

Veterans set to lead Blackhawks

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The Iowa Blackhawks, Council Bluffs' indoor professional football team, announced the return of seven veterans for the 2009 season, which begins on Saturday, April 25, at the Mid-America Center.

Linebacker Chris Moore (5-foot-10, 215 pounds), a perennial all-star; quarterback Chuck Wright (6-2, 225), the team's all-time leading passer; defensive back Scott Yates (5-11, 205), who has the most interceptions in team history, will join offensive lineman Tyrice Ellebb (6-3, 360), defensive end Ryan Hoden (6-2, 275) and wide receiver Mike Stuart (5-11, 190) and defensive back Burton Bosan (5-8, 180) as impact players for the Blackhawks, who look to be a team to beat in the American Professional Football League.

Moore, Wright, Yates and Ellebb are in the second year of long-term contracts with the Blackhawks and have served as ambassadors for the organization over the years by making public appearances and speaking at schools in southwest Iowa and northeast Nebraska.

Moore, a Thomas Jefferson graduate, was an APFL's defensive player of the year. Moore is agile and aggressive, and looks to lead the Blackhawks for a full season after missing time in 2008 with a nagging injury.

Wright has been with the organization since 2004 and has thrown for more than 4,500 yards and 93 touchdowns.

Yates, who coaches football and track at Elk Horn-Kimballton High School, has intercepted 12 passes since 2005 and is the premier free safety in the league.

Ellebb has been with the Blackhawks for five seasons and been a league all-star on both sides of the football. Ellebb is also a YMCA youth mentor in the Omaha area. Ellebb is extremely mobile for a player his size.

Hoden, another Thomas Jefferson grad, has been with Iowa since 2007 and gives defenders a handful with his speed and strength from the defensive end position.

Stuart is a triple threat running, receiving and returning the ball. In 2008 he was the second leading scorer on the season with nine touchdowns and 54 points. Playing since 2006, Stuart's role has increased every season, and the team is looking for a break out season.

Bosan returned to the Blackhawks late last season after a brief stint with the Omaha Beef. He adds another dimension to the Blackhawks with his speed and athletic skills. Bosan has played cornerback on defense, receiver on offense, and has been a crowd favorite since joining the Blackhawks in 2006.

"We're expecting big things from the team (in 2009), and looking to win the APFL championship," said Yates. "We have a nice blend of veterans and youth. It should be a successful season, and hope the good people of southwest Iowa and the Council Bluffs area come out and support us this season."

The Blackhawks open against the Nebraska Tornadoes on April 25 at the Mid-America Center.

Season tickets can be purchased by visiting www.iowablackhawks.com or by calling (712) 256-6180.

Single game tickets are available at the Mid-America Center's box office or by visiting www.ticketmaster.com.