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2004 STANDINGS

	W	L	T
x-Berlin	9	1	0
x-Frankfurt	7	3	0
Amsterdam	5	5	0
Cologne	4	6	0
Rhein	3	7	0
Scotland	2	8	0
x- World Bowl berth			

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POLL

Who should be the NFLEL Offensive Player of the Year?

Skip Hicks.. FRA

Rohan Davey.. BER

BER

J.T. O'Sullivan.. FRA

FRA

Chas Gessner.. BER

BER

Adam Herzing.. RHE

RHE

Scott

McCready.. SCO

Eric McCoo.. BER

BER

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COMMUNITY

Thunder take advantage

June 7, 2004

NFL Europe

The Berlin Thunder posted the first shut-out in team history in recording a 41-0 victory over the Frankfurt Galaxy just six days before the two teams go head to head again in World Bowl XII.

On a record-setting day for the Thunder, Berlin equaled the NFL Europe League mark for most wins in a season with their ninth of 2004, in front of the largest crowd in team history - winning by the largest margin since they entered the league in 1999.

Berlin's win was their second over the Galaxy in the last three weeks, and is a prelude to the main event, when they will meet at Arena AufSchalke in Gelsenkirchen in World Bowl XII.

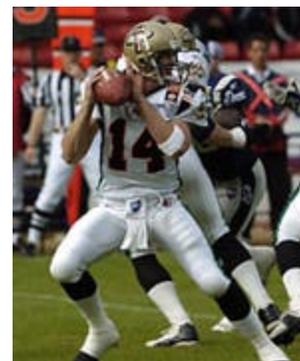
"I am as surprised as anybody at the result today," said Berlin head coach Rick Lantz. "This shows that our football team can score. I just wish I could have put some of those points into the bank because it is going to be a different game next week. We accomplished what we wanted today - we have beaten them twice now - we need to now go on and make it three weeks out of four."

The Thunder dominated in all facets of the game - outgaining the Galaxy on offense by 429 yards to 192, and getting four turnovers from Frankfurt, including two interceptions of David Priestley - who only attempted two passes in the game. In addition to the four touchdowns on offense the Thunder defense chipped in with an interception return for a score by Jermaine Mays.

In the fourth quarter Thunder linebacker Brenden Givan ended the Galaxy's only real scoring opportunity by stripping the ball from Skip Hicks at the goal-line and going for an NFLEL record 98-yard fumble return back to the Galaxy 1-yard line. Two plays later Berlin had put it in the end zone for the final score of the game.

That touchdown was scored by Thunder running back Eric McCoo, who continued his magnificent form with another outstanding display for Berlin. McCoo gained 122 yards on the ground and posted 61 more through the air.

Berlin's league-leading run defense held Frankfurt to 71 yards on the ground. The success



Marc Dunn sparked the Berlin offense, leading the team to their first two touchdowns. photo: photo-stock.co.uk

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Eric McCoo overtook Skip Hicks as NFL Europe leading rusher. photo: photo-stock.co.uk

of the Thunder defense in limiting Skip Hicks to just 50 yards meant that McCoo sneaked the league's rushing championship from under Hicks' nose, finishing with 669 yards on the season to Hicks 661, despite being behind by 64 yards entering the game.

Rohan Davey opened the game at quarterback for the Thunder, and led the team to a field goal on their second possession. Davey threw an interception on Berlin's next drive, Galaxy linebacker Dustin Cohen coming up with the pick to stop the home team at the Frankfurt 20.

Lantz replaced Davey with Marc Dunn later in the quarter, and the replacement passer led the Thunder on their first excursion into the end zone, capping a 7-play, 68-yard drive with a 29-yard scoring strike to Richard Alston. Dunn continued to shred Frankfurt's defense on his next opportunity, taking his team 60 yards in one and a half minutes and finding Aaron Boone for the touchdown - once again from 29 yards out.

Berlin's special teams chipped in with some help late in the first half, partially blocking a Mike Barr punt with 40 seconds remaining - providing Dunn with enough time to get the offense in position for a 32-yard Heinz Quast field goal that gave the Thunder a 20-0 half time lead.

Davey returned to the field in the third period, and led the team to their next score on their second possession of the half. Starting from his own 10 yard line the New England allocated passer methodically drove his team downfield, using a mixture of short passes and McCoo carries to reach the Frankfurt 17. From there Davey located Boone in the end zone for the Chicago Bears receiver's second score of the game to further increase the Thunder's lead.

Mays scored on the very first play of the fourth quarter to make it 34-0 with his 16-yard interception return of Galaxy backup passer Priestley, and Givan ended the Galaxy's next drive by stripping the ball from Hicks to deny the league's top scorer his thirteenth touchdown of the season and keep the shutout intact.

The Thunder capped the rout with a clock-eating seven and a half minute drive featuring ten running plays - including five for 34 yards by McCoo to put him ahead of Hicks in the league rushing yardage books - before Dunn took a knee at Frankfurt's 12 to end the game at 41-0.

