



Koyotes hoping Blackhawks aren't first playoff foe

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A little time off may be good to keep a team fresh, but Jim Green's Kansas Koyotes are past that point and itching for a game.

The 8-0 Koyotes, who have been resting for nearly three weeks after a bye week and a cancellation with Florida, will finally return to action Saturday night at Iowa, the Koyotes' final regular-season game before they begin their quest for a sixth straight American Professional Football League championship on July 19 at Landon Arena.

"We've been practicing in the Expocentre since our last game and at practice the guys have been jumping out of their skin," Green said. "They want to play so bad, especially at home, but they're ready to just play a game and they're very excited."

Kansas' semifinal playoff opponent has yet to be determined. The APFL championship game will be played the following week July 26.

"I know the fans are already talking about the playoffs," Green said. "I'm excited and the players are excited to show the fans what we are and what we're about."

This weekend's game with Iowa will mark the third game this season between the Koyotes and Blackhawks. Green said that the Koyotes might have to turn around and play Iowa next week in the playoffs.

"It looks like it could be Iowa back to back, but I know they're trying to do some realignment with the South (division)," he said. "It's really kind of up in the air. We will know something by Friday evening."

"I would really like to know who we are going to play. If it is Iowa back to back, we don't want to show them everything in our playbook Saturday. But we'll take each game as it comes and we'll play who they tell us to play."

Green said he would prefer to face somebody other than the familiar Blackhawks.

"If I got my choice of who to play, I'd love to play either a Conroe or a Beaumont," he said. "A coach never wants to play a team back to back because I think that they start picking up all your tendencies."

"That would be the fourth time we've played Iowa and that gets a little scary. I would love to play a team we haven't played because I think you pick up a lot more excitement from the players because you are going into the unknown."

While the Koyotes, who clinched home-field advantage several weeks ago, have nothing at stake this weekend, Green said it's important to enter the playoffs on a high note.

"You never want to play down, you want to play up and you want to give them all you've got because you have to do that in order to build momentum into the playoffs," he said. "Everybody says, 'You guys can kind of sit back and win or lose you're still in the playoffs,' but I'm a coach that always plays for the win.

"I want to take this momentum and carry it into the playoffs, and if everything goes well, carry it into the championship."