

**QUICK LANE BOWL
PITTSBURGH vs EASTERN MICHIGAN**

Pitt rallies to beat Eastern Michigan in Quick Lane Bowl

DETROIT -- Pittsburgh players took punches, and one was hit with spit, and the Panthers still kept their cool in critical moments to win a bowl game for the first time in five appearances under coach Pat Narduzzi.

Kenny Pickett threw a 25-yard touchdown pass to Taysir Mack with 47 seconds left and the Panthers held on to beat Eastern Michigan 34-30 in the Quick Lane Bowl on Thursday night.

"Our kids held their composure," Narduzzi said.

After taking its first lead of the game in the final minute, Pittsburgh (8-5) forced Eastern Michigan to turn it over on downs from its 40 to seal its first bowl victory since winning in Detroit six years ago with former coach Paul Chryst.

The Eagles (6-7) came up just short in a closely contested game just as they did in three previous bowls with coach Chris Creighton and the usually disciplined team unraveled at times.

Eastern Michigan quarterback Mike Glass was ejected with 10 seconds left after throwing punches at two players and inadvertently grazing an official, who was trying keep players separated. Eagles cornerback Kevin McGill was ejected earlier for unsportsmanlike conduct. Creighton said officials told him McGill spit on an opponent.

"There's absolutely no excuse for any of that," Creighton said. "They're embarrassed by it. They apologized to the team. I'm embarrassed. I apologize to anybody's who's watching."

Glass was 28 of 50 for 311 yards with two touchdowns and an interception. The senior also ran for 83 yards and a score.

He was not made available for comment after the game, but was con-tribute on Twitter.

"I let God and my family down!" Glass posted on his account.

Pickett completed 27 of 39 passes for 361 yards and three scores, including a school-record, 96-yard TD pass to Maurice Ffrench that tied the game in the second quarter. Ffrench finished with 12 catches for 165 yards.

"They had some explosive plays that were the difference in the game," Creighton said.

RECORD BOOKS

Ffrench had 96 receptions this season, breaking Larry Fitzgerald's school record of 92 set in 2003.

"That's with missing a couple games," Narduzzi said. "He fought back with that broken jaw."

Glass surpassed Charlie Batch's single-season records of 3,390 yards of total offense and 23 touchdown passes set in 1997.

The marks were marred by the punches Glass threw late in the game.

"He's in tears in the locker room, begging me to talk to the team before I could say a word," Creighton said. "He made a mistake and he is truly sorry for it. I'm ultimately responsible for it and I'm embarrassed, but I love him 100 percent."

THE TAKEAWAY

Pitt: Coaching continuity with offensive coordinator Mark Whipple returning for a second season should help the program. The offense showed some signs of life in the bowl game after scoring 20 or fewer points in eight games this season.

Eastern Michigan: The program is on solid footing, earning consecutive bowl bids for the first time and three in four years after previously doing it only once as a Division I team. The Eagles will just have to hope they can keep Creighton away from Power Five conference schools.

CROWD SUPPORT

The game drew a lot of green-and-white clad fans, cheering for the Eagles, whose campus is about 30 miles from Ford Field. The attendance was 34,765, the largest crowd to watch a Quick Lane Bowl since it was created in 2014.

"Awesome," Creighton said. "Six years ago, the vision was to try to make the football program a source of pride for the athletic department, for the university, for Ypsilanti (Michigan) and even the region."

