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"For The Buckeye Fan Who Needs To Know More"

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Carrying On

Haskins, Dobbins Lift Bucks Despite 'Alarming' Issues As U-M Looms

By TIM MOODY
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

On one side, Ohio State played some of its best football of the season against Maryland. On the other side, the Buckeyes played some of their worst Nov. 17 in College Park, Md.

It turned out that such a combination was still good enough for a win – just barely – in overtime. Ohio State racked up 688 yards of total offense – the most ever against a Big Ten opponent – and allowed 535 yards in a 52-51 shootout win that was cemented when the Terrapins failed on a two-point conversion attempt in the extra period.

The Buckeyes had some "alarming" issues on defense, as head coach Urban Meyer put it, but the leaks were made up for largely by tough running from a likely source and even tougher running from an unlikely one.

Sophomore running back J.K. Dobbins, playing an even bigger role than normal with junior Mike Weber sidelined, set personal bests with 37 carries for 203 yards (5.5-yard average) while scoring one touchdown. Dobbins' running was key, but it was really sophomore quarterback Dwayne Haskins who carried the No. 10 Buckeyes to victory.

Haskins showed a not-yet-seen willingness to stick his nose in and get the tough yardage, setting career highs for carries (15), rushing yards (59) and



SONNY BROCKWAY

ON THE RUN – Ohio State sophomore quarterback Dwayne Haskins (7) set career highs in carries (15), rushing yards (59) and rushing touchdowns (three) against Maryland.

rushing touchdowns (3). Oh, and he threw for 405 yards and three more scores – but that's just another day at the office.

Haskins grew up in nearby Potomac, Md., and admitted that the homecoming – including some trash talk from opposing players – played into his attitude going in. He once had been committed to the Terrapins before choosing Ohio State.

"Probably just that competition, being back home, having those guys talk smack to me," Haskins said of his motivation. "I can run. I guess today was the first day I wanted to show I could."

After Ohio State (10-1, 7-1 Big Ten) fell behind, 17-3, in the first quarter, Haskins got Ohio State back in the game with a 68-yard touchdown pass to Terry McLaurin in the second. The Terrapins (5-6, 3-5) were ahead, 24-17, at the break and 31-24 after the third quarter. In the fourth, Haskins had a 1-yard touchdown run to tie it at 38 then hit junior receiver Binjimen

Victor to tie it at 45. In the extra period he forced his way into the end zone for a 5-yard run and what ended up being the winning score.

Haskins said he knew going in that he'd run the ball more against the Terrapins, but a three-touchdown day wasn't necessarily in his expectations. But now that he's proved what he can do in the biggest moment, Haskins' legs might join his right arm as a big part of what Ohio State does on offense.

"Running is fun, actually, so I think I might do it a little bit more," he quipped during the postgame press conference.

It wasn't just a magic switch that was flipped, though. Haskins' ability to run the ball emerged as the next step in his progression as a quarterback – adding another tool to an already well-equipped toolbox.

It also showed that he's willing to play tough and get

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OPINION

Ohio State Continues To Bewilder In 2018

EDITOR'S
NOTEBOOK
Mark Rea

To be fair, Arnette was not the only OSU defender to get beat deep against Maryland. Fellow corner Kendall Sheffield let receiver Dontay Demus (another true freshman) get behind him during the first quarter, and when Jeffrey Okudah was late with coverage help, the Terrapins had a 56-yard gainer. That led to a field goal that put Maryland ahead by a 17-3 margin late in the first quarter.

Sheffield was victimized again in the fourth quarter when Jashaun Jones reeled in a 27-yard touchdown pass. The OSU defender appeared to have good coverage on the play and even tipped the ball, but Sheffield never looked back for the football – in reality, never knew where it was to make a play on it – and Jones was able to make the difficult catch to give Maryland a 38-31 lead at the time.

To be brutally honest, the mistakes Ohio State made in the game were almost too numerous to list.

After McFarland hit them right out of the box with his 81-yard score, fifth-year senior and team co-captain Johnnie Dixon failed to field the ensuing kickoff and the Terrapins recovered at the OSU 21. Other special teams gaffes included getting completely fooled on a fake punt that led to a fourth-quarter Maryland touchdown.

And there was a pointless personal foul penalty on a kickoff return against Ohio State true freshman K'Vaughn Pope when he body-slammed Maryland return man Javon Leake to the ground well out of bounds. That was one of 10 penalties committed by the Buckeyes, who have now been flagged 10 or more times in five games this season. That is the most games with at least 10 penalties against OSU in one season since at least 1960.

Want more? Maryland, the team that manufactured only 66 total yards during last year's 62-14 loss to the Buckeyes, amassed 535 yards of total offense this time around, continuing a troubling trend during the past month. Opponents have averaged 449.5 yards against the Buckeyes over the last four games, and that includes a performance against Michigan State during which the Spartans gained only 274 yards. Worse yet, those most recent four opponents – now with a combined record of 20-24 – have averaged 6.4 yards per play.

Then, there were the turnovers – three more against the Terrapins, which means the Buckeyes have turned the ball over eight times in their last four games.

And perhaps the most bewildering of all when considering the (supposed) talent gap Ohio State enjoys whenever it hits the field: The Buckeyes have allowed 50 or more points only eight times in their 129-year history. Coupled with last year's 55-21 loss at Iowa, OSU has now surrendered 50 or more points to an opponent in back-to-back seasons for the first time since 1891 and 1892 when football was little more than a club sport in Columbus.

What Happens Now?

I don't think I'm going out on a limb when I say that Ohio State is going to have to clean

up its act if it expects to continue its mastery over Michigan.

Indiana, despite losing a 31-20 decision to the Wolverines a few hours after the Buckeyes barely escaped Maryland, might have provided a blueprint on how to beat the No. 4 team in the country. The Hoosiers used a variety of crossing patterns mixed in with a power running attack and managed to stay with Michigan for much of the game, totaling 385 yards in the process.

That bodes well for the Ohio State offense, which featured an excellent run-pass mix that accounted for 688 total yards against Maryland. It marked the fourth time this season the Buckeyes had accumulated 570 or more total yards and the second time they had broken through the 675 mark.

With running mate Mike Weber sidelined by injury, J.K. Dobbins eagerly accepted an increased workload and turned in a career-high 203 yards on 37 carries, the most attempts for an Ohio State rusher since Chris "Beanie" Wells carried 39 times for 222 yards during a rainy 14-3 win against Michigan in 2007.

While Dobbins was doing most of the heavy lifting, quarterback Dwayne Haskins threw for 405 yards and three touchdowns. It was the fourth game this year in which Haskins has topped the 400-yard mark – notable since Ohio State had only one such game from a quarterback in its program history before this season.

In addition to padding his already-gaudy passing stats, Haskins added a dimension to his game that had gone begging for much of the season. After looking all year like a player who didn't particularly care for running the football, the sophomore QB tucked and carried 15 times for 59 yards and three touchdowns.

It was a facet of the offense that Ohio State has been lacking this season, and one for which Michigan defensive coordinator Don Brown will now have to game-plan. That is especially important because the Buckeyes remain unsure about just how and when to use Tate Martell in short-yardage situations. It also takes on greater meaning if Michigan star defensive end Chase Winovich, who injured a shoulder or collarbone during the win against Indiana, cannot go against Ohio State.

Obviously, I would have preferred Haskins not throw a pick-six against Maryland just as I would have preferred Dobbins use a little more care with the football around the goal line. One stretch got him a touchdown but another resulted in a fumble and cost the Buckeyes what might have been another six points right before halftime.

I think everyone from Urban Meyer down to the guy responsible for spreading the tiny rubber balls on the Ohio Stadium turf knows the Buckeyes must play better than they have over the last month to keep their streak going against Michigan. The prevailing thought is that OSU will play better against its archrivals primarily because it couldn't play any worse.

But for those of this current generation who have known nothing but success against the Wolverines, I would warn that recent history has no bearing on what happens this year. What matters most is how the teams have played this season, and there is simply no sugarcoating the fact that Michigan has played better – much better – than Ohio State.

Then again, a wiser man than I'll ever be once suggested that prior performance has no meaning in rivalry games. I guess we're about to find out.



