

# GAMEDAY

## IOWA HAWKEYES SCHEDULE

<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>I STATE</b>	<b>MT</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>N</b>	
Aug. 31 Miami W, 38-14	Sept. 7 Rutgers W, 30-0	Sept. 14 at Iowa State W, 18-17	Sept. 28 Middle Tenn. W, 48-3	Oct. 5 at Michigan L, 10-3	Oct. 12 Penn State L, 17-12	Oct. 19 Purdue W, 26-20	Oct. 26 at Northwestern W, 20-0	Nov. 9 at Wisconsin L, 24-22	Nov. 16 Minnesota W, 23-19	Nov. 23 Illinois W, 19-10	Nov. 29 at Nebraska W, 27-24

### PLAY ACTION: A CLOSER LOOK AT TODAY'S GAME



USC Coach Clay Helton answers a question during a coaches' news conference Thursday at the Manchester Grand Hyatt in San Diego. The Hawkeyes take on the Trojans at 7 tonight. (Jim Slosiarek/The Gazette)

SAN DIEGO — Random thoughts on tonight's Iowa-USC matchup in the Holiday Bowl.

#### THE TROJANS

**Pushing the buttons** — USC signed offensive coordinator Graham Harrell to a three-year contract extension last week. After being fired at Texas Tech, Kliff Kingsbury took the USC coordinator's job, but then was offered the Arizona Cardinals head coach position. The Cardinals wanted the "Air Raid" passing offense for quarterback Tyler Murray.

So, before Kingsbury had a desk in Los Angeles, he was off to Phoenix and so now here's Harrell.

The numbers shot up this season, with the Trojans ranking 18th in the nation in total offense with 462 yards per game. Harrell is most certainly on a head coaching track.

**Kedon Kedon Kedon** — Not long after the guy who was supposed to be offensive coordinator bolted, quarterback J.T. Daniels suffered a torn ACL in the opener against Fresno State. So here was a new offensive coordinator and freshman quarterback named Kedon Slovis. This is where 4-8 flashed in front of everyone's eyes. But, no, Slovis turned out to be great and it looks

like Harrell knows what he's doing with the Air Raid. Slovis completed 71 percent of his passes this season (260 of 362). He had 28 TDs to just nine interceptions and 3,242 yards. He was named the Pac-12's freshman of the year.

One fun fact here: Slovis had Kurt Warner as his offensive coordinator and QB coach at Scottsdale (Ariz.) Desert Mountain High School. Yes, that Kurt Warner.

**The best passing offense Iowa will have faced this season** — What really, really has to come through for an offense with a new coordinator and a new starting QB? The wide receivers, of course.

This group pushed the USC passing game to No. 6 in the country, averaging 335.9 yards a game (the 71.0 percent completion percentage is No. 5 in the nation).

Senior Michael Pittman drove this group with 95 receptions for 1,222 yards and 11 TDs. It doesn't stop with Pittman. There's Amon-Ra St. Brown (68 catches, 879 yards and six TDs). There's Tyler Vaughns (68 catches, 858 yards and six TDs). This big three was a point of interest for the Iowa secondary this week.

#### THE HAWKEYES

**The 4-2-5 rides in again** — Yes, this is going to be a game where

defensive coordinator Phil Parker calls on the 4-2-5 defense probably a lot.

In addition to high-caliber performers at WR, the Trojans play a lot of 10 (one running back, no tight ends) and 11 (one back, one tight end) personnel. Since the late October game against Northwestern, Iowa has run a ton of 4-2-5 with true freshman Dane Belton playing the cash safety position. Belton ended up playing more snaps than any true freshman at 364, with 139 of those coming in the last two games (Illinois and Nebraska).

Against the pass this year, Iowa's 4-2-5 came up with successful plays at a 52-percent rate. And for the second straight year, it was Iowa's most popular alignment with opposing offenses seeing it 74 percent of the time.

**One last game of chicken with the running game** — USC is young on the defensive front. The Trojans start three sophomores and two freshmen in the linebackers and defensive line. That probably explains the 1,995 rushing yards allowed (Iowa has allowed 1,441 for comparison) and the 4.58 yards per carry (89th in the country).

Now, can Iowa find consistent success? The inconsistency this season has had to have been

maddening for all involved. Ten sacks held Iowa to 1 rushing yard at Michigan. The high was 351 yards against Middle Tennessee State.

The 225 yards and 7.3 yards per carry at Nebraska were a good sign. Iowa hit 4.5 yards per carry or above just four times this season. It's the big thing on the agenda for 2020.

