

SPORTS



IOWA STATE BASKETBALL



Iowa State forward Tre King celebrates after making a 3-point basket against Texas on Tuesday in Ames. (Associated Press)

Cyclones finding the right balance

By Rob Gray, correspondent

AMES — Gabe Kalscheur's done it six times. Caleb Grill and Jaren Holmes? They've done it four times apiece. Throw in Osun Osunniyi and that makes four different Iowa State players who've led the team in scoring multiple times — and that wide-ranging offensive output helps explain how the 12th-ranked Cyclones have become more dangerous.

"I think it's balance," said ISU head coach T.J. Otzelberger, whose team faces Oklahoma State at 1 p.m. today in Stillwater, Okla. "It's guys like Tamin (Lipsey) and Jaren getting to the basket. Guys like Osun and Rob (Jones) and even TK (Tre King) being able to catch the ball in the paint and scoring at the rim. ... It's not one person to take away."

Diversity has been the key to unlock relative success on the offensive end for the Cyclones (14-3, 4-1 Big 12), who were ranked 171st in adjusted offensive efficiency by

► CYCLONES, PAGE 2B

TODAY'S GAMES

- **Teams:** Iowa (12-6, 4-3) at Ohio State (10-8, 2-5)
- **Where:** Value City Arena, Columbus, Ohio
- **Tipoff/TV:** 1 p.m./KFXA
- **Teams:** No. 12 Iowa State (14-3, 5-1) at Oklahoma State (10-8, 2-4)
- **Where:** Gallagher-Iba Arena, Stillwater, Okla.
- **Tipoff/Streaming:** 1 p.m./ESPN+
- **Teams:** Northern Iowa (10-9, 6-3) at Illinois-Chicago (9-11, 1-8)
- **Where:** Credit Union 1 Arena, Chicago
- **Tipoff/Streaming:** 1 p.m./ESPN3

IOWA FOOTBALL

STUCK IN THE PORTAL

Ex-Hawkeyes fared better than national trends in finding new fits

By John Steppe, The Gazette

IOWA CITY — Some of the athletes across college football who entered the transfer portal in the last 45 days could soon face a problem — a problem Kirk Ferentz predicted more than a month ago.

"A couple months from now, how many guys are going to be homeless in terms of leaving a scholarship situation and then ending up without one?" the Iowa head coach said a day before the first transfer portal window opened.

The recruiting site On3 Sports has tracked 1,840 players who entered the transfer portal. About 51 percent have committed to a new school, and about 2 percent have returned to their original school.

That leaves another 47 percent of players still looking for a home as spring semesters begin this week at many colleges across the country.

College football programs could fill some of its transfer-induced vacancies either with high school recruits or walk-ons worthy of a scholarship, so the remaining 48 percent have plenty of competition for opportunities.

Iowa's 10 departing schol-

arship players have mostly fared better than the national trends, though.

Three ex-Hawkeyes — linebacker Justin Jacobs and wide receivers Keagan Johnson and Arland Bruce IV — landed at other Power Five schools.

Jacobs went to Oregon, Johnson to Kansas State and Bruce to Oklahoma State. All three schools went to bowl games last season.

Another four — QB Alex Padilla, RB Gavin Williams and DBs Dallas Craddieth and Reggie Bracy — committed to smaller "Group of Five" FBS schools. Craddieth committed to Kent State, Bracy to Troy, Padilla to SMU, and Williams to Northern Illinois.

One player — offensive lineman Josh Volk — committed to FCS-level Northern Iowa.

The two remaining players — quarterback Carson May and

defensive back Terry Roberts — have not committed to a new school.

Roberts announced offers from several Power Five programs on social media, including Penn State, Wisconsin, Arkansas and Minnesota. May's lack of signing is no surprise considering he did not enter the portal until Jan. 3.

Time is ticking for the uncommitted players to make a decision, though.

Officially, an athlete does not have to make their commitment during the portal entry windows. But in reality, the longer someone waits, the more likely they could be stuck without a home for the spring semester.

If someone committed in February and wanted to participate in spring football, for example, they would need to catch up on a month of schoolwork while also having off-season conditioning to do.

The likely scenario for those who do not commit somewhere soon — to train without a team and

ON THE MOVE

Ten Iowa players opted for the transfer portal. Most have found new schools, but not all.

DB Reggie Bracy

Troy

WR Arland Bruce IV

Oklahoma State

DB Dallas Craddieth

Kent State

LB Justin Jacobs

Oregon

WR Keagan Johnson

Kansas State

QB Carson May

Unattached

QB Alex Padilla

SMU

DB Terry Roberts

Unattached

OL Josh Volk

Northern Iowa

RB Gavin Williams

Northern Illinois



Iowa quarterback Carson May (3) throws a pass during warm-ups before the game against Nevada on Sept. 17 at Kinnick Stadium in Iowa City. (Savannah Blake/The Gazette)

► PORTAL, PAGE 4B

J.R. OGDEN

Muhl closing in on another milestone



Kirkwood women's basketball coach Kim Muhl reacts to a no-call during a 2021 game at Johnson Hall in Cedar Rapids. Muhl is closing in on his 1,000th career win. (Savannah Blake/The Gazette)

In 34th season, Kirkwood coach will notch his 1,000th career win next month

CEDAR RAPIDS — Kirkwood women's basketball coach Kim Muhl was asked Wednesday what the number was.

Muhl is not a numbers guy, so he wasn't sure. He knew it was "900 something."

That number is at 995 career wins heading into today's game against Iowa Lakes Community College, scheduled for 1 p.m. at Johnson Hall.

The date to circle on the calendar, though, is Feb. 8. Assuming the defending national champion Eagles win their next five games — a fairly safe bet considering they are

17-1 and ranked third nationally — Muhl will register win No. 1,000 that night.

"It's kind of crazy," Muhl said, adding he hasn't really thought much about another milestone. "I haven't had the time to think about it. This season is flying by."

But let's pause for a moment and not let this moment fly by. One thousand wins is a pretty big deal — at any level. It's been done — former Duke men's coach Mike Krzyzewski ended his career with an NCAA-record 1,202 wins and Stanford women's coach Tara VanDerveer has 1,020 and counting.

Kimm, 67, has been Kirkwood women's basketball coach since 1989. He was at Norway High School as girls' basketball and baseball coach,

but saw consolidation coming and wanted no part of it.

"I didn't think I'd be coaching women's basketball," he said. "I applied for the men's job."

He didn't get that, but was offered the women's job.

He had a shot at that men's job before the 1996-97 season, but "I stayed and we won the national championship."

The first of eight national championships, by the way. Stop and think about that, too. Eight NJCAA titles over 33 seasons. That includes four in a row from 2007 to 2010.

