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<a href="#">Rhein</a>	2	2	0
<a href="#">Amsterdam</a>	2	2	0
<a href="#">Cologne</a>	1	3	0
<a href="#">Scotland</a>	0	4	0

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## Berlin make it four in a row

April 24, 2004  
NFL Europe

**Berlin Thunder 14 Rhein Fire 10**  
**Arena AufSchalke, Gelsenkirchen, Germany**  
**Attendance: 20,243**

The Berlin Thunder won their fourth game of the season, coming back from a 10-0 deficit to beat the Rhein Fire 14-10 at Arena AufSchalke. Thunder head coach Rick Lantz made the correct adjustments at half time to get the Berlin offense started, while their defensive line held the Fire to just 23 yards on the ground in the game.

Rhein jumped out to a 7-0 lead in the first quarter, capitalizing on a turnover by quarterback Rohan Davey on Berlin's opening drive, and scoring on a 1-yard touchdown run by Joffrey Reynolds. The Fire made it 10-0 at the half on a field goal by Ingo Anderbrugge, but were unable to produce much offensively in the second half.

Davey led the Thunder to two scores in the final period to put the game into Berlin's hands, and then looked on as his defense stopped any chance of a Rhein Fire comeback when they forced Chad Hutchinson to fumble with two minutes remaining.

Davey overcame his difficult start to win the battle of NFL Europe's big-name quarterbacks, completing 17 of 26 passes for 198 yards and a touchdown. Hutchinson finished 16 of 27 for 172 yards.

The Rhein Fire moved the ball well through the air on their opening possession, but were forced to punt when Hutchinson's third-down pass went to ground. However, on the third play of Berlin's possession German national safety Richard Yancy picked off Davey at the Berlin 33 and returned the ball to their 12 yard line.

On the first play of the ensuing possession receiver Willie Quinnie took the ball to the 1 yard line on a reverse, and from there running back Joffrey Reynolds plunged into the endzone to give the home side a 7-0 lead.

Berlin made some headway on their next possession, moving the ball to the Rhein 43 before being forced to punt, but they soon got the ball back when their defense held Hutchinson and the Fire to three and out. Three penalties on Berlin's offensive line had them moving backwards on their next possession however, and unsurprisingly Davey was unable to convert on 3rd-and-27.



**Joffrey Reynolds got the opening touchdown of the game.** photo: photo-stock.co.uk

Rhein started their next possession at the beginning of the second quarter from their own 49 with Greg Zolman at the controls of the offense. Zolman was forced to go to the air against Berlin's tough defensive front as Rhein continued to have problems moving the ball on the ground, but did so with success. First the left-handed passer zipped a 13-yard pass to tight end Daniel Wilcox for a first down, then he hit Shockmain Davis for a 20-yard gain to put the ball on the Berlin 15. However, his luck ran out there, overthrowing Wilcox and Quinnie in the endzone. Rhein settled for an Ingo Anderbrugge 30-yard field goal and a 10-0 lead with nine minutes left in the half.

Neither team was able to do anything on the final six possessions of the second period, and Rhein entered the half with their ten-point lead intact.



**Eric McCoo scored the game winning 3-yard touchdown for the Berlin Thunder.** photo: photo-stock.co.uk

The Thunder made adjustments to their offense at half-time - finally finding a way to move the ball on the ground with Eric McCoo running the ball effectively for two first downs, but once again penalties against the offensive line undid their good work and pushed the team backwards forcing the punt.

The quarterbacks then traded interceptions on their next two drives. Hutchinson began the next Rhein series promisingly, with a 13-yard completion to Quinnie, but his next attempt was picked off by Berlin cornerback Willie Ford, giving the Thunder possession at their own 40-yard line. Davey then went to the air himself - completing passes to Aaron Boone and Chas Gessner to take the ball to Rhein's 40 yard line, but was

intercepted at the goal-line when he underthrew a wide open Boone to give the ball back to the Fire.

Rhein were forced to punt on their next possession, and Berlin once again began a possession with good field position - at their own 48. Davey completed a 17-yard pass to Richard Alston on the first play to take them to Rhein's 35 yard line, and then hit running back McCoo for a 13-yard gain on third down. A 9-yard completion to Alston gave the Thunder possession at the 1 yard line, and Davey put Berlin's first points on the board when he tossed a 4-yard touchdown pass to fullback Ed Ileremia-Stansbury to make it 10-7 with one minute played in the final quarter.

The Fire were forced to punt again on their next possession, and the momentum continued to swing Berlin's way when Ray Jackson ripped through the Rhein Fire defensive line for gains of 21, 6 and 3-yards, finally breathing life into the Thunder's stagnant ground attack. The Fire were on their heels again when Ileremia-Stansbury had a 17-yard gain on a screen pass - placing the ball at Rhein's 31 yard line. The Thunder were pushed into a third and 25 situation after a penalty and a sack, but Davey converted the play with an outstanding 45-yard completion to Boone that put the ball back at the Fire goal-line. Eric McCoo's 3-yard touchdown run put Berlin in control at 14-10 with 5:54 remaining in the game.

Hutchinson had different ideas through, spraying passes around the field to lead his offense to the Berlin 30. On first down he had Adam Herzing open in the endzone, but the ball glanced off his fingertips, and two plays later a big sack by defensive end Corey Smith pushed them out of field goal range. Head coach Pete Kuharchek made the decision to go for it on fourth down though, and Hutchinson delivered, hitting Shockmain Davis with a 19-yard completion for the first down. However, Smith broke through the Rhein Fire offensive line on the next play, getting to Hutchinson once again and forcing

a fumble that the defensive end recovered himself.

From there the Thunder offense were able to run down the clock and coast to a fourth consecutive victory.

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