

Washpun stars; City High routs Cougars

Written by Jim Ecker

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DES MOINES - Kiera Washpun has not decided where she'll play college basketball next season, but one thing was perfectly clear Wednesday night at Wells Fargo Arena.

The 5-foot-6 point guard from Iowa City High is going to make a college coach very, very happy.

"I hope so," she said with a bright smile.

Washpun tied the Class 5A scoring record with 31 points Wednesday as the top-ranked Little Hawks bounced Kennedy, 68-34, in the quarterfinals of the state tournament.

Iowa City superstar Haley Lorenzen had a routine game (for her) with 16 points and nine rebounds, but Washpun destroyed the Cougars with her 3-point shooting, slashing drives and ballhawking on defense.

Kennedy (16-8) sagged all over Lorenzen, the 6-foot-3 center who is headed to the University of Florida, but that gave Washpun a little extra breathing room for four 3-pointers and an uncanny 12 for 14 shooting performance from the floor.

When Kennedy double-teamed Lorenzen, she simply found open teammates for buckets. And when the Cougars gave Lorenzen a little space, she scored around the basket and hit medium-range jumpers.

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"Those two today were about as good as I've seen as a tandem with the way they played," said Kennedy Coach Tony Vis. "Kudos to them."



Washpun matched the Class 5A tournament scoring record set last year by Ally Disterhoft of Iowa City West in the inaugural 5A event.

"Hopefully she'll break it on Friday and Saturday," said Iowa City High Coach Bill McTaggart. "That's the best she's played in four years on the varsity. She was very impressive."

Washpun left the game for good with 2:12 left in the fourth quarter. The score was tied at that point: Washpun had 31 points and the entire Kennedy team had 31.

Lorenzen did not take a seat until there was 1:33 left in the game with the Little Hawks sitting on a 65-31 cushion.

There was no suspense Wednesday in Des Moines. The Little Hawks (24-0) raced to a 25-5 lead with 55 seconds left in the first quarter, with Washpun scoring 10 points and Lorenzen netting eight during the opening surge.

Iowa City High led 40-18 at halftime. They doubled the count at 50-25 in the third quarter and

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doubled it again at the final buzzer with the 68-34 victory.

"They're an awesome team. That's why they're undefeated," said Kennedy senior Morgan Martin, who finished with 10 points and nine rebounds. "There were seven different defenses we tried on City High. They just seemed to be firing on all cylinders.

"It's just hard to stop a team like that, especially in the first quarter. They could have beaten anybody in that first quarter."

The Cougars tried a sagging man-to-man, they tried a triangle-and-two, they tried different zones. Nothing worked for long.

"We threw everything at them that we could possibly think of," said senior Paige Hendrickson, who scored 13 points. "They're a great team."

Vis called two timeouts in the first quarter, trying to get his players to settle down while searching for ways to slow down their talented opponent. "You have to pick your poison," he said about the defensive gambits. "We had a long night defensively."

Kennedy shot poorly against the Little Hawks, hitting only 11 of 44 shots overall (25 percent) and 2 of 10 from 3-point range (20 percent). The Cougars committed 20 turnovers and had only four assists.

Iowa City High made 26 of 50 shots for 52 percent.

The Little Hawks will face Dowling Catholic (21-3) in the semifinals on Friday. Waterloo West (22-2) will meet 2013 champion Southeast Polk (17-6) in the other semifinal.

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Kennedy had four seniors in the starting lineup Wednesday and nine seniors on the squad. "It's a group that's going to be missed," said Vis. "That's what we talked about in the locker room."

KENNEDY (34): Meier 1 3-4 5, Holmes 0 1-2 1, Hendrickson 4 3-4 13, Botkin 1 0-0 2, Martin 4 2-5 10, DeLong 0 0-0 0, Vis 0 0-0 0, Hennessey 0 0-0 0, Timmerman 0 0-0 0, Langhurst 0 0-0 0, Hellweg 1 1-1 3, Hayden 0 0-0 0, Dye 0 0-0 0, Milbrath 0 0-0 0, Runels 0 0-0 0. Totals 11 10-17 34.

IOWA CITY HIGH (68): Sara Blowers 1 2-3 5, Washpun 12 3-4 31, Sam Blowers 2 2-2 7, Joens 3 0-1 6, Lorenzen 7 2-2 16, Plock 0 0-0 0, Hanrahan 0 0-0 0, Onnen 0 0-0 0, Koenig 0 0-0 0, Jenkins 1 0-0 3, Christophersen 0 0-0 0, Earl 0 0-0 0, Pradarelli 0 0-0 0, Xayasene 0 0-0 0, Embery 0 0-0 0. Totals 26 9-12 68.

Halftime - Iowa City High 40, Kennedy 18. 3-point goals - Kennedy 2 (Hendrickson 2), Iowa City High 7 (Washpun 4, Sara Blowers 1, Sam Blowers 1, Jenkins 1).