

BUCKEYES 73, BULLDOGS 66: SPOKESMAN.COM/ZAGS



"That's what this tournament is all about, those big runs and making those late shots."

**Gary Bell Jr.**  
Gonzaga guard



"We weren't great, but man, we competed. We went toe-to-toe with a really good team."

**Mark Few**  
Gonzaga coach

**44**

Points that Ohio State guard Aaron Craft either scored or on which he assisted.

**17**

Points scored by Craft, his season high.

**37**

Percentage of 3-pointers made by the Buckeyes. They ranked last in the Big Ten at 19.5 percent.

**3:53**

The amount of time in the fourth quarter between Bulldogs' final two field goals, a drought that began after Elias Harris' 3-pointer with 4:05 left and ended with Gary Bell's 3 with 12 seconds remaining.

**18**

Points scored by Gonzaga's Bell, tying Buckeyes Jared Sullinger and Deshaun Thomas for game-high honors.

**10-0**

Margin that Gonzaga's bench outscored Ohio State's reserves.

**26-7**

Gonzaga's record for the 2011-12 season.

**@ On the Web:**  
Read more about the Bulldogs and view a photo gallery from the game at [spokesman.com/zags](http://spokesman.com/zags)

**Ohio St. 73, Gonzaga 66**

GU	Min	M-A	M-A	O-T	A	PF	PTS
Sacre	24	3-6	2-3	1-6	1	4	8
Pangos	34	3-13	2-2	1-1	1	1	10
Bell Jr.	36	5-9	5-6	1-4	5	2	18
Landry Edi	20	1-2	2-2	0-3	1	2	4
Harris	34	6-14	2-4	2-7	0	4	16
Carter	2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Stockton	14	0-2	1-2	0-1	5	1	1
Spangler	2	0-0	0-0	0-1	0	0	0
Monninghoff	1	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Hart	15	0-0	0-0	1-2	0	3	0
Dower	18	4-9	0-0	5-6	1	2	9
<b>Totals</b>		<b>22-56</b>	<b>14-19</b>	<b>13-34</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>66</b>

**Percentages:** FG .393, FT .737, 3-Point Goals: 8-23, .348 (Bell, Jr. 3-5, Harris 2-6, Pangos 2-8, Dower 1-1, Landry Edi 0-1, Stockton 0-1, Monninghoff 0-1). **Team Rebounds:** 3. **Blocked Shots:** 1 (Sacre). **Turnovers:** 9 (Dower 3, Pangos 2, Sacre 2, Harris, Bell, Jr.). **Steals:** 3 (Pangos 2, Hart).

OSU	Min	M-A	M-A	O-T	A	PF	PTS
Sullinger	26	5-9	6-7	1-4	0	3	18
Thomas	39	7-15	1-2	5-7	1	3	18
Craft	40	7-9	2-2	1-3	10	2	17
Smith Jr.	28	2-6	2-2	0-5	1	2	7
Buford	40	4-13	3-4	0-5	1	3	13
Scott	11	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	2	0
Thompson	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Williams	4	0-0	0-1	0-0	0	1	0
Ravenel	11	0-0	0-0	2-0	1	0	0
<b>Totals</b>		<b>25-53</b>	<b>14-18</b>	<b>9-31</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>73</b>

**Percentages:** FG .472, FT .778, 3-Point Goals: 9-24, .375 (Thomas 3-7, Sullinger 2-2, Buford 2-7, Craft 1-3, Smith, Jr. 1-4, Scott 0-1). **Team Rebounds:** 5. **Blocked Shots:** 4 (Thomas 2, Williams, Smith, Jr.). **Turnovers:** 11 (Ravenel 2, Smith, Jr. 2, Thomas 2, Craft 2, Scott, Sullinger, Buford). **Steals:** 6 (Craft 3, Scott, Sullinger, Buford).

Halftime—Ohio St. 39-37, A—18,588.



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Ohio State's Jared Sullinger, right, scores against Gonzaga's Robert Sacre during the final minutes of their NCAA tournament game.

# Gonzaga saw too many Buckeyes

Ohio State's other players step up when Bulldogs do decent job on Sullinger

**GONZAGA NOTEBOOK** | By Jim Meehan, staff writer

**P**ITTSBURGH – Gonzaga was satisfied with its defensive effort on Ohio State standout forward Jared Sullinger.

But the rest of the Buckeyes, particularly sophomore point guard Aaron Craft, sophomore forward Deshaun Thomas and senior guard William Buford, made timely contributions as Ohio State held off Gonzaga 73-66 Saturday at Consol Energy Center.

"They have a lot of weapons," Gonzaga coach Mark Few said. "We picked our poison. We wanted them to hit jump shots and cover down on the bigs. They did a great job stepping out and hitting them."

Sullinger made two early 3-pointers, the first requiring a favorable high bounce, but he sat out a good chunk of the half with two fouls. He was ineffective in the second half trying to power inside against 7-foot center Robert Sacre. Gonzaga went to a zone midway through the half and Sullinger continued to struggle to get good looks. With the game on the line, though, he scored six of his 18 points in the final 3:35.

"We made his job tough," Sacre said. "He made some tough shots." Craft did what he tends to do – play outstanding defense, run Ohio State's offense and feed open teammates. He also delivered 17 points, tying his season high and two short of his career best. Thomas had 10 points in a 2½-minute span, helping Ohio State take a 39-37 lead at half. He made back-to-back 3s, then went inside to follow his miss and connect on a tough 6-foot floater, despite Mike Hart being in pretty good defensive position on both plays.

