MEN'S NCAA TOURNAMENT
MIDWEST REGIONAL SEMIFINAL IN CHICAGO

Diamond days
Area high school baseball teams are in the swing, including a Ferris group that has rallied around assistant coach Danny Higgins.

By Jim Meckan
jmeckan@spokesman.com (509) 459-5500

CHICAGO - The loss was still too raw to talk freely with Kyle Wiltjer on Friday. Several minutes later, he would praise his teammates and express his pride in Gonzaga’s improbable run to the Sweet 16.

But in the moment, the thought of being denied a second consecutive trip to the Elite Eight was all he could think about.

“Not a second thought,” Wiltjer said. “This was a winnable game and we lost. We should have won the game.”

The Zags had ample opportunities to do that, but they couldn’t keep Syracuse off the boards (six offensive boards in the final 2:18), they gave up the ball (five turnovers in the final 5:18), and ultimately the game, 63-60, in front of 21,490 on Friday at the United Center.

The 11th-seeded Zags let a 57-48 lead slip through their fingers in the final 6:20. No. 10 Syracuse closed the game on a 15-3 run to end GU’s season.

By Brian Drewry
Special to The Spokesman-Review

Chicago meltdown

Gonzaga passed every ordeal until final six minutes

CHICAGO - So Gonzaga’s off-season begins much as this basketball season did, in a rush.

But then, this was the season the Bulldogs passed every ordeal until final six minutes.

Making their first Elite Eight appearance in 18 years, the Zags passed the test.

By John Blanchette
jblanchette@spokesman.com (509) 659-3791

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(509) 459-5500; fax (509) 744-5655; email sports@spokesman.com

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JOHN BLANCHETTE

Gonzaga's Eric McClellan and Josh Perkins console each other in the locker room after falling to Syracuse in the Sweet 16 at United Center in Chicago.

Domantas Sabonis is mugged by Syracuse defenders Tyler Roberson (21) and Tyler Lydon (20) in the second half of Zags' 63-60 loss at the United Center.

Gonzaga’s star players guide Game 1 win over Spokane

CHICAGO — The stars were out in Victoria on Friday night, and not just in the sky.

The Victoria Royals’ top guns provided the offense as the Western Hockey League’s regular-season champions disposed of the Spokane Chiefs 5-3 in Game 1 of their best-of-seven opening-round playoff series.

Tyler Soy, fresh off being named the WHL’s player of the week last week, scored two goals and Royals captain Joe Hicketts, the recently named WHL’s top defence man, scored once and added two assists as the Royals skated to victory in front of 6,211 fans at Save-on-Foods Memorial Centre.

“Without a question, their top players were really impactful in the game, more so than our top guys, and credit to them because I thought it was a pretty even game up until our power play in the second when we didn’t do anything,” Chiefs head coach Don Nachbaur said after watching his team go 1 for 4 with the man advantage.

By Brian Drewry
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But in the moment, the thought of being denied a second consecutive trip to the Elite Eight was all he could think about.

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