

The Daily Iowan

PREGAME

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4
IOWA VS. NORTHWESTERN
WRIGLEY FIELD

Triple threat

Iowa running backs Leshon Williams, Kaleb Johnson, and Jaziun Patterson are the few bright spots within a struggling offense.



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DEPTH CHART

IOWA				NORTHWESTERN			
OFFENSE				OFFENSE			
QB	10	Deacon Hill	Soph	QB	6	Brendan Sullivan	Soph
	5	Joe Labas	Soph		12	Jack Lausch	#Fr
RB	4	Leshon Williams	Jr	RB	4	Cam Porter	Jr
	2	Kaleb Johnson	Soph		20	Joseph Himon II	#Fr
FB	88	Hayden Large	Sr	WR-X	14	Cam Johnson	Sr
	41	Rusty VanWetzinga	Fr		11	Donnie Gray	Soph
WR	0	Diante Vines	Jr	WR-Z	17	Bryce Kirtz	Sr
	18	Alec Wick	Soph		19	Reggie Fleurima	#Fr
WR	89	Nico Ragaini	Sr	WR-SL	8	A.J. Henning	Sr
	6	Seth Anderson	Soph		15	Calvin Johnson II	Soph
TE	86	Steven Stilianos	Sr	TE	89	Charlie Mangleri	Sr
	87	Addison Ostrenga	Soph		88	Marshall Lang	Sr
LT	78	Mason Richman	Jr	LT	72	Caleb Tiernan	Soph
	71	Jack Dotzler	#Fr		66	Braeden Edwards	Soph
LG	60	Rusty Feth	Sr	LG	68	Josh Priebe	Sr
	56	Nick DeJong	Sr		74	Nick Herzog	#Fr
C	65	Logan Jones	Jr	C	71	Ben Wrather	Sr
	76	Tyler Elsbury	Jr		65	Jackson Carsello	Soph
RG	77	Connor Colby	Jr	RG	63	Dom D'Antonio	Sr
	70	Beau Stephens	Soph		75	Jordan Knox	Fr
RT	67	Gennings Dunker	Soph	RT	56	Josh Thompson	Soph
	79	Daijon Parker	Sr		79	Jachary Franks	Sr
PK	18	Drew Stevens	Soph	PK	82	Jack Olsen	Jr
DEFENSE				DEFENSE			
LE	45	Deontae Craig	Jr	LE	97	Sean McLaughlin	Jr
	48	Max Llewellyn	Soph		91	Aiden Hubbard	Soph
LT	94	Yahya Black	Jr	DT	95	Najee Story	Soph
	95	Aaron Graves	Soph		94	R.J. Pearson	Sr
RT	85	Logan Lee	Sr	DT	90	Carmine Bastone	Soph
	55	Jeremiah Pittman	Soph		50	P.J. Spencer	Sr
RE	13	Joe Evans	Sr	DE	41	Jaylen Pate	Sr
	49	Ethan Hurkett	Jr		42	Anto Saka	#Fr
Leo/Cash	37	Kyler Fisher	Sr	WLB	32	Bryce Gallagher	Sr
	29	Sebastian Castro	Sr		35	Kenny Soares Jr.	#Fr
MLB	34	Jay Higgins	Sr	MLB	34	Zander Mueller	Jr
	41	Jaden Harrell	Soph		37	Mac Uihlein	Soph
WLB	10	Nick Jackson	Sr	CB	10	Theran Johnson	Soph
	37	Kyler Fisher	Sr		7	Ore Adeyi	Soph
CB	3	Cooper DeJean	Jr	SS	8	Devin Turner	Soph
	17	Brenden Deasfermandes	Jr		18	Garner Wallace	Soph
SS	1	Xavier Nwankpa	Soph	FS	00	Coco Azema	Sr
	29	Sebastian Castro	Sr		3	Jaheem Joseph	Jr
FS	30	Quinn Schulte	Sr	CB	2	Garnett Hollis Jr.	Jr
	4	Koen Entringer	#Fr		28	Braden Turner	#Fr
CB	27	Jermari Harris	Jr	NB	24	Rod Heard II	Sr
	20	Deavin Hilson	Soph		6	Robert Fitzgerald	#Fr
P	9	Tory Taylor	Sr	P	99	Hunter Renner	Jr

IOWA VS. NORTHWESTERN | SATURDAY, NOV. 4 | 2:30 P.M. | peacock

Five things to watch

Matt McGowan
Pregame Editor
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1. Starting momentum



B. Ferentz

Under normal circumstances, Iowa would have an advantage coming off a bye week, but given this week's events, I'm not certain that will be the case. The mid-week announcement of offensive coordinator Brian Ferentz not returning to the Hawkeyes in 2024 was a surprise for many, and I'm pretty sure players can be included in that group.

The Hawkeyes are now with a lame-duck offensive coordinator and have distraction looming over them as questions linger over whether head coach Kirk Ferentz returns next season. How well they block out that noise will be key in gaining an early edge over a Northwestern team that is coming off a 33-27 triumph over Maryland. The Wildcats scored 14 first-quarter points in that contest against the Terrapins, so the Hawkeyes' must start strong on both ends of the ball.



K. Ferentz

2. Adjusting to new Northwestern QB



Sullivan

Cincinnati-transfer Ben Bryant started under center for the Wildcats for their first five games of the season before being sidelined by an upper-body injury in Northwestern's loss to Penn State on Sept. 30. Filling in for Byrant in that contest was third-year QB Brendan Sullivan, who started four games for the Wildcats in 2022. The Davison, Michigan, native started Northwestern's next three games, collecting two wins while averaging 13 completions for 190 yards per contest. The 6-foot-3, 235-pounder is more of a threat on the ground game, averaging 13 carries per start and amassing 94 yards over that span.

With Bryant's status in doubt for Saturday, Sullivan will most likely be facing a Hawkeye 'D' that held him to 159 yards in the air and -42 yards on the ground in their last meeting on

Oct. 29, 2022. Even with a solid track record against Sullivan in the past, Iowa has a different defensive lineup than last season and will need to contain Sullivan in the pocket.

3. Rebounding in the run game



Williams

Iowa's game against Minnesota was the Hawkeyes' worst rushing performance of the season, totaling 11 yards with an average of 0.4 yards per rush. Such a pitiful performance cannot happen on Saturday, as Iowa will need a solid ground game to get down the field at Wrigley, especially given quarterback Deacon Hill's tendency to turn the ball over in the passing game. Saturday will be a great opportunity for Iowa third-year back Leшон Williams and Co. to have a bounce-back performance, as Northwestern ranks second-to-last in the Big Ten in rushing defense, conceding 164.3 yards per game to its opponents.

4. Run Pass Option

In the Hawkeyes' 12-10 loss to the Golden Gophers, the Minnesota defense stacked the box, bringing down safeties from the secondary and into the run to squash any chance of success for Iowa's ground game.

When an opponent intentionally cherry-picks defending the run, Iowa needs to adjust and utilize the run pass option. This is when the offensive line run blocks, but doesn't get too far downfield, allowing for Hill to put the ball in the air to receivers. Employing play-action passes will also be a solution, as doing so will make the defense pay for stacking the box. In the first quarter against Minnesota, Hill faked handoffs and rolled out of the pocket, often resulting in substantial gains, such as a 36-yard grab for receiver Diante Vines.

5. Change in offensive scheme

Now with a lame-duck offensive coordinator, it will be interesting to see just how much Iowa bothers to alter its offensive scheme, knowing that Brian Ferentz's 25 points per game clause is now irrelevant. Obviously, the Hawkeyes will hold winning out as their highest priority, but now that they know their future direction is up in the air, they might try to mix things up a bit. Do I think this will actually happen knowing the stubbornness of Iowa on offense? Nope, but it's worth hoping for. Maybe don't run the ball every second down? If not, Iowa fans may witness history if under 29.5 points hits on Saturday.

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Making something out of nothing

The Hawkeyes' top three running backs push each other to their highest potential.

Kenna Roering

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Fifty-nine yards. 67 yards. 82 yards.

Iowa's biggest football plays of the year have come from three running backs — redshirt freshman Jaziun Patterson, sophomore Kaleb Johnson, and junior Leshon Williams.



