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"For The Buckeye Fan Who Needs To Know More"

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Staying In Focus

No Letdown, Just Ohio Smackdown From Buckeyes

By ADAM JARDY
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

By the time the final seconds ticked off Sept. 18 at Ohio Stadium, Ohio State's game against Ohio could possibly be described as a snoozer.

The script was familiar. Early in the season, the Buckeyes had to come back to reality after a high-profile showdown with a national power. With Big Ten play still at least another week away, it was time to care about a game against a team perceived to be overmatched in nearly every way.

But this wasn't the early-season letdown game Buckeye fans had grown accustomed to seeing in years past. This was a 43-7 victory that only appeared boring at times because the home team was effectively in control from the opening moments of the game.

The Bobcats (1-2) did not crack the scoreboard until the fourth quarter with a touchdown against OSU's second-team defense. Until that point, the second-ranked Buckeyes (3-0) had essentially had their way with their in-state foes from the first snaps of the game.

A 2-yard rush by the Bobcats on the first offensive play of the game was followed by an interception by OSU's Tyler Moeller, and fears that the Buckeyes were simply going to sleepwalk through their first game after an emotional victory against then-No. 12 Miami (Fla.) the week prior were quieted quickly.

"I feel like in the last couple of years we get a big win and then guys started to lose sight of what's important and we tend to slip up or make it a closer game than it should be," senior captain and linebacker Brian Rolle said. "Today I feel we did a great job of not doing that."

For that, players cited different reasons, but the common refrain was that the Buckeyes did not allow complacency to drift into the week of practice leading up to the game.

Sophomore tight end Jake Stoneburner credited the team's seniors and specifically the six captains.



JOSH WINSLOW

MAN IN THE MIDDLE – Ohio State linebacker Ross Homan (51) turns upfield after intercepting a pass by Ohio quarterback Phil Bates (5) during the Buckeyes' 43-7 victory Sept. 18 at Ohio Stadium.

"I feel like our seniors aren't letting us sleep through games," he said. "They were making sure we were working hard. In practice they're expecting a lot more out of us. I think you could see that in the first half. The captains were saying we can't overlook any opponent, even if they're a (Mid-American Conference) school."

Rolle cited captain and defensive lineman Cameron Heyward for having hammered that message home to the team before the game started.

"We all just said we can't have any letdowns," Heyward said. "We didn't want to let down our fans. I think everybody took the challenge."

The Buckeyes remember the last time they came out flat. Their fans probably do, too. It was a partly sunny afternoon in October 2009 in West Lafayette, Ind., and OSU was riding high after a decisive victory the week prior against Wisconsin.

Expecting to waltz into Ross-Ade Stadium and win, the Buckeyes instead were handed an ugly 26-18 loss. Afterward, the realization hit home: OSU had not given Purdue any chance of winning the game and practiced accordingly.

Then it was time for some self-evaluation in Columbus. The lessons learned that day are still resonating with this year's squad.

"Obviously we learned our lesson last year at Purdue," senior cornerback Devon Torrence said. "I felt we came out flat that game and you remember the result there. We don't want that to happen again so you live and you learn."

We learned from our mistakes and we came out fired up today. Plus, the game before (in 2008 vs. OU) gave us a pretty good game."

As Torrence noted, the Buckeyes had to look only into the recent past if they were looking for extra inspiration. Two seasons ago, an OSU squad coming off a national championship game appearance had a home contest against the Bobcats sandwiched between a season opener against Division I-AA foe Youngstown State and a week three road showdown with USC.

With their minds elsewhere, the Buckeyes trailed Ohio as the fourth quarter dawned. It took a Brandon Saine touchdown run and a Ray Small punt return score to set the final tally at 26-14.

"I'm sure everybody remembers the game two years ago and how our minds weren't in the right place," Rolle said. "We just felt like if we came out flat then it was going to be a long day with the two athletic quarterbacks that they have. I feel like we did a great job of coming out and playing hard and doing a little better than last week."

As OSU prepared for the Hurricanes this season, the players said they did not draw any inspiration from the fact that the teams had played for the 2002 national championship. In preparing for the 2010 version of the Bobcats, however, the Buckeyes were able to cite the 2008 slugfest as reason to come out firing.

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Buckeyes Leave No Doubt In Rout Of Bobcats

Continued From Page 1

"Coming off such a big emotional win last week, you really don't want to have a letdown," junior center Michael Brewster said. "I think that was the biggest thing the coaches were trying to stress this week, especially back in '08 when we didn't play very good against OU. I think we came out early and took care of business and jumped on them fast. That's what we've got to do every week."

In the week leading up to the game against the Bobcats, OSU head coach Jim Tressel frequently referenced how physical the victory against the Hurricanes had been. That, coupled with the fact that OU was not a marquee opponent, had fans worried about what Buckeye team would take the field.

"After the game last weekend we were exhausted," Brewster said. "It was such an emotional game for both teams, and the coaches were really stressing this week that a lot of times in the past few years we haven't come out to play for teams that are underdogs. They really stressed that we have to come out and take care of business."

"I think we're starting to realize how talented this football team is. We can be a pretty good team this year."

Now three games into the 2010 season, the Buckeyes find themselves one-quarter of the way toward their goal of putting together an undefeated regular season. As the victories mount, the pressure will ratchet up on a weekly basis.

Senior captain and wide receiver Dane Sanzenbacher said that is precisely what he signed up for when he joined the program.

"I feel enough guys have been around this program and gone through enough that you know you're going to have that pressure on you," he said. "It's our goal to have that pressure on you because we want to have that target. We want to keep on winning. We know what comes along with it and I think we were able to stay focused."

Sanzenbacher's words reminded Brewster of "Across the Field," the song the team sings before each game.

"We've got to keep getting better because as the little song we sing in the locker room says, if we want to 'win that old conference now' we've got to get ready," he said.

Style Points?

The list of Buckeye teams to have earned style points to go along with victories during Tressel's tenure in Columbus is a short one. Three weeks into the season, this year's team is averaging 41.3 points per game and – aside from some significant miscues on special teams – handily skating to some blowout victories.

The difference between a 43-7 victory against the Bobcats and, say, a 24-7 win in the same game could go a long way in determining the public perception of this year's squad.

"Anytime you're in the public eye like this, every game is going to be looked at



SONNY BROCKWAY

HATS OFF – Ohio State's defense harassed Ohio quarterback Phil Bates (5) all afternoon and even knocked his helmet off on this play.

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COVER STORY

and every game is going to be, 'OK, they won, but not by that much,' " Sanzenbacher said. "From that perspective I can see how winning big helps, but it's more about us than the outside."

As Sanzenbacher pointed out, the Buckeyes are using themselves as a measuring stick rather than their level of competition.

"The pressure to go undefeated, I don't really think there is any as long as we do what we have to do," Torrence said. "Everything is about us. That's our mindset. We're not worried about the people we play. There's going to be competition and great teams but as long as we take care of us and do what we're supposed to do then we're going to be fine."

That attitude can be put to good use as Eastern Michigan comes to Columbus for a Sept. 25 contest. The Eagles enter the game riding a 15-game losing streak.

Although there is still a long way to go before punching a ticket to this year's title game, Brewster said he is encouraged by the team's early returns.

"This is probably the best start we've gotten off to in the past few years," he said. "Taking care of business, winning the big game, it just feels good that we're kind of rolling right now. We know we can't take any steps back. We need to not look past Eastern Michigan, which we won't, because we definitely didn't look past OU."

The decisive win sends a message that this year's team is a legitimate national title contender, Rolle said.

"I feel like people would have lost a little bit of respect for us and maybe thought last week was a fluke or we weren't as good as we looked," the linebacker said. "That's why each week we have to think about that one game and playing it our best. A game like this is a game where you try to make a statement. I feel like our offense did as well as our defense and special teams."

'Special' Concern

It is hardly a secret that Tressel stresses the importance of special teams to his squads. It is also hardly a secret that the Buckeyes have struggled in that aspect of the game this season.

Of the four touchdowns scored against OSU in the first two games, three came via special teams. One field goal was blocked and returned for a score, and the Buckeyes allowed both punt and kickoff returns for touchdowns.

"It's definitely been tough to see other teams hit big returns and stuff on us," said Zach Domicone, a safety who is on the kick-coverage unit. "It's really been a work in progress this week. I think we're doing a good job of shoring things up."

Entering the game against Ohio, OSU ranked 113th out of 120 schools in Division I-A in kickoff return yardage allowed at 27.09 yards per return and 109th in punt returns allowed at 40.5 yards per try. After the Hurricanes took a first-quarter kickoff back for a touchdown, the Buckeyes resorted to directional kicking and pooch kicks for the remainder of the game.



Jordan Hall

Tressel said little things have resulted in breakdowns in the kick coverage. Sanzenbacher said that as a result, things can get fixed in a hurry.

"From a punt perspective, (you can adjust) a little bit of your angle running down the field (or) the lane you stayed in," he said. "Maybe you were too far over and not right on top of the ball and the ball just spills out. Just the little things can turn it."

To address some of those concerns, the Buckeyes substituted a number of players on their kickoff-coverage unit, the special-teams group that saw the most action. One player who saw time there was sophomore running back Jordan Hall, who has also established himself as the team's top punt returner.

When he reported to practice last week, Hall said his name was listed among the starters with no further explanation given.

"I saw it as another opportunity," he said. "The coaches believe in me, I guess. It's just trying to make plays. I like to make plays."

The coaching staff also added junior running back Dan "Boom" Herron to the punt-coverage unit.

"If you told me you had the chance for Boom Herron to do something, I'd take him whether it was tackling or running or catching the ball," said linebackers coach

Luke Fickell, who also oversees the punt unit. "Same thing with Jordan Hall and a lot of other guys. Those are the kinds of people we try to get on the field."