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No. 8	Nov. 3	No. 20	April 20
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No. 10	Nov. 17	No. 22	June
No. 11	Nov. 24	No. 23	July
No. 12	Dec. 1	No. 24	August

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Charter Member

COVER STORY

OSU Rides Dobbins In Career-Best Performance

Continued From Page 1

yards that his team needs – a step in the right direction for his progression as a leader.

Meyer said he's seen that progression

coming, and he credited offensive coordinator/quarterbacks coach Ryan Day with making sure Haskins got to that point.

"Ryan Day does such a good job with him," Meyer said. "Him and Ryan are very close and Ryan's just – he's as good a coach

as I've been around. And he's on him non-stop now, nonstop at practice, and you can see it."

Meyer said it was necessary for Haskins to be willing to put his head down and go. He proved that willingness against the Terrapins, and the Buckeyes might not have won without it.

"It adds a lot and I hope he keeps doing it," Dobbins said of the quarterback's newfound running prowess.

The Workhorse

While Haskins ran a lot – and ran well – against Maryland, it might not have been possible without the work of Dobbins.

Weber had a bruised quad, Meyer said, and the Detroit native just wasn't healthy enough to play against the Terrapins despite dressing and going through parts of warmups. That led to a re-emergence

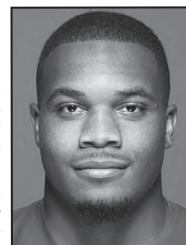
of sorts for Dobbins, who starred for Ohio State last season before the Buckeye run game struggled to get on track at times this year.

"J.K. – we rode him," Meyer said.

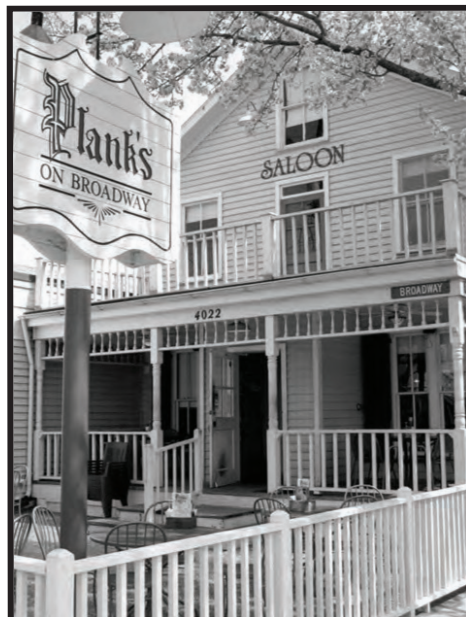
Normally,

Dobbins and Weber rotate on a drive-by-drive basis. Against the Terrapins, though, Dobbins was on the field for nearly the entire game aside from a few cameos from sophomore Demario McCall. He said after the win that he was able to get into more of a rhythm because of that.

"When you can play more than one



J.K. Dobbins



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COVER STORY

drive at a time, you can get into a groove,” Dobbins said. “I am an energetic guy so when I get into a groove, I get more energy.”

Led by Dobbins and Haskins, Ohio State finished with 283 yards on 56 attempts. On a day when the Buckeyes threw for 405 yards, it was those efforts on the ground that made the difference.

The Red Flags

For the most part in 2018, Ohio State's issues have been the same. The Buckeyes give up too many big plays on defense – both in the ground game and the passing game.

Those issues were amplified from the word go against Maryland.

After the Terrapins opted to receive the opening kickoff, redshirt freshman running back Anthony McFarland rushed once for a loss of a yard before busting an 81-yard touchdown that no Ohio State player was in position to stop.

After an unusual sequence that included Maryland recovering a kickoff that Ohio State failed to field and the Terrapins fumbling it back to the Buckeyes, Ohio State kicked a field goal to make it 7-3. Maryland responded on the first play of the ensuing drive with a 75-yard touchdown run by McFarland, who broke a Brendon White tackle on his way to the end zone.

By the time the game was over, McFarland had racked up 298 yards on just 21 carries as the Terrapins rushed for 339 yards total. They also gained 196 yards passing on just seven completions (14 attempts) thanks to big hits of 60 and 56 yards.

Perhaps the most frustrating thing for

Ohio State is that the Buckeyes thought they had their issues fixed.

“You know, I thought we broke the rock a little bit the last couple weeks with the limitation on big plays,” Meyer said. “Look against Michigan State, we gave up other than the (long) quarterback run I think 18, 20 yards rushing for the whole day other than the QB got out of there. Alarming is the right word, but we won and let's go back to work and get ready for the next game.”

“It's the players and coaches together,” Meyer added. “If it's a missed tackle then we're not teaching tackling enough. If it's a scheme issue, then that's a coaching issue. I can't give you the answer right now. I'll probably have a little more answer for you on Monday, but that's very alarming.”

Defensive coordinator Greg Schiano said some of the issues came down to tackling, and others came down to Maryland having a strong scheme. Whatever it was, it added up to 51 points – the Buckeyes just happened to get one last stop when it mattered most.

“Their whole scheme is to create confusion,” Schiano said. “But if you watch it, there's people there (in position to make a play). There's a couple plays where we ran a couple blitzes but not the ones that stick out in your head. And then the pass plays are one-on-one plays. Can you play the coverages different? Can you play different coverage? Sure you can.”

“At the end of the day it doesn't matter the why. It all falls on me and it falls on our coaching staff because we need to get them ready to execute the techniques within the scheme that we employed for that week. We didn't do a good enough job today, but that's college football.”

The Game

As soon as Maryland's two-point attempt failed in overtime, it became Michigan week for Ohio State. The Buckeyes are set to face a 10-1 Wolverine squad that is two wins away from making the College Football Playoff for the first time.

For Haskins, that means preparing for one of the best defenses in the nation, something he's already been doing throughout the year.

“Every week,” he said. “I watch Michigan every week.”

Michigan's defense is certainly its strength, and Haskins pointed that out. But it's the defensive issues for Ohio State that will be in focus in The Game. When asked if he felt his defense would be ready for the moment, Schiano sidestepped the question.

“How ready? Look, we're as ready as we're going to be,” he said. “We need to put together a good plan. We're going to have a good week of practice. Two very focused teams will show up on Saturday.”

That focus could be key. The Buckeyes will be driven with plenty on the line – the winner will represent the Big Ten East the following week in Indianapolis against Northwestern in the Big Ten title game. For the defense, it will be a chance to prove they can get it done on the biggest stage. For the offense, it will be another chance to shine on the biggest stage – and that's why people come to Ohio State.

Just ask La Grange, Texas, native Dobbins.

“Next week's game is what I left Texas for,” he said. “Come up to the north side, knowing it's cold up here. This is what I left Texas for.”

As far as being able to beat Michigan, Meyer made one thing clear – the team that showed up in College Park isn't going to get it done.

“We'll have to play better than we did on defense or we won't win that game,” Meyer said. “So that's going to be the message all week, and I anticipate we'll play much better.”

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OHIO STATE VS. MARYLAND

OSU Defense Gashed Again In Shootout Win

For the briefest of moments after the Michigan State game, it looked as though perhaps Ohio State had finally put its defensive woes to rest with a 26-6 victory.

GAME NOTEBOOK

James Grega

That, however, does not appear to be the case.

The Buckeyes surrendered 535 yards of offense to Maryland in a 52-51 overtime win Nov. 17, 339 of which came on the ground as running back Anthony McFarland ran wild on the Ohio State defense.

McFarland, a redshirt freshman, rushed for 298 yards on just 21 attempts (14.2 yards per carry), including rushing touchdowns of 81 and 75 yards on two of the first three offensive possessions of the game for the Terps.

It wasn't just the run game that had success against the Buckeyes, however, as Maryland hit multiple deep shots downfield on Ohio State corners. Despite completing just six passes, quarterback Tyrrell Pigrome finished with 181 yards passing and a touchdown, leading multiple scoring drives in crucial situations.

The struggles on defense, which have plagued Ohio State all season, were described as alarming by head coach Urban Meyer, who was visibly frustrated when asked about the Buckeye defensive unit.

"It's the players and coaches together," Meyer said. "If it's a missed tackle then we're not teaching tackling enough. If it's a scheme issue, then that's a coaching issue. I can't give you the answer right now. I'll probably have a little more answer for you on Monday, but that's very alarming."

Defensive tackle Dre'Mont Jones admitted that he too had thought Ohio State's defensive struggles were behind them.

