

OCT. 26, 2019 ♦ MICHIGAN VS. NOTRE DAME

### Game Info

**Site:** at Michigan Stadium (107,601)

**Kickoff:** 7:30 p.m.

**Television:** ABC

**Radio:** Michigan/IMG Radio Network (950 AM in the Detroit Area; SiriusXM channel 84) with Dan Dierdorf, Jim Brandstatter and sideline reporter Doug Karsch, a regular contributor to TheWolverine.com.

**Series Facts:** The Wolverines hold a 24-18-1 all-time advantage over the Fighting Irish, including a 14-7 mark in Ann Arbor (10-6 at The Big House) ... In eight nighttime contests between the national powers, the home team is undefeated ... Twenty-two of the 43 previous meetings have been decided by seven points or less, and the Irish are 11-10-1 in such games ... Michigan enters the game No. 19 in the AP rankings and No. 20 per the coaches, while Notre Dame checks in at No. 8 and No. 7, respectively.

## Previewing Notre Dame With A Fighting Irish Insider

Austin Fox • TheWolverine

Lou Somogyi of Blue & Gold Illustrated was kind enough to swing by this week and break down Notre Dame's squad prior to its showdown with the Michigan Wolverines' football team this weekend.

The Fighting Irish are 5-1 on the year with their lone loss occurring by six points at Georgia in late September, and Somogyi broke down the team's strengths and weaknesses, and also provided his final score prediction at the end.

### NOTRE DAME'S PROJECTED STARTERS ON OFFENSE

• **Senior QB Ian Book** — He has connected on 63.2 percent of his passes, thrown for 1,419 yards and compiled an impressive 14-2 touchdown-to-interception ratio. Book is actually the Irish's second-leading rusher as well with 188 yards and three scores on the ground.

• **Senior RB Tony Jones** — He has taken over as the team's primary running back this year, compiling 557 yards, four rushing touchdowns and an outstanding 7.0 yards per carry. Jones has been at his best as of late, averaging 136.3 yards over the Irish's last three outings, including a season-best 176 against USC Oct. 12.

• **Senior WR Chase Claypool** — The 6-4, 229-pounder leads Notre Dame in catches (27), receiving yards (394) and touchdown grabs (four). Claypool has also been very consistent for the Irish in 2019, reeling in at least 61 yards in four of the team's six contests.

• **Fifth-year senior WR Chris Finke** — His 15 receptions are the third most on the team and his 182 receiving yards check in at fourth. Michigan fans likely remember Finke best from last year's matchup in South Bend, when he ripped a 43-yard touchdown reception away from then-sophomore safety Brad Hawkins in the end zone during the first quarter.

• **Junior WR Michael Young** — He has been limited to three games due to injury, and has only accumulated six grabs for 21 yards as a result. Young reeled in 19 yards in his season debut against Virginia Sept. 28, but has not had more than four yards in the two appearances since.

• **Junior TE Cole Kmet** — His 21 grabs and 265 yards are both second on the roster to Claypool, while his three TD receptions are tied for second. The 6-5, 250-pounder's best game of the season actually occurred in the 23-17 loss at Georgia Sept. 21, when he logged nine catches for 108 yards and a score.

• **Senior LT Liam Eichenberg** — Pro Football Focus (PFF) has tagged him with an overall grade of 70.2 on the year, which is third among Notre Dame's five projected starting offensive linemen (64 is considered average). PFF has been especially high on Eichenberg as a pass blocker, awarding him with a 78.3 mark (second best along ND's starting front five).

• **Junior LG Aaron Banks** — His 359 snaps on the season are tied for the most of any of the Irish's offensive players, and his 68.3 PFF grade is fourth among the Irish's starting linemen. At 325 pounds, Banks is the heaviest player on Notre Dame's roster and is actually only one of four athletes north of 305 pounds.

• **Sophomore C Jarrett Patterson** — The California native has excelled in his first season as a starter, grading out phenomenally as both a run blocker (71.9) and pass blocker (75.2). Patterson has also helped anchor an Irish rushing attack that has averaged 5.3 yards per carry on the year (19th in the country).

• **Senior RG Tommy Kraemer** — PFF has rated him the lowest of Notre Dame's five projected starting linemen, though he still checks in with an above-average mark of 66.2. Kraemer's splits as a run blocker and pass blocker are substantially different, clocking in with a 63.6 grade in the former and a 76.6 tally in the latter.

• **Junior RT Robert Hainsey** — His 78.2 overall mark is the best of the Irish's 11 projected offensive starters this weekend. Hainsey has excelled especially in pass protection with an 81.7 grade from PFF, though his 73.2 run blocking mark is significantly above average as well.

### NOTRE DAME'S PROJECTED STARTERS ON DEFENSE

• **Senior DE Khalid Kareem** — PFF has graded the Farmington Hills, Mich., native as the third-best pass rusher on Notre Dame's team, awarding him with a 79 grade in that department. Kareem's five tackles for loss are tied for the third most on the roster and his 3.5 sacks rank second.

• **Junior DT Kurt Hinish** — He has only compiled eight tackles, 3.5 stops behind

the line of scrimmage and two sacks on the year, and his 63.3 PFF grade ranks 24th out of the 41 Irish defenders who have seen the field in 2019. The outlet has pegged Hinich as an outstanding tackler, however, awarding him with a 75.8 mark.

- **Junior DT Myron Tagovailoa-Amosa** — He is rated as the top player on Notre Dame's entire defense, with his 82.6 tally standing 4.5 points higher than any other Irish defender. With that being said, Tagovailoa-Amosa has only registered 14 tackles, two stops behind the line of scrimmage and half a sack on the year.

- **Senior DE Julian Okwara** — PFF has tagged Okwara as the team's second-best defender, giving him a 78.1 mark overall and a team-best 90.8 grade as a pass rusher. The senior's four sacks, meanwhile, lead the team and his five tackles for loss are tied for third on the club.

- **Fifth-year senior LB Asmar Bilal** — He is the squad's third-leading tackler with 35 stops on the year, to go along with five tackles behind the line of scrimmage. Bilal has excelled against the run in 2019, with his 72.6 grade in that area slotting in as the third best on the defense.

- **Junior LB Drew White** — His seven tackles for loss lead the team, and his 29 total tackles are the fourth most on the squad. White's 81.2 PFF tally as a pass rusher, meanwhile, is the second-highest mark on the defense.

- **Junior LB Jeremiah Owusu-Koramoah** — His 37 tackles and his 5.5 stops behind the line of scrimmage both check in second on the team. Despite those gaudy statistics, Owusu-Koramoah's 62.6 PFF grade ranks 25th out of the 41 Irish defenders who have seen game action.

- **Sophomore CB TaRiq Bracy** — The California native's five passes broken up are two more than any other Notre Dame player, and he has also forced and recovered a fumble this year. PFF is very high on Bracy as well, labeling him as the squad's best tackler (88.9) and the third-best overall defender (75.5).

