

THE WOLVERINE JAN. 2, 2018

COVERING UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN SPORTS

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RAYMOND JAMES TAMPA, FLA.

QT	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Tot
Michigan	6	3	10	0	19
South Carolina	0	3	13	10	26



C 26 M 19

		U-M	SC			U-M	SC
First Quarter							
U-M	Nordin 35-yard Field Goal 03:42 Drive: 8 plays 29 yds 3:37	3	0	Total First Downs		17	13
U-M	Nordin 26-yard Field Goal 00:09 Drive: 6 plays 23 yds 2:16	6	0	Rushing	3	2	
Second Quarter							
SC	Parker White 44-yard Field Goal 08:45 Drive: 5 plays 45 yds 1:36	6	3	Passing	11	10	
U-M	Nordin 45-yard Field Goal 00:00 Drive: 8 plays 33 yds 1:18	9	3	Penalty	3	1	
Third Quarter							
U-M	Mason 1-yard Run (Nordin Kick) 09:56 Drive: 7 plays 72 yds 3:34	16	3	Rushing Attempts	33	26	
U-M	Nordin 48-yard Field Goal 05:42 Drive: 4 plays 2 yds 1:10	19	3	Yards Gained Rushing	99	100	
SC	Rico Dowdle 17-yard Run (Jake Bentley Pass Fail) 02:25 Drive: 6 plays 77 yds 3:17	19	9	Yards Lost Rushing	25	39	
SC	Bryan Edwards Pass from Jake Bentley 21-yards (Parker White Kick) 00:51 Drive: 1 plays 21 yds 0:06	19	16	Net Yards Rushing	74	61	
Fourth Quarter							
SC	Shi Smith Pass from Jake Bentley 53-yards (Parker White Kick) 11:33 Drive: 6 plays 81 yds 2:12	19	23	Net Yards Passing	203	239	
SC	Parker White 22-yard Field Goal 03:47 Drive: 4 plays 9 yds 1:56	19	26	Passes Attempted	45	32	
				Passes Completed	21	19	
				Had Intercepted	2	1	
				Percent Completion	46.7%	59.4%	
				Yards per Attempt	4.5	7.5	
				Yards per Completion	9.7	12.6	
				Total Offensive Plays	78	58	
				Total Net Yards	277	300	
				Avg. Gain Per Play	3.6	5.2	
				Fumbles: No-Lost	3-3	2-2	
				Penalties: No-Yards	6-40	7-68	
				Punts: No-Yards	7-244	8-307	
				Avg. Per Punt	34.9	38.4	
				Avg. Net Punt	34.4	36.8	
				Punt Returns: No-Yards	4-13	3-3	
				Kickoff Returns: No-Yards	2-34	4-45	
				Interception Returns: No-Yards	1-27	2-2	
				Fumble Returns: No-Yards	2-0	3-0	
				Miscellaneous Yards	0	0	
				Possession Time	34:17	25:43	
				Third-Down Conversions	2-17	2-14	
				Percentage	11.8%	14.3%	
				Fourth-Down Conversions	1-3	0-0	
				Percentage	33.3%	0.0%	
				Sacks By: No-Yards	3-21	2-16	

MICHIGAN INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Offensive Individual Statistics

Rushing	No	Gain	Lost	Net	Avg	TD	Lg
Higdon	17	65	0	65	3.8	0	16
Evans	9	26	2	24	2.7	0	10
Mason	1	1	0	1	1.0	1	1
Peoples-j	1	0	5	-5	-5.0	0	0
Peters	5	7	18	-11	-2.2	0	6
Total	33	99	25	74	2.2	1	16

Passing	Att	Comp	%	Int	Yds	TD	Lg
Peters	44	20	45.5	2	186	0	27
O'Korn	1	1	100.0	0	17	0	17
Total	45	21	46.7	2	203	0	27

Receiving	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Crawford	5	61	0	27
Peoples-j	6	58	0	15
Gentry	2	27	0	15
McKeon	2	16	0	10
Collins	2	15	0	13
Evans	2	11	0	6
Higdon	1	11	0	11
Schoenle	1	4	0	4
Total	21	203	0	27

Field Goals: Nordin 4 for 4 (long 48).

Punting: Robbins 6 (average 34.8, long 45), Hart 1 for 35.

Defensive Individual Statistics

Defense	Tac	Ast	Tot	TFL	Sac	PD	FF	FR
Hudson	4	6	10	1-7	1-7	2	0	0
McCray	7	2	9	4-10	0-0	0	0	0
Bush	3	3	6	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Gary	3	2	5	1-7	1-7	0	0	0
Winovich	1	2	3	1-3	0-0	0	0	1
Furbush	1	1	2	1-7	1-7	0	0	0
Samuels	2	0	2	1-1	0-0	0	0	0
Schoenle	1	1	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Watson	2	0	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Gil	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Glasgow	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Hill	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Hurst	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Kinnel	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Long	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	2	0	0
Metellus	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Poggi	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Ross	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Thomas	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	1
Wangler	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Woods	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Mone	0	0	0	0-0	0-0	1	0	0

Punt Ret	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Peoples-Jones	4	13	0	14

Kick Ret	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Thomas	2	34	0	20

Interceptions: Furbush 1 for 27.

SOUTH CAROLINA INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing	No	Gain	Lost	Net	Avg	TD	Lg
Dowdle	6	47	2	45	7.5	1	30
Turner	6	17	3	14	2.3	0	8
Williams	3	11	0	11	3.7	0	8
Denson	1	4	0	4	4.0	0	4
Bentley	6	21	22	-1	-0.2	0	11
Hurst	2	0	6	-6	-3.0	0	0
TEAM	2	0	6	-6	-3.0	0	0
Total	26	100	39	61	2.3	1	30

Passing	Att	Comp	%	Int	Yds	TD	Lg
Bentley	32	19	59.4	1	239	2	53
Total	32	19	59.4	1	239	2	53

Receiving	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Edwards	5	88	1	38
Smith	3	59	1	53
Hurst	3	41	0	23
Dowdle	3	32	0	19
Davis	4	23	0	8
Williams	1	-4	0	0
Total	19	239	2	53

Field Goals: White 2 for 3 (44 yds).

