



HAWKEYE HOME PLATE

Iowa Softball News and Notes 4/26 - vs. Western Illinois

2005 IOWA SCHEDULE

40-9 Overall, 8-4 Big Ten

2/12-13	at Stetson Invitational	
2/12	Virginia Tech	W, 8-0 (6)
2/12	Stetson	L, 2-6
2/13	Virginia Tech	W, 3-2
2/13	Stetson	W, 3-0
2/18-20	at Littlewood Classic	
2/18	Long Island	W, 6-0
2/18	Arizona State	W, 2-0
2/26-27	at Courtyard by Marriott Tourney	
2/26	Minnesota	W, 3-0
2/26	Louisville	W, 5-3
2/27	#24 Missouri	L, 3-1 (8)
2/27	Ball State W,	8-0 (6)
3/4-6	at Buzz Classic	
3/4	Georgia Southern	W, 6-0
3/4	Georgia Southern	W, 6-0
3/5	Auburn	L, 2-1
3/5	Middle Tennessee State	W, 3-1
3/5	Gardner-Webb	W, 9-1 (5)
3/6	Virginia Tech	W, 3-1
3/6	Auburn	W, 16-1 (5)
3/6	Ohio State	W, 5-0
3/11-13	at NIST, San Jose, CA	
3/11	Connecticut	W, 5-0
3/11	UC Davis	W, 2-1 (8)
3/12	San Jose State	W, 5-4
3/12	#2 California	L, 2-7
3/13	Colorado State	W, 5-1
3/16	at Pacific Mini Tournament	
3/16	vs. Rhode Island	W, 6-0
3/16	vs. Pacific	W, 4-2
3/17	vs. Utah (at Pacific)	W, 13-7
3/18-20	at Capital Classic Tournament	
3/18	vs. #17 Oregon State	L, 2-6
3/18	vs. Long Island	W, 8-0
3/23	Illinois State (DH)	PPD
3/26-27	Hawkeye Classic	
3/26	vs. Ball State	W, 4-0
3/26	vs. South Dakota State	W, 9-0 (5)
3/27	vs. Ball State	W, 10-0 (6)
3/27	vs. North Dakota State	W, 2-0
4/1	at #1 Michigan*	W, 5-2
4/2	at #1 Michigan*	L, 1-3
4/3	at #23 Northwestern*	L, 11-1 (5)
4/3	at #23 Northwestern*	L, 0-2
4/6	at Northern Illinois	W, 8-2
4/8	Purdue*	W, 3-2
4/9	Purdue*	L, 1-2
4/10	Indiana*	W, 5-0
4/10	Indiana*	W, 3-0
4/13	William Penn	W, 6-0
4/15	at Ohio State*	W, 4-1
4/16	at Ohio State*	W, 6-2
4/17	at Penn State*	W, 3-1
4/17	at Penn State*	W, 5-1
4/19	Iowa State	W, 4-0
4/22	at Michigan State*	Cancelled
4/23	at Michigan State*	Cancelled
4/24	South Dakota State	W, 8-0 (5)
4/24	South Dakota State	W, 14-1 (5)
4/26	Western Illinois	6 p.m.
4/29	Wisconsin*	6 p.m.
4/30	Wisconsin*	Noon
5/1	Minnesota (DH)*	Noon
5/5	Drake	6 p.m.
5/7	Illinois*	Noon
5/8	Illinois*	Noon
5/12-14	Big Ten Tournament	TBA
5/19-22	NCAA Regionals	TBA
5/27/29	NCAA Super Regional	TBA
6/2-6	Women's College World Series	TBA

