

Iowa at Purdue (What to expect)

By Brendan Stiles

HawkeyeDrive.com

To get you all ready for Saturday's game between Iowa and Purdue, I put together a list of things you ought to know before these two face off at Ross-Ade Stadium.

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

Iowa Hawkeyes (6-4, 3-3) at Purdue Boilermakers (5-5, 3-3)

Ross-Ade Stadium; West Lafayette, Ind.

Nov. 19, 2011

11 a.m. Central

TV: BTN (Tom Hart, Derek Rackley, Lisa Byington)

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

Weather: [49 degrees](#)

Brendan's Three Keys to the Game:

1. Solid special teams play

Iowa head coach Kirk Ferentz said his biggest concern was special teams because Purdue enters this contest with the top kick return of any Big Ten team as well as a kicker in Carson Wiggs who made a 67-yard field goal during the Boilermakers' spring game last April. Wind is expected to play a heavy role in Saturday's contest, so how the Hawkeyes fare on special

teams is going to play a major factor in the outcome of this game.

2. Capitalize in the red zone

Purdue has one of the worst red zone defenses in the entire Big Ten having given up 31 of 34 scoring drives when teams cross its 20. Of those 31 scores, 23 are touchdowns and 16 of those 23 touchdowns have come on the ground. This means Iowa, when it gets down there, needs to feed the ball to running back Marcus Coker and let him add on to the 13 touchdown runs he has this season, all of which have come in the red zone.

3. Stay disciplined

With this being Purdue's Senior Day, the Boilermakers will have an emotional edge and virtually all of the same intangibles Iowa had in its favor heading into last week's game against Michigan State. Purdue has also been called for 77 penalties through 10 games, the most of any Big Ten team. Between this and being on the road, staying disciplined and not committing some of the dumb penalties Iowa had against Michigan State will be crucial if the Hawkeyes are going to leave West Lafayette with their first road win of the season.

11/17/2011: Talkin' Hawks podcast (Iowa at Purdue)

By Brendan Stiles

HawkeyeDrive.com

Every Thursday during the 2011 football season, *HawkeyeDrive.com* will feature "Talkin' Hawks," a

podcast to get you ready for the Hawkeyes' upcoming game and other college football action.

This week, we preview Iowa's showdown against Purdue on Nov. 19 at Ross-Ade Stadium in West Lafayette, Ind. Once again, former Iowa defensive back [Chris Rowell](#) (2005-09) joins us during the final segment to provide insight on the Hawkeyes and give his thoughts on all the games featured in this week's [HawkeyeDrive.com Pick 'Em](#). Also joining as a guest this week is Scott Dochterman from the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*.

[Talkin' Hawks podcast \(Iowa at Purdue\)](#)

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

11/15/2011: Iowa football notebook



Iowa head coach Kirk Ferentz discusses the Hawkeyes' upcoming game at Purdue with the local media during his weekly press conference on Tuesday, Nov. 15, 2011, at

the Hayden Fry Football
Complex in Iowa City.

By Brendan Stiles

HawkeyeDrive.com

IOWA CITY, Iowa – When the Iowa Hawkeyes travel to West Lafayette, Ind., to face Purdue Nov. 19 at Ross-Ade Stadium, a lot could potentially be riding on the outcome.

While Iowa enters this game coming off a disheartening 37-21 loss to Michigan State last weekend at Kinnick Stadium, the Boilermakers can become bowl-eligible with a victory this weekend after pulling off a 26-23 overtime win over Ohio State to reach 5-5 overall and 3-3 in the Big Ten.

With Purdue ending its season against a lowly Indiana squad, the winner of this weekend's contest will likely have at least seven wins, which would practically guarantee it a spot in a bowl game that has a Big Ten tie-in. Meanwhile, the loser could very well end up being 6-6 and possibly find itself filled with anxiety in the week leading up to when bowl games are officially announced, which will take place Dec. 4.

