Late reversal helps Steelers beat Ravens LaVerde's

while now, Mike Tomlin and the Pittsburgh Steelers have walked the fine line between success and recriminations.

They remained on the right side of it Sunday, thanks to Aaron Rodgers and a couple of late replays.

Rodgers threw for 284 yards and a touchdown and even ran for a TD in perhaps his best game with the Steelers, and Pittsburgh took sole possession of first place in the AFC North, holding on for a 27-22 win over the Ravens when a Baltimore touchdown with 2:43 remaining was overturned by a replay review.

The Ravens (6-7) had caught Pittsburgh in the standings despite a 1-5 start, leading to the latest round of speculation — plus some chants from fans — suggesting Tomlin's 19-year tenure as Steelers coach might be nearing an end.

Not so fast.

"At least maybe you guys will shut the hell up for a week," Rodgers said.

The Ravens nearly rallied from an 11-point deficit in the final quarter, but a pair of big reviews went against

pass by Rodgers was batted into the air by C.J. Okoye before the ball disappeared into a mass of humanity, with Rodgers in the middle of it. The play was initially ruled an interception, but Rodgers very briefly had his hands on the ball before losing control, and after a review, officials determined Rodgers caught his own pass and was down by contact.

The Steelers still had to punt, but the reversal cost Baltimore quite a bit of field position.

Later, Isaiah Likely secured a pass from Lamar Jackson with two hands in the end zone, and both his feet came down, but as he was about to complete another step with his right foot, Joey Porter Jr. of the Steelers knocked the ball free. It was initially called a touchdown then changed to incomplete. The Ravens eventually turned the ball over on downs.

To the untrained eye, Likely seemed to the control the ball longer and more persuasively than Rodgers had, but under the NFL's complicated rules about catches, the play in

the end zone was not a touchdown. "The receiver controlled the ball then his left foot down. The control is the first aspect of the catch. The second aspect is two feet or a body part in bounds, which he did have," NFL Vice President of Instant Replay Mark Butterworth said. "Then the third step is an act common to the game and before he could get the third foot down, the ball was ripped out. Therefore, it was an incomplete pass.'

Baltimore held defensively and then reached the Pittsburgh 30-yard line, but Jackson took a sack when the Ravens had no timeouts left, and the clock expired.

Rodgers didn't complete a pass longer than 31 yards in the whole month of November, but he had four of at least that distance Sunday, plus two more for more than 20. The first offensive play for Pittsburgh (7-6) was a 52-yard throw to DK Metcalf, which set up a 1-yard run by Rodgers that put the Steelers up 7-3.

That was the 42-year-old quarterback's first rushing touchdown since the 2022 season.

The Steelers led 17-9 at halftime, and as he did in the first half, Rodgers connected for a big gain to Met-

BALTIMORE (AP) — For a them. With the Steelers up 27-22, a in the air, had his right foot down, calf to start the third quarter. That 41-yard pickup led to a field goal, but Keaton Mitchell raced free for a 56-yard run for the Ravens, who made it 20-16 on Jackson's 4-yard scoring pass to Likely.

Rodgers answered with a 31-yard pass to Calvin Austin III on third down, then Jaylen Warren took a short pass 38 yards to the end zone — also on third down — for a 27-16 lead.

The Ravens managed a couple of field goals but couldn't produce the late touchdown they needed.

Rodgers, who played the previous weekend against Buffalo with a brace on his broken left wrist, used a soft cast Sunday and wasn't sacked a single time by the Ravens. This was his most yards passing since joining the Steelers before this season.

Jackson was intercepted in the first half by his cousin, defensive back James Pierre. A penalty on a field-goal attempt gave Pittsburgh a new set of downs, and Kenneth Gainwell's 6-yard touchdown run made it 17-3.

Jackson scored on a 6-yard run just before halftime, but Tyler Loop missed the extra point.

Hornets win 8th state title

Tiger LaVerde is a state champion - again.

The Oil City native and former Franklin head coach guided Kirtland to its eighth Ohio state championship Saturday with a 41-6 win over Hopewell-Loudon in the Division VI title game at Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium in Canton.

