Unbeaten Ohio State Hosts Ohio University

Buckeye State Battle
Injuries Force Buckeyes To Turn To Johnson, Newsome

By Adam Jardy

It is no wonder that Ohio State head coach Jim Tressel said he felt the Buckeyes played an exceptionally physical game last weekend. When they take the field Saturday against Ohio University (noon ET, Big Ten Network), they will be without two players who started in the 36-24 victory against Miami (Fla.).

Junior linebacker Andrew Sweat and sophomore strong safety C.J. Barnett will be out of action, but Sweat will return as soon as next week. Barnett suffered a season-ending knee injury that required Tuesday surgery.

"C.J. was really playing well," Tressel said. "He took advantage of an opportunity in preseason to get a lot of reps when Orhian Johnson had a calf pull and really did well and we thought played very well through the first game and three quarters."

Johnson, a sophomore, steps into the mix as a starter after having missed around a dozen practices due to the calf injury. In addition, the coach said fifth-year senior Aaron Gant and junior Nate Oliver are in the mix for playing time.

Tressel said the 6-2, 205-pound Johnson brings a few different things to the table compared to the 6-0, 190-pound Barnett.

"Orhian is a different body type," Tressel said. "He has a lot more size. He might have a little more range. C.J., I thought, was really evolving as a very physical, active guy with excellent quickness. He didn't weigh a whole bunch. There were times when you were thinking, 'Can you come down in that box and splatter people at (190) pounds for 12 weeks and stay alive?"

"They're a little different style, but as long as assignment-wise they're both in the right place they both can do it for you. They're both capable. We need (Johnson) to be good." Barnett had recorded five tackles including one pass breakup and one pass deflection during the first two games. He also earned the team's Jack Tatum Hit of the Week award for the game against the Hurricanes.

Sweat also suffered an injury during the Miami game but did not come out of the game.

"He probably should have, but everyone (acts like they are) all right," Tressel said. "You know how that goes."

After missing most of last season and spring practice with a knee injury, Sweat returned to action this fall and overtook Etienne Sabino for the starting strongside linebacker position. In the first two games of the season, Sweat had recorded three tackles while playing exclusively in OSU's base defense and on special teams.

Tressel would not disclose the nature of the injury but said it is not related to his previous injury and said it should not have a long-term effect.

Stepping into Sweat's role is not Sabino, who figures to redshirt this season, but sophomore Jonathan Newsome. The 6-3, 219-pound linebacker saw action in five games as a freshman and recorded five tackles on special teams.

"He has done a nice job on the special teams thus far this year," Tressel said. "He'll have opportunities this weekend in the base defense. I don't know for sure how Ohio University is going to deploy, so I don't think (Sabino) has a whole lot of time on his hands. But we're going to get some reps."
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down the field (or) the lane you stayed in,”
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Sanzenbacher said that as a result, things
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put that second offensive line in like he does
times.
“Tm not sure (quarterbacks coach Nick)
Siciliano is sure yet whether he wants to
break the rhythm of the quarterback posi-
tion and do that at the same time or maybe
do that at another time. Nothing is prede-
termined.”

‘Special’ Problems
Of the four touchdowns allowed by the
Buckeyes in the first two games of the
season, three have come by way of special
teams – one blocked field goal returned for
a score by Marshall and a kickoff and a punt
returned for touchdowns by Miami.
Entering this weekend’s game against
Ohio, OSU ranks 113th of 120 Division I-A
schools in kickoff return yardage allowed
and 109th in punt return yardage allowed.
After the Hurricanes took a first-quarter
kickoff back for a touchdown, the Buckeyes
resorted to directional kicking and short
kicks for the remainder of the game.
Linebackers coach Luke Fickell, who
also oversees the punt coverage unit, point-
ed out that it would be nearly impossible for
the Buckeyes to stress special teams more
than they currently do. The unit has been
a source of constant work since the 2009
season ended, and each practice has a few
periods devoted to getting better in those
areas.
Tuesday, Tressel said it is little things
that have resulted in breakdowns in the
kick coverage. Senior wide receiver Dane
Sanzenbacher said that as a result, things
can get fixed in a hurry.
“From a punt perspective, (you can
adjust) a little bit of your angle running
down the field (or) the lane you stayed in,”
his players seemed more bruised this week
than following a typical game and added that
it took longer for them to get past that.
The Buckeyes could also rotate a few
different faces into the game this weekend
should they find themselves ahead by a
comfortable margin.
“We had the discussion (Thursday)
about what do rotations look like based on
health and what the opponents do,” Tressel
said. “I think (offensive line coach Jim)
Bollman would like at some point in time to
put that second offensive line in like he does
sometimes.

