



HAWKEYE HOME PLATE

Iowa Softball News and Notes

3/30 at Northern Iowa
4/1-2 at Michigan
4/3 at Northwestern

2005 IOWA SCHEDULE

27-5 Overall, 0-0 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
3/30	at Northern Iowa	3 p.m.
4/1	at Michigan*	3 p.m.
4/2	at Michigan*	Noon
4/3	at Northwestern (DH)*	Noon
4/6	at Northern Illinois	4 p.m.
4/8	Purdue*	6 p.m.
4/9	Purdue*	Noon
4/10	Indiana (DH)*	Noon
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.	32	.353	19	30	31	12	5	.835	1
or 14	Brandi Sargent	1B	L/L	Jr.	23	.306	7	15	7	3	4	.571	1
2	Summer Downs	2B	R-R	Fr.	26	.301	17	25	16	3	5	.494	2
10	Stacy May	SS	R-R	Jr.	32	.327	22	33	20	6	8	.604	2
12	Abby Ruff	3B	R-R	Sr.	27	.317	11	13	8	1	4	.488	4
17	Kylie Murray	RF	R-R	Jr.	31	.313	8	21	14	1	2	.388	1
or 5	Jenna Spratt	RF	L-R	So.	28	.324	11	11	5	0	0	.324	3
11	Mindy Heidgerken	CF	R-R	So.	32	.238	18	19	9	1	5	.363	10
9	Natalie Johnson	LF	L-L	Jr.	32	.310	14	27	12	3	4	.460	2
13	Sami Baugh	C	R-R	So.	30	.291	11	23	13	3	3	.443	1

Probable Pitching Rotation

No.	Name	Throws	Yr.	Record	GS	SV	CG	SH	ERA	SO	BB	IP
4	Lisa Birocci	RHP	Sr.	16-4	18	3	15	9	0.96	136	20	124.1
3	Ali Arnold	RHP	Jr.	10-1	14	0	8	6	1.39	110	28	80.1
24	Steph Ackerson	RHP	Fr.	0-0	0	1	0	0	0.95	6	2	7.1

ON THE ROAD AGAIN

The University of Iowa softball team begins a six-game road trip on Wednesday when the Hawkeyes travel to Cedar Falls to face the Northern Iowa Panthers. Game time is set for 3 p.m.

Iowa opens Big Ten Conference play on Friday when it faces top-ranked Michigan at 3 p.m. (CST). The Hawkeyes and Wolverines will also play Saturday at 12 p.m. (CST).

The Hawkeyes will then travel to Evanston, IL for a doubleheader against Northwestern (24th/20th). The first game of the double dip is scheduled for 12 p.m.

HAWKEYES CLAIM CLASSIC CHAMPIONSHIP

Iowa went a perfect 4-0 last weekend to win the Hawkeye Classic. This is the second tournament the Hawkeyes have won this season. Iowa came home with a first place trophy from the Buzz Classic earlier this season.

The Hawkeyes started off with wins over Ball State (4-0) and South Dakota State (9-0, five innings) on Saturday. Iowa defeated Ball State (10-0, six innings) and North Dakota State (2-0) on Sunday to secure the Hawkeye Classic championship. Ball State finished in second place with a 2-2 record while North Dakota State and South Dakota State both had 1-3 records. North Dakota State finished in third place after the tiebreaker rules were used.

2005 BIG TEN STANDINGS

	CONF.	OVERALL
1. MICHIGAN	0-0	31-1
2. IOWA	0-0	27-5
3. NORTHWESTERN	0-0	18-9
4. OHIO STATE	0-0	16-8
5. PURDUE	0-0	20-12
6. ILLINOIS	0-0	15-11
7. PENN STATE	0-0	16-11
8. MINNESOTA	0-0	15-13
9. WISCONSIN	0-0	9-11
10. MICHIGAN STATE	0-0	7-16-1
11. INDIANA	0-0	9-21

THIS WEEK'S BIG TEN ACTION

MARCH 30

Illinois-Chicago at Indiana	3 p.m.
IOWA at Northern Iowa	3 p.m.
Michigan at Bowling Green	2 p.m.
St. Francis (PA) at Penn State	6 p.m.
Purdue at Penn State	4 p.m.

