

Bucks Will Not Be One-Dimensional

By Jim Wharton

Most people probably feel they can throw away their 3-D glasses when it comes time to watch the Ohio State football team in 1985. Considering the athletic ability and proven performance of Keith Byars, the team will certainly have a one-dimensional offense, right?

But Ohio State coach Earle Bruce puts a quick stop to anyone talking that way.

"We are a tailback-oriented team with Keith Byars," says Bruce. "Keith is the finest football player I have ever coached. But we are not one-dimensional, though, because we'll have good passing and excellent receiving. With this versatility, we should be able to move the ball consistently."

There you have it. Right from the director of the production.

Should teams spend eight days a week trying to stop Byars, they're going to be surprised by some other tricks Bruce has up his sleeves.

But to talk about the offense of the 1985 Ohio State football team, you have to start with Byars. A consensus All-American after rushing for 1,764 yards and scoring 22 touchdowns last year, the 6-2, 236-pound ram-charger out of Dayton Roth High School will obviously be the object of everybody's attention this fall.

Offense

"We've got two fine tailbacks," said Bruce, trying to downplay Byars to some degree. "One outstanding one in Keith Byars. Last year, in the first six ball games, we kept his record of breaking tackles and alluding tackles. It's almost amazing what he did with the football."

"And he can catch the ball extremely well because he's got big hands."

Byars, who dazzled an Ohio Stadium crowd with a school-record 274 yards rushing in 39 attempts against Illinois last season, also topped the team in receptions last season with 42.

"Keith," said Bruce, raising his voice, "can do about anything with the football."

But, besides Byars, there's other areas to cover — some in need of more attention than others.

Five offensive starters from last year's Big Ten championship squad and Rose Bowl representative are gone.

"In scoring offense," said Bruce, "we've averaged over 30 points a game and probably ranked in the top 10 or 12 nationally in total offense. We've been great in

rushing offense but we haven't been tops in passing. But we have been very effective in our passing game."

Pulling the trigger on the passing gun will be junior quarterback Jim Karsatos. After two years as a capable understudy to Mike Tomczak, Karsatos, out of Fullerton, Calif., was handed the gun and told to start aiming.

Karsatos, a 6-3, 214-pounder, was the starting quarterback in the first two games last year while Tomczak, who made the roster of the Chicago Bears as a rookie this year, was recovering from knee surgery.

"Every team in our league has its quarterback coming back with the exception of Ohio State," said Bruce. "We've got a quarterback coming back who has started three games (the 1982 Michigan State game being the other start) and won three games. Jim Karsatos is not a freshman quarterback and he's not a sophomore quarterback. He is an experienced quarterback that can throw the football."

"I think he's the best throwing quarterback that I've seen since I've been here."

"He can do what he has to do," continued Bruce. "He's worked

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Jim Karsatos, shown here getting in some practice tosses, will be at the controls of the Ohio State football team this season.

Buckeye Sports Bulletin

Published 24 times a year (weekly September through November, bi-weekly January through March, monthly April through August and December) by:

Columbus Sports Publications
1350 W. Fifth Ave., #25
P.O. Box 12453
Columbus, Ohio 43212
(614) 486-2202

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Second Class Postage Paid At Columbus, Ohio and Additional Mailing Offices. USPS 705-690. ISSN 0883-6833. POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to Buckeye Sports Bulletin, P.O. Box 12453, Columbus, Ohio, 43212. Subscription rate: \$16 per year for 24 issues.

Bruce Plays Public Defender

By Jim Wharton

Ohio State football coach Earle Bruce, in addressing the media prior to the start of the 1985 season, sounded — and looked, and acted — like a veteran barrister pleading his case to the highest court.

"For the first time since I've been here," said Bruce, pounding his fist on the dais, "we're going to have a very, very sound defensive football team."

Now that's quite a statement when you consider the defensive problems Buckeye teams have had over the past several years. In fact, should Bruce's statement run true 11 weeks or so down the road, it would be a big turnaround from even 1984.

In slipping into the Big Ten title seat, the Buckeyes had their woes defensively. In nine league contests, OSU ranked fourth in rushing defense, allowing 141.3 yards per outing. The Bucks were sixth in passing defense, giving up 189.3 yards a game. Those figures added up to a fifth-place standing in total defense, where Ohio State allowed the opposition 330.7 yards a contest.

As for giving up points, the Buckeyes stood sixth in the league, allowing 18.4 points per game.

"When it comes to our defense," said Bruce, who embarks on his seventh season at OSU when the Buckeyes host Pitt at 8 p.m. Sept. 14, "we haven't dominated the statistics in the Big Ten. That's something you're going to have to



Earle Bruce

Defense

do if you're going to have a very successful football team."

Ohio State must find four new starters on defense. Bruce and defensive coordinator Gary Blackney have switched to a 2-5 scheme, using three stand-up linebackers, two outside linebackers and two down linemen. In the new scheme, the middle linebacker plays one yard off the line of scrimmage, thus incorporating some features of the middle guard play.

"I look at our defense and I look

at the defensive secondary, which had three freshmen and a sophomore in it last year. They look like they're seasoned and they're ready."

That defensive secondary, which gave up 14 touchdown passes in league play and 16 overall, returns intact. The sophomore Bruce alluded to is Sonny Gordon, now a junior. The three freshmen-turned-sophomores are William White, Greg Rogan and Terry White.

Gordon, out of Middletown (Ohio) High School and Terry White, from Cambridge, Ohio, shared the team lead in interceptions last year with four each while White was fourth on the squad in tackles with 71. William White, a graduate of Lima (Ohio) Senior, started all 12 games as a freshman and led the defense in minutes played with 333.5. Rogan, a product of Urbana (Ohio) High School, moved into the starting lineup in the second game of the year and saw action in all 12 games, making 59 tackles, intercepting one pass and batting down three others.

Steve Hill, a junior cornerback out of Ft. Walton Beach, Fla., started three games last year and was expected to see considerable playing time. But Hill, who missed spring practice because he was playing on the Buckeye baseball team, went down with a shoulder injury the first day of practice.

"They've taken to doing some

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'Great Hands' Help Lanese Attain Success

By Craig James

"Mike Lanese doesn't have all the speed you might need," Buckeye coach Earle Bruce was saying about his flanker, "but he can run fast enough. And he has great hands."

"I'll remember Mike Lanese for ever and ever and ever for that one catch in the (1984) Michigan game."

The reception came when Ohio State was faced with a third-and-12 situation during the fourth quarter. Lanese dove and twisted for a pass from quarterback Mike Tomczak and grabbed it in double coverage. The catch kept an important scoring drive alive as the Buckeyes played for and won the Big Ten championship.

Lanese might have dreamed about that play during all the time he spent in bed last spring. It's not that he was lazy or was cavorting around town until the wee hours of the morning. A bout with mononucleosis would result in the returning starter missing all of spring practice.

"I guess I contracted the disease sometime during winter quarter," the senior recalled. "It's got a four to seven-week incubation period, so when the symptoms started to show up, it was spring break. We started practice on that Monday after spring break, and I called Coach Bruce from home and said, 'Coach, I might not be able to make it.' I did get to practice and he looked at me and said, 'just go home. You don't look well at all.'"

"I pretty much slept for three weeks straight. And then, after that, it took a while just to feel good again. My weight was down; I lost 20 pounds. But between the fifth week of the quarter and now, I've gained my weight back."

"In all honesty, I owe a lot to our



OSU Wide Receiver Mike Lanese

training staff, our doctors and our weight people. They helped me on the way back. It was a difficult road."

Before the mono hit, the converted tailback had been set to begin preparations for his second and final season at the flanker spot. His junior year had been his most productive after he tied with split end Cris Carter for second

place among OSU receivers.

Lanese made 41 grabs for 618 yards and a touchdown. He also did a little running, picking up 59 yards in six carries for two more scores. The Mayfield, Ohio, native also was the leading punt returner for the Buckeyes, averaging 6.0 per return in '84.

Missing spring camp and the chance to get in more work with

Jim Karsatos, Tomczak's heir apparent, was disappointing. Well, at least partly.

