

BUCKEYE SPORTS BULLETIN

\$3.00
PERIODICAL NEWSPAPER
CLASSIFICATION
DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE RUSH!!



Vol. 38, No. 8

"For The Buckeye Fan Who Needs To Know More"

Nov. 3, 2018

Off Track

Shortcomings 'Exposed' In Loss To Boilermakers

By **TIM MOODY**
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

Ohio State had a perfect record, a No. 2 ranking and a Heisman Trophy candidate at quarterback, but the Buckeyes already knew things weren't perfect.

For weeks leading into an Oct. 20 road game at Purdue, Ohio State's rush offense had been floundering, the team had struggled to score in the red zone and the defense seemingly gave up big play after big play while committing costly penalties at inopportune times. Those problems had been identified, and the coaching staff had insisted that they would be emphasized until they were fixed.

As soon as the Ross-Ade Stadium clock struck zero, though, the black-clad fans stormed the field and the visitors were sent packing with a 49-20 loss and more questions than answers. The issues were the same as they had been for weeks – except they might have been even worse.

Ohio State (7-1, 4-1) rushed for just 76 yards on 25 carries (3.0-yard average) against the Boilermakers while scoring points just twice in five red-zone tries – two field goals, zero touchdowns.

On defense, the Buckeyes struggled to contain Purdue's big-play threats. Freshman wide receiver Rondale Moore caught 12 passes for 170 yards while running back D.J. Knox ran 16 times for 128 yards. As the game completely unraveled in the fourth quarter, Purdue (4-3,



SONNY BROCKWAY

FALLING SHORT – Ohio State sophomore tight end Luke Farrell (89) had four catches for 24 yards, but the Buckeye offense failed to find the end zone until the fourth quarter against Purdue.

3-1) posted offensive touchdowns of 42, 40 and 43 yards to go with a 41-yard interception return for a score – all in the final frame.

The Buckeyes, one of the most penalized teams around, were undisciplined once again as well, with fouls coming at key moments in the game. Perhaps the worst of those mistakes came in the third quarter with Ohio State trailing, 14-6. The Buckeyes had seemingly gotten a stop when Purdue lined up to punt on fourth-and-3, but Joe Schopper was roughed by junior defensive tackle Davon Hamilton, giving the Boilermakers new life. Four plays later, Knox scored to put the Buckeyes down by 15. Purdue's next touchdown came by way of penalty, too, when on third-and-11 early in the fourth quarter junior defensive tackle Dre'Mont Jones roughed Purdue quarterback David Blough to negate an incompletion and extend a drive that ended with Knox's 42-yard scoring scamper.

Zero touchdowns in the red zone. A running game that

could never get on track. A defense that couldn't prevent big plays. Penalties that turned into touchdowns. That was the story for Ohio State on Oct. 20 in West Lafayette, Ind.

"The glaring shortcomings we have ... were exposed," head coach Urban Meyer said after the game. "The No. 1 (issue) off the top of my head is our red-zone offense. You go down there three times – two field goals, one missed field goal. You've got to score points. We've never had this issue, so we're going to get a real thorough evaluation of that and the big plays on defense."

With the offense stagnant from a scoring standpoint and unable to run the ball – and the defense struggling to make stops – Ohio State ended up reverting to throwing the ball more than ever before. In fact, out of the positives the Buckeyes had going in – that undefeated record, the No. 2 ranking and the Heisman-candidate

**Your Mailing Label Goes Here
Call (614) 486-2202
Today To Subscribe**

Continued On Page 6

OPINION

Buckeyes Are Moving In The Wrong Direction

A friend texted me shortly after the fireworks outside Ross-Ade Stadium celebrating unranked Purdue's 49-20 victory against second-ranked Ohio State had faded into the nighttime sky.

"Bad loss to be sure," went the text, "but OSU still has plenty to play for."

My friend's reasoning included the fact that the Buckeyes still control their own destiny within the Big Ten East, thereby controlling their own destiny to get to the conference championship game, thereby retaining a chance to become one of the four College Football Playoff participants.

My reply to him was a curt "I guess so," but I couldn't help thinking my friend simply hasn't been paying attention because those of us who have watched the Buckeyes go through the motions – and quite frankly take several steps backward – since the thrilling victory against Penn State in late September were not at all surprised when Purdue channeled its talent and emotion to engineer a lopsided victory as two-touchdown underdogs to what was purported to be the No. 2 team in college football.

The upset was historic in many respects. Not only was it the first victory against a No. 2 team for the Boilermakers since a 28-23 win at Ohio State in 1984, it represented the largest margin of victory in program history over a top-five team. The previous mark was set in 1945 with a 35-13 win against fourth-ranked Ohio State.

Want more history? The Boilermakers now own the third-largest margin of victory for an unranked team against a top-two team in all of college football history, superseded only by a 43-point win by Holy Cross against No. 1 Boston College in 1942 and a 31-point loss to Arkansas by top-ranked Texas in 1981.

Give the Boilermakers all credit due them for the victory. Perhaps first and foremost, the team was fueled with emotion to play for cancer-stricken Purdue sophomore Tyler Trent, whose grim prognosis did not prevent him from leaving hospice care to attend the game.

Still, college football is a game played each week largely on emotion, so Purdue had to have something else going for it to be able to so thoroughly curb-stomp the Buckeyes. To my mind, that something else was superior coaching.

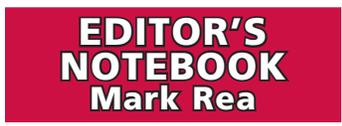
Second-year head coach Jeff Brohm, as well as his younger brother Brian, who happens to be Purdue's co-offensive coordinator, devised an excellent game plan that exploited each and every weakness the Ohio State defense had displayed over the preceding couple of weeks – little to no pressure on the quarterback, linebackers out of position more often than not and a soft secondary that does more chasing than covering.

As a result, Purdue piled up 539 total yards, the most against the Buckeyes by a Big Ten opponent since Michigan totaled 603 during OSU's 42-41 win in 2013.

Quarterback David Blough threw for 378 yards and three touchdowns, the most for a Purdue QB against Ohio State since Drew Brees torched OSU for 455 yards during a 31-27 win in 2000. Freshman speed demon Rondale Moore became the fourth opposing receiver in the last three games to top the 100-yard mark, grabbing 12 receptions for 170 yards and a pair of touchdowns. Moore's 170-yard effort represented the most receiving yards for a Purdue player against Ohio State since Rodney Carter caught 15 balls for 190 yards during his team's 41-27 loss to the Buckeyes on Oct. 19, 1985.

And running back D.J. Knox collected 128 yards on the ground and tallied three touch-

downs, including runs of 42 and 40 yards in the fourth quarter, late-game backbreakers when the Buckeyes still entertained notions of a comeback.



Again, if you had been watching Ohio State throughout the month of October, the fact that Purdue was able to move the football and score points against the OSU defense wasn't much of a surprise. But what has happened to the once-free-wheeling Ohio State offense is more of a head-scratcher.

With cannon-armed accuracy from the quarterback position, a stable of speedy, sure-handed receivers and a pair of 1,000-yard running backs, this was supposed to be the most explosive offense in Ohio State history. Instead, it has become a one-dimensional attack reminiscent of the arena league where teams desperately try to score as many points as possible because they know their defense has no chance to stop the opposing offense.

For everyone who shook their fist at the boring efficiency of Tressellball, hoping for a pinball-machine offense that lit up the scoreboard, congratulations. You got your wish. I just hope you're happy with a style of play that is not only proving to be the antithesis of the foundation on which the tradition of Ohio State football was built, it's quickly proving that it's not winning football.

OSU quarterback Dwayne Haskins shattered his team's single-game records for completions (49), attempts (72) and yardage (470), but those numbers meant very little because his offense has become so predictable.

The Buckeyes have devolved into a team whose once-proud running game appears now to be an afterthought. OSU rushed a season-low 25 times for an Urban Meyer era-low 76 yards, and you have to go all the way back to the disastrous 2011 season to find a more anemic output – just 35 yards during a 10-7 loss to Michigan State.

Not that execution of either the offensive or defensive game plan – or special teams, for that matter – was anything close to stellar.

Rather than firing out of the visiting locker room like you would think the No. 2 team in the nation would do, the Buckeyes once again appeared to believe playing a nighttime road game against a lesser-talented opponent was beneath them. Their initial offensive series featured a false-start penalty before the first snap, a portent of what was to come. The second play featured an illegal formation that was declined.

Ohio State committed 10 penalties worth 86 yards, but it wasn't just the infractions that hurt. It was when the Buckeyes chose to commit those penalties, such as a reckless roughing-the-punter that led to Purdue's third touchdown. Or an equally dunder-headed roughing penalty committed against Blough on a third-and-11 play early in the fourth quarter that kept a possession alive and allowed the Boilermakers to eventually push their lead to 28-6.

To be blunt, Ohio State did not play against Purdue like the second-best team in college football, and the Buckeyes have not played to the level of their own talent in quite some time.

