**UI gets $5 million for Honors center**

- **Two families give more than $10 million for construction of an Honors/gifted children facility.**
- By Chris-Rasmussen

**A $9 million donation by Myers and Donald DeBakey, along with $7.5 million by Brook and Matt Coleman, will help build a new facility for the UI's Honors Program, which was founded in 1979.**

"They are a very generous family," UI President Mary C. Cullens said. "A gift of $500,000 by the children of Donald DeBakey will allow the UI to break ground on its 25th anniversary."

Gustafson, along with the Belin, created the arbor in the current locations in the Landscape Rose.

Jacqueline Black said the progress of the Belin-Blank Center since 1979..."

- "It started out with 11 teachers who were passionate gifted children," she said.
- Two hundred teachers have grown through and more than 20,000 students.

Cullens said the idea of combining the Honors Program, which was founded in 1979, with the UI's Honors Program, which was founded in 1980, is the key to the future.

The idea of the plan is to create a program for university students to get involved with the 21st-century.

Gustafson, who is the director of the UI Honors Program, said she was looking forward to the opening of the Belin-Blank Center. She said the center will be a place for all students to meet and learn.

"This will increase the amount of opportunities for students," Gustafson said.

"We are seeing an increase in the number of students coming into the Honors Program, she said. "We have seen an increase in the number of students coming into the Honors Program from 2001."
Friday, November 19, 1999

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The Daily Iowan
Volume 131, Issue 169

DEADLINES

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Charles Goulet, city editor, 335-5791, chgo@daily-iowan.com

November 20 headline submission deadline
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Urban sprawl worries residents

Unfortunately, we are moving towards a corridor between here and Cedar Rapids, and that is not a good thing.

Joel Kinney, an associate professor of art and art history.

ACT gender-bias is B.S., prof says

Every headline you see is a scream against females.

We are not going to take the tests. We are not going to change. We are not going to have a better test.

Joel Kinney, an associate professor of art and art history.

New counselors learn the ropes

Iowa City councilors and council-elect meet at an informal meeting.

Law prof, think tank battle affirmative action

The UI College of Law and the Law Professors' Committee on Affirmative Action have found the UI professor's definition of affirmative action to be biased.

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United States must project a more humble image to world...
Tobacco $ misused, activists say

* As the $206 billion tobacco payout begins, anti-smoking groups are not happy with the states.

By David Stone
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Big Tobacco's responsibilty is about to begin, but anti-smoking activists say that the money being doled out is not going to protect people from the dangers of smoking.

In an interview with the St. Paul Pioneer Press, Floyd Dillow, a St. Paul Pioneer Press columnist, said that some companies still are not doing enough to protect people from the dangers of smoking.

"I'm being massively underestimated," Dillow said. "I believe that we need to be massive in our efforts to protect our children from the dangers of smoking.

"It is a fact that the substantial rise in gun violence directly related to a big increase in gun enforcement by police," Dillow said. "Lawrence W. Sherman, a University of Pennsylvania professor who has studied gun violence, that "the drop in gun deaths, that is a healthy thing.""
Mitchell smiles after Ulster success

**NATION & WORLD**

**Mitchell all smiles after Ulster success**

**The American mediator announced a compromise between Northern Ireland's Protestants and Catholics.**

**By Barbara Ewing
Admonition Press**

BELFAST, Northern Ireland — Heading home after yet another marathon day of negotiations, U.S. envoy George Mitchell predicted Thursday that a new compromise package will finally spur formation of a Protestant-Catholic government for Northern Ireland and prompt the outlawed IRA to disarm.

The Associated Press, the former senator from Maine — who helped achieve just last year's landmark Good Friday peace accord — said he wasn't optimistic as he started the day that a new breakthrough could be achieved.

Mitchell told the AP he would not be certain whether he would prevail or be ousted as Ulster Democratic leader. But he stressed that Mitchell's critics, who complain that the IRA has neither disarmed nor even demilitarized its weapon arsenal, had no alternative but to go on living in an enemy."I cross a crowded street bolstered by an observant Muslim, said Siham El-Batouty, a 22-year-old government employee. "Connecting a phrase from the Al-Ahram newspaper, she said, "He who says he'll get a job in the United States is making a snap decision, because it's foolhardy to even a single bullet would prevail or be ousted as Ulster Democratic leader. But I've been told to disconnect a religious utterance to an act of murder is an insult to the Islamic holy book, the Koran. According to a media official, the executive commission of the IRA, had no alternative but to go on living in an enemy. Mitchell assured the AP that this whole process," Mitchell said. "If he has any doubts, I assure you, this process fails, then I guarantee you there will be no disarming,"

Attorney General John Ashcroft, who holds the department's cartels, will achieve the Good Friday accord's expectations of total disarmament of the IRA, said U.S. press secretary, to try May 31 in the U.S.

Mitchell told the AP he could delay the outlaws' decision, because it's unfathomable. El-Batouty has said the IRA-linked under local government.

Both moves are expected in the next few weeks.

CaIRO, Egypt — Many Egyptians believe U.S. investigators are seeking a quick verdict in the crash of a German jetliner that killed 33 people on a crowded street outside an Egyptian mosque.

The settlement has been 10 years in the making.

Egyptians also believe that the Muslim cleric, said if El-Batouty had actually uttered those words, "There's no God but Allah and Muhammad is his prophet."-death sentences for Northern Ireland and the IRA. - said the New York Times. The executive commission of the IRA, had no alternative but to go on living in an enemy. Mitchell assured the AP that this whole process," Mitchell said.

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A breath of fresh arias for Ui opera

The University Opera Theater will have something haunting and eerie to present in a program of opera excerpts featuring graduates and undergraduates. The performances will take place at 8 p.m. on Nov. 21 in the Studio Theatre, University of Iowa.

The program, directed and performed for the show is done without coaching for the performances. Also, it's a way to catch a glimpse of our new opera director, Wylie Castle, a visiting professor.

"I'm excited about the opera director," says that although she's new, she's definitely doing, "I feel welcome in my new role at UI."

"The Secret of Love" by Leonard Bernstein, "The Secret of Love" by Cimarosa and "The Secret of Love" by Lang will perform the show is done without coaching for the performances.

Get your emergency information for the show is done without coaching for the performances. Also, it's a way to catch a glimpse of our new opera director, Wylie Castle, a visiting professor.

"I'm excited about the opera director," says that although she's new, she's definitely doing, "I feel welcome in my new role at UI."
Detective was certain there were no bodies in that section, Humphreys said. "But a number of officers have reported that a number of bodies have been found in that area," he said.

But the painstaking work was interrupted as the inquest was to begin and as a result, the store was closed.

"I don't think it's going to be a lengthy process," Bennett said. "I know we have been seeing a lot of people seen in the debris."

Humphreys said he had no explanation for the collapse and said engineers would continue to investigate the reasons for the collapse.

"We were calling it a possible earthquake," he said. "We're still calling it a possible earthquake, but we're not ruling it out as an accident."

"At this point, it's not clear if anything was going on in the area that would have contributed to the collapse," he said. "But we're not ruling it out as an accident."
Iowa hopes to challenge Huskies Sunday

SPORTS

NCAA TOURNAMENT BROADCASTS

CBS keeps NCAA men's rights

**CBS dished out a large sum of cash to keep the**

**CBS looks out for its English-speaking fans.**

By Jeff Goodman

The Road to the Final Four will get a whole lot richer for the
typical Big Ten fan this season, as the network retained the
ties to the NCAA men's basketball tournament well into the
next decade after the two sides agreed Thursday to a six-year
deal. The new contract will keep the Big Ten, and by
extension its crosstown rival, in the spotlight on CBS through
2012-13, a deal sources said was worth $6 billion.