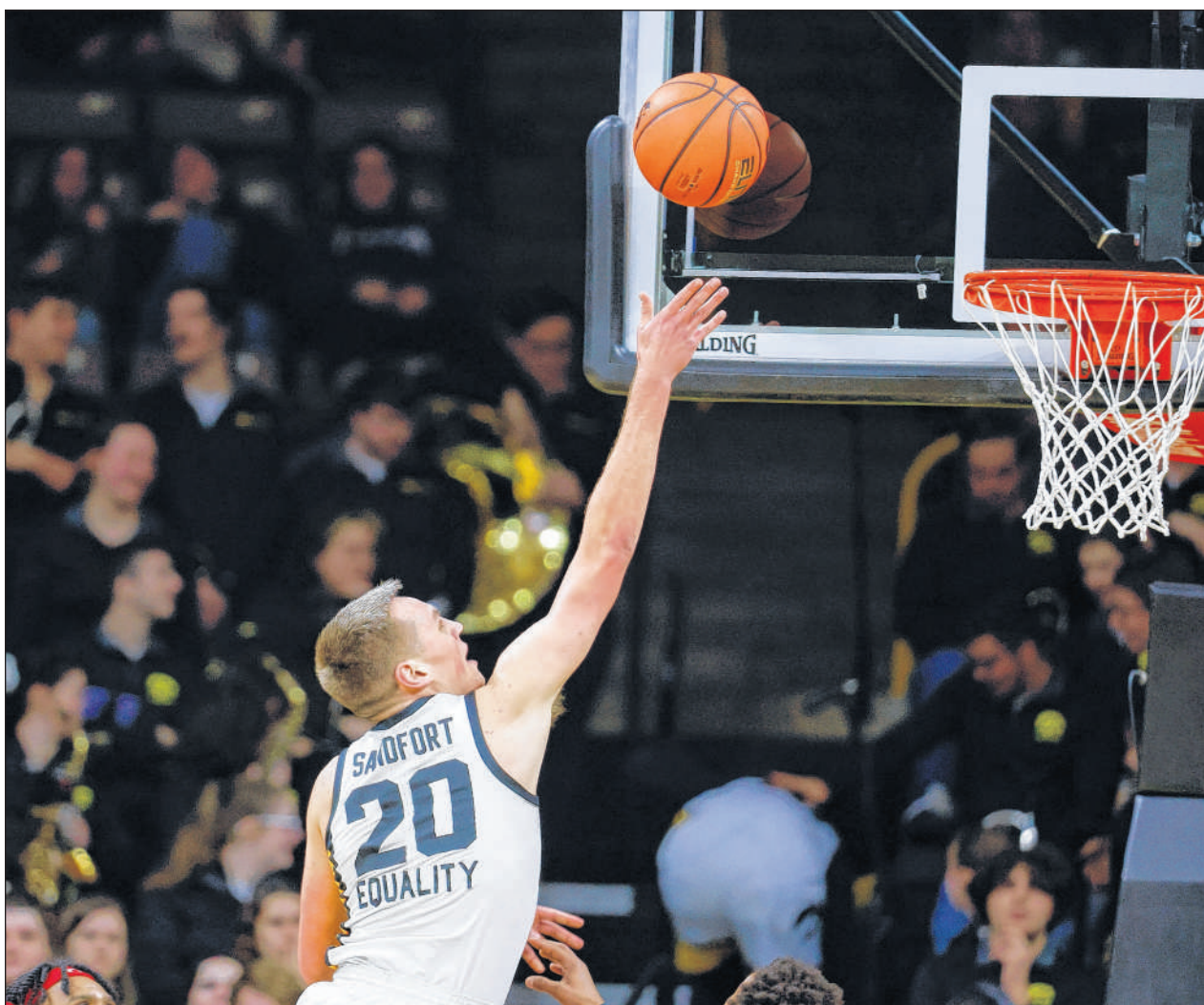
Stop and consider these tidbits, too.

• He has never had a losing season. The "worst" loss total was 11

► OGDEN, PAGE 2B

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

IOWA MEN



Iowa's Payton Sandfort goes to the basket during the Hawkeyes' 81-67 win over Maryland on Jan. 15 at Carver-Hawkeye Arena. (Jim Slosiarek/The Gazette)

GOING STREAKING

Winners of 4 straight, Iowa faces an Ohio State team that has lost 5 straight, but ranks higher in NET

By Mike Hlas, The Gazette

The men's basketball teams of Iowa and Ohio State are going in opposite directions. Which means little leading into their game against each other today (1 p.m., CT) in Columbus.

The Hawkeyes (4-3 Big Ten) have won four straight games, the Buckeyes (2-5) have lost five in a row. Yet, the slate is clean as Iowa tries to keep its good thing going at Value City Arena.

"They lost five games by a total of 19 points," Iowa Coach Fran McCaffery said about the

Buckeyes.

"They have a lot of different weapons. Zed (Key) was hurt for a minute there and was on a little minutes restriction, but he's back. He's one of the better big guys in our league. (Brice) Sensabaugh is probably one of the best freshmen in the country.

"They get really good play out of the point guard position."

Is that overselling a team with five straight defeats? Not necessarily. Entering Friday's games, Ohio State was 30th in the NCAA's NET rankings, Iowa 35th.

Illinois had a 4-game win streak and got thumped at home by Indiana on Thursday, 80-65. That Hoosiers team had dropped three straight, then clipped Wisconsin and the Illini within the

BIG TEN STANDINGS

School	Conf	All
Purdue	7-1	18-1
Michigan State	5-3	13-6
Rutgers	5-3	13-6
Wisconsin	4-3	12-5
Iowa	4-3	12-6
Michigan	4-3	10-8
Northwestern	3-3	12-5
Illinois	4-4	13-6
Penn State	3-4	12-6
Indiana	3-4	12-6
Maryland	3-4	12-6
Nebraska	3-5	10-9
Ohio State	2-5	10-8
Minnesota	1-6	7-10

last week.

"Yeah, we could be undefeated (in the Big Ten) or we could have five losses," McCaffery said. "Overtime win, overtime loss, they could go either way. Every team is in the same boat. A lot of these games are going to come down to two or three pos-

sessions because everybody is good."

The Hawkeyes had an unexpected gap between games when their scheduled Wednesday home contest against Northwestern was postponed to Jan. 31 because of COVID-19 issues within the Wildcats' program.

A win over the Buckeyes would lift Iowa into a tie for second place after it had been 0-3 and nestled at the bottom of the league standings at the start of this month.

Iowa shot 37 percent from the field and 26.3 percent from 3-point distance in those three league losses. During its current 4-game win streak, those numbers are 49 and 41.1.

Make shots, win prizes.

Comments: (319) 398-8440; mike.hlas@thegazette.com

Ogden/Consistency important for Muhl

► FROM PAGE 1B

in 1993-94.

• He has taken 30 teams to the regional finals, 20 to national tournaments.

• He has had 33 straight 20-win seasons, including 37 wins in 2009-10 and a 37-0 mark in 2016-17.

• Over the past five years, his teams have won 133 games and lost 15.

• He has been named regional coach of the year 20 times, coach of the national championships eight times and he is in the NJCAA Women's Basketball Hall of Fame.

• He'll be inducted into the Kirkwood Athletics Hall of Fame on Feb. 3.

In his own words, Muhl has kind of created a monster.

"We created something a lot of people never thought was possible," he said.

A basketball stand-out at Lost Nation High School and William Penn University, Muhl said he never could have imagined this in his younger days.

He didn't even know what he wanted to do until he was "close to 30."

"It took me forever to figure it out," he said. "I just knew I loved basketball. I loved baseball, too."

He obviously chose wisely.

Muhl has grown, learned and seen a lot over his long career. He's been through everything with his athletes, from video game distractions to social media issues.

"Everybody says the kids are changing," he said. "You still have problems."

"They just are different problems."

He is most proud of the consistency the program has sustained over his 34 years.

It started with a 26-9 campaign in 1989-90 and has really never wavered.

MUHL BY SEASON

Season	W-L	NJCAA finish
2022-23...	17-1	.....TBD
2021-22...	36-1	..... Champions
2020-21...	24-2	..... Fifth place
2019-20...	29-4	
2018-19...	27-7	
2017-18...	34-4	..... Runner-up
2016-17...	37-0	..... Champions
2015-16...	26-6	
2014-15...	31-6	..... Fifth place
2013-14...	25-7	
2012-13...	28-5	
2011-12...	32-4	..... Sixth place
2010-11...	25-7	
2009-10...	37-1	..... Champions
2008-09...	36-1	..... Champions
2007-08...	31-6	..... Champions
2006-07...	35-1	..... Champions
2005-06...	32-5	..... Runner-up
2004-05...	28-8	..... Fourth place
2003-04...	30-4	..... Third place
2002-03...	31-6	..... Fourth place
2001-02...	33-3	..... Champions
2000-01...	25-8	
1999-00...	29-4	
1998-99...	32-5	..... Fifth place
1997-98...	34-2	..... Fifth place
1996-97...	34-3	..... Champions
1995-96...	35-6	
1994-95...	29-7	..... Sixth place
1993-94...	21-11	
1992-93...	24-7	
1991-92...	22-10	
1990-91...	27-5	
1989-90...	26-9	..... Qualifier

But all good things must come to an end.

In 2019, after winning his 900th game, Muhl said he'd "lose my mind" if he retired.

Three years — and many bus rides later — his tune is changing. He finds himself wondering "why the hell am I on this bus" after long rides to and from the Kirkwood campus more often these days.

"It's getting closer," he said, adding he'll likely be a "snowbird" but he and his wife, Freeda, never want to be far from their grandchildren.

"It's coming sooner than later."

Stop and appreciate what Muhl has accomplished. Don't let this moment fly by.

Comments: (319) 398-8461; jr.ogden@thegazette.com

A CLOSER LOOK AT TODAY'S GAME

• **Teams:** Iowa (4-3 Big Ten, 12-6 overall) at Ohio State (2-5, 10-8)

• **Tipoff:** 1:01 p.m.

• **TV:** KFXA (Gus Johnson, Jim Jackson)

• **Livestream:** Fox Sports Live

• **Radio:** Hawkeye Radio Network affiliates, including WMT (600), KKRQ-FM (100.7) and KXIC (800).

• **Series:** Ohio State leads, 83-82

• **Iowa's next game:** Thursday at Michigan State

• **Five Facts:**

1. Iowa seeks its second five-game winning streak in Big Ten play in the last two seasons. It started its streak last year with a win at Ohio State.

