

- Friday, January 3, 2014

- Sun Life Stadium - Miami Gardens, FL

- The Orange Bowl - Clemson vs Ohio State

- 8:30 p.m. ET

- TV: ESPN -



The Bowl Championship Series continues its curtain call Friday night in Miami as the 10-2 Clemson Tigers face off against the 12-1 Ohio State Buckeyes in the [Orange Bowl Game](#) . Urban Meyer and his Buckeyes were a play or two away from a Monday night date instead, but now find themselves in a pretty fair consolation prize. They landed a coveted BCS game berth, with the prime-time spotlight all to themselves Friday night...not to mention a nice trip to Florida.

Playing the second most important bowl game involving a Big Ten team was not what this Ohio State group had in mind after winning 24 straight games over two years, but it does give us our first chance to see how Meyer and his charges come back after a loss. Michigan State's Rose Bowl victory relieves somewhat the burden Ohio State so often carries into the bowl season...that of proving the respectability of the Big Ten football brand.

In this the last year of the BCS system, Ohio State will wind up with more appearances than any other school. This is the 10th BCS game for the Buckeyes, (Oklahoma is second with nine) and they carry a 6-3 mark into this Orange Bowl matchup, including a 1-2 mark in championship games. The Bucks will be trying to achieve the unprecedented BCS "Slam", having previously won BCS games in the Rose, Sugar and Fiesta Bowls.



The 12th-ranked [Clemson Tigers](#) of Dabo Swinney (6th year, 50-23) should prove a stiff test for the Buckeyes, having lost just two games this season, both to teams in the top ten. They were throttled by No. 1 Florida State 51-14 after a 6-0 start to [the 2013 campaign](#), and then fell to No. 9 South Carolina 31-17, in their final regular season game. They have played Ohio State just once before, a Tiger victory in the 1978 Gator Bowl. No doubt you've seen [some file footage](#) this week of one of that game's last plays.

In many ways, the pressure is off the Buckeyes for the first time since the Michigan game a year ago, when they could sit back and enjoy 12-0 without a bowl game invitation. One of the big questions in the lead-up to this contest is how much the Buckeyes want to be here. In fact, it may take everything Meyer can do to keep his players focused on beating the Clemson Tigers rather than on all the other issues swirling around this football team right now.

State of the Bucks - [\(2013 Individual Statistics\)](#)



(2013 Individual Statistics)





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