



HAWKEYE HOME PLATE

Iowa Softball News and Notes 4/15 at Iowa State -- 4 p.m.
4/16 vs. Coe College -- 6 p.m.
4/18 vs. Michigan (DH) -- Noon

2004 Iowa Schedule

27-15 Overall, 4-0 Big Ten

Feb. 20	vs. Wisconsin	L, 3-6
Feb. 20	vs. Illinois State	W, 7-3
Feb. 21	vs. Utah State	W, 5-1
Feb. 21	vs. #22 Arizona State	W, 9-0 (5)
Feb. 22	vs. #22 Arizona State	L, 0-3
Feb. 28	vs. Toledo	W, 3-0
Feb. 28	vs. Western Kentucky	W, 3-0
Feb. 29	vs. Louisville	W, 4-0
Feb. 29	vs. Louisville	L, 0-2
Mar. 4	vs. Baylor	L, 3-4
Mar. 4	vs. Boston University	W, 4-0
Mar. 5	vs. Northern Illinois	W, 5-1
Mar. 5	vs. Team USA (Exhib.)	L, 0-11 (5)
Mar. 6	vs. Troy State	W, 1-0 (8)
Mar. 6	vs. Tenn.-Chattanooga	L, 0-1
Mar. 7	vs. Tennessee Tech	L, 0-1
Mar. 12	vs. #8 Washington	L, 2-8
Mar. 12	vs. Santa Clara	W, 4-1
Mar. 13	vs. Syracuse	W, 2-0
Mar. 13	vs. #3 California	L, 2-8
Mar. 14	vs. #20 Arizona State	W, 3-0
Mar. 17	at Sacramento State (1)	W, 2-1 (8)
Mar. 17	at Sacramento State (2)	W, 6-0
Mar. 19	vs. Saint Mary's	W, 7-0
Mar. 19	vs. Utah State	L, 1-2
Mar. 20	vs. Long Beach State	L, 0-3
Mar. 20	vs. Long Island	L, 1-2
Mar. 21	vs. Nevada	L, 0-2
Mar. 24	at Illinois State	L, 3-1
Mar. 27	Wisconsin	W, 4-0
Mar. 27	Ball State	W, 6-0
Mar. 28	Ball State	W, 9-0
Mar. 28	Wisconsin	L, 1-2
Mar. 31	at Drake	L, 0-3
Apr. 2	Northwestern*	W, 7-2
Apr. 3	Northwestern*	W, 6-1
Apr. 4	Michigan State (1)*	W, 8-2
Apr. 4	Michigan State (2)*	W, 8-2
Apr. 7	Northern Illinois W,	2-0(11)
Apr. 9	at Indiana*	W, 6-0
Apr. 10	at Indiana*	W, 1-0
Apr. 11	at Purdue (1)*	W, 6-0
Apr. 11	at Purdue (2)*	W, 4-0
Apr. 15	at Iowa State	4 p.m.
Apr. 16	Coe College	6 p.m.
Apr. 18	Michigan (DH)*	Noon
Apr. 20	Northern Iowa (DH)	4 p.m.
Apr. 23	Penn State*	6 p.m.
Apr. 24	Penn State*	Noon
Apr. 25	Ohio State (DH)*	Noon
Apr. 28	at Western Illinois	5 p.m.
Apr. 30	at Minnesota*	6 p.m.
May 1	at Minnesota*	Noon
May 2	at Wisconsin (DH)*	Noon
May 4	William Penn	6 p.m.
May 8	at Illinois*	6 p.m.
May 9	at Illinois*	Noon
May 13-15	Big Ten Tournament	
May 20-23	NCAA Regionals	
May 27-31	Women's College World Series	

