

Haarms scores 26 points, Purdue defeats Minnesota 83-78 in double overtime

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. (AP) — Matt Haarms scored 26 points on 11-of-16 shooting to lead Purdue to a 83-78 victory in double overtime over Minnesota in Big Ten action on Thursday night.

Haarms came up big in the second overtime as the Boilermakers scoring the first two baskets of the second overtime for the Boilermakers (9-5, 2-1).

Purdue started the second overtime with a 6-0 run, but Minnesota forged another tie. Sasha Stefanovic, who finished with 17 points, gave Purdue a 78-75 lead with a 3. With 40 seconds, Trevion Williams sank two free throws to put Purdue ahead 80-75. After Minnesota missed a 3-pointer, Haarms grabbed the rebound and hit the first of two free throws.

After Haarms scored with under a minute left to give Purdue a 68-67 lead, Daniel Oturu answered with a jumper. Purdue's Williams hit the second of two free throws to make it 69-all with 6.5 seconds left in the first overtime. Minnesota's Carr missed a running shot and Oturu's put-back.

Oturu scored 24 of his 29 points after halftime for the Gophers (7-6, 1-2) and grabbed 18 rebounds. Marcus Carr gave the Boilermakers fits with his quickness most of the game, but wore down late. He finished with 27 points.

With the score tied 55-all, the Gophers outscored Boilermakers 7-2 to take a 62-57 edge with 3:20 left in regulation.

Following a Minnesota turnover, Stefanovic sank a 3-pointer with 15 seconds left to tie it at 62-all. Carr missed a jumper and Oturu rebounded but was called for traveling with 1.3 seconds left. Williams missed a half-court shot as regulation expired.

Purdue shot 48% to take a 31-30 half-time lead. Minnesota shot 38% in the opening half.

Overall, Minnesota shot 36.5% and Purdue shot 42.6%

Big picture

Minnesota: The Gophers suffered a heartbreaking loss, missing many chances to put the game away.

Purdue: The Boilermakers had one of their better outside shooting games, hitting some big 3s when needed. Purdue made 11 of 25 3s.

Up next

Minnesota plays host to Northwestern on Sunday.
Purdue plays at Illinois on Sunday.



AP photo

Purdue guard Nojel Eastern (20) grabs a rebound over Minnesota guard Marcus Carr (5) during the second half of an NCAA basketball game in West Lafayette, Ind., Thursday.

Watson FROM PAGE 2B

and knows how he carries himself will rub off on the rest of the team and impact how others perform.

"You're the face of the franchise and everyone is looking (at) you," he said. "So regardless if you're down, if you're up, you're facing that adversity (or) you're having success too, people want to still see that fight and that will continue to finish what you started and try to win the game or what you're competing in. Everyone is going to follow that and everyone will see it."

Receiver DeAndre Hopkins loves that quality in Watson and thinks that's one of the reasons why he's so successful.

"Everybody in this locker room, offense and defense feeds off of his game and how he never feels like we're out of a game no matter what the score is," Hopkins said. "He's a winner. He's won his whole career and it

shows every day in everything he does."

Watson has a penchant for shining in the biggest moments. He did it when he helped Gainesville high school to a state title and at Clemson when he led the Tigers to a national championship in the 2016 season. Watson has continued that success with the Texans where he's helped them to consecutive AFC South titles and had some of his biggest games when Houston was playing in prime time.

But in perhaps the biggest game of his NFL career, Watson came up short. Last season in his playoff debut Watson threw an interception and struggled to move the offense effectively in a 21-7 loss to the Indianapolis Colts.

He believes the experience in that playoff game will help him on Saturday when he gets another chance to notch his first

postseason win.

"Just knowing that ... the game is going to go by faster, the plays, the players play a little bit faster than the regular season. Everything just speeds up," he said. "So, just being able to be prepared and see how the energy and everything changes in a playoff game, it really helps out to get that first-hand look last year. I know it didn't go our way, but we've got another opportunity this year."

He has thrown for 3,852 yards with 26 touchdowns and 12 interceptions and ran for 413 yards with seven more scores this season. Watson, who sat out last week with Houston's playoff spot set, struggled with turnovers in his last three starts. He threw five interceptions in those games after only being picked off twice in Houston's previous five games. He said those miscues are a big reason the

offense hasn't been as powerful recently as it was earlier in the season.

"My turnovers," he said. "That's pretty much it ... if I don't turn two balls over in Tennessee that's 14 extra points and who knows how the game goes. It's something that we corrected."

O'Brien has no doubt that Watson will get back on track this week and raved about how much he's improved in his three seasons with the Texans.

"He gets better every day," O'Brien said. "I wouldn't be able to pick out one thing. He gets better every day at everything. He tries to work on everything from mechanics to knowledge of the game plan to defensive knowledge."