"Their record doesn't show how good they are," junior cornerback Micah Hyde said. "You've probably heard that all day today, but I'm really not lying to you. They're a fast team."

Another obstacle the Hawkeyes will have to overcome this week is their road woes, having gone 0-3 away from Kinnick Stadium this season. In fact, Iowa's last true road victory came at Indiana during the final month of last season, and even that was a game the Hawkeyes were fortunate to win.

Iowa, along with Penn State, are the only two Big Ten teams this season to play their final two regular season games on the road, as the Hawkeyes make a trip to Nebraska next week

following the contest against the Boilermakers.

"I can't put a positive spin on this one, other than it gives us two opportunities to win on the road," Ferentz said.

Injury-gate

A heavy topic of conversation during Ferentz's press conference Tuesday was talk following last weekend's loss to Michigan State of Spartan defensive players faking injuries with the intent to slow down Iowa's offense as it began to make a comeback and trimmed its deficit to 13 points entering the fourth quarter.

Ferentz was asked whether he had intentions to submit tape to the Big Ten offices in Park Ridge, Ill., regarding what took place during last weekend's game at Kinnick Stadium and said he didn't see the point in doing so.

"At the end of the day, it really didn't impact the game," Ferentz said. "It's one of those, I don't want to call it a hot topic, but it's going to be a topic that's out there for sure."

As for player reaction, senior offensive tackle Markus Zusevics got to see up close the number of Spartan injuries that kept piling up on the defensive side of the ball during the second half.

"I can't really comment on why they were going down," Zusevics said. "I have no idea."

Senior defensive end Broderick Binns was one of at least three defensive starters interviewed Tuesday that said they wouldn't resort to faking an injury just to slow down an opposing offense.

"Myself personally, I guess I just have more respect for the game," Binns said. "Coming here, that's just something that you're not taught to do. You get up and you play the next

play, no matter what happens.”

McNutt's catch

It was one of the few positives the Hawkeyes were able to take away from last weekend's loss to Michigan State. In the first quarter, senior wide receiver Marvin McNutt reached the 1,000-yard receiving plateau for the season with a one-handed catch that found its way on “SportsCenter” later that evening.

McNutt said he normally doesn't watch the news, but that he had to turn on his TV that night during the “Top 10” segment.

“I did see that,” McNutt said. “I had to catch that one.”

In the loss to Michigan State, McNutt became Iowa's all-time leader in receiving yards for both a season and a career, with the latter breaking a mark set just last season by former wideout Derrell Johnson-Koulianos. He had already set the touchdown reception mark shared by both Tim Dwight and Danan Hughes.

Ferentz called McNutt's accomplishments a tribute to his work ethic.

“Marvin has really put himself into a real select group of guys,” Ferentz said. “He has really set a good example for all of our guys.”

Facing two QBs again

It isn't that Iowa hasn't faced teams that like to throw two quarterbacks out on the field for games. It's that Purdue just seems to make what it does more obvious.

Boilermakers head coach Danny Hope said at Big Ten Media Day last July he planned on using a two-QB system this season, with the idea being Robert Marve would split time with Rob Henry. However, Henry tore his ACL during fall camp, and as a result, Caleb TerBush has started all 10 of Purdue's games

this season.

What makes what the Boilermakers do even more of a story is that despite not starting last weekend against Ohio State, it was Marve who put the team on his shoulders late and scored the game-winning touchdown to beat the Buckeyes in overtime. He finished completing 10-of-13 passes in that game.

TerBush is expected to start for Purdue this weekend.

“You’re going to have to put some different things in your defense to be able to play for both types of guys and for the different things they run with each quarterback,” sophomore free safety Tanner Miller said. “It’s more of a mental aspect when you have to prepare for two rather than just one, especially when it’s two guys that can beat you with their arm and on their feet as opposed to being more sit in the pocket type guys.”

Iowa/Purdue: Is it a rivalry?

