

No. 23 Iowa hands No. 7 Minnesota its first loss, 23-19

IOWA CITY, Iowa -- Minnesota's undefeated season came to an end in a place where the Gophers have struggled for a while.

Nate Stanley threw two touchdown passes and Tyler Goodson ran for a score to help No. 23 Iowa beat No. 7 Minnesota 23-19 on Saturday, handing the Gophers their first loss while hurting their playoff prospects.

The Gophers (9-1, 6-1, No. 8 CFP) haven't won at Kinnick Stadium since 1999, losing nine straight on the road in the series. The loss will hurt them in the rankings, but they stay in control of their own fate in the Big Ten West Division race.

That, coach P.J. Fleck said, is something his team needs to remember.

"This is one game," Fleck said. "Everything else is sitting right in front of us. If we can play a game that poorly, we can come back from it.

"This is not the end of the world. It hurts. It should hurt -- it's a rivalry game. This is what college football is all about. ... This is one game. That's all that means."

The Hawkeyes (7-3, 4-3) struck quickly, scoring touchdowns on their first three possessions, then held off Minnesota's charge in the second half for their first victory over a ranked opponent this season.

"We did a great job of controlling the first half," Iowa coach Kirk Ferentz said. "We knew we were going to have to score some points today. It's no mirage how many points they've scored, the yards that they've had."

"We had to open it up," said wide receiver Nico Ragaini, who scored Iowa's first touchdown on a 21-yard pass from Stanley.

"Defensively, we started too slow," Minnesota linebacker Thomas Barber said. "You can't do that in a Big Ten game."

Minnesota got to 23-19 with 3:27 to play when Rodney Smith scored on a 1-yard dive. But Brock Walker's extra-point attempt missed. Iowa's Nate Wieting then recovered the onside kick.

The Gophers had a final chance. But quarterback Tanner Morgan was sacked by Joe Evans and A.J. Epenesa on back-to-back plays, then backup Cole Kramer's pass was intercepted by Riley Moss on fourth down.

Stanley threw for 173 yards. Goodson rushed for 94 yards.

Morgan threw for 368 yards. Tyler Johnson had nine catches for 170 yards. The Gophers had 431 yards of offense.

"The biggest accomplishment there is we kept them out of the end zone," Ferentz said.

THE TAKEAWAY

Minnesota: The Gophers' chance at making it to the CFP took a hit with the defeat. But they're still in command of the West Division race with two games remaining. Minnesota plays at Northwestern next week and closes the season at home against Wisconsin, the second-place team in the division. The Badgers are one game behind the Gophers.

Iowa: This was the Hawkeyes' fifth home win on Oct. 30 or late over a team with serious national title aspirations since 2008. The Hawkeyes talked all week about not having any pressure with their division hopes.

"It's November in Kinnick," safety Geno Stone said.

POLL IMPLICATIONS

Minnesota rose 12 spots after beating Penn State a week ago. The Gophers will tumble, but it likely won't be as dramatic as last week's surge. As for Iowa, it should expect to move up at least three or four spots.

MORGAN'S INJURY

Morgan was injured on the sack by Epenesa on the final drive. Fleck said he was "wobbly" when he left the field.

FLECK FLAGGED

Fleck was called for an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty in the fourth quarter after a fourth-down incompletion.

Johnson dropped a pass inside the Iowa 10-yard line for an incompletion. As Johnson came up from the turf, he was knocked down by Iowa's Dane Belton, who was flagged for unsportsmanlike conduct.

But Fleck was given the same penalty because he ran out on the field. Fleck said he was concerned about Johnson, who was down on the field after the hit from Belton.

"I was told I ran onto the field too fast," Fleck said. "I get that. But I didn't know there was a red light or a green light for when we could go onto the field."

