

IOWA CITY PRESS-CITIZEN

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UI goal: 2 in a row!

UCLA's football team and Iowa's football fans had one thing in common Saturday:

They came, they saw, they concurred that any similarity between the Iowa football team of 1973 and that of 1974 is in names and numbers only.

Whereas the Bruins last September stampeded the Hawkeyes 55-18 in Los Angeles, last Saturday the Hawkeyes stunned the three touchdown favorites from Los Angeles by a 21-10 score which set off the wildest post-game celebration seen in Kinnick Stadium since the 1950s.

So a school record losing streak which had reached through 12 games covering a part of two seasons is now a thing of the past as the Hawkeyes prepare to host Penn State this week in an attempt to post a two-game Iowa football winning streak for the first time in five years.

Not since the 1969 season, when Iowa defeated Washington State and Arizona back-to-back, has a Hawkeye football team won two games in a row.

Penn State will be tough, no doubt about it, and probably favored, but all of

a sudden Coach Bob Commings has his Hawkeyes believing, and they in turn made believers of a lot of people Saturday.

Commings had said after the opening 24-7 loss at Michigan that Iowa could play Big Ten-caliber football "as inconceivable as that may sound to some people."

What happened here Saturday was the next thing to inconceivable, but seeing is believing and now the Hawkeyes have got to keep it going.

It will be a study of great contrasts next Saturday, for while Iowa has not won two games in a row since 1969, Penn State hasn't LOST two games in a row since 1970 and the Nittany Lions are apt to come in roaring after being shocked 7-6 by underdog Navy Saturday.

Penn State has lost only six games in the last six seasons, has had three unbeaten seasons in that span and has gone to a bowl game five times in the last six years.

So the Hawkeyes have the great opportunity of staging a second straight

shocker against a nationally-rated foe. To do it, they must maintain the momentum which has been building since the first quarter of the opener at Ann Arbor.

"We're a long ways from being out of the woods yet," Commings said after Saturday's triumph, "but we've made a pretty big step."

No one could argue with that.

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UCLA scored first Saturday on a 21-yard field goal by Brett White with just seven minutes gone in the ball game, a mishandled kickoff and a short punt setting up the opportunity.

Iowa went ahead 7-3 with 9:49 to go in the second quarter on a 38-yard touchdown pass from Rob Fick to Dave Jackson, after which Nic Quartaro kicked the first of his three extra points, Doug Reichardt holding.

The Hawks scored again less than a minute later to send the crowd of 47,500 into a frenzy. UCLA fumbled on its second play after the kickoff and Iowa's

Andre Jackson covered it on the Bruin 30. On the first play following the exchange, Fick threw a short screen pass over the middle to Mark Fetter, who used some blockers and some good moves to run 30 yards for a touchdown. Quartaro's kick made it 14-3.

It stayed that way until the first play of the fourth quarter when UCLA quarterback John Sciarra sliced a yard into the end zone on fourth down to climax a 67-yard scoring march. White kicked the extra point and it was 14-9 with 14:58 to go.