"Yes, I did. Things happen and that is a football game against a competitive team that had nothing to lose," Jones said. "It is



SONNY BROCKWAY

BREAKING LOOSE – Maryland redshirt freshman running back Anthony McFarland (5) ran for 298 yards and two scores against Ohio State.

disappointing for a team that shouldn't be in the same tier as us to put up 50 on us. It's upsetting, but we got the (win)."

One of the few bright spots on defense for Ohio State was defensive end and Maryland native Chase Young. The sophomore collected a pair of critical sacks against the Terps and finished with four total stops.

Young, who was high school teammates with McFarland at DeMatha Catholic in nearby Hyattsville, Md., said he was happy in a way for his old friend but also disappointed in the way the Buckeye defense played as a whole.

"It's really discouraging," Young said after the win. "But all those plays are easily fixable plays. I told them going into the game that boy Ant (McFarland) is a beast. He definitely made some money off this game and definitely I'm happy for him. That's my brother since I was in middle

school, so we go way back. He had a good game."

Ohio State collected just one turnover defensively in the game when receiver JeShaun Jones fumbled on a failed trick play while trying to catch his balance after getting tripped up. The ball was recovered by Malik Harrison, who finished the game with five tackles, two of which were for loss. Middle linebacker Tuf Borland led the team in tackles with eight, four for loss.

Haskins, Dobbins Set Passing, Rushing Marks

Dwayne Haskins' performance against Maryland, the school he was once committed to, was arguably the best of his career and came with multiple school records.

Finishing 28 of 38 for 405 yards and three touchdowns to one interception, Haskins passed Joe Germaine to set the program's single-season passing yardage record and

moved past former teammate J.T. Barrett for the most touchdown passes in a season against the Terps. Germaine had thrown for 3,330 yards in 1998 while Barrett threw 35 touchdown passes just a season ago. Haskins has now racked up 3,685 passing yards and 36 passing touchdowns on the season.

The game was particularly special for Haskins because it came against multiple Maryland natives whom he played against in high school while at The Bullis School in Potomac.

"I know God always has a – it's always his plan at the end of the day and whether we win or lose we've got to remain strong in what we do as a group and as a team," he said. "Just being able to play in front of my family and my friends and, of course, people that I grew up with and played against in high school and were in the same class together – I knew a lot of kids on the team so it meant a lot to me to go out there and play today."

Haskins also rushed for 59 yards in the win and added three touchdowns on the ground.

It wasn't just Haskins who posted a career day, as sophomore running back J.K. Dobbins notched a career high in rush attempts and yards, toting the ball 37 times 203 yards and a score. The extended carries came due to a quad injury to Mike Weber, who did not see the field against Maryland.

The 37 attempts were the most by an Ohio State running back since 2007, when Chris "Beanie" Wells carried the ball 39 times for 222 yards and a pair of scores against Michigan in a 14-3 win. The number surpassed the career high of Ezekiel Elliott by one. Elliott's career high came in the 2015 College Football Playoff National Championship Game against Oregon, when he earned 36 carries for 246 yards and four scores. Dobbins' performance was also the first 200-yard rushing game by a Buckeye since Elliott rushed for 214 against the Wolverines in 2015.

Berry Hauls In Crucial 4th-Down Conversion

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OHIO STATE VS. MARYLAND

Game Analysis

What Worked Well

The offense. Ohio State racked up 688 total yards, outgaining Maryland's 535 and making enough plays to secure the 52-51 shootout in overtime. Despite the absence of junior running back Mike Weber, who traveled and dressed but did not play due to a quad bruise, the sophomore duo of quarterback Dwayne Haskins and running back J.K. Dobbins picked up the slack on the ground. The Buckeyes fed Dobbins, who tallied career-high outputs of 37 carries and 203 yards (5.5 average), while Haskins had a career-high three rushing scores.

Haskins contributed an unprecedented amount of production to the run game, but he made his mark with another dazzling performance through the air. Haskins completed 73.7 percent of his passes on a 28-for-38 clip, compiling 405 yards and throwing for three touchdowns to one interception. The pick-six put OSU down 31-17 only 45 seconds into the third quarter, but Haskins bounced back, spreading out the wealth to 10 different receivers and making tight-window throws in high-pressure situations down the stretch. Fifth-year senior wide receivers Johnnie Dixon (six catches for 102 yards) and Terry McLaurin (four catches for 118 yards) headlined Haskins' aerial assault.

Overall, the offense clicked on all cylinders in the second half. With back-to-back three-and-outs from the defense in the late third quarter and early fourth quarter, the defense's timely stops allowed the offense to ultimately go from down 14 points to tie it before the end of regulation and ultimately get the game to overtime.

What Didn't Work

We'll keep this simple: the defense. Maryland had evident talent at skill positions, of which Ohio State head coach Urban Meyer and defensive coordinator Greg Schiano talked up during the week, but the Terrapins exposed the Buckeyes on countless big plays. If not for OSU's offense, UMD would have polished off a result similar to the 49-20 rout at Purdue on Oct. 20. Running back Anthony McFarland gashed Ohio State for 298

yards on 21 carries, an absurd 14.2-yard average, for two touchdowns of 81 and 75 yards. Maryland added three more scores on the ground between runs from running backs Javon Leake and Tayon Fleet-Davis, on top of tight end Chigoziem Okonkwo's fumble recovery in the end zone.

Dual-threat quarterback Tyrrell Pigrome completed only 46.2 percent of his passes, but the six completions he made amassed 181 yards. Pigrome's 30.2-yard average through the air was highlighted by his 27-yard touchdown to wide receiver Jeshawn Jones in the fourth quarter with junior cornerback Kendall Sheffield in coverage. Pigrome passed for 181 yards while the Terrapins rushed for 339 yards and dumped 535 yards for 51 points on Ohio State's defense. After the Buckeyes appeared to take a step in the right direction when they held Michigan State without a touchdown in their 26-6 win over the Spartans, the unit took two steps back with its performance against the Terps.

Play Of The Game

After a 1-yard touchdown plunge by Fleet-Davis to match Ohio State's previous score in overtime, interim head coach and offensive coordinator Matt Canada made the decision to attempt the two-point conversion. With six offensive linemen down and three wide receivers out in a trips-right formation, Pigrome lined up out of the shotgun with Fleet-Davis to his left in the backfield. Rolling right, Pigrome scanned the short field. Brian Cobbs, the outside receiver, went to the back corner with Sheffield in man coverage. Taivon Jacobs and Jones, the two inside receivers, crossed and picked a pair of Buckeyes defenders in sophomore linebacker Pete Werner and junior safety Jordan Fuller. Jacobs slipped out from the inside to the flat, bringing Werner and Fuller with him, freeing up Jones from the slot up into the end zone. As sophomore safety Brendon White fought off UMD's right tackle, who arguably got away with an illegal-man-downfield penalty, near the goal line, Pigrome had Jones open over the middle but misfired to the right. The errant throw was all OSU needed to survive the 52-51 final.

— Garrett Stepien

Berry has come under scrutiny for not being able to lock down a starting job or even a solid position.

A tight end turned defensive end turned tight end again, Berry has experienced an up-and-down career at Ohio State, but he secured his signature moment in overtime of the Buckeye win. Facing fourth-and-1 inside the 20, Meyer elected to go for it instead of attempt the field goal. After a timeout, Haskins flipped a short pass to Berry in the flat for an 11-yard gain and a first down, ultimately leading to a Haskins rushing score.

The play was one that Ohio State had run, unsuccessfully, against TCU early in the season, but one Ryan Day and Haskins were confident would work.

"It's tremendous trust from the coaches to call a pass play on fourth-and-short," Haskins said. "You know, Rashod, a big, talented tight end, strong, made a play. Just to be able to do that on that first overtime series, it meant a lot of momentum for our offense going into the first-and-goal. Just having that play, and then he almost scored on it. I know it meant a lot for him. He goes through a lot here, and just for him to have that moment I know it meant the world to him."

Ohio State ran the same play on the ensuing snap, and again it was completed. However it was negated by a holding penalty.

Berry, whose only recorded touch of the game came on the fourth-down conversion, said he was grateful that the coaches trusted him to make a big play in a crucial moment.

"It means a lot, man. We all put in numerous hours just working together," he said. "Our brotherhood is so tight, and I just wanted to do what I can to help my team."

