

History tends to repeat itself. On December 26,
an Iowa air attack, commanded by quarterback
Chuck Long, branded its name in Texas history.

The battle the Longhorns **THE LONGEST**

called **DAY**



Iowa's Freedom Bowl triumph over Texas evens up the Hawkeye's bowl record in four years to 2-2. (D.R. Miller)

Mike Hooks, Nate Creer, and Keith Hunter team up on Texas runningback, Jerome Johnson, Texas' explosive offense only managed 17 points against the Hawks. (D. Nierling)

Quarterback Chuck Long virtually passed at will as he commanded his team to a 55-17 dismantling of 19th ranked Texas in a soggy inaugural Freedom Bowl in Anaheim, California. Long shattered school records in total offense, with 481; in passing yards, 461; in completions, 29; in touchdown passes, with 6. Long's six touchdowns also broke the NCAA record for the most touchdowns in a game.

Texas, a member of the Southwest conference, finished 7-4-1 after allowing the second-highest single-game point total in school history and the most since

off the dogs late there," said Fry.

Fry's air force marched down Anaheim stadium, in front of a crowd of 24,093, and blasted with a 14-0 lead in the first quarter. Chuck Long connected on a 6-yard pass to Jonathan Hayes and an 11-yard pass to Mike Flagg.

A diving catch in the end zone by Bill Boy Bryant on an 11-yard pass by Todd Dodge with 1:25 gone in the second period gave the Longhorns its first touchdown.

The Hawks came back with a 1-yard power play by fullback Fred Bush. However, Texas answered with a 1-yard

"We never dreamed we could throw that well against Texas, let alone score 55 points. There's no telling how many we would have scored if we hadn't called the dogs late."

1904 when the University of Chicago beat Texas, 68-0. Iowa finished the season 8-4-1 as the only Big Ten bowl contender to win a post-season berth.

For Hayden Fry, this victory was sweet, for he wanted it badly. Fry had coached in the shadow of Texas and its factory of great teams for many years at Southern Methodist and North Texas State—losing 11 of his 13 games against the Longhorns.

"We never dreamed we could throw that well against Texas, let alone score 55 points. There's no telling how many we would have scored if we hadn't called

Dodge pass to William Harris, then a 46-yard field goal from Jeff Ward to make the score 21-17.

Iowa kicker, Tom Nichol, booted a 27-yard field goal to close the half at 24-17.

Texas should have stayed in the locker room in the third quarter when their nightmare began. Chuck Long released his firing arm and connected on a four-touchdown passing salvo. First, a 33-yard pass to Bill Happel then a 49-yard bomb to Iowa's "Mr. Postman," Robert Smith. Long pumped some more strikes on a 4-yard TD to Scott Helverson and a 15-yard TD to Jonathan Hayes. In only

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11:14 minutes, Iowa had scored 31 points.

"Long threw so well that Iowa could have had an 80-year-old lady catching the ball," said Tony Degrate, the 280-pound Texas defensive tackle who won the Lombardi Award for defensive backs during the season.

The Hawkeyes finished the season ranked no. 15th by UPI, 16th by AP, 17th by the Sporting News and 20th by USA Today.

Chuck Long elected to stay at Iowa, instead of turning professional, for another crack at the Rose Bowl.

Linebacker Larry Station became the third consensus all-American produced by Fry's coaching staff and the 10th Hawkeye to receive that distinction. Tight end Jonathan Hayes made first team A-A (Gannet News Service) and tailback Ronnie Harmon was a second team selection (Sporting News).

Owen Gill established an Iowa career rushing record of 2,556 yards. He closed the 1984 campaign with 920 yards,

A trip to California can be very expensive. This couple uses a banner as their last resort for help from the folks back home in Iowa. (D. Nierling)

slightly ahead of the 907 figure produced by Ronnie Harmon in nine games.

Kicker Tom Nichol finished his Iowa career with a school record of 277 points. He ranks no.2 in all-time Big Ten kick scoring.

For the second time in four seasons, seven Hawkeyes made first-team all-Big Ten in all four categories. (rush, pass, total and scoring). It was the third time in four seasons the Hawkeyes led the league in total defense.

The 1984 Hawkeyes bettered 32 school records and tied five others.

