

D4 • SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2011 •

SPORTS

WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL

REPLAY	1ST	2ND	3RD	4TH	FINAL
	7	0	7	15	29
	0	3	14	16	33

HOW THEY SCORED

- TD:** Ball 22 pass from Wilson (Weich kick), 6-58, 1st drive; 8 plays, 69 yards, 3:10
Key: Wilson completes 4 of 5 passes for 63 yards
- FG:** Basil 39, 25, 2nd drive; 10 plays, 31 yards, 5:46
Key: Miller runs for 14 yards on third and 10
- TD:** Miller 1 run (Basil kick), 12-03, 3rd drive; 7 plays, 75 yards, 3:00
Key: Herron runs for 57 to UW 18 on first play
- TD:** Hall 2 run (Basil kick), 9-26, 3rd drive; 3 plays, 1 yard, 1:20
Key: Shazer blocks Norton punt, recovered at UW 1
- TD:** Ball 1 run (Weich kick), 4-23, 3rd drive; 6 plays, 27 yards, 3:21
Key: Ball multi-point to set up UW
- FG:** Basil 22, 10-39, 4th drive; 8 plays, 24 yards, 3:54
Key: Herron runs for 16 yards to UW 7
- TD:** Miller 44 run (pass failed), 4-39, 4th drive; 6 plays, 63 yards, 3:25
Key: Miller runs for 5 on third-and-4
- TD:** Abderderis 17 pass from Wilson (Weich kick), 3-48, 4th drive; 4 plays, 66 yards, 5:15
Key: Ball runs for 40 yards to OHSU 17
- TD:** Abderderis 49 pass from Wilson (Weich kick), 1-18, 4th drive; 4 plays, 49 yards, 1:18
Key: Abderderis catches 8 passes and gets OHSU to stop clock
- TD:** Smith 40 pass from Miller (Basil kick), 20-4th drive; 4 plays, 52 yards, 5:58
Key: Herron gains 3 on third-and-1



UW's Montee Ball scores on a first-quarter touchdown reception from Russell Wilson Saturday in Columbus, Ohio.

TEAM STATISTICS

Badgers	Buckeyes
15 First downs	16
29-89 Rushing yards	58-268
20-32-0 Comp.-Att.-Int.	7-12-0
253 Passing yards	89
143 Return yards	160
3-28 Sacks allowed yards lost	3-5
7-34-7 Punt-Avg	6-41-2
0-0 Fumbles lost	2-1
3-9 Penalties-yards	4-37
24:32 Time of possession	35:48

ATTENDANCE	105,511
RUSHING	AT Yds Avg TD LG
Ball	17 85 5.0 1 40
White	5 16 3.2 0 7
Abderderis	1 0 0.0 0 0
Wilson	6 52 8.7 0 8

PASSING	C-A-Yds TD LG
Wilson	20-32-0 253 3 31
Abderderis	6 113 18.8 2 20

RECEIVING	No Yds Avg TD LG
Ball	3 39 13.0 0
Ewing	3 37 12.3 0
Ball	3 30 10.0 1
Pedersen	3 20 6.7 0
Duckworth	1 8 8.0 0
White	1 6 6.0 0

PUNTING	No Yds Avg LG
Norton	6 243 40.5 47
Team	1 0 0.0 0

INT. RET.	No Yds TD LG
None	None

MISSED FG	Yds Missed
None	None

DEFENSE	Tackles TFL FF
Taylor	22 2% 0
Borland	13 1% 0
Clanton	10 2% 0
Henry	9 2 0
Johnson	8 0 0
Hemmer	4 0 0
Raffy	4 2 0
Freehals	4 0 0
Nogues	3 0 0
Cromartie	2 0 0
Wojta	2 0 0
Southward	2 0 0
Kahout	2 0 0
Landisch	2 0 0
Muddison	2 0 0
Armstrong	2 0 0
Ewing	1 0 0
Oswell	1 0 0
Altem	1 0 0
Doppel	1 0 0
Lukasko	1 0 0

UW FOOTBALL



Sophomore wide receiver Jared Abderderis stretches for the goal line on his 49-yard TD reception that gave the Badgers a 29-36 lead late in the fourth quarter.

Familiar second-half scenario

Russell Wilson directs another comeback but it's not enough for the second straight week.

By JIM POLZIN
jpolzin@madison.com

COLUMBUS, Ohio — It would have been easy for the members of the University of Wisconsin football team's offense to point fingers at the defense after a second straight heart-breaking defeat.

But that didn't happen Saturday night after the Badgers' 33-29 loss to Ohio State at Ohio Stadium.

"We're a team," UW senior wide receiver Nick Toon said. "We win together, lose together. Everybody had a hand in all of our wins at the beginning of the season, and every-

one's had a hand in our losses the past couple of weeks.

Obviously, a big couple of plays that we gave up at the end of the game on offense, but we can help them out on offense by putting more points on the board. We've got to do a better job of doing that."

For the second straight week, senior quarterback Russell Wilson led the Badgers to a magnificent rally in the fourth quarter.

And for the second straight week, Wilson and Co. watched helplessly as

the defense gave up a long pass late in the game to turn a potential victory into a gut-wrenching loss.

Wilson engineered two touchdown drives in the final 3 minutes, 48 seconds to turn a 12-point deficit into a three-point lead. He finished 20 of 32 for 253 yards with three touchdowns, including two to sophomore wide receiver Jared Abderderis.

But even with a late surge, UW finished with season lows in points, rushing yards (89) and total yards (142). The Badgers had one awful stretch that started in the first quarter and extended into the second half where they punted five times in six series; the other series ended with the clock running out in the first half.