"I lost a lot in terms of repetition and skills," said Lanese. "But in a way, it helped mentally. I can't play football all year 'round. I don't know of anybody who really can, except kids like (linebacker) Chris Spielman. They can play day in and day out."

"I can't do that. I needed a break. And at that time, football started to get tough. I'm ready to play football now. It gave me a new outlook on things. I'm eager to get back into the season. So, maybe some good came out of it after all."

Entering the fall, Lanese, a Rhodes Scholar candidate, is faced with the prospect of garnering more receptions this year, based on Bruce's promise that OSU will pass the ball more in '85 due to the strong throwing arm of Karsatos.

"We'll see," Lanese smiled. "It's nice to be able to say, going into a season, 'I guess we'll throw more' or 'no, we won't.' But we have to take each game as it comes. In the heat of the game, who's thinking about what they said in preseason interviews, about how much they're going to throw? It's whatever it takes to win the game at that time."

But wouldn't he enjoy handling the football more? Isn't he just a little envious when he sees someone like Illinois wide receiver David Williams totaling 101 catches in a single season? Wouldn't he like to at least get more receptions than Keith Byars, a tailback, who led all Buckeye receivers with 42 last year?

"Cris and I have talked about it and we agree: We win when Keith plays well," said Lanese. "There's

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Bruce Touts Strengths Of Defensive Unit

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things that we might have to do," said Bruce. "Like playing some man-to-man and some combos and doing some of the things they have to be able to do but we haven't been able to do in the past."

To go into another area of the defense, we turn to the linebacking corps — perhaps one of the strongest suits the Buckeyes have to offer.

"When I see two guys like Eric Kumerow and Byron Lee on the outside, I get excited," said Bruce. "When we get into pass rush, they've got the speed to be able to do that."

"And I look inside and see (Larry) Kolic and (Chris) Spielman and Thomas Johnson, and there's not much weakness there. Those are big-play type people"

Johnson, a senior out of Mackenzie High School in Detroit, led the team in tackles a year ago

with 140, 63 more than his closest teammate. Spielman, slowed twice last year by ankle sprains, nevertheless was a sensation. His 12 solo tackles, three assists and one fumble recovery in the Rose Bowl loss to USC brought national attention his way.

Kumerow, out of River Forest, Ill., was to be a starter last year but a bruised heel kept him out of the lineup the first two games. He did start in four games, including the last three of the season. A former quarterback who was red-shirted in 1983, Kumerow is expected to offer strong pass-rushing ability because of his size (6-6, 240).

Lee, one of many Columbus Eastmoor High School products to don the Scarlet and Gray, started 11 of the 12 games last year, had 50 tackles and four quarterback sacks.

Kolic, who twice quit the team in 1984, is back on the good side of Bruce. The 6-1, 248-pound senior out of Smithville, Ohio, was third

on the team in tackles with 74 although he missed four games.

Additional strength should come from Fred Ridder, who started one game last year, Scott Leach, Mike Kee and Joe Jenkins. Also bidding for playing time will be freshmen red-shirts Jim Davidson, Tom Anderzack and Mike McCray.

If there is a kink in the Buckeye armor, it could be the defensive line, where graduation decimated the ranks. Gone are Dave Crecelius, Anthony Guiliani and Dave Morrill, who each started all 12 games in 1984.

"The weakness in our defense, I would say — and I don't know about that — is we lost three outstanding young men on the defensive line," said Bruce, who has a 56-16-0 mark in six years at OSU.

"Dave Morrill was really an underrated football player. He gave us effort all the time. We also lost Dave Crecelius — he gave us great effort all the time. And I look in the middle and think about the

way Tony Giuliani played way over his ability. We lost those three young men and they must be replaced."

Henry Brown (6-4, 261), a sophomore out of New York, N.Y.; Ray Holliman (6-4, 256), a junior out of Holland, Mich.; and Darryl Lee (6-3, 258), a junior out of Columbus Marion-Franklin, are waging a war to earn the starting nods on the line. Jim McConville, a junior from Cleveland St. Edward, also is in the hunt.

McConville, who originally enrolled at Michigan and then transferred to Cleveland State and finally to Ohio State, is 6-4, 248.

"So there's our defense," said Bruce. "I think it should be the best defense we've had since I've been here. At least I hope it is."

"But we've got to be able, in the Big Ten at least, to effectively rush the passer. You've got to defend the pass. Everybody laughs today about that, but I'm sure everyone realizes how important it is."

New Role, Same Attitude For Walker

By Mark Shaw

His role on the team has changed, but his attitude hasn't.

As a sophomore in 1984, Barry Walker was a part-time starter at fullback for the Ohio State football team. This year, however, the Lancaster (Ohio) High School graduate has a new position — tailback.

"I just want to contribute to the team," said Walker, a 6-0, 220-pound junior who has been beset by numerous injuries during his collegiate career. "I know that I'm not going to be a starter this year, but I'm not going to let that bother me. Whenever I get into a game, I'm going to give it my best shot.

"I'm ready for the new challenge of a new position."

Walker's biggest challenge this year is the fact that he will play behind Heisman Trophy prospect Keith Byars.

"Keith Byars is an excellent football player," said Walker, who gained 154 yards in 30 carries and scored one touchdown last year. "I think it is an honor to play on the same



Barry Walker

team with someone as good as him. But I hope to get some playing time, too. I'll do anything they ask."

As usual, the Buckeyes are loaded at the tailback position. Byars (1,764 yards and 24 touchdowns) and John Woolbridge (636 yards, 4 TDs) will see the bulk of the playing time. Roman Bates, who rushed for 152 yards and scored twice in 1984, can play both tailback and

fullback.

"I know that we have a lot of good players on this team," said Walker. "We are very strong at running back, but I feel I can contribute, too."

During his first two years of playing with the Buckeyes after being red-shirted as a freshman, Walker was bothered by injuries. He thought he would be the starting fullback last year, but a pre-season concussion and a mid-season shoulder injury limited his playing time.

"I hope to stay away from the injuries this year," said Walker, who suffered another concussion in spring practice. I want to remain healthy so I can show people what I can do."

In high school, Walker did show people what he could do. As a senior, he gained 1,129 yards and received all-state honors. Football isn't his only athletic talent, though. Walker also excels in track. He holds the Ohio high school shot put record with a throw of 67-10 1/2.

"Yeah, I really liked track," said Walker, an honor student

majoring in business. "And I still do. The shot put was something I was really good at. I enjoyed it. Sometimes I think about taking up track again, but it would be too difficult. School is just too demanding. In college, you can only afford to play one sport. It's just too difficult to play two sports."

Consequently, Walker has concentrated strictly on football. As a freshman, Walker saw action in 11 games and made one start. Last year, he played 90 minutes. He averaged 4.7 yards per carry two years ago and 5.1 in '84.

In the past two years, Walker has been a regular member of the specialty teams. Although some players frown on that role, Walker said he enjoys it.

"I really do like the specialty teams," he said. "At least it gives me a chance to get on the field. The specialty teams are an important part of any football team."

"I'd really like to start, but if I can't, I'll just have to wait my turn."

Lanese

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no question about it. Whatever it takes for us to win, we'll do it. Whether that's catching more balls or not, it doesn't make any difference. Going to Los Angeles was exciting. We like to go to the Rose Bowl. If we get there, then we've done our job."

As for Lanese's progress as a flanker, "I'm on schedule," he said. "When I first moved to receiver, I wanted to become a receiver, plain and simple. After that, I wanted to be a good receiver. This year, I want to be a great receiver."

"Last year, I think I became a good receiver. I have a lot of room for improvement; I don't know that anybody would argue that. But now I have to improve on the little things. If I work hard in the fall, I can get there."

He also feels that Karsatos, the man he will be looking to for the ball, can be a very good quarterback at Ohio State.

"He's been around for a while, so he knows the system," said Lanese. "He's experienced, he's a good friend of mine off the field. We get along. I think he's the kind of person you want as your leader."

Although he missed the spring workouts, Lanese doesn't feel he is behind as far as getting used to a new regular quarterback like Karsatos.

"When Mike (Tomczak) was here, we threw Jim often," said Lanese. "I think I know his delivery and I know how he throws the ball."

