

// The hardest part of everything is knowing it's all over. **//**
— Luke Walton, senior forward

No longer Big Easy-bound



PHOTOS BY KEVIN KLAUS/Arizona Daily Wildcat
Freshman Hassan Adams battles for a rebound against West Regional Most Outstanding Player Kirk Hinrich. Adams played 29 minutes and scored 11 points in Arizona's three-point loss to Kansas. Right: Sophomore Salim Stoudamire and Kansas Sophomore guard Keith Langford.

KANSAS 78 • UA 75

By Maxx Wolfson
SENIOR SPORTS WRITER

ANAHEIM, Calif. — That's why they call it March Madness.

As quickly as the Wildcats came back from a number of large deficits Saturday, their season ended.

The final horn also marked the conclusion of the careers of three of the most celebrated seniors in Arizona basketball history.

A missed 3-pointer by senior Jason Gardner as time expired bounced off the rim and put Kansas in the Final Four for the second straight year, leaving UA wondering just how everything went to so wrong in the 78-75 defeat in the Arrowhead Pond.

"I felt I had a good look, just missed off the back rim," said an emotional Gardner while fighting back tears.

"I don't want anybody blaming the miss on Jason," sophomore Channing Frye said. "We came here as a team; we're going to leave as a team."

A 16-point comeback in the first half and

another from 14 down in the second seemed to give UA hope of earning itself a trip to New Orleans. Time and again, however, Jayhawk senior Kirk Hinrich, who had 28 points, had an answer for whatever futile attempt the Wildcats might have thrown his way.

None of Hinrich's responses meant as much as his block on a Gardner 3-point attempt in the final seconds.

"We had a lot of options, but with seven seconds left, there's really not a lot of time," Gardner said. "I shot the (first) three, Hinrich blocked it, it fell into Luke (Walton's) hands and he kicked it back out. The ball just didn't fall."

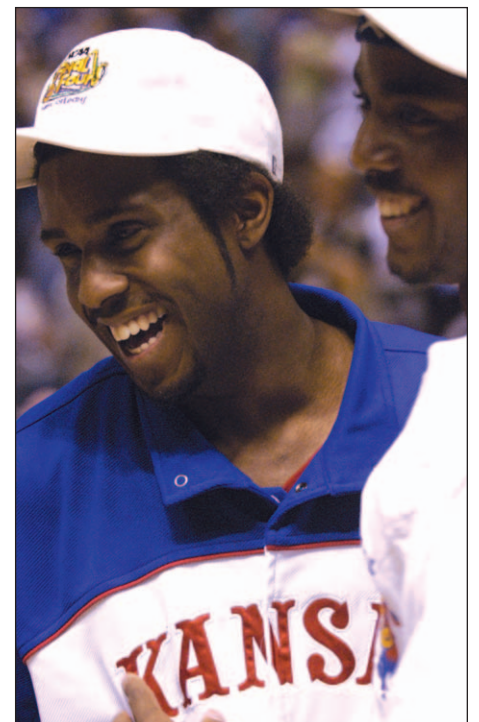
The game's final hoop came with 50 seconds left as Keith Langford jumped through the UA defense to make a left-hand-

ed lay in to put KU up by three.

On the next possession, Walton was called for a charge as he was trying to post up Langford.

"I'm going to have to live with (the charge); I probably should have shot the three," Walton said.

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Hussein reorganizes Iraqi chain of command

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Saddam Hussein set up a system giving his most trusted lieutenants and local tribal leaders the power to mount a guerrilla campaign or other military measures without waiting for his orders.

Saddam reorganized his chain of command before the war so that he need not give every order and thus make himself vulnerable to U.S. electronic detection. U.S. officials, however, see the

absence of Saddam's strong hand on the battlefield as a sign that he may be dead or wounded.

Although Saddam may not be issuing all the orders, his prediction of a tough ground fight is on the mark, and his defensive measures appear to be paying off.

"I don't know whether the leader of this regime is dead or alive," Gen. Tommy Franks, the U.S. war commander, said in Doha, Qatar. "I have not seen credible evidence over the last period of days that this regime is being controlled from the top."

Five days before the war began, the Iraqi government announced Saddam had divided the country into four military regions under the command of his son Qusai, head of the elite Republican Guards, and three of his most trusted lieutenants.

Each of them was given sweeping powers to use all the resources of the Iraqi military and state for the defense of his region. That meant commanders in Najaf, Basra, Mosul and other areas did not have to wait for

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Students rally to support war effort, troops

By Aaron Mackey
STAFF WRITER

Standing in front of a camera at Reid Park Saturday, family and friends of troops stationed in the Gulf recorded messages of love and thanks during the Support America/Support our Troops Rally.

The messages, many filled with tears, will be sent to troops to show Americans support them, even if the media does not always portray that sentiment, rally-goers said.

Mathematics freshman Tyler Harris said the media portrays only an active minority who are against the war, which, he said, is not an accurate representation of the American psyche.

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