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"For The Buckeye Fan Who Needs To Know More"

Sept. 28, 2013



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.

'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

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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 Heurman, 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," Heurman 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," Heurman 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 back-up 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.

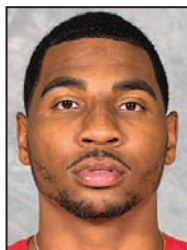
The Ohio State head coach has mentioned experimenting with putting both of his top two quarterbacks on the field simultaneously, but he will wait to see how both Miller and Guiton perform in the days leading up to the Buckeyes' Big Ten opener.

"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."



Braxton Miller

"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."



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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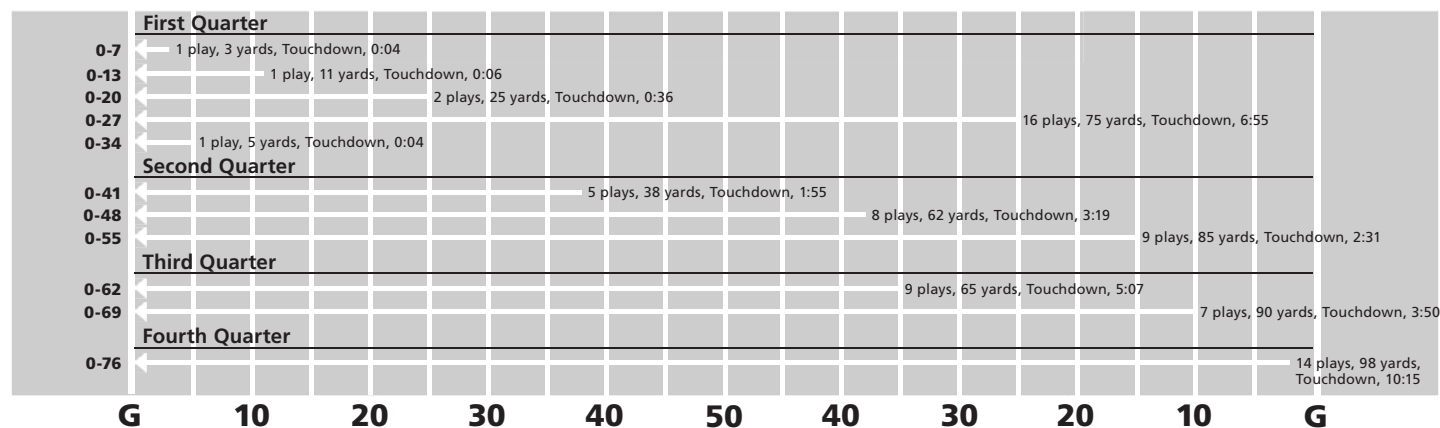
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OHIO STATE VS. FLORIDA A&M

Scoring Drives

Florida A&M →

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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 touchdown

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.

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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 is 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-

dition 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 Vabel 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 Heurman, 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 (Heurman) 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 Heurman ended up being Guiton's favorite targets as each of them caught a career-high four passes. Heurman 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 Hoying, 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.

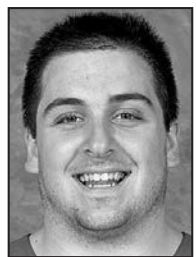
"I've never heard of having too many weapons being a bad thing," Spencer said. "It's a good thing to have as much depth as we do, and we know as players that pretty much everybody can go in and get the job done at any given time."

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



Corey Linsley

to the task of protecting the quarterback. Guiton felt pressure at times, but he was not sacked, a credit to the communication of center Corey Linsley and the rest of the veteran front.

"I think that was their whole defensive scheme (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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OHIO STATE VS. FLORIDA A&M

Silver Bullets Stand Tall In Lopsided Affair

Heading into its fourth and final nonconference game, the Ohio State defense knew the caliber of foe it was facing.

Football Championship Subdivision program Florida A&M, the first FCS squad the Buckeyes have faced since a 43-0 win against Youngstown State in 2008, entered the game experiencing a myriad of problems on offense.

INSIDE THE DEFENSE Ryan Ginn

Over their first three games, all against FCS competition, the Rattlers averaged just 18.0 points, 129.3 passing yards and 99.0 rushing yards per contest. They'd compiled more turnovers than touchdowns and converted less than 30 percent of their third-down opportunities. Florida A&M was also missing new offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach Quinn Gray for the third consecutive game due to illness.