MARCH 31

Michigan State at Valparaiso (DH)	2 p.m.
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APRIL 1

Illinois at Northwestern	3 p.m.
IOWA at Michigan	4 p.m.
Michigan State at Indiana	3 p.m.
Penn State at Minnesota	6 p.m.
Ohio State at Wisconsin	6 p.m.

APRIL 2

Illinois at Northwestern	12 p.m.
IOWA at Michigan	12 p.m.
Michigan State at Indiana	4 p.m.
Penn State at Minnesota	12 p.m.
Ohio State at Wisconsin	12 p.m.

APRIL 3

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

IOWA SPORTS INFORMATION

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Hawkeye Softball Notes

SCOUTING NORTHERN IOWA

The Northern Iowa Panthers are 10-10 overall and 2-4 in the Missouri Valley Conference.

Erin Strellner leads the Panther offense. She is batting .397 with three doubles, one home run and 10 RBI.

Amanda Hess is 3-2 with a 1.44 ERA inside the circle. Uju Ibekwe leads the team with 60 strikeouts.

Iowa holds a 22-14 advantage in the all-time series.

SCOUTING MICHIGAN

The Michigan Wolverines (1st/1st) are 31-1 overall. After losing its first game of the year to 17th-ranked Baylor, Michigan has won 31 straight games. They are the first non Pac-10 team to be rated number one in the ESPN/USA Softball poll since 2001.

Tiffany Haas leads the Wolverine offense. She is batting .425 with nine doubles, four home runs and 16 RBI.

Lorilyn Wilson is 12-0 with a 0.27 ERA inside the circle while Jennie Ritter is 14-0 with a 0.76 ERA. Ritter has 128 strikeouts while Wilson has 117.

Iowa holds a 49-41-1 advantage in the all-time series.

SCOUTING NORTHWESTERN

The Northwestern Wildcats (24th/20th) are 18-9 this season.

Garland Cooper leads the Wildcat offense. She is batting .403 with six doubles, one triple, five home runs and 20 RBI.

Eileen Canney is 10-4 with a 1.12 ERA inside the circle. Courtney Foster is 8-4 with a 1.38 and leads the team with 119 strikeouts.

Iowa holds a 40-39 advantage in the all-time series.

HAWKEYES IN THE RANKINGS

Iowa is ranked 21st in the ESPN.com/USA Today Collegiate Softball poll. The Hawkeyes are listed as receiving votes in the National Fastpitch Coaches Association poll. Other Big Ten teams in the rankings include Michigan (1st/1st) and Northwestern (24th/20th). Penn State is listed as receiving votes. Rankings used are from the previous week. Updated rankings are released every Wednesday.

BIROCCI HAS AWARD-WINNING WEEKEND

Senior Lisa Birocci was named co-Big Ten pitcher of the week for her efforts at the Hawkeye Classic last weekend.

Birocci struck out a combined 24 batters last weekend, which moved her into third place on the career strikeout list. With 794 career strikeouts, Birocci passed Terri McFarland who recorded 791 strikeouts at Iowa from 1989-1992. She also hit .400 with a two-run home run at the Hawkeye Classic. She shares the award with Michigan pitcher Jennie Ritter.

This is the second time this season Birocci has been honored by the Big Ten and the third time in her career.

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.