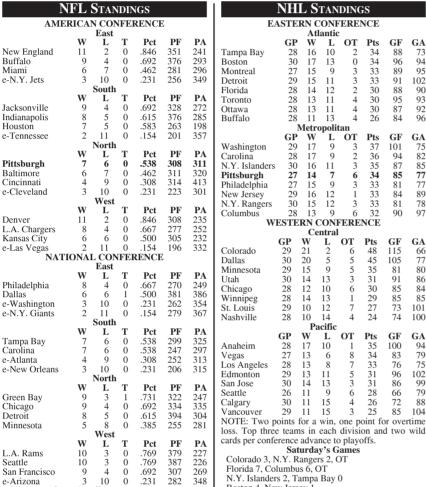
The Hornets, in the state title game for the 14 th time in the past 15 years, regained the hardware after falling in last year's final.

Kirtland racked up 470 yards -433 on the ground – in the win.

LaVerde's son, Jake, quarterbacked the Hornets (15-0). The senior ran for 112 yards and a touchdown. On defense, he had a team-best 10 tackles.

Tiger LaVerde is now 279-31, which includes a 20-10 record in three seasons at Franklin. He's 259-21 at Kirtland. He reached the 250win mark faster than any coach in Ohio high school football history.

THE DAILY SCOREBOARD



Detroit 44, Dallas 30 Sunday's Games Thursday's Games Buffalo 39, Cincinnati 34 Jacksonville 36, Indianapolis 19 Miami 34, N.Y. Jets 10 Minnesota 31, Washington 0 New Orleans 24, Tampa Bay 20 Pittsburgh 27, Baltimore 22 Seattle 37, Atlanta 9 Tennessee 31, Cleveland Denver 24, Las Vegas 17 Green Bay 28, Chicago 21 L.A. Rams 45, Arizona 17 Houston at Kansas City, late Open: New England, Carolina, N.Y. Giants, San

Monday's Games

e-Eliminated from playoffs

Philadelphia at L.A. Chargers, 8:15 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 11 Atlanta at Tampa Bay, 8:15 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14 Sunday, Dec. 14
Arizona at Houston, 1 p.m.
Baltimore at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.
Buffalo at New England, 1 p.m.
Cleveland at Chicago, 1 p.m.
L.A. Chargers at Kansas City, 1 p.m.
Las Vegas at Philadelphia, 1 p.m.
N. Viers at lacksonville, 1 p.m. N.Y. Jets at Jacksonville, 1 p.m. Washington at N.Y. Giants, 1 p.m. Carolina at New Orleans, 4:25 p.m. Detroit at L.A. Rams, 4:25 p.m.

Green Bay at Denver, 4:25 p.m.							
	Indianapolis at Seattle, 4:25 p.m.						
Tennessee at			p.m.				
Minnesota at							
	Monday		5				
Miami at Pit							
S	TEELERS	SUMM	IARY				
	sburgh 27		ore 2	2			
Pittsburgh	7 10	10	0	_	27		
Baltimore	3 6	7	6	_	22		
)uarter					
Bal—FG Loc							
Pit—Rodgers	Pit—Rodgers 1 run (Boswell kick), 7:13.						
Second Quarter							
Pit—FG Boswell 23, 10:39.							
Pit—Gainwell 6 run (Boswell kick), 6:05.							
Bal—L.Jackson 6 run (kick failed), :16.							
Third Quarter							
Pit—FG Boswell 28, 10:57.							
Bal—Likely 4 pass from L.Jackson (Loop kick), 7:35. Pit—Warren 38 pass from Rodgers (Boswell kick),							
3:30.	38 pass iro	m Rouge	ers (Bo	swell ki	CK),		
5.50.	Fourth	Quarter					
Bal—FG Loo							
Bal—FG Loc							
Dai 10 Loc	p 50, 7.10.	P	it		Bal		
First downs			3		22		
Total Net Yard	s	31			420		
Rushes-yards		17-3			217		
Passing		28			203		
Punt Paturns		2.1	2	2	1.4		