- **Senior CB Troy Pride** — He has started the last 22 games he has appeared in dating back to 2017, and his three passes broken up this year trail only Bracy's five. Pride's 369 snaps are the most on the Irish's defense, but he has actually been tabbed with a 66 grade or lower in PFF's five major defensive categories — overall (64.2), against the run (61.9), as a tackler (66), as a pass rusher (58.3) and in coverage (64.3).

- **Senior S Alohi Gilman** — His 38 tackles pace the team and his 360 snaps check in second to Pride's 369. At 5-10, Gilman is tied as the shortest player on the Irish's entire roster.

- **Senior S Jalen Elliott** — His 26 tackles rank fifth among Irish defenders, though his 64 PFF tally pegs him 20th out of 41 Notre Dame defensive players. Elliott has actually started 32 consecutive contests dating back to the first tilt of the 2017 season, and finished last year with 67 tackles, seven passes broken up and four interceptions.

#### NOTRE DAME'S PROJECTED STARTERS ON SPECIAL TEAMS

- **Junior K Jonathan Doerer** — He has connected on all 27 of his extra points, and

has been successful on 6 of 7 field goal attempts. Doerer is 3 of 4 on the year from beyond 40 yards, including a long of 52 he nailed in the win over USC Oct. 12.

- **Freshman P Jay Bramblett** — He is averaging a subpar 41.4 yards per punt on the season, though he has dropped eight of his 25 attempts inside the opposing 20-yard line. Bramblett also has just one 50-plus yard punt in 2019, a 58-yarder he boomed in the loss at Georgia Sept. 21.

#### NOTRE DAME'S BIGGEST OFFENSIVE STRENGTH

“Notre Dame's strengths on offense are ball security and efficiency,” Somogyi explained. “They are No. 1 in the country in both turnover margin (plus-1.67) and red-zone scoring. They are one of only three teams who have scored on every red-zone possession — and 19 of those 22 are touchdowns, which is even more remarkable.

“The Irish have committed only four turnovers all year [two interceptions, two fumbles, with one coming on a punt return] yet are still averaging 39.2 points per game to rank among the top 15 in that category.”

Notre Dame has only given the ball away in three of its six games this season, with its loss at Georgia standing as the lone multiple-turnover outing (it committed two).

Somogyi also noted how efficient the club's offense has been, with the Irish having averaged at least 5.3 yards per play in every contest this season.

Notre Dame's 6.8 yards per snap, meanwhile, is the 13th best mark in all of college football.

#### NOTRE DAME'S BIGGEST OFFENSIVE WEAKNESS

“Ian Book is often criticized for either leaving the pocket too soon or not ‘pushing the offense’ more with deep passes to test defenses more and not have them crowd the front,” Somogyi noted. “However, that is what also helps Notre Dame be so good with ball security.”

Long passing plays haven't exactly been prevalent for the Irish in 2019, with their five throws of 40 yards or more checking in 58th nationally.

On a similar note, however, ND is also averaging 8.7 yards per passing attempt, which slots in at 17th in the country.

On the flip side, U-M's secondary has been outstanding at limiting explosive plays through the air, giving up only seven of 30 yards or more (29th) and two of 40 yards or more (13th).

#### NOTRE DAME'S BIGGEST DEFENSIVE STRENGTH

“Their prime strength on defense is they keep points down even though the opposition might rack up yardage,” Somogyi explained. “Notre Dame has played 20 straight games without allowing more than 30 points in a game — the longest streak in the nation.

“The defensive end tandem of Julian Okwara and Khalid Kareem are both projected as high-round picks who provide great edge presence, and both excelled against Michigan last year, with Kareem recording a crucial sack among his eight tackles and Okwara even intercepting a pass.”

Notre Dame’s scoring defense is actually the 15th-best unit in the nation this year, surrendering an average of 16.8 points per game.

USC’s 27 points against the Irish Oct. 12 were the most any opponent had posted on ND in 2019, while three other foes were held to 17 or fewer (Louisville scored 17, New Mexico posted 14 and Bowling Green was shut out).

### NOTRE DAME’S BIGGEST DEFENSIVE WEAKNESS

“If there is a concern, it didn’t end the USC game well Oct. 12 while allowing the Trojans to score on all four possessions in the second half [three touchdowns and a field goal] before escaping with a 30-27 win,” Somogyi noted. “ND employed mainly a three-man front in the game to try to slow down USC’s potent receivers, and it worked great the first 42 minutes.”

The showdown with the Trojans was undoubtedly Notre Dame’s worst defensive showing of the year, yielding season highs in points (27) and yards (426).

USC found success both through the air (255 yards) and on the ground (171 yards) in South Bend, en route to averaging 6.1 yards per play (the highest total ND had given up in 2019).

### FINAL SCORE PREDICTION

“This is a coin-flip on which I’ve gone back-and-forth on,” Somogyi said. “I think Michigan is ‘due’ for a win over a top-10 team, especially at home.

“Since renewing the series in 1978, ND has a 16-15-1 edge, so it would seem fitting that this evenly matched series end 16-16-1 (though not for me or any ND follower). Either way, I expect it to come down to the final series, and it’s about whoever can make that last play.

“Because I’m for Notre Dame, I will for now pick it **24-23 Irish.**”

## Keys To the Game: Michigan vs. Notre Dame

Chris Balas • The Wolverine

Over the last few decades the Michigan-Notre Dame series has had plenty of upsets, improbable comebacks and even a number of blowouts.

The unpredictable is what has made this series so interesting, starting this year with Michigan opening as a four-point favorite against a team that has looked much better over the last several weeks, including battling a strong Georgia team to the wire in a tough road environment.

The line is now even or most services even have the Fighting Irish favored by a point, and that seems more reasonable. ND has been much more consistent this season (since its opener with Louisville, anyway), and appears to be the better team on paper.

That’s been the case a number of times in Ann Arbor, when the Irish going home with losses. They won both lines of scrimmage in 2013 but lost 41-30, quarterback Devin Gardner’s big day doing them in. Two years earlier they blew a 24-7 second-half lead (and a number of coverages) in allowing U-M to steal a 35-31 win, and quarterback Tate Forcier owned them in 2009.

In fact, 2005 was the last time ND won a game at Michigan, a 17-10 victory in which running back Mike Hart barely played due to injury.

Notre Dame’s administration, meanwhile, got the best of U-M’s when they agreed to resume the rivalry. The Irish played Michigan in the first game last year (and the second straight home game in the rivalry) and now face the Wolverines coming off a bye week in the middle of U-M’s Big Ten slate.

Makes no sense whatsoever.

But ... it does make for some fun mid-season football. Here’s what Michigan has to do to come away with a win over the Fighting Irish:

**Continue the recent success in the passing game:** By recent success we mean “very recent.” The Wolverines played the last 2.5 quarters at Penn State like most expected them to play all year, senior quarterback Shea Patterson looking confident and comfortable, a veteran offensive line handling stunts and twists like they’d been there, done that ... because, let’s face it — they have seen them before, many times over.

Last year’s line went into South Bend and was overwhelmed. Guys like left tackle Jon Runyan Jr. were playing their positions for the first time, and they blew assignments left and right. That made ends Khalid Kareem and Julian Okwara look even better than they are (and make no mistake — they’re good. Kareem has 3.5 sacks in two of Notre Dame’s two biggest wins year, victories over USC and Virginia).

