



HAWKEYE HOME PLATE

Iowa Softball News and Notes

vs. Illinois State (dh)
March 23, 3 p.m.
Hawkeye Classic
March 26-27

2005 IOWA SCHEDULE

23-5 Overall, 0-0 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 Arizona State Tournament	
2/18	Long Island	W, 6-0
2/18	Arizona State	W, 2-0
2/26-27	at Louisville Tournament	
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)	3 p.m.
3/26-27	Hawkeye Classic	
3/26	vs. Ball State	2 p.m.
3/26	vs. South Dakota State	4 p.m.
3/27	vs. Ball State	2 p.m.
3/27	vs. North Dakota State	4 p.m.
3/30	at Northern Iowa	3 p.m.
4/1	at Michigan*	3 p.m.
4/2	at Michigan*	Noon
4/3	at Northwestern (DH)*	Noon
4/6	at Northern Illinois	4 p.m.
4/8	Purdue*	6 p.m.
4/9	Purdue*	Noon
4/10	Indiana (DH)*	Noon
4/13	William Penn	6 p.m.
4/15	at Ohio State*	3 p.m.
4/16	at Ohio State*	Noon
4/17	at Penn State (DH)*	11 a.m.
4/19	Iowa State	4 p.m.
4/22	at Michigan State*	3 p.m.
4/23	at Michigan State*	Noon
4/24	South Dakota State (DH)	1 p.m.
4/26	Western Illinois	6 p.m.
4/29	Wisconsin*	6 p.m.
4/30	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
1	Emily Nichols	1B	R/R	Fr.	28	.356	15	26	28	10	5	.836	1
or 14	Brandi Sargent	1B	L/L	Jr.	20	.326	6	14	7	3	4	.628	1
2	Summer Downs	2B	R-R	Fr.	22	.314	16	22	14	3	4	.385	2
10	Stacy May	SS	R-R	Jr.	28	.310	20	27	16	5	6	.575	2
12	Abby Ruff	3B	R-R	Sr.	23	.226	7	7	2	0	2	.290	2
17	Kylie Murray	RF	R-R	Jr.	28	.306	7	19	13	1	2	.387	1
or 5	Jenna Spratt	RF	L-R	So.	24	.231	8	6	3	0	0	.231	2
11	Mindy Heidgerken	CF	R-R	So.	28	.224	15	15	9	1	5	.343	9
9	Natalie Johnson	LF	L-L	Jr.	28	.308	13	24	9	3	3	.462	1
13	Sami Baugh	C	R-R	So.	26	.309	9	21	13	3	3	.309	1

Probable Pitching Rotation

No.	Name	Throws	Yr.	Record	GS	SV	CG	SH	ERA	SO	BB	IP
4	Lisa Birocci	RHP	Sr.	14-4	16	3	13	7	1.08	112	18	110.1
3	Ali Arnold	RHP	Jr.	8-1	12	0	6	4	1.62	91	23	69.1
24	Steph Ackerson	RHP	Fr.	0-0	0	1	0	0	0.95	6	2	7.1

WELCOME HOME HAWKS

The University of Iowa softball team opens its home portion of the 2005 schedule on Wednesday with a doubleheader against Illinois State. The first game is scheduled for a 3 p.m. start with game two to follow at approximately 5:15 p.m.

Iowa will host the Hawkeye Classic on March 26-27. The tournament consists of round-robin play. The champion of the tournament will be determined by win/loss record. Below is a schedule of the tournament.

Saturday, March 26

- 10 a.m. Ball State vs. North Dakota State
- 12 p.m. South Dakota State vs. North Dakota State
- 2 p.m. Iowa vs. Ball State
- 4 p.m. Iowa vs. South Dakota State

Sunday, March 27

- 10 a.m. South Dakota State vs. North Dakota State
- 12 p.m. South Dakota State vs. Ball State
- 2 p.m. Iowa vs. Ball State
- 4 p.m. Iowa vs. North Dakota State

	CONF.	OVERALL
1. MICHIGAN	0-0	26-1
2. IOWA	0-0	23-5
3. NORTHWESTERN	0-0	15-6
4. OHIO STATE	0-0	14-6
5. PENN STATE	0-0	14-8
6. ILLINOIS	0-0	13-8
7. PURDUE	0-0	18-12
8. MINNESOTA	0-0	15-13
9. WISCONSIN	0-0	6-9
10. INDIANA	0-0	8-19
11. MICHIGAN ST.	0-0	7-16-1

IOWA SPORTS INFORMATION

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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

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SPRING BREAK IN CALIFORNIA

The Hawkeyes went a combined 4-1 over spring break in California. Iowa defeated Rhode Island (6-0) and Pacific (4-2) at the Pacific Mini Tournament while defeating Utah (13-7). The Hawkeyes fell to Oregon State (6-2) but bounced back with a victory over Long Island (8-0) at the Capital Classic.

