



Hawkeyes Mic: *Bohnenkamp's Post-Game Notebook*

Iowa 49 - Michigan State 7

By John Bohnenkamp 11/07/20



Breaking down Iowa's 49-7 win over Michigan State on Saturday at Kinnick Stadium.

A FAST START

Iowa opened the game with an 8-play, 75-yard touchdown drive, capped by Tyler Goodson's 3-yard run.

It was part of a seven-touchdown day for the Hawkeyes, who got two scoring runs each from Goodson and Mekhi Sargent, a touchdown pass from Spencer Petras to Brandon Smith, a punt



return for a score from Charlie Jones, and a 54-yard interception return from Riley Moss.

But it was that first drive — five runs, two passes — that got the Hawkeyes started.

“That first drive gave us the confidence to be able to push through the whole game and go drive for drive for drive for drive,” Goodson said.

“We talked all week that we need to show up at 11:02 (kickoff time), be ready to play the game,” Petras said. “Collectively, we did that.”



AN EFFICIENT RUNNING GAME

Forty-one of Iowa’s 70 offensive plays were runs, a much better balance than last week, when Petras threw 50 passes in the 21-20 loss to Northwestern.

“Any offense, in order to be successful, you have to run the ball,” Petras said. “Our running backs ran hard, they ran effectively. It makes it easier for what we want to do.”

Goodson had 113 yards, the second 100-yard rushing game of his career.

His 71-yard run on Iowa's first play of the second half set up Sargent's 2-yard touchdown run three plays later.

Goodson nearly got into the end zone before being brought down by Michigan State cornerback Kalon Gervin.

"Next time I'll be able to finish the play," he said.



NOT A MUST-WIN

It was the first victory for the Hawkeyes, who started the season 0-2.

Iowa coach Kirk Ferentz dismissed the thought that it was a must-win game for the Hawkeyes, but he understood how important it was for the Hawkeyes to break out of their malaise to start the season.

"Marv Levy still writes about that — World War II, must win," Ferentz said with a laugh. "But games are important. Like we only get so many chances.

"You know, that's the approach, but we needed success, and I don't mean that like success or else mode. I don't live in that world. I know a lot of

people do. We don't live in that world in football. But we just needed to experience some success."



PASSING PATERNO

Ferentz won his 163rd game at Iowa, passing Joe Paterno for fourth all-time in Big Ten history.

Ferentz is one of five coaches in conference history to win at least 150 games.

"It probably means I've been here a while, right?" Ferentz said. "You know, that stuff is all great, and I promise you, it wasn't prominent on my mind. We needed to play well today. That's what we needed to do.

"It's great. Whenever I retire, whenever that day comes — hopefully it's not for quite a while, although I'm sure some people are

wondering about that — then we'll sit around and talk about stuff like that. It's neat, but what's more important is we got a win today. I'm really, really happy for our players."

JONES' BIG DAY

Jones' 54-yard punt return for a touchdown in the second quarter gave Iowa a 28-0 lead.

It was supposed to be a "return middle" play, but Jones saw an opening on the left side and found a path to the end zone.

Jones, a transfer from Buffalo, isn't on scholarship, but he hopes that changes.

"I'm going to keep working hard," he said. "If that comes, then, great."

"We'll do it when it's appropriate," Ferentz said. "I'm a big believer in earning things, I guess. That's kind of how it's always worked and it's usually how the game works. But we've also got a pretty storied tradition of walk-ons and I think we've always been really fair with them. We'll take care of that whenever it's appropriate. He certainly made big steps today, that's for sure."



(Photos by Brian Ray / hawkeyesports.com)

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