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Vol. 37, No. 9

"For The Buckeye Fan Who Needs To Know More"

Nov. 11, 2017

## 'I Don't Know'

### *Buckeyes Blindsided In 55-24 Loss At Iowa*

 By TIM MOODY  
 Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

What just happened?

At least in the first moments after No. 6 Ohio State fell to unranked Iowa, 55-24, on Nov. 4, head coach Urban Meyer didn't have an answer. The Buckeyes had just suffered their second loss of the year. Ohio State had just allowed the most points ever by a Meyer-coached team. The Buckeyes could forget about the College Football Playoff.

And it all happened in a game that Ohio State was favored to win by nearly 20 points.

"I don't know," Meyer said when asked what happened to cause the lopsided loss. He repeated those same words multiple times during a brief postgame press conference in the depths of Kinnick Stadium while the Hawkeye faithful continued their celebration on the field.

The scene was in stark contrast to what had happened in Columbus exactly a week earlier. The Buckeyes were coming off an exhilarating, come-from-behind, 39-38 win over then-No.

2 Penn State. After that game, it was the Ohio State faithful who got to rush the field.

But this time, it was the opponent's turn to celebrate, and the Buckeyes were left without many answers for what had just occurred.

"It was a great week of practice," said fifth-year senior defensive end Tyquan Lewis, who was one of just two players to address the media after the game. "I wish I could tell you. I wish I could just tell you what happened."

But he couldn't, because he didn't know. Meyer didn't know, either.

After the game, Meyer said he had watched for signs of a letdown after such an emotional win against the Nittany Lions. He always looks for those signs, an indication that his team might not be ready to play. When he sees them, he addresses them, and they hit the field ready to go.

This time, though, the signs weren't there. There was no indication that Ohio State would hit the field and lose, especially not by 31 points.

"Sure I was concerned," Meyer said when asked if he had expected a letdown could be coming. "I didn't see it. I tried to watch very closely like I normally do, and I didn't see the signs. Usually I do see signs. If I do, I address them and move forward, but I didn't see them."

Fifth-year senior center Billy Price agreed that he didn't see a letdown coming based on how Ohio State had prepared, but he admitted after the fact that the Buckeyes, clearly, hadn't prepared well enough.

"We just didn't come prepared today, we weren't nine units



PHOTOS BY SONNY BROCKWAY

**STUMBLE ON THE ROAD** – Quarterback J.T. Barrett (16, above), head coach Urban Meyer (below right) and Ohio State fell to Iowa and head coach Kirk Ferentz (below left), 55-24, in Iowa City, Iowa, on Nov. 4, likely ending the team's shot at the College Football Playoff.



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Continued On Page 8



## OPINION

# Big Flaws On Display In Loss To Hawkeyes



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PUBLISHER  
Frank Moskowitz

ASSISTANT PUBLISHER  
Becky Roberts

EDITOR  
Tim Moody

MANAGING EDITOR EMERITUS  
Mark Rea

ASSISTANT PUBLISHER EMERITUS  
Karen Wachsmann 1944-1999

PHOTOGRAPHY  
Sonny Brockway Terry Gilliam  
Kevin Dye Josh Winslow

CONTRIBUTORS  
Bill Armstrong Bob Roehm  
David Breithaupt Julie Roy  
Bill Conley Mark Schmetzer  
Joe Dempsey Steve Siegfried  
Rich Exner Garrett Stepien  
Eric Loughry Jeff Svoboda  
Ryan McGlade Mike Wachsmann  
Craig Merz

ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVES  
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Ron Friedman

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No. 2	Sept. 16	No. 14	Jan. 20
No. 3	Sept. 23	No. 15	Feb. 3
No. 4	Sept. 30	No. 16	Feb. 17
No. 5	Oct. 7	No. 17	March 10
No. 6	Oct. 14	No. 18	March 24
No. 7	Oct. 28	No. 19	April 7
No. 8	Nov. 4	No. 20	April 21
No. 9	Nov. 11	No. 21	May
No. 10	Nov. 18	No. 22	June
No. 11	Nov. 25	No. 23	July
No. 12	Dec. 2	No. 24	August

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Charter Member

Forget all of the euphoria attached to one of the most stirring comeback victories in program history. Forget the hand-wringing associated with the initial College Football Playoff rankings of the season. Forget about any December trips to the Heisman Trophy presentation ceremony.

And while you're at it, forget all the hype about the 2017 Ohio State football team, whose schedule and that aforementioned comeback win against then second-ranked Penn State masked serious flaws that were on full display during a 55-24 smackdown Nov. 4 at the hands of unranked Iowa.

Not only did the upset-minded Hawkeyes outplay their more talented opponents, Iowa ripped the scab off several Ohio State deficiencies and exploited every one of them for maximum effect.

Just one week after doing his best impression of Joe Montana, OSU quarterback J.T. Barrett retreated into an indecisive shell, holding the ball while exploring better options rather than trusting his arm and his receivers as he did during his perfect fourth quarter against Penn State.

When Barrett wasn't looking for a target to come wide open, he was making a season's worth of unforced errors in just one afternoon. His first pass attempt of the game resulted in a 30-yard interception return for a touchdown by Iowa cornerback Amani Hooker, whom Barrett apparently did not see while the OSU quarterback was trying to get the ball to Binjimen Victor.

That was one of a career-high four interceptions Barrett suffered against the Hawkeyes after entering the game riding a streak of 190 consecutive attempts without a pick. No Ohio State quarterback had thrown four interceptions in a single game since Greg Frey during a 31-20 loss to Illinois in 1990.

Of course, to hold Barrett solely to blame for the 31-point loss would be foolish. The offensive play-calling left almost as much to be desired as the play of the quarterback.

The Buckeyes quickly erased their early deficit by throwing the ball downfield – 29-yard completions on successive pass plays, first on Barrett's sprint-out throw to K.J. Hill and immediately after that on a perfect rainbow to Terry McLaurin for the touchdown.

But there was far too little of that thereafter, even when Ohio State was still very much in the game. During much of the second half, with the Buckeyes looking to play catch-up, they didn't stretch the field despite the fact Iowa defensive backs appeared to be no match – at least in terms of talent – for speedy OSU receivers.

And don't get me started about the running game. Freshman tailback J.K. Dobbins averaged 8.5 yards per carry against the Hawkeyes, but his number was called only six times – and just twice after the first quarter.

Then in the third quarter, when it was a do-or-die situation for the Ohio State offense, which entered the game ranked No. 2 in the nation in total offense, the Buckeyes went three-and-out on three straight possessions against an Iowa defensive unit that came in as only the eighth-ranked unit in the Big Ten in total defense.

Just as much to blame – if not more so – was the Ohio State defense, which was gashed for 487 total yards and 55 points. Urban Meyer's teams have topped the 50-point mark 46 times over the years, but that marked the first time in Meyer's 203-game head coaching career that one of his

teams had surrendered 50 points or more. Iowa hadn't topped 50 points since a 55-0 win against Minnesota in 2008, and no opponent had cracked the half-century mark against Ohio State since Penn State stomped its way to a 63-14 win against the Buckeyes in 1994. That is a span of 295 games.

The vaunted defensive line got to Iowa quarterback Nate Stanley only once, while the sophomore first-year starter threw for 226 yards and a career-high five touchdowns.

## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK Mark Rea

Most of that damage was done against the OSU linebackers and safeties, who were seemingly clueless as to how to defend Iowa tight ends Noah Fant and T.J. Hockenson. That duo alone combined for nine receptions, 125 yards and four touchdowns.

Not that the production of Fant and Hockenson was all that surprising. They entered the game as two of the top five receivers for the Hawkeyes, and the Ohio State defense has been extremely generous when it comes to covering opposing tight ends this season.

Penn State tight end Mike Gesicki was his team's leading receiver against the Buckeyes, grabbing six catches for 57 yards including a 22-yard reception on a crucial third-and-13 play midway through the fourth quarter. In the season opener, Indiana tight end Ian Thomas had five catches for 53 yards and two scores, while Oklahoma fullback Dimitri Flowers – who functioned as a kind of tight end for the Sooners after starter Mark Andrews was sidelined with an injury – had seven receptions for 98 yards and a touchdown.

