

Koyotes eye deep playoff run

BY [RICK PETERSON](#)

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No matter what the Kansas Koyotes do during their final two regular-season games, beginning with a home game at 7:05 p.m. Saturday against the Junction City Force, Jim Green's team will make it to the American Professional Football League postseason.

But Green is looking to build some late-season momentum so the Koyotes can be more than a token participant in the playoffs.

Green, whose Koyotes are 3-4 after a 26-23 road loss to the Mid-Missouri Outlaws last weekend, said he was told Friday that the No. 4 and No. 5 seeds in the APFL — at this point Kansas and Junction City — will meet in a play-in game July 2 at Landon Arena.

The winner of that game will advance to play the No. 1 seed, which will be either defending champion Iowa or Mid-Missouri.

Green said the key for the Koyotes is to be playing well heading into the playoffs.

"You always want to build momentum, and you never want to go into those games on a bad note," Green said. "We really think we're coming together chemistry-wise. We've made some more additional changes and added a couple more players onto our roster.

"Today was our cutoff day to make changes to our 35-man roster. Now no teams in the league can change."

Even though the Koyotes have gone through an up-and-down season, Green thinks the team is capable of going all the way.

"We want to win out, and we know we can," Green said. "At Sedalia (last week), we just played our hearts out.

"We've had a number of receivers in and out and get hurt, and that really throws the timing of (quarterback) Jordan (Brill) off. We have a solid group of receivers now that Jordan is comfortable with, and the defense is starting to get comfortable with a new type of defense they're running. At this time of year, that's what you want."

Junction City forfeited last week's game to Springfield (Mo.), but was a no-show because of a conflict with another game.

"They forfeited to Springfield because they had to play their (Central Prairie) championship game," Green said. "They won their championship, so they're riding high."

Saturday will be Military Appreciation Night at Landon Arena, with the Koyotes offering unlimited half-price adult tickets to anyone with a military ID. Regular adult seating goes for \$10 general admission to \$16 plaza level-sideline reserved.

The Koyotes are scheduled to close their regular season June 26 at Iowa against the defending APFL-champion Blackhawks.

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