

# SWIOWAN NEWS

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## Blackhawks hang on

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The Iowa Blackhawks held on for a hard-fought 29-26 victory over the Springfield Wolfpack in a must-win game with playoff implications Saturday night at the Mid-America Center in American Professional Football League action.

Jared Isenhardt tipped a pass in the closing minute and Dontae Allen intercepted the ball to seal the win. Jake Nimrod had a successful first start at quarterback and the Blackhawks got back on the winning track.

The Blackhawks (4-3) hold a half-game lead over Springfield (4-4) for a shot at the playoffs and emotions spilled over onto the field after the game once Wolfpack players discovered that someone had entered their locker room and wallets were missing. "It's the first time something like that has happened here and we're concerned" said general manager and owner Jake Hiffernan. "The security at the Mid-America Center is good and they will review surveillance video to hopefully catch the culprit."

For much of the game, Iowa had no answer for quarterback scrambles by Colby Hughes who finished with 57 yards on 13 carries. Hughes converted on five fourth-down plays in the contest. The defensive secondary shut down the wide receivers and held Hughes to only 78 yards on 10-of-22 passing. "We have probably the best defensive secondary in the league and we have lock-down corners" said Blackhawks head coach Mike Wolff. "Hughes is a very athletic quarterback and we wanted to put speed on the field to contain him."

Meanwhile, Nimrod made few mistakes in his first start and led the Blackhawks on several impressive drives. Nimrod scored two touchdowns and hit Council Bluffs native Mike Neville on an 11-yard slant pass for a touchdown on the second play of the game. The Luther College graduate connected on eight of 12 passes for 65 yards and committed only one turnover.

The Blackhawks held a 19-14 lead at halftime after Mike Stuart completed an 11-play drive with a four-yard touchdown run. Colby Hughes connected with Logan Hughes for a 7-yard score midway through the third quarter to give the Wolfpack a 20-19 lead. Jerry Lakin's 34-yard field goal gave the Blackhawks the lead at 22-20 at 3:30 of the third quarter.

Hughes connected with Brett Lovekamp on the ensuing drive to put the Wolfpack back in front 26-22 early in the fourth quarter. The Blackhawks scored six plays later on another quarterback keeper by Nimrod to pull ahead 29-26 with just under 8 minutes left to play.

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After a Josh Hayes sack of Hughes for 8 yards, Ryan Dennhart blocked a 53 yard field goal attempt and Iowa took over at Springfield's 11-yard line but the Blackhawks couldn't convert as Jason Mudge intercepted a Nimrod pass in the end zone. That set up the Wolfpack's final drive that ended with Dontae Allen's interception.

It is a new rivalry and we have defeated Springfield two of three games this season" said offensive coordinator Justin Kammrad. "We were able to get that key turnover at the end of the game and that lifts a monkey that was on our back".

Iowa hosts the Nebraska Extreme Saturday, June 28th at the Mid-America Center.

**Springfield Wolfpack**                    7 7 6 6 - 26

**Iowa Blackhawks**                    13 6 3 7 - 29

**Rushing:** Springfield 21-89 (Colby Hughes 13-57, Lee Coleman 5-30, Alvin Johnson 2-3, Winston Grimes 1-(-1), Iowa 19-44 (Elijah Simmons 7-20, Mike Stuart 6-20, Jake Nimrod 6-4).

**Passing:** Springfield (Colby Hughes 10-22-78-1), Iowa (Jake Nimrod 8-12-65-1).

**Receiving:** Springfield (Brett Lovekamp 5-34, Lee Coleman 3-22, Alvin Johnson 1-15, Logan Hughes 1-7), Iowa (Mike Neville 4-33, Mike Stuart 3-22, Brad Triplett 1-10).

**Records:** Springfield (4-4), Iowa (4-3).

**Scoring Summary:**

IA – Mike Neville 11-yard pass from Mike Nimrod (Lakin kick) 13:00 first quarter

SP – Colby Hughes 7-yard run (Shirato kick) 4:55 first quarter

IA – Mike Nimrod 1-yard run (kick failed) 1:00 first quarter

SP – Lee Coleman 7-yard pass from Hughes (Shirato kick) 8:50 second quarter

IA – Mike Stuart 4-yard run (kick failed) :26 second quarter

SP – Logan Hughes pass from Hughes (kick failed) 7:08 third quarter

IA – Jerry Lakin 34-yard field goal 3:30 third quarter

SP – Brett Lovekamp 10-yard pass from Hughes (kick failed) 12:32 fourth quarter

IA – Mike Nimrod 1-yard run (Lakin kick) 8:02 fourth quarter