And I'm not just talking about this year. The

29-point loss to the Boilermakers continued a disturbing trend for this program in that the most recent losses have been blowouts – 49-20 to unranked Purdue, 55-24 to unranked Iowa and 31-16 to fifth-ranked Oklahoma last year, and 31-0 to No. 2 Clemson in the 2017 Orange Bowl. In those four losses, the Buckeyes have been outscored by a 166-60 margin, and that computes to being beaten by an average of about four touchdowns per game.

Conversely, Alabama's most recent four losses – each to ranked teams, I might add – have been by an average of 9.8 points. The Crimson Tide hasn't lost to an unranked conference opponent since 2007 – Nick Saban's first year in Tuscaloosa.

I don't know what the problem is, but I do know that after the game at Purdue, Meyer admitted that his team's "glaring shortcomings ... were exposed" before adding at least four times that he and his coaching staff would "get it fixed."

I guess my question would be why did it take a nationally-televised embarrassment to expose to the coaching staff the glaring shortcomings the rest of us have been seeing for the last month?

A Business Decision

If you haven't figured it out by now, college football is a business. A big business. A great, big, multibillion-dollar business.

If it weren't, Saban wouldn't have received a \$74 million contract extension last summer, the College Football Playoff and its associated bowls couldn't dole out more than \$460 million to conferences each winter, and the Big Ten would have to get by without the six-year TV deal it signed last year worth a reported \$2.6 billion.

Is it any wonder, then, why college football players – the unpaid laborers forced to tread water in this ocean of cash – are increasingly flexing their leverage more and more?

Nick Bosa isn't the first player to leave college to devote his full-time attention to preparing for the NFL, and he won't be the last. The way Bosa exited the college stage was a bit unique, but I can't say I really blame the guy. His surgically-repaired core muscle is an injury that might or might not be healed enough for him to contribute to the Buckeyes later this season, so why would he risk his lofty draft status?

I've never had a problem with guys leaving early for the pros. What do you go to college for anyway? To get an education, yes, but mostly to get a better-paying job once you enter the workforce. Just so you know, last year's top NFL draft pick Baker Mayfield will earn approximately \$33 million over the length of his rookie contract, while No. 2 pick Saquon Barkley and No. 3 overall Sam Darnold are each due more than \$30 million.

You might disagree with the way Bosa handled his exit. You might think him selfish or even cowardly as a team co-captain leaving his teammates to fend for themselves. But that's largely an indefensible position. Remember last year when Denzel Ward sat out the Cotton Bowl to avoid any possible injury? Ward, who is near the NFL lead in interceptions as a rookie, is currently working on the first year of his \$29.1 million contract that included a signing bonus of \$19.3 million.

College football is a business, and it's no less of a business to Nick Bosa and Denzel Ward than it is to Nick Saban, the College Football Playoff or the Big Ten. Players, whose only bargaining chip is their labor, are only beginning to realize the power they wield, and Bosa won't be (and shouldn't be) the last one willing to wield that power.

Vol. 38, No. 8
Nov. 3, 2018
www.BuckeyeSports.com

Buckeye Sports Bulletin (USPS 705-690, ISSN 0883-6833) is published 24 times a year (weekly September through November, biweekly mid-March through May and January through early March and monthly June through August and December) by:

Columbus Sports Publications
1350 W. Fifth Ave., Suite 30
P.O. Box 12453
Columbus, Ohio 43212
(614) 486-2202
bsb@buckeyesports.com

Periodical class postage paid at Columbus, Ohio, and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Buckeye Sports Bulletin, P.O. Box 12453, Columbus, Ohio 43212. Subscription rates: \$99.95/year.

PUBLISHER
Frank Moskowitz

ASSISTANT PUBLISHER
Becky Roberts

EDITOR
Tim Moody

MANAGING EDITOR EMERITUS
Mark Rea

ASSISTANT PUBLISHER EMERITUS
Karen Wachsman 1944-1999

PHOTOGRAPHY
Sonny Brockway Terry Gilliam
Kevin Dye Josh Winslow

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

ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVES
Jan Jager Dave Tebay
Ron Friedman

2018-19 PUBLICATION SCHEDULE (VOL. 38)

No. 1	Sept. 8	No. 13	Dec. 15
No. 2	Sept. 15	No. 14	Jan. 19
No. 3	Sept. 22	No. 15	Feb. 2
No. 4	Sept. 29	No. 16	Feb. 16
No. 5	Oct. 6	No. 17	March 9
No. 6	Oct. 13	No. 18	March 23
No. 7	Oct. 20	No. 19	April 6
No. 8	Nov. 3	No. 20	April 20
No. 9	Nov. 10	No. 21	May
No. 10	Nov. 17	No. 22	June
No. 11	Nov. 24	No. 23	July
No. 12	Dec. 1	No. 24	August

The next issue (Nov. 10 cover date) will be mailed Nov. 6.

Buckeye Sports Bulletin is a privately owned newspaper and is not affiliated directly or indirectly with The Ohio State University.

Charter Member

COVER STORY

Buckeyes Caught Off Guard By Loss To Purdue

Continued From Page 1

quarterback – Dwayne Haskins' prolific campaign was the only thing they had left after the game.

Haskins, a sophomore who lost for the first time as a starter, completed 49 of 73 passes for 470 yards with two touchdowns and one interception. The completions broke the school's single-game record – which he had tied each of the past two weeks – by 16. The attempts broke the previous record of 52 (set by Art Schlichter in 1981) by 21. And the yards were a new record as well, breaking Schlichter's mark of 458 that he had held for 37 years.

"I never thought I would have to throw 72 times for us to win a game," Haskins said. He was right – it wasn't a winning formula for the Buckeyes.

"But you've got to do what you've got to

do to win," he added, "and we just didn't do that today."

Comfort Level

Going into the game, Ohio State certainly knew what it needed to improve. After the game, though, the Buckeyes were surprised that their plan had gone so far off track after what Meyer and the players described as a great week of preparation.

"How surprised am I? Very surprised," Meyer said. "I thought we had a good week of work."

When asked if the players themselves had been comfortable with the plan going in, Haskins kept it simple.

"I believe so, yes," he said.

When given a chance to say that the team had been worried about a result like that going in, fifth-year senior Terry McLaurin – one of seven team captains – stressed that the opposite was the case.

"Nah, you never go into a game thinking you're going to lose," McLaurin said. "Actually, as a team we felt like we had our best week of practice, but if you don't execute at a high level, you can get beat any Saturday."

"We came in actually on a high note thinking we had a really good week of practice."

Junior safety Jordan Fuller had a similar line. He said the Buckeyes knew the plan, were focused on the improvements that needed to be made and thought they were poised for a win.

Instead, the Buckeyes were saddled with their third loss of 29 points or more in the past three years.

"No, I think every week we're just focused on getting better and focused on our jobs," said Fuller, another of the team's captains. "We never go into a game thinking, 'Oh shoot, we might lose this one.' No. Never."

"To uphold the standard at Ohio State, all those big plays aren't what we want at all (on defense). That's definitely been the message but we just couldn't get it done tonight."

Overall, it was clear that those donning scarlet and gray were genuinely surprised by

the way things played out, even if the issues were seemingly the same as they had been for weeks.

Either the Buckeyes thought the problems had been fixed, or they thought their strengths outweighed their weaknesses – as they had through the first seven games of the year.

"I don't really have any explanation," Fuller said. "Definitely just have to evaluate and watch film."

Moving On

The result – a 29-point loss to an unranked team – is certainly unusual in Ohio State history. It's not unheard of, though. In fact, the Buckeyes had a similar game last year, as the Ohio State faithful will remember.

Last November, the Buckeyes traveled to Iowa City, Iowa, and lost, 55-24, to a Hawkeye team that finished the year with a losing record in the Big Ten.

After that result, the Buckeyes had two losses on the season. They still went on to wax Michigan State, 48-3, the following week, beat Michigan in the regular-season finale, win the Big Ten and nearly back into the College Football Playoff.

Just as it they did last November, the

TOPSOIL

VERY RICH PULVERIZED OR UNPULVERIZED "SOIL PLUS"

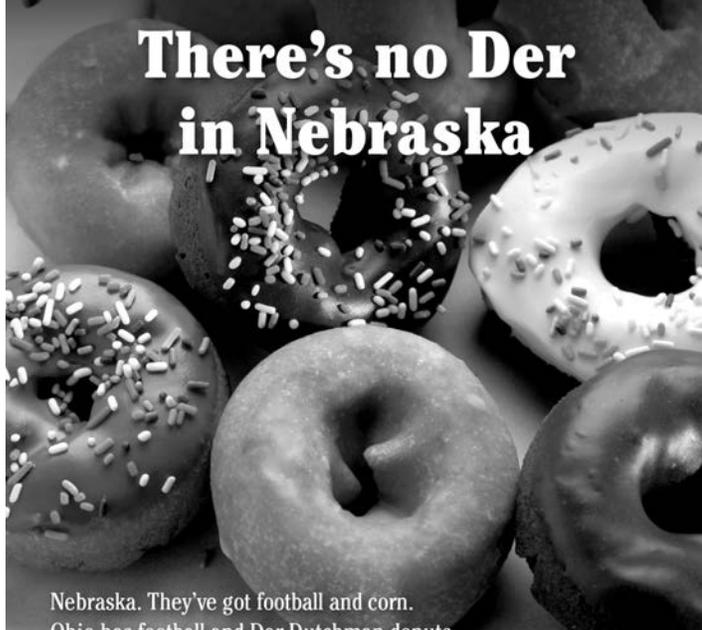
BLENDED SOIL WITH SAND and ORGANIC COMPOST
RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL
CRUSHED LIMESTONE, WASHED SAND & GRAVEL

ANY SIZE LOAD • IMMEDIATE DELIVERY ANYWHERE
Buy Where the Professionals Do • Delivered on Time - Every Time. It Doesn't Cost Any More!
Columbus' Largest

JONES FUEL COMPANY

350 Frank Road • 443-4611 • 1-800-TOPSOIL
www.jonestopsoil.com

There's no Der in Nebraska



Nebraska. They've got football and corn.
Ohio has football and Der Dutchman donuts.
Where would you rather live?