Johnson

In an offense with few bright spots, this triple-threat rushing attack has shown its game-changing potential.

In each game this season where the Hawkeyes have rushed for at least 100 yards, they've finished in the win column.

But for these three players, it's not about how many carries or yards they achieve individually per game.



Patterson

Rather, it's a joint effort for Johnson, Williams, and Patterson, who have built a strong relationship on and off the field as roommates.

Patterson and Johnson roomed in the dorms together in their first year and now live with Williams.

Johnson said he and Patterson would often go through formations and help each other understand the playbook while living in the dorms.

"I mean, there's competition, obviously, but it's nothing but brotherly love," Williams said. "We're all just trying to get better, and we all got the same goals at the end of the day."

If one player is having a down day, the others are expected to pick up the slack. Patterson thinks he and his fellow backs have similar running styles but voiced that Johnson is the fastest of the three and has the ability to "get around guys."

But Patterson believes one running back doesn't have to get all the carries because the three athletes complement each other's playing styles well.

"We could get me in there to run on a third-and-1 situation, get the first," Patterson said. "Then we put Kaleb in there first and second down, then we put Leshon in there. We all run the ball hard, and I think that gives us an edge."

Each athlete has had a unique journey to get to this point.

Feeling Jazzy



Betts

Iowa running backs coach Ladell Betts discovered Patterson a few months before his senior season and offered him a scholarship.

Acey, the running back's 43-year-old brother, said Patterson quickly connected with Betts. Acey said Betts acted as a "father trying to protect a son" rather than a coach who only cared about Patterson's performance on the field.

"I mean, there's competition, obviously, but it's nothing but brotherly love. We're all just trying to get better, and we all got the same goals at the end of the day."

Leshon Williams

Iowa running back

Patterson committed to Iowa on Aug. 17, 2021. He chose the Hawkeyes over schools closer to his home in Pompano Beach, Florida, like Alabama, Auburn, and Miami.

Growing up as the youngest of 16 children meant Patterson was leaving a lot of close relationships behind when he moved to the Midwest. But it was also a way for him to become independent.

"Being away from home is kind of a good thing, in my eyes, and I think also in my family's eyes as well," Acey said. "The reason why is because he has an opportunity to go away. 'Go be a man, grow up, figure it out. That's how we live.'"



Cody Blissett | The Daily Iowan

Iowa running back Leshon Williams celebrates in the end zone after a rushing touchdown during a football game between Iowa and Wisconsin on Oct. 14. Williams committed to Iowa in less than 24 hours after a scholarship offer.

Patterson earned 14 carries in his true freshman season at Iowa. One of those carries was an explosive 17-yard run in the

including a 59-yard burst — and made a couple of crucial blocks in pass protection.

"I just kept my head down every day and just worked," Patterson said. "I knew my time would come, and when it would come I would show up."

It's a tall task for any running back to stop defenders at full speed who have broken through the line of scrimmage.

But head coach Kirk Ferentz and quarterback Cade McNamara have both praised Patterson's pass protection, calling him "relentless."

"We had two guys off the edge, and Jaz literally dove and took out two guys at one time, and it gave me just enough time to get the ball to Erick [All]," McNamara said of Patterson's pass protection against the Cyclones.

Pass-blocking is a skill Patterson has tried to perfect since he was a young boy. He was coached by Acey and his father when he first started playing football.

Patterson said his older brother always told him to stay low, keep his shoulder pads over his legs, and fall forward.

"We had this certain kind of system, and



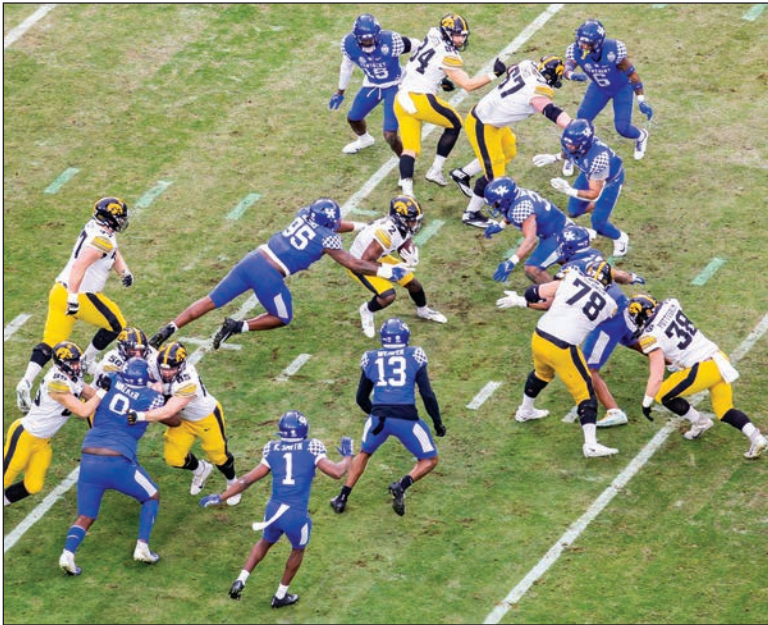
McNamara

Hawkeyes' 21-0 victory over Kentucky in the Citrus Bowl.

"None of us control our talent, right? We can only control our approach. His approach is very impressive, the way he goes to work. He's a guy that's jumped out," Iowa offensive coordinator Brian Ferentz said of Patterson before the 2022 contest with the Wildcats.

Patterson has increased his production this year. He currently has 24 carries on the season, despite missing three games due to a foot injury.

In Iowa's 20-13 win over Iowa State, Patterson led all rushers with 86 yards —



Grace Smith | The Daily Iowan

Iowa running back Kaleb Johnson carries the ball during the TransPerfect Music City Bowl at Nissan Stadium in Nashville on Saturday, Dec. 31, 2022. The Hawkeyes defeated the Wildcats, 21-0.

the system was that there's two things you're gonna know how to do once you leave from under us as sports coaches," Acey said. "The first thing you're gonna know how to do, you're gonna know how to block. And the second thing you're gonna know how to do, you're gonna know how to tackle."

While pass blocking is one of Patterson's most consistent skills, he thinks there is room for improvement. Iowa quarterbacks have been sacked 17 times for a loss of 143 yards.

"We need to instill confidence in [the QB] and let him know, like, nobody is coming through here," Patterson said. "I feel like if we get better, he'll be more confident in the pocket without having to worry about somebody coming in."

Another thing Patterson, No. 3 on the depth chart, has always been familiar with is being a backup.

From youth league to high school, Patterson was never called

on as a starter. At Deerfield Beach High School, Patterson was a backup to Jaylan Knighton, who is nicknamed "The Rooster."

Knighton ended his prep career as the all-time leading rusher in Broward County history with 5,150 yards. He committed to Miami over several other college football powerhouses like Alabama, Clemson, Georgia, LSU, Michigan, and Ohio State. Knighton was the Hurricanes' leading rusher in 2021 but entered the transfer portal last December.

The backup role is something Patterson embraces and uses as motivation to do well when he does get in the game.

"Any time he got his chance, he shot. The 'next guy up' was always the thing for him," Acey said of his younger brother. "If you tell him to line up, and it's a brick wall right there in front of him and he got to knock it down, I just hope that brick wall got his pads on."

Kudos to Kaleb

Johnson started playing football around kindergarten. In youth league football, Johnson played multiple positions on offense and defense.

He strictly took on a running back role when he entered middle school and stuck with it throughout high school. He also played basketball and ran track to increase his speed for football.

As a junior and senior, Johnson led Hamilton High School to the state playoffs. He rushed for 1,004 yards and 15 touchdowns in his final prep season to earn first-team all-state honors.

Pittsburgh was the first school to offer Johnson a scholarship on March 26, 2020. He received scholarship offers from nearly 20 programs before committing to Iowa.

But Johnson initially thought Iowa City wasn't the place for him.

Hailing from Hamilton, Ohio, Johnson first committed to California Berkeley on June 20, 2021.

His mind changed after attending a top-five matchup at Kinnick Stadium between Iowa and Penn State later that year.

The Hawkeyes came back from a two-touchdown deficit to win, 23-20, behind a 44-yard touchdown pass from Spencer Petras to Nico Ragaini with just under seven minutes to play.

