

Hawkeyes Improving On Defense In '13 Fret

IOWA CITY, Iowa (AP) — It is way too early to compare Iowa's defense this season to some of the best of the Kirk Ferentz era.

So far, though, the Hawkeyes haven't been half bad.

Iowa (2-1) is 52nd nationally at 21.7 points allowed per game heading into Saturday's non-conference finale against Western Michigan (0-3). The Hawkeyes defense has given up just four touchdowns the past two games, both wins.

Iowa did allow Iowa State to score 14 points in the final five minutes of Saturday's 27-21 victory. But it could be worse: It could be 2012, when the defense was a big reason the Hawkeyes finished with six straight losses.

"We're just smarter. We took a lot of time in the offseason to become more football smart," Iowa safety Tanner Miller said. "I just think all 11 guys have a lot more football IQ than we did last year. I think the game just slowed down for everybody."

Without question, Iowa's strength has been its rush defense.

The most yards a single player has run for against Iowa this season were the 56 picked up by Northern Illinois quarterback Jordan Lynch. The Hawkeyes gave up just 70 yards rushing to Missouri State in a 28-14 win on Sept. 7, and last week the Cyclones gained just 59 yards on the ground in 24 tries.

Iowa is fifth in the Big Ten and

16th in the country with 97.3 yards rushing allowed per game. The Big Ten schedule will bring tougher challenges, but the Hawkeyes are expected to be tough against the run all season.

"As a defense, we want to stop the run. To do that, you need to be fundamentally sound. You need to be physical. I think we've done that to an extent," Iowa linebacker James Morris said. "We still have a lot of room to improve."

Iowa hasn't been nearly so stout in the secondary.

All four of the touchdowns the Hawkeyes defense has let up in the past two games came on significant pass plays.

Iowa has been forced to start freshman Desmond King with Jordan Lomax nursing a hamstring injury, and King has predictably had both good and bad moments.

But it was senior B.J. Lowery who got beat by Iowa State's Quentin Bundrage on a 67-yard TD catch. Lowery over-pursued the receiver on a short pass near the sideline, and Bundrage spun away and ran roughly 60 yards without being touched.

Bundrage also caught TD passes of 26 and 17 yards in the fourth quarter. But Lowery bounced back with a leaping, one-handed interception that got the Hawkeyes off the hook for letting the Cyclones recover an onside kick.

Ferentz said Tuesday that

Lomax could be back by Saturday, but it's too soon to know whether he'll be fit enough to start.

"With the end of the (Iowa State) game, those were just technical things, maybe getting a little lackadaisical," Miller said. "There are moments in a game where you can really have the opportunity to put teams away, and I think that's an area where this team needs to grow."

With the start of Big Ten play less than two weeks away, Iowa's preferred strategy for 2013 is coming into focus.

The Hawkeyes simply want to run the ball and stop the other guys from doing the same. Only option-heavy Army and Air Force have more carries than Iowa, which appears intent on controlling games behind running back Mark Weisman and an impressive line.

If the Hawkeyes can continue to stuff what's in the front of them and stop allowing so many plays to get behind them, Iowa might soon regain its reputation as a defensive stalwart.

"The good news is I think we can get a lot better," Ferentz said. "That the thing I think I'm most excited about is that we still can play a lot better, and we're going to have to. We understand that. It's a process too, and we're not a team that can waste a day. If we do, it's probably going to show up."

From Page 15

Parts of Bison Nation think otherwise, so much so that officials with the school's athletic department have implored them to stop tweeting their displeasure to ESPN and pleaded with fans to come downtown before the 2:30 p.m. game against Delaware State.

"It'll be more than worth it to sacrifice three hours of tailgating to head downtown, support local businesses and provide the best welcome ESPN College GameDay has ever received," NDSU athletic director Gene Taylor said on the goblion.com website. Besides, Taylor said, the tailgating lots will open earlier than usual.

It's only the fourth time GameDay has featured an FCS matchup — the last in 2008 for Hampton at Florida A&M — and it comes during a week where there's a dearth of top-flight Football Subdivision games.

"The stars aligned right," Bison head coach Craig Bohl said.

Fitting also said GameDay has been moving away from stadiums and tailgating as backdrops, noting the Michigan show two weeks ago was on the quad instead of near the Big House and the Clemson set eschewed the exterior of Death Valley for a huge lawn on Aug. 31.

Fitting said he understands why some fans, particularly NDSU students, are worried about the nearly

two-mile trip downtown.

