



# HAWKEYE HOME PLATE

**Iowa Softball News and Notes** 4/22-23 at Michigan State.  
4/24 vs. South Dakota St. (DH)

## 2005 IOWA SCHEDULE

### 38-9 Overall, 8-4 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 #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*	3 p.m.
4/23	at Michigan State*	11 a.m.
4/24	South Dakota State (DH)	1 p.m.
4/26	Western Illinois	6 p.m.
4/29	Wisconsin*	6 p.m.
4/29	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.	66	.267	9	20	7	3	5	.453	2
24	Steph Ackerson	1B	R/R	Fr.	33	.212	7	11	3	0	2	.250	2
2	Summer Downs	2B	R-R	Fr.	41	.262	22	34	20	4	7	.423	3
10	Stacy May	SS	R-R	Jr.	47	.329	29	49	27	8	12	.353	2
12	Abby Ruff	3B	R-R	Sr.	42	.221	14	15	10	1	6	.353	5
17	Kylie Murray	RF	R-R	Jr.	46	.327	11	37	22	2	7	.442	1
or 5	Jenna Spratt	RF	L-R	So.	42	.259	15	15	7	0	0	.259	5
11	Mindy Heidgerken	CF	R-R	So.	47	.284	28	31	13	2	7	.316	16
9	Natalie Johnson	LF	L-L	Jr.	47	.264	18	29	13	3	5	.391	4
13	Sami Baugh	C	R-R	So.	45	.270	15	31	14	3	7	.409	1
or 1	Emily Nichols	C	R/R	Fr.	47	.339	27	41	40	15	6	.777	1

### Probable Pitching Rotation

No.	Name	Throws	Yr.	Record	GS	SV	CG	SH	ERA	SO	BB	IP
4	Lisa Birocci	RHP	Sr.	22-7	26	6	23	11	1.09	199	31	192.1
3	Ali Arnold	RHP	Jr.	15-2	20	0	10	7	1.54	151	32	113.1
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 (38-9, 8-4) travels to East Lansing, MI, to face the Michigan State Spartans (18-24-1, 6-6). The Hawkeyes and Spartans will square off Friday at 3 p.m. and Saturday at 11 a.m. Both times listed are central.

The Hawkeyes return to Pearl Field Sunday to host the South Dakota State Jackrabbits (24-21) in a doubleheader. Game one is scheduled for 1 p.m. Admission is \$3 for adults, \$2 for students and free for UI students and children five or younger.

### HAWKEYES POUND CYCLONES, EARN HY-VEE CY-HAWK TITLE

The Hawkeyes defeated in-state rival Iowa State on Tuesday, 4-0 to help the University of Iowa clinch the first annual Hy-Vee Cy-Hawk Series title (13-8).

After two scoreless innings, Iowa plated two runs in the bottom of the third. **Stacy May** hit a towering shot over the left field fence to put the Hawkeyes up, 1-0. Later in the inning, **Kylie Murray** hit a two-out double and **Emily Nichols** followed with a single, scoring Murray for a 2-0 Iowa lead.

**Sami Baugh** blasted a double in the sixth inning, followed by a **Lisa Birocci** single. The Iowa State shortstop threw the ball over first base, allowing Baugh to score. **Brandi Sargent** hit a slow line drive that went off the glove of the Iowa State first baseman and Birocci scored the final run of the contest.

Birocci (22-7) threw seven shutout innings and scattered two hits while striking out five.

Intercollegiate athletic teams from Iowa and Iowa State squared off in head-to-head competition nine different times during the 2004-05 academic year to determine the winner of the Hy-Vee Cy-Hawk series, with Iowa winning five of those events.

