



# HAWKEYE HOME PLATE

## Iowa Softball News and Notes

Big Ten Tournament  
May 12-14, 2005  
Alumni Field, Ann Arbor, MI

### 2005 Iowa Schedule

#### 46-11 Overall, 12-6 Big Ten

2/12-13	at Stetson Invitational	
2/12	Virginia Tech	W, 8-0 (6)
2/12	Stetson	L, 2-6
2/13	Virginia Tech	W, 3-2
2/13	Stetson	W, 3-0
2/18-20	at Littlewood Classic	
2/18	Long Island	W, 6-0
2/18	Arizona State	W, 2-0
2/26-27	at Courtyard by Marriott Tourney	
2/26	Minnesota	W, 3-0
2/26	Louisville	W, 5-3
2/27	#24 Missouri	L, 3-1 (8)
2/27	Ball State W,	8-0 (6)
3/4-6	at Buzz Classic	
3/4	Georgia Southern	W, 6-0
3/4	Georgia Southern	W, 6-0
3/5	Auburn	L, 2-1
3/5	Middle Tennessee State	W, 3-1
3/5	Gardner-Webb	W, 9-1 (5)
3/6	Virginia Tech	W, 3-1
3/6	Auburn	W, 16-1 (5)
3/6	Ohio State	W, 5-0
3/11-13	at NIST, San Jose, CA	
3/11	Connecticut	W, 5-0
3/11	UC Davis	W, 2-1 (8)
3/12	San Jose State	W, 5-4
3/12	#2 California	L, 2-7
3/13	Colorado State	W, 5-1
3/16	at Pacific Mini Tournament	
3/16	vs. Rhode Island	W, 6-0
3/16	vs. Pacific	W, 4-2
3/17	vs. Utah (at Pacific)	W, 13-7
3/18-20	at Capital Classic Tournament	
3/18	vs. #17 Oregon State	L, 2-6
3/18	vs. Long Island	W, 8-0
3/26-27	Hawkeye Classic	
3/26	vs. Ball State	W, 4-0
3/26	vs. South Dakota State	W, 9-0 (5)
3/27	vs. Ball State	W, 10-0 (6)
3/27	vs. North Dakota State	W, 2-0
4/1	at #1 Michigan*	W, 5-2
4/2	at #1 Michigan*	L, 1-3
4/3	at #23 Northwestern*	L, 11-1 (5)
4/3	at #23 Northwestern*	L, 0-2
4/6	at Northern Illinois	W, 8-2
4/8	Purdue*	W, 3-2
4/9	Purdue*	L, 1-2
4/10	Indiana*	W, 5-0
4/10	Indiana*	W, 3-0
4/13	William Penn	W, 6-0
4/15	at Ohio State*	W, 4-1
4/16	at Ohio State*	W, 6-2
4/17	at Penn State*	W, 3-1
4/17	at Penn State*	W, 5-1
4/19	Iowa State	W, 4-0
4/22	at Michigan State*	Cancelled
4/23	at Michigan State*	Cancelled
4/24	South Dakota State	W, 8-0 (5)
4/24	South Dakota State	W, 14-1 (5)
4/26	Western Illinois	W, 8-0 (5)
4/29	Wisconsin*	L, 3-6
4/30	Wisconsin*	W, 5-1
5/1	Minnesota	W, 2-0
5/1	Minnesota	W, 6-3
5/5	Drake	W, 1-0
5/7	Illinois*	W, 4-3
5/8	Illinois*	L, 7-8
5/12-14	Big Ten Tournament	
5/19-22	NCAA Regionals	
5/27/29	NCAA Super Regional	
6/2-6	Women's College World Series	

### Probable Iowa Lineup

No.	Name	Pos.	B-T	Yr.	GP	Avg.	Runs	Hits	RBI	HR	2B	SLG%	SB
14	Brandi Sargent	1B	L/L	Jr.	44	.274	12	26	10	3	5	.421	2
24	Steph Ackerson	1B	R/R	Fr.	36	.232	8	13	5	0	2	.268	2
2	Summer Downs	2B	R-R	Fr.	51	.287	29	45	24	5	7	.439	3
10	Stacy May	SS	R-R	Jr.	57	.352	42	63	30	9	15	.98	2
12	Abby Ruff	3B	R-R	Sr.	52	.214	16	15	10	1	6	.343	5
17	Kylie Murray	RF	R-R	Jr.	56	.359	17	52	39	5	8	.517	1
or 5	Jenna Spratt	RF	L-R	So.	52	.243	15	17	8	0	0	.243	5
11	Mindy Heidgerken	CF	R-R	So.	57	.291	30	39	18	2	10	.455	21
9	Natalie Johnson	LF	L-L	Jr.	56	.260	21	32	16	4	6	.407	4
13	Sami Baugh	C	R-R	So.	55	.291	22	41	21	6	11	.496	2
or 1	Emily Nichols	C	R/R	Fr.	57	.315	35	47	47	16	9	.711	1

