



INSIDE:
**Citrus Bowl
Pregame Edition**

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The Daily Iowan

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INSIDE



Cases of dog disease in Iowa, experts say not to panic

Iowa animal experts urge dog owners to take precautions if their dog is symptomatic.

NEWS | 4A



Singer-songwriter brings indie folk to IC

Bella Moss is one of four artists featured in *Headliners*, a new *DI* concert video series.

ARTS | 6A



Jumping into the season

Iowa hosted the Jimmy Grant Alumni Invitational at the Hawkeye Indoor Track Facility Dec. 9.

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Ragaini's long journey comes to a close

Sixth-year wide receiver Nico Ragaini's last game for the Hawkeyes will be the Citrus Bowl.

SPORTS | 8A

Hawkeye shows 'Elvis isn't dead'

The unique relationship between Hawkeye Elvis and his family is being broadcasted in a new short film.

SPORTS | 8A

ONLINE

• Listen to the latest episodes of *The Daily Iowan's* two podcasts, *Above the Fold* and *Press Box Banter*, where we cover the latest news and talk sports at dailyiowan.com.

• Look out for *The Daily Iowan's* online coverage of the next women's basketball game against Bowling Green on Dec. 2 at dailyiowan.com.

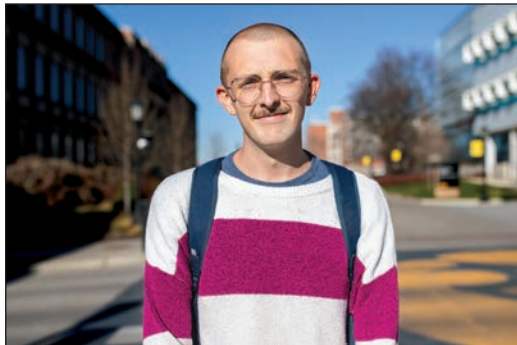
• Check out *The Daily Iowan's* latest episodes of *Headliners*, the new weekly concert video series featuring Iowa City bands at dailyiowan.com

DITV

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Students consider caucuses

Students who plan to vote in Iowa share their thoughts ahead of the January caucuses.



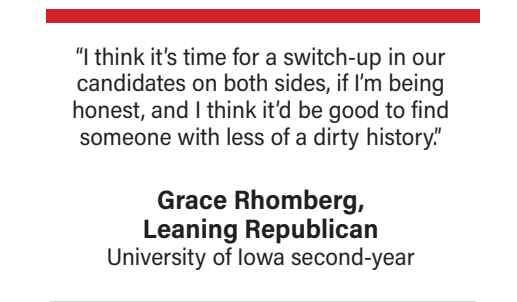
"For me personally, just because I'm a woman, women's rights is a big issue — especially abortion. I know that was a big thing over the summer, and it always has been."

Hannah Carlson, Democrat
University of Iowa third-year



"The leader in charge is the most important person in our country and so having our best of our best up there is obviously very important."

Cam McFadden, Democrat
University of Iowa second-year



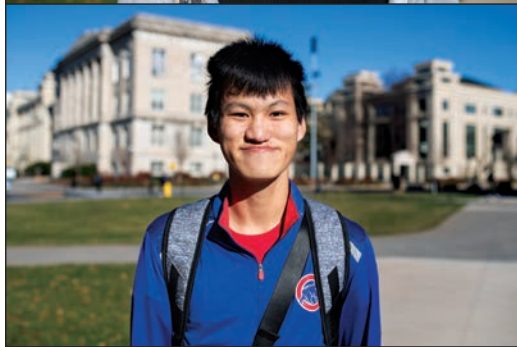
"I think it's time for a switch-up in our candidates on both sides, if I'm being honest, and I think it'd be good to find someone with less of a dirty history."

Grace Rhomberg, Leaning Republican
University of Iowa second-year



"It's just important to get out and support the people that you want to support to see the differences that you see in the world. I would say that I would be looking for someone else besides Trump."

Danny Steele, Republican
University of Iowa third-year



Students from the University of Iowa pose for portraits on T. Anne Cleary Walkway on Dec. 7 and Dec. 8.

DI Staff | The Daily Iowan

CAUCUS | 2A

Iowa City Airport evicts unhoused individuals

After a fire in October, 13 people were evicted from the Gilbert Street encampment.

Jack Moore
News Reporter
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After a fire erupted at an encampment where people experiencing homelessness lived on Iowa City Municipal Airport grounds in October, the airport is evicting the individuals and enlisting the help of the Shelter House to get them safer living spaces.

According to IC Municipal Airport Manager Michael Tharp, the encampment that people experiencing homelessness had existed at that location for months before the fire broke out on Oct. 4 at the 1400 block of S. Gilbert St. There is still no determined cause of the fire on Oct. 4.

"We look at it as part of an overall symptom of a housing crisis that we're in for not only the city but nationwide," Tharp said.

Tharp said the airport communicated with Shelter House after the fire to help the people at the encampment find a safe place to go especially as winter approached.

Because the parcel of land the encampment is on is owned by the airport, Tharp said they filed for an eviction notice but waited until the Winter Shelter opened so people had more options on where to stay.



Jordan Barry | The Daily Iowan

The sun sets over the Iowa River on Dec. 6. As fall and winter weather brings colder days to Iowa City, individuals living outside can be put at risk.

The Winter Shelter is a 40-bed shelter open from December through March.

The Daily Iowan interviewed Michael, a person experiencing homelessness, who said evicting

people off the airport's land will not fix the problem of homelessness in the community.

Michael said he thinks taking people off the airport's land is unnecessary because they are not bothering

anyone in the area and they will just find a new place to stay.

Christine Hayes, Shelter House's director of development

SHELTER | 4A

Taylor, Thomas see last meeting as IC city councilors

The two councilors have served as representatives for the last eight years.

Isabelle Foland
News Reporter
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Taylor Thomas

In 2015, Pauline Taylor and John Thomas celebrated their election

to the Iowa City City Council along with councilor Rockne Cole and former mayor Jim Throgmorton. All four of them made up the informal campaign coalition known as the "Core Four."

Now, the remaining two members of the Core Four and current longest-serving councilors — Taylor and Thomas — have finished their eight-year terms on the council and will move on to other things. Their last meeting was on Dec. 12.

In April, Thomas announced he would not seek reelection to the

council. In the general election in November, fellow councilor Laura Bergus ran against Taylor and won her for her seat on the council.

According to Taylor and Thomas, the members of the Core Four did not start their campaigns thinking they would be grouped together, but they eventually formed an informal team after realizing their policies and beliefs were closely aligned.

The group was especially aligned in their views on preserving neighborhoods and the role

neighborhoods play in creating a strong city.

Before his time on council, Thomas said he was a neighborhood coordinator in the north-side neighborhood as well as a commissioner on the city's Planning and Zoning Commission. This passion for neighborhood development stemmed from his time as a landscape architect for over two decades in San Francisco before moving to Iowa City in 2009, Thomas said.

COUNCILORS | 4A

CAUCUS from 1A

Liam Halawith Senior News and Politics Editor liam-halawith@uiowa.edu

University of Iowa second-year student Logan Shearer sees himself throwing his support behind Ohio biotech entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy for the Jan. 15 Iowa Republican caucuses.

The Republican voter is skeptical of Ramaswamy's chances at winning the Iowa caucuses, let alone the Republican nomination for president, but he wants to support the candidate he aligns with.



Ramaswamy

Shearer is one of thousands of young, voting-age Iowans who are expected to participate in either the Republican or Democrat caucuses across the state come January.

The Daily Iowan spoke to nearly 30 UI students in December about their plans to caucus, or not.

With little over a month until the caucuses, campaigns are ramping up their operations in the state, and targeting young voters — one of the largest voting blocs — is a priority for some low-polling campaigns as they eye the finish line.

Trump has a large lead in voter polls ahead of his seven current competitors, but some young voters are considering other candidates who have made efforts to cater their platforms to college students.

For the first time in years, Young Democratic voters won't experience Iowa's first-in-the-nation caucus and will mail-in their vote for either U.S. Rep. Dean Phillips, D-Minnesota, author Marianne Williamson, or front-runner President Joe Biden.

Low-polling candidates, like Ramaswamy, who polled at 4 percent in the December Des Moines Register/NBC News/Mediacom Iowa poll, and Texas pastor and businessman Ryan Binkley, who received



Binkley

0 percent in the October Iowa poll, have appealed to young conservatives in Iowa on the campaign trail.

Ramaswamy has hosted his "Free Speech & Free Drinks" events in college towns across the state in efforts to garner college-age voters. In October, Ramaswamy kicked off the "college campus tour" after a crowded gathering at the Reunion Brewery in downtown Iowa City.

"They will tell us if you come to Iowa, don't bother with events like this because people like this don't go to the caucuses. We gotta prove them wrong," Ramaswamy said at his Oct. 19 stop in Iowa City.

According to Tufts research on the 2020 Democratic caucuses, 8 percent of young people, 17-29 years old, caucused in Iowa. Republican data was not recorded.

Binkley has hinged his campaign on "starting a movement by getting onto college campuses" across Iowa. Binkley, like Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, visited all 99 Iowa counties — a feat dubbed "the full Grassley" — and still has a full slate of campaign events in the state in the coming weeks.

"This is for the next generation," Binkley said at an Iowa City campaign event in October.

Historically, candidates who garner the youth vote in Iowa have done well in the caucuses, typically placing in the top three. Voters can only caucus with the party that they are registered with.

In 2020, U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., received nearly half of the youth vote in the Democratic caucuses and won the state with the most votes, but was second to then-former South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg in the delegate count.

In 2012, 48 percent of



Isabella Tisdale | The Daily Iowan

Community members watch Vivek Ramaswamy speak at Reunion Brewery in Iowa City on Oct. 19. Low-polling candidates, like Ramaswamy, have appealed to young conservatives in Iowa.

Iowa caucus-goers under 30 years old voted for then-Texas Rep. Ron Paul, who earned the most state delegates but came in third in the popular vote.

According to a February Brookings Institute report, voters currently 18-40 years old are slated to become the majority of the voting bloc by 2028 and are expected to expand to 60 percent of the vote by 2036.

Steffen Schmidt, an Iowa State University political science professor emeritus, said in a year rife with political tensions, the youth vote could make or break second-place candidates that trail behind the frontrunner, former President Donald Trump.

Trump currently holds an authoritative lead with 46 percent of the October Iowa Poll. DeSantis and former U.N.



Trump

Ambassador Nikki Haley each tied almost 30 points behind Trump at 16 percent.



DeSantis

"DeSantis needs a lift in support so if he can reach young voters and get them to attend the event it could stabilize his declining campaign," Schmidt said in an email to The Daily Iowan.



Haley

"Haley has been rising and I believe she will appeal especially to women Republicans to try and continue her momentum."

In a November Iowa State University/Civiqs poll, Trump garnered 47 percent of poll respondents 18-29 years old, while DeSantis and Haley got 24 and 18 percent, respectively.

College voter interest lags

Despite the nation's attention on Iowa as the caucuses approach, many local UI students say they have no interest in participating.

Gunther Sandersfeld, a UI second-year, said he chooses to stay out of politics at this point in his life. "I don't feel like it's really worth my time," Sandersfeld said. "At least for right now."

Jake Ellis, a UI first-year, said he would vote for Trump right now as a registered Republican, but is an out-of-state student and won't be caucusing.

"I think right now economically, we need to go more toward the right in terms of inflation, job placement, and whatnot," he said.

Among the 29 students the DI interviewed for this article, over half said they would not be participating in the Iowa caucuses. They are among a national trend of young voters who are now choosing to tune out of politics.

A recent Harvard Institute of Politics Youth Poll found that the number of youth polled who plan on voting in 2024 decreased from 57 percent in 2020 to just 49 percent.

The same poll found that youth polled who identify as Republican were 10 percent less likely to vote in 2024 as com-

pared to 2020.

John Della Volpe, Harvard's Politics Institute polling director, said these results could be reversed with time and active engagement of the youth vote.

"They want evidence that democracy works, that the government can address our challenges, and that there's a meaningful difference between the two parties," Della Volpe said in a Dec. 5 news release.

In Iowa, 26 percent of eligible youth, aged 18-29, voted in the 2022 midterm election, compared to 34.7 percent that voted in the 2018 midterm, according to data from the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement, or CIRCLE, at Tufts University in Massachusetts.

These efforts to drive engagement could help bump growing youth voter turnout in presidential elections. Youth participation was relatively active, but stagnant, in the last presidential election in Iowa at 55 percent, up from 50 percent in 2016, according to data from CIRCLE.

Student groups push voter engagement

Campus political groups hope to help entice political participation among students at the UI in the upcoming caucuses.

UI College Republicans have spent the semester promoting local campaign events, helping people register to vote, and have helped organize volunteers for caucus sites on campus.

Kyle Clare, a member of the UI College Republicans executive board, said the campus group has worked with Johnson County Republicans to garner interest in the caucuses.

Kiana Shevling-Major, the president of University Democrats at Iowa, said the campus organization is working with Johnson County Democrats to vol-

unteer at in-person caucus meetings on Jan. 15 since the party's caucus was moved to a mail-in presidential preference card earlier this year.

Nonpartisan voter engagement organizations, like Hawk the Vote, are also pushing for participation in the January caucuses through social media education campaigns.

Jaden Bartlett, the associate director of Hawk the Vote, said the student group is leveraging efforts to engage campus voters through social media due to the timing of the caucuses.

The in-person Republican caucuses will take place on Jan. 15, the day before the beginning of the spring semester, and will make it difficult to drive engagement.

