

Overtime—Florida Trounces Iowa 30-3 in Outback Bowl

The Iowa football season came to a disappointing conclusion in a 30-3 defeat to the Florida Gators. A defensive struggle where both teams saw their offenses sputter, the Hawkeyes made key errors to shift the outcome in Florida's favor.

After intercepting two of Florida's Austin Appleby's passes in the opening minutes, Iowa's offense failed to capitalize, mustering only a field goal despite the Gators' mistakes.

Florida responded with a field goal of their own, and the teams traded punts before Iowa pieced together an impressive 10-play, 65 yard drive to the Florida goal line. On fourth down, Greg Davis cost the Hawkeyes a chance at the lead by calling a dive straight up the gut into a crowded box. FB Brady Ross whiffed on his block, but it didn't matter as LeShun Daniels was swarmed under by Florida defenders. Why not spread the defense out and hand it to the much quicker Wadley? I know hindsight is twenty-twenty, but I disagreed with the call at the time and still do now. Besides, Wadley was the biggest weapon Iowa had all year and did the majority of the work during the march toward the Florida endzone.

After Florida scored on the longest pass in Outback Bowl history, an 85-yard catch and run by Mark Thompson, the game was out of reach. Bo Bower was a step slow and then was left in the dust by the speedy Thompson, and could only watch as the ball carrier weaved through the Hawkeye defense. Shoddy tackling and poor pursuit angles put Iowa behind for good.

Freshman Keith Duncan showed his age when he botched a 30-yard field goal try after Iowa put together a 13-play, 63 yard drive to open the second half. Besides taking three points off the board, the miss was a gut punch to an Iowa team looking to incite a second half rally. This was compounded after the Gators reached pay dirt on the ensuing drive with a demoralizing 12-play, 80 yard touchdown march.

Hobbled CJ Beathard then threw his first of three interceptions, and this one was returned to the house for a touchdown. Florida would add two more field goals to make the final score 30-3, putting a damper on the Hawkeyes' hot end to the season.

Personally, I didn't have much of a problem with Beathard remaining in the game. The game was over, the senior leader wanted to stay in, and there's plenty of time before NFL workouts for Beathard to get healthy, so let the kid finish out his career on the field instead of sitting on the bench.

The sole bright spot for the Hawkeyes in the Outback Bowl, Akrum Wadley (22 carries, 115 yards), will be in the minds of the Iowa faithful until he makes his decision on whether to take his talents to the NFL or return for his senior year. If you ask me, Wadley is gone. He's said that he has nothing left to prove, and has

posted content relating to the NFL on his Snapchat account. There are also rumors that he's contacted NFL agents looking for representation, and the loss of Wadley would be a huge blow for a Hawkeye team already lacking playmakers.

It's easy to say this season was a disappointment coming off a Rose Bowl appearance a year ago, but I count an 8-5 season, an Outback Bowl appearance, a win over Michigan, and three out of four rivalry trophies as a positive season.

By Jack Brandsgard, Posted 1/4/17

HawkeyesMic.com

Podcasting Ten Years of Original Programming on Iowa Athletics

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26	Harris,M.	9	7	0	1	0	0	0	0	43	Jewell, Josey	10	6	1	1	0	1	0	0
1M	McMillan,D.	7	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	14	King, Desmond	5	5	0	1	1	0	0	0
1J	Joseph,V.	6	4	0	1	0	1	0	0	37	Snyder, Brandon	5	4	0	0	1	0	0	1
43	Garcia,C.	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	Gair, Anthony	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
91	Ivie,J.	5	4	0	1	0	0	1	0	15	Jackson, Josh	3	3	0	1	0	0	0	0
54	Clark,K.	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	40	Hesse, Parker	3	2	0	0	0	1	0	0
57	Brantley,C.	3	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	41	Bower, Bo	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
96	Jefferson,C.	3	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	44	Niemann, Ben	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	Fulwood,A.	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	56	Ekakitie, Faith	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	Wilson,Q.	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	99	Bazata, Nathan	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
23	Gardner,C.	2	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	3	Scheel, Jay	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
93	Bryan,T.	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	26	Ward, Kevin	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
99	Polite,J.	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	27	Hooker, Amani	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	Dawson,D.	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	31	Mends, Aaron	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
19	Townsend,J.	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	67	Johnson, Jaleel	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
31	Tabor,J.	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	98	Nelson, Anthony	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0
44	Jackson,R.	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	57	Golston, C.	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
85	Thompson,Ch.	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	TOTALS		46	40	3	5	2	2	3	1
92	Zuniga,J.	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	0										
95	Davis,K.	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1										
28	Johnson,K.	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0										
TOTALS		98	42	1	7	3	2	4	1										