



HAWKEYE HOME PLATE

Iowa Softball News and Notes

4/15-16 at Ohio State
4/17 at Penn State (DH)

2005 IOWA SCHEDULE

33-9 Overall, 4-4 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 Michigan*	W, 5-2
4/2	at Michigan*	L, 1-3
4/3	at Northwestern*	L, 11-1 (5)
4/3	at 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*	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
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.	31	.279	8	17	7	3	5	.508	2
24	Steph Ackerson	1B	R/R	Fr.	32	.216	7	11	3	0	2	.255	2
2	Summer Downs	2B	R-R	Fr.	36	.270	21	31	19	4	6	.443	3
10	Stacy May	SS	R-R	Jr.	42	.321	25	43	22	6	11	.552	2
12	Abby Ruff	3B	R-R	Sr.	37	.238	14	15	10	1	6	.381	5
17	Kylie Murray	RF	R-R	Jr.	41	.333	9	32	20	2	5	.448	1
or 5	Jenna Spratt	RF	L-R	So.	38	.250	14	12	7	0	0	.250	4
11	Mindy Heidgerken	CF	R-R	So.	42	.263	25	25	11	1	6	.400	16
9	Natalie Johnson	LF	L-L	Jr.	42	.262	16	28	13	3	4	.347	3
13	Sami Baugh	C	R-R	So.	40	.269	14	28	13	3	6	.333	1
or 1	Emily Nichols	C	R/R	Fr.	42	.343	24	37	14	37	5	.450	1

Probable Pitching Rotation

No.	Name	Throws	Yr.	Record	GS	SV	CG	SH	ERA	SO	BB	IP
4	Lisa Birocci	RHP	Sr.	19-7	23	5	20	10	1.25	184	28	167.2
3	Ali Arnold	RHP	Jr.	13-2	18	0	9	7	1.50	136	30	103.0
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 (33-9, 4-4) travels to Columbus, OH, Friday to face the Ohio State Buckeyes (19-11, 3-3). Game time is set for 3 p.m. The two teams will face off again on Saturday at 12 p.m.

Iowa will then travel to University Park, PA, to square off against the Penn State Nittany Lions (25-14, 3-3). Game one of the doubleheader will begin Sunday at 11 a.m.

HAWKEYES RUN PAST WILLIAM PENN

Iowa defeated William Penn on Wednesday, 6-0 at Pearl Field in Iowa City. The Hawkeyes started off slow, but scored five runs in the final two innings to improve their record to 33-9.

The Hawkeyes scored first in the bottom of the third when **Mindy Heidgerken** led off the inning with a triple to center field and was plated by **Jenna Spratt** for a 1-0 lead.

Spratt led off the fifth inning with a walk and Stacy May followed with a bunt single, but Spratt was tagged out in a rundown at second. **Emily Nichols** hit a single, knocking in May to make the score 2-0. **Kylie Murray** followed with an RBI double, scoring Nichols for the second run of the inning. Iowa scored three runs in the sixth to secure the win.

Six Hawkeyes collected a hit against the Statesmen. Heidgerken went 2-3 with a triple, two RBI, two runs scored and a stolen base.

Ali Arnold picked up her 13th win of the season while **Lisa Birocci** earned her fifth save.

2005 BIG TEN STANDINGS

	CONF.	OVERALL
1. NORTHWESTERN	8-0	26-9
2. MICHIGAN	7-1	40-3
3. PURDUE	5-1	28-13
T4. IOWA	4-4	32-9
MICHIGAN ST.	4-4	13-21-1
T6. OHIO ST.	3-3	19-11
PENN ST.	3-3	23-14
8. WISCONSIN	3-5	12-17
9. INDIANA	2-4	12-27
10. MINNESOTA	1-7	18-20
11. ILLINOIS	0-8	17-19