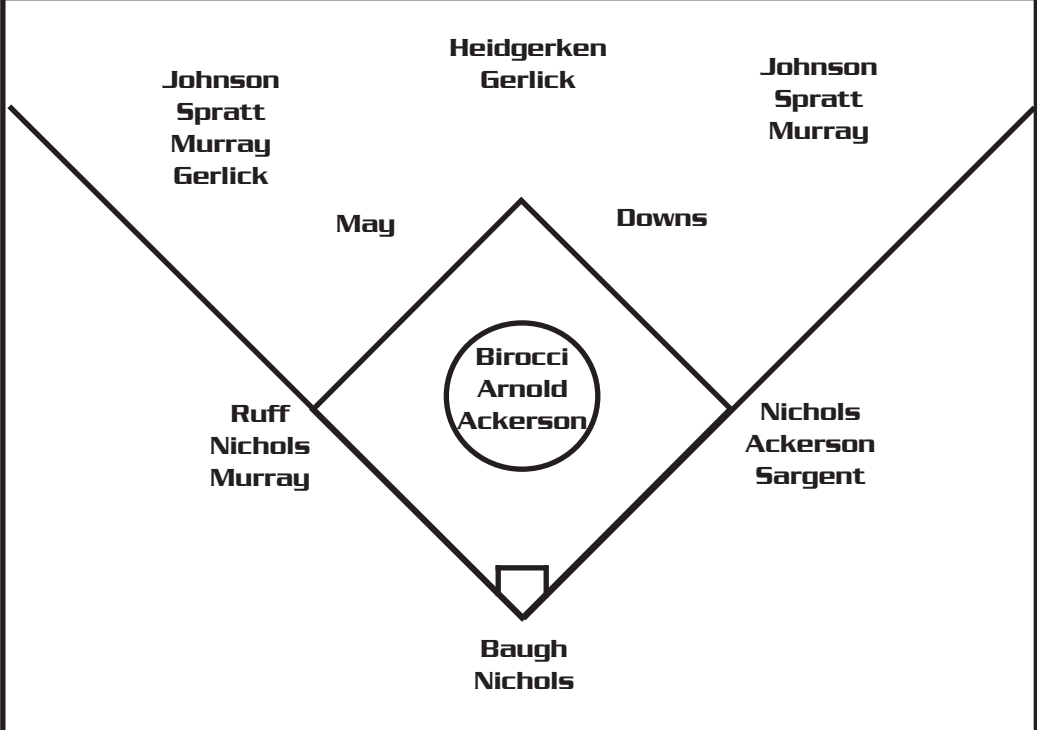
- 1** **EMILY NICHOLS**
- 2** **SUMMER DOWNS**
- 3** **ALI ARNOLD**
- 4** **LISA BIROCCI**
- 5** **JENNA SPRATT**
- 9** **NATALIE JOHNSON**
- 10** **STACY MAY**
- 11** **MINDY HEIDGERKEN**
- 12** **ABBY RUFF**
- 13** **SAMI BAUGH**
- 14** **BRANDI SARGENT**
- 17** **KYLIE MURRAY**
- 22** **EMILY GERLICK**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

HEAD COACH
GAYLE BLEVINS

ASSOCIATE HEAD COACH
MICHELLE VENTURELLA

ASSISTANT COACH
DEBBIE BILBAO

VOLUNTEER ASSISTANT
KRISTIN JOHNSON



PITCHING STAFF THROWS SHUTOUT

Lisa Birocci and Ali Arnold dominated the Hawkeye Classic last weekend. The duo did not allow a run in four games and threw 25 innings of shutout softball. Birocci and Arnold allowed only 11 hits and struck out 43 of the 86 batters they faced while walking only seven.

CHASING THE RECORD BOOK

As a team, the Hawkeyes have hit 38 home runs this season. The school record for team home runs in a season is 41, set by the 2003 squad.

Iowa also has a team slugging percentage of .487. The team record is .489, which was set in 1997.

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.

VENTURELLA PROMOTED

Michelle Venturella enters the 2005 season as Iowa's first ever associate head coach. Head Coach Gayle Blevins announced the promotion last July.

Venturella serves as the Hawkeye recruiting coordinator and hitting coach along with coaching the Iowa catchers. As a member of the USA softball team she garnered four medals, one of which was the gold medal at the 2000 Summer Olympics in Sydney, Australia.

BILBAO RETURNS TO IOWA

Former all-American Debbie Bilbao has been hired as Iowa's new assistant coach. Bilbao was head coach at Utah State from 2002-04 before making the move back to Iowa.

As a player, Bilbao helped guide the Hawkeyes to three straight College World Series appearances (1995-97) and still holds three school records. Bilbao will be Iowa's pitching coach.



IOWA'S RECORD WHEN...

