



# HAWKEYE HOME PLATE

## Iowa Softball News and Notes

5/7-8 vs. Illinois

### 2005 IOWA SCHEDULE

#### 45-10 Overall, 11-5 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
3/26-27	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
4/1	at #1 Michigan*	W, 5-2
4/2	at #1 Michigan*	L, 1-3
4/3	at #23 Northwestern*	L, 11-1 (5)
4/3	at #23 Northwestern*	L, 0-2
4/6	at Northern Illinois	W, 8-2
4/8	Purdue*	W, 3-2
4/9	Purdue*	L, 1-2
4/10	Indiana*	W, 5-0
4/10	Indiana*	W, 3-0
4/13	William Penn	W, 6-0
4/15	at Ohio State*	W, 4-1
4/16	at Ohio State*	W, 6-2
4/17	at Penn State*	W, 3-1
4/17	at Penn State*	W, 5-1
4/19	Iowa State	W, 4-0
4/22	at Michigan State*	Cancelled
4/23	at Michigan State*	Cancelled
4/24	South Dakota State	W, 8-0 (5)
4/24	South Dakota State	W, 14-1 (5)
4/26	Western Illinois	W, 8-0 (5)
4/29	Wisconsin*	L, 3-6
4/30	Wisconsin*	W, 5-1
5/1	Minnesota	W, 2-0
5/1	Minnesota	W, 6-3
5/5	Drake	W, 1-0
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
14	Brandi Sargent	1B	L-L	Jr.	42	.278	10	25	10	3	5	.433	2
24	Steph Ackerson	1B	R-R	Fr.	35	.218	8	12	5	0	2	.255	2
2	Summer Downs	2B	R-R	Fr.	49	.283	29	43	24	5	7	.335	3
10	Stacy May	SS	R-R	Jr.	55	.337	39	58	30	9	15	.593	2
12	Abby Ruff	3B	R-R	Sr.	50	.214	16	15	10	1	6	.343	5
17	Kylie Murray	RF	R-R	Jr.	54	.348	16	48	35	5	8	.514	1
or 5	Jenna Spratt	RF	L-R	So.	50	.246	15	17	8	0	0	.257	5
11	Mindy Heidgerken	CF	R-R	So.	55	.289	29	37	16	2	9	.453	20
9	Natalie Johnson	LF	L-L	Jr.	54	.263	20	31	14	3	6	.341	4
13	Sami Baugh	C	R-R	So.	53	.294	22	40	21	6	10	.500	2
or 1	Emily Nichols	C	R-R	Fr.	55	.324	34	47	46	16	9	.731	1

### Probable Pitching Rotation

No.	Name	Throws	Yr.	Record	GS	SV	CG	SH	ERA	SO	BB	IP
4	Lisa Birocci	RHP	Sr.	25-7	29	7	25	12	1.13	227	34	216.2
3	Ali Arnold	RHP	Jr.	19-3	25	0	13	9	1.46	191	40	139.0
24	Steph Ackerson	RHP	Fr.	0-0	1	1	0	0	3.82	6	2	7.1

### THE SETTING

The University of Iowa softball team (45-10, 11-5) hosts the Illinois Fighting Illini (23-25, 3-13) in the final weekend of regular season play. Game time is set for 12 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Admission is \$3 for adults, \$2 for students and free for UI students and children five or younger.

### IOWA SQUEAKS BY DRAKE

The University of Iowa softball team scored one run in the bottom of the third to edge past the Drake Bulldogs, 1-0 Thursday at Pearl Field. The Hawkeyes improved their record to 45-10 heading into the final weekend of regular season play.

With two outs in the third inning, **Stacy May** ripped a double to left field and **Summer Downs** followed with a single to left, scoring May for the only run of the contest.

The Drake pitching staff limited the Hawkeyes to only four hits on the evening while the duo of **Ali Arnold** and **Lisa Birocci** gave up four hits as well. Birocci earned her 25th win of the season, throwing four innings of relief and allowing two hits while striking out six. Arnold started the game and threw three innings in the no decision. The junior struck out four.

May led the way offensively, going 2-3 with two doubles. Downs and **Kylie Murray** recorded Iowa's only other hits.

