



“Half the Field - Twice the Fun!”

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Blackhawks looking for early playoff positioning

By ACE HENDRICKS, Blackhawks senior staff writer

Council Bluffs, Ia. – In the biggest game to date, the 4-0 Iowa Blackhawks will be facing off with the undefeated, and much improved, Springfield Wolfpack at 6:05pm this Saturday night at the Mid-America Center. The Wolfpack (4-0) have been in the American Professional Football League since 2007 and haven't beaten the Blackhawks away from Springfield.

A win by either team will put them in first place in the standings and in the driver's seat for the coveted #1 seed and home field advantage in the playoffs.

The Wolfpack defeated the Kansas Koyotes last week, 41-37, and have made great strides in the APFL, and now look to take the next step by defeating the Blackhawks in front of their hometown fans.

Springfield is led on offense by quarterback Derek Rassmussen, who has thrown for 499 yards and 14 touchdowns. He has several quality receivers to catch passes, with Jonathan Alvarado catching six touchdowns passes, Von Dixon (3) and Anton Cullom (3) who could give the strong Iowa secondary a run for its money.

On defense, the Wolfpack have surrendered just 81 points, and have a hard hitting, aggressive group led by Heath Shaver, who has 27 tackles. Veteran Deontae Blackmon has 23 tackles and two sacks from his defensive end position.

The Blackhawks, at 4-0, have looked sharp scoring 306 points with its defense allowing just 81. On defense, the lightning quick Blackhawks unit will look to keep Rassmussen on his heels all evening. Defensive back Alsid Panteau leads with 18 tackles and three interceptions. Taheem Acevedo has picked off three passes and collected 15 tackles.

The Blackhawks front line could be the key ingredient to the contest, as so far this season, the group of Jeff McQuinn, Derek Phillips, Lamain Rucker and Albert Rodriguez who have dominated every opponent's offensive line recording 16 sacks between them in just four games. The groups speed and strength have also helped the secondary record 13 interceptions. The linebacking trio of Derek Derr, Ryan Newell and Alex Maldonado has recorded 40.5 tackles

Offensively, Chuck Wright has kept the Blackhawk machine rolling, completing 40 of 60 passes for 614 yards and 19 touchdowns. He has been intercepted just three times. His



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receiving corps is led by Steve Rush (15-187, 9 touchdowns), Mike Stuart (14-258-7) and Andrew Seymour (7-98-3).

On the ground Mell Holliday has rushed for 151 yards on 35 carries with 8 touchdowns. Eric Johnson has zipped for 62 yards on nine carries and two touchdowns.

Jerry Lakin has converted 29 of 34 extra points and his only field goal attempt, a 29-yarder against Kansas City.

Kickoff is set for 6:05 pm at the Mid-America Center with the doors opening at 5pm. For ticket information please contact the MAC box office at (712) 323.0536 or by visiting www.ticketmaster.com.