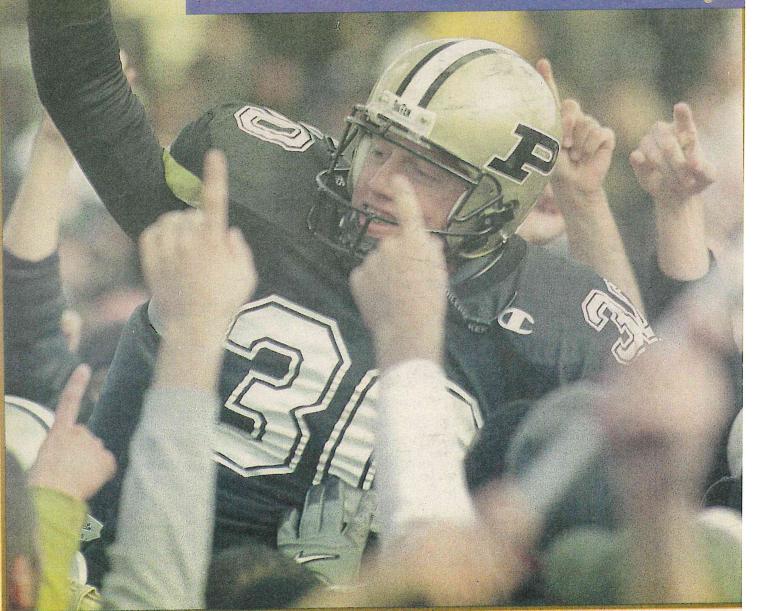
The Authority On Purdue Athletics

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SWEET REDEMPTION

Dorsch's Last-Second Field Goal Beats No. 6 Michigan





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Lots of Positives

BY BRIAN NEUBERT

Each Sunday, Gold & Black Illustrated talks with Coach Joe Tiller following Saturday's game, getting his most recent thoughts on the contest after he's analyzed

Q: After watching the tape, what really stood out about your team's performance?

Tiller: "Offensively, certainly there were a lot of things. I thought we controlled the line of scrimmage pretty well. I don't want to use the word 'dominate,' because we didn't, but we did do a good job controlling the line of scrimmage. We caught the ball well and had a season-low three drops. Obviously we ran the ball well, were very good on third down and we executed our two-

ON THE COVER

off the field by excited fans

moments after he kicked the

game-winning, 33-yard field

goal with four seconds left in

the Boilermakers' 32-31 win

Cover and University

University Spirit photo of

Mike Phipps by Bob Mitchell.

Tom

over Michigan Oct. 7.

Spirit photos by

Campbell.

Travis Dorsch is carried

Q: What about the defense?

Tiller: "We feel as if we played their big-play receivers to nearly a draw. Those three guys — Ronald Bellamy, Marquise Walker and David Terrell — are three really good players. We were really concerned about giving up the big bomb to them

"We played with great resolve in the second half when it would have been easy to fold up our tents. Probably the most significant part of the ball game for us was on their last two possessions we held them to two three-and-outs. That put the ball back into our offense's hands and gave us a chance to drive the field and attempt a field goal, then come back even a second time and make the kick. Obviously, if we

hadn't played well down the stretch defensively, we would have been in trouble."

Q: Your team only punted once, but did
you see improvement in your beleaguered punt team?

Tiller: "We only punted once and had a missed alignment. That's probably the most frustrating part of our kicking game. We made two changes. We changed the snapper (from John Shelbourne to Tim Stratton) because he's a little bit faster than Shelbourne. We thought we could pick up some time there. Then we went with (punter Scott) Kurz instead of (Travis) Dorsch because Kurz got the ball off about two one-hundredths of a second faster.

'So we made those changes, then we go

out there and misalign. Granted, it was a freshman, because the starter was hurt and he was subbing, but that's still inexcusable in our opinion."
Q: Will Stratton remain at

snapper with the punt team?
Tiller: "We might stay with Stratton for another week, but I don't know. We'll see. We'll go through practice this week like we did last week and make a

decision late in the week.
"We didn't think Stratton was substantially faster than Shelbourne. Based on what has happened to us in the punting game, we just felt like we had to

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A fiery Joe Tiller got his first win over Michigan.

make a couple changes if for nothing else to lift our team and let them know we'll do whatever we can strategically to help them improve.

"These switches were for mental reasons more than they were for physical reasons."

Q: On your team's first possession, you lined up Vinny Sutherland in the backfield and pitched him the ball. What was that play?

Tiller: "We were going to try to run a toss sweep to him and get him out on the edge. We felt in our two-tight end set we might be able to outflank them and get the ball out on the perimeter. We felt like Sutherland has the best acceleration of any of our receivers, so we thought maybe we'd pitch him the ball two or three times in the whole game."

Q: You talked after the game about possibly keeping Akin Ayodele at defensive end. What would that mean for the linebacking corps?

Tiller: "We'd probably stay with (Joe) Odom in the middle, with Gilbert

Gardner at the strong side and Landon Johnson, when he comes back (from a sprained ankle), at the weak side. We probably didn't play Gardner enough. We played (Jason) Loerzel an awful lot.

The reason we didn't play Gardner as much is because we wanted to make that move with Ayodele and we thought we'd have Johnson. But Johnson sprained an ankle on Tuesday. Early indications were that we'd have him back later in the week, but that never transpired. When that didn't happen, on Friday which is always a bad time to make a personnel change – we decided we really needed to play Loerzel over Gardner, because of the experience factor.

"I think what Jason gives us is a lot of experience at both the middle and the

weak side, and even a little strong side experience. He gave us a lot Saturday."

Q: What's your reaction to Travis Dorsch's reported lewd gesture toward the crowd after he kicked the game-winning field goal?

Tiller: "I don't know about that, but obviously I've heard about it due to the way things like that get around. Somebody must have covered it, because I've had a couple coaches say things to me. I don't know anything about it, but I'll visit with the player here later on. When we reviewed the tape I specifically looked for it, but the tape cut off before it happened, but I have to assume it happened if people said it did."

Q: Talk about the frustrations and harassment Dorsch has endured, all of

which probably led to his actions at the end of the Michigan game.

Tiller: "First off, I have not talked with the player, and certainly this is worthy of discussing with him. My counsel with him will be that you can never win these situations.

