



IOWA SOFTBALL

4 Women's College World Series appearances
16 NCAA Tournament berths

4 Big Ten regular season championships
2 Big Ten Tournament championships

Week 1

Feb. 6, 2013

2013 SCHEDULE

(0-0, 0-0)

HILTON HOUSTON PLAZA CLASSIC (Houston)

Feb. 8	vs. Lipscomb	11:30 a.m.
Feb. 8	vs. Texas State	2 p.m.
Feb. 9	at Houston	2 p.m.
Feb. 9	vs. #11/11 Louisiana-Lafayette	7 p.m.
Feb. 10	vs. #11/11 Louisiana-Lafayette	11:30 a.m.

LOVELACE INVITATIONAL (Denton, Texas)

Feb. 15	vs. Dayton	9 a.m.
Feb. 15	vs. Oklahoma State	2 p.m.
Feb. 16	vs. Nebraska-Omaha	2 p.m.
Feb. 16	at North Texas	4:30 p.m.
Feb. 17	vs. Oklahoma State	11:30 a.m.

BAMA BASH (Tuscaloosa, Ala.)

Feb. 22	vs. Winthrop	1:30 p.m.
Feb. 22	at Alabama	6 p.m.
Feb. 23	vs. Winthrop	11 a.m.
Feb. 23	at Alabama	1:30 p.m.
Feb. 24	vs. Western Illinois	11 a.m.

EASTON INVITATIONAL (Fullerton, Calif.)

March 1	vs. Oregon State	11 a.m.
March 1	vs. Stanford	1:15 p.m.
March 2	at Cal State Fullerton	3:30 p.m.
March 2	vs. CSU Bakersfield	5:45 p.m.

MIKEN INVITATIONAL (College Park, Md.)

March 9	vs. St. John's	8 a.m.
March 9	at Maryland	10 a.m.
March 10	vs. Radford	8 a.m.
March 10	vs. Ohio State	10 a.m.

LOUISVILLE TOURNAMENT (Louisville, Ky.)

March 17	vs. North Carolina	11:30 a.m.
March 17	vs. Ball State	2 p.m.
March 18	vs. Ball State	10 a.m.
March 18	at Louisville	12:30 p.m.
March 20	at Kentucky	3 p.m.
March 22	* Minnesota	4 p.m.
March 23	* Minnesota	2 p.m.
March 24	* Minnesota	2 p.m.
March 29	* at Wisconsin	6 p.m.
March 30	* at Wisconsin (DH)	1 p.m./3 p.m.
April 3	at Drake	4 p.m.
April 5	* Nebraska	6:30 p.m.
April 6	* Nebraska	5 p.m.
April 7	* Nebraska	1 p.m.
April 12	* at Northwestern	4 p.m.
April 13	* at Northwestern	1 p.m.
April 14	* at Northwestern	12 p.m.
April 17	Missouri (DH)	3 p.m./5 p.m.
April 19	* at Michigan	5 p.m.
April 20	* at Michigan	1 p.m.
April 21	* at Michigan	2 p.m.
April 23	* Illinois (DH)	3 p.m./5 p.m.
April 25	at Northern Iowa	5 p.m.
April 26	*Penn State	6 p.m.
April 27	*Penn State	2 p.m.
April 28	*Penn State	1 p.m.
May 1	% Iowa State	6:30 p.m.
May 3	* at Purdue	3 p.m.
May 4	* at Purdue	12 p.m.
May 5	* at Purdue	12 p.m.
May 9-12	at Big Ten Tournament (Lincoln, Neb.)	TBA
May 17-19	NCAA Regionals	TBA
May 24-26	NCAA Super Regionals	TBA
May 30-June 5	Women's College World Series	TBA

* Big Ten Conference game % Iowa Corn Cy-Hawk Series
DH - doubleheader All times Central and subject to change.

THIS WEEK

The University of Iowa softball team opens the 2013 season at the Hilton Houston Plaza Classic in Houston, Texas, this weekend. The Hawkeyes open play at 11:30 a.m. Friday against Lipscomb before facing Texas State at 2 p.m. On Saturday, Iowa squares off against host Houston at 2 p.m. The Hawkeyes conclude tournament action with two contests against No. 11 Louisiana-Lafayette. Iowa and the Cajuns will meet Saturday at 7 p.m. and Sunday at 11:30 a.m. All times are Central and all five games will be held at Houston's Cougar Softball Stadium.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Hawkeye fans can follow the University of Iowa softball team on social media platforms Twitter (@[iowasoftball](https://twitter.com/iowasoftball)) and Facebook (facebook.com/iowahawkeyessoftball). Game updates will be tweeted during each game.

