

# No. 6 Ohio State looks for redemption hosting No. 7 Tennessee to start playoffs

**BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

No. 7 Tennessee (10-2, CFP No. 7) at No. 6 Ohio State (10-2, CFP No. 6), Saturday, 8 p.m. EST (ESPN).

BetMGM College Football Odds: Ohio State by 7 1/2.

Series record: Tennessee leads 1-0.

## WHAT'S AT STAKE?

Ohio State has the bad taste of that fourth consecutive Michigan loss to wash out of the Buckeyes' mouths. The eighth-seeded Buckeyes also are playing to gain back respect in this newly expanded College Football Playoff and start a run toward their first national championship since the 2014 season. The No. 7 seed Volunteers emerged from the tough SEC and now have their first true shot at a title since 1998. Their lone stumble during the season came on the road at Arkansas and Georgia, so the Vols also have to prove they can handle a rough road environment at night. The winner gets a trip to the Rose Bowl to play top-seeded Oregon.

## KEY MATCHUP

Ohio State offensive line vs. Tennessee defensive front. The Buckeyes' O-line has been reshuffled several times due to injuries, perhaps most significantly to center Seth McLaughlin. The weaknesses showed when Ohio State repeatedly failed to run the ball against Michigan. Tennessee has one of the premier defensive lines in the country, featuring defensive end James Pearce Jr., a potential first-round NFL draft pick.

## PLAYERS TO WATCH

**Tennessee:** QB Nico Iamaleava opened 2024 leading the Vols to a



Ohio State head coach Ryan Day, center, looks on during the second half of an NCAA college football game against Michigan, Nov. 30 in Columbus, Ohio.

rout of Iowa in the Citrus Bowl. Now the red-shirt freshman will play the biggest game yet, and Iamaleava is coming off one of his best performances of the season. Four of his 11 victories have come against teams ranked at the time of kickoff. He threw for 2,512 yards with 19 touchdown passes with only five interceptions.

**Ohio State:** Buckeyes QB Will Howard will try to get the ball out to freshman WR Jeremiah Smith, who has been tremendous this season. He's compiled 934 receiving yards and 10 touchdowns but wasn't a factor in the 13-10 loss to Michigan.

## FACTS & FIGURES

Tennessee beat Ohio State 20-14 in the 1996 Citrus Bowl the only time these programs have played previously. ... This will be the first game Tennessee has ever played in the state of Ohio. ... This will be the first game played in Ohio Stadium in December in the venue's 102-year history. ... Vols coach Josh Heupel is 30-8



Tennessee place kicker Max Gilbert (90) celebrates with holder Jackson Ross (98) after kicking a field goal during the second half of an NCAA college football game against Alabama, Oct. 19 in Knoxville, Tenn.

since the start of the 2022 season. Those 30 wins are the most since Tennessee won 30 games between the 1998 and the 2000 seasons. ... Tennessee is fourth nationally giving up 13.9 points and 278.3 total yards per game. The Vols ranked eighth in rushing defense (99.6 yards per game). The Vols allowed 18 offensive touchdowns this season, third-fewest in the FBS. ... They gave up three

plays of 40 yards or longer all season, tied for the second-fewest trailing only the two such plays allowed by Ohio State. ... Howard is one of the most efficient passers in school history. The Kansas State transfer completed 80% of his passes six times this season. For the season, his completion percentage is 72.3%, ranking him fourth nationally. ... Only two players who started on the Ohio State offen-

sive line in the season opener remain in the lineup because of injuries. ... Ohio State is No. 1 in the country in total defense, allowing 241.1 yards per game. The Buckeyes are second to Texas in pass defense and seventh in run defense. ... ESPN's College GameDay will broadcast in Columbus prior to the game, the 63rd time the show has originated from the Ohio State campus.

## WIN

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"We switched defenses and I think our intensity picked up because of it," Johnson said. "Our full-court zone defense started to confuse (Nelson County) a bit and our guys were all over the court."

First half defense was a slightly different story for the Bruins after leaving some of Nelson County's most dangerous shooters open for a barrage of 3-pointers.

The Cardinals made six 3-point shots in the first half, including a long buzzer beater to take a lead into halftime after being down by six points to start the second quarter.

"We were giving (Nelson County) free, wide-open practice shots to their shooters," Johnson said. "Our man-to-man defense was flat out awful and lackadaisical in the first half."

On top of steals and forced turnovers in the second half, the Bruins expanded their own offense to match Nel-

son County's successful 3-point shooting.

Central Hardin shooting guard Cameron Elmore put up four successful 3-point shots for the game, while Hogan, Brady Copelin and Noah Bennett each made one shot outside the perimeter.

Central Hardin's early season matchups have shown a surprising style of play on the inside, while long-range shooting has been less of an emphasis.

Johnson said his team is dangerous when they can come out and play

from both the inside and outside perimeters.

"We try to be versatile and we know we can do both, but recently it has been one or the other," Johnson said. "Other nights we have played on the inside, but tonight was more of an outside game. If we can start doing both together, we can be one of the most dangerous teams in the region."

The Bruins' outside presence and tricky defense helped them outscore the Cardinals 42-19 in the second half to close the game with their seventh win of the

season.

Central Hardin, 7-1, currently holds the best overall record in the 17th District. The Bruins are 2-0 in district play.

Two more matchups await Central Hardin before winter break, as the Bruins go on the road to face Metcalfe County at 11 a.m. and Monroe County at 2 p.m. for a weekend tournament Saturday at Metcalfe County High School.

Jake Klinect can be reached at 270-505-1404 or jklinect@thenewsenterprise.com.

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## LEGAL NOTICE

AMANDA THOMAS whose whereabouts are unknown, is required by February 12, 2025, to answer the Petition for Divorce and or other relief requested by DARIAN THOMAS, or thereafter, default judgement maybe rendered against AMANDA THOMAS in case 03-DR-2024-900347.00 Montgomery County Circuit Court. Plaintiff's Attorney: Jesse C. Helfner Esq. Montgomery Divorce Law 1 Commerce Street Suite 600 Montgomery, AL36104.  
December 13, 20, 27, January 3, 2024.



## AMENDING ZONING ORDINANCE OFFICIAL MAP FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 3500 LEITCHFIELD ROAD ORDINANCE #29-2024 SUMMARY

This Ordinance amends the official zoning classification for the property located at 3500 Leitchfield Road from Urban Residential, Mixed (R-5) and High-Density Residential (R-6) to Planned Neighborhood Residential 2 (PNR-2) to allow for uses such as single-family homes.

The change was recommended by the Elizabethtown Planning Commission and approved by the Elizabethtown City Council as it was found to be in agreement with the City's Comprehensive Plan.

Please find the full Ordinance on the website: [www.elizabethtownky.org](http://www.elizabethtownky.org) or by contacting the City Clerk: [jessica.graham@elizabethtownky.gov](mailto:jessica.graham@elizabethtownky.gov)

Summary prepared by: /s/ Ken M. Howard  
Ken M. Howard  
City Attorney

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