



HAWKEYE HOME PLATE

Iowa Softball News and Notes

Georgia State Tournament
February 14-15, 2004
Iowa City, Iowa

2004 Iowa Schedule

O-O Overall, O-O Big Ten

Feb. 14-15	at Georgia State Tournament	
Feb. 20-22	at Arizona State Tournament	
Feb. 28-29	at Louisville Tournament	
Mar. 4-7	at South Florida Tournament	
Mar. 12-14	at National Softball Invitational	
Mar. 17	at Sacramento State (DH)	2 p.m.
Mar. 19-21	at Sacramento State Tourney	
Mar. 24	at Illinois State	4:30 p.m.
Mar. 27-28	Hawkeye Classic	
Mar. 31	at Drake	4 p.m.
Apr. 2	Northwestern*	6 p.m.
Apr. 3	Northwestern*	Noon
Apr. 4	Michigan State (DH)*	Noon
Apr. 7	Northern Illinois	4 p.m.
Apr. 9	at Indiana*	3 p.m.
Apr. 10	at Indiana*	Noon
Apr. 11	at Purdue (DH)*	Noon
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	

BOLD - home game

* - Big Ten Conference Game

Probable Iowa Lineup

No.	Name	Pos.	B-T	Yr.	GP	Avg.	Runs	Hits	RBI	HR	2B	SLG%	SB
16	Sarah Thomson	1B	R/R	Sr.	47	.157	8	11	10	1	2	.257	1
22	Emily Gerlick	2B	R/R	So.	31	1.000	11	1	1	0	0	1.000	3
11	Mindy Heidgerken	3B	R/R	Fr.				--n/a--					
or 17	Kylie Murray	3B	R/R	So.	49	.220	6	13	14	2	1	.373	1
18	Stacy May	SS	R/R	So.	51	.362	29	63	38	6	16	.569	3
6	Amanda Hentges	LF	R/R	Sr.	50	.245	19	26	9	2	2	.358	12
14	Laura Chipman	CF	R/R	Sr.	58	.207	11	17	4	1	1	.256	6
9	Natalie Johnson	RF	L/L	So.	23	.050	20	1	0	0	0	.050	1
7	Elisha Huse	C	L/L	Jr.	40	.135	3	7	0	0	2	.173	0

Probable Pitching Rotation

No.	Name	Throws	Yr.	Record	G	SV	C	G	SH	ERA	SO	BB	IP
4	Lisa Birocci	RHP	Jr.	29-9	31	3	26	15	1.26	267	101	238	1/3
3	Ali Arnold	RHP	So.	14-6	25	0	10	6	1.47	93	34	152	1/3
16	Sarah Thomson	RHP	Sr.	1-0	3	0	0	0	2.55	4	3	11	

Opening Weekend

The Hawkeyes kick off the 2004 season at the Georgia State Tournament in Atlanta next Saturday and Sunday. Iowa will open with Georgia State at 12:15 p.m. Saturday, then tackle Arkansas at 4:45 p.m. On Sunday, the Hawkeyes will play Tennessee State at 12:25 p.m., then head into championship play. The consolation game will be played at 2:30 p.m., while the championship game will start at 4:45 p.m. All times are Eastern.

Defending Champions

The University of Iowa softball team will head into the 2004 season defending and undisputed Big Ten Champions. For the first time in the history of the program, the Hawkeyes captured both the regular season and tournament championships in the same season.

Iowa finished the regular season on top of the Big Ten standings with a 13-4 record. That sent the Hawkeyes into the Big Ten Tournament as the No. 1 seed, where Iowa won three-consecutive games to capture the tournament championship.

Countdown to 1,000

Iowa Head Coach **Gayle Blevins** is closing in on an astonishing milestone. With 971 career victories, the Head Hawk is just 29 games shy of winning her 1,000th NCAA Division I game.

Going into the 2004 season, only one Division I coach has hit the millennium mark. Fresno State coach Margie Wright enters the 2004 season with 1,078 wins. Two other coaches are poised to eclipse 1,000 wins this season along with Coach Blevins. JoAnn Graff of Florida State is just five wins shy (995), while Arizona's Mike Candrea needs 18 wins (982).

Sandy Jerstad of Division II Augustana ended her career last season with 1,011 wins.

Iowa at Georgia State

The Hawkeyes have always had good luck in Georgia, winning the Georgia State Tournament the past two years.

