



Parallel programs

OKLAHOMA AND OHIO STATE HAVE A LOT OF HISTORICAL — AND CURRENT — SIMILARITIES
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Tale of the tape

Oklahoma	School	Ohio State
Big 12	Conference	Big Ten
7	National titles	7
5	Heisman Trophy winners	7
◀ Bob Stoops	Head coach	Jim Tressel ▶
Youngstown, Ohio	Head coach's hometown	Mentor, Ohio
2	Years as coach before winning national title	2
1	National titles under current coach	1
6-4 (Texas)	Coach's record against chief rival	7-1 (Michigan)
788-300-53	Record all-time	808-306-53
.714	Winning percentage all-time	.715
102-19	Record this decade	91-23
.843	Winning percentage this decade	.798
24-17-1	Bowl record all-time	18-22
4-5	Bowl record this decade	4-5
3	Consecutive conference titles	4
5	Consecutive BCS bowl defeats	3
14.8	Average margin of defeat in those bowl losses	14.7
5-7-1	Bowl record against teams currently in SEC	0-9

PHOTO BY BRYAN TERRY, THE OKLAHOMAN

AP PHOTO ARCHIVES

A memorable first meeting: 1977



THE kick: OU kicker Uwe von Schamann kicks a 41-yard field goal to defeat Ohio State in 1977 in the schools' first meeting. PHOTO PROVIDED

In 1977, No. 3 OU traveled to No. 4 Ohio State for the first meeting between the two storied programs.

Neither team would go on to win the national championship. But few games for either school have been as memorable.

With Ohio State leading 28-26, OU called timeout to allow Uwe von Schamann to set up for a game-winning 41-yard field goal with 6 seconds remaining.

"The way I blocked out the crowd at Ohio State was I played along with it," von Schamann said. "When we called timeout — we called timeout first to give me time to get ready — I did my little meditation. I did a lot of meditation, did this exercise on a daily basis, which helped me to focus. I did that in the middle of the field.

"When I was ready to go, that's when they called timeout. I was ready, so I didn't know what to do while I waited." As von Schamann trotted back on

the field after the timeout, the Ohio Stadium crowd began chanting, "Block that kick, block that kick!"

In response, von Schamann began motioning his hands, as if to lead the chant.

"I don't know why I did that. It was spontaneous. I was playing along with the crowd, having fun," he recalled. "But I stayed focused. As far as icing me, that didn't work. The timeout didn't make me have any doubt about making that kick. It just delayed it a little bit. When I led the chant, it was something I did to waste a little time and have a little fun with the crowd. I was confident I'd make that kick."

Von Schamann did, booting a rocket that would've been true from 60 yards away, giving OU the 29-28 victory.

"Fortunately I made it," he said. "I would've looked a little stupid had I missed it.

"I never did anything like that again. It only works once."

Returning the favor: 1983

In 1983, Ohio State avenged its 1977 loss to the Sooners by thumping OU 24-14 in Norman.

Ohio State quarterback Mike Tomczak found tight end John Frank seven times for 108 yards and two touchdowns.

Renewing the series

Forty years after Uwe von Schamann split the uprights, Oklahoma will return to Ohio Stadium.

OU and Ohio State are scheduled to play a home-and-home, beginning in 2016 with the Buckeyes coming to Norman.

The Sooners will return the trip in

2017. The two storied programs have only met twice in history.

OU defeated the Buckeyes 29-28 in 1977, thanks to von Schamann's game-winning 41-yard field goal. Ohio State, however, returned the favor by beating the Sooners 24-14 in Norman in 1983.

What could've been

At the turn of the decade, it seemed Oklahoma and Ohio State were on their ways to winning multiple national titles.

Bob Stoops' super Sooners stunned Florida State in the 2000 season Orange Bowl, then began recruiting among the elite programs.

Jim Tressel's brilliant Buckeyes shocked Miami two years later in the Fiesta.

Both programs, however, have yet to win that second title, and each losing a key player to scandal this decade has not helped.

The summer after the 2002 season, Ohio State star running back Maurice Clarett was the center of an academic scandal, then later was suspended after filing a false police report.

Clarett was eventually booted off the team, and Ohio State didn't possess the same offensive firepower the next season.

OU, meanwhile, signed the No. 1 QB in the nation in 2004 in Rhett Bomar,



Rhett Bomar



Maurice Clarett

who also brought trouble to his school. Bomar quarterbacked the Sooners to a Holiday Bowl victory in 2005.

But days before the start of the 2006 season, he was tossed off the team for accepting payment for work he didn't do at a local car dealership.

The Sooners were forced to swing wide receiver Paul Thompson back to QB. With the change, OU struggled with two early losses, but did rebound in time to win the Big 12 Championship.

The struggles in BCS bowls

OKLAHOMA'S CONSECUTIVE BCS BOWL DEFEATS

- > **2003:** LSU 21, OU 14 (Sugar Bowl, national championship)
- > **2004:** USC 55, OU 19 (Orange Bowl, national championship)
- > **2006:** Boise State 43, OU 42 (Fiesta Bowl)
- > **2007:** West Virginia 48, OU 28 (Fiesta Bowl)
- > **2008:** Florida 24, OU 14 (BCS national championship)

OHIO STATE'S CONSECUTIVE BCS BOWL DEFEATS

- > **2006:** Florida 41, Ohio State 14 (BCS national championship)
- > **2007:** LSU 38, Ohio State 24 (BCS national championship)
- > **2008:** Texas 24, Ohio State 21 (Fiesta Bowl)

Great expectations

Oklahoma and Ohio State combined may have lost five of the last six national championships. But this season, both schools have the potential to get back to the title game and end the streak:

OHIO STATE

The Buckeyes are winless in their last five games against Top 5 opponents.

But they'll have an awesome opportunity to break out of that rut while jumping into the national-title picture. No. 4 USC comes to Columbus on Sept. 12.

Last year, the Trojans destroyed Ohio State, 35-3. But get past that game, and suddenly the Buckeyes are a player in the national race.

Games at No. 8 Penn State and home against No. 21 Iowa also loom large. But no other Top 25 opponent is on Ohio State's relatively manageable schedule.



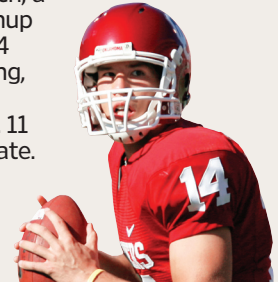
Ohio State QB Terrell Pryor
AP PHOTO

OKLAHOMA

The Sooners made the title game last year, and return the core of their team, led by Heisman Trophy winner Sam Bradford.

The key game, as usual, is No. 2 Texas at the Cotton Bowl.

Otherwise, OU should be favored in every one of its remaining contests — though plenty of potential landmines are on the slate, including road games at Miami, Kansas, No. 22 Nebraska and Texas Tech, a neutral matchup against No. 24 Brigham Young, and a home bout with No. 11 Oklahoma State.



Oklahoma QB Sam Bradford
PHOTO BY CHRIS LANDSBERGER, THE OKLAHOMAN ARCHIVE