THIS WEEK'S BIG TEN ACTION

APRIL 12		
Notre Dame at Purdue (DH)		2 p.m.
Loyola-Chicago at Northwestern (DH)		3 p.m.
DePaul at Illinois (DH)		4 p.m.
Michigan State at Western Michigan		4 p.m.
APRIL 13		
Pittsburgh at Penn State		2 p.m.
Indiana at Indiana State		3 p.m.
Wisconsin at Valparaiso		3 p.m.
Central Michigan at Michigan State		4 p.m.
William Penn at Iowa		6 p.m.
APRIL 14		
North Dakota State at Minnesota (DH)		4 p.m.
APRIL 15		
Michigan at Purdue		3 p.m.
Northwestern at Indiana		3 p.m.
Illinois at Penn State		6 p.m.
Michigan State at Wisconsin		6 p.m.
Iowa at Ohio State		6 p.m.
APRIL 16		
Illinois at Penn State		12 p.m.
Michigan at Purdue		12 p.m.
Iowa at Ohio State		12 p.m.
Northwestern at Indiana		12 p.m.
Michigan State at Wisconsin		12 p.m.
APRIL 17		
Illinois at Ohio State (DH)		12 p.m.
Michigan at Indiana (DH)		12 p.m.
Iowa at Penn State (DH)		12 p.m.
Michigan State at Minnesota (DH)		12 p.m.
Northwestern at Purdue (DH)		12 p.m.

all times listed are local

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Hawkeye Softball Notes

SCOUTING OHIO STATE

The Ohio State Buckeyes are 19-11 overall and 3-3 in the Big Ten Conference.

Ashley Cutcliff leads the Buckeye offense. She is batting .450 with three doubles, two home runs and eight RBI. Megan Schwab leads the team with seven home runs and 30 RBI.

Jamee Juarez is 15-8 with a 2.00 ERA and leads the team with 125 strikeouts.

Iowa leads the all-time series, 52-29.

LAST MEETING

The Hawkeys split a doubleheader with the Buckeyes last season. Ohio State took the first game, 5-3 in nine innings, while Iowa bounced back to take game two, 4-0.

In game one, Iowa took a 3-0 lead in the seventh, but couldn't hold on for the win. Ashley Cutcliff hit a booming home run over the scoreboard in center field and Christina Douglas hit an RBI single in the ninth to give Ohio State the win.

Iowa scored a pair of runs in the first inning of game two to jump out to an early lead. **Lisa Birocci** hit a two-run home run for an early 2-0 lead. **Emily Gerlick** blasted a two-run home run in the fourth for the final runs of the game.

SCOUTING PENN STATE

The Penn State Nittany Lions are 25-14 overall and 3-3 in the Big Ten Conference.

Ashley Esparza leads the Nittany Lion offense. She is batting .437 with 12 doubles, three home runs and 23 RBI.

Esparza is also the Nittany Lion's leading pitcher. She is 8-2 with a 1.39 ERA. Missy Beseres leads the team with 171 strikeouts.

Iowa leads the all-time series, 30-10.

LAST MEETING

Iowa swept Penn State last season in Iowa City. The Hawkeyes defeated Penn State, 3-2 in 14 innings in game one and 8-0 in six innings in game two.

With the score tied 2-2 in the bottom of the 14th, the Hawkeyes were able to take advantage of a pair of Penn State errors to break the tie. **Natalie Johnson** led off with a walk and advanced to third on a throwing error on a **Kylie Murray** bunt. **Stacy May** ended the game with a sharp single off the glove of the second basemen, allowing Johnson to score the winning run.

Lisa Birocci threw a one-hit shut-out and struck out seven in game two of the series. Iowa scored seven runs in the third off of five hits and a Penn State error.

HAWKEYES IN THE RANKINGS

Iowa is ranked 20th in the ESPN.com/USA Softball Collegiate Softball poll and 23rd in the *USA Today*/National Fastpitch Coaches Association poll. Other Big Ten teams in the rankings include Michigan (1st/1st) and Northwestern (17th/16th).

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.

BIROCCI EARNS BIG TEN HONOR

For the third time this season, **Lisa Birocci** has been named co-Big Ten Pitcher of the Week.

