

BUCKEYE SPORTS BULLETIN

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"For The Buckeye Fan Who Needs To Know More"

December 1995

ED-DIE, ED-DIE!!

George Captures Ohio State's Sixth Heisman Trophy

By STEVE HELWAGEN
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

Even the prim and proper crowd in the Heisman Room at the Downtown Athletic Club got into the act.

"Eddie, Eddie!" the crowd chanted. No, this wasn't Ohio Stadium, and, no, this wasn't a dream — although it was the fulfillment of Eddie George's boyhood dreams — as George had just been named the 61st Heisman Trophy winner as the nation's most outstanding college football player on Dec. 9 in New York City.

"I'm glad this is over," George told the distinguished group at the DAC and a national television audience on ESPN.

"First and foremost, I would like to thank God almighty for giving me the strength and health to be here tonight," he said.

OSU's "big number 27," as coach John Cooper has frequently referred to him, became the school's sixth Heisman Trophy winner and its first since Archie Griffin won back-to-back Heismans in 1974 and '75.

George, OSU's outstanding senior tailback and co-captain, won the Heisman by a surprisingly large margin over Nebraska quarterback Tommie Frazier and Florida quarterback Danny Wuerffel. Northwestern tailback Darnell Autry and Iowa State tailback Troy Davis finished fourth and fifth, respectively, in balloting by media members and past recipients.

George, a Philadelphia native, was one of the main catalysts for the OSU offense this season. While Bobby Hoying and Terry Glenn set school passing and receiving records, respectively, George also etched his name into the school's record books.

He finished the regular season with a school single-season mark of 1,826 yards. Against Illinois' vaunted defense, he carried for a school-record 314 yards. He led the nation in scoring with 24 touchdowns.

With George setting the table on the ground, the Buckeyes finished the season 11-1 overall. And while winning the Heisman will not make up for OSU's inability to defeat Michigan and go to the Rose Bowl this year, it certainly takes away some of the pain.

"I would like to thank Coach Cooper and Ohio State for their support and for giving me the opportunity to play four years there," George said. "I also want to thank Coach (Dave) Kennedy and Dave Langworthy for my conditioning and training and also (running backs



EDDIE'S HEISMAN — Ohio State senior tailback and co-captain Eddie George embraces the Heisman Trophy minutes after the announcement of his win was made Dec. 9 at the Downtown Athletic Club in New York City. George edged Nebraska's Tommie Frazier in the balloting.

coach Tim) Spencer."

George grew up in a single-parent home in Philadelphia with his mother, Donna. When she sensed he was straying from the proper path, she sent him to Fork Union (Va.) Military Academy for his final two years of high school. Refocused, George signed with Ohio State and arrived in time for spring practice in 1992.

"It's hard to describe how I feel right now in words," George said. "This is everything I dreamed of when I came out of high school to Ohio State."

But the ride was not always easy. After scoring three touchdowns in a win over No. 8 Syracuse early in his freshman season, George found himself benched after a pair of costly fumbles in a loss to Illinois. His sophomore year, playing behind the combo of Raymont

Harris and Butler By'not'e, was little better.

But last year, George emerged as the starter and rushed for 1,442 yards. Still, he wasn't mentioned in the same breath as "star runners" like Florida State's Warrick Dunn or Texas A&M's Leland McElroy when it came time to name the preseason Heisman favorites.

George was even behind players in his own conference — Minnesota's Chris Darkins, Indiana's Alex Smith and Purdue's Mike Alstott — when it came to preseason publicity.

Undaunted, George never listened to the skeptics. He kept his dreams in focus.

"You just have to keep dreaming,"

Continued On Page 6

BSB Returns In January

This is the only edition of *BSB* planned for December. *BSB* will return in January with the first of 10 weekly issues. The Jan. 13 issue will be mailed on Jan. 9. The *BSB* staff hopes everyone enjoys a happy and safe holiday season.

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Heisman Gives OSU Legitimacy

The Heisman Trophy announcement for Eddie George has certainly put a lot of luster back on the 1995 season for Ohio State.

This team's place in history was seemingly placed in limbo after its crushing defeat at Michigan.

But now, even though everybody's reservations had to be switched from LA to Orlando and for an 11th straight year there is no Rose Bowl, this *was* a special year.

I know, it hurts to think about Michigan. Stop for a second, though, and think of:

- Shawn Springs' stunning kickoff return for a touchdown and George's catch off the goal line against Boston College, or

- George's blisterings of Washington and Notre Dame, the latter perhaps the biggest game ever played at the Horse-shoe, or

- Terry Glenn's record day at Pitt and the unveiling of his "bye bye" speed against the Irish, or

- Rickey Dudley's catch from Bobby Hoying down the middle in traffic to set up the monster Penn State win, or

- George's breathtaking, sudden-change-of-direction scamper to steal the Wisconsin game, or

- The unheard of 56-point first half against Iowa, or

- Glenn's incredible catch and George's equally incredible run at Minnesota, or

- Dudley and Orlando Pace's man-handling of Illinois' Simeon Rice and Kevin Hardy, paving the way for George's finest hour, or

- The stirring send-off for George and Hoying prior to the Indiana rout.

There are too many great moments and memories to just chalk this one up as a broken season.

And if the singular moments aren't enough, George's Heisman as well as Pace's Lombardi award and Glenn's Biletnikoff award and that trio's status as consensus All-Americans (I hope OSU has stock in a tree farm) legitimize this team.

George in particular shows what a person can accomplish through hard work and perseverance. He prevailed in a fast field of Heisman candidates, which included sophomore sensations Darnell Autry and Troy Davis as well as quarterback stars Tommie Frazier and Danny Wuerffel.

ESPN analyst Lee Corso said it best about George and his Heisman court in his parting shot on the live broadcast: "These are all team guys. It was all about 'we' and 'the team.'"

Since the Michigan game, we've received numerous letters from people who were dismayed, shocked and upset over the team's loss at Michigan.

But you know what?

I am quite sure the sun came up the next day, and a few weeks later, Eddie George won the Heisman, and a few weeks after that, the Buckeyes will take on Tennessee in a suddenly meaningful Citrus Bowl. With a win, this Ohio State team can become the first to ever win 12 games.

The lesson here is that life goes on, and although there is no Rose Bowl this year, from my perspective this *was* a special year.

MISSING THE Rose Bowl will certainly cost Ohio State in the donations department. The school stood to literally take in millions from alumni

Editor's Notebook

with
Steve Helwagen

and benefactors who would suddenly believe "they're doing good things over there."

From a football standpoint, though, the Citrus Bowl — against fellow No. 4 team Tennessee — will be a better challenge.

The fact remains that, although the Vols slumped down the stretch against Vanderbilt and Kentucky, they are an outstanding passing team. Soph Peyton Manning was tabbed as All-SEC over Wuerffel. Likewise, both players were tabbed as AP All-Americans over OSU's Hoying.

The holiday season has been unkindest of all to Hoying, once considered among the nation's best and now with little more than All-Big Ten to put on his resume. This game should give him a chance to show what he can really do.

Furthermore, the team as a whole should have renewed pride and excitement in the wake of George's Heisman win.

And better yet, a convincing victory could lift OSU to No. 3 or No. 2 in the final polls if Northwestern loses or is shaky against USC in the Rose Bowl and/or Nebraska routs Florida or vice versa in the Fiesta.

IT WAS a two-TV night on Dec. 9. I was definitely following the Heisman show on ESPN, but I found myself also watching OSU's basketball team against George Mason.

I've said it many times, but I'll say it again. I'm not sure how Jami Bosley does it. And Jermaine Tate and Shaun Stonerook come up bigger each time.

Last year's team won six games. This year's team has won four, and it's not even Christmas.

Our Big Ten predictions appear in this issue (see page 35). Jeff Rapp, Mike Wachman and I all predict a sharp

dose of reality to set in sometime in early January. But for now it is fun to watch these kids grow.

FINALLY, THERE are a pair of media morsels worth savoring this time. The first one goes to ESPN for not showing Eddie George at any point holding the Heisman Trophy he had just won. It seems they had to cut away quickly to get to that important Kentucky-Georgia Tech basketball game. If you're not going to do something right, why do it?

The second thumbs down goes to *The Columbus Dispatch*. "Ohio's Greatest Home Newspaper" split the top of its Sunday, Dec. 10, front page, giving two-thirds of the space to the first part of a timeless series on unclaimed fugitives and the remaining sliver to say that, by the way, Eddie George had won the Heisman Trophy.

