Urban-less Ohio State routs Oregon St 77-31 in opener

Ohio State came into the opener with a stand-in coach and a new starting quarterback after a truly bizarre preseason that led to a three-game suspension for coach Urban Meyer.

The day worked out OK for the offensively prolific No. 5 Buckeyes, though their defense might still be more of a work in progress than expected.

New starter Dwayne Haskins Jr. threw for a record five touchdowns as Ohio State scored on five of its first six possessions and cruised to a 77-31 rout of overmatched Oregon State on Saturday.

The Buckeyes shook off Meyer's first absence from the sideline in six years, piling up 721 yards and tying the record for points scored in an opener. Meyer will be allowed to return to practice on Monday, although his suspension by the university will last for two more games. He was sanctioned after an investigation showed he mismanaged former assistant Zach Smith, who was accused of domestic violence and other bad behavior.

The scandal has dogged the program for the past month. Acting coach Ryan Day wasn't surprised the Buckeyes started strong, jumping ahead 21-7 in the first quarter and going ahead 42-14 at

"There was a quiet confidence about this team all along," said Day, the co-offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach.

Haskins, who took the keys from four-year starter J.T. Barrett, was 22 for 30 for 313 yards. The five touchdowns and yards gained are records for a first-time Ohio State starter.

Day coached from the sideline, with co-offensive coordinator Kev-in Wilson in the press box."I didn't notice anything different," Haskins said. "Just having coach Wilson on the field vs. coach Day, they both did a great job giving advice, communicating with me after the drives. There wasn't any stress with that."

## BRIGHT SPOTS FOR BEAVERS

Oregon State was able to exploit the Ohio State defense, just not enough.

Quarterback Conor Blount, forced into duty when starter Jake Luton went out with a possible concussion on the game's sixth play, found plenty of cracks, throwing for 169 yards and two touchdowns. But he also was sacked five times in the first half, twice by All-American defensive end Nick Bosa.

Running back Artavis Pierce slashed the Ohio State secondary for touchdowns of 80 and 78 yards on two of the Beavers' first three plays from scrimmage in the second half. Oregon State piled up 392offensive yards.

"Obviously, falling short isn't fun, but when you go out and put 31 points on a defense like that, I think it says there's a bright future here," Blount said.

## RUNNING BY COMMITTEE

One of the questions in training camp was how Ohio State was going to use talented backs Mike Weber and J.K. Dobbins.

Day platooned the pair Saturday until the backups took over in

the second half.

Weber was the star , showing the form he displayed two seasons ago when he rushed for over 1,000 yards. A leg injury slowed him last year and that allowed true freshman Dobbins to grab the limelight.

Weber had 20 carries for 186 yards and three touchdowns. Dobbins had 15 for 74 yards.

"We talked about it, think about it a lot," Weber said. "It's the reason I came back. We knew that we were going to split carries. But splitting carries is actually good on the bodies for both of

## THE TAKEAWAY

Oregon State: Showed some fight and big-play ability, but the Beavers made too many mistakes and couldn't slow down Ohio State's more talented offensive players.

"There's lots of things to learn from, and be encouraged by," first-year Oregon State coach Jonathan Smith said. "We were in position to make some plays, we didn't tackle all that well."

Ohio State: Shook off all the disruptive off-the-field events of the preseason, scored a lot early and did what it was expected to do, albeit with some holes in the defense. The Buckeyes have another tuneup game next weekend before getting a test against TCU in Dallas in two weeks. Haskins looks like the real deal.

