



- *Saturday, November 13, 2010*

- *Ohio Stadium, Columbus, Ohio*

- *Penn State at Ohio State*

- *3:30 p.m. (ET)*

- TV: ABC / ESPN -

Ohio State grabbed a breather at the three-quarter pole, and now heads down the home stretch of the season still having a shot at their sixth straight Big Ten title. November has been good to the Buckeyes, but when they host Penn State Saturday, they'll be trying to avenge the only blemish on Jim Tressel's 14-1 November mark over the last five seasons.

Joe Paterno's Nittany Lions knocked off Ohio State and their freshman quarterback Terrelle Pryor back in 2008 on their way to a share of the league championship, [a loss](#) Pryor took hard at the time, and one he still has on his mind. He got a measure of revenge last year, when the Buckeyes went to Happy Valley and manhandled the Nittany Lions [24-7](#), as Pryor starred in his first game back in his home state.

This year the tables are turned, and it's [Penn State](#) (6-3, 3-2) faced with trying to win with a first-year quarterback. And that's not the only position where this Penn State group is green. The Nittany Lions have had a hard time scoring points in Columbus ever since they joined the Big Ten, and the Buckeye defense has had two weeks to get healthy. The oddsmakers like Ohio State (8-1, 4-1) by more than two touchdowns.

Paterno got victory No. 400 out of the way last week, and has been the subject of a much-deserved week of retrospective tributes in the media. His own active involvement with the team on game day has been curtailed the last couple years, but he and his staff have the Lions playing well at the moment, and they arrive in town on a three-game winning streak, just one game back of the four co-leaders in the conference.

In the all-time series between the schools, Ohio State leads 13-12. The Buckeyes are 8-6 against Penn State in Columbus, and they are 6-3 against the Nittany Lions under Jim Tressel.

The 2008 win by Penn State was the Lions' first win in Columbus since they joined the conference in 1990.

Offense Clicking for PSU, But it's Columbus...

The Penn State coaches have apparently settled on a quarterback in Matt McGloin, after the sophomore led their comeback from a 21-0 deficit to a 35-21 win over Northwestern last week. Young McGloin threw for four touchdowns against the Wildcats, but he'll be up against all recent history trying to score through the air against the OSU defense Saturday. Consider...

There have been eight games between these two teams in Columbus since Penn State joined the Big Ten twenty years ago, and Ohio State has not allowed a touchdown pass in any of them. In fact, Penn State has not thrown a TD pass against the Buckeyes *anywhere* since 2003.

The Nittany Lions have scored a total of six touchdowns in those eight games at the Horseshoe, scoring more than ten points just once, the 13 total that beat OSU two years ago. Many of those games have been close, but this year's PSU defense doesn't resemble some of Paterno's better ones of the decade.

I don't think I'm out on a limb saying the Nittany Lions will have to double or triple the *eight points per game* they've averaged in Columbus as members of the Big Ten if they're going to have a chance on Saturday.
Eight.

