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Ames brews now in Hawkeye land

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For Iowa Hawkeye fans who visit Ames, Olde Main Brewing Co. brews are a special treat.

But now, the brews made in Cyclone country don't have to be relegated to before and after away games at the cross-state rival.

"Beer is beer, and from what I understand, Hawkeyes drink beer, too," said head brewer Jeff "Puff" Irvin.

Irvin and his colleagues at the brew pub started distributing their beer throughout Iowa, including in Iowa City and Cedar Rapids, in May.

Availability in Iowa City comes 11 months after Olde Main started a bottling line. The beer is now carried at nearly 350 locations in Iowa, according to the company.

Olde Main distributes brews called Dinkey Wheat, Long Face and Off KILTer. Others styles will become available later this year.

Some restaurants, bars and retailers carry the beer. They come in six packs at stores and are available in kegs.

In addition to the Dinkey (a Belgian-style wheat ale), the Long Face (a lighter amber ale) and Off KILTer (a Scottish ale), Olde Main carries three other beers regularly, along with a root beer and various seasonal beers throughout the year.

Irvin said he plans to distribute his pale ale beginning in June and a stout in the fall.

"I just want to sell beer," Irvin said. "I'd like to be in the entire state, offering in all 99 counties by end of the year. We want to grow slow, get in people's hands and go from there."
