

THE WOLVERINE DEC 31, 2016

COVERING UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN SPORTS

NOW

12/30/2016 • ATTENDANCE 67,432
HARD ROCK STADIUM MIAMI GARDENS, FLA.

| QT | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | Tot |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Michigan | 3 | 3 | 9 | 17 | 32 |
| Florida State | 17 | 3 | 0 | 13 | 33 |



33 M 32

| | | U-M | FSU | | | U-M | FSU |
|-----------------------|--|-----|-----|---------------------------------------|--|-------|--------|
| First Quarter | | | | | | | |
| FS | D. Cook 2-yard Run (R. Aguayo Kick) 12:47 Drive: 6 plays 75 yds 2:13 | 0 | 7 | Total First Downs | | 16 | 15 |
| MICH | Allen 19-yard Field Goal 09:11 Drive: 4 plays 0 yds 1:31 | 3 | 7 | Rushing | | 5 | 7 |
| FS | R. Aguayo 42-yard Field Goal 07:31 Drive: 5 plays 50 yds 1:40 | 3 | 10 | Passing | | 10 | 5 |
| FS | N. Murray Pass from D. Francois 92-yards (R. Aguayo Kick) 02:49 Drive: 1 plays 92 yds 0:14 | 3 | 17 | Penalty | | 1 | 3 |
| Second Quarter | | | | | | | |
| MICH | Allen 28-yard Field Goal 09:36 Drive: 11 plays 59 yds 4:30 | 6 | 17 | Rushing Attempts | | 36 | 35 |
| FS | R. Aguayo 38-yard Field Goal 04:49 Drive: 15 plays 54 yds 4:47 | 6 | 20 | Yards Gained Rushing | | 137 | 193 |
| Third Quarter | | | | | | | |
| MICH | Allen 37-yard Field Goal 07:34 Drive: 14 plays 46 yds 7:26 | 9 | 20 | Yards Lost Rushing | | 48 | 44 |
| MICH | McCray TD INT (Speight Pass Fail) 00:54 | 15 | 20 | Net Yards Rushing | | 89 | 149 |
| Fourth Quarter | | | | | | | |
| FS | D. Francois 3-yard Run (R. Aguayo Kick) 11:38 Drive: 7 plays 75 yds 4:16 | 15 | 27 | Net Yards Passing | | 163 | 222 |
| MICH | Hill Pass from Speight 8-yards (Allen Kick) 05:22 Drive: 7 plays 37 yds 2:36 | 22 | 27 | Passes Attempted | | 38 | 27 |
| MICH | Evans 30-yard Run (Darboh Pass Good) 01:57 Drive: 5 plays 61 yds 2:17 | 30 | 27 | Passes Completed | | 21 | 9 |
| FS | N. Murray Pass from D. Francois 12-yards (R. Aguayo Kick Failed) 00:36 Drive: 4 plays 34 yds 1:21 | 30 | 33 | Had Intercepted | | 1 | 1 |
| MICH | Metellus PAT 00:36 | 32 | 33 | Percent Completion | | 55.3% | 33.3% |
| Game Totals | | | | | | | |
| | | | | Yards per Attempt | | 4.3 | 8.2 |
| | | | | Yards per Completion | | 7.8 | 24.7 |
| | | | | Total Offensive Plays | | 74 | 62 |
| | | | | Total Net Yards | | 252 | 371 |
| | | | | Avg. Gain Per Play | | 3.4 | 6.0 |
| | | | | Fumbles: No-Lost | | 0-0 | 2-1 |
| | | | | Penalties: No-Yards | | 4-37 | 7-65 |
| | | | | Punts: No-Yards | | 8-379 | 6-207 |
| | | | | Avg. Per Punt | | 47.4 | 34.5 |
| | | | | Avg. Net Punt | | 44.1 | 34.7 |
| | | | | Punt Returns: No-Yards | | 2--1 | 3-6 |
| | | | | Kickoff Returns: No-Yards | | 2-40 | 1-66 |
| | | | | Interception Returns: No-Yards | | 1-14 | 1-0 |
| | | | | Fumble Returns: No-Yards | | 0-0 | 0-0 |
| | | | | Miscellaneous Yards | | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | Possession Time | | 34:17 | 25:43 |
| | | | | Third-Down Conversions | | 7-20 | 3-13 |
| | | | | Percentage | | 35.0% | 23.1% |
| | | | | Fourth-Down Conversions | | 1-2 | 1-1 |
| | | | | Percentage | | 50.0% | 100.0% |
| | | | | Sacks By: No-Yards | | 2-22 | 4-26 |

MICHIGAN INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Offensive Individual Statistics

| Rushing | No | Gain | Lost | Net | Avg | TD | Lg |
|--------------|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------|------------|----------|-----------|
| Evans | 8 | 54 | 5 | 49 | 6.1 | 1 | 30 |
| Smith | 16 | 51 | 15 | 36 | 2.2 | 0 | 13 |
| McDoom | 1 | 6 | 0 | 6 | 6.0 | 0 | 6 |
| Higdon | 4 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 0.8 | 0 | 3 |
| Chesson | 1 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2.0 | 0 | 2 |
| Speight | 6 | 19 | 26 | -7 | -1.2 | 0 | 17 |
| Total | 36 | 137 | 48 | 89 | 2.5 | 1 | 30 |

| Passing | Att | Comp | % | Int | Yds | TD | Lg |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|----------|------------|----------|-----------|
| Speight | 38 | 21 | 55.3 | 1 | 163 | 1 | 21 |
| Total | 38 | 21 | 55.3 | 1 | 163 | 1 | 21 |

| Receiving | No | Yds | TD | Lg |
|--------------|-----------|------------|----------|-----------|
| Bunting | 3 | 40 | 0 | 21 |
| Darboh | 5 | 36 | 0 | 18 |
| Chesson | 4 | 31 | 0 | 15 |
| Butt | 3 | 28 | 0 | 16 |
| Hill | 2 | 13 | 1 | 8 |
| Wheatley | 1 | 8 | 0 | 8 |
| Smith | 3 | 7 | 0 | 10 |
| Total | 21 | 163 | 1 | 21 |

Field Goals: Allen 3 for 3 (long 37).