Probable Iowa Lineup

No.	Name	Pos.	B-T	Yr.	GP	Avg.	Runs	Hits	RBI	HR	2B	SLG%	SB
14	Brandi Sargent	1B	L/L	Jr.	37	.295	9	23	9	3	5	.474	2
24	Steph Ackerson	1B	R/R	Fr.	34	.222	8	12	5	0	2	.259	2
2	Summer Downs	2B	R-R	Fr.	43	.263	26	36	21	4	7	.416	3
10	Stacy May	SS	R-R	Jr.	49	.329	32	51	29	9	13	.600	2
12	Abby Ruff	3B	R-R	Sr.	44	.221	15	15	10	1	6	.353	5
17	Kylie Murray	RF	R-R	Jr.	48	.328	13	39	26	3	7	.462	1
or 5	Jenna Spratt	RF	L-R	So.	44	.262	15	16	7	0	0	.262	5
11	Mindy Heidgerken	CF	R-R	So.	49	.274	28	31	13	2	7	.442	16
9	Natalie Johnson	LF	L-L	Jr.	48	.265	19	30	14	3	5	.389	4
13	Sami Baugh	C	R-R	So.	45	.295	19	36	19	4	9	.467	2
or 1	Emily Nichols	C	R/R	Fr.	49	.354	32	45	44	16	8	.811	1

Probable Pitching Rotation

No.	Name	Throws	Yr.	Record	GS	SV	CG	SH	ERA	SO	BB	IP
4	Lisa Birocci	RHP	Sr.	23-7	27	6	24	11	1.10	206	31	197.1
3	Ali Arnold	RHP	Jr.	16-2	21	0	11	8	1.48	8	35	118.1
24	Steph Ackerson	RHP	Fr.	0-0	1	1	0	0	3.82	6	2	7.1

THE SETTING

The University of Iowa softball team (40-9) hosts the Western Illinois Westerwinds (19-22) Tuesday. Game time at Pearl Field is set for 6 p.m. Admission is \$3 for adults, \$2 for students and free for UI students and children five or younger.

HAWKEYES SWEEP SOUTH DAKOTA STATE IN SLUGFEST

The Hawkeyes collected two wins against South Dakota State last Sunday. Iowa won game one, 5-0 and picked up its 40th victory of the season in game two, 14-1. Both games were five-inning affairs.

Iowa outhit South Dakota State 22-5 and smashed four home runs on the day. Game one started off quickly when leadoff hitter **Stacy May** belted her ninth home run of the season over the left field fence. **Emily Nichols** added another home run in the second, blasting her 16th of the season. Three Hawkeyes collected multiple hits. **Brandi Sargent** was 3-3 with two RBI, while Nichols and **Sami Baugh** each went 2-3 with two RBI.

Ali Arnold improved her record to 16-2 with the win. The junior threw five shutout innings and allowed two hits and struck out five.

Iowa's bats were even hotter in game two, scoring at least two runs in each of the five innings. **Kylie Murray** hit a three-run home run to right center field in the second and Baugh added a two-run homer in the fourth. Baugh led the Hawkeyes in game two, going 3-4 with three RBI and three runs scored. Murray and Nichols each went 2-4.

Lisa Birocci went the distance and allowed one run on three hits and struck out seven.

2005 BIG TEN STANDINGS

	CONF.	OVERALL
1. NORTHWESTERN	14-0	34-10
2. MICHIGAN	11-2	46-4
3. IOWA	8-4	40-9
T4. PURDUE	7-7	31-19
MICHIGAN ST.	6-6	18-24
6. PENN ST.	6-7	28-18
T7. MINNESOTA	6-8	25-21
WISCONSIN	6-8	20-20
9. OHIO ST.	4-6	22-14
10. INDIANA	2-12	12-35
11. ILLINOIS	1-11	20-23

THIS WEEK'S BIG TEN ACTION

April 26

IPFW at Purdue (DH)	3 p.m.
Illinois at Southern Illinois	4 p.m.
Northwestern at Notre Dame (DH)	4 p.m.
Western Illinois at Iowa	6 p.m.
Indiana at Evansville	6 p.m.
Western Michigan at Ohio State	6 p.m.

April 27

Akron at Penn State	3 p.m.
Northern Iowa at Wisconsin (DH)	3 p.m.
Bowling Green at Ohio State (DH)	5 p.m.
IPFW at Michigan State (DH)	6 p.m.

