



HAWKEYE HOME PLATE

Iowa Softball News and Notes

3/17 @ Sacramento State (DH)
3/19-21 @ Capitol Classic
San Jose, CA

2004 Iowa Schedule

12-8 Overall, 0-0 Big Ten

Feb. 14-15	at GA State Tournament	Rain
Feb. 20-22	at Arizona State Tournament	
Feb. 20	vs. Wisconsin	L, 3-6
Feb. 20	vs. Illinois State	W, 7-3
Feb. 21	vs. Utah State	W, 5-1
Feb. 21	vs. #22 Arizona State	W, 9-0 (5)
Feb. 22	vs. #22 Arizona State	L, 0-3
Feb. 28-29	at Louisville Tournament	
Feb. 28	vs. Toledo	W, 3-0
Feb. 28	vs. Western Kentucky	W, 3-0
Feb. 29	vs. Louisville	W, 4-0
Feb. 29	vs. Louisville	L, 0-2
Mar. 4-7	at Speedline Tournament	
Mar. 4	vs. Baylor	L, 3-4
Mar. 4	vs. Boston University	W, 4-0
Mar. 5	vs. Northern Illinois	W, 5-1
Mar. 5	vs. Team USA (Exhib.)	L, 0-11 (5)
Mar. 6	vs. Troy State	W, 1-0 (8)
Mar. 6	vs. Tenn.-Chattanooga	L, 0-1
Mar. 7	vs. Tennessee Tech	L, 0-1
Mar. 12-14	at National Softball Invitational	
Mar. 12	vs. #8 Washington	L, 2-8
Mar. 12	vs. Santa Clara	W, 4-1
Mar. 13	vs. Syracuse	W, 2-0
Mar. 13	vs. #3 California	L, 2-8
Mar. 14	vs. #20 Arizona State	W, 3-0
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
22	Emily Gerlick	2B	R/R	So.	20	.298	6	17	11	1	2	.421	6
17	Kylie Murray	3B	R/R	So.	20	.352	4	25	9	1	6	.479	0
18	Stacy May	SS	R/R	So.	20	.274	9	17	5	1	2	.355	2
4	Lisa Birocci	P	R/R	Jr.	17	.295	3	13	1	1	1	.455	0
or 3	Ali Arnold	P	R/R	So.	16	.278	3	10	8	2	3	.528	0
16	Sarah Thomson	1B	R/R	Sr.	19	.308	2	12	2	0	1	.333	1
9	Natalie Johnson	RF	L/L	So.	19	.277	8	13	4	1	3	.404	2
14	Laura Chipman	CF	R/R	Sr.	20	.250	9	9	4	1	1	.361	5
6	Amanda Hentges	LF	R/R	Sr.	18	.200	4	7	2	0	1	.229	4
21	Sami Baugh	C	R/R	Fr.	16	.250	0	2	2	0	2	.333	0

Probable Pitching Rotation

No.	Name	Throws	Yr.	Record	G	SV	C	G	SH	ERA	SO	BB	IP
4	Lisa Birocci	RHP	Jr.	5-4	9	0	5	3		1.45	86	16	58
3	Ali Arnold	RHP	So.	7-4	11	1	8	4		1.34	60	17	78 1/3
16	Sarah Thomson	RHP	Sr.	0-0	0	0	0	0		5.25	1	0	4

This Week In Sacramento

The University of Iowa softball team will continue its spring break trip this week with a Wednesday doubleheader at Sacramento State, then take part in the Capitol Classic starting Friday.

At the Capitol Classic, Iowa will face Saint Mary's Friday at Noon, then battle Utah State at 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Iowa will play Long Beach State at 5 p.m., then battle Long Island at 7:30 p.m. On Sunday, the Hawkeyes will end the tournament against Nevada at 11 a.m. All times are central.

Looking Back at the NIST

The Hawkeyes placed third at the National Invitational Softball Tournament last weekend in San Jose, CA. Iowa was 3-2 on the weekend, defeating Santa Clara (4-1), Syracuse (2-0) and Arizona State (3-0). The Hawkeyes fell to No. 8 Washington and No. 3 California, both by the score of 8-2.

Iowa opened the tournament with a tough loss to the Washington Huskies, who pounded out nine hits on the Hawkeye pitching staff, eight of which were singles. **Natalie Johnson** provided the offensive spark for Iowa, going 2-of-3 with a two-run home run.

The Hawkeyes rebounded to win their next two games against Santa Clara and Syracuse. Against the Broncos, **Ali Arnold** dominated in the circle by throwing a one-hitter and striking out eight. **Mindy Heidgerken** was 2-for-2 with an RBI.