When the Big Ten revealed its two divisions and each team’s crossover rival from the opposite division, Iowa ended up drawing Purdue. While the Hawkeyes and Boilermakers didn’t even meet each of the past two seasons, Iowa’s series with Purdue is its third-longest behind natural rivalries with Minnesota and Wisconsin.

The other crossover rivalries set up by the Big Ten were Michigan/Ohio State, Michigan State/Indiana, Minnesota/Wisconsin, Nebraska/Penn State and Northwestern/Illinois.

“It was going to be somebody,” Ferentz said.

Purdue’s weekly release made mention of the fact Iowa was its crossover rival. As for whether there’s mutual feeling from Iowa remains to be seen.

“Anybody in the Big Ten is not your best friend,” McNutt said

Tuesday when asked directly by a television reporter if he “hated Purdue.”

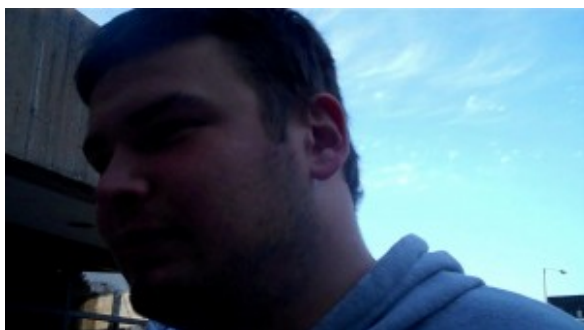
11/15/2011: Iowa player audio with photos (premium)

By Brendan Stiles

HawkeyeDrive.com

IOWA CITY, Iowa – On Tuesday, nine members of the Iowa football team spoke with the media to discuss the Hawkeyes’ upcoming game on Nov. 19 at Purdue.

Below is audio from each of the following players – senior offensive tackle Markus Zusevics, senior cornerback Shaun Prater, sophomore running back Marcus Coker, junior quarterback James Vandenberg, senior defensive end Broderick Binns, senior wide receiver Marvin McNutt, senior defensive tackle Mike Daniels, sophomore free safety Tanner Miller and junior cornerback Micah Hyde:



Markus Zusevics, Nov. 15, 2011

[Markus Zusevics, senior offensive tackle](#)



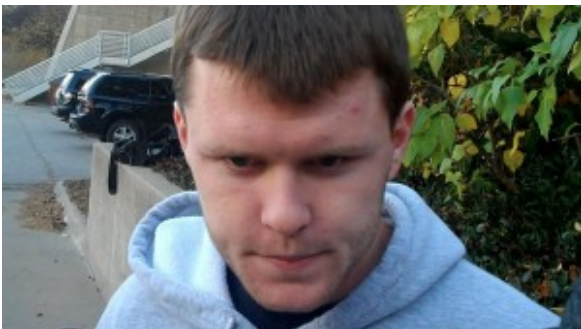
Shaun Prater, Nov. 15, 2011

[Shaun Prater, senior cornerback](#)



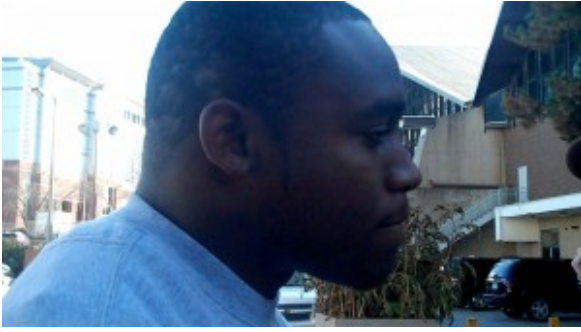
Marcus Coker, Nov. 15, 2011

[Marcus Coker, sophomore running back](#)



James Vandenberg, Nov. 15,
2011

[James Vandenberg, junior quarterback](#)



Broderick Binns, Nov. 15, 2011

[Broderick Binns, senior defensive end](#)



Marvin McNutt, Nov. 15, 2011

[Marvin McNutt, senior wide receiver](#)