April 29

Michigan State at Northwestern	3 p.m.
Wisconsin at Iowa	6 p.m.
Minnesota at Illinois	6 p.m.
Indiana at Ohio State	6 p.m.
Purdue at Penn State	6 p.m.

April 30

Wisconsin at Iowa	12 p.m.
Michigan State at Northwestern	12 p.m.
Minnesota at Illinois	12 p.m.
Indiana at Ohio State	12 p.m.
Purdue at Penn State	12 p.m.
Indiana at Ohio State	1 p.m.

May 1

Minnesota at Iowa (DH)	12 p.m.
Wisconsin at Illinois (DH)	12 p.m.
Indiana at Penn State (DH)	12 p.m.
Purdue at Ohio State (DH)	12 p.m.
Michigan State at Michigan (DH)	1 p.m.

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Hawkeye Softball Notes

SCOUTING WESTERN ILLINOIS

The Western Illinois Westerwinds are 19-22 overall and 10-6 in the Mid-Continent Conference.

Jess Stanforth leads the Westwind offense. She is batting .352 with 12 doubles, eight home runs and 23 RBI.

Karenmarie Pena is 14-11 with a 3.43 ERA inside the circle. She also leads the team with 157 innings pitched and 117 strikeouts. Chris Drankiewicz has thrown 61 innings and has a 2.40 ERA.

LAST MEETING

Iowa defeated Western Illinois, 5-1 in Macomb, IL, last season.

Western Illinois jumped out to an early 1-0 in the bottom of the first when Jess Stanforth blasted a solo home run.

The Hawkeyes responded in the third when **Mindy Heidgerken** drilled a three-run home run over the left field fence.

Iowa added two more runs in the third when Elisha Huse ripped a two-run single, scoring Amanda Hentges and Sarah Thomson.

Ali Arnold allowed one run on five hits and struck out 10.

HAWKEYES IN THE RANKINGS

Iowa is ranked 20th in the ESPN.com/USA Softball Collegiate Softball poll and 22nd in the USA Today/National Fastpitch Coaches Association poll. Other Big Ten team in the rankings include Michigan (1st/1st) and Northwestern (15th/15th).

Rankings used are from the previous week. Updated rankings are released every Wednesday.

STAYING IN IC

Iowa wraps up the season with a 10-game home stand. The Hawkeyes are 10-1 at Pearl Field this season.

REACHING 40 WINS

The Hawkeyes have eclipsed the 40-win mark for the 11th time in the program's history, all of which have come under head coach Gayle Blevins.

Iowa has qualified for the NCAA tournament eight of the previous 10 seasons they have won over 40 games.

Iowa won over 40 games in both the 1990 and 1999 seasons, but were not selected for the NCAA tournament.

BAUGH COMING ON

Sophomore catcher **Sami Baugh** hit .600 (6-10) with three doubles, one home run and five RBI in three games last week. Baugh recorded a slugging percentage of 1.200 and tagged 12 total bases last week.

WE'RE GOIN' STREAKING

The Hawkeyes have won 10-straight games which is their longest winning streak this season. Iowa rode an eight game winning streak before a 7-2 defeat by No. 2 California earlier this season.

MOVIN' ON UP

Junior pitcher **Ali Arnold** is currently sixth on the all-time career strikeout list. She has 416 K's in her career and has passed Diane Roorda, who recorded 389 strikeouts in her four-year career. Next on the list is current pitching coach **Debbie Bilbao**, who sits in fifth place with 476 K's.

HOT WITH RUNNERS ON

When runners are on base, the Hawkeyes would like to have junior **Kylie Murray** digging in the batters box. She is hitting .426 (26-61) with runners on base.

