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Men's basketball: Iowa gives No. 3 Texas early scare in loss

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Kansas City, Mo. – There's no column for progress in a boxscore.

You can't find it wedged in there, next to field-goal attempts or assists. Only true numbers appear, often bringing harsh reality to a 40-minute basketball game.

Numbers that add up to Texas 85, Iowa 60. But inside the lines during Monday's game in the CBE Classic at the Sprint Center, Iowa coach Todd Lickliter saw progress.

"You know what?" Lickliter said. "We played some really good basketball. We just didn't play enough of it. We're a better team now. That's what we've got to strive for. We've got to try and be a better team every night."

<http://desmoinesregister.stats.com/cbk/boxscore.asp?gamecode=200911230585&home=585&vis=276>">**Box score:** Texas 85, Iowa 60

The next opportunity comes at 6:45 p.m. today, when Iowa (1-3) meets Wichita State (2-1) in the consolation game of the CBE Classic at Sprint Center.

Monday's final score got out of hand when the Longhorns finished the game with a 22-7 run over the last 8 minutes. Iowa missed 11 of its last 13 shot attempts. Those last 8 minutes were a far cry from the end of the first half.

The Hawkeyes rallied from a 14-point deficit to tie the game, 38-38, at halftime on freshman point guard Cully Payne's 70-foot buzzer beater.

"I really didn't think much about it," Payne said. "One thing I've been told is to know the score and the clock. I saw the clock running down and just threw it up."

Matt Gatens opened the second half with a 3-pointer to give Iowa its biggest lead of the game. Texas answered with a 17-0 run. The Longhorns hammered it inside to 6-foot-10, 290-pound center Dexter Pittman, who got the run started with three straight scores in the paint.

"They made a concerted effort to go inside early (in the second half)," Lickliter said. "They went right at us hard."

Iowa shot just 18.8 percent from the field the second half, making only two two-point field goals and six overall in 32 attempts. Texas outscored Iowa in points in the paint, 40-18, and fast-break points, 16-2. That helped the Longhorns shoot 66.7 percent from the field the second half and 55.6 percent for the game.

Iowa outrebounded Texas in the first half, 17-15.

"Really incredible," Lickliter said.

The Longhorns outrebounded Iowa in the second half, 25-14. Pittman scored 11 of his 15 points and grabbed five of his eight rebounds the second half. Another senior, 6-7 Damion James, had six of his

10 points and seven of his 12 rebounds the second half.

"I didn't think either one of them were particularly at the top of their game at the start," Texas coach Rick Barnes said.

James became the third player in Texas history to reach 1,000 points and 1,000 rebounds Monday. Iowa's best inside scorer, Brennan Cougill, scored 10 of his 11 points in the first half. The 6-9 freshman now has 27 points and 16 rebounds.

Some day, the former Sioux City Heelan star may reach a grand milestone. But his inexperience, and James' wealth of experience, shows where these two programs are at right now.

"The nice thing about this group is that they really care," Lickliter said. "They're really competitive, and they won't accept this. So they'll get better."
