

OPINION

Meyer Proves His Worth In Comeback Victory

Two weeks ago, I argued the case that coaching matters ... and it matters a lot. That was driven home like a golden spike Oct. 20 when Ohio State faced an eight-point deficit to Purdue with only 47 seconds to do something about it.

Sure, give Kenny Guiton credit for coolly directing a 61-yard touchdown drive. Give Chris Fields credit for making crucial catches the junior receiver heretofore hadn't made during his college career. Give Tom Herman credit for dialing up a perfect two-point conversion call. And give the much-maligned Ohio State defense its due for managing to hold off the Boilermakers in overtime.

But if you ever wondered why Urban Meyer is worth \$4 million a year, you need look no further than the Buckeyes' 29-22 victory over Purdue. The reason Guiton was so cool, Fields was so clutch, Herman was so confident and the defense was so able to rise to the occasion could be summed up in one word: leadership.

No offense to last year's coaching staff, but there was no way Ohio State would have beaten Purdue last season given the same set of circumstances. In fact, the Buckeyes faced similar circumstances last year in West Lafayette, and while they rallied at the end of the game, they were the ones who made the crucial mistakes and they were the ones who went home losers.

Meyer had already laid the groundwork for OSU's comeback this year with his unique style of break'em-down and then build'em-back-up philosophy.

The coach has admitted Guiton was practically on a bus back to Houston last winter before he decided to buy into Meyer's system. Likewise, Fields was buried so far down the depth chart at receiver that the junior needed a flashlight and a compass to find his way out.

Yet with Braxton Miller and Corey "Philly" Brown sidelined down the stretch, it was Guiton and Fields upon whom Meyer relied to get the job done - Guiton, Fields and his own coaching acumen.

The fact is no one could have scripted the final moments of regulation any better than Meyer did.

Purdue milked the clock to 59 final ticks before punter Cody Webster launched a 48-yard effort that bounced to the Ohio State 30. But mindful of his head coach's "Plan to Win" mantra, Fields saved a few precious seconds by scooping up the ball and then got the Buckeyes 9 yards closer to the end zone with a return to the OSU 39.

With 47 seconds remaining, Meyer and Herman quickly drew up two plays on the sideline. The first was designed to get sophomore receiver Devin Smith open between Purdue's intermediate and deep zones, and Guiton found his intended target for 39 yards to the Boilermakers' 22.

Then instead of immediately spiking the ball to save time, the Buckeyes sprinted to the line of scrimmage where Guiton connected with sophomore Evan Spencer on an 8-yard sideline pass. Spencer went out of bounds following the catch to give his team a second-and-2 from the 14-yard line with 0:28 to go.

On the next play, Guiton faded in the pocket but found all his receivers covered. Rather than trying to force something, he threw the ball away - as he had been taught - setting up third-and-2 with 23 seconds remaining.

That was when Meyer really started to put on a clinic.

Despite the fact he had no timeouts, the coach put his faith in his offensive line and junior tailback Carlos Hyde, who pounded up the middle for a 3-yard gain and a first down

to temporarily stop the clock. Guiton followed with a spike and the Buckeyes were at the Purdue 11 with 15 seconds left.

The next play called for Guiton to hit Spencer as he raced toward the end zone, peeling off in front of his defender just before reaching the goal line. But Guiton threw too low and too wide, and a diving Spencer couldn't come up with the reception.

Third down, 12 seconds left. Time for two more plays.

This time, Meyer called for a fade route in the end zone to Spencer, but while the pass seemed to sail on Guiton, Purdue cornerback Josh Johnson had his hands all over the OSU receiver and drew a pass interference call.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK Mark Rea

That gave the Buckeyes the ball at the Purdue 2-yard line, but with only 0:08 showing on the clock. That's when Fields made a diving catch of a ball only he could have caught just over the goal line for the touchdown.

Now, with just 0:03 remaining, Meyer needed one more clutch call to achieve the tie. He got it from Herman, who overruled his linemen who were lobbying for a run.

The play called for tight end Jeff Heuerman to block initially and then break away from the line of scrimmage and drift into the end zone. Heuerman nearly carried out his decoy too long, allowing pressure to bear down on Guiton before the QB flipped a rainbow that the Ohio State tight end gathered in for the two-point conversion.

After the game, Herman confirmed the team had been practicing that play for just the right time.

"When the game is on the line is not the time to go against what you've practiced," the offensive coordinator said. "We knew they'd been playing man coverage all game and knew it would be there eventually. It took (Heuerman) awhile to get out. I was holding my breath. But everybody who was on the field did a helluva job."

In overtime, Guiton led the Buckeyes to a quick touchdown before a rejuvenated defense clamped down on a demoralized Purdue offense.

Game, set, match, and Ohio State moved to 8-0, stealing a game that most likely would have been lost with anyone else but Meyer at the controls.

Greatest OSU Comebacks

The final notes of "Carmen Ohio" were still echoing through the Horseshoe when someone asked me if the Buckeyes' victory over Purdue represented the greatest comeback in Ohio State history.

In terms of the situation, it ranks right up there. Eight points down with 47 seconds to go and your barely battle-tested backup quarterback in the lineup? Yeah, that was one for the ages.

It certainly merits a spot among my personal top three that includes the 1984 Illinois game and a 1989 contest at Minnesota.

The Buckeyes fell into a 24-0 hole against the Illini in '84 before tailback Keith Byars led a rally that eventually became a 45-38 victory for Ohio State. Byars, who ran for 274 yards and five touchdowns that day, made the comeback even more memorable by running out of his left shoe during a 67-yard touchdown sprint to the north end zone.

Five years later, OSU dug itself out of an even deeper hole by erasing a 31-0 deficit at Minnesota before rallying for a 41-37 victory. QB Greg Frey threw for 362 yards and three touchdowns while tailback/kick returner Carlos Snow accounted for 278 all-purpose yards and tallied three scores in what was at the time the largest comeback in NCAA history.

There have been other great comebacks, of course, including the 2002 Purdue game when Craig Krenzler's "Holy Buckeye" touchdown pass to Michael Jenkins erased a 6-3 deficit with 1:36 remaining in the fourth quarter of an eventual 10-6 victory.

But perhaps Ohio State's greatest come-from-behind victory came nearly a century ago.

In 1916, the Buckeyes faced a 6-0 fourth-quarter deficit at powerful Illinois when sophomore sensation Chic Harley passed and ran his team to the Illini 12-yard line with 1:10 to play. On the next play, Harley faded to pass but found all his receivers covered. He took off and cut quickly to his left, evaded three would-be tacklers inside the 5 and then dived over the goal line for a touchdown.

Harley followed by calmly changing his mud-caked cleats for a dry pair and booting the extra point to give the Buckeyes a 7-6 victory. It marked Ohio State's first-ever win over Illinois and propelled the Buckeyes to their first Western Conference championship.

Harley went on to become a three-time All-American, and Ohio State went on to become one of the most storied and successful programs in college football history.

Championship Aspirations

With an NCAA-mandated postseason ban in place, Ohio State cannot play in the Big Ten Championship Game or compete in any bowl contest - BCS or otherwise.

What OSU does have the opportunity to do, however, is take a run at the No. 1 spot in The Associated Press writers' poll. Unfortunately, the Buckeyes will have to win with more authority than a 29-22 overtime victory over a mediocre Purdue team. That win pushed Ohio State's record to 8-0, but the AP voters were unimpressed, dropping the Buckeyes from No. 7 to No. 9 in the rankings.

There is more than ample opportunity for upheaval among the teams ahead of Ohio State, however.

Top-ranked Alabama must visit No. 6 LSU on Nov. 3 while the Crimson Tide and No. 3 Florida seem on a collision course to play one another in the SEC title game.

Second-ranked Oregon still has dates at No. 10 USC and No. 7 Oregon State on the regular-season schedule, No. 4 Kansas State has three ranked foes among its final five games, and No. 5 Notre Dame must visit No. 8 Oklahoma on Oct. 27 and No. 10 USC on Nov. 24.

The Buckeyes simply have to keep winning even though it appears a weak conference affiliation will weigh against them in the eyes of many AP voters.

Ohio State has only one ranked team remaining on its schedule - No. 20 Michigan - and the Buckeyes' season is over after that Nov. 24 game. Other contenders for the AP version of the national championship will continue to play in conference title games and the BCS Championship Game, both against the type of high-quality opponents Ohio State will not have on its résumé.

Therefore, even if the Buckeyes are the only remaining undefeated team in the nation, expect AP voters to look upon any once-beaten BCS title game winner as more deserving than Ohio State of their No. 1 ranking.

BUCKEYE SPORTS BULLETIN

Vol. 32, No. 8
Oct. 27, 2012

www.BuckeyeSports.com

Buckeye Sports Bulletin (USPS 705-690, ISSN 0883-6833.) is published 24 times a year (weekly September through November, biweekly mid-March through May and January through early March and monthly June through August and December) by:

Columbus Sports Publications
1350 W. Fifth Ave., Suite 30
P.O. Box 12453
Columbus, Ohio 43212
(614) 486-2202

Periodical class postage paid at Columbus, Ohio, and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Buckeye Sports Bulletin, P.O. Box 12453, Columbus, Ohio 43212. Subscription rates: \$77.95/year.

PUBLISHER

Frank Moskowitz

ASSISTANT PUBLISHER EMERITUS
Karen Wachsman 1944-1999

MANAGING EDITOR

Mark Rea

ASSISTANT PUBLISHER

Becky Roberts

PHOTOGRAPHY

Sonny Brockway Terry William
Kevin Dye Josh Winslow

CONTRIBUTORS

Bill Armstrong Bob Roehm
David Breithaupt Julie Roy
Rich Exner Mark Schmetzer
Matthew Hager Steve Siegfried
Marcus Hartman Stacey Stathulis
Rich Leonardo Jeff Svoboda
Craig Merz Mike Wachsman
Eric Loughry Ari Wasserman

ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVES

Peggy Beathard Ron Friedman
Jack Woodworth

2012-13 PUBLICATION SCHEDULE (VOL. 32)

No. 1	Sept. 8	No. 13	December
No. 2	Sept. 15	No. 14	Jan. 12
No. 3	Sept. 22	No. 15	Jan. 26
No. 4	Sept. 29	No. 16	Feb. 16
No. 5	Oct. 6	No. 17	March 2
No. 6	Oct. 13	No. 18	March 16
No. 7	Oct. 20	No. 19	March 30
No. 8	Oct. 27	No. 20	April 20
No. 9	Nov. 3	No. 21	May
No. 10	Nov. 17	No. 22	June
No. 11	Nov. 24	No. 23	July
No. 12	Nov. 30	No. 24	August

The next issue (Nov. 3 cover date) will be mailed on Oct. 30.