Punting: Charlton 8 (average 38.4, long 50).

Returns: Smith 3 kicks for 33 (long 25), Lammons 3 punts for 3 (long 10), Davis 1 kick for 12.



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BY THE NUMBERS

MICHIGAN VS. SOUTH CAROLINA QUARTER-BY-QUARTER COMPARISON

South Carolina	1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.	4th Qtr.	1st Half	2nd Half	Total
Time of Possession	3:06	6:51	6:43	9:03	9:57	15:46	25:43
3rd-Down Conversions	0-2	0-4	1-4	1-4	0-6	2-8	2-14
4th-Down Conversions	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
Avg. Field Position	SC-30	SC-34	SC-31	SC-49	SC-32	SC-40	SC-36
Michigan	1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.	4th Qtr.	1st Half	2nd Half	Final
Time of Possession	11:54	8:09	8:17	5:57	20:03	14:14	34:17
3rd-Down Conversions	1-6	1-5	1-3	0-4	2-11	1-7	3-18
4th-Down Conversions	0-0	1-1	0-0	0-2	1-1	0-2	1-3
Avg. Field Position	U-M-34	U-M-34	U-M-41	U-M-25	U-M-34	U-M-35	U-M-35

SITUATION TABLES

FIRST AND TEN

	Rushing			Passing			Totals		
	Plays	Yards	Avg.	Plays	Yards	Avg.	Plays	Yards	Avg.
So. Carolina	14	37	2.6	10	101	10.1	24	138	5.8
Michigan	15	58	3.9	17	92	5.4	32	150	4.7

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.
So. Carolina	0/1	0.0	1/5	20.0	0/1	0.0	1/7	14.3	2/14	14.3
Michigan	0/2	0.0	0/6	0.0	2/5	40.0	1/5	20.0	3/18	16.7

RED ZONE EFFICIENCY (INSIDE 20-YARD LINE)

	Poss.	TDs	FGs	No Score
So. Carolina	1	0	1	0
Michigan	5	0	2	3

PLAY CHART (NO. OF PLAYS)

Yards	SC	U-M
(-) Yards.....	12	4
0-5 Yards.....	26	52
6-9 Yards.....	7	7
10-19 Yards.....	7	13
20-29 Yards.....	1	1
30-39 Yards.....	2	0
40-49 Yards.....	0	0
50 or more Yards.....	0	0

BIG PLAYS (25 YARDS OR MORE)

South Carolina

*1-10 SC29 Jake Bentley pass complete to Bryan Edwards for 38 yards to the U-M33

*1-10 SC20 Rico Dowdle rush for 30 yards to the 50 yardline

Michigan

*1-10 SC44 Peters pass complete to Crawford for 27 yards to the SC17

MICHIGAN CONTRIBUTORS

OFFENSE — STARTERS

LT	Mason Cole
LG	Michael Onwenu
C	Patrick Kugler
RG	Cesar Ruiz
RT	Jon Runyan
TE	Sean McKeon
TE	Zach Gentry
QB	Brandon Peters
RB	Karan Higdon
WR	Donovan Peoples-Jones
WR	Nico Collins

DEFENSE — STARTERS

DE	Rashan Gary
DT	Maurice Hurst
DT	Bryan Mone
DE	Chase Winovich
LB	Devin Bush
LB	Mike McCray
LB	Khaleke Hudson
CB	Lavert Hill
SS	J'Marick Woods
FS	Tyree Kinnel
CB	David Long

SPECIAL TEAMS AND RESERVES

Jaylen Kelly-Powell, Ambry Thomas, Kwity Paye, Josh Ross, Kekoa Crawford, Garrett Moores, Will Hart, Brad Hawkins, Carlo Kemp, Quinn Nordin, Brad Robbins, Aubrey Solomon, Michael Dwumfour, Drake Harris, John O'Korn, Chris Evans, Josh Metellus, Jack Wangler, Tyrone Wheatley, Henry Poggi, O'maury Samuels, Joe Hewlett, Brandon Watson, Jordan Glasgow, James Foug, Camaron Cheeseman, Josh Uche, Devin Gil, Jared Wangler, Ben Mason, Mike Wroblewski, Noah Furbush, Andrew Vastardis, Stephen Spanellis, Khalid Hill, Nate Schoenle, Maurice Ways, Ian Bunting, Lawrence Marshall

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
Indiana	20	14	80	198	21/43	2	0/0	5/55	Away
Michigan	27	17	271	58	10/20	0	0/0	16/141	52,929
Penn State	42	25	224	282	17/26	1	0/0	1/10	Away
Michigan	13	16	103	166	16/28	0	2/1	6/59	110,823
Michigan	35	25	334	137	13/20	1	3/0	3/25	111,213
Rutgers	14	9	94	101	8/16	0	1/0	3/20	Home
Michigan	33	14	371	56	8/13	0	0/0	9/85	111,090
Minnesota	10	13	90	74	5/12	0	3/1	3/10	Home
Maryland	10	15	180	160	18/38	2	1/0	7/59	Away
Michigan	35	16	160	145	9/18	0	0/0	1/10	44,325
Wisconsin	24	14	182	143	9/19	1	0/0	4/35	Away
Michigan	10	13	58	176	11/26	0	1/1	4/28	81,216
Michigan	20	16	100	195	17/32	1	1/0	6/50	112,028
Ohio State	31	17	226	124	9/15	0	1/0	9/75	Home
South Carolina	26	13	61	239	19/32	1	2/2	7/68	Neutral
Michigan	19	17	74	203	21/45	2	3/3	6/40	45,687

Outback Bowl Slips Away In Error-Filled Second Half

John Borton • TheWolverine.com

Jim Harbaugh & Co. are hoping for a big 2018. It started out as anything but.

Michigan (8-5) pulled a come-from-ahead stunner in the Outback Bowl Monday, committing five second-half turnovers and turning a 19-3 lead into a 26-19 loss. The Gamecocks (9-4) entered the game with the nation's 107th-best offense, but were literally handed enough chances to win.

"We let them hang around, and they took advantage of it," Harbaugh said.

U-M looked like it was going to run the Gamecocks right off the field in Tampa on New Year's Day, but the jaw-dropper of a second-half turnaround wiped those dreams away.