Maryland's Failed 2-Point Conversion Ends Game

After scoring the would-be game-tying touchdown in overtime against Ohio State, Maryland interim head coach Matt Canada elected to go for two and the win. Pigrome, who completed just six passes in the game, rolled to his right and threw incomplete to a receiver who appeared to be open.

Meyer said after the game that he would

have made the same decision to go for the win if he was in Canada's shoes with not much to lose.

"I wasn't even on the headset for that one," Meyer said. "I know they ran a shovel option. I even asked their coach afterwards. It looked like a shovel option. Their shovel pass, if it's closed then you can throw a pass and that's what they run. A very unique offense, this is."

Dre'Mont Jones, who finished with four tackles, two for loss and a sack, said he was concerned because he too thought the receiver was open on the play.

"My job is to rush the passer, stop the run and whatever happens in the back end happens," he said. "I knew they were going to roll out, but that they were going to roll away from my side. So I just get penetration and luckily it was a bad pass because he looked open from my standpoint."

Injuries Mount In Overtime Win

Already playing without backup middle linebacker Baron Browning, Ohio State was without the services of multiple key pieces for the majority of the game against Maryland.

Weber dressed and went through portions of warmups but did not play after dealing with what Meyer called a quad bruise that was suffered in the week of practice leading up to the game. He said the Buckeyes were hopeful he would be able to give it a go, but the bruise worsened as the week progressed and he wasn't able to participate.

In addition to Weber's absence, Ohio State lost left tackle Thayer Munford in the first half with an apparent knee injury. Munford was rolled up on and lay on the field for a few moments before limping off

the field aided by a pair of athletic trainers. He did not return to the game and was replaced by Joshua Alabi, who finished out the game in his place.

Jones, who has already been battling through a leg injury throughout the season, briefly left the game with a shoulder injury and missed multiple snaps before returning to action in the second half. He said the injury was simply a stinger, and while he didn't believe it was serious, Ohio State was taking precautions to limit the inflammation.

Finally, Ohio State lost Terry McLaurin in the second half after a fourth-quarter completion at the 1-yard line. McLaurin, who finished with four catches for a game-high 118 yards and a 68-yard touchdown reception, did not return. Meyer did not elaborate on McLaurin's injury but did say he expects him to be ready to play against Michigan in the regular-season finale.



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OHIO STATE VS. MARYLAND

Haskins' Big Day Leads OSU To Thrilling Win

By **CRAIG MERZ**
 Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

Third-year sophomore quarterback Dwayne Haskins returned to his home state to pass for three touchdowns and run for three, including the deciding score, as No. 10 Ohio State avoided a stunning upset with a 52-51 overtime win against Maryland at Capital One Field at Maryland Stadium on Nov. 17.

Haskins, who had only one rushing TD prior to the game, scored from 5 yards out on the first possession of overtime for a 52-45 lead with the extra point by sophomore Blake Haubeil. Haskins had an 11-yard pass to junior Rashod Berry on fourth-and-1 from the 16 that may have saved the season.

Anthony McFarland, who rushed for 298 yards on 21 carries and two long touchdowns, ran 24 yards when the Terrapins got the ball, and Tayon Fleet-Davis' 1-yard run made it a one-point game.

Maryland (5-6, 3-5 Big Ten) went for two, but a pass by Tyrrell Pigrome to an open Jashaun Jones was off target and the Buckeyes (10-1, 7-1) escaped before an enthralled crowd of 38,177 in College Park, Md.

Haskins was 28 of 38 for 405 yards and a pick-six. He also ran 15 times for 59 yards.

He threw a 3-yard touchdown pass to junior Binjimen Victor with 40 seconds left in the fourth quarter to tie the score, 45-45. It was the Maryland native Haskins' third TD pass to break the school record of 35 in a season set by J.T. Barrett last year.

OSU trailed to that point because of a weird

play that gave Maryland a 45-38 lead with 1:41 to go in the fourth quarter. McFarland fumbled at the 1 only to have it recovered in the end zone by teammate Chigoziem Okonkwo.

The Buckeyes totaled 688 yards (283 run, 405 pass) while the Terrapins had 535 yards (339 run, 196 pass). OSU averaged 7.3 yards a play; Maryland 8.6.

In addition to the Haskins interception, the Buckeyes lost two of three fumbles and were penalized 10 times for 79 yards.

OSU sophomore back J.K. Dobbins had career highs in carries (37) and rushing yards (203) along with a TD run. Junior back Mike Weber did not play because of a quadriceps bruise, head coach Urban Meyer said after the game.

Fifth-year senior Johnnie Dixon had six catches for 102 yards, and fifth-year senior Terry McLaurin had a TD catch among four receptions for 118 yards.

Pigrome, replacing Kasim Hill after he sustained a torn ACL in the previous game vs. Indiana, was 6 of 13 for 181 yards and a TD but was sacked four times.

Sophomore linebacker Tuf Borland led the Buckeyes with eight tackles, including seven solos, with four going for losses. Maryland's Tre Watson had 12 tackles (seven solo).

Maryland stunned the Buckeyes with touchdown runs of 81 and 75 yards by McFarland in the first six minutes of the game, two of seven plays the Terps had for 15 or more yards in the first half.

The Buckeyes' season-long problems surfaced again: allowing big plays, lack of discipline and turning the ball over. Yet OSU was 7 yards

from tying the score just before the half when Dobbins fumbled the ball away as Maryland took a 24-17 halftime lead.

How It Happened

Maryland started at its 20 after the opening kickoff return. After McFarland lost a yard on the first play, he went outside the left tackle as OSU junior cornerback Damon Arnette went inside and McFarland raced 81 yards untouched for the 7-0 lead 50 seconds into the game.

It got worse on the ensuing kickoff when it was poached in front of Dixon and recovered by Maryland at the OSU 21. The Terrapins tried to get cute with receiver Jashaun Jones attempting a throwback pass, but he fumbled and junior linebacker Malik Harrison recovered at the 29.

The Buckeyes held the ball for 10 plays and used 4:45 but managed only a 36-yard field goal from Haubeil with 9:16 to go for a 7-3 score. Dobbins gained 43 yards on the drive including a 28-yard run to the Maryland 36.

McFarland on the first play after the kickoff took advantage of a missed tackle at the line by sophomore safety Brendon White and went 75 yards for a 14-3 lead at the 9:05 mark.

Ohio State was victimized again when Pigrome hit Dontay Demus for 56 yards to the Buckeye 22, but the drive stalled at the 19 and Joseph Petrino kicked a 36-yard field goal for a 17-3 lead with 2:06 remaining in the quarter.

Following an OSU punt, Maryland threatened to increase the lead thanks to a 52-yard scamper to the OSU 17 by McFarland, but the defense stiffened and Petrino missed a 49-yard field goal early in the second quarter.

On the next play, Haskins threw a 68-yard TD to make it 17-10 at 10:21 of the second quarter. Haskins on the play passed Joe Germaine's school record single-season yardage of 3,330 (1998).

Maryland's Javon Leake completed an eight-play, 60-yard, 4:14 drive with a 16-yard running score to make it 24-10 with 6:02 left in the half. Leake had helped set the drive up with a 26-yard kickoff return to the Maryland 40.

Dobbins made it 24-17 on a 1-yard carry with 3:13 to go with the highlight of the drive a 39-yard catch by McLaurin on a third-and-9 from the OSU 40. The series took 2:49, going 75 yards in eight plays.

Late in the half, Victor's 38-yard catch and two Maryland penalties helped the Buckeyes move to the 7, but Dobbins fumbled on the next snap and the Terrapins recovered in the end zone with 32 seconds left and the Terrapins took a knee to end the half.

The third quarter started horribly for the Buckeyes when on the second play RaVon Davis had a 37-yard interception return for a touchdown for a 31-17 lead just 45 seconds after the break.

Undaunted, the Buckeyes went 73 yards in eight plays and used 2:36 with the aid of face-mask and pass-interference penalties. There was also a 10-yard pass to freshman Chris

Olave, and Dobbins had back-to-back runs of 12 and 13 yards to the 2 where Haskins ran it in from there to make it 31-24 at the 11:35 mark.

