



NCAA Championship

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A HISTORIC *RUN*



Hawkeyes fall short of title

In its first appearance in a national title game, Iowa fell to LSU, 102-85.

Chloe Peterson
Sports Editor

DALLAS — Iowa's dreams of a national championship fell short on Sunday afternoon.

In both teams' first appearances in the championship, Iowa fell to LSU, 102-85, in the national title game at American Airlines Center in Dallas.

"I'm so proud of my team," head coach Lisa Bluder said. "I'm proud of the women they are. I'm proud of what they stand for. The Iowa fans that came here in droves, I'm so thankful for them. I'm thankful that I get to coach at a university like the University of Iowa."

As the final buzzer sounded, the Tigers ran to the center of the court while LSU fans — some dressed in sparkly blazers to match head coach Kim Mulkey — cheered from the stands.

The Hawkeyes gathered

in a circle following their loss then fought through the sea of Tigers to get off the court. In the handshake line, Mulkey pulled Hawkeye junior and National Player of the Year Caitlin Clark aside before she left the court to exchange words.

"She's one of the best basketball coaches of all time, and it shows," Clark said. "She only said really kind things to me in the handshake line, so I'm very grateful for that, too."

Hawkeyes fight through foul trouble

Iowa quickly got into foul trouble in the national title game on Sunday.

Referees called multiple fouls throughout the first quarter, leading to nine free throw attempts from LSU in the first quarter and four from Iowa. Center Monika Czinano and forward McKenna Warnock both picked up two fouls in

the first and headed to the bench for an extended period of time.

While Bluder attempted to ask for an explanation from the officials for the fouls, they wouldn't give her one.

"It's very frustrating because I feel like I can't talk to them," Bluder said. "They won't even listen. That's what's frustrating is there wasn't even a conversation that could be had."

The foul calls continued into the second — Clark picked up her second just three minutes into the quarter. She got a third foul with three minutes left in the first half and headed to the bench. Her scoring slowed down as well, as she notched just two points in the second quarter.

Clark's absence from the court allowed the Tigers to pull away, as LSU outscored Iowa, 32-20, in the second.

Warnock picked up her fourth foul in the third

quarter, forcing her to the bench. With one minute remaining in the third, Czinano picked up her fourth on a shooting foul, and Clark got a technical to put her up to four fouls.

"I thought they called it very, very tight," Clark said postgame. "I don't know about the two push-offs in the second quarter. I'm sure they saw that I pushed off and they called it and whatnot, and then hit with the technical foul in the third for throwing the ball under the basket. Sometimes that's how things go. I thought all I could do is respond and come back out there and keep fighting and keep trying to help this team crawl back into the game."

Clark and Warnock returned to the floor to start the fourth quarter, and Czinano followed soon after. But Czinano picked up her fifth and final foul with just over six minutes

left in the game, ending her Hawkeye career. In her final game as a Hawkeye, Czinano registered 13 points on 5-of-11 shooting and six rebounds.

Warnock, also playing her last game as a Hawkeye, fouled out with a minute and a half left to play. She waved to the crowd as she came off the floor, sitting on the bench after high-fives from her teammates. Warnock notched nine points and six rebounds in the national title game.

"I'm telling you, this is brutal," Bluder said. "It's really tough to walk out of that locker room today and to not be able to coach Monika and McKenna ever again. That's tough."

Tigers stay hot from the field

LSU couldn't miss in the first half — they shot 75 percent from beyond the arc and 58 percent from the field. In comparison, the

Hawkeyes shot 50 percent from the field and 58 percent from the 3-point line.

Guard Jasmine Carson exploded off the bench, notching 21 points just in the first half — including a banked-in 3-pointer at the buzzer.

"Jasmine Carson came off the bench and played extremely well," Bluder said. "She did better than what we thought. They just were ready to go. They did a great job."

Carson finished the game with 22 points, and five Tigers registered double figures.

Big picture

The Hawkeyes finished their most decorated season in program history with a 31-7 record, a Big Ten Tournament championship, and their first-ever appearance in the national title game.

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Daniel McGregor-Huyer/The Daily Iowan

Iowa guard Addison O'Grady and LSU forward LaDazhia Williams go for the ball during the 2023 NCAA women's national championship game between No. 2 Iowa and No. 3 LSU at American Airlines Center in Dallas, Texas, on Sunday. The Tigers beat the Hawkeyes, 102-85.



Daniel McGregor-Huyer/The Daily Iowan

Iowa center Addison O'Grady blocks LSU forward Sa'Myah Smith during the 2023 NCAA women's national championship game between No. 2 Iowa and No. 3 LSU at American Airlines Center in Dallas, Texas, on Sunday.



Daniel McGregor-Huyer/The Daily Iowan

Iowa guard Gabbie Marshall blocks LSU guard Alexis Morris during the 2023 NCAA women's national championship game between No. 2 Iowa and No. 3 LSU at American Airlines Center in Dallas, Texas, on Sunday.



Daniel McGregor-Huyer/The Daily Iowan

Iowa guard Caitlin Clark reacts during a 2023 NCAA women's national championship game between No. 2 Iowa and No. 3 LSU at American Airlines Center in Dallas, Texas, on Sunday. The Tigers defeated the Hawkeyes, 102-85.



Daniel McGregor-Huyer/The Daily Iowan

Iowa guard Caitlin Clark and Iowa center Monika Czinano embrace after the 2023 NCAA women's national championship game between No. 2 Iowa and No. 3 LSU at American Airlines Center in Dallas, Texas, on Sunday. The Tigers beat the Hawkeyes, 102-85.

Dreams dashed

After a historic run in the 2023 NCAA Tournament, the Hawkeyes fell short of becoming national champions.



Daniel McGregor-Huyer/The Daily Iowan

Iowa fans react to a call during the National Championship Game between the Iowa Hawkeyes and the LSU Tigers at the American Airlines Center in Dallas, Texas, on Sunday. The Tigers beat the Hawkeyes, 102-85.



Daniel McGregor-Huyer/The Daily Iowan

The LSU women's basketball team celebrates their victory over Iowa at the National Championship Game at the American Airlines Center in Dallas, Texas, on Sunday. The Tigers beat the Hawkeyes, 102-85.



Daniel McGregor-Huyer/The Daily Iowan

Iowa center Monika Czinano goes for a layup during the National Championship Game between the Iowa Hawkeyes and the LSU Tigers at the American Airlines Center in Dallas, Texas, on Sunday. The Tigers beat the Hawkeyes, 102-85.



Daniel McGregor-Huyer/The Daily Iowan

Iowa guard Gabbie Marshall blocks LSU guards Alexis Morris and Kateri Poole during the National Championship Game between the Iowa Hawkeyes and the LSU Tigers at the American Airlines Center in Dallas, Texas, on Sunday. The Tigers beat the Hawkeyes, 102-85.



Daniel McGregor-Huyer/The Daily Iowan

Iowa guard Caitlin Clark speaks during a press conference after the National Championship Game between the Iowa Hawkeyes and the LSU Tigers at the American Airlines Center in Dallas, Texas, on Sunday. The Tigers beat the Hawkeyes, 102-85.



Finding things to celebrate

Despite a loss in the national title game, the Hawkeyes still want to recognize their historic season.



Daniel McGregor-Huyer/The Daily Iowan

Iowa women's basketball head coach Lisa Bluder arrives at the 2023 NCAA women's national championship game between No. 2 Iowa and No. 3 LSU at American Airlines Center in Dallas, Texas on Sunday. The Tigers beat the Hawkeyes, 102-85.

Chloe Peterson
Sports Editor

DALLAS — Head coach Lisa Bluder doesn't want her team to define its season by a national championship loss.

Instead, she wants them to think about everything they accomplished.

"I'm just proud of them," Bluder said. "I just told them that, for them, don't remember this. Remember that they played in a national championship game. Remember that they made it to the Final Four. And I asked them at the beginning of the year if they would have been happy playing in the national championship game. All of them would have."

National champions or not, Iowa women's basketball finished a historic season on Sunday. The Hawkeyes won a program-high 31 games in 2022-23, won the Big Ten Tournament for the second straight season, and made it to the Final Four for the first time in 30 years.

To cap it off, the Hawkeyes appeared in the national championship game for the first time in program history.

"We made history, and there's a lot to be proud of," junior guard Caitlin Clark said. "There's a lot to reflect on these last couple weeks. These three weeks have been crazy, to say the least. I'm just thankful that I got to be on this journey with these people."

The Hawkeyes had a year of firsts, starting in the preseason. Iowa was the preseason No. 4 team in the nation — the highest preseason ranking in program history.

Iowa still had some bumps and bruises along the way, including early-season losses to Kansas State, NC State, and UConn. At that point in the season, the Hawkeyes were 5-3.

Still, they weren't going to call the season a wash.

"We played some really tough games at the beginning of the season," Clark said Saturday ahead of the national championship game. "NC State, UConn, Oregon State are not easy teams to play. We traveled to Kansas State; we traveled. Just a long list of really tremendous teams. That's all you can ask is to be put in those situations, and those are the games you want to play in. But that wasn't Iowa basketball."

