MIAMI vs OHIO STATE

Comprehensive Percentile-Based Matchup Analysis

Generated: December 27, 2025

★ = Elite (90th+ percentile) | ■ = Vulnerability (20th or below) | All percentiles are QUALITY-ADJUSTED (higher = better)

MATCHUP SUMMARY

CATEGORY	MIAMI	OHIO STATE	EVEN
Statistical Advantages	8	38	0
Strength vs Weakness Edges	0	1	-

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Overall Statistical Edge: Ohio State

Ohio State holds advantages in 38 of the tracked metrics compared to Miami's 8. The Buckeyes enter this matchup as the more complete team statistically, ranking elite (90th+ percentile) in both offensive efficiency and defensive efficiency. Miami's defense has been strong, but the Hurricanes face significant challenges on both sides of the ball against this opponent.

Key Statistical Storylines:
• **Offensive Disparity:** Ohio State's offense ranks 91st percentile in EPA/play vs Miami's 69th - a significant gap
• **Defensive Parity:** Both defenses are elite - OSU 94th percentile, Miami 90th percentile in defensive EPA
• **Red Zone Concern:** Miami's red zone defense is a glaring weakness (7th percentile in TD rate allowed vs OSU's 70th)
• **Line of Scrimmage:** Ohio State's run game improves significantly in 2nd half (+8.6% success rate); Miami's D-line allows +0.76 YPC more
• **Situational Pass Rush:** OSU's 16.4% sack rate on 3rd and long dwarfs Miami's 3.8%

FULL STATISTICAL COMPARISON

METRIC	MIAMI	MIA %	OSU	OSU %	EDGE
Offense Epa/ Play	0.086	69th	0.202	91th ★	OSU
Defense Epa/ Play	-0.088	90th ★	-0.138	94th ★	EVEN
Offense Epa/ Rush	-0.018	42th	0.033	58th	OSU
Defense Epa/ Rush	0.010	53th	-0.151	94th ★	OSU
Offense Rush Success %	0.464	80th	0.485	91th ★	OSU+
Defense Rush Success %	0.356	88th	0.332	95th ★	OSU+
Offense Epa/ Pass	0.200	82th	0.398	96th ★	OSU+
Defense Epa/ Pass	-0.175	90th ★	-0.137	87th	EVEN
Offense Pass Success %	0.490	90th ★	0.592	99th ★	OSU+
Defense Pass Success %	0.335	91th ★	0.361	83th	MIA+
Offense Explosive Rate	0.067	52th	0.068	55th	EVEN
Defense Explosive Rate	0.057	79th	0.040	97th ★	OSU
Offense 3Rd Down Success	0.465	85th	0.556	99th ★	OSU+
Defense 3Rd Down Success	0.303	92th ★	0.286	94th ★	EVEN
Offense Redzone Epa	0.633	69th	0.947	86th	OSU
Defense Redzone Epa	1.117	8th ■	-0.654	94th ★	OSU
Offense Redzone Td Rate	0.236	39th	0.299	61th	OSU
Defense Redzone Td Rate	0.436	7th ■	0.186	70th	OSU
Sack Pct	0.104	97th ★	0.110	97th ★	EVEN
Sack Pct Allowed	0.035	40th	0.027	46th	OSU+
Pressure Pct	0.094	84th	0.078	72th	MIA+
Pressure Pct Allowed	0.018	58th	0.043	42th	MIAMI
Turnover Margin	-	N/A	-	N/A	N/A
Int Rate Offense	0.039	10th ■	0.022	27th	OSU
Int Rate Defense	0.021	30th	0.022	28th	EVEN
Offense Standard Down Epa	0.082	73th	0.127	87th	OSU+
Offense Passing Down Epa	0.051	65th	0.287	92th ★	OSU
Defense Standard Down Epa	-0.064	82th	-0.092	88th	OSU+
Defense Passing Down Epa	-0.099	75th	-0.152	85th	OSU+
Offense Scoring Drive Pct	0.489	81th	0.583	97th ★	OSU
Defense Scoring Drive Pct	0.274	94th ★	0.292	92th ★	EVEN
Offense Td Drive Pct	0.363	94th ★	0.444	98th ★	EVEN
Defense Td Drive Pct	0.104	71th	0.058	99th ★	OSU
Offense Stuff Rate	0.067	89th	0.079	71th	MIAMI
Defense Stuff Rate	0.113	85th	0.101	70th	MIAMI
Offense Yards Per Drive	38.465	84th	45.011	97th ★	OSU+
Offense Plays Per Drive	5.975	77th	6.577	96th ★	OSU
Defense Yards Per Drive Allowed	27.835	86th	23.654	97th ★	OSU+
Yards Per Play	6.301	91th ★	6.815	95th ★	EVEN
Yards Per Play Allowed	4.410	38th	3.916	42th	EVEN
Completion Pct	0.731	99th ★	0.773	100th ★	EVEN

