

# No. 4 Michigan tops Michigan St.; teams brawl in tunnel

By LARRY LAGE  
Associated Press

ANN ARBOR, Mich.—Blake Corum and No. 4 Michigan stayed undefeated, ending a two-game losing streak to their in-state rival, but the victory was overshadowed by another altercation in the Big House tunnel.

Corum ran for 177 yards and scored twice, Jake Moody made five field goals and the Wolverines beat Michigan State 29-7 on Saturday night.

After the game, social media posts showed at least three Spartans pushing, punching and kicking Michigan defensive back Ja'Den McBurrows in the tunnel and near a hallway that does not lead to either locker room.

Michigan coach Jim Harbaugh said a second player, who he did not identify, was also attacked and one player might have a broken nose.

"Two of our players were assaulted," Harbaugh said. "I saw on the one video. Ten on one. It was pretty bad.

"It needs to be investigated."

University of Michigan Deputy Police Chief Melissa Overton said an investigation is underway in partnership with Michigan State University Police and Michigan's athletic department and football program.

"Situations like these, and the safety of the community, are taken very seriously," Overton said.

Michigan athletic director Warde Manuel said Big Ten Commissioner Kevin Warren also is looking into the fracas.

Michigan State coach Mel Tucker said he did not know what happened in the tunnel after the game.

"I know it was a heated game," Tucker said. "We were trying to get our guys in the locker room. We'll have to see what happened."

The Wolverines (8-0, 5-0 Big Ten) scored 26 straight points after falling behind briefly late in the first quarter.

The Spartans (3-5, 1-4) went 0 for 2 on fourth down in the first half. They turned it over on downs after a review of a spot and after Tucker chose to go for it instead of kicking a short field goal to tie the game midway through the second period.

Michigan led 13-7 at half-time and kept control in the second half, outgaining Michigan State 133-8 in the third quarter.

Moody, the reigning Lou Groza Award winner given to the nation's top place kicker, made a career-long 54-yarder

for his fifth field goal to put the Wolverines ahead 22-7 early in the fourth.

Corum, who started the game with an FBS-high 13 touchdowns, scored for a second time on a 4-yard run after Michigan State had trouble with a snap on a punt.

With a 29-7 lead in the final minutes, Harbaugh showed no mercy against his in-state rival by calling for J.J. McCarthy to throw deep down the field.

McCarthy was 15 of 25 for 167 yards with a 2-yard touchdown pass to Corum.

Payton Thorne was 17 of 30 for 215 yards with a 26-yard touchdown pass to Keon Coleman that gave the Spartans a 7-3 lead late in the first quarter. Thorne also threw an interception late in the game.

Coleman finished with five catches for 155 yards and a score.

"We need to play a full 60 minutes," Tucker said. "We didn't do that. We're very disappointed."

## THE TAKEAWAY

**Michigan State:** Mistakes were costly in a game the Spartans had to be nearly flawless to win, starting with offensive tackle Jarrett Horst drawing an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty to stunt the opening drive.

Physical and mental breakdowns also hurt Michigan State's chances to pull off an upset in a game they were expected to lose by about three touchdowns.

"We're going to be sick about that," Thorne said. "They beat us. I'm not going to say we beat ourselves."

**Michigan:** Harbaugh's team stayed on track for its showdown in less than a month on the road against second-ranked Ohio State, with the winner potentially representing the Big Ten in the College Football Playoff.

## RED ZONE WOES

Moody made five field goals, one game after he kicked four in a lopsided win over then-No. 10 Penn State.

"Back-to-back games without finishing," McCarthy lamented.

## UP NEXT

**Michigan State:** Plays No. 17 Illinois on the road, hosts Rutgers and Indiana, and closes the regular season at No. 13 Penn State, needing to win three of four games to be bowl eligible.

**Michigan:** Travels to face Rutgers, hosts Nebraska and No. 17 Illinois, and plays the Buckeyes on Nov. 26 on the road.



EAGLEHERALD/MATT LEHMANN

Menominee's Kaeden Calcari stiff arm's a Calumet defender during the fourth quarter of Friday's MHSAA Division 6 playoff game at Walton Blesch field.

## Maroons

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Kings once again displayed their quick-strike capabilities with a two-play, 67-yard scoring drive.

Nelson erupted for a 61-yard touchdown gallop, cutting Menominee's lead to 24-20.

After a three-and-out by the Maroons, Calumet managed to move the ball into Menominee territory before Eli Beal snuffed out the drive with an interception of Aksel Loukus, one of two turnovers forced by the Menominee defense.

The other came in the fourth quarter, with Bardowski recovering a fumble by Nelson.

