



HAWKEYE HOME PLATE

Iowa Softball News and Notes

National Softball Invitational
March 12-14, 2004
San Jose, CA

2004 Iowa Schedule

9-6 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. 17	at Sacramento State (DH)	2 p.m.
Mar. 19-21	at Sacramento State Tourney	
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	

BOLD - home game
* - Big Ten Conference Game

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.	15	.333	5	14	10	1	1	.500	3
17	Kylie Murray	3B	R/R	So.	15	.389	2	21	7	0	6	.500	0
18	Stacy May	SS	R/R	So.	15	.292	7	14	5	1	1	.375	1
4	Lisa Birocci	P	R/R	Jr.	15	.306	2	11	1	1	1	.472	0
or 3	Ali Arnold	P	R/R	So.	11	.250	3	6	6	2	1	.542	0
16	Sarah Thomson	1B	R/R	Sr.	15	.333	2	11	2	0	1	.364	0
9	Natalie Johnson	RF	L/L	So.	14	.281	5	9	2	0	3	.375	2
14	Laura Chipman	CF	R/R	Sr.	15	.273	8	9	4	1	1	.394	4
6	Amanda Hentges	LF	R/R	Sr.	14	.200	3	6	1	0	1	.233	3
21	Sami Baugh	C	R/R	Fr.	11	.250	0	4	1	0	1	.313	0

Probable Pitching Rotation

No.	Name	Throws	Yr.	Record	G	SV	C	G	SH	ERA	SO	BB	IP
4	Lisa Birocci	RHP	Jr.	4-3	7	0	4	2	0.91	78	11	46	
3	Ali Arnold	RHP	So.	5-3	8	1	6	3	0.76	44	13	55 1/3	
16	Sarah Thomson	RHP	Sr.	0-0	0	0	0	0	5.25	1	0	4	

Do You Know the Way to San Jose?

The University of Iowa softball team will travel West for spring break this weekend, kicking things off at the National Softball Invitational Tournament in San Jose. The Hawkeyes will be in Pool C, and open against No. 11 Washington at 5 p.m. on Friday. Iowa will then play Santa Clara at 7 p.m.

Round Robin play begins at 11 a.m. Saturday, and continues throughout the day. Consolation games are played at 11 a.m. Sunday, with the championship game at 1 p.m. All times are Central.

Looking Back at the Speedline

The Hawkeyes went 3-3 at the highly competitive Speedline Invitational, held in Tampa, FL, last weekend.

Iowa defeated Boston University (4-0), Northern Illinois (5-1) and Troy State (1-0 in eight innings), and lost to Baylor (4-3 in nine innings), Tennessee-Chattanooga (1-0) and Tennessee Tech (1-0). The Hawkeyes also fell in an exhibition game with the United States National Team, 11-0 in five innings.

In game one with Baylor, the Hawkeyes dropped a hard-fought, 4-3 game in nine innings. **Ali Arnold** pitched all nine innings, but picked up her first loss of the season. **Stacy May** was 2-for-3 with a home run.

Against Boston, the Hawkeyes rebounded behind the arm of **Lisa Birocci**, who threw a two-hit shutout and struck out 16 Terrier hitters. At the plate, **Kylie Murray** was 3-of-4 with two RBIs.

On Friday against Northern Illinois, the Hawkeye bats came alive and pounded out 11 hits in a 5-1 win. Murray, **Emily Gerlick** and **Jenna Spratt** each had a pair of hits in the win. Arnold threw seven innings and picked up the victory.

Things didn't go as well against Team USA, widely regarded as the best team on the planet. Iowa lost 11-0 in five innings.

The Hawkeyes used an RBI single from Gerlick to win a 2-1 extra-inning contest against

2004 Big Ten Records

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

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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

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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

Troy State Saturday. Birocci threw all eight innings and struck out 14.

Iowa lost its final two games of the tournament, both 1-0. The Hawkeyes fell to Tennessee-Chattanooga on Saturday, then Tennessee Tech in bracket play on Sunday.

Countdown to 1,000

Iowa Head Coach **Gayle Blevins** is closing in on an astonishing milestone. With 980 career victories, the Head Hawk is just 20 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 1,092 wins, while JoAnn Graff of Florida State has won 1,020.

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

Hawkeyes In the Rankings

This week, the Iowa Hawkeyes fell out of the rankings for the first time this season.

NIST History

The Hawkeyes are frequent participants in the National Softball Invitational Tournament, and have traditionally fared well there.

While they didn't compete in San Jose last season, Iowa finished second in the hotly contested tournament the last two times it competed there.

In 2002, Iowa took second place after defeating eventually NCAA Champion California and top-ranked UCLA. The game against the Golden Bears was **Gayle Blevins'** 900th career win and her 600th at Iowa.

