



Half the Field – Twice the Fun!

IOWA BLACKHAWKS Indoor Professional Football

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Blackhawks to battle rival Koyotes

ACE HENDRICKS, Blackhawks staff writer

COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA – The Iowa Blackhawks, Council Bluffs' indoor professional football team, return home to the Mid-America Center this Friday in the most important home game to date, the Blackhawks will try to come off a two-game skid on a special Friday night contest, when their arch rival Kansas Koyotes come to town. Game time will still be at 7:05 p.m.

The Blackhawks suffered a heart-stopping 50-43 loss to the Koyotes last Saturday in Topeka. The loss was the second consecutive for Iowa, something that hasn't occurred since consecutive losses to Wichita and the Koyotes in 2006.

The Koyotes sit alone atop the APFL's Northern Conference, at 4-0. The Springfield WolfPack are 3-2, and the Blackhawks next at 2-2. Friday night's contest is the first of three consecutive important games, with the Blackhawks traveling to the Nebraska Extreme on June 7, then hosting Springfield on June 14.

In last week's loss, the Blackhawks overcame a 19-7 deficit at the end of the first quarter, and played inspired football, but in the end special teams play did the Iowa club in. The Blackhawks were also without the services of All-League defensive back Scott Yates for most of the contest, but received excellent play from Chris Henry in his place.

The Koyotes come in with the second-rated passer in the APFL in Nathan Bolden, who threw for 206 yards in the victory over Iowa. He completed 15 passes, with four touchdowns - all to Justin Wrecke - in 30 attempts. Wrecke caught seven passes for 66 yards. On the season, Wrecke has caught 24 passes for 277 yards and leads the league with 10 touchdowns and 62 points.

Bolden leads the Koyotes rushing attack with 49 yards on the season; Mike Steens in next with 36 yards on 17 carries, and bulldozing Donnell Smith had 30 yards on 13 carries.

Controlling Bolden's arm as well as his feet will be important for the Blackhawks, as the rookie quarterback stepped off big gains of 21 and 16 yards on one drive last week. Several times the elusive passer seemed to be stopped, but was able to get out of trouble with his mobility.

Another situation that Iowa needs to resolve is starting field position. All evening the Koyotes seemingly were inside the Blackhawks territory to start their drive, while the Iowa offense was starting its offensive drives with a long field.

Elijah Simmons had a big night in the loss, carrying nine times for 32 yards and scoring four touchdowns. He also caught one pass for 8 yards. So far this season Simmons has scored seven touchdowns and run for 100 yards. Mike Stuart has gained 70 yards in 14 carries, and Eric Johnson 66 on 16 carries.



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Ryan Kauffman could make history again this weekend, needing seven yards to crack the 1,000 yard barrier for his career. The 195-pounder has caught 89 passes for 993 yards and 22 touchdowns. He will have the league's third-rated passer in Chuck Wright (52-96, 556 yards, 13 touchdowns) looking to help him set the milestone.

This season, Kauffman missed one game due to injury, but has caught 11 passes for 104 yards, and is second behind Chris Pomerleau, who has snagged 16 for 161 yards. Stuart has caught 8 for 135 and a team leading three touchdown receptions.

The Blackhawks hope to be at full strength defensively, with All-League defensive back Chris Moore nursing a pulled hamstring last week, but still participated against the Koyotes. Yates' situation could be up in the air, but the Blackhawks have several quality secondary performers to take up the slack.

The defensive line of Jon Helget, Ryan Hoden, Chris Smith and Cameron Gales, whose blocked field goal attempt late in the game got the Blackhawks back into the game, could have a lasting effect on the game if Bolden is contained.

For ticket information please visit the Blackhawks' website at www.iowablackhawks.com or by calling the MAC box office @ (712) 323.0536. Tickets start at just \$8 and parking is FREE!

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

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