Punting: Allen 3 (average 47.4, long 61).

Defensive Individual Statistics

| Defense | Tac | Ast | Tot | TFL | Sac | PD | FF | FR |
|-----------|-----|-----|-----|------|------|----|----|----|
| Thomas | 5 | 2 | 7 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| Metellus | 1 | 5 | 6 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Charlton | 2 | 3 | 5 | 2-10 | 1-9 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Hill | 3 | 1 | 4 | 1-7 | 0-0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| McCray | 3 | 1 | 4 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Glasgow | 1 | 2 | 3 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Hurst | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2-15 | 1-13 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Furbush | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Gedeon | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Lewis | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Mone | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Allen | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Bush | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Godin | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Stribling | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Watson | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Winovich | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1-2 | 0-0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Wormley | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| Punt Ret | No | Yds | TD | Lg |
|----------|----|-----|----|----|
| Lewis | 2 | -1 | 0 | 0 |

| Kick Ret | No | Yds | TD | Lg |
|--------------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| Lewis | 2 | 40 | 0 | 26 |
| Total | 2 | 40 | 0 | 26 |

Interceptions: McCray 1 for 14.

FLORIDA STATE INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

| Rushing | No | Gain | Lost | Net | Avg | TD | Lg |
|--------------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|------------|----------|-----------|
| D. Cook | 20 | 159 | 14 | 145 | 7.2 | 1 | 71 |
| D. Francois | 10 | 32 | 23 | 9 | 0.9 | 1 | 16 |
| J. Patrick | 1 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2.0 | 0 | 2 |
| F. Stevenson | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 |
| TEAM | 3 | 0 | 7 | -7 | -2.3 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 35 | 193 | 44 | 149 | 4.3 | 2 | 71 |

| Passing | Att | Comp | % | Int | Yds | TD | Lg |
|--------------|-----------|----------|-------------|----------|------------|----------|-----------|
| D. Francois | 27 | 9 | 33.3 | 1 | 222 | 2 | 92 |
| Total | 27 | 9 | 33.3 | 1 | 222 | 2 | 92 |

| Receiving | No | Yds | TD | Lg |
|--------------|----------|------------|----------|-----------|
| N. Murray | 2 | 104 | 2 | 92 |
| D. Cook | 3 | 62 | 0 | 45 |
| T. Rudolph | 3 | 33 | 0 | 13 |
| K. Whitfield | 1 | 23 | 0 | 23 |
| Total | 9 | 222 | 2 | 92 |

Field Goals: Aguayo 2 for 2 (long 42).

Punting: Tyler 5 (average 38.0, long 47).

Returns: Murray 3 punts for 6 (long 7), Gavin 1 kick for 66..



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BY THE NUMBERS

MICHIGAN VS. FLORIDA STATE QUARTER-BY-QUARTER COMPARISON

| Florida State | 1st Qtr. | 2nd Qtr. | 3rd Qtr. | 4th Qtr. | 1st Half | 2nd Half | Total |
|----------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|--------|
| Time of Possession | 6:43 | 7:04 | 4:08 | 7:48 | 13:47 | 11:56 | 25:43 |
| 3rd-Down Conversions | 0-2 | 1-4 | 0-2 | 2-5 | 1-6 | 2-7 | 3-13 |
| 4th-Down Conversions | 0-0 | 1-1 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 1-1 | 0-0 | 1-1 |
| Avg. Field Position | FS-26 | FS-22 | FS-17 | FS-38 | FS-25 | FS-28 | FS-26 |
| Michigan | 1st Qtr. | 2nd Qtr. | 3rd Qtr. | 4th Qtr. | 1st Half | 2nd Half | Final |
| Time of Possession | 8:17 | 7:56 | 10:52 | 7:12 | 16:13 | 18:04 | 34:17 |
| 3rd-Down Conversions | 0-5 | 2-4 | 2-6 | 3-5 | 2-9 | 5-11 | 7-20 |
| 4th-Down Conversions | 0-0 | 0-0 | 1-1 | 0-1 | 0-0 | 1-2 | 1-2 |
| Avg. Field Position | U-M-43 | U-M-31 | U-M-38 | U-M-35 | U-M-40 | U-M-36 | U-M-38 |

SITUATION TABLES

FIRST AND TEN

| | Rushing | | | Passing | | | Totals | | |
|---------------|---------|-------|------|---------|-------|------|--------|-------|------|
| | Plays | Yards | Avg. | Plays | Yards | Avg. | Plays | Yards | Avg. |
| Florida State | 13 | 41 | 3.2 | 15 | 189 | 12.6 | 28 | 230 | 8.2 |
| Michigan | 21 | 61 | 2.9 | 8 | 55 | 6.9 | 29 | 116 | 4.0 |

THIRD-DOWN EFFICIENCY

| | 3rd & 1 | | 3rd & 2-5 | | 3rd & 6-9 | | 3rd & 10+ | | Totals | |
|---------------|---------|------|-----------|------|-----------|------|-----------|------|--------|------|
| | M/A | Pct. | M/A | Pct. | M/A | Pct. | M/A | Pct. | M/A | Pct. |
| Florida State | 0/1 | 0.0 | 0/1 | 0.0 | 1/2 | 50.0 | 2/9 | 22.2 | 3/13 | 23.1 |
| Michigan | 0/0 | - | 3/6 | 50.0 | 3/7 | 42.9 | 1/7 | 14.3 | 7/20 | 35.0 |

RED ZONE EFFICIENCY (INSIDE 20-YARD LINE)

| | Poss. | TDs | FGs | No Score |
|---------------|-------|-----|-----|----------|
| Florida State | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Michigan | 4 | 1 | 3 | 0 |

PLAY CHART (NO. OF PLAYS)

| Yards | FSU | U-M |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|
| (-) Yards..... | 11 | 16 |
| 0-5 Yards..... | 35 | 36 |
| 6-9 Yards..... | 4 | 10 |
| 10-19 Yards..... | 6 | 9 |
| 20-29 Yards..... | 3 | 2 |
| 30-39 Yards..... | 0 | 1 |
| 40-49 Yards..... | 1 | 0 |
| 50 or more Yards..... | 2 | 0 |