The Hawkeyes have an all-time record of 9-1 in the Georgia State Tournament and have

2003 Big Ten Records

	CONF.	OVERALL
1. IOWA	13-4	44-15
2. MICHIGAN	13-5	44-16
3. MICHIGAN STATE	13-6	40-19
4. ILLINOIS	11-7	39-17
MINNESOTA	11-7	37-21
6. NORTHWESTERN	9-9	36-19
7. PENN STATE	8-8	31-23
8. WISCONSIN	6-12	19-26
9. OHIO STATE	4-10	26-23
10. PURDUE	4-12	34-27
11. INDIANA	1-15	19-31

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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

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SPORTS MARKETING 335-9431

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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

never failed to win the championship.

In 2002, Iowa went 5-0 in Atlanta and defeated Tennessee in the championship game 13-1. Last season, Iowa was 4-1 at Georgia State and beat the host Panthers, 4-1, in the final game.

Change of Pace

For the first time in 14 years, the Iowa softball team will open its season in a place other than the campus of Arizona State. The last time Iowa kicked off a season outside of Tempe, AZ, was the 1990 season, when Iowa traveled to New Mexico.

Hawkeyes In the Rankings

The Iowa Hawkeyes are ranked 17th in the USA Today/National Fastpitch Coaches Association Coaches Poll, and 18th in the ESPN.com/USA Softball Poll. Michigan is ranked 7th/10th, while Michigan State is ranked 25th/24th.

UCLA holds down the top spot in both polls.

Shuffling Like a Dealer in Vegas

The Hawkeyes will definitely have a new look in the infield this season, with each position sporting a new face this year.

Sarah Thomson will take over duties at first base, while Emily Gerlick will be Iowa's primary second baseman. Stacy May will move from third base to shortstop, while freshman Mindy Heidgerken or Kylie Murray will take May's old spot at third.

With the graduation of four-time all-Big Ten selection Jessica Bashor, Elisha Huse and freshman Sami Baugh will split time behind the plate.

New Outfield, Too

The infield isn't the only place to see new faces. All three outfield spots will have a new look, too.

Laura Chipman will move from left to centerfield, where she will replace Katie Boney. Amanda Hentges will move from first base to left, while Natalie Johnson will play in right. Freshman Jenna Spratt will serve as the utility outfielder this season.

Arms Race

While the Hawkeyes may have said goodbye to some of their most productive hit-

ters from last season, Iowa returns its entire pitching staff from a year ago.

All-American Lisa Birocci returns for her junior year after posting a 29-9 record with a 1.29 ERA and 267 strikeouts last season as a sophomore.

Ali Arnold returns after a successful freshman year in which she went 14-6 with a 1.47 ERA.

Senior Sarah Thomson will once again anchor the bullpen and provide spot starts for the Hawkeyes.

Record Breaker

Fireballer Lisa Birocci etched her name in the Iowa record books in just her second year in the Black and Gold. The Des Moines native struck out 267 batters, shattering the Iowa single-season record.

Her record-setting punchout came in Iowa's 3-0 win over Hofstra in the NCAA Regional Tournament held in Lincoln, NE.

The previous best was Karen Jackson's 252 in 1993.

Domination

Lisa Birocci enjoyed a dominant year last season.

The Hawkeye ace threw an astounding nine one-hitters on the year, and threw her first-career no-hitter against Indiana on April 20.

Birocci one-hit Utah State (twice), Georgia State, Texas A&M, UNLV, Illinois State, Penn State, Purdue and Drake.

May Day

Freshman Stacy May burst on the scene last year in a major way. The Reno, NV, native led the Big Ten with a .450 batting average in conference play, picking up first team all-Big Ten and Big Ten Freshman of the Year honors.

This season, May will make the move from third base to shortstop, where she will replace two-time all-American Kristin Johnson.

Power Surge

The ball was flying off the Hawkeyes' bats this season, and a school record fell as a result.

