

Solheim time

United States Solheim Cup golfer Paula Creamer waves to the crowd during the opening ceremony Thursday at Kileen Castle in Dunsany, Ireland. Play against the European team begins today.

SIDELINE**BASKETBALL****NBA expected to dump training camps today**

NEW YORK — A person with knowledge of the plans said the NBA will cancel training camps and some preseason games today after failing to reach a labor deal with its players.

Training camps were expected to begin Oct. 3. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the league had yet to announce its plans.

Negotiators for both sides wouldn't predict after the bargaining session if the entire regular season, scheduled to begin Nov. 1, could be saved.

Catchings hauls in MVP honor on WNBA

INDIANAPOLIS — Tamika Catchings of the Indiana Fever has been selected the WNBA's most valuable player for the first time.

The forward had finished in the top five in the balloting eight times and was runner-up in 2009 and 2010.

Catchings, 32, averaged 15.5 points, 7.1 rebounds and 3.5 assists per game this season and is among the league's top 10 in scoring, rebounding, free-throw percentage and steals.

FOOTBALL**Vick back at practice, apparently good to go**

PHILADELPHIA — Eagles quarterback Michael Vick returned to practice Thursday, just four days after he suffered a concussion against the Falcons in Atlanta.

Vick's participation indicates he's been cleared by the NFL-appointed independent neurologist, required under the 2009 concussion policy for a player to "return to football activities."

Titans holding tryouts for players next month

CEDAR RAPIDS — The Cedar Rapids Titans of the Indoor Football league will hold their first open tryouts for the 2012 arena football team Oct. 8 and 9 at the Sport Zone, 1100 N. 18th Ave. in Hiawatha.

Registration Oct. 8 is 2 p.m. with tryouts at 3 p.m. Tryouts continue from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Oct. 9. Athletes need to be there both dates.

The registration fee is \$65, and participants must be at 18 years old. Drills will include 40-yard dash, 20-yard shuttle, standing broad jump, agility and seven-on-seven.

Get details at www.cedarrapidsTitans.com.

Gazette staff and wire reports

Hawkeye secondary all about the 'swag'

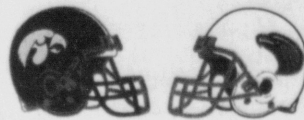
By Marc Morehouse

The Gazette

IOWA CITY — Shaun Prater is a cornerback's cornerback. That's part relief pitcher who tallies the big strikeout or allows the winning run. It's part stuntman.

It's a ledge position with danger on all sides. It's only for those who can put the triumphs into perspective and let go of the defeats.

Being a cornerback's cornerback, Prater's "swag" hasn't gone anywhere, not even after Iowa's rough outing two

This week's game

■ **The teams:** Louisiana-Monroe (1-2) at Iowa (2-1)
■ **Place:** Kinnick Stadium, Iowa City.
■ **Kickoff:** 11 a.m. Saturday
■ **TV:** BTN
■ **Line:** Iowa by 17

weeks ago in Ames and not even after a few long pass plays between him and new free safety Tan-

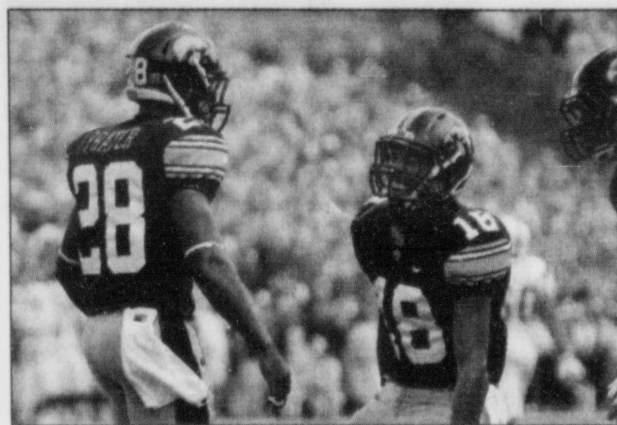
ner Miller in last week's victory over Pittsburgh.

"It's just something we can learn from and fix today in practice," Prater said.

"Swag" is the term kids use these days for "swagger." It's an attitude, a strut. It's something athletes need to summon in their own ways when they need it.

Swag for Prater is the bet he has with fellow cornerback — well, now and again fellow cornerback — Micah Hyde.

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Liz Martin/The Gazette

Iowa's Shaun Prater (left) celebrates a touchdown with Micah Hyde in the second quarter of a victory over Tennessee Tech this month at Kinnick Stadium.

PREP FOOTBALL

Just the basics



Cliff Jette/The Gazette

Cedar Rapids Kennedy's Riley Fergus clings to Ronald Thompson's leg last night at Kingston Stadium. The Iowa City High back had another big night with 238 rushing yards and four touchdowns in a 34-13 victory over the Cougars.