BIG PLAYS (25 YARDS OR MORE)

Florida State

- *1-10 U-M40 D. Cook rush for 28 yards to the U-M12
- *1-10 FS25 D. Francois pass complete to D. Cook for 45 yards to the U-M30
- *1-10 FS8 D. Francois pass complete to N. Murray for 92 yards to the U-M0
- *3-22 FS13 D. Cook rush for 71 yards to the U-M16

Michigan

- *2-1 FS30 Evans rush for 30 yards to the FS0

MICHIGAN CONTRIBUTORS

OFFENSE — STARTERS

| | |
|----|----------------|
| WR | Jehu Chesson |
| LT | Ben Braden |
| LG | Ben Bredesen |
| C | Mason Cole |
| RG | Kyle Kalis |
| RT | Erik Magnuson |
| TE | Jake Butt |
| TE | Ian Bunting |
| QB | Wilton Speight |
| RB | De'Veon Smith |
| FB | Khalid Hill |

DEFENSE — STARTERS

| | |
|----|--------------------|
| DE | Chris Wormley |
| DT | Matt Godin |
| DT | Ryan Glasgow |
| DE | Taco Charlton |
| LB | Josh Metellus |
| LB | Ben Gedeon |
| LB | Mike McCray |
| CB | Channing Stribling |
| S | Delano Hill |
| S | Dymonte Thomas |
| CB | Jourdan Lewis |

SPECIAL TEAMS AND RESERVES

Participation — Garrett Moores, Kekoa Crawford, AJ Pearson, Devin Asiasi, Tyree Kinnel, Rashan Gary, Khaleke Hudson, Devin Bush, Chris Evans, Eddie McDoom, Drake Harris, Chase Winovich, Tyrone Wheatley, Henry Poggi, Karan Higdon, Lavert Hill, Brandon Watson, Jordan Glasgow, Scott Sypniewski, Bobby Henderson, Wyatt Shallman, Michael Wroblewski, Noah Furbush, Maurice Hurst, Michael Jocz, Amara Darboh, Zach Gentry, Bryan Mone, Kenny Allen

THE SEASON

| Game-By-Game Summary | Score | First Downs | Yards Rush | Yards Pass | Passes Com./Att. | Had Int. | Fumbles No./Lost | Penalties No./Yards | Attendance |
|----------------------|-----------|-------------|------------|------------|------------------|----------|------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Hawai'i | 3 | 16 | 81 | 151 | 12/23 | 2 | 2/0 | 8/60 | 110,222 |
| Michigan | 63 | 26 | 306 | 206 | 17/20 | 1 | 0/0 | 3/33 | Home |
| UCF | 14 | 15 | 275 | 56 | 6/22 | 0 | 3/2 | 9/76 | 109,295 |
| Michigan | 51 | 23 | 119 | 328 | 27/41 | 0 | 2/0 | 2/20 | Home |
| Colorado | 28 | 15 | 64 | 261 | 18/34 | 0 | 1/0 | 7/46 | 110,042 |
| Michigan | 45 | 20 | 168 | 229 | 16/30 | 0 | 2/1 | 5/41 | Home |
| Penn State | 10 | 12 | 70 | 121 | 16/27 | 1 | 1/1 | 2/13 | 110,319 |
| Michigan | 49 | 25 | 326 | 189 | 21/35 | 0 | 0/0 | 7/80 | Home |
| Wisconsin | 7 | 8 | 71 | 88 | 9/25 | 3 | 1/0 | 3/30 | 111,846 |
| Michigan | 14 | 21 | 130 | 219 | 20/32 | 1 | 0/0 | 6/45 | Home |
| Michigan | 78 | 23 | 481 | 119 | 8/16 | 0 | 1/1 | 3/25 | Away |
| Rutgers | 0 | 2 | 34 | 5 | 2/18 | 0 | 1/1 | 7/41 | 53,292 |
| Illinois | 8 | 6 | 77 | 95 | 4/15 | 1 | 2/1 | 5/45 | 111,103 |
| Michigan | 41 | 29 | 270 | 291 | 20/28 | 0 | 3/1 | 5/41 | Home |
| Michigan | 32 | 24 | 192 | 244 | 16/25 | 1 | 0/0 | 5/62 | Away |
| Michigan State | 23 | 23 | 217 | 184 | 13/28 | 1 | 1/0 | 7/57 | 75,802 |
| Maryland | 3 | 19 | 78 | 289 | 17/28 | 2 | 0/0 | 6/46 | 110,626 |
| Michigan | 59 | 31 | 273 | 387 | 21/27 | 0 | 0/0 | 6/62 | Home |
| Michigan | 13 | 14 | 98 | 103 | 11/26 | 1 | 2/1 | 5/48 | Away |
| Iowa | 14 | 17 | 164 | 66 | 8/19 | 1 | 0/0 | 3/24 | 70,585 |
| Indiana | 10 | 15 | 64 | 191 | 14/30 | 0 | 1/0 | 4/35 | 110,288 |
| Michigan | 20 | 15 | 225 | 59 | 7/16 | 0 | 2/0 | 5/40 | Home |
| Michigan | 27 | 16 | 91 | 219 | 23/36 | 2 | 1/1 | 7/59 | Away |
| Ohio State | 30 | 23 | 206 | 124 | 15/32 | 1 | 0/0 | 2/6 | 110,045 |
| Michigan | 32 | 16 | 89 | 163 | 21/38 | 1 | 0/0 | 4/37 | Orange Bowl |
| Florida State | 33 | 15 | 149 | 222 | 9/27 | 1 | 2/1 | 7/65 | 67,432 |

Michigan Football: Bitter End For Wolverines, 33-32

John Borton | TheWolverine.com

Michigan's seniors wanted to leave their mark in their final game. As they say, this one will leave a mark — just not the one they intended.

The 67,432 that jammed into Hard Rock Stadium for the Orange Bowl witnessed a hugely entertaining fight to the finish, one Florida State survived, 33-32. On the flip side, Michigan's bowl effort came up just short — like its season.

