

Oct. 3 - at Bowling Green 35, Ohio 7

The Falcons broke their eight-game losing skid in a big way in front of the annual Homecoming Day crowd as a number of young players emerged to lead the Falcon victory.

It took the Falcons just 31 seconds to reach paydirt as they started quickly just as they did the previous week against Central Florida. Freshman tailback Godfrey Lewis started a sweep play to the left side on the second play of the game, reversed his field when he saw the Bobcats had the play bottled up and raced 66 yards down the west sideline for a touchdown.

After BG held the Bobcats on the next possession, the Falcons moved 63 yards on nine plays to paydirt to build a 14-0 lead on a six-yard run by fullback Adam Lige.

OU got on the scoreboard after blocking a BG punt in the first quarter driving 17 yards in three plays to cut the deficit in half.

But, the Falcons scored twice in the second quarter to take a 28-7 lead to the locker room and then let its defense do the rest. The Falcon defense yielded just 102 yards to OU in the first half and just 107 yards in the second half. Other than the touchdown, Ohio's deepest penetration was the BG 37-yard line.

Lewis led a BG ground attack which accounted for 278 yards on 53 carries in a game played in a steady rain throughout. Lewis rushed for 191 yards on 29 carries, the most carries in a game for a freshman running back in school history and the second-highest yardage total by a freshman in school history. Dave Windatt rushed for 200 yards in 1997 against Ohio as a freshman to establish the record.

Sophomore Ricky Schneider completed 13-of-18 passes for 178 yards and two scores with freshmen wide outs Kurt Gerling and Robert Redd doing most of the damage. Gerling had several acrobatic catches and ended the game with five receptions for 126 yards. His yardage total is the highest ever for a freshman receiver in school history. Redd had five receptions for 39 yards, including a diving 10-yarder in the second quarter to put the Falcons ahead by a 28-7 count.

The Falcons had been shutout by the Bobcats each of the last two seasons on the road and now have a 14-2-1 record vs. Ohio in their last 17 meetings. The Falcons have now topped the 30-point barrier in each of the last two games, the first time that has happened since the midway point of the 1994 season. The Falcons' rushing the total offense figures were the highest since the Akron game early in the 1995 season.

Ohio                                7   0   0   0   -   7

Bowling Green                14   14   0   7   -   35

BG - Godfrey Lewis 66 run (Strasser kick), 14:29, 1st qtr.

BG - Adam Lige 6 run (Strasser kick), 9:36, 1st qtr.

OH - Raynald Ray 19 pass from Kareem Wilson (Brian Huston kick), 5:57, 1st qtr.

BG - Tony Holcomb 2 pass from Ricky Schneider (Strasser kick), 10:13, 2nd qtr.

BG - Robert Redd 10 pass from Schneider (Strasser kick), 1:57, 2nd qtr.

BG - Lige 12 run (strasser kick), 2:22, 4th qtr.

Attendance - 9,014

Team Statistics - First Downs (OH 11, BG 24); Rushes-Yards (OH 44-182, BG 53-278); Passing Yardage (OH 27, BG 196); Completions-Attempts-Interceptions (OH 2-12-0, BG 14-19-1); Punts-Avg. (OH 8-41.4, BG 3-31.0); Fumbles-Lost (OH 5-3, BG 4-2); Penalties-Yards (OH 2-19, BG 5-28); Time of Possession (OH 24:19, BG 35:41).

Individual Leaders - Bowling Green - Rushing (Godfrey Lewis 29-191, Adam Lige 9-51); Passing (Ricky Schneider 13-18-178); Receiving (Kurt Gerling 5-126, Robert Redd 5-39). Ohio - Rushing (Steve Hookfin 18-77, Sid Hall 8-40); Passing (Kareem Wilson 2-9-27); Receiving (Raynald Ray 1-19, Damion Maxwell 1-8).