

# 2012 Big Ten football TV schedule: Week Four

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. 22:

**Central Michigan at Iowa, 11 a.m., BTN**

UAB at No. 16 Ohio State, 11 a.m., BTN

UTEP at Wisconsin, 11 a.m., ESPN2

Eastern Michigan at No. 21 Michigan State, 2:30 p.m., BTN

Idaho State at No. 25 Nebraska, 2:30 p.m., BTN

South Dakota at Northwestern, 2:30 p.m., BTN

Temple at Penn State, 2:30 p.m., ABC/ESPN2

No. 18 Michigan at No. 11 Notre Dame, 6:30 p.m., NBC

Louisiana Tech at Illinois, 7 p.m., BTN

Syracuse at Minnesota, 7 p.m., BTN

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

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**9/15/2012: Iowa 27, Northern**

# Iowa 16 (Links)

By Brendan Stiles

*HawkeyeDrive.com*

Check out all of these links to content posted on Saturday after Iowa's 27-16 win over Northern Iowa 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*:

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[Mark Weisman](#)

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# Ground game propels Hawkeyes to win over UNI

By Brendan Stiles

*HawkeyeDrive.com*

IOWA CITY, Iowa – For at least one afternoon, the Iowa Hawkeyes answered questions that were out there about their character, their ability to move the ball and their toughness.

From the first offensive series to the last, Iowa made running the football its top priority on Saturday. Not only were the Hawkeyes able to do that, but an unlikely source – at least publicly – provided the bulk of those 201 yards on the ground Iowa had in its 27-16 win over Northern Iowa.

Sophomore fullback Mark Weisman was the story on this afternoon, recording all three of the Hawkeyes' touchdowns. His scoring runs from one yard, one yard again, and two yards proved beneficial for Iowa in the red zone after it had failed to score a touchdown in its previous two games once reaching the opponent's 20-yard line.

Weisman's first touchdown capped an opening drive where sophomore running back Damon Bullock was the bell cow. Eight of the 10 plays were Bullock carries, as he compiled 53 of the 60 yards Iowa accumulated on the possession.

"We were really able to establish the run early," senior quarterback James Vandenberg said. We got a lot of looks that we weren't expecting to get and they gave us some run plays. The guys did a good job of blocking it up and getting our backs 4-5 yards without being touched."

Bullock would get to 77 yards rushing before his 13th carry ended with him receiving a knee to the head, knocking him out

and sidelining him for the remainder of the game.

True freshman running back Greg Garmon entered and had three carries for 13 yards before he had to leave the game with an injury to his right arm. With Iowa down two running backs, Weisman had to switch roles and go from the fullback used out of the I-formation and in short-yardage situations to the team's feature back.

"It's a little bit of a different mindset out there, but throughout the week, we prepared for that," Weisman said. "We have depth at the running back position, so we know that you just have to be ready at all times. You have to come into the game knowing that you could be there and you have to have that mindset."

To go along with his three scores, the Air Force transfer compiled 113 yards rushing on 24 carries.

"That was not scripted, I can assure you," head coach Kirk Ferentz said. "We thought he might play a little bit, but we did not foresee the circumstances. But he runs tough.

"I can't say enough about him. It's one thing to do it in practice, but to go out and do it in a game, in a circumstance where guys are trying to nail you. He really did a great job and it's a credit to him."

Defensively, the Hawkeyes found themselves getting off to another sluggish start, allowing an opponent to march down for a touchdown on its opening possession for the second straight week. Northern Iowa's David Johnson scored from one yard out lined up in the Wildcat formation to give the Panthers an early 7-0 lead.

In fact, Northern Iowa would score points on each of its first three drives. But that first series led to its lone touchdown before having to kick three field goals to make up for the rest of its points.

“They had a few aces up their sleeves and once they kind of tipped their hand, it was really just football for us,” junior linebacker James Morris said. “Keeping receivers in front of us, getting off blocks and then getting everybody to gang tackle.”

Once again, Iowa was led defensively by junior linebacker Anthony Hitchens, who recorded a team-high 10 tackles. He entered Saturday’s contest leading the Big Ten with 27 tackles on the season. The Hawkeyes also received strong play from senior strong safety Tom Donatell, who recorded his second interception in as many games during the third quarter.

“It was basically just a two-man look and the front four got some great pressure on [Northern Iowa quarterback Sawyer Kollmorgen],” Donatell said. “He tried to force it and it kind of came out wobbly. I just dove for it. I think I misjudged it a little bit, but I was able to get two hands under it and make the play.”

Iowa continues its four-game home-stand next week with its final non-conference game of the season against Central Michigan on Sept. 22. Kickoff is scheduled for 11 a.m. Central and the game will be televised by the Big Ten Network. The Chippewas (1-1) had a bye this week after losing 41-7 at home to Michigan State on Sept. 8.

