



Hawkeyes Mic LLC

One Passion, Many Voices

Hawkeyes – Huskers Prognostications (11/25/21)



The Hawkeyes Mic picks are in for the Iowa – Nebraska Heroes Trophy Black Friday Game – it's unanimous again this week for Game 12 of the 2021 Season. Check them out – see if you agree or disagree.

Scott Dochterman – Iowa 24-20:

Ten wins is nothing to sneeze at, especially during a pandemic. Neither would be Nebraska's NCAA-record eighth loss by one score or less.

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

Steve Batterson – Iowa 24-21:

Only nine Iowa football teams have ever won 10 or more games in a season. That number reaches double digits in a hard-fought Heroes Game. A fast start by the Iowa defense has a chance to give the Hawkeyes and early edge in the starting debut for Logan Smothers. The freshman has quickness and benefits from improving talent around him, but it won't be enough in a game ultimately decided by the consistent leg of Caleb Shudak.

[The Quad City Times](https://www.thequadcitytimes.com)

[@SBatt79](#) on Twitter

John Bohnenkamp – Iowa 35-10:

Nebraska's new QB will struggle against Iowa's defense.

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

[@JohnBohnenkamp](#) on Twitter

Brendan Stiles – Iowa 27-23:

Like previous years, I expect yet another fairly close game between these two teams and yet another fairly close game where Iowa emerges victorious. To me, this game comes down to the fact Iowa is more disciplined and commits fewer penalties than Nebraska, is less susceptible of turning the football over, and the Hawkeyes have a huge advantage in special teams, one that can be exploited by Charlie Jones in the return game or even someone like Tory Taylor if this becomes a battle of field position against a backup quarterback for the Huskers. This will go down to the wire, but I expect the Hawkeyes to leave Memorial Stadium with their fifth straight victory there and make it 7 in a row in general against the Huskers this Black Friday.

[@TheBStiles](#) on Twitter

John Patchett – Iowa 24-17:

These two teams will have the Black Friday College Football "TV Window" all to themselves so one would hope the offensive ineptness that we've witnessed all season long by Iowa might possibly upgrade things for the nationwide audience and keep the "ugly" to a minimum ("hope" being the operative word). The Hawkeyes have struggled this season to score touchdowns and have often settled for field goal attempts (even when inside the 10 yard line - see last week's win over Illinois).

The Hawkeyes don't have much of an offense - and now Nebraska has lost its starting quarterback Adrian Martinez who is out with a shoulder injury. Iowa's Defense is likely lickint its chops at the prospect of facing an inexperienced quarterback. So I don't look for a high scoring game. Over the course of the season, the Huskers offense statistically far out-distances Iowa's. Fortunately for Iowa it has a very good defense and special teams — and those should make the difference in this annual battle for the Heroes Trophy.

Turnovers will be key - as they almost always are - and in that category the Hawkeyes have a big advantage. And as we always remind, the Hawks special teams consistently make a critical difference in starting field position. [Note: I would lower Iowa's point total if Alex Padilla isn't the starting QB.]

Nebraska's last win against a ranked opponent was in 2016, but it should be noted the Huskers have sustained seven one-score losses in 2021 — it should also be noted Iowa's last three wins over the Huskers were by one score. So these games have been closely-contested. Under Scott Frost, more often than not, Nebraska seems to find ways to lose games rather than pulling out the victories. Frost also fired nearly his entire offensive staff a couple of weeks ago (in an apparent effort to save his own job).

This Iowa Team becomes only the 10th in program history to win 10 games in a season, defeating the Huskers for the 7th straight time and improving to 10-2, 7-2. Then on Saturday it's up to Minnesota to upset Wisconsin in Minneapolis which then sends the Hawkeyes to the B1G Championship Game to face Ohio State. But you have to wonder if that's actually a good thing — be careful what you wish for.

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

Tyler Tjelmeland – Iowa 24-23:

No Martinez for Nebraska helps Iowa, but the Hawkeye's offense tendency to disappear could present difficulties for Iowa. The Hawkeyes will look to put pressure on Smothers and I see at least two Husker turnovers keeping the field in Iowa's favor. That said, the Husker defense up front could make the run game troublesome for Iowa. Ultimately a close game comes down to defense and special teams and those tip in Iowas favor. This one will be close until the end.

HawkeyesMic.com

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

Jack Brandsgard – Iowa 24-21:

No Adrian Martinez really hurts the Huskers, as the veteran had been playing well in recent weeks. Vegas agrees, as the Hawkeyes are now favored by one after being tabbed as four-point underdogs when lines opened. As many in the football world have pointed out, Nebraska is much better than its record indicates, but I'll still take Iowa to clinch its tenth win of the season.

HawkeyesMic.com

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

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