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"For The Buckeye Fan Who Needs To Know More"

Sept. 24, 2011

South Beach Smackdown

Not Much Goes Right As Ohio State Drops 24-6 Game At Miami

 By MARK REA
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Managing Editor

Woody Hayes once said, "There's nothing that cleanses your soul like getting the hell kicked out of you."

If the coach was right, the soul of his old team should be squeaky clean following a Sept. 17 performance at Miami (Fla.) where next to nothing went right.

From the opening three-and-out series through defensive lapses, shuffling quarterbacks and a playbook that seemed no more than one page thick, No. 17 Ohio State looked disjointed and largely discombobulated before winding up on the business end of a 24-6 decision to the unranked Hurricanes in front of 66,279 fans at Sun Life Stadium.

Nothing seemed to work in the Buckeyes' favor. Their normally staunch run defense was gashed for 240 yards, the most surrendered by an Ohio State team since Illinois ran for 260 during a 28-21 upset win over the top-ranked Buckeyes in 2007.

The offensive line surrendered its first two sacks of the season, and there were a pair of turnovers – the first interception of the year and the third lost fumble.

And then there was the quarterback play.

Fifth-year senior Joe Bauserman and true freshman Braxton Miller combined to complete only 4 of 18 attempts for 35 yards, but even those numbers don't represent the totality of the problem. Two of the completions and 22 of the yards came during the final seconds when the outcome had long been decided.

Following the game, the handful of Buckeyes who talked to reporters on the way to the team bus put on a brave face while seeming more than a little dazed. The same held true for first-year head coach Luke Fickell, who appeared at a loss for exactly what had happened to his team.

During a postgame press conference that lasted just more than eight minutes, Fickell mentioned that his team and coaching staff had to "do a better job" four times and intimated the same thing on at least five other occasions.

But when asked if he could pinpoint any specific deficiency in his team's approach, the coach shook his head and replied, "It's hard to say. We all feel bad. Every single one of us in that locker room is going to look in the mirror and figure out what it is we need to do to be better. It's hard to point a finger at any particular thing. I know it's easier for you guys to look at the quarterback or the number of yards we gave up, but we have to look at the whole."

"We're just not going to sit here and point a finger at any one particular area because we know we have to get a lot better in several areas. Whether it's the passing game, stopping the run, whatever it is, we have to get a lot better as a team."

The tempo of the game was set

at the outset. After accepting the opening kickoff, the Buckeyes got a 6-yard run from sophomore tailback Carlos Hyde, but Bauserman followed by leading sophomore receiver Chris Fields too much on a second-down pass and overthrowing Fields on third down.

It was the beginning of a nightmarish first half for Bauserman, who completed only 1 of 9 attempts for 4 yards.

Not that things went any better on defense. On Miami's first play from scrimmage, sophomore tailback Lamar Miller exploded through a hole up the middle, broke a tackle, stumbled, regained his footing and rumbled 54 yards to the OSU 9. Three plays later, the Hurricanes were in the end zone and never looked back.

"One of the things we wanted to do was start fast, and the No. 1 thing we didn't do defensively was start fast," Fickell said. "You have to give Miami credit. They made a good play. They put pressure on us on the first play, creased us a little bit, we missed a couple of tackles and they're off to the races. The one thing we pride ourselves on defensively is not giving up big plays because those big plays will end up eating us alive."

OSU senior linebacker Andrew Sweat, who led the Buckeyes with nine tackles in the game, initially said he thought Miller's opening salvo was the product of his defensive teammates not all being on the same page together.

"There was some miscommunication between the D-line and the linebackers as to the gap," Sweat said. But after being quizzed about a lack of communication on the first play for the defense, the senior linebacker admitted, "Well, it wasn't so much miscommunication as it was execution – or a lack of it. We just didn't do our jobs."

Miller, who returned a kickoff for a touchdown against Ohio State last year, wound up enjoying a career night. He carried 26

times for 184 yards, the highest single-game rushing total for an OSU opponent in more than a decade.

Despite giving up all of those yards on the ground, though, the Buckeyes seemed to get better as the South Florida night wore on. After another touchdown made it 14-0, the Hurricanes managed only a lone field goal on their next eight possessions, and Ohio State forced a pair of turnovers and nearly a third.

Miami quarterback Jacory Harris, making his season debut after being suspended for the team's opening 32-24 loss to Maryland, completed 16 of 23 passes for 123 yards and two touchdowns. But Harris, who has been prone to throwing interceptions his entire career, got picked twice more by the Buckeyes.

The first came late in the opening period when OSU sophomore safety C.J. Barnett made an easy interception of an underthrown Harris pass, and the second occurred at the six-minute mark of the second quarter when the Miami quarterback threw one right to Ohio State freshman cornerback Bradley Roby.

Unfortunately, the Buckeyes didn't do much with the turnovers. Despite a couple of excellent runs by junior tailback Jordan Hall after Barnett's interception, OSU later punted the ball away. And following Roby's pick, which gave the Buckeyes the ball at the Miami 23, the offense couldn't punch it over the goal line and wound up settling for a 24-yard field goal from sophomore kicker Drew Basil.

Harris was nearly picked off for a third time early in the fourth quarter when sophomore safety Christian Bryant jumped in front of the intended receiver. Unfortunately for the Buckeyes, Bryant – who had no one between him and the end zone – misjudged the throw by a fraction of a second and was unable to come up with the interception.

Continued On Page 8



AWAY IT GOES – Freshman quarterback Braxton Miller (5) could only look on helplessly as the fourth-quarter fumble he lost rolled down the field. Miller and the Ohio State football team had little go well Sept. 17 at Miami (Fla.) during a 24-6 loss to the Hurricanes.

SONNY BROCKWAY

COVER STORY

Quarterbacks Struggle Under Miami Lights

Continued From Page 1

A touchdown at that juncture for Ohio State could have narrowed the gap to 17-13 – or even 17-14 had the team gone for a two-point conversion – with more than nine minutes remaining in the game.

"They ran a spot route there and I just read it," Bryant said "I read it well but I just jumped it a little too soon. If I had gotten there a split-second later, it would have been to the house, man. I guarantee that. It could have been a change in the game. It seemed like we had a lot of plays like that – plays that didn't go our way."

Quarterback Conundrum

The Buckeyes entered the game in the midst of a mini controversy at quarterback and came home on the horns on a full-blown dilemma.

Although the team's official depth chart has bracketed the two as co-starters, Bauserman has been the starter since the season began with Miller a solid No. 2. The fifth-year senior has had his critics – most of whom remain dazzled by the true freshman's impressive high school résumé – but after the team's first two games, there wasn't much question why Bauserman continued to take more snaps. He entered the Miami contest having completed 60.9 percent of his passes with four touchdowns, had thrown no interceptions and taken no sacks.

Coming out of the game against the Hurricanes, however, the questions began

anew after the senior connected on only 2 of 14 attempts for 13 yards. His throwing was a mixed bag of overthrows on his part, drops by his receivers and throwaways when protection collapsed and no one was open.

After the game, Bauserman was blunt with his self-assessment.

"I didn't execute to the best of my ability today," he said. "The fact is I sucked. You want to be the best, but that certainly didn't happen today."

The closest Bauserman had to a highlight moment came in the second quarter following Roby's interception. The offense faced third-and-6 at the Miami 7 when junior tight end Jake Stoneburner appeared to break free in the end zone. Bauserman had a defender between him and his target, so he tried a trick from his days as a minor league pitcher – he attempted to get the ball to Stoneburner on a sidearm throw.

"There was a guy in my face and I was just trying to get it around him," the OSU quarterback explained. "But I threw it behind Stoney. That should have been a touchdown right there and we had to settle for a field goal."

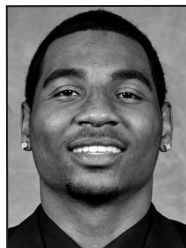
Meanwhile, Miller showed equal flashes of his obvious athletic ability and the fact he remains a first-year player learning on the fly. He completed 2 of 4 pass attempts for 22 yards, but they came in the final 33 seconds of the game. Before that, Miller had thrown

his first career interception – a tipped pass in the first quarter that was followed three plays later by Barnett's pick of Harris.

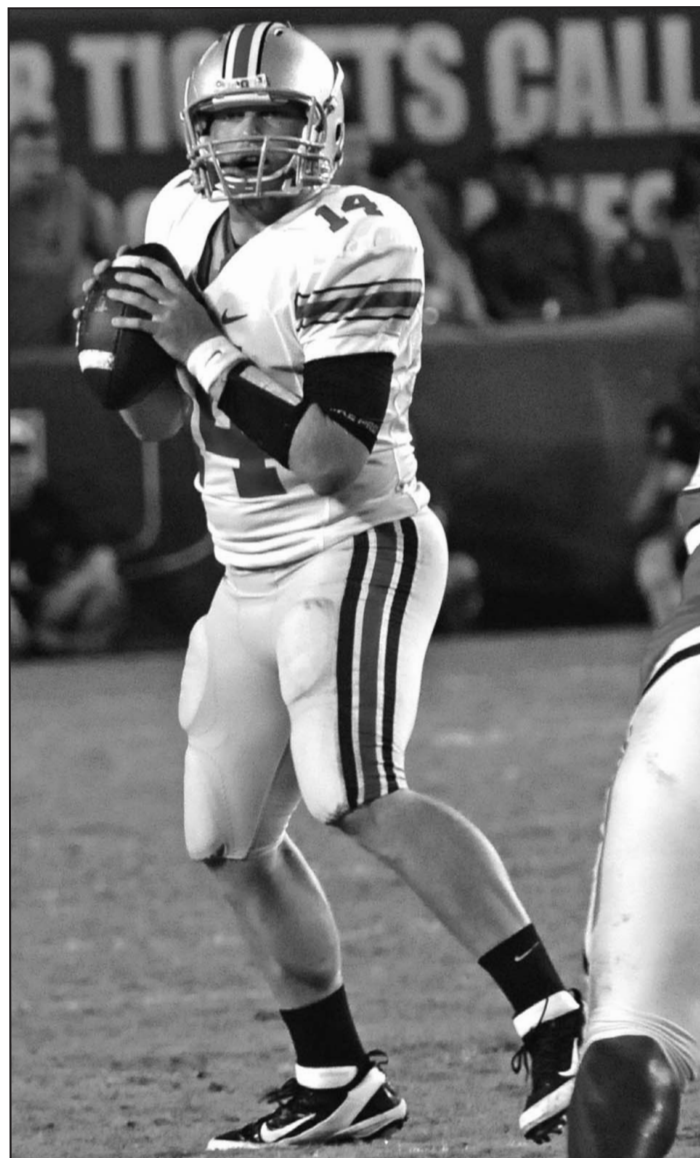
Miller also lost his first career fumble, a fourth-quarter turnover that led to Miami's final touchdown. It capped a productive drive engineered by Miller that got into Miami territory, and the quarterback had 30 yards rushing on the possession. Miller finished the game with 32 net yards on seven carries.

