



HAWKEYE HOME PLATE

Iowa Softball News and Notes

Red and Black Tournament
February 28-29, 2004
Louisville, KY

2004 Iowa Schedule

3-2 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	
Mar. 4-7	at South Florida Tournament	
Mar. 12-14	at National Softball Invitational	
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
17	Kylie Murray	3B	R/R	So.	5	.444	1	8	4	0	1	.500	0
14	Laura Chipman	CF	R/R	Sr.	5	.222	5	4	2	1	0	.489	2
18	Stacy May	SS	R/R	So.	5	.294	4	5	3	0	0	.294	0
16	Sarah Thomson	1B	R/R	Sr.	5	.500	1	8	1	0	0	.500	0
4	Lisa Birocci	P	R/R	Jr.	5	.455	2	5	1	1	0	.727	0
or 3	Ali Arnold	P	R/R	So.	4	.556	3	5	6	2	1	1.333	0
9	Natalie Johnson	RF	L/L	So.	5	.313	1	5	1	0	1	.353	0
6	Amanda Hentges	LF	R/R	Sr.	5	.267	2	4	1	0	1	.333	0
22	Emily Gerlick	2B	R/R	So.	5	.444	3	4	1	0	1	.444	2
21	Sami Baugh	C	R/R	Fr.	4	.000	0	0	0	0	0	.000	0

Probable Pitching Rotation

No.	Name	Throws	Yr.	Record	G	SV	C	G	SH	ERA	SO	BB	IP
4	Lisa Birocci	RHP	Jr.	1-2	3	0	0	0	0	3.00	16	6	12
3	Ali Arnold	RHP	So.	2-0	2	1	2	1	1.06	17	5	17	
16	Sarah Thomson	RHP	Sr.	0-0	0	0	0	0	6.75	1	0	4	

The Black and Gold at the Red and Black

The University of Iowa softball team will travel to Louisville, KY, this weekend to take part in the Red and Black Tournament, hosted by the University of Louisville.

The Hawkeyes will open with Toledo Saturday at 11 a.m., then play Western Kentucky at 1 p.m. Iowa will battle Louisville at noon on Sunday, then play at either 2 p.m. or 4 p.m., depending on its seeding.

Opening Weekend in Arizona

The Hawkeyes opened the 2004 season at the Louisville Slugger Tournament in Tempe, AZ, and went 3-2 on the weekend. Iowa defeated Illinois State, Utah State and Arizona State, while losing to Wisconsin and Arizona State.

In the season opener with Wisconsin, the Hawkeyes were plagued by spotting fielding in a 6-3 loss. Iowa did out-hit the Badgers 12-6, but the four errors were too much to overcome. The loss was only Iowa's second ever at the hands of Wisconsin.

Iowa rebounded in game two to take a 7-3 win over Illinois State. **Stacy May** was 3-for-4 with a pair of RBIs, while **Laura Chipman** and **Ali Arnold** each hit home runs. Arnold also pitched seven strong innings and struck out nine in picking up the win.

On day two, Iowa started things off on a positive note by taking down Utah State, 5-1. **Kylie Murray** led the Hawkeye attack by going 3-for-4 with two RBIs. In the circle, **Lisa Birocci** allowed only one hit and struck out 13 in six innings of work. Arnold pitched the seventh to pick up her first career save.

The next game proved to be the biggest win of the weekend for the Hawkeyes, as they blew out No. 22 Arizona State, 9-0 in five innings. Iowa pounded out 13 hits and were led by Arnold, who was 3-of-3 with a home run and five RBIs. The sophomore was also dominant in the circle, allowing only five hits in recording her first shutout of the season.

Sunday's rematch with Arizona State didn't go as well for Iowa, as the Sun Devil pitching staff managed to hold down Iowa's bats for seven innings in the 3-0 loss. Birocci pitched the first three innings of the game and took the loss.

2003 Big Ten Records

	CONF.	OVERALL
1. IOWA	13-4	44-15
2. MICHIGAN	13-5	44-16
3. MICHIGAN STATE	13-6	40-19
4. ILLINOIS	11-7	39-17
MINNESOTA	11-7	37-21
6. NORTHWESTERN	9-9	36-19
7. PENN STATE	8-8	31-23
8. WISCONSIN	6-12	19-26
9. OHIO STATE	4-10	26-23
10. PURDUE	4-12	34-27
11. INDIANA	1-15	19-31

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

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

Last Year at Louisville

The Hawkeyes had a rain-shortened run at the Red and Black Tournament last season, getting in only a pair of games before inclement weather washed out the final day.

Iowa took advantage of the games it played, picking up a pair of big wins. The Hawkeyes toppled Louisville 9-1 in six innings, then blasted out Indiana State, 11-0 in five innings.

Defending Champions

The University of Iowa softball team will head into the 2004 season defending and undisputed Big Ten Champions. For the first time in the history of the program, the Hawkeyes captured both the regular season and tournament championships in the same season.