I don't agree with several radio talk show callers who said the layout, which featured a menacing black man behind bars and accused of rape, smacked of racism and "stole the spotlight" from a black hero. From my experience in working in newsrooms, this was probably an honest coincidence.

The Dispatch, in my humble opinion, erred when the decision was made to give the two stories side-by-side billing. I understand that the Heisman announcement wasn't made until 8:20 p.m. on a Saturday night, and the staff, working on a tight Sunday deadline, couldn't be sure that George would win or not.

But in a city where people live and die Ohio State football and at a newspaper with *The Dispatch's* immense capabilities, George's Heisman win should have become the single banner story.

Let me put this another way: When Buster Douglas beat Mike Tyson for the heavyweight boxing title in 1990, the late edition was redesigned and the stunning upset was played with 100-point type across the top of the Sunday front page.

The same should have been done for Eddie George, special crime feature or no special crime feature. 'Nuff said.

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Glenn Wins Biletnikoff; Pace Snags Lombardi

By STEVE HELWAGEN
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

While OSU senior tailback Eddie George was hauling in all of the major awards — the Heisman, the Maxwell, the Walter Camp and the Doak Walker — a pair of OSU underclassmen also got into the act.

Junior flanker Terry Glenn was named the Fred Biletnikoff Award winner as the nation's top wide receiver, while sophomore offensive tackle Orlando Pace received the Vince Lombardi Award.

Glenn received his award as part of ESPN's special College Football Awards Show on Dec. 7 from Orlando, while Pace was honored the same night at a special banquet hosted by the Houston Rotary Club.

Glenn bounded onto the national scene this season, his first as a starter after sitting behind such talented upperclassmen as Joey Galloway and Chris Sanders.

He finished the year with several school receiving records including single-season touchdown catches (17) and single-season yardage (1,316). Glenn also etched his name into the record book with his 252-yard, four-touchdown showing against Pittsburgh. His breathtaking 82-yard TD catch-and-run against Notre Dame made him a household name.

Only a shoulder injury, suffered while making a diving catch against Minnesota on Nov. 4, could slow him.

"I want to thank Coach (John) Cooper for believing in me and giving



GLENN PACE

me a chance," said Glenn, who came to OSU as a walk-on in 1992 from Columbus Brookhaven High School after surviving trying personal circumstances and academic problems.

He went on to earn a scholarship soon after, but it wasn't until this year that his true talents were on display.

Glenn won the second-year Biletnikoff honor, presented by the Tallahassee (Fla.) Quarterback Club, over last year's inaugural winner Bobby Engram of Penn State and flashy Keyshawn Johnson of Southern Cal.

The 6-6, 320-pound Pace became the first sophomore in history to claim the Lombardi award, presented annually to college football's lineman of the year.

Pace nipped three seniors — UCLA's Jonathan Ogden, Arizona's Tedi Bruschi and Illinois' Simeon Rice — to claim the 26th annual award.

"It's a great feeling," Pace said after receiving the trophy. "I'm just happy to be here as a sophomore because not too many sophomore offensive linemen get the chance to come here."

With Pace, the Big Ten's freshman of

the year last year and offensive lineman of the year this season, at left tackle, the Buckeyes rolled up an impressive 490 yards per game in building their 11-1 mark.

Pace was joined at the Lombardi awards dinner in Houston by former Buckeye Jim Stillwagon, who won the Lombardi award and Outland Trophy in 1970. John Hicks won both awards as well in 1973, while Chris Spielman claimed the Lombardi for OSU in 1987.

Pace was also a finalist for the Outland Trophy, presented to the outstanding interior lineman, but that went instead to UCLA's Ogden.

George, of course, received a spate of national honors, including the Heisman, Walter Camp and Maxwell awards as the national player of the year as well as the Doak Walker Award as the nation's top running back.

In other national awards, Colorado State's Greg Myers won the Jim Thorpe Award (top defensive back) as well as the Honda Scholar-Athlete Award, Northwestern's Pat Fitzgerald won the Chuck Bednarik Award (defensive player of the year), Florida's Danny Wuerffel won the Davey O'Brien Award (top quarterback), Nebraska's Tommie Frazier won the Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Award (top senior quarterback), TCU's Michael Reeder won the Lou Groza Place-Kicker Award, Illinois' Kevin Hardy claimed the Dick Butkus Award (top linebacker) and Northwestern's Gary Barnett was tabbed as the Home Depot coach of the year.

THE BUCKEYES were also represented on several of the All-

American teams that have been announced.

Ohio State placed three players on the Associated Press All-American first team, including George at running back, Glenn at wide receiver and Pace at offensive tackle.

It marked the first time since 1987 that OSU had multiple AP first-team All-Americans and the first time since 1969 that OSU had as many as three make the first team. In 1987, Chris Spielman and Tom Tupa were chosen to the first team, while Jim Otis, Jack Tatum and Jim Stillwagon were all first-teamers in 1969.

Pace, only a sophomore, would have a chance to become only the seventh player in OSU history to become a three-time All-American, should he stay for a full four years.

Ohio State matched top-ranked Nebraska as the only schools with three first-team players. Other first-team All-Americans of note included North-western linebacker Pat Fitzgerald, Illinois linebacker Kevin Hardy and Washington safety Lawyer Milloy.

OSU defensive end Mike Vrabel was selected to the AP third-team unit.

The AP team highlighted the quality of Big Ten running backs as Northwestern's Darnell Autry was a second-team pick and Michigan's Tim Biakabutuka and Purdue's Mike Alstott were named to the third team.

Additionally, George and Pace were tabbed for first-team All-American honors by the American Football Coaches Association.

Tom Hoying, Vrabel Face Charges After Fight

By JEFF RAPP
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

The attorney for Ohio State football players Mike Vrabel and Tom Hoying said the two maintain they are "completely innocent" despite their early morning arrest in connection with an ugly altercation outside a bar in Kent, Ohio, Dec. 2.

Vrabel, a junior starting defensive end, and Hoying, a sophomore quarterback who backs up his brother Bobby, were arrested by Kent police behind Screwy Louie's, 176 E. Main St., at about 1:10 a.m. Reports say the two were pointed out by witnesses after returning to the scene where Timothy L. Fulton was beaten in a parking lot melee.

Fulton, out celebrating his 21st birthday with friends, was treated and released from a nearby hospital but suf-



T. HOYING VRABEL

fered cracked ribs, bruises, head and facial injuries and severe swelling around both eyes. His friends blamed the entire incident on Vrabel and Hoying according to Kent police Capt. James Peach.

Vrabel and Hoying, both 20, have been charged with first degree misdemeanor assault, which is punishable by up to six months in jail and/or up to a \$1,000 fine in Ohio.

Neither Vrabel nor Hoying could be reached for comment. Both have been released on their own recognizance and were seen at a state playoff game in Massillon later in the day of the arrest. Peach said other Buckeye players, reportedly in the area for the St. Henry High School state championship game, were at the scene of the assault.

Fulton maintains he was approaching the bar with six friends when a group including Hoying and Vrabel asked him to kick out a car window. When he refused, fists flew, he said.

"They grabbed me and started beating me," Fulton told the (Akron) *Beacon Journal*. "I can remember being hit from all angles. I can remember trying to protect myself and not being able to."

One of Fulton's friends said Fulton was slammed head first into a Jeep, knocking him unconscious almost from the start.

Columbus attorney and ex-Buckeye Christopher Cicero previously went on record labeling Fulton's story as "ludicrous," but said he will add no comment on the matter at the request of his clients and their families.

"We cannot comment on any of the facts that led up to the incident and any of the facts that occurred immediately after," Cicero told *BSB*.

"It's fair to say that there was an incident that led up to the altercation. However, I'm confident that after the matter has been adjudicated, if it gets that far, that both Mike and Tom will be completely exonerated."

Cicero, who lettered as an outside linebacker for OSU in 1983, faces some trouble of his own. According to *The Other Paper*, the Ohio Supreme Court Disciplinary Counsel currently is

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George Also Wins Maxwell, Walker Awards

Continued From Page 1

George said minutes after the Heisman announcement. "That's where everything starts. You just have to keep your eye on your goal and just fight forward no matter how much adversity is in front of you."

The rap on George, it seemed, was he was too slow and he couldn't make the game-breaking run. But in preseason interviews, he said he had done everything he could in the off-season to make sure he was ready for his senior year.

It showed from Day One when he befuddled Boston College in the Kickoff Classic, rushing for 99 yards and catching passes for 58 more. A pair of 200-yard games against Washington and Notre Dame put George's name at the top of the Heisman list.

