

Bowling Green Beats Toledo, 56-21

Quarterback Josh Harris led the Falcons to their eighth win of the season.

Nov 23, 2001

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BOWLING GREEN, Ohio (AP) - Josh Harris passed for 268 yards and four touchdowns and also ran for two scores, leading Bowling Green to a 56-21 victory over Toledo on Friday night.

Harris threw TD passes of 63 and 26 yards to Robert Redd, 17 yards to Kurt Gerling and 13 yards to David Bautista.

The quarterback also scored on runs of 7 and 34 yards to account for six touchdowns for the second straight game for the Falcons (8-3, 5-3 Mid-American Conference).

Harris passed for three touchdowns, ran for two and caught a scoring pass - while piling up a school-record 498 yards of total offense - in Bowling Green's 43-42 victory over Northwestern last Saturday.

In a tuneup for the MAC title game, Toledo (8-2, 5-2) committed six turnovers - four fumbles - and never led. The Rockets also played without quarterback Tavares Bolden, who had passed for 2,156 yards and 12 touchdowns this season.

Coach Tom Amstutz was to announce after the game why Bolden didn't play. His replacement, Brian Jones, was 14-of-28 for 180 yards with three touchdowns and two interceptions.

Carl Ford caught four passes for 103 yards - including a 57-yard TD pass from Jones - and Chester Taylor had 82 yards rushing on 17 carries for Toledo.

Jones' 3-yard TD pass to Andrew Clarke pulled Toledo within 35-21 with 2:25 to play in the third quarter. But Harris answered with a 34-yard TD run with five seconds left in the third and TD passes to Gerling and Bautista in the fourth.

Harris was 17-of-28 passing without an interception and ran for 117 yards on 22 carries. Redd caught six passes for 127 yards for the Falcons.

Bowling Green won eight games for the first time since going 9-2 in 1994 and put up more than 50 points against its biggest rival for the first time since a 51-21 victory over Toledo in 1959.

Toledo hadn't allowed more than 50 points since a 61-20 loss to Louisiana Tech in 1996.

The Rockets, who clinched the MAC West Division title last weekend, will face Marshall at home next Friday in the MAC championship game. Toledo already accepted a bid to the Motor City Bowl.



Bowling Green quarterback Josh Harris looks for running room during the first quarter against Toledo on Friday.