

Koyotes spoil Blackhawks home opener



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By JOSH MURPHY

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Shields then caught a 21-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Chris Coffin to give the Koyotes a 32-28 lead with six seconds left. A Coffin pass to Shawn Keeling for the two-point conversion pushed the Koyotes' lead to six.

The ensuing kickoff was returned to midfield. With two seconds remaining on the clock, Blackhawks quarterback Chuck Wright threw the ball toward the end zone but it sailed out of bounds as time expired.

"The Koyotes have playmakers," said Blackhawks coach Mike Wolff. "Our kids played hard.

"I tip my hat to the Koyotes."

"As a team we knew we could play with them," said Blackhawks running-back Justin Kammrad. "They just had one more touchdown tonight."

Kammrad, the former Thomas Jefferson and University of Nebraska-Omaha standout, got the Blackhawks on the scoreboard first, running the ball in from two yards out to give Iowa a 6-0 lead with 7:54 remaining in the first quarter.

The Corey Harold extra-point kick was converted to make the score 7-0. After a Coffin one-yard run and failed two-point conversion attempt closed the gap to 7-6, Kammrad ran the ball in from one yard out. The extra-point attempt failed, leaving the Blackhawks ahead 13-6 with 7:18 left in the first half.

A touchdown pass from Coffin to Shields cut the lead down to one, but Harold kicked a 27-yard field goal with 27 seconds remaining in the half to give the Blackhawks a 16-12 lead.

Kansas quickly took the lead after halftime when Donnell Smith ran the ball in from six yards out with 10:33 remaining in the third quarter, putting the Koyotes up 19-16. The Blackhawks responded two minutes later with a 13-yard touchdown run from George Patterson III, and a field goal from Harold pushed the lead up to 25-19 to end the third quarter.

Smith scored from three yards out in the first play of the fourth quarter, and a Bruno Vasconcelos kick pushed the Koyotes up 26-25.

A Harold field goal three minutes later restored the Blackhawks' lead. Vasconcelos missed two field goals in the quarter to set up the last-minute drama.

"I think what made the difference was that we were playing an undefeated team," said Iowa special-teams coach Mike Bonner. "They proved why they're (undefeated)."

"We put in a lot of hard work," said Wright. "We knew what they were going to do."

The Iowa defense held Kansas to 213 yards and only two third-down conversions.

"The defense played absolutely outstanding," said Wright. "I give them a lot of credit."

The Blackhawks, who fall to 1-1, resume play in two weeks when they take on the Missouri Minutemen May 21 at the Mid-America Center.

Kansas 0 12 7 15 - 34

Blackhawks 7 9 9 3 - 28

Records: Kansas Koyotes (3-0), Iowa Blackhawks (1-1).