ON THE WEB

Fans can follow the action at hawkeyesports.com, where live stats (Gametracker) will be available. The live "GT" can be found under the calendar tab on the right-hand side of the hawkeyesports.com home page, or on the softball schedule page. Fans can watch the Iowa-Houston game online via All-Access.

SEASON TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE

Fans interested in attending home games at Pearl Field should visit hawkeyesports.com or contact the UI Athletics Ticket Office at 1-800 IA-HAWKS to secure season tickets. Season tickets are currently on sale for \$20 for the reserved seating area, \$15 for general public in the general admission area, and \$12 for faculty/staff general admission. All youth, 18 and younger, and UI students are admitted free to all home games. Purchase is required for all reserved seats, regardless of age.

Iowa opens its home slate with a three-game set against Big Ten rival Minnesota, March 22-24. The Hawkeyes will also host three-game series against Nebraska (April 5-7) and Penn State (April 26-28), in addition to a doubleheader against Illinois (April 23). No. 8 Missouri comes to town (April 17) for a doubleheader, and Iowa State travels to Iowa City for the annual Iowa Corn Cy-Hawk Series game on May 1.

BLANK, MASSEY EARN PRESEASON ALL-BIG HONORS

Junior pitcher Kayla Massey and sophomore infielder Megan Blank were selected to the 2013 Big Ten Preseason All-Conference First Team by College Sports Madness.

Massey, a 2012 first team All-Big Ten selection, earns the nod after posting a 15-11 record with a 2.04 ERA last year, notching seven shutouts and 24 complete games in 26 starts. She had 120 strikeouts over 185.2 innings. A native of Foothill Ranch, Calif., she has compiled 27 wins and a 2.60 ERA in 68 career appearances inside the circle.

Blank became the ninth player in school history in 2012 to garner first team All-Big Ten honors as a freshman and ninth player in program history to earn all-region recognition as a freshman. The Culver City, Calif., native was a NFCA Second Team All-Midwest region selection. She started all 53 games at shortstop and led the team with a .390 batting average with 34 runs and 29 RBIs. Blank turned in a team-best 24 extra base hits with 17 doubles, five triples and two home runs. The 17 doubles are tied for fourth in the Iowa record books, the triples are tied for eighth and the batting average is tied for 10th.

INTRODUCING YOUR 2013 HAWKEYES

The Hawkeyes have eight new faces on the 2013 roster -- eight incoming freshmen. Iowa's roster is full of youth, as 12-of-the-24 players are underclassmen. The Hawkeyes have three sophomores, seven juniors and five seniors (Ashley Akers, Johnnie Dowling, Sam Valentine, Bradi Wall and Chelsea Lyon).

Iowa returns four players that earned All-Big Ten honors a year ago (Dowling, juniors Kayla Massey and Michelle Zoeller, and sophomore Megan Blank).

A LOOK BACK AT 2012

Head coach Marla Looper led the Hawkeyes to a runner-up finish in the Big Ten in 2012 -- the program's highest finish since winning the league title in 2003.

Iowa dropped two of its first three conference series before winning five straight to close out the season. It was the first time the team had won five straight series since 2004. Iowa entered the final weekend with a conference title within reach, but it couldn't close the gap with Michigan despite taking 2-of-3 games at Minnesota. The Hawkeyes finished with a 27-26 overall and 16-8 conference record.

Five players garnered All-Big Ten recognition, including three first-team selections. Senior Liz Watkins, sophomore Kayla Massey and freshman Megan Blank earned first-team accolades, sophomore Michelle Zoeller was a second-team honoree, and junior Johnnie Dowling was a third-team selection. Blank also garnered NFCA second team all-region honors during her freshman campaign. She is the ninth Hawkeye to earn first team All-Big Ten and all-region honors during her freshman season.