The results against the Bobcats were a mixed bag. OU was limited to 20.1 yards on eight kickoff returns and 12.0 yards on two punt returns, but the visitors blocked one OSU punt and had a kickoff return that went for a touchdown called back because of an illegal block.

Asked if the miscues took away from what was otherwise a decisive victory, Tressel said, "Everything that didn't go well detracts from it. The victory's good. That aside, you evaluate every play. We just flat-out missed a guy on the punt that was blocked, and you can't do that."

Domicone, who has been a special-teams mainstay this season, said he feels the Buckeyes are close to turning things around in their coverage.

"It really is the little things," he said. "All the guys are giving great effort, running with speed and getting off blocks. The thing about special teams is it has to be a

perfect play in a lot of instances and if one guy makes the most minimal mistake, like with last week, a good returner is going to be out of the gate."

Fickell weighed in on what is needed to be successful on special teams.

"Ninety percent of special teams is a want-to," he said. "The effort is usually there. It's not an effort thing. Sometimes it's just a stress thing. Sometimes a guy thinks, 'Well I'm only a defensive player.' No, you're not just a defensive player."

Sophomore linebacker Storm Klein, who also sees action on special teams, said the Buckeyes will know they have turned things around when no one is asking about those units.

"We've been talking about it nonstop because the coaches say when our special teams are good, nobody wants to talk about it, but when they're bad, that's the first thing they're going to point their fingers at," he said. "We've just got to continue getting better. The effort and speed is there. We've just got to come together and fill our lanes up."

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OHIO STATE VS. OHIO UNIVERSITY

Buckeyes Tame Bobcats In In-State Blowout

By MARK REA
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Managing Editor

Ohio State flexed its muscle against in-state rival Ohio University, scoring on each of its first six possessions and running away with a 43-7 victory Sept. 18 in front of 105,075 fans at sun-drenched Ohio Stadium.

The Buckeyes set the tempo early, outgaining the Bobcats by a 149-2 margin in the first quarter and rushing out to a quick 17-0 lead. By the time the opening period had ended, backup quarterback Joe Bauserman had already relieved starter Terrelle Pryor.

Before Pryor took his first-quarter seat, he had already completed eight of his first nine pass attempts for 94 yards and a touchdown and scrambled 13 yards for another score. The junior QB went on to complete 16 straight passes at one juncture – a new school record – and finished 22 for 29 for 235 yards and two touchdowns. Pryor also threw his first two interceptions of the 2010 season.

Jim Karsatos had held the OSU single-game record for the past quarter-century with 12 consecutive completions during a 12-7 home loss to Wisconsin in 1985.

"Sixteen in a row is pretty good," OSU head coach Jim Tressel said after the game. "I didn't realize it until they mentioned it after the game. That's pretty darned good. He finished 22 for 29, which was pretty fair. I think he would like to have a couple of those back. Interceptions ruin a quarterback's day in their own mind, and sometimes you forget

about the 22 completions. ... (Terrelle will) be happy when he has 29 straight and that's all we've called. (But) that's his nature and that's why you love working with him."

The Buckeyes wound up with a lopsided 439-158 advantage in total yardage against the mistake-prone Bobcats, who committed five turnovers. OSU also held huge edges in first downs (22-7), offensive plays (77-48) and time of possession (37:56-22:04). The Buckeyes were also 5 of 14 on third-down conversions while Ohio was only 2 for 10. More than half of the Bobcats' first downs (four) and total yardage (96) as well as both of their third-down conversions came in the fourth quarter against OSU's second- and third-team defense.

"I thought we seized control of the game early, and the biggest challenge you have is keeping your execution at a high pitch after that," Tressel said. "But I thought the kids played hard and we got a lot of guys in the game – 70 or so snaps from each side of the ball to study and we'll see if we can get better."

Despite the big advantage in yardage, Ohio State rushed for a season-low 158 yards. Still, the Buckeyes seemed to make the most of those yards with a trio of rushing touchdowns – two by junior tailback Dan "Boom" Herron and one by Pryor. Senior co-captain Brandon Saine was the team's leading rusher with 48 yards on 12 carries while Pryor and Herron accounted for 35 and 27, respectively.

Meanwhile, the OSU passing game flour-



JOSH WINSLOW

MEETING POINT – Members of the Ohio State offense, including (from left) Michael Brewster (50), Brandon Saine (3), Jake Stoneburner (11) and Taurian Washington (5), found themselves celebrating in the end zone several times Sept. 18 against Ohio University. Saine scored the Buckeyes' first touchdown on a 9-yard pass from Terrelle Pryor in the first quarter.

ished. Ten different receivers caught at least one pass, and three – wideouts DeVier Posey and Dane Sanzenbacher and tight end Jake Stoneburner – caught five passes each. Posey led the way in yardage with 62 while Stoneburner was close behind with 61 as well as his first career touchdown reception. Sanzenbacher added 58.

Tressel substituted freely throughout much of the game although the first-team offensive and defensive units played most

of the first three quarters. Still, Bauserman saw enough action to complete 4 of 7 passes for 45 yards while redshirt freshman Kenny Gupton also saw action for the Buckeyes under center in the final minute and a half. He did not attempt a pass.

Defensively, Ohio State was led by senior linebacker Ross Homan, who had a team-high seven tackles to go along with an interception and a forced fumble. Defensive ends Cameron Heyward and Nathan Williams

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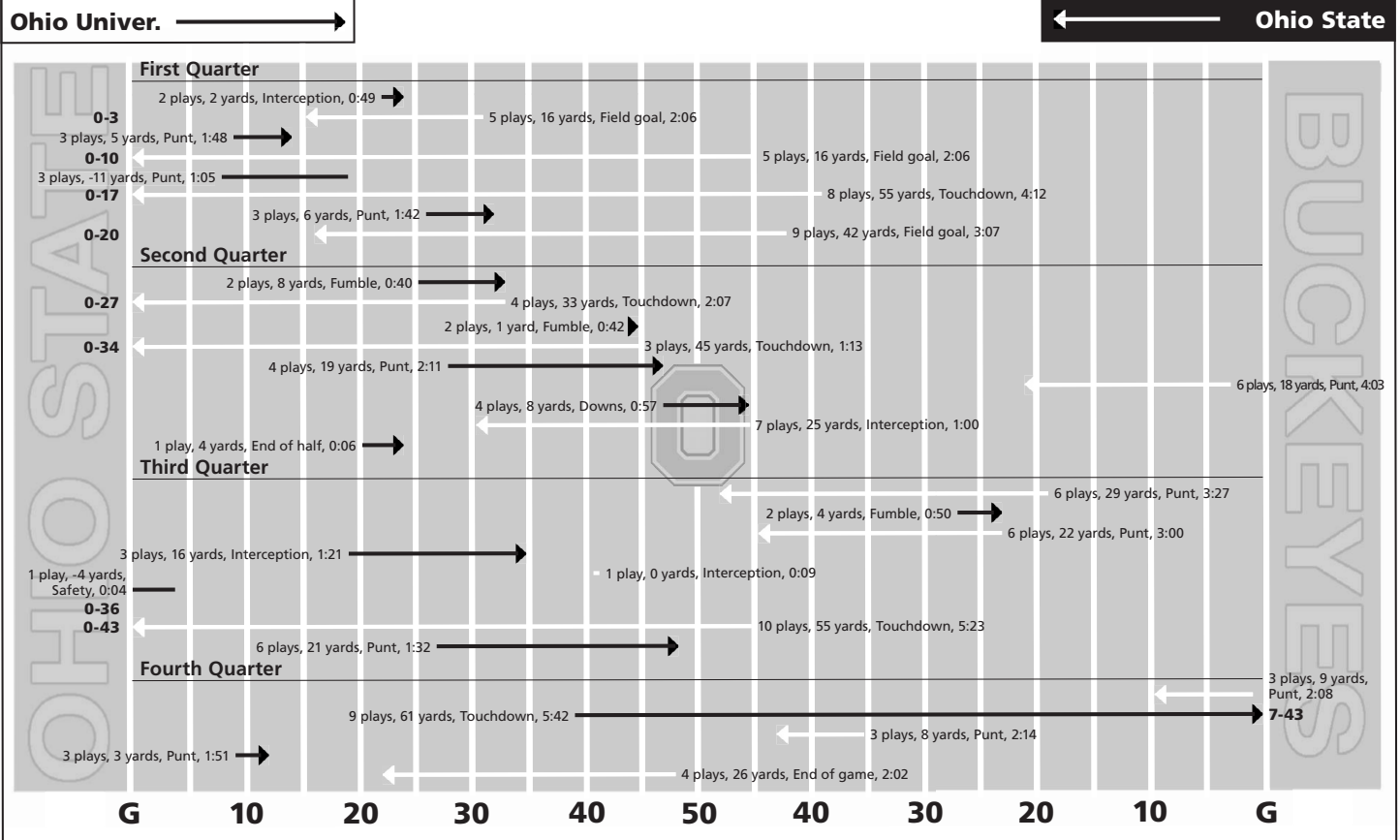
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OHIO STATE VS. OHIO UNIVERSITY

Drive Chart



each recovered a fumble as did cornerback Devon Torrence while safety Tyler Moeller had the Buckeyes' other interception.

Moeller and strong safety Orhian Johnson – taking over a starting spot for the injured C.J. Barnett – were also credited with forcing fumbles.

Ohio head coach Frank Solich lamented the fact his team committed multiple turnovers for the second game in a row. The week before, the Bobcats were intercepted three times and lost one fumble during a 20-13 home loss to Toledo.

"It's been a huge negative effect," Solich said of the turnovers. "Normally we do a pretty good job of taking care of the ball. We need to have that corrected. You can't win football games when you turn the ball over to the other team."

Defense Rises To Early Occasion

Despite the noon kickoff, the OSU defense was wide awake early and wasted no time dictating tempo. On Ohio's second play from scrimmage, quarterback Phil Bates tried to flip a sideline pass to receiver LaVon Brazill. Torrence tipped the pass and Moeller grabbed the interception out of the air to give the Buckeyes possession at the OU 31.

