

Ohio State Falls to Wisconsin, 24-13

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COLUMBUS, Ohio - Ohio State (3-2; 0-2 Big Ten) lost to Wisconsin (6-0; 3-0 Big Ten), 24-13, in front of 105,090 fans at Ohio Stadium, the fifth-largest crowd in stadium history. The Badger victory snapped an 18-game Buckeye home win streak, dating back to a 34-22 loss vs. Illinois Nov. 17, 2001. Ohio State's Mike Nugent tied a personal and stadium-long record with a 55-yard field goal as time ran out in the first half. It was Nugent's second field goal of the game and 60th career FG, which moves him past Dan Stultz into the top spot for career FGs made by a Buckeye.

Leading by one point at the half, Wisconsin came out of the locker room and marched 72 yards on its opening possession of the third quarter before Mike Allen made good on a 26-yard field goal try to take a 17-13 lead with 8:43 to play in the third.

Wisconsin sat on the four-point lead into the fourth quarter before it was able to deliver the knock-out punch, recovering a fumbled punt return at the OSU 17-yard line. Santonio Holmes could not hang onto the ball and Scott Starks recovered. Three plays later Stocco hit a diving Jonathan Orr in the left corner of the north end zone to give the Badgers a 24-13 lead with 10:41 to play in the game. The Badgers were able to run out the remainder of the clock and secure its third Big Ten victory of the year.

Freshman Ted Ginn Jr., returned a punt 65 yards for a touchdown giving Ohio State an early 7-0 lead with 8:33 to play in the first quarter. Donte Whitner tackled Brandon Williams after a 3-yard reception on the third-down pass play at the UW 16-yard line forcing Ken DeBauche to punt facing fourth-and-5. Whitner was the last freshman to return a punt for the Buckeyes, doing so last season in the 19-10 win against Iowa when he fell on a blocked punt in the end zone.

Nugent converted on his 59th career

field goal with 11:34 to play in the second quarter to build the Buckeye lead to 10-0. Nugent tied Stultz's school record from a distance of 42 yards. The play was set up on a 43-yard run down the left sideline on a draw play by Antonio Pittman, getting the Buckeyes to their own 29-yardline. After getting four more yards, Ohio State went to Nugent for the kick.

Wisconsin answered that score with a five-play, 54-yard drive that saw Anthony Davis go 31 yards for the touchdown and pull the Badgers within three, 10-7. Williams gave Wisconsin good starting field position taking the ball in the end zone and returning it 46 yards.

The Badgers took a 14-10 lead when Stocco hit Darrin Charles on an 8-yard pass deep in the right corner of the end zone with 3:30 to play in the first half. Wisconsin moved the ball 78 yards in seven plays, highlighted by a 31-yard Stocco pass to Owen Daniels that moved the Badgers down to the OSU 26.

Nugent kicked a 55-yard field goal as time expired in the first half to pull the Buckeyes within a 14-13 score. The field goal tied his career best and was his 60th career make, setting the school record.

In the first half, Ohio State had the slight edge in total yards, out-gaining Wisconsin 175-151. The Buckeyes had 102 yards on the ground and 73 yards through the air and held the Badgers to 48 yards on the ground, forcing them to pass for 103 yards.

Wisconsin's Davis tallied 39 rushes for 168 yards for the game. The Badgers time of possession was 36:29 compared to Ohio State's 23:31 and UW had 344 yards total offense compared to Ohio State's 224. The Buckeyes threw for 125 yards compared to Wisconsin's 160 and OSU rushed for 99 yards vs. UW's 184.

Ohio State will travel to meet the Iowa Hawkeyes next Saturday in Iowa City, Iowa. ABC Sports will televise the game at 3:30 p.m.