



Hawkeyes Mic LLC
One Passion, Many Voices

Hawkeyes – Volunteers Prognostications



The Hawkeyes Mic picks are in for the Iowa – Tennessee Citrus Bowl Game on New Year’s Day – it’s almost unanimous for the 2023-24 Season Finale – for the record it’s a bit hard to predict given the “missing” players (especially for Tennessee).

The Game: #17 Iowa (10-3, 7-3) faces off against #21 Tennessee (8-4, 4-4) for the 2024 Citrus Bowl Game at Camping World Stadium in Orlando on New Year’s Day - Monday, January 1, 2024 - kickoff at 12:06 CT on ABC | Hawkeye Radio Network. The Hawkeyes won the 2023 B1G West Championship but was dominated by Michigan in the conference title game on December 2nd in Indianapolis. Iowa averages 16.6 points per game and surrenders 13.2 — Tennessee averages 31.5 points per game and gives up 22.0 and is slightly favored in this contest. Iowa trails the all-time series 2-1 — the Volunteers won the last game in the series, defeating the the Hawkeyes 45-28 in the Gator Bowl in Jacksonville on January 1, 2015.

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Scott Dochterman – Iowa 20-16:

It may lack the sex appeal of an Eastern Iowa calendar of the hottest over-50 male sportswriters, but the Hawkeyes are patient, tough and methodical. For an uptempo team like Tennessee, that combination can frustrate the daylighters out of you, and lead to turnovers.

[TheAthletic.com](#)
[@ScottDochterman](#) on Twitter/X

John Bohnenkamp – Iowa 17-7:

Hawkeyes get at least one touchdown off an interception of the freshman quarterback.

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

Marc Morehouse – Iowa 26-25:

Hey, Nebraska East!

[Marc Morehouse Substack](http://MarcMorehouseSubstack.com)
[@marcmorehouse](https://twitter.com/marcmorehouse) on Twitter/X

Brendan Stiles – Iowa 17-13:

The news about Joe Milton opting out changes things for me because while Tennessee has a 5-star freshman starting now at QB, his first start coming against this Hawkeye defense will be turbulent. I also think Iowa can get things going through the air offensively, mainly with Kaleb Brown and Addison Ostrenga.

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

John Patchett – Iowa 17-10:

The Hawkeyes get one offensive touchdown (why change now) to go along with one defensive TD and I'll throw in a random field goal as well. Add Tory Taylor's swan song audition for the NFL and I think that's a winning formula in this New Year's Day bowl game.

While Iowa has lost a couple of players to the transfer portal, Tennessee has been decimated, losing 11 to the portal plus three more opting not to play (and several were regular season starters, including their QB and leading RB). When all is said and done, I just think that's too much to overcome for the Volunteers.

After this game clock expires, the Hawkeyes "search" for a new OC begins in earnest - so regardless of this outcome Iowa fans have something hopeful to look forward to as Spring Practice approaches - not to mention the return of several key players.

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Tyler Tjelmeland – Iowa 16-10:

It's difficult to project how many bowl games will play out because of the transfer portal and players opting out of the bowl game to get ready for the NFL draft. This is definitely true with this contest. Season-starter Tennessee QB Joe Milton III and 1,000 yard rusher Jaylen Wright opting out. The odds makers have Tennessee as the favorite in this match up, but Iowa's defense is as good as they come. Not only do the Hawkeyes have playmakers, but the dominos have already started to fall into place for some positivity within the Iowa program. All-American LB Jay Higgins announcing he'll return in 2024 and LB Nick Jackson also earned an NCAA waiver approval to return next year if he would so choose. Bowl games are won (and lost) because of so many other factors than just the players on the field.

Attitude and the other variables can play a huge factor in the outcome. Due to Iowa's offensive deficiencies... That's a nice way of putting it, eh? I'm not sure Iowa is the better team all-around, but I can't pick Tennessee to beat this Hawkeye team without their two main offensive playmakers and this Hawkeye defense. Tory Taylor has a monster game. Punting is winning for his final time in the Black and Gold.

[HawkeyesMic.com](https://www.hawkeyesmic.com)

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

Jack Brandsgard – Tennessee 13-10:

When it was first announced Iowa would face Tennessee in the Citrus Bowl, my initial pick was the Volunteers. Much has changed since then, including Tennessee's leading rusher Jaylen Wright and quarterback Joe Milton bypassing the game. The matchup will hinge on how true freshman Nico Iamaleava, a five-star recruit who will make his first career start in Milton's absence, manages against Iowa's top tier defense (Talk about an introduction to college football.) My gut still leans to Tennessee's balanced two-way game, but it'll be much closer than the spread suggests.

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