



HAWKEYE HOME PLATE

Iowa Softball News and Notes

4/29-30 vs. Wisconsin
5/1 vs. Minnesota (DH)

2005 IOWA SCHEDULE

41-9 Overall, 8-4 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
3/23	Illinois State (DH)	PPD
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*	6 p.m.
4/30	Wisconsin*	Noon
5/1	Minnesota (DH)*	Noon
5/5	Drake	6 p.m.
5/7	Illinois*	Noon
5/8	Illinois*	Noon
5/12-14	Big Ten Tournament	TBA
5/19-22	NCAA Regionals	TBA
5/27/29	NCAA Super Regional	TBA
6/2-6	Women's College World Series	TBA

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.	38	.300	10	24	9	3	5	.475	2
24	Steph Ackerson	1B	R/R	Fr.	34	.222	8	12	5	12	2	.259	2
2	Summer Downs	2B	R-R	Fr.	44	.271	27	38	23	5	7	.443	3
10	Stacy May	SS	R-R	Jr.	50	.331	34	52	30	9	13	.599	2
12	Abby Ruff	3B	R-R	Sr.	45	.221	15	15	10	1	6	.353	5
17	Kylie Murray	RF	R-R	Jr.	49	.328	14	40	29	4	7	.484	1
or 5	Jenna Spratt	RF	L-R	So.	45	.258	15	16	7	0	0	.258	5
11	Mindy Heidgerken	CF	R-R	So.	50	.287	29	33	14	2	7	.452	18
9	Natalie Johnson	LF	L-L	Jr.	49	.265	19	30	14	3	5	.389	4
13	Sami Baugh	C	R-R	So.	48	.298	20	37	20	5	9	.492	2
or 1	Emily Nichols	C	R/R	Fr.	50	.349	33	45	44	16	8	.798	1

Probable Pitching Rotation

No.	Name	Throws	Yr.	Record	GS	SV	CG	SH	ERA	SO	BB	IP
4	Lisa Birocci	RHP	Sr.	23-7	27	6	24	11	1.10	206	31	197.1
3	Ali Arnold	RHP	Jr.	17-2	22	0	12	9	1.42	169	35	123.1
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 (41-9, 8-4) hosts the Wisconsin Badgers (22-20, 6-8) and the Minnesota Golden Gophers (25-21, 6-8) this weekend at Pearl Field.

Iowa will face off against Wisconsin at 6 p.m. Friday and 12 p.m. Saturday. The Hawkeyes and Golden Gophers will play a doubleheader starting at 12 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$3 for adults, \$2 for students and free for UI students and children five or younger.

HAWKEYES DISMANTLE WESTERN ILLINOIS

The Hawkeyes used three home runs and a brilliant pitching performance from junior **Ali Arnold** to defeat Western Illinois, 8-0 in five innings Tuesday.

The Hawkeye bats started off hot, collecting three runs in both the first and second innings. **Stacy May** led off the first inning with a walk and Downs followed with a single to center. **Kylie Murray** then belted her fourth home run of the season to give Iowa an early, 3-0 lead.

Mindy Heidgerken led off the second inning with a single to left and stole second base. **Jenna Spratt** advanced Heidgerken to third with a sacrifice bunt, followed by an RBI single off the bat of May. **Summer Downs** followed with a towering two-run home run to center field and the Hawkeyes led, 6-0.

Baugh kept the offense rolling in the third, leading the inning off with a solo home run to straight away center field. **Brandi Sargent** singled and Heidgerken followed with an RBI single.

Arnold (17-2) threw a gem for the Hawkeyes, allowing no runs on two hits and struck out 13 of the 18 batters she faced.

