

WEEK ONE
MICHIGAN NOTRE DAME

SOUTH BEND, Ind. -- The Michigan-Notre Dame series returned after a three-year hiatus and the 12th-ranked Fighting Irish became the latest rival to get the best of Jim Harbaugh's Wolverines.

Brandon Wimbush connected on a long touchdown pass to help Notre Dame jump out to a big first-half lead, Te'von Coney and the defense made it stand with a late takeaway, and the Fighting Irish beat No. 14 Michigan 24-17 on Saturday night.

The Wolverines fell to 1-6 under Harbaugh against the school's biggest rivals, Ohio State, Michigan State and Notre Dame.

A green-out crowd welcomed Michigan back to Notre Dame Stadium and the Fighting Irish scored on their first two drives against a defense loaded with future NFL draft picks. Chris Finke hauled in a deep throw from Wimbush that went through a defender's hands in traffic for a 43-yard score to put Notre Dame up 14-0 midway through the first half.

Wimbush, who had to re-establish himself as the starter in the offseason after a rough end to 2017, was 12 for 22 for 170 yards and an interception and ran for 59 yards.

"It just feels like playing football again," said Wimbush, who got a game ball from coach Brian Kelly. "I just had so much fun out there, playing ball and just not worrying about anything else."

Kelly said of his senior quarterback: "I thought he played with an edge to him, a confidence."

Jafar Armstrong's second touchdown, a 4-yard run with 3:55 left in the second quarter made it 21-3. Ambray Thomas gave the Wolverines a much-needed jolted with a 99-yard touchdown on the ensuing kick-off, but otherwise the Michigan debut of quarterback Shea Patterson was mostly disappointing.

Michigan's only offensive touchdown came with 2:18 left in the fourth quarter, when Karan Higdon rushed in from 3 yards to cut the lead to seven.

Patterson, the touted transfer from Mississippi, went 20 for 30 for 227 yards and an interception. He spent a lot of time eluding pass rushers.

"They got us on the inside blitzes. They brought great pressure all night long," Harbaugh said.

Michigan got a final opportunity with 1:48 and got as far as its 45. Patterson was flushed out of the pocket and stripped by Jerry Tillery. Coney recovered the ball with 46 seconds and sealed Notre Dame's second straight win against the Wolverines.

When they last met in 2014, Notre Dame snapped Michigan's streak of 365 consecutive games without being shut out with a 31-0 win in South Bend. That loss also marked the beginning of the end of Brady Hoke's tenure as Michigan coach.

Harbaugh does not come into this season fretting his job, but make no mistake his program could use a change in trajectory. The Wolverines are 9-9 in their last 18 games and Michigan has dropped 17 straight road games against ranked teams, dating to 2006.

"Where are we at?" Harbaugh said. "We're at the beginning. We fought hard, competed well. There's things we can build on. It's not the end. It's the beginning for us."

THE TAKEAWAY

Michigan: The addition of Patterson was supposed to make a vanilla Michigan offense more dynamic, but until the line play improves there is only so much that can be expected from the former five-star recruit.

"We had a lot of new guys in there and myself," Patterson said. "So there's just a lot of room to grow."

Notre Dame: Have to give some credit to the Irish defense, a unit that returned most of its best players from last season and but has a new coordinator in Clark Lea, who was promoted when Mike Elko left after one season for Texas A&M. Notre Dame's offense managed only 69 yards and five first downs in the second half.

"We had a little bit of a chip," said Khalid Kareem, who had two sacks. "We wanted to go out and show people what type of defense we are."

POLL IMPLICATIONS

The Fighting Irish should edge up a spot or two, but voters could be reluctant to reward them for beating Michigan. Voters were expecting a bounce-back from the Wolverines this season. It might still come, but they looked a lot like last year's team.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
MICH	0	10	0	7	17
ND	14	7	3	0	24

Scoring Summary -----

	MICH	ND
FIRST QUARTER		
TD 13:35		
Jafar Armstrong 13 Yd Run (Justin Yoon Kick)		7
7 plays, 75 yards, 1:25	0	
TD 7:09		
Chris Finke 43 Yd pass from Brandon Wimbush (Justin Yoon Kick)		14
7 plays, 96 yards, 3:07	0	
SECOND QUARTER		
FG 11:32		
Quinn Nordin 28 Yd Field Goal		3
11 plays, 31 yards, 4:30	3	14
TD 3:55		
Jafar Armstrong 4 Yd Run (Justin Yoon Kick)		21
15 plays, 75 yards, 7:37	21	
TD 3:41		
Ambray Thomas 99 Yd Kickoff Return (Quinn Nordin Kick)		21
0 plays, 0 yards, 0:14	21	
THIRD QUARTER		
FG 3:07		
Justin Yoon 48 Yd Field Goal		10
10 plays, 41 yards, 4:59	10	24
FOURTH QUARTER		
TD 2:18		
Karan Higdon 3 Yd Run (Quinn Nordin Kick)		17
7 plays, 80 yards, 2:49	17	24

Team Stats	MICH	ND
First Downs	20	21
Total Yards	307	302
Total Plays	69	69
Avg Gain Per Play	4.4	4.4
Net Yards Rushing	58	132
Rushes	33	47
Yards Per Rush	1.8	2.8
Stat Name		
Net Yards Passing	249	170
Comp-Att	24-36	12-22
Yards Per Pass	6.9	7.7
Times Sacked	2	3
Yds Lost To Sacks	-18	-32
Interceptions	1	1
Punts	3	6
Punt Average	43.7	45.7
Penalties	7	4
Penalty Yards	52	40
Fumbles	1	0
Fumbles Lost	1	0

Individual Stats

RUSHING

	Rush	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
MICH					
22 Karan Higdon	21	72	3.4	10	1
10 Dylan McCaffrey	3	10	3.3	5	0
9 Donovan Peoples-Jones	1	7	7.0	7	0
12 Chris Evans	2	1	0.5	2	0
17 Will Hart	1	-11	-11.0	0	0
2 Shea Patterson	5	-21	-4.2	9	0
Notre Dame					
7 Brandon Wimbush	19	59	3.1	22	0
6 Tony Jones Jr.	9	45	5.0	12	0
8 Jafar Armstrong	15	35	2.3	13	2
3 Avery Davis	2	-3	-1.5	0	0

PASSING

	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
MICH							
2 Shea Patterson	20	30	227	7.6	0	1	123.6
10 Dylan McCaffrey	4	6	22	3.7	0	0	97.5
ND							
7 Brandon Wimbush	12	22	170	7.7	1	1	125.4
3 Avery Davis	0	0	0	-	0	0	-

RECEIVING

	Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
MICH					
4 Nico Collins	3	66	22.0	52	0
88 Grant Perry	5	48	9.6	16	0
9 Donovan Peoples-Jones	6	38	6.3	12	0
12 Chris Evans	2	37	18.5	24	0
80 Oliver Martin	3	29	9.7	21	0
83 Zach Gentry	2	11	5.5	8	0
84 Sean McKeon	2	10	5.0	8	0
82 Nick Eubanks	1	10	10.0	10	0
ND					
10 Chris Finke	3	55	18.3	43	1
83 Chase Claypool	3	47	15.7	19	0
81 Miles Boykin	1	28	28.0	28	0
86 Alize Mack	1	26	26.0	26	0
8 Jafar Armstrong	2	11	5.5	9	0
3 Avery Davis	1	4	4.0	4	0
84 Cole Kmet	1	-1	-1.0	0	0