

THE WOLVERINE SEPT. 24, 2017

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MICHIGAN STADIUM ANN ARBOR, MI


QT	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Tot
Michigan State	7	7	0	0	14
Michigan	3	0	7	0	10

S 14 M 10

		MSU	U-M			MSU	U-M
		First Quarter				Total First Downs	
U-M	Nordin 30-yard Field Goal 08:04 Drive: 16 plays 64 yds 6:56	0	3			13	17
MSU	Lewerke 14-yard Run (Coghlin Kick) 02:59 Drive: 6 plays 46 yds 2:49	7	3			Rushing	8
		Second Quarter				Passing	7
MSU	London Pass from Lewerke 16-yards (Coghlin Kick) 08:07 Drive: 9 plays 83 yds 3:45	14	3			Penalty	2
		Third Quarter				Rushing Attempts	39
U-M	Hill 1-yard Run (Nordin Kick) 08:09 Drive: 4 plays 33 yds 1:41	14	10			Yards Gained Rushing	141
						Yards Lost Rushing	39
						Net Yards Rushing	102
						Net Yards Passing	198
						Passes Attempted	35
						Passes Completed	16
						Had Intercepted	3
						Percent Completion	45.7%
						Yards per Attempt	5.7
						Yards per Completion	12.4
						Total Offensive Plays	74
						Total Net Yards	300
						Avg. Gain Per Play	4.1
						Fumbles: No-Lost	2-2
						Penalties: No-Yards	7-53
						Punts: No-Yards	7-298
						Avg. Per Punt	42.6
						Avg. Net Punt	43.7
						Punt Returns: No-Yards	3-6
						Kickoff Returns: No-Yards	2-44
						Interception Returns: No-Yards	0-0
						Fumble Returns: No-Yards	0-0
						Miscellaneous Yards	0
						Possession Time	30:52
						Third-Down Conversions	17
						Percentage	29.4%
						Fourth-Down Conversions	1-1
						Percentage	100.0%
						Sacks By: No-Yards	0-0



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MICHIGAN INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Offensive Individual Statistics

Rushing	No	Gain	Lost	Net	Avg	TD	Lg
Higdon	12	65	0	65	5.4	0	12
Evans	12	30	3	27	2.2	0	8
Isaac	4	12	3	9	2.2	0	8
Peoples-j	1	6	0	6	6.0	0	6
Hill	2	4	0	4	2.0	1	3
O'Korn	8	24	33	-9	-1.1	0	8
Total	39	141	39	102	2.6	1	12

Passing	Att	Comp	%	Int	Yds	TD	Lg
O'Korn	35	16	45.7	3	198	0	36
Total	35	16	45.7	3	198	0	36

Receiving	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Perry	5	61	0	19
McKeon	4	59	0	36
Higdon	2	33	0	18
Hill	1	18	0	18
Evans	1	14	0	14
Bunting	1	6	0	6
McDoom	1	4	0	4
Ways	1	3	0	3
Total	16	198	0	36

Field Goals: Nordin 1 for 30

Punting: Robbins 7 (average 42.6, long 57).

Defensive Individual Statistics

Defense	Tac	Ast	Tot	TFL	Sac	PD	FF	FR
Bush	4	4	8	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Hurst	6	2	8	2.5-5	0-0	0	0	0
Winovich	5	2	7	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Gary	5	1	6	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
McCray	6	0	6	1-1	0-0	0	0	0
Furbush	5	0	5	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Kinnel	2	3	5	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Watson	3	1	4	1-1	0-0	0	0	0
Hudson	2	0	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Mone	0	2	2	0.5-1	0-0	0	0	0
Perry	2	0	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Hill	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	3	0	0
Long	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Thomas	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Metellus	0	0	0	0-0	0-0	1	0	0

Punt Ret	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Peoples-j	3	6	0	9

Kick Ret	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Thomas	1	30	0	30
Crawford	1	14	0	14
Total	2	44	0	30

Interceptions: none

MICHIGAN STATE INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing	No	Gain	Lost	Net	Avg	TD	Lg
Lewerke	15	64	3	61	4.1	1	14
London	10	61	2	59	5.9	0	50
Holmes	11	32	5	27	2.5	0	15
Stewart	3	14	1	13	4.3	0	10
TEAM	1	0	2	-2	-2.0	0	0
Total	40	171	13	158	4.0	1	50

Passing	Att	Comp	%	Int	Yds	TD	Lg
Lewerke	22	11	50.0	0	94	1	30
Total	22	11	50.0	0	94	1	30

Receiving	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Stewart	3	42	0	30
London	2	19	1	16
Sokol	3	14	0	9
Davis	1	9	0	9
Rison	1	8	0	8
Heyward	1	2	0	2
Total	11	94	1	30

Field Goals: none

Punting: Hartbarger 11 (average 39.1, long 49).

Returns: Welch 1 kick for 9, Nelson 2 punts for -8 (long 10).