**Iowa Hawkeye
Softball**

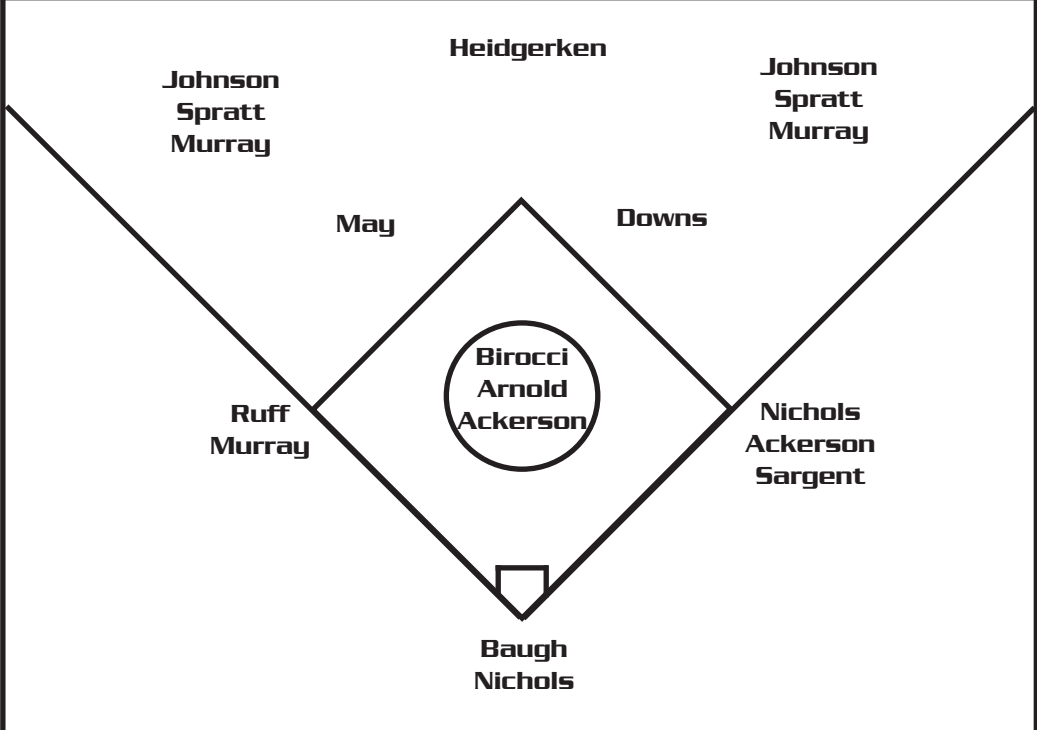
- 1 EMILY NICHOLS**
- 2 SUMMER DOWNS**
- 3 ALI ARNOLD**
- 4 LISA BIROCCI**
- 5 JENNA SPRATT**
- 9 NATALIE JOHNSON**
- 10 STACY MAY**
- 11 MINDY HEIDGERKEN**
- 12 ABBY RUFF**
- 13 SAMI BAUGH**
- 14 BRANDI SARGENT**
- 17 KYLIE MURRAY**
- 22 EMILY GERLICK**
- 24 STEPHANIE ACKERSON**

HEAD COACH
GAYLE BLEVINS

ASSOCIATE HEAD COACH
MICHELLE VENTURELLA

ASSISTANT COACH
DEBBIE BILBAO

VOLUNTEER ASSISTANT
KRISTIN JOHNSON



Birocci became Iowa's all-time career strikeout leader against Northern Illinois, fanning seven of the 10 batters she faced to move into the number one spot.

Birocci finished the week with a 2-0 record, striking out 28 batters and gave up only two earned runs.

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.

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. Nichols added another home run against South Dakota State. She leads the team in seven different offensive categories and has a season total of 14 homers.

SWIPIN' BASES

Sophomore outfielder **Mindy Hiedgerken** leads the team with 16 stolen bases in 17 attempts. **Abby Ruff** is a perfect 5-5 in stolen base attempts.

HITTING STREAK

Junior **Stacy May** is currently riding a six game hitting streak. She is third on the team in batting average (.321) and leads the team in at bats (134), hits (43) and doubles (11).