### Probable Pitching Rotation

No.	Name	Throws	Yr.	Record	GS	SV	CG	SH	ERA	SO	BB	IP
4	Lisa Birocci	RHP	Sr.	26-7	30	7	25	12	1.14	238	40	226.2
3	Ali Arnold	RHP	Jr.	20-4	26	1	13	9	1.53	196	42	142.0
24	Steph Ackerson	RHP	Fr.	0-0	1	1	0	0	3.82	6	2	7.1

### THE SETTING

The University of Iowa softball team (46-11, 12-6) travels to Ann Arbor, MI, to compete in the 2005 Big Ten Softball Tournament. Iowa is the No. 3 seed and will face No. 6 seed Penn State in opening round play Friday at 12 p.m. (ET). Below is a schedule of the Big Ten Tournament.

#### Thursday, May 12

Game 1 - #2 Northwestern vs. #7 Purdue, 5 p.m.  
Game 2 - #1 Michigan vs. #8 Michigan State, 7:30 p.m.

#### Friday, May 13

Game 3 - #3 IOWA vs. #6 Penn State, 12 p.m.  
Game 4 - #4 Ohio State vs. #5 Wisconsin, 2:30 p.m.  
Game 5 - Winner of Game 1 vs. Winner of Game 3, 5 p.m.  
Game 6 - Winner of Game 4 vs. Winner of Game 2, 7:30 p.m.

#### Saturday, May 14

Championship Game - 12 p.m. (Live on CSTV)

### ON THE AIR AND WEB

AM 800 KXIC will broadcast Iowa's first round game against Penn State live at 11 a.m. (CT). Should Iowa advance to the championship game, KXIC will also do a live broadcast at 11 a.m. (CT).

Fans can follow live stats (gametracker) for all Hawkeye games at [www.hawkeyesports.com](http://www.hawkeyesports.com). Live stats for each Big Ten Tournament game can be found at [www.mgoble.com](http://www.mgoble.com).

## 2005 Big Ten Standings

	CONF.	OVERALL
1. MICHIGAN	15-2	52-4
2. NORTHWESTERN	15-3	37-14
3. IOWA	12-6	46-11
4. OHIO ST.	9-7	32-16
5. WISCONSIN	11-9	30-21
6. PENN ST.	10-9	34-20
7. PURDUE	10-10	34-22-1
8. MICHIGAN ST.	7-9	25-27-1
9. MINNESOTA	6-14	25-27
10. ILLINOIS	4-14	24-26
11. INDIANA	2-18	13-41

### 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](http://www.hawkeyesports.com)

### Softball Phone Numbers

AREA CODE IS 319	
SOFTBALL OFFICE .....	335-9257
TICKET OFFICE.....	335-9327
SPORTS MARKETING.....	335-9431
PRESS BOX.....	335-9296

### Iowa Sports Information

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# Hawkeye Softball Notes

## HAWKEYES IN THE RANKINGS

Iowa is ranked 18th in the ESPN.com/USA Softball Collegiate Softball poll and 21st in the *USA Today*/National Fastpitch Coaches Association poll. Other Big Ten team in the rankings include Michigan (1st/1st) and Northwestern (15th/15th).

## HAWKEYES IN THE BIG TEN TOURNEY

The Iowa Hawkeyes have a 17-17 all-time record in the Big Ten Tournament.

The Hawkeyes have won two Big Ten Tournament titles, claiming the 2000 and 2003 titles. The 2003 tournament was held in Iowa City.

## REACHING 40 WINS

The Hawkeyes have eclipsed the 40-win mark for the 11th time in the program's history, all of which have come under head coach **Gayle Blevins**.

Iowa has qualified for the NCAA tournament eight of the previous 10 seasons they have won over 40 games.

## THAT'S WHY SHE BATS LEADOFF

Junior **Stacy May** has reached base safely in the first inning 11 of her last 102 at bats, including the last nine.