- George Aquino

Singing in the rain ... defensive end Bruce Gear celebrates another Iowa touchdown on the sidelines with fellow teammates. (D. Nierling)

Uncle Sam waves at the crowd after a semi-successful landing, via parachute, in Anaheim Stadium. Uncle Sam eventually landed on a Hawkeye band member. (D. Nierling)



"Long threw the ball so well that Iowa could have had an 80-year old lady catching the ball." - Tony Degrate



Chuck Long

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The 1985 season was unique for Iowa athletics; Hayden Fry's men earned a trip to the first Freedom Bowl in California, the women's field hockey team earned a second place finish in the nation, and the women's volleyball team's victory over Purdue ended a ten year losing streak to this powerful rival.

The UI Athletic Department's idea of fitting into the scheme of things was based on attaining the highest awards for themselves. This was clearly demonstrated at the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles, California. Four UI athletes came home with gold medals and another earned a silver.

With sporting events ranging from the outdoor cross-country team to the Carver-Hawkeye Arena and the mens basketball team, the University of Iowa offered a large and diverse number of events to choose from.

Fans, in particular, seemed to be attracted to the sports scene from across the state and around the country. It was often said that an Iowa fan is special, and this year some of those loyal fans were recognized as the "Fan of the Week," a contest sponsored by channel 7 — The Iowa Network. It was the participation from every aspect that made the year in sports a success.



86 The gold stopped here . . . UI athletes snagged four gold and one silver medal at the LA Games.

92 The Final Four . . . After many close but unsuccessful attempts at reaching it, they finally made it.

97 Painted faces . . . Hawk fans set a world record at the Homecoming game against Illinois.

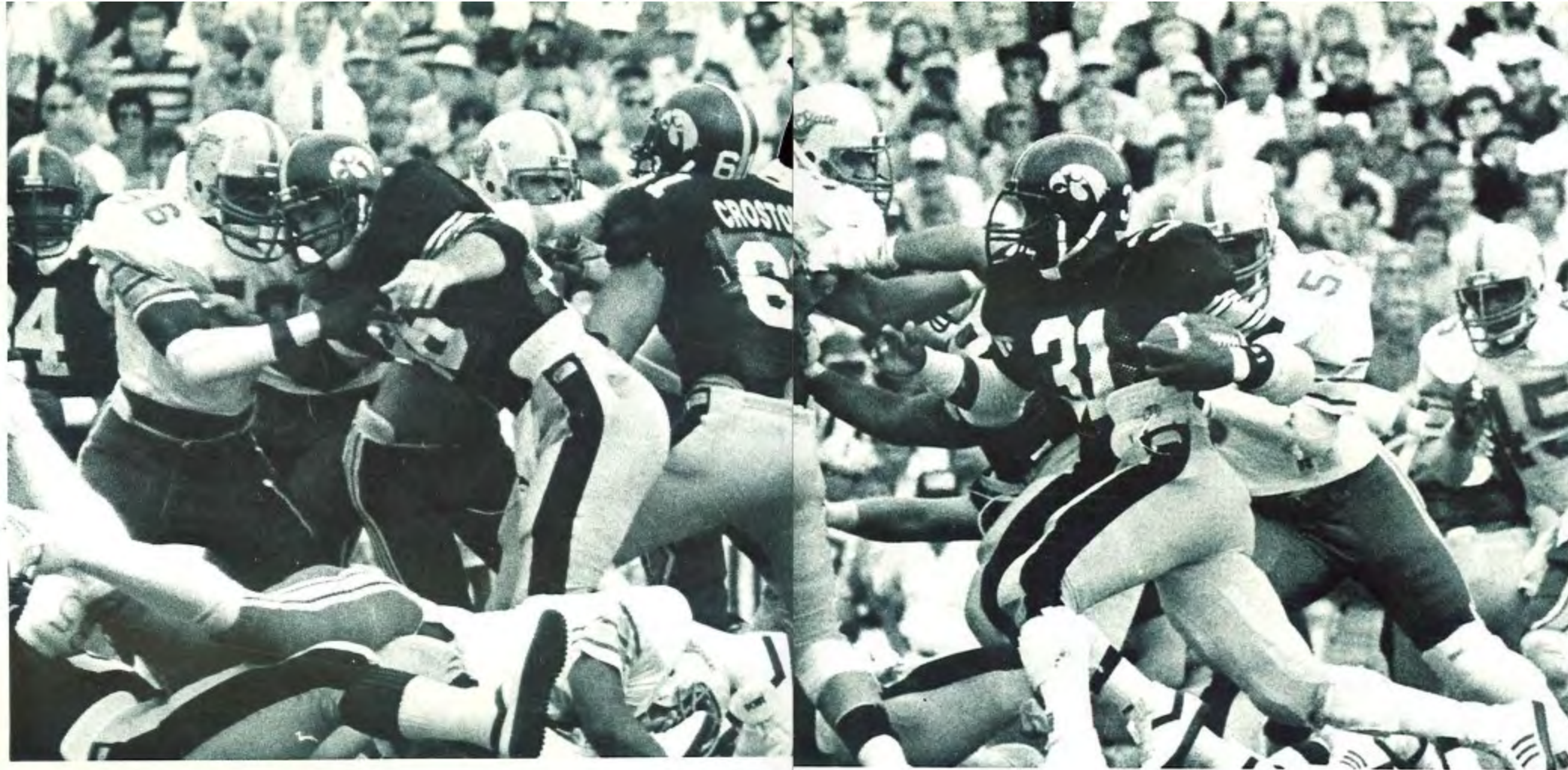
98 Fourth straight bowl invitation . . . Despite numerous injuries the Hawks traveled to the Freedom Bowl.

