

Blackhawks have 'Wright' stuff

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Chuck Wright passed for three touchdowns and ran for another in a successful return to the Iowa Blackhawks and a 35-14 victory over the vastly improved Missouri Minutemen in American Professional Football League action Saturday night at the Mid-America Center.

Wright led the Blackhawks to the championship game in 2005 and threw 25 touchdown passes. He rejoined the Blackhawks less than two weeks ago after playing eight games for the Omaha Beef.

Against the Minutemen, Wright completed 7-of-13 passes for 102 yards and no interceptions.

"It was great to be back with the Blackhawks again," said Wright. "We're banged up by injuries at receiver but have great talent. We will execute better with more practice time. There are a few things to work on in the passing game but they are all fixable."

For head coach Mike Wolfe, the journey to create stability at the quarterback position appears to be complete.

"What really helped during the search was how everyone in the program stepped up," said Wolfe. "The offensive lineman remained dominant, our running backs were awesome and the General Manager Jake Hiffernan showed confidence in our system."

During the five game periods of revolving door quarterbacks, the Blackhawks (3-3) won two games and lost three including a narrow loss to conference co-leader Wichita.

Missouri (2-6) fielded a more athletic and competitive team than what was drubbed by the Blackhawks 61-20 on May 13.

"We made some improvements of our own," said Missouri player-head coach Terry Winfree. "We have added some size and speed to the lineup."

Winfree, at age 36, held his own on both sides of the ball.

"I love this game and enjoy being a coach on the field," said Winfree. "What's hard is when I get called for holding. I have to yell at myself or the refs," he said with a smile.

For the Blackhawks, back-up quarterback Chris Raff saw some playing time on special teams and at nose guard.

"It is important that I find other ways to contribute to the team," said Raff. "We are developing some continuity and it feels like we're coming together as a team."

The Blackhawks led Missouri 21-6 at halftime but had difficulty containing Minutemen quarterback Robert Scott. Scott took advantage of an over-aggressive defensive line and rushed 33 yards and passed for 148 yards.

"He's a dangerous quarterback but he was taking a beating," said Wolfe. "At halftime, we went to more of a contain plan defense and picked off a couple of his passes."

The Blackhawks' first drive of the second half sealed the win. Wolfe went exclusively to the running game and after a 10-play drive, Wright took the ball in over center for a one-yard quarterback sneak to expand the lead to 28-6.

The teams exchanged touchdowns in the fourth quarter, giving the Blackhawks the 35-14 win and momentum going into next weekend's showdown at Wichita. Wichita lost to Kansas 37-34 Saturday night to drop into a two-way tie for first in the conference with the Koyotes at 7-1.

Missouri Minutemen 0 6 0 8 - 14

Iowa Blackhawks 7 14 7 7 - 35

Rushing: Iowa (Elijah Simmons 12-55, Eric Johnson 12-40, Chuck Wright 2-2), Missouri (Robert Scott 7-33, Jason Rice 2-12, Antoine Williams 3-1).

Passing: Iowa (Chuck Wright 7-13-0-102), Missouri (Robert Scott 12-29-3-148).

Receiving: Iowa (Michael Stuart 3-57, Kurt Ferguson 2-46, Kyle Peterson 2-28, Elijah Simmons 1-13, Burton Bosan 1-2), Missouri (n/a).

Scoring:

IA: Elijah Simmons 1 run (Kosel Kick) 1:29 First Quarter

MO: Robert Scott 8 run (conversion turnover) 12:08 Second Quarter

IA: Matt Kluver 47 conversion interception (2pts) 12:08 Second Quarter

IA: Kyle Peterson 21 pass from Chuck Wright (run failed) 8:24 Second Quarter

IA: Kurt Ferguson 24 pass from Chuck Wright (kick failed) 0:23 Second Quarter

IA: Chuck Wright 1 run (Kosel kick) 5:50 Third Quarter

MO: Robert Scott 1 run (Williams pass from Scott good) 13:06 Fourth Quarter

IA: Bo Burton 2 pass from Chuck Wright (Kosel kick) 6:30 Fourth Quarter