MARCH 6 | ILLINOIS 1



# IOWA HAWKEYES WOMEN'S GYMNASTICS

#### 2021 SCHEDULE

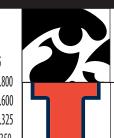
<u>Date</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Time</u>
Jan.15	at #11 Minnesota (BTN)	L, 196.450-197.025
Jan. 23	#13 Ohio State	W, 196.550-193.800
Jan. 31	#18 at Illinois	W, 196.325-195.600
Feb. 6	#11 Minnesota (ESPNU)	W, 196.800-196.325
Feb. 13	#29 Maryland	W, 196.775-195.350
Feb. 13	#12 Minnesota	NTS
Feb. 20	at #39 Nebraska	W, 195.850-195.100
Feb. 27	at Big Five Meet	1st/196.100
March 6	#19 Illinois	1 p.m.
March 14	at Nebraska	4 p.m.
March 20	at Big Ten	TBA
	Championships (TBA)	
April 1	NCAA Regionals	TBA
	(TBA)	
April 16	at NCAA Championships	
	(Fort Worth, Texas)	

All times Central and subject to change.

## hawkeyesports.com

## IOWA ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

Associate Director	James Allan
Email	james-allan@uiowa.edu
Cell Phone	(319) 530-5792
Gymnastic Contact	Abby Wisecup
Email abi	igail-wisecup@uiowa.edu
Cell Phone	712-490-4639
Athletic Communications Phon	ie (319) 335-9411
Athletic Communications Fax _	(319) 335-9417
Website	hawkeyesports.com
Gymnastics Twitter:	@lowaGymnastics
Gymnastics Facebook:	/lowaGymnastics
Gymnastics Instagram:	@lowaGymnastics



# **#17 IOWA HAWKEYES**

HEAD COACH | LARISSA LIBBY (17TH SEASON)

## **#19 ILLINOIS FIGHTING ILLINI**

**HEAD COACH | NADALIE WALSH (4TH SEASON)** 

#### THIS WEEK

The 17th-ranked University of Iowa women's gymnastics team will return to Iowa City to host No. 19 Illinois on Saturday in its home finale inside Carver-Hawkeye Arena. Action at the Senior Day meet is set to begin at 1 p.m. (CT). Due to the coronavirus pandemic, there will be no general admittance to the meet.

#### THAT 70'S MEET

The Hawkeyes will hold a 70's themed meet in the home finale. The program will also recognize seniors Erin Castle, Emma Hartzler and Clair Kaji prior to the competition.

#### **FOLLOW LIVE**

- Saturday's meet will be streamed live on B1G+.
- Fans can follow along via live results at hawkeyesports.com.

#### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- The GymHawks won their first Big Ten Conference title, winning the regular season crown after going 8-0 in the league during the 2021 season
- lowa (8-1 overall) is ranked 17th in the Road to Nationals rankings with an average score of 196.588. The Hawkeyes started the season
  ranked 25th before climbing to No. 9 for three straight weeks. lowa's No. 7 ranking during the week of Feb. 15 was the highest in school
  history.
- The Hawkeyes posted six season-high scores and put two gymnasts in the record books in the victory at the Big Five Meet in Ann Arbor, Michigan, en route to a score of 196.100. Iowa downed No. 5 Michigan, No. 30 Penn State, and No. 43 Rutgers. The Hawkeye win in Ann Arbor was a first for the program.
- lowa currently has a No. 2 national rankings and leads the Big Ten on floor with a 49.463 average. Junior Lauren Guerin is ranked No.4 nationally and leads the Big Ten on floor with an average of 9.938. lowa set the program record with a 49.600 against Maryland.
- The Hawkeyes are third in the Big Ten and 17th nationally on beam and 20th in the country on uneven bars.
- lowa posted a season high on vault, tallying a 49.200 at the Big Five Meet on Feb. 26.
- lowa has earned seven Big Ten weekly honors through the first five weeks with Lauren Guerin, Clair Kaji, and Adeline Kenlin all being multiple award winners. This ties the record seven weekly honorees that was set during the 2004 season.

#### **B1G CHAMPIONS**

The Hawkeyes clinched their first Big Ten Conference championship, claiming the regular season title, when they won the Big Five Meet in Ann Arbor, Michigan, on Feb. 27. Iowa finished the Big Ten regular season with an 8-0 record.

#### **KENLIN EARNS 3RD B1G HONOR**

Freshman Adeline Kenlin was named the Co-Big Ten Freshman of the Week -- her third weekly honor of the season -- on March 1. The lowa City native earned the award after posting a pair of career highs to help lead the Hawkeyes to a Big Five Meet victory last weekend in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Kenlin posted a her first career-high on bars, scoring a 9.900 to tie for fifth place. Her second career-best came on vault, where she tied for sixth place after scoring a 9.850.

