



The summer solstice has come and gone, and as the days once again grow shorter, the preseason college football magazines return to the newsstands like the buzzards to Hinckley...or something. The experts have put their ratings, rankings and ramblings in print for the record, and we consumers of this trove of information have dutifully pored over them, eager for insights and predictions, but also for mind-numbingly arcane trivia to report to anxious readers. You were anxious, weren't you?

After all, hockey and basketball are over, and baseball is entering the dog days. Before the calendar flips another month, the Buckeyes will be practicing for the 2013 season. All four of the primary college football magazines, *Phil Steele's*, *Lindy's*, *Athlon*, and *Sporting News*, have climbed out on a limb and picked Alabama as the nation's #1 team this fall, but three of the four have the Buckeyes ranked #2...and as such, project OSU into the final BCS Championship Game.

That should get the juices flowing, right? Especially since Urban Meyer hits the field on a 12-game winning streak in Scarlet and Gray. What follows is an attempt to summarize what these four publications have to say about 2013, especially as concerns the Buckeyes and the Big Ten, with a little MAC thrown in on the side. I'll use abbreviations for the four different magazine sources, as necessary, to keep clear who says what. (In order from above...*PS*, *LN*, *AT*, *SN*)



By the way, if you're going to head out to the newsstand yourself, and you want just one magazine that has it all, you can't spend 10 bucks any smarter than to drop it on *Phil Steele's College Football Preview*

. Suffice to say, it's the college football writer's bible. Steele, who is headquartered in Cleveland, has a solid track record of predictions,

*(and is anything but shy in telling you all about it)*

, but what makes his publication stand out above the rest is the wealth of statistical information on each team...going back 5 to 10 years...with individual, team and coaching performance data, organized and easily accessed in a way that is unmatched by his competitors. A lot of what he has to say can be found at

[the website](#)

, but you can't beat holding the 352 pages of densely packed text in your hands.

Without further ado....here's what the CFB experts have to say about 2013...along with some thoughts of my own....

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## Preseason Top Tens





# BIG