You need to become impervious to it. You just cannot get involved in something like this.

"I did sit down with him last week and he told me about his emails and the telephone calls and how upset his roommates are getting because the phone rings at 1 a.m. on a school night when everyone's in bed. He said that just trying to live a normal life was becoming very difficult for him and he was getting very frustrated with that. Certainly that's wrong, but as I said, you can't win these situations. You can't retaliate publicly, then think all of a sudden it's going to go away. All you can do is continue to perform and do the best you can do. All that stuff I guess is just the price you pay for stepping into the public arena, not to say that it's justified what he (supposedly) did."

IN THIS EDITION OF THE JOHN PURDUE CLUB REPORT:

· Letter from Nancy Cross to membership.

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FROM PUBLISHER: ALAN KARPICK

TRAVIS DESERVED A MULLIGAN

t's allowed in golf, but isn't supposed to happen in football.

Over the years, with my limited golfing skills, I've been fortunate enough to play with friends who will allow me to take a mulligan, just to keep me from bending a club around a tree. Mulligans, in the world of college football, though, don't come around too often.

Then again, what has happened to junior Travis Dorsch since the beginning of the New Millennium isn't your common, everyday experience even in the often-twisted life of a kicker.

Botched and blocked punts, along with missed field goals, have made unsympathetic fans a part of Travis' life the past 10 months.

As a matter of human decency, I couldn't bear the thought of Dorsch being the goat once again. If I felt that way, just imagine what Travis, his mom and dad, and the entire Purdue football team must have felt.

After the snakebit kicker from Montana hooked the 32-yard field goal attempt with 2:11 left, I feared for Dorsch's sanity, let alone his life

Fate smiled on Travis, as he benefitted from the greatest do-over in recent Purdue football memory. Dorsch cleared the most important hurdle of his kicking life when his 33-yarder snuck inside the lift upright. To Dorsch' credit, he achieved something that hasn't happened against such a highly-ranked

opponent in school history.

When searching my Purdue football memory bank and the all-time scores in the media guide, I could not find a game which Purdue won on a last-second field goal. The closest comparable feat in recent times was Brad Bobich making a late field goal to tie No. 24 Wisconsin in 1994, when the Boilers were 4-1. Coach Jim Colletto's fourth team later limped to a 45-2 record.

In 1965, a placekicker named Bob Griese also hit a game-winning field goal at Michigan with 55 seconds left. But the Wolves weren't ranked at the time.

And I thought Notre Dame was the only team that could make game winners at or near the buzzer to win games.

Thank God, and the Purdue defense, for Mulligans.

THE PAGE TURNS FOR TILLER

Coach Joe Tiller has persevered through his first serious rash of criticism in recent weeks. Tiller knows it goes with the territory, but even for a veteran coach, it takes some getting used to.

Give him credit for showing unwavering faith in his players on several occasions. Tiller hopes he'll build confidence in the team and



program that still falls short of being considered as being on the elite level. Dorsch is the most glaring example of Tiller's loyalty. His field goal kicking woes of two minutes earlier, not to mention in the closing minutes a week before at Penn State, would shake anyone's confidence. How many coaches with a Heisman Trophy candidate quarterback would opt to return to the scene of the crime, so to speak, for another field goal attempt? Tiller chose

that route, and it worked.

It was a ploy that might have aged Purque fans a few years, but don't think it won't be remembered by Dorsch and the 80-plus other guys on the team that have made mistakes on the field at some time during the career.

Tiller was also trying to send that message to the players when he chose to take a Michigan holding penalty at the end of the first half instead of letting the Wolverines have a chip shot field goal and enter the locker room leading 24-10.

It backfired in the short term, no doubt, as Michigan quarterback Drew Henson hit All-American receiver David Terrell on the next play for a 15-yard touchdown with 13 ticks left before halftime. Michigan appeared headed to a BCS bowl as it took a 28-10 into the locker room. Things were rather bleak for Purdue at intermission.

"I probably should have taken the penalty, but I want this team to know that I have confidence and expect it to make plays," Tiller said to ABC's Jack Arute as he was jogging off the field to a chorus of frustrated boos by the sold out Ross-Ade Stadium crowd.

Now I doubt Tiller broke any chairs over his bald head in the locker room to fire up his team for a great second half. I can't help but think, though, that Tiller drove home the message that he had not lost faith in this team. Who knows? It might have given the Boilers enough confidence to play the best half of football in the Tiller era.

Tiller did do the best Bob Knight impression a guy with his demeanor could do, when he grabbed Tim Stratton's jersey after the junior tight end was called for a personal foul in the fourth quarter.

Despite a 1-7 record against the Big Ten's upper echelon, the Boiler boss has completed the first phase of his rebuilding project of making Purdue football competitive. He knows the second phase toward becoming a true conference title contender can only be achieved if the Boilers develop a winning swagger much like teams like Michigan and Ohio State possess.

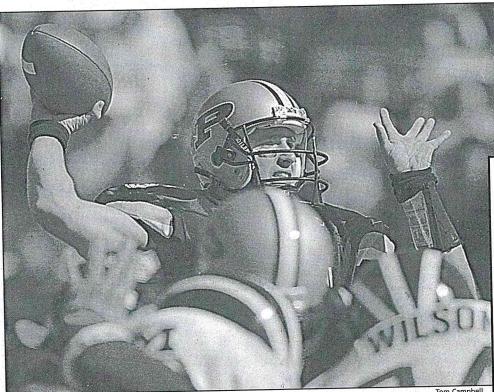
So, how amazing is it that Northwestern is the team that stands between Purdue and another milestone- its first road victory under-Tiller against a ranked team. Strange things have happened this season, and it might only get stranger.



PURDUE 32, NO. 6 MICHIGAN 31

ENALLY:

Boilers Overcome Huge Deficit To Edge Big Ten's Best



BY KEVIN KECKLER Drew Brees had another record-setting day

t was a celebration Coach Joe Tiller and Co. have been holding in for four years.

Finally, the Boilermakers were able to knock off one of the Big Ten's elite and it certainly couldn't have been scripted any better in Hollywood. Unranked Purdue (4-2 overall, 2-1 in the Big Ten) scratched its way back from a pair of 18-point deficits to beat No. 6 Michigan (4-1, 2-1) 32-31 before 68,340 fans at Ross-Ade Stadium.

