

Iowa Holds Off Huskers To Complete Perfect Regular Season

BY ERIC OLSON
AP College Football Writer

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Iowa had just finished its first perfect regular season in 93 years, but there was no over-the-top celebration after the clock struck 0:00 to end its 28-20 victory over Nebraska on Friday.

The Hawkeyes (12-0, 8-0, No. 4 CFP) locked arms and ran to the south end zone to pick up the Heroes Trophy that goes to the winner of this game. Then it was off to the corner to salute their fans before heading to the locker room.

There's still work to be done to make this season even better. Next stop, the Big Ten championship game in Indianapolis where they'll play for their first conference title since 2004. Win there, and a spot in the College Football Playoff is a very real possibility. Maybe even a certainty.

Jordan Canzeri ran for 140 yards on 17 carries and broke long touchdown runs on back-to-back series in the third quarter on a raw afternoon when a gusty north wind made for a 12-degree wind chill.

The Hawkeyes were far from

dominating, generating only 250 total yards and going 0 for 9 on third downs. But they did enough against the sloppy Cornhuskers (5-7, 3-5) to remain one of two unbeaten teams. Clemson is the other.

Canzeri ran off left tackle two straight times for two touchdowns, the first one going 29 yards and the second 68 yards for a 28-17 lead.

Iowa picked off Tommy Armstrong Jr. four times, with defensive end Parker Hesse returning one 4 yards for the Hawkeyes' fourth interception for a touchdown this season.

The Hawkeyes, who clinched the Big Ten West Division title last week, went undefeated in the regular season for the fifth time in program history and first since going 7-0 in 1922.

The Huskers, who started 3-6 under first-year coach Mike Riley, had their third losing season since 2004 and lost four times at home for the first time since 1961.

The Huskers needed a win to assure bowl eligibility. They still might play in the postseason if there aren't enough six-win teams to fill the 80 bowl spots.

Undisciplined play cropped up again and was devastating to Nebraska.

Iowa's first touchdown was set up by two Nebraska personal fouls, its second touchdown was Hesse's interception return, and its third was set up on punter Sam Foltz's late hit on Desmond King at the end of a punt return.

The Hawkeyes ran only 44 plays from scrimmage to Nebraska's 83. The Huskers finished with 433 yards.

IOWA | PAGE 3B

Falcons, Vikes Face Questions After Poor Outings Last Week

BY PAUL NEWBERRY
AP Sports Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — For both the Falcons and the Vikings, the message is the same.

Remain calm. All is well.

Atlanta (6-4) has lost three straight — by a total of seven points — and four of its last five after a 5-0 start, endangering its playoff hopes. Minnesota (7-3) is coming off one of its worst performances in a strong season, losing 30-13 at home to Green Bay.

Naturally, both teams faced plenty of questions this week as they prepared to meet Sunday at the Georgia Dome.

Especially the Falcons, who once seemed like a playoff lock but now are just one game ahead of Tampa Bay and Seattle in the NFC wild-card race.

"There's no panic," Atlanta safety Ricardo Allen said. "We've got to finish. Yeah, you look at wins and losses. But just look at the scores. We lost the last three by seven. A panic would be you're getting blown out of the water. We know we're there, we're right there."

Minnesota cornerback Terence Newman said there's no reason for concern with his team, either. Hey, everyone can have a bad game.

"I don't know why people are acting like we lost 10 games in a row or some-



Minnesota Vikings tight end Kyle Rudolph (82) catches a pass while being defended by Green Bay Packers' Micah Hyde (33), then breaks away for a 47-yard touchdown during the first quarter on Sunday, Nov. 22, at TCF Bank Stadium in Minneapolis. The Vikings will try to bounce back from that setback as they take on Atlanta on Sunday.

CARLOS GONZALEZ/MINNEAPOLIS STAR TRIBUNE/TNS

VIKINGS | PAGE 3B

USD Women Roll In Florida

BOCA RATON, Fla. — Four Coyotes scored in double figures as South Dakota defeated Appalachian State 87-60 at the Florida Atlantic Thanksgiving Tournament Friday in The Burrow.

The win improves the Coyotes to 2-3 on the season while Appalachian State falls to 1-3.

"It was a good win for our team," commented head coach Amy Williams. "Appalachian State's run made it pretty tight for us in the first half, but we handled their run well. We were able to sustain and take a good lead into halftime."

