



## “Half the Field – Twice the Fun!”

**IOWA BLACKHAWKS**  
**Indoor Professional Football**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Blackhawks still adding talent; former Colorado RB**

**By Ace Hendricks, Blackhawks staff writer**

COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA – With less than two weeks before their opening contest of the 2009 season, the Iowa Blackhawks, Council Bluffs’ indoor professional football team, have a wave of youngsters on the offensive side of the ball who look to make a splash this season. Only one, Brad Triplett, a Council Bluffs native, played last season with the Blackhawks; while another local product, Mell Holliday, begins the season with the potential to be a great indoor running back with his blend of strength and speed.



Holliday, a rookie, hails from Omaha, and was a two-way star at Benson High School. The 5'9", 215-pounder lettered twice at Wayne State, before winding up at the University of Colorado, where he rushed for 512 yards on 105 carries, and caught 15 passes for 129 yards in 2006. He could be a real workhorse for the Blackhawks running attack.

Triplett graduated from Lewis Central High School, and played in 2008 with the Blackhawks. A rookie last season, Triplett made great strides learning the indoor game, becoming one of Iowa's most reliable receivers at season's end, after beginning the season low on the depth chart. His most productive game was against the Nebraska Extreme, when the 6'2", 200-pound receiver caught five passes for 73 yards and one touchdown. He ended the season as the Blackhawks third leading receiver.

#### **HOLLIDAY**

Three new receivers will accompany Triplett on the roster in 2009, with one, Neuby Ras, having experience in indoor football, playing for the Omaha Beef and Bloomington Extreme. Rookies Marque McCray and Zach Hood join the Blackhawks with strong college backgrounds.

Ras caught 30 passes in two seasons with the Beef, scoring four touchdowns during the 2005-06 seasons. Ras also garnered Honorable Mention All-American honors in 2002 while at North Dakota School of Science, a junior college. Ras ran track at Northern State University in Aberdeen, North Dakota before finishing his career at St. Cloud State University.

Hood, a 6'2", 210-pound product of Midland Lutheran College in Fremont, Nebraska and native of Texas, caught 38 passes in four seasons for the Warriors, good for 380 yards - including a 13-140 and one touchdown season in 2008. McCray was an All-American in 2003 at the College of San Mateo, excelling at kickoff and punt returns. The 5'10", 188-pound speedster was all-conference in 2005 at Wayne State, catching 26 passes for 562 yards (21.6 average) and seven touchdowns, as well as returning 13 kickoffs for a 25.5 average and one touchdown - a 100-yard return.

Quarterback Ben Alford, who like Blackhawks veteran passer, Chuck Wright, hails from Florida, will begin his professional career in a Iowa uniform. The 6'2", 210-pounder was an all-everything passer



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at North Iowa Community College, before transferring to the University of Northern Iowa. Alford was an Honorable Mention All-American in 2006 at NIACC leading the Trojans to a 7-4 record and Graphics Edge Bowl appearance, throwing for 1,488 yards and rushing for an additional 749. At UNI, Alford was oft-injured, but a member of two conference championship and Division I-AA playoff teams. He is adept at passing on the run and is highly athletic.

Blocking for these new players are rookie linemen Fadil Shabbazz (6'8", 295) and Willie Bradley (6'4", 360) two of the biggest linemen in indoor football. The Blackhawks are expecting "big" things from these two linemen.

Shabbazz is a native of California and played at Mt. San Antonio Junior College in Walnut, California; Fadil was voted Offensive Lineman of the Year and Most Improved Player in 2004. Bradley hails from Lawton, Oklahoma and attended the University of Central Oklahoma, and lettered for the Broncos in 2006. They should join the Iowa offensive line veterans to form quite possibly the biggest unit in all of indoor football.

The Blackhawks will be kicking off their sixth season of indoor professional football at the Mid-America Center on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> versus the Nebraska Tornadoes. Season tickets are available now and can be purchased by visiting [www.iowablackhawks.com](http://www.iowablackhawks.com) or by calling their office at (712) 256.6180. Single game tickets are also now available for purchase at the Mid-America Center's box office or by visiting [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).

**Have a question about this article? Feel free to contact anyone below for more information.**

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