2. Ohio State forward Brice Sensabaugh

leads Big Ten freshmen in scoring and is third among freshmen nationwide with 17.0 points per game. He has made 45.8 percent of his 3-point shots.

3. Iowa's Payton Sandfort had been 14-of-65 from 3-point and averaged 8.1 points before his team's current win streak. Since then, he is 11-of-22 from deep and averages 17.8 points.

4. Hawkeye freshman Josh Dix had five assists in each of the last two games.

5. Iowa Coach Fran McCaffery said Hawkeye forward Patrick McCaffery practiced with the team this week. Patrick McCaffery has taken a leave to deal with anxiety issues. He hasn't played since Jan. 1.

— Mike Hlas

Cyclones/Still rely on defense

► FROM PAGE 1B

KenPom last season and now sit at 74th nationally in that important metric.

So while defense continues to serve as ISU's foundation, the offense is becoming a strength as well.

Oklahoma State (10-8, 2-4) is ranked eighth nationally by KenPom in adjusted defensive efficiency — just two spots behind the Cyclones — and sits third nationally in blocked shot percentage.

"I think the key for us is just doing what we've been doing," King said. "Making simple plays. Playing inside and out. Getting touches in the paint and then spreading

the ball to the next open man."

Maintaining strong movement, both on and off the ball, will be critical against the Cowboys, who are likely to get a boost from the return of 7-foot-1 Moussa Cisse. He sat out two weeks because of an injury before playing 2 minutes Wednesday in a 72-56 win over Oklahoma. Cisse's averaging 7.5 points, 9.3 rebounds and 2.5 blocks per game.

"I know everybody talks about his rim protection, but across the board, they do a really good job of rotating and contesting at the rim, as well," Otzelberger said. "So from an analytics standpoint, because of

their length, they guard the 3 well and because of their rotations they protect the rim well."

The Cyclones are solid from every spot on the floor and move the basketball with purpose and at a high rate. That creates open looks and for the most part, ISU's making more of those shots than it did last season. Hence the better offense.

"We're lucky our guys trust each other," Otzelberger said. "They want to make the right play. They're willing to make the right play. They're willing to cut hard, or screen; do things that involve sacrificing or making the play that leads to the play."

Comments: robgray18@icloud.com

Are you going places or looking for places to go?



Don't let an enlarged **prostate** control your life. Take charge of your health.

Do you have symptoms of BPH? (Benign Prostate Hyperplasia), such as increased urinary frequency or painful urination?

RCI Interventional Radiologists offer a minimally invasive procedure called PAE (prostate artery embolization) to bring you significant improvements.

PAE is a safe non-surgical treatment option that can significantly reduce the symptoms of BPH without drugs or major surgery.

Call our Vein and Interventional Clinic at 319-261-0636 to schedule a consultation.

1948 1st Ave. N.E., Cedar Rapids

RCIowa.com

319-261-0636



SPORTS



STRONG START



Zach Johnson hits out of a green-side bunker on the 10th hole in the first round of the Honda Classic golf tournament Thursday in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. (Associated Press)

SIDELINE

COLLEGE WRESTLING

6 Hawkeyes among NCAA's top 10 rankings

IOWA CITY — Six Iowa wrestlers are ranked in the Top 10 of the NCAA coaches poll released Thursday.

Spencer Lee (125) is the Hawkeyes' highest-ranked wrestler, entering the postseason No. 1 at 125 pounds. Real Woods is No. 2 at 141 and Tony Cassioppi is third at 285.

Max Murin (149) and Patrick Kennedy (165) are ranked eighth and Abe Assad is 10th at 184. Jacob Warner (197) is ranked 11th, Cobe Siebrecht (157) is 12th and Nelson Brands (174) is 15th.

The NCAA also announced the Big Ten Conference was awarded 88 of the 284 automatic qualifying bids.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Cornell men and women begin MWC tourneys

MOUNT VERNON — Cornell's men's basketball team rolls into the postseason playing its best basketball of the season in quest of a second consecutive Midwest Conference tournament title this weekend. The Rams (14-11) are seeded second and winners of 10 of their last 11 games. They square off against No. 3 Monmouth (14-11) at 7 tonight in one semifinal at Sherman Gymnasium in Jacksonville, Ill.

The Cornell's women's team is seeded third and meets regular-season co-champion Knox in Ripon, Wis. The Rams also play at 7 tonight.

Championship games are Saturday with an automatic berth to the NCAA Division III tournament on the line.

Northern Iowa men fall to Southern Illinois

CARBONDALE, Ill. — Northern Iowa men's basketball struggled to defend the 3-point line and finish shots in the paint Wednesday night, falling to Southern Illinois, 86-63. The loss snaps UNI's three-game win streak against SIU.

Tytan Anderson led the Panthers with 21 points, his second 20-point game of the season.

Iowa State women can't finish rally vs. Cowgirls

STILLWATER, Okla. — Iowa State rallied from a nine-point halftime deficit to take the lead, but was unable to fend off Oklahoma State, 73-68, on Wednesday night in a women's basketball at Gallagher-Iba Arena. Ashley Joens scored 20 points for the Cyclones, including 6-of-6 at the free-throw line.

LOOKING FOR MORE?

thegazette.com/sports

• Girls' regional basketball finals were back on tap last night after Wednesday's snow and ice storm. Jeff Linder has a report from the North Linn-Montezuma game in Van Horne, and correspondent Ryan Pleggenkuhle was in Muscatine for the Iowa City Regina-Mediapolis game.

• Jeff Johnson was at Marion last night for a substate boys' basketball game between the host Wolves and Decorah.

• Check in for a full slate of statewide regional final girls' basketball scores.

The Gazette

IOWA STATE FOOTBALL

Stability key for ISU's defense in '23

Changes include Poteat arriving as new CB coach

By Rob Gray, correspondent

AMES — While Iowa State's offensive staff underwent an overhaul in the offseason, the defensive coaches remained largely the same.

That's important and expected for the Cyclones, who struggled offensively in 2022, but continued to shine on the defensive side of the ball, as usual, since head coach Matt Campbell took over the program in 2016.

"Continuity is great," said ISU veteran defensive coordinator Jon Heacock, whose

unit led the Big 12 in scoring defense and total defense last season. "Consistency is great."

A little change helps, too, and that's not just true in terms of the Cyclones' offense, which will be led in 2023 by former wide receivers and running backs coach Nate Scheelhaase.

ISU also brought in one new defensive coach in Hank Poteat, who will coach the cornerbacks after Matt Caponi moved on to North Texas to become the Mean Green's defensive coordinator.

"Adding a new voice in there gives you a different

► ISU, PAGE 4B



Iowa State defensive coordinator Jon Heacock, talking to his players during the spring scrimmage at Gilbert High School last year, has some holes to fill in 2023. (Savannah Blake/The Gazette)



J.R. OGDEN

Iowa's 'GOAT' era



Iowa guard Caitlin Clark, posing for a portrait in October, said her teammates would describe her as "goofy." (Geoff Stellfox/The Gazette)



After pinning Oklahoma State's Reece Witcraft on Sunday in Iowa City, Iowa's Spencer Lee holds his arms out in victory. Lee could become the greatest Iowa wrestler of all time. (Savannah Blake/The Gazette)

Clark, Lee may go down as the greatest in their respective Hawkeye sports

While searching for future schedules this week, I happened upon an interesting video on the University of Iowa's athletics website.

While I have mixed emotions about the way Iowa Athletics — and pretty much every other major college athletics department — controls the messaging, using their website like a news site, I have to admit this was a gem.

Give credit when credit is due.

Iowa had wrestler Spencer Lee and women's basketball player Caitlin Clark chatting on what it called "GOAT Talk," the first in what was promised to be at least a two-part conversation.

It was fun, with the two stars taking questions from a bucket — with the Hawkeye logo on it, of course — about everything from their favorite music before a match/game to if Lee could beat Dan Gable in a wrestling match and Clark could take down Stephen Curry in a game of H-O-R-S-E.

"Stephen Curry would smoke me by a mile," Clark said with a laugh.

"I would just love to wrestle him, regardless who would win," Lee said.

Not only was this entertaining, it was what it promised — GOATs talked. Whether you like the much-overused phrase — Greatest Of All Time — or not, it is quite appropriate in this instance.

We are in the midst of greatness within the Iowa Athletics Department right

► OGDEN, PAGE 2B

COLLEGE WRESTLING

Kohawks' Henderson defies the odds

Coe senior returns from in-season broken ankle

By K.J. Pilcher, The Gazette

CEDAR RAPIDS — Brady Henderson recalled the long ride home from Decorah.

