



Hawkeyes Mic LLC
One Passion, Many Voices

Hawkeyes – Spartans Prognostications (09/28/23)



The Hawkeyes Mic picks are in for the Iowa – Michigan State Game – it's unanimous again this week for Game 5 of the 2023 Season - but the point total for Iowa... Check them out – see if you agree or disagree.

Scott Dochterman – Iowa 31-13:

This is exactly what this game requires during a *Blackout*: a numerical palindrome.

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

John Bohnenkamp – Iowa 31-7:

Spartans are a much bigger dumpster fire.

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

Marc Morehouse – Iowa 24.8-7.6:

“How Michigan State’s crushing ‘Little Brother Syndrome’ has manifested in a morally bankrupt athletics department” My Column.

[Marc Morehouse Substack](#)

[@marcmorehouse](#) on **Twitter/X**

Brendan Stiles – Iowa 24-6:

Although last Saturday's game at Penn State presented some issues that could be season-long, I do think the Hawkeyes have a get-right game this Saturday against a reeling Michigan State squad. Iowa might have some issues even in this game, but the Spartans are bad enough that the Hawkeyes should be able to still win this one with ease.

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

John Patchett – Iowa 23-10:

Iowa’s Offense continues to be the focal point when it comes to discussing shortcomings in the Hawkeyes Football Program - and for good reason. It’s - once again - lurking near the bottom of the FBS stats rankings (like it was last season) with no real sign that it’s capable of clawing its way out of that abyss. I’m not saying it’s impossible to do so - nor is it necessarily incapable of doing so. I am skeptical the offensive scheme (Kirk Ferentz) and/or the play-calling (Brian Ferentz) will actually allow that “transformation” to occur.

There has been a lot of media focus this week on the fact that there is an overwhelming tight end bias in the play-calling — with Iowa’s wide receivers a mere passing afterthought. Targeting of WRs is literally last in the nation. Iowa may (rightfully) claim to be “Tight End U” but it cannot afford to blatantly ignore its wideouts. No wonder most of their opponents claim it’s easy to know what offensive plays the Hawkeyes will run and when. As long as that remains the case expect the offense to continue its struggles.

Also not good - Iowa is minus-four on the season in turnovers — that’s not only uncharacteristic, based on recent history, but it’s REALLY, REALLY bad. That needs to get turned around fast (beginning Saturday), as the Hawkeyes look ahead to the rest of the Big Ten Season.

The other two-thirds of the team - defense and special teams - remain its core strength. (Despite the fact that the defense has allowed a few too many long drives this season - something Phil Parker addressed this week.) These two phases are the reason Iowa has 3

wins so far - and they were not the significant contributors to its debacle last Saturday night at Penn State.

Meantime, in East Lansing, Michigan State is FUBAR. No head coach now that Mel Tucker has been officially fired — and under current rules facing a scenario where every single player with eligibility remaining has the right to enter the transfer portal. The Spartans may be 2-2 but they lost their last two games by a combined score of 72-16. The Iowa game may be one of their last realistic chances for a win the rest of the entire season given their schedule.

But even the *HWO (Hawkeyes Woeful Offense)* can't screw this up. Right? However, once again, they won't hit the magic number of "25" — UNLESS they rediscover how to effectively incorporate wide receivers into their game plan.

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Tyler Tjelmeland – Iowa 24-7:

Iowa still has an elite defense. It also still has a sub-par offense. Not much has changed. Snort. For all the bad that's swirling around Iowa City this week, Michigan State's program is still in MUCH worse shape... Since, the situation regarding Mel Tucker, The Spartans got smoked by Washington and embarrassed at home by Maryland. This one won't be embarrassing because Iowa doesn't have the fire power offensively to accomplish that, but the Hawks are the far better team. That will be on display at Kinnick Saturday under the lights.

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

Jack Brandsgard – Iowa 16-13:

I can't decide if playing Michigan State in the first game since Mel Tucker was officially fired is a good thing or bad thing for the Hawkeyes. Regardless, the Spartans are not very good, and this is a pivotal moment in Iowa's season after last week's unacceptable performance in Happy Valley. I think the Hawkeyes do enough to get the W at home, but don't expect this game to silence critics of Brian Ferentz.

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NBA Charlotte Hornets Coordinator of Basketball Communications

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

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