

THE WOLVERINE OCT. 29, 2017

COVERING UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN SPORTS

NOW

10/28/2017 • ATTENDANCE 111,213
MICHIGAN STADIUM ANN ARBOR, MI

M 35 R 14

QT	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Tot
Rutgers	0	7	7	0	14
Michigan	0	21	7	7	35

		RU	U-M			RU	U-M
Second Quarter							
U-M	Hill 1-yard Run (Nordin Kick) 12:06 Drive: 13 plays 80 yds 6:53	0	7	Total First Downs		9	25
				Rushing		4	16
				Passing		4	9
				Penalty		1	0
				Rushing Attempts		31	51
RU	Grant 65-yard Run (Harte Kick) 10:52 Drive: 3 plays 75 yds 1:14	7	7	Yards Gained Rushing		130	352
				Yards Lost Rushing		36	18
				Net Yards Rushing		94	334
				Net Yards Passing		101	137
U-M	Higdon 10-yard Run (Nordin Kick) 02:49 Drive: 8 plays 77 yds 4:12	7	14	Passes Attempted		16	20
				Passes Completed		8	13
				Had Intercepted		0	1
				Percent Completion		50.0%	65.0%
U-M	Evans Pass from Peters 20-yards (Nordin Kick) 00:23 Drive: 7 plays 49 yds 1:26	7	21	Yards per Attempt		6.3	6.8
				Yards per Completion		12.6	10.5
Third Quarter							
U-M	Walker 5-yard Run (Nordin Kick) 11:30 Drive: 4 plays 54 yds 1:47	7	28	Total Offensive Plays		47	71
				Total Net Yards		195	471
				Avg. Gain Per Play		4.1	6.6
				Fumbles: No-Lost		1-0	3-0
				Penalties: No-Yards		3-20	3-25
				Punts: No-Yards		8-352	3-125
				Avg. Per Punt		44.0	41.7
				Avg. Net Punt		35.5	41.7
RU	Edwards 2-yard Run (Harte Kick) 07:01 Drive: 11 plays 75 yds 4:29	14	28	Punt Returns: No-Yards		0-0	3-28
				Kickoff Returns: No-Yards		3-61	3-59
				Interception Returns: No-Yards		1-3	0-0
				Fumble Returns: No-Yards		0-0	0-0
Fourth Quarter							
U-M	Higdon 49-yard Run (Nordin Kick) 14:10 Drive: 2 plays 61 yds 0:36	14	35	Miscellaneous Yards		0	0
				Possession Time		23:16	36:44
				Third-Down Conversions		3-11	3-9
				Percentage		27.3%	33.3%
				Fourth-Down Conversions		0-0	1-2
				Percentage		0.0%	50.0%
				Sacks By: No-Yards		0-0	5-25

MICHIGAN INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Offensive Individual Statistics

Rushing	No	Gain	Lost	Net	Avg	TD	Lg
Higdon	18	161	3	158	8.8	2	49
Isaac	14	109	0	109	7.8	0	21
Walker	6	34	0	34	5.7	1	13
Evans	5	30	1	29	5.8	0	15
McDoom	1	9	0	9	9.0	0	9
Samuels	3	7	0	7	2.3	0	3
Hill	1	1	0	1	1.0	1	1
Peters	1	0	1	-1	-1.0	0	0
O'Korn	2	1	13	-12	-6.0	0	1
Total	51	352	18	334	6.5	4	49

Passing	Att	Comp	%	Int	Yds	TD	Lg
Peters	14	10	71.4	0	124	1	20
O'Korn	6	3	50.0	1	13	0	9
Total	20	13	65.0	1	137	1	20

Receiving	No	Yds	TD	Lg
McKeon	3	31	0	15
Evans	1	20	1	20
Perry	1	15	0	15
Wheatley	1	15	0	15
Collins	1	12	0	12
Gentry	1	12	0	12
Isaac	1	10	0	10
Poggi	1	10	0	10
Higdon	1	8	0	8
McDoom	2	4	0	7
Total	13	137	1	20

Field Goals: Nordin 0 for 1

Punting: Robbins 3 (average 41.7, long 48).

Defensive Individual Statistics

Defense	Tac	Ast	Tot	TFL	Sac	PD	FF	FR
Bush	3	8	11	2-5	0.5-3	0	0	0
Hurst	2	6	8	2-9	1-8	0	0	0
Gary	2	3	5	2-5	1-3	0	0	0
Hudson	4	1	5	1.5-5	0-0	1	0	0
McCray	2	2	4	0.5-3	0-0	0	0	0
Solomon	2	1	3	0.5-1	0-0	0	0	0
Winovich	1	2	3	1.5-6	1.5-6	0	1	0
Kinnel	1	1	2	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Metellus	2	0	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Dwumfour	0	1	1	0.5-2	0.5-2	0	0	0
Gentry	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Gil	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Glasgow	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Hewlett	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Paye	0	1	1	0.5-3	0.5-3	0	0	0
Ross	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Schoenle	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
St-Juste	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0

Punt Ret	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Peoples-Jones	3	28	0	17

Kick Ret	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Thomas	3	59	0	32

Interceptions: none

RUTGERS INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing	No	Gain	Lost	Net	Avg	TD	Lg
Grant	5	77	6	71	14.2	1	65
Edwards	12	35	1	34	2.8	1	5
Martin	6	13	2	11	1.8	0	9
TEAM	1	0	2	-2	-2.0	0	0
Rescigno	7	5	25	-20	-2.9	0	3
Total	31	130	36	94	3.0	2	65

Passing	Att	Comp	%	Int	Yds	TD	Lg
Rescigno	16	8	50.0	0	101	0	30
Total	16	8	50.0	0	101	0	30

Receiving	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Washington	2	33	0	30
Hicks	1	28	0	28
Hayek	1	21	0	21
Mitchell	1	8	0	8
Wormley	1	6	0	6
Edwards	2	5	0	10
Total	8	101	0	30

Field Goals: none

Punting: Anderson 8 (average 44.0, long 61).