"We had a lot of errors," fifth-year senior defensive tackle Maurice Hurst said. "A lot of things that could have been controlled ... a fumble, a dropped punt. They had some of those similar things, too, and we didn't capitalize. At the end of the day, it's all about execution."

Redshirt freshman quarterback Brandon Peters (20-of-44 passing for 186 yards, two interceptions) suffered through a very tough day. He fired a fourth-quarter interception in the South Carolina end zone and another game-clinching pickoff when faced with a drive to tie the contest.

South Carolina quarterback Jake Bentley — thoroughly throttled by the Michigan defense for more than a half — awakened the Gamecocks' offense with plenty of help from the turnover avalanche.

He wound up 19 of 32 for 239 yards, two touchdowns and an interception. Bentley also led a crew that reeled off the final 23 points of the game.

"I didn't execute well at all, especially in the second half," Peters said. "I put a lot of that on me. [The offense played] not well, that's for sure. But I'm not going to let that define who I am as a player. I'll just learn from it going forward."

"We didn't get the knockout punch when we needed it," Harbaugh stressed. "We didn't take advantage of the opportunities that were there."

Michigan's game began like a holiday, and ended like a bare-foot march back to Ann Arbor.

The Wolverines cashed in the first break, turning a muffed punt into redshirt freshman Quinn Nordin's 35-yard field goal at the 3:42 mark of the opening period. Freshman Brad Robbins' punt tumbled off the fingertips of South Carolina returnman Chris Lammons, U-M frosh Ambry Thomas diving on the football at the Gamecocks' 46.

The Wolverines moved it into the red zone, but bogged down and settled for Nordin's kick — a scenario that would become all too familiar. Soon enough, another turnover doubled the margin.

A muffed exchange between Bentley and running back A.J. Turner again put the football up for grabs, redshirt junior defensive end Chase Winovich diving on it at the South Carolina 31. The Gamecocks' Daniel Fennell put the Wolverines inside the 15 with a facemask on Peters, but U-M couldn't move the sticks again.

Nordin banged home a second field goal, from 26 yards out, with nine seconds left in the first quarter. While Michigan's defense and special teams treated South Carolina in the first quarter like Col. Sanders treats chickens, the Gamecocks' defense held the margin at 6-0.

South Carolina answered early in the second, Bentley finding wideout Bryan Edwards (five catches for 88 yards) streaking open down the middle for 38 yards. The Gamecocks moved it to the U-M 26, before Michigan's defense dug in. USC settled for a 44-yard field goal, making it 6-3 at the 8:45 mark.

The defenses slugged it out for the remainder of the half, neither team reaching field goal range until Michigan's final drive of the opening 30 minutes. Even then, it took Peters' clutch, fourth-and-four throw to sophomore tight end Sean McKeon for 10 yards to earn Nordin yet another opportunity.

He appeared to misfire on a 45-yard attempt, but South Carolina coach Will Muschamp called timeout just before the kick. Instead of freezing Nordin, Muschamp prevented the scoreboard from being frozen at the half.

Allowed to reload, Nordin nailed the 45-yarder, making it 9-3 with no time left on the clock. It wasn't pretty, but the Wolverines held the upper hand in the Outback Three-Point Shootout.

The two teams combined for 186 yards at the half, Michi-

gan managing 97 of them. The Wolverines held the football for 20:03 of the game's first 30 minutes, but came away with little breathing room.

Peters and the Wolverines did something about that the first time they touched the football in the second half. The red-shirt frosh QB completed all four of his throws — including a 27-yarder to sophomore wideout Kekoa Crawford — on a seven-play, 72-yard touchdown drive.

Junior tailback Karan Higdon (17 carries for 65 yards) made a key play, barely getting the corner on a sweep and churning 16 yards to the South Carolina 1. From there, freshman fullback Ben Mason crashed home, making it 16-3 with 9:56 remaining in the third.

Michigan's defense stayed relentless, turning the heat up even more. Sophomore viper Khaleke Hudson raced down the deep middle in coverage, tipped the ball up and away from tight end Hayden Hurst and into the hands of redshirt junior line-backer Noah Furbush.

Furbush gathered it in and rumbled 27 yards back downfield, to the Gamecocks 27.

Peters connected with Peoples-Jones on a key third-down pass, defensive back D.J. Smith getting tossed for targeting on a helmet-to-helmet hit. That gave the Wolverines first-and-goal at the nine, but Higdon's subsequent fumble and a recovery by the Gamecocks kept the Wolverines from blowing it wide open.

The way Don Brown's defense maintained the search-and-destroy mission, though, the next chance was never far away.

A pressure-packed three-and-out and Peoples-Jones' 14-yard punt return set the Wolverines up at South Carolina's 32. U-M's offense went nowhere, but Nordin hammered home a perfect 48-yard field goal, pushing the advantage to 19-3 at 5:42.

Then everything flipped.

South Carolina changed it up, employing screens to use Michigan's speed against it. The Gamecocks covered 77 yards in six plays, running back Rico Dowdle bursting in from 17 yards out on an option pitch.

Sophomore linebacker Devin Bush spiked a pass on a two-point conversion attempt, leaving the Wolverines up 19-9 with 2:25 left in the third quarter — for all of 94 seconds.

On its very next possession, the Wolverines tried running a straight handoff to McKeon on third-and-short. He fumbled, South Carolina recovered, and a play later, Bentley fired a 21-yard touchdown pass to Edwards.

The shocking turnaround pulled the Gamecocks within three, 19-16, with a quarter and 51 seconds to play.

The onslaught didn't end there. Escaping a third-and-17 situation with a 23-yard completion to Hurst, Bentley then delivered a crushing blow. He unloaded a 53-yard bomb to wideout Shi Smith running open behind junior safety Tyree Kinnel.

Only 11:33 remained, and the Gamecocks' 20 straight points put them in charge, 23-19.

The Wolverines responded by driving smartly downfield, from their own 20 to the South Carolina 5. But Peters, under pressure and scrambling to his left, fired an end-zone interception to Gamecocks defensive back JaMarcus King.

