

2013 Big Ten football TV schedule: Week Two

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:

Sept. 7:

Cincinnati at Illinois, 11 a.m., ESPN2

Missouri State at Iowa, 11 a.m., BTN

South Florida at Michigan State, 11 a.m., ESPNU

Eastern Michigan at Penn State, 11 a.m., BTN

Indiana State at Purdue, 11 a.m., BTN

Tennessee Tech at No. 21 Wisconsin, 11 a.m., BTN

San Diego State at No. 3 Ohio State, 2:30 p.m., ABC/ESPN2

Navy at Indiana, 5 p.m., BTN

Syracuse at No. 19 Northwestern, 5 p.m., BTN

Southern Miss at No. 22 Nebraska, 5 p.m., BTN

No. 14 Notre Dame at No. 17 Michigan, 7 p.m., ESPN

Minnesota at New Mexico State, 7 p.m., BTN2Go

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

9/2/2013: State of the Big Ten, Volume 96 (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

The following might seem petty, but the topic of depth charts is actually worth discussing this week because there has been quite a bit of gamesmanship recently from multiple Big Ten schools.

Sure, a weekly depth chart isn't the be-all, end-all for what fans should expect to see when they watch their favorite team that coming Saturday. After all, injuries could take place in practice during the week when things are happening behind closed doors.

But much like there were suggestions being made last year about conferences mandating injury reports, having a conference like the Big Ten mandate weekly depth charts be released by a specific time isn't too much to ask for.

Last week, Ohio State (who usually releases a depth chart on Mondays before its media gathers for Urban Meyer's weekly press conferences) held off a day on releasing its depth chart. Michigan State released its depth chart and listed four starters at quarterback, only for Mark Dantonio to start his press conference by saying point blank that Andrew Maxwell was starting the Spartans' opener against Western Michigan.

On Monday, Northwestern opted to have its depth chart released following team meetings in the afternoon instead of in the morning prior to Pat Fitzgerald meeting the media.

This isn't asking coaches to rid of their gamesmanship. It's understandable why maybe there are co-starters listed at given positions. There's also waiting to see results on MRIs with specific injuries that maybe aren't released right away.

This isn't to say schools shouldn't be allowed to dictate when their coaches hold weekly press conferences or shouldn't be allowed to dictate what names get listed where on a weekly depth chart. But is it really too much to ask that schools don't universally release them at a certain time on Monday before any coaches meet the press?

The bottom line is fans want to know something, no matter how much validity there actually ends up being to it. It'd also be beneficial to media knowing that there's a certain time on Mondays to expect this type of information to be released so that the rest of their day and week can be planned.

Routine is a good thing. Coaches have routines, players have routines, media who cover these schools have routines. It allows for all parties to be as productive as possible during the week. Not having a set time for something simple, even something as simple as what time a depth chart is supposed to be released, throws off routine.

If everyone knows that, for example, a team's depth chart will be released by 11 a.m. on Monday, then coaches can go on with the rest of their days, media know when they need to be on the lookout for emails and fans will know when they could expect to be on social media awaiting to hear this information be disseminated.

Again, this probably reads as petty. But this is only a story because schools like Ohio State and Northwestern have thrown curveballs that all those who pay attention to them.

Iowa vs. Missouri State Game Notes, 2-deep

OFFENSE:

SE 8 Shumpert, 4 Smith

LT 68 Scherff, 76 MacMillan

LG 59 Boffeli, 58 Simmons

C 63 Blythe, 57 Gaul

RG 65 Walsh, 78 Donnal

RT 70 Van Sloten, 73 Ward

TE 86 Fiedorowicz, 82 Hamilton/87 Duzey

WR 11 Martin-Manley, 17 Hillyer/23 Cotton

QB 15 Rudock, 16 Beathard/19 Sokol

RB 45 Weisman/5 Bullock, 33 Canzeri

FB 34 Cox, 42 Plewa

DEFENSE:

LE 95 Ott, 98 Hardy

LT 71 Davis, 97 Cooper

RT 90 Trinca-Pasat, 67 Johnson

RE 79 Alvis, 94 McMinn/34 Meier

OLB 20 Kirksey, 39 Perry

MLB 44 Morris, 52 Alston

WLB 31 Hitchens, 55 Collins/36 Fisher

LCB 19 Lowery, 7 Draper

SS 37 Lowdermilk, 21 Law

FS 5 Miller, 12 Gair

RCB 27 Lomax, 14 King

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. Missouri State Game Notes](#)

8/31/2013: Northern Illinois 30, Iowa 27 (Links)

By Brendan Stiles

HawkeyeDrive.com

Check out all of these links to content posted on Saturday after Iowa's 30-27 loss to Northern Illinois 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: [Hawkeyes cough up opener](#)

