

Michigan Wolverines Football: Harbaugh's Crew Shells The Terrapins, 38-7

John Borton • TheWolverine

Michigan football players set a goal of starting their road game at Maryland quickly. It doesn't get any quicker than this.

Freshman Giles Jackson set an electrifying tone on the very first play, exploding 97 yards for a touchdown on the opening kickoff in Michigan's 38-7 rout over Maryland. It took all of 11 seconds for the Wolverines to get on top for good, on a couple of hard cuts and a sprint away from the Terrapins.

"We didn't want to come out slow," Jackson assured. "We didn't want to get punched in the mouth. We wanted to start the game off going fast."

They started fast and kept pouring it on, leading 21-0 and not allowing an offensive touchdown for Maryland. The Wolverines limited the Terps to 233 yards of total offense, didn't turn the ball over for a second straight game and raced into a second bye weekend with a full head of steam.

They spread the wealth, nine players sharing the 13 throws on which senior quarterback Shea Patterson (13-of-22 passing for 151 yards, one touchdown) connected. Junior wideout Nico Collins paced that crew with a pair of catches for 65 yards, while redshirt junior tight end Nick Eubanks snagged Michigan's only TD reception among his two grabs

Freshman kick returner Giles Jackson set the tone for the afternoon on a 97-yard bolt with the opening kickoff.

Redshirt freshman tailback Hassan Haskins ran for 60 yards and a touchdown on 13 carries, while senior back Tru Wilson posted 50 in five tries. Freshman back Zach Charbonnet drew eight carries and scored on two of them, totaling 28 yards on the ground.

Meanwhile, Maryland quarterback Josh Jackson remained under heavy fire all game long, going 9-of-20 passing for 97 yards and a big early interception. The Terrapins threatened early, but never could cash in on offense.

They'd later match Jackson's 97-yard kickoff return TD, but by then, the Wolverines might as well have been on their bye week.

"It's really taking a night to enjoy that big victory last week, and not coming out flat this week," Patterson said of Michigan's approach. "That was the biggest thing, as far as attacking the week and approaching this game. That game is over with, and we've

 38  7	11/2/2019 • ATTENDANCE 40,701				
	COF @ MARYLAND STADIUM COLLEGE PARK, MD				
QT	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Tot
Michigan	14	7	14	3	38
Maryland	0	0	7	0	7

got to come out making a statement on the road. I think we did that."

They did from the opening play.

"Talk about starting fast," Jim Harbaugh said. "You can't start any faster than returning the opening kick for a touchdown. It was really well blocked."

Like Jackson, Michigan never looked back.

The Wolverines followed that game-opening bolt with a three-and-out by the defense, getting the ball back at Maryland's 41. U-M covered that ground in 11 plays, highlighted by Patterson's 14-yard throw to junior wide receiver Collins and Charbonnet's one-yard touchdown on a direct snap.

Michigan led 14-0 with 6:18 off the clock. Any Washington Nationals fans in the sparse crowd immediately regretted their decision to skip the team parade for this.

Even when Maryland drove back deep into Michigan territory, graduate transfer defensive end Michael Danna crushed the Terps' Jackson on a third-down play at the U-M 12. Jackson's pass attempt fluttered out into the hands of senior safety Josh Metellus.

"The pressures were key all day," Harbaugh said. "The sacks, the pressures that led to some throwaways. That hit led to the ball going up in the air, and Josh was all over it. Mike Danna has been a great guy. Everybody loves Mike Danna, and he keeps getting better and better."

The Terps kept moving the ball, but came away emptier than the home teams in the 2019 World Series. They drove to the U-M 8, but senior defensive end/linebacker Josh Uche's nine-yard sack on Jackson forced a 37-yard field goal attempt, which Maryland's Joseph Petrino shoved right.

Michigan hadn't done much following its opening outburst, however. It looked as if its second quarter would consist of a pair of three-and-outs, covering 11 yards.

A direct snap to the up man — redshirt freshman linebacker Michael Barrett — on a punt formation changed all that. Barrett charged up the middle for 14 yards, and a play later, Patterson unleashed a 51-yard bomb to Collins.

Patterson insisted he didn't know the fake punt was coming, but Collins admitted he harbored some anticipation.

