

# 9/6/2012: Talkin' Hawks podcast (Iowa vs. Iowa State)

By Brendan Stiles

*HawkeyeDrive.com*

Every Thursday during the 2012 football season, *HawkeyeDrive.com* will feature "Talkin' Hawks," a podcast to get you ready for the Hawkeyes' upcoming game and other college football action.

This week, we preview Iowa's game on Sept. 8 against the Iowa State Cyclones at Kinnick Stadium. Former Iowa defensive back [Chris Rowell](#) joins me to provide insight on the Hawkeyes and share his thoughts on all the games featured in this week's [HawkeyeDrive.com Pick 'Em](#). Rowell will be a part of the podcast every week all season long.

Joining as a guest this week in the podcast's middle segment is Travis Hines, who covers Iowa State for [The Ames Tribune](#) in Ames, Iowa. This week's edition is approximately 65 minutes long, so enjoy:

[Talkin' Hawks podcast \(Iowa vs. Iowa State\)](#)

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**\*Intro sound byte credit to my former Daily Iowan colleague Ryan Young for putting that together.**

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# 9/4/2012: Iowa football notebook



Iowa head coach Kirk Ferentz discusses the Hawkeyes' upcoming home opener against in-state rival Iowa State during his weekly press conference held Tuesday, Sept. 4, 2012, at the Hayden Fry Football Complex in Iowa City.

By Brendan Stiles

*HawkeyeDrive.com*

IOWA CITY, Iowa – Sept. 10, 2011. That afternoon at Jack Trice Stadium in Ames, the Iowa State Cyclones pulled off an improbable 44-41 win over the Iowa Hawkeyes in triple overtime and reclaimed the Cy-Hawk Trophy in the process.

For Iowa, that defeat began a season of trophy futility. Losing to Iowa State was followed by watching Floyd of Rosedale stay in Minneapolis another year, the Heroes Game Trophy take residence in Lincoln, Neb., and the 2011 Insight

Bowl Trophy winding up in the possession of the Oklahoma Sooners.

As the team began preparations for this year's meeting with Iowa State that's taking place Sept. 8 at Kinnick Stadium, it's clearly evident that last season's loss to the Cyclones still stings. So much so that the players have been given an almost-daily visual reminder around the Hayden Fry Football Complex of the team's empty trophy atrium.

The pain of that loss hasn't left players like senior cornerback Greg Castillo, who was benched immediately afterwards in favor of Micah Hyde moving from free safety back to corner and Tanner Miller being the team's starting free safety.

"Two touchdowns I gave up and we lost the game, too. That was one of the main reasons why," Castillo said.

Coming off a near disaster against Northern Illinois in Chicago last weekend, the Hawkeyes now get their shot at redemption against Iowa State, who enters with an identical 1-0 record after beating Tulsa in its opener, 38-23. Between last year's game and how both teams have begun their 2012 seasons, this week's game has a bit of a different vibe from past Iowa-Iowa State encounters.

In past meetings (including even last year's game that Iowa lost), the Hawkeyes appeared to enter as a distinct favorite. While Iowa is slightly favored entering this weekend's showdown, it's as close to a toss-up as it has been in quite some time.

"Both teams are playing well right now and it's going to go right down to the wire," Iowa head coach Kirk Ferentz said.

### **Attempting to avoid a "Steele" trap**

Ferentz called it a "highlight reel" performance.

In what was only his second career start, Iowa State quarterback Steele Jantz lit the Hawkeye defense up in last season's meeting, completing 25-of-37 passes for four touchdowns and not throwing a single interception. But it wasn't just what Jantz did through the air, but that he also ran for 42 yards and picked up first downs at opportune times for the Cyclones in the process.

Iowa surrendered 194 yards on the ground in last year's meeting, with a lot of those rushing yards coming on the outside.

"Somebody always has containment," Ferentz said. "It's part of defense and if it breaks down, you really run the risk of being in trouble. We found out the hard way last year."

