

Kansas gets shots, runs off to finals

By Arnie Stapleton
AP Sports Writer

MADISON, Wis. — Even Dick Bennett, the master of the slowdown offense, enjoyed watching the Kansas Jayhawks.

The former Wisconsin coach had a front-row view of Kansas' 104-86 rout of the Oregon Ducks in the Midwest Regional final Sunday.

He was one of the few local fans who cheered as Kansas coach Roy Williams cut down the nets, which were probably still sizzling after the Jayhawks' record point production at the 5-year-old Kohl Center.

Williams raised the ire of Wisconsin fans last season when he said after a high-scoring game, "Don't you like this better than 19-17?" — a reference to the halftime score at the Badgers' Final Four game in 2000.

Many Wisconsin fans felt that was an attack on the Badgers' physical style of play under Bennett, who retired 16 months ago.

"We buried the hatchet a long time ago," Bennett said Sunday. "I love the way Roy's team plays. This is high-level stuff."

Drew Gooden and Nick Collison each had double-doubles early in the second half as the Jayhawks (33-3) reached their third Final Four under Williams, but their first as a top seed in five tries during his coaching tenure.

Kansas controlled the fast, end-to-end action and dominated the boards, outrebounding second-seeded Oregon 63-34. Indeed, Gooden and Collison outrebounded the Ducks all by themselves — 35 to 34.

"It was tough because you block one out and the other one would come out of nowhere," Ducks forward Robert Johnson said. "They're a great 1-2 punch."

The Jayhawks grabbed 26 offensive rebounds, leading to 31 second-chance points.

"We knew the way to beat them was to beat them on the boards and get extra shots," Gooden said. "I think it was contagious. We were relentless out there on the backboards."

Gooden had 18 points and 20 rebounds, and Collison added 25 points

and 15 rebounds, putting the Jayhawks in their first national semifinal since 1993.

Kansas faces Maryland in Atlanta next Saturday. The Terrapins beat Connecticut 90-82 in the East Regional final.

Two other Jayhawks nearly joined forwards Gooden and Collison with double-doubles. Freshman reserve Keith Langford had 20 points and eight rebounds, and Kirk Hinrich had 14 points and nine rebounds.

"They crash the boards all the time, every single play," said Frederick Jones, who led the Ducks with 32 points. "Their guards came in and got some, too. It was an all-around effort."

The Jayhawks, the nation's highest-scoring team with a 91-point average, outmuscled and outthusted the beefier Ducks on the glass, fueling their up-tempo game.

"I liked it because it was up and down, even though we were beating each other back and forth for layups," Gooden said.

"I've got my shoes off. My dogs are hurting," he said.

Kansas led 48-42 at halftime and was up 73-59 when Oregon made its final run. Anthony Lever hit back-to-back 3-pointers to spark a 10-2 Oregon burst that made it 75-69 with 8:30 remaining. Lever's third 3-pointer made it 77-72 seconds later.

But Kansas scored the next 10 points, four by Collison, to end the Ducks' dreams of reaching the Final Four for the first time since they won the first NCAA championship in 1939.

It appeared as though the Jayhawks were going to run away with it early, but the Ducks (26-9), playing in a regional final for the first time in 42 years, scored 12 straight points, seven by Jones, to tie it at 40 with 2:57 left in the first half.

But Oregon couldn't take the lead and Collison scored three quick baskets as the Jayhawks built a six-point halftime lead.

Collison helped Gooden provide a mismatch down low with the bigger but slower Johnson and Chris Christoffersen, Oregon's 7-foot-2, 300-pound senior center.

Taking a break to refuel



Cy Paxton (from left), Brook Bahe and Taylen Smith of Goodland took a break from wrestling to eat lunch Saturday at Max Jones Fieldhouse. Goodland hosted the Kansas Kids district wrestling tournament on Saturday. See story on Page 8.

Photo by Doug Stephens/The Goodland Daily News

Kansas assistant gets job

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — Kansas assistant coach Neil Dougherty will be introduced Monday as TCU's new basketball coach.

TCU called a Monday afternoon news conference to name Billy Tubbs' successor.

School officials wouldn't publicly confirm Dougherty's hire, but a source close to the program told The Associated Press that Dougherty was the choice and would be in Fort Worth on Monday. The Fort Worth Star-Telegram also reported that Dougherty would be the next TCU coach.

Dougherty met at least twice with TCU officials, including athletic director Eric Hyman, over the last two weeks. This will be his first head coaching job.

Kansas beat Oregon 104-86 Sunday to advance to next weekend's Final Four. After his introduction at TCU on Monday, Dougherty is expected to return to the Jayhawks and remain with them for the remainder of the NCAA tournament.

He'll begin his new job after that.

Dougherty, 40, has been an assistant coach for Roy Williams at Kansas the past seven seasons. Before that, he was an assistant for Eddie Fogler at Vanderbilt (1989-92) and South Carolina (1993-94).

Rockies lose to San Diego 5-3

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) — Brian Fuentes allowed his first run in seven outings and the Colorado Rockies lost 5-3 to the San Diego Padres on Sunday.

Fuentes, vying for a spot as one of Colorado's seven relievers, entered the game in the eighth and walked three batters. He was replaced by Justin Speier, who gave up an RBI single to

Kevin Eberwein to make the score 4-3.

Fuentes, who had pitched 82-3 shut-out innings, was charged with the run. He was acquired last December in a trade that shipped Jeff Cirillo to Seattle.

Pinch-hitter Ryan O'Donnell added an RBI single in the ninth off Speier.

Jason Jennings, competing for the Rockies' No. 5 starting spot, allowed three runs on six hits in six innings. The right-hander also walked one and struck out one.

Jennings allowed an RBI double to Trenidad Hubbard in the first and a two-run homer to Ray Lankford in the sixth.

Royals drop one to Tampa Bay

HAINES CITY, Fla. (AP) — Ben Grieve, Randy Winn and Toby Hall homered as the Tampa Bay Devil Rays topped the Kansas City Royals 8-4 Sunday to snap a nine-game losing streak.

Paul Wilson, who had allowed only one earned run in 14 1/3 innings in his previous four outings, held the Royals

to two runs, one unearned, and three hits over 5 1/3 innings before leaving with a sore back.

Wilson, who is not expected to miss a start, was injured while covering first base on a Carlos Beltran grounder.

Left-hander Darrell May, gave up five runs on five hits, four for extra-bases, in the third before retiring a bat-

ter. The inning included Grieve's two-run homer and Greg Vaughn's two-run double.

Winn homered in the first off May, who gave up seven runs in four innings to bloat his earned run average to 6.88.

Toby Hall, who doubled home a run in the second, hit a bases empty home run off reliever Miguel Asencio.

Rivera gets Texas tryout

PORT CHARLOTTE, Fla. (AP) — Ruben Rivera will get a tryout with the Texas Rangers after being fired by the New York Yankees for stealing equipment from teammate Derek Jeter's locker.

Texas general manager John Hart said that the Rangers planned to evaluate Rivera for 10 days before deciding whether to offer the troubled outfielder a minor league contract.

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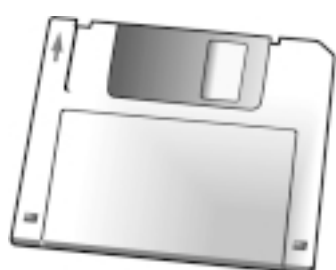
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