The initial BCS rankings of the 2012 season were released this week, and there is not a Big Ten team to be found in the Top 25. Ohio State, ranked No. 7 in the AP poll, is not eligible to be considered, as Recap readers are well aware, but the absence of a single Big Ten team is a first in the BCS era. Clearly the Big Ten's seven year streak of placing a team in one of the BCS bowl games is in serious jeopardy.

Penn State is ineligible for the BCS as well, but if 4-2 Michigan (AP No. 23) wasn't considered Top 25 material, then the 4-2 Nittany Lions, with their signature win over Northwestern, probably wouldn't be included even if they weren't under NCAA sanction. The Wolverines look like the most balanced team in the league at the moment, especially when you consider the Buckeyes' recent defensive woes.

After three weeks of conference play, four Big Ten teams remain unbeaten in league action. OSU Is 3-0, while Iowa, Penn State and Michigan are 2-0. Still looking for their first Big Ten victory are Indiana, Purdue, Illinois and Minnesota. To the weekend's games...

Iowa 19 - MIchigan State 16 2OT