

Iowa's 2015 and 2016 Big Ten schedules revealed

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On Oct. 31, 2015, almost seven years to the date since their last meeting on the gridiron, the Iowa Hawkeyes and Illinois Fighting Illini will play a football game against each other at Kinnick Stadium.

The long, awaited home-and-home with Illinois highlights Iowa's 2015 and 2016 conference schedules, which were released by the Big Ten on Monday. In addition to playing the Fighting Illini, the Hawkeyes will return to Beaver Stadium for a date with Penn State on Nov. 7, 2015, as well as continue playing all five of their Legends Division counterparts and Purdue annually.

Iowa will open league play in 2015 with a pair of home games on Oct. 3 and Oct. 10 against Northwestern and Michigan State, followed by consecutive trips to Purdue on Oct. 17 and Minnesota on Oct. 24. Then comes the first meeting with Illinois since Nov. 1, 2008, a game won by the Fighting Illini, 27-24. Following the trip to Penn State, the Hawkeyes have their bye week, then conclude conference play with its home finale Nov. 21 against Michigan and a trip to Lincoln to play Nebraska on Nov. 28.

In 2016, Iowa starts with Minnesota at home on Oct. 1 before traveling to Michigan State on Oct. 8. Following a contest with Purdue at Kinnick Stadium on Oct. 15, the Hawkeyes will play in the state of Illinois in consecutive weeks, first playing at Northwestern on Oct. 22 and then at Illinois on Oct. 29. After a home contest Nov. 5 against Penn State, Iowa will have its bye week, then play at Michigan on Nov. 19

before concluding league play with Nebraska at home on Nov. 26.

The dates for the two games against the Cornhuskers should be considered tentative in the event Iowa and Nebraska agree to continue playing each other on the Friday after Thanksgiving as they did last season and will again this November.

Iowa will play Wisconsin and Ohio State in 2013 and 2014, while Indiana will take a four-year hiatus off the Hawkeyes' schedule following this season's contest on Nov. 3 in Bloomington, Ind.

Below is the complete list of the Hawkeyes' Big Ten games in 2015 and 2016:

2015:

10/3/2015 – vs. Northwestern

10/10/2015 – vs. Michigan State

10/17/2015 – at Purdue

10/24/2015 – at Minnesota

10/31/2015 – vs. Illinois

11/7/2015 – at Penn State

11/21/2015 – vs. Michigan

11/28/2015 – at Nebraska

2016:

10/1/2016 – vs. Minnesota

10/8/2016 – at Michigan State

10/15/2016 – vs. Purdue

10/22/2016 – at Northwestern

10/29/2016 – at Illinois

11/5/2016 – vs. Penn State

11/19/2016 – at Michigan

11/26/2016 – vs. Nebraska