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Buckeyes Throttle Northwestern In Northern Ohio

OSU Makes Itself At Home In Cleveland

By Mark Rea

Playing Northwestern in Cleveland Stadium might not have qualified as a home game on Ohio State's 1991 football schedule, but for several members of the Buckeyes it was more of a home game than playing in Ohio Stadium.

Nine members of the OSU team who made the 150-mile trip up Interstate 71 to help the Buckeyes defeat Northwestern 34-3 Oct. 19 were going home, natives of the Greater Cleveland area.

Starting the game for the Buckeyes were native sons Rich Frimel of North Olmsted, Andy Gurd of Chagrin Falls, Judah Herman of Bainbridge, Paul Long of Highland Heights, Rod Smith of Cleveland and Steve Tovar of Elyria.

Also seeing action in the game were nose guard Pete Beckman of Chesterland, Raymont Harris of Lorain and Joe Pickens of Brooklyn.

And while Ohio State head coach John Cooper grew up in Powell, Tenn., several hundred miles away from Cleveland, he, too, talked about playing a game in a stadium of which he has fond childhood memories.

"As a kid, I used to listen (on radio) to the Cleveland Indians," Cooper said. "I grew up listening to such players as Bob Feller, Early Wynn, Mike Garcia, Jim Hegan, Larry Doby, Luke Easter, Lou Boudreau, and all the great Cleveland baseball teams.

"And it was the same way with Cleveland Browns football — Jimmy Brown, John Wooten is a good friend of mine, and Otto Graham. There is a lot of tradition up here, and I really felt good about getting the opportunity to come up here and see our football team play in Cleveland.

"I think we need to pay special thanks to the Cleveland Browns and (owner) Art Modell for helping make it possible for us to come up here. Personally speaking, it was a great thrill for me to come in here and play."

Cooper, who has coached in literally hundreds of stadiums throughout the country, was making his first trip to Cleveland Stadium.

Meanwhile, some of his players have made so many trips to the stadium that they have lost count.

"It felt great to play in this stadium," said Pickens, who played nearly all of the fourth quarter for the Buckeyes. "It was a great thrill. I've never played here. I've been to a lot of games here, but I've never played here before. It was quite a feeling.

"We've had season tickets for a long time and I've been to several games. I've been a Browns fan for a long time."

Pickens said it was a weird feeling entering the stadium through the

players' entrance and taking his place behind the center just like his idol, Browns quarterback Bernie Kosar.

"It was almost unbelievable," he said. "I thought of all the times I've been to this stadium and, of course, you dream about being out there on the field, but you never know if that dream will come true. Today, at least for a little while, it came true."

Smith, who started the season saddled by problems with weight and classwork, celebrated his return to the starting lineup by playing in front of his hometown fans.

"It was really nice to get to start in front of my friends and my family," said the St. Joseph High School product. "It felt real good. I never really thought I would ever play in this stadium, unless I made it to the pros. Now, even if I don't play in the pros, at least I can say I made it. I played in the stadium."

Like Pickens, Smith admitted to a few goose bumps when he made his way through the tunnel from the dressing room to the playing field.

"I felt chills (the day before the game) when we first came in the place," he said. "But when we walked out on the field, it felt good. It felt good to be home.

"As soon as we got off the highway and I saw we were in downtown Cleveland, it felt pretty good. I saw a few of my friends on the street as we were driving along, and it felt good to be home again.

"There are a lot of people who haven't seen me play since I was in high school because they haven't had a chance to come down to Columbus. This time, I came to them."

Harris admitted that he was never much of a Browns fan but quickly added that he was very happy to play in Cleveland Stadium.

"I never really paid much attention to the National Football League," he said, "but this meant a lot because I know what this stadium means as far as the tradition of professional football is concerned, and I always wanted to play here. I always wanted to play here as a professional, but until that happens, this will do.

"It meant a lot to me to come back to northeastern Ohio. It was just a short little ride for my sister to come and see me, so that was real important for me."

Harris' sister was just one member of the friendly crowd of 73,830, most of them OSU fans, who braved the blustery weather to cheer the Bucks to victory. Even non-Cleveland natives were appreciative of the crowd.

"I thought this crowd was a little louder than some we have at home in



Ohio State junior inside linebacker Steve Tovar (58) acknowledges the partisan Buckeye crowd in Cleveland Stadium after tackling a Northwestern runner. Tovar was one of several OSU players from the Cleveland area to play in the game.

the Horseshoe," said tight end Cedric Saunders. "They were behind us right from the beginning, and we could feel they were right with us.

"It's always a big advantage to have the crowd behind you, and although this was technically not a home game for us, it sure felt that way."

Cooper agreed. "It was a friendly crowd, especially down there in the 'Dawg Pound,'" he said, referring to the bleacher area where Browns fans have been known to dress up like dogs and throw dog biscuits at opposing players.

"Those are my kind of people,"

Cooper added. "If I came up here to a game, I'd probably sit in the 'Dawg Pound,' cheer and have a good time."

In addition to the victory, which came on the heels of a heartbreaking loss to Illinois and put the Buckeyes back on track in the Big Ten race, perhaps the best thing of all was the chance to play a game in an area that annually produces some of the best high school prospects in the state.

Cooper and his staff spent most of the night before the game scouting high

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Buckeyes Get Back On Track With 34-3 Big Ten Win

No Secrets Revealed As OSU Beats 'Cats

By Mark Rea

There were no secrets about the Ohio State-Northwestern game Oct. 19 in Cleveland.

Wildcats head coach Francis Peay and his players made it clear that they weren't too thrilled about the prospects of giving up a home game to "entertain" the Buckeyes in Ohio.

OSU head coach John Cooper and his players made it clear that they were ecstatic about playing a game in the northern portion of the state, an area that produces some of the finest high school talent each year.

It was no secret that the Buckeyes would pound the ball on the ground against the Wildcats, and it was no secret that Northwestern would have trouble gaining yardage against what is considered to be the finest OSU defense in years.

There were no secrets about the game and no surprises regarding the outcome as the Buckeyes scored a relatively easy 34-3 victory.

Boasting the Big Ten's number one rushing offense before the game, Ohio State pounded away at the Wildcats for 289 yards on the ground, improving their league-leading total from 247.2 to 254.2 yards rushing per game.

And the Bucks' defense, which entered the game as the fifth-best team in the nation against the run, did the job again, limiting the Wildcats to just 78 yards on the ground. In six games, Ohio State has allowed only 492 yards rushing, an average of 82.0 per game.

