

# Iowa vs. Penn State Game Notes, 2-deep

## OFFENSE:

WR 6 Davis, 81 Smith

LT 68 Scherff, 78 Donnal

LG 60 Tobin, 65 Walsh

C 53 Ferentz, 59 Bofelli

RG 78 Donnal, 63 Blythe

RT 70 Van Sloten, 76 MacMillan

TE 86 Fiedorowicz, 82 Hamilton

QB 16 Vandenberg, 15 Rudock

WR 11 Martin-Manley, 83 Staggs

RB 4 Garmon, 33 Canzeri

FB 38 Rogers, 92 Gimm

## DEFENSE:

DE 99 Gaglione, 94 McMin

DT 54 Bigach, 71 Davis

DT 90 Trinca-Pasat, 97 Cooper

DE 79 Alvis, 49 Spears

OLB 20 Kirksey, 39 Perry

MLB 44 Morris, 52 Alston

WLB 31 Hitchens, 36 Fisher

LCB 2 Castillo, 19 Lowery

SS 13 Donatell, 21 Law

FS 5 Miller, 37 Lowdermilk

RCB 18 Hyde, 7 Draper

#### **SPECIAL TEAMS:**

P 98 Kornbrath, 14 Wienke

PK 96 Meyer, 1 Koehn

LS 61 Kreiter, 54 Bigach

HOLDER 14 Wienke

PR 18 Hyde

KR 6 Davis, 23 Cotton

[Iowa vs. Penn State Game Notes](#)

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# **Meyer receives third special teams honor**

By Brendan Stiles

*HawkeyeDrive.com*

Iowa junior kicker Mike Meyer received his third career Big Ten Special Teams Player of the Week honor from the conference Monday. It's also the second such accolade the Dubuque native

has earned this season alone.

Meyer is coming off his second four-field goal performance of the year after making kicks from 23, 28, 27 and 42 yards in Iowa's 19-16 double overtime win over Michigan State on Oct. 13 in East Lansing, Mich. The 27-yarder came in the first overtime to tie the game at 16-16, while the 42-yard kick gave the Hawkeyes their only lead of the day.

His first four-field goal game came in Iowa's season opener, an 18-17 victory over Northern Illinois in Chicago back on Sept. 1. Meyer was named Big Ten Special Teams Player of the Week following that game and received the honor for the first time in his career back in 2010 after a game where Iowa defeated Indiana, 18-13.

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

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. 20:

Purdue at No. 7 Ohio State, 11 a.m., ABC/ESPN2

Minnesota at Wisconsin, 11 a.m., ESPNU

Michigan State at No. 23 Michigan, 2:30 p.m., BTN

Nebraska at Northwestern, 2:30 p.m., ABC/ESPN2

Indiana at Navy, 2:30 p.m., CBS Sports Network

**Penn State at Iowa, 7 p.m., BTN**

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

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# **10/13/2012: Iowa 19, Michigan State 16 (Links)**

By Brendan Stiles

*HawkeyeDrive.com*

Check out all of these links to content posted on Saturday after Iowa's 19-16 double overtime win over Michigan State at Spartan Stadium in East Lansing, Mich. 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 stun Spartans in double overtime](#)

**COMMENTARY:** [Unlikely win a season-changer \(premium\)](#)

**VIDEO:**

[Keenan Davis](#)

[Kevonte Martin-Manley](#)

[Mike Meyer](#)

[Greg Castillo](#)

[Kirk Ferentz](#)

[Joe Gaglione](#)

[James Vandenberg](#)

[Anthony Hitchens](#)

[Mark Weisman](#)

[James Morris](#)

[Christian Kirksey](#)

[Micah Hyde](#)

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# Hawkeyes stun Spartans in double overtime

By Brendan Stiles

*HawkeyeDrive.com*

EAST LANSING, Mich. – On a dreary day at Spartan Stadium, it was the Iowa defense providing a much-needed spark that ultimately enabled the Hawkeyes to emerge with a stunning 19-16 double overtime victory over Michigan State on Saturday.

The magnitude of this win for the Hawkeyes cannot be overstated. Not only is Iowa now 4-2 overall instead of 3-3, but at 2-0 in Big Ten play, it remains tied with Michigan atop the Legends Division.

