

No. 24 Michigan St. gets tricky to hold off Indiana 35-21

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. -- Brian Lewerke threw two touchdown passes, had his first career catch and made the perfect pitch to kicker Matt Coghlin for a 6-yard scoring run in No. 24 Michigan State's 35-21 victory over Indiana on Saturday night.

The Spartans (2-1, 1-0 Big Ten) won the Old Brass Spittoon for the 13th time in 15 games, getting a crucial victory in the conference opener. Indiana (3-1, 0-1) has not won consecutive home games in the series since 1991 and 1993.

Michigan State needed a few tricks to pull it out.

"I thought we played extremely well," Spartans coach Mark Dantonio said. "The fake field goal was executed well, and I thought we had great focus."

The Spartans jumped to a quick 14-0 lead on Lewerke's 16-yard TD pass to Jalen Nailor and Shakur Brown's 69-yard interception return for a score.

Indiana cut the deficit in half on Peyton Ramsey's 8-yard TD pass midway through the second quarter, and Michigan State answered with an 11-yard TD pass from Lewerke to Matt Dotson with 19 seconds left in the first half.

Lewerke's well-timed pitch to Coghlin on the fake field goal made it 28-7 -- putting Indiana in its largest deficit of the season.

Then Lewerke helped the Hoosiers get back in the game.

His first interception set up a chip shot field goal and Peyton Ramsey converted the second interception into a 65-yard TD pass to Whop Philyor and a 2-point conversion pass to Nick Westbrook to make it 28-18 with 8:20 left.

Indiana got seven on a 36-yard field goal with 3:28 to go, but the Spartans closed it out with Nailor's 75-yard TD run.

"There was pressure on our quarterback in the pass game and we ran for 29 yards. Very, very disappointing, so we have to address that," Indiana coach Tom Allen said. "Just a tough sledding day."

Lewerke finished 14 of 25 with 213 yards. Nailor had three carries for 79 yards and Felton Davis III had five catches for 79 yards.

Ramsey was 32 of 46 with 272 yards, two touchdowns and two interceptions.

Philyor, who had five catches through three games, caught 13 passes for a career-high 148 yards. He matched his single-game career best for receptions.

THE TAKEAWAY

Michigan State: The Spartans never trailed but they sure struggled to seal it and showed they need to find a knockout punch. But at least they got a crucial road win to stay in the Big Ten hunt.

Indiana: The Hoosiers seemed to have all the momentum after starting 3-0 but struggled to run the ball and struggled to find offensive rhythm against Michigan State's stout defense. Now, Indiana must try to figure out what went wrong.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
MSU	14	7	7	7	35
IND	0	7	0	14	21

Scoring Summary -----

	MSU	IND
FIRST QUARTER		
MSU TD 8:11 Jalen Nailor 16 Yd pass from Brian Lewerke (Matt Coghlin Kick)	7	0
8 plays, 60 yards, 3:57		
MSUTD 5:35Shakur Brown 69 Yd Interception Return (Matt Coghlin Kick)	14	0
7 plays, 46 yards, 2:36		
second Quarter		
IND TD 6:54 Stevie Scott 8 Yd pass from Peyton Ramsey (Logan Justus Kick)	14	7
10 plays, 51 yards, 3:18		
MSU TD 0:19 Matt Dotson 11 Yd pass from Brian Lewerke (Matt Coghlin Kick)	21	7
7 plays, 74 yards, 1:04		
third Quarter		
MSU TD 4:47 Matt Coghlin 6 Yd Run (Matt Coghlin Kick)	28	7
9 plays, 67 yards, 4:49		
fourth Quarter		
IND FG 14:43 Logan Justus 35 Yd Field Goal	28	10
4 plays, -11 yards, 0:56		
IND TD 8:19 Whop Philyor 65 Yd pass from Peyton Ramsey (Peyton Ramsey Pass to Nick Westbrook for Two-Point Conversion)	28	18
7 plays, 90 yards, 1:58		
IND FG 3:28 Logan Justus 36 Yd Field Goal	28	21
10 plays, 57 yards, 2:28		
MSU TD 3:17 Jalen Nailor 75 Yd Run (Matt Coghlin Kick)	35	21
1 play, 75 yards, 0:11		

Team Stats	MSU	IND
First Downs	19	18
Total Yards	350	301
Total Plays	66	78
Avg Gain Per Play	5.3	3.9
Net Yards Rushing	131	29
Rushes	40	32
Yards Per Rush	3.3	0.9
Net Yards Passing	219	272
Comp-Att	15-26	32-46
Yards Per Pass	8.4	5.9
Times Sacked	3	4
Yds Lost To Sacks	-37	-23
Interceptions	2	2
Punts	6	7
Punt Average	37.2	39.9
Penalties	8	6
Penalty Yards	72	85
Fumbles	3	1
Fumbles Lost	2	0
Possession	31:23	28:37

Individual Stats

RUSHING						
	Rush	Yds	Avg	Long	TD	
MSU						
8 Jalen Nailor	3	79	26.3	75	1	
15 La'Darius Jefferson	10	34	3.4	6	0	
11 Connor Heyward	12	23	1.9	6	0	
4 Matt Coghlin	1	6	6.0	6	1	
16 Brandon Sowards	1	-1	-1.0	0	0	
14 Brian Lewerke	10	-6	-0.6	13	0	
IND						
21 Stevie Scott	11	18	1.6	7	0	
12 Peyton Ramsey	18	13	0.7	12	0	
2 Reese Taylor	1	0	0.0	0	0	
23 Ronnie Walker Jr.	1	0	0.0	0	0	
24 Mike Majette	0	0	-	-	0	

PASSING

	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
MSU							
14 Brian Lewerke	14	25	213	8.5	2	2	138.0
7 Cody White	1	1	6	6.0	0	0	150.4
IND							
Peyton Ramsey	32	46	272	5.9	2	2	124.9
Reese Taylor	0	0	0	-	0	0	-

RECEIVING

	Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
MSU					
18 Felton Davis III	5	79	15.8	19	0
7 Cody White	4	77	19.3	32	0
8 Jalen Nailor	1	16	16.0	16	1
11 Connor Heyward	1	16	16.0	16	0
Darrell Stewart Jr.	2	14	7.0	12	0
89 Matt Dotson	1	11	11.0	11	1
14 Brian Lewerke	1	6	6.0	6	0
13 Laress Nelson	0	0	-	-	0
16 Brandon Sowards	0	0	-	-	0
IND					
22 Whop Philyor	13	148	11.4	65	1
5 J-Shun Harris II	6	42	7.0	10	0
6 Donavan Hale	3	31	10.3	13	0
15 Nick Westbrook	2	14	7.0	9	0
2 Reese Taylor	1	13	13.0	13	0
24 Mike Majette	4	12	3.0	5	0
21 Stevie Scott	1	8	8.0	8	1
83 Austin Dorris	1	2	2.0	2	0
3 Ty Fryfogle	1	2	2.0	2	0