



BOWLED OVER

Although the Gator Bowl was not quite what many Hawkeye fans had in mind, many made the long journey to Florida. When they arrived, many discovered that neither the Florida weather nor the other team could be taken for granted.

Bowl Fever was a phenomenon that alternately raged and receded in the hearts and minds of Iowa football fans in the 1983 season.

There was a hint of it after the victory over Penn State. When Iowa defeated Big Ten foe Ohio State at home, the fever broke into full bloom as the ground began to shout "Rose Bowl! Rose Bowl!" Meanwhile, more enthusiastic and energetic fans rushed past a ring of security guards to tear down the goal posts. The Hawks were rated number three in the nation's college football polls and there was no stopping them.

Until the Illinois game. After that shock, the fever rekindled, only to be diminished again by a close loss to Michigan. The standings clearly ruled Rose Bowl possibilities out.

Several "minor" bowls began to scout the Hawks. And, although it was unofficial, "Gator Bowl Fever" rose toward the end of the season. After the Michigan State game the bid was officially given, and officially accepted by Hawkeye Coach Hayden Fry.

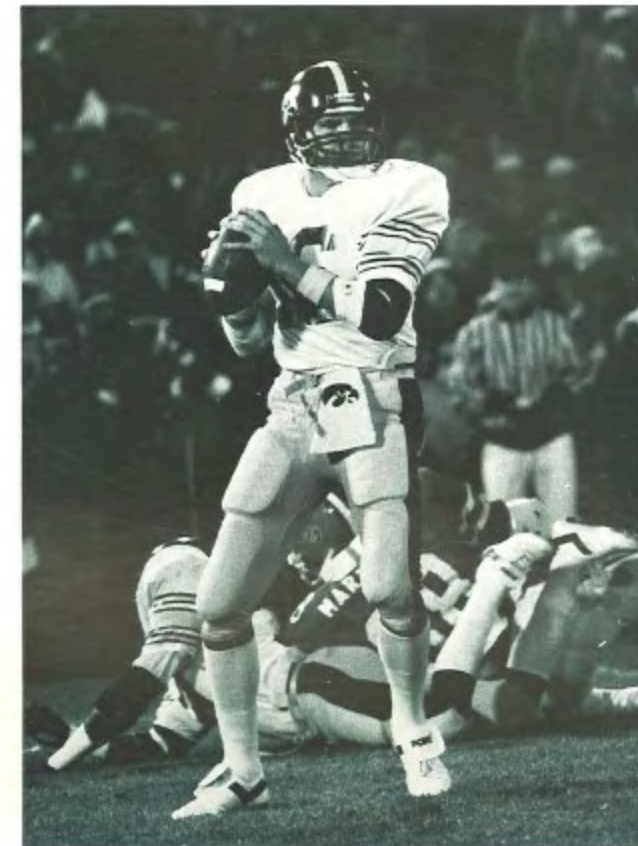
So, at the end of the Christmas holidays, with the cheer of the season still on their minds, nearly 20,000 ardent Hawkeye fans made the trek to Jacksonville, Florida to escape an especially nasty Iowa winter and discovered it wasn't so nice there after all.

The Hawkeyes, who were making their third straight bowl appearance in three consecutive seasons, were also apparently stunned by the 34 degree temperature at game time for the 39th annual Gator Bowl.

Iowa's opponents were the Florida Gators, who had

As throngs of reporters and guards surround him, Coach Hayden Fry congratulates a member of the Florida Gator team. The 14-6 Iowa loss was made worse by bad weather and weak offensive action by the team.

—Doug Smith



As the Florida defense approaches, quarterback Chuck Long attempts to make a pass. Florida intercepted four of Long's passes. The road to the Gator Bowl: Band member John Gilbert entertains one of the representatives of the Gator Bowl during the halftime of the Michigan State game.