Most teams would have been a step down from the high-powered offensive threat presented by California one week earlier. The Rattlers weren't even on the same floor.

Despite being listed as the largest favorite in the history of the program with a 51-point spread, the Buckeyes didn't take any chances. Eager to atone for allowing 34

points against the Golden Bears, they gave Florida A&M their full attention.

"You don't underestimate anybody, because at the end of the day, somebody could come out there that you've never heard of and go off," junior cornerback Bradley Roby said. "You have to take every opponent very seriously. It doesn't matter who we're playing. We're going to attack them the same way."

By the time the clock expired, Ohio State had held Florida A&M to no points and just 80 total yards – 50 rushing and 30 passing – on 39 plays. The Rattlers amassed two first downs all game and failed to cross midfield. The farthest they got was their own 44-yard line on a five-play, 20-yard drive – their longest of the game. It marked the first time since Oct. 31, 2009, against New Mexico State that an Ohio State opponent didn't advance out of its own territory.

"We had a good game today as a defense," Roby said. "We shut them out. That was our goal, and we were able to accomplish that. It's always a good feeling leaving the stadium with a goose egg."

Florida A&M won the coin toss and elected to receive. Excluding a disastrous fumbled interception return by sophomore cornerback Patrick Aiken – which technically counted as a possession – the Rattlers punted on each of their first four offensive drives, amassing just 13 yards in 12 plays.

Roby nabbed his first interception of the season on the opening play of the next Florida A&M drive, picking off sophomore



JOSH WINSLOW

ON THE STAT SHEET – Junior cornerback Bradley Roby (1) recorded his first interception of the season.

quarterback Damien Fleming and returning it 42 yards to the Rattlers' 5-yard line.

Although he disputed the notion that he struggled against California, Roby said he was happy to make the play on his interception after a near miss last week.

"I was just in position," Roby said. "He threw the ball kind of behind the receiver. I looked back, saw it and made a play. I should have scored, but I didn't. I was just glad I made that play because I dropped the pick vs. Cal last week. I was just happy to get the ball in my hands, and now I'm just going to keep trying to make as many plays as I can."

The OSU defense followed up its only forced turnover of the game with three more punts on as many possessions in the second quarter. Florida A&M recorded its only first down of the first half in the waning minutes of the second quarter to prevent the Silver Bullets from finishing off eight straight drives of three or fewer plays.

Although Ohio State substituted early and often, the visitors never threatened in the second half, either. Once again, the Rattlers managed just one first down, tally-

ing their lone third-down conversion in 11 tries when Fleming scrambled for 9 yards on 3rd-and-8. Florida A&M punted three plays later and failed to gain another first down in the second half.

A total of 23 players recorded at least one stop for the Buckeyes, and only sophomore "viper" Jamal Marcus reached five tackles. Junior linebacker Ryan Shazier totaled 1½ tackles for loss, and senior safety Corey "Pitt" Brown, junior "viper" Steve Miller, freshman defensive back Vonn Bell and sophomore defensive tackle Chase Farris each finished with one tackle for loss.

Farris Fills In For Bennett

Junior defensive tackle Michael Bennett was noticeably absent from the contest, spending the game on the sideline after starting the first three games. According to Ohio State head coach Urban Meyer, he was withheld as a precautionary measure.

"Michael Bennett had a stinger in last week's game," Meyer said. "If that would have been a game we needed him, he was ready to go. We just wanted him to go a few more days without contact on his shoulders. He will be ready next week."

In his place, Farris received the first start of his career. Originally a defensive lineman in high school, Farris switched to offensive line once he arrived at Columbus but returned to the defensive side of the ball after sophomore defensive tackle Tommy Schutt broke his foot prior to the season opener.

"I'm just thankful," he said. "I'm thankful for every moment I get to play on that field. If it wasn't for God blessing me with the ability and my coaches helping me tune everything up and my teammates pushing me, I wouldn't be anywhere without them."

He made the most of his playing time, recording an 8-yard sack on the second play of the second quarter to force a punt. He also batted down a pass at the line of scrimmage.

"Getting a sack is rewarding, but you have to think about everybody else that helped make the sack happen," he said. "You have the outside rushers forcing the QB to step up and then the inside rushes pushing, and I just had it fall onto my lap."

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Buckeye Game Analysis

Play Of The Game

When Urban Meyer began his weekly press conference Sept. 16, two days after the team's win at Cal, he made sure to praise the play of a wide receiver who had just one catch for a measly 2 yards against the Golden Bears.

