Ohio State-Michigan Earns Over 19 Million Viewers, Most-Watched College Football Game In 12 Years



Ohio State's top-three matchup with Michigan on Saturday was one of more highly-anticipated games in recent college football memory, and that hype was reflected in the television ratings.

The Buckeyes' 30-24 loss to the Wolverines garnered 19,065,000 million viewers on FOX, making it the most-watched regular season college football game on any network since 2011, according to FOX Sports PR. The matchup was also the second-most watched edition of The Game, only behind the 2006 edition between the two programs later dubbed "The Game of the Century," which garnered more than 21 million viewers.

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- ☐ Most-watched regular season college football game on any network since 2011
- ☐ Most-watched regular season college football game in FOX Sports history
- ☐ Peaked at 22,900,000 viewers on FOX pic.twitter.com/e5yQKmHhCZ
- FOX Sports PR (@FOXSportsPR) November 29, 2023

Ohio State's loss to Michigan, which peaked at 22.9 million viewers late in the fourth quarter, eclipsed the previously most-watched game between No. 1 LSU and No. 2 Alabama on Nov. 5, 2011, which had more than 20 million viewers tune in to see the Tigers beat the Crimson Tide in overtime by a score of 9-6.

The matchup also nearly doubled the ratings of the second-most watched game this season, with Oregon's 42-6 win over Colorado on Sept. 23 — also broadcast on FOX — trailing far behind with 10.03 million viewers.

This also marked the second time this season that an Ohio State game earned the most viewership,

joining the Buckeyes' thrilling 17-14 win over Notre Dame that was aired on NBC and garnered 9.98 million viewers. In 11 games broadcast on non-streaming networks — excluding Ohio State's Oct. 14 on Peacock — the Buckeyes garnered a total of 66.6 million viewers across four networks (BTN, CBS, FOX, NBC).