



HAWKEYE HOME PLATE

Iowa Softball News and Notes

NIST
March 11-13
Sunnyvale, CA

2005 IOWA SCHEDULE

15-3 Overall, 0-0 Big Ten

<i>2/12-13 at Stetson Invitational</i>	
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
<i>2/18-20 at Arizona State Tournament</i>	
2/18	Long Island W, 6-0
2/18	Arizona State W, 2-0
<i>2/26-27 at Louisville Tournament</i>	
2/26	Minnesota W, 3-0
2/26	Louisville W, 5-3
2/27	Missouri L, 3-1 (8)
2/27	Ball State W, 8-0 (6)
<i>3/4-6 at Buzz Classic</i>	
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
<i>3/11-13 at NIST, San Jose, CA</i>	
3/16	at Pacific
3/17	vs. Utah (at Pacific)
3/18-20	at Sacramento St. Tournament
3/23	Illinois State (DH) 3 p.m.
3/26-27	Hawkeye Classic TBA
3/30	at Northern Iowa 3 p.m.
4/1	at Michigan* 3 p.m.
4/2	at Michigan* Noon
4/3	at Northwestern (DH)* Noon
4/6	at Northern Illinois 4 p.m.
4/8	Purdue* 6 p.m.
4/9	Purdue* Noon
4/10	Indiana (DH)* Noon
4/13	William Penn 6 p.m.
4/15	at Ohio State* 3 p.m.
4/16	at Ohio State* Noon
4/17	at Penn State (DH)* 11 a.m.
4/19	Iowa State 4 p.m.
4/22	at Michigan State* 3 p.m.
4/23	at Michigan State* Noon
4/24	South Dakota State (DH) 1 p.m.
4/26	Western Illinois 6 p.m.
4/29	Wisconsin* 6 p.m.
4/30	Wisconsin* Noon

Probable Iowa Lineup

No.	Name	Pos.	B-T	Yr.	GP	Avg.	Runs	Hits	RBI	HR	2B	SLG%	SB
1	Emily Nichols	1B	R-R	Fr.	18	.383	10	18	20	8	5	1.000	1
or 24	Steph Ackerson	1B	R-R	Fr.	16	.161	5	5	0	0	0	.161	2
2	Summer Downs	2B	R-R	Fr.	16	.271	9	13	8	1	3	.438	1
10	Stacy May	SS	R-R	Jr.	10	.291	12	16	8	3	4	.527	1
12	Abby Ruff	3B	R-R	Sr.	13	.214	2	3	2	0	1	.286	2
17	Kylie Murray	RF	R-R	Jr.	18	.268	5	11	7	1	1	.366	1
or 5	Jenna Spratt	RF	L-R	So.	15	.200	5	4	2	0	0	.200	1
11	Mindy Heidgerken	CF	R-R	So.	18	.231	7	9	4	0	2	.282	7
9	Natalie Johnson	LF	L-L	Jr.	18	.315	9	17	5	1	2	.407	1
13	Sami Baugh	C	R-R	So.	18	.292	7	14	11	2	3	.479	1

Probable Pitching Rotation

No.	Name	Throws	Yr.	Record	GS	SV	CG	SH	ERA	SO	BB	IP
4	Lisa Birocci	RHP	Sr.	8-2	10	3	8	5	0.41	73	14	69.0
3	Ali Arnold	RHP	Jr.	6-1	8	0	4	3	1.28	58	12	43.2
24	Steph Ackerson	RHP	Fr.	0-0	0	1	0	0	0.95	6	2	7.1

CALIFORNIA HERE WE COME

The University of Iowa softball team travels to Sunnyvale, CA, this weekend to compete in the National Invitational Softball Tournament. The Hawkeyes face Connecticut at 1 p.m. and UC-Davis 5 p.m. on Friday in group play. The top two seeds from each group will advance to championship bracket play beginning at 10 a.m. on Saturday. The third seed in each group will compete in round robin play starting at 8 a.m. on Saturday. All time listed are central.

WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS

The Hawkeyes claimed the Buzz Classic tournament title last weekend. Iowa defeated Georgia Southern and Middle Tennessee State in group play but fell to Auburn.

