

1/2/2012: State of the Big Ten, Volume 49 (premium)

Every Monday, we will be running a weekly series titled "State of the Big Ten," which will be made available to all members of HawkeyeDrive.com. This series of columns will focus on one major headline regarding the conference and go in-depth on the subject at hand.

By Brendan Stiles

HawkeyeDrive.com

A significant agreement made last week between the Big Ten and Pac-12 could have an enormous impact on the landscape of college athletics in 2012 and beyond.

On Dec. 28, the two conferences reached an agreement where its members will now take part in annual games against one another in the bulk of their marquee sports. Of note, Big Ten teams will start having at least one Pac-12 team on their football schedules beginning in 2017, and in basketball, there will be at least one game a Big Ten team faces a Pac-12 team, much like what has existed since 1998 with the Big Ten/ACC Challenge.

Keeping it with these two sports, this is a landmark decision being made in football. The two conferences already have their champions meeting every year in the Rose Bowl, including Monday's game between Big Ten champion Wisconsin and Pac-12 champion Oregon. Both conferences now have 12 members, so from that standpoint, this is feasible.

This will, however, have a major influence on future scheduling. With this in place, it's hard to envision the Big Ten continuing on with the idea of playing nine conference games (which is why the year 2017 is worth mentioning here, as

this was the year the nine-game league slate was going to go into effect). It should be noted though that the Pac-12 currently has a nine-game conference schedule as well.

One thing that seems quite obvious is how little influence the coaches and ADs had on this agreement. Make no mistake – this was business done strictly between two commissioners, Jim Delany and Larry Scott, that both ought to feel good about their conferences' futures without having to consider expanding in the near future like the SEC and ACC have.

But the coaches' non-influence is worth mentioning because other than California, most of the schools in the Big Ten aren't recruiting West. Suddenly, there are now games being played in places like Corvallis, Ore., Pullman, Wash., and Salt Lake City, Utah, none of which are places one will see Kirk Ferentz or Mark Dantonio visiting for recruiting purposes anytime soon.

There's also the Notre Dame factor, and this agreement could inevitably force the Fighting Irish's hand. Notre Dame plays five schools – Michigan, Michigan State and Purdue from the Big Ten, and Stanford and USC from the Pac-12 – on an annual basis. The three games against the Big Ten usually take place early in the season, but the games against those two Pac-12 schools are played in South Bend in October and out in California during November. With the Big Ten and Pac-12 doing this, one has to think these annual games are going to be in September.

Now with basketball, this is intriguing in the sense that, as mentioned before, the Big Ten already has this sort of set-up with the ACC with the Big Ten/ACC Challenge every year. Unless the Big Ten makes it so every team is guaranteed one home and one road between the two games every year, there could be years where travel can become an issue for schools like Nebraska or Penn State that don't put the same amount of resources into basketball as they do a sport like football.

Then there are schools like Iowa and Wisconsin that have guaranteed in-state games played every season and now will have even tighter restrictions on how they're able to schedule.

In theory, this is an innovative idea being agreed to by Delany and Scott and there's no reason to think this agreement can't ultimately prove beneficial to both the Big Ten and Pac-12. But with that said, this is going to be difficult in practice, at least early on. It will have an impact, in one way or another, on all 12 schools (for both conferences).

It's worth experimenting with, but it's also fair to question how much of a positive effect this will have long-term on football, basketball, and many other sports.

12/30/2011: Oklahoma 31, Iowa 14 (Links)

By Brendan Stiles

HawkeyeDrive.com

Check out all of these links to content posted on Friday after Iowa's 31-14 loss in the 2011 Insight Bowl to No. 19 Oklahoma at Sun Devil Stadium in Tempe, Ariz.:

RECAP: [Hawkeyes crushed by Sooners in Insight Bowl](#)

COMMENTARY: [Sputtering offense proves to be difference](#)

VIDEOS:

[Iowa postgame \(Kirk Ferentz, Broderick Binns, Mike Daniels,](#)

[Marvin McNutt\)](#)

[Skycam Fail](#)

Hawkeyes crushed by Sooners in Insight Bowl

By Brendan Stiles

HawkeyeDrive.com

TEMPE, Ariz. – Five weeks following a 13-point loss to Nebraska where the offense was non-existent, little changed for the Iowa Hawkeyes in the 2011 Insight Bowl.

