

Blackhawks cruise past Missouri

The Iowa Blackhawks welcomed a new quarterback to the team with seven rushing touchdowns and cruised to an easy 61-20 win over the Missouri Minutemen Saturday night at the Mid-America Center

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The Iowa Blackhawks welcomed a new quarterback to the team with seven rushing touchdowns and cruised to an easy 61-20 win over the Missouri Minutemen Saturday night at the Mid-America Center.

The win may have been costly, however, with standout running back Justin Kammrad injured from a possible tear of his ACL in the first quarter.

Chris Raff, having previous indoor football experience with the Lincoln Crush, let his new teammates carry much of the load in his first start for the Blackhawks. Raff completed three-of-six passes for 24 yards and a touchdown.

Meanwhile, George Patterson rushed 10 times for 84 yards and three touchdowns and Elijah Simmons had six carries for 49 yards and two touchdowns.

Justin Kammrad rushed once for eight yards and scored the first Blackhawk touchdown but was injured on the ensuing kickoff. His status for next weekend's big home game against the Kansas Coyotes is questionable.

Following a disappointing 48-13 loss to Kansas last week, Kammrad out of the game and Raff in his first start with limited practice time, the Blackhawks were looking for answers. Patterson and Simmons stepped up and led a rushing attack that allowed Raff time to adjust to his new role as Blackhawk quarterback.

"I'm glad that we could work Raff into the game and not force him to carry the load" said Patterson. "The first time he handed off to me, I ran into him. He is a big man. We worked through that and we ran the ball well."

Raff, standing 6-7 and 285 pounds, showed quickness and scrambling ability.

"It was a solid first start for Raff" said head coach Mike Wolff. "He likes the long passes but may need to work on short reads."

Raff agreed with his new coach.

"I went yard when I should have taken the shorter route" said Raff, who last played for the Lincoln Crush in 2003.

"I wanted to avoid making costly mistakes tonight. The running game took pressure off of me. It felt good to be out there again."

Iowa took a 21-12 halftime lead but had to have been disappointed allowing the Minutemen to score. Missouri's first touchdown drive was made possible by six penalties called against the Blackhawks. The second touchdown came as time expired with a 20-yard Stanley Gates catch (in traffic) of a Daryl Rider pass. Gates scored both of the Minutemen first-half touchdowns.

In the second half, a harrasing Blackhawk defense led by Nick Freet forced three Minutemen turnovers. Chris Moore intercepted two passes and recovered a fumble as the Blackhawks defense allowed only one score in the second half. The Blackhawks recorded four sacks on the night.

Bosan Burton, a 5-8 180 pound speedster at defensive back, made his debut for the Blackhawks and was involved in several pass break-ups.

"He's a stud" said Wolff.

The Blackhawk ground game controlled the ball and gave Wolff some answers to questions coming into the game.

"We can run effectively if needed" said Patterson. "We can run and we can throw."

Missouri Minutemen 0 12 0 8 - 20

Iowa Blackhawks 19 2 13 27 - 61

I: Justin Kammrad, 8-run (missed kick)

I: Ryan Kauffman 7-pass from Chris Raff (Kosel Kick)

I: Scott Yates 30-blocked field-goal return (missed kick)

M: Stanley Gates 6-pass from Daryl Rider (missed kick)

I: Safety (Nick Freet)

M: Stanley Gates 20-pass from Daryl Rider (missed kick)

I: George Patterson 3-run (missed kick)

I: Elijah Simmons 3-run (Kosel kick)

I: Elijah Simmons 9-run (Kosel kick)

M: Gary Helms 14-pass from Daryl Rider (conversion good)

I: George Patterson 27-run (Kosel kick)

I: George Patterson 6-run (Kosel kick)

I: Eric Johnson 10-run (missed kick)

Iowa

Rushing: George Patterson 10-84-3, Elijah Simmons 6-49-2, Eric Johnson 7-26-1, Chris Raff 1-9-0, Justin Kammrad 1-8-1.

Passing: Chris Raff 3-6-24-1-1.

Receiving: Ryan Kauffman 2-16-1, Elijah Simmons 1-8-0.

Missouri

Rushing: R. Scott 8-0, J. Rice 7-9, A. Williams 1-3, G. Helms 1-3.

Passing: R. Scott 12-31-97-3-3.

Receiving: A. Williams 6-48, S. Gates 2-26-2, J. Rice 1-6, R. Stinvil 2-3, G. Helms 1-14-1.

Attendance: 1,056

