

IOWA WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: CHAMPIONSHIP MENTALITY 3/3/2019

By Cam Reich

This Iowa team has proved they are a top contender in this year's NCAA tournament and B10 tournament. How have they improved throughout the season and throughout the four years some of these senior have been with Iowa? I got some time with Iowa star, Megan Gustafson and got a chance to ask her a few questions about this team chemistry. Well to get things started this team has a 23-6 record with a 14-4 conference record. This team is unbeaten at home having a 15-0 record. When asked about the team chemistry, Gustafson explained that they all have the bond and chemistry and all share love for each other and that is why they are able to execute in big games. "Each and every one of us can say that we will give up a good shot for a great shot because we want to get our teammates open and celebrating the assist," Gustafson responded. When I play basketball I know that is a team I would like to play on. Megan Gustafson explained that having all these injuries are tough but it gives the younger players more playing time and shows the coach what they can do and when the injured players come back, the whole team comes back stronger than they were before.

Championship mentality. This Iowa team has not made a final four appearance since 1993, "It would be incredible, right after our season last year, I saw on twitter a screenshot that my senior year final four will be in Tampa Bay, and I instantly saved the image and I sent it to the team and said, 'this is gonna be us next year,' and that is the goal and I think we have a big shot to make it this year." She continued on talking about how that one picture really motivated her team through the off season and throughout this year and how much it would mean to them.

This Iowa team has a two game winning streak going into the big ten tournament. They will play the winner of Indiana and Minnesota. If Indiana were to win, it would be a rematch many Iowa fans and Coach Buder would be looking for. The last time these two teams faced off, Indiana took home a big win 75-73 over the Hawkeyes. And they last beat Minnesota 81-63. This team will face many tough teams in the big ten tournament like Michigan St, going 1-1 in the regular season; Michigan going 1-1 in the regular season; Purdue, going 1-1 in the regular season and #8 ranked Maryland, who Iowa beat 86-73 in the regular season.

Tania Davis stands 5 foot 3 inches, and has been through a lot while at Iowa University. She has had two knee surgeries and a shoulder injury. But none of that has stopped her this season.

Megan Gustafson stands 6 foot 3 inches, and is an all-around beast. She has set many, many records while at Iowa and she isn't done yet. She has already set the record for rebounds and is on her way to get the record for points.

Hannah Stewart stands 6 foot 2 inches and is an all-around player as well. She has scored 21 points as a season high and has gotten 14 rebounds as well in one game.

These are the three seniors who will be leaving after this year and all have the same goal in mind, CHAMPIONSHIP.

Players who will be returning for Iowa are Kathleen Doyle, Alexis Sevillian, Monika Czinano, Paula Valino Ramos, Kate Martin, Logan Cook, Amanda Ollinger, Makenzie Meyer, Zion Sanders, and Tomi Taiwo.

Hopefully this team can accomplish what many teams cannot, an NCAA championship and a Big Ten tourney title. These Hawkeyes will be #2 going into the Big Ten Tournament, and are ranked #12 going into the post season.

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