Unfortunately, the offense couldn't fully cash in on the golden opportunity.

Pryor's first attempt of the afternoon resulted in a 13-yard pass to Stoneburner, but the drive quickly stalled and Ohio State was forced to settle for a 32-yard field goal from senior kicker Devin Barclay and a 3-0 lead at the 12:05 mark of the first quarter.

The Bobcats responded by attacking what has been Ohio State's Achilles' heel so far this season – kick return coverage.

Senior Julian Posey – DeVier's older brother – took the ensuing kickoff 99 yards for an apparent touchdown but an illegal block penalty by Bobcats senior Hilton Dawson III in the middle of the field nullified the return.

Not only did the penalty wipe out the score, but Ohio was forced to begin the possession at its own 9. OSU's defense responded by forcing a three-and-out series and then Pryor engineered a nifty eight-play, 55-yard drive, beginning his completion streak by connecting on all six attempts during the possession.

The sixth came when the junior QB backpedaled away from blitzing weakside linebacker Eric Benjamin to flip a 9-yard touchdown dart to Saine. Barclay added the PAT for a 10-0 lead at the 5:53 mark of the first quarter.

Another three-and-out by Ohio preceded the Buckeyes' next scoring drive, an efficient 61-yard march that took only four plays and 93 seconds. Pryor had a nice running pitch to Posey that the junior receiver turned into a 35-yard gain, and then the OSU quarterback faked to his left before scrambling right 13 yards to the end zone.

Barclay's extra point made it 17-0 at the 3:11 mark of the opening period.

Bauserman took over the reins of the OSU offense near the end of the first quarter, and he directed the team's next scoring drive. It was a nine-play, 42-yard possession punctuated by a 25-yard screen pass to sophomore tailback Jordan Hall on a third-and-8 play.

That got the ball to the Ohio 16, but the Buckeyes advanced no farther and Barclay's 33-yard field goal made it 20-0 with 13:17 to go until halftime.

Ohio State added two more touchdowns

The Bottom Line

It was over when ... Ohio senior Julian Posey's 99-yard kickoff return in the first quarter was nullified by an illegal block. The return would have given the Bobcats a 7-3 lead at the time, but the penalty was a particularly devastating one. Ohio didn't get back into Ohio State territory until early in the second quarter, and by that time the Bobcats were staring at a 27-0 deficit.

Game ball goes to ... Ross Homan. The senior co-captain showed no letdown in his performance by leading the Buckeyes with seven tackles, forcing a fumble and nabbing his seventh career interception and first of this year. He also sent an early calling card to Ohio quarterback Phil Bates, delivering a bone-chattering blow in the first quarter that separated Bates from his helmet.

Stat of the game ... 16. Ohio State quarterback Terrelle Pryor broke a long-standing school record for most consecutive completions by connecting on 16 straight passes in the first half. The previous record was 12, held by a number of former QBs although all but Jim Karsatos accomplished the feat over two games. Karsatos' streak came on one afternoon in 1985 during a 12-7 loss to Wisconsin.

– Mark Rea

before the break. Homan's hard hit of Bates during the Ohio quarterback's 9-yard scramble resulted in a fumble scooped up by Williams at the OU 33. Four plays later, Pryor found Stoneburner alone in the end zone for a 5-yard scoring pass. Barclay added the PAT for a 27-0 lead at the 10:25 mark of the second quarter.

Then only two plays into the Bobcats' next possession, Ohio tailback Vince Davidson fumbled while being pursued by Moeller and Heyward made the recovery, giving the Buckeyes possession again in OU territory.

This time, it took only three plays – a 27-yard scramble by Pryor, an 11-yard reception by senior Taurian Washington and a 2-yard bolt by Herron behind fullback Zach Boren and left guard Justin Boren. Barclay was true with the point-after attempt again, and the lead had swollen to 34-0 with 8:22 remaining.

The Buckeyes had yet another scoring chance go by the boards late in the second quarter.

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OHIO STATE VS. OHIO UNIVERSITY

Ohio Avoided Shutout With Fourth-Quarter TD

Continued From Page 9

The defense stuffed Ohio on a fourth-and-1 play and OSU took over possession at its own 45 with 1:06 left in the first half. But after marching his team to the Ohio 22-yard line with 20 seconds to go, Pryor was sacked for an 8-yard loss and then threw an interception in the end zone on the next play.

It was the junior quarterback's first interception in 70 attempts to begin this season.

Ohio State managed to dodge a couple of bullets early in the third quarter. The Buckeyes' first possession ended when junior Billy Gonzales-Santos blew in untouched and blocked Ben Buchanan's punt. But two plays later, Johnson dislodged the football from OU running back Dallas Brown after a short completion and Torrence pounced on the fumble at the OSU 23.

The Buckeyes' next possession also

resulted in a punt, but only three plays into the Bobcats' next drive, Homan stepped in front of a Bates pass meant for wide receiver Terrence McCrae and the OSU linebacker returned the interception to the Ohio 41.

That was immediately followed by Pryor's second pick of the day, but the good news didn't last for the Bobcats. Safety Donovan Fletcher made the interception at the Ohio State 4, and on the next play Heyward corralled Davidson before he could get out of the end zone for a safety.

That made it 36-0 in favor of the Buckeyes at the 6:09 mark of the third quarter, and they marched 55 yards with the ensuing free kick, capping the drive with a 1-yard, fourth-down touchdown plunge by Herron. Barclay added the PAT for a 43-0 cushion with 0:41 showing on the third-quarter clock.

Ohio ruined the shutout with a fourth-quarter touchdown pass of 11 yards from

backup quarterback Boo Jackson to McCrae with 6:14 remaining, capping a nine-play, 61-yard drive that was far and away the Bobcats' best offensive display of the contest.

Jackson relieved Bates in the tail end of the third quarter and finished the game, completing five of his eight pass attempts for 69 yards. Bates was pressured all day by the OSU defense and managed to connect on only 4 of 9 passes for 13 yards. He was also intercepted twice.

"We had a lot of problems," Bates said. "We didn't execute plays, hit people when they were open or get key blocks. We have a lot of work to do."

The Buckeyes failed to sack Bates, but he was forced to scramble 10 times and wound up his team's leading rusher with 53 yards.

Game Notes

- Ohio State ran its record to 7-0 in the series with Ohio University. Four of the meetings occurred between 1899 and 1902 while the series resumed in 1999 with a 40-16 win by the Buckeyes. The other contest was in 2008 and resulted in a 26-14 win for OSU.

- The crowd of 105,075 established a new attendance record for the Bobcats. When last they visited Ohio Stadium in 2008, the crowd of 105,002 was the largest road crowd in Ohio program history.

- Tressel is now 33-4 with the Buckeyes against regular-season nonconference opponents. His record at OSU went to 60-8 against unranked competition and he is now 35-4 in September.

- Solich is in his sixth season with the Bobcats after spending six at his alma mater Nebraska from 1998-2003. His overall career record is now 91-52 and includes a 33-33 mark in Athens.

- Tressel moved his lifetime record to 4-0 against Ohio. That includes the 2008 and 2010 wins while at Ohio State as well as victories in 1990 and 1992 when he was head coach at Youngstown State.

- Against teams currently in the Mid-American Conference, Tressel is now 32-

14-1 for his career. In addition to the perfect record against the Bobcats, he is 9-2-1 vs. Akron; 6-3 vs. Kent State; 4-2 vs. Buffalo; 3-1 against Bowling Green; 1-0 vs. Miami (Ohio), Northern Illinois and Toledo; 1-1 against Central Michigan and Western Michigan; and 1-4 vs. Eastern Michigan.

- Solich is now 0-2 lifetime against Ohio State and 5-5 overall against Big Ten teams. In addition to his record against the Buckeyes, Solich is 2-0 vs. Iowa, 1-0 against Illinois, 1-1 vs. Penn State and 1-2 against Northwestern.

- The Buckeyes own a 178-48-5 all-time record against Ohio schools and are 27-1 against current members of the MAC. The only blemish on that record is a 12-6 loss to Akron in a game played Sept. 15, 1894, at the Ohio State Fair.

- OSU hasn't lost to an Ohio school since a 7-6 defeat to Oberlin in 1921. The closest any in-state rival has come since was a 7-7 tie achieved by Wooster in 1924.

- The Bobcats moved to 6-33-1 all-time against Big Ten schools, and that includes losses in 16 of their last 17 tries. Since 1974, the only time Ohio has tasted victory against a Big Ten opponent was a 23-17 win at Minnesota in 2000.

- During the past two decades, Ohio hasn't fared very well against ranked teams. Following the loss to the Buckeyes, the Bobcats are 0-15 since 1990 against ranked teams.

- One of Ohio State's goals was to smother the Ohio running attack, and it was mission accomplished. The Bobcats totaled only 76 yards rushing and are now 5-22 under Solich when they are held under 100 yards on the ground.

- Ohio's next victory will be the 500th in program history.

- Solich's next win will push him into sole possession of fourth place in terms of coaching victories at Ohio. His 33 wins currently tie him with Jim Grobe (1995-2000). Don Peden (1924-46) tops the list with 121 victories followed by Bill Hess (108, 1958-77) and Carroll Widdoes (42, 1949-57). Widdoes succeeded the legendary Paul Brown as head coach at Ohio State, and he fashioned a 16-2 mark with the Buckeyes in 1944 and '45.

- Pryor's streak of 16 straight completions broke the single-game record of 12 held by Karsatos. Other Ohio State quarterbacks who completed 12 consecutive passes over the course of two games includes Bill Mrukowski (1961), Mike Tomczak (1983), Craig Krenzler (2002) and Todd Boeckman (2007).