Late in the third, sophomore punter Drue Chrisman pinned the Terps at their 6. Three plays went for negative 2 yards, and the Buckeyes, after a punt to open the fourth quarter, began at the Maryland 44.

Dobbins ripped off an 11-yard run and Haskins connected with sophomore tight end Luke Farrell on a 19-yard gain to the 5. Dobbins got 4 and no yards on two carries. Redshirt freshman QB Tate Martell came in for the goal-line package but senior right tackle Isaiah Prince was flagged for a false start. Haskins reentered and tossed a 6-yarder to K.J. Hill to cap the drive of seven plays, 44 yards in 2:30 to make it 31-31 with 12:25 left in regulation.

On the next possession, a fake punt on fourth-and-8 from the Ohio State 46 kept Maryland driving when punter Wade Lees threw to Taivon Jacobs for 15 yards to the OSU 31.

On third-and-6 from the 27, Jashaun Jones made a tightrope catch along the left sideline at the goal to put the Terrapins ahead 38-31 at the 7:50 mark. The drive was nine plays and 83 yards in 4:31.

Haskins responded with a 35-yard pass to Dixon on the first play to ignite the tying drive. There were two receptions by Hill for 20 yards as well.

On third-and-goal from the 1, Haskins took a low snap and pushed his way in to make it 38-38 with 3:41 remaining to finish the 75-yard, 12-play series in 4:09.

Leake had a 21-yard kickoff return to the Maryland 39, and Pigrome immediately hit Darryl Jones for a 60-yard gain. A false start moved it back to the 6. McFarland gained one and Pigrome lost two on a run to the 7, but on third down Arnette was called for pass interference on an incompletion to place the ball at the 2.

Pigrome got a yard. Fleet-Davis was then stuffed for no gain, setting up the third-down fumble that was forced by sophomore linebacker Pete Werner that turned into a TD and the 45-38 lead.

A 42-yard kickoff return by sophomore Demario McCall to the 50 put the Buckeyes in business to go for the tying score with 1:32 left in the fourth. Two passes for 28 yards to fifth-year senior Parris Campbell, a face-mask call and a holding penalty on the Terrapins helped the Buckeyes send the game to overtime on the Victor catch.

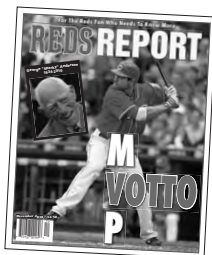
Dobbins ran for 9 yards on the first play of OT. Haskins had an incomplete pass and a run for zero yards to set up the fourth-down conversion by Berry. Fifth-year senior left guard Malcolm Pridgeon was called for a face-mask infraction that pushed the ball back to the 20 but pass interference regained all 15 yards plus a first down. That's when Haskins ran for the TD and the OT lead that would stand.

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The Numbers Game

Ohio State 52, Maryland 51 (OT)

Nov. 17, 2018 – Capital One Field at Maryland Stadium; College Park, Md.

Score by Quarters	1	2	3	4	OT	F
OHIO STATE (10-1, 7-1 BIG TEN)	3	14	7	21	7	52
MARYLAND (5-6, 3-5 BIG TEN)	17	7	7	14	6	51

First Quarter

UMD – McFarland, 81 yard run (Petrino kick), 14:10; 2 plays, 80 yards, 0:50 TOP.

OSU – Haubeil, 36 yard field goal, 9:16; 10 plays, 52 yards, 4:45 TOP.

UMD – McFarland, 75 yard run (Petrino kick), 9:05; 1 play, 75 yards, 0:11 TOP.

UMD – Petrino, 36 yard field goal, 2:06; 6 plays, 57 yards, 2:07 TOP.

Second Quarter

OSU – McLaurin, 68 yard pass from Haskins (Haubeil kick), 10:21; 1 play, 68 yards, 0:11 TOP.

UMD – Leake, 16 yard run (Petrino kick), 6:02; 8 plays, 60 yards, 4:14 TOP.

OSU – Dobbins, 1 yard run (Haubeil kick), 3:13; 8 plays, 75 yards, 2:49 TOP.

Third Quarter

UMD – Davis, 37 yard interception return (Petrino kick), 14:15.

OSU – Haskins, 2 yard run (Haubeil kick), 11:35; 8 plays, 73 yards, 2:36 TOP.

Fourth Quarter

OSU – Hill, 6 yard pass from Haskins (Haubeil kick), 12:25; 7 plays, 44 yards, 2:30 TOP.

UMD – Jones, 27 yard pass from Pigrome (Petrino kick), 7:50; 9 plays, 83 yards, 4:31 TOP.

OSU – Haskins, 1 yard run (Haubeil kick), 3:41; 12 plays, 75 yards, 4:09 TOP.

UMD – Okonkwo, fumble recovery in end zone (Petrino kick), 1:41; 6 plays, 61 yards, 1:54 TOP.

OSU – Victor, 3 yard pass from Haskins (Haubeil kick), 0:40; 7 plays, 50 yards, 0:52 TOP.

Overtime

OSU – Haskins, 5 yard run (Haubeil kick); 5 plays, 25 yards.

UMD – Fleet-Davis, 1 yard run (Pigrome pass failed); 2 plays, 25 yards.

Att. – 38,177.

Weather – N/A.

Team Statistics

	OSU	UMD
First Downs	36	18
Rushing	13	10
Passing	16	6
Penalty	7	2
Rushes-Yards	56-283	48-339
Passing Yards	405	196
Passes (Comp.-Att.-Int.)	28-38-1	7-14-0
Offensive Plays	94	62
Total Net Yards	688	535
Third Down Efficiency	9-15	4-13
Fourth Down Efficiency	1-2	2-2
Punts-Avg.	2-36.5	4-39.8
Fumbles-Lost	3-2	4-1
Penalties	10-79	9-88
Time of Possession	31:38	28:22

Individual Statistics

RUSHING (Att.-Net Yds.) – OSU: Dobbins 37-203; Haskins 15-59; McCall 2-12; Campbell 1-8; Martell 1-1. **UMD:** McFarland 21-298; Fleet-Davis 7-37; Leake 6-30; Turner 1-3; TEAM 1(-1); Jones 1(-8); Pigrome 11(-20); Okonkwo 0-0.

PASSING (Comp.-Att.-Int.-Yds.-TD) – OSU: Haskins 28-38-1-405-3. **UMD:** Pigrome 6-13-0-181-1; Lees 1-1-0-15-0.

RECEIVING (Rec.-Yds.) – OSU: Dixon 6-102; Hill 5-39; McLaurin 4-118; Farrell 4-44; Campbell 4-38; Victor 2-41; Berry 1-11; Olave 1-10; Dobbins 1-2. **UMD:** Jones 2-68; Jacobs 2-45; Jones 2-27; Demus 1-56.

PUNTING (No.-Avg.-Long) – OSU: Chrisman 2-36.5-41. **UMD:** Lees 4-39.8-43.

PUNT RETURNS (No.-Yds.) – OSU: None. **UMD:** None.

KICKOFF RETURNS (No.-Yds.) – OSU: McCall 4-78; Dixon 1-0. **UMD:** Leake 5-88; Lewis 1-14.

MISSED FIELD GOALS (Yds.) – OSU: None. **UMD:** Petrino 49.

FORCED FUMBLES – OSU: Young; Werner. **UMD:** Oluwatimi; Davis.

FUMBLE RECOVERIES (No.-Yds) – OSU: Harrison 1-0. **UMD:** Watson 1-0; Eley 1-0; Okonkwo 1-0.

INTERCEPTIONS (No.-Yds.) – OSU: None. **UMD:** Davis 1-37.

TACKLES FOR LOSS (No.-Yds.) – OSU: Borland 4.0-12; Young 2.0-20; D. Jones 2.0-8; Harrison 2.0-5; Landers 1.0-1. **UMD:** Rogers 1.0-4; Richardson 0.5-1; Savage 0.5-1.

SACKS (No.-Yds.) – OSU: Young 2.0-20; Borland 1.0-6; D. Jones 1.0-6. **UMD:** Rogers 1.0-4.

