

## Blackhawks ready to kick off 2006

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Published: Friday, April 21, 2006 2:00 AM CDT

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Blackhawks Coach Mike Wolff is very optimistic about the new season.

"With the players we retained from last year's squad," said Wolff, "the new talent that showed up at tryouts, and the recruiting efforts from the coaching staff we believe we have put together another championship caliber team. Our offense will be more explosive than last year's team, and our defense is lightning fast and loaded with guys that like to hit."

Leading the way for the Blackhawks are former Thomas Jefferson and University of Nebraska-Omaha standout running back Justin Kammrad and two-time Indoor Professional Football League Most Valuable Player Troy Travis.

Kammrad led the league in yards from scrimmage (525) and touchdowns (18) last season.

Travis, the former Omaha Beef standout, will start at quarterback. While with the Beef, Travis set IPFL records for passing yards in a season (2,415) and touchdown passes (48) while recording two IPFL MVP awards in 2002 and 2003.

"I believe we have two of the best offensive players in the Midwest playing together," said Wolff. "I am very excited to see how well they complement each other."

Other Iowa players on the roster are defensive lineman Travis Kleinbeck (Abraham Lincoln), linebacker Nick Freet (Thomas Jefferson), defensive back Chris Moore (Thomas Jefferson), linebacker Kurt Ferguson (Abraham Lincoln), offensive lineman Trevor Wragge (Logan-Magnolia), defensive back Dontrell Ducker (Des Moines Roosevelt), offensive lineman Shawn Ronk (Abraham Lincoln), and wide receiver Kyle Peterson (Abraham Lincoln).

Iowa has also signed eastern Nebraska players which include All-American wrestler and offensive lineman, Tyrice Ellebb (Boys Town), former NFL Houston Oiler running back Shun Wells (Lawrence County), offensive lineman Dave Liebenritt (Omaha Skutt), linebacker Nick Marchisio (Papillion-LaVista), running back Elijah Simmons (Omaha North), defensive back Scott Yates (Geneva), kicker Paul Kosel (Omaha Burke), running back Eric Johnson (Omaha South), defensive back Ray Rose (Omaha North), wide receiver Ryan Kauffman (Cozad), and wide receiver Yano Jones (Omaha Northwest).

Last season, wide receivers Kauffman and Jones, finished with 29 receptions each to share the league lead in that category.

Also signed are veteran defensive back Donate Allen and defensive lineman Mike Reynolds.

The Minutemen opened their season last week on the short end of a 72-16 loss to the Koyotes.

The Blackhawks' first home opener Saturday, April 29 at 7:05 p.m. On Wednesday, April 26, the Blackhawks will host an open practice at the Mid-American Center for its fans. This "sneak peek" at the team will also be a chance to get tickets for the opener and is free to the public.

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