**Pass rush won the Outback, can it come through here?** — The Hawkeyes were credited with just one sack in last year's Outback Bowl victory over Mississippi State. It was a strip sack by defensive end A.J. Epenesa and it led to points. Beyond that, the Hawkeyes relentlessly pressured MSU's quarterback and caused mistakes. "If they get you in third-and-long, they are elite," USC head coach Clay Helton said Thursday. "I truly believe their pass rush on third down allows them to play advantage coverages because they can rush four and get to you, and that's always a deterrent for offenses."

#### PREDICTION

**Iowa 27, USC 24** — One-dimensional offense against Iowa's pass rush. USC's big play potential is the wild card.

— Marc Morehouse

## IOWA HAWKEYES

### TWO-DEEPS

#### OFFENSE

- WR** 3 Tyrone Tracy Jr. 5-11 200 Fr. 12 Brandon Smith 6-2 218 Jr.
- TE** 39 Nate Wieting 6-4 250 Sr. 84 Sam LaPorta 6-4 242 Fr. 42 Shaun Beyer 6-5 244 Jr.
- LT** 77 Alaric Jackson 6-6 320 Jr. 79 Jack Plumb 6-7 272 Fr.
- LG** 68 Landan Paulsen 6-5 305 Sr. 71 Mark Kallenberger 6-5 291 So.
- C** 65 Tyler Linderbaum 6-3 286 Fr. 75 Jeff Jenkins 6-3 266 Fr.
- RG** 64 Kyler Schott 6-2 290 So. 63 Justin Britt 6-5 290 Fr.
- RT** 74 Tristan Wirfs 6-5 322 Jr. 66 Levi Paulsen 6-5 305 Sr.
- WR** 6 Ihmir Smith-Marsette 6-1 183 Jr. 89 Nico Ragaini 6-0 192 Fr.
- QB** 4 Nate Stanley 6-4 243 Sr. 7 Spencer Petras 6-5 230 Fr.
- RB** 15 Tyler Goodson 5-10 190 Fr. 28 Toren Young 5-11 223 Jr. 10 Mekhi Sargent 5-9 212 Jr.
- FB** 36 Brady Ross 6-0 246 Sr. 40 Turner Pallissard 6-0 242 Fr.

#### DEFENSE

- LE** 57 Chauncey Golston 6-5 270 Jr. 92 John Waggoner 6-5 270 Fr. 13 Joe Evans 6-2 240 Fr.
- LT** 95 Cedrick Lattimore 6-3 295 Sr. 54 Daviyon Nixon 6-3 309 So.
- RT** 91 Brady Reiff 6-3 277 Sr. 74 Austin Schulte 6-4 287 Jr.
- RE** 94 A.J. Epenesa 6-6 280 Jr. 97 Zach VanValkenburg 6-4 270 Jr.
- L/C** 49 Nick Niemann 6-4 235 Jr. 35 Barington Wade 6-1 236 Jr.
- MLB** 34 Kristian Welch 6-3 239 Sr. 43 Dillon Doyle 6-3 235 Fr.
- WLB** 32 Djimon Colbert 6-1 235 So. 44 Seth Benson 6-0 227 Fr.
- LC** 8 Matt Hankins 6-0 185 Jr. 12 D.J. Johnson 5-11 183 Fr.
- SS** 9 Geno Stone 5-10 210 Jr. 4 Dane Belton 6-1 190 Fr.
- FS** 28 Jack Koerner 6-0 204 So. 26 Kaevon Merriweather 6-0 210 So.
- RC** 11 Michael Ojemudia 6-1 200 Sr. 33 Riley Moss 6-1 191 So.

#### SPECIALISTS

- PK** 3 Keith Duncan 5-10 180 Jr. 10 Caleb Shudak 5-8 180 Jr.
- PT** 22 M. Sleep-Dalton 6-0 212 Sr. 7 Colton Rastetter 6-1 213 Sr.

## USC TROJANS

### TWO-DEEPS

#### OFFENSE

- WR** 6 Michael Pittman, 6-4 200 Sr. 27 Matthew Hocum 5-10 175 Sr.
- WR** 21 Tyler Vaughns 6-2 190 Jr. 86 Chase Locke 6-4 190 Fr.
- WR** 8 Amon-Ra St. Brown 6-1 195 So. 1 Velus Jones Jr. 6-0 190 Jr.
- WR** 15 Drake London 6-5 205 Fr. 80 John Jackson III 6-2 210 Fr.
- TE** 84 Erik Krommenhoek 6-5 260 Jr. 83 Josh Falco 6-6 230 Jr.
- LT** 73 Austin Jackson 6-6 310 Jr. 65 Frank Martin II 6-4 300 Jr.
- LG** 75 Alijah Vera-Tucker 6-4 310 So. 52 Jacob Daniel 6-4 310 Sr.
- C** 62 Brett Neilson 6-2 300 So. 57 Justin Dedich 6-2 295 Fr.
- RG** 70 Jalen McKenzie 6-5 300 So. 71 Liam Jimmons 6-4 305 Jr.
- RT** 53 Drew Richmond 6-5 315 Sr. 77 Jason Rodriguez 6-6 325 Fr.
- QB** 9 Kedon Slovis 6-2 200 Fr. 19 Matt Fink 6-3 200 Jr.
- TB** 29 Vavae Malepeai 6-0 220 Jr. 7 Stephen Carr 6-0 210 Jr.