When asked to grade his performance, the quiet freshman shrugged and said, "Some good and some bad. Still learning, you know?"

Despite being pressed by reporters on his quarterback situation, Fickell refused to say anything other than, "We're not going to jump to any conclusions until we get back home."



Braxton Miller



SONNY BROCKWAY

BAD NIGHT – Ohio State fifth-year senior quarterback Joe Bauserman (14) completed 2 of 14 passes for a mere 13 yards.



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COVER STORY

a play. It's more about the guy in front of us and neutralizing him than whoever is behind us."

Power Running Game

When the Buckeyes did experience success on offense against the Hurricanes, it was when they simply lowered their heads and played some good old-fashioned smash-mouth football. They totaled 174 yards on 37 attempts, good for a tidy 4.7-yard average.

"We're pretty confident in our running game," Shugarts said. "Our identity, I think, is a power team. We have a big offensive line and big running backs, and I think that's our identity. But we can also move the ball through the air and that will make our power game that much better. We just didn't execute very well tonight in the passing game."

Hall made his first appearance of the season following a two-game suspension and appeared to give the team a spark early. He finished with a team-high 87 yards on 14 carries, although almost all of that production came in the first half. The 5-9, 195-pound junior missed most of the second half with leg cramps.

"It was nice to have Jordan back in there," Bauserman said. "He was anxious all week to get back in there and it really showed."

Hall admitted he was overly ready for his 2011 debut.

"It was definitely exciting to be back," he said. "Maybe I was a little too excited because I didn't get enough water and definitely cramped up a lot there in the second half. I feel like I let my teammates down by not being out there."

With Hall sidelined, Hyde helped to pick up the slack by adding 12 carries for 54 yards. Still, he thought the Buckeyes could have had better production in the rushing department.

"I thought we moved the ball pretty well on the ground at times," Hyde said. "But there were other times when we didn't. They turned the ball over a couple of times and that's two more chances for us to score touchdowns on offense. Field goals are all right, but when we get the ball in the red zone, we've got to get touchdowns."

Ohio State failed to score a touchdown in a game for the first time since a 13-6 loss to

Penn State in 2008. Additionally, it was the first time the Buckeyes had failed to cross the goal line against a nonconference opponent since a 35-3 loss to USC that same season.

"Not acceptable," Hyde said, shaking his head. "We need to go back and look at what happened because this team is too good not to score touchdowns when we get the ball in the red zone."

Where To Go From Here?

Lamentations from every corner of the Buckeye Nation followed the loss to Miami with comparisons being drawn to the 2004 season when the team lost three games in a row en route to an 8-4 finish. Others saw parallels with the 6-6 campaign of 1999 and the disastrous 4-6-1 season of 1988.

Despite the doomsayers' pronouncements, however, a 2-1 start isn't all that unusual for Ohio State. It happened four times in the decade-long coaching tenure of Jim Tressel, including two of the last three seasons. Three times – 2005, 2008 and 2009 – the Buckeyes rebounded to post at least 10 victories and play in a BCS bowl. In 2001, though, Tressel's first team experienced a roller-coaster season that culminated in a 7-5 mark and a loss to South Carolina in the Outback Bowl.

"I don't think there's any cause for panic," Shugarts said. "It was a loss and it hurts pretty bad. But it was only one game. We have to get better and we know that. The best thing is that we know we are better than this and there is a lot of season left."

Sweat added that he believes the loss can serve a useful purpose.

"Obviously, we're disappointed but I think we can learn a lot from this game," he said. "I think how you respond to a loss is dictated by your seniors and how they hold your team together. I think as seniors we have a job to do and that is to make sure the younger guys don't get down and realize we still have a lot we can accomplish this year."

Fickell said the loss would ultimately help him find out what kind of team he has in his first year as a head coach.

"If these guys come in and don't point fingers and don't assess blame and talk about what they did and what they need to do to get better – I think that is the ultimate toughest thing," he said. "You really find out what kind of team you have after a loss like this."

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OHIO STATE VS. MIAMI (FLA.)

Buckeyes Whipped, Flipped At Miami

By **MARCUS HARTMAN**
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

Ohio State did not accomplish its first goal of the night nor many others en route to a 24-6 loss at Miami (Fla.) on Sept. 17.

Head coach Luke Fickell said he wanted to see his young Buckeyes start fast, but the famously speedy Hurricanes got the drop on them when running back Lamar Miller burst through the middle of the Ohio State line, cut back to his right and sped to a huge gain on Miami's first offensive play from scrimmage.

Cornerback Bradley Roby finally dragged Miller down at the Ohio State 9-yard line after the back had picked up 54 yards.

The Hurricanes scored three plays later when quarterback Jacory Harris dropped a pass between Ohio State safety Orhian Johnson and cornerback Travis Howard into the hands of wide receiver Allen Hurns for a 3-yard touchdown.

With 12:47 left in the first quarter, Miami took a lead it would not relinquish

Harris and Hurns hooked up again from 3 yards out with 5:12 to go to make it 14-0, and the No. 17 Buckeyes were never fewer than eight points down again.

"We knew coming in here they were going to have a heck of a team and we wanted to get off to a quick start," Fickell said. "That obviously didn't happen. They made a couple of good plays on their touchdown catches, and we didn't make the plays when we needed to."

Harris' damage – at least to Ohio State – largely was done at that point, but Miller continued to hammer away at the Buckeye front all night. The 5-11, 212-pound sophomore piled up 184 yards on 26 carries, averaging 7.1 yards per carry. Complementing his performance was Mike James, a 222-pound junior who slammed his way to 45 yards and one touchdown on 12 attempts.

The Hurricanes outrushed the Buckeyes, 240-174.

Junior tailback Jordan Hall led the way for Ohio State with 87 yards on 14 carries, a glittering 6.2-yard average, while sopho-



SONNY BROCKWAY

UP AND OVER – Junior tailback Jordan Hall (7) did his best Superman impression during Ohio State's Sept. 17 game at Miami (Fla.), flying over a Hurricane tackler during a kick return. Hall rushed for a team-high 87 yards, but the Buckeyes struggled in a 24-6 loss.

more Carlos Hyde added 54 yards on 12 attempts.

With an offensive line looking rejuvenated after a lackluster performance a week earlier in a victory over Toledo, the ground game was strong for the Buckeyes, but the team was still playing most of the night with one proverbial hand tied behind its back.

Neither senior quarterback Joe Bauserman nor freshman Braxton Miller could get into any kind of a rhythm as they alternated calling the signals for Fickell's team. Bauserman completed only 2 of 14 passes for 13 yards while Miller went 2 for 4 for 22 yards and threw an interception. The Buckeyes totaled just 35 yards through the air.

Harris did not have a banner day for the

home team, but he did enough to help them win comfortably. The embattled senior, whose four interceptions last season went a long way toward determining Ohio State's 36-24 defeat of the visiting Hurricanes, completed 16 of 23 passes for 123 yards and the two scores. He also scrambled for 17 yards on four rushes. He cooled after the hot start and threw a pair of interceptions that helped stem his team's momentum in the first half.

Hurns turned out to be Harris' top target on the night as he hauled in six passes for 54 yards. Senior receiver Travis Benjamin caught three passes for 13 yards, and junior Tommy Streeter added 44 yards on two grabs.

Continued On Page 12

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OHIO STATE VS. MIAMI (FLA.)

Slow Start Puts Ohio State In Early Hole

Continued From Page 10

On the flip side, no Buckeye receivers caught a pass. Hyde, Hall and fellow running backs Rod Smith and Jaamal Berry logged one catch apiece to account for all of Ohio State's receptions.

The Ohio State defense settled in somewhat after allowing 14 points and 143 yards in the first quarter.

Leading the way for the Buckeyes were linebackers Andrew Sweat, Etienne Sabino and Storm Klein, who logged nine, eight and six tackles, respectively. Senior nickel back Tyler Moeller added five stops while sophomore defensive linemen Adam Bellamy and Johnathan Hankins both had four, as did sophomore safety C.J. Barnett. Redshirt freshman cornerback Bradley Roby had three tackles, all solos, and snagged one of Harris' interceptions. The other went to Barnett.

Though he played only sparingly, true freshman linebacker Ryan Shazier made his presence felt with a forced fumble and a tackle for loss.

Linebackers Sean Spence and James Gaines led Miami with six stops apiece. Senior defensive tackle Micanor Regis had five stops, forced a fumble and broke up a pass while freshman defensive end Anthony Chickillo and junior tackle Darius Smith each had a sack.

A False Start

Ohio State took the opening kickoff after the Hurricanes won the toss and elected to defer, but the Buckeyes did little with their opportunity to take control of the game from the start.

The drive started well enough with a 6-yard run by Hyde, but it quickly fizzled as Bauserman misfired on consecutive passes intended for wide receiver Chris

Fields. Bauserman let go of a seemingly simple screen pass that landed at Fields' feet on second down then overthrew the sophomore deep down the sideline. The latter play would not have counted anyway because Ohio State had an ineligible man downfield, but inaccurate passes would be the norm all night.

After an Ohio State punt by Ben Buchanan, the Hurricanes set up shop at their own 37. They did not stay there long. Lamar Miller took a handoff from Harris on first down and found a huge hole over left guard. Miller accelerated through the crease and took advantage of blocks downfield by guards Harland Gunn and Brandon Linder on Klein and Sweat, respectively. He stumbled a bit after eluding Barnett, giving Roby time to catch him before he could reach the end zone.

