



Hawkeyes Mic LLC

One Passion, Many Voices

Hawkeyes – Wolverines Prognostications (12/03/21)



The Hawkeyes Mic picks are in for the Iowa – Michigan Big Ten Championship Game – it's not unanimous this week for Game 13 of the 2021 Season (foggy Old Crystal Ball). Check them out – see if you agree or disagree.

Scott Dochterman – Michigan 23-16:

If Iowa stonewalls Aidan Hutchinson, then maybe that score can be reversed. But nobody has done it yet.

[TheAthletic.com](https://www.theathletic.com)

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

Steve Batterson – Michigan 17-13:

The Hawkeyes will slow Hassan Haskins and the Wolverines on the ground, but creating enough offense beyond the leg of Caleb Shudak may prove to be a challenge for Iowa. Aidan Hutchinson and David Ojabo will be a handful for Iowa's offensive line to the point where it may take a defensive or special teams touchdown for the Hawkeyes to spring the

upset. Iowa is capable but will need its best all-around performance on the season to pull it off.

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

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

John Bohnenkamp – Iowa 24-22:

They've been figuring out ways to win all year.

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

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

Brendan Stiles – Michigan 21-13:

I do think the Hawkeyes can keep this game close enough to stay within single digits, but after watching how Michigan disposed of Ohio State, I have a hard time seeing Iowa actually coming away with the win here. My biggest concern with the Hawkeyes is being able to handle the Wolverines' pass rush and allow Petras enough time to look downfield when he does go back to pass. To me, the biggest key for Iowa in order to pull the upset is be able to strike first and not fall behind early like it did to both Illinois and Nebraska in the last two games, because having to play from behind against this Michigan team is a recipe for disaster.

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

John Patchett – Iowa 20-17:

Well. Here we are. Improbable it was - but as we've been reminded improbable isn't the same as impossible. Six weeks into the season, the Hawkeyes were in heady territory - undefeated, ranked #2 in the FBS, and looking like a cinch to play in Indy. Then it all crashed to the ground in back-to-back losses to Purdue and Wisconsin, among other things giving the Boilers and the Badgers the tie-breakers for the B1G West Title. Iowa's Offense also turtled in those two losses and continued in that shell for the rest of the regular season: Offensive TDs became hard to come by: just one each vs. Purdue, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Nebraska. The Hawkeyes did manage to score two Offensive touchdowns at Northwestern and then three the next week vs. Minnesota. That's an average of - wait for it - 1.5 TDs per game over the last six contests — and yet they won the last four in a row — somehow. Special Teams have been darn near spectacular. The Defense has been occasionally a bit leaky but overall remains among the country's best. And the turnover margin has been exceptional. Those last three factors are the primary

reason Iowa is playing Michigan in the Big Ten Football Championship Game.

I've been going back-and-forth in my mind all week about who will win this game. I do know this, the Hawkeyes are almost certainly not going to be victorious if their Offense doesn't score at least two TDs. There's only so long you can live on safeties, pick-sixes, kickoffs and punt return touchdowns. Offensive futility is not a recipe for success — especially at this point in the season.

I'm also wondering if Michigan comes into this game a bit too overconfident and looking ahead to whatever team it might face next (in the CFP?) — plus the Wolverines might have a bit of a hangover on the heels of their huge win last week vs. Ohio State. (Remember what happened to Iowa after its big win over Penn State? Two straight losses.)

Iowa has nothing to lose in this game. But Michigan does. The pressure should all be on the Wolverines. I'm not sure I agree with the starting QB decision going into this game although I get Petras' advantage in experience - but it is not surprising. Remember - it's Kirk. Ferentz is also, in large part, responsible for Iowa's Offensive woes - and I'm primarily referring to Kirk, not Brian (or at least more of the former than the latter). How this QB thing plays out in this game and whatever bowl game the Hawkeyes go to - could very well result in transfer portal fallout. Deuce Hogan is already in that - and Padilla might decide to follow him if he (and his high school coach and parents) decide he's not getting a fair shake at Iowa.

The Hawkeyes go into this game relatively healthy - especially for this point in the season. Michigan has a very good defense - statistically about even with Iowa's. The Wolverines have the advantage - by a wide margin - on Offense. Iowa seems to be better on special teams and in turnover margin.

So... Having said all of that... Something tells me the Hawkeyes will somehow pull out the win - especially if it's a tight game heading into the 4th Quarter. Besides, I can't let John Bohnenkamp hang out by himself as the only Hawkeyes Mic Prognosticator picking Iowa.

Rose Bowl anyone???

HawkeyesMic.com

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

Tyler Tjelmeland – Michigan 20-13:

A classic defensive B1G Championship. Both teams rank in the top 10 across the country in scoring defense and the top 15 in total defense. The biggest difference between the two

is that Michigan has an offense, ranking 13th nationally in scoring offense. Iowa... well, it's 87.

A lot of people, and Vegas, are picking Michigan to route the Hawkeyes who gutted out nearly every one of its 10 victories. I see this being a lot closer than many for a couple of reasons. Kirk Ferentz has been exceptional in rivalry games in recent years going 20-0 against ISU, Minnesota, and Nebraska over the past seven years. They haven't fared as well against Wisconsin, but he's turned the corner on his methods in important games. Iowa's won their last three postseason contests. He'll get his guys up to play in this monumental trophy game.

The intangibles of a game are always a factor in championship games and, like Iowa came crashing to earth after it's enormous win over Penn State earlier this year, Michigan will be hard-pressed to avoid the same outcome after what was arguably the most important win in the Jim Harbaugh era in Ann Arbor. Harbaugh hasn't won a postseason game at Michigan since the 2015 Citrus Bowl.

My final point is that Iowa's special team play is... well, special. All-in-all, the Wolverines are the better team and I do believe they'll get a win Saturday night in Indy, BUT the Hawkeyes are going to make it interesting.

HawkeyesMic.com

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

Jack Brandsgard – Michigan 21-13:

What a ride this year's Iowa team has provided fans. Fans and Kirk Ferentz, who became emotional several times in his weekly press conference, alike seem to hold these Hawkeyes in special regard. Can they cap it off with a Big Ten title?

Smart money says no. The Hawkeyes are 10.5-point underdogs and face Michigan's vaunted defense, led by a potential number one overall pick in the NFL Draft, defensive end Aidan Hutchinson. I foresee a struggle on offense for the Hawkeyes. Iowa's defense, however, should hold its own against Michigan's attack thanks to All-Big Ten performers like Riley Moss, Jack Campbell and Dane Belton. In the end, however, I just think Michigan has too much for Iowa and wins a physical battle in Indianapolis.

HawkeyesMic.com

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

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