Despite compiling more yards of total offense and dominating time of possession, Iowa was unable to win its second straight Insight Bowl, leaving Sun Devil Stadium on Friday with a 31-14 loss to No. 19 Oklahoma. For the Sooners, they finished 10-3 with the victory, its third straight bowl win. Meanwhile, the Hawkeyes saw the three-game bowl winning streak it entered with snapped.

Iowa found itself in an early hole when junior quarterback James Vandenberg threw an interception on the Hawkeyes' second drive to Oklahoma cornerback Jamell Fleming, who advanced the ball up to the Iowa 5. Redshirt freshman quarterback Blake Bell then proceeded to score the first of three rushing touchdowns to put the Sooners ahead 7-0.

"We knew he was most likely going to run the ball," senior defensive end Broderick Binns said. "It was something that we practiced throughout the month preparing for this game, but things just didn't go our way today."

Bell's second touchdown would come in the second quarter, and like the first score also came from four yards out. The Oklahoma scoring drive was aided by a personal foul penalty called on senior strong safety Jordan Bernstine when he laid a helmet-to-helmet hit on Sooner signal-caller Landry Jones, who revealed after the game his tooth was chipped on the hit.

Oklahoma had a chance to make it 21-0 on its opening series of the third quarter, but Jones threw a red-zone interception to Binns that kept the Sooners off the board. Jones would rebound though later in the quarter when he threw his lone touchdown pass of the evening to tight end Trent Ratterree.

Iowa would score a pair of fourth-quarter touchdowns to trim the Sooner lead to 21-14. Vandenberg connected with sophomore tight end C.J. Fiedorowicz for the first scoring strike of five yards, then the second touchdown pass went nine yards to true freshman running back Jordan Canzeri, who had a team-high six receptions on top of the 58 yards rushing he had in place of suspended running back Marcus Coker.

The Sooners would make a 35-yard field goal to extend the lead to 24-14. Following the ensuing kickoff, a scary instance occurred. Just as the Hawkeyes broke their huddle, [the ESPN skycam unexpectedly broke and fell to the turf](#). The equipment slightly grazed the arm of senior wide receiver Marvin McNutt, who finished the game with 46 yards receiving on four catches.

"It was just pulling me, and I didn't want to keep going with it," McNutt said about the skycam incident.

Vandenberg would get stopped on a fourth-down play that he also got injured on. The turnover on downs was quickly followed by Bell's third rushing touchdown of the game from 21 yards out.

"James, I think, is fine," Iowa head coach Kirk Ferentz said. "He took a shot there at the end, and I don't think he would have come back at any point in the game."

The Hawkeyes won't return to action again until Sept. 1, when they visit Soldier Field in Chicago for a game against Northern Illinois, who won the MAC this season.

2011 Insight Bowl: Iowa postgame video

By Brendan Stiles

HawkeyeDrive.com

TEMPE, Ariz. – The following videos are from Iowa's post game press conference after the Hawkeyes lost to No. 19 Oklahoma in the Insight Bowl on Friday, 31-14. Iowa finished with a 7-6 record in 2011 as a result of the defeat.

Those who spoke in this press conference were head coach Kirk Ferentz, and seniors Broderick Binns, Mike Daniels and Marvin McNutt. Junior quarterback James Vandenberg was initially slated to speak, but didn't because he left the game late in the fourth quarter with an injury.

McNutt finished with 46 yards receiving on four catches, while Daniels had five tackles and two sacks and Binns had one tackle and an interception of Oklahoma quarterback Landry Jones in the third quarter.