Johnson witnessed thousands of fans flood the field in celebration. Three days later, he flipped his commitment.

Johnson's mother, Juanielle Finley, said she questioned why her son changed his mind but added she trusted the high schooler to make the best decision for himself.

"He was saying that Iowa felt more like home, it felt more welcoming," Finley said. "Everybody was very understanding, very helpful to him."

Johnson had a standout season in his first year with the Hawkeyes. He was one of eight rookies to see the field in 2022 and set the Iowa freshman rushing record with 779 yards.

"I have [strength and conditioning staff member Raimond Brathweite] telling me those guys are passing by his office at 4:45 a.m., upbeat, ready to go for a 6



Ayrton Breckenridge | The Daily Iowan

Iowa running back Leshon Williams carries the ball during a football game between Iowa and Michigan State at Kinnick Stadium on Sept. 30, 2023. The Hawkeyes defeated the Spartans, 26-16. Williams chose Iowa over 18 other schools.

OFFENSE

from 5

a.m. workout, not jumping in there a minute before we get going,” Kirk Ferentz said of Johnson and Patterson during their first year of summer workouts. “Sounds simple, but it’s really unusual for a first-year player.”

Finley said this is usual for her son, who she called a “gym head.” She said it’s hard to find time for her son to come home because Johnson “doesn’t believe he needs a break.”

Johnson was named the starting running back at the start of the season.

But he missed games against Western Michigan, Penn State, and Michigan State because of an ankle injury. Williams got most of the carries during this time with first-year running backs Kamari Moulton and Terrell Washington Jr. pitching in.

The second-year had a warm welcome in his first game back against Purdue.

He led the Hawkeyes to a 20-14 win with 134 yards on the ground, including a 67-yard touchdown run. It was Johnson’s second breakout game against Purdue as he rushed for a career-best 200 yards in Iowa’s 24-3 win over the Boilermakers last season.

While in recovery for the leg injury, the 6-foot, 222-pounder said he was “hurting inside.” It was hard for Johnson to be off the field and unable to play the game he loved, but his family and teammates encouraged him to stay on top of his treatments and push through.

Following the Purdue game, Johnson specifically credited his grandfather, Jeffery Strader, for encouraging him while he was out with the

injury.

Finley said her mother and Strader, her stepfather, helped raise Kaleb and have always been his biggest cheerleaders.

“He always called me every day and made sure I was good, kept me encouraged, and told me to stay on top of my treatments, too. So big thanks to him,” Johnson said of his grandpa.

Despite feeling down when he was hurt, Johnson said he always cheered on the other running backs from the sidelines because “they are like family to [him].”

Heading into the final four games, the running back room is the healthiest it’s been all year.

“It’s football, everyone’s competitive, everyone wants the ball, but at the end of the day we all need each other,” Williams said. “We got to keep a healthy running back room. I feel like the healthier we are, the better the offense is.”

Johnson’s ultimate goal is to reach the NFL, but he is dedicated to finishing his information technology degree first. He was an AP scholar and honor roll student as a prep.

“I’m proud of my son to the point where I don’t think there’s no words in the dictionary, encyclopedia, or anything of that nature that can describe how proud I am of him,” Finley said.

Led by Leshon

Williams, from Chicago, is the veteran of the position group.

Iowa offered him a scholarship on May 15, 2019. Williams committed to Iowa less than 24 hours later.

He chose the Hawkeys over 18 other programs, including Big Ten schools like Michigan State and Wisconsin.

A big reason Williams chose the Hawkeyes was because of former high school teammate Sebastian Castro.

Castro, currently a starting defensive back for Iowa, was a grade above Williams at Richards High School in Oak Lawn, Illinois.

The pair went on visits to Iowa City together, and Castro talked highly of the program when he was in his rookie season and Williams was still finishing his prep career.

“It wasn’t really a hard decision,” Williams said after committing.

Williams missed time throughout his senior prep season because of an ankle injury but still impressed. In just six games, he rushed for 1,001 yards and 12 touchdowns on 121 carries.

The 21-year old redshirted his rookie season at Iowa and then saw action in three contests in 2021.

The next season, Williams started five games before Johnson emerged as the team’s starter. In 12 game appearances, he recorded 413 yards and two touchdowns on 117 attempts.

He entered this season listed as the second-string running back behind Johnson.

In Iowa’s 15-6 win over Wisconsin in Madison, Williams earned the bulk of the carries and rushed for a career-high 174

yards. He also scored the Hawkeyes’ lone touchdown after taking a handoff on third-and-2 from quarterback Deacon Hill. He hit a stutter step and stiff-armed a Badger defender as he raced down the right sideline for an 82-yard score. The play was Iowa’s longest rush of the season and longest in program history since 1997.

Since his performance against the Badgers, Williams has been listed as the first-string running back.

This title doesn’t mean much to the 5-foot-10, 208-pounder.

He currently has 472 yards this season on 86 attempts, leading his teammates with 5.5 yards per carry.

“I’ve still got to go out there and do my job. Just because I’m listed as the starting running back really doesn’t mean nothing at the end of day,” Williams said.

Iowa is coming off of a season-worst performance on the ground against Minnesota, in which the Hawkeyes averaged just 0.4 yards per carry. Failing to establish the run game, Iowa fell, 12-10, to Minnesota for the first time in nearly nine years.

But the mindset in the running back room hasn’t wavered.

“I feel like we just try to go right at them,” Williams said. “We aren’t trying to be no easy tackles. Our coach always challenges us each and every week to get yards after contact, even when it’s not there. Sometimes you got to make a two-yard run into an eight-yard run. So that’s our goal each and every week: to go out there, run hard, make plays, make something out of nothing.”



Ayrton Breckenridge | The Daily Iowan

Iowa running back Jaziun Patterson celebrates after scoring a touchdown during a Cy-Hawk football game between Iowa and Iowa State at Jack Trice Stadium in Ames on Sept. 9, 2023. The Hawkeyes defeated the Cyclones, 20-13. Patterson has rushed for 106 yards this season.



Cody Blissett | The Daily Iowan

Iowa running back Kaleb Johnson runs with the ball during the Iowa homecoming football game between Iowa and Purdue at Kinnick Stadium in Iowa City on Oct. 7, 2023. Johnson rushed for 134 yards and scored one touchdown. The Hawkeyes defeated the Boilermakers, 20-14.

PETE RUDEN

College Football Editor, Action Network
Daily Iowan Alumnus



Weekly Wager



MATT MCGOWAN

Pregame Editor



IOWA -5
The Wildcats have forced the third-fewest turnovers in the Big Ten and rank 125th nationally in Havoc generated. So, while they're unlikely to come away with fumbles and interceptions, they're also unlikely to stuff Iowa's running backs in the backfield, allowing the Hawkeyes to have success.

UNDER 31

Unless Brian Ferentz suddenly opens up the playbook now that it's official he won't be returning, I'm still going to make an Iowa offense that ranks outside the top 115 in every meaningful advanced offensive metric prove it to me. I joked that the total would open at 13.5, but this number will do.



IOWA -5
While the news about offensive coordinator Brian Ferentz's future with the Hawkeyes next year may serve as a distraction for Iowa, I think that this outside noise won't have much of an impact. If anything, Hawkeye players will have greater motivation, just in time for a poor Wildcat "D."

UNDER 31

The opening total for this game was 29.5, which was the lowest total in college football history. Even if that number didn't move all week, I still would have taken the under. The Hawkeyes have been involved in four of the six lowest totals in college football history, and all four unders hit.

The Daily Iowan's official bettor's guide to Iowa football's Week 9 matchup with Northwestern.



Ruden's 2023 record: 15-9



McGowan's 2023 record: 17-7

For advanced analysis and statistics, read the full version of *The Daily Iowan's* bettor's guide at dailyiowan.com



I expect Iowa native Ryan Grubb's offense to absolutely dice up this sieve of a USC defense.



The Dukes are 4-1 against the spread this season when favored by single digits.