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	6-3
EXTRA INNINGS.....	1-1
AT PEARL FIELD	8-1
ON THE ROAD	6-3
AT NEUTRAL SITE	19-5
DAY GAMES.....	26-9
NIGHT GAMES.....	7-0
IOWA SCORES FIRST.....	28-3
OPPONENT SCORES FIRST	5-6
GIVING UP 2 RUNS OR LESS.....	30-3
GIVING UP 3+ RUNS	3-6
VS. RANKED OPPONENTS	1-6
BIROCCI STARTS.....	18-6
ARNOLD STARTS.....	15-3
IOWA HITS A HOMERUN	21-1
OPPONENT HITS A HOMERUN	7-6
IOWA OUTHITS OPPONENT.....	25-1
OPPONENT OUTHITS IOWA.....	4-8
EQUAL NUMBER OF HITS.....	4-0
NO IOWA ERRORS	16-4
IOWA COMMITS AN ERROR	17-5
WEARING WHITE UNIFORMS	12-2
WEARING BLACK UNIFORMS	9-4
WEARING GREY UNIFORMS.....	12-3
FLYING AIR TRAN	10-2
FLYING UNITED	10-2
BUSING TO GAME.....	4-4
IN EASTERN TIME ZONE	14-4
IN CENTRAL TIME ZONE.....	9-3
IN MOUNTAIN TIME ZONE.....	2-0
IN PACIFIC TIME ZONE	8-2
IN IOWA	8-1
IN ARIZONA	2-0
IN GEORGIA	7-1
IN KENTUCKY.....	3-1
IN FLORIDA	3-1
IN CALIFORNIA	8-2
IN PENNSYLVANIA	0-0
IN OHIO	0-0
IN ILLINOIS.....	1-2
IN MICHIGAN	1-1
ON MONDAY.....	0-0
ON TUESDAY	0-0
ON WEDNESDAY	4-0
ON THURSDAY	1-0
ON FRIDAY.....	9-1
ON SATURDAY	8-5
ON SUNDAY	11-3

IOWA'S TEAM SINGLE GAME INFO...

LONGEST WINNING STREAK	8
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 (SIX 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 AVG343 (NICHOLS)
GMS.	42 (FOUR TIED)
GMS. STARTED.....	42 (THREE TIED)
AT BATS.....	134 (MAY)
RUNS	24 (MAY)
HITS	42 (MAY)
DOUBLES	11 (MAY)
TRIPLES	2 (HEIDGERKEN & BIROCCI)
HOME RUNS	14 (NICHOLS)

RBI.....	36 (NICHOLS)
TOTAL BASES	85 (NICHOLS)
SLUGGING PCT.802 (NICHOLS)
WALKS	20 (NICHOLS)
HIT BY PITCH.....	2 (ACKERSON & NICHOLS)
STRIKEOUTS.....	25 (HEIDGERKEN)
ON-BASE PERCENTAGE.....	.450 (NICHOLS)
OPS	1.246 (NICHOLS)
SACRIFICE FLIES	2 (BAUGH)
SACRIFICE HITS.....	6 (THREE TIED)
STOLEN BASES	16 (HEIDGERKEN)
STOLEN BASE ATTEMPTS	17 (HEIDGERKEN)

IOWA'S INDIVIDUAL PITCHING LEADERS

ERA.....	1.25 (BIROCCI)
WINS.....	19 (BIROCCI)
LOSSES	7 (BIROCCI)
WINNING PCT731 (BIROCCI)
APPEARANCES.....	330 (BIROCCI)
GAMES STARTED	23 (BIROCCI)
COMPLETE GAMES	20 (BIROCCI)
SHUTOUTS	10 (BIROCCI)
SAVES.....	5 (BIROCCI)
INNINGS PITCHED.....	167.2 (BIROCCI)
STRIKEOUTS.....	184 (BIROCCI)
OPPONENT BATTING AVERAGE181 (BIROCCI)
WHIP.....	0.84 (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 743-333-3 (.690).

Her career record in 25 years of coaching is 1,043-481-5 (.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	1,043-481-5	.684
IOWA	743-333-3	.690

BIG TEN TOTALS

OVERALL	449-160-1	.737
IOWA	279-116-1	.706