

WEEK ONE
NORTHERN IOWA at IOWA ST

No. 21 Iowa State survives UNI in 3 OT, 29-26

AMES, Iowa -- Sheldon Croney Jr. scored from a yard out in triple overtime and 21st-ranked Iowa State rallied to beat Northern Iowa 29-26 on Saturday.

La'Michael Pettway had a pair of touchdown catches for the Cyclones (1-0), who barely survived the season's first major upset after entering the year ranked for the first time since 1978.

Croney fumbled near the goal line on the second-to-last play of the game. But quarterback Brock Purdy sprinted from the backfield to recover it at the 1 and set up the game-winning plunge.

"I saw who was underneath the pile so I knew who would come up with it. Doesn't that tell you what he is about?" Iowa State coach Matt Campbell said about Purdy's heads-up play. "When I saw him there I thought we were going to be in great shape."

After the teams traded field goals in the first overtime, Purdy found Pettway -- a graduate transfer from Arkansas in his Iowa State debut -- in the back of the end zone. But Northern Iowa pulled even at 23-all after freshman Will McElvain scrambled long enough to free up Trevor Allen for a 7-yard TD catch.

Iowa State forced Northern Iowa into a field goal to start triple overtime, and Purdy completed three straight passes before pulling off what might end up being remembered as a season-saving recovery.

The Cyclones were the second ranked team to win an overtime game against an FCS opponent. Auburn held off Jacksonville State 27-20 in 2015.

"That's why I love coaching in this game. It demands you being your best right out of the gate," Campbell said.

McElvain finished with 228 yards passing and a touchdown in his collegiate debut.

Purdy threw for 278 yards, and Deshaunte Jones caught 14 passes for 126 yards for Iowa State.

THE TAKEAWAY

Iowa State: Part of the Cyclones' struggles can be attributed to the fact that Northern Iowa isn't the least bit intimidated about driving about 100 miles southwest to play them -- in fact, the Panthers have three wins in Ames dating back to 2007. But Iowa State's offense was so dreadful in the first half that it didn't reach the red zone once, and it couldn't put Northern Iowa away in the second.

Northern Iowa: McElvain, a freshman from nearby Des Moines who was offered a walk-on spot by the Cyclones, looks like he's got a bright future. His scramble to find Allen in double OT was one of the best plays of the young season.

POLL IMPLICATIONS

It's very hard to imagine Iowa State maintaining its place in the Top 25 after that performance.

Final	1	2	3	4	OT	T
UNI	0	0	13	0	13	26
ISU	3	0	7	3	16	29

Scoring Summary -----

First Quarter	UNI	ISU
ISU FG 0:53 C. Assalley 42 yd FG GOOD		
9 plays, 34 yards, 2:37	0	3
Third Quarter	UNI	ISU
UNI FG 12:56 M. Cook 50 yd FG GOOD		
7 plays, 33 yards, 2:04	3	3
ISU TD 8:31 B. Purdy pass,to L. Pettway for 7 yds for a TD, (C. Assalley KICK)		
9 plays, 75 yards, 4:25	3	10
UNI FG 1:44 M. Cook 31 yd FG GOOD		
15 plays, 75 yards, 6:45	6	10
UNI TD 0:06 B. Purdy sacked by E. Smith for -8 yds,B. Purdy fumbled, recovered by NIowa X. Williams,return for 53 yds, (M. Cook KICK)		
5 plays, 18 yards, 1:38	13	10
Fourth Quarter	UNI	ISU
ISU FG 0:59 C. Assalley 23 yd FG GOOD		
17 plays, 74 yards, 6:52	13	13
Overtime	UNI	ISU
UNI FG M. Cook 49 yd FG GOOD		
4 plays, -6 yards	16	13
ISU FG C. Assalley 22 yd FG GOOD		
6 plays, 20 yards	16	16
ISU TD B. Purdy pass,to L. Pettway for 9 yds for a TD, (C. Assalley KICK)		
4 plays, 25 yards	16	23
UNI TD W. McElvain pass,to T. Allen for 7 yds for a TD,W. McElvain pass,to T. Allen for 7 yds for a TD, (M. Cook KICK)		
7 plays, 25 yards	23	23
UNI FG M. Cook 28 yd FG GOOD		
6 plays, 14 yards	26	23
ISU TD S. Croney Jr. run for 1 yd for a TD		
5 plays, 25 yards	26	29

Team Stats

	UNI	ISU
First Downs	18	27
Passes for First	13	17
Rushes for First	5	8
Penalties for First	0	2
Third Down Efficiency	6-18	6-16
Fourth Down Efficiency	1-1	1-2
Total Yards	262	463
Total Plays	73	86
Avg Gain Per Play	3.6	5.4
Net Yards Rushing	34	185
Rushes	31	45
Yards Per Rush	1.1	4.1
Net Yards Passing	228	278
Comp-Att	25-42	30-41
Yards Per Pass	5.4	6.8
Times Sacked	2	3
Yds Lost To Sacks	-11	-10
Interceptions	0	0
Punts	6	3
Punt Average	0.0	0.0
Penalties	5	5
Penalty Yards	50	50
Fumbles	1	2
Fumbles Lost	0	1
Time of poss	27:55	32:05

Individual Stats

RUSHING

NORTHERN ILLINOIS	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Trevor Allen	15	26	1.7	0	8
Alphonso Soko	6	5	0.8	0	7
Jaylin James	1	3	3.0	0	3
Will McElvain	9	0	0.0	0	10
IOWA ST	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Johnnie Lang	14	60	4.3	0	12
Sheldon Croney Jr.	13	56	4.3	1	14
Breece Hall	11	47	4.3	0	9
Kene Nwangwu	4	30	7.5	0	12
Deshaunte Jones	1	3	3.0	0	3
Brock Purdy	2	-11	-5.5	0	0

PASSING

NORTHERN ILLINOIS	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Will McElvain	25	42	228	5.4	1	0	
IOWA ST	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Brock Purdy	30	41	278	6.8	2	0	

RECEIVING

NORTHERN ILLINOIS	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Isaiah Weston	2	48	24.0	0	26
Tristan Bohr	5	43	8.6	0	18
Deion McShane	7	38	5.4	0	12
Jaylin James	3	37	12.3	0	16
Trevor Allen	2	26	13.0	1	19
Briley Moore	4	26	6.5	0	10
Jalen Rima	1	7	7.0	0	7
Alphonso Soko	1	3	3.0	0	3
IOWA ST	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Deshaunte Jones	14	126	9.0	0	20
Charlie Kolar	4	45	11.3	0	15
La'Michael Pettway	3	26	8.7	2	10
Sheldon Croney Jr.	3	23	7.7	0	14
Landen Akers	1	21	21.0	0	21
Tarique Milton	2	18	9.0	0	11
Dylan Soehner	1	11	11.0	0	11
Chase Allen	1	4	4.0	0	4
Darren Wilson	1	4	4.0	0	4