Probable Iowa Lineup

No.	Name	Pos.	B-T	Yr.	GP	Avg.	Runs	Hits	RBI	HR	2B	SLG%	SB
9	Natalie Johnson	RF	L/L	So.	39	.275	22	28	13	3	7	.471	4
6	Amanda Hentges	LF	R/R	Sr.	40	.286	14	30	16	0	9	.390	6
18	Stacy May	SS	R/R	So.	42	.310	20	40	9	1	4	.364	2
17	Kylie Murray	3B	R/R	So.	42	.326	8	43	22	3	10	.470	0
4	Lisa Birocci	P	R/R	Jr.	35	.304	8	24	5	2	5	.468	0
or 3	Ali Arnold	P	R/R	So.	30	.268	5	15	10	2	4	.446	0
16	Sarah Thomson	1B	R/R	Sr.	41	.264	7	24	11	1	6	.385	2
21	Sami Baugh	C	R/R	Fr.	37	.197	7	13	5	0	2	.227	0
14	Laura Chipman	CF	R/R	Sr.	42	.268	16	19	7	1	4	.366	8
22	Emily Gerlick	2B	R/R	So.	42	.269	14	32	20	2	5	.445	6

Probable Pitching Rotation

No.	Name	Throws	Yr.	Record	GSSV	CG	SH	ERA	SO	BB	IP	
4	Lisa Birocci	RHP	Jr.	15-8	20	0	12	6	0.92	206	41	152 1/3
3	Ali Arnold	RHP	So.	12-7	22	1	9	4	1.27	112	30	138
16	Sarah Thomson	RHP	Sr.	0-0	0	0	0	0	5.25	1	0	4

Looking For Win No. 1,000

The University of Iowa softball team will look to give Head Coach Gayle Blevins her 1,000th career win this weekend. She is just two wins shy of that plateau.

Iowa will play a pair of non-conference games this week before a Big Ten showdown with conference co-leader Michigan. The Hawkeyes will travel to Ames Thursday to take on intrastate rival Iowa State at 4 p.m., then host Coe College Friday night at 6 p.m.

On Sunday, Iowa returns to Big Ten play to battle for the top spot in the conference with the No. 9 Michigan Wolverines. Game one of the scheduled doubleheader begins at noon.

Hawkeyes on the Net

Fans unable to attend the game can follow the action at www.hawkeyesports.com, where live stats will be available for all home games this season. Just click on the "gametracker" link on the softball schedule page to follow the Hawkeyes.

The Black and Gold Train Keeps Rolling

The Hawkeyes are coming off a big week where they extended their season-best winning streak to nine games. Iowa defeated Northern Illinois 2-0 in extra innings, then swept a four-game Big Ten series with Indiana (6-0 and 1-0) and Purdue (6-0 and 4-0).

The win over Northern Illinois was as dramatic as they come. The game remained scoreless into the 11th inning until sophomore **Kylie Murray** blasted a two-run, walk-off home run over the leftfield fence.

On Friday against Indiana, the Hawkeyes were very economical with their offense, getting six runs on six hits. Murray hit a home run for the second-straight game, while **Lisa Birocci** went the distance in the circle for the win. She allowed only four hits and struck out six.

On Saturday, the Hawkeyes eeked out a 1-0 win over the Hoosiers. Iowa struggled at the plate, collecting only three hits on the day.

Amanda Hentges broke the scoreless tie in the bottom of the sixth inning with an RBI

2004 Big Ten Records

	CONF.	OVERALL
1. IOWA	8-0	27-15
MICHIGAN	8-0	33-6
3. ILLINOIS	6-2	28-14
4. MINNESOTA	5-3	24-13
5. NORTHWESTERN	3-5	19-13
MICHIGAN STATE	3-5	21-16
WISCONSIN	3-5	23-19
8. OHIO STATE	2-4	23-14
PENN STATE	2-4	15-23
10. PURDUE	0-6	23-17
INDIANA	0-6	23-23

