Blue Hawks Defeat MSU- Northern Lights 17-7 in Season Opener
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Dickinson State University Blue Hawks defeated the Montana State University-Northern Lights 17-7 on a windy and rainy night at the Henry Biesiot Activities Center.

The Lights returned the opening kick-off the the Blue Hawks 14 yard line and but the Blue Hawks defense eventually forced the Lights field goal attempt that sailed wide right.

The Lights and the Blue Hawks traded a few possessions before the Blue Hawks scored on a touchdown pass from Robert Sterling to Dalton Reid towards the end of the first quarter. And MSU-N first-year head coach Aaron Christensen didn’t just inherit perhaps the top running back in all of the NAIA in McKinley, he takes over a program that is very deep at the tailback position.

The Lights got on the scoreboard in the second quarter with a touchdown run by Zach McKinley to tie the game at 7-7. The Blue Hawks rallied late in the second quarter to take a 14-7 lead when Sterling ran in a touchdown. The Blue Hawks would take a 14-7 lead into half time.

The lone scoring in the second half came in the third quarter off of a field goal by Josh Perry-Kruse giving the Blue Hawks a 17-7 lead, on their way to their first victory of the young season.

The Blue Hawks are now 1-0 (0-0 NSAA) while the Lights fall to 0-1 (0-0 Frontier Conference).

The Blue Hawks finished the game with a total of 222 offensive yards, 123 rushing and 73 passing, on 73 plays while the Lights finished the game with 189 total offensive yards, 183 rushing and 67 passing, on 67 plays.

Sterling finished 8-17 passing for 90 yards with one touchdown pass and rushed for 80 yards on 24 carries. Leading the way for the Lights was running back, Zach McKinley, who rushed for 96 yards on 22 carries and one touchdown.

Devin Martin led the Blue Hawk defense with seven tackles while Awa Poggi, Thomas Sease, and Noey Tauave each recorded six tackles.

The Blue Hawks travel to Billings, Montana next Saturday to face rival Rocky Mountain College. Kick-off is set for 1:00 PM (MDT).

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