- With 270 yards of total offense against Ohio, Pryor increased his career total to 5,695 and moved past Archie Griffin (5,589, 1972-75) for eighth on the school's career list in that category. Next up is Tomczak (6,015, 1981-83).

- Pryor has become the 10th quarterback in school history to amass 4,000 or more career passing yards. His current total stands at 4,120, and he needs 374 to pass Krenzler (4,493, 2000-03) and move into ninth place.

- Posey and Sanzenbacher both moved into OSU's all-time top 25 in receiving yardage. Posey (1,182) passed Mike Lanese (1,175, 1982-85), Dimitrios Stanley (1,136, 1993-96) and Chris Sanders (1,120, 1992-94) to vault to No. 23 on the career list. Sanzenbacher (1,139) went past Stanley and Sanders and currently sits at No. 25.

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OHIO STATE VS. OHIO UNIVERSITY

Aerial Attack Led Ohio State To Big Win

Ohio State players and coaches talked all week prior to their Sept. 18 matchup with Ohio about a desire to improve the passing game, and the Buckeyes wasted no time proving they were serious.

Terrelle Pryor dropped back and found tight end Jake Stoneburner over the middle for a 13-yard gain on Ohio State's first offensive play, and that was just a hint of what was to come.

INSIDE THE OFFENSE

Marcus Hartman

By the time the day was over, Pryor had completed 22 of 29 passes for 235 yards, two interceptions and pair of touchdowns in the Buckeyes' 43-7 win. Backup Joe Bauserman got his chance as well and took advantage by completing 4 of 7 throws for 46 yards.

The 281 total passing yards were the most for Ohio State since the regular-season finale in 2006 when eventual Heisman Trophy winner Troy Smith threw for 316 yards against Michigan.

Ten different Buckeyes caught passes, including five apiece by DeVier Posey, Dane Sanzenbacher and Jake Stoneburner. Along the way, Pryor completed 16 consecutive passes at one point, breaking Jim Karsatos' school record of 12 set against Wisconsin in 1985.

"I was just trying to move the ball down the field," said Pryor, who was not aware of the record while it was active. "That's a good step, but I'd like to go 25 of 25. That's just how I am. Those two interceptions are killing me today. That messed up my whole day."

Ohio State's motivation for putting the pigskin in the air was easy to determine. A 12-for-27 passing day against Miami (Fla.)



JOSH WINSLOW

LOOKING DOWNFIELD – Ohio State quarterback Terrelle Pryor (2) completed passes to seven different players, including five to wide receiver DeVier Posey (8, foreground).

a week earlier left something to be desired even though the team won 36-24.

"I think we came out thinking we were going to throw the ball a little bit and try to push it down the field and try to get some momentum in the passing game, get some guys some catches," Pryor said. "I don't think we ran the ball a lot but I think we really wanted to focus on passing the ball and getting a good percentage."

The raw numbers against the Hurricanes did not tell the whole story, but a universal desire to improve persisted nonetheless.

"Last week was a lot of man to man," Pryor said, referring to the pass defense. "When it's man to man, it's 50/50. It's a battle. Those are the chances you take when it's man to man. I wasn't very happy when I heard my stats last week, but I'm not very happy today either. I should've been 25 for 29 or even more. I got greedy and the two interceptions came. There were a couple of hot throws to the running backs."

Ohio safety Donovan Fletcher came up with both interceptions on deep balls thrown late over the middle when no receiver seemed to be open. Though both moments induced some head scratching, neither head coach Jim Tressel nor offensive coordinator Jim Bollman was overly critical after the game.

That pair and the rest of the staff determined they would use the Ohio game to work on the passing game with an eye on the start of conference play and a ratcheting up of the level of competition that will come down the road.

"We've got to have some balance in our offense if we're ever going to be really good, and it's tough to get that done without working on it," Bollman said.

The coach was pleased to see Pryor come out hot because that allowed the team to pile up passing reps and move the chains.

"When you can get in a rhythm like that in any kind of situation, then it's a lot easier to work on," Bollman said. "Part of being a good offense is just being consistent. There were parts of that that were great today and other ways we've got to get better."

The junior quarterback was in a sharing mood as he found seven different receivers on the day. That group included top three receivers Posey, Sanzenbacher and Taurian Washington, tight end Stoneburner, fullback Zach Boren and top two running backs Brandon Saine and Dan Herron.

"That puts more pressure on the defense because instead of just two guys being on the route we had about four or five," said Stoneburner, who had career-high totals of

five catches for 61 yards and his first touchdown. "With the confidence in our line to be able to do that, we can put a lot of pressure on defenses."

Running Woes

The offensive coordinator's No. 1 concern was improving the running game.

A week after Saine and Herron combined to pick up 73 yards on 26 carries against the Hurricanes, the duo went for 75 yards on 21 totes against the Bobcats.

That equates to 2.8 yards per carry in the former game and 3.6 in the latter, although nearly two-thirds of the pair's rushing yards against the Bobcats came on a 21-yard run by Saine.

Take away that jaunt – which came behind an unusual eight-man offensive front that included backup tackle Andrew Miller as a sixth lineman – and the yards per carry plunges to 2.7.

"My single biggest concern right now without looking at any film is I didn't feel like we ran the ball consistently enough," Bollman said. "We want to get back on track and start working on that (immediately). We've got to be a little more consistent in how we're doing that."

The Buckeyes have still been able to move the ball on the ground by supplementing the work of the running backs with scrambled and designed rushes by Pryor, but they don't want that to be their only option.

Saine said he was not sure what was going on in the two games since he broke out for 103 yards in the season opener against Marshall, but senior guard Bryant Browning and center Michael Brewster both recognized a handful of missed assignments that caused breakdowns.

"They did a couple of new things we didn't pick up exactly," Browning said. "Those things put the defense in a position to make plays. Sometimes they did move around and shift before the snap and threw us off a little bit. I guess we need to study that and see what they were doing so we can get better at it."

A safety was almost always assigned to help out against the run, and at times Ohio would shift to a six-man defensive front.

"We expected all week they would come with an extra defender in the box, so we were going to try to protect and maybe fling it around a little bit to see if we could work that guy out of the box," Browning said. "I feel we did an OK job, (but we) definitely need to improve some things."

Bollman found little solace in being reminded by a reporter that Ohio seemed to come into the contest intent on stopping the run first and foremost.

"Nonetheless, we still want to try to run it," he said. "We can't take any of it for granted, so we'll take a look at it closely and see if it was scheme problems, personnel problems, and we'll see that everybody knows about that. We talked about that as an offense after the game."

Brewster, a junior in his third season as the starter in the middle of the line, sounded confident things will get worked out.

"I think if we would have run more we might have had some more opportunities, but we passed a lot today and Terrelle did well so we just kept going with it," Brewster said. "Before the game, Coach told us we were going to come out and let Terrelle pass so he said we had to come out and protect well. For the most part we were holding those guys off for a good amount of time."



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OHIO STATE VS. OHIO UNIVERSITY

Buckeye Game Analysis

Play Of The Game

Hoping to get quarterback Phil Bates settled into the game, the Ohio offensive brain trust called for a rollout pass to the signal caller's left on the second play from scrimmage Sept. 18 as the Bobcats battled Ohio State in Ohio Stadium.

But while eliminating half of the field from the pattern was supposed to simplify Bates' reads, it actually tipped off what type of play was coming to Ohio State cornerback Devon Torrence.

"I saw he was rolling out, and there are only a few routes that a receiver can run when a quarterback is rolling out," Torrence said. "(The receiver is) not going to run a post or a fade while the quarterback is on the run. I kind of knew he was going to sit down."

That's exactly what wideout LaVon Brazill did, running a curl route near the first-down marker along the left sideline. Reading the play out of a cover-3 defense, Torrence broke on the ball and deflected it in the air for Tyler Moeller to intercept at the Ohio 31-yard line.

The play set the tone for the Ohio State defense, which went on to force five Bobcats turnovers during the Buckeyes' 43-7 victory.

"Obviously that just flattens you as an offense, especially in their situation, the underdog coming into our

stadium," Torrence said. "It takes away momentum early."

Moeller, whose interception was the first in his career, knew he was the recipient of a lucky bounce.

"I didn't really do much other than see it and at the last second put my arms up and catch the ball," the hybrid linebacker/defensive back said. "Devon made the play. He broke down, made a play, tipped it up, and I was just the guy who lucked out and won the lottery on that play."

Moeller did more than that, though, colliding with Torrence as the senior defensive back tried to haul in the interception. The hit knocked the wind out of Torrence, who also landed awkwardly on his hip. He stayed down and had to receive medical attention before leaving the field.

"Tyler came out of nowhere and just waylaid me," Torrence said. "I got the wind knocked out of me, but as long as he got the interception, I'm cool with it."

What Worked Well

- **The varied passing attack:** It's hard to argue much about a 22-for-29 day when the quarterback is a mobile one such as Terrelle Pryor. The junior will be lauded for his school-record 16 consecutive completions, but it's worth noting he hit seven different targets – three wide receivers, three running backs and a tight end – during that streak. Pryor took what the defense gave him during the run and used his feet when there was nothing there.

- **OSU's play recognition on defense:** Ohio came in running misdirection plays in an effort to slow down the Buckeyes' fast defense, but it did not work. The Bobcats' pre-snap motions, option plays, screen passes and draws met with little success thanks to a smart Buckeye squad that never looked out of position and flew to the ball.

What Didn't Work

- **The power running game:** Offensive coordinator Jim Bollman mentioned this as a concern during his post-game comments after the Buckeyes' scholarship tailbacks combined for 112 yards on 29 carries, a 3.9-yard average. There were too many plays in which an aggressive Ohio defense knifed through the line or clogged the middle to keep the Buckeyes to little yardage.