As the clock begins to run down, running back Norm Granger takes the ball down the field. Losing the game didn't mean the Iowa fans could not have some fun; three members of the UI flag team sport Mickey Mouse sweatshirts that they purchased during a trip to Disney World after the game.



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Even if Iowa lost the game, most Iowa fans made the best of it by partying heartily and taking side-trips to Disney World.

the advantage of playing literally on their home turf. Both teams had been unable to hold very many practices because of the unusually inclement Florida weather, causing the coaches to make remarks before the game about how unprepared they felt their teams were. The play was sluggish throughout the first half, as both team's usually high-scoring offenses were surprisingly quiet. Thus the first half was a defensive battle with the score of 7-3, Florida, just before time ran out.

Iowa was punting from their own nine-yard line when the snap was mishandled by Iowa punter Tom Nichol. Hawkeye fans all over held their breaths as he tried in vain to regain possession of the elusive ball before a Gator player fell on it in the end zone, causing Florida to take the lead, 14-3 at the half.

Hawk fans remained confident; after all, their team was a strong half team, capable of making up 11 points easily. But the awaited offensive explosion never came, only four Florida interceptions of Chuck Long passes, and a single Tom Nichol field goal. The only thing to cheer about was the fact that the Iowa defense continued to hold up, keeping the Gators scoreless in the second half.

The Gators had all the points they needed to win, however, and the final score was 14-6. Despite the loss, the Hawkeyes remained in the top twenty of the polls, finishing 14th in the nation. The Hawks also tied the all-time record for best won-loss record with nine wins and three losses. In addition, the Hawks broke a number of Big Ten as well as team passing, rushing, and scoring records in their successful season. □

—Scott Peterson

All piled up: a Florida player attempts to dive over a mass of Hawkeye and Gator team members. Iowa's defense kept the Gators scoreless in the second half, but the Iowa offense wasn't capable of similar feats.

—Doug Smith



Despite a heartbreaking performance in the Gator Bowl, a 9-3 season and a third place finish made the Hawks . . .

Big in the Big Ten

The UI Hawkeye Football team wrapped up another highly successful season that produced a 9-3 record, a third straight bowl game and a number fourteen national ranking.

The **Hawkeyes** were 6-2 and third in the Big Ten and finished the season by dropping a 14-6 Gator Bowl game in December.

By winning nine games, the 1983 **Hawkeyes** equalled a school record set in 1903 (9-2) and tied in 1956 (9-1). **Iowa's** three losses were to Top-10 ranked teams.

Both The Associated Press and United Press International ranked **Iowa** 14th in their final polls, which was the best Hawkeye finish since 1960 when they finished second in UPI and third in AP.

Iowa's offense was responsible for breaking many school, Kinnick Stadium and Big Ten records. Final tabulations showed the **Hawkeyes** broke 32 **Iowa** records and tied four others.

Quarterback Chuck Long, kicker Tom Nichol and wide receiver Dave Moritz accounted for most of the individual marks; Long and Nichol will return next season to add to these marks.

Iowa hit Northwestern with 713 total yards in the Homecoming battle — A Big Ten record. The **Hawkeyes** also had totals of 658 yards against Indiana and 656 against Minnesota, figures that rank 6th and 7th in the conference record book. **Iowa** had a good blend of running and passing and finished the season averaging 473 yards per game.

Iowa finished the regular season with 74 plays that gained 20 or more yards, including 55 by passing, 15 by rushing, three by punt return and one by interception return. The longest was an 86-yard pass from Tom Grogan to Robert Smith.

Head Coach Hayden Fry has a five-year record at **Iowa** of 34-24 in all games, 27-14 in the Big Ten. He is the only Hawkeye coach to take teams to bowls three straight years (Rose in 1981, Peach in 1982 and Gator in 1983), and the only one to finish in

An interception is cause for celebration for linebacker Mike Yacullo during the Ohio State game. Yacullo's interception helped the team win the game 20-14.