Returns: Grant 2 kick for 47 (long 27), Hicks 1 kick for 14



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BY THE NUMBERS

MICHIGAN VS. RUTGERS QUARTER-BY-QUARTER COMPARISON

Michigan	1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.	4th Qtr.	1st Half	2nd Half	Total
Time of Possession	9:56	9:34	7:48	9:26	19:30	17:14	36:44
3rd-Down Conversions	0-2	1-2	1-2	1-3	1-4	2-5	3-9
4th-Down Conversions	1-1	0-0	0-0	0-1	1-1	0-1	1-2
Avg. Field Position	U-M-28	U-M-32	U-M-40	U-M-34	U-M-30	U-M-36	U-M-33

Rutgers	1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.	4th Qtr.	1st Half	2nd Half	Final
Time of Possession	5:04	5:26	7:12	5:34	10:30	12:46	23:16
3rd-Down Conversions	0-2	1-3	2-4	0-2	1-5	2-6	3-11
4th-Down Conversions	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
Avg. Field Position	RU-25	RU-27	RU-23	RU-15	RU-26	RU-19	RU-23

SITUATION TABLES

FIRST AND TEN

	Rushing			Passing			Totals		
	Plays	Yards	Avg.	Plays	Yards	Avg.	Plays	Yards	Avg.
Michigan	26	162	6.2	8	31	3.9	34	193	5.7
Rutgers	14	78	5.6	6	38	6.3	20	116	5.8

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	0/0	-	2/4	50.0	0/2	0.0	1/3	33.3	3/9	33.3
Rutgers	0/0	-	1/1	100.0	0/5	0.0	2/5	40.0	3/11	27.3

RED ZONE EFFICIENCY (INSIDE 20-YARD LINE)

	Poss.	TDs	FGs	No Score
Michigan	5	4	0	1
Rutgers	1	1	0	0

PLAY CHART (NO. OF PLAYS)

Yards	U-M	RU
(-) Yards.....	6	12
0-5 Yards.....	29	26
6-9 Yards.....	17	4
10-19 Yards.....	15	1
20-29 Yards.....	2	2
30-39 Yards.....	1	1
40-49 Yards.....	1	0
50 or more Yards.....	0	1

BIG PLAYS (25 YARDS OR MORE)

Michigan

- *2-3 RU37 Higdon rush for 32 yards to the RU5
- *1-10 RU49 Higdon rush for 49 yards to the RU0

Rutgers

- *1-10 RU35 Grant rush for 65 yards to the U-M0
- *3-11 RU27 Rescigno pass complete to Hicks for 28 yards to the U-M45
- *3-15 RU20 Rescigno pass complete to Washington for 30 yards to the 50 yardline

MICHIGAN CONTRIBUTORS

OFFENSE — STARTERS

LT	Mason Cole
LG	Ben Bredeson
C	Patrick Kugler
RG	Michael Onwenu
RT	Juwann Bushell-Beatty
QB	John O’Korn
RB	Karan Higdon
FB	Henry Poggi
TE	Sean McKeon
TE	Zach Gentry
TE	Tyrone Wheatley

DEFENSE — STARTERS

DE	Rashan Gary
DT	Maurice Hurst
DT	Aubrey Solomon
DE	Chase Winovich
LB	Devin Bush
LB	Mike McCray
LB	Khaleke Hudson
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, Donovan Peoples-Jones, Chris Evans, Eddie McDoom, Benjamin St-Juste, J’Marick Woods, Joe Hewlett, Brandon Watson, Jordan Glasgow, James Foug, Ty Isaac, Camaron Cheeseman, Josh Uche, Devin Gil, Jared Wangler, Ben Mason, Mike Wroblewski, Cesar Ruiz, Nolan Ulizio, Stephen Spanellis, Grant Perry, Lawrence Marshall, Kwity Paye, Garrett Moores, Nico Collins, Reuben Jones, Ian Bunting, Kekoa Crawford, Khalid Hill, Bryan Mone, Noah Furbush, Elysee Mbem-Bosse, Kareem Walker, Brandon Peters, O’maury Samuels, Jon Runyan, Nate Schoenle, Maurice Ways

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

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Michigan Football: Brandon Peters Steps Up As Wolverines Roll

John Borton | Senior Editor

Everyone in maize and blue celebrated Homecoming, but one made himself more at home than anyone.

Redshirt freshman quarterback Brandon Peters proved a relief pitcher in the Mariano Rivera mode in Michigan's 35-14 win over Rutgers at The Big House. Peters connected on 10 of 14 passes for 124 yards and a touchdown in the Wolverines' runaway win.

Subbing for struggling fifth-year senior QB John O'Korn (3-of-6 passing for 13 yards, one interception) Peters led the Wolverines to two touchdowns in the final three minutes of the first half and four altogether. He went on to stake his claim for a quarterback spot that has been unsettled — and at times unsettling — throughout the Big Ten season.

"He really acquitted himself well," head coach Jim Harbaugh assessed. "He moved the football team and played very, very well. He did a lot.

"From the first time he went in there, just feeling the deep zone, feeling the linebackers drop, just taking that extra half-second to take a breath and hit the check-down ... it was good ball. He was good."

Michigan's rushing attack certainly made life easier for anyone behind center, junior tailback Karan Higdon carrying 18 times for 158 yards and two touchdowns, while fifth-year senior tailback Ty Isaac rushed 14 times for 109 yards.

U-M's defense did the rest, limiting the Scarlet Knights to 195 total yards and non-threat status after intermission.

All in all, Peters' debut as a prime-time player couldn't have come at a better time.

"A big part of it is preparation," Peters said. "When [redshirt junior quarterback] Wilton [Speight] went down, I stepped into the backup role. Ever since then, I've been preparing like I was the starting QB. You've always got to be ready, [you're] one play away. Preparation made me feel confident."