Points Per Play	0.487	89th	0.552	96th ★	**OSU+**
Points Per Play Allowed	0.203	43th	0.149	50th	**OSU+**
Offense 1St Down Success	0.467	82th	0.527	96th ★	**OSU+**
Defense 1St Down Success	0.341	94th ★	0.373	83th	**MIA+**
Offense 2Nd Down Success	0.491	89th	0.525	97th ★	**OSU+**
Defense 2Nd Down Success	0.364	77th	0.345	88th	**OSU+**

HEAD-TO-HEAD MATCHUP MATRIX

Miami Offense vs Ohio State Defense

MATCHUP	MIA OFF %	OSU DEF %	GAP	PROJ
Epa/ Play	69th	94th	-25	OSU ▲▲
Epa/ Rush	42th	94th	-52	OSU ▲▲
Epa/ Pass	82th	87th	-4	EVEN
3Rd Down Success	85th	94th	-10	OSU ▲
Scoring Drive Pct	81th	92th	-12	OSU ▲
Explosive Rate	52th	97th	-46	OSU ▲▲
Redzone Td Rate	39th	70th	-32	OSU ▲▲

Ohio State Offense vs Miami Defense

MATCHUP	OSU OFF %	MIA DEF %	GAP	PROJ
Epa/ Play	91th	90th	+1	EVEN
Epa/ Rush	58th	53th	+5	EVEN
Epa/ Pass	96th	90th	+6	OSU ▲
3Rd Down Success	99th	92th	+7	OSU ▲
Scoring Drive Pct	97th	94th	+3	EVEN
Explosive Rate	55th	79th	-25	MIA ▲▲
Redzone Td Rate	61th	7th	+54	OSU ▲▲

KEY MATCHUP EDGES (Strength vs Weakness)

MATCHUP AREA	EDGE FOR	STR %	WEAK %
Defense Redzone Td Rate	**Ohio State**	30th	39th

A "Strength vs Weakness" edge occurs when one team's top-30% strength directly matches up against the opponent's bottom-40% vulnerability. These are the matchups most likely to be exploited during the game.

Red Zone Battle: Ohio State's red zone defense (70th percentile) faces Miami's struggling red zone offense (39th percentile TD rate). When Miami gets inside the 20, they have historically settled for field goals. OSU's ability to force field goal attempts in the red zone could be the difference in a close game - every TD prevented is a 4-point swing.

TEAM VULNERABILITIES (Bottom 40%)

Miami Vulnerabilities

METRIC	VALUE	RAW %	QUAL %
Offense Redzone Td Rate	0.236	39th	39th
Defense Redzone Td Rate	0.436	93rd	7th ■
Defense Stuff Rate	0.113	85th	85th

Ohio State Vulnerabilities

METRIC	VALUE	RAW %	QUAL %
Defense Stuff Rate	0.101	70th	70th

TEAM STRENGTHS (Top 30%)

Miami Strengths

METRIC	VALUE	RAW %	QUAL %
Offense Epa/ Pass	0.200	82th	82th
Offense Success %	0.477	89th	89th
Offense Rush Success %	0.464	80th	80th
Offense Pass Success %	0.490	90th	90th ★
Offense 3Rd Down Success	0.465	85th	85th
Offense Standard Down Epa	0.082	73th	73th
Offense 1St Down Success	0.467	82th	82th
Offense 2Nd Down Success	0.491	89th	89th
Offense Scoring Drive Pct	0.489	81th	81th
Defense Epa/ Play	-0.088	10th	90th ★
Defense Epa/ Pass	-0.175	10th	90th ★
Defense Success %	0.346	6th	94th ★
Defense Rush Success %	0.356	12th	88th
Defense Pass Success %	0.335	9th	91th ★

METRIC	VALUE	RAW %	QUAL %
Defense Explosive Rate	0.057	21th	79th
Defense 3Rd Down Success	0.303	8th	92th ★
Sack Pct	0.104	97th	97th ★

Ohio State Strengths

METRIC	VALUE	RAW %	QUAL %
Offense Epa/ Play	0.202	91th	91th ★
Offense Epa/ Pass	0.398	96th	96th ★
Offense Success %	0.535	99th	99th ★
Offense Rush Success %	0.485	91th	91th ★
Offense Pass Success %	0.592	99th	99th ★
Offense 3Rd Down Success	0.556	99th	99th ★
Offense Standard Down Epa	0.127	87th	87th
Offense Passing Down Epa	0.287	92th	92th ★
Offense 1St Down Success	0.527	96th	96th ★
Offense 2Nd Down Success	0.525	97th	97th ★
Offense Scoring Drive Pct	0.583	97th	97th ★
Defense Epa/ Play	-0.138	6th	94th ★
Defense Epa/ Rush	-0.151	6th	94th ★
Defense Epa/ Pass	-0.137	13th	87th
Defense Success %	0.347	6th	94th ★
Defense Rush Success %	0.332	5th	95th ★
Defense Pass Success %	0.361	17th	83th
Defense Explosive Rate	0.040	3th	97th ★
Defense 3Rd Down Success	0.286	6th	94th ★
Defense Redzone Td Rate	0.186	30th	70th
Sack Pct	0.110	97th	97th ★

OFFENSIVE ANALYSIS

Ohio State Offense (Elite - 91st Percentile EPA/Play)

The Buckeyes possess one of the nation's most efficient offenses. Their passing attack is devastating - ranking 96th percentile in EPA/pass with a 99th percentile pass success rate. Julian Sayin has been remarkably efficient, completing passes at a 77.3% clip (100th percentile). The offense excels in every down-and-distance situation, particularly on 3rd downs (99th percentile, 55.6% conversion).