1-RUN GAMES	3-1
2-RUN GAMES	6-1
EXTRA INNINGS.....	1-1
AT PEARL FIELD	4-0
ON THE ROAD	4-1
AT NEUTRAL SITE	19-4
DAY GAMES.....	22-5
NIGHT GAMES.....	5-0
IOWA SCORES FIRST.....	25-2
OPPONENT SCORES FIRST	2-3
IOWA SCORES LAST	23-0
OPPONENT SCORES LAST	4-3
GIVING UP 3 RUNS OR LESS.....	25-2
GIVING UP 4+ RUNS	2-3
VS. RANKED OPPONENTS	0-3
BIROCCI STARTS.....	15-3
ARNOLD STARTS.....	12-2
IOWA HITS A HOMERUN	19-0
OPPONENT HITS A HOMERUN.....	5-4
IOWA OUTHITS OPPONENT.....	21-0
OPPONENT OUTHITS IOWA.....	3-5
EQUAL NUMBER OF HITS.....	3-0
NO IOWA ERRORS	10-1
IOWA COMMITS AN ERROR.....	17-4
WEARING WHITE UNIFORMS	10-1
WEARING BLACK UNIFORMS.....	7-3
WEARING GREY UNIFORMS.....	10-1
FLYING AIR TRAN	10-2
FLYING UNITED	10-2
BUSING TO GAME.....	3-1
IN EASTERN TIME ZONE	13-3
IN CENTRAL TIME ZONE.....	4-0
IN MOUNTAIN TIME ZONE.....	2-0
IN PACIFIC TIME ZONE	8-2
IN IOWA	4-0
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.....	0-0
IN MICHIGAN	0-0
ON MONDAY.....	0-0
ON TUESDAY	0-0
ON WEDNESDAY	2-0
ON THURSDAY.....	1-0
ON FRIDAY.....	7-1
ON SATURDAY	8-3
ON SUNDAY	9-1

IOWA'S TEAM SINGLE GAME INFO...

LONGEST WINNING STREAK	8
LONGEST LOSING STREAK.....	1
LARGEST MARGIN OF VICTORY	15 (AUBURN)
LARGEST MARGIN OF DEFEAT.....	5 (CALIFORNIA)
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 (FIVE 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)

IOWA'S INDIVIDUAL TEAM BATTING LEADERS

BATTING AVG353 (NICHOLS)
GMS.	23 (FOUR TIED)
GMS. STARTED.....	32 (THREE TIED)
AT BATS.....	101 (MAY)
RUNS	22 (MAY)
HITS	33 (MAY)
DOUBLES	8 (MAY)
TRIPLES	2 (BIROCCI)
HOME RUNS	12 (NICHOLS)

RBI.....	31 (NICHOLS)
TOTAL BASES	71 (NICHOLS)
SLUGGING PCT.....	.835 (NICHOLS)
WALKS	15 (NICHOLS)
HIT BY PITCH.....	2 (ACKERSON)
STRIKEOUTS.....	20 (HEIDGERKEN)
ON-BASE PERCENTAGE.....	.455 (NICHOLS)
OPS	1.290 (NICHOLS)
SACRIFICE FLIES	2 (BAUGH)
SACRIFICE HITS.....	5 (MAY & MURRAY)
STOLEN BASES	10 (HEIDGERKEN)
STOLEN BASE ATTEMPTS	11 (HEIDGERKEN)

IOWA'S INDIVIDUAL PITCHING LEADERS

ERA.....	0.96 (BIROCCI)
WINS.....	16 (BIROCCI)
LOSSES	4 (BIROCCI)
WINNING PCT.....	.800 (BIROCCI)
APPEARANCES.....	24 (BIROCCI)
GAMES STARTED	18 (BIROCCI)
COMPLETE GAMES	15 (BIROCCI)
SHUTOUTS	9 (BIROCCI)
SAVES.....	3 (BIROCCI)
INNINGS PITCHED.....	124.1 (BIROCCI)
STRIKEOUTS.....	136 (BIROCCI)
OPPONENT BATTING AVERAGE165 (BIROCCI)
WHIP774 (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 737-324-3 (.690).

Her career record in 25 years of coaching is 1,037-477-5 (.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	1,037-477-5	.684
IOWA	733-329-3	.690

