

WEEK EIGHT  
OHIO ST at NORTHWESTERN

**Fields leads No. 4 Ohio State past Northwestern 52-3**

EVANSTON, Ill. -- Eyeing a playoff spot and a shot at the national championship, No. 4 Ohio State sure is locked in at the moment.

Justin Fields threw for four touchdowns, J.K. Dobbins rushed for 121 yards and the Buckeyes pounded Northwestern 52-3 on Friday night.

Ohio State (7-0, 4-0 Big Ten) did exactly as expected and blew the game open early, jumping to a 31-3 halftime lead.

"I just feel like it's business," defensive end Chase Young said. "That's the mentality I have, just because I know we can't have any fluke losses. It's gonna mess with what we want to do."

Fields completed 18 of 23 passes for 194 yards. The sophomore transfer from Georgia matched his career high for TDs through the air. He now has 22 passing and 30 overall on the season.

The nation's second-leading rusher, Dobbins scored from the 5 in the second quarter after breaking off a 67-yard run. He also caught a 19-yard touchdown pass in the first half.

The junior now has 947 yards rushing after finishing with more than 1,000 in each of his first two seasons.

Chris Olave caught two TDs. Blake Haubeil kicked a 55-yard field goal that tied the second-longest in the history of the storied program. The Buckeyes racked up 480 yards while holding the Northwestern to 199 and remained unbeaten heading into their showdown at home with No. 6 Wisconsin next week.

"I think we feel good about the way we came out coming off the bye week -- with energy, starting fresh and just refocused on all the things that matter within the program," coach Ryan Day said. "Now we know we have a huge challenge next week. ... We know what we have in store there, so it's gonna be a really tough week, tough preparation, tough game, but I know the kids are gonna be excited to play it."

The loss was the fourth in a row for Northwestern (1-5, 0-4). The Wildcats haven't beaten a top-five opponent since the 1959 team opened with victories over No. 2 Oklahoma and No. 5 Iowa.

Aidan Smith, making his second straight start, was 6 of 20 for 42 yards and an interception. Smith and Hunter Johnson, who started the first four games before sitting out the loss at Nebraska two weeks ago because of a lower-body injury, were listed with the first team on the depth chart this week.

"We're continually beating ourselves (on offense)," coach Pat Fitzgerald said. "We have guys that are pressing, trying to do too much. They care so much. They're a great group of guys and that's why my heart breaks for them."

**BREAKING IT OPEN**

Through the first six games, Ohio State outscored opponents 296-53 -- an average margin of 40.5 points that was the biggest differential among FBS schools. The Buckeyes came in leading the Big Ten in scoring and were tops in the conference in total yards and yards per game by wide margins.

With a defense that ranked second in the nation and conference to Wisconsin going against one of the country's worst offenses, the Buckeyes made it look easy.

Ohio State went 70 yards on the game's opening possession, with Fields hitting a wide-open Olave down the middle for a 20-yard touchdown.

Northwestern's Charlie Kuhbander kicked a 33-yard field goal with just over three minutes left in the first quarter. Fields made it 14-3 early in the second when he hit Dobbins on a slant. And after the Wildcats punted, the Buckeyes needed just two plays to bump the lead to 18, with Dobbins carrying the load.

Ohio State added 10 more points in the closing minutes of the half to break it open.

**BIG BOOT**

Haubeil was "very confident" he would make his 55-yarder to end the half. It was the longest by a Buckeye since Mike Nugent nailed one of his own against Wisconsin in 2004. Tom Skladany holds the record with a 59-yarder at Illinois in 1975.

"It's awesome, definitely proves to yourself and our team as a unit you can execute at a high level from the long-distance range," Haubeil said.

**THE TAKEAWAY**

Ohio State: Consider this a good tuneup for the big showdown next week for the Buckeyes, who will get an extra day of rest.