A 1-yard touchdown by Bardowski allowed the Maroons to capitalize on the interception and take a 30-20 lead into the locker room at halftime.

Calumet received the ball to begin the second half and embarked on an 11-play, 66-yard drive that was wrapped up after a 2-yard touchdown run pulled the Copper Kings within four.

The Copper Kings defense held the Maroons on fourth down on Menominee's ensuing drive, and Nelson skipped into the end zone from three yards out, as Calumet seized its first lead of the night, 33-30.

Menominee's next possession began with just over one minute remaining in the third quarter and bled into

the fourth before Theuerkauf lofted a 20-yard rainbow to Calcari into the end zone for the touchdown, as the Maroons regained lead 38-33 with 10:39 left on the clock.

The Copper Kings were able to jump out to a 39-38 lead thanks to a 38-yard score by Nelson with 3:03 remaining, setting the stage for Bardowski's late-game heroics.

"We did just enough defensively to hold on at the end. Our guys are gritty. They competed and made plays tonight," Brandt said. "Our emotions almost got the best of us at times, because we really wanted this. We're into November, we get another game under our belt, and we're excited for the opportunity to keep playing."

## Eight

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Lane Gorzinski was Honorable Mention.

Stephenson went 6-3 in the regular season, giving the Eagles their best finish since going 9-3 in 2017 and earning four players spots on the All-Conference list.

Senior linebacker Devon Groleau (linebacker) was Stephenson's lone First-Team selection, while fellow senior Tristan Kacynski (running back) and junior Ethan Anderson (defensive back) were Second-Team choices.

Senior Connor Dahl was Honorable Mention.

**Great Lakes Eight All Conference**  
Team of the Year—North Central  
Jets (7-0 Great Lakes Eight, 9-0 overall)

Coach of the Year—Leo Gorzinski, North Central

Offensive Player of the Year—Luke Gorzinski, Sr., North Central

Defensive Player of the Year—Luke Gorzinski, Sr., North Central

### First Team

Quarterback—Cole Baij, Soph., Norway

Running back—Sam McMissack, Sr., Forest Park; James Milkey, Sr., Lake Linden-Hubbell

Wide receiver—Michael Peterson, Sr., Norway; Bryce Buzzo, Sr., Ontonagon

Hybrid—Dillon Raab, Sr., North Central

Offensive line—Max Nelson, Jr., North Central; Mason Totzke, Sr., Ontonagon; Kirby Koskela, Sr., Lake Linden-Hubbell; Gabe Popko, Jr., Lake Linden-Hubbell

Linebacker—Dillon Raab, Sr., North Central; Devon Groleau, Sr., Stephenson

Defensive line—Kirby Koskela, Sr., Lake Linden-Hubbell; Jordan Messenger, Sr., North Central; Drew Webber, Sr., North Central; Kevin Giuliani, Soph., Forest Park

Defensive back—Dylan Plunger, Sr., North Central; Ian Popp, Jr., Norway; James Milkey, Sr., Lake Linden-Hubbell; Cody Dabb, Sr., Ironwood

Hybrid—Owen Eichmeier, Sr., North Central

Kicker—Adrian Mercier, Jr., North Central

Punter—Riccardo Moauro, Sr., Gogebic

Return specialist—Wyatt Spade, Jr., Norway

### Second Team

Quarterback—Austin Gordon, Soph., Ontonagon

Running back—Tristan Kacynski, Sr., Stephenson; Tyler Neuens, Sr., Norway

Wide receiver—Elijah Gorzinski, Sr., North Central; Spencer Kramer, Fr., North Dickinson

Hybrid—Cody Dabb, Sr., Ironwood

Offensive line—Adrian Bruette, Sr., Forest Park; Collin Cordy, Sr., North Central; Isaac Lorenzoni, Sr., Norway

Linebacker—Sam McMissack, Sr., Forest Park; Kyle Napientek, Sr., Norway; Antonio Inglese, Jr., North Dickinson

Defensive line—Isaac Lorenzoni, Sr., Norway; Max Nason, Jr., North Central; Mason Totske, Sr., Ontonagon

Defensive back—Jacob Gorzinski, Jr., North Central; Ethan Anderson, Jr., Stephenson; Felix Quevedo, Jr., Forest Park; Leo Imhoff, Sr., Gogebic

Hybrid—Gabe Harju, Soph., Gogebic

**Honorable Mention** — Caden Besonnen, Soph., Ontonagon; Connor Dahl, Sr., Stephenson; Antonio Delfavero, Sr., Gogebic; Lane Gorzinski, Soph., North Central; Danny Marcotte, Lake Linden-Hubbell; Elijah Sprague, Jr., Ironwood; Matthew Steinbrecher, Sr., North Dickinson; Shane Swanson, Sr., Norway; Payton Woollard, Sr., Forest Park

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**SPORTS**

Monday, October 31, 2022



EAGLEHERALD/MATT LEHMANN

Menominee's Nathan Komp hauls in a pass from Trevor Theuerkauf during the first quarter of Friday's MHSAA Division 6 playoff game between the Maroons and Calumet at Walton Blesch field.