Which brings up Lanese's only concern.

"It's a question of him not breaking my fingers," said Lanese.

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Carter

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being Big Ten champion, but I think the whole atmosphere overall is a lot more relaxed this year.

"People don't think Ohio State has a good football team. We're in a good position because in the past, when they were supposed to have a good football team, they slipped sometimes."

Slipping sometimes brought up the question about somewhat of a stigma being attached to Ohio State for its 9-3 seasons.

"I can't really relate to that," said Carter, who moved into the starting lineup in the fourth game, didn't start the fifth game and then started the remainder of the games in 1984, "because most of those happened before I got here. Last year was my first year and, yes, we were 9-3. We could actually have been 12-0 with a couple of breaks here and there."

Did losing that Rose Bowl contest weigh on Carter's mind as he spent the summer in Columbus, working out with his teammates?

"I tried to throw it out," he answered. "But it's still way back in my mind and I'm still ticked about it. A loss is a loss. Everytime you step on a football field, you want to win."

Winning is the most important thing for Carter. But he also has thoughts of All-American status.

"At Ohio State University," he said, "every player that performs on the field will have a name for himself. With the media hype that we get in this area, you do your thing and people will know who you are."

"Plus, Cris Carter being from Ohio, that doesn't hurt anything either. That's what I was looking for when I came to Ohio State. My ultimate goal is to be an All-American at Ohio State University."

Does the fact that with Byars being so highly touted for a repeat listing on the All-American teams and a Heisman Trophy candidate diminish Carter's prospects for this season?

"I don't think so," said Carter. "I think if a player's going to be an All-American, he's going to be an All-American. No matter what school he plays for or what type of team he plays for or who else is on that team. Everybody has his own name."

Cris Carter wants simply to enhance his, for he believes that enhancing his name will also help the Buckeyes along the victory trail.

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Sticking his head into a picture being taken of the Ohio State linebackers is standout running back Keith Byars (41). The OSU linebacking corps is, from left, Chris Spielman (36), Pepper Johnson (98), Byron Lee (82) and Eric Kumerow (14).

OSU Attack Should Be Balanced

Continued From Page 3

hard and he knows our offense.

"So, to those that say 'what about the quarterback position?' I tell you," noted Bruce. "I feel secure with Jim Karsatos at the quarterback position."

Karsatos, who completed 23 of 38 passes for 334 yards and two touchdowns last year, will be challenged, according to Bruce, by sophomore Tom Tupa.

"Tom Tupa is schooled on some of the intricacies of our offense," said Bruce. "He's got talent, but he needs experience."

Bruce switched his attention to the offensive line, where graduation grabbed four starters.

"The real challenge with our offensive football team is replacing Kirk Lowdermilk, Mark Krerowicz and Jim Lachey," said Bruce, perhaps unknowingly leaving out Scott Zalenski. "If we're going to do that, they're going to be young and inexperienced. Talented, but young and inexperienced."

The center should be Bob Maggs, a 6-5, 274-pound junior out of Youngstown (Ohio) Cardinal Mooney High School who started three games in place of Lowdermilk late in the year.

"I think Bob Maggs is a young man that can play center very well," said Bruce. "He might well be the best center in the Big Ten. He's not going to be the smallest, I assure you. He might be the biggest."

Rory Graves, a 6-6, 280-pound Georgian who started all 12 games last year at left tackle, returns.

"There's the nucleus of our offensive line, two guys," said Bruce. "The fill-ins have to come with (Larry) Kotterman, (Greg) Zackeroff, (Jim) Gilmore and (Ron) Paulsen and some of those people. If they come through, we'll be OK."

If bulk buys victories, then the Buckeyes are in the check-out line. Kotterman is a 6-7, 276-pound sophomore out of Crestline, Ohio; Zackeroff, a red-shirt freshman

from Warren (Ohio) Harding, is 6-5 and goes 256; Gilmore, a two-year letterwinner out of Philadelphia, is 6-5 and 262, while Paulsen, a fourth-year junior out of Long Beach, Calif., stands 6-5 and tips the scales at 258.

Also expected to see action from tackle to tackle are Tim Odom, Dan Bachorski, Mike Durham, Tom Glancey and Rich Morris. Jeff Uhlenhake, a red-shirt freshman who was switched from defense to offensive guard after two-a-day drills started Aug. 26, will be one of the backup guards.

Tim James, listed on the preseason depth chart as the starter at left guard, has quit school and transferred to the University of Cincinnati, where he does not plan to play football.

"At the tight end position, I think we're secure," said Bruce, "if Eddie Taggart stays healthy all year. He's a tough kid and he catches the ball well. We can go to him on those ball-control downs and on first down."

Taggart, who started nine games last year but missed three because of an injury, caught 14 passes for 119 yards including several in which he overpowered the defenders. Also a backup punter, the 6-3, 220-pound junior from Akron, Ohio, still is looking for his first collegiate touchdown.

Bruce, starting his seventh season at OSU, said Taggart would be pushed by Alex Higdon, a 6-5, 233-pound sophomore from Cincinnati Princeton.

"He's got the size and the speed to be an outstanding receiver," said Bruce of Higdon, who caught one pass last year. "He looks very physical and he's over that freshman year of jitters. I think he's settled down; he's got a little more confidence than he had as a freshman."

Moving along to the wide receivers, Bruce feels you can't get much better than Cris Carter and Mike Lanese.

"We're blessed," exclaimed Bruce. "The thing this year is speed. Mike Lanese doesn't have all the speed you might need, but he can run fast enough and he's got great hands — he was given great hands."

"I'll remember Mike Lanese for ever and ever and ever for that one catch in the Michigan game. No problem with Mike Lanese. Besides that, he's the kind of kid you like to have on your football team."

"On the other side, there's Cris Carter and he's very talented."

Slipping back into the backfield, where Bruce had failed to mention the fullback position, we find George Cooper and Roman Bates.

"I kind of hope George comes back with a little smaller butt than he left with," said Bruce, eliciting a roar from the people on hand. "He left at about 253 (pounds). If he comes back at 240 or 235, and he's in great shape, he'll get off to a great start."

"He's the best running fullback we've had since we had (Ricardo) Volley and (Paul) Campbell. He's got great running technique. He had a great spring and if he can start off in the fall like he started off in the spring, he can take some heat off Keith Byars."

Bruce said Bates, who started the first six games last year, will challenge Cooper for playing time.

Also returning in the backfield is backup tailback John Wooldridge, the second-leading ground gainer a year ago with 633 yards and Barry Walker, an oft-injured fullback who has been moved to tailback this season.

Quickly looking at the kicking game, Bruce said he didn't have a worry in the world. With Tupa (47.1 average last year) handling the punting and Rich Spangler (45 of 47 extra points, 14 of 19 field goals) the place-kicking, the Buckeyes are as strong as they come in those areas.

BUCKEYE

Sports

BULLETIN

75¢

Aug 1986

Vol 5, no 24

12802

Preview: Questions Need Answering

By Jim Wharton

Earle Bruce, in most instances, will answer questions posed to him by the media. But Bruce wants to turn the tables when discussing the 1986 Ohio State football team. He's asking the questions.

"First of all," said Bruce in beginning to detail the outlook for his present bunch of Buckeyes, "we'll start off with a question mark because obviously the great question mark is our offensive line. That's been the thing that's created a winning record at Ohio State — a great offensive line."

"Right now, with (starting center) Bob Maggs being a question mark because of his back and the surgery he had and he didn't have spring ball, we've got that question to answer."

"With a lack of (starting right tackle) Larry Kotterman in spring practice, most of our offensive line wiped out in the spring and not available, with some 16 or 17 players who did not play in the spring, we have some big holes to make up in our line."

Practice began in earnest on Aug. 6 for the Aug. 27 opener against Alabama in the Chase Kickoff Classic in Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J.

"We're trying to establish the offensive line and some young players are going to have to come through," continued Bruce, who welcomed 17 starters out of 35 returning lettermen when camp opened. "Other than that, if you look at us, I think we're a pretty seasoned, veteran football team."