"I have to take my hat off to Berlin - they came here ready to play, and we did not. They out executed us today in every way and played a great game," said Frankfurt head coach Mike Jones.

"They have beaten us twice in a row now, so without question we have some questions to answer. They are a solid team, and today they looked a lot more solid than us. There is no doubt that it is going to be tough playing them for the third time having been beaten twice."

On Saturday the Cologne Centurions doomed the Scottish Claymores to the third 2-8 season in team history, coming from behind to beat them 28-20 at Hampden Park.

The Centurions were led to victory by Ryan Van Dyke - who scored twice in the final period to give his team victory. Van Dyke added to a 21-yard

touchdown pass to Reggie Newhouse midway through the fourth quarter with a 1-yard scoring run with 1:46 remaining to make it 28-20.

The Centurions opened the scoring early in the second period when Rob Adamson (Carolina Panthers) fired a 38-yard touchdown strike to receiver Todd Devoe. The Claymores came back to level the scores on their next possession when New York Jets-allocated rusher Ian Smart raced 41 yards up the middle for the game-tying touchdown.



Ian Smart opened the scoring for Scotland, scampering for a 41-yard touchdown. photo: photo-stock.co.uk

Kicker Derek Schorejs extended the Centurions lead by four points with a 50-yard field goal and tacked on a three pointer from 34 yards out as time expired in the half. The second of those field goals came on a history-making drive led by Japanese quarterback Kentaro Namiki, who became the first national quarterback to complete a pass in NFL action. Namiki completed 5 of 6 passes for 38 yards on the drive.

The Claymores were gifted outstanding field position early in the third period when Centurions return man Albert Johnson fumbled a punt at his own 17-yard line and wideout Herb Haygood recovered for Scotland. Quarterback Tom Arth (Indianapolis Colts) took full advantage of the opportunity by firing a 3-yard touchdown pass to tight end Marcus Helfman (San Francisco 49ers). When Rob Hart added the PAT the scores were level at 14-14 five minutes into the third quarter.

The Claymores then took the lead when running back Maurice Hicks dived into the end zone from 3 yards out to give the Claymores a 20-14 advantage with a little over two minutes remaining in the third quarter. A bad snap ruined Scotland's extra point attempt.

Cologne answered midway through the final period on a 15 play, 79 yard drive, which had been kept alive when head coach Peter Vaas opted for a fake punt at his own 36 yard line. Safety Jerton Evans picked up 20 yards on a run up the middle that fooled the onlooking Scotland special teams unit. Five plays later Van Dyke fired the 21-yard touchdown to Newhouse that gave the visitors a slender one point lead.

Cologne iced the victory when with 1:46 remaining Van Dyke snuck into the end zone to end a 78-yard drive that featured plenty of leg work from running back Avon Cobourne designed to run time off the clock.

Despite equaling the worst mark in team history, Claymores head coach Jack Bicknell was unwilling to criticize his team in any way.

"After the game I basically told them how proud I was of them and I thanked them," Bicknell said. "I basically thanked them for everything they did and how they conducted themselves. I feel bad not for myself, but for those kids because they really wanted to win. I have a lot of respect for those players."

Bicknell explained that he was determined to return in 2005 and rectify the team's miserable season with a championship.

"I'm determined we are going to come here and give these fans a winner because they deserve one. They don't deserve a 2-8 football team," he stated. "There is no reason why we can't give them a winner. So, the Claymores, I'll be back and determined."



Chris Downs displayed his all round skills on Amsterdam's first scoring drive. photo: photo-stock.co.uk

On Sunday in Amsterdam the Admirals ended a sequence of five 4-6 seasons with a 22-12 victory over the Rhein Fire that gave them a .500 record on the season. The Fire fell to 3-7 having lost their last four games.

The Admirals were gifted turnovers by Rhein's offense - including a 32-yard fumble recovery for a

touchdown by Amsterdam defensive end Charles Alston for the final points of the contest. The first score of the game capped a drive which saw Oakland Raiders allocated running back Chris Downs display his outstanding all round abilities. First Downs took a screen pass from quarterback Clint Stoerner and turned it into a 57-yard reception, and then he ripped off a 22-yard run through the Fire defense before being stopped at the 1 yard line. From there running back Mike Malan took a scoring pass from Stoerner to give Amsterdam the lead.

Before the end of the second quarter the Fire had put six points on the board through two field goals that were the finishing touches to promising drives.

The Fire took the lead after half-time, finally igniting on offense when passer Greg Zolman capped a nine-play, 65-yard drive with a 4-yard score to tight end Daniel Wilcox to tie it at 7-7.

The Admirals responded when Washington Redskins passer Gibran Hamdan rifled a 32-yard scoring pass to Chris Taylor and followed it up with a completion to Malan on the two-point conversion to make it 15-12.

Alston's fumble recovery for a touchdown in the final period produced the final scoreline of 22-12, and gave Amsterdam their first non-losing season since 1998.

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