Football upsets unbeaten Falcons, 18-13

By Martin Dickau

MIT head coach Wright Smith summed up Saturday's club football upset of the Bentley Falcons in one word: "Unbelievable." He shook his head in amazement. Dickau. This Eagles' defense had just scored a 18-13 win over the league's only undefeated team, a team with a 6-0 unbeaten streak, last year's national club champions.

"We beat Assumption," he noted, "but Worcester didn't believe us, and we almost beat them. We could be 7-0 right now."

"I give our defense a lot of credit," he continued. "Bentley's been the best in the league all season. We held them to a single score with two sacks, and defensive tackle Larry Munroe G came up with 5 unassisted tackles.

The game began as a battle of the defenses; neither team had much success moving the ball on offense. The Bentley defense outscored MIT 3-0, while Bent- ley tried a fake punt early in the second quarter. The Engineers were not fooled, and Bentley halfback Matt Tiano was able to get but one yard of the edge he needed. MIT took over on its own 34.

The Bentley offense, perhaps inspired by the defensive efforts, put together its first sustained drive of the game, advancing to the MIT 35 in four plays. The Eagles then pieced together a drive of 13 plays, covering 60 yards and setting up a field goal attempt. Knife farmer Mike Thompson, MIT's big-play man for the season, used his hands to keep his blockers in place, before handing off to Allen, who exploded into the backfield for a 27-yard gain. The Palestra uproots to give the visitors the lead, 3-0.

Then came the biggest play of the game. The Bentley offense punted to the MIT 35, but a Thompson blocked punt was returned for a 17-yard touchdown by tight end Corey Kerstetter '87. The Engineers regained the lead at the half, 7-3.

Bentley came back with a drive of its own late in the period to tie the game at 7. Mike Cowles connected on a nine-yard strike to the end zone, and Corey Kerstetter caught it alone in the end zone for six. The score remained 13-10 after the two-point conversion failed.

Bentley regained the lead with no time remaining in the third quarter. Hastings fumbled the snap on a punt attempt and was recovered at the MIT 43. Cowles covered most of the distance with a 41-yard pass to Connon, and Hastings continued to push the ball in for the touchdown. Good defensive pressure denied the try for two, but the Bentley two-point conversion was good, and the visitors again had the upper hand, 13-12.

MIT took the lead for good about seven minutes later, thanks to a fine individual effort by Broecker. The Engineers regained control of the ball on their own 38. Broecker opted to take the ball on a keeper up the middle, where he found a substantial hole in the defensive line. He went the whole 20 yards — the last seven with one arm keeping his body off of the ground. Again the try for two points was no good, but the score was MIT 18, Bentley 13.

The Bentley defense played a vengeance, protecting slim lead. The Falcons managed to get to the MIT 35, but a Thompson sack for a loss of nine yards on fourth down and four quashed the threat.

The Engineers will play their final home game of the season Saturday at 1:30 p.m. against the Falcons of Fitchburg State, currently third in the league standings.

Sports page by Joseph T. Lafouca