Iowa Sports Information

TONY WIRT, ASST. DIRECTOR
SOFTBALL SID

AREA CODE IS 319

OFFICE PHONE 335-9268

OR 335-9411

FAX 335-9417

E-MAIL:

tony-wirt@hawkeyesports.com

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

Softball Phone Numbers

AREA CODE IS 319

SOFTBALL OFFICE 335-9257

TICKET OFFICE 335-9327

SPORTS MARKETING 335-9431

PRESS BOX 335-9296

Iowa's Home Run Leaders

1.	ALICIA GERLACH (99-02)	29
2.	JESSICA BASHOR (00-03)	21
3.	BRANDI MACIAS (94-97)	17
4.	KRISTIN JOHNSON (00-03)	15
	CHRISTINA SCHMALTZ (01-03)	15
6.	DEBBIE BILBAO (95-97)	14
	TAMMY UTLEY (96-99)	14
8.	CHRISTY HEBERT (94-97)	12
9.	KARI KNOPF (94-97)	11
10.	KATY JENDRZEJEWSKI (96-01)	9
11.	LIZ DENNIS (99-02)	8
	CARA COUGHENOUR (86-89)	8
	SHAWNTE VALLEJO (98-99)	8
14.	KRISTI HANKS (99-02)	7
	KAREN WICK (87-90)	7

Hawkeye Softball Notes

single that plated **Natalie Johnson**. Birocci picked up the win after pitching three innings of one-hit relief.

In the Easter Sunday doubleheader with Purdue, the Hawkeyes combined some solid hitting with some shaky Boilermaker fielding to take a pair of big wins.

Murray and **Stacy May** each picked up an RBI in the fourth, then Iowa took advantage of two Purdue errors in the fifth to stretch the lead to 5-0. The Hawkeyes added an insurance run in the sixth.

Birocci took a perfect game into the seventh before giving up the only Boilermaker hit in the first game.

In game two, Iowa scored four runs in the fifth. The biggest play was a two-out dropped pop fly that allowed three Hawkeyes to score.

Birocci picked up her fifth win of the week in two innings of relief.

Countdown to 1,000

Iowa Head Coach **Gayle Blevins** is closing in on an astonishing milestone. With 998 career victories, the Head Hawk is just two games shy of winning her 1,000th NCAA Division I game.

Only two Division I coaches have hit the millennium mark. Fresno State coach Margie Wright has 1,115 wins, while JoAnn Graff of Florida State has won 1,040.

Sandy Jerstad of Division II Augustana ended her career last season with 1,014 wins.

700 Club

Not only is Head Coach **Gayle Blevins** closing in on 1,000 career victories, she is also approaching a milestone at the University of Iowa.

Blevins' 1,000th win will also be her 700th win at the University of Iowa.

Scouting Iowa State

The Iowa State Cyclones come into Thursday's game with a 9-22 record and a 1-6 mark in the Big XII Conference.

The Cyclones' top hitter is Julia Lindsey, who is hitting a team-best .329 with six stolen bases. Ashley Killeen and Misty Kimura are the power hitters in the lineup, each with four home runs. Killeen also leads the team with 16 RBIs.

In the circle, Alyssa Ranson is Iowa State's top option. She is 7-12 on the year with a 2.55 ERA.

Iowa State leads the all-time series 24-28-1. They won last year's game, 4-3 in 12 innings.

The Cyclones are coached by Ruth Crowe, who is in her seventh year with Iowa State.

Scouting Coe

The Coe College Kohawks come into the week with a 15-11 record and a 2-2 mark in the Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

The Kohawks are a good hitting team, with a .304 team batting average. Ashley Wagner leads the squad with a .369 average to go along with six home runs, 15 RBIs and six stolen bases. Sarah Marting is hitting .367 with a pair of homers and 10 RBIs.

In the circle, Marting is 5-4 with a 1.53 ERA. Amy Ernst is also solid on the mound with a 7-3 record and 2.40 ERA.

Coe is coached by Bob Timmons, who is in his seventh year at the helm.

Iowa won the only meeting between the two teams. That game took place in 1979, and the Hawkeyes won 6-1.

Scouting Michigan

The Michigan Wolverines come into the week with a 33-6 overall record and an 8-0 record in the Big Ten. They are ranked No. 9 in the latest NFCA Coaches Poll. The Wolverines enter the week on a 16-game winning streak.

Before coming to Iowa City, Michigan will play Eastern Michigan in a doubleheader, then play a pair of games at Illinois on Friday and Saturday.

Jennifer Olds leads the team with a .367 average. She also has nine home runs and 25 RBIs. Second-team all-Big Ten selection Jessica Merchant is hitting a robust .330 and leads the Big Ten with 13 home runs and 40 RBIs.