"We all worked hard," George said of the team's showing this year. "We never really focused in on individual awards. We just tried to work on making it to the Rose Bowl and trying to win the national championship. We had to understand that all the other accolades would come if we just continued to do our thing."

"If you asked me at the beginning of the season if I had any shot at these things, I would have said, 'No, I just want to win games.'"

Cooper, present for the Heisman presentation, discussed exactly how far George has come — and how he has gotten there.

"When we recruited Eddie George, he was not the most highly recruited player coming out that year," Cooper said. "But let me say this: In 33 years of coaching, 19 as a head coach, I have never been around an athlete with a better work ethic than Eddie George."

"I don't know if he is the best college football player, but again, nobody is more deserving of this great award than Eddie George," he said.

While Frazier mixed running and passing the ball to lead Nebraska to the top spot in the polls and Wuerffel's deadly accurate passing also swayed voters, it was likely George's durability that swung the vote in his favor.

"He would carry it as many times as you could give it to him, and the amazing thing was that after carrying it 25 or 30 times on Saturday, he would come out and lead our football team in wind sprints (the next day)," Cooper said.

ESPN college football commentator

George: Game-By-Game

Here is a look at how OSU tailback Eddie George fared this season with his game-by-game rushing and receiving totals:

Date	Opponent	Rushing			Receiving			Total Yds.
		Att.	Yds.	TDs	Rec.	Yds.	TDs	
Aug. 27	Boston College	17	99	2	4	58	0	157
Sept. 16	WASHINGTON	36	212	2	0	0	0	212
Sept. 23	at Pittsburgh	24	122	0	2	9	0	131
Sept. 30	NOTRE DAME	32	207	2	3	22	0	229
Oct. 7	at Penn State	24	105	1	5	38	0	143
Oct. 14	at Wisconsin	26	141	3	4	26	0	167
Oct. 21	PURDUE	23	104	1	5	56	0	160
Oct. 28	IOWA	15	110	4	1	12	0	122
Nov. 4	at Minnesota	23	178	3	8	86	0	264
Nov. 11	ILLINOIS	36	314*	2	4	32	1	346
Nov. 18	INDIANA	23	130	2	3	10	0	140
Nov. 25	at Michigan	21	104	1	5	50	0	154
Season Totals		303	1,826+	23	44	399	1	2,225

*-OSU single-game record
+OSU single-season record

Chris Fowler, who hosted the Heisman show, was surprised by how wide a margin George won the award.

"The voting was not as close as a lot of us thought," Fowler said. "Eddie won by a pretty convincing margin. He won in different regions of the country. I think what really helped him was he carried Big Ten country pretty convincingly."

George joins Griffin, Howard "Hopalong" Cassady, Vic Janowicz and Les Horvath, who died just recently on Nov. 14, in OSU's Heisman Trophy class. The school trails only Notre Dame, with seven winners, on the Heisman list.

"There is no finer person to carry on the OSU football tradition," Griffin said. "Eddie George is a fantastic person. He is a great football player, but even better than that he is a great person off the field as well."

And George knows that his name will not only be indelibly etched in the annals of Ohio State football, but in the annals of all of college football.

"It makes you feel great to just be mentioned with other names like Tony Dorsett, Earl Campbell, Herschel Walker, Rashaan Salaam and all those guys," he said. "Now that I am a part of that, I probably will be remembered

forever."

IN ADDITION to the Heisman, George has plenty of other hardware to fill his own personal trophy case.

He previously received the Walter Camp Football Foundation player of the year award and the Maxwell Award as the nation's most outstanding player. He also picked up the Doak Walker Award as the top running back in the country as well as the *Chicago Tribune's* Big Ten most valuable player award and consensus All-American honors.

"From a personal level, I guess you could say I accomplished some goals," George said. "But as far as the overall picture, the Rose Bowl meant a lot to me. It was my last chance to get there and I didn't fulfill that goal."

"That will stick with me for a lifetime, but I just have to use that as my fuel."

Prior to heading to New York City for the Heisman Trophy presentation, George ventured to Dallas Dec. 5, to pick up the Doak Walker Award as the nation's top collegiate running back.

George actually was announced as the Walker award winner a day earlier in a satellite hookup between Dallas and Columbus, where George was still finishing up autumn quarter exams.

George beat out Karim Abdul-Jabbar of UCLA, Tiki Barber of Virginia, Tim Biakabutuka of Michigan, Warrick

Dunn of Florida State, George Jones of San Diego State, Wasean Tait of Toledo and Moe Williams of Kentucky.

Davis and Autry, a pair of sophomores, weren't up for the Walker award because it goes to players within a year of graduating.

"Last year I was a finalist, so I figured I had a shot at it this year," George said. "In the middle of the season my linemen started teasing me and calling me Doak Walker. That's when I started thinking I had a shot to win it."

OBVIOUSLY, GEORGE has had a wild week-and-a-half. He finished up exams on Dec. 4 with a geology test just a half-hour after the Walker award satellite hookup ended.

Then he went to Dallas for two days for the Walker award ceremony.

From there it was on to Orlando and an appearance at ESPN's College Football Awards Show on Dec. 7. There, he picked up the Maxwell award.

Then it was off to New York City for the Heisman presentation. The same day as that ceremony, though, he and his mother traveled by car to Philadelphia for the funeral of Eddie's great-grandmother, Mammie Bunyon.

After the Heisman ceremonies were out of the way, George jetted back to Columbus for one night before heading back off to Washington, D.C., to pick up the local Pigskin Club's national player of the year honor.

Then he was scheduled to head to Los Angeles for the weekend of Dec. 15-16 to tape the Bob Hope All-American special.

From there, George will likely fly directly to Florida to rejoin the Buckeyes for the team's Citrus Bowl preparations.


"I've got permission to miss practice," George said, laughing.

But in typical George fashion, he was already focused on the Citrus Bowl and Tennessee just an hour after receiving the Heisman.


"Right now I have one more college game left and the pros are next for me," George said. "I am just going to do what I have to do when that time comes. I am not really focused on that at this time. My mind is just concentrating on Tennessee."

And diplomatically, George had a simple reply when he was asked whether he'd want the Heisman or the Rose Bowl and a shot at the national title:

"That's a tough question, but I would rather have it all."




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George Dreamed Early Of Winning Heisman

By **JEFF RAPP**
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

Prior to his Heisman Trophy coronation, Eddie George spent much of his youth dreaming, watching, and eventually, working.

And while team accomplishments always came first at Ohio State, George used the learned trait of dedication to end his college career as one of the greatest running backs in the school's storied history.

He and his mother remember the day when, as an eager second-grader, he decided to announce a dream.

"At 8 years old he always said what his goals were out of life and what he wanted to do, and one of them was getting the Heisman Trophy," said Donna George. "He knew nothing about it except that he wanted to win it."

Since that day, Donna has let her son fantasize and yearn for greatness, but not without making sure Eddie kept football in perspective with life. In fact, she did not let him play the sport in an organized setting until he was 11, even though he had been begging to play on a team since he was 5.

Eddie grew up with his mom and older sister Leslie in suburban Philadel-

phia. Eddie's father, also named Eddie George, was rarely around during his childhood and officially separated from Donna in 1980. They later divorced.

For the most part, young Eddie was mindful of the women of the house. But at 15 he began to fill out and feel his oats.

Football and winning the Heisman, as Oklahoma State's Barry Sanders did that year, were suddenly all that mattered.

"Actually, after I saw Barry Sanders win it I went into the bathroom and looked in the mirror and tried to do things the way he did," George admitted. "It was silly. It was a wild dream."

Eddie had the dream, but not quite the heart of a champion.

With football his only focus, good grades and a well-built character were beginning to fade. Eddie was sure to be a star sophomore for Abington High School that year, he figured. It never happened.

When Donna sensed football began overriding everything else in importance, she enrolled her talented teen into Fork Union Military Academy, a discipline-first institution tucked away in the Virginia foothills. Donna's



A HAPPY MOMENT — OSU tailback Eddie George hugs and kisses his mother, Donna, during the press conference after it was announced that George had won the Heisman Trophy. George credited his mother for keeping him on the right path.

brother Derek suggested the move.

Eddie was understandably apprehensive at first, wondering how his budding abilities would ever be noticed by recruiters. But George eventually rationalized one mode of survival — work.

"I didn't have a choice," he said.

Eddie, of course, earned a scholarship to Ohio State and made an impact his freshman year with three touchdowns in an early season win at Syracuse. Just weeks after that high came his football nadir — a nightmarish outing vs. Illinois in which he committed two fumbles near the goal line.