The Wolverines rallied from a 12-point deficit with 11:38 to play, scoring two touchdowns and grabbing a 33-30 lead with only 1:57 remaining. But the Seminoles threw the final punch, FSU's Deondre Francois firing the game-winning 12-yard touchdown pass to Nyqwan Murray with only 36 ticks left on the clock.

Michigan (10-3) — left for dead by everyone but itself after digging a 20-6 hole at halftime — came roaring back, only to feel the final evisceration in a devastating ending.

“Our team did everything we asked of them today,” Michigan head coach Jim Harbaugh said, “starting coming out of the second half — put together a drive, chipped away at the lead by three, asked them to get a turnover and thought that would change the momentum — and they did.”

“When we needed the touchdown drives, we got them. I was really proud of the effort of our team and also give credit to Florida State. They played a heck of a ballgame as well.”

The Seminoles' explosive plays — including a 92-yard TD toss by Francois (9-of-27 passing for 222 yards, two TDs) and a 71-yard run by tailback Dalvin Cook (20 carries, 145 yards, one touchdown) — accounted for the bulk of FSU's 371-252 edge in total yards.

But redshirt sophomore quarterback Wilton Speight (21-of-38 passing, 163 yards, one TD) led an offense that came alive after only 22 first-quarter yards and 83 in the opening 30 minutes. The Wolverines pushed Florida State to the brink, driving 61 yards in five plays for the go-ahead touchdown.

Trailing 27-22 with 4:14 left, Speight drove Michigan downfield, even charging out on a 17-yard scramble himself. Two plays later, freshman tailback Chris Evans (eight carries, 49 yards) broke free and sprinted in on a 30-yard touchdown bolt.

Speight followed with a two-point conversion throw to fifth-year senior wideout Amara Darboh, and the Wolverines took their first lead of the game, 30-27.

“I thought we had it in the bag,” Evans said. “But playing football, you don't know what's going to happen.”

Especially in this game.

On the ensuing kickoff, FSU's Keith Gavin caught fifth-year senior Kenny Allen's kickoff in the end zone and appeared ready to kneel. He then took a halting step forward, opted to come out, then sailed away on a 66-yard return to the Michigan 34.

“We saw the hole,” senior cornerback Jourdan Lewis said. “Take him down — put him down. It didn't happen like that.”

It didn't happen according to plan four plays later, when FSU receiver Nyqwan Murray got behind the U-M All-American on a fade route and hauled in the game-winner. Lewis was in position, but turned a split-second late and didn't get a solid leap with Murray.

“That pass — that's a routine thing that I stop all the time,” Lewis offered. “I don't know. You've got to execute.”

The Wolverines — like they did three times in an excruciating final four games — came up just shy of executing well enough.

“Coach Harbaugh had a great scheme, a great plan for us to do that, and we had it in our grasp,” redshirt junior fullback Khalid Hill said. “But we had to finish.”

The Wolverines tried, blocking the extra-point attempt and pulling within one on freshman safety Josh Metellus' field-long bolt with the deflection. But only 36 seconds remained — too little against an FSU defense that recorded four sacks and a whopping 15 tackles for loss.

Michigan looked finished much earlier, but proved diehards in the last gasp of the 2016 season.

Florida State came out punishing the Michigan defense like nobody has all year on an opening drive, in terms of sheer overwhelming effectiveness. Francois looped a 23-yard pass to wideout Kermit Whitfield on the first play from scrimmage, Cook broke a 27-yard run off the left side and capped off the six-play, 75-yard lightning strike with a two-yard TD plunge, just 2:13 into the game.

The Wolverines couldn't fully cash in on a huge break, moments later. Allen boomed a 61-yard punt that Murray muffed and senior safety Dymonte Thomas dove on at the Seminoles' 1. But FSU's Matthew Thomas drilled senior tailback De'Veon Smith (16 carries, 36 yards) like he was Vincent Smith with helmet retention on the very next play.

The three-yard loss ultimately resulted in Allen kicking a 19-yard field goal to make it 7-3 at the 9:11 mark.

Francois struck back with a 45-yard bomb to Cook, but then senior defensive end Taco Charlton struck Francois — hard. Hammered in the ribs on an incompleting, the freshman QB stayed down several minutes before coming out.

The Seminoles wound up settling for Ricky Aguayo's 43-yard

field goal, restoring the TD gap at 10-3 midway through the quarter.

Francois soon returned, and so did the Seminoles' quick-strike ability. Backed to his own 8, the freshman sailed a throw to Murray down the sideline behind Lewis. The play went 92 yards for a TD, stunning the U-M defense and putting FSU in control, 17-3, at the 2:49 mark.

"It was cover two," Lewis noted. "Definitely, I just funneled him and looked for the help. It was just a miscommunication — I wasn't in man."

The Wolverines came to life early in the second period. Speight found himself running for his life early and often, but the scrambles bought just enough time for key completions. He directed a 59-yard drive for a 28-yard Allen field goal, Speight just missing a TD toss to Darboh.

Aguiar offset that on a 38-yard field goal with 4:49 left in the half, culminating a 54-yard drive kept alive on a crucial third-and-14 pass interference penalty by freshman cornerback Levert Hill.

Michigan went into the half down, 20-6, and out-gained, 255-83. The Seminoles appeared faster, quicker and more explosive, leaving U-M an uphill climb after intermission.

Allen made it 3 for 3 on the opening possession of the third quarter, booting a 37-yard field goal to pull the Wolverines within 11, 20-9, at the 7:34 mark. U-M drove it to the FSU 10, but again couldn't cash in a touchdown, Speight getting crushed from behind on a third-down sack.

Michigan's defense decided somebody had to score a touchdown, so redshirt junior linebacker Mike McCray took matters into his own hands. Francois floated a pass out of his own end zone late in the third quarter, McCray slashing in at the sideline to pick it off.

He raced 14 yards, hurtling a pile near the end zone, to take it home. FSU swatted away Speight's two-point conversion pass, but with 15:54 left in the contest, it was a game, at 20-15.

"I've got to give credit to [senior linebacker] Ben Gedeon," McCray said. "He called it out. I was going on the blitz, he asked me to help him out, and I did. I just caught the ball and scored."

Just when the Seminoles appeared on the ropes, they came back with a haymaker.

