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Football: Blackhawks perfect bid falters

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SEDALIA, Mo. — Kyle Middleton did it again.

For the second straight year, the Mid-Missouri quarterback led his team to a comeback victory to spoil the Iowa Blackhawks' bid for a perfect season.

He ran for a 16-yard score with 33 seconds left in a 41-38 win at the Mathewson Exhibition Center.

Last June, Middleton threw two late touchdown passes as the Outlaws rallied from a 35-0 deficit to beat Iowa 54-49.

“This is like the Super Bowl for these guys,” said Middleton, who threw for four touchdowns before running for the winner.

The victory pulled the Outlaws (6-1) even with Iowa (6-1) in the American Professional Football League standings. But it didn't come without a controversy.

On the first scrimmage play following Middleton's TD, Iowa's Chuck Wright lofted a pass to Robert Kirin, who caught the ball as he crashed backward into the wall for a potential go-ahead TD. But officials said he trapped the ball against the wall, and he was ruled out of bounds. He wasn't facing the railing, and there is no boundary in indoor football.

“That was the worst call I've ever seen,” Wright said.

Iowa (6-1).....13 13 6 6—38

At Mid-Missouri (5-1).....7 14 0 20—41