

WEEK EIGHT  
WISCONSIN at ILLINOIS

Illinois stuns No. 6 Wisconsin 24-23 on last-second field goal

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. -- James McCourt kicked a 39-yard field as time expired and Illinois Fighting Illini pulled off the biggest upset of the college football season, knocking off No. 6 Wisconsin Badgers 24-23 on Saturday.

Tony Adams intercepted Wisconsin quarterback Jack Coan at midfield with 2:33 remaining. Dre Brown's tackle-breaking 13-yard run got Illinois (3-5, 1-3 Big Ten) to the Wisconsin 25 and allowed the Illini to run down the clock to attempt the game-winner.

McCourt's kick was right down the middle to give coach Lovie Smith the most significant victory of his four-year tenure in Champaign.

"Our program, we needed to get a signature win," Smith said. "I was just hoping today was the day, and the day came."

Fans rushed the field when it was over and "Jump Around" -- the song played prior to the fourth quarter at Wisconsin's Camp Randall Stadium -- blared over the speakers at Memorial Stadium.

The Illini closed as 30.5-point underdogs at Caesars Sportsbook. According to ESPN Stats & Info, Illinois became the first team to win outright as more than a 30-point underdog since Iowa State (+30.5) did it against No. 3 Oklahoma on Oct. 7, 2017.

Wisconsin's Taylor 3rd to 5,000 yards as junior Wisconsin had not trailed this season and was looking to roll into a showdown with No. 3 Ohio State next week in Columbus. Instead, the Badgers (6-1, 4-1) blew a nine-point lead in the final 9:46 of the fourth quarter.

Illinois beat a ranked team for the first time since 2011 and knocked off a ranked Big Ten team for the first time since 2007, when the Illini beat a No. 1 Ohio State team on its way to a Rose Bowl appearance.

The Illini last beat a ranked Big Ten team at home on October 2007 -- a 31-26 victory against No. 5 Wisconsin.

Heisman Trophy contender Jonathan Taylor rushed 28 times for 132 yards and one touchdown for Wisconsin, but he also had a fumble in Illinois territory in the fourth quarter to help fuel the Illinois comeback.

Coan was 24 of 32 passing for 264 yards and a touchdown, but his one interception came at a crucial time. His pass on third-and-5 sailed high, and Adams grabbed it to give Illinois a short field against the No. 1 defense in the nation.

"We had two drives late in the game that ended in turnovers," Wisconsin coach Paul Chryst said. "It's always hard to win on the road, and that made it even harder. We just have to move on and learn from this."

Illinois had cut Wisconsin's lead to 20-14 late in the third quarter on a 43-yard touchdown run by Reggie Corbin.

Wisconsin had opportunities to pad its lead, but settled for a field goal after a first-and-goal from the 3. Taylor also fumbled at the Illinois 25.

After the fumble, the Illini ripped off a 75-yard touchdown drive, capped by Brandon Peters' 29-yard pass to Josh Imatorbhebhe to make it 23-21 with 5:53 left.

THE TAKEAWAY

Wisconsin: Put aside the College Football Playoff implications. The Badgers' loss also twists the Big Ten West race, with No. 20 Minnesota, No. 23 Iowa and Wisconsin all yet to play each other.

Illinois: The Illini pulled the stunner despite losing top receiver Ricky Smalling (right leg) early in the game and star defensive end Oluwole Betiku (undisclosed injury) early in the second half. Betiku ranks fourth in the nation in sacks.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
WIS	7	6	7	3	23
ILL	0	7	7	10	24

Scoring Summary -----

FIRST QUARTER		WIS	ILL
WIS TD 9:15	Jake Ferguson 18 Yd pass from Jack Coan (Collin Larsh Kick)		
11 plays, 75 yards, 5:45		7	0
SECOND QUARTER		WIS	ILL
WIS FG 12:02	Collin Larsh 24 Yd Field Goal		
11 plays, 72 yards, 6:11		10	0
ILL TD 5:53	Donny Navarro 48 Yd pass from Brandon Peters (James McCourt Kick)		
4 plays, 63 yards, 1:27		10	7
WIS FG 1:47	Collin Larsh 44 Yd Field Goal		
10 plays, 38 yards, 4:06		13	7
THIRD QUARTER		WIS	ILL
WIS TD 10:31	Jonathan Taylor 5 Yd Run (Collin Larsh Kick)		
2 plays, 15 yards, 0:40		20	7
ILL TD 0:48	Reggie Corbin 43 Yd Run (James McCourt Kick)		
6 plays, 80 yards, 1:51		20	14
FOURTH QUARTER		WIS	ILL
WIS FG 9:46	Collin Larsh 20 Yd Field Goal		
11 plays, 73 yards, 6:02		23	14
ILL TD 5:53	Josh Imatorbhebhe 29 Yd pass from Brandon Peters (James McCourt Kick)		
4 plays, 75 yards, 1:19		23	21
ILL FG 0:00	James McCourt 39 Yd Field Goal		
9 plays, 32 yards, 2:32		23	24

Team Stats	WIS	ILL
First Downs	22	17
Passes for First	15	6
Rushes for First	7	8
Penalties for First	0	3
Third Down Efficiency	9-17	2-10
Fourth Down Efficiency	0-1	0-1
Total Yards	420	315
Total Plays	75	56
Avg Gain Per Play	5.6	5.6
Net Yards Rushing	156	141
Rushes	43	35
Yards Per Rush	3.6	4.0
Net Yards Passing	264	174
Comp-Att	24-32	9-21
Yards Per Pass	8.3	8.3
Times Sacked	2	4
Yds Lost To Sacks	-12	-39
Interceptions	1	0
Punts	2	5
Punt Average	42.0	46.6
Penalties	6	4
Penalty Yards	60	15
Fumbles	2	2
Fumbles Lost	2	1
Time of Poss	40:49	19:11

Individual Stats

RUSHING						
WISCONSIN	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG	
Jonathan Taylor	28	132	4.7	1	22	
Danny Davis III	1	13	13.0	0	13	
Nakia Watson	2	9	4.5	0	7	
A.J. Taylor	1	8	8.0	0	8	
John Chenal	3	3	1.0	0	3	
Garrett Groshek	4	3	0.8	0	3	
Team	1	-2	-2.0	0	0	
Jack Coan	3	-10	-3.3	0	2	
ILLINOIS	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG	
Reggie Corbin	17	83	4.9	1	43	
Dre Brown	11	70	6.4	0	22	
Jakari Norwood	1	3	3.0	0	3	
Brandon Peters	6	-15	-2.5	0	13	

PASSING							
WISCONSIN	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Jack Coan	24	32	264	8.3	1	1	79.5
ILLINOIS	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Brandon Peters	9	21	174	8.3	2	0	40.8

RECEIVING						
WISCONSIN	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG	
Jake Ferguson	5	77	15.4	1	19	
Quintez Cephus	5	62	12.4	0	28	
Garrett Groshek	6	40	6.7	0	15	
Danny Davis III	5	38	7.6	0	14	
Kendric Pryor	1	35	35.0	0	35	
A.J. Taylor	1	10	10.0	0	10	
Jonathan Taylor	1	2	2.0	0	2	
ILLINOIS	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG	
Donny Navarro	1	48	48.0	1	48	
Josh Imatorbhebhe	2	42	21.0	1	29	
Daniel Barker	3	37	12.3	0	19	
Casey Washington	1	18	18.0	0	18	
Dre Brown	1	15	15.0	0	15	
Dominic Stampley	1	14	14.0	0	14	