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IT'S BEEN

Two Score

DAYS SINCE WE NEEDED A THESAURUS

-like The Onion, but shittier!

## MTU Football Week 1 Recap: The Birth of a Husky Legend

## Metaverse Mark Zuckerberg

As a last-minute decision, I decided to go to the MTU football game against UW-Platteville before the dark times of stacks of homework and shitty weather fall upon us. I showed up not knowing what to expect, but oh my goodness I was not prepared for the events of this game.

In a word, the first 25 minutes of this game were shit. Like, what the hell, how-is-it-goingthis-badly shit. Neither team seemed to be capable of stringing together a decent drive, seemingly due to the offenses' incompetence instead of the defenses' prowess. The closest either team came to scoring on their first 5 drives was a 51-yard field goal attempt by the UW-Platteville kicker that bounced off the right upright (not gonna lie though, Andrew Schweigert, the Platteville K/P, has a LEG. That ball could've cleared the uprights from 62 if it was just slightly more accurate). While Platteville had a litany of issues on offense and special teams, the culprit for MTU's lack of progress was obvious: the receiving core. Will Ark (MTU's QB1) was routinely putting the ball in spots where only his receivers would be able to catch it, but they just seemed incapable of bringing the ball in. According to the box score Ark was 0-4 in the half, and it's my opinion all of those incompletions ranged from "difficult but catchable" to near-gimmies. Because of this, I was personally shocked when I realized MTU was making a change at Quarterback inside 2 minutes to go in the half. Ark really couldn't be the reason the offense wasn't working, right?

In walked the backup Quarterback, looking to turn this two-minute drill into the first points of the game. After a 16-yard rush to start the drive by William Marano, our hero went to work. First, he chucked the ball down field for Ethan

Champney, who successfully drew a Pass Interference call. Then, an absolute DIME to Emmet Boehler down the right-hand sideline for 26 yards. At the 5-yard line, MTU tried to run it in on 1st and 2nd down to no avail, then on 3rd and Goal the quarterback kept it himself, beating the UW-P players to the sideline and sneaking in for a touchdown. 7-0 Huskies. Only at this point did I begin to pay attention to the stadium play-by-play announcer, who announced the name of the man who scored those points. His name, I shit you not, is STEELE FORTRESS.

When I first heard the name, I assumed it \*had\* to be a nickname. There's no way this absolute legend has been riding the pine for MTU for the first half AND he has a name like that. I walked over to the Champion's Pavilion to get a program with the roster on it and sure enough, Steele Fortress. 6 foot 3, 226 pounds. Steele Fortress.

After UW-P kneeled out the half, I walked around the stadium while the pep band set up for their halftime show. While they weren't bountiful (yet), I began to hear whispers of the name of the man that seemed destined to bring this team to the promised land. Oh, if only they knew what they were going to see next.

UW-P received the kickoff at the start of the second half and immediately went 3-and-out. On 4th, the longsnapper shot the ball well behind the punter, who tried to kick it as a last-ditch effort from 6 yards deep in his own endzone. An MTU player (name not listed in the PBP recap unfortunately), blocked the punt and the ball rolled out of the endzone for a safety. 9-0 Huskies, and they'd get the ball on offense in good field position.

## Continued From Front:

Starting from their 39-yard line, Steele Fortress and his Merry Men immediately got back to work. A 6-yard completion followed by 3 back-to-back run plays gave them a fresh set of downs at midfield. Then, Steele chucks one to Darius Willis for 19 yards. Finally, from the 30-yard line, Fortress launches yet another ball to Willis, who this time is waiting in the back-center of the endzone. 16-0 Huskies.

After two immaculate drives from this previously unknown-to-me backup QB, the crowd around me was abuzz with the name of this football god. While Platteville marched down the field to make the game 16-7 (which unfortunately included a vicious hit on Michael Priami, their starting QB, which resulted in a targeting penalty on an MTU linebacker), the crowd didn't seem to care. We, as a single people, needed \*\*more\*\*.

Sadly, the next MTU drive stalled. Fortress did what he could to get the ball downfield, but UW-P suddenly started generating pressure and the QB was only able to get one completion for 3 yards. We didn't care. We had found our hero.

Platteville stalled on offense and lost a fumble on 3rd down at their own 27-yard line. We were ready for more points from the new main character in everyone's life story, but to some dismay, Will Ark was put back in the game. How could the coaching staff decide to do this? Sure, the last drive didn't go great, but the two that had come before were \*magical\*. Nevertheless, Ark went to work, completing two passes in the shortened field, including one to Darius Willis for his second touchdown of the day. 23-7.

(As I said earlier, I genuinely can't blame Ark for how his first half went, I think it was just bad luck and the receivers not being ready for where he was placing the ball. He looked pretty good when he was in during the second half, but unfortunately the public's eye had already passed him by.)

At this point, the rest of the game didn't seem to matter. Tech held a 2-score lead and UW-P clearly had no consistent rhythm on offense. Plus, with everybody's new favorite player out of the game, it seemed like the people around me in the crowd had almost lost interest. Fortress played one more drive, but unfortunately it was nothing special. Platteville did score another touchdown and was able to recover the following onside kick, but they had missed the two-point conversion attempt, meaning it was still a two-score game with less than two minutes to go. It was over and everyone knew it. Huskies win, 23-13.

To my surprise and delight, fans were allowed onto the field after the game ended while the players wrapped up. While it was mostly parents of players and a couple groups of friends chucking one of the stray footballs around, I decided to take a walk down to enjoy the feeling of watching my uni's team win their home opener. Once the post-game huddle broke and the players went to talk with their friends and family, it seemed like everyone noticed at once where he was and yelled "Steeeeeele". It wasn't booming, he didn't take a bow, but everybody who witnessed that game left knowing one thing: put some fucking respect on the name Steele Fortress.



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