City High simply pounds away, wins

By Jeff Johnson

The Gazette

CEDAR RAPIDS — They don't pass and don't punt. The Iowa City High Little Hawks don't lose, either.

"They're about as vanilla offensively as you can get," Cedar Rapids Kennedy Coach Tim Lewis said after his team became City High's 33rd consecutive regular-season victim, 34-13, last night at Kingston Stadium. "They don't have to do anything fancy."

Not when they have a terrific offensive line, outside speed and a running back named Ronald Thompson. It was another big night for City High's big man, who rushed for 238 yards and four second-half touchdowns.

Three of those came in a span of 3:30 in the third quarter as the Class 4A second-ranked Little Hawks (5-0) put away a game that was just 6-0 at halftime.

"Our guys just fought off the ball like they usually do," said Thompson, who surpassed 1,000 yards (1,071) this season. "In the first half, we came out kind of sluggish, so the coaches told us we've got to get back to our game. That's what we did."

"After halftime, we picked it up," said City High fullback-defensive lineman Cortez Barfield, whose forced fumble during the third-quarter barrage was eventually converted offensively by Thompson. "We knew we should be doing better than we were doing. We're better than (being ahead) six points at half."

City High Coach Dan Sabers was asked if the difference in halves was about adjustments, execution or emotion.

"Sometimes it's hard to say," he said. "I'm sure if Coach Lewis was to interject, he'd say they didn't quite do some of the same things as they were (doing). I think it was a combination of things. ... We didn't sit there and say 'Hey, this is what we've got to

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ISU dodges realignment bullet amid much love from fans

By Scott Dochterman

The Gazette

AMES — The Big 12's fractured state has yet to dampen the enthusiasm Iowa State fans have for their football program.

In fact, it may have deepened Cyclone fans' resolve.

The Cyclones shattered a school record for season-ticket sales this fall en route to a 3-0 start. As of Wednesday, Iowa State had sold 37,446 sea-

son tickets, topping the 36,610 sold in 2007. This year's number is 18.3 percent higher than last year, and attendance ranks 35th nationally.

"It's hard to analyze why the numbers went up this year," said Steve Malchow, Iowa State's



Paul Rhoads
ISU coach

Inside

Big 12 commissioner gone, TV rights pledged, **2B**

senior associate athletics director for communications. "I'm having a hard time distilling what the real factor is, other than what Paul (Rhoads) has accomplished. He has won some big games. He's extremely proud to be a Cyclone, and people have

bought into that.

"The normal factors, we didn't have a bowl game last year. There was enthusiasm for this year, but it wasn't like we were crying like this was going to be our year. We've had a good home schedule this year, but I think when you squeeze it all down, it's Paul Rhoads and the belief he's instilled in both our fan base and our team."

Iowa State has posted

two of its top five crowds in wins over Northern Iowa and Iowa this season. Sales for Texas next week have exceeded 53,000, which would blast the school's mark for best attendance through three games by at least 9,000 fans.

"It means that people like our product, and I don't blame them," Rhoads said. "We've put

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Cliff Jette/The Gazette

The Cougars' student section cheers at the start of Cedar Rapids Kennedy's game last night against Iowa City High at Kingston Stadium in Cedar Rapids.

Prep/Cougars score on long pass plays

► FROM PAGE 1B

do differently.' We still had to do what we do. The results were just different."

What City High does is run the football in mostly power formations, finishing with 355 yards in 67 attempts on the ground. The Little Hawks threw it three times to increase their season total to 21. They punted only once (in reserve time), successfully converting fourth downs three times, once inside their own 20 late in the first half.

"If they would have come out and made some adjustments we couldn't (handle) because of our speed, that's one thing," Lewis said. "City High stood up to us right away in the second half, punched us in the mouth, and we cowered and backed down. That's really discouraging."

Kennedy's points came in the fourth quarter on long pass plays of 80 and 55 yards from Lizarra to Josh Jahlas.

Comments: (319) 398-8259; jeff.johnson@sourcemediac.net

Iowa/Prater, Hyde in friendly competition

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"Well, Micah and me have this little thing going on about interceptions this year," Prater said. "A pick six is three points. A pick is worth one. A game-saving interception is worth two."

"So we're tied. He has three points and I have three since the pick six. I have to catch up and make sure I blow him out."

A dinner is on the line. For the Iowa secondary, swag is on the line again this week.

The Hawkeyes' defense pretty much gave birth to the legend of Iowa State quarterback Steele Jantz, allowing the former juco to throw for 279 yards and four TDs in a 44-41 triple-overtime ISU victory. As you might imagine, that spawned some changes in the secondary.