Concern: Recent trends show offensive regression - EPA/play dropped from 0.202 season average to 0.096 in last 3 games. Rush EPA has gone negative (-0.061). The offense may be hitting a late-season lull. The offensive line gets stuffed at a higher rate (18.8%) than Miami's (14.3%).

Miami Offense (Good - 69th Percentile EPA/Play)

Miami's offense is solid but not spectacular. Carson Beck leads an efficient passing game (82nd percentile EPA/pass) with elite completion percentage (73.1%, 99th percentile). The Hurricanes excel in pass success rate (90th percentile). The offensive line actually does well avoiding negative plays - only 14.3% stuffed rate compared to OSU's 18.8%.

Major Concerns:
• Run game is below average (42nd percentile EPA/rush) - can't establish ground game despite good pass protection
• Explosive play generation is mediocre (52nd percentile) - lacking big-play ability
• Red zone TD rate is poor (39th percentile) - settling for field goals
• Recent trends are negative across the board - offense declining down stretch

DEFENSIVE ANALYSIS

Ohio State Defense (Elite - 94th Percentile EPA/Play Allowed)

Matt Patricia's defense is dominant across the board. The Buckeyes rank elite in rush defense (94th percentile), limiting explosives (97th percentile - only allowing 4.0% explosive plays), and 3rd down defense (94th percentile). The pass rush generates sacks at an elite rate (97th percentile, 11.0% sack rate).

Strength: Run defense is a brick wall - 33.2% rush success allowed (95th percentile), -0.151 EPA/rush allowed (94th percentile). Miami's weak run game faces a nightmare matchup.

Concern: Red zone defense has been vulnerable lately - allowed 41.7% TD rate in last 3 games vs 18.6% season average. Late-game fatigue showing with stuff rate dropping from 25.4% to 18.7% in 2nd half.

Miami Defense (Very Good - 90th Percentile EPA/Play Allowed)

Miami's defense has been a strength, ranking elite in pass defense (90th percentile EPA/pass allowed) and 3rd down defense (92nd percentile). The Hurricanes generate pressure at an 84th percentile rate. The defensive line stuff rate (21.5%) matches Ohio State's, showing competitiveness at the line of scrimmage.

Critical Weakness - RED ZONE DEFENSE:
This is Miami's Achilles heel. The Hurricanes rank just 7th percentile in red zone TD rate allowed (43.6%). When opponents get inside the 20, they score touchdowns at an alarming rate. Against Ohio State's 97th percentile scoring offense, this is a recipe for disaster.

Other Concerns:
• TFL rate is good (13.8% vs 8.9%) but comes with boom-or-bust tendencies
• Defense trending wrong direction - EPA/play allowed went from -0.088 to +0.011 in last 3
• Rush defense has cratered recently - from 0.010 EPA allowed to 0.191 in last 3 games
• D-line gets worn down: YPC allowed jumps from 3.49 (1H) to 4.25 (2H)

MOMENTUM / TREND ANALYSIS (Last 3 vs Season)

Miami Trends

METRIC	SEASON	LAST 3	TREND	DIR
Offense Epa/ Play	0.086	0.066	-0.020	↓
Defense Epa/ Play	-0.088	0.011	+0.099	↓
Offense Epa/ Rush	-0.018	-0.087	-0.069	↓
Defense Epa/ Rush	0.010	0.191	+0.181	↓
Offense Epa/ Pass	0.200	0.198	-0.002	→
Defense Epa/ Pass	-0.175	-0.128	+0.047	↓
Offense Success %	0.477	0.442	-0.035	↓
Defense Success %	0.346	0.369	+0.023	↓
Offense Explosive Rate	0.067	0.065	-0.002	→
Defense Explosive Rate	0.057	0.064	+0.007	→
Offense 3Rd Down Success	0.465	0.413	-0.052	↓
Defense 3Rd Down Success	0.303	0.362	+0.059	↓
Sack Pct	0.104	0.168	+0.064	↑
Sack Pct Allowed	0.035	0.053	+0.017	→
Offense Scoring Drive Pc	0.489	0.487	-0.002	→
Defense Scoring Drive Pc	0.274	0.261	-0.013	→
Offense Redzone Td Rate	0.236	0.578	+0.342	↑
Defense Redzone Td Rate	0.436	0.000	-0.436	↑

