

Huskies Remain Unbeaten

Only three weeks in to the inaugural season of NCAA8 and already the ranks of the unbeaten have been trimmed down to just two teams, only one of them has won all three of their games.

Washington travelled to Pittsburgh to defend their unbeaten record and got off to a great start, three first quarter touchdowns gave them an early 14 point lead. The Panthers weren't about to give up on their home turf,



The Huskies celebrate another victory

however, and fought back in the second quarter - scoring three touchdowns of their own in a reverse of the first quarter leaving the teams tied at the half. After the offensive fireworks of the first half the second was somewhat disappointing as defenses began to get a grip. The teams entered the fourth quarter tied at 35, the Panthers seemed to have run out of steam but

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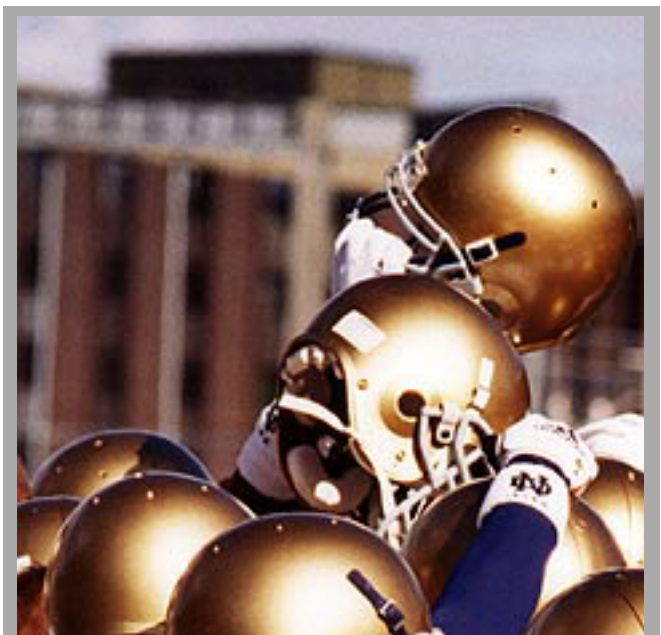
the Huskies had enough left for the final decisive touchdown.

A battle of unbeatens took place in Colorado, Notre Dame came in with one win and one tie and their hosts had won both their first two games. The game was close, three points seperated the teams at halftime but going into the fourth quarter the game was tied. In the fourth the pounding running game of the Irish paid off as they controlled the game and the clock while adding the crucial final touchdown.

The other unbeaten team going into week three was UCLA who travelled to Penn State. Although the game was even in terms of yardage five turnovers by the Bruins, compared to three from the Lions, turned out to be a significant

factor as the hosts ran out comfortable winners.

Alabama went to Michigan and their offense was rampant, racking up well over 500 yards. However, the Crimson Tide once again lacked decisiveness in the redzone and had to settle for too many field goals. The Wolverines didn't do anything too impressive but hung in there, making few mistakes, and when the opportunities arose they



Irish Pride - Notre Dame are one of only two undefeated teams in NCAA8

Comments from Ohio State

I'm very pleased with the attitude the guys have shown this week. It was a tough loss against a tough Colorado side last week but they came in and they showed a desire to turn it around. We let Miami back into it and it ended up being a tougher end than it should have been but we got the win and they're young and now they know, you can't take your foot off the gas. They know they should have buried Miami when they had the chance. Next week will be interesting. Notre Dame have tightened their D since preseason but I hope we can still do the same and rattle up the points.



took them. Alabama paid for their missed opportunities in the fourth quarter as two touchdowns handed Michigan victory.

The scoring fest of week three took place in Miami, who hosted the high powered offense of Ohio State. The Buckeyes started fast, with three first quarter touchdowns, but the Hurricanes did enough to stay in touch and at halftime trailed by six points. The

third quarter saw Ohio extend their lead as, in a pattern familiar around the league this week, defenses began to get a grip. Ohio State entered the fourth with a comfortable lead but the Hurricanes wouldn't give up - they closed the gap again but couldn't get that crucial edge.

Auburn finally got their first win with an explosive offensive display against Nebraska. The 'Huskers

consistently pounded the ball up and down the field but the Tigers defense, for once, was competitive on third down. Every score from Nebraska was matched by a big play for the Auburn offense. The killer blow came in the third quarter where the Cornhuskers, having driven inside the Auburn 20, were forced to settle for field goal attempt. The kicker pulled the field goal wide and, on the very next play, Campbell found Diamond in the seam and he raced 74 yards for a touchdown. Nebraska worked hard to make up for that ten point swing but were always struggling after that.

Trouble at Pittsburgh.

After 3 games, the Panthers find themselves firmly rooted to the bottom of the league, winless and with the 11th rated offense and 9th rated defense. So, what's going wrong?

Well, in our defense after a blow-out in week 1 to the 2nd rated team in the league we only lost by 3 to Alabama, and only by 7 in a shootout against the unbeaten Huskies, and that included 2 interceptions deep in Washington territory late in the 4th quarter, so it may be a bit soon to panic. But burying our heads in the sand isn't going to help. A game this week against another slow-starting team, the Hurricanes, may be just what we need, but we need a win soon.



As for our problems, well we're not a very veteran team of course, but more importantly I think we're too adequate. We have strengths spread pretty evenly, but this has stopped us dominating in any particular area, while other teams can run over any area they do dominate us. On top of this, we have frankly come up short on 3rd down and turned the ball over too many times. As for whether we can save this season...well, no, but we can try.

