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**DEFENSIVE STANCE.** “As a team, we are going into every practice and not ‘setting a ceiling,’ meaning we want to get better every practice. Defense is key for us, so as a team, we work on it every day in practice,” Emma Gerdes (’16) said.

## DRIVE TO STATE

As the last second of the game clock flashed at the Wells Fargo Arena, the ball floated out of **Emma Gerdes’s** (’16) grip and the crowd hung on breathless until a satisfying whoosh relieved the Tigers’ suspense, and the quarterfinal game against Wauke, last year’s state champs, was won, 48-46.

But the season was filled with many impressive victories to get to that point.

After losing only two games in their regular season, making it to State and then ending their journey in the state semifinals, the girls played a hard fought and satisfying season.

“The success of the girls is the product of the team putting in the needed time in the off-season to not only improve their individual skills, but also work together as a team to build the needed chemistry to be successful on the court. Their success is reflective of their work ethic, leadership skills and their willingness to put the team above individual accolades,” coach **Gregg Groen** said.

Though the hard work was always there, Gerdes said the results were overwhelming. “I don’t think any of us expected to do as well as we did. It was a surprising season, but we knew we could do it. We worked really hard, and it was very rewarding,” she said.

Groen said the players deserved

the rewards. “This season was a very memorable season for many reasons, and I was extremely proud and excited for the players and what they were able to accomplish. This team was a very talented group of players who were extremely unselfish, and the core of their success centered on their confidence in each other to play at a high level each game,” Groen said.

Not only did the talent and character prevail within in the team, but the school and community around them swelled too as the Tiger Nation student section showed support.

For the girls, the game was much more than a win or loss.

“I mean the basketball part of it was a lot of fun, but I think that just having the team and coaches together as a family was by far the best part,” Gerdes said. “I’ll definitely miss the team the most. We’re together all the time. I’ve basically grown up with these girls and coaches, so it’ll be really weird not to be a part of it.”

As high school basketball is ended for some, the rest of the underclassman were ready to work hard, and as the clock starts over for next year, Groen is aware of the impact of this year’s girls basketball team. “This team definitely left its impression on the future of girls’ basketball at Cedar Falls.”

by Allie Taiber



**LAYING IT UP.** Jumping up for the layup is **Kiana Barney** (’18) as she makes the basket for two points at the Waterloo West game. The Tigers dropped the Wahawks, 64-26, and they would beat them again on their way through the postseason. Photo by John Dunlop



**LENDING SUPPORT.** On the way to a 46-30 victory over the Kennedy Cougars at home, **Reilly Johnson** (’17) grabs an assist and heads to the hoop. Later in the season, she injured her ACL against City High; however, that didn’t stop her from offering sideline support. “I definitely think it brought me a new aspect to the game and made me like basketball even more.”

Photo by John Dunlop



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**CELEBRATE GOOD TIMES.** Moving up a bracket, the varsity girls bring it in for a group celebration after a 48-46 victory over last year's state champion, Waukee. *Photo by John Dunlop*



**GOING UP.** Driving it home for two, **Hailey Paup ('18)** takes the shot in the I Wireless Center during the state game. *Photo by John Dunlop*



**CIRCUS SHOT.** Adding a basket to the 67-31 defeat of New Hampton at home is **Ally Conrad ('17)**. *Photo by John Dunlop*



**MOVIN' UP.** Dribbling around the Waukee defense at the state quarterfinal in Des Moines is **Cynthia Wolf ('18)**. She was key to giving the team second chances as she led the Tigers with 68 rebounds on offense and 114 on defense. *Photo by John Dunlop.*

**BUZZER BEATER.** Going for it, **Emma Gerdes ('16)** sinks a deep two point shot with three seconds left on the clock. She put the Tigers ahead to win the game during the state quarterfinals against Waukee. *Photo by John Dunlop*

**Women's Basketball 133**  
*Designed by Vanessa Kime, Logan Cole*



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