



HAWKEYE HOME PLATE

Iowa Softball News and Notes

3/31 @ Drake - 4 p.m.
 4/2 vs. Northwestern - 6 p.m.
 4/3 vs. Northwestern - Noon
 4/4 vs. Michigan St. (DH) - Noon

2004 Iowa Schedule

18-13 Overall, 0-0 Big Ten

Feb. 14-15	at GA State Tournament	Rain
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	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	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	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	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	L, 3-1
Mar. 27	Wisconsin	W, 4-0
Mar. 28	Ball State	W, 6-0
Mar. 28	Ball State	W, 9-0
Mar. 28	Wisconsin	L, 1-2
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.	32	.277	12	26	17	2	3	.436	6
17	Kylie Murray	3B	R/R	So.	32	.324	5	33	12	1	9	.441	0
18	Stacy May	SS	R/R	So.	32	.271	11	26	8	1	2	.323	2
4	Lisa Birocci	P	R/R	Jr.	26	.292	4	19	4	2	3	.462	0
or 3	Ali Arnold	P	R/R	So.	24	.298	5	14	10	2	4	.511	0
16	Sarah Thomson	1B	R/R	Sr.	31	.267	5	16	3	0	2	.300	2
9	Natalie Johnson	RF	L/L	So.	29	.304	14	21	8	2	6	.507	3
14	Laura Chipman	CF	R/R	Sr.	32	.265	12	13	4	1	3	.388	5
6	Amanda Hentges	LF	R/R	Sr.	30	.314	11	22	11	0	7	.443	6
21	Sami Baugh	C	R/R	Fr.	27	.190	1	8	2	0	2	.238	0

Probable Pitching Rotation

No.	Name	Throws	Yr.	Record	G	SV	C	G	SH	ERA	SO	BB	IP
4	Lisa Birocci	RHP	Jr.	7-8	15	0	8	4	1.11	147	31	107	2/3
3	Ali Arnold	RHP	So.	11-6	17	1	9	4	1.27	87	24	110	
16	Sarah Thomson	RHP	Sr.	0-0	0	0	0	0	5.25	1	0	4	

Bring On the Big Ten

The University of Iowa softball team will open up the Big Ten Conference season this weekend when it hosts Northwestern and Michigan State. The Hawkeyes will take on Northwestern Friday at 6 p.m., then again Saturday at noon. Iowa will then play Michigan State in a doubleheader Sunday starting at noon.

Before that, Iowa will travel to Des Moines Wednesday for a non-conference game with the Drake Bulldogs. First pitch is scheduled for 4 p.m. at Pearl Field.

Looking Back at the Hawkeye Classic

The Hawkeyes opened their home season last weekend by hosting Wisconsin and Ball State in the Hawkeye Classic. Iowa went 3-1 on the weekend, sweeping Ball State (6-0, 9-0 in five innings) and splitting with Wisconsin (4-0, 1-2). The games against Wisconsin were non-conference games and do not count in the Big Ten standings.

In Saturday's game against Wisconsin, Iowa jumped out to a 1-0 lead in the top of the first when **Natalie Johnson** ripped a triple of the very top of the leftfield wall, then came around to score on a double steal with **Sarah Thomson**.

Iowa took a 4-0 lead in the fifth off a two-run double from **Amanda Hentges** and a Thomson sacrifice fly. **Lisa Birocci** allowed two hits and struck out four in the win, while **Ali Arnold** allowed just one hit in relief.

In game two, Hentges went 3-for-3 with a pair of runs scored, while Birocci hit a mammoth two-run home run in the third to give Iowa the easy 6-0 win. Birocci pitched five innings of relief to pick up the win, allowing just one hit and striking out nine.

On Sunday, the Hawkeyes jumped out to a dominating 6-0 lead in the top of the first inning against Ball State, sending ten batters to the plate in the process. The Cardinals made a pair of costly errors in the inning, and all six runs ended up being unearned.

