

WEEK SIX
MICHIGAN ST at OHIO ST

Fields, Dobbins lead No. 4 Ohio St over No. 25 Michigan St

COLUMBUS, Ohio -- Justin Fields looked less like Superman and more like a mere mortal at times against No. 25 Michigan State on Saturday night. But that was bound to happen to the Ohio State sophomore quarterback at some point this season.

The Georgia transfer, who had accounted for 23 touchdowns in his first five games as starter, ran into a stout defense, got chased around, sacked and intercepted for the first time in his college career. But he stayed cool and engineered enough explosive plays to help No. 4 Ohio State bury the Spartans. Fields threw two touchdown passes and plunged in for another score as the Buckeyes overcame an inauspicious start to roll to a 34-10 win. J.K. Dobbins rushed for 172 yards and a touchdown and is well on his way to the best season of his Ohio State career.

"I think we showed flashes, but we weren't really consistent the whole game on the offensive side," Fields said. "If we get better at that and more consistent about that, I think we'll definitely be one of the best offenses in the country."

The Buckeyes (6-0, 3-0 Big Ten) had to work to figure out Michigan State's defense at the beginning, after blowing out every opponent through the first five games. They gained just 16 yards on 16 plays -- with zero rushing yards -- in the first quarter but finally got unstuck. Dobbins, Fields and two other backs then piled up 323 yards on the ground in the next three quarters.

"We were killing ourselves," Dobbins said of the strange first quarter. "We had to get that fixed, get it going, then the offense started to roll."

Fields finished 17 for 25 for 206 yards and was sacked three times -- twice by Michigan State linebacker Joe Bachie, who finished with 11 tackles.

DOBBINS KEEPS ROLLING

The junior who likely will be playing in the NFL next year ran the ball 24 times, averaged over 7 yards per carry and had an electrifying 67-yard breakaway for a touchdown late in the first half. That was against a defense that was allowing an average of just 55.8 yards per game.

Dobbins has 826 yards at the halfway point of the regular season, despite sitting for the second half of early season blowouts. He passed the 3,000-yard rushing mark for his career last week at Nebraska.

THE TAKEAWAY

Michigan State: Gave the Buckeyes their first real test of the season but couldn't keep up. They strung together some chunk plays at times but couldn't find the end zone as the Ohio State defense bore down.

"They're a really good team -- it's difficult to get points on them," said Spartans quarterback Brian Lewerke, who was 20 for 38 for 218 yards, a touchdown and an interception. "I think we moved the ball really well, but we've just got to finish in the end."

Ohio State: The Spartans pushed Fields way out of his comfort zone and the Ohio State defense played well, surrendering just 67 rushing yards.

"That's what playing against a team like Michigan State in the Big Ten, a conference game like this is," Ohio State coach Ryan Day said. "It's just hard, its gritty and it was great to see the guys respond, especially in the second quarter."

TURNING POINT

With Ohio State leading 3-0 in the second quarter, Fields completed a sideline pass to Binjimen Victor, who turned it into a 60-yard touchdown. The Buckeyes opened it up from there.

POLL IMPLICATIONS

Ohio State finally showed some weaknesses but likely showed well enough against another ranked team to remain in the top four. Michigan State could drop out.

QUOTABLE

"I knew we were special from day one, just everybody else didn't know," said Ohio State defensive end Chase Young, who has 8.5 sacks this season. "That's how we feel. It's good to get national attention but we're not focused on that."

Final	1	2	3	4	T
MSU	0	10	0	0	10
OSU	3	24	0	7	34

Scoring Summary -----

	MSU	OSU
FIRST QUARTER		
OSU FG 8:04 Blake Haubeil 39 Yd Field Goal		
4 plays, 0 yards, 1:54	0	3
SECOND QUARTER		
OSU TD 12:12 Binjimen Victor 60 Yd pass from Justin Fields (Blake Haubeil Kick)		
5 plays, 86 yards, 1:57	0	10
MSU TD 10:36 Darrell Stewart Jr. 20 Yd pass from Brian Lewerke (Matt Coghlin Kick)		
5 plays, 75 yards, 1:36	7	10
OSU TD 8:09 Luke Farrell 21 Yd pass from Justin Fields (Blake Haubeil Kick)		
7 plays, 75 yards, 2:27	7	17
MSU FG 3:36 Matt Coghlin 39 Yd Field Goal		
9 plays, 49 yards, 4:33	10	17
OSU TD 2:24 J.K. Dobbins 67 Yd Run (Blake Haubeil Kick)		
3 plays, 75 yards, 1:12	10	24
OSU FG 0:05 Blake Haubeil 43 Yd Field Goal		
10 plays, 45 yards, 1:41	10	27
FOURTH QUARTER		
OSU TD 10:41 Justin Fields 1 Yd Run (Blake Haubeil Kick)		
11 plays, 80 yards, 4:09	10	34

Team Stats	MSU	OSU
First Downs	18	22
Passes for First	9	8
Rushes for First	7	13
Penalties for First	2	1
Third Down Efficiency	4-13	8-15
Fourth Down Efficiency	0-0	0-0
Total Yards	285	529
Total Plays	65	74
Avg Gain Per Play	4.4	7.1
Net Yards Rushing	67	323
Rushes	27	49
Yards Per Rush	2.5	6.6
Net Yards Passing	218	206
Comp-Att	20-38	17-25
Yards Per Pass	5.7	8.2
Times Sacked	4	3
Yds Lost To Sacks	-25	-23
Interceptions	1	1
Punts	7	4
Punt Average	46.9	48.3
Penalties	4	10
Penalty Yards	30	85
Fumbles	2	1
Fumbles Lost	2	1
Time of Poss	28:23	31:37

Individual Stats

RUSHING					
MICHIGAN ST	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Elijah Collins	12	63	5.3	0	23
Cody White	2	8	4.0	0	11
Anthony Williams Jr.	3	2	0.7	0	2
La'Darius Jefferson	1	0	0.0	0	0
Team	1	-2	-2.0	0	0
Brian Lewerke	8	-4	-0.5	0	13
OHIO ST	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
J.K. Dobbins	24	172	7.2	1	67
Master Teague III	14	90	6.4	0	41
Justin Fields	11	61	5.5	1	35

PASSING							
MICHIGAN ST	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Brian Lewerke	20	38	218	5.7	1	1	49.4
OHIO ST	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Justin Fields	17	25	206	8.2	2	1	78.1

RECEIVING					
MICHIGAN ST	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Darrell Stewart Jr.	6	68	11.3	1	20
Cody White	4	42	10.5	0	15
Matt Seybert	2	37	18.5	0	19
Trenton Gillison	3	34	11.3	0	19
C.J. Hayes	2	17	8.5	0	16
Matt Dotson	1	9	9.0	0	9
Julian Barnett	1	9	9.0	0	9
Elijah Collins	1	2	2.0	0	2

OHIO ST	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Binjimen Victor	3	79	26.3	1	60
K.J. Hill	7	57	8.1	0	23
Garrett Wilson	2	24	12.0	0	15
Luke Farrell	1	21	21.0	1	21
Austin Mack	1	19	19.0	0	19
Jeremy Ruckert	1	4	4.0	0	4
J.K. Dobbins	2	2	1.0	0	2