



HAWKEYE HOME PLATE

Iowa Softball News and Notes

4/13 vs. William Penn

2005 IOWA SCHEDULE

32-9 Overall, 4-4 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 Michigan*	W, 5-2
4/2	at Michigan*	L, 1-3
4/3	at Northwestern*	L, 11-1 (5)
4/3	at 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	6 p.m.
4/15	at Ohio State*	3 p.m.
4/16	at Ohio State*	Noon
4/17	at Penn State (DH)*	11 a.m.
4/19	Iowa State	4 p.m.
4/22	at Michigan State*	3 p.m.
4/23	at Michigan State*	Noon
4/24	South Dakota State (DH)	1 p.m.
4/26	Western Illinois	6 p.m.
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
1	Emily Nichols	1B	R/R	Fr.	41	.340	23	36	36	14	5	.802	1
or 14	Brandi Sargent	1B	L/L	Jr.	30	.267	7	16	7	3	5	.500	1
2	Summer Downs	2B	R-R	Fr.	35	.270	21	30	19	4	6	.450	3
10	Stacy May	SS	R-R	Jr.	41	.323	24	42	22	6	11	.562	2
12	Abby Ruff	3B	R-R	Sr.	36	.238	13	15	1	1	6	.381	5
17	Kylie Murray	RF	R-R	Jr.	40	.333	9	31	19	2	4	.441	1
or 5	Jenna Spratt	RF	L-R	So.	37	.261	14	12	6	0	0	.261	4
11	Mindy Heidgerken	CF	R-R	So.	41	.250	23	23	9	1	6	.370	15
9	Natalie Johnson	LF	L-L	Jr.	41	.267	16	28	13	3	4	.390	3
13	Sami Baugh	C	R-R	So.	39	.272	14	28	13	3	6	.417	1

Probable Pitching Rotation

No.	Name	Throws	Yr.	Record	GS	SV	CG	SH	ERA	SO	BB	IP
4	Lisa Birocci	RHP	Sr.	19-7	23	4	20	10	1.28	181	28	164.2
3	Ali Arnold	RHP	Jr.	12-2	17	0	9	7	1.56	133	29	99.0
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 (32-9, 5-5) hosts the William Penn Statesmen (23-11, 5-5) on Wednesday at Pearl Field. Game time is scheduled for 6 p.m. Admission is \$3 for adults, \$2 for students and free for UI students.

HAWKEYES DEFEAT NORTHERN ILLINOIS

The Hawkeyes used two home runs from freshman Emily Nichols to blow past the Northern Illinois Huskies last Wednesday, 8-2.

Iowa overcame an early 2-0 deficit in the second inning when Jenna Spratt stole home and Kylie Murray hit a two-run double. The Hawkeyes added three runs in the fifth inning when Nichols blasted a three-run homer. Iowa rounded out the scoring in the sixth. Mindy Heidgerken started the inning with a walk, stole second base and advanced to third on a passed ball. Another passed ball allowed Heidgerken to score and Nichols followed with another home run, this time a solo shot.

Seven Hawkeyes collected at least one hit against the Huskies. Nichols and Murray each went 3-4 while Spratt, Heidgerken and Natalie Johnson each stole a base.

Ali Arnold picked up her 11th win of the season, while Lisa Birocci recorded her fourth save.

2005 BIG TEN STANDINGS

	CONF.	OVERALL
1. NORTHWESTERN	8-0	26-9
2. MICHIGAN	7-1	40-3
3. PURDUE	5-1	28-13
T4. IOWA	4-4	32-9
MICHIGAN ST.	4-4	13-21-1
T6. OHIO ST.	3-3	19-11
PENN ST.	3-3	23-14
8. WISCONSIN	3-5	12-17
9. INDIANA	2-4	12-27
10. MINNESOTA	1-7	18-20
11. ILLINOIS	0-8	17-19

THIS WEEK'S BIG TEN ACTION

APRIL 12

Notre Dame at Purdue (DH)	2 p.m.
Loyola-Chicago at Northwestern (DH)	3 p.m.
DePaul at Illinois (DH)	4 p.m.
Michigan State at Western Michigan	4 p.m.

