

BUCKEYE

Sports

BULLETIN

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Rose Bowl Recap**Bright Spots Surface In Pasadena****Spangler Boots
Rose Record FG***By Frank Moskowitz*

It's hard to pick out bright spots in a loss as disappointing as Ohio State's 20-17 setback at the 1985 Rose Bowl.

But certainly, Buckeye fans have to feel like they've found a place-kicker. Rich Spangler, one of the most criticized players on the Ohio State squad over the last couple of years, responded to the pressures of the Rose Bowl by connecting on a record-equaling three field goals, including a record-setting 52-yarder.

Spangler's three field goals equaled the three hit by former Buckeye Vlade Janakievski in the 1980 Rose Bowl and his 52-yarder broke the mark set by USC's Steve Jordan earlier in the 1985 contest. The previous mark had been 48 yards, set by Stanford's Steve Horowitz against Ohio State in 1971.

The Ohio State field goal record is 59 yards, set by Tom Skladany against Illinois in 1975. Bob Atha is the only other Ohio State kicker to boot a field goal of 50 yards or more.

Naturally, Spangler had mixed emotions after his first Rose Bowl appearance.

"I'm real happy about my day, but I'm real disappointed that we lost because I came here to play as a team, not as an individual," Spangler said after the game. "A kicker is like an individualist, but when it comes down to winning or losing, it's all a team game."

The pressure of the big game apparently didn't bother Spangler. "I'm always looking forward to kicking the game winning field goal," he said. "I guess that's why I'm a kicker. If you ask any kicker that, he'll give you the same answer."

"Why I came to Ohio State was to play in these kind of games. This is the first major game I've ever really played in besides the Michigan game."

"Nothing can touch the Michigan game," Spangler added.

Spangler's record 52-yarder came in the third quarter and allowed the Buckeyes to close to 17-

**Kicker Rich Spangler Made Three FGs**

9. The junior out of Geneva, Ohio, liked the way that one felt from the moment of contact.

"I hit the ball and I looked up and that ball had a slow rotation just like a field goal kick is supposed to. I knew it was good right when I hit it."

"I don't know if anyone in the stands could feel it. But when you're a field goal kicker, you know when you make a kick right when it leaves your foot."

Despite the loss, the Rose Bowl had to be a game to be enjoyed by Spangler. He has certainly hit some low points in his three-year stay in Columbus. As a freshman,

Spangler missed six field goals in a row at one point. During his sophomore year, Coach Earle Bruce benched him in mid-season.

With his performance in the Rose Bowl, Spangler figures that Bruce and the fans will have more confidence in him now.

"My freshman year, I was like any freshman kicker — a little touchy. Last year, I really didn't have a very good year," Spangler said. "I really don't know what was wrong last year. I worked with Lou Groza (all-time kicking great and father of Buckeye Judd) and we couldn't find anything wrong. It

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**Freshman Class
Shows Promise***By Rich Exner*

The seniors are gone. Among the departed are veteran quarterback Mike Tomczak and starting linemen Jim Lachey, Kirk Lowdermilk, Scott Zalenski, Mark Krerowicz, Dave Creelius, Anthony Giuliani and Dave Morrill.

Those seniors will be missed, but more noticeable than the play of the seniors in the 1985 Rose Bowl were fine performances turned in by some returning Buckeyes, the most outstanding of which came from freshmen Cris Carter and Chris Spielman.

Carter and Spielman were just two of the six Buckeye freshmen to start in the Rose Bowl. Also drawing starting assignments were freshmen defensive backs Greg Rogan and William White, linebacker Eric Kumerow and punter Tom Tupa.

But even after watching his youngsters turn in splendid performances, coach Earle Bruce wasn't ready just yet to look toward next season.

"I'm not thinking about the future right now. I'm thinking real hard about this football game," Bruce said when asked to comment on the play of his freshmen.

Carter led the freshman parade, earning NBC's Ohio State player of the game honor. His nine catches paced all receivers and his 172 yards in receptions erased a 50-year-old Rose Bowl record held by Alabama's Don Hutson.

His last catch, an 18-yarder, was his eighth touchdown grab of the year for an Ohio State single-season record.

"The guy made some great catches," USC coach Ted Tollner said of Carter.

Tomczak, who threw those nine passes to Carter, added, "He is an exceptional athlete. He's got a great three years ahead of him."

Carter's explanation of his big day was that he just "wanted to take advantage of the openings they gave us across the middle because their secondary takes deep drops."

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Departing QB Second Only To Schlichter

Tomczak Holds Head High In Defeat

By Rich Exner

The Rose Bowl marked the end of the sometimes great, sometimes pitiful, but always courageous football career of Mike Tomczak at Ohio State.

Tomczak's career had its high points such as when he won the chance to replace Art Schlichter in the spring of 1982 or when he rallied Ohio State to a come-from-behind win against Illinois in 1982 or when he threw the winning touchdown pass to Thad Jemison in last season's Fiesta Bowl.

But it also had its low points. Remember Tomczak being benched in the '82 Florida State game after throwing his eighth interception in less than four games? Then there was the broken leg in last May's spring football game. And remember Tomczak intentionally throwing the ball out of bounds to stop the clock on fourth down at Purdue this season and, in doing so, throwing away Ohio State's last chance for a win?

