



Spring football is underway in Columbus and the expectations of Ohio State football are the customary ones. As Urban Meyer begins his second season at OSU, the next game he loses will be his first, and the talk of a second consecutive unbeaten season is everywhere. Which is of course, nuts.

The [2013 schedule](#) is manageable, if not embarrassingly soft on paper, but Buckeye fans anticipating 13-0 (counting a B1G title game win) should remind themselves just how difficult it is to pull off an unbeaten season in today's game. The Alabama Crimson Tide, supposedly the greatest assemblage of football talent and coaching prowess since the '72 Dolphins, couldn't manage it in either one of their back to back national championship years.

[One](#) out of 126 FBS programs went undefeated a year ago.

The very fact that Meyer's Buckeyes pulled it off last season makes the prospect of doing it again seem even more distant. Before seriously contemplating a second straight perfect season, think about everything that had to go right for them to do it once. Recall how they had to score on a 4th-down play with three seconds left...with their backup quarterback....against a mediocre Purdue team...at home...and then pull off a two-point conversion.....to tie....and then [win in overtime](#)
...just to get one-twelfth of the way to
[an unbeaten season](#)

Or how about the last-minute onside kick by Indiana that bounced just the right way for Corey Brown to corral it as several Hoosiers surrounded him...one that that might just as easily have

taken a different hop and set up a game-tying field goal and another overtime with [the Hoosiers](#) . A
heart-stopping
[one-point win](#)
over Michigan State...an
[overtime thriller](#)
in Madison....a game-winning bomb to Devin Smith to break a late tie and
[beat Cal](#)
in Columbus...all could have swung the other way on the basis of a play or two. It's hard to go
12-0.

And yet, there are informed people predicting that Meyer and Ohio State will do exactly that...again, and at least get into January without tasting defeat. Whatever happens, along the way this Buckeyes team will discover the answers to several key questions. Here are five of them.

Can a team replace six starters from their front seven and still expect to play defense at a championship level?





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