"It was fourth-and-one, so hopefully they fake it — and they did," he said, with a grin. "When we all came back on the field, Shea trusted us and took a shot. I came down with it."

Charbonnet scored two plays later on an eight-yard cutback with 1:28 to play to complete the 88-yard TD drive. The Wolverines thus forced the Terps into full turtling mode, 21-0.

Michigan created one more chance to score in the first half, but sophomore place-kicker Jake Moody missed on a 37-yard field goal attempt in the final seconds.

Not that it mattered. The Wolverines removed all doubt midway through the third quarter, covering 60 yards in a dozen plays to push the margin to an untouchable 28-0.

Patterson's 14-yard swing pass to sophomore receiver Ronnie Bell got the Wolverines close. They scored when the U-M QB drew everyone in with a fake to Haskins up the middle, followed by a short flip to a wide-open redshirt junior tight end Nick Eubanks for the five-yard TD.

Up four touchdowns at the 5:10 mark of the third quarter, the Wolverines were ready for their own parade — back to the locker room and on to a bye week.

Not before a bit more bye-bye pummeling for the Terps.

Michigan went 62 yards in five plays to go up 35-0, with 1:31 left in the third. Senior tailback Tru Wilson's 39-yard breakaway set up Haskins' 14-yard burst up the middle for the score.

"We're just playing with great effort at all times," Harbaugh said. "They are believing in themselves, confident in themselves that they are going to make the play, and they have confidence in each other. That confidence and trust in each other is probably our greatest strength right now."

Maryland's Jevon Leake then made sure Mike Locksley's team didn't get shut out, returning the favor on 97-yard kickoff returns. Leake broke away from a couple of early tackle attempts, then bolted away for the score.

The Wolverines tacked on a 38-yard field goal with 9:04 remaining, redshirt junior placekicker Quinn Nordin drilling it home. Redshirt sophomore quarterback Dylan McCaffrey drove U-M from its own 43 to the Maryland 20 to set up the score.

But this one never got uncomfortable for the Wolverines, from the moment Jackson went into action. Michigan's defense put the cuffs on Maryland's signal-caller, and the Wolverines rolled into an extra week to prepare for the next one — against Michigan State.

"It's a great thing. We've got confidence they're going to go out there and score," Uche said of the offense. "They've got confidence we're going to go out there and stop them. When you know that in the back of your head — we've got each other, and they can put their trust in us and we can put our trust in them — the sky's the limit. It makes us play even harder."

Report Card: Grading Michigan Wolverines Football In A 38-7 Win At Maryland

Chris Balas • TheWolverine

Grading all aspects of Michigan's 38-7 win at Maryland Saturday.

Michigan Football Rushing Offense: C+

The Wolverines didn't rip off the big plays consistently the way they did against Notre Dame a week earlier, but they did move the ball to set up some favorable down-and-distance situations. They carried eight times for 40 yards on first down (5.0 per carry) through three quarters until they scored their fifth touchdown that put them ahead 35-0. The game was probably over at that point, but that ended any doubt.

Redshirt freshman Hassan Haskins continues to impress. He averaged 4.6 yards per carry and led the way with 60 yards, though Michigan managed only 47 yards on 14 carries in the first quarter (14 of them on a fake punt by Michael Barrett, the longest run of the half).

The second half was better with 20 carries for 108 yards, including a 39-yard run by senior Tru Wilson.

Decent, not great, considering the opponent.

Michigan Football Passing Offense: C+

Senior quarterback Shea Patterson was off the mark early, missing high to redshirt sophomore Tarik Black, dumping to his running back too quickly on one drive and throwing behind redshirt junior tight end Nick Eubanks on what could have been a big play. He also threw some darts, including a 29-yarder to senior tight end Sean McKeon just before the half and a 51-yard bomb to junior receiver Nico Collins that set up U-M's third score.

Haskins was the only player that caught more than two passes, and there wasn't a lot of explosion in the passing game, but there didn't need to be this game. That probably won't be the case in the last two games of the season (at Indiana, vs. Ohio State).

Michigan Football Rushing Defense: B-

Maryland kept the ball for 18:53 in the first half by running between the tackles. They ran 11 times for 47 yards on first down through three quarters; four of their nine third downs were three yards or less in the first half, including three third-and-ones. They converted those three and a fourth-and-one as well, all set up by the running game.