"I called him out (this morning at our team meeting)," Meyer said of Evan Spencer. "That's one of the best efforts I've ever seen a wide receiver play, and I'm not talking about the ball in his hand. We tried to get it to him a few times, but his blocking of the safeties was as good as I've ever seen."

The reward, then, came Sept. 21 as the Buckeyes routed Florida A&M by a 76-0 score. Spencer was targeted early and often by quarterback Kenny Guiton, catching a career-high four balls in the first half for 50 yards and two touchdowns.

His second touchdown allowed Guiton to make history, as it was the sixth touchdown pass on the day for the senior signal caller, making him the first Buckeye to reach the mark in a game since the program started playing in 1890.

With OSU already holding a 48-0 lead and time ticking down inside a minute, Guiton took the snap on a first down at the FAMU 15-yard line. The Buckeyes had three receivers lined up to the left side of the formation, with Spencer the middle man of the trio. While Spencer ran to the end zone, Guiton originally looked for a receiver to his right, even pump-faking that direction.

Finding nothing, Guiton quickly scanned back to his left, seeing Spencer alone in the end zone behind the defense. From there, it was a simple pass and catch, as there were no Rattlers within 10 yards of Spencer as he stood on the "C" in "BUCKEYES."

The catch with five seconds left on the clock gave OSU a 55-0 lead going into halftime and put Guiton's name in the record book.

Hidden Play Of The Game

In a game in which Ohio State basically dominated every play, it's hard to pick one, but tight end Jeff Heurman deserves some props for bulling into the end zone for OSU's second touchdown.

Just like with Spencer, Meyer had raved about the game Heurman played the week before vs. Cal, and the head coach made it a point to get the junior from Florida a few balls thrown his way against the Rattlers.

Heurman caught all four of his passes in the first quarter, including the touchdown. With OSU holding a first down at the FAMU 11-yard line thanks to a long punt return by Corey "Philly" Brown and a penalty on Florida A&M, the Buckeyes were in great scoring position, and Heurman made sure the ball got into the end zone with a physical move.

He lined up as a wing on the right side of the formation then slipped out of the backfield to the right flat to catch Guiton's pass. Heurman pulled the ball in at the 7 and cut

upfield, slipping by safety John Ojo before lowering a shoulder into Devonte Johnson at the 1. The force of the impact sent Heurman staggering back onto his right foot for a second, but he kept his balance and stepped into the end zone before being pushed out of bounds by Jonathan Pillow.

"I just saw the goal line," Heurman said after his second career TD catch. "It was kind of a fake power play. ... I mean, I haven't seen it on film or anything but Chris (Fields) told me that I was fighting pretty good to get in there."

What Worked Well

- **Working on the passing game:** Meyer clearly wanted to tune up the passing game, and Ohio State ran 34 passes in the first half to just 13 rushes while getting Guiton to a school-record six touchdown passes before halftime. Things couldn't have gone much better for Ohio State in this regard, which will hand a finely tuned aerial machine back to Braxton Miller if he's healthy enough to go vs. Wisconsin.

- **Rewarding players:** Whether it was Spencer and Heurman or walk-ons such as Kato Mitchell and Devonte Butler, Ohio State was able to make sure players who work hard were rewarded against the Rattlers. The game likely wasn't high in entertainment value for the fans, but the program was able to make sure just about everyone on the roster got some playing time or made some impact on the stat sheet.

- **Defensive line depth:** Steve Miller and Chase Farris had sacks for the Buckeyes, who continue to show they have defensive linemen who can make plays even without the injured Michael Bennett, Tommy Schutt and Adolphus Washington. Six defensive linemen have now been part of sacks this year, an impressive number as line coach Mike Vrabel continues to use a deep rotation.

What Didn't Work

- **Going for two:** Just about the only thing that went wrong for Ohio State on the day was the two-point conversion try after the second touchdown, as Guiton's pass to Jordan Hall came up short. The Buckeyes might have just returned to the two-point efforts, which were first on display in the Buffalo win, to put it back in the minds of upcoming Big Ten foes, but to come up short vs. Florida A&M could impact OSU's decision-making process going forward.

The Bottom Line

The game was over when ... officials at Florida A&M signed a contract to play Ohio State. The Football Championship Subdivision school, which received \$900,000 for allowing its football team to become glorified tackling dummies for the Buckeyes, has now lost five straight games to Football Bowl Subdivision opponents by an average margin of 52 points.

