



Diamond days

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

STORIES, PAGE B8

M.SPOKESMAN.COM/SPORTS

BROWSE STORIES, PHOTOS AND BLOGS ON YOUR MOBILE DEVICE

63 **S** **MEN'S NCAA TOURNAMENT** **60**
MIDWEST REGIONAL SEMIFINAL IN CHICAGO

CHI-TOWN MELTDOWN

Orange outscore Zags 15-3 down stretch to secure Elite Eight spot



DAN PELLE danp@spokesman.com

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.

By Jim Meehan

jimm@spokesman.com, (208) 659-3791

CHICAGO – The loss was still way too fresh in Kyle Wiltjer's mind. 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.

"We let this one slip," 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.

See GONZAGA, B5



DAN PELLE danp@spokesman.com

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

Gonzaga passed every ordeal until final six minutes

CHICAGO – So much as this basketball season did, in a cocoon of intrigue.

Or doesn't anyone remember all the mystery about how Mark Few was going to get Przemek Karnowski, Domantas Sabonis and Kyle Wiltjer on the floor at the same time?

Such a quaint notion. Does that seem like 18 years ago or what?

But then, this was the season the Bulldogs

JOHN BLANCHETTE



See BLANCHETTE, B5

Royals' star players guide Game 1 win over Spokane

Chiefs struggle with power-play chances

By Brian Drewry
Special to The Spokesman-Review

VICTORIA, B.C. – 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

ROYALS 5
CHIEFS 3

► **Tonight:** Spokane at Victoria, 7:05
Radio: 1510-AM

week last week, scored two goals and Royals captain Joe Hicketts, the recently named Western Conference

nominee for the WHL's top defenseman award, 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 plays late 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.

The Chiefs' power play had a chance to swing the momentum in the second period when Royals de-

See CHIEFS, B7

Contact the Sports department: (509) 459-5500; fax (509) 744-5655; email sports@spokesman.com

CLAM STORM
April 5, 6 & 7
The **SWINGING DOORS**
W. 1018 Francis • (509) 326-6794

WINE & DINE
7
SPOKANE7.COM

Buckhorn Inn
Airway Heights Longest Running Restaurant
Family Dining, Kids Menu & More
Friday & Saturday
Come join us for Karaoke with DJ Rich!
Buy Breakfast, Lunch or Dinner at Reg. Price & Get 2nd **FREE!**
Up to \$10.00 OFF with this ad with purchase of 2 beverages
Exp. 4/15/16
244-3991 • On Hwy 2 in Airway Heights