



HAWKEYE HOME PLATE

Iowa Softball News and Notes

3/24 @ Illinois State (DH)
3/27-28 Hawkeye Classic

2004 Iowa Schedule

15-12 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 (1)W	2-1 (8)
Mar. 17	at Sacramento State (1)	W, 6-0
Mar. 19-21	at Capitol Classic	
Mar. 19	vs. Saint Mary's	W, 7-0
Mar. 19	vs. Utah State	L, 1-2
Mar. 20	vs. Long Beach State	L, 0-3
Mar. 20	vs. Long Island	L, 1-2
Mar. 21	vs. Nevada	L, 0-2
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	

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.	27	.275	10	22	14	2	3	.438	6
17	Kylie Murray	3B	R/R	So.	27	.319	4	29	11	1	6	.418	0
18	Stacy May	SS	R/R	So.	27	.274	10	23	6	1	2	.333	2
4	Lisa Birocci	P	R/R	Jr.	22	.321	3	18	2	1	3	.464	0
or 3	Ali Arnold	P	R/R	So.	19	.286	4	12	8	2	4	.524	0
16	Sarah Thomson	1B	R/R	Sr.	26	.288	3	15	2	0	2	.327	1
9	Natalie Johnson	RF	L/L	So.	25	.263	11	15	7	2	4	.439	2
14	Laura Chipman	CF	R/R	Sr.	27	.267	10	12	4	1	2	.378	5
6	Amanda Hentges	LF	R/R	Sr.	25	.263	6	15	6	0	5	.351	5
21	Sami Baugh	C	R/R	Fr.	22	.206	0	7	2	0	2	.265	0

Probable Pitching Rotation

No.	Name	Throws	Yr.	Record	G	SV	C	G	SH	ERA	SO	BB	IP
4	Lisa Birocci	RHP	Jr.	6-7	13	0	8	4	1.17	123	27	90	
3	Ali Arnold	RHP	So.	9-5	14	1	9	4	1.39	74	22	95	2/3
16	Sarah Thomson	RHP	Sr.	0-0	0	0	0	0	5.25	1	0	4	

Mama I'm Comin' Home

The University of Iowa softball team will finally get to play in the friendly confines of Pearl Field this weekend when they host the Hawkeye Classic. Wisconsin and Ball State will provide the competition. The Badgers and Cardinals will open things up on Saturday at 11 a.m. Wisconsin and Iowa will play at 1 p.m., followed by the Hawkeyes and Ball State.

Wisconsin and Ball State will play again Sunday at 11 a.m., with Iowa battling Ball State at 1 p.m. and the Badgers at 3 p.m.

Before the Hawkeye Classic, Iowa will squeeze in one more road game when they travel to Normal, IL, for a single game with Illinois State. First pitch is set for 4:30 p.m.

Looking Back at Sacramento

The Hawkeyes started fast but faded down the stretch in a seven-game run in Sacramento, CA. Iowa swept a doubleheader with Sacramento State last Wednesday by scores of 2-1 (8) and 6-0. The Hawkeyes then played in the Sacramento State Capitol Classic, where they defeated Saint Mary's (7-0), then lost to Utah State (2-1), Long Beach State (3-0), Long Island (2-1) and Nevada (2-0).

Game one in the Sacramento State doubleheader was a thriller, with **Elisha Huse** giving Iowa the win with an eighth-inning RBI single.

In game two, Iowa left no doubt by putting four runs on the board in the third and scoring another two in the sixth.

Iowa started the Capitol Classic on a high note, getting home runs from **Emily Gerlick** and **Natalie Johnson** in a 7-0 rout of Saint Mary's.

Things went downhill from there, however, as the Iowa bats went into hibernation. Utah State scored a pair of unearned runs in the top of the seventh to steal a 2-1 win.

On the second day things got worse when Long Beach State pitcher Meredith Cervenka threw a perfect game against Iowa. Game two was no better, as an RBI single in the top of the seventh propelled Long Island over Iowa, 2-1.

