



NCAA TOURNAMENT

Gonzaga 64, Southern 58



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The paint was packed all game as Gonzaga's Elias Harris, left, found out in battling Southern's Brandon Moore (32) and Malcolm Miller (33) for a rebound.

# Zags refuse to go south

## Bulldogs hold off Jaguars, avoid NCAA infamy

By Jim Meehan  
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SALT LAKE CITY - Down the stretch, Gonzaga coach Mark Few began treating it just like a road game.

The majority of the 14,176 inside EnergySolutions Arena had gravitated to underdog Southern University, sensing the possibility of a 16-seed knocking off a No. 1 for the first time in NCAA tournament history. They roared with every clutch Jaguars' play - a ridiculous fadeaway 3-pointer by Derick Beltran, a pair of game-tying free throws by Brandon Moore, another score-knotting jumper by Beltran.

Few hunkered down with his players during the last three timeouts.

"Hey, it's fine," he told them. "We've been in this (situation), where the whole place has kind of turned. I kept telling them, 'It doesn't matter. The



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Gonzaga head coach Mark Few huddles with team during timeout in second half.

crowd doesn't get a say in this, the officials don't get a say in this. Nobody gets a say in what happens next except us."

Kevin Pangos said plenty with a jumper and a step-back 3. Gary Bell, one of the team's quietest players, made some

noise with a 3-pointer off a Pangos assist. When Pangos made a pair of free throws with 14.3 seconds left, top-seeded Gonzaga had finally turned back the fearless Jaguars, 64-58, on Thursday.

See **GONZAGA, B15**

## Jaguars can have cheers, Zags will take the victory

SALT LAKE CITY - When a 16-seed finally does win one of these morality plays, it's going to be for all the 16s over the years that should have won.

UNC Asheville.  
Murray State.  
Princeton.  
Especially Princeton.

JOHN BLANCHETTE



And Southern? Maybe even Southern, too. Hard to conclude specifically from the details of Gonzaga's brush with Armageddon on Thursday that the Jaguars were more deserving, but it was obvious somebody found them more appealing.

"If I wasn't coaching on the other sideline," said the Bulldogs' Mark Few, "they would be a tough team not to root for, you know?"

A good thought that sounds even better when not filtered through regret.

Instead, the Zags - No. 1 in the polls, the seed line and every hater's burn list - endured and survived on behalf of all those No. 1s who found the weight of the distinction maybe a

See **BLANCHETTE, B15**

### Close calls

How men's No. 1 seeds (since the tournament expanded to 64 teams) have fared after winning their NCAA tournament opener by six or fewer points against their 16th-seeded opponents.

Year	First-round result	Finish
1985	Michigan 59, Farleigh Dickinson 55	Lost in round of 32
1989	Illinois 77, McNeese St. 71	Lost in Final Four
1989	Oklahoma 72, East Tennessee St. 71	Lost in Sweet 16
1989	Georgetown 50, Princeton 49	Lost in Elite Eight
1990	Michigan St. 75, Murray St. 71 (OT)	Lost in Sweet 16
1996	Purdue 73, Western Carolina 71	Lost in round of 32
2012	Gonzaga 64, Southern University 58	?



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Left: Gonzaga's Elias Harris has his shot blocked by Southern's Brandon Moore in the first half. Above: A subdued Bulldog basketball team leaves the court after beating 16-seed Southern 64-58.