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"For The Buckeye Fan Who Needs To Know More"

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The Win

JOSH WINSLOW

PULLING AWAY – Ohio State fifth-year senior wide receiver Parris Campbell (21) caught six passes for 192 yards and two touchdowns as the Buckeyes topped Michigan and head coach Jim Harbaugh (pointing behind Campbell), 62-39, for a seventh straight victory over the Wolverines.

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Buckeyes Roll To Statement Victory In 'The Game'

By **TIM MOODY**
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

Winning The Game is nothing new for Urban Meyer's Ohio State. He was 6 for 6 against Michigan as the head coach in Columbus heading into 2018 with his eyes set on a perfect 7-0 start. This time, though, the Buckeyes weren't supposed to win – at least if you ask almost anyone outside the program.

Michigan was ranked fourth in the nation. The Wolverines were 10-1 overall and a perfect 8-0 in the Big Ten. They were favored in The Game in Columbus for the first time since 2004.

It was Ohio State that was coming off a 52-51 overtime win against unranked Maryland. It was the Buckeyes who had struggled on defense all year and who were preparing to face the No. 1 defense in the nation in various major categories.

But when the clock struck zero at Ohio Stadium on Nov. 24, it was Meyer's Buckeyes ahead once again. And it wasn't close. Ohio State responded to being the underdog by shellacking the Wolverines, 62-39. Meyer's perfect streak against Michigan stayed alive in resounding fashion.

At this point, the Ohio State players themselves can hardly remember The Game going any other way.

"I don't recall the last time they won against us, I was definitely a little boy and we did not want to be part of the team that gave them the first dub (win) in, what, 10 years?" said junior defensive tackle Dre'Mont Jones.

Seven years, actually. But Jones was still a high school freshman at the time.

For Ohio State's seniors – playing on Senior Day – it was a fourth pair of

gold pants, five for some like Parris Campbell, who caught six passes for 192 yards and a two scores, including a 78-yard catch-and-run, in his final game at the Horseshoe.

For those seniors, it was the perfect cap to a regular season that was marred by off-field controversies out of their control. Meyer commended his team for fighting through that – it was him who was suspended three games to begin the year, not them – to come out with a win on the biggest stage yet.

"I'm extremely proud of our players, the way they've fought through it," Meyer said of the distractions. "Like someone was saying, nothing's ever good enough. And obviously, there was some adversity earlier in the year – not some, big-time adversity. And to come back against your rival and play like that, that's a focused team that loves each other and cares about each other."

For Michigan's seniors, it was a fourth loss when a win would have meant more than anything. Ahead of the season, Michigan set its sights on a "revenge tour" after losing to Michigan State, Penn State, Wisconsin and Ohio State last season. The last stop in that tour was Columbus after the Wolverines dispatched the other three teams with ease, but what became another career highlight for one set of seniors was a fourth (or fifth) lowlight for the others.

"That's the toughest part," Michigan senior safety Tyree Kinnel said. "I'm going to have to sleep on that the rest of my life, I wasn't able to win in this game. Other than that, I'm blessed to be here."

Slow Devastation

For Ohio State in The Game, it wasn't just a win. The Buckeyes turned a game many expected them to lose into one of the most resounding victories in the history of the rivalry.

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