rusiics-yarus	1/-5+	40-21/
Passing	284	203
Punt Returns	2-12	3-14
Kickoff Returns	4-88	5-117
Interceptions Ret.	1-9	0-0
Comp-Att-Int	23-34-0	19-35-1
Sacked-Yards Lost	0-0	2-16
Punts	4-49.25	2-51.0
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	0-0
Penalties-Yards	7-33	5-39
Time of Possession	26:16	33:44
INDIVIDUA	AL STATISTIC	CS
Rushing-Pittsburgh, G	ainwell 4-15,	Warren 8-13,
Johnson 2-4, Co. Heyward	d 1-2, Rodgers 2	-0. Baltimore,
Henry 25-94, Mitchell 6	-76, L.Jackson	7-43, Ali 1-2,
Flowers 1-2.		
Danaina Distalannala D	- 1 22 24	0.204 D-14:

Plowers 1-2.

Passing–Pittsburgh, Rodgers 23-34-0-284. Baltimore, L.Jackson 19-35-1-219.

Receiving–Pittsburgh, Metcalf 7-148, Gainwell 6-27, Warren 3-49, Freiermuth 2-9, Austin 1-31, Skowronek 1-13, Washington 1-12, Thielen 1-4, Rodgers 1-(minus 9). Baltimore, Flowers 8-124, Likely 4-25, Bateman 2-23, Ali 2-11, Kolar 1-19, Andrews 1-9, Henry 1-8.

Missed Field Go			irews	1-9, H	enry 1-8	5.
PER	NGUINS	S Su	MMA	RY		
Da	llas 3, 1	Pittsl	ourgl	ı 2		
Pittsburgh	1	1	0	0	_	2
Dallas	0	1	1	1	_	3
Da	ıllas won	shoo	tout 1	-0		
First Period—1.	Pittsbur	gh, D	ewar ((Lizo	otte, Aco	cia-

ri), 18:18 Second Period—2, Dallas, Benn 4 (Hintz, Robertson), 1:27. 3, Pittsburgh, Novak 4 (Letang, Crosby), 5:56. Third Period—4, Dallas, Heiskanen 6 (Johnston

Rantanen), 18:11.

Overtime—None.
Shootout—Dallas 1 (Robertson NG, Duchene NG, Jarry NG), Pittsburgh 0 (Oettinger NG, Crosby NG, Oettinger NG). Shots on Goal—Pittsburgh 7-11-9-2—29. Dallas 7-3-

Power-play opportunities—Pittsburgh 0 of 2; Dallas Goalies—Pittsburgh, Jarry 9-2-1 (23 shots-21 saves). Dallas, Oettinger 14-4-2 (29-27). A—18,532 (18,532). T—2:32.

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	\mathbf{GF}	$\mathbf{G}\mathbf{A}$
Tampa Bay	28	16	10	2	34	88	73
Boston	30	17	13	0	34	96	94
Montreal	27	15	9	3	33	89	95
Detroit	29	15	11	3	33	91	102
Florida	28	14	12	2	30	88	90
Toronto	28	13	11	4	30	95	93
Ottawa	28	13	11	4	30	87	92
Buffalo	28	11	13	4	26	84	96
		Metr	opoli	tan			
	GP	\mathbf{w}	L	OT	Pts	\mathbf{GF}	GA
Washington	29	17	9	3	37	101	75
Carolina	28	17	9	2	36	94	82
N.Y. Islanders	30		11	3	35	87	85
Pittsburgh	27		7	6	34	85	77
Philadelphia	27	15	9	3	33	81	77
New Jersey	29	16	12	1	33	84	89
N.Y. Rangers	30	15	12	3	33	81	78
Columbus	28	13	9	6	32	90	97
\mathbf{W}	ESTE	RN (CON	FERE	NCE		
			ntra				
	GP	\mathbf{W}	\mathbf{L}	\mathbf{OT}	Pts	\mathbf{GF}	GA
Colorado	29	21	2 5	6	48	115	66
Dallas	30	20		5	45	105	77
Minnesota	29	15	9	5 5 3	35	81	80
Utah	30	14	13		31	91	86
Chicago	28	12	10	6	30	85	84
Winnipeg	28	14	13	1	29	85	85
St. Louis	29	10	12	7	27	73	101
Nashville	28	10	14	4	24	74	100
Pacific							
	GP	\mathbf{W}	\mathbf{L}	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Anaheim	28	17	10	1	35	100	94
Vegas	27	13	6	8	34	83	79
Los Angeles	28	13	8	7	33	76	75
Edmonton	29	13	11	5	31	96	102
San Jose	30	14	13		31	86	99
Seattle	26	11	9	6	28	66	79
Calgary	30	11	15	4	26	72	88
Vancouver	29	11	15	3	25	85	104
NOTE: Two p							
loss. Top three	e tean	ns in	each	divisi	on an	d two	wild

