



Olson in good spot

Spokane's Tyler Olson appears to have lead for a job in Mariners' bullpen after reliever David Rollins was suspended 80 games by MLB on Friday.

STORY, PAGE B2

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BULLDOGS 74, BRUINS 62
SUNDAY: GONZAGA VS. DUKE, 2:05 P.M. TV: CBS

Party like it's 1999

Gonzaga grinds into Elite Eight

By Jim Meehan
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HOUSTON – Gonzaga assistant coach Tommy Lloyd was visiting with Domantas Sabonis in the locker room, reflecting on Przemek Karnowski's two behind-the-back passes.

"Those were right out your dad's book," said Lloyd, referring to Sabonis' father, Arvydas, a tremendous passing big man.

Karnowski's passing and low-post work and GU's trademark balance transformed a tight game into one of the biggest wins in school history, a 74-62 victory over 11th-seeded UCLA on Friday that propelled the Zags into the Elite Eight for the second time, joining the 1999 team.

"It's the greatest," coach Mark Few said. "It means we get to hang out again for another two days. As close as this team is, that is the absolute strongest motivating factor."

Second-seeded Gonzaga (35-2) will meet top-seeded Duke (32-4) Sunday at 2:05 PDT with a spot in the Final Four on the line. Duke defeated No. 5 Utah 63-57.

The Zags, who lead the nation in field-goal percentage, have won many games behind a fluid offense, including an 87-74 victory over UCLA on Dec. 13. That wasn't the case inside cavernous NRG Stadium, where both teams struggled from the perimeter.

Gonzaga made just 40 percent of its shots, including 3 of 19 3-pointers, but still put up 74 points by pounding the ball inside and cleaning up on the offensive glass.

Gonzaga's defense bot-



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Gonzaga guard Byron Wesley gets a shot through the defense of UCLA center Thomas Welsh.

JOHN BLANCHETTE



With Shem, Houston, Bruins no problem

HOUSTON – The jokes about NRG Stadium were reaching roast temperature even before tipoff. How it was a four-dirigible garage. How the Uecker seats were in the next area code. How those black curtains hanging beyond the baskets were actually funeral shrouds for shooters.

Gonzaga assistant coach Tommy Lloyd tried to cut the place down to size with the standby "Hoosiers" reference.

"The rims are still 10 feet," he said. "We put one of the walk-ons on Przemek's shoulders with a tape measure."

And then the rest of the team climbed on Przemek Karnowski's shoulders, too.

The genial 7-foot-1 giant from Poland has never stood so tall as he did in the 74-62 victory Friday over UCLA in the NCAA South region semifinals that sent the Bulldogs into a giddy group embrace and territory originally mapped 16 years ago but revisited only now.

The Elite Eight. "Ever since I've been here, people have talked about that (1999) team," said guard Kevin Pangos. "Well, now if people ask about the Elite Eight team, it's like, 'Which one?' So that's kind of cool."

Kind of cool? Well, yeah. Like a behind-the-back Karnowski bounce pass assist for a teammate's bucket is kind of cool.

Now two of those passes – and a Final Four trip? That would be way cool.

To get there, the Bulldogs will have to get past an old nemesis – Duke – on Sunday at 2:05

See **BLANCHETTE, C5**

See **GU MEN, C5**

Blue Devils win

Justise Winslow and Tyus Jones combine to score 36 points as Duke outlasts Utah to earn Elite Eight berth against Gonzaga men on Sunday.

Story, page C4

Bruins-Zags Notes

Neither team shot the ball well in the first half, but while the Zags warmed up in the second half the Bruins stayed cold.

Story, page C5

Sweet 16 roundup

Michigan State comes back in second half to beat Oklahoma 62-58 and earn date with Louisville, which also rallied late to beat N.C. State 75-65.

Stories, page C4



Web extra: Browse a large format photo gallery from Gonzaga's 74-62 Sweet 16 victory over UCLA and you can also keep up with staff photographer Colin Mulvany's ongoing GU men's coverage at www.spokesman.com/picture-stories

SPOKANE REGIONAL

Tough task for GU and its fans

Zags have home crowd against iconic Tennessee

By Thomas Clouse
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For Spokane, March doesn't get much madder than this.

The No. 11 seeded Gonzaga women's basketball team fought its way into the Sweet 16 and earned a chance to play in front of thousands of its fans today at the Spokane Arena.

But to advance to the Elite Eight, the Zags take must take down one of the iconic programs in all of women's basketball: No. 2 seed Tennessee (29-5).



TYLER TJOMSLAND tylert@spokesman.com

Gonzaga's Elle Tinkle, smiling, looks forward to a partisan Arena crowd.

"Believe it or not ... we don't approach any game any differently than any other," Gonzaga coach Lisa Fortier said. The players "probably have a little bit of extra energy and adrenaline just because we are in the Sweet 16 and we are playing a team that they know a lot about."

Last week, the Zags beat No. 6 seed George Washington and then took

down host and No. 3 seed Oregon State in front of 5,071 fans wearing mostly orange and black.

Now, most of the fans will be cheering for Gonzaga (26-7), junior guard Elle Tinkle said.

"They definitely are momentum builders, for sure," she said of the

See **GU WOMEN, C3**

Chiefs fall apart in third

Everett storms to Game 1 win

By Chris Derrick
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EVERETT – The third period had barely started Friday night when Carson Stadnyk made it known that he wasn't going to stand for the Spokane Chiefs' 1-0 lead.

Stadnyk scored 17 seconds into the final period and added two goals during the next 3:46 as the Everett Silvertips drew first blood in their best-of-7 Western Hockey League first-round series against the Chiefs with a 5-1 victory at Xfinity Arena. Stadnyk's second and third goals came unassisted at 1:34 and 4:03.

"They took it to us in the first 40 minutes," Stadnyk said. "When we came into the (locker) room (at the second-period intermission), we had a big talk about it. The last 20, we should be playing the whole game like that, not just 20 minutes."

Ivan Nikolishin added a pair of third-

See **CHIEFS, C7**

TIPS	5
CHIEFS	1
Tonight:	
Spokane at Everett, 7:05	