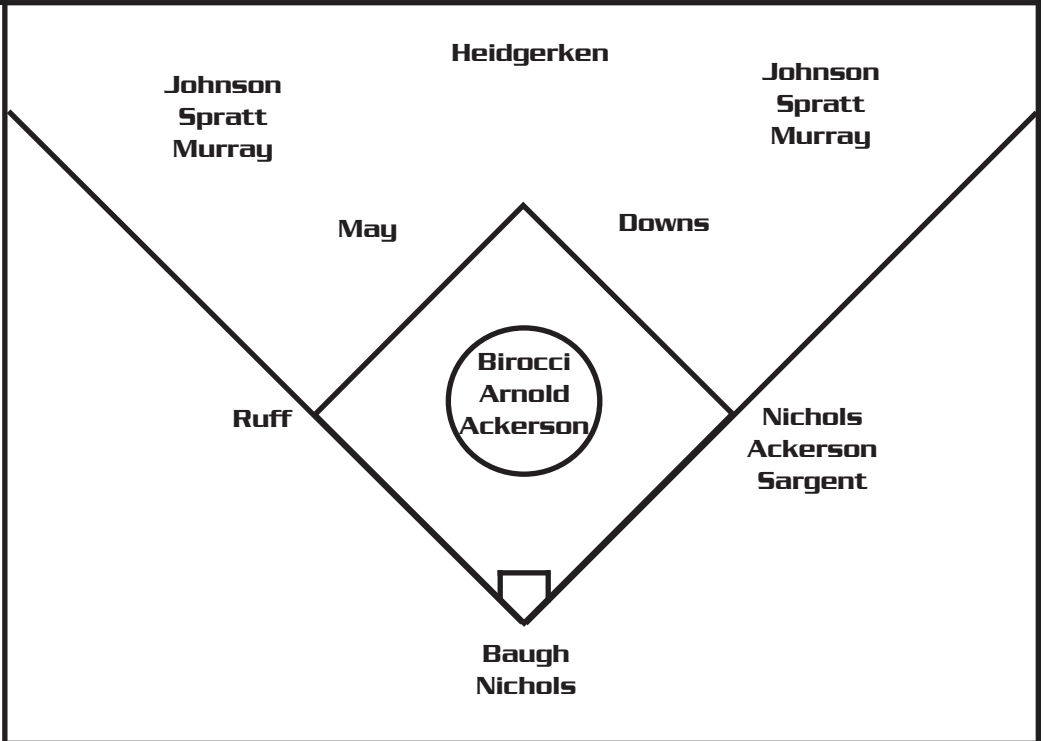
- 1 EMILY NICHOLS**
- 2 SUMMER DOWNS**
- 3 ALI ARNOLD**
- 4 LISA BIROCCI**
- 5 JENNA SPRATT**
- 9 NATALIE JOHNSON**
- 10 STACY MAY**
- 11 MINDY HEIDGERKEN**
- 12 ABBY RUFF**
- 13 SAMI BAUGH**
- 14 BRANDI SARGENT**
- 17 KYLIE MURRAY**
- 22 EMILY GERLICK**
- 24 STEPHANIE ACKERSON**

HEAD COACH
GAYLE BLEVINS

ASSOCIATE HEAD COACH
MICHELLE VENTURELLA

ASSISTANT COACH
DEBBIE BILBAO

VOLUNTEER ASSISTANT
KRISTIN JOHNSON



In addition, she is batting .714 (10-14) with runners on second and third and less than two outs.

Junior **Stacy May** is batting .400 (16-40) with runners in scoring position. She is second on the team with 29 RBI this season.

BIROCCI BECOMES STRIKEOUT LEADER

With seven strikeouts against Northern Illinois, **Lisa Birocci** became Iowa's all-time career strikeout leader. Birocci struck out seven of the 10 batters she faced in three innings of relief work to pass former Hawkeye all-American Kristi Hanks. Birocci's career total stands at 839.

TEAM SETS HOME RUN RECORD

Freshman **Emily Nichols** blasted two home runs against Northern Illinois, increasing the team total to 42 homers on the season, which shattered the school record for team home runs in a season. The previous school record was 41 home runs, set by the 2003 squad. The Hawkeyes currently have 51 home runs this season.