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BY THE NUMBERS

MICHIGAN VS. MICHIGAN STATE QUARTER-BY-QUARTER COMPARISON

Michigan	1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.	4th Qtr.	1st Half	2nd Half	Total
Time of Possession	9:51	7:49	7:30	5:42	17:40	13:12	30:52
3rd-Down Conversions	2-5	1-5	1-2	1-5	3-10	2-7	5-17
4th-Down Conversions	1-1	0-0	0-0	0-0	1-1	0-0	1-1
Avg. Field Position	U-M-22	U-M-24	U-M-34	U-M-27	U-M-23	U-M-31	U-M-27
Michigan State	1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.	4th Qtr.	1st Half	2nd Half	Final
Time of Possession	5:09	7:11	7:30	9:18	12:20	16:48	29:08
3rd-Down Conversions	0-1	1-4	0-4	1-5	1-5	1-9	2-14
4th-Down Conversions	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-1	0-0	0-1	0-1
Avg. Field Position	MSU-37	MSU-26	MSU-20	MSU-37	MSU-31	MSU-29	MSU-30

SITUATION TABLES

FIRST AND TEN

	Rushing			Passing			Totals		
	Plays	Yards	Avg.	Plays	Yards	Avg.	Plays	Yards	Avg.
Michigan	17	45	2.6	14	75	5.4	31	120	3.9
Michigan St.	15	98	6.5	11	68	6.2	26	166	6.4

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.
Michigan	1/1	100.0	2/6	33.3	0/6	0.0	2/4	50.0	5/17	29.4
Michigan St.	0/0	-	2/5	40.0	0/3	0.0	0/6	0.0	2/14	14.3

RED ZONE EFFICIENCY (INSIDE 20-YARD LINE)

	Poss.	TDs	FGs	No Score
Michigan	2	1	1	0
Michigan State	2	2	0	0

PLAY CHART (NO. OF PLAYS)

Yards	U-M	MSU
(-) Yards.....	6	7
0-5 Yards.....	46	41
6-9 Yards.....	13	7
10-19 Yards.....	8	5
20-29 Yards.....	0	0
30-39 Yards.....	1	1
40-49 Yards.....	0	0
50 or more Yards.....	0	1

BIG PLAYS (25 YARDS OR MORE)

Michigan

*1-10 U-M20 O'Korn pass complete to Higdon for 15 yards to the U-M35, PENALTY MSU personal foul (Frey) 15 yards to the 50 yardline

Michigan State

*1-10 MSU44 Lewerke pass complete to Stewart for 30 yards to the U-M26

*1-10 MSU17 London rush for 50 yards to the U-M33

MICHIGAN CONTRIBUTORS

OFFENSE — STARTERS

WR Kekoa Crawford
 LT Mason Cole
 LG Ben Bredeson
 C Patrick Kugler
 RG Michael Onwenu
 RT Nolan Ulizio
 QB John O’Korn
 RB Karan Higdon
 FB Khalid Hill
 TE Sean McKeon
 WR Grant Perry

DEFENSE — STARTERS

DE Rashan Gary
 DT Maurice Hurst
 DE Chase Winovich
 LB Devin Bush
 LB Mike McCray
 LB Khaleke Hudson
 LB Noah Furbush
 CB Lavert Hill
 SS Josh Metellus
 FS Tyree Kinnel
 CB David Long

SPECIAL TEAMS AND RESERVES

Jaylen Kelly-Powell, Ambry Thomas, Josh Ross, Brad Hawkins, Carlo Kemp, Quinn Nordin, Brad Robbins, Michael Dwumfour, Aubrey Solomon, Donovan Peoples-Jones, Chris Evans, Eddie McDoom, Tyrone Wheatley, Henry Poggi, O’maury Samuels, Benjamin St-Juste, J’Marick Woods, Joe Hewlett, Brandon Watson, Jordan Glasgow, James Foug, Ty Isaac, Camaron Cheeseman, Devin Gil, Jared Wangler, Ben Mason, Mike Wroblewski, Stephen Spanellis, Juwann Bushell-Beatty, Zach Gentry, Maurice Ways, Ian Bunting, Bryan Mone

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
Florida	17	9	11	181	14/26	0	5/3	5/45	Neutral
Michigan	33	19	215	218	12/26	2	0/0	7/55	75,802
Michigan	36	16	193	221	17/29	0	3/2	7/68	111,384
Cincinnati	14	13	68	132	15/40	2	1/0	4/30	Home
Michigan	29	17	190	169	14/23	0	2/1	7/72	111,387
Air Force	13	15	168	64	1/9	1	1/0	3/29	Home
Purdue	10	9	30	159	13/30	0	3/1	10/82	Away
Michigan	28	24	139	284	21/31	1	1/1	7/57	60,042
Michigan	14	17	102	198	16/35	3	2/2	7/53	112,432
Michigan State	10	13	158	94	11/22	0	2/0	11/81	Home

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Michigan Football: Wolverines Turn One Over To The Spartans, 14-10

John Borton | Senior Editor

The skies sobbed over Ann Arbor Saturday night. In the end, the vast majority in The Big House joined in.

Michigan State invaded Michigan Stadium, built an 11-point halftime lead, then hung on through a monsoon to slog away with a 14-10 win over the Wolverines. Five Michigan turnovers — to none for the Spartans — doomed an effort that continually came up short.