"I think the elections process can be very convoluted, especially if you're a new first year coming into campus for the first time and you've never voted before," Bartlett said.

UI political science professor Tim Hagle said the open primaries typically held by political parties in the state can be important party-building activities. Usually, Independents and no-party voters will join the party to vote in the primary and stay.

Growing number of young voter Independents

Ameen Vahdat, a UI third-year, said he doesn't completely fit in with

Republicans or Democrats. Vahdat identifies as an Independent and finds himself leaning more to the left than the Democratic party.

Vahdat said he was looking at candidates like Cornel West, a progressive scholar and activist, who is running as an Independent. He said the majority of voters are tired of the two-party system.

"Because there is no viable third option that could beat either of those two [Trump and President Joe Biden] without a kind of bullcrap, vote splitting scenario," Vahdat said. "Then that isn't representing our democracy."

The Harvard Youth Poll showed that 35 percent of young Americans identify as Democrats, 26 percent identify as Republicans, and 38 percent identify as Independents.

With the majority of the youth voting bloc identifying with no party, this can give parties important opportunities to expand their base, Hagle said.

"[Republicans and third parties] still need to get out there because there are going to be a number of younger voters that will support them as well," Hagle said. "So, again, it's that idea where if you get somebody that maybe starts as a Democrat or starts as a Republican, hopefully — from a party's perspective — a person will stay that way."

Shreya Reddy, Roxy Ekberg, Natalie Miller, and Grace Katzer contributed to this report.

Power of the youth vote in the caucuses

Historically, candidates who garner the youth vote in Iowa have done well in the caucuses, typically placing in the top three. Voters can only caucus with the party that they are registered with.

In 2020, U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., received nearly half of the youth vote in the Democratic caucuses and won the state with the most votes, but was second to then-former South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg in the delegate count.

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Easy crossword puzzle solutions: 6 2 1 7 9 5 8 3 4, 3 4 9 8 1 2 7 5 6, 7 8 5 3 6 4 1 2 9, 2 9 7 1 4 6 5 8 3, 1 5 3 9 8 7 6 4 2, 8 6 4 5 2 3 9 1 7, 5 7 8 4 3 9 2 6 1, 4 1 6 2 7 8 3 9 5, 9 3 2 6 5 1 4 7 8

Medium crossword puzzle solutions: 1 4 5 2 3 6 9 8 7, 9 6 3 7 8 5 4 2 1, 7 8 2 1 9 4 6 3 5, 5 7 9 8 6 1 2 4 3, 4 1 8 3 2 7 5 6 9, 2 3 6 4 5 9 7 1 8, 8 9 4 6 7 3 1 5 2, 6 2 7 5 1 8 3 9 4, 3 5 1 9 4 2 8 7 6

OPINIONS

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COLUMN

Iowa needs to keep its DEI programs for students

The state Board of Regents' decision to restructure valuable DEI resources is a step in the wrong direction.



Jordan Coates
Opinions Columnist

Diversity, equity, and inclusion programs in the state of Iowa are facing an existential threat as resources remain up in the air.

The Iowa Board of Regents has received a lot of criticism over its recommendation in November that could lead to resources being restructured in University of Iowa's diversity, equity, and inclusion programs. The recommendations also restructure all DEI programs the regents deem unnecessary for compliance or accreditation.

According to the Department of Education, DEI programs need funding because they are necessary to combat race-based disparities in higher education enrollment and attainment as well as gaps in earnings, employment, and other related outcomes.

DEI programs are not a political statement and should not be treated as such. Taking away funding for DEI efforts at the UI will have significant negative consequences for student and faculty recruitment.

Opponents of DEI programs say universities are already welcoming places and thus the programs aren't needed. According to regents member David Barker, "... Some of

these programs appear to have goals involving diversity and equity that go beyond attempting to provide equal opportunity for all students."

DEI programs help create a campus culture that allows for openness, respect, and safety and provide an environment in which those with diverse attitudes, beliefs, values, and behaviors feel included and thrive.

Curtailing DEI efforts at a university that has a student body that is over 50 percent white would be a step in the wrong direction for a school that claims to care about the diversity in its student body.

In an interview with Iowa Public Radio, Rep. Mary Madison, D-West Des Moines, elaborated on the effects of cutting DEI programs.

"... Attacking diversity programs in Iowa will make it harder to convince people to move here," Madison said in the interview. "The statement you're putting out says, 'You're not welcome.'"

One of the key objectives of diversity, equity, and inclusion in higher education is to bridge the gap between white populations and racial and ethnic minority populations. By promoting and nurturing a greater level of diversity in higher education, institutions can contribute to a more equitable and just society, while also reaping numerous benefits themselves.

According to a report from The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, "Effective mentoring relationships [with a focus on DEI] have an overall



Cody Blissett | The Daily Iowan

University of Northern Iowa students speak to protestors during a lowa Board of Regents meeting in Cedar Falls, Iowa, on Nov. 15. Several speakers stayed throughout the day to speak to the board about recent discussion to alter diversity, equity, and inclusion programs.

positive effect on academic achievement, retention, and degree attainment as well as on career success and satisfaction."

DEI programs provide an environment in which those with diverse attitudes, beliefs, values, and behaviors feel included and thrive. Better efforts need to be made to ensure these programs have the fund-

ing they need to be a proper resource for minority students.

Racial and cultural diversity are deeply ingrained in our society and should not be ignored. To celebrate this diversity and cultivate harmony and respect for all peoples, universities must nurture equity and inclusion in the classroom.

COLUMN

Gen Z is bringing necessary changes to work culture

The stereotype that Gen Z is lazy is untrue and ignores the changes they are bringing to work culture.



Kennedy Lein
Opinions Contributor

Work culture is changing thanks to Generation Z. The misconceptions created by older generations should change too.

Older generations have labeled Gen Z as lazy, selfish, and uncaring. One reason older generations stereotype Gen Z as lazy is because of the notion that young people don't want to work. This on its own is a myth and outrageously wrong. The priorities of Gen Z are just different than other generations.

These egregious stereotypes are born out of the fact that work culture is changing; but it's for the better.

This low work ethic concept is mistaken because much of Gen Z doesn't want to settle or aspire for traditional 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. office jobs. Older generations have their own set of norms of what work culture should look like, but what these older generations overlook is that just because a job isn't central doesn't mean it is not hard work.

According to *Forbes Magazine*, members of Gen Z are an "intensely entrepreneurial generation, with almost two-thirds, 62 percent, either having started or wanting

to start their own businesses, according to data from WP Engine and the Center for Generational Kinetics."

Gen Z prioritizes a work-life balance that has never been "business as usual" for other generations. What is misunderstood by older generations is that because Gen Z doesn't want to work traditional 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. jobs, they just don't want to work at all.

"These positions may seem less intense for other generations, but Gen Z works smarter, not harder, and that might be too difficult for some to fathom."

That is simply not true.

The New York Times interviewed Cali Williams Yost, the chief executive and founder of Flex Strategy Group, who said when younger workers talk about balance, they are saying they will work hard but also need a life.

"When younger workers talk about balance, what they are saying is, 'I will work hard for you, but I also need a life,'" Yost said in the interview. "Unfortunately, what leaders hear is, 'I want to work less.'"

Remote or hybrid jobs are much more common than they used to be before the COVID-19 pandemic. These

positions may seem less intense for other generations, but Gen Z works smarter, not harder, and that might be too difficult for some to fathom.

If you can get your job done at home, where you feel most comfortable, on your own time, while still having an outside life, why wouldn't you?

Gen Z has been slandered for redefining what a job can look and be like, with business casual attire, remote workplaces, and even flexible schedules where they can make their own hours. *The NYT* argued that Gen Z is actually saving everyone from office life.

According to a *NYT* interview with Ana Recio, the executive vice president of global recruiting at Salesforce, Gen Z has "proven the model that you don't need to be in the office nine to five to be effective. This generation is single-handedly paving the way for the entire workforce to do their jobs remotely and flexibly."

Gen Z has watched previous generations struggle with work-life balance, time off, and being overworked. Demanding change may seem as if they are avoiding work, but surveys show older generations secretly want more flexibility, too.

There is nothing wrong with change, especially when this type of change is good for everyone. For way too long work has been people's largest obsession. People spend so much time and energy, but it shouldn't have to be that way.

Life is not about work, and flexibility in the workplace is the key to a healthy balance.

DOC IS IN

How you can remember to take your medications every day

Everyone forgets to take daily medications sometimes. Here are some tips that will help you stay on track.



It is challenging to remember to take your daily medications — whether it's one pill or 10. Thought it was just you? It is extremely common to struggle with remembering to take medications; an estimated 50 percent of Americans do not take their medications as prescribed. This challenge is not a black-and-white issue, and

there are many reasons for the struggle.

Life is full of distractions and these distractions can often get in the way. While it may not be the most exciting task, taking your provider-prescribed medications regularly is one of the most important things you can do for your health. New college students are especially prone to forgetful-

ness with medications because of their new environment and new habits and routines. Regardless of what you are taking, medications work best when they are taken as prescribed. Whether you need to take medication daily or just finish a course of antibiotics, there are many strategies to help you stay on track. We've compiled a list of tips that may help.

Tips for remembering medications:

1. **Set up a pillbox:** Pillboxes are labeled with the days of the week and are a cheap and easy way to organize your pills.
2. **Reminder alert or alarm:** Use your phone or smartwatch to set up reminders or alarms. This will help you make sure you're taking your medications at the same time every day.
3. **Pill track app:** There are many apps that assist with medication tracking and daily reminders like ExpressScripts, MediSafe, or EveryDose.
4. **Leave yourself a note:** This is a classic tool for any task. Leave yourself a note, and once you take the medication, you can cross it off the list. You can also use a dry erase board and erase the reminder after each dose.

5. **Turn your pill bottle upside down:** After you take your pills for the day you can turn the bottle over, just make sure to turn it upright at the end of the day for a fresh start tomorrow.
6. **Combine it with a daily task:** Also called "Habit Stacking," try tying the taking of your medication with an activity you do daily like brushing your teeth or making coffee.
7. **Keep it visible:** To avoid the "out of sight, out of mind" issue, keep your medication in an easy place to see.
8. **Automatic refills:** This is a convenient tool to set up refills that helps you avoid requesting medication every time you run out.

What if these reminders don't work? It doesn't require a lot of time or effort to implement new strategies, but sometimes there is not an easy answer. One of the best ways to problem-solve is to talk with your pharmacist about the issue. Your pharmacist can discuss new ways to remember to take medications and can help you understand what your medication is for and how it benefits you.

Emma Smith, she/her/hers, 4th year Pharmacy Student, Class of 2024

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Cases of dog disease in Iowa, experts say not to panic

Iowa animal experts are urging dog owners to take their dog to the veterinarian if they show symptoms.

Roxy Ekberg
News Reporter
roxy-ekberg@uiowa.edu

Despite national concerns over an unidentified respiratory illness spreading through dogs, Iowa experts say dog owners should take precautions, but the virus is rarely fatal.

In a statement on Dec. 5, the American Veterinary Medical Association wrote that cases of the new disease were seen by veterinarians in multiple states as of early December. One case in Iowa was confirmed in September by Melissa Beyer with the South Des Moines Veterinary Center.

Local veterinarians and shelter owners compared the disease to a prolonged kennel cough, a highly contagious respiratory disease, but it does not respond to treatment. In some cases, it can become a more serious illness, such as pneumonia, which can lead to death.

The cause of the disease, how it spreads, and treatment remain unknown.

Symptoms of a typical canine respiratory infection include coughing, sneezing, red nasal discharge, red, runny eyes, eye discharge, difficulty breathing, or lethargy.

The Iowa Department of Agri-

culture and Land Stewardship recommends dog owners ensure their vaccinations are up to date, avoid interaction with other dogs if their dog is symptomatic, and take ill dogs to the veterinarian.

April Blong, clinical associate professor at Iowa State University's College of Veterinary Medicine, said the veterinary community thinks the disease may be a typical bacteria-type infection.

Blong said if a dog is healthy and not immunocompromised, it's reasonable to let them interact with other dogs.

She said research is in the early stages and a lot remains unknown, and more information will be discovered about risk factors, how the disease is spread, and prevention in the coming months.

One of the first cases in the state was confirmed by Beyer, who said she estimated that she has seen 20 to 30 cases since then, however, but identifying the disease is very difficult.

"The lack of response to medicine is how we have been identifying it at this point," she said.

Beyer said this illness takes a longer course, requires a different combination of medications to treat.

She has noticed a nationwide downturn of the disease over the



Sahithi Shankaihgari | The Daily Iowan
Dogs wait to be walked at Pack AMO, a home-environment kennel service in Iowa City on Dec. 7. An unidentified respiratory illness spreading through dogs has made its way to Iowa, but experts in the state say there is little to worry about.

last week but said if dogs are congregating over the holidays, cases may increase.

Chris Whitmore, director of the

Iowa City Animal Adoption Center, has not seen any cases but said the shelter is prepared in the event of an infection.

"You hate to say that all you're doing is hoping, but you're preparing and hoping at the same time," Whitmore said.

SHELTER from IA

and communications, said there were 13 people at the homeless encampment who are all now working with Shelter House.

Hayes said a majority of the people at the encampment are now in Shelter House's winter shelter, which is already full after opening on Monday.

Both Tharp and Hayes said homelessness is a growing issue locally and nationally.

The Shelter House itself has 70 beds in total

with six family rooms. Hayes said when they get full, people are put on a waitlist, which has at times exceeded 50 people.

