



**Hawkeyes Mic LLC**  
One Passion, Many Voices

## Hawkeyes – Illini Prognostications



*The Hawkeyes Mic picks are in for the Iowa – Illinois “Senior Day” B1G West Contest — it’s another unanimous decision this week for Game 11 of the 2023 Season.*

**The Game:** Iowa (8-2, 5-2) hosts Illinois (5-5, 3-4) at Kinnick Stadium on Saturday - 2:30 PM kickoff on FS1 | Hawkeye Radio Network. The Hawkeyes retained sole possession of the B1G West last Saturday, shutting out Rutgers 22-0 while the other three contenders (Wisconsin, Minnesota, Nebraska) all lost — so a victory over the Illini clinches the Big Ten West Title. Illinois has been up and down this season but is on a two-game win streak (Minnesota and Indiana) — its Defense has fallen off but the Illini Offense has been productive, averaging 23.8 PPG (compared to Iowa’s 18.8). Iowa trails the all-time series 39-37-2 but the Hawkeyes have been victorious in 16 of the last 10 games and 13 of the last 15. Iowa had won eight in row until the Illini won last year’s game in Champaign 9-6.

**Scott Dochterman – Iowa 17-13:**

Sadly, had Cooper DeJean been able to play, I’d pick 24-13.

[TheAthletic.com](https://www.theathletic.com)  
[@ScottDochterman](https://twitter.com/ScottDochterman) on Twitter/X

### **John Bohnenkamp – Iowa 17-13:**

First game without Cooper.

[IowaCollegeHoops.com](http://IowaCollegeHoops.com) - AP - [HawkeyeNation.com](http://HawkeyeNation.com)  
[@JohnBohnenkamp](https://twitter.com/JohnBohnenkamp) on Twitter/X

### **Marc Morehouse – Iowa 21-20:**

Name the soon-defunct Big Ten West trophy “The Kirk Ferentz Trophy.” When Iowa wins it, it can do whatever it wants. Do that. Why not?

[Marc Morehouse Substack](http://MarcMorehouseSubstack.com)  
[@marcmorehouse](https://twitter.com/marcmorehouse) on Twitter/X

### **Brendan Stiles – Iowa 17-10:**

This will hopefully have a little more action than last year's slobberknocker in Champaign did. Iowa showed some glimpses on offense last week, which is the main reason why I think it can survive this game still because the defense is going to be a bit leaky now without Cooper DeJean in the secondary.

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

### **John Patchett – Iowa 17-13:**

Iowa's Offense finally showed some life in the 2nd Half last Saturday in the win over Rutgers - it's best overall offensive performance of the year and QB Deacon Hill's best game as the starter by far. The question is: which version of Hill and the Offense will show up this Saturday on Senior Day. The Defense and Special Teams have excelled all season — but this will be the first game with star DB and PR Cooper DeJean and I'm certain that is going to negatively impact both of those phases. So the question there is just how much. So — two huge questions to be answered in this B1G West contest — and layered over that is a Hawkeyes win clinches outright the Big Ten West Title. So pretty big stakes for this Mid-November border-state face-off.

Statistically Iowa's Defense is significantly better than that of Illinois — and it will need to continue to play like it has been to come away with the win on Saturday. You can bet the Illini will target DeJean's replacement early to see if that is a weakness - especially with prolific receiver Isaiah Williams. DeJean's absence will also be felt on Special Teams as he has been an excellent punt returner and a key to giving the offense decent field position (even though more often than not it wasn't taken advantage of).

One half (like the 2nd vs. Rutgers) does not an Offense make. It certainly was promising. But the Hawkeyes and Deacon Hill are going to have to prove they are now building towards something above mediocre. This game provides that opportunity. But until we see it with our own eyes, I'm reluctant to predict a much higher point total than we've been seeing.

Nevertheless Iowa should win this Senior Day Game - barely — and once again expect the Kinnick Crowd and the North End Zone in particular to be a significant factor — enough to give the Hawkeyes the victory and clinch the B1G West.

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### **Tyler Tjelmeland – Iowa 20-16:**

The Iowa defense is on an incredible streak only allowing one Touchdown in 16 straight quarters. The DeJean injury hurts the Hawkeyes defense big-time, but the entire unit is still riddled with playmakers. Illinois will look to air it out and how well the Hawkeyes can fill Cooper's spot will be interesting. That said, the Hawkeye offense showed signs of improvement last week. They're still not good. I would even go as far as saying that I would still classify them as bad. I see them doing just enough to edge the Illini. Hawkeyes put the whipped cream on the B1G West sundae with the chance for the cherry on top next week against Nebraska.

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

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

### **Jack Brandsgard – Iowa 13-10:**

No Cooper DeJean takes the wind out of Iowa's sails after arguably its best performance of the season last week, but I still like the Hawkeyes to beat Illinois in signature style: close and low scoring.

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

*NBA Charlotte Hornets Coordinator of Basketball Communications*

[@JackBrandsgard](https://twitter.com/JackBrandsgard) on **Twitter/X**

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