

## Michigan edges Seton Hall for title Robinson's clutch free throws give Wolverines 80-79 victory

SEATTLE (AP) — Rumeal Robinson made two free throws with three seconds left in overtime to give Michigan its first national championship and cap the improbable ride of interim head coach Steve Fisher with an 80-79 victory over Seton Hall Monday night.

Fisher had taken over the Michigan team just two days before the NCAA tournament began and coached them to the six victories needed for the national championship.

The championship game was the fifth to go into overtime and the first since Loyola, Ill., beat Cincinnati 60-58 in 1963.

Glen Rice was the player who carried Fisher and the Wolverines to the title with 31 points in the final, giving him an NCAA tournament record 184, breaking the 24-year-old mark of 177 set by Bill Bradley of Princeton.

Robinson, who finished with 21 points and 11 assists, got his chance to be the hero when he was fouled by Gerald Greene, who had missed the

front end of a one-and-one with 1:17 remaining and Seton Hall leading 79-76.

Terry Mills hit a turnaround jumper with 56 seconds left to bring the Wolverines within one. Seton Hall worked the 45-second shot clock down and John Morton, who finished with 35 points, tossed up an airball with 11 seconds left.

Michigan brought the ball downcourt and Robinson began a drive to the basket when he was fouled before shooting. Robinson nailed the free throws and, after two Pirate timeouts, a final desperation 3-pointer banged off the glass and rim and Michigan had its first national championship in three title-game appearances.

Michigan lost to UCLA 91-80 in 1965 and to Indiana 86-68 in 1976.

Rice opened the overtime with a jumper that was answered by Andrew Gaze's 3-pointer, his first field goal of the game. The teams exchanged leads three more times, with Seton Hall's final lead coming

on a 3-pointer by Morton with 2:41 to play.

Morton scored 22 of Seton Hall's last 28 points in regulation, including a 3-pointer with 25 seconds remaining to tie the game 71-71.

Michigan led 59-49 on a 3-pointer by Rice with 8:26 to go. Seton Hall ran off eight straight points, Morton scoring the last six and, after an exchange of free throws, Rice hit a 3-pointer that gave him the NCAA tournament scoring record and the Wolverines a 64-59 lead with 6:05 to play.

With Michigan leading 66-61, Morton ripped off six straight points as Seton Hall's defense came away with two steals, and the Pirates had their first lead of the second half with 2:14 to play.

A free throw by Daryll Walker gave the Pirates a two-point advantage and Rice once again got the lead back for Michigan with a 3-pointer with 1:03 to play.

After Morton threw up an airball with 53 seconds left, Michigan ran the clock down to 34 seconds before

Sean Higgins made two free throws for the three-point lead that was erased by Morton's 3-pointer.

Michigan had a chance for victory in regulation, but Rice missed a long jumper with two seconds to play.

Higgins added 10 points and nine rebounds for Michigan, 30-7. Rice added 11 rebounds.

Walker and Greene each finished with 13 points for Seton Hall, 31-7, which was making its first Final Four appearance in just its second NCAA tournament.

Seton Hall stayed outside in the first half with 14 of its 32 field goal attempts coming from 3-point range, while Michigan decided to test things inside.

The problem for the Pirates, who averaged 14 3-pointers per game in the regular season, was that they only managed to make four of the long jumpers. The last two — by Greene and Morton — capped a 12-0 run that turned a six-point deficit into a 26-20 lead with 6:48 left in the first half.

## Aggie diamond stars host games tonight

It's home sweet home for the Aggie softball and baseball teams tonight.

The softball team returns home for one of the last times this season as they take on Texas-Arlington in a doubleheader beginning at 4 p.m. at the Lady Aggie Softball Field. The game is A&M's first at home since returning from a two-week road trip in California.

The top-ranked Aggie baseball team also will be in action tonight when A&M hosts Sam Houston State at 7 p.m. at Olsen Field.