The press conference was broken into two parts. The first video features McNutt answering a couple of questions and Ferentz's press conference in its entirety. The second video is of the remaining questions to the players:

PART ONE:

PART TWO:

COMMENTARY: Sputtering offense proves to be difference

By Brendan Stiles

HawkeyeDrive.com

TEMPE, Ariz. – The play of Iowa's offense is what doomed its chances in the 2011 Insight Bowl, as the Hawkeyes were defeated by No. 19 Oklahoma, 31-14.

Maybe this sounds like stating the obvious, but this was a night, and a game, where it was pretty clear where it was lost.

Say what you will about the suspension handed down to sophomore running back Marcus Coker last week, preventing him from traveling with the team for this game. He wouldn't have made the difference Friday night. Not against that Oklahoma defense.

Look at the other games Iowa lost this season where it was thoroughly dominated like it was by the Sooners in this contest. Coker struggled to get much going, and the offense struggled. I'm talking about the three double-digit losses to Penn State, Michigan State and Nebraska that preceded Friday night's events. Coker wasn't the difference in those games, and he wouldn't have been the difference in this one.

To take that point one step further, freshman running back Jordan Canzeri didn't look too bad. He only rushed for 58 yards on 22 carries, but he also had a team-high six receptions. It speaks volumes about his ability to be a threat in both the running and passing game. It also speaks volumes to just how much the offense struggled.

Junior quarterback James Vandenberg finished 23-of-44 passing. Six of his 23 completions on the night were to Canzeri – for 28 yards. That isn't going to get it done against a team like Oklahoma. Sure he had more passing yards than Oklahoma quarterback Landry Jones, but the issues Vandenberg had early on proved to play a huge role in the outcome of this game.

Iowa's first two possessions featured six passes by Vandenberg. He completed one – a 10-yard catch by senior wide receiver Marvin McNutt. He also threw an interception to Oklahoma cornerback Jamell Fleming that set up the first of three touchdowns scored on the ground by Sooner back-up quarterback Blake Bell.

The only way the Hawkeyes had any chance of realistically winning this game is if they had delivered the first punch the Sooners' direction. They didn't. Instead, Oklahoma was able to build up a 21-0 lead that Iowa wasn't able to overcome.

In what was the final game for Norm Parker as Iowa's defensive coordinator, the Hawkeye defense played pretty well. It held the Sooner offense to 275 total yards. Oklahoma's starting running back, Roy Finch, had four yards rushing on six carries. In fact, Bell was the Sooners' leading rusher with 51 yards and 21 of those yards came on his final touchdown run in the fourth quarter that iced it.

Basically what I'm getting at here is the defense did enough to put Iowa in position to win. That first touchdown run Bell had from four yards out came after Vandenberg's aforementioned interception. Senior defensive end Broderick Binns had an

interception of his own on Oklahoma's opening drive of the second half when it appeared the Sooners were going to deliver the knockout blow. Senior defensive tackle Mike Daniels had two sacks and was just the second player all season to have multiple sacks in a game against Oklahoma.

A lot of question marks surround the defense entering 2012, but it's going to be interesting what steps are taken offensively going forward. This team loses McNutt and probably loses offensive tackle Riley Reiff to the NFL early. Vandenberg will be a senior, but he can't continue to have games like the one he had Friday.

Again, it's pretty obvious what happened in this Insight Bowl. The question now becomes whether the Hawkeyes can learn from their offensive mistakes. If this entire season was any indication, it's fair to wonder if they will.

2011 Insight Bowl: Broken skycam video

By Brendan Stiles

HawkeyeDrive.com

TEMPE, Ariz. – With 2:22 remaining in the 2011 Insight Bowl, a skycam malfunction took place to temporarily delay the action.

The following is footage taken from the Iowa sidelines when the skycam breaks and falls on the field. It nearly hits Iowa senior wide receiver Marvin McNutt, who said after the game part of the lining did scratch his arm.

"At first, I was like, 'What is that,' McNutt said. "It was

just pulling me, and I didn't want to keep going with it."