Buckeye Sports Bulletin is a privately owned newspaper and is not affiliated directly or indirectly with The Ohio State University.

BSB email address is: bsb@buckeyesports.com



Charter Member

Guiton Leads Buckeyes To Dramatic OT Win

By MARK REA
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Managing Editor

Ohio State backup quarterback Kenny Guiton engineered an improbable comeback Oct. 20 at Ohio Stadium, thrilling 105,290 fans by rallying his team for a tying touchdown and two-point conversion with 0:03 left in regulation and then leading a touchdown drive in overtime as the seventh-ranked Buckeyes somehow snatched a 29-22 victory away from upset-minded Purdue.

Guiton entered the game late in the third quarter when starter Braxton Miller was knocked out of the game with a possible head injury. Then while Miller was carted to the OSU locker room and eventually transported to OSU's Wexner Medical Center for further tests, Guiton rallied the Buckeyes for one of the most exciting comeback victories in recent memory.

Starting at a 22-14 deficit with just 47 seconds remaining and 61 yards to go, Guiton first connected with sophomore wide receiver Devin Smith, who got loose from the Purdue zone defense for a 39-yard gain. That was followed by an 8-yard flip from Guiton to sophomore wideout Evan Spencer to give the Buckeyes a second down at the Purdue 14.

Then following an incomplete pass when Guiton found no open receivers and threw the ball away, junior tailback Carlos Hyde ran 3 yards up the middle for a first down at the Purdue 11 with 15 seconds remaining.

Guiton followed by quickly spiking the ball on first down to stop the clock and then just missed a diving Spencer near the goal line to set up third-and-10 with 12 seconds to go. Guiton tried again to target Spencer in the end zone, but Purdue senior cornerback Josh Johnson was flagged for pass interference on the play to give the Buckeyes a first-and-goal at the Purdue 2 with 0:08 showing on the clock.

On the next play, Guiton found junior Chris Fields just inside the goal line, and the OSU receiver made a diving catch in front of Purdue sophomore free safety Taylor Richards for a 2-yard touchdown with the stadium clock showing 0:03. Then on the two-point conversion play, Guiton calmly

faded to his right before looking back to his left to find sophomore tight end Jeff Heuerman, who had broken away from the line of scrimmage and was free behind the Purdue defense.

Heuerman made the game-tying reception to send the contest to overtime.

In the first extra session, after the Boilermakers had won the coin toss and elected to play defense, OSU senior receiver Jake Stoneburner beat Purdue sophomore linebacker Sean Robinson on a crossing pattern for a 17-yard reception on the Buckeyes' second play to move the ball to the PU 8-yard line. Three plays later, Hyde dived over the pile for a 1-yard touchdown.

Purdue tried to respond, but Ohio State junior safety C.J. Barnett broke up a first-down pass with a jarring hit on Purdue junior tight end Gabe Holmes before Boilermakers QB Caleb TerBush overthrew intended receiver Dolapo Macarthy on second down.

TerBush went back to Holmes for a 5-yard pass play on third down, but that set up fourth-and-5 at the 20. Purdue head coach Danny Hope called timeout to call a pass play, but as TerBush retreated from the pocket, he was pursued by OSU senior defensive lineman John Simon. That caused TerBush to throw off-balance and his pass sailed over the head of senior tight end Crosby Wright in the back of the end zone to finish off the Buckeyes' come-from-behind victory.

"That was a great, great win – a great team win," Ohio State head coach Urban Meyer told reporters following the game. "Some of the efforts I saw (today) were legendary. I mean, that was a moment I'll never forget. (Our backup) quarterback came jogging into the game, and the old righthander just did a heckuva job."

When asked to describe his swing of emotions from watching Miller getting carted off the field to Guiton engineering the improbable comeback, Meyer shook his head, smiled and said he couldn't.

"I have no idea," he said to laughter. "I'm still trying to figure this bad boy out. We won, right?"

Guiton, who had relieved Miller in five



JOSH WINSLOW

LET HIM HEAR IT – Junior Kenny Guiton (13) pumps up the crowd after leading the Buckeyes to an overtime touchdown. The backup quarterback came off the bench and rallied Ohio State to a 29-22 victory against Purdue.

games this season but had been limited mostly to simply handing the ball off to running backs, finished 6 for 11 passing for 77 yards, one touchdown and one interception.

Meanwhile, Miller was experiencing a subpar afternoon before his injury. The sophomore Heisman Trophy candidate completed only 9 of 20 pass attempts for 113 yards, no touchdowns and an interception, and he added 47 yards and a touchdown on the ground, but he also lost a pair of fumbles.

Approximately two hours after the game, Miller was released from the hospital with no apparent concussion symptoms.

Hyde was a workhorse for the Buckeyes with 91 yards and two touchdowns on 19 carries. Fields had a career-high three catches

for 44 yards and a touchdown while fellow receiver Corey "Philly" Brown also had three receptions for 44 yards before he, too, was sidelined by a blow to the head.

Smith added two catches for a team-high 48 yards.

Ohio State wound up with 342 total yards while the Boilermakers had 347. Most of Purdue's damage was done through the air as TerBush completed 19 of 30 attempts for 230 yards, two touchdowns and one interception.

The Buckeyes did a creditable job against the Purdue running game, holding the Boilermakers to 117 yards on the ground. Tailback Ralph Bolden was his team's leading rusher with 35 yards on nine carries.

"Our motto all week in practice for today's game was everything to gain, nothing to lose," Hope said. "We knew we had to put ourselves in position to take the fight to them."

"I'm proud of our players. They came out fired up with the will to win and didn't let up all game. We just didn't get the result we wanted on the scoreboard."

Defensively, Ohio State was led by sophomore linebacker Ryan Shazier, who had 12 tackles including 1½ for loss, a pass breakup and a quarterback hurry. Simon added nine stops while junior tackle Johanthan Hankins and junior safety Christian Bryant had eight each.

Fifth-year senior defensive end Nathan Williams was pressed into duty as an outside linebacker and finished with six tackles while Barnett also had six stops to go along with an interception.

Purdue was led by sophomore strong safety Landon Feichter, who had nine tackles and one of the Boilermakers' two interceptions. Johnson had the other while defensive tackles Kawann Short and Bruce Gaston each recovered an Ohio State fumble.

Quick Start, Frantic Finish

Purdue jumped on the Buckeyes right out of the box when TerBush connected with senior running back Akeem Shavers for an

Visiting The Ohio State University campus promises to be an event jam-packed with things to do. Stay conveniently close, so when your day at campus is done you can rest at one of Columbus' best! **Make your reservations today!**

The Arena District

Hampton Inn & Suites
501 N High Street, Downtown Columbus
(614) 559-2000
www.hamptoninn.com/hi/columbus-downtown

