1987: It was a year when too much happened in sports

By Dave Kindred New York Times

n 1987 no pitcher struck out a hitter with a head of lettuce from the A&P, but a catcher threw a potato into left field and then, hiding the real baseball, tagged out the runner coming home.

Minor-league catcher Dave Bresnahan was kicked out of the game, fined \$50 and fired by the major-league boss, who said to him, "What are you trying to do, get on the David Letterman show?"

In 1987 Giants pitcher Mike LaCoss woke up during an earthquake in L.A. and called the front desk to complain, "You gotta get me a new room, this one's shaking." One player was injured during the quake. The Dodgers' Pedro Guerrero hurt his wrist at home trying to save his giant-screen color TV.

IN 1987 FRANK LAYDEN, the globular coach of the Utah Jazz, said he knew it was time to go on a diet. "I was standing on a corner wearing a blue suit and a yellow hat, and three people came by and dropped off their film in my pocket."

Pro football players carried shotguns and threw tomatoes in 1987. Charles White wandered off from the Rams camp and was found carrying a garbage can lid

COMMENTARY

while muttering incoherently. A judge denied Brian Bosworth's request for jersey number 44, so Boz wrote 44 on his shoes. Boz said he wanted to be on Letterman's show. Eric Dickerson became a Colt, Bo Jackson a Raider and Joe Montana a scab.

I found out who hit cleanup for the Minnesota Twins, either Kent Hrbek or Babe the blue ox, I forget which. Too much happened in 1987. My fuse box has melted under the heat of data, information overload. As when packing for a journey, I remember only that I have forgotten something.

One morning I looked in the newspaper and saw no North American Soccer League standings, a discovery which brightened my day. Has the NASL been dead long? Which reminds me, has anyone seen Hubie Brown lately? And the Falcons — are they still in Atlanta?

In 1987 baseball X-rayed bats and doctors X-rayed Vince Dooley's heart. Larry Holmes became a grand-father, Evander Holyfield became Mike Tyson's shadow. Billy Martin was found alive. Jan Kemp raised \$700 for charity by letting folks hit her in the face with a pie, \$5

a throw. Tom Landry lost it, Chris Evert lost it. Larry Mize found it. Magic Johnson always had it.

Dennis Conner was on Time's cover. Sports Illustrated went for a pit bull. Oil Can Boyd rented a movie called "Nudes in Limbo." Steffi Graf refused \$400,000 to pose for Penthouse. In 1987 Ann-Margret celebrated the 30th anniversary of her selection as a cheerleader at New Trier (Ill.) High School.

The Raiders will move to a gravel pit in Irwindale. A Swede high-jumped 7-foot 11½. In England, they disqualified a horse because he had eaten a candy bar that morning, a sentence which, if applied to baseball, would render Bob Horner disqualified on a permanent basis. Horner-san said he wanted to come back to the U.S. because in Japan the food is lousy, you can't get a decent pitch to hit and it costs \$48,000 for a cable-TV hookup.

DR. J AND WALTER PAYTON said goodbye. So did Reggie Jackson, Phil Niekro and Pete Rose, but no one believed them. The Twins won the World Series inside a plastic box and half the 1987 NFL playoff teams worked indoors. Actor Sean Penn wanted to be a boxer. Boxer Ray Mancini became an actor. Paul Molitor got a hit every day, Columbia lost every week.

If North Carolina pays coach Dick Crum \$800,000 to quit his job, why is All-America back Riccardo Ingram kicked out of football for taking a \$2,000 loan?

NOW THAT SUGAR RAY LEONARD has retired a third time, who's the middleweight champ, Norby Walters or Jim Abernethy? I can't keep up. I know what collusion means. I know what Al Campanis thinks about black people and what Isiah Thomas thinks about white people. But I don't know how many home runs Mark McGwire hit. I know Jack Donlan's phone number. Chris Miller's agent is Mike Blatt. Soda Springs, Idaho, put up a statue of Dave Archer.

In 1987 a judge ruled it was not only legal but in keeping with American tradition that George Steinbrenner be allowed to shout obscenities at umpires. A judge also said it's not libelous to call a sports agent a sleazebag. Meanwhile, the NCAA fined Bob Knight \$10,000 for slamming down a phone.

Lawrence Taylor of the New York Giants was asked in 1987 if he'd like to take a trip in a time machine, to which Taylor said, yes, certainly. As to what time in history he'd like to visit, LT said, "I'd probably go back to when Jayne Kennedy was a virgin. That might be going back a long way, though."

Badgers Outscore Cougars

Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. — Danny Jones' 22 points, including 14 in the second half, led Wisconsin to an 80-65 college basketball victory over Washington State on Sunday.