Final	1	2	3	4	T
MINN	0	6	7	6	19
IOWA	13	7	0	3	23

Scoring Summary -----

	MINN	IOWA
FIRST QUARTER		
IOWA TD 11:26 Nico Ragaini 21 Yd pass from Nate Stanley (Two-Point Pass Conversion Failed)		
8 plays, 75 yards, 3:34	0	6
IOWA TD 0:18 Tyler Goodson 10 Yd Run (Keith Duncan Kick)		
9 plays, 68 yards, 5:27	0	13
SECOND QUARTER		
MINN FG 9:47 Brock Walker 24 Yd Field Goal		
12 plays, 87 yards, 5:31	3	13
IOWA TD 6:20 Ihmir Smith-Marsette 5 Yd pass from Nate Stanley (Keith Duncan Kick)		
6 plays, 69 yards, 3:27	3	20
MINN FG 0:00 Brock Walker 20 Yd Field Goal		
5 plays, 44 yards, 0:39	6	20
THIRD QUARTER		
MINN TD 11:35 Tyler Johnson 28 Yd pass from Tanner Morgan (Brock Walker Kick)		
6 plays, 66 yards, 3:25	13	20
FOURTH QUARTER		
IOWA FG 7:13 Keith Duncan 27 Yd Field Goal		
10 plays, 29 yards, 4:09	13	23
MINN TD 3:27 Rodney Smith 1 Yd Run (Brock Walker PAT failed)		
9 plays, 75 yards, 3:46	19	23

Team Stats	MINN	IOWA
First Downs	23	17
Passes for First	18	10
Rushes for First	4	7
Penalties for First	1	0
Third Down Efficiency	7-14	5-11
Fourth Down Efficiency	1-3	1-1
Total Yards	431	290
Total Plays	69	54
Avg Gain Per Play	6.2	5.4
Net Yards Rushing	63	117
Rushes	30	31
Yards Per Rush	2.1	3.8
Net Yards Passing	368	173
Comp-Att	25-39	14-23
Yards Per Pass	9.4	7.5
Times Sacked	6	2
Yds Lost To Sacks	-30	-25
Interceptions	1	0
Punts	2	4
Punt Average	31.5	42.0
Penalties	5	3
Penalty Yards	52	16
Fumbles	1	0
Fumbles Lost	0	0
Time of Poss		

Individual Stats

RUSHING

MINNESOTA	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Rodney Smith	14	46	3.3	1	18
Shannon Brooks	4	23	5.8	0	14
Mohamed Ibrahim	3	9	3.0	0	7
Seth Green	2	8	4.0	0	8
Tanner Morgan	7	-23	-3.3	0	7

IOWA	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Tyler Goodson	13	94	7.2	1	26
Mekhi Sargent	6	18	3.0	0	7
Tyrone Tracy Jr.	1	11	11.0	0	11
Nate Stanley	8	1	0.1	0	8
Ihmir Smith-Marsette	1	-1	-1.0	0	0
Team	2	-6	-3.0	0	0

PASSING

MINNESOTA	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Tanner Morgan	25	36	368	10.2	1	0	78.0
Team	0	1	0	0.0	0	0	--
Cole Kramer	0	2	0	0.0	0	1	9.7

IOWA	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Nate Stanley	14	23	173	7.5	2	0	70.1

RECEIVING

MINNESOTA	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Tyler Johnson	9	170	18.9	1	38
Rashod Bateman	6	98	16.3	0	46
Demetrius Douglas	4	60	15.0	0	29
Chris Autman-Bell	3	21	7.0	0	13
Mohamed Ibrahim	1	15	15.0	0	15
Rodney Smith	1	4	4.0	0	4
Cam Wiley	1	0	0.0	0	0

IOWA	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Tyrone Tracy Jr.	6	77	12.8	0	27
Ihmir Smith-Marsette	4	43	10.8	1	20
Nico Ragaini	2	30	15.0	1	21
Sam LaPorta	1	12	12.0	0	12
Nate Wieting	1	11	11.0	0	11