Patterson needs the time to throw like he had at Penn State, along with the same pocket presence he showed. Michigan’s receivers should have an advantage against a secondary whose safeties have struggled in coverage in recent weeks. Opposing quar-

terbacks have completed nearly 66 percent of their passes against the Irish secondary over the last three games.

U-M dropped five passes at Penn State — that also needs to be cleaned up. And we'll say it again — lose the turnover battle, lose the game. It was only 1-0 at PSU, but it made a difference.

**No “freebies” allowed on defense:** Michigan has played well enough defensively to win the big games on the schedule over the last few years, with a couple of exceptions — the 62-39 loss at Ohio State last year and this year's 35-14 blowout at Wisconsin.

The one thing it hasn't been able to do against other very good opponents is limit the big plays for scores that would allow them to steal a game. In last year's loss at Notre Dame, for example, the defense played well enough to win what was eventually a 24-17 contest. The Irish offense did next to nothing after a few big plays in the first half, at least one of which shouldn't have happened — Chris Finke's 43-yard touchdown reception over a safety in position to make a play, probably even a pick.

That's happened too often, however, to call it a fluke. The guys in the secondary wear the “big sombreros,” Michigan head coach Jim Harbaugh said, because there's a lot of pressure on them to make plays. One mistake in this defense and it's a touchdown, not just a big gainer (as we saw when the safeties missed a coverage and gifted PSU's KJ Hamler his second score, a TD that made it 28-14 in the fourth quarter).

And you can be sure Notre Dame head coach Brian Kelly will be looking to exploit any wide receiver vs. safety one-on-ones like we saw Penn State do with Hamler.

Those “freebies” can't happen if U-M expects to win this game. Notre Dame is middle of the pack (58th nationally) in passing plays over 40 yards, for example (five). Michigan has to make quarterback Ian Book and Co. earn everything they get.

**Make the rushing battle a stalemate ... or at least close:** This is going to be a difficult task given how Notre Dame running back Tony Jones Jr. has played over his last several games. Jones is averaging 7.0 yards per carry this year behind a good offensive line, including 176 yards in a win over USC and 131 on only 18 carries against a Virginia team that was allowing only 65 yards on the ground going in to the tilt.

Michigan's run defense has been very good since the Wisconsin debacle (359 yards allowed on the ground), including only one yard surrendered against Iowa. This will be its biggest test since the disaster against the Badgers.

U-M's running game, meanwhile, has improved dramatically over the last few games, including a 141-yard performance at Penn State, but this is still a work in progress. There are only 13 teams in the country with a worse yards per carry average than Michigan's 3.96.

The Wolverines need freshman Zach Charbonnet to play well (and play a lot) in this game. He's the only one capable of ripping off yardage against a fast defensive football team.

## The Breakdown: Notre Dame at Michigan Wolverines Football

This is a tough one to figure out, for a number of reasons. First off, will the Wolverines show the same effort they showed in the last 2.5 quarters at Penn State, when they rallied furiously and dominated in stretches? In this day and age of the College Football Playoff and the “all or nothing” mentality, U-M is essentially playing for pride.

In the past, having three rivals on the schedule (all at home) would have been more than enough, regardless how many games they lost. Now, however, they've got to get back off the mat for an October game against a rival whose playoff hopes are still alive.

Advantage: Irish.

And while Michigan seemed to finally put it together offensively at Penn State, was that a sign of things to come or just fool's gold?

We're about to find out.

## News & Views: Jim Harbaugh On Ronnie Bell, Erick All & More

Chris Balas • TheWolverine

Michigan Wolverines football head coach Jim Harbaugh met the media Monday to give his take on a number of topics. We give our own on several of his responses, in News & Views format:

**NEWS:** Michigan got the short end of the stick on several calls at Penn State, including a defensive pass interference not called on a first-quarter throw to Tarik Black, a no-call on an offensive pass interference on a first-quarter PSU touchdown and the phantom offensive pass interference on Nico Collins in the second quarter.

**HARBAUGH:** “There were some, definitely. You have the human reaction of what your human reactions are and sometimes it's not fair. I've said for a long time, the only fair is the county fair.

“Respect it. You can be disappointed sometimes. We looked at those, make no excuse and move onward.”

**VIEWS:** Two of those calls erased likely field goals, at the least, for U-M, and the offensive PI not called on PSU could have resulted in a field goal attempt instead of a touchdown.

Any one of those could well have made it a different game. Instead, it was too much to overcome given the plethora of other mistakes, including blown coverages and dropped passes.

No, officiating didn't cost the Wolverines the game, and there have been contests in this series in which the Nittany Lions felt they got the short end of the stick. This time around, though, U-M deserved a better fate. The fact that the Wolverines still could have won — they were a dropped touchdown pass from sending it to overtime — shows just how much this game was there for the taking.

Both the Wolverines and conference officials need to be better.

**NEWS:** Sophomore wide receiver Ronnie Bell took some heat for dropping the last ball in the end zone, a great play by senior quarterback Shea Patterson to find him.

**HARBAUGH:** “We would take as many Ronnie Bells as we could possibly get on this team. How far he's come, what he does for our team, the way he played in the game ... he was one of our top performers.

“He has consistently, game in and game out, been tough as nails. Mentally, he's as tough as anybody we've got; physically, the same.”

**VIEWS:** He's been the best receiver Michigan has put on the field this year, bar none, in terms of what he's accomplished as the leading receiver and top hustling player in the group. He's not the “NFL guy” of the bunch, though pro scouts have said they like him a lot — and he doesn't talk about it ... he just is about it.

Bell will be a future captain at Michigan, and Patterson won't hesitate to go back to him again during a big play. He's always going 100 percent, running good routes, putting his all into every block. There are a number of higher-rated players on this team over the last few years who could learn from not only him, but fifth-year senior linebacker Jordan Glasgow.

Heart can't win every game, but it can win a lot of games.

“It's almost not a human-like quality that you never see any kind of flaw or weakness; just a steady jackhammer at all times,” Harbaugh said of Glasgow. “He's just about getting the job done and doing it the best to his God-given ability every single time.

“That's what I admire about him most. We will take as many Jordan Glasgows that we can take, too.”

**NEWS:** Freshman tight end Erick All laid some more incredible blocks in Michigan's 28-21 loss at Penn State.

**HARBAUGH:** “He is coming along. When he knows who to block, he blocks them. He gets it done. He attacks it. He has great physicality and hustle; as he keeps progressing and [learns] some of the nuances of different schemes, who his man is and how it could change, the sky is the limit for Erick.”

**VIEWS:** He's got contact courage like the tight ends we used to see in the late 1980s, Derrick Walker and Jeff Brown. When All gets bigger, he's going to be dominant in that respect ... assuming he learns the offense, as expected. As Harbaugh noted, it's typical of a freshman to get lost at times.

But that makes senior Sean McKeon huge in Saturday night's game. Redshirt junior Nick Eubanks just isn't a consistently good enough blocker physically to do what U-M wants to do on offense, and All too often doesn't get the assignment.

