



BOWLING GREEN FALCONS

2023 Record: 7-6

Mid-American Conference

Bowling Green, OH

FBS Ranking

83

Have Falcons flown to MAC championship contention status?

HC: Scot Loeffler (6th Year, 20-35)

Co-OC: Reno Ferri
Co-OC: Max Warner

Co-DC: Steve Morrison
Co-DC: Sammy Lawanson

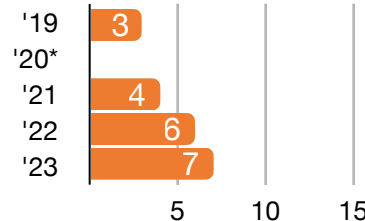
2024 Class Rankings

Recruiting
100

Transfer Portal
103

Via 24/7 Sports

BOWLING GREEN WIN TREND



2023 Results (7-6)

- @ Liberty (L 24-34)
 - E. Illinois (W 38-15)
 - @ Michigan (L 6-31)
 - Ohio (L 7-38)
 - @ Georgia Tech (W 38-27)
 - @ Miami (OH) (L 0-27)
 - @ Buffalo (W 24-14)
 - Akron (W 41-14)
 - Ball State (W 24-21)
 - @ Kent State (W 49-19)
 - Toledo (L 31-32)
 - @ W. Michigan (W 34-10)
 - vs. Minnesota (L 24-30)
- Quick Lane Bowl



Scot Loeffler has steadily improved the Falcons since an 0-5 record in the shortened 2020 season. The 2023 campaign was a huge step in the right direction and even featured a major upset of Georgia Tech! Bowling Green lost five games in the regular season, but consider which teams they lost to. Liberty beat the Falcons by 10 as part of their perfect regular season. The Falcons fell to undefeated National Champion Michigan, lost to double-digit win Ohio and dropped games against the two representatives in the MAC Championship Miami and Toledo.

In other words, the Falcons beat every team they were "supposed to" (4-0 record in games in which Bowling Green was favored). Now, Loeffler and company must actually knock off the top teams in the conference on their quest for a MAC championship.

OFFENSE

It's no surprise that the number of wins has increased for Bowling Green over the years since the offense has also improved each year since 2020. The Falcons scored 26.2 points last season, the most by the program since the 2015 MAC Championship team. Even so, that number was slightly below average in the FBS, so there's still room to grow.

In an era where the transfer portal singlehandedly overhauls rosters, Bowling Green did a remarkable job returning quite a bit of their offensive production, especially in the run game. **Terion Stewart** tallied 762 yards on only 125 carries and topped 100 yards on three different occasions including a three-touchdown explosion against Akron. **Jaision Patterson** added 135 yards and quarterback **Camden Orth** added 208 yards. The running backs will operate behind an experienced offensive line that could be the conference's best. **Alex Wollschlaeger** leads the unit after being named to the All-MAC second team at tackle at the conclusion of the 2023 season.

Connor Bazalak's debut with Bowling Green was extremely forgettable after tossing three interceptions on just 6 of 21 passing. However, he bounced back from that performance and threw for 12 touchdowns to 4 interceptions the rest of the way. Orth played in every game and while he's not quite the passer that Bazalak is, he's far more of a threat in the run game. Expect Bowling Green to incorporate offensive schemes for Orth and for both to see the field again in 2024.

Most of the top receivers from last year have departed, but leading receiver **Harold Fannin** has not. The Falcons call his position the "flex", which translates to a versatile, skilled, and athletic tight end who factors into both run and pass schemes. He tallied 623 yards and 6 touchdowns in the passing game and carried the ball 14 times as a runner. While the wide receiver position will be a work in progress (and will primarily rely on transfers), Fannin offers the Falcons a huge threat who can be a mismatch nightmare for a defense.

DEFENSE

The offense has improved year over year and so too has the defense. Bowling Green held opponents to 24 points per game in 2023, the lowest mark in over a decade. The defensive front teed off against opposing offensive lines all season long and several key contributors return including linebacker **Joseph Sipp**. Both defensive tackles, **Anthony Hawkins** and **Dontrez Brown**, return too. Hawkins was especially disruptive with two sacks, 4.5 tackles for loss, and two pass breakups.

Even though the Falcons must replace one of the best cornerbacks in the MAC from last season (Jalen Husky, 4 interceptions), the secondary should be a strength. **Jordan Oladokun** has 17 starts under his belt with Bowling Green and he snagged four interceptions of his own. The Falcons welcome in veteran **CJ Brown** from Northern Illinois and he'll join **Darius Lorfils** at safety.

The Falcons face both Penn State and Texas A&M on the road, so even if the points allowed statistic goes up a bit in 2024, that doesn't mean the defense isn't improved from last season. At the very least, the defense should be strong enough to go head-to-head against the best teams (and best offenses) the MAC has to offer.