TACKLES (Solo-Assst.-Tot.) – OSU: Borland 7-1-8; Werner 5-0-5; Harrison 4-1-5; White 3-2-5; Fuller 4-0-4; Young 4-0-4; Sheffield 3-1-4; D. Jones 2-2-4; Landers 3-0-3; Garrett 2-0-2; Haubeil 2-0-2; Okudah 0-2-2; Booker 1-0-1; Hamilton 1-0-1; Pope 1-0-1; Arnette 1-0-1; K. Jones 1-0-1; Banks 1-0-1; Teague 1-0-1; Wade 1-0-1; Cooper 0-1-1. **UMD:** Watson 7-5-12; Richardson 8-3-11; Davis 6-5-11; Savage 7-2-9; Oluwatimi 4-3-7; Davis 6-0-6; Brooks 4-2-6; McLean 3-3-6; Lewis 3-2-5; Cowart 0-4-4; Howard 0-3-3; Aniebonam 2-0-2; Rogers 2-0-2; Nchami 2-0-2; Tanyi 1-1-2; Funk 1-1-2; Saine 0-2-2; Egbuaba 1-0-1; Petrino 1-0-1; Ellis 0-1-1; Campbell 0-1-1.

PLAYERS IN THE GAME – OHIO STATE: Offense, Munford, Pridgeon, Jordan, Knox, Prince, Farrell, Haskins, Dobbins, Campbell, Dixon, McLaurin, Haubeil, Defense, Young, Landers, D. Jones, Cooper, Harrison, Borland, Werner, Sheffield, White, Fuller, Arnette, Chrisman, Reserves, Hill, Okudah, Martell, Victor, Banks, Berry, Pryor, Harris, K. Jones, Olave, Wade, McCall, Proctor, Pope, Booker, Hamilton, McCullough, Garrett, Ruckert, Berry. **MARYLAND:** Offense, Gray, Christie, Jordan, Hamilton, Prince, Edwards, Pigrome, McFarland, Davenport, Jacobs, Cobbs, Petrino, Defense, Cowart, McLean, Tanyi, Aniebonam, Davis, Watson, Brooks, Davis, Savage, Richardson, Ellis, Lees, Reserves, Turner, Lewis, Gotay, Inzerillo, Jones, Demus, Fleet-Davis, Comma, Jones, Eley, Okonkwo, Leake, Jones, Nchami, Egbuaba, Funk, Underwood, Campbell, Oluwatimi, Anderson, Howard, Moore, McKennie, Plummer, Barnes, Cornwell, Saine, Rogers, Gaddy, Gaddy.

Season Statistics

2018 Game-By-Game				
Date	Opponent	Result/Time	Crowd	
Sept. 1	(5) OREGON STATE	W, 77-31	102,169	
Sept. 8	(4) RUTGERS	W, 52-3	93,057	
Sept. 15	(4) vs. TCU* (15)	W, 40-28	64,362	
Sept. 22	(4) TULANE	W, 49-6	103,336	
Sept. 29	(4) at Penn State (9)	W, 27-26	110,889	
Oct. 6	(3) INDIANA	W, 49-26	104,193	
Oct. 13	(3) MINNESOTA	W, 30-14	100,042	
Oct. 20	(2) at Purdue	L, 49-20	60,716	
Nov. 3	(10) NEBRASKA	W, 36-31	104,245	
Nov. 10	(10) at Mich. St. (18)	W, 26-6	74,633	
Nov. 17	(10) at Maryland	W, 52-51 (OT)	38,177	
Nov. 24	MICHIGAN	Noon	–	
Dec. 1	Big Ten Title Game**	8 p.m.	–	

OSU's CFP ranking is in parentheses before the opponent, while the opponent's ranking is after the name. AP ranking used through Purdue game.

* – At AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas.

** – At Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis.

Team Statistics		
	OSU	Opp
First Downs	322	207
Rushing	114	76
Passing	177	106
Penalty	31	25
Average Per Game/Rush	182.4	161.3
Average Per Game/Pass	359.5	237.4
Total Offense	5,960	4,385
Total Plays	908	742
Average Per Game	541.8	398.6
Average Per Play	6.6	5.9
Penalties-Yards	86-762	65-648
Fumbles-Lost	15-7	23-11
Third Down Efficiency	77-162	47-156
Percentage	48%	30%
Fourth Down Efficiency	12-19	8-15
Percentage	63%	53%
Sacks-Yards	31-210	16-75
Time Of Possession Avg.	31:32	28:28

Score

By Quarters	1	2	3	4	OT	Tot.	Avg.
Ohio State	102	125	87	137	7	458	41.6
Opponents	58	85	57	65	6	271	24.6

Individual Statistics

Rushing	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Long
J.K. Dobbins	194	915	4.7	8	42
Mike Weber	127	711	5.6	4	49
Tate Martell	20	127	6.3	2	47
Master Teague	17	106	6.2	1	33
Dwayne Haskins	56	93	1.7	4	17
Demario McCall	6	38	6.3	0	15
Brian Snead	11	37	3.4	1	5
Parris Campbell	9	24	2.7	0	18
C.J. Saunders	0	8	0.0	0	0
K.J. Hill	1	-3	-3.0	0	0
TEAM	15	-50	-3.3	0	0
OSU Totals	456	2,006	4.4	20	49
OPP Totals	390	1,774	4.5	20	93

Passing	Comp.	Att.	Pct.	Yds.	TD-INT	Effic.
D. Haskins	294	424	69.3	3,685	36-7	167.06
Tate Martell	23	28	82.1	269	1-0	174.63
OSU Totals	317	452	70.1	3,954	37-7	167.53
OPP Totals	186	352	52.8	2,611	13-7	123.36

Receiving	Rec.	Net	Avg.	TD	Long
Parris Campbell	66	711	10.8	9	71
K.J. Hill	62	772	12.5	5	42
Johnnie Dixon	32	482	15.1	5	44
Terry McLaurin	30	579	19.3	9	75
Austin Mack	26	331	12.7	1	48
J.K. Dobbins	18	197	10.9	1	35
Binjimen Victor	17	287	16.9	4	47
Luke Farrell	17	180	10.6	1	24
Mike Weber	16	82	5.1	1	15
C.J. Saunders	10	73	7.3	0	19
Rashod Berry	7	73	10.4	1	15
Demario McCall	6	58	9.7	0	35
Chris Olave	5	70	14.0	0	25
Jaylen Harris	2	22	11.0	0	15
Garyn Prater	1	13	13.0	0	13
Jeremy Ruckert	1	13	13.0	0	13
Jaelen Gill	1	11	11.0	0	11
OSU Totals	317	3,954	12.5	37	75
OPP Totals	186	2,611	14.0	13	93

Scoring	TD	EPK	EPR	EPRC	FG	PTS
Parris Campbell	9	–	–	–	–	54
J.K. Dobbins	9	–	–	–	–	54
Terry McLaurin	9	–	–	–	–	54
S. Nuernberger	–	39-39	–	–	3-5	48
Blake Haubeil	–	19-19	–	–	7-9	40
Johnnie Dixon	5	–	–	–	–	30
K.J. Hill	5	–	–	–	–	30
Mike Weber	5	–	–	–	–	30
Dwayne Haskins	4	–	0-1	0-2	–	24
Binjimen Victor	4	–	–	–	–	24
Dre'Mont Jones	2	–	–	–	–	12
Tate Martell	2	–	–	–	–	12
Rashod Berry	1	–	–	–	–	6
Nick Bosa	1	–	–	–	–	6
Luke Farrell	1	–	–	–	–	6
Davon Hamilton	1	–	–	–	–	6
Austin Mack	1	–	–	–	–	6
Brian Snead	1	–	–	–	–	6
Master Teague	1	–	–	–	–	6
Keandre Jones (1 safety)	–	–	–	–	–	2
TEAM (1 safety)	–	–	–	–	–	2

OSU Totals	61	58-58	0-1	0-2	10-14	458
OPP Totals	35	31-32	0-1	0-2	10-18	271

FG Distance	0-29	30-39	40-49	50+	Total
S. Nuernberger	2-2	1-2	0-1	0-0	3-5
Blake Haubeil	4-4	2-3	1-2	0-0	7-9
OSU Totals	6-6	3-5	1-3	0-0	10-14
OPP Totals	2-2	6-8	2-6	0-2	10-18

Punting	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Bk	Long
Drue Chrisman	46	1,954	42.5	0	65
OSU Totals	46	1,954	42.5	0	65
OPP Totals	68	2,685	39.5	2	56

