

Beat: Sports

Penn State Dominates Michigan Wolverines With Big Win

Coach Says All Three Winning

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USPA NEWS - White out night in Happy Valley at Beaver Stadium was too much for Michigan. A record setting crowd of 110,823 witnessed the Nittany Lions roar over Michigan Wolverines with a 42-13 victory. From the moment PSU took the field it was all serious business! Penn State made up its mind early they would not settle for anything other than a victory! PSU determined to seek revenge from last year's loss to Michigan in the Big House. Beaver Stadium was filled with some unbelievable energy and fans that rocked the stands.

Penn State took charge starting with the coin toss. PSU won the toss. Most teams defer taking the ball until the second half. No, not tonight, Penn State elected to receive. With less than two minutes into the game, #26 Saquon Barkley was standing in the end zone after a 69 yard TD run. The number #1 defense in the country, Michigan Wolverines giving up less than 14 points a game looked a little stunned. A combination of the Penn State "Whiteout" and unbelievable crowd noise definitely gave an edge to the Nittany Lions of intimidation!

Coach James Franklin said they wanted to give some different looks on offense to help keep Michigan's defense off balance as much as possible. Penn State did exactly that the entire game. After the first quarter Michigan had given up 102 yards rushing to #26 Barkley. Michigan made some quick adjustments and held Barkley to a 108 rushing for the game. Barkley did however score 24 points of Penn State 42 points. However, when Barkley was going nowhere, Penn State QB #9 Trace McSorley went to work and kicked it into high gear. Sorley rushed for 76 yards and threw for 282 yards for a total of 358 yards. Penn State totaled 506 yards for the game against the #1 defense in the country and scored 42 points against a team that was only allowing 14 points per game from their opponents.

Half time adjustments advantage again would have to go to Nittany Lions! Coach Franklin said in the first half when they were able to complete some long passes down field really gave them an advantage. Second half in their offensive set they were able to spread Michigan's safety even farther apart than helping to open the middle for slant passes and some quick look in passes. Penn State then put #26 in a slot position or in motion making it very difficult for the linebackers to match up with Barkley. Coach Franklin said he really feels for the first time his team is winning in all three positions, Offense, Defense and Special Teams. As they say, from there on the rest was history.

Michigan's offense continues to struggle. Wolverines only had 259 yards total offense for the game. Michigan's QB #8 John O'Korn went 16-28 with 166 yards. O'Korn was sacked 7 times that night. Michigan rushing game was held to a total of 103 yards. Most of the passing yards came in the second half while Michigan was trying to survive and going for it on 4th down. They went 2-4 on 4th downs and was 6-16 on 3rd down conversions. About the only thing Michigan won that night was time of possession 32:56 minutes to 27:04 for PSU.

Michigan's defensive line was totally dominated by PSU giving McSorley time to dissect Michigan a piece at a time. Michigan continues to face several offensive challenges. At times they become very one dimensional. Michigan's schedule doesn't get any easier with Wisconsin & arch rival Ohio State Buckeyes.

Penn State will face what will be considered a BIG Ten Championship and a spot for a national playoff selection. Facing Ohio State this next weekend will bring another new challenge for Penn State. The Buckeyes will face their biggest challenge as well!

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