

Football Team Downs Vienna In High-Scoring Charity Bowl

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VIENNA, Austria - Joe Gast and Eddy Kaiser ran for three touchdowns each as the UW-Eau Claire football team overcame a 33-21 halftime deficit to defeat the Vienna Vikings, 54-39, in the seventh annual Charity Bowl here Sunday.

The charity event was played to provide support for abused children, according to Blugold head coach Todd Hoffner.

The marathon contest lasted three hours and 25 minutes and was played with temperatures near 90 degrees before a crowd estimated at 6,500 by Austrian officials. Hoffner said the crowd was very loud which made it tough to hear. He also reported that the game was very physical with one broken collarbone, one broken hand, one heat exhaustion and another player sent to the hospital with a bruised kidney.

The game produced over 1,000 yards of total offense. The Vikings racked up 597 including 413 through the air as quarterback Shawn Olson completed 36 of 50 passes with three going for scores. He was picked off twice by the Blugolds' Luke Plese and Zach Paul. The Blugolds also recovered a fumble.

The Blugolds had no turnovers as quarterback Jesse Krzyzanowski completed 12 of 20 passes for 237 yards and two touchdowns. His scoring strikes were seven yards to Matt Evensen and 51 yards to Chris Hull.

Gast totaled 101 yards on 16 carries with scoring jaunts of six, two and 15 yards. Kaiser picked up 68 yards on 15 attempts with scoring runs of 25, two and eight yards.

Gast got the Blugolds on the scoreboard less than three minutes into the contest and Kaiser gave the Blugolds a 13-0 lead with a 25-yard scamper just 5:45 into the game. But the Vikings scored on five of their next six possessions to take a 12-point advantage at the intermission.

The Blugolds scored on their first five possessions in the second half while the defense came up with three takeaways in addition to stopping the Vikings on downs once and forcing a punt on a three and out.

Hoffner reported that the Vikings had nine Americans on their team that were former NCAA Division I players or tried out for pro teams. But he said the Blugolds were too fast for the Vikings.

Hoffner also reported that Blugold Andy Schneider won a kicker challenge by booting a 55-yard field goal.

Action Shots From Europe

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