The Terrapins did run for 129 yards, three players averaging 4.2 yards per carry or more. Their 2.8 yards per carry were skewed by sack yardage (Josh Jackson was dropped four times for negative-31 yards).

Michigan Football Passing Defense: A

Two plays (24 and 22 yards) accounted for almost half of Jackson's 97 passing yards, and only one of those was downfield — a 24-yarder to Brian Cobb to the Michigan 11 on third down against the zone.

Jackson completed only 10 passes, was hounded relentlessly by the Michigan front four and rarely had open receivers. He averaged only 4.9 yards per passing attempt and managed only 34 yards passing in the second half.

Michigan Football Special Teams: B

Freshman Giles Jackson set the tone for the game with a 97-yard kickoff return for touchdown to start the game. Maryland's Javon Leake countered with his own 97-yarder, but his came when the Terrapins were down 35-0. Still, it ruined a shutout and was disappointing.

Sophomore kicker Jake Moody missed his second 30-some yarder of the year, this one from 37 yards — on the flip side, senior linebacker Khaleke Hudson partially blocked a punt that gave U-M a shot at a field goal to end the first half. A mixed bag here overall.

Offense Notes: U-M's Ground Game Sets The Tone With Three Rushing Scores

Austin Fox • TheWolverine

The Michigan Wolverines' football team didn't duplicate the 303-yard rushing performance 9y7yjmu in its 45-14 blowout of Notre Dame, but still managed to find the end zone three times on the ground in Saturday's 38-7 destruction of Maryland in College Park.

The ground game is what had been carrying Michigan over the last three weeks leading up to Saturday's showdown with the Terrapins (246.3 rushing yards per outing during that span), and it added three more touchdowns on Saturday, with two from freshman running back Zach Charbonnet and one from redshirt freshman Hassan Haskins.

The latter led the way with 60 rushing yards a week after he racked up a career-high 149 against the Irish, while the former compiled 28 in College Park.

Senior running back Tru Wilson was Michigan's second-leading rusher on the day, chipping in 50 of the Maize and Blue's 155 yards on the ground.

Redshirt freshman running back Christian Turner saw some brief action as well, carrying three times but losing six yards.

Long runs were difficult to come by for Michigan's offense on Saturday, though; Wilson tallied a career-long 39-yarder in the third quarter, but no other Wolverine ball carrier recorded a run north of 14 yards.

“With the way the running backs are running the ball right now and how the O-line

is pass protecting, it's allowing our guys to get on the perimeter and make plays down the field,” senior quarterback Shea Patterson said after the win. “It makes a dynamic offense.”

“Thought [offensive coordinator] Josh [Gattis] called a really good game today,” head coach Jim Harbaugh chimed in. “Good mix of running game, the downfield game was there, the RPO [run-pass option] throws were there. We made some plays from those.

“There were some three-and-outs we wish we were better at, but we'll keep building and keep improving. I feel like it's going in the ascending direction.”

Michigan Football Starts Fast on the Road

Slow offensive starts have plagued the Wolverines in two of their three road games coming into Saturday (a combined seven points in four first half quarters in losses at Wisconsin and Penn State), but the Maize and Blue bucked that trend in College Park by tallying 21 points before the break.

Freshman wideout Giles Jackson gave the club a boost with a 97-yard kickoff return to start the game, and the U-M offense followed it up by finding the end zone on a 41-yard drive on their first series of the game, capping it off with a two-yard Charbonnet touchdown run.

“We always try to start the game off fast, and that was a big emphasis coming into this game on the road,” Patterson noted in the postgame. “It was cool to see him [Jackson] take off and set the tone for the game.”

The 21 first-half points were more than the Wolverines had scored in the first four quarters at Penn State and Wisconsin combined (seven), and were the most on the road since they posted 28 prior to the break in the Oct. 12 win at Illinois.

Michigan had been outscored 56-35 by its opponents in the first half of its three road games entering the weekend, but flipped the script on Maryland by taking a 21-0 lead into the break.