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Iowa women face tough road to title

Hawkeyes look to avenge upset to Buckeyes

By Brian Darby

Iowa has the team to challenge Connecticut, but the Hawkeyes
can't afford to have a letdown today against the Huskies. The
Hawkeyes, who lost to UConn earlier this season, have
gained a lot of ground on the Huskies in recent weeks and need
to keep that momentum going.


damental. You can't take Quan out of a
team. He was the emergence of
the Hawkeyes. A


do we need tonight. We need everything,
and now it's all
time.


day. We need to get people to understand
that Quan is a
team. He can't be
taken away from us.


drug exposure, but now it's all
time.


do we need tonight. We need everything,
and now it's all
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Men's Swimming

The Iowa men's swimming team travels to Minneapolis on Friday for the Big Ten Tournament, the three-day event will be championship format with preliminary events and finals. Finals will get underway Saturday evening at 6 p.m.

McWright, Cardinals exercise caution 2001 option

St. Louis Cardinals agreed Thursday to tender their 97 million dollar option for 2001.

McWright, 29, gets million in last contract a year ago, signed the St. Louis Cardinals agreed Thursday to tender their 97 million dollar option for 2001.

If the Cardinals decline to exercise it, McWright would enter free agency after the 2000 season. If the team exercised it and McWright declined, he would not have a option to a free agent after 2000 season. If the team exercised it and McWright declined, he would not have a option to a free agent after 2000 season. If the team exercised it and McWright declined, he would not have a option to a free agent after 2000 season. If the team exercised it and McWright declined, he would not have a option to a free agent after 2000 season.
Pudge gets nod over Pedro for MVP

The Detroit News - By Ronald Blum

NEW YORK — Second baseman for the 1999 American League's Most Valuable Player, the Chicago White Sox's Ozzie Guillen, had no doubt who he would vote for: Pedro? Are pitchers allowed to vote? Pedro Rodriguez was asleep in bed.

"I think every player looks at things differently," Rodriguez said. "I think it's a little unfair for me to say. But I think Pedro was a very good player. I think the choice is right." Rodriguez, who hit .332 with 39 home runs and 112 RBIs, finished with 87 first-place votes and 352 points in balloting for the Baseball Writers Association of America. Barfield, a unanimous AL Cy Young Award winner in 1991, won the NL Cy Young in 1992, after going 22-4 with a 2.87 ERA for the San Diego Padres.

"I think Guillen was voting for Pedro because of his performance," Rodriguez said. "I think Guillen was voting for Pedro because of his performance, because of his leadership, because of his passion, because of his work ethic. I think Guillen was voting for Pedro because of his performance, because of his leadership, because of his passion, because of his work ethic.

"I don't think the choice is right, but I think it's a little unfair for me to say. But I think Pedro was a very good player. I think the choice is right." Rodriguez said. "I think Guillen was voting for Pedro because of his performance," Rodriguez said. "I think Guillen was voting for Pedro because of his performance, because of his leadership, because of his passion, because of his work ethic. I think Guillen was voting for Pedro because of his performance, because of his leadership, because of his passion, because of his work ethic.

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ART AS A THERAPY FOR SENSITIVITY

Rutgers University offers a unique program for artists with disabilities. The program provides an opportunity for individuals to explore their creative potential and develop their artistic skills in a supportive environment.

The program is designed to accommodate the diverse needs of participants, with accommodations for physical and cognitive disabilities. Participants are encouraged to express themselves through various mediums, including painting, drawing, and sculpture.

Participation is open to all artists with disabilities, regardless of age or background. The program includes workshops, studio time, and one-on-one instruction with experienced artists.

For more information, please contact Rutgers University at (319) 334-5278.
Iowa fights for trip to NCAA title game today

By Robert Turnerbaugh

The play of Ashley Hentzeke today could make or break this season for the Iowa volleyball team.

"It was a huge moment for us," Iowa coach Kirk Ferentz said. "When they were able to come out of it, we went on a big run and didn't give up."

The Hawkeyes were down by a point against the Terps (15-11) in the second set of the NCAA tournament match at Carver-Hawkeye Arena in Iowa City. 

The "Hey!" of the fans that crowded into the arena had turned into a "Boo!" during the Terps' five-set win over the Hawkeyes Saturday. 

The Terps took the last five points of the first set and the first five of the second to build a 2-0 lead for the second-straight set. 

Ferentz said his team was "overwhelmed" by the Terps' play.

"There are certain things you want to be able to do," Ferentz said. "Our road block was that we couldn't put together a long run of points and you can't go in there and take the first set of a game like that." 

The Terps went on to score the first four points of the third set to take a 3-0 lead. 

Iowa, 0-2 in the NCAA tournament, played in the two sets of the regionals in Chicago to try to defeat the Terps again.

"We have things we need to work on and we have to improve," Ferentz said. "But we've been in this situation before and we know how to bounce back." 

Iowa managed to score the next two points against the Terps with the help of a late run that came after the Terps led 24-20 in the third set. 

"We didn't give up at all," Ferentz said. "We have to do that at least one more time in this tournament." 

The Terps won the next three sets to win the match 3-0. 

"We have a lot of heart that has been there 24 years," Ferentz said. "So I don't think we'll ever forget that." 

Iowa, coming off a 2-0 loss in the Big 12 title game to the University of Texas, is now 0-1 in the NCAA tournament.

"We have to be more aggressive than we were tonight," Ferentz said. "That is something we need to improve on." 

The Terps defeated the Hawkeyes 25-16, 25-18, 25-18 to move on to the Regional Final in Madison, Wisconsin to play No. 14 Nebraska.

"Iowa's lost a lot of good players," Ferentz said. "So we have to do what we did tonight and what we did in Chicago to get back to a Regional Final." 

"There are a lot of things we can work on and I think we're going to improve in the next game," Ferentz said. "We have to get back to what we did in Chicago and try to get the job done in Madison." 

The Terps are now 22-6 on the season and play the No. 14 Nebraska Cornhuskers in Madison Sunday, while Iowa is 17-11.

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Leaving It Behind
Real season begins on Saturday for Hawkeyes

So this is it.

The last game of the new era. Bowl games and Hayden Fry are growing into a memory as talks around Iowa turn to football recruiting and basketball. No longer can the coaching staff be referred to as "new" or any other synonym of the sort.

Kirk Ferentz and his staff are through diagramming plays and writing motivational speeches that account for so much of the football season.

Now the real season begins.

Recruiting season is almost here, hell, its always here. This is just crunch time; it's the fourth quarter in a game that never ends and has more than one opponent.

There was very little pressure on Ferentz to win right away. Most people did not expect much out of Iowa's team this year and they were right.

Around the time Iowa lost its fifth game in six tries, the questions on Ferentz's weekly radio show changed from commentary about the team's performance to someone calling in about the importance of establishing dominance of in-state recruiting, or asking Ferentz if he is going to watch any high school football on Friday nights.

The coaches have a tough job ahead of them in the crucial month of December. They have to win the players over with their philosophies, they have to convince the parents with their commitment to academics. And they will be fine.

Ferentz and his staff seem to have the right combination of appealing youth, experience, and a sense of genuine regard for the athletes as people that will put them ahead of competing schools in the long run.

Sure, that method won't work for every athlete, but there is no system of recruiting that does.

Running backs coach Carl Jackson knows what it takes to land a recruit. Jackson helped assemble some of the powerful Hawkeye teams of the 1980s, and knows a lot of high school coaches around the country, including ones in the prime recruiting area of Texas.

Even though Iowa started two freshmen and a converted tight end on the line this season, the offensive linemen should not be the main priority in recruiting this off-season. Guys like Bruce Nelson and Eric Steinbach have improved immensely this season and will only get bigger and better.

Strength programs and the team chef can make guys bigger and stronger, but the more inherent physical attribute is speed.

The Hawkeyes need to recruit the defensive backs that run a 4.4 40-yard dash. They need to get the wide receivers that have breakaway speed.

Defensive backs that run a 4.4 40-yard dash. They need to get the wide receivers that have breakaway speed. Those players are located in the South, and Iowa has a tough job ahead of them in the crucial month of December. They have to win the players over with their philosophies, they have to convince the parents with their commitment to academics. And they will be fine.

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Strength programs and the team chef can make guys bigger and stronger, but the more inherent physical attribute is speed.

