

Blackhawks roll in opener, 69-6

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Mell Holiday scored four touchdowns, and the Iowa Blackhawks reduced the Nebraska Tornadoes to a harmless breeze in their American Professional Football League season opener Saturday night at the Mid-America Center.

The home team ripped through the visiting Tornadoes like an F5 supercell through a trailer park, taking a 69-6 victory.

"We were able to run the ball. We were able to pass the ball. We pretty much had our way with them," Blackhawks' coach Mike Wolff said.

Iowa built up a 47-6 halftime lead, scoring on all six offensive possessions with four Holiday TDs.

The 24-year old rookie out of Colorado racked up 41 yards on nine carries.

"It's nice to be playing again," Holiday said.

Receiver Steve Rush scored two touchdowns and logged 55 yards on five catches.

"The offense started clicking," Rush said. "But this is the first game ... we still got a lot of kinks, and we've got to get those kinks worked out by next week."

Quarterbacks Ben Alford and Chuck Wright each hooked up with Rush for scores. Wright was 9-of-12 for 108 yards and one TD.

Alford tossed two touchdowns on 4-of-7 passing for 43 yards and ran for another score.

Defensively, the Blackhawks held Nebraska to 91 yards and outscored the Tornado offense all by themselves.

Defensive back Burton Bonson scored on a 26-yard return off a Dawdy interception in the waning seconds of the second quarter.

Linebacker Chris Moore returned a fumble 26 yards, and defensive lineman Jeff McQuinn recorded a safety in the third quarter.

Still, said Wolff, there remains some room for improvement.

"Defensively, we had a couple of breakdowns, some things that most people wouldn't see," said Wolff.

The action was broken up by a little extra-curricular activity in the fourth quarter. A twenty minute delay followed a bench-clearing melee after an apparent 12-yard TD pass from Alford to Marque McCrary.

When the dust settled, one Blackhawk player and one coach were ejected along with several members of the Tornadoes, and the score was nullified due to a holding call. Iowa would turn the ball over on downs with under 10 minutes to play at the Tornado 9-yard line; the only possession on which they failed to score up to that point.

The Tornadoes only bright spot was a 29-yard scoring strike from Terrell Dawdy to Kaylon Price in the second quarter.

Nebraska Tornadoes (0-1) 0 6 0 0 - 6

Iowa Blackhawks (1-0) 20 27 15 7 - 69

IB-Holiday 1 run (Lakin kick) 11:35

IB-Holiday 2 run (kick failed) 5:59

IB-Holiday 8 run (Lakin kick) 0:23

2nd

IB-Holiday 1 run (Lakin kick) 7:24

NT-Price 29 pass from Dawdy (kick failed) 6:55

IB-Alford 4 run (Lakin kick) 5:34

IB-McCray 14 pass from Alford (Lakin kick) 1:12

IB-Bosan 26 interception return (Lakin kick) 0:06

3rd

IB-Rush 4 pass from Alford (Lakin kick) 9:34

IB-Safety, McQuinn tackles Sullivan in end zone 9:18

IB-Moore 26 fumble return (kick failed) 8:55

4th

IB-Rush 17 pass from Wright (Lakin kick) 3:34