



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

## **Hawkeyes – Wildcat Prognostications (12/30/22)**



*The Hawkeyes Mic picks are in for the 2022 Music City Bowl Iowa – Kentucky Game – it’s unanimous again to close out the season, but it’s not “offensive”. Check them out – see if you agree or disagree.*

### **Scott Dochterman – Iowa 16-3:**

Perhaps we’ll see an Iowa defensive TD, three safeties and a field goal. And maybe a partridge in a pear tree.

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

### **Steve Batterson – Iowa 13-7:**

The 20-17 Citrus Bowl may look like an offensive shootout compared to what could transpire in the Music City Bowl.

Both the Hawkeyes and Wildcats ranked 14th in their respective conferences in total offense and scoring offense this season when they were at full strength.

With starting quarterbacks watching from the sidelines and newbies under center cutting their collegiate teeth for both teams, expect points to be at a premium and two stout defenses to be on top of their games.

Iowa's defense, and the legs of kicker Drew Stevens and punter Tory Taylor, will be the deciding factors in this one.

### **[The Quad City Times](#)**

**[@SBatt79](#)** on Twitter

### **John Bohnenkamp – Iowa 14-13:**

A weird end to a weird season.

### **[IowaCollegeHoops.com](#) - AP - [HawkeyeNation.com](#)**

**[@JohnBohnenkamp](#)** on Twitter

### **Brendan Stiles – Iowa 14-10:**

My hunch is Iowa wins a close one on Saturday in Nashville because Kentucky's top players have opted out, and because there's likely more motivation on the Hawkeyes' side for this rematch of last season's Citrus Bowl. With rain in the forecast for at least the early portion of the game, I expect a sloppy field that leads to it being a low scoring affair. Look for Kaleb Johnson to be the ultimate difference maker in this game for Iowa, as I suspect he has a big afternoon on the ground.

**[@TheBStiles](#)** on Twitter

### **John Patchett – Iowa 13-10:**

Iowa and Kentucky both have very good defenses. However, almost no one (in their right mind) thinks there will be much offense in this game. Both teams are, shall we say, offensively-challenged - and now both teams come into this contest with untested (way) backup quarterbacks. So theoretically that should make things even worse. Word from Iowa practices is that they're practicing "new" things to better fit starting QB Joe Labas' skill set (running ability, dual-threat kind of stuff). I'll believe that when I see it. Kirk really hasn't changed much since 1999 - so if that's actually the case for this bowl game he must be really desperate.

Even blind squirrels occasionally find a nut - so I think it's likely each team will figure out some way to (accidentally?) score a touchdown. The rest of the points will likely come via field goals (or maybe a safety or two). I also anticipate some turnovers due to the inexperience of the QBs.

Iowa gets some key players back from injury — including Cooper DeJean and Sam LaPorta — and that's very important for its chances to be victorious.

I think the Hawkeyes Special Teams play will make a big difference here — so I'm going with Iowa to rebound from the turd of a loss to Nebraska and squeeze out its 8th win of the season.

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### **Tyler Tjelmeland – Iowa 13-10:**

This will be an awesome showdown of defensive prowess and offensive mediocrity. Both teams have back up Quarterbacks starting, with Iowa running out a freshman taking his first game snaps. Iowa and Kentucky are both in the top 15 in the NCAA scoring defense (Iowa 6th, UK 11th). The offenses are bad. The defenses are exceptional. This one screams take the under! In all reality, this game, like many other bowl games, demonstrates the downfall of the bowl season as it once was. Both teams are shells of themselves with key players either injured, sitting out for the draft, or in the transfer portal. That shouldn't detract from what could be a really good college football game. Last year's contest was one of the better games in the bowl season, which makes it no wonder why the Music City Bowl decided to repeat the match up this year. Now, I didn't say "high scoring" or "a game with lots of fireworks." I just said fun. What can I say? I like defense, and punting is winning.

[HawkeyesMic.com](https://www.hawkeyesmic.com)

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

### **Jack Brandsgard – Iowa 13-7:**

Neither team's offense was good to begin with, and now neither starting quarterback is playing. Combine that with the fact that both teams boast top-20 defenses and it's no wonder the over/under for this game opened at 31 at multiple books, the lowest over/under in college football history. Kentucky losing Will Levis is a much bigger blow than Iowa losing Spencer Petras (and Alex Padilla), plus the Wildcats will be without their starting running back, Chris Rodriguez Jr. I'm taking the Hawkeyes to cap this season in the most appropriate way possible: an ugly win.

[HawkeyesMic.com](https://www.hawkeyesmic.com)

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

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