

# Hyde named first-team all-Big Ten

By Brendan Stiles

*HawkeyeDrive.com*

Iowa senior cornerback Micah Hyde was the lone Hawkeye player to be named first-team all-Big Ten, receiving consensus honors from both the coaches and media. He was also awarded the Tate-Woodson Defensive Back of the Year Award, presented to the conference's top defensive back.

Hyde recorded 78 tackles in 2012. He also led the Hawkeyes with 14 pass break ups and recorded one interception, as well as two forced fumbles and three fumble recoveries, one of which was returned for a touchdown against Purdue on Nov. 10.

Senior center James Ferentz was selected second-team by the coaches and was among six players to be named honorable mention by the media. Receiving consensus honorable mention were junior tight end C.J. Fiedorowicz, junior linebacker Anthony Hitchens and junior kicker Mike Meyer.

Senior offensive lineman Matt Tobin was also named honorable mention by the coaches. Also garnering honorable mention from the media were senior defensive end Joe Gaglione and junior linebacker James Morris.

Iowa's honoree for the Big Ten's Sportsmanship Award was senior quarterback James Vandenberg.

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# 11/26/2012: State of the Big Ten, Volume 75 (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

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As crazy as this might sound, the Big Ten needs No. 14 Nebraska to win the conference title game being played Dec. 1 in Indianapolis. Yes, needs.

The conference is in an unfortunate predicament here because its best team, which was 12-0 Ohio State, is bowl-ineligible this season. Had this not been the case, all the talk this week would be about the Buckeyes being one victory away from meeting top-ranked Notre Dame in the BCS National Championship Game and in the process, completely shutting out the SEC altogether.

But instead, there's the Cornhuskers, who clearly proved themselves to be the Big Ten's second-best team and best alternative for Ohio State. Yes, Wisconsin has a chance to make history itself Saturday night by making its third consecutive trip to Pasadena for the Rose Bowl.

Except here's the problem. The Badgers weren't even the second-best team in the Leaders Division, let alone the best. In fact, Wisconsin possesses a 7-5 record and comes into this championship bout on a two-game losing streak, with both defeats coming in overtime to Ohio State and Penn State.

Yes, the Badgers shouldn't have to apologize for being the beneficiaries of sanctions levied against both Ohio State and Penn State. But the fact of the matter is if Wisconsin were to beat Nebraska this weekend, no one outside of Madison is going to take the Big Ten seriously if its Rose Bowl participant is 8-5, even with those five defeats coming by a combined 19 points.

This might still be the case even if the Cornhuskers win, but at least at 11-2, they'll be viewed as a worthy participant of playing in the Rose Bowl. Heck, if this weekend's game featured Nebraska and Ohio State, the Cornhuskers would likely be playing in Pasadena regardless if Ohio State winning meant the Buckeyes were 13-0 and playing for a national title.

There's also the matter of the entire Big Ten bowl picture. If Nebraska wins, it's pretty simple. The Cornhuskers smell roses, Michigan would probably go to the Capital One Bowl and a 9-3 Northwestern would probably get picked for the Outback Bowl over a 7-6 Wisconsin coming off three straight defeats. The Badgers would then be in the Gator Bowl and then Michigan State, Minnesota and Purdue would round out the rest.

If Wisconsin makes a third straight Rose Bowl appearance though, it gets tricky. Nebraska just played in the Capital One Bowl last year, but there's also the worry of rematches not only in Orlando, but in the other two Florida bowls as well that would be involving the Wolverines and Wildcats.

This Big Ten Championship Game already lacks luster without the league's best team. Add in that the Cornhuskers and Badgers met in Lincoln back on Sept. 29, a game Nebraska won 30-27, and it's just not as appealing as it was a year ago when Wisconsin played Michigan State.

Should the Badgers win Saturday night, they would've earned the right to play in Pasadena against either No. 8 Stanford or No. 17 UCLA on New Year's Day. But the invisible asterisk will

always be there with them. That wouldn't be the case with Nebraska. It's as simple as that.

A team winning six straight games en route to a conference title holds more legitimacy, legitimacy that the Big Ten needs if it doesn't want to continue being perceived as a laughingstock in the college football world.

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## **2012 Big Ten football TV schedule: Week Fourteen**

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:

Dec. 1:

2012 Big Ten Championship Game: No. 14 Nebraska vs. Wisconsin (at Indianapolis, Ind.), 7 p.m., Fox

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

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## **Hill arrested for OWI, faces suspension**

By Brendan Stiles

*HawkeyeDrive.com*

Iowa freshman running back Barkley Hill was arrested on charges of operating while intoxicated (OWI) near his hometown of Denver, Iowa. According to the [Cedar Rapids Gazette](#), the arrest took place early Saturday morning.