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## **COMMENTARY:           Leading           by example (premium)**

By Brendan Stiles

*HawkeyeDrive.com*

IOWA CITY, Iowa – Not often does a walk-on transfer from one FBS program to another while also showing the leadership and character that earns the respect on entire football team from the minute he arrived on campus. Then again, not often do teams land walk-ons like Mark Weisman.

After spending his freshman year playing football at the U.S. Air Force Academy, Weisman decided to transfer and found a home with Iowa just before the 2011 season. Like any transfer in his position, Weisman had to redshirt. But the idea of playing fullback, the one position he wants to play, was enough for him to become a Hawkeye, even if it meant having to earn an opportunity at a scholarship.

On Saturday, Iowa won its second game of the 2012 season, defeating Northern Iowa 27-16. Weisman wound up being a significant reason why.

As the Hawkeyes watched both running backs Damon Bullock and Greg Garmon leave the game with injuries, Weisman no longer was the fullback being used in goal-line and short-yardage situations. The sophomore had to become the primary running back.

Weisman's first two carries of the afternoon were a pair of 1-yard touchdown runs, Iowa's first two red zone touchdowns this season. When the final gun sounded, Weisman finished with 24 carries, 113 yards rushing and added a third score from two yards out in the third quarter.

That it was Weisman, a sophomore walk-on fullback that just two years ago was an Air Force Falcon, who had this kind of afternoon might be surprising to Iowa fans. It wasn't surprising to any of his teammates though.

To a man, all of the offensive players who spoke to the media following the Hawkeyes' win Saturday used words such as "tough" and "hard-working" to describe their teammate. Perhaps the most powerful words came from senior wideout Keenan Davis,

who spoke of Weisman as if he was a team captain, the guy everyone looked up to.

“He’s a guy that he just shows you. He doesn’t tell you,” Davis said. “He goes in and he works really hard every day. Workouts, everything. When we’re running, he’s first. When we’re working out – me and him do some of the lifts together, I see it firsthand.

“This guy really is important to this team.”

When a senior that is considered the leader of the receiving corps is saying that a walk-on sophomore fullback is “important” to their team success, it speaks volumes.

Now maybe Weisman ends up reverting back to fullback and never rushes for 100 yards ever again. Or maybe he winds up starting at running back next week and puts on an encore for the faithful at Kinnick Stadium. Only time will tell.

But make no mistake about it. Weisman has earned the opportunity given to him and on Saturday, he made the most of it. He showed he belongs. Iowa lost two players at a position where injuries and attrition have been killers and when Weisman was inserted, he did exactly what Davis said – he showed and didn’t tell.

This performance might not mean much in the grand scheme of things. But on this day, Weisman put together a story that will definitely be worth telling again someday and one that Hawkeye fans won’t soon forget.

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# Iowa-UNI video: Mark Weisman

By Brendan Stiles

*HawkeyeDrive.com*

IOWA CITY, Iowa – Iowa sophomore fullback Mark Weisman rushed for 113 yards on 24 carries and scored three touchdowns on Saturday in the Hawkeyes' 27-16 win over Northern Iowa at Kinnick Stadium.

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# Iowa-UNI video: Tom Donatell

By Brendan Stiles

*HawkeyeDrive.com*

IOWA CITY, Iowa – Iowa senior strong safety Tom Donatell recorded seven tackles and hauled in an interception on Saturday in the Hawkeyes' 27-16 victory over Northern Iowa at Kinnick Stadium.

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# Iowa-UNI video: James Morris

By Brendan Stiles

*HawkeyeDrive.com*

IOWA CITY, Iowa – Iowa junior linebacker James Morris recorded



eight tackles in the Hawkeyes' 27-16 win over Northern Iowa on Saturday at Kinnick Stadium.

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## **Iowa-UNI video: Keenan Davis**

By Brendan Stiles

*HawkeyeDrive.com*

IOWA CITY, Iowa – Iowa senior wide receiver Keenan Davis finished with five catches for 54 yards receiving in the Hawkeyes' 27-16 victory over Northern Iowa on Saturday at Kinnick Stadium.

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## **Iowa-UNI video: Kevonte Martin-Manley**

By Brendan Stiles

*HawkeyeDrive.com*

IOWA CITY, Iowa – Iowa sophomore wide receiver Kevonte Martin-Manley finished with five catches for 101 receiving yards in the Hawkeyes' 27-16 win over Northern Iowa on Saturday at Kinnick Stadium.

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# **Iowa - UNI                      video:                      James Vandenberg**

By Brendan Stiles

*HawkeyeDrive.com*

IOWA CITY, Iowa – Iowa senior quarterback James Vandenberg completed 18 of 28 pass attempts for 228 yards in the Hawkeyes' 27-16 victory over Northern Iowa on Saturday at Kinnick Stadium.