Is it an overhaul when three-fourths of the secondary positions change in one week? Jordan Bernstine and Miller (first safety) were the new safeties, with Bernstine replacing junior Collin Sleeper at strong safety. Hyde moved from free safety and replaced junior Greg Castillo at corner. Prater stayed at left corner, where he's been for three seasons.

The message from such change is loud and clear.

"This is a competitive exercise and that's one of the first things we explain to everybody at the onset of practice back in August," Iowa Coach Kirk Ferentz said. "The coaches' responsibility is to get the best-prepared guys on the field and to make sure everyone is prepared."

The changes looked shaky at first. There was the 66-yard TD between Miller and Prater. Iowa allowed five pass plays of 20-plus yards. On the other hand, Iowa (2-1) forced five three-and-outs against Pitt, including a crucial three-play, 5-yard drive in the fourth quarter, giving Iowa's offense

a real shot to do something.

"Wherever they put us, you just want it to work," Hyde said. "We're three games into it. We all want to be out there knowing everyone has each other's back."

The stability Hyde brought to corner allowed Iowa to move the safeties around. Miller lined up 5 yards off the line of scrimmage a few times and also played some one-high safety, more of a center field spot.

"We have two of the better corners around and we tried to match them up with the outside receivers more than we have in the past," said Miller, who had seven tackles in his first start. "I think it made a world of difference with Micah on the outside getting two picks."

You can't discuss Iowa's secondary without mentioning Bernstine's physicality. The fifth-year senior missed the Iowa State game with an illness, but he's still fifth on the team with 16 tackles and is tied for the team lead with 2.5 tackles for loss.

"He's flying around knocking people out," Prater said. "It's just what Jordan Bernstine does. It makes my job a lot easier. If it's to my side, I know Bernstine is laying someone out." In the Prater-Hyde bet, the cost of swag is a dinner. Prater is thinking Joseph's in Iowa City. Hyde remembered having a meal there during his recruiting trip, but he's not picky.

"I'm cool with the spicy chicken from Wendy's," Hyde said. "I'm cool with that. I'm not going to bust his wallet."

Prater and Hyde are tied at 3-3 going into Saturday against Louisiana Monroe (1-2), which is fitting. Iowa's secondary is at least an even bet to carry the swag into November.

Comments: (319) 398-8256; marc.crohouse@sourcemediac.net

Sportsday

Events of area interest

High school football

See page 5B

College volleyball

■ Ohio State at Iowa, 7 p.m.; UNI at Illinois State, 7 p.m.; Luther tournament; Upper Iowa at Winona State, 7 p.m.; Kirkwood at Parkland College tournament; Coe vs. Saint Mary's, Ripon in Ripon, Wis., 6 and 8 p.m.; Cornell at Buena Vista, 7 p.m.; Mount Mercy at Grace (Neb.) tournament

Women's soccer

■ Iowa at Indiana, 5 p.m.; Iowa State at Texas A&M, 6:30 p.m.; UNI at Creighton, 7 p.m.

College field hockey

■ Michigan State at Iowa, 3 p.m.

On television

(Live, first-run same-day tape)

Major League Baseball

■ Cubs at Cardinals, 7 p.m., Comcast

College football

■ Central Florida at BYU, 7 p.m., ESPN

High school football

■ Cedar Falls at Cedar Rapids Xavier, 7 p.m.; KCRG 9.2; De La Salle (Calif.) v. St. Thomas Aquinas (Fla.), 7 p.m., ESPN2

Pro golf

■ Golf Channel: Tour Championship, noon; Austrian Open (same-day tape), 11:30 p.m.; Solheim Cup, 1:30 a.m., 5 a.m.

Auto racing

■ ESPN2: NASCAR Sprint Cup Sylvania 300 practice 10:30 a.m., qualifying 2 p.m.

College volleyball

■ Michigan State at Purdue, 7 p.m., BTN

On radio

High school football

■ Tailgate Tour at Prairie, 3 p.m., KGYM-AM (1600); Wilton at West Liberty, 6:50 p.m., WMT-AM (600); East Buchanan at Postville, 7 p.m., KCTN-FM (100.1); Linn-Mar at Prairie, 7:15 p.m., KGYM; Cedar Falls at Xavier, 7:30 p.m., KMRY-AM/FM (1450, 93.1); West Delaware at Charles City, 7:30 p.m. (Starmont at Maquoketa Valley, tape after West Delaware), KMCH-FM (94.7); Scoreboard show, 10 p.m., KGYM, WMT

Local talk shows

■ Balbinot and Brommelkamp, 4 p.m., KGYM; On Press Row, 5 p.m., KXEL-AM (1540)

