



- *Saturday, September 24, 2011*
- *Ohio Stadium - Columbus, Ohio*
- *3:30 p.m. (ET)*
- *TV: ABC (Regional) ; ESPN2 -*

The Colorado Buffaloes come to Columbus Saturday for a game with the Buckeyes that was scheduled on the fly just a year ago, but now has added meaning, as it presents several more “firsts” for an Ohio State team playing a season full of them. To name a few....

- It's the first time this season, (and the first time in 11 months, since Wisconsin on 10/16/10) that the Buckeyes (2-1) are preparing to play a game coming off a loss. How Luke Fickell and his charges respond to their first taste of failure could have important consequences for the team's state of mind, and for Fickell's coaching future, here or elsewhere.
- It's the first time since 2004 that Ohio State finds itself looking up at the nation's Top 25 from the outside. Their chances of rejoining that group this season will be largely determined by the results of the next three Saturdays, and a strong rebound against the Buffaloes is absolutely necessary to generate momentum toward dates with Michigan State and Nebraska.
- It will be the first career start for freshman quarterback Braxton Miller, who was named the starter by Fickell on Thursday. An OSU offense that had been flying too close to the ground in the first two games finally crashed and burned against Miami last week, and Fickell had little choice but to make the change and try to jumpstart the future, come what may. We'll refrain from capitalizing the word "era" after Miller's name...at least until he starts consecutive games.

Setting the Stage

This will be the fifth meeting between the two schools, with the Buckeyes on a three game win streak since losing the first game in the series, a 20-14 defeat in Columbus in 1971. Ohio State beat the Buffaloes 27-10 in the [1977 Orange Bowl](#), and then took both ends of a home-and-home series in 1985-86, winning 36-13 in Boulder in '85, and 13-10 the following year in Columbus.

[Colorado](#) visits the Horseshoe on an active streak of 18 consecutive road losses, a school record. They opened the season with [a loss at Hawaii](#), and then fell to Cal [36-33 in overtime](#) before bouncing back to [beat Colorado State 28-14](#) last week on a neutral field in Denver.

This meeting with OSU resulted from the NCAA's policy of allowing teams that travel to Hawaii to schedule a 13th game to help cover the travel expense of the trip to the islands. Ohio State was looking to fill an open home date, and Colorado agreed to fill it, contingent on getting a national TV audience and a pay day of \$1.4 million from OSU for their trouble. Based on the \$850,000 Akron took home two weeks ago, Colorado received about a half million more than the going rate these days for an OSU non-conference opponent. It also marks the first time since 2006 that Ohio State will play two non-conference games against teams from BCS conferences (Miami).

Buffaloes Wing It



OSU Central @Improbables (pdf) <https://www.theozone.net/2016/09/13/osu-central-at-improbables/> Dan Harker - The Ozone.net