

Blackhawks heads for playoff test at Topeka

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A brawl at the end of the regular season finale between Kansas Koyotes and Wichita Aviators could figure prominently in the championship of the American Professional Football League.

The third-seeded Iowa Blackhawks (8-5) travel to Topeka Saturday to face Kansas (11-2) amid controversy in the aftermath of the Aviators 55-44 win last Saturday. The winner of the first round game will travel to Wichita July 29 for the championship.

The Blackhawks meet Kansas at 7 p.m. Check the Blackhawks' Web site (www.iowablackhawks.com) and the Koyotes' Web site (www.koyotefootball.com) for game time broadcast lines.

Players and coaches for both Kansas and Wichita were cited by the APFL office Thursday for unsportsmanlike and unprofessional conduct. Wichita first team All-APFL wide receiver, Donald Payne was suspended for the remainder of the season and all of 2007 for his violence against Kansas head coach Jim Green that rendered him unconscious for several minutes on the turf at Landon Arena.

For his actions, Green has been suspended for one game without pay for grabbing an opponent's uniform that was deemed provocative.

Wichita defensive coordinator Mike McCoy has been suspended for the championship game.

Wichita head coach Carl Caldwell and Koyotes assistant coach John Vanderstaay were reprimanded for failure to help control the actions of their team.

For the remainder of the season the league adopted several rules changes, no coaches allowed on the field of play and formal reporting of player rosters 90 minutes before game time are among the biggest changes.

"It's unfortunate that the incident happened in Topeka last weekend" said Blackhawks owner and general manager, Jake Hiffernan. "The brawl could prove to be a huge distraction for the home teams in the playoffs."

Iowa is seeking its' first win against the Koyotes Saturday. In its fourth year of league play, Kansas has frustrated the Blackhawks with come-from-behind wins, the most recent being a 53-50 win at the Mid-America Center July 8 in what Koyotes owner, Ralph Adams, called "The Game of the Year."

"We're pretty healthy coming into the game," said Hiffernan. "We outplayed the Koyotes in that game, even with the turnovers. We believe we have the best team in the league."

Blackhawks make All-APFL team

Four Iowa Blackhawk players were named to the first team for the American Professional Football League announced Thursday night.

The Blackhawks, 8-5 in league play and third seed in the playoffs, also landed eight players on the second team. Lineman Tyrice Ellebb was named first team offensive line and second team defensive line. The awards are determined by fans, coaches, owners and staff from www.indoorfootballfan.com.

Two Blackhawk players earned special recognition. Impact player Yano Jones won APFL Comeback Player of the Year after rejoining the team five weeks into the season and leading Blackhawk receiver,

Kyle Peterson, was named APFL Rookie of the Year.

Iowa Blackhawks

All APFL First Team

Running back George Patterson; Offensive lineman Tyrice Ellebb; Defensive back Chris Moore; Defensive lineman Nick Freet.

All APFL Second Team

Quarterback Chuck Wright; running back Elijah Simmons; wide receiver Yano Jones; wide receiver Kyle Peterson; defensive back Scott Yates; defensive back Dontrell Ducker; defensive lineman Tyrice Ellebb; kicker Paul Kosel

APFL Comeback Player of the Year: Yano Jones (Iowa)

APFL Rookie of the Year: Kyle Peterson (Iowa)