

BUCKEYE SPORTS BULLETIN

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Vol. 33, No. 3

"For The Buckeye Fan Who Needs To Know More"

Sept. 21, 2013

No Miller, No Problem

Guiton, Buckeyes Batter Cal, 52-34

By MARK REA
BSB Managing Editor Emeritus

Kenny Guiton had just put up career numbers for the second week in a row, led an Ohio State offensive juggernaut to 608 total yards in the first start of his college career, and engineered a 52-34 victory Sept. 14 over Pac-12 rival California in the Buckeyes' first nonconference road game of the Urban Meyer era.

It was pretty heady stuff, even for a grizzled five-year veteran known for his leadership qualities and passion for excellence. Yet there was Guiton immediately after the game, jumping around and high-fiving anyone who would high-five him back as he danced around in the cool night air at Memorial Stadium.

Several minutes later, as the Buckeyes gathered in their locker room for some postgame comments from Meyer, the mood was more somber as offensive coordinator/quarterbacks coach Tom Herman put his arm around Guiton and told the team just what a luxury it is to have such a special player as its backup quarterback.

Forced into battle because starter Braxton Miller was still nursing a ligament injury in his left knee, Guiton played as if he were the team's Heisman Trophy candidate, completing 21 passes in 32 attempts for 276 yards and four touchdowns while adding another 92 yards rushing. All of those figures represented career-high numbers, and his 368 yards of total offense tied him for the sixth-highest single-game figure in program history.

Later, when asked if he was blown away by those numbers, Herman replied, "No, I wasn't blown away at all. I see that every day. That guy is the best in the business at what he does, and when I brought him up in front of the team after the game – Coach Meyer has us do that after every game with guys who stood out and played well – I caught myself getting choked up because his story still touches me. I don't know why that still gets to me because it's pretty normal now."

Guiton had already proved himself a capable backup to Miller, most notably last year



SONNY BROCKWAY

PARTY IN THE END ZONE – Ohio State quarterback Kenny Guiton (13) flashes a smile celebrating a first-quarter touchdown pass with fellow fifth-year seniors Chris Fields (80) and Corey Linsley (71). Fields caught the 1-yard TD pass, one of four scoring throws for Guiton.

vs. Purdue when he threw a last-second touchdown pass and two-point conversion to tie the game in regulation and then led the Buckeyes to an overtime win to preserve their perfect season. But the senior from Eisenhower High School near Houston had shown only brief glimpses of the kind of player he could be until Miller sprained the medial collateral ligament in his left knee during OSU's seventh offensive play Sept. 7 against San Diego State.

Guiton took over under center, and the Aztecs never knew what hit them. He threw for 152 yards and two touchdowns and rushed for 83 yards and another score, a performance after which San Diego State head coach Rocky Long said, "He's as good of a backup quarterback as there is in the country. I don't know how they decide which one starts, to be honest with you. When one goes down, I don't think they lose anything."

Lose anything? The Buckeyes have actually put up better numbers with Guiton at the controls.

Their 608 yards represented the highest total during the 15-game Meyer era and the most yardage in one game since piling up 645 during a 73-20 romp over Eastern Michigan in 2010. Meanwhile, Guiton's 276 passing yards beat Miller's career best of 249, set last year at home against Cal, and is the highest single-game total for an OSU quarterback since Terrelle Pryor had 334 yards against Indiana in 2010.

Throw in a 90-yard touchdown bomb to Devin Smith on the second play of the game, the longest play from scrimmage in Ohio State history, as well as national offensive player of the week honors from the Walter Camp Football Foundation, and some in the press box and postgame interview room began whispering about a possible quarterback controversy at Ohio State.

After the game, Meyer simply smiled when asked how difficult it would be to put Guiton back on the bench once Miller was 100 percent.

"I don't know," the OSU head coach said. "Kenny is throwing the ball better than he ever has. He's throwing it downfield really well. That's something I have to think about."

In Herman's mind, however, there is no doubt the pecking order at the quarterback position remains unchanged.

"Kenny knows his role," he said. "When Braxton gets healthy, the train moves as it was before. But I think more so than any other team in the country, when you go on the road and play a Pac-12 team and have the kind of performance we did with our backup quarterback, that speaks volumes of how important he is to the team."

"Is Kenny going to play more down the stretch even when Braxton comes back? Yeah, I think that's given now."

'Already Ready To Go'

During the week leading up to the Cal game, Meyer kept things fairly close to the vest regarding his quarterback situation. The coach said he had an inkling Miller would not be ready to go, and then he made up his mind 48 hours before game time to start Guiton.

"MCLs sometimes heal, but Braxton is the kind of athlete that has to be fully healed," Meyer said. "I knew about Wednesday and then definitely on Thursday that it was looking like (he wasn't going to be ready)."

Guiton said he took the news in stride that he was going to get his first start on the road in a hostile environment.

"It really wasn't that big of a surprise because all week I practiced with the ones and just kept in the mind-set that I was starting," he said. "So when I got the nod, I was already ready to go. I just always try to prepare that way."

Although they didn't know it until seeing Miller wearing shorts during pregame warmups, the Bears must have heaved a collective sigh of relief that Ohio State would be without its starting quarterback. They had been having trouble stopping anyone, ranking 116th in the nation in total defense while giving up several huge plays, including an 81-yard touchdown pass on the second play of the game during an eventual 37-30 win against Portland State.

What Cal mistook for good fortune quickly turned to despair, however, when Guiton quickly connected with

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Charter Member

Guiton-Led Buckeyes Impressive, But ...

Not to rain on anyone's parade, but I can't help wondering if the sudden emergence of Kenny Guiton and Jordan Hall is just the simple maturation of a pair of fifth-year seniors or the product of Ohio State playing opponents whose defenses couldn't stop a good Pop Warner team.

Guiton is one of the best feel-good stories written about OSU football in several years, a guy basically written off following a coaching change who has now blossomed into a dual-threat, major-college quarterback. The 2013 season is only three games old, and already Guiton has obliterated all of his previous career totals. He has completed 41 of 61 passes for 449 yards and seven touchdowns, added 181 yards and one more score on the ground, and has nearly relegated Heisman Trophy candidate Braxton Miller to "whatever happened to" status.

While Kenny G has garnered much of the attention for his smooth jazz-like exploits, Hall has been writing a pretty compelling story of his own. After missing nearly all of last season with a string of injuries, the 5-9, 191-pound running back has rushed for a team-high 402 yards and five touchdowns. Best of all, Hall exhibits north-south running at its best. No frills, no dancing, no prancing – just a good, old-fashioned, straight-ahead style of seeing the hole and hitting the hole.

As a result of Guiton and Hall already exceeding the expectations anyone might have had for the duo, the Ohio State offense has purred along despite the absence of Miller for nearly two full games. The Buckeyes piled up 608 total yards against California, their highest total in nearly three seasons, and they have topped the 40-point mark in each of their first three games for the first time since 1969.

But let's face some cold, hard truths. OSU hasn't been playing opponents with defenses reminiscent of the Purple People Eaters or the Steel Curtain. Cardboard cutouts would put up resistance only marginally worse than San Diego State (tied for 112th in the nation in total defense), California (120th) or Buffalo (121st).

The Ohio State offense certainly bears a strong resemblance to a runaway locomotive, punishing the aforementioned opponents to the tune of 44.7 points and 504.3 yards per game, and those numbers don't figure to suffer any when Football Championship Subdivision member Florida A&M invades Ohio Stadium to close the nonconference portion of the season.

But in reality, those numbers might not fade for quite some time. Nearly everyone concedes the Buckeyes' toughest conference games before the end of November come against Wisconsin and Northwestern, but you might be interested to know the Badgers gave up 468 yards during a 32-30 loss Sept. 14 at Arizona State, while the Wildcats needed a pair of interception returns for touchdowns during a season-opening 44-30 win at Cal, a game in which the Wildcats surrendered 549 yards to the Bears.

Urban Meyer and Tom Herman have admitted their offense has come a long way in just one year. Whereas the Buckeyes had only one bona fide game-breaker last year, now they have several. Guiton ripped off a 33-yard gain on a sprint option play Herman had the guts to call on fourth-and-1. Devin Smith caught only three balls vs. Cal, but they went for 149 yards and two touchdowns. Dontre Wilson rushed for 59 yards, had three receptions for 48 yards and added 46 more yards on a pair of kickoff returns. And the talent pool gets even deeper when Carlos Hyde returns Sept. 21 from a three-game suspension.

The trouble is that despite all the points and yards, no matter how special we believe the Ohio State offense to be, we can't help but wonder if it really is as good as it appears to be. Is it on par with the one that propelled Meyer to an undefeated season at Utah and made quarterback Alex Smith the No. 1 overall pick in the 2005 NFL draft? Is it as good as the well-oiled machines that gave the coach a pair of national championship rings at Florida?

Good questions, but ones to which the answers might not be known for quite some time.

Not Exactly Their Finest Hour

As long as I'm pouring salt on your cornflakes, here are a couple of other things that bothered me about the Buckeyes' seemingly easy victory at Cal.

- What happened to Bradley Roby? A consensus preseason All-America pick at cornerback, Roby is generally regarded as one of college football's best cover men. Yet there was Cal freshman quarterback Jared Goff unabashedly throwing in Roby's direction a good portion of the night with pretty good success.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK Mark Rea

Roby was beaten midway through the first quarter by Cal receiver James Grison, and then he compounded things by failing to tackle Grison when he had the chance. Instead, Roby tried to push the Bears receiver from behind, but that simply propelled Grison toward a 61-yard touchdown romp.

Later in the first period, when shoddy tackling allowed Cal receiver Chris Harper to turn a bubble screen into a 42-yard touchdown, Roby had the last good shot at Harper near the goal line but couldn't keep the 6-0, 180-pounder from reaching out and hitting the pylon.

At the 4:37 mark of the third quarter, Goff went after Roby again, beating him over the top with a 14-yard touchdown pass to sophomore receiver Bryce Treggs.

Listen, I love Bradley Roby. He is an engaging young man with a bright NFL future, and everyone is entitled to an off night. But Roby had a doozy and is simply going to have to play better than he did against California if the Buckeyes are going to continue their winning ways.

- Mistakes – both mental and physical ones – continue to bedevil the Buckeyes. They committed seven more penalties vs. the Bears, giving them 24 already this season, and a couple of those flags conspired to keep the game closer than it should have been.

The first came late in the opening period with the Buckeyes already enjoying a 24-7 lead. Cornerback Armani Reeves stepped in front of an errant Goff throw and returned the interception deep into California territory. The way the OSU offense was percolating at that point, it is reasonable to assume the Buckeyes would have scored another touchdown and completely crushed the life out of the home team with a 31-7 cushion late in the first quarter.

Unfortunately, defensive lineman Michael Bennett had jumped the snap and was called for being offside, negating Reeves' pick. Harper did his bob-and-weave act on the very next play, creating what very likely was a 14-point swing that kept the Bears in the game.

Later in the game, linebacker Ryan Shazier committed a head-scratching penalty when he smacked a clearly out-of-bounds Goff following a sideline scramble. That personal foul infraction gave the Bears an extra 15 yards they wouldn't have otherwise had on a possession that culminated in a 27-yard field goal.

Shazier wasn't the only Ohio State veteran to commit a boneheaded personal foul penalty in full view of the officials. Senior center Corey Linsley inexplicably grabbed a Cal player and threw him off a pile of bodies scrambling for a first-quarter Guiton fumble. Luckily for Linsley, the unsportsmanlike conduct penalties were offsetting, and no damage was done when OSU safety Christian Bryant intercepted Goff on the next play.

- Did Curtis Grant take a step backward after leading the team in tackles through the first two weeks?

The 6-3, 243-pound junior had only two stops against Cal and didn't see much of the field while the Bears were throwing the ball 53 times. That might have been because the Buckeyes employed six defensive backs during much of the game, leaving Shazier on the field as the lone linebacker.

Then again, if you're Grant, don't you want to play so well that the coaching staff has no choice but to keep you on the field no matter the situation?

Some Final Thoughts

- Just so you don't think I was completely dissatisfied with a 52-34 victory, I thoroughly enjoyed watching Smith's 90-yard touchdown catch as well as Bryant's interception of Cal's ill-fated attempt at a flea-flicker. A younger Bryant would likely have been sucked in when Goff made the handoff, but the older version of the OSU safety – now a senior – stayed right at home on the play and made the easy pick for his second career interception.

- On a fairly important Sept. 14 weekend, the Big Ten didn't exactly distinguish itself. Michigan barely squeezed by Akron at home, but at least the Wolverines won. That was more than Wisconsin, Penn State, Nebraska, Illinois or Purdue could say. Particularly ugly was the Cornhuskers' 41-21 loss at home to UCLA, a game in which Nebraska once led by as many as 18 points. The NU defense surrendered 504 total yards and inched head coach Bo Pelini that much closer to the unemployment line.

- Alabama looked anything but invincible despite its 49-42 victory at Texas A&M. The Aggies rolled up 628 yards against the Tide, including 464 yards and five touchdowns through the air courtesy of reigning Heisman Trophy QB Johnny Manziel. Of course, Alabama retained its No. 1 ranking because A&M was No. 6 at the time and, well, because it's Alabama.

- Even if the Crimson Tide's spotty defense costs them a game or two this season, don't think that paves the way for Ohio State to slide into the BCS title game. Clemson appears to have a legitimate chance for an undefeated season, while Oregon's only hurdle to perfection would seem to be Stanford. And should the Cardinal figure out a way to slow down the Ducks, then they could be undefeated with a signature victory – something the Buckeyes will likely lack on their résumé.

