

2011 Insight Bowl Media Day: Oklahoma player audio



Oklahoma defensive end Frank Alexander discusses the 19th-ranked Sooners' upcoming match-up against the Iowa Hawkeyes in the 2011 Insight Bowl during the bowl's Media Day on Wednesday in Scottsdale, Ariz.

By Brendan Stiles

HawkeyeDrive.com

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. – Prior to playing the Iowa Hawkeyes in the 2011 Insight Bowl, the No. 19 Oklahoma Sooners participated in the bowl's annual Media Day, held at the JW Marriott Camelback Inn Resort.

Oklahoma enters the game with a 9-3 record, which includes a 6-3 mark in Big 12 play.

Below is audio from 10 Sooner football players during Wednesday's event – senior defensive end Frank Alexander, senior linebacker Travis Lewis, sophomore linebacker/nickel back Tony Jefferson, sophomore wide receiver Kenny Stills,

sophomore running back Roy Finch, junior defensive end David King, sophomore offensive guard Gabe Ikard, junior quarterback Landry Jones, senior cornerback Jamell Fleming, and senior offensive tackle Donald Stephenson:

[Frank Alexander \(Oklahoma DE\), 2011 Insight Bowl](#)

[Travis Lewis \(Oklahoma LB\), 2011 Insight Bowl](#)

[Tony Jefferson \(Oklahoma LB/NB\), 2011 Insight Bowl](#)

[Kenny Stills \(Oklahoma WR\), 2011 Insight Bowl](#)

[Roy Finch \(Oklahoma RB\), 2011 Insight Bowl](#)

[David King \(Oklahoma DE\), 2011 Insight Bowl](#)

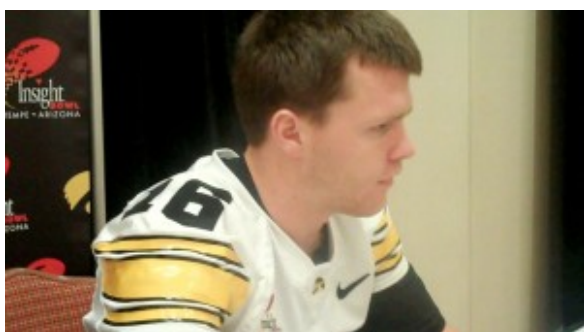
[Gabe Ikard \(Oklahoma OG\), 2011 Insight Bowl](#)

[Landry Jones \(Oklahoma QB\), 2011 Insight Bowl](#)

[Jamell Fleming \(Oklahoma CB\), 2011 Insight Bowl](#)

[Donald Stephenson \(Oklahoma OT\), 2011 Insight Bowl](#)

2011 Insight Bowl Media Day: Iowa player audio



Iowa junior quarterback James Vandenberg discusses the Hawkeyes' upcoming match-up against the 19th-ranked Oklahoma Sooners in the 2011 Insight Bowl during the bowl's Media Day on Wednesday in Scottsdale, Ariz.

By Brendan Stiles

HawkeyeDrive.com

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. – Prior to playing the No. 19 Oklahoma Sooners in the 2011 Insight Bowl, the Iowa Hawkeyes participated in the bowl's annual Media Day, held at the JW Marriott Camelback Inn Resort.

Iowa enters the game with a 7-5 record, which includes a 4-4 mark in Big Ten play.

Below is audio from 12 Hawkeye football players during Wednesday's event – junior quarterback James Vandenberg, junior wide receiver Keenan Davis, senior cornerback Shaun Prater, sophomore free safety Tanner Miller, sophomore fullback Brad Rogers, senior defensive end Lebron Daniel, senior offensive guard Adam Gettis, junior offensive guard Matt Tobin, senior defensive end Broderick Binns, junior offensive tackle Riley Reiff, senior wide receiver Marvin McNutt, and sophomore linebacker James Morris:

[James Vandenberg \(Iowa QB\), 2011 Insight Bowl](#)