Northwestern couldn't generate much offense during the day and, in fact, generated next to none after the first quarter. From the second period on, the Buckeyes allowed only 37 yards in total offense.

"I was proud of the way our defense played today, but I've been proud of them all year," said Ohio State head coach John Cooper. "I've said this before, but our defensive football team has a chance to be one of the outstanding units in the country, and is certainly the best we've had since we've been here."

Junior inside linebacker Steve Tovar padded his team-leading tackles total with six solo stops against the Wildcats. Junior inside linebacker Brent Johnson had one of his finest efforts of the season with four tackles, including one sack, and a pair of fumble recoveries.

Junior nose guard Greg Smith was credited with 1.5 sacks, giving him four for the season, while junior inside linebacker Tom Lease also had one. Sophomore outside backer Jason Simmons had one-half sack, raising his team-leading total for the season to 5.5.

The Buckeyes allowed Northwestern only seven first downs in the entire game, and while the Wildcats managed to run 53 offensive plays, they averaged only 2.8 yards each time.

Further evidence of OSU's stellar defensive play was the fact the Buckeyes forced NU to punt 10 times in the game and the Wildcats failed to convert any of their 12 third-down plays.

While the defense was snuffing the Wildcats, the OSU offense was slugging its way along the slippery turf. Senior fullback Scottie Graham led a parade of Buckeye running backs with 109 yards and three touchdowns, his first three



TIM CARBON

In addition to rushing for 109 yards and three touchdowns, OSU senior fullback Scottie Graham (35) also had many fine blocks against Northwestern. Here, Graham has already knocked down Wildcats defensive back Dwight James (36) and prepares to do so again, providing pass protection for Buckeye quarterback Kent Graham (11).

scores of the year and one more than he had all of last season.

The 100-yard performance was also Graham's first since he had 133 in the 1989 Michigan game.

Senior tailback Carlos Snow returned to the lineup in the second half after missing most of the last two games with a bruised muscle in his upper chest. He responded with 47 yards and one touchdown on seven carries.

Sophomore tailbacks Butler Bynoté and Raymond Harris both accounted for 41 yards apiece, while sophomore fullback Jeff Cothran chipped in with 25 yards on seven carries.

It was beneficial for the Buckeyes to have had such a potent running attack because the passing attack sputtered in the cold, rainy conditions.

Starting quarterback Kent Graham had his poorest passing performance as a Buckeye, connecting on just two of eight attempts for 23 yards. Still, one of those completions went for a touchdown, a 15-yarder to sophomore tight end Cedric Saunders, his first collegiate score.

"There were some tough conditions today," Cooper said in defense of Graham. "He said that he was having trouble getting a good grip on the ball because it was so slippery. The weather conditions really hampered our passing game."

Backup quarterbacks Kirk Herbstreit and Joe Pickens didn't find the going any smoother. Herbstreit completed two of five attempts for 31 yards and had one of his passes picked off.

OHIO STATE vs. NORTHWESTERN

AT A GLANCE

PLAY OF THE GAME: Just 2:22 into the game, OSU freshman defensive back Walter Taylor blocked a punt from Northwestern's Ed Suttler and teammate Dante Lee recovered the loose football at Northwestern's four-yard line. The play set up the Buckeyes' initial score of the day, a short run by fullback Scottie Graham. Taylor's punt block helped set the early momentum in the Buckeyes' favor and they never looked back, rolling to a 34-3 victory over the Wildcats.

OFFENSIVE PERFORMERS: OSU: FB Scottie Graham, 13 carries, 109 yards, 8.4 avg., 3 TDs; TB Carlos Snow, 7 carries, 47 yards, 6.7 avg., 1 TD; TB Raymond Harris, 15 carries, 41 yards, 2.7 avg., 0 TDs; TB Butler Bynoté, 8 carries, 41 yards, 5.1 avg., 0 TDs; TE Cedric Saunders, 1 reception, 15 yards, 15.0 avg., 1 TD; QB Kent Graham, 2 completions, 8 attempts, 23 yards, 1 TD, 0 interceptions. NORTHWESTERN: RB Dennis Lundy, 11 carries, 38 yards, 3.5 avg., 0 TDs; QB Len Williams, 3 completions, 8 attempts, 69 yards, 0 TDs, 0 interceptions; WR Rodney Ray, 11 carries, 29 yards, 2.6 avg., 0 TDs; WR Mark Benson, 1 reception, 49 yards, 49.0 avg., 0 TDs.

DEFENSIVE PERFORMERS: OSU: ILB Steve Tovar, 6 solo tackles; ILB Brent Johnson, 4 solo tackles, 1 quarterback sack, 2 fumble recoveries; NG Greg Smith, 6 tackles, 1.5 quarterback sacks; ILB Tom Lease, 4 tackles, 1 quarterback sack; ILB Judah Herman, 4 tackles; DB Walter Taylor, 1 punt block. NORTHWESTERN: OLB Thomas Homan, 8 tackles, 1.5 quarterback sacks; ILB Steve Ostrowski, 8 tackles, 1 quarterback sack; ILB Ed Suttler, 5 tackles; CB Willie Lindsey, 5 tackles, 2 pass deflections, 1 interception.

GAME NOTES: Ohio State defeated Northwestern for the 16th consecutive time, a stretch in which the Buckeyes have outscored the Wildcats 735-170. The game also marked the first game for OSU in Cleveland Stadium since 1944. The Buckeyes' record in Cleveland is now 3-1 with previous victories over Illinois in 1942 and 1944 and a loss to Purdue in 1943.

INJURY REPORT: OLB Mark Williams (groin muscle pull) was held out of the Northwestern game, but should return against Michigan State. OG Len Hartman (shoulder), FL Bernard Edwards (slight concussion) and TE Cedric Saunders (shoulder) missed some time against Northwestern, but should be ready against MSU.

NEXT OPPONENT: The Buckeyes will return home to play Michigan State Oct. 26 in Ohio Stadium. The game will begin at 3:30 p.m. Eastern and will be televised on a regional basis by ABC. OSU has not played the Spartans since losing a 20-10 decision in East Lansing in 1987. The two teams have met only twice since 1984, both MSU wins.