To look at the 1986 Buckeyes, you begin with quarterback Jim Karsatos. The 6-3, 224-pound fifth-year senior out of Fullerton, Calif., wrote his name in the OSU record books last fall.

In guiding the Buckeyes to their sixth straight 9-3 season, which included a 10-7 victory over Brigham Young in the Florida Citrus Bowl, Karsatos completed 177 of 289 passes for 2,311 yards and 19 touchdowns. His 61.2 completion percentage and the TD tosses both were single-season school records.

"Jim Karsatos has done a great job at Ohio State and I look for a good



Ohio State's Football Battery — Cris Carter, Left, And Jim Karsatos

season from him," said Bruce of his quarterback, who was fourth-ranked in national passing efficiency at the end of the year.

The Buckeyes, who shared fourth place with Michigan State in last year's Big Ten standings, also return several starters at the skilled positions.

Cris Carter at wide receiver, Ed Taggart at tight end, John Wooldridge at tailback and George Cooper at fullback all have established themselves at their respective positions.

"We have skilled people at the wide-outs, at the running backs and I think George Cooper will be one of the most exciting fullbacks Ohio State's ever had, as far as running the football is concerned," said Bruce.

Carter, who should re-write every OSU receiving record before he departs, is in a class by himself. The swift, acrobatic, sticky-fingered 6-3, 194-pound junior from Middletown, Ohio, snared a single-season record 58 passes a year ago. In two years as a Buckeye, Carter has caught 99 passes. He needs to catch 56 this year to put him ahead of all-time OSU leader Gary Williams.

Carter's eight TD catches in 1985 gave him 16 for his career, which ties Williams and Doug Donley atop the all-time list in that category.

But finding adequate blocking for Carter, Taggart, Wooldridge, Cooper and the other skilled players is of primary concern to Bruce.

Fall practice began with returning

starter Larry Kotterman at right tackle and redshirt sophomore Joe Staysniak at left tackle. Fourth-year junior Jay Shaffer and second-year freshman Tim Moxley were listed as the backups.

Jeff Uhlenhake, who started all but the opening game against Pitt last year as a second-year freshman, mans the left guard slot. Greg Zackeroff, who started at left guard in the Pitt game before being beaten out by Uhlenhake, is at right guard. Steve France and Karl Coles, both redshirted as freshmen last fall, are the second-team guards.

Maggs, the first-team All-Big Ten center a year ago, will be at center if he is fully recovered from the back

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What's On The Inside

Cris Carter

One of the most exciting players to ever don the Scarlet & Gray uniform of Ohio State, Cris Carter caught a school-record 58 passes in 1985. Carter returns for his junior season needing only 58 catches to become the all-time leading receiver in Buckeye history.

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Shula To Bell

Mike Shula is the quarterback. Albert Bell is his primary receiver. Together this Alabama duo has become an outstanding combination, similar to the Jim Karsatos to Cris Carter combo of Ohio State. Shula and Bell talk about their relationship.

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The Drug Issue

Big Ten football coaches have spent as much time recently discussing the use of drugs and alcohol as they have in preparing their teams for the 1986 season. Read some of their thoughts on the subject, as told at the Big Ten Press Preview in Chicago.

— Page 19

*Karsatos Hopes To Earn Rose Bowl Trip***Home Cooking Could Be QB's Reward***By Jim Wharton*

Jim Karsatos, who has been around Ohio State University for what seems like eternity, is ready to go home. Now hold on a minute.

Don't be misled into thinking that the Buckeye quarterback, who set numerous school passing records last year, is ready to pack it in and leave. Instead, Karsatos simply has this idea that he'd like to go home for the holidays, eat some of his mother Valerie's home cooking and mix in an appearance in the Rose Bowl.

"I want to go home, that's my goal," said Karsatos, who has not seen too much of his native Fullerton, Calif., since arriving on the Buckeye campus. "I certainly won't mind working as long as I'm there."

Karsatos has been to the Rose Bowl before, serving as a sophomore caddy for Mike Tomczak and not seeing any action as the Buckeyes dropped a 20-17 decision to USC in the 1985 game. The 6-3, 224-pound fifth-year senior, elected a co-captain by his teammates, sees the 1986 OSU squad as having the ingredients necessary to get him home to California in late December.

"I think this is a different team than we've had the last few years," said Karsatos, who actually has been a Buckeye at heart for six years — returning home prior to enrolling in school in 1981 after suffering a knee injury. "I really like the unity we have

Jim Karsatos

- 177 completions in 289 attempts for 2,311 yards and a school single-season record 19 TDs in 1985.

- 2,350 total yards and 21 TDs in 1985.

- 19 TD passes in 1985, established school single-season mark, breaking record of 17 set by Art Schlichter in 1981.

- 1985 passing yardage was second-best single-season total in OSU history, topped only by the 2,551 of Schlichter in 1981.

- 1985 total yardage figure also second-best single-season total in Buckeye history, bettered only by the 2,509 of Schlichter in 1981.

- Enters 1986 season third on the OSU all-time passing chart with 2,967 yards.

- Third on all-time TD pass list (23) behind Mike Tomczak (32) and Schlichter (50).

- Eighth on all-time total offense list with 3,011 yards.



right now and we haven't even started camp."

Karsatos, interviewed during OSU photo day between posing with babies, was asked to explain what he sees as different about this 1986 edition of Buckeyes compared to others.

"We don't have individuals that want to stand away from the team," said Karsatos, a communications

major who spent the summer working as a "runfor guy" for a local television station. "Guys that didn't necessarily try to stand away, but somehow they separated. This year, already and overall throughout the team, we like to do things together and we all like to spend time together. It's just a lot different. It's not the same as it has been."

Sounds like a good indication of things ahead.

"As a team," said Karsatos, who started all 12 games and guided the Buckeyes to a 9-3 record last year, "we've got to improve our record. We've got to play more as a team."

That team, based on things which transpired last season, may look a little unusual to long-time Buckeye followers. The reason lies in the past. Karsatos is likely to be firing away an un-OSU like number of times this fall. With a tremendous receiver in Cris Carter, Karsatos could wind up with a quarterback's equivalent of tennis elbow.

"The ball is going to stay in the air," said Karsatos, who set a school record with 19 TD tosses a year ago while completing 177 of 289 passes for 2,311 yards. "That's going to make for an exciting season. Personally, though, I want to improve on last year. I've worked on some things this summer that I didn't do last year and I think they'll help me a lot."

It might be hard to improve on his personal statistics. The 61.2 percent completion record also was a school record for one season. His effort in a 35-17 win over Northwestern undoubtedly was his brightest moment. Against the Wildcats, in a driving rainstorm in Dyche Stadium, Karsatos completed

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Published 28 times a year (weekly September through November and January through mid-March, monthly April through August and December) by:

Columbus Sports Publications
1350 W. Fifth Ave., #25
P.O. Box 12453
Columbus, Ohio 43212
(614) 486-2202

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Gordon Has Added Incentives For Last Year In OSU Uniform*By Jim Wharton*

Sonny Gordon returned for his senior year of football at Ohio State with a couple of additional incentives to go out with a bang.

The first one came when Gordon, about to begin his third year as a starter at rover back in the defensive secondary, was elected a co-captain — along with quarterback Jim Karsatos — by his Buckeye teammates. That happened in the spring.

"It was a very high honor," said Gordon, a mechanical engineering major out of Middletown (Ohio) High School. "It really touched me to know that they had that much respect for me because I really didn't think I would become captain. I would have liked to have been, but just to know that they have that much respect in me and thought of me as a leader, more by example because I'm really not a vocal type of guy."

"It's an honor and a privilege."

The second added incentive came this summer when Gordon changed directions in his walk down life's path.

"I picked a different focal point this year," said Gordon, who had 68 tackles, intercepted three passes, batted down three others and blocked one punt last season. "I'm trying to focus more on the Lord this year. I accepted Jesus Christ and I went to this camp during the summer and that really turned it around for me. We worked the whole week and a half on just using our athletic abilities to glorify the Lord and it helped me out a lot."

"That's what I'm really going to base my year on this year."