From that point, Eddie spent the next two years mired on head coach John Cooper's bench while backs such as Robert Smith, Raymont Harris and Butler By'not'e took handoffs.

"I was a nobody," he said. "I think about those years all the time. But I was real excited for Raymont those two years and he's very excited for me now. He's like a little kid when he sees me on ESPN and being up for the Heisman."

Eddie put himself in position for such greatness by utilizing what Cooper characterizes as an incomparable work ethic. Strong words from someone who has been coaching in the sport for 33 years.

"The thing about Eddie is that adversity teaches a man to know himself, and he had a lot of adversity with the Illinois game and then he came back and had his greatest game of his career against Illinois," said OSU administrator Bill Myles, a former assistant coach under Woody Hayes.

"Woody would have been proud of Eddie George."

Added George, "Adversity is a wonderful seed to have. You can nurture it, you can cherish it, you can learn from it and you can keep just feeding it water and it will grow and blossom."

"I can't believe it's over. I can't believe I actually won this thing and I still can't believe it," George said moments later. "I think it will start to sink in when I get with my family and we cry a little bit and laugh a little bit and talk about how I got to this point. I guess I'll be happy then."

Even if George encounters more struggles in the NFL, the Heisman can't be taken away. Neither can his legacy at Ohio State.

"Eddie has set the standard now for the younger players to really follow," Cooper said. "He set a great example for the other football players at Ohio State to try to live up to."

The George File

NAME: Eddie George
POSITION: Tailback
CLASS: Senior (co-captain)
HEIGHT, WEIGHT: 6-3, 227 pounds
MAJOR: Landscape Architecture
HOMETOWN: Philadelphia, Pa.
BIRTHDAY, AGE: Sept. 24, 1973, 22 years old
HIGH SCHOOL: Fork Union (Va.) Military Academy (He attended Fork Union for his final two years after transferring from Abington High School in Pennsylvania.)



Eddie George

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS:

- **High School** — Rushed for 2,572 yards and 37 touchdowns in his last two seasons at Fork Union. He graduated from there in 1991, but spent an additional season in the fall of 1991 with the Fork Union post-graduate team before enrolling at Ohio State in the spring of 1992. Was also involved in track at the high school level, winning a state hurdles championship.
- **Ohio State 1992** — Saw only limited action, but played in 11 of 12 games. Rushed 37 times for 176 yards. Highlights were 3 TDs vs. Syracuse and 97 yards against Northwestern.
- **Ohio State 1993** — Again was just a bit player behind Raymont Harris and Butler By'not'e on OSU's Big Ten co-championship team. Played in 11 of the 12 games, rushing 42 times for 223 yards. Highlight was 96 yards against Purdue.
- **Ohio State 1994** — Took over as the starter and rushed for 1,442 yards and 12 TDs on 276 carries. Was a finalist for the Doak Walker Award. Became the first OSU back to rush for 200 yards in two games in the same year, going for 206 against Northwestern and 219 against Michigan State. Had eight 100-yard games out of 13 on the season.
- **Ohio State 1995** — Burst onto the national scene with a 99-yard effort against Boston College in the Kickoff Classic. Became the Heisman front runner with 200-yard games against Washington and Notre Dame. Set the school single-game rushing mark with 314 yards against Illinois. Ended the regular season with a school-record 1,826 yards on 303 carries. Led the nation in scoring with 24 touchdowns. Went on to claim Big Ten offensive player of the year honors, consensus first-team All-American recognition, the Doak Walker Award as the nation's top running back and the Heisman Trophy, Walter Camp Award and the Maxwell Award as the nation's most outstanding player. Has one game in the Citrus Bowl against Tennessee left, but will end his college career as OSU's No. 2 all-time rusher behind Archie Griffin.

OHIO STATE CAREER STATISTICS:

Year	GP/GS	Rushing				Receiving		
		Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TDs	Rec.	Yds.	TDs
1992	11-0	37	176	4.8	5	0		
1993	11-0	42	223	5.3	3	0		
1994	13-11	276	1,442	5.2	12	16	117	0
1995*	12-12	303	1,826	6.0	23	44	399	1
Career	47-23	658	3,667	5.6	43	60	516	1

*One game, the Citrus Bowl against Tennessee, remains.

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OSU Family Loses One Heisman Winner But Then Gains Another

If anybody knows the true impact of the Heisman Trophy, it would be OSU associate athletic director Archie Griffin.

Griffin won a pair of the prized, 50-pound trophies after stellar seasons as, like newly crowned Heisman winner Eddie George, the Ohio State tailback.

"Oh, it changes your life, there is no doubt about that," Griffin said. "Not only does your life change, but you also get a name change. It gets a prefix, 'Heisman Trophy winner.'"

"You will be able to go to places where you otherwise would not have had the opportunity, you will be in high demand, and you will have people want you to do things all the time," he said.

George joins Griffin, Howard "Hopalong" Cassady, Vic Janowicz and the late Les Horvath as OSU's Heisman winners.

"I think Eddie winning was really great," said OSU assistant athletic director Bill Myles, who also attended the presentation.

"With the class with which Eddie carried himself and his family, he has represented his family and The Ohio State University very well," he said.

Myles said it was fitting that George would be named as OSU's newest Heisman winner just 25 days after Horvath's death.

"Archie and I were at Les Horvath's funeral a couple of weeks ago, and his wife, Ruby, sat in front of me here tonight," he said. "She said to me that it was fitting that we lost one and gained one tonight."

Griffin, speaking during ESPN's live broadcast, said a certain former OSU coach who favored the run over the pass would approve of this Heisman winner.

"Coach Hayes certainly would be proud of Eddie George, just like John Cooper is proud of Eddie George. He works harder than anybody else and is truly a team leader," he said.

ESPN COMMENTATOR Chris Fowler remarked about how George easily prevailed in the Heisman balloting, although a close race was predicted with runner-up Tommie Frazier of Nebraska and third-place Danny Wuerffel of Florida.

"There were a lot of factors (behind Eddie winning)," Fowler said. "I think exposure is certainly one factor. I don't think the PR machine has much to do with it. I think Eddie George simply had the kind of season that is deserving of a Heisman Trophy."

"I think his actions spoke for himself. He never struck the pose even though he had the opportunity to do so. He never talked about the fact he thought he should win the Heisman. He was a team player and humble like all of the other candidates."

Heisman Trophy Notes

with Steve Helwagen and Todd Harrell

Heisman Trophy Facts, Figures

1995 HEISMAN TROPHY BALLOTING				
Player	School	Position	First-Place	Total Pts.
Eddie George	Ohio State	Tailback	268	1,460
Tommie Frazier	Nebraska	Quarterback	218	1,196
Danny Wuerffel	Florida	Quarterback	185	987
Darrell Autry	Northwestern	Tailback	87	535
Troy Davis	Iowa State	Tailback	41	402
Pepton Manning	Tennessee	Quarterback	10	109
Keyshawn Johnson	Southern Cal	Wide Receiver	9	59
Tim Biakabotuka	Michigan	Tailback	1	31
Warrick Dunn	Florida State	Tailback	2	29
Bobby Hoying	Ohio State	Quarterback	0	28

OHIO STATE'S HEISMAN TROPHY WINNERS		
Player	Pos.	Year
Les Horvath	Halfback/Safety	1944
Vic Janowicz	Halfback/Safety	1950
Howard "Hopalong" Cassady	Halfback/Defensive Back	1955
Archie Griffin	Tailback	1974
Archie Griffin	Tailback	1975
Eddie George	Tailback	1995

HEISMAN TROPHY WINNERS BY SCHOOL					
Noire Dame	7	Boston College	1	Penn State	1
Ohio State	6	Brigham Young	1	Pittsburgh	1
USC	4	Chicago	1	Princeton	1
Army	3	Colorado	1	South Carolina	1
Oklahoma	3	Florida	1	SMU	1
Auburn	2	Florida State	1	Stanford	1
Georgia	2	Hougon	1	Syracuse	1
Miami (Fla.)	2	Iowa	1	Texas	1
Michigan	2	LSU	1	Texas A&M	1
Navy	2	Minnesota	1	TCU	1
Nebraska	2	Oklahoma State	1	UCLA	1
Yale	2	Oregon State	1	Wisconsin	1

OSU's season-ending loss at Michigan, knocking the Buckeyes out of the Rose Bowl and the national championship picture, did not derail George's candidacy.