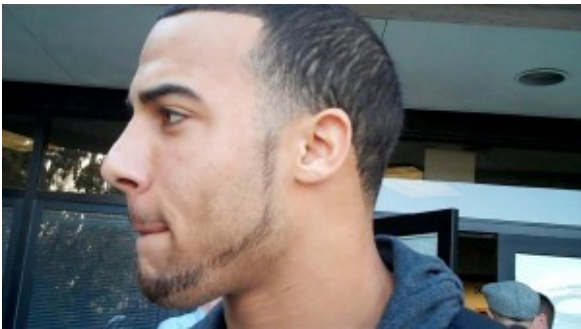
Mike Daniels, Nov. 15, 2011

[Mike Daniels, senior defensive tackle](#)



Tanner Miller, Nov. 15, 2011

[Tanner Miller, sophomore free safety](#)



Micah Hyde, Nov. 15, 2011

[Micah Hyde, junior cornerback](#)

11/15/2011: Kirk Ferentz teleconference transcript (premium)

By Brendan Stiles

HawkeyeDrive.com

Below is a written transcript of Iowa head coach Kirk Ferentz's teleconference on Tuesday with the Big Ten media:

Ferentz's opening statement:

"We had a tough loss here on Saturday. Michigan State played very well. They're an excellent team and really played well against us, so they certainly deserved the win. You know, we'll go back to work today. We have another real challenge having to travel over to Purdue, who is coming off a big win. From our vantage point, it looks like they're improving with each week every time out on the field, so it's going to be a real tough challenge for us."

On what he sees from Purdue that makes it a challenging opponent:

"A couple of snapshot moments. We were getting ready for Minnesota a couple of weeks back. That was one of the films that we used as a primary source, and just very impressed with the way they played against Minnesota. The other snapshot I've got goes back. We haven't played Purdue in a couple of years, but going back to the '09 season and using that film for our Ohio State preparation. They played a great game. That was Coach [Danny] Hope's first year and it was an indicator of what kind of team they could be the way they were capable of playing."

"I think we've seen much of the same here with the last couple of weeks. They've got very good skill guys on offense. They're very aggressive. Their defense, I think, is very aggressive and playing really well, and they've got some dangerous players there. That starts up front, certainly. Then special teams-wise, they can hurt you in a lot of ways. Their kickoff return team, certainly, their field goal kicker has got to be one of the best in the country, if not the best. They've got a lot of things going for them."

On what he sees from Purdue's QBs and whether he expects to see more of Robert Marve after he closed out its win over Ohio State:

"I don't know. I think my answer to that is they have both depth and production. Their quarterbacks are really playing well. Robert Marve came in and he did a great job in a tough circumstance. It was a high-pressure situation. I know he's not an inexperienced player, but his experience and leadership really showed through and he did a great job of leading them to the win."

On the academic accomplishments of players such as Steve Bigach, James Vandenberg and Tyler Nielsen:

"All three of those guys are tremendous young guys. We've been very fortunate. Julian Vandervelde, Jeff Tarpinian, some other guys last year. All three are really good players and have played well for us. Steve's hoping to go to med school down the road. James Vandenberg wants to be a chiropractor or go to medical school, and Tyler has already graduated from our business school. They've been great students all the way through. All three of them have great attitudes and do a good job in the classroom."

On some of the stresses of being a college football coach:

"Yeah, I guess it's probably like any job. Some days are better than others. I think the one obvious difference between our jobs and many are, you know, what we do, our work if you will, is out there a little bit more to be discussed or critiqued, that type of thing. Times have changed, just like recruiting has changed. There are more critiquers and more watchers than maybe 30 years ago or whatever. Maybe not so much more, but there's just more ways to communicate. But it's a great job and sometimes maybe you enjoy that stress, if you want to call it stress, I guess."