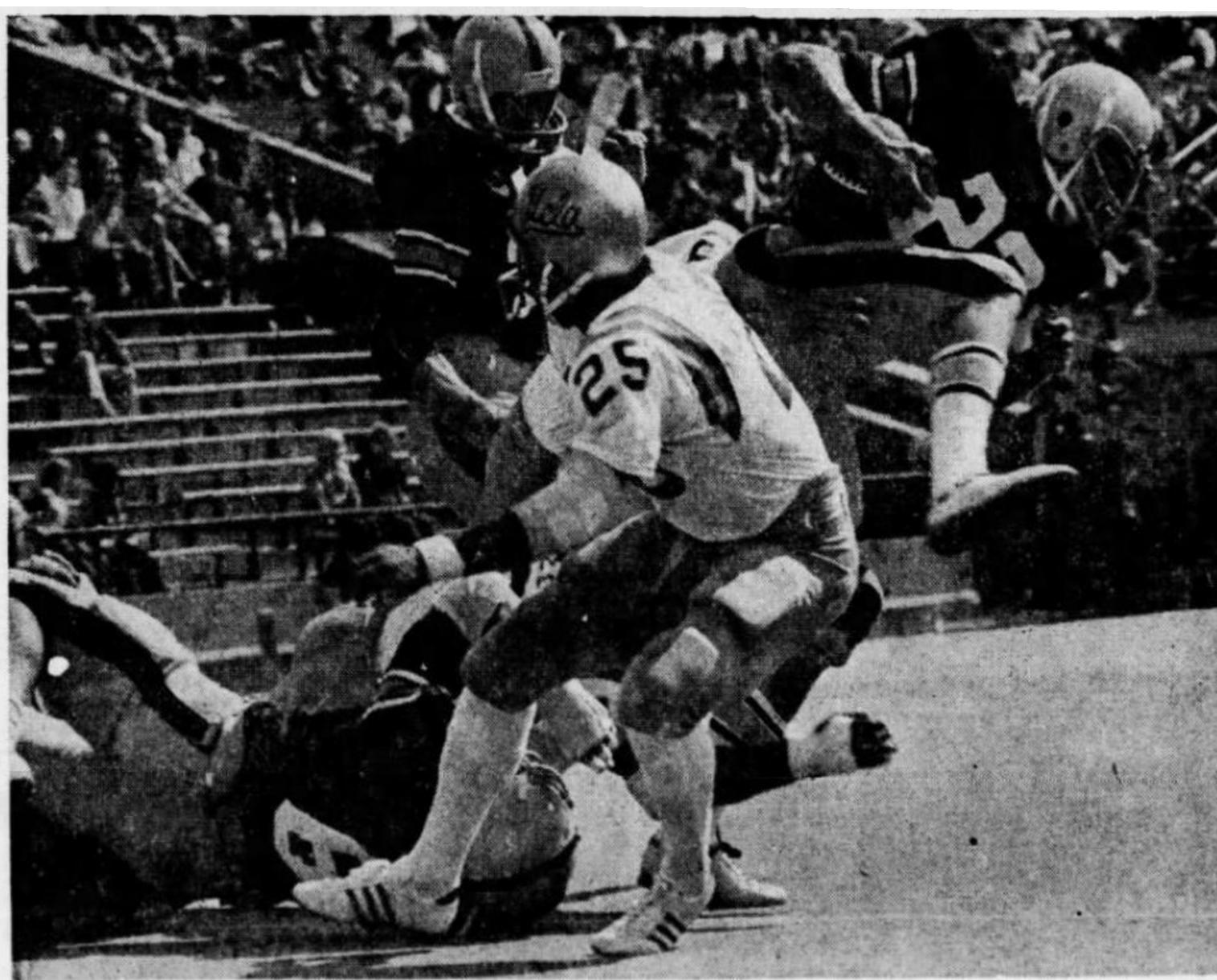
Midway through the final period Iowa got the ball at its own nine and then marched 91 yards in 14 plays, all on the ground, to ice up the decision, Fetter slamming the final four yards and Quartaro again kicking for a 21-10 final score.

The statistics:	IOWA	UCLA
First downs	20	14
Yards rushing	241	194
Passes	5-10	7-14
Yards passing	110	82
Punts	7-30.9	5-37
Fumbles lost	1	3
Yards penalized	65	0



Press-Citizen Photo by John B. Ferguson

Many a Hawkeye fan's spirit was healed by Saturday's 21-10 upset of UCLA, but the healing process was nowhere more evident than on split end Jim McNulty. McNulty, sidelined for the contest, forgot the knee injury that had him on crutches as he cheered the Hawks' second touchdown of the afternoon. Stories and more pictures on sports pages, 1B-4B.



Press-Citizen Photo

Hawkeye halfback Jim Jensen (22) bursts out of the grasp of a would-be UCLA tackler and drives forward for a few more precious yards in Iowa's decisive fourth quarter touchdown march here Saturday. Jensen gained 45 of

Iowa's 91 yards in the march which consumed almost eight minutes and produced the final points in the Hawks' astonishing 21-10 victory over the heavily-favored Bruins. See more pictures on Page 4B.



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Thank you, Bob Commings!

Thank you, Bob Commings' assistant coaches!!

And most of all, thank you Bob Commings' football players!!!

What happened Saturday at Kinnick Stadium was like Christmas, the Fourth of July and New Year's Eve all wrapped up in one package!

I think you have to go back 15 years or more to recall a day on which the stadium was so alive with electricity before the game, during the game — and most of all, after the game.

I think you have to go back 18 years to find a time when the goal posts were torn down — to the day in 1956 when Kenny Ploen fired a touchdown pass to Jim Gibbons against Ohio State that carried 2,000 miles to the Rose Bowl.

I think you have to go back 22 years — to the very first season of the Forest Evashevski regime and an incredible 8-0 triumph over Ohio State in 1952 — to find a time when Iowa went into a ball game an underdog by as much as 20 points and came out a winner.

So it was an historic day in Iowa football. To say that the renaissance has arrived, based on just two games and one victory, would be premature, but there can be little doubt that Commings has the program headed where all Hawkeye fans want it to be.

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I SAY THAT BECAUSE Iowa was a beautifully prepared football team Saturday — from both a mental and technical standpoint — and that would have remained true had the game been won or lost, which says a great deal for the coaching staff.

It was obviously prepared to contain the highly-publicized John Sciarra, who almost beat Tennessee all by himself. And it was obviously prepared to find and exploit some weaknesses in the UCLA defense.