Some thought Peters might get snaps in a runaway Michigan win, but Harbaugh insisted the plan all along involved the second-year Wolverine seeing time in the first half.

Few could have predicted it would involve lifting Michigan out of a fistfight with the Scarlet Knights.

After penalties, a sack and the interception from O'Korn torpedoed Michigan's first-quarter chances to score, the Wolverines came up with an 80-yard touchdown drive on a possession that appeared dead in the water.

O'Korn dropped a shotgun snap and fell on it for a 13-yard loss, setting up second-and-23 near the start of the march. Isaac got 16 yards back, setting up a fourth-and-1 that Higdon made ... by an inch, at the Michigan 42.

From there, the ground game made the Scarlet Knights look like they were jousting with rubber lances. Redshirt freshman tailback Kareem Walker broke off a 13-yard run, Isaac rumbled away for 21, and fifth-year senior fullback Khalid Hill finished the job on a one-yard TD plunge at 12:06 of the second quarter.

It took Rutgers all of three plays to return the favor.

Wideout Janarion Grant, lining up as a wildcat quarterback, took a snap, attacked the left end of the line, then cut back right into wide-open spaces. He out-sprinted the entire Michigan defense 65 yards to knot the game at 7-7.

A Homecoming deadlock with Rutgers, 10:52 away from halftime, caused a rumble or two among the home crowd of 111,213. It perked up plenty when Peters began warming up and exploded when he entered the game midway through the quarter.

Peters immediately led a new-wave, eight-play, 77-yard touchdown drive. Higdon got things going with a pair of runs for 20 yards, but Peters also went 3 of 3 through the air, including a 15-yard sideline toss to redshirt sophomore tight end Tyrone Wheatley Jr. and 12-yarder to true freshman wideout Nico Collins.

Higdon finished up the march by rumbling 10 yards for the TD behind a steamrolling left side of Michigan's offensive line. With 2:49 left in the half and Michigan up 14-7, a little Homecoming hopefulness took some of the chill off.

The crowd grew positively toasty two minutes later, when Peters again burned the Scarlet Knights.

It almost didn't play out that way, on Michigan's seven-play, 49-yard touchdown drive in the closing moments of the half. Peters threw a near pick that might have gone some 80 yards the other way.

But Rutgers defensive back Kiy Hester dropped the ball, and sophomore tailback Chris Evans didn't during a wheel route on the very next play. Peters floated a perfect touch pass into his hands, covering the final 20 yards of the drive for the TD with 23 seconds remaining.

"I saw man coverage, one-on-one with Chris," Peters noted. "I just read it out, gave him a chance on the play. He made a great catch, a great play on the ball.

"All my teammates were excited. I was excited, and it was a great feeling."

It marked Michigan's first touchdown pass in a month, a de-

velopment welcome as heated jeans on metal bleachers.

The Wolverines picked right up where they left off in the second half, driving 54 yards for a touchdown on just four plays the first time they touched the ball. Peters scrambled away from pressure to hit Isaac for 12 yards, before Higdon's 32-yard run set up Walker's powerful five-yard TD burst up the middle.

A game unnervingly close through much of the first half stood 28-7 3:30 into the second. That set the Earth back on its proper Michigan-Rutgers rotation in the mind of the home crowd.

Rutgers answered with a 75-yard TD drive, quarterback Giovanni Rescigno (8 of 16 for 101 yards) setting up running back Gus Edwards' two-yard touchdown plunge with completions of 30 and 21 yards.

But a comeback this day loomed as likely as sunburn among the home crowd, and the Wolverines made certain. They struck back with a 49-yard touchdown bolt by Higdon 50 seconds into the final quarter, making it 35-14.

Higdon noted U-M's blockers were highly motivated coming off the loss to Penn State.

"My boys had something to prove," Higdon said. "They had an 'S' on their chest. We got a little dominated last week against Penn State, had some troubles, and we knew we were better than that. We knew what we were capable of.

"I think it was good to hit adversity and bounce back. Those guys are tremendous at bouncing back from adversity, and that's what they did today. I'm proud of those guys."

He also expressed pride in Peters, like everyone else. Harbaugh confirmed the redshirt freshman earned a start next week, after potentially preventing a Homecoming disaster.

"I felt confidence in my teammates," Peters assured. "They showed a lot of confidence in me. That ultimately came back into me. I felt a lot of confidence and rolled."

Five Best Players Of The Game

1. Redshirt freshman quarterback Brandon Peters: Part of this is actually performance, part big-picture boost. Peters looked cool and savvy in changing a tight game with the Scarlet Knights into the rout it was always meant to be. The confidence gain will pay dividends down the road, as well.

2. Junior tailback Karan Higdon: Higdon ran hard and well, with a 49-yard TD bolt among his 18 tries for 152 yards and pair of touchdowns. A tip of the cap as well — which Higdon gladly supplied — to Michigan's much-scrutinized offensive line, after it opened holes for a pair of 100-yard rushers.

3. Fifth-year senior tailback Ty Isaac: Isaac rumbled 14 times for 109 yards, averaging 7.8 yards per carry to Higdon's 8.8. The Wolverines took plenty of pressure off Peters with their ability to run the football.

4. Fifth-year senior defensive tackle Maurice Hurst Jr.: Hurst supplied a burst up the middle on Rutgers' very first offensive play, setting a tone for the day. He wound up with a sack and two tackles for loss among his eight stops, and consistently hounded the Scarlet Knights.

5. Sophomore defensive end Rashaan Gary: Gary also brought the heat, matching Hurst's sack and two TFLs. The sophomore was credited with five stops and one quarterback hurry, and caused Rutgers untold grief in the backfield.

