



2008 Allstate BCS National Championship Game
FINAL Game Notes – Ohio State vs. LSU
Jan. 7, 2008

Final Score: LSU 38, Ohio State 24

- **ATTENDANCE:** 79,651 (Louisiana Superdome record)
- **MOST OUTSTANDING OFFENSIVE PLAYER:** Matt Flynn (QB, LSU, 19-27-1, 174, 4 TD)
- **MOST OUTSTANDING DEFENSIVE PLAYER:** Ricky Jean-Francois (DE, LSU, 6 TT, 1.5 TFL, 0.5 SACK, 1 BLK)
- **FINAL RECORDS:** Ohio State 11-2, LSU 12-2
- **RECORD IN BCS GAMES:** With tonight's 38-24 LSU victory, the Tigers remain perfect at 4-0 in BCS games, while Ohio State drops to 4-2 all time. LSU has the best winning percentage in BCS games since the inception of the BCS in 1998.
- **NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP INFO:** This is LSU's third national championship. The Tigers also captured crowns in 1958 and 2003 and is the first team to win two BCS National Championship Games.
- **SUPERDOME GAMES:** The victory by LSU runs its record in games played in the Superdome to 13-4. Ohio State is 1-2, with its two previous appearances coming in the Sugar Bowl.
- **SEC/BIG TEN IN THE BCS:** With the LSU win and Georgia's victory over Hawai'i here last Tuesday, the SEC's record in BCS games now stands at 11-4, the second highest since the inception of the BCS (behind the Mountain West's 1-0 record). The Big Ten was 0-2 in BCS games this year (Illinois lost to USC) and is now 8-9 all-time in the BCS. The Big Ten's 17 BCS appearances are the most by any conference.
- **TIGER OFFENSIVE PROWESS:** After a three-and-out on its first drive of the game, LSU scored on its next four possessions and five of six (to take a 31-10 lead) with the only unsuccessful drive coming on a single play to end the first half. The success ended after Matt Flynn was intercepted by Malcolm Jenkins late in the third quarter.
- **CONVERTING MISCUES:** Both teams converted turnovers into points. LSU converted an interception into a short TD drive late in the second quarter while Ohio State returned the favor late in the third quarter, scoring on a fourth-down pass to cut the lead to 31-17.
- **SLOWDOWN AFTER QUICK START:** Ohio State scored the game's first 10 points, taking a 10-0 lead only six minutes into tonight's game. LSU responded with 31-straight points to take a 31-10 lead six minutes into the third quarter. In last year's Tostitos BCS National Championship Game, Ohio State's Ted Ginn, Jr., returned the opening kickoff 93 yards for a 7-0 OSU lead, but Florida reeled off 21-straight points and led 34-14 at halftime en route to the 41-14 victory.
- **LONG DRIVES:** Five of the 10 scoring drives for the game consisted of 65 yards or more, including three of at least 77 yards. LSU had three scoring drives consisting of 10 or more plays, including a pair of 14-play drives to set a BCS record (see below).
- **LONG PLAYS:** There were 24 plays from scrimmage of at least 10 yards or more, including 15 in the first half alone. For the game, Ohio State had five plays of 20 yards or more and LSU had two.
- **LSU ON THIRD DOWN:** The key to the game was LSU's success on third down. The Tigers finished 11-of-18 on third down, but at one time were 11-of-14. Ohio State, on the other hand, finished 3-of-13. In the first half, the Tigers erased an early Buckeye 10-0 lead primarily by converting key third-down plays, finishing 8-for-10 in the first half. LSU was 3-for-3 in the drive ended by Brandon LaFell's 10-yard TD reception to take the lead for good at 17-10 – the score itself coming on a third-and-five from the OSU 10. Ohio State went 2-for-7 in the game's first 30 minutes.
- **PENALTY BUG:** Penalties played a key role all night, especially in two long LSU scoring drives. LSU took advantage of two personal foul penalties in an 84-yard touchdown drive in the first half, then was the beneficiary of roughing the kicker and personal foul penalties on back-to-back plays in an 80-yard TD drive to open the second half. On the night, the Buckeyes finished with seven penalties for 83 yards while LSU was whistled four times for only 36 yards. In the first half, Ohio State was whistled for four penalties for 48 total yards while LSU was not penalized.
- **ZONE SUCCESS:** The Tigers finished 6-of-6 in Red Zone chances, while Ohio State was 3-of-3.

Game Notes

No. 1 Ohio State vs. No. 2 LSU

2008 Allstate BCS Championship Game

Jan. 7, 2008 – New Orleans, La.

For Starters

- Ohio State played in its second-consecutive BCS national championship Monday night at the Superdome in New Orleans, La.
- LSU's 38-24 win is its second national championship in five years and third overall. The Buckeyes were seeking their eighth all-time national championship and second in six years.
- The loss drops Ohio State's record to 11-2 on the season and to 1-2 all-time in BCS title games. LSU finishes 12-2.
- Ohio State is now 4-2 all-time in BCS games and 18-21 all-time in bowl games.