Der Dutchman
Amish Kitchen
Cooking

DER DUTCHMAN PLAIN CITY - 614-873-3414
445 S Jefferson Route 42, Plain City (Rt 161/33 exit off I-270)

DER DUTCHMAN BELLVILLE - 419-886-7070
Exit 165 off I-71 at 720 State Rt 97 W in Bellville, Ohio

DerDutchman.com



**Join Us as We Support the Buckeyes
on the Road & More!!**

Membership Opportunities:

- Annual Kick-Off Dinner
- Travel to EVERY Football Away Game
- Annual Celebrity Golf Outing
- Meetings at the Woody Hayes Athletic Center with coaches

Membership is only
\$75.00 per year!
For information, check us out
at www.buckeyeboosters.com
or call 614-326-3300.
JOIN NOW!

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____
Zipcode: _____ Telephone: _____

Mail check to: Buckeye Boosters, 921 Chatham Ln., #301F, Columbus, Oh 43221

Tickets To Events Anywhere
Concerts • Theatre • Sporting Events

MAIN EVENT

TICKET SERVICE

"Your Ticket Solution"






(614) 488-9957 • 888-842-5877
www.ticketsohio.com
1350 W. Fifth Ave., Ste. 24

OSU Football & Basketball
Cleveland Browns
Blue Jackets
Nationwide Arena
Schottenstein Arena
NFL • NBA • NHL

We Buy OSU Football Tickets!

COVER STORY

Buckeyes still have a chance to reach their goals.

"It kind of happened last year vs. Iowa," Haskins said. "We still – everywhere we wanted to be, we can still make the Big Ten championship. We've got to do what we do to possibly make the playoffs. But we still have a lot of football ahead of us."

That much is true. If Ohio State wins out, the Buckeyes will make the Big Ten title game. If they win that, too, they'll likely make the final four.

But in order for any of that to happen, Ohio State has to get better. Following an off week, the Buckeyes host Nebraska, travel to Michigan State and Maryland and then face Michigan at home. There are no guarantees, but it would be a struggle for the team that showed up against Purdue to win all four of those games.

"We have good players, good coaches and we're going to get to work," said Meyer, who felt that the problems could be fixed within the two-week time frame before Ohio State's next game. "We lost a game last year and came right back, so we have good guys and we're going to work hard (on) what's off and get this thing right."

Ohio State has already been working hard on those issues, though, and not a lot of progress has been made. Meyer acknowledged that, and he noted there will be evaluation of everything – including the work of the coaching staff – going forward.

From the standpoint of the players, McLaurin pointed to the veteran leadership that allowed Ohio State to bounce back from its loss to Iowa last year for an undefeated finish to the season. He said senior right tackle Isaiah Prince addressed the team after

the loss to Purdue, just as Billy Price had after the loss to the Hawkeyes.

Now, McLaurin said, it's time for everyone – not just the veterans – to take it upon themselves to get things right.

"There's no pointing fingers, we've just all got to look in the mirror and see what we could have (done) better," he said. "We got hit in the mouth, but it's about how you come back from it."

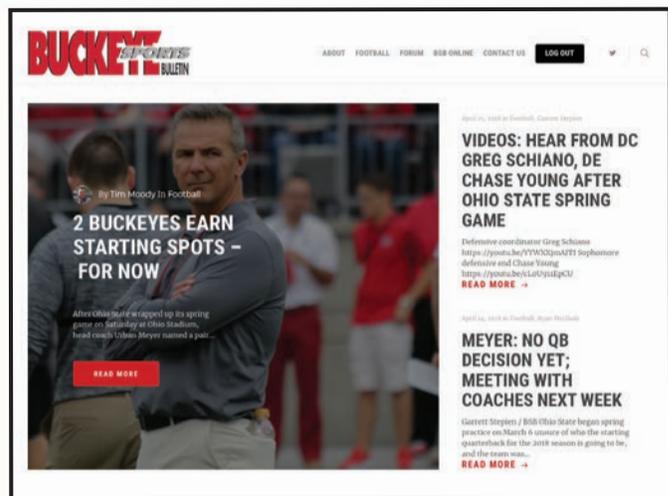
That starts at the top – with Meyer and the coaching staff – but the mentality has to trickle down the roster. As the Buckeyes enter their week off, an attitude adjustment might need to accompany any changes on the field.

As McLaurin said, that will start with the captains – the veteran leaders have seen it all, more or less. Now their attitude needs to spread throughout the rest of a young, talented and struggling roster.

"I feel like at the top, our leaders are really tough and we've just got to make sure that permeates through everybody," McLaurin said. "I remember being a young guy and feeling a loss. When you're so invested as an older guy, it hurts even more."

"So my message to some of the older leaders is we've just got to make sure everybody feels life or death; it's not just football. I come out here every single day – this is all I do and school, that's it. My main message going forward is to treat this like it's life or death. I know we're not in war or anything like that – I would never disrespect what those guys do – but that type of mentality where you're going into battle with somebody that's trying to knock you off, if you don't come ready to go, it's happening."

SEE WHAT YOU'VE BEEN MISSING ON BUCKEYESPORTS.COM Free To Print Subscribers



Buckeye Sports Bulletin has expanded its online presence to a full-service website to complement the 24 annual print editions. Access to BuckeyeSports.com is free to all print subscribers and includes numerous

great features like:

- Daily features, analysis and breaking news stories.
- A fan forum where readers can interact with the BSB staff and other subscribers while catching up on the latest Buckeye news.
- Rosters, scholarship charts, schedules and commit lists for the football team to keep up to date with the Buckeyes.
- Electronic versions of the BSB print editions.
- The BSB Quickly archive.

To sign up for this free service send an email to subscriptions@buckeyesports.com and we will send you easy-to-follow instructions on how to enjoy reading Buckeye Sports Bulletin online

Globe Window Cleaning, Inc.
Commercial, Construction, Residential

4051 Business Park Drive
Columbus, Ohio 43204
614 586-1056

Serving Central Ohio since 1941

www.globewindowcleaning.com

STARLINER DINER

Now in Old Hilliard!

4121 Main Street • Hilliard 43026
614-529-1198 • starlinerdiner.com

OSU's Undefeated Start Derailed By Boilermakers

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

Ross-Ade Stadium continues to haunt Ohio State.

On a frosty 37-degree night in West Lafayette, Ind., the No. 2 Buckeyes were stopped cold by Purdue, suffering a 49-20 upset Oct. 20 behind two touchdown passes by David Blough in the first half and three TD runs from D.J. Knox in the second half.

Ohio State is 13-9 at Purdue all-time and has lost three of the past four games there. Since 2000, the Boilermakers' five wins against Ohio State are tied with Penn State for the most by a Big Ten opponent.

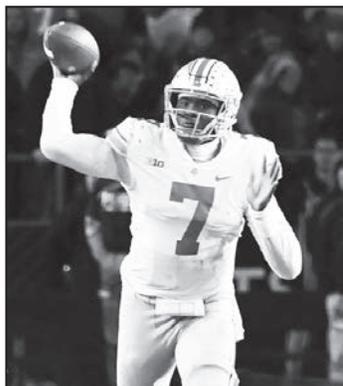
OSU (7-1, 4-1 Big Ten) could not run the ball (76 yards on 25 rushes, 3.0 average) and had to rely on the arm of third-year sophomore Dwayne Haskins, who was 49 of 73 for 470 yards (all school records) with two TDs and an interception.

Purdue (4-3, 3-1) has won four straight and made it look easy before a crowd of 60,716.

Blough was 25 of 43 for 378 yard with the two TDs and no interceptions against a secondary that was missing injured junior cornerback Damon Arnette.

That helped Rondale Moore have a big game with 12 catches for 170 yards and two TDs. He also added 24 rushing yards. Knox bullded his way through the defense for 128 yards on 16 carries.

Meanwhile for the Buckeyes, junior Mike Weber had 45 yards on nine runs



SONNY BROCKWAY

EMPTY NUMBERS – Quarterback Dwayne Haskins set program records for completions (49), attempts (73) and pass yards (470) against Purdue.

and sophomore J.K. Dobbins 24 yards on 11 carries.

"I wouldn't say it has anything to do with Mike or J.K. or the O-line," Haskins said. "We've just got to do a better job making some bigger holes, making some players miss, and it will all come together."

Junior K.J. Hill (105 yards) and fifth-year senior Parris Campbell (43 yards) led the Buckeyes with nine receptions each.