NICHOLS SETS SCHOOL RECORD

Freshman **Emily Nichols** entered the record books against Ball State on March 26, blasting her 11th home run which broke the single-season record. She leads the team in seven different offensive categories and has a season total of 16 homers.

GERLICK UNDERGOES SURGERY

Junior outfielder **Emily Gerlick** underwent successful surgery to repair a torn ACL on March 15. Gerlick suffered the ACL tear during Iowa's opening weekend at the Stetson Invitational on February 13. She will be out for the season.



IOWA'S RECORD WHEN...

1-RUN GAMES	4-2
2-RUN GAMES	7-3
EXTRA INNINGS.....	2-1
AT PEARL FIELD	10-1
ON THE ROAD	11-3
AT NEUTRAL SITE	19-5
DAY GAMES.....	32-9
NIGHT GAMES.....	8-0
IOWA SCORES FIRST.....	35-3
OPPONENT SCORES FIRST	5-6
GIVING UP 2 RUNS OR LESS.....	37-3
GIVING UP 3+ RUNS	3-6
VS. RANKED OPPONENTS	1-6
BIROCCI STARTS.....	22-6
ARNOLD STARTS.....	18-3
IOWA HITS A HOMERUN	27-1
OPPONENT HITS A HOMERUN	8-6
IOWA OUTHITS OPPONENT.....	32-1
OPPONENT OUTHITS IOWA.....	4-8
EQUAL NUMBER OF HITS.....	4-0
NO IOWA ERRORS	20-3
IOWA COMMITS AN ERROR	12-3
WEARING WHITE UNIFORMS	13-2
WEARING BLACK UNIFORMS	11-4
WEARING GREY UNIFORMS.....	16-3
FLYING AIR TRAN	10-2
FLYING UNITED	12-2
BUSING TO GAME.....	6-4
IN EASTERN TIME ZONE	18-4
IN CENTRAL TIME ZONE.....	12-3
IN MOUNTAIN TIME ZONE.....	2-0
IN PACIFIC TIME ZONE	8-2
IN IOWA	11-1
IN ARIZONA	2-0
IN GEORGIA	7-1
IN KENTUCKY.....	3-1
IN FLORIDA	3-1
IN CALIFORNIA	8-2
IN PENNSYLVANIA	2-0
IN OHIO	2-0
IN ILLINOIS.....	1-2
IN MICHIGAN	1-1
ON MONDAY.....	0-0
ON TUESDAY	1-0
ON WEDNESDAY	4-0
ON THURSDAY	1-0
ON FRIDAY.....	10-1
ON SATURDAY	9-5
ON SUNDAY	15-3

IOWA'S TEAM SINGLE GAME INFO...

LONGEST WINNING STREAK	10
LONGEST LOSING STREAK.....	3
LARGEST MARGIN OF VICTORY	15 (AUBURN)
LARGEST MARGIN OF DEFEAT.....	10 (NORTHWESTERN)
MOST AT-BATS.....	34 (UTAH)
MOST RUNS SCORED.....	16 (AUBURN)
MOST HITS.....	16 (UTAH)
MOST RBI	16 (AUBURN)
MOST DOUBLES	4 (GARNDNER-WEBB/UTAH)
MOST TRIPLES.....	1 (SEVEN TIMES)
MOST HOME RUNS.....	7 (AUBURN)
MOST STOLEN BASES	4 (LONG ISLAND)
MOST STRIKEOUTS	13 (UC DAVIS)
MOST ERRORS COMMITTED	5 (TWICE)
MOST RUNS ALLOWED	7 (CALIFORNIA & UTAH)
MOST HITS ALLOWED ...	11 (STETSON & CALIFORNIA)
MOST WALKS ALLOWED...5	(STETSON & NORTHWESTERN)