APRIL 13

Pittsburgh at Penn State	2 p.m.
Indiana at Indiana State	3 p.m.
Wisconsin at Valparaiso	3 p.m.
Central Michigan at Michigan State	4 p.m.
William Penn at Iowa	6 p.m.

APRIL 14

North Dakota State at Minnesota (DH)	4 p.m.
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APRIL 15

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

APRIL 16

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

APRIL 17

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

all times listed are local

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Hawkeye Softball Notes

IOWA TOPS PURDUE

The Hawkeyes scored three runs in the fourth inning to defeat the Purdue Boilermakers, 3-2 last Friday. Iowa picked up its 30th win of the season and Lisa Birocci threw her 19th complete game.

After Purdue took the lead, 1-0 in the second inning, the Hawkeyes plated three runs off doubles from Summer Downs and Stacy May. Downs knocked in Mindy Heidgerken and Natalie Johnson while May scored Downs.

PURDUE UPSETS HAWKEYES

Three costly errors by Iowa allowed Purdue to leave Iowa City with series split after knocking off the 19th ranked Hawkeyes, 2-1.

Kylie Murray blasted an RBI double in the first to give Iowa an early lead. Purdue tied the game in the fourth after an error allowed Tricia Lilley to reach base and DaQueta Johnson doubled her home. Purdue scored the go-ahead run in the sixth after two Iowa errors loaded the bases for the Boilermakers. Erika Peterson singled down the third base line to score Andrea Hillsey to take the lead.

Ali Arnold suffered the loss, even though she did not give up an earned run. She threw five innings and allowed only three hits and struck out four.

HAWKEYES SWEEP INDIANA

The Hawkeyes improved their conference record to 4-4 with two wins over the Indiana Hoosiers on Sunday. Iowa won game one, 5-0 and game two, 3-0.

Lisa Birocci and Ali Arnold both threw complete game shutouts and struck out a combined 21 batters in 14 innings of work. The duo allowed only three hits and walked only one batter.

Birocci threw a one-hitter and struck out 10 in game one. Arnold struck out 11 in game two.

SCOUTING WILLIAM PENN

The William Penn Statesmen are 23-11 overall and 5-5 in the Midwest Classic Conference.

Staci Patch leads the Statesmen offense. She is batting .483 with one double and seven RBI.

Patricia Sheridan is 8-1 with a 0.88 ERA inside the circle. Steph Christner is 9-6 with a 2.00 ERA and has a team high 130 strikeouts.

The all-time series record is tied at 5-5.

LAST MEETING

The Hawkeyes defeated William Penn, 10-0 in five innings on "Senior Night" last season at Pearl Field.

Sarah Thomson celebrated her senior day in style, going 2-3 with four RBI and a home run. Mindy Heidgerken and Natalie Johnson each collected doubles.

Lisa Birocci and Ali Arnold combined to throw a five inning no-hitter. Birocci picked up the win and struck out eight of the 13 batters she faced.

HAWKEYES IN THE RANKINGS

Iowa is ranked 19th in the ESPN.com/USA Softball Collegiate Softball poll and 24th in the *USA Today*/National Fastpitch Coaches Association poll. Other Big Ten teams in the rankings include Michigan (1st/1st) and Northwestern (23rd/20th). Penn State is listed as receiving votes.

Rankings used are from the previous week. Updated rankings are released every Wednesday.