"He got his support consistently during the four weeks that the ballots were out," Fowler said. "Wuerffel did make a late rush, but I think some voters did not weigh the Michigan game as heavily as some Buckeye fans thought they would and voted on the entire season, and for them the choice was clear."

George himself was concerned his final game — even though he had 104 yards and a touchdown in the loss — would shatter his Heisman dream.



TWO OF A KIND — Archie Griffin (left) congratulates OSU's newest Heisman Trophy winner, Eddie George, after the announcement on Dec. 9 in New York City.

"Yes, I thought the loss to Michigan might have an impact on the voting, but I just knew that it was out of my hands at that time. I knew that I had done all that I could do up to that point and I just left it up to the voters and God," George said.

George won the Heisman race by a modest 264-point margin over Frazier. George was the top ballot getter in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions and

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by almost a 2-1 margin in the Midwest. Frazier was tops in the Southwest and the West, while Wuerffel led in the South.

"I thought it would be a closer vote because that's all I would hear on ESPN, and I guess all of that just helped build up the suspense in the street," George said.

"I was preparing myself to be in second or third because I honestly thought Tommie or Danny was going to win it. And then I won it and I am speechless right now," he said.

GEORGE'S FELLOW candidates had nothing but good things to say about him after he walked away with the award:

• **Northwestern tailback Darnell Autry** — "He is a great football player and a great guy, and that is very important and very key. He is a lot of fun and I can't wait to go out with him tonight."

• **Wuerffel** — "I am not disappointed at all. I would have been happy for anyone who would have won tonight and especially Eddie. He is a phenomenal person and a classy individual. He had a great year and he certainly deserves this trophy."

• **Frazier** — "There is going to be a winner and there is going to be a loser and everyone understood that. There were five guys here and only one can walk away with the Heisman, so I think we all prepared ourselves to not take it home."

As part of his postgame comments, George said he expected one of the three underclassmen (Autry, Wuerffel and Iowa State tailback Troy Davis) invited for the ceremony — the most in Heisman history — to walk away with next year's trophy.

"One of these guys is going to have a moment like I'm having," George said. "I'm glad I'm getting out now while I can."

Even more telling, Griffin expects somebody to match his multiple Heisman mark sometime in the near future.

"I think it will be done again," Griffin said. "I can see in the future, a sophomore winning it and sticking around for his junior year or senior year and winning it."

ESPN Aired comments on George from Cooper, running backs coach Tim

Spencer and OSU quarterback Bobby Hoying.

• **Cooper** — "He's a great athlete. He's got size, speed, great vision and the work ethic that everybody talks about. It's just his desire, the inner drive, to be the very best."

• **Spencer** — "Sometimes we have

to hold him back because he always wants to be the first one and he always wants to do things at full speed. But that's Eddie and he's not going to change."

• **Hoying** — "I don't think people understand his dedication to this team. If that could be taken into account, I'm

sure he would win everything this year."

THE CHANT of "Eddie, Eddie" that went up in the Heisman Room at the Downtown Athletic Club was actually started by a pair of George's boyhood friends from Philadelphia, observers said.

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Citrus To Take Center Stage Jan. 1 With OSU-Tennessee Match-Up

By **STEVE HELWAGEN**
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

No, it's not Nebraska-Florida, but it certainly is the next best thing.

Ohio State and Tennessee, tied for fourth in the latest AP college football poll, will meet in the CompUSA Florida Citrus Bowl on Jan. 1 in Orlando.

And, although the Citrus is not readily considered as one of the upper echelon of college bowls, a quirk of fate makes this match-up the best of the bowl season outside of the one-vs.-two showdown at the Fiesta Bowl.

"We're calling it 'The Best Game on New Year's Day' since the Fiesta is on Jan. 2," said Citrus Bowl publicity

director Jack Heilig. "Talentwise, we feel like we stack up against any other bowl out there."

Both teams have one loss this season, losses that derailed their hopes for their respective conference championships.

Tennessee (10-1) has been resigned to its Citrus Bowl fate since its 62-37 loss to Florida on Sept. 16.

The quirk of fate that landed Ohio State (11-1) in its third Citrus Bowl in four years, though, felt more like a smack in the face. The Buckeyes had all but made Rose Bowl reservations, but they failed to handle the last bit of business. Michigan cleaned up the details for them, winning 31-23 in the annual

rivalry game and sending Northwestern to the Rose Bowl.

OSU, which resumed practice on Dec. 7, will try to salvage the season and become the school's first 12-game winner by beating the Vols.

"I think it's been better every day," said OSU quarterback Bobby Hoying of his team's psyche. "I don't think it's going to be as hard as what the media is making it out to be for us to get up for this game."

"But Tennessee is really good. Coach (John) Cooper has already said it's the best team that we're going to play all year and that's what you ask for in a big bowl game. I think we're going to be fine. We're going to have everybody healthy, everybody back. It's time to get some respect back."

Ohio State regained some pride after the Michigan game as three players were selected for national honors. Tailback Eddie George claimed the Heisman Trophy, tackle Orlando Pace won the Lombardi Award and flanker Terry Glenn won the Fred Biletnikoff Award.

"I think the fans and my teammates have been helped out by this a lot," George said on his return to Columbus after his Heisman win.

"This game is very important. We have to go back to the basics. We slipped for one game, but I think we'll be fine," he said.

But Tennessee also has some standout players, led by sensational sophomore quarterback Peyton Manning. He earned All-SEC honors ahead of Heisman candidate Danny Wuerffel of Florida and AP All-American kudos ahead of Hoying, second to Wuerffel in the nation in passing efficiency.

This year, Manning set a Tennessee single-season record with 2,954 yards. He completed 64 percent of his passes and threw 22 touchdowns against just four interceptions.

The Vols are not a one-dimensional team, though. Tailback Jay Graham set UT single-season records himself with 10 100-yard games and 1,438 yards.

Clearly, the OSU defense will have to regroup — especially after yielding 313 yards to Michigan tailback Tim Biakabutuka — if the Buckeyes hope to end this season on a high note.

"We were very happy with the way we performed up until the last ball game," said Cooper, who is 1-5 in bowl games with the Buckeyes and 3-6 in bowls over his coaching career. "We had a great year, 11-1, and there's only two teams in major-college football with a better record than us."

Odds makers expect a shootout and have established OSU as a 5½-point favorite over the Vols.



COURTESY: UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

Peyton Manning

"That doesn't surprise me, especially after the way we played the last few weeks," said Vols coach Phillip Fulmer, pointing to his team's season-ending close shaves against two of the SEC's lesser lights, Kentucky (34-31) and Vanderbilt (12-7).

THIS WILL be the first-ever meeting between Ohio State and Tennessee. OSU is 7-6-2 against SEC teams, including last year's heartbreaking 24-17 loss to Alabama at the Citrus Bowl.

This is the fourth Citrus Bowl meeting between Big Ten and SEC schools under the current format, which matches each conference's runner-up or best available team. The SEC holds a 2-1 edge in the series. Georgia defeated OSU 21-14 in 1993 to open it, but Penn State stopped Tennessee 31-13 in '94.

Ohio State is 12-15 in bowl appearances, including a mark of 1-2 in the Citrus Bowl. OSU's lone Citrus win was a 10-7 decision over Brigham Young after the 1985 season.

Tennessee is 19-16 in bowl competition, including a 1-1 mark in the Citrus.

TICKETS FOR the Citrus Bowl have been raised from \$40 last year to \$45 this year. Accordingly, the bowl's payout has been upped from \$2.5 million last year to \$3 million this year.

Ohio State has an allocation of 12,000 tickets. They are available by calling the OSU ticket office at (614) 292-2624 or 1-800-GO-BUCKS or in person at the St. John Arena ticket office. Last year's OSU-Alabama Citrus Bowl drew a capacity crowd of 71,195.

OSU'S TRAVEL plans call for the Buckeyes to fly into Melbourne, Fla., on Dec. 18 and travel south to Vero Beach, where they will practice at Dodger Town, spring home of the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Then on Dec. 23, the Buckeyes will bus to Orlando and set up camp at the Peabody Hotel. Practices will be held each day on the Jones High School field, two blocks south of the Citrus Bowl.

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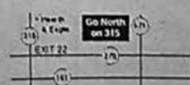
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Game 13: Ohio State vs. Tennessee

Citrus Bowl Data

- Date, Time: Mon., Jan. 1, 1 p.m. (EST).
- Location: Citrus Bowl; Orlando, Fla.
- TV: ABC (National)

About Tennessee (10-1, 7-1 SEC)

• Squad Information: Offensive formation: Multiple sets; Defensive formation: 4-3; Lettermen Returning: 49; Starters returning: Offense 7; Defense 10; Kickers 0.

