Iowa vs. Northwestern Game Notes, 2-deep

OFFENSE:

SE 4 Smith, 8 Shumpert

LT 68 Scherff, 76 MacMillan

LG 59 Boffeli, 58 Simmons

C 63 Blythe, 57 Gaul

RG 65 Walsh, 78 Donnal

RT 70 Van Sloten, 64 Croston

TE 86 Fiedorowicz, 82 Hamilton/87 Duzey

WR 11 Martin-Manley, 17 Hillyer

QB 15 Rudock, 16 Beathard

RB 45 Weisman/5 Bullock, 33 Canzeri

FB 38 Cox, 42 Plewa

DEFENSE:

LE 95 Ott, 34 Meier

LT 71 Davis, 67 Johnson

RT 90 Trinca-Pasat, 97 Cooper

RE 98 Hardy, 34 Meier

OLB 20 Kirksey, 39 Perry

MLB 44 Morris, 52 Alston

WLB 31 Hitchens, 55 Collins

LCB 19 Lowery, 27 Lomax

SS 37 Lowdermilk, 21 Law

FS 5 Miller, 12 Gair

RCB 14 King, 7 Draper

SPECIAL TEAMS:

P 98 Kornbrath

PK 96 Meyer, 1 Koehn

LS 61 Kreiter

HOLDER 98 Kornbrath

PR 11 Martin-Manley

KR 23 Cotton, 33 Canzeri

Iowa vs. Northwestern Game Notes

King receives weekly honor from conference

By Brendan Stiles

HawkeyeDrive.com

Iowa cornerback Desmond King was named the Big Ten's Freshman Player of the Week, the conference announced Monday. King is the first Iowa player to receive the honor since it was first implemented by the Big Ten in 2010.

In the Hawkeyes' 34-24 loss to No. 4 Ohio State last weekend, King tied for a team-high 12 tackles alongside senior linebacker James Morris, with 10 of King's 12 tackles coming unassisted.

King has started the last six games at cornerback since entering Iowa's season opener against Northern Illinois for sophomore Jordan Lomax, who injured his hamstring in that game and has since only played sparingly on special teams in the last two games.

2013 Big Ten football TV schedule: Week Nine

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:

Oct. 26:

Northwestern at Iowa, 11 a.m., BTN

No. 25 Nebraska at Minnesota, 11 a.m., ESPN

Michigan State at Illinois, 2:30 p.m., ABC/ESPN2

Penn State at No. 4 Ohio State, 7 p.m., ABC

*All times listed are Central Standard Time.

10/19/2013: Ohio State 34, Iowa 24 (Links)

By Brendan Stiles

HawkeyeDrive.com

Check out all of these links to content posted on Saturday after Iowa's 34-24 loss to No. 4 Ohio State at Ohio Stadium in Columbus, Ohio. 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 <code>HawkeyeDrive.com</code>:

RECAP: Buckeye firepower too much for Hawkeyes

COMMENTARY: Plenty to build off (premium)

VIDEO:

Kirk Ferentz

C.J. Fiedorowicz

James Morris

<u>Tanner Miller</u>

Mark Weisman

B.J. Lowery

Louis Trinca-Pasat

Jake Duzey

Jake Rudock

Buckeye firepower too much for Hawkeyes

By Brendan Stiles

HawkeyeDrive.com

COLUMBUS, Ohio — For 30 minutes, the stars appeared to have aligned. The Iowa Hawkeyes scored on each of their first three offensive possessions and took a 17-10 lead with them into halftime, on the road against the No. 4 team in the country.

But as promising a first half as the Hawkeyes played Saturday, reality settled in during the second half and the fourth-ranked Ohio State Buckeyes extended their current winning streak to 19 games after defeating Iowa 34-24 at Ohio Stadium. The Hawkeyes now sit at 1-2 in Big Ten play following this loss and at 4-3 overall.

It began as perfectly as it could have for Iowa as it executed a 15-play touchdown drive on its opening series to go up 7-0. Four of those 15 plays involved the "13" package, consisting of three tight ends — senior C.J. Fiedorowicz, junior Ray Hamilton and sophomore Jake Duzey.

Iowa's tight end group was responsible for all five of sophomore quarterback Jake Rudock's five completions on that opening drive, the last of which being a 2-yard touchdown pass to Fiedorowicz.