According to Hayes, Shelter House has been trying to accommodate not only people from the encampment but also move those currently in the shelter into new housing. Hayes said one of the largest hurdles is getting landlords to accept housing choice vouchers.

The housing choice voucher program is a federal program for low-income families and individuals that subsidizes rent or lease payments to the landlord.

In 2021, Gov. Kim Reynolds signed into law Senate File 252, which gave landlords the ability to refuse to lease or rent to applicants with the housing choice voucher even though it is an income source.

This law went into effect in Iowa City in January, and Hayes said it has made it more difficult for people to get housing even with the guaranteed form of pay the housing voucher provides.

Hayes said all 13 people from the homeless encampment have housing choice vouchers, but they are still turned down by landlords.

"It's counterproductive, and counterintuitive even, to remove that protection," Hayes said.

Hayes said allowing landlords to discriminate on who they rent or lease to because of the housing voucher does not help the housing crisis.

"[Housing vouchers] are not the only reason people get denied — if you put in a rental application, you can be denied for all manner of reasons, and all of which are legal," Hayes said. "But adding another one in that is particularly problematic."

COUNCILORS from IA

Thomas said a strong city depends on the many neighborhoods and subsections of a city.

"What you have in effect are a kind of a congregation of small villages or hamlets that are adjacent to one another and form this larger entity," Thomas said.

While she did not have a background in city governance before she joined the council, Taylor, a graduate of the University of Iowa, said she ran for the council because she wanted to make changes she deemed necessary in Iowa City.

"I think we take it for granted sometimes what a great community we have," Taylor said.

In their time on council together, Taylor and Thomas have advocated for affordable housing, development that is consistent with the surrounding neighborhood, climate action, and increasing the walkability of the city.

Taylor and Thomas voted together on the regarded Hickory Hill Park, which is located in northern Iowa City. In 2021, a development proposal for the area near the park came before the council.

The proposal wanted to build residential buildings near the east side of the park, which Thomas said he felt would damage the life and look of the park. Taylor later joined Thomas in being the only councilors voting against the development. The plan was eventually struck down.

Later, the developer came up with

a new plan that compromised with the council's wishes and gave 40 acres of land to expand the park, Thomas said. Taylor and Thomas said the decision was one of their proudest votes while on council.

Throgmorton, a member of the Core Four, spoke highly of the group's time on council. Some major accomplishments the group contributed to in the first of Taylor and Thomas' terms were the passage of major action plans that are still used today, including the 2016

Affordable Housing Action Plan and the 2018 Climate Action and Adaptation Plan, he said.

In their newfound free time off of council, Taylor and Thomas said they will spend more time doing hobbies and spending time with friends and family.

Taylor said the same, but she did not rule out running for a spot on the city council in the next election cycle.

"I'm not going to wither up and go away," Taylor said. "I will be out there."



Sunday, December 24
Christmas Eve Services
 10:45 am & 4 pm (candlelight service)



Good News Bible Church
 845 Pepperwood Ln. | Iowa City
www.goodnews-iowacity.com



St. Paul's Lutheran Chapel and University Center
 404 E. Jefferson St. Iowa City | 319.337.3652

Services
Christmas Eve 7pm

Website: stpaulic.com - check out our website for a calendar of upcoming events
 Facebook: St Pauls Lutheran Chapel and University Center • Twitter: @StPaulsIowaCity

Kick-Off June Pride Month
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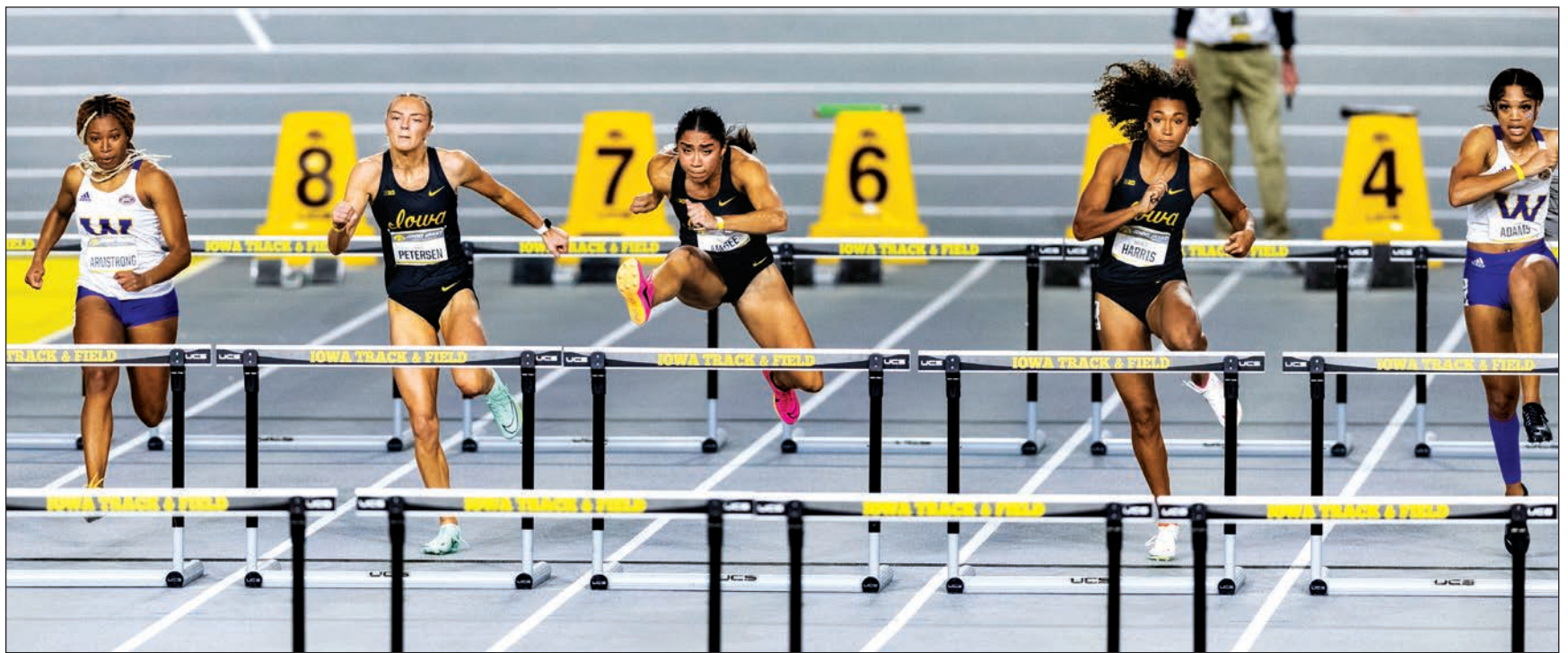
JUMPING INTO THE SEASON



Iowa hosted the Jimmy Grant Alumni Invitational at the Hawkeye Indoor Track Facility Dec. 9 against Western Illinois and Wisconsin. Events included the pentathlon, weight throwing, field events, and various running events at the indoor track.

Grace Smith | The Daily Iowan

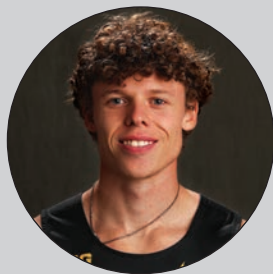
Iowa's Deandre Stapleton Jr. jumps in the long jump during the Jimmy Grand Alumni Invitational at the Hawkeye Indoor Track Facility on Dec. 9. The Hawkeyes hosted Western Illinois and Wisconsin, competing in events including the pentathlon, weight throwing, field events, and various running events at the indoor track. Stapleton Jr. placed first with a jump of 6.91 meters.



Grace Smith | The Daily Iowan

Iowa's Paige Magee takes the lead in the women's 60-meter hurdles during the Jimmy Grand Alumni Invitational at the Hawkeye Indoor Track Facility on Dec. 9. The Hawkeyes hosted Western Illinois and Wisconsin, competing in events including the pentathlon, weight throwing, field events, and various running events at the indoor track. Magee placed first with a personal and meet record time of 8.07.

REACHING NEW SCHOOL RECORDS



Kalen Walker ran a **6.59** in the 60-meter race to set a new school record.



Paige Magee ran a **8.07** in the 60-meter hurdles to tie the with the current school record.



Lia Love ran a **7.28** in the 60-meter race to set a new individual record and place her second in program history.



Grace Smith | The Daily Iowan



Grace Smith | The Daily Iowan

Wisconsin athletes cheer during the Jimmy Grand Alumni Invitational at the Hawkeye Indoor Track Facility on Dec. 9. The Hawkeyes hosted Western Illinois and Wisconsin, competing in events including the pentathlon, weight throwing, field events, and various running events at the indoor track.

Western Illinois' Dana Surwillo pole vaults during the Jimmy Grand Alumni Invitational at the Hawkeye Indoor Track Facility on Dec. 9. The Hawkeyes hosted Western Illinois and Wisconsin, competing in events including the pentathlon, weight throwing, field events, and various running events at the indoor track. Surwillo placed second in the pole vault.

Q&A

Singer-songwriter brings indie folk to IC

Bella Moss is one of four bands featured in *Headliners*, a *DI* concert video series.



Emily Nyberg | The Daily Iowan

Iowa City singer Bella Moss performs at The Daily Iowan *Headliners* in *The Daily Iowan* newsroom on Oct. 28. Moss is a third-year student at the University of Iowa.

Avi Lapchick
Arts Editor
olivia-lapchick@uiowa.edu

Bella Moss is the stage name of Iowa City singer, guitarist, and University of Iowa third-year student Bella Nektivinda, performing alongside a rotating band consisting of keyboardist and UI third-year Kara Dinolfo, guitarist and UI fourth-year Joe Shanks, and cellist Blake Shaw. Bella Moss' music is available to stream on all major platforms.

Bella Moss is one of four groups of musicians *The Daily Iowan* invited to perform for a video series of live concerts called *Headliners*, a recorded and edited version of these concerts to bring Iowa City's music scene beyond the community. This episode of *Headliners* is available at dailyiowan.com. This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Where did 'Moss' come from?

Shaw: The ground.

Nektivinda: For that question, you're gonna have to talk to someone a bit more in touch with nature. But no, I was workshoping with my sister because I was like, nobody can spell Nektivinda — and this was before I started doing open mics around town, so I just had a SoundCloud with my music on it, and it came down to either Bella Moss or Bella Nevada, which seemed a little...

Shaw: — Like Hannah Montana.

Nektivinda: ... A little inappropriate. So I felt like, by default, Bella Moss had to take the cake.

How would you describe your sound?

Shaw: If you can imagine the cutest thing you've ever seen and then also imagine the softest thing you've ever laid on, and then if you can combine all the sweet, yummy

things you've had in your life — that's what Bella Moss sounds like.

Nektivinda: I think he covered it. Can we make sure they know that I did not say that?

On that note, what are some of your musical inspirations?

Nektivinda: Dolly Parton for the look. And when I'm running out of originals to play on stage, I will always pop out with my "Jolene" cover. From the beginning, Robin Pecknold from Fleet Foxes was who got me started on folk music and inspired me to play the guitar. Blood Orange is another band; listening to [Dev Hynes] talk about how he makes music on his episode of *Song Exploder* gave me a lot of creative insight.

Shanks: Blake Shaw is mine.

Dinolfo: Bella Moss.

How has your experience been performing in Iowa City?

Nektivinda: I was kind of on the outs doing open mics for a while, trying to get my foot in the door, but once you get one good show, it's a snowball effect. The Iowa City music scene is very compact. You always see other musicians at your shows.

Shaw: I like how everyone mixes it up here; you can go to a show with like three totally different bands. And a lot of the shows I play or go to see are pretty well attended. There's always a really good walk-in crowd and there are people that just go all the time. It's a nice little fun community.

Dinolfo: I'm not a huge performer. I was classically trained when I was five years old and just kept rolling with it, but two years ago I did my first performance, and it was really fun. When I play classically, I like keeping up and playing with other instruments and singers, improvising as I go.

Shanks: I think my favorite part is playing in spaces where you're allowed to have collaboration and improvisation. It's fun to

see people's personalities come out through their instruments or when people have opposite personalities than you'd expect. I'm a bit of a quieter person, but then I very much enjoy getting really loud [on stage] and being creative with other people.

What kind of experience do you hope your audience has at your shows?

Nektivinda: My entire album, "Midwestern Daydreams," is based on the lessons I learned while growing up. I wrote my first song when I was 12 and my most recent song when I was 19, so I write very much about the human experience. So I hope people can — this sounds kind of cheesy — relate to the lyrics and resonate with them.

What is your favorite original song to perform or song you most enjoy covering?

Nektivinda: I like the classics. When I was younger, I did shows at a dive bar and would come in with my little guitar and play folk music, and I'd be like, why is no one listening at a dive bar on a Wednesday? So I started playing a lot of classic rock songs and putting a softer edge on them. I haven't been able to do it in a while, but I loved playing "Dreams" by Fleetwood Mac.

Why did you choose to participate in the *Headliners* series?

Nektivinda: I've never done anything with the *DI* but I've always wanted to work with them in some form, so this was a cool opportunity. I texted Blake [two days before the performance] and texted Joe fairly recently as well.

Dinolfo: I ran into [Nektivinda] on Thursday night. We sat down on Friday and wrote all the chords for the piano for our performance [on Saturday].

Jami Martin-Trainor, Natalie Dunlap, and Evan Weidl are the executive producers of Headliners. Sound production was by Dan Miller, and videography and editing were by Emily Nyberg and Cody Blissett.

Artist displays peace through art amid chaos

Plein-air artist Andrea Smisek Gage's art captures fleeting beauty amid the hardest moments of her life.

