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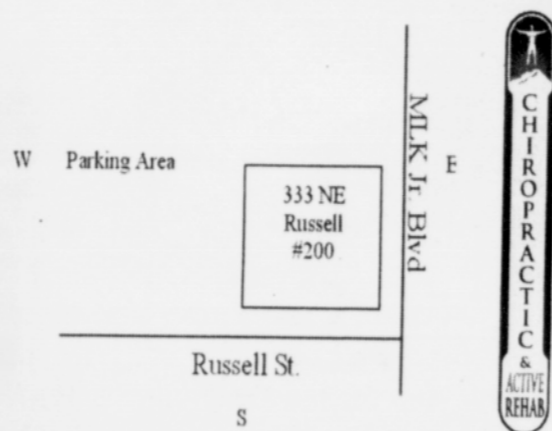
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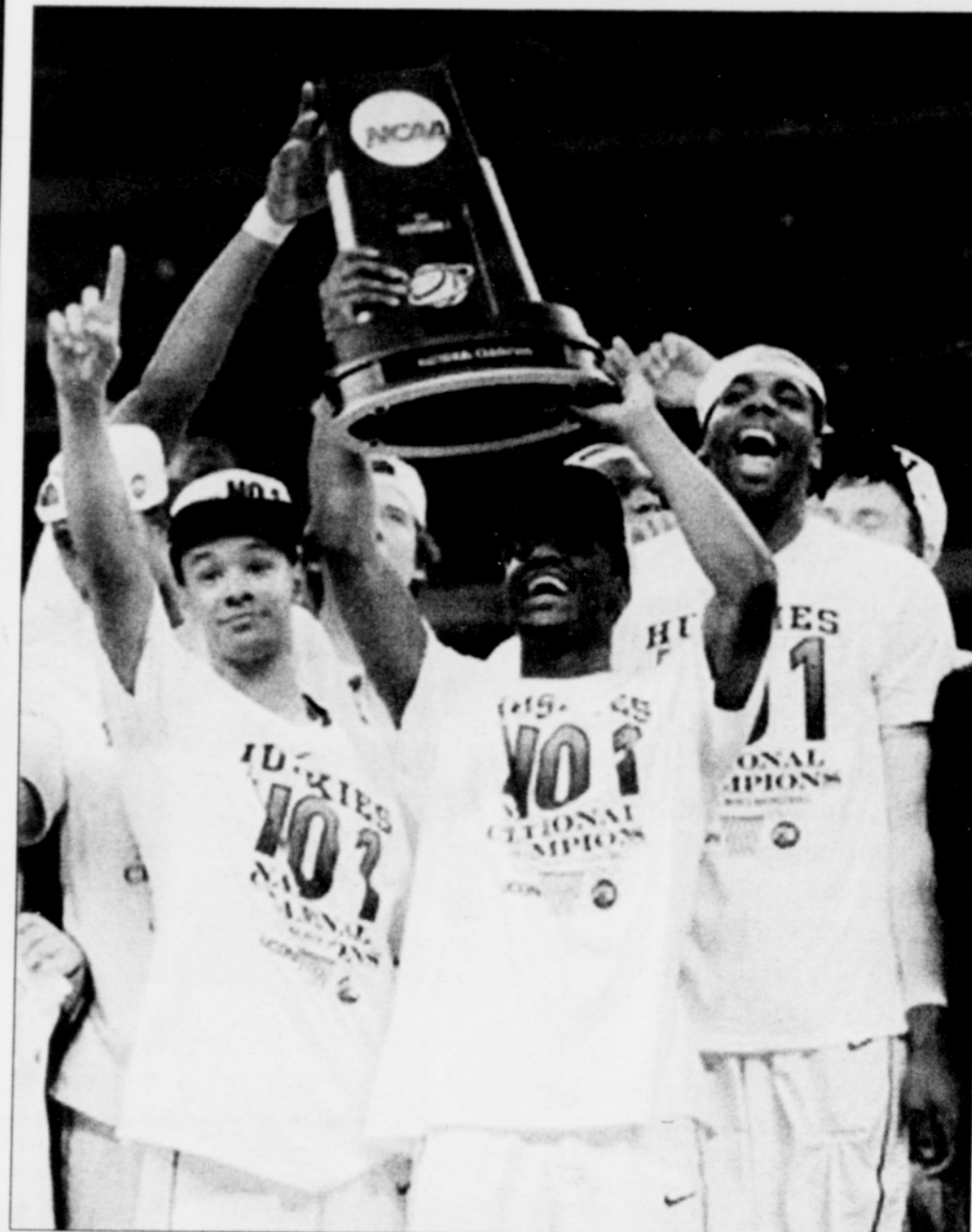
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We are located on the corner of MLK and Russell Street, on the second floor above the coffee shop.



# SPORTS



Connecticut's Kemba Walker holds the championship trophy after his team won the men's NCAA Final Four college basketball championship game Monday against Butler 53-41. (AP Photo)

## UConn Defense Brings Third Title

Finish more grit, brawn than glamour

(AP)—The game was better suited for a dusty old gym than a state-of-the-art stadium — the offense and shooting more the stuff of a long-ago era than 2011.

The championship trophy? Well, that will look good in the case up at UConn, where a season of perseverance closed with an 11-game winning streak and a spirit-lifting win for coach Jim Calhoun, to say nothing of a crowning moment for a one-of-a-kind player named Kemba.

In a game that featured more grit than glamour and more brawn than beauty, Connecticut made Butler look like the underdog it really was Monday night, winning the NCAA title in Houston with an old-fashioned 53-41 beatdown of the Bulldogs.

Star guard Kemba Walker finished with 16 points for the Huskies (32-9), whose amazing late-season streak kept going right through the final buzzer. They won their 11th straight game — five at the Big East tournament and six in March Madness — since closing the regular season with a 9-9 conference record that foreshadowed none of this.

"Going into games, we always say, 'If you miss a shot, it's all right, but if you don't play hard, it's not good enough,'" Walker said.

Nothing to worry about in this one, then, one of the ugliest games in memory on the sport's biggest

stage.

UConn won this title with a defensive showing for the ages, holding Butler to 12-for-64 shooting. That's 18.8 percent, the worst ever in a title game.

It was a game short on aesthetics but full of tough-nosed defense; an old-school game, the kind a coaching lifer like Calhoun had to love.

"From a purist standpoint, if you really like defense, take a clip of this game," he said.

At age 68, he became the oldest coach to win the NCAA championship. He won his third title since 1999 and joined John Wooden, Adolph Rupp, Mike Krzyzewski and Bob Knight as the only coaches to get to the top three or more times.

UConn trailed 22-19 after a first half that came straight out of the '40s.

The Huskies outscored Butler by an unthinkable 26-2 in the paint. The Bulldogs (28-10), in their second straight title game and hoping to put the closing chapter on the ultimate "Hoosiers" story, went a mind-numbing 13:26 in the second half making only one field goal.

During that time, a 25-19 lead turned into a 41-28 deficit.

Butler's 41 points were 10 points fewer than the worst showing in the shot-clock era in a championship game.

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