

Well Buckeye fans, our worst nightmares came true. And for the second straight year, Ohio State was dominated in the BCS Title Game by a school from the SEC as the LSU Tigers came back from a 10-0 deficit to beat the Buckeyes by a 38-24 count. Brian McPeck saddled up to knock out a live running game diary for all you masochists out there. How long 'till pitchers and catchers report?



The BCS Championship Game is finally upon us. And by upon us I mean 5 hours away.

So I'm wondering, because I haven't heard it addressed anywhere yet, anyone know if one of these conferences has any distinct speed advantage over the other?

Time to fire up the running diary. You know it's a big event when [theclevelandfan.com](http://theclevelandfan.com) rolls out this bad boy.

**315pm-** College Football Live hosts Rece Davis and Jesse Palmer are debating whether the hats worn by Les Miles or the sweater vests worn by Jim Tressel are an indication of how the game will play out. 51 days of this crap is worse than water torture.

**322pm**- Shelly Smith reports the LSU squad watched '300' last night until about midnight and woke up at 10am this morning. I wonder how many beers, babes and police officers Tiger QB Ryan Perrilloux hit in the hours in between.

**330pm**- Jesse Palmer predicts a 'great match up' and an LSU victory based on the fact the game is essentially a home game for the Tigers. What conference did Jesse play out of again?

**359pm**- Fans of one team or the other will want to dial into [this](#) after the game. God only knows what kind of things you'll see.

**540pm**- If the football game is half as entertaining as this live Roger Clemens press conference on ESPN I am going to be thrilled. At least Clemens's attorney doesn't seem too slippery or devious.

**630pm**- The participants are gathering. Not in the Super Dome, but right here in the living room for the weekly game of T-R-O-U-B-L-E with the kids. No quarter asked and none given. We do this weekly not to build a sense of family but because it gets dark too early to take these kids into the paintball woods and truly show them how merciless they need to be to survive. The youngest girl still is hesitant about being mean and underhanded. But the middle girl is perfecting it.

**750pm**- Fresh off a board game victory I've got the kids in the pajamas and all the required supplies: Nyquil, Advil, Sudafed and ginger ale. Hopefully the flu is the only thing making me ill this evening.

**750pm**- I tune back in to ESPN just in time to see Clevelander Desmond Howard predict an LSU victory. Where did he go to college? Shut up Erkel. Obviously Lee Corso is the only sane man on the ESPN crew. He donned the Brutus mask and made the right call.

**810pm**- This rendition of the anthem may last longer than 'Dark Angel' did on Fox.

**813pm**- My keys; Todd Boeckman has to be kept comfortable and has to keep LSU honest. If Boeckman is ineffective, Chris Wells is going to have a tough time of it. And the Bucks need to make LSU QB Matt Flynn uncomfortable all night in whatever manner needed. Whether it is a surge up front, with LBs blitzing or sending guys off the corners, Flynn needs to feel the heat. As always, turnovers are death to either squad.

**817pm**- LSU looked so much faster than OSU running onto the field. Just kidding.

**822pm**- It strikes me after watching my alma mater, BGSU, lose 63-7 to Tulsa that anything less demeaning than a loss like that probably won't hurt too bad. Makes 41-14 look a lot closer.

**823pm**- Coin toss. I always, always choose heads. Tails. I lose, LSU wins and they will defer.

## **1<sup>st</sup> Quarter**

**827pm**- We're underway. And Boeckman gets stomped as he attempts his first throw. He does recover to hit Bran Robiskie with a 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5 throw for an OSU first down.

**830pm-** I'm not gonna lie, Chris Wells looked fast enough on a 65yd TD run through the heart of the LSU defense. The world's oldest South African place-kicker, Ryan Pretorious, adds the extra point and they're bummed on the Bayou. 7-0 OSU.

That was a nice drive. Boeckman makes a big throw and Wells gashes the Tigers for 70 yards in the series.

**835pm-** LSU takes over on their 20yd line after a touchback on the kick.

**836pm-** On 3<sup>rd</sup> and 7 Flynn watches the snap from center go right by him for a 17yd loss. Bucks get the ball back near their 40yd line after a fine LSU punt. Make hay while the sun shines boys. LSU is battling a severe case of nerves offensively and may be reeling a bit defensively right now too.

**840pm**- Yeah, just like that. A 45yd throw and catch to Brandon Saine to the LSU 15yd line. Saine is SEC fast.

**843pm**- The Buckeye drive fizzles after a false start penalty on Steve Rehring but Pretorious adds 3 points to the Buckeye side with a 30yd field goal. 10-0 OSU. This is going well, no?