A final Hail Mary heave from fifth-year senior quarterback John O’Korn tumbled to the turf, leaving the Wolverines (4-1, 1-1 Big Ten) adrift and the Spartans (4-1, 2-0) sailing away with in-state bragging rights for another year.

“You can’t expect to win when you turn it over five times,” Michigan head coach Jim Harbaugh said. “Or it’s tough to win.”

That Michigan even had a chance represents a testament to its defense, which pitched another second-half shutout and held the Spartans without a first down in the final 30 minutes until the waning moments. MSU managed only 252 yards to Michigan’s 300, but a pair of first-half touchdowns was all it required.

MSU quarterback Brian Lewerke didn’t enjoy a spectacular night, going 11 for 22 with 94 yards passing, one TD toss and another touchdown run on 61 yards worth of scrambles. What he didn’t do stood out, though. He and his team didn’t turn the ball over, while O’Korn fired three interceptions on his way to 16-of-35 passing for 198 yards.

“We had plenty of opportunities to move the ball and score touchdowns,” O’Korn said. “You can’t expect to win when you turn it over that many times. Three of them were 100 percent my fault.”

In the end, Michigan came away with 100 percent frustration on a near miss.

The Wolverines rumbled with a purpose on the opening possession of the game, reeling off 16 plays, but settling for redshirt freshman placekicker Quinn Nordin’s 30-yard field goal at 8:04. O’Korn threaded a third-down pass to junior wideout Grant Perry for a 19-yard gain to jump start the march, which stalled in the red zone.

The Wolverines looked ready for more, surging near midfield on their second possession in the dry portion of the evening. But fifth-year senior tailback Ty Isaac got stripped of the ball, and MSU’s Chris Frey pounced on it at the U-M 46.

Six plays later, Lewerke scrambled out for a 14-yard touch-

down run, making it 7-3 Michigan State at the 2:59 mark. The first turnover proved a momentum-turner, and it took a long time for the Wolverines to start recovering.

Midway through the second quarter, the breezy night produced a bigger chill inside The Big House. MSU drove 83 yards in nine plays for a touchdown to make it 14-3 with 8:07 remaining in the half.

Lewerke pulled off a double-fake screen pass to his right, running back Madre London pulling it in and riding a beefy blocking escort 16 yards for the touchdown. Suddenly, the Spartans grabbed all the momentum, a stunned crowd of 112,432 sidelined as a noise factor.

“Turnovers hurt us,” fifth-year senior fullback Khalid Hill said. “We were always shooting ourselves in the foot with penalties or something that hurts us, big time.”

The Wolverines saw a chance to get at least a field goal back before halftime, but another crucial fumble wiped out that chance. O’Korn hit sophomore tight end Sean McKeon in MSU territory, but he coughed it up, Spartans safety David Dowell diving on it at the 29.

With a thunderstorm approaching and one barely weathered in the first half, the Wolverines desperately needed a strong second-half start. They executed it, backing the Spartans up deep and cashing in a short-field touchdown.

An MSU punt out of its own end zone set U-M up at the MSU 33. O’Korn fired throws of 18 and 17 yards to Hill and Perry. Hill then punched it in from a yard out, pulling the Wolverines within four, 14-10, at the 8:09 mark of the third quarter.

The driving rains then began pelting Michigan Stadium, swinging the advantage to both defenses. The fourth quarter played out without a score, sheets of water swirling everywhere.

“There was one point it was a torrential downpour, and it was tough to throw the football,” O’Korn said. “But there are no excuses. You’ve got to do what you’re coached to do, and you’ve got to complete the passes that are called.”

O’Korn fired an interception to open the fourth, MSU’s Joe Bachie setting the Spartans up at the Michigan 41. But the Spartans went nowhere, Lewerke fumbling the snap on a fourth-and-two.

Dowell then picked off another O’Korn pass, a well-saturated fifth turnover for the Wolverines. But once again, U-M’s defense held near midfield, forcing the Spartans to punt.

However, the Wolverines simply couldn’t make it happen on the offensive side of the ball. Asked about play calling, Harbaugh offered a stiff-arm. He noted Michigan was trying to run the ball and put drives together, but just couldn’t do so successfully.

It just didn't happen, as the clock drained away in a scoreless fourth quarter. The Wolverines got it back for one final shot, but a ball hurled by O'Korn into the south end zone got tipped away, delivering Michigan's first loss of the season.

The Wolverines spoke about quickly regrouping with two road games dead ahead.

"Of course it hurts, but we've got to keep our heads up," fifth-year senior linebacker Mike McCray said. "Our goal is to win a Big Ten championship ... hopefully we can move on, come out next week and get a win."

Five Best Players Of The Game

1. Michigan State safety David Dowell — Dowell picked off two of the three interceptions O'Korn threw, while he also recovered a fumble, secured seven tackles and broke up a pass. He set the turnover tone, and others followed.

2. Michigan State linebacker Joe Bachie — Bachie made the other interception, forced a fumble, broke up a pass and posted a sack among 10 tackles. On a night for defenders, he hurt the Wolverines.

3. Michigan State quarterback Brian Lewerke — Lewerke wasn't exceptional, but there were three touchdowns scored in the game, and he accounted for two of them — one through the air, one on the ground. He also didn't turn the ball over, the difference in the game.