McKeon's return would be a shot in the arm.

**NEWS:** U-M put its best three quarters of the season together after falling behind 21-0 at Penn State. Harbaugh was non-committal about what it meant going forward.

**HARBAUGH:** “Win our next game, that's our goal. We've got a really good plan for this week ... practice it and go out and execute. I feel like our team is as optimistic as ever that it's hitting its stride.”

**VIEWS:** Which is fine, but we have no idea what it really means. We've seen good games from the offense before (John O'Korn at Purdue, for example) and been disappointed going forward. It could just be that Patterson and Co. caught lightning in a bottle.

If the Wolverines put a good game together Saturday night and play well, we'll feel pretty good about the remaining games. Notre Dame is tough, though, and U-M won't win if it's played the way it has for most of the season.

# Wolverine Watch: Time For Michigan Fans To Back Bell — Loudly

John Borton • TheWolverine

There's no cheering in the press box, an edict announced via loudspeaker every week. But if they allowed it, here's one set of hands that would be coming together vigorously for human decency and perspective.

They'd be coming together for Ronnie Bell. And they wouldn't clap alone.

Michigan's sophomore receiver became nationally known this week, for all the wrong reasons. He caught five passes for 82 yards in the Wolverines' 28-21 loss at Penn State. The fact that he didn't catch a sixth made him a target for lunatic hatred in the game's aftermath.

Jim Harbaugh's crew clawed back almost all the way from a 21-0 first-half deficit. Michigan loomed three yards away from Penn State's goal line.

Senior quarterback Shea Patterson scrambled to buy time, then floated what appeared to be a perfectly thrown pass to what appeared to be a perfectly open Bell in the middle of the end zone. Never mind that Penn State defensive back Lamont Wade was pulling a Fast Eddie Brown (you kids, ask your parents) from behind, with a wad of Bell's jersey in one hand and both mitts involved before the ball arrived.

Patterson's toss looked catchable. Bell didn't catch it. Michigan didn't win.

For that heinous offense, social media and email warriors told Ronnie Bell to quit the game. One suggested that he die.

Never mind the 100 other individual efforts on Michigan's 82 offensive plays that could have produced a one-touchdown swing in the final score. Never mind Bell standing alone as Michigan's leading receiver this season, with 25 catches for 443 yards.

Never mind that without Bell's 35-yard catch and run on a fourth-quarter third-down play, Michigan likely doesn't score the subsequent touchdown to pull within seven.

And never mind that Bell remains one of the toughest, most-invested, most-caring, highest-effort Wolverines, who came away devastated by the loss.

He should cease to exist, because he dropped a football.

Some folks should drop watching football. The humane and intelligent ones will be rooting harder than ever for No. 8 this week.

"We would take as many Ronnie Bells as we could possibly get on this team," Harbaugh said. "How far he's come, what he does for our team, the way he played in the game. He was one of our top performers, and he is, consistently game-in and game-out. He's tough as nails and mentally and physically as tough as anybody we've got."

Michigan sideline reporter Doug Karsch has backed that notion all season long, watching up close Bell's efforts not only on the field but also in consistently pumping up teammates.

"Ronnie Bell comes across — when I've seen him on the sidelines, when I've seen him in the postgame in the locker room, when I've seen him in Schembechler Hall — as a team-first guy, and the kind of guy you want to build your program around," Karsch offered.

"When I saw it most overtly was up at Wisconsin, when things were avalanching, and Michigan had kicked up its heels and showed a bit of a pulse. Ronnie Bell was working up and down the sidelines, trying to get guys fired up, inspiring his teammates and doing what he could in every moment, to try and turn the ebb and flow of the game."

Karsch pondered various categories of "rah-rah guys" he's seen. Ones who don't make plays but try to be encouragers. Ones who aren't taken seriously. Ones whose play backs their verbal enthusiasm and who demonstrate leadership.

"I get the sense that Ronnie Bell is one of the latter," Karsch said. "Those are the guys that eventually become captains. There's a lot to play out, but it strikes me that Ronnie Bell is captain-type material.

"The fact that he took it so hard speaks to his accountability, when there were obviously other plays that could have been made, other calls that could have been made. The kid was heartbroken."

He stood in tears on the Michigan sideline, while Penn State ran out the clock. That wasn't enough for some.

What gets into the mind of someone who wants to reach out and pummel an athlete who hasn't crossed any moral or legal lines like some do, but who simply makes a mistake? What impels their viciousness?

Alcohol stands as a prime suspect. But there's not enough booze in all of Bangkok's bars to turn a stable mind into one advocating the death penalty for a drop.

Thankfully, most football fans are far more lucid than that. Many have come forward on Bell's behalf. Even that drew pushback, for "virtue signaling."

In general, we're anti-virtue signaling. But in this case, absorbing the accusation beats the heck out of idiot signaling, the path taken by anyone savagely attacking an athlete for a physical error on the field of play.

Michigan faces another big game this week. There will be intense scrutiny, coverage from every angle, commentary from the booth to the stands to living rooms across the country.

The Wolverines can put their best foot forward by continuing to battle. The fans in the stands can put theirs forward by — on national television — letting No. 8 know it's okay.

## By The Numbers: U-M's D-End Duo Has Turned Into One Of The Big Ten's Best

Austin Fox • TheWolverine

Coming into the year, defensive line and running back were viewed as the two weakest positions on the Michigan Wolverines' 2019 football team.

The former certainly lived up to that negative billing early in the year, surrendering 208.6 rushing yards per game throughout the Maize and Blue's first three contests.

The bottom fell out Sept. 21 at Wisconsin, when the Wolverines' defensive front was one of the culprits in giving up 359 rushing yards to the Badgers, while also allowing them to average 6.3 yards per carry and find the end zone five times.

The position group admitted after that loss that they were challenged by head coach Jim Harbaugh, and the results they've produced since that discouraging performance in Madison have been nothing short of amazing.

U-M's defense has only allowed 56.0 rushing yards per game in the four outings since (against Rutgers, Iowa, Illinois and Penn State), and has limited its four opponents to just 1.8 yards per carry.

A large factor in the defense and the resurgence of its front has been the play of junior Kwity Paye and sophomore Aidan Hutchinson, who comprise Michigan's starting defensive end duo.

The tandem had a combined four starts in their careers (all by Paye last season while filling for an injured Rashan Gary) entering the year, but are now playing like a pair of grizzled veterans.

Paye has already racked up a team-best eight tackles for loss through six games (he missed the Oct. 12 Illinois contest with injury), while Hutchinson is close behind with six.

The junior actually got off to a slow statistical start through the Wolverines' first three affairs, only compiling a lone stop behind the line of scrimmage. Paye then apparently took Harbaugh's challenge to heart following the blowout in Madison, however, and has accumulated 6.5 tackles for loss in the three tilts he has competed in since.

Hutchinson has picked up his game lately as well, logging 3.5 stops behind the line of scrimmage in U-M's last three contests, after tallying 2.5 through the club's first four games.