Game ball goes to ... Guiton. Ohio State has been playing intercollegiate football since 1890, and Guiton is now the guy who has thrown more touchdown passes in a single game than anyone else wearing the scarlet and gray.

Stat of the game ... 6. Guiton threw a record six touchdown passes against Florida A&M, giving him 13 so far this season. Braxton Miller, who expects to start in the Big Ten season opener against Wisconsin, threw 15 touchdown passes all of last season. Feel free to discuss.

Reviewing The Matchups

Ohio State rush offense vs. Florida A&M rush defense: Ohio State again proved it is one of the most effective – and deepest – rushing offenses in the nation, racking up 388 rushing yards. The Buckeyes were able to effectively grind out the clock in the second half, and Ezekiel Elliott continues to look like he'll be a future stud after his dominant second-half showing. **EDGE: Ohio State**

Florida A&M rush offense vs. Ohio State rush defense: The Buckeyes were able to control the line of scrimmage, allowing just 2.2 yards per carry, a mark boosted by a total of 17 yards gained on a pair of rushes by Al-Terek McBurse on the last play of each half. Take those out and the average drops to 1.6 yards per rush. **EDGE: Ohio State**

Ohio State pass offense vs. Florida A&M pass defense: Credit must go to Florida A&M for twice picking off Guiton passes, though the Rattlers fumbled one right back to OSU and then watched the other be overturned by a penalty. Other than that, Ohio State was able to use a ball-control passing offense that was highlighted by the six touchdown passes by Guiton. **EDGE: Ohio State**

Florida A&M pass offense vs. Ohio State pass defense: Florida A&M quarterback Damien Fleming completed 10 passes for a total of 30 yards with a long gain of 7 yards. That's simply poor, and Ohio State did not give Fleming time or open receivers to work with. **EDGE: Ohio State**

Special teams: Talent disparities like the one on display in this game often show up on special teams, and that is exactly what happened early. Brown ran back a punt 65 yards, then Doran Grant blocked the Rattlers' next try to set up another easy OSU score. Colby Blanton's 78-yard punt for FAMU was something to see, though. **EDGE: Ohio State**

Intangibles: Sure, this was a massive mismatch – the biggest in Ohio Stadium in many moons – but give the Buckeyes credit for coming out and taking care of business. The Buckeyes could have fiddled around and got off to a sleepy start, but instead OSU scored at least three first-quarter touchdowns for the fourth consecutive game to start the season. **EDGE: Ohio State**

– Jeff Svoboda and Mark Rea

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The Numbers Game

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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, Elflein, 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					Scoring					
Date	Opponent	Result/Time	Crowd		TD	EPK	EPR	EPRC	FG	PTS
Aug. 31	(2) BUFFALO	W, 40-20	103,980		8	—	—	1	—	50
Sept. 7	(3) SAN DIEGO STATE	W, 42-7	104,984		—	23-23	—	—	2-2	29
Sept. 14	(4) at California	W, 52-34	62,467		4	—	—	—	—	24
Sept. 21	(4) FLORIDA A&M	W 76-0	103,595		4	—	—	—	—	24
Sept. 28	WISCONSIN	8 p.m.			3	—	—	—	—	18
Oct. 5	at Northwestern	8 p.m.			2	—	—	—	—	12
Oct. 19	IOWA	3:30 p.m.			2	—	—	—	—	12
Oct. 26	PENN STATE	8 p.m.			1	—	1	—	—	8
Nov. 2	at Purdue	TBA			1	—	—	—	—	6
Nov. 16	at Illinois	TBA			1	—	—	—	—	6
Nov. 23	INDIANA	TBA			1	—	—	—	—	6
Nov. 30	at Michigan	TBA			1	—	—	—	—	6
					—	3-3	—	—	—	3

* 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

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.

OHIO STATE VS. FLORIDA A&M

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 Heuerman 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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OPINION

Game Vs. FCS Squad Not Worth It For OSU

When does a team hurt itself by winning 76-0? When it's Ohio State and it's facing off against maybe the worst team in America.

The Buckeyes went through little more than a glorified scrimmage against Florida A&M, emptying the bench and showing a little bit of mercy by not throwing a single pass in the second half. Still, FAMU showed little resistance, and though it no doubt had its morale damaged, its bank account was nearly a million dollars richer. It certainly seemed to be worth it for the visitors, but was it the same for the hosts?

Here's one vote for no.