# Maroons slay Copper Kings behind Bardowski's late-game heroics

By **MATT LEHMANN**  
EagleHerald Sports Editor

MENOMINEE—Landan Bardowski waited a year for his moment of redemption.

On October 29, 2021, Bardowski walked off the turf of Walton Blesch field in tears, looking at his hands as if they had betrayed him, and in a way, they had.

The usually sure-handed running back fumbled that night for the first and only time of the 2021 season, with the ball falling into the arms of a Calumet defender, who raced into the endzone and secured the Copper Kings' third straight playoff victory over the Menominee.

On October 28, 2022, Bardowski once again walked off the field in tears, but this time they were tears of pure elation.

With Menominee down by one against Calumet, Bardowski powered in an 8-yard touchdown run with 49 seconds left to play, pushing the Maroons past the Copper Kings 44-39 in Friday's MHSAA Division 6 District playoff game.

Despite being shaken up on the play prior, nothing was going to keep Bardowski off the field for the game's climatic moment.

"I feel amazing. I could not feel better right now," he said. "When my ankle twisted, I was like 'What am I going to do?' because I thought I was out and I started crying. As soon as I got to the sideline, I was like 'Strap this thing up and get me back out there'. I told (head) Coach (Chad) Brandt that I was going back in. Once I saw the hole open up, I knew that I was scoring."

"Landan hurt his leg and had to come out for a moment, but he said 'I'm ready to go back in' and he got the ball on the next play and made a heck of a run into the end zone," Brandt said. "There were tears of joy on his face, and I know he wasn't the only one. I never questioned his heart or effort."

The victory sends Menominee (6-4) to the District finals, where an undefeated Negaunee team (10-0) awaits.

Friday's contest was a donnybrook

that saw the Maroons build a 10-point advantage at halftime, while the lead changed hands four times in the second half.

The two teams combined for four drives and four touchdowns in the first quarter, with the Maroons taking an 8-0 lead after Trevor Theuerkauf scrambled for a 12-yard touchdown before Bardowski tacked on the 2-point conversion run to cap up the first drive of the night.

The Copper Kings needed one play and nine seconds to respond after Amar Patterson ripped off a 59-yard scoring run, while Xander Hoffman booted the first of his three extra-point kicks to make it an 8-7 game.

Menominee seized a nine-point cushion thanks to a 7-yard touchdown dash by Kaeden Calcari, but a 1-yard score from Brayden Nelson cut Calumet's deficit down to two.

Theuerkauf broke off a 9-yard score before hitting Kaden Starzynski for the 2-point conversion to put the Maroons on top 24-14 with 8:51 to go in the second quarter, but the Copper

## LOCAL SCHEDULE

### TODAY'S EVENTS

#### GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

##### MHSAA DISTRICTS

Menominee at Iron Mountain, 6 p.m.

### TUESDAY'S EVENTS

#### GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

##### MHSAA DISTRICTS

Stephenson at North Central, 6 p.m.

## North Central named Great Lakes Eight Conference Team of the Year

### Stephenson's Devon Groleau named All-Conference First Team linebacker

POWERS, Mich.—The Great Lakes Eight Conference recognized the North Central Jets as the conference's best team with the release of the 2022 Great Lakes Eight All-Conference selections on Thursday.

North Central, the two-time defending 8-player State champions, dominated the All-Conference list with 14 selections.

The Jets finished the season 7-0 in the Great Lakes Eight Conference and 9-0 overall, making them an easy choice for Team of the Year.

North Central has not lost a game since Nov. 8, 2019, going 33-0 since then.

A large part of North Central's success can be traced to the play of two-way standout Luke Gorzinski, who was named the conference's Offensive and Defensive Player of the Year.

North Central's Leo Gorzinski was honored as the conference's Coach of the Year.

Dillon Raab was a two-time All-Conference selection at both linebacker and offensive hybrid.

Offensive lineman Max Nelson, defensive linemen Jordan Messenger and Drew Webber, defensive back Dylan Plunger, defensive hybrid Owen Eichmeier, kicker Adrian Mercier and return specialist Wyatt Spade represented the Jets on the First Team.

Elijah Gorzinski was a Second-Team choice at wide receiver, with Collin Cordy (offensive line), Max Nason (defensive line) and Jacob Gorzinski (defensive back) also receiving Second-Team honors.