SCOUTING ILLINOIS STATE

The Illinois State Redbirds are 19-5 overall and 3-0 in the Missouri Valley Conference.

Jen Wright leads the Rebird offense. She is batting .425 with five doubles, two home runs and 11 RBI. Kate Stake is batting .414 with four home runs and 21 RBI.

Shannon Nicholson is 10-5 with a 1.25 ERA inside the circle for the Redbirds. Stacy Birk leads the team with 54 strikeouts.

Iowa holds a 28-14 advantage in the all-time series.

SCOUTING BALL STATE

The Ball State Cardinals are 6-15 this season.

Kelli Jeziorski leads the Cardinal offense. She is batting .333 with five doubles, two home runs and 10 RBI. Amanda Pick is batting .293 with three doubles, two home runs and seven RBI.

Nicki Hellem is 2-4 with a 3.95 ERA inside the circle. Amy Brownfield leads the team with 30 strikeouts.

Iowa holds a 9-0 advantage in the all-time series.

SCOUTING SOUTH DAKOTA STATE

The South Dakota State Jackrabbits are 13-6 this season.

Offensively, Steph Kuhl is batting .389 with one double, four home runs and 15 RBI. Ashley Kalina is batting .333 with four doubles, one triple, four home runs and 14 RBI.

Kim Westendorf is 7-3 with a 2.92 ERA and 61 strikeouts inside the circle.

This is the first meeting between the two teams.

SCOUTING NORTH DAKOTA STATE

The North Dakota State Bison are 14-9 this season.

Offensively, Erin Troup is batting .352 with five doubles and three RBI. Lynnae Foshag is batting .278 with four doubles, one home run and 12 RBI.

Inside the circle, Amber Garrett has a 5-1 record with a 1.34 ERA. Allison Bakke is 6-6 with a 1.97 ERA and leads the team with 110 strikeouts.

This is the first meeting between the two teams.

HAWKEYES IN THE RANKINGS

Iowa is ranked 23rd in the ESPN.com/USA Today Collegiate Softball poll. The Hawkeyes are listed as receiving votes in the National Fastpitch Coaches Association poll. Other Big Ten teams in the rankings include Michigan (4th/5th) and Northwestern (25/23).

ARNOLD THROWS NO-NO

Junior **Ali Arnold** threw her first career no-hitter against Rhode Island at the Pacific Mini Tournament. Arnold allowed only one walk and one runner reached base by error. She struck out 11 batters in the contest.

NICHOLS TIES SCHOOL RECORD

With 10 home runs this season, freshman **Emily Nichols** has tied the school record for home runs in a season. Nichols blasted her 10th home run against Utah last week. She shares the record with Alicia Gerlach, who hit 10 home runs in both the 2000 and 2001 seasons.

