

BLOOMINGTON, IN – Indiana Volleyball sweeps Washington (5-7) to improve to 11-1 Saturday at Wilkinson Hall.

There were five loud eruptions that set the tone for the match.

The first came 15 minutes before play began at 6:45 p.m. when Elijah Sarratt scored a 49 yard touchdown to give Indiana football the lead over Iowa.

The second came at 6:57 p.m. when Iowa turned the ball over on downs, sealing the win for the Hoosiers.

“Right at the start of the match, there’s a huge energy lift in the arena, and the students start pouring in, and everyone’s in a good mood,” Indiana head coach Steve Aird said.

The Hoosiers used that momentum to pull out a gutsy win in set one 26-24 prompting the third massive eruption from the crowd at Wilkinson Hall.

Indiana took the set despite hitting only 13.5%. It relied on its star freshman outside hitter, Jaidyn Jager, in clutch moments, and she delivered points 25 and 26 in the opening set.

Jager led the Hoosiers with 12 kills.

The Hoosiers received the same ovation after edging out Washington in sets two and three. The two teams stayed within four points of each other throughout all three sets.

For the match Indiana barely outhit Washington 19.6% to 19.0%, which is well below its season percentage of 32.1. It left Aird with a lot to be desired.

“Winning is important, but how you win, to me, is more important than winning,” Aird said.

A bright spot was Ella Boersema who had nine kills, four blocks and hit 44.4%. She has seen her role grow with injuries to Indiana’s two starting middle blockers allowing her to evolve throughout the year.

“I know I can block balls, but just having that mindset of like I’m gonna block this ball, and I’m gonna do everything I’m supposed to do to block the ball,” Boersema said.

It is the first time Indiana has started 2-0 in conference play since 2003. However, Aird looks for his Hoosiers to clean it up if they aim to remain unbeaten in the Big Ten.

“I think we’re in the midst of a pretty special season, and I think we have a chance to really do some awesome stuff. But like that performance isn’t going to beat really good teams on the road. Starting Friday we go to USC and I don’t think much of that’s going to work,” Aird said.

Indiana will head out to Southern California to take on USC next Friday.