

SPORTS



Penn in hand

Washington Huskies junior Kelsey Plum scores 24 points during NCAA tournament-opening victory over Penn.
WOMEN'S NCAA ROUNDUP, C11

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MEN'S NCAA TOURNAMENT

FRIDAY: GONZAGA VS. MIDDLE TENN. OR SYRACUSE, TBA



59

Showstoppers



DAN PELLE danp@spokesman.com

Eric McClellan, right, had perhaps his best game with the Gonzaga Bulldogs, attacking Utah's defense for 22 points Saturday in Denver.

Zags return to Sweet 16

By Jim Meehan

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DENVER – HBO probably should have stuck around a little longer.

Their series, "Gonzaga: The March to Madness" ended after the Zags, needing to win the WCC tournament title to secure the program's 18th straight NCAA tournament trip, rolled to the championship in Las Vegas.

Seems the Zags were just getting

warmed up. Two days after roughing up Big East Conference tourney champion Seton Hall, Gonzaga crushed Pac-12 runner-up Utah 82-59 in front of 19,551 Saturday at the Pepsi Center.

The 11th-seeded Zags (28-7) marched into the Sweet 16 and a Friday date in Chicago against the winner of Sunday's No. 15 Middle Tennessee-No. 10 Syracuse contest. This

See **BULLDOGS, C7**

JOHN BLANCHETTE



On the Web
Slideshow of GU's victory over Utah in second round at Denver, online at spokesman.com

March goes out like lion

DENVER – It has long been Mark Few's contention that March matters too much in college basketball. Too much hubbub about the destination, not enough about the winter's journey. The emotional Everest over the admirable grind.

This might be the year, however, he allows for an exception to that strongly held precept.

Because there isn't a team in the NCAA tournament playing better than his Gonzaga Bulldogs at the moment, and the collective will it's taken to get them to this point is a remarkable, exhilarating thing.

See **BLANCHETTE, C6**

Uptempo battle in second round

By Thomas Clouse

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Get ready for an up-and-down, NCAA tournament runaway grass fire decided by the battle of the wings.

Unlike the first-round matchup against the undersized Holy Cross, No. 1 seed Oregon faces a St. Joseph's squad on Sunday that has seven players

See **OREGON, C5**



COLIN MULVANY The S-R
Saint Joseph's Isaiah Miles rises in first round.

Chiefs fall to Americans, on to playoffs

KENNEWICK – Nolan Yaremko's third-period tiebreaker helped the Tri-City Americans beat the Spokane Chiefs 5-3 at the Toyota Center in the Western Hockey League regular-season finale for both teams.

Mackenze Stewart added an empty-netter with 1:32 to play.

The Chiefs finished the season fourth in the U.S. Division with the second wildcard spot. They face No. 1 seed Victoria in the first round of the WHL playoffs,

starting on Friday in Victoria, B.C. Game 2 of the seven-game set is Saturday in Victoria, while Games 3 and 4 are at the Arena on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Tri-City failed to qualify for the playoffs.

Tri-City's Brandon Carlo scored just 56 seconds in. The Americans made it 2-0 a couple of minutes later as Morgan Geekie beat Lasse Petersen (23 saves).

The Chiefs' Jacob Cardiff halved the deficit with his ninth of the year, and early in the second Jason Fram tied it with his 12th.

Tri-City's Parker Bowles made it 3-2 with his 39th of the campaign.

Just two seconds before end of the second, Markson Bechtold evened it at 3 on a power play goal, assisted by Kailer Yamamoto and Presten Kopeck.

AMERICANS 5
CHIEFS 3
► Friday: Spokane at Victoria, Game 1

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