



HAWKEYE HOME PLATE

Iowa Softball News and Notes

5/5 - vs. Drake

2005 IOWA SCHEDULE

44-10 Overall, 11-5 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
3/26-27	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	W, 8-0 (5)
4/29	Wisconsin*	L, 3-6
4/30	Wisconsin*	W, 5-1
4/30	Wisconsin*	W, 3-1
5/1	Minnesota	W, 2-0
5/1	Minnesota	W, 6-3
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.	41	.284	10	25	10	3	5	.443	2
24	Steph Ackerson	1B	R/R	Fr.	35	.218	8	12	5	12	2	.255	2
2	Summer Downs	2B	R-R	Fr.	48	.280	29	42	23	5	7	.333	3
10	Stacy May	SS	R-R	Jr.	54	.331	38	56	30	9	13	.580	2
12	Abby Ruff	3B	R-R	Sr.	49	.214	16	15	10	1	6	.343	5
17	Kylie Murray	RF	R-R	Jr.	53	.348	16	47	35	5	8	.519	1
or 5	Jenna Spratt	RF	L-R	So.	49	.250	15	17	8	0	0	.250	5
11	Mindy Heidgerken	CF	R-R	So.	54	.294	29	37	16	2	9	.460	20
9	Natalie Johnson	LF	L-L	Jr.	53	.263	20	31	14	3	6	.341	4
13	Sami Baugh	C	R-R	So.	52	.301	22	40	21	6	10	.511	2
or 1	Emily Nichols	C	R/R	Fr.	54	.331	34	47	46	16	9	.746	1

Probable Pitching Rotation

No.	Name	Throws	Yr.	Record	GS	SV	CG	SH	ERA	SO	BB	IP
4	Lisa Birocci	RHP	Sr.	24-7	29	7	25	12	1.15	221	32	212.2
3	Ali Arnold	RHP	Jr.	19-3	24	0	13	9	1.49	187	39	136.0
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 (44-10) hosts the Drake Bulldogs (26-21) Thursday at Pearl Field. Game time is scheduled for 6 p.m.

Admission is \$3 for adults, \$2 for students and free for UI students and children five or younger.

IOWA SWEEP MINNESOTA

The Hawkeyes improved their conference record to 11-5 with a sweep over the Minnesota Golden Gophers Sunday. Iowa won game one, 2-0 and game two, 6-3.

In game one, the Hawkeyes jumped out to an early 1-0 lead in the first. **Stacy May** led off with a single and advanced to second on a sacrifice bunt from **Summer Downs**. **Emily Nichols** ripped a double past the Minnesota shortstop, scoring May.

The Hawkeyes struck again in the sixth when **Sami Baugh** belted her sixth home run of the season to score the final run of the game.

Baugh led the Hawkeye offense in game one, going 2-3 while Downs was 2-2. **Lisa Birocci** threw a complete game, two-hit shutout and struck out five batters.

The Hawkeyes scored in the first inning in game two as well. **Kylie Murray** blasted a double to center field that scored Downs for an early 1-0 lead, Murray knocked in another run in the third, scoring May on an RBI single and then hit a towering home run over the center field fence in the seventh to secure the victory. Murray finished the game with three hits and three RBI.

Ali Arnold recorded her 20th win of the season and Birocci picked up her seventh save.

2005 BIG TEN STANDINGS

	CONF.	OVERALL
1. NORTHWESTERN	15-1	35-12
2. MICHIGAN	13-2	48-4
3. IOWA	11-5	44-10
4. PENN ST.	10-7	34-18
5. WISCONSIN	9-9	25-21
OHIO ST.	7-7	27-15
7. PURDUE	8-10	32-22
8. MICHIGAN ST.	7-9	21-27
9. MINNESOTA	6-12	25-25
10. ILLINOIS	3-13	22-25
11. INDIANA	2-16	13-39

THIS WEEK'S BIG TEN ACTION

May 7

Illinois at Iowa	Noon
Northwestern at Michigan	6 p.m.
Purdue at Indiana	1 p.m.
Wisconsin at Minnesota	Noon
Penn State at Ohio State	6 p.m.
Valparaiso at Michigan St. (DH)	2 p.m.

May 8

Illinois at Iowa	Noon
Northwestern at Michigan	1 p.m.
Purdue at Indiana	1 p.m.
Wisconsin at Minnesota	Noon
Penn State at Ohio State	1 p.m.
Miami (OH) at Michigan St. (DH)	Noon

all times listed are local

IOWA SPORTS INFORMATION

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Hawkeye Softball Notes

HAWKEYES TOP BADGERS

Iowa outhit the Badgers, 7-2 en route to a 5-1 victory last Saturday.

The Hawkeyes plated two runs in the first. **Kylie Murray** hit a two-run single to score **Summer Downs** and **Emily Nichols** for an early lead.

Back-to-back Wisconsin errors in the fourth put runners on second and third for **Mindy Heidgerken**, who singled to knock in **Lisa Birocci** and Murray for a 4-1 lead.

