



HAWKEYE HOME PLATE

Iowa Softball News and Notes

Speedline Tournament
March 4-7, 2004
Tampa, FL

2004 Iowa Schedule

6-3 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 South Florida Tournament	
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
17	Kylie Murray	3B	R/R	So.	9	.344	1	11	5	0	3	.438	0
14	Laura Chipman	CF	R/R	Sr.	9	.292	7	7	2	1	0	.417	4
18	Stacy May	SS	R/R	So.	9	.321	5	9	3	0	1	.357	0
16	Sarah Thomson	1B	R/R	Sr.	9	.375	1	8	1	0	0	.500	0
4	Lisa Birocci	P	R/R	Jr.	9	.364	2	8	1	1	0	.591	0
or 3	Ali Arnold	P	R/R	So.	7	.313	3	5	6	2	1	.750	0
9	Natalie Johnson	RF	L/L	So.	8	.273	2	6	1	0	1	.318	0
6	Amanda Hentges	LF	R/R	Sr.	9	.217	3	5	1	0	1	.261	1
22	Emily Gerlick	2B	R/R	So.	9	.429	5	9	8	1	1	.762	2
21	Sami Baugh	C	R/R	Fr.	7	.167	0	1	1	0	0	.167	0

Probable Pitching Rotation

No.	Name	Throws	Yr.	Record	G	SV	C	G	SH	ERA	SO	BB	IP
4	Lisa Birocci	RHP	Jr.	2-3	5	0	2	1	1.35	41	9	26	
3	Ali Arnold	RHP	So.	4-0	5	1	4	3	0.45	32	6	31	
16	Sarah Thomson	RHP	Sr.	0-0	0	0	0	0	5.25	1	0	4	

Speeding Through the Speedline

The University of Iowa softball team will travel to Tampa, FL, this week to take part in the Speedline Tournament. The 24-team tournament starts off as a round-robin for seeding, then ends with the top three seeds of each pool heading into a single-elimination championship bracket. The fourth seeds of each pool will go into a consolation bracket.

Iowa will play Baylor at noon Thursday, then Boston University at 2 p.m. The Hawkeyes will take on Northern Illinois Friday at 2 p.m., then play an exhibition with the U.S. Olympic team at 5 p.m. On Saturday, Iowa will finish pool play with Troy State at 10 a.m. and Tennessee-Chattanooga at noon. All times are Central.

Looking Back at Louisville

The Hawkeyes went 3-1 at the Red and Black Tournament in Louisville, KY, last weekend. They defeated Toledo 3-0, Western Kentucky 3-0 and Louisville 4-0. The only blemish on Iowa's record came in a 2-0 loss to Louisville in the championship game.

In game one, **Lisa Birocci** dominated the game from the pitching circle, throwing a two-hit shutout and striking out 13 hitters. The 2003 all-American allowed only two baserunners the entire game.

The Hawkeyes took a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the second when pinch runner **Abbie Ruff** came around on a Toledo error. Iowa got a pair of runs in the fourth off a two-run double from second baseman **Emily Gerlick**.

In game two against Western Kentucky, it was sophomore hurler **Ali Arnold's** turn to dominate. The Bloomington, IL, native threw the second two-hit shutout of the day, fanning seven while walking only one.

Gerlick picked up another two RBIs, while freshman **Sami Baugh** knocked home a run with a pinch-hit single in the fourth.

In the first game against Louisville, Arnold tossed a three-hit shutout, struck out eight while walking none.

2004 Big Ten Records

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

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

All the Hawkeye offense came in the top of the third. Sophomore **Kylie Murray** gave Iowa a 1-0 lead with an RBI double, then classmate Gerlick blasted a three-run home run to stretch the lead to 4-0.

The offense dried up in the second game, as the Hawkeyes were unable to push any runs across in the 2-0 loss.

Birocci had a fine outing in taking the loss, allowing only four hits and striking out 12.

Countdown to 1,000

Iowa Head Coach **Gayle Blevis** is closing in on an astonishing milestone. With 977 career victories, the Head Hawk is just 23 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 1,087 wins, while JoAnn Graff of Florida State has won 1,016.