Since moving to the leadoff spot April 10th against Indiana, May is batting .588 (10-17) in her first at bat of the game.

## GETTING HOT AT THE RIGHT TIME

In her last seven games, junior **Kylie Murray** is batting .522 (12-23) with one double, one home run and 10 RBI. She has also scored three runs and has a slugging percentage of .696 and an on base percentage of .542.

## DUCKS ON THE POND

When runners are on base, the Hawkeyes would like to have junior **Kylie Murray** digging in the batters box. She is batting .443 (35-79) with runners on base.

In addition, Murray is batting .462 (24-52) with runners in scoring position and .778 (14-18) with a runner on third and less than two outs.

## HEIDGERKEN IN CONFERENCE PLAY

Sophomore **Mindy Heidgerken** led the team with a .421 batting average in conference play. She also led the team in slugging percentage (.684), on base percentage (.421) and stolen bases (7).

## BIROCCI ONE OF THE BEST

Senior **Lisa Birocci** led the Big Ten in total wins (26), saves (7) innings pitched (226.2) and batters struck out looking (84). She ranked third in total strikeouts with 238 on the season.

## MOVIN' ON UP

Junior pitcher **Ali Arnold** is currently sixth on the all-time career strikeout list. She has 456 K's in her career and has passed Diane Roorda, who recorded 389 strikeouts in her four-year career. Next on the list is current pitching coach **Debbie Bilbao**, who sits in fifth place with 476 K's.

## BIROCCI BECOMES STRIKEOUT LEADER

With seven strikeouts against Northern Illinois, **Lisa Birocci** became Iowa's all-time career strikeout leader. Birocci struck out seven of the 10 batters she faced in three innings of relief work to pass former Hawkeye all-American Kristi Hanks. Birocci's career total stands at 896.

## NICHOLS SETS SCHOOL RECORD

Freshman **Emily Nichols** entered the record books against Ball State on March 26, blasting her 11th home run which broke the single-season record. She leads the team in seven different offensive categories and has a season total of 16 homers.

## YOU CAN PUT IT ON THE BOARD

Freshman **Emily Nichols** blasted two home runs against Northern Illinois, increasing the team total to 42 homers on the season, which shattered the school record for team home runs in a season. The previous school record was 41 home runs, set by the 2003 squad. The Hawkeyes currently have 57 home runs this season.

- 1 EMILY NICHOLS**  
**2 SUMMER DOWNS**  
**3 ALI ARNOLD**  
**4 LISA BIROCCI**  
**5 JENNA SPRATT**  
**9 NATALIE JOHNSON**  
**10 STACY MAY**  
**11 MINDY HEIDGERKEN**  
**12 ABBY RUFF**  
**13 SAMI BAUGH**  
**14 BRANDI SARGENT**  
**17 KYLIE MURRAY**  
**22 EMILY GERLICK**  
**24 STEPHANIE ACKERSON**

## HEAD COACH

**GAYLE BLEVINS**

## ASSOCIATE HEAD COACH

**MICHELLE VENTURELLA**

## ASSISTANT COACH

**DEBBIE BILBAO**

## VOLUNTEER ASSISTANT

**KRISTIN JOHNSON**

## Big Ten Tournament Champs

1982- Northwestern  
 1995 - Michigan  
 1996 - Michigan  
 1997 - Michigan  
 1998 - Michigan  
 1999 - Michigan  
 2000 - Michigan  
**2001 - Iowa**  
 2002 - Michigan  
**2003 - Iowa**  
 2004 - Michigan State

**SCOUTING No. 1 MICHIGAN**

The Michigan Wolverines enter the Big Ten Tournament as the top-ranked team in the nation. The Wolverines boast a 52-4 record overall and a 15-2 Big Ten mark.

Tiffany Haas is the leading hitter at .393 with 16 doubles, eight home runs and 29 RBI. Both Jessica Merchant and Samantha Findlay have belted 17 home runs.

Both Lorilyn Wilson and Jennie Ritter have sub-one ERA's. Wilson is 21-2 with a 0.88 ERA while Ritter is 26-1 with a 0.93 ERA.

Iowa leads the all-time series, 50-42-1.

**SCOUTING No. 2 NORTHWESTERN**

The second-seeded Northwestern Wildcats are 37-14 overall and finished the Big Ten season at 15-3.

