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Football Notes: Indoor team in Bluffs to open play

COUNCIL BLUFFS — Before last summer, the Iowa Blackhawks had spent their entire existence in the American Professional Football League chasing the Kansas Koyotes.

Now that the Blackhawks have turned the tables on their rivals, Iowa is now the hunted.

The reigning APFL champions from Council Bluffs will open their season Saturday at 7 p.m. against the Missouri Mustangs at the Mid-America Center.

Iowa has become the team to beat, and the Blackhawks know it.

“This year, we’re coming in as defending champs,” defensive standout Chris Moore said. “We have something to prove that it wasn’t just a fluke. We have a big target on our back now. Everybody’s coming out to get us.”

Iowa coach Mike Wolff said he’s comfortable with his team’s role as the top dog.

“We’ve talked about that with the guys on a couple of different occasions during camp,” Wolff said. “We’ve let them know that the bull’s-eye is squarely on their backs so they have to bring their ‘A’ game every night.”

That starts against the Mustangs of the Central Plains Football League, an outdoor league based in Missouri and Kansas that plays by indoor rules.

Missouri (4-0) is the first of three Central Plains Football League foes for the Blackhawks before play begins in the four-team American Professional Football League. Iowa hosts teams from Independence, Mo., and Junction City, Kan., before traveling to Topeka, Kan., to face the Koyotes on May 8.