Walk-ons Honored
Tressel announced Thursday that three
fifth-year senior walk-ons have been con-
verted to scholarship players – offensive
linemen Chris Malone and Scott Sika and
tight end Ricky Crawford.
The trio learned of their honor Wednesday
at a team meeting. Malone and Crawford are
set to graduate this fall or winter and Sika is
a graduate student so he will have an entire
year’s worth of his master’s degree paid for.
Those guys have been here a long time
and taken a lot of snaps in practice and not
gotten a whole bunch of glory,” Tressel said.
“Ricky hasn’t stopped smiling. I think he
slept last night with a smile. Our guys know
the difference between how fortunate they
are on scholarship and those that are just
fighting the fight and working part-time jobs
and all the rest just to have a chance to be
a part of it.”
Crawford has changed positions from
wide receiver to tight end and is now third
on the depth chart at that position.
“He does an outstanding job,” Tressel
said. “I wouldn’t be afraid to put him in any-
time in the pass part of it. He hasn’t had as
much experience in point-of-attack blocking
and adjustments in pass protections, but
he’s a good kid. He makes plays on scout
team against our guys all the time.”

know for sure how much we’ll be in base
or nickel.”
The two injuries might not come as a sur-
prise given the physicality of the win against
the Hurricanes. Tressel said he noticed that
his players seemed more bruised this week
than following a typical game and added that
it took longer for them to get past that.

BSB staff writer Marcus Hartman contrib-
uted to this report.
Key Matchup: OU’s Run Game vs. OSU’s Run Defense

If Ohio wants to stay in the game, it will have to have some success moving the ball on the ground.

The Bobcats will try to do that any number of ways. Considering that head coach Frank Solich starred as a fullback at Nebraska and then coached the Cornhuskers in some capacity starting in 1979 through his tenure as the head man from 1998-2003, the option might come into play on Saturday.

The last time the Buckeyes faced an option attack, they struggled in the 2009 season opener against Navy.

“Anytime a team has the option in their game, they make you be very sound in what you do,” OSU linebackers coach Luke Fickell said. “A lot of times, the spread is a great equalizer for spreading the field in getting people into space and doing some things, but the option is the same way. When you have true option football in some of the things they do, it always is a stress to you.”

The Bobcats can try that because of two mobile quarterbacks in Boo Jackson and Phil Bates. Jackson is more of a scrambler who ran for 333 yards as the starter in 2008 including 55 on seven carries vs. Ohio State, while Bates has six rushes for 48 yards in limited action this year.

“Boo can give you the great scrambling ability, and he has outstanding vision of seeing receivers and running backs open downfield and hitting them for big plays,” Solich said. “Phil is the best runner of the group, and he has a chance every time he’s running the ball to take it the distance.”

Thanks in part to struggles at tailback, the Bobcats have not had much success running the ball the past few years, though. They finished in the bottom half of Division I-A the past two seasons and are 79th again this year at 138.0 yards per game.

Ohio will have to use every weapon available against the Buckeyes, who have allowed only 82.0 per game to place 19th in the nation in rush defense.

Matthew Hager
Designer/Staff Writer

The Ohio University football program has 499 victories in its history, the latest of which came in the Bobcats’ season opener Sept. 4 against Wofford.

Their first chance to win No. 500 came last weekend vs. Toledo, but the Rockets came to Athens and spoiled the party by beating the Bobcats, 20-13. That means OU will look to reach the milestone again Saturday at Ohio Stadium against the Buckeyes.

Here’s a spoiler: It’s not going to happen.

Ohio University has a good coach in Frank Solich, a man who has turned the Bobcats into one of the best teams in the Mid-American Conference, and Solich looks like he has some talent on both sides of the football. Yet that’s not going to be enough to keep up with Ohio State. The 2008 matchup was surprisingly competitive, but that was primarily because the Buckeyes were looking ahead to their next game at USC. I seriously doubt they will be looking ahead to Eastern Michigan.

The ’08 game was recent enough to allow Jim Tressel to remind his team that the Buckeyes actually led that contest in the fourth quarter. That will help the Buckeyes make sure that there won’t be any upset bid this weekend.

My guess is there will be more people interested in how Orhian Johnson and Jonathan Newsome fare as starters than whatever the lopsided final score becomes.

Marcus Hartman
Staff Writer

This week the Buckeyes’ biggest foe might be themselves, but there remain plenty of intriguing subplots for Ohio State fans to track.

Will the kickoff and punt coverage units improve?

What about the passing game and the red zone offense?

How will safety Orhian Johnson (subbing for C.J. Barnett) and linebacker Jonathan Newsome (in for Andrew Sweat) perform in what should be the first college start for both?

The Bobcats might do enough different things on offense to keep the Buckeye defense off-balance initially, but there seems to be little reason to think a team that failed to put up 200 yards against Toledo last week can seriously threaten an Ohio State defense that has allowed one touchdown in eight quarters of play so far this season.

The last time Ohio State quarterback Terrelle Pryor got a crack at a Mid-American Conference opponent, he put up his first 200-yard passing, 100-yard rushing performance in a bounce-back win against Toledo last season. This could be his first 300-yard game if the coaches commit some time to work on timing and proficiency in the passing game.