#### A START FOR THE AGE

The Hawkeyes climbed to as high as No. 7 in the national rankings during the week of Feb. 15, which was the highest ranking in program history. Iowa started the season ranked 25th in the preseason poll before jumping 16 spots to No. 9 in the rankings following a season-opening 196.450 at Minnesota.

- lowa posted its highest score of the season and its highest score under Libby a 196.800 in a come-from-behind victory over No. 11 Minnesota. The score is the highest since 2004.
- The Hawkeyes followed up the score with a 196.775 against Minnesota and Maryland. The score was tied for sixth all-time.
- lowa's 196.450 was a high under Larissa Libby in a season opener and in the month of January. lowa followed it up with a 196.550 in the decisive win over No. 13 Ohio State.







Larissa Libby enters her 17th year as head coach, and 21st year overall, at the University of Iowa in the 2021 season.

During her tenure in Iowa City, the Hawkeyes have been a consistent top 25 team nationally, as she has led the program to 19 straight NCAA Regional appearances (individually or as a team).

The two-time Big Ten and two-time NCAA Regional Coach of the Year has coached six WGCA All-Americans and five first-team All-Americans at the NCAA Championships, including national champion Alexis Maday. Maday was the Big Ten Freshman of the Year in 2001 and the Big Ten Gymnast of the Year in 2004.

Libby has coached 11 Big Ten champions, four NCAA Regional champions, 10 NCAA Championships qualifiers, while 45 student-athletes have earned All-Big Ten honors, including 22 first-team selections.

The Hawkeyes have also excelled in the classroom and has had a strong community presence under Libby's watch. Forty-eight student-athletes have been Academic All-Americans.

During the 2020 season, the Hawkeyes climbed as high as No. 25 in the national rankings before the season was cancelled because of the global coronavirus pandemic. Lauren Guerin earned second-team All-America and first-team All-Big Ten honors at season's end.



#### Q'S SCHOOL RECORD

Sophomore JerQuavia Henderson tied a school record on floor, scoring a 9.975 in lowa's tri-meet against Minnesota and Maryland. The Illinois native received a 10.000 from one judge en route to her career-best score. Her performance tied Alexis Maday and Stephanie Gran for the school record, which was set during the 2004 season.

#### KAJI NOMINATED FOR AAI AWARD

Senior Clair Kaji is one of 30 nominees for the American Athletic, Inc. (AAI) award, one presented to the most outstanding senior female gymnasts in the country. This award can be considered the Heisman Trophy of women's gymnastics.

#### HAWKEYE NOTABLES

- Freshman Adeline Kenlin scored a 9.950 on beam -- a career-best -- to finish as the event winner against Nebraska on Feb. 20. The 9.950 is tied for the second-highest score in school history.
- Senior Clair Kaji scored a 9.950, which is second in school history, on beam to tie her career best at the Big Five Meet on Feb. 27.
- Sophomore JerQuavia Henderson set a new season bests on vault after scoring a 9.925 on Feb. 27. This ties for ninth-best in school history.

#### HENDERSON'S ALL-AROUND

Sophomore JerQuavia Henderson is the only Hawkeye to compete in all-around this season. The Illinois native posted a career-best -- a 39.325 -- in her debut at Illinois en route to the all-around win. Henderson has a 39.175 average, which puts her fifth in the Big Ten and No. 31 nationally.

#### HAWKEYE EVENT WINNERS

lowa has shared or won 17 individual events this season. Senior Clair Kaji has won five event titles, junior Lauren Guerin has four wins, and lowa City native Adeline Kenlin has three wins. Sophomore JerQuavia Henderson has a two victories, while junior Alex Greenwald and senior Emma Hartzler have one victory apiece.

#### **B1G WEEKLY HONOREES**

- Junior Lauren Guerin was the Big Ten Specialist of the Week on Feb. 8 after scoring a 9.950 and sharing the event title on floor against No. 11 Minnesota.
- Adeline Kenlin earned her second Big Ten Freshman of the Week honor on Feb. 8 after placing third on the bars and beam posting a 9.85 and 9.875. She was award her first honor on Jan. 25 after sharing the bar title and placing third on vault in the win over Ohio State
- Senior Clair Kaji was named the Big Ten Specialist of the Week on Feb. 1 after winning floor (9.900) and finishing as runner up on the beam (9.875) and bars (9.725) against Illinois. Kaji was also earned the distinction Jan. 25 after earning a share of beam title and tying a career-high on floor for a second consecutive week.
- Guerin was also the Big Ten Specialist of the Week on Jan. 18 after sharing the floor title at Minnesota. She posted a 9.950 for the fourth time in her career.

