry. Not one singing a different tune, but one in rhythm on the offensive end.

Inside Notebook: Managers are unsung contributors/C4

"They are such a potent offensive team," Bennett said Friday after his team's practice at the Pepsi Center. "The way they run the floor they could have one of four or five guys that will grab the rebound and break out. "They really run the floor hard."

See **WSU, C4**



CHRISTOPHER ANDERSON The S-R
Kyle Weaver and the Cougars take on Notre Dame in second round.

Program can take another step by reaching Sweet 16

DENVER – And now it's time. College basketball has produced no more compelling fable these last couple of years than the rise of Washington State, which you could define as a painstaking overnight sensation.

It's certainly been a resurrection plotted in precise steps. The hiring of a proven program builder and his every-bit-as-capable son. The foundation of their first



JOHN BLANCHETTE

recruiting class. The hard lessons of on-the-job training. The severing of several chains of failure – losing streaks ended, long-time nemesis beaten. The return to the NCAA tournament and

See **BLANCHETTE, C4**



NCAA TOURNAMENT
WSU vs. Notre Dame, Today, 3:40 p.m., CBS.

TOURNEY REPLAY

East
Raleigh, N.C.
North Carolina 113, Mount St. Mary's 74
Arkansas 86, Indiana 72
Birmingham, Ala.
Tennessee 72, American 57
Butler 81, South Alabama 61
Oklahoma 72, St. Joseph's 64
Louisville 79, Boise State 61
Midwest
Raleigh, N.C.
Davidson 82, Gonzaga 76
Georgetown 66, Maryland Balt. Co. 47
Tampa, Fla.
Siena 83, Vanderbilt 62
Villanova 75, Clemson 69
South
Little Rock, Ark.
Miami 78, Saint Mary's 64
Texas 74, Austin Peay 54
Mississippi State 76, Oregon 69
Memphis 87, Texas-Arlington 63
West
Tampa, Fla.
Western Kentucky 101, Drake 99 (OT)
San Diego 70, Connecticut 69 (OT)



NCAA TOURNAMENT: DAVIDSON 82, GU 76

ON THE WEB: SPOKESMANREVIEW.COM/ZAGS

CURRY TOO HOT FOR ZAGS



DAN PELLE The Spokesman-Review

Bulldogs, from left, Josh Heytvelt, Micah Downs, and Jeremy Pargo converge on Davidson's Stephen Curry, but he burned Gonzaga for 40 points, 30 in the second half.

BLAND BULLDOGS LOSE LEAD DOWN STRETCH

BY JIM MEEHAN
Staff writer

RALEIGH, N.C. – It had been 39 years since Davidson won an NCAA men's basketball tournament game. It had been six seasons since anybody scored 40 points against Gonzaga.

Stephen Curry ended both streaks with a smooth, quick flick of his right wrist, shot after shot. The sophomore guard poured in 30 of his 40 points in the second half as 10th-seeded Davidson rallied past No. 7 Gonzaga 82-76 in a first-round NCAA tournament game Friday at the RBC Center.

Inside Curry more dangerous than he looks/C5

That bucket put the Wildcats (27-6) on the path to their 23rd straight win as Gonzaga missed two open 3-pointers in the closing minute. Davidson will face second-seeded Georgetown, which defeated Maryland-Baltimore County 66-47.

Curry ran defenders around myriad screens to get his share of open

shots, but he also made several over the outstretched arms of defenders seemingly in good position. It was the second time this season Curry reached 40 – the other a 41-point effort against North Carolina-Greensboro. Gonzaga hadn't yielded 40 since Washington State's Marcus Moore had 42 in GU's 110-104 overtime victory on Dec. 7, 2002.

"He made shots guarded, unguarded, every which way possible," Pargo said. "He made an 11-foot floater (left-handed) for an and-one. What can you say?"

See **GONZAGA, C5**



DAN PELLE The Spokesman-Review

Seniors Abdullahi Kuso, left, and David Pendergraft, right, ponder loss.

Chiefs wield power in Game 1

Four power-play goals in playoff opener

BY JESSICA BROWN
Staff writer

In eight regular-season games against the Everett Silvertips, the Spokane Chiefs scored four power-play goals in 45 attempts. After 60 minutes and eight power-play opportunities on Friday night, the Chiefs had equaled that number. Drayson Bowman scored

twice and goalie Dustin Tokarski turned aside 26 of 28 shots as Spokane powered past Everett for a 5-2 Western Hockey League playoff victory in the opening game of their first-round, best-of-7 Western Conference quarterfinal series at the Arena.

"Real good game," said Chiefs coach Bill Peters. "We got ourselves established in this series,

CHIEFS SILVERTIPS 5 2
Today: Everett at Spokane, 7 p.m.
Radio: 790-AM

head to head. A lot of positives come out of this 60-minute effort."

In front of a crowd of 4,732, the Chiefs set the tone early, capitalizing on three Everett

See **CHIEFS, C7**

Vandals hire longtime USU assistant

BY GREG LEE
Staff writer

Don Verlin withdrew his name from consideration for the University of Idaho men's basketball job the last time it was open.

Friday, Verlin, a longtime Utah State assistant coach, accepted an offer to become the Vandals' head coach. He replaces George Pfeifer, who was fired Tuesday after two seasons. The Vandals were 12-48



Verlin

under Pfeifer, including 8-21 this season.

"I am tremendously excited and am looking forward to building a winning basketball program," Verlin, 42, was quoted as saying in a news release from the school.

Athletic director Rob Spear returned to Moscow late

Thursday night from a whirlwind trip that saw him interview four candidates in a 24-hour span. Spear said in addition to interviewing Verlin, he also met with former San Diego coach Brad Holland and former Fresno State coach and current (NBA Development League) Idaho Stampede assistant Ray Lopes. Spear declined to identify the fourth candidate.

See **VANDALS, C7**