Ali Arnold threw a complete game, two-hitter. The junior struck out seven and walked two.

WISCONSIN UPSETS IOWA

The Badgers scored six unanswered runs in the final two innings to score a 6-3 upset over the Hawkeyes.

Lisa Birocci belted a two-run home run over the right field fence to give Iowa a comfortable 3-0 lead in the fourth.

Wisconsin added four runs on four hits in the sixth and another two runs in the seventh to secure the win.

Ali Arnold picked up the loss, giving up three runs in two and two-thirds innings of relief. **Birocci** started the game, earning a no decision. The senior threw just over five innings and gave up three runs on five hits.

SCOUTING DRAKE

The Drake Bulldogs are 26-21 overall and 12-12 in the Missouri Valley Conference.

Katie Wappler leads the Bulldog offense. She is batting .346 with 10 doubles, three triples, one home run and 23 RBI.

Jessica Hicks is 15-16 with a 3.02 ERA inside the circle this season. She leads the team with 192 strikeouts. **Kristin Birocci**, sister of Hawkeye pitcher **Lisa Birocci**, is 7-5 with a 2.33 ERA this season.

The Bulldogs are coached by former Hawkeye assistant, **Rich Calvert**.

Iowa leads the all-time series, 27-5.

LAST MEETING

Iowa was shutout by Drake, 3-0 last season in Des Moines. The Hawkeyes managed to pick up only two hits off of **Jessica Hicks**.

HAWKEYES IN THE RANKINGS

Iowa is ranked 19th in the ESPN.com/USA Softball Collegiate Softball poll and 21st 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 15-2 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 Blevis**.

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.

TAKING AN EARLY LEAD

Iowa has scored at least one run in the first inning the previous seven games.

The Hawkeyes are 19-3 when leading after the first inning.

WHAT A WEEKEND

Junior **Kylie Murray** batted .500 (8-16) with one double, two home runs and nine RBI in five games last week. She now leads the team with a .348 batting average.

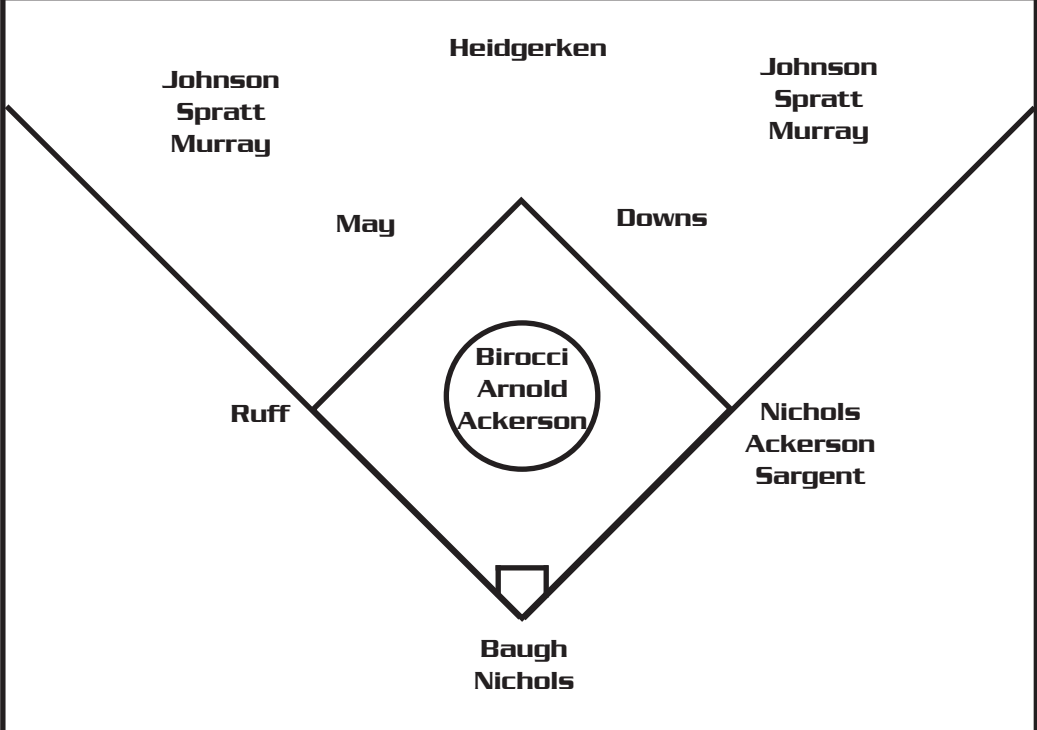
- 1** **EMILY NICHOLS**
- 2** **SUMMER DOWNS**
- 3** **ALI ARNOLD**
- 4** **LISA BIROCCI**
- 5** **JENNA SPRATT**
- 9** **NATALIE JOHNSON**
- 10** **STACY MAY**
- 11** **MINDY HEIDGERKEN**
- 12** **ABBY RUFF**
- 13** **SAMI BAUGH**
- 14** **BRANDI SARGENT**
- 17** **KYLIE MURRAY**
- 22** **EMILY GERLICK**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

HEAD COACH
GAYLE BLEVINS

ASSOCIATE HEAD COACH
MICHELLE VENTURELLA

ASSISTANT COACH
DEBBIE BILBAO

VOLUNTEER ASSISTANT
KRISTIN JOHNSON



DUCKS ON THE POND

When runners are on base, the Hawkeyes would like to have junior **Kylie Murray** digging in the batters box. She is hitting .431 (31-72) with runners on base.