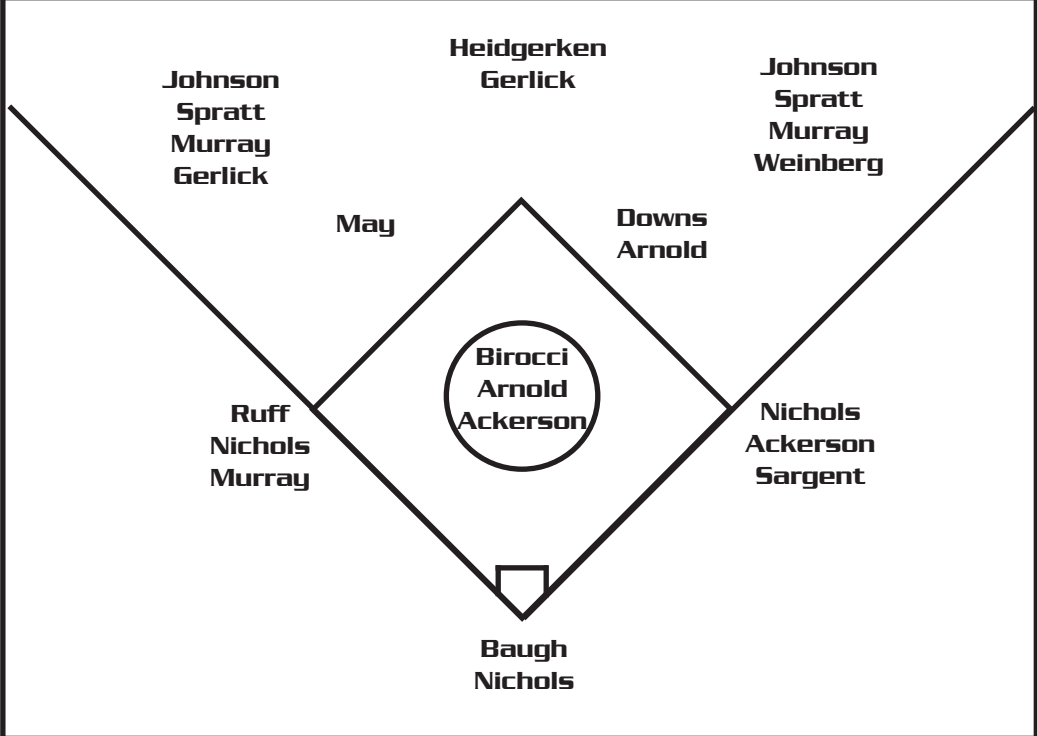
- 1** **EMILY NICHOLS**
- 2** **SUMMER DOWNS**
- 3** **ALI ARNOLD**
- 4** **LISA BIROCCI**
- 5** **JENNA SPRATT**
- 6** **BARB WEINBERG**
- 9** **NATALIE JOHNSON**
- 10** **STACY MAY**
- 11** **MINDY HEIDGERKEN**
- 12** **ABBY RUFF**
- 13** **SAMI BAUGH**
- 14** **BRANDI SARGENT**
- 17** **KYLIE MURRAY**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

HEAD COACH
GAYLE BLEVINS

ASSOCIATE HEAD COACH
MICHELLE VENTURELLA

ASSISTANT COACH
DEBBIE BILBAO

VOLUNTEER ASSISTANT
KRISTIN JOHNSON



MOVIN' ON UP

Senior **Lisa Birocci** is currently fourth on the career strikeout list (787). Junior **Ali Arnold** is seventh (368). Birocci needs just five more strikeouts to move into third place while Arnold needs 22 more strikeouts to move into sixth place.

HAVE WE MET?

Iowa faced Ball State at the Courtyard by Marriott Red and Black Tournament earlier this season. The Hawkeyes defeated the Cardinals, 8-0 in six innings. **Ali Arnold** threw a two-hit shutout and recorded 11 strikeouts. **Summer Downs** and **Jenna Spratt** both collected multiple hits for Iowa. Downs went 3-4 with a double and two RBI while Spratt was 2-4 with two runs scored.

WEINBERG JOINS TEAM

Senior **Barb Weinberg** has joined the Iowa softball team. Weinberg was a two-time all-American and three-time all-Big Ten goalkeeper for the Iowa field hockey team. She was selected to the U.S National field hockey team in January.

VENTURELLA PROMOTED

Michelle Venturella enters the 2005 season as Iowa's first ever associate head coach. Head Coach **Gayle Blevins** announced the promotion last July.

Venturella serves as the Hawkeye recruiting coordinator and hitting coach along with coaching the Iowa catchers. As a member of the USA softball team she garnered four medals, one of which was the gold medal at the 2000 Summer Olympics in Sydney, Australia.

BILBAO RETURNS TO IOWA

Former all-American **Debbie Bilbao** has been hired as Iowa's new assistant coach. Bilbao was head coach at Utah State from 2002-04 before making the move back to Iowa.

As a player, Bilbao helped guide the Hawkeyes to three straight College World Series appearances (1995-97) and still holds three school records. Bilbao will be Iowa's pitching coach.

IOWA'S RECORD WHEN...