Iowa added a run in the second, then another pair in the third to take a 9-0 lead. The combination of Arnold and Birocci kept the Cardinals off the board the rest of the way and ended the game by eight-run rule. Seven different Hawkeyes got a hit in the game, with

2004 Big Ten Records

	CONF.	OVERALL
1. MICHIGAN	0-0	25-6
2. PURDUE	0-0	21-10
3. MINNESOTA	0-0	19-10
4. ILLINOIS	0-0	21-11
5. NORTHWESTERN	0-0	14-8
6. MICHIGAN STATE	0-0	17-10
OHIO STATE	0-0	17-10
8. WISCONSIN	0-0	18-13
9. IOWA	0-0	18-14
10. INDIANA	0-0	19-16
11. PENN STATE	0-0	12-19

Iowa Sports Information

TONY WIRT, ASST. DIRECTOR
SOFTBALL SID

AREA CODE IS 319

OFFICE PHONE 335-9268

OR 335-9411

FAX 335-9417

E-MAIL:

tony-wirt@hawkeyesports.com

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

PRESS BOX 335-9296

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

Hentges leading the way by going 2-for-2 with two runs scored and an RBI.

Against Wisconsin, the Hawkeyes scored first on an RBI single from **Stacy May** in the second inning. Birocci was throwing well until making one costly mistake when she gave up a two-run home run to Athena Vasquez in the top of the fifth.

Johnson and **Kylie Murray** each had a pair of hits against Wisconsin.

Countdown to 1,000

Iowa Head Coach **Gayle Blevins** is closing in on an astonishing milestone. With 989 career victories, the Head Hawk is just 11 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 1,108 wins, while JoAnn Graff of Florida State has won 1,036.

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

Scouting Drake

The Drake Bulldogs enter the week with a 15-10 record, but play Iowa State Tuesday night.

The Bulldog offense is led by Jenna Wilkin, who is hitting .362 with three triples and 12 RBIs. The power source for the Bulldogs is Katie Wappler, who has a team-leading three home runs and 14 RBIs.

Drake's pitching staff is led by Jessica Hicks, who has a 9-8 record on the season.

Iowa has a 27-4 series lead over Drake.

Don't I Know You?

The Hawkeyes will see some familiar faces when they battle Drake on Wednesday.

Former Hawkeye assistant coach Rich Calvert is in his second year as the head coach at Drake. Calvert was an assistant under Iowa Head Coach **Gayle Blevins** for six seasons before taking over at Drake last season.

Former Hawkeye catcher Katy Jendrzejewski is Calvert's assistant at Drake. Jendrzejewski was an all-Big Ten player during her senior season at Iowa, when she led the team with a .383 average and helped the team to the 2001 Women's College World Series.

Scouting Northwestern

The Northwestern Wildcats are currently 14-8 on the season and ranked 25th by the

National Fastpitch Coaches Association.

The Wildcat offense is led by Erin Mobley, who is hitting .418 with ten RBIs and seven stolen bases. Garland Cooper is another bat to watch, hitting .311 with a team-leading four home runs and 15 RBIs.

Northwestern's ace in the circle is Courtney Foster, who is 7-6 with a 1.46 ERA and 110 strikeouts in 81 2/3 innings. Eileen Canney is 7-2 with a 3.03 ERA.

Northwestern holds a slim 39-38 lead in the all-time series.

The Wildcats are coached by Kate Drohan, who is in her second season at the helm. Her twin sister Caryl is the team's first assistant coach.

Scouting Michigan State

The Michigan State Spartans are 17-10 on the season, and play Detroit in a double-header Wednesday. The Spartans will also take on Illinois in single games Friday and Saturday before coming to Iowa City.

Michigan State is the top-hitting team in the Big Ten with a .310 team average. Natalie Furrow is leading the way at .471 with two home runs and 26 RBIs. Elizabeth Peterson is hitting .375 with five homers and 19 RBIs.

In the circle, Jessica Beach is the top arm. She is 13-6 with a 1.66 ERA and 114 strikeouts in 122 1/3 innings pitched.

Iowa leads the all-time series with Michigan State, 56-26.

The Spartans are coached by Jacquie Joseph, who is in her 11th season.

Hot Hitting Hentges

Senior **Amanda Hentges** is on an absolute tear at the plate as of late.