4. U-M fifth-year senior defensive tackle Maurice Hurst — Hurst paced a defensive effort that would have won most games. Among his eight tackles were 2.5 tackles for loss, and he put plenty of pressure on the Spartans.

5. Michigan State defensive end Kenny Willekes — Willekes made life miserable for O'Korn, notching a pair of sacks and three tackles for loss among his nine stops.

Offense Notes: Turnovers Doom John O'Korn, Michigan Offense In Rain

Andrew Vaillencourt | Staff

During the week leading up to the game, numerous Michigan players said getting off to a good start was going to be key for the Wolverines against the Spartans.

Michigan had its best drive of the game on its opening possession — marching 64 yards down the field in six minutes and 54 seconds on 16 plays, although they had to settle for a field

goal after reaching the red zone.

Outside of that drive, Michigan had only one other possession last longer than two minutes and 37 seconds — a four-minute drive in the second quarter that resulted in a punt.

The Wolverines scored just one other time — a one-yard touchdown run by fifth-year senior fullback Khalid Hill in the third quarter. That came after Michigan had only 33 yards to go to reach the end zone.

The story of the offense in the team's 14-10 loss at home to Michigan State was turnovers. Michigan lost the ball five times, twice on fumbles in the first half and three times on interceptions in the second half (on three straight drives).

Fifth-year senior running back Ty Isaac fumbled on U-M's second drive, a play that seemed to change the momentum of the entire game. The Wolverine offense struggled to be effective for the remainder of the contest. Michigan reached the red zone just twice in the game — the opening drive and the short-field-turned-touchdown following an MSU punt from its own end zone.

The Wolverines were headed deep into Michigan State territory in the final two minutes of the first half, but sophomore tight end Sean McKeon fumbled after catching a pass and the Spartans took over.

Fifth-year senior quarterback John O'Korn got his first start of the season and sputtered. He completed 16 of 35 passes for 198 yards and three interceptions. The heavy rain may have played a factor into the picks, but O'Korn downplayed it after the game, saying it doesn't excuse the turnovers.

He was able to scramble out of the pocket a handful of times, but ended up with minus-9 rushing yards thanks to being sacked four times.

The right side of Michigan's offensive line had a difficult time with Michigan State's defensive front. Redshirt sophomore right tackle Nolan Ulizio was pulled after giving up a sack on third-and-nine from the Michigan State 40 in the first half. O'Korn was initially able to escape, but was quickly stopped behind the line of scrimmage. Redshirt junior offensive lineman Juwann Bushell-Beatty allowed a sack on his first play in the game after replacing Ulizio.

Sophomore offensive guard Mike Onwenu allowed a sack on a critical second down during the Wolverines' final possession of the second quarter. Michigan was driving down the field, but that brought up a third-and-long.

The pouring rain went on for much of the second half and ended up causing puddles to form on the field between the hash marks. High winds were also a factor.

Despite having more success on the ground in the second

half — gaining 3.3 yards per carry compared to 2.0 in the first half — Michigan ran the ball 18 times and threw the ball 16 times. O’Korn completed just six of those throws.

After the game, Michigan coach Jim Harbaugh said people can criticize the play calling and that they were trying to run the ball more. Michigan senior left tackle Mason Cole said he “has no idea” whether one coach calls all the plays or if multiple coaches call plays during the game.

Miscellaneous Notes

- Redshirt junior tight end Ian Bunting caught his first pass of the season. He is the fifth tight end to catch a ball this season for Michigan.

- It was the first time Michigan did not score a touchdown in the first half since the Orange Bowl against Florida State to end last season. That was also the last time Michigan trailed by double figures at halftime; they entered the break Saturday down 14-3.

- Michigan’s five turnovers are the most the team has had since turning the ball over six times at Notre Dame in 2012.

- Hill scored his first touchdown of the season. Last season, Hill had five touchdowns after five games.

- Redshirt freshman kicker Quinn Nordin is now 12 of 14 on field goals this season.

- Junior running back Karan Higdon notched a career-best 33 receiving yards on two catches, including a career-long 18-yarder in the fourth quarter. He also had a season-high 65 rushing yards on 12 carries.

- Isaac received just four carries, and only two came after his fumble in the first half. Sophomore running back Chris Evans and Higdon each had 12 carries.

- The running backs as a whole were utilized effectively in the passing game, totaling four catches for 65 yards, an impressive 16.3 yards per catch. For a comparison, the tight ends combined for five catches, which gained 65 yards (13 yards per catch), while the receivers accounted for seven grabs and 68 receiving yards (9.7-yard average).

- Michigan outgained Michigan State in total yards 300-252 (the Wolverines logged 102 on the ground and 198 through the air).

Defense/ST Notes: Michigan Holds Opponent To Zero Second Half Points Again

Andrew Vaillencourt | Staff

Trailing at halftime, the Michigan defense stepped up to hold the Michigan State offense to just one first down in the second half.

However, the effort from the nation’s No. 1-ranked defense was not enough, and the Wolverines fell 14-10 at home to the Spartans.

Entering the game, Michigan State averaged 430 yards per contest. Michigan held it to 252. But while the defense kept the in-state rivals off the scoreboard in the second half, two key things were missing.