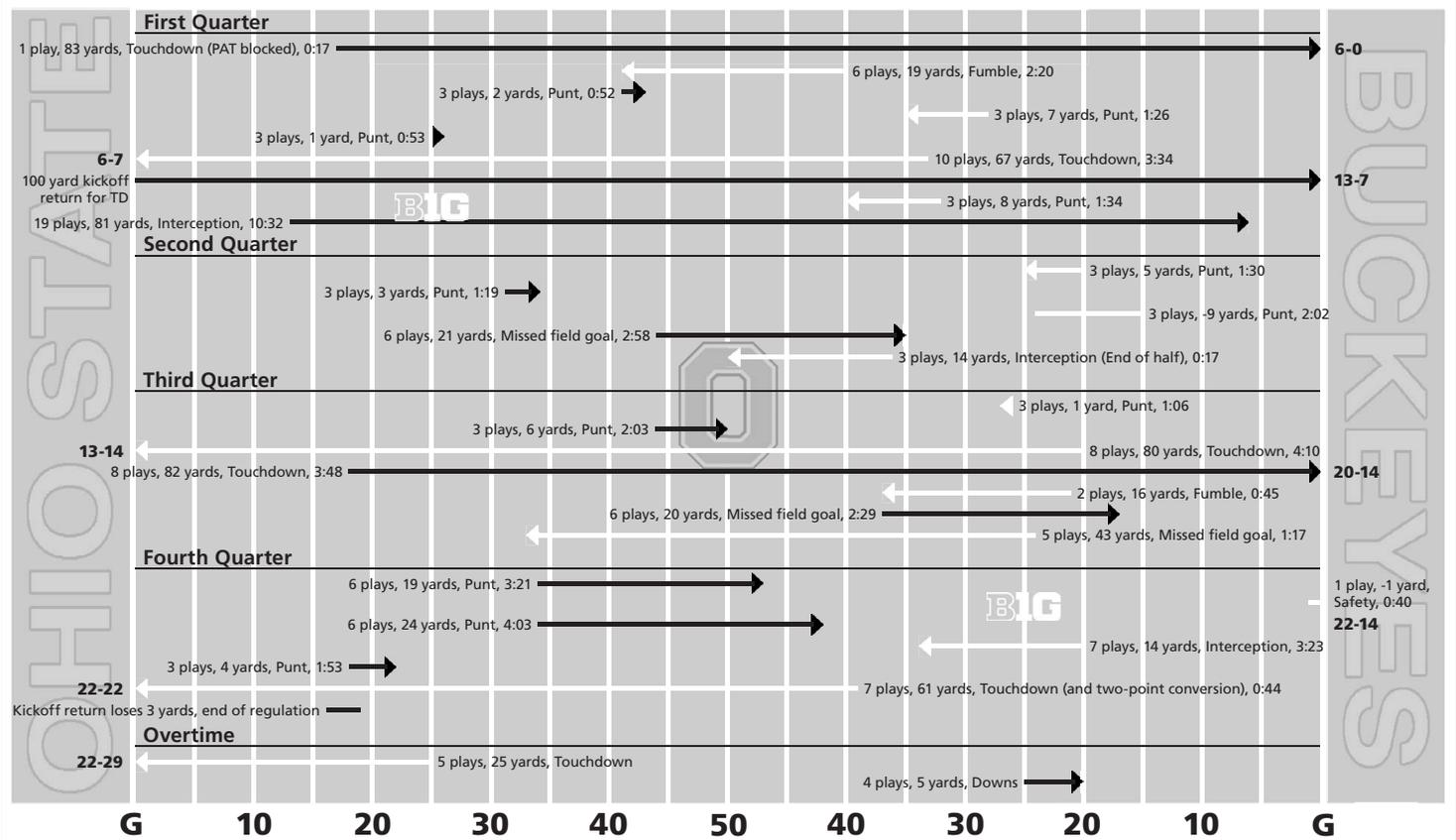
The Ohio State University

<p>Hilton Garden Inn 3232 Olentangy River Rd. (614) 263-7200 www.columbusuniversityarea.stayhgi.com</p>	<p>The Varsity Inn South 1445 Olentangy River Rd. (614) 291-2983 www.varsityinnosouth.com</p>
<p>The Varsity Inn North 3246 Olentangy River Rd. (614) 267-4646 www.varsityinnosouth.com</p>	<p>Columbus Marriott OSU 3110 Olentangy River Rd. (614) 267-7461 Arriving Spring 2013</p>

Drive Chart

Purdue

Ohio State



83-yard touchdown pass on the game's first offensive play from scrimmage.

Shavers sneaked his way out of the backfield and into the middle of the field where he beat OSU senior linebacker Storm Klein in coverage, gathering the ball in about the 40-yard line and then outmotoring Klein the rest of the way for the score.

"It was a trick play," explained OSU senior fullback-turned-linebacker Zach Boren, who finished with five tackles in the game. "They showed something similar on film, but not exactly the way they ran it and we just got mixed up."

Senior defensive lineman Garrett Goebel prevented the worst possible scenario when he blocked the extra-point try, but the Boilermakers still had a 6-0 lead and the ballgame was only 17 seconds old.

Things nearly went from bad to worse when Short pried the ball away from Miller when the OSU quarterback appeared to be down. But the play was never reviewed and the Boilermakers took over at their own 41 at the 12:14 mark of the first quarter.

Ohio State's defense responded, however, forcing a quick three-and-out series.

The Buckeyes came back later in the first quarter with a systematic 10-play drive that covered 67 yards and culminated in their first touchdown. The possession was marked by a pair of crucial conversions – a fourth-and-1 run from Hyde that gained 20 yards and a third-and-10 pass play from Miller to Brown that was worth 17 yards.

That gave OSU a first-and-goal at the Purdue 8, and Miller followed by ripping through a huge hole created by junior right guard Marcus Hall and senior right tackle Reid Fragel for the touchdown.

Senior kicker Drew Basil came on to add the extra point, and Ohio State had its first lead of the afternoon at 7-6 with 5:29 remaining in the first quarter.

The lead didn't last long, however, when Purdue sophomore Akeem Hunt took the ensuing kickoff and returned it 100 yards for a touchdown.

Hunt fielded the ball about 3 yards deep in the end zone, made a quick cut to the west sideline and then moved back toward the middle of the field. It appeared that OSU senior Orhian Johnson and Basil had a bead on Hunt, but Johnson was blocked out of the play and Hunt got Basil completely turned around before the Purdue sophomore scampered the rest of the way to pay dirt.

Boilermakers freshman kicker Paul Griggs added the PAT, and his team retook the lead at 13-7 at the 5:17 mark of the opening period.

Purdue squandered the only two scoring chances of the second quarter.

First, TerBush threw an ill-advised third-and-goal pass that Shazier tipped at the goal line and Barnett intercepted in the end zone, ending a 19-play, 85-yard drive, aided by a fourth-down conversion on a fake punt deep in Purdue territory, that took more than 10½ minutes off the clock. Then, with only 17 seconds remaining in the half, Griggs pulled a 52-yard field-goal try wide to the left. It was the freshman's first miss of his career after going 3 for 3 in Purdue's first six games.

While the Boilermakers were threatening twice in the second quarter, the Ohio State offense was stuck in neutral. The Buckeyes, who gained 101 yards on 22 first-quarter plays, held the ball for fewer than four minutes in the second period, gaining zero net yards on just nine plays.

The Bottom Line

The game was over when ... OSU defensive lineman John Simon pressured Purdue quarterback Caleb TerBush into throwing his fourth-down pass over intended receiver Crosby Wright's head in overtime.

Game ball goes to ... Kenny Guiton. The junior backup quarterback came off the bench to rally the Buckeyes to the game-tying touchdown and two-point conversion with only 0:03 remaining in regulation and then guided the Buckeyes to the game-winning score in overtime.

Stat of the game ... 5-0. Ohio State head coach Urban Meyer is now a perfect 5-0 all-time in overtime games. That includes 1-0 records at Bowling Green, Utah and Ohio State as well as a 2-0 mark at Florida.

– Mark Rea

OSU had another quick three-and-out with its first possession of the third quarter, but the Buckeyes suddenly awoke the next time they got the ball, moving 80 yards in eight plays to grab the lead again.

The big plays during the drive were a 17-yard bolt by Hyde on a third-and-3 play and a 19-yard pass from Miller to Brown on third-and-10. That was followed by a 35-yard reception by Fields – the longest of his career – to give the Buckeyes first-and-goal at the Purdue 2.

One play later, Hyde followed blocks up the middle from junior left guard Andrew Norwell and Heuerman for a 2-yard touchdown bolt. Basil came on for the PAT to give the Buckeyes a one-point lead at 14-13 with 7:41 remaining in the third period.

But the Boilermakers immediately answered with an eight-play, 82-yard scoring drive. TerBush was at his best, completing

all six of his pass attempts during the march for 73 of the yards. That included a pitch to junior receiver Gary Bush, who split a seam in the Ohio State zone and got an excellent downfield block from Wright on OSU senior cornerback Travis Howard on his way to a 31-yard touchdown.

Griggs came on to add the extra point, and that pushed the Boilermakers back into the lead at 20-14 with 3:49 to go in the third quarter.

Purdue built upon that momentum on Ohio State's ensuing drive when Miller fumbled on what would have been a first-down run and the loose ball was recovered by Gaston at the OSU 37. But the Boilermakers failed to cash in on the opportunity when Griggs' 34-yard field-goal try was blocked by Ohio State's Johnathan Hankins with 29 seconds showing on the third-quarter clock.

Continued On Page 12

OHIO STATE VS. PURDUE

Ohio State Remains Unbeaten Despite Miller's Injury

Continued From Page 11

The Buckeyes immediately went the other way when Miller bobbled and weaved his way for a 37-yard run on the next play, pushing the ball all the way to the PU 39. But the Ohio State quarterback was tackled hard on his left shoulder by Johnson and was forced to leave the game.

After that, OSU managed only 6 more yards on the next three plays and Basil's 50-yard field-goal attempt hit the left upright to leave the Boilermakers' 20-14 lead intact at the 14:12 mark of the fourth quarter.

Purdue couldn't do anything with its next possession, but the Boilermakers tipped field position in their favor when junior Cody Webster's punt was downed at the 1-yard line. Two plays later, as Guiton was trying to escape pressure, Heuerman was whistled for a block-in-the-back penalty in the end zone.

That gave Purdue a safety and a 22-14 lead with 10:11 remaining.

Ohio State had a chance to cut into that margin after it took possession at its own 20 with 6:03 remaining and got a first down when Hyde bulled his way ahead for 9 yards on a fourth-and-2. But Guiton underthrew Smith deep on first down, Hyde managed only 2 yards on a second-down sideline pass, and then after a delay penalty made it third-and-13 on the OSU 34, Guiton heaved a deep pass for Stoneburner that was tipped and intercepted by Feichter at the PU 18 with 2:40 remaining.

The Boilermakers milked as much time as they could, forcing Ohio State to use

its final timeout in the process, and finally punted the ball away as the clock wound under a minute. But Fields saved a precious few seconds by fielding the punt on the run and scampering out of bounds after a 9-yard return, setting up the Buckeyes at their own 39 with 47 seconds to go.

That left Ohio State down to its last gasp in regulation, but Guiton and his teammates proved up to the task.

Game Notes

- Ohio State moved its record to 39-14-2 in the all-time series against Purdue, and that includes a 27-6-2 mark in Ohio Stadium. OSU has now won eight straight at home vs. the Boilermakers with Purdue last tasting victory in Columbus with a 31-26 decision in 1988.

- Meyer was facing the Boilermakers for the first time as head coach, but he has been 5-2 lifetime against Purdue as an assistant coach. Meyer was on Earle Bruce's coaching staff at OSU when the Buckeyes recorded victories over Purdue in 1986 and '87, and he was on Bob Davies' staff at Notre Dame when the Fighting Irish went 3-2 vs. the Boilermakers from 1996 to 2000.

- Ohio State moved to 6-2 all-time in overtime games while Meyer moved his career record to a perfect 5-0 in OT.

- Purdue dropped to 4-7 all-time in overtime games while Hope dropped to 1-2 in OT with the Boilermakers.

- Hope was trying to become the first Purdue head coach in 45 years to win two in a row against Ohio State. Jack Mollenkopf led his team to a 24-21 upset of the third-ranked



JOSH WINSLOW PHOTOS

HARD HIT – Ohio State sophomore quarterback Braxton Miller (5) is dragged to the turf by Purdue cornerback Josh Johnson (28) late in the third quarter. Miller was helped from the field, carted to the locker room and later taken to the hospital where he was released a short time later.