The dry spell continued on the final day against Nevada, who took a 2-0 win with a two-run, seventh-inning home run.

2004 Big Ten Records

	CONF.	OVERALL
1. MICHIGAN	0-0	21-6
2. NORTHWESTERN	0-0	14-5
3. OHIO STATE	0-0	15-7
4. PURDUE	0-0	18-9
5. ILLINOIS	0-0	16-8
6. MINNESOTA	0-0	19-10
MICHIGAN STATE	0-0	15-10
8. IOWA	0-0	15-12
WISCONSIN	0-0	15-12
10. INDIANA	0-0	14-13
11. PENN STATE	0-0	9-16

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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 986 career victories, the Head Hawk is just 14 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 1,104 wins, while JoAnn Graff of Florida State has won 1,034.

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

Going Back To Their Roots

After a few years off, this weekend will mark the return of the Hawkeye Classic. The tournament has always marked the beginning of the home season for Iowa, but the Hawkeyes have not held it the past two years.

The last time Iowa played in the Hawkeye Classic was in 2000, when Iowa went undefeated against Eastern Illinois, Creighton and UW-Green Bay in pool play, then defeated Creighton in the finals.

The Hawkeye Classic was scheduled in 2001, but it was called due to frigid temperatures.

They Call it the Streak

During their spring break swing out in California, the Hawkeyes had a season-long winning and losing streak.

Iowa won four-straight between the NIST, Sacramento State doubleheader and Capitol Classic, and have lost four-straight since losing the second game of the Capitol Classic against Utah State.

The Hawkeyes will look to break their season-long losing streak against Illinois State on Wednesday.

Scouting Wisconsin

The Wisconsin Badgers are currently 15-12 on the season, one of those wins coming at the expense of the Hawkeyes in Iowa's season opener (6-3).

The Badger offense is led by Kris Zacher, who is hitting .376 with two home runs and 18 RBIs. Boo Gillette is another formidable bat with a .346 average and a team best 19 RBIs.

The pitching staff is missing its longtime ace Andrea Kirchberg, who graduated last season, but has shored up with Katie Layne (8-5, 2.93 ERA) and Eden Brock (6-5, 1.57

ERA).

The Hawkeyes own a 16-2 all-time record against Wisconsin.

The Badgers are coached by Karen Gallagher, who is in her ninth year at the helm.

Scouting Ball State

The Ball State Cardinals are currently 4-15 on the season.

Kris Burdine is the Cardinal's leading hitter with a batting average of .328. She also has two triples and five RBIs. Darla Dewig leads the team in runs batted in with 12.

In the circle, Ball State uses a five-person staff led by Rachel Cleveland, who is 1-4 with a 3.27 ERA in 45 innings pitched.

The Cardinals are coached by Terri Laux, who is in her eighth season.

Don't I Know You?

The Hawkeyes will see a familiar face in the Ball State dugout this weekend in former player Karin Wick, who is an assistant coach with the Cardinals.

Wick was a two-time all-Big Ten selection as a Hawkeye, including first team laurels in 1990.

With the Whiff

Junior **Lisa Birocci** is currently second in the Big Ten with 123 strikeouts. The defending Big Ten Pitcher of the Year has an impressive 4.6 K/BB ratio and is averaging 9.57 strikeouts per seven innings.

She Hits Too

Not only is **Lisa Birocci** a great pitcher, but she can hit a bit too. The Des Moines native is currently leading the team with a .321 batting average.

Getting On

Junior **Sarah Thomson** has been enjoying her best season in the batter's box. The Rocklin, CA, native is third on the team with a .288 batting average and is second on the squad with a .362 on base average.