In 2001, the Hawkeyes were again the runner-up, falling to No. 4 California in the finals.

Big Ten Honors

Sophomore **Ali Arnold** was named co-Big Ten Pitcher of the Week last week after her dominance in Louisville.

She tossed back-to-back shutouts against Louisville and Western Kentucky, while striking out 15.

Arnold shared the honor with Michigan's Jennie Ritter.

Gerlick Gone Wild

Sophomore second baseman **Emily Gerlick** is currently leading the team with 10 RBIs. The Wonder Lake, IL, native is tied with three others for second on the team with a

.333 average.

Coming into the season, the former walk-on had only one career at bat.

Feel the Breeze

After setting the Iowa single-season strikeout record last season, **Lisa Birocci** shows no signs of slowing down.

The junior fireballer has hit double digits in strikeouts in five of her seven starts this season. She has fanned at least 12 in each of her last four starts.

On the season, Birocci has 78 strikeouts in just 46 innings pitched and is averaging 11.87 per seven innings.

Feel the Breeze II

Last season, **Ali Arnold** was not known as a strikeout artist, notching 93 in 151 1/3 innings pitched.

This season, however, Arnold is throwing harder and sending more hitters to the bench with no contact. The sophomore has punched out 44 hitters on the year in 55 1/3 innings.

And She's Off

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 six stolen bases, and has only been thrown out once.

Murray's Mashing

Sophomore **Kylie Murray** is taking advantage of her first shot at a starting role. The Des Moines native has been in the starting lineup in every game, at third base or as the designated hitter.

Murray currently leads the team with a .389 batting average, 21 hits and six doubles.

The Pitchers Can Hit Too

Not only do the Hawkeyes starting pitchers dominate in the circle, but they can hit the ball pretty well too.

Starter **Lisa Birocci** is hitting .306 with 11 hits, a triple and a home run on the year.

Ali Arnold leads the team with two home runs and is third with six RBIs.

Contact Hitter

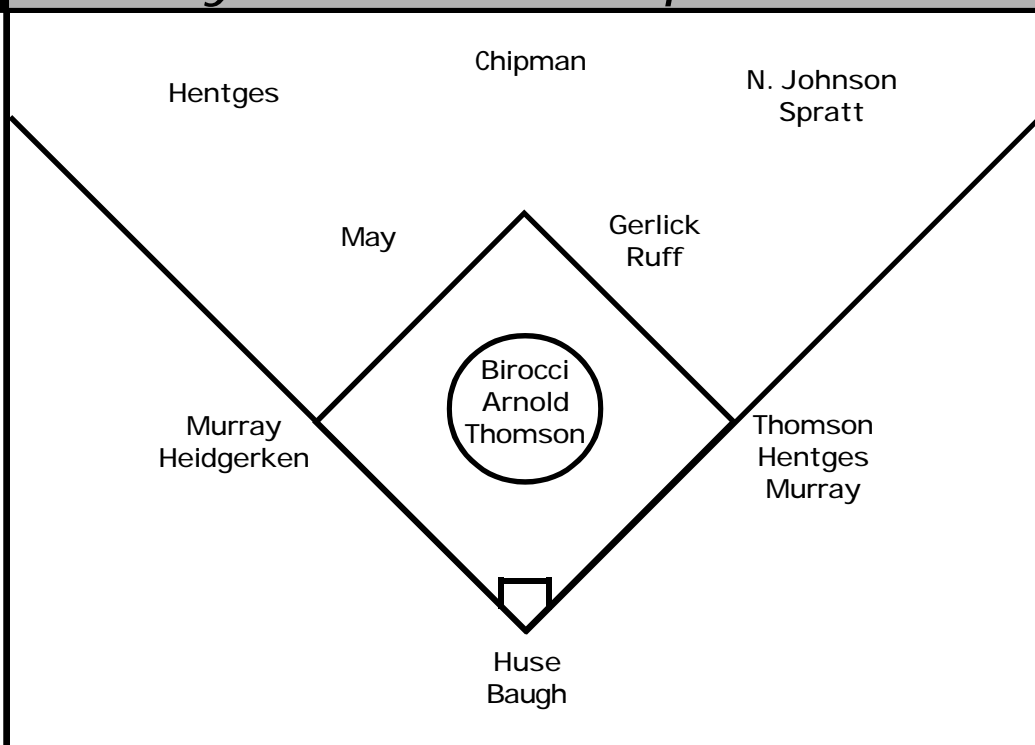
Sophomore **Stacy May** is going to make you work to get her out. In 48 at bats,

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

the Reno, NV, native has only struck out one time.

