

UW WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

No stopping Park-Lane, Pirates in fourth loss

BADGEREXTRA STAFF

Junior guard Brooke Schramek had a strong showing for the University of Wisconsin women's basketball team on Friday. But Seton Hall senior guard Lauren Park-Lane had an even better one. She scored a career-high 37 points in the Pirates' 83-72 victory in the second game of the Paradise Jam in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands.

Park-Lane was 11-for-21 from the field, 12-for-14 from the free throw line and had four assists, two rebounds and one steal for the Pirates (3-3). Schramek had 18 points on 7-for-13 shooting, including a career-high four 3-point field goals in five attempts for the Badgers (3-4). Beaver Dam native and red-shirt freshman Maty Wilke and freshman forward Serah Williams scored 16 points apiece. Seton Hall broke the game open in the second quarter, outscoring UW 21-13 to take a 43-35 lead at half. UW's deficit was 63-52 after three quarters.

UW starting guard Avery La-Barbera, a graduate student, left the game in the first half with an injury and did not return. The Badgers were already short-handed after losing captain Halle Douglass to a season-ending injury against Illinois State. The Badgers shot 42.4% (28-for-66) from the field, including 29.2% (7-for-24) from 3-point range, while the Pirates shot 45.9% (28-for-61) and 30.4% (7-for-23), respectively. UW will play VCU in its final game of the tournament at noon Saturday.



Seton Hall 83, Badgers 72

Key: UW commits 17 turnovers.

Next: Noon Saturday, vs. VCU, Paradise Jam, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands.



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UW MEN'S BASKETBALL

Another close game yields third-place finish

48% shooting from 3

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NASSAU, Bahamas — It was another tight finish for the University of Wisconsin men's basketball team in the third-place game of the Battle 4 Atlantis.

There were 50 seconds left when Southern Cal's Boogie Ellis scored his only points of the second half to make it a three-point game. The Badgers knew that it took a lot less time to even things out, having been forced into overtime Thursday because of a last-second shot.

Sophomore guard Chucky Hepburn wasn't going to let that happen again. He missed the step-back jumper to further UW's lead. He made up for it when he stole the ball from Drew Peterson with 15 seconds left and scored the crucial layup to seal a 64-59 win on Friday.

"I recognized that (Peterson) had been dribbling the ball with his right hand the whole game," Hepburn said. "He wasn't going back to his left. So I made a play on the ball. I knew we had a foul and I made a play on the ball to be able to score."

The Badgers, who trailed by as many as seven points in the first half, claimed third place at the Battle 4 Atlantis.

UW utilized a 12-5 run over the last 4 minutes, 33 seconds of the first half to gain a two-point lead heading into halftime. Jordan Davis scored five of his eight first-half points in that stretch.

The Trojans took back the lead with a 8-0 run early in the second half. The two teams proceeded to trade leads until 4:25 left in the game when the Badgers took and kept the lead until the end of the game.

The Badgers (5-1) capitalized on USC's high turnover rate, forcing 14 turnovers and scoring 15 points off the mistakes. That helped offset a 36-32 rebounding deficit and the Trojans' best 3-point performance this season.

Ellis, USC's leading scorer, was held to 1-for-7 shooting in the second half after going 5-for-9 in the first. He typically averages 18.5 points per game, but was held to 15. As a team, the Trojans converted 50% of first-half shots but were held to 33.3% in the second half.

Three Badgers players scored more than 10 points. Hepburn had a game-high 17. Tyler Wahl and freshman Connor Essegian had 14 and 12, respectively. The team shot 44.6%.

UW walks away from the Battle 4 Atlantis 2-1 with its lone loss coming in overtime against No. 3 Kansas, the reigning national champions.

"I'm extremely proud of our guys," UW coach Greg Gard said. "The question was how were we going to respond after yesterday's tough loss (to Kansas)? How can we use that to help us and not hurt us? ... Third game in three days, again, three good teams. We learned a lot. We've grown a lot in this three-day span that's going to help us as we go forward."

