

Hawkeyes edged by Boilers in Big Ten opener

By Brendan Stiles

HawkeyeDrive.com

The Iowa Hawkeyes hung with Purdue all evening, but weren't able to overcome timely Boilermaker buckets, as Purdue defeated Iowa 79-76 on Wednesday at Carver-Hawkeye Arena in what was the Big Ten opener for both teams. With the loss, the Hawkeyes fell to 8-6 overall and are 0-1 in conference play.

Leading the way for Iowa once again was sophomore guard Devyn Marble, who had team-highs of 17 points and six assists. In addition, the Hawkeyes also received key contributions from sophomore forward Melsahn Basabe and senior guard Matt Gatens. Basabe had 14 points and eight rebounds, while Gatens finished with 11 points, six rebounds and five assists.

Meanwhile, the Boilermakers were led by forward Robbie Hummel, who had a double-double of 16 points and 11 rebounds. Purdue also received a spark off the bench from guard D.J. Byrd, who played 22 minutes and finished 6-of-9 shooting from the floor in the win.

Iowa will now play two straight games on the road, the first of which comes Dec. 31 against No. 11 Wisconsin, who defeated Nebraska in its league opener on Dec. 27. Tip-off is scheduled for 12 p.m. Central and the game will air nationally on the Big Ten Network. This will be the Hawkeyes' first game outside the state of Iowa this season.