The duo's phenomenal play over the last month has elevated them into a tie for third place in the Big Ten in terms of combined tackles for loss by starting defensive end duos on the year.

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|--|---|-------|
| Team   | Player (Tackles For Loss)                                     | Total |
| 1. Illinois  | Oluwole Betiku (11.5)<br>Ayo Shogbonyo (7.5)                  | 19    |
| 2. Penn State  | Yetur Gross-Matos (9)<br>Shaka Toney (6.5)                    | 15.5  |
| T-3. Michigan  | Kwity Paye (8)<br>Aidan Hutchinson (6)                        | 14    |
| T-3. Purdue  | George Karlaftis (10.5)<br>Derrick Barnes (3.5)               | 14    |
| T-5. Ohio State  | Chase Young (10.5)<br>Zach Harrison (3)                       | 13.5  |
| T-5. Michigan State  | Kenny Willekes (7.5)<br>Jacub Panasiuk (6)                    | 13.5  |
| 7. Northwestern  | Joe Gaziano (7.5)<br>Alex Miller (4.5)                        | 12    |
| T-8. Nebraska  | Khalil Davis (6)<br>Ben Stille & Alex Davis (2 apiece)        | 8     |
| T-8. Iowa  | Chauncey Golston (5)<br>A.J. Epenesa (3)                      | 8     |
| 10. Indiana  | Michael Ziemba (4) &<br>James Head/Allen Stallings (3 apiece) | 7     |
| 11. Wisconsin  | Matt Henningsen (3)<br>Isaiah Loudermilk (3)                  | 6     |
| T-12. Maryland   | Bryce Brand (4)<br>Tyler Baylor (1.5)                         | 5.5   |
| T-12. Minnesota  | Esezi Otomewo (3.5)<br>Tai'yon Devers (2)                     | 5.5   |
| 14. Rutgers  | Elorm Lumor (2) &<br>Jamree Kromah/Robin Jutwreten (1 apiece) | 3     |

The top four players on the chart — Illinois' Oluwole Betiku and Ayo Shogbonyo, and Penn State's Shaka Toney and Yetur Gross-Matos — are all veterans, with the former three being redshirt juniors and the latter a junior.

Hutchinson and Purdue's George Karlaftis are the lone two youngsters among the first eight players listed, with Hutchinson a sophomore and Karlaftis just a freshman.

In addition, the U-M tandem has also excelled at getting to opposing signal-callers this season, with Paye racking up 4.5 sacks and Hutchinson 2.5. The junior's 4.5 quarterback takedowns are actually the second most on the team, trailing only senior linebacker Josh Uche's 5.5.

Michigan has faced Illinois and Penn State, respectively, each of the past two weeks, and saw its offensive line shine against the quartet of Betiku, Shogbonyo, Gross-Matos and Toney, holding the four players to a combined zero sacks and two tackles for loss.

### BY THE NUMBERS: NOTRE DAME AT MICHIGAN

**3.4** Yards per rush is what Michigan averaged at Penn State last week, led by freshman running back Zach Charbonnet's 81 yards, two touchdowns and 5.1 yards per attempt. The 3.4 yard per carry average may not seem all that significant, but it takes on a bit more meaning when considering PSU's opponents had only been tallying 1.5 yards per attempt entering the contest, which was the best mark in all of college football.

**4.7** Was the average margin of victory by the winner in the Michigan-Notre Dame rivalry from 2009-12, in what was arguably the most thrilling four-game stretch in the matchup's history. Michigan won by exactly four points in 2009, 2010 and 2011, while Notre Dame eked out a seven-point victory (the largest margin in the four-year stretch) in South Bend in 2012.

**6th** Straight night game in the series between the two historic rivals, with 2010 being the last time the two played during the day. Saturday will also be the third straight primetime affair in the series at Michigan Stadium, a place U-M had never played under the lights until the 2011 showdown with the Irish (which resulted in a thrilling 35-31 Wolverine win).

**7** Rushing touchdowns for Charbonnet on the year after he found the end zone twice at Penn State, which are tied for the third most in the Big Ten. His 457 yards, meanwhile, lead all freshmen in the conference.

**8th** Night game in the history of The Big House, with four of the previous seven having occurred since 2017 alone. The Maize and Blue have an all-time record of 6-1 in home night games, with the lone loss occurring in a rainy affair to Michigan State, 14-10, on Oct. 7, 2017.

**11** Straight home wins for U-M, with the last loss in Ann Arbor occurring on Nov. 25, 2017, to Ohio State. Nine of the 11 have been by at least 11 points, with the lone exceptions both occurring this season — the 24-21 double-overtime victory against Army Sept. 7 and the 10-3 triumph over Iowa Oct. 5.

**80** Percent chance of rain on Saturday night in Ann Arbor, according to weather.com. Lows are only expected to hit 47 degrees, and wind gusts should be kept to a minimum with maximum projections of nine miles per hour.

**2013** Was the last time Michigan beat Notre Dame, in a 41-30 shootout at The Big House. Quarterback Devin Gardner had a phenomenal game for the Wolverines, throwing for 294 yards and four touchdowns, while also rushing for 82 yards and a score. U-M has lost its last two meetings to the Irish since then, in 2014 and 2018.

**1879 & 1887** Is when Michigan and Notre Dame both played their inaugural seasons of football, respectively. The Wolverines are tied for the third-oldest Football Bowl Subdivision program in the nation, while the Irish are tied for the 12th oldest. Notre Dame's first-ever football game was actually an 8-0 defeat at the hands of U-M in South Bend on Nov. 23, 1887.

## Updates On Every Former Michigan Wolverine In The NFL: Week Seven

Ryan Tice • TheWolverine

Big offseason acquisition Frank Clark had not had more than three tackles in a game through the first six weeks of the season for the Kansas City Chiefs. The defender who the Chiefs gave up first-, second- and third-round picks for had a total of just one sack going into last Thursday's primetime showdown with the Denver Broncos.

The player that the Chiefs gave up that bounty for finally showed up in the NFL's Thursday night showcase.

Clark led the Chiefs' sack party in the 30-6 win and tied for the team lead with a pair of quarterback takedowns, ranked second on the squad with five tackles — all solo jobs — and forced a fumble. It marked his first multi-sack outing since week 11 of last season.

Over the last three games, Clark now has two sacks, 15 total quarterback pressures and three quarterback hits, in addition to a pair of forced fumbles.

The Chiefs' new toy is hitting his stride, and it couldn't come at a better time. With star quarterback Patrick Mahomes expected to miss a few weeks, Kansas City will need its defense more than ever, and a productive Clark helps get them there ... that's why the team was willing to give up so much to acquire him this offseason.

A full breakdown of how former Wolverines did in the NFL's week seven is below:

### OG Ben Braden, Green Bay Packers

Spent the first week with the New York Jets on their practice squad, but was released and quickly picked up by the 6-1 Packers for their practice squad, where he still resides.