But through it all, Tomczak never doubted his ability; nor did his coach, Earle Bruce, or opposing players.

"I think he's a fine player with a big heart," USC All-American



All-American Jack Del Rio Eyes Mike Tomczak

linebacker Jack Del Rio said following the game.

That *big heart* of Tomczak's may be a key reason why Ohio State has not been beaten by more than six points during the last two years. Tomczak has always been able to rally the Buckeyes back, sometimes successfully like in last year's Fiesta Bowl and this season's Illinois game, and sometimes coming up just short, such as against USC, Wisconsin and Purdue this season.

"I had a great career here. I had a great comeback. To lose like this makes it a little sour," Tomczak said. "But I'll always be a Buckeye. I'll always root them on."

For the record, Tomczak leaves Ohio State number two on the school's career passing and total offense lists with 5,569 and 6,015 yards, respectively. Art Schlichter tops both categories with totals of 7,547 and 8,850. Tomczak averaged 174 yards passing per start and Schlichter averaged 172.

The top eight passing seasons in the OSU record book are dominated by Schlichter and Tomczak: 1) senior Schlichter 2,551; 2) senior Tomczak 1,952; 3) junior Tomczak 1,942; 4) junior Schlichter 1,930; 5) sophomore Schlichter 1,816; 6) sophomore Tomczak 1,602; 7) sophomore John Borton 1,555; 8) freshman Schlichter 1,250.

Both Tomczak and Schlichter lost to USC in their only trips to the Rose Bowl.

"We played as hard as we could," Tomczak said. "I can hold my head up high because I had a great career. Where I go from here, who knows?"

Tomczak connected on 24 of 37 passes against the Trojans for 290 yards and one touchdown. But three of his passes were intercepted, and Tomczak is the first to admit how important those three tosses were.

"I stated earlier in the week that the fewest number of turnovers would win the football game," Tomczak said. The final count showed Ohio State with four turnovers and USC with one.

One of the three interceptions was a controversial one in which intended receiver Cris Carter was knocked down by Trojan defender Tommy Haynes, who stepped in front of the fallen Carter to make the interception. Tomczak, Carter and Bruce were visibly upset at the referee for not calling interference.

"I've been playing football for a long time," Tomczak said. "You argue when the flag isn't thrown and you keep your mouth shut when it is. But they've refereed a lot of games now."

"We have to give credit to the USC defense," Tomczak continued. "They're experienced; they're strong. They gave us our toughest challenge of the year."

Tomczak was knocked to the ground after throwing his last pass, an incomplete one on fourth down with just 41 seconds left in the game.

"I took a little bit longer to get up because I knew my career was over," he said. "It would have been a lot sweeter if we would have won the game."

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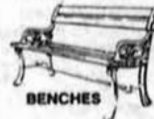
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Trojans Whip OSU

By Rich Exner

Slow down Keith Byars and win the football game. That's how USC coach Ted Tollner approached the 1985 Rose Bowl and his strategy worked to perfection as the Trojans scored a 20-17 victory.

"We wanted to do two things. We wanted to take away the big run — the 40-yard plus run — and then be so doggone tough near the end zone," Tollner said. "A quality football player, you do not stop."

Three plays into the football game, Tollner's strategy wasn't going so well. Tomczak had thrown two quick completions and Byars busted loose for a 50-yard run to the five-yard line.

But then things started to go the Trojans' way.

After a two-yard run by Walker, tackle Mark Krerowicz jumped offside, pushing the Buckeyes back to the eight and eventually forcing coach Earle Bruce to call on Rich Spangler for a 21-yard field goal.

USC coach Tollner looked back on that series of plays as being crucial.

"I know a key thing early was our defense stopping them for a field goal on the first drive," Tollner said.

Byars commented: "I thought we were off and running. That was one of the turning points when we didn't put the ball into the end zone. It came back to haunt us at the end of the game."