Junior linebacker Malik Harrison had a

team-high 10 tackles (nine solo), including one sack. Purdue sophomore linebacker Markus Bailey, from Hilliard Davidson in suburban Columbus, had 15 tackles (eight solo) and a late pick-six.

How It Happened

Purdue took the lead with 1:10 left in the first quarter, marching 98 yards after a Drue Chrisman punt, when Blough threw a 13-yard TD to Isaac Zico in the right corner.

A face-mask infraction on OSU freshman cornerback Shaun Wade helped the drive along, putting the ball on the Boilermakers' 44. Penalties were again a reoccurring theme for the Buckeyes, who had 10 for 86 yards.

The Boilermakers kept the drive alive with a quarterback sneak for 3 yards that gave Purdue a first down at the OSU 44. Later, Blough had a 13-yard completion to Moore to the OSU 23, but an offensive interference penalty two plays later pushed the ball back to the 38.

Undeterred, Blough found Knox for 23 yards to the 15. Junior corner Kendall Sheffield forced Knox to fumble, but after the ball went out of bounds, Purdue was awarded possession at the 12. After a Markell Jones run lost a yard, the Boilermakers finished the 15-play series that consumed 7:09.

After fifth-year senior receiver Johnnie Dixon returned the kickoff 31 yards to the Ohio State 46, two personal fouls helped set up a 24-yard field goal by Blake Haubeil at 14:14 of the second quarter. The biggest play from scrimmage was a pass to fifth-year senior receiver Terry McLaurin of 11 yards to the 7, but on third down from the 6, Haskins was off target to McLaurin.

The Ohio State red-zone offense got bogged down late in the second quarter, and a 16-play, 83-yard drive was stopped at the 15 and Haubeil missed a 33-yard field-goal try with 1:51 remaining. OSU got into position thanks to a 33-yard reception by Hill to the Purdue 16. Two incompletions and a 1-yard run by Dobbins followed.

Purdue, with three timeouts left, was aggressive and used big plays and a fake field goal to stun the Buckeyes for a 14-3 lead when Blough tossed a 9-yard pass to Moore with 27 seconds left to complete an 80-yard, eight-play drive in 1:24.

D.J. Knox got the drive going with a 19-yard

run. Later, Zico had a 37-yard catch to the OSU 20. Facing a fourth-and-3 from the 13, Purdue lined up for a field goal, but holder Joe Schopper took the snap and ran to the 9 before the Boilermakers scored on the next play.

OSU opened the third quarter with a 23-yard field goal by Haubeil at the 12:25 mark to make it 14-6. Junior wide receiver Austin Mack had a 24-yard catch and a 15-yard grab by Campbell got OSU to the 10, but three Haskins passes, two completed, netted just 4 yards.

On the ensuing possession, Knox had a 1-yard TD run with 8:36 left in the third quarter for a 21-6 lead thanks in part to a roughing-the-kicker penalty on junior defensive tackle Davon Hamilton that breathed new life into the drive as it gave the Boilers a first down at the OSU 31. After two Blough completions of 15 yards each, Knox ran in for the score.

The Buckeyes' chance to get back into the game after the kickoff dissolved when an 11-play, 73-yard march ended at the Purdue 2 on Haskins' fourth-down incompletion to Hill, wasting back-to-back passes to junior Binjimen Victor for a combined 36 yards.

OSU's five trips to the red zone resulted in only six points on the night.

Purdue added another long scoring drive (eight plays, 76 yards, 3:14) when Knox ran 42 yards for a 28-6 lead with 11:39 left in the fourth quarter. A personal foul on junior defensive tackle Dre'Mont Jones aided the drive.

Dixon had 24-yard kickoff return to the OSU 29, and he ended the eight-play, 71-yard, 2:03 drive with a 32-yard TD catch to make it 28-13 with 9:36 left.

Any hope of a comeback faded when Knox rushed for a 40-yard score with 6:46 left to put Purdue ahead 35-13. The drive was five plays, 75 yards in 2:50.

Haskins then took the Buckeyes 70 yards in nine plays (2:06 time) and tossed a 34-yard touchdown to McLaurin for a 35-20 score but only 4:40 remained.

Purdue recovered an onside kick at the OSU 46, and three plays later a short pass to Moore turned into a gashing 43-yard TD to make it 42-20 with 3:37 left.

Bailey capped the scoring with his 41-yard interception return with 2:08 remaining.

Haskins kept firing away and threw five times in eight plays on the final possession, completing three for 15 yards as the Buckeyes ended the game at the Purdue 17.

ON THE ROAD JOIN TRAVEL PARTNERS SPECIALTY TOURS AS WE HEAD ON THE ROAD DURING THE 2018 FOOTBALL SEASON!

PACKAGES INCLUDE:

- ROUND TRIP TRANSFERS ON DELUXE MOTOR COACH
- DRIVER'S GRATUITIES
- SNACKS
- PRE-GAME TAILGATE INCLUDING ADULT BEVERAGES
- OHIO STATE GAME TICKET
- HOTEL & HOTEL TAXES WHERE APPLICABLE
- BREAKFAST WHERE APPLICABLE
- FULLY ESCORTED BY TRAVEL PARTNERS SPECIALTY TOUR STAFF

TEAM	DATE(S)	COST PER PERSON	COST WITH OVERNIGHT HOTEL
@PENN STATE	SATURDAY, 9/29 -9/30	--	\$469*
@PURDUE	SATURDAY, 10/20	\$299	--
@MICHIGAN STATE	SATURDAY, 11/10-11/11	\$394	\$449*

*PRICES ARE BASED ON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY IF HOTEL IS NEEDED; SINGLE, TRIPLE, AND QUAD RATES AVAILABLE

CALL 614-792-6204

TO BOOK YOUR RESERVATION OR FOR MORE INFORMATION!

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY WEXNER MEDICAL CENTER SERVICE BOARD

COME PARK WITH US
FOR ALL HOME FOOTBALL GAMES!

Martha Morehouse Medical Plaza

2050 Kenny Road
Columbus, Ohio

\$20 DONATION PER CAR (price set by CampusParc)

LESS THAN 3/4 MILE WALK TO OHIO STADIUM

Funds raised through 2018 football parking will be donated to the
Jameson Crane Sports Medicine Institute.

BENEFITING



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

WEXNER MEDICAL CENTER

OHIO STATE VS. PURDUE

OSU Run Game Stagnant Again In Upset Loss

For weeks on end, it has been evident Ohio State was struggling to establish a consistent run game. With only four games remaining in the regular season, not much has been done to remedy the Buckeyes' problems up front.

GAME NOTEBOOK

James Grega

Ohio State managed just 76 rushing yards in a 49-20 loss to Purdue on Oct. 20 in West Lafayette, Ind., 23 of which came on the final drive of the game with the contest already well out of hand. Quarterback Dwayne Haskins was forced to attempt a school-record 73 passes, shattering the previous mark of 52 set by Art Schlichter in 1981.

After the game, head coach Urban Meyer was seemingly lost for words when asked if Ohio State could be successful as a team that has to rely purely on Haskins' arm to win games in 2018.

"No, not at all. It's just – when I look up at the board and I see the rushing yardage again, we're just ... we've got to get something going," Meyer said. "You can't just – you throw for 400 yards and then that's worked a few times, but down the stretch here we've got to get some run game."

Junior Mike Weber tallied 21 of his 45 rushing yards on the final drive of the game, finishing with nine carries in the defeat.

Sophomore starter J.K. Dobbins toted the ball 11 times for 24 yards, while Haskins kept five times for 7 yards and was sacked just once despite the high number of drop-backs.

From his perspective, Haskins said he doesn't believe it is just one thing Ohio State needs to fix in the run game, but rather working on getting better collectively as a group.

"We've just got to do a better job making some bigger holes, making some players miss, and it will all come together," he said.

Combined with a 30-14 win against Minnesota, Ohio State has failed to record a rushing touchdown in back-to-back games for the first time since Meyer took over as head coach in 2012. The Buckeyes' 76 yards rushing were also the least of Meyer's tenure at Ohio State in a single game and the worst rushing performance by OSU since a 10-7 loss to Michigan State in 2011 when the Buckeyes managed just 35 yards on 39 carries under then-interim head coach Luke Fickell.

After the game, Meyer wasn't sure exactly what the Buckeyes needed to do to fix the issues with the ground game.

"If it was that easy – a one-sentence answer – I'd give it to you," Meyer said. "But it's not that easy of an answer, so we're going to work real hard and get it fixed."

Haskins Sets OSU Passing Records

With Ohio State's running game rendered

ineffective, Haskins was forced to throw the ball more than any Buckeye quarterback has ever thrown in a single game.

Haskins broke Ohio State's completions, attempts, and passing yardage records in the loss to Purdue, completing 49 of 73 passes for 470 yards. He threw two fourth-quarter touchdown passes and an interception that was returned for a 41-yard touchdown, the exclamation point on the Boilermaker victory.

Haskins had already tied the completions record at 33 each of the past two weeks – a mark he shared with J.T. Barrett – before shattering it against the Boilermakers. Schlichter set the previous attempts and yardage (458) records in a loss to Florida State 37 years ago. The game also marked Haskins' third in a row with more than 400 yards. Previously, Schlichter's performance against the Seminoles had been the only 400-yard individual passing performance in program history.