A Monster With the Sacks Packed

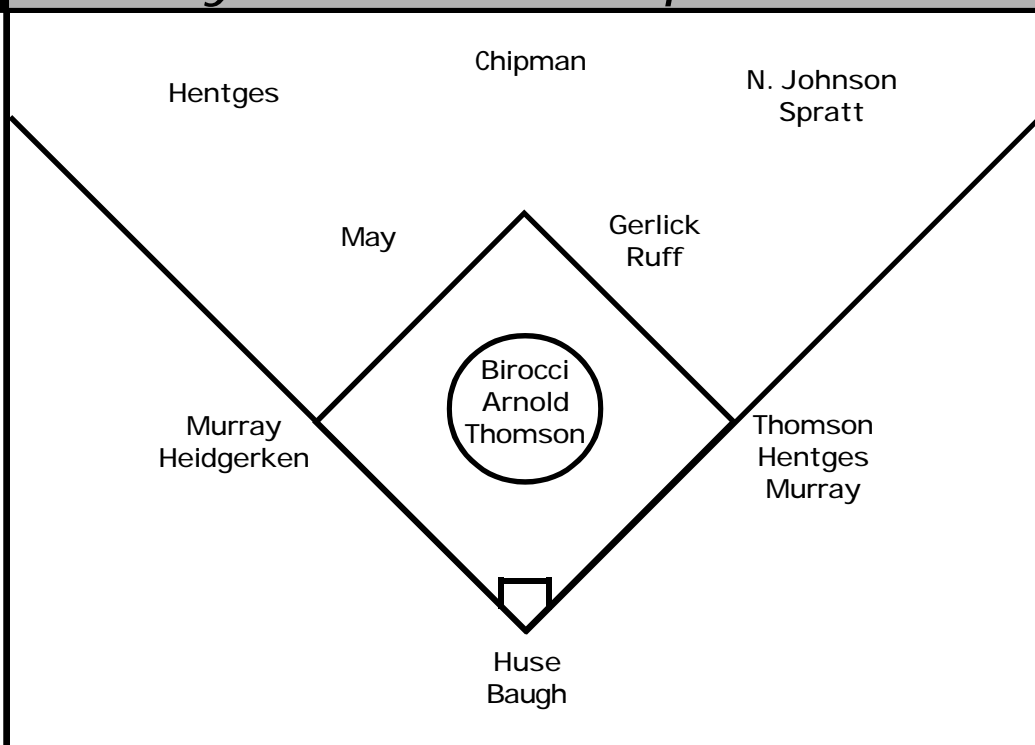
The last thing an opposing pitcher wants to see is Kylie Murray in the batter's box when the bases are loaded. So far this season, Murray is 2-for-3 with the sacks packed. Last

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

year as a freshman, Murray was 4-for-5 with two grand slams when the bases were loaded.

Double A in the Circle

Hawkeye sophomore **Ali Arnold** has become a strong force in the circle for Iowa this season.

The Bloomington, IL, native leads the team with a 9-5 record and has a 1.39 ERA.

Arnold also has 74 strikeouts in 95 2/3 innings pitched. Last year as a freshman, she totaled only 93 punchouts all season.

Freshman With Fast Feet

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

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

Run Support

While All-American pitcher **Lisa Birocci** starts in the circle, the Hawkeyes are averaging 2.23 runs. In Birocci's seven losses, the Hawkeyes have scored just seven runs.

When sophomore **Ali Arnold** starts, Iowa has scored 49 runs (3.76 per game). In her five losses, Iowa has scored only five runs.

Contact Hitter

Sophomore **Stacy May** is going to make you work to get her out. In 84 at bats, the Reno, NV, native has only struck out twice.

Keep the Rally Going

Sophomore **Emily Gerlick** is hitting .275, but her average jumps to an amazing .500 (8 of 16) with two outs.

Gerlick is also hitting .462 with runners in scoring position.

Loving Sacramento

Senior **Amanda Hentges** must love the weather in California, as she hit .333 for the trip.

Hentges did especially well in Sacramento, where she hit .364 with four doubles and four RBIs between the Sacramento State doubleheader and the Capitol Classic.

Shutout Central

In a way, it has been an all-or-nothing year for Iowa this season. Fifteen of the 27 games Iowa has played in have been shutouts on one side or another. The Hawkeyes have a 9-6 record in shutouts this season.

Iowa's Record When...