COMMENTARY: [More than just a loss? \(premium\)](#)

VIDEO:

[Mike Meyer](#)

[Kirk Ferentz](#)

[James Morris](#)

[Jordan Lomax](#)

[Kevonte Martin-Manley](#)

[Jake Rudock](#)

[Anthony Hitchens](#)

[Mark Weisman](#)

[Christian Kirksey](#)

Hawkeyes cough up opener

By Brendan Stiles

HawkeyeDrive.com

IOWA CITY, Iowa – When the 2013 season began, the Iowa Hawkeyes already had a small margin of error. Just one season

ago, Iowa finished 4-8 and found itself playing an extremely significant season-opener for the first time in over a decade.

In a matter of moments, that miniscule margin of error shrunk. An interception thrown by first-year starting quarterback Jake Rudock in the game's final minutes led to Northern Illinois connecting on a 36-yard field goal with four seconds left and leaving Kinnick Stadium with a 30-27 win over Iowa. The Hawkeyes now find themselves starting a season 0-1 for the first time since 2000.

The interception came on an out route with 1:24 left. Iowa had 1st-and-10 at its own 45-yard line and was looking at needing about 20-25 yards to get in field goal range for senior kicker Mike Meyer. Rudock threw the ball intended for junior wideout Kevonte Martin-Manley and he said the throw was about halfway to Martin-Manley before he realized it was about to be picked off by Northern Illinois corner Jimmie Ward.

"I threw it, thought we had good leverage on it," Rudock said. "Midway through, I saw how well he broke on it and he made a good play."

It was one of two picks thrown by Rudock (the other being on a pass tipped at the line of scrimmage by a Huskie defensive lineman). Outside of that, his first outing wasn't terrible as he completed 21-of-37 pass attempts for 256 yards through the air. He also threw a touchdown pass earlier in the game to senior tight end C.J. Fiedorowicz and even ran for a score that put Iowa up 24-17 at halftime.

After falling behind 10-0 in the first quarter, momentum began to shift in the Hawkeyes' favor when senior linebacker Christian Kirksey forced a Northern Illinois fumble that he then proceeded to pick and return 52 yards for Iowa's first touchdown.

Following a 28-yard field goal from Meyer to tie the game at 10-10, the offense started to heat up when Iowa pulled off a

flea-flicker where Rudock hit senior receiver Jordan Cotton downfield for 53 yards. That completion set up the touchdown pass to Fiedorowicz, which was an 11-yard dart over the middle of the field.

“I think it was a momentum switch,” said Kirksey, who turned 21 Saturday. “You know, any time the defense makes a play, it sparks up the offense and it sparks up the defense to go out there and do it again.”

But Northern Illinois managed to adjust defensively. After the Hawkeyes compiled 302 yards of total offense in the first half, they only managed 156 yards total in the second half and all they got out of those 156 yards was a 44-yard field goal from Meyer that put Iowa ahead 27-20 with 6:42 left. In addition, Iowa ended up converting just 1-of-7 third down attempts in the second half after going 6-of-10 on third downs in the first half.

“We weren’t consistent enough,” junior running back Mark Weisman said after rushing for 100 yards on 20 carries. “We weren’t staying on the field, we weren’t converting on third downs and you have to do that in order to win games. Playmakers have to be able to make plays out there. That’s what it comes down to.”

Defensively, Iowa kept Huskie quarterback Jordan Lynch from burning it on the ground like he did a year ago when these teams met in Chicago. This time around though, Lynch completed 25-of-41 passes (he was 6-of-16 in last year’s meeting) for 275 yards and hit Da’Ron Brown for a 33-yard score to tie the game at 27-27 with 5:05 showing. Lynch tossed three touchdown passes on the afternoon.

“I thought he was a lot better than last year,” senior linebacker James Morris said of Lynch, adding that Northern Illinois looked to spread Iowa out more and play more up-tempo offensively in contrast to when these teams played last

season.

The two teams then exchanged punts before Iowa found itself at its own 45 with a chance to win. Then came the interception and ensuing game-winning Huskie field goal.

“Probably one we’d like to have back, but that’s football,” Ferentz said. “It was just a good play on their part and a bad play on ours.”

Iowa will look to end a seven-game losing streak dating back to last season now on Sept. 7, when the Hawkeyes play host to FCS opponent Missouri State. The Bears are coming off a 23-17 loss to Northwestern State on Aug. 29. Kickoff is scheduled for 11 a.m. Central from Kinnick Stadium, with the game airing nationally on the Big Ten Network.