On the role he plays in making sure his assistants stay healthy:

"Again, it's probably like any job. When you're trying to accomplish something meaningful, you have to try and stay

balanced. It's easier said than done, particularly in season. But I think at the end of the day, you also have to realize that all you can do is all you can do. So you work at it every day and just try to keep things at a healthy balance."

On what comes to mind when watching Purdue's Kawaan Short on film:

"They've got a lot of good players up front. Again, we haven't played them for a couple of years, but I know he played very well last year and they had a good front a year ago as well. He's just a guy that's a big, physical guy, that's obvious. But he also can move well. Very strong, knows how to play good technique. He's a veteran player that I'm guessing is one of their leaders. Not only up front, but for their entire football team."

On Marvin McNutt's performance against Michigan State and this season:

"Well you know, Marvin has done a great job certainly. A couple of weeks ago, he set the touchdown record moving past Danan Hughes and Tim Dwight. Now he goes with the yardage moving past those same two guys and Ronnie Harmon. Ronnie's one of the guys listed in that deal as well. All three of those guys went on to have great pro careers. It's a real tribute to Marvin's work ethic. He moved from quarterback, that's pretty well-documented, back in 2008."

"I think the most accurate thing and the best thing I can say about Marvin is we're seeing him improve each and every week. Not that his game's perfect, and he's the first one to tell you that, but he's improving with every outing out there. I think he has improved dramatically this year. As a receiver, he has always been pretty productive, but he's playing really at a high level and that's something we're all really excited about. As you might imagine, it sets a great example for all of the guys on our team."

On whether he expects Keenan Davis to play this week:

"Yeah. You know, this has been our year for ankles, for whatever reason. What he's going through is pretty much what the other guys have experienced, James Morris being the most notable, maybe Tom Nardo. When they're coming off those things, it's very common for them to re-aggravate it, and the good news is it's more of a temporary setback than the original injury. Unless you just sit out for eight weeks, that's just part of the process. It's not much fun, but he's doing fine."

On whether there are any other injuries:

"I think we're doing O.K. for this time of year. Obviously, Alvis is out. He had surgery. But everybody else has been doing O.K."

11/15/2011: Kirk Ferentz press conference transcript

By Brendan Stiles

HawkeyeDrive.com

Below is a PDF from the Iowa sports information department featuring the complete transcript from Iowa head coach Kirk Ferentz's press conference on Tuesday in Iowa City:

[Coach Ferentz – 11 15 11](#)

11/14/2011: State of the Big Ten, Volume 42 (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

In light of what has taken place over the past nine days at Penn State, *CBSsports.com's* Brett McMurphy reported Monday morning the Big Ten had made the decision to remove Joe Paterno's name from its football trophy that will be awarded to whoever wins the league's championship game in Indianapolis on Dec. 3.

This was a move that had to be made, and honestly, it's a little surprising this wasn't done sooner.

Forget for a second about how the Big Ten decided to go and hyphenated every single football-related trophy it plans to give out two weeks from now. There's more to this.

Last week's "State of the Big Ten" was about how Paterno needed to resign immediately as a result of his role and what he didn't end up doing when told of alleged sexual abuse being done to children on his campus and inside the showers of his football facility. Instead, he opted to stand his ground until Penn State's Board of Trustees had no other choice but to fire him on Nov. 9.

As written last week, this story shouldn't be about Paterno. It should be about those who had their innocence taken from

them as a result of these atrocities that reportedly took place and weren't dealt with accordingly.

Unfortunately, the majority of the narrative has been about Paterno. It has been about Penn State students congregating on his front lawn. It has been about what ensued in State College when the announcement was made. Observing from afar, it was disgusting to see what was going on last week. Those who did witness everything in person had to be left speechless.

What became clear in the hours leading up to his dismissal was that Paterno didn't really have the best interests of his university in mind. Had he simply stepped aside when he could and should have, the growing perception about him now wouldn't have been as awful as it has become because he had to be forced out.