QUICK FACTS

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA INFORMATION

Location: _____ Iowa City, Iowa
 Founded: _____ 1847
 Enrollment: _____ 31,498
 Nickname: _____ Hawkeyes
 Mascot: _____ Herky the Hawk
 Venue: _____ Pearl Field/1,500
 Conference: _____ Big Ten
 School Colors: _____ Black and Gold
 President: _____ Sally Mason
 Director of Athletics: _____ Gary Barta
 Softball Administrator: _____ Paula Jantz

COACHING INFORMATION

Head Coach: _____ Marla Looper
 Alma Mater/Year: _____ Florida State/1995
 Record at Iowa/Years: _____ 54-50/2
 Overall Record/Years: _____ 54-50/2
 Big Ten Record/Years: _____ 25-19/2
 Assistant Coach: _____ Adrianna Baggetta
 Alma Mater/Year: _____ South Carolina/2002
 Assistant Coach: _____ Stacy May-Johnson
 Alma Mater/Year: _____ Iowa/2007
 Volunteer Assistant Coach: _____ Chelsey Carmody
 Alma Mater/Year: _____ Iowa/2011

TEAM INFORMATION

2012 Overall Record _____ 27-26
 2012 Big Ten Record/Finish _____ 16-8/2nd
 Starters Returning/Lost _____ 6/3
 Pitchers Returning/Lost _____ 2/0
 Letterwinners Ret./Lost _____ 15/4
 Newcomers _____ 8
 Softball Office Phone: _____ 319-335-9257

ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

Softball Contact: _____ Patrick Sojka
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 Press Box Phone: _____ 319-335-9296
 Web Site: _____ hawkkeyesports.com
 Twitter: _____ @iowasoftball
 Facebook _____ iowahawkeyessoftball



PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

Adrianna Baggetta _____ Adri-aw-na BUH-Get-UH
Nikki Gentile _____ Jen-teal
Sammi Gyerman _____ Guy-ur-man
Brianna Luna _____ Bri-aw-na
Whitney Repole _____ Rep-lee
Krystal Shirrell _____ Share-ull
Shayla Starkenburg _____ Shea-luh
Micaela Whitney _____ Mi-kay-luh
Michelle Zoeller _____ Zeller

HEAD COACH MARLA LOOPER



Marla Looper is in her third season as the head coach for the University of Iowa softball program. Looper has posted a 54-50 overall and 25-19 Big Ten Conference record in her first two seasons in Iowa City.

During her second season with the Hawkeyes, Looper led the team to a runner-up finish in the Big Ten. Iowa dropped two of its first three conference series before winning five straight to close out the season. It was the first time the team had won five straight series since the 2004 season.

Iowa entered the final weekend with a conference title within reach, but it couldn't close the gap with Michigan despite taking 2-of-3 games at Minnesota. The Hawkeyes finished with a 27-26 overall and 16-8 conference record in 2012.

Five players garnered All-Big Ten recognition, including three first team selections. Senior Liz Watkins, sophomore Kayla Massey and freshman Megan Blank earned first team accolades, sophomore Michelle Zoeller was a second team honoree and junior Johnnie Dowling was a third team selection.

Blank also garnered NFCA second team all-region honors during her freshman campaign. She is the ninth Hawkeye to earn first team All-Big Ten and all-region honors during her freshman season.

The Hawkeyes finished second in the Big Ten in pitching (2.31 ERA) and third in fielding (.967). The squad turned 26 double plays during the course of the season to rank sixth nationally in double plays per game (.49).

Looper guided the Hawkeyes to a 27-24 overall and a 9-11 Big Ten record in her first season in Iowa City. The first year head coach led the UI to a pair of six game winning streaks in her opening campaign and a tournament title at the Stetson Classic.

Iowa opened Big Ten Conference play strong, jumping out to an 8-3 record. Among the victories was a 4-2 triumph at No. 1 Michigan. The win, which pushed the overall mark to 26-16, was Iowa's first over a No. 1 ranked opponent since the 2005 season and the first over a ranked foe since 2008.

Looper's Hawkeyes were on the verge of completing a series sweep in Ann Arbor before the Wolverines rallied from a 2-0 deficit in the bottom of the seventh inning to claim the victory and halt Iowa's momentum.

A pair of Hawkeyes earned All-Big Ten recognition at the conclusion of the season. Liz Watkins was tabbed as a second team selection, while Katie Keim earned third team accolades.