Here are three things that stood out.

Hepburn breaks out of slump

Hepburn has not had a good showing in the first two games at



Wahl



Essegian

open the scoring for the Badgers. He finished the first half with nine points on 3-for-4 3-point shooting, with his last bucket of the stanza at 8:14.

He kicked off the second half scoring, too, with a second-chance layup. He finished the game making 7 of 13 shots (53.8%). His layup to seal the game gave him eight second-half points.

First half 3-point showers

Neither UW nor USC are particularly great 3-point shooting teams, converting 33.3% and 29.5% of attempts this season, respectively. That wasn't the case for the first half as both teams showcased their unproven ability to hit long-range shots.

The Badgers had five players hit 3-pointers, led by Hepburn's nine on 3-for-4 shooting. Essegian only made one of his two first-half attempts, but it tied up the game at 16 with 12:02 left in the half. Steven Crowl, Davis and Isaac Lindsey also hit 3-pointers for the team to go a combined 7-for-16.

UW entered the game with the best 3-point defense in the country. The Badgers held their opponents to 17.8% 3-point shooting through the first five games. USC went 6-for-13, which included nine of Ellis' 13 first-half points coming from 3-point range.

Peterson went 2-for-2 and Milwaukee native Kobe Johnson

the Battle 4 Atlantis, combining for eight points on 3-for-19 (15.8%) shooting.

The sophomore came out with a bang against USC, hitting his first two 3-pointers to

rounded the Trojans out with the final 3-pointer. He finished with eight points, one off a career-high set Thursday against Brigham Young.

The Trojans (4-3) were 5-for-10 from the perimeter in the second half and finished 11-for-23 (47.8%) on 3-pointers.

It takes everyone

Nobody was dominant for the Badgers. Coach Greg Gard played nine players and all but two scored.

Davis didn't score against Kansas, but came back to add eight points — all of which came in the first half. He also had a huge pair of offensive rebounds that resulted in a layup to cut USC's lead to just three points with 4:33 left in the first half.

"He stayed true to who he needs to be," Gard said. "He can't be tied to whether the ball goes in emotionally. I thought he defended, did some good things rebounding. He cuts well. Just stay true to who you are and how you can best help this team. He did that. It's the best he's ran toward that objective in quite a while."

Essegian stepped up in the second half, when he scored nine of his 12 points and grabbed three of his four rebounds. He also drew three fouls on defense to cause the Trojans to turn the ball over.

Eight Badgers players grabbed a rebound, with Wahl and Crowl leading with nine and seven, respectively.

"To be able to get some contributions from Connor from off the bench as he's still learning," Gard said, "but it was across the board. (Carter Gilmore) gave us some good minutes. Isaac Lindsey was really solid when he was in."

Basketball

From B1

from 3-point range. He had only committed three turnovers in four games total last season, yet he did it in back-to-back outings at the Battle 4 Atlantis.

Gard said UW could have used some scoring from Hepburn in the 69-68 overtime loss to No. 3 Kansas on Thursday.

"Every player goes through rough spots," Gard said. "You're not going to play on a high level as he has all the time. There's going to be downs and peaks and valleys. You try to minimize how deep you are when it is a valley but for him just to stay positive. To not overthink it was huge."

Hepburn came out ready to compete against the Trojans. He kept his teammate's and coach's words in mind and started the game off with a 3-point shot. He'd add another just over two minutes

later and another eight minutes after that.

He had scored eight points over the past three games, but had nine against USC with 8:15 left in the first half.

The Omaha native started the second half with a second-chance layup before going quiet until he scored with 4:25 remaining. In the time in between he was assisting his teammates finishing with four assists, including a pair to freshman Connor Essegian that helped close USC's lead.

It wasn't just his offensive performance that shined. He was extremely effective on the defensive end. Hepburn's steal from USC's Boogie Ellis and subsequent pass to Wahl in the first half tied the game early.

