

It looked worse than it was for Braxton Miller

Written by Staff Reports

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COLUMBUS (AP) — What's brewing with the 2012 Ohio State Buckeyes ...

BUCKEYES BUZZ: It appears Braxton Miller will be right back in the thick of the action for Ohio State.

The sophomore QB injured his neck late in the third quarter of Saturday's game when he was thrown to the turf by Purdue DB Josh Johnson after a 37-yard run. Miller didn't move for several minutes, then required a lot of help just to stand.

"It's tough to see," RT Reid Frangel said. "You immediately ask, 'Is he all right? Is he OK?'"

Miller was taken to a hospital for baseline tests which determined he did not sustain a concussion or any other major injury.

He does have a sore neck, however.

"He's moving around, talking to guys, laughing," safety Christian Bryant said. "He's doing pretty good right now."

Coach Urban Meyer likened the injury to whiplash. Replays of the tackle showed that Miller had straight-armed Johnson, who then grabbed Miller's jersey near his name and forced him to the turf on his shoulder and neck.

Miller was cleared by doctors and is expected to practice on Tuesday.

QUOTABLE: Meyer, discussing the test results from Miller's stay at the hospital: "I guess the term is negative, which is positive."

STILL OUT: LB Etienne Sabino (broken leg) will miss the game at Penn State (5:30 p.m.) on Saturday. Zach Boren, formerly the starting fullback, will stay with the defense for the third game in a row.

LB Joshua Perry (undisclosed injury) got an MRI which came back clean, so he can play. WR Corey Brown has also been cleared after another unknown injury.

Speaking of the thinnest spot on his roster, Meyer said, "The linebackers, we're just hanging on."

Freshman DB Devan Bogard, a prominent player on special teams, tore an anterior cruciate ligament and is lost for the season.

DAVEY MEET BRAXTON: Ohio State's Miller is one of the 16 semifinalists announced Monday for the Davey O'Brien Award, presented annually to a top college quarterback based on play, academics, character, leadership and sportsmanship.

Michigan's Denard Robinson is also on the list.

Robinson, Southern California's Matt Barkley, Clemson's Tajh Boyd, Texas Tech's Seth Doege and Oklahoma's Landry Jones were also semifinalists a year ago.

Others to be considered for the award: Teddy Bridgewater, Louisville; Colby Cameron, Louisiana Tech; Nick Florence, Baylor; Collin Klein, Kansas State; EJ Manuel, Florida State; Johnny Manziel, Texas A&M; Marcus Mariota, Oregon; AJ McCarron, Alabama; Aaron Murray, Georgia; and Geno Smith, West Virginia.

Fans may help determine which three quarterbacks will advance as finalists by voting as often as once daily at www.VoteOBrien.org. Fan voting will close on Nov. 18. The three finalists will be announced the next day, with the winner announced on Dec. 6.

IT WASN'T LUCK: After Miller was sidelined, backup QB Kenny Guiton threw an interception.

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Few had much hope when the Buckeyes took over for the final time in regulation, trailing 22-14 with 47 seconds left and at their own 39. On first down, though, Guiton avoided pressure and hooked up with WR Devin Smith on a 39-yard gain. Guiton then guided the offense to a TD on a 2-yard pass to Chris Fields with 3 seconds left, and hit Jeff Heurman for the two-point conversion that forced overtime.

In the extra session, Carlos Hyde scored on a 1-yard plunge and the defense held in a stirring 29-22 victory.

Offensive coordinator Tom Herman said it wasn't just good fortune.

"My daughter gave me a rock before the Michigan State game, a little pebble," he said. "She said, 'Daddy, before you leave here, this is for good luck.'

"You bet your bottom dollar that I hold that thing when I'm up in the press box. Now, did that help Kenny complete that pass to Devin Smith? Absolutely not. Competitive excellence did. Fate, luck — none of that plays a part in it — (it's just) good football."

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