Miscellaneous Michigan Football Offense Notes

- Saturday's win was the fourth game in a row where Michigan compiled at least 300 yards of offense. The last time it didn't was in the Oct. 5 win over Iowa, when it only mustered 271.
- Junior receiver Nico Collins' 51-yard grab in the second quarter was the sixth different game this season when he's recorded at least one catch of 25 yards or longer, and his third contest with a reception of 40 yards or more.
- Patterson connected on 13 of his 22 attempts for 151 yards with one touchdown and no picks. The senior has not thrown an interception in three of the team's last four games.
- Haskins' three receptions on Saturday were the first three grabs of his career.
- Charbonnet's 28 rushing yards were his fewest since only compiling 22 in the Sept. 28 win over Rutgers.

- Maryland had forced at least one turnover in 20 straight games entering the weekend, which stood as the longest streak of any team in the nation. Michigan did not give the ball away for the second game in a row, after committing at least one turnover in the first seven tilts of the season.

- Redshirt sophomore quarterback Dylan McCaffrey came in on U-M's final possession of the third quarter and ran the offense for the rest of the afternoon. He completed three of his seven passes for 25 yards, with his seven attempts standing as his second most of the year (trailing only the eight he had in the Sept. 21 loss at Wisconsin).

- Entering the weekend, Collins had been averaging 18.7 yards per reception, which was the third-best mark in the Big Ten. He pulled down two catches for 65 yards against the Terrapins, equating out to 32.5 yards a catch.

- Haskins' 14-yard touchdown run in the third quarter was just the second score of his career. His lone other came on a 29-yard scamper in the Oct. 12 win at Illinois.

- Charbonnet's two rushing TDs gave him 11 on the year, setting the record for the most touchdowns on the ground by a U-M freshman. The California native had nine entering the day, which was tied with former Wolverine greats Mike Hart and Tyrone Wheatley.

Charbonnet also tied former running back Karan Higdon (11 rushing scores in 2017) for the most touchdowns in a season by a single player under Harbaugh during his time at U-M.

- Redshirt junior tight end Nick Eubanks' five-yard TD grab in the third quarter was the third of his career, with his previous two coming Oct. 12 at Illinois and last season against Indiana.

- The Wolverines have accumulated 884 rushing yards and 12 touchdowns on the ground in their last four games. With three more rushing scores against the Terrapins, Michigan has registered at least three ground TDs in five of its last six outings.

- U-M has outscored Maryland 202-41 in the five meetings under Harbaugh.

Defense/Special Teams Notes: U-M's Defense Shuts Down Maryland In 38-7 Win

Austin Fox • TheWolverine

The Michigan Wolverines' football defense dominated Maryland on Saturday in College Park, never allowing a point to its offense (the Terrapins' lone touchdown came on a 97-yard kick return in the third quarter).

U-M limited the Terps to just 233 total yards and was extra stingy in the red zone, where it held Maryland scoreless on three trips.

The Maize and Blue defense yielded just 104 yards through the air and 129 on the ground, and have now held each of their last six opponents to 293 yards of offense or fewer.

They also grabbed a turnover for the fifth time in their last six games, when senior safety Josh Metellus picked off redshirt junior quarterback Josh Jackson at the U-M 9-yard line in the first quarter with the Terrapins threatening offensively.

Not only did Metellus pull down the interception, but he also chipped in a career-high nine tackles, including two stops behind the line of scrimmage.

"He had big ones too, statement kind of tackles," head coach Jim Harbaugh said afterward. "I think one of those picked up a first down, but that's as fast as I've ever seen a back hit a hole.

"Josh got from point A to point B and made the tackle. To have a safety come up and make that kind of play is a statement in a game. That was really impressive."

Senior linebacker Josh Uche, meanwhile, led the club in sacks with two, in what was a four-sack, eight-tackle-for-loss outing by the Michigan defense.

"Josh is a relentless football player, and you see it every day in practice," Harbaugh noted. "He practices all the time, never misses one, and after watching him in one-on-one pass rushes every day, he's tough to block.

"Josh is on a mission when he's in pass rush, and that was the way our guys were getting to the quarterback — that was big today."

Maryland possessed the ball 12 times and punted on eight of them. The other four resulted in (in chronological order) Metellus' interception, a missed field goal, the end of the first half and the conclusion of the game.

Michigan Football Special Teams Come Up Big

Michigan's special teams made two massive plays on Saturday, both of which contributed heavily to the Wolverines' win.