The Hawkeyes entered championship bracket play as the No. 6 seed and defeated Gardner-Webb to advance to the quarterfinals. Iowa defeated Virginia Tech in the quarterfinal round, which set up a rematch against Auburn in the semifinals. The Hawkeyes plated 16 runs on 13 hits against the Tigers and moved on to the championship game against Ohio State. Iowa defeated the Buckeyes 5-0 to earn its first tournament championship of the season.

	CONF.	OVERALL
1. MICHIGAN	0-0	21-1
2. IOWA	0-0	15-3
3. NORTHWESTERN	0-0	13-6
4. OHIO STATE	0-0	11-6
5. ILLINOIS	0-0	8-5
6. PURDUE	0-0	11-8
7. WISCONSIN	0-0	6-5
8. MINNESOTA	0-0	10-9
9. PENN ST.	0-0	5-5
10. INDIANA	0-0	6-12
11. MICHIGAN ST.	0-0	2-9-1

IOWA SPORTS INFORMATION

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IOWA ON THE WEB

THE MEDIA AND PUBLIC CAN FIND A VALUABLE AND TIMELY SOURCE OF INFORMATION ABOUT IOWA ATHLETICS AT ITS WORLD WIDE WEB SITE. THE ADDRESS FOR THE SITE IS:

www.hawkeyesports.com

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SCOUTING CONNECTICUT

The UConn Huskies are 1-3 this season.

Offensively, Allie Gendron is batting .667 (2-3). Three Huskies lead the team with two RBI.

Jessica Gurney is 1-0 in the circle with a 4.50 ERA. She also leads the team with 15 strikeouts.

The Huskies are scheduled to face San Jose State on Tuesday and Fresno State on Wednesday.

Iowa leads the all-time series, 3-1.

SCOUTING UC-DAVIS

The UC-Davis Aggies are 3-18 this season.

Stacey Benzing leads the Aggie offense. She is batting .333 with a .407 slugging percentage. Jessica Hancock leads the team with six RBI.

Inside the circle, Hancock has a 1-6 record with a 2.20 ERA. She leads the team with 50 strikeouts. Rachel Kelly is 1-4 with a 2.62 ERA while Lindsay Tognetti is 1-1 with a 2.68 ERA.

This is the first meeting between the two teams.

NICHOLS GOING DEEP

Fresman **Emily Nichols** had a breakout weekend at the Buzz Classic to earn her first Player of the Week honor. She went a combined 10-22 (.455) with seven home runs and 15 RBI in eight games. The Portland, OR native also had a tournament slugging percentage of 1.455. She hit two two-run homers against Georgia Southern and provided the game-winning RBI with another two-run blast against Virginia Tech in the quarterfinals. Nichols set two school records against Auburn in the semifinals, recording three home runs and eight RBI in the 16-1 victory. She closed the tournament by hitting yet another home run against Ohio State in

the championship game. She was also named the Buzz Classic's Most Valuable Player.

No SOUP FOR YOU

Senior **Lisa Birocci** threw her second career no-hitter against Georgia Southern at the Buzz Classic. She also set a school record by striking out 17 batters.

Birocci was 4-1 with a 0.46 ERA and led the tournament with 33 strikeouts. Birocci also led the tournament in innings pitched (30.1), appearances (6) and games started (5).

Her performance landed her a spot on the all-tournament team.

BIG TEN HONORS

Nichols and Birocci both earned honors from the Big Ten for their efforts at the Buzz Classic. Nichols was named Big Ten Player of the Week while Birocci was named co-Big Ten Pitcher of the Week along with Michigan's Jennie Ritter.

NICHOLS CLOSING IN

Emily Nichols has eight home runs already this season. Iowa's school record for home runs in a season is 10, held by Alicia Gerlach in 2000 and 2001.

OFFENSIVELY CHARGED

As a team, the Hawkeyes have hit 20 home runs this season. Last weekend at the Buzz Classic, Iowa hit 14 home runs in eight games played. Nichols led the way with seven home runs. Brandi Sargent and Stacy May both had two homers while Ali Arnold, Natalie Johnson and Lisa Birocci each had one.