BCS and Bowl History Notes

- The game represented Ohio State's fifth appearance in a Bowl Championship Series game in seven years under the direction of coach Jim Tressel.
- Ohio State made its second consecutive BCS national championship game appearance and its third overall. Ohio State, Florida State and Oklahoma lead all schools with three BCS national title game appearances.
- Ohio State is tied for first with Florida State, Oklahoma and USC in number of overall BCS game appearances with six.
- USC leads in all-time BCS wins with five (5-1). LSU (4-0) and Ohio State (4-2) are tied for second in all-time BCS bowl game wins.
- Ohio State's 4-2 BCS record includes winning the Sugar Bowl in 1999 and the Fiesta Bowl in 2003, 2004 and 2006. The losses have come in the 2007 and 2008 BCS championship games, to Florida and LSU, respectively.
- Ohio State, tied with Michigan for the most bowl games by Big Ten schools at 39, is now 18-21 in bowls.
- Ohio State is 1-2 in bowl games played at the Superdome. Ohio State took part in back-to-back Sugar Bowls following the 1997 and 1998 seasons, losing to Florida State and defeating Texas A&M, respectively.
- Ohio State has lost back-to-back bowl games for the first time since 1995 and 1996 (losses to the SEC's Alabama and Tennessee in the Citrus Bowl, respectively.)

Ninth Title Game for Tressel's Teams

- The title-game appearance represented the ninth championship game that a Tressel-coached team has made.
- Tressel led Youngstown State to the Division I-AA national title game six times – 1991-92-93-94-97-99 – and he has led the Buckeyes to the Bowl Championship Series title game three times – following the 2002, 2006 and 2007 regular seasons.
- Ohio State is the only Big Ten representative to play in the national championship game since the inception of the BCS in 1998.
- Ohio State played in a bowl for the eighth consecutive year, including all seven years in the Jim Tressel era. The OSU record for consecutive bowl trips is 10 from 1989-98.

Offensive Game Notes

- Chris "Beanie" Wells' 146 yards rushing was his ninth 100-yard game of the season.
- With 1,609 yards this season, Wells passed Pepe Pearson (sixth with 1,484 yards in 1996), Tim Spencer (fifth with 1,538 yards in 1982) and Archie Griffin (fourth with 1,577 yards in 1973) to move into fourth place among all-time single season rushers in Ohio State history.
- Wells also passed Griffin for first on the all-time sophomore rushing list.

- Brain Robiskie caught five passes which continues his streak of games with two-or-more receptions, something he has done every game this season.
- Robiskie's five-yard touchdown reception in the third quarter was his 11th this season and 16th of his career.
- With six catches against LSU, Brian Hartline has now caught multiple-passes 12 of 13 games this year.
- "Beanie" Wells' 65-yard touchdown run just 1:26 into the game was his longest career run and it was also the longest run for a touchdown ever in a BCS championship game.
- New Orleans Saints' standout and former Buckeye great Will Smith served as the team's honorary captain.
- True freshman tailback Brandon Saine made his first collegiate start at fullback. Dionte Johnson replaced him after his first play from scrimmage.

Defensive Notes

- Ohio State's defense entered the game No. 1 nationally in scoring (10.7), total defense (225.2) pass efficiency and pass defense (148.2). It had allowed just 11 touchdowns all season entering the game.
- LSU scored three first-half touchdowns and totaled 198 yards, but the telling stat of the half was the Tigers' ability to convert on third down. They were successful on 8-of-10 third downs in the first half.
- LSU's five touchdowns scored vs. the Ohio State defense was the most this season by an opponent.
- Malcolm Jenkins intercepted Matt Flynn late in the third quarter, his fourth pick this season and eighth of his career.
- Kicker Aaron Pettrey booted three kickoffs into the end zone for touchbacks, thus forcing LSU to start drives at its own 20.
- James Laurinaitis had 10 first-half tackles and 18 for the game.
- Marcus Freeman (14 tackles), Kurt Coleman (10) and Larry Grant (eight) also had active games defensively.

Misc. Notes

- Ohio State started only three seniors: offensive tackle Kirk Barton, fullback Dionte Johnson and linebacker Larry Grant.
- Ohio State is 798-303-53 all-time through 118 seasons of play.
- Tressel is 29-9 vs. Top 25 teams and 8-4 vs. Top 10 teams.
- Tressel is 4-3 in bowl games and 3-2 in BCS games.
- Tressel has coached five of his seven Ohio State teams to at least 10 wins and he has coached 12 of his 22 teams to at least 10 wins.
- Ex-Buckeyes not in a broadcast capacity but in attendance: Will Allen, Drew Carter, Chris Gamble, Santonio Holmes, Anthony Schlegel, Ted Ginn Jr., David Patterson, Troy Smith, Bobby Carpenter, Donte Whitner, Will Smith and Craig Krenzel.
- The loss was only Ohio State's third in the last 33 games.
- The Buckeyes have scored at least one touchdown in their last 139 games.
- Ohio State scored on its opening drive for the 10th time this season.