Looper took over the reigns of the Iowa program after serving as an assistant coach at the University of Texas for 11 seasons (1999-2010). Looper helped lead the Longhorns to three College World Series appearances (2003, 2005 and 2006) and nine NCAA Tournament berths. She also helped guide Texas to back-to-back Big 12 regular season and tournament championships in 2002 and 2003 along with regular season championships in 2006 and 2010.

2013 IOWA SOFTBALL NUMERICAL ROSTER

No.	Name	Ht.	Pos.	Class	Hometown/High School (Last School)
1	Aspen Rhodes	5-5	IF	Fr.	Van Meter, Iowa (Van Meter)
2	Erin Erickson	5-5	OF/1B	Fr.	Oakland, Calif. (Bishop O'Dowd)
3	Micaela Whitney	5-6	P	Fr.	Omaha, Neb. (Papillion-La Vista South)
4	Megan Blank	5-6	IF	So.	Culver City, Calif. (Marymount)
5	Brianna Luna	5-4	OF/IF	Jr.	Indio, Calif. (La Quinta)
6	Ashley Akers	5-6	OF	Sr.	Tiffin, Iowa (Clear Creek Amana)
7	Sydney Reynolds	5-5	OF	So.	Platte City, Mo. (Platte City)
8	Whitney Repole	5-5	OF	Fr.	San Antonio, Texas (Smithson Valley)
9	Johnnie Dowling	5-6	OF	Sr.	Des Moines, Iowa (West Des Moines Valley)
10	Nikki Gentile	5-8	IF/OF	Jr.	Martinez, Calif. (Alhambra)
12	Sam Valentine	5-2	C	Sr.	Centerville, Iowa (English Valleys)
13	Tor Hawley	5-5	IF	So.	Eldridge, Iowa (North Scott Senior)
14	Michelle Zoeller	5-7	IF	Jr.	Mequon, Wis. (Homestead)
15	Mallore Groves	5-6	OF	Jr.	Indianola, Iowa (Creighton)
16	Shayla Starkenburg	5-8	P	Fr.	Ankeny, Iowa (Ankeny)
17	Kayla Massey	5-7	P	Jr.	Foothill Ranch, Calif. (Trabuco Hills)
18	Bradi Wall	5-6	IF	Sr.	Swift Current, Sask., Canada (Iowa Western CC)
19	Chelsea Lyon	5-11	P	Sr.	Broken Arrow, Okla. (Broken Arrow)
21	Sammi Gyerman	5-5	OF	Fr.	San Pedro, Calif. (Palos Verdes)
22	Haley Hansel	5-5	OF	Fr.	Overland Park, Kan. (Blue Valley Southwest)
24	Brittane Groves	5-11	P/1B	Jr.	Indianola, Iowa (Creighton)
32	Krystal Shirrell	5-7	IF	Fr.	Brownsburg, Ind. (Brownsburg)
35	Stevie Groves	5-11	C	Jr.	Indianola, Iowa (Indiana State)
55	Holly Hoffman	5-7	C/IF	RS Fr.	Osceola, Ind. (Penn)

Head Coach: Marla Looper (Third Season)

Assistant Coach: Adrianna Baggetta (Third Season)

Assistant Coach: Stacy May-Johnson (Third Season)

Volunteer Assistant Coach: Chelsey Carmody (First Season)

Athletic Trainer: P.J. Smith

Student Manager: Cameron Cole

SEASON OPENERS

The Hawkeyes are 1-1 in season opening games under third-year head coach Marla Looper. During her first season, Iowa dropped a 5-4 decision to Lipscomb in Athens, Ga., in the Black and Red Showcase on Feb. 11, 2011. Last year, the Hawkeyes downed Wichita State, 11-0, in five innings in the Getteman Classic in Waco, Texas. Megan Blank drew four walks, equaling an Iowa single game record, and scored two runs in her collegiate debut. Ashley Akers finished 2-for-3 with two runs scored. Kayla Massey, Michelle Zoeller and Johnnie Dowling added hits as the Hawkeye routed the Shockers. Iowa finished the tournament with a 3-2 record.

