WEEK TWELVE OHIO ST at RUTGERS

Fields 4 TD passes, No. 2 Ohio State beats Rutgers 56-21

PISCATAWAY, N.J. -- Justin Fields threw for a career-high 305 yards and matched his best with four touchdown passes to lead No. 2 Ohio State to a workmanlike 56-21 win over Rutgers on Saturday.

Final

Favored by a whopping 51 points, the Buckeyes (10-0, 7-0 Big Ten) rolled to their 16th straight win over the past two seasons. J.K. Dobbins ran for two touchdowns and cornerback Shaun Wade set up two early TDs with an interception and a forced fumble.

Isaih Pacheco scored on a 26-yard run, Johnny Langan threw a 45-yard scoring pass to Bo Melton and ran a yard for another touchdown with 1:09 left for Rutgers (2-8, 0-7). The loss was the 19th straight conference game for Rutgers, which fired coach Chris Ash in late September.

Playing just over a half, Fields finished 15 of 19 in topping his previous best of 234 yards against Florida Atlantic in the season opener. His touchdown passes covered 11 and 24 yards to Binjimen Victor, 35 yards to K.J. Hill and 14 yards to Luke Farrell on the opening series of the second half. The Georgia transfer has thrown 31 touchdowns and one interception in his first season as the Buckeyes' starter.

Rutgers took the opening kickoff and turned the ball over twice in his first four plays from scrimmage, helping stake Ohio State to a 14-0 lead.

Wade intercepted Langan (12 of 26 for 121) on the second play from scrimmage, giving the Buckeyes the ball at their 40. Four plays later, Dobbins scored on an 18-yard run.

Wade forced receiver Isaiah Washington to fumble after a 6-yard catch on the second play of the next series and safety Jordan Fuller recovered at the Rutgers 33. Three plays later, Fields found Victor in the back of the end zone for a 14-0 lead 3:36 after the opening kickoff.

An 8-yard run by Dobbins pushed the lead to 21 points on the Buckeyes' next series.

Rutgers scored after Garrett Wilson muffed a punt and Lawrence Stevens caught the ball in midair. Pacheco, who had 56 yards on 17 carries, broke through the line on a quick opener and ran 26 yards into the corner of the end zone.

Fields threw for three more touchdowns to stretch the lead to 42-7. New Jersey resident Chris Chungunov replaced him and added two more TD tosses, a 4-yarder to Jake Hausmann and a 32-yarder to Jaelen Gill.

Langan split those touchdown throws with a scoring pass to Melton late in the third quarter. His late ${\tt TD}$ run needed a lengthy review to overturn a lost fumble call.

THE TAKEAWAY

Ohio State: Seemingly came out of the game healthy and it is ready for tough closing stretch against No. 9 Penn State and No. 14 Michigan.

Rutgers: Not a bad effort. Scored three touchdowns against a team that had only given up eight all season. Had a goal-line stand in the second in the second quarter to force a change of possession and even forced a couple of punts.

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Individual Stats RUSHING OHIO ST J.K. Dobbins Steele Chambers Master Teague III Justin Fields Gunnar Hoak Team RUTGERS Isaih Pacheco Johnny Langan Kay'Ron Adams Aaron Young Bo Melton PASSING OHIO ST Justin Fields Chris Chugunov Gunnar Hoak RUTGERS Johnny Langan RECEIVING OHIO ST Chris Olave Binjimen Victor K.J. Hill Jaelen Gill Luke Farrell Garrett Wilson Sam Wiglusz Demario McCall Jake Hausmann RUTCERS Bo Melton Kay'Ron Adams Shameen Jones Isaih Pacheco Isaiah Washington Mohamed Jabbie Aaron Young Paul Woods	Rush 17 9 10 3 3 2 Rush 17 9 8 5 1 Comp 15 5 1 Comp 12 Rec 4 5 4 2 2 1 1 1 Rec 3 1 1 1 1 3 1	89 56 45 30 1 -4 Yds	5.2 6.2 4.5 10.0 0.3 -2.0))	•	LON 18 11 11 13 3 0 LON 26 21 9 4 0 Int 0 0 Int 2 LONG 58 24 35 32 22 13 6 4 LONG 45 41 7 6 6 6 3 2 0	G	