TWO DEEP VS. WILDCATS

OFFENSE	WR	STABLER	GALLOWAY
LT	KLING	DULLY	
LC	HARTMAN	THURSH	
C	LONG	THURSH	
RG	IRSMITH	MONNOT	
RT	SIGAF	WENLOW	
TE	SAUNDERS	ELLIS	
FB	EDWARDS	DAGREPHRED	
QB	GRAHAM	HEDWITZHEIT	
TB	WYNOTE	HARRIS	
FB	GRAHAM	COTHRAN	
PK	T.WILLIAMS	BERGER	
DEFENSE	OLB	GURD	B-JOHNSON
DT	FIDMEL	BONHAUF	
NG	G.SMITH	ELBROWN	
DE	SPELLMAN	FORSTER	
OLB	KACHERSKI	SIMMONS	
ILB	HEDMAN	LEASE	
ILB	TOVAR	RODRIGUEZ	
RCB	PAULK	TAYLOR	
FS	NELSON	PATILLO	
SE	HARPER	PAUL	
LCB	COOK	WALTON	
P	T.WILLIAMS	KESHELL	

*Senior Fullback Rushes For 109 Yards, Three Touchdowns***Graham Flashes '89 Form In Win Over NU**

TIM CAHSON



Ohio State senior fullback Scottie Graham (35) stiff arms Northwestern defensive back Dwight James (36) during one of Graham's runs against the Wildcats. Graham had 109 yards and three TDs as the Buckeyes rolled to a 34-3 victory.

By Mike Waxman

It looked like 1989 all over again when Ohio State nearly had double 1,000-yard runners in its backfield.

There was fullback Scottie Graham, blocking with abandon and running the ball like a tailback against Northwestern Oct. 19 in Cleveland Stadium, a game the Buckeyes cruised through 34-3.

Graham tallied 109 yards and three touchdowns for the day, good enough to win *Big Bear Buckeye of the Week* honors. It was his best offensive output since his 133-yard day against Michigan in 1989.

And when senior tailback Carlos Snow scored the Buckeyes' final touchdown against Northwestern on a six-yard scamper with 3:11 to play in the third quarter, Graham had a wide grin on his face.

"I was pumped," Graham said. "That was exciting. It was probably one of the most exciting things in the game. It was like it was old times, me leading him into the end zone. That was really exciting."

"All the running backs pump me up. I have to admit I have a bias toward Carlos. We've been friends for five years."

Graham now has 281 yards for the season, eclipsing all of last season's total of 253 yards. He suffered through most of last year with an ankle injury, and he even reagravated it this season but has apparently come back strong.

Before Graham mauled the Wildcats, gaining 31 more yards on the ground than Northwestern did as a team, people had wondered if he would ever return to the form of 1989, when he gained 977 yards and was among the top running backs in the nation.

They have their answer now.

"People in the public are into statistics," Graham said. "I wish they would count blocks, how many blocks

I've made. I've done that without complaining. I want to win.

"I had close to 1,000 yards my sophomore year and we went to a bowl (the Hall of Fame Bowl) where Ohio State shouldn't even be in. Statistics don't mean anything as long as we win. Our record is a lot better now than the year I had all those yards."

Graham refused to use last year's injuries as an excuse but said this year a one-game rest has made a difference. He sat out the Louisville game this year, making sure he could be at or near 100 percent for the remainder of the season.

"Last year, if I was hurt I didn't tell anybody I was hurt," Graham said. "This year when I got hurt, I had time to sit out a game and come back. I'm probably 99 percent right now."

"It wasn't really frustrating being hurt. (OSU running backs) Coach (Gene) Huey told me it's like great baseball players. They may strike out and strike out, but eventually they will come back. They just keep swinging. You have to go back to the fundamentals, and that's what I did."

Even Ohio State head coach John Cooper can see a difference in Graham's running ability.

"Scottie's getting healthy again," Cooper said. "He's a good football player when he is healthy. Scottie hurt them a lot inside with the trap play."

Graham liked the trap play, and why wouldn't he? The first time he ran it, it netted him 39 yards and set up OSU's second touchdown.

"The trap play is a great play for me," he said. "I've had some big runs in the past with it. It's probably the best play I run. (Offensive coordinator) Coach (Elliot) Uzelac and Coach Huey expect me to do that. I was really excited that I got the opportunity to carry the ball today."

"I've said before I'm an unselfish player. If they ask me to block, I'll do it. But today I got to run it."

The Buckeyes led 20-3 at intermission but looked sluggish on occasion offensively in the first half. They switched back to grind-it-out football in the third quarter and scored twice, using drives that consumed 10 and 12 plays.

"We stayed very poised on offense," Graham said of the third-quarter scores. "We knew we weren't doing any great things in the first half. We just wanted to come out in the second half and score."

"The offensive unit was pumped. (Center) Paul Long said in the huddle, 'We're going to score.' We just went in and chopped away at them. The first two times we got the ball we scored, and that was the most important thing, to stay with it. We didn't lose the faith."

The Buckeyes dominated the Wildcats in almost every facet of the game, and Graham said that was to be expected.

"We played well," he said. "Our (special) teams played well, our defense played well. They set up three of our opportunities to score. That was important to score when we got inside the 10-yard line and not waste any opportunities."

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OSU Limits Northwestern To Only 151 Total Yards

Defense Turns In Another Stellar Effort

By Mike Waxman

It is becoming old hat for followers of Ohio State to hear that the defense turned in another sterling effort.

The latest notch on the stop troops' belts came against Northwestern, as the Bucks limited the Wildcats to just 151 total yards in a 34-3 pasting in Cleveland Stadium Oct. 19.

The Wildcats had balance on offense, with 78 yards rushing and 73 passing, they just didn't have much of it.

"We wanted to make sure we didn't give up any big plays," said junior linebacker Steve Tovar. "I don't think we had the same intensity and the same mental focus of some games, so we knew we had to go out and play our game and we'd come out with a win."

Tovar led the Buckeyes in tackles with six, all solos, and may have had more if not for substitutions. Since the Buckeyes were playing Northwestern, a team with just one win this season, substituting was a luxury the Bucks could afford.

"I'm real happy for the guys that got in the game," Tovar said. "My backup Alex Rodriguez, Brent Johnson, and the rest of the linebackers really did a good job. You have to give the younger guys some experience. That way, if down the road something does happen, you won't

have that letdown and you'll just become a better team."

Johnson, a junior inside linebacker, also had a good game, tallying four tackles and recovering two fumbles. He also had a tackle for loss.

Two of Johnson's stops came on special teams, a unit on which he doesn't mind playing.