## 2005 BIG TEN STANDINGS

	CONF.	OVERALL
1. NORTHWESTERN	15-1	37-12
2. MICHIGAN	13-2	50-4
3. IOWA	11-5	45-10
4. PENN ST.	10-7	34-18
5. WISCONSIN	9-9	28-21
OHIO ST.	7-7	30-16
7. PURDUE	8-10	32-22-1
8. MICHIGAN ST.	7-9	21-27-1
9. MINNESOTA	6-12	25-25
10. ILLINOIS	3-13	23-25
11. INDIANA	2-16	13-39

## THIS WEEK'S BIG TEN ACTION

### May 7

Illinois at Iowa	Noon
Northwestern at Michigan	6 p.m.
Purdue at Indiana	1 p.m.
Wisconsin at Minnesota	Noon
Penn State at Ohio State	6 p.m.
Valparaiso at Michigan St. (DH)	2 p.m.

### May 8

Illinois at Iowa	Noon
Northwestern at Michigan	1 p.m.
Purdue at Indiana	1 p.m.
Wisconsin at Minnesota	Noon
Penn State at Ohio State	1 p.m.
Miami (OH) at Michigan St. (DH)	Noon

*all times listed are local*

## IOWA SPORTS INFORMATION

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# Hawkeye Softball Notes

## SCOUTING ILLINOIS

The Illinois Fighting Illini are 23-25 overall and 3-13 in the Big Ten Conference.

Jenna Hall leads the Illini offense. She is batting .333 with eight doubles, seven home runs and 37 RBI. Shanna Diller also has seven home runs this season.

Mary Miller is 14-10 with a 3.68 ERA inside the circle. She leads the team with 96 strikeouts. Claire DeVreese is 7-13 with a 4.47 ERA and has 90 K's.

Iowa leads the all-time series, 6-5.

## LAST MEETING

The Hawkeyes fell to Illinois, 5-2 last season in Urbana, IL and were swept in the two-game series.

Both Iowa runs came on solo home runs from **Natalie Johnson** and **Emily Gerlick**. **Ali Arnold** took the loss, recording three strikeouts on the day.

## HAWKEYES IN THE RANKINGS

Iowa is ranked 18th in the ESPN.com/USA Softball Collegiate Softball poll and 21st in the *USA Today*/National Fastpitch Coaches Association poll. Other Big Ten team in the rankings include Michigan (1st/1st) and Northwestern (15th/15th).

## HONORING THE '95 SQUAD

The 1995 Iowa softball team will be honored before Saturday's game. The 1995 Hawkeyes were the first squad from the University of Iowa to qualify for the Women's College World Series. They ended the season with a 41-26-1 overall record and finished third in the nation at the College World Series.

## SENIOR DAY

Sunday's contest will be the last regular season home game for seniors **Lisa Birocci** and **Abby Ruff**. The duo will be honored prior to the game.

## STAYING IN IC

Iowa wraps up the season with a 10-game home stand. The Hawkeyes are 16-2 at Pearl Field this season.

## REACHING 40 WINS

The Hawkeyes have eclipsed the 40-win mark for the 11th time in the program's history, all of which have come under head coach **Gayle Blevins**.

Iowa has qualified for the NCAA tournament eight of the previous 10 seasons they have won over 40 games.

Iowa won over 40 games in both the 1990 and 1999 seasons, but were not selected for the NCAA tournament.

## THAT'S WHY SHE BATS LEADOFF

Junior **Stacy May** has reached base safely in the first inning nine of her last 10 at bats, including the last seven. Since moving to the leadoff spot April 10th against Indiana, May is batting .563 (9-16) in her first at bat of the game.

## GETTING HOT AT THE RIGHT TIME

In her last five games, junior **Kylie Murray** is batting .500 (8-16) with one double, one home run and six RBI. She has also scored two runs and has a slugging percentage of .750 and an on base percentage of .500.

## DUCKS ON THE POND

When runners are on base, the Hawkeyes would like to have junior **Kylie Murray** digging in the batters box. She is hitting .425 (31-73) with runners on base.

In addition, she is batting .429 (21-49) with runners in scoring position and .765 (13-17) with a runner on third and less than two outs.