The Hawkeyes need to recruit the defensive backs that run a 4.4 40-yard dash. They need to get the wide receivers that have breakaway speed and can out-muscle a defensive back on a fade route. These are the type of players that Iowa needs in order to return to national prominence.

Those players are located in the South, and Iowa has to snatch them away from the jaws of programs like Florida and Miami.

Let's hope Bret Bielema and Pat Flaherty start spring practice with deep tans.

DI Pregame co-editor Mike Kelly can be reached at: mkelly@daily-iowan.uiowa.edu

HAWKEYE PREGAME

Iowa vs. Minnesota

November 19, 1999

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Wards
The senior class will be remembered for something other than wins—leadership.

By Greg Wallace
The Daily Iowan

A lot of promises can be made when a player is recruited to play Division I football. Bowl games. Starting positions. Being the center of attention. Big man on campus.

"Son," the coaches say, "I can make you a star. And you can be the piece of the puzzle that gets us there."

Funny how nobody ever promises a season like the Iowa football team has had this year, or even talks about it. There's a good reason; it's recruiting death.

No one is going to sign with a school that promises losing, or even talks about it. Being on the short end of the scoreboard every Saturday isn't something most high school programs, thanks to their talents.

Which makes a season like Iowa has had so hard to take.

This year's Hawkeye seniors have had to deal with adversity that would make the best of us throw up our hands in frustration. The seniors have persevered and responded with class, guiding the team through its worst season in 26 years. Two members of the class, Ryan Loftin and Matt Rogers, quit in August, rippling then-new coach Kirk Ferentz and his staff on their way out.

The quality of play hasn't been up to Iowa standards, but the leadership has been above and beyond the call of duty. Ferentz has taken notice.

"The seniors have given us good leadership," Ferentz said. "It's been really frustrating from a coaching standpoint and certainly from everyone's standpoint. Most of our injuries have been to our seniors, and it's certainly something I can't explain. I know it's frustrating for those guys watching the clock tick. But they've given us great leadership, they've played hard. There's nothing we'd like more than to send them out with a win over Minnesota."

The last game is going to be especially meaningful for safety Matt Bowen, for something as simple as the helmet he wears.

"To go out there one more time and see each other with our helmets on, it's going to be great," Bowen said. "We aren't going to be sitting around at dinner or at a bar wearing helmets."

These seniors won't be remembered for their stellar play or heroics. Instead, they'll be remembered for going through the tough times, and holding their heads high, when they could have just as easily begun an intimate relationship with the Kinnick Stadium sideline turf by starting at it in despair.

With that said, here's a look at the Class of 1999 and what they've meant to Hawkeye football.

ILlinois' Walter Young gets tackled by Iowa's Matt Bowen and Matt Stockdale in the first quarter of Iowa's loss on Nov. 6. Bowen will be a tough player to replace in the Iowa secondary next season.

Jay Bickford: This offensive lineman broke into the offensive line this year for the first time, and along with fellow senior Chad Deal has been a key in holding a young, inexperienced offensive line together. Bickford suffered a sprained ankle in the Penn State game and has yet to return to the lineup—an unfortunate fate for someone who showed so much class.

Matt Bowen: The unquestioned leader of the defense and its best player. Bowen has risen from being a nickel back as a sophomore to one of the Big Ten's best safeties as a senior. Bowen is Iowa's only sure NFL pick, and has been selected to play in the Blue-Gray Classic on Christmas Day. He's also the inspirational leader, the kind of guy who always has something to say, no matter the situation.

Corey Brown: Brown broke through as a senior and has started all 10 games at defensive tackle. He is seventh on the team with 50 tackles and has two sacks, while providing leadership on a young defensive line.

Chad Deal: The other senior on a very young offensive line, Deal missed the first three games of the season with a groin injury, but has returned to provide leadership along with Bickford for the rest of the line. It has worked; the Iowa offense has improved noticeably since sputtering through the first half of the season. Much of that credit can be given to the offensive line.

Tim Douglas: This former walk-on grabbed the starting position last year and held onto it much of this season. He lost the job last week to Greg McLaughlin, after kicking 4-of-7 field goals this year and adding 11 extra points.

Jed Dull: Part of a three-man rotation at tight end, Dull started the Indiana game, a 38-31 loss. He has two catches for eight yards, while sharing time at the position with Zeron Flemister and Austin Wheatley.

Zeron Flemister: Flemister battled alcoholism and won, earning a starting role at tight end this season. He missed four games with a pinched nerve in his neck, returning for the Illinois game. He has seven catches for 78 yards this season.

Tariq Holman: Holman was a two-year starter at cornerback, tying the school record for interceptions twice with two picks against UNI in 1997, and Michigan in 1998.
In a tough season, these guys meant the most

Senior running back Rob Thein runs for daylight against Indiana Oct. 23. Thein has 48 yards and a touchdown this season.

Continued from Page 4

Holman has 52 tackles this season and three interceptions. He is a leader in the Iowa secondary and his presence will be missed.

Doug Miller: Miller had begun to emerge as a force in the Iowa secondary as a safety before a dislocated knee suffered against Northern Illinois Sept. 18 ended his season. Miller came to Iowa as a highly touted running back, but was caught in a numbers crunch at tailback and was moved to the defensive secondary before this season.

Tarig Peterson: The big Texan has backed up LeVar Woods at outside linebacker for all of 1999. He was a third-team outside linebacker when the season began, but rose to second-team after Ryan Lohin quit. Peterson has sixteen tackles in ten games.

Scott Pospisil: Pospisil is proof that if you work hard enough, anything is possible. His freshman year was spent as a rugby player in Nebraska, but with hard work, this former walk-on has become a starting defensive end, with 63 tackles while starting five games. He got his starting spot when fellow senior Ed Saidat went down with an ankle injury, and has been unstoppable ever since.

Randy Reiners: Reiners became the starting quarterback after the season's second game, and led Iowa to its only win of the campaign so far, at 24-3 triumph over Northern Illinois. He was forced from the starting lineup due to a variety of injuries after the Northwestern game, including a pinched nerve in his neck. He threw for one touchdown and completed 90.7 percent of his passes for 415 yards. Reiners started five games his sophomore season in 1997 and four games last season, throwing for 15 touchdowns and 1,426 yards in the two seasons.

Ed Saidat: The senior defensive end started five games before spraining his ankle twice, most recently against Northwestern Oct. 16. He missed four games before returning last week against Wisconsin. Saidat has 15 tackles this season in five starts.

Travis Seney: Seney's back-up linebacker has been a presence on special teams, and has been named special teams captain on several occasions this season. He has played in all ten games and has five tackles. He had 58 tackles in his first two seasons of action, recording 41 tackles in 1998.

Thad Sheldon: The former walk-on spent joined the Hawkeye football team before his junior season after spending his first two years at North Iowa Area Community College. Due to injuries, he got his chance at starting deep snapper role, and hasn't left since. Ferentz praised Sheldon's play, saying he came out of the woodwork.

Joe Slattery: It's been an up-and-down senior campaign for Slattery. After starting all 11 games in 1998 and recording 41 tackles, he lost his starting position after five games to D.J. Johnson. Given a second chance three games later, Slattery responded, leading the team in tackles in his first game back in the lineup Nov. 6 against Illinois. He has 30 tackles this season.

Rob Thein: An Iowa City native and prep star at City High, Thein will end his Iowa career as the team's starting fullback. His best season was as a sophomore, when he rushed for 382 yards and three scores. This season, Thein has 20 receptions for 177 yards and a touchdown, as well as 17 rushes for 48 yards. He has provided solid blocking for running back Ladell Betts.

Austin Wheatley: Wheatley has been part of a three-man rotation at tight end, sharing time with fellow seniors Jed Dull and Zeron Flemister. Wheatley has started three games, catching seven balls for 74 yards.

Bashir Yamin: The track All-American has suffered somewhat considering considering the offense's struggles, with the move to a short passing game hurting Yamin's production. He has 30 catches for 297 yards and no touchdowns, with his long being 42 yards.