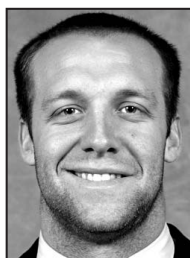
The Buckeyes held for two plays before yielding the first Harris-to-Hurns touchdown connection on third-and-goal at the 3.

Ohio State again went three-and-out on the ensuing possession, and Benjamin gave the Hurricanes excellent field position with a 24-yard punt return.

After taking over at their own 47, the Hurricanes marched 53 yards in 11 plays that drained 5:58 off the clock. Miller did most of the heavy lifting as he gained 33 yards on five carries. Miami converted three third downs on the drive, including Miller's 19-yard run on third-and-4 that set up a first-and-goal from the 2-yard

line.

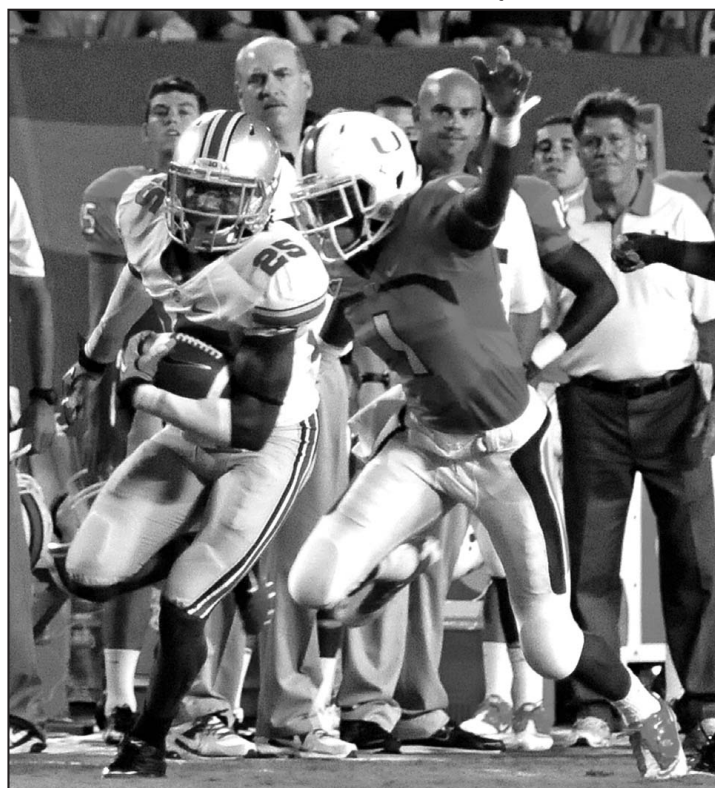
Shazier separated James from the ball with a clean hit along the sideline on first down, but it rolled harmlessly out of bounds for a loss of a yard that set up Harris' second touchdown toss to Hurns. The pair picked on Roby, who watched a pass sail over his head into Hurns' arms



Andrew Sweat



Sean Spence



SONNY BROCKWAY

GETTING A SPARK – Ohio State redshirt freshman cornerback Bradley Roby (25) intercepted a pass from Miami (Fla.) quarterback Jacory Harris, but the Buckeyes could only turn the turnover into a 24-yard Drew Basil field goal.

for the score. Jake Wieclaw's point-after kick made it 14-0 with 5:12 still to go in the first quarter.

A Rushing Spark

The Buckeyes retook possession at their own 30 with Braxton Miller replacing Bauserman under center, but Hall initially stole the show.

The 5-9, 195-pound sprite dashed up

the middle for 13 yards on his first carry then did it again to put Ohio State into Miami territory for the first time with a first down at the 44-yard line.

Two plays later, however, the Buckeyes' momentum was sapped when Miller's first pass attempt of the night was tipped by Spence and caught by safety JoJo Nicolas at the 14.

Barnett picked off Harris on the third

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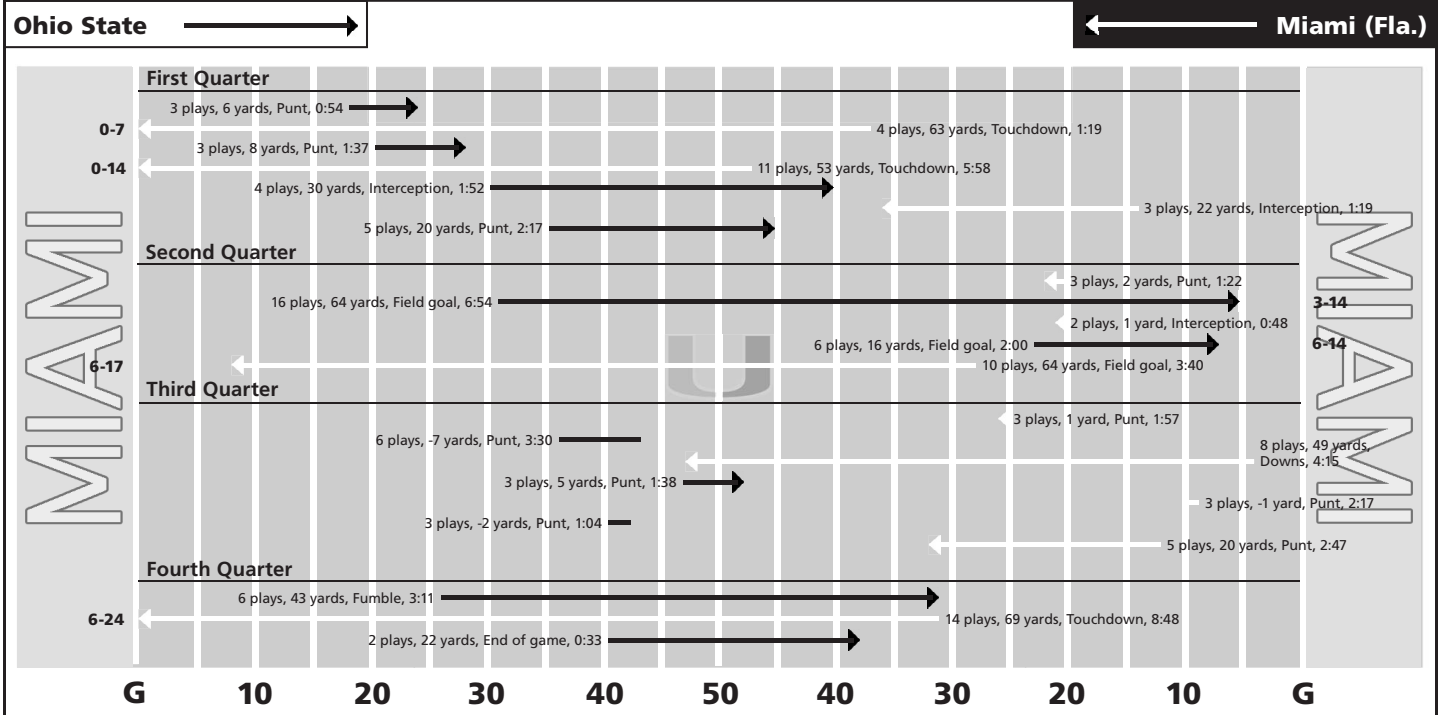
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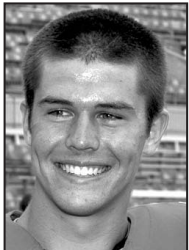
OHIO STATE VS. MIAMI (FLA.)

Drive Chart



play of the ensuing drive, but Miller's second try at leading the Buckeye attack fizzled at the Miami 45 after he threw incomplete on a third-and-12.

After the Ohio State defense forced its first three-and-out of the night, the Buckeyes finally got on the board when Bauserman oversaw a 16-play, 64-yard drive that ate up nearly seven minutes. Bauserman did not do much to help the effort. He was 0 for 3 passing on the drive, including a throwaway on third-and-goal from the 5, leaving Hyde and Hall to rush for 38 and 26 yards, respectively, on the march.



Drew Basil

Drew Basil got the Buckeyes on the board at the 6:28 mark of the second quarter with a 22-yard field goal, the sophomore kicker's first make after opening his career with four misses.

The Buckeyes were right back at it two plays later after Harris badly underthrew Hurns and hit Roby instead for the second Miami turnover of the game.

Ohio State started at the Miami 23 and moved to the 8 after Gaines was called for roughing the passer, but the Buckeyes again had to settle for three after Bauserman's third-down pass into the end zone was dropped by tight end Jake Stoneburner. This time Basil was good from 24 yards out with 3:40 to go in the half.

Miami answered with a three-pointer of its own as Wieclaw connected from 25 yards out as time expired in the half, setting the halftime margin at 17-6.

Frustrating Final Half

Ohio State was not able to do much to build on its second-quarter success.

The Buckeyes' rather modest total of 138 yards in the first half grew by only 71 after intermission. They punted on all three of their third-quarter possessions, accumulating only 6 yards of offense along the way and wasting an improved effort by the defense.

The Buckeyes' last chance to mount a comeback came with a possession that started at the OSU 26 with 12:32 remaining in the game.

They inserted Miller at quarterback, and the fleet-footed freshman picked up 22 yards on three consecutive runs. The Buckeyes crossed into Miami territory with a 4-yard run by Hall, then Miller converted a third-and-1 with a 2-yard run.

That was as good as it would get for the visiting team and its fans, however.

Miller carried the ball up the middle on an option run on first down. He made a man miss but became careless with the football, letting it swing loose from his body for Regis to punch loose from behind after he had picked up 6 yards.

Defensive back Mike Williams pounced on the fumble for Miami, and the Hurricanes proceeded to march 69 yards for a clinching touchdown. Their final drive consisted of 14 plays and bled 8:48 off the clock. James concluded it with a 1-yard touchdown run on fourth-and-goal with 33 seconds left.