Cooper Garland leads the potent Wildcat offense. She is batting .466 with 15 doubles, two triples, 11 home runs and 45 RBI. Stephanie Churchwell is another heavy bat in the lineup, batting .404 with 12 doubles, eight home runs and 35 RBI.

Courtney Foster leads the team inside the circle with an 18-6 record. Foster has a 1.24 ERA and has a team-high 219 strikeouts. Eileen Canney is 18-7 with a 1.50 ERA and has 153 strikeouts.

Iowa trails the all-time series, 40-41.

**SCOUTING No. 4 OHIO STATE**

The Ohio State Buckeyes are the No. 4 seed with a 32-16 overall record and a 9-7 mark in the conference.

Ashley Cutliff leads the Buckeye offense, batting .409 with five home runs and 18 RBI.

Jamee Juarez is 25-11 in the circle and paces the team with a 1.96 ERA and 187 strikeouts.

Iowa leads the all-time series, 54-29.

**SCOUTING No. 5 WISCONSIN**

The Wisconsin Badgers are seeded fifth with a 30-21 overall record and an 11-9 record in the Big Ten.

Kris Zacher is batting .400 with five triples, nine home runs and 20 RBI for the Badgers. Anastasia Miller leads the team with 11 home runs and 36 RBI.

Eden Brock is 19-8 with a 2.55 ERA and leads the team with 125 strikeouts.

Iowa leads the all-time series, 20-4.

**SCOUTING No. 6 PENN STATE**

The Penn State Nittany Lions are the sixth seed in the Big Ten Tournament and have an overall record of 34-20 and a Big Ten mark of 10-9.

Ashley Esparaza paces the Nittany Lion offense. She is batting .406 with 14 doubles, four home runs and 26 RBI.

Missy Beseres is 15-11 with a 1.47 ERA inside the circle this season. She leads the team with 239 strikeouts. Esparaza is 12-5 with a 1.74 ERA.

Iowa leads the all-time series, 32-10.

**LAST MEETING**

The Hawkeyes swept a doubleheader in University Park, PA this season. Iowa won the first game, 3-1 and game two, 5-1.

In game one, Lisa Birocci blasted her fifth home run of the season to help Iowa earn the win. Birocci went 2-3 with three RBI while picking up the victory inside the circle.

Seven Hawkeyes collected a hit in game two. Nichols went 1-3 with two RBI. Ali Arnold threw a complete game and allowed one run on four hits and struck out 11 batters.

**SCOUTING No. 7 PURDUE**

The seventh-seeded Purdue Boilermakers are 34-22-1 overall and finished with a 10-10 record in the Big Ten. Andrea Hillsey paces the Boilermaker offense, batting .370 with 15 doubles and 31 RBI.

Diana LaRiva is 12-6 with a 2.16 ERA and leads the Boilermakers with 147 strikeouts. Brooke Baker is 15-14 with a 2.51 ERA.

Iowa leads the all-time series, 28-4.

**SCOUTING No. 8 MICHIGAN STATE**

The Michigan State Spartans enter the Big Ten Tournament as the eighth seed and are 25-27-1 overall and 7-9 in the Big Ten.

Victoria Morache is batting .322 with 10 doubles and 12 RBI. Traci Nicosia leads the team with 23 RBI.

Rachel Turney is 14-15 with a 1.88 ERA for the Spartans. She leads the team with 160 strikeouts.

Iowa leads the all-time series, 58-26.

## Iowa's Record When...

1-RUN GAMES	5-3
2-RUN GAMES	8-3
EXTRA INNINGS	2-1
AT PEARL FIELD	17-3
ON THE ROAD	10-4
AT NEUTRAL SITE	19-4
DAY GAMES	36-10
NIGHT GAMES	10-1
IOWA SCORES FIRST	41-4
OPPONENT SCORES FIRST	5-7
GIVING UP 2 RUNS OR LESS	40-3
GIVING UP 3+ RUNS	5-8
VS. RANKED OPPONENTS	1-6
BIROCCI STARTS	23-7
ARNOLD STARTS	23-4
IOWA HITS A HOMERUN	31-2
OPPONENT HITS A HOMERUN	9-8
IOWA OUTHITS OPPONENT	37-2
OPPONENT OUTHITS IOWA	4-9
EQUAL NUMBER OF HITS	5-0
WEARING WHITE UNIFORMS	17-2
WEARING BLACK UNIFORMS	14-4
WEARING GREY UNIFORMS	15-5
FLYING AIR TRAN	10-2
FLYING UNITED	12-2
BUSING TO GAME	6-4
IN EASTERN TIME ZONE	17-4
IN CENTRAL TIME ZONE	19-6
IN MOUNTAIN TIME ZONE	2-0
IN PACIFIC TIME ZONE	8-1
IN IOWA	17-3
IN ARIZONA	2-0
IN GEORGIA	7-1
IN KENTUCKY	3-1
IN FLORIDA	3-1
IN CALIFORNIA	8-2
IN PENNSYLVANIA	2-0
IN OHIO	2-0
IN ILLINOIS	1-2
IN MICHIGAN	1-1
ON MONDAY	0-0
ON TUESDAY	2-0
ON WEDNESDAY	4-0
ON THURSDAY	1-0
ON FRIDAY	10-3
ON SATURDAY	11-5
ON SUNDAY	18-3