As the season went on, the Hawkeyes got back to



Daniel McGregor-Huyer/The Daily Iowan

Iowa guard Caitlin Clark shoots a three-pointer during the 2023 NCAA women's national championship game between No. 2 Iowa and No. 3 LSU at American Airlines Center in Dallas, Texas, on Sunday. The Tigers beat the Hawkeyes, 102-85.

their brand of Iowa basketball. Going into the final week of the regular season, Iowa had won 10 of its last 11 games and were in contention to become Big Ten regular season champions for the second straight season.

Then, Maryland stopped the party.

The Hawkeyes were unprepared for their trip to College Park, Maryland, taking a 28-point loss to the Terrapins, 96-68.

Iowa took that loss as a wake-up call. And it showed the Hawkeyes the one thing they were missing: how to get past every type of defense.

And the Hawkeyes used that knowledge to win nine straight games leading up to the national championship.

"I think that was a huge point for us," Bluder said ahead of the title game Saturday. "We got embarrassed there. We came back and went to work. I mean, [Maryland coach Brenda Frese] did a great job of having a defense we hadn't seen. Louisville tried it [in the Elite Eight], and now we're ready for it. So, I thank her. If it wasn't for that, we might not have been ready for that down the line."



Daniel McGregor-Huyer/The Daily Iowan

Iowa guard Caitlin Clark and Iowa center Monika Czinano embrace after the 2023 NCAA women's final four game between No. 2 Iowa and No. 1 South Carolina at American Airlines Center in Dallas, Texas, on Friday. The Hawkeyes defeated the Gamecocks, 77-73.

When Iowa made it to the Final Four, it had a formidable opponent in undefeated defending champion South Carolina, who had a 42-game win streak.

The Gamecocks were favorites to repeat as national champions, and bet-

ting lines favored South Carolina over Iowa by 11.5 points. But the Hawkeyes beat the odds, taking down the Gamecocks, 77-73.

Although Iowa took a 17-point loss to LSU, 102-85, in the title game, the Hawkeyes know they have

a lot to celebrate this season.

"It's been an incredible season," senior Kate Martin, who is returning for a fifth year in 2023-24, said. "I think that'll set in a little more after the hurt dies off. But we have

a lot to be proud of ... I'm super proud of everything that this team has accomplished. We've played with joy, we've played with passion, we've played together."

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Supporting from home

Fans packed Carver-Hawkeye Arena to watch Iowa women's basketball take on LSU in the National Championship Game.



Cody Blissett/The Daily Iowan

Fans cheer during the watch party for the NCAA women's basketball National Championship Game at Carver-Hawkeye Arena on Sunday. The Tigers defeated the Hawkeyes, 102-85.

Colin Votzmeyer
Sports Reporter

Carver-Hawkeye Arena opened its doors Sunday

for Hawkeye fans who couldn't make the 800-mile journey to Dallas for the Iowa women's basketball team's NCAA

Tournament National Championship Game.

The team's home arena in Iowa City held a free watch party that kicked

off at 1:30 p.m. to see junior guard Caitlin Clark and company square off against third-seeded LSU in the final game of the

Hawkeyes' historic 2023 season.

A watch party was planned for Friday night's Final Four matchup against the defending champion South Carolina Gamecocks, who the Hawkeyes beat, 77-73, but the event was canceled because of a string of tornadoes hitting Iowa.

But sunny 60-degree weather on Sunday allowed fans to fill the entire east side of the arena — almost half of the arena's 15,000-person capacity — to watch the game on the jumbotron.

Before the game started, Iowa fans treated this one like any other home game, chanting their usual "Let's go Hawks" and cheering on their feet as the Hawkeyes' starting lineup was announced. The band and spirit squad were in full effect, too, including a shirt toss to fans and the full-court putt challenge.

University of Iowa freshmen Jack Maniatis, Nick Buggemi, and Ty Chamberlin attended the watch party to cheer the team on with other Hawkeye fans.

"I got to say, the atmosphere [is why I came],"

Maniatis said. "I mean, going to a bar [to watch] is cool, but when you're with a couple thousand people rooting for the same team, it's a different feeling."

The crowd erupted after Clark's first of eight 3-pointers and for the officiating calls it disagreed with throughout the game. The crowd quieted as LSU guard Jasmine Carson got hot from deep with five threes in the first half alone.

Iowa fans were re-energized as the team mounted a comeback early in the third quarter, but the arena soon fell silent as the Hawkeyes lost hope late in the second half. They quietly exited the arena with their heads hung low as the final buzzer sounded, confirming a 102-85 win and the Tigers' first national title.

Despite the loss, Buggemi thinks the watch party's attendance demonstrates the community's support for the team's tournament run and, beyond basketball, successful Hawkeye sports teams in general.

"Now seeing this women's team get to the national stage, especially with Caitlin and all the other girls, rallying around trying to get to this national championship, it's fun," Buggemi said. "Everybody just wants to be a part of a winning culture."

Tracy Walker and her daughter, who is a student at the UI, did not watch the team much this season except for its tournament run, but they attended the watch party for the championship game.

Walker, who lives in Seattle, felt coming to the arena to watch was worth it, and she would certainly do it again.

"I just think it's a great way to bring the community together and in a nice environment [that is] family friendly [and] easy to get to," Walker said. "It was a great atmosphere [and] so much fun to have everyone here and together."

Although she was disappointed seniors Monika Czinano and McKenna Warnock ended their Iowa careers this way, Walker looked back on the season with a happier perspective.

"It's so amazing," she said. "Honestly, I just think that they should be proud of what they did."



Cody Blissett/The Daily Iowan

Fans cheer during the watch party of the NCAA women's basketball National Championship Game at Carver-Hawkeye Arena on Sunday. The Tigers defeated



Cody Blissett/The Daily Iowan

A fan cheers during the watch party of the NCAA women's basketball National Championship Game at Carver-Hawkeye Arena on Sunday. The Tigers defeated the Hawkeyes, 102-85.

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A HISTORIC RUN: IOWA MA



Iowa guard Caitlin Clark reacts to an official's call during the 2023 NCAA women's national championship game between No. 2 Iowa and No. 3 LSU at American Airlines Center in Dallas, Texas, on Sunday. The Tigers defeated the Hawkeyes, 102



The Iowa's women's basketball team watches gameplay during the 2023 NCAA women's national championship game between No. 2 Iowa and No. 3 LSU at American Airlines Center in Dallas, Texas, on Sunday. The Tigers defeated the Hawkeyes, 102

A HISTORIC RUN: IOWA MAKES CHAMPIONSHIP GAME



Iowa guard Caitlin Clark reacts to an official's call during the 2023 NCAA women's national championship game between No. 2 Iowa and No. 3 LSU at American Airlines Center in Dallas, Texas, on Sunday. The Tigers defeated the Hawkeyes, 102-85.

Daniel McGregor-Huyer/The Daily Iowan



Iowa guard Caitlin Clark dribbles past defenders during the 2023 NCAA women's Final Four game between No. 1 South Carolina and No. 2 Iowa in Dallas, Texas, on Friday. The Hawkeyes defeated the Gamecocks, 77-73, to advance to the national championship game.

Daniel McGregor-Huyer/The Daily Iowan



Iowa center Monika Czinano protects the ball during the 2023 NCAA women's Final Four game between No. 1 South Carolina and No. 2 Iowa in Dallas, Texas, on Friday. The Hawkeyes defeated the Gamecocks, 77-73, to advance to the national championship game.

Daniel McGregor-Huyer/The Daily Iowan



LSU head coach Kim Mulkey talks to a referee during the 2023 NCAA women's national championship game between No. 2 Iowa and No. 3 LSU at American Airlines Center in Dallas, Texas, on Sunday. The Tigers beat the Hawkeyes, 102-85.

Daniel McGregor-Huyer/The Daily Iowan



The Iowa women's basketball team watches gameplay during the 2023 NCAA women's national championship game between No. 2 Iowa and No. 3 LSU at American Airlines Center in Dallas, Texas, on Sunday. The Tigers defeated the Hawkeyes, 102-85.

Daniel McGregor-Huyer/The Daily Iowan



LSU forward Amani Bartlett embraces LSU forward Angel Reese after the 2023 NCAA women's national championship game between No. 2 Iowa and No. 3 LSU at American Airlines Center in Dallas, Texas, on Sunday. The Tigers beat the Hawkeyes, 102-85.

Daniel McGregor-Huyer/The Daily Iowan

WINS CHAMPIONSHIP GAME



Daniel McGregor-Huyer/The Daily Iowan



Daniel McGregor-Huyer/The Daily Iowan

Iowa guard Caitlin Clark dribbles past defenders during the 2023 NCAA women's Final Four game between No. 1 South Carolina and No. 2 Iowa in Dallas, Texas, on Friday. The Hawkeyes defeated the Gamecocks, 77-73, to advance to the national championship game.



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Iowa center Monika Czinano protects the ball during the 2023 NCAA women's Final Four game between No. 1 South Carolina and No. 2 Iowa in Dallas, Texas, on Friday. The Hawkeyes defeated the Gamecocks, 77-73, to advance to the national championship game.