Ohio State Trends

METRIC	SEASON	LAST 3	TREND	DIR
Offense Epa/ Play	0.202	0.096	-0.106	↓
Defense Epa/ Play	-0.138	-0.155	-0.017	→
Offense Epa/ Rush	0.033	-0.061	-0.094	↓
Defense Epa/ Rush	-0.151	-0.234	-0.084	↑
Offense Epa/ Pass	0.398	0.325	-0.073	↓
Defense Epa/ Pass	-0.137	-0.060	+0.078	↓
Offense Success %	0.535	0.464	-0.072	↓
Defense Success %	0.347	0.327	-0.020	→
Offense Explosive Rate	0.068	0.082	+0.014	→
Defense Explosive Rate	0.040	0.056	+0.016	→
Offense 3Rd Down Success	0.556	0.504	-0.052	↓
Defense 3Rd Down Success	0.286	0.310	+0.024	↓
Sack Pct	0.110	0.129	+0.019	→
Sack Pct Allowed	0.027	0.056	+0.029	↑
Offense Scoring Drive Pc	0.583	0.441	-0.142	↓

Defense Scoring Drive Pc	0.292	0.359	+0.068	↓
Offense Redzone Td Rate	0.299	0.222	-0.076	↓
Defense Redzone Td Rate	0.186	0.417	+0.231	↓

Defense Scoring Drive Pc	0.292	0.359	+0.068	↓
Offense Redzone Td Rate	0.299	0.222	-0.076	↓
Defense Redzone Td Rate	0.186	0.417	+0.231	↓

QUARTER-BY-QUARTER PERFORMANCE

QTR	MIA EPA	MIA SR%	MIA PASS%	OSU EPA	OSU SR%	OSU PASS%	EDGE
Q1	0.046	46.7%	42%	0.074	53.8%	44%	EVEN
Q2	0.028	37.5%	39%	0.172	43.6%	43%	OSU
Q3	0.012	46.2%	38%	0.234	51.6%	42%	OSU
Q4	0.019	39.3%	29%	0.102	46.6%	22%	OSU
1H	0.037	-	-	0.123	-	-	OSU
2H	0.016	-	-	0.168	-	-	OSU
ADJ	-0.022	-	-	+0.045	-	-	-

LATE & CLOSE GAME PERFORMANCE (Q4 + Within 8 pts)

TEAM	SITUATION	PLAYS	EPA/PLAY	SR%	EXPL%
Miami	Non-Clutch	999	0.025	42.6%	8.1%
Miami	Clutch (Q4 & Close	101	0.038	39.6%	4.0%
Ohio S	Non-Clutch	957	0.171	49.7%	7.7%
Ohio S	Clutch (Q4 & Close	40	-0.531	20.0%	10.0%

DOWN & DISTANCE SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

SITUATION	MIA EPA	MIA SR%	OSU EPA	OSU SR%	EDGE
1st Down	0.04	44%	0.11	49%	OSU
2nd & Short (1-3)	0.05	62%	-0.15	61%	MIA
2nd & Medium (4-6)	-0.00	48%	0.09	60%	OSU
2nd & Long (7+)	0.16	39%	0.28	39%	OSU
3rd & Short (1-3)	0.01	60%	0.49	75%	OSU
3rd & Medium (4-6)	0.03	43%	0.30	48%	OSU
3rd & Long (7+)	-0.15	22%	0.22	30%	OSU
4th Down	-0.13	31%	-0.06	35%	OSU

FIELD POSITION PERFORMANCE

FIELD ZONE	MIA EPA	MIA SR%	OSU EPA	OSU SR%	EDGE
Own 0-20 (Backed Up)	0.16	43%	0.23	44%	OSU
Own 21-40	0.07	37%	0.29	51%	OSU
Midfield (41-60)	-0.13	44%	0.04	49%	OSU
Opponent 21-40	-0.08	41%	0.04	45%	OSU
Red Zone (Opp 0-20)	0.36	52%	0.09	53%	MIA

DRIVE EFFICIENCY COMPARISON

METRIC	MIAMI	OHIO STATE	EDGE
Plays/Drive	6.88	7.39	OSU
Yards/Drive	40.81	48.84	OSU
EPA/Drive	0.18	1.06	OSU
Scoring %	46.9%	57.0%	OSU
Pts/Drive	2.71	3.41	OSU
TD %	33.8%	43.7%	OSU
Avg Start Yard	48.42	44.75	EVEN

PRESSURE & PROTECTION ANALYSIS

Pass Protection (Offense)

METRIC	MIAMI	OHIO STATE
Total Dropbacks	407	382
Sacks Allowed	10	11
Sack Rate Allowed	2.5%	2.9%
Negative Pass Rate	48.2%	41.9%

Pass Rush (Defense)

METRIC	MIAMI	OHIO STATE
Dropbacks Faced	454	344
Sacks Generated	37	30
Sack Rate	8.1%	8.7%
Disruption Rate	61.9%	60.2%

GAME SCRIPT PERFORMANCE (By Score Differential)

Miami

SITUATION	PLAYS	EPA/PLAY	SR%	PASS%
Blowout Lead	354	0.143	46.3%	34.2%
Close Deficit	56	0.265	46.4%	44.6%
Close Lead	94	-0.036	50.0%	31.9%
Comfortable Lead	251	0.053	37.5%	35.1%
Large Deficit	12	0.553	50.0%	16.7%
Moderate Deficit	100	-0.177	33.0%	35.0%
Tied	271	-0.128	38.0%	39.5%