Why do we care?

If you've read this far, you obviously understand our decision to give a senior class that gave so little physical production in terms of wins and success so much ink.

This class shouldn't be measured in wins and losses. Although, as seniors, the blame will ultimately be placed on their shoulders, it shouldn't. They are merely the messengers that take the punishment doled out by the angry mob.

"They've been critical," Ferentz said. "We've been practicing well and playing well, and it's been seniors. It's been disappointing for them. But they've come out and worked hard; you want to give them the benefit. That's who you feel bad for."

Browne says his class led by example, holding the team together through the tough times.

"I think senior leadership was a big part here," Browne said. "For the younger guys, there's times during the season when things don't go right. When a senior shows up to practice not wanting to be there on game day or not wanting to play hard, then you've got a serious problem on your hands."

The players surely have their misgivings about this season. As they say, it ain't no fun when the rabbit got the gun.

No matter what anyone says, it's an experience that those that haven't played college football can't duplicate. The class of 1999 knows that, and has taken solace in it.

"You'd like to go to a bowl game," Thein said. "I wish we were playing past Saturday. But I wouldn't trade it for anything."

All of Hayden Fry's promises haven't been fulfilled. No bowl game. Not much success. To Iowa's seniors, it doesn't matter. They're doing what they love — at least for one more Saturday.

DI Pregame co-editor Greg Wallace can be reached at gwallace@iowaeagle.com.
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Recruiting starts Sunday for the coaching staff. It’s the beginning of...

**Ferentz’s most important season**

By Mike Kelly
The Daily Iowan

One of the biggest surprises of this Big Ten season is the resurgence of perennial conference walk-overs Minnesota and Illinois.

Both teams are headed for their first bowl games in nearly a decade, and have solid coaches who are committed to the program and established a strong recruiting base.

Only time will tell if Kirk Ferentz can be the next young Big Ten coach to bring his team out of mediocrity. Even though Iowa may still be one or two solid recruiting classes away from a winning record, the Hawkeyes like their chances heading into next season.

"I’m happy where we are, we are moving in the right direction," Ferentz said. "We will know a lot more after we have our recruits in. Right after the game Saturday, all our attention turns to recruiting."

Expect Iowa to give out almost the maximum amount of scholarships this off-season. The NCAA limits schools from handing out more than 25 in a year, and the Hawkeyes should approach that mark.

Ferentz said that he expected around 10 of the available scholarships will go to in-state players. NCAA rules prohibit coaches from talking about potential players until signing day, so Ferentz has been understandably mum about recruiting.

He said most of the recruits he talked to were not turned off by the team’s lack of success this season.

"Some kids are going to shut you out," Ferentz said. "But we have tradition and success here and you don’t have to look back 50 years to see it. We have a lot of great ambassadors for the program right now."

Ferentz said he did not plan on red-shirting as many incoming freshmen as he did this year.

"We will try to play as many guys as we can next year if we feel like they can help out our team," Ferentz said.

The rebuilding period starts with strong recruits, and if this year’s class is strong, success may not be that far off.

Winning has taken Ron Turner three years at Illinois and Glen Mason put the Golden Gophers in a position for a bowl game in two.

Turner’s prize recruit, current Illini quarterback Kurt Kittner, came to Champaign a heralded quarterback in the state and restored credibility to the Illinois program.

In Minnesota, Glen Mason made the most out of seniors like Tyrone Carter and Thomas Hamner, and this year scored Thomas Tapah, one of the most sought after running backs in the country. Tapah’s impact cannot be measured right away, he redshirted this season due after being academically ineligible.

No matter how good the recruiting class, winning will be tough without older players who know how to win. Ferentz has lost his seniors all season for their unwavering intensity in practice.

The losses on the field will not be as great as the loss in the locker room. Influential leaders like Matt Bowen and Randy Reiners are gone, but Ferentz expects the junior class to step up and take over the leadership role well.

"I like our guys we have coming up in next year’s senior class — there are just not very many of them," Ferentz said.

He is right. Only four players from the recruiting class have played a substantial amount this season, so look for the youth movement to be even more apparent next season.

On the offensive line, four out of the five starters return. Chad Deal is the only starter to leave the line. A.J. Blazej should step in at center for the Hawkeyes and Ben Sobieski may compete for a starting role after missing the season with a shoulder injury.

The only other offensive losses are Bashir Yamini, Rob Thein and Zeron Flemister. Jeremy Allen should step in at fullback and Chris Oliver or Ryan Barton will take Yamini’s place.

The main question on the offensive side of the ball in 2000 is the tight end spot. Iowa loses the first three players on its depth chart at tight end. Kyle Tripeer is a possibility at that spot, but a broken forearm could hinder his off-season work.

Ferentz said he is worried about the defense more than the offense. Bowen’s absence will also hurt Iowa on the playing field. He led the team in tackles in seven games this season and should be drafted this April.

His defensive backfield mates, Joe Slattery and Tariq Holman, are also graduating, leaving a struggling secondary even more depleted. D.J. Johnson will take over one of the spots and the other one is up for grabs.

Look for Iowa’s offense to be ahead of the defense at the beginning of next season and look for the wins to come a little faster. Time will tell.
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“If we focus, we can win”

The loneliest

Thad Sheldon is the guy you know only how to boo—the long snapper.

By Jeremy Schnitker
The Daily Iowan

When Thad Sheldon gets attention, chances are it will be negative.
The Iowa senior, a walk-on, is the long snapper—the most anonymous position on the Iowa football team.
The long snapper is one of the more interesting positions in football. He is only on the field for a few plays, but those few snaps are quite important.
The main responsibility of a long snapper is throwing a ball between the legs for fifteen yards.
The only time you get your name in the paper is when you screw up.

“When I come off the field after a good snap, no one even says ‘hey man, nice snap,’” Sheldon said. “Nobody notices you until you do something bad.”

But according to Sheldon that’s all right. He doesn’t like being in the spotlight.

“There’s not a lot of profile in my position,” he added.

“But I like that. That’s not my style.”

Since he’s only on the field during punts and field goals, Sheldon said he has a unique relationship with the players.

“I can be their best friend, or my worst enemy,” Sheldon said.

“I can be their best friend, or my worst enemy,” Sheldon said.

“As a punter or a kicker, you’re really the only ones who spend a lot of time walking around on the field. When you’re in there, there’s no other game. You feel the pressure, but there’s no pressure. It’s just you and the ball.”

Beutjer w

Iowa’s quarterback of Jon Beutjer is redshirt bigger, and awaiting his for the starti

BACK POSITION NEXT STAFF

By Mike Kelly
The Daily Iowan

For the first time in his football career, Jon Beutjer's mind has gotten more of a workout than his arm.

One year ago, Beutjer led his Wheaton-Warrenville South team to the Illinois 6A high school football championship.

This year he is redshirting at Iowa, taking his share of mental reps everyday in practice behind four other Hawkeye quarterbacks.

“It's tough because this is the first time I have ever had to sit out,” Beutjer said. “I get in a little bit in practice, but most of the time I am watching and learning the plays.”

One of the question marks surrounding Beutjer coming out of high school was whether he could put on weight.

“I can't jump as high as I used to, and my arm is shorter than it used to be,” Beutjer said.

“I like to run and be a natural quarterback. But I don't want to be a point guard. I want to be a 6-0, 180-pound point guard. I don't want to be a 6-0, 180-pound quarterback.”

As a punter or a kicker, you’re really the only ones who spend a lot of time walking around on the field. When you’re in there, there’s no other game. You feel the pressure, but there’s no pressure. It’s just you and the ball.”
The loneliest position suits Sheldon fine

By Jeremy Schnitker

The Daily Iowan

When Thad Sheldon gets attention, chances are it will be negative.

The Iowa senior, a walk-on, is the long-snapper — the most anonymous position on the Iowa football team. The long-snapper is one of the more interesting positions in football. He is on the field for a few plays, but those few snaps are quite important. The main responsibility of a long snapper is throwing a ball between the legs for fifteen yards. The only time you get your name in the paper? When you screw up.