Of course, the Buckeyes probably would also like to get the power running game into gear after Miami was able to gum things up consistently last week.

Final Score

Ohio 10

Final Score

38

45

Staff Writer

Designer/Matt Hager

4 BSB Quickly Sept. 17, 2010

BSB Staff Predictions

Final Score

4538
BSB Staff Predictions

Adam Jardy
Staff Writer

There is no reason not to expect a significant victory for Ohio State this weekend. The Buckeyes are aware that Ohio University put a scare into them two years ago as the Bobcats took a lead into the fourth quarter at Ohio Stadium, but that contest has little relevance to this year’s game.

This OSU team appears to understand the importance of showing improvement on a weekly basis. The players preach it, and although it has been a common refrain each year it is my impression from being at interviews that this team actually believes it. The best thing the Buckeyes can do here is jump out to an early lead, show that the starters are still looking sharp and then let the backups close the game out.

Look for Terrelle Pryor to largely stay in the pocket, for perhaps five running backs to get carries and for the defense to improve on an uneven second-half performance against the Hurricanes.

I have done very little work researching what the Bobcats might try to do to the Buckeyes because I do not think it has much relevance to this contest. The story here will be how OSU is able to impose its will on a lesser foe and emerge with yet another in-state victory.

Mark Rea
Managing Editor

After a big nonconference victory last week to preserve their No. 2 position in the national rankings, Ohio State is at a crossroads.

Will this week’s game be a Hangover Game where the Buckeyes simply go through the motions? Or will this be more of a Statement Game where OSU does what national championship-caliber teams do – take control early, build a multi-touchdown lead by midway through the third quarter and cruise to victory with their second- and third-teamers carrying the fourth-quarter load?

There have been too many times over the past several seasons when the Buckeyes got caught taking a week off against inferior competition. Remember the game at Purdue last year?

Two years ago, OSU played around with the Bobcats and trailed 14-12 heading into the final period before finally seizing a 26-14 win. One week later, the team got torched at USC and any title hopes went up in smoke.

To be honest, Ohio has very little chance of winning the game. The Bobcats have never beaten Ohio State in six tries and they are 0-14 since 1990 against all ranked teams. Therefore, there is little doubt as to the outcome.

The final score, however, is a different matter. Hangover from last week’s big win over Miami or statement going forward? We’ll see.

Jeff Svoboda
Staff Writer

The talk this week around the Ohio State football team has been about how the second-ranked Buckeyes will be entering a “soft” part of the schedule, but those questions seem to underrate the Bobcats.

Frank Solich has done a good job turning around a moribund program, one that had gone 61-157-6 with zero bowl appearances in the 20 years before his arrival. Since taking over, Solich has led the Bobcats to a 33-32 mark, two appearances in the Mid-American Conference title game and two bowl games, though all four of those postseason contests have ended with losses.

And while fans remember Solich’s 2008 team that took OSU into the fourth quarter before fading, that wasn’t even one of his better squads. There’s little doubt the talent level in Athens has jumped since the former Nebraska head man took over, and fans should watch wideout LaVon Brazill, lineman Dak Notestine and linebacker Noah Keller to see evidence of that.

However, it just won’t be enough for the Bobcats to compete. The OU offense, which hasn’t really been in gear for the better part of two seasons, will find tough sledding against the Ohio State defense. I like what Ohio will bring to the table on defense, but these Buckeyes are too explosive.

I expect a close game for a while before Ohio State pulls away in the second half.

Final Score

10-7-7

35-45-45
2010 Ohio Football Roster

**2010 Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
<th>Time/Result (ET)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 4</td>
<td>WOFFORD</td>
<td>W, 33-10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 11</td>
<td>TOLEDO</td>
<td>L, 20-13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 18</td>
<td>at Ohio State</td>
<td>Noon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 25</td>
<td>at Marshall</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 2</td>
<td>at Eastern Michigan</td>
<td>Noon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 9</td>
<td>BOWLING GREEN</td>
<td>2 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 16</td>
<td>AKRON</td>
<td>2 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 23</td>
<td>at Miami (Ohio)</td>
<td>1 p.m.</td>
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<td>Oct. 30</td>
<td>LOUISIANA</td>
<td>2 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 4</td>
<td>BUFFALO</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 16</td>
<td>at Temple</td>
<td>8 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 26</td>
<td>at Kent State</td>
<td>2 p.m.</td>
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20 Nate Oliver, 6-0, 215, Jr.

36 Brian Rolle, 5-11, 218, Sr.
32 Storm Klein, 6-2, 230, So.

51 Ross Homan, 6-0, 227, 5th Sr.
11 Dorian Bell, 6-1, 225, R-Fr.

54 John Simon, 6-2, 270, So.
93 Adam Bellamy, 6-4, 295, R-Fr.

72 Dexter Larimore, 6-2, 310, 5th Sr.
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