His other steal came in the final seconds. The Badgers were up 62-57 after Hepburn hit a jumper. Ellis, a NBA prospect, hit his only shot of the second half with 50 seconds to go before Hepburn

missed a step-back jumper on the next possession.

He didn't get frazzled. He stole the ball from Drew Peterson with 15 seconds left and made a layup to put the game out of reach.

It was an excellent read from Hepburn, who had noticed Peterson was only dribbling with his right hand throughout the game. So, Hepburn made a play for the ball and capitalized on it.

It was Hepburn's defensive assignment that Gard said really helped Hepburn get back to his normal self.

Hepburn shut down Ellis, USC's leading scorer, to 1-for-7 shooting in the second half. The Trojans' guard scored 13 points in the first half. He averaged 18.5 points coming into the game, but Hepburn held him to 15.

"I let him go (in the first)," Hepburn said. "I fell asleep on defense a bunch of times and that got him going a little bit. So, I talked to my teammates at half and it helped in

the second."

Hepburn finished the game with 17 points, which tied his career-high set against Purdue March 1. He was 7-for-13 from the field and 3-for-5 from 3-point range, while grabbing a pair of rebounds and leading the team in assists and steals.

It was a redemption game for Hepburn, who was poised to be the Badgers' star after a successful freshman season.

"It definitely feels good to be back in rhythm," Hepburn said. "I thank my teammates for having the confidence in me to be able to go on and score."

Wisconsin	36	28	—	64
Southern Cal	34	25	—59	
WISCONSIN — Crowl 3-10 1-3 8, Wahl 6-12 2-3 14, Davis 3-5 1-1 8, Hepburn 7-13 0-1 17, Klesmit 0-2 0-0 0, Essegian 4-8 0-0 12, Gilmore 1-3 0-0 2, Lindsey 1-3 0-0 3, Iiver 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 25-56 4-8 64.				
SOUTHERN CAL — 1-1 0-0 2, Dixon-Waters 3-7 0-0 7, Ellis 6-16 0-1 15, Peterson 6-15 0-0 17, White 3-6 1-2 7, Johnson 3-7 0-1 8, Hornery 0-2 1-2 1, Thomas 1-2 0-0 2, Wright 0-0 0-0 0, Sellers 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 23-56 2-6 59.				
3-point goals — W 10-24 (Essegian 4-6, Hepburn 3-5, Lindsey 1-2, Davis 1-3, Crowl 1-5, Gilmore 0-1, Klesmit 0-1, Wahl 0-1), SC 11-23 (Peterson 5-6, Ellis 3-8, Johnson 2-3, Dixon-Waters 1-4, Hornery 0-2). Rebounds — W 28 (Wahl 9), SC 33 (Peterson 10). Assists — W 13 (Hepburn 4), SC 12 (Johnson 5). Total fouls — W 7, SC 14. Att. — 510.				

Volleyball

From B1

streak against any team in Nebraska history. The Cornhuskers lost nine consecutive matches to Missouri State from 1975-78. Nebraska still holds a 19-13-1 lead in the all-time series with UW.

"I'm proud of these guys," UW coach Kelly Sheffield said. "It's so hard to win these things and we don't take that for granted. The competition that you have every week and then you come into this place and win in front of this crowd. Early in the year we wouldn't have been able to do that. But to see them grow and coming together and get better and embrace big moments."

Junior Devyn Robinson had 16 kills to lead the UW attack as the Badgers hit .235 for the match against Nebraska's top-ranked defense. Redshirt sophomore Sarah Franklin provided 12 kills and sophomore Anna Smrek had 11 with just one error.

"I feel like it was just a team effort and we all just left it on the court," Robinson said. "I just saw all the confidence from Izzy (Ashburn) and my back row. I feel like this is a whole new team with our own strengths and weaknesses and we just came together."