Michigan Football Report Card: Grading A 35-14 Win Over Rutgers

Chris Balas | Senior Editor

Grading Michigan's effort in all categories after a 35-14 victory over Rutgers:

Rushing Offense: A+

The "it's just Indiana" talk wasn't warranted when junior Karan Higdon ran for 200 yards against the Hoosiers ... it's a bit more so against Rutgers. Still, the Wolverines ran for 334 yards and destroyed the Scarlet Knights on the ground. Each of U-M's top four backs averaged at least 5.7 yards per carry, led by sophomore Karan Higdon's 8.8 (158 yards, two touchdowns) and fifth-year senior Ty Isaac's 7.8 (109, one).

The offensive line continues to improve mightily in this area. Sophomore right guard Mike Onwenu, in particular, has been a road grader, and the tackles were great on the pitch sweeps.

Passing Offense: B

Fifth-year senior John O'Korn dropped two snaps and threw an interception, then redshirt freshman Brandon Peters finally got his shot. He made the most of it, completing 10 of 14 passes for 124 yards and a score, and gave the team a spark. He had a pick dropped that could have been trouble (possibly a touchdown at the other end) and missed a touchdown to wide-open sophomore tight end Sean McKeon, but looked poised and threw a better ball than we've seen in a while.

No, he wasn't pressured, and there will be bigger tests to come. But he put the ball on the money on most of his throws, kept his eyes downfield while stepping up in the pocket and earned his team's confidence.

Rushing Defense: B+

Rutgers added a wrinkle in putting explosive receiver Janarion Grant in the backfield, and he picked up 65 of his 71 yards on a touchdown run that tied the game at 7-7. The Scarlet Knights had no other explosive plays in the running game and finished with 130 gross and 94 net yards on the ground.

Rutgers ran seven times on first down before its last, meaningless drive, and managed only seven yards on the ground on those plays. U-M dominated up front after Grant's long run.

Passing Defense: B-

Giovanni Rescigno completed eight of 16 passes for 101 yards, including a 30-yarder over junior safety Tyree Kinnel, and was sacked five times. Kinnel has been in position a number of times, but he's having trouble turning his head back around and making plays on the ball. Teams will continue to throw at him until he does.

The corners, though, were solid. Still, the Scarlet Knights notched three big plays in the passing game of 30, 21 and 28 yards. And this is a bad passing team.

Special Teams: B

Michigan redshirt freshman kicker Quinn Nordin missed a short field goal, while redshirt junior kickoff man James Foug played with fire in not getting his kicks to the end zone, nearly paying for it when Grant broke one for 27 yards and nearly went all the way.

Freshman Ambry Thomas notched a 32-yard runback among his three kickoff returns, and freshman Donovan Peoples-Jones took a punt 17 yards. Freshman Brad Robbins notched two solid punts and averaged 41.7 yards per boot.

Offense Notes: Brandon Peters, Rushing Attack Power Michigan To Victory

Andrew Vaillencourt | Staff Writer

It was time.

That's what Michigan coach Jim Harbaugh said after the game about redshirt freshman quarterback Brandon Peters getting his first significant playing time in a Michigan uniform.

Replacing fifth-year senior quarterback John O'Korn — who finished the game 3-of-6 passing for 13 yards, an interception and two fumbles (he recovered both) — in the second quarter, Peters led the Wolverine offense on three straight touchdown

drives in Michigan's 35-14 win over Rutgers at the Big House.

It was the second time Michigan's offense has scored touchdowns on three straight possessions this season, with the first time coming against Purdue.

A missed field goal came on drive number four before Michigan got back to the end zone on Peters' fifth possession.

Peters, who Harbaugh just about called the team's starter going forward, completed 10 of 14 throws for 124 yards and one touchdown. He didn't turn the ball over, and the only time Michigan punted with him in the game came on the team's final possession while it ran the clock down.

The touchdown pass — which went to sophomore running back Chris Evans from 20 yards out — was the first of Peters' career. It was also an Indiana connection; both played high school football in the Indianapolis area.

Harbaugh said the plan during the week was to get Peters in the game, and he handled the situation well.

"I wasn't that nervous," Peters said. "It's just a great opportunity to get out there. I was just more excited and confident than nervous."

Peters is known for having a more subdued personality, but both he and Harbaugh said he's improved a lot since the spring in his communication.

"Brandon is a quiet guy, but once he gets going he starts talking a little bit, like 'Get me back the ball,' when we all about to go back on defense. Once he gets in his groove we're all like 'Alright BP, let's go,'" sophomore defensive lineman Rashan Gary said.

"From spring ball to now, it's like two completely different quarterbacks. We see it in practice. He's talking more, checking down more. It's crazy to see, not seeing that too much in spring ball and then to now. It's unbelievable."

The crowd gave him a loud cheer when he took the field for the first time, loud enough that the offense had to signal the fans to quiet down so they could hear the calls.

"Brandon is a great quarterback," fifth-year senior defensive tackle Maurice Hurst Jr. said. "He actually got to run the scout team last year for us. He's always done some great things. You can tell he's very gifted with his arm and his mobility. He's a really good quarterback."

Scarlet Knights No Match For Ground Attack

Peters got a lot of help from the running game. Michigan had a pair of 100-yard rushers for the first time since last year's game against Rutgers, when Evans and now-junior running back Karan Higdon did it with 153 and 114 yards, respectively.

Michigan has now won 19 straight games when having a 100-yard rusher.

Higdon led the charge this time around with 158 yards and two scores on 18 carries. Fifth-year senior running back Ty Isaac was the other to top the century mark, with 14 carries for 109 yards. It was the 40th time in program history a pair rushed for 100 apiece, while it marked Higdon's second game of the year over the century mark and Isaac's third.

However, Isaac exited the game in the second half with an injury — as did sophomore guard Michael Onwenu and redshirt freshman running back Kareem Walker.

Walker carried the ball six times for 34 yards and his first career touchdown — all career highs. U-M radio reported that he left with a sprained ankle.

The Wolverines finished with 334 rushing yards, its most since posting 481 against Rutgers last season. Its 471 total yards were the most since it registered 660 at Maryland last November.

Higdon surpassed the 1,000-yard mark for his career and is now up to 1,038 in total.

