

= Shane Morris =

Shane Ryan Morris (born August 4 , 1994) is an American football quarterback for the Michigan Wolverines team where he is a redshirt junior for the 2016 team . He is a left @-@ handed quarterback known for his strong arm . He was a highly touted 5 @-@ star high school prospect from De La Salle Collegiate . Until he endured mononucleosis midway through his senior season . He played in the 2013 Under Armour All @-@ America Game . He serves as the backup quarterback for Michigan . He saw limited action as a freshman until starting in the 2013 Buffalo Wild Wings Bowl in place of starter Devin Gardner . At the beginning of the 2015 season after the graduation of Gardner , he lost a quarterback battle against Jake Rudock . He will again battle for the starting position for 2016 .

= = Early life = =

Morris ' was born to Bruce and Jennifer Morris on August 4 , 1994 . Morris has two younger siblings , Brent and Gracie Morris , who quarterbacked the all @-@ boys De La Salle Collegiate , led the 2009 freshman team to the Catholic League championship before being called up to finish the season with the varsity team . When the starting quarterback was injured in the fourth quarter of the scoreless district final game against Grosse Pointe South High School , he was put in the game because the backup had a broken thumb . He led the team to victory in that game and 27 ? 6 victory over Southfield High School in the Division 2 Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) regional playoff game before losing 12 ? 3 to Inkster High School in the state semifinals . This was the second straight year that future teammate Gardner led Inkster to the state championships .

As a sophomore , he totaled 1 @,@ 152 yards and 14 touchdowns , while helping De La Salle achieve a 9 ? 3 record in 2010 . He led the team to the MHSAA Division 2 quarterfinals where they lost to eventual state champion Farmington Hills Harrison 33 ? 23 . He began getting scholarship offers starting with Cincinnati , but as a lifelong Michigan fan , he hoped for an offer from Michigan once they abandoned Rich Rodriguez ' spread offense and hired head coach Brady Hoke and offensive coordinator Al Borges . Before Michigan made him an offer on March 28 , 2011 , he also received offers from Bowling Green and Toledo . He gave Michigan a verbal commitment on May 10 , 2011 . He became Michigan 's first commit of the class of 2013 in order to eliminate recruiting distractions . Once he committed , he actively recruited prospects for the team .

He participated as one of the four quarterbacks in the July 2011 Gridiron Kings event at Disney World (with the top 24 quarterbacks participating in the 2011 Elite 11) , but he was overshadowed by Matt Davis . As a junior in the fall of 2011 , he passed for 1 @,@ 684 yards and 19 touchdowns . He led the team to the 2011 Division 1 MHSAA state quarterfinals where they lost 9 ? 6 to eventual state champions Cass Technical High School . Prior to his senior season , he was regarded as one of the best quarterback prospects produced by the state of Michigan , a state whose greatest quarterback products have been Gary Danielson , Earl Morrall , Craig Morton and James Ninowski . From the start of ESPN 's rankings with the class of 2006 through the class of 2012 , no Michigan quarterback ever ranked in the top 100 . The closest were Rob Bolden (112th , 2010) and Gardner (128th , 2010) . Prior to his senior year , he was ranked as ESPN 's 37th best and Rivals.com 's 17th best prospect and rising in the national class of 2013 . Entering his senior season , he and Max Browne were the only two 5 @-@ star rated quarterbacks in the class of 2013 by Rivals.com. A few weeks into his senior season , he had risen to 26th at ESPN , but suffered season @-@ ending mononucleosis with five games remaining on the schedule . By the beginning of November , he was the top quarterback in the country according to some evaluators . He ended his high school career ranked 127th by ESPN and 81st by Rivals.com.

During the summer of 2012 , he was at first unable to qualify for the 2012 Elite 11 in his home region , but participated in a second regional contest and was named MVP , earning an invitation . Morris was described as having the strongest arm of the 25 quarterbacks at the Elite 11 finals , although he did not finish in the top 11 of the competition . On September 6 , 2012 , he was the first quarterback selected to participate in the January 4 , 2013 Under Armour All @-@ America Game

for high school seniors . As he was attempting to regain momentum following his battle with mononucleosis , he was reported to have been unimpressive in the week of practice and in the game . In the game , he was notable for being the recipient of a vicious tackle by Matthew Thomas , who was the No. 1 ranked outside linebacker in the class of 2013 according to ESPN . The Detroit News named him as the top prospect in the state of Michigan on their 2013 Blue Chip List .