Ferentz, Stoops express final thoughts before meeting in Insight Bowl



Iowa head coach Kirk Ferentz (left) and Oklahoma head coach Bob Stoops stand side-to-side behind the trophy for the 2011 Insight Bowl in between final pregame press conferences on Thursday, Dec. 29, 2011 in Scottsdale, Ariz.

By Brendan Stiles

HawkeyeDrive.com

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. – As Iowa head coach Kirk Ferentz and Oklahoma head coach Bob Stoops both spoke publicly for the final time before their teams meet in the 2011 Insight Bowl on Friday, very little has changed as far as major headlines are

concerned.

While Ferentz hasn't officially named a starter at running back to replace the suspended Marcus Coker, he did reveal that four players – sophomore fullback Brad Rogers, freshmen running backs Jordan Canzeri and Damon Bullock and senior running back Jason White – will all play roles offensively for the Hawkeyes in Friday's contest.

"It will be a committee effort," Ferentz said. "I think I envision all four of those guys playing.

"They will do a good job. As long as we get the young guys out of the locker room and get them started, they will be fine."

Ferentz has said on multiple occasions, including during his press conference Thursday, how he believes his squad might have a psychological edge due to Oklahoma not being as familiar with anyone from that quartet of backs. Naturally, Stoops expressed disagreement in those remarks.

"I don't believe they are going to change offenses," Stoops said. "So I think what you still prepare for are the formations and the plays that they are used to running.

"I'm sure they will find guys that if they have space, they will be able to jump in and make something happen."

Stoops, the Disciplinarian

Oklahoma enters this contest with a 9-3 record after entering this season ranked as the preseason No. 1 team in the land. Attrition due to injuries, suspensions and other issues have played roles in the Sooners being in this game, and being in this game short-handed.

Stoops was asked about some of the decisions he had to make earlier this season regarding the players who have been either suspended or removed from the team altogether. He didn't mention specific names, but he also held nothing back.

"I think some of that is just more recognized because we've lost a few games," Stoops said. "Some of them have been told they need to transfer because I'm not renewing their scholarship. You are here to go to school and to be a heck of a football player, or at least try to be. And if you are not doing ... living up to those obligations, you are not earning your way and you are bringing the team down."

Stoops also added that practices have been easier for him as a coach over the past few weeks.

"You know why? Because that two percent of my team isn't eating up 90 percent of my time all of a sudden," Stoops said. "It's pretty simple. You feel a lot better, that's for sure."

Iowa injuries

As for Iowa, Ferentz said Thursday the Hawkeyes will be without the services of three players, all of whom are dealing with injuries – senior tight end Brad Herman, freshman tight end Ray Hamilton and freshman linebacker Quinton Alston.

Herman and Alston were listed on Iowa's original 2-deep for this game prior to the announcement of Coker's suspension.

"[Herman] had a bad foot sprain that didn't require surgery, but hasn't responded. He won't play," Ferentz said. "Ray Hamilton has a little bit of a knee issue that hasn't responded, so I don't think he will play. Quinton Alston will be held out medically, too."

"I think those three guys are the only three that are out of the game at this stage."

Ferentz also said senior offensive tackle Markus Zusevics had been dealing with a flu bug, but still expects him to be ready Friday.

Sooners remain a heavy favorite

As of Thursday, Oklahoma was tabbed as a 13.5-point favorite. With that comes the sort of high expectations Stoops said he and his program deal with routinely.

“It doesn’t matter,” Stoops said. “We are supposed to win all the time, and when we do, a lot of times it’s ho-hum. This is no different.”

Meanwhile, Ferentz has accepted the notion of his team being tabbed an underdog, saying the Hawkeyes don’t deserve to be favored in this game after finishing 7-5 in the regular season for the second straight year.

“It’s certainly good that our players understand we’re hardly a favorite and shouldn’t be,” Ferentz said. “We will have to play our absolute best to make this a really good game.”

