

WEEK NINE
PURDUE AT MICHIGAN ST

EAST LANSING, Mich. -- Rocky Lombardi made his first start at quarterback for Michigan State, and the Spartans didn't hold back.

Lombardi threw for 318 yards and two touchdowns, and the Spartans halted Purdue's four-game win streak, beating the Boilermakers 23-13 on Saturday. With Brian Lewerke out with a shoulder injury, Lombardi guided the offense, and the redshirt freshman attempted 46 passes.

"Forty-six attempts is a lot," Lombardi said. "I'm happy that I got that many attempts and got to show what I did."

Matt Coghlin kicked three field goals, and the Spartans (5-3, 3-2 Big Ten) held on defensively toward the end. Michigan State's Mike Panasiuk blocked a field goal with 3:42 remaining, and Jalen Nailor broke free for a 48-yard touchdown reception to put the Spartans up 23-13 with 1:58 to play.

David Blough threw for 277 yards for Purdue, but he was intercepted three times, including once while the Boilermakers (4-4, 3-2) were in field goal range in the fourth quarter.

Michigan State has won eight straight games in this series.

"They executed better than us. I thought they played harder than us and I thought they made fewer mistakes," Purdue coach Jeff Brohm said. "It's a good learning experience for our team. That's why we say it's a one-game season. We did not get ready to play this game, come out and do the things necessary in order to win."

Purdue was coming off a 49-20 win over Ohio State, but the Boilermakers missed too many opportunities against the Spartans. On fourth-and-3 from the Michigan State 44 in the final quarter, Blough completed a pass to Rondale Moore, who was tackled short of the line to gain.

Later, Blough threw to Brycen Hopkins near the Michigan State 20, but Hopkins took a hard hit from Tyriq Thompson of the Spartans and lost the ball. Thompson grabbed it before it hit the ground for an interception with 10:02 to play.

Spencer Evans had a chance to tie it with a 41-yard kick, but Panasiuk got a piece of it.

"It was a very winnable game," Blough said. "It was a close game all the way throughout and they were banged up. It feels bad because I didn't play very well and didn't do enough to help my team win."

Lombardi's first touchdown pass came with 56 seconds left in the first half -- an 11-yarder to Darrell Stewart. The Spartans led 16-6 before Terry Wright's 1-yard scoring run late in the third brought Purdue within three.

THE TAKEAWAY

Purdue: The Boilermakers were shut down for much of the first three quarters, but they certainly had their chances late. Their inability to come away with points in the fourth quarter on repeated trips into Michigan State territory made this loss a frustrating one.

Michigan State: The Spartans were coming off an emotional loss to rival Michigan, and their offense had its ups and downs with the backup quarterback in the game. But Michigan State remains a solid defensive team, and the Spartans were able to prevent Moore (11 catches for 74 yards) from breaking free for too many big plays.

"People took notice today," coach Mark Dantonio said. "People all across the country took notice that the Spartans got up and played -- against a good football team that just had a huge win last week."

OPTIONS?

Lombardi's strong outing raised an obvious question: Would the Spartans have been better off going with him in last weekend's 21-7 loss to Michigan?

"We were second-guessing that a week ago today," said Dave Warner, Michigan State's co-offensive coordinator. "Probably put (Lewerke) in a bad situation by playing him without practicing, without going full tilt all week."

Dantonio was noncommittal about the quarterback situation going forward.

"Those decisions can be made at another time," he said. "First thing we've got to do is get (Lewerke) healthy."

MISS

In addition to the blocked kick in the fourth quarter, Evans missed a 57-yard kick at the end of the second. The attempt was pushed back to that distance when Purdue was called for a false start.

Coghlin had made a school-record 18 consecutive field goals until he had a kick blocked in the third quarter.

	1	2	3	4	T
PUR	3	3	7	0	13
MSU	6	7	3	7	23

Scoring Summary -----

	PUR	MSU
FIRST QUARTER		
MSU FG 11:07		
Matt Coghlin 43 Yd Field Goal		
7 plays, 24 yards, 2:03	0	3
PUR FG 8:11		
Spencer Evans 28 Yd Field Goal		
6 plays, 20 yards, 1:35	3	3
MSU FG 3:23		
Matt Coghlin 48 Yd Field Goal		
11 plays, 42 yards, 4:48	3	6
SECOND QUARTER		
PUR FG 6:33		
Spencer Evans 35 Yd Field Goal		
11 plays, 48 yards, 4:53	6	6
MSU TD 0:56		
Darrell Stewart Jr. 11 Yd pass from Rocky Lombardi (Matt Coghlin Kick)		
9 plays, 87 yards, 1:26	6	13
THIRD QUARTER		
MSU FG 3:08		
Matt Coghlin 34 Yd Field Goal		
10 plays, 34 yards, 4:39	6	16
PUR TD 0:35		
Terry Wright 1 Yd Run (Spencer Evans Kick)		
7 plays, 74 yards, 2:33	13	16
FOURTH QUARTER		
MSU TD 1:58		
Jalen Nailor 48 Yd pass from Rocky Lombardi (Matt Coghlin Kick)		
6 plays, 75 yards, 2:31	13	23

Team Stats	PUR	MSU
First Downs	16	26
Total Yards	339	426
Total Plays	62	86
Avg Gain Per Play	5.5	5.0
Net Yards Rushing	62	108
Rushes	13	40
Yards Per Rush	4.8	2.7
Net Yards Passing	277	318
Comp-Att	29-49	26-46
Yards Per Pass	5.7	6.9
Times Sacked	1	1
Yds Lost To Sacks	-3	-8
Interceptions	3	0
Punts	4	4
Punt Average	0.0	0.0
Penalties	4	6
Penalty Yards	30	61
Fumbles	0	3
Fumbles Lost	0	1
Possession	21:47	38:13

Individual Stats

RUSHING

	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
PUR					
D.J. Knox	7	51	7.3	0	36
David Blough	3	12	4.0	0	8
Terry Wright	1	1	1.0	1	1
Markell Jones	2	-2	-1.0	0	0
MSU					
LJ Scott	15	48	3.2	0	9
Rocky Lombardi	11	26	2.4	0	9
Jalen Nailor	2	24	12.0	0	15
Darrell Stewart Jr.	2	7	3.5	0	5
Connor Heyward	2	7	3.5	0	5
La'Darius Jefferson	5	4	0.8	0	3
Team	3	-8	-2.7	0	0

PASSING

	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
PUR							
David Blough	29	49	277	5.7	0	3	36.4
MSU							
Rocky Lombardi	26	46	318	6.9	2	0	48.9

RECEIVING

	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
PUR					
Brycen Hopkins	4	80	20.0	0	30
Rondale Moore	11	74	6.7	0	18
Isaac Zico	2	46	23.0	0	39
D.J. Knox	5	32	6.4	0	10
Terry Wright	3	30	10.0	0	15
Cole Herdman	2	10	5.0	0	7
Jared Sparks	1	4	4.0	0	4
Markell Jones	1	1	1.0	0	1
MSU					
Jalen Nailor	3	70	23.3	1	48
Darrell Stewart Jr.	4	60	15.0	1	27
Cam Chambers	5	53	10.6	0	13
Matt Dotson	4	48	12.0	0	21
Brandon Sowards	6	48	8.0	0	13
Matt Sokol	1	13	13.0	0	13
Justin Layne	1	11	11.0	0	11
La'Darius Jefferson	1	8	8.0	0	8
LJ Scott	1	7	7.0	0	7