Game Notes

- Fickell is the third consecutive Ohio State head coach to lose his first road game. John Cooper's Buckeyes dropped a 42-10 decision at Pittsburgh in 1988, and Jim Tressel's squad lost, 13-6, at UCLA in 2001. Earle Bruce led Ohio State to a 21-17 victory at Minnesota in 1979.
- Ohio State failed to score a touchdown for the first time since a 13-6 loss to Penn State on Oct. 25, 2008.
- When Smith sacked Miller on the final play of the first quarter, Ohio State's streak of 95 consecutive pass attempts without a sack came to an end.

The Bottom Line

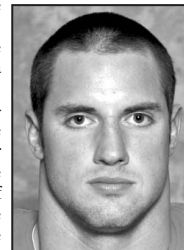
The game was over when ... Christian Bryant could not hold on to a Jacory Harris pass with nine minutes left in the fourth quarter and Ohio State trailing 17-6. Bryant, an Ohio State safety, undercut a toss from Harris, the Miami quarterback, but let it go through his hands for an incompletion. Bryant looked ticketed for the end zone if he had made the grab. Instead of pulling within one score, the Buckeyes allowed a 69-yard touchdown drive.

Game ball goes to ... Lamar Miller. The Miami running back started the night with a 54-yard run to set up the Hurricanes' first touchdown. He had 115 yards by the end of the first quarter and finished the night with 184. Only one of his 26 carries went for a loss, and his speed gave the Buckeyes problems all night.

Stat of the game ... 35. Ohio State matched the worst passing total since the national championship game following the 2006 season with only 35 yards. Quarterbacks Joe Bauserman and Braxton Miller combined to complete only 4 of 18 passes, while Miller threw an interception and lost a fumble. The Buckeyes' longest gain through the air was a 12-yard completion from Miller to running back Carlos Hyde. No wide receivers or tight ends caught a pass for Ohio State.

— Marcus Hartman

- Moeller and senior center Mike Brewster served as game captains for Ohio State. Brewster is a native of Orlando, Fla.
- Ohio State still leads the all-time series with Miami by a 3-2 margin.
- The announced attendance of 66,279 marked the second-largest crowd for a Miami game at Sun Life Stadium, falling short of the 75,115 who watched the Hurricanes face Florida State last season. The Hurricanes began playing at the home of the NFL's Miami Dolphins and Major League Baseball's Florida Marlins in 2008.
- The Hurricanes outgained the Buckeyes, 363-209, but had only one more first down than their visitors (16-15).
- Miami's 240 rushing yards were the most against Ohio State since Illinois piled up 260 against the Buckeyes on Nov. 10, 2007.
- Ohio State's 35 passing yards were the fewest since the Buckeyes finished with the same total in the 2007 BCS National Championship Game against Florida.
- Buchanan boomed a 60-yard punt in the third quarter, the longest of his career.
- Austin Spitler, a starting linebacker and captain for the 2009 Big Ten champion Buckeyes, served as honorary captain for the game. He is in his second season with the Dolphins.



Austin Spitler

The Numbers Game

Miami (Fla.) 24, Ohio State 6

Sept. 24, 2011 — Sun Life Stadium; Miami Gardens, Fla.

Score by Quarters	1	2	3	4	F
OHIO STATE	0	6	0	0	6
MIAMI (FLA.)	14	3	0	7	24

First Quarter

MIA — Hurns, 3 yard pass from Harris (Wieclaw kick), 12:47; 4 plays, 63 yards, 1:19 TOP.

MIA — Hurns, 3 yard pass from Harris (Wieclaw kick), 5:12; 11 plays, 53 yards, 5:58 TOP.

Second Quarter

OSU — Basil, 22 yard field goal, 6:28; 16 plays, 64 yards, 6:54 TOP.

OSU — Basil, 24 yard field goal, 3:40; 6 plays, 16 yards, 2:00 TOP.

MIA — Wieclaw, 25 yard field goal, 0:00; 10 plays, 64 yards, 3:40 TOP.

Fourth Quarter

MIA — James, 1 yard run (Wieclaw kick), 0:33; 14 plays, 69 yards, 8:48 TOP.

Att. — 66,279.

Weather — 83 degrees, mostly cloudy; wind, ENE 10 mph.

Team Statistics

	OSU	MIA
First Downs	15	16
Rushing	12	9
Passing	2	7
Penalty	1	0
Rushes-Yards	37-174	42-240
Passing Yards	35	123
Passes (Comp.-Att.-Int.)	4-18-1	16-23-2
Offensive Plays	55	65
Total Net Yards	209	363
Third Down Efficiency	4-12	9-15
Fourth Down Efficiency	0-0	1-2
Punts-Avg.	6-46.5	4-47.8
Fumbles-Lost	2-1	2-0
Penalties	4-25	5-31
Time of Possession	25:30	34:30

Individual Statistics

RUSHING (Att.-Net Yds.) — **OSU:** J.Hall 14-87; Hyde 12-54; B.Miller 7-32; Berry 1-4; Bauserman 3-(-3). **MIA:** L.Miller 26-184; James 12-45; Harris 4-11.

PASSING (Comp.-Att.-Int.-Yds.-TD) — **OSU:** Bauserman 2-14-0-13-0; B.Miller 2-4-1-22-0. **MIA:** Harris 16-23-2-123-2.

RECEIVING (Rec.-Yds.) — **OSU:** Hyde 1-12; R.Smith 1-10; Berry 1-9; J.Hall 1-4. **MIA:** Hurns 6-54; Benjamin 3-13; Streeter 2-44; Walford 1-4; Hagens 1-3; James 1-3; L.Miller 1-1; Ford 1-1.

PUNTING (No.-Avg.-Long) — **OSU:** B.Buchanan 6-46.5-60. **MIA:** Botts 4-47.8-58.

PUNT RETURNS (No.-Yds.) — **OSU:** J.Hall 2-32. **MIA:** Benjamin 1-24.

KICKOFF RETURNS (No.-Yds.) — **OSU:** Berry 3-61; T.Jackson 1-10. **MIA:** L.Miller 1-20; Benjamin 1-17.

FUMBLE RECOVERIES (No.-Yds) — **OSU:** None. **MIA:** M.Williams 1-0.

INTERCEPTIONS (No.-Yds.) — **OSU:** Roby 1-17; Barnett 1-0. **MIA:** Nicolas 1-0.

SACKS (No.-Yds.) — **OSU:** None. **MIA:** Chickillo 1.0-7; D.Smith 1.0-3.

TACKLES FOR LOSS (No.-Yds.) — **OSU:** Shazier 1.0-1; Sabino 0.5-1; Hankins 0.5-1; Goebel 0.5-1; Sweat 0.5-0. **MIA:** Chickillo 1.0-7; D.Smith 1.0-3; Ojomo 0.5-1; M.Robinson 0.5-1.

TACKLES (Solo-Asst.-Tot.) — **OSU:** Sweat 5-4-9; Sabino 6-2-8; Klein 4-2-6; Moeller 3-2-5; Bellamy 4-0-4; Barnett 3-1-4; Hankins 1-3-4; Simon 3-0-3; Roby 3-0-3; Bryant 1-2-3; Goebel 1-2-3; Clarke 2-0-2; O.Johnson 1-1-2; Oliver 1-1-2; Howard 1-1-2; Moore 1-0-1; Shazier 1-0-1; Hagan 0-1-1. **MIA:** Spence 3-3-6; Gaines 2-4-6; R.Buchanan 4-1-5; Regis 4-1-5; A.Smith 3-2-5; Chambers 3-0-3; Perryman 2-1-3; Telemaque 1-2-3; Ojomo 1-2-3; Chickillo 1-2-3; Forston 2-0-2; Thompkins 2-0-2; D.Smith 1-1-2; Nicolas 1-1-2; M.Robinson 1-1-2; M.Williams 1-0-1; Byrd 1-0-1; Clements 1-0-1; Finnie 1-0-1; Hurns 1-0-1; Highsmith 0-1-1.

PLAYERS IN THE GAME — **OHIO STATE:** Offense, Bauserman, Boren, Hyde, Stoneburner, Reed, Fields, Norwell, Mewhort, Brewster, M.Hall, Shugarts, Basil. Defense, Bellamy, Simon, Goebel, Hankins, Sweat, Klein, Sabino, O.Johnson, Barnett, Roby, Howard, B.Buchanan. Reserves, Bryant, R.Smith, C.Brown, Berry, Clarke, B.Miller, J.Hall, Allen, Shazier, D.Grant, De.Smith, Domicone, Spencer, Oliver, Wood, Hagan, Moeller, Ebner, Whiting, Erwin, T.Jackson, Sp.Smith, Moore, Makridis, Bennett, Blackman, Linsley, Heuerman, Fragel, Baldwin. **MIAMI (FLA.):** Offense, Hurns, Gunn, Horn, Linder, Washington, Ford, Benjamin, Harris, L.Miller, Feliciano, Walford, Wieclaw. Defense, Ojomo, Forston, Regis, R.Buchanan, Gaines, Spence, M.Williams, Nicolas, Telemaque, McGee, Da.Smith, Botts. Reserves, Byrd, James, Streeter, Whipple, Finnie, Clements, D.Johnson, Crawford, Swasey, Highsmith, Chambers, Hagens, Thompson, Tolson, Calhoun, E.Johnson, A.Smith, Perryman, M.Robinson, Lichter, Futch, Ivory, McDermott, Chickillo, Wheeler, J.Johnson, Bunche, Scott, Cleveland, Thompkins, Dorsett, Pierre, Grimbale, L.Robinson.