In a statement released Saturday morning, Iowa head coach Kirk Ferentz expressed disappointment and said Hill would serve at least a one-game suspension. The Hawkeyes open their 2013 season against Northern Illinois on Aug. 31, 2013. Iowa athletics director Gary Barta also issued a statement saying Hill would be disciplined in compliance with the UI's Student-Athlete Code of Conduct and based off any further information he and Ferentz learned.

Hill was forced to redshirt this past season after tearing his ACL during an open practice held at Kinnick Stadium back on Aug. 18.

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## **11/23/2012: Nebraska 13, Iowa 7 (Links)**

By Brendan Stiles

*HawkeyeDrive.com*

Check out all of these links to content posted on Friday after Iowa's 13-7 loss to No. 17 Nebraska 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:** [Missed opportunities doom Hawkeyes in loss to Huskers](#)

**COMMENTARY:** [No risk, no reward \(premium\)](#)

## VIDEO:

[Kevonte Martin-Manley](#)

[Zach Derby](#)

[C.J. Fiedorowicz](#)

[John Wienke](#)

[Keenan Davis](#)

[Kirk Ferentz](#)

[James Ferentz](#)

[Mark Weisman](#)

[Micah Hyde](#)

[James Vandenberg](#)

[Dominic Alvis](#)

[Steve Bigach](#)

[James Morris](#)

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# Missed opportunities doom Hawkeyes in loss to Huskers

By Brendan Stiles

*HawkeyeDrive.com*

IOWA CITY, Iowa – As the Iowa Hawkeyes walked off their Kinnick Stadium turf Friday for the final time in 2012, their

13-7 loss to No. 17 Nebraska proved to be a microcosm of their entire season.

Missed opportunities. Iowa has had plenty of them throughout a 4-8 campaign and that proved to be no different against the Cornhuskers, who secured their spot in next week's Big Ten Championship Game with the win.

"We could have took advantage of some of them, but it didn't happen," senior wide receiver Keenan Davis said. "They came out and played better than us. We played hard, but they ended up playing better."

The game began with Nebraska putting together a 16-play drive that resulted in a 26-yard field goal to go ahead 3-0. Iowa came right back on the ensuing possession and went 62 yards for a touchdown that put the Hawkeyes up 7-3. A 25-yard completion against the wind by senior quarterback James Vandenberg to junior tight end C.J. Fiedorowicz set up a 1-yard Vandenberg touchdown run that ended up being Iowa's lone score of the afternoon.

Meanwhile, the Hawkeye defense began to settle down in terms of what personnel it had on the field. Nebraska would compile just 17 yards of total offense from when its second possession began and halftime, when it went into the locker room trailing by that 7-3 margin.

"We definitely kept it simple this week," senior cornerback Micah Hyde said. "We knew coming in they were going to run the ball downhill and we just got to stop it. It doesn't matter what defense we're in."

Iowa was ahead by four points, but it could've easily been more. The Hawkeyes forced a pair of Cornhusker turnovers, including a muffed punt recovered by Hyde. Just before halftime, Iowa was driving in Nebraska territory and burned its final timeout of the half with 15 seconds showing.

After the timeout, the Hawkeyes were called for an illegal substitution penalty and after an incomplete pass on third down, junior kicker Mike Meyer missed a 42-yard field goal against a strong NW wind that could've put Iowa ahead by seven.

"It was a miscommunication," junior tight end C.J. Fiedorowicz said. "We had 12 guys on the field. The wrong personnel was in. That penalty could've cost us, but we missed that field goal."

In the second half, Nebraska was ignited by running back Rex Burkhead, who played his first game in over a month and finished with 69 yards rushing on 16 carries to lead the Cornhuskers. Late in the third quarter, Nebraska took over at Iowa's 43-yard line and four plays later, Burkhead put the Cornhuskers ahead with a 3-yard touchdown run.

"He just changes the tempo of things out there a little bit," Iowa head coach Kirk Ferentz said of Burkhead. "That's what good players do."

"To me, when he's in there, they run at a little different level."

As Nebraska started moving the ball effectively on offense, its defense was shutting down Iowa. From the moment they fell behind in the third quarter to the final whistle, the Hawkeyes had just 35 yards of total offense. In the fourth quarter alone, Iowa had just 13 yards of total offense.

