

WEEK FOURTEEN  
WISCONSIN at MINNESOTA

Badgers take back Axe in snowy 38-17 win vs. Gophers

MINNEAPOLIS -- As soon as Wisconsin's victory over Minnesota went final, the swarm of white-uniformed Badgers raced toward Paul Bunyan's Axe for a gleeful reunion with the traveling trophy they lost last year. They ceremonially chopped at the goal post, while others turned somersaults and made snow angels on the field. At the end of this breakthrough season by the rival Gophers, the Badgers showed they're still in charge in the Big Ten West Division. Jack Coan delivered two momentum-shifting touchdown passes and Jonathan Taylor added three touchdowns to his FBS-leading total, as No. 13 Wisconsin reasserted its recent dominance in the rivalry by beating No. 9 Minnesota 38-17 on Saturday to advance to the Big Ten championship game. "The worst feeling in the world was losing on our own field and having them take it," said Badgers linebacker Chris Orr, who watched Gophers win 37-15 last year to end a 14-game losing streak in the series. "The best feeling in the world is beating them on their home field on senior day and taking it from them."

Quintez Cephus caught five passes for 114 yards, including a 47-yarder for a score midway through the third quarter that gave Wisconsin (10-2, 7-2, No. 12 CFP) a 17-7 lead. Coan connected with Taylor for a 28-yard touchdown strike late in the second quarter that gave the Badgers the lead after a slow start, sending them on their way to a rematch with unbeaten and second-ranked Ohio State.

Taylor, the Heisman Trophy contender who had 200-plus rushing yards in each of his last three games, had a quiet 76 yards on 18 carries. Badgers coach Paul Chryst and offensive coordinator Joe Rudolph called a shrewd game, though, with well-timed reverses and screen passes to put the Gophers on their heels after their first four possessions went nowhere. They caught Minnesota defensive end Carter Coughlin in coverage on the touchdown throw to Taylor after a safety blitz. When the safety help was slow after a late change of the call, Cephus exploited a matchup with linebacker Thomas Barber for his score.

"A lot of the plays were extremely well-drawn up. We just have to learn how to combat it better," said Gophers defensive end Winston DeLattiboudere, one of six senior starters on the defense. Coan went 15 for 22 for 280 yards, a career high for a Big Ten game. "He was able to throw dimes down the field in these conditions," Taylor said. "He has something special."

Tanner Morgan passed for 296 yards and two touchdowns for the Gophers (10-2, 7-2). He had an interception and a lost fumble that turned into 10 points for the Badgers, who scored touchdowns on each of their first four drives in the second half. Two of them covered 90-plus yards. "That's all on me. I've just got to be better in the pocket and moving around," said Morgan, who set the Minnesota season record with 2,975 passing yards.

**BADGERED MORGAN**  
The Gophers delivered the first blow on their second play of the game, when Bateman badly beat freshman cornerback Semar Melvin for a 51-yard score on a perfect strike from Morgan. With Minnesota boasting the top two receivers in the Big Ten in Bateman and Tyler Johnson, the Badgers had their hands full.

They responded with five sacks, giving them the fourth-most in the FBS (44) this season, harassing Morgan into plenty of off-balanced and hastened throws. Cornerback Caesar Williams, elevated to the starting lineup for the injured Rachad Wildgoose, had the interception when Morgan's hurried pass sailed over Johnson in the second quarter, and in the fourth quarter he broke up back-to-back passes to Johnson in the end zone on third and fourth down with the Badgers leading 24-10.

The Gophers lost mammoth right tackle Daniel Faalele to a leg injury in the second quarter, which didn't help their cause.

**POLL IMPLICATIONS**  
This was the only the sixth time in the history of the most-played series in major college football that both teams were ranked in The Associated Press poll, the first since 2014 when Wisconsin also denied Minnesota a spot in the conference title game by winning the regular-season finale. Wisconsin could take Minnesota's place in the top 10 on Sunday.

**THE TAKEAWAY**  
Wisconsin: The Badgers might be wincing next month about what that one-point loss to Illinois on Oct. 19 might have cost them, though they have a long-shot hope of their first berth in the College Football Playoff if there's a bunch of upsets on conference championship weekend. Either way, their recovery was a testament to Chryst and his staff, and the game plan for the Gophers was superb.

"There were a number of things that maybe we hadn't done," Chryst said. "It's not like we put them all in this week, but I think the situations were right for it."

Minnesota: The dream season took a painful hit with losses to border-state rivals Iowa and Wisconsin over the final three weeks, after starting Fleck's third year at 9-0. Though the Badgers took home the traveling trophy for the 22nd time in the last 25 seasons, the Gophers had no trouble expressing confidence in their progress.