The first came on the opening kickoff, when freshman wideout Giles Jackson ran the ball back 97 yards for a game-opening score, marking the Maize and Blue's first kick return for a touchdown since wide receiver Jehu Chesson took one home 97 yards in the club's 38-0 blowout of Northwestern on Oct. 10, 2015.

"Giles Jackson's confidence is real high right now," Harbaugh noted in the post-game. "He just hit it. That's a great way to start a game. You can't start any faster than returning the opening kick for a touchdown. It was really well blocked.

"[Running backs coach] Jay Harbaugh and [special teams/safeties coach] Chris Partridge do a phenomenal job on special teams. They've been working at it, and it was good to see one hit. We almost had another one too."

The special teams made another crucial play with 2:33 remaining in the first half, when U-M faked a punt on a fourth-and-one play at the Wolverines' own 27-yard line.

The ball was snapped directly to redshirt freshman viper Michael Barrett, who rumbled ahead 14 yards to easily pick up the first down.

Harbaugh's gamble wound up paying off, with freshman running back Zach Charbonnet finding the end zone three plays later to put U-M up 21-0.

"We thought we could get it," the head coach revealed afterward. "We've practiced it now for several weeks. I was waiting for a fourth-and-one, fourth-and-two situation on our own side.

"It was there, so we took advantage of the work that we've put in. We thought it was a good time to call it, and it helped us win this game. The look is an element of surprise, and the way we practiced it made us confident we'd execute it."

Sophomore kicker Jake Moody missed his lone field goal attempt of the afternoon (a 37-yarder as the first half expired), while redshirt junior kicker Quinn Nordin converted on his (a 38-yard try at 9:04 of the fourth quarter).

Redshirt junior Will Hart also had an outstanding day punting the football, averaging 49.8 yards on five attempts, recording two 50-yarders and dropping two inside the Terrapin 20-yard line. The Terps returned just one of his punts for two yards.

Miscellaneous Michigan Football Defense/Special Teams Notes

- Freshman defensive tackle Mazi Smith made the first appearance of his Wolverine career on Saturday.
- Nordin's field goal in the fourth quarter was his first make of the season, and his first successful kick since the win over Wisconsin last year on Oct. 13.
- Maryland's 104 passing yards were the second fewest Michigan had allowed this season. The 43 the team gave up to Army on Sept. 7 were the fewest.
- Uche logged both of his sacks in the first half, marking the second time this season he'd racked up at least two in a game (he had three in the Oct. 12 win at Illinois). The senior now has six quarterback takedowns over the club's last three games, and a team-best 7.5 on the year (he finished with a club-best seven in 2018).
- Opposing offenses have racked up 388 rushing yards on 208 carries against Michigan in its last four games, which equates out to 1.87 yards per carry. The Wolverine defense has only given up three runs of 15 yards or longer in its last 24 quarters.
- The 31-point triumph was U-M's biggest on the road since a 42-7 victory at Rutgers last season on Nov. 10.
- Barrett's 14-yard run in the second quarter was the second time he had helped successfully convert a fake punt on the year, with the other occurring in the Sept. 7 win over Army when he completed a 25-yard pass to freshman safety Daxton Hill.
- Metellus' second-quarter interception was the fifth of his career and his second of the season. It also stood as the sixth pick of the year for the Wolverine defense.
- The Maize and Blue's victory snapped a streak of three straight Homecoming wins for the Terps.

- Michigan improved to 8-1 all time against Maryland, with the lone setback occurring at The Big House in 2014.

- Following Saturday's missed field goal, Moody has only converted two of his previous five attempts dating back to the Oct. 5 win over Iowa.

Michigan Wolverines Football: Five Best Players Of The Game

John Borton • TheWolverine

Michigan made a clean sweep of the top five players this week, and for good reason. They broomed the Terrapins off their own field.