A 14-yard sack by redshirt junior defensive tackle Maurice Hurst Jr. on Francois left the Seminoles with a third-and-22 at their own 14. A give to Cook cooked the Wolverines, who were playing without injured redshirt sophomore linebacker Jabrill Peppers. The tailback burst out on a 71-yard sideline sprint that Peppers might have forestalled. Four plays later, Francois scampered in from seven yards out, and FSU led, 27-15.

"They hit us with some stuff that you wouldn't expect," Lewis said. "That third-and-forever, they ran a draw with Dalvin. He's a great back, but there's some great execution."

The Wolverines weren't quitting, and got some help when Lewis fielded a punt and took a helmet-to-helmet shot by FSU's Trey Marshall midway in the fourth. Officials tossed Marshall, and Speight marshaled the forces from the Florida State 37.

An 18-yard throw to Darboh and a clutch, third-and-11 toss to fifth-year senior wideout Jehu Chesson for 15 set the Wolverines up at the 5. After a loss, Speight found Hill on an eight-yard TD toss, clawing U-M back to within five, 27-22, with 5:22 remaining.

The wild scramble to the end ensued, Michigan winning it, then losing it in the closing two minutes.

"Coach Harbaugh kept saying that it's going to happen, it's going to happen — just stay patient," Speight said. "Before that drive that we scored, he basically just said, 'Now is the time.' We were able to capitalize and almost pull it out."

Almost ... it's a season summary that will linger.

Five Best Players Of The Game

1. Florida State tailback Dalvin Cook — Cook lived up to his billing, racking up 145 yards and a touchdown on 20 carries; he also made three catches for 62 yards. Part of his billing included strikeouts and home runs, and that proved true as well. Nearly half of his yardage occurred on one crucial, 71-yard breakaway.

2. Florida State quarterback Deondre Francois — Can you put a QB who misses on 18 of 27 passes in the top five? Sure, when his nine completions go for 222 yards and two touchdowns. Big plays won it, and Francois — who took an absolute beating during the game — made enough.

3. Michigan redshirt junior linebacker Mike McCray — McCray gave the Wolverines a chance. His 14-yard interception return slashed FSU's lead from 20-9 to 20-15, after the U-M offense struggled throughout the first half.

4. Michigan redshirt sophomore quarterback Wilton Speight — Speight hung in against a fearsome rush by the nation's top sack squad. He completed 21 throws for 163 yards and a TD, and set up U-M's go-ahead touchdown with a 17-yard scramble.

5. Michigan fifth-year senior placekicker/punter Kenny Allen — Allen finished off strong, going 3 for 3 on field goals. He also set the Wolverines up for a touchdown they didn't cash in, hammering a 67-yard punt that FSU muffed and the Wolverines recovered at the Seminoles' 1. They settled for a field goal, and Allen made that as well. Half of his eight punting attempts landed inside the Noles' 20

Michigan Football Report Card: Grading A 33-32 Loss to Florida State

Chris Balas | TheWolverine.com

Grading Michigan following another heartbreaker, this time a 33-32 loss to Florida State in the Orange Bowl:

Rushing Offense: D

Michigan managed only 89 yards on 36 carries, and three plays — runs of 30 and 13 yards by freshman Chris Evans and senior De'Veon Smith, respectively, and a 17-yard scramble by redshirt sophomore quarterback Wilton Speight — accounted for 60 of them. In other words, U-M managed only 29 yards on its other 33 carries, often trying to run wide or on draws with Smith, who wasn't fast enough to gain the edge or get going.

FSU notched 15 tackles for loss against a Michigan line that was simply overmatched by the Seminoles' speed and strength up front.

Passing Offense: D

Sketchy Michigan pass protection set the tone early for a Florida State defense that entered the game with a nation-leading 47 sacks and harassed Speight most of the night. The U-M interior line played its worst game of the year, albeit against one of the nation's top fronts, and that never allowed Speight to get comfortable.

Speight did heat up in the second half after managing only 60 yards passing at the break, finishing 21 of 38 for 163 yards and a touchdown, but he missed two throws in the first half that should have been touchdowns — instead, the Wolverines had to settle for field goals.

Redshirt sophomore tight end Ian Bunting stepped up when senior Jake Butt went down in the second quarter with a knee injury, hauling in three passes for 40 yards, but it wasn't enough.

Rushing Defense: C+

Florida State's Dalvin Cook was held in check for much of the game, but he broke free for a 71-yard gain to set up a fourth-quarter score — on a third-and-22 play. It was a backbreaking play, though the Wolverines recovered to eventually take the lead.

Cook finished with 145 yards and a score on 20 carries, but 40 of them came on the first drive — between that period and his 71-yarder, he managed only 24 yards on 15 carries. But they all count, and the two drives on which he was a factor led to touchdowns.

Passing Defense: C

Again, a lot of good, but it was the bad that did the Wolverines in. Usually reliable senior cornerback Jourdan Lewis had one of his worst games in recent memory, allowing a 92-yarder thrown

over his head and a game-winning, third-down touchdown to Nyquan Murray with less than a minute remaining. The Wolverines only allowed nine completions in 27 attempts, but FSU still managed 222 yards and 24.7 yards per completion.

Among the big plays — a 45-yarder to Cook over redshirt junior linebacker Mike McCray, though McCray later atoned with a pick-six. The Michigan pass rush managed two sacks and five hurries and helped the cause, but the big plays were too much to overcome.

Special Teams: C

Once again, there were plenty of great moments, but also enough bad ones to lose the game down the stretch. Michigan fifth-year senior Kenny Allen made all three of his field goals and averaged an outstanding 47.4 yards on eight punts, but the one kickoff he failed to put through the end zone was the one Keith Gavin returned for 66 yards to set up the game-winning touchdown. Walk-on Jordan Glasgow had a clear shot and hit him hard, but didn't wrap him up — and the short field was the gift FSU needed to pull out the win.

Lewis was a non-factor in the return game filling in for the injured Jabrill Peppers (hamstring), and U-M's punt coverage was solid — allowing only three returns for nine total yards and recovering a fumble inside the opponent's five.

