

WEEK TEN
PURDUE at NORTHWESTERN

Purdue beats Northwestern 24-22 on Dellinger's late FG

EVANSTON, Ill. -- Aidan O'Connell has a knack for leading game-winning drives. He engineered his second in as many weeks with help from kicker J.D. Dellinger.

O'Connell threw for 271 yards and Dellinger kicked a 39-yard field goal with three seconds left Saturday as Purdue beat Northwestern 24-22 to keep its bowl hopes alive.

O'Connell, a former walk-on, made his first start after Elijah Sindelar (broken left collarbone) and Jack Plummer (broken right ankle) went down with injuries. He guided the go-ahead drive late after Wildcats kicker Charlie Kuhbänder's 32-yard field goal bounced off the left upright.

David Bell made 14 catches for 115 yards and a score as the Boilermakers rallied from down 14-0 in the first quarter. Northwestern lost its seventh straight, while Purdue beat the Wildcats for the first time since 2010 after losing five in a row.

O'Connell quarterbacked the winning drive last week against Nebraska, and he came through again.

"It wasn't a pretty game, and we had some moments where we looked really bad," Purdue coach Jeff Brohm said. "But we hung in there, and that has kind of been the sign of our team."

Northwestern (1-8, 0-7 Big Ten) scored more points than in its four previous games combined, as receiver-turned-tailback Kyric McGowan rushed for 146 yards and a score.

O'Connell struggled in the first half but helped Purdue (4-6, 3-4 Big Ten) outscore Northwestern 17-6 after halftime. The Wildcats committed two pass interference penalties on the final drive to keep Purdue in it, and Dellinger knocked through the game-winner into gusting wind.

"I had a good feeling we were gonna at least get a chance at it," Dellinger said. "It felt really good off my foot, and it looked pretty dead straight almost all the way there, so I felt good about it."

McGowan lined up in the backfield and burst up the middle for a 79-yard touchdown on Northwestern's second play from scrimmage. Aidan Smith found a diving Jace James from 16 yards out to put the Wildcats up 14-0 on the next drive, and Northwestern added a safety.

Purdue running back King Doerue bounced outside for a 12-yard score in the second quarter. Then O'Connell floated touchdown passes over the defense to David Bell and Amad Anderson in the third. The Wildcats retook the lead when Smith connected with Riley Lees in the fourth, but they couldn't close it out.

"Probably the best response I've seen from our team all year responding from adversity," Northwestern coach Pat Fitzgerald said. "We got it back, we put together a great drive and then the last four minutes of the game the difference was discipline."

THE TAKEAWAY

Purdue: The Boilermakers have a tough road remaining with games at Wisconsin and at home against Indiana, but they can still qualify for a bowl game.

Northwestern: A season marked by lifeless offense will end in a last-place finish in the Big Ten West. It'll be the Wildcats' worst season since at least 2006, Fitzgerald's first season at the helm.

ICE COLD

Northwestern called timeout before Dellinger's go-ahead field goal in an attempt to ice him. Dellinger was just fine with that.

"I think it helps, honestly," Dellinger said. "It gives me a chance to catch my breath. I guess I probably shouldn't say that if any other coach is watching the replay later."

HOMETOWN KID

O'Connell made his first career start close to home. He graduated from Stevenson High School in Lincolnshire, Illinois, and had family waiting for him outside Purdue's locker room after the game.

"Just had a lot of people . who make me reflect and realize how grateful I am and how many people poured into me when things weren't going my way early in my career," O'Connell said. "When you have that, you really feel like you can do anything."

| Final | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | T |
|-------|----|---|----|---|----|
| PUR | 0 | 7 | 14 | 3 | 24 |
| NW | 14 | 2 | 0 | 6 | 22 |

Scoring Summary -----

| | PUR | NW |
|--|-----|----|
| FIRST QUARTER | | |
| NW TD 10:34 Kyric McGowan 79 Yd Run (Charlie Kuhbänder Kick) | 0 | 7 |
| 2 plays, 92 yards, 0:34 | | |
| NW TD 3:47 Jace James 16 Yd pass from Aidan Smith (Charlie Kuhbänder Kick) | 0 | 14 |
| 12 plays, 83 yards, 4:27 | | |
| SECOND QUARTER | | |
| PUR TD 9:57 King Doerue 12 Yd Run (J.D. Dellinger Kick) | 7 | 14 |
| 12 plays, 58 yards, 4:53 | | |
| NW SF 0:59 Team Safety | 7 | 16 |
| 2 plays, -14 yards, 0:14 | | |
| THIRD QUARTER | | |
| PUR TD 9:26 David Bell 13 Yd pass from Aidan O'Connell (J.D. Dellinger Kick) | 14 | 16 |
| 9 plays, 76 yards, 3:17 | | |
| PUR TD 6:28 Amad Anderson Jr. 11 Yd pass from Aidan O'Connell (J.D. Dellinger Kick) | 21 | 16 |
| 5 plays, 32 yards, 1:34 | | |
| FOURTH QUARTER | | |
| NW TD 11:10 Riley Lees 8 Yd pass from Aidan Smith (Two-Point Pass Conversion Failed) | 21 | 22 |
| 4 plays, 46 yards, 1:26 | | |
| PUR FG 0:03 J.D. Dellinger 39 Yd Field Goal | 24 | 22 |
| 11 plays, 58 yards, 2:27 | | |

