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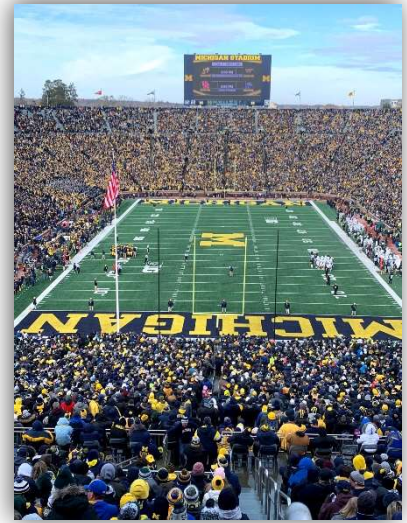
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MICHIGAN SOARS OVER FOE MICHIGAN STATE

Wolverines use a 98-yard drive to oust the Spartans

Ann Arbor, Mich. - On a balmy, November 16th morning in Ann Arbor, Michigan, the battle for the state of Michigan took place in the largest stadium in the country, The Big House. The Green and White clashed with the Maize and Blue. The matchup pitted the 14th ranked Michigan Wolverines versus the unranked Michigan State Spartans (MSU). The Wolverines came into the game riding a hot streak with a record of 7-2 overall, having not lost since October 19th at Penn State. The Spartans, however, lost to perennial Big Ten pushover, Illinois in a barnburner the previous week, dropping their record to 4-5 on the season. For the Spartans, this was their last chance to turn their season around, but for the Wolverines this was an opportunity to keep their momentum headed in a positive direction.



A packed Big House for the Michigan-Michigan State game

The battle for the Paul Bunyan trophy started with a boom when the Spartans scored first. However, the Wolverines stormed back with a prolific passing attack, led by star quarterback, Shea Patterson and a critical 98-yard drive to outscore their rivals by 41 points after the initial touchdown. The 112th meeting between the two storied programs resulted in a 44-10 victory for the Wolverines of Michigan.

“The execution was really good, on-point today”

Wolverines coach, Jim Harbaugh in regards to his team's 98-yard drive

The game began with both teams trading empty possessions. The Spartans seemingly had brought their best game yet again when they came to play the Wolverines. After stopping Michigan on an early 4th down attempt, MSU wasted no time, taking 3 minutes and 47 seconds to drive 60 yards and strike first on a 1-yard touchdown pass from Brian Lewerke to fullback Max Rosenthal with about two minutes left in the 1st quarter. The Wolverines took the last plays of the quarter to shift the momentum, driving down the field through a balanced passing attack.

The Wolverines quickly flopped sides of the field at the end of the quarter, and with that change came a shift in the score when Hassan Haskins ran a 1-yard touchdown from the Wolverines 'Wildcat' formation. The score was knotted at seven. One of the game-changing drives occurred when the Wolverines picked the Spartans defense apart on a masterful 12 play, 98-yard drive capped with a 5-yard touchdown pass from Shea Patterson to TE Nick Eubanks. On the last drive of the quarter, the Wolverines kicker, Quinn Nordin, knocked a 28-yard FG through the uprights to send the teams to the locker room with the score 17-7 in favor of Michigan.

Coming out of the second half, the story was the Maize and Blue flying all over the Spartans. A first-drive interception by Michigan's Ambry Thomas, led to a quick score for Michigan. Patterson threw a quick out route to Donovan Peoples-Jones who ducked and weaved through multiple Spartan defenders resulting in an emphatic leap over the pylon to put Michigan up 24-7.

The barrage through the air continued for the Wolverines throughout the rest of the game with the Spartans having no answer for the precision passing of Shea Patterson. The Wolverines added two more touchdowns and two field goals en route to a 44-10 beatdown of the Spartans. This game marked the highest single-game passing total for a Michigan quarterback versus Michigan State with 384 yards. Due to his tremendous performance through the air, Shea Patterson earned the game ball for being the most valuable player.

The Wolverines take on Indiana in Bloomington next week at 3:30 EST on ESPN, while the Spartans travel back home to face the Rutgers Scarlet Knights at noon.

If you would like more information on this topic or would like to schedule an interview with Lukas Stauffer, please call Lukas at 570-710-5776 or email him at lstauff@umich.edu