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IOWA HAWKEYES

0	Diante Vines	WR	6-0	198	Jr	Danbury, CT	40	Josef Smith	LB	6-3	236	Jr	Britt, IA
1	Xavier Nwankpa	DB	6-2	210	Soph	Pleasant Hill, IA	41	Rusty VanWetzinga	FB	6-0	230	Fr	Pleasant Valley, IA
2	Kaleb Johnson	RB	6-0	222	Soph	Hamilton, OH	41	Jaden Harrell	LB	6-2	237	Soph	Urbandale, IA
2	TJ Hall	DB	6-0	185	Soph	Fresno, CA	42	Zach Twedt	LB	6-3	242	Soph	Story City, IA
3	Kaleb Brown	WR	5-10	197	Soph	Chicago, IL	43	Karson Sharar	LB	6-2	235	Soph	Iowa Falls, IA
3	Cooper DeJean	DB	6-1	207	Jr	Odebolt, IA	44	Grant Leeper	TE	6-5	230	Fr	Fort Wayne, IN
4	Koen Entringer	DB	6-0	211	#Fr	Ypsilanti, MI	44	Kenneth Merrieweather	DL	6-3	227	Fr	Detroit, MI
4	Leshon Williams	RB	5-10	208	Jr	Chicago, IL	45	Deontae Craig	DL	6-3	266	Jr	Fort Wayne, IN
5	Joe Labas	QB	6-4	213	Soph	Brecksville, OH	47	Jack Laughlin	LB	6-1	208	Fr	Carlisle, IA
5	Teegan Davis	DB	6-0	160	Fr	Princeton, IL	48	Zach Ortwerth	TE	6-3	220	Fr	St. Louis, MO
6	Seth Anderson	WR	6-0	180	Soph	Suwanee, GA	48	Max Llewellyn	DL	6-5	264	Soph	Urbandale, IA
6	Zach Lutmer	DB	6-0	192	Fr	Rock Rapids, IA	49	Andrew Lentsch	TE	6-4	252	Soph	West Des Moines, IA
7	Jacob Bostick	WR	6-2	183	#Fr	Palatine, IL	49	Ethan Hurkett	DL	6-3	260	Jr	Cedar Rapids, IA
7	John Nestor	DB	5-11	196	Fr	Chicago, IL	51	Luke Gaffney	DL	6-2	270	#Fr	Robins, IA
8	Terrell Washington Jr.	RB	5-11	205	Fr	Wylie, TX	52	Asher Fahey	OL	6-5	300	Jr	Waukon, IA
8	Deshawn Lee	DB	5-10	187	#Fr	Belleville, MI	53	Michael Myslinski	OL	6-3	290	Soph	Jacksonville, FL
9	Jaziun Patterson	RB	5-10	204	#Fr	Pompano Beach, FL	54	Anterio Thompson	DL	6-3	293	Soph	Dubuque, IA
9	Tory Taylor	P	6-4	232	Sr	Melbourne, Australia	55	Jeremiah Pittman	DL	6-3	290	Soph	Palatine, IL
10	Deacon Hill	QB	6-3	258	Soph	Santa Barbara, CA	56	Nick DeJong	OL	6-6	305	Sr	Pella, IA
10	Nick Jackson	LB	6-0	237	Sr	Atlanta, GA	56	Maddux Borcharding-Johnson	DL	6-2	288	Fr	Norwalk, IA
11	Marco Lainez	QB	6-2	225	Fr	Princeton, NJ	57	Will Hubert	DL	6-3	270	#Fr	Omaha, NE
12	Cade McNamara	QB	6-1	205	Sr	Reno, NV	58	Kade Pieper	OL	6-3	255	Fr	Norfolk, NE
12	Jaxon Roxroth	LB	6-2	228	Soph	Cedar Rapids, IA	59	Griffin Liddle	OL	6-3	295	Soph	Bettendorf, IA
13	Reese Osgood	WR	5-11	189	#Fr	Franklin, WI	60	Rusty Feth	OL	6-3	310	Sr	Colerain, OH
13	Joe Evans	DE	6-2	252	Sr	Ames, IA	61	Cael Winter	OL	6-3	253	Fr	Waukee, IA
14	Alex Mota	WR	6-0	180	Fr	Marion, IA	64	Leighton Jones	OL	6-2	290	Fr	Brownsburg, IN
14	Kahlil Tate	DB	5-11	190	Fr	Chicago, IL	65	Logan Jones	OL	6-3	290	Jr	Council Bluffs, IA
15	Amare Bickham	DB	6-0	170	Fr	Fulshear, TX	66	Jeremy Chaplin	OL	6-2	280	Soph	Waverly, IA
16	Graham Friedrichsen	WR	6-1	200	#Fr	Urbandale, IA	67	Gennings Dunker	OL	6-5	320	Soph	Lena, IL
16	Jamison Heinz	DB	6-0	199	Jr	Humboldt, IA	70	Beau Stephens	OL	6-6	319	Soph	Blue Springs, MO
17	Alex Eichmann	WR	6-2	207	#Fr	Sussex, WI	71	Jack Dotzler	OL	6-6	295	#Fr	Waunakee, WI
17	Brenden Deasfernandes	DB	6-0	195	Jr	Belleville, MI	72	Kale Krogh	OL	6-5	300	#Fr	Huxley, IA
18	Alec Wick	WR	6-1	193	Soph	Iowa City, IA	73	Kyson Van Vugt	OL	6-6	274	#Fr	Sioux Center, IA
18	Drew Stevens	K	6-0	199	Soph	North Augusta, SC	74	Trevor Lauck	OL	6-5	296	Fr	Indianapolis, IN
19	Tommy Poholsky	QB	6-0	200	Fr	Evergreen, CO	75	Cannon Leonard	OL	6-8	290	Fr	Gilman, IL
20	Dayton Howard	WR	6-4	195	Fr	Kansas City, MO	76	Tyler Elsbury	OL	6-5	312	Jr	Byron, IL
20	Deavin Hilson	DB	6-1	197	Soph	Des Moines, IA	77	Connor Colby	OL	6-6	311	Jr	Cedar Rapids, IA
21	Kaden Wetjen	WR	5-10	196	Jr	Williamsburg, IA	78	Mason Richman	OL	6-6	312	Jr	Leawood, KS
21	Watts McBride	DB	6-0	196	Fr	Cedar Rapids, IA	79	Daijon Parker	OL	6-5	315	Sr	Inkster, MI
22	Max White	RB	5-10	205	Soph	Cedar Rapids, IA	81	Cael Vanderbush	TE	6-4	225	#Fr	Plainfield, IN
23	Landyn Van Kekerix	LB	6-1	226	#Fr	Rock Valley, IA	82	Johnny Pasuzzi	TE	6-4	242	Soph	Olathe, KS
25	Ayden Price	WR	5-11	185	Fr	West Des Moines, IA	83	Erick All	TE	6-5	250	Sr	Fairfield, OH
25	Kelby Telander	LB	6-4	238	Soph	North Liberty, IA	84	Jarriett Buie	WR	6-1	185	Fr	Tampa, FL
26	Aidan McDermott	WR	6-1	192	Fr	Cedar Rapids, IA	85	Luke Lachey	TE	6-6	253	Jr	Columbus, OH
26	Kael Kolarik	DB	6-0	210	#Fr	Indianola, IA	85	Logan Lee	DL	6-5	291	Sr	Orion, IL
27	Jermari Harris	DB	6-1	190	Jr	Chicago, IL	86	Steven Stilianos	TE	6-5	255	Sr	Hayes, VA
28	Kamari Moulton	RB	5-9	185	Fr	Fort Lauderdale, FL	86	Jeff Bowie	DL	6-5	274	Soph	West Branch, IA
28	Aidan Hall	LB	6-0	200	Fr	Harlan, IA	87	Addison Ostrenga	TE	6-4	255	Soph	Sun Prairie, WI
29	Judah Mallette	WR	5-11	178	Fr	Chicago, IL	87	Andrew Kraus	DL	6-4	254	#Fr	Barrington, IL
29	Sebastian Castro	DB	5-11	205	Sr	Oak Lawn, IL	88	Hayden Large	FB	6-5	250	Sr	Hudsonville, MI
30	Quinn Schulte	DB	6-1	209	Sr	Cedar Rapids, IA	89	Nico Ragaini	WR	6-0	190	Sr	East Haven, CT
31	Eli Miller	FB	6-1	227	Soph	Sedalia, CO	90	Brian Allen	DE	6-4	265	#Fr	Lake in the Hills, IL
31	Nolan DeLong	LB	6-0	210	Fr	Durant, IA	91	Chase Brackney	DL	6-4	285	Fr	Greenwood Village, CO
32	Ben Kueter	LB	6-3	220	Fr	Iowa City, IA	92	Marshall Meeder	K	5-11	185	Soph	Eaton Rapids, MI
33	Jackson Filer	DL	6-3	225	Jr	Des Moines, IA	93	Anu Dokun	DE	6-3	245	Jr	Iowa City, IA
34	Jay Higgins	LB	6-2	233	Sr	Indianapolis, IN	94	Yahya Black	DL	6-5	315	Jr	Marshall, MN
35	Tanner Pollock	LB	6-1	215	Jr	Waterloo, IL	95	Aaron Graves	DL	6-4	293	Soph	Dayton, IA
36	Jayden Montgomery	LB	5-10	225	#Fr	Suamico, WI	97	Caden Crawford	DL	6-4	263	#Fr	Lansing, KS
37	Kyler Fisher	LB	5-11	233	Sr	Farnhamville, IA	97	Liam Reardon	LS	6-1	221	Jr	Chicago, IL
38	Greg Fagan	LB	6-3	214	#Fr	Council Bluffs, IA	98	Chris Reames	DL	6-7	280	Sr	Van Meter, IA
39	Eric Epenesa	LB	6-3	206	Soph	Glen Carbon, IL	99	Ty Nissen	P	5-11	184	Jr	Carroll, IA
39	Luke Elkin	LS	6-1	230	Jr	Neenah, WI	99	Noah Shannon	DL	6-0	295	Sr	Aurora, IL
40	Jalyn Thompson	TE	6-2	246	Fr	West Des Moines, IA							