| Team Stats | PUR | NW |
|------------------------|-------|-------|
| First Downs | 22 | 24 |
| Passes for First | 14 | 13 |
| Rushes for First | 4 | 10 |
| Penalties for First | 4 | 1 |
| Third Down Efficiency | 7-15 | 6-15 |
| Fourth Down Efficiency | 0-0 | 1-2 |
| Total Yards | 345 | 440 |
| Total Plays | 72 | 76 |
| Avg Gain Per Play | 4.8 | 5.8 |
| Net Yards Rushing | 74 | 251 |
| Rushes | 21 | 45 |
| Yards Per Rush | 3.5 | 5.6 |
| Net Yards Passing | 271 | 189 |
| Comp-Att | 34-51 | 19-31 |
| Yards Per Pass | 5.3 | 6.1 |
| Times Sacked | 0 | 2 |
| Yds Lost To Sacks | 0 | -12 |
| Interceptions | 2 | 1 |
| Punts | 5 | 5 |
| Punt Average | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Penalties | 5 | 9 |
| Penalty Yards | 39 | 86 |
| Fumbles | 1 | 2 |
| Fumbles Lost | 0 | 1 |
| Time of Poss | 27:06 | 32:54 |

Individual Stats

RUSHING

| PURDUE | Rush | Yds | Avg | TD | LONG |
|-----------------|------|-----|------|----|------|
| King Doerue | 9 | 43 | 4.8 | 1 | 18 |
| Zander Horvath | 5 | 24 | 4.8 | 0 | 18 |
| Aidan O'Connell | 5 | 4 | 0.8 | 0 | 9 |
| Tario Fuller | 2 | 3 | 1.5 | 0 | 2 |
| NORTHWESTERN | Rush | Yds | Avg | TD | LONG |
| Kyric McGowan | 17 | 146 | 8.6 | 1 | 79 |
| Drake Anderson | 16 | 51 | 3.2 | 0 | 8 |
| Aidan Smith | 8 | 30 | 3.8 | 0 | 9 |
| Andrew David | 1 | 17 | 17.0 | 0 | 17 |
| Tyler Haskins | 1 | 5 | 5.0 | 0 | 5 |
| Riley Lees | 2 | 2 | 1.0 | 0 | 6 |

PASSING

| PURDUE | Comp | Att | Yds | Y/A | TD | Int | QBRat |
|-----------------|------|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|-------|
| Aidan O'Connell | 34 | 50 | 271 | 5.4 | 2 | 2 | 69.7 |
| Team | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | -- |
| NORTHWESTERN | Comp | Att | Yds | Y/A | TD | Int | QBRat |
| Aidan Smith | 19 | 31 | 184 | 5.9 | 2 | 1 | 48.5 |

RECEIVING

| PURDUE | Rec | Yds | Avg | TD | LONG |
|--------------------------|-----|-----|-------|----|------|
| David Bell | 14 | 115 | 8.2 | 1 | 18 |
| Amad Anderson Jr. | 9 | 67 | 7.4 | 1 | 17 |
| Jackson Anthrop | 2 | 24 | 12.0 | 0 | 14 |
| Brycen Hopkins | 3 | 23 | 7.7 | 0 | 10 |
| Zander Horvath | 1 | 21 | 21.0 | 0 | 21 |
| Milton Wright | 2 | 11 | 5.5 | 0 | 9 |
| King Doerue | 3 | 10 | 3.3 | 0 | 4 |
| NORTHWESTERN | Rec | Yds | Avg | TD | LONG |
| Riley Lees | 8 | 62 | 7.8 | 1 | 13 |
| Berkeley Holman | 2 | 53 | 26.5 | 0 | 33 |
| Jace James | 3 | 41 | 13.7 | 1 | 16 |
| Ramaud Chiaokhiao-Bowman | 1 | 21 | 21.0 | 0 | 21 |
| Kyric McGowan | 3 | 19 | 6.3 | 0 | 9 |
| Trey Pugh | 1 | 1 | 1.0 | 0 | 1 |
| Malik Washington | 1 | -13 | -13.0 | 0 | 4 |