

Blackhawks hang 91 points on Missouri in season-opening win

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In a pregame ceremony to unveil Iowa's 2009 American Professional Football League championship banner at the Mid-America Center, Mayor Tom Hanafan proclaimed Saturday a holiday in Council Bluffs.

He didn't specify whether or not he meant second-year Blackhawk Mell Holliday, but the former University of Colorado tailback seized the day anyway.

Holliday, who set a team record with 29 touchdowns a year ago, scored three times in the first period as Iowa cruised to a 91-27 win over the Missouri Mustangs in its season opener.

The Blackhawks scored on their first six offensive possessions while building a 45-13 halftime lead. Holliday got them off to a quick start, rambling for 12 yards on the first play from scrimmage before scoring on each of his next three touches.

"I guess it's just our tone-setter," Holliday said. "We usually try to run the ball and get a feel for everybody. That sucks everybody in, then we can get everybody out on the pass. I just do my part and let everybody else get a little freedom."

Iowa quarterback Chuck Wright connected on six of his first seven pass attempts, including a pair of scoring strikes to Mike Stuart and Steve Rush. On his birthday, Wright finished with 122 passing yards and three TDs before giving way to rookie Derek Townsend in the third quarter.

Townsend threw for a score and ran for another in his indoor debut. The Thomas Jefferson graduate also kicked two extra points late in the game.

Fellow rookie Brunau Augustin ran for three TDs while leading all rushers with 62 yards on eight carries. Iowa ran for 188 yards and had more than 300 yards of total offense to go with its 91 points.

"I think the scoreboard kind of speaks for itself," Blackhawk coach Mike Wolff said. "We came out with a good game plan on both sides of the ball, and we executed it as close to perfection as we could've gotten."

Iowa also turned in a solid defensive effort in its opener. Missouri (4-1), which plays in the outdoor Central Plains Football League, had minus-16 rushing yards in the game and trailed 31-0 before picking up its second first down.

Alsid Panteau had two interceptions for the Blackhawks. Kaylon Price, Jeff McQuinn and Chris Moore each added another for Iowa, which also scored a pair of safeties on defense. McQuinn returned his interception for a 25-yard score.

The Blackhawks held Mustang quarterback Morgan Ward to 92 yards on 11 of 28 passing while intercepting him three times and sacking him twice. Iowa also scored a safety on special teams when Missouri's Eddie Whitt failed to return a kickoff out of the end zone.

Missouri (4-1) 0 13 6 8 - 27

Iowa (1-0) 24 21 23 23 - 91

I: Mell Holliday 3 run (Jerry Lakin kick)

I: Holliday 6 run (Andrew Seymore run)

I: Holliday 11 run (Lakin kick)

I: Safety, Morgan Ward sacked in end zone

I: Mike Stuart 34 pass from Chuck Wright (Lakin kick)

M: LaKaito Barr-Miller 8 pass from Ward (kick blocked)

I: Brunau Augustin 6 run (Lakin kick)

I: Steve Rush 24 pass from Wright (Lakin kick)

M: Roger Hawkins 53 kickoff return (Brent Laughman kick)

M: Joe Patti 3 pass from Ward (run failed)

I: Rush 23 pass from Wright (Lakin kick)

I: Jeff McQuinn 25 interception return (Lakin kick)

I: Safety, ball snapped through end zone

I: Andrew Seymore 8 pass from Derek Townsend (Lakin kick)

I: Townsend 10 run (Lakin kick)

I: Safety, Eddie Whitt tackled in end zone

I: Augustin 3 run (Townsend kick)

M: Douglas Wendel 13 pass from Joseph Sullivan (L.J. Vosika pass from Sullivan)

I: Augustin 3 run (Townsend kick)