

Ferentz, Barta issue statements following Paterno's death

By Brendan Stiles

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Iowa head coach Kirk Ferentz and athletics director Gary Barta both issued statements Sunday evening after the death of former Penn State head coach Joe Paterno was confirmed earlier in the day:

Ferentz's statement: "It is certainly a very, very sad day. The passing of Coach Paterno is a huge loss; there will never be another Coach Paterno. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Paterno family."

Barta's statement: "Joe Paterno has meant so much to college athletics over such a long period of time. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his immediate family first and foremost, and then, certainly, to the extended Penn State family."

Ferentz, who grew up in the Pittsburgh area, finished with an 8-3 head-to-head record against Paterno in 11 meetings, with Penn State having won the most recent contest back on Oct. 8, 13-3. Also of note is that Iowa and Penn State went head-to-head in both women's basketball and wrestling on Sunday in State College, Pa.

Paterno died Sunday morning at the age of 85, two-and-a-half months after a child sex abuse scandal involving former defensive coordinator Jerry Sandusky led to Paterno's firing by Penn State's Board of Trustees. Shortly after his dismissal, it was revealed Paterno had lung cancer.