### QB Tom Brady, New England Patriots

Kept the 7-0 Patriots unbeaten — one of just two teams in the league without a loss — with a 33-0 win over the Jets ... Completed 31 of 45 passes (68.9 percent) for 249 yards with a touchdown and an interception ... Posted a passer rating of 80.7 ... On the season, he has completed 180 of 273 passes (65.9 percent) for 1,992 yards with 11 touchdowns and four picks ... Holds a passer rating of 94.8 and has run for three scores ... Ranks seventh in the league in passing yards, tied for 12th in touchdown throws and leads the way with 32 completions of 20 or more yards ... Also stands 11th in completion percentage and 14th in quarterback rating among passers with at least 100 attempts.

### TE Ian Bunting, Indianapolis Colts

After being released by the Jets, he was signed to the 4-2 Colts' practice squad.

### LB Devin Bush Jr., Pittsburgh Steelers

The 2-4 Steelers had a bye ... Perhaps the leading candidate for Defensive Rookie of the Year honors, he has started in five games and played in all six with 52 tackles (32 solo), one sack, three passes broken up, two interceptions and four fumble recoveries, one of which he returned for a score ... Despite the bye week, he is still tied for 23rd in the league in total tackles, while nobody has pounced on more fumbles ... No other rookie is within four stops of him.

### TE Jake Butt, Denver Broncos

On injured reserve with the 2-5 Broncos after what he called on Twitter a "minor scope" to his knee early in the year.

### DE Taco Charlton, Miami Dolphins

Started and logged four tackles, including a sack, in the 0-6 Dolphins 31-21 loss to the Bills ... Has started three times and appeared in four games with Miami, and has totaled 16 tackles (nine solo) with 3.0 sacks.

### WR Jehu Chesson, Washington Redskins

Is on the reserve/injured list for 1-6 Washington.

### DE Frank Clark, Kansas City Chiefs

Started and notched five solo stops, two sacks and a forced fumble in the 5-2 Chiefs'

30-6 win over the Broncos Thursday night, Oct. 17 ... Has started all seven games and notched 17 tackles (12 solo) with 3.0 sacks, an interception, two forced fumbles and a fumble recovery.

#### C/G Mason Cole, Arizona Cardinals

Played in the 3-3-1 Cardinals' 27-21 win over the Giants ... Has appeared as a reserve in all seven contests.

#### WR Devin Funchess, Indianapolis Colts

Started for the 4-2 Colts and broke his collarbone in week one, after hauling in three passes for 32 yards, and is now on injured reserve.

#### LB Rashaan Gary, Green Bay Packers

Tallied a pair of tackles in the 6-1 Packers' 42-24 win over the Raiders ... Has seen action in every game off the bench and logged 10 tackles with one sack and a fumble recovery.

#### LB Ben Gedeon, Minnesota Vikings

Was not active in the 5-2 Vikings' 38-20 win over the Eagles ... Reportedly was still in concussion protocol from an injury suffered two weeks ago ... Has made eight stops while starting twice and appearing in four games.

#### TE Zach Gentry, Pittsburgh Steelers

The 2-4 Steelers had a bye ... Has appeared in three games, but has not recorded any statistics outside of a fumble recovery.

#### OL Graham Glasgow, Detroit Lions

Started at his customary right guard spot in 2-3-1 Lions' 42-30 loss to the Vikings ... Has opened all six games so far this year for his team.

#### DT Ryan Glasgow, Cincinnati Bengals

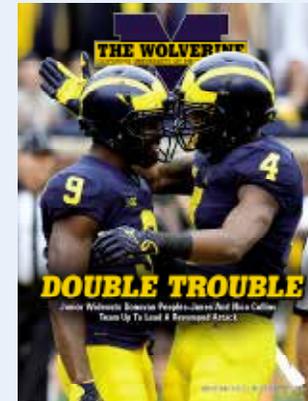
Returned to the lineup and came off the bench in the 0-7 Bengals' 27-17 loss to the Jaguars ... Notched a pair of tackles ... Has appeared in four games with two starts and totaled eight tackles.

#### DE Brandon Graham, Philadelphia Eagles

Started and notched a trio of stops in the 3-4 Eagles' 37-10 loss to the Cowboys ... Assisted on a tackle for loss ... Has started each outing for Philadelphia and racked up 23 tackles (16 solo) with 4.0 sacks and a fumble recovery ... Is tied for 22nd in the league in sacks.

#### QB Chad Henne, Kansas City Chiefs

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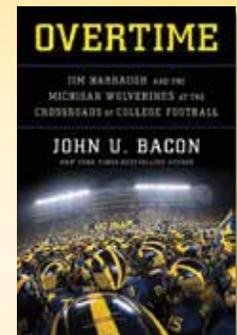
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On injured reserve for the 5-2 Chiefs after breaking his ankle in the preseason.

**RB Karan Higdon, Houston Texans**

Is on the 4-3 Texans' practice squad.

**S Lano Hill, Seattle Seahawks**

Was inactive in the 5-2 Seahawks' 30-16 loss to the Ravens due to an elbow injury ... Has played in six of seven games with two starts and has made eight tackles (five solo).

**DT Maurice Hurst, Oakland Raiders**

Played in the 3-3 Raiders' 42-24 loss to the Packers, but did not record any statistics ... Has started twice and played in all six games, while making 10 stops with two sacks and one pass broken up.

**FB Joe Kerridge, Cleveland Browns**

On injured reserve with the 2-4 Browns, who were off this week.

**OT Taylor Lewan, Tennessee Titans**

Started and played every snap for the third straight week in the 3-4 Titans' 23-20 win over the Chargers ... Was named to the Pro Football Focus Team of the Week despite allowing a pressure in 32 snaps; he did shine as a run blocker and led all offensive linemen with a 90.2 run-blocking grade in week seven ... Posted his team's top PFF grade ... Has three starts in three appearances this year.

**CB Jourdan Lewis, Dallas Cowboys**

Tallied four tackles and made his first NFL sack in the 4-3 Cowboys' 37-10 win over the Eagles ... Has recorded 13 tackles (11 solo), one sack, and an interception, which he returned 20 yards, in seven games as a reserve this year.

**CB David Long, Los Angeles Rams**

Was inactive for the 4-3 Rams' 37-10 win over the Falcons ... Has been active for only one game this year and boasts a tackle.

**OL Erik Magnuson, Buffalo Bills**

Currently resides on the 5-1 Bills' practice squad.

**DT Bryan Mone, Seattle Seahawks**

Is currently on the 5-2 Seahawks' practice squad, but played in the first three games for the team and notched a trio of tackles.

**OL Patrick Omameh, New Orleans Saints**

Came off the bench to play in the 6-1 Saints' 36-25 win over the Bears ... Has appeared in five contests this year as a reserve.

**S Jabrill Peppers, New York Giants**

Started at strong safety and finished second on his team with eight tackles (four solo), including one for loss, in the 2-5 Giants' 27-21 loss to the Cardinals ... On the year, he has posted 48 tackles (33 solo) and three passes broken up with one interception (a pick-six) and a forced fumble in seven starts for New York.

**QB Jake Rudock, Miami Dolphins**

Is on the 0-6 Dolphins' practice squad.

**LB Jake Ryan, Jacksonville Jaguars**

On the reserve/non-football injury list for the 3-4 Jaguars after suffering an off-season setback during his rehab from a torn ACL.