1-RUN GAMES	3-1
2-RUN GAMES	5-1
EXTRA INNINGS.....	1-1
AT PEARL FIELD	0-0
ON THE ROAD	4-1
AT NEUTRAL SITE	19-4
DAY GAMES.....	18-5
NIGHT GAMES.....	5-0
IOWA SCORES FIRST.....	21-2
OPPONENT SCORES FIRST	2-3
IOWA SCORES LAST	19-0
OPPONENT SCORES LAST	4-3
GIVING UP 3 RUNS OR LESS.....	21-2
GIVING UP 4+ RUNS	2-3
VS. RANKED OPPONENTS	0-3
BIROCCI STARTS.....	13-3
ARNOLD STARTS.....	10-2
IOWA HITS A HOMERUN	16-0
OPPONENT HITS A HOMERUN.....	5-4
IOWA OUTHITS OPPONENT.....	17-0
OPPONENT OUTHITS IOWA.....	3-5
EQUAL NUMBER OF HITS.....	3-0
NO IOWA ERRORS	9-1
IOWA COMMITS AN ERROR	14-4
WEARING WHITE UNIFORMS	8-1
WEARING BLACK UNIFORMS	5-3
WEARING GREY UNIFORMS.....	10-1
FLYING AIR TRAN	10-2
FLYING UNITED	10-2
BUSING TO GAME.....	3-1
IN EASTERN TIME ZONE	13-3
IN CENTRAL TIME ZONE.....	0-0
IN MOUNTAIN TIME ZONE.....	2-0
IN PACIFIC TIME ZONE	8-2
IN IOWA	0-0
IN ARIZONA	2-0
IN GEORGIA	7-1
IN KENTUCKY.....	3-1
IN FLORIDA	3-1
IN CALIFORNIA	8-2
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	2-0
ON THURSDAY.....	1-0
ON FRIDAY.....	7-1
ON SATURDAY	6-3
ON SUNDAY	7-1

IOWA'S TEAM SINGLE GAME INFO...

LONGEST WINNING STREAK	11
LONGEST LOSING STREAK.....	1
LARGEST MARGIN OF VICTORY	15 (AUBURN)
LARGEST MARGIN OF DEFEAT.....	5 (CALIFORNIA)
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 (THREE 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)

IOWA'S INDIVIDUAL TEAM BATTING LEADERS

BATTING AVG	356 (NICHOLS)
GMS.	28 (FIVE TIED)
GMS. STARTED.....	28 (FOUR TIED)
AT BATS.....	87 (MAY)
RUNS	20 (MAY)
HITS	27 (NICHOLS)
DOUBLES	6 (MAY)
TRIPLES	1 (THREE TIED)
HOME RUNS	10 (NICHOLS)

RBI.....	28 (NICHOLS)
TOTAL BASES	61 (NICHOLS)
SLUGGING PCT.....	.836 (NICHOLS)
WALKS	14 (NICHOLS)
HIT BY PITCH.....	2 (ACKERSON)
STRIKEOUTS.....	18 (BAUGH & HEIDGERKEN)
ON-BASE PERCENTAGE.....	.466 (NICHOLS)
OPS	1.302 (NICHOLS)
SACRIFICE FLIES	2 (BAUGH)
SACRIFICE HITS.....	5 (MAY)
STOLEN BASES	9 (HEIDGERKEN)
STOLEN BASE ATTEMPTS	10 (HEIDGERKEN)

IOWA'S INDIVIDUAL PITCHING LEADERS

ERA.....	0.95 (ACKERSON)
WINS.....	14 (BIROCCI)
LOSSES	4 (BIROCCI)
WINNING PCT.....	.778 (BIROCCI)
APPEARANCES.....	22 (BIROCCI)
GAMES STARTED	16 (BIROCCI)
COMPLETE GAMES	13 (BIROCCI)
SHUTOUTS	7 (BIROCCI)
SAVES.....	3 (BIROCCI)
INNINGS PITCHED.....	110.1 (BIROCCI)
STRIKEOUTS.....	112 (BIROCCI)
OPPONENT BATTING AVERAGE167 (BIROCCI)
WHIP790 (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 710-324-3 (.685).

