



# HAWKEYE HOME PLATE

## Iowa Softball News and Notes

Courtyard by Marriott  
Red and Black Tournament  
February 26-27  
Louisville, KY

### 2005 IOWA SCHEDULE

#### 5-1 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 Arizona State Tournament	
2/18	Long Island	W, 6-0
2/18	Arizona State	W, 2-0
2/26-27	at Louisville Tournament	
3/4-6	at Buzz Classic, Atlanta, GA	
3/11-13	at NIST, San Jose, CA	
3/16	at Pacific	
3/17	vs. Utah (at Pacific)	
3/18-20	at Sacramento St. Tournament	
3/23	Illinois State (DH)	3 p.m.
3/26-27	Hawkeye Classic	TBA
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
24	Steph Ackerson	1B	R-R	Fr.	5	.100	1	1	0	0	0	.100	0
or 1	Emily Nichols	1B	R-R	Fr.	6	.429	3	6	1	1	2	.786	0
2	Summer Downs	2B	R-R	Fr.	6	.188	2	3	4	1	0	.375	0
10	Stacy May	SS	R-R	Jr.	6	.176	5	3	1	0	1	.235	0
12	Abby Ruff	3B	R-R	Sr.	1	.000	0	0	0	0	0	.000	0
or 17	Kylie Murray	RF	R-R	Jr.	6	.250	0	4	1	0	0	.250	1
or 5	Jenna Spratt	RF	L-R	So.	6	.143	1	1	0	0	0	.143	0
11	Mindy Heidgerken	CF	R-R	So.	6	.333	2	6	4	0	1	.389	2
9	Natalie Johnson	LF	L-L	Jr.	6	.389	3	7	2	0	1	.444	1
13	Sami Baugh	C	R-R	So.	6	.286	2	4	3	1	2	.643	0

### Probable Pitching Rotation

No.	Name	Throws	Yr.	Record	GS	SV	CG	SH	ERA	SO	BB	IP
4	Lisa Birocci	RHP	Sr.	3-0	3	1	2	2	0.00	17	4	21.2
3	Ali Arnold	RHP	Jr.	1-1	3	0	1	1	6.00	17	5	12.0
24	Steph Ackerson	RHP	Fr.	0-0	0	0	0	0	0.00	4	2	6.1

### NEXT TOURNAMENT

The University of Iowa softball team travels to Louisville, KY, this weekend to compete in the Courtyard by Marriott Red and Black Tournament, hosted by the University of Louisville. The Hawkeyes will face Minnesota at 9 a.m. and Louisville at 11 p.m. on Saturday. Iowa squares off against Missouri at 9 a.m. and Ball State at 11 p.m. on Sunday.

### WASHED OUT IN THE DESERT

The Hawkeyes played two of their scheduled six games at the Littlewood Classic in Tempe, AZ, last weekend. Iowa defeated Long Island and Arizona State on Friday. All games that were scheduled for Saturday and Sunday were rained out.

Junior **Ali Arnold** pitched a gem against Long Island, throwing six innings of shutout softball, giving up only one hit, while striking out 11. Arnold did not walk a batter. Freshman **Summer Downs** and junior **Natalie Johnson** led the Hawkeyes offensively, both going 2-4 with a run scored. Downs also had 2 RBIs. The game was called in the six inning due to rain.

Senior **Lisa Birocci** also pitched well against Arizona State. Birocci threw a one-hit shutout and struck out four Sun Devil batters. **Emily Nichols** was 2-3 with a run scored to lead the team at the plate.

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

**IOWA SPORTS INFORMATION**

**AARON BLAU, STUDENT ASSISTANT  
SOFTBALL SID**

AREA CODE IS 319

OFFICE PHONE ..... 335-9411

FAX ..... 335-9417

E-MAIL:

aaron-blau@uiowa.edu

**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



**MEET THE HAWKEYES NIGHT**

The Iowa softball team will be hosting “Meet the Hawkeyes” night on Wednesday, February 21 at the Roy G. Karro Athletics Hall of Fame. Players and coaches will be available for interviews at 6:30 p.m. with a program to follow at 7:30. This will also serve as media day for the Hawkeye softball team.