Daniel McGregor-Huyer/The Daily Iowan

LSU head coach Kim Mulkey talks to a referee during the 2023 NCAA women's national championship game between No. 2 Iowa and No. 3 LSU at American Airlines Center in Dallas, Texas, on Sunday. The Tigers beat the Hawkeyes, 102-85.



Daniel McGregor-Huyer/The Daily Iowan



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LSU forward Amani Bartlett embraces LSU forward Angel Reese after the 2023 NCAA women's national championship game between No. 2 Iowa and No. 3 LSU at American Airlines Center in Dallas, Texas, on Sunday. The Tigers beat the Hawkeyes, 102-85.



Final Four

MONDAY, APRIL 3, 2023

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'WHY NOT US?'

No. 2 seed Iowa defeated top-ranked South Carolina, 77-73, in a historic win Friday. Guard Caitlin Clark scored 41 points.



FINAL FOUR FIGHT

While South Carolina was favored by 11.5 points in the national semifinal game, Iowa won, 77-73, breaking the Gamecocks' 42-game win streak.



Iowa forward Addison O'Grady goes for a layup during a 2023 NCAA women's Final Four game between No. 1 South Carolina and No. 2 Iowa at American Airlines Center in Dallas, Texas, on Friday. The Hawkeyes defeated the Gamecocks, 77-73, to advance to the National Championship Game. Daniel McGregor-Huyer/The Daily Iowan



Iowa guard Caitlin Clark celebrates from the bench with her team during a 2023 NCAA women's Final Four game between No. 1 South Carolina and No. 2 Iowa at American Airlines Center in Dallas, Texas, on Friday. The Hawkeyes defeated the Gamecocks, 77-73, to advance to the National Championship Game. Daniel McGregor-Huyer/The Daily Iowan



Iowa center Monika Czinano and Iowa guard Caitlin Clark surround South Carolina center Kamilla Cardoso during a 2023 NCAA women's Final Four game between No. 1 South Carolina and No. 2 Iowa at American Airlines Arena in Dallas, Texas, on Friday. The Hawkeyes defeated the Gamecocks, 77-73, to advance to the National Championship Game. Daniel McGregor-Huyer/The Daily Iowan



South Carolina forward Aliyah Boston blocks a shot by Iowa guard Kate Martin during a 2023 NCAA women's Final Four game between No. 1 South Carolina and No. 2 Iowa at American Airlines Center in Dallas, Texas, on Friday. The Hawkeyes defeated the Gamecocks, 77-73, to advance to the National Championship Game. Daniel McGregor-Huyer/The Daily Iowan



Iowa guard Caitlin Clark looks back during a 2023 NCAA women's Final Four game between No. 1 South Carolina and No. 2 Iowa at American Airlines Center in Dallas, Texas, on Friday. The Hawkeyes defeated the Gamecocks, 77-73, to advance to the National Championship Game. Daniel McGregor-Huyer/The Daily Iowan

Dethroning the defending champs

Iowa women's basketball took down undefeated defending champion South Carolina in the Final Four on Friday.



Daniel McGregor-Huyer/The Daily Iowan

Iowa guard Gabbie Marshall pivots with South Carolina guard Zia Cooke during a 2023 NCAA women's Final Four game between No. 1 South Carolina and No. 2 Iowa at American Airlines Center in Dallas, Texas, on Friday. The Hawkeyes defeated the Gamecocks, 77-73, to advance to the National Championship Game.

Chloe Peterson
Sports Editor

DALLAS — Perfect no more.

Iowa women's basketball took down the defending champion and undefeated South Carolina Gamecocks, 77-73, in the Final Four at American Airlines Center.

"South Carolina, unbelievable basketball team," Iowa head coach Lisa Bluder said. "I'm so proud of my women because I think they're the only people that really believed. I don't think anybody else, unless you were in black and gold, believed that we were going to win that game. So, the women in that circle, they believed, and we prepared all week as if we were going to win this game."

Iowa came out of the gate hot, rushing to an 8-2 lead after five minutes. The Hawkeyes led, 22-13, after the first quarter, with guard Caitlin Clark accounting for 12 of those points.

South Carolina center Aliyah Boston also picked up two fouls in the first quarter. She sat all of the second quarter, but South

Carolina still found a way to close the gap. Gamecock guard Zia Cooke poured in 18 points in the first half.

The Gamecocks stayed close in the third quarter, but Boston picked up her third foul in the process. South Carolina started the fourth quarter on a 5-0 run, but Clark made two 3-pointers to put the Hawkeyes back on top.

Fifth-year senior Monika Czinano got into foul trouble near the end of the game as well and checked out with just under six minutes remaining in the game. She checked back in with less than four minutes.

And as the game clock ticked to zero, the Iowa women's basketball team swarmed the court screaming in celebration because, for the first time in program history, Iowa women's basketball will appear in the national title game.

"Probably everybody in America picked South Carolina, deservedly so," Clark said. "They've been ranked No. 1 all year. They've won 42 straight basketball games. Why wouldn't you pick them? But at the same time, the people in our

locker room believed in us. That's all you need is a belief in one another, a confidence in one another."

A crucial offensive rebound

The Hawkeyes knew they were going to struggle on the rebounding front against the Gamecocks. Going into Friday, South Carolina grabbed a staggering 48 percent of all available rebounds through the season.

The Hawkeyes were heavily outrebounded, 49-25, by the Gamecocks on Friday.

But the most crucial rebound came when the Hawkeyes most needed it — forward McKenna Warnock collected the ball after a missed 3-pointer from Clark with less than 18 seconds left in the game, stopping the shot clock and forcing the Gamecocks to foul.

"I understand South Carolina got [26] O-boards, but there was one that mattered the most, and that was McKenna Warnock's," Clark said. "And that sealed the deal for us, and we were able to make free throws."

Clark carries Hawkeyes to victory



Daniel McGregor-Huyer/The Daily Iowan

Iowa forward Jada Gyamfi hugs Kate Martin after a 2023 NCAA women's Final Four game between No. 1 South Carolina and No. 2 Iowa at American Airlines Center in Dallas, Texas, on March 31. The Hawkeyes defeated the Gamecocks, 77-73, to advance to the National Championship Game.

Clark, the National Player of the Year, accounted for over 80 percent of Iowa's offense in the first half, dropping 19 points and six assists.

She finished the game with 41 points — the most in national semifinal history — as well as six rebounds and eight assists.

"It's really special," Czinano said. "Obviously, we get to see all the work she puts in each and every day. So when she wins this awards and is doing all this stuff, it's not surprising to any of us. We see what goes on behind the scenes. The way she's grown as a teammate and a leader

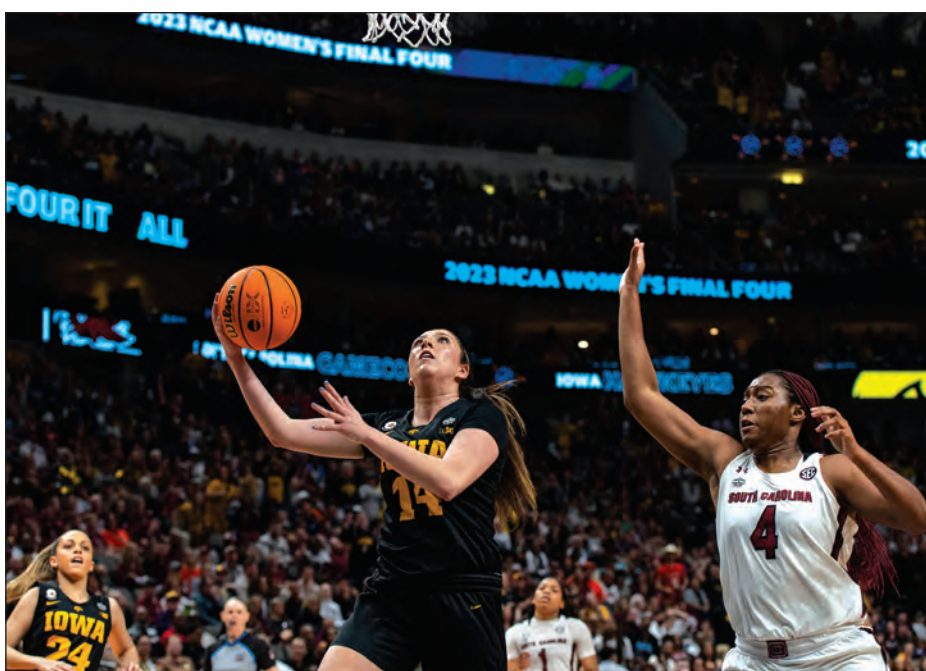
on this team has been really special."

Clark, who has 1,025 points this season, also broke the Big Ten record for most points in a season. Former Hawkeye Megan Gustafson held the old record with 1,001 points.

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One crucial rebound

Hawkeye senior forward McKenna Warnock pulled down a game-changing offensive board with 18 seconds left, sealing a 77-73 victory for Iowa.