Against Syracuse, it was **Lisa Birocci's** turn to throw a masterful game, tossing an eight-inning shutout. Iowa was able to take advantage of a pair of Orangewomen errors in the top of the eighth inning to score two runs and take the extra-inning win.

The Hawkeyes were denied a trip to the finals by the high-powered Golden Bears, who handed Iowa its second 8-2 loss of the tournament.

In the third-place game, the Hawkeyes got another great performance from **Ali Arnold**, who held the Sun Devils to just two hits in picking up the shutout victory.

2004 Big Ten Records

	CONF.	OVERALL
1. ILLINOIS	0-0	13-4-1
2. NORTHWESTERN	0-0	11-4
3. MICHIGAN	0-0	12-5
4. WISCONSIN	0-0	11-5
5. PURDUE	0-0	10-5
6. MICHIGAN STATE	0-0	10-6
7. IOWA	0-0	9-6
8. OHIO STATE	0-0	7-5
9. MINNESOTA	0-0	9-7
10. INDIANA	0-0	7-11
11. PENN STATE	0-0	4-11

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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

TICKET OFFICE 335-9327

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

Countdown to 1,000

Iowa Head Coach **Gayle Blevins** is closing in on an astonishing milestone. With 983 career victories, the Head Hawk is just 17 games shy of winning her 1,000th NCAA Division I game.

Only two Division I coaches have hit the millennium mark. Fresno State coach Margie Wright has 1,099 wins, while JoAnn Graff of Florida State has won 1,028.

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

Scouting Out the Field

The 2004 Capitol Classic is a round-robin tournament with a total of 28 games being played over three days. A tournament champion will be declared Sunday based on record. If two or more teams are tied, a series of tiebreakers will be used to determine the champion.

Joining Iowa in the field will be Long Beach State, Long Island, Nevada, Pittsburgh, Purdue, Sacramento State, Saint Mary's, Tennessee State, Utah State and Wisconsin.

Capitol Classic History

The Hawkeyes have finished in the top two at the Sacramento State Capitol Classic in six of the eight years they have played there, winning it three times (1997, 1999 and 2001) and placing second three times (1996, '98 and 2003).

Last season, the Hawkeyes finished second behind Washington with a 4-1 record.

Iowa has an all-time record of 38-12-1 (.762) in the Capitol Classic, better than any other team in this year's field.

In fact, Iowa has won more games in the Capitol Classic than any other team in this year's field has played, except for the host school Sacramento State.

Don't I Know You?

The Hawkeyes will see a familiar face across the diamond when they battle Utah State, where former Hawkeye Deb Bilbao is the head coach.

Bilbao was a three-time all-American in her Iowa career (1995-98) and is still regarded as one of the best ever to wear the black and gold.

Bilbao led Iowa to the 1997 Capitol Classic title, going 3-0 from inside the circle and allowing only one earned run in 21 innings.

At the plate, she was 9-of-18 with four home runs and nine RBIs.

First One's the Hardest

Sophomore **Natalie Johnson** hit her first career home run over the weekend. Her two-run shot came in the fourth inning of Iowa's 8-2 loss at the hands of No. 8 Washington.

Johnson is hitting .277 on the year with three doubles and four RBIs. She has a .404 slugging percentage.

The Burlington, IA, native has played in 19 games this season, starting 17.

Gerlick Gone Wild

Sophomore second baseman **Emily Gerlick** is currently leading the team with 11 RBIs. The Wonder Lake, IL, native is third on the team with a .298 batting average.

Coming into the season, the former walk-on had only one career at bat.

Kylie Kong

Sophomore **Kylie Murray** has been a one-woman wrecking crew in the batter's box this season.

The Des Moines native is currently leading the team with a .352 batting average, 25 hits and six doubles. Murray also has nine RBIs and a home run.

Feel the Breeze

After setting the Iowa single-season strikeout record last season, **Lisa Birocci** shows no signs of slowing down.

The junior fireballer has 86 strikeouts in just 58 innings so far this season. That is almost one and a half strikeouts per inning and an average of 10.38 per game.

The Exorcist

Ali Arnold has been a Sun Devil killer so far this season. The Bloomington, IL, has dominated Arizona State so far this season, earning a 2-0 record and not allowing an earned run in two games.

Last weekend, Arnold held the No. 20 Sun Devils to just two-hits in a seven inning shutout.