**847pm**- Aaron Pettrey gets his second touchback of the first quarter and LSU is again at their 20yd line.

**852pm**- LSU is putting together a nice answer to the early OSU drives. Mixing the runs of Jacob Hester and some throws to Early Doucet the Tigers are at the OSU 12yd line. And there hasn't been much defensive resistance thus far. Hester is a monster folks. He doesn't ever fall where he's

hit and it'd be wise to have more than one guy hit him.

Looking forward to the 3 hour halftime show so I can sleep, re-hydrate and self-medicate. I wouldn't wish this flu on Rich Rodriguez.

**859pm**- Vernon Gholston gets great pressure on Flynn on 3<sup>rd</sup> and long and LSU is resigned to take the field goal. 10-3 Buckeyes as the defense stiffened mightily inside their own 15yd line.

**901pm**- Maurice Wells returns the LSU kick to the OSU 27yd line with 2:15 left in the quarter.

**903pm**- Chris Wells has 5 carries for 87yds thus far and is getting 5yds per carry when he's not taking it 65yds for a score. Big10 strong and SEC fast? Did Mark May account for that?

**905pm**- Bucks will punt it away after picking up one first down but nothing more. LSU fumbles the punt but gets it back in the scrum afterward. That would have been extremely large.

End of the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter and OSU has a 10-3 lead.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter**

**911pm-** Anderson Russell. Meet Jacob Hester. Enjoy the headache. Hester picks up 5yds and a first down through Russell.

**913pm-** Flynn beats a Buckeye blitz for 20+ yards and a facemask tacked onto the end of the play (the 2<sup>nd</sup> unsportsmanlike penalty in 3 plays) takes the Tigers deep into OSU territory. They score on the next play courtesy of a quick count TD pass from Flynn to Richard Dickson.

So much for momentum. We're even at 10-10.

**919pm-** Wow. Chris Wells just planted CB Chevis Jackson with a stiff arm on a huge gain. He's over a 100yds on the night and Boeckman hits Robiskie for another chunk of yardage.

**921pm-** Another personal foul sets the Buckeyes back to the

LSU 45 after they had reached the LSU 30yd line. Boeckman gets a bunch back with a throw to Saine. Robiskie has a home run ball knocked away by Jackson and we're set up with an OSU 4<sup>th</sup>

and 3. Interesting decision here. Time to think about it since LSU safety Craig Stelz is hurt.

**926pm-** Buckeyes choose to go the field goal route and watch Pretorious have it blocked

setting up LSU at their own 34yd line. Momentum is clearly on the LSU sideline right now. I've never trusted 28 yr-old, junior, South African divorcees when a title is on the line.

**930pm-** LSU is driving again. Nice mix of runs and passes to inside the Buckeye 15yd line. Dare I say it, but Jacob Hester is very much a Big10 style runner and player. And the

Buckeye defense could use a break and a sustained drive by the offense.

**933pm-** LSU has a 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5 from the 10yd line when Flynn rolls left and throws a beautiful ball to Brandon LaFell in the end zone. 17-10 LSU after the PAT and LSU has withstood the early Buckeye punches and delivered a few of their own.

This is one of those gut-check times you hear about. The Buckeyes need to answer and they need to settle in and quit stepping on their own feet with penalties. Throw in a cliché of your own.

Thom Brenneman tells us this is a very important drive for OSU. But I already told you that.

**939pm-** Uh oh. Boeckman lofts a ball for Small that's intercepted by Chevis Jackson and returned to the Buckeye 25yd line. Two plays later and the Tigers are at the 2yd line, first and goal.

**945pm-** Hester rams it in from a yard out on 3<sup>rd</sup> and goal and the Tigers have hung 24 unanswered on the

Buckeyes. 24-10 and pundits across the country are smugly nodding their heads.

**950pm-** Buckeye receivers are getting no separation from LSU DBs despite facing mostly man coverage. That will need to change if OSU hopes to get back in the ballgame. Boeckman loses 15 yards and the

football when he takes way too much time in the pocket. Rehring falls on the ball for OSU. The Bucks are forced to punt a play later as we hit the 1-minute mark in the first half. Did I mention LSU gets the 2<sup>nd</sup> half kickoff?

**955pm-** LSU is content to run out the last minute and

head to the locker room up  
24-10. the Buckeyes need  
a stop to start the 2<sup>n</sup>  
d

half and they need to  
reassert their running  
game to get back in this  
football game.