- 1. Senior safety Josh Metellus** — The captain roamed the field, making big play after big play. His interception deep in Michigan territory — the only turnover of the game — smacked down the Terrapin hopes early. Metellus also led the Wolverines with nine tackles, including a pair of tackles for loss and eight solo stops.
- 2. Senior linebacker/defensive end Josh Uche** — Uche embodied the pressure the Wolverines kept on Maryland quarterbacks all day long. He made only three tackles on the afternoon, but roughly 67 percent of them involved sacks. The hybrid defender and the rest of the Wolverines were relentless turning up the heat, helping keep the Terps' offense on ice and off the scoreboard.
- 3. Freshman receiver Giles Jackson** — One play does not a game make, but this one couldn't have been any more impactful to this particular contest. Jackson's 97-yard kick return touchdown with the opening boot sent a clear message — the Terrapins were going to be chasing all afternoon. Jackson nearly broke another kick return as well and finished with a team-best 125 all-purpose yards.
- 4. Senior quarterback Shea Patterson** — Patterson wasn't spectacular, but steady proved plenty on the day, and he had that covered. His 13-of-22 passing, 151-yard, one-touchdown, no-turnover effort was just what the head coach ordered.
- 5. Redshirt freshman tailback Hassan Haskins** — Haskins assumed the work-horse duties among the backs at Maryland, even though he rang up just 13 carries. That wound up five more than anyone else got, and his 60 yards with a TD added just the right fuel to Michigan's fire. He also pulled in a team-best three catches.

Wolverine Watch: Michigan's Bolting Toward Bigger Business

John Borton • The Wolverine

Maryland coach Mike Locksley wanted to make sure everyone knew he called the shots last year for Alabama's record-setting offense.

He kept judiciously quiet about his offensive genius Saturday. When you've got a goose egg tied around your neck, it's tough to talk.

Michigan steamrolled his Maryland Terrapins as expected, 38-7, without a single point scored by the Terps' offense. Not that the Wolverines broke any ground there.

Big Ten foes have battered the Terps recently like crab mallets on the Chesapeake Bay's finest. It's a long way from Tuscaloosa to College Park, Md., and Locksley is finding out the hard way.

Michigan, meanwhile, might be finding its footing, reeling off another lopsided win against an overmatched foe. Freshman wide receiver Giles Jackson definitely found his, delivering the lightning bolt that left the Terrapins smoking like Wile E. Coyote.

Grad transfer defensive end Michael Danna crushes Maryland QB Josh Jackson, forcing an interception.

Jackson raced away 97 yards with the game-opening kickoff, scoring the TD that flipped the Terps on their backs the rest of the afternoon. He loved every second of the 11 it took to get there, and so did the Wolverines.

"We knew we needed a big play to start off the game, and I told them, as soon as he kicks it, I'm taking it," Jackson said. "That's what we did. We had a good momentum to it, and I just kept going."

"I was going to take it outside at first, and then I saw [redshirt junior linebacker] Devin Gil — he made that huge block. I saw him hit that dude, and I cut back inside and just tried to take it to the end zone."

Junior wide receiver Nico Collins insisted he saw it coming.

"Giles is dangerous with the ball in his hands," Collins insisted. "He wanted the opportunity all year, and he finally got it. When he took it back, we were all just pointing: 'He's about ready to take it to the crib.' He took it."

"The energy on that was great. Our main goal was to come out here with energy and juice. Giles did that."

With Michigan's defense squeezing the juice out of Maryland's Jackson — Josh, the QB son of former U-M assistant coach Fred Jackson — the Wolverines were on their way.

They scored more points in the first half (21) than their next opponent scored in the month of October (17). And don't think for a moment the Wolverines don't know what's up next — a bye week, followed by a bile week.

Michigan State comes to town in disarray, going 0-for-October in the win column. The Spartans are filling the transfer portal like rich kids filling a piggy bank. They lost a key linebacker who failed chemistry (performance-enhancing drugs), and feature a head coach whose only postseason speech may consist of delivering a highly scrutinized legal deposition.

What's all that mean? Michigan becomes Michigan State's season. Pride goes before the fall, but violence and desperation often come after it.

So in the wake of another easy win, some Wolverines didn't hesitate to look ahead.

"We're thinking about Michigan State right now," senior defensive end Josh Uche declared after the game. "We're thinking about both of them [Michigan State and Ohio State] right now. That's something, being a Michigan Man, you're always thinking about. That game planning starts later today."

Ohio State obviously, stays on the back burner for now. But the Wolverines are doing everything they can to fashion themselves into a squad that can challenge the Buckeyes at the end of the year.