Gordon, safety Terry White and

**Sonny Gordon**

cornerbacks William White and Greg Rogan — known around campus as the "Men Of Brutality" — will be starting their third year together as the OSU secondary.

"The past three years we've grown to become like brothers," said Gordon of himself and his partners, who combined for 14 of Ohio State's 21

interceptions last year. "On and off the field we hang together, which helps us on the playing field. If you're playing for your brother, then you're going to do everything you can to make sure he doesn't look bad. That's the thing with our defense becoming close like brothers. We're becoming more of a unit than we've ever been."

The unity and ability of OSU's secondary has been much-maligned in the past few years.

"We know that there has been criticism of Ohio State's defensive backs in the past and they have criticized us in the past," said Gordon, the lone senior in that secondary quartet. "We go out and try to play every game hard and try to build a reputation like Ohio State used to have. We still have another year together and the other three have two more years together. Hopefully, by the time we leave, the reputation will be back."

The fact that Gordon, who carries 192 pounds on his 6-0 frame, is 12 — more likely 13 — games from leaving OSU is yet another incentive.

"I expect to have a good season because it's my last year," said Gordon, who has 132 tackles and seven interceptions since becoming a starter at the beginning of his sophomore year. "I don't have another chance, so I have to go all-out and give it my best effort. It gives me more incentive than I've ever had because I know that I want to go out on a good note. I don't have any time to stand around waiting for tomorrow. I've got to go out every day thinking this is my last swing, my

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Second Class Postage Paid At Columbus, Ohio and Additional Mailing Offices. USPS 705-690. ISSN 0883-6833. Postmaster: Please send address changes to Buckeye Sports Bulletin, P.O. Box 12453, Columbus, Ohio, 43212. Subscription rate: \$21 per year for 28 issues.

Spielman Hopes Defense Will Lead OSU To 'String' Of Wins

By Dave Waitkus

Using a phrase that almost sounded elegant, Chris Spielman likened this year's Ohio State football defense to a "string of pearls."

In the next sentence, however, Spielman let it be known that he lives for the moment when that string wraps around the opponent and chokes the life out of its offense.

In other words, it's best not to list "Spielman" and "elegant" on the same page in the thesaurus.

"We've got eight guys back on defense this year and we're expected to play together," said Spielman, the junior Buckeye inside linebacker who is expected to be the centerpiece of the OSU defense this fall. "I'll tell you what, I'll put us up with any team in the country in how physical we are because we've got some hitters. We run to the ball.

"You'll see, I think, a team that will have 11 guys going to the ball. We'll be looking like a string of pearls going to the ball every time. We really emphasized that in spring ball, and I'm sure if Coach (Gary) Blackney (defensive coordinator) has his way, we'll really emphasize that in this camp."

Spielman made his predictions a bit early this season as he and the rest of the football Buckeyes started camp in order to prepare for a fast-approaching date with national powerhouse Alabama. Ohio State will challenge the Crimson Tide in the Chase Kickoff Classic on August 27 in Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J.

Perhaps more than anything, Spielman would like to remain a key link in that pearly string for all 12 of OSU's games this season. As a freshman out of Massillon, Washington in 1984, he missed a lot of action due to a pair of ankle sprains. He recovered in fine form last fall, but injuries again forced him out of one game.

Regardless, Spielman finished

'86 Schedule

Aug. 27	vs. Alabama
Sept. 13	at Washington
Sept. 20	Colorado
Sept. 27	Utah
Oct. 4	Illinois
Oct. 11	at Indiana
Oct. 18	at Purdue
Oct. 25	Minnesota
Nov. 1	at Iowa
Nov. 8	Northwestern
Nov. 15	at Wisconsin
Nov. 22	Michigan

Ohio State will play Alabama in the annual Chase Kickoff Classic in Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J.

second to only Pepper Johnson in tackles with 140, including nine for 31 yards in losses and one quarterback sack. In addition, he picked off three passes, which placed him in a tie for second on the team behind William White (who had six).

"It's (inside linebacker) a position where you're challenged all the time," said Spielman, who was a first-team All-Big Ten selection and received honorable mention All-American acclaim in 1985. "You stop the run, you're supposed to stop the pass, you blitz, you can rush the quarterback. You can do it all.

"And you're a leader," he added. "I try to think of myself as a leader type. Not leading the cheers to the crowd, but leading by example. I think I've always been that. You have to be physical.

"I like physical," continued the player Buckeye coach Earle Bruce has repeatedly called "the most intense athlete" he has ever coached. "I think I like to hit, I like collisions and I like violence."

In order to increase the intensity of the punishment he has dished out during Ohio State's two previous 9-3 campaigns, Spielman reported to the Buckeye's preseason camp at 238 pounds. Considering his 6-2 frame, that might not seem like a major

increase. However, it is a marked difference from the freshman who first reported to Ohio Stadium at 205 pounds.

"I plan on it helping me a little bit, and I feel like I can move as well," Spielman claimed. "I know the coaches are concerned a little bit, but they haven't seen me run yet. They'll see if I can move, get back where I have to be in passes and get to the football like I've done in the past. If they tell me to drop a few pounds, I'll drop a few pounds."

The weight increase, though, has also meant an increase in Spielman's rugged weight-lifting regimen. Last year, at 225 pounds, Spielman boasted a bench press of 390 pounds, heading for the magic "Big Four" figure of 400 pounds. Now, he owns a bench of 420 and the "Big Five" (500 pounds) is heavy on his mind.

Is that goal feasible?
"Yeah," answered Spielman, who also clocks a 4.7 in the 40-yard dash. "feasible and possible. Probable? . . . I don't know."

He also has a prescription for bulking up.

"I'm getting older, and I think my body is getting a little more mature," he explained. "I worked out four times a week this summer, about 2½ hours a day. I ate well, I watched my diet and I got my proper rest. I wasn't out rousing about. You have to train in the off-season so you can train properly during the regular season."

Even though some football analysts have deemed Spielman "small" for an inside linebacker, and he admitted that "maybe I thought I could use a little more rear end," his effectiveness has been well documented in both newspapers and bone-jarring videotape.

"I put some big linemen down last year," he said, "and maybe it will help me put them down a little harder this year."

Spielman added that he hopes the



Chris Spielman

Buckeye's eight returning starters on defense, including the entire secondary, will help shore up a group that has been quickly criticized in the now pass-happy Big Ten.

"Our secondary was still young last year, but they've had three years together," said the former high school consensus All-American, referring to returnees Sonny Gordon, William White, Greg Rogan and Terry White. "They know where they're supposed to be and where the ball is going. They work together really well."

Overall, despite the loss of such standouts as Keith Byars, Mike Lanese, Byron Lee, Rich Spangler and Johnson, Spielman believes strongly in the 1986 Buckeye edition.

"Our team attitude is really good this year," he said. "We don't really have any superstars this year, but I think we'll play well together. I think we were disappointed with our season last year, and we want to make it better this year. We don't want to be on a roller coaster ride this year."

"People say that we put too much emphasis on winning," he concluded. "I'm disappointed when we go 9-3, too. Why not expect the best?"

Offensive Line Tops List Of Bruce's Questions

Continued From Page 1

surgery. Rich Morris serves as Maggs' replacement.

Carter is a sure-shot at split end with junior Nate Harris in reserve. Taggart holds down the number one spot at tight end with John Hutchison behind him. Jamie Holland is working at flanker with Everett Ross moving up to second team in the absence of Dino Dawson, who is not eligible pending completion of summer school.

Vince Workman, the talented sophomore who picked up 321 yards and scored three touchdowns as a backup last year, was designated to start as the number one tailback based on his spring performance. Woodruff, who led Buckeye ball carriers with 820 rushing yards in 1985, is working behind Workman.

"Defensively, I think we'll be as strong as we've ever been at Ohio State since I've been there," said Bruce. "The defensive secondary will be playing together for its third consecutive year. They're skilled and they're experienced."

That secondary, nicknamed the Men of Brutality (MOB), consists of Sonny Gordon at rover back, Terry White at safety and William White and Greg Rogan at the corners. Gordon is a

senior. Rogan and the Whites are juniors.

Providing backup to the returning regulars are Sean Bell, Ray Jackson, Dwight Smith and David Brown.