And She's Off

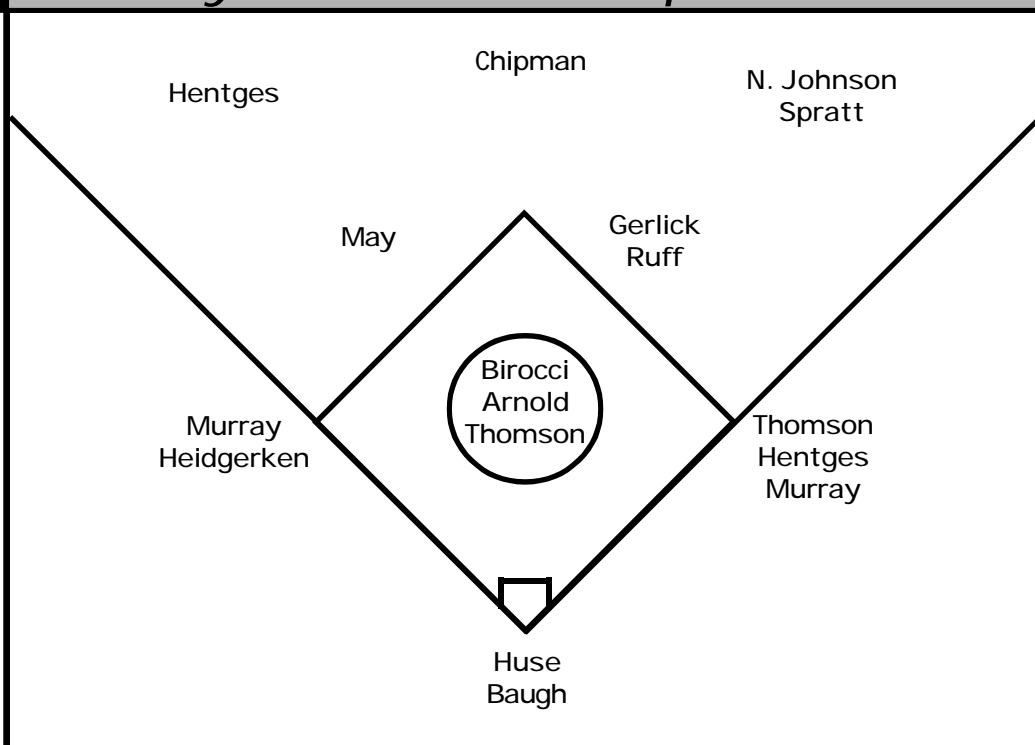
Hawkeye freshman **Mindy Heidergerken** has become a terror on the basepaths in her first season.

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

The Long Grove, IA, native currently leads the team with eight stolen bases, and has only been thrown out once.

Emily Gerlick is 6-of-6 in stolen bases, while **Jenna Spratt** and **Laura Chipman** are each 5-for-5.

Run Support

While All-American pitcher **Lisa Birocci** starts in the circle, the Hawkeyes have scored 21 runs (2.33 per start). When sophomore **Ali Arnold** starts, Iowa has scored 40 runs (3.64 per game).

Contact Hitter

Sophomore **Stacy May** is going to make you work to get her out. In 62 at bats, the Reno, NV, native has only struck out one time.

Making Them Count

Sophomore **Emily Gerlick** is hitting .298, but her average jumps to an amazing .500 with runners on base.

Gerlick is also hitting .500 with runners in scoring position.

Any Way She Can

Senior **Sarah Thomson** second on the team with a .308 average, but she owns a team-leading .400 on base percentage.

The Rocklin, CA, native has 11 hits, a team-leading six walks, has reached on two fielder's choices and one error.

Gooseeggs

In a way, it has been an all-or-nothing year for Iowa this season. Eleven of the 20 games Iowa has played in have been shutouts on one side or another. The Hawkeyes have a 7-4 record in shutouts this season.

New Faces All Around

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 Heidergerken** or **Kylie Murray** will take May's old spot at third.

Elisha Huse and freshman **Sami Baugh** will split time behind the plate.

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.

Iowa's Record When...