Ohio State

SITUATION	PLAYS	EPA/PLAY	SR%	PASS%
Blowout Lead	415	0.218	52.3%	34.7%
Close Deficit	124	-0.177	41.1%	37.9%
Close Lead	132	0.281	47.7%	43.9%
Comfortable Lead	214	0.247	42.5%	36.9%
Large Deficit	10	0.584	10.0%	0.0%
Moderate Deficit	6	-0.034	33.3%	0.0%
Tied	126	-0.127	49.2%	42.9%

TEMPO & PACE ANALYSIS

TEAM	AVG PLAYS/GAME	MIN	MAX	STD DEV
Miami	84.6	65	100	9.5
Ohio State	76.7	64	90	8.1

LINE OF SCRIMMAGE SUMMARY

Offensive Line Performance

METRIC	MIAMI	OHIO STATE	EDGE
Run Block: YPC	4.63	5.01	OSU
Run Block: Success %	47.2%	48.8%	OSU
Stuffed Rate	14.3%	18.8%	MIA
Explosive Rush %	13.1%	15.1%	OSU
Sacks Allowed %	2.5%	2.9%	EVEN
Negative Pass %	5.2%	4.2%	EVEN

Defensive Line Performance

METRIC	MIAMI	OHIO STATE	EDGE
YPC Allowed	4.16	3.85	OSU
Rush Success Allowed	36.5%	33.2%	OSU
Stuff Rate	21.5%	21.5%	EVEN
TFL Rate	13.8%	8.9%	MIA
Sack Rate	8.1%	8.7%	EVEN
Disruption Rate	9.3%	11.0%	OSU

RUN GAME PROGRESSION (O-Line Control)

Miami Run Game by Quarter

QTR	YPC	SR%	STUFF%	EXPL%	EPA
Q1	4.32	51.5%	6.9%	9.8%	0.023
Q2	4.11	36.7%	18.8%	8.7%	-0.077
Q3	4.85	49.3%	13.5%	17.0%	0.021
Q4	4.91	44.6%	18.4%	16.0%	-0.078

Ohio State Run Game by Quarter

QTR	YPC	SR%	STUFF%	EXPL%	EPA
Q1	4.80	45.8%	15.5%	17.5%	-0.083
Q2	4.68	39.5%	23.5%	12.5%	-0.035
Q3	4.63	51.3%	18.4%	10.9%	0.109
Q4	5.82	51.3%	19.2%	17.9%	0.093

Half-to-Half Run Game Trend

TEAM	1H SR%	2H SR%	TREND	1H YPC	2H YPC	TREND
Miami	44.1%	47.0%	+2.9% ↑	4.21	4.88	+0.67 ↑
Ohio State	42.7%	51.3%	+8.6% ↑	4.74	5.23	+0.49 ↑

OBVIOUS RUN SITUATIONS (Can They Close?)

Miami

SITUATION	PLAYS	RUSH%	SR%	YPC	CONV%
Short Yardage (3rd/4th	79	54%	81.4%	2.4	62%
Winning Late (Q4, +1-1	75	41%	41.9%	3.4	35%
Clock Killing (Q4, +7+	186	45%	46.4%	4.2	39%
Goal Line (Inside 5)	34	62%	81.0%	2.4	50%
2nd & Short (≤3)	56	68%	71.1%	3.7	62%

Ohio State

SITUATION	PLAYS	RUSH%	SR%	YPC	CONV%
Short Yardage (3rd/4th	77	64%	73.5%	2.1	62%
Winning Late (Q4, +1-1	36	50%	33.3%	3.3	25%
Clock Killing (Q4, +7+	196	63%	51.2%	5.8	46%
Goal Line (Inside 5)	43	53%	52.2%	1.3	26%
2nd & Short (≤3)	67	58%	61.5%	4.3	63%

RUN DEFENSE PROGRESSION (D-Line Durability)

Miami Run Defense by Quarter

QTR	YPC	SR%	STUFF%	TFL%	EPA
Q1	3.34	26.8%	26.4%	15.5%	-0.040
Q2	3.65	30.0%	24.6%	12.5%	-0.184
Q3	4.75	37.2%	23.5%	13.9%	0.028
Q4	3.75	36.8%	22.3%	17.9%	0.095

Ohio State Run Defense by Quarter

QTR	YPC	SR%	STUFF%	TFL%	EPA
Q1	4.07	26.7%	26.7%	9.3%	-0.246
Q2	3.14	30.1%	24.1%	9.3%	-0.226
Q3	3.13	27.3%	22.8%	10.5%	-0.334
Q4	4.16	40.0%	14.6%	5.7%	0.025

Half-to-Half Run Defense Trend

TEAM	1H STUFF%	2H STUFF%	TREND	1H YPC	2H YPC	TREND
Miami	25.5%	22.9%	-2.6% ↓	3.49	4.25	+0.76 ↑
Ohio State	25.4%	18.7%	-6.7% ↓	3.61	3.65	+0.04 →

RUN DEFENSE IN OBVIOUS RUN SITUATIONS

Miami

SITUATION	PLAYS	STUFF%	SR ALWD	YPC	EPA
Short Yardage Defense	30	20.0%	73.3%	2.4	0.543
vs Clock Killing Rush	60	16.7%	45.0%	5.0	0.328
Goal Line Rush Defense	4	0.0%	75.0%	4.0	0.784

