



Hawkeyes Mic: *Bohnenkamp's Post-Game Notebook* ***Northwestern 21 - Iowa 20***

By John Bohnenkamp 11/01/20



Breaking down Iowa's 21-20 loss to Northwestern on Saturday at Kinnick Stadium...

SECOND-HALF WOES

The Hawkeyes scored all of their points in the first half, continuing their second-half struggles that date back to last season.

Iowa hasn't scored a second-half touchdown in its last five Big Ten games. They have just 15 points in those second halves. Three of those games were wins, all last season.



"The most important stat is winning — so as long as we're winning, we'll live with that," Iowa coach Kirk Ferentz said. "But to that point, they outplayed us in the second half today. And again, a lot of that is we turned the ball over a couple times, I'll drop that last one, but the two times prior to that, that's not a good thing.

"And you know, it was a team loss. We didn't really do anything well enough consistently today to expect to win in a Big Ten game. That's two weeks in a row, so those are the things we're going to have to focus on."

Iowa scored just three points in the second half of last Saturday's 24-20 loss to Purdue.

"It's basically the same thing after two weeks," said junior defensive tackle Daviyon Nixon, who had 11 tackles. "We've got to finish. Iowa is a big team on finishing, and we haven't been able to do that the last two weeks. We've got to get back to being Iowa football, finishing every game out strong."



PETRAS' STRUGGLES

Iowa quarterback Spencer Petras completed 26-of-50 passes for 216 yards, but had three second-half interceptions.

Asked if he was worried that Petras was pressing as a first-year starter, Ferentz said, "That's something I worry about with a lot of players. Anybody that plays quarterback that's certainly something, and then I worry about some of our

veteran guys. The best thing anybody can do offensively or defensively, special teams is just do what they're supposed to do, and then if they do that with a little bit of extra that's always good, too. Yeah, certainly I think we can be careful.

"The bottom line is Spencer is a two-game quarterback right now, so he's a very young guy. This was not a fun experience certainly, wasn't a great experience for him in that second half, but he'll grow from this because he's so conscientious and he works well. He'll be better for it, but boy, it's hard in the process, we all know that."

RUNNING GAME

Iowa's rushing attack had 23 carries for 77 yards. But in the second half, the Hawkeyes had just 11 carries for 35 yards.

Ferentz said the Hawkeyes should have been more balanced.

"I think if you look historically, if you look at those kind of numbers, it means the outcome wasn't good," he said. "Yeah, we didn't run the ball effectively enough today. Certainly we had a couple good runs, hit on a couple of them, but with consistency not enough. So that's something we're going to have to get addressed because we don't want to play that way. I'll go on record saying that, we don't want to play that way. Looking for a lot more balance than that."

BENSON'S BIG DAY

Linebacker Seth Benson led Iowa with 13 tackles in his first start.

"I appreciate it," Benson said of the opportunity. "A lot of hard work. But ultimately, we didn't win."

STANDING AND KNEELING

Twenty-nine Hawkeyes took a knee for the national anthem on Saturday.

It was a subject of discussion this summer after the investigation into racial disparities within the program.

Ferentz said the decision to stand or kneel was left to individual players. Players who didn't kneel placed a hand on the shoulder of a teammate next to them who knelt.

"Long story short, the conversation was great, and what we all decided was we're going to respect each other's opinions on the topic, and to me that means doing things as a team," Ferentz said. "The dialogue was outstanding, and the key point was everybody said what they felt, but everybody also agreed that we're going to have respect for each other's opinions, and that's really quite something, something our country is badly in need of right now, just a little bit more listening and a little bit more civil conversation."

Ferentz praised his team's leadership group, which made the decision.

"They've been tremendous, and I think that's what you saw today," he said. "I think we're all on the same page there, and I don't know what else you could ask for as a coach that way."

"That just shows the growth within our state, within our team, and within this family that we call a team," Nixon said.



(Photos by Brian Ray / Hawkeyesports.com)

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