The Wolverine pitching staff leads the Big Ten with a microscopic 0.63 team ERA. Michigan pitchers hold three of the top four ERAs on in the Big Ten. Lorilyn Wilson leads the conference with a 0.48 ERA, followed by Nicole Motycka (0.52). Jennie Ritter is in fourth place with a 0.77 ERA.

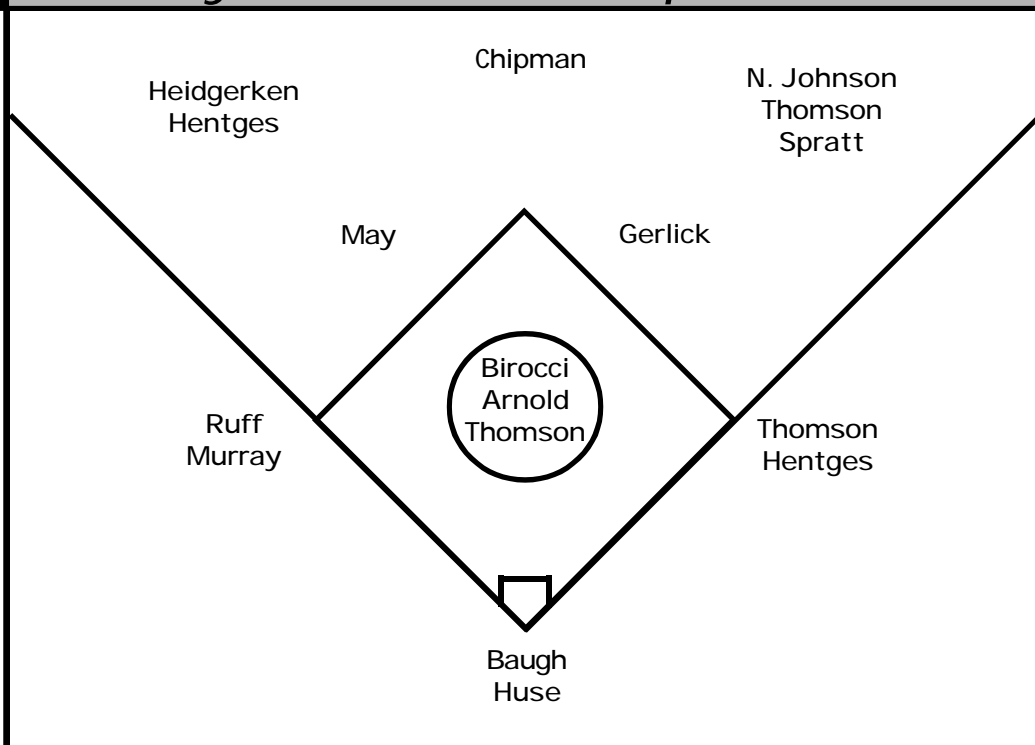
Ritter leads the staff with a 14-3 record and has 155 strikeouts in 118 2/3 innings pitched. Motycka is 13-3 with 94 innings pitched and a team-best seven shutouts. Wilson is a perfect 6-0.

Iowa Hawkeye Roster

3	ALI ARNOLD
4	LISA BIROCCI
5	JENNA SPRATT
6	AMANDA HENTGES
7	ELISHA HUSE
9	NATALIE JOHNSON
10	STACY MAY
11	MINDY HEIDGERKEN
12	ABBY RUFF
13	SAMI BAUGH
14	LAURA CHIPMAN
16	SARAH THOMSON
17	KYLIE MURRAY
22	EMILY GERLICK

HEAD COACH: GAYLE BLEVINS
ASSISTANT: MICHELLE VENTURELLA
ASSISTANT: HOLLY VAN VLYMEN

Hawkeye Defensive Depth Chart



2003 Awards

Jessica Bashor

- First Team All-Big Ten
- Second team NFCA Midwest Regional All-American

Lindsay Bashor

- Second Team All-Big Ten

Lisa Birocci

- Third team NFCA All-American
- First team NFCA Midwest Regional All-American
- Big Ten Pitcher of the Year
- First Team All-Big Ten
- Big Ten Tournament MVP