[Keenan Davis \(Iowa WR\), 2011 Insight Bowl](#)

[Shaun Prater \(Iowa CB\), 2011 Insight Bowl](#)

[Tanner Miller \(Iowa FS\), 2011 Insight Bowl](#)

[Brad Rogers \(Iowa FB\), 2011 Insight Bowl](#)

[Lebron Daniel \(Iowa DE\), 2011 Insight Bowl](#)

[Adam Gettis \(Iowa OG\), 2011 Insight Bowl](#)

[Matt Tobin \(Iowa OG\), 2011 Insight Bowl](#)

[Broderick Binns \(Iowa DE\), 2011 Insight Bowl](#)

[Riley Reiff \(Iowa OT\), 2011 Insight Bowl](#)

[Marvin McNutt \(Iowa WR\), 2011 Insight Bowl](#)

[James Morris \(Iowa LB\), 2011 Insight Bowl](#)

12/27/2011: Insight Bowl notebook

By Brendan Stiles

HawkeyeDrive.com

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. – The 2011 Insight Bowl marks the final time Iowa defensive coordinator Norm Parker will coach a football game. But if the demeanor shown by him and his players during [Tuesday's practice at Chaparral High School](#) was any indication, the spotlight on Parker is his coaching farewell appears minimal.

Which is exactly how Parker wants it to be.

“The game has nothing to do with me,” Parker said. “The game’s about the players. I’m just along for the ride. It has been a nice ride, but the game’s about the players. It’s not about

the coaches.”

The players who spoke Tuesday acknowledged that a “Win one for Norm” mindset exists, but they’ve also taken to heart what Parker has told them about not letting that be *the* motivation for facing the Sooners.

“We’re out here as a team, and we’re trying to get a ‘W.’ It’s a huge game for us,” said junior cornerback Micah Hyde, who scored the game-winning touchdown in last year’s Insight Bowl on a 72-yard interception return. “If he leaves with a ‘W,’ that would make it that much sweeter.”

As for this being Parker’s last hurrah with the program, it hasn’t added to or diminished the admiration his players have for him.

“He has done a lot for this program,” senior linebacker Tyler Nielsen said. “He’s deserving of going out right.”

Transitioning from Kaczenski to Woods

Defensive tackle Mike Daniels called it “hard to swallow” at first upon hearing that former defensive line coach Rick Kaczenski was leaving to ultimately take a similar position at Nebraska. Kaczenski spent two seasons as a graduate assistant at Iowa before being promoted in 2007 to replace Ron Aiken, who took a job as the Arizona Cardinals’ defensive line coach that he still holds now.

Daniels was a true freshman when Kaczenski took over that role and over those five years, they built what Daniels called “a great relationship.” With Kaczenski no longer in the picture, Daniels said his motivation in dealing with the coaching change comes from former teammates along the defensive line such as Mitch King and Matt Kroul, who went through the process back in 2007 when Kaczenski took over for Aiken.

“[Kaczenski] taught me everything I know,” Daniels said. “But

I watched how those guys persevered when Coach Aiken left, and I just learned to take it from them.”

Filling in for Kaczinski as Iowa’s interim defensive line coach for the Insight Bowl is former linebacker LeVar Woods, who has served as the team’s Administrative Assistant and actually filled in on the staff during the 2010 season when Parker was hospitalized following his foot amputation.

In a week’s worth of time, Woods has left an impression that linemen like Daniels have viewed as a pleasant surprise.

“He’s a defensive-minded guy,” Daniels said. “He knows leverage, hand placement, things like that. He knows a lot more about defensive line than I thought he did, so LeVar’s doing a heck of a job. He’s working with us, we’re working with him, and we’re just moving on.”

Dealing with Jones

With the Iowa defense being emphasized at post-practice interviews Tuesday, a lot of talk swirled around Oklahoma quarterback Landry Jones, who enters the Insight Bowl with 4,302 yards passing and 28 touchdowns this season. However, Jones has struggled as of late, having thrown seven of his 14 interceptions this season over the past three-and-a-half games since an ACL injury ended wide receiver Ryan Broyles’ season.