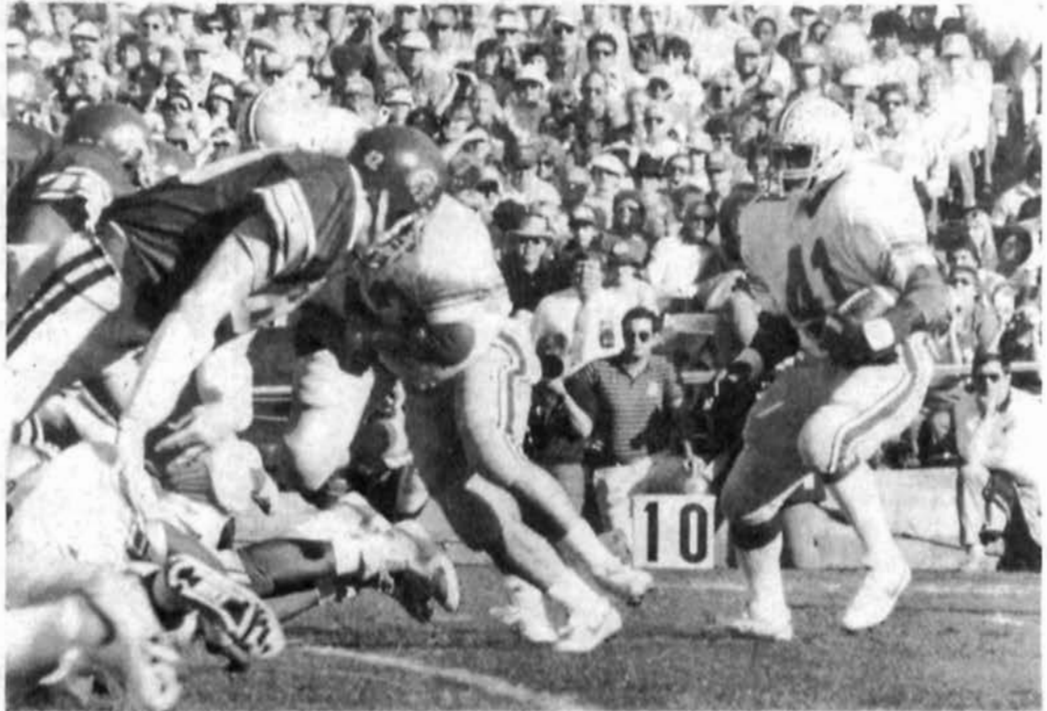
The junior tailback had 59 yards on 22 more carries as the Trojan defense dominated the line of scrimmage and conducted a clinic on gang tackling.

Nevertheless, Byars, who broke Archie Griffin's single-season Big Ten rushing record with the 50-yard run, impressed Tollner.

"Keith Byars is a tremendous football player. All we could do was slow him down by putting a lot of hats on him," the USC coach said. "The guy never quit. I've never seen so many hats on a guy and have the guy keep going."

It was only the second time in 12 games this season that the Trojan defense permitted an opposing running back to rush for more than 100 yards.

Mixing some Fred Crutcher running with some Tim Green passing, USC moved the football 46 yards to setup a record field goal



Keith Byars Looks But Does Not Find An Opening In The Trojan Line

attempt by Steve Jordan. The senior kicker made his seventh career three-pointer from more than 50 yards, this one coming from 51, to tie the game at three-all.

With 8:49 still remaining in the first quarter, the Buckeyes got the football back and, sparked by a 16-yard John Wooldridge run, moved the ball to the Trojan 46. However, on third and six, quarterback Mike Tomczak came up way short on a pass attempt to Dino Dawson and threw the ball into the hands of linebacker Neil Hope.

The Trojans moved the football 50 yards on eight running plays before Green went to the air on second and goal from the three and found Joe Cormier for an easy TD, giving USC a 10-3 lead with 1:54 left in the first stanza.

Both teams punted three times before the game's next turnover. With 1:51 showing in the half, All-American linebacker Jack Del Rio forced a Tomczak fumble at the Ohio State 49. However, the Buckeye defense held and forced USC to punt for a fourth consecutive time.

Ohio State started from its own 11 with 1:26 left in the half, and Bruce elected to direct his troops to go for a score. Byars' run on first down netted no gain. Tomczak went to the air on second down and

threw into a group of three USC defenders. Tommy Haynes intercepted and returned it to the Buckeye 24.

Two plays and 36 seconds later, Green fired a 19-yard touchdown pass to Timmie Ware. It was Green's second touchdown pass of the game and only his fifth of the season.

Some 80 yards from the end zone with just 22 seconds left in the half, Tomczak completed passes of 23 yards to Carter, 16 yards to Wooldridge and 12 yards to Lanese to setup a 46-yard field goal by Spangler at the close of the half.

The halftime yardage totals showed Ohio State in front, 225-189, but behind in the score, 17-6. The Buckeyes won both the point and yardage battles in the second half.

"We made some adjustments at halftime and came out to move the football," Byars said. "But it takes 60 minutes to win a football game. You can't play 30 and expect to win."

Ohio State dominated the second half as far as moving the football, out-gaining the Trojans 178-72 in net yards, but a few mistakes proved costly.

After stopping the Trojans on three plays, Tomczak guided the Buckeyes down to the USC 15. From there, Tomczak and tight end Ed Taggart hooked up for a 10-yard gain to the five. However, a 15-yard face mask negated the play and forced Bruce to eventually call upon Spangler for a third field goal attempt. Again, Spangler was perfect and connected on a Rose Bowl record 52-yarder. With 8:37 remaining in the third quarter, Ohio State trailed, 17-9.

If two 50-yard field goals were not enough for one game, Trojan kicker Jordan returned the favor and kicked his second 51-yarder of

the game, putting USC in front, 20-9, with 3:59 left in the quarter.

USC then stopped Ohio State on three downs before Tom Tupa got off a 66-yard punt. On the Buckeyes' next possession, Tomczak was intercepted by Haynes for the second time of the day. Then, the comeback started.

Mixing some sure passing with some old-fashion power running by Byars, Ohio State marched 88 yards to its first touchdown of the game. Tomczak perfectly split three defenders to hit Cris Carter on a crossing pattern for an 18-yard TD toss.