"This is certainly a big win. It's great to beat a team ranked fifth or sixth, but I don't take that (beating the Penn States, Ohio States and Michigans) quite as serious as the players do," said Tiller, who is now 19-3 in games played at home. "I feel like I'm going to coach for a while still and I'll have the good fortune of coaching against a lot of other good teams. You've heard me say 100 times that every game is big, but if you want to measure this it was probably bigger because it was at home. You must be successful at home."

"This was big, real big," wide receiver Vinny Sutherland said. "What a way to bounce back by beating a team like Michigan. We had some problems last week, but we found a way to get it done today. It would have been a long season had we given this one away at home."

"To be down 18 and do something like this is awesome," said senior quarterback Drew Brees, who orchestrated the phenomenal come-from-behind victory. "I guess this will shut people up. Not only the fact we were playing the sixth-ranked opponent in the nation, it just happened to be Michigan. The great Michigan."

The doubt, which has been lingering for more than a year, loomed ominously after every near-win against the "Big Boys." Would Purdue ever knock off the Wolverines, Buckeyes or

Drew Brees had another record-setting day, becoming the Big Ten's all-time leader in touchdown passes and the Purdue leader in career passing yardage. His 366 yards of total offense against a staunch Michigan defense was one of his best performances as a Boilermaker.

Nittany Lions? The question has now been answered.

And there are several heroes that made this dream become a reality.

• Junior placekicker Travis Dorsch has waited so long for the moment he cherished Oct. 7. The 6-6, strong-legged kicker finally nailed a game-winning field goal. But it definitely didn't come without drama.

Dorsch has struggled mightily in clutch situations before, missing kicks at Ohio State and against Georgia in the Outback Bowl last year and at Penn State this fall when the game was on the line. When given another opportunity with 2:11 left on the clock against the Wolverines, the 32-yard attempt sailed wide left.

Little did Dorsch know he'd get a second chance two minutes later. With four seconds remaining in the game, he booted a 33-yard field goal to give his team a huge victory.

"It's a good feeling," Dorsch said. "The one last week is looked at as the kick that lost the game for us. This one you can look as the kick that won the game for us. To tell you the truth, the defense won this game. They only let three points on the board in the second half to a great Michigan offense. They played their hearts out. They gave me another chance to win the game."

Dorsch said he tried to clear his mind following the first miss, but with screaming fans and frustrated teammates, it couldn't have been easy. Of more concern to him was slowing down his leg speed. Dorsch said the miss

was because he came through the ball too quickly.

"What I had going for me was numerous teammates came up to me, patted me on the butt and said, 'It's OK, we have confidence that you'll get another chance," Dorsch said. "I didn't even warm up for that second kick, I just stood on the sidelines. By not warming up, I thought I would slow my leg kick down. I did just enough."

Dorsch added that getting the ball to the middle of the field helped his vision before the kick, although the difference in the angle of a short kick like that isn't as much.

"When I hit it I thought it was good, but it was very close," Dorsch said. "Last week the one I missed was close and this week the one I made was close. As long as it gets through the



Two unexpected defenders led the Boilermakers in tackles against the Wolverines. Junior linebacker Jason Loerzel and sophomore safety Ralph Turner had terrific games. Loerzel, who started in place of the injured Landon Johnson, led Purdue with nine stops, while Turner tallied eight tackles. The duo also had all four of Purdue's tackles for loss.



Tom Campbell

Senior tackle Matt Light and the Purdue offensive line gave up no sacks and helped the Boilers rush for 244 yards.



There's no reason to be negative after a win like this.

Expect to see Akin Ayodele at end for the majority of the season. Ayodele's pass-rushing ability has been limited at linebacker. Johnson missed the game with an ankle injury but should be ready for Northwestern. Following the game, kicker Travis Dorsch reportedly sent a message to some fans with a lewd geste



message to some fans with a lewd gesture. He said he was, "just waving to some friends in the stands."



We would leave senior Chris Clopton deep on kickoff returns the rest of the season. With Clopton and Vinny Sutherland out there, the Boilermakers have two legitimate threats to gain 30 or more yards every time the ball is teed off. Clopton was taken off the kickoff return team during fall camp because of a hamstring injury, but his experience is critical.

He proved his worth against Michigan with 48 yards on two returns.

The talented and experienced offensive line appears to be coming of age with an impressive performance against Michigan. The unit was able to prevent quarterback Drew Brees from being sacked and had its best game of the year run blocking.

If the line can continue to play as it did against the Wolverines, Purdue's offense should reach its full potential. pipes, it's three points."

· The Boilermaker 'D'. Anyone watching the first half of this game would have thought the same thing Michigan did... the game is over. The Wolverines were able to drive methodically up and down the field against Purdue in the first two quarters scoring on all four possessions. Even more impressive was the fact the drives spanned 82, 80, 80 and 89

yards, respectively.

Quarterback Drew Henson, receivers David Terrell and Marquise Walker and running back Anthony Thomas shined brightly like the stars they are. The Michigan offensive line was throwing Purdue's defense around. Luckily for Purdue, it only lasted 30 minutes.

"We were out there taking up space," tackle Matt Mitrione said. "We were flat and emotionless. They were killing us and doing anything they wanted."

Down 28-10 at the half, Tiller rallied his defensive troops and restored confidence in them. In fact, the confidence was actually gained on the Wolverines' final touchdown drive of the half.

Michigan appeared to have stopped itself with a holding penalty on third-and-goal from Purdue's 5yard line. Rather than accept the penalty and force Michigan to attempt a field goal on fourth down from the 15, Tiller consulted his staff and opted to decline it. That gave the Wolverines another crack at the end

zone and a chance to take the lead to 28-10.

That's exactly what happened when Henson connected on a 15-yard scoring strike to Terrell, leaving Purdue fans shaking their

According to Tiller, though, it was all part of the plan, as the coaches looked to instill confidence in the defense.