But for Jones’ recent struggles, his presence on the Sooners has caught the attention of Parker, who likened him Tuesday to New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady.

“When he’s hot, he’s hot,” Parker said. “You just hope that you can defend him. He’s terrific when he’s hot.

“He’s probably one of the better guys in the country.”

Watching Jones on tape also caught the attention of players like Nielsen, who described him as a great passer.

“He’s smooth, he can throw it a long way and can throw it hard,” Nielsen said. “He has got some receivers that can catch the ball, so it’s going to be a challenge for us.”

Considine on hand at practice

The Hawkeyes received a visit from former free safety Sean Considine during their practice Tuesday. Considine is currently playing for the nearby Arizona Cardinals in what is his seventh season in the NFL.

Considine was among the former players Parker spoke in high regard of during his retirement press conference back in Iowa City on Dec. 16, adding that the free safety spot was one that would be of importance for the Hawkeyes in their contest against Oklahoma later this week.

“He’d like to know that on game day, there’s going to be a guy that goes out there and takes charge and gets lined up,” Considine said. “Oklahoma’s a good football team. They’re going to make plays, but you don’t want them to make plays because you’re not lined up and guys aren’t doing what they’re supposed to do.”

Considine was a welcomed sight by head coach Kirk Ferentz and players like Hyde, who originally began this season at free safety before switching back to cornerback prior to Iowa’s contest against Pittsburgh last September.

“They’re role models to all of us out here,” Hyde said of Considine and other former players who take time to visit the team during practices. “You see them doing great things, and then they’re coming back, showing us this is the right program to be at. It really makes you look forward to your future and knowing you’re in the right place and you’re doing good things.”

2011 Insight Bowl: Iowa practice photos

By Brendan Stiles

HawkeyeDrive.com

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. – Below are photos taken Tuesday during the portion of Iowa's practice open to the media. The Hawkeyes have been practicing at Chaparral High School since arriving in Phoenix on Dec. 22.



Iowa defensive coordinator Norm Parker looks on as the Iowa Hawkeyes start practice Tuesday. Parker will retire following Iowa's contest against No. 19 Oklahoma.

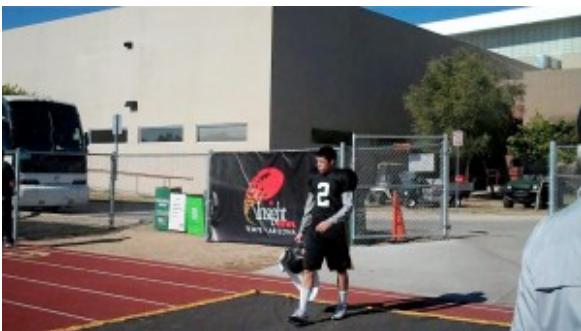


Chigozie Ejiasi, who is

Iowa's director of player development, talks with players just before the Hawkeyes' practice Tuesday.



Iowa senior defensive end Broderick Binns



Iowa junior cornerback Greg Castillo



Iowa redshirt freshman wide receiver Kevonte Martin-Manley



LeVar Woods, who has served as the team's Administrative Assistant, was promoted as the interim defensive line coach after former assistant Rick Kaczinski left the team to become the defensive line coach at Nebraska last week.



Iowa sophomore fullback Brad Rogers takes to the practice field. Rogers missed the 2010 Insight Bowl against Missouri due to a heart condition that also kept him from playing during the early portion of this season.



Iowa head coach Kirk Ferentz looks on as he takes to the practice field Tuesday.