Final	1	2	3	4	T
PITT	0	17	3	14	34
EMU	10	10	0	10	30

Scoring Summary -----

	PITT	EMU
FIRST QUARTER		
EMU FG 10:04 Chad Ryland 35 Yd Field Goal		3
14 plays, 57 yards, 4:56	0	
EMU TD 6:46 Mike Glass III 3 Yd Run (Chad Ryland Kick)		10
5 plays, 54 yards, 2:00	0	
second Quarter		
PITT FG 13:43 Alex Kessman 44 Yd Field Goal		3
9 plays, 43 yards, 3:25	3	
PITT TD 11:57 Maurice Ffrench 96 Yd pass from Kenny Pickett (Alex Kessman Kick)		10
1 play, 96 yards, 0:16	10	
EMU TD 10:04 Quian Williams 50 Yd pass from Mike Glass III (Chad Ryland Kick)		17
4 plays, 75 yards, 1:53	10	
PITT TD 6:20 Vincent Davis 8 Yd Run (Alex Kessman Kick)		17
8 plays, 75 yards, 3:44	17	
EMU FG 1:32 Chad Ryland 45 Yd Field Goal		20
9 plays, 48 yards, 4:48	17	
third Quarter		
PITT FG 4:16 Alex Kessman 51 Yd Field Goal		20
4 plays, -4 yards, 2:11	20	
fourth Quarter		
EMU TD 10:45 Arthur Jackson III 10 Yd pass from Mike Glass III (Chad Ryland Kick)		27
11 plays, 63 yards, 5:39	20	
PITT TD 8:22 Jared Wayne 19 Yd pass from Kenny Pickett (Alex Kessman Kick)		27
6 plays, 75 yards, 2:23	27	
EMU FG 6:00 Chad Ryland 48 Yd Field Goal		30
9 plays, 44 yards, 2:22	27	
PITT TD 0:47 Taysir Mack 25 Yd pass from Kenny Pickett (Alex Kessman Kick)		34
10 plays, 91 yards, 1:56	34	

Team Stats	PITT	EMU
First Downs	22	27
Passes for First	16	16
Rushes for First	5	9
Penalties for First	1	2
Third Down Efficiency	6-14	9-18
Fourth Down Efficiency	0-0	0-1
Total Yards	457	438
Total Plays	68	87
Avg Gain Per Play	6.7	5.0
Net Yards Rushing	96	127
Rushes	29	36
Yards Per Rush	3.3	3.5
Net Yards Passing	361	311
Comp-Att	27-39	28-51
Yards Per Pass	9.3	6.1
Times Sacked	2	2
Yds Lost To Sacks	-27	-13
Interceptions	0	1
Punts	5	5
Punt Average	44.8	49.2
Penalties	4	3
Penalty Yards	36	40
Fumbles	3	0
Fumbles Lost	1	0
Time of Poss	25:51	34:09

Individual Stats

RUSHING

PITTSBURGH	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Vincent Davis	15	69	4.6	1	15
Shocky Jacques-Louis	1	17	17.0	0	17
V'Lique Carter	3	12	4.0	0	6
Kenny Pickett	7	5	0.7	0	8
Team	1	-1	-1.0	0	0
A.J. Davis	1	-2	-2.0	0	0
Maurice Ffrench	1	-4	-4.0	0	0

EASTERN MICHIGAN

	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Mike Glass III	21	83	4.0	1	24
Shaq Vann	13	48	3.7	0	14
Breck Turner	1	2	2.0	0	2
Jairus Grissom	1	-6	-6.0	0	0

PASSING

PITTSBURGH	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Kenny Pickett	27	39	361	9.3	3	0	67.1
EASTERN MICHIGAN	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Mike Glass III	28	50	311	6.2	2	1	64.3
Preston Hutchinson	0	1	0	0.0	0	0	0.1

RECEIVING

PITTSBURGH	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Maurice Ffrench	12	165	13.8	1	96
Shocky Jacques-Louis	4	68	17.0	0	32
Jared Wayne	3	46	15.3	1	19
Vincent Davis	2	27	13.5	0	28
Taysir Mack	1	25	25.0	1	25
V'Lique Carter	1	10	10.0	0	10
Nakia Griffin-Stewart	2	10	5.0	0	6
Will Gragg	1	5	5.0	0	5
A.J. Davis	1	5	5.0	0	5
EASTERN MICHIGAN	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Hassan Beydoun	9	113	12.6	0	35
Quian Williams	2	68	34.0	1	50
Arthur Jackson III	7	53	7.6	1	11
Line Latu	2	35	17.5	0	19
Shaq Vann	3	22	7.3	0	14
Jairus Grissom	1	10	10.0	0	10
Dylan Drummond	4	10	2.5	0	9