- **Pryor's deep ball:** Pryor's early efficiency was clouded by two interceptions, both on deep throws that sandwiched halftime. His first pick, with time winding down in the first half, was thrown into coverage before Donovan Fletcher came up with the interception in the end zone. Fletcher got another in the second half at the Ohio 4-yard line when Pryor was late on a throw. Both tosses were more than 30 yards down the field.

Reviewing The Matchups

Ohio State rush offense vs. Ohio rush defense:

Ohio's strong front seven kept Ohio State to 158 yards, the Buckeyes' lowest rushing total in a regular-season game since the loss to Purdue a season ago. With the tailbacks finding tough sledding and Pryor rooted in the pocket much more than he was against Miami (Fla.), there weren't a lot of big gains to be had for the Buckeyes. **EDGE: Even**

Ohio rush offense vs. Ohio State rush defense:

This one is no contest. The Bobcats ran for 2.5 yards per carry and starting tailback Vince Davidson finished with minus-9 yards on six rushes. The first half was a disaster on the ground for Ohio, which had 36 yards on 17 carries and lost two fumbles on rushing plays. Ohio State is typically good at stopping the run, and this year's front seven is upholding that tradition. **EDGE: Ohio State**

Ohio State pass offense vs. Ohio pass defense:

Bollman confirmed that the Buckeyes planned to come out throwing, and OSU did just that with 26 passes thrown against 18 runs in the first half. That worked out well as the Buckeyes had 290 yards of offense and 34 points at the break. Pryor's efficiency streak included two touchdown throws, which put the game out of reach before his two later interceptions. **EDGE: Ohio State**

Ohio pass offense vs. Ohio State pass defense:

One has to wonder what would have happened if Boo Jackson had started for Ohio. He finished 5 for 8 passing and completed all three passes for 43 yards on OU's lone touchdown drive, which ended with an 11-yard scoring strike from Jackson to Terrence McCrae. Starter Phil Bates is not an accomplished passer, and it showed. His early interception that started the Bobcats' downhill slide kicked off a day in which he was 4 for 9 with a pair of picks. **EDGE: Ohio State**

Special teams: The hits keep on coming for these units, which saw another kickoff returned for a touchdown – though it was called back for a block in the back – and gave up a blocked punt. Such huge breakdowns cannot keep happening for a team that hopes to win a national title. Lost amid the chaos, however, were two more field goals by Devin Barclay, who looks dependable three games into his senior season. **EDGE: Ohio**

Intangibles: All week, reporters wondered if Ohio State could come out firing a week after an emotional win vs. Miami or if the Buckeyes would face a hangover. It's fair to say OSU answered those questions with 17 points in each of the first two quarters. This Buckeye team seems to have an edge to it, one that allows the squad to focus on each task at hand without getting ahead of itself. That's a rare and prized quality in college football. **EDGE: Ohio State**

– Jeff Svoboda



JOSH WINSLOW

TURNOVER – Tyler Moeller (26) nabbed his first career interception, with an assist to fellow defensive back Devon Torrence (1), in the first quarter of Ohio State's victory against Ohio University.



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OHIO STATE VS. OHIO UNIVERSITY

Defense Gave Buckeyes Ball Back Often

DeVier Posey won't be misplacing his helmet on the sideline this season. The Ohio State wideout never knows how quickly he'll need it.

Three games into the 2010 season, the Buckeyes' defense has forced 12 turnovers, including five more against Ohio during a 43-7 victory Sept. 18 in Ohio Stadium.

"You never know," Posey said. "Before you know it, you hear the crowd screaming and you have to get back on the field."

INSIDE THE DEFENSE

Jeff Svoboda

One could even say in the game against Ohio that the Buckeyes boasted a quick-strike defense. Four of the five turnovers were forced on the second play of drives, including an interception by Tyler Moeller only two plays into the game that set the tone for the Silver Bullets.

The other turnover the Buckeyes caused, a second-half interception, was a mere three plays into an OU possession.

"We want to go out there and get as many turnovers as we can and try to get the ball back to our offense as fast we can," safety Orhian Johnson said.

For good measure, the Buckeyes added a safety on the first play of an Ohio drive and stopped the Bobcats once on downs. That was the third time this season an opponent had been forced to cede the ball on downs, in effect giving the Buckeyes three additional turnovers.

Of particular note to the OSU defenders was the fact that three of the turnovers on the day came on fumble recoveries. A season ago, Ohio State was tied for third in the nation with 35 turnovers gained, but 24 came on interceptions and only 11 on fumble recoveries.

"We're always getting interceptions," linebacker Brian Rolle said. "I feel like this year

there has been a big emphasis on creating fumbles."

Starting linebacker Ross Homan forced the first fumble, with Moeller and Johnson getting the next two on the ground. The fumbles were recovered by Nathan Williams, Cameron Heyward and Devon Torrence, respectively.

During every team practice, the defense swarms after any fumble or loose ball that is on the ground, a practice that Rolle said helps when fumbles happen in a game.

"We've done it since I've been here, and they even put a bigger emphasis on it (this year)," he said. "I think (cornerbacks coach Taver Johnson) is the guy who pushes that the most. Even if they throw it and it's incomplete, everybody is running to scoop the ball up. I think the guys have taken heed to that, and anytime the ball is on the ground you have 11 guys hustling to get it."

Making his first career start in the stead of the injured C.J. Barnett, Johnson was pleased to have a hand in one of the fumbles as it appeared to give him the credentials one would need to play with the Buckeye stop troops.

"Those guys are just ball hawks – everybody getting to the ball, everybody making plays," he said. "I just wanted to contribute any way I could."

While the Ohio State offense committed its first two turnovers of the year, the big day by the defense made sure the Buckeyes were plus-3 in turnover margin. The team's season mark of plus-10 is tops in the nation.

But most important is the following stat – the Buckeyes are 57-4 in Jim Tressel's 10-year tenure when winning the turnover battle.

"We talk about (turnovers) every day, all day," Moeller said. "Turnovers make a game. Usually the team with the most turnovers (gained) wins the game, and we make a big emphasis to get those turnovers. Luckily, this year we've done a good job with that."

On The Same Page

Two years ago, athletic quarterback Boo Jackson made enough plays to keep Ohio around during what would become a 26-14 win for the Buckeyes in Ohio Stadium.



JOSH WINSLOW

LOOSE BALL – The Ohio State defense forced five turnovers, including a second-quarter fumble that was recovered by senior defensive end Cameron Heyward (97).

Even with Jackson still on the roster, the Bobcats turned to Phil Bates as the starter under center this time around but tried to run some of the same plays with which Jackson had found success in 2008. That plan fell well short of the mark, especially during a first half in which OU was held to two first downs and 47 total yards.

"Some of their misdirection stuff and plays that actually went against us two years ago, they tried to do," Rolle said. "And it didn't fare well for them. I felt like that's when our defense knew we had them where we wanted them."

Those misdirection and deception plays blew up in the Bobcats' faces more than they hurt the Buckeyes. On one first-quarter play, Ohio had a wide receiver go in motion behind the formation, but that unsettled the tailback, who stepped forward before the snap. The center then snapped the ball before a confused Bates was ready, resulting in a fumble and a 12-yard loss. Later, tailback Vince Davidson couldn't handle an option pitch, resulting in a loose ball recovered by Heyward.

When the Bobcats held on to the ball, their repertoire of short passes, screens and draws was met by a quick and eager OSU defense.

"To beat a fast defense, (they ran) screens, trick plays and things like that, so we preached good eye control, and that's what guys did out there," safety Jermale Hines said.

Ohio State came out in its nickel defense for the majority of plays because Ohio's base set included three wide receivers. That allowed the speedy Moeller to be on the field, and the Cincinnati native finished with 1½ tackles for loss to go with his forced fumble and interception.

"We knew they had a running quarterback and they were going to run the ball and make some quick passes here and there," Moeller said. "I think the guys did a great job of making plays. Everyone on the team is running to the ball."

New Faces, New Places

Johnson was projected as a starting safety going into fall camp, but a leg injury helped to allow Barnett to pass him up in the No. 1 defense.

Now back in the top unit with Barnett out, Johnson replied with the forced fumble and added three tackles.

"He was anxious at the beginning of the game to make a play," Hines said. "I told him

to just relax and go out there and have fun and let plays come to him."

Johnson admitted to being nervous before the contest but was glad to be on the field.

"It was good to get back to playing football, being out there with those guys, playing in front of the Horseshoe," he said. "There's nothing like it. It was a long way to get back from the injury, but it just felt so good to get out there. The feeling was overwhelming."

The Buckeyes were also without starting strongside linebacker Andrew Sweat, who suffered an undisclosed injury the week prior against Miami (Fla.).

With OSU in the nickel for most of the game, the Buckeyes used only two linebackers on the majority of plays. When three linebackers were needed, sophomore Jonathan Newsome entered the game for his first work with the starting base defense and finished with one tackle.

"Jon did a good job," linebackers coach Luke Fickell said. "He came in with a great attitude. For the first time in my life I saw a little bit of nerves in him, and to me that made me feel a little better. He showed us that he can play, and it gives us some more depth."

Shut Out From Goose Egg

The defense was hoping to blank the opposing offense for the second time this year – the touchdown scored in the opener by Marshall came on special teams – but Ohio marched 61 yards on nine plays to score a touchdown with 6:14 to play.

"I was sitting there like, 'Oh, no, no, no,'" Rolle said. "But at the same time, when they did score, I was like, 'They drove down the field, so they deserved it.'"

The scoring play was an 11-yard pass from Jackson to Terrence McCrae, and it came against the Buckeye backups. The only starter on the field was Moeller, the team's No. 1 nickel back, who was still proud of the work put in by the OSU second stringers.

"You know, they did a good job," Moeller said. "It sucked that they scored those seven points, but everyone is out there and knows what they're doing and is ready to play."

In all, 24 Ohio State defensive players made tackles. Among the notable reserves, linebacker Tony Jackson had five tackles, linebacker Storm Klein had three, senior defensive tackle Don Matheny made two tackles in limited action and lineman Adam Bellamy had his first career tackle for loss.