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

Hawkeyes In the Rankings

The Iowa Hawkeyes are ranked 19th in the *USA Today*/National Fastpitch Coaches Association Coaches Poll, and tied for 21st in the ESPN.com/USA Softball Poll. Michigan is ranked 7th/12th.

UCLA holds down the top spot in both polls.

Star Spangled Game

The Hawkeyes will have the unique opportunity of playing the greatest team on the planet while in Florida. Iowa will take on the defending Gold Medal-winning United States Olympic Team in an exhibition Friday.

Team USA is on its "Aiming For Athens" exhibition tour, and is 10-0 so far. Only two teams have lasted a full seven innings against the Olympians.

The team features some of the best players in the world, including Jennie Finch, Lisa Fernandez, Natasha Watley and Jenny Topping.

Hey Arnold

Sophomore **Ali Arnold** has been a one-woman terror for opponents so far this season. The Bloomington, IL, native dominated hitters in a pair of games in Louisville, posting a 2-0 record and a 0.00 ERA.

For the season, Arnold is unbeaten at 4-

0 and has a team-leading 0.58 ERA. She has given up just two earned runs. Arnold has notched 32 strikeouts and allowed only six walks.

Gerlick Gone Wild

Sophomore second baseman **Emily Gerlick** is on fire in the batters box, and leads the team with a .429 average.

Over the weekend in Louisville, Gerlick knocked in seven of Iowa's ten runs scored and hit her first-career triple and home run.

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.

In Louisville last weekend, Birocci struck out 13 in a 3-0 shutout of Toledo, then turned around and fanned 12 in a 2-0 loss against the Cardinals.

For the season, Birocci has 41 strikeouts and is averaging 11.04 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 32 hitters on the year, 7.23 per seven innings.

Stick 'em Up

The Hawkeyes have a long tradition of stealing bases, and this year is no exception. Senior **Laura Chipman** leads the way by going a perfect 4-of-4 in steal attempts this season. **Mindy Heidgerken** (3-of-3) and **Emily Gerlick** (2-of-2) are also perfect on the basepaths so far.

Hit 'em Up

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.

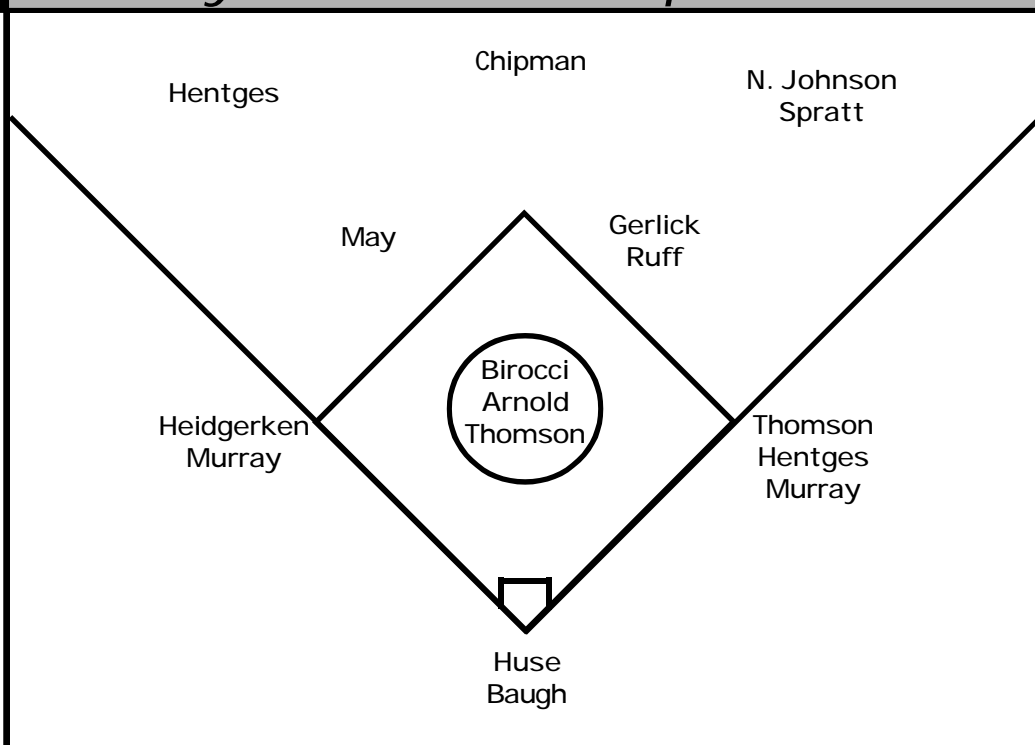
Murray currently leads the team in hits (11) and doubles (3). She is hitting .344 with five RBIs and a .438 slugging percentage.

