

2006 GAME RECAPS

MICHIGAN ST 27 Idaho 17 - Smith coached under Erickson at three schools. MSU took its 2nd poss [97/10] for a TD. UI answered with a [24/10] drive for a 49 yd FG. MSU drove [19/5] for a TD after an int, 14-3. UI went on a [47/11] drive but had a 38 yd FG blk'd & MSU got a 35 yd FG with :35 left 2Q, 17-3. MSU missed a 52 yd FG & UI went on a [66/13] TD drive. MSU drove [71/8] for a TD, 24-10. UI drove [81/10] for a TD. MSU was SOD on 4th & 1 at UI's 25 but later drove [65/9] for a 22 yd FG with :30 left.

MICHIGAN ST 52 E Michigan 20 - MSU led 24-3 w/4:22 left 1H but EM, on 4th & 4, got a 39 yd flea flicker TD. The Eagles rec'd the onside kick & got another TD 3 plays later to pull within 24-17 at the half. MSU fmbld the 3Q opening KO & EM added a 38 yd FG. The Spartans would then score 4 straight TD's with EM generating just 2 FD's in that span.

Michigan St 38 PITTSBURGH 23 - Pitt controlled the 1Q with a [41/10] FG drive & a [50/6] TD drive to lead 10-0 but MSU controlled the rest. The Spartans would go [63/13] for a 43 yd FG & [83/11] for a 10-10 score at the half. In the 2H MSU went [64/7], [75/8], [83/11] & [99/10] all for TD's. Pitt's only threat in that span ended on an int at the 1 from the 38. MSU's final TD was with 5:00 left. Pitt went [56/7] for a TD. MSU rec'd the onside kick but fmbld with :53 left & Pitt got a 49 yd TD pass as time expired.

Notre Dame 40 MICHIGAN ST 37 - MSU led 17-0 after 1Q & 31-14 at the half. ND got a 62 yd TD pass in 3Q but MSU answered with a 30 yd TD run by Caulcrick & led 37-21 after 3Q's. On 4th & 5 w/8:18 left, ND got a 43 yd TD pass, 37-27 (2ptng). MSU then imploded fmbldg at their own 19 which set up an Irish TD, 37-33 (xpng) with 4:57 left. Stanton was then int'd & ret'd 27 yds for a TD with just 2:53 left, 40-37. MSU drove to the ND44 but Stanton's pass bounced off three different players & was int'd.

Illinois 23 MICHIGAN ST 20 - MSU started w/a [62/10] drive but on 2nd & goal from the 2 fmbld. MSU then went [34/9] but they settled for a 31 yd FG. IL QB Williams picked up a bobbled snap & threw it up for grabs and WR Willis outjumped the defender & raced 69 yds for a TD. IL added a [66/14] drive for a 27 yd FG & led 10-3 at half. MSU got a 62 yd IR for a TD, 10-10. IL answered going [72/9] for a TD & then [66/10] for a 34 yd FG, 20-10. After a 16 yd PR of a 24 yd punt, MSU went [27/6] for a TD. After a 34 yd punt & a 15 yd PR, MSU started at the IL36 but they settled for a 27 yd FG & the tie w/2:46 left. IL went [58/10] & nailed a 39 yd FG w/:06 left for the upset. IL had a 390-259 yd edge.

MICHIGAN 31 Michigan St 13 - UM went [60/10] for a TD on its first drive. The Wolves added a 41 yd TD pass to Manningham. MSU missed a 33 yd FG & UM went on a 14 play drive for a 24 yd FG & led 17-0 at the half. UM opened the 3Q with a [76/8] drive for a TD. MSU went [77/13] for a TD. UM answered with a [78/6] drive for a TD, 31-7 after 3Q's. MSU was int'd at the 2 & then drove [51/5] for a TD, 31-13 (2ptng). MSU was int'd at its 31 (3:43).

Ohio St 38 MICHIGAN ST 7 - OSU fmbld on the 3rd play but MSU got a FD to the 1 called back on holding & a sk forced a punt. OSU went [80/12] for a TD. MSU was SOD at the OSU35 early 2Q. The Bucks drove [50/7] for a 32 yd FG & then got a 60 yd PR TD by Ginn, 17-0. Freeman int'd a pass at the 40 with just 2:40 left 1H & the Bucks tacked on another TD. OSU had 243-51 yd 1H edge. OSU drove [53/5] for a TD to open the 3Q & would add a [88/13] TD drive w/12:49 left, 38-0. The Spartans drove [69/12] vs OSU's backup D for TD w/1:08 left. Stanton was KO'd out of the game twice & Hoyer finished it.