N.Y. Islanders 2, Tampa Bay 0 Boston 4, New Jersey 1 Calgary 2, Utah 0 Carolina 6, Nashville 3 St. Louis 2, Ottawa 1 Montreal 2, Toronto 1, SO Los Angeles 6, Chicago 0 Edmonton 6, Winnipeg 2 Detroit 4, Seattle 3 Vancouver 4, Minnesota 2 Sunday's Games

Colorado 3, Philadelphia 2 Florida 4, N.Y. Islanders 1 San Jose 4, Carolina 1 Dallas 3, Pittsburgh 2, SO Columbus at Washington, late St. Louis at Montreal, late Vegas at N.Y. Rangers, late Chicago at Anaheim, late Monday's Games

Tampa Bay at Toronto, 7:30 p.m.
Buffalo at Calgary, 9 p.m.
Los Angeles at Utah, 9 p.m.
Detroit at Vancouver, 10 p.m. Minnesota at Seattle, 10 p.m Tuesday's Games Anaheim at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.

New Jersey at Ottawa, 7 p.m. San Jose at Philadelphia, 7 p.m. San Jose at Philadelphia, 7 p.m. Tampa Bay at Montreal, 7 p.m. Vegas at N.Y. Islanders, 7 p.m. Columbus at Carolina, 7:30 p.m. Boston at St. Louis, 8 p.m. Dallas at Winnipeg, 8 p.m.
Buffalo at Edmonton, 9 p.m.
Colorado at Nashville, 9:30 p.m.

Wednesday's Games N.Y. Rangers at Chicago, 7:30 p.m. Detroit at Calgary, 8:30 p.m. Florida at Utah, 9 p.m. Los Angeles at Seattle, 10 p.m.

ITIL DAILI SCORLDOARD
Photo by Leigh-Anne Willia

Aubree Rice looks up to receive instruction from her coach during the "Rise of the Knights" Novice Tournament on Sunday. The Franklin program has doubled in size since 2022 to now over 80 youth athletes. The program is made free to the youth in order to promote more kids being active and participating in a winter sport.



Photo by Leigh-Anne Williams

A Franklin youth wrestler uses a half-nelson to put his opponent on his back in an attempt to pin him.

COLLEGE BOWL GAMES GLANCE Rate Bowl Phoenix New Mexico vs. Minnesota, 4:30 p.m. (ESPN)

South Carolina State vs. Prairie View A&M, noon FIU vs. UTSA, 8 p.m. (ESPN) LA Bowl Inglewood, Calif. Dec. 27 Boise State vs. Washington, 8 p.m. (ABC)

Dec. 16 Military Bow

Salute to Veterans Bowl Cure Bowl Orlando, Fla.

Dec. 13

Celebration Bowl

Atlanta

Old Dominion vs. South Florida, 5 p.m. (ESPN)
68 Ventures Bowl Mobile, Ala. Louisiana vs. Delaware, 8:30 p.m. (ESPN) Dec. 18 **Xbox Bowl**

Frisco, Texas Arkansas State vs. Missouri State, 9 p.m. (ESPN2)

Dec. 19 Myrtle Beach Bowl Conway, S.C. Kennesaw State vs. Western Michigan, 11 a.m. (ESPN)

Gasparilla Bowl
Tampa, Fla.