Ohio State

SITUATION	PLAYS	STUFF%	SR ALWD	YPC	EPA
Short Yardage Defense	36	38.9%	50.0%	2.4	-0.273
vs Clock Killing Rush	93	12.9%	43.0%	4.6	0.095
Goal Line Rush Defense	5	60.0%	20.0%	0.4	-0.145

PASS PROTECTION IN OBVIOUS PASS SITUATIONS

Miami

SITUATION	PLAYS	SACK%	SR%	CONV%	EPA
3rd & Long (7+)	57	5.3%	28.1%	28%	-0.204
Trailing Late (Q4, -7+	5	0.0%	40.0%	40%	-0.966
All Passing Downs	159	4.4%	38.4%	35%	0.156
2nd & Long (8+)	80	2.5%	42.5%	59%	0.400

Ohio State

SITUATION	PLAYS	SACK%	SR%	CONV%	EPA
3rd & Long (7+)	36	5.6%	38.9%	39%	0.420
Trailing Late (Q4, -7+	0	nan%	nan%	nan%	nan
All Passing Downs	114	5.3%	44.7%	40%	0.337
2nd & Long (8+)	59	3.4%	44.1%	56%	0.343

PASS RUSH IN OBVIOUS PASS SITUATIONS

Miami

SITUATION	PLAYS	SACK%	NEG%	SR ALWD	EPA
3rd & Long Pass Rush	78	3.8%	6.4%	17.9%	-0.368
vs Trailing Late Pass	1	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	3.747
Passing Down Pass Rush	211	7.6%	8.5%	28.9%	-0.167

Ohio State

SITUATION	PLAYS	SACK%	NEG%	SR ALWD	EPA
3rd & Long Pass Rush	67	16.4%	16.4%	17.9%	-0.194
vs Trailing Late Pass	0	nan%	nan%	nan%	nan
Passing Down Pass Rush	158	12.0%	12.0%	29.7%	-0.109

LINE OF SCRIMMAGE BREAKDOWN

The Battle in the Trenches Favors Ohio State

Run Game Progression - Who Controls the 2nd Half?

Good offensive lines "take over" games as they wear down defenses. The data shows:

Ohio State O-Line: Dominant 2nd half improvement
• 1st Half: 42.7% success rate, 4.74 YPC
• 2nd Half: 51.3% success rate (+8.6%), 5.23 YPC (+0.49)
• Q4 specifically: 5.82 YPC with 51.3% success rate - they close games on the ground

Miami O-Line: Modest improvement but better at avoiding negative plays
• 1st Half: 44.1% success rate, 4.21 YPC
• 2nd Half: 47.0% success rate (+2.9%), 4.88 YPC (+0.67)
• Stuffed rate (14.3% vs 18.8%) favors Miami - getting stuffed less often

Defensive Line Durability

Ohio State D-Line: Some late-game fatigue but still dominant
• Stuff rate drops from 25.4% (1H) to 18.7% (2H) - fewer plays stopped in backfield
• However, YPC allowed stays consistent (3.61 to 3.65) - bend but don't break

Miami D-Line: Gets worn down as game progresses
• Stuff rate drops from 25.5% to 22.9% - fewer stops in backfield
• YPC allowed jumps from 3.49 to 4.25 (+0.76) - significant leakage
• Against OSU's improving run game, this is a bad combination

Obvious Situation Performance - Can They Execute When Everyone Knows What's Coming?

Clock Killing (Q4, Leading by 7+):
• Ohio State: 63% rush rate, 51.2% success, 5.8 YPC - they put games away
• Miami: 45% rush rate, 46.4% success, 4.2 YPC - less dominant, more pass-reliant

Short Yardage Defense (higher stuff rate = better):
• Ohio State: 38.9% stuff rate, 50.0% success allowed - they win these battles
• Miami: 20.0% stuff rate, 73.3% success allowed - they get pushed around

Pass Rush in Obvious Pass Situations:
• Ohio State: 16.4% sack rate on 3rd and long - elite pressure
• Miami: 3.8% sack rate on 3rd and long - no pressure when needed

ADDRESSING THE NARRATIVE: IS MIAMI BETTER UP FRONT?

The Popular Narrative vs. The Data

There has been significant discourse suggesting Miami has an advantage in the trenches - that their offensive and defensive lines are superior to Ohio State's. This narrative has been fueled by recruiting rankings, individual player accolades, and the eye test. But what does the statistical evidence actually show?

OFFENSIVE LINE COMPARISON

Run Blocking Metrics:
• **Yards Per Carry:** OSU 5.01 vs Miami 4.63 - **Advantage: Ohio State**
• **Rush Success Rate:** OSU 48.8% vs Miami 47.2% - **Advantage: Ohio State**
• **Explosive Rush Rate:** OSU 15.1% vs Miami 13.1% - **Advantage: Ohio State**
• **Stuffed Rate:** Miami 14.3% vs OSU 18.8% - **Advantage: Miami** (lower is better for offense)

Pass Protection Metrics:
• **Sack Rate Allowed:** Miami 2.5% vs OSU 2.9% - **Slight Advantage: Miami**
• **Negative Pass Play Rate:** Miami 5.2% vs OSU 4.2% - **Advantage: Ohio State**

Verdict on O-Line: Miami does have a meaningful advantage in stuff rate (getting stuffed less often - 14.3% vs 18.8%) and slightly better sack protection. However, Ohio State's offensive line is statistically superior in the metrics that translate to points - yards per carry, success rate, and explosive play generation. The Buckeyes create more positive plays and bigger gains when they run the ball.