- On one hand, I don't mind Michigan quarterback Devin Gardner wearing jersey No. 98 because those of a younger generation should appreciate 1940 Heisman winner Tom Harmon as much more than TV star Mark Harmon's dad. Still, you retire jersey numbers for a reason. You don't then later bring them back as a marketing ploy or recruiting tool.

Offense Strikes Early, Often Against Golden Bears

Continued From Page 1

Smith on a go-route that covered 90 yards. Just like against Portland State the week before, the Bears had been torched on their second defensive play of the game.

The Buckeyes forced a quick three-and-out on defense to begin the game, but Cal punter Cole Leininger got off a 56-yarder that was exacerbated by an illegal block call on Ohio State to move the ball back to the 6-yard line.

On OSU's first play, Guiton threw a wide receiver screen to Chris Fields that was defended well by the Bears and picked up only 4 yards. But then the Buckeyes cashed in big-time, thanks to an excellent play call that was perfectly executed. Guiton took the shotgun snap and faked a handoff to Jordan Hall, who moved off to his left. Then the OSU quarterback straightened up and looked toward Corey "Philly" Brown, who had stopped along the right sideline, appearing ready to take another receiver screen and turn it up inside.

Just as the Bears defense reacted toward Brown, Guiton quickly turned his attention downfield to Smith, who had already run past Cal redshirt freshman safety Damariay Drew. Guiton set up at about his own 6-yard line and threw a perfect spiral that hit his receiver in midstride near the OSU 45, and there was nothing Drew could do but chase Smith the remaining 55 yards to the end zone. The resulting 90-yard touchdown set the tone for the remainder of the game.

The play broke by one yard the existing Ohio State record for longest play from



SONNY BROCKWAY

NOT STOPPING HALL – Ohio State fifth-year senior tailback Jordan Hall (2) scored three touchdowns and rushed for 168 yards on 30 carries.

scrimmage, an 89-yard run by fullback Gene Fekete during a 14-0 win at Pittsburgh in 1942. The longest previous pass play in

program history was an 86-yard touchdown from Art Schlichter to running back Calvin Murray during a 45-29 victory against Washington State in 1979.

Smith said after the game he didn't realize the long touchdown play set a record, adding he didn't even know how many yards he had covered. With Guiton, however, it was a different story.

"Oh, yeah," he said with a huge grin. "I knew it was a record. When you have a guy like Devin to throw to, it makes your job just that much easier."

Smith caught only three balls during the game, but those receptions went for a career-high 149 yards and two touchdowns. His second touchdown catch came on Ohio

State's second possession and was another thing of beauty on another perfectly thrown ball from Guiton.

The Buckeyes had just gashed the Cal defense for 26 yards on a slash-and-dash run from freshman running back Dontre Wilson when Smith flew past Bears cornerback Isaac Lapite on an out-and-up pattern. Again, Guiton threw the ball exactly where it needed to be, and Smith made a diving catch in the end zone.

"Getting those two catches early, it felt really good because it meant our team was rolling," Smith said. "I didn't even know the first one was 90 yards, but I guess I shouldn't be surprised. We worked all week on getting the ball down the field. You know Coach Meyer is really, really big on that, and we've worked hard on it."

"Then when you hit them deep early, it really opens up the running game. Dontre and Jordan Hall got some great runs today, and I think we were really rolling. When we play like we did today, I think this offense can be one of the best in America."

Fields agreed with his fellow receiver.

"This is the deepest team I have ever been a part of when you're looking at playmakers," said the fifth-year senior, who contributed three catches for 14 yards and a touchdown against Cal. "All over the field, there are guys that can make plays and get into the end zone. You never really know when someone is going to make a play next. We're going to be really hard for other teams to stop."

Run Fast, Run Often

Overshadowed by Guiton's performance was another career-best rushing day from Hall, who totaled 168 yards on 30 carries. That eclipsed his 21-carry, 159-yard effort in the season opener against Buffalo, and he added three touchdowns, another career high.

"That was real fun," Hall said with a smile after the game. "I wish we would have had another quarter. (Offensive guard Marcus

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Hall) said earlier, "I wish we had five quarters." I love playing when the offense is playing like that. There's nothing better than firing off the ball, getting some yards and then going right back and doing it again. Nothing better than that."

California head coach Sonny Dykes, who had success with high-octane offenses at Louisiana Tech, indicated before the game that he had set a goal for his team to run at least 100 plays against the Buckeyes. The Bears came close with 90 plays from scrimmage, but the intention clearly caught Ohio State's attention.

"We saw where they wanted to run 100 plays," Hall said. "So, Coach Herman told us that he wanted us to play just as fast, and we like that. We like to catch them off-guard, catch those D-linemen with their hands on the ground, sucking wind. That helps our O-line out. If we keep doing that, playing fast like that, we have the advantage."

The Buckeyes ran 87 offensive plays of their own, controlling much of the tempo with a punishing running attack that amassed 332 yards on 55 attempts. Coupled with 276 yards through the air, it was a run-pass mix that drew a satisfied look from Meyer.

"That was fun to watch," the OSU head coach said. "When you're balanced – 332 rushing and 276 passing – that's what you're looking for. The development of Devin Smith, the development of Corey Brown, the development of Jordan Hall – we didn't even have him last year, so we have some weapons that we didn't have last year."

The bad news for Ohio State opponents moving forward is that the Buckeyes will have one more weapon at their disposal when tailback Carlos Hyde returns Sept. 21 against Florida A&M after serving a three-game suspension to start the season. Hyde was the team's top running back last season with 970 yards and 16 touchdowns, and he averaged 116.0 yards over the final seven games.

However, Hall has played so well in Hyde's absence there is no guarantee Hyde will regain his starting role once he returns.

"That is something I can't control," Hall said. "That will be up to the coaches to make that decision. All I can do is continue working hard and making the most of my opportunities."

"I'm really thankful for the things that are happening to me this year. Like I said a lot of times before, I don't want to take anything for granted because I had a season last year that was basically taken away from me, so this is just a blessing."

When Hyde returns, it will give the Buckeyes one more threat out of a backfield that was already loaded before the emergence of Wilson. The talented freshman speedster rushed for 59 yards on only five carries against California, and he admittedly gets more and more comfortable as the season progresses.

"At the beginning of the season, when I got into the game, I was just kind of feeling my way around and people could sense that," Wilson said. "People knew I was in there just to run the ball. Now, I'm more involved in other parts of the game, and we disguise what I'm going to do. They don't know if I'm going to run the ball or get the ball on the edge with a pass."

Wilson was also an integral part of the Buckeyes' passing attack against Cal with three receptions for 48 yards. Additionally, the freshman returned a pair of kickoffs for 46 yards.

"It feels great to be a freshman and be able to go out and do some of the things

that I've already done, perform the way I know I can perform," Wilson said. "I would love to have the ball even more, but that's up to the coaches. I just try to work hard every day in practice, and hopefully I'm getting better."

Uneven Defensive Effort

While the Buckeyes' offense was firing on nearly every cylinder, the defense surrendered 503 total yards to the Bears, who entered the game with the nation's No. 1 passing offense. Freshman quarterback Jared Goff solidified that ranking, completing 31 of 53 pass attempts for 371 yards and three touchdowns.

"They have a tremendous quarterback," Meyer said. "I'm glad we're not playing them again for a while because I think they're going to be really good down the road. With their quarterback and their tempo style of offense, you can see why they led the nation (in offense) at Louisiana Tech."

While Meyer was effusive in his praise of Cal's attack, he was decidedly less so with regard to his defense. For the second year in a row, the Bears cracked the 500-yard mark and made the score close enough to give the coach some anxious moments.

"The thing that bothered me was our missed tackles," Meyer said. "We missed some tackles and committed some stupid penalties."

One of those infractions came late in the first quarter when defensive lineman Michael Bennett was called for being off-side, negating an interception by cornerback Armani Reeves. Ohio State was leading by a 24-7 margin at the time, and Reeves' return put the ball deep in California territory. After the turnover was wiped out, however, Goff threw a 42-yard touchdown pass on the next play to make it 24-14 with 55 seconds left in the opening period.

But the penalty that really got Meyer steamed came midway through the second quarter when junior linebacker Ryan Shazier tackled Goff out of bounds following a 7-yard scramble. The 15-yard personal foul tacked onto the end of the run helped sustain a drive that resulted in a California field goal that narrowed the Ohio State lead to 31-17 with 4:32 remaining in the first half.

"I don't know what he was thinking," Meyer said later.

Shazier, who admittedly stayed away from his head coach for much of the remainder of the game, just shook his head when asked about the penalty.

"That was a dumb thing I did – hitting the quarterback out of bounds," he said. "I saw him still in bounds a little bit, so I just took my shot, but I shouldn't have done it. Heat of the battle thing, I guess. But that's no excuse. I can't be doing that."

The penalty was about the only thing that marred an otherwise standout performance from Shazier, who totaled a team-high 12 tackles, including 10 solos. He also had one of the Buckeyes' three sacks. Not bad for a player who had to leave the game for a time because of a bruised shoulder.

"I'm pretty sore, but I do whatever I can to help the team win," he said. "We knew we were going to be in for a long game because of the way they play offense. Their quarterback is just a freshman, but he's a big guy and they like to throw a lot. What kind of surprised me in a way was how they ran the ball against us."

"I feel like we should have shut them down a little better than we did. They said they wanted to run 100 plays on us. Well, they ran 90, so we have to do a better job of getting those teams off the field."

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OHIO STATE VS. CALIFORNIA



SONNY BROCKWAY

COLUMBUS WEST – Ohio State junior wide receiver Devin Smith (9) races to the end zone as a sea of scarlet-clad fans celebrates the Buckeyes' first touchdown of the game. The Buckeyes earned a 52-34 victory Sept. 14 at California.

Buckeyes Hammer Cal In Offensive Explosion

By BEN AXELROD
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

California came into its Sept. 14 matchup with fourth-ranked Ohio State intent on running upwards of 100 plays. As it turns out, two can play that game.

The Golden Bears weren't the only ones to put an up-tempo offense to use in their Pac-12-Big Ten showdown, with the Buckeyes taking 87 offensive snaps to nearly match a

fervent pace that allowed Cal to take 90. The Buckeyes beat the Bears at their own game, though, taking home a 52-34 victory from their West Coast road trip to Berkeley.

Led by backup quarterback Kenny Guiton, who got the first start of his college career in place of an injured Braxton Miller, Ohio State amassed 608 yards against California in front of an announced attendance of 62,467 at Memorial Stadium.

It took just two plays for Guiton to prove

himself to be more than just an average second-string sub for the Buckeyes, as a 90-yard touchdown pass to wide receiver Devin Smith on the second play of the game not only gave OSU a 7-0 lead but put the duo in the program record book with the longest offensive play in school history, besting Gene Fekete's 89-yard run against Pitt in 1942.

"Devin has world-class speed," Guiton said. "Sending him on deep routes in man coverage, we're going to try to exploit that. I

saw him beat his man, and I just tried to lay it up for him. He ran under it and you know he can do the rest."

Guiton's bomb, which came after he faked a screen pass to wideout Chris Fields, was just a sign of big things to come for the Houston native, who finished the first start of his college career having completed 21 of his 32 pass attempts for 276 yards and four touchdowns en route to being named the Walter Camp Foundation's offensive player of the week.

It didn't take long for Guiton to reconnect with Smith, as the Buckeyes' second drive of the game also ended with a touchdown pass from the fifth-year senior to the junior wideout – this one from 47 yards. A fumble by Bears freshman quarterback Jared Goff on the ensuing series was recovered by Ohio State defensive lineman Michael Bennett, setting the stage for Guiton to hook up with Fields on a fourth-down play from the 1-yard line to give the Buckeyes a 21-0 advantage six minutes into the contest.

"We came out of the gates really fast," Ohio State head coach Urban Meyer said. "Kenny Guiton really did a nice job. He threw the ball downfield better than he has, and our receivers are much better than a year ago. You can see the steady improvement that they've made."

The Buckeyes' three-score lead proved to be more of a necessity than a luxury by the end of the first quarter, with Cal battling back with a four-play, 74-yard drive that resulted in a 61-yard touchdown throw from Goff to James Risom down the left sideline. The nation's leading passer entering the game, Goff tacked on 371 yards to his total against the Buckeyes, adding three touchdowns on 31-of-53 passing.