• Leading Players: Quarterback Peyton Manning (244 of 380, 2,954 yards, 22 TDs, 4 INTs); running back Jay Graham (272 carries, 1,438 yards, 12 TDs); wide receiver Joey Kent (69 catches, 1,055 yards, 9 TDs); wide receiver Marcus Nash (43 catches, 512 yards, 4 TDs); defensive end Leonard Little (55 tackles, 10 tackles for loss, 10 sacks); cornerback DeRon Jenkins (50 tackles, 4 INTs, 4 PBU).

• Head Coach: Phillip Fulmer (fourth year as UT head coach, 31-7-1).

• Series History: First meeting; OSU coach John Cooper vs. Tennessee, first meeting; Fulmer vs. OSU, first meeting.

• Tennessee Schedule: Sept. 2, East Carolina, W, 27-7; Sept. 9, Georgia, W, 30-27; Sept. 16, at Florida, L, 62-37; Sept. 23, Mississippi State, W, 52-14; Sept. 30, Oklahoma State, W, 31-0; Oct. 7, at Arkansas, W, 49-31; Oct. 14, at Alabama, W, 41-14; Oct. 28, South Carolina, W, 56-21; Nov. 4, Southern Miss, W, 42-0; Nov. 18, at Kentucky, W, 34-31; Nov. 25, Vanderbilt, W, 12-7.

• School Facts: Location: Knoxville, Tenn.; Enrollment: 25,890; Nickname: Volunteers; Colors: Orange and White; Conference: SEC; Stadium: Neyland Stadium (Capacity, 91,902; Surface, grass).

Projected Depth Charts

OHIO STATE OFFENSE

- 83 TERRY GLENN, 5-11, 180, JR.
- 3 Dimitrios Stanley, 5-10, 181, Jr.
- 75 ORLANDO PACE, 6-6, 324, SO.
- 67 Brooks Burris, 6-6, 295, Fr.
- 72 JAMIE SUMNER, 6-4, 290, SR.
- 56 Rob Murphy, 6-5, 252, Fr.
- 65 JUAN PORTER, 6-4, 285, JR.
- 61 Kevin Hyme, 6-4, 298, Jr.
- 57 L-SHUN DANIELS, 6-2, 285, JR.
- 74 Greg Kozmaul, 6-4, 295, Sr.
- 50 ERIC GOHLSTIN, 6-3, 295, SO.
- 67 Brooks Burris, 6-6, 295, Fr.
- 80 RICKEY DUDLEY, 6-7, 240, SR.
- 88 Bob Houser, 6-4, 240, Jr.
- 14 BOBBY HOYING, 6-4, 223, SR.
- 8 Stanley Jackson, 6-1, 203, So.
- 37 NICKY SUALUA, 5-11, 245, SO.
- 39 Matt Calhoun, 6-0, 237, Jr.
- 27 EDDIE GEORGE, 6-3, 230, SR.
- 29 Pepe Pearson, 5-10, 193, So.
- 12 BUSTER TILLMAN, 6-1, 188, JR.
- 15 Dee Miller, 6-1, 190, Fr.
- 4 JOSH JACKSON, 5-11, 173, JR.

OHIO STATE DEFENSE

- 92 MATT FINKES, 6-2, 258, JR.
- 91 Jeff Wilson, 6-3, 250, Fr.
- 70 MATT BONHAUS, 6-5, 285, SR.
- 98 Marcus Spriggs, 6-4, 298, Fr.
- 99 LUKE PICKELL, 6-4, 260, JR.
- 62 Shane Clark, 6-2, 270, Jr.
- 94 MIKE VRABEL, 6-4, 255, JR.
- 97 John Day, 6-3, 245, So.
- 52 KEVIN JOHNSON, 6-2, 220, JR.
- 35 Jerry Rudzinski, 6-1, 220, Fr.
- 30 GREG BELLISARI, 6-1, 230, JR.
- 41 Roedell Dupree, 6-3, 240, So.
- 53 RYAN MILLER, 6-2, 220, JR.
- 46 Marc Willis, 6-3, 215, Jr.
- 2 TY HOWARD, 5-9, 181, JR.
- 20 Central McClellion, 5-11, 180, Fr.
- 34 ROB KELLY, 6-2, 200, JR.
- 18 Che Bryant, 6-1, 180, Fr.
- 26 ANTHONY GWINN, 6-0, 200, JR.
- 13 Damon Moore, 5-11, 192, Fr.
- 24 SHAWN SPRINGS, 6-0, 185, SO.
- 11 Antoine Winfield, 5-9, 178, Fr.
- 41 BRENT BARTHOLOMEW, 6-2, 198, FR.

TENNESSEE DEFENSE

- FL 1 LEONARD LITTLE, 6-3, 220, SO.
- 92 Jeff Coleman, 6-4, 237, Fr.
- 84 SHANE BURTON, 6-6, 268, SR.
- 50 Bill Duff, 6-3, 255, So.
- 94 BILLY BERON, 6-3, 262, SO.
- 55 Ron Green, 6-1, 265, Fr.
- 64 STEVE WHITE, 6-2, 246, SR.
- 91 Jonathan Brown, 6-4, 245, So.
- RG 23 JESSE SANDERS, 5-11, 222, SR.
- 44 Craig King, 6-0, 221, Jr.
- RT 47 TYRONE HINES, 6-2, 226, JR.
- 98 Antwon Foshles, 6-3, 227, Fr.
- TE 93 SCOTT GALYON, 6-3, 227, SR.
- 27 Al Wilson, 6-0, 220, Fr.
- QB 18 DeRON JENKINS, 6-0, 167, SR.
- 44 Troy Pratt, 5-11, 170, Jr.
- FB 28 RAYMOND AUSTIN, 5-11, 181, JR.
- 23 Shawn Summers, 5-8, 188, Sr.
- TB 9 TORI NOEL, 6-0, 182, SO.
- 30 Cory Gaines, 5-11, 185, So.
- SE 13 TERRY FAIR, 5-11, 175, SO.
- 34 Steve Johnson, 5-11, 175, So.
- PK 39 LARRY BINION, 6-3, 190, JR.

TENNESSEE OFFENSE

- DE 11 JOEY KENT, 6-1, 184, JR.
- 21 Maurice Staley, 6-1, 195, So.
- DT 72 JARVIS READO, 6-5, 284, SO.
- 70 Trey Teague, 6-5, 275, So.
- NG 66 JASON LAYMAN, 6-6, 287, SR.
- 73 Trey Peterson, 6-3, 270, Sr.
- DE 74 JEFF SMITH, 6-3, 304, SR.
- 59 Sam Pinner, 6-4, 270, So.
- OLB 71 BUBBA MILLER, 6-1, 285, SR.
- 54 Diron Robinson, 6-3, 250, Fr.
- MLB 65 ROBERT POOLE, 6-3, 291, SO.
- 51 Brent Gibson, 6-4, 272, Jr.
- OLB 89 SCOTT PFEIFFER, 6-5, 245, JR.
- 87 John Sartelle, 6-4, 230, Jr.
- CB 16 PEYTON MANNING, 6-5, 202, SO.
- 6 Jeremaine Copeland, 6-4, 215, Fr.
- SS 20 CHESTER FORD, 6-0, 228, JR.
- 5 Eric Lane, 6-2, 217, Jr.
- FS 25 JAY GRAHAM, 6-0, 206, JR.
- 19 Mark Levine, 5-11, 177, Fr.
- CB 12 MARCUS NASH, 6-3, 190, SO.
- 80 Greg Kyler, 6-1, 185, Fr.
- P 4 JEFF HALL, 6-0, 182, FR.