Daniel McGregor-Huyer/The Daily Iowan

Iowa's McKenna Warnock goes in for a layup during a 2023 NCAA women's Final Four game between No. 1 South Carolina and No. 2 Iowa at American Airlines Center in Dallas, Texas, on Friday. The Hawkeyes defeated the Gamecocks, 77-73, to advance to the National Championship Game.

Chloe Peterson
Sports Editor

DALLAS — In the final 30 seconds of Iowa's first Final Four game in

30 years, junior guard Caitlin Clark took a long 3-point shot.

At the time, Iowa was up, 75-73, over undefeat-

ed and defending champion South Carolina. And the Hawkeyes were on the brink of the biggest upset of the tournament.

Clark missed the shot, which almost gave South Carolina a chance to regain possession with 18 seconds left.

Then, Hawkeye senior forward McKenna Warnock stepped up.

When the ball bounced off the rim, Warnock jumped up to grab the ball, hugging it to her chest. And the Iowa women's basketball team cheered from the sideline.

"We always want to get those O-boards, and I'm glad I could come up with that one," Warnock said. "It kind of fell in my lap. That's what we wanted in those moments; we wanted some of those to bounce our way."

When the ball ricocheted off the backboard, Warnock was the only player in the area. The Gamecocks were under the basket, and the ball careened to midcourt.

"That was a long shot and a long rebound," South Carolina center Aliyah Boston said. "Those can be really hard

just based on how hard that came off the backboard, and that shot ricocheted off the backboard. It was really high, and we just weren't in the position to get it."

Just minutes before her game-changing rebound, Warnock was banged up. She went to the bench with a towel to her mouth, nursing what appeared to be a mouth injury.

"She was hurt," associate head coach Jan Jensen said. "I couldn't tell, she wouldn't answer me when I asked — she's tough. But last, probably two or three timeouts, you could tell she was in pain. She was focusing, but it was kind of like this quiver lip. But you can just see in her eyes, I don't know if she got jacked or what, but that symbolizes what she went through."

Iowa was heavily outrebounded throughout the game, as South Carolina corralled 49 rebounds compared to Iowa's 25.

Just on the offensive side, the Gamecocks had 26 boards — more than Iowa's rebounding total.

At the end of the game, Warnock had just three rebounds on the stat line. But she also had the one that mattered most.

"I understand South Carolina got 25 O-boards, but there was one that mattered the most, and that was McKenna Warnock's," Clark said. "And that sealed the deal for us."

And 18 seconds of game time later, Clark chucked the ball into the air as the Hawkeyes swarmed the court. Iowa officially took down defending champion and undefeated South Carolina, 77-73.

"The people in our locker room believed in us," Clark said. "That's all you need is a belief in one another, a confidence in one another. We just do it for the person to our left and our right."

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PHOTOS

Continued from 9A

“ But, at the same time, the people in our locker room believed in us. That’s all you need, is a belief in one another, a confidence in one another.

— Caitlin Clark



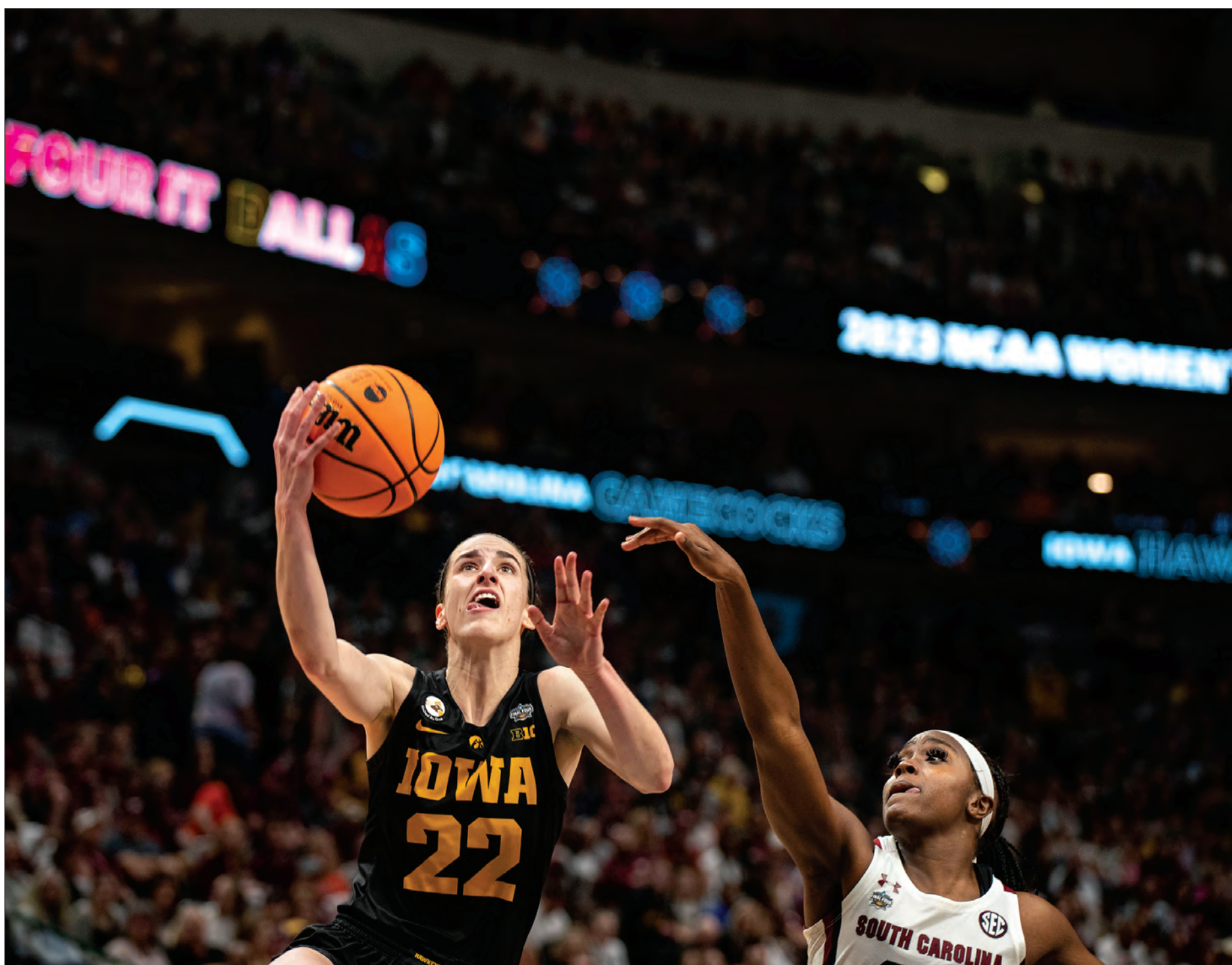
Daniel McGregor-Huyer/The Daily Iowan

The Iowa bench cheers during a 2023 NCAA women's Final Four game between No. 1 South Carolina and No. 2 Iowa at American Airlines Center in Dallas, Texas, on Friday. The Hawkeyes defeated the Gamecocks, 77-73, to advance to the National Championship Game.



Daniel McGregor-Huyer/The Daily Iowan

A young fan holds up a sign after a 2023 NCAA women's Final Four game between No. 1 South Carolina and No. 2 Iowa at American Airlines Center in Dallas, Texas, on Friday. The Hawkeyes defeated the Gamecocks, 77-73, to advance to the National Championship Game.



Daniel McGregor-Huyer/The Daily Iowan

Iowa guard Caitlin Clark goes in for a layup during a 2023 NCAA women's Final Four game between No. 1 South Carolina and No. 2 Iowa at American Airlines Center in Dallas, Texas, on Friday. The Hawkeyes defeated the Gamecocks, 77-73, to advance to the National Championship Game.



Daniel McGregor-Huyer/The Daily Iowan

Iowa guard Gabbie Marshall crouches during a 2023 NCAA women's Final Four game between No. 1 South Carolina and No. 2 Iowa at American Airlines Center in Dallas, Texas, on Friday.



Daniel McGregor-Huyer/The Daily Iowan

Iowa guard Caitlin Clark dribbles between South Carolina's Aliyah Boston and Bree Hall during a 2023 NCAA women's Final Four game between No. 1 South Carolina and No. 2 Iowa at American Airlines Center in Dallas, Texas, on Friday. The Hawkeyes defeated the Gamecocks, 77-73, to advance to the National Championship Game.



Daniel McGregor-Huyer/The Daily Iowan

South Carolina head coach Dawn Staley talks to an official during a 2023 NCAA women's Final Four game between No. 1 South Carolina and No. 2 Iowa at American Airlines Center in Dallas, Texas, on Friday. The Hawkeyes defeated the Gamecocks, 77-73, to advance to the National Championship Game.

Clark racks up NPOTY awards

The junior guard took home a bevy of honors in Iowa's run to the Final Four.



Daniel McGregor-Huyer/The Daily Iowan

Iowa guard Caitlin Clark laughs at a press conference after receiving the Associated Press Player of the Year award at American Airlines Center in Dallas, Texas, on March 30.

