



Now for playoffs

Chiefs end regular season with a 5-4 loss to their upcoming playoff opponent, the Everett Silvertips, as many stars take the night off.

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NCAA TOURNAMENTS

MEN: GU 87, IOWA 68 WOMEN: GU 76, OREGON ST. 64

Twice as sweet

GU women heading home to play

Bulldogs upset third-seeded Beavers

By Thomas Clouse
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CORVALLIS, Ore. – Gonzaga pulled off its biggest upset of the year on basketball's biggest stage Sunday and the Bulldogs are now dancing home to Spokane to play in the Sweet 16.

Facing Ruth Hamblin, Oregon State's dominating center from Canada, the No. 11 seed Bulldogs turned to their own Canadian post player, Emma Wolfram, who scored a career-high 17 points and led Gonzaga to a 76-64 NCAA tournament victory over the third-seeded Beavers.

With the victory comes Gonzaga's opportunity to play in front of its own fans at the Spokane Regional on Saturday.

"We played a really good team in a hostile environment," coach Lisa Fortier said. "I'm so excited and happy for our team."

Gonzaga (26-7), which has won more NCAA tournament games as a double-digit seed than any team in history, upset No. 6 seed George Washington 82-69 on Friday to advance to play the host Beavers (27-5), who won the Pac-12 regular-season crown.

With OSU's home crowd roaring in opposition, the Zags fell behind early, rallied and led by as many as 12 points in the second half until Oregon State staged a furious rally. Oregon State's Jamie Weisner, of Clarkston, completed the comeback when she hit a 3-pointer with 3:32 remaining to tie the game at 64.

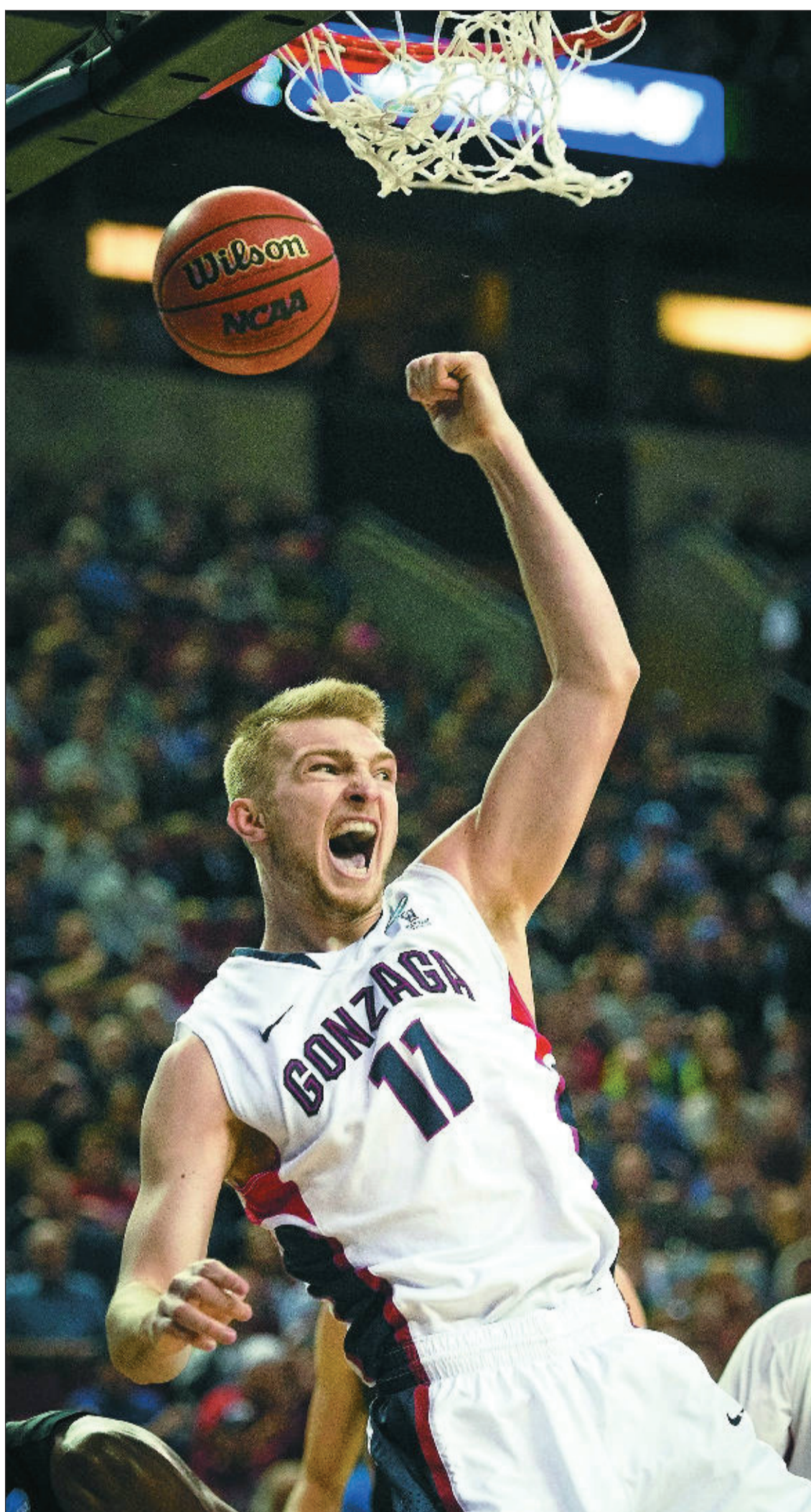
But Sunny Greinacher, who also hit the game-winner at the same point in the game on Friday, calmly nailed a jumper with 3:09 to play that started a 12-0 Gonzaga run to end the game.

