Hawkeyes hosting Notre Dame in Big Ten/ACC Challenge

By Brendan Stiles

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Iowa will play host to Notre Dame on Dec. 3 as part of the Big Ten/ACC Challenge, the two conferences announced Wednesday. This upcoming 2013-14 season will be the first for the Fighting Irish in the ACC after having spent 18 years as a member of the Big East for all sports except football.

The storyline with this match-up surrounds Iowa head coach Fran McCaffery, who spent 11 seasons as an assistant at Notre Dame under both Digger Phelps and John McLeod. His wife Margaret also played for the school's women's basketball team in college. The Fighting Irish were in last year's NCAA tournament as a No. 7 seed and lost in the second round to 10th-seeded Iowa State.

After losing 95-79 at Virginia Tech last season, Iowa has lost seven straight games in the Big Ten/ACC Challenge, a streak dating back to 2006. The Hawkeyes' last Big Ten/ACC Challenge win came during the 2005-06 season, a 45-42 win over North Carolina State at home. Iowa's last game against Notre Dame came during the 1990-91 season, a 77-68 for the Fighting Irish in the Preseason NIT.

Among other Big Ten/ACC Challenge match-ups announced Wednesday include Michigan playing at Duke, Michigan State playing host to North Carolina, Indiana playing at Syracuse in a rematch of a Sweet 16 match-up from last season and Ohio State playing host to soon-to-be Big Ten member Maryland.

Iowa's entire non-conference schedule for the 2013-14 season will be announced at a later date. The Hawkeyes will

participate in the Battle 4 Atlantis, as well as play a home game against Nebraska-Omaha, a road game at Iowa State, and their Big Four Classic match-up in Des Moines will be against Drake.