The Badgers, leading by three points at halftime, outscored the

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Cougars 49-37 the rest of the way to improve their record to 6-4. Washington State slipped to 3-6 for the season.

Wisconsin expanded its lead to as many as 21 points, 68-47, with 4:13 left to play.

Trent Jackson added 19 points, including 14 in the second half, for the Badgers, while Tim Locum had 12 and Kurt Portmann and Byron Robinson had 10 each.

Robinson, a freshman guard, started a second consecutive game for Wisconsin.

The Cougars were hampered by the loss of 7-foot center Todd Anderson with foul trouble. Anderson picked up his fourth foul 24 seconds into the second half and fouled out with 8:45 left to play.

Brian Wright led the Cougars with 16 points.

Kansas State 7

Marquette 57

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Mitch Richmond scored 24 and Will Scott added 16 to lead Kansas State.

Richmond, who scored 17 points in the first half, hit a 3-point shot with 13:45 left to give the Wildcats, 7-3, a 57-34 lead.

But the Warriors, who started three freshmen, fought back and closed to within 57-44 at the 10-minute mark. Charles Luter, who led Marquette with 15 points, came off the bench and scored five straight during that rally.

Then K-State, who never trailed, hit three straight 3-point shots, to boost its lead to 66-46 with 8:08 left. The Wildcats extended that lead to 78-54, the biggest of the game, with 15 seconds left.

Kansas State jumped out to a 4-0 lead in the first half on two straight jumpers by Richmond and with 11:13 left, the Wildcats had a 19-9 lead after two free throws by Scott.

Two minutes later, Marquette closed the gap to 19-13 on two free throws by Pat Foley, who finished with 12 points.

But Kansas State then outscored the Warriors 19-8 during the next nine minutes to take a 38-21 lead with 54 seconds left in the half. Marquette, 5-5, trailed 40-25 at the half.

Burns keys ISU women

AMES — Senior Etta Burns scored a season-high 25 points, including 18 in the second half, to lead Iowa State to a come-frombehind 67-54 women's basketball victory over Michigan State Sunday afternoon.

lowa State, trailing 34-31 at halftime, took the lead for good with 9:11 left in the second half on a Burns' layup. She scored the next three baskets as ISU opened a ninepoint lead on the Spartans.

Burns hit 10 of 15 from the field and 5 of 8 from the foul line. Her total of 25 points was one shy of her career best.

A crowd of 1,475 watched the Cyclones improve to 6-3.

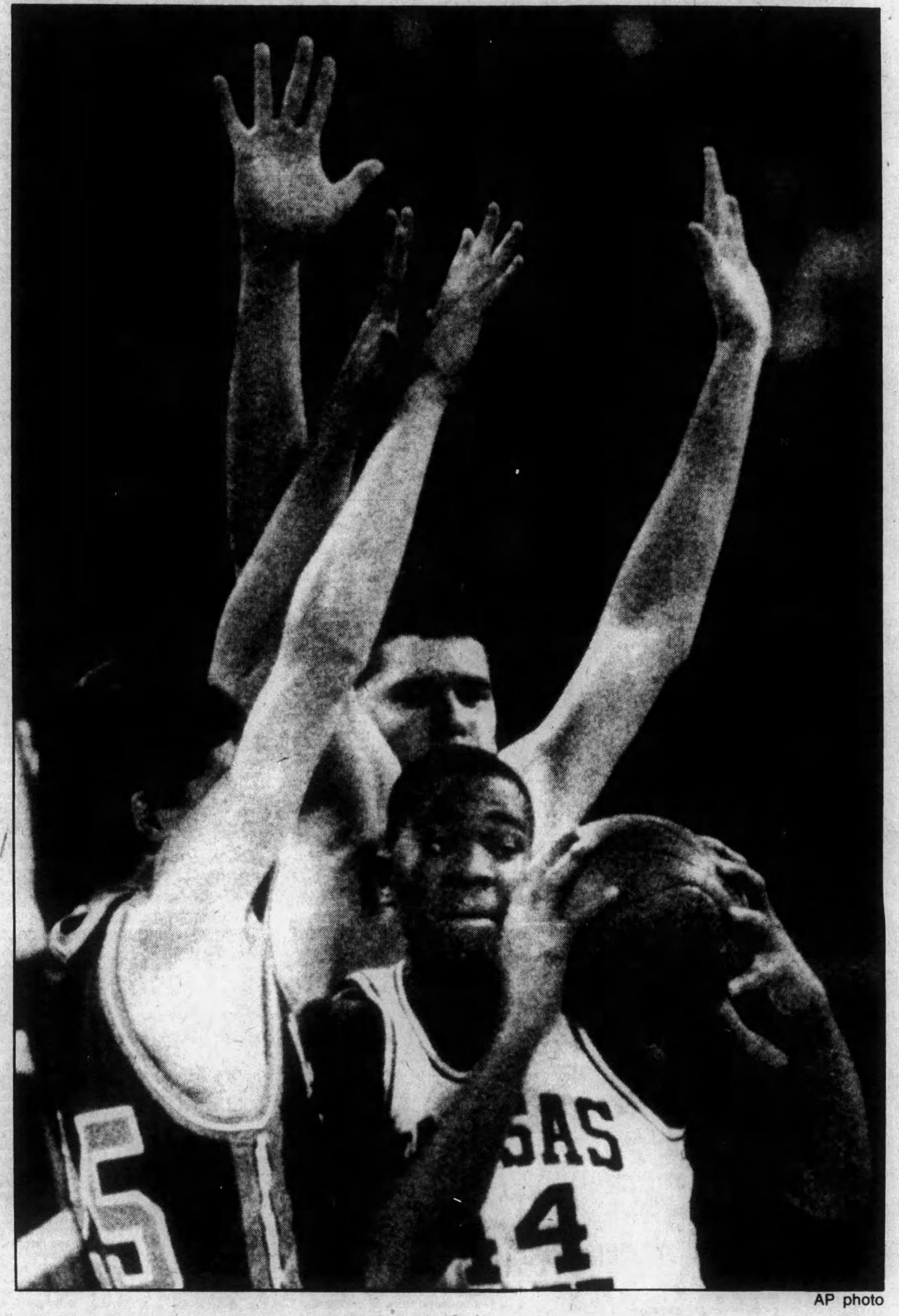
Lisa Greiner added 14 points and also led Iowa State with eight rebounds. Greiner also held MSU's leading scorer Kim Archer to a season-low nine points.