A&M (33-1) will be putting their ranking and a 36-game home winning streak on the line against the Bearkats, who lead the Southland Conference. SHSU (24-13) has already visited College Station once this season and suffered a 9-1 defeat to the Aggies. Tonight's game features 25-cent hot dog night at Olsen.

The A&M softball team (17-15) meets the Lady Mavs (22-12) for the third time this season. The Lady Aggies lost the other two meetings,

their first games of the season, 5-3 and 2-0.

Lady Aggie Coach Bob Brock said his team is excited about playing ball right now.

"We're looking forward to our games this week and getting back out on the field again," Brock said. "Our destiny is ahead of us this month. If we can beat Texas-Arlington, that would give us a good start."

There are two players in question for tonight's games. Outfielder Tory Parks has had a high temperature and first baseman Carrie Heightley still has an injured ankle from a game in California.

A&M went on the California trip with a 13-5 record but dropped 10 of 14 games.

Brock said the team began to come on toward the end of the trip.

"We lost some games in California," he said. "But by the end of the trip, we were playing with a lot of intensity. I hope that's something we can carry over."

## Major league baseball just doesn't match up to college ball

Finding quality baseball in Texas is not hard this year. With the Aggies playing like never before and the rest of Texas' Southwest Conference teams making a name for the state, Texans are in prime baseball territory.

But college baseball popularity usually doesn't reign in Texas once the Rangers and Astros start the regular season. Pro baseball, with its rich history and appeal to fans, takes priority over all levels of the top spring sport.

Unfortunately, professional baseball in the Lone Star state hasn't been up to par the last few years. The Rangers and Astros have had a hard time keeping up with the rest of Major League Baseball lately, as far as playing a game that is fun to watch. The Rangers just haven't been winning and the Astros, well, they're just boring.

With this state of MLB in Texas, and seeing how college baseball has grown in popularity recently, it's easy to see how



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college ball's enjoyment value rates way above pro ball.

I can't dish the whole boring factor of pro ball off on the Texas' teams, though. They're just a couple of squads that play professional "baseball" in the states.

But the alternative is blossoming now. College baseball has enjoyed a boom since ESPN began covering games the earlier part of this decade. That's not the reason college ball is so enjoyable though — ESPN

has only brought to light the good points the sport has had for years.

More than any other reason, college baseball out-ranks pro ball because of the element of rivalry. There's no rivalry in pro ball that compares to a matchup like the Arizona State Sun Devils against the Miami Hurricanes or the Aggies against the Longhorns.

Sure, Major League ball has a few rivalries that go way back, but most of the teams are new or have made a move over the years. On the other hand, baseball-playing colleges were around before pro teams. And, since colleges don't switch cities, baseball rivalries have had a long time to grow. A&M and Texas have been playing SWC baseball since 1915.

On the field, pro baseball players are the closest thing to error-free players there is in the sport. But that can make for boredom instead of excitement.

It's fun to see the wild pitches, throwing

errors, baserunning errors and just plain silly mistakes college players make. Errors get fans involved in a game because fans have more empathy for college jocks than a high-paid pro player.

And how about that 162-game pro season adding a little more boredom to the game. After 20 or so spring practice games and about 10 more post-season matchups, pro ball gets near the 200-game mark for the top two teams. That's too much baseball for most fans.

On the other hand, Division I teams are limited to 60-game regular season schedules by the NCAA. Post-season conference and regional tournaments, and the College World Series make the season about 75 games long for top NCAA Division I teams.

Now that's a bearable season — just long enough for the best teams to rise to the top and then battle it out for the national championship. Fans don't get exhausted

with attending games several days a week — week after week — like in the pros. But they can get really excited for two or three college games a week over a much shorter season.

Then there is the element of cost for baseball games. Not many people can afford to buy tickets to 81 or more home games to see their pro team. Even making a game once a week is expensive.

But a few dollars per ticket for a college game is reasonable enough to take one in almost anytime. And the other costs like snack prices and parking are also less expensive.

When you consider all these things, pro baseball just doesn't hold up to college ball. So don't fret if the Rangers and Astros bore you, for the first few months of the season, you have the chance to see some more exciting baseball.

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