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OHIO STATE VS. OHIO UNIVERSITY

BSB Quotebook: Ohio State 43, Ohio University 7

Ohio head coach Frank Solich's opening statement: "Well, it was a long afternoon. Ohio State has a championship-caliber football team. I felt that coming in and I feel that coming out. We had to play perfect football, execute well, play penalty free and win the turnover battle, none of which got done today. The defense hung in there pretty well. Ohio State has a good running game, throwing game and a good scramble game. That's tough to defend against."

Ohio State head coach Jim Tressel joking about his quarterback Terrelle Pryor setting a school record with 16 consecutive completions: "It must be hard to do. We've been throwing the ball all over the place for a lot of years."

Pryor on the completion streak: "I knew I was on a hot streak, but I wasn't sure how much. As quarterbacks, we take whatever they give us and don't be greedy. It takes a total team effort. ... The only thing that matters to me is the 'W.' "

Pryor on his two interceptions: "I was mad. That was just stupid. The second ball I got hit and let it go. I think I played stupid on those two passes."

Pryor on the victory: "We just looked to get better. We try to make statements all the time on Saturdays. It's not my opinion. It's all the people in the world. We were trying to make a statement for ourselves and our teammates that a game that's not as hyped-up as Miami that we came in and still were the victors."

Senior defensive end Cameron Heyward on Ohio State not overlooking the Bobcats: "I think it says a lot about our seniors. We have so many seniors at each position. It says a lot about this team that we were able to focus. We helped the younger guys focus, and we were able to come in here and play at a high level."

Heyward on Ohio State's opportunistic defense, which forced five Ohio turnovers: "Our defense really wants to make big plays and I want to make big plays. When we're getting off the field in two plays, that's amazing. It gets our offense back on the field in great territory and we've been able to convert on them, too."

Defensive tackle John Simon on the

defense being in the right place at the right time for turnovers: "If everyone does their job then someone's going to be there to make the play. We work as a team. We don't have individuals trying to go out there and make plays. When everyone does their job, one guy is going to make a play."

Senior cornerback Devon Torrence on getting an early turnover when safety Tyler Moeller picked off a pass from Ohio quarterback Phil Bates: "It took the momentum away early. Those are the type of things that are going to have to happen for us to make sure we stay on top and do what we need to do."

Torrence on getting shaken up when he collided with Moeller on the play: "We got the turnover. I'll take those bruises for a turnover."

Senior safety Jermale Hines on the performance of the defensive line: "Today, I mean, the back end really couldn't get in any play because the D-line was selfish today, but I'm proud of them. Those guys really work hard and they're dominating."

Junior tailback Dan "Boom" Herron on the defense: "The defense has done a very good job these first couple of games. They've done a great job of getting turnovers. We just have to come out on the field and keep the momentum going."

First-time starter Orhian Johnson on whether it was any different starting at safety rather than coming off the bench: "I tried not to treat it any differently, but going out there with guys like Cameron Heyward and Brian Rolle is something. Our defense is just so loaded with so much talent. It's an honor to be out there and play with those guys."

Sophomore tight end Jake Stoneburner on his first collegiate touchdown: "I've always wondered what it would be like. I caught it and had to put my head down and just thanked the Lord I was able to do that. I got a glance at the crowd. It was probably the easiest touchdown I'll ever get in my career but I can't complain."

Stoneburner on his five-catch performance: "I felt like today was what I expected out

of myself. I felt like the middle of the field was pretty open, and we were able to take advantage of that. With Terrelle and how well he was playing with all the completions, it made all of us elevate our game. We were able to be pretty successful."

Herron on joining the punt-coverage team against OU: "(They) came and asked me if I wanted to do it and I was all for it. Whatever I can do to help the team. I just went out and did my job."

Sophomore Zach Domicone, a member of the kick-return team, on that unit's performance: "We really knew we had to step it up. We felt like we let the team down last week. We knew we had to elevate our game."


Domicone when asked to describe what it's like to allow a special-teams touchdown: "It's a terrible feeling. With all the fans in Ohio Stadium, when you run down and hear that small portion of the other team's fans cheering and see a guy running free, it's definitely a bad feeling."

Senior wide receiver Dane Sanzenbacher on the Posey vs. Posey matchup between Ohio State junior wide receiver DeVier Posey and his brother Julian, an Ohio cornerback: "I think (DeVier is) probably relieved now that he doesn't have to talk about it anymore. When we got to game time, he wasn't really worried about how Julian was doing out there. It was just another team."

Sanzenbacher on the first-team offense playing into the second half despite holding a commanding lead: "We all still wanted to be out there. The plan was to come out earlier but we all wanted to end on a high note. We wanted to come back out for one more successful drive."

Offensive coordinator and Ohio alum Jim Bollman on if he licensed the Big Ten Network to run his college picture (complete with mutton-chop sideburns) during the TV broadcast: "I did not. How did they get that? Aren't they supposed to talk to me? They didn't talk to me. I have no idea where that picture was or what year it was."

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The Numbers Game

Ohio State 43, Ohio University 7

Sept. 18, 2010 — Ohio Stadium; Columbus, Ohio

Score by Quarters	1	2	3	4	F
OHIO UNIVERSITY	0	0	0	7	7
OHIO STATE	17	17	9	0	43

First Quarter

OSU — Barclay, 32 yard field goal, 12:05; 5 plays, 16 yards, 2:06 TOP.

OSU — Saine, 9 yard pass from Pryor (Barclay kick), 5:53; 8 play, 55 yards, 4:12 TOP.

OSU — Pryor, 13 yard run (Barclay kick), 3:11; 4 plays, 61 yards, 1:33 TOP.

Second Quarter

OSU — Barclay, 33 yard field goal, 13:17; 9 plays, 42 yards, 3:07 TOP.

OSU — Stoneburner, 5 yard pass from Pryor (Barclay kick), 10:25; 4 plays, 33 yards, 2:07 TOP.

OSU — Herron, 2 yard run (Barclay kick), 8:22; 3 plays, 45 yards, 1:13 TOP.

Third Quarter

OSU — Heyward safety, 6:09.

OSU — Herron, 1 yard run (Barclay kick), 0:41; 10 plays, 55 yards, 5:23 TOP.

Fourth Quarter

OU — McCrae, 11 yard pass from B.Jackson (Weller kick), 6:14; 9 plays, 61 yards, 5:42 TOP.

Att. — 105,075.

Weather — 73 degrees, fair and pleasant; wind, SW 7 mph.

Team Statistics

	OU	OSU
First Downs	7	22
Rushing	5	8
Passing	2	14
Penalty	0	0
Rushes-Yards	31-76	41-158
Passing Yards	82	281
Passes (Att.-Comp.-Int.)	17-9-2	36-26-2
Offensive Plays	48	77
Total Net Yards	158	439
Third Down Efficiency	2-10	5-14
Fourth Down Efficiency	1-2	1-1
Punts-Avg.	6-46.5	5-32.4
Fumbles-Lost	5-3	0-0
Penalties	6-46	0-0
Time of Possession	22:04	37:56

Individual Statistics

RUSHING (Att.-Net Yds.) — **OU:** Bates 10-53; D.Brown 10-40; B.Jackson 3-4; Brazill 1-0; Davidson 6-(-9); TEAM 1-(-12). **OSU:** Saine 12-48; Pryor 8-35; Herron 9-27; Berry 4-23; J.Hall 4-14; C.Brown (WR) 1-9; DeLande 1-6; Bauserman 2-(-4).

PASSING (Comp.-Att.-Int.-Yds.-TD) — **OU:** Bates 4-9-2-13-0; B.Jackson 5-8-0-69-1. **OSU:** Pryor 22-29-2-235-2; Bauserman 4-7-0-46-0.

RECEIVING (Rec.-Yds.) — **OU:** Dunlop 2-31; D.Brown 2-6; Bussey 1-22; McCrae 1-11; Brazill 1-7; Dovell 1-5; Davidson 1-0. **OSU:** D.Posey 5-62; Stoneburner 5-61; Sanzenbacher 5-58; J.Hall 2-27; Herron 2-23; Washington 2-15; Saine 2-13; Fields 1-10; Fragel 1-9; Z.Boren 1-3.

PUNTING (No.-Avg.-Long) — **OU:** Hershey 6-46.5-53. **OSU:** Buchanan 4-40.5-51; TEAM 1-0-0-0.

PUNT RETURNS (No.-Yds.) — **OU:** Gonzales-Santos 1-21; Carrie 1-3. **OSU:** J.Hall 2-22.

KICKOFF RETURNS (No.-Yds.) — **OU:** D.Brown 4-93; J.Posey 4-74. **OSU:** J.Hall 1-20; Saine 1-18; Berry 1-17.

FUMBLE RECOVERIES (No.-Yds) — **OU:** None. **OSU:** Heyward 1-5; Torrence 1-0; N.Williams 1-0.

INTERCEPTIONS (No.-Yds.) — **OU:** Fletcher 2-0. **OSU:** R.Homan 1-7; Moeller 1-0.

SACKS — **OU:** C.Jones 2-0-13; Lewis 1-0-11. **OSU:** None.

TACKLES FOR LOSS (No.-Yds.) — **OU:** C.Jones 2-0-13; Lewis 1-0-11; Gatling 1-0-3; Dawson III 1-0-1; Woseley 1-0-1. **OSU:** Moeller 1.5-15; Heyward 1-0-4; Bellamy 1-0-1; Simon 1-0-1; Bell 0.5-1.