## 2005 BIG TEN STANDINGS

	CONF.	OVERALL
1. NORTHWESTERN	12-0	32-10
2. MICHIGAN	11-1	46-3
3. IOWA	8-4	38-9
4. MICHIGAN ST.	6-6	18-24
T5. PENN ST.	5-5	27-16
PURDUE	5-5	29-17
7. OHIO ST.	4-6	22-14
T8. MINNESOTA	3-7	22-20
WISCONSIN	3-7	17-19
10. INDIANA	2-8	12-31
11. ILLINOIS	1-11	19-23

## THIS WEEK'S BIG TEN ACTION

### April 20

Indiana at Missouri (DH) 4 p.m.  
 Illinois-Chicago at Northwestern 6:30 p.m.

### April 21

Bradley at Illinois (DH) 4 p.m.

### April 22

Ohio State at Northwestern 3 p.m.  
 Wisconsin at Purdue 3 p.m.  
**Iowa at Michigan State** 4 p.m.  
 Minnesota at Indiana 4 p.m.  
 Penn State at Michigan 6 p.m.

### April 23

Ohio State at Northwestern 12 p.m.  
 Wisconsin at Purdue 12 p.m.  
**Iowa at Michigan State** 12 p.m.  
 Minnesota at Indiana 12 p.m.  
 Penn State at Michigan 12 p.m.

### April 24

Penn State at Northwestern (DH) 10:30 a.m.  
 Minnesota at Purdue (DH) 11 a.m.  
 Illinois at Michigan St. (DH) 12 p.m.  
 Wisconsin at Indiana (DH) 12 p.m.  
**Iowa vs. South Dakota St. (DH)** 1 p.m.

*all times listed are local*

## IOWA SPORTS INFORMATION

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# Hawkeye Softball Notes

## SCOUTING MICHIGAN STATE

The Michigan State Spartans are 18-24-1 overall and 6-6 in the Big Ten Conference.

Victoria Morache leads the Spartan offense. She is batting .319 with six doubles, one triple, one home run and six RBI. Traci Nicosia leads the team with 15 RBI.

Rachel Turney is 10-13 with a 1.80 ERA and leads the team with 134 strikeouts inside the circle for the Spartans.

Iowa leads the all-time series, 58-26.

## LAST MEETING

Iowa swept Michigan State in a doubleheader last season. The Hawkeyes won both games by 8-2 scores.

Sarah Thomson went a combined 5-7 with six RBI, three doubles, a triple and a home run. In game two, she was a single short of hitting for the cycle.

**Stacy May** went 6-8 with three runs scored and two doubles.

**Ali Arnold** threw five and two-thirds innings of relief in game one to pick up the win while **Lisa Birocci** struck out seven to earn the win in game two.

## SCOUTING SOUTH DAKOTA STATE

The South Dakota State Jackrabbits are 24-21 overall.

Ashley Kalina leads the Jackrabbit offense. She is batting .333 with 11 doubles, four triples, five home runs and 26 RBI. Steph Kuhl has five home runs and 28 RBI.

Kim Westendorf is 14-14 with a 2.50 ERA inside the circle this season. She also leads the team with 144 strikeouts.

Iowa leads the all-time series, 1-0.

## LAST MEETING

Iowa pounded out 12 hits in a 9-0, five-inning victory over South Dakota State at the Hawkeye Classic earlier this season.

**Mindy Heidgerken** and **Jenna Spratt** hit back-to-back bunt singles and scored on a **Stacy May** double in the third inning. **Emily Nichols** followed with a home run to give Iowa a 4-0 advantage.

The Hawkeyes scored five runs in the fifth to secure the victory. **Natalie Johnson** hit a two-run double and **Abby Ruff** followed with her first career home run. Heidgerken scored the final run of the game on a wild pitch.

**Ali Arnold** threw five shutout innings and struck out nine.

## WE'RE GOIN' STREAKING

The Hawkeyes have won eight-straight games which ties their longest winning streak this season. Iowa rode an eight game winning streak before a 7-2 defeat by No. 2 California earlier this season.

## SHE CAN HIT TOO

Senior pitcher **Lisa Birocci** has been hot in the circle and at the plate lately. In her last six games, Birocci is batting .455 (5-11) with one double, one triple and a home run to go along with four RBI and an .818 slugging percentage.

Birocci is 3-0 with a 0.00 ERA and has 18 strikeouts in her last six games as well.