1-RUN GAMES	1-3
2-RUN GAMES	1-1
5+ RUN GAMES	1-2
EXTRA INNINGS	2-1
AT PEARL FIELD	0-0
SHUTOUTS	7-4
DAY GAMES	12-8
NIGHT GAMES	0-0
IOWA SCORES FIRST	10-2
OPPONENT SCORES FIRST	2-6
IOWA SCORES LAST	11-1
OPPONENT SCORES LAST	0-7
GIVING UP 3 RUNS OR LESS	12-4
GIVING UP 4+ RUNS	0-4
Vs. RANKED OPPONENTS	2-3
BIROCCI STARTS	5-4
ARNOLD STARTS	7-4
THOMSON STARTS	0-0
IOWA HITS A HOMERUN	5-2
OPPONENT HITS A HOMERUN	0-4
IOWA OUTHITS OPPONENT	11-4
OPPONENT OUTHITS IOWA	0-4
EQUAL NUMBER OF HITS	1-0
NO IOWA ERRORS	5-1
IOWA COMMITS AN ERROR	7-7
WEARING GOLD UNIFORMS	0-0
WEARING WHITE UNIFORMS	3-4
WEARING BLACK UNIFORMS	3-2
WEARING GREY UNIFORMS	6-2
FLYING TO GAME	9-7
BUSING TO GAME	3-1
IN EASTERN TIME ZONE	3-3
IN CENTRAL TIME ZONE	0-0
IN MOUNTAIN TIME ZONE	3-2
IN PACIFIC TIME ZONE	3-2
IN IOWA	0-0
IN ARIZONA	3-2
IN GEORGIA	0-0
IN KENTUCKY	3-1
IN FLORIDA	3-3
IN CALIFORNIA	3-2
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	0-0
ON THURSDAY	1-1
ON FRIDAY	3-2
ON SATURDAY	6-2
ON SUNDAY	2-3
FLYING SAME DAY	0-2

IOWA'S TEAM SINGLE GAME INFO...

LONGEST WINNING STREAK	3
LONGEST LOSING STREAK	2
LARGEST MARGIN OF VICTORY	ARIZONA STATE (9)
LARGEST MARGIN OF DEFEAT	6 (TWICE)
MOST AT-BATS	WISCONSIN, ILLINOIS STATE (31)
MOST RUNS SCORED	ARIZONA STATE (9)
MOST HITS	ARIZONA STATE (13)
MOST RBI	ARIZONA STATE (9)
MOST DOUBLES	BOSTON UNIVERSITY (5)
MOST TRIPLES	LOUISVILLE, W. KENTUCKY (1)
MOST HOME RUNS	ILLINOIS STATE (2)
MOST STOLEN BASES	TROY STATE (5)
MOST STRIKEOUTS	ARIZONA STATE, TENN. TECH (9)
MOST ERRORS COMMITTED	WISCONSIN, T. TECH (4)
MOST RUNS ALLOWED	WASHINGTON AND CAL (8)
MOST HITS ALLOWED	WASHINGTON (9)
MOST WALKS ALLOWED	THREE TIMES (4)

IOWA'S INDIVIDUAL TEAM BATTING LEADERS

BATTING AVE.	MURRAY (.352)
GMS.	FOUR TIED (20)
GMS. STARTED	FOUR TIED (20)
AT BATS	MURRAY (71)
RUNS	CHIPMAN AND MAY (9)
HITS	MURRAY (25)
DOUBLES	MURRAY (6)
TRIPLES	GERLICK, BIROCCI (1)
HOME RUNS	ARNOLD (2)

RBI	GERLICK (11)
TOTAL BASES	MURRAY (34)
SLUGGING PCT.	ARNOLD (.528)
WALKS	THOMSON (6)
HIT BY PITCH	MAY (2)
STRIKEOUTS	TWO TIED (14)
ON-BASE PERCENTAGE	THOMSON (.400)
OPS	ARNOLD (.844)
SACRIFICE FLIES	JOHNSON, HEIDGERKEN, HENTGES (1)
SACRIFICE HITS	HENTGES, HUSE (3)
STOLEN BASES	HEIDGERKEN (8)
STOLEN BASE ATTEMPTS	HEIDGERKEN (9)

IOWA'S INDIVIDUAL PITCHING LEADERS

ERA	ARNOLD (1.34)
WINS	ARNOLD (7)
LOSSES	ARNOLD, BIROCCI (4)
WINNING PCT.	ARNOLD (.636)
APPEARANCES	ARNOLD (14)
GAMES STARTED	ARNOLD (11)
COMPLETE GAMES	ARNOLD (8)
SHUTOUTS	ARNOLD (4)
SAVES	ARNOLD (1)
INNINGS PITCHED	ARNOLD (78 1/3)
STRIKEOUTS	BIROCCI (86)
OPPONENT BATTING AVERAGE	BIROCCI (.141)
WHIP	BIROCCI (0.76)

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 683-308-3 (.685).

Her career record in 23 years of coaching is 983-456-5 (.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	983-456-5	.684
IOWA	683-308-3	.685

BIG TEN TOTALS

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