Michigan did not record a turnover or a sack for the first time this season.

Michigan State’s defense recorded five turnovers and four sacks, keeping the Michigan offense in check. The Wolverines were never able to come up with a momentum-shifting play that many have come to expect from the defense.

“We didn’t generate any turnovers, and that’s a big part of our game,” fifth-year senior defensive tackle Mo Hurst said. “We needed to do that to change the outcome. We hold ourselves responsible, because we want to generate turnovers and make big plays.”

Sophomore linebacker Devin Bush Jr. and Hurst each had eight tackles to lead the Wolverines.

Michigan State scored touchdowns on two of its first four drives to start the game, but wasn’t able to do much afterwards. The Spartans netted 149 yards on its first quartet of possessions, gaining just 103 yards the rest of the way. Michigan’s defense forced nine punts and a turnover on downs to close out the game.

Team captain and fifth-year senior linebacker Mike McCray said the defense can’t get frustrated with the Michigan offense, despite its inability to score points late in the game.

“We’re a team. If the offense is doing bad, we’re doing bad,” McCray said. “Can’t get frustrated with them ... they can’t get frustrated with us. We’re a team.”

The heavy rain and winds left the field in rough shape, and water started to build up between the hash marks. The first pass attempted by either team after the rain started was dropped.

“Our shoes were extremely heavy, and it was very wet,” Hurst said. “Football is a tough person’s sport. We have to come

out and play no matter what the conditions are.”

Michigan allowed 158 yards rushing — more than double the average amount of rushing yards the team had given up per game entering play (69.3).

Michigan State redshirt sophomore quarterback Brian Lewerke led the Spartans in rushing with 15 carries for 61 yards and a touchdown. Meanwhile, starter and junior running back LJ Scott did not play for the Spartans.

The Wolverine defense did hold Lewerke to just 94 yards through the air.

On special teams, redshirt freshman kicker Quinn Nordin got Michigan on the board with a 30-yard field goal after a 16-play first drive. He is now 12 of 14 on field goals this season.

Freshman punter Brad Robbins punted seven times for a career-high 298 yards. In the second quarter, he had a career-long 57-yard punt.

Freshman wide receiver Donovan Peoples-Jones wasn't able to break any long runs in the punt return game, returning three kicks for a total of six yards.

Rookie cornerback Ambry Thomas ran back the first kickoff return of his career for 30 yards.

Miscellaneous Notes

· Michigan entered the game allowing just 14.7 yards per drive — which ranked the best in the country. Michigan State averaged 16.8 yards per possession Saturday.

· Michigan has not allowed a single point to opposing teams in the second half this season.

· Michigan limited Michigan State to just two third-down conversions on 14 attempts. The Wolverines have allowed opponents to convert just 18.3 percent of its third-down chances (13-71). They ranked No. 3 in the nation in that category entering Saturday's game.

· The Wolverines record five tackles for loss. It's the fewest stops behind the line of scrimmage Michigan has recorded this season.

· Redshirt junior defensive tackle Bryan Mone got his first two tackles of the season.

· Michigan allowed 66 yards in the second half.

· This is Michigan's first loss in a home night game. They are now 3-1 under the lights at The Big House.

What They're Saying: Michigan State 14, Michigan 10

Austin Fox | Staff Writer

Michigan fell at home to Michigan State, 14-10, in a rain-soaked affair on Saturday night.

The Wolverines' offense was ineffective all game, only tallying 300 yards while turning the ball over five times.

Fifth-year senior quarterback John O'Korn did not play well in his first start of the season, tossing three picks and no touchdowns.

The defense did its part, though, holding MSU to 252 yards and no points in the second half.

Find out what they're saying about O'Korn, the defense and much more here:

John Borton, TheWolverine.com: Wolverines Turn One Over To The Spartans, 14-10

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Kyle Austin, MLive: Michigan State talking points: Five takeaways and plenty of rain in win over Michigan

"Rain, rain and more rain

"Rain fell in Biblical proportions at Michigan Stadium on Saturday night. You half expected Noah to show up in an arc.

"It made for a sloppy second half. There was nearly no passing game to speak of in the final two quarters. Michigan State

didn't even have a second-half first down until its final drive of the game.

"But when the rain started, Michigan State held the lead, which was critical. With the conditions stifling both offenses equally, the Spartans were able to stay on top."

Anthony Broome, *Maize N Brew: Takeaways from Michigan's 14-10 loss to Michigan State*

"Questioning the Coaching Staff"

"Yes, that is allowed. And it should be.

"This football team never looked ready to play outside of the opening drive of the game on offense, which resulted in another stalled drive in the end zone that brought about a field goal attempt.

"The play calling in this game was, at times, atrocious. During a stretch of the game where the rain started coming down, Michigan passed the ball as frequently as one would if they were playing in an indoor stadium. Which is mind-boggling considering the fact that they actually did have some success on the ground.

"There are still some huge lingering questions about this program that exist in year three under this coaching staff.

"This is a program with an offensive guru at the helm, yet the offense has gotten worse each year. Quarterback play has fans yearning for the return of Jake Rudock-like production, which while solid is not what the expectation was when Jim Harbaugh was brought in to resurrect Michigan Football.