“It’s a big-time accomplishment,” Higdon said. “It’s very big, over my career here at the University. I give all the credit to the guys up front, the guys in front of me. Without them, I couldn’t make things happen. I’m proud of those guys.”

Miscellaneous Notes:

- Michigan had 10 different players catch a pass, tying a season high (Purdue).

- Peters was 1-of-2 passing for 20 yards and a touchdown in the red zone. On the season, redshirt junior quarterback Wilton Speight was 1 of 12 for minus-1 yards and no touchdowns, while O’Korn was 4 of 6 for 44 yards and the team’s lone passing touchdown in the red zone prior to Saturday.

- Freshman wide receiver Nico Collins caught his first career pass. It went for 12 yards.

- Fifth-year senior fullback Khalid Hill scored his second touchdown of the season and 12th of his career on a one-yard run in the second quarter.

Redshirt freshman lineman Stephen Spanellis and true freshman Cesar Ruiz were put in as extra blockers on the scoring run.

- It was the fourth time of Higdon’s career that he rushed for two touchdowns. It was also the fourth time in his career that he’s rushed for more than 100 yards.

- Isaac ran for more than 100 yards for the fourth time in his

career and for the first time since opening the campaign with back-to-back performances over the century mark.

- Senior fullback and New Jersey native Joe Beneducci played in his first game of the season.

Defense/ST Notes: Mo Hurst, Rashan Gary Lead Charged-Up Michigan Defense

Andrew Vaillencourt | Staff Writer

Michigan’s defense set the tone against Rutgers on its first play of the game.

Scarlet Knights redshirt junior quarterback Giovanni Rescigno took the snap, dropped back and was introduced to Michigan fifth-year senior defensive tackle Maurice Hurst Jr., who increased his season sack total to 2.5 on the play.

“[That sack] was important,” sophomore viper Khaleke Hudson said. “I was actually in man coverage and turned around and was like, ‘This is going to be a great day for us.’ The defensive line is very important because we send a lot of pressure and we expect them to get a lot of pressure since we’re playing man to man. It’s better on you because you don’t have to cover as long.”

The Wolverine defense had its way for much of the game, leading to Michigan’s 35-14 win against Rutgers at The Big House.

With the win, the Wolverines (6-2, 3-2) become bowl-eligible.

It was the kind of bounce-back game the team needed after the defense played its worst game of the season at Penn State. Rutgers gained just 195 total yards — a stark contrast from the 506 the Nittany Lions piled up a week ago.

Sixty-five yards and seven points of Rutgers’ total came on a 65-yard touchdown run on an option keeper from wildcard quarterback/wide receiver Janarion Grant. The Scarlet Knights gained just 130 yards on its other 46 plays (2.8-yard average), with a long rush of nine.

“The big thing for us was just making sure we were focused,” Hurst said. “We just came out this week with the mindset to be focused. We take it very seriously and put everything that we have into it.”

Hurst has now recorded at least half a sack in each of the last three games. He also had his second-highest number of tackles this season, with eight.

He was second on the team in total stops. Sophomore line-backer Devin Bush Jr. had 11, including half a sack.

The defense tied a season high in tackles for loss with 11 for 39 yards. The Wolverines also had 11 against Florida in the season opener.

Sophomore defensive end Rashan Gary was third in tackles with five, including two tackles for loss. He also recorded a sack and was frequently in the Rutgers backfield causing pressures.

Pro Football Focus credited Gary and fellow defensive end Chase Winovich (who recorded three tackles, 1.5 sacks and a forced fumble in the official box score) with a combined 15 quarterback pressures — they awarded Gary with five hurries in addition to his sack and two quarterback hits, while Winovich was given two sacks and five hurries per the website's numbers.

“We feed off each other a lot,” Hurst said of himself and Gary. “We always try to get the best out of each other. We play on the same side so there’s a lot of communication that goes on between us. A lot of stuff I’ll see and let him know. Sometimes we’ll switch some of our patterns for blitzes based on what I see and what I think Rashan can do. It’s great communication between us.”

Gary said that while he didn’t have as many sacks as he thought he could’ve, he’s happy he was getting pressure that allowed other teammates to make plays or force incompletions.

Rescigno completed just eight passes on 16 attempts, and five of those completions went to either a tight end or running back.

The defense saw a new face in the starting lineup, with freshman defensive tackle Aubrey Solomon earning his first career start. He ended up with three tackles and half a tackle for loss.

“Aubrey is an amazing player,” Hurst said. “You can see him definitely starting to break through and create his own identity on the field. He’s extremely strong and extremely talented, and I think he’s going to play some really good football going forward.”

On the special teams, redshirt freshman kicker Quinn Nordin missed his lone field goal attempt in the third quarter, sending the 37-yard try wide right and ending a streak of 10 consecutive makes. He’s now 14 of 17 on field goals this season.

Freshman cornerback Ambry Thomas had three kick returns for 59 yards. His long was 32.

Freshman wide receiver Donovan Peoples-Jones returned three punts for 28 yards with a long of 17.

Miscellaneous Notes:

· Michigan’s five sacks is tied for the second most it has had

this season. U-M recorded five against Michigan State and six against Florida.

· Sophomore defensive tackle Michael Dwumfour posted his first career sack in the fourth quarter.

· Michigan played eight of its 12 New Jersey natives against the Scarlet Knights. In addition to Gary and Dwumfour, the others were: senior FB Joe Beneducci, senior offensive lineman Juwann Bushell-Beatty, freshman safety Brad Hawkins, freshman offensive lineman Cesar Ruiz, redshirt sophomore offensive lineman Jon Runyan and redshirt freshman running back Kareem Walker.

· Michigan is now 90-27 in Homecoming games and has won 43 of its last 50.

· The first and fourth quarters were the strong points for Michigan’s defense. It allowed 11 total yards of offense in the first quarter and just 17 in the fourth. Rutgers didn’t complete a pass in the first quarter.