By January 2013 , Morris had been so inundated with media requests , that he chose to discontinue any direct media contact (although he was an active social media participant) until he arrived at Michigan . On February 7 , 2013 , Morris was the first player to commit in writing to Michigan on signing day with a 7 : 01 a.m submission of his National Letter of Intent .

= = College = =

= = = 2013 season = = =

After Denard Robinson left for the NFL , sophomore Russell Bellomy , the only scholarship quarterback on the roster other than Devin Gardner , endured a season @-@ ending anterior cruciate ligament injury . The injury left the team without a healthy backup who had ever taken an official snap . True freshman Morris competed with redshirt freshman walk @-@ on Brian Cleary for the backup role . On August 22 , 2013 as a true freshman , Morris was named backup quarterback to redshirt junior Gardner . He made his debut for the 2013 team in the season opener against Central Michigan . Passing for 59 yards on 4 @-@ for @-@ 6 passing , he was one of 11 true freshmen to play in the game for Michigan . Morris also played in the Michigan ? Michigan State football rivalry on November 2 against the 2013 Michigan State Spartans , completing only one pass (on three attempts) for six yards . Gardner suffered a turf toe injury prior to the 2013 team 's 2013 Buffalo Wild Wings Bowl against Kansas State . With Gardner held out of practices , Morris got extensive work . Morris started in place of Gardner in the Buffalo Wild Wings Bowl , compiling 196 yards on 24 ? 38 passing .

= = = 2014 season = = =

After Michigan began the season with a 2 ? 2 record under senior starter Gardner and with head coach Hoke under pressure , Morris started in the September 27 Little Brown Jug rivalry game against Minnesota . Michigan lost the game 30 ? 14 , earning its third loss earlier than it had ever done in the 135 year history of Michigan football . The 16 @-@ point loss was the largest loss to Minnesota since 1977 and the largest to Minnesota at home since 1962 . On September 30 , Michigan athletic director Dave Brandon revealed that Morris suffered a concussion during the game but still played after showing signs of a concussion . This revelation sparked calls for Brandon to be fired , including a protest on the Michigan campus . When Gardner was injured in week 7 (October 11) against Penn State , Russell Bellomy and not Morris was the replacement , due to what was presumed to be lingering injuries (high @-@ ankle sprain and / or concussion) to Morris .

= = = 2015 season = = =

In the final days before the 2015 Michigan Wolverines football team began its season for new head coach Jim Harbaugh against Utah , Morris was in a quarterback battle with incoming graduate student transfer Jake Rudock , who had started the prior two seasons for Iowa . On Monday before the Thursday September 3 game , Harbaugh would not name his starter . Rudock started the game . After the second game , against Oregon State , there was controversy when Wilton Speight took the mopup snaps during the 35 ? 7 victory instead of Morris . Harbaugh explained that since Speight had already used his redshirt season and Morris had not , there was no reason for Morris to lose a season unless it was for meaningful snaps , but that Morris is the # 2 quarterback . When Rudock was sidelined in the third quarter with the team trailing in the October 31 , 2015 , Little Brown Jug

rivalry game against Minnesota , Speight engineered the game @-@ winning drive via his first touchdown pass with less than five minutes remaining in the fourth quarter . Harbaugh explained that Speight had earned the backup role in practice in the preceding weeks .

= = = 2016 season = = =

2016 Spring practice began on February 29 with a highly anticipated quarterback battle between Morris , junior transfer and favorite John O 'Korn , Speight , true freshman Brandon Peters and redshirt freshman Alex Malzone . As Spring practice wound down in late March , Speight , O 'Korn and Morris seemed to be the leading three , but in that order . O 'Korn and Speight were the starters in the April 1 Spring game , while Morris lined up at wide receiver early and threw an interception for a touchdown as a quarterback .