

WEEK FOUR
MICHIGAN AT NORTHWESTERN

EVANSTON, Ill. -- Karan Higdon ran for 115 yards and two touchdowns, Shea Patterson threw 196 yards and No. 14 Michigan overcame a 17-point deficit to beat Northwestern 20-17 on Saturday.

Higdon gave the Wolverines (4-1, 2-0 Big Ten) the lead with a 5-yard run with 4:06 remaining. Higdon averaged 3.8 yards on 30 carries, and Patterson completed 15 of 24 passes to help Michigan win its fourth straight.

Michigan held Northwestern to 97 yards of total offense in the final three quarters and had six sacks for the game. Defensive end Chase Winovich had a team-high eight solo tackles and a sack.

It was Michigan’s biggest comeback since 2011 against Notre Dame (also 17 points) and Jim Harbaugh’s largest comeback as a college coach.

“I talked about it at halftime. We are being tested and it’s time to find out what we’re made of,” Harbaugh said. “Our guys really responded.”

Clayton Thorson completed 16 of 27 passes for 174 yards for Northwestern (1-3, 1-1) in the Wildcats’ third straight loss.

John Moten IV had 36 yards on 13 rushes and a touchdown in his first start for Northwestern. He took over for Jeremy Larkin after Larkin retired this week because of a spinal condition.

Michigan has won seven straight games at Ryan Field.

A 14 1/2-point underdog, Northwestern jumped out to a 17-0 lead early in the second quarter on short TD runs by Thorson and Moten and a career-high 45-yard field goal by Charlie Kuhbander.

Michigan, which had minus-2 yards on its first two possessions, pulled to 17-7 on Higdon’s 4-yard run in the second quarter. The Wolverines made it 17-13 in the third on Quinn Nordin’s two field goals.

Neither team could generate much offense in the fourth until Higdon’s second TD capped an 11-play, 67-yard drive. The key play in the drive was a 22-yard pass from Patterson to Zach Gentry for first-and-goal at the 6.

“Offensively, it just seemed like the plays we made in the first half, we went 0-fer in the second half,” Wildcats coach Pat Fitzgerald said. “I thought Michigan’s front dominated the second half, and that was the difference in the game.”

THE TAKEAWAY

Michigan: It certainly wasn’t pretty -- particularly on the offensive side -- but the defense stepped up to shut down the Wildcats following a fast start.

Northwestern: After being on a pitch count in the first three games, Thorson went the distance and eliminated the mistakes that led to the loss against Akron two weeks ago. But again, the offense bogged down after a fast start and struggled to gain first downs in the second half.

Final	1	2	3	4	T		
MICH	0	7	6	7	20		
NW	10	7	0	0	17		
Scoring Summary -----							
FIRST QUARTER			MICH	NW			
NW TD 10:18							
Clayton Thorson 1 Yd Run (Charlie Kuhbander Kick)							
6 plays, 56 yards, 2:23							
NW FG 3:58							
Charlie Kuhbander 45 Yd Field Goal							
10 plays, 37 yards, 5:06							
SECOND QUARTER			MICH	NW			
NW TD 12:56							
John Moten IV 3 Yd Run (Charlie Kuhbander Kick)							
9 plays, 52 yards, 3:25							
MICH TD 9:14							
Karan Higdon 4 Yd Run (Quinn Nordin Kick)							
7 plays, 79 yards, 3:35							
THIRD QUARTER			MICH	NW			
MICH FG 7:40							
Quinn Nordin 23 Yd Field Goal							
11 plays, 69 yards, 4:43							
MICH FG 0:00							
Quinn Nordin 24 Yd Field Goal							
11 plays, 56 yards, 5:28							
FOURTH QUARTER			MICH	NW			
MICH TD 4:06							
Karan Higdon 5 Yd Run (Quinn Nordin Kick)							
11 plays, 67 yards, 5:59							
Team Stats			MICH	NW			
First Downs			18	15			
Total Yards			376	202			
Total Plays			66	63			
Avg Gain Per Play			5.7	3.2			
Net Yards Rushing			180	28			
Rushes			42	34			
Yards Per Rush			4.3	0.8			
Net Yards Passing			196	174			
Comp-Att			15-24	16-29			
Yards Per Pass			8.2	6.0			
Times Sacked			1	6			
Yds Lost To Sacks			-4	-43			
Interceptions			0	0			
Punts			6	7			
Punt Average			51.0	39.3			
Penalties			11	2			
Penalty Yards			100	25			
Fumbles			0	0			
Fumbles Lost			0	0			
Possession			34:41	25:19			
Individual Stats							
RUSHING							
MICH	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	Long		
Karan Higdon	30	115	3.8	2	30		
Shea Patterson	7	31	4.4	0	12		
Donovan Peoples-Jones	1	25	25.0	0	25		
Tru Wilson	1	6	6.0	0	6		
Ben Mason	2	5	2.5	0	3		
Ronnie Bell	1	-2	-2.0	0	0		
NW	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	Long		
John Moten IV	13	36	2.8	1	9		
Solomon Vault	7	18	2.6	0	9		
Riley Lees	2	8	4.0	0	4		
Isaiah Bowser	1	2	2.0	0	2		
Clayton Thorson	11	-36	-3.3	1	6		
PASSING							
MICH	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Shea Patterson	15	24	196	8.2	0	0	78.6
NW	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Clayton Thorson	16	27	174	6.4	0	0	34.6
Team	0	2	0	0.0	0	0	--
RECEIVING							
MICH	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	Long		
Nico Collins	6	73	12.2	0	36		
Zach Gentry	3	46	15.3	0	22		
Nick Eubanks	2	45	22.5	0	24		
Donovan Peoples-Jones	2	14	7.0	0	9		
Jared Wangler	1	9	9.0	0	9		
Karan Higdon	1	9	9.0	0	9		
NW	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	Long		
Flynn Nagel	6	65	10.8	0	15		
JJ Jefferson	1	36	36.0	0	36		
Bennett Skowronek	3	25	8.3	0	10		
Ramaud Chiaokhiao-Bowman	4	24	6.0	0	8		
Kyric McGowan	1	15	15.0	0	15		
John Moten IV	1	9	9.0	0	9		