Season Statistics

2011 Game-By-Game				
Date	Opponent	Result/Time	Crowd	
Sept. 3	(18) AKRON	W, 42-0	105,001	
Sept. 10	(15) TOLEDO	W, 27-22	105,016	
Sept. 17	(17) at Miami (Fla.)	L, 24-6	66,279	
Sept. 24	COLORADO	3:30 p.m.		
Oct. 1	MICHIGAN STATE	TBA		
Oct. 8	at Nebraska	8 p.m.		
Oct. 15	at Illinois	TBA		
Oct. 29	WISCONSIN	8 p.m.		
Nov. 5	INDIANA	TBA		
Nov. 12	at Purdue	TBA		
Nov. 19	PENN STATE	TBA		
Nov. 26	at Michigan	TBA		

Team Statistics

	OSU	Opp
First Downs	59	37
Rushing	28	16
Passing	26	20
Penalty	5	1
Average Per Game/Rush	170.0	107.0
Average Per Game/Pass	172.3	156.7
Total Offense	1,027	791
Totals Plays	198	183
Average Per Game	342.3	263.7
Average Per Play	5.2	4.3
Penalties-Yards	9-67	23-168
Fumbles-Lost	5-3	3-0
3rd Down Efficiency	15-39	14-44
Percentage	38%	32%
4th Down Efficiency	1-3	5-8
Percentage	33%	62%
Sacks-Yards	9-58	2-10
Times Of Possession Avg.	30:44	29:16

Score

By Quarters	1	2	3	4	OT	Tot.	Avg.
Ohio State	14	34	13	14	—	75	25.0
Opponents	29	3	7	7	—	46	15.3

Individual Statistics

Rushing	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Long
Carlos Hyde	51	223	4.4	2	36
Rod Smith	25	98	3.9	1	19
Jordan Hall	14	87	6.2	0	15
Braxton Miller	13	62	4.8	0	13
Joe Bauserman	11	36	3.3	1	15
Verlon Reed	2	8	4.0	0	12
Jaamal Berry	1	4	4.0	0	4
Chris Fields	2	2	1.0	0	2
TEAM	3	-10	-3.3	0	0
OSU Totals	122	510	4.2	4	36
OPP Totals	99	321	3.2	2	54

Passing	Comp.	Att.	Pct.	Yds.	TD-INT	Effic.
Joe Bauserman	30	60	50.0	365	4-0	123.1
Braxton Miller	10	16	62.5	152	1-1	150.4
OSU Totals	40	76	52.6	517	5-1	128.9
OPP Totals	44	84	52.4	470	4-4	105.6

Receiving	Rec.	Net	Avg.	TD	Long
Jake Stoneburner	8	93	11.6	4	28
Carlos Hyde	6	51	8.5	0	12
Devin Smith	5	119	23.8	1	36
Verlon Reed	5	89	17.8	0	28
Chris Fields	3	20	6.7	0	11
T.Y. Williams	2	34	17.0	0	23
Reid Fragel	2	20	10.0	0	14
Philly Brown	2	17	8.5	0	11
Rod Smith	2	15	7.5	0	10
Jaamal Berry	2	14	7.0	0	9
Evan Spencer	1	33	33.0	0	33
Zach Boren	1	8	8.0	0	8
Jordan Hall	1	4	4.0	0	4
OSU Totals	40	517	12.9	5	36
OPP Totals	44	470	10.7	4	66

Scoring	TD	EPK	EPR	EPP	FG	PTS
Jake Stoneburner	4	—	—	—	—	24
Drew Basil	0	9-9	—	—	—	15
Carlos Hyde	2	—	—	—	—	12
Joe Bauserman	1	—	—	0-1	—	6
Devin Smith	1	—	—	—	—	6
Rod Smith	1	—	—	—	—	6
Chris Fields	1	—	—	—	—	6
OSU Totals	10	9-9	—	0-1	2-4	75
OPP Totals	6	5-5	—	1-1	1-3	46

FG Distance	0-29	30-39	40-49	50+	Total
Drew Basil	2-2	0-0	0-2	0-0	2-4
OSU Totals	2-2	0-0	0-2	0-0	2-4
OPP Totals	1-1	0-0	0-2	0-0	1-3

Punting	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Bk	Long
Ben Buchanan	16	639	39.9	1	60
OSU Totals	16	639	39.9	1	60
OPP Totals	21	914	43.5	0	58

Interceptions	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
Storm Klein	1	18	18.0	0	18
Bradley Roby	1	17	17.0	0	17
C.J. Barnett	1	0	0.0	0	0
Andrew Sweat	1	0	0.0	0	0
OSU Totals	4	35	8.8	0	18
OPP Totals	1	0	0.0	0	0

Punt Returns	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
Chris Fields	4	84	21.0	1	69
Philly Brown	2	28	14.0	0	17
Jordan Hall	2	32	16.0	0	27
Devin Smith	1	3	3.0	0	3
OSU Totals	9	147	16.3	1	69
OPP Totals	5	74	14.8	0	24

Kickoff Returns	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
Jaamal Berry	7	150	21.4	0	28
Philly Brown	1	44	44.0	0	44
Tony Jackson	1	10	10.0	0	10
OSU Totals	9	204	22.7	0	44
OPP Totals	11	201	18.3	0	42

Def. Leaders	Solo	Asst.	Tot.	TFL-Yds.	Sacks
Andrew Sweat	10	10	20	3.5-10	—
Etienne Sabino	12	7	19	4.5-20	2.0-12
Johnathan Hankins	6	6	12	2.0-8	1.0-6
Orhian Johnson	7	5	12	—	—
C.J. Barnett	8	3	11	—	—
Storm Klein	5	4	9	—	—
Garrett Goebel	2	7	9	2.0-8	1.0-7
Bradley Roby	9	0	9	1.0-12	—
Dominic Clarke	7	1	8	—	—
John Simon	6	2	8	2.0-4	1.0-3
J.T. Moore	5	2	7	1.0-3	—
Tyler Moeller	4	3	7	—	—
Ryan Shazier	5	0	5	2.0-9	1.0-7
Adam Bellamy	5	0	5	—	—
Christian Bryant	2	3	5	—	—
Nate Ebner	2	1	3	1.0-12	1.0-12
Nate Oliver	1	2	3	—	—
Doran Grant	1	2	3	—	—
Michael Bennett	2	1	3	1.0-7	1.0-7
Nathan Williams	2	0	2	—	—
Adam Homan	1	1	2	—	—
Darryl Baldwin	1	1	2	1.0-4	1.0-4
Travis Howard	1	1	2	—	—
Tony Jackson	1	0	1	—	—
Drew Basil	1	0	1	—	—
Zach Domicone	1	0	1	—	—
OSU Totals	111	64	175	22-98	9-58
OPP Totals	126	72	198	6-20	2-10

Fumbles Forced: 1 — Andrew Sweat, Ryan Shazier.

Fumbles Recovered: None.

OHIO STATE VS. MIAMI (FLA.)

Buckeye Game Analysis

Play Of The Game

The die was cast for Ohio State's 24-6 loss Sept. 17 on the first offensive play for Miami (Fla.) when Lamar Miller rumbled 54 yards to set up the team's first touchdown.

Ohio State came out in a 4-3 defense when the Hurricanes lined up with a single set-back, two tight ends lined up to the right (boundary) side of the field and two receivers split to the left (field) side. At the snap, quarterback Jacory Harris turned to his left and handed off to Lamar Miller.

What happened next was a tutorial in how to break a big run. Miami's offensive line controlled the point of attack, with center Tyler Horn handling Garrett Goebel and right tackle Jon Feliciano making a solid block on Adam Bellamy.

Miami's line also did an excellent job of getting to the second level, with right guard Brandon Linder putting a great block on Andrew Sweat and left guard Harland Gunn swallowing up Storm Klein.

Those blocks allowed Miller to get to the second level of the defense untouched. Both safety Orhian Johnson, coming from Miller's right, and linebacker Etienne Sabino, coming from the left where he was lined up with the two wideouts, were slow getting to Miller, leaving the tackle up to safety C.J. Barnett.

Miller made a juke on Barnett near the first-down line that left the sophomore grasping. Barnett's wild tackling attempt did manage to force Miller to stumble, but the Hurricane rusher kept his feet while Barnett crashed into Johnson and Sabino, who were coming from behind the play.

Miller continued to stumble a bit as he hit the open field, which kept the speedster from reaching pay dirt. Instead, OSU cornerback Bradley Roby tracked Miller down at the 9-yard line.

It mattered little, though, as Harris found Allen Hurns for a 3-yard touchdown on third down, and the extra point gave Miami all the points it would need on the night. While the Ohio State defense would tighten up as the game went on, the early punch to the gut was a blow from which the team never could fully recover.

What Worked Well

• **Giving Jordan Hall the ball:** Hall was presumed to be the Ohio State starting running back going into the season and showed why in his first game back after a two-game suspension. He was clearly the Buckeyes' best offensive player, hitting the hole with authority, making people miss and using his quickness to break off some solid runs.

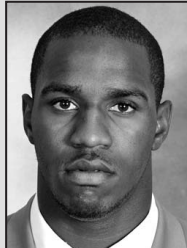
He finished with 6.2 yards per carry, but cramps and some bizarre play-calling decisions kept him to only one rush in the second half.

• **Adjustments against the run:** Ohio State was burned by Miller early, as he racked up 115 yards on nine carries in the first quarter. However, the Buckeyes kept the back in check the rest of the day as he had 69 yards on his next 17 carries. Much of that had to do with the OSU defensive line, which held up at the point of attack, making a few tackles of its own to keep Miller to short gains and letting the OSU linebackers move downhill to make plays.

What Didn't Work

• **The play-calling:** Ohio State had a solid offensive plan against Akron, using the I-formation to establish the run before using play-action passes to create high-percentage throwing opportunities for the inexperienced quarterbacks. That plan was nowhere to be seen against Miami. The Buckeyes showed an ability to run the ball down Miami's throat but didn't stick with it, and the decision to have Joe Bauserman come out in shotgun sets early didn't match his skill set and played into the team's disastrous start.

• **OSU's tackling:** The defense's tackling got better as the game went on, and Miller started finding fewer opportunities to get into the open field. However, there's little doubt the team as a whole is missing more tackles than at any point in the Jim Heacock era. A lot of that has to do with inexperience. Such players as Klein, Sabino and Barnett, who are counted on to make open-field stops, are still getting their feet wet as part of the starting defense while Johnson has always been inconsistent against the run.