Guard Carlotta Taylor led the Spartans with 12 points, and Sue Forsyth chinned in 10.

Forsyth chipped in 10.

Michigan State, 4-5, hit only 36.9 percent (24 of 65) from the field.

ISU hosts Chicago State Tuesday at 7 p.m. in Hilton Coliseum.



Kansas State's Fred McCoy (44) looks for an opening around a wall of arms by Marquette's Mark Anglavar (left) and Joe Nethen during Sunday's first-half action in a nonconference basketball game in Kansas City. The Wildcats whipped Marquette, 78-57.

Maryland takes another step in rebuilding cage program

COLLEGE PARK, Md. (AP) — The University of Maryland basketball team has taken yet another step out from beneath the cloud left behind by the cocaine-related death of Len Bias.

It took more than a season but the Terrapins finally won their first Atlantic Coast Conference game, defeating Wake Forest 93-76 Saturday. Bias died of cocaine intoxification in June of 1986, three days after being drafted by the Boston Celtics.

Maryland went 0-14 in the ACC last year, the first year under coach Bob Wade, a year that had Wade and his Terps looking over their shoulders, just waiting for the part sign of trouble

Despite all the difficulties over the past year, Wade's disposition never wavered from even-keel when he met with the press after the game. He called the victory "a big win for the kids and a big win for the university

with all that's gone on."

Sophomore Teyon McCoy said the 1986-87 season
"was all downhill because we lost every ACC game. We lost, lost and kept losing."

Wade has tried hard to separate this year's team from last year's troubles, but some residue has stayed with the Terps.

"There's been a whole lot of hype from last year," said guard Rudy Archer, who transfered to Maryland this season from Allegany City College in Baltimore. "We wanted to get off to a good start."

In the locker room after the long-awaited victory, nearly every Terrapin spoke of their coach.
"It feels real good, especially for Coach Wade

because he's wanted that first win," guard Steve Hood said. "Everybody on the team is ecstatic."

The Terps lost nine ACC games last year by nine points or less, which prompted some questioning of

points or less, which prompted some questioning of Wade's coaching abilities. Wade took over the Maryland job after Lefty Driesell resigned in the aftermatch of the Bias incident. Wade had coached 11 years at Dunbar High School in Baltimore.

"I'm really enjoying this victory, especially for Coach Wade," said forward Tony Massenburg. "People said he couldn't coach. But he's shown he can coach very well if he's got the talent and depth."

Massenburg, along with Archer and freshman Brian Williams, have joined the Terps since last season and

But I told them they've got 24 hours to enjoy this, and then its back to business." ??

Bob Wade

have become starters. All three played 29 minutes or more against Wake Forest.

Against the Demon Deacons, Derrick Lewis, the

Terps' lone scoring threat last year, scored 21 points to lead seven Maryland players in double figures.

