

## Sports

### Blackhawks fall again to Bandits

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Leave it to the Bandits to steal one on the road.

Unbeaten American Professional Football League leader Sioux City claimed a third victory over two-time defending champion Iowa Friday with a takeaway in the closing minutes.

Taylor Schumacher stripped the ball from Blackhawk fullback Chris Bradford and recovered it inside the S.C. 5-yard line with 1:48 to play to seal a 49-42 Bandit win at the Mid-America Center.

The victory locked up the regular-season APFL title for league newcomer Sioux City (9-0). With it, the Bandits will play at home throughout the playoffs.

"People kind of wanted to get us, being the big dog coming down a league," Schumacher said. "Beating them three times in a row kind of puts a stamp on the league, saying 'we're here.'"

Iowa dropped to 4-4 with the loss and fell into a second-place tie with Mid-Missouri, which rallied from 18 points down to beat the Blackhawks last week in Sedalia, Mo. The two teams meet again there later this month with the potential No. 2 postseason seed on the line.

Like in its 57-50 season-opening loss in Sioux City, Iowa had its chances Friday. Neither team led by more than eight points the entire way as the two traded scores throughout.

The Blackhawks held the advantage for most of the first half until Sioux City turned a late second-quarter fumble into a 1-yard TD sneak by Scott Jensen to take its first lead at 25-21. Iowa never led after that, but it tied the game at 28, 35 and 42 after halftime.

For the second time in three meetings between the teams, Fredrick Bruno scored the decisive touchdown in the fourth quarter. His 31-yard reception of a Jensen pass with six minutes remaining was the final score of the game.

Jensen torched the Blackhawk defense for 282 yards and three long touchdowns. Eddie Pertilla had two of them in the first half and finished with 115 receiving yards.

"Sioux City's got extremely talented position players, and it starts with Scott Jensen," Iowa coach Mike Wolff said. "We thought we had some good coverages and a couple of times we missed a check or a coverage. Other than that, they're just fabulous."

Steve Rush caught three touchdown passes from Chuck Wright for the Blackhawks, and he and Robert Kirvin each finished with seven receptions. Mell Holliday also had a touchdown run for Iowa while Bradford's fumble came on his lone carry.

"Certainly, that didn't cost us the game," Wolff said. "We had our opportunities prior to that point."

Sioux City (9-0) 13 12 10 14 - 49

Iowa (4-4) 21 0 14 7 - 42

I: Steve Rush 28 pass from Chuck Wright (Zach Kohlhoff kick)

SC: Eddie Pertilla 28 pass from Scott Jensen (Nick Hope kick)

I: Mell Holliday 1 run (Kohlhoff kick)

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Staff photo/Cindy Christensen - Iowa Blackhawks running back Mel Holliday fights for yards against Sioux City's Simi Toeaina on Friday at the Mid-America Center. The Bandits won 49-42.

SC: Pertilla 45 pass from Jensen (kick failed)

I: Rush 2 pass from Wright (Kohlhoff kick)

SC: Andrew Prohaska 1 run (run failed)

SC: Jensen 1 run (kick failed)

SC: Hope 24 FG

I: Rush 10 pass from Wright (Kohlhoff kick)

SC: Fredrick Bruno 2 run (Hope kick)

I: Mike Stuart 55 kickoff return (Kohlhoff kick)

SC: Damon Mothershead 10 run (Hope kick)

I: Robert Kirvin 15 pass from Wright (Kohlhoff kick)

SC: Bruno 31 pass from Jensen (Hope kick)

#### INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING: SC, Prohaska 9-34, Jensen 4-1, Bruno 2-1, Mothershead 1-10. I, Holliday 10-34, Bradford 1-3, Wright 1-2, Augustine 1-(-4).

PASSING: SC, Jensen 15-19-0 282. I, Wright 18-29-0 170.

RECEIVING: SC, Mothershead 6-76, Pertilla 5-115, Prohaska 3-60, Bruno 1-31. I, Rush 7-73, Kirvin 7-59, Stuart 2-25, Holliday 1-7, Capers 1-6.