

QUICK LANE BOWL
MINNESOTA VS GEORGIA TECH

DETROIT -- Mohamed Ibrahim took full advantage of holes his team-mates created to burst through the line or get to the outside.

And when defenders were in Ibrahim’s way, he simply lowered his shoulder to run over them.

Ibrahim ran for career-high 224 yards and two touchdowns, leading Minnesota to a 34-10 victory over Georgia Tech on Wednesday night in the Quick Lane Bowl.

The Golden Gophers (7-6) won three of their last four games, and Ibrahim had a lot to do with that. The 5-foot-10, 205-pound red-shirt freshman running back had 121 yards rushing in a win at Wisconsin that made Minnesota bowl eligible and ran for 155 yards last month in a victory over Purdue.

“He’s not the biggest, strongest or fastest,” coach P.J. Fleck said. “He has that too short, too small, too this, king of the toos, which is right up my alley. This kid’s got more heart, passion, courage and plays the game the right way more than anybody I’ve ever met.”

The Yellow Jackets (7-6) did not have the speed or strength to slow down Ibrahim, who was so effective Minnesota didn’t have to punt once. And, their triple-option offense was stunted in coach Paul Johnson’s finale .

“They did pretty much whatever they wanted,” said Johnson, who is retiring as Georgia Tech’s coach. He never stopped the run and then we let them throw it over our head a couple times.

“I wasn’t expecting that, but that’s life and you move on.”

The Gophers limited Georgia Tech to 206 yards on the ground after it led the nation with 335 yards rushing per game.

Minnesota led 13-0 early in the second quarter after Tanner Morgan threw an 18-yard touchdown pass to Tyler Johnson in the first quarter and Emmitt Carpenter made two field goals. Ibrahim’s 3-yard touchdown run midway through the third quarter made it 20-3.

The Yellow Jackets responded with Nathan Cottrell’s 20-yard touchdown run, but their defense allowed Ibrahim to score again on the ensuing drive. Morgan connected with Johnson on a 30-yard touchdown strike with 6:19 left, giving the Gophers a 24-point cushion.

THE TAKEAWAY

Minnesota: Ibrahim has the potential to be one of the top players on offense in the Big Ten next season. He runs with a mix of speed and power.

“He’s a physical back,” Johnson said. “He broke tackles and he ran through us some.”

Ibrahim had the best day on the ground for a Gopher since 2005 when Laurence Maroney had 258 yards rushing against the Badgers.

“That’s big,” Ibrahim said. “He’s a superstar and he had a great career.”

Georgia Tech: The Yellow Jackets were in trouble when they fell behind because they don’t pass much, making it tough to come back. They averaged fewer than 10 passes during the regular season and it was clear both of their quarterbacks were not comfortable dropping back to throw.

“It’s tough to go out this way,” Marshall said. “We didn’t come ready to play and it showed.”

RECORD WATCH

Johnson set single-season school record with 1,169 yards receiving and 12 touchdowns. He finished the season with 78 catches, six short of another Minnesota record.

“The hard work and dedication paid off,” he said.

MISSING MEN

Georgia Tech linebacker Charlie Thomas and Minnesota linebacker Kamal Martin were suspended for undisclosed violations of team rules.

“If you don’t do the right things, you’re not going to travel,” Fleck said.

The Gophers also were without senior linebacker Blake Cashman, who announced his intention to skip the bowl game to focus on preparing for the NFL draft.

Final	1	2	3	4	T		
MINN	10	3	7	14	34		
GT	0	3	7	0	10		
Scoring Summary -----							
FIRST QUARTER			MINN	GT			
MINN FG 9:42							
Emmit Carpenter 31 Yd Field Goal				3	0		
10 plays, 62 yards, 5:18							
MINN TD 4:14							
Tyler Johnson 18 Yd pass from Tanner Morgan (Emmit Carpenter Kick)				10	0		
7 plays, 48 yards, 3:11							
SECOND QUARTER			MINN	GT			
MINN FG 11:57							
Emmit Carpenter 27 Yd Field Goal				13	0		
9 plays, 26 yards, 5:14							
GT FG 0:00							
Wesley Wells 44 Yd Field Goal				13	3		
4 plays, 37 yards, 0:18							
THIRD QUARTER			MINN	GT			
MINN TD 8:24							
Mohamed Ibrahim 3 Yd Run (Emmit Carpenter Kick)				20	3		
5 plays, 60 yards, 2:50							
GT TD 0:55							
Nathan Cottrell 20 Yd Run (Wesley Wells Kick)				20	10		
14 plays, 75 yards, 7:29							
FOURTH QUARTER			MINN	GT			
MINN TD 12:07							
Mohamed Ibrahim 1 Yd Run (Emmit Carpenter Kick)				27	10		
7 plays, 75 yards, 3:48							
MINN TD 6:19							
Tyler Johnson 30 Yd pass from Tanner Morgan (Emmit Carpenter Kick)				34	10		
6 plays, 73 yards, 3:30							
Team Stats			MINN	GT			
First Downs			19	14			
Total Yards			392	283			
Total Plays			56	56			
Avg Gain Per Play			7.0	5.1			
Net Yards Rushing			260	206			
Rushes			43	44			
Yards Per Rush			6.0	4.7			
Net Yards Passing			132	77			
Comp-Att			7-13	5-12			
Yards Per Pass			10.2	6.4			
Times Sacked			1	1			
Yds Lost To Sacks			-6	-5			
Interceptions			0	0			
Punts			0	4			
Punt Average			0.0	18.8			
Penalties			4	3			
Penalty Yards			30	30			
Fumbles			0	1			
Fumbles Lost			0	1			
Possession			30:43	29:17			
Individual Stats							
RUSHING							
MINN	Rush	Yds	Avg	Long	TD		
24 Mohamed Ibrahim	31	224	7.2	57	2		
17 Seth Green	5	31	6.2	9	0		
2 Tanner Morgan	3	3	1.0	8	0		
21 Bryce Williams	1	2	2.0	2	0		
28 Jonathan Femi-Cole	1	2	2.0	2	0		
GT	Rush	Yds	Avg	Long	TD		
16 TaQuon Marshall	22	75	3.4	19	0		
8 Tobias Oliver	9	69	7.7	27	0		
31 Nathan Cottrell	3	36	12.0	20	1		
24 Jordan Mason	5	19	3.8	7	0		
15 Jerry Howard	2	3	1.5	2	0		
22 Clinton Lynch	1	3	3.0	3	0		
1 Qua Searcy	2	1	0.5	1	0		
PASSING							
MINN	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
2 Tanner Morgan	7	13	132	10.2	2	0	189.9
GT	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
16 TaQuon Marshall	4	9	76	8.4	0	0	115.4
8 Tobias Oliver	1	3	1	0.3	0	0	36.1
RECEIVING							
MINN	Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD		
6 Tyler Johnson	4	57	14.3	30	2		
3 Chris Autman-Bell	1	41	41.0	41	0		
13 Rashod Bateman	2	34	17.0	21	0		
GT	Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD		
1 Qua Searcy	1	51	51.0	51	0		
80 Jalen Camp	3	25	8.3	13	0		
15 Jerry Howard	1	1	1.0	1	0		