

WEEK THREE  
EASTERN MICHIGAN at ILLINOIS

**Last-second field goal lifts EMU over Illinois 34-31**

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. -- Eastern Michigan coach Chris Creighton clearly enjoyed the postgame media gathering following his team's impressive last-second 34-31 road win over Illinois on Saturday.

"I love this team," he said, smiling. "I mean, wow. What a great bunch of guys."

Creighton had good reason to be joyous. Chad Ryland booted a 24-yard field goal as time expired to give the Eagles their third win over a Big Ten team, following victories against Rutgers in 2017 and Purdue in 2018.

Mike Glass was 23 of 36 for 316 yards and three touchdowns to lead EMU (2-1). Jarius Grissom rushed three times for 52 yards, while Willie Parker had 23 yards on 11 carries and a touchdown. "Awesome, awesome day for our program," Creighton said. "Our defense played well. We knew we weren't going to shut them out, because they are really good, but we did what we needed to. Our guys just executed."

Brandon Peterson was 22 of 37 for 297 yards passing, two touchdowns and an interception for Illinois (2-1). Reggie Corbin, who sat out the last game with a hip pointer, carried the ball 18 times for 144 yards for the Illini.

"A lot of people need to do a better job, including me," said Illinois coach Lovie Smith. "We didn't play our best today, but we have a lot to build on. We're a 2-1 football team, so we've done some good things."

Next week (against conference foe Nebraska) will be a better indicator of where we are."

**GOOD START**

In a first-half shoot-out, both teams showed plenty of offense and periods of ineffective defense. The Eagles rushed for 93 yards and Glass was 11 of 20 for 183 yards and three touchdowns, while Illinois rushed for 76 yards and Peters went 13 of 17 for 164 yards and one TD.

"One positive? We were down by 14 points at one point and still managed to get ourselves into a position to win the game," Smith said. "We have to maintain a sense of consistency, in both halves, whether it's running, passing or on defense."

**TOUGH END**

Illinois was still in the hunt with less than three minutes left after tying the game at 31 on a 36-yard touchdown pass from Peters to Josh Imatorbhebhe.

But Glass, who looked calm and collected all day, methodically put his team in a position to win with a 23-yard pass to Dylan Drummond followed by a 13-yard run by Breck Turner. Ryland then trotted onto the field with one second left for the game winner.

**THE BATTLE UP FRONT**

"They beat us up front," Smith said of his Illini. "It's a one-on-one battle out there, and the losing team doesn't win that battle. That was us today."

Creighton credited hard work and preparation for his team's win. "We definitely had a better week of practice this week," he said. "We prepared hard. Our team believes, and that's deep and very powerful when it comes to a game like this."

**THE TAKEAWAY**

EMU: Good win for Creighton's team, which came in as the underdog and which has a habit of upsetting Power Five teams (Rutgers and Purdue in the past two seasons).

Illinois: Ugly loss for the Illini. The offense played essentially half a game, and the defense was suspect all afternoon. Smith took over as defensive coordinator after Hardy Nickerson left last October, and has said it would be his number-one priority. But there remains considerable work to be done before conference play begins next week in a prime-time game against Nebraska.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
EMU	14	9	0	11	34
ILL	17	0	0	14	31

**Scoring Summary -----**

	EMU	ILL
<b>FIRST QUARTER</b>		
ILL FG 9:18 James McCourt 57 Yd Field Goal		3
8 plays, 38 yards, 3:22	0	
EMU TD 8:02 Arthur Jackson III 26 Yd pass from Mike Glass III (Chad Ryland Kick)	7	3
5 plays, 75 yards, 1:16		
ILL TD 6:52 Ricky Smalling 14 Yd pass from Brandon Peters (James McCourt Kick)		10
4 plays, 65 yards, 1:10	7	
EMU TD 3:55 Mathew Sexton 54 Yd pass from Mike Glass III (Chad Ryland Kick)	14	10
2 plays, 54 yards, 0:12		
ILL TD 1:42 Ra'Von Bonner 4 Yd Run (James McCourt Kick)		17
6 plays, 75 yards, 2:17	14	
<b>SECOND QUARTER</b>		
EMU TD 8:28 Arthur Jackson III 31 Yd pass from Mike Glass III (Chad Ryland PAT failed)	20	17
5 plays, 70 yards, 1:40		
EMU FG 4:43 Chad Ryland 52 Yd Field Goal		17
8 plays, 26 yards, 3:01	23	
<b>FOURTH QUARTER</b>		
EMU TD 11:20 Willie Parker 4 Yd Run (Mike Glass III Pass to Mathew Sexton for Two-Point Conversion)		31
8 plays, 49 yards, 3:26		
ILL TD 7:46 Reggie Corbin 28 Yd Run (James McCourt Kick)		24
11 plays, 75 yards, 3:34		
ILL TD 1:44 Josh Imatorbhebhe 36 Yd pass from Brandon Peters (James McCourt Kick)	31	31
7 plays, 93 yards, 1:14		
EMU FG 0:00 Chad Ryland 24 Yd Field Goal		34
8 plays, 68 yards, 1:44		