We are only two games into the season, but one of the things I note and like is that Iowa has not stood there in the same defense for hour after hour and been run over all afternoon. Commings gave his defense a new look for the UCLA game, and maybe we will see something a bit different for Penn State, which has a quarterback who likes to drop back and throw.

We saw some changes at Michigan. After the Wolverines were ripping off good yardage in the first quarter, Iowa changed its defense and sealed up some holes. Thus, we are seeing some thinking about the game, and some imagination, and some innovation — things which have been lacking for awhile.

We are also seeing, thank heavens, better blocking and tackling than we have seen for awhile.

* * *

THE THING I LIKED most of all Saturday was that the Hawkeyes refused to crumble or lose their spirit or poise in the face of adversity.

When Earl Douthitt mishandled the opening kickoff, got out only to his own four-yard line and a poor punt gave UCLA the ball at Iowa's 34 before a lot of the latecomers arrived, it was so reminiscent of last year it was frightening.

But this time the Hawkeyes didn't buckle, or panic, or give up or quit. It was, as a matter of fact, the same Earl Douthitt who made the first big hit of the game to start applying the brakes to what looked like a UCLA touchdown drive. With UCLA first and 10 at Iowa's 10, Earl met Bruin running back Russel Charles coming around right end and smashed him down for no gain with a mid-section crunch that would have made Craig Clemons proud.

The rest took up the tempo and the Bruins, who might have had an early seven and some important momentum, had to settle for three

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EARLY IN THE SECOND QUARTER, after marching all the way from its own 20 the UCLA 20, Iowa was penalized back to the Bruin 38, making it first and 25. That had to be discouraging. But the Hawkeyes didn't let it bother them. Rob Fick almost hit a touchdown pass to Bill Schultz on the next play, and on the play after that DID hit one to Dave Jackson.

Twice in the second half, with the game still very much in doubt, once when it was 14-3 and again when it was 14-9, Iowa twice missed first down yardage when there was less than a yard to go on third down. But the Hawkeyes didn't quit. They didn't let down. They kept working. They played a 60-minute game.

When Jim Jensen fumbled and UCLA completed a 16-yard pass to Iowa's 41 for a first down in the fourth quarter, that dogged Iowa defense didn't quit, it rose to the occasion.

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AND THEN CAME THE DECISIVE part of the afternoon. Moments before, Iowa had UCLA backed up to its own 10-yard line. But now the Bruins had changed the momentum and reversed the field position. With the score 14-9, and with Iowa backed up to its own nine-yard line, the Bruins were in position to take the ball, and take the ball game.

But the ruined Bruins never saw the ball again until it was too late. Hammering here and hammering there, the Hawkeyes took that ball and marched 91 yards in 14 plays to hang seven big points up on the scoreboard as the roar of the crowd grew and grew and grew with every yard gained and every second that ticked off the clock.

Finally, it was pandemonium when Mark Fetter determinedly bounced off a tackle or two and bounced into the UCLA end zone and bounced the ball 50 feet into the air with only one minute and 28 seconds to play.

It was all over then. The clock didn't matter anymore. The only thing ticked off was UCLA.

It was a beautiful ball game, a beautiful day on which Iowa announced to the world its return to football respectability.

It is perhaps unfair to single out specific players for having done well, because it was obviously a triumph which belonged to the team. But I thought Rob Fick showed exceptional poise for a man playing virtually his second college football game at quarterback. I thought some of Dan McCarney's blocks must have loosened the numerals on a few UCLA jerseys. I thought Mark Fetter exploded through the line and kept driving better than any Iowa back I've seen in a long time. And I thought guys like Lynn Heil and Dan LaFleur and Bob Elliott made some of UCLA's backs feel their tackles all the way back to Los Angeles.

* * *

THE QUESTION NOW IS: Can Iowa keep it up?

To which I would ask: Well why not?

The only thing Iowa has to do to beat Penn State is play better than it did against UCLA. That's asking a lot, but it's not impossible.

Let's not be fooled by Penn State's 7-6 loss Saturday to unheralded Navy. The Nittany Lions, who like to throw, played in a downpour. They're still an outstanding football team and Iowa suddenly (and gloriously) has lost the advantage of being taken lightly by anyone.

Bob Commings said a few weeks ago he had no goals of winning a specific number of games this season. All he wanted to do was win "a" game. After his team had done that, he said, he would start worrying about winning another one.

Now is the time to start worrying about winning "another one."

Ain't that great?

Going back

with Bob!





Bob Fick passed AND ran for Iowa.



Mark Fetter goes over for Iowa's second touchdown . . .

It was like
old times
again:
Hawks
ruin
Bruins
in Comming's
home debut

Press-Citizen photos
by John Ferguson, Darrell Henry



Sciarra loses a fumble on the Iowa 6.



. . . and twisted away for the Hawks' final TD.



With 20 seconds left, the Iowa bench goes wild . . .



. . . and moments later pandemonium struck.