2005 BIG TEN STANDINGS

	CONF.	OVERALL
1. NORTHWESTERN	14-0	34-11
2. MICHIGAN	11-2	46-4
3. IOWA	8-4	41-9
T4. PURDUE	7-7	31-19
MICHIGAN ST.	6-6	20-24
6. PENN ST.	6-7	30-18
T7. MINNESOTA	6-8	25-21
WISCONSIN	6-8	22-20
9. OHIO ST.	4-6	24-14
10. INDIANA	2-12	13-35
11. ILLINOIS	1-11	20-23

THIS WEEK'S BIG TEN ACTION

April 29

Michigan State at Northwestern	3 p.m.
Wisconsin at Iowa	6 p.m.
Minnesota at Illinois	6 p.m.
Indiana at Ohio State	6 p.m.
Purdue at Penn State	6 p.m.

April 30

Wisconsin at Iowa	12 p.m.
Michigan State at Northwestern	12 p.m.
Minnesota at Illinois	12 p.m.
Indiana at Ohio State	12 p.m.
Purdue at Penn State	12 p.m.
Indiana at Ohio State	1 p.m.

May 1

Minnesota at Iowa (DH)	12 p.m.
Wisconsin at Illinois (DH)	12 p.m.
Indiana at Penn State (DH)	12 p.m.
Purdue at Ohio State (DH)	12 p.m.
Michigan State at Michigan (DH)	1 p.m.

all times listed are local

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Hawkeye Softball Notes

SCOUTING WISCONSIN

The Wisconsin Badgers are 22-20 overall and 6-8 in the Big Ten Conference.

Kris Zacher leads the Badger offense. She is batting .404 with three doubles, four triples, five home runs and 11 RBI. Boo Gillette leads the team with 30 RBI.

Eden Brock is 14-8 with a 2.43 ERA inside the circle this season. She leads the team with 95 strikeouts.

Iowa leads the all-time series, 19-3.

LAST MEETING

The Hawkeyes swept Wisconsin in a doubleheader last season. Iowa won the first game, 1-0 and took game two, 5-0.

Lisa Birocci broke the single season strikeout record in game one, recording nine strikeouts to increase her season total to 267. Iowa capitalized on three Wisconsin errors to take game one.

Stacy May, Kylie Murray and Ali Arnold all recorded an RBI in the first to take an early lead. Arnold picked up the win, throwing seven shutout innings and striking out four.

SCOUTING MINNESOTA

The Minnesota Golden Gophers are 25-21 overall and 6-8 in the Big Ten Conference.

Megan Higginbotham leads the Golden Gopher offense. She is batting .389 with nine doubles, five home runs and 24 RBI.

Lyn Peyer is 16-12 with a 2.34 ERA inside the circle this season. She has 143 strikeouts in 182.2 innings pitched.

Iowa leads the all-time series, 43-36.

LAST MEETING

Iowa defeated Minnesota, 6-2 in Minneapolis last season.

A day after getting no-hit by the Golden Gopher pitching staff, the Hawkeyes pounded out eight hits, including doubles from **Natalie Johnson** and **Laura Chipman**. Johnson was 3-4 with an RBI and two runs scored.

HAWKEYES IN THE RANKINGS

Iowa is ranked 19th 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).

STAYING IN IC

Iowa wraps up the season with a 10-game home stand. The Hawkeyes are 12-1 at Pearl Field this season.

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.

Iowa won over 40 games in both the 1990 and 1999 seasons, but were not selected for the NCAA tournament.

WE'RE GOIN' STREAKING

The Hawkeyes have won 11-straight games which is their longest winning streak this season. Iowa rode an eight-game winning streak before a 7-2 defeat by No. 2 California earlier this season.

MOVIN' ON UP

Junior pitcher **Ali Arnold** is currently sixth on the all-time career strikeout list. She has 429 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.

DUCKS ON THE POND

Senior **Lisa Birocci** is batting .417 (10-24) with runners in scoring position, while junior **Stacy May** is batting .405 (17-42). May is second on the team with 30 RBI.

