

Aviators ground Blackhawks

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WICHITA, Kan. - The Iowa Blackhawks couldn't find any consistency Saturday and it showed in a 41-27 loss at the hands of the Wichita Aviators.

The Blackhawks day started with their bus not arriving to take them to Wichita and it seemed to go downhill from there.

"Just when you thought it couldn't get any worse, it did." Blackhawks owner Jake Hiffernan said after the game.

Wichita (9-2) started their attack early with a pair of touchdown passes to go up 14-0 in the first quarter. Iowa (7-4) seemed to get back on track with a pair of George Patterson touchdown runs (23, 34) to even up the game at 14-14. The Aviators offense found the end zone once more before the end of the first half.

The second half started much like the first with Wichita scoring two quick touchdowns with runs by Idris Elias and quarterback Matt Kelly to give the Aviators a 35-14 lead. Iowa followed with two scores of their own on Chuck Wright's 24-yard strike to Kyle Peterson and a 3-yard run by running back Elijah Simmons to get the Blackhawks back into the game at 35-27 late in the fourth.

The Blackhawks defense held strong until Matt Kelly found a wide open Reggie Smith for a 26-yard touchdown pass on a broken play to seal the victory for the Aviators.

Blackhawks running back, George Patterson, finished the game with 98 yards rushing and defensive back Chris Moore led the defense in tackles (15).

The loss dashed Iowa's hopes of hosting a playoff game and forces them to take the long road to the APFL Championship game as the No. 3 seed.

The Blackhawks return home to the Mid-America Center on Saturday at 7:05 p.m. to play the three-time defending APFL champion Kansas Koyotes and will host their first annual "Cuffs and Ladders" night to salute their local law enforcement officers, firefighters, and EMT crews during the game.

Iowa Blackhawks 7 7 0 13 - 27

Wichita Aviators 14 7 14 6 - 41

W - Donald Payne 16 pass from Matt Kelly (Ziya Gunay kick)

W - Chris Williams 5 pass from Reggie Smith (Ziya Gunay kick)

I - George Patterson 23 run (Paul Kosel kick)

I - George Patterson 34 run (Paul Kosel kick)

W - Idris Elias 7 run (Ziya Gunay kick)

W - Idris Elias 4 run (Ziya Gunay kick)

W - Matt Kelly 8 run (Ziya Gunay kick)

I - Kyle Peterson 24 pass from Chuck Wright (kick blocked)

I - Elijah Simmons 1 run (Paul Kosel kick)

W - Reggie Smith 26 pass from Matt Kelly (kick failed)

Rushing: Wichita, Idris Elias 15-56, Phillip Barron 7-28, Reggie Smith 1-1, Matt Kelly 3-12. Iowa, George Patterson 15-98, Elijah Simmons 5-14, Chuck Wright 3-12, Eric Johnson 2-9.

Passing: Wichita, Matt Kelly 8-19-1-98, Reggie Smith 1-1-1-5. Iowa, Chuck Wright 9-20-1-71

Receiving: Wichita, Donald Payne 5-52, Reggie Smith 3-46, Chris Williams 1-5. Iowa, Yano Jones 3-32, George Patterson 3-19, Kyle Peterson 2-24, Elijah Simmons 1-(-4).

Defense: Tackles, Chris Moore (15), Tyrice Ellebb (5), Nick Marchisio (5), Nick Freet (4), Mike Reynolds (4), Burton Bosan (4), Scott Yates (2), Dontae Allen (2), Travis Kleinbeck (2), Mike Stuart (2). INT's, Scott Yates (1).