

May 8, 2004

IOWA SOFTBALL
HAWKEYES DEFEATED BY ILLINOIS, 5-2

URBANA, IL – The University of Iowa softball team was defeated by the University of Illinois, 5-2, Sunday at Eichelberger Field. The Hawkeyes fall to 38-21 with a 14-6 mark in the Big Ten, while Illinois is 39-18-1 with a 14-6 conference mark.

Iowa and Illinois finish the regular season in a tie for second place in the Big Ten, however the Fighting Illini will be the No. 2 seed at the Big Ten Tournament due to their better head-to-head record. Iowa will be the No. 3 seed next weekend in Ann Arbor.

Both Iowa runs came on solo home runs by **Natalie Johnson** and **Emily Gerlick**. The Hawkeyes recorded six hits on the day.

Johnson gave the Hawkeyes a 1-0 lead in the first with a lead-off home run, her fifth of the year.

Illinois responded in the top of the second by putting up three runs off a sacrifice fly and a two-run single from Sarah Baumgartner.

Gerlick cut the lead to 3-2 in the bottom of the fifth with her fourth home run of the year, but Illinois put two more on the board for a 5-2 lead in the top of the seventh to put the game out of reach.

Ali Arnold took the loss for Iowa, and is now 17-10.

The Hawkeyes will next compete in the Big Ten Tournament, which will be held in Ann Arbor, MI, starting Thursday.

GAME SUMMARY

Illinois 030 000 2 -- 5 8 1

IOWA 100 010 0 -- 2 6 2

WP – Amanda Fortune (25-9)

LP – **Ali Arnold (17-10)**

SV – Sherri Taylor (3)

HR – **Natalie Johnson (5), Emily Gerlick (1)**