



Hawkeyes Mic: Hawkeyes – Gophers Prognostications (11/13/20)

The Hawkeyes Mic picks are in for the Iowa – Minnesota game. It's unanimous again this week. It was last week as well – and we went 5-0. So progress. Check them out – see if you agree or disagree.



Scott Dochterman – Iowa 30-27:

It wouldn't surprise me if Keith Duncan gets a chance at a 51-yard field goal on the game's final play, misses and the officials penalizes the Gophers for too many men on the field. Then, well, history has a way of repeating itself.

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

Steve Batterson – Iowa 31-28:

There will be no shortage of offensive skill on the field Friday night at TCF Bank Stadium. Iowa and Minnesota both have a wealth of offensive talent to build a plan around. The difference in this battle for the bacon will be on defense where the Hawkeyes have seemingly put things together – leading the Big Ten through three games in run defense – and the Golden Gophers are working to get to that point. Minnesota counts just one of its front seven among four returning defensive starters from a year ago.

If Iowa can avoid turnovers in the chilly night air of the north country, Floyd has a good chance to stay in the cozy confines of the Iowa football complex for a sixth straight year.

[*The Quad City Times*](#)

[@SBatt79](#) on Twitter

John Bohnenkamp – Iowa 24-13:

Might as well save some room in the truck for Floyd on the way home.

[*HawkeyeMaven.com*](#)

[@JohnBohnenkamp](#) on Twitter

Brendan Stiles – Iowa 28-21:

I have a feeling this year's battle for Floyd of Rosedale will look similar to when the Hawkeyes and Gophers played in 2019. As long as the Hawkeyes play a clean game similar to last week's win over Michigan State, Iowa should be able to move the ball and score points on this Minnesota defense. I also think Iowa's defense is the best Minnesota's offense has faced to date, so I see the Hawkeyes emerging with a close win and keeping Floyd for at least another year.

[@TheBStiles](#) on Twitter

John Patchett – Iowa 31-24:

There's all kinds of factors coming into play for this game - but the fact it's on the road (once again) isn't one of those. These others are significant, however. The weather (very cold), playing on a Friday night (weird), Floyd at stake (it's been so long since the Gophers have had him, they're probably not even sure what he looks like anymore — plus P.J. Fleck is in his fourth season at Minnesota with Iowa being the only West Division team he's yet to defeat), both teams sitting at 1-2 and badly needing another win (to even remotely stay in contention for the B1G West), both

teams coming off of dominant wins for their first victories of this season, one team (Iowa) with a dominant Defense, one team (Minnesota) with an explosive, potent Offense, and limiting turnovers (always). So, how do you factor all of that in to making a rational Hognostication for this game? Alas, I must do so as the deadline is now...

When all is said and done, I think Iowa's Offense showed major signs of improvement and will prevail over a leaky Minnesota Defense — and Iowa's Defense will slow down the Gophers prolific Offense just enough to allow the Hawkeyes to retain Floyd and keep him in the (relatively speaking) warmer climes of Iowa City. The latter will be especially true if the Hawkeyes Offense can sustain drives and build up time of possession. Plus, as long as Iowa's Special Teams continue to excel — and boy are they ever — that is another big advantage for the Hawks.

Iowa has won five straight in this rivalry series plus 15 of the last 19 games the two teams have played. At some point Minnesota will break that string. But not this season.

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

Tyler Tjelmeland – Iowa 38-24:

Iowa's rushing attack looked elite against Michigan State. As did it's defense. It comes at the right time for the Hawkeyes as they trip up to Minneapolis to face the Gophers in the battle for Floyd of Rosedale. Oink. Both teams have had similar starts this year with each starting a disappointing 0-2, then getting off the snide in week three. The biggest difference is that Iowa played what seems like a formidable opponent in week 3 and Minnesota played Illinois. Oink.

The Gophers offense is a run heavy attack and it's hard to blame them with a tremendous talent in Ibrahim who has ten TD's in three games. Iowa should counter that with a stout run defense led by Nick Niemann and his team high 25 tackles. When the Hawks have the ball, it should feast on Minnesota's Swiss cheese of a run defense.

Iowa's on a five game winning streak against the Gophers and it's won seven of the last eight. This sets up to see Iowa not only win a big game on the road but to cover a spread against Minnesota for the 3rd time in four years. The other was a push.... Floyd is getting comfy in Iowa City. Oink.

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

Jack Brandsgard – Iowa 20-17:

This is a pivotal matchup between two 1-2 teams, and there is no love lost on either side. With the stakes high and the temperature low (it's expected to be 34 degrees in Minneapolis on Friday), I'm expecting a low-scoring affair.

Iowa's offense will be bolstered by the return of Ihmir Smith-Marsette, but look for the Hawkeyes to continue pounding the rock on the ground. Minnesota allows 238.3 rushing yards per game on 7.3 yards per carry, both marks that rank last in the Big Ten by a significant margin. Conversely, Iowa's defense concedes 102.0 yards per game and 2.6 yards per carry, both tops in the league. In closely-contested rivalry games, controlling the line of scrimmage becomes even more important, and Iowa has the advantage in the trenches.

HawkeyesMic.com

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

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Friday Weather Forecast

