The Hawkeyes (4-4, 2-3 Big Ten) will come into this game off of one of their best performances of the season last week against Northwestern. Iowa set its season high for total yards against, as well as lowest defensive yards in the contest, as well as lowest total yards against. Brohm noted the importance of winning a game against an opponent directly in front of them.

"I think that we can't concern ourselves with anything at the end of the tunnel," he said Monday. "That's when you get caught looking down a road and don't prepare as hard as you need to. The only thing on our mind is trying to win this game against Iowa."

Purdue will attempt to neutralize this aspect by rushing out of coverage on key plays in the passing game. "If you throw a ball near one of their guys, they catch it," he said. "It's noticeable. They don't drop interceptions."

To prepare O'Connell for such a defense, Brohm said he might have to make his quarterback adjust more in practice so that he remains composed if the receivers struggle to get open. Purdue's passing game has been productive this season, leading the Big Ten with 327 yards per game in conference play. A big part of that productivity has been receiver Charlie Jones, who transferred from Iowa along with fellow wideout Tyrone Tracy Jr. Tracy and Jones have combined for 15 total touchdowns, 30% of the team's total yards this season.

Overcoming injuries

Brohm said he’s hoping that Jones, who has struggled with injuries throughout the season, will be in better shape after the week off. "We’ll see where he is at this week, but we’ll use this time to hopefully get guys healed," he said. "In the end, they know they have to get out there and practice some in order to play."

The team’s struggles with injuries aren’t limited to Jones, as Brohm called defensive end Keyvon Trice and Jamari Brown did not practice during this bye week. Brohm and said, and there is a chance Brown will be out against Northwestern.

Regardless of whether the secondary is at full strength for Saturday, Brohm stressed the need for them to improve. "If the Hawkeyes are forced to play from behind, they will have to opt for more downfield chances rather than easy completions and rush attempts. They never trailed against Northwestern."

A win would put Brohm at 5-1 in his career versus Iowa, and get the Boilers a quarter of the way to finish the Big Ten West title.

"I’m going to make sure that we utilize our players as much as you can. As far as the team, I see a lot of players that have the opportunity somewhere else, they need to go."

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