While Stanley was throwing the ball around behind an offensive line that featured a redshirt freshman at one tackle position and a true freshman at the other, Iowa sprinkled in just enough of a running game to keep the Buckeyes thoroughly off-balance.

Tailback Akrum Wadley, who entered the game averaging 80.4 yards per game, rushed for 118 yards on 20 carries. Wadley became the first opposing player to crack the century mark against Ohio State this year and the first Iowa player to rush for 100 or more yards against the Buckeyes since Sedrick Shaw had 133 during his team's 56-35 loss in 1995.

And then there were the unforced errors, and I'm not just referring to Barrett's four interceptions and four other attempts batted down at the line of scrimmage.

One week after Meyer used the word "mature" several times to describe his team, the Buckeyes committed nine penalties for 95 yards. That doesn't even count one holding penalty that was declined and another that was nullified by an offsetting penalty against Iowa.

Obviously, the costliest penalty was the personal foul committed late in the second quarter by defensive end Nick Bosa, an infraction that got Bosa kicked out of the game for targeting. The penalty not only cost the Buckeyes one of their most ferocious pass rushers, it turned fourth down into first down for the Hawkeyes, who scored a touchdown on the next play to go ahead 24-17. It was a lead Iowa never relinquished.

The Buckeyes entered the game as the most penalized team in the Big Ten and

actually managed to exceed their average of 7.8 penalties for 77.2 yards per game. Simply put, mature teams do not lead their conferences in penalties, nor do they get their doors blown off by opponents who came into the game as 21-point underdogs.

In summation, it was the kind of flat, uninspired performance that was the polar opposite of a team that got off the mat a week before to get itself back into the thick of the national championship discussion.

Thanks to Michigan State's last-second win over Penn State, however, Ohio State remains in charge of its own destiny – at least where the Big Ten title race is concerned. Should the Buckeyes beat the Spartans on Nov. 11 and then defeat Michigan on Nov. 25, it won't matter what happens Nov. 18 against Illinois. OSU would hold all the head-to-head tiebreakers and represent the East division in the conference championship game, set for Dec. 2 at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis.

Looking that far ahead would seem a bit presumptuous, though, especially in light of the kind of epic beatdown Ohio State just experienced.

## That Was Then, This Is Now

In the aftermath of the loss to Iowa, a friend of mine asked why Meyer should be treated any differently after a 55-24 loss to an unranked opponent than John Cooper was in 1994 when his 21st-ranked Buckeyes absorbed that aforementioned 63-14 curb-stomping courtesy of No. 1 Penn State.

If you don't remember back 23 years ago, the natives had armed themselves with torches and pitchforks, demanding Cooper be given a one-way ticket out of town.

My simple answer regarding the two blow-out losses: That was then, and this is now.

For starters, Cooper didn't have anything resembling Meyer's résumé at the time. Coop was in his seventh year on the job and his record was 51-24-4 (a .671 winning percentage) with an 0-5-1 mark against Michigan. Even with the loss to Iowa, Meyer is still 68-8 (.895) at the helm of the Buckeyes, including a perfect 5-0 against the Wolverines.

There's also that 2014 national championship trophy in Meyer's favor, something Cooper came tantalizingly close to winning in both 1996 and 1998 but couldn't quite achieve.

All of that said, there has to be some of the shine gone from the suit of armor Meyer once wore. After all, the Buckeyes have lost three of their last 10 games, and those three losses have been by an average margin of 25.7 points per game. Ohio State hasn't experienced that kind of futility since Cooper's first season in 1988 when the Buckeyes had a three-game losing streak that averaged 28.3 points per loss.

There is no doubt Meyer came to Ohio State to win championships, and he has accomplished that. He also remains the only Football Bowl Subdivision coach not named Nick Saban to win national titles at two different schools during the modern era.

But I'm not sure anyone envisioned 31-0 losses in bowl games and 31-point defeats against unranked conference opponents, either.

For those of you who want to use that 2014 national championship as your first line of defense for Meyer, that's OK. But as that title run gets farther and farther in the rearview mirror, how many fans are going to start grumbling just a little?

After all, that was then, and this is now.

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### COVER STORY

## Buckeyes Still Control Own Destiny In B1G

Continued From Page 1

strong and we resulted with a loss today," Price said.

And not only did Ohio State lose, but the Buckeyes lost decisively, being outplayed in nearly every facet of the game. By halftime the Hawkeyes already held a 31-17 lead, the most points they had

scored in the first half this season. Ohio State hadn't allowed that many points in the opening 30 minutes since giving up 34 against Florida in the BCS national title game back in 2006 to a Gator team coached by Meyer.

In the history of the series between the two teams, Iowa had never scored 50 or more points. It had never even scored 40.



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## COVER STORY

On both sides of the ball, Ohio State struggled where it has often excelled this season.

Going into the game, fifth-year senior quarterback J.T. Barrett had thrown just one interception – against Oklahoma in a week two loss. After one snap against Iowa he had equaled that number when defensive back Amani Hooker registered a pick-six to give his team an early 7-0 lead. By the end of the game, Barrett had thrown four total interceptions, the most in a single game in his career.

The loss was just the second road hiccup of Meyer's Ohio State career – the other came at Penn State last season. It also guaranteed the Buckeyes their worst regular-season record under Meyer. He went 12-0 in 2012 and 2013 before registering 11-1 marks each of the past three seasons.

The Buckeyes allowed a balanced Iowa offense to move the ball almost at will. The Hawkeyes finished the game with 243 yards rushing and 244 passing with six touchdowns scored. And Iowa didn't turn the ball over. The Buckeye pass rush came up with just one sack.

The offense wasn't any better, gaining just 371 total yards, about 200 less than the season average. And all of that was reflected on the scoreboard when the clock struck zero.

"Good team, tough environment," Meyer said. "We didn't play very well and turn-overs."

In the past, many of Meyer's losses at Ohio State have come when the opponent threw out something different – a look that they hadn't shown on film, forcing the Buckeyes to adjust.

But against Iowa, it was as expected. The Hawkeyes ran their offense like they always run it – utilizing the run game to set up the play-action pass. And the defense was their defense, Meyer said.

"They just played very well against us," he said. "They really didn't do much different than they have in the past."

#### What Now?

The loss to Iowa moved Ohio State to

7-2 overall and 5-1 in the Big Ten. The Buckeyes, with that win over Penn State under their belt, control their own destiny in the Big Ten East.

If Ohio State beats Michigan State and Illinois at home and Michigan on the road in the next three weeks, then the Buckeyes will travel to Indianapolis on Dec. 2 to play for the Big Ten title, which would be the second of Meyer's time in Columbus.

That means one of Ohio State's ultimate goals is still in play, even if a spot in the playoff is essentially unattainable.

"Well, the good thing is the Big Ten East – we are still in the driver's seat for this right now," Price said. "That is first and foremost our goal is to win the Big Ten East itself. Win every week, take care of every opponent that we can, win the Big Ten East and the success that follows that is not necessarily our primary goal itself. So

everything that we still want to play for is in front of us."

It's true that Ohio State controls its own destiny in the conference, and the Buckeyes might still even be the favorite to win the Big Ten this season. But the loss to Iowa exposed issues that had seemingly been fixed since that week-two falter against Oklahoma.

Now the Buckeyes have to go back to the drawing board in order to make sure they can win the games still ahead of them.

"We've got to look at the film, be very honest, hold guys accountable," Price said.

Price said that accountability – in all facets of the team's preparation – will be key going forward.

"I think that's the biggest thing going into this week is to make sure, accountability for every little action," he said. "Whether it be body weight, whether it be

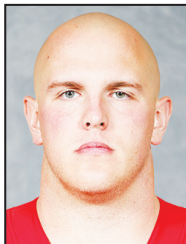
to make sure you don't miss a class, don't miss a tutor, the little things that start to add up in a preparation week for us, making sure that things are taken care of. It think the theme of the week is going to be accountability."