THE FACTS MAN Mike Wachsman

There are a variety of reasons this game was a bad thing, chief among them that it won't be of any help to the Buckeyes in their quest to make the national championship game. In fact, it could prove to be a detriment – if OSU is among the two unbeaten teams and a one-loss major-conference team is right on the Buckeyes' heels, you can bet voters will look at schedules before casting their ballots. If the other team didn't play an FCS team, then it wouldn't be any kind of shock to see OSU bypassed.

The funny thing is should this scenario unfold, the loudest complaining will come from OSU. Never mind that Gene Smith could have easily brought another team into the fold, even a low-level squad from a major conference.

I can see it now – the BCS Selection Show will unveil the participants in the national championship game, and when Rece Davis says, "We all knew the Crimson Tide would be there, but there was some suspense about who their opponent might be. There were quite a few teams that considered themselves worthy, including Oregon, Ohio State and Florida State, so when we come back from commercial we will let you know which one of that group Alabama will be facing."

Buckeye Nation will stay tuned, hoping that OSU's unbeaten record will be enough to grab the other spot in the title game. Some hardworking staffers will get kudos for reaching Smith moments after the announcement, and his astonishment will be evident.

"The way the system is set up, you would like to think that going unbeaten is enough to give you an opportunity to play for a national title. I know there's a locker room full of coaches and kids that have worked extremely hard, and I know they feel they are good enough to play for the title. Am I disappointed? Of course I am. And I know they are as well. I would like to know what was going through the minds of the selection committee when this choice was made."

Told that there is no real selection committee, but rather a point system, Smith will still be agitated.

"I really don't know what more a team can do. We went undefeated. We can't control the perceived strength of our conference, we can only beat the teams we play."

Right, Gene. You can't control how good or bad the Big Ten is. But you can control the games prior to that, and no matter how you slice it there is no way that you can believe the FAMU game was good for anyone. It's one thing to have to find a late replacement (San Diego State) for a school that backs out of a contract (Vanderbilt), and another to find a major-conference foe (California) going through a down period after being in an up period when the game was scheduled. Heck, even Buffalo is from the Mid-American Conference, so you can get a pass on that one.

The Rattlers brought back memories of a few really bad teams and made more than a few wonder why it's so hard to put together something representing even a legitimate schedule.

It wasn't that long ago when Boston College, Washington, Pittsburgh and Notre Dame were on the Buckeyes' schedule – in the same season! It was 1995, and there was no BCS to worry about, so schools took a few more chances. As long as they could navigate their conference they would still

get a cushy bowl bid. Once the BCS came into play, it became all about the title, and facing good teams every week would be too risky.

I call BS on that one.

It wouldn't have been difficult for OSU to put together something like Buffalo, San Diego State and, say, a Wake Forest or Boston College from the ACC, a Missouri or Arkansas from the SEC or a Texas Tech or Kansas from the Big 12. Yeah, none of those teams are any good, but they are least real teams from real conferences, and it would look more impressive for the Buckeyes to beat them 49-7 than to paste an FCS school by 100.

The players weren't fooled, either.

"I like to showcase our talent," senior safety Christian Bryant said. "I would like to play bigger games. But it's really out of our control. We've still got to go out there and face whatever team is put in front of us."

Urban Meyer wasn't going the politically correct route, either, handing out roses when weeds would be more appropriate.

"We usually have the offensive coordinator, defensive coordinator and special teams coordinator come up and call out a couple of players who played well," running back Jordan Hall said after the game. "Today Coach was like, 'This game is over. We're on to Wisconsin.' So he's fired up, we're fired up. We'll be ready."

Meyer was asked if he agreed that his troops will be ready to kick things off for real in the Big Ten opener against Wisconsin.

"That's a great question," he said. "Are we prepared? I like to think we are."

From a coaching standpoint OSU fans have to hope so because OSU hasn't gained very much from the nonconference schedule, especially going against FAMU. Thankfully, games such as these will be gone with the advent of the new college football playoff system, where strength of schedule will be an actual component. Were the BCS standings released this week, OSU would currently sit in seventh place.

So while the nonleague season is in the rearview mirror, OSU fans still need to wonder whether an unblemished slate will be good enough to get the Buckeyes to the championship game. If somehow OSU is passed over by a one-loss team, the caterwauling from Columbus will be heard all the way to California.

But the only complaining should be directed at Smith, who is the one who will have put Ohio State into that position.

