

Iowa vs. Northern Iowa Game Notes, 2-deep

OFFENSE:

WR 6 Davis, 17 Hillyer

LT 68 Scherff, 78 Donnal

LG 60 Tobin, 58 Simmons

C 53 Ferentz, 59 Bofelli

RG 63 Blythe, 65 Walsh

RT 70 Van Sloten, 76 MacMillan

TE 86 Fiedorowicz, 82 Hamilton

QB 16 Vandenberg, 15 Rudock

WR 11 Martin-Manley, 83 Staggs

RB 32 Bullock, 4 Garmon

FB 45 Weisman, 38 Rogers

DEFENSE:

DE 99 Gaglione, 94 McMinn

DT 54 Bigach/97 Cooper, 71 Davis

DT 90 Trinca-Pasat, 98 Hardy

DE 79 Alvis/54 Bigach, 49 Spears

OLB 20 Kirksey, 39 Perry

MLB 44 Morris, 52 Alston

WLB 31 Hitchens, 55 Collins

LCB 19 Lowery, 2 Castillo

SS 13 Donatell, 21 Law

FS 5 Miller, 37 Lowdermilk

RCB 18 Hyde, 14 Buford

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, 4 Garmon

[Iowa vs. Northern Iowa Game Notes](#)

2012 Big Ten football TV schedule: Week Three

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. 15:

Charleston Southern at Illinois, 11 a.m., BTN

Western Michigan at Minnesota, 11 a.m., BTN

Arkansas State at Nebraska, 11 a.m., ESPN2

California at No. 12 Ohio State, 11 a.m., ABC

Eastern Michigan at Purdue, 11 a.m., BTN

Northern Iowa at Iowa, 2:30 p.m., BTN

Massachusetts at No. 17 Michigan, 2:30 p.m., BTN

Boston College at Northwestern, 2:30 p.m., BTN

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

Ball State at Indiana, 7 p.m., BTN

No. 20 Notre Dame at No. 10 Michigan State. 7 p.m., ABC

Utah State at Wisconsin, 7 p.m., BTN

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

9/8/2012: Iowa State 9, Iowa 6 (Links)

By Brendan Stiles

HawkeyeDrive.com

Check out all of these links to content posted on Saturday after Iowa's 9-6 loss to Iowa State 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 lose second straight Cy-Hawk battle](#)

COMMENTARY: [Harsh reality hits home for Hawkeyes \(premium\)](#)

VIDEO:

[Mike Meyer](#)

[Keenan Davis](#)

[Kirk Ferentz](#)

[James Ferentz](#)

[James Morris](#)

[Anthony Hitchens](#)

[James Vandenberg](#)

[Dominic Alvis](#)

[Micah Hyde](#)

[Christian Kirksey](#)

[C.J. Fiedorowicz](#)

Hawkeyes lose second straight Cy-Hawk battle

By Brendan Stiles

HawkeyeDrive.com

IOWA CITY, Iowa – The Iowa Hawkeyes won a game over Northern Illinois last week in Chicago despite serious issues with the

play of its offense. These were issues that head coach Kirk Ferentz deemed “correctables.”

But those “correctables” were issues that arose again Saturday at Kinnick Stadium and this time around, they cost the Hawkeyes. Instead, they watched as the Iowa State Cyclones were able to leave with a 9-6 victory and keep the Cy-Hawk Trophy residing in Ames for another year.

Defensively, the Hawkeyes were carved up in the first half, particularly on the Cyclones’ opening drive. Iowa State marched 75 yards down field and capped its first series of the game with a 5-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Steele Jantz to wideout Aaron Horne. A missed extra point attempt resulted in the Cyclones only leading 6-0.

“They came out and they kind of jumped on our throat,” senior cornerback Micah Hyde said.

Offensively, Iowa couldn’t get anything going. Whether it was poor decision-making from senior quarterback James Vandenberg or numerous dropped passes from the Hawkeyes’ skill players, the struggles continued.

Even when the offense was moving the ball, that wasn’t enough. Twice the Hawkeyes got into the red zone and twice they had to settle for field goals made by junior kicker Mike Meyer.

“We were moving the ball,” junior tight end C.J. Fiedorowicz said. “It’s just in that red zone, we can’t seem to get it in the end zone. That’s huge for close games like this. That’s something we’ve got to correct.”

Both teams had their red zone issues Saturday. The Cyclones had three occasions where they turned the ball over after getting inside the Iowa 20-yard line. Two of those turnovers were made by junior linebacker James Morris, who recovered a fumble in the third quarter and then returned a Jantz interception 49 yards in the fourth quarter just as Iowa State

was going for the knockout blow.

In addition to his roles in the two second-half takeaways by the Hawkeyes, Morris recorded 12 tackles. Also laying the wood throughout the afternoon was fellow junior linebacker Anthony Hitchens, who compiled a game-high 19 tackles in defeat.

“They’re showing great leadership,” said junior linebacker Christian Kirksey, who had nine tackles himself. “Playing with James and Anthony, they bring out the best in me and bring out the best in the team.”

Iowa would get one more crack to either tie or win the game in the closing minutes and reached the Iowa State 32-yard line after a fourth-down completion by Vandenberg to senior wideout Keenan Davis of 29 yards followed by a pair of completions to sophomore running back Damon Bullock.

But the Cyclones would seal the victory for good when Vandenberg threw his second interception of the afternoon to linebacker Jake Knott, who made the pick after tipping the ball in the air to himself on a play designed for Fiedorowicz. Vandenberg finished completing 20-of-42 passes for 236 yards.