COMMENTARY: More than just a loss? (premium)

By Brendan Stiles

HawkeyeDrive.com

IOWA CITY, Iowa – 0-1. Before Saturday’s season-opener against Northern Illinois, Iowa hadn’t started a season with this record since 2000. At that point in time, Kirk Ferentz was in his second season as head coach and still in the middle of rebuilding the Hawkeye program.

Northern Illinois left Kinnick Stadium with 30-27 win over Iowa on Saturday and now, the Hawkeyes are 0-1. After a tumultuous 2012 campaign where Iowa went 4-8, the Hawkeyes are already 0-1 after one game in 2013.

Right now, I find myself pondering this thought: Is the beginning of the end for Ferentz at Iowa?

Do I think he gets fired after this season? No. Do I think he walks away from coaching this season? No. This isn't something that will just abruptly end. It won't end now, it won't end this year and it probably won't even end next year or the year after.

But since winning the 2010 Orange Bowl, Iowa has played 39 games. Its record? 19-20. A lot has changed over this timeframe. The only players from that team still around now are fifth-year seniors who redshirted that 2009 season. Every single position group has undergone a coaching change over this time. One of the few constants from both then and today is Ferentz.

Sure, this is just one game. But this was an important game for Iowa, a program that had taken such a monumental step backward in 2012 and needed to get back on the right track to open 2013. As good as Northern Illinois is, its head coach was coaching just his second game ever at the helm. This was a team Iowa beat last year. The win was in the Hawkeyes' sight and it slipped away. Instead of the discussion being how Iowa beat a quality opponent to start 1-0 for the 13th straight year, it's now about how the Hawkeyes have now lost seven straight games dating back to last season and how Ferentz has now lost four games to MAC opponents – all inside Kinnick Stadium, no less.

So now what? Coaching changes have come and gone. New personnel has come and gone. A lot of the problems that were thought to exist were rectified, or so it appeared. Is this current Iowa squad capable of winning four straight in September? I ask because this is probably the only plausible scenario now if the Hawkeyes are going to reach six wins and bowl eligibility.

What more has to change for Iowa to at the very least become respectable again nationally? Because right now, it isn't. If the scrutiny wasn't already enormous after 4-8, it is now after starting 0-1 after just going 4-8.

Winning on Saturday wasn't going to make Iowa's season and perhaps losing won't either. Perhaps. Except now, any margin of error that might have existed prior to kickoff is gone. This has the look of a losing season and will be one – unless Iowa wins in both Ames and Minneapolis next month. Not one or the other. Both. And by the way, Iowa State and Minnesota have both won two of their last three meetings respectively against Iowa.

At this moment in time, yes, it seems crazy to think that the clock is ticking on the Kirk Ferentz era at Iowa. And I'll say it again – it still appears on the surface to be far from over. But whenever it does end, this loss on Saturday just might be the one that everyone looks back upon as the beginning of the end. It was a missed opportunity to plug a hole that has resonated around this program for 10 months and counting now.

It was a missed opportunity added to a list of them just from the last 4-5 years alone and that's not a good trend in an industry where results matter.

This is a program that hadn't started 0-1 since it was last in complete rebuild mode. How the Hawkeyes respond here is going to be important – not just for this season, but honestly, for the rest of Ferentz's tenure. If there's no uptick on the horizon, then it's worth asking again – is this the beginning of the end? Only time will tell.

Iowa-NIU video: Christian Kirksey

By Brendan Stiles

HawkeyeDrive.com

IOWA CITY, Iowa – Iowa senior linebacker Christian Kirksey recorded a team-high 14 tackles and also returned a fumble recovery he forced back for a touchdown during the first quarter of Iowa's 30-27 loss to Northern Illinois on Saturday at Kinnick Stadium.

Iowa-NIU video: Mark Weisman

By Brendan Stiles

HawkeyeDrive.com

IOWA CITY, Iowa – Iowa junior running back Mark Weisman started at fullback Saturday (playing both positions) and rushed for 100 yards on 20 carries in the Hawkeyes' 30-27 loss to Northern Illinois at Kinnick Stadium.

Iowa-NIU video: Anthony Hitchens

By Brendan Stiles

HawkeyeDrive.com

IOWA CITY, Iowa – Iowa senior linebacker Anthony Hitchens finished with 13 tackles (six of which were solo) in the Hawkeyes' 30-27 loss to Northern Illinois on Saturday at Kinnick Stadium.

Iowa-NIU video: Jake Rudock

By Brendan Stiles

HawkeyeDrive.com

IOWA CITY, Iowa – Iowa sophomore quarterback Jake Rudock made his first career start Saturday, completing 21-of-37 passes for 256 yards, one touchdown and two interceptions in the Hawkeyes' 30-27 loss to Northern Illinois at Kinnick Stadium.