

Blackhawks hammer upstart Wildcats

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By DWANE MCFERRIN

Published: Monday, July 17, 2006 2:00 AM CDT

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The Blackhawk defense forced six Wildcat turnovers and the defense scored four times in the game, including three touchdowns and a safety in coasting to the easy win.

The game served as a tune-up for the Blackhawks (8-5) who will face nemesis Kansas Koyotes in the first round of the playoffs next week in Topeka. The Koyotes were upset at home by the Wichita Aviators 55-44 to drop to the second seed in the playoffs.

Chris Moore scored two defensive touchdowns and the Blackhawk defense allowed only three first downs in the game to the Wildcats, two coming via penalty.

"Our defense has come a long way since the beginning of the season," said Iowa defensive coordinator Demetrius Richards. "Chris Moore has really stepped up at the linebacker position. He may be the best linebacker in the league."

It was a dominating performance in all phases of the game and the blow-out allowed Blackhawk fans to see backup quarterback Chris Raff run the offense much of the second half. Mike Stuart, normally a defensive back, played both sides of the ball and showed great speed from the running back position.

"He brings a different dimension to the offensive side of the ball," said Richards. "We may give him some playing time on offense against the Koyotes."

Iowa travels to Topeka's Landon Arena Saturday for the first round of the playoffs and is seeking its first-ever win over the three-time defending league champion, Koyotes.

A post-game melee involving two Wichita Aviator players and the Kansas head coach Jim Green could result in some player suspensions. Green was taken to a local hospital by ambulance after laying motionless on the field for several minutes.

Nebraska Wildcats 0 3 0 0 - 3

Iowa Blackhawks 20 19 13 21 - 73

Rushing: Iowa (George Patterson 6-38, Elijah Simmons 5-43, Mike Stuart 2-25, Chris Raff 1-2).

Passing: Iowa (Chuck Wright 8-13-102-0, Chris Raff 1-2-33-0).

Receiving: Iowa (Kyle Peterson 2-37, Elijah Simmons 1-33, Ryan Kauffman 3-30, Yano Jones 2-23, George Patterson 1-12).

Tackles: Iowa (Chris Moore 8, Mike Reynolds 5, Travis Kleinbeck 5, Nick Freet 3, Mike Stuart 2, Scott Yates 2, Elijah Simmons 2, Burton Bosan 2, Dontae Allen 1, Dave Liebenritt 1, Ray Rose 1)

Sacks: Iowa (Nick Freet 2, Travis Kleinbeck 1, Mike Reynolds 1)

Scoring Summary:

IA-Chris Moore fumble recovery in endzone (Paul Kosel kick) 12:40 first quarter

IA-Chuck Wright 5-yard pass to Ryan Kaufman (Kosel kick) 5:26 first quarter

IA-Elijah Simmons 3-yard run (conversion failed) end of first quarter

IA-Scott Yates 33-yard fumble return (kick failed) 11:26 second quarter

NE-Kyle Swartz 43 yard field goal 9:12 second quarter

IA-George Patterson 13 yard run (Wright run for 2 point conversion) 6:35 second quarter

IA-Team safety 6:02 second quarter

IA-Paul Kosel 36-yard field goal 0:21 second quarter

IA-Chuck Wright 2-yard pass to Ryan Kaufman (Kosel kick) 12:38 third quarter

IA-Chris Moore 2-yard fumble return (conversion failed) 10:52 third quarter

IA-Mike Stuart 3-yard run (Kosel kick) 10:08 fourth quarter

IA-Elijah Simmons 13-yard run (Kosel kick) 5:33 fourth quarter

IA-Chris Raff 2-yard run (Kosel kick) 2:40 fourth quarter

Records: Iowa (8-5), Nebraska (1-6).