IOWA'S 1-2 PUNCH

The Hawkeyes return two pitchers -- senior Chelsea Lyon and junior Kayla Massey -- that hurled 354.2 innings pitched out of 355.0 total innings for the team in 2012.

Lyon has made 93 career appearances inside the circle, with 68 starts. She has tossed 40 complete games and holds a career 2.97 ERA in 440.1 innings pitched. In 2012, Lyon ranked eighth in the Big Ten in ERA (2.61) and opposing batting average (.238), and 11th in innings (169.0) and strikeouts (114).

Massey was named first team All-Big Ten in 2012, posting a 15-11 record with a 2.04 ERA. Massey notched seven shutouts and 24 complete games in 26 starts. She tallied 120 strikeouts over 185.2 innings and limited opposing hitters to a .222 batting average. Massey went 9-3 with a 1.95 ERA in Big Ten play. She has made 50 career starts as a Hawkeye in 68 appearances, registering 40 complete games and 27 victories.

The Hawkeyes finished second in the Big Ten in pitching (2.31 ERA) in 2012.

PITCHING HELP

Head coach Marla Looper has two more pitchers at her disposal in 2013. Freshmen Shayla Starkenburg and Micaela Whitney will give the Hawkeyes pitching options.

Starkenburg, who hails from Ankeny, Iowa, was elected as the 2012 5A Pitcher of the Year and first team all-state honoree as a senior, after posting a 31-0 record with a 0.58 ERA. She had 222 strikeouts in 191.2 innings, allowing 20 runs (16 earned) and 99 hits, guiding Ankeny High School to a 39-6 overall record en route to the state title.

Whitney was a Nebraska Coaches Association All Star first team and Nebraska All-State Class A selection as a senior. She went 20-9 with a 1.42 ERA over 182.2 innings pitched, while posting 217 strikeouts and allowing 69 runs.

The rookie duo joins Lyon, Massey, and junior Brittane Grove on the pitching staff.

LET'S TURN TWO

The Hawkeyes were third in fielding (.967) in the Big Ten a year ago. The squad turned 26 double plays during the course of the season to rank sixth nationally in double plays per game (.49).

PLAYING WITH THE BEST OF 'EM

The Hawkeyes will face a difficult schedule in 2013. Iowa will play 13 opponents that advanced to the NCAA Tournament a season ago, including defending national champion Alabama. The Hawkeyes will play seven teams ranked in the USA Today/Division I Top 25 Poll -- Alabama (No. 1), Missouri (No. 8), Louisiana-Lafayette (No. 11), Michigan (No. 15), Louisville (No. 18), Stanford (No. 21) and North Carolina (No. 22). In addition, Iowa will battle four teams receiving votes in the initial poll -- Kentucky, Oregon State, Northwestern and Houston.

SERIES/OPPONENT NOTES

- Lipscomb claimed the only meeting in the series history. The Bisons won a 5-4 decision in Athens, Ga., in the Black and Red Showcase on Feb. 11, 2011 -- the first for Marla Looper as head coach of the Hawkeyes.
- Iowa is 2-0 all-time against Texas State. The Hawkeyes claimed the first meeting in 1980, 10-1, and the last meeting in 2010, 4-1.
- Saturday's game between Iowa and Houston is the first ever in the series.
- The Hawkeyes are 1-2 all-time against Louisiana-Lafayette. After dropping the first two meetings against the Cajuns in 2000 (5-4) and 2006 (6-0), Iowa won the last contest between the schools, 2-1 in nine innings in 2008.

2012 BIG TEN CONFERENCE STANDINGS (as of 6/10/12)

	Big Ten		Overall	
Michigan _____	18-5 _____	.783 _____	42-17 _____	.712 _____
Iowa _____	16-8 _____	.667 _____	27-26 _____	.509 _____
Nebraska _____	14-9 _____	.609 _____	33-22 _____	.600 _____
Indiana _____	14-10 _____	.583 _____	30-25 _____	.545 _____
Northwestern _____	14-10 _____	.583 _____	29-29 _____	.500 _____
Wisconsin _____	13-10 _____	.565 _____	34-19 _____	.642 _____
Purdue _____	13-10 _____	.565 _____	31-22 _____	.585 _____
Ohio State _____	10-13 _____	.435 _____	31-23 _____	.574 _____
Minnesota _____	10-14 _____	.417 _____	31-22 _____	.585 _____
Illinois _____	10-14 _____	.417 _____	27-26 _____	.509 _____
Penn State _____	9-15 _____	.375 _____	18-32 _____	.360 _____
Michigan State _____	0-23 _____	.000 _____	11-42 _____	.208 _____