ay, Nov. 4
 2:30 PM | peacock

N NORTHWESTERN WILDCATS



KYLE DUCHMAN, MD
 TEAM PHYSICIAN
 FOR THE IOWA HAWKEYES

0	Cole Freeman	QB	6-0	210	Jr	Summit, NJ	41	Jaylen Pate	DL	6-3	270	Sr	Chicago, IL
0	Coco Azema	DB	5-11	205	Sr	Cypress, TX	42	Anto Saka	DL	6-4	245	#Fr	Phoenix, MD
1	Jack Kennedy	WR	6-0	200	Sr	Cleveland Heights, OH	43	Will Halkyard	LS	6-3	215	Sr	Glen Ellyn, IL
2	Ben Bryant	QB	6-3	220	Sr	La Grange, IL	45	Cullen Coleman	LB	6-3	240	Sr	Port Chester, NY
2	Garnett Hollis Jr.	DB	6-2	205	Sr	Nashville, TN	46	Johnny McGuire	LB	6-3	215	Fr	Chicago, IL
3	Ryan Hilinski	QB	6-4	230	Sr	Orange, CA	47	Luke Akers	P	6-2	190	Sr	Nashville, TN
3	Jaheem Joseph	DB	5-10	190	Sr	Miami Gardens, FL	48	Owen Bergin	LB	5-11	205	Sr	Bloomfield Hills, MI
4	Cam Porter	RB	5-10	220	Sr	Cincinnati, OH	49	Jacob Tabibian	K	5-9	190	Jr	Lafayette, CA
5	Jacob Gill	WR	6-0	190	Jr	Raleigh, NC	50	P.J. Spencer	DL	6-2	290	Sr	Prairie Village, KS
6	Brendan Sullivan	QB	6-3	225	Jr	Davison, MI	51	Miles Crutchley	LB	6-0	220	#Fr	Scottsdale, AZ
6	Robert Fitzgerald	DB	6-0	205	#Fr	Dallas, TX	52	Richie Hagarty	DL	6-3	255	Sr	New Palestine, IN
7	Ore Adeyi	DB	5-11	185	Jr	Mansfield, TX	53	Jaiden Cameron	DL	6-3	260	Sr	Clayton, OH
8	A.J. Henning	WR	5-10	185	Sr	Frankfort, IL	54	Tyler Gant	DL	6-3	280	Fr	St. Louis, MO
9	Aidan Gray	QB	6-3	205	Fr	Naperville, IL	55	Dylan Roberts	DL	6-3	295	Fr	Phoenix, AZ
9	Devin Turner	DB	6-1	205	Soph	Little Elm, TX	56	Josh Thompson	OL	6-5	315	Jr	Fenton, MI
10	Ricky Ahumaraeze	WR	6-4	195	Fr	Liberty, MO	57	Greyson Metz	LB	6-3	225	Sr	Glen Ellyn, IL
10	Theran Johnson	DB	5-11	185	Jr	Indianapolis, IN	59	Mason Green	DL	6-2	230	Fr	Brentwood, TN
11	Donnie Gray	WR	6-0	210	Jr	New Haven, CT	62	Alex Doost	OL	6-7	295	Fr	Phoenix, AZ
12	Jack Lausch	QB	6-2	205	#Fr	Chicago, IL	63	Dom D'Antonio	OL	6-4	295	Sr	Woodstock, GA
12	Nigel Williams	DB	6-1	200	Sr	Richmond, VA	64	Anthony Birsa	OL	6-5	290	Fr	Plainfield, IL
13	Preston Bacon	WR	6-2	200	Sr	Oak Hill, VA	65	Jackson Carsello	OL	6-4	295	Jr	Northbrook, IL
13	Josh Fussell	DB	6-0	180	Fr	West Chester, OH	66	Braeden Edwards	OL	6-6	300	Jr	West Des Moines, IA
14	Cam Johnson	WR	6-0	205	Sr	Nashville, TN	68	Josh Priebe	OL	6-5	310	Sr	Niles, MI
15	Calvin Johnson II	WR	5-11	185	Jr	French Camp, MS	71	Ben Wrather	OL	6-6	310	Sr	Powell, OH
16	Frank Covey IV	WR	6-1	190	Fr	Mount Prospect, IL	72	Caleb Tiernan	OL	6-7	325	Jr	Livonia, MI
16	Cole Shivers	DB	5-10	180	Fr	Scottsdale, AZ	73	Deuce McGuire	OL	6-5	310	#Fr	Chicago, IL
17	Bryce Kirtz	WR	6-0	190	Sr	Brownsburg, IN	74	Nick Herzog	OL	6-4	300	#Fr	Stilwell, KS
18	Camp Magee	TE	6-5	205	Fr	Orlando, FL	75	Jordan Knox	OL	6-2	300	Fr	Rock Hill, SC
18	Garner Wallace	DB	6-4	210	Jr	Pickerington, OH	78	Luka Trifunovic	OL	6-4	295	Sr	Carlsbad, CA
19	Reggie Fleurima	WR	6-2	205	#Fr	Naperville, IL	79	Zachary Franks	OL	6-6	315	Sr	Baltimore, MD
19	J.J. Lewis	DB	6-0	185	Fr	Lawndale, CA	81	Chris Petrucci	TE	6-4	225	#Fr	Park Ridge, IL
20	Joseph Himon II	RB	5-9	185	#Fr	Little Rock, AR	82	Quintin O'Connell	WR	6-0	190	Sr	New Canaan, CT
21	Damon Walters	DB	6-1	180	Fr	Bolingbrook, IL	82	Jack Olsen	K	5-10	190	Sr	Wheaton, IL
22	Evan Smith	DB	5-10	175	#Fr	Birmingham, AL	83	Blake Van Buren	TE	6-4	230	#Fr	Middleton, WI
23	Raymond Niro III	WR	5-11	190	Sr	Barrington, IL	84	Hunter Welcing	TE	6-3	237	Sr	Deer Park, IL
24	Rod Heard II	DB	5-11	190	Sr	Farmington Hills, MI	86	Lawson Albright	TE	6-5	237	Jr	Greensboro, NC
25	Caleb Komolafe	RB	5-11	195	Fr	Katy, TX	87	Jack Fitzgerald	TE	6-4	240	Fr	Wilmette, IL
26	Jalen Lewis	DB	5-9	180	Fr	Westlake Village, CA	87	Thomas Gordon	TE	6-5	245	Sr	Houston, TX
27	Anthony Tyus III	RB	6-1	225	Jr	Portage, MI	88	Marshall Lang	TE	6-4	245	Sr	Cincinnati, OH
27	Jack Oyola	DB	5-11	195	#Fr	Alpharetta, GA	89	Charlie Mangieri	TE	6-4	255	Sr	Peoria, IL
28	Braden Turner	DB	5-11	185	#Fr	Mobile, AL	90	Carmine Bastone	DL	6-2	300	Jr	St. Charles, IL
29	Marcus Cisco	RB	5-9	200	Sr	Byron Center, MI	91	Aidan Hubbard	DL	6-4	260	Jr	Cleveland, OH
31	Jake Arthurs	RB	5-9	205	Sr	Wheaton, IL	92	Matt Lawson	DL	6-0	280	Sr	Ontario, CA
32	Bryce Gallagher	LB	6-2	235	Sr	Raynham, MA	93	Brendan Flakes	DL	6-4	280	#Fr	Winter Garden, FL
33	Braydon Brus	LB	6-1	225	#Fr	Glendora, CA	94	R.J. Pearson	DL	6-3	290	Sr	Montgomery, AL
34	Xander Mueller	LB	6-3	235	Sr	Wheaton, IL	94	Henry Helms	K	6-1	170	Fr	Chicago, IL
35	Kenny Soares Jr.	LB	6-2	230	#Fr	Trumbull, CT	95	Najee Story	DL	6-4	285	Jr	Solon, OH
36	Payton Roth	RB	6-4	200	Fr	Portland, OR	96	Michael Kilbane	DL	6-5	250	Fr	Lakewood, OH
37	Mac Uihlein	LB	6-1	227	Jr	Lake Forest, IL	97	Sean McLaughlin	DL	6-6	270	Sr	Frankfort, IL
38	Joe DeHaan	DB	6-1	200	Sr	Tinley Park, IL	98	Duke Olges	TE	6-4	270	Sr	Winnetka, IL
39	Albert Kunickis III	RB	6-3	225	#Fr	Lemont, IL	99	Hunter Renner	P	6-2	230	Sr	Mishawaka, IN
40	Jason Reynolds II	LB	6-2	220	#Fr	McDonough, GA							

