

## Mistakes come back to haunt Blackhawks

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League leader Kansas Koyotes scored 14 points in the final 35 seconds, overcoming a 20-point third quarter deficit, and beat the Iowa Blackhawks 53-50 in a game with large American Professional Football League playoff implications Saturday night at the Mid-America Center.

Down 38-18 in the third quarter, Kansas took advantage of three Blackhawk turnovers to climb back in the game. Kansas kicker Michael Brennan, who missed three extra point attempts and had two kickoffs go out-of-bounds, executed a perfect onside kick with 35 seconds remaining in the game. Kansas then took its first lead after Kenny Shields broke loose for a 23-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Chris Coffin with 13 seconds remaining to play.

The Blackhawks Paul Kosel attempted a 37-yard field goal on the game's last play but was tipped by Jermaine Smith and the ball wobbled just wide-left, silencing the crowd and sending the Blackhawks (7-5) to its third loss in as many games against the Koyotes.

"They broke our hearts again" said a disappointed head coach Mike Wolff. "We thought we had them (beat) but they are a great team."

Kansas (11-1) won its 10th straight game and is one win away from securing home field advantage throughout the playoffs.

Wolff's game plan appeared to give the Blackhawks an opportunity to finally beat the four-time league champion Kansas. Running back George Patterson caught three big passes down the middle for 55 yards to keep the Koyote defense off-balance.

"We thought we could get George open on a seam route" said Wolff. "We reviewed film and thought we could have success attacking the middle."

The Blackhawks shut down the Kansas running game and put pressure on standout quarterback Chris Coffin.

"Iowa did a great job of taking us out of our game plan" said Kansas head coach Jim Green. "We kept our composure and decided that, if we were to be one-dimensional, we needed to do it at our best."

Coffin finished the game 19-for-39 and 189 yards with six touchdown passes, four to his favorite target Justin Wrecke.

"Wrecke was a one-man wrecking crew" said Wolff. "He is the best route-runner I've ever seen. He knows how to get open."

Green agreed but added that the Blackhawks Yano Jones also put on a show.

"Both Yano and Wrecke know how to get open and catch the ball in traffic" said Green. "They both do it well."

Iowa's Chuck Wright had another solid game, completing 13-of-18 for 218 yards and three touchdowns. George Patterson carried 15 times for 51 yards and scored two touchdowns. Elijah Simmons had eight carries for 22 yards and scored three touchdowns, all in short-yardage situations.

Iowa will be the third seed in the playoffs and will be the visiting team in both games if it is to win the championship.

"We play well on the road" said Wolff. "We'll give it our best shot. A wildcard team has won the Super Bowl before."

The Blackhawks are back in action Saturday against the Omaha Wildcats at the Mid-America Center. The first playoff game will be Saturday, July 22, at either Wichita or Topeka.

Kansas Koyotes 6 12 15 20 - 53

Iowa Blackhawks 14 10 14 12 - 50

Rushing: Kansas (n/a), Iowa (George Patterson 15-51, Elijah Simmons 8-22).

Passing: Kansas (Chris Coffin 19-39-189-6-0), Iowa (Chuck Wright 13-18-218-3-1).

Receiving: Kansas (n/a), Iowa (Yano Jones 4-73, George Patterson 3-55, Kyle Peterson 2-41, Ryan Kaufman 2-18, Elijah Simmons 1-16).

Records: Kansas (11-1), Iowa (7-5).

#### Scoring Summary

Iowa: Elijah Simmons two-yard run (Kosel kick) 5:51 first quarter

Kansas: Chris Coffin 22-yard pass to Justin Wrecke (kick failed) 4:47 first quarter

Iowa: George Patterson six-yard run (Kosel kick) 2:54 first quarter

Kansas Chris Coffin six-yard pass to Justin Wrecke (kick failed) 14:21 second quarter

Iowa: Chuck Wright 26-yard pass to George Patterson (Kosel kick) 12:00 second quarter

Kansas: Chris Coffin seven-yard pass to Justin Wrecke (2-point attempt failed) :40 second quarter

Iowa: Paul Kosel 38-yard field goal :00 second quarter

Iowa: Chuck Wright 32-yard pass to Kyle Peterson (Kosel kick) 13:33 third quarter

Iowa: Chuck Wright 18-yard pass to Yano Jones (Kosel kick) 9:42 third quarter

Kansas: Rawshawn Bland two-yard run (Brennan kick) 7:42 third quarter

Kansas: Chris White 23-yard interception return (Wrecke pass from Coffin) 5:50 third quarter

Iowa: Elijah Simmons three-yard run (kick failed) 14:15 fourth quarter

Kansas: Chris Coffin 11-yard pass to Dawight Benning (2-point conversion failed) 5:54 fourth quarter

Iowa: Elijah Simmons one-yard run (kick failed) 1:24 fourth quarter

Kansas: Chris Coffin 18-yard pass to Justin Wrecke (Wrecke pass from Coffin) :35 fourth quarter

Kansas: Chris Coffin 23-yard pass to Kenny Shields (kick failed) :13 fourth quarter.