Chloe Peterson
Sports Editor

DALLAS — Iowa women's basketball junior guard Caitlin Clark racked up awards during Final Four week.

Clark first won the Naismith Award — one of four major player of the year honors — in a ceremony in Dallas on March 29, beating out South Carolina's Aliyah Boston, Villanova's Mad-dy Siegrist, and Virginia Tech's Elizabeth Kitley.

"Winning this award is a huge accomplishment," Clark said. "This is such a huge honor for our family and program. None of this would be possible without my tremendous support system. I [want] to thank [Iowa head coach] Lisa Bluder and her staff for giving me the opportunity to play basketball at the University of Iowa. It is a place I have thrived in since I stepped on campus."

The Associated Press announced Clark as its national player of the year

early Thursday morning.

"I picked a place that I perfectly fit into and that's allowed me to show my skill set," Clark said in a statement. "I'd be lying if I said it didn't mean something. It's not the reason you play basketball, it's just something that comes along with getting to do what you love."

This time, Clark knew about the AP National Player of the Year award in advance.

Clark found out about her AP player of the year honor while she was on a visit to the Stead Family Children's Hospital in Iowa City ahead of the NCAA Tournament.

After visiting with kids at the hospital, Clark and her coaches watched a video together of patients at the hospital wishing her luck in the tournament. At the end of the video came a familiar face: head coach Lisa Bluder. A grin spread out across Clark's face.

"Here today, I just want to let you know," Bluder

said. "You are the AP National Player of the Year."

The media voted on the national player of the year before the NCAA tournament began, and Clark received 20 of the 28 first-place votes.

She is the second Iowa women's basketball player to be the national player of the year — former Hawkeye Megan Gustafson also won the honor in 2019. Clark and Gustafson stand as the only Big Ten players to win the award since it was established in 1995.

"There's so many great players," Clark said in a statement. "You can go on and on and list the tremendous players. I think that's really good for our game when there is a lot of great players. That's what is going to help this game grow more than anything else."

As the Hawkeyes' floor general, Clark averaged 27.7 points, 7.2 rebounds, and 8.6 assists per game in 2022-23. Between points and assists, Clark accounts for 57 per-



Daniel McGregor-Huyer/The Daily Iowan

Iowa guard Caitlin Clark drives down the lane during a 2023 NCAA women's Final Four game between No. 1 South Carolina and No. 2 Iowa at American Airlines Center in Dallas, Texas, on Friday. The Hawkeyes defeated the Gamecocks, 77-73, to advance to the National Championship Game.

cent of Iowa's offense.

Clark has also been awarded the Wade Trophy and Ann Meyers Drysdale Award — two more national player of the year honors. To add to her accolades, she's The Athletic's National Player of the

Year in 2023 as well as Big Ten Player of the Year and first-team All-Big Ten. She is also the first three-time winner of the Dawn Staley Award, which is also given to the top guard.

On Saturday, she won the Nancy Lieberman award,

which is given to the best point guard in the nation.

"Caitlin is spectacular," Bluder said. "I don't know how else to describe what she does on the basketball court."

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Working with her best friends

Associate head coach Jan Jensen has worked as an assistant for her entire coaching career. Although she's had opportunities to become a head coach, she likes where she is.



Ayrton Breckenridge/The Daily Iowan

Associate head coach Jan Jensen speaks with a member of the media during a press conference for the Iowa Swarm Collective, a name, image, and likeness group partnering with Hawkeye student-athletes, at the Heights Rooftop in Iowa City on July 19, 2022.

Chloe Peterson
Sports Editor

DALLAS — Iowa women's basketball associate head coach Jan Jensen could've been a Division I head coach by now.

With 30 years of experience as an assistant and associate head coach at Drake and Iowa under head coach Lisa Bluder, Jensen is over qualified for a head coaching job.

"Jan has had so many opportunities to go on and be an assistant or a head coach of lots of Division I places," Bluder said. "But we have always said we enjoy what we're doing so much here. You never know what it's like on the other side of the fence."

Jensen sees herself as a loyal person — sometimes too loyal, she said.

Even with new opportunities available, she can't

imagine leaving Bluder, her best friend, or special assistant to the head coach Jenni Fitzgerald, as the three have been working together for over 30 years.

"I just think in this world, you can chase a lot of things, and you can chase the money and the titles, but it's pretty shallow," Jensen said. "I've always really put a lot more stock into the experiences

in my circle, and I've been so blessed with such a great family and friends, and my work group is so wonderful."

Jensen joined Bluder's coaching staff at Drake as an assistant coach and recruiting coordinator in the '90s. Jensen was a Bulldog alum, as she played at Drake from 1987-91 — she was a senior in Bluder's first year as Drake's head coach in 1991.

After Jensen and Bluder joined forces as coaches, they grew inseparable.

The duo coached the Bulldogs to five 20-plus win seasons and reached the Missouri Valley Conference Tournament eight times.

But Bluder had her eye on a bigger opportunity — the Iowa women's basketball head coaching position. She had applied for the position once before following C. Vivian Stringer's departure in 1995. That time, Iowa went a different direction and hired then-Iowa assistant Angie Lee.

When Lee stepped down in 2000, Bluder was given the offer she had hoped for. And she wanted Jensen and Fitzgerald to follow her to Iowa.

At first, Jensen was hesitant. When Bluder put in her resignation, Drake reached out to

Jensen to ask if she'd be interested in the head coaching position.

"That, for me, was one of my personally bigger crossroads, to stay at Drake and become a head coach then or to come over with her," Jensen said.

Jensen wanted to experience something new, however, so she moved from Des Moines to Iowa City.

"At the end of the day, I grew up at Drake as a player and a coach, and I really wanted a different challenge," Jensen said. "And then I got here and life unfolded as it did. I've been so blessed, and I wouldn't change a thing."

Now, 23 years and two national players of the year later, Bluder, Jensen, and the Hawkeye women's basketball program made it to the Final Four.

But it came in the wake of tragedy for Jensen and her family.

Jensen's father, Dale Jensen, died of pancreatic cancer at age 86 on March 26 — the same day Iowa played Louisville in the Elite Eight.

Following the Hawkeyes' 97-83 win over the Cardinals, Bluder took Jensen in for a long embrace at Climate Pledge Arena.

"You really want to keep it going for everybody, not just yourself," Jensen said. "And I think that was the moment, and then of course, you know, I had a lot of personal stuff going on. So they had buoyed me up that whole day. So, it was just a moment, I think, a moment among moments, and it just felt so good."

Jensen doesn't like to be singled out — one of the reasons she opted not to become a head coach after all of these years.

But the sole reason she enjoys individual awards is to be able to tell her parents of her accomplishments. One of the final things Jensen said she told her father was that she won the Women's Basketball Coaches Association 2023 Division I Assistant Coach of the Year honor.

"My mother passed away six years ago, and she thought that I could've taken over [UConn head coach Geno Auriemma's] job," Jensen said. "She believed in me that much, and so did my dad. It's just been an emotional week because I got to tell him that moment."

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TORNADO CLEANUP BEGINS

The City of Hills was among the communities affected by the tornadoes that struck Iowa on Friday.

Stella Shipman
Arts Reporter

Branches and straw blew down streets, rusted gutters sat tangled in trees, and pieces of insulation scattered across the ground in Hills, Iowa, on Saturday. Tarps flapped in the wind over broken windows and replaced entire walls of some houses.

Tornadoes struck Iowa Friday, causing heavy damage to several residential areas. Among the most affected areas was Hills, a city in Johnson County. Citizens on Oak Ridge Avenue started assessing necessary repairs on Friday and clearing debris.

Hills resident Helen Alexander was watching the tornado from her kitchen when it hit her street.

"I had the front door open and the patio door open, and I've been through a few tornadoes on the farm," Alexander said. "And there's a pressure change, and all of a sudden it was totally different."

She rushed to close her front door and move farther inside, but the tornado had completely passed within a minute. The storm left a piece of her roofing in her front entry, barring the front door. In other areas of her house, Alexander found gaping holes or missing siding — evidence of what she calls rampant "little damage."

Houses along Oak Ridge Avenue, a small Hills neighborhood off Highway F62, received the brunt of the impact. A house near the highway almost completely collapsed while its next-door neighbor's en-



A damaged house is seen at the corner of Old Oak Ridge and Highway F62 in Hills, Iowa, on Saturday after a tornado went through parts of the town on Friday. The tornado impacted a new development in the city of 902 people.

Ayrton Breckenridge/The Daily Iowan

tire wall was torn away. Based on the path of debris littering the streets and the yards, the tornado abruptly changed direction the next block over and began to move farther into the neighborhood before veering over a stretch of empty field.

The houses that were not directly in the tornado's path still experienced damage caused by high wind speeds that

sent pieces of trees, scrap metal, and chunks of other structures through the walls.

Similar damage was evident throughout the neighborhood. Resident Yancey Forkner and his wife watched a Casey's convenience store sign tear through their house. Meanwhile, resident Jonathan Goldsmith, who lives two streets over, lost his entire fence and every-

thing in his yard, which his wife posits might have diverted the tornado from their house.