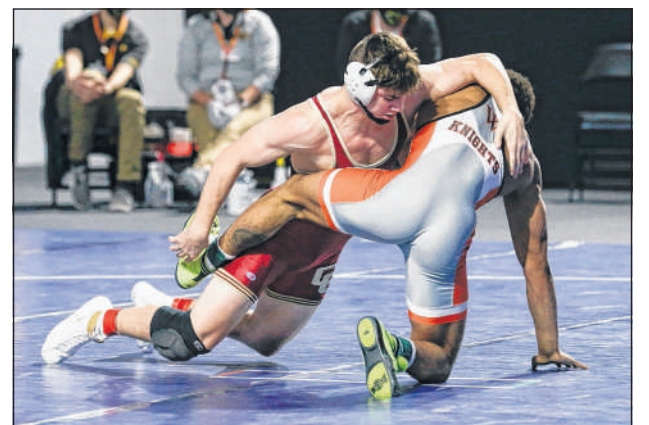
He couldn't avoid negative thoughts and doubt whether he would wrestle again after a second broken ankle in two years. This time, the injury occurred during his second match of his senior campaign at the Luther Open.

"It was just a roller coaster of emotions all year last year,"

Henderson said. "This year, coming back to the room and everything's going good. The first tournament of the year I break my other ankle. Out for the year. The doctor told me I won't be able to come back."

Despite the initial prognosis, Henderson has returned to the Coe College lineup for the NCAA Division III Lower Midwest Regional today and Saturday at the BOS Center in Springfield, Ill. The Kohawks are among the 19-team field that includes the rest of the American Rivers Conference programs, Cornell

► WRESTLING, PAGE 2B



Coe's Brady Henderson (left) drives Wartburg's David Hollingsworth to the mat during the 2021 NWCA Division III National Tournament in Coralville. (Jim Slosiarek/The Gazette)

IOWA BASKETBALL



Iowa's Filip Rebraca shoots against Wisconsin's Tyler Wahl during the Hawkeyes' 64-52 men's basketball loss to the Badgers on Wednesday in Madison. (Associated Press)

Ice storm of shooting plaguing Hawkeyes

Editor's note: Mike Hlas monitored Wednesday night's game from Cedar Rapids.

By Mike Hlas, The Gazette

MADISON, Wis. — Big Ten Network game analyst Robbie Hummel called it “puzzling” and said “I do not understand” multiple times Wednesday night.

Hummel was talking about the Iowa men's basketball team's 3-point shooting on the road in general, and at Wisconsin in specific Wednesday.

He didn't use the word “horrible,” but certainly could have. Iowa's coach did. Three days after going 3 of 24 from deep in an 80-60 loss at Northwestern, the Hawkeyes were even worse at Kohl Center. They were 3 of 28 in a 64-52 loss to the Badgers.

The Hawkeyes slid to 9-8 in the Big Ten and 17-11 overall. Wisconsin is 8-9, 16-11.

“Again, another horrible shooting night,” Iowa Coach Fran McCaffery said on the

Hawkeye Radio Network post-game show. “We had some really good looks. We mixed our motion and our actions and our sets. I thought the kids took good shots.”

Six Hawkeyes took at least three 3-pointers. None made more than one. This, on a night when average shooting might have propelled Iowa to victory. Wisconsin was an icy 4 of 18 from 3-point itself, and made only 10 of 18 free throws.

But the Badgers ran their offense to a lot more success in the second half, which began with them up by just one point. Their overall shooting was 52.1 percent. Iowa's was 32.3.

Iowa, which entered the game leading the Big Ten in scoring, had its lowest offensive output since its 66-50 loss at Nebraska on Dec. 29.

Hawkeye forward Kris Murray came in averaging 20.7 points, but had a season-low five on 2-of-10 shooting. He is 1 of 11 from behind the arc over the last

two games.

“They worked hard guarding him,” McCaffery said in his post-game news conference. “They were physical, chasing him around. But truthfully, that's what he gets every game.”

“He missed a couple bunnies he normally gets. That weighs on you a little bit. We've just got to keep him positive.”

Freshman Connor Essegian had a game-high 17 points for the Badgers. Tyler Wahl had 11 points and 14 rebounds. Tony Perkins and Filip Rebraca scored 13 points each for Iowa.

Whether your description is “puzzling,” “horrible,” or both, 3 of 28 is 3 of 28. The Hawkeyes have made 19 of 100 3s over their last five road games.

They're 45 of 105 from deep over their last five games at home, and that's where they play Michigan State (9-7, 17-10) at 11 a.m. Saturday.

Comments: (319) 398-8440; mike.hlas@thegazette.com

Ogden/Hawkeyes' GOATs urge all to just 'enjoy the ride'

► FROM PAGE 1B

now, this winter.

Lee could be the greatest Iowa wrestler of all time — if he wins his fourth NCAA title in March. It's not a given — nothing ever is in a combat sport like wrestling — but it's a pretty good bet.

That's saying something, too, considering all the greats who have worn the black-and-gold singlet — guys like Barry Davis, Ed Banach, Joe Williams, Lincoln McClravy and current coaches Tom and Terry Brands. To name just a handful.

Clark's career is coming on the heels of one of the greatest players in Hawkeye women's basketball history. But Megan Gustafson didn't elevate the program like Clark has — and still is. Before her jersey is retired, she will be the GOAT in this program. “At least there's one GOAT,” Clark said while opening the video. “He's the man. I said I'm finally going to get a picture with Spencer Lee today. My life is made.”

One of the “insights” during the video is Lee's love of anime and how much fun Clark has off the court. Both have been reported in the past, but it was fun to see them talk about it.

“I'm like a super nerd,” Lee said. “I read books. I'm like a loner ... (teammates) make fun of me.”

Clark said her teammates would describe her as “super goofy.”

“I make jokes all the time,” she said. “I don't think people understand that. I understand there is more to life than just basketball ... just understanding that and enjoying every single day.”

The two also offered advice to young athletes wanting to be among the best in their endeavors.

“Find a routine,” Lee said. “Motivation is fleeting ... determination, dedication, consistency, that's what's going to get you there.”

Clark mentioned the importance of a competitive spirit, but “never lose the joy of what you do ... that's when I play my best and perform my best.”

Favorite athletes? Clark mentioned native Iowan turned NBA veteran Harrison Barnes — “now Harrison Barnes is a fan of me” — and Lee picked his coaches.

“I just like their style,” he said of the Brands twins. “I don't really wrestle like them. I wish I did, but I don't. ... They were a little meaner than me on the mat.”

Clark and Lee are engaging and their love for what they do was evident in the video. The bottom line is, this is a special time in Iowa City, and not just for fans of women's basketball and wrestling.

“Enjoy the ride,” was another piece of advice Lee had for future GOATs.

It's good advice for sports fans in Iowa and beyond right now, too.

Comments: (319) 398-8461; jr.ogden@thegazette.com

BIG TEN TRACK AND FIELD

Iowa has high expectations for Big Ten indoor championships

Hawkeyes have ‘probably the best women's program’ they've had since Woody took over

By John Steppe, The Gazette

IOWA CITY — As Iowa track and field prepares for the Big Ten indoor championships, Coach Joey Woody has no shortage of confidence in this year's group.

“I feel very confident with where our team is at across all the event groups,” Woody said. “It's pretty exciting when you got a team that's got point-scorers, potential point-scorers in a lot of different events.”

The men's team has experienced plenty of success, winning the last two Big Ten indoor titles.

“We're going for a three-peat this year,” Woody said.

The Hawkeyes are responsible for at least one of the three best men's times in the Big Ten this year in the 60-, 200- and 400-meter dashes, 60 hurdles, 1,600 relay, long jump, triple jump and heptathlon.

The Iowa women have been in the upper echelon of the Big Ten, but not quite at a championship level. They finished third in 2021 and sixth in 2022 at the indoor championships.

Woody is expecting better results for the women in 2023, though.

“We've got a team that's actually competing for a championship this year,” Woody said.

“When you look at our point rankings going into the championships, we're one of the favor-



Iowa's Joey Woody has no shortage of confidence in this year's group as the Hawkeyes' track and field program prepares for the Big Ten indoor championships. (The Gazette)

ites.”

The women's team is “probably the best women's program we've had since I've been here at Iowa,” Woody said.

Hurdler Paige Magee is among the athletes Woody has noticed make significant improvement since last year.

“She's had a tremendous indoor season,” Woody said. “She's been a big contributor, obviously in the 60 hurdles, but also in the 200, which is a new event for her.”