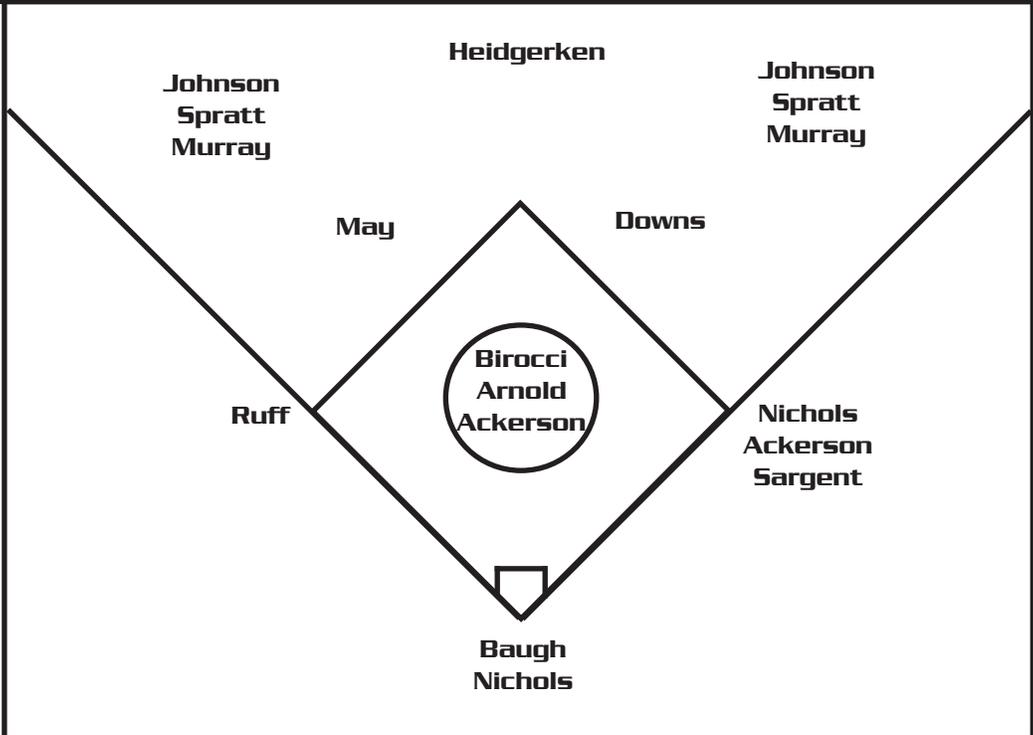
- 1**    **EMILY NICHOLS**
- 2**    **SUMMER DOWNS**
- 3**    **ALI ARNOLD**
- 4**    **LISA BIROCCI**
- 5**    **JENNA SPRATT**
- 9**    **NATALIE JOHNSON**
- 10**   **STACY MAY**
- 11**   **MINDY HEIDGERKEN**
- 12**   **ABBY RUFF**
- 13**   **SAMI BAUGH**
- 14**   **BRANDI SARGENT**
- 17**   **KYLIE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

HEAD COACH  
**GAYLE BLEVINS**

ASSOCIATE HEAD COACH  
**MICHELLE VENTURELLA**

ASSISTANT COACH  
**DEBBIE BILBAO**

VOLUNTEER ASSISTANT  
**KRISTIN JOHNSON**



**MOVIN' ON UP**

Junior pitcher **Ali Arnold** is currently sixth on the all-time career strikeout list. She has 451 K's in her career and has passed Diane Roorda, who recorded 389 strikeouts in her four-year career. Next on the list is current pitching coach **Debbie Bilbao**, who sits in fifth place with 476 K's.

**HEIDGERKEN COMING ON STRONG**

Sophomore **Mindy Heidgerken** is batting .438 (10-21) in conference play. She has four doubles and has scored seven runs while recording a slugging percentage of .719 in 16 conference games.

**BIROCCI BECOMES STRIKEOUT LEADER**

With seven strikeouts against Northern Illinois, **Lisa Birocci** became Iowa's all-time career strikeout leader. Birocci struck out seven of the 10 batters she faced in three innings of relief work to pass former Hawkeye all-American Kristi Hanks. Birocci's career total stands at 885.

**YOU CAN BUT IT ON THE BOARD**

Freshman **Emily Nichols** blasted two home runs against Northern Illinois, increasing the team total to 42 homers on the season, which shattered the school record for team home runs in a season. The previous school record was 41 home runs, set by the 2003 squad. The Hawkeyes currently have 57 home runs this season.

**NICHOLS SETS SCHOOL RECORD**

Freshman **Emily Nichols** entered the record books against Ball State on March 26, blasting her 11th home run which broke the single-season record. She leads the team in seven different offensive categories and has a season total of 16 homers.

