



Half the Field – Twice the Fun!

IOWA BLACKHAWKS Indoor Professional Football

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Late rally not enough for Blackhawks

ACE HENDRICKS, Blackhawks staff writer

TOPEKA, KS – The Iowa Blackhawks, Council Bluffs' indoor professional football team, came within 13-yards of a possible game tying situation, but once again were unsuccessful in Topeka, Kansas, as the (4-0) undefeated Kansas Koyotes came away victorious, 50-43, in front of an aroused crowd at Landon Arena.

The Blackhawks had moved within scoring distance on the final drive of the game, but with a first and goal, Chuck Wright was sacked for a 9-yard loss, due to excellent coverage, and the Iowa offense was never able to recover.

Iowa, now 2-2, face these same Koyotes this Friday, May 30 at the Mid-America Center. The Blackhawks defeated the Koyotes 50-32 last season in Council Bluffs.

A heated rivalry, this game was no different, as both teams played physical and vocal. Several times players were hit after plays, taken out due to injuries, or taunted due to big plays by both teams. It's a rivalry that has seen its share of tough play since it started in 2004.

But in the end it came down to critical situations. Despite Iowa's ability to come back and make it an exciting game, too many breakdowns, missed tackles or special teams miscues gave the Koyotes the advantage at the final gun.

Kansas also benefited from excellent field position throughout the contest - only twice in the game did the Koyotes have to drive for a score from its own territory, as the Blackhawks were constantly in the shadow of its own goal defensively.

Once again, the Blackhawks were hot early, scoring on its initial drive - a 40-yard, six play excursion - with Chuck Wright nailing Mike Stuart with a 20-yard score. Jerry Lakin added the first of five extra points for an early 7-0 lead.

But the Koyotes came right back, with Mike Steens going in from 3-yards. Chris Thompson missed the extra point, and the Blackhawks still led, 7-6. The lead was short lived, as Henry Talley stepped in front of a Wright pass and went 15-yards for a Koyotes touchdown on the very next play from scrimmage. This time the conversion was successful, and Kansas led, 13-7.

Wrecke then caught his first touchdown late in the first quarter, when Bolden zipped it 7-yards to the Kansas veteran, and a 19-7 lead. The Blackhawks came right back, aided by a late hit on Wright following a 21-yard completion, then Simmons punched across his first score from the 1-yard line.



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But again, the Bolden-Wrecke combination mixed again, with a 14-yard strike; if that weren't enough, the Koyotes scored again on the kickoff, when a Blackhawk return man Chris Pomerleau fumbled and the Koyotes returned the bobble 10 yards and a 31-14 lead.

The Blackhawks didn't hesitate, with Stuart carrying twice for 20 yards, and Wright hitting Kauffman cutting across the back of the end zone for a 16-yard score. Then, Scott Yates, who is the Blackhawks leader in career interceptions, pirated Bolden and returned it to the Kansas 6.

Two plays later, Simmons bulled his way in from the three, to cut the lead to 31-28. Again, it was the Kansas special teams who rose to the occasion when Donte Pettis returned the kickoff 45 yards for a touchdown and a 37-28 halftime lead.

The Koyotes did have a last second opportunity to score when they drove to the Iowa goal line, behind Bolden's footwork, with a 21- and 16-yard scamper, before a big play by Ryan Hoden on a bootleg play stopped the Kansas quarterback as the first half ended.

Wrecke was at it again to start the second half, as Kansas went 45 yards, and scored when Wrecke caught a 9-yard touchdown. The drive was seemingly stopped when Bolden was sacked for a 7-yard loss, but a facemask penalty on the play gave Kansas a fresh set of downs from the Iowa 8-yard line.

Iowa came right back, behind two completions and a Kansas penalty, when Simmons darted 11-yards to cut the lead to 43-35.

Neither teams moved on its next set of downs. Kansas then started to roll on the first drive of the fourth quarter. The Koyotes looked to be stopped when Jared Isenhardt intercepted Bolden, but the rookie linebacker was hit and the ball was jarred away from his and recovered by the Koyotes at the 14. After a 13-yard completion, Chris Smith recovered a Koyotes fumble at the seven to help the Blackhawks.

The Blackhawks went nowhere, but a long kick by Lakin pinned the Koyotes back to their six-yard line. Three straight Bolden passes fell incomplete - including two solid Blackhawk secondary pass breakups - before Cameron Gales blocked the Kansas field goal attempt at the one. On the next play Simmons went over to cut the score to 43-41. The Blackhawks elected to go for the two-point conversion, and were successful when Wright found Kauffman for the tying score, 43-43.

Once again, the Koyotes found the winning score from Wrecke, who caught a 5-yard score with a Blackhawks defender draped all over him. This time Thompson converted the kick.

The Blackhawks return to the Mid-America Center this Friday to play the Koyotes for the second time in six days with a 7:05pm kickoff. Single game tickets begin at just \$8 and are on sale now at the MAC box office or by logging on to www.ticketmaster.com. And don't forget... PARKING IS FREE!

Scoring	1	2	3	4	F
Iowa	7	21	7	8	43
Kansas	19	18	6	7	50



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IA – Mike Stuart 20 pass from Chuck Wright (Jerry Lakin kick) 7-0
KS – Bobby Whitsett 3 run (kick failed) 7-6
KS – Henry Talley 15 interception return (Chris Thompson kick) 7-13
KS – Justin Wrecke 8 pass from Nathan Boldin (kick failed) 7-19
IA – Elijah Simmons 1 run (Lakin kick) 14-19
KS – Wrecke 14 pass from Boldin (conversion failed) 14-25
KS – Wayman Carter 10 fumble return (conversion failed) 14-31
IA – Ryan Kauffman 17 pass from Wright (Lakin kick) 21-31
IA – Simmons 3 run (Lakin kick) 28-31
KS – Talley 50 kick return (conversion failed) 28-37
KS – Wrecke 9 pass from Boldin (kick failed) 28-43
IA – Simmons 11 run (Lakin kick) 35-43
IA – Simmons 1 run (Kauffman pass from Wright) 43-43
KS – Wrecke 5 pass from Boldin (Thompson kick) 43-50

Rushing: Iowa; Elijah Simmons 9-32, Mike Stuart 7-33, Eric Johnson 1- -4, Chuck Wright 2- -16; Kansas; Nathan Boldin 6-39, Donnell Smith 4-15, Mike Steens 5-9, Bobby Whitsett 3-2

Passing: Iowa; Chuck Wright 12-23-144-2, Chris Pomerleau 0-2-0-0; Kansas; Nathan Boldin 15-30-206-2

Receiving: Iowa; Ryan Kauffman 5-57, Mike Stuart 3-44, Chris Pomerleau 2-27, Kurt Ferguson 1-8, Elijah Simmons 1-8

Have a question about this article? Please feel free to contact anyone below for more information.

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