

Sports

Blackhawks fall to Bandits

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If the team to beat this American Professional Football League season was still in doubt entering Friday, newcomer Sioux City ended the discussion early at the Mid-America Center.

Taylor Schumacher returned an interception 48 yards for a touchdown on the second play from scrimmage and the Bandits led the rest of the way in their 50-26 win over Iowa.

Scott Jensen threw for three touchdowns and Damon Mothershead scored twice as Sioux City improved to 4-0 by topping the two-time APFL champions for the second time this season.

"I think (we have become the team to beat)," Schumacher said. "We have a bunch of young college guys from the area. We all play hard and play together. We have a lot of fun."

The Bandits, who have scored 50 or more points in all four of their games, also own an 80-20 win over league runner-up Mid-Missouri this month. They've racked up 241 total points to date this season.

Schumacher and Alex Ardley each had interceptions for the fourth straight game for Sioux City, which intercepted Iowa quarterback Chuck Wright three times in the first half.

The Blackhawks (2-2) managed only two field goals offensively before the intermission and played from behind the entire night. After trailing 14-0, they pulled within seven midway through the third but never made the defensive stop they needed in the second half to pull even.

"We really can't spot them a 14-0 lead; that's what it boils down to," Iowa coach Mike Wolff said. "It put us in catch-up mode the rest of the night. Our game is the deep ball, but Sioux City wasn't going to give us anything over the top."

Working almost exclusively on underneath routes, Wright finished with 23 completions, 208 yards and three touchdowns. It meant little because Sioux City answered every Iowa score.

The loss dropped the Blackhawks two games behind the league leaders in the APFL standings. The regular-season champion gets the home field throughout the playoffs.

"We did control our destiny at the start of the night, but that's no longer the case," Wolff said. "We're relying on somebody else. Sioux City's a talented football team. They're solid from top to bottom."

Sioux City (4-0) 14 0 14 22 - 50

Iowa (2-2) 0 6 8 12 - 26

SC: Taylor Schumacher 48 interception return (Brian Darden kick)

SC: Damon Mothershead 49 pass from Scott Jensen (Darden kick)

I: Jerry Lakin 23 FG

I: Zach Kohlhoff 34 FG

SC: Chase Covin 7 pass from Jensen (Darden kick)

I: Steve Rush 15 pass from Chuck Wright (Andrew Seymour pass from Wright)



Staff photo/Cindy Christensen - Iowa Blackhawks running back Mel Holliday (1) escapes a tackle from Sioux City Bandits linebacker Spetlar Tonga at the Mid-America Center on Friday. Iowa fell 50-26.

SC: Mothershead 8 run (Darden kick)

I: Rush 13 pass from Wright (kick failed)

SC: Eddie Pertilla 40 pass from Jensen (Colvin run)

SC: Andrew Prohaska 6 run (Darden kick)

I: Seymour 21 pass from Wright (pass failed)

SC: Eric Hentges 2 run (Darden kick)

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING: SC, Prohaska 10-69, Jensen 6-1, Mothershead 1-8, Hentges 1-2, Colvin 1-(-3). I, Stuart 5-30, Johnson 5-1, Wright 3-4, Holliday 1-0.

PASSING: SC, Jensen 8-12-0 166. I, Wright 23-35-3 208.

RECEIVING: SC, Mothershead 3-76, Colvin 3-42, Pertilla 1-40, Prohaska 1-8. I, Kirvin 9-69, Rush 8-74, Seymour 3-36, Stuart 2-4, Holliday 1-17, Johnson 1-8.

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