Wolverine Watch: Harbaugh Says It's Time For Brandon Peters

John Borton | Senior Editor

Everybody comes back at Homecoming. It’s a time for remembering what was, cherishing old friendships, reminiscing over great teams and stirring championships.

This time around, the past took a back seat to the present and the future. This time around, the old bowed to the new.

A kid quarterback stepped up and struck down Michigan’s offensive malaise. The too-quiet one — redshirt freshman Brandon Peters — delivered an effort that shouted: *I’M HERE! I’M READY! LET’S ROLL!*

And roll Michigan did. They lanced Rutgers’ Scarlet Knights like a boil, 35-14, just like they’re supposed to do.

Let’s not get too carried away here. This wasn’t Alabama, or Penn State, or even Michigan State. This was Rutgers, which despite a couple of Big Ten wins and some head-turning individual talent, remains the Big Ten team you want to play to get healthy.

They’d heal lepers if they rolled into Piscataway on a long road trip. Only that’s not how it was playing out at Michigan Stadium.

Instead, the locals were experiencing more than a little queasiness. Through 27 minutes, Michigan and Rutgers were deadlocked at 7-7. The Wolverines’ offense sputtered its way to no

better than a standoff against a crew that reminds precisely nobody of the '85 Chicago Bears.

It looked like what the Wolverines experienced far too often over the first seven games of the season — a drive-killing turnover, a backwards play that scarce downfield threats can't counter.

High spirits turned to angst, and murmurs, and a certain highly agitated disbelief.

Rutgers? Rutgers?

Peters stepped in, and the game changed in an instant. He helped the Wolverines into the end zone twice in the final three minutes of the first half and four times overall. He completed throw after throw, connecting on 10 of his 14 tosses (71.4 percent).

It wasn't some gaudy passing total that left the crowd of 111,213 buzzing as much as it did seven months earlier after Peters looked like the best of the bunch in Michigan's spring game. Peters managed 124 yards passing with one touchdown toss, on a day when his backs piled up a healthy 334 yards on the ground.

It was how Peters executed, regardless of numbers or competition. Everyone in the building saw him:

- Go 3 for 3 upon taking the field and lead U-M to a quick TD, demonstrating the touch on passes that caused Jim Harbaugh to label him a "natural" from his early days on campus.
- Feather a 20-yard TD toss to sophomore tailback Chris Evans, Michigan's first touchdown pass in more than a month.
- Scramble out of trouble and appear certain to simply fire the ball safely out of bounds, only to keep composed and zip one in to a ready receiver.
- Demonstrate the ability to fire the fastball over the middle, balancing off the touch tosses.

In short, Peters helped Michigan do what it hadn't done since September — pull away from an opponent.

"Every drive he was moving the team, with a touchdown drive on the two-minute drill," Harbaugh enthused. "A 77-yard drive to start his first series in football. I would think that would be very good for his confidence and build on it. We'll look to build on that."

Harbaugh never doubted Peters' prowess in delivering the football. It was all about a more laid-back, naturally quiet kid learning the huddle presence, command and sheer volume to become the high-decibel, take-charge field general Harbaugh once was, and still demands.

"I've definitely gotten a lot better at it," Peters offered. "It's

something I've really focused on. It's been my weakness ever since I've gotten to Michigan."

The head coach sees some strength growing along the way.

"Probably late in training camp I thought, 'Wow, he's a lot louder,'" Harbaugh said. "He's really doing a job. That sounds good ... that sounds real. He's been good."

"We talked last week, him asking me where things were. We're always looking at it as a process. For a good couple weeks now, we felt that he was ready, and it's time — like a bird leaving the nest. Kids leaving the house and going off on their own. It's time."

Again, this wasn't Penn State in a whiteout. This wasn't Michigan State in a washout. But this was a very talented young quarterback taking a step Michigan desperately needed.

Not surprisingly, the next step comes next week, under the lights.

"Right now, I feel really good about the way he played and feel good about him now taking the next step in him being the starting quarterback, getting a great week of now knowing he's the starting quarterback in practice," Harbaugh said.

The boss isn't the only one feeling good, or looking to the future. It's time ... with full focus forward.

What They're Saying: Michigan 35, Rutgers 14

Austin Fox | Staff Writer

Michigan defeated Rutgers on Saturday, 35-14, in a game where one position — quarterback — dominated the headlines.

After fifth-year senior John O'Korn struggled through the first quarter (3-of-6 passing, one interception), he was replaced by redshirt freshman Brandon Peters.

Peters immediately led Michigan on consecutive scoring drives and helped the team grab a 21-7 halftime lead.

As a whole, the offense looked better than it had in weeks (471 yards), and the defense dominated throughout (195 yards).

Find out what others are saying about Peters, Michigan's rushing attack, the defense and much more here:

Chris Balas, The Wolverine: Michigan 35, Rutgers 14: Notes, Quotes & Observations

"OBSERVATIONS

"Junior safety Tyree Kinnel has become a target for opposing game planners, and he's continued to get picked on. Expect

that to continue until he learns to turn back and look for the ball. He's been in position, but he simply hasn't found the ball in the air.

"At the same time, the high expectations have made it hard for the defense as a whole to impress anymore. They gave up a grand total of 195 yards, though [Rutgers fifth-year senior receiver] Janarion Grant's 65-yard touchdown was discouraging in that it was the same play Penn State repeatedly beat U-M on last week.

"Still, the defensive line was stout, and 40 of 50 plays went for next to nothing."

Ryan Zuke, MLive: 5 things being talked about after Michigan's 35-14 win over Rutgers

"No. 2: John O'Korn struggles

"Many thought today against Rutgers would be a good time to give Peters his first career start after fifth-year senior John O'Korn has struggled to find consistency since taking over as the starter Sept. 23 at Purdue.

"O'Korn looked out of sync again on Saturday. His first pass went for a 3-yard loss to [sophomore receiver] Eddie McDoom, and he finished 3 for 6 passing for 13 yards and an interception. He also fumbled two snaps.