"It was a package that we implemented a little bit. Part of the idea was to obviously possess the football and score points," Iowa head coach Kirk Ferentz said. "For the most part, we got what we wanted to accomplish out of that." The Buckeyes and Hawkeyes would then exchange field goals to make the score 10-3 in Iowa's favor through one quarter. A controversial play factored into the Hawkeyes' second offensive series, as Ohio State cornerback Bradley Roby was ejected following a 15-yard personal foul was called targeting as he hit Fiedorowicz high following an 11-yard catch by the 6-7 tight end.

"Jake threw it and the corner sat," Fiedorowicz said. "Right when I turned my head, he kind of jumped up into my face mask. That's just football though.

"He did get me with his helmet, but I'll leave that to the refs to call that. I was going to keep playing either way, so it didn't really affect me."

Ohio State would tie the game when quarterback Braxton Miller hit a wide open Corey "Philly" Brown over the middle for a 58-yard touchdown strike. The Buckeyes ran play-action and Iowa's secondary bit on the pump-fake, allowing Brown to get open.

Iowa then executed another picturesque touchdown drive that covered 69 yards on 15 plays. The Hawkeyes converted seven of their nine third downs in the first half, including four on this series. The last third-down conversion was a 6-yard touchdown pass from Rudock to junior wideout Kevonte Martin-Manley.

The Buckeyes' lone empty possession of the first half ensued when they faced 4th-and-10 from Iowa's 29. Miller appeared to have thrown a touchdown pass to Evan Spencer, but the ball was knocked away at the last moment by junior strong safety John Lowdermilk.

Iowa led 17-10. Then Ohio State played like that No. 4 team it entered Saturday's game as. The Buckeyes marched right down the field to tie the game at 17-17 when Carlos Hyde scored from one yard out, forced a 3-and-out defensively, then went ahead 24-17 when Miller threw his second touchdown pass of the

game to Devin Smith.

Miller completed 22-of-27 pass attempts for 222 yards to go along with his 102 yards rushing on 18 carries.

"It was pretty basic, to be honest. But they executed," senior cornerback B.J. Lowery said about Ohio State's offense. "It's all about leverage. It's one thing we worked on, but it's one thing we didn't really emphasize in the second half."

That Buckeye lead would be brief though. On the Hawkeyes' ensuing drive, Rudock connected with Duzey on the first play from scrimmage for an 85-yard touchdown pass down the sideline to tie the game at 24-24 entering the fourth quarter. Duzey would go on to finish with team-highs of six catches and 138 yards receiving.

"We practiced it during the week," Duzey said. "You never know who the ball is going to, but it happened to come to me. I just caught it and kept running."

In these final 15 minutes, Ohio State continued flexing its muscles on offense and a pair of plays at the beginning of the final stanza couldn't illustrate it better. Facing 3rd-and-7 from Iowa's 28-yard line, Miller bought time in the pocket, eluded multiple Iowa defenders as he scrambled across the field, and ultimately picked up nine yards for a first down once he finally found an opening.

Ferentz compared the play to one former Ohio State quarterback Terrelle Pryor made on a 4th-and-10 against the Hawkeyes back in 2010.

"There aren't a lot of players that can make that kind of play. Credit goes to him," Ferentz said.

The very next play, Hyde scored from 19 yards out and made a ridiculously tough run look easy. As he bounced to the outside, senior free safety Tanner Miller looked to have had

him wrapped up at the Iowa 6-yard line. But Hyde managed to break away and proceeded to then dive for the end zone to put Ohio State up 31-24.

Hyde finished with 149 yards rushing on 24 carries to go along with those two touchdowns.

"I thought I hit him well enough to get him down, or at least slow him down enough to where we'd have more guys coming," Miller said. "I had to get up off the ground and I saw that he was still going and was still on his feet. Unfortunately, we didn't have enough guys around the ball to get him down the rest of the way."

After another Hawkeye 3-and-out, the Buckeyes extended the lead to two possessions at 34-24 and then sealed the victory when Tyvis Powell intercepted a Rudock pass with 4:15 remaining.

Ohio State outscored Iowa 24-7 in the second half and held the Hawkeyes to 18 total plays from scrimmage after Iowa ran 43 offensive plays in the first half.

"We have to finish," Rudock said. "We had a pretty decent first half. In the second half, we didn't get it done. It's just as simple as that."

Iowa now returns to Kinnick Stadium for its next two games, starting with Northwestern on Oct. 26. The Wildcats are currently on a three-game losing streak after falling 20-17 at home to Minnesota on Saturday. The Hawkeyes' game against Northwestern is set to kick off at 11 a.m. CT and it will be televised nationally on the Big Ten Network.

