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 remarkable, exhilarating thing.

JOHN BLANCHETTE
March goes out like lion

See BLANCHETTE, C6

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

Zags return to Sweet 16
By Jim Meekan
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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.

See BULLDOGS, C7

Uptempo battle in second round
By Thomas Clouse
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Get ready for a up-and-down, NCAA tournament tournament fire decider by the hands 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 exceeding 6 feet tall.

Saint Joseph’s Isaiah Miles rises in first round.

By Colin Mulvany
The S-R

Saint Joseph’s Isaiah Miles rises in first round.

KENNEWICK – Nolan Yar-remko’s third-period tiebreaker helped the Tri-City Americans best the Spokane Chiefs in the Western Hockey League regular-season finale for both teams. MacKenzie Stewart added an empty-netter with 1:32 to play.

The Chiefs 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 season.

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

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