Memphis vs N.C. State, 2:30 p.m. (ESPN)
College Football Playoff
First Round
No. 9 Alabama (10-3) at No. 8 Oklahoma (10-2), 8

p.m. (ESPN/ABC)

Dec. 20 College Football Playoff First Round No. 10 Miami (Fla.) (10-2) at No. 7 Texas A&M (11-

1), noon (ESPN/ABC) No. 20 Tulane (11-2) at No. 6 Mississippi (11-1), 3:30 p.m. (TNT/HBO Max) No. 24 James Madison (12-1) at No. 5 Oregon (11-1), 7:30 p.m. (TNT/HBO Max)

Dec. 22
Famous Idaho Potato Bowl Boise, Idaho Utah St. vs. Washington St., 2 p.m. (ESPN)

Dec. 23 **Boca Raton Bowl**

Boca Raton, Fla. Louisville vs. Toledo, 2 p.m. (ESPN) **New Orleans Bowl New Orleans** Western Kentucky vs. Southern Miss, 5:30 p.m.

Frisco Bowl Frisco, Texas Ohio vs. UNLV, 9 p.m. (ESPN) Dec. 24 Hawai'i Bowl Honolulu

Cal vs. Hawaii, 8 p.m. (ESPN)

Dec. 26 GameAbove Sports Bowl Detroit, Mich. Central Michigan vs. Northwestern, 1 p.m. (ESPN) First Responder Bowl Dallas, Texas

Annapolis, Md. Pittsburgh vs. East Carolina, 11 a.m. (ESPN) Pinstripe Bowl Bronx, N.Y. Clemson vs. Penn St., noon (ABC Fenway Bowl

Boston UConn vs. Army, 2:15 p.m. (ESPN) Pop-Tarts Bowl Orlando, Fla. No. 12 BYU vs. No. 22 Georgia Tech, 3:30 p.m. (ABC) Arizona Bowl Tucson, Ariz.

Fresno St. vs. Miami (OH), 4:30 p.m. (CW Network) New Mexico Bowl Albuquerque No. 25 North Texas vs. San Diego St., 5:45 p.m (ESPN)

Gator Bowl Jacksonville, Fla. Missouri vs. Virginia, 7:30 p.m. (ABC)

Texas Bowl Houston LSU vs. No. 21 Houston, 9:15 p.m. (ESPN)

Dec. 29

Birmingham Bowl Birmingham, Ala.
TBA vs. TBA, 2 p.m. (ESPN)
Dec. 30 Independence Bowl Shreveport, La.

Coastal Carolina vs. Louisiana Tech. 2 p.m. (ESPN) **Music City Bowl** Nashville, Tenn. Tennessee vs. Illinois, 5:30 p.m. (ESPN) Alamo Bowl San Antonio, Texas

No. 16 Southern Cal vs. TCU, 9 p.m. (ESPN) Dec. 31 ReliaQuest Bowl Tampa, Fla.

No. 14 Vanderbilt vs. No. 23 Iowa, noon (ESPN)
Sun Bowl
El Paso, Texas
Arizona St. vs. Duke, 2 p.m. (CBS)
Citrus Bowl
Orlando Els

Orlando, Fla. No. 13 Texas vs. No. 18 Michigan, 3 p.m. (ABC) Las Vegas Bowl Las Vegas Nebraska vs. No. 15 Utah, 3:30 p.m. (ESPN) College Football Playoff Ouarterfinals

At Cotton Bowl, Arlington, Texas Miami/Texas A&M winner at No. 2 Ohio St., 7:30 p.m. Jan. 1 College Football Playoff

Ouarterfinals At Orange Bowl, Miami Gardens, Fla. James Madison/Oregon winner at No. 4 Texas Tech, noon (ESPN) At Rose Bowl, Pasadena, Calif.

