

WEEK FIVE  
MIDDLE TENNESSEE at IOWA

No. 14 Iowa throttles Middle Tennessee 48-3

IOWA CITY, Iowa -- Iowa's defense has been among the nation's best all season.

The Hawkeyes' offense joined in on the fun at just the right time, racking up more yards than it ever has under longtime coach Kirk Ferentz.

Senior Nate Stanley threw for 276 yards and two touchdowns, Toren Young added a career-high 131 yards rushing and 14th-ranked Iowa throttled Middle Tennessee 48-3 on Saturday, moving to 4-0 for only the second time in 10 years.

Brandon Smith caught both of Stanley's TD throws for the Hawkeyes.

Iowa gained 644 yards ahead of a two-week stretch in which the Hawkeyes travel to No. 20 Michigan and host 12th-ranked Penn State. The Hawkeyes looked ready for that gauntlet against Middle Tennessee, going 10 of 16 on third downs, 3 for 3 on fourth downs and 6 of 6 in the red zone.

Iowa also didn't commit a turnover for the third game in a row.

"For the most part, we controlled every phase of the game, which was good to see," said Ferentz, now in his 21st season in charge at Iowa. "We're playing clean football right now."

Iowa racked up 358 of those yards in the first half and scored on its first four drives, a stretch headlined by an 18-yard TD throw from Stanley to Smith, to jump ahead 24-0 midway through the second quarter.

Ihmir Smith-Marsette's 14-yard touchdown run off a jet sweep pushed Iowa's lead to 34-3 with 2:19 left in the third quarter.

Asher O'Hara was 15 of 22 passing for 110 yards for Middle Tennessee (1-3). The Blue Raiders' defense was gashed for over eight yards a play.

"This game was very important for our offense. We executed at a high level," Smith said.

THE TAKEAWAY

Iowa: The Hawkeyes' first drive -- a nine-play, 65-yarder that lasted 3:59 and finished with a 4-yard touchdown run by Mekhi Sargent -- was so clinical, so balanced and, frankly, so easy that it set the tone for the day. Iowa pushed around the undersized Blue Raiders from the opening whistle in joining its 2009 and 2015 teams with 4-0 starts. The Hawkeyes are now allowing an average of 9 points per game.

Middle Tennessee: This was likely the most overmatched the Blue Raiders will be all year. But they've got enough to compete for another bowl bid with Conference USA play starting next week. "We've had some tough losses. But it shows us who we can be," O'Hara said. "We believe in each other."

GROUND AND POUND

Iowa's running game, which has been inconsistent over the past few years, exploded against the Blue Raiders. The Hawkeyes exploited their size advantage in the trenches and ran for 351 yards -- their most since 2016 -- on 51 carries. Sargent, the starting running back, didn't touch the ball in the second half and still finished with 91 yards. Freshman Tyler Goodson continued to show that he might be special as well, juking past multiple defenders on his way to 97 yards.

THE NUMBERS

Iowa punted just once. Keith Duncan missed his first field goal of the season, although he made up for it with successful tries from 49 and 42 yards. ... The Hawkeyes went 10 for 16 on third downs. ... Middle Tennessee committed eight penalties for 72 yards. Iowa defensive tackle Daviyon Nixon had the best game of his brief career. Nixon had seven total tackles, two for a loss, and he added a sack.

POLL IMPLICATIONS

Iowa won't move much unless the teams ahead of it lose. But the Hawkeyes are starting to look worthy of a spot in the top 10.

HE SAID IT

"I call him `The Human Joystick," Smith said of Goodson.

<b>Final</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>T</b>
MTSU	0	0	3	0	3
IOWA	17	7	10	14	48