Iowa finished the regular season on top of the Big Ten standings with a 13-4 record. That sent the Hawkeyes into the Big Ten Tournament as the No. 1 seed, where Iowa won three-consecutive games to capture the tournament championship.

Countdown to 1,000

Iowa Head Coach **Gayle Blevins** is closing in on an astonishing milestone. With 974 career victories, the Head Hawk is just 26 games shy of winning her 1,000th NCAA Division I game.

Only two Division I coach have hit the millennium mark. Fresno State coach Margie Wright has 1,083 wins, while JoAnn Graff of Florida State has won 1,007. Arizona's Mike Candrea is just two wins shy of 1,000.

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

Hawkeyes In the Rankings

The Iowa Hawkeyes are ranked 19th in the *USA Today*/National Fastpitch Coaches Association Coaches Poll, and tied for 21st in the ESPN.com/USA Softball Poll. Michigan is ranked 7th/12th.

UCLA holds down the top spot in both polls.

Attack of the Arnold

Sophomore **Ali Arnold** was a one-woman terror for opponents last weekend in Arizona. The Bloomington, IL, native dominated all aspects of her game, hitting a team-best .556 with two home runs and six RBIs.

Her weekend RBI total is more than she knocked in her entire freshman year.

Arnold was just as dominant on the mound, going 2-0 with a 1.06 ERA. She also struck out 17 batters in 17 innings pitched and picked up her first career save.

.400 Club

After a hot-hitting opening weekend in Arizona, the Hawkeyes have five players with a batting average over .400.

Ali Arnold leads the way with a .556 average, followed by **Sarah Thomson** at .500. **Lisa Birocci** is hitting .455, while sophomores **Kylie Murray** and **Emily Gerlick** are both hitting at a .444 clip.

Shaping Up Quickly

In their first action outside all season, the Hawkeyes struggled in the field during their first two games, making a combined seven errors. They cleaned up their act quickly, however, and didn't make a single error in any of their last three games.

First Career Hit

Freshman third baseman **Mindy Heidgerken** picked up her first career hit while in Arizona, a single against Utah State. The Long Grove, IA, native also picked up a pair of stolen bases on the weekend.

Lucky 13

Against Utah State last Saturday, fireballer **Lisa Birocci** picked up where she left off last season, sending batters back to the bench.

The Des Moines native struck out 13 batters in Iowa's 5-1 win over the Aggies, Birocci's second-highest single-game total - her highest in a seven-inning game. She struck out 17 batters in a 4-0, eight-inning game against Georgia State on Feb. 22, 2003.

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.

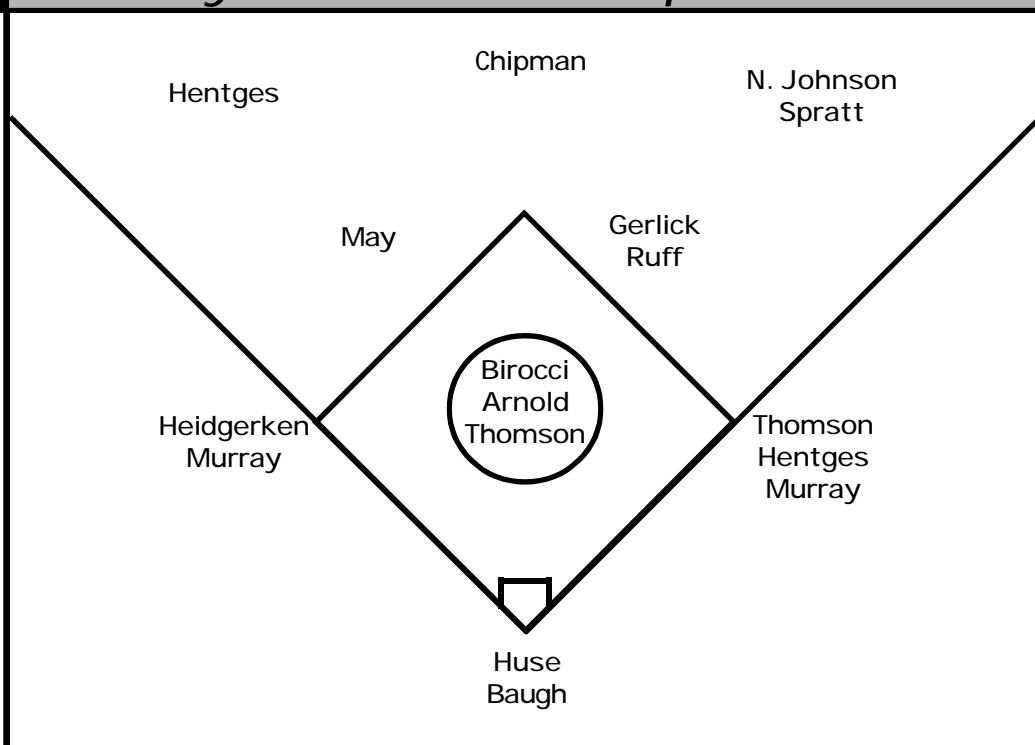
Sarah Thomson will take over duties at first base, while **Emily Gerlick** will be Iowa's primary second baseman. **Stacy May** will move from third base to shortstop, while freshman **Mindy Heidgerken** or **Kylie Murray** will take May's old spot at third.