And in order to make sure that everyone stays accountable, the pressure will fall onto the shoulders of the team's leaders, Lewis said.

"As a leader I feel like I let a lot of people down," said Lewis, who is one of nine team captains this season, along with Price. "But probably the thing you take out of it is you wake up tomorrow and you get another opportunity to do something special. Everybody that's a senior on this

team, all the leaders, we share a special bond, and that bond is so solid that nothing can crack us.

"You get a breath of fresh air tomorrow, and you turn your focus onto the next game."



Billy Price



Tyquan Lewis



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## OHIO STATE VS. IOWA

# Iowa Utilizes Balanced Attack In 55-24 Upset

Heading into the Nov. 4 game between Ohio State and Iowa at Kinnick Stadium, the Buckeyes boasted some of the best offensive numbers in the country. Through eight games, including seven wins, Ohio State had averaged 244.4 rushing yards and 326.9 passing yards per contest.

## GAME NOTEBOOK

Tim Moody

But in Iowa City, Iowa, the roles were reversed.

Going in, the Hawkeyes were averaging just 130.8 rushing yards and 215.13 passing yards. Against Ohio State, Iowa established the run early on, leading to a well-balanced attack in the 55-24 thrashing of the Buckeyes.

The home team finished the game with 244 passing yards and 243 rush yards, nearly hitting Ohio State head coach Urban Meyer's typical goal of 250-250.

"Overall, it was a good plan certainly," Iowa head coach Kirk Ferentz said of his team's offense. "I think the way the game was called was really admirable, and we're doing it against a defense that looked like an NFL defense to us."

Quarterback Nate Stanley directed the offense for Iowa, completing 20 of 31 passes for 226 yards and five touchdowns without throwing an interception. The

other 18 passing yards came on a fake field goal.

Akrum Wadley paced Iowa's ground game with 20 carries for 118 yards while James Butler had 10 carries for 74 and Toren Young added five for 47.

"It's like a punch to the gut when somebody runs the ball down a defense for that much," said Ohio State fifth-year senior defensive end Tyquan Lewis. "The main thing is playing defense, you've got to come back together, you've got to break down the film, find out what you did wrong, get back in the practice and make corrections on what you did wrong."

"Nobody expected that, I don't think, on the defense. Because we play defense and take pride in stopping the run."

With the run game clicking, Ohio State was left susceptible to the play-action pass, especially to tight ends over the middle of the field or on roll-out plays.

"I mean, that's simple football mechanics," Lewis said. "Run the ball, then play-action pass. Suck the linebackers in. That's football mechanics. But as a defense we have to stop the run. That's the main goal, stopping the run. That's what we pride ourselves on so we've just got to stop the run."

Once the passing game did open up for Iowa, it proved to be a long day for the Buckeye defense. Ohio State finished the game with just once sack while six different Hawkeyes tallied multiple receptions.

T.J. Hockenson led the way with five catches for 71 yards and two scores while tight end Noah Fant registered four recep-

tions for 54 yards and two more touchdowns. Wadley chipped in with three catches for 40 yards as well, giving him 158 yards from scrimmage in the game.

When Stanley dropped back to pass, he was rarely under pressure either, with Lewis' sack the only one Ohio State managed. The defensive end admitted after the game that the Buckeyes needed to apply more pressure.

"I've got to give a lot of credit to them," Lewis said. "The ball was out quick most of the time. So you definitely have to get home and affect the passer, that's the main thing when it's a passing situation. Trying to find ways to affect the passer, getting the pass rush home, getting sacks, that's the main goal. He stood in the pocket a few times."

### Barrett Throws Pick-6 On 1st Play

Although Ohio State kept it close for most of the first half, the game got off to a bad start for fifth-year senior quarterback J.T. Barrett and the Buckeyes. On the very first play from scrimmage, Barrett was intercepted by Amani Hooker, who returned the ball 30 yards for a touchdown and a 7-0 lead.

"It was big for us," Hooker said after the game. "I think it got the team going. I read the quarterback and read the play, and ran with it."

By the end of the game, Barrett had thrown four interceptions, the most of his career. The Wichita Falls, Texas, native had thrown just one pick all season heading into the contest, and the interception by Hooker



SONNY BROCKWAY

**OFF DAY –** Quarterback J.T. Barrett (16) threw a career-high four interceptions in Ohio State's 55-24 loss at Iowa.

was Barrett's first since week two against Oklahoma, meaning Ohio State has yet to win a game in which Barrett throws an interception this season.

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# Game Analysis

## What Worked Well

The running game, when Ohio State chose to hand the ball off. The Buckeyes' final rushing numbers of 30 attempts for 163 yards (5.4-yard average) are respectable at the least and probably better than that. But here's the catch – of those 30 attempts, 14 were rushes by quarterback J.T. Barrett and one was a kneel-down to end the first half. That means only half of Ohio State's running attempts came by way of a running back getting the ball in his hands. When freshman J.K. Dobbins and sophomore Mike Weber did get involved, the offense was at its best. Dobbins had just six carries – including just two after the first quarter – for 51 yards (8.5 average). Weber ran the ball five times for 27 yards (5.4). Sophomore Antonio Williams added four carries for 23 yards (5.8) when the game was already over. On a day when the offense struggled, players such as Dobbins and Weber – especially Dobbins – needed the ball more often.

## What Didn't Work

Pretty much everything else, but the defense will likely shoulder much of the blame after a 55-24 loss. The Hawkeyes quite simply picked Ohio State apart in all facets of the game on offense, rushing 38 times for 243 yards (6.4-yard average) with one score and

completing 21 of 32 passes for 244 yards and five touchdowns. The Buckeye defense struggled to put pressure on Nate Stanley, who was sacked just once, while Iowa's ground attack broke free on big runs of 53, 34 and 30 yards with some consistent pounding mixed in. The linebackers and safeties, especially, struggled in pass defense, and Ohio State was uncharacteristically poor when it came to making simple tackles as well. Beyond the defense, this section wouldn't be complete without mentioning Barrett. He threw some good passes, including three touchdowns, but a team can't have a fifth-year senior throw four interceptions and still expect to win.

## The Turning Point

In the final minutes of the second quarter with the game tied at 17, Iowa had the ball on the Ohio State 40-yard line on third-and-8. The Buckeyes got the stop when Stanley's pass fell incomplete, but sophomore defensive end Nick Bosa was flagged for roughing the passer with targeting and ejected from the game. The penalty gave Iowa's drive new life, and on the very next snap Stanley hit Noah Fant for a 25-yard touchdown to put the Hawkeyes ahead for good.

– Tim Moody

The other three interceptions all came from Josh Jackson for Iowa.

"We knew we had to compete and it was a great effort by him (Jackson)," Ferentz said. "But all three of those, you come up with four turnovers like that, four picks, that's pretty good."

## Offense Stalls On 7 Straight Drives

After the opening pick-six, Ohio State actually got on a roll on offense. The Buckeyes scored a quick touchdown on their second drive when Barrett hit junior receiver Terry McLaurin for a 29-yard score to make it 7-7. After the teams traded field goals and Iowa scored another touchdown, Barrett found junior Johnnie Dixon for a 44-yard score that made it 17-17 in the second quarter.

After that, though, the Buckeyes didn't score again until another trip to the end zone by Dixon at the 4:37 mark in the fourth, when the game was already well out of reach. Between Dixon's two touchdowns, Ohio State had eight straight possessions that ended without points – one of which was a one-play drive when the Buckeyes kneeled to kill the final 30 seconds of the first half.

After Dixon's first touchdown, the Buckeyes had a punt and an interception before halftime, and after the break Ohio

State punted three straight times before throwing two more interceptions in a row.

## Bosa Ejected For Targeting

While the final margin was lopsided, Ohio State had the game well within reach deep into the first half. In fact, the game was tied at 17 with just a few minutes to go in the first half when the Buckeyes had Iowa in a key third-down situation.