Alabama/Oklahoma winner at No. 1 Indiana, 4 p.m At Sugar Bowl, New Orleans

Tulane/Mississippi winner at No. 3 Georgia, 8 p.m (ESPN) Jan. 2 Armed Forces Bowl

Fort Worth, Texas Texas State vs. Rice, 1 p.m. (ESPN)

Liberty Bowl Memphis, Tenn. Navy vs. Cincinnati, 4:30 p.m. (ESPN) Duke's Mayo Bowl Charlotte, N.C. Mississippi St. vs. Wake Forest, 8 p.m. (ESPN)

Holiday Bowl San Diego, Calif. No. 17 Arizona vs. SMU, 8 p.m. (FOX) College Football Playoff

Semifinals At Fiesta Bowl, Glendale, Ariz. TBD, 7:30 p.m. (ESPN) Jan. 9 College Football Playoff Semifinals

At Peach Bowl, Atlanta TBD, 7:30 p.m. (ESPN) Jan. 19 College Football Playoff National Championship At Miami Semifinal winners, 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)

PIAA FOOTBALL GLANCE All games at Cumberland Valley H.S.

Championship Thursday, Dec. 4 Clairton 35, Bishop Guilfoyle 3 Class 2A Championship Friday, Dec. 5

Southern Columbia 43, Southern Columbia 22 Class 3A Championship

Saturday, Dec. 6 Avonworth 31, Northwestern Lehigh 7 Class 4A Championship Thursday, Dec. 4

Southern Lehigh 43, Twin Valley 21 Class 5A Championship Friday, Dec. 5 Roman Catholic 28, Bishop McDevitt 6 Class 6A

Championship Saturday, Dec. 6 LaSalle College 34, Pittsburgh Central Catholic 20

SPORTS SCENE MONDAY, DEC. 8

BOYS BASKETBALL Franklin at Cochranton (6 p.m.) Union at North Clarion (6 p.m.)
Moniteau at Clarion (6 p.m.)
GIRLS BASKETBALL

Cochranton at Franklin (6 p.m.) Seneca at Titusville (6 p.m.) SCHOLASTIC SWIMMING Franklin at Brookville (6 p.m.) Titusville at Warren (6 p.m.)

TUESDAY, DEC. 9 BOYS BASKETBALL Oil City at Slippery Rock (6 p.m.) Rocky Grove at Lakeview (6 p.m.) Moniteau at Kennedy Catholic (6 p.m.)

Northwestern at Titusville (6 p.m. GIRLS BASKETBALL Maplewood at Franklin (6 p.m.) Fort LeBoeuf at Oil City (6 p.m.) Reynolds at Rocky Grove (6 p.m.)
Cranberry at Clarion (6 p.m.)
Clarion-Limestone at Union/A-C Valley (6 p.m.)

Forest Area at Tidioute Charter (6 p.m.) Moniteau at Grove City (6 p.m.) SCHOLASTIC WRESTLING Franklin at Warren (6 p.m.) WEDNESDAY, DEC. 10 BOYS BASKETBALL

Karns City at Clarion (6 p.m.) Keystone at Clarion-Limestone (6 p.m.)
A-C Valley at Cambridge Springs (6 p.m.)
GIRLS BASKETBALL Redbank Valley at Cranberry (6 p.m.) SCHOLASTIC WRESTLING Cochranton at Greenville (6 p.m.) Eisenhower at Titusville (6 p.m.)

Sports on TV

Monday, Dec. 8 COLLEGE BASKETBALL (MEN'S) 8 p.m. SECN — Southern U. at Texas

COLLEGE SOCCER (WOMEN'S) 7 p.m.
ESPNU — NCAA College Cup: Florida St. vs. Stanford, Championship, Kansas City, Mo.

NBA BASKETBALL 7:30 p.m.
PEACOCK — Phoenix at Minnesota

8:15 p.m.

ABC — Philadelphia at L.A. Chargers
DISNEY XD — Philadelphia at L.A. Chargers (Monsters Funday Football)
ESPN — Philadelphia NFL FOOTBALL

ESPN — Philadelphia at L.A. Chargers
ESPN2 — Philadelphia at L.A. Chargers (Monsters Funday Football) TENNIS 7 p.m.
TENNIS — The Miami Invitational: Carlos Alcaraz vs. Joao Fonseca AND Amanda Anisimova vs. Emma Raducanu, Miami