"I didn't second-guess myself," said

Tiller, who had just witnessed his defense yield 351 yards of offense to Michigan. "I asked my coaches if they thought we could make a play and they said, 'Yes.' I am serious, I told the defense, 'I believe in you guys.' We put them back on the field when we could have been conservative and made them kick the field goal. Little did I know it was going to come down to this and be this

BOILER BITS LINE DOMINATES WOLVES

The offense would not have been able to churn out 530 yards against the sixth-ranked Wolverines without a dominating performance from its line. The veteran group manhandled a talented Michigan front and for the first time this year looked unstoppable.

"The offensive line had its best game maybe since we've been at Purdue," Coach Joe Tiller said. "That's a good Michigan defense. I thought our line, tight ends and backs did a great job of protecting Drew. I also thought we did a nice job of moving the ball around on the perimeter. We did a nice job of keeping them off balance.

Brandon Gorin, the Boilers' anchor on the right side, doesn't like to get too high after a win like

"I think we played well and protected Drew (Brees) well," Gorin said. "We did what we need-

ed to do when we needed to do it to get a victory. We had a lot of things go right for us."

The line did not allow quarterback Drew Brees to get sacked, paved the way for a season-high 244 yards rushing and was on the field for 83 plays, of which Purdue averaged 6.0 yards per play.

Because the line is so experienced, the performance didn't shock Brees.

"Those guys are great," Brees said. "You guys don't realize how comfortable, confident and relaxed Lam in the pocket because of those guys."

relaxed I am in the pocket because of those guys."

TEACHER AND PUPIL

It seems with each passing game, senior Vinny Sutherland and freshman John Standeford con-

It seems with each passing game, senior Vinny Sutherland and freshman John Standeford continue to complement one another as Purdue's top receiving threats.

Sutherland has the blazing speed and experience, but he's now showing more consistency and leadership. Standeford, at 64, 184 pounds, has the size, athleticism and quickness to be one of the Big Ten's best, even though he's played just six collegiate games.

Against Michigan, the two combined for 17 catches (11 by the elder) with one touchdown each. "I thought Vinny did a great job from a leadership standpoint." Tiller said. "In the four years I've been around him I've never seen a more confident Vinny Sutherland. Maybe it was because he knew this was his last crack at Michigan. He played pretty well in Ann Arbor last year. Today, he took his game to another level."

So did Standeford. Although physically not as strong as most receivers playing in the Big Ten.

he makes up for that weakness with crisp routes and smart play.

"John is a good prospect and he's going to be a good football player," Tiller said. "He'll only get better as he gets stronger. I see him being very similar to Chris Daniels, but faster. Once he gets in the weight room and gets things figured out. He came in at 171 pounds and now he is 184. He is doing a good job gaining weight"

Standeford, as quiet and humble a young man as you'll find, was thrilled to play a big role in such a big game

"It's a big win for us," Standeford said. "It's the seniors' dream to come out here and beat Michigan because they haven't since they got here. I just tried to help them in any way I could. As every games goes by I get more comfortable out there."

BOILERS USE KURZ AS PUNTER

Following a disastrous game at Penn State, yet another change was made to the infamous punt team. However, it was a switch that might be temporary.

Junior punter Travis Dorsch was replaced with classmate Scott Kurz. While Tiller is certain the difference between the two's timing is minimal, he felt it was a change that needed to be made.

"We were going to punt Scott no matter what because we thought we needed a changeup." Tiller said. "I don't think that we can make any assumptions, so don't be surprised if you see Travis Tiller said. I don't triink that we can make any assumptions, so don't be surprised if you see Travis punting for us next week. I told the team and Travis during practice that the difference between Scott and Travis (in getting the punt off) is 0.02 seconds. I told them we're going to punt Scott to send the message that we're going to try and help the team be successful regardless of what it takes,"

Dorsch was not happy about the move during the week leading up to the game, but said the

disappointment passed.

"I think it bothered me more going into the game than it did once the game started," Dorsch said. "You don't want to think about that. You do the Job you're asked to do and make the best of that situation. The punt team did a good job getting the punt off, but when you only punt once that says a lot about your offense."

THIS AND THAT

Following are some facts and figures following the Michigan game.

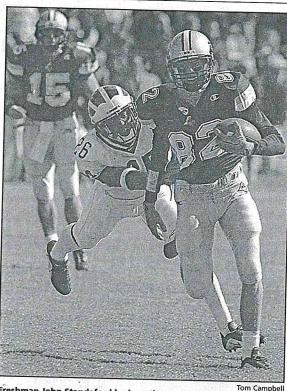
• Purdue had outscored opponents 686 in the second quarter, but were outscored 21-7 by Michigan in the second stanza. Speaking of seconds, the Wolverines gained 166 yards on 23 seconds. down opportunities, including seven plays for 10 or more yards and an overall average of 7.2 per

Michigan converted its first nine third-down attempts, but missed on its last five. Purdue,
 Michigan converted its first nine third-down attempts, but missed on its last five. Purdue,

 Brees moves his record to 1-7 against Penn State, Wisconsin, Michigan and Ohio State. Against those four schools, he has completed 59 percent of his passes, including 10 touchdowns and 10 interceptions. Against the rest of his opponents, Brees has connected on 63 percent, with 66 scores and 25 picks. The 6-1, 218-pounder has averaged 333 yards passing in the eight meetings against PSII Wiscopein, Michigan and OSII. against PSU, Wisconsin, Michigan and OSU.

NEXT TEST

Purdue heads to Chicago to face No. 17 Northwestern Oct. 14. The Wildcats have shocked everyone with their 5-1 record, including a 30 mark in the conference. For more on Northwestern



Freshman John Standeford had another good day with six catches for 51 yards and a touchdown. Brees hit seven different receivers on the afternoon.

449-EYES



kind of a football game.

"I felt we had to give them an opportunity to make a play and if they made a positive one we'd have some juice coming into halftime. I've been around this game long enough to know there's no sure thing. You do what you think is right at the time and move on."

Tiller must have known something because after halftime his troops limited Michigan to just 79 yards and three points. The defense also forced the Wolverines to go three-and-out giving Purdue the ball back at the 41-yard line with 1:41 remaining.

Defensive coordinator Brock Spack got inspired play out of his unit in the second half mainly because the players regrouped and convinced themselves they could stop Michigan.

"Ever since the beginning of the season we told ourselves if we can play with emotion for four quarters there won't be many teams that can do anything offensively against us," sophomore linebacker Joe Odom said. "In the beginning we weren't up to speed. We got down on ourselves after that first drive. After the half we just didn't want to get beat."

