

## Blackhawks roll to another blowout

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On Iowa's first pass play of Saturday's game with Junction City, Mike Stuart dropped a Chuck Wright throw in the open field. He then went to midfield and did 10 push-ups in public penance before continuing to make up for it the rest of the night.

The playmaker from Morningside College caught four first-half touchdown passes as the Blackhawks (3-0) blasted the Force 87-28 in their final tune-up for next week's American Professional Football League opener at Kansas.

Stuart finished the game with eight receptions for 151 yards, numbers that are hard to reach on a 50-yard field indoors, after getting dogged by some teammates for the drop.

"It was pretty blatant, pretty out in the open," Stuart said. "I knew I had to redeem myself. Everybody saw the 10 push-ups on the field. After that, I was just trying to make up for what I did."

Stuart's big night highlighted the third consecutive blowout victory by the defending APFL champions to open the season. In its three nonleague games against teams from the Central Plains Football League, Iowa outpointed its opponents by a combined score of 259-61.

Next up is rival Kansas on the road in Topeka. The Koyotes dominated the APFL until the Blackhawks turned the tables on them a year ago to claim the league title.

If the first three games are any indication, Iowa doesn't seem to have taken a step back. The Blackhawks weren't perfect Saturday, but they weren't far from it.

"I think we're as ready as we're going to get," Iowa coach Mike Wolff said. "We're going to have to break down this film. We did have some fundamental breakdowns. ... But those are small mistakes that we can fix."

Eric Johnson returned the opening kickoff for a touchdown, and Alsid Panteau capped the night by doing it again in the closing seconds. In between, Wright tied the team record for touchdown passes with six. He had set the mark a week ago in an 81-6 win over Kansas City.

"These first three games were good," said Wright, who completed 11 of his 14 passes for 173 yards Saturday. "I think our offense seems to be a little more powerful in the passing game, but we still have the ability to run."

Running back Mell Holliday ran for two scores while Steve Rush caught two TD passes and ran for another. The Blackhawks also got interception returns for touchdowns by Ryan Newell and Tim Thies in the fourth quarter.

Iowa forced six Junction City turnovers in the game and gave up just 111 total yards. Only seven of those yards came on the ground as the Blackhawks held the Force (5-2) to zero or negative yards on 13 of its 18 carries.

Junction City (5-2) 8 6 6 8 - 28

Iowa (3-0) 27 20 13 26 - 87

I: Eric Johnson 38 kickoff return (Jerry Lakin kick)

J: Safety, Chuck Wright kicked fumble through end zone

I: Mell Holliday 7 run (Lakin kick)

I: Mike Stuart 3 pass from Wright (kick failed)

J: Clint Johnson 12 pass from Chris Vercher (pass failed)

I: Stuart 14 pass from Wright (Lakin kick)

J: Felix Moret 7 pass from Vercher (pass failed)

I: Steve Rush 5 pass from Wright (Lakin kick)

I: Stuart 38 pass from Wright (kick blocked)

I: Stuart 15 pass from Wright (Lakin kick)

I: Holliday 2 run (Lakin kick)

J: Nathan Phillips 37 from Vercher (pass failed)

I: Rush 8 pass from Wright (pass failed)

I: Ryan Newell 22 interception return (Lakin kick)

I: Rush 1 run (Lakin kick)

I: Tim Thies 20 interception return (Lakin kick)

J: Moret 20 pass from Vercher (Johnson pass from Vercher)

I: Alsid Panteau 52 kickoff return (kick failed)

#### Individual Statistics

RUSHING: J, Vercher 8-3, Johnson 5-4, Ewing 4-0, Brown 1-0. I, Holliday 9-39, Johnson 2-11, Rush 2-5, Wright 2-(-15), Stuart 1-(-4).

PASSING: J, Vercher 9-28-5 106, Phillips 1-2-0 (-2). I, Wright 11-14-1 173, Rush 1-2-0 5.

RECEIVING: J, Moret 6-51, Johnson 3-16, Phillips 1-37. I, Stuart 8-151, Kirvin 2-18, Rush 2-13.