A subsequent turnover — Michigan's fourth of the second half — threatened to put the Wolverines away. Peoples-Jones muffed a punt at his own 10, South Carolina diving on it at the U-M 14.

Michigan's defense limited the Gamecocks to a 22-yard field goal, making it 26-19 and leaving the Wolverines 3:47 to make something happen.

They didn't make a single yard happen, going four-and-out and turning the football back over at their own 25. The defense held again, and a missed 48-yard field goal attempt gave the Wolverines one more chance.

Turnover No. 5 ensured it wouldn't happen. South Carolina defensive back Steven Montac picked off Peters' fourth-down sideline throw, sealing the shocker.

It delivered a third straight loss at the end of the season for the 8-5 Wolverines, ensuring a long, cold winter of work.

"It does light a fire under me," Peters insisted. "I want to be the best I can possibly be. I'll just take everything that's happened this year and learn from it. Just take it into next year."

He'll likely have plenty of company.

Five Best Players Of The Game

1. Sophomore viper Khaleke Hudson — Hudson enjoyed a showcase game, despite the result. He made a team-high 10 tackles, kept constant pressure on the quarterback and tipped the ball that wound up as redshirt junior linebacker Noah Furbush's interception.

2. South Carolina linebacker T.J. Brunson — Brunson wreaked havoc in Michigan's backfield, making 13 tackles, including a pair of sacks. On a day when Michigan's offense struggled mightily, he had his fingerprints all over it.

3. South Carolina quarterback Jake Bentley — Bentley bent but didn't break in the first half, then led a ridiculous comeback in the second. He had no lack of help from five Michigan turnovers, but cashed in with a pair of key touchdown passes.

4. Fifth-year senior defensive tackle Maurice Hurst — Hurst is another defender who produced a yeoman's effort that won't be properly remembered. He proved violently disruptive in the middle of the Gamecocks' line, leading an effort surrendering only 61 rushing yards. Although credited with a lone tackle, he forced plenty.

5. Redshirt freshman placekicker Quinn Nordin — Nordin did his job, banging through field goals of 35, 26, 45 and 48 yards. But those 12 points weren't enough when teamed with a lone touchdown.

Offense Notes: Miscues, Play Calling Sink Michigan In Outback Bowl Letdown

Andrew Vaillencourt • TheWolverine.com

With just under eight minutes to play in the third quarter, Michigan junior running back Karan Higdon carried the ball down to the South Carolina four-yard line as the Wolverines looked to go up by 20 and put away the seemingly lifeless Gamecocks.

However, as he fell to the ground, out popped the ball. South Carolina recovered — and from then on, it was as if the two teams had switched places.

Michigan would add a field goal in that same quarter, but finished the game by allowing 23 straight South Carolina points to lose the Outback Bowl by a score of 26-19. The meltdown was reminiscent of Michigan's season. The Wolverines started the year 4-0, before ending the season 4-5 and on a three-game losing streak.

Michigan coach Jim Harbaugh is now 1-2 in bowl games at U-M, and his 2017 squad beat just one opponent that finished with a winning record — Purdue, which ended the season 7-6 after beating Arizona in the Foster Farms Bowl.

Higdon's fumble wasn't the only game-changing miscue. Later in the third quarter, Michigan's offensive coaches called a play that would have seen sophomore tight end Sean McKeon receive his first career carry. The exchange was fumbled, South Carolina recovered at the Michigan 21 and scored a touchdown on the next play. Redshirt freshman quarterback Brandon Peters was given the fumble in the game's final stats, not McKeon.

After the game, Harabugh said the fumble was not McKeon's fault. He said it was a coaching mistake, and that the wrong personnel was on the field and he should've called timeout.

U-M turned the ball over five times. Aside from Higdon and Peters, freshman wide receiver and return man Donovan Peoples-Jones allowed a punt to bounce off his shoulder late in the fourth quarter after Michigan forced a stop on defense. South Carolina recovered — and Michigan was lucky not to be burned by it.

Michigan was, however, burned by two interceptions thrown by Peters. The first came in the middle of the fourth quarter, right after South Carolina had taken its first lead of the game. The U-M offense marched down the field for what could have been called its best drive of the game — before Peters was picked off in the end zone on a third-and-goal from the five-yard line.

Michigan wasn't able to score the go-ahead touchdown or even kick a field goal to bring the team within one point, and wasn't able to pin the Gamecocks deep if it failed on fourth down, because the interception resulted in a touchback.

Peters threw another interception on the final drive of the game. On fourth-and-one near midfield, Peters lofted a pass down the sideline that was picked off and ended all chances of a Michigan win. This came two plays after he scrambled on second-and-two, but awkwardly fell short of the first-down marker when it appeared there was space for him to make it far enough forward to pick the first down up.

The fourth-down play call with only one yard to gain was one of many questionable decisions made by the Michigan coaching staff. Peters threw 15 yards downfield from the Michigan 40-yard line to the South Carolina 45.

Miscues and play calling doomed Michigan all game long.

In the first quarter, Peters made a nice throw to the sideline for a first down, but it was called back due to a penalty. U-M failed to convert on the next play and punted.

On third-and-13 in the second quarter, Michigan ran a one-yard quick out, which was stopped right away.

With less than 30 seconds left in the second quarter, Harbaugh elected not to call his final timeout, which resulted in the Wolverines not having enough time to run at least two, if not three, more plays to try to reach the end zone. Instead Michigan only had time for one, and then had to settle for a field goal.

Early in the fourth quarter, Michigan ran a halfback dive on third-and-15. It was stopped after a short gain, and U-M punted.

With less than four minutes remaining and Michigan trailing by four, Michigan threw four straight incompletions, turning the ball over on downs deep inside its own territory. On third-and-10, the play call was a five-yard pass (well short of the first down) into strong defensive coverage. On fourth-and-10, Michigan aired it out and threw a deep ball down the sideline that was nowhere close to being completed.

Miscellaneous Notes

· Michigan as a team rushed 33 times for just 74 yards — the team's second-lowest ground total of the season.