**HAWKEYES IN THE RANKINGS**

Iowa is listed as receiving votes in both the ESPN.com/USA Softball and the *USA Today*/National Fastpitch Coaches Association polls. Michigan is rated 9/8. Illinois and Northwestern are receiving votes in both polls.

**NICHOLS HITTING WELL**

Freshman **Emily Nichols** came on strong at the Littlewood Classic. Nichols was 1-1 with a walk and a sacrifice fly against Long Island while going 2-3 with a run scored against Arizona State. Nichols is leading the team with a .429 batting average and a .786 slugging percentage.

**BACK, BACK, BACK**

Freshman **Summer Downs** hit her first career home run against Arizona State last Friday. She was a combined 3-6 with three RBIs and two runs scored at the Littlewood Classic.

**CATCH ME IF YOU CAN**

Three Hawkeyes have two stolen bases on the year. **Mindy Heidgerken**, **Steph Ackerson** and **Emily Gerlick** all have swiped two bases.

**RACKING IN THE RBIs**

**Mindy Heidgerken** and **Summer Downs** are hitting well with runners in scoring position. Heidgerken is batting .571 with 4 RBIs and Summer Downs is batting .400 with 4 RBIs.

**MOVIN’ ON UP**

Senior **Lisa Birocci** is currently fourth on the career strikeout list with 675 K’s. Junior **Ali Arnold** is seventh with 277.

**SCOUTING MINNESOTA**

The Minnesota Golden Gophers are 7-4 this season.

The Golden Gopher offense is led by Stephanie Sward who is batting .400. Megan Higginbotha is hitting .321 with 5 RBIs.

Lyn Peyer is 3-2 inside the circle with a 0.88 ERA with 40 strikeouts. Katie Dalen is 2-1 with a 1.47 ERA. Iowa leads the all-time series, 43-36.

**SCOUTING LOUISVILLE**

The Louisville Cardinals are 8-5 this season.

Courtney Moore leads the Cardinal offense, batting .475 with three home runs and 10 RBIs.

Sara Bausher is hitting .256 with four home runs.

Catherine Bishop is 5-1 with a 0.89 ERA. Aja Sherman has a 3-4 record with a 1.88 ERA. Both pitchers have 39 strikeouts.

The all-time series record is tied, 2-2.