"The defense was embarrassed in the first half," junior Akin Ayodele said. "I wouldn't say we were doubting ourselves, but we were down. Coach Tiller's speech taught us a lot."

"Our team played with confidence as the game wore on, the longer it went the more our confidence grew," Tiller said. "It was something we talked about at halftime – believing. The reason I turned the penalty down before the half and gave them a second chance is I thought I needed to make a statement to our defense. I said, 'I believe in you, don't you believe in yourself?' If you don't believe in yourself you won't be successful. Maybe it turned around and helped us in a way. I think our football team believed from then on and we hung in there. It was certainly more mental than it was physical."

• The offense. While everyone expects Purdue's high-flying offense to be unstoppable each week, against Michigan it truly was. Only once did the Boilermakers punt, scoring points on 6-of-9 possessions. In the end, Purdue had racked up 530 yards of total offense, including terrific balance with 244 yards on the ground and 286 through the air.

Brees was magnificent, completing 32-of-44 passes and throwing two touchdowns. He also rushed for 80 yards. When Brees wasn't giving Michigan fits, running back Montrell Lowe was. The sophomore tallied 126 yards on 22 carries with a touchdown. The receivers also atoned for their lackluster effort against the Maize and Blue a year ago, coming up with nearly every big play needed. And to read more about the offensive line's awesome performance, see Boiler Bits on Page 6.

While the offense could have scored 21 or more points in the opening half, it mustered only 10. But in the final two stanzas, Purdue racked up 311 yards and walked all over the Wolverines.

The Boilermakers utilized the middle of the field throughout the game with several crossing routes. This was done, in essence, to take Michigan's corners out of the game. Purdue wasn't in a position to beat the Wolverines deep very often, so it utilized the short passing game very effectively. These patterns worked throughout the game, but it was Brees' favorite part of the offense that was particularly effective. After Dorsch missed his first field goal with 2:11 left, the defense stopped Michigan and gave Purdue the ball back with 1:41 left. That's when No. 15's eyes lit up.

"At first I thought, 'Maybe we weren't meant to win this game," Brees said. "But after the defense shut them down and we got the ball back I got in the huddle and said, 'We are meant to win this game."

"Drew loves being in the two-minute

game," Tiller said. "That's the part of practice he really gets excited about on Sundays and Thursdays. He plays to get himself in the twominute and that's what we preach to our team all the time.

Sure enough, the Boilermakers drove the ball 42 yards on 10 plays, setting up the eventual game-winner.

"It was almost like this is a dream, it didn't happen, but it did," Brees said, "A lot of good things happened today that will help us down the road. We need to carry the belief and motivation that we gained today with us the rest of the season."

Following the game Tiller had a chance to congratulate his team on a much-needed victory, and a hard-fought game.

"I told the team in the locker room that I'm thrilled for the win as a team but there's no one I'm more happy for than Travis," Tiller said. "He did a great job."

"It's been a long week and a long year," Dorsch said. "But it's not over. We're not even midway through the Big Ten (schedule) yet."

Game Stats Purdue vs. Michigan

Rushina

Purdue				9		
Player	Att	Yds	Avg	Long	TD	
Lowe	22	126	5.7	29	1	
Brees	10	80	8.0	21	- 0	
Brown	4	16	4.0	5	0	
Sutherland	2	11	5.5	10	0	
Winston	1	. 9	9.0	9	0	
Ennis	. 3	4	1.3	2	1	
Team	1	-2	-2.0	0	0	
Total	43	244	5.7	29	2	
Michigan			3			
Thomas	21	120	5.7	61	1	Ē
Cross	2	24	12.0	20	0	
Bellamy	2	12	6.0	14	0	
Henson	3	10	3.3	4	0	
Askew	1	8 -	8.0	8	0	
Total	29	174	6.0	61	1	

Passing

Player	Att	Comp	Yds	Pct	TD	Int
Brees	44	32	286	72.7	2	1
Team	1	0	0	0.0	0	0
Total Michigan	45	32	286	71.1	2	1
Henson	35	26	256	74.3	3	0
Total	35	26	256	74.3	3	0

Receiving

Purdue			-			
Player	Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD	
Sutherland	11	127	11.5	25	1	
Stratton	9	68	7.6	13	0	
Standeford	6	51	8.5	13	1	
Morales	2	21	11.5	14	0	
Brown	2	2	1.0	6	0	
Simpson	1	9	9.0	9	0	
Winston	1	8	8.0	8	0	
Total	32	286	8.9	25	2	
Michigan				10- 1 L		(train)
Walker	9	63	7.0	14	1	
Terrell	7	76	10.9	17	1	
Askew	3	47	15.7	36	1	
Thomas	3	24	8.0	12	.0	
Seymour	2	29	14.5	18	0	
Bellamy	1	9	9.0	9	0	
Joppru	1	8	8.0	8	. 0	
Total	26	256	9.8	36	3	

Punt Returns

Player	Att	Yds	Avq	Long	TD	
Sutherland	2	. 16	8.0	10	0	
Michigan		7 1.5.			d de	_ 2
Player Sutherland Michigan Bellamy	1	23	23.0	23	0	

Purdue

Kickoff Returns

Player	Att	Yds	Avg	Long	Td
Clopton	2	48	24.0	25	0
Ferrell	1	4	4.0	4	0
Michigan	5.00	Vana			
Cross	2	29	14.5	21	0
Fargas	2	29	14.5	18	0
Bellamy '	1	5	5.0	5	0

Field Goals

Purdue			175	2007		
Player	Att	Good	Made	Miss		
Dorsch	3	2	24, 33	32		
Michigan			0.00	10.7		ì
Del Verne	1	1	34			,

Punting

Purdue	. 09					
Player Kurz Michigan	Att 1	Yds 41	Avg 41.0	Long 41		
Epstein	4	166	41.5	50		

Scoring Summary

First Quarter—Mich: Walker 7 pass from Henson (Del Verne kick) 9:17 left; Drive: 12 plays, 82 yards, 5:43 Purdue: Dorsch 24 field goal, 3:03 left; Drive: 17 plays, 81 yards, 6:14