Lasarah Hargove and Magee have the second- and third-best 200 times in the Big Ten this season.

Iowa has four of the top five 600 performances in the Big Ten this season and two of the top

four 60 hurdle performances.

Iowa received a boost in the transfer portal with the addition of sprinter Ali Dorn, who ran the fourth-fastest 600 indoor time and seventh-fastest indoor 400 time in Wisconsin program history.

“She's been a great addition,” Woody said. “She's been just a fantastic athlete, obviously, but she's an even better person and supportive of her teammates.”

If Iowa does win a women's indoor championship this weekend, it would be the first in program history.

“They're excited,” Woody said. “They're ready to battle, to go after that team championship.”

Comments: john.steppe@thegazette.com

Wrestling/Kohawks travel to Illinois for stacked tournament

► FROM PAGE 1B

and schools from Illinois, Missouri, Arkansas, Alabama and Texas.

“Coming back and getting this chance is cool in a way,” said Henderson, who is 1-1 at 157 pounds. “It's an opportunity to prove myself. The odds are stacked against me.”

“I haven't competed in two to three months. I had three weeks to get ready and go to the toughest tournament in D-III wrestling and give it all I've got. It will be fun to see what happens.”

The upbeat approach may not have emerged had it not been for his close friends and teammates who rallied around him when he was crestfallen after the setback. Notably, Coe's Riley Wright and Ryker Kurimski provided the support that inspired him to remain engaged with the team.

“They didn't care if I could compete or not,” Henderson said. “They just cared about how I was doing.”

“I just put it in perspective. They were there for me when I needed them. It's also my job to be a friend and brother to them.”

Henderson donned a walking boot, but still attended practice. The 2021 National Wrestling Coaches Association 157-pound national finalist and two-time state runner-up for North Linn realized he could make an impact in a dif-

ferent way, sharing his wrestling knowledge of positions and technique on the mat and how to handle the emotions off it.

“I've been really impressed with how he's dealt with it,” Coe Coach John Oostendorp said.

The best response also was the hardest to embrace. Henderson agonized over being a spectator instead of a participant, especially when the Kohawks toiled to a 9-6 dual record, 5-3 in the A-R-C.

“I'm not going to lie,” Henderson said. “It was really hard going to practice some days, sitting there watching and then going to duals. Duals were really tough.”

The most recent visit to the doctor revealed competing wouldn't cause long-term damage. Henderson was told if he could tolerate the pain and strain then he could give it a go.

“Why not give it a try?” he said.

The field includes four Top 20 programs, including No. 1 Wartburg, No. 5 North Central, No. 14 Loras and 20th-ranked Luther. Thirty-five ranked wrestlers will contend for NCAA tournament berths. The top three at each weight advance to the national tournament, which is problematic for weights like heavyweight that boast five ranked wrestlers in addition to Coe's returning All-American Kaleb Reeves.

Comments: kj.pilcher@thegazette.com

SCORES & MORE

Big 12/UCF goes big

FROM PAGE 1B

Shawnee Mission South High and served two stints in the Kansas Jayhawks' athletics department. The Mohajirs have a daughter on the KU dance squad.

Also, the Golden Knights' senior deputy athletics director, Rich Zvocec, was UMKC's basketball coach for six seasons. This new world for Central Florida is familiar territory for them.

"On the excitement scale of 1-10, this is a 12 for Central Florida," Zvocec said. "For me, it's a 15."

Central Florida, which opened in 1963 to provide personnel to support the U.S. space program, will be the youngest Power Five program. But it's ridden a rocket ship up the ranks.

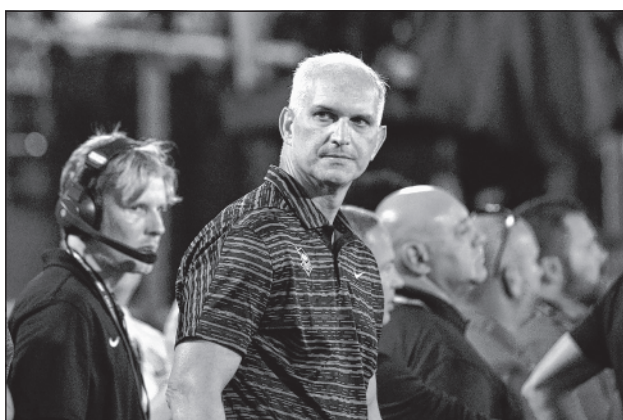
Football debuted as a Division III sport at UCF in 1979 and three years later rose to Division II. In 1990, the school attained Football Championship Subdivision status, and by 1996, quarter-back Daunte Culpepper was leading the Knights in the Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS).

In the years since, UCF has played in the Mid-American Conference, Conference USA and the American Athletic Conference ...

And, now, the Big 12. "Getting in was really a monumental day for our fan base, alumni, and really cool for me personally growing up a Big 8, Big 12 guy," Mohajir said. "And the meteoric rise has been nothing but gratifying to the forefathers and the investments they made."

Many around the UCF program today have been there every step of the way. They've watched the university in Orlando grow into one of the nation's largest in terms of enrollment, with 68,000 students.

Getting into Florida, the nation's most talent-rich state when it comes to football prospects, was a smart move for the Big 12, Mohajir said. "For a conference that



Central Florida athletics director Terry Mohajir watches from the sideline during the first half of a football game against Louisville on Sept. 9, 2022, in Orlando, Fla. (Associated Press)

wasn't represented in Florida, this was a great opportunity to come in and plant the flag in the middle of the state," he said.

Conference movement is not new to Mohajir. He's seen plenty while advancing through his career. Back when he was an assistant coach with the Jayhawks' offensive line and special teams from 1993-97 under Glen Mason, the Big 8 became the Big 12 with the merger of four Texas schools from the Southwest Conference.

Mohajir transitioned into administration at UMKC, where he met Zvocec, and returned to KU as associate athletics director and chief marketing officer in 2011. This was during a period of dramatic realignment for the Big 12: Nebraska and Colorado left, Missouri and Texas A&M were leaving and West Virginia and TCU were coming in.

"The first time it was exciting, with the new schools," Mohajir said. "The next time was a little nerve-racking for everybody."

This time, potential Big 12 instability lurked after the departures of Texas and Oklahoma to the Southeastern Conference. But the current transition has actually been fairly smooth — perhaps, in part, thanks to some swift action and sound decisions.

Bowlsby knew the top candidates for admission to the Big 12. The conference had started keeping files on them (and sev-

eral other schools) while considering expansion in 2016.

Bowlsby, a Waterloo native and former UNI and Iowa AD, retired last year and was succeeded by new Big 12 commissioner Brett Yormark. Three months into Yormark's tenure, the Big 12 rocked the college sports landscape by announcing a six-year, \$2.3 billion media-rights extension.

The deal starts in 2025 and will generate \$31.7 million in annual media revenue to each of the league's member institutions. Add that to other revenue streams, such as College Football Playoff payouts, bowl payouts and NCAA tournament units, and each Big 12 school is expected to receive some \$50 million in annual distribution. This year, Big 12 members received an average of \$44 million apiece.

Those figures place the Big 12 in the middle of the Power Five conferences and thrust the league's newcomers into a higher tax bracket. For 2022-23, Cincinnati received \$11.3 million, Central Florida \$8.9 million and Houston \$8.3 million from the AAC.

The Big 12 will compete with 14 member schools this year and then drop to 12 when Oklahoma and Texas depart for the SEC next year. That is, if there's no more expansion.

Nothing is off the table for Yormark, and the Big 12's finances put the league in position to be aggressive if it wants to.

SPORTSDAY

EVENTS OF AREA INTEREST

High school softball

Prairie at Marion, noon; North Linn at Xavier, 11:30 a.m.; Iowa City West tournament (UI complex), 9 a.m.

High school baseball

Class 1A and 2A districts; I.C. West at Clear Creek Amana, 11 a.m.

Midwest League baseball

C.R. Kernels at Peoria, 6:35 p.m.

