WEEK EIGHT
PURDUE at IOWA

No. 23 Iowa holds off Purdue 26-20

IOWA CITY, Iowa -- Iowa's defense might be as good as any in America.

The Hawkeyes' offense is lagging way behind though, and that inconsistency is threatening to submarine their season.

Mekhi Sargent ran for a 14-yard score with 2:16 left and 23rd-ranked Iowa held off Purdue 26-20 on Saturday, snapping a two-game losing streak.

Tyler Goodson scored his first career touchdown from a yard out and Keith Duncan kicked four field goals for the Hawkeyes (5-2, 2-2 Big Ten), who also broke a two-game skid against the Boilermakers (2-5, 1-3).

"Really happy with the level of effort and perseverance," Iowa coach Kirk Ferentz said. "Obviously we're still working on finding a better rhythm offensively."

Purdue made the Hawkeyes -- who entered the game as a 17-point favorite -- earn this one.

The Boilermakers cut it to 19-13 on J.D. Dellinger's 36-yard field goal with 2:59 left. Purdue was assessed a personal foul after squibbing the ensuing kickoff to midfield, though, and runs of 21 and 14 yards by Sargent gave the Hawkeyes the cushion they'd been looking for all day.

Jack Plummer's 1-yard TD pass to Payne Durham with 24 seconds left made Purdue the first team this season to score 20 on the Hawkeyes. But Iowa secured the onside kick and survived -- and Wisconsin's stunning loss at Illinois gave an unexpected boost to the Hawkeyes' hopes in the West Division race.

David Bell caught 13 passes for 197 yards and a touchdown for Purdue, which ran for just 33 yards after entering the day 129th out of 130 teams in rushing.

"We just have to worry about getting better, getting more efficient," Purdue coach Jeff Brohm said.

Duncan hit field goals of 30, 44, 42 and 38 yards on a wet afternoon in Iowa City. He's now 17 of 19 on the season.

"Of course, we've rather kick extra points," Duncan said. "But it's fun to go get some field goals."

THE TAKEAWAY
Iowa: The Hawkeyes' offense might be even more hampered moving forward. Receiver Brandon Smith was carried off by his teammates in the fourth quarter with what appeared to be a right leg injury. Smith headed to the locker room on crutches after catching nine balls for 106 yards. "So far it's positive," Ferentz said, adding it might just be a bone bruise.

Purdue: The Boilermakers might have pulled off the upset if not for two first-half turnovers deep in Iowa territory. Purdue likely won't make a bowl in 2019, but the prospect of star Rondale Moore and Bell playing together should frighten Big Ten West defensive coordinators. Plummer wasn't bad either, finishing 30 of 50 for 327 yards. "I think we showed some fight," Brohm said.

PIVOTAL MOMENT
Purdue, down 9-7, was threatening to score on the first possession of the second half when Iowa forced a long third-down try. Sophomore Riley Moss picked off Plummer at the Boilers' 21. Goodson caught a 20-yard pass on the first play of Iowa's subsequent drive, which ended with Goodson's touchdown run.

PIVOTAL MOMENT, PART 2
Later in the third, Stanley was flushed from the pocket -- and Purdue appeared to have all his receivers covered. But a scrambling Stanley found Smith downfield for a 30-yard completion that put Iowa on Purdue's 37. That set up Duncan's fourth field goal, a 38-yarder off a bad snap.

THANKS, DEFENSE & PUNTER!
Stanley threw a ball that slipped through Goodson's hands and into Purdue cornerback Dedrick Mackey's hands early in the fourth quarter. He returned it to Iowa's 8, but the Hawkeyes held the Boilermakers to three points. Michael Sleep-Dalton bailed out the offense as well a few minutes later with a 63-yard punt that put Purdue on its own 21.

POLL IMPLICATIONS
Iowa might struggle to maintain its place in Sunday's Top 25.