Lamar Miller

Reviewing The Matchups

Ohio State rush offense vs. Miami rush defense:

In addition to the good night out of Hall, Ohio State also saw an improved Carlos Hyde, who had 54 yards on 12 carries and often fought for the extra yards needed. He hit the hole with more authority than in past weeks, though he's still working on finding the right rushing lanes. The offensive line also gets a gold star for controlling a Miami defensive line that was supposed to be fearsome with the return of numerous players from suspension. **EDGE: Ohio State**

Miami rush offense vs. Ohio State rush defense:

While Ohio State did get markedly better at stopping the run as the game went on, it is still scary to look at the stat

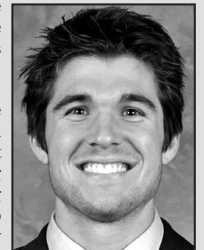
sheet and see that the Hurricanes piled up 240 yards on the ground. It's rare to see a player put up 184 yards on the Ohio State defense, but that's what happened for Miller thanks to his big first quarter. The tackling simply needs to improve. **EDGE: Miami**

• **Ohio State pass offense vs. Miami pass defense:** The numbers tell the story, and it's a bad one. Bauserman and Braxton Miller combined to go 4 for 18 for 35 yards and an interception. Even more worrying was the fact that Ohio State did not complete a pass to a wide receiver or a tight end. Those players struggled getting separation against what wasn't supposed to be a great pass defense, and when they were even a bit open, the quarterbacks weren't on the mark. It's hard to imagine a worse performance. **EDGE: Miami**

• **Miami pass offense vs. Ohio State pass defense:** Harris didn't make any big plays, but he didn't have to the way the running game controlled play in the first quarter. He hit a few passes over the top to Tommy Streeter but other than that, Harris was restricted to short passes and checkdowns. The Miami senior also must be given credit for his two touchdown passes as the Hurricanes took advantage in the red zone early. On a better day for the Buckeyes, his two interceptions would have been critical wounds. **EDGE: Even**

• **Special teams:** Ohio State had a solid day in this arena. Ben Buchanan had perhaps his best game as a Buckeye, averaging 46.5 yards per kick and booming one 60-yarder that checked up inside the 5, while kicker Drew Basil finally got the first two field goals of his career. Miami's kickers were also solid, and the teams were about equal in the return game. Both Hall and Miami's Travis Benjamin each had a long punt return, but that was about it in the return game. **EDGE: Even**

• **Intangibles:** Miami came out fired up in its home opener, taking a 14-0 lead less than 10 minutes into the game. Ohio State deserves credit for weathering that storm and at least keeping the game close for the rest of the way. The Buckeyes weren't lacking effort in South Florida, they were simply outmanned. The loss of the starting quarterback, running back, wide receiver and left tackle finally caught up to the team as the young replacements couldn't move the ball on the road against a solid foe. **EDGE: Miami**



Ben Buchanan

- Jeff Svoboda

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OHIO STATE VS. MIAMI (FLA.)

BSB Quotebook: Miami (Fla.) 24, Ohio State 6

OSU head coach Luke Fickell's assessment of the game: "There is a lot of blame to go around here, but we're not going to blame each other. We're going to go back and take a hard look at it and figure out where we need to go to move forward."

Miami head coach Al Golden on getting his first win with the Hurricanes: "It's big. It is Ohio State. They are six-time Big Ten defending champions and they know how to win. They seldom beat themselves, and to win in a manner that we won is really important for our guys. ... This is what Miami Hurricane football should be – play good defense and make some explosive plays on offense."

OSU senior quarterback Joe Bauserman on his team's lack of production in the passing game: "I don't know what it was, to tell you the truth. We had a good plan – wanted to move the ball around – but we didn't execute. It wasn't any one thing. We shot ourselves in the foot – simple as that. We didn't execute."

OSU freshman quarterback Braxton Miller when asked what he learned from his performance against Miami: "Make sure you don't turn the ball over."

Fickell on his quarterback rotation: "Those guys are very clear that we have a plan. We're just going to have to do a better job at figuring out what those guys do well."

Bauserman on rotating series with Miller: "We just tried to mix it up a little bit – give Miami a different look, you know? I thought we had some success with that but not enough. It's a game-plan thing to be switching out. It just depends on the situation."

Fickell on if his team's passing game problems against the Hurricanes could be traced to the inexperience of his receivers: "We have to do a better job all around. ... Some of those young guys are in a position where we're asking them to step up and make some plays. Ultimately, when it came down to it, (Miami) made more plays than we did – whether it was running the football or some catches they made in big situations. That's what the game comes down to."

OSU junior defensive lineman John Simon when asked if the lack of offensive production by the Buckeyes played a role in the defensive problems: "This was not the offense's fault. We have confidence in our offense. We have to control what we can control defensively and Miami just got too many yards on us. We'll go back and watch the film and correct our mistakes."

Bauserman on why he appeared to throw the ball away so many times: "Some of the things I saw I didn't like and I didn't want to force it. You don't want to turn the ball over, especially against a team like Miami. You turn the ball over against them and they can take it back down the field in a hurry."

Miami senior quarterback Jacory Harris on his performance: "I felt like I played pretty well by managing the game and just controlling everything – making sure we were running the right plays. Sometimes, you don't have to be the playmaker and be the one just to check it down and throw it to the right guy. If the play is busted, don't try to make something out of nothing."

Golden on Harris' performance: "I thought he made some big-time throws, had command of the offense. There are some things we have to



SONNY BROCKWAY

HIGHS AND LOWS – Miami (Fla.) head coach Al Golden (left) called his team's 24-6 victory Sept. 17 against Luke Fickell (right) and Ohio State an important one. Fickell said after the loss that there was a lot of blame to go around.

fix (but) I believe in the kid. He's going to have a really good year for us."

OSU sophomore safety Christian Bryant on the same subject: "We knew Jacory was probably going to play a pretty good game. We knew they would try to build his confidence with the shorter routes and they did a good job on those two early touchdowns. After that, though, we locked them down on the outside."

OSU sophomore defensive lineman Johnathan Hankins on if he was surprised the Hurricanes ran the ball so well: "We knew Miami had a good team and they came in with a good game plan. But if you're asking me if I'm surprised at how many yards they had on the ground, the answer is yes. Very surprised. I thought we gave them a good fight but they just got the job done."

Miami sophomore running back Lamar Miller on his 184-yard performance, a career high: "The coaches had been talking all week about how they never give up 100-yard games. I thought the offensive line did a great job opening holes and doing their assignments. But winning is the most important thing. I'm most happy about winning."

Miami senior linebacker Sean Spence on Lamar Miller's performance: "It's poetry watching him run. He's so smooth. He runs with power, runs with quickness. Once he gets in the open field, it's a house call."

OSU sophomore safety C.J. Barnett on the defensive game plan: "I thought we were pretty well-prepared. They didn't show anything we hadn't seen before. We just didn't execute on that first play and that kind of set the tone."

Simon on the early portion of the game: "The first couple of possessions we struggled a little bit, but that's football. They have a great team with some great players and they're going to make some plays. They just made them at opportune times. I wouldn't say it was anything special they did. They just made plays when they had to. They made plays and we didn't. You have to give them credit."

OSU senior linebacker Andrew Sweat's summation of the game: "I don't know if it was adjustments or us just not doing our jobs. We dropped the ball. We didn't execute."

Bauserman on if Miami threw anything at the OSU offense it didn't expect: "To be honest with you, we didn't see anything out of the ordinary – no crazy coverages or a bunch of blitzes. We just didn't execute."

OSU junior running back Jordan Hall on how it felt to miss the first two games of the season while suspended: "I can't even explain it. I just felt like I let my teammates down. You don't know how tough it is to have to sit home and watch the game on TV. It's something I never want to do again."

Spence on what the win meant for his team: "It gives us a lot of confidence. They're a great ballclub. They have a lot of playmakers on the field, and for us to come out and do what we did, it's really great."

Miami freshman defensive lineman Anthony Chickillo on his team's improvement after giving up 499 total yards in a season-opening loss to Maryland: "Our coaches challenged us before the game and I think we stepped up to the challenge. It was great to go out there and get the win."

OSU sophomore tailback Carlos Hyde on his feelings about playing in his native Florida: "I'm disappointed but not because I'm from Florida. I'm disappointed because the team lost. It doesn't matter at all to me about the Florida thing."

Fickell on if the running game was one of the few high points of his team's performance: "Yeah, I think so. You see some of those different guys run the football, and I think if we can do a better job of starting off defensively we can get our offense into a better groove."

Miami senior defensive lineman Micanor Regis on the success the Hurricanes enjoyed against the OSU passing game: "They have a couple of great quarterbacks and great receivers, but we worked a lot in practice on stopping the pass. I thought our corners especially stepped up to the challenge and got it done."

Bryant on what Fickell told the team immediately after the loss: "He just reminded us that we have a lot of season left. And he's right. This was only the third game and we were on the road, coming into a hostile environment, the fans were into it, and Miami played a very good game. We didn't get the win like we wanted, but we did some things we can build on."

Sweat on the team's mood after the game: "It hurts but we can still accomplish a lot of our goals. We can still be Big Ten champions. We just need to shake this off. You can never really get too high or too low, so we just have to come back and fight. I know I'm going to fight and I know my teammates are going to fight. We're not going to give up."

OSU senior offensive tackle J.B. Shugarts on the same subject: "The last time we lost (at Wisconsin last season), we were the No. 1 team in the country and that loss hurt pretty bad. We just have to get better. That's all there is to it. The best thing is that we know we are better than this and there is a lot of season left."

Bryant on the same subject: "It is tough. I'm not going to lie to you. But this is a team. We win as a team, we lose as a team. OK, this was a rough game for the offense but we'll all come back next week and put in a lot of work – a lot of work. That's the key to getting better and coming back from this. I think this is just a minor blip for us, a little bump in the road."

OHIO STATE FOOTBALL

Hard-Hitting Hyde Making Impact This Season

By ARI WASSERMAN
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

Tyler Moeller doesn't typically shy away from collisions, but even the contact-hungry defensive back admitted to thinking twice when Carlos Hyde breaks the line of scrimmage running full speed.

"In practice you have to (fill the gap he's running through), but you really don't want to because you know he's going to give you a little shrug and hit you a little harder than most of the backs do," Moeller said.

Perhaps power is Hyde's most redeeming quality, but the entire package is what has thrust the sophomore into a major role this year with the Buckeyes.