On third-and-8 at the Ohio State 40, Stanley dropped back to pass, and his attempt to Matt VandeBerg fell incomplete, bringing up fourth down and a likely punt. But there was a flag on the field, and sophomore defensive end Nick Bosa was called for targeting after making helmet-to-helmet contact with Stanley, even though the quarterback never hit the turf.

The targeting call was confirmed after a review, meaning the Hawkeyes got a 15-yard penalty and a new set of downs and Bosa was ejected from the game. On the very next snap, Stanley hit Fant for a 25-yard touchdown, putting the Hawkeyes ahead for good.

"It was a big impact," Meyer said of the targeting call against Bosa.

Lewis agreed that Bosa's ejection had an effect, but he noted that backups need to be ready to play in a situation like that.

"We do a lot of four-man things and five-

man things, so it kind of affects the game, but then again you have the whole mantra of competitive excellence," Lewis said. "Somebody goes out, somebody goes down, next man up when your number is called."

## Buckeyes Have Injury Woes On Offensive Line

On the Ohio State possession just before Bosa's ejection, the Buckeyes suffered two key injuries along the offensive line on consecutive plays. First, senior left tackle Jamarco Jones left the game with an injury, then junior right guard Demetrius Knox suffered a knock as well.

Jones was replaced by Joshua Alabi, a converted defensive tackle, while Knox was replaced by Matthew Burrell.

Although both players eventually returned to the game, the damage was done almost immediately when Alabi allowed a sack of Barrett on second-and-10 at the Iowa 45 that resulted in a Barrett fumble (which Alabi recovered) and a 9-yard loss. On the next play, Barrett threw incomplete, and the Buckeyes were forced to punt on a drive that could have allowed them to take the lead.

Meyer noted that sequence as one of the turning points in the game.

"We got the ball at midfield and two linemen, offensive linemen went down with injuries," Meyer said. "They came back eventually, but we weren't right since that moment. One guy goes in and makes a mistake, allows a sack fumble."

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# Hawkeyes Blast Buckeyes In 55-24 Iowa City Upset

By CRAIG MERZ  
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

The scenario was so bad for Ohio State fans watching Iowa dismantle the No. 6 Buckeyes that they were likely relieved that the Hawkeyes opted for a field goal early in the fourth quarter instead of trying to surpass the 50-point barrier.

Unfortunately for the Buckeyes, that would come later in a shocking 55-24 loss before 67,669 fans at Kinnick Stadium in Iowa City, Iowa, on Nov. 4. It was the most points allowed by an Urban Meyer-coached team at any of his four head coaching stops.

The Buckeyes (7-2, 5-1 Big Ten) trailed 7-0 after the first play, an interception of fifth-year senior quarterback J.T. Barrett, but were still tied 17-17 in the second quarter before falling completely apart.

Iowa (6-3, 3-3) led 31-17 at halftime en route to 31 unanswered points. They took advantage of numerous OSU penalties (nine for 95 yards, including the ejection of sophomore defensive end Nick Bosa for targeting) and fed off the roaring crowd to end the Buckeyes' hopes of making the College Football Playoff.

"It's a terrible feeling right now," said OSU fifth-year senior center Billy Price.

Barrett, who had thrown one interception this season, had four – three of which were by Joshua Jackson.

Barrett was 18 for 34 for 208 yards and three touchdowns. He also led the Buckeye rushers with 63 yards on 14 carries. J.K.



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**LIMITED USE – Freshman running back J.K. Dobbins (2) gained 51 yards on just six rushing attempts against the Hawkeyes.**

Dobbins added 51 yards rushing on six totes as the Buckeyes ran for 163 yards on 30 carries. Johnnie Dixon had 81 receiving yards and two touchdowns.

Iowa quarterback Nate Stanley was 20 for 31 for 226 yards and five touchdowns. Akrum Wadley ran for 118 yards on 20 carries, and the Hawkeyes chewed up 243 yards on the ground and accumulated 24 first downs to 20 for OSU.

"I was disappointed we couldn't stop them," Meyer said.

T.J. Hockenson had five catches for 71 yards and two TDs, and Noah Fant grabbed four passes for 54 yards and a pair of scores for the Hawkeyes.

Iowa outgained the Buckeyes 487 to 371.

As for a letdown for the Buckeyes after an emotional 39-38 comeback win against Penn State the week before?

"I didn't see it. I tried to watch it very closely," Meyer said.

## How It Happened

Ohio State got off to an ominous start when safety Amani Hooker intercepted Barrett on the first play from scrimmage and turned it into a pick-six only eight seconds into the game.

Not only was it the first interception thrown by Barrett in 190 passes back to the Oklahoma game on Sept. 9, but it ended a string of 16 straight completions for him that began in the third quarter against Penn State on Oct. 28.

Barrett recovered and led OSU 80 yards in six plays to tie the score at the 12:42 mark on the next series. He had consecutive 29-yard passes, the first to K.J. Hill before a scoring strike a play later to a wide-open Terry McLaurin.

Iowa responded with a 30-yard field goal by Miguel Recinos with 9:19 left in the quarter. Wadley had a 30-yard run during the drive, and OSU helped the Hawkeyes' cause with 20 yards in penalties.

Ohio State tied it 10-10 with 4:32 to go in the first when Sean Nuernberger made a 27-yard field goal after Binjimen Victor dropped a catchable ball in the back of the end zone on third down. The Buckeyes had penetrated into Iowa territory on a 35-yard run by Dobbins. The freshman back carried four times for 47 yards on the possession.

The Hawkeyes regained the lead 17-10 on an 80-yard, 11-play drive that consumed 5:51 and included a 20-yard pass from Stanley to Fant for a first-and-goal at the 9. Two plays later, Hockenson grabbed a 10-yard TD reception at 13:41 of the second quarter.

When OSU got the ball back at its own 23, Mike Weber had four straight runs for 22 yards followed by a 5-yard toss by Barrett to K.J. Hill. Barrett then rushed for 6 yards before finding Dixon for a 44-yard touchdown to make it 17-17 with 10:22 remaining before the half.

After Iowa was forced to punt, the

Buckeyes fell into deep trouble. First, a promising drive to take the lead stalled when injuries on consecutive plays to linemen Jamarco Jones and Demetrius Knox contributed to a fourth-and-19 from the OSU 46 following a 9-yard sack of Barrett.

OSU punted and Iowa faced a third-and-8 from the Ohio State 40. Stanley threw an incomplete pass, but Bosa was called for roughing the passer and targeting.

The infraction placed the ball on the Buckeye 25, and Stanley took advantage on the first play for a 25-yard TD pass to Fant to up the lead to 24-17 with 3:06 to go.

Ohio State's nightmare half continued when Barrett tossed another interception moments later. Jackson did the honors and returned the pick 19 yards to the OSU 22 with 1:35 left. Stanley connected with Fant for a 3-yard TD for a 31-17 lead 30 seconds before the break.

Iowa used some trickery to befuddle the Buckeyes for a 38-17 lead late in the third quarter. The Hawkeyes had a fourth-and-3 from the OSU 20 and lined up for a field goal.

The holder, punter Colten Rastetter, took the hike from long snapper Tyler Kluver, who ran downfield and made an 18-yard reception from Rastetter. Stanley returned on the ensuing play and threw a 2-yard TD pass to Hockenson with 2:30 left in the third quarter.

Stanley threw his fifth TD, a 2-yarder to Drake Kulick, four seconds into the fourth quarter for a 45-17 advantage – a score that was set up by a 53-yard James Butler run – and Recinos added a 30-yard field goal with 13:16 left in the game after Barrett's third interception gave the Hawkeyes the ball at the OSU 22. Iowa later was stopped on a fake punt at its 22, and Barrett had a 22-yard TD to Dixon to make it 48-24 with 4:37 left. Dixon has four TD catches in the past two games.

OSU's onside kick was unsuccessful, and Toren Young completed a 47-yard, five-play drive with a 6-yard run with 1:43 left for the final score. Young set up his own score with a 34-yard jaunt to the OSU 11.

The Buckeyes ran four times afterward to end the game.

