

Welcome To Week 5: Rutgers



Ohio State's schedule continues in Week Five with a home matchup against the Rutgers Scarlet Knights as the Buckeyes look to move to 5-0 on the season.

The Buckeyes had a dominant win over Wisconsin, 52-21, to begin conference play this past Saturday. The defense allowed just seven first-half points while the offense – led by quarterback C.J. Stroud – found the end zone seven times against the Badgers.

Wisconsin was predicted to offer at least some resistance to Ohio State, but that did not come to fruition. Now, the Buckeyes will look toward Rutgers on their way through the Big Ten.

Check back every Monday at BuckeyeSports.com for a brief preview of the Buckeyes' upcoming opponent, with stories and features throughout the week.

OPPONENT: Rutgers Scarlet Knights

Rutgers got off to a 3-0 start this season – the second time in as many seasons – before dropping a 27-10 game to Iowa this past weekend. The Hawkeyes boast one of the nation's best defenses early in this season, and while the Scarlet Knights found some success in the passing game with 300 yards from quarterback Evan Simon, the rushing attack faltered, going for just 61 yards on 24 carries.

That was a stark contrast from Rutgers' other games this season, which has generally seen the Scarlet Knight signal-callers struggle to move the ball. Rutgers started three different quarterbacks through the first three games of the season, with Simon starting the last two and evidently getting into a groove despite the loss.

Even with the defeat to Iowa, the Scarlet Knight defense is still what they are hanging their hat on this season. Rutgers is allowing just 17.3 points per game (25th) and 56.5 rushing yards per contest, the second-best mark in the nation behind James Madison (26.3 rushing yards per game). The passing defense is a bit looser, giving up 193.0 yards per game, though that still ranks 35th in the country.

GAME INFO: Ohio Stadium, 3:30 p.m., BTN

This will be the first 3:30 p.m. kick of the season for Ohio State. The season-opener against Notre Dame, the Week Three matchup with Toledo and last week's win over Wisconsin all kicked off at night, while the Week Two contest against Arkansas State was a noon kick.

SERIES HISTORY: Since joining the Big Ten in 2014, Rutgers has had a tough go of it, specifically against Ohio State.

The Buckeyes are an unblemished 8-0 against the Scarlet Knights, with the closest margin a 22-point victory in 2020. Overall, the average margin of victory is 42.5 points for Ohio State.

Date	Winner	Score	Location
Oct. 2, 2021	Ohio State	52-13	Piscataway, N.J.
Nov. 7, 2020	Ohio State	49-27	Columbus, Ohio
Nov. 16, 2019	Ohio State	56-21	Piscataway, N.J.
Sept. 8, 2018	Ohio State	52-3	Columbus, Ohio
Sept. 30, 2017	Ohio State	56-0	Piscataway, N.J.
Oct. 1, 2016	Ohio State	58-0	Columbus, Ohio
Oct. 25, 2015	Ohio State	49-7	New Brunswick, N.J.
Oct. 18, 2014	Ohio State	56-17	Columbus, Ohio

Saturday's contest will mark the end of the five-game homestand to begin the season. Next week, the Buckeyes will head on the road to face Michigan State, with a game time yet to be announced.

Date	Opponent	Location	Time/Result
Sept. 3	Notre Dame	Columbus, Ohio	W, 21-10
Sept. 10	Arkansas State	Columbus, Ohio	W, 45-12
Sept. 17	Toledo	Columbus, Ohio	W, 77-21
Sept. 24	Wisconsin	Columbus, Ohio	W, 52-21
Oct. 1	Rutgers	Columbus, Ohio	3:30 p.m., BTN
Oct. 8	Michigan State	East Lansing, Mich.	TBA
Oct. 22	Iowa	Columbus, Ohio	TBA
Oct. 29	Penn State	State College, Pa.	TBA
Nov. 5	Northwestern	Evanston, Ill.	TBA
Nov. 12	Indiana	Columbus, Ohio	TBA
Nov. 19	Maryland	College Park, Md.	TBA
Nov. 26	Michigan	Columbus, Ohio	12 p.m., FOX
Dec. 3	Big Ten Championship Game	Indianapolis, Ind.	8 p.m., FOX