Northwestern: Whether it's Smith or Johnson starting at quarterback, the Wildcats continue to stall on offense. Fitzgerald wouldn't say who will start at QB next week.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
OSU	7	24	7	14	52
NW	3	0	0	0	3

**Scoring Summary -----**

	OSU	NW
<b>FIRST QUARTER</b>		
OSU TD 10:42 Chris Olave 20 Yd pass from Justin Fields (Blake Haubeil Kick)		
10 plays, 70 yards, 4:18	7	0
NW FG 3:05 Charlie Kuhbander 33 Yd Field Goal		
9 plays, 44 yards, 4:21	7	3
<b>SECOND QUARTER</b>		
OSU TD 12:44 J.K. Dobbins 19 Yd pass from Justin Fields (Blake Haubeil Kick)		
12 plays, 75 yards, 5:21	14	3
OSU TD 9:36 J.K. Dobbins 5 Yd Run (Blake Haubeil Kick)		
2 plays, 73 yards, 0:40	21	3
OSU TD 3:45 Chris Olave 8 Yd pass from Justin Fields (Blake Haubeil Kick)		
2 plays, 15 yards, 0:25	28	3
OSU FG 0:00 Blake Haubeil 55 Yd Field Goal		
3 plays, -2 yards, 0:31	31	3
<b>THIRD QUARTER</b>		
OSU TD 9:45 Austin Mack 23 Yd pass from Justin Fields (Blake Haubeil Kick)		
7 plays, 65 yards, 2:20	38	3
<b>FOURTH QUARTER</b>		
OSU TD 9:20 Jeremy Ruckert 7 Yd pass from Chris Chugunov (Blake Haubeil Kick)		
3 plays, 11 yards, 0:26	45	3
OSU TD 7:46 Master Teague III 73 Yd Run (Blake Haubeil Kick)		
1 play, 73 yards, 0:12	52	3

**Team Stats**

	OSU	NW
First Downs	23	14
Passes for First	12	1
Rushes for First	8	10
Penalties for First	3	3
Third Down Efficiency	8-14	5-18
Fourth Down Efficiency	0-0	0-3
Total Yards	480	199
Total Plays	63	68
Avg Gain Per Play	7.6	2.9
Net Yards Rushing	279	157
Rushes	37	47
Yards Per Rush	7.5	3.3
Net Yards Passing	201	42
Comp-Att	19-26	6-21
Yards Per Pass	7.7	2.0
Times Sacked	1	1
Yds Lost To Sacks	-5	-9
Interceptions	0	2
Punts	5	8
Punt Average	47.4	38.0
Penalties	5	8
Penalty Yards	58	76
Fumbles	2	1
Fumbles Lost	0	0
Time of Poss	27:38	22:22

**Individual Stats**

**RUSHING**

OHIO ST	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
J.K. Dobbins	18	121	6.7	1	68
Master Teague III	7	96	13.7	1	73
Marcus Crowley	2	53	26.5	0	53
Justin Fields	6	8	1.3	0	10
Demario McCall	1	7	7.0	0	7
Team	3	-6	-2.0	0	0

**NORTHWESTERN**

	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Isaiah Bowser	16	65	4.1	0	16
Drake Anderson	13	39	3.0	0	9
Aidan Smith	11	33	3.0	0	10
Andrew Marty	2	16	8.0	0	16
Kyric McGowan	2	14	7.0	0	13
John Moten IV	2	-1	-0.5	0	2
Tyler Gillikin	1	-9	-9.0	0	0

**PASSING**

OHIO ST	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Justin Fields	18	23	194	8.4	4	0	91.6
Chris Chugunov	1	2	7	3.5	1	0	99.5
NORTHWESTERN	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Aidan Smith	6	20	42	2.1	0	1	8.6
Andrew Marty	0	1	0	0.0	0	1	72.9

**RECEIVING**

OHIO ST	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Chris Olave	5	60	12.0	2	20
Austin Mack	4	50	12.5	1	23
J.K. Dobbins	3	30	10.0	1	19
Garrett Wilson	3	28	9.3	0	13
K.J. Hill	2	19	9.5	0	20
Jeremy Ruckert	1	7	7.0	1	7
Binjimen Victor	1	7	7.0	0	7
NORTHWESTERN	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Riley Lees	3	19	6.3	0	9
Kyric McGowan	1	13	13.0	0	13
Jace James	2	10	5.0	0	5