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Record win for Berlin



Aaron Boone hauled in eight passes for 112 yards and a score. (city-press.net)

No Michael Jennings? No problem for the Berlin Thunder. In front of 16,695 rabid fans at Olympic Stadium in Berlin, the Thunder set an NFL Europe League record – and tied another one – with a workmanlike 26-14 win over the Rhein Fire. The win was Berlin's 10th straight victory at Olympic Stadium, setting a new mark for consecutive victories at home by an NFL Europe franchise. [More...](#)

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Which teams will contest Yello Strom World Bowl XIII?

- Berlin and Cologne
- Amsterdam and Berlin
- Amsterdam and Cologne
- Amsterdam and Hamburg
- Berlin and Hamburg
- Cologne and Hamburg

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Record win for Berlin

May 16, 2005
 By Matt Kramer
 NFL Europe



Aaron Boone hauled in eight passes for 112 yards and a score. (city-press.net)

No Michael Jennings? No problem for the Berlin Thunder. In front of 16,695 rabid fans at Olympic Stadium in Berlin, the Thunder set an NFL Europe League record – and tied another one – with a workmanlike 26-14 win over the Rhein Fire.

The win was Berlin's 10th straight victory at Olympic Stadium, setting a new mark for consecutive victories at home by an NFL Europe franchise.

"It's nice to be a part of a team that set a record like that, because it's a mark that shows what kind of fan base we have," said quarterback Dave Ragone, who was 13-of-26 for 138 yards with one touchdown pass. "Any win in this league is important, and I know that winning a game at home this late in the season is really crucial."

Despite not having the services this weekend of Jennings, who had caught six passes for 165 yards and two touchdowns the weekend before, fellow wide receiver Aaron Boone stepped up admirably for Berlin, hauling in eight passes for 112 yards and a touchdown. Boone now has seven career touchdowns for the Thunder, one shy of the franchise record set by Jorg Heckenbach from 1999-2004.

"Aaron is the type of receiver who is going to be in the right place at the right time," Ragone said. "He ran good routes, and that's comforting for a quarterback. He really stepped up and played well."

Ragone has now thrown 99 passing attempts without being intercepted, completing 57 of those throws. The last time Ragone was intercepted was Berlin's last offensive play against Amsterdam in Week 3.

"With Michael out, we as a receiving corps knew that we had to step it up," said Boone. "Our running game opened up some passing plays and we were able to move the ball when we needed too. We were real happy with our explosion plays, and for that you have to give credit to our offensive line and coaching staff. We had to use some different weapons today, and that's a credit to the staff for finding those guys."

While Boone caught passes from Ragone, running backs Cal Murray and Little John Flowers had their best games since Week One, combining to rush for 165 yards on 25 carries. Both running backs had second half touchdowns, with Murray scoring from 24 yards out in the third quarter, and Flowers bursting through a hole for a 57-yard touchdown early in the fourth quarter for his sixth touchdown of the season. In all, Berlin amassed 205 yards rushing against Rhein.

"The offensive line really came out today and blocked hard," said Murray, who scored his first rushing touchdown of the season. "Little John and I were able to find some openings because of the holes those guys in the trenches created. Anytime the two of us are able to rush for over 70 yards each that's a good day."

For the seventh consecutive game linebacker Rich Scanlon led the Thunder in tackles, this time wrapping up ten. Through seven games, Scanlon has recorded an amazing 66 tackles, 40 shy of the League record – set by his fellow Kansas City Chiefs teammate Mike Maslowski – with three games to play. Scanlon has recorded 34 tackles in his past three games.

National defensive end Christian Mohr has his best game date, recording five tackles, one sack, and a key forced fumble, which clinched Berlin's victory.

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The Thunder tied another League mark on Saturday, thanks to the 24 points put up by the team. Berlin has scored at least six points in 53 straight games, trying the record set by the Amsterdam Admirals from 1999-2004.

The Thunder, now tied for first in the League with Cologne at 5-2, have a chance to break that scoring record next Sunday, when they travel to Hamburg to take on the 4-3 Sea Devils.

"It doesn't matter how many points we score," Ragone said. "This team just wants to win."

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