The Hawkeyes are chasing the school record for home runs in a season. The current record stands at 41

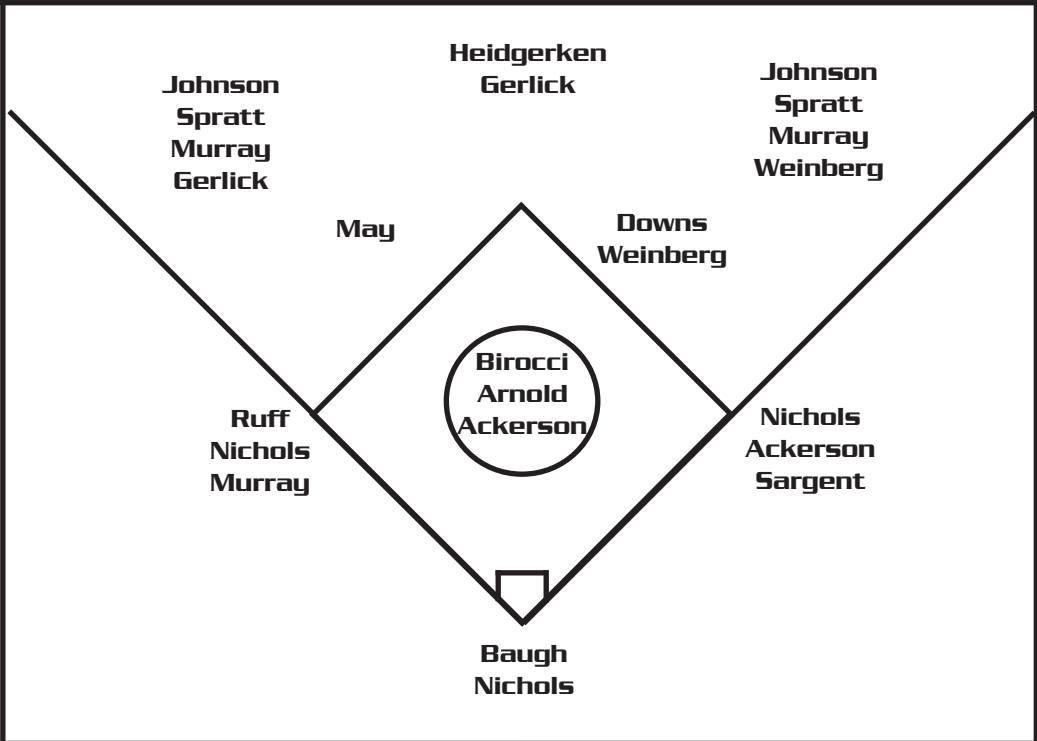
- 1** **EMILY NICHOLS**
- 2** **SUMMER DOWNS**
- 3** **ALI ARNOLD**
- 4** **LISA BIROCCI**
- 5** **JENNA SPRATT**
- 6** **BARB WEINBERG**
- 9** **NATALIE JOHNSON**
- 10** **STACY MAY**
- 11** **MINDY HEIDGERKEN**
- 12** **ABBY RUFF**
- 13** **SAMI BAUGH**
- 14** **BRANDI SARGENT**
- 17** **KYLIE MURRAY**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

HEAD COACH
GAYLE BLEVINS

ASSOCIATE HEAD COACH
MICHELLE VENTURELLA

ASSISTANT COACH
DEBBIE BILBAO

VOLUNTEER ASSISTANT
KRISTIN JOHNSON



home runs, which was set by the 2003 squad.

HAWKEYES IN THE RANKINGS

Iowa is listed as receiving votes in both the ESPN.com/USA Softball and the *USA Today*/National Fastpitch Coaches Association polls. Michigan is rated 8/8 while Northwestern is rated 23/RV. The new weekly polls are released Wednesday mornings.

WEINBERG JOINS TEAM

Senior **Barb Weinberg** has joined the Iowa softball team. Weinberg was a two-time all-American and three-time all-Big Ten goalkeeper for the Iowa field hockey team. She was selected to the U.S National field hockey team in January.

MOVIN' ON UP

Senior **Lisa Birocci** is currently fourth on the career strikeout list (748). Junior **Ali Arnold** is seventh (335).

VENTURELLA PROMOTED

Michelle Venturella enters the 2005 season as Iowa's first ever associate head coach. Head Coach **Gayle Blevins** announced the promotion last July.

Venturella serves as the Hawkeye recruiting coordinator and hitting coach along with coaching the Iowa catchers. As a member of the USA softball team she garnered four medals, one of which was the gold medal at the 2000 Summer Olympics in Sydney, Australia.