Second Quarter

Mich: Askew 4 pass from Henson (Del Verne kick)
11:02 left; Drive: 15 plays, 80 yards, 7:01
Mich: Thomas 61 run (Del Verne kick) 6:25 left;
Drive: 6 plays, 80 yards, 1:56
Purdue: Sutherland 25 pass from Brees (Dorsch kick)
1:50 left; Drive: 9 plays, 80 yards, 4:35
Mich: Terrell 15 pass from Henson (Del Verne kick)
0:13 left; Drive: 9 plays, 89 yards, 1:37

Third Quarter

Purdue: Ennis 1 run (pass failed) 11:03 left; Drive: 11 plays, 75 yards, 3:57

Purdue: Lowe 16 run (Dorsch kick) 4:12 left; Drive: 13 plays, 80 yards, 3:56

Fourth Quarter

Mich: Del Verne 34 field goal, 11:55 left; Drive: 4 plays, 8 yards, 1:57 Purdue: Standeford 10 pass from Brees (pass failed) 6:45 left; Drive: 12 plays, 80 yards, 5:10

Purdue: Standeford 10 pass from Brees (pass failed, 6:45 left; Drive: 12 plays, 80 yards, 5:10 Purdue: Dorsch 33 field goal, 0:04 left; Drive: 10 plays, 42 yards, 1:41 left

Team Statistics

our of the second	1777011	, 0,000
First downs	. 19	32
Rushing	10	12
Passing	9	19
Penalty	0	1
Total offensive plays	64	88
Rushing plays	29	43
Net yards rushing	174	244
Net yards per rush	6.0	5.7
Passing plays	35	45
Completions	26	32
Nets yards passing	256	286
Net yards per comple		8.9
Total net yards	430	530
Avg. gain per play	6.7	6.0
Kick returns-yds	5-63	3-52
Punt returns-yds	1-23	2-16
Fumbles-lost	1-1	1-0
Interceptions by-yds	1-0	0-0
Third down conversion	9-14	14-18
Time of possession	27:50	32:10
Sacks by-yds lost	0-0	0-0
Penalties-yds	8-66	2-20
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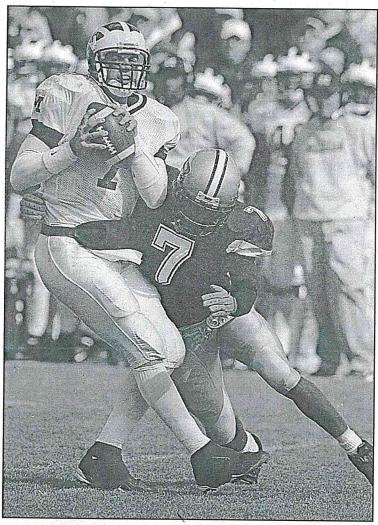
Defensive Leaders

Puroue -		Tackles			100 21 1			
Player :	Solo	Asst	Total	For Loss-Yds	FR-Yds	Int	Pass Def	Sack-Yds
Loerzel	8	1	9	2-4	0	0	.0	0
Turner	5	2	7	. 2-8	0	0	0	0
Odom	6	0	6	0	0	0	0	0
Ayodele	5	0	5	0	0	0	2	0
Woodyard	5	0	5	0	0	0	2	0
Gardner	3	2	5	0	0	. 0	0	0
Schweigert	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
Clopton	3	1	4	0	0	0	0	0
Phillips	1	2	3	0	0	0	- 1	0
Mitrione	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Team	2	. 0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Henderson	- 1	0	- 1	0	0	0	0	0
Botts	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Moore	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Schaub	1	0	1	0	1-0	0	0	0
Morales	1	0	- 1	0	0	0	0	0
Dinkins	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Ennis	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Vaughan	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	. 0
Total	50	10	60	4-12	1-0	0	5	0
Michigan (t	on eil	aht)						
Whitley	10	. 0	10	0	0	0	2	0
Curry	9	0	. 9	0	0	0	0	0
Foote	9	0	9	1-1	O	0	0	Ō
Patmon	5	0	5	0	0	0	0	0
Rumishek	4	0	4	1-2	0	0	0	ō.
Hobson	4	0	- 4	2-5	0	0	0	0 ·
E. Brackins	2	2	4	0	0	0	0	0
Howard	3	0	3	0	0	1-0	4	0
Total	65	4	69	4-8	n	1-0	7	. 0

VIEW FROM THE MICHIGAN LOCKER ROOM

'GIVE PURDUE CREDIT'

Carr Calls Brees, Boilermaker Offense 'Outstanding'



BY BRIAN NEUBERT

uring his postgame press conference following Michigan's 32-31 loss at Purdue Oct. 7, Wolverine coach Lloyd Carr became visibly irritated.

Engaged in a line of questioning that suggested his team lost the game more than Purdue won it, Carr finally snapped at one reporter.

"Give Purdue credit," Carr said for the third or fourth time, this time raising his voice.

And why not give Purdue credit? After all, the Boilermaker offense moved the ball at will, totaling 530 total yards (the most ever by a Michigan opponent) against the nation's sixthranked team.

"I don't think we ever really had control of the game from a defensive standpoint," Carr said. "They pretty much did whatever they wanted to do."

Leading up to the game, Carr talked about how glad he was to be facing Purdue quarter-

Quarterback Drew Henson, shown here getting hit by Purdue cornerback Ashante Woodyard, completed 26-of-35 passes for 256 yards.

back Drew Brees for the second and final time, and Brees gave the Wolverine coach something to remember him by.

Brees completed 32-of-44 passes and threw a pair of touchdowns as the Boilermakers rallied back from an 18-point deficit

"He played like he's capable of playing," Carr said, "outstanding."

Wolverine quarterback Drew Henson, who admired his namesake from the sidelines, agreed with Carr's choice of words.

"He was outstanding," Henson said. "He's their leader and everyone knows that. He put the ball where it needed to be today. That's why he's a great quarterback."

But while Brees was his usual self, it was Purdue's running game — spearheaded by Montrell Lowe's 126 yards and Brees' 80

"I don't think we ever really had control of the game from a defensive standpoint. They pretty much did whatever they wanted to do."

- Michigan coach Lloyd Carr

- that truly threw the Michigan defense for a loop.

