

## Sports

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### Blackhawks play Outlaws on Saturday

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In the brief series history between Iowa and Mid-Missouri, each team has won two games.

Fans of exciting indoor football, however, are a perfect 4-0.

Every time the Blackhawks and Outlaws have teed it up, fireworks have ensued.

The teams first met in the summer of 2009. Mid-Missouri had just finished a 10-0 season with its third consecutive Central Plains Football League title. Iowa, the eventual American Professional Football League champion that year, was 5-0 and blowing out every opponent.

For a short time, the Outlaws seemed, literally, out of their league. What happened next was the beginning of what has become the best series in the APFL over the past two seasons.

Four games. All decided by five points or less. And every one going down to the wire.

As the two teams prepare for Saturday night's 7:05 rematch of last year's APFL championship game at the Mid-America Center, we look back at their four previous unforgettable finishes:

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June 6, 2009

At Mid-America Center

Mid-Missouri 54, Iowa 49

Fresh off their third CPFL title, the Outlaws rallied from a 35-0 second-quarter deficit to stun the Blackhawks in a battle of unbeaten teams on a late 18-yard TD pass from Kyle Middleton to Eric Brown. Iowa had a chance to pull out a victory on the game's last possession, but running back Mell Holliday was stopped inside the 1-yard line as time expired.

June 5, 2010

At Mathewson Exhibition Center (Sedalia, Mo.)

Mid-Missouri 41, Iowa 38

In the first meeting between the teams as APFL foes, Middleton scrambled for a 16-yard score on a fourth-and-goal play with 33 seconds left to give the Outlaws the lead for good. An apparent touchdown pass from Iowa's Chuck Wright to Robert Kirvin on the ensuing play was nullified as it was ruled Kirvin trapped the ball against a railing hanging over the back corner of the end zone. The loss was the only one suffered by the Blackhawks last season.

June 19, 2010

At Mid-America Center

Iowa 41, Mid-Missouri 37

Two weeks after Iowa claimed to be robbed in Sedalia, Eric Johnson's touchdown from a yard out with 2:35 to play gave the Blackhawks their first win of the series. Nick Freet then recovered a fumbled snap by Mid-Missouri at the Iowa 5 with nine seconds left. The victory gave the Blackhawks the top seed in the APFL playoffs and a home game on championship weekend.

July 17, 2010

At Mid-America Center

APFL Championship

Iowa 31, Mid-Missouri 28 OT

The Outlaws rallied from 21-7 halftime deficit to force overtime on a Middleton touchdown pass to Marcus James with 1:32 to play. After missing a potential game-winner as time expired in regulation, kicker Jerry Lakin gave the Blackhawks their second straight league title with a 34-yard field goal after Freet block a Mid-Missouri attempt on the previous series.

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