

Iowa Hawkeyes

By Kate Lowry

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"There's so many little things we can do better, and if we can do that, we'll become a better team." Coach Kirk Ferentz said this after the Penn State win on Oct. 12, 2021.

The 2020 Iowa Hawkeyes played fewer games than any Iowa team since 1963. They gained two Hall - of - Farmers that year and are currently 6 - 2 in the Big 10. How did Kirk Ferentz take a situation like that, and turn it into a potential championship winning team? Coach Ferentz said on the 12 of Oct. that "The one thing they've been doing a pretty good job with, playing hard. We've been playing hard week in and week out. I've been pleased with the effort, and the film shows guys playing hard and competing hard." With the results of the current season, this couldn't be more true!

Although the 2020 Iowa Hawkeyes played fewer games than any Iowa team since 1963, this was not the fault of the team, but the fault of the pandemic. The teams they were supposed to play all had coronavirus outbreaks before the games, which made them unable to compete against each other. This happened twice, against both Michigan and Missouri, resulting in the 2020 team having played only 8 games.

As stated previously, the 2020 Hawkeyes had no covid outbreaks. They had a player here and there, but no massive epidemics, unlike many other Big Ten schools. This was mostly due to the players quarantining. Many members of the Hawkeyes had to get creative when it came to training. All of the Hawkeyes' usual

training facilities at the school were closed, so when they were unable to go there for practice, some of them started going to high schools to use the equipment there. The only places that players went were from their apartments to the schools or other training facilities. The limited contact definitely paid off since this helped the team produce an outburst - free season.

The Hawkeyes this year definitely have some pretty fantastic players, but one Haweye in particular that stands out is No. 65, Tyler Linderbaum. Linderbaum plays center for the team, and may be the best at what he does. He is good at focusing on the task at hand, and is unquestionably hardworking. No. 65 is also a good leader, and helps inspire the other players. Who knows? Linderbaum could be in the Hall - of - Fame very soon!

The Iowa Hawkeyes are an all around astonishing team. Between the way they handled the pandemic, and this year's players, we may be looking at the Big Ten champions of 2021!