

SPORTS



Saturday's all right

David Estrada scores all the Sounders' goals in a 3-1 season-opening MLS victory over Toronto at CenturyLink Field in Seattle on Saturday night.

STORY, PAGE C10

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BUCKEYES 73, BULLDOGS 66
SPOKESMAN.COM/ZAGS

Just out of reach



CHRISTOPHER ANDERSON chrisa@spokesman.com

Guard Aaron Craft of Ohio State drives the lane and is fouled by Gonzaga's Guy Landry Edi. Craft was a key factor on offense and defense for the Buckeyes.

Zags fall to Buckeyes when late shots don't

By Jim Meehan
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PITTSBURGH - Gonzaga clawed back from a 10-point deficit to forge a tie and somehow had a Consol Energy Center crowd roaring despite a preponderance of Ohio State scarlet in the stands.

Robert Sacre waved his arms in the middle of the Bulldogs' zone defense, asking for more noise. The game was there for the taking, and momentum seemed to be on Gonzaga's side.

But it was the second-seeded Buckeyes who made the game-deciding shots and key free throws. No. 10 Gonzaga missed

five consecutive shots, including Kevin Pangos' 3-pointer that rattled in and out, and Ohio State escaped with a 73-66 third-round NCAA men's basketball tournament victory in front of 18,588 fans Saturday.

"That's what this tournament is all about, those big runs and making those late shots," said Bulldogs freshman guard Gary Bell Jr., sounding wise beyond his years. "When we tied it up I thought we were going to surge through, but it was a game of runs and Ohio State made the last one."

Elias Harris' 3-pointer completed Gonzaga's comeback from a 58-48 deficit, knotting the

score at 61. The Buckeyes used a pair of low-post buckets from sophomore forward Jared Sullinger, who had been unable to get untracked for most of the second half, and made 8 of 11 free throws in the last 3:35 to hold off the Bulldogs.

Sullinger connected on two 5-footers over taller defenders, and his pair of free throws with 33.5 seconds left gave Ohio State a 68-61 lead. At the other end, Harris missed a 3 and Pangos, who made his first shot attempt before missing 10 of his last 12, was off target on the next two possessions.

See **GU MEN, C8**



Associated Press

Gonzaga coach Mark Few yells to his team in the second half.

NCAA men Saturday's results

East Regional
Ohio State 73, Gonzaga 66
Syracuse 75, Kansas State 59
Wisconsin 60, Vanderbilt 57

South Regional
Kentucky 87, Iowa State 71
Baylor 80, Purdue 63
Indiana 63, VCU 61

West Regional
Marquette 62, Murray St. 53
Louisville 59, New Mexico 56

Today's TV lineup

9 a.m.	North Carolina St. vs. Georgetown	CBS
11:45 a.m.	St. Louis vs. Michigan St.	CBS
2:15 p.m.	Creighton vs. North Carolina	CBS
3:10 p.m.	Norfolk St. vs. Florida	TNT
4:10 p.m.	Ohio vs. South Florida	TBS
4:45 p.m.	Lehigh vs. Xavier	truTV
5:40 p.m.	Purdue vs. Kansas	TNT
6:40 p.m.	Cincinnati vs. Florida St.	TBS

Inside

● **Zags notebook:** Ohio State's role players come through for the Buckeyes in victory over Gonzaga/**C9**

● **Men's tournament** coverage, including a look at today's matchup between high school teammates Doug McDermott of Creighton and Harrison Barnes of North Carolina/**C7**

Even in losing, this team was GU at its best

JOHN BLANCHETTE



PITTSBURGH - In the walk-in closet at Consol Energy Center where the Gonzaga Bulldogs changed clothes Saturday, Robert Sacre sent off one wave of inquisitors and greeted the next.

"Here come the newspaper guys," he said, the fear in his voice reaching new heights of faux, "with the real hard questions - for people who read."

At just about that moment, teammate David Stockton diverted

Sacre's attention with small stuffed monkey held near his left ear, a leftover from a prank on freshman Gary Bell Jr.

"We took this and put in the corner of Gary's room," Sacre explained. "He thought it was a rat. Scared him."

And this, folks, was the losing locker room.

But there is losing and there is losing, a concept the Zags had been forced to swallow in their two previous NCAA basketball

tournament exits - painful drubbings at the hands of Syracuse and Brigham Young that exposed shortcomings and mimicked the finish of a \$5 Merlot.

Saturday? Not so much.

Yes, the Bulldogs fell again in the NCAA's round of 32, but the 73-66 loss to second-seeded Ohio State was as splendid a game the tournament has seen outside of a 15th-seed shocking the world and

See **BLANCHETTE, C8**

Cougs get set for spring football

New head coach Mike Leach and his staff have a lot to get accomplished when the Washington State Cougars begin spring football practices on Thursday. **Story, Page C5**



Vandals' season over after loss

The Idaho Vandals men's basketball season ends with a 76-56 loss to host Utah State in the CollegeInsider.com tournament. **Story, Page C5**



Chiefs down Americans 3-2

Spokane wins its regular-season finale. Now it prepares for playoffs. **Story, Page C5**

DesRoches an All-American

WRESTLING: Riverside High School graduate Ryan DesRoches, wrestling for Cal Poly at 174 pounds, lost his final match on a 3-1 decision but the senior still earned All-American honors by placing eighth at the NCAA championships in St. Louis.

DesRoches won his first two matches on Thursday. He lost his quarterfinal before going 1-1 in wrestlebacks on Friday to set up the match for seventh place on Saturday.

Penn State won its second straight NCAA wrestling tournament before the final round, and kept charging.

David Taylor, Ed Ruth and Frank Molinaro wrapped up unbeaten seasons with individual titles and two underdogs were runners-up for the Nittany Lions, who totaled 143 points for a 25 1/2-point cushion over Minnesota.

From wire reports

QB Froman comes up big in 4th as Shock clip Talons

SAN ANTONIO - A fourth-quarter comeback gave the Spokane Shock their first win of the 2012 Arena Football League season on Saturday night.

Quarterback Adam Froman accounted for two consecutive fourth-quarter touchdowns - one passing and one rushing - and Spokane held on to beat San Antonio 63-60 at the Alamodome.

Steven Black hauled in a 7-yard pass from Froman with 8 minutes left in the fourth quarter to give Spokane a 56-54 lead. On Spokane's next possession, Fro-

SHOCK 63
TALONS 60

March 30:
San Jose at Spokane, 5 p.m.

man sprinted in for a 36-yard touchdown to put the Shock ahead 63-54 with 2:28 left.

The Talons added a touchdown in the final minute.

Froman, playing in place of the injured Erik Meyer, completed 25 of 35 passes for 227 yards and six touchdowns. He also had 53 yards on the ground, including two scores.

Brandon Thompkins and See **SHOCK, C5**