"Our linebacker corps is good," noted Bruce. "Our defensive line is something that we're going to have to find out about. We lost (nose guard) Larry Kolic. We lost (linebacker) Pepper Johnson. We lost (linebacker) Byron Lee. I think we can replace them and not lose any punch from our defense and also add a little experience."

The preseason depth chart has Fred Ridder, Mike Sullivan and Darryl Lee lined up across the front, with Eric Kumerow and Derek Isaman at the outside linebacking spots and Chris Spielman and John Sullivan inside. Spielman and Kumerow are coming off outstanding seasons, the former leading the Buckeyes in tackles (141) and making the first-team all-league squad, the latter being named second-team.

Contending for playing time on the defensive line are Henry Brown, Pat Thomas and Ray Holliman. Brown started the first three games of 1985 at left tackle while Holliman started the Michigan and BYU games at the same spot.

Tom Anderzack and Alex Higdon are the second-team outside linebackers with Mike Kee and Scott Leach backing up on the inside.

Tom Tupa again will handle the punting chores after averaging 39.1 per boot on 50 punts in 1985. Jeff Compton, a third-year sophomore, began the fall as the heir apparent to Rich Spangler in the place-kicking department. Mike Morton, a transfer from the University of Cincinnati and incoming freshman Pat O'Morrow were expected to also challenge. O'Morrow suffered a setback prior to the start of practice when he had knee surgery which is expected to keep him out of action until late September.

All in all, it is a veteran team with only those question marks needing to be addressed.

"We're going to work like hell at everything we do in practice," said Bruce. "Getting out there and jumping on everything real quick and develop the things we need to develop."

Bruce, 65-19 in seven years at OSU, is concerned about his team getting out of the chute quickly.

"We've never been a quick-starting football team," said Bruce, "and that's a challenge we face to be a quick-

starting football team this year. We have to be ready in a hurry. We've been a team in the past that played its best ball as the season went on. This year we will have to start fast and maintain a high level of play."

And there is plenty of reason. Namely the schedule.

"You talk the way it is," said Bruce. "We have a tough schedule and I have to talk from that aspect. Our kids are looking forward to it. I don't know what's going to happen."

The results and scores after the opener against Alabama and then a road trip to Washington 17 days later could make or break the Buckeyes.

"It could jell our football team and drive us onto the Big Ten season and explode us, or it could hurt us," said Bruce. "I don't know. But we're going to find out down the line about this football team."

Any predictions?
"I've seen more enthusiasm for the coming season by our people working harder in the summertime than I've ever seen before," said Bruce. "Our players worked out over the summer and did things to prepare them. We look like we're in good physical shape right now — better than normal."

"So I'm kind of looking forward to see what we can do."

Maggs Ready To Go After Back Surgery

By Jim Wharton

Bob Maggs is alive and kicking as a member of the Ohio State football team. How well Maggs remains a question mark.

Maggs, a 6-5, 287-pound senior out of Youngstown (Ohio) Cardinal Mooney High School, started all 12 games the Buckeyes played in 1985, earning first-team All-Big Ten and honorable mention All-American honors. But he played the Michigan and Brigham Young games with a ruptured disc in his back.

Surgery to remove part of the disc was performed earlier this year and Maggs was relegated to the role of a spectator during spring practice. Jeff Uhlenhake, a starter at left guard in 11 of the 12 Buckeye skirmishes last year, spent time in the spring working at center because of the uncertainty of Maggs' condition.

Maggs, though, says he is ready. "It feels pretty good," said Maggs, one day before the Buckeyes began practice for their opening game, an Aug. 27 battle against Alabama in the Chase Kickoff Classic. "I haven't hit on it since the bowl game, so I'm a little leery of that. But other than that there's no problem. I think it's going to be OK. I've done some things on it and I'm not really too worried about it."

There must be some concern for that first contact.

"Hitting is second nature because I've been doing it so long," said Maggs, who played in eight games as a second-year freshman tackle in 1983 and then played in 12 games — starting the last three at center — as a sophomore. "I'm going to hit and not worry about the back. If I go in soft then I might get hurt, so I'll have to go in full go."

OSU coach Earle Bruce knows how

Maggs might feel when the pads go on.

"I'm sure he'll think about it the first few times," said Bruce. "But he played in three games in a lot of pain last year. They fixed what was wrong and I think he'll come out of it OK. He's hitting the sled pretty good right now. He's taking a shot."

Maggs, one of eight fifth-year seniors on the OSU squad, just wants a shot at making the 1986 season his best.

"I'm really looking forward to it," he said. "This is my fifth year and I think I'll do really well. We've got a lot of guys back, everybody's looking good and everybody's got a good attitude right now. We've got everybody healthy, finally, which is something we didn't have in the spring."

With the Buckeyes being so depleted by injuries in spring practice, Maggs saw what everybody else saw.

"In the spring we might not have looked our sharpest," said Maggs, a student in the College of Arts and Sciences. "But once we get into these double sessions, we'll be looking really good. It's almost like a whole different team. So I think we'll be really good. After summer, everybody's a little rusty. Once we get back into it and get going, things should shape up real quick."

A quick start to the season is almost mandatory since the Buckeyes face Alabama and Washington in their first two games.

"We can't start slow like we've done in the past," said Maggs, touted by some as an All-American candidate this fall. "I think we can start fast because we've got two teams that if we start slow we're going to be in a world of trouble. We know we've got to go early. We know if we don't do it, we'll



Bob Maggs

look bad and that will may be hang on a lot of people's minds for the rest of the season.

"So I think everybody is aware of the fact that we've got to come out fast."

Maggs will be coming out for the final time. As a senior, he realizes younger members of the squad will look to him for leadership.

"I think a lot of guys look to me because I've been around here for so long," said Maggs, who had perhaps the best block of his career when he wiped out two defenders allowing John Wooldridge to score a touchdown against Colorado last fall. "I've paid my dues. I've paid my dues around here for a long time. But it's not just me, we're going to need a lot of leadership out of all the seniors and all the starters to get everybody going this year."

There are goals for Maggs, who is 25 pounds heavier this fall than he was when he first reported to the Bucks.

"I'd like to be in among the top linemen in the country," said Maggs. "I just want to be the best that I can be. If I can be real great, I want to be that. But I want to make sure the team reaches its goals. That's first in my mind."

Gordon

Continued From Page 3

last time at bat." Gordon, one-sixth of the "Middle-town Connection" on the Buckeye roster, was impressed with what he saw of the squad prior to the start of practice for the Aug. 27 Chase Kickoff Classic contest against Alabama in East Rutherford, N.J.

"The attitude on the team is probably the best since I've been here, as far as in the weight room and in the workout habits over the summer," said Gordon, whose 673 career playing minutes are tops among returning players. "I think we'll have a good season, just judging by the attitude of the team right now."

And any predictions?

"I don't really like to make predictions," said Gordon. "I just kind of let things take place."

Gordon, who has started 23 of 24 games the past two years, has let things fall for themselves since coming to Ohio State.

"My past three years have been an experience," he said. "My first year starting, I really wasn't expecting to start. I expected to play, but they had Kevin Richardson and I was playing behind him. But things happened and I ended up starting."

"My first year was a learning year for me. I learned a lot of things," continued Gordon, an all-state selection in high school who spends his spare time reading and listening to music. "Last year it was a little better than my sophomore year, but I've still got a ways to go."

"From those two years I have learned that I must react better. If you're not thinking, you react slow. I do a lot of thinking out there."

"You're never too old to learn and I think this year, game by game, I'll still be learning. I expect to build on what I learn."

Karsatos Still Looks To Improve

Continued From Page 3

High School having passed for 4,426 yards and 40 touchdowns. He was the Orange County Player of the Year his senior season.

But an injury suffered in an all-star game in the summer of 1981 failed to come around and Karsatos was sent home prior to the football season. He re-enrolled, but was redshirted for the 1982 season.

After serving as an understudy to Tomczak for two years, a period in which he started three games, Karsatos earned the starting nod last year and responded with impressive credentials, ending the campaign ranked fourth nationally in passing efficiency.