**OL Michael Schofield, Los Angeles Chargers**

Started at right guard and played every offensive snap in the 2-5 Chargers' 23-20 loss to the Titans ... Has not missed a snap yet this year while starting all seven contests.

**CB Brandon Watson, Jacksonville Jaguars**

The undrafted rookie is on the 3-4 Jaguars' practice squad.

**S Jarrod Wilson, Jacksonville Jaguars**

Started at free safety in the 3-4 Jaguars' 27-17 win over the Bengals ... Notched five tackles (three solo), including half of one for loss, to tie for second on his team ... Has started each game this year and racked up 34 tackles (22 solo) with one pass broken up.

**DE Chase Winovich, New England Patriots**

Played 20 of 61 defensive snaps (33 percent) and also 17 on special teams (63 percent) and made one tackle in the 7-0 Patriots' 33-0 win over the Jets ... Through seven games, he has logged nine tackles with 4.0 sacks, plus a touchdown after a blocked punt ... Is tied for 22nd in the league for sacks and is tied for third among rookies, trailing the leader by 1.0.

**DE Chris Wormley, Baltimore Ravens**

Came off the bench to tally two stops in 5-2 Baltimore's 30-16 win over the Seahawks ... Has seen action in every contest so far and made three starts with six tackles and one pass broken up.

## Nua On What Makes Paye & Hutchinson So Effective, Hinton's Progress & More

Austin Fox • TheWolverine

Michigan Wolverines football first-year defensive line coach Shaun Nua has helped turn junior Kwity Paye and sophomore Aidan Hutchinson into one of the best defensive end tandems in the Big Ten this season.

Although Paye played a significant role on last year's club and Hutchinson saw the field occasionally as a freshman in 2018, not many expected the duo to develop so quickly into the force they've become.

The two have racked up a combined 14 tackles for loss this season (eight for Paye and six for Hutchinson), which stands as one of the highest combined totals in the Big Ten among defensive ends.

"They're competitors," Nua exclaimed when asked about the two Wednesday afternoon, and the 'Salt and Pepper' nickname they've given themselves. "I'm just mad they didn't give [fifth-year senior defensive end Mike] Danna a nickname, so adding him into that 'Salt and Pepper' thing will be the next challenge.

"They [Paye and Hutchinson] know exactly what the other is doing, so when they flip tight ends, Aidan becomes the end and Kwity becomes the anchor, and it's no big deal."

According to Pro Football Focus (PFF), Paye has posted an elite defensive grade of 86.5 so far this year. It ranks 13th in the land among edge rushers who have played at least 200 snaps through Oct. 21. Using the same parameters, Hutchinson ranks 34th (81.3), while senior linebacker Josh Uche is tied for 42nd (79.8) and Danna 45th (79.2). Michigan is the only team in the country with more than two in the top 50, and Nua has seen vast strides from his top two.

"Kwity is confident and doesn't panic with all the RPOs and fluff," the coach said. "He knows exactly when teams are trying to kick him out and when they're not, and he's always in his gaps with great pad level. You hardly ever see him on the ground. I noticed that when I first got here, so now it's about stacking good games on top of one another, and he's doing that.

"Aidan is a complete player too — he's big and runs great for a guy his size. We're always challenging him to make more plays; they're making some, but we always want them to make more. ... Aidan is also always around the quarterback; sometimes the ball comes out early, but I tell him that's no excuse and he can still get there. He's improved a lot, because he's so hard on himself."

However impressed Nua has been with his ends, he made it clear that the interior players have turned heads as well.

"That includes [senior defensive tackle] Carlo [Kemp] and Dwumy [redshirt junior

defensive tackle Michael Dwumfour] in the middle as well," he said. "It's a good group, which makes my job easy as a coach when you have guys who are experienced. I just have to let them go play."

Michigan's rush defense has been lights out since it gave up 359 yards on the ground to Wisconsin in late September, allowing just 56 per game in the four outings since.

Nua wasn't interested in talking a whole lot about the turnaround though, simply noting that the players' commitment to stopping the run has been the biggest factor.

A similar defensive turnaround was seen on Saturday during the Penn State game, when U-M allowed 203 yards in the first half and only 80 after the break. Nua was asked if an increased confidence from the players helped lead to the crew shutting PSU down in the second half.

"I don't think it had to do with confidence, but them wanting to win," he explained. "They got punched in the mouth and said, 'We're not laying down.'"

"They kept fighting and fighting. If you have to find a positive out of the loss, that was it. It was encouraging and is something we have to take moving forward."

That same fight will need to be shown on Saturday night against an excellent 5-1 Notre Dame squad, whose lone loss on the year came by just six points at Georgia in late September.

A quick glance at the statistics shows just how phenomenal the Fighting Irish's offensive line (in particular) has been this season — they rank 18th nationally in tackles for loss allowed, 21st in sacks surrendered and 19th in yards per carry.

"They've always been a sound group," Nua noted, referring to Notre Dame's offensive front. "We played them a lot when I was at the Naval Academy, and I noticed then it's not only their O-line, but their tight ends as well — it's almost like the two practice together.

"They do the same things with pad level and have tight ends inside who have good footwork. We have a good challenge, but that's what you want as a player at this level — to play against the best."

### Other Michigan Wolverines Football Notes

- Kemp played in just two games as a freshman in 2016, which has since raised speculation about whether or not Michigan could potentially apply for him to receive a medical redshirt for that year (IF he was injured for the second half of the season; it is not known publicly whether he was or not).

The last game Kemp appeared in in 2016 was the Oct. 8 win at Rutgers, but whether or not that was too late in the year to still receive a medical redshirt will be up to a hypocritical NCAA organization that doesn't follow or enforce its own rules (if any of this even comes to fruition at all).

“No,” Nua answered this afternoon when asked if there has been any discussion about Kemp potentially returning in 2020 for a fifth season. “I hope he does come back, but not yet [have any discussions occurred].”

- The role of freshman defensive tackle Chris Hinton, ranked as the No. 15 prospect in the class of 2019 by Rivals.com, has been minimal this season, especially early in the campaign when he made defensive appearances in only one of the Wolverines’ first three games.

Hinton has seen defensive snaps in each of the Maize and Blue’s last two affairs against Illinois and Penn State (albeit only a combined three snaps, but it’s progress nonetheless). Nua has liked what he’s seen from Hinton in practice, and if he can keep that up he is likely to see more action.

“His effort in practice, and his dedication and commitment to job assignments [are impressive],” the D-line coach said. “It’s been good to see him get some playing time, because nothing replaces experience. He’s doing well and I look forward to him getting a lot more reps.

“Make more plays [is what Hinton needs to do to see the field more] and do exactly what he’s doing now: be consistent with his assignments and not get blown back.”

## Update On Former Michigan Wolverines In The NBA And NHL

Clayton Sayfie • TheWolverine

Final rosters were determined in the NBA ahead of the opening two games Tuesday night, with the rest of teams starting their seasons Wednesday and Thursday nights. Ten former Michigan Wolverines made the cut.