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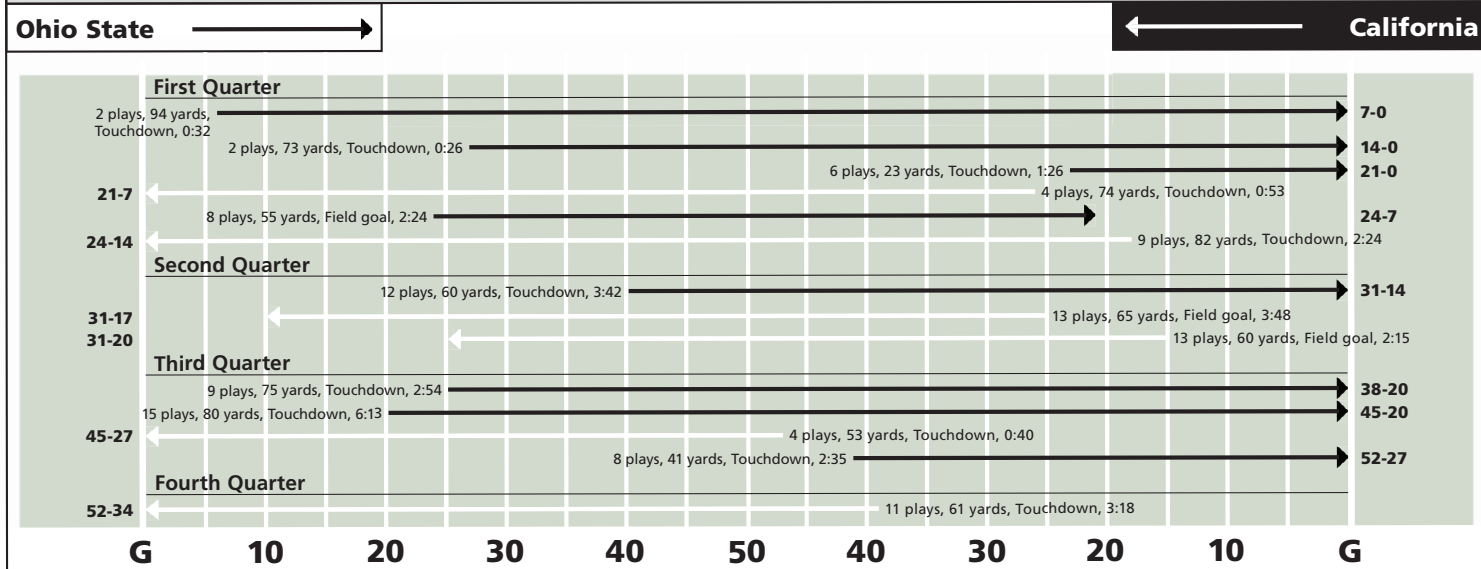
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OHIO STATE VS. CALIFORNIA

Scoring Drives



"I think he's tremendous," Meyer said of Goff. "I went and told him that after the game. That's a big strapping freshman."

A Guiton fumble as OSU was driving on its next possession was nullified a play later by an interception by OSU safety Christian Bryant, which helped set the stage for a 39-yard field goal by Buckeyes kicker Drew Basil. A 42-yard touchdown from Goff to Chris Harper brought the high-paced first quarter to an end, with the Bears still trailing the Buckeyes, 24-14.

Longer drives by both squads meant for a shorter second quarter time-wise, with Ohio State and Cal posting drives that each lasted three or more minutes. The Buckeyes got back on the board first with a 1-yard touchdown run by Jordan Hall, who put together a career day with personal bests of 30 carries, 168 yards and three touchdowns against the Bears.

Adding 92 yards from Guiton on the ground and 59 more from freshman Dontre Wilson on just five carries, the Buckeyes

racked up 332 rushing yards against the Bears, which complemented Guiton's 276 through the air.

"That was fun to watch," Meyer said of his team's offensive output. "That's what you hope it looks like. The thing you have is you have some guys making plays down the field. We couldn't have done this a year ago."

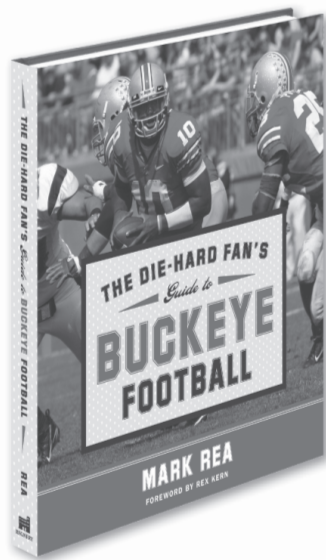
Cal kicker Vincenzo D'Amato tacked on field goals of 27 and 43 yards before the end of the first half, leaving the Buckeyes with a 31-20 advantage at the break.

It didn't take long for OSU to add to its lead, with Hall capping off a 75-yard drive with a 1-yard touchdown on the opening series of the second half. The Buckeyes' defense forced a three-and-out on Cal's ensuing drive, setting the stage for a 15-play Ohio State series that lasted more than six minutes and ended with a 6-yard touchdown toss from Guiton to wide receiver Corey "Philly" Brown.

Continued On Page 12

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OHIO STATE VS. CALIFORNIA

Meyer Remains Perfect As OSU Head Coach

Continued From Page 11

The Bears refused to fold, however, answering back with a four-play drive that resulted in a 14-yard score from Goff to sophomore wide receiver Bryce Treggs. The Buckeyes scored their final points of the game – and crossed the 50-point mark for the first time all season – by the end of the third quarter, when Hall punched in a 2-yard score on an eight-play drive that saw the senior running back touch the ball five times for 26 yards.

“Jordan Hall and that offensive line, they’re doing a job that I can’t even explain how good they’re doing,” Guiton said. “It’s a lot of weapons that you have to worry about.”

With the Bears trying to use every weapon in their arsenal throughout the fourth quarter, the Buckeyes got a hold of the ball for only two separate drives, but they managed to make the most of their time on offense.

Ohio State ran 2:52 off the clock on just five plays on its opening drive before conceding a more than three-minute series by Cal that resulted in a 1-yard Daniel Lasco touchdown run to set the score at its final 52-34 with 6:06 remaining.

It was on their final drive of the game, however, that the Buckeyes finally shut the door on any chance of an unlikely comeback, as the OSU run game managed to milk more than five minutes off the clock with 11 plays, finally giving the ball back to the Bears with just one minute remaining in the game.

“I never felt comfortable until there were three minutes left,” Meyer said. “I felt like we could control running the ball and running the clock out. But not until the end did I feel comfortable.”

On the defensive side of the ball, Ryan Shazier led the way with 12 tackles and a sack, with sophomore defensive linemen Noah Spence and Chris Carter each adding sacks of Goff to their credit. Bryant and cornerback Bradley Roby each batted down two balls in the secondary for the Buckeyes, who allowed a season-high 503 yards to Cal’s “Bear Raid” offensive attack.

“We knew there was going to be a lot



SONNY BROCKWAY

GOT HIM – Ohio State junior linebacker Ryan Shazier forced a fumble in the first quarter when he hit Cal quarterback Jared Goff (16). Shazier led the Buckeyes with 12 tackles and a sack.

of yards,” Meyer said. “You’re crazy if you think you’re just going to shut them down. The offense did their part and were up three or four scores. That makes it easier to play defense.”

With the Buckeyes’ latest victory, Meyer remains undefeated at 15-0 in his two seasons as Ohio State’s head coach. The Buckeyes will return home and to action on Sept. 21, when they’ll host Football Championship Subdivision opponent Florida A&M for a noon kickoff at Ohio Stadium.

Game Notes

- Ohio State’s 15-game winning streak is good for the longest active streak in the nation, and the fifth best in program history. The Buckeyes still remain seven games off the program-record 22-game run of wins that was compiled from 1967-69.

- Playing in Berkeley for the first time since 1972, the Buckeyes extended their record against the Golden Bears to 7-1 all-time, including seven wins in a row. Ohio State holds a 58-26-2 record against current members of the Pac-12 conference, with their second-most recent victory being last season’s 35-28 win over California in Columbus.

- Guiton’s 368 yards of total offense matched Miller’s career best, which came in the 2012 season opener vs. Miami (Ohio), for sixth all-time in the OSU record book. The Buckeye record was set by Art Schlichter when he accounted for 412 yards in 1981 vs. Florida State.

- The contest marked Meyer’s third win against California. In addition to beating the Golden Bears in each of the past two seasons with OSU, Meyer landed a 31-24 victory

over the Bears as the head coach of Utah in 2003 against a Cal team that featured current Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers.

- The 608 yards that the Buckeyes tallied against the Bears were the most that they have recorded in their 15 games under Meyer. The previous high came on Oct. 13, 2012, when Ohio State racked up 578 in a 52-49 win over Indiana.

- The 90-yard touchdown pass between Guiton and Smith was not only the longest offensive play in Ohio State history, but the longest pass play ever recorded by a Meyer-coached team. The previous longest pass in OSU history was an 86-yard hookup between Schlichter and Calvin Murray vs. Washington State in 1979.

- Brown added five catches to give him 95 for his career. He has moved into 18th all-time at Ohio State in receptions, passing Brian Hartline (90, 2006-08) and Bobby Olive (91, 1987-90).

- Smith finished the day with three catches for a career-high 149 yards and two touchdowns. The Massillon, Ohio, native has now recorded three 100-yard receiving games in his college career.

- Freshman defensive end Joey Bosa got the first start of his college career in place of Adolphus Washington, who did not make the trip to Berkeley due to a groin injury. The Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., native recorded a career-high seven tackles for the Buckeyes.

- Bryant’s interception was the second of his career at Ohio State. The senior captain’s first interception came a year ago in Ohio State’s 2012 victory over Cal.

- After scoring 24 points in the first quarter against the Bears, the Buckeyes have now outscored opponents by a total first-quarter margin of 68-14 in their first three games of the 2013 season.

- Ohio State remained fourth in the Associated Press Top 25 following its victory over California, marking a record 807 times that the Buckeyes have appeared in the AP poll. Ohio State’s current run of 46 consecutive seasons of having been ranked by the AP is also an active record, one which it shares with Alabama.



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OHIO STATE VS. CALIFORNIA

BSB Quotebook: Ohio State 52, California 34

OSU head coach Urban Meyer on his team's up-tempo offense that accounted for 608 total yards during the 52-34 victory: "I watched Oregon a little bit today (during the Ducks' 59-14 rout of Tennessee), and we do want to be a little more of an up-tempo team. We weren't able to do that last year, but this year, I think you've seen us go at the tempo we want to go more and more. Sometimes, I want to throttle us down a little. But that's basically what we want to do."

California head coach Sonny Dykes' assessment of the game: "Credit our players. We were down 21 from the get-go and our guys battled. That is going to be a trademark of our team. Hopefully, we play hard regardless of what is going on. That is a process you have to teach and learn. It was the same thing to start the second half. We gave up a long scoring drive and had a three-and-out on offense. We've got to start better. That is going to be a big point of emphasis going forward. With the schedule we are going to play, you can't get down 21-0 on people."

Ohio State senior quarterback Kenny Guiton on if he was surprised by a performance that included career highs in passing and rushing as well as four touchdown passes: "Surprised? Not at all. I prepared hard. I watched so much film. I killed myself with that film because I wanted to know everything Cal could do, everything they could show me. You know, when you're nervous about something, it makes you prepare even harder. I knew I was getting my first start, and I've been practicing all week with the ones, so I just kept preparing and kept preparing, and it turned out for the best."

Meyer on Guiton's strengths: "He is a very good distributor. I say that all the time, but it's true. He gets the ball to the right people at the right time. And now he's throwing the deep ball better. A couple of those long throws were right on the dot. I'm not surprised, though. He's worked really hard."

Ohio State offensive coordinator/quarterbacks coach Tom Herman on the Buckeyes' attack that featured five different players running the ball and seven different receivers with at least one catch: "We don't want to be reliant on just one or two guys. We want to spread

the ball around. We want to be able to run the ball inside when the situation calls for that, and we want to be able to run on the perimeter when they take the inside away. And we want to stretch the field with our passing game. I thought we did well today with all of those things."

Meyer on how far his offense has come since last season: "Last year, we had one breakaway talent. Last year, our only breakaway talent was (quarterback Braxton Miller). Now, there are some other guys who are breakaway talents. We've come a long way."

Ohio State senior receiver Corey "Philly" Brown on Guiton rushing for a career-high 92 yards: "We all know he's a heck of a passer, but he brings another dynamic when he makes plays running the ball. What can I say? He's a great player. I have confidence in KG. We all do. There isn't an offense than Kenny can't run."

Ohio State senior receiver Chris Fields on Guiton's running ability: "It almost felt like Braxton was in there. Look, too many good players is a good thing. I wouldn't complain about that at all."

Meyer on the same subject: "He ran some speed option today. Usually, the defense will run to the pitch, and Kenny got a big first down with that speed option. But that's a big part of our offense, and he keeps proving he can do whatever we ask."

Ohio State senior running back Jordan Hall on rushing for a career-high 168 yards and three touchdowns: "Everything starts with the O-line. I give them a lot of credit. In fact, after every touchdown, I went over to them and said, 'We've got to keep this going.' To their credit, the O-line did keep things going and we just kept getting a push. It's fun to run behind a line that's playing like they did today."

Smith on his 90-yard touchdown reception in the first quarter: "Nothing to it, really. I just ran and they had kind of a blown coverage. You have to credit Philly with a great decoy and then credit Kenny with a great throw."

Guiton on returning to the bench once starter Braxton Miller is cleared to play:

"Whatever happens is going to happen. I'm going to be there. I'm going to be a leader, I'm going to be there for Braxton no matter what, and if my number is called, I'll do whatever job I can do."

Ohio State freshman running back Dontre Wilson on whether he has a preference which quarterback plays: "Doesn't matter to me. We can win with either one of them. Kenny will always be ready whenever his name is called. I think he's one of the best quarterbacks in college football. He might be playing in the NFL next year. And Braxton ... well, everybody already knows what Braxton can do. There have been teams in the past with two quarterbacks. Coach Meyer has done it before (with Chris Leak and Tim Tebow at Florida). Why not if they can both take control of the offense and do it well?"

Hall on the same subject: "When Kenny goes in, no one's worried. Braxton, you know what Braxton can do, but Kenny is just so cool that he keeps everything moving."

Ohio State junior linebacker Ryan Shazier on the Bears racking up 503 yards of total offense: "Sometimes they just caught us off-guard. They mostly got us on big plays and we have to capitalize on that, because on the other plays, we pretty much shut them down. We just can't allow all the big plays."

Cal freshman quarterback Jared Goff on playing against the No. 4-ranked Buckeyes: "They are a great team. They're all they're talked up to be. But there were chances we had to score two or three more touchdowns that we slipped on. There were a few turnovers we had that we shouldn't have had. We get a slip here, we get a break here and it could have been different. We could have stayed in that game a little longer."