**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. She will be out for the season.



## IOWA'S RECORD WHEN...

1-RUN GAMES .....	5-2
2-RUN GAMES .....	8-3
EXTRA INNINGS.....	2-1
AT PEARL FIELD .....	16-2
ON THE ROAD .....	11-3
AT NEUTRAL SITE .....	19-5
DAY GAMES.....	38-9
NIGHT GAMES.....	10-2
IOWA SCORES FIRST.....	43-5
OPPONENT SCORES FIRST .....	5-6
GIVING UP 2 RUNS OR LESS.....	41-3
GIVING UP 3+ RUNS .....	4-7
VS. RANKED OPPONENTS .....	1-6
BIROCCI STARTS.....	24-8
ARNOLD STARTS.....	24-3
IOWA HITS A HOMERUN .....	30-2
OPPONENT HITS A HOMERUN .....	8-7
IOWA OUTHITS OPPONENT.....	36-1
OPPONENT OUTHITS IOWA.....	4-9
EQUAL NUMBER OF HITS.....	5-0
WEARING WHITE UNIFORMS .....	18-2
WEARING BLACK UNIFORMS .....	14-4
WEARING GREY UNIFORMS.....	16-5
FLYING AIR TRAN .....	10-2
FLYING UNITED .....	12-2
BUSING TO GAME .....	6-4
IN EASTERN TIME ZONE .....	18-4
IN CENTRAL TIME ZONE.....	20-5
IN MOUNTAIN TIME ZONE.....	2-0
IN PACIFIC TIME ZONE .....	8-2
IN IOWA .....	19-3
IN ARIZONA .....	2-0
IN GEORGIA .....	7-1
IN KENTUCKY.....	3-1
IN FLORIDA .....	3-1
IN CALIFORNIA .....	8-2
IN PENNSYLVANIA .....	2-0
IN OHIO .....	2-0
IN ILLINOIS.....	1-2
IN MICHIGAN .....	1-1
ON MONDAY.....	0-0
ON TUESDAY .....	2-0
ON WEDNESDAY .....	4-0
ON THURSDAY.....	2-0
ON FRIDAY.....	10-3
ON SATURDAY .....	11-5
ON SUNDAY .....	19-3

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

LONGEST WINNING STREAK .....	11
LONGEST LOSING STREAK.....	3
LARGEST MARGIN OF VICTORY .....	15 (AUBURN)
LARGEST MARGIN OF DEFEAT.....	10 (NORTHWESTERN)
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 (SEVEN 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 & NORTHWESTERN)

### IOWA'S INDIVIDUAL TEAM BATTING LEADERS

BATTING AVG .....	.348 (MURRAY)
GMS. ....	55 (THREE TIED)
GMS. STARTED.....	55 (THREE TIED)
AT BATS.....	172 (MAY)
RUNS .....	39 (MAY)
HITS .....	58 (MAY)
DOUBLES .....	15 (MAY)
TRIPLES .....	3 (HEIDGERKEN)
HOME RUNS .....	16 (NICHOLS)

RBI.....	46 (NICHOLS)
TOTAL BASES .....	106 (NICHOLS)
SLUGGING PCT. ....	.731 (NICHOLS)
WALKS .....	26 (NICHOLS)
HIT BY PITCH.....	4 (ACKERSON)
STRIKEOUTS.....	33 (HEIDGERKEN)
ON-BASE PERCENTAGE.....	.431 (NICHOLS)
OPS .....	1.162 (NICHOLS)
SACRIFICE FLIES .....	2 (MAY & BAUGH)
SACRIFICE HITS.....	8 (DOWNS)
STOLEN BASES .....	20 (HEIDGERKEN)
STOLEN BASE ATTEMPTS .....	21 (HEIDGERKEN)

### IOWA'S INDIVIDUAL PITCHING LEADERS

ERA.....	1.13 (BIROCCI)
WINS.....	25 (BIROCCI)
LOSSES .....	7 (BIROCCI)
WINNING PCT .....	.870 (ARNOLD)
APPEARANCES.....	42 (BIROCCI)
GAMES STARTED .....	29 (BIROCCI)
COMPLETE GAMES .....	25 (BIROCCI)
SHUTOUTS .....	12 (BIROCCI)
SAVES.....	7 (BIROCCI)
INNINGS PITCHED.....	216.2 (BIROCCI)
STRIKEOUTS.....	227 (BIROCCI)
OPPONENT BATTING AVERAGE .....	.179 (BIROCCI)
WHIP.....	0.81 (BIROCCI)

## Head Coach Gayle Blevins

*THE HEAD HAWKEYE...* Gayle Blevins is in her 18th 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 755-334-3 (.691).

Her career record in 25 years of coaching is 1,055-482-5 (.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	1,055-482-5	.685
IOWA	755-334-3	.691

### BIG TEN TOTALS

OVERALL	456-161-1	.739
IOWA	286-117-1	.709