“It was a bad mental play by me,” Vandenberg said. “A good play by the linebacker, but a ball that never should have been thrown there. When you’re getting that close to field goal range and you’ve still got over a minute, that ball has got to go out of bounds or down to a back.

“I know that and it all rides on my shoulders.”

Iowa now finds itself in a situation where it needs to regroup and continue working on the “correctables” before another in-state foe visits Kinnick Stadium next week. Northern Iowa comes in with a 1-1 record, with the one loss being a 26-21 defeat at the hands of No. 13 Wisconsin on Sept. 1 in Madison. The Sept. 15 game between the Hawkeyes and Panthers is slated to start at 2:30 p.m. Central and will be televised by the Big

COMMENTARY: Harsh reality hits home for Hawkeyes (premium)

By Brendan Stiles

HawkeyeDrive.com

IOWA CITY, Iowa – Last year, the Iowa Hawkeyes left Jack Trice Stadium with the sinking feeling of defeat after losing a 44-41 barnburner to Iowa State in triple overtime.

On Saturday, Iowa lost its second straight game to the Cyclones by three points. The same sinking feeling was felt following the 9-6 defeat at Kinnick Stadium. It wasn't quite the high-scoring output in Ames one year ago, but once again, there were numerous variables that contributed to this.

The biggest culprit was the play of the offense, which I'll get to in a bit. But first, let me make a few other observations. For one, Iowa State was simply better. A lot of people knew going in that these two teams were even at the very least. Very few chose to look beyond the fact that this year's game was at Kinnick Stadium, using that as a crutch for why Iowa had the ultimate edge.

Iowa head coach Kirk Ferentz said in his press conference back on Sept. 4 whichever team played better on the field would prevail. This team was Iowa State and it was evident from the opening drive.

The Cyclones had three possessions in this game where they reached the red zone, only to turn the ball over. Iowa State could've gone roughshod on the Hawkeyes, but weren't able to because of strong defensive performances like the ones Iowa received from junior linebackers Anthony Hitchens and James Morris. Hitchens had 19 tackles. Morris had 12 tackles, as well as a fumble recovery and an interception, both of which occurred in the red zone.

But while there were a pair of great individual showings, the defense as a whole got carved apart early on. Steele Jantz completed each of his first 10 pass attempts, one of which was a 5-yard touchdown pass to Aaron Horne on that opening drive to put Iowa State up 6-0. Defensively, the play was improved in the second half, but their backs were against the walls most of the game.

Now, to the offense. In two games, the offense has a total of 24 points. That's only three more points than the number scored in the last two games of 2011, where a completely different scheme was being used.

This isn't an indictment on first-year offensive coordinator Greg Davis because it has only been two games and I do believe improvements will become evident over the course of the season. The red zone execution failures can't happen unless you're either moving the ball down the field or if your defense is making the plays to set you up with such great field position in the first place.

Once again, senior quarterback James Vandenberg looked inconsistent and there were drops aplenty among Iowa's skill players. Some of Vandenberg's decision-making was poor, including the two plays where he threw interceptions. But some of those passes that were being dropped were on the money. Plenty of blame can go around.

While I maintain the belief that Iowa will slowly get better

offensively as the season goes on, there are also going to be games later in the season where the Hawkeyes face stingier defenses than what they've seen so far from Northern Illinois and Iowa State.

Improvements can and probably will be made, but the margin for error has shrunk. Before the season started, some felt Iowa could jump out to a 5-0 start with the schedule it had for the month of September. Not only is that now impossible, but at least two of these next three games the Hawkeyes have at Kinnick Stadium are far from gimmes.

The reality is Iowa will lose more games this season, some of which might be a lot like Saturday's loss to Iowa State. It might be a bitter pill to swallow for Hawkeye fans, but there's only so many changes that can occur.

Iowa - ISU video: C.J. Fiedorowicz

By Brendan Stiles

HawkeyeDrive.com

IOWA CITY, Iowa – Iowa junior tight end C.J. Fiedorowicz finished with four catches for 61 yards receiving on Saturday in the Hawkeyes' 9-6 loss to Iowa State at Kinnick Stadium.

Iowa-ISU video: Christian Kirksey

By Brendan Stiles

HawkeyeDrive.com

IOWA CITY, Iowa – Iowa junior linebacker Christian Kirksey finished with nine tackles in the Hawkeyes' 9-6 loss to Iowa State on Saturday at Kinnick Stadium.

Iowa-ISU video: Micah Hyde

By Brendan Stiles

HawkeyeDrive.com

IOWA CITY, Iowa – Iowa senior cornerback Micah Hyde recorded eight tackles and forced a fumble on Saturday in the Hawkeyes' 9-6 loss to Iowa State at Kinnick Stadium.

Iowa-ISU video: Dominic Alvis

By Brendan Stiles

HawkeyeDrive.com

IOWA CITY, Iowa – Iowa junior defensive end Dominic Alvis

recorded two tackles and recovered a fumble in the Hawkeyes' 9-6 loss to Iowa State on Saturday at Kinnick Stadium.

Iowa - ISU video: James Vandenberg

By Brendan Stiles

HawkeyeDrive.com

IOWA CITY, Iowa – Iowa senior quarterback James Vandenberg completed 20-of-42 pass attempts for 236 yards and tossed two interceptions in the Hawkeyes' 9-6 loss to Iowa State on Saturday at Kinnick Stadium.