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NCAA in Tulsa: Izzo remembers time in Tulsa; Central Library to hold watch party



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From Staff Reports

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Michigan State's Izzo spent seven weeks at TU

Before he was the revered head coach at Michigan State, Tom Izzo once spent seven weeks as a recruiting coordinator at Tulsa under coach J.D. Barnett.

Thursday, Izzo looked back at his short 1986 stint in Tulsa. He left the program on short notice when a full-time position opened back home at Michigan State, where Izzo had been a graduate assistant. After reaching seven Final Fours, it's safe to say Izzo never looked back.

"I enjoyed Tulsa," Izzo said. "I will tell you this, that J.D. Barnett was a drill sergeant. He was a hard worker. So I didn't see a

lot of Tulsa. I'd go in early with my little shirt and tie on in the middle of May, 100 degrees down here, and I left the office late, and I didn't see a lot of the city. But I loved my experience here."

Library hosting NCAA watch party

Can't make it to the BOK Center? Don't want to pay for tickets?

You can still watch the first- and second-round NCAA Tournament games on a jumbo screen at Central Library.

The library will show tournament games in the A.R. and Marylouise Tandy Foundation children's garden on Fifth Street and Denver Avenue.

Fans of all ages are invited to watch in the area, which is larger than 1½ basketball courts. Spectators are also encouraged to wear team colors, bring a lawn chair and pack a lunch to watch games from noon to 6 p.m. on Friday.

For information on Tulsa City-County Library programming and activities, call 918-549-7323 or go to www.tulsalibrary.org.

Media flock to Tulsa

For coverage of the Friday and Sunday NCAA Tournament games played at the BOK Center, credentials were issued to 330 media members.

That's a substantial increase over the total for coverage of 2011 NCAA games in Tulsa. That year, there were 276 credentialed media members.

Credentials for CBS and Turner personnel are not included in the 330 total. Eighty credentials were necessary for the production of television coverage of the Friday and Sunday games.

The breakdown on coverage of the eight teams in the Tulsa field: There were 70 credentials issued for media members who are here specifically to cover Kansas, while there were 46 for media who cover Michigan State, 31 for media who cover SMU, 20 for media who cover Baylor, 14 for media who cover Southern Cal, 11 for media who cover UC Davis, 10 for media who cover New Mexico State and eight for media who cover Miami.

AT&T upgrading at BOK Center

In advance of the NCAA Tournament, AT&T upgraded its Distributed Antenna System to support the company's 4G LTE network. According to a news release, the upgrade will increase capacity by more than 51 percent throughout the BOK Center and surrounding areas.

Last year, AT&T's network had more than six terabytes of data used at the eight venues that hosted first- and second-round NCAA Tournament games, equal to more than 17.2 million selfies or surfing the web for more than 415,000 hours.

— Eric Bailey, Bill Haisten, Cody Stavenhagen, Kelly Hines, Tulsa World



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