HE SAID IT
"You have to look in the mirror as a coach and work hard, dig deeper," Brohm said.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
PUR	0	7	0	13	20
IOWA	6	3	7	10	26

Scoring Summary ---------------

FIRST QUARTER	PUR	IOWA
IOWA FG 7:45 Keith Duncan 30 Yd Field Goal		
15 plays, 63 yards, 7:15	0	3
IOWA FG 2:42 Keith Duncan 44 Yd Field Goal		
7 plays, 56 yards, 3:10	0	6

SECOND QUARTER	PUR	IOWA
IOWA FG 2:14 Keith Duncan 42 Yd Field Goal		
8 plays, 31 yards, 4:35	0	9
PUR TD 0:38 David Bell 7 Yd pass from Jack Plummer (J.D. Dellinger Kick)		
7 plays, 78 yards, 1:36	7	9

THIRD QUARTER	PUR	IOWA
IOWA TD 7:26 Tyler Goodson 1 Yd Run (Keith Duncan Kick)		
9 plays, 72 yards, 4:27	7	16

FOURTH QUARTER	PUR	IOWA
IOWA FG 14:54 Keith Duncan 38 Yd Field Goal		
7 plays, 47 yards, 2:54	7	19
PUR FG 11:36 J.D. Dellinger 27 Yd Field Goal		
4 plays, -1 yard, 0:58	10	19
PUR FG 2:59 J.D. Dellinger 36 Yd Field Goal		
5 plays, 70 yards, 0:51	13	19
IOWA TD 2:16 Mekhi Sargent 14 Yd Run (Keith Duncan Kick)		
2 plays, 35 yards, 0:43	13	26
PUR TD 0:24 Payne Durham 1 Yd pass from Jack Plummer (J.D. Dellinger Kick)		
11 plays, 72 yards, 1:52	20	26

Team Stats	PUR	IOWA
First Downs	17	19
Passes for First	13	14
Rushes for First	3	5
Penalties for First	1	0
Third Down Efficiency	6-16	3-13
Fourth Down Efficiency	1-1	1-1
Total Yards	360	362
Total Plays	68	66
Avg Gain Per Play	5.3	5.5
Net Yards Rushing	33	102
Rushes	18	33
Yards Per Rush	1.8	3.1
Net Yards Passing	327	260
Comp-Att	30-50	23-33
Yards Per Pass	6.5	7.9
Times Sacked	1	1
Yds Lost To Sacks	-7	-8
Interceptions	1	1
Punts	6	4
Punt Average	36.8	47.3
Penalties	5	7
Penalty Yards	40	60
Fumbles	2	0
Fumbles Lost	1	0
Time of Poss	24:22	35:38

Individual Stats

RUSHING

PURDUE	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
King Doerue	10	26	2.6	0	9
Jack Plummer	7	4	0.6	0	8
Richie Worship	1	3	3.0	0	3

IOWA	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Mekhi Sargent	13	68	5.2	1	21
Toren Young	5	17	3.4	0	6
Nate Stanley	6	9	1.5	0	9
Tyler Goodson	5	6	1.2	1	3
Tyrone Tracy Jr.	1	5	5.0	0	5
Brady Ross	2	0	0.0	0	1
Team	1	-3	-3.0	0	0

PASSING

PURDUE	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Jack Plummer	30	50	327	6.5	2	1	45.4

IOWA	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Nate Stanley	23	33	260	7.9	0	1	63.2

RECEIVING

PURDUE	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
David Bell	13	197	15.2	1	54
Brycen Hopkins	5	51	10.2	0	28
Amad Anderson Jr.	2	32	16.0	0	23
Jared Sparks	3	17	5.7	0	6
King Doerue	3	16	5.3	0	6
Jackson Anthrop	2	9	4.5	0	7
Da'Joun Hewitt	1	4	4.0	0	4
Payne Durham	1	1	1.0	1	1

IOWA	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Brandon Smith	9	106	11.8	0	30
Ihmir Smith-Marsette	3	57	19.0	0	32
Tyler Goodson	2	38	19.0	0	20
Nico Ragaini	6	31	5.2	0	13
Tyrone Tracy Jr.	3	28	9.3	0	21