“I’m just really proud of the way the guys hung in there with a good football team,” Iowa head coach Kirk Ferentz said after notching his 100th career victory at the school since taking over for Hayden Fry after the 1998 season. “It took basically every play out there.”

Iowa got off to an ugly start. Its first offensive possession featured a near pick-six on the second play and eventually, senior quarterback James Vandenberg would throw an interception that led to a 14-yard touchdown run by Michigan State running back Le'Veon Bell.

From that point forward however, Iowa's defense clamped down. The Spartans looked like they'd make it 14-0 after quarterback Andrew Maxwell completed a 38-yard pass to wideout Aaron Burbridge. But Bell would be stopped short of a first down inside the red zone and Michigan State opted to take the points, making the game 10-0. Bell would finish the game with 140 yards rushing on 29 carries. In total, the Spartans compiled 328 yards of offense.

"We knew it was going to be a close game and we liked how we matched up," junior linebacker James Morris said. "Yards were tough to come by today. When that's the case, you've just got to kind of batten down the hatches and pull together."

Iowa would respond right back. Junior wide receiver Jordan Cotton returned the ensuing kickoff for a touchdown, only for the play to be called back due to an illegal block in the back. The Hawkeyes would get the ball at the Spartan 47-yard line and would come away with a 23-yard field goal by junior kicker Mike Meyer, one of four kicks he made on the afternoon.

The score would remain 10-3 going into the fourth quarter. Iowa was in position to tie the game following a 31-yard run late in the third quarter by sophomore running back Mark Weisman, who rushed for 116 yards on 26 carries. Instead, the Hawkeyes were unable to move the chains and the two teams ended up exchanging field goals.

Trailing 13-6, the offense found its spark in the form of a 35-yard completion by Vandenberg to senior wide receiver Keenan Davis. Making the play even more significant was that it came on a 2nd-and-26 following a clipping penalty and moved

Iowa into Spartan territory.

“That big play got us out to really good field position,” Vandenberg said. “We’re at midfield, four minutes left. There’s zero rush. We don’t have to get into multiple receiver sets. We could get in with our tight ends and keep that balance.

“I thought that was big – having that balance and making them honor both.”

Once that happened, the Hawkeyes were able to tote the rock with Weisman, as he converted a pair of third downs. The first came on a 37-yard run to the Michigan State 8-yard line, the second resulting in a 5-yard touchdown run that tied the game with 55 seconds in regulation. Weisman’s eighth score of the season would be his final play of the afternoon though, as he left the game with what Ferentz called a lower leg injury that occurred on the run.

“I wanted to get back in, but I really couldn’t,” Weisman said. “It wasn’t effective. I had no power off that leg, so I couldn’t really cut off that leg.

“If I went back in, I would’ve hurt the team more than help the team.”

Iowa won the overtime coin toss and the defense held Michigan State to a 24-yard field goal. The Hawkeyes would match that with Meyer connecting from 27 yards. The second overtime possession was nearly disastrous for Iowa. Vandenberg, who completed 19 of 36 passes for 134 yards, threw an incomplete pass on third down that would’ve been a Spartan interception if not for Cotton breaking up the pass.

Meyer would make his fourth field goal of the day when he nailed a 42-yard kick to give the Hawkeyes their first lead. Iowa would seal the win when senior cornerback Greg Castillo – who made his second straight start in place of an

injured B.J. Lowery – intercepted a second-down pass from Maxwell that went off his intended target's hands.

"I just saw the ball in the air and I just caught it," Castillo said. "It was really that simple. I got lucky."

The Hawkeyes return home to play Penn State on Oct. 20. Kickoff is scheduled for 7 p.m. Central from Kinnick Stadium and will be televised nationally on BTN.

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## **COMMENTARY: Unlikely win a season-changer (premium)**

By Brendan Stiles

*HawkeyeDrive.com*

EAST LANSING, Mich. – For three-and-a-half quarters, the script to Iowa's game against Michigan State was a familiar one. Much like losses the Hawkeyes had last season to teams such as Penn State, Nebraska and Oklahoma, Iowa looked well on its way to losing a game Saturday where the defense held its own, only for the offense to look completely out of sync and not come through.