With Ohio State's stable of running backs, Hyde understood during summer workouts that he'd have to grow as a complete back if he was going to compete for time at the team's deepest position.

A native of Naples, Fla., who used to enjoy easy access to the beach during his high school days, Hyde instead spent his summer vacation working out in a Columbus sand-box and hoping the improved leg strength would dramatically increase his quickness and ability to make defenders miss.

Speed, of course, is the perfect complement to a big back's arsenal, and after a summer filled with conditioning and speed drills Hyde reportedly ran the fastest 40-yard dash of any of the running backs.

With the flashing of just three digits – 4.42 seconds on the clock – the 6-0, 238-pound back realized during summer performance tests that perhaps his biggest weaknesses had now become an incredible strength.

"It was pretty mind-blowing," Hyde said of his 40 time. "I wasn't expecting that. It was pretty awesome."

There were other circumstances that led to Hyde being in the starting role in Ohio State's first two games of the season, as both Boom Herron and Jordan Hall were unavailable while serving suspensions for unrelated incidents.

But Hyde made the most of his opportunities – including a 36-yard burst to the end zone in Ohio State's close win over Toledo Sept. 10 – and will likely continue to be featured in the Buckeyes' backfield for the remainder of the year.

"I just got the ball and just ran," Hyde said of the longer of his two touchdown runs against the Rockets. "I brushed past my left tackle and felt that I wasn't touched so I just kept running."

Given the fact that Hyde played his high school football in Florida, some would assume that his newfound quickness is just part of the "southern speed" that athletes from that state are typically gifted with.

But Hyde, who spent much of his life in Cincinnati before moving to Florida to live with his grandmother, will quickly remind people that he's an Ohio boy at heart.

"I'm more (of) an Ohio guy," Hyde said. "I grew up in Ohio for 14 years."

Perhaps that's the reason Hyde has the hard-nosed running style that he's become known for among his teammates, as at times it's clear he'd rather run through defenders than figure out a way around them.

That was obvious on multiple occasions against the Rockets, as Hyde seemingly chose to try to draw contact in the hopes of breaking a tackle rather than waiting for blocks to develop and using his speed to get a big gain.



SONNY BROCKWAY

SHOWING HIS SPEED – Sophomore tailback Carlos Hyde (34) is known as a bigger back but ran a 4.42-second 40-yard dash during the offseason.

But those decisions were made out of immaturity, as Hyde pointed out that the biggest flaw he's had in the early portions of the season has been with identifying developing running lanes.

"I feel like I was just running like how I usually run, just trying to run the ball hard," Hyde said. "(The coaches) were just telling me I should have been a little more patient on the runs because I was missing cutbacks that were there."

"If I would have been more patient I would have seen (them). They just told me to be a little more patient. I did a pretty good job other than that."

Herron struggled with similar vision issues at the beginning of his career, but in his junior season of 2010, he was arguably the best back on the team at waiting for holes to develop, effectively cutting back countless times to break off big runs that moved the chains.

Despite sharing time with Brandon Saine last season, Herron rushed for 1,155 yards and 16 touchdowns. Perhaps the most impressive statistic Herron boasted was his 5.3 yards per carry, a mark unquestionably bolstered by his patience.

Hyde hopes to follow a similar progression while being mentored by the senior back.

"I think it comes along, just watching film and learning from Boom," Hyde said. "Boom was trying to help me out and telling me I should have been more patient. Like the day before the (Toledo) game he was telling me I should have been patient. I was listening, so (in the future) I'm going to be more patient than what I was against Toledo."

"(Becoming patient) probably comes from being around here so long," Hyde continued. "You just get a good feel for the system. You know the game so well that it's natural. It just comes to you."

Though Hyde has gotten a taste for the starting role, he hasn't quite felt like he's solidified that position. That's because Hall's eligibility returned against Miami (Fla.) and Herron will be available to play starting in week six.

Then there's the presence of redshirt freshman Rod Smith and the returning health of Jaamal Berry, who also has been limited in the early portions of the season while dealing with a minor hamstring injury.

While excited about enjoying an extensive role for the first time in his collegiate career, Hyde hasn't taken it for granted.

"To tell you the truth, no, I don't feel like I'm the starter," Hyde said. "I feel like the job can be anybody's, so I just try to go to practice and try to get better because I feel like it's the coach's decision who they're going to make the starter. I feel like I have to get better each day so I can remain the starter."

Even with Hyde's delicate position on Ohio State's depth chart, the running back has continued to exude enthusiasm with his new role with the Buckeyes offense.

Oftentimes with greater responsibility comes a bigger onus to keep that spot, which is something that has been noticed by his teammates dating back to the beginning of fall camp.

"The biggest thing in football is confidence," Moeller said of Hyde. "Once you see that light and see that playing time you begin to become greater than what you think you really are. To have that confidence is what makes players good in my opinion."



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OPINION

Fickell Has Not Impressed During His Audition

Let's hope Ohio State – at least behind the scenes – is conducting a full-blown search for a new head football coach.

Luke Fickell's start has been underwhelming.

This isn't to say interim coach Fickell should not eventually be hired to replace Jim Tressel. But we have little evidence yet that the man, who surely is a fine person with excellent football knowledge, is deserving of one of the top jobs in the country.

THE EXNER POINT

Rich Exner

He could change that opinion, but to wait to begin serious evaluations of potential candidates would be time wasted. If, at the end of the season or sooner, it is decided that Fickell will not be hired, Ohio State would benefit from the work that can be done now.

This would allow Ohio State to act quickly with the right choice. Or, should a satisfactory coach not be available or worth targeting, Ohio State would be better equipped to decide to move forward with Fickell.

Fickell was placed in a difficult situation this year, not having time to hire his own staff and not inheriting the team until after spring practice. But to keep him should not be considered automatic.

The Toledo game – regardless of whether the Buckeyes were depleted with suspensions and injuries – raised questions, perhaps even more so than the Miami game.

The quarterback handling against Toledo was puzzling, given that Joe Bauserman (16 of 30 for 189 yards) was unable to move the offense. Freshman Braxton Miller should have been inserted into the game at some point, whether it be with some well-planned and specially designed plays suited to his skills (think Tim Tebow as a freshman at Florida a few years back) or as an attempt to spark the offense in other ways.

By the time the fourth quarter rolled around and the game was still tight, it was too late to try Miller.

Additionally, the offensive game plan and execution left something to be desired. Ohio State won because of superior talent and because of a superior defense. But Toledo ran a crisper, more inventive offense with less overall talent, often executing plays that put playmakers in positions to make things happen.

OSU's offense, by contrast, was vanilla – an unsuccessful vanilla.

Miami followed. Two completed passes through the first 59 minutes, and not for the lack of trying?

It's hard to believe Ohio State's talent has fallen so low on the offensive side for the team to perform like that, especially against a Miami team that lost its opener to Maryland.

It's up to the coaching staff now to determine what can be done with the talent at hand to produce some form of an offense as Big Ten play nears.

It could mean using Miller more with an offense focused on running but living with his mistakes. It could be passing more with Bauserman in running situations – an easier time to throw the ball. Or maybe there is something else that will work.

There is time.

Michigan State's loss to Notre Dame signals that the Buckeyes' opponent in their Big Ten opener may not be as difficult as once thought.

The Buckeyes, with some improvement, could head to Nebraska 1-0 in the Big Ten and with reinforcements in hand with the end of suspensions.

Many Played Well

Kudos should go out, even after the Miami loss, to Jordan Hall and Carlos Hyde on offense and the entire defense.

The two running backs ran aggressively toward openings (Hall) and powerfully over the Miami defense (Hyde).

As for the defense, its play was incredible, even if the scoreboard said the Buckeyes gave up 24 points. The terrible play by Ohio State's offense put the defense in a really bad position as it spent way too much time on the field.

Between Miami's second offensive series and its last, Ohio State limited the Hurricanes to three points. This is yet another good Buckeye defense.

One thing that did hurt was Ohio State's inability to force Miami to throw the ball out of difficult situations. Miami chewed up too many yards on the ground, taking pressure off Jacory Harris.

When forced to throw too often, the Miami quarterback has shown throughout his career that he will throw interceptions, including four last year in Columbus and two this time against the Buckeyes in Miami.

Without an offense of its own, the best chance Ohio State had to win the game was to intercept Harris four or five times.

Toledo Revisited

Complaints from Toledo's camp that the Rockets beat themselves – and were not beaten by Ohio State – border on being disrespectful to the Buckeyes.

The theory – relayed repeatedly by ESPN announcers broadcasting the Toledo-Boise State game the next week – is that the Rockets believe they would have beaten Ohio State if they had not beaten themselves by committing too many turnovers.

Look at the scoreboard. Shake hands at the end of the game. And go to work on improving your team. Penalties are part of the game like passing, running and tackling.

By the same theory, Ohio State beat itself – and was not beaten by Miami – because it couldn't move the football.

MAC Football

I've seen the Buckeyes play in 18 stadiums and witnessed Division I football in a total of 22 venues.

But not until Sept. 17 did I trek onto a Mid-American Conference campus for a home football game. What I found is that if you're a football fan like me, there's some entertaining action to be found around the state each Saturday.

For the bargain price of \$8 with a discounted ticket – just \$2 more than I pay to see high school football games on Friday nights – I had the chance to see a pair of 2-0 teams, plus playing for the home team were the nation's ninth-rated passer (Matt Schilz), 10th-leading rusher (Anthon Samuel) and second-leading scorer (Eugene Cooper).

The venue was Bowling Green's Doyt Perry Stadium. Family Weekend helped attendance, though it was still only 14,813 for the Falcons' 28-27 loss to Wyoming.

No, it wasn't Big Ten football. No, it didn't have all the pageantry of a home game in Ohio Stadium. But for the price of the ticket and the convenience of getting in and out of the stadium, it was a good way to spend a few hours waiting for the Miami-Ohio State kickoff that night. Plus BGSU's band was great.

My guess is the same could be said for many of the other five MAC stadiums in Ohio, where some good players have ended up for one reason or another.