114 Eight straight in Okie State . . . Coach Dan Gable's wrestlers add another jewel to their wrestling crown.



Ronnie Harmon dances past the Illini secondary in Iowa's in the homecoming game. (R. Morrow)

After a ten year struggle to beat Purdue, Denise Watson gives Purdue defenders some of their own medicine and helps pull out a victory for the UI women's volleyball team. (B. Hetzler)



SO CLOSE AND YET SO FAR

IOWA 59, IOWA STATE 21
Turnovers were the key to Iowa's victory against the Cyclones. The defense, which returned 10 starters, intercepted five passes, recovered three fumbles and held the Cyclone running attack to 28 net yards. Senior defensive end Dave Strobel intercepted a pass in the flat and ran 38 yards to the end zone, to put the first points on the board.

QB Chuck Long had scoring bombs of 63 yards to split end Robert Smith and 68 yards to tailback Ronnie Harmon. Harmon had an 86-yard scrimmage run, the fifth longest in school history.

PENN STATE 20, IOWA 17
PSU took advantage of four Iowa fumbles and a couple of key penalties to de-

feat the Hawkeyes in a hard fought battle. With 0:48 seconds left in the half and PSU holding a 13-3 lead, Ronnie Harmon returned an ensuing kick-off for 50 yards. Five plays later, Harmon darted around the left end and scored from 15-yards out with only four seconds left.

Long threw for 208 yards and senior linebacker Kevin Spitzig led the defense with 17 tackles in "by far his best game as a Hawkeye."

Kicker Tom Nichol became the first player in school history to score over 200 points in a career. He has 31 field goals and 111 extra points for 204 points.

OHIO STATE 45, IOWA 26
Turnovers once again plagued the Hawks. Iowa dominated the statistics, outgain-

ing the Buckeyes by 138 net yards; passing for 275 and running for another 23. The 26 Iowa points are the most the Hawks have ever scored in Columbus, Ohio. OSU's 45 points are the most Iowa has given up since 1980 when Purdue managed 58.

Heisman trophy candidate Keith Byars put on quite a show by running, catching, and even passing for three touchdowns. He accounted for 210 yards for OSU.

IOWA 21, ILLINOIS 16
A much inspired Iowa team handed Illinois its first defeat in 12 games dating back to the 1982 season.

Ronnie Harmon danced all over the Illini with 191 yards rushing offense, the eighth best in Iowa history. "I felt so good," says Harmon. "I

could take my mother dancing." Fellow New Yorker, Owen Gill, ran for 151 yards.

Jack Trudeau's Illini offense managed 230 yards in the air, but the Hawkeye defense rose to the occasion. Iowa's "Doctor of Defense," Larry Station, led the defensive charge with 13 tackles while linebacker Kevin Spitzig had 12 of his own.

IOWA 31, NORTHWESTERN 3
The Hawkeyes thrashed Northwestern, 31-3, in Evanston, Illinois, allowing the Wildcats only 49 yards of total offense, breaking the old defensive mark for the least yardage allowed in a game of 67 against Kansas State in 1955.

