

Syracuse Regional

at Oklahoma City
Bucknell 64,
Kansas 63
Wisconsin 57,
N. Iowa 52

at Worcester, Mass.
N.C. State 75, Charlotte 63
UConn 77, Central Fla. 71
at Charlotte, N.C.
Iowa St. 64, Minnesota 53
N. Carolina 96, Oakland 68

at Nashville, Tenn.
Florida 67,
Ohio 62
Villanova 55,
New Mexico 47



• Coverage on pages 4-7

Chicago Regional

at Oklahoma City
Oklahoma St. 63,
SE Louisiana 50
Southern Illinois 65,
St. Mary's, Calif., 56

Austin Regional

at Worcester, Mass.
Vt. 60, Syracuse 57, OT
Mich. St. 89, ODU 81
at Charlotte, N.C.
Duke 57, Delaware St. 46
Miss. St. 93, Stanford 70

Albuquerque Regional

at Nashville
Louisville 68,
La-Lafayette 62
Georgia Tech 80,
George Washington 68



Vermont's Taylor Coppenrath celebrates the 13th-seeded Catamounts' 60-57 overtime victory over fourth-seeded Syracuse. See story on page 4C.

SPORTS

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BUCKNELL 64, KANSAS 63

ONE AND DONE



Thad Allender/Journal-World Photo

KANSAS COACH BILL SELF HIDES his eyes as Bucknell takes the lead.

Jayhawks ousted in opener

By Gary Bedore

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OKLAHOMA CITY — No national championship. No Final Four. No Sweet 16. No Elite Eight.

Heck, even no Round of 32 for Kansas University's men's basketball seniors, stunned beyond belief following the No. 3-seeded Jayhawks' 64-63 loss to No. 14-seeded Bucknell, a team with just five scholarship players, Friday night at Ford Center.

"It's hard to put into words. Everybody is in a moment of shock," second-year KU coach Bill Self said after the Jayhawks dropped their first first-round tournament game since 1978.

That's before the NCAA seeded teams.

KU had won 21 in a row in Round One.

"Having it end so abruptly is devastating for those guys. I don't have enough words to say how proud of them I am. Just because we lost a game doesn't change what they've accomplished," Self said.

The seniors were in shock. Point guard Aaron Miles, out of sync after picking up two quick fouls, sat on the floor against a locker-room wall, his head buried in his hands 15 minutes after the game.

"It's shock, just shock," Miles said after his 0-for-5 shooting performance with four points and four assists in 32 minutes. "They made shots, made plays. They made a lot of plays."

Bucknell, which led 22-14 and 28-21 in the first half, but was outscored 10-0 to close the half, made a ton of plays — enough to down the Jayhawks, who hit one of 11 threes to Bucknell's eight of 31.

However, KU — which hit just 43.5 percent of its shots and had 13 turnovers while forcing just nine Bucknell bobbles — actually had a chance to make the play of the day and pull off a victory.

Michael Lee inbounded the basketball with 2.4 ticks left, KU down by one. He threw a full-court base-ball pass to senior Wayne Simien, who caught the ball near the free-



Scott McClurg/Journal-World Photo

AS A DEJECTED KEITH LANGFORD (5) LOOKS ON, Bucknell's Charles Lee (3) and Kevin Bettencourt celebrate the Bison's 64-63 victory over Kansas University. Bucknell stunned the Jayhawks on Friday in Oklahoma City.

Langford refuses to blame ailments

By Ryan Wood

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OKLAHOMA CITY — Keith Langford had no comment on how he felt Friday.

To admit he still was sick, still banged up, and probably extremely exhausted would be making excuses for a sub-par performance.

Langford wasn't about to take that road.

Kansas University's 64-63 loss to Bucknell in the first round of the NCAA Tournament on Friday could've been followed with reasons why things were crummy for the Jayhawks, but Langford had none to give — especially about himself.

"I didn't feel great, but I was out there, so there's no excuses," said Langford, who had six points on 1-of-7 shooting. "Coach thought putting me in the lineup would give us the best opportunity to win the game."

Pretty impressive, considering the senior has been dealing with a nasty bout of stomach flu for more than a week now, coupled with a lingering ankle injury. Just two days before Friday's game, KU coach Bill Self thought it was highly doubtful Langford would play.

As it turned out, Langford played 26 minutes — and his teammates were grateful for all of them.

"It meant a lot to this team," senior Michael Lee said. "He defined the type of person he is tonight. Obviously, Keith wasn't 100 percent, but he never made an excuse. It gave us an emotional boost to know that Keith was in there fighting."

Just 25 seconds before the final buzzer, it seemed Langford was the one raining on Bucknell's parade. His two free throws gave the Jayhawks a 63-62 lead and gave fans a feeling that somehow the Jayhawks were going to pull it out, just as they had in each of the last 21 first-round tournament games.

But Chris McNaughton's bucket with eight seconds remaining wrapped up the careers of KU's four seniors, Langford included.

Go figure

1-for-11
Kansas' 3-point field-goal shooting (9.1 percent)

8-for-31
Bucknell's 3-point field-goal shooting (25.8 percent)

21
Consecutive first-round NCAA Tournament wins for KU before the loss to Bucknell

8:44
Time remaining when KU scored its final basket

— Sports reporter Ryan Wood can be reached at 832-7152.