

Iowa At Iowa State Preview – 2017 Game 2

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By John Patchett (john@hawkeyesmic.com) 09/07/17

The Hawkeyes (1-0, 0-0) travel to Iowa State (1-0, 0-0) this Saturday in a game slated for an 11:01 AM kickoff on Jack Trice Field in Ames.

This is a Trophy Game—the Cy-Hawk Trophy is at stake. Iowa plays four trophy games this season and currently holds three of those including Cy-Hawk.

Iowa has much it can improve on – and will need to do so – before facing the Cyclones.

Both teams won their season-openers last Saturday. The Hawkeyes topped Wyoming 24-3 at Kinnick Stadium while ISU defeated UNI 42-24.

Iowa is going for 3rd straight win over Iowa State - after trouncing Cyclones 42-3 last season in Iowa City — and has won two straight on Jack Trice Field. Iowa leads series overall 42-22 and 18-8 in Ames. The Hawkeyes hold a 26-14 advantage with the Cy-Hawk Trophy at stake.

But ISU is much-improved under 2nd year HC Matt Campbell - playing better from mid-season on last year. It finished the 2016 season 3-9 but four of those losses were to very good teams by an average of just 6.3 points.

During the 19 years Kirk Ferentz has been Iowa's Head Coach — ISU has had 4 head coaches. Ferentz is 9-9 vs. ISU at the helm of the Hawkeyes.

Ferentz is the dean of college head football coaches. His overall record is 148-113 over 22 years; his record at Iowa is 136-92. Those 136 wins in all games coached as a member of the B1G ties him for 6th in league history and 2nd at Iowa — he is just 7 wins from tying Hayden Fry as the winningest in Hawkeyes History. His 82 wins in conference play also ranks 6th in Big Ten History.

Campbell is in his 2nd year heading the Cyclones. His overall record as a head coach is 39-24 over 6 years; his record at Iowa State is 4-9.

Iowa has 57 native Iowans on its roster (47%) — ISU has 31% native Iowans on its roster.

This is one of the few games this season Iowa will play on a grass field.

The game will be telecast on ESPN2 with announcers Jason Benetti and Kelly Stouffer. It will be broadcast on the Hawkeye Radio Network with Gary Dolphin, Ed Podolak, and Rob Brooks - and will also be available on satellite radio (Sirius Channel 112 and XM Channel 200)

Depth Chart

2-Deeps include: Alaric Jackson now as LT1 (Boone Myers LT2), James Daniels C1 returning from injury, Keegan Render back to LG1; Drake Kulick returns to FB1 & Brady Ross slides to FB2 (flipped from last week); Manny Rugamba back as CB1 & Michael Ojemudia back to CB2.

Game Preview Notes

Iowa Offense Vs ISU Defense

Iowa's O-Line (strength) vs. ISU D-Line (weakness).

Starting O-L was a bit jumbled due to injuries vs. WY. Both of Stanley's sacks were blown assignments. Render making line calls with Daniels out.

IA O definitely a work in progress — only 263 YDs of Total O vs. WY (110th FBS).

Stanley showed flashes of why picked as starter (8-15-1=125 -2 sacks - 3 pass TDs) but also fumbled twice — 176 QB Rating. Arm strength very impressive. Didn't help that C1 James Daniels missed game, Keegan Render as C.

Expect a heavy dose of Wadley and Butler.

RB combo of Akrum Wadley (24-116 - 4.8) & James Butler (10-47 - 4.7) productive/efficient vs. WY, combining for 34-163 - 4.8-. Wadley's 10th career 100 YD rushing games.

Against WY, TE Noah Fant (2-29-2 + at least 2 drops) - matchup problem. WR Nick Easley very impressive (4-77-1).

Fant and Easley + a sprinkling of Matt VandeBerg vs. Wyoming - but what about other TEs and WRs. Kirk said the game situation vs. WY resulted in IA playing fewer WRs & TEs than anticipated. What (and who) to expect vs. ISU?

MVB has had considerable success vs. ISU: 16-233-2 last 2 games.

IA will want to establish the run - ISU will try to stop that — but difficult task for Cyclones work-in-progress D-L — last week vs. UNI gave up 378 YDs Total O including 5.4 YPC. How much will ISU sell-out to stop the run (even if they're able to succeed in doing so) and try to force Stanley to beat them through the air?

ISU LBs Solid — Joel Lanning, starting QB last season, starting LB now (but listed as "LB/QB").

ISU FS Kamari Cotton-Moya (JR) 2nd-team All-Big 12 last year — pick 6 vs. UNI.

Iowa Defense Vs ISU Offense

Against WY, Josey Jewel Walter Campos & B1G DPOW; LBs as group terrific. Combined for 38 tackles vs. WY (Jewell 14, Niemann 13, Bower 11).

A.J. Epenesa's debut vs. WY - impressive - 18-year-old man-child - power + quickness, brute strength.

CB Josh Jackson shined vs. WY, including his pick & 41 YD return. Manny Rugamba suspended, returns vs. ISU.

Iowa's D-Line & LBs (strength) vs. ISU's O (strength with very good skill players). But ISU O-L is still a work in progress with only one proven blocker in Jake Campos (6'8", 300 SR).

ISU must establish the run to win — IA will try to make Cyclones one-dimensional (just as it did Wyoming).

ISU balanced O - shown ability to extend drives on ground plus quick-strike passing capability. 405 YDs Total O vs. UNI (271 pass, 134 rush).

ISU QB Jacob Park (6'4", 210 JR) won starting job late last season - on Maxwell Award watch list - 27-35-271 + 2 TDs vs. UNI.

ISU RB David Montgomery (5'11", 222 SO) - 82 YDs + 2 TDs vs. UNI. Mike Warren is an experienced and solid back-up.

ISU Wide Receivers led by Allen Lazard (6'5, 222 SR) - All Big 12 2016, ISU's all-time receptions leader and likely to become all-time yardage leader as well. 8-108 vs. UNI

WRs Hakeem Butler (7-75, TD vs. UNI) Trevor Ryan (6-55 vs. UNI), and Marchie Murdock (3-19, TD vs. UNI).

Iowa's inexperienced D-Sec vs. ISU's WRs (tall, fast, experienced). CB Josh Jackson faces his most difficult assignment, defending perhaps the best receiver he'll line up against in ISU's Lazard. Having fellow CB Manny Rugamba back from his one-game suspension will surely help. When they're not matching up with Lazard they could be staring down Butler (6'6", 219). That's a tall order - no pun intended.

Special Teams

PK Miguel Recinos showed why earned the starting job vs. WY.

Not completely sold yet on P Colten Rastetter after WY game. Maybe see Ryan Gersonde sooner rather than later.

KF said likely will see both PKs (Recinos and Keith Duncan) and both Ps situationally as season unfolds.