· Michigan had a new starting offensive line due to injuries. From left to right across the line, it was senior left tackle Mason Cole; sophomore guard Mike Onwenu; fifth-year senior center Patrick Kugler, who was replaced early in the game by redshirt freshman Stephen Spanellis; freshman guard Cesar Ruiz and redshirt sophomore right tackle Jon Runyan Jr. Usual starters sophomore guard Ben Bredeson and redshirt junior right tackle Juwann Bushell-Beatty did not play.

· Higdon finished the game with 65 yards rushing, leaving him six yards shy of 1,000 for the season. Michigan hasn't had a running back reach 1,000 yards on the ground since 2011.

· McKeon caught passes in 12 of Michigan's 13 games this season.

· Freshman fullback Ben Mason scored Michigan's lone touchdown on a one-yard run.

· Freshman wide receiver Nico Collins started his first career game and caught two passes for 15 yards — both career highs.

· Peters completed 20 of 44 passes, both career highs, for 186 yards, also a career high. His two interceptions were the first two of his career. His previous high for completions was 10 (against Rutgers) and his previous high for attempts was 18 (against both Maryland and Wisconsin).

· Peoples-Jones caught six passes for 58 yards — both career highs.

· Sophomore wide receiver Kekoa Crawford had five catches, a new career high.

· 8-5 is the worst record Harbaugh has recorded as head coach at Michigan.

· Michigan's nine total touchdown passes this season are the lowest total for the program since 1975.

Michigan Defense/ST Notes: Second-Half Lapse Spoils Strong Defensive Start

Andrew Vaillencourt • TheWolverine.com

Michigan's defense didn't turn the ball over five times, but it wasn't mistake-free in the team's 26-19 loss to South Carolina in the Outback Bowl Monday afternoon.

Defensive coordinator Don Brown, orange mustache and all, and his group held the Gamecocks to just three first-half points — but couldn't hold them off in the second half, allowing them to score 23 unanswered points to close out the contest.

However, not all of that was necessarily on the defense. Two times, Michigan's offense or special teams turned the ball over deep in its own territory, giving South Carolina a short field. A fumble by redshirt freshman quarterback Brandon Peters on a handoff to sophomore tight end Sean McKeon resulted in the Gamecocks taking over at Michigan's 21-yard line and they scored a touchdown on the very next play.

A special teams fumble by freshman receiver Donovan Peoples-Jones also resulted in a field goal late in the fourth quarter, after the Gamecocks took over at U-M's 14.

South Carolina scored 20 of its 26 points in less than six minutes of game time, from 2:25 left in the third quarter to the 11:33 mark of the fourth quarter. All three touchdowns came on consecutive possessions.

The dagger came early in the fourth quarter, when freshman wide receiver Shi Smith hauled in a 53-yard touchdown pass that put the Gamecocks ahead for good. He beat Michigan junior safety Tyree Kinnel on the play.

“[We] just [need to] work at our craft,” sophomore viper Khaleke Hudson said. “We need to get better at what we do. The big plays are going to happen, so what matters is how we respond. We responded in a good way today — they scored a touchdown on a deep route and we responded alright. I don’t know, though — my mind is still messed up from the loss.”

Hudson was one of a few standouts on the U-M defense in the game. He led the team with 10 tackles, in addition to one sack and two pass breakups.

Fifth-year senior defensive tackle Maurice Hurst was in the USC backfield quite often, despite only having one tackle. He made an impact in the running game, helping limit USC to 61 yards on the ground. That marked the Gamecocks' third-lowest rushing output of the season.

Michigan also held South Carolina to 300 total yards, 40 yards less than what the offense averaged per game.

“We had a lot of errors, a lot of mistakes,” Hurst said. “Things that could’ve been controlled — a fumble, a dropped punt. They had some of those things too and we didn’t capitalize. At the end of the day it’s all about execution.”

Michigan head coach Jim Harbaugh said that his team was unable to get the knockout punch and that South Carolina got better as the game went on.

“One thing [we haven’t done well], it’s being able to just kind of sustain the momentum, keep the momentum, and then get the knockout punch,” Harbaugh said. “That would be what my thought would be right now.”

On special teams, it was a mixed bag. Redshirt freshman kicker Quinn Nordin looked like he did early in the year, knocking through all four of his field goal attempts, with a long of 48 yards. He finished the year 19 of 24 on field goals with a long of 55 yards.

Freshman punter Brad Robbins had a rougher day, even getting benched at one point for redshirt freshman Will Hart. Robbins punted six times for a 34.8-yard average; only one kick was inside the 20-yard line. Hart’s lone kick went for 35 yards.

In the return game, Peoples-Jones had the costly fumble and was largely ineffective returning punts. He went backward on several, including the first of the game. He returned four punts total for 13 yards with a long of 14 yards.

Miscellaneous Notes

· Redshirt junior linebacker Noah Furbush recorded his first career sack and his first career interception.

· Michigan forced three turnovers — two fumbles (recovered by redshirt junior defensive end Chase Winovich and freshman cornerback Ambry Thomas) and Furbush’s interception.

· Michigan forced three turnovers against both SEC schools it played this season. The other was a 33-17 victory over Florida in the opener.

· South Carolina converted just two times out of 14 on third down. The first conversion didn’t come until late in the third quarter.

· Winovich recorded at least half a tackle for loss in 12 of Michigan’s 13 games this season. He had one in the Outback Bowl.

· Winovich finished the season with 18 tackles for loss and Hudson finished the season with 17.5, both the highest for a Wolverine since Brandon Graham had 26 in 2009.

· Freshman safety J’Marick Woods got his first career start, in place of sophomore safety Josh Metellus.

· Fifth-year senior linebacker Mike McCray had a career-high four tackles for loss in his final contest in the maize and blue, bringing his season total to 17.

· Sophomore defensive end Rashan Gary also recorded a sack, giving him six for the season — third on the team behind Winovich and Hudson, who each had eight.

Michigan Football Report Card: Grading A 26-19 Loss To South Carolina

Chris Balas • TheWolverine.com

Grading each phase of Michigan's 26-19 loss to South Carolina:

Rushing Offense: D

Seventy-four yards isn’t going to cut it, especially when the passing game is struggling. The Wolverines managed one total yard rushing in the second quarter, and 19 in the fourth, and finished with 2.2 yards per carry. Thirty-four of the running backs’ yards came on three carries, which means they managed 55 yards on their other 23 totes.