— Doug Smith

the Big Ten's first division in each of his first five seasons.

His record as a Division I coach for the past 22 years is 123-113-4. In the past three seasons, Hayden's Hawks have been 25-11.

Three **Hawkeyes** were according All-American honors. Linebacker Larry Station made second team (Football News), center Joel Hilgenberg made second team (The Sporting News) and wide receiver Dave Moritz made third team (AP). Station, Moritz, Long, offensive tackle John Alt, defensive tackle Paul Hufford and defensive back Mike Stoops were All-Big Ten first team selections.

In his first five years at **Iowa**, Fry produced nine first or second team All-Americans, including consensus choices defensive end Andre Tippett and punter Reggie Roby.

Fullback Norm Granger, Alt, and Hilgenberg played in the Hula Bowl, where Hayden Fry was an assistant coach. Offensive tackle Joe Levelis played in the East-

Avoiding the Ohio State defense becomes particularly difficult when the referee gets in the way. Running back **Ronnie** Harmon is pursued during a pass return.

— Doug Smith

West Shrine Game. Hilgenberg played in the Senior Bowl and Japan Bowl, and Alt was selected for the Japan Bowl.

The U.S. Football League Draft included eight Hawkeye offensive performers



A diving tackle made by Lon Olejniczak effectively halts the opposition during the Ohio State game. Olejniczak, a Decorah senior, lettered three times for the Hawks.

— Doug Smith

Caught in a mass of Cyclone linemen, running back Paul McCarty attempts to return a pass. The Hawks beat **Iowa** State by 41 points during a nationally-televised game.

— Doug Smith

Big in the Big Ten

Iowa had no seniors in its defensive lineup. The Oklahoma Outlaws took Granger (second round), Alt (third) and Levelis (third); the Washington Federals took Hilgenberg (sixth) and Moritz (14th); the San Antonio Gunslingers took Eddie Phillips (tenth); the Oakland Invaders took quarterback Tom Grogan (fourteenth); and the Tampa Bay Bandits took tight end Mike Hufford (fourteenth).

Attendance records in 1983 included a 12-game total of 878,348 people (73,279, game average). The five game home average of 66,124 is also a new mark. All but one of Iowa's 12 games was a sellout; the Hawkeyes have had 22 straight sellouts at Kinnick Stadium. Over 20,000 Hawkeye fans traveled across the country to Jacksonville, Florida to see the Hawkeyes do battle in the Gator Bowl.

Returning lettermen to the 1984 Hawkeye squad include Iowa's leading rusher, Owen Gill, and passer, Chuck Long, the

number two receiver, Ronnie Harmon, and the first and second place scorers, Nichol and Gill. Larry Station, Mike Stoops and other defensive leaders will return for the 1984 season. □

— Troy Thompson

A flying leap by running back Ronnie Harmon allows him to catch a punt return during the Purdue game. The Hawks beat the Boilermakers 31-14.

— Doug Smith

SEASON RECORD: Won 9, Lost 3, Tied 0

Iowa State.....	W	51-10
Penn State.....	W	42-34
Ohio State.....	W	20-14
Illinois.....	L	0-33
Northwestern.....	W	61-21
Purdue.....	W	31-14
Michigan.....	L	13-16
Indiana.....	W	49-3
Wisconsin.....	W	34-14
Michigan State.....	W	12-6
Minnesota.....	W	61-10
Florida.....	L	6-14



A scramble for the ball puts Iowa players Tim Sennott and Norm Granger in the middle of a heap during the September game against Iowa State.

— Doug Smith

Feeling the pressure of the Ohio State defense, quarterback Chuck Long goes for the pass. Long, a junior from Wheaton, IL, was starting quarterback for many games.

— Doug Smith



Amid the roar of the crowd, the Hawks enter the field for the Ohio State game. The Hawk's 9-3 season equaled the previous record set in the 1960's.

— Doug Smith