

- *Saturday, October 19, 2013*

- *Ohio Stadium - Columbus, Ohio*

- *Iowa at Ohio State*

- *3:30 p.m. ET*

- *TV: ABC -*



The second half of the regular season begins Saturday as the 6-0 Buckeyes host the Iowa Hawkeyes for Homecoming in Columbus. Ohio State comes off a bye week and into a stretch of five straight games against some of the lesser lights of the Big Ten before they head to Ann Arbor (*okay, six straight*). OSU is meeting the Hawkeyes for the first time since 2010, and has won 13 of the last 14 contests between these programs.

Next comes the obligatory weekly line about Ohio State's winning streak under Urban Meyer, now at 18 straight, as the nation's longest. And really, the zero on that side of the ledger is the

overriding story of this game for No. 3 Ohio State...and will be for the next month of games unless and until it goes away. Meyer appears to join the rest of the nation in its collective yawn at the Buckeyes 18-0 start on his watch, saying all the right things about keeping the focus on today, and on this week's opponent.



[Iowa](#) (4-2) ran off four straight wins after losing their opener to Northern Illinois, the best win in that streak a 27-21 road victory over rival Iowa State. But they were taken down a peg by Michigan State last week in a 26-14 loss. The Hawkeyes defense is stout, especially against the run, as they are the only team in the nation yet to allow a rushing touchdown. I'll go out on a limb here and predict that Carlos Hyde or Braxton Miller will put an end to that before halftime Saturday.

Kirk Ferentz is now the dean of Big Ten coaches, in his 15th year in Iowa City. After winning Coach of the Year honors in the conference in 2009, the Hawkeyes went 19-19 over three seasons coming in to 2013, and they slumped to 4-8 a year ago. This is the second meeting between Ferentz and Meyer. The first was a 31-24 win for Meyer's Florida Gators in the 2006 Outback Bowl. OSU leads the all-time series 46-14-3, including 27-8-1 when the Hawkeyes visit Columbus.

State of the Bucks



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