

Blackhawk set to play home opener



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The Iowa Blackhawks open the home part of the football season Friday with a 7:05 p.m. contest against the Kansas Koyotes at the Mid-America Center.

It will be the first of five home games for the Blackhawks, who play in the American Professional Football League, after beating the Wichita Wranglers on the road, 40-35, on April 23.

Members of the 2005 team include former Thomas Jefferson and University of Nebraska-Omaha standouts Justin Kammrad and Chris Moore. Each contributed in the game against Wichita, with Kammrad scoring a touchdown and Moore catching a 32-yard pass.

"(Kammrad) definitely has the potential to be one of the best running backs in the league," said Blackhawks General Manager Jake Hiffernan. "His contribution to the team is one that will take us to the next level of success."

Hiffernan said that Moore will start at cornerback.

"He's a versatile player," said Hiffernan.

Iowa will be led by quarterback Chuck Wright, who threw for 172 yards and four touchdowns against Wichita. Receivers Yano Jones and Ryan Kauffman will be his main targets. Kauffman will likely start despite a stress fracture in his ribcage.

"We're always impressed by what our receivers do," Hiffernan said.

Blackhawks management thinks highly of Wright's potential.

"With the receivers that we have and Justin Kammrad running the ball, he's probably going to be the best quarterback in the league," he said.

Coach Mike Wolff will have plenty of talent at his disposal. Jones caught eight passes for 86 yards and two touchdowns against Wichita. Center Tyrice Ellebb has also impressed coaches during practice.

"This guy is an animal," Hiffernan said.

Hiffernan noted that the Blackhawks have strong talent all around the field.

"There are very few spots where we'll shine more than others because of the balance," said Hiffernan. "I would say that our strengths are our (defensive backs), our linebackers, the wide receivers and our running game.

"We're extremely balanced this year."

The Blackhawks will take on a Koyotes team that has won both APFL championships and has never lost a game since the inception of the APFL in 2003. The Koyotes have beaten the Blackhawks in each of their last three matchups and appear to be just as strong this season.

"The Koyotes are going to give every team in the APFL a fit," Hiffernan said.

Hiffernan is confident that the Blackhawks will be able to hold their own against the Koyotes.

"(The Koyotes) are the best team in the league. They're pretty potent," said Hiffernan. "But, I think we match up with them pretty well.

"The talent is off the charts for this team."