Harmon had another big day. The junior tailback ran for 121 yards and scored

three touchdowns.

IOWA 40, PURDUE 3
The Purdue jinx finally fell into Iowa's hand after the Hawks' 40-3 victory at West Lafayette, Indiana. Iowa has not won at Purdue since 1956.

Purdue's number one ranked pass defense collapsed into the throwing arm of Chuck Long who had 369 yards.

The "Texas flyer," Robert Smith hauled in three passes for 120 yards. Smith caught TD passes of 31 yards and 28 yards from Long. "It was a lot of fun... I just wanted to get my hands on that ball."

IOWA 26, MICHIGAN 0
For the first time since 1962, Iowa shut out rival Michigan 26-0. The shut out was Michigan's first non-

scoring game since 1977.

Once again, the Iowa defense established the momentum of the game. Devon Mitchell picked off a couple of passes, including one that he returned for 75 yards. Nate Creer also intercepted a pass. CBS named Mitchell player of the game.

IOWA 24 INDIANA 20
Chuck Long set a new NCAA passing record as the Hawks squeaked by the Hoosiers, 24-20, in Bloomington, Indiana. Long completed 22 consecutive passes to break the old NCAA mark of 18 straight completions by BYU's Steve Young. Long was 26-30 for 227 yards and two touchdowns.

IOWA 10, WISCONSIN 10
(continued on next page)

The glamour of Hawkeye football hides the fact that there are members of the football team who have to earn their way to the top. Senior receiver Scott Helverson is living testimony that hard work has its rewards.

"There were times when I wondered if it was worth it," admitted Helverson. "During every workout or practice I would think about the possible rewards at the end of the year — I've been to three bowl games now (not including 1984's Freedom Bowl) — and I felt it was just a matter of time before I'd play."

Helverson, a walk-on from Des Moines, didn't see much playing time his first two years as a Hawkeye. The third year, 1983-84, looked like it would be much of the same — until the Indiana game: he finally got a chance to show his skill. With five seconds left on the clock, Helverson caught a 10 yard TD strike from Cornelius Robertson. One of the people most impressed with Helverson that day was Coach Hayden Fry. Immediately after the game, Fry said that Helverson may have won himself a scholarship.

And, indeed, he did. Besides the scholarship, he also earned a spot in the starting line-up. This season Helverson was one of the Hawkeyes' leading receivers. The highlight of his season was the insurance TD he caught in the final minutes of the Hawaii game.

Ronnie Harmon blasted Iowa State's secondary with an 86-yard scrimmage run during the Hawks' 59-21 thumping of the Cyclones.

The Hawks scored on a 26 yard field goal by Tom Nichol and a Long fourth quarter sneak to come from behind to tie Wisconsin. Iowa lost tailback Ronnie Harmon and Chuck Long to injuries on successive plays in the final period. Long retired from the game with a bruised knee. Harmon, who led the Hawks in scoring and rushing, broke his leg and was lost for the season. He ended the season with 907 yards

rushing (third best season total in school history), 72 points (third), and 32 receptions for 318 yards. Owen Gill gained the status of being Iowa's all-time leading rusher after gaining 64 yards against the Badgers. Gill's career total of 2,214 yards broke the old mark of 2,177 by Eddie Phillips. MICHIGAN ST. 17, IOWA 16 So close and yet so far. Michigan St. dominated the game both defensively

and offensively. The Hawks made a strong comeback with 13 points in the fourth quarter to come within a point of Michigan State. Long connected a three yard TD pass to Jonathan Hayes to make the score 17-16. Long tried for a two-point conversion with 44 seconds left on the clock in an attempt to get one point ahead of the Spartans.

MINNESOTA 23, IOWA 17 A disappointing Hawkeye team crumbled during a frustrating venture against the Gophers. Bill Happel broke a school record by returning a punt 95 yards to the end zone to give Iowa a 14-7 lead in the third. But the day didn't turn out as inspiring when Happel fumbled a punt on Iowa's 14-yard line. The fumble cost Iowa a TD and the game. IOWA 17, HAWAII 6