How We See It

OSU RUSH OFFENSE vs. TENNESSEE RUSH DEFENSE

It's now put up or shut up time for the offensive line, which didn't block anyone in the Michigan game. Eddie George's yardage came mostly on his own, so the up front guys have to improve. Tennessee has an enthusiastic front that does quite a bit of stunting, but can be had up the middle. Quick hitters work against the Vols, too. EDGE: EVEN

TENNESSEE RUSH OFFENSE vs. OSU RUSH DEFENSE

Here is the major question mark. Jay Graham is no Tshimanga Biakabutuka, but he is very good, rushing for at least 100 yards in all but one game and scoring 12 touchdowns. A shifty, deceptive runner, Graham has the makings of a headache for the Buckeyes, who haven't tackled well all season. Factor in Tennessee's line as maybe the nation's best, it all adds up to some big yardage. EDGE: TENNESSEE

OSU PASS OFFENSE vs. TENNESSEE PASS DEFENSE

This is where Ohio State should be able to do some damage. Tennessee was ranked fifth in the SEC in stopping the pass, a major reason it lost to Florida, and has been susceptible to the big play much of the year. UT has 38 sacks, led by Leonard Little's 10, and usually does a good job getting pressure on the QB. But coverage is a problem, which means Terry Glenn could be in for a big day. Suggestion to Bobby Hoying: Look for Rickey Dudley. DeRon Jenkins has picked off four passes and will likely be matched up on Glenn. It could be a good battle. Hoying is tough enough to shake off the bad game he and the offense had against Michigan. EDGE: OSU

TENNESSEE PASS OFFENSE vs. OSU PASS DEFENSE

Everyone's been hearing about Peyton Manning all season, and now OSU fans will get a chance to see him. Problem is, they might not want to. This kid, simply put, is the best quarterback in the country. He doesn't make mistakes (just four interceptions) and throws the deep ball and short ball equally well. Receiver Joey Kent is big-time, so he'll be matched up with Shawn Springs. Getting to Manning, who's been sacked 12 times, is crucial. The Buckeyes need to come hard from the outside because the middle of the line is superb. EDGE: TENNESSEE

SPECIAL TEAMS

If Ohio State is going to change the complexion of the game, it's going to be here. The coverage teams have been outstanding all year, and they'll need to be again because Tennessee is fourth in the nation in kickoff returns and in the top 30 in punt returns. Kicker Jeff Hall is 2 of 3 between 50 and 60 yards, so a long game-winner is within reach. It's about time Dimitrios Stanley, gaining confidence weekly, broke one. Brent Bartholomew is finally living up to his potential and, headed back to his hometown, could play a big role in pinning UT deep. EDGE: OSU

INTANGIBLES

The Buckeyes really want to show people that this is not a repeat of 1993, when they faltered down the stretch before eking out a bowl win. Tennessee hasn't exactly lit things up of late, beating weaklings Kentucky and Vanderbilt by eight total points. If — and it's a big one — the Buckeyes really want to be here and show people they weren't paper tigers, they could come out on top. OSU is oh-fr vs. the SEC in bowls under Cooper and Tennessee has yet to win in the Citrus. Someone's got to end their futility. EDGE: TENNESSEE

OUR PREDICTIONS

Mike Wachsmann (11-1): Here we are again at a crossroads. Does the season end on a high and get remembered as a very good one? Or does the stumble continue, furthering the notion that big games are not the Buckeyes' forte? The Michigan loss has done a lot of damage and injured many hearts, but if the Buckeyes can pull together it will salvage the season. Heck, with some breaks in the other bowls, they could finish as high as No. 2. The defense needs to put the UM debacle behind and focus on one Peyton Manning, maybe the nation's best quarterback. OSU needs to be a lot more sound against him than it was against Michigan. We don't know if it will be. Surprise everyone, Buckeyes. Tennessee 28-24

Steve Helwagen (11-1): No, it's not the Rose Bowl, but it is important nonetheless. This Citrus Bowl is a crossroads for the OSU program, which has teetered on the brink of top 10 status the last few years. A win could propel the Buckeyes to No. 2 and would dispel the notion that Ohio State can't compete with the quick Southern schools (like Auburn, Georgia and Alabama). It is time for this program to take the next step, from paper tiger to legitimate contender. Besides, a win would certainly set the tone for what already looks like a challenging 1996. OSU 35-24

Jeff Rapp (10-2): This is the one John Cooper always wanted. Already this season he has defeated cronies Johnny Majors and Hayden Fry, old foe Lou Holtz, the incomparable "Papa Joe" and once-unbeatable Lou Tepper. But this is UT, baby, and it tops them all for Coop. But, it's questionable how many of his players care. OSU can hurt the Vols in the air, but you have to wonder if Glenn and Dudley will be looking around for scouts. Graham equals good back equals doom for OSU and Manning gets his yards no matter the opponent. The game meets high expectations but OSU's season somehow will not. Tennessee 27-25

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Bruce Says Citrus Bowl Is By No Means A Second-Rate Destination

By MIKE WACHSMAN
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

Though many believe Ohio State has "fallen" into the Citrus Bowl, in actuality, this year's contest could be one of the best and most competitive bowls of the 1995-96 season.

At stake for the Buckeyes is a possible No. 2 ranking if the loser of Florida-Nebraska drops, Northwestern loses to USC or is unimpressive in the Rose Bowl and Tennessee falls to OSU. Plus, a win would serve as a soother after OSU's demoralizing 31-23 loss to Michigan Nov. 25.

Among the folks who think the Buckeyes may actually be in one of the better situations is former Buckeye coach Earle Bruce.

And he should know of what he speaks.

Bruce took two teams to the Citrus Bowl, Tampa in 1972 when the game was still billed as the Tangerine Bowl, and Ohio State following the 1985 season.

"The Citrus Bowl is not a bad bowl at all," Bruce told *BSB* from his home in Wilmington, N.C. "We had two teams there and the experience was good both times. I wouldn't put it up there with the Fiesta Bowl by any means, but the growth of the Citrus is similar to the growth of Orlando."

Tampa played in the game when it

was still at the Tangerine Bowl, seating capacity of roughly 35,000. Yes, the bowl has come a long way from its inception in 1947, when Catawba beat Maryville (Tenn.) 31-6. Now it's even on New Year's Day, and that adds to the luster.

"Any time you play in a New Year's Day bowl game, it's good for the program," Bruce said. "You're playing a good team on a day when everyone in the country is home and ready to watch football. You have a big chance to impress a lot of people."

"I don't buy the thinking that Ohio State has nothing to play for. They're playing Tennessee for God's sake. If that doesn't make you ready to play, I don't know what will."

Bruce knows a little about that, too.

His Tampa team, which held on for a 21-18 win over a Kent State team led by Jack Lambert — "I wanted to know who he was, making all the tackles for their team" — originally voted not to attend the game, feeling it was a slap in the face to a team that went 9-2. The Spartans wanted a place in the Peach Bowl, at that time looked upon as just below the major games on the docket. After another vote, the team grudgingly went to Orlando and came away victorious.

Tampa nearly blew a 21-0 halftime lead because, Bruce says, "The players were alerted that I had taken the Iowa

State job by the media as they were walking off the field at halftime."

The characters on Bruce's team — John Matuszak and current pro wrestler "Mr. Wonderful" Paul Orndorff among them — added to the personality of the game, and Bruce is happy his team decided to attend. Orndorff was moved from fullback to tight end for the game and caught two long TD passes from another big-timer, Freddie Solomon.

"You could tell Orlando was on the verge of something big, but it had not yet mushroomed," the coach said. "We knew it was going to evolve into a big deal, though. I'm just happy we played in it then."

Bruce also led the Buckeyes to the Citrus Bowl, beating a vaunted Brigham Young team 10-7, forcing Robbie Bosco into five interceptions, one returned for a score by Larry Kolic.

The Bucks dropped their final two games of the season, so ending on a positive was a big event.

"We lost to Michigan and everyone was a little down," Bruce said. "We went down there and shut down a powerful BYU team. That might be the fewest points I've ever heard of them scoring."

Should the Buckeyes come into the game feeling more like weaklings than a team that bullied the Big Ten for most of the season, they could find themselves suffering through a long day.

"We had that happen against Navy in the Liberty Bowl (in 1981)," Bruce said. "We were Big Ten co-champions and we had to go to Memphis. Michigan finished behind us and went to the Bluebonnet Bowl, which at that time wasn't a bad game. When we got to Memphis, it was like a glorified Navy base anyway. I knew we were in trouble."

OSU won that game 31-28, but not before the Middles provided many fitful moments. Napoleon McCallum was a freshman that year and ran all over the Buckeyes.

This year, if the Buckeyes can recover from the heartbreaking defeat to the Wolverines and take care of the Volunteers, some of the hurt from the season-ending loss may be tempered.

"You always want to beat Michigan," said Bruce, who watched the Buckeyes firsthand again this season as an



Earle Bruce

analyst for WTVN Radio. "That's why you play football for Ohio State. Sure there were high expectations going into that game, but Ohio State didn't perform as well as it had been in previous weeks. Everyone was busy talking about the national championship, but what they didn't realize is that you have to do more than talk. You have to win."

Now the Bucks know it's down to a one-game season, one that will determine if they're merely good or borderline great.

