



Hawkeyes Mic LLC

One Passion, Many Voices

Hawkeyes – Wildcats Prognostications (10/28/22)



The Hawkeyes Mic picks are in for the Iowa – Northwestern Game — and it's unanimous again this week for Game 8 of the 2022 Season. Check them out – see if you agree or disagree.

Scott Dochterman – Iowa 4-3:

Eight times a Ferentz squad was favored by double digits against one coached by Fitzgerald. Iowa is 1-6 straight up and 0-7 against the spread. I see a trend.

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

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

Steve Batterson – Iowa 21-10:

The Misery Loves Company tour plays Kinnick Stadium, where Iowa will avoid its first four-game losing streak since 2012. While Iowa has struggled to run the football, Northwestern has struggled to stop the run. The Wildcats are 13th in Big Ten in run defense, allowing 187.6 yards per game. Iowa is 13th in the conference in rushing, but Kaleb Johnson and Leshon Williams should be able to get enough on the ground to make a difference in this game.

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

[@SBatt79](https://twitter.com/SBatt79) on Twitter

John Bohnenkamp – Iowa 21-12:

Hawkeyes might actually get some points.

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

Brendan Stiles – Iowa 19-6:

Frankly, Northwestern is a bad football team and this is the only reason why I see Iowa actually coming away with a win. This should be a get-right game for this team, especially this offense, but this team has also had its issues against Northwestern in the past. I expect a sloppy game at Kinnick that ends up with a bunch of field goals and little to not much scoring.

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

John Patchett – Iowa 16-10 (Petras Starts) / Iowa 24-10 (Padilla Starts):

This is something I've never done before — made "alternative" predictions — there's no "rule" against doing it so here goes. I think the reason is obvious. Iowa's Offense has been beyond horrible - it's been in the abyss - with Spencer Petras as the starting QB. I'm not saying he's the only reason it's last in the FBS - but there is an indisputable correlation that most of us can readily see (even if it has taken Kirk/Brian 15 games to realize it hasn't working). [See [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#).] The oft-repeated "Spencer gives us the best chance to win" line from Kirk/Brian isn't cutting the mustard - and hasn't for a very long time.

Iowa's Offense is averaging an incredibly meager one offensive touchdown per game through the first seven games of 2022 — and averaged only 1.38 offensive TDs in the last eight games of the 2021 season. The Hawkeyes Offensive "Train" has come off the rails, rolled over 6 times down the hillside, and landed upside down in the half-filled drainage ditch that runs along the tracks.

Now Alex Padilla hasn't set any offensive records either - but he's only been given a few chances. He's clearly far more fleet afoot - which is a big help with a porous offensive line - and he seems to have a knack for getting rid of the ball to avoid sacks/losses. With this Iowa Offense overall, I still think he's the better option at quarterback right now - and for the time being. His production can't possibly be much worse compared to that of Petras since October 16, 2021. So that's a long way of explaining getting to my differing offensive predictions for this Saturday's game — Padilla has, I think, more scoring upside vs. Petras.

Just to review, Petras has started/played in 13 of the last 15 games — in those he has thrown for just three TDs and 11 interceptions. Padilla has played in only six games in 2021 (started in three of those) and in the 2nd Half at Ohio State last week — in those seven games he has two passing TDs (and one rushing TD) and has thrown three picks.

Now Northwestern is no juggernaut this year either - offensively or defensively. It's season-long highlight was the opening game 31-28 win over Nebraska in Dublin (Ireland,

not Ohio). In fact, that's its only win this season, and the Wildcats now stand 1-6, 1-3.

These Iowa-Northwestern games almost always seem maddeningly close between Ferentz and Fitzgerald. They are often less than works of art. And regardless of the pre-game odds, the Wildcats have actually won four of the last six including the last two played in Iowa City - and are going for their 4th straight win at Kinnick Stadium. Offensively NU ranks higher than Iowa this season (well, who doesn't). Defensively they rank lower than the Hawkeyes.

So I'm going with Iowa this Saturday and the Hawkeyes desperately need to win — which would get them back to .500 on the season and keep bowl-eligibility hopes alive (however slim those hopes might be at this point). I'll go so far as to say this is a "must-win" game for Iowa because failure to achieve victory this weekend would almost certainly make the Hawkeyes underdogs in the rest of their games this season - and deservedly so.

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

Tyler Tjelmeland – Iowa 20-7:

Iowa's offense is historically bad. Truthfully, Northwestern's isn't much better. The good news for Iowa is that it's defense and special teams are exceptional. That's enough to win this game at home against a very poor Northwestern team. I anticipate a slow start for both squads as they feel each other out, but ultimately Iowa's ability to control the field position will result in a victory.

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

Jack Brandsgard – Iowa 20-10:

This is a must win for Iowa. The Hawkeyes need this game for morale's sake, and more importantly, for bowl eligibility's sake. Northwestern has had Iowa's number of late, but the Hawkeyes get it done at Kinnick.

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

Hawkeyes Mic Hawkeyes - Wildcats Content and Coverage is [here](#).