

# SPORTS

WEDNESDAY, March 7, 2018

# ZAGS HIT JACKPOT



COLIN MULVANY/THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW  
Gonzaga's Laura Stockton, left, and Jessie Loera kiss the West Coast Conference Tournament trophy after defeating San Diego on Tuesday.

What happens in Vegas, happens again in Vegas: Gonzaga's men, women dominate, clinching NCAA Tournament berths



DAN PELLE/THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

Gonzaga forward Killian Tillie cuts the nets after the Zags defeated BYU in the WCC Tournament championship game Tuesday night at the Orleans Arena in Las Vegas.

## BULLDOGS BLOW BY BYU

By Jim Meehan  
THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

LAS VEGAS – It was one highlight play after another on an endless loop. Slick passes, 3-pointers that barely ruffled the net, suffocating defense, steals, smart passes, run-out layups.

More 3s. More steals. More of everything.

Gonzaga put a run on BYU that lasted from late in the first half to

**BULLDOGS 74**  
**COUGARS 54**

**Sunday:** NCAA selection show, 3 p.m., TBS

nearly the midpoint of the second. When it was over, the Zags led by 32 points and a crowd of 8,030 mostly outfitted in Gonzaga gear was on its feet in appreciation inside the Orleans Arena.

The sixth-ranked Zags blasted

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COLIN MULVANY/THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

Forward Jeremy Jones, left, and guard Silas Melson celebrate Gonzaga's 74-54 victory over BYU.

### GONZAGA WOMEN

## BARTA POWERS GONZAGA PAST SAN DIEGO

Jill Barta and the Gonzaga women are repeat West Coast Conference champions.

The conference Player of the Year scored inside, outside and at the free-throw line, pouring in 32 points and leading the top-seeded Bulldogs past sixth-seeded San Diego 79-71 in the championship game of the WCC Tournament at Orleans Arena.

Gonzaga won the conference title in 2017 and now has eight WCC championships. The Bulldogs secured an automatic bid to the NCAA Women's Tournament by winning their fourth title in six years.

Barta was also named the tournament's Most Outstanding Player.

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## Sixth straight WCC crown just as sweet



**JOHN BLANCHETTE**  
SPOKESMAN COLUMNIST

LAS VEGAS – The last sliver of confetti had settled on the floor at Orleans Arena and the net had been scissored into souvenirs, so the Gonzaga Bulldogs drifted away toward their locker room, champions again.

Who knows? Maybe champions forever. Then Silas Melson doubled back, remembering one last to-do.

Liberating the trophy. The gold ball had been left on the presentation platform, where it became the centerpiece of a hundred fan selfies while the team took turns on the ladder.

A senior's job. For a unprecedented sixth straight year, the Bulldogs carted off the hardware as champions of the West Coast Conference basketball tournament, the crowning achievement an unmerciful 74-54

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DAN PELLE/THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

Gonzaga coach Mark Few thanks Silas Melson.