BILBAO RETURNS TO IOWA

Former all-American **Debbie Bilbao** has been hired as Iowa's new assistant coach. Bilbao was head coach at Utah State from 2002-04 before making the move back to Iowa.

As a player, Bilbao helped guide the Hawkeyes to three straight College World Series appearances (1995-97) and still holds three school records. Bilbao will be Iowa's pitching coach.

IOWA'S RECORD WHEN...

1-RUN GAMES	1-1
2-RUN GAMES	4-1
EXTRA INNINGS.....	0-1
AT PEARL FIELD	0-0
ON THE ROAD	3-1
AT NEUTRAL SITE	12-2
DAY GAMES.....	11-3
NIGHT GAMES.....	4-0
IOWA SCORES FIRST.....	14-1
OPPONENT SCORES FIRST	1-2
IOWA SCORES LAST	13-0
OPPONENT SCORES LAST	2-2
GIVING UP 3 RUNS OR LESS.....	11-2
GIVING UP 4+ RUNS	0-1
VS. RANKED OPPONENTS	0-1
BIROCCI STARTS.....	9-2
ARNOLD STARTS.....	7-1
IOWA HITS A HOMERUN	10-0
OPPONENT HITS A HOMERUN	7-2
IOWA OUTHITS OPPONENT.....	12-0
OPPONENT OUTHITS IOWA.....	1-3
EQUAL NUMBER OF HITS.....	2-0
NO IOWA ERRORS	7-0
IOWA COMMITS AN ERROR	9-2
WEARING WHITE UNIFORMS	5-0
WEARING BLACK UNIFORMS	3-2
WEARING GREY UNIFORMS.....	7-1
FLYING AIR TRAN	10-2
FLYING UNITED	2-0
BUSING TO GAME.....	3-1
IN EASTERN TIME ZONE	13-3
IN CENTRAL TIME ZONE.....	0-0
IN MOUNTAIN TIME ZONE.....	2-0
IN PACIFIC TIME ZONE	0-0
IN IOWA	0-0
IN ARIZONA	2-0
IN GEORGIA	7-1
IN KENTUCKY.....	3-1
IN FLORIDA	3-1
IN CALIFORNIA	0-0
IN PENNSYLVANIA	0-0
IN OHIO	0-0
IN ILLINOIS.....	0-0
IN MICHIGAN	0-0
ON MONDAY.....	0-0
ON TUESDAY	0-0
ON WEDNESDAY	0-0
ON THURSDAY.....	0-0
ON FRIDAY.....	4-0
ON SATURDAY	5-2
ON SUNDAY	6-1

IOWA'S TEAM SINGLE GAME INFO...

LONGEST WINNING STREAK	6
LONGEST LOSING STREAK.....	1
LARGEST MARGIN OF VICTORY	15 (AUBURN)
LARGEST MARGIN OF DEFEAT.....	4 (STETSON)
MOST AT-BATS.....	28 (GEORGIA SOUTHERN)
MOST RUNS SCORED.....	16 (AUBURN)
MOST HITS.....	13 (AUBURN)
MOST RBI	16 (AUBURN)
MOST DOUBLES	4 (GARNDNER-WEBB)
MOST TRIPLES 1 (ARIZONA STATE & MIDDLE TENN. ST.)	
MOST HOME RUNS.....	7 (AUBURN)
MOST STOLEN BASES	4 (LONG ISLAND)
MOST STRIKEOUTS	12 (MISSOURI & AUBURN)
MOST ERRORS COMMITTED	4 (ARIZONA STATE)
MOST RUNS ALLOWED	6 (STETSON)
MOST HITS ALLOWED	11 (STETSON)
MOST WALKS ALLOWED.....	5 (STETSON)

IOWA'S INDIVIDUAL TEAM BATTING LEADERS

BATTING AVG	383 (NICHOLS)
GMS.	18 (SIX TIED)
GMS. STARTED.....	18 (FOUR TIED)
AT BATS.....	55 (MAY)
RUNS	12 (MAY)
HITS	18 (NICHOLS)
DOUBLES	5 (NICHOLS)
TRIPLES	1 (BIROCCI & DOWNS)
HOME RUNS	8 (NICHOLS)