"The offensive line has gotten worse every season when the expectation was that this was going to be a team where their identity was going to be to run the ball and grind out games led by the guys in the trenches."

Ace Anbender, Mgblog: Michigan State 14, Michigan 10

"Death by a thousand self-inflicted cuts.

"Michigan State's offense didn't look like it belonged in the same league as Michigan's defense, which forced eight three-and-outs, added a turnover on downs and didn't allow a point after the 8:07 mark of the second quarter. By those numbers, you'd think the Wolverines would've won this game in a blow-out.

"But the offense, well, it all went wrong with the offense. They turned the ball over five times: a Ty Isaac fumble that killed any momentum from a promising start, a Sean McKeon fumble when they were driving at the end of the first half and three John O'Korn interceptions. O'Korn's picks came on consecutive second-half possessions as rain fell from the sky in sheets; the coaches continued to call passes despite O'Korn's

struggling and the receivers having a tough time hanging onto the ball.

"That was it, really. State needed only one long touchdown drive and another on a short field to get the win, while Michigan found new and demoralizing ways to shoot themselves in the foot.

"After the game, the quarterback dismissed concerns about the play calling and the weather, instead putting the loss on his own shoulders.

"I take full ownership for this loss,' said John O'Korn. 'You can't turn the ball over and expect to win, and you can't give them great field position all game and expect to win.'

"'You've got to execute the plays that are called regardless of the conditions and we didn't do that tonight.'"

Dennis Dodd, CBS Sports: Michigan State at Michigan score: Spartans upset is Jim Harbaugh's latest rivalry loss

"Jim Harbaugh now faces something he has never encountered in his college career.

"Pressure.

"After a startling 14-10 upset loss to "Little Brother" Michigan State, a bit of the veneer has been stripped bare from the Harbaugh myth here at Michigan.

"He's still a great coach. We know that. We've been hit over the head with it. But the bottom line is starting to loom bigger than the robust Spartan defense that shut down the punchless Wolverine offense Saturday night.

"Coach Khaki is 1-4 against his alma mater's two biggest rivals. If it hasn't already, that will soon become an issue.

"So will this unsavory nugget: Harbaugh is 13-3 at home halfway through his third season. All three losses are to the hated Buckeyes and Spartans.

"As much as they love Harbaugh here, they hate Ohio State more. He is 0-2 against the Buckeyes. Since Harbaugh took the job three years ago, Mark Dantonio has beaten Michigan twice himself and taken the Spartans to the College Football Playoff."

John Taylor, NBC Sports: Michigan State rains on No. 7 Michigan's unbeaten season, upsets Wolverines in storm-swept Big House

"Even prior to the weather rolling in, it was a defensive battle from start to finish. The Wolverines actually outgained their counterparts 300-252, with the Spartans converting just two of 14 third downs. Two scores less than 10 minutes apart, though, proved to be the difference — quarterback Brian Lewerke's 14-yard touchdown run late in the first quarter, his 16-yard touch-

down pass to Madre London in the middle of the second quarter.

"While the loss put a dent in Michigan's College Football Playoff hopes, it did the same for its biggest rival.

"Thanks to its week two loss, Ohio State needed, in part, Oklahoma and Michigan to run the table. Not only did the Wolverines lose in week six, the Sooners did the same as 30-point home favorites earlier in the day in Norman.

"It's far too early for both UM and OSU to be excluded from the Playoff discussion, but the former did neither of the Big Ten East schools any favors with this home loss."

Report Card: Grading Michigan Football In A 14-10 Loss To Michigan State

Chris Balas | Senior Editor

Grading U-M in a 14-10 home loss to Michigan State:

Rushing Offense: D

Far too much inconsistency here, including a game-changing fumble on the second drive by fifth-year senior Ty Isaac, to grade this group any higher. Junior running back Karan Higdon hit the hole hard and provided a spark with 65 yards, averaging 5.4 yards per carry, but his longest run was only 12 yards. The Wolverines didn't have another carry go over eight, and sophomore Chris Evans and Isaac each averaged only 2.2 yards per carry. We saw no jet sweeps and not much creativity in the run game, which managed only 102 yards total and 2.6 per carry.

Passing Offense: D-

Three interceptions by fifth-year senior John O'Korn, three dropped passes, mistimed fades in the end zone on the first drive, two overthrows ... it all added up to a very poor day for the passing game, including by the protectors. The Spartans sacked O'Korn four times and flushed him from the pocket on a number of other occasions. U-M had to replace redshirt sophomore right tackle Nolan Ulizio with redshirt junior Juwann Bushell-Beatty, but he didn't fare any better, and the running backs struggled in protection once again. A holding call on Higdon negated a touchdown.

One of the big plays, a 30-yard pass to sophomore tight end Sean McKeon, ended with a fumble before half and cost U-M points.

Rushing Defense: C

A tale of two halves here. The Spartans finished with 158 yards total, 50 coming on one run by Madre London, and averaged 4.0 yards per carry. They got quarterback Brian Lewerke loose enough in the first half on his way to 61 rushing yards total, including a 14-yard scramble for a touchdown on a short field when the Wolverines let him out. They adjusted, but the damage had been done.