Time for a Nyquil shot  
and a shower. The bowls

allow for that kind of  
halftime luxury.

**1010pm-** Great. Not only  
are the Tigers of LSU  
peeing on my BCS  
parade but one of the  
family kittens decided to  
crap on the bath mat. The  
symbolism is jarring.

The good news at half-time is that OSU's Josh Huston out kicked LSU's David Browndyke in the alumni kicker challenge for a 100k OSU scholarship check. So we have that to hold over the head of the weak-legged SEC.

**1017pm- What the hell is JaMarcus Russell wearing in his interview with Chris Meyers? Did he kill an African tribal leader?**

**Couldn't agree with Urban Meyer more. The first LSU drive is critical**

coming up. The Buckeyes can suck it up and claw back into the game or they can travel back in time a year to Glendale, AZ and listen to the brow beating for another season.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter**

**1025pm- LSU starts again at its own 20yd line after Pettrey's 3rd**

**touchback. Just your basic 30-minute half time. Tell you in a few minutes if I wish it had been longer.**

**1030pm- LSU is spreading the Buckeyes out, content to run the ball and some clock. They're finding some success as well as they cross midfield.**

**1033pm- LSU is forced to call a timeout after Flynn is called for intentional grounding. It's 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**and 23 after the penalty and the Buckeyes, obviously, need this stop.**

And they get the stop  
as Flynn s forced to  
throw a short pass  
into the turf.

**1035pm-** The  
Buckeyes shoot  
themselves again as

they rough the punter and give LSU the ball right back. On the first play after that, Cameron Heyward is whistled for another personal foul. What the Buckeyes are lacking in ability they're more than

making up for with  
their lack of poise.

**1039pm-** LSU is  
down to the OSU 3yd  
line with a 1<sup>st</sup>  
and goal and this one  
has slipped away.

Literally so as 2  
Buckeyes let Doucet  
out of a tackle for  
loss and he walks  
into the end zone for  
a huge 31-10 lead  
after the Buckeyes  
had apparently  
stopped the Tigers at  
midfield.

This is déjà vu all  
over again. Just with  
Thera-Flu and  
Nyquil instead of Jim  
Beam and  
Jagermeister.

**1047pm- The**

Buckeyes can get nothing going against the LSU defense after picking up a first down near midfield and they punt it back to the Tigers. Hopefully the clock is set to SEC speed and this

game moves quickly  
and quietly toward  
its inglorious end.

**1053pm- LSU**  
slowly and steadily  
gets out of the  
shadow of their own

goal. Hester is  
chewing up would  
be tacklers, yards  
and time.

**1055pm-** Wait just a  
second. Malcolm  
Jenkins intercepts a

bad Flynn throw and returns it to the LSU 11yd line. That was about the only hope the Buckeyes had and LSU obliged. There's a gleam.

**1057pm- On a 4<sup>th</sup>  
and 5 from the 6yd  
line Boeckman hits  
Robiskie for the  
score and the PAT  
makes it 31-17 LSU.**

That was a huge lift for this OSU team. Only a LSU mistake was going to stop LSU. Now the Buckeyes, with a couple minutes remaining in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, have

incentive to make  
another stop. And  
I'll be shocked if  
LSU throws the ball  
much more the rest  
of the way what  
with Hester picking  
up 6 or 7 yards  
every time he

touches it.

**1102pm-** The Buckeyes are fired up as LSU starts from heir 30yd line. Flynn gets cracked

on a keeper and  
Doucet picks up  
just 4 on an end  
around. Big 3  
rd

down play coming  
up as we reach the  
4  
th

quarter.

**4<sup>th</sup> Quarter**

**1106pm- Too early for a 'play of the game' call, but this is close. Flynn is flushed and gets 4 of the 6 yards he needed. LSU**

has a 4<sup>th</sup>  
and two and  
kicks it away. It  
reaches the end  
zone and the  
Buckeyes have  
the ball and  
some hope at

their own 20yd  
line.

Fevers are fun.  
I'm sweating  
through my

fourth shirt of  
the night. I'm  
actually  
convinced  
JaMarcus  
Russell's  
wardrobe was a  
fever-induced

hallucination. It's  
the only  
reasonable  
explanation.  
Unless he's  
going to a  
'Coming to  
America' cast

party after the  
game.

My God. Bran  
Hartline has a  
huge number of

marijuana  
leaves on his  
helmet. I never  
noticed that  
before watching  
an OSU game  
sick.

