

Iowa WBB: Hawkeyes Drop WNIT Quarterfinal Game to Washington State 74-66

Iowa City, Iowa—The Iowa Hawkeyes women's basketball team saw their season come to an end in the quarterfinals of the Women's NIT with a 74-66 loss to the Washington State Cougars.

The Hawkeyes (20-14, 8-8 B1G) struggled against Washington State's size down low. Despite the statistics showing just slight advantages for the Cougars in the rebounding (45-42) and points in the paint (34-32) categories, Washington State imposed their will on the Hawkeyes with their physicality.

"I thought they were really physical, and we didn't adjust well to that," Hawkeye head coach Lisa Bluder said after the game. "It's not like we haven't seen physical basketball. I think it was a combination of their length and being physical. That kind of hurt us a little bit."

The Cougars have five players standing 6'3 or taller, compared to Iowa's two (Chase Coley and Megan Gustafson). Even with their size advantage, the Cougars' guards led their team in rebounds, as 5'10 Caila Hailey recorded 12 boards and Pinelopi Pavlopoulou snared 11 rebounds. Their advantage on the glass allowed Washington State to attempt nine more field goals than the Hawkeyes.

"We really had trouble boxing out. We gave up too many offensive boards," Bluder said. "Too many second shots for them."

Iowa was outscored 16 to seven on second chance points. Sophomore Megan Gustafson did her best to equalize this area, scoring 19 points and grabbing 15 rebounds (seven offensive) en route to her 18th double-double of the year. Even still, the Cougars' attention on Gustafson proved to be too much.

"In our matchup zone, talking about (Gustafson), a fantastic player... we were just trying to keep that ball from going in there," Washington State head coach June Daugherty said. "So much of (Iowa's) offense goes through her... I have enormous respect for her."

With Gustafson facing double teams and quick rotations from pesky guards, Iowa's offense was pushed out behind the three-point line. The same was true for the Hawkeyes' last game against Colorado. In that game, Iowa shot 9-25 (36 percent) from downtown and was able to make the Buffaloes pay for doubling Gustafson. Against Washington State, however, Iowa's outside stroke went cold, finishing just 4-23 (17 percent) from distance, including 0-13 in the second half.

"We didn't shoot well from the three-point line or from the free throw line today," Bluder, whose team shot just 18-29 (62 percent) from the charity stripe, said. "Obviously those things hurt us."

Washington State, who improved to 16-19 on the year, has chosen the right time to peak. They've now won six of their last seven games and boast impressive wins over Oregon and UCLA. It's no small task to knock off Iowa at home (they finish the year 17-4 in Carver), especially in front of 5,146 fired up fans.

"First off, I want to thank the crowd," Bluder began her press conference. "They were great. They came out and supported us today. They were loud. They were engaged. We really appreciate that."

The crowd gave seniors Ally Disterhoft and Alexa Kastanek a loud round of applause when they checked out for the final time in their careers. For Disterhoft, who finished her career as Iowa's all-time leading scorer with 2,102 points, it was the end of a historic run.

"It's tough," an emotional Disterhoft said after the game. "This program has given me so much these past four years. I've said it before, but these coaches are incredible, and the younger girls on this team are going to go on and do some really great things. Obviously, I'm going to miss it. I'm always going to be a Hawkeye though, whether I'm wearing that jersey or not. I'm very, very thankful for the opportunities that I had when I was here."

More on Disterhoft, Bluder gushed about her star senior: "The record book speaks for itself, but more than that, it's the academic accolades. It's everything that she's done in our community, the role model that she is. You'd be hard fought to find a better role model in women's athletics."

Of the seniors, Kathleen Doyle, who registered a career-high eight assists, said, "They all had great careers and did a lot for this program, so we just want to make sure that they know how grateful we are for their efforts."

Now, the future of the program is in the hands of a young core of players. Doyle and fellow freshmen Makenzie Meyer, Bre Cera, and Amanda Ollinger join sophomores Megan Gustafson and Tania Davis as the key-holders for the Hawkeyes.

"What I'm looking forward to is that we got some great play for our freshmen in the last couple of weeks," Bluder said of next year. "I think that's exciting. You guys know, you see how good our freshmen and sophomore classes are. You know, the future looks incredibly bright for our team."

The final stats from Iowa Athletics Communications are below...