It wouldn't have been a major surprise, either. The Spartans came in with the Big Ten's stingiest defense and the Hawkeyes were coming off a bye week. Add in some bad weather, and the recipe was there.

Except this time around, there was an unlikely ending, one that just might have changed the entire outlook of Iowa's 2012 season. Instead of falling back to .500 and instead of losing a game there was little expectation for the Hawkeyes to win,



Iowa finally began clicking in all three phases during the fourth quarter and pulled off a stunning 19-16 victory in double overtime over Michigan State.

Now, the Hawkeyes are 4-2 overall. Now, they're 2-0 in the Big Ten's Legends Division and control their own destiny towards playing in Indianapolis on Dec. 1. Yes, what looked nearly unfathomable at one point Saturday afternoon suddenly looks realistic in a wide-open Big Ten.

The odds were stacked in Michigan State's favor, but Iowa kept hanging around. The Spartans had their fair share of blunders, most notably failing to get a play off at the end of the first half as they were driving and looking to go up by double figures. But that shouldn't overshadow the play of the Hawkeyes' defense.

After giving up a touchdown run to Michigan State running back Le'Veon Bell (which came following an interception deep in Iowa territory), this defense not only kept him and the rest of the Spartan offense out of the end zone, but it got better as the game progressed. By the time Iowa's offense finally began showing signs of life, the defense began having its way with Michigan State. Whether it was Louis Trinca-Pasat mauling offensive linemen or the secondary not being gashed by big plays, Iowa's defense proved worthy of the challenge and played well enough for the Hawkeyes to win.

As far as the offense goes, I can go on and on about how stagnant it looked. Iowa at one point in the fourth quarter was 3-of-14 converting third downs. Let me repeat: 3-of-14.

But everything changed when the Hawkeyes faced 2nd-and-26. Senior quarterback James Vandenberg, who prior to that play had looked awful the entire afternoon, connected with senior wide receiver Keenan Davis on a 35-yard completion. Suddenly, Iowa's offense had life. The Hawkeyes faced two more third downs and managed to convert both with its ground game. The

second third-down conversion was a 5-yard touchdown run up the middle that tied the game with 55 seconds remaining.

Even special teams proved huge. Junior kicker Mike Meyer might very well be the Big Ten's best kicker now after making four field goals in wet conditions, including one in the first overtime to tie the game at 16-16 and a 42-yard attempt in the second overtime that wound up winning the game. This team doesn't have a winning record without Meyer, plain and simple.

So here's the new twist. Kirk Ferentz gets his 100th win as Iowa's head coach. Vandenberg finally wins a start in a state not beginning with the letter "I." The Hawkeyes (for now) are in the driver's seat towards playing in Indianapolis on Dec. 1.

If this team does wind up pulling off what once looked unimaginable, remember this game at Spartan Stadium. Because of this win, the complexion of this season has changed. There's hope now with this team and with the Big Ten as mediocre as it has been, that could prove to be enough in the end.

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## **Iowa-MSU video: Micah Hyde**

By Brendan Stiles

*HawkeyeDrive.com*

EAST LANSING, Mich. — Iowa senior cornerback Micah Hyde finished with seven tackles on Saturday in the Hawkeyes' 19-16 double overtime win over Michigan State at Spartan Stadium.

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# **Iowa-MSU video: Christian Kirksey**

By Brendan Stiles

*HawkeyeDrive.com*

EAST LANSING, Mich. – Iowa junior linebacker Christian Kirksey finished with seven tackles, a sack and a forced fumble on Saturday in the Hawkeyes' 19-16 double overtime victory over Michigan State at Spartan Stadium.

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

By Brendan Stiles

*HawkeyeDrive.com*

EAST LANSING, Mich. – Iowa junior linebacker James Morris recorded 10 tackles in the Hawkeyes' 19-16 double overtime win over Michigan State on Saturday at Spartan Stadium.

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# Iowa-MSU video: Mark Weisman

By Brendan Stiles

*HawkeyeDrive.com*

EAST LANSING, Mich. – Iowa sophomore running back Mark Weisman rushed for 116 yards and one touchdown on 26 carries in the Hawkeyes' 19-16 double overtime victory over Michigan State on Saturday at Spartan Stadium.