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ADMIRALS CLAYMORES CENTURIONS FIRE GALAXY THUNDER

NFL EUROPE

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2004 STANDINGS

	W	L	T
Berlin	4	0	0
Frankfurt	3	1	0
Rhein	2	2	0
Amsterdam	2	2	0
Cologne	1	3	0
Scotland	0	4	0

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 Cologne Centurions
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Alone at the top

April 26, 2004
NFL Europe

The Berlin Thunder are alone on top of the heap with four weeks of the NFL Europe season gone. On Saturday Berlin came from behind to beat the Rhein Fire 14-10 to extend their unbeaten streak, and then looked on as the Amsterdam Admirals shocked the Frankfurt Galaxy 21-17 in overtime on Sunday to hand Frankfurt their first loss of the 2004 campaign.

In the weekend's other game the Cologne Centurions scored the first win in franchise history, beating the Claymores 17-3 and extending Scotland's losing sequence to four games.

The Thunder found themselves 10 points behind Rhein at Arena AufSchalke at the start of the fourth quarter, but a two touchdown rally led by Berlin quarterback Rohan Davey, saved the day.

"It was a hard fought victory and I am very proud of my boys," said Thunder head coach Rick Lantz. "We had some problems offensively at the start, but this time the defense stepped up and made plays. The team never lost faith in themselves even though we were behind at the half."

The Fire jumped into a 7-0 lead early when Joffrey Reynolds scored on the ground following German national safety Richard Yancy's interception of Davey, and they extended their advantage before half-time on an Anderbrugge field goal.

However, Davey led two long drives in the final period, and set up the winning score after his 45-yard pass to Aaron Boone on 3rd-and-26 put the ball on the Fire's 1 yard line. From there Eric McCoo bowled into the endzone to put Berlin ahead 14-10.

The Thunder clinched the win when defensive end Corey Smith forced Rhein's Chad Hutchinson to fumble, allowing Berlin to run out the clock.

"It was a disappointing loss. I think that our players played hard, but there were some key plays that they had to make. Like a lot of times in football it came down to three or four plays, and that's what happened to us today," said a distraught Fire head coach Pete Kuharchek, whose team slipped to a 2-2 record.

"You have got to play defense on third and 26 - you just can't play like that.



Rohan Davey led the Thunder to two touchdowns in the fourth quarter to help them to a 17-10 win. photo: photo-stock.co.uk

And if you have the ball down there and you are down by four points you have to take it in and score. That's the bottom line."

Berlin now stands alone at 4-0 after the Frankfurt Galaxy suffered their first loss of the season, falling 21-17 to the Admirals at the Amsterdam Arena in an overtime thriller.

"That was a heck of a football game," said Amsterdam head coach Bart Andrus after his team had won their second consecutive game. "Frankfurt came in looking good, but our players came here to play. That was a real treat, it was real exciting in the end - which has become something of a standard in this league."

The Galaxy had looked to be in control with four minutes remaining in the fourth quarter and ahead 17-10. However, the Admirals rallied behind the play of quarterback Clint Stoerner, who led the offense from their own 27 yard line to the Frankfurt 6 - converting two third downs in the process, and leveled the scores on Chris Downs' 6-yard touchdown run.

Frankfurt had a chance to regain the lead when O'Sullivan moved them into field goal range, but Ralf Kleinmann's 40-yard effort was blocked by Don McGee, sending the game into the extra period.



Clint Stoerner's 34-yard pass to Carlos Rosado set up the game winning field goal in overtime. photo: photo-stock.co.uk

In overtime both teams had two possessions without being able to get within field goal range. Amsterdam had one last shot to win it, starting from their own 23 yard line with 24 seconds remaining. Stoerner had a vital 34-yard completion to Mexican receiver Carlos Rosado to take them into Galaxy territory, and his 9-yarder to Tony Donald on the next play followed by a timeout with three ticks left on the clock gave Todd Sievers the chance to win the game with a 51-yard field goal.

To the delight of Amsterdam's fans Sievers overcame two earlier misses to make the 4-point kick - winning the game for the Admirals as time expired.

Galaxy head coach Mike Jones was disappointed as his team lost their unbeaten record: "I can't put a finger on exactly what the problem was today. We didn't execute very well, and Amsterdam's defense executed a lot better than we did."

Galaxy running back Skip Hicks had another impressive day, totaling 212 yards from scrimmage, including a 72-yard touchdown on a screen pass from J.T. O'Sullivan.

The Cologne Centurions won the first game in their history on Saturday when they beat the Claymores 17-3 at RheinEnergieStadion to go to 1-3 on the season.

"It seems that in our other games we self destructed and we didn't do that tonight in this game," said Centurions head coach Peter Vaas. "We didn't turn the ball over on offense and that was huge. Before you can win, you have to prevent yourselves from losing and we did that in this game."

Scotland were shut out after Rob Hart opened the scoring with a 25-yard field goal on the first drive.

Ryan Van Dyke threw two touchdown strikes to Todd Devoe in the first half, and added a field goal with nine seconds remaining in the first half to make it 17-3.

In the second half league leading rusher Avon Cobourne, allocated by the Detroit Lions, helped the Centurions maintain their lead by racking up 116 yards on 18 carries.

The Claymores (0-4) have not scored a touchdown in 11 quarters of play, and are still searching for their first victory under Jack Bicknell.

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