"My attitude is this," he said. "I used to come in during nickel situations, but we don't play nickel anymore, so special teams is pretty much when I get to play in the game. I like to get tackles. I like to be in on everything. I'm going to give everything I have on special teams."

The Buckeyes had another fine day against the run and lowered their average to 82.0 yards allowed per contest. Tovar knew the Wildcats liked to run, and that's the kind of football he likes to play against.

"The option, the dive, they were going to run the ball and I like that," he said. "Their bread-and-butter plays are running plays. As soon as you see that, you go to the stack (defense) and your coach tells you you're the free linebacker and you get fired up. Sometimes when teams play teams that aren't so good, there is a little letdown. With all the added incentive coming in today, there was no chance for me to let down,"

Tovar, who is from the Cleveland area, added.

Tovar speaks of the stack defense, which is a break from the Buckeyes' normal 5-2 setup. That was done for a reason.

"We saw them play against Indiana and they had a lot of success against Northwestern in the stack defense," Tovar said. "We wanted to go in with one thing in mind and that was lining up in one defense and playing it. We wanted to show a different look. They probably thought we were going to run our regular look, our 5-2, and when they saw the stack, they probably had to make a few adjustments. By that time we had pretty well established ourselves."

Johnson felt it was important the Buckeyes stick to their game plan and make Northwestern change theirs.

"We learned that if we play our game, we can play with anybody," he said. "It doesn't matter who we play or where we play. We know that we're a good team. We have a good offense and a good defense. If offense and defense are clicking on the same day, it's definitely going to be a victory for us. We have to keep a balance and keep each other up."

"This week told us that we can still

play well. We have a lot of season left. We're just going to try to go out and do this every game."

Cover Story

Continued From Page 1

school games in the area. The OSU head coach makes it no secret that he hopes the Buckeyes can make future trips to Cleveland.

"It would help us recruiting if we knew two years from now we would play another game in Cleveland," he said. "We weren't able to invite any high school players to the game. But it would help us if we could go out to the high school players in this area and tell them in two or three or four years, you could play a game at home in front of your friends and family. That helps."

"Just like today. There's no question that Rod Smith, Judah Herman, Andy Gurd, Paul Long, Rich Frimel and other guys from this area were extremely excited about playing here. They were really pumped up about playing in this stadium because they're from this area. It's where they grew up. We'd love to have another one scheduled here."

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*Buckeyes Blocked Punt To Set Up First Touchdown***Cooper Lauds OSU's Special Teams Play**

TOM CARSON



Ohio State sophomore tight end Cedric Saunders (85) celebrates in the end zone after beating Northwestern defensive back Anthony Purkett (32) for a touchdown. It marked Saunders' first TD as a Buckeye and got OSU started on a 34-3 win.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This football season, *Buckeye Sports Bulletin* will publish excerpts from Ohio State head coach John Cooper's post-game press conferences. Here is what Cooper had to say following the Buckeyes' win over Northwestern in Cleveland.

COOPER: "This was a good win for us. I thought we did some good things. Coming in, we thought we could put some pressure on their punter and that was the case. I was a little disappointed we didn't return any punts and disappointed we mishandled a couple back there, but we got some big plays off special teams.

"Defensively, other than the big pass play early in the game, I thought we pretty much shut down their offense and controlled them throughout the course of the ball game.

"Offensively, we did some good things, we did some bad things. We rushed the football fairly well at times. We had, obviously, some missed assignments. We had some broken plays. Probably the worst thing was we didn't throw or catch the football or protect the passer the way I thought we should come into this ball game.

"But let me say this, and I said this coming into the game: this is the best Northwestern team I've seen since I've been in this league. They start 15 seniors and I think (Wildcats head coach) Francis (Peay) and his staff did a real nice job, an outstanding job. They had a good game plan. They played us in the stack defense and pretty much dared us to throw the ball, and the conditions — in the first half at least — made it pretty tough throwing the football.

"Three good things happened today — we won the ball game, we didn't get anybody hurt, and I think we played everybody we brought up here, includ-

ing some of the backup punters, long snappers and punt returners.

"We got Joe Pickens in the ball game most of the fourth quarter, and I was happy to see him get in the game. I was happy to see all of the first-teamers from this area that got to play. Sometimes, I don't think (the media) talks enough about the players from this area that contribute to the Ohio State Buckeyes. We talk about the ones that got away, or the ones that should be playing.

"I might also point out that some of you people don't like option football. You didn't see much option football today. But anyway, we won the game, we played a lot of players, and we're happy about that."

Q: You had some good plays on special teams today, especially when you rushed Northwestern's punter. Was there something you might have seen in films up to this point in the season that made you think you could get to their punter?

COOPER: "Well, again, we felt like we had a lot of quickness on special teams and we felt like we could put some pressure on their punter. (Northwestern punter Ed) Sutter is a good punter, and if you give him time, he's going to kick it out of the stadium. We thought we could put some heat on him and get some big plays off of it."

Q: What do you know about your team after today's game that you didn't know after the loss to Illinois last week?

COOPER: "I didn't learn too much today. I think we're developing into a pretty good defensive football team, although we played pretty good defense last week. We just need to keep working and keep getting better."

Q: What about your offensive line play today? You said Northwestern was playing a stack defense, yet you still ran the ball very well.

COOPER: "We had a little success moving the football on the ground. We've had success doing that all year. But they caused us some headaches. They blitzed quite a bit, bringing their outside linebacker and their inside linebacker, and kept us off balance. But they didn't do anything we hadn't expected, anything we hadn't seen in the previous games (on film)."

Q: Your team didn't pass very well and had three turnovers. Would you characterize this as a sloppy game for you offensively?

COOPER: "No, not at all. The weather made it a little sloppy, but I didn't think we were sloppy."

Q: Did the weather conditions make it difficult on offense?

COOPER: "The conditions bothered us a little bit, especially in the first half. It started raining quite a bit and it was tough to get a grip on the ball."

Q: Can you talk about the play of your quarterbacks today since all three of them got some playing time?

