



Snake-bit

Defending AFL champion Arizona scored 42 points in the second half as the Rattlers beat the Spokane Shock 68-49 in Phoenix.

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NCAA TOURNAMENT

ARIZONA 84, GONZAGA 61

Bulldogs make it easy for Wildcats

JOHN BLANCHETTE



Rebuilding year ends in blowout

SAN DIEGO – Once Kentucky, those gritty underdogs, siphoned off the day's 8-vs.-1 karma, there almost didn't seem to be a point to tee it up here Sunday evening.

But who'd have presumed that they drained the tank?

In an NCAA tournament happily spiced with charming upsets, Gonzaga's bid to join the party lasted just about as long as it took the Arizona Wildcats to scoop up a turnover and turn it into a layup.

Which the top-seeded Cats did on an endless loop in the defining moments of an 84-61 evisceration of the Bulldogs.

And so a fifth straight Zags season ends in that ho-hum-if-you-win-one-damned-if-you-don't-win-two tower prison they've been consigned to by their many admirers and critics, and by their own successes and short-outs.

Except that this is just as far as these Zags were ever going to go. Indeed, they probably bowed their ceiling just getting here.

This was emphatically driven home by the Wildcats, who undressed the Bulldogs of the ball, and various items of clothing, every third time down the floor, to the point where Gonzaga might want to rethink the agreement, beginning next year, to revive the schools' series in the winter months.

Then again, maybe the Zags made enough of the Wildcats look NBA-ready that some roster depletion could even things up.

"It was a highlight reel,"

See **BLANCHETTE, B5**



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Arizona's Aaron Gordon and Nick Johnson contest a shot by Sam Dower Jr., who scored just seven points.

Gonzaga can't overcome turnovers

By Jim Meehan
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SAN DIEGO – It began smoothly enough with post-up baskets by Przemek Karnowski and Sam Dower Jr. on Gonzaga's first two possessions.

But the mistakes came next and Gonzaga couldn't stem the flood of turnovers. Each one, a pass into traffic, a fumble on the perimeter, put Arizona into overdrive toward the other end of the court.

Gonzaga turnover, Arizona basket. It was the story of the first half and ultimately the game as the opportunistic Wildcats rolled to an 84-61 victory Sunday in front of 11,504 at Viejas Arena.

The eighth-seeded Bulldogs (29-7) were bounced out of the NCAA tournament for the fifth straight season in the round of 32. Top-seeded Arizona (32-4) advances to face No. 4 San Diego State in Anaheim on Thursday.

"We allowed them, in a lot of ways, to play so great and look so great with just a ridiculous amount of turnovers," coach Mark Few said. "One of the reasons we had 29 wins is we took care of the basketball."

"The other reason we had 29 wins is we're pretty smart with our shot selection, that's why we shoot a high percentage. We got a little sped up, we tried to do too many things early and we weren't very strong with the ball. They got out, dunked and ran like that, and offense becomes easy for them."

GU's last three run-ins with No. 1 seeds have resulted in Sunday's 23-point loss, an 87-65 loss to Syracuse in 2010, and a 99-78 setback to eventual national champion North Carolina in 2009.

The Bulldogs committed a season-high 21 turnovers – their previous high was 16 – leading to 31 Wildcats points. The Wildcats had one turnover in the first half and six for the game.

See **GU MEN, B5**

SWEET 16

South Regional: Thurs., at Memphis, Tenn.

Dayton vs. Stanford 4:15 p.m. (CBS)
UCLA vs. Florida 6:45 p.m. (CBS)

West Regional: Thurs., at Anaheim, Calif.

Baylor vs. Wisconsin 4:47 p.m. (TBS)
Arizona vs. San Diego St. 7:17 p.m. (TBS)

East Regional: Fri., at New York

Connecticut vs. Iowa St. 4:27 p.m. (TBS)
Michigan St. vs. Virginia 6:57 p.m. (TBS)

Midwest Regional: Fri., at Indianapolis

Tennessee vs. Michigan 4:15 p.m. (CBS)
Kentucky vs. Louisville 6:45 p.m. (CBS)



Web extra:

Browse staff photographer Dan Pelle's big-picture gallery from GU's game at spokesman.com/picture-stories

Dukes knock out Zags in first round

By Thomas Clouse

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COLLEGE STATION, Texas – After years of fighting to join the women's basketball elite, Gonzaga locked horns Sunday with a hungry James Madison program that beat the team it wants to become.

The 11th-seeded Dukes fended off a second-half GU rally and beat the sixth-seeded Bulldogs 72-63 to hand Gonzaga an early exit from the NCAA tournament.

"I just thought that they earned it tonight,"

See **GU WOMEN, B6**



TYLER TJOMSLAND tyler@spokesman.com

Zags starters watch from bench as seconds wind down in loss.

UI can't keep up with Louisville

By Luke Meredith

Associated Press

IOWA CITY, Iowa – When was asked to sum up her career at Idaho, senior Alyssa Charlston's first reaction was to cry.

Though Charlston and the Vandals fell well short on Sunday, they've got nothing to feel bad about following one of the school's best seasons.

Sara Hammond led five players in double figures with 16 points and third-seeded Louisville rolled past Idaho 88-42 in the opening round of

See **VANDALS, B6**

Chiefs lose to Royals in OT for second straight night

By Chris Derrick

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VICTORIA, B.C. – Their trip to the island was anything but paradise, but the Spokane Chiefs aren't ready to give up the ship.

For the second time in less than 24 hours, the Chiefs took the Victoria Royals to overtime

ROYALS 4
CHIEFS 3

Wednesday:
Game 3, Victoria
at Spokane,
7:05 p.m.

and came away empty-handed.

Logan Nelson did the damage Sunday night, scoring off a rebound 2 minutes

and 18 seconds into overtime to give the Royals a 4-3 win at Save-On-Foods Memorial

Centre and a 2-0 lead in the best-of-seven Western Hockey League first-round series. Travis Brown had the overtime winner Saturday night in a 2-1 Royals decision.

"At the end of the day, I think we competed hard," Chiefs coach Don Nachbaur said. "We did everything we could to win

these two games and came up short. There's no fault in that. We just have to put the two games behind us and look forward to the next game at home."

The series shifts to the Arena for Games 3 and 4 on Wednesday and Thursday nights. If Game 5 is necessary, the teams will board ferries for another Satur-

day night game on Vancouver Island.

"Every game is a lot of back and forth, a game of inches, right?" said Chiefs defenseman Jason Fram, who had two assists. "We know that if we can come that close, we have to give it that

See **CHIEFS, B3**