Two fumbles on running plays helped change the game.

Passing Offense: D-

The Wolverines managed two good drives offensively, but only one resulted in a touchdown. Redshirt freshman quarterback Brandon Peters completed all four of his attempts for 54 yards on the first drive of the second half that resulted in a one-yard touchdown plunge.

Peters was officially hurried four times and sacked twice, completed only 20 of 44 passes for 186 yards and averaged only 4.2 yards per pass attempt. He also threw two costly picks, one in the end zone. The Michigan receivers had a tough time getting separation and managed only one reception over 15 yards — a 27-yarder from sophomore Kekoa Crawford.

Rushing Defense: B+

Michigan's run stoppers stoned the Gamecocks on every run but one — a 30-yarder by Rico Dowdle in the final frame. South Carolina managed only 2.3 yards per carry and was at 15 carries for 30 yards through three quarters.

The Wolverines were good up front and stifled the run, though a 17-yard touchdown on a Dowdle option run was one of the game's big plays.

Passing Defense: C-

Michigan got to quarterback Jake Bentley three times for sacks and didn't allow him to get comfortable ... until the second half. He completed 19 of 32 passes for 239 yards and two scores, including long touchdowns of 53 and 21 yards that ultimately won the Gamecocks the game.

U-M also gave up a third-and-17 18-yard gain in the fourth quarter that proved to be one of the game's turning points, leading to the 53-yard score.

The Gamecocks averaged 12.6 yards per completion and 7.5 per attempt ... good numbers for an average quarterback.

Special Teams: C-

Freshman punter Brad Robbins struggled badly early and averaged only 34.8 yards per punt, even after his last two punts of 45 and 40 yards. He was replaced after three kicks, but redshirt freshman Will Hart only punted for 35 yards on his one attempt.

Michigan still gets nothing from its return game, and freshman Donovan Peoples-Jones' muffed punt return in his own territory led to a field goal. Redshirt freshman Quinn Nordin was the bright spot, making all four of his field goals, including two from 45 yards or more.

Wolverine Watch: Boomerang In The Outback

John Borton • TheWolverine.com

It was 10 degrees Fahrenheit in Ann Arbor when the Outback Bowl ended in Tampa. It might have been colder in the Michigan locker room.

There are few chilling slaps in athletic life worse than this. Michigan's defense looked ready to run South Carolina's Gamecocks right into Tampa Bay and see if they could swim. They were making the nation's 107th-best offense look overrated.

U-M was up 19-3, racing toward the goal line to score again and set to charge into the offseason having put the beat-down capper on an 8-0 Big Ten bowl season.

Then they fell apart.

They dropped the football less than 10 yards from paydirt. They handed it to a tight end in the backfield and watched it tumble away. They saw their sure-handed punt returner take one off the facemask.

They threw it to the Gamecocks when a completion would have been a touchdown. They threw it to them again when a drive could have produced overtime.

They just fell apart.

Michigan's defense proved far from perfect while the Gamecocks reeled off 23 straight points to pull off a 26-19 Outback Bowl shocker. But you can bet your bloomin' onions this game, and this season, didn't plummet because of coordinator Don Brown's rebuilt defense.

Their plate of cheese fries flipped to the floor via five second-half turnovers and an offense that simply couldn't score touchdowns. They couldn't run the ball consistently behind a shuffled offensive line. They couldn't throw it. They couldn't put it in the end zone.

Worst of all, the Wolverines couldn't desperately hang on to a lead and hope the defense saved them.

Redshirt freshman quarterback Brandon Peters planned to make this a showcase, a statement, a résumé builder as Michigan's starting quarterback. He wound up completing 45 percent of his throws (20 of 44) for no touchdowns and a pair of interceptions.

"There was some error there," head coach Jim Harbaugh offered. "A little too much at the wrong time."

Incoming transfer quarterback Shea Patterson likely isn't shaking in his cleats over competing for the starting job, if he's eligible next fall. He's probably more worried about the defense

suing for non-support in the offseason and the litigation postponing the opener at Notre Dame.

Harbaugh isn't about to put his anger and frustration on display in a press conference at this point. His conversation with the media lasted roughly five minutes afterward.

But he knows as well as anyone you can't turn the ball over five times and win, especially five times in the second half and win. He knows Michigan's offense wasn't nearly good enough this year, and it's got to be fixed.

That's the No. 1 offseason job, no matter how it gets done.

What does anyone say after that one? If you're a player, you talk about learning, working, getting better. That's precisely what Peters did afterward, on an afternoon that won't make his personal highlight reel.

"Just learn from everything this past season and just keep working," he said. "That's the only thing you can do. Don't listen to the outside noise, don't let anything define you. Just keep your head down and keep moving forward."

At the same time, nobody has to sit and take it, in terms of expectations. Sophomore viper Khaleke Hudson wasn't looking to season up this unsatisfying appetizer.

"I feel like this isn't good enough," he insisted. "We're better than this, and next year we're going to prove it. Losing five games in a season might look okay to everybody else, but that's not our standard inside that locker room."

No worries, mate. It doesn't.

"Next year we'll be way better," Hudson continued. "We'll have a great offseason because we know we lost our last three games and we have to come back even harder. Guys are going to be working harder in the offseason, trying to get better at their craft and trying to boost themselves going into next season."

The old men of the room who won't be back? They're anxious to watch as well. They insist this was a case of too much, too soon.

"I can't wait to watch these guys next year," fifth-year senior left tackle Mason Cole said. "It's going to take a lot of work, but they're going to be damned good."

"Next year is going to be the year Michigan football turns around," fifth-year senior defensive tackle Maurice Hurst concurred. "I'm really excited. They open up at Notre Dame, and that's going to be a top match-up. They're really going to be able to display the type of program we're becoming and the direction we're heading."

They wanted to display it in Tampa on New Year's Day. Instead, they supplied eight month's worth of ammo for every Big Ten lover and Michigan hater from Happy Valley to Frostville,

and a couple of significant points in between.

There's plenty to prove. This boomerang hit right between the eyes.

What They're Saying: South Carolina 26, Michigan 19

Austin Fox • TheWolverine.com

Michigan lost its Outback Bowl matchup to South Carolina, 26-19, in sloppy fashion.