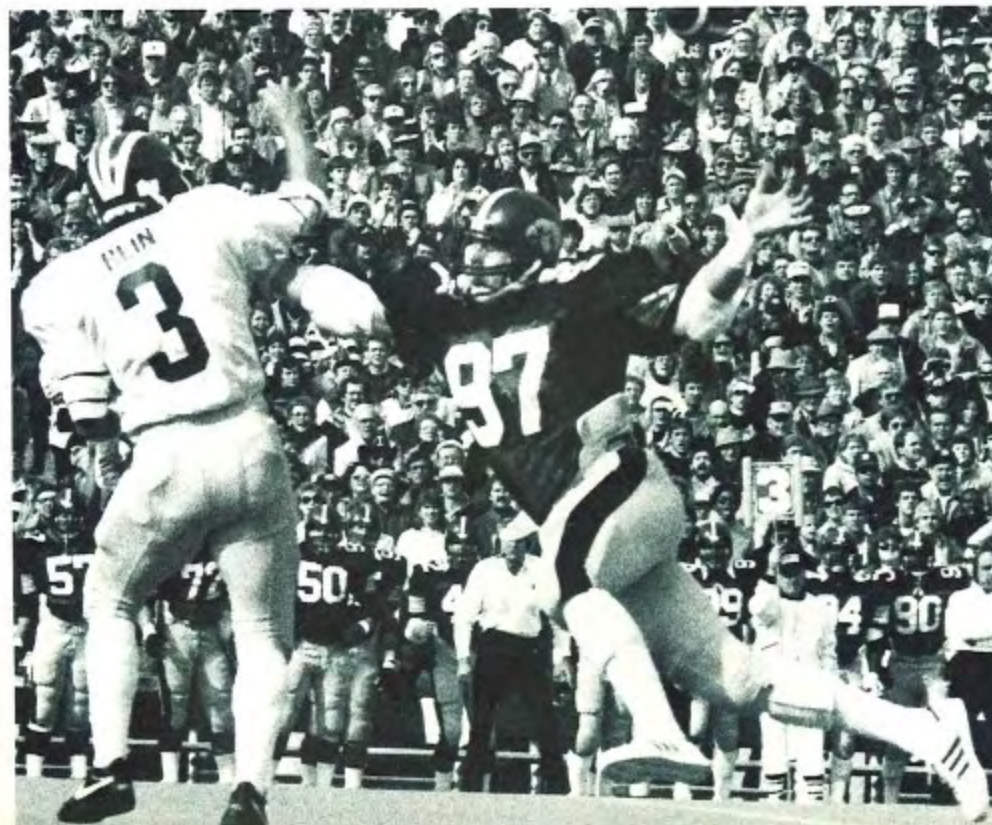
The Hawks managed to come back from a 6-3 fourth quarter Hawaii lead to win 17-6 in Honolulu, Hawaii. Iowa found themselves a running back in sophomore walk-on, Rick Bayless. Bayless ran for 94 yards on 16 carries, including a 37-yard power play up the middle to set up Tom Nichol's 41-yard field goal in the first quarter. Iowa's "Master of Interception," Devon Mitchell, thwarted Hawaii's top drive

of the game with another key interception in the end zone. Long sealed the game with an eight yard scrambled pass down the middle to Scott Helverson. Iowa finished the season with a 7-4-1 record and a trip to the Freedom Bowl in Anaheim, California on December 26. — George Aquino



Devon Mitchell corralled Illini ball receiver. From his cornerback position, Mitchell led the Hawks in interceptions.

Dave Strobel puts the pressure on Wolverine QB, Russell Rein. The defense held Michigan scoreless as the Hawkeyes gave the Wolverines their worst defeat under Bo Schembechler, 26-0.



Iowa is football country. People breathe touchdowns and bowl games, but the hype and competition doesn't stay within the limits of the football team. There are a number of competitive athletes who live for that opportunity to catch the winning touchdown — they are the athletes who participated in the University of Iowa's Fall Flag Football Intramurals. This fall, over 250 teams signed up in their quest for the championship. On "Super Sunday," November 11, six teams remained to compete for the honor of being named UI Flag Football Champions. Return of the Smurfs disposed of Still Anonymous, 26-12, in the Men's final. Miller Medical won on controversial calls in overtime over the Wild Pooters in the Coed final and Ringers slipped by the Crushers, 2-0, in the Women's final.

In other division championships, Third Leg won in the Dorm division while Pi Kappa Alpha claimed the championship for the Fraternity division.

— George Aquino

Owen Gill brushes past would-be Michigan defenders. Gill broke the career record for most rushing for a Hawkeye with 2,214 yards.