Iowa junior quarterback James Vandenberg



Iowa senior wide receiver Marvin McNutt



Iowa senior defensive tackle
Mike Daniels



Iowa junior cornerback Micah
Hyde



Iowa senior cornerback Shaun
Prater



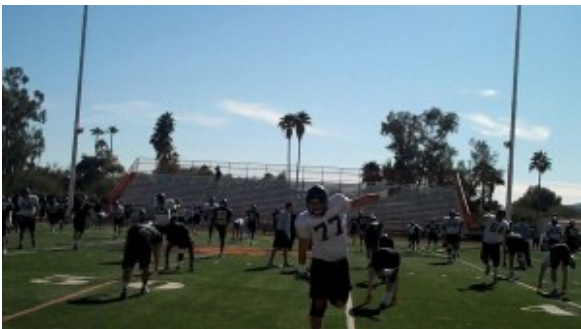
Iowa wide receivers coach
Erik Campbell talks with
junior wide receiver Keenan
Davis just before the
Hawkeyes begin practice
Tuesday.



The offensive line takes part in a drill during Tuesday's practice.



Junior quarterback James Vandenberg tossing the ball around before the Hawkeyes' practice Tuesday.



Junior offensive tackle Riley Reiff taking part in the team's warm-up stretches during practice Tuesday.



Players stretching during warm-ups at the start of Tuesday's practice.



Sophomore cornerback B.J. Lowery is taking part in a special teams drill during practice Tuesday.



Wide receivers Marvin McNutt and Keenan Davis take part in a drill during Tuesday's practice.



The offensive line does a drill during Tuesday's practice.



Iowa defensive coordinator Norm Parker is interviewed following Tuesday's practice. Parker previously announced he'll retire following Iowa's match-up with No. 19 Oklahoma.

12/26/2011: State of the Big Ten, Volume 48 (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

What might be an underrated headline from a national perspective was a pretty significant one in the Big Ten last school, and just may have simply added fuel to what was already becoming a fierce border rivalry.

On Dec. 20, Iowa saw its defensive line coach, Rick Kaczenski, resign from his post to pursue what was called “another coaching opportunity.” This “coaching opportunity” surfaced two days later when Kaczenski was named the new defensive line coach at Nebraska.

Yes, Nebraska. The Big Ten’s newest member acquired an assistant coach from a school that not only is in its conference, but also in the Legends Division, a school that plays the Cornhuskers in football every season.

No matter what the feelings are towards Kaczenski in Iowa by Hawkeye fans, this is a bold hire by Nebraska and head coach Bo Pelini, who promoted his previous defensive line coach John Papuchis to defensive coordinator following his brother Carl Pelini leaving the program to become the head coach at Florida Atlantic. Papuchis’ promotion allowed this move by Kaczenski to be possible.

This, of course, has ramifications. Typically when assistants make a move like this, it comes when the head coach it worked for previously is out of a job. Coincidentally, Iowa wide receivers coach Erik Campbell arrived in 2008 after having been both a player and an assistant at Michigan. The difference there, however, was that Campbell was Lloyd Carr’s assistant and wasn’t retained by Rich Rodriguez when he became the Wolverines’ head honcho.

In this case, Kaczenski's move comes while Kirk Ferentz is still Iowa's head coach, a role he said he remained committed to in a release sent later that evening just hours after Kaczenski's departure became public. Even more significant is that this also comes at a time when Iowa is about to lose Norm Parker, who is retiring from his position as defensive coordinator after the Insight Bowl on Dec. 30.

Another startling aspect to this is that Kaczenski will be with the Cornhuskers in Orlando this week and coach in the Capital One Bowl when Nebraska plays South Carolina, another school Kaczenski was once an assistant at, on Jan. 2. It would be hard to blame any of the current Iowa defensive linemen, including all four of the fifth-year seniors slated to start in the Insight Bowl, for being upset that their coach not only left them before their seasons (and careers) ended, but went to coach a team Iowa just lost to a month ago in its bowl game.

