

- *Saturday, August 31, 2013*

- *12:00 p.m. ET*

- *Buffalo at Ohio State*

- *Ohio Stadium, Columbus, Ohio*

- *TV: ESPN2*



Urban Meyer and his Ohio State Buckeyes will put their 12-game winning streak on the line when they kick off the 2013 season Saturday, hosting the Bulls of the University of Buffalo at the Horseshoe. It's customary to look ahead rather than back at this time of year, but that zero in the loss column was the consolation prize for Meyer and the Buckeyes a year ago, and the winning streak is the nation's longest coming into the new season..

The Buckeyes are a 34.5-point favorite to dispose of the [Bulls](#) , a 4-8 team a year ago, although they have improved steadily under 4th-year head coach Jeff Quinn. Without presuming to look past the Bulls in what will be a real live football game, we can still acknowledge that the

opponents this Saturday might as well be the Cows. Because this day is about the unveiling of Urban Meyer's OSU 2.0

Almost, anyway. Starting running back [Carlos Hyde](#) won't be on hand, nor will his first backup [Rod Smith](#)

. All-Big Ten cornerback

[Bradley Roby](#)

will be sitting this one out as well, as all three are suspended for one misdeed or another, (Hyde for three games) None of that should matter too much this week. Running back is probably the team's deepest position group. In fact, everywhere you look there is a talented young player ready to make a name in Scarlet and Gray.

If the past is a reliable guide to the future. Meyer's second Ohio State season will be special. In his second time around at Bowling Green (9-3), Utah (12-0, BCS berth), and Florida (13-1, BCS title) Meyer's teams set new standards of achievement for their respective programs.

At Ohio State of course, he can only match the standard set by others...an undefeated national champion. The opinion of the experts is that Meyer's combination of great talent and a relatively tame schedule gives him a decent shot at pulling it off, and the preseason No. 2 ranking reflects that assessment.

The best part is we can finally stop talking about it, and start witnessing it.

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State of the Bucks

A quick look at who's starting for the Buckeyes...and who you might expect to see off the bench...

Offense:



**QB** - [Braxton Miller](#) is this team's offensive leader and most irreplaceable player, as well as the focus of every opponent's defensive game plan. Backup [Kenny Guiton](#) could see action as well, even if the lead never reaches four touchdowns.

**RB** - 5th-year senior [Jordan Hall](#) gets the nod as the starter, but several backs will see action. Practice reports on redshirt freshman [Warren Ball](#) have been very good, and he'll be on the field early. [Bri'onte Dunn](#) and freshman [Ezekiel Elliott](#) are both expected to play as well.

**TE** - [Jeff Heuerman](#) and [Nick Vannett](#) are as good a 1-2 tight end combo as there is in the country, according to their position coach Tim Hinton. Freshman

[Marcus Baugh](#)

got in some trouble this summer and didn't appear on the Week One depth chart, but he'll be a force as the year goes along.

**OL** - The starting unit is a strength of the team, with four returning senior starters with 81 combined career starts. Left to right; [Jack Mewhort](#) , [Andrew Norwell](#) , [Corey Linsley](#) , [Marcus Hall](#)

, and the one newcomer, freshman right tackle

[Taylor Decker](#)

. The continued good health of these five young men is vital to the team's chances for a championship of any kind. There are still depth issues here.

**WR** - A wealth of incoming talent has pushed the returning veteran receivers to step up in their starting roles. Senior [Corey Brown](#) , and juniors [Devin Smith](#) and [Evan Spencer](#) are expected to start, with another senior,

[Chris Fields](#)

getting the nod at the H-back spot (where Jordan Hall was slotted until he was pressed into service at running back). Everyone is anxious to see freshman sensation

[Dontre Wilson](#)

(#1) and that could happen right at noon, as he's listed as a starter on kickoff returns.

Sophomore

[Michael Thomas](#)

and freshmen

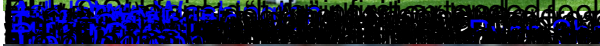
[Jalin Marshall](#)

and

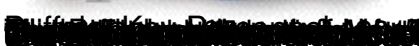
[James Clark](#)

are all expected to see the field in the receiver rotation.

Defense:



## Quinn's findings





[2019-2020 Review](#)  
[Beginner's Guide to Football Resources](#)