Buckeyes in 1960 but then had to wait seven years because of scheduling quirks to claim a 41-6 win in 1967.

- With his 2-2 record vs. Ohio State, Hope is one of only three Purdue head coaches with a .500 or above record against the Buckeyes. Cecil Isbell, who coached three seasons in West Lafayette from 1944-46, had a 1-0-1 record vs. Ohio State while Isbell's successor, Stu Holcomb, was 2-2 against the Buckeyes. Holcomb played his college football at Ohio State, lettering from 1929-31 and captaining the '31 squad that finished 6-3 under head coach Sam Willaman.

- Ohio State is off to an 8-0 start for the first time since 2007 when that team won its first 10 games. Over the past 20 seasons, the Buckeyes have now gotten off to an 8-0 start eight times. Before this season, OSU also won its first eight games in 1993, 1995, 1996, 1998, 2002, 2006 and 2007.

- Meyer is only the third head coach in Ohio State history to win his first eight games. Carroll Widdoes won his first 12 in 1944-45 and Earle Bruce won 11 in a row in 1979. Meyer is also only the third Big Ten coach since 1946 to win as many as eight games to begin his debut season. The others were Bruce and Bennie Oosterbaan of Michigan, who posted a perfect 9-0 season in 1948.

- Purdue is now 8-6-2 all-time on Oct. 20 while Ohio State is 11-6. The two teams had met twice previously on that date. In 1945, the No. 9 Boilermakers dealt a 35-13 upset loss to the fourth-ranked Buckeyes in Columbus. Then in 1990, when both teams were unranked, OSU traveled to West Lafayette and administered a 42-2 thumping to Purdue.

- Before Shaver's 83-yard scoring reception on the game's first offensive play, the Boilermakers had not scored a touchdown in Ohio Stadium since 2003. Running back Jerod Void scored on an 11-yard run during No. 10 Purdue's 16-13 loss that year to fourth-ranked OSU. To be fair, the Boilermakers had played only twice in Columbus since then – a 16-3 loss in 2008 and a 49-0 loss in 2010.

- The pass play from TerBush to Shavers was also the first touchdown Purdue had scored through the air at Ohio Stadium since 1999. Quarterback Drew Brees threw a 12-yard scoring pass to Kevin Sutherland

during the first quarter of that season's 25-22 OSU victory.

- Ohio State rushed for a season-low 152 yards against Purdue, which entered the game ranked 11th in the Big Ten and 97th nationally in rush defense. In their previous two games, the Boilermakers had surrendered 771 yards on the ground – 467 to Wisconsin and 304 to Michigan. The Buckeyes entered the game as the No. 8 rushing offense in the nation and had gained a combined 724 yards against their previous two opponents, Nebraska and Indiana.

- With his 91 yards vs. the Boilermakers, Hyde upped his career rushing total 1,252 yards. That ties him with Ricardo Volley (1977-79) for 45th on Ohio State's all-time rushing list.

- Purdue senior receiver Antavian Edison caught two balls for 10 yards against the Buckeyes and extended his streak to 28 consecutive games with at least one reception.

- Hunt's kickoff return for a touchdown was the first surrendered by Ohio State since David Gilreath of Wisconsin took one back 97 yards on the game's opening kick during a 31-18 win by the Badgers in Madison in 2010.

- The 100-yard return by Hunt was the longest against the Buckeyes since Bobby Weber of Minnesota had a 100-yarder vs. OSU in 1977. Weber's return represented the Golden Gophers' only touchdown during a 38-7 loss to the Buckeyes in Columbus.

- Goebel's blocked extra point in the first quarter and Hankins' blocked field goal in the second period gave the Buckeyes six blocked kicks for the season – two punts, one field goal and three PATs – and they added to Meyer's total as a head coach. In 11 seasons with Bowling Green, Utah, Florida and OSU, Meyer-coached teams have now blocked 57 kicks in 135 games. Since 2005, Meyer is a spotless 19-0 in games when his team has blocked an enemy punt. That includes a 3-0 record this season.

- After finishing last year 11th in the Big Ten in penalties, Hope talked extensively during the offseason about addressing that issue. Message sent, message received. The Boilermakers, who entered the game averaging only 4.8 penalties for a Big Ten-low 36.0 yards per game, were flagged just three times against the Buckeyes for 29 yards.



Before entering "The Horseshoe" make Scales Cocktails Bloody Mary Mix the new tradition at your tailgate party!



If you're "counting points" or keeping "score," try our Scales Cocktails "Skinny" Margarita Mix "Tip your glass, not the Scales" Scales Cocktails ... making clothes fall off since 2010

Available for purchase in Kroger stores and other fine retailers

www.scalescocktails.com

Comeback Overshadows Rough 59 Minutes

While those of the 105,290 fans who remained in Ohio Stadium on Oct. 20 as Ohio State stormed back to best Purdue will likely always remember the euphoria brought on by the Buckeyes' comeback, the prevailing emotion in the Horseshoe for much of the day among both OSU fans and players was frustration.

In the 59 minutes before the Buckeyes' stunning last-minute drive and two-point conversion to tie the game, Ohio State posted only 14 points, gained 265 yards, lost four turnovers and had one Heisman Trophy-contending quarterback leave the stadium via ambulance.

INSIDE THE OFFENSE

Jeff Svoboda

So while the comeback to post a 29-22, overtime victory against the Boilermakers was one of the best in stadium history, some of the OSU players were left noting the late theatrics were necessary only because of the early struggles.

"We have to execute," junior left tackle Jack Mewhort said. "Our coaches prepared us well. On offense, we have to go out and execute. They gave us some different (fronts) but we should have responded better and scored more points early so it wouldn't have had to come to that."

On the whole, it simply wasn't a good day for an Ohio State offense that seemed to have all the advantages coming in. Keyed by the dynamic Braxton Miller, the Buckeyes had topped 350 yards rushing in each of the previous two games and were going up against a Purdue team that had been gashed by its two Big Ten opponents, Michigan and Wisconsin.

The prevailing thought was that Ohio State would have little trouble living up to its pregame average of 40.4 points per game, but the Boilermakers quickly made it clear they wouldn't relive the form that allowed Wolverines quarterback Denard Robinson to rush for 235 yards or the Wisconsin team to put up 467 yards on the ground.

Throughout the day, the Buckeyes' offensive line – which had been lauded for its maturation in previous weeks – had trouble matching up against the Purdue defensive line, which often was able to disrupt plays in the backfield to prevent the Buckeyes from breaking the long plays that had been their hallmark.

For that, OSU center Corey Linsley said credit had to be given to the Old Gold and Black defenders.

"They have a heck of a D-line," the junior said. "(Kawann) Short is a great player. (Bruce Gaston) is a great player. That's the strength of their team, really. I think year in and year out, look at the guys they have in the NFL. That's why they give us trouble."

Purdue also varied the looks the defense gave, switching between a four-man front and a three down lineman, three linebacker look. The latter strategy employed lining up senior strongside linebacker Robert Maci on the line of scrimmage as a stand-up rusher while dropping senior safety Max Charlton into the box as an extra defender.

Afterward, offensive coordinator Tom Herman said that the Buckeyes weren't quite prepared for the specific challenge the Boilermakers presented.



JOSH WINSLOW

BIG DAY – Junior Chris Fields (80) reeled in a career-high three receptions vs. Purdue, good for 44 yards, including a crucial fourth-quarter touchdown.

"They caused a lot of problems for us, holy smokes," Herman said. "We're 0 for 8 now in terms of predicting what the defense is going to throw at us. Every week is a challenge as we line up for that first series and try to figure out, 'OK, what is the defense of the week for Ohio State?'"

But while Ohio State had scored only 44 first-quarter points compared to 101 in the second stanza coming into the game, any adjustments made didn't result in a point explosion.

Miller entered having topped the 100-yard mark rushing in five of seven games, but he had only 12 carries for 47 yards and a touchdown. Of those yards, 37 came on his final play of the day, a run up the middle he turned into one of his trademark big gainers before suffering an apparent head injury upon being slammed to the turf by Purdue cornerback Josh Johnson.

Miller also finished 9-of-20 passing for 113 yards, no touchdowns and an interception on a Hail Mary at the end of the first half. He lost a pair of fumbles on the day as well, though neither led to any Purdue points.

With Miller's impact dulled, the Buckeyes struggled in the early going, especially while putting up minus-9 rushing yards and zero total yards in the second quarter.

With no short fields on the day, Ohio State was able to put together only three big drives against the Boilermakers in its first 13 possessions, going 67 yards for a first-quarter touchdown, 80 yards behind some solid power running for a TD early in the third quarter, and 43 yards for a drive that ended in a missed field goal in the late third and early fourth quarters.

Much of the fourth quarter wasn't particularly encouraging, either. After kicker Drew Basil banged his 50-yard try off the left upright early in the stanza, Ohio State, with Kenny Guiton on for the injured Miller, took a safety on its next drive thanks to an illegal block in the end zone after starting at its own 1, giving Purdue a 22-14 lead.

The Buckeyes got the ball back with 6:03 to go, but the team's chances at a comeback looked gone when Guiton underthrew Jake Stoneburner on a deep route, allowing the Boilermakers to intercept the pass with under three minutes to play.

But the defense held strong and Ohio State took over with 47 seconds to play, no timeouts and 61 yards to go. Even

Urban Meyer intimated he wasn't sure the Buckeyes could pull it off, but what followed was a drive that left the head coach in awe.

"I just can't say enough about it," he said.

In fact, the 47-second drill – forget the term two-minute drill – was executed to near perfection, and there was reason for it. Herman said the Buckeyes prepare for such dire situations, and the players agreed practice made perfect.

"That's exactly the stuff that we drill a couple of days a week," Mewhort said. "It felt like practice out there. We've done it so many times. We have certain plays for certain situations. We executed them and we scored, and it was just a lot of fun. It felt good to move the ball like that at the end."