Interceptions	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
Shaun Wade	2	12	6.0	0	12
Kendall Sheffield	2	0	0.0	0	0
Dre'Mont Jones	1	28	28.0	1	28
Malik Harrison	1	13	13.0	0	13
Isaiah Pryor	1	0	0.0	0	0
OSU Totals	7	53	7.6	1	28
OPP Totals	7	211	30.1	2	46

Punt Returns	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
K.J. Hill	10	38	3.8	0	17
C.J. Saunders	8	50	6.2	0	20
Demario McCall	3	32	10.7	0	26
Keandre Jones	1	22	22.0	0	0
OSU Totals	22	142	6.5	0	26
OPP Totals	9	34	3.8	0	12

Kickoff Returns	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
Johnnie Dixon	13	240	18.5	0	38
Demario McCall	6	130	21.7	0	42
C.J. Saunders	2	24	12.0	0	14
K.J. Hill	1	4	4.0	0	4
OSU Totals	22	398	18.1	0	42
OPP Totals	25	385	15.4	0	26

Def. Leaders	Solo	Asst.	Tot.	TFL-Yds.	Sacks
Malik Harrison	37	20	57	6.5-19	1.5-10
Jordan Fuller	41	14	55	1.5-2	–
Tuf Borland	24	24	48	9.0-29	3.0-16
Pete Werner	34	13	47	7.5-20	3.0-10
Dre'Mont Jones	19	15	34	12.0-63	7.5-55
Damon Arnette	22	7	29	–	–
Isaiah Pryor	18	11	29	1.0-1	–
Brendon White	14	14	28	2.0-6	–
Chase Young	18	9	27	10.5-59	6.5-49
Jeffrey Okudah	20	6	26	–	–
Kendall Sheffield	20	5	25	2.0-4	–
Jahsen Wint	20	5	25	0.5-1	–
Shaun Wade	20	3	23	–	–
Baron Browning	11	11	22	3.5-11	1.0-6
Justin Hilliard	12	6	18	1.0-7	–
Jonathan Cooper	6	11	17	4.5-13	1.5-6
Robert Landers	9	7	16	3.0-9	–
Nick Bosa	11	3	14	6.0-43	4.0-39
Jashon Cornell	6	5	11	1.0-8	–
Dante Booker	6	4	10	3.0-19	1.0-12
Davon Hamilton	5	5	10	2.5-3	–
Keandre Jones	6	3	9	1.0-1	–

BSB Quotebook: Ohio State 52, Maryland 51 (OT)

Ohio State head coach Urban Meyer on the win: "What a great win and thank Buckeye Nation for supporting us and also much respect – as I told (Maryland interim head coach Matt) Canada that, wow, was that – just a back-and-forth, back-and-forth, you obviously saw it – so much respect for him and his staff and his players fighting like that, what they've been through and I made that very clear. We're very fortunate to get out of there with a win and just a phenomenal effort on offense."

Meyer, when asked if he was relieved Maryland went for two and the win: "Relieved we won."

Meyer on whether he can accept winning games while giving up so many yards and points: "No, no, no, no, no. No. Not going to accept that."

Meyer after being asked if he found the 2018 Buckeyes exasperating: "Exasperating? No, it's not at all. It's part of – like I said, I've done this a long time and we've had situations where one side is not playing well. Last week against Michigan State, the offense was hanging on by a thread and the defense kept us in it, and so that's just part of the game."

OSU sophomore quarterback Dwayne Haskins on how he felt after the game: "For us to stop them on the two-point conversion and

just a whole bunch of emotions just came out of me. All that grit, all that adversity we faced in this game to come back on top, it just meant everything for myself and my teammates, for the coaches."

OSU sophomore running back J.K. Dobbins on how he felt after carrying the ball 37 times against Maryland: "I like it. I feel like I am a tough guy. I don't feel that sore right now, I just feel tired."

Dobbins on sophomore Demario McCall, who served as his backup against the Terrapins: "Demario is a talented kid. He is going to be great whenever he gets his opportunity."

OSU sophomore defensive end Chase Young on the defense: "I think we definitely have got to improve on a lot of things, but just knowing that my brothers are going to fight to the end, that they're always going to have my back and I'm going to have their back, that's a good feeling going into this game."

Young on his thoughts before Maryland's two-point try: "I thought about it, I said a quick prayer and just play, you know what I'm saying? Just play your technique."

OSU defensive coordinator Greg Schiano on the two-point attempt: "All those special situations, you have it game planned and you

practice it at the end of the week, that's what you do. You do the end-of-the-game play that was there and you always do the two-point plays, so it was no surprise. Kids knew what the call was going to be so we went out there and we actually got picked a little bit and we were fortunate that there was pressure in his face and he threw an errant ball."

Haskins on the upcoming preparations for The Game: "We've got to make every play count. So this week I'm just going to preach to the team that we're home, it's the last home (game) for the seniors in the 'Shoe,' so you've got to make it count."

OSU junior tight end Rashod Berry on preparing for Michigan: "We've got to just have that intent focus like we always do every week and just work our butts off and just really go out there and give it our all."

Canada on Maryland redshirt freshman running back Anthony McFarland: "We were blocking pretty good up front. We did a pretty good job looking at some things they did, and we had a chance to cut him loose. He's a special player."

Maryland senior linebacker Tre Watson on the loss: "To put it into words, we are distraught right now at this point. There are no words that can reconcile what happened to us."



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Meyer's Right, That Was An 'Alarming' Performance

I'd love to tell you that Ohio State's performance against Maryland was a ploy to lull Michigan into complacency. Ah, life should be that simple.

Ohio State's play against the Terrapins was "alarming," to parrot a word Buckeye coach Urban Meyer used after the game. I would go so far as to say that even though Ohio State ended up a 52-51 winner, this was more alarming than the 49-20 loss to Purdue almost a month ago. I say that because, one, the game against the Boilermakers should have served as a wake-up call for the rest of the season and, two, the Ohio State defense had appeared to take a couple of steps forward since that debacle in West Lafayette.

The play by the defense against the Terps was beyond one step forward and two steps back. This was multiple steps back to the big-play-yielding days of the opener against Oregon State and Artavis Pierce, who had TD runs of 80 and 78 yards. Maryland's Anthony McFarland seemed to one-up Pierce with his scoring jaunts of 81 and 75 yards to help him post 298 yards and a 14.2 yards per carry average (Pierce tallied only 168).

Here I go again, quoting former Buckeye coach John Cooper:

"One week you are sipping the wine, the next week you're stomping the grapes," Coop used to say.

Ask safety Brendon White about that. White was given credit for almost single-handedly righting the Buckeye defensive ship following his play against Nebraska and Michigan State.

Yet there he was taking the bad angle and chasing McFarland down the field on his first touchdown (though the coaches were seen chastising cornerback Damon Arnette) and then missing the tackle that freed the back for his second long score. White settled down to record five tackles, but he got a welcome to the reality of playing defense for Ohio State.

McFarland's play shouldn't have been a complete surprise. After all, he had racked up 210 yards the week before against Indiana.

But adding to the cause for concern were the long passes from quarterback Tyrrell Pigrome, who completed only six passes in the game but averaged better than 30 yards on each of them. Included among them was a 56-yarder to Dontay Demus to set up a field goal in the first quarter and a 60-yarder to Darryl Jones to help put Maryland up 45-38 in the closing minutes of the game.

But what may have been most troubling to me was the 30-yard pass after Ohio State came back to tie the game, which almost gave the Terps the chance to kick a game-winning field goal (or more). You would think that the defense would have made some sort of attempt to deny a shot to win the game.

After special teams, led by Drue Chrisman, carried the day against Michigan State, even that unit had its struggles against the Terps. I am still trying to figure out how the Buckeyes let that kickoff in the first quarter fall in for what was described as an "onside kick" that Maryland recovered at the OSU 21. Luckily for the Buckeyes, Maryland fumbled the ball back on the following play.

Later, Maryland would very successfully convert a fake punt. I'll give the Buckeyes a little bit of a break here because the play was really well conceived and executed and it was like the game-turning fake field goal at Purdue, where the underdog has so little to lose in going for broke.

