



2011 State Farm Missouri Valley Conference Women's Basketball Championship Tournament

Semifinals - Game 7

No. 1 Northern Iowa 61, No. 5 Wichita State 44

*Saturday, March 12, 2011 * Family Arena, St. Charles, Mo.*



ST. CHARLES, Mo. – The top-seeded University of Northern Iowa women's basketball team managed to stretch a four-point halftime lead into a 61-44 win over No. 5 Wichita State in a semifinal game of the State Farm Missouri Valley Conference Tournament at Family Arena. The victory is UNI's 18th straight win and advances the Panthers to the final for the second time in as many years.

Jacqui Kalin led UNI (26-5) with 21 points, and Lizzie Boeck finished with 18 points and 10 rebounds, her eighth double-double of the season. K.K. Armstrong dished out three assists while collecting five steals.

Haleigh Lankster led WSU (17-14) with 20 points. Chynna Turner grabbed nine rebounds for the Shockers.

Katelin Oney hit a three at 15:56 to give UNI its first lead, 7-6. WSU went on an 8-2 run to take a 14-9 lead. The Panthers chipped away, and Kalin knocked down a three at 8:40 to put UNI in front, 17-16. The teams traded one-point leads twice, and then Boeck sank a three from the top of the key to give UNI a 22-20 edge with 5:56 left in the first. Boeck scored at 3:11 to double the Panther lead, but a pair of free throws from Jessica Diamond pulled the Shockers back within two, 24-22.

Kalin hit her second three of the game to give UNI its biggest lead of the first half, 27-22 with 1:28 on the clock. Jazimen Gordon hit one of two free throws with 18 seconds left in the half to send the teams into the break with UNI in front, 27-23. Kalin scored for UNI coming out of the half, but Lankster hit a jumper and Chynna Turner knocked down a three to trim the WSU deficit to one, 29-28 with 16:29 to play.

Rachel Madrigal and Lizzie Boeck each scored to give UNI a five point advantage, 33-28. Lankster hit a pair of free throws, but Kalin hit a three from the corner to double the Panther advantage, 36-30. The Panthers answered a WSU basket with baskets from Madrigal and Boeck, extending the UNI lead to 40-32 with 12:15 to play. The teams traded baskets, and Lankster scored on a layup. She stole UNI's inbounds pass and laid it in to cut the Panther lead to 42-38 at the 10-minute mark. Boeck drained a three from the left baseline a minute later, and Kalin capitalized on a K.K. Armstrong steal by hitting a three that gave UNI its first double-digit lead, 48-38 at 8:30.

After Michelle Price scored for WSU, Boeck and Kalin each converted layups and Amber Kirschbaum made a pair of free throws to stretch the UNI lead to 54-40 with 5:26 to play. Diamond scored at the five-minute mark, but the Panthers tallied the game's next seven points to build a 61-42 lead with 21 seconds left. Morgan Boyd scored with 13 seconds on the clock to bring the final score to 61-44.

UNI shot 24-of-46 (42.9 percent) from the floor, including 7-of-21 (33.3 percent) from three-point range. UNI finished 6-of-11 (54.5 percent) from the free-throw line. The Shockers shot 18-of-59 (30.5 percent) from the floor, including 1-of-10 (10 percent) from behind the arc. WSU was 7-of-9 (77.8 percent) from the free-throw line.

UNI held a 44-35 rebounding advantage. The Panthers collected 14 offensive rebounds, resulting in 19 second-chance points. The Panthers committed 14 turnovers in the game, 10 of them in the first half, resulting in 10 points for WSU. UNI turned WSU's 12 turnovers into 11 points.

With the win, UNI will play in the MVC Tournament final on Sunday at 2 p.m. against the winner of the semifinal between No. 3 Missouri State and No. 7 Indiana State.

Courtesy: University of Northern Iowa