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 Pitchers Can Hit Too

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

Starter **Lisa Birocci** is third on the team with a .364 batting average. She has eight hits with a triple and a home run on the year.

Ali Arnold is hitting .313 with six RBIs and leads the team with two home runs.

Rocklin Roll

Rocklin, CA, native **Sarah Thomson** has been one of the top Hawkeye hitters this season, and is second on the team with a .375 average and nine hits. Thomson leads the way with a .464 on base percentage.

In the field, Thomson is the Hawkeyes' starting first baseman. She also serves as Iowa's third pitcher.

May Day

Stacy May, the Hawkeyes' top returning hitter from a year ago, is quietly putting together another successful season. The sophomore from Reno, NV, is hitting .321 with a double and three RBIs.

On defense, May moved from third base, where she was a first team all-Big Ten selection last season, to shortstop.

New Faces All Around

The Hawkeyes will definitely have a new look in the infield this season, with each posi-

tion 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. That sent the Hawkeyes into the Big Ten Tournament as the No. 1 seed, where Iowa won three-consecutive games to capture the tournament championship.

Iowa's Record When...

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

IOWA'S TEAM SINGLE GAME INFO...

LONGEST WINNING STREAK	3
LONGEST LOSING STREAK	1
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	ILLINOIS STATE, W. KENTUCKY (3)
MOST TRIPLES	LOUISVILLE, W. KENTUCKY (1)
MOST HOME RUNS	ILLINOIS STATE (2)
MOST STOLEN BASES	TOLEDO (3)
MOST STRIKEOUTS	ARIZONA STATE (9)
MOST ERRORS COMMITTED	WISCONSIN (4)
MOST RUNS ALLOWED	WISCONSIN (6)
MOST HITS ALLOWED	WISCONSIN, ARIZONA ST. (6)
MOST WALKS ALLOWED	WISCONSIN, ILLINOIS ST. (4)

IOWA'S INDIVIDUAL TEAM BATTING LEADERS

BATTING AVE.	GERLICK (.429)
GMS.	TEN TIED (5)
GMS. STARTED	SEVEN TIED (9)
AT BATS	MURRAY (32)
RUNS	CHIPMAN (7)
HITS	MURRAY (11)
DOUBLES	MURRAY (3)
TRIPLES	GERLICK, BIROCCI (1)
HOME RUNS	ARNOLD (2)

RBI	GERLICK (8)
TOTAL BASES	GERLICK (16)
SLUGGING PCT.	GERLICK (.762)
WALKS	BIROCCI, THOMSON (4)
HIT BY PITCH	MAY (2)
STRIKEOUTS	THREE TIED (6)
ON-BASE PERCENTAGE	THOMSON (.464)
OPS	GERLICK (1.191)
SACRIFICE FLIES	(0)
SACRIFICE HITS	THREE TIED (2)
STOLEN BASES	CHIPMAN (4)
STOLEN BASE ATTEMPTS	CHIPMAN (4)

IOWA'S INDIVIDUAL PITCHING LEADERS

ERA	ARNOLD (0.45)
WINS	ARNOLD (4)
LOSSES	BIROCCI (3)
WINNING PCT.	ARNOLD (1.000)
APPEARANCES	ARNOLD (6)
GAMES STARTED	BIROCCI (5)
COMPLETE GAMES	ARNOLD (4)
SHUTOUTS	ARNOLD (3)
SAVES	ARNOLD (1)
INNINGS PITCHED	ARNOLD (31)
STRIKEOUTS	BIROCCI (41)
OPPONENT BATTING AVERAGE	BIROCCI (.124)
WHIP	BIROCCI (0.77)

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 677-303-3 (.685).

Her career record in 23 years of coaching is 977-451-5 (.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	977-451-5	.684
IOWA	677-303-3	.685

BIG TEN TOTALS

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