The Spartans rushed for far more yardage than most would have predicted, though U-M held them to 13 yards rushing in a deluged third quarter and 33 yards on 16 carries in the fourth.

Passing Defense: A-

Michigan State scored on a screen pass for one of its two big plays in the passing game, and quarterback Brian Lewerke added a 30-yarder to Darrell Stewart. The Spartans only had 98 yards passing as a team and converted on just two of 14 third-down tries.

No. 1 receiver Felton Davis was limited to one catch for nine yards. Sophomore cornerback Lavert Hill notched three pass breakups and played a solid game.

Special Teams: A-

Michigan redshirt freshman kicker Quinn Nordin made his only field goal attempt, and freshman punter Brad Robbins was very good in poor conditions, averaging 42.6 yards per kick and pinning two inside the 20. Freshman Ambry Thomas provided a spark in the kick return game with a 30-yarder on which he showed great speed and acceleration.

Wolverine Watch: Plenty Of Pain In The Gain

John Borton | Senior Editor

As easy fixes go, this isn't one.

Michigan sports a defense that will keep it in every single game it plays this year. It features an offense, at present, that will keep opponents in almost every game.

Sure, monsoon season hit The Big House on Saturday night. Sure, fifth-year senior quarterback John O'Korn probably feels like Jim Cantore has a voodoo doll of him and is sticking icy or rain-slick pins in it every time O'Korn starts a game in Michigan Stadium.

But O'Korn, and the Wolverines, know better than to blame the weather for a 14-10 saturated setback on Saturday night versus Michigan State.

"It's no secret," O'Korn said. "It was a torrential downpour

out there, but both teams have to deal with it. No excuses.”

One team dealt with it four points better than the other. One team didn't turn the football over once. One team did so five times.

Moreover, one team scored 14 points when the uniforms were still dry. In those same conditions during the opening 30 minutes, the Wolverines scored three points, digging a hole that they couldn't climb out of.

Jim Harbaugh's crew has issues getting the job done on the offensive side of the football, and he knows it. The right side of his offensive line is struggling. That leads to up-and-down performances by his running backs and wideouts, because of the pressure put on by opposing defenses.

Harbaugh is on his second quarterback, and that's not the plus some cynical fans insisted two weeks earlier. Redshirt junior QB Wilton Speight went down with an injury at Purdue, and he's done for the year. Some less charitable onlookers took the opportunity to insist Michigan is better off with O'Korn behind center.

By the end of the soggy second half against MSU, they were already calling for redshirt freshman Brandon Peters or true frosh Dylan McCaffery. News flash: making the offense even younger and more inexperienced is not going to cure this crew.

The question is, what will?

Someone asked Harbaugh afterwards if he was going to take a "hard look" at his team on offense and figure out changes that need to be made. The head coach, predictably, didn't play ball as hoped.

"We'll evaluate, like we always do after every game," Harbaugh said. "We always take a hard look. Every single game."

The hard truth is, there are two elements that will eventually make Michigan's offense better, and nobody wants to hear about (or experience) either. That side of the football needs time, and probably more pain, before things smooth out.

Most knew it coming into the season. Many predicted it, although they also threw Michigan's wholly revamped defense into the equation as well. But while Don Brown's crew has thrived in the plug-and-play scenario, the U-M offense is suffering a more natural move to the future.

In some ways, that's a big disappointment. Michigan entered the year with an experienced quarterback, backs and left side of the offensive line. The hope there involved the other parts getting up to speed quickly. But it doesn't always work like that. Michigan found out the hard way Saturday night, and they'll be paying for it with 365 days worth of MSU taunts, just in case they might forget.

One scribe couldn't wait to remind Michigan's head coach that he's now 1-4 against his chief rivals, Michigan State and Ohio State. Asked for a reaction, Harbaugh bit down hard and remained as pleasant as he was going to get after just having his guts ripped out.

"I don't know," he said. "We're bowing our necks, getting ready for the next game. That's our reaction."

The next game is in Bloomington, Ind. There's no more of a guarantee there than there was at Purdue, against a team that hung in for a half against Ohio State. The game after that will again be under the lights at Penn State, versus a squad aching for revenge after getting destroyed in Michigan Stadium last year.

Later on, a trip to Camp Randall Stadium in Wisconsin beckons. Ohio State come in at the end, very likely in position to advance to the Big Ten championship game.

Can Michigan get better before those games play out? Of course. It has to do so. But unless it gets considerably better in a hurry, the sting of the MSU loss won't be the last one the Wolverines experience.

This was billed as the final step-back season before Harbaugh really gets it rolling. Some fought hard against that notion. Most weren't fighting as hard in the drizzle on Saturday night.

Big Ten Recap: Week Six

Austin Fox | Staff Writer

The Wolverine recaps action around the conference in the sixth week of the college football season:

Illinois (2-3, 0-2 Big Ten)

Illinois was annihilated at Iowa, 45-16 ... The Illini trailed just 17-13 at halftime, but were outscored 28-3 in the second half ... In his first start as the team's new quarterback, redshirt sophomore Jeff George tossed three interceptions and no touchdowns ... Illinois actually outgained Iowa, 446-441, but were doomed by four turnovers.

