

April 3, 2004

**IOWA SOFTBALL****HAWKEYES DOWN NORTHWESTERN, START BIG TEN SEASON 2-0**

**IOWA CITY** – The University of Iowa softball picked up their second win over No. 25 Northwestern Saturday, taking a Big Ten contest at Pearl Field, 6-1. Iowa ups its record to 20-15 (2-0) while Northwestern falls to 14-10 (0-2).

For the second-consecutive game, the Wildcats jumped out and took an early lead with a run in the bottom of the third on a sacrifice fly from Garland Cooper.

The Hawkeyes came storming back in the top of the fourth, sending nine players to the plate and taking a 4-1 lead. **Kylie Murray** led off with a walk, followed by a chopping single from **Sami Baugh**. **Lisa Birocci** then brought pinch runner **Jenna Spratt** home on a double to the rightfield wall. Baugh then came around on a **Laura Chipman** single, giving Iowa the lead. RBI singles from **Natalie Johnson** and **Amanda Hentges** rounded out the scoring in the fourth.

Iowa struck again in the top of the seventh, getting an RBI double from Murray and a costly Northwestern error that score Hentges.

**Lisa Birocci** struck out eight batters in seven innings pitched and picked up her ninth win of the season.

Chipman, Johnson and **Emily Gerlick** each had a pair of hits for Iowa.

Iowa will take on Michigan State in a Sunday doubleheader at Pearl Field. Game one is set to begin at Noon.

**GAME SUMMARIES**

<b>IOWA</b>	<b>000 400 2 -- 6 9 1</b>
Northwestern	001 000 0 -- 1 6 2

**WP – Lisa Birocci (9-8)**

LP – Courtney Foster (7-8)