**ESPN.com/USA Softball
Collegiate Top-25
(As of Feb. 5)**

1.	Alabama (13)	490
2.	Oklahoma (7)	486
3.	California	449
4.	Arizona State	445
5.	Tennessee	414
6.	Oregon	390
7.	Missouri	346
8.	Georgia	332
9.	Texas	297
10.	South Florida	285
11.	Louisiana-Lafayette	272
12.	LSU	263
13.	Michigan	233
14.	Arizona	226
15.	Florida	225
16.	Washington	213
17.	Texas A&M	195
18.	Louisville	188
19.	UCLA	144
20.	Stanford	131
21.	North Carolina	69
T22.	Baylor	67
T22.	Hofstra	67
24.	Florida State	66
25.	Hawaii	44

Receiving Votes: Notre Dame (24); Syracuse (23); Kentucky (20); Georgia Tech (18); Virginia Tech (17); Tulsa (14); Texas Tech (12); Mississippi State (9); Oregon State (8); Northwestern (7); Oklahoma State (3); Central Florida (3); South Alabama (2); UMASS (2); BYU (1)

**USA Today/NFCA
Division I Top-25
(As of Feb. 5)**

1.	Alabama (25)	765
2.	Oklahoma (5)	745
3.	California (1)	704
4.	Arizona State	684
5.	Oregon	635
6.	Tennessee	626
7.	Texas	534
8.	Missouri	496
9.	Georgia	490
10.	LSU	475
11.	Louisiana-Lafayette	429
12.	South Florida	423
13.	Arizona	406
14.	Florida	342
15.	Michigan	326
16.	Washington	316
17.	Texas A&M	296
18.	Louisville	255
19.	UCLA	216
20.	Hofstra	203
21.	Stanford	183
22.	North Carolina	102
23.	Hawaii	89
24.	Baylor	80
25.	Florida State	58

Receiving Votes: Notre Dame (43); Georgia Tech (29); Syracuse (27); Kentucky (23); Oregon State (22); Texas Tech (12); Virginia Tech (11); DePaul (10); Northwestern (5); BYU (4), Houston (3), Tulsa (2); Mississippi State (9); Illinois State (2), South Alabama (2).

* Iowa opponents in bold.



IOWA SOFTBALL

4 Women's College World Series appearances
16 NCAA Tournament berths

4 Big Ten regular season championships
2 Big Ten Tournament championships

IOWA'S RECORD WHEN...

1-Run Games	0-0
2-Run Games	0-0
3+-Run Games	0-0
Extra Innings	0-0
At Pearl Field	0-0
On the Road	0-0
At Neutral Site	0-0
Day Games	0-0
Night Games	0-0
Iowa Scores First	0-0
Opponent Scores First	0-0
Scoring 2 Runs Or Less	0-0
Scoring 3+ Runs	0-0
Giving Up 2 Runs Or Less	0-0
Giving up 3+ Runs	0-0
Leading After Four Innings	0-0
Leading After Five Innings	0-0
Leading After Six Innings	0-0
Ranked Opponents	0-0
Lyon Starts	0-0
Massey Starts	0-0
Iowa Hits a Home Run	0-0
Opponent Hits a Home Run	0-0
Iowa Outhits Opponent	0-0
Opponent Outhits Iowa	0-0
Equal Number of Hits	0-0
Iowa Pitchers Record More K's	0-0
Opp. Pitchers Record More K's	0-0
Equal Number of Strikeouts	0-0
Wearing Black Uniforms	0-0
Wearing White Uniforms	0-0
Wearing Gray Uniforms	0-0
Wearing Pink Uniforms	0-0
Flying To Game	0-0
Busing To Game	0-0
On Big Ten Network	0-0
In Central Time Zone	0-0
In Eastern Tim Zone	0-0
In Mountain Time Zone	0-0
In Pacific Time Zone	0-0
On Sunday	0-0
On Monday	0-0
On Tuesday	0-0
On Wednesday	0-0
On Thursday	0-0
On Friday	0-0
On Saturday	0-0

WALL BRINGS HOME THE HARDWARE

Senior Bradi Wall, a member of the Canadian Women's National Baseball Team, was selected as recipient of the team's 2012 Jimmy Rattlesnake Award in November. The award is presented annually to the player who shows great performance and sportsmanship. Wall did not play prep softball, as it was not sponsored in her hometown. She played on the boys' baseball team.

