

Sept. 23 - Central Michigan 22, Bowling Green 16

The nemesis for Bowling Green in the Mid-American Conference the last few seasons has been Central Michigan and that was again the case in this game. The Chippewas earned a 22-16 decision at Kelly/Shorts Stadium with a stingy defense and an offense which possessed the ball almost eight more minutes than the Falcons.

Central drove 78 yards in 20 plays with its initial possession of the game as place-kicker Brad Blasy capped the drive with a 21-yard field goal. CMU made it 10-0 as quarterback Chad Darnell ran 21 yards to paydirt at the 9:33 mark of the second quarter. The Falcons only score in the first 30 minutes of the game came at the 5:13 mark of the second stanza as senior cornerback Steve Ayers stepped in front of a Darnell sideline pass and ran 26 yards untouched to the end zone with the interception. CMU made it 17-7 going into the locker room as Darnell hit Bryan Schorman with a 29-yard pass with just two seconds left.

CMU dominated the first half holding a 16-5 edge in first downs, a 332-70 edge in total offense, and a 19:15 to 10:45 edge in time of possession.

After neither team could score in the third quarter, Bowling Green closed to 17-10 on a 21-yard Derek Schorejs field goal. But, CMU came right back with their own drive which resulted in a field goal. BG cut the lead to 20-16 on a three-yard pass from Ryan Henry to Trevor Stover with 1:17 left in the game. Henry tried to run in the two-point attempt, but fumbled, and Shawn Williams, from CMU, scooped up the football and raced 99 yards to give the Chippewas the two points. Bowling Green tried the onside kick, but CMU recovered and ran the clock out.

Central had a 21-14 edge in first downs, a 482-227 edge in total yards, and a 33:48 to 26:12 edge in time of possession. Keylan Cates led the Falcons with 89 yards rushing on 21 carries while Henry was 10-of-27 for 109 yards. CMU quarterback Chad Darnell was 12-of-18 for 243 yards while rushing for 30 additional yards. Courtney Davis, from Bowling Green, returned a punt 89 yards for a touchdown early in the third quarter, but the play was wiped out on an illegal use of hands penalty. The 224 yards of total offense for the Falcons was the lowest output by a BGSU team since the 1990 season when BG had just 204 yards total offense against Kent.

CMU is the only MAC team which has beaten the Falcons in the four-plus year tenure of head coach Gary Blackney. CMU has won the last three meetings, including the 1994 season finale for the league title and Las Vegas Bowl berth.