Rattlers Used To Have Some Bite

Florida A&M has turned out some talented players in the past, including one of my all-time favorites, "Bullet" Bob Hayes. Once known as the Fastest Man in the World for his exploits in track and field, Hayes put together an outstanding career for the Dallas Cowboys. He went from a player of whom one scout said, "He has 9-flat speed and 12-flat hands," to one of the most feared deep receivers the NFL has ever known.

Others include ex-Cincinnati Bengals

defensive back Ken Riley; Hewitt Dixon, a staple of the great Oakland Raiders teams of the late '60s; and defensive back Glen Edwards, a forgotten but valuable member of the dynastic 1970s Pittsburgh Steelers.

Rattlers coach and A&M alum Earl Holmes played for the Pittsburgh Steelers and was in fact a teammate of Mike Vrabel during the Buckeye coach's time in the Steel City.

Taking It Up A Notch

The league season opened with Wisconsin blasting Purdue, but it really gets going in the next couple of weeks.

The sentiment that the conference is once again not very good isn't wrong, especially given the losses to big conference foes in showcase games (Nebraska falling to UCLA, Michigan State losing to Notre Dame, Illinois being dropped by Washington) and the nail-biters endured by Michigan (to Akron and UConn, both among the worst teams in the FBS). Throw in a loss by Indiana to mediocre Missouri, Penn State at home to Central Florida and Wisconsin on the road against Arizona State (albeit in controversial fashion) and there really doesn't seem to be much reason for optimism.

Ohio State should be favored in every game it plays from this point, and the first two league games could be the trickiest. There is more worry from this corner about Northwestern than about Wisconsin, mainly because the Badgers are leaning on the run more than ever and for once don't appear to have a quarterback who can take pressure off the ground game.

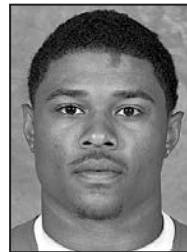
Northwestern has a nice balance on offense, and when healthy, running back Venric Mark is one of the best game breakers around. It is odd, though, that in all of his years as Northwestern's head coach, Pat Fitzgerald – a linebacker of some acclaim – hasn't figured out a way to make his defense better. The Wildcats will score on OSU, but it remains to be seen whether they can stop the Buckeyes.

Neither Iowa nor Penn State has the horses to derail the Buckeyes as October comes to a close, and early November doesn't get much tougher as the league's worst team, Purdue, hosts the Buckeyes. Illinois at least appears to be trying this year but also lacks the depth and star power to beat the Buckeyes.

That leaves Indiana to close out the home season, and though the Hoosiers are making strides under Kevin Wilson they are still too gimmicky on offense and not stout enough on defense to break through. But they won't be an easy out.

I thought after beating Notre Dame that Michigan was indeed back. Devin Gardner looked legit, the running game was solid and the defense had improved. However, if not for some horrible play-calling by Akron as the seconds wound down and one late legitimate drive against UConn, the Wolverines would be staring down the barrel of two losses.

It's easy to believe Michigan will be a different team by the time Nov. 30 rolls around, but it will have to be much improved if it is to beat the Buckeyes in the Big House.



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OPINION

Time For Cupcakes Is Over For Ohio State

Who said the Ohio State football team has an easy schedule?

The Buckeyes go immediately from what was admittedly a light nonconference slate to the meat of their Big Ten schedule, hosting three-time defending champion Wisconsin under the lights Sept. 28 and then traveling to title hopeful Northwestern for another night game Oct. 5.

After a weekend off, the Buckeyes host Iowa and Penn State, solid, well-coached teams, and then travel to Purdue. Need I say anything about looking past Purdue? Maybe Illinois, which will host the Buckeyes on Nov. 16, is not quite up to the same level as some of these other squads, but don't write off Indiana, an improving team under coach Kevin Wilson which came within three points of Ohio State last season while racking up 49 points and 481 yards. The Hoosiers invade Ohio Stadium on Nov. 23, a week before the Buckeyes travel to Michigan.

The Wolverines have been underwhelming in their past two games, but Brady Hoke and his crew will be out to prove they are of the same caliber as the Buckeyes and that what is now a run of 10 Ohio State wins in the past 12 contests is a thing of the past.

Are the Buckeyes better than all of these teams? On paper, probably.

But they don't play games on paper, and the fact that the Buckeyes might be perceived as the class of the conference can be a negative. Ohio State is going to receive the best shot from each of these teams, as the others try to prove they are the best or some of the lesser lights try to make their seasons with a win over the big, bad Buckeyes. Fans don't storm the field after wins over the likes of the Illini.