ON TELEVISION

(Live, first-run same-day tape)

Major League Baseball

Yankees at Cardinals, 1 p.m., FS1; White Sox at Athletics, 3 p.m., NBCS Chicago; Guardians at Cubs, 6 p.m., KFXA

WNBA

Sun at Aces, 2 p.m., KCRG; Lynx at Mercury, 9 p.m., NBATV

International soccer

Cuba vs. Guadeloupe, 6:30 p.m., FS1; Guatemala vs. Canada, 9 p.m., FS1

Cycling

Tour de France: Stage 1, 7 a.m., KWWL

Pro golf

Betfred British Masters, 6:30 a.m. and 2 p.m., Golf Channel; LIV: Valderrama, noon, KCRG 9.3; Rocket Mortgage Classic, noon and 6 p.m., Golf Channel, 2 p.m., KGAN; U.S. Senior Open Championship, 1 p.m., KWWL

Auto racing

F1 Austria Grand Prix sprint, 4:55 a.m., ESPN2, 9:25 a.m., ESPN; NASCAR Xfinity Series The Loop 121, qualifying 10 a.m., race 4 p.m., USA; NASCAR Cup Series Grant Park 220 qualifying, 12:30 p.m., USA

Big3 basketball

Round robin coverage, noon, KGAN

Pro soccer

Memphis 901 FC at Phoenix Rising FC, 10 p.m., ESPN2

USFL Championship

Birmingham Stallions vs. Pittsburgh Maulers, 7 p.m., KWWL

Swimming

U.S. National Championships, noon, KWWL

Men's lacrosse

World Lacrosse Men's Championships, 3 p.m., ESPN, 6 p.m., ESPN2

Horse racing

America's Day At the Races, noon, FS1; Breeders' Cup Challenge Series, 4 p.m., KWWL

Boxing

Jared Anderson vs. Zhan Kossobutskiy; Arslanbek Makhmudov vs. Raphael Akpejori, 9 p.m., ESPN

ON RADIO*

Major League Baseball

Giants at Mets, 3 p.m., KGYM; Guardians at Cubs, 6 p.m., KXIC (800)

*Listings submitted by radio stations

CONTACT US

(319) 398-8258; 1 (800) 397-8258; fax, (319) 398-5861; preps, (319) 368-8976, 1 (888) 577-8287; email, sports@thegazette.com; @CRGazetteSports on Twitter

Pro basketball

WNBA

Table with columns: Eastern Conference, Western Conference, W, L, Pct, GB. Rows include Connecticut, New York, Washington, Chicago, Atlanta, Indiana, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Dallas, Phoenix, etc.

TODAY'S GAMES (Iowa times)

Connecticut at Las Vegas, 2 p.m. Minnesota at Phoenix, 9 p.m.

Pro golf

Friday PGA ROCKET MORTGAGE CLASSIC At Detroit (Detroit Golf Club, North Course, par 72)

SECOND ROUND RESULTS Taylor Moore.....64-67-131 Taylor Pendrith.....67-64-131 Ludvig Aberg.....65-67-132 Rickie Fowler.....67-65-132 Justin Lower.....68-65-133 Collin Morikawa.....66-67-133 Aaron Rai.....65-68-133 Adam Schenk.....65-68-133 Cameron Davis.....69-65-134 Adam Hadwin.....66-68-134 Peter Kuest.....64-70-134 Andrew Landry.....71-63-134 Sepp Straka.....68-66-134 Dylan Wu.....65-69-134 Nicolai Hoigaard.....67-68-135 Chris Kirk.....67-68-135 Peter Malinafi.....69-66-135 Callum Tarren.....67-68-135 Keegan Bradley.....69-67-136 MJ Daffue.....66-70-136 Brian Harman.....68-68-136 Charley Hoffman.....67-69-136 Satoshi Kodaira.....71-65-136 Troy Merritt.....68-68-136 Alex Noren.....68-68-136 Sam Ryder.....65-71-136 Brendon Todd.....68-68-136 Carl Yuan.....70-66-136 Luke Donald.....71-66-137 Doug Ghim.....66-71-137 Ben Griffin.....70-67-137 Max Homa.....69-68-137 Stephan Jaeger.....69-68-137 Ryan Moore.....67-70-137 Chad Ramey.....68-69-137 Brett Stegmaier.....67-70-137 Justin Suh.....65-72-137 Danny Willett.....70-67-137 Carson Young.....69-68-137 Trevor Cone.....71-67-138 Zecheng Dou.....69-69-138 Tyler Duncan.....70-68-138 Lucas Glover.....69-69-138 Chesson Hadley.....68-70-138 Paul Haley.....72-66-138

Pro basketball

WNBA

Table with columns: Eastern Conference, Western Conference, W, L, Pct, GB. Rows include Connecticut, New York, Washington, Chicago, Atlanta, Indiana, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Dallas, Phoenix, etc.

TODAY'S GAMES (Iowa times)

Connecticut at Las Vegas, 2 p.m. Minnesota at Phoenix, 9 p.m.

Pro golf

Friday PGA ROCKET MORTGAGE CLASSIC At Detroit (Detroit Golf Club, North Course, par 72)

SECOND ROUND RESULTS Taylor Moore.....64-67-131 Taylor Pendrith.....67-64-131 Ludvig Aberg.....65-67-132 Rickie Fowler.....67-65-132 Justin Lower.....68-65-133 Collin Morikawa.....66-67-133 Aaron Rai.....65-68-133 Adam Schenk.....65-68-133 Cameron Davis.....69-65-134 Adam Hadwin.....66-68-134 Peter Kuest.....64-70-134 Andrew Landry.....71-63-134 Sepp Straka.....68-66-134 Dylan Wu.....65-69-134 Nicolai Hoigaard.....67-68-135 Chris Kirk.....67-68-135 Peter Malinafi.....69-66-135 Callum Tarren.....67-68-135 Keegan Bradley.....69-67-136 MJ Daffue.....66-70-136 Brian Harman.....68-68-136 Charley Hoffman.....67-69-136 Satoshi Kodaira.....71-65-136 Troy Merritt.....68-68-136 Alex Noren.....68-68-136 Sam Ryder.....65-71-136 Brendon Todd.....68-68-136 Carl Yuan.....70-66-136 Luke Donald.....71-66-137 Doug Ghim.....66-71-137 Ben Griffin.....70-67-137 Max Homa.....69-68-137 Stephan Jaeger.....69-68-137 Ryan Moore.....67-70-137 Chad Ramey.....68-69-137 Brett Stegmaier.....67-70-137 Justin Suh.....65-72-137 Danny Willett.....70-67-137 Carson Young.....69-68-137 Trevor Cone.....71-67-138 Zecheng Dou.....69-69-138 Tyler Duncan.....70-68-138 Lucas Glover.....69-69-138 Chesson Hadley.....68-70-138 Paul Haley.....72-66-138

Pro basketball

WNBA

Table with columns: Eastern Conference, Western Conference, W, L, Pct, GB. Rows include Connecticut, New York, Washington, Chicago, Atlanta, Indiana, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Dallas, Phoenix, etc.

TODAY'S GAMES (Iowa times)

Connecticut at Las Vegas, 2 p.m. Minnesota at Phoenix, 9 p.m.

Pro golf

Friday PGA ROCKET MORTGAGE CLASSIC At Detroit (Detroit Golf Club, North Course, par 72)

SECOND ROUND RESULTS Taylor Moore.....64-67-131 Taylor Pendrith.....67-64-131 Ludvig Aberg.....65-67-132 Rickie Fowler.....67-65-132 Justin Lower.....68-65-133 Collin Morikawa.....66-67-133 Aaron Rai.....65-68-133 Adam Schenk.....65-68-133 Cameron Davis.....69-65-134 Adam Hadwin.....66-68-134 Peter Kuest.....64-70-134 Andrew Landry.....71-63-134 Sepp Straka.....68-66-134 Dylan Wu.....65-69-134 Nicolai Hoigaard.....67-68-135 Chris Kirk.....67-68-135 Peter Malinafi.....69-66-135 Callum Tarren.....67-68-135 Keegan Bradley.....69-67-136 MJ Daffue.....66-70-136 Brian Harman.....68-68-136 Charley Hoffman.....67-69-136 Satoshi Kodaira.....71-65-136 Troy Merritt.....68-68-136 Alex Noren.....68-68-136 Sam Ryder.....65-71-136 Brendon Todd.....68-68-136 Carl Yuan.....70-66-136 Luke Donald.....71-66-137 Doug Ghim.....66-71-137 Ben Griffin.....70-67-137 Max Homa.....69-68-137 Stephan Jaeger.....69-68-137 Ryan Moore.....67-70-137 Chad Ramey.....68-69-137 Brett Stegmaier.....67-70-137 Justin Suh.....65-72-137 Danny Willett.....70-67-137 Carson Young.....69-68-137 Trevor Cone.....71-67-138 Zecheng Dou.....69-69-138 Tyler Duncan.....70-68-138 Lucas Glover.....69-69-138 Chesson Hadley.....68-70-138 Paul Haley.....72-66-138

Pro basketball

WNBA

Table with columns: Eastern Conference, Western Conference, W, L, Pct, GB. Rows include Connecticut, New York, Washington, Chicago, Atlanta, Indiana, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Dallas, Phoenix, etc.