Iowa vs. Oklahoma (What to expect)



By Brendan Stiles

HawkeyeDrive.com

To get you all ready for Friday’s Insight Bowl between Iowa and No. 19 Oklahoma, I put together a list of things you ought

to know before these two face off at Sun Devil Stadium in Tempe, Ariz.

At the end, I'll provide what I think are three keys to an Iowa victory.

2011 Insight Bowl: Iowa Hawkeyes (7-5) vs. No. 19 Oklahoma Sooners (9-3)

Sun Devil Stadium; Tempe, Ariz.

Dec. 30, 2011

9 p.m. Central

TV: ESPN (Sean McDonough, Matt Millen, Heather Cox)

Radio: Hawkeye Radio Network (Gary Dolphin, Ed Podolak, Rob Brooks)

Weather: [61 degrees](#)

Brendan's Three Keys to the Game:

1. Set the tone early

Iowa's best chance of winning this game Friday night is by catching Oklahoma off guard early and getting the first punches in. The big question with the Sooners going into this game will be where their psyche is, given that they were the preseason No. 1 team in the country and ended up in this game after losing three games in Big 12 play. Both teams looked bad the last time they stepped on a football field. If Iowa can set an early tone and force Oklahoma to play from behind, it has a good chance of prevailing. If the Sooners strike early and often, it will be a long night for the Hawkeyes.

2. Younger players stepping up

Obviously a lot of pressure will be placed on the running backs with Marcus Coker being suspended. But most of Iowa's

success in bowl games has been a result of underclassmen having huge games. In last year's Insight Bowl, it was Coker and Micah Hyde that made the big plays. If the Hawkeyes are going to win this time around, guys like Kevonte Martin-Manley and C.J. Fiedorowicz on offense and Christian Kirksey and Tanner Miller on defense might need to be the difference makers.

3. Red zone execution from both sides

This one should go without saying, but red zone play will be critical, especially if and when the Sooners have the ball inside Iowa's 20. Oklahoma won't shy away from using back-up quarterback Blake Bell down near the goal-line, so the Hawkeyes will have to account for the 6-6, 245-pound redshirt freshman. Conversely, when Iowa gets chances in the red zone, the Hawkeyes have to come away with touchdowns, especially if they are able to set an early tone. Allowing a team like Oklahoma to hang around for four quarters isn't going to help matters in crunch time.

2011 Insight Bowl Media Day notebook



The Insight Bowl trophy and

dueling Iowa (left) and Oklahoma helmets are on display during the bowl's annual Media Day held on Wednesday in Scottsdale, Ariz.

By Brendan Stiles

HawkeyeDrive.com

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. – In the final days leading up to the 2011 Insight Bowl, the Iowa Hawkeyes and No. 19 Oklahoma Sooners appear to be two teams going in different directions.

For Iowa, this is its second consecutive trip to the desert to play in this bowl after defeating Missouri in last year's game. The Hawkeyes enter with a 7-5 record as they did in 2010, and the future has some uncertainty with two coaching positions becoming vacant at week's end.

In addition, the Hawkeyes have also found themselves having to deal with the absence of sophomore running back Marcus Coker, who was suspended last week for being in violation of the UI's Student-Athlete Code of Conduct.

Among the names being thrown out as guys that might step in for Coker are a trio of freshmen running backs – true freshmen Jordan Canzeri and Damon Bullock, and redshirt freshman De'Andre Johnson.

"They do a great job catching the ball out of the backfield, which is something that's big for us, and it's just a great change of pace," junior quarterback James Vandenberg said. "They can do the job. It's a great opportunity for them. We expect their best."

Meanwhile, the Sooners find themselves in this game after a loss to in-state foe Oklahoma State cost them a second

straight Big 12 crown and capped off a 9-3 campaign that began with Oklahoma ranked as the preseason No. 1 team in the country. In addition to all that, the Sooners have also been dealing with season-ending injuries to numerous players including running back Dominique Whaley and wide receiver Ryan Broyles, both of whom led the team in rushing and receiving, respectively.