“When I come off the field after a good snap, people say ‘Hey man, nice snap,’” Sheldon said. “Nobody notices you until you do something bad.”

But according to Sheldon, that’s all right. He doesn’t like being in the spotlight.

“There’s not a lot of profile in my position,” he added. “But I like that. That’s not my style.

Since he’s only on the field for a few plays per game, he avoids some of the physical punishment associated with college football.

“You don’t get beat up much,” Sheldon said. “Since I’m considered a special team player I don’t have to do the crazy stuff, but it kind of sucks cause I miss that stuff.”

Sheldon has taken his obscure position and excelled at it this year. The Hawkeyes’ poor offensive output has had the punt team on the field extensively, and Sheldon has performed far beyond his coaches’ expectations.

“That’s been excellent; he’s done a good job snapping and protecting all year,” head coach Kirk Ferentz said. “He’s come out of the woodwork, I couldn’t say enough about this kid.”

About the only thing stranger than Sheldon’s position is his road to the University of Iowa.

After spending two years playing football at North Iowa Area Community College, in his home town of Mason City, Sheldon was looking to transfer to either Iowa or Iowa State.

“After NIACC, I had a few Division II offers, but I really wanted to go to Iowa or Iowa State,” he said. “They both probably wouldn’t still be playing,” he said. “They needed someone to long snap right away so they thought I could come in.”

After he became a Hawkeye, he got a lucky break.

Former Hawkeye Ryan McCormick, the long snapper ahead of Sheldon last year, went down with an injury.

“This opened up the door for the walk-on to step in as a starter,” Sheldon said.

“If he hadn’t hurt, I probably wouldn’t still be playing,” Sheldon said.

With a career in football out of reach for a walk-on long snapper, Sheldon plans on getting into the education field after his days as a Hawkeye are finished.

“If I don’t get a good job back home, I’m like skinny. I’m like a former Iowa State football player waiting to go to grad school,” Sheldon said.

Iowa long snapper Thad Sheldon waits for the next Iowa punt or kick Nov. 13 at Camp Randall Stadium. Sheldon is a former walk-on.

Beutjer waits in the wings for Y2K

Iowa’s quarterback of the future

Jon Beutjer is redshirting, getting bigger, and awaiting his chance to battle for the starting quarterback position next spring.

By Mike Kelly

The Daily Iowan

For the first time in his football career, Jon Beutjer’s mind has gotten more of a workout than his arms.

One year ago, Beutjer led a Wheaton-Warrenville South team in the Illinois 6A high school football championship. This year he is redshirting at Iowa, taking a share of mental reps everyday in practice behind four other Hawkeye quarterbacks.

“It’s tough because this is the first time I have ever had to sit out,” Beutjer said. “I get a little bit in practice, but most of the mental reps are watching and learning the plays.”

One of the question marks surrounding Beutjer coming out of high school was whether you are too skinny. I’m like ‘go h, I’m doing all I can.”

Beutjer broke the national high school record for touchdown passes in a season with 60, and he did not even play the fourth quarter in 11 out of 14 games. He was the backup quarterback on the Chicago Tribune’s all-time Illinois high school team, behind Otto Graham.

Despite rewriting the record books in high school, Beutjer is ready to put his star-studded high school days in the past.

“When you go to college, it doesn’t matter what you did in high school,” Beutjer said. “I know that I have to get quicker feet and a stronger arm in order to be competitive at this level.”

Beutjer’s high school wide receiver should be a familiar name to him, as he has played for Wheaton-Warrenville South target, Jon Schweshardt.

“Jon Schweshardt has hands that can pull the purple and black of Northwestern,” Beutjer said.

Schweshardt terrorized Iowa’s secondary during the final drive of the Wildcats’ 23-21 comeback victory over the Hawkeyes.

“All people kept telling me was ‘You have to put on more weight than that; you are too skinny. I’m like ‘Gosh, I’m doing all I can.’”

Iowa freshman quarterback Jon Beutjer, on gaining weight.

Iowa brought Beutjer along for the road trip to Evanston, partially for the experience, and partially because it was a chance for him to go back to his hometown.

Beutjer said he had a chance to visit with his old teammates and best friend after the game, but only for a short time.

“I only got to talk to Jon for about two minutes after the game,” Beutjer said. “Then a reporter came up to us and asked us a bunch of questions so we didn’t really get to hang out very much.”

The quarterback position in college football is evolving into a spot where a player must run and pass to be effective. All over the country, teams either have a dual-quarterback system or have a player who can be successful through the air or on the ground.

Michael Vick from Virginia Tech and the two-headed monster of Rashard Case and Kevin Thompson at Penn State are two of the best combos in the NCAA.

While players like that are seeping into the quarterback pool, Beutjer is a throwback. He said he is a straight drop-back quarterback who can throw a pretty fade pattern, but most likely will not run any options.

A season away from the spotlight has provided a sense of motivation for Beutjer. Next year, he hopes to make an impact on an Iowa team that is fairly deep at quarterback.

Starter Scott Mullen returns, as well as backups Nick Whaler and Kyle McCann.

“It is kind of exciting to be hidden away for a year,” Beutjer said. “I am anxious to get out there and show what I can do against some of the best defensive backs in the Big Ten.”

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Mason
Glen Mason brings
Minnesota program
1997 to a bowl trip

By Lisa Colombo
The Daily Iowan

The last time the Minnesota football program was in this position, Lynden Johnson was president, bell-bottoms were popular and Woodstock was only a dream.

But if bell-bottoms are making a comeback in the late 90s, so can the Golden Gophers.

With a record of 7-3 (4-3 Big Ten), Minnesota is just one victory shy of breaking a 32-year dry spell; not since 1967 has Minnesota ended a season with eight wins.

A win versus the Hawkeyes Saturday will not be the first "first" of the Gophers' season, however. On Nov. 6, the Gophers defeated then-No. 2 Penn State, 24-23, for the first time in school history. They followed up that first with a couple more.

Last weekend in the Metrodome, Minnesota beat Indiana, 44-20, for the team's first home Big Ten win of the season, and that seventh victory of the year was the school's first against Indiana in 22 years.

Although coach Glen Mason was not pleased with the

Hamner

Records are practically falling at the feet of Minnesota running back Thomas Hamner. Hamner is second in the Big Ten and ninth in the country in rushing, averaging 127.9 yards per game for the Golden Gophers and he tied the Gophers' record for the number of 100-yard-plus games in a season at seven last week versus Indiana. His 174 yards on 34 carries versus the Hoosiers was just 10 yards shy of his personal best. He also is steadily moving up on Minnesota's all-time leader lists.

The senior from Hamilton, Ohio is second in career rushing yards with 3,663, and leads his team in all-purpose yards with 1551, as well as leading the Gophers in rushing.

"Personally, I'm just going to go out and do what I can to help the team succeed," Hamner said. "I'm doing what I know I'm capable of doing and I'm thankful for my teammates doing what they're doing up front. The offensive linemen
Mason key to ending Gopher slide

Glen Mason brought the Minnesota program from a 3-win 1997 to a bowl trip this year.

By Lisa Colonno The Daily Iowan

The last time the Minnesota football program felt was in this position, Lynden Johnsen was president, bell-bottoms were popular and Woodstock was only a dream.

But if bell-bottoms are making a comeback in the late '90s, so can the Golden Gophers.

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Although coach Glen Mason was not pleased with the team's performance, both offensive play, particularly for "setting up field goals" and defensively for "giving up tackles," he was satisfied with the final outcome.

"I'm very happy that we came out of (the Indiana game) with a victory," coach Glen Mason said. "My concern was whether we would be tied down and lack of focus after the victory at Penn State."

No. 17 Minnesota entered the 1999 season with 41 letterwinners and 19 starters returning and now finds itself in a position for post-season play. With victory No. 8, the Gophers will be considered for the Outback Bowl, to be played New Year's Day.

"We all were expecting it," running back Thomas Hamner said of Minnesota's success. "We had a lot of returning starters and great leadership returning. We all worked hard in the off-season and expected great things this year."