Meyer on the boisterous Ohio State fans who made up nearly half the Memorial Stadium crowd of 62,647: "Just from years ago (when he was an assistant coach at OSU in 1986 and '87), I remember on the road trips there would be a bunch of Buckeyes in the stadium. Hats off to all those scarlet and grays who traveled across the country, but also I've got the feeling there's a bunch of California Buckeyes out here, too. What an environment."



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The Numbers Game

Ohio State 52, California 34

Sept. 14, 2013 – Memorial Stadium; Berkeley, Calif.

Score by Quarters	1	2	3	4	F
OHIO STATE	24	7	21	0	52
CALIFORNIA	14	6	7	7	34

First Quarter

OSU – D.Smith, 90 yard pass from Guiton (Basil kick), 13:07; 2 plays, 94 yards, 0:32 TOP.

OSU – D.Smith, 47 yard pass from Guiton (Basil kick), 11:27; 2 plays, 73 yards, 0:26 TOP.

OSU – Fields, 1 yard pass from Guiton (Basil kick), 9:00; 6 plays, 23 yards, 1:26 TOP.

CAL – Grismom, 61 yard pass from Goff (D'Amato kick), 8:01; 4 plays, 74 yards, 0:53 TOP.

OSU – Basil, 39 yard field goal, 3:45; 8 plays, 55 yards, 2:24 TOP.

CAL – C.Harper, 42 yard pass from Goff (D'Amato kick), 0:55; 9 plays, 82 yards, 2:45 TOP.

Second Quarter

OSU – J.Hall, 1 yard run (Basil kick), 8:20; 12 plays, 60 yards, 3:42 TOP.

CAL – D'Amato, 27 yard field goal, 4:32; 13 plays, 65 yards, 3:48 TOP.

CAL – D'Amato, 43 yard field goal, 0:00; 13 plays, 60 yards, 2:15 TOP.

Third Quarter

OSU – J.Hall, 1 yard run (Basil kick), 12:06; 9 plays, 75 yards, 2:54 TOP.

OSU – P.Brown, 6 yard pass from Guiton (Basil kick), 5:26; 15 plays, 80 yards, 6:13 TOP.

CAL – Treggs, 14 yard pass from Goff (D'Amato kick), 4:37; 4 plays, 53 yards, 0:40 TOP.

OSU – J.Hall, 2 yard run (Basil kick), 2:02; 8 plays, 41 yards, 2:35 TOP.

Fourth Quarter

CAL – Lasco, 1 yard run (D'Amato kick), 6:06; 11 plays, 61 yards, 3:18 TOP.

Att. – 62,467.

Weather – 74 degrees, clear; wind, SW 10-12 mph.

Team Statistics

	OSU	CAL
First Downs	27	28
Rushing	20	11
Passing	6	16
Penalty	1	1
Rushing-Yards	55-332	37-132
Passing-Yards	276	371
Passes (Comp.-Att.-Int.)	21-32-0	31-53-1
Offensive Plays	87	90
Total Net Yards	608	503
Third Down Efficiency	6-15	6-16
Fourth Down Efficiency	4-4	2-3
Punts-Avg.	4-41.2	4-49.0
Fumbles-Lost	1-1	2-1
Penalties	7-56	5-28
Time of Possession	33:55	26:05

Individual Statistics

RUSHING (Att.-Net Yds.) – OSU: J.Hall 30-168; Guiton 14-92; Wilson 5-59; P.Brown 2-15; R.Smith 3-8; TEAM 1-(-10). CAL: Lasco 10-64; Bigelow 11-39; Muhammad 5-21; Boehm 4-13; Goff 6-2; TEAM 1-(-7).

PASSING (Comp.-Att.-Int.-Yds.-TD) – OSU: Guiton 21-32-0-276-4. CAL: Goff 31-53-1-371-3.

RECEIVING (Rec.-Yds.) – OSU: P.Brown 5-35; J.Hall 5-20; D.Smith 3-149; Wilson 3-48; Fields 3-14; Vannett 1-8; TEAM 1-(-10). CAL: Treggs 7-51; C.Harper 6-115; Lawler 6-42; Powe 3-21; Bouza 2-35; Bigelow 2-11; Grismom 1-61; Muhammad 1-14; McClure 1-11; Rodgers 1-5; S.Anderson 1-4.

PUNTING (No.-Avg.-Long) – OSU: Johnston 4-41.2-61. CAL: Leininger 4-49.0-60.

PUNT RETURNS (No.-Yds.) – OSU: P.Brown 2-20. CAL: None.

KICKOFF RETURNS (No.-Yds.) – OSU: Wilson 2-46. CAL: Muhammad 4-107.

MISSED FIELD GOALS (Yds.) – OSU: None. CAL: None.

FORCED FUMBLES – OSU: Shazier. CAL: None.

FUMBLE RECOVERIES (No.-Yds.) – OSU: Bennett 1-0. CAL: Drew 1-0.

INTERCEPTIONS (No.-Yds.) – OSU: Bryant 1-0. CAL: None.

SACKS (No.-Yds.) – OSU: Spence 1.0-9; Shazier 1.0-6; C.Carter 1.0-2. CAL: None.

TACKLES FOR LOSS (No.-Yds.) – OSU: Spence 2.0-10; Bosa 2.0-4; Shazier 1.0-6; C.Carter 1.0-2; S.Miller 1.0-1. CAL: Fortt 2.0-2; Barr 1.0-5; D.Coleman 1.0-1.

TACKLES (Solo-Asst.-Tot.) – OSU: Shazier 10-2-12; C.Brown 6-4-10; Roby 6-1-7; Bryant 4-3-7; Bosa 4-3-7; D.Grant 5-1-6; Barnett 3-2-5; Spence 3-2-5; Powell 2-3-5; Marcus 1-2-3; Carter 2-0-2; S.Miller 1-1-2; Reeves 0-2-2; C.Grant 0-2-2; Farris 1-0-1; Cataline 0-1-1; Bogard 0-1-1; T.Johnson 0-1-1; Bennett 0-1-1. CAL: Fortt 5-8-13; Nickerson 6-5-11; Jefferson 5-5-10; Drew 5-5-10; Willis 4-3-7; McClure 2-5-7; Camporeale 2-3-5; Walker 2-3-5; McCain 2-1-3; J.Gibson 2-1-3; Jackson 2-1-3; D.Coleman 2-0-2; Kragen 1-1-2; Barr 1-1-2; Lasco 0-2-2; Lapite 1-0-1; Lowe 1-0-1; Lopa 1-0-1; C.Harper 1-0-1; A.Davis 1-0-1; G.King 0-1-1; Logan 0-1-1.

PLAYERS IN THE GAME – OHIO STATE: Offense, Mewhort, Norwell, Linsley, M.Hall, Decker, Heurman, D.Smith, Guiton, J.Hall, Fields, Spencer, Basil. Defense, Bosa, Hale, Bennett, Spence, Shazier, C.Grant, Perry, Roby, Bryant, Barnett, D.Grant, Johnson. Reserves, Wilson, C.Brown, R.Smith, P.Brown, Bell, Burrows, Tanner, Powell, Reeves, Ball, Bogard, Marcus, T.Johnson, Fada, Haynes, Cataline, T.Brown, C.Williams, Makridis, Farris, Blackman, Elflein, Kramer, C.Carter, Baldwin, Vannett, S.Miller. CALIFORNIA: Offense, Tagaloa, Rigsbee, Adcock, Cochran, S.Moore, Tyndall, S.Anderson, C.Harper, Goff, Bigelow, Gingold, Leininger. Defense, Camporeale, D.Coleman, Moala, Kragen, Jefferson, Fortt, McClure, Lapite, Drew, Logan, Jackson, D'Amato. Reserves, Treggs, Lasco, Harris, Lawler, Lowe, J.Gibson, L.King, Powe, Rodgers, Walker, A.Lee, Boehm, Willis, Espitia, A.Davis, Whitener, Bartolo, Bouza, Muhammad, Tandy, Fadelli, Dozier, McCain, Barr, Nickerson, Sheperdson, Crosthwaite, Lopa, Whitehurst, Wark, Grismom, McGovern, Hunter, G.King.

Season Statistics

2013 Game-By-Game				
Date	Opponent	Result/Time	Crowd	
Aug. 31	(2) BUFFALO	W, 40-20	103,980	
Sept. 7	(3) SAN DIEGO STATE	W, 42-7	104,984	
Sept. 14	(4) at California	W, 52-34	62,467	
Sept. 21	FLORIDA A&M	Noon		
Sept. 28	WISCONSIN	8 p.m.		
Oct. 5	at Northwestern	8 p.m.		
Oct. 19	IOWA	3:30 p.m.		
Oct. 26	PENN STATE	8 p.m.		
Nov. 2	at Purdue	TBA		
Nov. 16	at Illinois	TBA		
Nov. 23	INDIANA	TBA		
Nov. 30	at Michigan	TBA		

* OSU's gameday AP ranking is in parentheses before the opponent, while the opponent's ranking is after the name.

Team Statistics		OSU	Opp
First Downs		72	63
Rushing		44	25
Passing		24	34
Penalty		4	4
Average Per Game/Rush		285.3	89.7
Average Per Game/Pass		219.0	257.3
Total Offense		1,513	1,041
Total Plays		225	225
Average Per Game		504.3	347.0
Average Per Play		6.7	4.6
Penalties-Yards		24-225	16-140
Fumbles-Lost		3-2	5-3
3rd Down Efficiency		20-42	12-46
Percentage		48%	26%
4th Down Efficiency		6-8	4-6
Percentage		75%	67%
Sacks-Yards		7-51	5-22
Times Of Possession Avg.		32:42	27:18

Score

By Quarters	1	2	3	4	OT	Tot.	Avg.
Ohio State	68	28	35	3	-	134	44.7
Opponents	14	19	21	7	-	61	20.3

Individual Statistics						
Rushing	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Long	
Jordan Hall	34	234	6.9	3	49	
Kenny Guiton	10	89	8.9	1	44	
Braxton Miller	18	82	4.6	0	40	
Dontre Wilson	8	62	7.8	1	18	
Ezekiel Elliott	7	38	5.4	0	11	
Rod Smith	3	11	3.7	1	6	
Warren Ball	4	10	2.5	0	4	
TEAM	1	-2	-2.0	0	0	
OSU Totals	85	524	6.2	6	49	
OPP Totals	392	1,393	3.6	14	81	

Passing	Comp.	Att.	Pct.	Yds.	TD-INT	Effic.
Kenny Guiton	41	61	67.2	449	7-1	163.63
Braxton Miller	17	24	70.8	208	2-1	162.80
OSU Totals	58	85	68.2	657	9-2	163.40
OPP Totals	72	126	57.1	772	6-4	117.97

Receiving	Rec.	Net	Avg.	TD	Long
Devin Smith	13	256	19.7	3	90
Philly Brown	13	133	10.2	3	27
Jordan Hall	8	34	4.2	0	11
Dontre Wilson	7	72	10.3	0	32
Chris Fields	6	67	11.2	3	25
Jeff Heurman	4	45	11.2	0	25
Evan Spencer	4	28	7.0	0	10
Nick Vannett	2	10	5.0	0	8
Rod Smith	1	12	12.0	0	12
OSU Totals	58	657	11.3	9	90
OPP Totals	72	772	10.7	6	61

Scoring	TD	EPK	EPR	EPRC	FG	PTS
Jordan Hall	6	—	—	1	—	38
Drew Basil	—	16-16	—	—	2-2	22
Philly Brown	3	—	—	—	—	18
Chris Fields	3	—	—	—	—	18
Devin Smith	3	—	—	—	—	18
Kenny Guiton	1	—	1	—	—	8
Dontre Wilson	1	—	—	—	—	6
Rod Smith	1	—	—	—	—	6
OSU Totals	18	16-16	1	1	2-2	134
OPP Totals	8	7-7	—	—	2-2	61

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

Punting	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Bk	Long
C. Johnston	11	458	41.6	0	61
OSU Totals	11	458	41.6	0	61
OPP Totals	18	727	40.4	0	60

Interceptions	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
Armani Reeves	1	4	4.0	0	4
Christian Bryant	1	0	0.0	0	0
Doran Grant	1	0	0.0	0	0
Ron Tanner	1	0	0.0	0	0
OSU Totals	4	4	1.0	0	4
OPP Totals	2	45	22.5	1	45

Punt Returns	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
Philly Brown	7	74	10.6	0	19
OSU Totals	7	74	10.6	0	19
OPP Totals	0	0	0.0	0	0

Kickoff Returns	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
Dontre Wilson	4	122	30.5	0	51
Jordan Hall	1	17	17.0	0	17
Jeff Heurman	1	13	13.0	0	13
OSU Totals	6	152	25.3	0	51
OPP Totals	16	307	19.2	0	42

Def. Leaders	Solo	Asst.	Tot.	TFL-Yds.	Sacks
Ryan Shazier	20	4	24	3.0-10	1.0-6
Christian Bryant	7	11	18	—	—
Corey Brown	10	6	16	—	—
Curtis Grant	7	8	15	0.5-1	—
Doran Grant	12	3	15	—	—
Noah Spence	6	8	14	4.5-26	2.5-21
C.J. Barnett	8	4	12	—	—
Bradley Roby	8	3	11	—	—
Tyvis Powell	6	4	10	—	—
Joey Bosa	7	3	10	2.0-4	—
Armani Reeves	7	3	10	—	—
Joshua Perry	4	4	8	—	—
Michael Bennett	2	4	6	2.0-10	0.5-5
Jamal Marcus	2	3	5	1.0-7	1.0-7
Chris Carter	2	3	5	1.0-2	1.0-2
Steve Miller	3	1	4	2.0-11	1.0-10
Trey Johnson	1	3	4	—	—
Vonn Bell	2	2	4	—	—
Devan Bogard	2	1	3	—	—
Cam Burrows	2	1	3	—	—
Ron Tanner	2	1	3	—	—
Joel Hale	0	2	2	0.5-0	—
Adolphus Washington	1	1	2	0.5-0	—
Craig Cataline	1	1	2	—	—
Michael Hill	1	0	1	—	—
Chase Farris	1	0	1	—	—
Joe Burger	0	1	1	—	—
Camren Williams	0	1	1	—	—
OSU Totals	124	86	210	17-71	7-51
OPP Totals	138	94	232	16-46	5-22

Fumbles Forced: 1 — Michael Bennett, Jamal Marcus, Ryan Shazier.