They've gone two straight games without a turnover, after jettisoning the football with regularity early. They're running the football effectively, averaging 223.5 yards per game their last four times out.

Meanwhile, their first-team defense has allowed 14 points over the last 10 quarters of football — half of those directly attributable to the worst pass interference call in the long and inglorious history of them.

The Terps got nothing, other than a home-run kickoff return of their own.

"Keep building, keep improving," head coach Jim Harbaugh said. "But I feel like it's going in the ascending direction. And it was a heck of a game by the defense. That really, by all means, should have been a shutout."

Shoulds in college football are like woods in the Amazon. They get burned up at a heavy price. Michigan should have taken down Penn State three weeks ago, be a top-10 team, control their own destiny, etc.

They don't. And like Harbaugh said regarding that Penn State-induced situation, "the only fair is the county fair."

U-M can definitely do some damage down the stretch — and should.

What They're Saying: Michigan Wolverines Football 38, Maryland 7

Ryan Tice • TheWolverine

A look around the web and what the media is saying after the Michigan Wolverines steamrolled Maryland on the road 38-7.

Michigan Wolverines football redshirt freshman running back Hassan Haskins

Redshirt freshman running back Hassan Haskins (No. 25), freshman wideout Mike Sainristil (No. 19) and the rest of the Wolverines jumped to an early lead against Maryland and never looked back. (USA Today Sports Images)

Chris Balas, TheWolverine.com: Notes, Quotes & Observations From The Win

Coordinator Don Brown likes to blitz and bring pressure, but there's not much better for a defense than pressure without having to blitz. Senior linebacker/end Josh Uche was dominant off the edge, using his speed to turn tackles into turnstiles. Danna made the guard who tried to cut block him look foolish by making him eat turf before hitting quarterback Josh Jackson and forcing the bad throw.

The one disappointing part — that the Wolverines couldn't force more of them. Maryland had enough success between the tackles on early downs throughout the first half that they faced many third and shorts.

They were still only 3-for-9 overall in the first half, 1-for-1 on a short fourth down. And the disappointment is relative, of course. The Terrapins managed only 114 yards in the stanza and trailed 21-0 at the half. Give credit to the Terps' backs, too. They were all good YAC (yards after contact) backs, falling forward for a few extra yards when being hit.

"They were doing a good job in their running game," Harbaugh admitted. "We tightened up on that. Coverage was really good all day, too. You can say some of those throwaways were pressure throwaways, but a lot of them were coverage throwaways, as well. I didn't see too many open guys every time I was watching the pressure and then looked back and checked the secondary ... the coverage was really good consistently all day."

Angelique S. Chengelis, The Detroit News: Michigan 'makes a statement' against Maryland, heads into bye week

There's nothing like a trip to Maryland to chase a big win over a rival that could have been hangover-inducing.

A week after Michigan pounded Notre Dame in wet and windy conditions, the 14th-ranked Wolverines went on the road and had the luxury of facing slumping Maryland on Saturday. And in the 38-7 victory over the Terps, the Wolverines learned plenty about themselves.

Michigan is now 7-2, 4-2 Big Ten and is off next Saturday before facing Michigan State at Michigan Stadium. The Terps have lost four straight and are 3-6, 1-5.

"The thing you worry about, you come off a big win like we had the week before,

what's the mindset going to be like?" Michigan coach Jim Harbaugh said. "It was to put the pedal down, put the foot on the gas. I admire that the most."

Quarterback Shea Patterson was 13-of-22 for 151 yards and a touchdown before backup Dylan McCaffrey took over in the fourth quarter. Michigan had 331 yards, including 176 yards passing. Hassan Haskins had 13 carries for 60 yards and a touchdown, and Zach Charbonnet had two rushing touchdowns on eight carries for 28 yards.

The Wolverines took the lead almost instantly when Giles Jackson returned the opening kickoff 97 yards for a touchdown.

"We always try to start the game off fast and that was a big emphasis coming into this game on the road," Patterson said. "That was cool to see him take off and set the tone for the game."

It was the first of several exclamation-point plays.

Rainer Sabin, Detroit Free Press: Michigan football's defense regrouped after Wisconsin loss, back to dominating

"We were just able to execute and apply pressure," said linebacker Josh Uche. "We got home."