At least Chrisman was able to drop one of his two punts down at the Maryland 6. Ohio State then got the ball back at the Maryland 44 to set up a 6-yard touchdown pass from Dwayne

THE VIEW FROM 15TH & HIGH

Frank Moskowitz, Publisher

Haskins to K.J. Hill to allow the Buckeyes to tie the game at 31 early in the fourth quarter. Kudos also to Demario McCall, whose 42-yard kickoff return to the 50 set up Ohio State's touchdown that forced overtime.

Haskins and the offense were, of course, the lone bright spot for Ohio State. The QB from Maryland looked like the Haskins of earlier in the season, breaking several more school records while going 28 of 38 for 405 yards and three scores, looking cool, calm and collected as he led the Buckeyes to their 52 points and 688 yards while playing from behind for most of the game.

As good as his passing was, that was not the storyline of the day for Haskins in his homecoming. Rather, it was the fact that he ran 15 times for 59 net yards and three scores and looked comfortable and hard-nosed doing it. Let's face it, for whatever reason (I hope he wasn't protecting himself for the pros), Haskins had shown little to no desire to run the ball in the previous 10 games.

We knew he could run. He proved it with his critical 22-yard carry in his breakout game against Michigan last season. Now the Wolverines are going to have to worry about him totting the ball again.

For all his 464 total yards and six touchdowns responsible for, Haskins had his problems too in this alarming afternoon. He threw a pick-six to start the second half, giving Maryland a 31-17 lead, and later in the quarter fumbled the ball away at midfield to stifle a drive with Ohio State trailing 31-24.

The other Buckeye stalwart on offense was J.K. Dobbins, who was forced to carry the load with Mike Weber out and responded with career highs of 37 carries and 203 yards rushing. Dobbins on the ground was the perfect complement to Haskins through the air. But even Dobbins cost the Buckeyes, fumbling the ball near the goal line as Ohio State was preparing to score before the half to tie things at 24 heading into the locker room.

On Ohio State's second play from scrimmage after that, the second play of the third quarter, Haskins threw his pick-six, making the game 31-17 instead of, at the least, 24-24. Those back-to-back miscues by the Buckeye bright spots changed the complexion of the game, forcing the Buckeyes to continually play catch-up in a game where the OSU defense showed little ability to stop the Terrapins.

As is the case in games like this, the ball also seemed to bounce Maryland's way. With the score tied at 38 late in the game, linebacker Pete Werner forced a fumble near the goal line which could have changed the course of the contest but instead was recovered by Chigoziem Okonkwo in the end zone for a Terp touchdown. And I am still trying to figure out how linebacker Tuf Borland lost control of that fumble he pounced on late in the second quarter. Maryland didn't score on that gift, but Ohio State would have taken over deep in Terrapin territory, trailing 24-17.

Put it all together and you have reason to utter the word "alarming."

I think there was a feeling among Buckeye fans that Ohio State backed into this victory, winning only because Maryland interim coach Matt Canada went for the win in the first overtime and Pigrome did not complete his two-

point conversion pass to a wide-open receiver. However, I don't feel like they backed into the win because they had repeatedly battled back to even be in the position to have Maryland "lose it" in overtime.

As stunningly awful as the Buckeye defense was and has been, this team has a certain grit that allows them to overcome adversity on the field – most of its own making – and overcome adversity off the field – not of their own making – and Ohio State finds itself at 10-1. Many Buckeye fans seem to want to minimize that record, but Ohio State is 10-1 – just the same as Oklahoma, Washington State, Georgia and, of course, Michigan.

Do I think the Wolverines can thrash the Buckeyes? Of course. Do I think they will thrash the Buckeyes? I don't think so.

Do I think the Buckeyes are going to win? It's The Game, so don't count them out.

Michigan Memories Continue

It's no secret that our ongoing Michigan Memories series, published annually in our Michigan Preview issue, is one of my favorite features of each publishing year. The series had a humble beginning, with a lone feature on former Buckeye player and coach Fred Pagac's experiences in The Game in the Nov. 24, 1990, issue of BSB. That story must have been popular because by the next Michigan Preview issue, the feature had blossomed to include a blockbuster cast of Heisman Trophy winner Vic Janowicz, Ike Kelly, Rex Kern, Randy Gradishar, Art Schlichter, Cris Carter, Greg Frey and Carlos Snow all sharing their experiences in The Game. Wow!

Since then many more Ohio State greats and some lesser-known Buckeyes, as well as some off-the-field types associated with Buckeye football, have shared their memories. I think this year's subjects are another outstanding and interesting group of Buckeyes.

What struck me about this year's Memories was something that was recounted by two players from Ohio State's 2002 national championship team, something that didn't happen on the field. Both Cie Grant and Mike Doss emphasized the significance of Jim Tressel's famous "310 Days" speech given at halftime of a basketball game with Michigan, ironically enough, on the day of his hiring in January of 2001.

"He's an Ohio guy and he knows exactly what (The Game) means," Grant said of Tressel. "Instead of shying away from the pressure, he embraced it before we embraced it. That night at the basketball game – when you have a guy who is from Ohio, and before you can even get to know the guy, he goes out there and puts his neck out there and his word out there, I think that is where the change really came."

Doss also noted the courage that it took for Tressel to make such a bold statement and how that affected the Buckeyes heading into their game with the Wolverines 310 days later.

"What the reality is, if you don't speak it into existence it will never happen," Doss told BSB. "And what Tressel did, he put it out there, he put himself out there, he put our program out there. He put Ohio State back on the map with that statement."

"He had the balls and the guts to make that statement that, 'Hey, you will be proud of our team in 310 days,' and he changed the culture.

He changed the culture of what that game meant. He changed the culture of what the reality of Ohio State football has ultimately become. Coach Tressel definitely brought a different mind-set, a different focus."

That mind-set, that focus led to a 26-20 victory over Michigan that first season, the first Ohio State victory in Ann Arbor since Earle Bruce's famed win in his last game at the helm in 1987. The win started a 9-1 run in The Game under Tressel.

"I thought going into that game, 'OK, now we have to back up Coach's words. This is where it comes full circle,'" Grant said. "That was the first year I felt like we embraced the pressure. We understood when we got off the bus up there that it was us against the world. We had a strong senior class. I was a redshirt junior, but those were the guys I came in with. You wanted to get the win for those guys who put blood, sweat and tears into the program."

Grant had no problem contrasting that attitude with the way things were in the Cooper era, which ended with the Hall of Fame coach posting just a 2-10-1 mark against Ohio State's archrival.

"As that game drew closer under Coach Cooper, it seemed like we got uptight," Grant said. "Hindsight is 20-20, but I felt at the time that instead of embracing The Game, it was like we felt that pressure and never felt like we embraced it."

Sadly, two of the true titans of Ohio State football passed away in 2018 in Bruce and Jim Stillwagon. In honor of their memory, we are running reprints of their Michigan Memories which both appeared in the Nov. 20, 1993, issue of BSB.

Despite playing in three of the Ohio State-Michigan games that launched the fabled 10-Year War, Stillwagon claimed that the teams had a mutual respect for each other.

"We actually sort of got along and respected most of the Wolverine players. It was just the people around them, their fans. That was really who we wanted to exact some revenge on in 1970," Stillwagon said about the Buckeyes' 20-9 win in the senior year of the Super Sophs. Michigan, under first year coach and Woody Hayes protégé Bo Schembechler, had stunned the Buckeyes, 24-12, the year before in Ann Arbor, setting Wolverine fans into an anti-Buckeye frenzy.

Although he played against Michigan four decades after him, Buckeye linebacking great James Laurinaitis agreed with Stillwagon about the respect between the two teams.

"The players have always respected each other," Laurinaitis said. "I think that's the unique thing is that the players respect each other. It doesn't mean you like each other during those three hours, but it definitely means you respect each other."

But leave it to Bruce, who carried on the intensity of The Game after Hayes' demise, to add a little spice to the rivalry.

"If you're a real and true Buckeye you've got to have a little dislike for them," the late coach said of the Wolverines. "You don't play football for the love of the other team. Sure, you always respect them and have to be aware of what they can do, but you can't like them."

"This is a game where you've got to remember what has happened in the past, and that's got to burn. You can be sure the community won't let you forget. And no one who competes likes to have something stuffed in his face."

"Anyone who thinks revenge and hate can't act as great motivators in sports is crazy. Love thy neighbor is fine when you're talking about religion and church and all that stuff, but this is football."

I'll leave Earle with the last word.