Lily Czechowicz
Arts Reporter
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Andrea Smisek Gage did not find art. Instead, she said, art found her. Her mixed-medium plein-air exhibit, "Seasons Times & Places," displays her journey of finding peace amid chaos and offers a moment of meditation to viewers.

Around a decade ago, Gage left her work as an adjunct professor at the University of Alabama-Birmingham and took a position at the University of Iowa. However, when both her parents were diagnosed with cancer, she committed herself to caring for them, along with her three children, full-time.

Though free time was limited, she took up painting courses at Maroger Fine Art Classes in Coralville, Iowa; her new practice brought solace to her life.

During those classes, Gage learned the basics of fine art, giving her the skills needed to transfer what she learned into other mediums.

"With art, there's a lot of feeling and creativity which is great, but technique is good because then you make your choices on what you want to do," Yvette Jury, the founder of Maroger and Gage's instructor, said.

For a series that studied great artists, Gage recreated Édouard Manet's oil painting "The Lilac Bouquet" as an exercise in underpainting, the process of adding a base layer of color to a canvas before adding other values. Before recreating the actual bouquet in Manet's piece, she covered the canvas in orange, complementing the various shades of blue seen in the vase.

She transferred this technique to paper, using dry

pastels to create her original "Taking the High Road" depicting a serene landscape with a patch of tall grass, a flowing river, and broad fields that stretched into the edge of a clear sky.

The orange underpainting highlighted the paper's texture but blended seamlessly with the image as a whole, peeking through the added values and depicting the piece's history through its layers.

There is a history to the piece that isn't stated through its complementary values. "Taking the High Road" was a plein-air painting of a stretch of road she and her dad would drive down on their way to his cancer treatments.

Gage explained that road construction had blocked the fastest route to the hospital, so the detour they took eventually earned the nickname "the high road" as it sat higher, overlooking a beautiful landscape.

"I don't even know the name of the road, we just called it the high road," Gage shared.

Capturing a moment of beauty during chaotic times meant Gage didn't always have her art supplies on her. In emergency rooms or carpool parking lots, she had to

use whatever materials around her — whether that was a chewed pen, golf pencil, or a crumpled receipt.

"All of a sudden, the notepad in my purse became [something] I could sit and use during medical appointments at the hospital, wherever we happened to be," Gage said.

Her dad lived with stage four cancer for 15 years but always looked forward to the next fun thing he could do, and, despite his late-stage diagnosis, Gage said her dad maintained his good humor.

Together they could talk about her art rather than the implications of his diagnosis.

"He wasn't going to sit and talk about feeling bad," Gage said.

Her exhibit's themes of seasons, time, and places from which it takes its name consist primarily of plein-air paintings. The depicted landscapes document the moments of peace in times of her life when peace felt scarce.

For Gage, those places ranged from her neighborhood and her vacations to hospital parking lots.

"[They were] points in time and places of beauty that I was able to capture," Gage said. "It's different from a photograph, it's more of a feeling."

Gage hopes that others find creative outlets in times of chaos and uncertainty and allow it to soothe them. By sharing her art, she hopes others will feel inclined to be a part of a larger creative community.

"It just gives me a pleasant feeling," said one exhibit attendee, Mike Shy, as he looked through the gallery. "I just enjoy the ambiance of being around art."

Gage's exhibit will be on display at the Artfactory until late December.

"It's different from a photograph,
it's more of a feeling."

Andrea Smisek Gage
Plein-air artist

Family donates new stage to Iowa City's Riverside Theatre

Riverside Theatre's Wilson Family Stage honors Herb and Janice Wilson, local patrons of the arts and donors.

Stella Shipman
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Herb and Janice Wilson always loved attending productions together at the Riverside Theatre's former location at the Old Brick in downtown Iowa City. Their appreciation for the arts and local organizations was evident through their attendance and their generous donations.

Before they passed away, the couple was hugely financially supportive of Riverside, donating sums that helped preserve the theater, the predecessor for which they laid the bricks in 1990.

After Riverside moved to its current location in the Pedestrian Mall in 2022, Adam Knight, the producing artistic director for Riverside, wanted to name the new theater's stage after the Wilsons because of their consistent support and their literal labors of love for the theater's first residential building.

"I think they had hammers in their hands putting together seating platforms," Knight said.

The Wilsons are survived by their daughter, Amy Nicholson, who was instrumental in the process of naming the Riverside stage after her family.

According to the press release about the ceremony honoring the Wilsons and the stage's new name, Nicholson believed

her parents would agree that the Wilson Family Stage is an important investment in the future of arts and arts education.

"My parents loved the diversity of arts here in Iowa City and felt that educational opportunities were vitally important," Nicholson said in the press release. "They often said that whether investing in the community or financially, the return must be the best 'bang for the buck.'"

The couple's most recent donation was the capstone of the Next Stage Capital Campaign, Riverside's fund for the construction of its location in the Pedestrian Mall and for the renovations of Riverside's Festival Stage.

Knight shared he was lucky enough to recently meet Herb and Janice Wilson in person for dinner before their passing in 2022 and 2023, respectively, noting how rewarding it was to speak with the individuals whose contributions had been so instrumental in building both of Riverside's homes.

"They were such a part of our history in this other building, and yet they never were able to come to the new space," Knight said. "So having them now not only a part of this building but that key part, the state where the art happens [and] where the community gathers, felt appropriate."

On Oct. 20, the plaque recognizing the Wilson Family Stage was unveiled during



Madison Frette | The Daily Iowan

The new Wilson Family Stage plaque is seen in Riverside Theatre in Iowa City on Nov. 6. The stage was named after Herb and Janice Wilson, who are avid supporters of Riverside.

the opening night of the theater's production of "Trip to Bountiful," marking the start of Riverside's 2023-24 season by paying tribute to those it was named after.

"[Herb and Janice Wilson] really left a huge mark on this community," Knight

said. "In particular, focusing on the intersection of culture and education and realizing that for a lot of people, those early cultural experiences can lead to a much more enriching and successful adulthood."

RAGAINI
from **8A**

Legacy at Iowa

After redshirting in 2018, Ragaini led a 10-3 Iowa team in receptions with 46 and was ranked third in receiving yards at 439, all career highs for the redshirt first-year.

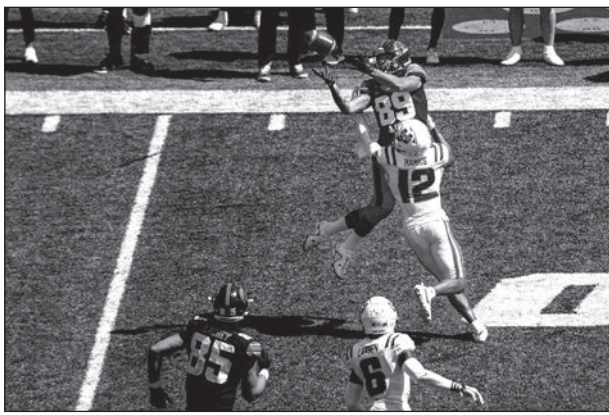
Two seasons later, Ragaini cemented himself in Iowa football history forever when No. 3 Iowa took down No. 4 Penn State on his game-winning 44-yard touchdown reception.

However, like most players Kirk Ferentz recruits, Ragaini has always been concerned about winning, and he's witnessed his fair share of it, as Iowa is 53-21 since he joined the program.

"The main goal is continuing to win. Even if it's catching one ball a game for the rest of the year, I'll do it," Ragaini said following Iowa's 31-0 loss to Penn State earlier this season.

"The main goal is continuing to win. Even if it's catching one ball a game for the rest of the year, I'll do it."

Nico Ragaini
Iowa wide-receiver



Ayrton Breckenridge | The Daily Iowan
Iowa wide receiver Nico Ragaini prepares to catch the ball during a football game between No. 25 Iowa and Utah State at Kinnick Stadium on Sept. 2. The Hawkeyes defeated the Aggies, 24-14.

Despite potentially not living up to the expectations of some Hawkeye fans after his breakout 2019 season, Ragaini is a testament to believing in oneself to overcome the odds.

"I'm really thankful for my time at Iowa," Ragaini said. "I love everything about being here."

ELVIS
from **8A**

Knutzen, who now lives in New York, flew back during the 2021 Iowa football season and attended a couple of games with Greg Suckow and his mother, filming their every interaction during the day. He also filmed the pair at Margaret Suckow's house in Boone, Iowa, which features a room dedicated to Elvis lined with memorabilia like bobbleheads, candy dispensers, Barbies, and framed vinyl records.

When Knutzen went back home and started editing, he realized he needed more content. He flew back for a couple more games in Kinnick Stadium and traveled to Florida with Greg Suckow for Iowa's Citrus Bowl matchup against Kentucky. The Elvis impersonator is frequently asked for pictures and approached by Hawkeye fans and said he didn't even notice the camera most of the time.

When in Iowa City, Knutzen would sleep on a futon in his younger brother's dorm, which he said put "his

back in shambles" and made some filming days difficult.

"I feel lucky that they let me come into their lives and point a camera at them for so many weeks. That's a real gift that I don't want to take lightly," Knutzen said. "They've been very open and sharing intimate things with me, which is not easy, but they see the worth in making films, and I appreciate that. I don't know how else to thank them for that."

Neither Knutzen nor Greg Suckow thought the film would end up where it did but are both happy with the finished product.

For Knutzen, directing the film gave him a new outlook on mortality and retaining memories.

"It went down this real rabbit hole of memories," Knutzen said of the documentary. "Memories don't last forever, but I think that this project taught me that memories find a way into physical things like the bobbleheads she has or his costume."

Knutzen's grandmother, who has since died, was also struggling with dementia during the filming process. Knutzen said he wasn't that

close with his own grandmother, but seeing Greg Suckow's patience and love for his mother during her health decline made him wish he reached out and cherished her more.

"It taught me not to wait around," Knutzen said. "You can't wait to go see people even if they're not unhealthy. You have to make the time."

Greg Suckow is thankful he will always have this film to look back on, as it is harder for him to visit his mother with his new job in California. He said he plans on impersonating Elvis "as long as everybody is still having fun with it" and hopes people who watch the documentary see the deeper meaning behind his costume.

"I think it's a nice thing to be able to share that relationship that I have with my mom with people and sort of let them behind the curtain a little bit," Greg Suckow said. "Most people who see me just know me as the guy who dresses up as Elvis and shows up at games and stuff. They don't get to see this personal side of me and what my life outside of that is like."

FREEMAN
from **8A**

Fast forward to December 2023, Freeman has been one of the most important pieces to this Iowa team.

Despite playing behind grad student forward and Valparaiso transfer Ben Krikke, Freeman makes the most of his time on the court, averaging 9.9 points, 4.1 rebounds, 2.1 blocks, and 1.1 steals on 62.5 percent shooting from the field and 67.9 percent at the free throw line.

The first-year forward has already written his name in the Iowa men's basketball history books by earning three Big Ten Freshman of the Week honors – the most in a season for an Iowa first-year since Aaron White in 2011-12.

Freeman sits fifth on the team in scoring, fourth in rebounds, first in blocks, first in steals, and first in field goal percentage – all while playing just under 16 minutes a game, which sits seventh on the team.

"I think the scary thing is he's going to keep getting better," McCaffery said. "That's a great thing."



Cody Blissett | The Daily Iowan
Iowa forward Owen Freeman ignores a camera after a basketball game between Iowa and Quincy at Carver-Hawkeye Arena in Iowa City on Oct. 30. The Hawkeyes defeated the Hawks, 103-76.

POLITICAL SCIENCE & INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

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2023

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Noah Billingsley	Kaia Lifo
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Thea Clennon	Marco Oceguela
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Marisa Francis	Alexis Passno
Christian Frankl	Diana Sagastizado
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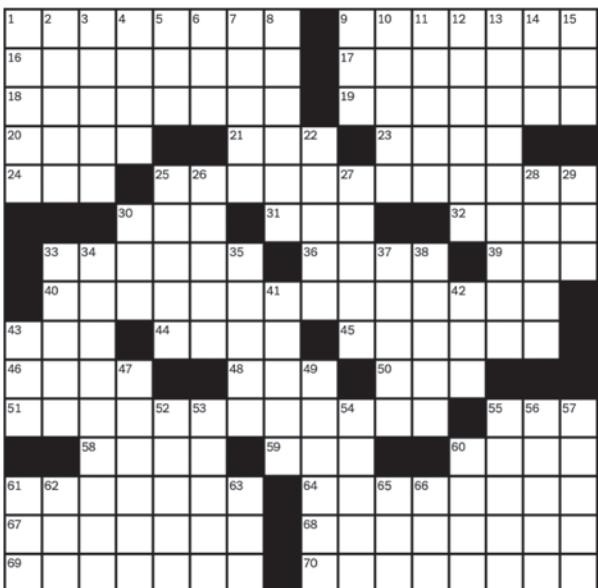
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BRI BROWN
ROBERT THOMPSON
Best wishes for a future filled with success!

