

## Koyotes use the Force, 62-26

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After facing some of their stiffest competition in franchise history this season, the Kansas Koyotes finally looked like the dominant Koyotes of the past Saturday night at Landon Arena.

The Koyotes controlled things from start to finish, rolling to a 62-26 victory against the Junction City Force in their last home game of the regular season.

With the Koyotes (4-4) having a roller-coaster type season through their first eight games, Kansas coach Jim Green said a blowout win was just what his team needed.

"We needed that spark to get us going at the end of the season, especially heading into the playoffs," Green said. "This is exactly the momentum we needed going into Iowa (next weekend). I don't want the guys to get overconfident, but they needed this to set the next stage for the playoffs."

Justin Wrecke, who caught seven passes for 113 yards with two touchdowns, said the game was another step in the right direction for the improving Koyotes.

"I think our last two games have been pretty good," he said. "We beat Springfield three weeks ago and last week we could have easily beaten (Mid-Missouri). Tonight, I thought we were rolling and could run anything we wanted to run, it was just a matter of executing."

In his first game at running back for the Koyotes, former Highland Park standout Naji Shinskia rushed for three touchdowns in the first half and helped the Koyotes take a 35-12 lead into halftime.

Green said Shinskia's move to running back was one of a few changes the Koyotes have made with the season winding down.

"We made some changes," he said. "We added Naji to our offense and that gave us another element that we've been missing — speed in the backfield."

Koyotes' quarterback Jordan Brill threw for 131 yards and two touchdowns with two interceptions. On the ground, Donnell Smith had 43 yards rushing, while Shinskia finished with 34 yards and Robbie DuBois 27.

The Koyotes also came up with some big plays on defense, forcing five Junction City turnovers.

Junction City defensive back Trey Lute delivered one of the few highlights for the Force, picking off a pass in the end zone and running it back for a touchdown with 23 seconds left in the first half.

The Koyotes are assured of at least one game after the regular season, though it might be a play-in game for a spot in the playoffs.

Wrecke said the Koyotes are looking for a little revenge on the Iowa Blackhawks in next weekend's regular season finale at Iowa.

"It will be a good test next week to face them," he said. "The last time they beat us here and that was probably the worst game we've played all year. I think we've gotten a lot better since then and we look forward to playing them."

Force 6 6 14 0 — 26

Koyotes 21 14 20 7 — 62

Koyotes — Shinskia 5 run (Wrecke pass from Brill)

Koyotes — Wrecke 20 pass from Brill (kick failed)

Force — Vercher 2 run (pass failed)

Koyotes — Shinskia 4 run (Thompson kick)

Koyotes — Skinskia 1 run (Thompson kick)

Koyotes — DuBois 2 run (Thompson kick)

Force — Lute 53 interception return (pass failed)

Force — Phillips 24 pass from Vercher (pass failed)

Koyotes — Wrecke 42 pass from Brill (Thompson kick)

Koyotes — Smith 3 run (Thompson kick)

Koyotes — Brill 1 run (kick failed)

Force — Phillips 4 pass from Vercher (Vercher run)

Koyotes — DuBois 14 run (Thompson kick)

Individual statistics

RUSHING — Force: Vercher 7-(minus) 11, Kearse 2-4, Johnson 2-3, Ewing 2-(minus) 1, Lute 1-7.  
Koyotes: Smith 8-43, Shinskia 8-34, DuBois 4-27, Jorgensen 1-11, Benning 1-5.

PASSING — Force: Vercher 11-29-2 93 yards; Koyotes: Brill 10-18-2 131 yards, Jorgensen 0-1-0 0 yards.

RECEIVING — Phillips 5-54, Thomas 2-11, Brown 1-12, Moret 1-6, Ewing 1-6, Johnson 1-3; Koyotes: Wrecker 7-113, Shinskie 2-15, Benning 1-3.