

BYU 89, GONZAGA 67



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Gonzaga's Demetri Goodson, right, grabs a loose ball in front of BYU's Jimmer Fredette, who scored 34 points to lead the Cougars to an 89-67 victory in Denver.

**GONZAGA**  
Continued from C3

sed his first 3-point attempt. Meanwhile, at the offensive end, Gonzaga pounded the ball inside – often to Elias Harris – and led 17-15 after Sam Dower's layup. Less than 10 seconds later, Fredette answered with the first of his seven 3s and BYU regained the lead. Another long Fredette 3 put BYU in front for good at 25-22. GU was within 40-36, but Fredette caught the ball on the wing and hit a fadeaway 3, helping the Cougars to a 45-38 edge at half. "As soon as Jimmer catches fire, everybody steps up," Harris said. "They were hot. They played great, to a man." Emery, who had been in a shooting slump in the six games since forward Brandon Davies was suspended for violating BYU's honor code, connected on three 3s and scored 16 points to go with four assists and three steals. Noah Hartsock, who played just 2 minutes after picking up two quick fouls in the first half, was 3 of 3 from distance and finished with 20 points. Stephen Rogers, scoreless in three of the last four games, had 10 points by intermission. "Jimmer is going to demand so much attention because of the

player he is," Emery said. "The most important thing is his supporting cast hitting shots. I thought the rest of the guys did a tremendous job of being aggressive tonight." The Bulldogs, riding a 10-game winning streak and a wave of late-season improvement, looked nothing like the team that manhandled St. John's on Thursday. GU put up 86 points against the Red Storm's zone. In the first half against BYU, Harris hit 6 of 8 shots for 14 points, but the rest of the Zags were just 7 of 25. The Bulldogs made 1 of 7 from beyond the arc, but they shared the ball (11 assists), piled up nine offensive rebounds and used their size advantage to the free-throw line (11 of 13). That didn't continue in the second half, but BYU's shooting exhibition did. Guards Goodson, Steven Gray and Marquise Carter, who struggled through a scoreless night, committed four turnovers – they didn't have one in the opening half – in the first 3:30 of the second half and BYU used an 11-2 run to build a 56-40 lead. "We didn't play as mentally dialed in as we had in the first half," Gray said. "Those three or four turnovers there, they were able to capitalize on." Gray scored five quick points to help Gonzaga trim the deficit to eight with 12:18 remaining.



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GU's Elias Harris (20) goes up strong against BYU's Noah Hartsock.

Emery's jumper started a 12-0 spurt, capped with 3s by Fredette and Hartsock, as BYU's lead grew to 75-58. "We played too soft and tentative," Harris said. "We weren't proactive. It wasn't good at all. They were hitting 3s like crazy and we just like surrendered,

gave up at the end of the game basically." Gonzaga relied heavily on its Big Three of Gray (18 points, seven assists), Harris (18 points, eight rebounds) and Robert Sacre (17 points, seven rebounds). BYU finished 14 of 28 on 3-pointers and 52.5 percent from

the field. The Cougars scored 20 points off Gonzaga's 15 turnovers.

"It definitely shocked me," Goodson said, referring to the vast improvement BYU showed after a 74-66 win over Wofford on Thursday. "If they shoot the ball like that, they're going to be tough to beat."

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GU	Min	FG	FT	Reb	O-T	A	PF	PTS
Sacre	28	5-9	7-9	2-7	1	3	17	
Carter	31	0-0	0-0	1-5	4	2	0	
Goodson	19	0-0	1-2	1-1	2	2	1	
Harris	28	8-12	2-2	2-8	0	2	18	
Gray	38	6-16	4-4	0-3	7	4	18	
Arop	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	
Stockton	18	0-3	0-0	0-2	4	2	0	
Olynik	10	2-3	1-2	0-2	0	0	5	
Monninghoff	8	0-0	0-0	0-1	0	2	0	
Keita	2	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	
Hart	3	0-1	0-0	1-1	0	0	0	
Dower	14	3-6	2-2	3-4	0	2	8	
<b>Totals</b>		<b>24-59</b>	<b>17-21</b>	<b>12-36</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>67</b>	

Percentages: FG 42.1, FT 81.0, 3-Point Goals: 2-9, 22.2 (Gray 2-5, Carter 0-1, Harris 0-1, Stockton 0-2). Team Rebounds: 2. Blocked Shots: 5 (Sacre 4, Harris). Turnovers: 15 (Sacre 5, Gray 3, Goodson 2, Harris 2, Dower, Carter). Steals: 4 (Gray, Harris, Goodson, Sacre).