Team Stats	EMU	ILL
First Downs	23	24
Passes for First	12	12
Rushes for First	10	11
Penalties for First	1	1
Third Down Efficiency	3-13	7-17
Fourth Down Efficiency	1-1	1-1
Total Yards	478	464
Total Plays	76	77
Avg Gain Per Play	6.3	6.0
Net Yards Rushing	164	167
Rushes	40	40
Yards Per Rush	4.1	4.2
Net Yards Passing	314	297
Comp-Att	23-36	22-37
Yards Per Pass	8.7	8.0
Times Sacked	6	1
Yds Lost To Sacks	-51	-6
Interceptions	0	1
Punts	8	7
Punt Average	0.0	0.0
Penalties	2	9
Penalty Yards	20	80
Fumbles	1	2
Fumbles Lost	1	1
Time of Poss	31:47	28:13

**Individual Stats**

**RUSHING**

EASTERN MICHIGAN	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Jairus Grissom	3	52	17.3	0	47
Mike Glass III	10	37	3.7	0	18
Breck Turner	10	26	2.6	0	13
Willie Parker	11	23	2.1	1	13
Shaq Vann	3	18	6.0	0	10
Eddie Daugherty	1	6	6.0	0	6
Mathew Sexton	1	4	4.0	0	4
Team	1	-2	-2.0	0	0
<b>ILLINOIS</b>	<b>Rush</b>	<b>Yds</b>	<b>Avg</b>	<b>TD</b>	<b>LONG</b>
Reggie Corbin	18	144	8.0	1	35
Dre Brown	7	46	6.6	0	12
Ra'Von Bonner	4	16	4.0	1	8
Jakari Norwood	1	4	4.0	0	4
Team	1	-9	-9.0	0	0
Brandon Peters	9	-34	-3.8	0	16

**PASSING**

EASTERN MICHIGAN	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Mike Glass III	23	36	316	8.8	3	0	76.5
<b>ILLINOIS</b>	<b>Comp</b>	<b>Att</b>	<b>Yds</b>	<b>Y/A</b>	<b>TD</b>	<b>Int</b>	<b>QBRat</b>
Brandon Peters	22	37	297	8.0	2	1	24.4

**RECEIVING**

EASTERN MICHIGAN	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Arthur Jackson III	3	80	26.7	2	31
Bryson Cannon	4	60	15.0	0	24
Mathew Sexton	1	54	54.0	1	54
Dylan Drummond	5	43	8.6	0	23
Line Latu	3	38	12.7	0	14
Breck Turner	5	27	5.4	0	9
Bryce Kemp	1	13	13.0	0	13
Shaq Vann	1	1	1.0	0	1
<b>ILLINOIS</b>	<b>Rec</b>	<b>Yds</b>	<b>Avg</b>	<b>TD</b>	<b>LONG</b>
Josh Imatorbhebhe	4	91	22.8	1	36
Daniel Barker	4	90	22.5	0	52
Ricky Smalling	5	49	9.8	1	16
Dominic Stampley	2	36	18.0	0	27
Trevon Sidney	3	22	7.3	0	11
Donny Navarro	1	10	10.0	0	10
Justice Williams	1	2	2.0	0	2
Reggie Corbin	1	0	0.0	0	0
Jakari Norwood	1	-3	-3.0	0	0