COOPER: "I think all of them did some good things. Kirk (Herbstreit) didn't play as much as he normally would because we wanted to play Pickens here in Cleveland. I thought Kent (Graham) did some good things. We would have liked to have seen him hit the long pass. We threw into coverage a time or two, the quarterback got sacked

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HOTLINE**

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Buckeye Sports Bulletin offers the most in-depth coverage of Ohio State sports that you'll find anywhere. But as good as we are, we can only bring you news of the Buckeyes once each week. Some people just can't wait a whole week. That's where the BSB Hotline comes in. The Hotline features two updates on football Saturdays, the first approximately one hour before kickoff with pregame information, and the second about two hours after its completion, featuring quotes from players and coaches. Monday's Hotline features comments from head coach John Cooper's weekly press luncheon and will be updated at approximately 1 p.m. The BSB Hotline is updated at 12 noon all other days with news from practice sessions, which are closed to the public this year. Even if you miss calling one day, you miss a lot.

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a few times when maybe he should have dumped the ball off or maybe should have tried to get back to the line of scrimmage. But I think all of them had some good moments, and all of them had some bad moments."

Q. How would you characterize Northwestern's offense today? Did they do anything to surprise you?

COOPER: "They've been running that same offense all year. They try to keep you off balance. Their quarterback did a lot of bootlegs, but I thought our defensive staff had a good game plan and probably took away their bread and butter plays. But that's the same offense they've been running for five games."

Q. Talk about the effort of Scottie Graham today. He seems to be running better each week.

COOPER: "Well, Scottie is getting healthy again. He's a good football player when he is healthy and Scottie hurt them inside with the trap play. That's the play he had a lot of success with today. But we had a lot of good runs. (Wide receiver) Joey Galloway made a nice run on the reverse. The only thing we didn't show today was our screen series."

Q. Can you compare the atmosphere of a college game here in Cleveland Stadium to the atmosphere of a game in Ohio Stadium?

COOPER: "It was about the same except the fans are a little closer to the field in a college stadium. But I didn't see much difference."

Q. How did Carlos Snow's performance appear to you since he's been out most of the last two weeks?

COOPER: "We held Carlos out the first half because he was a little bit banged up. But we thought we'd go ahead and put him out there in the sec-



Ohio State freshman Walter Taylor (43) blocks a punt from Northwestern's Ed Sutter (54) during the first quarter of the Big Ten game in Cleveland. After Taylor blocked the punt, teammate Dante Lee (5) tracked down the loose football (shown at the right) and recovered the ball, setting up the Buckeyes' first touchdown of the day. OSU went on to post a 34-3 win over the Wildcats.

ond half and see what he could do. I thought he made some nice runs."

Q. Are you pleased with the way your team bounced back after the tough loss last week to Illinois?

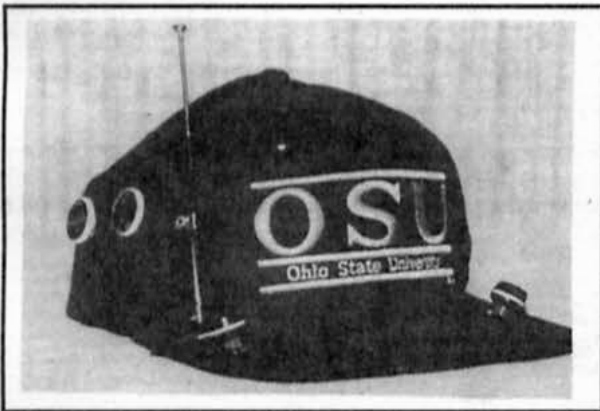
COOPER: "Sure, I'm pleased. We expected them to bounce back. I thought the effort was pretty good all week long."

Q. Does your defense have a chance

to be one of the best you've ever been around?"

COOPER: "It has a chance to be the best defensive team since I've been here."

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The Numbers Game

Buckeyes 34, Wildcats 3

OHIO STATE	13	7	14	0	34
NORTHWESTERN	3	0	0	0	3

OSU — S.Graham, 2 run (T.Williams kick) 12:02
 NU — Leahy, 32 field goal 10:27
 OSU — Saunders, 15 pass from K.Graham (kick failed) 3:47
 OSU — S.Graham, 1 run (T.Williams kick) 12:00
 OSU — S.Graham, 2 run (T.Williams kick) 9:36
 OSU — Snow, 6 run (T.Williams kick) 3:11
 Att. — 73,830

	NU	OSU
First Downs	7	18
Rushing	5	13
Passing	2	5
Penalty	0	0
Rushes-Yards	40-78	60-289
Passing Yards	73	75
Passes	13-4-0	16-5-1
Plays	53	76
Total Net Yards	151	364
Third Down Efficiency	0-12	9-18
Punts	10-37.5	5-34.2
Fumbles-Lost	2-1	4-2
Penalties	3-15	3-24
Time Of Possession	27:03	32:57

Individual Statistics

RUSHING (Att.-Net Yds.) — OSU: S.Graham 13-109; Snow 7-47; Harris 15-41; Bynote 8-41; Cothran 7-25; Galloway 1-21; Herbstreit 3-13; D.Brown 1-3; K.Graham 5-(-11). NU: Lundy 11-38; Ray 11-29; Dixon 7-14; Zipfel 3-5; Greenwald 1-5; Williams 6-2; Sutter 1-(-15).
PASSING (Att.-Comp.-Int.-Yds.-TD) — OSU: K.Graham 8-2-0-23-1; Herbstreit 5-2-1-31-0; Pickens 0-2-0-0-0; T.Williams 1-1-0-21-0. NU: L.Williams 8-3-0-69-0; Krebs 5-1-0-4-0.
RECEIVING (Rec.-Yds.) — OSU: Stablein 2-26; Paulk 1-21; Saunders 1-15; Lee 1-13. NU: Benson 1-49; Zipfel 1-14; C.Morris 1-6; Greenwald 1-4.
PUNTING (No.-Avg.-Lg.) — OSU: T.Williams 3-35.7-40; Kessell 2-32.0-34. NU: Sutter 9-41.7-58; Team 1-0-0-0.
PUNT RETURNS (No.-Avg.-Lg.) — OSU: Stablein 2-3-0-7; Taylor 5-9-6-19. NU: None.
KICKOFF RETURNS (No.-Avg.-Lg.) — OSU: Snow 1-24-0-24. NU: Senters 5-21-2-27; Wright 1-15-0-15.
DEFENSIVE FUMBLES RECOVERED BY — OSU: B.Johnson (2). NU: Cunningham.
INTERCEPTIONS — OSU: None. NU: Lindsay.
TACKLES FOR LOSS — OSU: G.Smith, B.Johnson, Lease, Simmons. NU: Homco (2), Ostrowski, Boudreaux.
TACKLES (Solo-Ast.-Tot.) — OSU: Tovar 6-0-6; G.Smith 3-3-6; B.Johnson 4-0-4; Cook 4-0-4; Herman 3-1-4; Lease 3-1-4; Spellman 3-0-3; Nelson 2-1-3; Gurd 2-0-2; Simmons 2-0-2; Foster 2-0-2; Kacherski 1-0-1; Frimel 1-0-1; Beckman 1-0-1; Rodriguez 1-0-1; Harper 1-0-1; Paul 1-0-1; Walton 0-1-1. NU: Homco 7-1-8; Sutter 6-2-8; Ostrowski 6-2-8; Purkett 4-2-6; James 4-2-6; Lindsay 4-1-5; Collins 4-1-5; Freveletti 3-2-5; Boudreaux 3-1-4; Cunningham 2-1-3; Hellebusch 2-1-3; Gill 1-2-3; Shine 2-0-2; Baczek 2-0-2; S.Golarz 2-0-2; Christian 1-1-2; Rosen 1-1-2; Green 1-0-1; Jones 1-0-1; Singleton 1-0-1; M.Golarz 1-0-1; Clark 0-1-1.

