

Seattle shines up for another Final Four

SEATTLE (AP) — Times and the rules have changed since Seattle knocked Final Four fans' socks off with unprecedented red-carpet treatment in 1984, but the city hopes to come out ahead again — financially and image-wise — with this weekend's college basketball finale.

And with the Arkansas Razorbacks in the game along with UCLA, Oklahoma State and North Carolina, there's speculation the First Fan might show, though official White House plans Monday put him in the state of Arkansas for the weekend, not at courtside.

"They keep getting themselves in trouble, but they find a way to win," said President Clinton to *The New York Times* on Satur-



day, who was the subject of such comments himself in 1992. He said there was a White House watch party Friday, "and we had a lot of folks from home."

Seattle's rave reviews for 1984 brought the 1989 tournament here as well, not to mention this weekend's semifinal matchups and Monday's championship

game. "They literally rewrote the book on how to host the Final Four," said Rich Baker, who organized Dallas for the 1986 games. "It was like a whole brand-new era."

Well, it was the 1980s. Business was booming and so was the city skyline. Six years ago, lights in the partly finished Columbia Center spelled out "NCAA Final 4 89."

Local sports promoter Bob Walsh had a lot to do with changing perspective on the Final Four.

"I envisioned the 1984 Final Four as an opportunity for our city to make a name for itself by doing it bigger and better than anyone else ever did," said Walsh, key booster for the 1990

Goodwill Games. "But it was very difficult at first because people didn't realize the value it had."

The 1984 organizing committee spent \$1 million getting ready — five times the previous high.

Walsh is not involved this year; the weekend is being organized by Bon Marche senior vice president John Buller and Brian Trent of the Seattle Organizing Committee. But he laid the groundwork.

"He took it to an incredible level," said Trent, the committee director.

It's a coup for the University of Washington as well. The school gets 10 percent of the gate — about \$200,000 this year — but

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Oregon bids seniors farewell at banquet



Forward Jeff Potter was awarded his second straight Harry Ritchie Scholar-Athlete Award at Monday's banquet for his combining of academic and athletic excellence. Potter was also one of Oregon's eight seniors to say goodbye to Oregon at the dinner.

Kris Henry
Oregon Daily Emerald

More accolades for the Oregon men's basketball team were awarded Monday night at the team's banquet at the Eugene Hilton.

The awards banquet was a spirited affair, with rousing ovations, laughter and electricity in the air as Oregon's eight seniors got their final curtain call for their outstanding season and careers at the school.

Two-time all-conference selection Orlando Williams was awarded the Steven J Award as Oregon's most valuable player for the second consecutive season.

The Portland product completed his career with 1,674 overall points which ranks him 29th on the all-time Pac-10 chart and as the Ducks' fourth-leading all-time scorer. The smooth-shooting lefty also hangs up his No. 21 for Oregon as the record holder in career three-pointers (282).

The 6-foot-2 senior co-captain was the sixth-leading scorer in the Pacific-10 Conference this season with 18.7 points per game.

Senior forward Damon Runyon was named the winner of the Jesse Nash Award as the team's most improved player. Runyon came off surgery last year and was able to give the Ducks a needed boost from the bench in the final months leading to the NCAA tournament.

Sophomore forward Henry Madden garnered the John Warren Award as the team's most inspirational player. Madden started nine games and was Oregon's second-leading rebounder (5) and

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Stanford prepares for mighty Connecticut squad

STANFORD, Calif. (AP) — Tara VanDerveer's first order of business Monday was to dispel the notion Stanford might be intimidated by Connecticut in the Final Four.

"Obviously they've had a great season," the Stanford coach said. "They haven't lost a game. They're blowing people out. Their average margin of victory is close to 30 points."

"In a lot of situations, I think everyone is talking about the quote 'rematch' with Connecticut and Tennessee. My attitude is we have a lot of work to do this week but we're going to show up for the game. Records are kind of irrelevant at this point."

Stanford (30-2) will play Connecticut (33-0) in a semifinal at Minneapolis on Saturday. Georgia (28-4) plays Tennessee (33-2) in the other semifinal, with the championship game Sunday.



VanDerveer said Stanford should benefit from having a week to prepare for Connecticut, which showed some vulnerability in a 67-63 victory over Virginia in the East Regional title game last Saturday. Stanford advanced by defeating Purdue 69-58.

Connecticut, the nation's top offensive team, needed a strong performance from Kara Wolters to hold off Virginia. The 6-foot-7 center had a couple of key blocks in the late going and finished with 18 points. Stanford center Anita Kaplan, who is 6-

"I think Connecticut throws a lot of things at you and having a week is what we need to really break down the tapes, show our team the things we need to do to get ready for the game," VanDerveer said.

"I think that Virginia showed some things that maybe we want to learn from. They'd been rolling through the tournament and Virginia maybe put a little scare into Connecticut and showed you some things you could do that would work against them."

Connecticut, the nation's top offensive team, needed a strong performance from Kara Wolters to hold off Virginia. The 6-foot-7 center had a couple of key blocks in the late going and finished with 18 points. Stanford center Anita Kaplan, who is 6-

5, had an equally impressive outing against Purdue with 18 points.

Other key matchups include Stanford forward Rachel Hemmer, who shut down All-America Charlotte Smith in the regional semifinal win that ousted 1994 national champion North Carolina, against Connecticut's Rebecca Lobo, the college player of the year. And Stanford guard Kate Paye against Connecticut guard Jennifer Rizzotti.

"We're going to have to play well defensively because they're an offensive machine," VanDerveer said.

Stanford, though, has some things going in its favor. For one thing, the Cardinal is 3-0 against Connecticut, including a 94-75 victory last year.

Dibble suspended for comments

SARASOTA, Fla. (AP) — The Chicago White Sox suspended pitcher Rob Dibble one day after he was quoted saying replacement players would be stuck with the label for life "like child molesters."

Dibble was suspended Sunday "for conduct unbecoming to a White Sox player," general manager Ron Schuele said, adding that Dibble "criticized our major league players."

Dibble was quoted in Saturday's *Chicago Tribune* as saying replacement players were "going to be labeled like child molesters for the rest of their lives. You're never going to get rid of that label."

Dibble also referred to replacement baseball as a "beer league" and said Chicago's minor-leaguers could beat the strikebreakers.

This is Dibble's ninth suspension. While with the Cincinnati Reds, he was suspended for such acts as throwing a bat into a screen, throwing balls at a player and a fan and charging onto the field during a brawl.

Marquette to meet Virginia Tech in NIT finals

NEW YORK (AP) — Anthony Pieper scored a career-high 32 points and freshman Aaron Hutchins continued his late-season heroics with 20 Monday night, sending Marquette to the championship game of the NIT with an 87-79 victory over Penn State.

The Golden Eagles (21-11) will play Virginia Tech, a 71-59 winner over Canisius, in Wednesday night's title game. It will be their third championship game, their only title coming in 1970. Virginia Tech beat Marquette 57-54 in January at Milwaukee.

Marquette struggled through a rough first half, going 10 minutes with just one field goal in 14 attempts, and the Nittany Lions (20-11) led 36-20 with 2:59 left in the half.

The Golden Eagles scored the last eight points of the half, a run started with Hutchins' first two points of the game, and opened the second half with a 20-4 run with Pieper, a sophomore guard, and Hutchins scoring all the points.