Across Alexander's block, resident Nancy Roselund experienced similar damage along with the destruction of one room of her house that faced the yard. Roselund's home had just been completed in 2022.

Roselund's home is one of three in the neighbor-

hood that was contracted by Statler Construction. Jeremy Statler, the construction company's owner, helped Roselund where he could with repairs, disposing of debris, and reinforcing the roof.

Having repaired other houses after similar natural disasters in the past, Statler said he is upset for his clients and the way they are burdened with finding the physical and

financial resources to rebuild.

"Regular customers have been dreaming about building a home for years," Statler said. "They have ideas, they know what they want — we're building their dream. When I'm working with somebody who goes through a tragedy like this, it's terrible because yesterday, they had

TORNADO | Page 3

INSIDE



Forging his own path
Former Iowa football player Seth Benson chose to play for the Hawkeyes of his hometown South Dakota State. Now preparing for the NFL Draft, the linebacker has no regrets.

Page 5B



Fresh faces in the middle
With several linebackers such as Jack Campbell leaving for the draft or the transfer portal, Jay Higgins and others are ready to fill the void.

Page 6B

ONLINE

Obermann symposium's 'Frequências' film festival explores Afro-Brazilian cinema

The "Frequências" Film festival convened with lectures and interventions on the Black diaspora this past weekend.

DITV

Watch for campus and city news, weather, and Hawkeye sports coverage at dailyiowan.com



JoCo Historic Poor Farm takes shape

The county started renovations in 2017 to make the farm more functional and highlight its history.



Matt Sindt/The Daily Iowan

A tractor is seen at the Johnson County Historic Poor Farm in Iowa City on Friday.

Alejandro Rojas
News Reporter

On a 160-acre plot of land on the outskirts of Iowa City sits a farm with a history dating back to the 19th century. The Johnson County Historic Poor Farm has been renovated for the past six years and can now facilitate farmers and open to the public.

Located at 4811 Melrose Ave., the Johnson County Historic Poor Farm has been the subject of extensive work by Johnson County to update and renovate the farm.

Built in 1855, the Historic Poor Farm was one of many poor farms built in the U.S. designed to house individuals experiencing poverty or people with mental and physical disabilities.

According to the farm's website, the county-operated the property as a poor farm until 1988, when the land was farmed privately or by nonprofits. Over time, the farm fell into disrepair, with some

people even using it as a landfill, Johnson County Supervisor V Fixmer-Oraiz said.

"Some of it was being used by Secondary Roads for storage, [and] there's a lot of trash just because it was so far on that side of town. People didn't want to go as far to the landfill, so they would just dump refrigerators and that kind of stuff there," Fixmer-Oraiz said.

In 2016, the supervisors voted to restore the farm and make it available to the public. This work started with the adoption of a master plan created by Jason Grimm of Iowa Valley RC&D and Fixmer-Oraiz.

Fixmer-Oraiz said it took seven to eight months to complete a master plan that aligned with the county's desires. They said things like conservation, historic preservation, and farming made up parts of the plan.

The plan was split into three phases.

JOCO | Page 2

Winterlin, O'Brien elected next USG president, vice president

Mitch Winterlin and Carly O'Brien won with 51 percent of the vote.

Archie Wagner and Kate Perez

After winning by a competitive margin, Mitch Winterlin and Carly O'Brien will serve as the University of Iowa Undergraduate Student Government's president and vice president during the 2023-24 academic year.

The pair won 51 percent of the vote against Vera Barkosky, who served as the 2022-23 vice president, and Robert Jepsen, who served as the 2022-23 director of finance.

In an interview with *The Daily Iowan*, Winterlin said the win was not expected, but he was encouraged by the results.

"I think we've had a lot of people come up to us being like, 'You've got this, we believe in you,' so many people are rallying behind you," Winterlin said. But I mean for Carly and I, we weren't ever trying to say this is for sure win ... to see that the majority of campus really wants to see our mission and our plan I think just makes me more thrilled and excited more than anything else.

Winterlin and O'Brien are both third-year students at the UI and previously participated in the Undergraduate Student Government. Winterlin served as the director of student services and O'Brien served as the director of operations in the 2022-23 UI Undergraduate Student Government Administration.

The undergraduate student participation in this year's election was higher than in previous years, with 1,570 voters. The 2021 election had 475 students votes, and 699 students voted in the 2022 election.

WINTERLIN | Page 2

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AFTER THE STORM

Community members from Coralville and Hills, Iowa, respond to Friday's tornado damage.



Ayrton Breckenridge/The Daily Iowan
MidAmerican lineworkers fix electrical lines alongside Highway 6 after a tornado went through parts of Coralville on Friday. The Coralville fire and police departments worked alongside other agencies to help facilitate cleanup.



Ayrton Breckenridge/The Daily Iowan
Coralville firefighters turn off gas lines after a tornado went through parts of the city on Friday. The Coralville fire and police departments worked alongside other agencies to help facilitate cleanup.



The roof of a business is seen on top of cars near Highway 6 in Coralville after a tornado went through parts of the city on Friday.

Ayrton Breckenridge/The Daily Iowan



Ayrton Breckenridge/The Daily Iowan
Bob Olson looks at the ground while helping his sister-in-law Nancy Roselund clean up her property in Hills, Iowa, on Saturday after a tornado went through parts of the town on Friday.



Ayrton Breckenridge/The Daily Iowan
Nancy Roselund turns on a light to reveal damage in her bathroom in Hills, Iowa, on Saturday. "It's when you stop learning you die," Roselund said when reflecting on the damage sustained by her house.



A wall is missing off the back of a building alongside Highway 6 after a tornado went through parts of Coralville on Friday. The Coralville fire and police departments worked alongside other agencies to help facilitate cleanup.

Ayrton Breckenridge/The Daily Iowan

Opinions

COLUMN

Online classes stifle student learning

Online learning can be harmful for students, and we should fully return to in-person learning.



Chris Klepach
Opinions Columnist

We need to stop relying on online education after the COVID-19 pandemic.

The experiences students gain in a classroom can never be gained from an online classroom.

As we consider the increasing usage of distance-education, it's important that we also examine the benefits and the consequences.

As a student who was halfway through community college, my education was significantly impacted by the accommodations made for the COVID-19 pandemic. The small in-person classrooms were replaced by online classes that felt disconnected. It was harder to pay attention to lectures, and I could feel the urge to click away onto less

productive applications.

It was convenient, but so are microwaved processed foods. They both trade quality for ease.

According to a study by the American Economic Foundation, students who learned from an online class achieved lower scores compared to students in a face-to-face format. In another study published by the Journal of the European Economic Association, low-ability students achieved less than higher-ability students, who performed better.

At best, this education model privileges students who possess cognitive advantages.

Cheating is also a concern with internet-reliant education. Educators are in an arms race with ChatGPT, a program capable of producing convincing responses to many questions, including essay prompts. It was only a matter of time until students began taking advantage of this budding technology to cheat on their

coursework.

In an online class, limited interaction with professors and the feeling of anonymity make cheating more tempting.

Dylan Proeller, a University of Iowa fourth-year majoring in English and creative writing, discussed his disinterest in online learning.

"For me, it's very black-and-white between in-person and online," Proeller said. "To put it bluntly, I think online learning is worse in pretty much every way. It's just really difficult to pay attention, especially with asynchronous classes. The motivation isn't there, you're not getting the instant feedback of being in-person and being able to talk to your professor easily."

Sampson Rohret, a UI first-year student majoring in human physiology, said online learning is distracting.

"I think it's convenient, though, because you can access the class anywhere that you have an internet connection," Rohret said.



Photo Illustration by Shuntaro Kawasaki.

"It can be hard to interact with the teacher if you have questions because there's so many students, and it's hard to get your teacher or professor's attention."

The lack of personal interaction in an online class also hampers academic growth. Being able to talk to a professor during class time is valuable to students. According to a survey

by the University of Winnipeg, students preferred classes taking place in-person over online learning.

In my own experience, the ease of this in online learning depends on the professor's organization of an online course and Zoom meeting hours that sometimes won't coincide with mine. It goes without saying that no other kind of interaction can fully

replace those inside a classroom.

With the potential to abuse artificial intelligence in assignments, slumping trends in grade point averages, and removing the personal experiences that make up college life, the consequences of distance education can't be swept away.

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COLUMN

Carbon capture is the way forward

If we are going to do our part in combating climate change, we need carbon capture security pipelines.



Shahab Khan
Opinions Columnist

The Iowa House would rather protect landowners than fight climate change.

Or, at least that's what the House indicated when they passed another terrible bill this past week restricting the amount of land that could be acquired through eminent domain to build proposed carbon capture security pipelines.

The three companies building carbon capture

security pipelines in Iowa would need to voluntarily acquire 90 percent of the land needed to build the pipeline. Simply put, only 10 percent of the land can be acquired through eminent domain.

This bill makes it difficult to build the carbon capture security pipeline, a tool necessary to help facilitate the transition from fossil fuels and mitigate the effects of climate change.