"I still don't understand how a team can go 11-1 and people are doubting how good they are," Bruce said. "I just don't understand it. If you win 11 or 12 games, that's really something to be proud of. They have a golden opportunity against Tennessee, and if they realize that, then they can take care of business. There's no doubt that they have a team as good as Tennessee. Whether they beat them or not is up to the players."

THIS IS Ohio State's third trip to Orlando in four years, only a Holiday Bowl win breaking the string, with losses to Georgia after the 1992 season and Alabama last year.

In both games, dominant showings by running backs did in the Buckeyes.

Georgia's Garrison Hearst rambled for 163 yards and two touchdowns in a 21-14 Bulldog triumph. Eric Zeier threw for 241 yards to keep OSU off balance.

Sherman Williams was the thorn in OSU's side in a 24-17 loss to the Crimson Tide last year, amassing 166 yards and a touchdown on the ground and 155 yards and a score via the pass, including the game winner with 42 seconds left.

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Attorney Confident Players Will Be Cleared

Continued From Page 5

reviewing charges of misconduct against Cicero.

Another local report said Hoying will

drop Cicero and seek out other counsel.

"We're not commenting on that," Cicero said. "It's a decision that's going to be made by Tom and his parents."

Cicero represented Hoying when the

quarterback was charged with underage drinking at a campus-area bar last year. That matter was resolved when Hoying was ordered only to pay a fine. He was not suspended from the team

for the incident.

Cicero already has mailed trial-by-jury demands to the clerk's office and entered not guilty pleas for both players at the Dec. 7 arraignment. The court has set a prosecutor's pretrial hearing for Jan. 18. Cicero then plans to file various motions for his clients, including one to dismiss the case.

The timetable from there is fuzzy but could dip into March or later.

"I'm sure both Mike and Tom want this matter completely resolved and completely behind them prior to spring training," Cicero said.

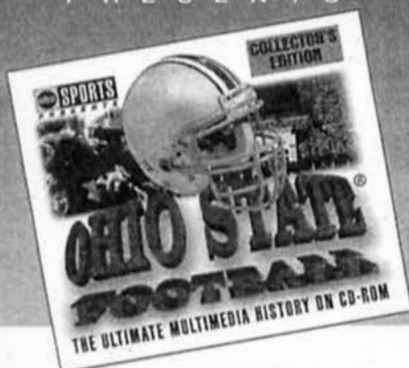
Both players still remain on the team and will be available for OSU's Citrus Bowl game with Tennessee Jan. 1. Athletic director Andy Geiger has taken no action as yet, telling the *Beacon Journal*, "There are two sides to every story, and both youngsters claim they were not involved in the way that has been described."

Geiger said it was his understanding no alcohol was involved and that both Vrabel and Hoying weren't even tested for sobriety.

Fulton said he never teased the players about OSU's Nov. 25 loss to Michigan, although Peach said, "They were taking a lot of abuse about losing to Michigan. It was ongoing and it was relentless."

Peach added that nearly all the brawl participants fled when police arrived, causing further confusion.

Head coach John Cooper, when asked to comment on the matter after the Doak Walker Award presentation for Eddie George on Dec. 4, said, "I'm not anywhere on it. There's nothing to it."



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The View From 15th and High

By Frank L. Moskowitz, Publisher

This OSU Team Needs Strong Citrus Bowl Effort

Now that the sting of Ohio State's loss to Michigan has worn off some, it's time to note the importance of Ohio State's Citrus Bowl game with Tennessee. To me, the game is important because it will go a long way toward defining the Buckeyes' 1995 season.

If Ohio State defeats Tennessee, a strong team from a strong football conference, it will be hard for even the most pessimistic Buckeye fan to argue that this wasn't a great season. The Buckeyes would have the most wins in school history including wins over Notre Dame, Penn State and the Vols, a national ranking as high as second or third, and more individual honors than I can remember a team ever having. And that doesn't even take into account all the excitement this team gave us over the course of the season.

Now, if the Buckeyes should lose, 11 wins or not, you would have to say that the team didn't live up to the potential it displayed during the season. And you would also have to say that at crunch time, in the Michigan and bowl games, the team once again faltered. People tend to remember how you played at the end of the season and in big games, not how you did back in the early season.

Those two season-ending losses, both with a large national interest, would go a long way toward negating the earlier

wins over the Irish and Penn State.

All this brings me to the point I really want to make.

I noted in this space in our last issue that the loss to Michigan would create a debate on whether this season was a success or not and it certainly has. And I think there's merit to both arguments.

How can you ignore 11 wins including those big wins over perennial powers? On the other hand, when a team that proved to be as good as this one is dominated by its archrival — which already had three losses — and thus is aced out of the Rose Bowl for the 11th straight year, how can you say the season is a success, especially when the team that aced the Buckeyes out is Northwestern?

What I want to call for is for Buckeye fans to be more tolerant of those fans who have the opposite view on this season. There really are legitimate arguments either way, so calm down. You're all Buckeye fans. And this is America, where everyone's entitled to their opinion.

At the least, let's declare a cease-fire until after the Citrus Bowl. One side is going to have a lot more ammunition come Jan. 2.

I KNOW you're wondering where I stand on this issue. I think it was a great season, but not a successful season.

How's that for being diplomatic?

I certainly don't look at the season through the Rose — or is it Citrus — colored glasses that many do. As an entity in and of itself, the 1995 season was a darn good one. But if you look at it in the context of the last eight or even 11 years, it becomes more troubling.

At some point, in order to be considered a successful program in the Big Ten, you're going to have to go to the Rose Bowl. When Ohio State sets its goals each August, the Buckeyes don't set their sights on the Citrus Bowl. And more often than not, to make it to the Rose Bowl an Ohio State team is going to have to beat archrival Michigan.

While I may be violating the detente I called for earlier in this column, I must note some things I've heard from some Buckeye fans that I find troubling.

I've heard several people suggest that Ohio State consider moving the Michigan game to earlier in the season so there wouldn't be so much pressure in the game with the Wolverines each year. Isn't that why players choose to go to Ohio State or Michigan — to play in the national spotlight in the final week of the season, usually with a trip to the Rose Bowl on the line? Besides, that pressure doesn't seem to bother Michigan.

Another one I heard often after the Michigan game was something along the lines of if you had known back in August that the Buckeyes would go 11-1 you would have been thrilled. That's true, but that was in August. Since then we all saw a team that many believed was the best team in the country, a team that should have beaten Michigan, so that's a pretty lame way of trying to justify the loss.

I've heard many say that Ohio State actually ended up in a better bowl by drawing Tennessee in Orlando instead of an 8-2-1 USC in Pasadena. True, this is probably a better match-up, but the reality is the Citrus Bowl features a team that didn't win the Big Ten championship against a team that didn't win the SEC crown. Better match-up or not, this is not a better bowl game than the Rose or Fiesta Bowl. If you don't believe me, ask the Buckeye or Volunteer players where they'd rather be.

I'm also hearing a lot of people say that the Buckeyes are back where they should be now because they have the best record in Big Ten play over the last three years. Ohio State does, indeed, have the best record. But in that three-year span, Wisconsin, Penn State and now Northwestern have all been to the

Rose Bowl. It's great to be consistently good. Unfortunately, the object in sports is, and always has been, to finish first.

The Buckeyes had a great season. I'd be the last one to argue against that.

Yet if some of you fans keep trying to say that being a perennial bridesmaid is an exceptional achievement, then eventually the players and coaches are going to believe that, too. And if you take that desire to be No. 1 away, that desire that has created champions throughout the history of sports, then the Buckeyes may never get that little extra that has been missing to push them over the top.

WHILE BUCKEYE fans may argue about the merits of the 1995 season, one thing they all seem to agree on is Eddie George and what a worthy winner of the Heisman Trophy he was.

I was both stunned and thrilled when they announced his name. I honestly thought the voters would somehow choose a less deserving player, especially when I saw how many people waited until the last minute to send in their ballot.

It's funny, but when I hear people talk about the excitement of George winning the Heisman, they never seem to say, "I'm glad he won it because he's such a great running back." They always seem to say, "I'm glad he won it because he's such a good guy." That's the beauty of Eddie George. He's somebody that Buckeye fans can really be proud of.

When I think of Eddie George and the Heisman, I think of Archie Griffin. To many, Archie Griffin is the only two-time Heisman Trophy winner. To me, Archie Griffin is one of the nicest, most humble people I've ever met and one of Ohio State's greatest ambassadors. I know I'm not alone in that feeling.

I think Eddie George is in the Archie Griffin mold. And now George has the Heisman Trophy to prove it.

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