*Only listings submitted by stations or posted at their websites

Contact us

■ (319) 398-8258; 1 (800) 397-8258; fax, (319) 398-5861; preps, (319) 368-8976, 1 (888) 577-8287; email, sports@sourcemediac.net

Odds

Today's Line

NCAA FOOTBALL

FAVORITE	SPREAD	UNDERDOG
BYU	2 1/2	Central Florida

IOWA	17	Louisiana-Monroe
OHIO ST.	16 1/2	Colorado
DUKE	11 1/2	Tulane
SYRACUSE	2 1/2	Toledo
EAST CAROLINA	14	Ala.-Birmingham
SOUTH FLORIDA	29	Texas-EI Paso
ILLINOIS	12 1/2	W. Michigan
RUTGERS	4 1/2	Ohio
PENN ST.	28 1/2	E. Michigan
CLASMAN	12 1/2	Kansas St.
SMU	20	MEMPHIS
MARYLAND	22	Temple
MICHIGAN ST.	9	Cent. Michigan
GEORGIA	9 1/2	MISSISSIPPI
MIAMI (OHIO)	4 1/2	Bowling Green
Army	20 1/2	MARSHALL
Virginia Tech	4 1/2	Alabama
ALABAMA	11 1/2	PICK
WASHINGTON	5 1/2	WEST VIRGINIA
Louisiana St.	10	San Diego St.
MICHIGAN	10	North Carolina
GEORGIA TECH	19 1/2	KENTUCKY
Florida	6 1/2	PITTSBURGH
Notre Dame	2 1/2	Florida St.
CLEMSON	10 1/2	New Mexico St.
SAN JOSE ST.	3	IDAHO
Fresno St.	8 1/2	BUFFALO
UCONN	5	Ucla
OREGON ST.	17	Nevada
Texas Tech	16	Vanderbilt
SOUTH CAROLINA	20	Louisiana Tech
MISSISSIPPI ST.	20 1/2	Rice
BAYLOR	3	Southern Miss.
VIRGINIA	3	Oklahoma St.
TEXAS A&M	22	WYOMING
Nebraska	24	Missouri
OKLAHOMA	21	Colorado St.
UTAH ST.	2	Tulsa
BOISE ST.	28 1/2	ARIZONA
Oregon	2 1/2	Southern Cal
ARIZONA ST.	33	Fla. Atlantic
AUBURN	6 1/2	NORTH TEXAS

FAVORITE	SPREAD	UNDERDOG
CINCINNATI	2 1/2	San Francisco
New England	8 1/2	BUFFALO
PHILADELPHIA	OFF	Houston
CLEVELAND	2 1/2	N.Y. Giants
TENNESSEE	6 1/2	Denver
Detroit	3 1/2	MINNESOTA
Carolina	3 1/2	Jacksonville
CAROLINA	14 1/2	Kansas City
N.Y. Jets	3 1/2	ST. LOUIS
Baltimore	1 1/2	OAKLAND
JAMES BAY	1 1/2	Atlanta
Arizona	3 1/2	SEATTLE
Green Bay	3 1/2	CHICAGO
Pittsburgh	10 1/2	INDIANAPOLIS

FAVORITE	SPREAD	UNDERDOG
DALLAS	OFF	Washington

Philadelphia QB questionable	
Dallas QB questionable	

WNBA Playoffs	CONFERENCE FINALS
(Best-of-3)	(x-if necessary)
Thursday	Thursday
Indiana 82, Atlanta 74 (Indiana leads series, 1-0)	Minnesota 95, Phoenix 67 (Minnesota leads series, 1-0)

Sunday	(Iowa times)
Indiana at Atlanta, 2 p.m.	Minnesota at Phoenix, 4 p.m.
Atlanta at Indiana, 6 or 7 p.m.	Phoenix at Minnesota, 7 or 8 p.m.

College football	Thursday
East	Cincinnati 44, N.C. State 14

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Pro hockey

NHL preseason

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Div.	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Pittsburgh	2	2	0	0	4	7	3
Philadelphia	3	1	1	1	3	9	8
New Jersey	3	1	0	0	2	2	1
N.Y. Rangers	1	0	0	1	1	2	1
N.Y. Islanders	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Northwest Div.

Buffalo	2	2	0	0	4	6	2
Ottawa	2	1	1	0	2	4	5
Boston	1	0	0	1	1	1	2
Montreal	2	0	2	0	0	4	9
Southeast Div.	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA

Southwest Div.

Washington	2	0	1	1	1	3	6
Tampa Bay	2	0	2	0	0	4	7
Carolina	1	0	1	0	0	1	3

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Colorado	2	0	1	1	1	3	6
Edmonton	2	0	2	0	0	4	7
Calgary	1	0	1	0	0	1	3