Critics of carbon capture security pipelines point out that there could be potential issues with leakages and that transporting carbon underground could have detrimental effects for the local environment.

This notion, while holding some merit, assumes

that the construction of carbon capture security pipelines will be made of cheap and unsafe material. The reality is that carbon capture security pipelines are safe, and accidents will be rare as long as pipelines are kept up to date.

Furthermore, some take issue with how the pipeline will be built and its utilization of eminent domain or the appropriation of private land for public projects.

However, climate change is a collective action problem, and the importance of biofuels to Iowa's economy is greater than concerns for land ownership.

It is estimated that climate change has caused billions of dollars of damage to Iowa already, and

the rate of flooding has increased dramatically, putting the lives of thousands of Iowans at risk.

The benefits of installing the carbon capture security pipelines outweigh the concerns of landowners.

The Iowa Constitution mandates that the people who have their land possessed by eminent domain must be entitled to financial compensation.

In addition, the installation of carbon capture security pipelines is important for Iowa because of the widespread use and cultivation of ethanol in the state. It is estimated that Iowa produces 30 percent of the nation's ethanol, or more than 4.5 billion gallons a year. This translates

to 48,000 jobs and nearly \$5 billion a year for the state.

However, ethanol is also problematic because of how much carbon dioxide is emitted from the ethanol refinement process and use. While substituting ethanol for pure gasoline reduces emissions by 40 percent, ethanol still emits 5,030 kg per hectare of CO2 into the atmosphere. In other words, ethanol is a dirty fossil fuel.

This is where the carbon capture security pipelines come in. The process of carbon capture involves trapping the CO2 produced from the refinement process at ethanol plants and transporting it via pipeline to an underground site.

Installing carbon capture security pipelines would mean that Iowa is doing its part in helping the U.S. achieve net zero emissions by 2050, as carbon capture security would reduce emissions from ethanol by 30 percent.

In a world where we need to get to net zero carbon emissions by 2050 if we are going to mitigate the effects of climate change, carbon capture security pipelines have to be installed.

This will allow the ethanol industry to continue operating in Iowa while also protecting our environment and making it safe for all.

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THE DOC IS IN

COVID-19 vaccines: staying informed

Many Americans still have questions about COVID-19 vaccines and their safety.

Some Americans are still left with questions about the COVID-19 vaccines and their safety as the COVID-19 pandemic enters its fourth year.

The approval of the bivalent booster and the constant emergence of new variants only serves to increase confusion. Staying informed about the current COVID-19 protocols regarding vaccination is one of the best ways to ensure health safety during this time.

What is the COVID-19 vaccine?

The COVID-19 bivalent vaccine provides additional immunity against both the original COVID-19 virus and omicron subvariants BA.4 and BA.5. The subvariants were the dominant sub

variants in the U.S. from July until October 2022. Currently, the dominant subvariant in the U.S. is XBB.1.5. The monovalent vaccine refers to the original COVID-19 vaccine that includes the original virus.

Current Centers for Disease Control guidelines recommend a bivalent booster dose at least two months after completing the primary series or receiving the monovalent booster dose. Despite CDC data indicating that about 73 percent of people five years old or older have completed the primary dose series, only about 16 percent (42.8 million people) of Americans received the bivalent booster.

Do COVID-19 vaccines

work?

As we begin to explore the effectiveness of the bivalent booster, readers should keep in mind the purpose of most viral vaccines. The COVID-19 vaccine is intended to prevent hospitalization and death.

A study conducted in September-November 2022 provides early estimates of bivalent vaccine effectiveness. The study looked at healthy adults and found the bivalent booster dose reduced the amount of emergency department or urgent care visits and hospitalizations by over 50 percent. It should be noted that this study was conducted before XBB.1.5 became the dominant COVID-19 strain. This study shows that all patients can benefit from a bivalent booster.

What are common side effects of these vaccines?

Post-vaccination symptoms, such as fever, headache, fatigue, and sore arm, can occur after standard vaccinations are given. These can be minimized by getting rest, drinking plenty of fluids, and taking Tylenol or Advil after being vaccinated. Symptoms should go away in 1-2 days.

Are there any risks to vaccination?

There are some rare risks to getting a COVID-19 vaccination that people should also be aware of. There have been reports of myocarditis (inflammation of the heart muscle) and pericarditis (inflammation of the lining of the heart) associated

with the COVID-19 vaccinations, most commonly in young men ages 19-39.

Risk of either occurring increases with each dose received. Increasing the interval between the two primary doses can help reduce this risk. Myocarditis is said to occur within one week after vaccination and may be discovered by any of the following: chest pain, shortness of breath, and fast-beating, fluttering, or pounding of heart.

The Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System reports of myocarditis in young men from 12 to 24 years old are currently documented on the CDC website:

- 12-15 years of age: 70.7 cases per 1 million vaccinations
- 16-17 years of age: 105.9 cases per 1

million vaccinations

- 18-24 years of age: 52.4 cases per 1 million vaccinations

These are reports due to Pfizer-BioNTech vaccination alone. Therefore, there are most likely equivalent if not more reports due to the Moderna vaccination. This information was taken from December 2020-August 2021 in which 350 million vaccinations were given.

Though there can be side effects of vaccines, the CDC states the benefits outweigh the negatives of getting vaccinations for anybody above older than 6-years-old.

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Forging his own path

Seth Benson chose to play for the Hawkeyes instead of his hometown South Dakota State. Now, as he's preparing for the NFL Draft, the linebacker has no regrets.



Ayrton Breckenridge/The Daily Iowan

Iowa linebacker Seth Benson runs out before a football game between Iowa and Nebraska at Kinnick Stadium on November 25, 2022. The Cornhuskers defeated the Hawkeyes, 24-17.

Matt McGowan
Sports Reporter

It didn't take long for former Iowa football player Seth Benson to realize he belonged with the Hawkeyes.

During the linebacker's freshman season in 2018, multiple starters, including Barrington Wade and Nick Niemann, missed time with injuries. So, Benson stepped in.

After one specific play, Benson said he knew he made the right choice.

"I got [former Hawkeye defensive back] Amani Hooker behind me telling me what do," Benson said

during media availability following Iowa's pro day on March 20. "I made a play, and he came up and hugged me, gave me a tap on the head. I remember that moment. I was like, 'I think I can do it here.'"

But committing to Iowa was not an easy choice for Benson.

Growing up in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Benson's family had deep ties with South Dakota State University. His dad, Chuck Benson, played fullback for the Jackrabbits, leading the team in rushing in 1977 and earning captainship the following year.

His mom JoElle Benson was a frontcourt standout on the basketball team while his older siblings, Austin Benson, a football walk-on, and Ellie Benson, a volleyball player, each represented the Yellow and Blue.

"I kind of took a leap of faith when I came [to Iowa] instead of going to South Dakota State," Benson said. "Sometimes in life, you've just got to go all in. I told myself I don't want to look back and say, 'What if?'"

After playing just three games and redshirting in 2018 for the Hawkeyes,

the two-star recruit from Washington High School saw his numbers skyrocket, going from 11 total tackles in 2019 to 105 in 2021. Last season, the weakside linebacker earned second-team All-Big Ten honors to the tune of 94 tackles, a sack, a fumble recovery, and an interception.

Benson continues to receive praise from former teammates, including Jack Campbell, four years after Hooker's tap on the helmet.

"He's one of the most underrated Hawkeyes to ever put on the uniform," Campbell said. "At times, unfortunately, people thought I was

pretty decent. I think Seth was above and beyond anything I was. I view him as a leader and someone I model my game after."

Benson chose to spend this winter in Iowa City preparing for the NFL Draft in April, citing Iowa's facilities, coaches, and free food as the main reasons.

Even though Benson did not receive an invite to the NFL Combine in February, the 6-foot 232-pounder showcased his skills during on-field workouts and positional drills for 66 personnel members from all 32 pro teams.

"First, I always just tell myself, 'I can only control what I can control,'"

Benson said. "That really calms you down. I put the training in, I did what I needed to do, and now, just let it rip... My coaches, I know they're going to put me in the best situation [to succeed]."

Benson has talked with several NFL teams and often mentions his family and how he raised during those interviews. When he reaches out to his hometown, the hopeful NFL draft pick experiences a moment of clarity.

"When I talk to people from back home, I'm like, 'Yeah, dang, I'm training for the NFL.'"

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Ayrton Breckenridge/The Daily Iowan

Iowa linebacker Seth Benson misses a chance to tackle Iowa State running back Jirehl Brock during the Cy-Hawk football game between Iowa and Iowa State at Kinnick Stadium on Sept. 10, 2022.

'The toughest decision I have ever had to make'

Iowa's Brody Brecht details his decision to play baseball full time and say goodbye to football.



Matt Sindt/The Daily Iowan

Iowa right-handed pitcher Brody Brecht throws the ball during a baseball game between Iowa and West Michigan at Duane Banks Field in Iowa City on Friday. The Hawkeyes defeated the Broncos, 9-3.

