

Iowa Blackhawks rip Missouri



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Published: Monday, May 23, 2005 2:00 AM CDT

It was the Justin Kammrad Show at the Mid-America Center Saturday night.

Kammrad, the former Thomas Jefferson and Nebraska-Omaha standout, caught two touchdown passes and ran for two more to help the Iowa Blackhawks beat the Missouri Minutemen, 61-28, in American Professional Football League action.

Kammrad caught four passes and gained 121 of the Blackhawks' 301 yards in the game. He had a strong first half, scoring three times in the half, despite having a subpar week in practice.

"I struggled all week coming into this game, but I caught two touchdown passes," Kammrad said.

"He was on fire," quarterback Chuck Wright said of Kammrad. "He told me in practice this week that he wanted the ball. Coach (Mike) Wolff said to give him the ball."

Wolff said that the offensive game plan involved using the passing game to set up the running game, both which were assets that heavily involved Kammrad.

"When we were in the locker room before the game, I said, 'Justin, this is going to be your breakout party,'" said Wolff. "We had some plays that were set up especially for him."

Wolff credited the offensive line in helping Kammrad's performance in the game.

Kammrad said that he was excited to bounce back from the loss to Kansas on May 6.

"The biggest thing was to improve from our last game," Kammrad said. "I didn't feel like I performed up to my potential in that game."

Wright completed 11 out of 16 passes, throwing for 181 yards and four scores.

"Chuck Wright had a (great) game," Kammrad said.

The Blackhawks never trailed in the contest. Wide receiver George Patterson III scored first on a 30-yard touchdown pass from Wright. Two minutes after John Knust scored on a one-yard run to tie the game, Kammrad ran in a touchdown from four yards out to put the Blackhawks up for good with eight minutes left in the first quarter.

"We just started off fantastic tonight," said Wright. "The defense executed in the second half like we wanted to.

"If we can do this every game, we'll have a chance to win."

Eric Johnson ran for two touchdowns in the second quarter and another in the fourth to pad the Blackhawks' lead. Kurt Ferguson added a 19-yard touchdown catch in the third quarter and Iowa was also aided by safeties in the first and fourth quarters.

The Blackhawks' defense held Missouri to 195 yards, limiting former Baltimore Raven Jason Brookins to 11 yards on one play.

"We had a good idea of what they were going to do offensively," Wolff said. "We went to our basic defense ... we were able to shut them down."

This is the first home victory in the Blackhawks' two-year history. Iowa improves to 2-1 this season, and will face the Minutemen again on Saturday in Sedalia. The next home game for the Blackhawks will be on Saturday, June 4, when they take on the Wichita Aviators in a 7:05 contest.

Missouri 7 15 6 0 - 28

Blackhawks 16 24 6 15 - 61

Records: Missouri (1-2), Iowa (2-1).