Redshirt senior Kaitlyn Hord led the Cornhuskers (24-4, 16-3) with 13 kills. Sophomores Lindsay Krause and Ally Batenhorst had 12 and 10 kills, respectively. Nebraska hit .200 as a team.

Robinson helped the Badgers get off to a sizzling start in the first set with six kills. UW scored the first four points and opened up a lead of as many as nine points, 22-13, on Robinson's sixth kill.

The Cornhuskers battled back with a 5-0 run to narrow the mar-



JUSTIN WAN, LINCOLN JOURNAL STAR

UW players, including Gabby McCaa (middle), celebrate the victory over Nebraska.

gin to 22-18. But Nebraska committed two service errors to put UW at set point and, after kills by Whitney Lauenstein and Ally Batenhorst cut the lead to 24-21, Franklin put away the winner.

The Badgers hit .400 in the first set with just two attack errors, while the Cornhuskers hit .286 with four errors.

"She came out of the gates and really announced her presence with authority," Sheffield said of Robinson. "We got off to a really good start and then we settled in there and just battled."

The second set was a back-and-forth affair, with the Badgers leading 18-17 before the Cornhuskers went on a 6-1 run to open up a

23-19 lead. Nebraska got to set point on a service error by Gulce Guctekin. After fighting off one set point on a killing by Franklin, Bekka Allick got the kill to even the match at one set apiece.

Set 3 was another tight battle as it was tied 16 times before the Badgers started to pull away. The last tie was at 17 before the Badgers closed out with an 8-3 run.

The Badgers twice appeared to have opened up fairly comfortable leads, only to have points overturned by Nebraska challenges. An apparent kill by Robinson that would've put UW up 20-17 was negated by a net violation. And then what was originally called a hitting error on Nebraska was

reversed as a touch was called on Franklin. A hitting error by Franklin allowed the Cornhuskers to close to within 22-21, but the Badgers finished with a 3-0 run, starting out with a Nebraska service error followed by a kill by Julia Orzol and a stuff block by Orzol and Caroline Crawford, who returned to the lineup after missing the previous five matches with a broken finger.

"We came out of the locker room in the third and got back to work," Sheffield said. "I thought we played pretty solidly."

The Badgers took command in the fourth set with a 6-0 run to open up a 14-8 lead behind the serving of Crawford. They stretched that lead to as many as eight points, 19-11, after a 3-0 run that included an ace by Guctekin. Nebraska never got closer than four points the rest of the way, with the Badgers getting the last two points on a kill by Danielle Hart and an attack error on Lauenstein.

"We got a little bit of a lead and we just kept siding out," Sheffield said. "They weren't able to put points on top of points together. Our passing as the match went on was so good."

"We started out pretty well with our serving and then it got a little wonky at the end of the first set. Then we started finding our groove and had their setters on the run a little bit more as the match was going on. Our serve and pass game was huge."

Wisconsin	25	21	25	25
Nebraska	21	25	21	19
WISCONSIN (kills-digs-blocks) — Beyer 0-0-0, Bramschreiber 0-0-0, Hammill 0-13-0, Crawford 2-5-3, Robinson 16-1-3, Ashburn 0-9-0, Franklin 12-8-1, Smrek 11-2-5, Hart 8-1-4, Guctekin 0-15-0, Orzol 8-8-2. Totals 57-62-10.				
NEBRASKA (kills-digs-blocks) — Hames 0-9-0, Allick 9-3-6, Boesiger 0-2-0, Rodriguez 0-17-0, Orr 0-5-0, Kubik 7-13-0, Lauenstein 4-7-4, Batenhorst 10-9-5, Krause 12-1-1, Hord 13-0-4. Totals 55-66-10.				
Hitting percentage — W .235, N .200. Aces — W 3 (Orzol, Bramschreiber, Crawford), N 1 (Rodriguez). Assists — W 55 (Ashburn 28), N 49 (Hames 25). Att. — 8,255.				