**1112pm-**  
**Boeckman and**  
**the Buckeyes**  
**are moving the**  
**football (despite**  
**delivering a**  
**couple of balls**  
**that actually**

knuckled). Ohio State is looking at a 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5 inside the Tigers 40yd line.

**1114pm-**  
**Boeckman**  
**takes a sack**  
**and this may be**  
**the ballgame**  
**with a 4**  
**th**

and 7 play  
upcoming. The  
OSU receivers  
are simply  
failing to get  
open and  
Boeckman is

bailing at the  
first sign of  
pressure. Not a  
good  
combination.  
Boeckman calls  
a time out to

talk about it.

1119pm-  
Apparently  
Boeckman was

told to bail out  
after his  
receivers  
couldn't get  
open again, get  
chased and  
fumble as he

threw. Because  
that's what he  
did. And LSU  
recovered the  
fumble and  
took it down to  
the OSU 45yd

line.

1123pm-

Hester will run  
clock with 10

minutes left. He  
gets 3 on 1  
st

down and 3 on  
2  
nd

down.

1124pm-  
Heyward  
knocks down a  
short, safe  
Flynn pass to  
make it 4  
th

and 4 to go  
from the 41 yd  
line.

**1125pm- LSU**

punts, it's a touchback and the Buckeyes start from their own 20 again. They also need to decide

whether Wells  
running is a  
better option  
than  
Boeckman  
throwing on  
this drive. It's

just the  
season in the  
balance.

Unfortunately  
the ticking  
clock may  
answer that

question for  
them.

**1130pm- The  
Bucks face a 4**

th

and 1 from

their own 29

and Wells gets

a yard.

Nothing wrong

with a sense of

urgency here  
Mr. Tressel.

1132pm-  
Boeckman

fumbles for

the 38

th

time tonight

but falls on it

himself.

Tick...tick...tick

. After another  
incompletion  
its 3  
rd  
and 15 to go.  
5:50 remains  
in the

ballgame.

1134pm-  
Boeckman  
gets some

rare time to  
throw and  
sails a ball  
over Hartline's  
head that's  
intercepted.

Those who  
need to be up  
for work in the  
morning are  
hereby  
dismissed.

1137pm- LSU  
has a 4  
th  
and 1 to ice  
this game  
away.

Consider it  
iced as Flynn  
keeps it  
himself for the  
1  
st

down.

For as much  
as Jim

Tressel is  
renowned for  
his love of the  
kicking game,  
it's worth  
noting that

this game  
ultimately  
turned on two  
special teams  
plays. The  
first was the

blocked field  
goal when  
the score was  
10-10. That  
changed  
momentum

and the  
shape of the  
game. The  
second was  
the roughing  
the kicker call

on the Tigers  
first drive of  
the second  
half.

**1140pm-**  
**LSU is inside**  
**the Buckeye**  
**10 yard line.**  
**The OSU**  
**defense must**

have to get  
up for work  
tomorrow  
because they  
have left the  
building. Two

minutes  
remain.

James

Laurinaitis  
has 18  
tackles  
tonight.  
Unfortunately  
most were 8

yards down  
field.

1142pm-

LSU scores  
the 'Rub it in  
the Face' TD  
on a pass to  
a wide-open  
tight end.

38-17 LSU.

Flynn has  
had it (or  
made it look)  
easy tonight.  
4 TD passes

and very little  
duress.

The

Buckeyes  
have earned  
whatever  
criticism  
awaits them  
after tonight.

They weren't  
beaten by a  
faster team,  
just a better  
one. One that  
was more

poised and  
disciplined,  
one that beat  
them on both  
sides of the  
ball and in

the kicking  
game.

Yes, it was a

rebuilding  
year for the  
Buckeyes.

But when you  
don't show up  
to the biggest

game of the  
year two  
years in a  
row, you reap  
what you  
sow.

1145pm-  
OSU is deep  
in LSU  
territory after  
a pass  
interference

call and a  
couple  
gimme  
throws  
against an  
LSU prevent

defense.

1149pm- The  
Buckeyes get

in the end  
zone with  
1:13 left on a  
Boeckman to  
Hartline TD  
pass. 38-24

**LSU.**

**1151pm- The  
onside kick**

fails and the  
Tigers run out  
the last  
minute. Final  
score is LSU  
38 OSU 24.

And it really  
wasn't that  
close.

1154pm-  
Mercifully,

this one  
ends. And  
before 1am  
too. Time to  
go to a  
double dose

of Nyquil and  
await the  
onslaught of  
inevitable  
national  
media 'I told

ya so's'  
tomorrow.

Thanks for

taking the  
time to read.