IOWA'S INDIVIDUAL TEAM BATTING LEADERS

BATTING AVG	354 (NICHOLS)
GMS.	49 (THREE TIED)
GMS. STARTED.....	49 (THREE TIED)
AT BATS.....	155 (MAY)
RUNS	32 (MAY & NICHOLS)
HITS	51 (MAY)
DOUBLES	13 (MAY)
TRIPLES	3 (HEIDGERKEN)
HOME RUNS	16 (NICHOLS)

RBI.....	44 (NICHOLS)
TOTAL BASES	103 (NICHOLS)
SLUGGING PCT.811 (NICHOLS)
WALKS	23 (NICHOLS)
HIT BY PITCH.....	4 (ACKERSON & NICHOLS)
STRIKEOUTS.....	29 (HEIDGERKEN)
ON-BASE PERCENTAGE.....	.458 (NICHOLS)
OPS	1.269 (NICHOLS)
SACRIFICE FLIES	2 (MAY & BAUGH)
SACRIFICE HITS.....	7 (MAY, BAUGH, SARGENT)
STOLEN BASES	16 (HEIDGERKEN)
STOLEN BASE ATTEMPTS	17 (HEIDGERKEN)

IOWA'S INDIVIDUAL PITCHING LEADERS

ERA.....	1.09 (BIROCCI)
WINS.....	23 (BIROCCI)
LOSSES	7 (BIROCCI)
WINNING PCT767 (BIROCCI)
APPEARANCES.....	38 (BIROCCI)
GAMES STARTED	27 (BIROCCI)
COMPLETE GAMES	24 (BIROCCI)
SHUTOUTS	11 (BIROCCI)
SAVES.....	6 (BIROCCI)
INNINGS PITCHED.....	197.1 (BIROCCI)
STRIKEOUTS.....	206 (BIROCCI)
OPPONENT BATTING AVERAGE179 (BIROCCI)
WHIP.....	0.82 (BIROCCI)

Head Coach Gayle Blevins

THE HEAD HAWKEYE... Gayle Blevins finished her 17th season as the head coach of the Iowa softball program and she has established herself as one of the nation's top coaches. In 1999, Blevins was the 17th inductee into the NFCA Hall of Fame. In her 17 seasons at Iowa, Blevins has guided the Hawkeyes to 12 NCAA Tournament appearances and four Big Ten Championships. She is Iowa's all-time winningest coach with a record of 750-333-3 (.691).

Her career record in 25 years of coaching is 1,050-481-5 (.684). Blevins has been named the National Coach of the Year twice (1986 and 1991) and the Big Ten Conference Coach of the Year three times (1989, 1997 and 2000).



BLEVINS' YEAR-BY-YEAR RECORDS

YEAR	SCHOOL	RECORD	PCT.	YEAR	SCHOOL	RECORD	PCT.
1980	INDIANA	33-16	.673	1992	IOWA	34-20	.630
1981	INDIANA	26-12	.684	1993	IOWA	39-15	.722
1982	INDIANA	30-15	.666	1994	IOWA	35-23	.603
1983	INDIANA	45-20-1	.692	1995	IOWA	41-26-1	.612
1984	INDIANA	37-22	.633	1996	IOWA	47-19	.720
1985	INDIANA	47-20-1	.701	1997	IOWA	52-9	.852
1986	INDIANA	45-18	.714	1998	IOWA	38-20	.655
1987	INDIANA	37-23	.617	1999	IOWA	41-26-1	.616
1988	IOWA	33-20-1	.620	2000	IOWA	46-15	.754
1989	IOWA	40-21	.656	2001	IOWA	49-14	.778
1990	IOWA	43-28	.606	2002	IOWA	36-20	.643
1991	IOWA	53-11	.828	2003	IOWA	44-15	.746
				2004	IOWA	39-24	.619

TOTALS

OVERALL	1,050-481-5	.685
IOWA	750-333-3	.691

BIG TEN TOTALS

OVERALL	453-160-1	.739
IOWA	283-116-1	.709