

*Davis Throws for 232 Yards in 43-21 Romp*

# Ohio Overwhelms W. Va. Stars

By JOEDY McCREARY  
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Ohio quarterback Jose Davis taught West Virginia coach Jim Thomas and the rest of the Mountain State's all-stars one of life's vital lessons Sunday evening.

Leaving Davis any time at the end of a half is leaving him too much time.

Seconds after West Virginia had pulled to within six points of their Buckeye State counterparts late in the first half, Davis connected on a 63-yard touchdown bomb to Ryan Caldwell with 46 ticks left before intermission to effectively put the 25th annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic on ice.

## Statistics

	WVa	Ohio
First downs	13	14
Rushes-yards	45-217	27-147
Passing	29	232
Comp.-Att.-Int	4-16-1	12-23-1
Sacked-Yards Lost	1-6	0-0
Fumbles	4-38	2-27
Fumble-Yards Lost	3-2	0-0
Penalties-Yards	6-51	2-15

**INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS**  
**RUSHING**—West Virginia: Flanagan 13-84; Barnhart 8-53; Davidson 10-41; Lee 3-27; McLean 6-12; Willis 3-2; Ameredes 1-2; Ohio: Williams 10-34; Ellsworth 8-32; Mamie 1-28; Schumacher 2-15; Jackson 2-6; Hupp 1-4; Turner 1-4; Minor 2-3.  
**PASSING**—West Virginia: McLean 4-12-1-28; Willis 0-2-0-0; Ohio: Davis 12-23-1-232.  
**RECEIVING**—West Virginia: Green 1-13; Ameredes 1-8; Davidson 1-5; Caple 1-2; Ohio: Cornish 3-80; Caldwell 3-83; Holmes 2-15; Kinder 2-12; Ellsworth 1-25; Jackson 1-1.

A prized Kent University recruit, Davis's 65-yard scoring strike to Buckeye Local's Dave Cornish less than two minutes into the third quarter essentially squelched whatever comeback hopes the Mountaineers may have entertained and Ohio coasted to a 43-21 win. It was the Buckeyes' second straight win in the series, which Ohio now leads, 14-10.

Ohio coach Eric Meek of Wellsville felt all along the play of the men in the trenches would decide who walked away with the "W," and it became apparent during the clash that the Buckeye blockers weren't about to let any Mountaineers close to Davis, who wasn't sacked all night.

"I said before the game it was very important that we do really well at the line of scrimmage," Meek noted, "because of all the big names we had at the skill positions. Games are won and lost at the line of scrimmage and I think our kids did a great job." According to Davis, the big plays were a result of West Virginia's conservative, packed-in defensive style.

"We expected to come out and score at will," said Davis, who completed 12-of-23 passes for 232 yards and three touchdowns with one interception. "I thought they were (bringing) their defense up a lot, so they were asking for the big play. We knew just what we needed to run to score and get it."

Those home-run touchdown tosses were enough to exasperate Thomas, who was nevertheless quick to credit Ohio's overwhelming talent



News-Register Photo/Alex Kaslowaki

Bellare's Jose Davis (7) draws a bend on a receiver as the stellar signalcaller scrambles out of the pocket for the Ohio All-Stars during Sunday's 25th annual Rudy Mumley OVAC Charity All-Star Football Classic at Wheeling Island Stadium. West Virginia's Jed Hod (55) of Wheeling Central and Jacob Robinson (66) of Wellfare in pursuit. Davis passed for 232 yards and three TDs in leading Ohio to a 43-21 win.

for its success. "Their explosiveness showed," Thomas said. "I think my kids played well overall but I look up on the scoreboard and they have 43 points. That's to their credit. They had the right plays at the right times. It seemed like every time we made a mistake, they were able to capitalize on it."

The contest got off to an ominous start for the Mountaineers, as a foul-up between center Jason Kriston and quarterback Brett McLean resulted in a fumble on the game's opening snap. Ohio's Luke Schumacher pounced on the pigskin on the West Virginia 29, one of two fumble recoveries for the Monroe Central standout on the night.

Six plays later, Cadiz's Denver Williams juked eight yards to paydirt

for the game's initial score. West Virginia took the ensuing kickoff and marched 32 yards before its 11-play drive stalled at the Ohio 46, and the Buckeyes went back to work, punctuating their second possession of the contest with a 19-yard Davis-to-Campbell TD toss, giving the Ohioans a quick 14-0 lead.

It stayed that way until late in the second quarter, when the Mountaineers, relying on the powerful running of tailback Todd Flanagan, finally dented the scoring column.

West Virginia mounted a patient 10-play, 60-yard drive, with 31 yards coming from Flanagan's legs, capped by a 4-yard scoring sprint by Wheeling Park star Robert Davidson with just 2:12 remaining in the second stanza. Flanagan carried the two-point conversion

attempt into the end zone, pulling the Mountain Staters to within 14-8. However, disaster struck, and it struck quickly, when Davis found a streaking Caldwell down the left sideline with a 63-yard bomb just 86 seconds later to give the Buckeyes a 20-8 halftime advantage.

Ohio kept a firm grip of the game's momentum as Davis barreled out of the locker room and hit Cornish with a picture-perfect 65-yard strike 75 seconds into the second half to pad the Buckeye advantage, 26-8.

Unfortunately for West Virginia, things would get worse before they got better.

Vallantly trying to make something out of nothing on the ensuing kickoff, Davidson coughed up the pigskin to Schumacher at the West Virginia 30 but the Mountaineer defense stiffened, keeping Ohio out of the end zone and thwarting a 27-yard field goal attempt by Beallsville's Rick Meade.

After forcing West Virginia into a three-and-out, though, the Buckeyes struck again when Bellare's Richie Mamie jaunted 29 yards to paydirt, giving Ohio a 33-8 advantage.

The Buckeyes made it 36-8 when Ray Jeffries' interception of a McLean pass set up Meade's 23-yard field goal. Weirton Madonna's Joe Barnhart and Linsly's Matt Green added late touchdowns for West Virginia, pulling the Mountaineers to 36-21, but Darryl Ellsworth's 2-yard touchdown run with just over four minutes remaining ended the scoring for Ohio.

West Virginia outrushed its cross-river counterpart, 217 yards to 147, but the Buckeyes recorded a decided advantage through the air, outpassing the Gold and Blue, chalking up 232 stripes compared to the Mountain