Indiana (3-2, 0-2 Big Ten)

Indiana shut out Charleston Southern, 27-0 ... The Hoosiers only mustered a field goal in the second half, but didn't need much else, leading 24-0 at halftime ... Redshirt freshman quarterback Peyton Ramsey started in place of fifth-year senior Richard Lagow, and completed 32 of 41 passes for 321 yards and two touchdowns ... Redshirt freshman receiver Taysir Mack totaled a career-high 111 yards, along with two touchdowns.

Iowa (4-2, 1-2 Big Ten)

Iowa pulled away from Illinois in the second half on Saturday to win, 45-16 ... Leading just 17-13 with 6:40 left in the third quarter, redshirt junior safety Brandon Snyder ran back an interception 89 yards to give the Hawkeyes a 24-13 lead and break the game open ... Snyder received his first game action of the season — he had spent the last six months recovering from a torn ACL ... After rushing for just 30 yards last week against Michigan State, fifth-year senior running back Akrum Wadley bounced back with 115 yards.

Maryland (3-2, 1-1 Big Ten)

Maryland was blown away at No. 10 Ohio State, 62-14 ... The game was all but over at halftime, with the Buckeyes leading 41-7 ... After completing just three of 12 passes, sophomore quarterback Max Bortenschlager was knocked out of the game and replaced by redshirt junior Caleb Henderson ... The Terrapins only mustered 66 yards of offense.

Michigan State (4-1, 2-0 Big Ten)

Michigan State pulled off a huge victory at No. 7 Michigan, 14-10 ... The Spartans grabbed a 7-3 lead with 2:59 left in the first quarter and never trailed again ... MSU's defense forced five turnovers, including three interceptions off of fifth-year senior quarterback John O'Korn ... Junior running back LJ Scott missed the game with an injury.

Minnesota (3-2, 0-2 Big Ten)

Minnesota lost at Purdue, 31-17 ... The Gophers actually led 17-16 with just 1:18 left in the game, before two late Boilermaker scores gave Purdue the lead and the victory ... Although he tossed two touchdown passes, fifth-year senior quarterback Conor Rhoda only completed 11 of his 25 throws for 101 yards.

Nebraska (3-3, 2-1 Big Ten)

Nebraska was beaten at home by No. 9 Wisconsin, 38-17 ... Junior running back Devine Ozigbo had success against the Badger defense, compiling 112 yards ... Junior receiver Stanley Morgan hauled in 115 yards on just four catches, averaging 28.8 yards per reception ... After missing last week's game with an injury, senior safety Joshua Kalu returned to action and racked up 10 tackles.

Northwestern (2-3, 0-2 Big Ten)

Northwestern was destroyed at home by No. 4 Penn State, 31-7 ... The Wildcats' only score came with just 1:46 left in the game ... Redshirt junior quarterback Clayton Thorson had his worst performance of the year, completing just 19 of 36 passes with no touchdowns and two picks ... Eight penalties and three turnovers doomed the Wildcats.

No. 10 Ohio State (5-1, 3-0 Big Ten)

No. 10 Ohio State blew out Maryland on Saturday, 62-14 ... The Buckeyes held the Terrapins to just six first downs ... Ohio State limited Maryland's offense to 1.2 yards per play ... Freshman linebacker Baron Browning had the best game of his career, racking up six tackles, including 1.5 for loss.

No. 4 Penn State (6-0, 3-0 Big Ten)

No. 4 Penn State went into Northwestern and routed the Wildcats, 31-7 ... The Nittany Lions held a commanding lead throughout, grabbing a 17-0 lead just five minutes into the third quarter ... Junior running back Saquon Barkley had a subpar game (by his standards), only rushing for 75 yards ... Redshirt junior cornerback Amani Oruwariye picked off his Big Ten-leading third pass of the season.

Purdue (3-2, 1-1 Big Ten)

Purdue grabbed a hard-fought victory against Minnesota, 31-17 ... The game was delayed for an hour and a half in the second half due to lightning ... Junior running back Markell Jones scored on a 12-yard run with just 1:17 left to give the Boilermakers a 24-17 lead, before senior linebacker Ja'Whaun Bentley ran back a pick with 10 seconds left to seal the victory ... Head coach Jeff Brohm continued his two-quarterback system, but redshirt sophomore Elijah Sindelar saw most of the time, attempting 26 passes, compared to redshirt junior David Blough's 10.

No. 9 Wisconsin (5-0, 2-0 Big Ten)

No. 9 Wisconsin won at Nebraska, 38-17 ... The game was closer than the final score would indicate; the Badgers led just 24-17 with 9:09 left in the fourth quarter ... Freshman running back Jonathan Taylor continued his amazing season, rushing for 249 yards and two touchdowns ... Wisconsin racked up an impressive 353 yards on the ground.

Results

Saturday, Oct. 7

- Iowa 45, Illinois 16
- No. 4 Penn State 31, Northwestern 7
- Indiana 27, Charleston Southern 0
- Purdue 31, Minnesota 17
- No. 10 Ohio State 62, Maryland 14
- Michigan State 14, No. 7 Michigan 10
- No. 9 Wisconsin 38, Nebraska 17

Bye: Rutgers