Wolves FROM PAGE 2B

on an 18-3 first-quarter run and led by as many as 22 in the first half. They held Golden State to 19 points in the first quarter and 41 in the first half.

The Warriors went on an 11-2 run that started in the final minute of the third quarter and carried into the fourth. They trimmed the lead to eight at 92-84 on Damion Lee's basket with 4:35 left. That was as close as they would get.

Minnesota was playing for the second consecutive night. The Timberwolves improved to 2-3 when playing the second game of a back-to-back.

Tip-ins

Warriors: Russell (right shoulder contusion), Willie Cauley-Stein (flu-like symptoms) and Kevon Looney (left abdominal soreness) joined long-term

absentees Curry (left hand fracture) and Thompson (left ACL rehabilitation) in missing the game. Jordan Poole is on a G League assignment with Santa Cruz. No Warrior has appeared in every game this season.

Timberwolves: Towns (left knee sprain), Wiggins (flu-like symptoms), Jeff Teague (right knee sprain), Treveon Graham (flu-like symptoms), Jake Layman (left toe sprain) and Noah Vonleh (left gluteal contusion) did not play. Two-way guard Jordan McLaughlin was recalled from Iowa of the G League on Wednesday.

Up next

Warriors: Host Detroit on Saturday.
Timberwolves: At Cleveland on Sunday.

Rohlik FROM PAGE 1B

his voice was to simply keep it natural, just as famous broadcaster Al Michaels alluded to in his famous quote: "I've always felt that I'm in a spontaneous business and if you script something, if you plan something, it will sound that way."

The approach was exemplified during one of Rohlik's most memorable interviews this past season with legendary Mustang basketball player Ryan Bruggeman following the team's NSIC championship game loss to Northern State, the final game of Bruggemann's collegiate career. Rohlik could not help but get emotional upon seeing Bruggeman get choked up after reminiscing about his time with SMSU.

"As soon as I looked over and I saw tears flowing to the ground I was done. And then you're trying to be a professional and that was one of the hardest interviews I've ever done," said Rohlik.

Being with the team on road trips and getting a first-hand glimpse into the hard work put in by the players and coaches and the bonds developed made the interview an emotional experience.

"I don't know why it was so filled with emotion but I watched this young fella come up from being a redshirt freshman from Pelican Rapids to now being a stud," said Rohlik. "I think since doing the Mustangs games and going on road trips, you see how tight their bond is. You know how much they want to win for each other and it's never an individual kind of thing."

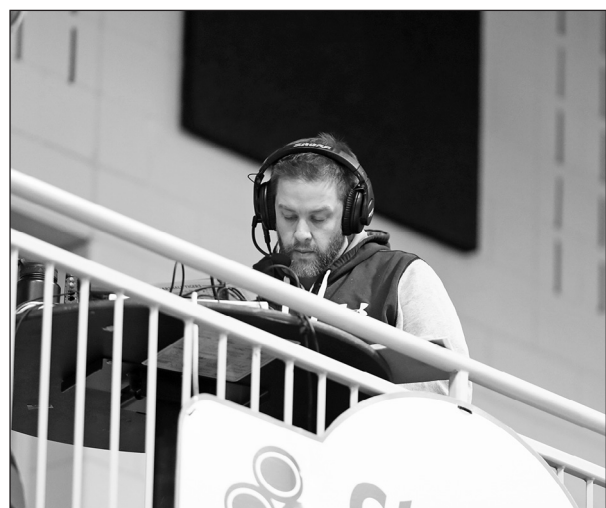


Photo courtesy of Greg Devereaux Photography

Ryan Rohlik prepares for a broadcast of a recent Marshall High School basketball game.

Preparation is key to success

When an individual tunes into their favorite live-game broadcast, the hours upon hours of prep-work put in to make it all come together may be lost on the casual-listener.

In fact, Rohlik says the preparation and research done beforehand makes the final step of calling the game seem like a piece of cake.

"From Monday 'til gameday I am working on game notes of different things that I'll type out and set up a spread sheet," said Rohlik. "The games are a piece of cake, but the actual lead up to getting the interview, setting up your pregames and things like that of making sure that you're prepared for a broadcast is your number one thing."

Of course, the whole process is a team effort. For gameday information pertaining to injuries and

roster updates, Rohlik works hand in hand with Sports Information Directors like SMSU's Kelly Loft, as well as fellow play-by-play announcers from opposing teams.

"There's so many other guys that play, you have to know the roster top to bottom," said Rohlik. "Sports Information Directors like Kelly (Loft) is for Southwestern (Minnesota State) are so essential in getting you the information."

The copious amounts of preparation undertaken by Rohlik circles back to his ultimate goal of bringing each athlete's journey consisting of hard work and sacrifice to light as they're laying it on the line on the court or field for a game.

"My goal is to have people understand and or hear what they've gone through to get to that either great moment or so close, and just to hear their emotion rather than always seeing it," said Rohlik.

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