



Admirals



Centurions



Fire



Galaxy



Sea Devils



Thunder

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LTU Arena, Dusseldorf - Saturday May 27, 2006 - Kickoff Time 6:00 p.m. CET

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Defending their crown

May 15, 2006

By Henry Hodgson

NFL Europe



The Amsterdam Admirals will be making their second consecutive trip to World Bowl.

(waynepaulo.com)

If it does turn out to be a final between the Admirals and Galaxy, Andrus' troops will take a great deal of confidence into the game having swept Frankfurt this season. They held the Galaxy without a trip into the endzone until the final period, despite Frankfurt gaining 365 total yards, including 211 on the ground.



The Galaxy's loss overshadowed another outstanding performance from running back Roger Robinson (Arizona Cardinals), who rushed for 121 yards – passing the 100-yard mark for the sixth time in the season to equal the league record.

“Surely we are disappointed to lose this game, but we have one more shot to make it to the World Bowl,” said head coach Mike Jones. “I know that these players will bounce back and next week we are going to go to Berlin and leave it all on the field.”

However, the Fire will hope that this week's Galaxy loss – which snapped their five game winning streak – is the start of a slide that sees Frankfurt miss out on the World Bowl. In order to make that faint hope come real, however, Rhein will have to make a dramatic improvement to their own game to beat Cologne.

The Fire's 13-10 loss to Hamburg highlighted their offense's lack of productivity, as

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Roger Robinson had his record equalling sixth 100-yard rushing performance.
(waynepaulo.com)

hopes flickering.

“Amsterdam did us a favor and beat Frankfurt, which means that we still have a chance to go to World Bowl,” said Rhein head coach Jim Tomsula as the news of the Admirals victory reached the Fire locker-room. “We are going to come out for our last home game next week and try to get one more win against Cologne and let the pieces fall where they may.”



Jamaal Branch led Cologne to victory.
(Henrik Fischbach)

they could only muster 194 total yards and three points on offense. A 100-yard interception return for a score by Ronyell Whitaker accounted for their only endzone trip of the game.

However, any lingering disappointment at the loss to Hamburg was dispelled when news reached the Fire locker-room of the Galaxy loss the kept their faint World Bowl

Their formula for making World Bowl is a tough one. Not only are Frankfurt’s opponents, Berlin, struggling mightily, but also Rhein will find that Cologne have hit a rich vein of form and will be no pushover in their Week 10 fixture.

The Centurions confirmed that by winning their third game in four weeks, easily downing the Thunder 25-7 on Sunday. The Centurions dominated Berlin, outgaining them 451 yards to 162, and breaking out the play on both sides of the ball that they have flashed at times through the season.

“I’m very happy right now,” says head coach David Duggan. “It was a rewarding day for this team. They have worked very hard, and it was nice to get a win with such a total team effort. I thought that both sides of the ball played extremely well. It was nice to give the fans a win to show our appreciation for their support this year.”

Although they cannot play in the final, Cologne can have a huge say in which team does in the final week of the season. Their burgeoning rivalry with the Rhein Fire – based just 30 miles away from Cologne – looks set to explode on Saturday when the Centurions travel to LTU arena with thoughts of knocking their adversary out of the World Bowl race.

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