

The Final Exam – Iowa 44 – Iowa State 41

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The Iowa – Iowa State Game is in the books. The Hawkeyes prevailed 44-41 in overtime on Jack Trice Field last Saturday. It's time to grade that final exam...

Grades

Offense A

Scoring 44 points will win you most games; still room for improvement and growth, but hard to complain. Hawkeyes are tied for 1st in the FBS in Red Zone Production.

- Quarterback A-
 - “Minus” because of the over-throws. But that’s almost nit-picking. There’s a reason Nate Stanley was named B1G Co-Offensive POTW.
- Running Backs A
 - I’m counting Wadley’s 46 YD TD pass as mostly a run (8 YDs air, 38 YDs ground). And finally got 1st rush TD of the season.
- Receivers (WR & TE) A
 - 333 YDs receiving, 8.1 per attempt, 12.3 per completion, 5 pass TDs – what else do you want folks.
- Offensive Line A-
 - Only gave up one sack. Much cleaner than opener. James Daniels back at Center made a difference for the OL and the QB.

Defense C

Key stops but way too leaky; surrendering 41 points will lose you most games.

- Defensive Line B-
 - Pressure lacking; only one sack; moved from C to B- due to Parker Hesse’s pick and return – boy oh boy was that huge (even if the Offense could only get three points there).
- Linebackers C+
 - Too many missed tackles; not enough help on pressure nor in pass coverage.
- Defensive Secondary C+
 - Hard to say this was adequate when you surrender 347 YDs passing, but made some big plays. Those big, fast ISU receivers are going to burn a lot of defenses this season.

Special Teams B

Kind of a mixed bag – still a work in progress.

- Place-Kicking A

- What else do you want from Recinos – and just his second game.
- Punting C-
 - Not enough distance, especially at critical times; paging Ryan Gersonde.
- Punt Returns C
 - Nothing special yet.
- Kickoff Return C
 - See punting return comments above.

Coaching

- HC Kirk Ferentz Pass (Pass / Fail)
 - He let Brian call the plays. No clock or timeout issues either.
- OC Brian Ferentz A
 - Hope he enjoyed that post-game cigar – moving away from historical Iowa tendencies – brilliant play-call on winning play in OT.
- DC Phil Parker C
 - Have to figure out how to make substitutions or other adjustments when facing an up-tempo offense like ISU's.

Prefense Defensive Player of the Week

Pickings are a bit slim but we're going with Parker Hesse. His pick and 13 yard return late in the 4th Quarter was critical – Iowa almost certainly doesn't pull this game out but for that play. He also had a career-high seven tackles.

Prefense Hand Sanitizer and Surface Protectant – Remember, the best defense is Prefense.

T&K Roofing & Sheet Metal Coach of the Week

This choice was easy: OC Brian Ferentz for constructing last week's Offense. He is growing fast in this position as play-caller, moving away from Iowa's historical tendencies out of formations (especially compared to Greg Davis), mixed things up, and the game-winning play-call in OT was brilliant. I think it's safe to say Iowa State never expected that pass with a power-formation and 10 men in the box.

T&K Roofing & Sheet Metal – Building Strong, Building Safe Since 1962.

Please remember, as always, these are subjective observations and open to debate and discussion more often or not. Agree or disagree – that's part of the fun of college football.

Iowa-Iowa State Week Content is at HawkeyesMic.com/Football.

Team Statistics (Final)
IOWA HAWKEYES vs Iowa State (Sep 09, 2017 at Ames, Iowa)

	IOWA	ISU
FIRST DOWNS	29	22
Rushing	12	5
Passing	16	14
Penalty	1	3
NET YARDS RUSHING	164	120
Rushing Attempts	41	26
Average Per Rush	4.0	4.6
Rushing Touchdowns	1	1
Yards Gained Rushing	181	131
Yards Lost Rushing	17	11
NET YARDS PASSING	333	347
Completions-Attempts-Int	27-41-0	25-46-1
Average Per Attempt	8.1	7.5
Average Per Completion	12.3	13.9
Passing Touchdowns	5	4
TOTAL OFFENSE YARDS	497	467
Total offense plays	82	72
Average Gain Per Play	6.1	6.5
Fumbles: Number-Lost	1-0	0-0
Penalties: Number-Yards	10-84	2-15
PUNTS-YARDS	7-278	5-236
Average Yards Per Punt	39.7	47.2
Net Yards Per Punt	39.7	46.4
Inside 20	2	3
50+ Yards	0	1
Touchbacks	0	0
Fair catch	3	1
KICKOFFS-YARDS	7-440	7-432
Average Yards Per Kickoff	62.9	61.7
Net Yards Per Kickoff	43.1	42.6
Touchbacks	2	1
Punt returns: Number-Yards-TD	1-4-0	1-0-0
Average Per Return	4.0	0.0
Kickoff returns: Number-Yds-TD	5-109-0	5-88-0
Average Per Return	21.8	17.6
Interceptions: Number-Yds-TD	1-13-0	0-0-0
Fumble Returns: Number-Yds-TD	0-0-0	0-0-0
Miscellaneous Yards	0	0
Possession Time	37:07	22:53
1st Quarter	9:20	5:40
2nd Quarter	8:48	6:12
3rd Quarter	9:43	5:17
4th Quarter	9:16	5:44
OT Quarter	0:00	0:00
Third-Down Conversions	7 of 15	4 of 14
Fourth-Down Conversions	0 of 0	2 of 2
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	6-6	5-5
Touchdowns	5-6	3-5
Field goals	1-6	2-5
Sacks By: Number-Yards	1-10	1-1
PAT Kicks	5-5	5-5
Field Goals	1-1	2-2
Points off turnovers	3	0