Iowa State's ground game features a pair of running backs who also had big games that afternoon – Shontrelle Johnson and James White. Johnson rushed for 108 yards, while White scored two touchdowns on the ground, one of which being the game-winner in the third overtime.

But make no mistake. Jantz is the one who has the attention of everyone in Iowa City this week, especially after a performance where he was 32-of-45 passing for 281 yards and accumulated three touchdowns – two passing, one rushing.

"Last year, he could make a really good play and then the next play, turn it over," Hyde said. "I think this year, he has learned from his experiences in the last year and he's more of a consistent player. He's playing well and he's leading his team pretty well."

### **Unsung heroes prove key in opening win**

There are definitely a fair share of reasons why the Hawkeyes find themselves sitting at 1-0 enter this week's game as opposed to 0-1 for the first time in a dozen years.

Two of those reasons were seniors like Castillo and punter John Wienke, both of whom simply waited for their opportunities and made the most of them when they arrived.

Castillo has started four games in his career, but since his benching after last year's Iowa State loss has mainly been used in instances where Iowa uses nickel and dime packages. Against Northern Illinois, he had to fill in for an injured B.J. Lowery and wound up playing perhaps the best game of his Hawkeye career.

"You always got to be ready. You never know," Castillo said, mentioning Iowa's "Next Man In" mantra under Ferentz. "During the week, I was studying, making sure I was ready just in case something happened."

Last weekend's game showcased Castillo's progress at corner. It also featured him making the biggest play of the entire afternoon, downing a punt at the Northern Illinois 1-yard line late in the fourth quarter.

That punt came courtesy of Wienke, who lost out on the starting job in favor of true freshman Connor Kornbrath, but was the guy Ferentz wanted punting in that particular situation.

"It was something we had been practicing and Coach Ferentz asked it of me, along with Coach [Lester] Erb and a lot of the other coaches," Wienke said. "I knew I had to be prepared and I had been practicing it a lot. So when the situation came, I just had to be prepared."

What ensued after that play by both Wienke and Castillo was a 3-and-out from the defense that set up Iowa having excellent field position for what proved to be the Hawkeyes' game-winning drive on offense.

"That was huge," junior linebacker Anthony Hitchens said. "Everyone wants to go out there and make plays on special

teams. That was a great punt by John and a great punt by Greg.

“Our defense really needed that and they made a big play when we needed to.”

### **Meyer maturing, growing confident**

Iowa junior Mike Meyer probably couldn't have asked for a better start to 2012. He nailed 4-of-5 field goals, including a crucial 50-yard kick in the fourth quarter prompting the Hawkeye comeback and on Monday was rewarded by being named co-Big Ten Special Teams Player of the Week. Meyer also had three kickoffs result in touchbacks after only recording four touchbacks on 66 kickoffs all of last season.

But it wasn't just the numbers Meyer posted in the one-point Iowa win that have impressed Ferentz. Rather, it's the process Meyer took to reach the point where he could become as dependable as he proved to be last weekend.

Last year in a 22-21 loss to Minnesota, Meyer missed a chip-shot field-goal attempt and found himself in a funk the rest of the season, finishing just 14-of-20 on field goal attempts. In the offseason, Meyer said he became a more consistent kicker during both spring practices and fall camp. What made him more confident was what was being said by coaches and teammates who took notice.

“I think when everybody started to show they had confidence in me, I started to have more confidence in myself to perform to the best of my abilities,” Meyer said. “The preparation and practice has been really good. I think that's where I, and most other kickers, get their confidence. Just through doing everything right every day.”

That confidence was on full display last weekend after missing a 28-yard field goal attempt against the Huskies. Instead of letting that missed kick mess with his psyche, Meyer managed to regroup himself and make three more field goals, including

that clutch 50-yard kick.

“He’s a much more mature player than he was a year ago or two years ago,” Ferentz said. “He has really prepared well and he has worked hard and he has gotten better each and every segment, if you will.”

### **Festive weekend ahead in Iowa City**

Saturday’s game between the Hawkeyes and Cyclones is a culmination of what will be a busy weekend around Iowa City.

