



Hawkeyes Mic LLC

One Passion, Many Voices

Hawkeyes – Illini Prognostications (11/19/21)



The Hawkeyes Mic picks are in for the Iowa – Illinois Game — it's unanimous again this week for Game 11 of the 2021 Season. Check them out – see if you agree or disagree.

Scott Dochterman – Iowa 19-10:

I see two scenarios, which is Iowa winning decisively or a difficult, close contest. Because I couldn't decide between the scenarios, I split the difference.

TheAthletic.com

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

Steve Batterson – Iowa 23-10:

If Iowa can slow Chase Brown and the Illinois rushing attack, the Hawkeyes have a good opportunity to deny the Fighting Illini a third straight road win over a ranked opponent. Bret Bielema's first Illinois team has made solid defensive strides but has been offensively challenged at times this season. Brown is a solid back who has topped 145 rushing yards in victories at Penn State and Minnesota. If Iowa can limit his work, the Hawkeyes should be able to earn an eighth straight win in the series.

[The Quad City Times](http://TheQuadCityTimes.com)

[@SBatt79](https://twitter.com/SBatt79) on Twitter

John Bohnenkamp – Iowa 27-13:

The Padilla Era lasts for another game.

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

Brendan Stiles – Iowa 28-14:

Illinois not having Bret Bielema on the sidelines this Saturday takes some of the luster away from this matchup, and I think it takes some wind out of the Illini's sails going into this game as well. Offensively, Iowa just needs Alex Padilla to keep playing clean like he has since being inserted in at quarterback. Defensively, Iowa just needs to stop the run and force Illinois into becoming one-dimensional, and the Hawkeyes should be fine as far as winning this game is concerned.

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

John Patchett – Iowa 20-10:

The Hawkeyes have won six in a row over Illinois and eight straight at Kinnick Stadium.

Saturday is "Senior Day" for the Iowa Football Team - 16 seniors will be honored in the traditional pre-game ceremony. What's different this year is that, under the special COVID rules, any or all of those 16 players can come back and play again next year. What actually happens, of course, remains to be seen. Nevertheless, former players I've talked with said it is always an emotional day for them and their families — which can cut a bit both ways but on the whole I think is a positive for the home team.

Then you have, statistically, two of the worst offenses in the B1G (and the FBS for that matter). The Illini have had some success rushing the ball but almost none in the passing game. Iowa has been inconsistent at best — but seems to have something going with Alex Padilla under the center. So I'm giving the Hawkeyes a very slight edge here.

Illinois has a defense that can create issues for opponents, but statistically Iowa's defense is much stronger across the board. And the Hawkeyes have an especially large advantage when it comes to interceptions and turnovers. Iowa's turnover voodoo doll reemerged last week vs. Minnesota so look for that to be a factor in this game.

The Hawkeyes also appear to have an advantage on special teams, especially on kick and punt returns. That equates to better starting field position for your offense - as has often been the case this season.

The weather is actually supposed to be pretty decent in Iowa City - with temps in the low 50s and slight winds. So that shouldn't be a major factor either way.

Illinois will also be playing this game without its Head Coach Bret Bielema who is out with COVID. On the other hand, the Illini still have a shot at a bowl-eligible season but to achieve that they must win this game (then defeat Northwestern next week). Illinois is also coming off its bye week - which might be a slight plus in its favor.

Iowa still has a shot at the B1G West Title and a chance to play in the conference championship game — for that to happen the Hawkeyes must win this game and beat Nebraska on Black Friday. And even that won't be enough unless Wisconsin gets upset in one of its two last regular season contests (Nebraska Saturday and at Minnesota next week).

Given all of this, I'm sticking with the Hawkeyes again this Saturday but would feel much better about my pick if Iowa had even just an "average" offense. If you like low-scoring, likely ugly, college football games, then this one should be right up your alley.

HawkeyesMic.com

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

Tyler Tjelmeland – Iowa 24-9:

The Hawkeye offense looks sharper with Padilla under center. The offensive line was able to get some good push against Minnesota, which has been a real struggle in recent weeks. There's no reason to think Iowa is capable of throwing up a large score number. There's also no reason to think the defense can't stop Illinois, the 2nd to last rated B1G offense. It might not be pretty, but Iowa will get the job done again.

HawkeyesMic.com

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

Jack Brandsgard – Iowa 27-13:

Illinois has beaten ranked teams on the road in two of its last three outings — a 20-18, nine-overtime thriller against then-No. 7 Penn State and a 14-6 slugfest over then-No. 20 Minnesota. The Illini are a tough, competitive team and will be motivated to win one for Bret Bielema, who recently tested positive for COVID-19. I'm expecting a close game throughout with the Hawkeyes pulling away late.

HawkeyesMic.com

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

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