TACKLES (Solo-Asst.-Tot.) — **OU:** Fletcher 5-4-9; Dawson III 6-2-8; Carrie 5-3-8; Benjamin 4-4-8; Clemens 3-4-7; C.Jones 3-3-6; Keller 0-6-6; Ballard 2-2-4; Woseley 2-2-4; Gatling 2-1-3; O.Leftwich 1-2-3; Notestine 0-3-3; Culver 0-3-3; Lewis 2-0-2; Chapman 0-2-2; Meyers 1-0-1; K.Jackson 1-0-1; McCrae 1-0-1; Bates 1-0-1; TEAM 1-0-1; J.Posey 1-0-1; Brazill 0-1-1; Timson 0-1-1; Albrecht 0-1-1; Inks 0-1-1; S.Jackson 0-1-1; Williamson 0-1-1; Hershey 0-1-1; Thompson 0-1-1; Hodge 0-1-1. **OSU:** R.Homan 7-0-7; T.Jackson 4-1-5; Klein 1-3-4; Larimore 2-1-3; N.Williams 2-1-3; Moeller 2-1-3; O.Johnson 2-1-3; Bell 0-3-3; Chekwa 2-0-2; Rolle 2-0-2; Matheny 1-1-2; Clarke 1-1-2; Bellamy 1-0-1; Heyward 1-0-1; Thomas 1-0-1; Newsome 1-0-1; Simon 1-0-1; Gant 1-0-1; Saine 1-0-1; TEAM 1-0-1; Howard 1-0-1; Oliver 1-0-1; Basil 1-0-1; Ebner 1-0-1; Torrence 0-1-1; Hines 0-1-1; Hankins 0-1-1.

PLAYERS IN THE GAME — **OHIO UNIVERSITY:** Offense, Strum, Carlotta, Allen, Herman, Flading, Thompson, Bates, Dunlop, McCrae, Brazill, Davidson, Weller, Defense, Notestine, Williamson, Hodge, Gatling, Woseley, Keller, Benjamin, Carrie, Fletcher, S.Jackson, J.Posey, Hershey, Reserves, Gross, K.Moore, Elmore, Foster, Gonzales-Santos, O.Leftwich, Dawson III, B.Jackson, Edwards, Bussey, Dovell, Timson, Ballard, D.Brown, Inks, K.Jackson, Culver, Clemens, Caldwell, Lewis, Lavoie, M.Smith, McGrath, Lechner, Mitchell, Batsakes, Chapman, Bales, Albrecht, Futrell, Z.Clark, Olyaie, Goulet, C.Jones, Scott, Hasting, Clinton, King, Meyers. **OHIO STATE:** Offense, Adams, J.Boren, Brewster, Browning, Shugarts, Stoneburner, Sanzenbacher, Pryor, Saine, Z.Boren, D.Posey, Barclay, Defense, N.Williams, Larimore, Simon, Heyward, R.Homan, Rolle, Chekwa, Hines, O.Johnson, Torrence, Moeller, Buchanan, Reserves, Herron, Bryant, C.Brown (DB), Berry, Washington, J.Hall, Gant, Bell, C.Brown (WR), Guiton, Bauserman, Domicone, Howard, Oliver, Wood, Schwartz, Clarke, Evege, Klein, Ebner, DeLande, Hyde, Whiting, T.Jackson, Sp.Smith, A.Homan, Hankins, Goebel, A.Miller, Newsome, St.Smith, Blankenship, Sika, Kerr, Mewhort, C.Smith, Norwell, Fields, Crawford, Fragel, Hummel, Fellows, Bellamy, Matheny, McQuaide, Thomas.

Season Statistics

2010 Game-By-Game

Date	Opponent	Result/Time	Crowd
Sept. 2	(2) MARSHALL	W, 45-7	105,040
Sept. 11	(2) MIAMI (FLA.) (12)	W, 36-24	105,454
Sept. 18	(2) OHIO	W, 43-7	105,075
Sept. 25	EASTERN MICHIGAN	3:30 p.m.	
Oct. 2	at Illinois	TBA	
Oct. 9	INDIANA	TBA	
Oct. 16	at Wisconsin	7:15 p.m.	
Oct. 23	PURDUE	Noon	
Oct. 30	at Minnesota	8 p.m.	
Nov. 13	PENN STATE	TBA	
Nov. 20	at Iowa	TBA	
Nov. 27	MICHIGAN	TBA	

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

Team Statistics

	OSU	Opp
First Downs	66	37
Rushing	31	14
Passing	33	21
Penalty	2	2
Average Per Game/Rush	206.3	80.0
Average Per Game/Pass	254.3	156.3
Total Offense	1,382	709
Total Plays	222	171
Average Per Game	460.7	236.3
Average Per Play	6.2	4.1
Penalties-Yards	9-72	22-165
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	9-5
3rd Down Efficiency	15-44	13-39
Percentage	34%	33%
4th Down Efficiency	3-3	1-4
Percentage	100%	25%
Sacks-Yards	3-24	7-40
Time of Possession Avg.	34:39	25:21

Score

By Quarters	1	2	3	4	OT	Tot.	Avg.
Ohio State	41	54	26	3	—	124	41.3
Opponents	14	10	0	14	—	38	12.7

Individual Statistics

Rushing	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Long
Terrelle Pryor	36	165	4.6	2	27
Brandon Saine	33	158	4.8	2	45
Dan Herron	30	137	4.6	3	17
Jaamal Berry	11	103	9.4	0	30
Jordan Hall	9	46	5.1	0	12
TEAM	4	-6	-1.5	0	0
Ken Guiton	2	4	2.0	0	2
Corey Brown (WR)	1	9	9.0	0	9
Bo DeLande	1	6	6.0	0	6
Carlos Hyde	1	4	4.0	0	4
Joe Bauserman	3	-7	-2.3	0	1
OSU Totals	131	619	4.7	7	45
OPP Totals	80	240	3.0	0	62

Passing

Passing	Comp.	Att.	Pct.	Yds.	TD-INT	Effic.
Terrelle Pryor	51	81	63.0	715	6-2	156.6
Joe Bauserman	5	9	55.6	48	0-0	100.4
TEAM	0	1	0.0	0	0-0	0.0
OSU Totals	56	91	61.5	763	6-2	149.3
OPP Totals	49	91	53.8	469	2-7	89.0

Receiving

Receiving	Rec.	Net	Avg.	TD	Long
DeVier Posey	13	208	16.0	2	62
Dane Sanzenbacher	11	208	18.9	1	65
Jake Stoneburner	9	110	12.2	1	21
Brandon Saine	5	49	9.8	2	18
Dan Herron	4	79	19.8	0	47
Jordan Hall	3	40	13.3	0	25
Grant Schwartz	3	20	6.7	0	11
Taurian Washington	2	15	7.5	0	11

Chris Fields	2	13	6.5	0	10
Reid Fragel	1	9	9.0	0	9
Adam Homan	1	7	7.0	0	7
Zach Boren	1	3	3.0	0	3
Corey Brown (WR)	1	2	2.0	0	2
OSU Totals	56	763	13.6	6	65
OPP Totals	49	469	9.6	2	27

Scoring

Player	TD	EPK	EPR	EPP	FG	PTS
Devin Barclay	0	14-14	—	—	8-9	38
Brandon Saine	4	—	—	—	—	24
Dan Herron	3	—	—	—	—	18
Terrelle Pryor	2	—	—	—	—	12
DeVier Posey	2	—	—	—	—	12
Brian Rolle	1	—	—	—	—	6
D. Sanzenbacher	1	—	—	—	—	6
Jake Stoneburner	1	—	—	—	—	6
Drew Basil	0	—	—	—	0-1	0
OSU Totals	14	14-14	—	—	8-10	124
OPP Totals	5	5-5	—	—	1-4	38

Cameron Heyward recorded a safety.

FG Distance	0-29	30-39	40-49	50+	Total
Devin Barclay	4-4	3-4	1-1	0-0	8-9
Drew Basil	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-1	0-1
OSU Totals	4-4	3-4	1-1	0-1	8-10
OPP Totals	0-0	0-1	0-2	1-1	1-4

Punting

Punting	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Bk	Long
Ben Buchanan	12	477	39.8	1	52
TEAM	1	0	0.0	0	0
OSU Totals	13	477	36.7	1	52
OPP Totals	16	672	42.0	0	58

Interceptions

Interceptions	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
Chimdi Chekwa	2	22	11.0	0	15
Cameron Heyward	1	80	80.0	0	80
Brian Rolle	1	30	30.0	1	30
Nathan Williams	1	22	22.0	0	22
Ross Homan	1	7	7.0	0	7
Tyler Moeller	1	0	0.0	0	0
OSU Totals	7	161	23.0	1	80
OPP Totals	2	0	0.0	0	0

Punt Returns

Player	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
Jordan Hall	7	57	8.1	0	22
Corey Brown (WR)	1	11	11.0	0	11
OSU Totals	8	68	8.5	0	22
OPP Totals	4	105	26.2	1	79

Kickoff Returns

Player	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
Jaamal Berry	5	140	28.0	0	45
Jordan Hall	3	85	28.3	0	47
Brandon Saine	1	18	18.0	0	18
OSU Totals	9	243	27.0	0	47
OPP Totals	19	465	24.5	1	88

Def. Leaders

Def. Leaders	Solo	Asst.	Tot.	TFL-Yds.	Sacks
Ross Homan	15	6	21	—	—
Tyler Moeller	11	5	16	3.5-25	1-0-6
Brian Rolle	7	5	12	1-0-1	—
Chimdi Chekwa	8	3	11	2-0-11	—
Jermale Hines	5	6	11	—	—
Devon Torrence	7	2	9	—	—
Dexter Larimore	7	2	9	3-0-12	1-0-8
John Simon	5	2	7	3-0-13	1-0-10
Tony Jackson	5	1	6	—	—
Cameron Heyward	4	1	5	2-0-6	—
OSU Totals	111	50	161	16-70	3-24
OPP Totals	131	114	245	21-69	7-40

Fumbles Forced: 2 — Tyler Moeller; 1 — Dorian Bell, Chimdi Chekwa, Orhian Johnson, Ross Homan.