In addition, she is batting .438 (21-48) with runners in scoring position and .765 (13-17) with a runner on third and less than two outs.

MOVIN' ON UP

Junior pitcher **Ali Arnold** is currently sixth on the all-time career strikeout list. She has 447 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.

HEIDGERKEN COMING ON STRONG

Sophomore **Mindy Heidgerken** is batting .438 (10-21) in conference play. She has four doubles and has scored seven runs while recording a slugging percentage of .719 in 16 conference games.

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.

YOU CAN BUT IT ON THE BOARD

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 57 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.

IOWA'S RECORD WHEN...

1-RUN GAMES	4-2
2-RUN GAMES	8-3
EXTRA INNINGS.....	2-1
AT PEARL FIELD	18-3
ON THE ROAD	11-3
AT NEUTRAL SITE	19-5
DAY GAMES.....	38-9
NIGHT GAMES.....	9-2
IOWA SCORES FIRST.....	42-5
OPPONENT SCORES FIRST	5-6
GIVING UP 2 RUNS OR LESS.....	40-3
GIVING UP 3+ RUNS	4-7
VS. RANKED OPPONENTS	1-6
BIROCCI STARTS.....	24-8
ARNOLD STARTS.....	23-3
IOWA HITS A HOMERUN	30-2
OPPONENT HITS A HOMERUN	8-7
IOWA OUTHITS OPPONENT.....	36-1
OPPONENT OUTHITS IOWA.....	4-9
EQUAL NUMBER OF HITS.....	4-0
NO IOWA ERRORS	22-3
IOWA COMMITS AN ERROR	14-4
WEARING WHITE UNIFORMS	17-2
WEARING BLACK UNIFORMS	14-4
WEARING GREY UNIFORMS.....	16-5
FLYING AIR TRAN	10-2
FLYING UNITED	12-2
BUSING TO GAME.....	6-4
IN EASTERN TIME ZONE	18-4
IN CENTRAL TIME ZONE.....	19-5
IN MOUNTAIN TIME ZONE.....	2-0
IN PACIFIC TIME ZONE	8-2
IN IOWA	18-3
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	2-0
ON WEDNESDAY	4-0
ON THURSDAY	1-0
ON FRIDAY.....	10-3
ON SATURDAY	11-5
ON SUNDAY	19-3

IOWA'S TEAM SINGLE GAME INFO...

LONGEST WINNING STREAK	11
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 AVG348 (MURRAY)
GMS.	54 (THREE TIED)
GMS. STARTED.....	54 (THREE TIED)
AT BATS.....	169 (MAY)
RUNS	38 (MAY)
HITS	56 (MAY)
DOUBLES	13 (MAY)
TRIPLES	3 (HEIDGERKEN)
HOME RUNS	16 (NICHOLS)

RBI.....	46 (NICHOLS)
TOTAL BASES	106 (NICHOLS)
SLUGGING PCT.746 (NICHOLS)
WALKS	26 (NICHOLS)
HIT BY PITCH.....	4 (ACKERSON)
STRIKEOUTS.....	32 (HEIDGERKEN)
ON-BASE PERCENTAGE407 (MURRAY)
OPS.....	1.185 (NICHOLS)
SACRIFICE FLIES	2 (MAY & BAUGH)
SACRIFICE HITS.....	7 (THREE TIED)
STOLEN BASES	20 (HEIDGERKEN)
STOLEN BASE ATTEMPTS	21 (HEIDGERKEN)

IOWA'S INDIVIDUAL PITCHING LEADERS

ERA.....	1.15 (BIROCCI)
WINS.....	24 (BIROCCI)
LOSSES	7 (BIROCCI)
WINNING PCT870 (ARNOLD)
APPEARANCES.....	41 (BIROCCI)
GAMES STARTED	29 (BIROCCI)
COMPLETE GAMES	25 (BIROCCI)
SHUTOUTS	12 (BIROCCI)
SAVES.....	7 (BIROCCI)
INNINGS PITCHED.....	212.2 (BIROCCI)
STRIKEOUTS.....	221 (BIROCCI)
OPPONENT BATTING AVERAGE179 (BIROCCI)
WHIP.....	0.81 (BIROCCI)

Head Coach Gayle Blevins

THE HEAD HAWKEYE... Gayle Blevins is in her 18th 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 754-334-3 (.691).

Her career record in 25 years of coaching is 1,054-482-5 (.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	1,054-482-5	.685
IOWA	754-334-3	.691

BIG TEN TOTALS

OVERALL	456-161-1	.739
IOWA	286-117-1	.709