By Jack Brandsgard—Posted 03/26/17

HawkeyesMic.com

Podcasting 10 years of Original Programming on Iowa Athletics

**Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Washington State vs Iowa
3/26/17 2 p.m. at Carver-Hawkeye Arena**

Washington State 74 • 16-19

##	Player	f	Total			3-Ptr			Rebounds			PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
			FG-FGA	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	FG-FGA	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot							
15	Kmetovska, Ivana	f	6-11	0-0	2-6	1	5	6	2	14	4	1	0	2	32			
20	Kostourkova, Maria	c	2-7	0-0	0-0	3	2	5	5	4	2	0	2	0	23			
01	Hailey, Caila	g	3-10	0-2	4-10	6	6	12	3	10	5	1	0	3	35			
22	Pavlopoulou, Pinelopi	g	5-14	1-7	2-2	2	9	11	1	13	3	3	0	0	33			
23	Swedlund, Alexys	g	5-15	2-8	8-10	1	4	5	3	20	0	0	0	2	38			
02	McKenzie, Krystle		1-1	1-1	0-0	0	1	1	1	3	0	0	0	1	7			
05	Washington, Kayla		4-5	0-0	0-0	2	1	3	5	8	0	1	0	0	15			
10	Muzet, Johanna		1-3	0-2	0-0	1	0	1	1	2	0	1	0	0	5			
21	McClure, Nike		0-2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	5	0	1	1	1	2	12			
Team						1	0	1										
Totals			27-68	4-20	16-28	17	28	45	26	74	15	9	3	10	200			

1st - FG %: 8-21 38.1% 2nd: 7-20 35.0% 3rd: 7-17 41.2% 4th: 5-10 50.0% Game: 27-68 39.7% Deadball Rebounds 8
 3FG %: 1-9 11.1% 2-7 28.6% 1-1 100.0% 0-3 0.0% 4-20 20.0%
 FT %: 0-2 0.0% 1-4 25.0% 0-0 0.0% 15-22 68.2% 16-28 57.1%

Iowa 66 • 20-14

##	Player	c	Total			3-Ptr			Rebounds			PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
			FG-FGA	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	FG-FGA	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot							
10	Megan Gustafson	c	8-13	0-0	3-6	7	8	15	3	19	0	2	2	1	29			
02	Ally Disterhoft	g	2-11	1-5	11-14	2	3	5	3	16	1	2	1	1	37			
03	Makenzie Meyer	g	1-5	1-5	0-0	0	2	2	4	3	3	4	1	0	31			
22	Kathleen Doyle	g	5-13	1-5	0-0	1	4	5	5	11	8	4	0	2	31			
35	Bre Cera	g	1-5	1-4	0-2	0	1	1	2	3	2	0	1	1	21			
01	Alexa Kastanek		0-3	0-3	1-2	1	3	4	4	1	2	1	0	0	18			
04	Chase Coley		3-5	0-1	2-3	2	4	6	0	8	0	0	1	0	22			
21	Hannah Stewart		2-4	0-0	1-2	0	2	2	3	5	0	3	1	0	11			
43	Amanda Ollinger		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0+			
Team						1	1	2										
Totals			22-59	4-23	18-29	14	28	42	24	66	16	16	7	5	200			

1st - FG %: 7-16 43.8% 2nd: 4-11 36.4% 3rd: 6-16 37.5% 4th: 5-16 31.3% Game: 22-59 37.3% Deadball Rebounds 6
 3FG %: 3-5 60.0% 1-5 20.0% 0-7 0.0% 0-6 0.0% 4-23 17.4%
 FT %: 3-4 75.0% 2-6 33.3% 1-3 33.3% 12-16 75.0% 18-29 62.1%

Officials: Bruce Morris, Tiffany Bird, Jeff Cross
 Technical fouls: Washington State-None. Iowa-None.
 Attendance: 5146
 WNIT Fourth Round
 Fouled Out - WSU: McClure (07:33), Washington (00:34), Kostourkova (00:15)
 Fouled Out - Iowa: Doyle (00:12)

Score by periods	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
Washington State	17	17	15	25	74
Iowa	20	11	13	22	66

Points	In Paint	Off T/O	2nd Chance	Fast Break	Bench
WSU	34	17	16	6	13
IOWA	32	14	7	4	14

Last FG - WSU 4th-05:31, IOWA 4th-00:06.
 Largest lead - WSU by 11 4th-05:31, IOWA by 7 1st-02:13.
 WSU led for 27:22. IOWA led for 10:10. Game was tied for 02:28.

Score tied - 3 times.
 Lead changed - 7 times.