Tomczak ran for the two-point conversion on a rollout, run-pass option play, pulling OSU within three at 20-17 with 7:34 on the clock.

USC ran five plays before punting back to Ohio State. The Buckeyes took over at their own 37 with 4:19 remaining in the game.

On first down, Byars took on seven USC hits before going down with a seven-yard gain. Tomczak was then sacked for a nine-yard loss before completing a 14-yarder to Lanese for a 14-yard gain and a first down at the 47.

Four running plays netted another first down at the OSU 44 with 1:23 remaining.

Tomczak threw incomplete on first down before throwing to Byars for a five-yard pickup on second down. Defensive tackle Brent Moore forced Tomczak to fumble on third down. However, the Buckeye quarterback covered the ball, giving Ohio State one last chance.

Wooldridge read the defense covering inside and cut out, but Tomczak threw inside for an incomplete, ending the Buckeyes' last drive.

"We just ran out of time," Tomczak said.

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Bruce Can Explain Latest Big Ten Loss

By Rich Exner

The sun rises in the east, California is in the west and Big Ten teams lose Rose Bowls. What else is new?

While the first two statements will never change, Ohio State coach Earle Bruce took a group of spirited Buckeyes to Pasadena hoping to change the latter.

He didn't.

For the tenth time in the last 11 years, the Pacific 10 representative in the Rose Bowl whipped its Big Ten counterpart. Bruce's coaching record in the Rose Bowl dropped to 0-2, both losses coming at the hands of Southern California.

Asked to explain the recent dominance of the Pacific 10, Bruce offered no answer.

"I don't know if I can explain any other losses. I just can explain this loss. That's the only one I know much about right now," said the sixth-year Buckeye coach.

The defeat was Ohio State's fourth consecutive setback in the Rose Bowl — the other three coming in 1980, 1976 and 1975.

As for why USC prevailed, 20-17, in the 1985 Rose Bowl, Bruce said:

"I think the difference in the football game was mistakes. USC played exceptionally well. Ohio State made a lot of mistakes. Dropped balls and penalties were very costly.

"I hope that doesn't sound like an alibi to you because mistakes are the most important thing in football."

Some of the mistakes Bruce spoke of were three Mike Tomczak interceptions and a pair of penalties which hurt Buckeye touchdown opportunities and forced the coach to call on kicker Rich Spangler for field goals.

"It was a hard hitting football game and they played exception-

ally hard against us," Bruce said. "We had our opportunities to win and didn't take advantage of them."

What Ohio State did best in 1984 was run the football, averaging 252 yards a game. What USC did best was stop other teams from running the football, giving up just 103 yards a game and allowing just one opposing running back to rush for more than 100 yards.

Although Keith Byars became the second player this season to rush for 100 yards against the Trojans, the Buckeyes did not get many more, ending up with just 113 yards on the ground. The Trojans' strength stopped Ohio State's powerful running game.

"We had to throw the ball a lot. They did a fine job of stopping the things that we executed well to get here," Bruce said. "They dominated the line of scrimmage as far as stopping our run."

Behind, 10-3, with one minute left in the first half and the football on Ohio State's own 10-yard line, Bruce elected to try to score. The result was an interception which setup another USC touchdown and a 17-3 Trojan lead.

Bruce was asked following the game if he had considered running out the clock instead of going for a score at the end of the first half.

"Why play that kind of football in the Rose Bowl when you are behind?" Bruce questioned the reporter. "We are going to go for it — something just happened."

From then on it was practically all Ohio State as the Buckeyes outscored the Trojans, 14-3 the rest of the way.

Even in defeat, Bruce witnessed some outstanding performances by some players who will be returning next year.

Freshman Cris Carter caught




Earle Bruce Meets The Press Following Game

nine passes for a Rose Bowl record 172 yards. Freshman Chris Spielman led all tacklers with 15 stops. And junior Rich Spangler kicked three field goals to tie a Rose Bowl record for most in a game. His long of 52 yards is also a Rose Bowl record.

But the future was the farthest thing from Bruce's mind less than 20 minutes after the 20-17 defeat.


"I'm not thinking about the future right now. I'm thinking real hard about this football game. I'll think about the future in a week or two."

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Rose Bowl Stats

Trojans 20, Buckeyes 17

OHIO STATE	3	3	3	8	17
SOUTHERN CAL	10	7	3	0	20

OSU — Spangler 21 field goal 12:08
 USC — Jordan 51 field goal 8:52
 USC — Cormier 3 pass from T. Green (Jordan kick) 1:54
 USC — Ware 19 pass from T. Green (Jordan kick) 0:22
 OSU — Spangler 46 field goal 0:00
 OSU — Spangler 52 field goal 8:37
 USC — Jordan 51 field goal 4:05
 OSU — Carter 18 pass from Tomczak (Tomczak run) 7:34
 Att. — 102,594

	OSU	USC
First Downs	19	16
Rushing	7	8
Passing	11	7
Penalty	1	1
Rushes-Yards	34-113	42-133
Passing Yards	290	128
Passes	37-24-3	25-13-0
Offensive Plays	71	67
Total Net Yards	403	261
Third Down Eff.	6-16	7-16
Punts	4-47.8	7-42.1
Fumbles-Lost	4-1	2-1
Penalties	4-46	4-38
Time Of Possession	28:49	31:11