The whole operation was keyed by the first play, a 39-yard pitch and catch between Guiton and Devin Smith that put the ball at the Purdue 22. Smith ran a deep crossing route from right to left, Guiton shook off a sack attempt by Ryan Russell, and Smith was so open he picked up the last 16 yards of the play on the ground after his catch.

"That was huge," Herman said. "That play takes a long time to develop. We knew when you call that play, the O-line has to get juiced up, so we felt good calling it off the sideline because the O-line knew, 'Hey, you guys have to protect your tails off on this one because it's a long developing play.' If we do protect, there's a good chance the kid is going to be wide open."

From there, the quarterback earned the "Coach Guiton" nickname that's been bestowed upon him this season. He didn't have to spike the ball after the first play, instead setting up a play as the officials spotted it, then hit Evan Spencer on an 8-yard out to get the ball to the 14.

Ohio State then ran for a first down and used a pass interference penalty to get to the 2-yard line with eight seconds left. At that time, Guiton took the snap, looked to his left, found Chris Fields running a short out pattern just inside the goal line and delivered a low throw that Fields caught with a dive to make the score 22-20.

"After that catch I probably told him thank you like a million times," Guiton said. "I was just hoping he could get to it. Once I saw him get his hands under it, I knew he caught it."

Guiton then hit tight end Jeff Heuerman on a throwback pass to complete the two-

point conversion, tying the game with three seconds to play. The overtime drive was just as smooth, as Guiton delivered a strike over the middle to Jake Stoneburner to set up first-and-goal then combined with Hyde on a trio of runs that pushed the ball over the line with the winning points.

With that, Ohio State picked up 77 yards of offense behind its junior backup quarterback when it needed them most.

"To come in and be clutch like that, it's just amazing to see that," Hyde said. "Kenny works so hard. To get his chance like that in a close game like that and come through, it's amazing."

Fields' Day

To say Fields has been an afterthought in the Ohio State offense this season would be an understatement. The junior receiver from Painesville (Ohio) Harvey didn't play in three of the first four games, but he finally saw his playing time increase Oct. 13 vs. Indiana.

After Fields' solid performance against the Hoosiers in limited reps, the coaching staff deemed Fields ready to go in the Purdue game, and he replied with two crucial catches while also returning punts and slotting into the kickoff coverage unit.

"He played well in the few plays that he got last week, and we made an emphasis this week that he was going to play more and that he was going to be involved," Herman said. "I wasn't as surprised (at his performance) as maybe everybody else was because we had been planning on him to contribute."

His first big play set up the Buckeyes' third-quarter touchdown that gave OSU a short-lived 14-13 lead. Lining up in the slot on the left, Fields got behind the Purdue defense to pull in a 35-yard pass from Miller that put the ball at the 2.

It looked originally like Fields could have reached the end zone on the play, but his eyes got a little big, and he stumbled and was brought down by safety Landon Feichter.

"I haven't been on the field in a while, and the turf monster got me," Fields said afterward with a laugh.

Though he wasn't able to finish off that play, his late touchdown catch was a beauty, as Fields was able to get his hands underneath the ball while in a full dive.

"I don't know if anybody knows, but 13 years of baseball paid off on that one," he said. "I used to be a center fielder and used to dive all over the place. I'm used to that."

The play was reviewed but Fields said he knew it was a touchdown the entire way.

Fields was reflective in his postgame interview, admitting the first half of the season wasn't easy for him and left him wondering about his future in the sport. At that point, he rededicated himself to finding playing time, caught the coaches' eyes and ended up making one of the biggest plays of the season.

"It's obviously a confidence booster," he said. "I've just been working with the special teams, hustling my butt off every day and just waiting on my moment, keeping a positive mind-set and getting in the Bible, getting a little bit of faith. It all paid off."

The wideout said he would keep up the hard work going forward, but for one day, he was surprised to find himself the center of attention.

"I can't believe it," he said. "It's a shocking moment, but I'm so happy for the win. It was a team effort, man. All units, it was a team effort. It was great."

Buckeye Game Analysis

Play Of The Game

Going 61 yards in the final 47 seconds with no timeouts was tough enough for the Ohio State offense, but even having completed that task with three seconds to spare, there was one final challenge to hurdle to tie Purdue on Oct. 20.

The Buckeyes still trailed the Boilermakers, 22-20, after Kenny Guiton's 2-yard touchdown pass to Chris Fields and needed a two-point conversion – a 50-50 shot – to tie the game and send it to overtime.

There was plenty of time to think about the play call, though, as Fields' diving catch was reviewed, and the conversation revealed a split vote on the Ohio State side. In the end, though, the Buckeyes are lucky the play call wasn't determined by a democracy, as only one person was on the side of the eventual decision – offensive coordinator Tom Herman.

"Tom called that one," OSU head coach Urban Meyer said. "This is a great story. The offensive line was screaming at me to run the ball. I mean, like, screaming. And the same with Carlos Hyde. I almost changed that play. I said to Tom, 'Let's pound it at them.' He said, 'No, let's go with this.' He won that battle."

Ohio State wound up going with a throwback pass to tight end Jeff Heurman, who was wide open and caught the ball to tie the score and send the Buckeyes into an overtime they would secure with the 29-22 victory.

After Fields' catch was confirmed, the Buckeyes ran back onto the field with confidence, lining up in a three-wideout, one-back set. Hyde stood to Guiton's right and slot man Jake Stoneburner ran in motion across the formation to that side as well. Heurman, meanwhile, lined up at tight end on the right side.

Guiton took the snap and rolled out to his right, while Heurman helped tackle Reid Fragel block Purdue defensive end Ryan Russell. Stoneburner and Devin Smith both ran out patterns on the right side but were covered, and linebacker Joe Gilliam ran around the edge to pressure Guiton.

But the quarterback was cool as a cucumber, planting his feet at the 12 and waiting for Heurman to slip off his block and float into open territory on the left side.

The play worked exactly as designed. Heurman got behind defensive tackle Bruce Gaston, who dropped back into coverage as he realized the play was going away from him. Guiton delivered a perfectly weighted throw as the pressure closed in, hitting the wide-open Heurman in the hands about 4 yards deep in the end zone.

"You practice that week after week," Herman said. "We hadn't had to use a two-point conversion play here for a while, especially against a team that was playing so much man coverage. We figured the guy who had Jeff would get lost in the action of the play and we would be able to leak him out the back side, and it worked."

The successful play earned the praise of Meyer, who called it a great call with great execution. It also was accepted by the offensive linemen who were so adamant about

running the ball once the big men realized the likelihood the play would be successful.

"I was like, 'I'm all for running the ball, but this play is going to work,'" center Corey Linsley said. "The play we called, you can't defend it, so I was cool with whatever. I knew we were going to do it either way."

Hidden Play Of The Game

Ohio State's last-minute drive might have never happened if it weren't for Fields' quick thinking when Purdue punted the ball away in the final minute from its own 22.

Knowing the Buckeyes would be going for their third punt block in four weeks, Cody Webster rushed his kick, but the wobbler bounced the Boilers' way and crossed up Fields, who had to double back to his right to pick up the bouncing ball.

His decision to pick up the pigskin at the 30 proved to be wise because the ball would have kept rolling had Fields not corralled it, costing the Buckeyes both valuable time and yardage. Instead, the junior was able to outrun the nearest Boilermakers toward the sideline, picking up 9 yards before he stepped out of bounds.

Fields said afterward that his decision to pick up the bouncing ball was influenced by Meyer's "Plan to Win," a program-wide philosophy that includes putting the offense in good situations and making plays on special teams.

"The Plan to Win was going through my mind," Fields said. "I just wanted to get some good field position for our offense. I didn't notice how big that really was at the time, but thinking back it was a really good idea that I picked it up."

What Worked Well

- **Staying calm in the two-minute drill:** Guiton hadn't been in any high-pressure, late-game situations at Ohio State, but the junior looked like someone with the nickname of "Coach" as he calmly directed the Buckeyes 61 yards in less than a minute. Ohio State maximized the time it had perfectly, spiking the ball or getting out of bounds when it needed to.

- **Filling gaps in the run game:** Purdue has been famously pass-happy for the past decade or so in its spread offense, but the Boilermakers finished with 39 running plays on the score sheet against the Buckeyes. Those plays averaged only 3.0 yards. Ryan Shazier was everywhere in the run game, making 12 tackles while shedding blocks and filling the right holes. The 17 combined tackles for John Simon and Johnathan Hankins were pretty impressive as well.

What Didn't Work

- **Handling Purdue's defensive front:** The numbers weren't gaudy – Russell had six tackles and a sack while the rest of the Purdue defensive line combined for 10 tackles and a sack – but the PU line kept Ohio State's offense at bay for much of the game. Penetration ruined a few OSU plays before they started, allowing the Boilermakers' back seven to swarm to the football and keep the Buckeyes' big plays under wraps.

- **The early big plays:** Coming off two straight blow-out losses, Purdue was able to gain confidence quickly

thanks to an 83-yard touchdown pass on its first play from scrimmage and a 100-yard kickoff return touchdown later in the first quarter. Those two daggers served notice to Ohio State it was going to be a long day and helped keep momentum away from the Buckeyes for much of the game.

Reviewing The Matchups

Ohio State rush offense vs. Purdue rush defense: Hyde had a solid day, rushing 19 times for 91 yards and two touchdowns, but the Buckeyes didn't feature the churning rushing attack of the past few games. Braxton Miller finished with only 47 yards rushing before his injury, and Ohio State's average of 4.2 yards per carry showed the Buckeyes had to grind out their yards against a stout Purdue front.