BIG TEN TOTALS

OVERALL	445-156-1	.739
IOWA	275-112-1	.709

Hawkeye Defensive Starters

OPP.	P	C	1B	2B	SS	3B	LF	CF	RF	DP
!V. Tech	Birocci	Baugh	Ackerson	Downs	May	Nichols	Gerlick	Heidgerken	Johnson	Murray
!Stetson	Arnold	Baugh	Sargent	Downs	May	Murray	Spratt	Heidgerken	Johnson	Birocci
!V. Tech	Arnold	Baugh	Ackerson	Downs	May	Murray	Gerlick	Heidgerken	Johnson	Nichols
!Stetson	Birocci	Baugh	Ackerson	Downs	May	Nichols	Murray	Heidgerken	Johnson	Spratt
^LIU	Arnold	Baugh	Ackerson	Downs	May	Nichols	Johnson	Heidgerken	Gerlick	Murray
^ASU	Birocci	Baugh	Nichols	Downs	May	Ruff	Johnson	Heidgerken	Murray	Spratt
\$Minnesota	Birocci	Baugh	Nichols	Downs	May	Ruff	Johnson	Heidgerken	Murray	Ackerson
\$Louisville	Arnold	Nichols	Ackerson	Downs	May	Ruff	Johnson	Heidgerken	Murray	Sargent
\$Missouri	Birocci	Baugh	Nichols	Downs	May	Ruff	Johnson	Heidgerken	Murray	Sargent
\$Ball State	Arnold	Baugh	Nichols	Downs	May	Ruff	Johnson	Heidgerken	Spratt	Sargent
%Georgia So	Arnold	Baugh	Nichols	Downs	May	Ruff	Johnson	Heidgerken	Murray	Ackerson
%Georgia So	Birocci	Nichols	Baugh	Downs	May	Ruff	Johnson	Heidgerken	Spratt	Sargent
%Auburn	Birocci	Baugh	Nichols	Downs	May	Ruff	Johnson	Heidgerken	Spratt	Murray
%M. Ten. St.	Arnold	Nichols	Sargent	Downs	May	Ruff	Johnson	Heidgerken	Baugh	Ackerson
%Gard-Webb	Birocci	Baugh	Ackerson	Downs	May	Ruff	Johnson	Heidgerken	Nichols	Murray
%V. Tech	Arnold	Baugh	Nichols	Downs	May	Ruff	Johnson	Ackerson	Murray	Heidgerken
%Auburn	Birocci	Nichols	Ackerson	Arnold	May	Ruff	Johnson	Heidgerken	Spratt	Baugh
%Ohio State	Birocci	Nichols	Sargent	Arnold	May	Ruff	Johnson	Heidgerken	Murray	Baugh
+UConn	Birocci	Baugh	Nichols	Arnold	May	Ruff	Johnson	Weinberg	Murray	Heidgerken
+UC Davis	Arnold	Baugh	Sargent	Nichols	May	Ruff	Johnson	Weinberg	Murray	Heidgerken
+SJST	Birocci	Baugh	Ackerson	Nichols	May	Ruff	Johnson	Weinberg	Spratt	Heidgerken
+California	Arnold	Baugh	Sargent	Nichols	May	Ruff	Johnson	Heidgerken	Murray	Weinberg
+Col. State	Birocci	Nichols	Sargent	Downs	May	Ruff	Johnson	Weinberg	Murray	Heidgerken
~Rh. Island	Arnold	Nichols	Ackerson	Downs	May	Ruff	Johnson	Heidgerken	Weinberg	Murray
~Pacific	Birocci	Baugh	Nichols	Downs	May	Ruff	Johnson	Heidgerken	Murray	Sargent
Utah	Arnold	Baugh	Sargent	Downs	May	Ruff	Johnson	Heidgerken	Murray	Ackerson
&Oregon St.	Birocci	Baugh	Nichols	Downs	May	Ruff	Johnson	Heidgerken	Murray	Sargent
&LIU	Birocci	Birocci	Nichols	Downs	May	Ruff	Johnson	Heidgerken	Murray	Baugh
#Ball State	Birocci	Nichols	Sargent	Downs	May	Ruff	Johnson	Heidgerken	Murray	Baugh
#SDSU	Arnold	Baugh	Nichols	Downs	May	Ruff	Johnson	Heidgerken	Spratt	Sargent
#Ball State	Arnold	Nichols	Sargent	Downs	May	Ruff	Johnson	Heidgerken	Spratt	Baugh

! - at Stetson Invitational (Deland, FL)

^ - at Littlewood Classic (Tempe, AZ)

\$ - at Courtyard by Marriott Red and Black Tournament (Louisville, KY)

% - at Buzz Classic (Marietta, GA)

+ - at National Softball Invitational Tournament (Sunnyvale, CA)

~ - at Pacific Mini Tournament (Stockton, CA)

& - at Capital Classic (Sacramento, CA)

- at Hawkeye Classic (Iowa City, IA)