



Hawkeyes Mic: Hawkeyes – Wildcats Prognostications (10/30/20)

The Hawkeyes Mic picks are in for the Iowa – Purdue game. It's unanimous again this week. But — the entire crew was one giant O-for last week for the Purdue Game. We're trying to reclaim our credibility this week. And, oh baby, the weather (wind) could play a huge role (see below)! Check them out – see if you agree or disagree.



Scott Dochterman – Iowa 23-20:

On Halloween, this is truly a trick-or-treat game for the Hawkeyes. I can see every scenario Saturday from getting the big candy bar to a rock. Just so the pandemic year doesn't get any worse, I'll say the Hawks end up with a Snickers.

TheAthletic.com

[@ScottDochterman](https://twitter.com/ScottDochterman) on Twitter

Steve Batterson – Iowa 24-21:

Nothing will come easily for this Iowa football team. If the Hawkeyes can do a more effective job in slowing the run – Isaiah Bowser went for 165 against Iowa two years ago at Kinnick – and Spencer Petras can build off of his season-opening effort, both teams will leave Kinnick at 1-1. The difference, Keith Duncan's leg.

[The Quad City Times](http://TheQuadCityTimes.com)

[@SBatt79](https://twitter.com/SBatt79) on Twitter

John Bohnenkamp – Iowa 27-24:

The biggest improvement is from Week 1 to Week 2. Hawkeyes will need that this week.

HawkeyeMaven.com

[@JohnBohnenkamp](https://twitter.com/JohnBohnenkamp) on Twitter

Brendan Stiles – Iowa 19-17:

I'm expecting a slugfest here between these teams. I see this coming down to the final minute, and if that ends up being the case, then I think Keith Duncan makes a go-ahead field goal that proves to be the game-winner.

[@TheBStiles](https://twitter.com/TheBStiles) on Twitter

John Patchett – Iowa 24-21:

The Purdue loss was painful and demonstrated that in Big Ten Football there is often a very small margin for error. Iowa fumbled twice - once on the Boilers 28 yard line and then on PU's 16. Take away either one of those and the Hawkeyes probably would have left West Lafayette with a win. However, if wishes were horses beggars could fly. The other painfully obvious issue is the lack of depth at linebacker. The Hawks lost both their #1 and #2 MLB and the ensuing shuffling showed, with Purdue 368 yards of total offense. And, oh boy, the plethora of penalties.

There was promise coming out of last Saturday's game. New QB Spencer Petras racked up 265 yards passing despite missing on too many throws. Nevertheless that shows a lot of promise for the Hawks new signal caller. The running game looked very solid, racking up 195 yards (despite the two fumbles). PK Keith Duncan picked up where he left off. And Iowa's new Australian Punter Tory Taylor had a very solid

debut. But the Defense needs to step it up after surrendering 386 yards of total offense.

Northwestern was awful last year, going 1-8 in B1G play. But the Wildcats overwhelmed Maryland in Evanston last week with 537 yards of total offense including 325 rushing. Graduate transfer (from Indiana) Peyton Ramsey is a classic dual-threat QB that we've often seen in recent years from Northwestern, and the offensive line is solid. The Wildcats Defense is a serious threat vs. any offense, led by "8th Year" Senior Linebackers Paddy Fisher and Blake Gallagher (well, at least it seems like eight years).

There is little if any home field advantage this season - at home and on the road — so that really shouldn't be a factor here. If the old saw holds true of "the most improvement in a college football team comes between week one and week two" — then the Hawkeyes can and should win this game. "If". I think it will but I'm not betting the house on it. Whatever, by Saturday night we'll all know a lot more about the 2020 version of Iowa Football.

HawkeyesMic.com

[@HawkeyesMic](https://twitter.com/HawkeyesMic) on Twitter

Tyler Tjelmeland – Iowa 24-20:

Iowa looked bad at times last week. Northwestern looked like it could be a contender in the B1G. This week isn't last week and this match up is night and day different for each team compared to the teams and circumstances they faced last week. Purdue is formidable and it showed. Maryland is downright awful, and it showed. It should be noted that Iowa schedules a cupcake week one most seasons for a reason. That reasoning has never been more evidenced by Iowa's brutal mistakes in West Lafayette resulting in the loss. Northwestern won because Maryland is bad. Downright bad. Did I mention that Maryland's bad?

In this contest- Look for the giddy Petras to settle down in his second start and Iowa to try to dictate tempo with ball control through a rushing attack. The key is the turnovers and the penalties, in which Iowa had two lost fumbles and 10 penalties for a football field worth of yards last week. Kirk Ferentz-led teams normally bounce back in a big way after a bad game of mental errors and there's no reason here to think that won't be the case. The Wildcats ranked 126 in team offense a year ago and the personnel isn't that different. It's reasonable to expect them to come back to earth this week against a better defense. The game expects to be a tight one with Northwestern wanting to revenge the shutout last year and Iowa needing to get off the snide. Should be a good one, but the Hawks end up on top.

HawkeyesMic.com

[@TylerTjelmeland](https://twitter.com/TylerTjelmeland) on Twitter

Jack Brandsgard – Iowa 24-21:

While it's just one game in the standings, there is a big difference in starting a season 1-1 versus 0-2. Starting 0-2 sets a team back in the win column and, more importantly, psychologically. Iowa finds itself in a fork-in-the-road situation to begin the season, and I expect the Hawkeyes to approach this game with a must-win mentality.

Despite the lack of fans, being back in Kinnick should provide a boost for Iowa. The familiarity, the confidence and The Wave should inspire the Hawkeyes to start strong out of the gates, and I expect them to hang on for a closely-contested victory.

HawkeyesMic.com
[@JackBrandsgard](#) on Twitter

Hawkeyes Mic Hawkeyes-Wildcats Content and Coverage is [here](#).

Saturday Weather Forecast for Iowa City

Sat 31 | Day

62°   10%
 S 20 mph

Sunny. Becoming windy late. High 62F. Winds S at 20 to 30 mph. Higher wind gusts possible.

 Humidity
66%

 UV Index
3 of 10

 Sunrise
7:37 am

 Sunset
6:01 pm

Sat 31 | Night

31°   0%
 WNW 20 mph

A few clouds from time to time. Gusty winds diminishing after midnight. Low 31F. Winds WNW at 20 to 30 mph.

 Humidity
59%

 UV Index
0 of 10

 Moonrise
6:23 pm

 Moonset
7:27 am