Fumbles Recovered: 2 — Michael Bennett; 1 — Chris Carter.

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JOSH WINSLOW PHOTOS

NOTHING TO IT – Junior wide receiver Devin Smith (9) bobbled the ball before catching it for a touchdown, the fifth of the first quarter for Ohio State Sept. 21 in a 76-0 victory against overmatched Florida A&M.

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'On To Wisconsin'

Tangle With Badgers Up Next After FAMU Rout

By BEN AXELROD
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

In the moments immediately following each of Ohio State's first 15 games of the Urban Meyer era, the Buckeyes head coach and his staff stood in front of their team to single out the day's top performers.

Win No. 16 for Ohio State, however, didn't follow such a script.

The Buckeyes had just scored the most points in any game that they had played in the past 63 years, while limiting their severely undermanned opponent to just two first downs and 80 yards of total offense. But rather than reflect and celebrate Ohio State's 76-0 win over Football Championship Subdivision's Florida A&M, Meyer left his team with a simple, yet powerful message – move forward.

"We usually have the offensive coordinator,

defensive coordinator, special teams coordinator come up and call out a couple of players that played well," Buckeyes running back Jordan Hall said. "Coach (Meyer) was just like, 'This game's over. We're on to Wisconsin.'"

Ohio State was just minutes removed from a record-setting performance, but it was clear to the Buckeyes – and their coaches – that the Rattlers were who most thought they were. While Florida A&M came to Columbus to collect a paycheck – a \$900,000 one at that – the Buckeyes were focused on remaining sharp on offense and cleaning up some deficiencies on defense, in preparation for their upcoming battle with the Badgers.

"You come to Ohio State to compete for the Big Ten championship, and that starts tomorrow – actually it started in a meeting just a minute ago," Meyer told the media in his postgame press conference. "Are we prepared? I'd like to think we are."

The talent gap between OSU and Florida A&M may have made judging where the Buckeyes stand heading into Big Ten play more difficult, but it was hard to not be impressed by Ohio State's latest victory.

With Braxton Miller missing his second consecutive start due to an MCL sprain that he suffered on the opening drive of OSU's Sept. 7 win over San Diego State, Kenny Guiton again got the call at quarterback for the Buckeyes and only added to an already impressive resume.

A week after posting 368 yards of total offense against California en route to being named the Walter Camp national offensive player of the week, the fifth-year senior set a single-game school record with six touchdown passes, all of which came in the first half against the Rattlers. By day's end, Guiton

Continued On Page 8

COVER STORY

Guiton Leads OSU To Historic Rout Of FAMU

Continued From Page 1

had completed 24 of his 34 pass attempts against Florida A&M, throwing for 215 yards in his third impressive outing in as many weeks.

"It's a blessing," Guiton said of his recent rise, both in stature and national passing categories. "The coaches came out wanting to throw the ball around, and I thank them for the trust they put in me to be able to do that. I just trusted the receivers, trusted the O-line, and made plays."

Even the bleak moments, which came few and far between, didn't last long for the Buckeyes.

Ohio State's opening drive came to a sudden halt when Guiton had a pass attempt into the end zone picked off by Patrick Aiken. The Rattlers defensive back was unable to move the ball more than 3 yards forward, however, before it was knocked out of his hands and recovered by Hall. The OSU running back made the most of his forced fumble and recovery a play later, punching in a 3-yard touchdown to give the Buckeyes their first score of the game.

From there, the rout was on.

Ohio State scored 34 points in the first quarter alone, a number which grew to 55 by the time the two teams headed into the

locker rooms for halftime. Already in the record books with his six scores, Guiton was under the assumption that he was done for the day, although a cut on third-string quarterback Cardale Jones' hand called for the fifth-year senior to briefly return to action in the second half.

"I kind of did put the car in the garage," Guiton said. "But I did stay ready, also."

It didn't seem to matter who was playing for Ohio State against FAMU, with the Buckeyes piling on 21 more points in a second half that was predominantly played by OSU's backups and walk-ons. All together, eight players attempted rushes for the Buckeyes, with 10 more recording receptions. Ohio State's domination over the Rattlers was never in doubt and capped off a nonconference season that saw the Buckeyes outscore opponents by a margin of 210-61.

"We've had a strong start to the season so far," said tight end Jeff Heuerman, who caught four passes for 43 yards and a touchdown against FAMU. "These last two games our offense has really been clicking."

Although Ohio State has hardly been contested in its first four games, Guiton is pleased with the progress that his team has shown entering Big Ten play. The Buckeye players can't control who gets put in front of them as an opponent, but they have played

as well as anyone could have expected them to, particularly with a projected Heisman Trophy candidate in Miller standing on the sideline for all but one drive of their last three games.

"It's evaluating yourself," Guiton said. "It's not really who you're playing against, it's you evaluating yourself against your best self. Did you go out and play your best game? Were your fundamentals right? Did you make all the right reads and all that good stuff? I think that's what we'll be graded on. Not really who we were playing against. Were you better than your best self?"

And even though Ohio State took care of Florida A&M – as good teams typically do against undermanned opponents – both Buckeyes players and coaches know that next week will be a different animal. Wisconsin is the three-time defending Big Ten champion and isn't a team that OSU will be able to walk over based on talent alone as it did against the Rattlers.

"I don't think we'll have many more of these the rest of the year," Heuerman said. "Next week will be a big-time game. That's why we come here."

Out Of Hyde-ing

Nearly two months to the day after he was suspended indefinitely by Meyer after being named a person of interest in a reported assault at a downtown Columbus bar, a three-game suspension for Carlos Hyde came to an end in the first quarter of OSU's Sept. 21 victory.

Hyde, who never had charges filed against him by the alleged female victim, was suspended by Meyer for the first fourth of the Buckeyes' regular season due to what the OSU coach deemed to be "conduct not representative of this football program or this university." While Hall may have taken hold of the Buckeyes' starting running back spot in his absence, Hyde remains a part of the Ohio State game plan and made his first appearance of the 2013 season by gaining 3 yards on a 4th-and-1 play from FAMU's 26-yard line.

"Seeing him back out there was good," Heuerman said. "That's definitely a player that carries a big load for us."

Hyde's arrival didn't go unappreciated by the announced crowd of 103,595. The senior running back's trot out to the OSU huddle was met with a noticeable cheer from those in attendance, who like his teammates were happy to have the 2012 All-Big Ten second-teamer back in the Buckeyes' backfield.

"The standing ovation that they gave him, that made me get some juice in my body," Guiton said of Hyde's first appearance of the season. "Some tingling went through my body. I told him, 'Let's go, man. You've got to go get this first now.'"

Hyde did just that and was rewarded for his efforts eight plays later when Guiton found him for a 1-yard shovel pass to give the 6-0, 235-pounder his first touchdown of his senior season.

"The shovel pass was easy," Guiton said.

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COVER STORY

"I love that play. Every time, it's a completion."

A product of Naples, Fla., Hyde finished OSU's win over FAMU with a total of five carries for 41 yards to go along with his lone reception. An already crowded Buckeyes' backfield may have just gotten one player deeper, but nobody in Columbus seems to be complaining about the readdition of a player who rushed for 970 yards and 16 touchdowns in 10 games last season.

"It was fun for him to be back out there," Hall said of Hyde. "Me and Carlos, we came in at the same time but we never really got to play with each other at the same time. We're excited about that."

Quarterback Controversy?

Despite Guiton's sensational play in the past three weeks, Meyer put to rest the notion that he has superseded Miller as the Buckeyes' No. 1 quarterback. Meyer expects Miller to be back in the lineup for Ohio State's Sept. 28 battle with the Badgers, but that doesn't mean that Guiton's time to shine is over just yet.

"Braxton is our starting quarterback," Meyer said. "Our backup quarterback has earned some time."

Just when and where that time comes for Guiton remains to be seen. The Houston, Texas, native has shown an adept ability in both the Buckeyes' passing and option games, as evidenced by his 823 yards of total offense, 13 combined touchdowns, and 68-percent completion percentage in OSU's past three games.

The Ohio State head coach has mentioned experimenting with putting both of his top two quarterbacks on the field simultaneously, but he will wait to see how both Miller and Guiton perform in the days leading up to the Buckeyes' Big Ten opener.

"Our backup quarterback has earned some time," Meyer said. "I can't begin to tell you (details). I've been going through some scenarios in my mind and I don't know what

it is. I'm going to see how we practice this week."

Asked if Guiton's success has been a result of his play or his underwhelming opponents, Meyer indicated the former. For a player who even described his behavior in past years as "childish," Guiton has made the most of his opportunity this season, which is something that his head coach sees as a product of an even bigger turnaround for the fifth-year senior.

"I don't know how many snaps he played before our staff got here, but he probably didn't play many. It's not because the staff was screwing him over. He wasn't very good in a lot of areas," Meyer said, bluntly. "I don't think he pushed himself academically, and he's an exceptional guy, and he didn't do things exceptionally. That means he was an underachiever, and to be an underachiever, that's fighting words. He's an efficient player right now, he's an incredible manager, coach on the field so, when his time came, he was ready."

"It's not by accident that this thing happened now. It's not because he had the buckeye in his pocket or his lucky T-shirt. It's because he worked hard with the position coach to get ready for his opportunity and, boy, did he."

Regardless of what his role is relegated to upon Miller's return, Guiton remains intent on maintaining the positive attitude that has made him a favorite with fans and teammates alike.

Given Miller's recent run of injuries, his backup could be needed again at a moment's notice, and one way or another appears to be a part of Meyer's plans moving forward.

"I'm a team player," Guiton said. "I've been a team player for five years. It won't change now. I'll stay in there, I'll stick in there, I'll be a leader, just like always. I think playing has really helped me out with leading more, because now I know the impact I really have on this team."



Braxton Miller



JOSH WINSLOW

BACK IN ACTION – Senior tailback Carlos Hyde returned to the lineup and the end zone vs. Florida A&M.

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OHIO STATE VS. FLORIDA A&M

Ohio State Rattles, Crushes FAMU

By MARK REA
BSB Managing Editor Emeritus

Ohio State scored early, quickly and repeatedly Sept. 21, grinding Football Championship Subdivision opponent Florida A&M into total submission with a record-shattering 76-0 rout in front of 103,595 fans at Ohio Stadium.

Senior quarterback Kenny Guiton, subbing for still-injured starter Braxton Miller, threw for a school-record six touchdown passes – all in the first half – as the fourth-ranked Buckeyes rolled to a 55-0 lead at intermission that had OSU enjoying a 326-54 margin in total yardage and a 21-1 advantage in first downs.

The first-half explosion represented the most points scored in the opening two quarters by Ohio State since tallying 56 in an eventual 56-35 victory against Iowa in 1995. Unlike in that game, however, the Buckeyes kept rolling with three more touchdowns against FAMU in the second half, piling up the most lopsided shutout since a 76-0 win against Western Reserve in November 1934.

Guiton finished the game with 24 completions in 34 attempts for 215 yards, six touchdowns and one interception. All of those numbers came in the first half; the Buckeyes did not attempt a single pass following the break.

Miller was sidelined for the second week in a row with a sprained MCL in his left knee, so redshirt freshman Cardale Jones made his college debut in relief of Guiton. The 6-5, 250-pound Jones missed a couple of series with a lacerated hand that needed stitches, but he still rushed eight times for 52 yards and a touchdown.

Ohio State completely throttled their undersized, outmanned opponents with a 603-80 advantage in total yardage that included 388 yards on the ground. True freshman tailback Ezekiel Elliott led the ground charge with 162 yards and two TDs on just 14 carries, all in the second half. Seven different Buckeyes had at least one carry, including senior tailback Jordan Hall, who had two touchdowns despite carrying only four times for 20 yards.

Meanwhile, 10 different OSU players had at least one reception with junior wideout Evan Spencer leading the way with a personal-best four catches for 50 yards and

two scores. Junior tight end Jeff Heuerman had a career-best four catches for 43 yards and a touchdown, and wide receivers Devin Smith and Chris Fields also had touchdown catches as did senior tailback Carlos Hyde in his first game back from a three-game suspension to start the season.

It was difficult to find positives for Florida A&M, whose offense had eight three-and-out possessions and failed to cross midfield all day. Sophomore quarterback Damien Fleming completed 10 of his 16 pass attempts, but his longest completion went for only 7 yards and he totaled just 30 yards for the afternoon with an interception. Only a 7-yard run by senior running back Al-Terek McBurse, a Purdue transfer, on the game's final play allowed the Rattlers to get more total yards than Ohio State had points.