Despite the multiple records, Haskins said the offense was out of sync for a good portion of the game and that is what led to the Buckeyes posting just 20 points, the worst scoring performance by Ohio State since a 31-16 loss to Oklahoma early last season.

"With the offense it's all about timing and momentum, and we didn't do a good job with that today," he said, "and we're going to go on the bye week and we're going to work on that stuff."



Mike Weber

The loss was Haskins' first as Ohio State's starting quarterback and snapped the country's second-longest winning streak at 12 games (Central Florida has the longest with 20). Despite his big numbers, Haskins said the entire offense needs to execute at a higher level if the Buckeyes are to regroup and finish the season strong.

"We're going to get together as an offense, and we're going to figure out what we need to do, what are the problems we need to fix," he said. "It's not just one thing or another, it's the collective unit, and we've got to figure out how we can play better football together. Once we figure that out, we're going to be where we need to be."

Penalties Doom Buckeyes

Ohio State was outplayed for the majority of the game, but the Buckeyes also suffered from multiple self-inflicted wounds against Purdue that ruined any chances they had of securing a comeback victory.

The Buckeyes were whistled for 10 penalties, costing them 86 yards. Three of the 10 penalties resulted in Purdue first downs, including a costly roughing-the-kicker call on a Boilermaker punt early in the second half and a roughing-the-passer call early in the fourth quarter that both led to touchdowns.

Through eight games, Ohio State ranks 12th in the Big Ten in penalty yards per game, averaging 75.9. Meyer was visibly frustrated when discussing the penalties after the game, citing the roughing-the-kicker penalty on defensive tackle Davon Hamilton as the backbreaker.



Be Ready For The Game.

Shop The Scoreboard at John Glenn International
Fan Gear, Souvenirs & Accessories | Pre-Security



JOHN GLENN
INTERNATIONAL

FLYCOLUMBUS.COM

OHIO STATE VS. PURDUE

Game Analysis

What Worked Well

Ohio State's pass game was the offense's only pulse. Sophomore quarterback Dwayne Haskins dropped back a school-record 73 times and amassed a school-record 470 yards on – you guessed it – a school-record 49 completions. In the fourth quarter, he tossed two touchdowns when the Buckeyes had no other choice but had an interception housed for six the other way. For the most part, the Buckeyes were able to move the ball up the field on shallow crossing routes, which is where junior receiver K.J. Hill made his mark as he tied a career-high nine receptions and went for 105 yards (11.7 average) with a long of 33 to give OSU timely conversions before the Boilermakers blew things open.

What Didn't Work

The run game. The red-zone offense. You name it. Start on the ground, where Ohio State was unable to get any push – and, at times, appeared too afraid to try – with 25 rushes for 76 yards (3.0 average). Reliant on Haskins, the Buckeyes needed the quarterback's arm to get into Purdue territory, where the offense largely came away empty-handed, highlighted by OSU going without a touchdown on five red-zone trips. As Ohio State settled for two field goals and a miss from sophomore kicker Blake Haubeil, the Boilermakers converted on the missed opportunities. Purdue

gashed Ohio State for 539 total yards with 378 passing yards, ripping off several big plays, especially later in the game between touchdowns from Rondale Moore (43-yard reception) and D.J. Knox (42-yard run) as trends in recent weeks proved not anomalies and came back to haunt the Buckeyes on the big stage.

Play Of The Game

Despite the sluggish start for Ohio State, Purdue led only 7-3 late in the first half when the Boilermakers faced a fourth-and-3 from the Buckeyes' 13. As Spencer Evans stepped up to take the chip-shot attempt and put Purdue up 10-3 near the end of the second quarter, Joe Schopper picked up the hold and sprinted left. With Pete Werner laying out from up the middle, plus Isaiah Pryor and Kendall Sheffield overpursuing off the right edge, Schopper escaped and bounced outside. Jordan Fuller whacked Schopper for the tackle, but not before the Boilermakers converted the first down, setting up first-and-goal from the 9. On the very next play, David Blough hit Moore in the right flat for the 9-yard score. The cunning play call paid off for head coach Jeff Brohm as the Boilermakers went up 14-3 with 27 seconds left in the half, riding the momentum and outscoring OSU by a 35-17 margin the rest of the way.

– Garrett Stepien

"We had a handful of them a couple games ago and that's been an issue this year," Meyer said. "The one, the punt, to run into the punter, that's one of those ones you just – I can't remember the score at the time (14-6) – but I think it was still within (striking distance). Just not very disciplined and I think they're effort penalties, but just ridiculous."

Ohio State started the game off with back-to-back flags, first getting called for a false start on its first offensive snap (junior tight end Rashod Berry) before being flagged on the next snap for illegal formation, which was ultimately declined.

Offensive tackle Isaiah Prince was twice flagged for a false start in the first half, while Berry and center Michael Jordan also picked up crucial holding calls in the second quarter setting the Buckeyes well behind the chains.

Red-Zone Woes Continue

Ohio State's red-zone problems were evident against Minnesota in a 30-14 win as the Buckeyes twice had to settle for field goals in that area against the Golden Gophers.

It only got worse against Purdue, with the Buckeyes managing just six points on five red-zone trips against the Boilermakers.

With the offensive line unable to win at the line of scrimmage, Ohio State often threw near the goal line but failed to find the end zone with those calls. The only touchdowns of the game came on long throws to Johnnie Dixon (32 yards) and Terry McLaurin (34 yards).

The Buckeyes had multiple opportunities to find the end zone against Purdue but didn't find pay dirt until the fourth quarter on Haskins' pass to Dixon. Each time it looked as though Ohio State was going to steal momentum away from Purdue, the Boilermaker defense stiffened, effectively taking the Buckeyes out of the game.

"I thought we were going to come out here and play our tails off," Meyer said. "I think we had opportunities to get right back in it, and every time you thought we were going to swing and get back in it, you didn't score in the red zone, you have a turnover or we give up a big hit."

On the other sideline, Purdue converted on all three of its red-zone attempts, including a touchdown right before the half

that was set up by a fake field-goal run by the Boilermaker holder and punter Joe Schopper.

"Obviously we have a little bit of a tendency there and they executed and we did not," Meyer said of the fake field goal. "Those are all part of things I've got to evaluate."

Moore Posts Big Night

Former Ohio State recruiting target Rondale Moore had perhaps the biggest night of his Purdue career against the Buckeyes in the upset victory.

The true freshman caught a career-high 12 passes for 170 yards and a pair of touchdowns, the second of which featured multiple broken tackles en route to a 43-yard score.

The game put Moore atop the Big Ten receiver rankings in terms of statistics. He now leads the conference in receptions (57) and yards (728) and is tied for second in touchdown receptions with seven. McLaurin leads the Big Ten in touchdown receptions with eight.

Moore accounted for nearly half of Purdue's completions as starting quarterback David Blough finished the night 25 of 43 for 378 yards and three touchdowns to zero interceptions. The Boilermakers did not commit a turnover in the game.

It was the best performance by an opposing receiver since Nebraska's JD Spielman caught 11 passes for 200 yards and a score against the Buckeyes last season in a 56-14 Ohio State victory in Lincoln, Neb.

Boilers Black Out Ross-Ade Stadium

Purdue football fans haven't had much to cheer about in recent years, but the Boilermaker faithful showed up

in droves to watch their team upset the Buckeyes.

The announced attendance at the Ross-Ade Stadium blackout on Oct. 20 was 60,716, the highest-attended game in five years and the most since a renovation project removed 6,000 seats in 2014.

The last time Purdue packed Ross-Ade Stadium like they did against Ohio State was in 2013 against Notre Dame, when 61,127 saw the Irish beat the Boilers, 31-24.

Those in attendance were rewarded with an outstanding performance from the home team and a chance to get on the field – the crowd stormed out of the stands after the final whistle to celebrate with the team.



1736 W. 5th Avenue • Columbus 43212
www.reddoortavern.com
614-488-5433
- Since 1964 -
Sun.-Wed. 11am-Midnight • Thurs. 11am- 1am
Fri. & Sat. 11am - 2:30am



**GAME DAY
Specials**

**1/2
Price
Appetizers**

**\$1 OFF
Domestic
Drafts**

OHIO STATE FOOTBALL TICKETS

All Games Available
Reserve Your Seats Today!

CALL:
614-889-2989

OR FIND US ONLINE AT:
USAsseats.com

TICKETS Galore



58 South High Street, Dublin, Ohio 43017
614-889-2989 1-800-829-8457

BBB Rating: A+

BSB Quotebook: Purdue 49, Ohio State 20

Ohio State head coach Urban Meyer on why he thinks his staff can right the ship: "That's a good question. We're 7-1 and the objective is to get to be 8-1 and find a way to get these things fixed in the bye week – and get some guys healthy. We're on fumes on the back end of our defense right now, so we've got to get some guys healthy."

Meyer on if OSU needs to make drastic changes: "I don't know if it's blow up – once again, we're 7-1, and we've got the chance to be 8-1. That's the only focus. But there's some serious shortcomings right now we've got to get fixed."