If Ohio State is going to face the "A" game from each of these teams, the Buckeyes cannot afford to take a week off against anyone. While some might find the two off weeks the Buckeyes enjoy this season a plus, a chance to rest and heal wounds, I caution that it also makes for a very long season. Bringing your best every week can be difficult.

Right out of the chute, the Badgers present an interesting challenge.

The Badgers pounded out 388 rushing yards in their 41-10 victory over Purdue on Sept. 21, with Melvin Gordon gaining 147 yards, James White racking up 145 and Corey Clement adding 83. Wisconsin is averaging 349.8 ground yards, third best in the nation.

The case can be made that the front seven of Ohio State's defense is the biggest question mark on that side of the ball so this will make for an intriguing matchup. Granted, the Buckeyes are ninth in the country in rushing defense, giving up just 79.8 yards a game, but as everyone knows, the early competition has been suspect.

The Buckeyes' last two games have proved difficult in helping determine just how good the OSU defense will be this season, as Cal, which posted over 500 yards while losing to the Buckeyes, is going to move the ball against anyone, while Florida A&M will most likely be offensively challenged even against FCS competition.

This game will be a great barometer of how good the defense actually is, and the outcome will go a long way toward determining Ohio State's championship fate.

By the way, those of you counting on the Buckeyes, who are sixth in the country with 311.0 yards rushing per game, to match the

THE VIEW FROM 15TH & HIGH

Frank Moskowitz, Publisher

Badgers on the ground should note that Wisconsin is sixth in the country in rushing defense, allowing just 76.3 yards per game.

For all the flair that Urban Meyer is supposed to bringing to the conference, this one will probably prove to be a good old-fashioned Big Ten slugfest with the team that dominates the trenches bringing home the victory.

Fast Look At FAMU

Just some quick thoughts on the 76-0 win over Florida A&M.

I know the coaching staff didn't want to risk injury, but I would have liked to see Braxton Miller run a few series against FAMU. I hate to have Miller's first action in several weeks be against one of the best teams in the conference. I wouldn't have left him out there very long, but I would have given him a chance to run some plays against a team with a different colored uniform in front of a live crowd.

While Kenny Guiton has been great – he is up to No. 13 in the country in passing efficiency – I don't believe him to be the game breaker that Miller is. Miller, if healthy, is definitely the starting quarterback. However, if he gets off to a slow start against the Badgers, I think he will be on a shorter leash than a Heisman Trophy candidate normally is, given the way Guiton has been playing and given the confidence the team and staff have in their ace reliever.

After Guiton rushed nine and 14 times against San Diego State and Cal respectively, I noticed he rushed only once against the Rattlers. I don't think the staff wanted to risk having two banged-up signal callers going into OSU's biggest test of the young season.

Given that both Miller and Guiton play the game in such a way that they are open to injury, it was good to finally get Cardale Jones into the game. He looked solid while rushing eight times for 52 yards and a touchdown, but we did not get a chance to see him pass the ball. Still, any live action is a plus for a young quarterback who never knows when he might be forced into action.

As the Buckeye coaches try to give future opponents, especially the Badgers, plenty to think about as they prepare to play Ohio State, they included the tight end in the offense big time against Florida A&M. Jeff Heuerman grabbed four passes for 43 yards and a score, while Nick Vannett added a pair of receptions for another 27 yards. The two had entered the game with a combined six catches.

As far as the Buckeye ground game, they sure have a wealth of running backs, don't they?

With the return of Carlos Hyde, I thought Rod Smith – who seems to have captured the fancy of many Buckeye fans because of his vast potential – would be the odd man out. However, he responded to Hyde's return with three carries for 45 yards, including a 27-yard jaunt, probably maintaining his spot in the rotation.

Interestingly, one of the few Buckeyes who did not have a notable game against Florida A&M was the flashy Dontre

Wilson, who had three catches for just 12 yards.

By the way, Evan Spencer, who turned in a strong performance with four catches for 50 yards and a pair of scores, was about as wide open as I have ever seen a receiver on that short a field when he caught his second TD from 15 yards out. I'd hate to be in the FAMU defensive secondary room when they play that film back.