THE BREAK PUZZLE SOLUTIONS ON 2

The New York Times Crossword Edited by Will Shortz No. 1108



- | | |
|--|--|
| Across | 48 ___ gratia artis |
| 1 Not real | 50 Word after chocolate or chemistry |
| 9 Phantomlike | 51 18-Across by Peter Gabriel, in two ways |
| 16 Printing specification | 55 Ave. crossers |
| 17 Went in formation, in a way | 58 Utah's ___ Canyon |
| 18 Runaway best seller | 59 Letters for a handyperson |
| 19 What Brits call Bordeaux reds | 60 Author Silverstein |
| 20 Feature of many a gas station | 61 Infotech standard akin to ASCII |
| 21 Rap's Lil ___ X | 64 What 25-, 40- and 51-Across might originally have appeared on, appropriately? |
| 23 Name that's a city in Oklahoma | 67 Occupies, as a bird might |
| 24 Lumbering creature of fantasy | 68 Got down on one's knees and begged |
| 25 18-Across by Miley Cyrus, in two ways | 69 Industry term for action-ready film locales |
| 30 Flyers, on scoreboards | 70 Objects of some police hunts |
| 31 Went undercover | |
| 32 Send out | |
| 33 Exhibiting Newton's first law, say | |
| 36 Pour down | |
| 39 Time of one's life | Down |
| 40 18-Across by the Doors, in two ways | 1 "Who's there?" response |
| 43 ___-compliant | 2 Enthusiastic response to a bro |
| 44 Newbie | 3 Not together |
| 45 Inception | 4 Heroic exploit |
| 46 Replica, informally | 5 Kinda, sorta |
| | 6 Biomedical research agcy. |

- 7 Web mag
- 8 Uncouple
- 9 Maker of the Yukon S.U.V.
- 10 Van ____, band with the 1984 #1 hit "Jump"
- 11 Bornean primate, informally
- 12 Melville's Bartleby, for one
- 13 How much it's gonna cost
- 14 Allow to
- 15 N.F.L. units: Abbr.
- 22 Work around, as an issue
- 25 Prairie product
- 26 Like playing Russian roulette
- 27 Kind of potato also known as a "russet"
- 28 Match, for a cigarette
- 29 Cellphone inits.
- 30 Intro to calculus?
- 33 Singer Paula
- 34 Cirque du Soleil performer
- 35 Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy, collectively
- 37 Triumphant cry
- 38 Vape "health" claim
- 41 Santa-tracking org.
- 42 Dongle connector, in brief
- 43 Podcast interruptions
- 47 Fiats
- 49 Soupçon
- 52 Word with Mother or golden
- 53 Uncouple?
- 54 Mike of "So I Married an Axe Murderer"
- 55 Flaky rock
- 56 Conical dwelling
- 57 Toys that can be used while either sitting or lying
- 60 "Pierce film with fork" might be the first one
- 61 Durham sch.
- 62 Prefix with many -isms
- 63 Nav. rank
- 65 Comfy shoe, informally
- 66 Sex education subject

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Another Open Letter to Republican Voters of Iowa

If you are a diehard MAGA-head, there is little chance I can dissuade you from supporting Trump. If you are a hold-your-nose-and-vote-for-Trump kind of person, though, please consider:

The man is facing four criminal trials and numerous civil ones. We will have to see how they all play out. No evidence has been presented yet at trial, so at the moment, we have to assume he is innocent of all charges.

Still, it is hard to ignore what we have seen and heard with our own eyes and ears. We all saw for ourselves what happened on January 6, 2021. It was a terrible, terrible day, one I hope is never repeated. As damning as that video evidence was, in a way I am even more bothered by the infamous phone call Trump made to the Georgia election officials, the one where he asked them to "find" him enough votes. I strongly urge you to listen to the entire audio from that call (it is on the Washington Post website). I find it absolutely chilling how casually Trump throws innocent election workers under a bus, calling them out by name and spreading hurtful and outrageous lies about them. It was just so cruel and mean-spirited. If you wonder whether their lives were impacted, just listen to their sworn testimony before the January 6 committee. I believe they are suing him in civil court, and I hope they take him for everything he's got.

I know I am probably being naïve, expecting a certain level of human decency from our politicians. Okay, so maybe they won't be angels. But at least, don't be evil, don't be an a--hole. That is a pretty low bar, and I think anyone who wants to be President should be able to clear it.

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Easy

	1			8	4
			1 2		6
		3			9
	7 1	6			3
	5	9	7	4	
8		5	3	9	
5			9		
4		2 7			
9	2			4	

Medium

1	5				
		7		4	2
8		9			
5		6 1	2		
	8 3	7	5		
	6 4	5			8
		7		5	
2	7		8		
				8	6



FOOTBALL

Ragaini's long journey comes to a close

The sixth-year wide receiver's last game for the Hawkeyes will be the Citrus Bowl.

Cooper Worth
Pregame Reporter
cooper-worth@uiowa.edu

The end of the 2023 Iowa football season will mark the end to some familiar faces for Hawkeye fans in recent years — some more positive than others.

After the conclusion of Iowa's Citrus Bowl matchup against Tennessee on New Year's Day in Orlando, fan-favorite punter Tory Taylor and scrutinized offensive coordinator Brian Ferentz will all be gone from the program, along with a senior class of 20 players, some of whose status is yet to be determined if they will return or not.



Ragaini

But the season will also mark the end of wide receiver Nico Ragaini's time in the Black and Gold, an unadvertised recruit out of high school that has come to represent the Iowa coaching staff's ability to spot a diamond in the rough.

Since joining the program in the spring of 2018, the southern Connecticut native has more receptions than any other receiver, which ranks him seventh in career receptions at Iowa with 154.



Ferentz

"Since he's been here, he's been fantastic," Iowa head coach Kirk Ferentz said. "We probably should have recruited him out of high school in retrospect, but it's all worked out."

Missing just two games in the past five seasons, Ragaini has been a staple for an Iowa football team that has faced controversy during his time in Iowa City, such as a racial discrimination lawsuit against the program by former players, the firing of a strength and conditioning coach due to such claims, and a high-profile investigation into players betting on games.

But despite this — and claims of an atrocious Hawkeye offense — Ragaini has chosen to remain loyal to Iowa, returning to the team in a time where former Iowa wide receivers Charlie Jones and Keegan Johnson transferred to more pass-friendly schools.

"Our goal is to win; that's the only goal," Ragaini said at Iowa football's media day. "The goal can't be how many catches or touchdowns I have. It's what I can do to push this team forward and make us win the game."



Grace Smith | The Daily Iowan

Iowa wide receiver Nico Ragaini carries the ball during a football game between Iowa and Rutgers at Kinnick Stadium on Nov. 11. The Hawkeyes defeated the Scarlet Knights, 22-0. Ragaini sits seventh in career receptions at Iowa with 154.

Early years

Ragaini hails from New Haven, Connecticut, a community with a population of nearly 30,000 people 80 miles north of New York City. The son of a first-generation American, Ragaini comes from a big and passionate Italian American family, with nearly 30 family members all residing in East Haven.

Every home game weekend his parents, Gianni and Josanna, make the trip to Iowa City with a big entourage of friends and family to watch Ragaini play. The couple brought nearly 100 people when Iowa traveled to the east coast to face Rutgers in 2022.

"My family is super close-knit," Ragaini said last season ahead of the Rutgers game.

"There will be family from both my mom and my dad's side, and you can't tell who is on whose side."

Growing up, Ragaini excelled in sports, becoming a standout multisport athlete. He won the New Haven Male Athlete of the Year Award twice as he set the state record for career receptions with 222 and helped his high school team win 26 games in the final three seasons.

But early on, Ragaini was more known for his prowess with a lacrosse stick in his hands rather than a football, as he also holds records for most points and assists — 180 and 109, respectively — at Notre Dame High School.

"Lacrosse and football are both really physical sports," Ragaini said in 2019. "In lacrosse I was a midfielder, so I played defense and offense and sprinted up the

field. So, it kept me in shape over the summer all the time."

Ragaini's success on the lacrosse field led him to be highly sought after by powerhouse schools such as Loyola University-Maryland, Albany, and Cornell, the latter of which he would commit to following his sophomore year of high school.

Ultimately, football was Ragaini's true passion, and he knew he wanted a chance to play it at the next level.

"I really love lacrosse, and it's awful to say, but it was pretty much my backup plan," Ragaini said in 2019.

Despite all his success, when Ragaini graduated high school in 2017, his only significant offers to play football came from Boston College and Yale.

Coming from a prep school, Ragaini said most of his classmates would study at Ivy League universities after high school. However, he said he didn't enjoy the atmosphere of gameday at Yale while visiting during his senior year.

"I went to a football game, and there were like 2,000 people there, and that's when I knew that wasn't for me," Ragaini said at a Nov. 21 media availability.

Ragaini had no offers from major Division I FBS schools, including UConn in his home state. Instead of settling for the offers he had, Ragaini decided to take a semester at Avon Old Farms, a prep school in Avon, Connecticut, which allowed him to continue attending college camps while not using any college eligibility.

During this challenging time, he said he would often seek advice from his dad, who played Division I baseball at UConn.

"He always told me he wasn't the most talented, but he worked the hardest, and that definitely instilled something in me," he said.

Eventually, Ragaini's tape reached the desk of former Iowa assistant coach Ken O'Keefe, and the athlete signed with Iowa in January 2018.

In hindsight, Ragaini said he's glad he didn't receive any scholarships from local schools like UConn.

"If they had [offered me], I probably would not have done my fifth year at prep school and probably would not have had [the Iowa] offer," Ragaini said in August. "The people of Iowa love Iowa football, which is the best thing ever, especially since I feel like nobody gives a crap about UConn football."

RAGAINI | 7A

Hawkeye shows 'Elvis isn't dead'

A new film shows the unique relationship between Hawkeye Elvis and his family. Greg Suckow is the man behind the fan-favorite Hawkeye.



David Harmantas | The Daily Iowan

A fan dressed as Elvis cheers from the stands during a game against Northwestern University on Nov. 10, 2018 at Kinnick Stadium in Iowa City. The Wildcats defeated the Hawkeyes 14-10. Greg Suckow is the man behind the Hawkeye Elvis.

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Billed as the King of Rock 'n' Roll, Elvis Presley's lasting impact on the music industry will never be forgotten, despite dying almost 50 years ago.

But some still refuse to believe the rockstar is physically dead. One of those people is Greg Suckow's mother, Margaret Suckow.

Greg Suckow is the man behind the fan-favorite Hawkeye Elvis costume and is frequently seen wearing the sparkly black and gold jumpsuit at various Iowa sporting events. This tradition started many years ago, and his mother, an Elvis superfan, has been by his side along the way, hand-crafting all her son's jumpsuits.

Their special bond over Elvis is highlighted in a new documentary "Elvis isn't Dead" directed by Skyler Knutzen. The short film premieres Dec. 13 on Nowness.com, a digital video channel.

Knutzen, who graduated from the University of Iowa in 2018, didn't know Greg Suckow personally before filming.

He connected with Greg Suckow through his dorm resident assistant, who went into accounting after graduation and worked at the same company as Hawkeye Elvis.

Knutzen's initial idea for the film was centered around Greg Suckow's love for Iowa football and the unique persona he takes with him into Kinnick Stadium. Out of 70,000 people dressed in Hawkeye gear, Greg Suckow is often the only one dressed as one of the most significant cultural figures of the 20th century.

But the underlying message of the documentary turned out to be much deeper, as Knutzen's relationship with both the Suckows grew during multiple years of filming.

Margaret Suckow is going through the early stages of dementia, which has forced Suckow to realize she may forget who he is one day. But he doesn't believe his mom will ever forget her favorite musician.

"I think [Elvis] is still in hiding," Margaret Suckow professes in the film. "I've been doing Elvis a long time, honey, so what else can I believe?"

ELVIS | 7A

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Freeman finding his groove

Iowa men's basketball first-year Owen Freeman continues to be a positive force for the Hawkeyes.

Chris Meglio
Sports Reporter
chris-meglio@uiowa.edu



Freeman

There's no doubt that Owen Freeman has been one of the bright spots for this Iowa men's basketball team so far this season. However, the first-year is still far from reaching his true potential.

The three-star prospect from Moline, Illinois, committed to the Iowa Hawkeyes before his senior season in high school. At 6-foot-10, Freeman fills the desperate need for size and versatility in the frontcourt.



McCaffery

"Fran McCaffery has found a potential go-to guy on the inside in Owen Freeman," 247Sports reporter Brandon Jenkins said when describing the Iowa big in April 2022. "He has excellent hands and touch around the basket and combines it with solid footwork and a will to battle for success on each low post possession ... He projects as another big man target Iowa will go through when a quick two points are needed."

Freeman was ranked 83rd nationally and the 11th power forward in the 2023 high school class according to 247Sports. He had multiple Power Five offers from Michigan State, Notre Dame, Illinois, Indiana, Marquette, Northwestern, Butler, Wake Forest, Ohio State, Purdue, Wisconsin, and Iowa.



Harding

Most of Freeman's offers came in June 2021 with his stellar play for Mid-Pro Academy on the AAU Circuit. He and now-Iowa teammate Brock Harding built a strong connection on the circuit that led to Freeman joining Harding at Moline High School for their senior season. The two dominated their way to winning the 4A Illinois State Championship.

The duo wasn't ready to split up though, both committing to the Hawkeyes. Freeman committed first and then convinced Harding to join him.

"I loved the campus and the feel," Freeman said after committing to the Hawkeyes. "I can definitely see myself playing there and playing for [Iowa head coach Fran McCaffery]. I loved the fans and the electricity they bring into the games and around campus."

FREEMAN | 7A

The Daily Iowan

PREGAME

MONDAY, JANUARY 1 | CITRUS BOWL: IOWA VS. TENNESSEE | CAMPING WORLD STADIUM

Familiar Past, Uncertain Future

Iowa's bowl game against Tennessee will mark the finale of a season featuring plenty of lingering questions.



