

Hawkeyes Mic: Hawkeyes – Cyclones Predictions (09/08/17)

HawkeyesMic.com

Podcasting 11 Years of Original Programming on Iowa Athletics

The Hawkeyes Mic picks are in for the Iowa – Iowa State game. It's unanimous once again. Check them out – see if you agree or disagree...

Scott Dochterman – Iowa 31-17: This is a classic battle between a boxer and a puncher. Iowa State has plenty of explosive weapons but lacks experience in the trenches. Iowa, conversely, has a wealth of experience along the line of scrimmage but is green along the perimeter and at quarterback.

If Iowa manages to convert on third down and not turn over the ball, I think the Hawkeyes have a chance to dominate this game, even on the road. But if Stanley loses a couple of fumbles like last week, it could be close in the fourth quarter. Usually if that's the case at Jack Trice Stadium, it's not a good outcome for Iowa.

I think both of Iowa's lines will assert their dominance and beat the Cyclones for the third straight year, somewhere around 31-17. (LandOfTen.com; [@ScottDochterman](https://twitter.com/ScottDochterman) on Twitter)

Steve Batterson – Iowa 24-20: Iowa State has some exceptional talent at the skill positions and they will make their share of plays, but line play makes the difference in this one. The Hawkeyes' experience on the offensive line should allow Iowa's running game to work the clock with a ground-and-pound approach. The front seven defensively should be able to wear on an ISU offensive front with a number of new pieces that is still developing into a cohesive unit. ([The Quad City Times](http://TheQuadCityTimes.com); [@SBatt79](https://twitter.com/SBatt79) on Twitter)

Tyler Tjelmeland – Iowa 34-20: It's always a toss-up. I could see Iowa rolling big time because they're stronger up front on both sides. I could also see ISU pulling off a win because... well, that's this rivalry lately.

Both teams have knowns and both teams have unknowns. The key will be quarterback play. Which QB can make the big play or which one doesn't make the costly mistake? If Jacob Park can utilize his run game to get Iowa's secondary guessing and avoid the barrage that is Iowa's front seven, he's got a recipe for success... that's easier said than done. Montgomery needs to be consistent or ISU could be dead in the water.

Iowa needs to put on its big boy pants and hit. Hard and heavy on both sides. They need to utilize both running backs and pound the rock to open up the pass and take the pressure off Nate Stanley. Defensively, they need to take Montgomery out of the equation to focus on Lazard and crew. Force Park to make plays. Lazard will get his 10ish receptions, but they need to limit the damage.

Expect another slow start as each team tries to feel the other out... I anticipate a heavy dose of Wadley and Butler while B Ferentz tries to get the play-action going. It should work... it's Iowa-Iowa State. Things don't always go according to plan. Should be fun. (HawkeyesMic.com; [@TylerTjemeland](https://twitter.com/TylerTjemeland) on Twitter)

Jack Brandsgard – Iowa 24-20: I think this game starts off similarly to the Wyoming opener—a slow offensive beginning for the Hawks and a stingy defensive performance. Nate Stanley faces another first as he makes his debut on the road as a starting quarterback. A lot of the nerves that caused Stanley to start roughly against Wyoming will likely plague Iowa's signal caller again this week. Look for a heavy dosage of Akrum Wadley and James Butler to begin with as the coaching staff looks to ease Stanley into the game.

Iowa's defense will need to serve as the team's anchor again this week. The most intriguing matchup is between the Hawkeye corners and the Cyclone receivers. Iowa State's wide outs are experienced, long, and productive, and will go up against an Iowa secondary that doesn't have a ton of starting experience. Getting Manny Rugamba back is huge, and I think Iowa holds the Cyclone receivers in check for the most part. (HawkeyesMic.com; [@JackBrandsgard](https://twitter.com/JackBrandsgard) on Twitter)

John Patchett – Iowa 31-20: So-called "skill players" often provide the most excitement in football games. But, more often than not, line play (on both sides of the ball) determines the outcome of games. Iowa State has a very good group of tall, athletic, and fast wide receivers – who will be a test for defensive backfields all season long. In Saturday's game, Iowa clearly has the advantage when it comes to both the offensive line and defensive line. I think, ultimately, that will be the difference.

Iowa's Defense was nothing short of exceptional against Wyoming and a NFL-bound QB. Every Hawkeyes unit on the field did its job, resulting in just three points (a 49 YD FG) and preventing the Cowboys from even getting into the red-zone. Iowa's Offense, on the other hand, started slow but gained steam as the game went along. ISU took advantage of key UNI turnovers to get its season-opening win last Saturday. But it surrendered well over five yards per carry to the Panthers.

Iowa cannot afford four turnovers again (like last week), especially in a hostile Ames environment. But the Hawkeyes O-Line and running backs Akrum Wadley and James Butler should dominate, eat clock, and get into the end-zone (unlike last week when all three Iowa TDs came via the pass). Nate Stanley will continue to grow as starting QB. And Noah Fant is as much a mismatch for defenders as the Cyclones receivers. I'm going with the Hawkeyes to retain the Cy-Hawk Trophy on their way to an undefeated non-conference slate. (HawkeyesMic.com; [@HawkeyesMic](https://twitter.com/HawkeyesMic) on Twitter)

Note: You can access the PDF version of our predictions [here](#).