Defensively, the Buckeyes played every available healthy scholarship player who is not on schedule to redshirt this season. As a result, 23 different players registered at least one tackle with sophomore lineman Jamal Marcus recording a team- and career-high five. Junior linebackers Ryan Shazier and Curtis Grant had four stops each, the same number as fifth-year senior defensive back Corey "Pittsburgh" Brown.

OSU notched two sacks and claimed an interception. The sacks came from junior lineman Steve Miller and sophomore Chase Farris, who moved over from offensive to defensive line in fall camp. For Miller, it was his second sack this season and third of his career while Farris notched his first career sack. Junior cornerback Bradley Roby had the interception, a pick he returned 42 yards to set up the Buckeyes' fifth touchdown of the first quarter.

When asked about the lopsided victory, OSU head coach Urban Meyer said, "I've been on the other end of those, so I tried to do the best we could – just run the ball every snap (in the second half) and let guys earn an opportunity to get on the field.

"What do we take out of it? We get to play in one of the biggest stadiums in college football and 103,000 people came out to watch us play. They have a right to see our kids play hard and they did."

Off To The Races

Ohio State scored its first three touchdowns on possessions which each lasted less



JOSH WINSLOW

ELUSIVE – Ohio State freshman tailback Ezekiel Elliott (15) avoids a tackle attempt by Florida A&M's Darren Parker (14). Elliott scored two touchdowns in a 76-0 victory.

than one minute. It was partly the result of the Buckeyes exploding out of the starting blocks, but Florida A&M appeared shell-shocked from the get-go. The Rattlers got only an 11-yard return on the opening kickoff and then were whistled for delay of game before their first snap.

Things turned from bad to worse for FAMU when it went three-and-out in that first series, and then redshirt freshman punter Colby Blanton got only 15 yards out of his first attempt.

That gave Ohio State its first possession at the Florida A&M 30-yard line, and Guiton quickly got the Buckeyes within striking distance with a 20-yard pass to Spencer and a 7-yard hookup with Heuerman. But on third-and-goal from the 3, Guiton underthrew Heuerman in the end zone, and the pass was picked off by sophomore cornerback Patrick Aiken.

Inexplicably, Aiken tried to weave his way through heavy traffic and return the interception out of the end zone, but he got only as far as the 3-yard line where he was met by Hall, whose tackle jarred the ball loose. Hall then pounced on the fumble to give Ohio State the ball back exactly where it was before the play started.

Since Hall was responsible for getting the ball back, he was rewarded by having his number called on the next play, and the 5-9, 191-pound senior responded with a 3-yard touchdown run to get the scoring started. Senior kicker Drew Basil came on for the beginning of what would be a busy day for him, adding the extra point to give the Buckeyes a 7-0 lead at the 12:57 mark of the opening period.

After FAMU went three-and-out again on its second series, Blanton got off a 47-yard punt, but senior Corey "Philly" Brown sliced his way through a host of would-be tacklers on his way to a 65-yard return. A personal foul penalty against the Rattlers tacked 10 more yards onto the end of the run, and on the Buckeyes' first play of their second possession, Guiton found Heuerman in the right flat. From there, the 6-6, 252-pound tight end bulled his way through an arm tackle before leveling A&M cornerback Devonte Johnson at the goal line.

The 11-yard touchdown play was followed by a two-point conversion try, but Guiton's pass to Hall was sniffed out by the Rattlers – about the only good thing FAMU did on defense all day – and the score remained 13-0 with 11:50 remaining in the first quarter.



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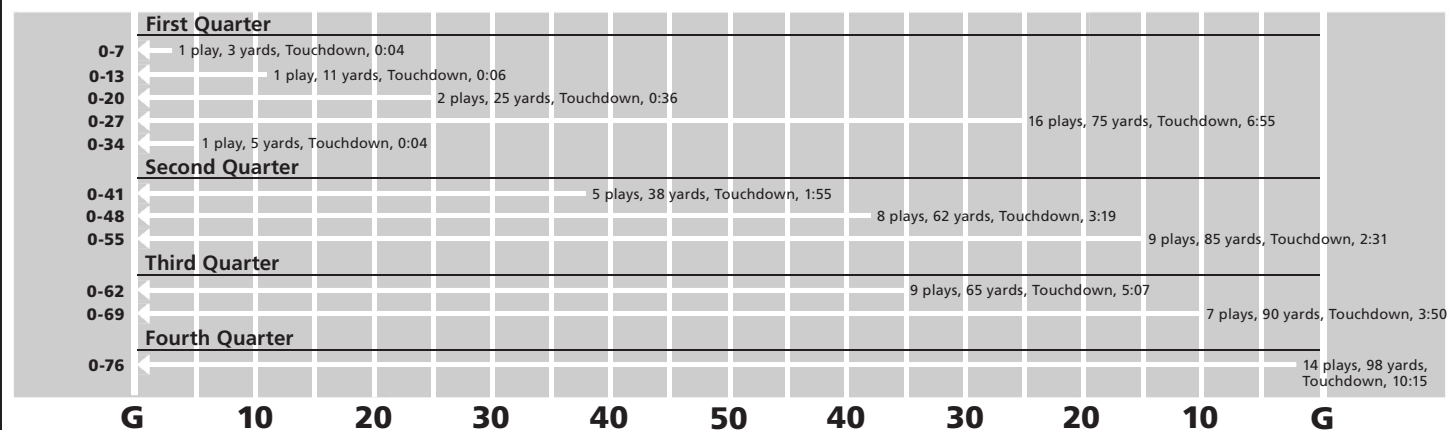
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OHIO STATE VS. FLORIDA A&M

Scoring Drives

Florida A&M →

← Ohio State



The Buckeyes' third touchdown was set up courtesy of another snafu on the part of the Florida A&M punting unit. This time, Blanton didn't even get his kick away as a slightly off-the-mark snap allowed OSU junior Doran Grant to block the kick and give the Buckeyes possession at the Rattlers' 25.

Two plays later, Spencer lined up as the middle man in a spread three-receiver alignment on the right side of the field. The 6-2, 206-pound junior ran a simple wheel route to the end zone, Guiton threw a perfect pass over two defenders, and Spencer made a diving catch for the 8-yard touchdown. Basil came on to add the PAT and it was 20-0 with 9:25 still to go in the first quarter.

Hyde got into the act on Ohio State's next drive, converting a fourth-and-1 situation on his first run from scrimmage in 2013. Seven plays later, the senior running back accepted a short shovel pass from Guiton for a 1-yard touchdown play that finished off a 16-play, 75-yard drive that took nearly seven minutes off the clock. It was in sharp contrast to the team's first three touchdown drives, none of which lasted more than 36 seconds. Basil added the extra point and the Buckeyes were firmly in control with a 27-0 lead and 32

seconds remaining in the opening period.

And they still weren't through. Roby broke off his 42-yard interception return on the first play of FAMU's next drive, and Guiton found Smith in the corner of the end zone on the following play for a 5-yard touchdown pass. After Basil's kick, Ohio State had a 34-0 advantage with 0:13 showing on the first-quarter clock.

During the first 15 minutes of the game, the Buckeyes had already amassed a 150-27 advantage in total yardage with 10 first downs to none for the Rattlers. Making matters worse for the visiting team were six penalties, two turnovers and a blocked punt.

Florida A&M finally got its initial first down of the game at the 5:22 mark of the second quarter, but the Buckeyes had already scored two more touchdowns by that time.

Hall ripped off a nifty 18-yard touchdown run at the 11:35 mark, a rumble that included running off a couple of A&M defenders as well as umpire Jim Krogstad. Five and a half minutes later, Fields executed a simple post pattern and gathered in a 15-yard scoring pass from Guiton, allowing the OSU quarterback to tie the school's single-game record with his fifth TD pass of the afternoon.

The school record of five touchdowns

passes in one game was originally set in 1952 by John Borton during a 35-7 win over Washington State. It was later matched twice by Bobby Hoying, first during a 48-14 win against Purdue in 1994 and then a year later during a 54-14 rout against Pittsburgh.

Guiton later broke the record with a 15-yard pass to a wide-open Spencer, a play that capped an efficient 85-yard march in the final 2½ minutes of the first half. Basil added his seventh PAT of the afternoon to give Ohio State a 55-0 cushion heading to the locker room.

Jones relieved Guiton to start the first half and broke off a 10-yard run for a first down on his first career carry. That touched

off a nine-play, 65-yard drive that culminated in a 16-yard touchdown run by Elliott, a run made possible in part due to a nice seal block from redshirt freshman guard Pat Elflein.

Junior walk-on kicker Kyle Clinton gave Basil a breather and added his first career PAT to make it 62-0 with 9:53 remaining in the third quarter.

Keeping the ball exclusively on the ground, the Buckeyes proved equally adept at sustaining drives throughout the second half as they had been in scoring early with lightning strikes.

Continued On Page 12

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OHIO STATE VS. FLORIDA A&M

Meyer Gets First Shutout As OSU Head Coach

Continued From Page 11

Elliott tallied his second score on a 13-yard run at the 2:26 mark of the third, capping a seven-play, 90-yard march that included a 57-yard scamper by the speedy freshman, and then Jones added a 10-yard touchdown run that put the exclamation

point on a 14-play, 98-yard drive that came immediately after what could be considered FAMU's best play of the day – a 78-yard punt from Blanton.

Keeping the ball 10 minutes and 15 seconds on that final possession allowed Ohio State to own a huge 37:02 to 22:58 advantage in time of possession for the game.

Game Notes

- The Buckeyes moved the nation's longest winning streak to 16 games. That is the fifth-longest streak in program history, just one behind a 17-game streak set between 1915 and 1917. The school record remains 22 consecutive victories set between the 1967 and 1969 seasons.

- OSU has now topped the 40-point mark in all four games this season, marking the first time since 1917 the Buckeyes have scored 40 points or more in each of their first four games. That year, the Chic Harley-led team began the season with four consecutive shutout wins – Case (49-0), Ohio Wesleyan (53-0), Northwestern (40-0) and Denison (67-0).

- OSU scored 40 or more points in four consecutive games at any point in the season for the first time since 2005 – wins against Indiana (41-10), Minnesota (45-31), Illinois (40-2) and Northwestern (48-7).

- The 76 points scored against Florida A&M tied for the sixth-highest total in program history and were the most since an 83-21 victory against Iowa in 1950. The last time Ohio State scored more than 70 points in a game was a 73-20 victory against Eastern Michigan in 2010.

- Ohio State enjoyed its largest margin of victory in a game since an 85-7 victory over Drake in 1935.

- The game marked the 267th shutout all-time for Ohio State. It was the first of the Meyer era and the first for the Buckeyes since a 42-0 win over Akron in the 2011 season opener.

- Coupled with 608 total yards against California the week before, the 603 yards totaled by Ohio State against Florida A&M represented the first time in program history the team has eclipsed the 600-yard mark in back-to-back games.

- OSU is now 3-0 all-time against teams from the Football Championship Subdivision. Youngstown State provided the competition for the other two contests with the Penguins losing a 38-6 decision in 2007 and a 43-0 verdict the following year.

- The 34 points scored in the first quarter marked the most ever by a Meyer-coached team. The previous best was 31 points by his Florida team during a 41-7 win at Kentucky in September 2009.

- Ohio State has a 4-0 record for the third time in the last four seasons and the fifth time in the last eight years. Meyer's teams have started 4-0 nine times in his 11 seasons as a head coach.

- Doran Grant's blocked punt in the first quarter gave Meyer a 19-0 record since 2005 when his teams block a punt.

- The Rattlers have stepped up in compe-

tion to play one Football Bowl Subdivision opponent each of the past five seasons without much success. FAMU has now been outscored by a 308-46 margin in those games. That computes to an average of 9.2 points for the Rattlers and 61.6 points for their opponents.

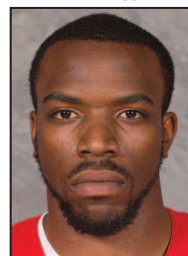
- Florida A&M is now 1-22 all-time against FBS opponents. The Rattlers' lone win came in 1979 when they shocked in-state rival Miami (Fla.) by a 16-13 final.

- The Rattlers fell to 0-2 lifetime against teams from the Big Ten. They dropped a 52-13 decision at Illinois in the 2004 season opener for both teams.

- Two former Ohio State players won national championships while they were head

coaches at Florida A&M. William "Big Bill" Bell, who played for the Buckeyes from 1929-31 and is acknowledged as the first African-American player in OSU history, was head coach at FAMU from 1936-42 and coached the Rattlers to the national championship in 1938. Some 40 years later, Rudy Hubbard spent 12 seasons at Florida A&M from 1974-85 and led the team to a Division I-AA championship in 1978. Hubbard played for Ohio State from 1965-67 and then was an assistant coach on Woody Hayes' staff from 1968-73.

- Florida A&M head coach Earl Holmes and Ohio State defensive line coach Mike Vrabel were teammates with the Pittsburgh Steelers from 1997-2000.



Doran Grant

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OHIO STATE VS. FLORIDA A&M

Buckeyes Find Little Resistance On Offense

If anything has been proven since Ohio State quarterback Braxton Miller went down with a sprained left knee, it is the 2013 Buckeyes are far from a one-man show on offense.

That marks a significant contrast from most of last season when Miller was the Big Ten's most valuable player and often carried the team through rough stretches of the schedule. He received more help late in the season from running back Carlos Hyde, but Miller remained the focal point even in grind-it-out wins against Wisconsin and Michigan.

INSIDE THE OFFENSE

Marcus Hartman

Avoiding a repeat of those situations was a focus of the offseason, but then probably no one envisioned that the Buckeyes would play nearly two full games without either of them on the field and function just fine.

