



Hanging in there

The prospects for former University HS and Gonzaga pitcher Tyler Olson to nail a Mariners roster spot appear good after team's latest cuts.

BASEBALL NOTEBOOK, PAGE B3

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SOUTH REGIONAL FINAL

DUKE 66, GONZAGA 52

Final Four just out of reach



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Gonzaga's Domantas Sabonis reaches for loose ball during the first half of Sunday's Elite Eight game in Houston. Sabonis scored seven of his nine points in the half

Blue Devils finish on 13-1 game-ending run

By Jim Meehan
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HOUSTON - Gonzaga's Road to the Final Four hit a detour with four-plus minutes left.

The Zags' offense, so dependable all season but inconsistent during several costly stretches against Duke, stacked up empty possessions. Duke did what Duke has done so often in big NCAA tournament games, delivering at both ends of the floor.

FINAL FOUR

Saturday: Michigan State vs. Duke, 3 p.m. Followed by Wisconsin vs. Kentucky **TV:** TBS **Inside:** GU seniors already missed/**BS**

The top-seeded Blue Devils executed in crunch time and pulled away for a 66-52 Elite Eight victory in front of 20,744 Sunday at NRG Stadium, ending Gonzaga's record-setting season.

The second-seeded Zags (35-3) didn't reach the No. 1 ranking of the 2013 team but they set a school record for wins and matched the 1999 team by reaching the Elite Eight.

"It's really tough when you have all the confidence in the world that we belong in the Final Four," junior forward Kyle Wiltjer said. "We just weren't able to get there. That's the tough thing about sports, someone has to lose."

Duke (33-4) will face Michigan State in the Final Four in Indianapolis. It's the Blue Devils' 12th Final Four under coach Mike Krzyzewski.

See **GONZAGA, B6**



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GU guard Gary Bell Jr., foreground, makes a pass as Duke forward Justise Winslow defends. Bell had five points.

Indianapolis was in view until final four minutes

HOUSTON - So what will be harder to turn loose - the most successful basketball season in Gonzaga history or the unhappy coda?

The deflating missed layup. The open 3 that caromed away. The meager 14 points in the last 16 minutes. The turnover blues and the stops that weren't.

The blue bloods celebrating another maddening triumph of pedigree.

The Gonzaga Bulldogs applauding their entourage - sadly, sincerely - before heading home short of reaching Shangri-La.

If there seemed to be fewer wet eyes and catches in the throat in the Zags' locker room after Duke's 66-52 victory Sunday in the NCAA South Regional championship game than after some of the program's previous crushing ends, it wasn't because they'd been fulfilled just by getting this far.

Maybe it's because they'd seen what was possible in a way many other Gonzaga teams hadn't.

"You could feel it," said forward Kyle Wiltjer. "We were right there."

And then they were so far away.

Without a field goal in the final 6 1/2 minutes, the Zags let a two-point tension-fest turn into the anticlimax of the four Elite Eight games. And

JOHN BLANCHETTE



See **BLANCHETTE, B5**

Terps, Lady Vols face off in regional final

Final Four berth on line at the Spokane Arena

By Thomas Clouse
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The battle tonight in Spokane to reach the Final Four pits two teams that have been on a collision course ever since

Maryland upset Tennessee last year in the Sweet 16.

While the roles are reversed, somewhat, with the Terrapins as the No. 1 seed and the Lady Vols as the No. 2, the game promises to deliver fireworks.

"I thought that (the Gonza-

INSIDE Final Four: South Carolina, Notre Dame advance to national semifinals/**B6** **Angie Bjorklund** left her mark at Tennessee/**B6**

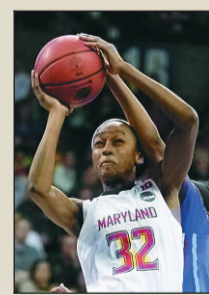
tremendous team. So I think that it will come down to both teams, their battle of wills."

Maryland (33-2) dispatched No. 4 seed Duke 65-55 on Sa-

turday and then Frese watched as Tennessee (30-5) marched back from 17 points down to beat Gonzaga 73-69 in overtime to qualify for the regional final.

"It was a phenomenal game. Your heart goes out to Gonzaga," Frese said. "But ... Tennessee went out and won that

See **WOMEN, B6**



Associated Press
Maryland's Shatori Walker-Kimbrough

Spokane Regional final

Tennessee Lady Vols vs. **Maryland Terrapins**
6 p.m. at the Arena
TV: ESPN

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