TODAY'S GAMES (Iowa times)

Connecticut at Las Vegas, 2 p.m. Minnesota at Phoenix, 9 p.m.

Major League Baseball

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Table with columns: East Division, Central Division, West Division, W, L, Pct, GB. Rows include Tampa Bay, Baltimore, New York, Toronto, Boston, etc.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Table with columns: East Division, Central Division, West Division, W, L, Pct, GB. Rows include Atlanta, Miami, Philadelphia, New York, Washington, etc.

Friday's Games

Chicago Cubs 10, Cleveland 1 Cincinnati 7, San Diego 5, 11 innings Washington at Philadelphia, late Milwaukee at Pittsburgh, late San Francisco at N.Y. Mets, late Miami at Atlanta, late Detroit at Colorado, late N.Y. Yankees at St. Louis, late

League Leaders

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Table with columns: Player, G, AB, H, R, Avg. Rows include Bichette, Diaz, Hays, Ohtani, etc.

Home Runs

Ohtani, Los Angeles, 29; Robert Jr., Chicago, 23; A.Garcia, Texas, 20; Judge, New York, 19; Devers, Boston, 19; Alvarez, Houston, 17; Buser, Chicago, 17; Trout, Los Angeles, 17; Jung, Texas, 16.

Runs Batted In

A.Garcia, Texas, 66; Ohtani, Los Angeles, 66; Devers, Boston, 61; J.Naylor, Cleveland, 58; Alvarez, Houston, 55; Heim, Texas, 55; Semien, Texas, 55; Arozarena, Tampa Bay, 54; Bregman, Houston, 53.

On-Base Percentage

Diaz, Tampa Bay, .407; Arozarena, Tampa Bay, .401; Ohtani, Los Angeles, .392; Noda, Oakland, .379; Rutschman, Baltimore, .378; Verdugo, Boston, .373; Lowe, Texas, .372; Paredes, Tampa Bay, .367; Ramirez, Cleveland, .367; Trout, Los Angeles, .367.

Stolen Bases

E.Ruiz, Oakland, 40; Franco, Tampa Bay, 25; Witt Jr., Kansas City, 23; Mateo, Baltimore, 21; J.Lowe, Tampa Bay, 18; Merrifield, Toronto, 18; J.Rodriguez, Seattle, 18; Volpe, New York, 16; Walls, Tampa Bay, 16; Castro, Minnesota, 15; Ja.Duran, Boston, 15.

Pitching

McClanahan, Tampa Bay, 11-1; Eovaldi, Texas, 9-3; Eflin, Tampa Bay, 9-3; Cole, New York, 8-1; Kremer, Baltimore, 8-3; Bassitt, Toronto, 8-5; Gibson, Baltimore, 8-5; Ryan, Minnesota, 8-5; Berris, Toronto, 8-5.

Strikeouts

Gausman, Toronto, 139; Ohtani, Los Angeles, 127; P.Lopez, Minnesota, 120; Lynn, Chicago, 116; Cole, New York, 113; Cease, Chicago, 110; F.Valdez, Houston, 110; L.Castillo, Seattle, 108; Giolito, Chicago, 108; Ryan, Minnesota, 105.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Table with columns: Player, G, AB, H, R, Avg. Rows include Arraez, Acuña Jr., Freeman, etc.

Home Runs

Olson, Atlanta, 26; Alonso, New York, 24; Soler, Miami, 21; Schwarber, Philadelphia, 21; Betts, Los Angeles, 20; Acuña Jr., Atlanta, 19; Muncy, Los Angeles, 18; J.Martinez, Los Angeles, 18; Albies, Atlanta, 18; Carroll, Arizona, 17.

Runs Batted In

Olson, Atlanta, 62; Albies, Atlanta, 56; Alonso, New York, 55; C.Walker, Arizona, 54; Arenado, St. Louis, 54; Lindor, New York, 54; J.Martinez, Los Angeles, 51; Acuña Jr., Atlanta, 51; Betts, Los Angeles, 50.

On-Base Percentage

Arraez, Miami, .444; Soto, San Diego, .424; Wade Jr., San Francisco, .416; Acuña Jr., Atlanta, .408; Smith, Los Angeles, .404; Freeman, Los Angeles, .399; McCutchen, Pittsburgh, .395; Happ, Chicago, .380; Nimmo, New York, .375; Goldschmidt, St. Louis, .374.

Stolen Bases

Acuña Jr., Atlanta, 36; Carroll, Arizona, 24; S.Marie, New York, 21; Bae, Pittsburgh, 20; Hoerner, Chicago, 18; T.Estrada, San Francisco, 18; Yelich, Milwaukee, 18; McCarrity, Arizona, 17; Turner, Philadelphia, 17.

Pitching

Gallen, Arizona, 10-2; Kershaw, Los Angeles, 10-4; Steele, Chicago, 9-2; Strider, Atlanta, 9-2; Keller, Pittsburgh, 9-3; T.Walker, Philadelphia, 9-3; M.Kelly, Arizona, 9-4; Stroman, Chicago, 9-5; Gibaut, Cincinnati, 8-1.

Earned Run Average

Steele, Chicago, 2.43; Elder, Atlanta, 2.44; Stroman, Chicago, 2.47; Kershaw, Los Angeles, 2.35; Wacha, San Diego, 2.90; Gallen, Arizona, 3.02; Snell, San Diego, 3.21; M.Kelly, Arizona, 3.22; Keller, Pittsburgh, 3.34; Gray, Washington, 3.43; Webb, San Francisco, 3.43.

Strikeouts

Strider, Atlanta, 146; Keller, Pittsburgh, 118; Snell, San Diego, 114; Luzardo, Miami, 112; Gallen, Arizona, 108; Webb, San Francisco, 106; Wheeler, Philadelphia, 106; Kershaw, Los Angeles, 105; Gore, Washington, 104; Aa.Nola, Philadelphia, 102.

Minor League baseball

Midwest League SECOND HALF

Table with columns: East Division, West Division, W, L, Pct, GB. Rows include Dayton (Reds), Fort Wayne (Padres), West Michigan (Tigers), etc.

TONIGHT'S GAMES (Iowa times)

Cedar Rapids at Peoria, 6:35 p.m. Fort Wayne at Lake County, 6 p.m. Lansing at Great Lakes, 6:05 p.m. South Bend at Beloit, 6:05 p.m. Dayton at West Michigan, 6:05 p.m. Wisconsin at Quad Cities, 6:30 p.m.

Prep softball

Friday METRO/IOWA CITY (Regular Season)

C.R. Xavier 5, Dubuque Wahlert 4

AREA (Regular Season)

WDM Valley 7, West Liberty 4 Williamsburg 4, Central Lee 3 Williamsburg 5, Muscatine 1

CLASS 2A REGIONAL FIRST ROUND

Region 5 Belmont-Klemme at Hudson, late Grundy Center at Adolph, late Region 6 Clayton Ridge 10, MFL Mar/Mac 6 Postville at Denver, late Region 7 Pekin at Tipton, late Pella Christian at Edgelyville EBF, late Region 8 Bellevue at Dyersville Beckman, late Durant 14, Danville 1

CLASS 1A REGIONAL FIRST ROUND

Region 5 Montezuma at North Mahaska, late Belle Plaine at BGM, late Iowa Valley 9, HLV 8 Baxter at Lynnville-Sully, late Garwin/GMG at Colo-Nesco, late Region 7 Elkader Central at Turkey Valley, late Edgewood-Colesburg 2, Starmont 0 West Central at Lansing 2, late North Cedar at Springville, late Midland at Maquoketa Valley, late Region 8 Ft Madison Holy Trinity 10, New London 5 Wapello 12, Winfield-Mount Union 2 Lone Tree at Highland, late Moravia 12, Keota 0 Hillcrest Academy at Tri-County, late

Thursday METRO/IOWA CITY

C.R. Kennedy 10-12, Iowa City West 0-1 C.R. Prairie 5-2, C.R. Xavier 3-7 Iowa City Liberty 4-5, C.R. Jefferson 3-4 Linn-Mar 3-5, Dubuque Hempstead 2-8 West Liberty 6, Iowa City Regina 4