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Individual Statistics

RUSHING (Att.-Net Yds.) — OHIO STATE: Byars 23-109; Wooldridge 2-20; Walker 2-4; Lanese 1-3; Blair 1-1; Tomczak 5(-24). USC: Crutcher 21-72; Pola 9-51; Ware 1-12; Knight 6-4; T. Green 5(-6).
PASSING (Att.-Comp.-Int.-Yds.-TD) — OHIO STATE: Tomczak 37-24-3-290-1. USC: T. Green 24-13-0-128-2; Tanner 1-0-0-0-0.
RECEIVING (Rec.-Yds.) — OHIO STATE: Carter 9-172; Byars 5-26; Taggart 4-30; Lanese 3-33; Wooldridge 2-27; Groza 1-2. USC: Ware 3-56; Crutcher 3-19; Cormier 3-19; Boyer 2-15; Norman 1-20; Pola 1(-1).
PUNTING (No.-Ave.-Lg.) — OHIO STATE: Tupa 4-47.8-66. USC: Richardson 7-42.1-51.
PUNT RETURNS (No.-Ave.-Lg.) — OHIO STATE: None. USC: Haynes 4-43.9.
KICKOFF RETURNS (No.-Ave.-Lg.) — OHIO STATE: Byars 1-22.0-22; Wooldridge 1-12.0-12. USC: Watts 1-27.0-27.
DEFENSIVE FUMBLES RECOVERED BY — OHIO STATE: Spielman. USC: Colorito.
INTERCEPTIONS — OHIO STATE: None. USC: Haynes (2), Hope.
TACKLES FOR LOSS — OHIO STATE: Giuliani (2), Ridder. USC: Del Rio (2), Bickett, Luft, B. Moore.
TACKLES (Solo-Ass.-Tot.) — OHIO STATE: Spielman 12-3-15; Giuliani 8-0-8; Johnson 6-2-8; Morrill 6-1-7; Rogan 3-2-5; Palmer 4-0-4; Gordon 3-1-4; Kumerow 2-2-4; W. White 3-1-4; B. Lee 1-2-3; Ridder 1-2-3; Leach 1-1-2; Hill 1-0-1; Crecelius 1-0-1; Wooldridge 0-1-1; Hutchison 1-0-1; Lachey 1-0-1; Jackson 1-0-1. USC: Tyler 5-4-9; Hope 6-3-9; Bickett 6-3-9; McDonald 7-1-8; Haynes 5-2-7; Del Rio 3-3-6; Jackson 4-1-5; Biggers 2-3-5; B. Moore 4-1-5; Luft 4-0-4; Colorito 2-2-4; Anno 2-1-3; R. Moore 2-0-2; Prindle 1-1-2; Cotton 2-0-2; Johnson 0-1-1.



Players In The Game

OHIO STATE — Taggart, Groza, Higdon, Hutchison, Ro. Graves, Maggs, Lachey, Lowdermilk, Whitmer, Zalenski, Gilmore, Krowicz, Carter, D. Smith, Jay Holland, Tomczak, Byars, Wooldridge, Bates, Walker, Blair, Lanese, Dawson, Jamie Holland, Tupa, Spangler, Kumerow, Jenkins, Crecelius, Sullivan, Giuliani, Morrill, D. Lee, Conlin, B. Lee, Alders, Spielman, Harvey, Ridder, Johnson, Gordon, W. White, Jackson, Rogan, Leach, Hill, Palmer, Wood.
USC — Bickett, Breland, Luft, Colorito, Willison, B. Moore, Purling, Del Rio, Cotton, Hope, Anno, Davis, Biggers, R. Moore, Haynes, Johnson, Jackson, French, Tyler, Thurman, Coquette, McDonald, Brock, Prindle, Klein, Horman, Watts, Fitzpatrick, Bregel, Cox, Hallock, Ruettgers, Kuamoo, Boyer, McKee, Cormier, P. Green, T. Green, Crutcher, Knight, Pola, Steele, Ware, Tanner, White, Richardson, Jordan, McLean.

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Carter, Spielman, Tupa Shine In California Sun

Continued From Page 1

Carter ended the season with 41 catches, second on the team in receiving only to Byars' 42, and the seventh best total in Ohio State history.

On the defensive side of the field, Spielman ruled, coming up with 12 solo tackles, three assists and a fumble recovery. His 15 total tackles were six better than anyone else in the game. Even with his impressive individual performance, the freshman from Massillon was disappointed.

"I think we could have had more gang hits," Spielman said. "They came at us with everything we were expecting. They had good field position and capitalized. They were the better team today, and they beat us."

Nevertheless, Spielman, who was nagged with ankle injuries all year, made the most of his chance

to start in the Rose Bowl, an opportunity created by Larry Kolic quitting the team for the second time of the season.

Tupa, as usual, won the punting war. His four boots averaged 47.8 yards. Trojan Troy Richardson averaged 42.1 yards on seven punts. Tupa's long of 66 yards is seven yards short of the Rose Bowl record.