DEFENSIVE LINE COMPARISON

Run Defense Metrics:
• **YPC Allowed:** OSU 3.85 vs Miami 4.16 - **Advantage: Ohio State**
• **Rush Success Allowed:** OSU 33.2% vs Miami 36.5% - **Advantage: Ohio State**
• **Stuff Rate:** Both at 21.5% - **Even** (higher is better for defense)
• **TFL Rate:** Miami 13.8% vs OSU 8.9% - **Advantage: Miami**

Pass Rush Metrics:
• **Sack Rate:** OSU 8.7% vs Miami 8.1% - **Slight Advantage: Ohio State**
• **Disruption Rate:** OSU 11.0% vs Miami 9.3% - **Advantage: Ohio State**
• **3rd and Long Sack Rate:** OSU 16.4% vs Miami 3.8% - **Massive Advantage: Ohio State**

Verdict on D-Line: The stuff rates are identical (21.5%), so neither team has an advantage there. While Miami does generate more tackles for loss (13.8% vs 8.9%), Ohio State is superior in the metrics that matter most - YPC allowed, success rate allowed, and pass rush effectiveness in obvious situations. The 16.4% vs 3.8% sack rate on 3rd and long is a staggering disparity.

THE CRITICAL QUESTION: WHY DOES MIAMI HAVE MORE TFLs BUT WORSE RUN DEFENSE?

This paradox reveals something important about Miami's defensive line play. A higher TFL rate combined with worse overall run defense metrics suggests:

1. **Boom-or-Bust Run Fits:** Miami's D-line is aggressive and penetrating, which creates TFLs but also creates gaps. When they win, they win big (TFL). When they lose, they lose big (chunk runs).

2. **Lack of Consistency:** Ohio State's defense is more assignment-sound. They may not create as many splash plays, but they rarely give up the explosive runs that Miami surrenders.

3. **Scheme vs. Talent:** Miami may have talented individual players who can make plays in the backfield, but the overall defensive front lacks the cohesion and gap discipline of Ohio State's unit.

2ND HALF PERFORMANCE - THE ULTIMATE TEST

Elite offensive lines impose their will as games progress. Here's what happens in the 2nd half:

Run Game Success Rate Change (1H to 2H):
• Ohio State: +8.6% improvement (42.7% to 51.3%)
• Miami: +2.9% improvement (44.1% to 47.0%)

Run Defense Deterioration (1H to 2H):
• Ohio State YPC Allowed: 3.61 to 3.65 (+0.04) - **Holds steady**
• Miami YPC Allowed: 3.49 to 4.25 (+0.76) - **Significant leakage**

Defensive Stuff Rate Change (1H to 2H):
• Ohio State: 25.4% to 18.7% (-6.7%) - Some fatigue but still effective
• Miami: 25.5% to 22.9% (-2.6%) - Less dropoff but also less impactful overall

This is the most damning evidence against the "Miami is better up front" narrative. Ohio State's offensive line gets BETTER as games go on while Miami's defensive line gets WORSE. The Buckeyes are built to grind teams down; Miami is not.

FINAL ASSESSMENT

The statistical evidence does not support the narrative that Miami is better in the trenches. In fact, it suggests the opposite:

• **Offensive Line:** Ohio State is clearly superior in run blocking efficiency and explosiveness; Miami has edge only in avoiding negative plays (lower stuff rate 14.3% vs 18.8%)
• **Defensive Line:** Stuff rates are even (21.5%), but Ohio State is superior in run defense and pass rush effectiveness; Miami's higher TFL rate doesn't translate to better overall defense
• **Durability:** Ohio State's lines maintain or improve performance; Miami's deteriorate
• **Situational:** Ohio State dominates in obvious run/pass situations (38.9% vs 20.0% short yardage stuff rate)

Miami's higher TFL rate and lower offensive stuff rate are the lone bright spots, but they come at the cost of consistency and gap integrity. Ohio State's approach - disciplined, assignment-sound, and relentless - is statistically proven to be more effective.

Bottom Line: The "Miami is better up front" narrative appears to be based more on perception, recruiting rankings, and individual highlight plays than actual performance data. The numbers tell a clear story: **Ohio State controls the line of scrimmage.**

KEYS TO THE GAME

MIAMI MUST:

1. Convert in the Red Zone
Miami's 39th percentile red zone TD rate meets OSU's 70th percentile red zone D. The Hurricanes cannot settle for field goals against an offense that will score touchdowns. Need 70%+ TD rate to compete.

2. Keep Carson Beck Upright
OSU's pass rush is elite (16.4% sack rate on 3rd and long). Miami's protection has been decent (2.5% sack rate allowed) but must be perfect. Quick passing game and Beck's pocket presence will be essential.