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

**Iowa Hawkeye
Softball**

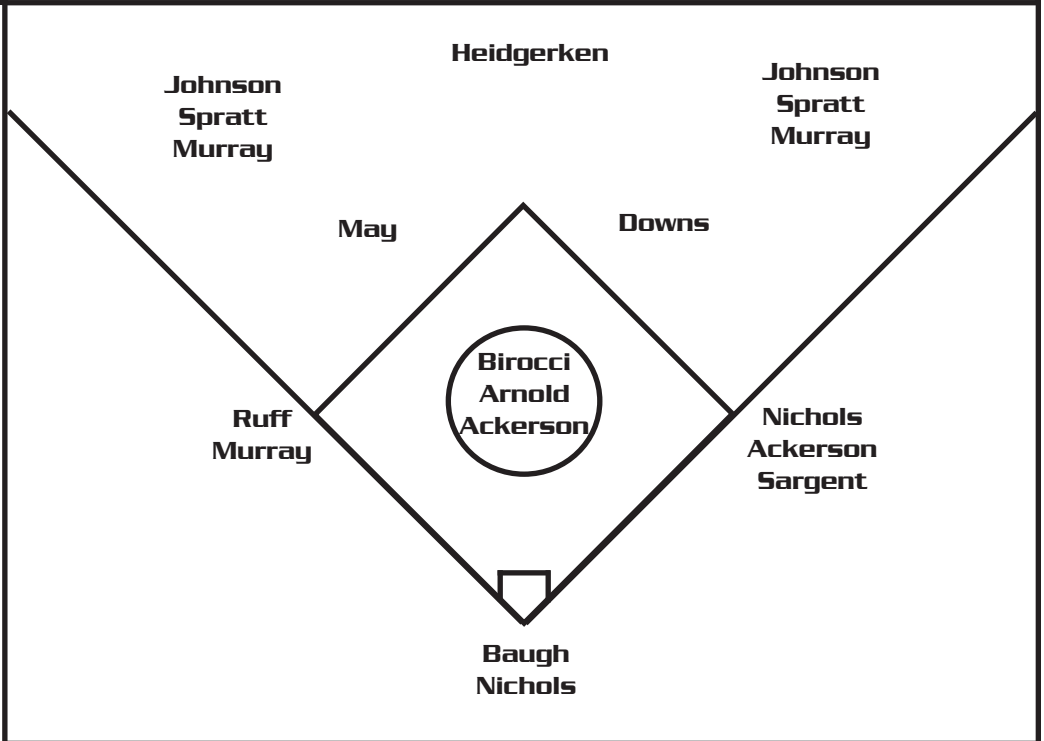
- 1** **EMILY NICHOLS**
- 2** **SUMMER DOWNS**
- 3** **ALI ARNOLD**
- 4** **LISA BIROCCI**
- 5** **JENNA SPRATT**
- 9** **NATALIE JOHNSON**
- 10** **STACY MAY**
- 11** **MINDY HEIDGERKEN**
- 12** **ABBY RUFF**
- 13** **SAMI BAUGH**
- 14** **BRANDI SARGENT**
- 17** **KYLIE MURRAY**
- 22** **EMILY GERLICK**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

HEAD COACH
GAYLE BLEVINS

ASSOCIATE HEAD COACH
MICHELLE VENTURELLA

ASSISTANT COACH
DEBBIE BILBAO

VOLUNTEER ASSISTANT
KRISTIN JOHNSON



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.

BIROCCI EARNS BIG TEN HONOR

For the third time this season, Lisa Birocci has been named co-Big Ten Pitcher of the Week.

Birocci became Iowa's all-time career strikeout leader against Northern Illinois, fanning seven of the 10 batters she faced to move into the number one spot.

Birocci finished the week with a 2-0 record, striking out 28 batters and gave up only two earned runs.

TEAM SETS HOME RUN RECORD

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.

NICHOLS SETS SCHOOL RECORD

Freshman Emily Nichols entered the record books against Ball State, blasting her 11th home run which broke the single-season record. Nichols added another home run against South Dakota State. She leads the team in seven different offensive categories and has a season total of 14 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.

IOWA'S RECORD WHEN...