Senior center Margaret McCloud put away 13 points to lead the Coyotes in scoring. Senior guard Tia Hemiller and junior guard Caitlin Duffy added 11 points each. Sophomore center Kate Liveringhouse knocked down five field goals for 10 points.

Appalachian State was led in scoring by guard Joi Jones with 18 points with eight from the charity stripe. Ashley Bassett-Smith came off the bench to add 11 points and seven rebounds for the Mountaineers.

South Dakota led the entire contest, with as much as a 30-point advantage in the fourth quarter.

The Mountaineers went on a nine point run as they closed out the first quarter and entered the second, closing the gap back to two points. The Coyotes answered back with their own 12 point run, led by two buckets from Hemiller and a pair of triples by senior Kelly Stewart.

"Appalachian State had a few blocks early, but we were still effective in the paint," said Williams. "Our centers did a great job being efficient when they had their opportunities. They weren't scared to go back in there, which was a good adjustment to see out of our athletes."

McCloud was 6-for-8 from the field, while also pulling down six defensive rebounds. Liveringhouse hit 5-of-6 and junior center Abigail Fogg made 3-of-4 for seven points. The Coyotes made 40 points in the paint.

South Dakota narrowly won the rebounding battle 39-38, led by six rebounds apiece from McCloud and junior forward Bridget Arens.

Freshman Jaycee Bradley came off the bench to score a season-high nine points and dish out two assists. Stewart added nine points. Senior guard Nicole Seekamp tallied six points, four assists, and three steals.

South Dakota returns to The Burrow today (Saturday) at 1:30 p.m. to take on tournament host Florida Atlantic.

APPALACHIAN STATE (6-3)
Kelle Cooper 1-6 0-0 2, Mia Marshall 4-2 2-2, Farran Wood 1-6 0-0 2, Joi Jones 5-14 8-10 18, Madi Story 1-4 0-0 2, Jasmine Ogumiji 3-4 2-2 8, Bria Carter 2-7 0-3 4, Liz Norregard 0-1 0-0 0, Kalia Craven 3-4 1-2 7, Katelyn Doub 1-3 0-0 2, Julia Buehler 0-2 2-2 2, Ashley Bassett-Smith 3-13 5-5 11. TOTALS: 20-63 26-26 50.

SOUTH DAKOTA (2-3)

Margaret McCloud 6-8 1-3 13, Tia Hemiller 4-5 2-3 11, Kelly Stewart 3-7 0-0 9, Caitlin Duffy 4-6 0-0 11, Nicole Seekamp 2-5 2-2 6, Jasmine Trimboi 2-3 0-0 5, Allison Arens 0-3 0-0 0, Jaycee Bradley 2-4 3-4 9, Bridget Arens 1-4 0-0 2, Madeline Homoly 1-1 0-0 2, Kate Liveringhouse 5-6 0-0 10, Heidi Hoff 0-5 0-2 4, Abigail Fogg 3-4 1-2 7. TOTALS: 33-61 11-18 87.

APPALACHIAN STATE.....14 22 44 60

SOUTH DAKOTA.....20 42 69 87

Three-Pointers: USD 10-22 (Stewart 3-5, Duffy 3-4, Bradley 2-4, Hemiller 1-1, Trimboi 1-2, Seekamp 0-2, A. Arens 0-2, Hoff 0-2), ASU 0-9 (Wood 0-4, Story 0-1, Norregard 0-1, Craven 0-1, Doub 0-2).

Rebounds: USD 39 (McCloud 6, B. Arens 6), ASU 38 (Story 7, Bassett-Smith 7). Personal Fouls: USD 25, ASU 17. Fouled Out: None. Assists: USD 24 (Hemiller 7), ASU 3 (Jones 2). Turnovers: USD 20, ASU 18.

Blocked Shots: ASU 5 (Cooper 2, Bassett-Smith 2), USD 1. Steals: USD 13 (Seekamp 3), ASU 9 (Marshall 2, Bassett-Smith 2). Attendance: N/A.

No. 6 Maryland 62, SDSU 55

ST. THOMAS, U.S. Virgin Islands (AP) — Brianna Jones had 21 points and 13 rebounds to help No. 6 Maryland beat South Dakota State 62-55 on Friday night in the Paradise Jam.

Shatori Walker-Kimbrough added 19 points for Maryland (5-0), which blew a 10-point halftime lead before holding off the Jackrabbits.

