

Hawkeyes Send Cowboys to Boot Hill, Win Season Opener 24-3 (09/02/17)

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Iowa City, Iowa – The Iowa Hawkeyes passed their first test of the 2017 Season with a solid 24-3 victory over Wyoming at Kinnick Stadium on Saturday.

Iowa's Defense faced a Wyoming quarterback that many experts believe will be a top-ten pick in next year's NFL Draft – and it passed with flying colors, allowing only a 49 yard field goal. Time and again, the Hawkeyes made big plays to thwart the Cowboys' drives. Wyoming could only convert on five of 18 third downs and the Cowboys were held without a touchdown for the first time since the 2003 season.

Sophomore Nate Stanley got his first start at quarterback and performed better as the game went along. He finished with a QB Rating of 176 and completed 8-15 passes with three of those going for touchdowns; he has suffered a pick on a tipped ball in the First Quarter and one fumble in the Fourth Quarter.

Iowa had to play this game without its normal starters in the offensive line, including at Center – not ideal for a young QB getting his first start. The Hawkeyes duo of "starting" running backs did what you would expect: Akrum Wadley had 116 yards on 24 carries while James Butler added 47 yards on just 10 carries and was always moving forward.

This was the first game for Brian Ferentz as Offensive Coordinator and he seemed to settle well into that position, calling plays from the press box rather than on the field.

Defensive Coordinator Phil Parker had an excellent game plan in place and his defense executed it really well – especially for an opening game against a very dangerous QB. A young defensive secondary (without starter Manny Rugamba who was suspended) was bolstered by terrific play from Iowa's veteran linebackers.

The Hawkeyes revamped Special Teams had a solid day and new starting place-kicker Miguel Recinos was effective on kick-offs and connected on his only field goal attempt from 44 yards out.

Prior to today's game, Kirk Ferentz Iowa Teams were only 3-10 in games where they had four or more turnovers. So after this game with four turnovers, that record has improved to 4-11.

Today's grades of note:

- Offense C+
- Defense A-
- Special Teams
- OC Brian Ferentz B-
- DC Phil Parker A

The Hawkeyes (1-0, 0-0) travel to Iowa State next Saturday in a game slated for an 11:00 AM kickoff in Ames. Iowa has much it can improve on – and will need to do so – before facing the Cyclones.

Click here for [Post-Game Notes, Stats, and Play-by-Play, and Season Stats](#) (from Iowa Athletic Communications).

WYOMING		3	IOWA HAWKEYES		24	Final									
End of game, clock 00:00. [00:00]		SCORE BY QUARTER		GAME COMPARISON											
Team rush for loss of 2 yards to the WY26.		TEAM	1	2	3	4	TOT	STAT	WY	IOWA					
Butler, James rush up middle for 6 yards to the WY27, 1ST DOWN IOWA (WILSON, Logan).			0	3	0	0	3	Total Yds	233	263					
Wadley, Akrum rush right for 1 yard to the WY33 (GRANDERSON, C.;CRALL, Gamett).			0	14	7	3	24	Rush Yds	59	138					
WYOMING PASSING		IOWA HAWKEYES PASSING		WYOMING RUSHING			IOWA HAWKEYES RUSHING								
#	PLAYER	C-A	YDS	TD	I	RTG	#	PLAYER	C-A	YDS	TD	I	RTG		
17	ALLEN, JOSH	23-40	174	0	2	84	4	STANLEY, NATE	8-15	125	3	1	176		
#	PLAYER	ATT	YDS	TD	LNG	AVG	#	PLAYER	ATT	YDS	TD	LNG	AVG		
3	HALL, MILO	9	30	0	7	3.3	25	WADLEY, AKRUM	24	116	0	23	4.8		
29	OVERSTREET, K	7	24	0	9	3.4	20	BUTLER, JAMES	10	47	0	10	4.7		
26	COX, AVANTAE'	1	9	0	9	9	6	SMITH-MARSETTE	1	4	0	4	4		
22	EVANS, NICO	3	5	0	7	1.7	TM	TEAM	1	-2	0	0	-2		
25	CONWAY, AUSTIN	1	3	0	3	3	87	FANT, NOAH	1	-4	0	0	-4		
TM	TEAM	1	-2	0	0	-2	4	STANLEY, NATE	4	-23	0	4	-5.8		
17	ALLEN, JOSH	8	-10	0	11	-1.3	5	RUSHERS	41	138	0	23	3.4		
6	RUSHERS	30	59	0	11	2	IOWA HAWKEYES RECEIVING		WYOMING RECEIVING						
#	PLAYER	NO	YDS	TD	LNG	AVG	TGT	#	PLAYER	NO	YDS	TD	LNG	AVG	TGT
84	EASLEY, NICK	4	77	1	45	19.3	4	25	CONWAY, AUSTIN	7	47	0	14	6.7	9
87	FANT, NOAH	2	29	2	27	14.5	6	13	OKWOLU, JOHN	4	41	0	23	10.3	6
89	VANDEBERG, MATT	2	19	0	14	9.5	2	14	JOHNSON, CJ	3	22	0	12	7.3	9
3	RECEIVERS	8	125	3	45	15.6	14	85	MAYFIELD, TYREE	3	19	0	14	6.3	6
WYOMING RUSHING		IOWA HAWKEYES RUSHING		CURRENT FIELD POSITION AND DRIVE			PLAYS, YARDS, AND TIME								
#	PLAYER	NO	YDS	TD	LNG	AVG	TGT	Plays	Yards	2D	Time				
25	CONWAY, AUSTIN	7	47	0	14	6.7	9	Start	4-04:36 at WY49 on INT						
13	OKWOLU, JOHN	4	41	0	23	10.3	6								
14	JOHNSON, CJ	3	22	0	12	7.3	9								
85	MAYFIELD, TYREE	3	19	0	14	6.3	6								
33	HARSHMAN, JOSH	2	12	0	7	6	2								
26	COX, AVANTAE'	1	14	0	14	14	1								
3	HALL, MILO	1	9	0	9	9	1								
29	OVERSTREET, K	1	6	0	6	6	1								
5	GAFFORD, RICO	1	4	0	4	4	1								
9	RUSHERS	23	174	0	23	7.6	38								