OSU Season Statistics

RUSHING	ATT	GAIN	LOST	NET	AVG	TD	LG	OPP	OSU
Butler By'not'e	109	529	28	501	4.6	4	57	FIRST DOWNS	105
Scottie Graham	41	293	12	281	6.9	3	65	Rushing	37
Carlos Snow	47	260	3	257	5.5	3	31	Passing	59
Jeff Cothran	34	245	1	244	7.2	1	39	Penalty	9
Raymont Harris	47	197	17	180	3.8	2	16	AVERAGE PER GAME/RUSH	82.0
Kirk Herbstreit	16	108	9	99	6.2	1	32	AVERAGE PER GAME/PASS	212.3
Joey Galloway	1	21	0	21	21.0	0	21	AVERAGE PER PLAY/PASS	6.4
Danie Lee	2	9	0	9	4.5	0	7	TOTAL OFFENSE	1767
Deron Brown	3	8	1	7	2.3	0	5	Total Plays	388
William Houston	3	3	0	3	1.0	2	2	Average Per Game	294.5
Joe Pickens	2	1	2	-1	-	0	1	Average Per Play	4.6
Kent Graham	33	52	114	-82	-	1	13	PENALTIES-YARDS	28-192
Team*	1	0	14	-14	-	0	-	Offense	22-143
OSU Totals	339	1726	201	1525	4.5	17	65	Defense	54-44
OPP Totals	190	710	218	492	2.6	3	29	Special Teams	1-5

Sacks: K. Graham 11-80, Herbstreit 2-7

PASSING	ATT	COMP	INT	YARDS	PCT	TD	LG	OPP	OSU
Kent Graham	64	37	3	537	57.8	3	44	THIRD DOWN EFFICIENCY	19-75
Kirk Herbstreit	26	14	2	221	53.8	1	39	Percentage	253
Tim Williams	1	1	0	21	100.0	0	21	FOURTH DOWN EFFICIENCY	3-10
Joe Pickens	5	1	0	34	20.0	0	34	Percentage	500
OSU Totals	96	55	5	813	55.2	4	44	SACKS AGAINST	22-132
OPP Totals	198	109	7	1275	55.1	6	55	TIME OF POSSESSION	157:36

RECEIVING	NO	YARDS	AVG	TD	LG	OPP	OSU
Bernard Edwards	15	253	16.9	2	39	SCORING	TD
Brian Stablein	14	190	13.6	0	26	Tim Williams	20-22
Cedric Saunders	5	90	18.0	1	27	Butler By'not'e	4
Butler By'not'e	5	32	6.4	0	33	Scottie Graham	3
Joey Galloway	3	101	33.7	1	44	Carlos Snow	3
Danie Lee	3	46	15.3	0	24	William Houston	2
Jeff Ellis	2	20	10.0	0	14	Raymont Harris	2
Raymont Harris	2	18	9.0	0	10	Bernard Edwards	2
Jeff Cothran	1	22	22.0	0	22	Kent Graham	1
Foster Paulk	1	21	21.0	0	21	Roger Harper	1
Allen DeCraffneried	1	15	15.0	0	15	Kirk Herbstreit	1
Scottie Graham	1	5	5.0	0	5	Cedric Saunders	1
OSU Totals	58	813	13.3	4	44	Joey Galloway	1
OPP Totals	109	1275	11.7	6	55	Kirk Herbstreit	1

PUNTING	NO	YARDS	AVG	TB	INT	BK	LG
Tim Williams	21	762	36.3	1	6	0	51
Joel Kessell	2	64	32.0	0	0	0	34
OSU Totals	23	826	35.9	1	6	0	51
OPP Totals	32	1193	37.3	3	8	1	58

FG DISTANCE	0-29	30-39	40-49	50+	TOTAL	FIELD GOAL DISTANCE
Tim Williams	2-3	1-2	1-2	0-0	4-7	(4-7, 571)
OSU Totals	2-3	1-2	1-2	0-0	4-7	Tim Williams (4-7, 571) AZ 26+; LV 32-, 36+; WS 47-, 27+, WI 41+, IL 24-
OPP Totals	0-1	1-2	2-3	1-1	4-7	

KICKOFF RETURNS	NO	YARDS	AVG	TD	LG	INTERCEPTIONS	NO	YARDS	AVG	TD	LG
Danie Lee	7	144	20.6	0	31	Roger Harper	3	42	14.0	1	42
Carlos Snow	3	61	20.3	0	24	Chico Nelson	1	22	22.0	0	22
Raymont Harris	2	27	13.5	0	15	Bryan Cook	1	16	16.0	0	16
Butler By'not'e	1	8	8.0	0	8	John Kacherski	1	3	3.0	0	3
OSU Totals	13	240	18.5	0	31	Foster Paulk	1	0	0.0	0	0
OPP Totals	29	603	20.8	0	47	OSU Totals	7	83	11.9	1	42

SCORE BY QUARTERS	1	2	3	4	TOTAL	AVG
Opponent	17	2	13	45	77	12.8
Ohio State	51	24	31	60	166	27.7

