

WEEK ELEVEN
MICHIGAN AT RUTGERS

PISCATAWAY, N.J. -- Shea Patterson threw for 260 yards and three touchdowns, Karan Higdon ran for a pair of 1-yard scores and No. 4 Michigan kept its national championship hopes intact with a 42-7 win over Rutgers on Saturday.

The Wolverines (9-1, 7-0 Big Ten, No. 4 CFP) have won nine straight and remain in first place in the conference's East Division. They have a final tuneup against Indiana next week at the Big House before closing the regular season at No. 8 Ohio State. Michigan hasn't lost since the season opener against No. 3 Notre Dame and would have to beat the Buckeyes for just the second time in 15 years to keep any hope at a national title alive.

They showed no signs of a slip up against lowly Rutgers (1-9, 0-7) and kept the Scarlet Knights without a yard passing until the third quarter. The Wolverines took the field on a chilly night in front of thousands of fans in blue and maize winter hats and jackets who turned Rutgers into a Big House East.

Michigan's win was never in doubt -- it was a 38 1/2-point favorite and had outscored Rutgers 162-30 over their last three meetings. Michigan's 78-0 win two years ago in Piscataway was perhaps the most horrifying defeat of Rutgers' 149 seasons.

The only upset Saturday came in the total time it took Michigan to score. The Wolverines didn't take the lead until Higdon's 1-yard run with 45 seconds left in the first quarter that made it 7-0.

Rutgers tied it at 7 when Isaih Pacheco took off for an 80-yard TD run, the longest rushing score for a freshman in program history. He finished with 142 yards on 16 carries.

A few thousand Rutgers fans were suddenly pumped, but the threat of a monster upset was quickly wiped out. Higdon gave Rutgers a 14-7 lead on a 1-yard run, and Patterson hit Collins on a 36-yard score. Collins was comically open -- the Rutgers students in the end zone seats were closer to him than any defender -- and it was clear at that point the Wolverines were rolling.

Patterson continued to play like the quarterback the Wolverines have needed in the Jim Harbaugh era to become legitimate national title contenders. Patterson, named a finalist this week for the Davey O'Brien award, is on the board at Las Vegas with the third-best odds to win the Heisman Trophy. He didn't necessarily play like the best player in college football against Rutgers, but the Mississippi transfer didn't have to be at his best. Patterson has thrown a touchdown pass to seven receivers this season and No. 7 was Oliver Martin in the third quarter. Martin's 16-yard haul was his first career touchdown.

Patterson had his fifth three-touchdown game of the season when he found Collins again for a 10-yard score and a 35-7.

Michigan waved its oversized "M" flag, and Rutgers fans said goodbye as they flocked toward the exits.

Patterson again got a boost in the backfield from Higdon, who ran for 42 yards and became the first Michigan running back to top 1,000 yards rushing since Denard Robinson in 2012.

Chris Evans had a 61-yard touchdown run in the fourth for a 42-7 lead.

THE TAKEAWAY

Michigan: The Wolverines are the only undefeated Big Ten team in conference play and are poised to win their first conference title since 2004. Their first national championship since 1997 certainly remains within reach.

Rutgers: Artur Sitkowski had a 16-yard pass completion in the third quarter to give Rutgers 16 yards passing. That's how bad the Scarlet Knights were in their toughest test to date. The only number more impossible to believe than the 0 in the yards passing column at halftime was the announced crowd of 43,786 in the stands.

CALLING FOR BACKUP

With the game out of hand, Michigan gave backup QB Joe Milton some snaps.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
MICH	7	14	14	7	42
RUTG	7	0	0	0	7

Scoring Summary -----

FIRST QUARTER	MICH	RUTG
MICH TD 0:45		
Karan Higdon 1 Yd Run (Quinn Nordin Kick)		
8 plays, 59 yards, 4:28	7	0
RUTG TD 0:26		
Isaih Pacheco 80 Yd Run (Justin Davidovicz Kick)		
1 play, 80 yards, 0:19	7	7
SECOND QUARTER	MICH	RUTG
MICH TD 9:33		
Karan Higdon 1 Yd Run (Quinn Nordin Kick)		
12 plays, 65 yards, 5:53	14	7
MICH TD 5:07		
Nico Collins 36 Yd pass from Shea Patterson (Quinn Nordin Kick)		
6 plays, 53 yards, 2:08	21	7
THIRD QUARTER	MICH	RUTG
MICH TD 11:12		
Oliver Martin 16 Yd pass from Shea Patterson (Quinn Nordin Kick)		
8 plays, 73 yards, 3:48	28	7
MICH TD 0:08		
Nico Collins 10 Yd pass from Shea Patterson (Quinn Nordin Kick)		
5 plays, 42 yards, 2:33	35	7
FOURTH QUARTER	MICH	RUTG
MICH TD 11:26		
Chris Evans 61 Yd Run (Quinn Nordin Kick)		
1 play, 61 yards, 0:11	42	7

Team Stats

	MICH	RUTG
First Downs	24	11
Total Yards	453	252
Total Plays	67	53
Avg Gain Per Play	6.8	4.8
Net Yards Rushing	193	193
Rushes	40	33
Yards Per Rush	4.8	5.8
Net Yards Passing	260	59
Comp-Att	18-27	9-20
Yards Per Pass	9.6	3.0
Times Sacked	0	1
Yds Lost To Sacks	0	-9
Interceptions	0	1
Punts	3	6
Punt Average	41.7	34.7
Penalties	2	3
Penalty Yards	20	30
Fumbles	0	1
Fumbles Lost	0	1
Possession	33:38	26:22

Individual Stats

RUSHING

	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
MICH					
Chris Evans	6	75	12.5	1	61
Tru Wilson	8	58	7.3	0	15
Karan Higdon	15	42	2.8	2	9
Oliver Martin	1	11	11.0	0	11
Joe Hewlett	1	5	5.0	0	5
Berkley Edwards	2	4	2.0	0	4
Ben Mason	2	2	1.0	0	2
Ronnie Bell	2	2	1.0	0	2
Joe Milton	3	-6	-2.0	0	2
RUTG					
Isaih Pacheco	16	142	8.9	1	80
Raheem Blackshear	11	41	3.7	0	20
Bo Melton	1	5	5.0	0	5
Jonathan Hilliman	4	4	1.0	0	4
Artur Sitkowski	1	1	1.0	0	1

PASSING

	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
MICH							
Shea Patterson	18	27	260	9.6	3	0	184.2
RUTG							
Artur Sitkowski	8	19	40	2.1	0	1	49.3
Isaih Pacheco	1	1	19	19.0	0	0	259.6

RECEIVING

	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
MICH					
Donovan Peoples-Jones	5	83	16.6	0	32
Nico Collins	3	56	18.7	2	36
Zach Gentry	3	42	14.0	0	21
Oliver Martin	3	38	12.7	1	16
Chris Evans	2	26	13.0	0	15
Ronnie Bell	2	15	7.5	0	12
RUTG					
Giovanni Rescigno	1	19	19.0	0	19
Shameen Jones	1	16	16.0	0	16
Raheem Blackshear	5	16	3.2	0	14
Travis Vokolek	1	5	5.0	0	5
Nakia Griffin-Stewart	1	3	3.0	0	3