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# The Numbers Game

## Iowa 55, Ohio State 24

Nov. 4, 2017 – Kinnick Stadium; Iowa City, Iowa

Score by Quarters	1	2	3	4	F
OHIO STATE (7-2, 5-1 Big Ten)	10	7	0	7	– 24
IOWA (6-3, 3-3 Big Ten)	10	21	7	17	– 55

### First Quarter

**IOWA** – Hooker, 30 yard interception return (Recinos kick), 14:52.  
**OSU** – McLaurin, 30 yard pass from Barrett (Nuernberger kick), 12:42; 6 plays, 80 yards, 2:10 TOP.  
**IOWA** – Recinos, 30 yard field goal, 9:19; 10 plays, 63 yards, 3:23 TOP.  
**OSU** – Nuernberger, 27 yard field goal, 4:32; 11 plays, 74 yards, 4:47 TOP.

### Second Quarter

**IOWA** – Hockenson, 10 yard pass from Stanley (Recinos kick), 13:41; 11 plays, 80 yards, 5:51 TOP.  
**OSU** – Dixon, 44 yard pass from Barrett (Nuernberger kick), 10:22; 7 plays, 77 yards, 3:19 TOP.  
**IOWA** – Fant, 25 yard pass from Stanley (Recinos kick), 3:06; 7 plays, 89 yards, 3:32 TOP.  
**IOWA** – Fant, 3 yard pass from Stanley (Recinos kick), 0:30; 3 plays, 22 yards, 1:05 TOP.

### Third Quarter

**IOWA** – Hockenson, 2 yard pass from Stanley (Recinos kick), 2:30; 9 plays, 78 yards, 3:46 TOP.

### Fourth Quarter

**IOWA** – Kulick, 2 yard pass from Stanley (Recinos kick), 14:56; 4 plays, 60 yards, 1:37 TOP.  
**IOWA** – Recinos, 30 yard field goal, 13:16; 4 plays, 9 yards, 1:15 TOP.  
**OSU** – Dixon, 22 yard pass from Barrett (Nuernberger kick), 4:37; 1 play, 22 yards, 0:05 TOP.  
**IOWA** – Young, 6 yard run (Recinos kick), 1:43; 5 plays, 47 yards, 2:54 TOP.

Att. – 67,669.

Weather – 47 degrees, overcast; wind 2-4 mph.

### Team Statistics

	OSU	IOWA
First Downs	20	24
Rushing	10	8
Passing	9	13
Penalty	1	3
Rushing-Yards	30-163	38-243
Passing Yards	208	244
Passes (Comp.-Att.-Int.)	18-34-4	21-32-0
Offensive Plays	64	70
Total Net Yards	371	487
Third Down Efficiency	4-10	5-12
Fourth Down Efficiency	1-1	1-2
Punts-Avg.	4-42.8	3-41.7
Fumbles-Lost	2-0	1-0
Penalties	9-95	5-34
Time of Possession	25:09	34:51

### Individual Statistics

**RUSHING (Att.-Net Yds.)** – **OSU**: Barrett 14-63; Dobbins 6-51; Weber 5-27; Williams 4-23; TEAM 1-(-1). **IOWA**: Wadley 20-118; Butler 10-74; Young 5-47; Rastetter 1-7; Stanley 2-(-3).

**PASSING (Comp.-Att.-Int.-Yds.-TD)** – **OSU**: Barrett 18-34-4-208-3. **IOWA**: Stanley 20-31-0-226-5; Rastetter 1-1-0-18-0.

**RECEIVING (Rec.-Yds.)** – **OSU**: Dobbins 5-25; Dixon 4-81; K. Hill 3-41; McLaurin 2-33; Baugh 2-15; Saunders 1-7; Weber 1-6. **IOWA**: Hockenson 5-71; Fant 4-54; Wadley 3-40; Easley 3-27; VandeBerg 2-25; Smith-Marsette 2-7; Kluver 1-18; Kulick 1-2.

**PUNTING (No.-Avg.-Long)** – **OSU**: Chrisman 4-42.8-51. **IOWA**: Rastetter 2-39.0-42; Stanley 1-47.0-47.

**PUNT RETURNS (No.-Yds.)** – **OSU**: K. Hill 1-(-3). **IOWA**: None.

**KICKOFF RETURNS (No.-Yds.)** – **OSU**: Weber 6-103. **IOWA**: Kelly-Martin 2-38; Smith-Marsette 1-6.

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

**FORCED FUMBLES** – **OSU**: Arnette. **IOWA**: Niemann, Reiff.

**FUMBLE RECOVERIES (No.-Yds.)** – **OSU**: None. **IOWA**: None.

**INTERCEPTIONS (No.-Yds.)** – **OSU**: None. **IOWA**: Jackson 3-22; Hooker 1-30.

**TACKLES FOR LOSS (No.-Yds.)** – **OSU**: Lewis 1.0-3; Arnette 1.0-1; Bosa 0.5-1; Webb 0.5-0. **IOWA**: Niemann 1.0-9.

**Sacks (No.-Yds.)** – **OSU**: Lewis 1.0-3. **IOWA**: Niemann 1.0-9.

**TACKLES (Solo-Assst.-Tot.)** – **OSU**: Fuller 7-3-10; Webb 7-2-9; Baker 3-5-8; Worley 3-3-6; Arnette 4-1-5; Harrison 2-2-4; Lewis 2-1-3; D. Jones 1-2-3; Borland 1-2-3; Hubbard 1-2-3; Bosa 0-2-2; McLaurin 1-0-1; Riep 1-0-1; Hamilton 1-0-1; Sheffield 1-0-1; Holmes 1-0-1; Booker 1-0-1; Hilliard 1-0-1; Prince 1-0-1; Smith 0-1-1; Turnure 0-1-1; Ward 0-1-1; Sprinkle 0-1-1; Young 0-1-1. **IOWA**: Jewell 5-4-9; Niemann 5-2-7; Gervase 3-3-6; Rugamba 5-0-5; Bower 3-2-5; Bazata 2-2-4; Hooker 1-3-4; Jackson 3-0-3; Taylor 1-2-3; Brincks 1-1-2; Mends 1-1-2; Hockaday 1-1-2; Stone 0-2-2; Dvorak 1-0-1; Ojemudia 1-0-1; Hesse 1-0-1; Niemann 1-0-1; Ross 1-0-1; Reiff 1-0-1; Ward 0-1-1; Nelson 0-1-1; Nelson 0-1-1; Lattimore 0-1-1; Clayberg 0-1-1.

**PLAYERS IN THE GAME – OHIO STATE**: Offense, J. Jones, Jordan, Price, Knox, Prince, Baugh, Barrett, Dobbins, K. Hill, Victor, McLaurin, Nuernberger. Defense, Hubbard, Sprinkle, D. Jones, Holmes, Booker, Worley, Baker, Ward, Webb, Fuller, Arnette, Chrisman. Reserves, Young, Dixon, Drake, Malone, Browning, Sheffield, Riep, Berry, Cooper, Werner, Weber, Williams, Dever, Borland, Smith, Turnure, Harrison, Hilliard, Hamilton, Alabi, Lewis, Landers, Burrell, Saunders, Haubeil, Bosa. **IOWA**: Offense, VandeBerg, Fant, Jackson, Render, Daniels, Welsh, Wirfs, Hockenson, Easley, Stanley, Wadley, Recinos. Defense, Nelson, Bazata, Hesse, Niemann, Jewell, Bower, Jackson, Hooker, Gervase, Rugamba, Rastetter. Reserves, Dvorak, Cooper, Smith, Paulsen, Hankins, Kluver, Stone, Ojemudia, Smith, Taylor, Butler, Kelly-Martin, Dafney, Ward, Young, mends, Clayberg, Welch, Ross, Wieting, Kulick, Kelly, Hockaday, Neimann, Jones, Jansen, Golston, Reynolds, Ferguson, Gaffey, Young, Wisnieski, Pekar, Brincks, Reiff, Epenesa, Lattimore.