**Iowa Hawkeye
Softball**

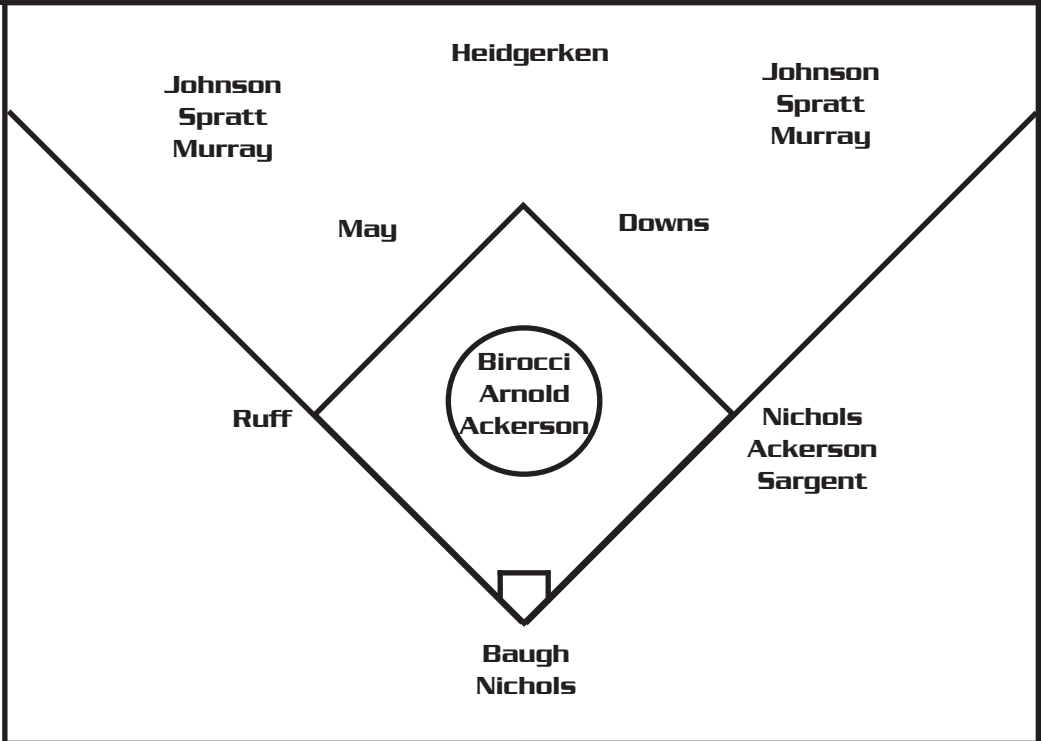
- 1** **EMILY NICHOLS**
- 2** **SUMMER DOWNS**
- 3** **ALI ARNOLD**
- 4** **LISA BIROCCI**
- 5** **JENNA SPRATT**
- 9** **NATALIE JOHNSON**
- 10** **STACY MAY**
- 11** **MINDY HEIDGERKEN**
- 12** **ABBY RUFF**
- 13** **SAMI BAUGH**
- 14** **BRANDI SARGENT**
- 17** **KYLIE MURRAY**
- 22** **EMILY GERLICK**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

HEAD COACH
GAYLE BLEVINS

ASSOCIATE HEAD COACH
MICHELLE VENTURELLA

ASSISTANT COACH
DEBBIE BILBAO

VOLUNTEER ASSISTANT
KRISTIN JOHNSON



HOT WITH RUNNERS ON

When runners are on base, the Hawk-eyes would like to have junior **Kylie Murray** digging in the batters box. She is hitting .429 (27-63) with runners on base.

In addition, she is batting .733 (11-15) with runners on second and third and less than two outs.

HEIDGERKEN COMING ON STRONG

Sophomore **Mindy Heidgerken** is batting .476 (10-21) in conference play. She has two doubles and scored seven runs while recording a slugging percentage of .810 in 12 conference games.

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 839.

YOU CAN BUT 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 Hawk-eyes currently have 51 home runs this season.

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.

GERLICK UNDERGOES SURGERY

Junior outfielder **Emily Gerlick** underwent successful surgery to repair a torn ACL on March 15. Gerlick suffered the ACL tear during Iowa's opening weekend at the Stetson Invitational on February 13. She will be out for the season.