Defensive Statistics

DEFENSE	SOLO	AST	TOT	TAC-LOSS	QB-SACK	PBU	FC	FR	TDS	BK
Sieve Tovar (1)	28	18	46	4-12	1-8	2	1	-	-	-
Bryan Cook	26	14	40	2-12	1-5	1	1	-	-	-
Greg Smith	15	20	35	6-31	4-28	-	-	1	-	-
Roger Harper	21	10	31	3-9	1-1	3	1	-	-	-
Judah Heenan	19	12	31	3-8	-	-	-	1	-	-
Rich Primel	16	10	26	3-19	1.5-17	1	-	-	-	-
Foster Paulk	16	6	22	1-2	-	-	-	-	1	-
Brent Johnson	14	8	22	3-9	1-1	-	-	-	-	-
Jason Simmons	15	4	19	7.5-34	5.5-27	1	1	1	-	-
John Kacherski	13	6	19	4-15	2-11	1	2	-	-	-
Alonzo Spellman	11	8	19	4-24	2-16	2	-	-	-	-
Chico Nelson	13	5	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mark Williams	11	5	16	3-14	2-13	1	-	1	-	-
Tim Walton	11	5	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tom Lease	4	7	11	3.5-8	1-5	1	-	-	-	-
Tito Paul	6	3	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Andy Gurd	4	5	9	1-1	-	1	-	-	-	-
Marlon Kerner	5	3	8	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Derrick Foster	5	3	8	1-1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tim Patillo	3	3	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Walter Taylor	3	2	5	-	-	2	-	-	-	1PT
Jim Borchers	0	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Matt Bonhaus	2	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cedric Saunders	2	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Alex Rodriguez	2	0	2	1-2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Danie Lee	1	0	1	1-15	-	-	-	-	-	-
Randell Brown	0	0	0	-	-	1	-	-	-	-

One Solo Tackle-Pete Beckman, Paul Long, Kirk Herbstreit
 One Assist Tackle-Kent Graham, Jason Winslow, Jon Berger, Brad Pope, Tim Williams

(1) Defensive extra point interception return of 96 yards for score

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BSB Quotebook: Ohio State 34, Northwestern 3

Ohio State head coach John Cooper's assessment of the game: "We were very excited about playing this game in Cleveland Stadium and in front of our great fans in this part of the state. We have a lot of players on our football team from this area and we were happy to give them the chance to play in front of their friends and family."

Northwestern head coach Francis Peay when asked about playing a "home" game against Ohio State in Cleveland: "Once we sat down and ate our pregame meal, it was game day. We came to Cleveland and we played to the best of our ability. I don't believe the site, really, has anything to do with it."

OSU sophomore tight end Cedric Saunders on the crowd at Cleveland Stadium: "I thought they were louder at times here than they are back in the Horseshoe. They really got us pumped up at the beginning of the game. They were yelling and screaming and pumped us up."

OSU senior tight end Steve Tovar, a native of nearby Elyria, Ohio, on playing in Cleveland Stadium: "The fans were really on our side. You could tell that by all the scarlet and gray in the stands. That was to our advantage over Northwestern, even though it was their home game. It felt more like home to us, I'm sure."

OSU sophomore offensive guard Rod Smith on what it meant playing in his hometown: "It was a great feeling. I can't remember how many games I've watched on TV from this place and wondered how it would be like to play here. After the things I've been through this year, having trouble in school and losing my starting job, it was great to make my first start of the season at home. That was a great feeling for me."

OSU redshirt freshman quarterback Joe Pickens, another Cleveland native, on playing in Cleveland Stadium: "My family has had season tickets to the Browns ever since I can remember, and I've been to quite a few games. I always dreamed about playing here one day, but I certainly didn't think it would happen this quick."

OSU sophomore tailback Raymont Harris, a Lorain, Ohio, native, on returning to northern Ohio to play: "I was excited about it before the game. Then, when we came in the stadium and all of those people were cheering for us, I got even more excited. It was really nice to be able to come back up here and play close to my family."

OSU junior center Paul Long, another player who grew up in suburban Cleveland, on what it meant to play in front of his friends and family: "This was good for us, especially after a tough loss last week to Illinois. It was a road game, but it felt like a home game and that was nice."

OSU senior inside linebacker Judah Herman, telling reporters what his friends on the Northwestern team had to say about playing in Cleveland: "I talked to them on the phone. A lot of guys on Northwestern are from the Cleveland area and they were kind of happy about it. Overall, though, I don't think their team was real happy."

Northwestern senior inside linebacker Ed Sutter on playing the game in Cleveland rather than in Evanston, Ill.: "It was discussed a little bit between players. Nobody is happy about giving up a home game. But what can you say? It's not up to us. As far as the actual game, I like Cleveland Stadium. It was cold and wet, but it was good weather to play football in. If the school made money from moving the game and you see that money do some good, I guess it was beneficial to move the game."



Cedric Saunders



Rod Smith



Judah Herman



Scottie Graham

Sutter on his blocked punt that set up Ohio State's first touchdown: "You look at how big a part that played, shifting so much momentum to their side, and it's just a tough deal. We gave up 340 yards to their offense, which was in line with the goals we set for the game, but we put ourselves in terrible situations."

Peay on the same play: "All blocked kicks against you are about the same, in that they make you feel sick inside. There are about 150 total snaps in a game, and each has a weight and a value of its own. All I can say is that our football team did not send up the white flag of surrender."

Cooper on the same play: "We thought that maybe we could rush their punter a little bit. We've got some good, fast athletes on our punt return team and we feel like we can get pressure on the other team's punter. That's what we did today and it worked."

Northwestern junior quarterback Len Williams on his team's offensive attack, which featured only 13 passes all day: "Personally, I would like to put the ball in the air a lot more, but I'm not the coach. I'm sure the thinking was that the weather conditions were not good for passing, but we could have thrown it more."

Williams on his 49-yard pass play to wide receiver Mark Benson in the first quarter that set up the Wildcats' only score of the game: "I rolled out on that one and they bit on it hard. But Ohio State got wise. After that, they had a linebacker assigned to me — I think it was Tovar — and I had problems seeing my primary receivers, because most of our patterns were to the outside. They kind of took that away from us."

OSU senior fullback Scottie Graham's assessment of his game, which included 109 yards and three touchdowns on the ground and several important blocks: "This feels good, but there are a lot of mistakes I have to make up for. I'm definitely not satisfied. No way. I still have a lot of improving to do."

OSU senior quarterback Kent Graham on the wet weather conditions and how that limited him to just two completions in eight attempts: "It was difficult to get anything done out there, especially throwing the ball. The ball was pretty wet and I didn't feel comfortable on some throws."