Meanwhile, the NHL opened up play in early October and 16 former U-M standouts were included on final rosters.

In the NBA, Derrick Walton Jr. made headlines this week as he was selected for the Los Angeles Clippers’ final roster spot. Caris LeVert signed a big contract extension this offseason worth \$52.5M.

Nineteen-year NBA veteran Jamal Crawford has not announced his retirement, but the 39-year-old is not currently on a roster. He has averaged 14.6 points per game throughout his career.

Former U-M head basketball coach John Beilein made his NBA coaching Wednesday

tonight with the Cleveland Cavaliers in a 94-85 loss to the Orlando Magic.

In the NHL, Carl Hagelin recorded four assists last week for the Washington Capitals.

A full breakdown of former Wolverines in the NBA and NHL

### FORMER MICHIGAN WOLVERINES IN THE NBA

#### Ignas Brazdeikis, New York Knicks

Was selected in the second round of the 2019 NBA Draft, No. 47 to the Sacramento Kings, before being traded to the Knicks. ... Signed a three-year contract worth \$2.4 million in guaranteed money ... Did not play in the Knicks’ season-opening 120-11 loss at San Antonio on Wednesday.

#### Trey Burke, Philadelphia 76ers

Signed a one-year, \$2,028,594 contract this offseason with the 76ers for his seventh season in the league ... Played for the Knicks and Mavericks in 2018-19, and averaged 10.9 points per game on the year ... Did not play in the Sixers’ 107-93 win over the Celtics on Wednesday.

#### Tim Hardaway Jr., Dallas Mavericks

Averaged 18.9 points per game last year, playing with the Mavericks and Knicks ... He opened his seventh NBA season by scoring four points and notching one rebound and one assist in 21 minutes off the bench during a 108-100 victory versus Washington on Wednesday.

#### Caris LeVert, Brooklyn Nets

Signed a three-year \$52.5-million contract extension this offseason ... Was a key piece off the bench for the Nets in 2018-19, averaging 13.7 points and 3.9 assists per game ... The Nets added stars Kevin Durant, Kyrie Irving and DeAndre Jordan in the offseason to a team that made the playoffs last year ... Opened his fourth season in the NBA by starting and playing 37 minutes in a 127-126 overtime loss to Charlotte on Wednesday ... He notched 20 points (second on the team), to go along with five rebounds and four assists.

#### Jordan Poole, Golden State Warriors

Was selected No. 28 overall in the 2019 NBA Draft by the Golden State Warriors, who fell short in the 2019 NBA Finals against the Toronto Raptors last year ... The rookie and his Warriors debut the season Thursday night when they host the Los Angeles Clippers.

#### Duncan Robinson, Miami Heat

Is entering his second year in the league ... The Heat picked up his \$1.4-million guarantee for this season ... He played in 15 games last season, averaging 3.3 points per game ... Came off the bench in a 120-101 win over Memphis in the season opener on Wednesday ... Played 23 minutes and notched three points with one rebound and one assist ... Has garnered high praise from head coach Erik Spoelstra heading into the season.

#### Glenn Robinson III, Golden State Warriors

Signed a one-year, \$1,882,867 contract with the Warriors this offseason ... Averaged 4.2 points per game in 47 contests for the Detroit Pistons last year ... Opens his sixth year in the league Thursday night against the Los Angeles Clippers.

#### **Moritz Wagner, Washington Wizards**

Was traded from the Los Angeles Lakers to the Wizards during the season last year ... Averaged 4.8 points and 2.0 rebounds per outing in 43 games played during his rookie campaign ... Came off the bench to play 17 minutes in the season-opening 108-100 loss to the Mavericks, and notched a team-best three three-pointers on his way to finishing with 13 points and two rebounds.

#### **Derrick Walton Jr., Los Angeles Clippers**

Made the Clippers opening-day roster and is playing on a non-guaranteed contract in 2019-20 ... Did not play in the NBA last year, but he did appear in 16 games in 2017-18, where he averaged 1.8 points per game for the Heat ... He did not see action in the Clippers 112-102 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers on Tuesday.

D.J. Wilson, Milwaukee Bucks

Entering his third NBA season with the Bucks ... Averaged 5.8 points per game last season ... The Bucks start off the season Thursday night in Houston against the Rockets.

### **FORMER MICHIGAN WOLVERINES IN THE NHL**

*Updated through Oct. 22*

#### **C Andrew Cogliano, Dallas Stars**

Has one assist in 11 games played on the season ... The Stars are 3-7-1 so far this year.

#### **LW J.T. Compher, Colorado Avalanche**

Has one goal and three assists on the season for the first-place Avalanche ... Had two assists Oct. 19 in a win against the Tampa Bay Lightning.

#### **C Andrew Copp, Winnipeg Jets**

The Ann Arbor, Mich., native has one goal and two assists on the season for the 5-6-0 Jets.

#### **C Luke Glendening, Detroit Red Wings**

Has two goals and one assist on the season for the 3-6-0 Red Wings ... The team started off 3-1, but has since dropped five straight games.

#### **LW Carl Hagelin, Washington Capitals**

Has four assists on the season for the 7-2-2 Capitals, who are on a four-game winning streak ... Recorded all four of his assists last week against the Maple Leafs (one), Rangers (one) and Blackhawks (two).

#### **D Quinn Hughes, Vancouver Canucks**

Has five assists and one goal on the season for the 6-3-0 Canucks ... Had two assists Tuesday night in a win over the Red Wings, and one assist Sunday against the Rangers.

#### **D Matt Hunwick, Buffalo Sabres**

Has not played yet this year for the 8-1-1 first-place Sabres.

#### **D Jack Johnson, Pittsburgh Penguins**

Has one assist on the season for the 6-4-0 Penguins.

#### **D Steven Kampfer**

Has appeared in one game this season for the 6-1-2 Bruins.

#### **C Dylan Larkin, Detroit Red Wings**

Has two goals and five assists for the 3-6-0 Red Wings ... Had one goal on Oct. 15 against the Canucks.

#### **D Jon Merrill, Las Vegas Golden Knights**

Has two assists on the season for the 7-4-0 Golden Knights ... Had one assist against the Flyers on Monday night.

#### **C Tyler Motte, Vancouver Canucks**

Has recorded one assist this season for the 6-3-0 Canucks that came Oct. 15 against the St. Louis Blues.

#### **LW Max Pacioretty, Las Vegas Golden Knights**

Has scored two goals and recorded eight assists on the season for the 7-4-0 Golden Knights ... Had two assists last week, one coming against the Ottawa Senators and the other against the Pittsburgh Penguins.

#### **D Greg Pateryn, Minnesota Wild**

Has not appeared in a game yet this season for the 3-6-0 Wild.

#### **D Jacob Trouba, New York Rangers**

Has scored one goal and notched five assists on the season for the 2-4-1 Rangers so far ... Had one assist against the Capitals and one against the Canucks last week.

#### **D Zach Werenski, Columbus Blue Jackets**

Has two goals and two assists so far on the season for the 4-3-2 Blue Jackets ... Notched one assist Monday night in a 4-3 overtime win over the Maple Leafs in Toronto.