

March 27, 2004

IOWA SOFTBALL**HAWKEYES TAKE PAIR OF GAMES IN HAWKEYE CLASSIC**

BLOOMINGTON, IL – The University of Iowa softball team snapped a season-long five-game losing streak in a big way Saturday, winning a pair of shutouts on day one of the Hawkeye Classic. Iowa defeated Wisconsin 4-0, then toppled Ball State 6-0 in the final game of the day. Wisconsin beat Ball State in the first game of the day, 3-0.

The Hawkeyes jumped out to a 1-0 lead in the top of the first against Wisconsin 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 her second win of the day, allowing just one hit and striking out nine.

Iowa will resume play tomorrow, taking on Ball State at 1 p.m., then Wisconsin at 3 p.m. The Cardinals and Badgers will face off at 11 a.m.

GAME SUMMARIES**IOWA** 100 030 0 -- 4 8 2

Wisconsin 000 000 0 -- 0 3 1

WP – **Lisa Birocci** (7-7)

LP – Katie Layne

Ball State 000 000 0 -- 0 5 0

IOWA 202 200 x -- 6 8 2WP – **Lisa Birocci** (8-7)

LP- Rachel Cleaveland (1-6)

HR – **Lisa Birocci** (2)