Profile - Dave Flesfader

G'day all, I am a 30 year old aussie who has been playing Gameplan in Oz for over 10 years now. This is my first foray into the home of PBM in the UK, so I hope you lads go easy on me! I work for Shell Petroleum and have a beautiful 2 year old son and am engaged to be married. I am a big, big Miami Dolphins fan, and love the 'Canes (my apologies to Neil for taking up the gig! ☺). I love college football, especially after travelling through the US at the end of '99 and getting a taste for the real thing! I would also love to coach Georgia Tech

News from Penn State

We're very pleased with the win over the league leaders, particularly with the margin of victory, a good points difference could well be the decisive factor in this league, and those points help put the Lions at the head of four teams on 2&1. Huge game played by the defence, did give some yards but it only allowed two TD's while forcing 5 turnovers (including one on each of the Bruins final 3 possessions). A slim 2 point half-time lead quickly grew and grew with a TD on each of the first four possessions of the second half, kicked off with a 9 yard drive after the D forced its second turnover on the third play in.

Although Graham threw another three interceptions it was an effective day for the offence in terms of yards, pass percentage and rushing average. And a week after I was saying we'd never run as much as pass, we almost did, with Dozier finding room to run so he kept getting the ball.



Next up its the Crimson Tide. Looking at their stats and their league position, they just don't match up. 10th in the table at 1&2 (though I'm sure they'll be kicking themselves for not getting to 2&1 after last weeks performance) with the second lowest points total. But the stats show they have the topped ranked defence (top against the run, second against the pass), the top ranked running game, and have gained over 500 yards in three of the four games we've seen. So they look a heck of a lot better than their position suggests, and we're expecting another tough game, but at home we're 2&0 in the season; and we intend to stay perfect a little longer.

after my favourite place, but at this stage there is no plans for college team expansion! I love most sports, especially aussie rules footy, cricket (you have to love the ashes!!! Sorry guys can't help myself ☺) and football. This looks like a great league, and I hope everyone enjoys it as much as I do!!

Week Three Preview

Miami at Pittsburgh - Miami struggled to keep up with the high octane Ohio State last week but must fancy their chances against winless Pittsburgh. The

Panthers ran the Huskies close last week and the Tide the week before which may give them some confidence, but they've got to start turning close defeats into victories and quickly. The Hurricanes look the better team and are perhaps unfortunate to be 1-2. Miami by 7

UCLA at Nebraska - Nebraska haven't looked good so far. They can rack up the yards on the ground but, when this isn't enough, they seem short of options. UCLA were comfortably beaten last week but if they cut out the turnovers they should manage a comfortable win here.

Auburn at Colorado - The Tigers are coming off their first win, the Buffaloes their first defeat. Colorado are a solid all round team with balance on offense while Auburn live and die by the pass. That extra balance probably makes Colorado favourites but they will be wary of the big play offense of the Tigers.

Ohio State at Notre Dame - A classic defense v offense encounter. Ohio State have possibly the most potent offense in the league while Notre Dame have conceded fewer than everyone else by an average of a touchdown a game. The Irish have a chance of keeping it low scoring on their home turf but the Ohio offense will almost certainly score more points than the defense is used to. Ball control could be key for Notre Dame. Notre Dame by 3

Washington at Michigan - The Huskies are sitting pretty at the top of the standings after three weeks while the wolverines have only one win and that was maybe slightly undeserved. Don't expect Washington to take anything lightly however, Coach Ware has proven more than capable in other leagues and will have Michigan prepared for this one. Washington by 7

Alabama at Penn State - The Tide are possibly the best 1-2 team out there. They are capable of racking up the yards but have lacked that killer touch near the endzone. Penn State look a quality outfit, however, and will make Alabama pay dearly for any missed opportunities. Playing at home gives the Lions a clear edge. Penn State

by 7

Predictions from will Smith

Panthers by 6
Cornhuskers by 7
Buffaloes by 4
Irish by 10
Huskies by 14
Lions by 3

Thanks for all the contributions this time, as you can see we've struggled onto four pages for the first time since issue one - keep them coming!

How To Beat The Huskies?

After the first three weeks of the season the Huskies stand alone with a 100% record. Coach Williams was asked how he felt about the season so far. "Fantastic! When I looked at the schedule and saw that we started the season with four straight road games, with a freshman QB, I feared the worst, and would have taken 2-2. Now we are at 3-0, and Moon is just playing exceptional. 16 TD passes, 1 TD run, 1399 passing yards and 150 rushing yards - that is just so much better than I expected. Warren doesn't get all the credit though, FB Rick Fenney has helped the team rush for over 100 yards a game, stopping our opponents from simply sitting back and keying on the pass and WR Paul Skansi is putting moves on opposing DB's that John Travolta would be proud of! My main concern at the moment is our defence, sure, they are doing enough to help us win, coming up with key turnovers and stops, but in all three games we have had big leads in the second quarter pulled back by half-



time. I'll be hitting home the message to the D this week that they really can't afford to relax one bit in NCAA8, or they'll get punished. Next up is a trip to Coach Ware's Wolverines, who look a good side despite what the scouting report says (ranked last on O and D). We all know that rankings by yards aren't worth the paper they're printed on though, and I have enough experience of Dave's teams from the Pro game to know this will be no easy task. He'll be expecting to get Michigan back to 2-2, I want to play our first home game of the season at 4-0, so this game will be tough." One final question for Coach Williams was this, what advice would he give other coaches on how to beat his high octane Huskies? "Well, that's easy isn't it? Looking at our first three games, I'd say score more than 42 and you'll be alright!"