Making Them Count

Sophomore **Emily Gerlick** is hitting .333, but her average jumps to an amazing .529 with runners on base.

Gerlick is also hitting an impressive .500 with runners in scoring position.

Any Way She Can

Senior **Sarah Thomson** is tied for second on the team with a .333 average, but she owns a team-leading .421 on base percentage.

The Rocklin, CA, native has 11 hits, a team-leading five walks, has reached on two fielder's choices and one error.

Solid Backstops

The Hawkeyes have gotten very solid catching from the duo of **Sami Baugh** and **Elisha Huse**.

Combined, the two haven't committed an error yet this season.

Gooseeggs

In a way, it has been an all-or-nothing year for Iowa this season. Nine of the 15 games Iowa has played in have been shutouts on one side or another. The Hawkeyes have a 5-4 record in shutouts this season.

New Faces All Around

The Hawkeyes will definitely have a new look in the infield this season, with each position sporting a new face this year.

Sarah Thomson will take over duties at first base, while **Emily Gerlick** will be Iowa's primary second baseman. **Stacy May** will move from third base to shortstop, while freshman **Mindy Heidgerken** or **Kylie Murray** will take May's old spot at third.

Elisha Huse and freshman **Sami Baugh** will split time behind the plate.

All three outfield spots will have a new look, too.

Laura Chipman will move from left to centerfield, where she will replace Katie Boney. **Amanda Hentges** will move from first base to left, while **Natalie Johnson** will play in right. Freshman **Jenna Spratt** will serve as the utility outfielder this season.

Defending Champions

The University of Iowa softball team will head into the 2004 season defending and undisputed Big Ten Champions. For the first time in the history of the program, the Hawkeyes captured both the regular season and tournament championships in the same season.

Iowa finished the regular season on top of the Big Ten standings with a 13-4 record.

Iowa's Record When...

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

IOWA'S TEAM SINGLE GAME INFO...

LONGEST WINNING STREAK	3
LONGEST LOSING STREAK	2
LARGEST MARGIN OF VICTORY	ARIZONA STATE (9)
LARGEST MARGIN OF DEFEAT	3 (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	LOUISVILLE, W. KENTUCKY (1)
MOST HOME RUNS	ILLINOIS STATE (2)
MOST STOLEN BASES	TROY STATE (5)
MOST STRIKEOUTS	ARIZONA STATE, TENN. TECH (9)
MOST ERRORS COMMITTED	WISCONSIN, T. TECH (4)
MOST RUNS ALLOWED	WISCONSIN (6)
MOST HITS ALLOWED	BAYLOR (7)
MOST WALKS ALLOWED	WISCONSIN, ILLINOIS ST.(4)

IOWA'S INDIVIDUAL TEAM BATTING LEADERS

BATTING AVE.	MURRAY (.389)
GMS.	FIVE TIED (15)
GMS. STARTED	FOUR TIED (15)
AT BATS	MURRAY (54)
RUNS	CHIPMAN (8)
HITS	MURRAY (21)
DOUBLES	MURRAY (6)
TRIPLES	GERLICK, BIROCCI (1)
HOME RUNS	ARNOLD (2)

RBI	GERLICK (10)
TOTAL BASES	MURRAY (27)
SLUGGING PCT.	GERLICK, MURRAY (.500)
WALKS	THOMSON (5)
HIT BY PITCH	MAY (2)
STRIKEOUTS	THREE TIED (8)
ON-BASE PERCENTAGE	THOMSON (.421)
OPS	MURRAY (.889)
SACRIFICE FLIES	JOHNSON (1)
SACRIFICE HITS	HENTGES (3)
STOLEN BASES	HEIDGERKEN (6)
STOLEN BASE ATTEMPTS	HEIDGERKEN (7)

IOWA'S INDIVIDUAL PITCHING LEADERS

ERA	ARNOLD (0.76)
WINS	ARNOLD (5)
LOSSES	ARNOLD, BIROCCI (3)
WINNING PCT.	ARNOLD (.625)
APPEARANCES	ARNOLD (10)
GAMES STARTED	ARNOLD (8)
COMPLETE GAMES	ARNOLD (6)
SHUTOUTS	ARNOLD (3)
SAVES	ARNOLD (1)
INNINGS PITCHED	ARNOLD (55 1/3)
STRIKEOUTS	BIROCCI (78)
OPPONENT BATTING AVERAGE	BIROCCI (.116)
WHIP	BIROCCI (0.63)

Head Coach Gayle Blevins

THE HEART OF THE HAWKEYES... 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 680-306-3 (.685).

Her career record in 23 years of coaching is 980-454-5 (.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	980-454-5	.684
IOWA	680-306-3	.685

BIG TEN TOTALS

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