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No Miller, No Problem

Guiton, Buckeyes Batter Cal, 52-34

By MARK REA
BSB Managing Editor Emeritus

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

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

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

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

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

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



SONNY BROCKWAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

'Already Ready To Go'

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

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

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

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

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

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

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COVER STORY

Offense Strikes Early, Often Against Golden Bears

Continued From Page 1

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

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

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

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

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



SONNY BROCKWAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Run Fast, Run Often

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

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

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COVER STORY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Uneven Defensive Effort

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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OHIO STATE VS. CALIFORNIA



SONNY BROCKWAY

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

Buckeyes Hammer Cal In Offensive Explosion

By BEN AXELROD
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

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

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

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

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

It took just two plays for Guiton to prove

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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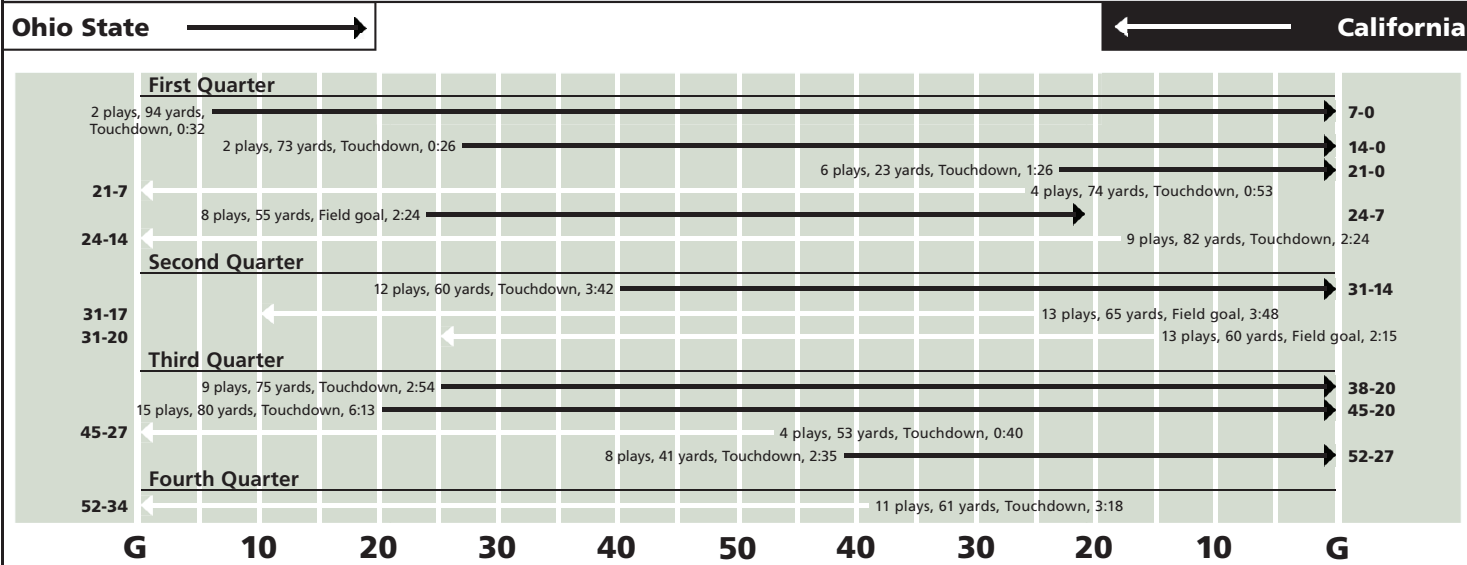
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OHIO STATE VS. CALIFORNIA

Scoring Drives



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

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

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

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

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

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

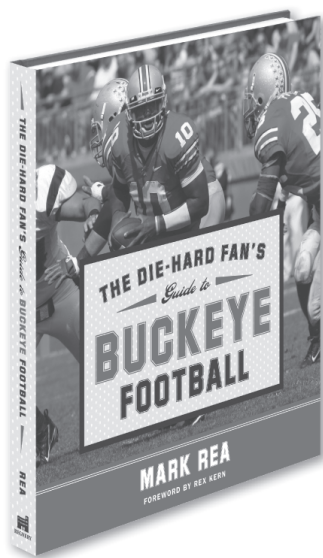
Cal kicker Vincenzo D'Amato tacked on field goals of 27 and 43 yards before the end of the first half, leaving the Buckeyes with a 31-20 advantage at the break.

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

Continued On Page 12

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OHIO STATE VS. CALIFORNIA

Meyer Remains Perfect As OSU Head Coach

Continued From Page 11

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"We knew there was going to be a lot



SONNY BROCKWAY

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

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

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

Game Notes

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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OHIO STATE VS. CALIFORNIA

BSB Quotebook: Ohio State 52, California 34

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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The Numbers Game

Ohio State 52, California 34

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

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

First Quarter

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

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

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

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

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

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

Second Quarter

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

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

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

Third Quarter

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

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

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

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

Fourth Quarter

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

Att. – 62,467.

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

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

Individual Statistics

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FORCED FUMBLES – OSU: Shazier. **CAL:** None.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Season Statistics

2013 Game-By-Game

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

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

Team Statistics

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

Score

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

Individual Statistics

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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