

WEEK ONE
ILLINOIS ST at NORTHERN ILLINOIS

Northern Illinois renews rivalry, beats Illinois State 24-10

DEKALB, Ill. -- Ross Bowers threw a pair of touchdown passes to Tyrice Ritchie, including a 66-yard fourth-quarter bomb to put the Huskies on top for good, and Thomas Hammock won his coaching debut at his alma mater as Northern Illinois knocked off Illinois State, 24-10 in a season opener Saturday night.

The game marked the 57th meeting between the in-state rivals, but the first since September 9, 2000 when the Huskies pummeled the Redbirds 52-0. Hammock made his first career start at tailback for NIU in that game, rushing for 140 yards on 29 carries.

The teams traded first-half field goals and neither team managed to get into the end zone until Bowers found Ritchie from 22-yards out with 2:11 left in the third quarter.

Illinois State answered on its next series when Brady Davis found Taylor Grimes with a 42-yard touchdown pass to start the fourth quarter. On the first play of the Huskies' next possession, Bowers hit Ritchie on a short pass that turned into a 68-yard go-ahead score. Jalen McKee added a 32-yard interception return of a Davis pass with 2:31 left to set the final score.

Bowers was 20 of 33 for 299 passing yards with an interception. Ritchie finished with three catches for 102 yards. Tre Harbison carried 23 times for 99 yards.

Northern Illinois held the Redbirds to just 51 yards rushing. Davis was 14 of 32 for 187 yards.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
ILST	0	3	0	7	10
NIU	3	0	7	14	24

Scoring Summary -----

	ILST	NIU
FIRST QUARTER		
NIU FG 4:19 John Richardson 25 Yd Field Goal		
9 plays, 73 yards, 4:34	0	3
SECOND QUARTER		
ILST FG 2:55 Sam Fenlason 32 Yd Field Goal		
5 plays, 17 yards, 1:21	3	3
THIRD QUARTER		
NIU TD 2:11 Tyrice Ritchie 22 Yd pass from Ross Bowers (John Richardson Kick)		
9 plays, 92 yards, 3:12	3	10
FOURTH QUARTER		
ILST TD 14:22 Taylor Grimes 42 Yd pass from Brady Davis (Sam Fenlason Kick)		
5 plays, 75 yards, 2:42	10	10
NIU TD 14:04 Tyrice Ritchie 68 Yd pass from Ross Bowers (John Richardson Kick)		
1 play, 68 yards, 0:11	10	17
NIU TD 2:31 Jalen McKee 32 Yd Interception Return (John Richardson Kick)		
1 play, 0 yards, 0:12	10	24

Team Stats	ILST	NIU
First Downs	14	17
Passes for First	8	12
Rushes for First	2	4
Penalties for First	4	1
Third Down Efficiency	1-14	3-15
Fourth Down Efficiency	0-2	0-1
Total Yards	238	389
Total Plays	60	68
Avg Gain Per Play	4.0	5.7
Net Yards Rushing	51	90
Rushes	28	35
Yards Per Rush	1.8	2.6
Net Yards Passing	187	299
Comp-Att	14-32	20-33
Yards Per Pass	5.8	9.1
Times Sacked	2	1
Yds Lost To Sacks	-15	-5
Interceptions	1	1
Punts	9	8
Punt Average	0.0	0.0
Penalties	4	8
Penalty Yards	36	86
Fumbles	1	0
Fumbles Lost	1	0
Time of Poss	26:46	33:14

Individual Stats

RUSHING

	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
ILLINOIS ST					
Brady Davis	8	17	2.1	0	6
Jeffrey Proctor	6	16	2.7	0	7
James Robinson	13	16	1.2	0	18
Cole Blackman	1	2	2.0	0	2
NORTHERN ILLINOIS					
Tre Harbison	23	99	4.3	0	17
Marcus Jones	2	2	1.0	0	2
Jordan Nettles	2	2	1.0	0	4
Team	3	-3	-1.0	0	0
Ross Bowers	5	-10	-2.0	0	5

PASSING

	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
ILLINOIS ST							
Brady Davis	14	32	187	5.8	1	1	
NORTHERN ILLINOIS							
Ross Bowers	20	33	299	9.1	2	1	

RECEIVING

	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
ILLINOIS ST					
Taylor Grimes	6	109	18.2	1	42
Braxton Haley	3	31	10.3	0	15
Kacper Rutkiewicz	2	27	13.5	0	19
Robert Gillum	1	10	10.0	0	10
James Robinson	2	10	5.0	0	12
NORTHERN ILLINOIS					
Tyrice Ritchie	3	102	34.0	2	68
Daniel Crawford	3	75	25.0	0	45
Mitchell Brinkman	4	51	12.8	0	21
Cole Tucker	3	29	9.7	0	16
Marcus Jones	2	14	7.0	0	10
Dennis Robinson	2	12	6.0	0	7
Tre Harbison	1	11	11.0	0	11
Maximilian Thrower	1	8	8.0	0	8
Spencer Tears	1	-3	-3.0	0	0