



NCAA TOURNAMENT  
**Wichita St. 76, Gonzaga 70**



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Gonzaga's Kevin Pangos goes low on the block to battle Wichita State's Ron Baker for a rebound in the second half. Pangos didn't get the rebound. He scored 19 points.

# Long-distance toll

Flurry of Shocker 3-pointers costs Bulldogs deep tournament run

By Jim Meehan

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SALT LAKE CITY – Gonzaga had been at its best in crunch time all season. The Bulldogs had been outstanding defensively over the last half of the season, earning a label as the best defensive club in Gonzaga's 15-year run of national prominence.

But a season with so many milestones and so much post-season promise came to a screeching halt Saturday when ninth-seeded Wichita State buried a string of 3-pointers and the top-ranked and top-seeded Zags didn't have a response in the closing minutes.

The Shockers did just that, ending Gonzaga's season with a 76-70 victory in front of 16,060 at EnergySolutions Arena, leaving the Zags stunned and dismissed from the NCAA tournament for the fourth straight season in the round of 32.

"I lost it a little bit, just the instant reaction and realizing this was the finish," said senior Mike Hart, who exited with six points and 14 rebounds in perhaps the finest performance of his career. "That's the brutality of the NCAA tournament, how great it can be and how quickly it can all end."

The swing of momentum on the court was equally as swift. Gonzaga (32-3) dug out of a 13-point first-half hole – the largest it had faced this season – with a 12-0 run early in the second half that gave the Bulldogs a 49-41 lead.



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Bulldogs Elias Harris, Kelly Olynyk and Mike Hart walk off court as Cleanthony Early celebrates.



**Web extra:** For a large-format photo gallery from GU's defeat, visit [spokesman.com/picture-stories](http://spokesman.com/picture-stories)

The Shockers (28-8), who move into the Sweet 16 to face the winner of today's La Salle-Mississippi game, started dropping 3-pointers, but Gonzaga held them off initially. Kevin Pangos, after a slow start, made consecutive 3s and the Zags led 58-51 with 6:25 left.

It was all Wichita State from there. The Shockers scored on eight consecutive possessions – five 3-pointers, a drive into the lane, a midrange jumper and a pair of free throws – spanning nearly 7 minutes.

"Down the stretch it was more about, we just didn't get out on

those shooters. I don't know why," Gonzaga coach Mark Few said. "We were over helping a little and we got a little casual on (Cleanthony) Early a couple times. The ones by (Ron) Baker hurt us."

Early knocked down a 3 and Baker, a thorn in GU's side all game, followed with another. Carl Hall's jumper gave Wichita

See **GONZAGA, C15**

## 14-28

Wichita State's 3-point shots made and attempted during the Shockers' victory in Salt Lake City. Ron Baker and Cleanthony Early combined to hit 8 of 13 attempts from distance as the team made a season high 14 3s.

## 13

Wichita State's largest lead of the game, which came with 7 minutes left in the first half and the Shockers leading 26-13.

## 6:28

Time remaining in the second half when Gonzaga grabbed its largest lead of the game at 58-51. Wichita State countered with a 11-3 run over the next 2:58.

## 5

Times the No. 9 seed has reached the Sweet 16 since the NCAA tournament field expanded to 64 teams in 1985.

## 35.6

Shooting percentage for Gonzaga, which went 21 of 59 from the field (including 8 of 23 from behind the 3-point arc).

## 26

Points for Gonzaga junior big man Kelly Olynyk, who made 8 of 22 field-goal attempts and 10 of 14 at the free-throw line.

## 16,060

Announced attendance at Salt Lake City's EnergySolutions Arena for Saturday night's third-round matchup.

### Down goes AP No. 1 ...

Since the NCAA men's basketball tournament expanded to 64 teams in 1985 five teams ranked No. 1 by the Associated Press sports writers have lost in the round of 32 after Gonzaga's 76-70 defeat at the hands of Wichita State on Saturday night in Salt Lake City. No top-ranked team has lost in the Round of 64.

Year	No. 1 seed	Opponent
2013	Gonzaga	Wichita State
2010	Kansas	Northern Iowa
2004	Stanford	Alabama
1994	North Carolina	Boston College
1990	Oklahoma	North Carolina

## In biggest weekend, Zags don't bring A game

SALT LAKE CITY – So was life as No. 1 as much fun as everyone thought it was going to be?

Maybe this is the wrong day to ask.

The Great Gonzaga Proving is over. The backslashers' snark and outrage has been replaced with smug glee. The Bulldog People will fumble about to raise the ransom to buy back their hijacked hope.

Usually that only takes until the start of another season.

This funk may not be undone so quickly.

Nor, in all likelihood, will the impact this is bound to have on future NCAA brackets.

JOHN BLANCHETTE



Gobsmacked by a ridiculous 3-point show by Wichita State and losers of a 76-70 crusher in the round of 32 of the NCAA Basketball Tournament, the Bulldogs will spend the next few days fidgeting under an unwieldy yoke:

- Being "the greatest team in the history of basketball at our school," as pronounced by coach Mark Few, whose voice counts the most.
- Being the least fulfilled of them all at the final horn.

Such is the price of being No. 1, both in the polls and on the seed line – and both well-earned, regardless of the taunts coming from Schadenfreude

Nation and anyone who thinks of either as a handicapping tool.

Problem is, everything in college basketball must be re-earned in March. And the Bulldogs simply didn't.

They turned up here at EnergySolutions Arena with a B game, and maybe then only if you're grading on a curve. They were fortunate to muster their usual end-of-game steeliness to put away 16th-seeded Southern the other night.

And against one of those junkyard dog outfits that are inevitably more vicious than pedigreed opponents, the Zags played the most dangerous game. They absolutely failed to match Wichita's

See **BLANCHETTE, C15**



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Elias Harris couldn't create any space to operate in Salt Lake City.