## Season Statistics

2017 Game-By-Game				
Date	Opponent	Result/Time	Crowd	
Aug. 31	(2) at Indiana	W, 49-21	52,929	
Sept. 9	(2) OKLAHOMA (5)	L, 31-16	109,088	
Sept. 16	(8) ARMY	W, 38-7	108,414	
Sept. 23	(10) UNLV	W, 54-21	106,187	
Sept. 30	(11) at Rutgers	W, 56-0	46,328	
Oct. 7	(10) MARYLAND	W, 62-14	107,180	
Oct. 14	(9) at Nebraska	W, 56-14	89,346	
Oct. 28	(6) PENN STATE (2)	W, 39-38	109,302	
Nov. 4	(6) at Iowa	L, 55-24	67,669	
Nov. 11	MICHIGAN STATE	Noon	–	
Nov. 18	ILLINOIS	TBA	–	
Nov. 25	at Michigan	Noon	–	
Dec. 2	Big Ten Title Game	8 p.m.	–	

\*OSU's gameday CFP ranking is in parentheses before the opponent, while the opponent's ranking is after the name. AP ranking used through Penn State game.

Team Statistics		OSU	Opp
First Downs		256	160
Rushing		120	52
Passing		117	85
Penalty		19	24
Average Per Game/Rush		235.3	122.3
Average Per Game/Pass		313.7	200.7
Total Offense		4,941	2,907
Total Plays		690	614
Average Per Game		549.0	323.0
Average Per Play		7.2	4.7
Penalties-Yards		71-695	56-468
Fumbles-Lost		10-6	9-6
Third Down Efficiency		53-111	44-134
Percentage		48%	33%
Fourth Down Efficiency		10-16	9-19
Percentage		62%	47%
Sacks-Yards		21-134	15-86
Time Of Possession Avg.		28:06	31:54

Score	1	2	3	4	OT	Tot.	Avg.
By Quarters							
Ohio State	87	135	94	78	–	394	43.8
Opponents	38	59	56	48	–	201	22.3

Rushing		Individual Statistics			TD	Long
	Att.	Net	Avg.			
J.K. Dobbins	119	914	7.7	5	52	
J.T. Barrett	101	517	5.1	5	37	
Mike Weber	60	275	4.6	5	23	
Antonio Williams	34	210	6.2	3	18	
Demario McCall	14	111	7.9	1	48	
Parris Campbell	5	51	10.2	1	25	
Dwayne Haskins	13	39	3.0	0	16	
Jordan Leasure	1	5	5.0	0	5	
Joe Burrow	2	5	2.5	0	4	
Jared Drake	2	3	1.5	0	2	
K.J. Hill	2	1	0.5	0	1	
TEAM	7	-13	-1.9	0	0	
<b>OSU Totals</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>2,118</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>52</b>	
<b>OPP Totals</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>1,101</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>55</b>	

Passing		Comp.	Att.	Pct.	Yds.	TD-INT	Effic.
J.T. Barrett	189	280	67.5	2,374	28-5	168.1	
Dwayne Haskins	28	40	70.0	388	3-1	171.2	
Joe Burrow	7	9	77.8	61	0-0	134.7	
TEAM	0	1	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	
<b>OSU Totals</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>67.9</b>	<b>2,823</b>	<b>31-6</b>	<b>167.1</b>	
<b>OPP Totals</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>57.7</b>	<b>1,806</b>	<b>15-7</b>	<b>124.8</b>	

Receiving		Rec.	Net	Avg.	TD	Long
K.J. Hill	43	417	9.7	3	29	
Parris Campbell	29	410	14.1	2	74	
Terry McLaurin	24	296	12.3	5	31	
Austin Mack	20	260	13.0	2	36	
Binjimen Victor	18	245	13.6	4	46	
Johnnie Dixon	17	413	24.3	8	70	
Marcus Baugh	17	176	10.4	3	31	
C.J. Saunders	15	203	13.5	1	50	
J.K. Dobbins	13	89	6.8	0	18	
Mike Weber	9	78	8.7	0	53	
Rashod Berry	6	100	16.7	2	38	
Antonio Williams	4	19	4.8	0	5	
Trevon Grimes	3	20	6.7	0	8	
Demario McCall	2	51	25.5	1	35	
Jaylen Harris	2	27	13.5	0	16	
Luke Farrell	2	19	9.5	0	14	
<b>OSU Totals</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>2,615</b>	<b>12.7</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>74</b>	
<b>OPP Totals</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>1,562</b>	<b>11.2</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>77</b>	

Scoring	TD	EPK	EPR	EPRC	FG	PTS
Sean Nuernberger	–48-48	–	–	–	–	78
Johnnie Dixon	8	–	0-1	–	–	48
J.T. Barrett	5	–	1-2	–	–	32
Terry McLaurin	5	–	–	–	–	30
J.K. Dobbins	5	–	–	–	–	30
Mike Weber	5	–	–	–	–	30
Binjimen Victor	4	–	–	–	–	24
Marcus Baugh	3	–	–	–	–	18
Parris Campbell	3	–	–	–	–	18
K.J. Hill	3	–	–	–	–	18
Antonio Williams	3	–	–	–	–	18
Austin Mack	2	–	–	–	–	12
Demario McCall	2	–	–	–	–	12
Rashod Berry	2	–	–	–	–	12
C.J. Saunders	1	–	–	–	–	6
Jerome Baker	1	–	–	–	–	6
TEAM (1 safety)	–	–	0-1	–	–	2
<b>OSU Totals</b>	<b>5248-48</b>	<b>1-4</b>	<b>–10-12</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>394</b>
<b>OPP Totals</b>	<b>2727-27</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>4-9</b>	<b>201</b>

FG Distance	0-29	30-39	40-49	50+	Total
Sean Nuernberger	5-6	5-5	0-1	0-0	10-12
<b>OSU Totals</b>	<b>5-6</b>	<b>5-5</b>	<b>0-1</b>	<b>0-0</b>	<b>10-12</b>
<b>OPP Totals</b>	<b>1-1</b>	<b>3-4</b>	<b>0-2</b>	<b>0-1</b>	<b>4-9</b>

Punting	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Bk	Long
Drue Chrisman	27	1,153	42.7	0	62
<b>OSU Totals</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>1,153</b>	<b>42.7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>OPP Totals</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>2,071</b>	<b>41.4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>67</b>

Interceptions	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
Damon Webb	2	0	0.0	0	0
Jordan Fuller	1	40	40.0	0	40
Damon Arnette	1	35	35.0	0	35
Dante Booker	1	0	0.0	0	0
Denzel Ward	1	0	0.0	0	0
Amir Riep	1	0	0.0	0	0
<b>OSU Totals</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>10.7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>OPP Totals</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>19.5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>65</b>

Punt Returns	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
K.J. Hill	12	48	4.0	0	16
Demario McCall	2	6	3.0	0	7
Denzel Ward	1	10	10.0	0	0
Terry McLaurin	1	0	0.0	0	0
Dante Booker	0	6	0.0	0	6
<b>OSU Totals</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>OPP Totals</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

Kickoff Returns	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
Parris Campbell	9	329	36.6	0	82
K.J. Hill	6	150	25.0	0	32
Mike Weber	6	103	17.2	0	21
Demario McCall	2	29	14.5	0	15
Jared Drake	1	14	14.0	0	14
Antonio Williams	1	13	13.0	0	13
<b>OSU Totals</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>638</b>	<b>25.5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>82</b>
<b>OPP Totals</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>1,032</b>	<b>18.8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>100</b>