Michigan St 41 NORTHWESTERN 38 - MSU opened w/ a [66/11] FG drive but the Cats went [71/14], [74/7], [43/6], [88/7] for 3 TD's & a FG to lead 24-3 at half w/ a 271-136 yd edge. NU even missed a 35 yd FG w/:15 left. NU opened the 3Q with a [80/5] TD drive & a 40 yd IR led to another TD to make it 38-3. MSU then began the biggest comeback in NCAA history. The Spartans went [65/9] & [53/8] for TD's. Hoyer, in for an inj'd Stanton, was int'd at the NU9 but later MSU blk'd a punt for a TD, 38-24. With Stanton back in, MSU went [60/7] & [58/6] for TD's to tie it. MSU then got an int w/2:59 left to set up a 28 yd FG w/:13 left for the win.

INDIANA 46 Michigan St 21 - MSU opened with a [80/10] TD drive & held Indy to a 34 yd FG, 7-3. Indy then went [64/6] & [67/2] for TD's. MSU was SOD at the Indy47 & with just 2:18 left 1H, Indy went [53/10] for a TD. MSU fmbld with :20 left which set up Indy for a 17 yd TD pass, 30-7. After a 14 yd PR, Indy went [32/3] for a TD and added a [69/5] TD drive, 44-7. MSU fmbld a punt for a safety, 46-7 after 3Q's. MSU drove [35/7] and [44/3] for 4Q garbage TD's.

Purdue 17 MICHIGAN ST 15 - PU took its opening drive [72/5] for a TD & their 2nd drive [27/8] but missed a 37 yd FG. MSU went [68/8] settling for a 22 yd FG, 7-3. MSU fmbld at the PU39 & the Boilers went on a [28/11] drive but had a TD called back on offensive pass interference. After a sk, a 4th & 32 forced a 50 yd FG which PU missed. MSU went [38/10] for a 46 yd FG, 7-6. PU went [71/7] & got a 7 yd TD pass with :40 left 1H, 14-6. PU had a 221-158 yd 1H edge. MSU went [55/11] for a 40 yd FG. PU fmbld a punt at their own 24. Stanton dodged 3 potential sks and hit a TD pass as MSU led 15-14 (2 ptng). PU had a FD at the 11 but fmbld into the EZ for a TB (7:37). MSU was int'd & ret'd to their 38. PU got a FD to the 10 & the backup K nailed a 19 yd FG on 4th & goal from the 2 with 4:49 left. Stanton's 4th & 8 pass was incomplete with 1:47 left.

Minnesota 31 MICHIGAN ST 18 - Smith's final HG. MSU blocked a punt & ret'd it for a TD. Min was SOD on a fake punt on 4th & 12 from its own 21. MSU had a 1st & goal at the 1 but was SOD. The Spartans got a safety on the next play tkl'ing Pinnix, 9-0. Min was SOD on 4th & 3 at the MSU36 & MSU went [61/5] but Hoyer, in for an inj'd Stanton, was int'd in the EZ. Min went [80/10] for a TD and then sk'd Hoyer & ret'd a fmbld 48 yds for a TD, 14-9. Min missed a 48 yd FG but got a 41 yd FG with :22 left 1H, 17-9. At the half Min had a 212-76 yd edge. MSU opened the 3Q with a [64/13] drive for a 33 yd FG, 17-12. On 3rd & 12 Min got a 37 yd TD pass capping a [50/4] drive, 24-12. MSU later went [50/16] but a fake punt was SOD at the Min41. Min got a 41 yd TD pass, 31-12. MSU was SOD at the Min6 & then drove [64/8] for a TD w/2:54 left.

PENN ST 17 Michigan St 13 - Hoyer started for an inj'd Stanton. MSU missed a 35 yd FG but after a fmbld went [11/2] for a TD. After a fmbld, MSU got a 45 yd FG, 10-0. PSU fmbld but MSU was SOD at the PSU43. On 4th & 32 a roughing the punter penalty gave PSU a FD & they continued on a [56/12] TD drive. PSU fmbld at their own 43 setting MSU up for a 29 yd FG. At the half MSU led 13-7 w/ a 186-125 yd edge. MSU went [58/11] but missed a 35 yd FG. PSU went [80/7] & took the lead w/ a 6 yd TD pass, 14-13. PSU blk'd a punt & rec'd at the 19 but missed a 36 yd FG. PSU went [49/8] for a 45 yd FG, 17-13. MSU went on a [26/8] drive but Hoyer's 4th & 2 pass was incomplete w/2:47 left & PSU ran out the clock. Hoyer had a school record 61 pass att's in John L Smith's final gm as the Spartans HC.