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	W	L	T
Berlin	5	0	0
Frankfurt	4	1	0
Rhein	2	3	0
Amsterdam	2	3	0
Cologne	1	4	0
Scotland	1	4	0

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POLL

At the halfway point of the season which team is most likely to win World Bowl XII?

- Berlin Thunder
 Frankfurt Galaxy
 Rhein Fire
 Amsterdam Admirals
 Cologne Centurions
 Scottish Claymores

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Thunder rolls on

May 3, 2004
NFL Europe

The Berlin Thunder reached the halfway point of the season unbeaten after defeating the Amsterdam Admirals 33-29 in a shootout in the 400th game in NFL Europe League history. The Thunder were joined in the win column for the first time this season by the Scottish Claymores, who got a last minute score to edge the Rhein Fire 13-12.

On Saturday evening the Frankfurt Galaxy overcame a strong challenge by the Cologne Centurions to win 24-17, with the winning touchdown coming with 47 seconds to play from league-leading scorer Skip Hicks.

Berlin quarterback Rohan Davey was the star for the Thunder again as they halted a two game winning streak by the Amsterdam Admirals. New England Patriots allocated player Davey was involved in all five of the Thunder's touchdowns, passing for four and adding a score on the ground to lift his team to their fifth win of the season.

Davey opened the scoring with a 47-yard completion to Richard Alston in the second quarter, and followed that up soon after with a 1-yard toss to tight end Mike Pinkard to put the Thunder on the road to another victory.

Amsterdam got on the scoreboard before halftime on a 29-yard strike from Clint Stoerner to Mexican national receiver Carlos Rosado, but any advantage was negated when Davey rumbled into the endzone from a yard away to make it 19-7 in the third quarter.

Amsterdam then mounted a furious comeback, scoring 14 unanswered points to give themselves a 21-19 lead. First Washington allocated passer Gibran Hamdan plunged into the endzone for a 1-yard score, and then Stoerner returned to the game to find Chris Taylor in the corner of the endzone for a 21-yard touchdown with 12 minutes remaining.

Just as he had the previous week in Berlin's 17-14 win against the Rhein Fire, Davey rallied his offense, twice running for first down yardage before hitting Alston for a 17-yard touchdown to regain the lead. Then Chicago Bears receiver Aaron Boone used his speed to turn a short pass from Davey into a 37-yard touchdown.

Amsterdam refused to give in and Tony Donald caught a 21-yard pass from Stoerner, whose two-point conversion pass made the score 33-29 with 0:54



Rohan Davey was involved in all five of Berlin's touchdowns as they beat the Amsterdam Admirals 33-29. photo: photo-stock.co.uk

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remaining. The Admirals were unable to recover the onside kick, and their challenge was ended when Davey took a knee to wind the clock.

Davey finished with a 127.1 passer rating - the third time this season that the Berlin quarterback has gone over the 100 mark. Stoerner completed 18 of 32 passes for 249 yards and three touchdowns.

Berlin's fifth victory made them the first team since the 1998 World Bowl winning Rhein Fire to reach the midpoint of the season without tasting defeat. Amsterdam dropped to 2-3, and will travel to Arena AufSchalke, venue of World Bowl XII, to face the Fire in week six.



Ron Bellamy caught two touchdowns as the Scottish Claymores got their first win of the season 13-12 over the Rhein Fire. photo: photo-stock.co.uk

The Scottish Claymores ended both their scoring and win drought when they hosted the Rhein Fire on Sunday at Hampden Park in Glasgow. The Claymores emerged victorious in the dying seconds of the game when Detroit Lions quarterback Curt Anes threw a 28-yard touchdown to Miami Dolphins allocated receiver Ronald Bellamy for the winning score.

The Claymores had not found the endzone in 11 quarters of football, but after the visitors had taken a 3-0 lead, starting Scotland quarterback Nate Hybl hit Bellamy for a 29-yard score and a 7-3 lead.

Rhein pulled to within one point in the third quarter with Mike Shafer's 46-yard field goal, and then took the lead going into the final period

when national kicker Ingo Anderbrugge split the uprights on a 30-yard field goal.

Rhein appeared to have the game won, but a stand by Scotland's defense ensured that the Fire had to punt the ball to the Claymores with 90 seconds left in the game. Starting from their own 20 yard line, Anes hit tight end Marcus Helfman, national receiver Scott McCready and running back Maurice Hicks each for 15-yard gains, and then found Bellamy in the endzone for the winning touchdown with six seconds on the clock to send the Claymores fans wild.

Scotland's defense exposed the Rhein Fire's porous offensive line, sacking Chad Hutchinson five times and holding the Fire to just 180 total yards.

With the win Scotland extended a streak of home wins over the Fire that stretches back to 1998. The Claymores will host the Frankfurt Galaxy in week six, while the Rhein Fire will be visited by the Amsterdam Admirals.

On Saturday the Frankfurt Galaxy got back on the winning track when they beat the Cologne Centurions 24-17. The Galaxy must have had a sense of déjà vu after watching their 17-3 halftime lead eroded by the Centurions' two second half touchdowns. In week four they suffered their first loss of the season when the Amsterdam Admirals tied them at the end of regulation and then won with a 51-yard field goal as time expired in overtime.

Frankfurt built a strong halftime lead on a first quarter scoring pass from J.T. O'Sullivan to Jermaine Lewis and a touchdown run by fullback Corey McIntyre, who had 108 total yards on the day.

In the second half the Centurions, led by quarterback Ryan Van Dyke, scored 14 unanswered points, tying the game with less than two minutes

remaining when running back Antwon McCray found the endzone from 11 yards away.

However, just when Galaxy fans were making preparations for an extra quarter of play, their offense sprang a late surprise to break Cologne hearts. Derek Schorejs kickoff went out of bounds, giving the Galaxy possession at their 40 yard line, and when O'Sullivan hit Derrick Lewis for a 33-yard gain after a pass interference penalty Frankfurt had the ball at the Cologne 5 yard line. From there Skip Hicks, who had a quiet day by his standards to that point, broke tackles to reach the endzone for the winning score.



Skip Hicks went in for the winning score for the Galaxy to take them to 4-1. photo: photo-stock.co.uk

Van Dyke, who completed 20 of 33 attempts for 254 yards and a score threw a Hail Mary in the final seconds of the game, but his pass was picked off by Chris Kern to end Cologne's challenge. O'Sullivan finished with 17 completions for 193 yards and a touchdown.

The loss ties Cologne with Scotland for the worst record in NFL Europe at 1-4, while Frankfurt at 4-1 rank second to the Berlin Thunder, who they will meet for the first time in week eight.

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