DEPTH CHART

Iowa				Tennessee			
OFFENSE				OFFENSE			
QB	10	Deacon Hill	Soph	QB	7	Joe Milton III	Sr
	11	Marco Lainez	Fr		8	Nico lamaleava	Fr
RB	4	Leshon Williams	Jr	RB	0	Jaylen Wright	Jr
	2	Kaleb Johnson	Soph		2	Jabari Small	Sr
FB	88	Hayden Large	Sr	WR	84	Kaleb Webb	#Fr
	41	Rusty VanWetzinga	Fr		81	Chas Nimrod	#Fr
WR	3	Kaleb Brown	Soph	WR	10	Squirrel White	Soph
	18	Alec Wick	Soph		81	Chas Nimrod	#Fr
WR	89	Nico Ragaini	Sr	WR	9	Ramal Keyton	Sr
	6	Seth Anderson	Soph		84	Kaleb Webb	#Fr
TE	87	Addison Ostrenga	Soph	TE	87	Jacob Warren	Sr
	86	Steven Stilianos	Sr		34	McCallan Castles	Sr
LT	78	Mason Richman	Jr	LT	74	John Campbell Jr.	Sr
	71	Jack Dotzler	#Fr		54	Gerald Mincey	Jr
LG	60	Rusty Feth	Sr	LG	70	Andrej Karic	Jr
	58	Kade Pieper	Fr		78	Ollie Lane	Sr
C	65	Logan Jones	Jr	C	63	Cooper Mays	Sr
	76	Tyler Ellsbury	Jr		78	Ollie Lane	Sr
RG	77	Connor Colby	Jr	RG	75	Jackson Lampley	Sr
	56	Nick DeLong	Sr		72	Addison Nichols	#Fr
RT	67	Gennings Dunker	Soph	RT	54	Gerald Mincey	Jr
	79	Daijon Parker	Sr		66	Dayne Davis	Sr
PK	18	Drew Stevens	Soph	PK	19	Charles Campbell	Sr
DEFENSE				DEFENSE			
LE	45	Deontae Craig	Jr	LEO	30	Roman Harrison	Sr
	48	Max Llewellyn	Soph		27	James Pearce Jr.	Soph
LT	94	Yahya Black	Jr	DT	21	Omari Thomas	Sr
	95	Aaron Graves	Soph		10	Elijah Simmons	Sr
RT	85	Logan Lee	Sr	DT	55	Omarr Norman-Lott	Jr
	55	Jeremiah Pittman	Soph		20	Bryson Eason	Jr
RE	13	Joe Evans	Sr	DE	9	Tyler Baron	Sr
	49	Ethan Hurkett	Jr		90	Dominic Bailey	Jr
Leo/Cash	37	Kyler Fisher	Sr	WLB	6	Aaron Beasley	Sr
	29	Sebastian Castro	Sr		40	Kalib Perry	Soph
MLB	34	Jay Higgins	Sr	MLB	44	Elijah Herring	Soph
	41	Jaden Harrell	Soph		22	Jeremiah Telander	Fr
WLB	10	Nick Jackson	Sr	CB	0	Donelko Slaughter	Sr
	37	Kyler Fisher	Sr		4	Warren Burrell	Sr
CB	8	Deshaun Lee	#Fr	CB	1	Gabe Jeudy-Lally	Sr
	7	John Nestor	Fr		8	Brandon Turnage	Sr
SS	1	Xavier Nwankpa	Soph	STAR	12	Tamarian McDonald	Sr
	29	Sebastian Castro	Sr		25	Jourdan Thomas	Soph
FS	30	Quinn Schulte	Sr	S	2	Jaylen McCollough	Sr
	4	Koen Entringer	#Fr		25	Jourdan Thomas	Soph
CB	27	Jermari Harris	Jr	S	13	Wesley Walker	Sr
	20	Deavin Hilson	Soph		17	Andre Turrentine	Soph
P	9	Tory Taylor	Sr	P	98	Jackson Ross	#Fr

CITRUS BOWL: IOWA VS. TENNESSEE | MONDAY, JAN. 1, 2024 | 12 P.M. | abc

Five things to watch

Matt McGowan
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1. Defending top-tier offense

Giving up just 213 yards to Michigan last week in the Big Ten Championship game, Iowa's defense extended its streak of letting up less than 400 opponent yards to 27 games – the longest active streak in the nation. Such dominance from coordinator Phil Parker's unit will be put to the test in January against Tennessee. Commanded by quarterback Joe Milton III's 3,112 total yards, the Volunteers rank 17th in the nation in total offense, averaging 453.5 yards per game, better than any other opponent the Hawkeyes have faced this season.



Milton



Wright

Tennessee does most of its damage in the run game, slotting in at second in the SEC with 202.6 rushing yards per game. Junior back Jaylen Wright averages 7.4 yards on a team-high 137 carries, totaling 1,013 yards and four touchdowns. Wright is joined by fellow running backs Jabari Small and Dylan Sampson with 450-plus yards on the ground on at least five yards per attempt this season.

2. Seth Anderson breakout

Transferring to Iowa City from Charleston Southern, second-year wideout Seth Anderson started his Hawkeye debut with a bang – hauling in a 36-yard touchdown pass on his first-ever target in Iowa's season-opening win over Utah State. That reception was one of two he had against the Aggies, leading to a 41-yard performance.



Anderson

Yet after Cade McNamara went down with an injury in Week 5, Iowa's offense has become more conservative, relying on the ground game and avoiding deep throws to vertical threats like Anderson. Such a shift can be seen in Anderson's production, as he has just two catches of more than 10 yards after Iowa's game against Michigan State.

After Iowa starting wide receiver Diante Vines announced his transfer last week, Anderson will most likely receive more targets at the Citrus Bowl – a contest where he can make a statement about his talents and potential on the team.

3. Avoiding pressure

The Volunteers feature three defensive linemen with at least five sacks this season. Second-year James Pearce Jr. leads with 8.5 while teammates Tyler Baron and Omarr Norman-Lott follow close behind with six and 5.5, respectively. Norman-Lott, an Arizona State transfer, has not played since Tennessee's Nov. 18 loss to Georgia, and his injury status remains unclear for the Citrus Bowl. Even if he doesn't see the field in Orlando, Baron and Pearce combine for 14.5 sacks: more than half of the total sacks that the Iowa offensive line has allowed this season.



Pearce Jr.

Part of the reason for Iowa quarterback Deacon Hill's two turnovers against Michigan was poor pass protection. Such cannot happen again if the Hawkeyes want to exploit the Volunteer secondary and reach the red zone for the first time since Week 13.

4. Iowa passing game

While strong in the pass rush, Tennessee's secondary is a noticeable area of weakness. Having lost starting cornerback Kamal Hadden back in October, the Volunteers have struggled to replace his absence, as Hadden is still tied for the team-leader in interceptions with three. Ranking 10th in the SEC and 78th in the FBS in passing yards allowed per game, Tennessee will be a nice opportunity for Iowa to at least attempt some dynamic plays in the air. Obviously, throwing the ball is far from the Hawkeyes' strong suit, as tight end Erick All still leads the team in receiving yards despite not playing since Oct. 21, but offensive coordinator Brian Ferentz really has nothing to lose in January. At the end of the day, the only way to prove passing prowess is to actually throw the ball downfield.

5. Defensive line performance

The future of Iowa's defensive line unit took a hit when Anterio Thompson announced his decision to transfer last week. Still just a sophomore, Thompson didn't see snaps on defense but was bound to at least get in the D-line rotation next season. But with him not in the picture anymore, such potential production on the interior will have to be replaced by Aaron Graves, Yahya Black, and Deontae Craig – a trio worth watching in the bowl game and in the 2024 season.

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Transitioning into a future of ambiguity

Head coach Kirk Ferentz will lead a hire for an offensive coordinator.



Cody Blissett | The Daily Iowan

Iowa head coach Kirk Ferentz answers questions during Iowa football media day in Iowa City on Aug. 11. Iowa will face Tennessee almost nine years after facing them on Jan. 2, 2015 in the TaxSlayer Gator Bowl.

Matt McGowan

Pregame Editor

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The last time Iowa played against Tennessee was on Jan. 2, 2015, in the TaxSlayer Gator Bowl: a contest that would serve as the climax of a season of disappointment, but also a final transition to a year of dominance.

Nearly nine years later, the Hawkeyes will again face the Volunteers in a January bowl game down in Florida. The return to the Sunshine State doesn't come without clouds, as plenty of questions linger above the team, especially head coach Kirk Ferentz. Looking to return to the helm for his 25th season, Ferentz seeks a similar rebound from 2014-15.

While the Hawkeyes went 12-0 in the 2015 season to finish atop the Big Ten West division, their first game of that calendar year hardly resembled what followed months later.

Heading into their matchup with the Volunteers, the Hawkeyes were a 7-5 team, ranking fourth in the Big Ten West with a 4-4 conference mark. On Nov. 2 of that season, Iowa was tied with eventual Big Ten Champion

Wisconsin with a 3-1 conference record, having most recently throttled Northwestern, 48-7, at Kinnick Stadium.

That triumph over the Wildcats was the Hawkeyes' best win of the season by point differential, but also the apex prior to a steep collapse. Losing three of its next four games, Iowa no longer found itself competing for a conference title, but rather for bowl hardware against a young .500 Tennessee squad looking for its first bowl victory since 2008, having not won seven games in a season since 2009.

The Volunteers looked like they had plenty of postseason experience against the Hawkeyes in the 45-28 win. Before scoring three touchdowns in the final minutes, Iowa was down 42-7 heading into the fourth quarter.

"It wasn't satisfying," Iowa head coach Kirk Ferentz said of the Hawkeyes' season after that bowl game. "We lost four close games, and today we were behind quickly ... If we're going to be successful, we have to do well in close games. First thing we have to do is make them close."

Then in his 16th year at the helm, Ferentz was due a \$529,000 longevity bonus at the end of

the month, according to sports business analyst Darren Rovell, then working with CNBC.

For fans and media members such as Bleacher Report's Adam Wells, a financial commitment might not have been such a wise idea at the time.

"Even though Ferentz has been a popular figure in Iowa, it's hard to justify what he's getting paid given the mediocre results in recent years," he wrote following the Tennessee game, noting that the Hawkeyes had only won two games against bowl-eligible teams that season.

"Iowa's future continues to look murky. Ferentz keeps taking backward steps with the program, and the result is like what happened against Tennessee," he continued. "The offense has been flat all year, and the defense gets exhausted because it's asked to compensate."

As Iowa again takes on Tennessee in the Cheez-It Citrus Bowl on New Year's Day, Wells' words read as an uncanny foreshadow of the Hawkeyes' 2023 season. Ranking 84th in the FBS in terms of offensive yards per game in 2014, Iowa was even worse in that category this season, slotting in at 130th. "Flat" would most certainly be an understatement.

Against top-10 opponents Penn State and Michigan this season, the Hawkeyes were shut out, mustering just 19 total first downs and never taking a snap in the red zone. While Iowa thrived in close games in 2023, winning five contests by a touchdown or less, it couldn't stay competitive in matchups against Michigan and Penn State. The Hawkeyes were outscored 57-0 against those squads, while only holding the ball for 38:01 to their opponents' 81:59.

Limiting Michigan to a season-low 213 total yards, 12 first downs, and a 3-of-15 conversion rate on third down in the Dec. 2 Big Ten championship game, Iowa's defense more than held its own against a top-15 scoring offense in the country.

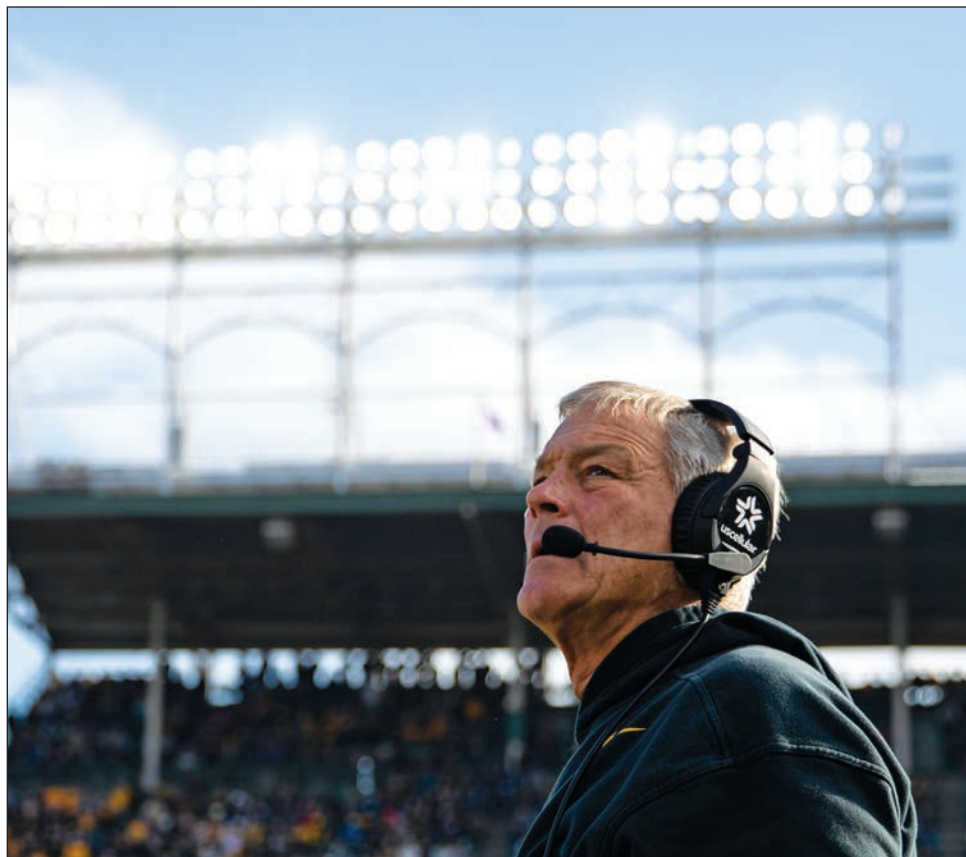
While linebacker Nick Jackson dropped a would-be interception during that game, the defensive unit could only provide so much in the way of momentum and field position.