EDGE: Purdue

Purdue rush offense vs. Ohio State rush defense: Purdue just couldn't find a running back that worked against Ohio State. The Boilers gave nine carries to Ralph Bolden, eight to quarterback Caleb TerBush, seven to team leader Akeem Shavers and five each to Brandon Cottom and Akeem Hunt. Yet Bolden led the way with a measly 35 yards, no rusher averaged 4.5 yards per carry and the team's longest run on the day was 14 yards. **EDGE: Ohio State**

Ohio State pass offense vs. Purdue pass defense: The passing efficiency mark wasn't very high for the Buckeyes as the squad finished 15 for 32 for 190 yards, a touchdown and two interceptions. Ohio State's passing offense hit its stride on the last two drives, but before that the whole operation was pretty inefficient. The Buckeyes did find eight different receivers, though, showing players are beginning to step up. **EDGE: Even**

Purdue pass offense vs. Ohio State pass defense: TerBush's line read 19 completions in 30 attempts for 230 yards, two touchdowns and an interception. That's not bad but not great, either, as the Boilermakers' passing attack was kept in check after the long pass from TerBush to Shavers on the first play. Purdue had some luck on screens when they tried them during the game, but the passing game didn't go to that well as often as it could have. **EDGE: Even**

Special teams: Ohio State's kickoff coverage "piranhas" have been significantly dulled by injury as Devan Bogard went down with what appeared to be a serious knee injury one week after Najee Murray and Armani Reeves were injured in practice. The result was the kickoff return touchdown for Purdue. Drew Basil also missed his lone field-goal try, but the Buckeyes do get credit here for Garrett Goebel's blocked PAT in the first quarter and Hankins' field-goal block late in the third period, both of which wound up being essential. **EDGE: Purdue**

Intangibles: For the third time in four years, a struggling Purdue team surprised a favored Ohio State squad by playing good defense and scoring when it needed to, but unlike 2009 and '11 trips to West Lafayette, the Boilermakers weren't able to finish the job. This year's Ohio State team continues to show its ability to work in concert when the chips are down, and the surprising comeback illustrates how deep this team's belief in itself runs. **EDGE: Ohio State**

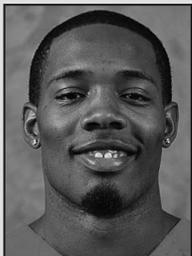
– Jeff Svoboda



Tom Herman



Akeem Shavers



Kenny Guiton

1189 N. Wilson Road

Minelli's Pizza & Next Door Tavern



Touch down at the Next Door Tavern for our 7-hour Happy Hour!!

a West Side tradition since 1967

CATCH ALL THE OHIO STATE ACTION
BIG TEN NETWORK • NFL SUNDAY TICKET
14 TVs • OSU MEMORABILIA

279-3344



Fueling the American Spirit.

Silver Bullets Bounce Back Against Purdue

It didn't matter that the Ohio State defense faced seemingly endless criticism the entire week after allowing Indiana to score 49 points in the team's previous outing.

When the Buckeyes took the field in overtime against Purdue on Oct. 20 clinging to a seven-point lead, all that separated Ohio State from a victory over the Boilermakers and an additional overtime period was 25 yards.

INSIDE THE DEFENSE

Ari Wasserman

Past struggles aside, Ohio State's defensive players shared a mutual hunch that the game would soon be over.

"The offense did their job," junior defensive tackle Johnathan Hankins said. "We just all knew that we were going to do ours. We weren't going to let Purdue get in the end zone and force another overtime after we worked so hard to get back into the game. We knew it was our time to end the game."

Purdue ran four passes, completing only a third-down screen toss for 5 yards, leaving the upset-minded Boilermakers broken and the previously criticized OSU defense jubilant.

With the Buckeyes' last defensive stand, a flawed OSU team lived to stay perfect another week. Now 8-0, Ohio State was set to spend its next seven days learning from its latest victory.

"I feel like we had a very good defensive showing today," junior defensive back Christian Bryant said. "We allowed some big plays, but we did a good job. Coming off that heartbreak win over Indiana last week, we just prepared all week and came out and showed that we're in good shape."

Ohio State's defensive success against the Boilermakers was easily lost in the shuffle with surprising storylines on offense making for the prevailing theme of the game. Backup quarterback Kenny Guiton replaced starter Braxton Miller late in the third quarter and was forced to lead the Buckeyes past an eight-point deficit.

Guiton's heroics stole the show, as he found wide receiver Chris Fields for a 2-yard touchdown pass with three seconds remaining in the game to bring the Buckeyes within two. On the two-point conversion attempt, Guiton struck again when he found tight end Jeff Heurman wide open to tie the game.

The backup signal caller topped off a gutsy

performance by leading Ohio State to a touchdown drive on its first overtime possession.

From that point, it was the defense's job to continue to do what it had done for most of the game – keep the Boilermakers from scoring touchdowns.

"I thought they played well the whole day," Meyer said of his defense, which allowed Purdue to score only two offensive touchdowns and gain 347 yards of total offense. "I thought our defense might have (had) their best performance."

That was big praise from Meyer, who spent more time than usual helping the defense prepare for the Boilermakers in the week leading into the game after Indiana racked up 481 yards of total offense in a closer-than-expected contest in Bloomington.

The Buckeyes knocked off the Hoosiers, 52-49, but Indiana's proficiency in moving the football helped extend season-long defensive concerns for the Buckeyes. Meyer hoped his assistance on defense would help improve a unit that had been inconsistent throughout the season.

"It was a great impact, to be honest," defensive coordinator Luke Fickell said when describing Meyer's presence in defensive meeting rooms. "To have him over there, to have him being as hard on some of our guys as he is on the offense guys, you can see they've responded well. That's what he did."

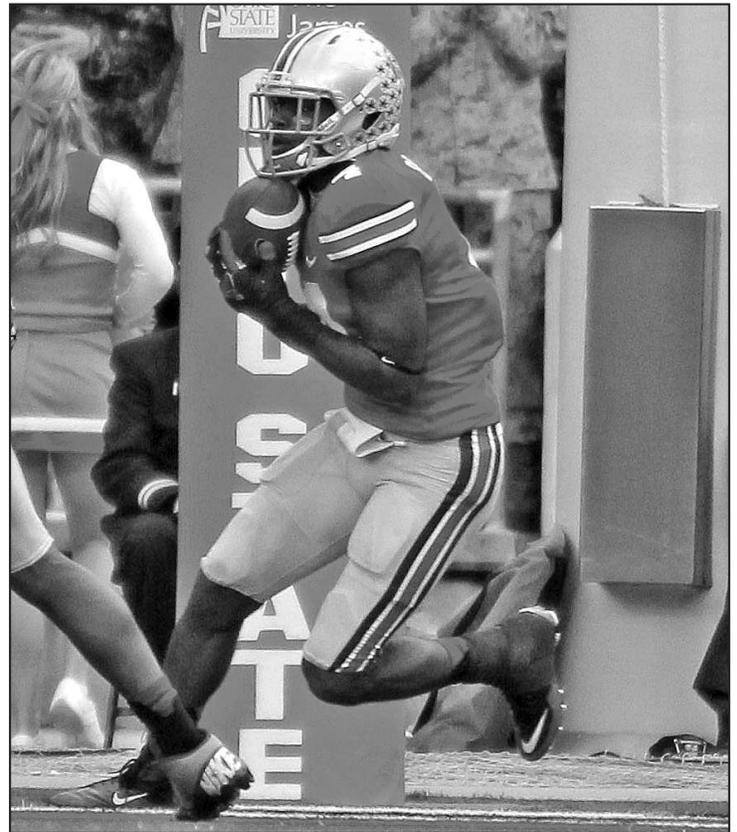
"He came over and he showed that he really, really cares. Not that he is ripping on them or down on them, but that he isn't just over there with the offense. He's for this team in every aspect in what we do and it was great for us. I think it was a great move on his part to be a bigger part of us this week."

If the Boilermakers' first play from scrimmage was any indication, Purdue was poised to pick up right where its in-state rivals left off.

The Boilermakers ran double wheel routes out of the backfield and quarterback Caleb TerBush found a wide-open Akeem Shavers, who lined up at fullback, down the left sideline for an 83-yard touchdown. Purdue took the early 6-0 lead after kicker Paul Griggs had his extra point blocked by defensive lineman Garrett Goebel.

Plagued by big plays all year – the Buckeyes now have allowed five touchdown plays of 50 yards or more this season – OSU's defense didn't get the start it was looking for after a long week of self-scrutiny.

"We may have repped it 35 times or something," Fickell said of Purdue's first offensive play. "They changed it a little bit (from what we saw on film) and they're coaches, too.



JOSH WINSLOW

BIG PLAY – Junior safety C.J. Barnett (4) provided a key moment for the Ohio State defense when he intercepted a Purdue pass in the end zone in the second quarter.

They did a great job, adjusted a little bit and it caught us. They just made a play on us."

Those 83 yards, however, made for quite the chunk of Purdue's total offensive output. The only other score Purdue achieved in the first half was a 100-yard kickoff return by Akeem Hunt with 5:17 remaining in the first quarter to extend the Boilermakers' lead to 13-7.

Ohio State made up for its defensive lapse on the first play of the game later in the first half when Purdue was poised to cash in on an impressively lengthy drive. The Boilermakers started the drive at their own 9-yard line and ran 19 plays that took 10:32 off the clock while moving the ball down to Ohio State's 6.

The Buckeyes' defense, however, clamped down when Ryan Shazier jumped in front of a TerBush pass and deflected it up in the air before safety C.J. Barnett intercepted it in the end zone. That made for quite the turn in the game, considering Purdue was on the doorstep of taking a 20-7 lead midway through the second quarter.

Fickell said making plays at opportune times is what marks a good defense.

"Shazier does a great job of busting back over, tipping the ball and C.J. Barnett came up with the interception," Fickell said. "It is about making plays. That's the thing you can look at last week (against Indiana), we just didn't make any plays. When you have a chance to make them, you have to make them."

Purdue's lone touchdown drive in the second half exposed weaknesses Ohio State has worked diligently to fix. Using an eight-play, 82-yard drive – capped by 31-yard touchdown pass from TerBush to Gary Bush, who took a

screen all the way to the end zone untouched – Purdue utilized quick passes to get its skill players in space.

Often outflanked to the outside, OSU's defense was susceptible to four different pass plays that went 7 or more yards, prolonging the season-long trend of the team struggling to defend from the screen.

Purdue made the Buckeyes pay on Bush's touchdown, taking a 20-14 lead with less than four minutes remaining in the third quarter.

