Bentley - and turnovers - defeat football, 17-3

By Martin Dickus

Despite outstanding defensive work by Doug Gouchoe '83, the MIT Engineers football club was defeated by the Bentley Falcons Saturday 17-3 at Bentley's homecoming game on Saturday. Once again, turnovers by the MIT offense proved to be the factor allowing the Morse Falcons to win.

MIT fumbled the ball away on its fourth play of the very first series of the game. Bentley recovered the ball on the MIT forty-five yard line and had only very little trouble advancing for a touchdown by Bill Crabtree on a two-yard run. With the kick by Lee Alper, the Falcons had themselves an early 7-0 lead.

The MIT defense then settled down and made the going very difficult for the Falcon offense. MIT's offense responded by putting some points on the board with only a minute and a half gone in the second quarter.

The offense was still having trouble moving the ball against a strong Bentley defense, but the Engineers managed to get the ball close enough for Willy Schwartz '82 to kick an forty-one yard field goal, bringing the score to 7-3 and setting an MIT school record.

The MIT defense continued to put up a very strong effort, holding Bentley to only fifteen yards rushing in the second period in spite of interceptions of two of freshman Vincent Martiniello's passes. The Falcons did not see enough to the MIT goal line to attempt a field goal on their last play of the first half. The attempt was a fake, and the Falcon ballholder threw what looked like a sure touchdown pass only to see Gouchoe come out of nowhere to bat the ball away.

Bentley added three points in the third quarter, after moving fifty-five yards on their opening drive. The Engineer defense held the ball away from the goal line, but the Falcons got three points on a thirty-six yard field goal by Alper, making the score 10-3.

MIT had an excellent opportunity to score on the next series, as John Einhorn '84 recovered a Bentley fumble on the Falcon's forty-five yard line. This time Martiniello connected on two passes to John DeRubeis '83, one for six yards and the other for thirty-nine. The Engineers found themselves on the Falcon ten yard line with four downs to get some points.

The ball-handling curse returned, however, and the ball was fumbled away on the next play, giving Bentley a potentially big touchdown. After the game, MIT head coach Dwight Smith said, "The fumbles were the difference in the game."

Early in the fourth quarter, it again seemed as if the Falcons were about to score. They had put together a long drive, mainly on the strength of fifty-one yards passing, and found themselves on the MIT two. Once again Bentley went to the air but MIT's Doug Gouchoe, who tied for the lead in interceptions, intercepted the pass in the end zone to give MIT the victory.

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