On the defensive side of the ball, the player who stood out to me the most was Chase Farris. The 6-4, 308-pound sophomore was challenging Taylor Decker for a starting spot on the offensive line just a couple of weeks ago, but he threw his hat into the defensive line rotation ring with a sack and a batted-down pass against the Rattlers. The more depth the better along the defensive line as the Buckeyes prepare to host Wisconsin.

By the way, you haven't heard Decker's name mentioned much lately, which is a good thing when you talk about an offensive lineman. Concern about the big sophomore tackle after the opener with Buffalo may have been premature.

Snow Shone As Senior

We continue our look at the John Cooper era at Ohio State on the 25th anniversary of his hiring, this year reviewing the 1991 season.

While running back Robert Smith garnered many of the headlines in 1991, Cooper's fourth season in Columbus, another running back who would end up making a greater impact for the Buckeyes than Smith, at least as far as career rushing stats, was also making news.

Carlos Snow, a fifth-year senior, burst back into the consciousness of Buckeye fans when he rushed for 169 yards on 29 carries in a 27-17 win over Michigan State in week seven of the season.

It had been a long climb back for Snow, who sat out the previous season after having a benign tumor removed from his hip, allowing Smith, then a freshman, to emerge as the Buckeyes' featured running back. Smith sat out the '91 season in a dispute with Cooper and offensive coordinator Elliott Uzelac, and after gaining 97 yards against Washington State in week three, Snow appeared to have regained the starter's role. But a bruised chest the next week proved a setback.

It was one of many setbacks in Snow's star-crossed career at Ohio State.

Among other things, he injured his knee when his cleats got caught in a sprinkler head while he was working out, and he also plowed into a gas pump while reportedly driving drunk – all this in addition to the hip tumor.

But all that was put in the past with his performance against the Spartans.

"Carlos had a great game for us, and we presented him with a game ball," Cooper said after the game. "That's the first time we've done that around here in a while, but I just wanted to do that just to highlight his performance today."

Snow would go on to finish the season with a team-leading 828 yards on 169 car-

ries, good for a 4.9-yard average and nine touchdowns.

That helped him finish his career with 2,999 yards, seventh best in school history heading into this season, as he led the team in rushing three times (1988 and '89, in addition to 1991).

I found something that one of Snow's teammates, nose guard Greg Smith, said after Snow's triumphant game against MSU interesting.

"You have to love the guy coming back after all he's been through," Smith said. "Guys like him are what legends are made out of. People will be talking 20 years from now how Carlos came back in his senior year. I kind of get chills when I think about stuff like that."

What's interesting is that more than the 20 years Smith mentioned have now passed, and you don't hear much buzz about Snow.

He is probably best remembered for his 70-yard juke-and-run with a short pass for a touchdown as a freshman in the 1987 Michigan game – one of the biggest plays in one of the biggest Buckeye victories (Earle Bruce's last game at OSU) in the storied rivalry.

"Snow has given every indication he can be one of the most exciting players ever to don the scarlet and gray," I wrote in this space after his TD against the Wolverines capped his freshman season, in which he gained 381 yards on 99 carries, second only to Vince Workman's 470. "Michigan safety Doug Mallory is still looking for the athletic supporter Snow faked him out of on his TD gallop."

When you consider that the only players who have gained more yardage than Snow are Archie Griffin, Eddie George, Tim Spencer, Chris "Beanie" Wells, Keith Byars and Pepe Pearson, some of the best backs in OSU history, it's surprising that you don't here more mention of Snow when discussions center on great Ohio State running backs.

One running back who didn't gain as many yards in his Buckeye career but certainly got his share of publicity – good or bad is debatable – was Smith.

The flap with Cooper and Uzelac over alleged emphasis on football over academics was just another in the string of PR disasters that hounded Cooper in those early years. The announcement of a three-year contract extension minutes before the Michigan game later that season, an announcement that Cooper had no control over, which was followed by the worst loss to the Wolverines in 45 years, just made matters worse.

It's truly amazing, and a testament to Cooper, that he survived those early years and was able to lead the Buckeyes to one of their better runs from 1993-98.

Several reprints from Buckeye Sports Bulletins from that 1991 season, including stories about Snow's Michigan State game, the emergence of Kirk Herbstreit at quarterback, and the contract extension and Michigan loss, can be found in our electronic BSB Quickly, posted Sept. 20.

BSB's additional 36 electronic issues are available free to all paid print subscribers. If you have not signed up to access these additional issues, as well as the ability to read your BSB on Mondays during football season and Tuesdays the rest of the year – critical with the poor mail service we have been receiving – see the instructions on page 4.