## MOVIN' ON UP

Junior pitcher **Ali Arnold** is currently sixth on the all-time career strikeout list. She has 411 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.

**Iowa Hawkeye  
 Softball**

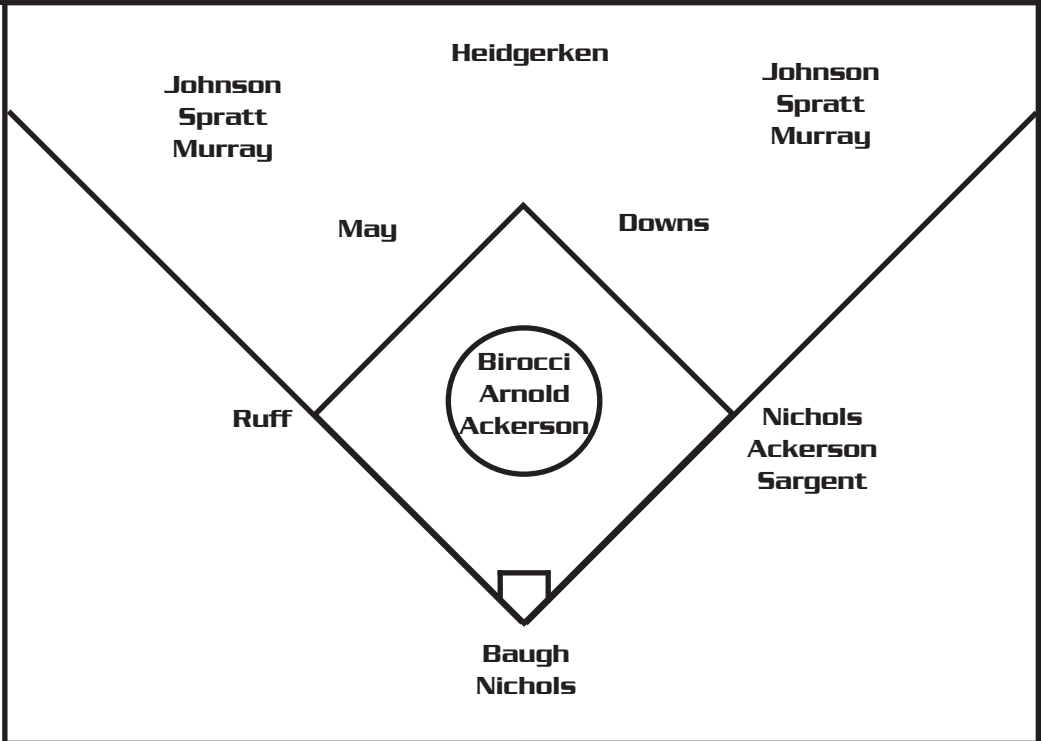
- 1 EMILY NICHOLS**
- 2 SUMMER DOWNS**
- 3 ALI ARNOLD**
- 4 LISA BIROCCI**
- 5 JENNA SPRATT**
- 9 NATALIE JOHNSON**
- 10 STACY MAY**
- 11 MINDY HEIDGERKEN**
- 12 ABBY RUFF**
- 13 SAMI BAUGH**
- 14 BRANDI SARGENT**
- 17 KYLIE MURRAY**
- 22 EMILY GERLICK**
- 24 STEPHANIE ACKERSON**

HEAD COACH  
**GAYLE BLEVINS**

ASSOCIATE HEAD COACH  
**MICHELLE VENTURELLA**

ASSISTANT COACH  
**DEBBIE BILBAO**

VOLUNTEER ASSISTANT  
**KRISTIN JOHNSON**



**HOT WITH RUNNERS ON**

When runners are on base, the Hawkeyes would like to have junior **Kylie Murray** digging in the batters box. She is hitting .421 (24-57) with runners on base.

Junior **Stacy May** is batting .410 (16-39) with runners in scoring position. She is second on the team with 27 RBI this season.

**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.

**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. The Hawkeyes currently have 47 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 15 homers.