When asked after the conference title game whether the defense's performance was a "championship effort" Hawkeye defensive back Sebastian Castro agreed. He added earlier that any generated turnovers would only be "extra" compensation.



Phil Sears | USA TODAY Sports

Iowa Hawkeyes quarterback C.J. Beathard (16) calls an audible in the third quarter of the 2015 TaxSlayer Bowl against the Tennessee Volunteers at EverBank Field in Jacksonville, Fla., on Jan. 2, 2015. The Tennessee Volunteers beat the Iowa Hawkeyes 45-28.



Ayrton Breckenridge | The Daily Iowan

Iowa head coach Kirk Ferentz watches a replay during the 2023 Wildcats Classic, a football game between Iowa and Northwestern at Wrigley Field in Chicago, on Nov. 4. The Hawkeyes defeated the Wildcats, 10-7.



Alston

In 2014, Iowa defenders shared a similar sentiment. Senior linebacker Quinton Alston had eight tackles and a sack in the regular-season finale against Nebraska, but his efforts were not enough for Iowa, which blew a 24-7 lead midway through the third quarter to fall, 37-34, in overtime at Kinnick Stadium.

"It's definitely not the way I want to go out," he said following that game. "I feel like I gave everything I have today. It stings a little bit, man."

The third and most important part of Wells' analysis dealt with the future of the program and Ferentz's potential longevity: subjects that could also be described as "murky" today.

The 2014 Hawkeye team lost four starters on its defense, including Alston and fellow second-team All-Big Ten members Carl Davis and Louis Trinca-Pasat. This year, Iowa could potentially lose seven starters in coordinator Phil Parker's unit, depending on whether they choose to use an extra year of eligibility.

While Alston's production was easily replaced with current Denver Broncos' linebacker Josey Jewell's 126 tackles the following season, Iowa's transition at linebacker may not be as smooth this year. Current starter Jay Higgins, who produced 155 tackles in 13 games this season, has not committed on whether he will return to Iowa City.

Should he choose to depart, the Hawkeyes will lose both their starters at linebacker. Left to fill that void is Kyler Fisher, who could also choose to leave after the bowl game, and redshirt sophomore Jaden Harrell, who has one career tackle.



Beathard

Iowa's quarterback situation in 2014 heading into the bowl game was also a glaring question mark. Heading into the bowl game against Tennessee, Ferentz remarked on his weekly radio show that second-year C.J. Beathard could make his second career start, adding that the position would be "open for discussion and more importantly open to competition."

That potential for competition worked itself out during the offseason when starter Jake Rudock transferred to Michigan.

Beathard then threw for 2,809 yards across 14 games in 2015, earning offensive team MVP honors.

Heading into the Citrus Bowl, Iowa starting quarterback Deacon Hill has completed less than 50 percent of his passes and has thrown six interceptions



Hill

compared to five touchdowns. Ferentz has confirmed throughout the season that Hill is still "the clear No. 1" and said last week that Hill will remain under center against the Volunteers.

Hill's underwhelming performance in 2023 could very much be forgotten next season when Michigan transfer Cade McNamara returns from his season-ending ACL tear. That injury was one of several for McNamara over the past two years, as the quarterback suffered a season-ending right knee injury in 2022 for the Wolverines, then missed two weeks of fall camp with the Hawkeyes due to a quad injury. How effectively McNamara recovers will be crucial for Iowa's offense to rebound in 2024.

Leading that offensive revival won't be current offensive coordinator Brian Ferentz, who was told in October by Interim Athletic Director Beth Goetz that he would not return to the team next season. When asked about the decision to fire his son, Kirk Ferentz made it a point to say the team's policy had always been to evaluate players and coaching staff during the offseason but added that he respected the "chain of command" of Goetz being his son's boss due to state nepotism laws.

Ferentz, in that same press conference, opened up the possibility of retirement by saying he was strictly focused on the 2023 season but issued a statement amending his comments the following day.

"While my immediate focus is on finishing the season strong, I love coaching and my intent is to continue coaching at the University of Iowa," the statement read. "We have built something very special here, and I plan to coach until I am no longer passionate about the game, players, or coaches."

Following the Gator Bowl, Kirk Ferentz's situation didn't center on whether he would choose to return, but whether he would be fired after not posting a nine-win regular season over the past five years. He was even asked about being on the hot seat in his post-game press conference.

"I think what I need to do is to take the energy I put into the job and put it toward our improvement. That's what I've been trying to do for the past 16 years," the head coach said at the time.

Applying that statement to 2024, such an effort could include further transfer portal acquisitions, an outside hire at offensive coordinator, or even a complete overhaul of the offensive system. In his postgame press conference in Indianapolis, Kirk Ferentz said he would "go back to the drawing board" to evaluate the future of the offense and find a new offensive coordinator for the first time since 2017.

What results from those deliberations might not be present against Tennessee, but the bowl game will be yet another end of an era. What follows in 2024 will be anyone's guess, but that future lies in the hands of Kirk Ferentz.



IOWA HAWKEYES

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

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2	TJ Hall	DB	6-0	185	Soph	Fresno, CA	41	Jaden Harrell	LB	6-2	237	Soph	Urbandale, IA
3	Kaleb Brown	WR	5-10	197	Soph	Chicago, IL	42	Zach Twedt	LB	6-3	242	Soph	Story City, IA
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TENNESSEE VOLUNTEERS

0	Jaylen Wright	RB	5-11	210	Jr	Durham, NC	39	Allen Smith	LB	6-1	226	Fr	Grayson, GA
0	Doneiko Slaughter	DB	6-0	190	Sr	Roswell, GA	40	Kalib Perry	LB	6-3	226	Soph	Georgetown, KY
1	Dont'e Thornton Jr.	WR	6-5	214	Jr	Baltimore, MD	41	Tyree Weathersby	DL	6-5	260	Fr	Douglasville, GA
1	Gabe Jeudy-Lally	DB	6-2	190	Sr	Austin, TX	41	JT Carver	K	5-11	210	Soph	Martin, TN
2	Jabari Small	RB	5-11	213	Sr	Memphis, TN	42	Hunter Barnes	RB	6-0	195	#Fr	Memphis, TN
2	Jaylen McCollough	DB	6-0	206	Sr	Austell, GA	42	Tyre West	DL	6-3	290	Soph	Tifton, GA
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4	Warren Burrell	DB	6-0	190	Sr	Suwanee, GA	44	Luke Shouse	TE	6-6	250	Jr	Nolensville, TN
5	Kamal Hadden	DB	6-1	197	Sr	River Rouge, MI	44	Elijah Herring	LB	6-3	238	Soph	Newnan, GA
6	Dylan Sampson	RB	5-11	190	Soph	Baton Rouge, LA	46	Cody Duncan	TE	6-1	239	Soph	Knoxville, TN
6	Aaron Beasley	LB	6-1	225	Sr	Franklin, GA	46	Malik Ganaway	DB	6-2	190	#Fr	Trenton, TN
7	Joe Milton III	QB	6-5	235	Sr	Pahokee, FL	47	Matthew Salansky	LS	5-11	245	Sr	Morristown, TN
7	Arion Carter	LB	6-1	227	Fr	Smyrna, TN	48	Bennett Brady	LS	6-1	205	#Fr	Memphis, TN
8	Nico Iamaleava	QB	6-6	206	Fr	Long Beach, CA	51	Vysen Lang	OL	6-4	337	Fr	Pike Road, AL
8	Brandon Turnage	DB	6-1	186	Sr	Oxford, MS	53	Jeremiah Crawford	OL	6-5	315	Sr	Goddard, KS
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9	Tyler Baron	DL	6-5	260	Sr	Knoxville, TN	54	Gerald Mincey	OL	6-6	337	Jr	Fort Lauderdale, FL
10	Squirrel White	WR	5-10	165	Soph	Birmingham, AL	55	Braeden Krivosh	OL	6-2	300	Jr	Baltimore, MD
10	Elijah Simmons	DL	6-2	340	Sr	Memphis, TN	55	Omarr Norman-Lott	DL	6-3	301	Jr	North Highlands, CA
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12	Tamarion McDonald	DB	6-2	208	Sr	Memphis, TN	56	Mekhi Bigelow	LB	6-0	209	#Fr	Charlotte, NC
13	Gaston Moore	QB	6-2	206	Jr	Hilton Head, SC	57	Connor Meadows	OL	6-4	297	#Fr	Trenton, TN
13	Wesley Walker	DB	6-1	200	Sr	Lewisburg, TN	57	Ben Bolton	LB	6-3	222	#Fr	Memphis, TN
14	Christian Charles	DB	6-1	195	Jr	Gainesville, GA	58	Isaac Green	DL	6-0	308	Sr	Memphis, TN
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20	Khalifa Keith	RB	6-1	230	Fr	Birmingham, AL	70	Andrej Karic	OL	6-6	310	Jr	Southlake, TX
20	Bryson Eason	DL	6-3	310	Jr	Memphis, TN	72	Addison Nichols	OL	6-5	327	#Fr	Atlanta, GA
21	Navy Shuler	QB	6-0	201	Jr	Fletcher, NC	73	Brian Grant	OL	6-7	329	#Fr	Fort Walton Beach, FL
21	Omari Thomas	DL	6-4	320	Sr	Memphis, TN	74	John Campbell Jr.	OL	6-5	320	Sr	Orlando, FL
22	Jack Jancek	WR	6-5	213	Jr	Knoxville, TN	75	Jackson Lampley	OL	6-4	315	Sr	Nashville, TN
22	Jeremiah Telander	LB	6-2	228	Fr	Gainesville, GA	76	Javontez Spraggins	OL	6-3	325	Sr	East St. Louis, IL
23	Cameron Seldon	RB	6-2	222	Fr	Browns Store, VA	77	Larry Johnson III	OL	6-7	348	Soph	Savannah, GA
24	Jordan Matthews	DB	6-2	182	Fr	Baton Rouge, LA	78	Ollie Lane	OL	6-4	320	Sr	Corryton, TN
25	DeSean Bishop	RB	5-10	200	Fr	Knoxville, TN	79	Shamurad Umarov	OL	6-7	320	Fr	Alpharetta, GA
25	Jourdan Thomas	DB	6-2	200	Soph	Montgomery, AL	80	Nate Spillman	WR	6-2	195	Fr	Nashville, TN
26	Will Albright	LB	6-1	230	Jr	Greeneville, TN	81	Chas Nimrod	WR	6-3	196	#Fr	Bentonville, AR
26	Carson Whitehead	DB	5-10	175									

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T TENNESSEE VOLUNTEERS



...s trust
 ...rts medicine.
 ...rd, and play hard, with poise,
 ...ou expect the best—from
 ...en an injury happens,
 ...e team trusted by the
 ...ou back in the game with
 ...care. It's what you expect—
 ...e's not meant to be sitting

...are sports medicine
 ...hat you love—

...cine

0	Jaylen Wright	RB	5-11	210	Jr	Durham, NC	39	Jalen Smith	LB	6-1	226	Fr	Grayson, GA
0	Doneiko Slaughter	DB	6-0	190	Sr	Roswell, GA	40	Kalib Perry	LB	6-3	226	Soph	Georgetown, KY
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26	Will Albright	LB	6-1	230	Jr	Greeneville, TN	81	Chas Nimrod	WR	6-3	196	#Fr	Bentonville, AR
26	Carson Whitehead	DB	5-10	175	#Fr	Powell, TN	82	Dayton Sneed	WR	6-0	190	Fr	Hermitage, TN
27	Emmanuel Okoye	TE	6-5	230	Fr	Anambra, Nigeria	83	Trey Weary	WR	6-2	180	#Fr	Houston, TX
27	James Pearce Jr.	DL	6-5	242	Soph	Charlotte, NC	84	Kaleb Webb	WR	6-3	198	#Fr	Powder Springs, GA
28	Patrick Wilk	RB	5-11	200	Soph	Nashville, TN	85	Nathan Leacock	WR	6-3	209	Fr	Raleigh, NC
28	De'Shawn Rucker	DB	6-0	190	Jr	Tallahassee, FL	86	Ethan Davis	TE	6-5	232	Fr	Atlanta, GA
29	Jack-Henry Jakobik	WR	6-3	185	Fr	Brentwood, TN	87	Jacob Warren	TE	6-6	253	Sr	Knoxville, TN
29	Christian Harrison	DB	6-1	190	Soph	Atlanta, GA	87	Joshua Helsdon	DL	6-4	270	#Fr	Cleveland, TN
30	Roman Harrison	DL	6-2	235	Sr	Bainbridge, GA	88	Charlie Browder	TE	6-7	250	Soph	Kingsport, TN
31	Jackson Locke	WR	6-0	175	Soph	Granville, OH	89	Hunter Salmon	TE	6-5	249	Sr	Birmingham, AL
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33	John Slaughter	DB	6-2	195	Fr	Clarksdale, MS	90	Max Gilbert	K	6-0	194	Fr	Memphis, TN
34	McCallan Castles	TE	6-5	252	Sr	South Lake Tahoe, CA	94	Nathan Robinson	DL	6-6	285	Fr	Greenbrier, TN
34	Jack Luttrell	DB	6-0	180	Fr	Gainesville, GA	94	Josh Turbyville	P	6-1	192	#Fr	Knoxville, TN
35	Garrett Young	WR	6-2	185	Fr	Alpharetta, GA	95	Trevor Duncan	DL	6-6	270	Fr	Knoxville, TN
35	Will Brooks	DB	6-1	200	Jr	Birmingham, AL	96	Austin Lewis	DL	6-6	261	Sr	Jonesborough, TN
36	Nathan Roberts	WR	6-4	201	Fr	Morristown, TN	97	Jayson Jenkins	DL	6-6	280	#Fr	Bordentown, NJ
36	William Wright	DB	6-0	193	Jr	Nashville, TN	98	Jackson Ross	P	6-3	195	#Fr	Melbourne, Australia
37	Montrell Bandy	DB	6-3	189	Soph	Mount Juliet, TN	99	Kurott Garland	DL	6-3	310	Sr	Conyers, GA
38	Chandavian Bradley	DL	6-5	221	Fr	Platte City, MO							



One on One: Daijon Parker

The Hawkeye offensive lineman talked actors, mac and cheese, and FBI aspirations with *The Daily Iowan* Sports Editor Kenna Roering.