From a recruiting standpoint, it's hard to say the impact this will have. Could Kaczenski attempt to poach some commits from Iowa between now and National Signing Day? Perhaps. Ferentz's statement issued late on Dec. 20 was probably an attempt on his part to dispel any myths of him possibly leaving for another coaching gig, and if that is indeed the case, the tactic is a telling one.

At this point in time, it's best for Ferentz to just move on and deal with Iowa, while Kaczenski just moves on and fills his role on Pelini's staff. But with that being said, this could lead to some fireworks next season on Nov. 23, when the Cornhuskers make their return trip to Kinnick Stadium to play the Hawkeyes.

Because it's not every day someone works at one program, then simply moves on to work for a rival.

12/22/2011: Talkin' Hawks podcast (Iowa vs. Oklahoma; 2011 Insight Bowl)



By Brendan Stiles

HawkeyeDrive.com

All season long, we have ran a series of weekly podcasts called "Talkin' Hawks," previewing each upcoming game for the Iowa Hawkeyes throughout the 2011 season.

As the Hawkeyes begin their final preparations for the Insight Bowl on Dec. 30 against the 19th-ranked Oklahoma Sooners, we give you the two-hour long bowl edition of "Talkin' Hawks." Former Iowa defensive back [Chris Rowell](#) (2005-09) joins me, as he has all season long, to discuss what has taken place over the last couple of weeks with the Hawkeye football program in addition to previewing Iowa's showdown against Oklahoma.

In addition, we also provide our predictions for every Big Ten and BCS bowl game. For all the other picks I made, [click here](#).

HawkeyeDrive.com will be in Arizona providing five days of Insight Bowl coverage, which begins Dec. 26 from Scottsdale, and concludes with complete coverage of the game between Iowa and Oklahoma at Sun Devil Stadium in Tempe, Ariz., on Dec. 30. Kickoff is scheduled for 9 p.m. Central, and the game will be televised nationally by ESPN.

Finally, I'd also like to take this opportunity and thank all of you who have signed up to become a *HawkeyeDrive.com* paid member. Your support is greatly appreciated. [For those interested in becoming a member, we offer a three-day free trial, as well as monthly and yearly subscriptions of either \\$9.99 per month or \\$89.99 per year.](#) By becoming a member, you will have access to every bit of content posted, including anything labeled "premium" in the headlines.

Merry Christmas to you all, and I'll be checking in next week from Arizona. In the meantime, enjoy our final edition in 2011 of the "Talkin' Hawks" podcast, exclusively on *HawkeyeDrive.com*:

[Talkin' Hawks podcast \(Iowa vs. Oklahoma – 2011 Insight Bowl\)](#)

**Intro sound byte credit to my former Daily Iowan colleague Ryan Young for putting that together.*

Coker suspended, Kaczenski no longer on staff

By Brendan Stiles

HawkeyeDrive.com

The Iowa Hawkeyes will be without a coach and a player when

they take part in the 2011 Insight Bowl on Dec. 30 against No. 19 Oklahoma.

Sophomore running back Marcus Coker has been suspended for “disciplinary reasons” and will not accompany the Hawkeyes down to Arizona for the 2011 Insight Bowl on Dec. 30 against No. 19 Oklahoma. In addition, defensive line coach Rick Kaczenski has announced he will leave the program to pursue another coaching opportunity. Both announcements were made Tuesday by the UI.

According to the release, Coker’s suspension relates to UI policies and resulted in him being in violation of the school’s Student-Athlete Code of Conduct.

Coker rushed for 219 yards on 33 carries and scored two touchdowns for the Hawkeyes in their 27-24 win over Missouri in the 2010 Insight Bowl after he was named the starter following the suspension of running back Adam Robinson, who led Iowa in rushing last season.

No announcement has been made on who will start for Iowa in place of coker. Senior running back Jason White is listed second on the team’s current 2-deep and has been listed second behind Coker all season.

As for Kaczenski’s departure, it comes after being on the coaching staff for seven seasons, including the past five seasons as the team’s defensive line coach after replacing Ron Aiken, who left to become the Arizona Cardinals’ defensive line coach in 2007.