Katie Boney

- Second Team All-Big Ten
- Second team NFCA Midwest Regional All-American

Krisin Johnson

- Second team NFCA All-American
- First team NFCA Midwest Regional All-American
- First team all-Big Ten

Stacy May

- Big Ten Freshman of the Year
- First Team All-Big Ten
- Second team NFCA Midwest Regional All-American

Iowa leads the all-time series 49-39-1. Due to rainouts, the Hawkeyes and Wolverines have met only once in the last two years. Michigan won the last meeting 3-1 in 2002. Michigan is coached by Carol Hutchins, who is in her 19th season.

Player of the Week

Hawkeye hurler **Lisa Birocci** was named Big Ten Pitcher of the Week Tuesday.

Birocci recorded all five Hawkeye victories last week and didn't allow an earned run in 24 1/3 innings.

It is the first time this season Birocci was named Pitcher of the Week. Teammate **Ali Arnold** received the honor on March 2.

She Loves Big Ten Play

Sophomore **Stacy May** has busted out in a big way in Big Ten play, hitting .444 in the conference

May has raised her overall batting average 45 points since conference play has started, from .265 to .310.

Last season, May led the Big Ten in hitting during conference play with a .450 average.

Strikeout Machine

Junior **Lisa Birocci** is continuing her strikeout rampage this season, and currently leads the Big Ten with 206.

The Des Moines native is averaging 9.5

strikeouts per seven innings.

Last season as a sophomore, Birocci set the Iowa single-season record with 260 in 238 1/3 innings pitched, an average of 7.6 per seven innings.

Walk-on Success

The Hawkeye infield has a pair of walk-on athletes in it. Sophomore **Emily Gerlick** has started every game at second base this season and is hitting .269 with a team-best five triples. Junior **Abbie Ruff** has started 22 games at third base.

One Base Isn't Enough

Senior **Sarah Thomson** hasn't felt like stopping at first base during the Big Ten season. The Rocklin, CA, native is hitting .333 in conference play, with six of her eight hits going for extra bases. She has four doubles, a triple and home run.

Her slugging percentage is a .708.

A Monster With the Sacks Packed

The last thing an opposing pitcher wants to see is **Kylie Murray** in the batter's box when the bases are loaded. So far this season, Murray is 3-for-5 with the sacks packed. One of those outs with the bases loaded was an RBI groundout.

Last year as a freshman, Murray was 4-for-5 with two grand slams when the bases were loaded.

Iowa Hawkeye

Softball

Iowa's Record When...

1-RUN GAMES	3-6
2-RUN GAMES	2-3
5+ RUN GAMES	11-2
EXTRA INNINGS	4-1
AT PEARL FIELD	8-1
SHUTOUTS	17-7
DAY GAMES	26-15
NIGHT GAMES	1-0
IOWA SCORES FIRST	22-4
OPPONENT SCORES FIRST	5-11
IOWA SCORES LAST	27-2
OPPONENT SCORES LAST	0-13
GIVING UP 3 RUNS OR LESS	27-11
GIVING UP 4+ RUNS	0-4
Vs. RANKED OPPONENTS	2-3
BIROCCI STARTS	11-8
ARNOLD STARTS	17-7
THOMSON STARTS	0-0
IOWA HITS A HOMERUN	11-2
OPPONENT HITS A HOMERUN	1-6
IOWA OUTHITS OPPONENT	25-7
OPPONENT OUTHITS IOWA	1-7
EQUAL NUMBER OF HITS	1-1
NO IOWA ERRORS	10-3
IOWA COMMITS AN ERROR	14-10
FLYING TO GAME	12-11
BUSING TO GAME	7-1
IN EASTERN TIME ZONE	7-3
IN CENTRAL TIME ZONE	8-3
IN MOUNTAIN TIME ZONE	3-2
IN PACIFIC TIME ZONE	6-6
IN IOWA	8-2
IN ARIZONA	3-2
IN GEORGIA	0-0
IN KENTUCKY	3-1
IN FLORIDA	3-3
IN CALIFORNIA	6-6
IN PENNSYLVANIA	0-0
IN OHIO	0-0
IN ILLINOIS	0-1
IN MICHIGAN	0-0
ON MONDAY	0-0
ON TUESDAY	0-0
ON WEDNESDAY	3-2
ON THURSDAY	1-1
ON FRIDAY	6-3
ON SATURDAY	8-4
ON SUNDAY	7-5
FLYING SAME DAY	0-3



IOWA'S TEAM SINGLE GAME INFO...

