

Ohio State Wins Fifth Consecutive Big Ten Title in Overtime Ohio State 27, Iowa 24

ohiostatebuckeyes.com

November 14, 2009

COLUMBUS, Ohio - An Ohio State walk-on punched the Buckeyes' ticket to Pasadena.

In overtime, junior placekicker Devin Barclay sent a 39-yard field goal through the uprights to help the Buckeyes clinch at least a share of the 2009 Big Ten championship with a 27-24 overtime win in Ohio Stadium. With the victory, Ohio State earns its first trip to the Rose Bowl since the 1996 campaign.

"On behalf of all our guys and coaches that play so hard and our seniors and fans, we are so excited and proud to represent Ohio State in the Rose Bowl as best we can," Ohio State head coach Jim Tressel, who heads to his first Rose Bowl at the helm of the Buckeyes, said.

Led by two seniors in their final home game at the 'Shoe, the Ohio State defense dominated the Hawkeyes to begin the overtime. After Doug Worthington sacked freshman quarterback James Vandenberg for 10 yards on third and long, free safety Anderson Russell picked off a deep pass in the end zone for a touchback.

The defensive stop would then set up the game-winning field goal.

An exciting fourth quarter went back and fourth on both sides of the ball. Ohio State running backs Dan Herron and Brandon Saine scored the two fourth-quarter touchdowns for the Buckeyes.

At 13:03 in the final quarter of regulation, Herron stretched the right side of the field, sweeping into the end zone for an 11-yard run to put Ohio State on top 17-10. Less than two minutes later, Saine broke open down the left sideline and sprinted 49 yards,

making the score 24-10.

The second Buckeye touchdown was set up after Vandenberg threw his second interception of the game. The pass was picked off by linebacker Ross Homan over the middle of the field with 11:11 remaining.

Iowa answered right back with two touchdowns of its own. The score became 24-17 when Hawkeye kick returner Derrell Johnson-Koulianos went 99-yards claiming the fourth longest kickoff return in program history.

With 2:42 remaining, Vandenberg found sophomore split-end Marvin McNutt in the end zone for a 10-yard touchdown pass, and the scoreboard read an even 24-24. The second Iowa scoring drive followed after Buckeye placekicker Barclay missed left on a 47-yard field goal attempt with 7:11 left on the clock.

Ohio State led, 10-3, at halftime on the strength of two long drives - 73 and 74 yards - after Iowa had taken a 3-0 lead in the first quarter on a Daniel Murray 32-yard field goal.

After Murray's field goal, the Buckeyes tied it up on their next offensive series, taking 17 plays to march 73 yards with Barclay hitting a field goal from 30 yards.

Ohio State's defense held on the next Iowa possession -Homan had a leveling hit on third down - and the offense went to work on a 74-yard drive that Saine capped with a power sweep rush of 22 yards around the right end for a 10-3 lead.

In its first series of the second half, Iowa missed out on a golden chance to cut into Ohio State's 10-3 lead. The Hawkeyes had a first down at the Ohio State 7 but could not reach the end zone. Then Murray missed wide right on a 22-yard field goal attempt.

The Hawkeyes tied it, though, on their next possession as Vandenberg hit McNutt with a nine-yard touchdown pass on third down for a 10-10 tie. That score set the stage for the dramatic fourth quarter and overtime action.

Ohio State now has 34 Big Ten

Championships, including five consecutive.