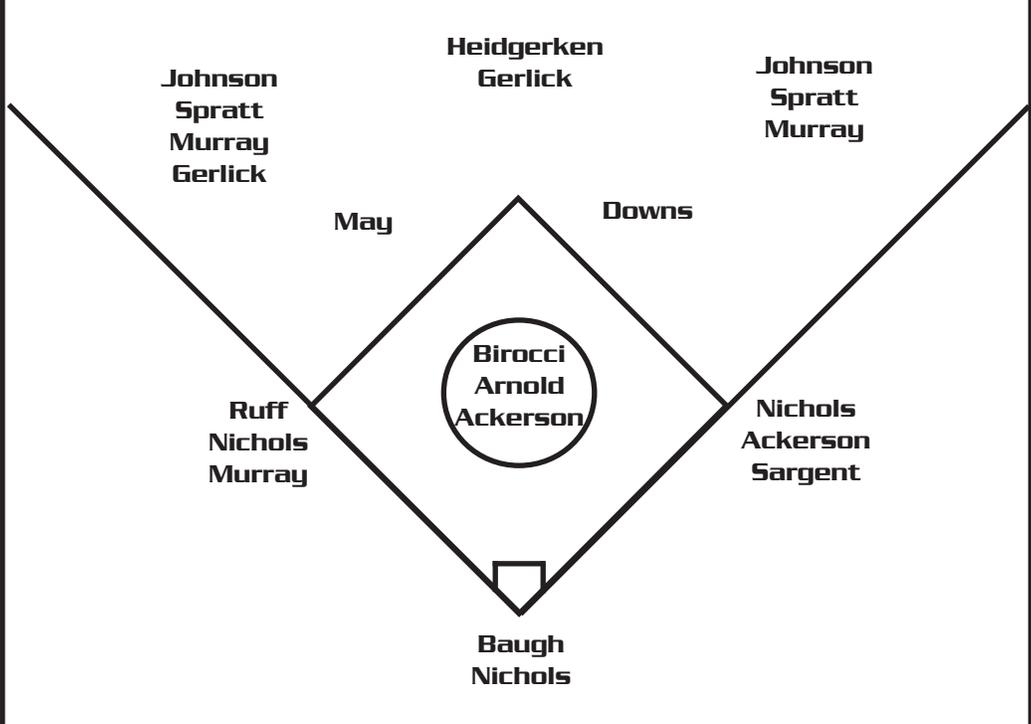
- 1 EMILY NICHOLS**
- 2 SUMMER DOWNS**
- 3 ALI ARNOLD**
- 4 LISA BIROCCI**
- 5 JENNA SPRATT**
- 9 NATALIE JOHNSON**
- 10 STACY MAY**
- 11 MINDY HEIDGERKEN**
- 12 ABBY RUFF**
- 13 SAMI BAUGH**
- 14 BRANDI SARGENT**
- 17 KYLIE MURRAY**
- 22 EMILY GERLICK**
- 24 STEPHANIE ACKERSON**

HEAD COACH  
**GAYLE BLEVINS**

ASSOCIATE HEAD COACH  
**MICHELLE VENTURELLA**

ASSISTANT COACH  
**DEBBIE BILBAO**

VOLUNTEER ASSISTANT  
**KRISTIN JOHNSON**



**SCOUTING MISSOURI**

The Missouri Tigers are 8-1 this season. The Tiger offense is led by Micaela Minner who is batting .440 with five home runs and 14 RBIs. Ashley Hays is hitting .400 with 3 RBIs. Erica Peterson is 5-0 with a 0.75 ERA and 41 strikeouts. Missouri leads the all-time series, 8-6.

**SCOUTING BALL STATE**

The Ball State Cardinals are 1-3 this season. Taylor Yancey leads the Cardinal offense with a .462 batting average and a .615 slugging percentage. Kelli Jeziorski is batting .444 for the Ball State. Nicki Hellem is 1-1 with a 3.15 ERA inside the circle. Iowa leads the all-time series, 8-0.

**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 .....	1-0
2-RUN GAMES .....	1-0
EXTRA INNINGS.....	0-0
AT PEARL FIELD .....	0-0
ON THE ROAD .....	1-1
AT NEUTRAL SITE .....	4-0
DAY GAMES.....	4-1
NIGHT GAMES.....	1-0
IOWA SCORES FIRST.....	5-0
OPPONENT SCORES FIRST .....	0-1
IOWA SCORES LAST .....	5-0
OPPONENT SCORES LAST .....	1-0
GIVING UP 3 RUNS OR LESS.....	4-0
GIVING UP 4+ RUNS .....	0-1
VS. RANKED OPPONENTS .....	0-0
BIROCCI STARTS.....	3-0
ARNOLD STARTS.....	2-1
IOWA HITS A HOMERUN .....	2-0
OPPONENT HITS A HOMERUN.....	0-1
IOWA OUTHITS OPPONENT.....	4-0
OPPONENT OUTHITS IOWA.....	0-1
EQUAL NUMBER OF HITS.....	1-0
NO IOWA ERRORS .....	2-0
IOWA COMMITS AN ERROR .....	3-1
WEARING WHITE UNIFORMS .....	2-0
WEARING BLACK UNIFORMS .....	0-0
WEARING GREY UNIFORMS.....	3-1
FLYING AIR TRAN .....	3-1
FLYING UNITED .....	2-0
BUSING TO GAME.....	0-0
IN EASTERN TIME ZONE .....	3-1
IN CENTRAL TIME ZONE.....	0-0
IN MOUNTAIN TIME ZONE.....	2-0
IN PACIFIC TIME ZONE .....	0-0
IN IOWA .....	0-0
IN ARIZONA .....	2-0
IN GEORGIA .....	0-0
IN KENTUCKY.....	0-0
IN FLORIDA .....	3-1
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.....	2-0
ON SATURDAY .....	1-1

