

Blackhawks forced to play waiting game

The Iowa Blackhawks game Saturday night with St. Joseph Storm has been cancelled.

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Published: Saturday, June 3, 2006 2:00 AM CDT

The Iowa Blackhawks game Saturday night with St. Joseph Storm has been cancelled.

The Storm, in its first year with a full schedule, switched leagues to the National Indoor Football League and consolidated with a struggling Lincoln Capitols franchise.

The weekend off gives the Blackhawks (3-3) more time to recover from injuries and solidify the quarterback position.

The Blackhawks are hopeful to get Ryan Kaufman back on the field. Kaufman is scheduled for a second set of x-rays before being cleared to play.

Wide receiver Kyle Peterson has returned from Marine Reserve Duty in Israel.

Nick Freet, ejected in the first quarter from the 61-35 loss to Kansas two weeks ago, is expected back in the lineup. The Koyotes' quarterback, Chris Coffin, felt little pressure after Freet left the game.

"It's an emotional game," said Blackhawks head coach Mike Wolfe. "We have addressed keeping tempers in check."

Defensive back Dontrell Ducker may be lost for the season with a knee injury. Former Thomas Jefferson and UNO star, Justin Kamrad is scheduled for knee surgery the second week of June and is lost for the season.

The biggest question mark for the Blackhawks is at quarterback. Chris Raff and Jeremy Clark are battling for the starting position and another candidate is under consideration.

"We are still trying to iron things out at quarterback," said Wolfe. "We are looking for athleticism and conditioning."

While the quarterback position may be tenuous, the running game has been rock solid. George Patterson, Elijah Simmons and Eric Johnson are quality backs.

"We will let our running game dictate our play," said Wolfe. "Our fullbacks and I-backs are interchangeable."

The trio of backs are supported by a healthy offensive line. Dave Liebenritt, Tyrice Ellebb and Trevor Wragge have dominated the line of scrimmage the first half of the season.

The Blackhawks next game is Saturday, June 10, at the Mid-America Center against the Missouri Minutemen. Game time is 7 p.m.