The Wolverines held a 19-3 lead late in the third quarter, but imploded from that point on, committing five turnovers.

The Gamecocks finished the game on a 23-0 run to cap off an underwhelming 2017 season for the Maize and Blue.

See what writers are saying about Michigan's blown lead, the offensive struggles and where U-M goes from here:

Chris Balas, TheWolverine: South Carolina 26, Michigan 19: Notes, Quotes & Observations

"• [Redshirt freshman quarterback Brandon] Peters threw some good balls at times, but his mistakes proved extremely costly. He had four passes batted down at the line of scrimmage while telegraphing receivers, including one toward redshirt sophomore tight end Zach Gentry that could have resulted in a big play, threw an inexplicable pick in the end zone that cost the Wolverines three points and another on the last play of the game after he slid short of the marker by a yard on second down with about a minute to play.

"'I just missed inside on the last one,' he said. 'I just threw it late to [sophomore] Kekoa [Crawford], missed inside on the corner route. The one to [freshman receiver] Donovan [Peoples-Jones] on third down [in the end zone] I just tried to give him a chance. The cornerback just made a good play on it.'

"Mistakes will happen. Peters has only been playing half the year, and he's not getting much help from his running game or his receivers, who have often been blanketed this year. Only against OSU did the scheme seem to open up the offense for the passing game.

"The 50-50 balls, though, have not gone in U-M's favor this year. Crawford had an early deep ball bounce off his hands, and Peoples-Jones dropped a few passes in addition to fumbling a punt that led to a South Carolina field goal.

"Another year of experience will help this group, but these guys need to be coached up. Routes need to be better, and guys

need to make plays beyond the balls that land in the breadbasket.

"And while Peters said he would use this game as his audition film to take the starting job and run with it, it's clear that the quarterback position is wide open heading into spring."

Nick Baumgardner, Detroit Free Press: Michigan-South Carolina observations: There's no easy fix for Wolverines

"There was never a one-part solution for Michigan's offensive problems this season. No matter the quarterback, offensive line combination or receiver contingent, this thing was broken from Day 1.

"Youth and injuries played a role this season. But Michigan had a month to prepare for the Outback Bowl and put together another woeful offensive performance that left a slew of questions hanging over the program entering a critical 2018 season.

"Brandon Peters wasn't good enough. His offensive line, missing three starters for most of the game, couldn't protect or move the football on the ground. [Junior running back] Karan Higdon lost a fumble, and Jim Harbaugh's offensive staff dialed up an inside give to a tight end on third-and-short that cost the Wolverines another fumble.

"An inept offensive performance for the Wolverines in a season filled with them.

"One player, be it [Ole Miss transfer quarterback] Shea Patterson or someone else, isn't going to fix all that's wrong with this offense. The problems are everywhere."

Sarabeth Pollock, Fansided.com: South Carolina stuns Michigan in Outback Bowl: 3 takeaways

"Too Many Turnovers

"Michigan had an Outback Bowl record-tying 5 turnovers in the second half. [Redshirt freshman kicker] Quinn Nordin's field goals couldn't do anything to stop South Carolina from catching up with so many turnovers. Michigan was a completely different team in the second half of the game and that's all South Carolina needed to make a push.

"The turnovers were a huge part of South Carolina's victory, giving them a fighting chance to rally back from a 16 point deficit through most of the game.

"Field Goals Matter

"Michigan's Quinn Nordin was cool under pressure, hitting 4 field goals with his longest being a 48-yard blast through the uprights. Given South Carolina's resurgence in the second half, those field goals were the only thing buffering Michigan's short-lived lead until the Gamecocks surged ahead. Aside from the one Wolverine touchdown, Michigan owed all of its scoring

in this game to Nordin and that wasn't enough to win the game."

Trevor Woods, Maize N Brew: Takeaways from Michigan's Outback Bowl Loss

"Jim Harbaugh said it first, the team needs to be better. Losing this game was a big disappointment for him and the fans alike. This was one of the youngest teams in the nation in 2017, but that is no excuse to hide behind. With experience under their belt and a five-star quarterback transfer named Shea Patterson potentially leading the Michigan offense, things could turn around in a hurry.

"Everyone from Paul Finebaum to Kirk Herbstreit believe Patterson could be a difference maker for Michigan, and by God do they need one. We can dissect plays here and there that should have been called different (two pass plays on third-and-1 and fourth-and-1 on Michigan's last drive), but most of the problems are with the execution of certain players on the field, the quarterback position in particular.

"Jim Harbaugh has been unfairly deemed a quarterback guru, that's not how life works. Not every dog at the kennel can be trained to be a show dog, not every horse can become a thoroughbred no matter how hard you try. I find these analogies to be accurate when it comes to the quarterbacks Harbaugh has had at Michigan to this point. Maybe [true freshman quarterback] Dylan McCaffrey or Patterson will be "the one" Harbaugh has been searching for.

"In the NFL when a great quarterback goes down, the team goes down with it just like a sinking ship. Look at the injuries to [Green Bay Packers quarterback] Aaron Rodgers and [Philadelphia Eagles quarterback] Carson Wentz this season, with those injuries the big team aspirations have all but disappeared. My point is, the quarterback position is the most important player on the field, he makes or breaks a team and affects the wins and losses of a team more than any other position.

"Michigan needs a good quarterback to get to where they need to be. Harbaugh knows it. He knows who can be good between McCaffrey, Peters and Patterson far before he announces the starting quarterback next season. I'm highly skeptical Peters is the answer, but there could be bright rays of hope with the other two options. That alone should have Wolverines fans excited for next season."

Connor Muldowney, Saturdayblitz.com: Michigan Football: 3 takeaways from loss to South Carolina in Outback Bowl

"1. Michigan's offense too talented for mediocrity

"If you look at Michigan's offense, you'd wonder just why this team has a tough time moving the ball down the field on a regular basis. The Wolverines have talent everywhere from running back to receiver and even Brandon Peters has his flashes of brilliance (although not many on Monday), however, Tim

Drevno just hasn't seemed to figure it all out.