## IOWA'S TEAM SINGLE GAME INFO...

LONGEST WINNING STREAK	11
LONGEST LOSING STREAK	3
LARGEST MARGIN OF VICTORY	15 (AUBURN)
LARGEST MARGIN OF DEFEAT	10 (NORTHWESTERN)
MOST AT-BATS	34 (UTAH)
MOST RUNS SCORED	16 (AUBURN)
MOST HITS	16 (UTAH)
MOST RBI	16 (AUBURN)
MOST DOUBLES	4 (GARNDNER-WEBB/UTAH)
MOST TRIPLES	1 (SEVEN TIMES)
MOST HOME RUNS	7 (AUBURN)
MOST STOLEN BASES	4 (LONG ISLAND)
MOST STRIKEOUTS	13 (UC DAVIS)
MOST ERRORS COMMITTED	5 (TWICE)
MOST RUNS ALLOWED	7 (CALIFORNIA & UTAH)
MOST HITS ALLOWED	11 (STETSON & CALIFORNIA)
MOST WALKS ALLOWED	5 (STETSON & NORTHWESTERN)

### Iowa's Individual Team Batting Leaders

BATTING AVG	.359 (MURRAY)
GMS.	57 (THREE TIED)
GMS. STARTED	57 (THREE TIED)
AT BATS	179 (MAY)
RUNS	42 (MAY)
HITS	63 (MAY)
DOUBLES	15 (MAY)
TRIPLES	3 (HEIDGERKEN)
HOME RUNS	16 (NICHOLS)

RBI	47 (NICHOLS)
TOTAL BASES	107 (NICHOLS)
SLUGGING PCT.	.711 (NICHOLS)
WALKS	27 (NICHOLS)
HIT BY PITCH	4 (ACKERSON & NICHOLS)
STRIKEOUTS	33 (HEIDGERKEN)
ON-BASE PERCENTAGE	.431 (MURRAY)
OPS	1.142 (NICHOLS)
SACRIFICE FLIES	2 (MAY & BAUGH)
SACRIFICE HITS	10 (DOWNS)
STOLEN BASES	21 (HEIDGERKEN)
STOLEN BASE ATTEMPTS	22 (HEIDGERKEN)

### Iowa's Individual Pitching Leaders

ERA	1.14 (BIROCCI)
WINS	26 (BIROCCI)
LOSSES	7 (BIROCCI)
WINNING PCT	.833 (ARNOLD)
APPEARANCES	44 (BIROCCI)
GAMES STARTED	30 (BIROCCI)
COMPLETE GAMES	25 (BIROCCI)
SHUTOUTS	12 (BIROCCI)
SAVES	7 (BIROCCI)
INNINGS PITCHED	226.2 (BIROCCI)
STRIKEOUTS	238 (BIROCCI)
OPPONENT BATTING AVERAGE	.180 (BIROCCI)
WHIP	0.84 (BIROCCI)

## Head Coach Gayle Blevins

*THE HEAD HAWKEYE...* Gayle Blevins is in her 18th 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 17 seasons at Iowa, Blevins has guided the Hawkeyes to 12 NCAA Tournament appearances and four Big Ten Championships. She is Iowa's all-time winningest coach with a record of 756-335-3 (.692).

Her career record in 25 years of coaching is 1,056-483-5 (.686). 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
				2004	IOWA	39-24	.619

### TOTALS

OVERALL	1,056-483-5	.686
IOWA	756-335-3	.692

### BIG TEN TOTALS

OVERALL	457-162-1	.740
IOWA	287-118-1	.711