Def. Leaders	Solo	Asst.	Tot.	TFL-Yds.	Sacks
Jordan Fuller	41	11	52	2.0-5	–
Damon Webb	31	13	44	2.0-3	–
Jerome Baker	22	22	44	4.5-23	2.0-15
Chris Worley	20	13	33	3.0-4	–
Dante Booker	21	10	31	5.0-26	2.0-13
Damon Arnette	24	7	31	3.0-3	–
Kendall Sheffield	21	7	28	1.0-5	–
Tuf Borland	17	10	27	1.5-3	–
Sam Hubbard	16	10	26	6.5-26	2.0-6
Denzel Ward	17	6	23	2.0-3	–
Erick Smith	13	10	23	0.5-2	–
Nick Bosa	13	8	21	10.5-39	4.0-27
Malik Harrison	15	6	21	1.5-6	0.5-4
Jalyn Holmes	11	6	17	2.0-9	1.0-5
Chase Young	9	6	15	3.5-13	1.0-9
Dre'Mont Jones	8	6	14	4.0-12	1.0-4
Tracy Sprinkle	5	8	13	3.0-7	–
Baron Browning	7	6	13	1.5-1	–
Tyquan Lewis	7	4	11	6.0-34	4.5-30
Kenadre Jones	7	4	11	0.5-1	–
Jonathon Cooper	7	3	10	1.0-2	–
Jashon Cornell	5	5	10	2.5-16	2.0-14
<b>OSU Totals</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>613</b>	<b>74-263</b>	<b>21-134</b>
<b>OPP Totals</b>	<b>408</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>658</b>	<b>36-130</b>	<b>15-86</b>
<b>Fumbles Recovered:</b>	<b>7</b>	–	Damon Arnette, Jerome Baker, Nick Bosa, Chase Young, Chris Worley, Jashon Cornell, Sam Hubbard.		
<b>Fumbles Recovered:</b>	<b>6</b>	–	Jashon Cornell 2, Jerome Baker, Damon Webb, Jonathon Cooper, Kendall Sheffield.		



## BSB Quotebook: Iowa 55, Ohio State 24

**Ohio State head coach Urban Meyer on whether he saw a letdown coming for his team:** "I didn't see it, and I tried to watch very closely like I normally do, and I didn't see any signs. Usually I do see signs. If I do, I address them and I move forward."

**OSU fifth-year senior defensive end Tyquan Lewis on whether he saw a letdown coming:** "You expect to go into every game and dominate and play like the Silver Bullets. Obviously it didn't turn out that way. But we've just got to bounce back."

**OSU fifth-year senior center Billy Price on his feelings after the loss:** "I mean, obviously a terrible feeling right now. Coming off an emotional win last week against Penn State and then walking into a hostile environment that we knew – Kinnick Stadium, it's got its Kinnick curse, or however you want to call it."

**Price on trying to process the loss:** "It is difficult. Again, you go from the highest of the highs to the lowest of low. You walk into a team – whatever the case is, the national (attention) surrounding the game itself. You've got to prepare during the week. I think Penn State week had a very 'attention to detail' week of preparation itself. Kind of I guess off the emotional toll of last week or whatever you want to blame it on. Just a week of preparation itself, got to get better."

**Meyer on what he saw in regard to fifth-year senior quarterback J.T. Barrett's four intercep-**

**tions:** "I hear much more – you can't see much down there. I hear from upstairs what's going on and they were baiting you and playing between two receivers and it wasn't – that's their coverage and we just didn't play very well."

**Price on when he felt the game was out of reach:** "I think that's the fun thing about our offense, though. Our offense, again, we come back from 15 down last week and a case like, again, 38-17, that's (21 points), anything can change a game and we still have a whole fourth quarter to go. You saw it last week, we saw a momentum swing. Again, we're just looking for that spark, just wasn't able to pull up with it this week and you see the results."

**Meyer on what he said to his team after the game:** "That's between our team and I. That's between us."

**Meyer when asked if he felt his team lacked energy during the game:** "I didn't feel that. I feel we weren't playing very well."

**Price on whether OSU runs the ball enough:** "I trust the coaches. I trust everything that they're doing. They saw some things, they were trying to get some things working, kind of attack their secondary, attack their second level, the linebackers. So, again, whether or not – my personal opinion really doesn't matter itself. I go out there, I execute what we're supposed to do. I have full faith in the coaches, full faith in J.T., full faith in Coach Meyer and that's what we go out there and do."

**Lewis on whether this loss felt different:** "A loss is a loss to me. I feel the same. It makes you sick to your stomach."

**Iowa defensive back Amani Hooker on what the win means for his team:** "It shows how good we really are. We let things slip away at the beginning of the season, but this shows how well we fight back being underdogs."

**Iowa head coach Kirk Ferentz on the game:** "First of all, I'm just really proud of our football team. I thought it was an outstanding effort by all our guys. We came into this game heavy underdogs, and for good reason. Ohio State is a tremendous football team. But the big thing is our guys really believed in themselves all week long."

**Ferentz on the play of Iowa quarterback Nate Stanley:** "He's done a lot of good things this year and had some tough plays, which anybody that plays quarterback is going to. But the way he just keeps coming back, and he did a lot of really good things today against really good competition, so that was impressive."

**Ferentz on what makes Kinnick Stadium tough for opponents:** "You know, the stadium has always been great and our fans have always been great, and they rise to the occasion. But ultimately you've got to play. You've got to play. So I think it gets down to the team doing a good job of filtering through everything, what's important, and then really staying focused on that."



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## OPINION

# Barrett Was Poor, But He Shouldn't Shoulder Blame

As former Ohio State football coach John Cooper used to say, "One week you're sipping the wine, the next week you're stomping the grapes."

The Ohio State football team must have purple feet because the Buckeyes went from the euphoria of their improbable win over No. 2 Penn State on Oct. 28 to an almost complete collapse in Iowa City, losing to Kirk Ferentz's Iowa Hawkeyes, 55-24.

I saw this game as a potential trap game, falling between the euphoria of the win over the Nittany Lions and the upcoming game against frequent nemesis Michigan State on Nov. 11. But I never saw this type of demolition coming. I don't know that anyone did – I doubt even Ferentz.

Of course, much of the discussion – and blame – after the game centered on quarterback J.T. Barrett. There's no doubt that this was one of the senior quarterback's poorer efforts as a Buckeye, but to put that type of butt-kicking solely on his arm is ludicrous. It takes a team effort to fall to any team, let alone a team that entered the game with just a 2-3 conference record like Iowa, by 31 points.

In fact, I would have to say that the defense that gave up an incredibly balanced 243 yards rushing and 244 yards passing was every bit as responsible for the defeat as Barrett and his offensive brethren. This was against an Iowa offense that had entered the game 103rd in the country in total offense (345.9 yards) and 88th in scoring (25.0 points per game). The Buckeye pass defense – a problem earlier in the season – was especially exposed, and this time the linebacking corps – traditionally an Ohio State strength – proved particularly porous.

The Buckeyes were already behind 31-17 at the half, but after the comeback performance the week before against the Nittany Lions, I wasn't in panic mode just yet. I expected defensive coordinator Greg Schiano to make the adjustments in the locker room and the Buckeyes would get right back in the game. In fact, Ohio State forced an Iowa three-and-out on its first possession after the break and forced a punt on the next drive.

But on Iowa's third shot at the Buckeyes in the quarter, the Hawkeyes used a pass interference call on veteran linebacker Chris Worley and a 22-yard run by Akrum Wadley to get in field-goal position and then used a trick play on the three-point attempt that I still don't fully understand to get to the 2. Iowa tallied on the next play to make it 38-17, and that was pretty much all she wrote. I'm not sure anyone could have defended that trick play well, given the confusion, but it was that type of day for the Hawkeyes – and Ohio State.

The Buckeye defense did not force a turnover and never came up with a game-changing play to give momentum back to Ohio State.

I have been in somewhat of a minority, but I have felt that the Ohio State defensive line has underachieved this season. Now under-achieving is relative, because that could still make them one of the best units in the country, and there is no question that that unit helped secure the win against Penn State.

However, too many times this season I have seen the guys in the trenches put heat on an opposing quarterback and not get the sack, a play that can change a game or demoralize the offense. The Buckeyes, despite their press clippings, entered the game only 33rd in the country in sacks with 2.5 per game and added just one against the Hawkeyes.

Not only did they not bring the quarterback down, but they allowed the Iowa offensive line to blow open holes for Wadley and his mates. Wadley, James Butler and Toren Young com-

## THE VIEW FROM 15TH & HIGH

Frank Moskowitz, Publisher

bined to carry 35 times for 239 and a 6.8-yard average with longs of 30, 53 and 34 yards, respectively – hardly championship defensive numbers.