A few plays later, senior guard Keani Albanez dribbled and

See **GU WOMEN, B5**



Zags' Elle Tinkle gets a victory kiss from her father, OSU men's coach Wayne Tinkle.



Gonzaga forward Domantas Sabonis is fired up after a slam dunk in the first half.

Zag men dominate Hawkeyes

By Jim Meehan
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SEATTLE – It was all on display.

The inside power of Przemek Karnowski and Domantas Sabonis. The perimeter accuracy of Gary Bell Jr. and Kevin Pangos. Kyle Wiltjer's deft shooting touch and inside-outside versatility.

Making the extra pass. Making Iowa miserable.

Second-seeded Gonzaga put on an offensive clinic in the first half – most of the game, really – and put the seventh-seeded Hawkeyes

away in the second for a convincing 87-68 NCAA tournament win Sunday at KeyArena.

The Zags (34-2) left no doubt in sealing their first

trip to the Sweet 16 since 2009. They'll face 11th-seeded UCLA at 4:15 PDT Friday in Houston. Gonzaga defeated the Bruins 87-74 at Pauley Pavilion on Dec. 13.

"I tweeted after this one. I had to," said Bell, an infrequent tweeter. "That felt great. Three years of winning one (NCAA tournament) game and going home after the second, we finally got the two (wins). We're going to enjoy it and then get ready for Friday."

The Zags were ready from the tip against the Hawkeyes, who fielded the tallest starting lineup Gonzaga has encountered this season. It turned out to be a mismatch as Sabonis, Karnowski and Wiltjer combined to make 20 of 28 shots, score 51 points and pull down 20 rebounds.

Wiltjer did most of his damage with four 3-pointers and mid-range jumpers, but he also contributed to GU's 40 paint points and a 34-22 rebounding edge.

The 7-foot-1 Karnowski chipped in four of Gonzaga's 20 assists, one a no-look feed to Bell for 3-pointer that hiked GU's lead to 46-29 at half.

"I wasn't working on it," said Karnowski, smiling, "I just saw it and I was happy he caught it and finished it."

The guards won their match-up, too. Pangos, with four 3-pointers that barely ruffled the net,

See **GU MEN, B7**

Web extra:
View staff photographer Colin Mulvany's photos from Sunday's game: spokesman.com/picture-stories

NCAA women

Sunday's results

Spokane

Gonzaga 76

Oregon St. 64

Duke 64

Miss. St. 56

Okla. City

Notre Dame 79

DePaul 67

Baylor 73

Arkansas 44

Iowa 88

Miami 70

Albany

Dayton 99

Kentucky 94

Texas 73

California 70

Greensboro

S. Carolina 97

Syracuse 68

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• Women's tournament coverage/**B5**

Online

Find all our NCAA men's and women's tournament content online at www.spokesman.com

This was no flippant occasion for Zags

JOHN BLANCHETTE



SEATTLE – You could see it when their eyes locked – Gary Bell Jr., Kyle Dranginis and Kevin Pangos – in the final 90 seconds, and broad smiles instantly creased each of their faces.

You could see it in the hugs coach Mark Few laid on Pangos and Kyle Wiltjer, which surely left bruises if not vertebrae damage.

You could see it, well, you could see it posted online in a video of a raucous postgame celebration behind closed doors. You could see it in Eric McClellan's backflip – and the encore, something approximating a handstand by the giddy, silly coach.

Mark Few. Doing handstands. Really. The only bigger break in character would be if he headed to the fishing hole with a Folgers can full of nightcrawlers.

Gonzaga's 87-68 romp over Iowa at KeyArena on Sunday in the NCAA tournament wasn't the biggest basketball victory in Gonzaga history.



Kevin Pangos, right, hugs teammate Przemek Karnowski after leaving court.

But it quite obviously removed the biggest weight.

For now the Zags are on their way to Houston and a date against UCLA on Friday – their sixth such trip to the NCAA's Sweet 16, but the first

breakthrough to the tournament's second weekend in six years.

Like any of them needed reminding. "If anybody said they weren't tired (of hearing about it), they'd be lying to you," said Bell. "I know I had a chip on my shoulder because I'd never been to the Sweet 16."

To outsiders, the joy might have seemed a shade over the top – there is yet another weekend to play before the tournament's ultimate destination, after all. But when you've been Hoop America's punching bag even while winning 27, 29, even 32 games in a season, surely a few whoops are in order.

"This is the best feeling I've had in my life," said Dranginis, "so far."

Timely caveat, Kyle. For Few, the exhilaration was in the Bell-Dranginis-Pangos recruiting class, with Przemek Karnowski who arrived a year later, experiencing what other Zags have tasted.

"They're so worthy and so deserving," Few said, "and I wanted them to have this. Everybody was kind of banging on them that it was the one thing in their careers they hadn't done."

And they even did a little more. For in none of the school's previous round-of-32 wins did the Bulldogs come out and dominate a legit opponent – and if not step on their

See **BLANCHETTE, B7**

NCAA men

Sunday's results

East

Louisville 66

N. Iowa 53

Oklahoma 72

Dayton 66

Michigan St. 60

Virginia 54

West

Wisconsin 72

Oregon 65

South

Duke 68

San Diego St. 49

Gonzaga 87

Iowa 68

Midwest

West Virginia 69

Maryland 59

Wichita St. 78

Kansas 65

Inside

• Wiltjer eats up win; Iowa's challenges

turned away/**B7**

• Sweet 16 bracket plus capsules and game stories

from Sunday's action/**B6**