Since March 17, Hentges is hitting .429 with 15 hits, seven runs score, six doubles, nine RBIs, a .657 slugging percentage and an amazing 1.086 OPS.

In that stretch, the Spencer, IA, native has raised her batting average 114 points, from .200 to .314, second best on the team.

Big Ten Arms Race

The Hawkeye pitching staff is seen as one of the best in the Big Ten, and the stats prove the case.

As a team, Iowa is ranked in the top three in eight different pitching categories, ERA, strikeouts, opposing batters average, innings pitched, runs allowed, earned runs allowed, hits allowed and walks allowed.

Iowa Hawkeye

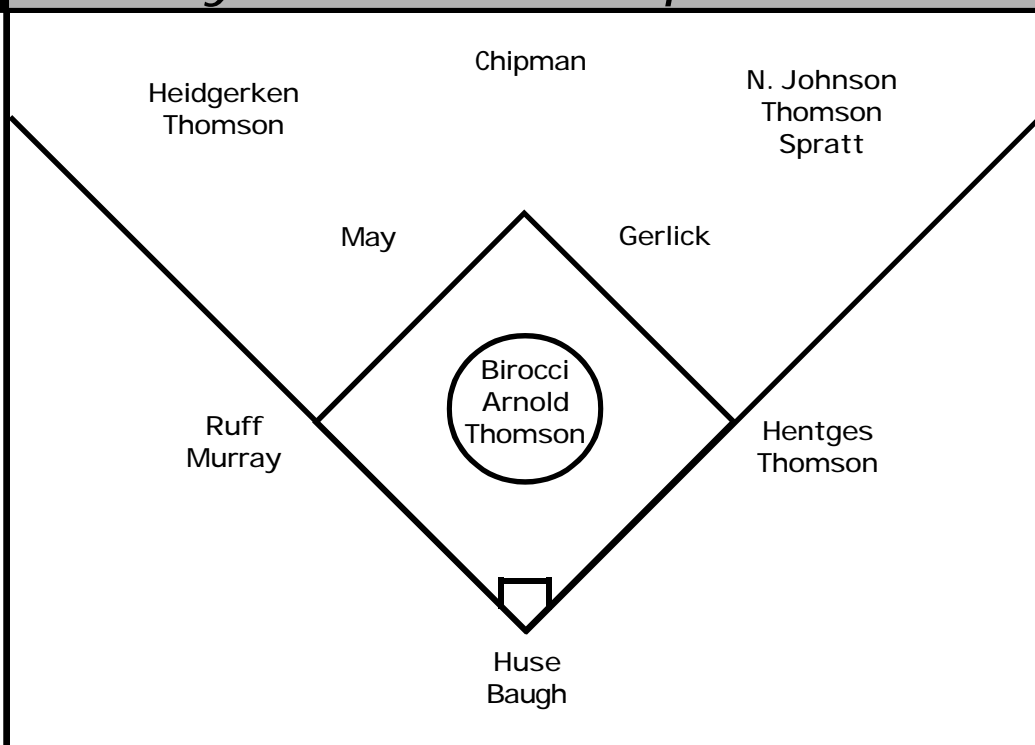
Softball

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

Double Down

Sophomore **Kylie Murray** is hitting a team-leading .324, and is also leading the squad with nine doubles.

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

Birocci in the Big Ten

Hawkeye junior **Lisa Birocci** is having another good year, and leads the Big Ten in strikeouts with 147. She is also on top in opposing batting average by holding hitters to .137.

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 nine stolen bases and has only been thrown out twice.

Playing Her Way In

Walk-on **Abbie Ruff** has made an impact on the 2004 Hawkeyes and earned a spot in the starting lineup. Ruff, a junior who played two years at Waubensee Community College, has started the last 12 games at third base. She has made just two errors in 38 chances, and is hitting .222 with six runs scored.

Ruff was a two-time first team All-Skyway Conference at Waubensee and was named the 2003 Skyway Conference MVP.

Contact Hitter

Sophomore **Stacy May** is going to make you work to get her out. In 96 at bats, the Reno, NV, native has only struck out twice.

Keep the Rally Going

Sophomore **Emily Gerlick** is hitting .277, but her average jumps to .435 (10 of 23) with two outs.