LONGEST WINNING STREAK	9
LONGEST LOSING STREAK	5
LARGEST MARGIN OF VICTORY	9 (TWICE)
LARGEST MARGIN OF DEFEAT	6 (TWICE)
MOST AT-BATS	NORTHERN ILLINOIS (35)
MOST RUNS SCORED	ARIZONA STATE (9)
MOST HITS .. ARIZONA STATE, MICHIGAN ST. (x2) (13)	
MOST RBI	ARIZONA STATE (9)
MOST DOUBLES	BOSTON UNIVERSITY (5)
MOST TRIPLES	MICHIGAN STATE (2)
MOST HOME RUNS ... ILLINOIS STATE, SAINT MARY'S (2)	
MOST STOLEN BASES	TROY STATE (5)
MOST STRIKEOUTS	PURDUE (11)
MOST ERRORS COMMITTED ... WISCONSIN, T. TECH (4)	
MOST RUNS ALLOWED	WASHINGTON AND CAL (8)
MOST HITS ALLOWED	WASHINGTON (9)
MOST WALKS ALLOWED	MICHIGAN STATE (5)

IOWA'S INDIVIDUAL TEAM BATTING LEADERS

BATTING AVE.	MURRAY (.326)
GMS.	FOUR TIED (42)
GMS. STARTED	GERLICJK, MAY, CHIPMAN (42)
AT BATS	MURRAY (132)
RUNS	JOHNSON (23)
HITS	MURRAY (43)
DOUBLES	MURRAY (10)
TRIPLES	GERLICJK (5)
HOME RUNS	JOHNSON, MURRAY (3)

RBI	MURRAY (22)
TOTAL BASES	MURRAY (62)
SLUGGING PCT.	JOHNSON (.471)
WALKS	JOHNSON (10)
HIT BY PITCH	MAY (3)
STRIKEOUTS	JOHNSON (27)
ON-BASE PERCENTAGE	BIROCCI (.368)
OPS	BIROCCI (.836)
SACRIFICE FLIES	FOUR TIED (1)
SACRIFICE HITS	HENTGES (10)
STOLEN BASES	HEIDGERKEN (11)
STOLEN BASE ATTEMPTS	HEIDGERKEN (14)

IOWA'S INDIVIDUAL PITCHING LEADERS

ERA	BIROCCI (0.92)
WINS	ARNOLD (15)
LOSSES	BIROCCI (8)
WINNING PCT.	BIROCCI (.652)
APPEARANCES	BIROCCI (33)
GAMES STARTED	ARNOLD (22)
COMPLETE GAMES	BIROCCI (12)
SHUTOUTS	BIROCCI (6)
SAVES	ARNOLD (1)
INNINGS PITCHED	BIROCCI (152 1/3)
STRIKEOUTS	BIROCCI (174)
OPPONENT BATTING AVERAGE	BIROCCI (.139)
WHIP	BIROCCI (0.74)

Head Coach Gayle Blevins

THE HEAD HAWKEYE... Gayle Blevins finished her 15th 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 14 seasons at Iowa, Blevins has guided the Hawkeyes to nine NCAA Tournament appearances and four Big Ten Championships. She is Iowa's all-time winningest coach with a record of 698-315-3 (.685).

Her career record in 23 years of coaching is 998-463-5 (.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

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>RECORD</u>	<u>PCT.</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>RECORD</u>	<u>PCT.</u>
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

TOTALS

OVERALL	998-463-5	.684
IOWA	698-315-3	.685

BIG TEN TOTALS

OVERALL	439-150-1	.740
IOWA	269-106-1	.706