



### It's tipoff time

Melo Trimble and Maryland get to play one of four games in Spokane today. Read game previews and players to watch. **STORIES, PAGES B6-7**

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**NCAA MEN'S TOURNAMENT**  
SAT.: GONZAGA VS. UTAH, 5:40 P.M. TV: TNT

**52**

# Bulldogs flex their muscles



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Gonzaga's Kyle Wiltjer celebrates a call that went the Zags' way as Seton Hall's Michael Nzei looks on during NCAA tournament first-round action Thursday.

## Gonzaga's experience too much for Seton Hall; Utah up next

By Jim Meehan  
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DENVER – An upset by seed but certainly not by how the game played out.

No. 11 Gonzaga dominated most of the way, shut down Seton Hall standout guard Isaiah Whitehead and powered to a 68-52 first-round victory in front of 19,500 Thursday at the Pepsi Center.

The Zags (27-7) looked very much like a team that has done this before, and for good reason. They've made 18 straight NCAA tournament trips and they've won their opening-round game in the last eight.

Gonzaga will meet third-seeded Utah (27-8) on Saturday.

Sixth-seeded Seton Hall (25-9), which starts five sophomores and has only one player who has played in the tourney, hadn't been to the NCAA tournament in a decade and showed its inexperience. Head coach Kevin Willard picked up a technical foul for protesting a no-call in the second half. Whitehead was tagged with a Flagrant 1 foul in the first half.

It has become a familiar formula for the Zags over the last few weeks of the season, when they had to fight to just get into the tournament. Domantas Sabonis, battling a flu bug, posted his 21st double-double with 21 points and 16 rebounds.

Kyle Wiltjer, limited to 12 first-half minutes due to two fouls, added 13 points and seven rebounds. The guard line continued its strong play as starters Eric

See **GONZAGA, B4**



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Gonzaga's Silas Melson, left, battles Seton Hall's Isaiah Whitehead for the ball during first-half action on Thursday in Denver the first half at the Pepsi Center in Denver.



**Web extra:** Browse Gonzaga Bulldogs men's team photo galleries from staff photojournalist Dan Pelle's stay in Denver for the NCAAs online at [www.spokesman.com/picture-stories](http://www.spokesman.com/picture-stories)

WNIT | Jim Allen, jima@spokesman.com, (509) 459-5437

## Zags women play on

### Nilles' injury dampens Gonzaga's WNIT win

The game went on Thursday night, just the way Shaniqua Nilles wanted.

As the injured Gonzaga senior was being wheeled out of the McCarthy Center on a gurney, Nilles played her hands as if to say, "Play on."

And so the Bulldogs did, taking an 88-54 win over UC Riverside in the first round of the Women's NIT. The reward is an-

**BULLDOGS 88**  
**H-LANDERS 54**  
► Monday: Utah or Montana State at Gonzaga, TBA

Nobody was thinking that far ahead late in the third quarter, when Nilles took an elbow to the jaw from the Highlanders' Michelle Curry. Nilles collapsed to the floor and lay motionless for about 10 minutes as the crowd sat silently and coach Lisa Fortier

See **GU WOMEN, B5**



COLIN MULVANY The S-R

Gonzaga celebrates its 88-54 win over UC Riverside.

AT THE ARENA | Thomas Clouse, tomc@spokesman.com

## Oregon won't overlook 16th-seeded Holy Cross

Playing for the first time as a No. 1 seed in the NCAA tournament, Oregon will try to preserve the history of no upsets by the top seed Friday against a Holy Cross team that has made a recent run of pulling off upsets.

Oregon (28-6) takes on a 16th-seeded Crusaders team (15-19) that had to go on the road three times to win the

Patriot League tournament title and defeated Southern 59-55 in a First Four game on Wednesday.

"Our guys definitely won't underestimate anybody," Oregon coach Dana Altman said. "I'm a little more concerned about them being a little tight. We just got to relax and play."

See **OREGON, B5**

**COMING UP**  
► Today: Oregon vs. Holy Cross, 4:27 p.m.  
TV: truTV