Hawkeyes head to Wrigley Field

Saturday's game will be the third time Iowa has played in Chicago in the 21st century.

Cooper Worth
Pregame Reporter
cooper-worth@uiowa.edu

Chicago's historic Wrigley Field will host an early-November matchup of Midwest rivals, but there won't be any baseball taking place.



Vines

Instead, the 6-2 Iowa football team will take on 4-4 Northwestern in the second-annual 'Wildcats Classic,' just the third time a football game has been played in the 109-year-old stadium in the past 14 years.

"I'm pretty excited because I've never played in a baseball stadium before," Hawkeye wide receiver Diante Vines said. "I'm not a Cub fan, though — it's still Yankees all the way."

Northwestern first played at the Friendly Confines in 2010, when the Wildcats fell to in-state rival Illinois, 48-27. The contest marked the first time the pigskin was present at Wrigley in nearly 40 years. The lopsided result was marked by an unusual game format, as each offense drove westward to the same end zone because the end zone on the other side of the field was dangerously close to the iconic ivy-and-brick outfield wall.

Northwestern's inaugural 'Wildcats Classic' game was during the 2021 season when Northwestern lost, 32-14, to the Purdue Boilermakers. That time around, both end zones were used, and then-Purdue quarterback and current Oakland Raider Aidan O'Connell threw for 423 yards and three scores.

Iowa head coach Kirk Ferentz said it's a privilege to play inside Wrigley, but it comes with some hurdles. One of these obstacles is that the Hawkeyes and Wildcats will share the same sideline. He even joked with NCAA official Ron Snodgrass that the referees will have a "real challenge" managing the clock on Saturday with sideline calls from the same place.

"Playing on the same sideline is a unique challenge," the head coach said. "Baseball locker room, single file, up and down steps, all things like that when you have 70 guys you're trying to get through. There will be some challenges — signal stealing, subbing from one end of the field to the other."

To prepare for the matchup, the iconic Wrigley Field Marquee was painted Wildcats' purple instead of its usual Cubs' red, and other features in the stadium were changed to recreate the atmosphere of a home North-



Stevens

western game.

This isn't the first time Iowa has played in the Windy City. In 2007, Iowa kicked off its season by beating Northern Illinois, 16-3, at Soldier Field, home of the NFL's Chicago Bears. The contest was highlighted by Iowa running back

Albert Young's 145 rushing yards and one touchdown performance.

Five years later, the Hawkeyes returned to the stadium on the lakefront, taking down the Huskies, 18-17, in a contest decided by another solid performance in the run game. This time, it was from Iowa RB Damon Bull-ock and his 150 yards on the ground.

Iowa is also no stranger to playing at baseball stadiums in recent years. Iowa beat Boston College, 27-20, in the 2017 Pinstripe Bowl at Yankee Stadium in New York City. Even still, the Friendly Confines poses its own weather-related challenges.

"I've heard some things from a few people that it gets pretty windy [at Wrigley Field], so I'm not looking forward to that, but you just got to make the best out of the opportunities," Iowa second-year placekicker Drew Stevens said.

Like many stadiums of the early to mid-20th century, Wrigley Field was used as a dual-purpose arena with football during the early years of its existence. It was the home of the DePaul University Blue Devils — now without a football program — and the Bears, who played all their home games at the field from 1921 to 1970. At the time, the field dimensions ran north-south instead of east-west.

After the NFL-AFL merger in 1966, league officials wanted teams to play in stadiums built to hold up to 50,000 people, and with a capacity of just over 41,000, Wrigley didn't make the cut.

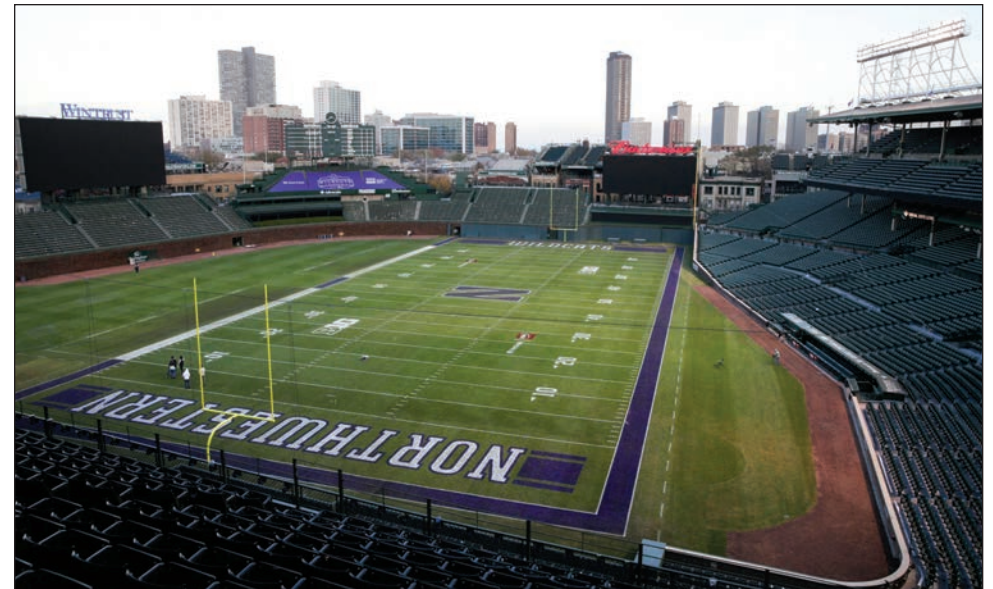
Though it has been several decades since a college team shared its football field with a baseball organization, the practice was often featured in the professional ranks. The Raiders and MLB's Oakland Athletics shared RingCentral Coliseum—formerly the Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum, from 1968 until the Raiders relocated to Allegiant Stadium in Las Vegas in 2020.