With Maryland down 50-48 midway through the fourth quarter, Walker-Kimbrough and Jones took over. The pair combined for eight straight

HOOPS | PAGE 3B

Passed Up: Packers Press For Answers For Offensive Problems

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) — Packers coach Mike McCarthy says there is no magic formula to get Green Bay back on track following its fourth loss in five games.

It's not the play calling, he said. Rather, it's the execution of those plays.

"Frankly, I think too much is made of scheme," McCarthy said on Friday morning, less than 12 hours after a 17-13 loss. "At the end of the day, it's about running your routes or defending the route or blocking your guy or getting off the block and eventually tackling the guy and getting the football."

"When you have a chance to get your hands on the football, you've got to take advantage of it," McCarthy said.

After starting the season 6-0, the

Packers have fallen to 7-4. The major reason why is a malfunctioning offense, despite the presence of Aaron Rodgers.

After leading the league in points last season, Green Bay is scoring about seven points less per game this season. In three of the losses this month, it scored 10 points vs. Denver, 16 vs. Detroit and 13 vs. Chicago. In the other loss, the Packers finished with 29 points against Carolina, but needed a late rally after failing to gain a first down on seven of the first 12 possessions.

Two-time MVP quarterback Rodgers' accuracy is indicative of the offense's problems. He completed 51.2 percent of his passes against the Bears, with his 53.8 percent in five November games being the worst rate of his career.

On Thursday, James Jones didn't catch any of the six passes thrown his way, and fellow receiver Davante Adams caught just two of the 11 for 14 yards. There also were plenty of drops in the wet conditions.

"We're just on different pages," Rodgers said after the game. "When you miss throws, when I'm throwing at a certain depth and the receiver's running a certain depth, obviously we're on different pages. So we need to have some better communication and make sure there's not those discrepancies in the depths and the adjustments."

Compounding those problems, the Packers had two turnovers — a fumble by Eddie Lacy and an interception on a pass from Rodgers to Adams — after entering the game with a league-low six. McCarthy said

both turnovers were the result of sloppy play.

The offense took a step back following a 30-13 victory at Minnesota on Sunday, which temporarily moved the Packers back into a first-place tie in the NFC North.

The Packers have to solve their issues in a hurry with a game at surging Detroit on Thursday. After a 1-7 start, the Lions have won three in a row, a streak that started with their upset win at Lambeau Field on Nov. 15.

"The reality is we're not that far off," McCarthy said. "It's the attention and the details. Our issues are technique and discipline in the technique, and quit worrying so much about the plays. Just win the route or win the play called."

Commentary

Things We're NOT Thankful For In Sports

BY PAUL NEWBERRY
AP National Writer

Another Thanksgiving in the books.

So passes that day when sports columnists observe a 24-hour moratorium on griping in order to roll out all the things they're thankful for, a tradition that was perfected by the late, great Furman Bisher in Atlanta.

Well, we've never been one to follow the crowds on Black Friday, especially when it goes against everything we're about.

So, with our bellies properly stuffed and our grouch meter at full blast, here are some things we're NOT thankful for:

CONFUSION COMES IN STRIPES: It's beyond time for the NFL to actually hire full-time officials, but a rash of blown calls this season has only raised the urgency. To be fair, it's not entirely the fault of the guys in the stripes. The rulebook is a convoluted mess, filled with contradictions and unnecessary attempts to account for every possible scenario. For example, does anyone know what a catch is anymore?

BOWLING GONE WILD: GoDaddy Bowl. Camelia Bowl. Boca Raton Bowl. Foster Farms Bowl. The NCAA has created a ridiculous glut of post-season games — 40 in all, not even counting the national championship — setting up the very real possibility of some slots being filled by teams with losing records. Essentially, the bowl system is nothing more than ESPN's December programming schedule. The folks in Bristol should at least cut everyone's costs by staging the games in a studio with a green-screen backdrop, projecting images of whatever city they're supposed to be in.

SCOUNDRELS OF SOCCER: Compared to FIFA, the Corleones were

an upstanding bunch. Led by Sepp Blatter, the governing body of soccer has been thoroughly exposed for what we suspected all along — it's nothing more than a pack of thieves lining their pockets with millions of ill-gotten gains from all corners of the globe. Blatter is planning to retire and just about everyone else is indicted, but soccer fans will be feeling the pain at least until the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, which must be staged in winter instead of its usual summer slot because of the country's sweltering heat.