"The bye week gives you a little bit of time, but you're week ... eight, nine, you're into it now. No. 1 thing you've got to find out about the health of our team, and that's hard to do right now – to make drastic changes when you're dealing with a banged-up football team."

OSU fifth-year senior wide receiver Terry McLaurin on whether OSU needs to make drastic offensive changes: "I feel like it's just execution. Our plays work. We've been running the same plays all year. The defense got some stops and as an offense we just want to execute a lot better. We're not pointing fingers. We just run the plays that our coaches call and that we practice all week."

Meyer on assessing his coaching staff: "That's part of this whole week, and I do love our coaching staff and want to make sure we're going to have a lot of work get done this week."

OSU sophomore quarterback Dwayne Haskins on if he felt the need to be perfect with the run game struggling: "I wouldn't say it had anything to do with the running game. I feel like every game I play I want to be perfect when I'm throwing the football, so it had nothing to do with the running backs or O-line."

Haskins on OSU's failed fourth-and-goal attempt: "It's kind of a play we've seen in the NFL. We try to run it. We just didn't execute at a high level. (We've got to) keep getting better at that play."

Haskins on if he believes too much is being asked of him offensively: "No, I wouldn't say that. I'm going to keep getting better. I know I'm nowhere near where I can be. It's only the beginning. So right now, 7-1, and not what we thought we were going to do vs. Purdue, but we have an opportunity to go win some more games so we're going to make the most of it."

McLaurin on who stepped up in the locker room postgame: "Isaiah Prince said some words to us, I'm not going to get into specifics. But similar to what Billy (Price) was saying last year (after the loss to Iowa). When it's coming from your O-line – that's the heartbeat of our team and I just hope everybody is in there listening and looking at how we're going to get better from this. Life – you can't say everything goes good when we come back and beat Penn State and we lose this and it's just like, 'Woe is me.' You've got to take the good with the bad, and

you've just got to look at how you can get better personally."

OSU junior safety Jordan Fuller on leadership: "I would say it's more important than ever right now. These moments obviously you don't want, but it's all about how you respond. We have the talent, we have the leadership. We've just got to really self-evaluate over this week and into next weekend."

Fuller on his emotions leaving the field: "I don't think it's anything you can really describe. It's just a feeling you never want to experience."

Purdue head coach Jeff Brohm on the upset win: "It is a huge moment. It wasn't like we won by one point. Our guys came ready to play. If you put in the time, if you have a great attitude and keep working hard to improve yourself and your team, anything can happen."

"I don't think last year and even before this week we were ready for this moment. I told them, 'We are ready for this moment now. You guys can win the game if you believe you can. If we play as hard as we can for 60 minutes and give it everything you have, good things will happen.' They surpassed my expectations with the way we played today."

Purdue running back D.J. Knox on Brohm's play-calling: "When he called the trap run (which went for a 42-yard touchdown), I was thinking, 'This man is a genius.' Coach Brohm knows exactly when to call every play. You just know schematically we're going to be set up to win."

Roosters
A FUN, CASUAL JOINT
WWW.ROOSTERSWINGS.COM

BUCKEYE BOWL GAME GIVEAWAY
(OHIO STATE vs ?)

REGISTER TO WIN
1 OF 12 TRIPS FOR 2
TO THE BUCKEYE (OHIO STATE vs ?) BOWL GAME
EVERY WEEK IS A NEW CHANCE TO WIN!!
1 TRIP GIVEN AWAY EACH WEEK*

VISIT WWW.ROOSTERSWINGS.COM
TO REGISTER AND FOR OFFICIAL RULES

*See Official Rules

The Numbers Game

Purdue 49, Ohio State 20

Oct. 20, 2018 – Ross-Ade Stadium; West Lafayette, Ind.

Score by Quarters	1	2	3	4	F
OHIO STATE (7-1, 4-1 BIG TEN)	0	3	3	14	– 20
PURDUE (4-3, 3-1 BIG TEN)	7	7	7	28	– 49

First Quarter

PUR – Zico, 13 yard pass from Blough (Evans kick), 1:10; 15 plays, 98 yards, 7:09 TOP.

Second Quarter

OSU – Haubeil, 24 yard field goal, 14:14; 6 plays, 48 yards, 1:56 TOP.

PUR – Moore, 9 yard pass from Blough (Evans kick), 0:27; 8 plays, 80 yards, 1:24 TOP.

Third Quarter

OSU – Haubeil, 23 yard field goal, 12:25; 10 plays, 69 yards, 2:35 TOP.

PUR – Knox, 1 yard run (Evans kick), 8:36; 10 plays, 73 yards, 3:49 TOP.

Fourth Quarter

PUR – Knox, 42 yard run (Evans kick), 11:39; 8 plays, 76 yards, 3:14 TOP.

OSU – Dixon, 32 yard pass from Haskins (Haubeil kick), 9:36; 8 plays, 71 yards, 2:03 TOP.

PUR – Knox, 40 yard run, 6:46; 5 plays, 75 yards, 2:50 TOP.

OSU – McLaurin, 34 yard pass from Haskins (Haubeil kick), 4:40; 9 plays, 70 yards, 2:06 TOP.

PUR – Moore, 43 yard pass from Blough (Evans kick), 3:37; 3 plays, 46 yards, 1:03 TOP.

PUR – Bailey, 41 yard interception return (Evans kick), 2:08.

Att. – 60,716.

Weather – 37 degrees, clear; wind NW 18 mph.

Team Statistics

	OSU	PUR
First Downs	31	24
Rushing	4	9
Passing	24	12
Penalty	3	3
Rushes-Yards	25-76	29-161
Passing Yards	470	378
Passes (Comp.-Att.-Int.)	49-73-1	25-43-0
Offensive Plays	98	72
Total Net Yards	546	539
Third Down Efficiency	11-22	6-15
Fourth Down Efficiency	2-3	2-2
Punts-Avg.	5-38.6	6-43.3
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	1-0
Penalties	10-86	7-95
Time of Possession	31:17	28:43

Individual Statistics

RUSHING (Att.-Net Yds.) – OSU: Weber 9-45; Dobbins 11-24; Haskins 5-7. PUR: Knox 16-128; Moore 2-24; Jones 5-12; Schopper 1-4; Blough 5(-7).

PASSING (Comp.-Att.-Int.-Yds.-TD) – OSU: Haskins 49-73-1-470-2. PUR: Blough 25-43-0-378-3.

RECEIVING (Rec.-Yds.) – OSU: Hill 9-105; Campbell 9-43; Victor 5-67; McLaurin 5-66; Weber 5-22; Dixon 4-58; Dobbins 4-34; Farrell 4-24; Saunders 2-17; Mack 1-24; Berry 1-10. PUR: Moore 12-170; Sparks 3-43; Hopkins 3-37; Zico 2-50; Herdman 2-36; Anthrop 2-16; Knox 1-26.

PUNTING (No.-Avg.-Long) – OSU: Chrisman 5-38.6-47. PUR: Schopper 6-43.3-56.

PUNT RETURNS (No.-Yds.) – OSU: Hill 1-16. PUR: Moore 1-9.

KICKOFF RETURNS (No.-Yds.) – OSU: Dixon 5-98. PUR: Moore 3-49.

MISSED FIELD GOALS (Yds.) – OSU: Haubeil 33. PUR: None.

FORCED FUMBLES – OSU: Sheffield. PUR: None.

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

INTERCEPTIONS (No.-Yds.) – OSU: None. PUR: Bailey 1-41.

TACKLES FOR LOSS (No.-Yds.) – OSU: Harrison 2-0-11; Werner 2-0-4; Cooper 1-0-5; Hamilton 1-0-1; Young 0-5-2; D. Jones 0-5-1. PUR: Watts 1-0-2; Bailey 0-5-1; Blackmon 0-5-0.

SACKS (No.-Yds.) – OSU: Harrison 1-0-9; Cooper 0-5-3; Young 0-5-2. PUR: Watts 1-0-2.

TACKLES (Solo-Asst.-Tot.) – OSU: Harrison 9-1-10; Pryor 4-2-6; Fuller 5-0-5; Okudah 5-0-5; Browning 4-1-5; Wade 3-0-3; Werner 3-0-3; Cooper 1-2-3; Sheffield 2-0-2; Hamilton 2-0-2; Wint 2-0-2; D. Jones 1-1-2; White 1-0-1; Borland 1-0-1; Campbell 1-0-1; Hilliard 0-1-1; Young 0-1-1; Landers 0-1-1. PUR: Bailey 8-7-15; Major 8-4-12; Thieneman 7-2-9; Blackmon 6-2-8; Mosley 6-2-8; Barnes 4-2-6; Smiley 4-2-6; Jones 4-1-5; Watts 3-1-4; Neal 2-2-4; Cason 2-1-3; Horvath 1-0-1; Dotson 1-0-1; Zico 1-0-1; Mackey 1-0-1; Hardy 1-0-1; Thieneman 0-1-1; Higgins 0-1-1.