COMMENTARY: Plenty to build off (premium)

By Brendan Stiles

HawkeyeDrive.com

COLUMBUS, Ohio — What the Iowa Hawkeyes took away from Ohio Stadium on Saturday wasn't a "moral victory." A loss is still a loss and Iowa came up short against No. 4 Ohio State, falling 34-24 to the Buckeyes and leaving "The Horseshoe" with a 4-3 overall record and 1-2 Big Ten mark.

But in saying that, there were also some encouraging aspects to Saturday's game the Hawkeyes should be able to build off of going forward.

Let's start with the obvious, which is that Iowa went into halftime with a 17-10 lead. Yes, a 7-point lead on the road against the No. 4 team in the country in a game no one outside the program realistically thought the Hawkeyes had a chance of actually winning. That alone should make Iowa players and coaches confident enough that they can hang with any of the remaining five teams on the Hawkeyes' schedule, three of whom have to visit Kinnick Stadium.

Yes, Iowa got beat. A huge reason why was the Hawkeye defense simply couldn't get off the field against an Ohio State offense that was as good as advertised. The Buckeyes compiled 30 first downs Saturday and two huge reasons why were their quarterback Braxton Miller and their running back Carlos Hyde. Both rushed for over 100 yards and Miller also completed 22-of-27 pass attempts. This unit was the real deal.

But there were times when the defense showed encouraging signs. One that immediately comes to mind is the one Buckeye possession (aside from the end of the game when Ohio State ran

the clock out) that didn't result in points during the second quarter. A 4th-and-10 play that initially looked like it might an Ohio State score was instead an incomplete pass because junior strong safety John Lowdermilk had the where-withall to break up the play at the very last second.

Now looking at the offense, it scored the first three times it touched the ball Saturday. The opening drive was a 15-play series where Iowa went right down the field and the Hawkeyes had a 7-0 lead before even allowing the Buckeyes to touch the football. In the first half, at least, Iowa had a balance and was pushing the pace.

The play from the Hawkeye tight ends was as good as it could possibly be. All five of them were involved in the game plan and there were numerous instances where Iowa lined up with three tight end sets. And those sets were working.

Sophomore quarterback Jake Rudock completed his first five passes on that opening scoring drive, all five of which were to his group of tight ends. C.J. Fiedorowicz caught four passes and scored that first touchdown. Jake Duzey had teamhighs of six catches and 138 yards receiving. He also caught a pinpoint throw from Rudock and went 85 yards down the sideline for a touchdown that tied the game just as Ohio State took its first lead of the day.

Iowa lost to a far superior team, but put together as respectable a performance as the majority of its fans could have hoped for.

Looking ahead now, the Hawkeyes have a critical 2-game homestand coming up against Northwestern next week and No. 25 Wisconsin the following week. Assuming the Hawkeyes beat lowly Purdue three weeks from now, their best shot at another win is one of these two home games.

After the way Iowa looked for most of Saturday's game, there's plenty of positives for the Hawkeyes to build off. The

question now is will they? If they can, this team will reach the six wins needed for bowl eligibility, which was always the big thing for this program big picture. Losing Saturday was never going to deter from that.

There's still plenty of reason to believe the reasonable goals for Iowa can be obtained. Even after a loss like this. That's not to say the Hawkeyes will win the rest of their games, but the odds of that (as extreme as they are) appear better than a repeat of last year, which at the end of the day, is a success as far as this season's concerned.

Iowa-OSU video: Jake Rudock

By Brendan Stiles

HawkeyeDrive.com

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Iowa sophomore quarterback Jake Rudock completed 19-of-34 passes for 245 yards and also tossed three touchdowns and one interception in the Hawkeyes' 34-24 loss to No. 4 Ohio State on Saturday at Ohio Stadium.

Iowa-OSU video: Jake Duzey

By Brendan Stiles

HawkeyeDrive.com

COLUMBUS, Ohio - Iowa sophomore tight end Jake Duzey had a

team-high six receptions for 138 yards and caught an 85-yard touchdown pass in the Hawkeyes' 34-24 loss to No. 4 Ohio State on Saturday at Ohio Stadium.

Iowa-OSU video: Louis Trinca-Pasat

By Brendan Stiles

HawkeyeDrive.com

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Iowa junior defensive tackle Louis Trinca-Pasat recorded one tackle and also came away with the team's lone pass break up in the Hawkeyes' 34-24 loss to No. 4 Ohio State on Saturday at Ohio Stadium.

Iowa-OSU video: B.J. Lowery

By Brendan Stiles

HawkeyeDrive.com

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Iowa senior cornerback B.J. Lowery recorded five tackles in the Hawkeyes' 34-24 loss to No. 4 Ohio State on Saturday at Ohio Stadium.