The other three starting freshmen were defenders. Rogan had five tackles, Kumerow four and White four. Missing from the Rose Bowl was freshman safety Terry White, who was named the squad's defensive back of the year but was left in Ohio for disciplinary reasons.

Other freshmen among the 48 Buckeyes playing in the Rose Bowl were tight end Alex Higdon, flanker Dino Dawson, linebacker Joe Jenkins and defensive back Ray Jackson.



Cris Carter, Keith Byars After Last Drive Fails

Spangler Finishes Strong

Continued From Page 1
was just something mechanical that we couldn't spot.

"But this year I ended up 14 out of 19 and that's by far my best year. I've only missed two of my last 11 kicks. I think now the people are going to say why not try a 52-yard field goal. He made it last year."

It seems easy now. Why the hard times?

"Being a kicker, you go through slumps. I was in a slump my freshman and sophomore years. I guess when you get in a slump, you've got to keep working harder and harder to get out of it. I think I really worked hard over the summer.

"I also got married this summer. I think that was probably the

major thing that made me a better kicker. I'm more secure now.

"Being a kicker, you've got to be secure. You've got to know every time you kick the ball that it's going to be good," Spangler continued.

"Before, I would go home to a dorm room after the game and if I had a bad day everyone in the dorm would ride me. Now, I go home and my wife might ask why I did this, or why I did that, but she comes around and says that she still loves me and that she knows that I can do it, and will do it on another day.

"I think that's the biggest part." How many times did she have to scold Spangler this season?

"The only time she really bugged me was after the Purdue game, when I missed that short field goal (19 yards). I think she really set me straight on that. She gave me a couple of good words. I think that really snapped me out of it, along with Coach Bruce and Coach Hart really being behind me."

Having the confidence of the coaches should help Spangler, who was not only benched, but in other situations saw the Buckeyes try for first downs rather than have him attempt field goals.

Was being benched last season the lowest point in Rich Spangler's career?

"I'll tell you. If that's the lowest point in my career, I'll be really happy."

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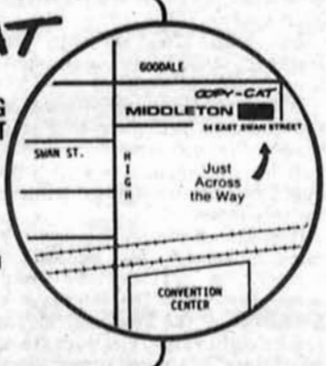
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Lowdermilk Fulfills His Pasadena Dream

By Rich Exner

Center Kirk Lowdermilk, like every other Buckeye, wanted to win the Rose Bowl. But for Lowdermilk, just being able to play in the oldest, biggest and greatest of all the bowl games was something special.

You see, this season for Lowdermilk, as it was for 19 other Ohio State seniors, was Lowdermilk's last chance to play in the Rose Bowl. Trips to the Liberty, Holiday and Fiesta bowls just didn't measure up as far as Lowdermilk was concerned. He came to Ohio State from Salem, Ohio, with the Rose Bowl on his mind.

"This is the greatest bowl game in the world," he said even after the loss. "You dream about playing in this one when you're 12 or 13 years old. If you have trouble getting fired up for this one, there is something wrong with you."

But then again, getting fired up is never a problem for Lowdermilk. After all, he was voted the team's most inspirational player. And, as if having the team's inspirational leader getting ready for his final game in an Ohio State uniform

isn't enough, consider the fact he had just battled his way back from a broken leg to play in the game.

However, like any other athlete, Lowdermilk wanted to go out a winner.

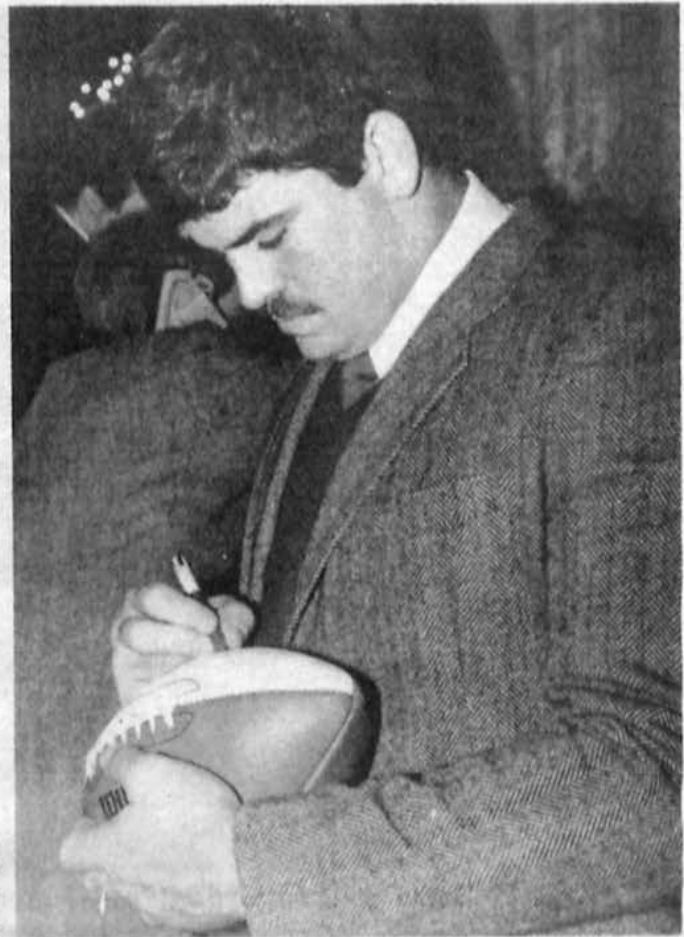
"Any loss is hard to take," he said. "But this was the last game of my career and you always want to go out a winner."

