

Trio of Hawkeyes invited to 2011 Senior Bowl



Adrian Clayborn was one of three Hawkeyes invited to the 2011 Senior Bowl, held in Mobile, Ala., on Jan. 29, 2011.

By Brendan Stiles

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Just three days after Iowa's 27-24 win in the 2010 Insight Bowl over No. 14 Missouri, it was formally announced Friday that quarterback Ricky Stanzi and defensive linemen Adrian Clayborn and Christian Ballard will play for the North squad in the 2011 Senior Bowl.

The game is set to take place on Jan. 29 at Ladd-Pebbles Stadium in Mobile, Ala., and will be televised by the NFL Network.

The Senior Bowl is typically the first major step in the NFL draft process following the college football season. Last year, linebacker A.J. Edds was the lone participant from Iowa in the game.

Clayborn is being tabbed by many draft gurus as a first-round pick. Coming off a season where he was selected as a Consensus

All-American, the St. Louis native finished his senior season with 52 tackles (seven for a loss of yards), and 3.5 sacks, as well as a forced fumble.

Ballard, who like Clayborn was a three-year starter on the Hawkeye defensive line, finished 2010 with 43 tackles, three sacks, and a forced fumble. The Lawrence, Kan., native posted these numbers while starting games at both tackle and end throughout the season.

Stanzi, a three-year starter at quarterback for Iowa, completed 221 of 345 pass attempts in 2010, throwing 25 touchdowns to just six interceptions, and 3,004 passing yards.

"We are thrilled to have these three outstanding players represent the University of Iowa in next month's game," Senior Bowl President and CEO Steve Hale said in a release sent out Friday by the Senior Bowl. "All three had great careers and were integral parts in the Hawkeyes' success the last several years."

In addition to these three players, senior defensive tackle Karl Klug will participate in the East-West Shrine Game, which is being held Jan. 22 in Orlando, Fla.