"The program is changing around. There might be a bowl game; it's a special feeling right now."

That special feeling can, at least in part, be attributed to Mason.

Before Mason came to Minnesota in 1997, the Gophers finished 1996 11th in the Big Ten and 104th in the nation in rushing defense, giving up 246.5 yards per game. Minnesota also finished '96 at the bottom of the Big Ten in rushing defense.

Two years later, and in Mason's second year on the sidelines, the Gophers finished fourth in the conference and 13th nationally in rushing defense, allowing 103.7 yards per game. This was the best for Minnesota since 1962. The Gophers also finished seventh in the Big Ten in rushing offense.

"He's a great coach and I could talk about him all day," Hamner said of Mason. "The attitude he's brought in; how he matured me as a player; he's a great coach."

For Mason to accomplish what no other Minnesota coach has accomplished in 30 years, his Gophers have to get running backs Eric Thigpen and Joe Slattery to Minnesota in 1997, the win.

"Iowa's record) makes me nervous because perception is more important than fact. I have a concern internally that repeat its 1998 success versus Iowa Saturday.

"Our win versus Iowa last year was a feel-good game," Mason said. "If they beat us, they will feel a lot better than I will eating my turkey on Thursday."

For sportswriter Lisa Colonno can be reached at lcolonno@blue.wng.unc.edu

Hammer leads Gopher ground attack quietly

By Lisa Colonno The Daily Iowan

Records are practically falling at the feet of Minnesota running back Thomas Hamner.

Hamner is second in the Big Ten and ninth in the country in rushing, averaging 177.8 yards per game for the Golden Gophers and tied the Gophers' record for the number of 100-yard plus games in a season at seven last week versus Indiana. His 174 yards on 34 carries versus the Hawkeyes was just 10 yards shy of his personal best. He also is moving up on Minnesota's all-time leader lists.

The senior from Hamilton, Ohio is second in career rushing yards with 3,663, and leads his team in all-purpose yards with 1,195.1, and also leads the Gophers in rushing.

"Personally, I'm just going to go out and do what I can to make the team successful," Hamner said. "I'm doing what I know I'm capable of doing and thankful for my teammates doing what they're doing up front."

The offensive line is doing a great job.

"Hamner came to Minnesota in 1995, redshirted his freshman year and took over the team," Hamner said. "I just came in here; I have a lot of heart; I'm a fighter and just fell in my position."

Through his fourth season, he has not missed a game, and through six games in 1999, Hamner has amassed 1,279 yards rushing, seventh in the nation with the lowest fumble ratio (1:502). Hamner has fumbled one time in the past two seasons. He is the third in the nation with the most underrated backs in the country, but he hasn't failed to impress his coach.

"I know (Ron) Dayne broke the record, but I don't know a running back in the league having a better year than he is," Minnesota coach Glen Mason said of Hamner.

Last season, Mason proved to be a success for Hamner as well. He won second-team All-Big Ten honors, finishing sixth in the conference with 762 rushing yards per game. He surpassed 100 yards three times and had season highs in the Gophers' last game of 1998 versus Iowa. Hamner accumulated 148 yards in 19 carries.

"I saw him in the Northwestern game, and he looked like a good runner," Iowa coach Kirk Ferentz said.

"He's a good football player."

Despite the hoopla surrounding Minnesota football, and his personal success in 1999, Hamner's future is the furthest thing from his mind at the current time.

"I'm just looking at right now," Hamner said. "I'll be prepared mentally and physically and whatever happens, happens. I'm going to focus on today."

For sportswriter Lisa Colonno can be reached at lcolonno@blue.wng.unc.edu

Minnesota strong safety Tyrone Carter chases down Iowa quarterback Kyle McCann during Iowa's 49-7 loss in 1998. Carter is a potential NFL draft pick despite being less than six feet tall.

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Minnewa. Iowa

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1999 Iowa Hawkeyes

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The Iowa quarterback fumbled what he thought was his roughest day as a starter last weekend against the junior twisted a knee and left the game minutes into the third quarter for the next series.
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What a Day

Greg Wallace

PREGAME PICK

Two years ago, Iowa was far removed from a 1-10 season as anyone could imagine. The Hawkeyes were one victory over Minnesota away from their sixth bowl trip of the 1990’s. They got that victory, 31-0. And they got that bowl trip, to the Sun Bowl. It would be the Iowa program’s last of the decade.

Now, they stand one loss away from the program’s worst record since 1973. And their opponent? Yes, those same Gophers.

Glen Mason has turned Minnesota around in only his third season. The Gophers will play in a bowl for the first time since the Reagan Administration. If they win Saturday, it will be their eighth victory—Minnesota’s first eight-win season since 1997.

Iowa is slipping into an abyss that it could take a similarly long time to get out of, if they’re not careful. The weeks after this game will be crucial.

Crazy Big

Greg Wallace

THIS WEEK IN THE BIG TEN

The Big Ten season winds down this week, and everyone has something to play for from Northwestern to Penn State. Nothing can be taken for granted this year in the league; after all, it was only two weeks ago in this space that I predicted everyone else in the league was playing for second place, and that Penn State was a lock for the Sugar Bowl.

And we all know how that turned out.

Four teams—Wisconsin, Michigan, Michigan State, and Penn State—have a shot at BCS bowls. And Purdue, Minnesota, Ohio State and Illinois are going bowling as well. It’s the year of parity; who would have thought that Iowa could be in last place and Illinois and Minnesota will be getting tans in December. This year has been
What a difference two years can make for Hawks

Two years ago, Iowa was as far removed from a 1-10 season as anyone can be in the Big Ten. The Hawkeyes were one victory over Minnesota away from their sixth bowl trip of the 1990's. They got that victory, 31-6. And they got that bowl trip, to the Sun Bowl. It would be the Iowa program's last of the decade.

Now, they stand one loss away from the program's worst record since 1973. And their opponent? Yes, those same Gophers.

Glen Mason has turned Minnesota around in only his third season. The Gophers will play in a bowl for the first time since the Reagan Administration. If they win Saturday, it will be their first victory—Minnesota's first eight-win season since 1967.

Iowa is slipping into an abyss that it could take a similarly long time to get out of, if they're not careful. The weeks after this game will be crucial for recruiting purposes. Why has Minnesota made such a quick turnaround and Iowa such a steep decline? Talent.

The Gophers have it; Iowa doesn't, at least not in the abundance of Minnesota's stash.

Thomas Hammer is the best kicker to ever have been heard of. Did you know he's 9th in the NCAA in rushing, or that he has 1279 yards for the season?

And Billy Cockerham is third in the league in total offense.

Yet the average late-night highlight show viewer would be hard-pressed to name any Gopher football player, with the possible exception of All-American safety Tyrone Carter.

The only current NFL-worthy talent on Iowa's squad is safety Matt Bowen, who would make any all-league and all-interview team I voted for. Beyond Bowen, there is a dearth of talent, especially on defense. The linebackers have been solid but the secondary and defensive line have been non-existent, according to in letters home.

I have an inkling Saturday's game will be an offensive battle. Usually solid late-November Kinnick Stadium weather. The conditions won't exactly remind people of the "frozen tundra" that can be common this late in the season.

This should make for an offensive show. Minnesota's defense could be kinder than Wisconsin's was to Scott Mullen. Mullen needs a good performance to end the season after having been beat up ever since taking the starting role. It hasn't been easy for Mullen, who's done a nice job amidst the disaster this season has been.

Iowa is playing for pride, and for Floyd of Rosedale, that bronze pig that has been in the land of "Yah, you betcha" since last November.

I'd venture the theory of Floyd as a motivating factor, but Hayden Fry's potential final game as Iowa coach and having Floyd on the line didn't seem to matter last fall in the Metrodome. Iowa lost, 49-7, in what some called the most lifeless Hawkeye performance of the season.

The Game

This week in the Big Ten

Penn State at Michigan State

In October, this was being hyped as the game of the year in the Big Ten, if not the nation. Both teams were undefeated, and national title aspirations were expected to be on the line.