SCARY STADIUMS: After the terrorist attacks in Paris, which included the attempted bombing of the country's national stadium during a high-profile soccer match, we'll all have to get used to standing in long lines and enduring even more TSA-like security measures to see the games we love.

BRING ON THE ROCKERS: From Joe Louis to Willie Mays, our biggest stars have long had a knack for hanging on far too long. Now we've got Tiger Woods, Peyton Manning and Kobe Bryant. Hopefully, they're planning a joint retirement announcement pretty soon so we can start remembering their mammoth accomplishments instead of how bad things got in the twilight of their careers.

SHIRKING RESPONSIBILITY: College coaches demand to control every little aspect of their programs. Until something goes wrong. Then, like Sgt. Schultz, they know nothing, nothing! Sorry, Rick Pitinos of the world, you don't get to proclaim ignorance when, for instance, allegations emerge that one of your assistants was running a brothel on campus.

A FISH CALLED LORIA: If you think your favorite team's owner is incompetent, imagine what it's like to be a fan of the Miami Marlins.

Jeffrey Loria has continually fleeced the good people of South Florida, most notably getting them to build him a new stadium without bothering to reciprocate with a major league team. Just this week came word that beloved TV announcer Tommy Hutton was let go after 19 seasons. That'll teach him to be honest about Loria's joke of a franchise.

CON GAME: Along those same lines, we can't figure out why local governments keep spending hundreds of millions of dollars building new stadiums for teams owned by billionaires. The worst offender is metro Atlanta, where they're actually constructing TWO new stadiums — one for the Falcons, the other for the Braves. What makes this even more galling, there was nothing wrong with the stadiums those teams already had, both of which were constructed in the 1990s. Good thing the Colosseum was in Rome instead of the A-T-L. Otherwise, it would be a parking deck.

BOXING ON THE ROPES: Remember when a championship bout was the most exciting event in sports? Those days are long gone. Floyd Mayweather vs. Manny Pacquiao was the last glimmer of hope to make boxing relevant again. But we can at least be thankful for Holly Holm, whose upset of Ronda Rousey removed any reason to pay attention to MMA, a bloodlust that sells itself as the successor to the sweet science.

GOONS ON ICE: Really, NHL, it's time to get rid of the fighting. It's the 21st century. We've evolved. You'll be better off without it.

Paul Newberry is a national writer for The Associated Press. Write to him at pnewberry@ap.org or at www.twitter.com/pnewberry1963. His work can be found at <http://bigstory.ap.org/content/paul-newberry>.

Cincinnati Holds Off Huskers 65-61

NEW YORK (AP) — Troy Caupain scored 17 points and No. 24 Cincinnati beat Nebraska 65-61 on Friday night in the Barclays Center Classic semifinals.

Shaq Thomas added 14 points, and Octavious Ellis had 12 as Cincinnati (6-0).

Tai Webster scored 21 points for Nebraska (4-2), and Shavon Shields had 14.

The game was tied at 25 after a tight, defensive first half.

Nebraska took a 41-40 lead 8:08 into the second half when Shields converted Glenn Watson Jr.'s lob for an alley-oop jam.

The lead lasted all of 28 seconds. Troy Caupain's 3-pointer put Bearcats up again at 43-41.

Cincinnati outscored Nebraska 14-11 following Caupain's 3.

Ellis' layup with 5:30 left made it 53-49. The advantage grew to 57-49 on Ellis' half hook from the low post with 3:11 left.

Nebraska cut the deficit to three, but got no closer.

IPFW 71, Jacksonville 63

GREENSBORO, N.C. (AP) — Mo Evans scored 18 points with four 3-pointers to lead balanced IPFW past Jacksonville 71-63 in the Spartan Showcase on Friday.

Evans shot 7-for-13 from the field, 4-for-9 from deep for the Mastodons (4-1), and Max Landis added three 3-pointers for 16 points, although it was his free-throw shooting down the stretch kept Jacksonville at bay.

Darius Dawkins scored a career-high 25 points — with seven 3-pointers — to lead the Dolphins (2-2). In a game that saw each team launch 29 3-pointers, Dawkins opened with a 3 and Jacksonville claimed an early 11-4 lead.

Dawkins hit a 3-pointer to bring the Dolphins to 66-63 with 1:59 remaining.

COLLEGE | PAGE 3B