"The offense needs change, whether it's with the coordinator, offensive line or quarterback, Michigan just can't settle for mediocrity with the amount of talent it has on this side of the ball.

"You know it's bad news when your kicker is your best player and you blow a 19-3 late in the second half, as your all-everything defense allows 23 straight points. You can't knock the defense for that, though, as Michigan fumbled the ball a couple of times in crucial situations and kept the defense on the field for far too long.

"Donovan Peoples-Jones, [sophomore running back] Chris Evans, Karan Higdon, Kekoa Crawford and [freshman receiver] Nico Collins all have bright futures in Ann Arbor, but if the offense doesn't change soon, they might have their collegiate careers, and talent, wasted."

Aaron McCann, MLive: Michigan surrenders 23 unanswered points in Outback Bowl loss

"Game notes:

-- [Fifth-year senior] Quarterback John O'Korn played briefly, after Peters took a finger to the eye, completing a 17-yard pass to Kekoa Crawford.

-- Michigan was flagged six times for 40 yards.

-- Karan Higdon rushed for a team-high 65 yards, falling six yards shy of 1,000 for the season. He fumbled once.

-- Michigan was shorthanded at running back, playing without [fifth-year senior] Ty Isaac and [redshirt freshman] Kareem Walker. [Junior] wide receiver Grant Perry was sidelined, too."

Big Ten Recap: Bowl Edition

Austin Fox • TheWolverine.com

The Wolverine recaps all the action that occurred in Big Ten bowl games this season:

Iowa (8-5, 4-5 Big Ten)

Iowa won a 27-20 thriller against Boston College in the Pin-stripe Bowl ... With the game tied at 20 and just 3:10 to go, fifth-year senior fullback Drake Kulick ran it in from a yard out to give the Hawkeyes the game-winning score ... The Eagles attempted to mount a game-tying drive on their ensuing possession, but weren't even able to pick up a first down ... The victory snapped Iowa's five-game bowl losing streak ... Redshirt junior cornerback Josh Jackson recorded his nation-leading eighth interception in the fourth quarter.

No. 16 Michigan State (10-3, 7-2 Big Ten)

No. 16 Michigan State blew away No. 18 Washington State, 42-17, in the Holiday Bowl on Dec. 28 ... The game was all but wrapped up at halftime, with the Spartans holding a 21-3 lead ... The Cougars were missing their two leading receivers — Tavares Martin (dismissal) and Isaiah Johnson-Mack (transfer), along with starting quarterback Luke Falk (injury) ... Junior running back LJ Scott rushed for 110 yards, marking just the third time this year he crossed the century mark; Scott announced he would return for his senior season after the game.

No. 21 Northwestern (10-3, 7-2 Big Ten)

No. 21 Northwestern nabbed a dramatic 24-23 victory over Kentucky on Dec. 29 ... Trailing 24-17 with 37 seconds left, Kentucky scored a touchdown but attempted a game-winning two-point conversion and failed ... Redshirt junior quarterback Clayton Thorson left the game in the second quarter with injury and never returned; fifth-year senior Matt Alviti played the rest of the contest in his place ... Combined with last year's postseason victory over Pittsburgh, Northwestern has now won consecutive bowl games for the first time in school history.

No. 5 Ohio State (12-2, 8-1 Big Ten)

No. 5 Ohio State beat No. 8 USC, 24-7, in the Cotton Bowl on Dec. 29 ... The game was all but over when senior safety Damon Webb ran back an interception 23 yards at the 14:42 mark of the second quarter to extend OSU's lead to 17-0 ... Junior cornerback Denzel Ward sat out the contest and declared for the NFL Draft afterward; redshirt junior defensive end Sam Hubbard also declared but chose to play ... USC actually out-gained the Buckeyes, 413-277, but were doomed by four turnovers ... The victory snapped OSU's seven-game losing streak to the Trojans (the 1974 Rose Bowl was the last time the Buckeyes beat them).

No. 9 Penn State (11-2, 7-2 Big Ten)

No. 9 Penn State defeated No. 11 Washington in the Fiesta Bowl, 35-28 ... The Nittany Lions actually held a 28-7 lead in the second quarter and a 28-14 advantage at the break ... The Huskies had a chance to go on a game-tying drive late in the fourth quarter, but a lateral attempt was recovered by PSU to end the game ... Washington's defense only allowed an average of 92 rushing yards per game coming into the contest, but junior running back Saquon Barkley racked up 137; he announced on Monday he'd be going pro ... Redshirt junior quarterback Trace McSorley completed 32 of 41 passes for 342 yards and two touchdowns.

Purdue (7-6, 4-5 Big Ten)

Purdue took down Arizona Dec. 27, 38-35, in the Foster Farms Bowl ... The Boilermakers built a 31-14 halftime lead, but saw the Wildcats go up 35-31 with just 3:21 remaining in the game ... Senior wideout Anthony Mahoungou hauled in the 38-yard game-winning score with 1:44 left ... Redshirt junior safety Jacob Thieneman's interception on Arizona's ensuing possession sealed the win ... The bowl victory was Purdue's first since defeating Western Michigan, 37-32, in the 2011 Little Caesars Pizza Bowl.

No. 6 Wisconsin (13-1, 9-0 Big Ten)

No. 6 Wisconsin took down No. 10 Miami (Fla.) in the Orange Bowl, 34-24, on Dec. 30 ... The Hurricanes actually led 14-3 in the second quarter, before the Badgers went on a 31-10 run ... Redshirt sophomore quarterback Alex Hornibrook had an outstanding game, completing 23 of his 34 passes for 258 yards and four touchdowns ... The 13 wins for the Badgers were the most in school history.

Results

Dec. 27

- Iowa 27, Boston College 20
- Purdue 38, Arizona 35

Dec. 28

- No. 16 Michigan State 42, No. 18 Washington State 17

Dec. 29

- No. 21 Northwestern 24, Kentucky 23
- No. 5 Ohio State 24, No. 8 USC 7

Dec. 30

- No. 9 Penn State 35, No. 11 Washington 28
- No. 6 Wisconsin 34, No. 10 Miami (FL) 24

Jan. 1

- South Carolina 26, Michigan 19

Big Ten teams who did not make a bowl game: Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Minnesota, Nebraska, Rutgers

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