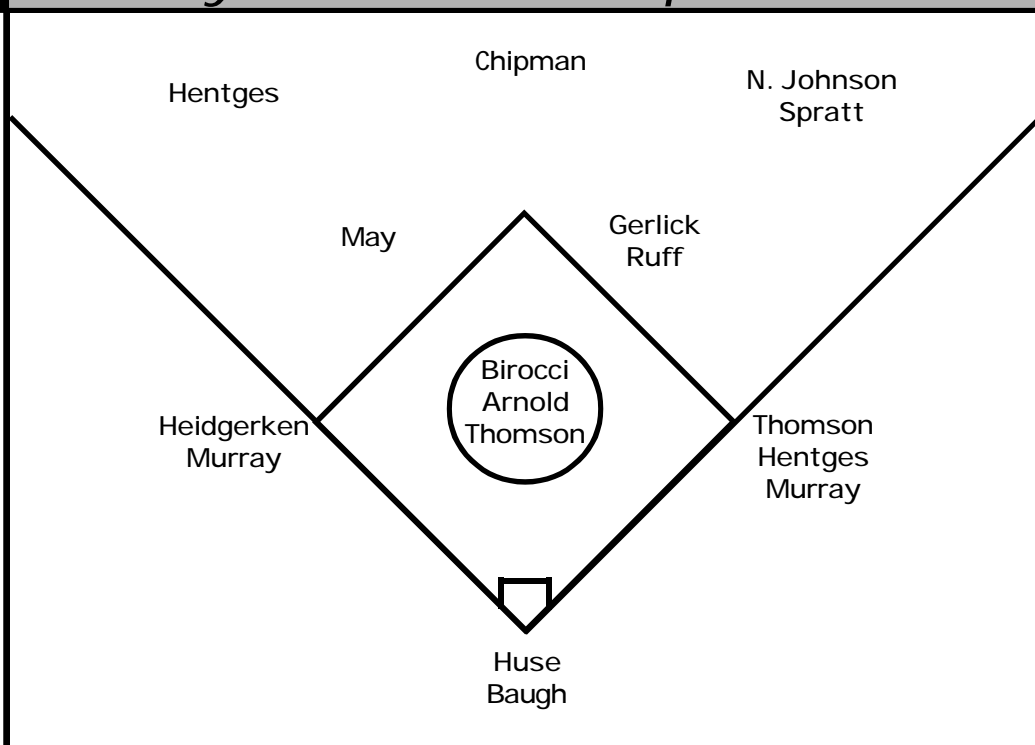
Iowa hit 41 home runs as a team last season, six more than the previous record of

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

35, which was set in 1997.

Kristin Johnson led the team with eight round trippers.

OK, Let's Get Two

The strength of the Hawkeye defense last year was up the middle, and it showed in the number of double plays they turned.

Iowa turned 26 double plays, breaking the Iowa single season record.

The previous record was 21, which was set in 1997.

Gerlick Named

Emily Gerlick was named Most Valuable Player of the AFA National Championships, held in Beaumont, TX, July 29-August 1.

Gerlick, a sophomore infielder from Wonder Lake, IL, led her DuPage Wildcats team to the 2003 AFA Under 18 National Championship, becoming the first team from Illinois to accomplish that feat.

In the championship game against the defending champion California Running Rebels, Gerlick provided a season's worth of fireworks by hitting a two-out, two-strike, walk-off home run in the bottom of the ninth to give the Wildcats the national championship with a 2-0 win.

Gerlick finished the tournament with a .396 average to go with her 13 runs scored. She also hit three triples.

Welcome Aboard

The Hawkeyes welcomed a talented class of three freshmen and one junior college transfer to the team this fall.

Sami Baugh, Mindy Heidgerken and **Jenna Spratt** make up this year's freshman class, while **Abbie Ruff** will have two years of eligibility after transferring from Waubesa Community College.

Each player is a native of the state of Iowa. Baugh from Johnston, Heidgerken from Long Grove, Spratt from Oxford and Ruff from Garwin.

Park Leaves Team

Iowa sophomore second baseman **Stephanie Park** decided to end her collegiate softball career last week and will not be on the Hawkeye roster this season.

Park suffered a stress fracture in her foot during the offseason, and complications from that injury prompted her to call it a career.

Iowa's Record When...

