

Sept. 20 - Bowling Green 31, at Akron 28

For the second time in as many Mid-American Conference games, the Falcons spotted their league opponent points then roared back to claim the victory.

Akron put three unanswered touchdowns on the board in the first quarter to build a 21-0 lead. But, a failed fake punt attempt by Akron set the ball up for the Falcons at the Akron 36-yard line with 9:09 left in the second quarter. BG drove to paydirt with Bob Niemet hitting Tony Holcomb with the first of two scoring receptions for Holcomb.

Niemet was sidelined at the end of the second quarter with a concussion putting back-up Ricky Schneider at the controls. Schneider's only previous collegiate experience was two passes at the end of the Ohio State game.

But, the red-shirt freshman played like anything but that leading the Falcons on a 13-play, 78-yard drive to open the second half to close the gap to 21-14.

After Akron came right back to score a touchdown, Schneider threw to Holcomb for a score with 24 seconds left to close to within seven points and Schneider took care of that with a one-yard run with 5:57 left to deadlock the game at 27-all.

After the defense stopped Akron on three plays, BG started its game-winning drive with 3:46 left. The Falcons converted to third-down plays moving the ball to the Akron six-yard line where Jason Starsser connected from 23 yards with 32 seconds left for the winning points.

The comeback was the largest in tenure of head coach Gary Blackney (72 games) and was spurred by a ball-control offense which ran 49 plays in the second half while the Falcon defense was limiting the Zips to 19 plays. BG had a 92 to 50 edge in plays and a 41:23 to 18:37 edge in time of possession.

BG started the game with six players sidelined with injuries, four of those starters and all six on the two-deep, then lost three players during the course of the game.

Bowling Green	0	7	14	10	-	31
Akron	21	0	7	0	-	28

AK - Mike Lagasse 2 run (kick failed), 13:44, 1st qtr.

AK - Lavel Bailey 20 pass from Greg Gromek (Gromek run), 8:48, 1st qtr.

AK - Greg Lomax 12 run (Stidham kick), 1:09, 1st qtr.

BG - Tony Holcomb 12 pass from Bob Niemet (Strasser kick), 5:57, 2nd qtr.

BG - Damien Platt 4 run (Strasser kick), 8:50, 3rd qtr.

AK - Lagasse 4 run (Stidham kick), 4:38, 3rd qtr.

BG - Holcomb 1 pass from Ricky Schneider (Strasser kick), 0:24, 3rd qtr.

BG - Schneider 1 run (Strasser kick), 5:57, 4th qtr.

BG - Strasser 23 field goal, 0:32, 4th qtr.

Attendance - 18,887

Team Statistics - First Downs (BG 28, AK 15); Rushes-Yards (BG 55-184, AK 32-148); Passing Yardage (BG 262, AK 177); Completions-Attempts-Interceptions (BG 10-18-1, AK 25-37-1); Punts-Avg. (BG 3-42.0, AK 3-38.0); Fumbles-Lost (BG 0-0, AK 3-2); Penalties-Yards (BG 5-45, AK 6-71); Time of Possession (BG 41:23, AK 18:37).

Individual Leaders - Bowling Green - Rushing (Robbie Hollis 23-107, Damien Platt 20-62); Passing (Bob Niemet 12-18-134, Schneider 13-19-128); Receiving (Robbie Hollis 6-46, Damron Hamilton 5-84, Terry Loville 5-58). Akron - Rushing (Mike Lagasse 14-83); Passing (Greg Gromek 9-17-145); Receiving (Willie Spencer 3-65, Carl Whitt 3-61).