Kaczenski [had been rumored over the past few days to be leaving Iowa to join Bo Pelini’s coaching staff at Nebraska.](#) While nothing has been confirmed on Nebraska’s end, [a plane from Lincoln, Neb., flew to Iowa City and back Tuesday afternoon according to FlightAware.](#)

Ferentz released the following statements Tuesday:

On Kaczenski's departure: "Defensive line coach Rick Kaczenski has decided to leave our staff for another coaching opportunity. During the last five years, Rick contributed greatly to our program. We wish Rick and his family the best."

On Coker's suspension: "It is unfortunate that Marcus Coker will not be with the team for our bowl game. During the next 10 days, we will focus and continue to prepare the players that are able to participate."

UPDATE: Ferentz said in another release sent late Tuesday evening that he remained committed to staying the head coach at Iowa. This release comes after he had been mentioned as a possible candidate for current vacancies at Penn State and with the NFL's Kansas City Chiefs.

"To emphasize what I had said previously, I am very happy at Iowa," Ferentz said in this release. "I fully intend to be at Iowa next year and well beyond 2012."

12/19/2011: State of the Big Ten, Volume 47 (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

No. 2 Ohio State managed to hold off South Carolina for a

74-66 win last weekend, but it came at a small price.

Sophomore forward Jared Sullinger, who is probably the best player in the entire Big Ten, left the game with a bone bruise in his foot. This injury took place in just his second game back for the Buckeyes after back spasms prevented from playing in a pair of games earlier this month.

Even though this foot injury might be nothing more than a bruise, Ohio State head coach Thad Matta would be wise to keep Sullinger on the bench for the Buckeyes' remaining two non-conference games this week.

Ohio State plays at home on Dec. 20 against Lamar and then makes the bus trip into downtown Columbus on Dec. 22 to face Miami (Ohio) inside Nationwide Arena. These are two games the Buckeyes can win with minus Sullinger's services, so letting him rest until their Big Ten opener next week against Northwestern would probably be of benefit to both him and the team in the long run.

As good as the conference is right now (currently half of the Big Ten is ranked in the AP top 25), Ohio State is still its top team, and for good reason. The Buckeyes remain the one Big Ten team that has the most legitimate, realistic chance of playing in the Final Four this season, and perhaps even the national championship game. That's how loaded they are.

Sullinger attempted to return from his back spasms for Ohio State's game at Kansas back on Dec. 10, a game the Buckeyes ended up losing with him on the bench. Without his presence grabbing the attention of every Jayhawk player who stepped on the court, Ohio State just didn't look the same, especially at the offensive end.

This is also why the Buckeyes remained second in the rankings last week even with the 11-point loss at Allen Fieldhouse. Sullinger and Ohio State have enough respect from college basketball pundits across the country that they didn't fall in

the rankings after that game.

Matta knows this, which is why the move to not play Sullinger against Kansas, yet let him come off the bench last week for a game against South Carolina-Upstate remains befuddling.

Now while the Buckeyes are still head and shoulders above the rest of the conference, the 18-game Big Ten stretch will remain a grind like it usually is. That's why having a 100 percent Jared Sullinger by the time Northwestern pays that visit to Value City Arena is important.

Ohio State will need him then, and in March for the NCAA tournament. Again, as demonstrated nine days ago in Lawrence, Kan., this Buckeye team without Sullinger is going to struggle against good teams like Kansas, especially on the road. Come tourney time, the competition only gets tougher with each game.

Matta ought to be fortunate that a bone bruise is all that happened to Sullinger last weekend in South Carolina. Now he has an opportunity to do what he should have decided to do last week after falling at Kansas.

Sullinger doesn't need to prove his productivity against Lamar or Miami (Ohio). That's why resting him these next two games would serve in both his best interests, and the best interests of Ohio State going into next week and beyond.