That has been the case for weeks.

Through the entire month of October, Michigan averaged 15 hurries per game, according to ProFootballFocus.com.

The aggressive bent in Don Brown's scheme never disappeared even as the Wolverines incorporated more zone-coverage concepts. On Saturday, Michigan rarely bent. And it never broke. The Wolverines surrendered only 3.4 yards per play and eight of Maryland's possessions ended with a punt.

It's why Harbaugh couldn't stop talking about the defense afterwards.

"Three-and-outs," Harbaugh said.

"Drive-stoppers."

The buzzwords tumbled out of his mouth.

"Heck of a game by the defense," he crowed.

It was the easiest of sales jobs for Harbaugh, the Michigan (pitch) Man who let his defense do the talking for four quarters until he entered that cramped room and went to work.

Tom VanHaaren, ESPN: Top 25 Analysis

Despite somewhat of a slow start from its offense in the first half against Maryland, Michigan continues to show improvement. From the second half of the Penn State game to now, the Wolverines have changed the trajectory of their season. Michigan will face a struggling Michigan State team, followed by Indiana, before a huge matchup with Ohio State. The Wolverines have a renewed outlook and an opportunity to close out the season on a high note if they can get to that game against the Buckeyes at 9-2.

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“The ball was in the air, it was one-on-one (coverage) and you got to come down with it,” said Collins, who caught two passes for 65 yards. “And I did.”

Harbaugh made it a point of complimenting safety Josh Metellus as well, for his nine-tackle game and two that resulted in negative-yardage plays for the Terrapins. Metellus’ first tackle for loss came on a second-and-7 play for Maryland inside the Michigan red zone, when he broke the line of scrimmage and stopped backup quarterback Lance LeGendre for a three-yard loss. End Josh Uche (two sacks) followed up with a sack on Josh Jackson a play later, forcing the Terps to attempt a field goal.

Metellus put Maryland in a second-and-long situation on its next drive when he tackled running back Anthony McFarland for a three-yard loss.

“The (defensive) line was doing a great job of keeping them from being able to hit up the middle, kicking it out to me,” Metellus said. “I’m the spill guy. I’ve got to be able to make the plays when they come out to the sideline.”

Ashley Bastock, Toledo Blade: Here’s how it’s still possible for Michigan to play for Big Ten title

If Michigan wins out, Penn State loses three games, and Ohio State loses one before facing Michigan, then Michigan would win the East Division and go to the Big Ten championship game for the first time ever after beating Ohio State head-to-head.

Unlikely, but not impossible. In that way, the Wolverines still have some hope.

“We’re still going to ball, because you never know what’s going to happen later in the season,” defensive end Kwity Paye said. “A team may get those two losses, and we’re right back into the fight. We’re just going to keep fighting and keep playing.”

But if Michigan and Penn State have the same record at the end of the year, Michigan loses the head-to-head tiebreaker. If the Wolverines are tied with Ohio State and lose to Ohio State, Ohio State wins the head-to-head and would still win the East.

Now, where things get interesting is if a three-way tie emerges.

Head-to-head is always the first tiebreaker in determining who wins the division. If Michigan, Ohio State, and Penn State each go 1-1 against each other and finish 7-2 in the Big Ten (the most likely reason for a three-way tie), then the tiebreakers go like this:

1. Best winning percentage in the division.
2. Records of the tied teams compared against the next highest placed teams in the division in order of finish.
3. Records of the tied teams compared based on winning percentage against all common conference opponents.
4. Records of the tied teams compared by best cumulative conference winning percentage of non-division opponents.
5. Records of tied teams compared against highest placed non-divisional teams in their division order of finish.
6. Team with the best overall winning percentage.
7. Team chosen by random draw.

Aaron McMann, MLive: Michigan football relishes ‘big plays’ in win over Maryland

Michigan has now successfully converted two fake punts this season, and this one helped rejuvenate an offense that had stalled on its previous two drives. Facing fourth-and-1 at its own 27-yard line, Barrett took the direct snap and broke through the line of scrimmage for, officially, a 14-yard pickup.

One play later, quarterback Shea Patterson hit receiver Nico Collins down the field for a 51-yard completion. A touchdown came two plays later.