The embarrassment of losing 44-10 to the Cowboys earlier this month appears to have worn off a team that at the very least was saying all the right things Wednesday.

"We still want to finish strong," Oklahoma senior defensive end Frank Alexander said. "We try to keep a positive attitude about it and just keep pushing to win this last game."

Rogers' return

When Iowa defeated Missouri in last year's Insight Bowl, it did so without the services of fullback Brad Rogers. In the days leading up to that match-up, doctors discovered a heart condition Rogers had that would prevent him from playing, and it ended up keeping him from participating in most football-related activities until this past fall.

Rogers had a chance to reflect back on being held out of last year's contest, and described it as bittersweet upon hearing the Hawkeyes would be returning to the same place where both his playing career and his life changed forever.

"Coming back to a place where something that happened, that I didn't know what was going on, it was different," Rogers said. "But as I got here, I kind of like it."

Rogers' first game back came in October when the Hawkeyes lost to Penn State. He said doctors continue to check on him regularly and that barring any setbacks, his football career is as close to normal as it was prior to the heart condition being found.

"Now that I know what happened or what was going on, I kind of had that reassurance that I was going to play this year," Rogers said.

The "Bell-Dozer"

The publicity surrounding Oklahoma quarterback Landry Jones has been well-deserved. But he's not the only Sooner signal-caller the Hawkeyes will have to deal with in the Insight Bowl.

Redshirt freshman quarterback Blake Bell has been used in goal-line and short-yardage situations by Oklahoma this season and actually leads the Sooners with 10 rushing touchdowns this season.

"That's just our way of having fun," senior offensive tackle Donald Stephenson said. "We kind of keep it simple as far as offense, and when we can change it up and bring Blake Bell in, he's a great physical specimen. We bring him in, try some different stuff, and it works out."

"He brings a lot of excitement and that extra little oomph on our offense."

In light of his success, the nickname "Bell-dozer" became popular among the rest of the team. In fact, sophomore offensive guard Gabe Ikard said it has reached the point where he only calls him "Dozer."

"I've shortened 'Bell-dozer' to 'Dozer,' and literally, I don't think I've called him Blake in like a month," Ikard said. "Every time, he'll just smile like, 'Really? Really?'"

Prater, McNutt reflect

Cornerback Shaun Prater and wide receiver Marvin McNutt both made the decisions last winter to return for their senior seasons. On Wednesday, both shared no regrets in the decisions they made.

Prater believes his draft stock has gone up from where it was at this time last December.

"As far as looking back on this season, really I can't take back anything minus those losses," Prater said.

As for McNutt, there was more to the decision than simply coming back to break just about every receiving record at Iowa. The St. Louis native was the first member of his family to graduate college, a feat McNutt is as proud of.

"It's an honor to say I've done that, as well as be a part of this Hawkeye history for one more year, to play with the players I played with," McNutt said. "You're going to take this experience with you for the rest of your life."

Reiff, Jones undecided

Both teams have players that will face similar decisions to that of what Prater and McNutt had to make last year. On Iowa's end, the talk is surrounding junior offensive tackle Riley Reiff, who has been widely projected as a possible first-round pick in 2012.

Reiff said Wednesday he did submit paperwork to the NFL for a draft evaluation and plans to make a decision before the Jan. 15 deadline given to college juniors to decide about leaping for the pros or staying in school.

"I'll sit down and think about it, and we'll see where it goes from there," Reiff said, adding that what he is told by NFL evaluators will factor greatly into the decision he ends up making.

Meanwhile, Oklahoma has Jones, a preseason Heisman favorite that has thrown for over 4,000 yards this season. Jones said he remains unclear of what he wants to eventually do.

"I've gone back and forth so many times on this. One day I'm leaving, one day I'm staying," Jones said. "I think once this

season's done, I'll be able to get a bigger grasp on what I want to do."