The pick-your-poison attack was at its most varied in the first quarter Sept. 21 as Ohio State jumped out to an almost incredible 34-0 lead against badly overmatched Florida A&M.

In 15 minutes of action, quarterback Kenny Guiton – starting in place of an injured Miller for a second straight week – completed passes to seven different receivers, including touchdowns to Hyde, Jeff Heuerman, Evan Spencer and Devin Smith.

In all, Guiton completed 17 of 23 passes in the first quarter for 144 yards. He hooked up with three different running backs (Hyde, Rod Smith and Dontre Wilson), a tight end (Heuerman) and three wide receivers (Spencer, Devin Smith and Corey "Philly" Brown) while amassing those numbers, making sure few went wanting for touches.

It was a week's worth of work for some – including the quarterback – but the Buckeyes were far from done.

When all was said and done, eight Buckeyes had carried the ball while 10 caught it at least once even though Ohio State attempted no passes in the second half.

The competition obviously left something to be desired, but it was another reminder heading into Big Ten play that head coach Urban Meyer has amassed a team full of weapons that can go off even with Miller sidelined and Hyde working his way back into action slowly after a three-game suspension.

"I think one thing we've noticed offensively is that we can be very explosive at times," Guiton said. "In the first quarter, we're lights out. I think the one thing we need to learn to do is keep that going for four quarters. I think that's just one big thing for us, to keep coming out explosive, keep coming out strong and make teams have to chase us."

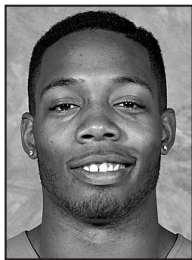
Spencer and Heuerman ended up being Guiton's favorite targets as each of them caught a career-high four passes. Heuerman totaled 43 yards and scored an 11-yard touchdown that made it 13-0 less than four minutes into the game. That marked the first touchdown of the junior's college career.

Spencer led the team with 50 yards receiving and hauled in a pair of touchdowns, one difficult and one easy.

The former gave the Buckeyes a 20-0 lead with 9:25 left in the first quarter. He had to make a diving catch for an 8-yard score, but he said he had figured he would be open when the play was called.

"We ran the same play two plays before and I knew that I was open," he said. "I actually thought Kenny was going to throw it to me then and he didn't. Once I went back to the sideline I told them, 'Hey, we've got to run that play again because I was open,' and I made sure I ran a good route and was really technical in my route to make sure I was open again. I saw the ball and just tried to track it and go and get it and stay in bounds."

There was no such effort needed late in



Kenny Guiton



JOSH WINSLOW

REACHING PAY DIRT – Junior wide receiver Evan Spencer (6) scored a pair of touchdowns and caught four passes for 50 yards.

the second quarter when Guiton found him all alone in the end zone and hit him with a 15-yard strike that made it 54-0 prior to a successful conversion kick by Drew Basil.

Spencer's second TD catch came on the last Ohio State pass of the day and put Guiton alone at the top of Buckeye touchdown tossers in a single game. His sixth of the day pushed him one past the previous record set by John Borton against Washington State in 1952 and equaled twice by Bobby Hoving, first against Purdue in 1994 and then at Pittsburgh in '95.

Senior receiver Chris Fields also caught a touchdown pass – his fourth of the season – as the receiver rotation continued to be competitive.

The same was true at running back, where Hall started for the fourth time but played only a complementary role as the emphasis was on the passing game most of

the time he was in the lineup. The senior entered the game averaging 134.0 yards per game but carried only four times for 20 yards. He scored on runs of 3 and 18 yards.

Hyde ran for 41 yards on five carries while junior Rod Smith carried three times for 45 yards.

Freshmen Ezekiel Elliott and Warren Ball handled most of the load in the second half with walk-on Devonte Butler also getting in on the act.

Elliott took advantage by slashing and dashing his way to 162 yards on 14 carries while Ball rumbled for 49 yards on seven tries and Butler picked up 14 yards on the first four carries of his college career.

Elliott scored the first two touchdowns of his career on 16- and 13-yard scampers in the third quarter.

"Nothing's like scoring a touchdown in the (Horseshoe), getting across that pylon



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OHIO STATE VS. FLORIDA A&M

and everybody's up in their seats screaming," he said.

It was his third career game but by far his most extensive action, and he was happy to get a chance to show his stuff despite knowing he has to continue to work hard to maintain a spot in the pecking order.

"I've gotten a little bit of game experience earlier this season, but getting out there and running the ball more was good," he said. "It's hard to get a spot or even hold a spot because you know the guy in front of you is great and the guy behind you is great, so every day we come out and compete and we go hard."

By any measure, the running game looked quite healthy. Not only did the Buckeyes pile up 388 yards on the ground, but they also had seven of eight ball carriers average at least 5.0 yards per carry.

The well-rested Hall agreed the plethora of options boded well for the future success of the offense.

"We got a lot of good backs, so it's going to be hard to stop the run game," he said.

With the passing game joining the fun, many Buckeyes agreed they feel good about heading into the conference season.

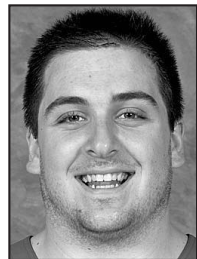
"I've never heard of having too many weapons being a bad thing," Spencer said. "It's a good thing to have as much depth as we do, and we know as players that pretty much everybody can go in and get the job done at any given time."

Blitzes No Problem

The game plan was noticeably pass heavy early against the Rattlers, a team from the

FCS with a coaching staff full of former NFL players.

Head coach Earl Holmes and defensive coordinator Levon Kirkland showed they might have learned a thing or two from their days as Pittsburgh Steelers by pelting the Buckeyes with blitzes throughout the day, but the Ohio State offensive line proved up to the task of protecting the quarterback.



Corey Linsley

(to blitz)," Linsley said. "They know they don't necessarily have the size or maybe lack the talent overall so their defensive schemes were a pain in the butt all week to prepare for, and that's a credit to their coaches. They showed us all the things we saw on film, but they were hard to block."

Asked if Meyer – who has developed a reputation for pushing all kinds of buttons to develop his team psychologically – might have called upon offensive coordinator Tom Herman to draw up a pass-heavy game plan to challenge the offensive line prior to the Big Ten opener against Wisconsin, Linsley did not rule it out.

"Yeah, definitely," he replied. "Wisconsin

used to not be a big blitz team, but they're going to show us pressure. Even though I know the game was a blowout, (FAMU's) schemes are so hard to block. Their coaches do a great job getting them ready. It's easier to deal with on the run (than the pass)."

With the Buckeyes getting off to such a big early lead, it was a short workday for Linsley and most of the rest of the starters up front.

Jacoby Boren replaced Linsley at center in the second quarter while Darryl Baldwin took over for Jack Mewhort at left tackle, Pat Elflein replaced Andrew Norwell at left guard and Tommy Brown manned right tackle in place of Taylor Decker. Later, walk-on Ivon Blackman took over for Marcus Hall at right guard, but the line continued to perform well against the Rattlers' 3-4 alignment.

"Jacoby Boren always looks good, and Pat Elflein's going to be a really, really good player," Linsley said. "You guys are going to hear Pat Elflein's name the next couple years. Darryl Baldwin, all the second-string o-line

guys. Tommy Brown and Ivon Blackman all did a really good job, better than they even showed in practice this week."

Another Fast Start

Big first quarters were an undeniable trend of the nonconference portion of Ohio State's 2013 schedule.

After jumping out to a 23-0 lead in the season opener against Buffalo, the Buckeyes put San Diego State in a 21-0 hole through 15 minutes in week two.

They scored 24 points (while allowing 14) in the opening stanza Sept. 14 at California but trumped themselves with a 34-point outburst against the Rattlers.

"I think it's just comfortability," Spencer said when asked about the secret to the fast starts. "We talked about it in camp that we're just so much more comfortable in the offense. We're flowing a little bit better and reacting instead of thinking so much. I think that really helps us out. A year under our belts is a big thing."



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The Numbers Game

Ohio State 76, Florida A&M 0

Sept. 21, 2013 – Ohio Stadium; Columbus, Ohio

Score by Quarters	1	2	3	4	F
FLORIDA A&M	0	0	0	0	0
OHIO STATE	34	21	14	7	76

First Quarter

OSU – J.Hall, 3 yard run (Basil kick), 12:57; 1 play, 3 yards, 0:04 TOP.

OSU – Heuerman, 11 yard pass from Guiton (pass failed), 11:50; 1 play, 11 yards, 0:06 TOP.

OSU – Spencer, 8 yard pass from Guiton (Basil kick), 9:25; 2 plays, 25 yards, 0:36 TOP.

OSU – Hyde, 1 yard pass from Guiton (Basil kick), 0:32; 16 plays, 75 yards, 6:55 TOP.

OSU – D.Smith, 5 yard pass from Guiton (Basil kick), 0:13; 1 play, 5 yards, 0:04 TOP.

Second Quarter

OSU – J.Hall, 18 yard run (Basil kick), 11:35; 5 plays, 38 yards, 1:55 TOP.

OSU – Fields, 15 yard pass from Guiton (Basil kick), 6:09; 8 plays, 62 yards, 3:19 TOP.

OSU – Spencer, 15 yard pass from Guiton (Basil kick), 0:05; 9 plays, 85 yards, 2:31 TOP.

Third Quarter

OSU – Elliott, 16 yard run (Clinton kick), 9:53; 9 plays, 65 yards, 5:07 TOP.

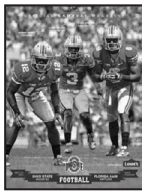
OSU – Elliott, 13 yard run (Clinton kick), 2:26; 7 plays, 90 yards, 3:50 TOP.

Fourth Quarter

OSU – C.Jones, 10 yard run (Clinton kick), 1:15; 14 plays, 98 yards, 10:15 TOP.

Att. – 103,595.

Weather – 62 degrees, cloudy; wind, NNW 9 mph.



Team Statistics

	FAMU	OSU
First Downs	2	34
Rushing	2	20
Passing	0	12
Penalty	0	2
Rushing-Yards	23-50	46-388
Passing Yards	30	215
Passes (Comp.-Att.-Int.)	10-16-1	24-34-1
Offensive Plays	39	80
Total Net Yards	80	603
Third Down Efficiency	1-11	6-12
Fourth Down Efficiency	0-0	4-4
Punts-Avg.	10-40.2	1-32.0
Fumbles-Lost	2-1	0-0
Penalties	8-50	3-20
Time of Possession	22:58	37:02

Individual Statistics

RUSHING (Att.-Net Yds.) – FAMU: Albert 10-19; McBurse 4-18; Buice 6-16; Fleming 2-1; Royal 1-(-4). **OSU:** Elliott 14-162; C.Jones 8-52; Ball 7-49; R.Smith 3-45; Hyde 5-41; J.Hall 4-20; D.Butler 4-14; Guiton 1-5.

PASSING (Comp.-Att.-Int.-Yds.-TD) – FAMU: Fleming 10-16-1-30-0; Royal 0-0-0-0-0. **OSU:** Guiton 24-34-1-215-6.

RECEIVING (Rec.-Yds.) – FAMU: McBurse 3-12; Felix 3-4; Harvey 1-7; Ethridge 1-7; Buice 1-1; Owens 1-(-1). **OSU:** Spencer 4-50; Heuerman 4-43; P.Brown 3-36; D.Smith 3-25; D.Wilson 3-12; Vannett 2-27; R.Smith 2-1; Fields 1-15; K.Mitchell 1-5; Hyde 1-1.

PUNTING (No.-Avg.-Long) – FAMU: Blanton 9-44-7-78. **OSU:** Johnston 1-32-0-32.

PUNT RETURNS (No.-Yds.) – FAMU: None. **OSU:** Fields 2-17; P.Brown 1-65; D.Grant 1-4.

KICKOFF RETURNS (No.-Yds.) – FAMU: Owens 4-84; McBurse 2-39; Aiken 2-38. **OSU:** None.

MISSED FIELD GOALS (Yds.) – FAMU: None. **OSU:** None.

FORCED FUMBLES – FAMU: None. **OSU:** D.Grant; J.Hall.

FUMBLE RECOVERIES (No.-Yds.) – FAMU: None. **OSU:** J.Hall 1-0.

INTERCEPTIONS (No.-Yds.) – FAMU: Aiken 1-3. **OSU:** Roby 1-42.

SACKS (No.-Yds.) – FAMU: None. **OSU:** Farris 1.0-8; S.Miller 1.0-4.

TACKLES FOR LOSS (No.-Yds.) – FAMU: Blount 1.0-2; Cunningham 1.0-2; Lovejoy 1.0-2. **OSU:** Shazier 1.5-1; Farris 1.0-8; S.Miller 1.0-4; C.Brown 1.0-1; Bell 1.0-1; Spence 0.5-1.

TACKLES (Solo-Asst.-Tot.) – FAMU: Ojo 3-5-8; Blount 4-2-6; D.Johnson 5-0-5; Ducre 2-3-5; Chisholm 2-3-5; Jackson 2-3-5; W.Helms 3-1-4; M.Helms 2-2-4; Roberts 2-2-4; Cunningham 2-2-4; Pillow 1-3-4; Alexander 2-0-2; Lovejoy 2-0-2; Denmark 2-0-2; Boston 2-0-2; Dornevil 2-0-2; Smalls 1-1-2; Mays 1-1-2; Broadus 0-2-2; Patterson 1-0-1; Norton 1-0-1; Aiken 1-0-1; K.Butler 1-0-1; Godbolt 1-0-1; Blanton 1-0-1. **OSU:** Marcus 4-1-5; Shazier 2-2-4; C.Grant 2-2-4; C.Brown 2-2-4; Bryant 3-0-3; S.Miller 1-2-3; Powell 1-2-3; Bogard 2-0-2; Tanner 2-0-2; Roby 2-0-2; Bell 1-1-2; C.Carter 1-1-2; Spence 1-1-2; T.Johnson 1-1-2; D.Grant 1-0-1; Holman 1-0-1; Farris 1-0-1; Hyde 1-0-1; Ball 1-0-1; Barnett 1-0-1; J.Hall 1-0-1; Burger 1-0-1; Snyder 0-1-1.