#79 Daijon Parker • Senior | Offensive lineman | 6-foot-5 | Inkster, Michigan

The Daily Iowan: You've been here just a few months, how has it been?

Daijon Parker: It's been great. I will say I enjoy being in the building every day and being around my teammates and coaches. And it's the best decision I've made. I really wish I had more years to play, but I really enjoy being here.

Have you found a favorite spot to eat or anything fun you like to do here?

My favorite spot is Bread Garden. I think that Bread Garden has the best burger with the egg on it – it's the best. And Insomnia [Cookies] is another one.

If you could have anyone play you in a movie, who would it be?

Denzel Washington.

Why's that?

He's the greatest actor of all time to me. I watched all of his movies growing up — "Training Day," "Remember the Titans," and "The Equalizer." I just think he's the best actor.

How would you want your character to act?

Funny. I haven't really shown my funny side, but I'm a real funny guy. All my former teammates at my old school know I'm a funny guy.

Do you think you're the funniest guy on the team?

I'm one of them. But I will say the funniest guy on the team is maybe Anterio Thompson.

If you weren't playing football on Saturdays, what would you be doing?

I would be an FBI agent. I got my master's degree in public administration. I got my undergrad in criminal justice. So yeah, I plan on going into the FBI once my playing days are over.

Has that career always been a dream of yours?

It started off with, like, "Criminal Minds" and stuff. And then once I got to college, I started taking all my criminal justice classes, and I started to really enjoy it. So it's something I can really see myself doing. And we need people to serve and protect.

If you could eat one meal for the rest of your life, what would it be?

Baked mac and cheese. I'm actually the best cook on the team as well. I've been trying to tell my teammates that. But baked mac and cheese is the best.

Is that your own baked mac and cheese?

I have some family members that make it, but I also know how to make it.

Has anyone on the team tried your mac and cheese yet?

No, but I've made it. [Iowa running back] Kaleb Johnson was over, and he recorded it. He said it looked good. I will make it for the O-line one day so they can try it. But if I barbecue with some of my friends, we always make it. If we don't, there's no point in us even barbecuing. It's like a staple.

Do you have a favorite highlight or most embarrassing moment of your football career?

I would say my freshman year in high school. I was playing defensive tackle. They called hike on a play, and when I went, my chin strap came down and hit my throat. I just stood up in the middle of the play hanging onto my throat. My teammates were laughing after.

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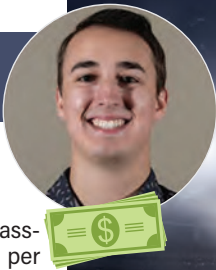
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PETE RUDEN

College Football Editor, Action Network
Daily Iowan Alumnus



Weekly Wager



MATT MCGOWAN

Pregame Editor

T TENNESSEE -7.5

Josh Heupel's offense ranks in the top-30 in passing success rate and averages over 450 yards per game, and it gets a little easier to see how the Volunteers score on this stingy Iowa defense — especially with Cooper DeJean out. Our Action Network projection makes Tennessee an 11.5-point favorite.

UNDER 36.5

It would be rude of me to close the season with anything other than an Iowa under. The flow of this game is going to be incredibly intriguing, considering Tennessee ranks second nationally in seconds per play (21.3) and Iowa ranks 99th (28.8). But both defenses are superior, ensuring an under here.

T TENNESSEE -7.5

In my heart, I believe Iowa has the chance to compete against any team, but the Hawkeye offense doesn't have the capability of keeping this one within a touchdown. The Volunteers have a stout pass rush, with three players registering more than five sacks, and that trio will wreak havoc.

UNDER 36.5

If it weren't for the Hawkeye offense's questionable fumble in their own red zone and one missed tackle on a punt return, the highly-touted Michigan offense would have just 12 points in Indianapolis. Of course, banking on Iowa ball security is a gamble, but that's what this page is all about.



The Daily Iowan's official bettor's guide to Iowa football's Citrus Bowl matchup with Tennessee.



Ruden's 2023 record: 24-15



McGowan's 2023 record: 27-12

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



JSU JACKSONVILLE STATE -3

The Gamecocks have more motivation and will dominate in the run game against Louisiana.



BOISE STATE +3

The Broncos have had quite the rebound this season and will continue their hot streak.

LET'S GO HAWKS!

Good Luck at the Citrus Bowl!



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On The Line

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



Matt McGowan
Pregame Editor
48-30



Kenna Roering
Sports Editor
44-34



Colin Votzmeyer
Asst. Sports Editor
50-28



Cooper Worth
Football Reporter
47-31



Michael Merrick
DITV Sports Director
40-38



John Bohnenkamp
Sports Writing Coach
50-28



Jason Brummond
Publisher
50-28

	IOWA My parents didn't drive to Florida on their 25th anniversary for nothing.	TENNESSEE The Iowa defense will do its part, but I'm not confident the offense will.	IOWA For the sake of KF's legacy.	IOWA Iowa's seniors get a nice send-off in a close win against the Volunteers.	IOWA The SEC is never ready for the lockdown Hawkeye "D."	IOWA An 11-win season will be incredibly impressive.	TENNESSEE Iowa needs 134 points to average 25 on the season.
	ALABAMA Michigan is terrified of good teams, in this case the "fourth best team."	ALABAMA Michigan can just never get it done in the playoffs.	MICHIGAN The Wolverines looked nervous in that watch party video.	ALABAMA The Wolverines want no smoke with Bama.	MICHIGAN I am boycotting Bama in favor of the FSU robbery.	ALABAMA Sorry, everyone, Tide deserved to be in the playoffs.	ALABAMA For the record, Michigan was never "America's team."
	WASHINGTON Penix Jr. is awesome, but not a Heisman. Plays like NFL Jameis.	TEXAS Texas vs. Alabama championship will be the highest-viewed ever.	WASHINGTON Michael Penix Jr. is my Heisman winner.	TEXAS Longhorns have been on fire since Ewers cut the mullet.	TEXAS They're back.	WASHINGTON Big Ten (of the future) gets a team into the title game.	WASHINGTON Huskies go on to win the national title.
	GEORGIA Huh, why is no one picking FSU? Life ain't fair. Dawgs feast on pity.	GEORGIA Even though I still feel terrible for Florida State.	GEORGIA The Jordan Travis absence effect shows why FSU isn't in the CFP.	GEORGIA The Dawgs got a chip on their shoulder, and that's a scary thought.	GEORGIA Just because I think FSU should be in the playoff doesn't mean it wins.	GEORGIA Bulldogs are too good for the Seminoles.	GEORGIA Florida State deserved a playoff spot.
	LIBERTY Went undefeated and won its conference. Flames will ignite.	OREGON I don't think this game will be close.	OREGON I don't know who let Liberty get this high. Blood bath.	OREGON Great exposure for Liberty, but I'm not sure they can keep up.	OREGON Liberty's a fun story ... but Ducks roll big time.	OREGON Liberty is a fun story, though.	OREGON Ducks can put up as many points as they want.
	MISSOURI Buckeyes still haven't recovered from The Game.	MISSOURI I think a Buckeye loss here would put Ryan Day on the hot seat.	OHIO STATE Elijah Drinkwitz's name looks like a typo.	MISSOURI I see the Tigers winning this due to the number of opt-outs for OSU.	MISSOURI Most of OSU won't be playing in this one.	MISSOURI Will the Buckeyes have anyone left for the game?	MISSOURI Hat tip to Elijah Drinkwitz for his Connor Stalions joke.
	ARIZONA I need to visit Winslow. I heard eagles take it easy there.	ARIZONA This will be an offensive shootout.	OKLAHOMA Bob Stoops, Hawkeye legend.	ARIZONA With Gabriel gone, the Wildcats win this one.	ARIZONA Wildcats will likely return to mediocrity after this good season.	OKLAHOMA An interesting pairing goes to the Sooners.	ARIZONA Oklahoma's QB forgot the Alamo.
	OLE MISS The Nittany Lions are the Yankees of CFB. Pretentious and boring.	PENN STATE This is the only New Year's Six bowl Penn State hasn't won yet.	PENN STATE Fire James Franklin.	PENN STATE Ah, the two third-place teams in their respective conferences.	PENN STATE I'm all here for Big Ten supremacy.	PENN STATE One of the Big Ten's big names has to win, right?	PENN STATE The Lane Train gets derailed by PSU's defense.
	OREGON STATE Notre Dame players definitely eat the regular Cheerios.	NOTRE DAME Opt-outs and the transfer portal will hurt both these teams.	NOTRE DAME Sam Hartman was my cousin's lab partner at Wake Forest.	NOTRE DAME With Uiagalelei out, the Beavers take this one.	NOTRE DAME I've picked Notre Dame in a ton of big time games ... that went well.	NOTRE DAME I picked this one out of a hat.	NOTRE DAME Fast sellout shows the power of Oregon State's fans.

BIG Bowl Guide



Colin Votzmeyer
Assistant Sports Editor



UTAH (8-4)

NORTHWESTERN (7-5)

Saturday, Dec. 23 | 6:30 p.m. | **abc**

Allegiant Stadium - Las Vegas, Nevada

Line: Utah -7.5 | O/U: 42.5

These two have had wildly opposite seasons. Utah tanked all the way down to a bowl game with Northwestern, and Northwestern overperformed into a bowl game with Utah.



BOWLING GREEN (7-5)

MINNESOTA (5-7)

Tuesday, Dec. 26 | 1 p.m. | **ESPN**

Ford Field - Detroit, Michigan

Line: Minnesota -5.5 | O/U: 36.5

Not only am I stunned Minnesota made a bowl game, but I'm bewildered that the Golden Gophers are actually favored in this one. Can't wait to see P.J. Fleck run out in front of his team.



RUTGERS (6-6)

MIAMI (7-5)

Thursday, Dec. 28 | 1:15 p.m. | **ESPN**

Yankee Stadium - Bronx, New York

Line: Miami -3.5 | O/U: 42.5

What happened to The U? The Hurricanes have fallen off for some time now. That's a complete disrespect to Bears legend Devin Hester.



9 MISSOURI (10-2)

7 OHIO STATE (11-1)

Friday, Dec. 29 | 7 p.m. | **ESPN**

AT&T Stadium - Arlington, Texas

Line: Ohio State -2.5 | O/U: 48.5

Mizzou has been a surprising team to watch this season. I can't get over the Tigers' coach's name being "Elijah Drinkwitz," so I'll take Marvin Harrison Jr. by a million.



11 OLE MISS (10-2)

10 PENN STATE (10-2)

Saturday, Dec. 30 | 11 a.m. | **ESPN**

Mercedes Benz Stadium - Atlanta, Georgia

Line: Penn State -4.5 | O/U: 48.5

Another good game in an amazing venue. I wouldn't mind tuning into this one, but it's so hard when these games have no ramifications. I'd have to force myself to watch the Nittany Lions.



AUBURN (6-6)

MARYLAND (7-5)

Saturday, Dec. 30 | 1 p.m. | **abc**

Nissan Stadium - Nashville, Tennessee

Line: Auburn -2.5 | O/U: 49.5

Auburn has succumbed to the "Miami effect." Do you remember when "Auburn's gonna win the football game!" was all over your Instagram and YouTube? Those were the days.



WISCONSIN (7-5)

13 LSU (9-3)

Monday, Jan. 1 | 11 a.m. | **ESPN 2**

Raymond James Stadium - Tampa, Florida

Line: LSU -10.5 | O/U: 56.5

So many questions with this one. Wisconsin has been atrocious this season. How did the Badgers make this bowl game? And how are they playing a potential Heisman winner?



17 IOWA (10-3)

21 TENNESSEE (8-4)

Monday, Jan. 1 | 12 p.m. | **abc**

Camping World Stadium - Orlando, Florida

Line: Tennessee -7.5 | O/U: 36.5

This is a game Iowa needs to win to be able to put this season in a cardboard box and up on a shelf in the attic. Let's move on, Hawkeye fans. All roads lead to the 2024 season!



4 ALABAMA (12-1)

1 MICHIGAN (13-0)

Monday, Jan. 1 | 4 p.m. | **ESPN**

Rose Bowl - Pasadena, California

Line: Michigan -1.5 | O/U: 45.5

Here we go. It should be Florida State at the fourth spot, and I feel terrible for the Seminoles. I have two words for you either way: Kool-Aid McKinstry.

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