BYU	Min	M-A	M-A	O-T	A	PF	PTS
Abou	26	3-7	2-2	0-4	1	3	8
Emery	37	6-11	1-2	0-3	4	3	16
Collinsworth	34	2-5	2-3	1-7	2	1	6
Fredette	39	11-23	5-5	0-2	6	0	34
Hartsock	20	5-5	0-0	1-5	2	3	13
Magnusson	13	0-1	0-0	0-1	1	0	0
Zylstra	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Martineau	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Anderson	18	1-2	0-0	0-0	1	4	2
Rogers	11	3-4	3-3	0-3	0	1	10
<b>Totals</b>		<b>51-99</b>	<b>13-15</b>	<b>4-27</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>89</b>

Percentages: FG 52.5, FT 86.7, 3-Point Goals: 14-28, 50.0 (Fredette 7-12, Hartsock 3-3, Emery 3-8, Rogers 1-2, Collinsworth 0-1, Abou 0-2). Team Rebounds: 4. Blocked Shots: 6 (Anderson 2, Collinsworth, Rogers, Abou, Hartsock). Turnovers: 8 (Fredette 3, Collinsworth 2, Abou 2, Magnusson). Steals: 10 (Emery 3, Collinsworth 3, Abou 2, Hartsock, Fredette).

Halftime—BYU 45-38, A—19,328.

**BLANCHETTE**  
Continued from C3

join the West Coast Conference, and when Jimmer Fredette, in all likelihood, joins the human race again. A senior, the phenomenal Fredette will not be back to strafe the Bulldogs the way he did Saturday – though, counterintuitively, his 34 points may have been the least damaging of all the wounds they sustained, many self-inflicted. Really, the Zags didn't get Jimmered. They got grimmered. Grim offense, grimmer defense. Grim ball-handling, grimmer resolve. "When you've been playing so good," said coach Mark Few, "you hate to end it when you play badly." Junior center Rob Sacre was a little more graphic. "I'm sick to my stomach," he said. "Those guys weren't that good." That posture comes across as a little ungracious toward the Cougars – a team that shot a wicked 53 percent, turned the ball over just eight times



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Gonzaga's Steven Gray dives for a loose ball against Brigham Young's James Anderson, left, and Logan Magnusson.

and never led by fewer than eight points the entire second half. But, yes, there was plenty of Gonzaga fail. For simplicity's sake, two central areas: In the first half, the Zags managed to get BYU forward Noah Hartsock to the bench with fouls for the last 18 minutes – yet with the perfectly ordinary relief of Logan Magnusson, James Anderson and especially Stephen Rogers the Cougars still built a 45-38 lead. Meanwhile, Gonzaga let Fredette's sidekick Jackson

Emery get off for 11 of his 16 points, though he'd missed 31 of his last 43 shots coming into the game. Then the Bulldogs' guards turned the ball over four times in the first 4 minutes after intermission – and the Cougars doubled the lead. "Against a soft zone and a soft man-to-man," Few sighed. "We took better care of it against a pressing and trapping defense the other night." Indeed, the steely, dominant Zags that pummeled St. John's in the round of 64 morphed

into the halting, tentative Zags of midseason. For the first time in weeks, the scoring load was left to the original Big Three – Sacre, Elias Harris and Steven Gray, who had 53 of the team's 67 points. Marquise Carter and David Stockton – two of the three difference-makers in the season turnaround – were difference-makers of a different kind, going scoreless. "I'm really disappointed in myself," Carter said. "This is a lesson to learn." And even when the Zags showed signs of siccum, there was always another Cougar to nail another 3. "As long as you're contesting, you think one of them has to miss," Gray said. "Just like offensive rebounding will break a team's back, when everyone else is knocking down shots it has the same effect." So what Few characterized as perhaps his most satisfying season concluded in the least satisfactory way possible – underachievement. Not because the Zags were point-spread darlings, but because they tripped over an

opportunity, and in ugly fashion. As always, it begs for perspective. "I wouldn't say we hit rock bottom." Few said of the winter struggles, "but did you think when we were 4-5 we'd be in any position to go to the Sweet 16?" As Gonzaga's only senior, Gray presided over the late-season surge and revealed in it, both ecstatic and relieved that the WCC and NCAA runs would not end on his watch. "Half the battle with us this season was getting guys to step up and play with confidence," he said. "With everyone returning, I think this new mentality will trickle down to the young guys and set us up for a good run the next few years." New mentality? "You're here for a reason," he said, "to come in and play with confidence and focus in on buying in on defense or whatever the coaches ask of you. Do your role, everyone does it and it makes the game easier." It's a good lesson to learn in December. Just not in March.

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