PLAYERS IN THE GAME – **FLORIDA A&M:** Offense, Harvey, T.Jones, Almendares, House, Templeton, Patterson, Ethridge, Fleming, Owens, Felix, Albert, Varnadore, Defense, Broadus, Lovejoy, Mays, Jackson, Blount, Ducre, Aiken, Ojo, Roberts, D.Johnson, Denmark, Blanton, Reserves, McBurse, Glines, Royal, Parker, Godbolt, Ward, Pillow, Buice, Cunningham, Boston, Palmer-Hicks, Riley, Darville, Dornevil, Lockett, Connor, Norton, W.Helms, Alexander, K.Butler, Smalls, R.Johnson, Love, Morris, M.Williams, Holmes, D.Hall, Chisholm, M.Helms. **OHIO STATE:** Offense, Mewhort, Norwell, Linsley, M.Hall, Decker, Heuerman, P.Brown, D.Smith, Guiton, J.Hall, Spencer, Basil, Defense, Spence, Hale, Farris, Bosa, Shazier, C.Grant, Roby, Bryant, Barnett, D.Grant, Powell, Johnston, Reserves, D.Wilson, C.Brown, R.Smith, Moore, Bell, C.Jones, Elliott, D.Butler, K.Mitchell, Ramstetter, Tanner, McDaniel, Niehoff, Reeves, Ball, Bogard, Doup, Epitropoulos, Sarac, Hyde, Marcus, T.Johnson, Perry, Fada, Clinton, Lee, D.Hill, Snyder, Burger, Cataline, Boren, T.Brown, C.Williams, Makridis, Blackman, Elfein, St.John, Kramer, C.Carter, Baldwin, M.Hill, Fields, Vannett, Clark, Kinzig, Gwilym, S.Miller, Ojikutu, Rock, Frazier, Holman.

Season Statistics

2013 Game-By-Game

Date	Opponent	Result/Time	Crowd
Aug. 31	(2) BUFFALO	W, 40-20	103,980
Sept. 7	(3) SAN DIEGO STATE	W, 42-7	104,984
Sept. 14	(4) at California	W, 52-34	62,467
Sept. 21	(4) FLORIDA A&M	W 76-0	103,595
Sept. 28	WISCONSIN	8 p.m.	
Oct. 5	at Northwestern	8 p.m.	
Oct. 19	IOWA	3:30 p.m.	
Oct. 26	PENN STATE	8 p.m.	
Nov. 2	at Purdue	TBA	
Nov. 16	at Illinois	TBA	
Nov. 23	INDIANA	TBA	
Nov. 30	at Michigan	TBA	

* OSU's gameday AP ranking is in parentheses before the opponent, while the opponent's ranking is after the name.

Team Statistics

	OSU	Opp
First Downs	106	65
Rushing	64	27
Passing	36	34
Penalty	6	4
Average Per Game/Rush	311.0	79.8
Average Per Game/Pass	218.0	200.5
Total Offense	2,116	1,121
Total Plays	305	264
Average Per Game	529.0	280.2
Average Per Play	6.9	4.2
Penalties-Yards	27-245	24-190
Fumbles-Lost	3-2	7-4
3rd Down Efficiency	26-54	13-57
Percentage	48%	23%
4th Down Efficiency	10-12	4-6
Percentage	83%	67%
Sacks-Yards	9-67	5-22
Times Of Possession Avg.	33:47	26:13

Score

By Quarters	1	2	3	4	OT	Tot.	Avg.
Ohio State	102	49	49	10	–	210	52.5
Opponents	14	19	21	7	–	61	15.3

Individual Statistics

Rushing	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Long
Jordan Hall	68	422	6.2	8	49
Ezekiel Elliott	21	200	9.5	2	57
Kenny Guiton	25	186	7.4	1	44
Dontre Wilson	13	121	9.3	1	26
Braxton Miller	18	82	4.6	0	40
Rod Smith	9	64	7.1	1	27
Warren Ball	11	59	5.4	0	11
Cardale Jones	8	52	6.5	1	13
Carlos Hyde	5	41	8.2	0	21
Philly Brown	2	15	7.5	0	8
Devonte Butler	4	14	3.5	0	10
OSU Totals	186	1,312	6.7	14	57
OPP Totals	122	319	2.6	1	16

Passing	Comp.	Att.	Pct.	Yds.	TD-INT	Effic.
Kenny Guiton	65	95	68.4	664	13-2	168.08
Braxton Miller	17	24	70.8	208	2-1	162.80
OSU Totals	82	119	68.9	872	15-3	167.02
OPP Totals	82	142	57.7	802	6-5	112.09

Receiving	Rec.	Net	Avg.	TD	Long
Devin Smith	16	281	17.6	4	90
Philly Brown	16	169	10.6	3	27
Dontre Wilson	10	84	8.4	0	32
Jeff Heuerman	8	88	11.0	1	25
Evan Spencer	8	78	9.8	2	20
Jordan Hall	8	34	4.2	0	11
Chris Fields	7	82	11.7	4	25
Nick Vannett	4	37	9.2	0	15
Rod Smith	3	13	4.3	0	12
Kato Mitchell	1	5	5.0	0	5
Carlos Hyde	1	1	1.0	1	1
OSU Totals	82	872	10.6	15	90
OPP Totals	82	802	9.8	6	61

Scoring	TD	EPK	EPR	EPRC	FG	PTS
Jordan Hall	8	—	—	1	—	50
Drew Basil	—	23-23	—	—	2-2	29
Chris Fields	4	—	—	—	—	24
Devin Smith	4	—	—	—	—	24
Philly Brown	3	—	—	—	—	18
Evan Spencer	2	—	—	—	—	12
Ezekiel Elliott	2	—	—	—	—	12
Kenny Guiton	1	—	1	—	—	8
Carlos Hyde	1	—	—	—	—	6
Jeff Heuerman	1	—	—	—	—	6
Cardale Jones	1	—	—	—	—	6
Rod Smith	1	—	—	—	—	6
Dontre Wilson	1	—	—	—	—	6
Drew Basil	—	3-3	—	—	—	3
OSU Totals	29	26-26	1	1	2-2	210
OPP Totals	8	7-7	—	—	2-2	61

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

Punting	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Bk	Long
C.Johnston	12	490	40.8	0	61
OSU Totals	12	490	40.8	0	61
OPP Totals	28	1,129	40.3	1	78

Interceptions	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
Bradley Roby	1	42	42.0	0	42
Armani Reeves	1	4	4.0	0	4
Christian Bryant	1	0	0.0	0	0
Doran Grant	1	0	0.0	0	0
Ron Tanner	1	0	0.0	0	0
OSU Totals	5	46	9.2	0	42
OPP Totals	3	48	16.0	1	45

Punt Returns	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
Philly Brown	8	139	17.4	0	65
Chris Fields	2	17	8.5	0	9
Doran Grant	1	4	4.0	0	0
OSU Totals	11	160	14.5	0	65
OPP Totals	0	0	0.0	0	0

Kickoff Returns	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
Dontre Wilson	4	122	30.5	0	51
Jordan Hall	1	17	17.0	0	17
Jeff Heuerman	1	13	13.0	0	13
OSU Totals	6	152	25.3	0	51
OPP Totals	24	468	19.5	0	42

Def. Leaders	Solo	Asst.	Tot.	TFL-Yds.	Sacks
Ryan Shazier	22	6	28	4.5-15	1.0-10
Christian Bryant	10	11	21	—	—
Corey Brown	12	8	20	1.0-1	—
Curtis Grant	9	9	18	0.5-1	—
Noah Spence	7	10	17	5.0-27	2.5-21
Doran Grant	13	3	16	—	—
C.J. Barnett	9	4	13	—	—
Bradley Roby	10	3	13	—	—
Tyvis Powell	7	6	13	—	—
Joey Bosa	7	3	10	2.0-4	—
Jamal Marcus	6	4	10	1.0-7	1.0-7
Armani Reeves	7	3	10	—	—
Joshua Perry	4	4	8	—	—
Chris Carter	3	4	7	1.0-2	1.0-2
Steve Miller	4	3	7	3.0-15	2.0-14
Michael Bennett	2	4	6	2.0-10	0.5-5
Vonn Bell	3	3	6	1.0-1	—
Trey Johnson	2	4	6	—	—
Ron Tanner	4	1	5	—	—
Devan Bogard	4	1	5	—	—
Cam Burrows	2	1	3	—	—
OSU Totals	157	102	259	23-91	9-67
OPP Totals	183	126	309	19-52	5-22

Fumbles Forced: 1 — Michael Bennett, Doran Grant, Jordan Hall, Jamal Marcus, Ryan Shazier.

Fumbles Recovered: 2 — Michael Bennett; 1 — Chris Carter, Jordan Hall.

BSB Quotebook: Ohio State 76, Florida A&M 0

Ohio State head coach Urban Meyer's succinct assessment of his team's victory: "A good effort by our guys. They came out and played well, came out and played fast, (and we) got a lot of people in the game."

Florida A&M head coach Earl Holmes on the value of playing against a quality opponent such as Ohio State: "It is always worth it. We have some guys on our team with aspirations of playing on Sundays, and it is important for them to play in this type of atmosphere. It also makes us come together as a team because out of the 100,000 people in the stadium, the only ones cheering for you are your teammates. Regardless of who you're playing, it is about what you need to do as a team. Your offense and defense have to complement each other. You can't have your defense out there for 16 plays and then go three-and-out on offense."

Senior center Corey Linsley's assessment of the game: "They played hard. I'll give them credit, but we were obviously the better team. It was a chance for some young guys to show what they can do and a chance for us to sharpen our skills. We don't take any team lightly, and I think that was evident today. They played hard but we definitely came in ready to go."

Linsley on if anything didn't go right for Ohio State in the blowout win: "No. I'm not trying to be arrogant or anything. I missed a couple blocks, but in the grand scheme of things there wasn't a whole lot. We did a really good job executing."

Ohio State junior wideout Evan Spencer on if the Buckeyes still made mistakes in the win: "Yeah, it's almost impossible to play a perfect football game. Everybody makes mistakes, and it's just about getting them corrected and trying to correct them."

OSU quarterback Kenny Guiton on his record-breaking six-touchdown performance: "It's a blessing. Like I said, thank God. Thank the O-linemen. I had all day. The coaches wanted to come out throwing the ball around. I thank them for the trust they put in me to be able to do that, and I just trust the receivers and make plays."



JOSH WINSLOW

TV TIME – Ohio State fifth-year senior Kenny Guiton (13) did a postgame interview with the Big Ten Network after the Buckeyes earned a 76-0 win against Florida A&M.

Ohio State tight end Jeff Heurman on Guiton's play so far this season: "He's meant everything, really, to be honest with you. Braxton (Miller) is our best player, and to lose him in week two to injury, you know, we really needed someone to step up and really needed someone to get us going, and I think Kenny did a great job of that. Obviously, I think the last three weeks he's really executed and he's done everything phenomenal. He set the school record last week for longest play (from scrimmage) and this week for six touchdown passes. That's something they never would have thought of."

Meyer on Guiton's recent play: "He's an efficient player right now, he's an incredible manager/coach on the field, so his time came. He was prepared, and his coach and he did a very good job."

Ohio State reserve offensive lineman Darryl Baldwin on the offensive output: "It's great. When the first team goes out there and does their thing and everyone else gets involved, we keep it rolling. Today everyone performed great."

Meyer on how well the Buckeyes' noncon-

ference schedule prepared them for Big Ten play. "Midnight next week (after the Wisconsin game) we will know. I love my team. I like our coaches and the seriousness that our guys are approaching everything with, and I like that fact that we're relatively healthy."

Spencer on making a career-high four catches: "I thought I had a good game. I thought I did really well last week on the perimeter, and I saw throughout the week I was going to get some opportunities and I just try to make the best of them."

Buckeyes defensive lineman Chase Farris on hearing he would start in place of the injured Michael Bennett just prior to the opening kickoff: "Just knowing your number's called and it's time to go, it's amazing. It's really amazing. It definitely was a surprise. I wasn't expecting it. I figured I would get in sooner or later, but to start today was really amazing. My coaches trusted me to get in the game."

OSU sophomore walk-on wide receiver Kato Mitchell on his first game action as a Buckeyes player: "Some of the coaches told me I was going to play, so during the week I was just trying to go as hard as I could just in case I did get the chance to go in, and when I went in I tried to make the most of it. It's exhilarating. I want to contribute more, but I just have to work my way up. I know that's going to take some time and everything, but just to get out on the field one time, it's the highlight of my career."

FAMU sophomore cornerback Patrick Aiken on his first-quarter interception of Guiton and subsequent fumble: "I was caught up in the moment and made a mental error. I began to stumble and when I tried to catch myself I was hit and the ball came loose. It was a good feeling to get the interception, but I didn't finish the play how I should have."

OSU freshman running back Ezekiel Elliott on the competition between the Buckeyes' running backs: "We have a great stable of running backs. It's hard to get a spot and hold a spot when the guys around you are so great. Every day we come hard to practice and try to earn our spot."

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