FRST OSU 21

Scoring Summary first Quarter				ORST	osu
OSU TD 11:17 Terry McLaur			Dwayne I	Haskins (	Sean Nuer- 7
nberger Kick) 5 plays, 57 ORST TD 10:35 Trevon Brad	_		rom Cono	=	•
Choukair Kick) 3 plays, 7				7	7
OSU TD 8:20 Mike Weber 16 Yd Run (Sean Nuernberger Kick) 8 plays, 65 yards, 2:15 7 14					
OSU TD 3:41 Rashod Berry 6 Yd pass from Dwayne Haskins (Sean Nuern-					
berger Kick) 8 plays, 75	yards, 2	:04		7	21
second Quarter OSU TD 12:25mMike Weber 4	9 Yd Run	(Sean Nu	ernbergei	ORST (Kick)	OSU
6 plays, 75 yards, 1:56			_	7	28
OSU TD 7:58 Mike Weber 3	_	from Dway	ne Haskir 7	ns (Sean i 35	Nuernberg-
er Kick) 10 plays, 59 yar OSU TD 4:30 Nick Bosa 0 Y		Return (	•		Kick)
2 plays, -3 yards, 0:45		,		7	42
ORST TD 0:19 Trevon Bradf Choukair Kick) 11 plays,		_	m Conor I	3lount (J 14	ordan 42
third Quarter	75 yarus	, 4.11		ORST	OSU
OSU TD 14:45 Terry McLaur		_	m Dwayne		
ernberger Kick) 1 play, 7 ORST TD 14:26 Artavis Pie	_		rdan Cho	14 ıkair Kic	49 k)
1 play, 80 yards, 0:19	:ICE 00 IC	ou) iiba i	ruan cho	21	49
OSU TD 11:55 Parris Campb		_	m Dwayne	Haskins	(Sean Nu-
ernberger Kick) 10 plays,	_		rdan Cho	21 skair Kid	56 ኑነ
ORST TD 11:06 Artavis Pie 2 plays, 76 yards, 0:49	ice /o ic	ı kuli (50	Idali Cilot	28	56
ORST FG 5:25 Jordan Chouk	air 23 Yo	d Field G	oal		
6 plays, 14 yards, 1:51			31	56	OCH
fourth Quarter OSU TD 14:25mMike Weber 4	Yd Run	(Sean Nue	rnberger	ORST Kick)	OSU
11 plays, 79 yards, 6:00			,	31	63
	nead 2 Yd	Run (Sea	n Nuernb		
8 plays, 46 yards, 3:06 OSU TD 3:50 Master Teague	33 Yd Ri	ın (Sean	Nuernberd	31 mer Kick)	70
7 plays, 71 yards, 3:34				31	77
<b>Team Stats</b> First Downs		<b>ORST</b> 25	<b>osu</b> 23 721		
Total Yards Total Plays		392 63	87		
Avg Gain Per Play Net Yards Rushing		6.2 196	8.3 375		
Rushes Yards Per Rush		39° 5.0	53 7.1 346		
Net Yards Passing		196	346		
Comp-Att Yards Per Pass		14-24 8.2	25-34 10.2		
Times Sacked Yds Lost Ţo Sacks		0	5 -43		
Interceptions Punts		0 6	1		
Punt Average Penalties		40.7	65.0 6		
Penalty Yards Fumbles		49 5	50 1		
Fumbles Lost Possession		2 28:44	1 31:16		
Individual Stats		20.44	31.10		
RUSHING	B1.		•	•	
Oregon St. Artavis Pierce	Rush 11	<b>Yds</b> 168	<b>Avg</b> 15.3	<b>Long</b> 80	<b>TD</b> 2
Jermar Jefferson Trevon Bradford	8 3	47 23	5.9 7.7	31 13	0
Jack Colletto	4	14	3.5	6	0
B.J. Baylor Kase Rogers	2	7 2	3.5 1.0	5 2	0
Jake Luton	1	<b>-</b> 5	-5.0	0	0
Conor Blount Ohio St.	6 <b>Rush</b>	-43 <b>Yds</b>	-7.2 Avq	0 <b>Long</b>	0 <b>TD</b>
Mike Weber	20	186	9.3	49	3
J.K. Dobbins Master Teague	15 6	74 56	4.9 9.3	10 33	0 1
Brian Snead Dwayne Haskins	7 2	25 24	3.6 12.0	5 17	1 0
Tate Martell	2	4	2.0	4	0
Demario McCall Passing	0	0	-	-	0
Oregon St. Comp Att	Pct	Yds	Y/A	TD Int	QBRat
Conor Blount 12 19 Jake Luton 1 1	63.2 100.0	169 25	8.9 25.0	2 0 0 0	172.6 310.0
Jack Colletto 1 4	25.0	2 <b>Vd</b> a	0.5 Y/A	0 0 <b>TD Int</b>	29.2
Ohio St. Comp Att Dwayne Haskins 22 30	<b>Pct</b> 73.3	<b>Yds</b> 313	10.4	5 1	<b>QBRat</b> 209.3
Tate Martell 3 4 RECEIVING	75.0	33	8.3	0 0	144.3
Oregon St. Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD	
Trevon Bradford 6 Artavis Pierce 3		17.3 13.7	49 26	2 0	
17 Isaiah Hodgins 2	40	20.0	27	0	
18 Timmy Hernandez 2 22 Jermar Jefferson 1	6 5	3.0 5.0	4 5	0 0	
16 Champ Flemings 0	0 <b>26</b> V	_	- Long	0 <b>TD</b>	
Ohio St. Rec Terry McLaurin 4		Avg 30.3	Long 75	2	
K.J. Hill 6 Austin Mack 5		13.7 13.8	27 21	0	
Parris Campbell 4	22	5.5	8	1	
Jaylen Harris 1 Jeremy Ruckert 1		15.0 13.0	15 13	0 0	
Johnnie Dixon 1	10	10.0	10	0	
Rashod Berry 1 Chris Olave 1	6 5	6.0 5.0	6 5	1 0	
Mike Weber 1	3	3.0	3	1	

C.J. Saunders