It was an especially rough afternoon for the Buckeye offensive line.

"They played very well today. They rushed hard. They gave us fits all day. I think you could tell that by how much pressure they had on Mike Tomczak," Lowdermilk said of the Trojan rush. "It seemed like every play, there was one person making a mistake. You just can't play like that."

As to why the Pacific 10 champion has won 10 of the last 11 Rose Bowls, Lowdermilk said:

"It's tough to come play a team on their home field. This is their stomping grounds. I would like to bring them to Ohio Stadium and let them play there. This is a vacation for us."



Kirk Lowdermilk Signs An Autograph

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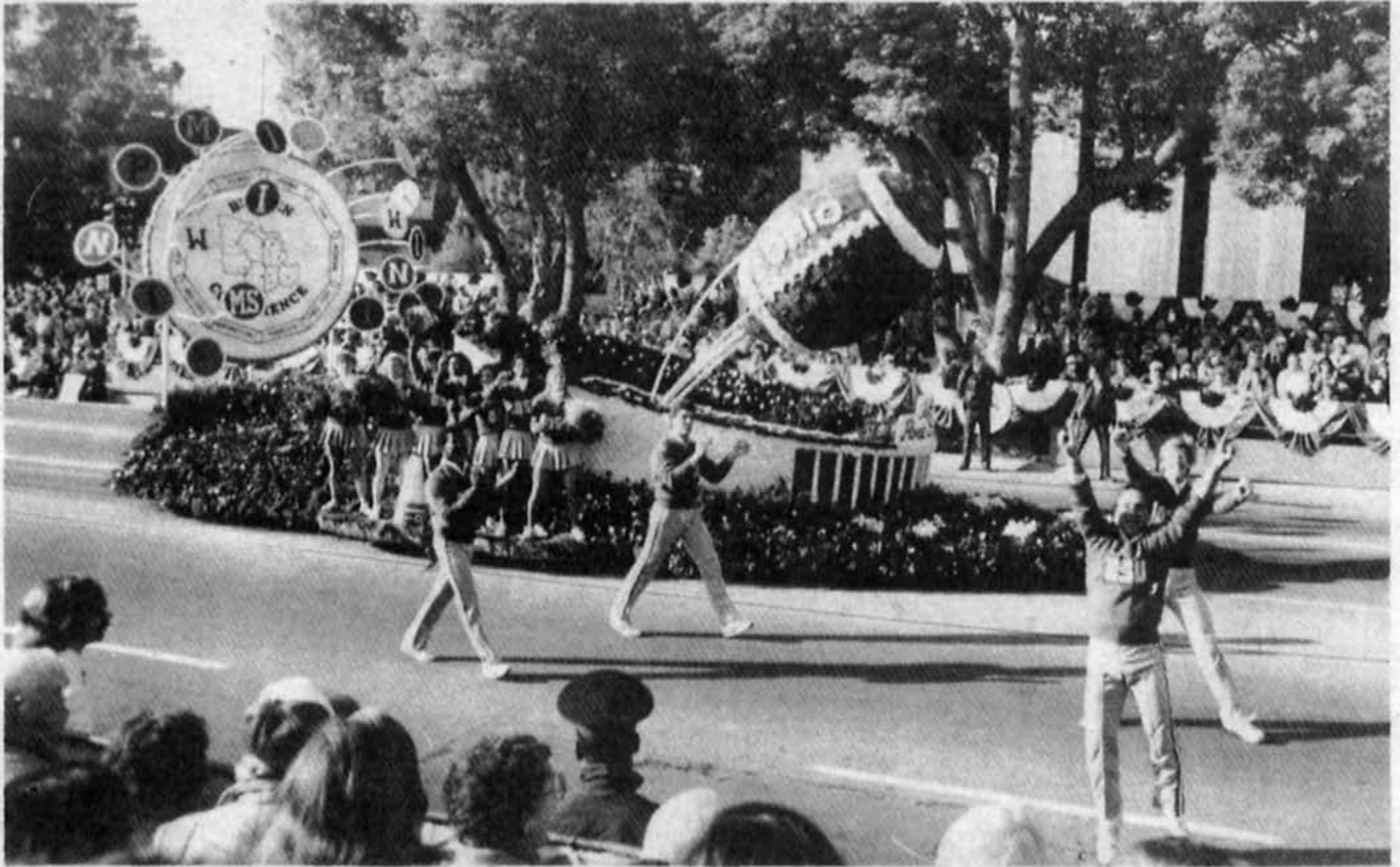
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The View From 15th and High

By Frank L. Moskowitz, BSB Editor

Bucks Have Reason To Be Embarrassed

Many of you are perhaps turning to this column in search of an explanation for Ohio State's disappointing loss to USC in the Rose Bowl.