Playing for Stoops

Iowa's mantra will be playing for defensive coordinator Norm Parker, who will retire following the Insight Bowl. As for Oklahoma, Sooners players haven't shied away from how much they want to win this game for head coach Bob Stoops, who was a four-year starter at defensive back for Iowa and was a member of the 1981 squad that went to the school's first Rose Bowl in 23 years.

"He doesn't want to lose to Iowa," Ikard said. "I'm sure he has got several of his buddies emailing him, texting him. I'm sure it would be a little sweeter since it's Iowa, but I'm not sure how much he's thinking about that."

Last year, the Sooners were in Arizona for the Fiesta Bowl around the same time Iowa played Missouri in the Insight Bowl. In fact, Stoops attended last year's Insight Bowl to root on the Hawkeyes and even wore an Iowa sweatshirt to show his support.

Senior linebacker Travis Lewis was also on hand, and to say he gave Stoops a hard time with the Iowa shirt might be a bit of an understatement.

"I was getting on him the whole time. The whole time," Lewis said. "There was nothing that I was holding back. I let him know that he was a traitor and everything like that. But he takes it all in stride and has a good time with it."

Resemblance game

One word was used by Oklahoma players on both sides of the ball to describe what stood out to them about Iowa – physicality.

Two teams the Sooners faced in 2011 were mentioned as teams

that paralleled the Hawkeyes. When it comes to the Iowa offense, the comparison was made to that of Kansas State, a team that was undefeated before losing to Oklahoma back on Oct. 29.

“They’re going to check into the right play almost every single time,” Lewis said. “They see a blitz coming from the left, they’re going to check a run play to the right. It kind of reminds you a lot of Kansas State.”

While the offense drew comparisons to Kansas State, the Iowa defense was mentioned in the same breath as that of Florida State’s defense. The Sooners defeated the Seminoles in Tallahassee, Fla., on Sept. 17, back when both teams were ranked in the top 10.

“Florida State was probably the most physical defensive line we played,” Ikard said. “Iowa, the way they just play right down the middle of you, it’s definitely different than pretty much anyone we’ve faced. They play a similar defense structurally, but the style they play and defensive line is something we really haven’t faced this year.

“It will be an interesting contrast of styles when it comes to both sides of the ball, so it should be pretty intriguing to watch.”

- [Iowa player audio](#)
- [Oklahoma player audio](#)
- [Oklahoma practice photos](#)

2011 Insight Bowl: Oklahoma

practice photos

By Brendan Stiles

HawkeyeDrive.com

TEMPE, Ariz. – Below are photos taken Wednesday during the portion of Oklahoma's practice open to the media. The 19th-ranked Sooners have been practicing at Corona Del Sol High School since arriving in Phoenix on Dec. 25.



Oklahoma players congregate prior to Wednesday's practice.



Oklahoma redshirt freshman quarterback Blake Bell



Oklahoma sophomore wide receiver Kenny Stills



Oklahoma sophomore wide receiver Kenny Stills talks with offensive coordinator Jay Norvell before practice Wednesday. Norvell played at Iowa and was a member of the 1985 Big Ten championship team.



Oklahoma junior quarterback Landry Jones



Oklahoma freshman wide receiver Kameel Jackson



Oklahoma head coach Bob Stoops



Oklahoma senior linebacker Travis Lewis



Oklahoma sophomore wide

receiver Kenny Stills (#4) dancing to rap music blaring over the speakers during the early portion of Wednesday's practice.



Oklahoma senior linebacker Travis Lewis attempts to catch a kick before Wednesday's practice.



Oklahoma junior quarterback Landry Jones tossing the ball around prior to Wednesday's practice.



Oklahoma head coach Bob Stoops



Oklahoma senior cornerback Jamell Fleming



Oklahoma players taking part in running drill at practice Wednesday.



Oklahoma coaches talking to the players during warm-up stretches at the start of Wednesday's practice.



The Sooners meet at midfield after finishing warm-up stretches during Wednesday's practice.