Offense Notes: Florida State Harasses Michigan Backfield

Leland Mitchinson | TheWolverine.com

Michigan could not keep the Florida State defense out of the backfield in the team's 33-32 loss in the Orange Bowl in Miami. Throughout the game the Seminoles disrupted both the passing and running games of the Wolverines and made life difficult for the entire offense.

Florida State tallied 15 tackles for loss — the most by any team against Michigan this season — including four sacks in the victory. Linebacker Matthew Thomas led the defense with 15 total tackles and 3.5 tackles for a loss, while defensive end DeMarcus Walker was a constant force behind the line of scrimmage, tallying four tackles for loss and a sack. Thomas' 15 tackles are tied for the second-most by a single player against Michigan in a bowl game.

Michigan was able to total just 22 yards in the first quarter, with zero rushing yards. Redshirt sophomore quarterback Wilton Speight was 10-of-19 passing in the first half for 60 yards and rarely had time to deliver passes downfield. Speight finished the day with 163 yards passing and a touchdown but also had an interception which essentially ended the game.

Passing Game Out Of Sync For Wolverines

The passing game for Michigan was unable to its stride in the Orange Bowl — Speight and his receivers never really seemed to

be on the same page. The quarterback seemed to have a particularly hard time connecting with fifth-year senior Amara Darboh, one of his favorite targets throughout the year. Darboh was targeted 13 times on the day, but only had five catches for 36 yards.

The passing game also suffered from the loss of senior tight end Jake Butt in the second quarter. Butt caught a pass for 16 yards but then was tackled low. While he eventually left the field under his own power, Butt was ruled out for the rest of the game. Junior tight end Ian Bunting came in off the bench and led Michigan in receiving yards with a career-high 40 yards on three catches, another career best.

“To touch on the Jake Butt thing first, obviously that’s a huge blow,” Speight said. “From an offensive schematic standpoint, obviously it hurts. But it hurts to see him in his last game — I don’t know what happened, but I know it was serious enough to put him out for the rest of the game.”

Speight was able to connect with redshirt junior fullback Khalid Hill for an eight-touchdown with just over five minutes left in the game for Hill’s 13th touchdown of the season. His single-season scoring total is tied for 24th in school history and the most since Denard Robinson scored 16 in 2011.

“Basically I had an under route. I saw that it was zone coverage, and I saw Wilton escaping to the right,” Hill said. “I just stopped, and he saw me and he hit me, and I just tried to get the ball in the end zone, just reached and tried to get it in.”

The U-M wideouts finished with just nine catches for 67 yards, while being outproduced by the tight ends and running backs, who racked up 12 catches for 96 yards, including the touchdown to Hill.

Miscellaneous Notes

- The game marked the third appearance for Michigan in the Orange Bowl, as well as its third game against Florida State. Prior to the game, the Wolverines and Seminoles had never met in a bowl game, and the win gives FSU a 2-1 advantage over U-M. Quarterback Jim Harbaugh led Michigan to a 20-18 victory in the first ever matchup between the two teams in 1986.

- Heading into the game, Michigan had a 3-0 mark in bowl games in Florida against teams from that state. Michigan has played 16 bowl games in the state of Florida.

- Fifth-year senior wideout Amara Darboh led the squad with five catches for 36 yards, giving him at least one reception in his final 33 games as a Wolverine, which is the fourth-longest streak in school history. The program record for consecutive games with a grab is held by Jeremy Gallon, at 39.

- U-M finished with 534 points scored, which ranks as the fifth-highest total in school annals. The top four highest-scoring squads were the point-a-minute teams from 1901-04, led by the 1902 squad (644).

Defense And Special Teams Notes: Wolverines Beat By Big Plays

Leland Mitchinson | TheWolverine.com Intern

Throughout Michigan’s loss to Florida State in the Orange Bowl, the Wolverine defense was susceptible to big plays.

The biggest of those gains came when Florida State scored its second touchdown of the game on a 92-yard touchdown pass from Deondre Francois to Nyqwan Murray. Murray had previously fumbled a punt earlier in the first quarter, setting up Michigan’s first field goal of the game. The reception was the longest touchdown pass in Orange Bowl history.

Florida State gained 201 yards in the first quarter and 255 in the first half. The Wolverine defense had held their opponents to 255 yards or less in seven of 12 regular-season games.

Including the 92-yard pass, the Michigan defense gave up four pass plays of 15 or more yards, including 45- and 21-yard connections between Francois and star running back Dalvin Cook. The pair also combined for five rushes 10 yards or longer, highlighted by a 71-yard third quarter sprint down the sideline by Cook that set up the Seminoles’ penultimate touchdown.

“That’s what we saw these last three, four weeks in film — Dalvin Cook making big plays when needed,” fifth-year senior defensive end Chris Wormley said. “He’s the heartbeat of that team, especially on the offensive side of the ball, and he made the big plays today. If we would have stopped maybe those three, four, five big plays, it would have been maybe a little bit different. We knew they could make big plays, and that’s what they did today.”

FSU gained 56.1 percent of its 371 yards from scrimmage on the 92-yard catch and Cook’s two longest plays — the 71-yard run and 45-yard catch. The Seminoles averaged just 2.8 yards on their other 59 snaps, although U-M also allowed a 66-yard kickoff return.

Cook finished the game with 207 total yards, and his 145 rush yards rank sixth all time by an opposing player against Michigan in a bowl game.

Special Teams Keep Michigan In Game

While the Michigan offense struggled, the special teams unit kept the Wolverines in the game.

Though the Wolverines were forced to punt eight times, senior kicker Kenny Allen had four punts over 50 yards and pinned Florida State inside their own 20-yard line four times, including three inside the 10. Allen averaged 47.4 yards per punt on the day and had a long of 61 yards. The 61-yard punt is the second-longest of his career and is also the second-longest punt in Michigan bowl history. The only longer kick was a 73-yarder from Don Bracken in the 1981 Rose Bowl against Washington. Michigan

won that game 23-6.

Allen was also perfect on points after and field goals, finishing 95 of 95 in his career for PATs, tying 10 others atop the program record books with a perfect career effort on extra points. He also joined Brendan Gibbons and Garrett Rivas as the only Michigan kickers to score three field goals in a bowl game.