You saw the same game I saw, and I am not certain I can give any added insight. The problems were there for everyone to see. In fact, Ohio State's loss to USC was truly a team effort, with breakdowns in virtually every facet of the game. Everyone, from coach Earle Bruce down to the water boys, was in on this one.

And I must admit, this was an especially tough loss to swallow. The Purdue loss I dealt with. It's tough to win them all in the Big Ten these days. The Wisconsin loss I accepted, because the Buckeyes still went on to win the league crown.

But the Rose Bowl?

I don't care how other Big Ten teams have done in the past. Not only *could* Ohio State have won this game, but the Buckeyes *should* have won this game.

A member of the football staff mentioned to me that USC hurt the Buckeyes by dropping its final games to UCLA and Notre Dame. He pointed out that the Trojans played well in those games, but were hurt by turnovers and that because of those losses, perhaps the Buckeyes — and Buckeye fans — did not take USC seriously enough.

The Buckeyes did not look mentally prepared. They were only called for four penalties, but those penalties hurt. And even if some of those penalties should not have been called, think of the damage one obvious and justified penalty made.

Might not the outcome of the game been different if Mark Krowicz, one of the best players in the Big Ten, had not blown offside on Ohio State's first drive of the game? Anytime Keith Byars rips off a 50 yarder to the five against one of the best defenses in the country, you have to go in for six, not settle for three.

But there were so many more problems.

What about Mike Tomczak?

Here's a guy who is one of the best quarterbacks to ever play at Ohio State, one of the gutsiest players, and certainly one of the finest gentlemen to ever play here. Yet no matter how you look at it, he threw three interceptions and lost a fumble, setting up 14 Trojan points.

It should be noted that in Ohio State's three losses this year, Tomczak fired eight costly (and probably unnecessary) interceptions.

The OSU defense looked great in the second half, but it was badly beaten in the first half by a mediocre offense. Quarterback Tim Green had been slated to understudy to Sean Salisbury this season, and tailback Fred Crutcher, who averaged 3.8 yards a carry during the regular season, is hardly a back from the O.J. Simpson-mold.

Even punter Tom Tupa, one of OSU's best weapons, had his problems early. His first punt was a 43-yarder, but it didn't have Tupa-like height and Tommy Haynes returned it nine yards. Tupa's next kick was for only 34 yards.

In neither case did USC score, but the punts helped give Ohio State some of the poor field position it suffered with during the first half.

And darn it, Earle. Even your wife asked you to stop beginning each series with Byars running on first down. Good defenses like those at Michigan State and USC are going to eat that up.

Before the game, I kept telling people that if Ohio State mixed things up, its offense could overcome USC's defense. When, forced to play catch-up, the Buckeyes opened up a little bit in the second half, things opened up a bit more for Byars. The big back did little, really, to help solidify his hold on the 1985 Heisman.

Granted, the USC defense is good. But Keith Byars is the best. When the going got tough, Keith should have put his shoulder down and put a few Trojans in the hospital. That would have loosened the USC defense up a bit.

Let's put the real blame where it's due, though. Much of the problems that both Byars and Tomczak had could be related to the fact that the offensive line just did not do the job. Ohio State is a school noted for its power style of football. Yet, perhaps the most troubling aspect of the game to me was the fact that USC dominated both sides of the line of scrimmage. That hurt.

But even after all this, the Buckeyes still had a chance to pull it out.

With one of the best offenses in the country, you have to like a team's chances when it gets the ball on the opposition's 35 with over four minutes to play, trailing by only three.

But Ohio State, in this writer's mind, misused its four minutes.

After a critical 14-yard completion gave the Buckeyes a first down at the Trojan 47, Byars ran for eight yards. The Bucks then ran Byars two more times in an

unsuccessful attempt at a first down, wasting valuable time in the process. By the time they finally got a first down, they were left at the USC 43 with only 1:23 and one time out left.

The Bucks needed yards, not a first down and I feel those running plays were too time-consuming.

The only positive I possibly see coming out of all this is that next year's team, hopefully, will respond to what I feel was truly a humiliation. This was my first Rose Bowl and I now understand that what everyone says is true. The Rose Bowl truly is the finest of all bowl games.

Those players who were there will want to get back, and they'll have something to prove.

And Ohio State *will* have a good team next year.

IN THIS column last month, I mentioned an office joke about Larry Kolic entering our Rose Bowl contest. Some people apparently thought this was true. To my knowledge, Kolic did not enter the contest.

However, a certain member of the women's basketball team (who we won't name) *did* enter the contest. If she had won she would

have missed the Buckeye Classic and we are not sure just how coach Tara Van Derveer would have reacted to that.

By the way, the winner of the contest was Carl Schneider of Van Wert, Ohio. When we tracked Carl down to tell him he had won, he was in Miami to view the Orange Bowl. (This *is* the truth.) He gladly came back to Columbus to take the Rose Bowl trip.

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Contest Winner Carl Schneider (R) And Guest