

Braves handed 33-6 loss at Potosi

Once thought to be a contender for the Blackhawk League football title, Belmont High School now finds itself in the position of having to fight to establish respectability following a 33-6 shellacking at Potosi Sept. 27.

It was the fourth straight loss for the Braves, who slipped to 1-4 overall and 0-2 in league play.

"We were flat and unemotional, and paid the price," said coach Mike Howery. "I guess now it's basically start all over again and make something out of the rest of the season before it gets out of hand."

The Braves drew first blood just three minutes into the game after recovering a Chieftain fumble on the Potosi 36. Kevin Burke hit Bob Kamps for a 33 yard gain, then sneaked over two plays later. The conversion kick was no good, however, and things quickly began to go awry for Belmont.

Potosi scored twice within a span of a minute to take a lead it never gave up. Thad Reuter ran 14 yards to

knot the score with 6:00 to play in the first quarter, and at the 5:22 mark, after the Braves lost a fumble on their own 21, Rick Kruser ran to paydirt on the next play from scrimmage. Reuter kicked the conversion to make it 13-7.

Belmont might have been able to recover from the two quick scores, but not from the next Potosi TD, which came at 4:41 of the second quarter when Gary Leibfried intercepted a Brave aerial and cruised 65 yards for a TD. Reuter's conversion kick made it 20-7, a count which stood at halftime.

"That was the one that really spelled doom for us," Howery said. "Here we were on their 35 and we turn around and it goes for a score the other way."

Potosi added two scores in the second half, the first with 4:39 left in the third quarter on a 37-yard pass from quarterback Bill Leeser to Bart Stracka, and the second with 9:46 remaining in the game on a 32-

yarder from Lesser to Brent Reuter.

Both teams had eight first downs, but the similarity ends there. Potosi rushed for 130 yards and passed for 67 while Belmont netted nothing overland and 87 yards through the air. Belmont made four of 17 passes with one interception and lost two fumbles. Potosi hit on three of nine passes with no interceptions and also lost two fumbles.

Kamps caught two passes for 45 yards for BHS. Don Maahs and Rick Kruser had 57 and 50 yards, respectively, for the Chieftains.

Defensively, Greg Heins had 21 tackles and Lee Riechers had 13 for Belmont. Ed Argall blocked a punt and Dale Hawkinson and Jeff Hentrich each recovered fumbles.

"I really felt if we would win this one, then we'd be right back in it," Howery said.

Instead, the Braves travel to winless Highland Oct. 4 in a battle to avoid the cellar.