"We blitzed, we played man, we played zone, we did a lot of things to try to stop Purdue," Carr said. "I think more than anything else, though, their ability to run the football kept us off balance. That's what allowed them to control the down and distance. They did not have many third-and-long situations, and anytime you have an offense like that in third-and-short they're going to get a lot of first downs."

Purdue's offense converted 14-of-18 thirddown opportunities.

While Purdue was virtually automatic on third down, Michigan missed on its last five third-down conversions, as the Wolverines were stymied by a Boilermaker defense that underwent a complete metamorphosis at halftime.

Michigan trampled the Boiler defense in the first half, moving the ball quickly and efficiently en route to four touchdown drives of 80 yards or more.

In the second half, though, Michigan man-

aged just three points and 79 yards of total offense.

"The momentum shifted and they really played harder," Carr said of Purdue's defensive effort in the second half. "In the first half, we knocked them off the ball and controlled the line of scrimmage. In the second half, they were much more stout against the run. We didn't have the ball as much in the second half. I think that's what it comes down to. We forced them to punt once, but for the most part they took it and controlled the ball."

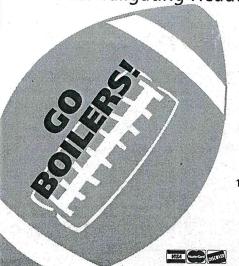
Michigan senior offensive tackle Steve Hutchinson said Purdue blitzed more often in the second half, but that shouldn't have made that much of a difference.

"They blitzed a little bit more, but it wasn't anything we hadn't seen on film," Hutchinson said. "We were expecting it, but just couldn't pick it up."

"You have to give Purdue credit," said Henson, echoing Carr. "They made some adjustments and they were able to stop us when they needed to. We just couldn't make the plays in the end."



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GAME VIEW WITH OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR JIM CHANEY

CLICKING ON ALL CYLINDERS Offense Nearly Unstoppable

BY KEVIN KECKLER

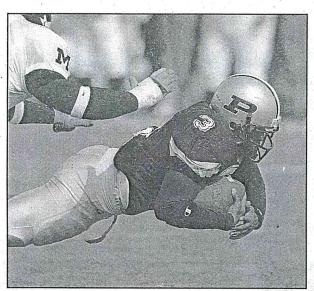
ollowing are offensive coordinator Jim Chaney's thoughts immediately following the 32-31 come-frombehind win over No. 6 Michigan.

GBI: Is this the best feeling you've had after a game since the Kansas State victory?

Chaney: "In 17 years of doing this, it seems like every year the losses become super hard to deal with and the wins are expected. So, the jubilation of victory isn't quite as high. But, there are inevitably two games a year that make your heart pound and I've had three this year. It's safe to say this is the first of those three I've left happy. I've had enough of this crap already, but it sure is nice to come out on top for once. My hat is off to our boys on defense. They played their tails off."

GBI: You had success offensively in the first half despite scoring only 10 points. What was the mood at halftime?

Chaney: "I don't see the defense during halftime, but I felt our guys on offense were having a good time in the locker room. We were moving the ball on them, they were physically dominating the player in front of them and they had a lot of confidence. We talked



Tom Campbell Montrell Lowe dives into the end zone to conclude this 16-yard run. The score cut the Michigan lead to 28-23 with 4:12 left in the third quarter.

about what plays we would start the second half with and that the game would probably turn one way or the other on how we open the third quarter.

"We put a little pressure on those kids and said, 'Hey, you have to go do something good.' Fortunately we went out and scored a touchdown and that started the momentum. We played well the entire half with the exception of the one drive that we started on our 5-yard line. We didn't execute and had to punt, but I know none of the media or fans were nervous about that punt, were they?"

GBI: You always say it takes about five games for the offense to be completely in sync. This was game six and sure enough, 530 yards against Michigan.

Chaney: "There was a good rhythm to the ball game which makes play-calling easier. We were working hard and executing everything well. I hate to talk about a game until after I've watched the video. but anytime you dominate on the interior of the offensive line you're going to have a great chance of winning. I don't remember them getting to our quarterback much if at all. If there's credit due, it's to the offensive line and tight ends."

GBI: But didn't you expect the domination you saw today from the O-line to occur every week?

Chaney: "You do, but teams can move, and stem, and jock and slide and make things difficult. They can take the strength of your team and negate it with movement. They tried to do that today, but our kids stayed the course. They did a nice job technically executing their assignments."

GBI: You've struggled on the opening drive all season. Today you went 81 yards on 17 plays on the first drive and kicked a field goal. How important was that, especially considering Michigan already had a touchdown?

Chaney: "I don't know what our problem has been on the opening drives other than execution. In this game, I was trying to get Drew (Brees) on the move and get him a lot of early completions. He had a pretty good day and it all started on that first one.'

GBI: As impressive as that first drive was, you had four more scoring drives of 10 plays of more.

Chaney: "We were clicking on offense today. We were in a zone, if you want to say that. There were kids executing the plays and Drew was on his game today. Those two make for a nice combination."

GBI: The naked-bootleg rollouts seemed to be awfully effective against Michigan. Was that something you wanted to utilize after watching film on the Wolverines?

Chaney: "Their coverage dictated that more than anything. We ran two tight ends a lot today and I thought Pete (Lougheed) and Chris (Randolph) played well. By doing that we had more guys on the line of scrimmage, where we thought all along our advantage would be in this game."

GBI: You converted 14-of-18 third-down opportunities. Was that an emphasis in practice leading up to the game?

Chaney: "I think it's just the nature of our offense. We throw the ball underneath

"At halftime we were disappointed we had only scored 10 points considering we had three drives of 60 or more yards."

- Offensive coordinator Jim Chaney

and try to get completions. The bottom line is that style works if you're productive on first down. We really emphasized getting more yards on first downs, so we're not stuck in so many third-and-longs. Those third-and-10's aren't quite as easy to execute as the third-and-3's.'

GBI: Vinny Sutherland continues to look better each week.

Chaney: "Vinny is one fast football player and he's a senior. It's his turn and he's doing a nice job of leading and being a consistent weapon for us."

GBI: The two teams combined for 570 vards of total offense in the opening two quarters. Have you ever been around a more wideopen first half??

Chaney: "I don't watch our defense play much, maybe 10 plays a game, so I don't know what their offense was doing to our defense. At halftime we were disappointed we had only scored 10 points considering we had three drives of 60 or more yards."