Parker prepares for final hurrah in Insight Bowl



Iowa head coach Kirk Ferentz and defensive coordinator Norm Parker held a press conference to discuss Parker's retirement on Friday, Dec. 16, 2011, at the Hayden Fry Football Complex in Iowa City. Parker's retirement goes into effect after Iowa plays Oklahoma in the 2011 Insight Bowl on Dec. 30.

By Brendan Stiles

HawkeyeDrive.com

IOWA CITY, Iowa – Prior to announcing his retirement from coaching on Dec. 11, Iowa defensive coordinator Norm Parker was someone that would have coached until the day he died if one let him. Iowa head coach Kirk Ferentz was never hesitant saying a spot would remain on his staff for Parker as long as he wanted to keep it. He was that vital to the football program.

Parker, who will coach his final game Dec. 30 when the Hawkeyes play No. 19 Oklahoma in the 2011 Insight Bowl, spoke publicly for the first time Friday afternoon since making the decision to walk away from the game he coached at nine different schools over a 47-year span. He said timing proved to be the biggest factor in his decision to step aside.

"I think you got to be fair to the team, you got to be fair to the program," Parker said. "When it's time to go, it's time to go."

"I have always said I never want to coach just to have a job. When you can't do it and do it right, and do it the way it should be done, then it's time to let somebody else do it."

Parker's ongoing battle with Diabetes is what led to him having his right foot amputated last year and had kept him from coaching the entirety of both the 2009 and 2010 seasons. As the Hawkeyes prepare for their second consecutive Insight Bowl, Parker has managed to coach all 12 games this season from the press box.

With that has come a feeling of accomplishment, as he didn't want his lasting image to be one of an amputation forcing him to move out of his office and on with the rest of his life.

"I think personally it was important just to prove you can do it," Parker said.

In 13 seasons, Parker has coached a plethora of players who have gone on to have success in the NFL. From guys like Bob Sanders and Chad Greenway, to more recently Pat Angerer, who Parker joked doesn't look the part physically of an NFL middle linebacker despite all the success he had at Iowa and is currently having with the Indianapolis Colts.

But it was Parker the person that Ferentz also wanted to stress as having a major role in the program's success since he first took over following the 1998 season and hired Parker to be his defensive coordinator.

"His impact, the effect he had on this football program, goes way beyond the football part of things," Ferentz said. "I don't care if you're talking to our staff, players, support staff. They'd all tell you the same thing. His impact has really gone beyond any defense he may have called or coached"

during the week.

“That’s something we’re real appreciative of.”

No timetable set for finding successor

Iowa athletics director Gary Barta, who was on hand at the Hayden Fry Football Complex for Parker’s press conference Friday, made clear that the decision on Parker’s successor would ultimately be made by Ferentz.

He also made clear Friday that no timetable has been set for finding a replacement, as the job has yet to be posted as available by the UI.

“The No. 1 priority is getting ready to beat Oklahoma, or trying to beat Oklahoma, in the bowl game, and then while we’re doing that, obviously we have a position to fill,” Barta said. “But no absolute deadline – here’s when we’re going to post it, here’s when the position will be hired.”

Two names from within that have been heavily speculated as candidates to become the new defensive coordinator are defensive backs coach Phil Parker and linebackers coach Darrell Wilson, both of whom shared defensive coordinator duties in 2010 when Norm was in the hospital recovering from his amputation.

Like Barta, Norm said the decision on a replacement is solely Ferentz’s to make and that he would be supportive of whoever took over, whether it be a current assistant or someone on the outside.

As for advice he’d leave his successor, Norm simply said he’d congratulate him and wish him luck.

“I’d tell them that the guys are going to fight hard,” he said. “I’d tell them you got good people, going to work for a good person, work in a good place.”

“Don’t drive too fast down Melrose [Ave.], you get a parking ticket. That guy out there will get you. Other than that, that’s the only hazard – that cop out there on Melrose.”

