

Prater opts to return for senior season

By Brendan Stiles

HawkeyeDrive.com

Iowa junior cornerback Shaun Prater announced via Twitter and Facebook on Tuesday that he will be returning to the Hawkeyes for his senior season in 2011. His decision to return was confirmed later in the afternoon by the UI.

"I sat down with my family, and with Coach [Kirk] Ferentz and my coaches. I weighed the pros and cons, and I am remaining at Iowa for my senior season," Prater said in a release sent out by Iowa's sports information department. "I look forward to playing a vital role in whatever capacity is necessary next season."

Prater was one of three Iowa juniors who filed paperwork with the NFL's draft advisory board, with the other two being safety Tyler Sash and wide receiver Marvin McNutt. As of Tuesday, neither Sash nor McNutt has made announcements either saying they'd return to Iowa or forgo their senior years for the pros.

The deadline to declare for the NFL Draft is Jan. 15.

Prater was first team all-Big Ten at cornerback last season after compiling 68 tackles (50 unassisted), four interceptions and a fumble recovery starting 12 games for the Hawkeyes.

"I was very pleased to learn of Shaun Prater's decision to return to the team for his senior season," Iowa head coach Kirk Ferentz said in the same aforementioned release. "Shaun has played very good football for us the past few years, and I expect him to continue growing both as a player and team

leader next season.”