

## Iowa Blackhawks suffer first loss of season

By Tony Boone, Senior Writer

[tony.boone@nonpareilonline.com](mailto:tony.boone@nonpareilonline.com)

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SEDALIA, Mo. – Kyle Middleton did it again.

For the second consecutive time the Mid-Missouri quarterback led his team to a come-from-behind victory to spoil the Iowa Blackhawks' bid for a perfect season.

Last June, Middleton threw two late touchdown passes as the Outlaws rallied from a 35-0 deficit to beat Iowa 54-49 at the Mid-America Center. Saturday, he ran for a 16-yard score on fourth-and-goal with 33 seconds remaining to give Mid-Missouri a 41-38 win at the Mathewson Exhibition Center.

"This is the like the Super Bowl for these guys," said Middleton, who threw for four touchdowns before running for the game-winner. "We get up to play. This is like (Missouri-Kansas). Any time I get up to play against Iowa, I'm going to bring my best."

The victory pulled the Outlaws (5-1) within a half game of Iowa (6-1) in the American Professional Football League standings. But it didn't come without a bit of controversy.

On the first play from scrimmage following Middleton's winning score, Iowa quarterback Chuck Wright lofted a pass from midfield into the deep right corner of the end zone. Robert Kirin came down with the ball as he crashed backward into the wall and railing above for a potential go-ahead touchdown.

It was ruled that he trapped the ball against the wall and was, therefore, ruled out of bounds. He wasn't facing the railing on the play, however, and there is no boundary in indoor football.

Wright, who threw for four TDs and ran for another, was livid after the game.

"That was the worst call I've ever seen," he shouted, unsolicited, in the locker room. "They gave them that game."

Wright threw for two touchdowns and ran for another as the Blackhawks built a 26-21 lead after a first half with four lead changes. Iowa's advantage should've been larger, but an inadvertent whistle wiped out another Iowa score with only 11 seconds left in the second quarter.

Andrew Seymour picked up a fumbled lateral as he ran into the end zone from the Outlaw 3. One official, however, ruled the play an incomplete pass. When the down was replayed, Wright forced a pass into double coverage that was intercepted by Moa Palepale at the goal line.

The Blackhawks had two chances to extend their lead in the third quarter, but they turned the ball over on downs deep in Mid-Missouri territory twice. Iowa still led by 10 with just over five minutes to play, even though they couldn't attempt a field goal or PAT due to a knee injury suffered by kicker Jerry Lakin earlier in the game.

Middleton's 11-yard TD pass to Jacob Cahill with 5:04 to play cut the Blackhawk lead to 38-34. Iowa turned the ball over on downs at the Outlaw 7 on the ensuing drive, and Middleton ripped off a 32-yard run on the second play to set up his winning score.

"We simply let Mid-Missouri stay in this football game way to long," Iowa coach Mike Wolff said. "We should've been two touchdowns, maybe three touchdowns, ahead of them before this episode even happened. We let them hang around."

Iowa (6-1) 13 13 6 6 - 38

Mid-Missouri (5-1) 7 14 0 20 - 41

I: Chuck Wright 1 run (kick failed)

MM: Eric Brown 30 pass from Kyle Middleton (Adrian Trevino kick)

I: Steve Rush 15 pass from Chuck Wright (Jerry Lakin kick)

MM: Ben Lyles 17 pass from Middleton (Trevino kick)

I: Eric Johnson 2 run (Lakin kick)

I: Andrew Seymour 3 pass from Wright (kick failed)

MM: Marcus James 1 run (Trevino kick)

I: Mike Stuart 25 pass from Wright (run failed)

MM: Lyles 18 pass from Middleton (Trevino kick)

I: Stuart 5 pass from Wright (run failed)

MM: Jacob Cahill 11 pass from Middleton (kick failed)

MM: Middleton 16 run (Trevino kick)