With this being Iowa’s home opener, a pair of annual events make their return for the fourth straight year – Hawkapalooza on Sept. 6 and FryFest on Sept. 7. Hawkapalooza is an event organized by the Iowa Hawk’s Nest (student organization) at Hubbard Park that features a pep rally promoting various Hawkeye sports including football, as well as a free concert headlined by T-Pain this year.

As for FryFest, this will be held once again at the Coralville Marriott Hotel and Conference Center. This year’s event centers on the rivalry between Iowa and Iowa State that has been played annually every year since 1977 when the series resumed on the gridiron. Former players from both schools will be on hand to sign autographs for fans and take part in a one-hour discussion panel chronicling the rivalry since its reinception.

In addition to all of this, the Hawkeyes will also be wearing throwback uniforms Saturday honoring the 1921-22 squads that won consecutive Big Ten championships. The jerseys are black with shades of old gold featured on both sides. Iowa will also wear old gold helmets reminiscent of what was worn in 2004 against Kent State, as well as old gold pants.

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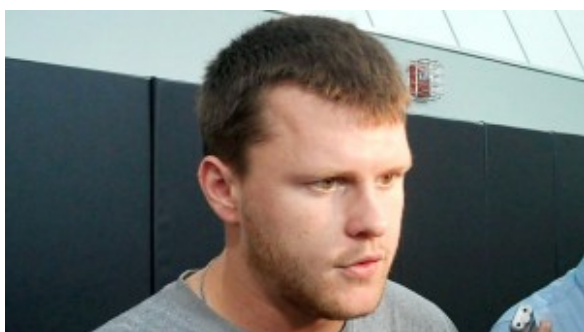
# 9/4/2012: Iowa player audio with photos (premium)

By Brendan Stiles

*HawkeyeDrive.com*

IOWA CITY, Iowa – On Tuesday, 11 members of the Iowa football team spoke with the media to discuss the Hawkeyes' upcoming game on Sept. 8 against Iowa State.

Below is audio from each of the following players – senior quarterback James Vandenberg, senior punter John Wienke, senior center James Ferentz, junior defensive end Dominic Alvis, senior wide receiver Keenan Davis, senior cornerback Micah Hyde, junior kicker Mike Meyer, junior linebacker Anthony Hitchens, senior defensive end Joe Gaglione, senior cornerback Greg Castillo and senior tight end Zach Derby:



James Vandenberg, Sept. 4, 2012

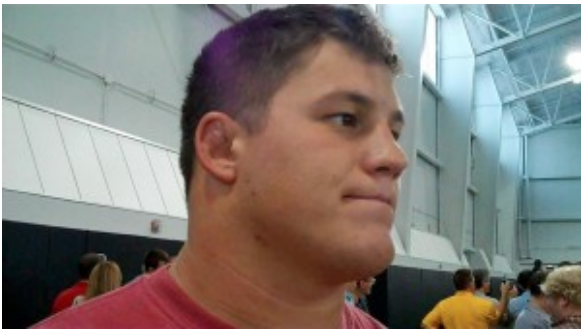
[James Vandenberg, senior quarterback](#)





John Wienke, Sept. 4, 2012

[John Wienke, senior punter](#)



James Ferentz, Sept. 4, 2012

[James Ferentz, senior center](#)



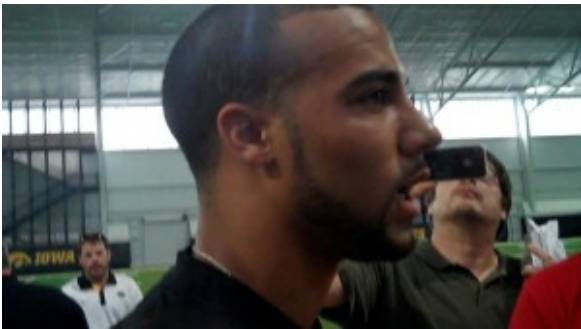
Dominic Alvis, Sept. 4, 2012

[Dominic Alvis, junior defensive end](#)



