

Nov. 14 - Bowling Green 34, at Northern Illinois 23

The Falcons ended their season on a positive note dominating the Huskies on paper but not putting the game away until late.

The Falcons led 7-3 early on a Brent Martin short touchdown run in the first quarter and would not lead again until the 7:47 of the third quarter and they did not enjoy a comfortable margin until Jason Strasser would connect on his second field goal of the day at the 4:45 mark of the fourth quarter, the final points of the game.

After Strasser kicked his first field goal of the day at the 3:49 mark of the first quarter to tie the game, NIU scored 10 straight points and took a 23-17 lead to the locker room. NIU made good use of excellent field position in the first half with their drives starting on an average on the BG 49-yard line while BG's average start was their own 23-yard line.

But, the second half was all Bowling Green.

After having almost double NIU's time of possession in the first half (19:05 to 10:55), BG ran 53 plays in the second 30 minutes compared to just 16 for the Huskies. BG possessed the ball for 24:23 of the 30 minutes and NIU did not get a first down in the entire half. The BG defense limited NIU to 23 net yards in the second half.

Bob Niemet's seven-yard run at the 7:47 mark of third quarter put the Falcons ahead to stay and Niemet connected with tight end Tony Holcomb on the second play of the final stanza to give the Falcons some breathing room. BG put the game away with a 19-play, 83-yard drive which culminated in the last Strasser field goal. That drive consumed 9:04 of the clock as the Falcons had the ball for 13:27 of the final 15 minutes of the game.

As has been the case all season, BG was able to control the game with another big day on the ground as they churned out 376 yards as Godfrey Lewis has his second 100-yard day of the season with 147 yards on 27 carries.

The 99 plays BG ran in the game tied the school record. The Falcons ended the season winning four of their last five games.

Bowling Green                    10   7   7   10   -   34

Northern Illinois                10   13   0   0   -   23

NI - Brian Clark 37 field goal, 12:59, 1st qtr.

BG - Brent Martin 1 run (Jason Strasser kick), 9:00, 1st qtr.

NI - Ivory Bryant 42 run (Clark kick), 8:37, 1st qtr.

BG - Strasser 21 field goal, 3:49, 1st qtr.

NI - Clark 25 field goal, 11:48, 2nd qtr.

BG - Bob Niemet 5 run (Strasser kick), 2:00, 2nd qtr.

NI - Clark 29 field goal, 0:00, 2nd qtr.

BG - Niemet 7 run (Strasser kick), 7:47, 3rd qtr.

BG - Tony Holcomb 3 pass from Niemet (Strasser kick), 14:50, 4th qtr.

BG - Strasser 29 field goal, 4:45, 4th qtr.

Attendance - 11,380

Team Statistics - First Downs (BG 28, NI 9); Rushes-Yards (BG 376, NI 100); Passing Yardage (BG 117, NI 99); Completions-Attempts-Interceptions (BG 10-22-1, NI 14-29-0); Punts-Avg. (BG 4-49.0, NI 7-33.7); Fumbles-Lost (BG 2-2, NI 1-1); Penalties-Yards (BG 3-25, NI 4-30); Time of Possession (BG 43:28, NI 16:32).

Individual Leaders - Bowling Green - Rushing (Godfrey Lewis 27-147, Brent Martin 14-87); Passing (Bob Niemet 10-22-117); Receiving (Kurt Gerling 3-53, Tony Holcomb 3-35). Northern Illinois - Rushing (Ivory Bryant 10-101); Passing (Craig Harmon 14-29-99); Receiving (Justin McCareins 5-53, Deon Mitchell 3-25).