#### DEFENSE

- DE** 89 Christian Rector 6-4 270 Sr. 90 Connor Murphy 6-7 260 Jr.
- DT** 78 Jay Tufele 6-3 305 So. 50 Nick Figueroa 6-5 280 So.
- NT** 51 Brandon Tuipulotu 6-3 305 So. 91 Brandon Pili 6-4 325 Jr.
- DE** 99 Drake Jackson 6-4 275 Fr. 96 Caleb Tremblay 6-5 270 Jr.
- SLB** 42 AbdulMalik McClain 6-4 240 Fr. 41 Juliano Falaniko 6-4 235 So.
- MLB** 10 John Houston Jr. 6-3 220 Sr. 34 Eli'jah Winston 6-3 240 Fr.
- WLB** 1 Oekae Gaeoteote IV 6-2 250 So. 26 Kana'i Mauga 6-2 240 So.
- CB** 2 Olajiah Griffin 6-0 170 So. 22 Dorian Hewett 6-0 180 Fr.
- FS** 21 Isaiah Pola-Mao 6-4 205 So. 28 C.J. Pollard 6-1 195 Jr.
- SS** 15 Talanoa Hufanga 6-1 220 So. 7 Chase Williams 6-2 190 Fr.
- NK** 9 Greg Johnson 5-11 190 So. 23 Kaulana Makuaka 6-3 190 Fr.
- CB** 6 Isaac Taylor-Stuart 6-2 205 Fr. 8 Christ Steele 6-1 190 Fr.

#### SPECIALISTS

- PK** 40 Chast McGrath 6-0 190 So. 38 Alex Stadthaus 6-2 200 So.
- P** 24 Ben Griffiths 6-5 240 Fr. 36 Will Rose 6-1 175 Fr.

### CHATTERBOX

The Iowa football team will take the Tigerhawk logo off its helmets today to honor former coach Hayden Fry, who died Dec. 17. Here is a sampling of what some former players had to say about the legendary coach on Twitter:

So glad to have been able to express my appreciation to my Iowa coaches! Our condolences and prayers to the Fry family and may coach Hayden Fry rest in peace.

— Merton Hanks @MertonHanks36

I was very fortunate to be part of changing the culture at the University of Iowa. Coach Fry said we would change things in the program. We started with a passion, purpose and all the right people. At Iowa with Hayden Fry we learned the true meaning of mental and physical toughness, team discipline and how to be

accountable. I was never more prouder being associated with my teammates, coaches who helped to turn a football program around like we did at Iowa. Condolences to all my teammates and coaches and to the Fry family. Hayden, RIP Hoss. I can still hear the phrase Hayden coined, "scratch where it itches. If an opponent tries to stop the run, we pass. If they stop the pass, we run."

— Andre Tippett @AndreTippett

He gave me a chance to walk on at Iowa football, he bestowed a nickname for me, "Repeat." I love you Coach Fry, thank you for the opportunity of a lifetime and for taking great care of this island boy in Iowa City! RIP Coach I will never forget you! Pray for his whole family!

— Eppy Epenesa @EEpenesa

Glad I could see Coach Fry earlier this

year at his 90th birthday party. His impact in the world will last forever! I was in his office only one time, when he gave me a scholarship after my freshman season. It was one of the best memories of my life.

— Brion Hurley @brionhurley

RIP Coach Fry. Thank you for taking a chance on a kid from a small town of 9,500 in Illinois. He was a great man. As a coach, he wanted nothing but the best for his players. He touched so many lives that have been changed for the better.

— Mike Goff @WKUMikeGoff

I am deeply saddened to hear of the passing of my coach and mentor, Hayden Fry. He had a profound effect on the Stoops family, helping Bob, Mike and me grow as young men and then influence us in our coaching

careers. Heartfelt sympathies go out to Coach Fry's family and friends.

— Mark Stoops @UKCoaches

Hayden Fry was an icon. He touched the hearts of all he coached. His impact on my family and me will always be cherished. We are all saddened by this news but forever grateful for his contributions to college football. I am so fortunate to have played and coached for him.

— Mike Stoops @Mike\_Stoops41

I lost my coach. Passing at the age of 90, Hayden Fry changed my life. Much of what I have accomplished in life is because what he saw in me, that young kid from Madison, Wis. I keep his picture in my locker. I am so grateful he was my coach. Rest in peace Coach.

— Jay Norvell @CoachJayNorvell

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