1-RUN GAMES	2-5
2-RUN GAMES	1-2
5+ RUN GAMES	2-2
EXTRA INNINGS	3-1
AT PEARL FIELD	0-0
SHUTOUTS	9-6
DAY GAMES	15-12
NIGHT GAMES	0-0
IOWA SCORES FIRST	13-3
OPPONENT SCORES FIRST	2-9
IOWA SCORES LAST	15-1
OPPONENT SCORES LAST	0-11
GIVING UP 3 RUNS OR LESS	15-8
GIVING UP 4+ RUNS	0-4
Vs. RANKED OPPONENTS	2-3
BIROCCI STARTS	6-7
ARNOLD STARTS	9-5
THOMSON STARTS	0-0
IOWA HITS A HOMERUN	6-2
OPPONENT HITS A HOMERUN	0-5
IOWA OUTHITS OPPONENT	14-7
OPPONENT OUTHITS IOWA	0-5
EQUAL NUMBER OF HITS	1-0
NO IOWA ERRORS	7-3
IOWA COMMITS AN ERROR	8-9
WEARING GOLD UNIFORMS	0-0
WEARING WHITE UNIFORMS	3-4
WEARING BLACK UNIFORMS	3-2
WEARING GREY UNIFORMS	6-2
FLYING TO GAME	12-11
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	6-6
IN IOWA	0-0
IN ARIZONA	3-2
IN GEORGIA	0-0
IN KENTUCKY	3-1
IN FLORIDA	3-3
IN CALIFORNIA	6-6
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	2-0
ON THURSDAY	1-1
ON FRIDAY	4-3
ON SATURDAY	6-4
ON SUNDAY	2-4
FLYING SAME DAY	0-3

IOWA'S TEAM SINGLE GAME INFO...

LONGEST WINNING STREAK	4
LONGEST LOSING STREAK	4
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	THREE TIMES (1)
MOST HOME RUNS	ILLINOIS STATE, SAINT MARY'S (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.	BIROCCI (.321)
GMS.	FOUR TIED (27)
GMS. STARTED	FOUR TIED (27)
AT BATS	MURRAY (91)
RUNS	JOHNSON (11)
HITS	MURRAY (29)
DOUBLES	MURRAY (6)
TRIPLES	GERLICK (2)
HOME RUNS	ARNOLD, GERLICK, JOHNSON (2)

RBI	GERLICK (14)
TOTAL BASES	MURRAY (38)
SLUGGING PCT.	ARNOLD (.524)
WALKS	THOMSON (6)
HIT BY PITCH	MAY (2)
STRIKEOUTS	JOHNSON (18)
ON-BASE PERCENTAGE	BIROCCI (.377)
OPS	ARNOLD (.842)
SACRIFICE FLIES	JOHNSON, HEIDGERKEN, HENTGES (1)
SACRIFICE HITS	GERLICK, BAUGH (4)
STOLEN BASES	HEIDGERKEN (8)
STOLEN BASE ATTEMPTS	HEIDGERKEN (10)

IOWA'S INDIVIDUAL PITCHING LEADERS

ERA	BIROCCI (1.17)
WINS	ARNOLD (9)
LOSSES	BIROCCI (7)
WINNING PCT.	ARNOLD (.643)
APPEARANCES	ARNOLD, BIROCCI (18)
GAMES STARTED	ARNOLD (14)
COMPLETE GAMES	ARNOLD (9)
SHUTOUTS	ARNOLD, BIROCCI (4)
SAVES	ARNOLD (1)
INNINGS PITCHED	ARNOLD (95 2/3)
STRIKEOUTS	BIROCCI (123)
OPPONENT BATTING AVERAGE	BIROCCI (.138)
WHIP	BIROCCI (0.77)

Head Coach Gayle Blevins

THE HEAD HAWKEYE... 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 686-312-3 (.685).

Her career record in 23 years of coaching is 986-460-5 (.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	986-460-5	.684
IOWA	686-312-3	.685

BIG TEN TOTALS

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