The tradition of dual-purpose stadiums faded into the 21st century as NFL and MLB team owners began to build new, state-of-the-art facilities, such as Allegiant Stadium and SoFi Stadium in Los Angeles.



Ben Allan Smith | The Daily Iowan

Iowa quarterback Nate Stanley throws a pass to wide receiver Nick Easley during the New Era Pinstripe Bowl at Yankee Stadium in New York, Dec. 27, 2017. The Hawkeyes went on to win 27-20.



Nikos Frazier | Journal & Courier

A look at the football field built in Wrigley Field for a 2021 game between Northwestern and Purdue. Iowa and Northwestern play there Saturday at 2:30 p.m. on Peacock.

Even if the practice is not commonplace today, Ferentz still feels some nostalgia watching the pigskin thrown on the diamond. In his press conference on Tuesday, he recalled watching then-Minnesota Vikings

head coach Bud Grant lead the Purple People Eaters of the 1960s and '70s inside Metropolitan Stadium.

"We're going to make it go," Ferentz said. "It will be a thrill."

One on One: Rusty Feth

The Hawkeye left guard talked favorite music, hobbies, and football idols with *The Daily Iowan* Sports Reporter Isaac Elzinga.



#60 Rusty Feth

Senior
Offensive lineman
6-foot-3
Colerain, Ohio

Isaac Elzinga

Sports Reporter

isaac-elzinga@uiowa.edu

The Daily Iowan: What have you enjoyed about Iowa City so far?

Rusty Feth: Outside of football? Oh, everyone is super nice. I know everyone says that, but it's really true. Everyone is so nice and, you know, being somewhere that supports you, supports every sport. Every sport gets so much support, and it's so cool to see and, you know, people treat you kind and look up to you. I'm really grateful to be in the position I am just for that reason.

Anything that sets Iowa fans apart?

The way that they treat people, like, even opposing fans. When I played against Iowa my true freshman year when I was at Miami Ohio, my parents talked about how nice every Iowa fan was, even though they were covered in red Miami gear. They just welcome you and are nice to you. And I think that's the coolest thing for sure.

Any other sports you played when you were growing up?

Yeah, I didn't wrestle. I wish I did. I wish I did wrestle, but I played basketball and baseball growing up. I played baseball until my freshman year of high school and then basketball, also until my freshman year.

Any favorite teams?

The [MLB's Cincinnati] Reds. I don't really watch basketball.

What do you think about [Reds' short-stop] Elly De La Cruz?

He was so fun to watch. I haven't watched a ton of games. But every game that I have watched, he's crazy. Good to watch.

Any sort of hidden talent?

I'm pretty good at Call of Duty. I think I could take anyone on the team at Call of Duty. I'd like to test it out. But that's what comes to mind right off the bat.

What's your music taste like?

It's all over the board. I've been listening to a lot of Tracy Chapman recently. And, you know, older songs but probably country, rock, and Greta Van Fleet. I love Greta Van Fleet. And yeah, that's probably it right now.

Any specific song that you've been playing a lot right now?

Probably "Crossroads" by Tracy Chapman. I've been listening to Tracy Chapman every day. But "Crossroads" right now, and, obviously, "Fast Car" is like the best song ever.

What are some of your hobbies that help you decompress?

I'll say I do really enjoy golfing. I'm not very

good at it, but it's fun to go out there and just mess around. Golfing and going to the movies. I watched a couple movies recently with some of the guys here. And, fishing, I enjoy fishing.

What sort of movies do you like?

Action movies and horror movies. I went to the theater last week and watched a movie called "The Creator." It's like an AI movie and that was pretty crazy because of all the AI stuff.

What's your favorite scary movie?

I think the "Halloween" movies probably. Or, I mean, [Friday the 13th] movies are always good too.

Who were some of your football idols growing up?

As a kid, probably my cousin was the biggest one. He was a long snapper, played at Ohio State for a couple of seasons. And then professional athletes, I'd say [former Los Angeles Rams left tackle] Andrew Whitworth, [former Cincinnati Bengals defensive tackle] Geno Atkins and guys like that. I mean, shoot. Now that I'm here, I feel like a little kid again. I'm meeting NFL players every week. And, you know, some of the guys that I've met here [former Iowa offensive lineman] Robert Gallery, Eirc Steinbach, and Brian Bulaga. I've met more people that I look up to just in the past three weeks than I have my entire life, and it's been pretty awesome.

What about non-football idols?

Start with my family, my mom, my dad. They've always been there for me. They've been amazing parents to me and my brother. Them, and my uncles and my aunts. I'm just a family man. .

What is one thing you would bring to a deserted island?

That's funny, we were just talking about this in the locker room a couple of weeks ago. Do I have it forever, the one thing if I bring it?

Yeah.

Sunscreen. That's my one because, I mean, you can bring a gun or a knife to survive, but I'm not surviving if I don't have sunscreen on my head, my neck, and my face.

What's a guilty pleasure of yours?

My girlfriend will love this. I haven't finished it, but I watched about six seasons of "Vampire Diaries" with her, and I put it off for probably three years with her. I'm like, 'I'm not watching it.' And then I watched it, and it was kind of good. I will say it's pretty good. I need to finish it.

Find more online

This interview has been lightly edited for length and clarity. Read the full interview at dailyiowan.com.

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- Former Council Member Mazahir Salih

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BIG Game Guide



Colin Votzmeyer
Assistant Sports Editor

WEEK TEN

Power Rankings



1. Michigan

The Wolverines remain ahead, but not by too much.



2. Ohio State

Marvin Harrison Jr. for Heisman? He sure played like it.



3. Penn State

The Nittany Lions dodged a bullet last week.



4. Rutgers

The gap between the top three and bottom 11 teams is growing.



5. Iowa

A stagnant week for the Hawkeyes, per usual.



6. Wisconsin

An impressive showing against the Buckeyes, but this offense is rough.



7. Minnesota

Not many are impressed by a double-digit win over the Spartans.



8. Northwestern

The Wildcats' stock is rising.



9. Maryland

And the Terrapins' stock is plummeting. Get Tualia Tagovailoa out of there!



10. Nebraska

Heinrich Haarberg might have the best name in the Big Ten.



11. Illinois

The Fighting Illini don't have to lose games to drop in my rankings.



12. Purdue

Nebraska's win has Boilermaker fans looking to the basketball season early.



13. Michigan State

The downfall of Spartan football needs to be studied.



14. Indiana

An impressive fight with Penn State, which many will forget.

OHIO STATE @ RUTGERS

Saturday | 11 a.m. | CBS

No. 1 Ohio State (8-0, 5-0)
Rutgers (6-2, 3-2)

SHI Stadium
Piscataway, NJ

This could be the Big Ten's game of the week. Rutgers is hot and fresh after a week off, but stopping TreVeyon Henderson and Marvin Harrison Jr. is a tall task.

Line: Ohio State -18.5 | O/U: 43

WISCONSIN @ INDIANA

Saturday | 11 a.m. | BIG NETWORK

Wisconsin (5-3, 3-2)
Indiana (2-6, 0-5)

Memorial Stadium
Bloomington, IN

If Indiana plays anything like it did against Penn State, the Badgers could be in for a battle. But I've been impressed with Wisconsin QB Braedyn Locke thus far.

Line: Wisconsin -9.5 | O/U: 44

NEBRASKA @ MICHIGAN STATE

Saturday | 11 a.m. | FS1

Nebraska (5-3, 3-2)
Michigan State (2-6, 0-5)

Spartan Stadium
East Lansing, MI

This game would hurt my eyes to watch. Fox Sports might lose money broadcasting this one. Is Skip Bayless on the call?

Line: Nebraska -3.5 | O/U: 35.5

PENN STATE @ MARYLAND

Saturday | 2:30 p.m. | FOX

No. 11 Penn State (7-1, 4-1)
Maryland (5-3, 2-3)

SECU Stadium
College Park, MD

All College Football Playoff hopes for the Nittany Lions have been dashed, but a statement win over Maryland could bump their ranking with the right losses.

