



Koyotes whipped at home

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For the first time in a American Professional Football League regular season, the Iowa Blackhawks are in the driver's seat instead of the Kansas Koyotes.

Fueled by a strong third quarter, the Blackhawks downed the Koyotes 55-35 Saturday night at Landon Arena to improve to 5-0 on the season and 2-0 against Kansas.

After a back-and-forth first half, Iowa scored the first three touchdowns of the second half to hand the six-time defending APFL champions just their second home loss in franchise history.

After the game was tied at 21 at halftime, Iowa gained the momentum on its first series in the second half with a 1-yard touchdown plunge by Mell Holliday on fourth-and-goal.

Holliday then gave the Blackhawks a 35-21 lead with a 4-yard run at the end of the third before the Blackhawks took control of the game early in the fourth when Wright hit Marque McCray for a 34-yard touchdown.

The Koyotes (3-2) were hurt by four turnovers in the second half.

"We've been talking about finishing out the game, and all of the sudden we had some letdowns and some drives that just killed us," Koyotes coach Jim Green said. "We didn't come back up to where we needed to be."

Wright was 14-for-18 passing for 164 yards and three touchdowns to lead the Blackhawks. McCray caught six passes for 108 yards and two touchdowns. Holliday rushed for 95 yards and four touchdowns.

Kansas quarterback Carlos Kelly went 11-for-20 passing with three interceptions. Kelly and running back Donnell Smith each ran for two touchdowns, while receiver Justin Wrecke caught seven passes for 97 yards.

The Koyotes will try to rebound Saturday when they host Florida.

Green said the loss will provide a good test for the Koyotes.

"We're going to come back stronger than ever, but this makes it very interesting for us because we haven't been in this position," he said. "This is going to change the playoff realm a little bit.

"It'll be a good character builder to see who wants to come out here and play football. I really think you're going to see the whole team back up rallying behind one another because that's what Koyotes do."

Iowa 7 14 14 20 — 55

Kansas 14 7 0 14 — 35

Kansas — Kelly 5 run (Thompson kick)

Iowa — McCray 39 pass from Wright (Lakin kick)

Kansas — Smith 1 run (Thompson kick)

Iowa — Rush 7 pass from Wright (Lakin kick)

Kansas — Smith 1 run (Thompson kick)

Iowa — Holliday 13 run (Lakin kick)

Iowa — Holliday 1 run (Lakin kick)

Iowa — Holliday 4 run (Lakin kick)

Iowa — McCray 34 pass from Wright (Lakin kick)

Kansas — Brittian 55 kickoff return (Thompson kick)

Iowa — Hines 20 interception return (Lakin kick)

Kansas — Kelly 2 run (Thompson kick)

Iowa — Holliday 1 run (run failed)

Individual statistics

RUSHING — Iowa: Holliday 22-95, Rush 2-8. Kansas: DuBois 8-37, Kelly 11-41, Smith 5-9.

PASSING — Iowa: Wright 14-18-0, 164 yards. Kansas: Kelly 11-21-3, 148 yards.

RECEIVING — Iowa: McCray 6-108, Rush 5-35, Seymour 2-18, Holliday 1-3. Kansas: Wrecke 7-97, Smith 2-19, DuBois 1-16, Freeman 1-5.