



M's cut back

Outfielders James Jones and Stefan Romero are among 11 players sent from the Mariners to their minor league camp.

MARINERS REPORT, PAGE C9

M.SPOKESMAN.COM/SPORTS BROWSE STORIES, PHOTOS AND BLOGS ON YOUR MOBILE DEVICE

Greinacher comes up big with 3-pointer

Gonzaga's Keani Albanez, left, is fouled by George Washington's Jonquel Jones in the first half. Albanez finished with 19 points.



DAN PELLE danp@spokesman.com

GU center, Albanez lead way in upset over GW

By Thomas Clouse
tomc@spokesman.com, (509) 459-5495

CORVALLIS, Ore. – With George Washington storming back within six points and the shot clock winding down Friday night, Gonzaga forward Sunny Greinacher didn't think. She let it fly.

The ball went through net with 3:15 left to play and the 3-pointer turned to be the game-winner as No. 11 seed Gonzaga upset No. 6 seed George Washington 82-69 in the first round of

the women's NCAA tournament. "I loved the way we battled," Zags coach Lisa Fortier said. "I'm very happy with our performance."

Gonzaga (25-7) now plays No. 3 seed and host Oregon State (27-4) at 4 p.m. Sunday in Gill Coliseum. The Beavers advanced after beating No. 14 seed South Dakota State 74-62 earlier Friday.

But on Friday night, two senior Bulldogs led the way. Greinacher and guard Keani Albanez both scored 19 points and the team held No. 19 George Washington (29-4) to its second-worst

shooting night of the season at 29.3 percent.

But no points were bigger than Greinacher's dagger of a 3-pointer, only the second one she's made all season.

BULLDOGS 82
COLONIALS 69
► Sunday: GU vs. Oregon State 4 p.m.
TV: ESPN2

"The reason I made that 3 was because I didn't think too much," Greinacher said. "I just knew the shot clock was winding down."

George Washington coach Jonathan Tsipisis knew that Greinacher was only 1 of 6 from the 3-point line coming into the game.

"That Greinacher 3 was huge."

See **GU WOMEN, C7**

BULLDOGS 86, BISON 76
SUNDAY: GONZAGA VS. IOWA, 4:10 P.M. TV: TBS

Zags stay course

Wiltjer, Pangos take over

By Jim Meehan
jim@spokesman.com, (208) 659-3791

SEATTLE – When the game got tight in the second half, probably tighter than it should have, Kyle Wiltjer got more animated. And more clutch. Same with Kevin Pangos.

The pair blunted several North Dakota State rallies with key buckets to help the second-seeded Bulldogs to an 86-76 NCAA tournament win Friday night in front of a pro-Zags crowd of 14,852 at KeyArena.

Wiltjer, who had 23 points and eight rebounds, and Pangos, who scored 15 of his 18 points in the second half, did most of the heavy lifting after the Bison (23-10) strung together an improbable comeback behind 6-foot-6, 240-pound reserve forward Dexter Werner's career-high 22 points.

"I just told the guys, 'We are not losing this game, we've come too far, we've worked too hard,'" Wiltjer said. "To be able to fight through the adversity was good for our first game."

Gonzaga (33-2) broke the school record for single-season wins and earned a date with No. 7 seed Iowa (22-11) at 4:10 Sunday in the round of 32.



COLIN MULVANY colinm@spokesman.com

See **GU MEN, C4**

Gonzaga guard Kevin Pangos, right, and North Dakota State guard Paul Miller chase a loose ball in the second half.

Zags wouldn't mind taking Werner along

SEATTLE – Never mind shortening the shot clock or moving the charge circle out a foot. The next rule tweak in the NCAA tournament should be the barnstormers' special, allowing the winners to pick up a player from the losing team for the rest of their run.

In fact, why not start now? Give the Gonzaga Bulldogs one Dexter Werner, and take your next mortgage

JOHN BLANCHETTE



payment to put on the Zags in Vegas.

It's worth a sigh and a smile now, the Bulldogs having escaped the spunk of North Dakota State in their tourney opener at KeyArena, 86-76 – not the 2-over-15-seed crushing deemed mandatory by both nervous loyalists and disdainful critics, but all the rules require.

But at the time, the Dexter Werner

Experience was an amusement park ride with no lap bar.

He was, in fact, a flashback nightmare. He was Wichita State's 3-point shooters, he was Arizona's piranha guards, he was Jimmer and Steph and Rip and all those smooth Zag killers who've sent the Bulldogs back to Spokane short of their dreams for the past 17 years.

Except that in his next life, Dex is coming back as, oh, a dump truck.

See **BLANCHETTE, C4**



Associated Press

Kyle Wiltjer shoots over Dexter Werner.



Web extra: Browse a large-format photo gallery from the second-seeded Gonzaga men's second-round victory over No. 15 seed North Dakota State, as well as archived galleries, online at www.spokesman.com/picture-stories

Gropp scores four goals in T-Birds' win over Chiefs

With regular season winding down, both teams await where they will open playoffs

By Chris Derrick
chrisd@spokesman.com, (509) 459-5502

You wouldn't know it by Friday night's lopsided 7-2 score – which came courtesy of Ryan Gropp's four goals – but the victorious Seattle Thunderbirds and vanquished Spokane Chiefs are in the same boat.

Both teams are waiting to see if they'll open the Western Hockey League playoffs next weekend against

T-BIRDS 7
CHIEFS 2

► Tonight: Spokane at Tri-City, 7:05 TV: SWX Radio: 1510-AM

the Everett Silvertips or the Portland Winterhawks. Spokane will play whichever team wins the U.S. Division and Seattle will meet the runner-up. After Friday's results, in which Everett won and Portland lost, Everett (92 points) holds a narrow lead over Portland (90) with two games left.

Spokane (34-32-3-1, 72 points), the Western Conference's No. 7 seed, will open at the No. 2 seed, the U.S. champion. Seattle (37-25-4-5, 83), third place in the division, will start against the division's No. 2.

"With the new (playoff) formatting this year, it's obviously different, but I kind of like it," said Gropp, who scored three times in the third period to boost his club-leading total to 28.

"It's going to be good, intense

matchups for both of us."

Spokane will open the playoffs on Friday if it's at Everett and next Saturday if it's at Portland.

Seattle could help hand the divisional title to Everett by defeating Portland tonight at home. Spokane plays at Tri-City tonight and closes the regular season at home Sunday against Everett.

See **CHIEFS, C10**