Saunders on scoring his first collegiate touchdown on a 15-yard pass in the first quarter: "I loved it. I wish I would have scored down at the 'Dawg Pound' though because I would have run into the crowd and pumped everything up."

Northwestern senior outside linebacker Thomas Homco on his team's improvement this season on defense: "This is, by far, the best defense we've had in my four years here. Our other defenses weren't even in the same league with this one. We're a step away from winning right now, but we keep avoiding that step somehow."

Cooper's final thoughts on the victory: "I was pleased with the way we were able to come back after the loss to Illinois. We had a good week of practice and it was nice to be able to play this game in Cleveland, play a lot of players and win the ball game. We just have to keep getting better. We played better this week than we did last week, but that's something we want to do every week. We want to play better next week, then better the week after that. We just have to keep working and keep improving."

The View From 15th and High

By Frank L. Moskowitz, Publisher

No Cupcakes Remaining On Buckeyes' Dessert Tray

Iowa did its part by defeating Illinois, and the next five weeks are now show time for the Ohio State football team. Let's face it. The chances of Northwestern defeating Ohio State were pretty slim.

But now the Buckeyes face five teams that I feel all have a legitimate chance of winning. Certainly, the Michigan and Iowa games will be tough ones. You surely can't overlook Indiana, which gave Michigan a run for its money and has been an armful for the Buckeyes since the "darkest day" in OSU football history back in 1987. And Minnesota always plays OSU tough in Minneapolis. The Bucks have won by seven points or less the last three times up there.

And then there's Michigan State. This is a game I've been worrying about for weeks. After their slow start, I figure the Spartans will not only be rounding into form, but will also be looking to salvage their season with an upset of a team like Ohio State. And because MSU has a 1-5 record, there's always the chance the Bucks will take them too lightly. It's the type of combination that could add up to a disaster for Ohio State.

The Bucks have yet to establish if they are contenders or pretenders in the Big Ten. The road to either destination starts with Michigan State.

WITH OHIO State easily handling Northwestern, much of the story coming out of the Buckeye-Wildcat game concerned the venue. I found the game in Cleveland a unique and exciting change of pace as compared to the usually predictable OSU-Northwestern fare. It had the strange feel of a home game that wasn't a home game, which is what it was, if that makes any sense. I know this much. I didn't see many people dressed in purple and white.

With tickets at Ohio Stadium seemingly having been tied up by the same people for as long as anyone can remember, it was also exciting to get a new mix of Buckeye fans in the crowd, which seemed to add to the festive atmosphere. I heard one radio reporter liken the atmosphere to that of a bowl game, which, while somewhat accurate, was interesting when you consider the opposition was Northwestern.

The players, too, seemed excited about playing the game, especially those players from the Cleveland area. For many players who once dreamed of playing in the pros but now realize that probably won't happen, playing in Cleveland Stadium had to be a thrill as well.

The game seemed to create enough goodwill that I'm left wondering if Ohio State shouldn't consider taking its spring scrimmages on the road as it did a few years back. People really seem to enjoy having the Buckeyes in their backyard, and it also gives those who don't have access to tickets a chance to see their Bucks.

IF YOU spend a day or so among Buckeye fans in the Cleveland area, you realize quickly that there are a lot of people on the North Coast who feel that Joe Pickens should be the starting quarterback at OSU. Of course, as John

Cooper pointed out, there are a lot of people in Centerville, Ohio, who think Kirk Herbstreit should be at the Buckeye helm.

The media is not allowed into practice to see how Pickens is doing. However, before practice was closed up tight following the Robert Smith fiasco, it appeared that Pickens was running third team. It is also doubtful, given the do-or-die nature of this OSU football season, that the inexperienced Pickens was going to end up as the starter.

Bill Livingston, in a column for *The (Cleveland) Plain Dealer* that criticized the Buckeyes for running the option and not using Pickens, acknowledged that point.

"If Cooper weren't fighting for his job in the current season, the fourth on his five-year contract, he would be developing Pickens," read the column, which ran the day before the Buckeyes played in Cleveland. "No less than Woody Hayes opened up his attack for Art Schlichter.

"Next year, though, if Cooper is still around, option expert Bob Hoyer, a freshman who is being redshirted, might be the QB of choice."

Livingston seems to be writing off Herbstreit, who will be back next season, a little quickly. I suspect, however, that we'll see plenty of Pickens before he leaves Columbus. For now, though, he (along with his fans in Cleveland) will have to wait his turn, just as Graham, Herbstreit and thousands of other college players have before him.

SPEAKING OF the quarterbacks, Graham did a nice job of showing patience and picking out his secondary receiver on his touchdown toss to Cedric Saunders in the first quarter against Northwestern.

I WAS a little confused as to why, after showing no new wrinkles in the offense against a strong Illinois team, the Bucks showed the reverse against Northwestern, a team they could have beaten with a handful of simple plays. Maybe the Bucks plan to run some sort of trick play off that reverse against a stronger opponent in the future.

IT'S BEEN awhile since I've been to Cleveland Stadium and I always forget how cold it gets there, with that wind coming off the lake. It reminded me of the time I was sitting in the bleachers for a Browns game late in the season and, as the crowd thinned out late in the contest, some guys decided to light a bonfire out of the discarded cups and hot dog wrappers. And this was in the days before the "Dawg Pound." It's amazing how the combination of a few beers and bitter cold clouds some people's thinking.

I guess that's another reason why the atmosphere was so festive for the game. Some of the rowdier Buckeye fans certainly enjoyed the fact that, unlike at Ohio Stadium, beer was available. For \$4, you could even get a popular import from Canada, which was a fitting brew, given the weather. Where did they get that game-time temperature reading of 51 degrees, anyway?

I want to thank all the readers who stopped by during my chilly remote broadcast with WKNR's Greg Brinda

from the stadium parking lot. I had nice chats with readers from Sandusky, Mayfield and Alexandria, Ohio, in particular. I also want to thank whoever brought those yummy Buckeyes by and the staff of WKNR for making me feel so welcome.

BY NOW, we are far enough into our weekly publishing schedule that you know whether or not you need first class mail service for your BSB.

The bulk of our readers receive their paper on Wednesday or Thursday, but many of you, especially those who live out of state, are having trouble getting your *Buckeye Sports Bulletin* in a timely fashion. For those of you who have this problem, we strongly suggest having your paper sent first class in an envelope, and we are offering you a chance

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