"But we want to show off the school, we want to show off Fargo, we want to show off North Dakota in the absolute best light. The downtown area does that for what we're looking for," Fitting said, noting ESPN is working with the school to line up transportation.

Plus, the Bison play in a big brick building with a roof.

Fargo Police Lt. Joel Vettel said he expects people to begin lining up about 5 a.m. for the show, which runs from 8 to 11 a.m. CDT.

"The tough part about this is that we have no idea how many people are going to show up," said Vettel, a former Bison wrestler. "We're going to prepare for the worst and hope for the best."

Former Fargo Theatre director Margie Bailly is excited about the show's choice of venue, saying Monday she might have to revise her career highlights, which include the chamber of commerce's highest honor for spearheading the \$3 million renovation of the 85-year-old building and marquee.

"ESPN? Isn't that the pinnacle for an arts advocate?" Bailly said.

She then lauded the network for a choice she believes will help attract new students, contrary to those who want the football atmosphere front and center.

"If we have a cool downtown and an art-deco theater is cool, that positions us well in terms of the recruitment of students," she said. "If we have just a dead downtown, that's not going to be too exciting."

SECTION IV - ENTERPRISE FUNDS MEMO ONLY

	Water	Waste-Water	Cemetery	Solid Waste		
				Collection	Joint Powers (Yankton Only)	Golf Course
Unappropriated Fund Balance	\$ 3,538,350	\$ 1,512,090	\$ 26,246	\$ 615,201	\$ 272,071	\$ (167,114)
Estimated Revenues:						
Operations	5,149,000	2,970,200	28,300	875,897	1,072,000	862,300
Other	12,000	7,900	1,600	1,000	1,100	200
TOTAL REVENUE	5,161,000	2,978,100	29,900	876,897	1,073,100	862,500
Operating Transfer In	-	-	89,478	-	-	67,340
Depreciation	579,543	1,083,072	-	56,351	127,815	55,745
Amortization	-	-	-	-	-	-
Revolving Loan Funds	9,000,000	600,000	-	-	-	-
Grant Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	\$ 18,278,893	\$ 6,173,262	\$ 145,624	\$ 1,548,449	\$ 1,472,986	\$ 818,471
Appropriations:						
Operating	\$ 2,814,471	\$ 2,998,462	\$ 82,124	\$ 916,535	\$ 1,156,629	\$ 916,256
Non-Operating	218,510	204,458	-	-	-	-
Operating Transfer Out	52,000	40,700	-	-	-	-
Improvement & Exts/Capital	10,446,499	1,215,700	63,500	-	186,021	116,500
Unobligated	4,747,413	1,713,942	-	631,914	130,336	(214,285)
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS	\$ 18,278,893	\$ 6,173,262	\$ 145,624	\$ 1,548,449	\$ 1,472,986	\$ 818,471

SECTION V - INTERNAL SERVICE FUNDS CENTRAL GARAGE

Unappropriated Fund Balance	\$ 227,897
Estimated Revenue - Billings	796,594
TOTAL ESTIMATED BALANCE & REVENUES	1,024,491
Less Appropriations	779,528
Estimated Surplus	\$ 244,963

SECTION VI - TAX LEVY

That there is hereby levied upon all taxable property within said City of Yankton, South Dakota, for the purposes of providing funds to meet the lawful expenses and liabilities of the City of Yankton, South Dakota, as herein set forth for the fiscal year of 2014, a tax sufficient to raise \$2,357,558 in regular property taxes, which as received by the Finance Officer shall be credited to the General Fund, and an additional \$190,232 in opt-out property taxes which will be used for the annual debt service requirement for the Second Fire Station.

That the Finance Officer of the City of Yankton be and hereby is authorized and directed to certify the said regular tax levy, \$2,357,558 and the opt-out levy, \$190,232 to the County Auditor of the County of Yankton, South Dakota, to the end that the same may be spread and assessed as provided by law.

SECTION VII - EFFECTIVE DATE

This Ordinance being necessary for the support of the government of the City of Yankton and its existing institutions shall take effect upon its passage and publication.

Adopted:

Nancy Wenande
Mayor

ATTEST:

Al Viereck
Finance Officer

Introduction and first reading: August 26, 2013
Second reading: September 9, 2013
Published in the Yankton Daily Press and Dakotan, Official Newspaper: Sept. 18, 2013

I so certify

Al Viereck
Finance Officer

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