IOWA'S RECORD WHEN...

1-RUN GAMES	4-2
2-RUN GAMES	7-3
EXTRA INNINGS.....	2-1
AT PEARL FIELD	11-1
ON THE ROAD	11-3
AT NEUTRAL SITE	19-5
DAY GAMES.....	32-9
NIGHT GAMES.....	9-0
IOWA SCORES FIRST.....	36-3
OPPONENT SCORES FIRST	5-6
GIVING UP 2 RUNS OR LESS.....	38-3
GIVING UP 3+ RUNS	3-6
VS. RANKED OPPONENTS	1-6
BIROCCI STARTS.....	22-6
ARNOLD STARTS.....	19-3
IOWA HITS A HOMERUN	28-1
OPPONENT HITS A HOMERUN	8-6
IOWA OUTHITS OPPONENT.....	33-1
OPPONENT OUTHITS IOWA.....	4-8
EQUAL NUMBER OF HITS.....	4-0
NO IOWA ERRORS	21-3
IOWA COMMITS AN ERROR	12-3
WEARING WHITE UNIFORMS	13-2
WEARING BLACK UNIFORMS	12-4
WEARING GREY UNIFORMS.....	16-3
FLYING AIR TRAN	10-2
FLYING UNITED	12-2
BUSING TO GAME.....	6-4
IN EASTERN TIME ZONE	18-4
IN CENTRAL TIME ZONE.....	13-3
IN MOUNTAIN TIME ZONE.....	2-0
IN PACIFIC TIME ZONE	8-2
IN IOWA	12-1
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.....	10-1
ON SATURDAY	9-5
ON SUNDAY	15-3

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 AVG349 (NICHOLS)
GMS.	50 (THREE TIED)
GMS. STARTED.....	50 (THREE TIED)
AT BATS.....	155 (MAY)
RUNS	34 (NICHOLS)
HITS	51 (MAY)
DOUBLES	13 (MAY)
TRIPLES	3 (HEIDGERKEN)
HOME RUNS	16 (NICHOLS)

RBI.....	44 (NICHOLS)
TOTAL BASES	103 (NICHOLS)
SLUGGING PCT.798 (NICHOLS)
WALKS	24 (NICHOLS)
HIT BY PITCH.....	4 (ACKERSON)
STRIKEOUTS.....	29 (HEIDGERKEN)
ON-BASE PERCENTAGE.....	.455 (NICHOLS)
OPS	1.253 (NICHOLS)
SACRIFICE FLIES	2 (MAY & BAUGH)
SACRIFICE HITS.....	7 (THREE TIED)
STOLEN BASES	18 (HEIDGERKEN)
STOLEN BASE ATTEMPTS	19 (HEIDGERKEN)

IOWA'S INDIVIDUAL PITCHING LEADERS

ERA.....	1.10 (BIROCCI)
WINS.....	23 (BIROCCI)
LOSSES	7 (BIROCCI)
WINNING PCT767 (BIROCCI)
APPEARANCES.....	38 (BIROCCI)
GAMES STARTED	27 (BIROCCI)
COMPLETE GAMES	24 (BIROCCI)
SHUTOUTS	11 (BIROCCI)
SAVES.....	6 (BIROCCI)
INNINGS PITCHED.....	197.1 (BIROCCI)
STRIKEOUTS.....	206 (BIROCCI)
OPPONENT BATTING AVERAGE179 (BIROCCI)
WHIP.....	0.82 (BIROCCI)

Head Coach Gayle Blevins

THE HEAD HAWKEYE... Gayle Blevins finished her 17th 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 751-333-3 (.691).

Her career record in 25 years of coaching is 1,051-481-5 (.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
				2004	IOWA	39-24	.619

TOTALS

OVERALL	1,051-481-5	.685
IOWA	751-333-3	.691

BIG TEN TOTALS

OVERALL	453-160-1	.739
IOWA	283-116-1	.709