Squashing Ferentz rumors

After briefly commenting on Parker to start Friday’s press conference, Ferentz stood off to the side as Parker spoke and left the room before questions could be asked of him about both finding a replacement for Parker and the rumors that continue to swirl about his job status.

Ferentz, who is under contract at Iowa through 2020, was previously linked to the opening at Penn State, and in the last week has been linked to the recent vacancy in Kansas City after the Chiefs let go of head coach Todd Haley on Dec. 12. The Chiefs’ general manager is Scott Pioli, who has been a close friend of Ferentz’s dating back to their days working together in Cleveland under then-Browns head coach Bill Belichick.

Barta said Friday no one – from either the NFL or from college – has contacted him about Ferentz, who unequivocally said Dec. 4 he intended to coach at Iowa in 2012 and beyond.

“Every year there are rumors, and fortunately every year he’s back the next year to coach at Iowa,” Barta said. “No change in status, so let’s go get ready for the bowl game.

“It’s status quo.”

***HawkeyeDrive.com*’s Insight Bowl coverage**

Be sure to check out *HawkeyeDrive.com* between Dec. 26-31 for complete coverage of the 2011 Insight Bowl between the Hawkeyes and 19th-ranked Sooners from Arizona, featuring interviews from players on both teams and coaches Kirk Ferentz and Bob Stoops, notebooks, and complete game coverage on Dec. 30 when the two teams square off at Sun Devil Stadium in

Tempe, Ariz.

[Ferentz – Parker – 12 16 11](#)

2011-12 Bowl Pick 'Em: Brendan's non-Big Ten/non-BCS picks

By Brendan Stiles

HawkeyeDrive.com

Below is a list of my predictions for every bowl game that is not a BCS game and does not feature a Big Ten team. I will reveal my selections during our final "Talkin' Hawks" podcast for those 13 particular bowl games. "Talkin' Hawks" will be posted sometime next week before Christmas for your listening pleasure.

A reminder that you can participate in our [HawkeyeDrive.com Bowl Pick 'Em](#). All you have to do is submit your picks for all 35 bowl games and include a score with your Insight Bowl prediction between now and 12:59 p.m. Central on Dec. 17 (i.e. one minute before the New Mexico Bowl kicks off). The Insight Bowl picks will be used to break any ties that may exist by the end of bowl season. The *HawkeyeDrive.com* Bowl Pick 'Em is free to play, and there will be prizes for those who win.

Also be sure to check out *HawkeyeDrive.com* in the final days leading up to the 2011 Insight Bowl between Iowa and No. 19 Oklahoma as we provide coverage from Tempe, Ariz.

Brendan's non-Big Ten/non-BCS bowl picks:

New Mexico Bowl: Temple over Wyoming

Famous Idaho Potato Bowl: Ohio over Utah State

New Orleans Bowl: UL-Lafayette over San Diego State

Beef O'Brady's Bowl: FIU over Marshall

Poinsettia Bowl: No. 16 TCU over Louisiana Tech

MAACO Bowl: No. 8 Boise State over Arizona State

Hawaii Bowl: No. 22 Southern Miss over Nevada

Independence Bowl: North Carolina over Missouri

Belk Bowl: North Carolina State over Louisville

Military Bowl: Air Force over Toledo

Holiday Bowl: Texas over California

Champs Sports Bowl: No. 25 Florida State over Notre Dame

Alamo Bowl: No. 15 Baylor over Washington

Armed Forces Bowl: BYU over Tulsa

Pinstripe Bowl: Iowa State over Rutgers

Music City Bowl: Mississippi State over Wake Forest

Sun Bowl: Georgia Tech over Utah

Liberty Bowl: Vanderbilt over Cincinnati

Chick-Fil-A Bowl: Virginia over Auburn

Cotton Bowl: No. 7 Arkansas over No. 11 Kansas State

BBVA Compass Bowl: Pittsburgh over SMU

GoDaddy.com Bowl: Northern Illinois over Arkansas State