At Bowling Green, one treat is watching Schilz, a sophomore quarterback from Arcadia, Calif. He was an early commitment to Kansas State but changed his mind after the Big 12 team moved to an offense geared toward running quarterbacks. So the dropback passer ended up in Bowling Green, where he has thrown for 986 yards and 11 touchdowns through three games this season.

I had not tried a MAC home game before because I don't live particularly close to a MAC stadium. But now I'm looking forward to getting back to another game as long as it doesn't conflict with the Buckeyes.

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Offensive Saga Takes Downward Turn Vs. Miami

In a game like Ohio State's 24-6 loss to Miami (Fla.), there is plenty of blame to go around, something Buckeye coach Luke Fickell stressed repeatedly after the game.

Fans, however, are going to zero in on perhaps the most glaring shortcoming on the part of the Buckeyes in the game and the most talked about issue with the team since before the season even started – the quarterback situation.

The game against the Hurricanes illustrated the dilemma that the OSU coaching staff faces when it comes to that all-important position about as well as it can be illustrated.

On the one hand, you have the veteran Joe Bauserman, who was completely ineffective as he has been for most of his career at Ohio State. Bauserman was an almost incredible 2 of 14 for 13 yards against the Hurricanes. Yet he continues to throw the ball away when he perceives no options, which drives Buckeye fans crazy but must give the coaches some solace as it gives the team a chance to punt and play defense, something that may be the best course of action with the team right now.

On the other hand, you have the highly touted but inexperienced and untested Braxton Miller. The coaches are clearly concerned Miller will make a costly mistake, thus they appear reluctant to trot him out on a regular basis even though he may bring more talent to the field than his veteran teammate.

Almost as if on cue, Miller fumbled twice against Miami – one of the bobbles turned into a costly turnover – and also threw an interception. If he had been sent out there more, would he have settled down and ignited the Ohio State offense with his unquestioned talent or would he have been guilty of more turnovers? I suspect the coaches, who see him in practice every day, are wondering the same thing.

With Colorado set to invade Ohio Stadium, I think you have to give Miller a more equal look with Bauserman and try to determine if he is ready to lead the offense or truly needs more seasoning. If the Buckeyes are building for the future, they're probably better off just going with Miller and letting him learn while taking his – and the team's – lumps.

But there is also the small problem of Fickell being – though they don't use that term – the interim coach. Is it in his best interest to grow with Miller, maybe losing some games along the way, or is he better off playing a pumped up version of Tresselball with Bauserman – running the ball, not turning it over, punting, playing defense and scoring enough points here or there to try to compete in the Big Ten and save his job?

As you look at the passing game against Miami, there is probably more blame to be distributed than at just the quarterbacks.

This is the first time in the first three games that the Buckeyes seemed to miss suspended receiver DeVier Posey. Also missing was the team's most experienced receiver after Posey, Philly Brown, who was out with an injury.

Ohio State's young receivers appeared to have problems getting open. They also dropped several passes and there were some other passes that, while not necessarily well thrown, need to be reeled in if you are going to win a game on the road against a team like the Hurricanes.

I thought Jake Stoneburner had a shot at Bauserman's bullet pass in the end zone in the second quarter. It would have been a tough catch, but Stoneburner is a big-play guy and a touchdown there would have

THE VIEW FROM 15TH & HIGH

Frank Moskowitz, Publisher

completely changed the complexion of the game.

If you are a Buckeye fan or observer who has watched the team during the last 11 years, there is one other thing that has to be in the back of your mind as you watch the struggles of the quarterbacks and look at the way the receivers battled to get open against the 'Canes: Does Ohio State have the coaches on the offensive side of the ball to best utilize and develop the talent on hand?

Despite all the hand-wringing about the passing game, or lack thereof, there was a lot to be encouraged about as the Buckeyes move forward.

I was really impressed with the way Ohio State moved the ball on the ground in the second quarter. The ease with which the Buckeyes ran, particularly the running of freshly returned Jordan Hall, was encouraging, especially in light of their inability to do the same against Toledo a week earlier.

Unfortunately, for 174 yards of marching on the ground – 87 by Hall – the Buckeyes could muster only six points.

I also remain bullish on the OSU defense despite that fact that it gave up a whopping 240 yards rushing. Once the stop troops settled down, they were more than up to the task of holding Miami in check. The Buckeyes gave up 114 yards and 14 points on the Hurricanes' first two drives and 160 yards and three points on the next eight Miami marches. The Buckeyes yielded 69 yards and a TD on Miami's last possession, but by then I think exhaustion and the realization that the game was out of reach probably had set in.

Even without Nathan Williams, I thought the defensive line was solid for the most part, and I thought that linebackers Andrew Sweat, Storm Klein and Etienne Sabino, who combined for 23 tackles, all had their moments.

The defensive backfield gave up the two early touchdowns but held the 'Canes to just 123 yards passing and picked off two Jacory Harris passes, while Christian Bryant nearly came up with a third interception late in the game that might have turned things around for the Buckeyes.

I continue to worry about tackling. For the second game in a row, some of the opponent's big plays could have been stopped if the first Buckeye or Buckeyes to make contact had done a better job of bringing down the ball carrier.

Though Fickell complained about the sloppy tackling the previous week against the Rockets, this time around he was more concerned with his defense's inability to get off to a fast start, and he has a point. Toledo gained 130 of its 338 yards and scored 15 of its 22 points in the first quarter, with 56 more of the Rockets' yards coming on the final drive of the game. As mentioned, Miami did most of its damage on the first two drives as well as its final possession of the game.

Punter Ben Buchanan might have had the biggest day of any Buckeye, averaging 46.5 yards on his six punts and leaving the Hurricanes at their own 4, 10 and 12 on his three second-half kicks.

Hopefully, Drew Basil gained some confidence by nailing the first two field goals of his college career to account for Ohio State's only points.

I'm far from ready to throw in the towel on this season, but I am as anxious as the next person to see the next installment of the Ohio State offensive saga against Colorado and see how the quarterback situation continues to unfold.

Silly Penalty

The drama of this Ohio State football season is being played out against the backdrop of the NCAA rules violations committed by former coach Jim Tressel and several of his players. As we get caught up in wins and losses and the battle at quarterback, it is easy to forget that we still don't know what penalties the NCAA might eventually dole out to the Buckeyes.

One of the reasons I worry that there might be more penalties coming is because I always wonder what price a team really pays when, in the case of Ohio State for instance, it "vacates" games. What is the punishment Ohio State is receiving by voluntarily vacating last season? Those games were played and viewed by millions and the revenues already collected. The only ones who are really punished when a team vacates games are record keepers.

A perfect example of this came up as the Buckeyes prepared to take on Miami.

Several readers called to take us to task because in BSB's preview of the Hurricanes, we listed the series record between the two schools as 2-1 in favor of Ohio State. The readers claimed that Ohio State's record against the Hurricanes was actually 3-1, forgetting that OSU vacated the victory last season.

However, for the sake of trying to avoid this type of confusion, Buckeye Sports Bulletin had previously made the decision that it would count wins and losses as they were determined on the field, rather than having to qualify various records, winning streaks, etc. Thus, the entry in BSB that listed the series record as 2-1 was incorrect for our purposes, even though in the eyes of Ohio State and the NCAA, it was correct.

Confusing, isn't it?

I'd like to vacate the concept of vacating.

Colorado, Miami Games Recalled

We will be reprinting BSB's coverage of Ohio State's 1986 game with Colorado, which the Buckeyes won, 13-10, on a last-second field goal by freshman Pat O'Morrow, in our Sept. 23 electronic issue. The game was interesting because it represented the first win of the season for the Buckeyes, who lifted their record to 1-2 after losing to Alabama in the Meadowlands and then being crushed by host Washington, 40-7.

Ohio State would use the modest victory over the Buffaloes as a springboard to a fairly successful season. Though the Buckeyes would lose a tough 26-24 decision to Michigan, they thrashed Texas A&M, 28-12, in the Cotton Bowl in the Earle Bruce fedora game to finish 10-3. Arizona aggressively pursued Bruce after the season, but he elected to stay in Columbus and was promptly fired the next season.

Can this year's Buckeyes use the game with Colorado as a springboard to success as well?

We will also reprint BSB's recap of a

lesser remembered game with Miami, the Hurricanes' 23-12 victory over Ohio State in the Meadowlands to open the 1999 season. That game featured a bit of Buckeye quarterback controversy as well, as redshirt sophomore Austin Moherman got the start over true sophomore Steve Bellisari and was 10 of 22 for just 107 yards and a touchdown with two interceptions. A few weeks later, Bellisari would establish himself as the starting quarterback in what ended up being a disappointing 6-6 season. Does this year's Miami game portend a comparable subpar season?

The Sept. 23 electronic edition of BSB will also feature the latest on the OSU quarterback situation, any injury updates and any other breaking Ohio State sports news, as well as our popular staff predictions. For the record, staffers Marcus Hartman and Mark Rea chose Miami over OSU, while Matt Hager, Jeff Svoboda and Ari Wasserman picked the Buckeyes.

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Fickell On Offense

Speaking of past Buckeye Sports Bulletins, did you notice the note in our "Look Back At Recruiting" section on page 28 concerning the recruitment of Fickell back in 1991? The future Buckeye coach, who played both ways for Columbus DeSales, was listed as a tight end, though he would go on to star at Ohio State as a defensive lineman.

Interestingly, during his senior season with the Stallions struggling to establish a running game, Fickell was moved from tight end to center and DeSales would go on to the state Division I semifinals.

"Luke is the kind of kid that comes around only once every so often," DeSales coach Bob Jacoby said at the time. "He is obviously one of the best players on our team. You ask him to switch positions and, no questions asked, he switches."

"Not every kid is like that. Some know that they might have a shot to play Division I football and they want to play the position they are familiar with. Not Luke. If he thought it was for the good of the team he'd do anything."

The complete Fickell recruiting profile from February 1992 that these quotes were excerpted from was reprinted in our June 21, 2011, electronic issue, which has been archived for your enjoyment, as have all BSB print and electronic issues dating back to August of 2009. This service is free to all Buckeye Sports Bulletin print subscribers. Just follow the previously mentioned instructions to start taking advantage.