**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 .....	7-3
EXTRA INNINGS.....	2-1
AT PEARL FIELD .....	9-1
ON THE ROAD .....	10-3
AT NEUTRAL SITE .....	19-5
DAY GAMES.....	30-9
NIGHT GAMES.....	8-0
IOWA SCORES FIRST.....	33-3
OPPONENT SCORES FIRST .....	5-6
GIVING UP 2 RUNS OR LESS.....	35-3
GIVING UP 3+ RUNS .....	3-6
VS. RANKED OPPONENTS .....	1-6
BIROCCI STARTS.....	21-6
ARNOLD STARTS.....	17-3
IOWA HITS A HOMERUN .....	25-1
OPPONENT HITS A HOMERUN .....	8-6
IOWA OUTHITS OPPONENT.....	30-1
OPPONENT OUTHITS IOWA.....	4-8
EQUAL NUMBER OF HITS.....	4-0
NO IOWA ERRORS .....	18-4
IOWA COMMITS AN ERROR .....	20-5
WEARING WHITE UNIFORMS .....	13-2
WEARING BLACK UNIFORMS .....	11-4
WEARING GREY UNIFORMS.....	14-3
FLYING AIR TRAN .....	10-2
FLYING UNITED .....	12-2
BUSING TO GAME.....	6-4
IN EASTERN TIME ZONE .....	18-4
IN CENTRAL TIME ZONE.....	10-3
IN MOUNTAIN TIME ZONE.....	2-0
IN PACIFIC TIME ZONE .....	8-2
IN IOWA .....	9-1
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 .....	1-0
ON WEDNESDAY .....	4-0
ON THURSDAY .....	1-0
ON FRIDAY.....	10-1
ON SATURDAY .....	9-5
ON SUNDAY .....	13-3

## 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 (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 AVG .....	.339 (NICHOLS)
GMS. ....	47 (THREE TIED)
GMS. STARTED.....	47 (THREE TIED)
AT BATS.....	149 (MAY)
RUNS .....	29 (MAY)
HITS .....	49 (MAY)
DOUBLES .....	12 (MAY)
TRIPLES .....	3 (HEIDGERKEN)
HOME RUNS .....	15 (NICHOLS)

RBI.....	40 (NICHOLS)
TOTAL BASES .....	94 (NICHOLS)
SLUGGING PCT. ....	.777 (NICHOLS)
WALKS .....	22 (NICHOLS)
HIT BY PITCH.....	2 (ACKERSON & NICHOLS)
STRIKEOUTS.....	29 (HEIDGERKEN)
ON-BASE PERCENTAGE .....	.445 (NICHOLS)
OPS .....	1.222 (NICHOLS)
SACRIFICE FLIES .....	2 (BAUGH)
SACRIFICE HITS.....	7 (MAY AND BAUGH)
STOLEN BASES .....	16 (HEIDGERKEN)
STOLEN BASE ATTEMPTS .....	17 (HEIDGERKEN)

### IOWA'S INDIVIDUAL PITCHING LEADERS

ERA.....	1.09 (BIROCCI)
WINS.....	22 (BIROCCI)
LOSSES .....	7 (BIROCCI)
WINNING PCT .....	.759 (BIROCCI)
APPEARANCES.....	37 (BIROCCI)
GAMES STARTED .....	26 (BIROCCI)
COMPLETE GAMES .....	23 (BIROCCI)
SHUTOUTS .....	11 (BIROCCI)
SAVES.....	6 (BIROCCI)
INNINGS PITCHED.....	192.1 (BIROCCI)
STRIKEOUTS.....	199 (BIROCCI)
OPPONENT BATTING AVERAGE .....	.180 (BIROCCI)
WHIP.....	0.82 (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 748-333-3 (.691).

Her career record in 25 years of coaching is 1,048-481-5 (.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	1,048-481-5	.685
IOWA	748-333-3	.691

### BIG TEN TOTALS

OVERALL	453-160-1	.739
IOWA	283-116-1	.709