"I know we didn't tonight, but that doesn't mean we won't forever," Fleck said.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
WIS	0	10	14	14	38
MINN	7	0	3	7	17

Scoring Summary -----					
FIRST QUARTER			WIS	MINN	
MINN TD 12:30 Rashod Bateman 51 Yd pass from Tanner Morgan (Michael Lantz Kick)					
2 plays, 51 yards, 0:15			0	7	
SECOND QUARTER			WIS	MINN	
WIS FG 8:56 Zach Hintze 26 Yd Field Goal					
8 plays, 19 yards, 3:21			3	7	
WIS TD 2:49 Jonathan Taylor 28 Yd pass from Jack Coan (Zach Hintze Kick)					
7 plays, 82 yards, 3:38			10	7	
THIRD QUARTER			WIS	MINN	
WIS TD 9:52 Quintez Cephus 47 Yd pass from Jack Coan (Zach Hintze Kick)					
4 plays, 91 yards, 1:52			17	7	
MINN FG 6:51 Michael Lantz 38 Yd Field Goal					
7 plays, 61 yards, 3:01			17	10	
WIS TD 5:52 Kendrick Pryor 26 Yd Run (Zach Hintze Kick)					
2 plays, 39 yards, 0:59			24	10	
FOURTH QUARTER			WIS	MINN	
WIS TD 11:05 Jonathan Taylor 11 Yd Run (Zach Hintze Kick)					
6 plays, 96 yards, 3:10			31	10	
WIS TD 8:41 Jonathan Taylor 1 Yd Run (Zach Hintze Kick)					
4 plays, 18 yards, 2:07			38	10	
MINN TD 5:51 Tyler Johnson 12 Yd pass from Tanner Morgan (Michael Lantz Kick)					
10 plays, 75 yards, 2:50			38	17	

Team Stats	WIS	MINN
First Downs	20	22
Passes for First	11	15
Rushes for First	8	4
Penalties for First	1	3
Third Down Efficiency	3-10	5-14
Fourth Down Efficiency	2-2	1-3
Total Yards	453	372
Total Plays	57	67
Avg Gain Per Play	7.9	5.6
Net Yards Rushing	173	76
Rushes	35	30
Yards Per Rush	4.9	2.5
Net Yards Passing	280	296
Comp-Att	15-22	20-37
Yards Per Pass	12.7	8.0
Times Sacked	0	5
Yds Lost To Sacks	0	-20
Interceptions	0	1
Punts	3	4
Punt Average	33.0	37.0
Penalties	7	2
Penalty Yards	63	14
Fumbles	1	1
Fumbles Lost	1	1
Time of Poss	29:18	30:42

Individual Stats

RUSHING							
WISCONSIN	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Jonathan Taylor	18	76	4.2	2	16		
Kendric Pryor	2	32	16.0	1	26		
Jack Coan	3	20	6.7	0	9		
Mason Stokke	2	14	7.0	0	7		
Bradrick Shaw	3	10	3.3	0	4		
Nakia Watson	4	10	2.5	0	3		
Garrett Groshek	1	9	9.0	0	9		
John Chenal	1	3	3.0	0	3		
Aron Cruickshank	1	-1	-1.0	0	0		
MINNESOTA	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Mohamed Ibrahim	5	39	7.8	0	36		
Rodney Smith	11	31	2.8	0	23		
Shannon Brooks	7	22	3.1	0	6		
Seth Green	2	4	2.0	0	4		
Tanner Morgan	5	-20	-4.0	0	0		
PASSING							
WISCONSIN	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Jack Coan	15	22	280	12.7	2	0	93.6
MINNESOTA	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Tanner Morgan	20	37	296	8.0	2	1	44.1
RECEIVING							
WISCONSIN	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Quintez Cephus	5	114	22.8	1	47		
Garrett Groshek	1	70	70.0	0	70		
Jonathan Taylor	2	39	19.5	1	28		
Mason Stokke	3	30	10.0	0	13		
Jake Ferguson	1	20	20.0	0	20		
A.J. Taylor	2	10	5.0	0	6		
Nakia Watson	1	-3	-3.0	0	0		
MINNESOTA	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Rashod Bateman	6	147	24.5	1	51		
Tyler Johnson	8	89	11.1	1	18		
Demetrius Douglas	2	36	18.0	0	25		
Chris Autman-Bell	3	16	5.3	0	8		
Seth Green	1	8	8.0	0	8		