

Oct. 11 - Western Michigan 34, at Bowling Green 21

The Falcons never led in dropping their first Mid-American Conference game of the season and their first home contest. It was the third straight win in the series for the Broncos, the first time they have accomplished that in the 43 games played between the two programs.

Western broke on top with the first 10 points just 2:46 apart in the first stanza. WMU converted the first of three BG fumbles on the day into a field goal with 7:30 left in the first quarter.

Leon Weathersby, who had fumbled on the previous kickoff to set up the WMU field goal, then returned a kickoff 94 yards for a touchdown. The run was the longest in school history and the first return of a kickoff for a touchdown by a BG player since 1973.

After the two teams traded touchdowns on short runs, WMU moved 80 yards in five plays hitting pardirt on a 38-yard pass from Jeff Welsh, who was subbing for starter Tim Lester after he injured an ankle in the first quarter and did not return, to Corey Alston with just 2:29 left before half.

The Falcons narrowed the gap to three points again driving 69 yards in six plays with the first possession of the second half to close to within 24-21.

But, WMU drove 79 yards in seven plays on the next possession to increase the lead back to 10 points. The Western 32-yard line was the Falcons deepest penetration the rest of the way as two of their three possessions in the fourth quarter ended with turnovers.

WMU sealed the win with a field goal at the 3:43 mark of the fourth quarter.

WMU had an 11-minute edge in time of possession and a 481-279 advantage in total offense. The Falcons lost three of their six fumbles in the game and had a punt blocked in addition to a pair of interceptions.

Welsh, a "true" freshman, completed 16-of-23 passes for 219 yards and two scores after relieving Lester.

Western Michigan            10   14   7   3   -   34

Bowling Green             7   7   7   0   -   21

WM - Corey Alston 53 pass from Tim Lester (Brad Selent kick), 9:46, 1st qtr.

WM - Selent 34 field goal, 7:30, 1st qtr.

BG - Leon Weathersby 94 kickoff return, 7:11, 1st qtr.

WM - Robert Sanford 2 run (Selent kick), 13:49, 2nd qtr.

BG - Adam Lige 1 run (Jason Strasser kick), 8:01, 2nd qtr.

WM - Alston 38 pass from Jeff Welsh (Selent kick), 2:29, 2nd qtr.

BG - Damron Hamilton 25 pass from Bob Niemet (Strasser kick), 11:23, 3rd qtr.

WM - Mike Hutchings 5 pass from Welsh (Selent kick), 8:13, 3rd qtr.

WM - Selent 33 field goal, 3:43, 4th qtr.

Attendance - 18,843

Team Statistics - First Downs (WM 18, BG 20); Rushes-Yards (WM 46-175, BG 34-95); Passing Yardage (WM 306, BG 184); Completions-Attempts-Interceptions (WM 19-28-0, BG 13-27-2); Punts-Avg. (WM 5-41.6, BG 5-36.8); Fumbles-Lost (WM 1-1, BG 6-3); Penalties-Yards (WM 9-89, BG 6-59); Time of Possession (WM 35:42, BG 24:18).

Individual Leaders - Bowling Green - Rushing (Robbie Hollis 8-38, Damien Platt 9-31); Passing (Bob Niemet 13-27-184); Receiving (Damron Hamilton 6-80, Tony Holcomb 2-38, Josh Siebenhar 2-36). Western Michigan - Rushing (Robert Sanford 17-104, Fields 9-42); Passing (Jeff Welsh 16-23-219, Tim Lester 3-4-87); Receiving (Mike Hutchings 4-66, Steve Neal 4-45, Corey Alston 3-100).