The fifth-year senior finishes his U-M career 37 of 45 on field goals, a success rate of 82.2 percent that falls just short of Bob Bergeron's school record of 82.9 percent. Allen made his final 15 tries of the season, which was just one shy of the school record of 16 straight three-pointers.

Special teams helped Michigan score its first points of the day when senior safety Dymonte Thomas recovered a fumbled punt on the Florida State four-yard line. The play set up a U-M field goal to get on the board following a Dalvin Cook touchdown run.

"Sometimes you get plays like that on special teams where it swings the momentum of a game," Allen said. "And I think it's a lot easier to do with the guys that we have on our team."

The Wolverines also got their fifth blocked kick of the season, extending their lead over the rest of the country in that category when Wormley blocked a Seminole point-after attempt which freshman safety Josh Metellus returned for two points. The deflection broke FSU's NCAA record streak of 302 successful tries in a row; Michigan now boasts the nation's longest active streak with 284 consecutive PATs.

"It's a good feeling getting a block and then having Josh return that for those two points to put us at a one-point deficit," Wormley said. "But we knew we had to make another stop."

Miscellaneous Notes

- Francois was 6-of-15 passing for 177 yards in the first half but only had three completions (on 12 tries) in the second half.

- Thomas led Michigan tacklers with seven on the day. Thomas also had two pass breakups, tying a career high.

- The final touchdown of the game followed a 66-yard kickoff return by Florida State's Keith Gavin, the longest kickoff return allowed by Michigan in a bowl game.

- Senior defensive end Taco Charlton applied heavy pressure on Francois throughout the night and finished with five tackles, including two for loss and one sack. That quarterback takedown gave him at least half of a sack in the final five games of the year and 19 in his career, which is tied for ninth-most in program history. Charlton also had two quarterback hurries and a pass breakup.

Wolverine Watch: One Final Near Miss In A So-Close Season

John Borton | TheWolverine.com

Michigan experienced the perfectly imperfect ending to one of the cruelest seasons in its long and storied football history.

The Wolverines looked dead as an Orange Bowl orange left on Miami asphalt when they fell behind Florida State by two touchdowns. They heroically battled back like a wounded version of their nickname, storming to a 30-27 triumph in ...

Check that. They almost won. In a season of *almost*, they absorbed one more dollop of despair.

The Seminoles pulled out a 33-32 Orange Bowl victory because freshman return man Keith Gavin received a kickoff, thought about kneeling in the end zone, started, stalled like a failing engine, then bolted away 66 yards to set up the game-winning touchdown.

Perfect.

In the end, the Wolverines put one more determined effort in the 50-year, wince-worthy memory bin. With it, they stashed a season laden with nettles.

They lost three games, by a grand total of five points. For a potential playoff team, it had to feel like crawling through a 40-mile desert to reach water, only to be devoured by a crocodile.

Drag out all the appropriate pain enhancers — if, but, maybe, *almost*. Stack them end-to-end and they'd reach from Hard Rock Stadium all the way to the national championship game in Tampa.

"Sometimes, the other team executes a little bit more," senior cornerback Jourdan Lewis insisted. "That's what it was. We didn't perform as well as we should have. I'm glad the way everybody fought, and I'm extremely proud of everybody."

For a while, this looked like an execution. Florida State appeared quicker, faster, more explosive and just plain better than the Wolverines at every turn. The Seminoles looked ready to embarrass a team that felt convinced coming in it should be in the playoff.

"We never wavered," Lewis said. "We always kept our composure. We understood we've been in situations like that, against Colorado, and we fought back."

They were also in unbelievably closely contested situations at Iowa and Ohio State, where one play, maybe one inch, turns a loss into a win. They found themselves there again in the Orange Bowl — *that close* to a victory, in a season *that close* to 13-0.

How unkind was the capper? Consider ...

- Michigan's best player puts forth a campaign taking him to New York for the Heisman Trophy ceremonies. But one day, one

practice away from a final showcase in his third season wearing a winged helmet, he's injured and can't go.

"You work hard, you get rewarded," redshirt sophomore linebacker Jabrill Peppers said quietly, and ironically, in the Michigan locker room. "That was our main thing. We put the work in. That's why it sucks.

"We missed out on the playoffs, missed out on the Rose Bowl ... but the Orange Bowl wasn't a bad deal, either. When you put the work in, especially for these seniors, and you want to finish the right way, it definitely puts a sour taste in your mouth."

- Michigan senior captain Jake Butt — who could have jumped to the NFL a year ago, but came back to win a championship — not only missed out on the hardware, he saw his immediate NFL future clouded by an injury. He crashed to the turf after a first-half catch, sending shivers on sickness through Michigan loyalists.

Michigan head coach Jim Harbaugh acknowledged afterward Butt sustained a knee injury, either to the anterior cruciate ligament or the medial collateral ligament. Three plays away from perfection, but one play endangers dreams that were as close to realization as wins over the Hawkeyes, Buckeyes and Seminoles.

"Obviously, that's a huge blow," redshirt sophomore quarterback Wilton Speight said. "It hurts to see him in his last game ... your boy, that you've been with for three years now, that put so much into this program, go down like that."

That's an ache far beyond the wins and losses columns.

Harbaugh asked for no sympathy. He projected only pride.

"I love them. I love these guys," he said. "Great group of competitors, great group of workers and a great group of guys that find a way. They've got a will to win. Not just that they want to win. I mean, they *must* win. I love them for it."

Harbaugh must win as well. When you come *that close*, three times, and don't get rewarded, the wound will linger.

"I want the younger guys to go out with a better feeling than this," Lewis said. "I want those guys to be able to execute in pressure situations."

They'll work, no doubt, because they know how *this* feels.

What They're Saying: Florida State 33, Michigan 32

Austin Fox | Contributor

Florida State defeated Michigan, 33-32, in a game that will likely be considered one of the most exciting Orange Bowls ever. After trailing for the entire game, Michigan took the lead on a 30-yard

touchdown run by freshman running back Chris Evans with just 1:57 remaining in the game. However, the lead was short-lived, as Florida State redshirt freshman quarterback Deondre Francois tossed the game-winning touchdown pass with 36 seconds left.