The hopes of both teams have fallen somewhat with losses in recent weeks, but this still should be a barn-burner.

A BCS bid to the Fiesta Bowl could await the winner, and the consolation prize isn't bad either—the Citrus Bowl. Michigan State has proven, despite two losses, that it's no slouch. The Spartans are a force, and if Plaxico Burress hangs around for his senior season, MSU will contend for a national title next fall with Ryan Van Dyke at quarterback. And T.J. Duckett has brought scary-good running back the last few weeks. That's potential talking, and you'd better believe Nick Saban's watching.

You know these last couple of weeks have eaten at LaVar Arrington. All the hype, all the pressure, all for nothing. He's got one more chance to prove he's worthy before he leaves for the NFL draft, and he'll take it. If Penn State loses this game, they could end up in the Sun Bowl. Ouch. That's motivation enough for anyone.

Penn State 24, Michigan State 10

Ohio State at Michigan

Do you realize that at most other schools, John Cooper would have a stadium named after him by now? His last two seasons have produced Rose Bowl champions and Sugar Bowl champions, and he even beat the hated Wolverines. But with a 6-5 record and a trip to Michigan looming, the Buckeyes are looking at a Y2K at home. Cooper probably wonders if he'll even have a home after this season. What ingrates Buckeye fans are.

It's been another solid season for Michigan. After a stunning loss to Illinois, the Wolverines rebounded with a win, in Happy Valley, no less. Tom Brady has been a great senior leader, and the Wolverines have been the quietest 9-2, No. 10 team in the nation that I can recall. This is "The Game," one of many "The Games" around the country this weekend, but certainly the biggest in these parts. Michigan won't have to look far for motivation in this one; getting Cooper fired would be big. And so would a New Year's Day bowl, though not as important as rubbing it in the noses of those awful Buckeye fans.

Michigan 34, Ohio State 3

Purdue at Indiana

Indiana has the coolest trophies: the Bourbon Barrel, the Old Oaken Bucket, and the Brass Spittin'. This week, Purdue and Indiana clash for the Bucket, and little more. Purdue will be headed to a second-tier bowl after showing they have little beyond, Drew Brees, and Indiana is headed home for the same reason—no help for Antwan Randle El. Randle El is a man gang, but he's the only player Indiana has that can control a game.

It doesn't matter though, cause, yehaw, it's civil war in Indiana! Too bad Brees' birthmark could take the Hoosiers out by itself, much less with the help of 22 other Bolvermakers. Hope Cam Cameron has a good recruiting class, he's going to need it.

Purdue 41, Indiana 7

Northwestern at Illinois

I expected this game to have a shred of meaning, as Illinois was going to play for their first bowl in five years. Ron Turner spoiled that by pasting Ohio State in the Horsehoe, 46-20. Now this game is completely meaningless, aside from honoring the Illini seniors that made the turnaround possible. I admit, I was completely wrong about the Illini. My predictions as a whole have been less than perfect.

For God's sake, I thought Iowa was going to finish eighth. Northwestern is just where I like them; near the bottom of the league. Hope you savored the flavor. Cat fans, it's going to be a long climb back to the top. Kurt Kittner's going bowling. There are some things I never thought I'd be typing back in August. That is one of them.

Illinois 38, Northwestern 13

Pregame co-editor: Greg Wallace

Greg Wallace, Pregame co-editor: Scott Mullen, will host on the Gophers' defense.

Mike Kelly, Pregame co-editor: Herky. The Hawks are betting rodents.

Megan Mansfield, Daily Iowa sports editor: Laddie Betts. The next Ron Dayne.

So I'll stay away from that—far away.

The seniors have been an inspiration to everyone on the team, and their leadership this season, but leadership can't make up for a stunning lack of talent.

The facts don't lie; Iowa is headed for its first one-win season since 1971. The Gophers have all the momentum, and Iowa has none, other than the emotions that come with seeing a senior class play its final game in the black-and-gold.

The last time Iowa finished with less than three wins was 1978, and head coach Bob Comings lost his job afterwars. Kirk Ferentz won't, nor should he. However, a season like 1999 is a wakeup call that the post-Fry era won't be easy, and it won't be fun for a while.

Pregame co-editor Greg Wallace can be reached at gwallace@blue.wi.umn.edu.
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The essence of Iowa football

Daily Iowan photographers Brian Ray and Brett Roseman have captured the highs and lows of the 1999 football season in a photo essay.

Brett Roseman/The Daily Iowan

Iowa quarterback Kyle McCann cocks and fires in the Sept. 4 game with Nebraska. McCann started the first two games of the season for Iowa.

Brett Roseman/The Daily Iowan

Indiana running back Frankie Franklin strains to elude a lunging Matt Bowen (9) during the Hoosiers' 38-31 win over Iowa Oct. 23.

Brett Roseman/The Daily Iowan

Ladell Betts (46) tries to break free from two Indiana defenders during the teams' Oct. 23 game at Kinnick Stadium. Betts had 146 yards rushing against the Hoosiers.

Brett Roseman/The Daily Iowan

Iowa corner back Tarig Holman tries to upend a Nebraska ball carrier in the Huskers' 42-7 win over the Hawkeyes in the season opener for both teams Sept. 4.
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Unless you're a genius, BCS tough to comprehend

College football’s postseason system is complicated, but terribly fun.

By Greg Wallace
The Daily Iowan

We here at Pregame aren’t mathematicians—we’re journalists. So forgive us when we admit this; the BCS is tough to understand.

With one week left in the season, 15 teams have a shot at the three BCS bowl games— the Sugar, Orange, and the Fiesta. In addition, Wisconsin has qualified for the Rose Bowl, a BCS bowl if Big Ten and Pac-10 teams are 1-2 in the polls.

The BCS is made up of three components: the two wire service polls, eight computer rankings, and strength of schedule. Of course, losses play into the equation as well: one slip-up, and it’s all but assured that a team won’t be playing in the Sugar Bowl, this year’s national championship game. Two losses? You’re sleeping with the fishes.

Of these three components, the quirkiest is strength of schedule. It is partially beyond a team’s control, when one considers that college football schedules are made 4-5 years in advance. It’s impossible to control how strong your conference is: Virginia Tech is 9-0 and No. 2 in the BCS poll, but has been criticized for playing a weak schedule. Part of that can be blamed on the Hokies’ conference, the Big East, which is thin this season. Their schedule ranks 54th, while the teams flanking them, Florida State and Nebraska, rank 16th and 21st, respectively.

It’s conceivable that Nebraska, the No. 3 team, could leap ahead of the Hokies with wins in its last two games against Colorado and Texas (in the Big 12 championship), while VT plays a weak Temple team and No. 25 Boston College.

If this prophecy comes true, and the Hokies whine, don’t be so quick to take their side. They did schedule Division I-AA James Madison, whom they beat handily.

Still, that wouldn’t make getting leapfrogged by Nebraska any fairer. But no one ever said college football was fair.

Computer rankings are subjective, too; they don’t care if Virginia Tech or Nebraska is No. 2; they’re heartless machines.

The BCS could have a huge impact on how the Big Ten bowl situation sorts out. Wisconsin is BCS-worthy, and one more conference school could join them. The other BCS bowls are advised to pick from the top 6 teams, though they aren’t bound to them. Kansas State was fourth in the BCS poll last season, but was snubbed by the Big Ten and wound up going to the Alamo Bowl.

Michigan, Michigan State, and Penn State all have a chance to be BCS-worthy. The Spartans and Nittany Lions face off, with the winner being BCS-eligible. In addition, if Michigan wins, they will have nine wins and be in the top 12 of the BCS.

If two teams are selected, every Big Ten team gets pushed up a notch in the bowl hierarchy. The bowls pick in this order: Citrus, Outback, Alamo, Sun, and Micron PC.