Line: Penn State -11 | O/U: 50

ILLINOIS @ MINNESOTA

Saturday | 2:30 p.m. | BIG NETWORK

Illinois (3-5, 1-4)
Minnesota (5-3, 3-2)

Huntington Bank Stadium
Minneapolis, MN

It's the battle of iconically unsuccessful college football coaches. Let Bret Bielema and P.J. Fleck distract you from the poor quality of football played in this matchup.

Line: Minnesota -3 | O/U: 40.5

IOWA @ NORTHWESTERN

Saturday | 2:30 p.m. | peacock

Iowa (6-2, 3-2)
Northwestern (4-4, 2-3)

Wrigley Field
Chicago, IL

Wrigley Field is a top-tier stadium in the MLB, so much so that this contest's final score might look like one from a baseball game.

Line: Iowa -5 | O/U: 31

PURDUE @ MICHIGAN

Saturday | 6:30 p.m. | NBC

Purdue (2-6, 1-4)
No. 3 Michigan (8-0, 5-0)

Michigan Stadium
Ann Arbor, MI

Here's J.J. McCarthy's chance to show college football he deserves the Heisman Trophy, and what better team to show it against? Bloodbath.

Line: Michigan -32.5 | O/U: 49.5

Game coverage and analysis

Photo slideshows and videos

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KID CAPTAIN

Lincoln Veach embraces strength

The 6-year-old from Andrew, Iowa, has steadily improved since his diagnosis with leukemia.

Lincoln Veach's favorites:

Food: Steak
Toy: Lightsaber
Animal: Lion

Vacation spot: Disneyland
Sport: Soccer
Player: Cooper DeJean

Matt McGowan
Pregame Editor
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Lincoln Veach can usually be found outside. Growing up in the small town of Andrew, Iowa, the 6-year-old rides around in his go-kart and four-wheeler, plays on the swing set in the backyard, and dashes around the gridiron in his flag football league.

After spending 112 days at the University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital, Veach got the chance to take the field of Kinnick Stadium at Iowa football's annual Kids' Day at Kinnick in August.

And on Saturday, he will be the Kid Captain for the Hawkeyes' game against the Northwestern Wildcats.

According to Veach's mother, Courtney, he had lived a healthy life until around his fourth birthday, when he developed an ear infection that didn't improve with antibiotics. Then his stomach became distended, which occurs when the spleen and liver increase in size. An X-ray and blood tests from Veach's primary care doctor showed signs of leukemia.

These tests were confirmed on Oct. 20, 2021, when Veach was diagnosed with B-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia, a curable disease that targets white blood cells in bone marrow.

About two weeks after his diagnosis, Lincoln's condition became worse. Courtney said he was spiking fevers and became septic. As a result, he was transferred to the pediatric ICU at UIHC, where he was intubated for 50 days and underwent 11 surgeries. Over that time, Veach experienced severe pain in his right leg and was diagnosed with

necrotizing fasciitis, a sometimes-fatal bacterial infection that eats away at flesh.

To treat the fasciitis, Courtney and her husband, Joe, had to make a choice between keeping Veach on antibiotics or opting for surgery, which at the time, involved amputation of the right leg. Questioning if the amputation was the correct option, Veach's parents expressed their concerns to plastic surgeon Mark Fisher.

After further consideration, doctors elected to avoid amputation and instead opted for a skin graft, which involved moving the skin from Veach's left leg to cover the damaged areas on his right leg. During the whole process, Courtney said her son was bedridden for 50 days.

UIHC hematologist-oncologist David Dickens has worked with Veach since the option of amputation was discussed. He has prescribed Veach chemotherapy and other care. For Dickens, the choice for a skin graft was a "judgment call" that required collaboration with family and medical workers.

"At one point it wasn't clear that he would survive, and his family knew it," he wrote in an email to *The Daily Iowan*. "I saw a boy and his family fight two battles simultaneously."

Courtney said when Veach was discharged from the pediatric ICU, he spent 60 days on the oncology floor of the hospital partaking in physical therapy, as he had to "relearn" motor skills such as walking, sitting up, and holding objects. Veach's mother said it was "very scary" for him to walk for the first time in months but maintained her



Carly Schrum | The Daily Iowan

Iowa linebacker Nick Jackson holds hands with Lincoln Veach during Kids' Day at Kinnick in Iowa City on Aug. 12. Veach was told to describe himself in one word for a school project and he chose "strong."

son's determination never wavered.

"There were definitely times that were frustrating because he couldn't do the things he wanted to do, but he continues to work hard every day, getting stronger and stronger," she said.

According to his mother, Veach was discharged from the hospital on Feb. 8, 2022. But even while at

home, the boy's condition didn't improve right away, as he faced nausea and malnutrition in the first few weeks out of the hospital.

While at home, Veach's condition and mobility improved over time. In an interview with UI Health Care, Veach's father said his son was in a wheelchair to start 2022, but in a matter of months, is now running

around and even jumping on the trampoline.

For a school project, Veach was assigned to describe himself in one word: strong.

"He's got scars everywhere from all his surgeries, but it doesn't bother him," Courtney said. "It's just a part of him and who he is. He's a go-getter."

On The Line

The Daily Iowan staff share their predictions and thoughts on this week's upcoming games.



Matt McGowan
Pregame Editor
31-17



Kenna Roering
Sports Editor
25-23



Colin Votzmeyer
Asst. Sports Editor
31-17



Cooper Worth
Football Reporter
26-22



Michael Merrick
DITV Sports Director
25-23



John Bohnenkamp
Sports Writing Coach
28-20



Jason Brummond
Publisher
31-17

	IOWA At least there will finally be real fans at Wrigley on Saturday. Go Sox.	IOWA A classic 10-3 Big Ten West game.	IOWA At Wrigley? Final score might look like a baseball game.	IOWA Iowa will get the first late-October win at Wrigley since 2016.	IOWA It can win this game with 10 points.	IOWA The opening total for this game was 29.5, just so you know.	IOWA The Hawkeyes hold off a rally in the bottom of the ninth.
	NOTRE DAME One day Dabo will trip running down that hill. I've been there too.	NOTRE DAME Down year for Dabo.	NOTRE DAME What happened to Clemson, man?	NOTRE DAME The recent luck of the Irish continues against the Tigers.	NOTRE DAME Hopefully Dabo gets another angry caller.	NOTRE DAME Clemson has pretty much fallen apart.	NOTRE DAME You hate to see it, but Clemson is flirting with a losing record.
	KENTUCKY The Wildcats break their curse in Starkville.	MISSISSIPPI STATE Those cowbells are annoying.	KENTUCKY The Wildcats know how to put up a fight.	MISSISSIPPI STATE Wildcat fans are waiting to inevitably face Iowa in a bowl game.	KENTUCKY Mark Stoops to Iowa in 2024?	MISSISSIPPI STATE Ah, SEC mediocrity.	KENTUCKY When in doubt, trust Stoops.
	GEORGIA TECH The Bees take this matchup of spoiler teams.	GEORGIA TECH Can Haynes King go a game without throwing a pick?	GEORGIA TECH I don't know why Megatron went to GT either.	GEORGIA TECH Calvin Johnson Jr.	VIRGINIA Thanks a lot for Nick Jackson.	GEORGIA TECH Ah, ACC mediocrity.	GEORGIA TECH Bees are important.
	OKLAHOMA Losing to a bean of a QB will make anyone's blood boil.	OKLAHOMA The last Bedlam for the foreseeable future. Things could get weird.	OKLAHOMA My Pokes will be a punching bag after that Sooner loss to Kansas.	OKLAHOMA STATE The Cowboys capitalize on a depleted OU team.	OKLAHOMA Big bounce back after a disappointing loss.	OKLAHOMA The end of Bedlam.	OKLAHOMA Officially launching an Anyone but Ames campaign for the Big 12.
	OLD DOMINION The Monarchs defy democracy. They'll stop the count at halftime.	COASTAL CAROLINA Feel the teal baby.	COASTAL CAROLINA Missed opportunity to say BLUE FIELD. BLUE FIELD. BLUE FIELD.	COASTAL CAROLINA What is a Chanticleer?	COASTAL CAROLINA My AAU basketball team had a Coastal court. Don't know why.	OLD DOMINION Ah, Sun Belt East mediocrity. And that's some serious mediocrity.	COASTAL CAROLINA I had to Google where both these schools were located.

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