1-RUN GAMES	4-2
2-RUN GAMES	6-3
EXTRA INNINGS.....	1-1
AT PEARL FIELD	7-1
ON THE ROAD	6-3
AT NEUTRAL SITE	19-5
DAY GAMES.....	26-9
NIGHT GAMES.....	6-0
IOWA SCORES FIRST.....	28-3
OPPONENT SCORES FIRST	4-6
GIVING UP 2 RUNS OR LESS.....	29-3
GIVING UP 3+ RUNS	3-6
VS. RANKED OPPONENTS	1-6
BIROCCI STARTS.....	18-6
ARNOLD STARTS.....	14-3
IOWA HITS A HOMERUN	21-1
OPPONENT HITS A HOMERUN	7-6
IOWA OUTHITS OPPONENT.....	24-1
OPPONENT OUTHITS IOWA.....	4-8
EQUAL NUMBER OF HITS.....	4-0
NO IOWA ERRORS	15-4
IOWA COMMITS AN ERROR	17-5
WEARING WHITE UNIFORMS	12-2
WEARING BLACK UNIFORMS	8-4
WEARING GREY UNIFORMS.....	12-3
FLYING AIR TRAN	10-2
FLYING UNITED	10-2
BUSING TO GAME.....	4-4
IN EASTERN TIME ZONE	14-4
IN CENTRAL TIME ZONE.....	8-3
IN MOUNTAIN TIME ZONE.....	2-0
IN PACIFIC TIME ZONE	8-2
IN IOWA	7-1
IN ARIZONA	2-0
IN GEORGIA	7-1
IN KENTUCKY.....	3-1
IN FLORIDA	3-1
IN CALIFORNIA	8-2
IN PENNSYLVANIA	0-0
IN OHIO	0-0
IN ILLINOIS.....	1-2
IN MICHIGAN	1-1
ON MONDAY.....	0-0
ON TUESDAY	0-0
ON WEDNESDAY	3-0
ON THURSDAY	1-0
ON FRIDAY.....	9-1
ON SATURDAY	8-5
ON SUNDAY	11-3

IOWA'S TEAM SINGLE GAME INFO...

LONGEST WINNING STREAK	8
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 (SIX 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 AVG340 (NICHOLS)
GMS.	41 (THREE TIED)
GMS. STARTED.....	41 (THREE TIED)
AT BATS.....	130 (MAY)
RUNS	24 (MAY)
HITS	42 (MAY)
DOUBLES	11 (MAY)
TRIPLES	2 (BIROCCI)
HOME RUNS	14 (NICHOLS)

RBI.....	36 (NICHOLS)
TOTAL BASES	85 (NICHOLS)
SLUGGING PCT.802 (NICHOLS)
WALKS	19 (NICHOLS)
HIT BY PITCH.....	2 (ACKERSON & NICHOLS)
STRIKEOUTS.....	23 (HEIDGERKEN)
ON-BASE PERCENTAGE445 (NICHOLS)
OPS	1.247 (NICHOLS)
SACRIFICE FLIES	2 (BAUGH)
SACRIFICE HITS.....	6 (THREE TIED)
STOLEN BASES	15 (HEIDGERKEN)
STOLEN BASE ATTEMPTS	16 (HEIDGERKEN)

IOWA'S INDIVIDUAL PITCHING LEADERS

ERA.....	1.28 (BIROCCI)
WINS.....	19 (BIROCCI)
LOSSES	7 (BIROCCI)
WINNING PCT.731 (BIROCCI)
APPEARANCES.....	32 (BIROCCI)
GAMES STARTED	23 (BIROCCI)
COMPLETE GAMES	20 (BIROCCI)
SHUTOUTS	10 (BIROCCI)
SAVES.....	3 (BIROCCI)
INNINGS PITCHED.....	164.2 (BIROCCI)
STRIKEOUTS.....	181 (BIROCCI)
OPPONENT BATTING AVERAGE184 (BIROCCI)
WHIP.....	0.85 (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 742-328-3 (.693).

Her career record in 25 years of coaching is 1,042-481-5 (.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	1,042-481-5	.684
IOWA	742-328-3	.683

BIG TEN TOTALS

OVERALL	449-160-1	.737
IOWA	279-116-1	.706