



October 10, 2005

**MEN'S BASKETBALL PRACTICE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FRIDAY**

IOWA CITY, IA - - Iowa's men's basketball team will hold its first official practice of the 2005-06 season Friday from 7 to 10 p.m., and the initial workout is open to the public.

Iowa advanced to the NCAA Tournament a year ago and the Hawkeyes are seeking their sixth straight winning season. Iowa returns all five starters and 11 lettermen from a team that won 21 games last season.

The Hawkeyes are receiving early season recognition, as the majority of pre-season publications have Iowa listed among the contenders in the Big Ten Conference and in the top 25 nationally. Individually, senior guard Jeff Horner is on the pre-season Watch List for the John Wooden all-America team.

"We're anxious to get started and excited about the number of fans who are in the area on home football weekends" said Iowa Coach Steve Alford. "Friday evening will give fans a chance to visit the arena and get an early look at our guys."

Fans attending the evening workout should enter Carver-Hawkeye Arena through the west entrance.

Iowa opens the regular season by hosting the first and second round of the Guardians Classic on Nov. 14-15, meeting Maryland-Eastern Shore in the first round. Iowa's exhibition games are Nov. 3 vs. Brock University of Canada and Nov. 9 vs. Wartburg College, a team coached by former Hawkeye player Dick Peth, an Iowa letterman from 1976-79.

The annual Black and Gold Blowout will be held Saturday, October 22.

