

Koyotes eye upset

BY [RICK PETERSON JR.](#)

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Three weeks ago, the Kansas Koyotes had the Iowa Blackhawks on the ropes early before letting the game slip away in the second half.

With a berth in the American Professional Football League title game on the line, the Koyotes have confidence they can finish the deal this time when they take on the defending-champion Blackhawks at 7:05 p.m. Saturday in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

"We've seen them twice and now we just have to go up there and be efficient," Koyotes quarterback Jordan Brill said. "We have a good opportunity in our hands.

"We need to continue to build off our offensive efficiency. We went up there last time and turned the ball over and made a couple of stupid mistakes. If we can cut down on that type of stuff, we have an opportunity to go up there and do something good."

Jeff Summers will guide the team as interim coach as Koyotes coach Jim Green, who recently announced his retirement, recovers from exploratory heart surgery.

Green said he is comfortable turning the team over to Summers.

"You always want to surround yourself with good coaches and personnel to take the team when you can't, and I feel like that's the case here," Green said. "I have no doubt in my mind that they'll be OK.

"My spirit will be there with them."

Summers said the Koyotes will switch up a few things this time around.

"We'll have a little bit of a different philosophy going up there," he said. "There were a couple of things that worked last time and some things that didn't work up there. Reviewing game film, we'll make some adjustments."

The Koyotes (5-5) are coming off a 54-18 win against Junction City in the opening round of the APFL playoffs. The Blackhawks (8-1) had a first-round bye in the playoffs.

Summers said he thinks Green's absence might help motivate and unite the team.

"I think the guys are going to come out stronger," he said. "Because, it's a team. We definitely need everyone to work together. Coach Green has been here for five years and he means a lot to us. But the

good thing is, I've been here ever since the first snap. Coach Green has been a great mentor and there are some great coaches around here, and that's really going to help us."

The winner in Iowa will take on the winner of the Mid-Missouri-Springfield game in the APFL championship.