HAROLD FANNIN – TE

Photo via Toledo Blade

2024 BGSU Schedule

Wk	Date	Opponent
1	Thu, Aug 29	vs. Fordham
2	Sat, Sept 7	@ Penn State
4	Sat, Sept 21	@ Texas A&M
5	Sat, Sept 28	vs. Old Dominion
6	Sat, Oct 5	@ Akron
7	Sat, Oct 12	vs. No. Illinois
8	Sat, Oct 19	vs. Kent State
9	Sat, Oct 26	@ Toledo
11	Tue, Nov 5	@ C. Michigan
12	Tue, Nov 12	vs. W. Michigan
13	Sat, Nov 23	@ Ball State
14	Fri, Nov 29	vs. Miami (OH)

Home Away

Key Games

vs. No Illinois: MAC play begins in earnest when the Falcons take on a team who also has MAC Championship aspirations. The two teams have played just once in the last six years and NIU holds a three-game win streak in the series.

@ Toledo: The Battle of I-75 is always meaningful, but there's an added edge when the teams are vying for a MAC championship. The Falcons lost a heartbreaker at home in 2023.

vs. Miami (OH): What will be on the line when the Falcons and RedHawks meet in the season finale? A spot in Detroit? Could this even be a matchup seen in Detroit the following week? Miami has claimed four of the last five.

Player Spotlight

Photo via Toledo Blade

Photo via @JordanOladokun on X



CONNOR BAZELAK – QB

The former Indiana and Missouri quarterback enters his sixth year of college football and his second year as starter for the Falcons. After a shaky start, he found his rhythm in November, tossing 6 touchdowns to only one interception and he played well in the bowl game loss to Minnesota, running for a touchdown while adding 221 yards and a touchdown through the air. As he goes, the Bowling Green offense will go.

2023 Stats: 60.4% COMP, 1935 YDS, 12 TD, 7 INT



JORDAN OLADOKUN – CB

Opposing offenses had all kinds of problems moving the ball through the air thanks to the dynamic cornerback due of Oladokun and Jalen Husky. Husky departs, but Oladokun is back and is a major impact player on what is perhaps the best secondary in the conference. He snagged four interceptions including a pick-six against Western Michigan. Will teams avoid his side of the field in 2024 or will they take their chances?

2023 Stats: 30 TKL, 6 PBU, 4 INT

Photo via Ohio Football Stadiums



Perry Stadium (24,000)



Anthony HAWKINS

SPECIAL TEAMS

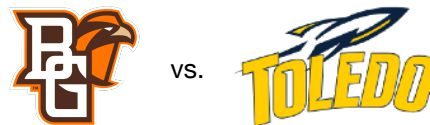
Alan Anaya connected on 13 of 18 field goals and all 43 PATs. His long of 42 yards came against the eventual national champions Michigan. The Falcons will be looking for new weapons in the return game and need to bolster punt protection for **Jackson Kleather**, too.

THE BOTTOM LINE

Divisions are gone and each team is put into a “schedule pod.” Unfortunately for Bowling Green, they are paired with two of the top teams in the conference in Toledo and Northern Illinois and also draw Miami in a game that could have serious MAC Championship implications. Even still, Bowling Green has the roster necessary to compete at the very top of the conference. The offense needs to take another step forward if Bowling Green wants to bring home the hardware (the Falcons scored a combined 13 points in three of their losses), but that step is entirely possible. It will be crucial that Bowling Green emerge at least somewhat healthy from two jarring road trips against Penn State and Texas A&M, but the rest of the schedule is manageable.

Those two non-conference games will probably prevent Bowling Green from being a College Football Playoff contender even if they do win the MAC. However, winning the conference would check all the boxes on the Falcons’ to-do list and it’s within their grasp.

Appointment Television



Saturday, October 26

Bowling Green thought they had the Battle of I-75 under wraps until a 42-yard touchdown with just nine seconds in the game doomed the Falcons. That result won't exactly increase the “love” these schools located 25 miles apart have for one another. The Rockets have claimed 12 of the last 14 meetings. However, the Falcons have plans to not only defeat their rivals but to use the victory as a springboard to MAC Championship contention.

2023 Statistics

Offense			Defense		
Statistic	Per Game	FBS Rank	Statistic	Per Game	FBS Rank
Points	26.2	T-71	Points	24.0	51
Rushing	137.5	88	Rushing	146.2	53
Passing	188.4	104	Passing	179.8	12
Total	325.9	107	Total	326.1	25
Sacks	28	T-71	Sacks	33	T-29

2024 Projection

9-3

2nd in MAC

Trophy Case



XO



XO



X 12

**1956 1959 1961
1962 1964 1965
1982 1985 1991
1992 2013 2015**