AREA

Alburnett 18-13, Midland 0-1 Benton 7-15, Center Point-Urbana 3-14 Dubuque Wahlert 6-13, Cedar Falls 2-2 Lisbon 11-12, Maquoketa Valley 1-0 Mid-Prairie 10, Durant 6 Monticello 8-4, Vinton-Shellsburg 3-7 North Linn 4, Anamosa 1 Summer-Fred'burg 12, Turkey Valley 10 Western Dubuque 14-12, Wat. West 4-0 Wilton 11, Mid-Prairie 2

Prep baseball

Thursday METRO/IOWA CITY

Cedar Falls 8-7, C.R. Prairie 6-5 Marion 14-14, Vinton-Shellsburg 1-0 AREA Alburnett 4, Union Community 2 Benton Comm. 2, Center Point-Urbana 1 Cascade 13-11, Clayton Ridge 3-1 Charles City 16, Saint Ansgar 6 Hudson 7, North Tama 2 Independence 13-4, South Tama 3-2 Janesville 7, Wapsie Valley 4 Mid-Prairie 19, Tipton 1 Monticello 11, Anamosa 4 Mount Vernon 4-2, West Delaware 3-7 North Fayette Valley 17, Nashua-Plainfield 7 Pleasant Valley 5-14, Central DeWitt 0-10 Solon 6-7, Clear Creek Amana 5-10 Waverly-Snell Rock 10, South Winneshiek 0

Substate Districts

FIRST ROUND GAMES (Area teams only)

CLASS 2A District 5 At Starmont (4) Oelwein vs. (5) Clayton Ridge, 5 p.m. (3) Starmont vs. (6) Denver, 7 p.m. District 6 At MFL Mar/Mac (3) MFL Mar/Mac vs. (6) NFV, 7 p.m. District 7 At Alburnett (4) Marquette Catholic vs. (5) Northeast, 5 p.m. (3) Alburnett vs. (6) Camanche, 7 p.m. District 8 At Hudson (4) Jesup vs. (5) Monticello, 5 p.m. (3) Hudson vs. (6) Union, 7 p.m. District 9 At West Liberty (4) Wilton vs. (5) Tipton, 5 p.m. (3) West Liberty vs. (6) West Branch, 7 p.m.

1st round byes:

Cascade, West Hampton, Waukon, Beckman Catholic, Anamosa, Mid-Prairie, Williamsburg

CLASS 1A District 5

At Maquoketa Valley (4) Maquoketa Valley vs. (5) North Tama, 7 p.m. At East Buchanan (3) East Buchanan vs. (6) Ed-Co, 7 p.m. District 6 At South Winneshiek (1) South Winneshiek vs. (8) Clarksville, 7 p.m. (4) Lansing Kee vs. (5) Turkey

SPORTS



HE'S GOT IT!



Prairie's Michael Day makes a catch during a high school baseball game against Western Dubuque on Friday at Prairie High School in Cedar Rapids. **More photos, 2B.** (Nick Rohlman/The Gazette)

SIDELINE

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Ticket prices are going up for Iowa women

IOWA CITY — The prices to watch Caitlin Clark and the reigning national runner-up Iowa women's basketball team at Carver-Hawkeye Arena will be higher in 2023-24.

For those renewing season tickets, the prices will be \$175 for adults and \$140 for faculty, staff and seniors. Youth tickets will be \$60.

New season tickets will cost \$195 for adults, \$160 for seniors and faculty/staff and \$75 for youth.

Season ticket prices for women's basketball were previously \$125 for adults, \$90 for seniors and \$30 for youth.

Men's season tickets will remain the same as last year — between \$325 and \$375 for the general public and between \$280 and \$320 for faculty and staff. Those prices are in addition to minimum donations.

Season ticket renewals began Friday for men's and women's basketball. Iowa plans to reach out to those who submitted deposits for new season tickets starting on July 10 "in priority order."

— John Steppe

PRO HOCKEY

Heartlanders sign 4 for upcoming season

CORALVILLE — The Iowa Heartlanders added four more players to their 2023-24 roster with the signings of defenseman Chris Lipe and forwards Jesse Jacques, Mike Knaub and Davis Koch.

Iowa has signed eight players to 2023-24 ECHL contracts (five forwards, two defensemen and one goaltender).

Lipe and Jacques joined Iowa last March from the NCAA ranks and played the final few weeks of the season with the Heartlanders.

Knaub is a six-year pro and Koch is in his fifth professional season. Koch played 168 career games in Germany's top-two professional leagues, the DEL and DEL2, from 2019-23 and combined for 37 goals and 104 points. Knaub forged over 157 games in the DEL2 and the German 3rd pro league, scoring 58 points and earning 437 penalty minutes.

Iowa opens the 2023-24 season Oct. 20 against the Rapid City Rush.

HONORS

Cornell to induct 3 into hall of fame in October

MOUNT VERNON — Cornell College has announced Kathleen O'Connor (Class of 2014), Chris Heilman ('08) and Bill Maxson ('74) will be inducted into the Athletics Hall of Fame this fall.

The Hall of Fame ceremony will be held over homecoming weekend, Oct. 7.

O'Connor is the most accomplished volleyball player in Cornell history. Heilman was a three-time all-American wrestler and Maxson a four-year letterman on Cornell's swimming team.

The Gazette

IOWA FOOTBALL

Hawkeye recruits are ready to go

Class on par with past years following June visits

By John Steppe, The Gazette

IOWA CITY — The Iowa 2024 football recruiting class has received five commitments from scholarship players since June 22, pushing the class size up to 16.

Plenty of fluidity remains with another five-plus months until the early signing period, but Iowa's 2024 recruiting appears to be on par with previous years.

As of yesterday, Iowa's 2024 class was 30th in On3's rankings, 32nd in Rivals' rankings

and 27th in 247Sports' rankings. That puts the Hawkeyes in the middle tier of the Big Ten.

While not jumping off the page, those rankings are close to where the Hawkeyes' previous classes have finished.

On3 has ranked Iowa's previous five classes 40th, 32nd, 22nd, 33rd and 41st nationally.

Iowa's last five recruiting classes have finished 30th or worse in 247Sports' rankings in all but 2021.

► IOWA, PAGE 2B



Iowa head football coach Kirk Ferentz addresses players following spring practice April 22 at Kinnick Stadium in Iowa City. (Nick Rohlman/The Gazette)

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

A Big 12 tale



A view of the Big 12 logo as the Baylor band plays on the field before the Bears play host to Oklahoma in the Big 12 Championship on Dec. 7, 2019, at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas. (Getty Images/TNS)

Why this boss now wants to defeat teams he loved as a kid in Kansas City

By Blair Kerkhoff, Kansas City Star

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — In 2021, Terry Mohajir and his wife Julie had family in town at their Orlando home, with plans to attend the Coke Zero Sugar 400 at nearby Daytona, when a telephone call disrupted their plans.

Then-Big 12 commis-

sioner Bob Bowlsby said he wanted to visit with Mohajir, the Central Florida athletics director, along with the university's president and chairman of its board of trustees.

And one more thing: Bowlsby wanted this kept as quiet as possible.

"We couldn't have family at the house," Mohajir said. About two weeks later,

the result of that meeting was announced publicly: The Big 12 had accepted Central Florida, Brigham Young, Houston and Cincinnati into the conference.

Four schools and their respective fan bases celebrated the jump to the autonomy of the Power Five and boost in revenue and reputation it portended.

Those memberships be-

come official today with the start of the 2023-24 business calendar for college sports.

With UCF's admission to the Big 12, a small echo of cheers could be heard in Kansas City from family and friends of the school's athletics boss.

Mohajir grew up in Kansas City, Mo., attended

► BIG 12, PAGE 4B



J.R. OGDEN

Moser School of ... life lessons

Northeast Iowa dance and gymnastics clubs teach students how to be better people

There are schools in Guttenberg, Edgewood, Dyersville and Strawberry Point.

There also are studios in Manchester, Clermont, Independence and Monticello.

There are students — female and male — spread across northeast Iowa, former students spread across the state, the country and globe.

They are dancers, cheerleaders, gymnasts and tumblers. And wrestlers.

But they are so much more thanks to the Moser School of Dance and Gym-

nastics.

Debbie Moser — who runs the schools with her sister Carmen Moser Payne with help from Kattie Payne Schulte and Luka Marie Schulte (Carmen's daughter and granddaughter) — didn't hesitate when asked about the legacy the Moser schools hope to leave students.

"Everything we teach in our classroom is respect and lessons you can use for a lifetime," she said.

Then, in an email a few minutes later, she elaborated



Moser School of Dance and Gymnastics coaches are (back) Kattie Payne Schulte, Carmen Moser Payne and Debbie Moser, and (front) Bernita Moser and Luka Marie Schulte. (Moser photo)

► OGDEN, PAGE 4B