

Blackhawks tame WolfPack

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SPRINGFIELD, MO - In what could be the gutsiest performance in Iowa Blackhawks history, and with a possible home playoff date on the line, the Blackhawks defeated the Springfield WolfPack, 23-14, in Springfield despite just 18 players in uniform.

League rules allow for 25 players to be on a game day roster. Several of the Blackhawks players saw action on both sides of the football.

The victory assures Iowa a second place finish at 6-3, while the WolfPack, who at one point were 4-2 during the season, fall to 4-5.

It was far from pretty; as the Blackhawks generated just 87 yards of offense including just 10 through the air but Elijah Simmons kept the Blackhawks moving, with 78 yards rushing on 22 tough carries.

The 230-pound fullback scored twice, including the games last touchdown, when the score was just a two-point Iowa advantage.

The Blackhawks defenses, meanwhile, stopped several Springfield advances, and were helped by misfired center snaps. The WolfPack gained just 34 yards on the ground and 47 yards through the air. Springfield quarterback Colby Hughes completed just 4 of his 23 passes for 47 yards and was intercepted once by Dontae Allen late in the contest to secure the win. Hughes also lost 25 yards on the ground in eight carries.

Iowa led 16-0, behind a safety due to a bad snap, Simmons' first score (a 1-yard run) and Ryan

Hoden's recovery of a fumble in the Springfield end zone.

But the WolfPack cut the lead to 16-14 with a safety, Hughes' 1-yard run, and the brother combination of Colby to Logan Hughes; aiding Iowa was the fact both Springfield conversions failed.

That set up Simmons second touchdown of the contest, a 3-yard blast, that was followed by Jerry Lakin's third conversion kick of the evening.

The WolfPack did move downfield late in the contest, but Allen snuffed out the drive with his interception.

The Blackhawks now return home to the Mid-America Center to host the league-leading Kansas Koyotes Saturday, July 12. The APFL playoffs are scheduled to begin July 19, but pairings aren't secured at this time.