"The 6-foot-4, 211-pounder was replaced after the Wolverines went three-and-out on his final drive. He fumbled the snap on first down but still was able to pick up a yard. He went to the air on second and third down, but both attempts fell incomplete."

Josh Newman, Asbury Park Press: Rutgers football: Five takeaways from Rutgers' loss to Michigan

"4. Michigan's defensive line vs. Rutgers' offensive line was a mismatch: Let's start with this. Former Paramus Catholic star [sophomore defensive end] Rashan Gary was often a one-man wrecking crew along Michigan's defensive line. He was in the Rutgers backfield constantly, as were his linemates, specifically fellow defensive end [redshirt junior] Chase Winovich and [fifth-year senior] defensive tackle Maurice Hurst.

"Gary and Hurst each had a sack. Winovich had 1.5, giving him seven on the season, and Michigan as a whole sacked [Rutgers redshirt junior quarterback] Gio Rescigno five times. This, after giving up just six sacks in the first seven games combined. The Wolverines had a whopping 11 tackles for a loss."

Rob Otto, Detroit Sports Nation: 3 biggest takeaways from Michigan Wolverines' 35-14 win over Rutgers

"OFFENSIVE LINE IMPROVES

"The offensive line had a good day, controlling the Rutgers

front seven, which is the best part of that defense. They gave both O'Korn and Peters plenty of time to pass the ball and did not give up a single sack. They also really excelled in the run game, gashing Rutgers for 334 yards on the ground. Karan Higdon went for 158 yards and a pair of scores on 18 carries. Ty Isaac added another 109 yards on 14 carries before leaving the game with an injury in the fourth quarter. It is likely that was just a precaution in a blowout game."

Shawn Ekwall, Saturday Blitz: Michigan Football: Wolverines find offense in win over Rutgers

"2. Michigan may have found its next quarterback

"Brandon Peters took over a struggling Michigan offense in the first half. Peters replaced John O'Korn and had an efficient day. He finished 10 of 14 for 124 yards and a touchdown.

"There's no question that Peters is the future quarterback for Michigan. Giving him an extended look now seems like a good idea. Peters took advantage of his opportunity on Saturday and played well. With a solid ground game to support him, fans may be seeing more and more of the sophomore quarterback down the stretch.

"Michigan fans were extremely frustrated with O'Korn last week. And even though Harbaugh defended O'Korn in the media this week, one could sense that a change may come if he continued to struggle. After throwing a pick in the first half, Harbaugh inserted Peters. Fans liked what they saw and most likely will be clamoring for the sophomore to get another start next week.

"It also helped that 10 different Wolverines' receivers caught balls on Saturday. Spreading it around and having options will help Peters going forward. There's no doubt he's the future at quarterback, but Saturday's performance proved he may be the present as well."

Ryan Dunleavy, NJ.com: Rutgers' (lack of) passing attack, Michigan rushing offense make difference | Good, bad, ugly

"BY THE NUMBERS

"**2,646** -- College football games played by Rutgers and Michigan. Rutgers (1,333) has played the most in the history of the sport. Michigan (1,313) is No. 3.

"**287** -- Consecutive points scored by Big Ten East Division powers Michigan, Michigan State, Penn State and Ohio State against Rutgers over the last two seasons ... until Grant's second-quarter touchdown.

"**277** -- Consecutive games at Michigan with more than 100,000 fans as the attendance

"**5** -- Games with less than 100 yards passing over the last two seasons for Rutgers. It looked like No. 6 was in the works

until Rescigno threw for 61 yards on a touchdown drive in the third quarter, going from 29 to 90."

John Taylor, NBCSports: QB change sparks Michigan's offense vs. Rutgers

"After much fan clamoring, they've gotten exactly what they wanted — and the results they expected.

"Replacing [redshirt junior] Wilton Speight under center because of injury, John O'Korn has played miserably in four starts, throwing four interceptions against just one touchdown in directing a Michigan offense that barely averaged 20 points per game in that span. Entering the Week 9 matchup with a Rutgers team that has won back-to-back Big Ten games and needing to turn things around personally, O'Korn has struggled once again.

"Through the first quarter and a half, the Wolverines had scored just seven points and O'Korn had thrown another interception. Following a second-quarter three-and-out, Jim Harbaugh yanked O'Korn in favor of fan favorite Brandon Peters, with the redshirt freshman responding by completing 5 of 7 passes for 69 yards and a touchdown; he came into the game with one career pass attempt.

"That touchdown pass, incidentally, was Michigan's first since Sept. 23 — Sept. 23!!!

"In fact, Peters, a four-star 2016 signee, led the Wolverines to touchdowns on both of his second-quarter drives, pushing UM to a 21-7 halftime lead on RU in the Big House. Barring injury — or Harbaugh doing the inexplicable — the Peters Era in Ann Arbor has commenced in earnest."

Big Ten Recap: Week Nine

Austin Fox | Staff Writer

The Wolverine recaps all the action that occurred in the Big Ten this weekend.

Illinois (2-6, 0-5 Big Ten)

Illinois remained winless in the Big Ten after its 24-10 loss to No. 5 Wisconsin ... Redshirt sophomore quarterback Jeff George struggled mightily, only completing seven of his 20 passes for 108 yards and no touchdowns ... Freshman running back Ra'Von Bonner missed the contest with a head injury ... The Illini held the Badgers' high-powered offense (462.7 yards per game, 28th nationally) to just 303 yards.

Indiana (3-5, 0-5 Big Ten)

Indiana lost a high-scoring thriller at Maryland, 42-39 ... Redshirt freshman quarterback Peyton Ramsey threw for 279 yards and three touchdowns through the first three quarters, but was replaced by fifth-year senior Richard Lagow after taking

a big hit; Lagow went on to toss two scores of his own ... Two of the Hoosiers' top running backs — freshman Morgan Ellison and junior Mike Majette — missed the game with injury ... Freshman receiver Whop Philyor hauled in a career-high 127 yards on 13 catches ... Trailing by three late in the fourth quarter, Indiana attempted to mount a game-winning drive, but turned the ball over on downs.