GBI: Drew Brees is now Purdue's all-time leading passer and the Big Ten's top TD passer.

Chaney: "I think that's great for him. We don't do anything differently in terms of trying to help him get records, but any kind of credit or acclaim that young man gets he is more than deserving of. When they tack a medallion on his butt, I can assure you he's earned every darn one of them."

GBI: The last touchdown by John Standeford was impressive and a huge one for the team. Can you talk about that play?

Chaney: "I thought it might pop open and it did. Drew was patient enough to wait for John to get open and once he did we made the reception and scored '

GBI: Take me through the thought process on the two-point conversion in the first half?

Chaney: "What we do is tell Coach Tiller where we're at and what the statistics say. I have the chart and if the chart says, 'Go for two,' then Joe usually says, 'Go for two.' I then call a play I think is going to work. I'm about 0-for-400 in my coaching career on two-point conversion plays so I'm going to narrow the pool to 10 plays, put them in a hat and try that. I'm tired trying to logically think of what will work. I've not been very good at that in my play-calling. The plays I'm calling aren't working."

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game view with defensive coordinator brock spack

HMORE EMOTION

BY MATT BRANN

ollowing each game, Gold & Black Illustrated talks defensive coordinator Brock Spack and gets his thoughts on the Boilermakers' performance.

GBI: I'd imagine a few choice words were said to the defense in the locker room at halftime. Did they have confidence in themselves in the second half?

Spack: "Obviously they lacked confidence in the first half. We are a young defense, especially in big games. We just weren't playing very hard in the first half. It didn't matter what I called, it didn't work. That's just poor execution.

"I don't know why they were flat. I think maybe they were wondering if they could compete with these guys. We got after them at halftime and said, 'All we ask of you is to go out there, play hard and compete. If you do that, good things will happen to you.' We did that, and that was a big difference in the

GBI: Your defense held Michigan to 79 yards and three points in the second half. After the way they played in the first half, could you have ever imagined you would have been that effective in stopping the Wolverines' offense?

Spack: "No. They were a

machine in the first half. We weren't playing well, but that

was to their credit. We just had a look in our eye out there that was befuddling (to me) as a coach. The second half we played well. The first three-and-out was big for us because we gained some confidence."

GBI: Michigan was pinned down in the horseshoe of the stadium late in the game. How much did the crowd energize your defense late?

Spack: "There's no question it's got to be difficult for Michigan down there. We know that from playing on the road. That's why it's so tough to win on the road in this league. Our crowd was fabulous. They never gave up on us, and we appreciate that."

GBI: How important was it that you were able to get Michigan to go three-and-out on its final two possessions and give the offense a chance to win the game?

Spack: "It was big, because we had to get the ball back to our offense. I didn't think Michigan could stop us, because they were struggling just like we were. We were pretty confident that if we could just get the ball back to our offense, we would score some points and win the game. The ball got pinned down there and the crowd got behind us. We made some plays at the end and it was just a matter of executing. You've just got to believe.

GBI: When you got the ball back to the offense and then Purdue missed a field goal, did your players hang their heads a little?

Spack: "I don't think they were down at all. With our offense, we know we are never



Tom Campbell Ralph Turner (8), shown here with Chris Clopton (23) upending Michigan receiver Marquise Walker, had seven tackles, including two for loss. Defensive coordinator Brock Spack's unit made one of its greatest turnarounds ever, yielding 79 yards in the second half after 351 in the first half.

out of a game. We felt if we stopped them down there, we'd give the offense great field position. It was poetic justice that Travis Dorsch was able to have a second chance to win the game, because he's a great kid."

GBI: Honestly, did you think at halftime Purdue would have a chance to win if the defense didn't force Michigan into any turnovers (which it didn't)?

Spack: "Not really. Going into the game, we really emphasized getting some turnovers. Michigan is a veteran team and it does a good job of holding onto the ball."

GBI: If you take away Anthony Thomas' 61-yard run, he carries the ball 20 times for 59 yards. What did you do to contain him throughout most of the day?

Spack: "We didn't do anything special. We made a few adjustments in their two tight end sets. They broke a lot of their tendencies in the first half. They had a long screen that we hadn't seen, and they ran a long toss with three receivers, and we hadn't seen that. We made some adjustments at halftime, but there really weren't any secrets. We just played better."

GBI: At the start of the game, Drew Henson was really clicking. What was he doing to get in that rhythm?

Spack: "He was out of those games early, and he only had two games under his belt. We assumed we would see a better Drew Henson today because he's going to continue to improve. It's hard to go out and play quarterback without much game experience. We expected to see a

Purdue Defense Clamps Down After Poor First-Half Performance

good quarterback, and he is really good.

GBI: Michigan's offensive line is regarded as one of the nation's best. What is your impression of the Wolverine line?

Spack: "They are real good. They are the best we've faced so far this year."

GBI: Toward the end of the second quarter, you held Michigan on third down and accepted a penalty. Then on the ensuing play Michigan scored a touchdown. Most people questioned why you accepted the penalty. What was your thinking?

Spack: "We thought we could stop them and keep them off the scoreboard. In hindsight, it's easy to second-guess those decisions. We wanted to let our defense know we believed in them and had confidence in them. We thought if we declined the penalty and gave them the three points, it would be like telling our players we didn't believe in them. We wanted to send a message that we thought they could get things done, and

they responded in the second half."

GBI: How much did you have to adjust not having Landon Johnson out there?

Spack: "Landon brings a recovery speed that Jason Loerzel still doesn't have yet after his knee surgery. But it's great to have Jason step in because of his experience. Things worked out.'

GBI: Akin Ayodele started at defensive end and moved to linebacker. What was the reasoning for those two decisions?

Spack: "We were trying to make ourselves better. I thought he was rushing the passer extremely well at end, but our young Sams (strong side linebackers) were struggling a little. That's why we moved him back to linebacker. We originally moved Akin to end when Landon was still healthy. We stuck with the move, but in the back of our minds, if we struggled, we were ready to move him back to linebacker."

GBI: By coming back and beating Michigan in an emotional game, what does a win like this do for the team at this point in the

Spack: "It's huge. We've been in two games like that before and came up on the losing end. To win one is big. It's a huge confidence builder for this team."