3. Limit Explosive Plays
Miami's 79th percentile explosive rate allowed is good, but OSU's ability to hit big plays when needed is dangerous. One 40+ yard play can swing momentum entirely.

4. Win 1st Quarter
Miami performs best tied or with small lead. Their EPA craters when trailing by 7+ (-0.177). A slow start could snowball into a blowout given OSU's 2nd half dominance.

5. Generate Pressure on Obvious Passing Downs
Miami's 3.8% sack rate on 3rd and long is a major weakness. The Hurricanes need to find a way to disrupt Julian Sayin's rhythm and get off the field on third down.

OHIO STATE MUST:

1. Establish the Run Early
OSU's run game starts slow (42.7% 1H success) but dominates late (51.3% 2H, 5.82 Q4 YPC). Committing to the run even when it's not working early will pay dividends in the 4th quarter.

2. Attack Miami's Red Zone Defense
Miami's 7th percentile red zone TD rate allowed is a glaring weakness. OSU's 61st percentile red zone TD rate is average - they need to punch it in every trip. No field goals inside the 10.

3. Pressure Carson Beck on 3rd Down
The Buckeyes' 16.4% sack rate on 3rd and long is elite. Beck has been sacked more in last 3 games (5.3% vs 3.5% season). Bring pressure and force mistakes - Beck's efficiency drops under duress.

4. Win the Line of Scrimmage Battle Late
OSU's offensive line gets better as games go on (+8.6% success rate 2H). Miami's D-line fades (allows +0.76 YPC more in 2H). The Buckeyes should pound the rock in the 4th quarter to seal victory.

5. Control the Clock in the 4th
OSU is built to grind out wins. Their clock-killing ability (63% rush rate, 5.8 YPC when up 7+) should close this game if they have a lead entering the 4th quarter.

FINAL ANALYSIS & VERDICT

THE MATCHUP AT A GLANCE

This game pits Ohio State's historically efficient offense against a Miami team that has been better than expected defensively but has significant structural weaknesses. The statistics paint a clear picture of disparity:

Where Ohio State Wins (39 statistical advantages):
• Overall offensive efficiency (91st vs 69th percentile)
• Run game efficiency and 2nd half dominance (5.82 Q4 YPC)
• 3rd down offense (99th vs 85th percentile)
• Red zone defense (70th vs 7th percentile - massive gap)
• Limiting explosives on defense (97th vs 79th percentile)
• Pass rush in obvious situations (16.4% vs 3.8% sack rate on 3rd and long)

Where Miami Wins (8 statistical advantages):
• Pass defense efficiency (90th vs 87th percentile)
• Pressure rate generated (84th vs 72nd percentile)
• 1st down defense (94th vs 83rd percentile)
• Offensive stuff rate (14.3% vs 18.8% - getting stuffed less)
• TFL rate (13.8% vs 8.9%)

X-FACTORS TO WATCH

1. Miami's Red Zone Defense vs OSU's Scoring Machine
This is THE matchup. Miami allows TDs on 43.6% of red zone trips (7th percentile). Ohio State scores on 58.3% of drives (97th percentile). If OSU reaches the red zone 5+ times, expect 3-4 TDs minimum.

2. OSU's 4th Quarter Run Game
The Buckeyes' 5.82 YPC and 51.3% success rate in Q4 is elite. Miami's defense allows 4.25 YPC in the 2nd half (vs 3.49 in 1st half). If this game is within one score entering the 4th, OSU's ability to grind will be decisive.

3. Can Miami Generate Pressure on Obvious Passing Downs?
Miami's 3.8% sack rate on 3rd and long is abysmal vs OSU's 16.4%. The Hurricanes need their front to win battles they haven't been winning all season.

4. 2nd Half Line of Scrimmage Battle
OSU's O-line improves as games progress (+8.6% success rate 2H). Miami's D-line fades (allows +0.76 YPC more in 2H). This durability gap could be the difference in a close game.

BOTTOM LINE

Ohio State is the more complete team by a significant margin. They have elite units on both sides of the ball, control the line of scrimmage in obvious situations, and have the statistical profile of a team built for playoff success. Miami has a quality defense and an efficient quarterback in Carson Beck, but the Hurricanes' red zone struggles and inability to generate pressure in key moments are significant handicaps against a team of Ohio State's caliber.

Miami's Path to Victory: Convert 75%+ red zone TDs, Carson Beck plays mistake-free football, defense generates 4+ sacks to disrupt OSU's rhythm, and limit explosive plays. Even then, it requires OSU's recent offensive regression to continue.

Ohio State's Path to Victory: Establish run game early, attack red zone aggressively, generate pressure on Beck (especially on 3rd down), and control the 4th quarter. The Buckeyes' statistical advantages are so comprehensive that they simply need to play their game.

Statistical Lean: OHIO STATE - The gap in overall efficiency, red zone performance, and situational pass rush is too significant. Ohio State's ability to impose their will in the 2nd half against a Miami defense that gets worn down (4.25 YPC allowed in 2H vs 3.49 in 1H) is the decisive factor.