"We still have things to work on," Bryant said. "Sometimes we had miscommunications, and I feel like I say that all the time and I am getting sick of it. We still have stuff we need to improve."

With Miller out and Ohio State's offense struggling to match the productivity it has enjoyed all season, it was up to the defense to make sure Purdue couldn't extend its advantage to multiple scores late in the game.

OSU was successful in keeping Purdue within striking distance, as Bush's touchdown served as the last offensive points the Boilermakers added for the remainder of the game.

Purdue did tack on two points on a safety with 10 minutes remaining to extend its lead to 22-14, but the Buckeyes defense stopped four Boilermakers offensive possessions from turning into points after Bush's touchdown.

"We made plays when we needed them," senior linebacker Zach Boren said. "We are far from perfect on the defensive side of the ball, but I think we saw a lot of improvement and the ability to make stops when the team needs it. I'll definitely take the ability to get big stops any day."



Join Us as We Support the 2012 Buckeyes on the Road & More!!

Membership is only
\$50.00 per year!
For information, check us out
at www.buckeyeboosters.com
or call 614-326-3300.
JOIN NOW!

Membership Opportunities:

- Annual Kick-Off Dinner honoring Senior Players
- Travel to EVERY Football Away Game
- Annual Celebrity Golf Outing
- Meetings at the Woody Hayes Athletic Center with coaches

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____
Zipcode: _____ Telephone: _____

Mail check to: Buckeye Boosters, 921 Chatham Ln., #105, Columbus, Oh 43221

BSB Quotebook: Ohio State 29, Purdue 22 (OT)

Junior quarterback Kenny Guiton on the moral that can be taken from backups playing a big part in a victory: "You have to have patience. For young guys like us on the team, not a lot of people have it. I'm not going to say I've always been up about it, but I try not to get down about it. When I do, I talk to my mom and dad – the people that are always going to be there for me."

OSU head coach Urban Meyer on giving Guiton some words of encouragement before the game-tty drive: "I think he needed that because how many times has he been in that situation? How many times has anybody been in that situation?"

Junior receiver Chris Fields on Guiton: "I knew Kenny G. was going to pick it up and take over. Kenny G. has been doing so well for the past couple of weeks. A lot of people don't notice it, but you obviously saw it today. He's been doing well, doing everything he's been asked. I love him. That's my boy."

Offensive coordinator Tom Herman on the difference in the offense with Guiton in the game instead of starter Braxton Miller: "Not much. Obviously he's not nearly the dynamic runner that Braxton is. And he has a little less zip on his ball, so you try to figure out what he does well. You do it throughout practice, and seeing him now since the start of training camp, you kind of have an idea what he's good at that still fits in your game plan. Kenny is elusive but he's certainly not Braxton. He does a really good job managing the game and protections and all that stuff."

Meyer on Fields and the progress he has made: "Chris Fields is a product of our program. That means, three weeks ago he wouldn't have been on the field. But he just changed his whole dynamic of the way he works, his practice habits and his performance. You can go out there and work all you want and not make plays (but) he's earned that right to be on the field. He was even playing before (junior wide receiver Corey "Philly" Brown) went down (because of a head injury). He was on the field. Three, four weeks ago, he's not on the field."

Senior co-captain Zach Boren on the play of Guiton and Fields: "It just shows how much work those guys put in, whether you're first-string or fourth-string. Not saying Kenny or Chris are, but even those guys on the fourth team are putting in work and getting better. Chris knew his time was going to come, and he came up huge for us. So did Kenny."

Sophomore tight end Jeff Heurman on Guiton's performance: "That's one of those things that will go down in record books forever. There's no one more deserving than Kenny, too. I love the guy. I'm so happy for him, it's incredible. I get chills just thinking about it. I love him. I'm so happy it happened."

Guiton on facing a do-or-die drive with his team trailing by eight points with 47 seconds and no timeouts remaining: "It's a long-shot situation, but at the same time you always have to have your head up, ready to take it on. That's one thing that everybody plays football for – to shock everybody and show them what you can do."

Meyer's thoughts on why Guiton could come into the game and execute so well: "It's a recurring theme every time we bring up his name. He does the same thing as a coach. He

prepares. We call it competitive excellence, and competitive excellence is simply when you work so hard that when your number's called because of (your reps in practice) you can make a play."



Urban Meyer

Junior tailback Carlos Hyde describing Guiton in the huddle: "Calm, calm. 'Let's go, y'all. We've got this.' He's the calmest quarterback I've ever been around. To be a backup and come in like that – he was just calm. That's good, though. That's perfect to see, a backup to come in and be that calm. It was pretty crazy."

Guiton on what Meyer said to him after the QB threw a fourth-quarter interception: "He told me I was going to be OK. I told the offense we need big plays now, and we're going to get it. Let's go. Let's keep our heads up and win this game."

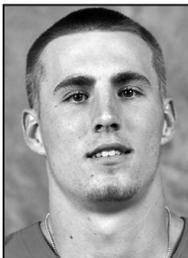
Guiton on his mind-set after the interception: "I wasn't down, but at the same time, I felt like I had let my team down. I'm a backup coming off the bench, and I just want to do well for my team. It took the rest of the offense to pick me up and let me know this game is not over and we were going to get the ball back."

Fields on his touchdown reception: "I saw the man coverage and I knew my route was very crucial because that safety was so far into the end zone. I knew I needed to hurry up and get out of my break. That's what happened and it was great."

Fields on if he was worried when the catch was reviewed: "I knew I caught it. I was just nervous that they were going to cheat me, that's all."

Guiton on Fields and their touchdown connection: "Chris is a hard worker. He comes every day to practice ready to work. He's a fast guy and tries his best to get open. That's what he did. He had man coverage and got open. I threw a low pass and he went and got it."

Heurman on his reception for two points: "(OSU defensive line coach Mike) Vrabel was telling me after the game that those are the hardest ones to catch. I believe him. The ball was in the air for a while. That's just a play we've repped over and over on Thursday practices for our two-point play. It came down to it, and our whole offense executed it and it worked out."



Jeff Heurman

Herman on the fact that Guiton had not repped the two-point pass before the game: "He doesn't need it. That's kind of his M.O. He is confident in his ability to lead the team. And despite how he might have started his action there, I think there was no doubt in his mind or really our minds that he was going to be a guy that is capable of leading us down the field to score."

Guiton on his reaction to the successful two-point conversion pass: "I was too happy. I wanted to tell my team, 'Calm down,' because the game wasn't over. I was happy, but at the same time, I was ready to go again."

Heurman on if he thought the two-point play would succeed when it was called: "I knew it was going to work. I don't want to sound cocky, but it's something we've never shown on film before. They had told me – obviously we were down by two and if we scored we had to go for two – so they told me with probably four min-

utes left, that was our two-point play. When they called it, we knew. I think everyone knew."

Guiton on what he thought when he heard the two-point play call: "When I heard the play call, I said, 'If it's man (coverage), it's over with. We're going to take this thing to overtime.'"

Hyde on winning the game for Miller: "When we saw him go down, we took that to heart. That's our guy. He went down and we were just telling each other, 'Come on, man, let's turn this up. They took out our quarterback. Let's go.'"

Junior offensive tackle Jack Mewhort on the same subject: "It was a terrible feeling seeing Braxton go down. He was hit hard once before that, too. He's our guy, man. We love Braxton to death. It was a bummer seeing him go down, but we know Kenny is a baller. When he got in there, he did his thing. It was seamless."

Guiton on what it was like to enter the game when Miller went down: "At the beginning, it's nerve-racking. After a while, once I calmed down, it started to be fun. I started having fun. It started slowing down again for me."

Boren on the play of the OSU defense: "We had a great week of practice. We got after the things we haven't been so good at as a defense. I think it showed, I think it paid off and we're always going to be fighting."



Jack Mewhort

Mewhort on repaying Purdue for its 2011 overtime victory against the Buckeyes in West Lafayette: "That was a heartbreaker last year because of the effort that guys gave and everything. Just to leave Purdue with a loss was heartbreaking. I think we kind of know how those guys feel, but we got them back this year. I think their coach made a comment, I don't know what it was, but Ohio State better get used to losing to Purdue, so that felt good to make him eat his words. We were really excited about that."

Heurman on the victory: "It shows what a good team we are. This was a team win. Literally nothing else. We had to have everyone – offense, defense, special teams – everyone doing their job to win that one at the wire."

Fields on the unlikely win: "I can't believe it. I told myself on the field that I can't believe it. It's a shocking moment, but I'm so happy for the win. It was a team effort, all units. It was a team win."

Hyde on Meyer's postgame celebration: "Coach definitely got the fans pumped up at the end right there. They played the 'Buckeye Swag' song to get everybody riled up. We've (danced to it) in practice a few times when the band came and they played that song for us. We're just having fun. You can't always be serious."

Mewhort on Meyer's locker room comments and his thoughts: "Coach Meyer said this is one of the most exciting wins he's ever been a part of, and it's for sure the most exciting one I've ever been a part of – maybe behind Wisconsin last year. But it was a lot of fun, and there was an emotional swing, but a football team has to stay steady and keep the fight and that's what we did. We converted when we needed to and we won."

Hyde on what he'll remember most from the victory: "Kenny Guiton coming in, tying the game up for us. I'll never forget that. That was amazing to see."

Magic In The Air After Ohio State's Unlikely Win

Admit it. You had already accepted the fact Ohio State was going to lose its first game of the season as the clock wound down against Purdue.

I'll admit that I had accepted it.

Braxton Miller, the team's most dangerous offensive weapon, was out with what appeared to be a serious injury, and the Buckeyes had been tagged with a safety to give Purdue a 22-14 lead with 10:11 to play. Then when Ohio State – which had already burned two of its timeouts – got the ball back, reserve quarterback Kenny Guiton pitched an interception that gave the Boilermakers the ball at their 18 with just 2:40 to play.

The OSU defense did its job, forcing a three-and-out, but when Guiton and the Buckeyes got the ball for one final possession, there were only 47 seconds and no timeouts left, and 61 yards between Ohio State and a potential tying touchdown and two-point conversion.