#### IN THE RECORD BOOKS

Five Hawkeyes currently are in the lowa record books. They are as follows:

- JerQuavia Henderson t1st 9.975 Floor
- JerOuavia Henderson -t9th- 9.925- vault
- Clair Kaji t2nd 9.950 Beam
- Adeline Kenlin t2nd 9.950 Beam
- Lauren Guerin t4th 9.950 Floor
- Allyson Steffensmeier 6th 9.925 Uneven Bars
- Lauren Guerin t9th 9.925 Vault
- Lauren Guerin t11 9.925 Floor
- Clair Kaji t11 9.925 Floor
- Clair Kaji t14th 9.900 Beam
- Clair Kaji t15th 9.900 Uneven Bars

#### 19 & COUNTING

Head coach Larissa Libby has led GymHawks to 19 straight NCAA Regional appearances (either as a team or individually). The 2021 season is Libby's 17th as lowa's head coach and 21st overall with the program.

#### **FOLLOW THE HAWKEYES**

For a behind the scenes look at the program, follow the GymHawks via social media at Facebook/lowaGymnastics, Twitter/@ lowaGymnastics, and Instagram (@lowaGymnastics).

#### **UP NEX**

The Hawkeyes will travel to Lincoln to face No. 35 Nebraska on March 14. This will be the final meet of the regular season prior to the Big Ten Championships. Action is scheduled to start at 4 p.m.





Name	Pos.	Yr.	Hometown/High School (Last School)
Dani Castillo	AA	So.	Miami, Fla./Monarch
Erin Castle	AA	Sr.	Boone, Iowa/Boone
Giovanna Deo	AA	Fr.	Santa Clarita, Calif./Saugus
Allie Gilchrist	V, BB, FX	Jr.	Norwalk, Iowa/Norwalk
Alex Greenwald	AA	Jr.	Coral Springs, Fla./Marjory Stoneman Douglas
Lauren Guerin	V, BB, FX	Jr.	Austin, Texas/Texas Connections Academy
Emma Hartzler	AA	Sr.	Marion, Iowa/Linn Mar
JerQuavia Henderson	AA	So.	Peoria, III./Dunlap
Sophia Hunzelman	AA	Fr.	Chesterton, Ind./Chesterton
Clair Kaji	UB, BB, FX	Sr.	Vancouver, Canada/Magee Secondary
Adeline Kenlin	AA	Fr.	Iowa City, Iowa/West Branch
Bridget Killian	AA	Jr.	Wheaton, III./St. Francis
Caelen Lansing	AA	Fr.	La Crosse, Wis./Central
Kendall Laplante	AA	Fr.	Seminole, Fla./Seminole
Kareena Mcsweeny	AA	Fr.	Cedar Rapids, Iowa/Abeka
Aubrey Nick	AA	Fr.	Wauconda, III./Wauconda
Ellie Rogers	AA	So.	Spotsylvania, Pa./Courtland
Allyson Steffensmeier	AA	So.	Cedar Rapids, Iowa/John F. Kennedy
Carina Tolan	AA	Jr.	Tinley Park, III./Providence Catholic
Mackenzie Vance	AA	Jr.	Buda, Texas/Jack C. Hays

## **COACHING STAFF**

**Head Coach:** Larissa Libby (17th season, LSU, 1996) **Assistant Coach:** Vince Smurro (5th season, Illinois, 2013) **Assistant Coach:** Jessa Hansen Parker (1st season, lowa, 2012)

**Graduate Assistant:** Ryan Ruckdaschel **Volunteer Assistant:** Rachel David **Student Manager:** Carter Dochterman

**Athletic Trainer:** Emily Link

## **PRONUNCIATION GUIDE**

Jiovanna <b>Deo</b>	Dee-U
Allie <b>Gilchrist</b>	Gill-Crest
_auren <b>Guerin</b>	Gair (like hair)-in
JerQuavia Henderson	Jer-kwae-via
Clair <b>Kaji</b>	Kah-gee

TEAM SEASON HIGHS		INDIVID	INDIVIDUAL TEAM EVENT HIGHS			
Vault		Vault		Floor		
49.200	at Big 5 Meet, 2/26/21	9.900	Lauren Guerin vs. Minnesota, 2/6/21	9.975	JerQuavia Henderson vs. Maryland/Minnesota, 2/13/21	
Bars		Bars				
49.275	vs. Ohio State, 1/23/21	9.900	Adeline Kenlin vs. Ohio State, 2/26/21	All-Arour	ıd	
				39.325	JerQuavia Henderson at Ilinois, 1/31/21	
Beam						
49.200	vs. Maryland/Minnesota, 2/13/21	Beam				
	,	9.950	Adeline Kenlin vs. Nebraska, 2/20/21			
Floor			Clair Kaji at Big 5 Meet, 2/26/21			
49.600	vs. Maryland/Minnesota, 2/13/21					