"The whole thing has been just one experience after another," said Karsatos, reflecting on his OSU career to this point. "I've grown from them and I think I've become a better person. I didn't like some of the things then, but I've seen that they've helped me grow now and I really appreciate that."

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Pre-Season Depth Chart

(As of August 1)

OFFENSE

SE	2	CRIS CARTER	Jr.	26	Nate Harris	Jr.	18	Gary Clift	So.
LT	79	Joe Staysniak	Fr.	74	Tim Moxley	Fr.	78	Mike Durham	So.
LQ	68	JEFF UHLENHAKE	So.	70	Steve France	Fr.	64	Mike Kuri	Fr.
C	71	BOB MAGGS	Sr.	53	Rich Morris	Jr.	60	Dan Hirnelse	Fr.
RG	51	Greg Zackeroff	So.	66	Karl Coles	Fr.			
RT	72	LARRY KOTTERMAN	Jr.	89	Jay Shaffer	Jr.			
TE	80	ED TAGGART	Sr.	81	John Hutchison	Sr.	83	Frank Hoak	So.
							85	James Palmer	Fr.
QB	16	JIM KARSATOS	Sr.	19	Tom Tupa	Jr.	13	Scott Powell	So.
							9	Tom Bolyard	Fr.
TB	42	Vince Workman	So.	25	JOHN WOOLDRIDGE	Sr.	43	Barry Walker	Sr.
							28	Roman Bates	Sr.
FL	6	Jamie Holland	Sr.	4	Dino Dawson	Jr.	5	Everett Ross	So.
FB	44	GEORGE COOPER	Jr.	11	Bill Matlock	So.	33	Steve Gresock	Jr.
							38	Chris Boddie	Fr.

DEFENSE

OLB	14	ERIC KUMEROW	Jr.	32	Tom Anderzack	So.	99	Mike McCray	So.
							39	Reggie Graves	Jr.
LT	90	FRED RIDDER	Jr.	94	Henry Brown	Jr.	98	Srecko Zizakovic	Fr.
							93	Ty Jones	Fr.
NG	67	Mike Sullivan	So.	54	Pat Thomas	Fr.	62	Charles Keenan	Fr.
RT	95	DARRYL LEE	Sr.	55	Ray Holliman	Sr.	84	Jim Davidson	So.
OLB	10	Derek Isaman	So.	88	Alex Higdon	Jr.	63	Dedrick Howard	Fr.
LB	36	CHRIS SPIELMAN	Sr.	30	Mike Kee	Sr.	35	Joe Jenkins	Jr.
LB	57	John Sullivan	So.	8	Scott Leach	Sr.	58	Ed Sotila	So.
							91	Brian Benio	Fr.
ROV	7	SONNY GORDON	Sr.	3	Sean Bell	So.			
CB	37	WILLIAM WHITE	Jr.	47	Ray Jackson	Jr.			
CB	29	GREG ROGAN	Jr.	20	Dwight Smith	So.			
S	12	TERRY WHITE	Jr.	27	David Brown	Fr.			

SPECIALISTS

P	19	TOM TUPA	Jr.	9	Tom Bolyard	Fr.	32	Mike Morton	Jr.
EP	23	Jeff Compton	So.	32	Mike Morton	Jr.			
C	52	TOM MOORE	So.	71	Bob Maggs	Sr.			

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Vol 6, no 12

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Roses Wilt As Wolverines Triumph

Bucks Settle For Co-Title, Cotton Berth

Maybe it was poetic justice. Roses pinned on the lapels of all those in the press box prior to the Ohio State-Michigan encounter were wilting before the afternoon was over.

It was, in some respects, indicative of the way the Buckeyes played in seeing their hopes of an outright Big Ten championship pass away in a 26-24 setback at the hands of the Wolverines. An all-time record Ohio Stadium crowd of 90,674 watched as Ohio State had to settle for a co-championship and a berth in the Jan. 1, 1987 Cotton Bowl.

As coach Earle Bruce would put it after the game, his team did not play with the same degree of toughness from start to finish.

"The game is 60 minutes long," said Bruce. "That's the thing about football. You've got to be as strong at the end of the game as you are at the beginning."

And the Bucks, as did their chances for the Rose Bowl, wilted after grabbing a 14-3 lead in the first quarter. Ohio State went from moving the ball with relative ease and taking the 11-point lead to sputtering along and falling behind 26-17 in the fourth quarter.

A ray of sunshine did appear on the horizon in the final period. A Jim Karsatos pass found its way into the hands of Cris Carter for a touchdown which left the Buckeyes two points short with 9:42 still to play.

A chance for victory, however, went astray later in the quarter. Facing a fourth-and-two at the Michigan 28, place-kicker Matt Frantz was wide left on what could have been a 45-yard game-winning field goal.

"It was a tough decision," said Bruce



Vince Workman Gains A Couple Of His 126 Yards In Loss To Michigan

about opting for the attempt at three points with 1:06 still to play. "We conferred with our kicking coach and he said the young man had been able to kick them before the game and he was kicking them well. He did kick the ball far enough, it was just a hooked ball, like you do when you give it a little extra. I wish he'd have played it on to the right a little more."

The downfall for Ohio State was not just the missed field goal. Michigan,

which managed 223 total yards but only two field goals in the first half, ran roughshod over the Buckeyes after intermission.

Tailback Jamie Morris, who had 59 yards on 10 carries in the first half, broke loose for 151 yards and two touchdowns in 19 second-half carries.

"They ran very effectively in the second half and kept the ball," said Bruce, who is now even in eight games against Bo Schembechler and

Michigan. "They moved the ball very effectively, including the opening kickoff. They moved right down the field and scored. Obviously that put them right back in the ball game."

Michigan, which will represent the Big Ten in the Rose Bowl against Pac-10 champion Arizona State, moved 83 yards in a 14-play drive which ate up the first 6:07 of the third quarter.

Continued On Page 2

Dallas Will Roll Out 'Big' Red Carpet

It sounds like the 'Welcome Mat' in Dallas may be like everything else in the state of Texas — BIG.

Jim 'Hoss' Brock, executive vice president of the Cotton Bowl Athletic Association, said the red carpet will be rolled out like never before when the Ohio State football team heads for the Lone Star State for a Jan. 1, 1987 date against the Southwest Conference champion — either Texas A&M or Arkansas.

Brock, addressing Ohio State's annual football appreciation banquet, was an immediate hit.

"I bet y'all are going to think President (Edward) Jennings is short by the time I get through with this," began Brock, a Texas twang

enthraling the audience. "I gotta say a couple of words now. Being from Texas we sometimes get a little carried away. I'm going to get a little carried away now because I'm with some darn good people.

"I was sittin' over here between Michael Kee and Barry Walker and we got to talkin' there and they said Hoss — they didn't say Hoss, they said Mr. Brock. I said call me Hoss. They called me Mr. Brock again. That's how neat they are.

"We bring you greetings from the Lone Star State."

With the obligatory statements out of the way, Brock captivated the players, school officials, families and friends on hand with some down-

home humor while seriously enlightening the Buckeye family with what to expect in Dallas.

Brock talked about the impact of having Ohio State accept a Cotton Bowl bid. If Texas A&M was to win a Thanksgiving Day game against Texas, the Aggies would be the Buckeyes' opposition. If Texas won the Turkey Day battle, Arkansas would claim the loop crown and a berth opposite OSU.

"Ever since the Big Ten opened the doors to the bowls back in 1976, the Cotton Bowl has worked long and hard to get a Big Ten team in Dallas," he said. "Well we finally made it. And

Continued On Page 19

Final Weekly Issue

This is the final weekly issue of *Buckeye Sports Bulletin* for the 1986 season. We will be publishing our Cotton Bowl preview issue in mid-December and will start our weekly coverage of Ohio State winter sports in January. The entire staff of Columbus Sports Publications wishes you a happy holiday season and looks forward to serving you in the coming year.

Wolverines Set Several Series Standards

The long rivalry between Ohio State and Michigan has produced some very interesting facts and figures. While there are too many 'bests and longest' to mention, it must be pointed out that three 'best-ers' in the all-time series between the schools were set as the Wolverines gained a 26-24 victory over Ohio State on Nov. 22. And, unfortunately for Buckeye fans, they were all established by that 'team up north.'