Even the most optimistic of Buckeye fans had to have been ready to throw in the towel.

But on the first play of the last-gasp drive, Guiton hit Devin Smith for a 39-yard reception to the Boilermakers 22, and suddenly the Buckeyes and the Ohio Stadium crowd were ignited. You know what happened next as Guiton, regardless of what he might do going forward, guaranteed his place in Ohio State football lore by engineering the improbable victory.

While I admit that I had conceded the game only moments earlier, with the electricity on the sidelines and in the stands after Chris Fields scored his touchdown and Jeff Heurman added the two-point conversion, I figured at that point the win was inevitable.

After that victory, one is left wondering if we aren't in the midst of one of those magical seasons in Urban Meyer's first year at Ohio State. One need only look back to the national championship year of 2002 to remember a never-say-die team that frequently snatched victory from the jaws of defeat, including against that very same Purdue team when the usually conservative Jim Tressel had his quarterback Craig Krenzel dial up Michael Jenkins on a fourth-and-1 late in the game for a 37-yard touchdown.

Obviously, there is still a long way to go this season, including a tough trip to State College to take on a surprising Penn State squad next on the docket. It's been a wild ride so far, and this season has been as entertaining as it has been successful.

It's hard to tell what the future will hold in the final four games, especially with the status of Miller unclear as of press time. (For up-to-the-minute reports on Miller and other injured players, go to BuckeyeSports.com, while our Oct. 26 electronic issue will include, as always, a complete injury report.)

But don't forget that the Buckeyes have used reserve quarterbacks to continue a march to greatness in the past.

In the legendary championship season of 1968, in one of the biggest games of the season (also against Purdue), Super Soph quarterback Rex Kern was knocked out of the game. Senior quarterback Bill Long came off the bench and on his first play scored on a 14-yard run to ice the 13-0 victory.

Two weeks later, Kern was again knocked out of action late in the fourth quarter at Illinois with the score tied at 24. Fellow sophomore Ron Maciejowski was thrown into the game facing a second-and-16 in his own territory and responded with a 10-yard pass and a 12-yard run to get the Buckeyes a first down and start them on the way to a game-winning touchdown.

THE VIEW FROM 15TH & HIGH

Frank Moskowitz, Publisher

Maciejowski was called upon again the following week in the second quarter and piloted the Buckeyes the rest of the way for a narrow 25-20 victory over Michigan State. And Mace was the starter the game after that when the Buckeyes coasted to a 43-8 victory over Wisconsin.

So while we will always remember Kern as the dynamic leader of the 1968 national champion Buckeyes, the quarterback had more than a little help – just as Miller has had from Guiton.

By engineering the victory over the Boilermakers, Guiton has surely gained a tremendous amount of confidence and the team has gained confidence in their backup quarterback. The coaches have indicated that they have always been confident in Guiton, and now fans know why they believed in the junior from Houston.

No one – coaches, fans or teammates – believes Guiton is better than Miller, however. If Guiton is forced into action, the chances of the Buckeyes winning one of those video-game shootouts as they have done so many times this season are not as great.

The defense is going to have to step up and do its part.

As has been the case all season, the stop troops did what they had to do to win the game against Purdue. The defense stifled a 19-play, 85-yard drive with a C.J. Barnett interception in the end zone, and the Buckeyes held Purdue scoreless on its last four offensive possessions of regulation. The stop troops were then dominant in overtime to secure the victory.

Along the way, though, Ohio State gave up 347 yards of Purdue offense (I was surprised the number was that low) and allowed three drives of more than 80 yards, including a one-play possession to open the game when QB Caleb TerBush completed an 83-yard scoring strike to running back Akeem Shavers.

What worries me is that upcoming opponents, some much stronger than Indiana or Purdue, now have eight weeks worth of film showing how to dissect the Ohio State defense. And I'm not sure the first week with more input on the defense from Meyer resulted in vast improvement.

One thing I've noticed is that the Buckeyes seem to fall just short of sacking the quarterback on many occasions. The first play of the game was a perfect example. A split-second after finding Shavers, TerBush took a solid lick. If he had been sacked there, or even been hit a moment quicker to alter the flight of the football, the course of the game might have been completely different.

The cold, hard fact is that Indiana and Purdue combined to throw 84 passes with nary a Buckeye sack despite pressure on frequent occasions, including by John Simon on TerBush during the last play of overtime.

By the way, if you are going to blame defensive coordinator Luke Fickell for the woes of the defense, don't forget to point a finger at Meyer, who oversees the special teams. In a season full of special teams adventures, both good and bad – OSU added a blocked extra point and field goal to their successes in the game – the Buckeyes added to their list of season miscues by giving up a 100-yard kickoff return to kill momentum after a Miller touchdown in the first quarter, and they also fell for a fake punt deep in Purdue territory.

That extended what would go on to be the lengthy drive that Barnett finally ended with his pick. While the Boilermakers didn't score any points, they kept the Buckeyes from getting good field position had they sniffed out the fake, and the lengthy drive kept the explosive Miller off the field for more than 10½ minutes over two periods.

While Miller's status raises questions for the offense, there were some positives for the ball movers in the victory.

Carlos Hyde was not as spectacular as he had been during the previous few games, but he still turned in a solid 19-carry, 91-yard performance with another two touchdowns. In the last four games since coming back from a knee injury, Hyde has carried the ball 80 times for 436 yards, good for a 5.5-yard average and seven touchdowns. Over a 12-game season, that would work out to 1,308 yards and 21 TDs. If Guiton is the man going forward, he will likely lean heavily on his 6-0, 232-pound tailback.

The game also demonstrated the development of additional receivers besides Devin Smith and Corey "Philly" Brown, especially Fields who finished with three catches for 44 yards and a score. Evan Spencer added two receptions for 15 yards, Michael Thomas had an 11-yard catch and Jake Stoneburner, who had come out of hiding with four receptions a week earlier against Indiana, had a pivotal 17-yard reception in overtime.

The emergence of those receivers could prove important because Brown's status was uncertain after a head injury suffered in the Purdue game. Also, while I find that Smith, who helped turn the game with his 39-yard late-game reception, continues to embody what Meyer calls the "wow" factor, he is extremely inconsistent. Any additional help for the receiving corps will be a plus.

It's hard to say what lies ahead for the Ohio State football team. But as Meyer would say, and it is particularly true this week, the best thing about being 8-0 is it gives you a chance to be 9-0.

Championship Midterms

If you have been following our celebration of the 10th anniversary of Ohio State's 2002 national football championship, you will want to read about BSB's midterm grades for the Buckeyes from that season. The report cards, originally published in the Oct. 12 and 19, 2002, issues of BSB, were reprinted in our Oct. 19 electronic issue.

The highest grade on offense was an A-minus, and it went to the running backs, led by freshman sensation Maurice Clarett. Of Clarett, the report said, "Clarett has been so good – his three-fumble game against Northwestern notwithstanding – that murmurs about the Heisman Trophy have turned into shouts."

The lowest offensive grade went to the quarterbacks at B-minus.

"(Craig) Krenzel is good going through his progressions, but it's apparent that he doesn't have the arm to make every throw," BSB said of the future national championship quarterback. "A lot of his sideline passes tend to float, and OSU hasn't gone downfield with the ball more than a handful of times."

On defense, the line and linebackers both received a B-plus, while the secondary – yet

to fully feel the switch of Chris Gamble from offense – had the low grade of B-minus.

Defensive backs coach Mel Tucker sounded like he could be talking about the 2012 Buckeyes when he spoke of how his unit had to repeatedly defend against the spread offense.

"It's not so much the yardage – you don't want to give up a whole bunch of yards – but when they've got you spread out they're going to get some yards," Tucker said. "It's yards after the catch. It's more about points. It's more about being good on third down and it's more about being good in the red zone."

Speaking of Clarett's fumbles against Northwestern and his sideline confrontation with running backs coach Tim Spencer over the miscues, there is also a reprint of a follow-up story about the incident with quotes from Tressel, Clarett and Spencer among others which I think Buckeye fans will find interesting.

My favorite quote in the story, however, comes from safety and co-captain Donnie Nickey, who questioned the logic of confronting the well-built Spencer.

"That's probably the last coach I would go after," Nickey said.

All of our 2002 reprints are archived and available for free to current paid BSB print subscribers. If you haven't already signed up to enjoy our 36 additional electronic issues, which will feature 2002 reprints throughout the 10th anniversary celebration, see the instructions on page 5 of this issue.

He Said It

Election season is reaching a fever pitch, and we frequently see examples of candidates having comments from the past dug up to dog them as they are contradictions to what the candidate is preaching now.

While Kirk Herbstreit is not running for office, I found an interesting comment he made 20 years ago, noted in this issue's "From the Pages of BSB" feature on page 2. It was a statement to file away for a time when the noted college football analyst and former Ohio State quarterback might criticize the caliber of play in the Big Ten.

Herbstreit had just passed for 201 yards to lead the Buckeyes to a 27-17 victory over Michigan State and was sticking up for his conference, which even 20 years ago was being criticized.

"If you look at the history of the Big Ten, it's always been competitive," Herbstreit said. "People have been saying it's a weak league, but I don't care. It's the league I play in and I know it's competitive."

I work on Saturdays, so I don't generally see Herbstreit in action. For all I know, he has been championing the strength of the Big Ten, though that would seemingly make him a lone wolf on today's college football scene. But should you hear him criticizing the conference that produced him, just remember his words of 20 years ago.

In politics, they would call that a flip-flop.

Marion Alums Host Event

I wanted to thank the many people who took the time to come up and chat with me at the Big Ten Kickoff Bash hosted by the OSU Alumni Club of Marion County at that area's regional campus on Oct. 16.

I was the featured speaker at the event that raised \$8,000 in scholarship money for deserving Ohio State students from Marion County. It also gave local alums the chance to share camaraderie as they ate dinner, listened to my remarks and were entertained by members of the Ohio State marching band and cheerleading squad.