Scoring Summary -----

	MTSU	IOWA
<b>FIRST QUARTER</b>		
IOWA TD 11:01 Mekhi Sargent 4 Yd Run (Keith Duncan Kick)		
9 plays, 65 yards, 3:59	0	7
IOWA FG 4:54 Keith Duncan 49 Yd Field Goal		
9 plays, 44 yards, 5:01	0	10
IOWA TD 0:15 Brandon Smith 18 Yd pass from Nate Stanley (Keith Duncan Kick)		
5 plays, 71 yards, 2:47	0	17
<b>SECOND QUARTER</b>	MTSU	IOWA
IOWA TD 8:33 Brady Ross 1 Yd Run (Keith Duncan Kick)		
9 plays, 81 yards, 4:24	0	24
<b>THIRD QUARTER</b>	MTSU	IOWA
IOWA FG 10:52 Keith Duncan 42 Yd Field Goal		
5 plays, 55 yards, 1:22	0	27
MTSU FG 5:24 Crews Holt 43 Yd Field Goal		
13 plays, 49 yards, 5:28	3	27
IOWA TD 2:19 Ihmir Smith-Marsette 14 Yd Run (Keith Duncan Kick)		
7 plays, 80 yards, 3:05	3	34
<b>FOURTH QUARTER</b>	MTSU	IOWA
IOWA TD 10:01 Brandon Smith 10 Yd pass from Nate Stanley (Keith Duncan Kick)		
10 plays, 72 yards, 5:34	3	41
IOWA TD 0:47 Spencer Petras 1 Yd Run (Keith Duncan Kick)		
13 plays, 79 yards, 6:25	3	48

Team Stats	MTSU	IOWA
First Downs	12	30
Passes for First	6	13
Rushes for First	6	17
Penalties for First	0	0
Third Down Efficiency	3-12	10-16
Fourth Down Efficiency	0-0	3-3
Total Yards	216	644
Total Plays	51	80
Avg Gain Per Play	4.2	8.1
Net Yards Rushing	80	351
Rushes	24	51
Yards Per Rush	3.3	6.9
Net Yards Passing	136	293
Comp-Att	17-27	20-29
Yards Per Pass	5.0	10.1
Times Sacked	2	2
Yds Lost To Sacks	-13	-21
Interceptions	0	0
Punts	8	1
Punt Average	41.9	34.0
Penalties	8	3
Penalty Yards	72	20
Fumbles	0	0
Fumbles Lost	0	0
Time of Poss	24:03	35:57

Individual Stats

RUSHING

MIDDLE TENN	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Asher O'Hara	10	33	3.3	0	15
Jayy McDonald	6	22	3.7	0	11
Brad Anderson	4	15	3.8	0	13
Terelle West	1	7	7.0	0	7
Chaton Mobley	2	7	3.5	0	4
DJ England-Chisolm	1	-4	-4.0	0	0
<b>IOWA</b>	<b>Rush</b>	<b>Yds</b>	<b>Avg</b>	<b>TD</b>	<b>LONG</b>
Toren Young	11	131	11.9	0	52
Tyler Goodson	12	97	8.1	0	27
Mekhi Sargent	14	91	6.5	1	18
Ihmir Smith-Marsette	2	28	14.0	1	14
Ivory Kelly-Martin	1	3	3.0	0	3
Brady Ross	1	1	1.0	1	1
Spencer Petras	1	1	1.0	1	1
Turner Pallissard	1	0	0.0	0	0
Monte Pottebaum	1	0	0.0	0	0
Nate Stanley	7	-1	-0.1	0	10

PASSING

MIDDLE TENN	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Asher O'Hara	15	22	110	5.0	0	0	28.7
Chase Cunningham	2	5	26	5.2	0	0	44.4
<b>IOWA</b>	<b>Comp</b>	<b>Att</b>	<b>Yds</b>	<b>Y/A</b>	<b>TD</b>	<b>Int</b>	<b>QBRat</b>
Nate Stanley	17	25	276	11.0	2	0	85.5
Spencer Petras	3	4	17	4.3	0	0	98.9

RECEIVING

MIDDLE TENN	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Jarrin Pierce	6	43	7.2	0	9
Jimmy Marshall	1	21	21.0	0	21
Ty Lee	2	16	8.0	0	11
CJ Windham	2	16	8.0	0	9
DJ England-Chisolm	1	14	14.0	0	14
Isiah Upton	1	12	12.0	0	12
Brad Anderson	2	9	4.5	0	5
Yusuf Ali	1	5	5.0	0	5
Terelle West	1	0	0.0	0	0
<b>IOWA</b>	<b>Rec</b>	<b>Yds</b>	<b>Avg</b>	<b>TD</b>	<b>LONG</b>
Tyrone Tracy Jr.	3	85	28.3	0	33
Brandon Smith	6	71	11.8	2	18
Ihmir Smith-Marsette	4	60	15.0	0	38
Nico Ragaini	2	39	19.5	0	35
Shaun Beyer	1	27	27.0	0	27
Tyler Goodson	3	7	2.3	0	7
Oliver Martin	1	4	4.0	0	4