Her career record in 25 years of coaching is 1,033-477-5 (.683). 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	1,033-477-5	.683
IOWA	733-329-3	.689

BIG TEN TOTALS

OVERALL	445-156-1	.739
IOWA	275-112-1	.709

Hawkeye Defensive

OPP.	P	C	1B	2B	SS	3B	LF	CF	RF	DP
+V. Tech	Birocci	Baugh	Ackerson	Downs	May	Nichols	Gerlick	Heidgerken	Johnson	Murray
+Stetson	Arnold	Baugh	Sargent	Downs	May	Murray	Spratt	Heidgerken	Johnson	Birocci
+V. Tech	Arnold	Baugh	Ackerson	Downs	May	Murray	Gerlick	Heidgerken	Johnson	Nichols
+Stetson	Birocci	Baugh	Ackerson	Downs	May	Nichols	Murray	Heidgerken	Johnson	Spratt
@LIU	Arnold	Baugh	Ackerson	Downs	May	Nichols	Johnson	Heidgerken	Gerlick	Murray
@ASU	Birocci	Baugh	Nichols	Downs	May	Ruff	Johnson	Heidgerken	Murray	Spratt
#Minnesota	Birocci	Baugh	Nichols	Downs	May	Ruff	Johnson	Heidgerken	Murray	Ackerson
#Louisville	Arnold	Nichols	Ackerson	Downs	May	Ruff	Johnson	Heidgerken	Murray	Sargent
#Missouri	Birocci	Baugh	Nichols	Downs	May	Ruff	Johnson	Heidgerken	Murray	Sargent
#Ball State	Arnold	Baugh	Nichols	Downs	May	Ruff	Johnson	Heidgerken	Spratt	Sargent
^Georgia So	Arnold	Baugh	Nichols	Downs	May	Ruff	Johnson	Heidgerken	Murray	Ackerson
^Georgia So	Birocci	Nichols	Baugh	Downs	May	Ruff	Johnson	Heidgerken	Spratt	Sargent
^Auburn	Birocci	Baugh	Nichols	Downs	May	Ruff	Johnson	Heidgerken	Spratt	Murray
^M. Ten. St.	Arnold	Nichols	Sargent	Downs	May	Ruff	Johnson	Heidgerken	Baugh	Ackerson
^Gard-Webb	Birocci	Baugh	Ackerson	Downs	May	Ruff	Johnson	Heidgerken	Nichols	Murray
^V. Tech	Arnold	Baugh	Nichols	Downs	May	Ruff	Johnson	Ackerson	Murray	Heidgerken
^Auburn	Birocci	Nichols	Ackerson	Arnold	May	Ruff	Johnson	Heidgerken	Spratt	Baugh
^Ohio State	Birocci	Nichols	Sargent	Arnold	May	Ruff	Johnson	Heidgerken	Murray	Baugh
~UConn	Birocci	Baugh	Nichols	Arnold	May	Ruff	Johnson	Weinberg	Murray	Heidgerken
~UC Davis	Arnold	Baugh	Sargent	Nichols	May	Ruff	Johnson	Weinberg	Murray	Heidgerken
~SJST	Birocci	Baugh	Ackerson	Nichols	May	Ruff	Johnson	Weinberg	Spratt	Heidgerken
~California	Arnold	Baugh	Sargent	Nichols	May	Ruff	Johnson	Heidgerken	Murray	Weinberg
~Col. State	Birocci	Nichols	Sargent	Downs	May	Ruff	Johnson	Weinberg	Murray	Heidgerken
*Rh. Island	Arnold	Nichols	Ackerson	Downs	May	Ruff	Johnson	Heidgerken	Weinberg	Murray
*Pacific	Birocci	Baugh	Nichols	Downs	May	Ruff	Johnson	Heidgerken	Murray	Sargent
Utah	Arnold	Baugh	Sargent	Downs	May	Ruff	Johnson	Heidgerken	Murray	Ackerson
\$Oregon St.	Birocci	Baugh	Nichols	Downs	May	Ruff	Johnson	Heidgerken	Murray	Sargent
\$LIU	Birocci	Birocci	Nichols	Downs	May	Ruff	Johnson	Heidgerken	Murray	Baugh

+ - at Stetson Invitational (Deland, FL)

@ - at Littlewood Classic (Tempe, AZ)

- at Courtyard by Marriott Red and Black Tournament (Louisville, KY)

^ - at Buzz Classic (Marietta, GA)

~ - at National Softball Invitational Tournament (Sunnyvale, CA)

* - at Pacific Mini Tournament (Stockton, CA)

\$ - at Capital Classic (Sacramento, CA)