Jake Olson
Sports Reporter

"It was probably the toughest decision I have ever had to make up to this point in my life."

Those were the first words from Iowa sophomore pitcher Brody Brecht following his first start after officially announcing he was leaving football to pursue a baseball career full time.

Brecht announced his decision to leave the Iowa football program on March 24 and spoke to the media after his five innings of work in Iowa's 10-9 loss to Maryland on March 31.

During his recruitment process, Brecht made it clear he was willing to try both baseball and football as a Hawkeye. For the first two years of his college career, he did just that.

Brecht was a three-star football recruit coming out of Ankeny High School, with offers from Iowa, Iowa State, and Kansas State. Brecht tallied 42 receptions for 599 yards and 12 touchdowns his senior year, leading the Ankeny Hawks to a state championship in the process.

But Brecht struggled with injuries during his freshman football season in Iowa City and didn't see

any game action.

As a sophomore this season in between the hash marks, Brecht made nine catches for 87 yards per catch and averaged 9.6 yards per catch.

Unlike in football, injuries haven't slowed Brecht down on the mound.

Following a season out of the bullpen for head coach Rick Heller's squad—which earned him freshman All-American status—the hard-throwing righty has become one of the best pitchers in the conference as a sophomore.

Now in the Friday night starter role, Brecht is 2-1 this season with 59 strikeouts in 33 innings. His 2.67 ERA is good for seventh among Big Ten starters.

Brecht was the No. 77 available prospect for the MLB Draft out of high school and is now slated as the No. 18 prospect, according to Prospects Live.

Brecht isn't eligible for the MLB Draft until 2024, however, as college athletes need to be three years removed from their high school graduation.

While it was difficult to quit football, Brecht knew it was best for his future.

"It's tough for sure," Brecht said. "It's a sport I have loved since I was five. It hurts stepping away, but

my desire to be great at baseball and my love for the game has continued to grow each day. I truly believe that's what God wants me to do."

While the official announcement came recently, Brecht had pondered the idea for weeks, talking to people close to him to make the best decision for his future.

"I think last week I finally had my mind made up," Brecht said. "There was just a lot of praying about it. You know just talking to family and friends and I feel like it is the best decision for me and my future."

During this process, Brecht has gotten full support from his team. Both the coaches and players were behind what he chose to do moving forward.

"We are going to respect any decision he has," sophomore Keaton Anthony said. "Just whatever he wants to do, whatever he loves. I know he loves baseball and being around us. That's something that I'm sure played into his decision. We are always going to be here for him. If he chose football too, we would have still been here for him."

jake-olson@uiowa.edu

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Fresh faces in the middle

With several linebackers leaving Iowa for the draft or the transfer portal, Jay Higgins and others are ready to fill the void.



Ayrton Breckenridge/The Daily Iowan

Rutgers quarterback Evan Simon lunges away from Iowa linebacker Jay Higgins to avoid a safety during a football game between Iowa and Rutgers at SHI Stadium in Piscataway, N.J., on Sept. 24, 2022.

Kenna Roering
Sports Reporter

Despite the departure of linebackers Jack Campbell, the reigning Butkus Award winner, and Seth Benson, a 2022 second-team All-Big Ten selection, Iowa football's linebacking group still has sky-high expectations.

Senior middle linebacker Jay Higgins, who saw action in 12 contests last season and racked up 39 tackles, is leading the charge.

"We definitely lost some leadership, which is why guys like myself and Kyler Fisher have to step up," Higgins said at spring practice media availability on March 30. "I've been learning from Jack for the last three years, so him leaving just gives me the opportunity to continue what he focused on and continue what he taught me. Now, it's time for me to teach the younger backers."

The linebacker competition has been stout throughout the Hawkeyes'

first full week of spring practice. Higgins said each linebacker has been rotating through the MIKE, WILL, and LEO positions and getting equal opportunities to show their versatility.

While Higgins said he is most comfortable at MIKE, or middle linebacker, learning the ins and outs of all three linebacker positions is beneficial to the defense's success. Higgins also said his overall knowledge of the defense has improved from last season because he's learned the responsibilities of those around him and honed in on the details — something that FootballScoop's 2022 Linebackers Coach of the Year Seth Wallace preaches to his squad.

"As a linebacker, it's one thing to know what you do, but it's another thing to know what the big picture does," Higgins said. "Just knowing where our coverage is supposed to do, what my

corners are supposed to do, or where my safeties should align — that has nothing to do with me, but coach Wallace preaches the details. If I know what's hard on my corner, and I know how they're trying to manipulate Quinn Schulte, then I know how to be a better team leader and a better linebacker."

In Iowa's initial spring depth chart, Higgins was listed as the first-string middle linebacker followed by sophomore Jaden Harrell, who hails from Urbandale, Iowa.

Harrell gained valuable experience last spring when Campbell, Benson, and Jestin Jacobs all missed spring football due to off-season procedures, but he didn't see any game action in the fall. Now, Harrell is striving to take the next step and build off of what he learned last season.

With the addition of linebacker Nick Jackson, a transfer from Virginia, Harrell said he and his

other younger teammates have extra incentive to work harder. Jackson, who committed to Iowa Feb. 8, started in 33 games and played in 40 total in his four years with the Cavaliers. He recorded 352 total tackles, 20 tackles for loss, and 10.5 sacks throughout his career and led the ACC with 10.4 tackles per game last season.

The 2022 Iowa defense is arguably one of the best that's ever come through Iowa City. The Hawkeyes surrendered 13.3 points per game in 2022, the second fewest in the nation, and gave up 10 or fewer points in nine games. Iowa also held opponents to 270.8 yards per contest and led the nation in defensive scores with seven.

Iowa will return several key players on the defensive line from 2022, including Joe Evans and Noah Shannon, both of

whom decided to come back to Iowa City for their sixth season. So, while Campbell, Benson, and projected first-round NFL draft pick and defensive lineman Lukas Van Ness are hard to replace, Higgins is confident this year's squad will live up to Iowa's dominant defensive track record.

"We have standards for a reason, and they need to be met. Nothing shy of the standard is acceptable," Higgins said. "We have plenty of talent, plenty of guys returning. Having more guys out there who have significant snaps under their belt makes me feel more comfortable when I'm out there. So, I'm just going out there with extreme confidence that these guys I'm out there with are capable of getting it done."

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Crossword

Puzzle solutions on page 2B

Edited by Will Shortz No. 0227

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ACROSS

- 1 Viewer-supported TV network
- 4 Insect whose name sounds like a letter of the alphabet
- 7 Single-masted boat
- 12 "___ missing something?"
- 13 Electric guitar accessory
- 14 Film sections
- 15 Maker of instant pictures since 1948
- 18 Nights before holidays
- 19 Capital of Egypt
- 20 Washes without soap
- 23 Borrower's limit
- 27 Filming location
- 28 1997 Will Smith/Tommy Lee Jones blockbuster
- 30 Captain Hook's henchman
- 31 "As I was going to St. ___ ..."
- 32 "Please be patient" ... or a literal description of 15-, 28-, 39- and 52-Across?
- 36 Patron saint of Norway
- 38 Pouting expression
- 39 "The Godfather of Soul"
- 43 State of matter with the lowest density
- 46 Co-creator of Black Panther, Iron Man and the Hulk
- 47 Arrived, as inspiration
- 49 Major city in Tuscany
- 51 Abominable Snowman, by another name
- 52 Brief time to shine
- 57 Rest periods
- 58 Fish in a Japanese garden
- 59 Sandy shade
- 60 Prone to creative expression
- 61 Move like a bunny
- 62 Like a fox

DOWN

- 1 Times, Post, Daily News, etc.
- 2 Schlocky film like "Killer Klowns From Outer Space"
- 3 Phone mode for a theater
- 4 Tavern
- 5 Angsty music genre
- 6 Grandeur than grand
- 7 Egyptian symbol of growth and rebirth
- 8 Sprite flavor
- 9 Number of Q tiles in Scrabble
- 10 "___ the ramparts we watched ..."
- 11 Free ad, for short
- 14 Descendant
- 16 Donkey
- 17 Surrealist with a trademark mustache
- 21 1815 novel on which the film "Clueless" was based
- 22 One reading tea leaves, say
- 24 Site of an ancient painting, perhaps
- 25 Top card
- 26 Tie-breaking soccer shots: Abbr.
- 29 The "N" of N.Y.C.
- 30 Earth's oceans, so to speak
- 32 Tuscaloosa school, informally
- 33 Texter's "I think ..."
- 34 Takes to the impound lot
- 35 Scavenger ___
- 36 Drinks you can get with or without pulp, for short
- 37 Back muscle, in brief
- 40 Classic toy with the jingle lyric "a spring, a spring, a marvelous thing!"
- 41 Red root vegetables
- 42 Italian painter Guido
- 43 Those whom a host hosts
- 44 Real
- 45 Very thin
- 48 Dark loaf, often
- 50 Egyptian symbol of life
- 52 Deg, for an exec
- 53 Bobby of the Boston Bruins
- 54 Largest art museum in the Americas, with "the"
- 55 Overly
- 56 With it

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