PLAYERS IN THE GAME – OHIO STATE: Offense, Mack, Campbell, Munford, Pridgeon, Jordan, Knox, Prince, Berry, McLaurin, Haskins, Dobbins, Haubeil. Defense, Young, Hamilton, D. Jones, Cooper, Harrison, Browning, Wade, Sheffield, Fuller, Pryor, Okudah, Chrisman. Reserves, Gant, Smith, Dixon, Proctor, Hill, White, Davis, Vincent, Mitchell, Cornell, Victor, Riep, Harris, K. Jones, Olave, Werner, Wint, Weber, Hooker, McCall, Borland, Pope, Hilliard, McCullough, Booker, Friday, Alabi, Cupp, Woidke, Landers, Myers, Toggia, Petit-Frere, Saunders, Hausmann, Ruckert, Farrell, Garrett. PURDUE: Offense, Sparks, Moore, Hermanns, Evans, Barron, Edwards, McCann, Hopkins, Zico, Blough, Knox, Evans. Defense, Reviere, Neal, Watts, Higgins, Bailey, Jones, Barnes, Blackmon, Mosley, Thieneman, Major, Schopper. Reserves, Mackey, Hardy, Makowski, Jones, Mendez, Jones, Wright, Catlett, Cason, Fuller, Smiley, Larry, Anthrop, Alexander, Thieneman, Horvath, Marks, Yacobi, Swingler, Smart, Burgess, Pittman, Dotson, Trussell, Herdman, Fakasiieiki.

Season Statistics

2018 Game-By-Game				Scoring					
Date	Opponent	Result/Time	Crowd	TD	EPK	EPR	EPRC	FG	PTS
Sept. 1	(5) OREGON STATE	W, 77-31	102,169	–	39-39	–	–	3-5	48
Sept. 8	(4) RUTGERS	W, 52-3	93,057	8	–	–	–	–	48
Sept. 15	(4) vs. TCU* (15)	W, 40-28	64,362	7	–	–	–	–	42
Sept. 22	(4) TULANE	W, 49-6	103,336	5	–	–	–	–	30
Sept. 29	(4) at Penn State (9)	W, 27-26	110,889	4	–	–	–	–	24
Oct. 6	(3) INDIANA	W, 49-26	104,193	4	–	–	–	–	24
Oct. 13	(3) MINNESOTA	W, 30-14	100,042	3	–	–	–	–	18
Oct. 20	(2) at Purdue	L, 49-20	60,716	–	5-5	–	–	5-6	20
Nov. 3	NEBRASKA	TBA	–	2	–	–	–	–	12
Nov. 10	at Michigan State	TBA	–	1	–	–	–	–	6
Nov. 17	at Maryland	TBA	–	1	–	–	–	–	6
Nov. 24	MICHIGAN	Noon	–	1	–	–	–	–	6
Dec. 1	Big Ten Title Game**	8 p.m.	–	1	–	–	–	–	6

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

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

** – At Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis.

Team Statistics		FG Distance					Punting					Interceptions					
	OSU	Opp	0-29	30-39	40-49	50+	Total	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Bk	Long	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
First Downs	242	150	S. Nuernberger	2-2	1-2	0-1	0-0	3-5									
Rushing	82	52	Blake Haubeil	4-4	0-1	1-1	0-0	5-6									
Passing	139	77	OSU Totals	6-6	1-3	1-2	0-0	8-11									
Penalty	21	21	OPP Totals	1-1	4-6	1-4	0-1	6-12									
Average Per Game/Rush	171.8	149.6	Punting														
Average Per Game/Pass	383.8	241.1	Drue Chrisman	31	1,350	43.5	0	65									
Total Offense	4,444	3,126	OSU Totals	31	1,350	43.5	0	65									
Total Plays	658	532	OPP Totals	48	1,934	40.3	1	66									
Average Per Game	555.5	390.8	Interceptions														
Average Per Play	6.8	5.9	Kendall Sheffield	2	0	0.0	0	0									
Penalties-Yards	66-607	44-470	Dre'Mont Jones	1	28	28.0	1	28									
Fumbles-Lost	5-2	13-7	Malik Harrison	1	13	13.0	0	13									
Third Down Efficiency	59-120	37-113	Isaiah Pryor	1	0	0.0	0	0									
Percentage	49%	33%	Shaun Wade	1	0	0.0	0	0									
Fourth Down Efficiency	11-16	4-9	OSU Totals	6	41	6.8	1	28									
Percentage	69%	44%	OPP Totals	5	174	34.8	1	46									
Sacks-Yards	26-171	12-53	Punt Returns														
Time Of Possession Avg.	31:23	28:37	C.J. Saunders	8	50	6.2	0	20									

Score		Individual Statistics					
By Quarters	1	2	3	4	OT	Tot.	Avg.
Ohio State	83	104	64	93	–	344	43.0
Opponents	34	61	47	41	–	183	22.9

Rushing		Passing										
	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Long	Comp.	Att.	Pct.	Yds.	TD-INT	Effic.	
J.K. Dobbins	120	521	4.3	4	21	D. Haskins	224	315	71.1	2,801	30-5	174.06
Mike Weber	96	516	5.4	3	49	Tate Martell	23	28	82.1	269	1-0	174.63
Tate Martell	18	121	6.7	2	47	OSU Totals	247	343	72.0	3,070	31-5	174.10
Master Teague	17	106	6.2	1	33	OPP Totals	139	257	54.1	1,929	11-6	126.59
Dwayne Haskins	35	56	1.6	1	17	Receiving						
Brian Snead	11	37	3.4	1	5	Parris Campbell	52	600	11.5	7	71	
Demario McCall	4	26	6.5	0	15	K.J. Hill	49	656	13.4	4	42	
Parris Campbell	4	11	2.8	0	18	Austin Mack	26	331	12.7	1	48	
C.J. Saunders	0	8	0.0	0	0	Terry McLaurin	21	398	19.0	8	75	
K.J. Hill	1	-3	-3.0	0	0	Johnnie Dixon	21	284	13.5	4	44	
TEAM	9	-25	-2.8	0	0	J.K. Dobbins	15	164	10.9	1	35	
OSU Totals	315	1,374	4.4	12	49	Binjimen Victor	14	236	16.9	3	47	
OPP Totals	275	1,197	4.4	12	93	Mike Weber	14	75	5.4	1	15	

Kickoff Returns		Def. Leaders									
	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long	Solo	Asst.	Tot.	TFL-Yds.	Sacks	
Johnnie Dixon	10	216	21.6	0	38	Jordan Fuller	32	12	44	1.5-2	–
Demario McCall	2	52	26.0	0	31	Malik Harrison	27	8	35	3.0-12	1.5-10
C.J. Saunders	2	24	12.0	0	14	Pete Werner	22	9	31	7.5-20	3.0-10
OSU Totals	14	292	20.9	0	38	Isaiah Pryor	18	11	29	1.0-1	–
OPP Totals	16	250	15.6	0	22	Tuf Borland	11	15	26	4.0-11	2.0-10

Punt Returns		Fumbles Recovered								
	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
C.J. Saunders	8	50	6.2	0	20	8	–	–	–	–
K.J. Hill	7	33	4.7	0	17	7	–	–	–	–
Demario McCall	3	32	10.7	0	26	7	–	–	–	–
OSU Totals	18	115	6.4	0	26	7	–	–	–	–
OPP Totals	8	36	4.5	0	12	2	–	–	–	–

Fumbles Recovered		Fumbles Forced							
No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
2	–	–	–	–	8	–	–	–	–
7	–	–	–	–	7	–	–	–	–
7	–	–	–	–	7				

OPINION

For A Game, At Least, Purdue Was The Better Team

THE VIEW FROM 15TH & HIGH

Frank Moskowitz, Publisher

Given Ohio State's track record against Purdue and especially at Purdue and given that the Buckeyes had consistently displayed flaws this season that they have been unable to correct, I am not certain why anyone was surprised by the Boilermakers' 49-20 victory over the Buckeyes.

Let me digress for a moment and look back to 1988, John Cooper's first year at Ohio State (the Boilermakers beat the Buckeyes 31-26 that year, by the way). Never back then would I have imagined that 30 years later I would frequently be quoting Coop and his homespun truisms, which were just that – truisms.

In the coming days and weeks, Buckeye fans will dissect exactly what they believe Ohio State did wrong against the Boilers. In situations like this, Coop would often remind us, "Sometimes we don't give enough credit to the other team. Their players are on scholarship too."

So before we start nitpicking the Buckeyes' frailties, frailties that have been apparent for weeks now, let's give a little credit to the other team. On this particular evening, Purdue was the better team. Not the more talented team, but the better – and better coached – team.

The Boilermakers, to even a casual observer better than their 3-3 record indicated, entered the game on a roll and with maybe just the right amount of swagger to show the 60,716 in West Lafayette, Ind., and a national television audience the problem areas that continue to plague the Buckeyes and to exploit them. News Flash. Those problems would include a porous defense, a lack of a running game and unnecessary penalties.

While other teams have exploited those weaknesses for parts of games, especially in the first half, Purdue was the first team to take advantage of the Buckeyes' shortcomings from start to finish, and the result – after a couple of scares earlier – was Ohio State's first loss of the season.

It didn't hurt the Boilermaker cause that they really had nothing to lose in the game. Win and the fans storm the field as they did after this victory. Lose and all you did was what everyone thought you were going to do to begin with – lose to the No. 2 team in the nation.