The Wolverines had received disappointing news before the game even started when it was announced that redshirt sophomore linebacker Jabrill Peppers would not play, due to a hamstring injury. Michigan was dealt another blow in the second quarter when senior tight end Jake Butt suffered an injury and did not return.

Regardless, the Maize and Blue had plenty of opportunities to win the game, even with the absence of two of their best players. Instead, the loss means that the seniors will go out on a disappointing note, and a sour taste will be left in the mouths of the returnees all offseason. Find out what they're saying about the loss here:

Garrett Fishaw, Bleacher Report: Michigan vs. Florida State: Orange Bowl Grades, Analysis for the Wolverines

"Run Offense: F+

"While Michigan's offensive line struggled to pass protect, it struggled even more to open up lanes consistently for the running backs.

"Michigan, as a team, finished with just 89 yards rushing on 36 attempts, averaging just 2.5 yards per carry.

"Whether it was De'Veon Smith, Karan Higdon or Chris Evans, there was no hope for the running game until Evans shook the pants off of a Seminoles defender on his way to the end zone late in the fourth quarter. This gave Michigan the lead, but obviously wasn't enough for the win.

"Pass Offense: D

"Going into the game, Florida State's secondary looked to be the weak point Michigan would attack. However, Wilton Speight's rough performance and the offensive line's lack of protection led to a long day for the passing attack.

"While the loss of Jake Butt in the first half hurt, Speight struggled all day.

"He finished 21-of-38 for 163 yards and one touchdown. That's just an average of 4.3 yards per pass. Yeah, not good. A key reason for the lack of big plays was Speight consistently missing downfield receivers high. But a couple of those could easily be blamed on the Seminoles' dominant pass rush."

Matt Wenzel, MLive: Michigan-Florida State postgame: Big plays the difference in Orange Bowl

"BY THE NUMBERS

"1:21: Amount of minutes and seconds Michigan had a lead against Florida State. The Wolverines took their only lead of the

game on Chris Evans' 30-yard touchdown run with 1:57 left in the fourth quarter before the Seminoles went ahead for good with 36 seconds to play.

“66: Yards of a kickoff return by Florida State's Keith Gavin to set up the game-winning drive after Michigan took its only lead of the game.

“1: Number of wins for Michigan in its last four games, following a 9-0 start.

“5: Total margin of defeat for Michigan this season in losses to Iowa (14-13), Ohio State (30-27 in double overtime) and to Florida State.

“252.7: Yards per game Michigan's defense allowed entering the game - the second-lowest total in the nation.

“201-22: Yardage advantage for Florida State over Michigan in the first quarter.

“230-170: Yardage advantage for Michigan over Florida State the final three quarters as the Seminoles finished with a 371-252 advantage.

“2.47: Yards per carry for Michigan, with 36 rushes for 89 yards. That number was boosted by Evans' 30-yard touchdown run late in the fourth quarter.”

Perry Kostidakis, FSUNews.com: FSU 33, Michigan 32: Thoughts and observations

“What. A. Game.

“Florida State almost blew out Michigan, then almost blew it, then got the lead back and for good measure, got an extra point blocked to make it a one-point game.

“In the end, the Seminoles left Hard Rock Stadium for the second time this season with a win, once again escaping with a one-point victory. The Seminoles rode the back of their defense as the offense sputtered, holding Michigan to six points in the first half. A late scoring burst put Michigan in a position to win with under two minutes to play, but Florida State responded with an 11-yard touchdown pass to Nyquan Murray with 36 seconds left to seal the deal.”

Ace Anbender, Mgloblog: Florida State 33, Michigan 32

“With 36 seconds left, down a point, Michigan had the opportunity to give this meandering game one final twist.

“Instead, the Seminoles held strong, intercepting a desperation fourth-and-10 heave by Speight forced by instant — perhaps too instant—pressure by DeMarcus Walker.

“It may be coachspeak cliché, but it's true: Florida State made more plays. The better team, at least tonight, won the game. Cook

showed Michigan what they lack: an offensive playmaker that makes opponents sigh with relief every time the ball goes elsewhere. That, or an elite quarterback, can overcome a porous offensive line. The Wolverines had neither.

“Maybe next year.”

Nick Baumgardner, MLive: Michigan falls to Florida State in Orange Bowl after frantic fourth quarter

“For the Wolverines, big plays and poor offensive line play were the themes of the day. FSU had a 92-yard touchdown throw and catch from Francois to Murray in the first half and a 71-yard rush to setup another score by Dalvin Cook in the second half before the big kickoff return in the closing minutes.

“Michigan, meanwhile, rushed for just 89 yards on 36 carries.

“Speight finished his day 21 of 38 for 163 yards, one touchdown and one interception. Florida State outgained the Wolverines 378-252.

“Cook — the game's most outstanding player — rushed 20 times for 145 yards and a touchdown.

“Michigan, meanwhile, played the entire game without star linebacker/safety Jabrill Peppers. Per the team, Peppers suffered an injury during practice earlier in the week. Peppers tried to warm-up with the team before the game, but ultimately did not play. He spent the game with Michigan's coaching staff in the coaches box.

“The Wolverines also lost All-American tight end Jake Butt in the second quarter due to a right leg injury. Butt left the field without assistance, but did not return.”

Angelique Chengelis, The Detroit News: Late TD foils Michigan comeback in wild finish

“Michigan finishes the season 10-3 for the second straight year under coach Jim Harbaugh. The Wolverines lost three of their final four games by a total of five points. ...

“The Wolverines endured a big loss before the game even started. Do-everything Jabrill Peppers, a Heisman Trophy finalist and the Big Ten's Defensive Player of the Year, did not play because of an apparent injury to his left hamstring suffered in practice the day before the game. He did warm up before the game but said he didn't feel confident he could play at his normal high level.

“It may have been the last opportunity for Peppers to play for Michigan, since he is considering leaving for the NFL Draft where he is projected in the first round. It's the second-straight bowl Peppers has missed. He did not play last year for the Wolverines in Orlando because of a hand injury. ...

“[U-M] could never get its run game going and finished with a season-low 89 yards. Their lowest rushing totals this season came in their three losses, including 91 yards at Ohio State and 98 at Iowa.”