



Koyotes down Iowa in OT

Kansas improves to 6-2 with 42-41 victory

BY RICK PETERSON JR.

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The six-time defending American Professional Football League champions are still alive and kicking.

After falling to Iowa twice already the season, the Kansas Koyotes were able to bounce back in their last regular-season meeting with the Blackhawks, earning a thrilling 42-41 overtime victory Saturday night at Landon Arena.

In the college-style overtime, Iowa scored to open the period but the Koyotes took advantage of Jerry Lakin's missed extra point and then won on Chris Thompson's kick that followed a 1-yard plunge by Donnell Smith.

Koyotes' coach Jim Green said the win was a much-needed one for his team.

"We needed this big time because we're trying to build our confidence back up," he said. "That was our key word all week long — confidence. When you win a game that close in overtime, it sets the tone for the rest of the season. I couldn't be prouder of the guys."

Two plays before Smith's overtime score, Iowa appeared to have recovered a Koyotes fumble, but the Blackhawks were called for defensive holding to give Kansas life.

The Blackhawks also had a chance to win in regulation.

Trailing 35-32 with just less than 30 seconds left in regulation, Iowa had the ball at the Koyotes 6-yard line but didn't find the end zone and were forced to use a 23-yard field goal from Lakin to send the game to overtime.

Kansas, which attempted just 11 passes, was carried by the performance on the ground using a three-back approach with Mike Steen, Robbie DuBois and Smith.

Steen led the way with 82 yards rushing and one touchdown. DuBois ran for 55 yard and two scores, while Smith excelled in short-yardage situations, earning two touchdowns and 16 yards.

"We came out with a two-back set to kind of give them a different look," Steen said. "All three (of the running backs) have different styles, and we were able to give them three different flavors."

The Koyotes (6-2) got on the board first late in the first quarter on a 6-yard run by DuBois, and Kansas was able to hold possession of the ball for the majority of the quarter.

DuBois gave the Koyotes a 13-0 lead early in the second on a 4-yard run that was set up after the Koyotes defensive back stripped Iowa quarterback Chuck Wright at the Kansas 10-yard line. Thompson then converted a 46-yard field goal to give the Koyotes a commanding 16-0 lead.

However, Iowa scored 10 points in the final minute of the first half. Wright hit receiver Marque McCray for a 22-yard score, and Lakin made a 45-yard field goal as time expired to make the score 16-10 at halftime.

The two teams then traded touchdowns in the second half and neither team was able to come up with a defensive stop.

Wright threw for 218 yards but was intercepted three times with Esra Smith, Stevey Townsel and Matt Price each coming up with an interception.

The Koyotes will be back in action next Saturday when they host Springfield.

Iowa 0 10 14 11 6 — 41

Kansas 6 10 7 12 7 — 42

Kansas — DuBois 1 run (run failed)

Kansas — DuBois 4 run (Thompson kick)

Kansas — Thompson 46 field goal

Iowa — McCray 22 pass from Wright (Lakin kick)

Iowa — Lakin 45 field goal

Iowa — McCray 29 pass from Wright (Lakin kick)

Kansas — Allen 20 pass from Kelly (Thompson kick)

Iowa — Seymour 40 pass from Wright (Lakin kick)

Kansas — Smith 2 run (pass failed)

Iowa — Holliday 1 run (Seymour pass from Wright)

Kansas — Steen 8 run (kick failed)

Iowa — Lakin 23 field goal

Iowa — Holliday 3 run (kick failed)

Kansas — Smith 1 run (Thompson kick)

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING — Iowa: Holliday 12-49, Rush 2-14; Kansas: Steen 21-82, DuBois 15-55, Smith 5-16, Kelly 7-16.

PASSING — Iowa: Wright 14-26-3 218 yards; Kansas: Kelly 4-11-1 40 yards.

RECEIVING — Iowa: Seymour 4-74, McCray 4-71, Rush 5-66, Bosan 1-7; Kansas: Allen 2-29, DuBois 1-13, Wrecke 1-8.