

comeback win from a half-time deficit against Utah to reach the Sweet 16.

Next, before a friendly ground in Auburn Hills, Michigan, the Spartans staged one of the most dramatic one half turnarounds in recent tournament memory, erasing a 14-point second-half deficit in handing the Syracuse Orangemen a 75 to 58 loss. Then they capped it, their run to the Final Four, by again rallying late against Iowa State defeating the Cyclones 75-64.

The Final Four presented its old and new obstacles. To get to the finals, they had to beat Wisconsin. They persevered against the defensive-oriented style of the Badgers before facing the young, fast and deep Florida Gators in the final.

Mateen led the way in the first half of the final game, helping the Spartans to routinely shed the daunting Florida full-court press while scoring 13 points. However, when he went down with an ankle injury, his teammates responded again. The six-foot nine reserve forward, Mike Chappell, knocked down a key three-pointer and freshman Al Anagoyne was a forceful inside presence.

Jason Richardson scored 9 points in 16 minutes, while Adam Ballinger added key minutes. David Thomas and Matt Ishiba also saw action and, importantly, with Steve Cherry and Brandon Smith, rounded out a roster that worked hard all year and pushed the starters hard in practice. All in all, the bench scored 16 points and grabbed 7 rebounds, an effort Coach Izzo termed awesome.

Mr. Speaker, this is what college sports is supposed to be about, student athletes that we are proud of on the field, as well as off the field. I see my colleagues here today from Flint. We have what we like to call the Flintstones, awesome young men who worked as a team whose dreams growing up were to win a national championship after playing together on the basketball courts and the recreation centers in Flint. They took it all the way. And we are very, very proud of them. Go Spartans.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KIND) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I, too, want to congratulate the terrific representative from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and her Michigan State University team for their wonderful win in the NCAA double championship, along with my other friend from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) who actually had three of the players who were born and raised in Flint, Michigan, a city in his district.

They are worthy champions, but the gentlewoman is correct, they had to go through my Wisconsin Badgers in the Final Four in order to get there, and that is the reason why I am rising here tonight.

I want to rise to pay tribute to my home State University, the University of Wisconsin. The University of Wisconsin athletic program has had an extraordinary run of success over the past years. A level of success that has made all of Wisconsin residents very proud.

On January 1, the Wisconsin football team defeated Stanford University to become the first Big 10 school to win back to back Rose Bowl games.

Shortly after that victory, Wisconsin running back Ron Dayne, who earlier in the season became the NCAA all-time career rushing yardage leader was awarded the Heisman trophy, the highest award for a college football player.

The success of our football team was followed by the Badger men's hockey team which won the Western Collegiate Hockey Association League title this year and was ranked as the number one hockey team in the Nation throughout most of the season. Unfortunately, the hockey team fell one game short of reaching the NCAA hockey Frozen Four, nevertheless, our hockey team continued its tradition of being one of the elite hockey programs in the entire country.

More recently, the Wisconsin men and women's basketball programs reached unprecedented heights. Last week the women's basketball team was crowned women's national invitational tournament champions, a team that included a player which is the pride of my hometown of LaCross, Kelly Paulus.

On Saturday, the men's basketball team capped their Cinderella run through the NCAA tournament with an appearance in the Final Four eventually losing to the NCAA champs, Michigan State University.

The men's Final Four appearance was the first by a Wisconsin team since 1941, a 59-year drought; and we are hoping that will not be repeated soon.

The success of the Wisconsin athletic programs reflects the values that all Wisconsin residents hold dear. The Wisconsin teams are not flashy, and they are not loaded up with superstar recruits from across the country. Instead, Wisconsin teams are successful because they work hard, played as a team and believed in themselves. The Wisconsin players are almost all born and raised in Wisconsin.

They were not the most heavily recruited players. They chose instead to attend their home State school because they wanted a quality education along with the experience of playing with the Badgers.

By sticking to the Wisconsin values, hard work, team work and a dedication to getting an education, the young men and women who played for the University of Wisconsin were winners before they ever put on a Badger uniform. This year, however, they took their winning ways to the national stage and showed the Nation that Wisconsin can succeed at more than just making good cheese.

I want to congratulate football coach Barry Alvarez, hockey coach, Jeff Sauer; women's basketball coach, Jane Albright; and the men's basketball coach, Dick Bennett. They are all outstanding role models for their athletes and for all of Wisconsin students.

I want to congratulate the Wisconsin marching band and the cheerleaders and the Wisconsin fans, the Badger pride followed our team from Pasadena to Indianapolis and they helped spread the word about the great people of Wisconsin.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay special tribute to the men and women athletes at the University of Wisconsin. The success that they achieved on the court and the class with which they conducted themselves off the court, has made the great State of Wisconsin very proud. They are what is good with collegiate athletics today, and they are wonderful role models for the children who cheer for them and who try to emulate them.

SHOOTING IN MOUNT MORRIS TOWNSHIP, MICHIGAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BARCIA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the tragic shooting that occurred in Mount Morris Township, which is located in my congressional district. When I first heard about the shooting of Kayla Rolland, like most of the Nation, I was shocked, dismayed, and concerned about how such a tragedy could occur.

Unfortunately, some people rushed to judgment and called for more gun control laws, more swift punishment of the child. However, I thought it best and prudent that we look at all the facts before commenting or jumping to conclusions on this very terrible tragedy.

For me, the real problem is that we had a neglected little boy growing up in a dysfunctional and dangerous environment. The real solution is not more gun control.

When the boy was 2 years old his father, Dedric Owens was arrested and for the next 4 years he moved in and out of various detention facilities for various crimes. So the man who should have been a role model, who should have taught him responsibility, who should have taught him right from wrong, was serving time for attempted home invasion, cocaine possession, cocaine possession with intent to distribute, and fleeing and eluding police.

While the father was serving these sentences, the boy's mother was neglecting her parental responsibilities. Children need positive role models to build strong, moral character. With his father in jail and his mother missing in action, this 6-year-old boy did not have a positive role model, and he did not have a chance.

Since the boy's mother was evicted from her home, she dropped her son off