She also has a team-leading 10 two-out RBIs.

Shutout Central

In a way, it has been an all-or-nothing year for Iowa this season. Eighteen of the 32

Iowa's Record When...

1-RUN GAMES	2-6
2-RUN GAMES	1-3
5+ RUN GAMES	5-2
EXTRA INNINGS	3-1
AT PEARL FIELD	0-0
SHUTOUTS	12-6
DAY GAMES	18-14
NIGHT GAMES	0-0
IOWA SCORES FIRST	16-4
OPPONENT SCORES FIRST	2-10
IOWA SCORES LAST	18-2
OPPONENT SCORES LAST	0-12
GIVING UP 3 RUNS OR LESS	18-10
GIVING UP 4+ RUNS	0-4
Vs. RANKED OPPONENTS	2-3
BIROCCI STARTS	7-8
ARNOLD STARTS	12-6
THOMSON STARTS	0-0
IOWA HITS A HOMERUN	7-2
OPPONENT HITS A HOMERUN	0-6
IOWA OUTHITS OPPONENT	17-7
OPPONENT OUTHITS IOWA	0-6
EQUAL NUMBER OF HITS	1-1
NO IOWA ERRORS	7-3
IOWA COMMITS AN ERROR	8-9
FLYING TO GAME	12-11
BUSING TO GAME	3-1
IN EASTERN TIME ZONE	3-3
IN CENTRAL TIME ZONE	3-2
IN MOUNTAIN TIME ZONE	3-2
IN PACIFIC TIME ZONE	6-6
IN IOWA	3-1
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	0-1
IN MICHIGAN	0-0
ON MONDAY	0-0
ON TUESDAY	0-0
ON WEDNESDAY	2-1
ON THURSDAY	1-1
ON FRIDAY	4-3
ON SATURDAY	8-4
ON SUNDAY	3-5
FLYING SAME DAY	0-3



IOWA'S TEAM SINGLE GAME INFO...

LONGEST WINNING STREAK	4
LONGEST LOSING STREAK	5
LARGEST MARGIN OF VICTORY	TWICE (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.	MURRAY (.324)
GMS.	FOUR TIED (32)
GMS. STARTED	GERLIJK, MAY, CHIPMAN (32)
AT BATS	MURRAY (102)
RUNS	JOHNSON (14)
HITS	MURRAY (33)
DOUBLES	MURRAY (9)
TRIPLES	GERLICK (3)
HOME RUNS	FOUR TIED (2)

RBI	GERLICK (17)
TOTAL BASES	MURRAY (45)
SLUGGING PCT.	ARNOLD (.511)
WALKS	THOMSON (7)
HIT BY PITCH	MAY (2)
STRIKEOUTS	BIROCCI, JOHNSON (20)
ON-BASE PERCENTAGE	THOMSON (.348)
OPS	ARNOLD (.851)
SACRIFICE FLIES	FOUR TIED (1)
SACRIFICE HITS	HENTGES (7)
STOLEN BASES	HEIDGERKEN (9)
STOLEN BASE ATTEMPTS	HEIDGERKEN (11)

IOWA'S INDIVIDUAL PITCHING LEADERS

ERA	BIROCCI (1.11)
WINS	ARNOLD (11)
LOSSES	BIROCCI (7)
WINNING PCT.	ARNOLD (.647)
APPEARANCES	ARNOLD, BIROCCI (23)
GAMES STARTED	ARNOLD (17)
COMPLETE GAMES	ARNOLD (9)
SHUTOUTS	ARNOLD, BIROCCI (4)
SAVES	ARNOLD (1)
INNINGS PITCHED	ARNOLD (110)
STRIKEOUTS	BIROCCI (147)
OPPONENT BATTING AVERAGE	BIROCCI (.137)
WHIP	BIROCCI (0.75)

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 689-314-3 (.685).

Her career record in 23 years of coaching is 989-462-5 (.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

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>RECORD</u>	<u>PCT.</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>RECORD</u>	<u>PCT.</u>
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	989-462-5	.684
IOWA	689-314-3	.685

BIG TEN TOTALS

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