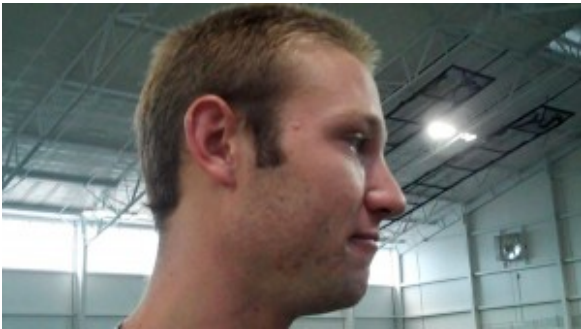
Keenan Davis, Sept. 4, 2012

[Keenan Davis, senior wide receiver](#)



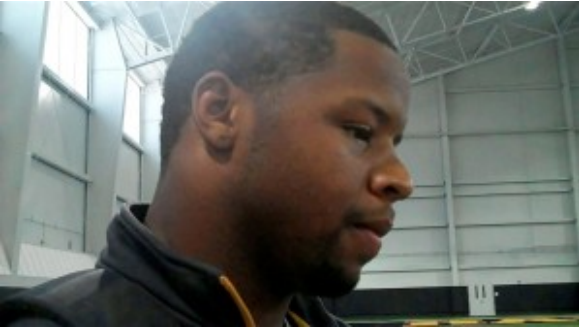
Micah Hyde, Sept. 4, 2012

[Micah Hyde, senior cornerback](#)



Mike Meyer, Sept. 4, 2012

[Mike Meyer, junior kicker](#)



Anthony Hitchens, Sept. 4,  
2012

[Anthony Hitchens, junior linebacker](#)



Joe Gaglione, Sept. 4, 2012

[Joe Gaglione, senior defensive end](#)



Greg Castillo, Sept. 4, 2012

[Greg Castillo, senior cornerback](#)



Zach Derby, Sept. 4, 2012

[Zach Derby, senior tight end](#)

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## **9/4/2012: Kirk Ferentz press conference transcript**

By Brendan Stiles

*HawkeyeDrive.com*

Below is a PDF from the Iowa sports information department featuring the complete transcript from Iowa head coach Kirk Ferentz's press conference on Tuesday in Iowa City:

[Coach Ferentz 9 4 12](#)

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## **2012 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. 8:

New Hampshire at Minnesota, 11 a.m., BTN

UCF at No. 14 Ohio State, 11 a.m., ESPN2

Penn State at Virginia, 11 a.m., ABC

**Iowa State at Iowa, 2:30 p.m., BTN**

Air Force at No. 19 Michigan, 2:30 p.m., ABC/ESPN2

Indiana at Massachusetts, 2:30 p.m., ESPN3

No. 11 Michigan State at Central Michigan, 2:30 p.m., ESPNU

Purdue at No. 22 Notre Dame, 2:30 p.m., NBC

No. 13 Wisconsin at Oregon State, 3 p.m., FX

No. 16 Nebraska at UCLA, 6:30 p.m., FOX

Vanderbilt at Northwestern, 7 p.m., BTN

Illinois at Arizona State, 9:30 p.m., ESPN

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

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## **9/3/2012: State of the Big Ten, Volume 63 (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 Bill O'Brien Era at Penn State began with a rude awakening for the Nittany Lion faithful, one that reverberated not just throughout Beaver Stadium on Sept. 1, but also through the entire landscape of college football.

Penn State, a once proud program that has now been tarnished by the despicable actions of a few individuals, won't be the same ever again. Sure, there might be a day where its football program sits atop the Big Ten once again. But that day isn't coming anytime soon, even after the postseason ban concludes following the 2015 season.

O'Brien inherited a ginormous mess in State College, and the Nittany Lions' 24-14 loss to Ohio this past weekend was a glaring reminder. Now to be fair, Ohio is probably the best team in the Mid-American Conference this season. It certainly looked the part overcoming an 11-point deficit to beat Penn State on the road by 10 points.