1-RUN GAMES	0-0
2-RUN GAMES	0-0
5+ RUN GAMES	0-0
EXTRA INNINGS	0-0
AT PEARL FIELD	0-0
SHUTOUTS	0-0
DAY GAMES	0-0
NIGHT GAMES	0-0
IOWA SCORES FIRST	0-0
OPPONENT SCORES FIRST	0-0
IOWA SCORES LAST	0-0
OPPONENT SCORES LAST	0-0
GIVING UP 3 RUNS OR LESS	0-0
GIVING UP 4+ RUNS	0-0
Vs. RANKED OPPONENTS	0-0
BIROCCI STARTS	0-0
ARNOLD STARTS	0-0
THOMSON STARTS	0-0
IOWA HITS A HOMERUN	0-0
OPPONENT HITS A HOMERUN	0-0
IOWA OUTHITS OPPONENT	0-0
OPPONENT OUTHITS IOWA	0-0
EQUAL NUMBER OF HITS	0-0
NO IOWA ERRORS	0-0
IOWA COMMITS AN ERROR	0-0
WEARING GOLD UNIFORMS	0-0
WEARING WHITE UNIFORMS	0-0
WEARING BLACK UNIFORMS	0-0
WEARING GREY UNIFORMS	0-0
FLYING UNITED	0-0
FLYING AMERICAN	0-0
FLYING AIR TRAN	0-0
IN EASTERN TIME ZONE	0-0
IN CENTRAL TIME ZONE	0-0
IN MOUNTAIN TIME ZONE	0-0
IN PACIFIC TIME ZONE	0-0
IN IOWA	0-0
IN ARIZONA	0-0
IN GEORGIA	0-0
IN KENTUCKY	0-0
IN FLORIDA	0-0
IN CALIFORNIA	0-0
IN PENNSYLVANIA	0-0
IN OHIO	0-0
IN ILLINOIS	0-0
IN MICHIGAN	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
ON SUNDAY	0-0
FLYING SAME DAY	0-0

IOWA'S TEAM SINGLE GAME INFO...

LONGEST WINNING STREAK	14
LONGEST LOSING STREAK	3
LARGEST MARGIN OF VICTORY	11
LARGEST MARGIN OF DEFEAT	11 (TWICE)
MOST AT-BATS	IOWA STATE (46)
MOST RUNS SCORED	INDIANA STATE (11)
MOST HITS	UTAH STATE (16)
MOST RBI	FIVE TIMES (9)
MOST DOUBLES	ILLINOIS (5)
MOST TRIPLES	THREE TIMES (2)
MOST HOME RUNS	NINE TIMES (2)
MOST STOLEN BASES	SAN DIEGO ST., UTAH ST. (6)
MOST STRIKEOUTS	NORTHWESTERN (12)
MOST ERRORS COMMITTED	SIX TIMES (3)
MOST RUNS ALLOWED	NORTHERN IOWA (9)
MOST HITS ALLOWED	SAC STATE, WASHINGTON (11)
MOST WALKS ALLOWED	WASHINGTON (10)

IOWA'S INDIVIDUAL TEAM BATTING LEADERS

BATTING AVE.	SCHMALTZ (.364)
GMS.	THREE TIED (59)
GMS. STARTED	THREE TIED (59)
AT BATS	MAY (197)
RUNS	K. JOHNSON (40)
HITS	MAY (71)
DOUBLES	MAY (17)
TRIPLES	SCHMALTZ (8)*
HOME RUNS	K. JOHNSON (8)

RBI	SCHMALTZ (39)
TOTAL BASES	MAY (108)
SLUGGING PCT.	SCHMALTZ (.656)
WALKS	J. BASHOR (23)
HIT BY PITCH	MURRAY (3)
STRIKEOUTS	L. BASHOR (35)
ON-BASE PERCENTAGE	SCHMALTZ (.415)
OPS	SCHMALTZ (1.071)
SACRIFICE FLIES	K. JOHNSON (3)
SACRIFICE HITS	BONEY (22)
STOLEN BASES	K. JOHNSON (24)
STOLEN BASE ATTEMPTS	K. JOHNSON (31)

IOWA'S INDIVIDUAL PITCHING LEADERS

ERA	BIROCCI (1.26)
WINS	BIROCCI (29)
LOSSES	BIROCCI (9)
WINNING PCT.	THOMSON (1.000)
APPEARANCES	BIROCCI (48)
GAMES STARTED	BIROCCI (31)
COMPLETE GAMES	BIROCCI (26)
SHUTOUTS	BIROCCI (15)
SAVES	BIROCCI (3)
INNINGS PITCHED	BIROCCI (238 1/3)
STRIKEOUTS	BIROCCI (267)*
OPPONENT BATTING AVERAGE	BIROCCI (.124)

* school record

Head Coach Gayle Blevins

THE HEART OF THE HAWKEYES... 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 671-300-3 (.685).

Her career record in 23 years of coaching is 971-448-5 (.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

TOTALS

OVERALL	971-448-5	.684
IOWA	671-300-3	.685

BIG TEN TOTALS

OVERALL	431-150-1	.740
IOWA	261-106-1	.706