RBI.....	20 (NICHOLS)
TOTAL BASES	47 (NICHOLS)
SLUGGING PCT.	1.000 (NICHOLS)
WALKS	7 (JOHNSON & NICHOLS)
HIT BY PITCH.....	1 (FIVE TIED)
STRIKEOUTS.....	15 (ACKERSON)
ON-BASE PERCENTAGE.....	478 (ARNOLD)
OPS.....	1.473 (NICHOLS)
SACRIFICE FLIES	2 (BAUGH)
SACRIFICE HITS.....	3 (THREE TIED)
STOLEN BASES	7 (HEIDGERKEN)
STOLEN BASE ATTEMPTS	8 (HEIDGERKEN)

IOWA'S INDIVIDUAL PITCHING LEADERS

ERA.....	0.41 (BIROCCI)
WINS.....	8 (BIROCCI)
LOSSES	2 (BIROCCI)
WINNING PCT.800 (BIROCCI)
APPEARANCES.....	14 (BIROCCI)
GAMES STARTED	10 (BIROCCI)
COMPLETE GAMES	8 (BIROCCI)
SHUTOUTS	5 (BIROCCI)
SAVES.....	3 (BIROCCI)
INNINGS PITCHED.....	69.0 (BIROCCI)
STRIKEOUTS.....	73 (BIROCCI)
OPPONENT BATTING AVERAGE138 (BIROCCI)
WHIP	0.70 (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 710-324-3 (.685).

Her career record in 25 years of coaching is 1,010-472-5 (.679). 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	1,025-475-5	.679
IOWA	710-324-3	.685

BIG TEN TOTALS

OVERALL	445-156-1	.739
IOWA	275-112-1	.709

Hawkeye Defensive

OPP.	P	C	1B	2B	SS	3B	LF	CF	RF	DP
V. Tech*	Birocci	Baugh	Ackerson	Downs	May	Nichols	Gerlick	Heidgerken	Johnson	Murray
Stetson*	Arnold	Baugh	Sargent	Downs	May	Murray	Spratt	Heidgerken	Johnson	Birocci
V. Tech*	Arnold	Baugh	Ackerson	Downs	May	Murray	Gerlick	Heidgerken	Johnson	Nichols
Stetson*	Birocci	Baugh	Ackerson	Downs	May	Nichols	Murray	Heidgerken	Johnson	Spratt
LIU@	Arnold	Baugh	Ackerson	Downs	May	Nichols	Johnson	Heidgerken	Gerlick	Murray
ASU@	Birocci	Baugh	Nichols	Downs	May	Ruff	Johnson	Heidgerken	Murray	Spratt
Minnesota#	Birocci	Baugh	Nichols	Downs	May	Ruff	Johnson	Heidgerken	Murray	Ackerson
Louisville#	Arnold	Nichols	Ackerson	Downs	May	Ruff	Johnson	Heidgerken	Murray	Sargent
Missouri#	Birocci	Baugh	Nichols	Downs	May	Ruff	Johnson	Heidgerken	Murray	Sargent
Ball State#	Arnold	Baugh	Nichols	Downs	May	Ruff	Johnson	Heidgerken	Spratt	Sargent
Georgia So^	Arnold	Baugh	Nichols	Downs	May	Ruff	Johnson	Heidgerken	Murray	Ackerson
Georgia So^	Birocci	Nichols	Baugh	Downs	May	Ruff	Johnson	Heidgerken	Spratt	Sargent
Auburn^	Birocci	Baugh	Nichols	Downs	May	Ruff	Johnson	Heidgerken	Spratt	Murray
M. Ten. St.^	Arnold	Nichols	Sargent	Downs	May	Ruff	Johnson	Heidgerken	Baugh	Ackerson
Gard-Webb^	Birocci	Baugh	Ackerson	Downs	May	Ruff	Johnson	Heidgerken	Nichols	Murray
V. Tech^	Arnold	Baugh	Nichols	Downs	May	Ruff	Johnson	Ackerson	Murray	Heidgerken
Auburn^	Birocci	Nichols	Ackerson	Arnold	May	Ruff	Johnson	Heidgerken	Spratt	Baugh
Ohio State^	Birocci	Nichols	Sargent	Arnold	May	Ruff	Johnson	Heidgerken	Murray	Baugh

* - at Stetson Invitational (Deland, FL)

@ - at Littlewood Classic (Tempe, AZ)

- at Courtyard by Marriott Red and Black Tournament (Louisville, KY)

^ - at Buzz Classic (Marietta, GA)