## IOWA'S TEAM SINGLE GAME INFO...

LONGEST WINNING STREAK .....	4
LONGEST LOSING STREAK.....	1
LARGEST MARGIN OF VICTORY .....	8 (VIRGINIA TECH)
LARGEST MARGIN OF DEFEAT.....	4 (STETSON)
MOST AT-BATS.....	27 (STETSON)
MOST RUNS SCORED.....	8 (VIRGINIA TECH)
MOST HITS.....	9 (LONG ISLAND)
MOST RBI .....	5 (VIRGINIA TECH)
MOST DOUBLES .....	2 (STETSON)
MOST TRIPLES.....	0
MOST HOME RUNS.....	2 (STETSON)
MOST STOLEN BASES .....	4 (LONG ISLAND)
MOST STRIKEOUTS .....	8 (VIRGINIA TECH)
MOST ERRORS COMMITTED .....	4 (ARIZONA STATE)
MOST RUNS ALLOWED .....	6 (STETSON)
MOST HITS ALLOWED .....	12 (STETSON)
MOST WALKS ALLOWED.....	5 (STETSON)

### IOWA'S INDIVIDUAL TEAM BATTING LEADERS

BATTING AVE.....	.455 (JOHNSON)
GMS.....	6 (THREE TIED)
GMS. STARTED.....	4 (FIVE TIED)
AT BATS.....	18 (JOHNSON & HEIDGERKEN)
RUNS.....	5 (MAY)
HITS.....	5 (JOHNSON & HEIDGERKEN)
DOUBLES .....	2 (BAUGH & NICHOLS)
TRIPLES .....	0
HOME RUNS .....	1 (THREE TIED)

RBI.....	4 (HEIDGERKEN & DOWNS)
TOTAL BASES .....	11 (NICHOLS)
SLUGGING PCT.....	.786 (NICHOLS)
WALKS .....	4 (MURRAY)
HIT BY PITCH.....	1 (FOUR TIED)
STRIKEOUTS.....	5 (ACKERSON)
ON-BASE PERCENTAGE.....	.500 (NICHOLS)
OPS.....	1.286 (NICHOLS)
SACRIFICE FLIES .....	1 (NICHOLS & BAUGH)
SACRIFICE HITS.....	3 (BAUGH)
STOLEN BASES .....	3 (THREE TIED)
STOLEN BASE ATTEMPTS .....	3 (HEIDGERKEN)

### IOWA'S INDIVIDUAL PITCHING LEADERS

ERA.....	0.00 (BIROCCI & ACKERSON)
WINS.....	3 (BIROCCI)
LOSSES .....	1 (ARNOLD)
WINNING PCT.....	1.000 (BIROCCI)
APPEARANCES.....	5 (BIROCCI)
GAMES STARTED .....	3 (BIROCCI & ARNOLD)
COMPLETE GAMES .....	2 (BIROCCI)
SHUTOUTS .....	2 (BIROCCI)
SAVES.....	1 (BIROCCI & ACKERSON)
INNINGS PITCHED.....	21.2 (BIROCCI)
STRIKEOUTS.....	17 (BIROCCI & ARNOLD)
OPPONENT BATTING AVERAGE .....	0.68 (BIROCCI)
WHIP .....	0.42 (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 710-324-3 (.685).

Her career record in 25 years of coaching is 1,010-472-5 (.679). 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	1,010-472-5	.679
IOWA	710-324-3	.685

### BIG TEN TOTALS

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