Because the Cornhuskers were forced to punt on both of their fourth-quarter possessions after incomplete passes on third down, the Hawkeyes had two occasions in that final stanza to put together scoring drives – with the wind at their back – and possibly pull off the upset. But Iowa opted to punt on the first series and when it got the ball back, Vandenberg threw his second interception of the day, which sealed the Cornhusker win.



“They tried to hand us the game,” senior center James Ferentz said. “For whatever reason, we couldn’t take it.”

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## **COMMENTARY: No risk, no reward (premium)**

By Brendan Stiles

*HawkeyeDrive.com*

IOWA CITY, Iowa – As expected by many, the Iowa Hawkeyes lost their 2012 finale Friday at Kinnick Stadium, as No. 17 Nebraska secured its spot in next week’s Big Ten Championship Game with a 13-7 victory.

No, it wasn’t a blowout. Iowa fought, and fought and fought some more. But all for naught.

The reason why the Hawkeyes lost Friday afternoon is actually pretty simple. It starts and ends with coaching. There’s the saying of “high risk, high reward,” yet this proved to be a case of “no risk, no reward.”

No one expected Iowa to win this game. Not even the blindly loyal optimists who always look at the positive side of things expected that. Yet the Hawkeyes were in a position on Friday where they could’ve shocked the college football world and perhaps maybe lay a foundation for a brighter future.

This was a team that could’ve quit Friday. After all, thousands of Nebraska fans had invaded their home turf to watch what they expected to be the Cornhuskers cruising to a coronation. Nebraska left with the prize it sought, but nothing about it was easy.

But there was one problem Iowa had. Aside from its opening possession where it marched 62 yards down the field for its only score of the day, the Hawkeye offense repeatedly shot itself in the foot at times where Nebraska could've really felt the pressure.

At the end of the first half, Iowa calls a timeout and comes out of it called for an illegal substitution penalty. There's simply no excuse for that. Short-yardage plays where Iowa runs the ball, it continued to run towards the sides Nebraska overloaded in the box.

The first of two interceptions thrown by quarterback James Vandenberg went off his receiver's hands, but his intended target – on third down, mind you – was running a route short of the first-down marker.

Defensively, the Hawkeyes played their best game in over a month. After allowing teams to accumulate over 400 yards of offense each of the past five weeks, the Cornhuskers only had 263 yards of total offense Friday. The defense didn't run a single play in nickel or dime. Not one. It may have held up its end of bargain, but had to lack creativity in order to do so. Eventually, Nebraska was going to get something going as it routinely pounded the football with running backs Ameer Abdullah and Rex Burkhead.

This loss is on coaching. Everyone knew of Iowa's shortcomings personnel-wise, which is a big reason why it entered this game 4-7 and a heavy underdog. As the game progressed and the Hawkeyes continued to draw blanks on what were golden opportunities, it was only a matter of time before Nebraska executed. That has kind of been the Cornhuskers' M.O. all season.

Iowa had nothing but pride at stake Friday afternoon. This was a chance for the Hawkeyes to roll the dice on both sides of the ball and they never did. Instead, they continued to play

conservatively despite Nebraska practically giving the game away late with a pair of questionable passing calls on third down during the fourth quarter.

All the talk this week was about Iowa going out swinging. Instead, it took little to no risks on an afternoon when it could afford to and in the end, a team that gave its all walked away with no reward to show for it.

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## **Iowa-Nebraska video: James Morris**

By Brendan Stiles

*HawkeyeDrive.com*

IOWA CITY, Iowa – Iowa junior linebacker James Morris recorded a team-high 13 tackles in the Hawkeyes' 13-7 loss to No. 17 Nebraska on Friday at Kinnick Stadium.

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## **Iowa-Nebraska video: Steve Bigach**

By Brendan Stiles

*HawkeyeDrive.com*

IOWA CITY, Iowa – Iowa senior defensive end Steve Bigach

recorded four tackles in the Hawkeyes' 13-7 loss to No. 17 Nebraska on Friday at Kinnick Stadium. Bigach was one of 19 seniors that played his final game as a Hawkeye.

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## **Iowa-Nebraska video: Dominic Alvis**

By Brendan Stiles

*HawkeyeDrive.com*

IOWA CITY, Iowa – Iowa junior defensive end Dominic Alvis recorded three tackles and a sack in the Hawkeyes' 13-7 loss to No. 17 Nebraska on Friday at Kinnick Stadium.