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

With the graduation of four-time all-Big Ten selection Jessica Bashor, **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.

Arms Race

While the Hawkeyes may have said goodbye to some of their most productive hitters from last season, Iowa returns its entire pitching staff from a year ago.

All-American **Lisa Birocci** returns for her junior year after posting a 29-9 record with a 1.29 ERA and 267 strikeouts last season as a sophomore.

Ali Arnold returns after a successful freshman year in which she went 14-6 with a 1.47 ERA.

Senior **Sarah Thomson** will once again anchor the bullpen and provide spot starts for the Hawkeyes.

Record Breaker

Fireballer **Lisa Birocci** etched her name in the Iowa record books in just her second

year in the Black and Gold. The Des Moines native struck out 267 batters, shattering the Iowa single-season record.

Her record-setting punchout came in Iowa's 3-0 win over Hofstra in the NCAA Regional Tournament held in Lincoln, NE.

The previous best was Karen Jackson's 252 in 1993.

May Day

Freshman **Stacy May** burst on the scene last year in a major way. The Reno, NV, native led the Big Ten with a .450 batting average in conference play, picking up first team all-Big Ten and Big Ten Freshman of the Year honors.

This season, May will make the move from third base to shortstop, where she will replace two-time all-American Kristin Johnson.

Welcome Aboard

The Hawkeyes welcomed a talented class of three freshmen and one junior college transfer to the team this fall.

Sami Baugh, **Mindy Heidgerken** and **Jenna Spratt** make up this year's freshman class, while **Abbie Ruff** will have two years of eligibility after transferring from Waubesa Community College.

Each player is a native of the state of Iowa. Baugh from Johnston, Heidgerken from Long Grove, Spratt from Oxford and Ruff from Garwin.

Iowa's Record When...

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

IOWA'S TEAM SINGLE GAME INFO...

LONGEST WINNING STREAK	3
LONGEST LOSING STREAK	1
LARGEST MARGIN OF VICTORY	ARIZONA STATE (9)
LARGEST MARGIN OF DEFEAT	3 (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	ILLINOIS STATE (3)
MOST TRIPLES	(0)
MOST HOME RUNS	ILLINOIS STATE (2)
MOST STOLEN BASES	WISCONSIN (2)
MOST STRIKEOUTS	ARIZONA STATE (9)
MOST ERRORS COMMITTED	WISCONSIN (4)
MOST RUNS ALLOWED	WISCONSIN (6)
MOST HITS ALLOWED	WISCONSIN, ARIZONA ST. (6)
MOST WALKS ALLOWED	WISCONSIN, ILLINOIS ST. (4)

IOWA'S INDIVIDUAL TEAM BATTING LEADERS

BATTING AVE.	ARNOLD (.556)
GMS.	TEN TIED (5)
GMS. STARTED	EIGHT TIED (5)
AT BATS	CHIPMAN, MURRAY (18)
RUNS	CHIPMAN (5)
HITS	MURRAY, THOMSON (8)
DOUBLES	FIVE TIED (1)
TRIPLES	(0)
HOME RUNS	ARNOLD (2)

RBI	ARNOLD (6)
TOTAL BASES	ARNOLD (12)
SLUGGING PCT.	ARNOLD (1.333)
WALKS	BIROCCI (4)
HIT BY PITCH	MAY (1)
STRIKEOUTS	CHIPMAN (6)
ON-BASE PERCENTAGE	ARNOLD, BIROCCI (.600)
OPS	ARNOLD (1.933)
SACRIFICE FLIES	(0)
SACRIFICE HITS	FOUR TIED (1)
STOLEN BASES	GERLICK, CHIPMAN, HEIDGERKEN (2)
STOLEN BASE ATTEMPTS	K. JOHNSON (2)

IOWA'S INDIVIDUAL PITCHING LEADERS

ERA	ARNOLD (1.06)
WINS	ARNOLD (2)
LOSSES	BIROCCI (2)
WINNING PCT.	ARNOLD (1.000)
APPEARANCES	ARNOLD (4)
GAMES STARTED	BIROCCI (3)
COMPLETE GAMES	ARNOLD (2)
SHUTOUTS	ARNOLD (1)
SAVES	ARNOLD (1)
INNINGS PITCHED	ARNOLD (17)
STRIKEOUTS	ARNOLD (17)
OPPONENT BATTING AVERAGE	BIROCCI (.116)
WHIP	BIROCCI (0.91)

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 674-302-3 (.685).

Her career record in 23 years of coaching is 974-450-5 (.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	974-450-5	.684
IOWA	674-302-3	.685

BIG TEN TOTALS

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