



## 2018 Missouri Valley Conference Women's Basketball Tournament

Championship – Game 9

**No. 1 Drake 75, No. 3 Northern Iowa 63**

**Sunday, March 11, 2018 \* TaxSlayer Center, Moline, Ill.**



**HEAD TO HEAD** – Drake leads the series with UNI 62-24, and the Bulldogs have won 6 straight in the series. The Bulldogs have won all 5 MVC Tournament matches, including the 2017 championship game, 74-69 in overtime. This is the second straight “All-Iowa” title game in Valley basketball. **Tanya Warren** is 12-14 vs. Drake.

**TOURNAMENT TYPE** – The Bulldogs are the 19<sup>th</sup> No. 1 seed to win the tournament ... Drake is 45-24 all-time in the Valley Tournament winning its 7<sup>th</sup> championship with 6 runner-up finishes. Drake is 17-1 as the No. 1 seed, winning the tournament as the No. 1 seed in 1997, 1998, 2000 and 2017—runner up in 2001. Other Drake titles were in 1995 and 2017 ... UNI is 5-6 as the No. 3 seed ... UNI is runner-up for the third straight year and its 2 titles were in 2010-11 ... UNI is 22-22 all-time in the Valley Tournament.

**2017-18 REGULAR-SEASON MEETINGS** – Drake swept UNI, winning 81-64 Jan. 19 in Des Moines behind 16 points by **Becca Hittner**—and a 40-24 halftime lead. Drake won 72-67 Feb. 16 in Cedar Falls behind **Sammie Bachrodt's** 20 points. UNI's **Megan Maahs** had 20 points and 31 rebounds combined in the 2 games.

**BULLDOG BITES** – Drake's 21<sup>st</sup> straight win is the 5<sup>th</sup> longest current active win streak in NCAA Division I ... With 316 treys this season, Drake is No. 1 in Valley history in season 3-pointers, eclipsing MSU's NCAA record 305 in 2004-05 ... Drake is No. 7 in the nation in scoring (83.0) ... 7 different Drake players have led the team in scoring for at least one game this season ... With 2,726 points, DU is No. 3 in Valley history for single-season team points, just 20 short of No. 2 Missouri State in 1991-92 (its Final Four team)... **Becca Hittner's** .484 (108-223) career 3-point FG Pct. is No. 1 in Drake history and No. 2 in Valley history. Hittner's .841 free throw percentage (181-215) is No. 2 in Drake history and No. 19 in Valley history ... DU's 31 3-pointers made in the tournament tied for No. 3 in Valley Tournament history. Hittner tied her season-high with 3 blocked shots.

**PANTHER POINTS** – **Ellie Howell** scored 18 of her season-high 20 in the second half against Missouri State... UNI is 12-2 this season when shooting a better FG Pct. than the opponent ... During UNI's current 6-game win streak, opponents are averaging just 47.5 points per game ... The Panthers have held 17 opponents under 60 points ... During the **Tanya Warren** era, the Panthers are 75-0 when holding opponents to 60 points or less ... During its recent 5-game winning streak, UNI has held opponents to a .312 Field Goal Pct. (99-317) ... UNI held Illinois State to 36 points in the quarterfinals, the 2<sup>nd</sup>-lowest in Valley Tournament history, in a 56-36 quarterfinal win.

**FIRST QUARTER RECAP** – Drake missed its first 3 shots and UNI missed its first 5, but the Bulldogs got layups from **Brenni Rose** and **Sara Rhine** sandwiched around a **Nicole Miller** 3-pointer to take a 7-0 lead I the first 4 minutes (UNI called time out at 6:01) ... UNI went 12:36 (dating back to the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter on Saturday) without a field goal before Megan Maahs scored with 4:46 left ... Things heated up in the final 5 minutes as 5 different Bulldogs scored while **Abby Gerrits** hit a pair of 3-pointers for UNI and the first quarter ended 20-12 in Drake's favor.

**SECOND QUARTER RECAP** – Drake's first 8 baskets were 1 each by 8 players and the Bulldogs built a 29-17 lead in the first 4 minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter, but UNI came roaring back with a 12-2 run to close within 31-29 on **Karli Kroeger's** layup with 3:58 left ... DU pulled away from 37-36 to lead 43-36 in the final 90 seconds. **Hannah Fuller** hit a 3-pointer, then **Sara Rhine** stole a back-court pass leading to a trey by **Maddy Dean**. DU is 22-2 when leading at halftime ... UNI is 1-10 when trailing at halftime. Each team had 7 3-pointers in the first half—each by 6 different shooters ... UNI's 24 points are the highest 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter total in a Valley Tournament game. DU's 23 points are No. 2 for a Valley Tournament 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter.

**THIRD QUARTER RECAP** – DU extended the lead to 47-38 on a **Becca Jonas** bucket with 7:50 left, but UNI went on an 11-0 run started by an **Ellie Howell** 3-pointer and finished when **Taylor Hagen** rattled home a jumper to give UNI a 49-48 lead—its first of the game ... But Drake regained the lead on a basket by **Nicole Miller** and scored 12 of the next 14 points to take a 60-51 lead ... UNI missed 5 straight shots before **Nicole Kroeger** hit a 3-pointer with 45 seconds left to close the DU lead to 62-56 at the end of three.

**FOURTH QUARTER RECAP** – A layup by **Megan Maahs** with 7:20 left got UNI within 65-61, but Drake answered with a bucket inside by **Becca Jonas** and a 3-pointer by **Nicole Miller** to stretch the lead to 69-61 ... UNI missed 10 straight shots after Maahs' basket ... UNI's 7 points in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter were tied for the 3<sup>rd</sup>-fewest by an MVC Tournament team in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter.