

April 4, 2004

IOWA SOFTBALL**HAWKEYES SWEEP MICHIGAN STATE IN BIG TEN DOUBLEHEADER**

IOWA CITY – The University of Iowa softball team upped its Big Ten record to 4-0 with a sweep of Michigan State in a doubleheader Sunday at Pearl Field. Iowa won both games by a score of 8-2. The Hawkeyes are now 22-15 (4-0) while the Spartans fell to 19-13 (1-3).

Hawkeye senior **Sarah Thomson** had a monster day, going a combined 5-for-7 with six RBIs, three doubles, a triple and a home run. In game two alone, Thomson was a single short of hitting for the cycle.

Sophomore **Stacy May** also had a huge day, going 6-of-8 with three runs scored and two doubles.

The Hawkeyes fell into an early 1-0 hole in the first game when starting pitcher Jessica Beach hit a solo home run. Iowa came right back in the bottom of the inning when leadoff hitter Natalie Johnson answered with a solo shot of her own. The home run was Johnson's team-leading third of the season.

Iowa put the game away in the bottom of the third with four runs off four hits, led by Thomson's three-run bases loaded double.

The Hawkeyes added two runs in the fifth and a run in the sixth to take the win. **Ali Arnold**, who pitched five and two-thirds innings of relief, picked up the win.

In game two, the Iowa offense kept rolling and pounded out 13 hits on the Spartan pitching staff. **Lisa Birocci** went the distance, allowing only five hits and striking out seven.

Iowa returns to action Wednesday when it hosts Northern Illinois at 4 p.m.

GAME SUMMARIES

Michigan State 100 001 0 -- 2 8 1

IOWA **104 021 x -- 8 13 0**

WP – Ali Arnold (12-7)

LP – Jessica Beach (15-8)

HR – Jessica Beach, **Natalie Johnson (3)**

IOWA **112 200 2 -- 8 13 1**

Michigan State 001 001 0 -- 2 5 2

WP – Lisa Birocci (10-8)

LP – Jessica Beach (15-9)

HR – Sarah Thomson (1)





THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

SPORTS INFORMATION