2/3 OF OUTFIELD IN TACT

The Hawkeyes return two of their three outfield starters in seniors Ashley Akers and Johnnie Dowling. Akers played in 52-of-53 games with 52 starts, all coming in left field in 2012. Dowling started all 53 games in center field a year ago, making her one of three Hawkeyes to start every game.

ROAD WARRIORS

The Hawkeyes will play their first 28 games away from Iowa City before making their Pearl Field debut March 22 against Big Ten rival Minnesota. Iowa will rack up the frequent flier miles, as it will log nearly 12,000 miles (11,811) with trips to Houston, Texas; Denton, Texas; Tuscaloosa, Ala.; Fullerton, Calif.; College Park, Md.; Louisville, Ky.; and Lexington, Ky.

DOWLING MAKES THE MOVE

At the plate, junior Johnnie Dowling made the transition from a right-handed hitter to a left-handed slapper following the 2011 season to utilize her speed. The Des Moines, Iowa, native hit .216 with five home runs as a sophomore.

Dowling hitting a career-best .308 last season from the left side of the plate on her way to third team All-Big Ten honors. She also had career highs in runs (35), hits (53) and walks (9). Dowling had 15 multi-hit games and led the team with a .381 average during conference play.

MAY-JOHNSON SHINES FOR TEAM USA

UI assistant coach Stacy May-Johnson was selected as the 2011 USA Softball Female Athlete of the Year. She earned the honor after helping Team USA to gold medals at the World Cup of Softball VII and the Pan American Games. May-Johnson batted a team-best .418 with team highs in home runs (six), runs (26) and RBI (36).

In 2012, May-Johnson helped the USA Softball Team to the gold medal at the 2012 World Cup of Softball presented by Lumber Liquidators. May-Johnson started 5-of-6 games for Team USA, posting a .357 (5-of-14) batting average with three runs, two RBIs and two walks. Her best game came in a 9-0 victory over Canada, where she went 2-for-2 with a run scored. The Americans posted a perfect 6-0 record during the competition, and they outscored their opponents, 41-3, in the five day event.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Grove triplets -- Brittane, Mallore and Stevie -- have been reunited as teammates on the Iowa softball team. Brittane and Mallore played their freshman seasons at Creighton University, while Stevie was a catcher at Indiana State.

CARMODY BACK WITH THE HAWKS

Former Hawkeye Chelsey Carmody is back with the Iowa softball program, serving as volunteer assistant coach. Carmody started 208 career games in the Iowa infield. A career .335 hitter, she was a team co-captain and was the recipient of the Big Ten Sportsmanship Award as a senior. She batted .320 or higher during each of her four seasons in the Black and Gold, totaling 234 career hits, 11 home runs, 87 RBI and 42 stolen bases. Carmody played for UI head coach Marla Looper in 2011 as a senior.

HAWKEYE TRADITION

Iowa has made four Women's College World Series appearances (1995, 1996, 1997, 2001) and played in 16 NCAA Tournaments in school history. The 16 appearances are the second most in Big Ten history, and the four WCWS appearances equal the second most in conference history.

The Hawkeyes have won four Big Ten Conference regular season championships (1989, 1997, 2000, 2003) and two Big Ten Tournament titles (2001, 2003).

BIG TOURNEY IS BACK

The Big Ten Tournament is back this season for the first time since 2008. Following the conclusion of the regular season, Iowa will travel to Lincoln, Neb., May 9-12. The Hawkeyes have claimed two Big Ten Tournament titles (2001, 2003) and have won 21 games in the event all-time, marking the second most of any team. The conference tournament was discontinued from 2009-12.

ON THE HORIZON

Iowa continues action Feb. 15-17 in Denton, Texas, at the Lovelace Invitational. The Hawkeyes will face Dayton, Oklahoma State (twice), Nebraska-Omaha and host North Texas.