Iowa (5-3, 2-3 Big Ten)

Iowa beat Minnesota on Saturday night, 17-10 ... The Hawkeyes claimed the Floyd of Rosedale trophy (a huge bronze pig) for the third consecutive season ... Senior running back James Butler returned to action from injury for the first time since Sept. 16 and rushed for 28 yards.

Maryland (4-4, 2-3 Big Ten)

Maryland won a back-and-forth thriller against Indiana, 42-39 ... Trailing 33-28 entering the game's final frame, the Terrapins grabbed a 35-33 lead just four seconds into the fourth quarter and never relinquished it ... Junior running back Ty Johnson rushed for 91 yards on just 13 carries ... The game featured three different lead changes throughout.

No. 16 Michigan State (6-2, 4-1 Big Ten)

No. 16 Michigan State suffered its first conference loss of the season at Northwestern, falling 39-31 in triple-overtime ... The Spartans trailed 17-10 with just 26 seconds left in regulation, before a 13-yard touchdown catch by junior receiver Felton Davis sent the game into overtime ... Freshman wideout Cody White hauled in nine catches for 165 yards and two touchdowns, all of which were career highs ... Michigan State's top three running backs — junior LJ Scott, redshirt junior Madre London and fifth-year senior Gerald Holmes — combined to rush for just 37 yards on 16 carries.

Minnesota (4-4, 1-4 Big Ten)

Minnesota lost a tight one at Iowa Saturday night, 17-10 ... Trailing by seven late in the game, the Gophers attempted to mount a game-tying drive but turned the ball over on downs ... Redshirt sophomore quarterback Demry Croft struggled in his second career start, only completing nine-of-29 passes for 139 yards and a pick ... Minnesota scored all 10 of its points in the fourth quarter ... Sophomore receiver Tyler Johnson racked up 92 yards on just four catches.

Nebraska (4-4, 3-2 Big Ten)

Nebraska grabbed a thrilling victory at Purdue, 25-24 ... The Cornhuskers trailed for nearly the entire game, until junior receiver Stanley Morgan caught a 13-yard touchdown pass with just 14 seconds left to seal the victory ... Redshirt junior quarterback Tanner Lee had an outstanding day, throwing for 431 yards, two touchdowns and no picks ... Nebraska outgained the Boilermakers, 471-363 yards.

Northwestern (5-3, 3-2 Big Ten)

Northwestern won in triple-overtime against No. 16 Michigan State, 39-31 ... The Wildcats trailed 10-0 for much of the

first half, and didn't grab their first lead until 10:49 left in the fourth quarter ... Redshirt junior linebacker Nate Hall picked off a pass from Michigan State redshirt sophomore quarterback Brian Lewerke in the third overtime to seal the victory ... Redshirt junior quarterback Clayton Thorson shredded the Spartan defense, completing 33-of-48 passes for 356 yards and two touchdowns.

No. 6 Ohio State (7-1, 5-0 Big Ten)

No. 6 Ohio State won a wild game against No. 2 Penn State, 39-38 ... The Buckeyes didn't grab their first lead until fifth-year senior tight end Marcus Baugh caught a 16-yard touchdown pass with just 1:48 left in the game ... Fifth-year senior quarterback J.T. Barrett completed 33-of-39 passes for 328 yards and four touchdowns, while rushing for 95 yards ... Ohio State's defense held Penn State's offense to just 283 yards.

No. 2 Penn State (7-1, 4-1 Big Ten)

No. 2 Penn State's undefeated season came to an end when it lost at No. 6 Ohio State, 39-38 ... The Nittany Lions jumped out to a 14-0 lead less than four minutes into the game ... Penn State led 28-10 late in the second quarter and didn't trail for the first time until the Buckeyes' go-ahead score with 1:48 left ... Junior running back Saquon Barkley was shut down offensively, only rushing for 44 yards on 21 carries ... The loss was the Nittany Lions' first regular season setback since falling at Michigan last year on Sept. 24.

Purdue (3-5, 1-4 Big Ten)

Purdue lost an absolute heartbreaker to Nebraska, 25-24 ... The Boilermakers held a 24-12 lead with 11:04 left in the game, but weren't able to hold onto it ... Head coach Jeff Brohm had been using a two-quarterback system of redshirt junior David Blough and redshirt sophomore Elijah Sindelar all season, but only played Blough against the Cornhuskers ... With the loss, Purdue has now dropped four of its last five games.

Rutgers (3-5, 2-3 Big Ten)

Rutgers was blown out at Michigan on Saturday, 35-14 ...

The Scarlet Knights trailed just 14-7 with 24 seconds left in the first half before a 20-yard touchdown catch by Wolverine sophomore running back Chris Evans extended the Maize and Blue's lead to 21-7 ... Fifth-year senior receiver Janarion Grant rushed for 71 yards on just five carries, including a 65-yard score ... Redshirt sophomore safety Jawuan Harris recorded his second interception of the season, despite being converted from receiver three weeks ago.

No. 5 Wisconsin (8-0, 5-0 Big Ten)

Although it wasn't necessarily pretty, No. 5 Wisconsin won at Illinois, 24-10 ... The Badgers controlled the game throughout, leading 17-3 at halftime and 24-3 with 3:54 left in the contest ... Redshirt junior left tackle Michael Deiter scored on a four-yard touchdown run late in the fourth quarter ... Freshman running back Jonathan Taylor racked up 73 yards before exiting the game in the second quarter with an injury.

Schedule

Saturday, Oct. 28

- No. 5 Wisconsin 24, Illinois 10
- Michigan 35, Rutgers 14
- No. 6 Ohio State 39, No. 2 Penn State 38
- Northwestern 39, No. 16 Michigan State 31
- Maryland 42, Indiana 39
- Iowa 17, Minnesota 10
- Nebraska 25, Purdue 24

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