

## **Hawkeyes Mic: Hawkeyes – Boilermakers Prognostications (10/23/20)**

*The Hawkeyes Mic picks are in for the Big Ten and COVID-19 Season-Opening Iowa – Purdue game. It's . Check them out – see if you agree or disagree. Each of you can probably throw darts at a board as easily as the bunch of us can...*

*(Note: Some of these were submitted prior to learning that Purdue's star WR Rondale Moore would miss the Iowa Game. So adjust accordingly.)*

### **Scott Dochterman – Iowa 45-28:**

The Boilermakers are going to hit Iowa for some big plays. I just think the Hawkeyes are going to hit a few more.

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

### **Steve Batterson – Iowa 31-24:**

A decent amount of offensive line experience combined with an arsenal of offensive potential help Spencer Petras get through his starting debut at quarterback for the Hawkeyes. Purdue has no shortage of skill at the receiver positions, but questions at quarterback and a defense in state of transition under first-year coordinator Bob Diaco still has enough holes to allow Iowa to have room to work in a tone-setting road game.

Expect both teams to put some points up in this one, but Iowa's ground game will separate the two teams.

[The Quad City Times](http://TheQuadCityTimes.com)  
[@SBatt79](https://twitter.com/SBatt79) on Twitter

### **John Bohnenkamp – Iowa 24-19:**

It's hard to get a feeling on a first game, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic when the football schedule got so thrown off. But I think Iowa is good enough to open with a win.

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

### **Brendan Stiles – Iowa 28-21:**

With Jeff Brohm not on the sidelines and Rondale Moore unable to play, it's safe to say Purdue won't be able to overcome both absences. As for the Hawkeyes, I look for them to become more crisp offensively as the game progresses. As long as the defense keeps Purdue's offense in the low 20s (or lower), Iowa should be able to leave Ross-Ade Stadium with the victory on Saturday.

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

### **John Patchett – Iowa 38-20:**

Your guess is as good as (maybe better?) than mine. Season openers are always a bit of a crap-shoot — let alone in this Pandemic Season. And almost none of us have had the opportunity to see this 2020 version of the Hawkeyes in practice let alone a scrimmage situation due to the COVID restrictions. But I like what I'm hearing from the coaches and players. Iowa blew away USC in the Holiday Bowl and there are hints we are going to see a more strike-and-quick-score oriented Offense to go along with an evolving Phil Parker Defense. (Times they are a changin' - maybe. We'll see.)

Purdue has some terrific skill players on Offense — but is facing some challenges in this game with Head Coach Jeff Prohm out as well as apparently some of his assistants. And today we learned star wide receiver Rondale Moore won't play. Plus the Boilers haven't been able to decide on a starting QB (as I am writing this afternoon, they have yet to release their 2-deeps).

While Iowa has a new starting quarterback in Spencer Petras, he's getting rave reviews from inside the program. Still it's his first game as a starter. But he's surrounded by some pretty good skill players in the running backs, the wide receivers, and even potentially the tight ends (again). So I feel pretty bullish right now about Iowa's Offense. And there is no reason to expect the Hawkeyes Defense to be anything but stout - again. Also don't forget, Iowa has its All-American PK Keith Duncan returning plus the all-time B1G Kick Return is Ihmir Smith-Marsette.

The other factor here - and in general this season - is that I don't think home field advantage is going to be that much of a thing. We've already seen that to be the case in Major League Baseball and the NFL. No fans make a huge difference in game atmospheres — so whether you're on the road or playing at home, in close games, the better teams overall are going to be likely to prevail more often than not.

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

### **Tyler Tjelmeland – Iowa 37-21:**

Stop me if you've heard this before... Iowa's offense will be close to the vest utilizing the run to open up the pass with a new QB in Petras. The difference in recent years past is that Iowa has some explosive play capability with a great runner in Goodson and speed on the outside.

Goodson should see a lot of successful work behind the stout offensive line and the wide receivers should see some nice openings against the Boilermaker secondary. Throw in a mix of Mekhi Sargent and Ivory Kelly-Martin and any tired legs from a weird start to the year should be spelled.

Purdue's Rondale Moore might be the best WR in the conference and it was announced this week that he will miss the game. Iowa still needs to be wary in the secondary because of the uber-talented David Bell. Boilers QB Jack Plummer threw 50 times against Iowa a year ago and PU will likely look to do the same in this one.

The game has potential to be a high-scoring affair unless Iowa's defense can get solid pressure on Plummer and can force a couple of timely turnovers. It won't be easy on the road against a formidable opponent, but the Hawks get a victory to open the year.

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

### **Jack Brandsgard – Iowa 27-21:**

Death, taxes (well, for most people) and Purdue poking a thorn in Iowa's side. The Boilermakers have won two of the last three matchups, but Iowa prevailed in a 26-20 nail-biter in Iowa City against a Rondale Moore-less Purdue team almost a year ago to the day. Moore and David Bell, who chose Purdue's black and gold over Iowa's, form one of the most potent receiver combos in the nation, and the two will require constant attention from Iowa's secondary. As dynamic as Moore and Bell are, they still need a quarterback to deliver them the ball. Jack Plummer, an up-and-down performer, is not reliable in that regard. I trust Iowa's defense to key in on Purdue's primary playmakers.

While Iowa lacks a one-two punch with quite as much juice as Purdue, the Hawkeyes enter 2020 with arguably their deepest skill position talent in the Kirk Ferentz era. All eyes will be focused on Spencer Petras, who has drawn glowing early reviews. The likes of Ihmir Smith-Marsette, Brandon Smith, Tyler Goodson, Tyrone Tracy and Nico Ragaini will make it easier for Iowa's first-year starter to find his footing.

[HawkeyesMic.com](http://HawkeyesMic.com)  
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