Thus Purdue coach Jeff Brohm could get away with going for that fake field goal late in the first half, a play that I found to be pivotal in the game. If the gamble had failed, the Boilermakers would still have most likely led going into the intermission, and by that first 30 minutes, the Purdue players and coaches had to have realized – as I think Buckeye fans had – that the home team could stay with the Buckeyes and even had a good shot at beating them.

While I heed Coop's advice and give proper credit to the victors, it takes two to tango, and Ohio State hardly played like the No. 2 team in the country. Again, what's annoying to any Buckeye fan is that the problems are the same and the team, despite seven straight wins to open the season, has not gotten any better.

"If it was that easy – a one-sentence answer – I'd give it to you," head coach Urban Meyer said of fixing what ails his club. "But it's not that easy of an answer, so we're going to work real hard and get it fixed."

Haven't they been working hard and trying to get it fixed already? At this point, who is to say they can fix it?

Let's look at the offense first.

Who would have ever imagined that this pair of stat lines – 49 of 73 passing for 470 yards and 25 carries for 76 yards rushing

and a 3.0 average – would be associated with Ohio State football. In the same game, no less. Woody Hayes must be spinning in his grave.

I have worried for a couple of weeks now that there would come a time when Dwayne Haskins could not throw his team to victory if Ohio State was giving up yards and points and was unable to run the football. The struggles in the red zone, to my way of thinking, are directly related to problems with the running game. Opposing pass defenders have far less space to cover in the shadow of the goal line, and passing, even for someone as good as Haskins, becomes much more difficult.

Over the course of the game, Ohio State had first downs at the Purdue 7, 10 and 8 among its red-zone trips. In those three goal-to-go situations, Ohio State ran five times for 7 yards. What happened to the days when the Buckeyes would have powered the ball in from such short range or at least used the threat of the run to ease up pass coverage?

And surely the explosive running of the J.K. Dobbins and Mike Weber of old would have extended some drives or resulted in long gainers. Against the Boilermakers, Ohio State's longest run from scrimmage was 11 yards, and that came on the second-to-last play of the game, when the outcome was long determined. In fact, 23 of OSU's 76 rushing yards came on that meaningless last drive. Take those away and the Buckeye rushing numbers would have been 22 carries for 53 yards and a 2.4 yard average. Yikes!

And if the blatant problem with the running game wasn't enough to slow the Buckeyes, the intermittent problem of dropped passes or failure to reel in difficult but catchable passes reared its head again.

A side note about the offense. I hope that Meyer, Ryan Day and Kevin Wilson saw that Purdue extended their first touchdown drive when it converted a fourth-and-1 on an innovative play – a quarterback sneak.

As for the defense, I am going to surprise you and say I thought it played better – at least for a while. But before you can fully assess the Buckeye defense, you have to look at that third ongoing problem: penalties. From the time Ohio State was flagged six times for 50 yards in the opener and followed that up with 11 for 120 yards against Rutgers, I knew that at some point penalties were going to bite the Buckeyes in the rear. That day of reckoning came against Purdue.

Against the Boilermakers it wasn't the quantity of the penalties, still staggering at 10 for 86, but the quality, or lack of such, in the fouls against Purdue.

I needn't remind you of the big ones – you saw them – but I will anyway.

Trailing just 14-6 early in the third quarter, the defense forced a punt at the OSU 46. Unfortunately, Davon Hamilton roughed the punter and Purdue continued the march, ultimately taking a 21-6 lead. Technically, the Buckeyes were still in it when David Blough missed on a third-and-11 pass at the Boiler 33 early in the fourth and OSU still trailing by 15, which should have forced a punt. Instead, Dre'Mont Jones roughed Blough and again the drive continued, and Purdue took a 28-6 lead with 11:39 left to play. The rout was pretty much on after that.

You combine those drive-continuing penalties with the fact that the defense also buckled down and stalled a lengthy Purdue drive at the end of the first and forced a field-goal attempt, an attempt that turned into a fake that allowed Purdue to take a 14-3 lead into the locker room, and you see why I might think that the defense, at the least, could have kept the Buckeyes in the game without the penalties.

Incidentally, while some in the office disagree with me – see the staff roundtable on pages 15-17 – I think Isaiah Pryor is improving. I thought he played one of the better games among Buckeye defenders. The guy I kept searching for was Chase Young, who had only an assist and half of a TFL against Purdue. There would be a lot less whining about the departure of Nick Bosa if Young were playing like he did in week five against Penn State.

By the way, Purdue didn't play a clean game either. The Boilermakers were flagged for even more yards than the Buckeyes at 95. That gave Ohio State more yards on Purdue penalties than they gained on the ground. But as we learned, it's not how many penalties you are charged with, it's *when* you are charged.

So the question becomes where does Ohio State go from here?

We all raved in the early season about the quality of the Buckeye coaching staff. Good coaches, starting at the top with Meyer, don't become bad coaches overnight. But their inability to fix problems so obvious that your grandmother with the bad eyes can see them is indeed troubling.

The Buckeyes saw firsthand with Purdue that a team can change its fate in a hurry. The Boilermakers started 0-3, including a humiliating defeat at the hands of Eastern Michigan (did the Eagle fans storm the field like fans do when their team beats the Buckeyes?), but turned things around enough to score what may be a program-defining victory over Ohio State.

If the Buckeye can turn things around, they still control their own destiny, and I believe if they run the table, they would qualify for the College Football Playoff. But that's a huge if on turning things around, and given Ohio State's track record the past few games, they are just as likely to lose to Nebraska as run the table. The Boilermakers have given any team down the stretch, even Maryland, a glimmer of hope as far as defeating Ohio State.

I'm hopeful the team can turn things around. But I think everyone has to admit that, as of now at least, there is something very wrong with the Buckeyes.

How Could I Forget?

In this space last issue I recalled some of the sometimes strange losses to Purdue and also noted that even victories sometimes came with difficulty against the Boilermakers.

I somehow failed to recall one of the most dramatic wins for the Buckeyes, not just against Purdue, but in school history – the 10-6 win in 2002 in West Lafayette that preserved Ohio State's march to the national championship.

Because Buckeye fans need something a little positive right now, I'll let the Nov. 16, 2002, issue of BSB tell a story with a happy ending.

"OSU appeared headed toward its first defeat in 11 games this season as it trailed Purdue 6-3 with the clock rolling inside two minutes. Even worse, the Buckeyes were facing a fourth-and-1 at the Purdue 37.

"With the Boilers expecting a run, OSU quarterback Craig Krenzel exploited a mismatch by hurling a 37-yard touchdown pass to Michael Jenkins with just 1:36 to play.

"Then, as the OSU defense held on for dear life, two-way starter Chris Gamble broke back and intercepted a bomb from Purdue quarterback Kyle Orton with just 45 seconds left.

"Championship teams make those kind of plays," lamented Purdue coach Joe Tiller."

The late Tiller correctly predicted Ohio State's ultimate destiny that season.

We will run reprints of stories from that issue of Buckeye Sports Bulletin as part of our Reprint Thursday on our BuckeyeSports.com website on Oct. 25. We will also run reprints from the Oct. 13, 1984, issue of BSB covering the last time that Purdue knocked off a No. 2 Ohio State team in West Lafayette.

Remembering The 1968 Champs

Speaking of reprints, I mentioned last issue that Ohio State's 1968 national championship team has been the most chronicled team in the annals of Buckeye Sports Bulletin. Because of that, we have kind of soft-soled their 50th anniversary this fall.

BSB editor Tim Moody and I got together after the team celebrated this milestone the weekend of the Minnesota game and decided that we should be giving the team, led by the Super Sophs, a little bit more recognition.

Back in 1993, on the team's 25th anniversary, BSB did a special commemorative celebrating the team. We will shortly begin running reprints from that publication on BuckeyeSports.com, and we will run them periodically throughout the remainder of the season leading up to stories on the Rose Bowl from that season on Jan. 1. Remember, BuckeyeSports.com is a free service for all Buckeye Sports Bulletin subscribers.

No BSB The Week Of Oct. 29

There will be no print issue of Buckeye Sports Bulletin the week of Oct. 29, following Ohio State's off week. However, there is no need to miss any of the Buckeye action as the BSB staff will be posting stories daily, along with a question-and-answer session with former Buckeye coach and player Bill Conley on Wednesday, Oct. 31.

Will the loss to Purdue have any effect on Ohio State recruiting? Any breaking news on the recruiting front can be found on BuckeyeSports.com as well, and the conversation on The Forum is sure to be spirited, given the continuing struggles of the Buckeyes.

For simple sign-up instructions for BSB subscribers, see page 5 of this issue or give us a call at (614) 486-2202 if you need assistance.

First-Class Upgrade Just \$12

I have reached out to a higher level of postal officials as I continue to work to correct problems with BSB mail service, especially in the central Ohio area.

In the interim, you can upgrade your delivery to first-class mail in an envelope for \$12 for the remainder of football season or \$22 through football recruiting season. Simply call the number above and we will upgrade you immediately, or send your check or money order to P.O. Box 12453, Columbus, Ohio, 43212 and mention the "Football" or "Recruiting" upgrade.