"Those are frustrating because you think you do your job and he still gets a bucket on you or you don't finish with a box-out," Hart said.

Guard Gary Bell Jr. said Buford had perhaps the best midrange game Gonzaga has seen all season. Bell called Craft "a ballhawk who takes pride in his defense. Every time he was on me, he made it a little tougher for me."

GU's zone slowed down the Buckeyes' offense. Ohio State made just 3 of 11 3s in the second half.

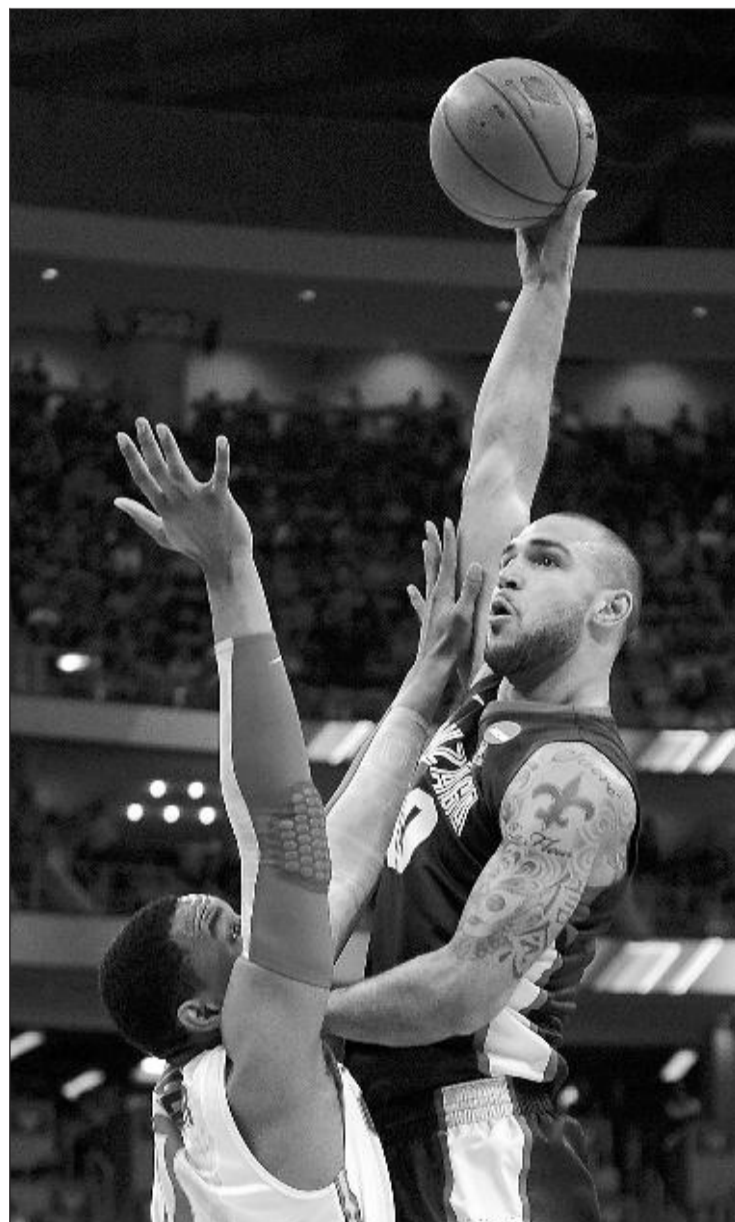
"As we were preparing, by our calculation they had played 6 percent zone all season. I actually said to (assistant coach) Chris Jent, 'Do we need to put in a clip for zone?' " coach Thad Matta said. "He said, 'No, they won't play zone.' Fortunately we talked about it and put it on the board before the game. Our guys weren't in shock."

**Senior sendoff**

The loss brought an end to the Gonzaga careers of seniors Sacre and Marquise Carter.

"Fun, just fun," Sacre said of his five seasons at Gonzaga. "It's been a great growing experience and sometimes growing pains, but I love this program dearly."

Junior forward Elias Harris said both will be missed.



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Gonzaga's Robert Sacre shoots a jump hook during the Bulldogs' loss to Ohio State on Saturday in Pittsburgh.

"Rob has been there for me since Day One. He's really a family member, a brother," Harris said. "Marquise had a huge impact last year, and even though this season didn't go the

way he wanted he was still positive every single day at practice. That shows how strong of a person he is. I consider them two of my closest friends."

**Notes**

Gonzaga wanted to force Ohio State to use its bench, but Craft and Buford logged 40 minutes and Thomas played 39. GU's bench outscored Ohio State's 10-0, led by **Sam Dower's** nine points. Dower also collected six rebounds, five offensive, in 18 minutes. "I didn't give a great effort rebounding (in Thursday's win), so I tried to go hard to the boards," he said. ... Harris said he'll take some time to decide whether he returns for his senior year or declares for the NBA draft. "I didn't think about it, I was focused on the season," he said. "I'll know more in a few weeks." ... Pangos on Craft's defense: "He's so active, quick feet, really quick hands. He pressures you to speed up a little bit. I actually didn't feel too bad throughout the game, but you could tell he was there."



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Gonzaga's Robert Sacre, left, and Gary Bell Jr. watch as Aaron Craft dives to try to save a loose ball.