"It's very frustrating," said UW junior halfback Monte Ball, who scored two touchdowns. "I feel like we've been practicing extremely well, but we're just not getting it done in the game. We're starting slow and it's hurting us in the end."

Ball finished with 17 carries for 85 yards, but 40 of those came on one run in the fourth quarter. One particularly frustrating run came with UW trailing 20-14 in the fourth quarter, when Ball was stopped short of the first-down marker on a loss sweep on fourth-and-2.

"They did a great job of blowing the run game up, fitting well inside and fitting well outside," Ball said. "I tried to make things happen in the run game, but I fell short there."

He had confidence. It was amazing to see that from a young guy like that. As he walked out there in the last minute and 10 seconds and he looked at me and winked."

Miller mostly hurt the Badgers with his legs. He rolled out to his right on a bootleg, then avoided defensive end Brendan Kelly in the backfield to score on fourth-and-1 in the third quarter to give the Buckeyes their first lead at 10-7.

He also had a 44-yard touchdown run in the fourth quarter, shooting around left end and going untouched, giving Ohio State a 26-14 cushion with 4 minutes, 39 seconds left.

"You can see, he definitely has a burst," Bielsma said. "He's very gifted, both throwing and running the football."

Bielsma believed his players put the last heart-breaking loss behind them.

"There wasn't any hangover or anything like that," he said.

The Badgers scored first on a 22-yard pass from quarterback Russell Wilson to running back Monte Ball in the first quarter. But they struggled to get their running game going (89 yards) and had another colossal mistake on special teams.

"As soon as I had the ball, they were all over me," said Ball, who gained 85 yards on 17 carries. "They did a great job of rallying to the ball."

A blocked punt led to a touchdown for the second straight week and came over the same spot, sophomore Robert Burge, who lines up on the right side of the shield in front of punter Brad Norton.

That led to a 2-yard touchdown run by Jordan Hall and a 17-7 Ohio State lead in the third quarter.

As he did the previous week, Wilson brought the Badgers back from two scores down in the fourth quarter, throwing touchdown passes of 17 and 49 yards to Jared Abderderis.

Ohio State had a bottled coverage on the last one, leaving Abderderis alone down the right sideline. After a 2-point conversion, a shovel pass from Wilson to Ball, UW led 29-26 with 1:18 left.

"I was a great feeling... I was confident," tight end Jacob Pedersen said. "Our defense had been holding them most of the game."

But the defense failed at the end again. Kelly chased Miller from behind and swiped at his legs, but missed.

"He jumped and threw the ball up," Kelly said. "I looked up and I've never seen a ball that high in the air."

Added Ball: "When the ball was

just like it did last week against the game to turn a potential victory into a gut-wrenching loss. The Badgers needed just 44 seconds to move 60 yards in four plays, with Ball setting up a 17-yard touchdown strike from Wilson to Abderderis that cut Ohio State's lead to 20-21 with 3:48 left in the game.

UW got the ball back with 2:36 left and moved 68 yards in four plays and 78 seconds. Wilson pump-faked to wide receiver Jeff Duckworth on a post pattern, drawing safety Christian Bryant to the middle of the field and opening up the sideline for Abderderis, who was wide open and hauled in a 49-yard touchdown pass. Wilson hit Ball for a 2-point conversion that gave UW a 29-26 lead with 1:18 to go.

"I really thought we'd score," UW coach Bret Bielsma said. "Unfortunately, we scored too fast."

Last week, it was Kirk Cousins' Hall Mary pass to Keith Nichol as time expired that sealed UW's loss to Michigan State. This time, a 40-yard heave from Ohio State freshman Braxton Miller to Devin Smith with 20 seconds left broke the Badgers' hearts.

UW got the ball back at its own 40 after the ensuing kick went out of bounds, but Wilson's final three pass attempts were incomplete.

"I think the main thing is just staying positive," Wilson said.

GAME BALL

BRAXTON MILLER

Ohio State's freshman quarterback may not be the best passer, but he kept his composure on the game's biggest play and accounted for three touchdowns in all, including two on the ground.

THUMBS UP

RUSSELL WILSON

The UW senior quarterback knows how to make things exciting in the fourth quarter. If only he could play defensive back, too.

THUMBS DOWN

OHIO STATE'S UNIFORMS

The special uniforms were worn to honor the 1961 team that went undefeated. Woody Hayes was probably rolling over in his grave.

BY THE NUMBERS

49 passing yards Ohio State had before Braxton Miller hit Devin Smith for 40 yards on the game-winning drive.

21 touchdowns for UW's Braxton Miller this season.

Ohio State has 24 as a team, 22 sacks for Mike Taylor, a career high.

THIS VIEW

HOW THE TEAM SEES IT

The Badgers are trying to figure out how they lost to a team that can't pass the ball.

HOW THE FANS SEE IT

When does basketball season start?

HOW THE POLLSTERS SEE IT

Maybe the computers were right about the Badgers all along.

LOOKING AHEAD

The Badgers host Purdue (4-4, 2-2 Big Ten) next week at Camp Randall Stadium. The Boilermakers, coming off a 36-44 loss to Michigan, haven't had a two-game losing streak all season. They also haven't beaten UW since 2003.

— Jim Pabon

In the air, I was like, 'Not again, not again, not again at all.' The Badgers must find a way to regroup, to keep a season of such high expectations from completely crashing.

"I know it's going to be disappointing for... all of the Wisconsin people from coast to coast that had such high expectations and aspirations," Bielsma said. "I couldn't be more proud of the guys and who they are and how they're going to respond."