Massenburg added 15 points, Williams and Hood

Massenburg added 15 points, Williams and Hood each contributed 12 with Dave Dickerson scoring 11 and Archer and Teyon McCoy each posting 10.

"THIS YEAR PEOPLE don't know who to guard,"
Lewis said. "They can't key on one person. It's nice to
know I don't have to worry about getting the ball. We
can distribute the ball and not lose anything. There's a
lot of flexibility on this team and that helps."

Archer said that the Terps' winning eight of their first 10 games, including their conference opener, has "made believers out of us."

"We know that it's possible to do whatever we want to do," he said. "The attitude is great on this team. We know if you work hard and believe in yourself, you can do anything."

The players in the Maryland program have "learned a lot since last year," Wade said. "They made a lot of mistakes last year, and they learned from those mistakes."

There is more learning to be done, Wade warned.

There are a few more steps to take, a few more shadows to cast aside.

"I'm real happy for them," he said. "But I told them they've got 24 hours to enjoy this, and then its back to business."

'The Pit' makes its latest victim Arizona

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — It remains a basketball arena where the improbable has a way of becoming the inevitable.

Jim Valvano and his North Carolina State Wolfpack moved into it for one weekend in April five years ago and left with a national title.

It was here that Lorenzo Charles took a Dereck Whittenburg miss and stuffed Houston's Phi Slamma Jamma bid for a national title.

And it was here, at the arena the college basketball world refers to as "The Pit," that No. 1 ranked Arizona fell from grace.

Spurred by a sea-of-red crowd armed with basketball's version of homer hankies, a supposedly overmatched New Mexico team Saturday night stopped the top-ranked Wildcats' 12-game winning streak with a 61-59 victory.

Arizona, which had beaten four top 10 teams in its climb to the No. 1 ranking, dug itself a quick hole and never recovered. The shots that had fallen for the Wildcats in the Great Alaska Shootout in wins over Michigan and Syracuse and at Iowa, consistently came up short.

NEW MEXICO SPRINTED out to leads of 9-2 and 25-9 before the Wildcats got back to 37-30 at halftime.

With point guards Jimmy Rogers and Darrell McGee providing most of the offense, the Lobos never trailed and withstood a second-half Arizona rally led by forward Sean Elliott's 27 points.

Afterward, New Mexico coach Gary Colson reiterated the no-place-like-home theme.

"I know they (Wildcats) have played all over the world, but I have to think the environment had something to do with their shooting," Colson said of Arizona's 38 percent effort.

Elliott, who twice got Arizona within a basket in the final five minutes, shrugged off the idea the Wildcats were intimidated by the crowd.

"New Mexico just outplayed us. They played a great game," Elliott said. "That's a loud crowd, but to us it doesn't mean anything at all."

The win was the eighth straight for New Mexico, 12-3 and headed for a Western Athletic Conference collision with fifth-ranked Wyoming this week.

ROGERS, A RESERVE, scored 15 points and McGee added 13 as the two smallest New Mexico players repeatedly penetrated Arizona's man and zone defenses.

Rogers and McGee took over a

New Mexico offense that saw its two leading scorers, Hunter Greene and Charlie Thomas, held to 10 and 8 points.

The Lobos also got 10 points and

10 rebounds from 7-foot center Rob Loeffel.

Still, Arizona had a pair of chances to tie it, but a 3-point shot

by Elliott with five seconds left was partially blocked by Greene, and Wildcat Craig McMillan missed an 18-footer with one second left.

"They played consistently better than we did," Arizona Coach Lute

they threw up and we couldn't buy a bucket."

Arizona guard Steve Kerr, who has averaged better than 61 percent

Olson said. "They hit everything

from 3-point range, was 3-of-10 and finished with 11 points.

Olson took the loss in stride.

"It was going to happen eventual-

ly," he said. "Now is as good a time as any."

With Elliott getting 17 of his points in the second half, the Wildcats methodically battled back.

points in the second half, the Wildcats methodically battled back. An 11-2 run got Arizona within 56-55 with 5:50 left.

Rogers drove the lane and hit a

driving 5-footer, and Elliott responded with a layup. A pair of free throws by Greene and a free throw by Charlie Thomas nullified a final Elliott bank shot with 1:51 left.

After New Mexico freshman Rob

After New Mexico freshman Rob Robbins missed the front end of a one-and-one with 21 seconds left, McMillan missed from 3-point range with 12 seconds on the clock.

The Wildcats got one final shot to force at least an overtime after Loeffel missed at the line with 12 seconds left, but New Mexico's defense forced Elliott and McMillan into a pair of desperation jumpers.