Going back to what took place Monday, this was a decision Delany had to make. After everything that has taken place this month, there was no legitimate excuse for keeping Paterno's name on that trophy. Doing so would've only cast an even darker cloud on the conference as it began preparing for what is supposed to be a culmination of everything the Big Ten had done from the moment Nebraska became a conference member.

Not doing this would've sent the wrong message at a time when further mistakes cannot afford to be made. It would've given the indication that football is more important than the health and well-being of children, especially those who are victims of sexual abuse.

Perhaps this decision could and should have been made sooner – kind of like Paterno no longer being Penn State's head coach – but at least this act was made. Just like things would've been much worse last weekend had Paterno coached Penn State's game against Nebraska, things here would've gotten much worse had the week of the Big Ten championship approached and his name remained on that trophy.

With this decision being made, the story's focus needs to be back on point with where it should have always been – with the victims and their families.

Iowa at Purdue Game Notes, 2-deep

OFFENSE:

WR 7 McNutt, 83 Staggs

LT 77 Reiff, 78 Donnal

LG 68 Scherff, 60 Tobin

C 53 Ferentz, 59 Bofelli

RG 73 Gettis, 95 Orne

RT 56 Zusevics, 70 Van Sloten

TE 86 Fiedorowicz, 85 Derby/39 Herman

QB 16 Vandenberg, 14 Wienke

WR 6 Davis, 11 Martin-Manley

RB 34 Coker, 3 White

FB 38 Rogers, 92 Gimm

DEFENSE:

DE 58 Daniel, 54 Bigach

DT 87 Nardo, 71 Davis

DT 93 Daniels, 99 Gaglione

DE 91 Binns, 96 Forgy

OLB 20 Kirksey, 13 Donatell

MLB 45 Nielsen, 52 Alston

WLB 44 Morris, 31 Hitchens

LCB 28 Prater, 19 Lowery

SS 4 Bernstine, 10 Sleeper

FS 5 Miller, 40 Swanson

RCB 18 Hyde, 2 Castillo

SPECIAL TEAMS:

P 6 Guthrie

PK 96 Meyer, 8 Mossbrucker

LS 61 Kreiter

HOLDER 14 Wienke

PR 18 Hyde, 7 McNutt

KR 4 Bernstine, 33 Canzeri

[Iowa vs. Purdue Game Notes](#)

2011 Big Ten football TV schedule: Week Twelve

Every week, we will post the TV schedule for all games featuring Big Ten teams. Here is where and when you can watch them this week:

Nov. 19:

No. 15 Wisconsin at Illinois, 11 a.m., ESPN2

No. 17 Nebraska at No. 20 Michigan, 11 a.m., ESPN

Indiana at No. 12 Michigan State, 11 a.m., BTN

Minnesota at Northwestern, 11 a.m., BTN

Iowa at Purdue, 11 a.m., BTN

No. 21 Penn State at Ohio State, 2:30 p.m., ABC/ESPN

***All times listed are Central Standard Time.**

11/12/2011: Michigan State 37, Iowa 21 (Links)

By Brendan Stiles

HawkeyeDrive.com

Check out all of these links to content posted on Saturday after Iowa's 37-21 loss to No. 13 Michigan State at Kinnick Stadium. Please note, anything with "premium" in parentheses are links that can only be accessed by those logged in as

either a paid subscriber or three-day free trial member to *HawkeyeDrive.com*:

RECAP: [Spartans spoil Hawkeyes' Senior Day](#)

COMMENTARY: [Opportunity lost \(premium\)](#)

VIDEO:

[Jason White](#)

[Steve Bigach](#)

[Jordan Bernstine](#)

[Adam Gettis](#)

[Broderick Binns](#)

[Tanner Miller](#)

[James Vandenberg](#)

[Marvin McNutt](#)

[Christian Kirksey](#)

[Tyler Nielsen](#)

[Micah Hyde](#)

[Shaun Prater](#)

[Marcus Coker](#)