



April 24, 2004

IOWA SOFTBALL
HAWKEYES SPLIT DOUBLEHEADER WITH OHIO STATE

IOWA CITY – The University of Iowa softball team split a Big Ten doubleheader with the Ohio State Buckeyes Sunday afternoon at Pearl Field. Ohio State took the first game, 5-3 in nine innings, while Iowa rebounded to take game two 4-0.

The Hawkeyes are 33-18, with an 11-3 mark in the conference. Ohio State is 29-20 and 5-9 in the Big Ten.

In game one, the Hawkeyes took a 3-0 lead into the top of the seventh inning, but were unable to hold on. Chelsea Baker led off with a solo home run, then a walk and a single put two runners on and caused Iowa to make a pitching change, bringing in **Ali Arnold** to replace **Lisa Birocci**. A single then loaded the bases and a passed ball allowed the Buckeye to cut the score to 3-2. Arnold then walked the next two batters, bringing in the tying run.

In extra innings, the Hawkeye bats were silent and unable to pick up a hit. In the top of the ninth, Ashely Cutcliff hit a towering home run over the scoreboard in center and Christina Douglas had an RBI single to give Ohio State a 5-3 lead and the win.

Iowa responded in game two jumping out of the gates early with a pair of runs in the top of the first inning. After **Natalie Johnson** drew a leadoff walk, Birocci brought her around with her team-leading fifth home run.

The Hawkeyes got some insurance runs in the fourth with a two-run home run off the bat of **Emily Gerlick**.

Birocci cruised through the game, allowing only three hits and striking out six in going the distance.

Iowa will hit the road Wednesday night and play a single game against Western Illinois. First pitch is set for 5 p.m. in Macomb, IL.

GAME SUMMARIES

Ohio State 000 000 302 -- 5 7 2
IOWA **000 111 000 -- 3 6 1**
 WP – Kisti DeVries (11-9)
 LP – **Ali Arnold** (14-9)
 HR – Chelsea Baker, Ashley Cutcliff

IOWA **200 200 0 -- 4 7 0**
 Ohio State 000 000 0 -- 0 3 1
 WP – **Lisa Birocci** (19-9)
 LP – Chelsea Baker (6-3)
 HR – **Lisa Birocci** (5), **Emily Gerlick** (3)