But this game proved to be indicative of just how rough this season especially is going to be for O'Brien's squad. As stated before, Penn State has leadership on the defensive side of the football. But the offense now lacks the playmakers needed to make this a respectable football team.

Penn State is going to continue to struggle as the weeks and months progress. As good as Ohio is – and make no mistake, Ohio is a solid football team this season – there will be tougher opponents and tougher games for Penn State to play over the course of the autumn. Playing on the road this week at Virginia, a team who won eight games last season and reached the Chick-Fil-A Bowl, will be far from easy. As will

playing against a triple option team like Navy that will be well-rested before visiting Beaver Stadium and a Temple squad determined to end its skid against Penn State head-to-head.

Then there's Big Ten play, where the schedule isn't really that kind to the Nittany Lions.

Before the sanctions, postseason ban and player transfers all came into play, this was a team that maybe would've won 7-8 games given the talent that was handy. Now? This team might not even reach five wins this season and that is far from an exaggeration.

What happened to Penn State last weekend against Ohio wasn't an aberration. It was a taste of what the future is going to be like now for that football program. While the Nittany Lions become less and less talented player-wise, the parity that now exists in college football will allow teams like Ohio, Navy and Temple to come into Beaver Stadium and walk out with victories. What once seemed so rare – Penn State losing games at home – is about to become so common.

It's a cold reality of what really lies ahead for O'Brien and this program going forward.

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## **Iowa vs. Iowa State 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/26 Malloy

FB 45 Weisman, 38 Rogers/92 Gimm

**DEFENSE:**

DE 54 Bigach/99 Gaglione, 94 McMinn

DT 97 Cooper, 71 Davis

DT 90 Trinca-Pasat, 98 Hardy

DE 54 Bigach/79 Alvis, 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. Iowa State Game Notes](#)

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## **9/3/2012: Paul Rhoads teleconference (premium)**

By Brendan Stiles

*HawkeyeDrive.com*

Iowa State head coach Paul Rhoads took part in the Big 12's weekly teleconference on Monday to discuss the Cyclones' game on Sept. 8 against Iowa at Kinnick Stadium. Last season, Iowa State reclaimed the Cy-Hawk Trophy after defeating Iowa in triple overtime, 44-41. The Cyclones enter this weekend's game 1-0 after defeating Tulsa, 38-23, on Sept. 1.

Below is the audio from Rhoads' teleconference:

[Paul Rhoads Teleconference](#)

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# Meyer receives conference honor

By Brendan Stiles

*HawkeyeDrive.com*

Iowa junior kicker Mike Meyer was named co-Big Ten Special Teams Player of the Week along with Northwestern's Venric Mark, the Big Ten announced Monday.

Meyer was a key part of the Hawkeyes' 18-17 win over Northern Illinois on Sept. 1 in Chicago, connecting of 4-of-5 field goal attempts and also recording three touchbacks on kickoff. One of Meyer's made field goals came from 50 yards out in the fourth quarter, igniting an Iowa comeback.

This is the second time in his career Meyer has earned this accolade from the conference. In 2010, the Dubuque native received the weekly honor as a true freshman following an 18-13 win over Indiana in which, coincidentally, he made 4-of-5 field goal attempts.

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## **9/1/2012: Iowa 18, Northern Illinois 17 (Links)**

By Brendan Stiles

*HawkeyeDrive.com*

Check out all of these links to content posted on Saturday after Iowa's 18-17 win over Northern Illinois at Soldier Field

in Chicago, Ill. 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 survive Windy City scare](#)

**COMMENTARY:** [Sloppy, but not too surprising \(premium\)](#)

**VIDEO:**

[Mike Meyer](#)

[Greg Castillo](#)

[Brandon Scherff](#)

[Keenan Davis](#)

[James Morris](#)

[James Ferentz](#)

[Micah Hyde](#)

[Dominic Alvis](#)

[James Vandenberg](#)

[Damon Bullock](#)