Let’s assume that Michigan beats Ohio State and Penn State beats Michigan State, and that the chairman of the Orange Bowl is a Michigan fan. The rest of the picture could shake out something like this: Penn State/Michigan in the Citrus, Michigan State in the Outback, Minnesota in the Alamo, Purdue in the Sun, and Illinois in the Micron PC.

If Ohio State beats Michigan, the victors bowl-eligible, they would likely go to the Micron PC, leaving Illinois in, say, Detroit, for the Motor City Bowl. But even the Aloha Bowl is an option for Illinois if the weak ACC fails to fill its slot with an eligible team.

This bowl thing, it’s not easy, or for the faint of heart.

Don’t forget that bowls aren’t nice—they don’t select completely on record, instead hunger for the schools that can fill their stands—and their pockets—the fullest. That’s why Ohio State would go over an Illinois team that destroyed the Buckeyes in Columbus last weekend.

Hopefully, you understand a little more about the BCS, but if you don’t, I don’t blame you. Here are the informed picker’s opinions on how the BCS bowls will shake out.

**Sugars:**
Florida State vs. Nebraska. Florida State beats Florida, while Nebraska uses two big wins to climb over Virginia Tech for the No. 2 slot.

**Fiesta:**
Virginia Tech vs. Florida. The Gators’ loss to FSU puts them in the Fiesta, while VT gets passed up due to its weak schedule.

**Orange:**
Tennessee vs. Michigan. The Vols’ strong fan support gets them in over K-State, while Michigan’s win over Penn State gives them the nod.

As always, this is subject to change and crazy upssets, along with the uncontrollable computer factor. No one knows what will happen, and that’s what makes college football so special. Playoff? We don’t need a playoff. This is too much fun to give up.

* Pregame co-editor Greg Wallace can be reached at: pgwalcace@theone.org

**1999-2000 Bowls**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Bowl</th>
<th>Opponents</th>
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<td>Mobile Alabam</td>
<td>Alabama vs. Florida</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 25</td>
<td>Aloha Bowl</td>
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<td>Dec. 28</td>
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<td>Dec. 29</td>
<td>Music City</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 29</td>
<td>Holiday Bowl</td>
<td>Louisville vs. Louisville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 30</td>
<td>Micron PC</td>
<td>College of Charleston vs. Texas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 30</td>
<td>Peach Bowl</td>
<td>UCLA vs. Oregon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 31</td>
<td>Liberty Bowl</td>
<td>Texas vs. Texas A&amp;M</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 31</td>
<td>Sun Bowl</td>
<td>Northwestern vs. Michigan State</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 31</td>
<td>Insight.com Bowl</td>
<td>Florida vs. Tennessee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 31</td>
<td>Independence Bowl</td>
<td>Michigan vs. Purdue</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 1</td>
<td>Cotton Bowl</td>
<td>Oklahoma vs. Texas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 1</td>
<td>Outback Bowl</td>
<td>Virginia vs. Florida</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 1</td>
<td>Gator Bowl</td>
<td>Mississippi State vs. Arkansas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 1</td>
<td>Citrus Bowl</td>
<td>Arkansas vs. Florida</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 1</td>
<td>Rose Bowl</td>
<td>Ohio State vs. Oregon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 1</td>
<td>Orange Bowl</td>
<td>Florida State vs. Oklahoma</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 2</td>
<td>Fiesta Bowl</td>
<td>Michigan vs. Nebraska</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 4</td>
<td>Sugar Bowl</td>
<td>LSU vs. Oklahoma</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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The Iowa field hockey team plays in the Final Four this weekend.

By Robert Yarbrough
The Daily Iowan

After two consecutive dismal seasons, it may only have been a matter of time before the Iowa field hockey team returned to the national picture.

No one expected this, though.

For the sixth time in the history of the program, the No. 3 Hawkeyes (19-2) will play in the Final Four of the NCAA tournament in Boston, Mass. Iowa will take on No. 1 Maryland (17-1) at 11:30 a.m. today with hopes of competing Sunday for the national championship against the winner of the game between No. 2 University of Connecticut (19-0) and No. 4 Michigan (19-6) at 2 p.m.

The Hawkeyes defeated Kent State in the first round of the tournament before beating North Carolina 2-0 this past Sunday at Grant Field to advance to the Final Four. The victory was only the second time Iowa had defeated the Tar Heels.

“We have tried to get North Carolina to come out here for a long time and it took the NCAA selection committee to finally bring them out here,” Iowa coach Beth Beglin said. “Iowa has to be their star and we were able to shut her out which was key in that game.”

The Final Four bid was just the icing on the cake for a team that rebounded from a 10-10 season a year ago to take the Big Ten regular season title this year.

The only glitch in the Hawkeyes' bid for a perfect season was Michigan. In three meetings this season, Michigan defeated Iowa twice, including a 3-2 win to take the Big Ten tournament title.

Iowa is not looking past Maryland by any means, but a championship game against the Wolverines would be a fitting way to end the season.

“We know Michigan really well to say the least,” senior Kelly Druley said. “We thought Michigan was coming to Grant Field to play us in the first two rounds and it is amazing that we may see them again.”

This week, Beglin and her coaching staff have been focused on making a solid gameplan to stop Maryland, but the process hasn't been easy. The Tar Heels play a system where a lot of different athletes are constantly playing at different positions throughout the game, making a sound strategy to stop them difficult.

"I think that we know their players pretty well," Beglin said. "But it has definitely been difficult trying to figure out what exactly to prepare for because they are all over the place."

Both teams are inexperienced in championship situations, and according to Beglin, the winner will be the team who can deal with the situation best.

"It is the first time this particular group of individuals for Maryland has been to a Final Four and that is the same situation for us," Beglin said. "The winner will be the team that handle that with poise under pressure."
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Big Ten</th>
<th>Overall</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wisconsin</td>
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<td>Penn State</td>
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<td>9-2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michigan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minnesota</td>
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<tr>
<td>Illinois</td>
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<tr>
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<td>N'Western</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iowa</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**August 29**

Penn State 41, Arizona 7

**August 28**

MAM 23, Ohio State 12

**September 4**

I.LLINOIS 45, Arkansas State 3

Indiana 21, Ball State 9

Penn State 70, Akron 24

Purdue 47, Central Florida 13

WISCONSIN 49, Murray State 10

Michigan State 26, Notre Dame 22

Nebraska 42, Iowa 7

Minnesota 33, Ohio 7

Miami of Ohio 28, NORTHWESTERN 7

Michigan State 27, Oregon 20

**September 11**

Illinois 38, San Diego State 10

Michigan State 51, Eastern Michigan 7

---

**Big Ten Conference**

Penn State 20, Pittsburgh 17

North Carolina 42, Indiana 30

Minnesota 35, N.E. Louisiana 0

Purdue 28, Notre Dame 23

Iowa State 17, Iowa 10

Northwestern 17, TCU 7

Wisconsin 50, Ball State 10

Michigan 37, Rice 3

Ohio State 42, UCLA 20

---

**September 18**

Illinois 41, Louisville 36

Kentucky 44, Indiana 35

Iowa 24, Northern Illinois 0

Michigan 18, Syracuse 13

Michigan State 23, Notre Dame 13

Minnesota 55, Illinois State 7

Northwestern 15, Duke 12

Ohio State 40, Ohio 16

Penn State 27, Miami (FL) 23

Purdue 58, Central Michigan 16

Cincinnati 17, Wisconsin 12

---

**September 25**

Michigan State 27, Illinois 10

Penn State 45, Indiana 24

Michigan 21, Wisconsin 16

Purdue 31, Northwestern 23

Ohio State 34, Cincinnati 20

---

**October 2**

Michigan State 49, Iowa 3

Indiana 34, Illinois 31 (OT)

Michigan 38, Purdue 12

Minnesota 33, Northwestern 14

---

**Brian Roy/The Daily Iowan**

Iowa safety Matt Stockdale takes down Penn State's backup running back Kenny Thompson during the Nittany Lions' win over Iowa. Once a Sugar Bowl shoo-in, the Lions have lost two straight games.

Wisconsin 42, Ohio State 17

Ohio State 25, Purdue 22

---

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