



Ohio State's 24-game winning streak came to an end against the Michigan State Spartans in the Big Ten Championship Game Saturday night, and along with it went their national title aspirations and a little bit of the Urban Meyer mystique. The Buckeyes dug themselves out of an early 17-0 hole to take a 3rd quarter lead of 24-17, but in the end were done in by the inability of their defense to slow down the Spartans' passing attack. Michigan State came back in the 4th quarter with the game's final 14 points to earn a 34-24 victory and their first Rose Bowl trip since 1988.

After they fell behind 27-24 early in the 4th quarter, the Buckeyes twice failed to capitalize on great field position following a failed onside kick and a blocked punt. The most prolific offense in Ohio State history did not register a first down in the final quarter, as the Spartans' defense stepped up when it mattered. A jarring hit broke up a 3rd down catch by OSU receiver Evan Spencer to force a punt on their first possession of the quarter, and then MSU linebacker Denicos Allen stopped Braxton Miller on a 4th and 2 run at the MSU 40, with under six minutes to play.

"It was my call," said Meyer after the game. "I wanted to put the ball in the hands of our best player. I knew they'd pressure us. Thought he might be able to come out the other end of it. That's why. It was a chance to go try to win the game." In the winning locker room, MSU head coach Mark Dantonio said the Spartan coaches guessed right. "We knew that on fourth down they were going to put it in Braxton Miller's hands and give him a run-pass option or sweep right or left with him. That's what they did."



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