Fumbles Recovered: 1 — Cameron Heyward, Ross Homan, Nate Oliver, Devon Torrence, Nathan Williams.

OPINION

Special Teams Becoming Major Concern

I doubt any Ohio State football fan misses the irony.

For more than nine years now, head coach Jim Tressel has stressed the importance of special teams, almost to the point where it has become a running joke among followers of the program. Of course during the first nine years of the Tressel era at OSU, special-teams play has been solid enough and the team successful enough that fans could get a chuckle out of their coach's obsession with his specialists.

Now with the 2010 team appearing to be on the verge of something special, the play of the Ohio State special teams has been far from a joking matter.

For the third time in three outings this season, there were major special-teams breakdowns by the Buckeyes, breakdowns that seemed to overshadow fine play by the Ohio State offense and defense.

In an otherwise impressive 43-7 victory over Ohio University, the Buckeyes allowed Julian Posey, brother of OSU receiver DeVier Posey, to return a kickoff 99 yards for an apparent touchdown. The return was nullified by an illegal block penalty, and under normal circumstances the coaching staff and the partisan crowd of 105,075 would have heaved a sigh of relief and the play would have been soon forgotten.

But these are not normal circumstances.

Posey's return, whether it counted or not, marked the sixth time in the last six games that an Ohio State opponent had ripped off a long kick return. Throw in a blocked punt by the Bobcats, a punt and a kickoff return for a touchdown the previous week by Miami and a blocked field-goal attempt that was returned for a touchdown by Marshall in the season opener and both proponents and opponents of Tresselball are left scratching their heads.

While they are scratching their heads, the namesake of said Tresselball must be pulling his hair out.

Fortunately, the play of the Ohio State offense and defense has been such in the early going this season that the team has been able to post a 3-0 record – including an impressive win over the Hurricanes – with relative ease despite the breakdowns. The concern, however, is that what could be a special season will be waylaid somewhere down the road by another of these special-teams gaffes.

In good times, Ohio State probably works harder on special teams than most programs. Obviously, Tressel and company will have the Buckeyes working even harder on the various special facets of the game now that the weaknesses have been exposed.

In the case of the kickoff coverage unit, you almost wonder if the players aren't starting to think (and worry) too much rather than just relaxing and doing what they have been taught to do.

What I really hope is that the Buckeyes don't resort to the pooch kick.

I have never liked this strategy because you are all but conceding field position on every kick. While the damage of a long return is more blatant, I bet if a numbers geek did the research – maybe someone already has – the pooch kick is more detrimental over the course of a game or season. That would seem to be especially true if you are playing Tresselball, which is predicated on field position.

One thing you can count on is that

THE VIEW FROM 15TH & HIGH

Frank Moskowitz, Publisher

upcoming opponents will be working on their punt and field-goal block strategies as well as their return games as they prepare for the Buckeyes.

Ohio State had better be ready. No one wants to see a magical season ruined by one play and have it be a special-teams play at that.

That would hardly be a joking matter.

Other Facets Just Fine

The special-teams mistakes seem to be overshadowing the fine play of the rest of the team.

The Ohio State defense continues to roll. It allowed Ohio only 158 yards of total offense, and more than half of those yards – and the Bobcats' only points – came in the fourth quarter when the Buckeyes had started to empty their bench.

Even more impressive was the fact that Ohio State forced five turnovers, giving the defense 12 for the season. To add to their big-play portfolio, the Buckeye stop troops even recorded a safety against the Bobcats.

A week after returning an interception 80 yards against Miami, defensive lineman Cameron Heyward continued his fine play by recording the safety and recovering a fumble. Big-play specialists Ross Homan and Tyler Moeller also had strong days. Homan led all Buckeyes with seven tackles, forced a fumble and picked off a pass, while Moeller had 1½ tackles for loss among his three stops. He also forced a fumble and intercepted a pass.

Nathan Williams continued to show his nose for the football, recovering an Ohio fumble after intercepting a pass against the Hurricanes. Cornerback Devon Torrence, who missed some time during the game after getting banged up, set up Moeller's interception with a tipped pass, and Torrence also recovered a fumble.

The Ohio State offense looked sharp in the early going as the Buckeyes built a 34-0 lead by late in the second quarter.

Yet Buckeye fans no doubt winced when the Moeller interception on the game's opening possession set up possession at the Bobcats' 31 before Ohio State had to settle for a 32-yard Devin Barclay field goal, continuing the team's red-zone woes.

However, the Buckeyes scored touchdowns four of the next five times they had the ball – Barclay added a 33-yard field goal on the third possession of the stretch – to ease some of the red-zone concerns.

Quarterback Terrelle Pryor was able to spread the ball around, at one point connecting on a school-record 16 passes in a row, and was 17 of 20 in the first half for 178 yards and two touchdowns. He added a 13-yard rushing touchdown as well as a 27-yard scramble.

Unfortunately, he reverted to the Pryor of old right before the intermission.

With the Buckeyes leading 34-0, they took over on downs at their own 45 with 1:06 to play and a chance to add even more points. I have never felt that the two-minute offense has been a strength of Tressel-led teams, but this time Pryor calmly moved his team to the Ohio 22 with four comple-

tions and the junior quarterback looked to be in complete control.

On first down from there, however, he missed a wide-open Dane Sanzenbacher before being sacked for an 8-yard loss on the next play. Then in what appeared to be an effort to somehow make up for the previous two plays, Pryor threw a pass into the coverage of three Bobcats, resulting in his first interception of the season – in fact, Ohio State's first turnover of 2010.

Midway through the third quarter, he threw another pass into coverage that also resulted in an interception. Pryor would come back for one more drive, marching the Buckeyes 55 yards on 10 plays, with Dan "Boom" Herron going in from the 1 to give Ohio State a 43-0 lead.

Pryor finished 22 of 29 on the afternoon for 235 yards with the two touchdowns and two picks and added another 35 net yards on the ground. With the exception of the mistakes, it wasn't a bad outing, but the junior quarterback needs to shake off mistakes and not try to force the issue when things go wrong for him or his Buckeyes.

I think the foibles against the Bobcats will prove teachable moments for Pryor, however. Sometimes things seem to come so easy for him that he thinks he can do it all by himself. This will give the coaches a chance to remind him that is not the case. Pryor is a junior now and unforced turnovers are not acceptable.

Still, Buckeye fans who clamor for a more wide-open offense had to be pleased with the fact that Pryor and backup Joe Bauserman completed six passes to the tight ends – including five to Jake Stoneburner – and seven more to backs coming out of the backfield. OSU's touchdown passes went to tailback Brandon Saine, his second of the season, and Stoneburner.

Not that Pryor didn't have his wide receivers in on the action.

Starters Posey and Dane Sanzenbacher each had five receptions for a combined 120 yards. It was also good to see Taurian Washington grab a pair of passes. The senior, who had not had a catch since his freshman year of 2007, has had a propensity for dropping balls. Perhaps his two catches for 15 yards against the Bobcats will help him over the hump and let him take charge of the No. 3 receiving position.

The running game, if you take Pryor out of the equation, still seems to leave a bit to be desired. Veterans Saine and Herron combined for 75 yards on 21 carries against Ohio with Saine leading the way with 48 yards on 12 tries for a 4.0-yard average. Take away his 21-yard burst in the third quarter, however, and the duo, which has been sharing the load, gained only 54 yards for a 2.7-yard average per carry.

After the Miami game, when Saine and Herron combined for 73 yards and a 2.8-yards-per-carry average – with Saine stuffed for only 7 yards on 12 tries – much of the focus was on the offensive line, which failed to clear a lot of running room for the backs.

In thinking about the line play after the game with the Hurricanes, I was left remembering former OSU head coach

John Cooper's frequent reminder to the media after a hard-fought game: "Guys, sometimes we don't give enough credit to the other team. Their players are on scholarship, too."

While some took offense to Cooper's lament, deeming it simply an excuse, there is some truth there. Miami's defensive front seven came in touted as one of the strengths of its team. In fact, noted football analyst Phil Steele ranked the Hurricanes' defensive line the fourth best in the country during the preseason. Yet when the Buckeyes struggled against the 'Canes, the onus fell on the offensive line in the eyes of many Ohio State fans.

I was, however, looking for a more dominant performance up front by the Buckeyes against Ohio and didn't see it. Any Buckeye fan familiar with the Tressel era at Ohio State knows of the trials and tribulations of the offensive line and is watching the progress of the guys in the trenches, who came into the season surrounded by much optimism. Dominance from the line, similar to the play at the end of last season, could turn the OSU offense into a juggernaut.

I will continue to suggest that settling on one tailback might help the running game. I continue to believe that going with one guy would allow all involved to get into a better rhythm. Unfortunately, neither Saine nor Herron has seized the position.

Herron did equal his counterpart in receptions against the Bobcats with two, outgaining Saine through the air, 23-13, somewhat minimizing the argument that Saine is the better receiver. Herron also threw a key downfield block on a 35-yard Posey reception in the first quarter.

While the veteran-favoring Tressel will continue to give the bulk of the work to Saine and Herron, one tailback who has caught my eye is Jordan Hall and not just for his work in the backfield.

Against the Bobcats, Hall rushed for a modest 14 yards on four carries. But he added two receptions, including one for 25 yards, and had a 22-yard punt return. I continue to be impressed with how difficult it is to bring down Hall, who is listed at 5-9 and 195 pounds.

Freshman Jaamal Berry also looks like a back of the future for the Buckeyes. He added 23 yards on four carries against Ohio, giving him 103 yards on 11 carries for the young season, good for a 9.4-yard average.

The OSU coaches said they wanted to work on the passing game against Ohio after hitting on only 12 of 27 passes against the Hurricanes, and the Buckeyes responded.

Let's see if they work on the power running game Sept. 25 against Eastern Michigan.

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