

Revisiting Ohio State's Previous Five Trips To Minnesota - Part Three



Ohio State begins its season against Minnesota on Thursday. It will be the sixth time the Buckeyes have played the Golden Gophers in Minneapolis since 2000.

To count down the days until kickoff, Buckeye Sports Bulletin will revisit Ohio State's past five road trips to the Twin Cities, detailing each game's defining moments as well as its box scores and statistics.

Game 2 - Sep. 27, 2007

Ohio State 30 - Minnesota 7

The headline: Ohio State Cruises On Day Many Ranked Teams Were Upset

Ohio State (5-0, 2-0) cruised to its fifth win of the season over Minnesota (1-4, 0-2) as running back Chris "Beanie" Wells continues strong start. His 24 carries, 116 yards and two touchdowns carried the Buckeyes to a victory against the struggling Gophers.

Buckeye Sports Bulletin managing editor Mark Rea wrote:

A full half of the country's top 10 ranked teams went down to defeat during the last weekend in September, elevating Ohio State into the upper echelon of the national rankings just five games into what was supposed to be a rebuilding year.

It simply wasn't supposed to happen so quickly. After all, head coach Jim Tressel had lost such star power on offense as Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback Troy Smith, NFL first-round draft choices Ted Ginn Jr. and Anthony Gonzalez and top running back Antonio Pittman, who had put together back-to-back 1,000 yard seasons.

And he was forced to replace three-fourths of his starting defensive line and half the secondary. How quickly could a team that lost so much rebound so quickly?

Ohio State rebounded because it played as a team. After defeating Minnesota, the Buckeyes would win

six of the final seven games of the season. They could have won a national championship against LSU but fell to the Tigers 38-24.

Here's what happened in the game:

Ohio State dominated the beginning of the game, controlling possession and moving the ball down the field with ease. The Buckeyes jumped out to an early lead after Wells scored two touchdowns in the opening quarter. His first score came from 6 yards out, with 6:52 remaining in the first. Wells scored a second time from 4 yards at the end of the quarter.

Ohio State 14 - Minnesota 0

In the middle of the second quarter, Minnesota responded as the Gophers put together a 12-play, 64-yard drive that ended with quarterback Adam Weber finding wide receiver Ralph Spry for a 4-yard touchdown pass.

Ohio State 14 - Minnesota 7

At the end of the half, the Buckeyes found the end zone for the third time. Ohio State quarterback Todd Boeckman connected with wide receiver Brian Robiskie on a 52-yard touchdown pass, capping a 4-play, 98-yard drive that started on the team's goal line.

The Minnesota defense blocked Ryan Pretorius' point-after attempt, so the Buckeyes entered the half with a 13-point lead.

Halftime: Ohio State 20 - Minnesota 7

The Buckeyes started the second half with the football. A long offensive possession ended with Pretorius kicking a 43-yard field goal through the uprights, extending the Ohio State lead to 16 points.

Ohio State 23 - Minnesota 7

Ohio State would score the game's final points via a 19-yard touchdown pass from Boeckman to wide receiver Brian Hartline with 8:59 remaining. Minnesota failed to capitalize on the rest of its offensive possessions, and Tressel directed his team to run out the clock, electing to give Wells and company some extra touches on the ground.

Final: Ohio State 30 - Minnesota 7

Team Statistics (Final)
2007 Ohio State Football

Ohio State vs Minnesota (Sep 29, 2007 at Minneapolis, Minn.)

	OSU	MINN
FIRST DOWNS	24	15
Rushing	13	6
Passing	8	8
Penalty	3	1
NET YARDS RUSHING	250	45
Rushing Attempts	47	29
Average Per Rush	5.3	1.6
Rushing Touchdowns	2	0
Yards Gained Rushing	274	86
Yards Lost Rushing	24	41
NET YARDS PASSING	209	232
Completions-Attempts-Int	18-29-0	27-44-2
Average Per Attempt	7.2	5.3
Average Per Completion	11.6	8.6
Passing Touchdowns	2	1
TOTAL OFFENSE YARDS	459	277
Total offense plays	76	73
Average Gain Per Play	6.0	3.8
Fumbles: Number-Lost	2-1	2-0
Penalties: Number-Yards	5-32	6-60
PUNTS-YARDS	6-236	9-402
Average Yards Per Punt	39.3	44.7
Net Yards Per Punt	38.0	40.3
Inside 20	4	3
50+ Yards	1	2
Touchbacks	0	0
Fair catch	1	1
KICKOFFS-YARDS	6-388	2-129
Average Yards Per Kickoff	64.7	64.5
Net Yards Per Kickoff	41.3	51.5
Touchbacks	0	0
Punt returns: Number-Yards-TD	4-39-0	1-8-0
Average Per Return	9.8	8.0
Kickoff returns: Number-Yds-TD	2-26-0	6-140-0
Average Per Return	13.0	23.3
Interceptions: Number-Yds-TD	2-22-0	0-0-0
Fumble Returns: Number-Yds-TD	0-0-0	0-0-0
Miscellaneous Yards	0	0
Possession Time	31:45	28:15
1st Quarter	7:49	7:11
2nd Quarter	6:00	9:00
3rd Quarter	9:26	5:34
4th Quarter	8:30	6:30
Third-Down Conversions	7 of 16	3 of 16
Fourth-Down Conversions	1 of 2	1 of 2
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	3-3	1-3
Sacks By: Number-Yards	1-9	0-0
PAT Kicks	3-4	1-1
Field Goals	1-1	0-1

Passing leaders:

Todd Boeckman (OSU): 18-29, 209 yards, 2 TDs

Adam Weber (MINN): 27-44, 232 yards, 1 TD

Rushing leaders:

Chris Wells (OSU): 24 car, 116 yards, 2 TDs

Duane, Bennett (MINN): 16 car, 34 yards

Receiving leaders:

Brian Robiskie (OSU): 5 rec, 99 yards, 1 TD

Eric Decker (MINN): 6 rec, 65 yards

Leading tacklers:

James Laurinaitis (OSU): 14 tackles, 6 solo, 8 assists

John Shevlin (MINN): 9 tackles, 5 solo, 4 assists