The unit that had helped the Buckeyes rank No. 2 in the country in tackles for loss with 8.9 per game had just three tackles for loss against Iowa, 1.5 credited to defensive backs. Obviously, some of the lack of production can be attributed to the ejection of Nick Bosa, but he played nearly the entire first half with limited impact, and one of the reasons the defensive line is so highly-touted is because of its depth. Next man up.

Football is still a game won in the trenches, and the Hawkeye offensive line gets the clear edge in this blowout.

I don't feel the Ohio State offensive line fared as badly as its defensive counterparts. Barrett was sacked only once and seemed to have plenty of time to pass. He just seemed to look and look and look and then frequently telegraph his passes – thus the four interceptions.

Of course things were made easier for the Iowa pass defense when Ohio State was forced to play from behind and the Hawkeye defenders knew that passes would be coming.

I continue to be puzzled by OSU's reluctance to use J.K. Dobbins more. Barrett had all three carries on Ohio State's second drive, which resulted in a touchdown, so that was OK. On the next possession, Dobbins carried four times for 47 yards, including a 35-yarder, with Barrett carrying four times as well, good for 37 yards, but the drive bogged down after two incomplete passes and Ohio State settled for a field goal.

Mike Weber was in on the next drive, which was fine as he ran four times for 22 yards and that helped set up a 44-yard pass to Johnnie Dixon to tie the score at 17. Dobbins carried once more in the first half and just once in the second half. For that matter, Weber carried just once more after the scoring drive on which he was featured.

A pivotal point in the game, to me, came when the Buckeyes took over with 3:06 to play in the first half, trailing 24-17. There was plenty of time for Ohio State to mount a balanced attack, with Dobbins – or even Weber – running the ball as part of the mix. Instead, Barrett threw five straight passes, the final an interception, giving the ball back to Iowa at the OSU 22 to help give the Hawkeyes a 31-17 lead at the break.

Dobbins finished the game with just six carries for 51 yards, after carrying only 13 times for 88 yards against the Nittany Lions. Barrett, meanwhile, led the Buckeyes with 14 carries for 63 yards against the Hawkeyes and 17 for 95 yards against PSU.

Ohio State and Barrett as a passer do best when the attack is balanced. J.T. is a good runner, but Dobbins is a threat to go all the way anytime he gets the ball. For whatever reason, the coaches seem to look to Barrett to carry the load when the going gets tough. He carried 30 times in the narrow victory over Michigan last season and 24 times in the one-point victory over Michigan State the game before that.

Just as the Buckeyes fell out of the race for the national championship with the loss, Barrett fell out of the race for the Heisman Trophy, a race he was in for but seven days.

Ironically, about the only unit that did its job in the lopsided loss was the kickoff unit, heretofore, the team's Achilles' heel. The Hawkeyes started their drives, on average, just past their own 17 after kickoffs, before taking over at the OSU 47 after a failed onside kick late in the game.

Despite the incredible hand-wringing by Buckeye fans after the game, I don't think Ohio State is anywhere near as bad a football team as they looked against Iowa. To once again quote Cooper, "Sometimes we don't give enough credit to the other team. Their players are on scholarship too."

Iowa, on this particular day, was by far the better team, but let's also remember they caught the Buckeyes at a really good time. If the teams played 10 times, I don't know that the results of the other contests would come close to this blowout.

One of the unfortunate by-products of the College Football Playoff, especially for a national contender such as Ohio State, is that if a team like the Buckeyes does not grab the brass ring, its fans are disappointed. However, Ohio State still controls its own destiny as far as winning the powerful Big Ten East and winning the Big Ten championship.

The Buckeyes face a tough battle against Michigan State, which has played the Buckeyes as well as anyone during the Urban Meyer era and is also in the hunt for division and conference honors.

And of course the annual battle with Michigan looms at the end of the season, and Wolverine coach Jim Harbaugh will be looking for his first win as coach over his archrivals.

Ohio State has nine captains on this team, and the team will need all of them to rally the troops for the stretch drive. It will also need the highly respected coaching staff to go back to the drawing board and get the team back on track. Another national championship appears out, but there is still much for which to play. Or with dreams dashed, the Buckeyes could throw in the towel.

The team is at a turning point. Which way does the rest of the season go?

### More On J.T.

I've thought a lot lately about Barrett, his abilities, and how he is viewed by Buckeye fans. I have come to the conclusion that one of the reasons parts of Buckeye Nation have not embraced him is his perceived inability to hit the long pass. I think this really stands out to some and clouds their perception of him, and it puts them in the frame of mind to believe he can't win the big game. For the record, he has won many big games.

He is 3-0 against Michigan, gutted his way to a signature win over Penn State in the championship year of '14, excelled in a win over a 7-1 MSU that same year, beat Notre Dame in the Fiesta Bowl in 2015, beat Oklahoma last season and almost single-handedly beat Penn State this season.

Of course he's lost big games. But I know of no quarterback who has gone through a four-year career like Barrett's undefeated. And, by the way, I don't know that the game with Iowa was a "big game" other than, like any game, it is a step toward a team's ultimate championship goal.

Again, I think some Buckeye fans can't get past the fact that he is not the best long passer in the business, though ironically, he had nice looking TD strikes of 29 yards to Terry McLaurin and 44 yards to Johnnie Dixon in the first half, leaving the Buckeyes tied at 17 after the latter connection.

It makes me think of the old golf saying, "You drive for show, you putt for dough."

Long passes are just one facet of a quarterback's game, albeit a sexy one, and frankly a facet that comes up only a few times during a contest. It is not the only play that defines a quarterback. There are plenty of QBs who are more accurate than J.T. on the long ones but can't run with the football as well as he does, for instance. It's all about the total package.

Barrett's game against the Hawkeyes was a disaster, defined by his four interceptions, but he was hardly the only one at fault, starting from the coaches on down.

Some Buckeye fans will never show Barrett the love. Their minds are already made up. To me, Barrett will define this season and his career by what he does the rest of the way. Is the real Barrett the one who played against Iowa or the one who was so brilliant against the Nittany Lions? He'll need a performance like the one he turned in against the latter to help Ohio State derail the Spartans.

To me the question this season has never been how good Barrett is at quarterback, so much as is he the best quarterback to lead the Buckeyes. I believe that to be the case, and apparently so do Meyer and offensive coordinator Kevin Wilson. Would the Buckeyes have fared better against Iowa if Dwayne Haskins was at the controls? We'll never know, though the freshman QB would have had little effect on how well Iowa was playing or how poorly the OSU defense performed.

However, if the Buckeyes lose to the Spartans, I see little reason not to work Haskins or Joe Burrow into the rotation against Illinois while the game is still on the line and even against Michigan if the opportunity arises.

But I have to be completely honest. Losing to Michigan and Harbaugh would probably bother me more than being whopped by Iowa, even though that loss dropped Ohio State from national contention. That's the old school in me.

And for that victory, I'll take my chances with Barrett.

### A Couple Of Things

The coaching continuity at Iowa continues to amaze me. Just when you think Ferentz is a goner, he always comes up with a game – like the win over Ohio State – or a season that saves his job. He has now been in Iowa City for 19 seasons. Before that Hayden Fry was head man for 20 years for just two coaches in 39 seasons. Ohio State has had just five coaches in that time, the second-most stable in the conference. Of other Big Ten teams that were around when Fry came on board at Iowa, Michigan and Northwestern have had just six coaches, while Illinois, Minnesota and Purdue have had 10 in that time.

• Looking back at the past two games and ahead to Michigan State, I am sure Spartans coach Mark Dantonio is smart enough to see that Penn State tight end Mike Gesicki had six catches for 57 yards against the Buckeyes and Iowa tight ends Noah Fant and T.J. Hockenson combined for nine catches for 125 yards and four scores.

Michigan State tight end Matt Sokol has just 16 catches for 166 yards and one score so far this season. How well will he fare against the Buckeyes?