

No. 16 Iowa vs. No. 22 USC

Dec. 27, 2019

POSTGAME NOTES

Iowa (10-3, 6-3) defeated USC (8-5, 7-2), 49-24, on Friday at the 2019 Holiday Bowl at SDCCU Stadium.

WR Ihmir Smith-Marsette (offense) and DE A.J. Epenesa (defense) were named Most Valuable Players of the 2019 Holiday Bowl.

Iowa's 49 points scored are the second most scored in a bowl game in school history (55 vs. Texas in 1084 Freedom Bowl). The 49 points scored are the second most allowed by USC this season (56 vs. Oregon).

Iowa won its third straight bowl game, tying its longest such streak in program history (2009 Outback, 2010 Orange, 2010 Insight).

Kirk Ferentz is 9-8 all-time in bowl games. Only Ohio State (10) has more bowl wins (including playoff wins) among Big Ten teams since 2001.

Iowa recorded its sixth 10-win season since 1999. The Hawkeyes have 47 wins over the last five years, the most of any five-year period in program history.

INDIVIDUAL NOTES

WR Smith-Marsette's 98-yard kickoff return for a touchdown in the second quarter tied a Holiday Bowl record and is the seventh-longest kickoff return in school history. He is the first player in program history to return two kickoffs for touchdowns in a single season (Nebraska, 95 yards). He has two career kickoff returns for a touchdown, tying the school record (Derrell Johnson-Koulianos 2009, 2010; Kahlil Hill 1998, 2000). It is the second longest kickoff return by a Hawkeye in a bowl game. The longest was C.J. Jones (100 yards) in the 2003 Orange Bowl against USC.

WR Ihmir Smith-Marsette's 6-yard rushing touchdown in the second quarter was his third rushing touchdown this year. He has a team-high 10 touchdowns this season. He has scored a touchdown by reception (5), rush (3), and kickoff return (2) this season.

WR Ihmir Smith Marsette had 203 all-purpose yards, raising his career total to 2,834, 17th all-time. He passed Eddie Phillips, Dennis Mosley, and Jordan Canzeri today on the all-time list.

LB Nick Niemann returned an interception 25 yards for a touchdown in the fourth quarter. It was Niemann's first career interception and Iowa's first pick-six of the season. Iowa has at least one interception return for a touchdown in each of the last 12 seasons, and 17 of the last 19 seasons.

Smith-Marsette tied Shonn Greene's Iowa bowl record with three touchdowns. He is also just the third player in the last 15 seasons to record a Rush TD, Rec TD, and kickoff return for a TD in the 1st half of a game. He joins Carlos Henderson in 2016 and Jason Chery in 2008.

Since at least 1970, WR Ihmir Smith-Marsette is the only Hawkeye in program history to score a touchdown via rush, reception, and kickoff return, in a single game. He is the first player since 1998 (Deuce McAllister, Independence Bowl) to score a touchdown via rush, reception, kickoff return.

DE A.J. Epenesa tied an Iowa bowl record and matched his career high with 2.5 sacks today (Babineaux 2005 Capital One; Hodge 2005 Capital One), and raised his season total to 11.5, the most by any Hawkeye since Adrian Clayborn had 11.5 in 2009. Epenesa had a team-high 10.5 sacks in 2018. He is the first Hawkeye to record double-digit sack totals in consecutive seasons since Matt Roth in 2002-03 (10 in 2002, 12 in 2003).

QB Nate Stanley registered 204 yards of total offense today, raising his career total to 8,198. He is the third player in program history to surpass 8,000 career yards of offense (Chuck Long 10,254; Drew Tate 8,427).

QB Nate Stanley passed for 213 yards today, raising his season total to 2,951, a new single-season career high and the sixth best single-season total in school history. Stanley finished his career with 8,302 passing yards, second all-time in program history (Chuck Long 10,461). He passed Drew Tate (8,292) today on the all-time list.

QB Nate Stanley started his third bowl game (3-0) and became the second quarterback in school history to win three bowl games (Ricky Stanzi, 3-0). He is one of five quarterbacks in program history to start in three bowl games. Chuck Long started four (2-2), and Matt Sherman (2-1), Drew Tate (1-2), and Stanzi (3-0) started three.

QB Nate Stanley started the last 39 games at quarterback (27-12). His 27 wins as a starting quarterback tie for second all-time with Ricky Stanzi (27). Chuck Long holds the school record (35). His streak of 39 consecutive starts at quarterback ranks second in school history to Long (47). He has 16 touchdown passes this season and 68 in his career, second all-time in program history (Chuck Long, 74).

K Keith Duncan scored seven points today, raising his season total to 119, third all-time in single-season program history (one shy of the school record, shared by Shonn Green in 2008 and Nate Kaeding in 2002). Duncan made 29 field goals this season, a single-season school record, a Big Ten record, and tied for the sixth most in NCAA single-season history.

RB Tyler Goodson rushed for 48 yards and one touchdown today. He finished the season as Iowa's leading rusher (638 yards). He is the first true freshman to ever lead the team in single-season rushing yards. The last redshirt freshman to lead Iowa in single-season rushing yards was Ladell Betts in 1998 (679 yards). Goodson led the team with five rushing touchdowns.

WR Tyrone Tracy's 23-yard first quarter touchdown rush was a career long and the first rushing touchdown of his career.

TE Sam LaPorta recorded career highs in receptions (6) and receiving yards (44).

MISCELLANEOUS

Iowa is 12-3 in its last 15 rivalry/trophy games.

Kirk Ferentz has 162 wins as a member of the Big Ten Conference, tying Joe Paterno (162) for fourth all-time in Big Ten Conference history.

Iowa won the toss and elected to receive. The Hawkeyes have played 266 games under head coach Kirk Ferentz. Iowa has opened the game on offense 200 times (126-74). The Hawkeyes have opened the game on defense 66 times (36-30).

Iowa is 3-0-1 all-time in the Holiday Bowl, defeating San Diego State (39-38) in 1986, Wyoming (20-19) in 1987, and tying Brigham Young (13-13) in 1991. Iowa made its fourth Holiday Bowl appearance, and in each game the Hawkeyes have had a Hartlieb on the roster. True freshman Thomas Hartlieb is on Iowa's 2019 roster. Chuck Hartlieb played in the 1986 and 1987 Holiday Bowl. Jim and John Hartlieb played in the 1991 Holiday Bowl.

Iowa's 21 points scored in the second quarter are the most points scored by the Hawkeyes in single quarter this season.

Instant replay:

- 1) USC fumble (overturned)
- 2) USC incomplete pass (overturned)
- 3) Iowa rush short of goal line (confirmed)

UP NEXT

The Hawkeyes open the 2020 season hosting Northern Iowa on Sept. 5 at Kinnick Stadium.