Wolverine quarterback Jim Harbaugh put his name beside the column for most passing yards in an OSU-Michigan game, hitting on 19 of 29 passes for 261 yards. The yardage figure betters the former mark of 244 set by Bob Chappuis way back in 1946.

Michigan tailback Jamie Morris rushed for 210 yards, 45 more than Rob Lytle — an Ohio native — picked up in the 1976 game.

The total offense figure of 529 yards by Michigan topped the old mark of 511, also set in the 1946 game, which the Wolverines of Fritz Crisler won 58-6.

BUCKEYE SPLIT end Cris Carter simply upped the figures even higher with his efforts against Michigan.

Carter caught seven passes for 75 yards and two touchdowns, putting his season totals — all school single-season records — at 65 receptions, 1,066 yards and 11 TDs. Those numbers upped the career figures of Carter, named the Buckeye Sports Bulletin *Buckeye of the Week* for his day's work, to 164 catches, 2,664 yards and 27 touchdowns, also school marks.

TAILBACK VINCE Workman, who scored one of Ohio State's three touchdowns against Michigan on a 46-yard run, his longest of the year, closed the regular season with 985 rushing yards, a 5.0 per-carry average and seven TDs. Workman, a sophomore out of Dublin, Ohio, also caught 19 passes for 157 yards.

SENIOR LINEBACKER Mike Kee's interception, which halted a Wolverine scoring march late in the first half, was his first as a Buckeye.

CHRIS SPIELMAN moved into a tie with Alvin Washington (77-80) for fourth place on the all-time total tackles chart at Ohio State. With a career-high 29 stops against the Wolverines, Spielman goes into the Cotton Bowl with 379.

THE WIN WAS Bo Schembechler's 166th at Michigan, surpassing the previous school record of 165 set by the legendary Fielding H. Yost.

The victory earned Schembechler, among other things, a plaque from his players. But the plaque proved to cost more than quarterback Jim Harbaugh and linebacker Andy Moeller had anticipated. It seems those two players collected money from their teammates to purchase the plaque in anticipation of beating Minnesota a week earlier.

"We had to go out and have the inscription changed to take out 'Minnesota' and put 'Ohio State' on the plaque," said Harbaugh. "That cost us another 30 dollars. We couldn't afford to lose again this week."

MICHIGAN NOW has a 46-32-5 edge in the all-time series and upped its record for games played in Ohio Stadium to 23-17-1. To point out some facts of the series, the home team now has won 40 times, the visiting team 38; the teams are even at 11-11-1 in the past 23 years; 29-29-3 in the past 61 years and 32-34-3 in the 69 consecutive years they have played each other. Michigan was 12-2 in the first 14 games.

Buck Beat

With Jim Wharton

STATE SENATOR Eugene Watts (R-Columbus) lost his bet with Michigan Sen. Lana Pollack (D-Ann Arbor) for the second straight year. Watts, who represents the university district, had to stand at the 50-yard line in Ohio Stadium and sing "Hail To The Victors." He paid the bet off a couple of days after the game. No word on whether Watts was on or off key.

FIVE OF SIX local psychics contacted by one Columbus reporter predicted an Ohio State victory. So much for psychic power.

ALL THE ACTION involved with an Ohio State-Michigan game creates

Michigan Wins Trip To Rose Bowl

Continued From Page 1

Morris took a pitchout to the right, put a juke move on OSU cornerback Sonny Gordon and dashed the final four yards for the score. After a Mike Gillette conversion, the Wolverines had narrowed their deficit to 14-13 with 8:53 still showing on the third-quarter clock.

The Buckeyes, who had a nine-game winning streak snapped, came right back to move from their own 25 to the Michigan 10. But the Wolverine defense stiffened and OSU had to be content with a 27-yard Frantz field goal. With 5:26 left in the period, the Bucks owned a 17-13 lead.

The Wolverines, in bouncing back from a 20-17 upset loss to Minnesota the week before, struck quickly. Morris, who ended the day with 210 yards — more than any other player had ever rushed for in an OSU-Michigan clash — broke loose down the right sideline for 52 yards. After backup fullback Bob Perryman picked up two, quarterback Jim Harbaugh was flushed out of the pocket only to flip a short pass to Perryman, who turned it into a 15-yard gain for a first-and-goal at the eight.

Morris put his team ahead for the first time by using a little extra effort to get into the end zone from eight yards out. An attempt for a two-point conversion fell incomplete in the end zone and the Wolverines led 19-17 with 3:53 remaining in the third quarter.

Ohio State was forced to punt on its next possession after a long pass intended for Nate Harris was tipped by a Michigan defender and was almost caught by Jamie Holland.

Harbaugh, who completed 19 of 29 passes for 261 yards, then moved his team 85 yards in eight plays to another score. Backup tailback Thomas Wilcher, with the Buckeyes blitzing, cut through left tackle to score from the seven. Gillette again converted and Michigan was up 26-17 with 12:46 left in the game.

Carter caught his second TD pass of the day to bring the Bucks to within two at 9:42. And, following an exchange of punts, the Buckeyes got one last chance when William White forced Wilcher to fumble. Gordon recovering for OSU.

Taking over with 3:17 remaining, Karsatos, who completed 15 of 27 passes for 188 yards, overthrew Harris over the middle. After offsetting penalties forced one down to be replayed, Karsatos connected with

overtime chores for local officials.

During the game, 180 police officers — from the OSU and Columbus departments and the Franklin County Sheriff's Department — were stationed inside the stadium.

In addition, OSU police took several precautions on campus, removing traffic gate arms, fire extinguishers and the information booth on the Oval.

OHIO STATE has announced a priority system for tickets to the 1987 Cotton Bowl, which will find the Buckeyes playing the champions of the Southwest Conference.

• First priority: The student body (limit 1).

• Second priority: Fulltime faculty and staff and their immediate families (limit 4).

• Third priority: Alumni Association active members and development

fund donors west of the Mississippi River (limit 2).

• Fourth priority: The regular-season priority group which includes benefactors and others who have ordered season books for 15 consecutive years or more in their own name (limit 2).

• Fifth priority: General public (limit 2 if available).

Tickets for all groups sell for \$25.50 each, which includes a 50 cent service charge.

The student body/staff sale will be an over-the-counter sale and begins Dec. 1 and runs through Dec. 5 in the St. John Arena ticket lobby. Hours are 7:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. daily.

Requests from the general public will be honored only after all orders from the first four priorities have been filled.

Big Ten Standings

School	W	L	T	Pts	Opp	W	L	T	Pts	Opp
Michigan	7	1	0	262	118	10	1	0	337	171
Ohio State	7	1	0	225	95	9	3	0	319	167
Iowa	5	3	0	183	159	8	3	0	352	176
Minnesota	5	3	0	196	201	6	5	0	247	295
Michigan State	4	4	0	203	152	6	5	0	285	197
Indiana	3	5	0	146	147	6	5	0	260	200
Illinois	3	5	0	136	209	4	7	0	189	299
Northwestern	2	6	0	149	216	4	7	0	217	251
Purdue	2	6	0	105	250	3	8	0	160	335
Wisconsin	2	6	0	130	186	3	9	0	201	266

fullback George Cooper for a 12-yard gain and a first down at the Ohio State 49. Two plays later, on first down at the Michigan 36, Wolverine strong safety Ivan Hieks barely got his hands on a ball to bat it away from Carter in the end zone. Buckeye tailback Vince Workman, who rushed for 126 yards in 21 carries, was tripped up for no gain. Karsatos then found Carter for eight to bring up that fourth-and-two situation.

That left Bruce with the decision to try for the field goal or go for another first down.

"Maybe that was too long," said Bruce of the 45-yard attempt by Frantz. "But without a try to win, if something would have happened on fourth down and you didn't get a try at the opportunity to win, I think that would have been a mistake.

"It came down to the last five minutes of catching the ball or not catching the ball and making your first downs or not making your first downs," added Bruce. "We didn't get it done."

From the outset of the game, it appeared that Ohio State would get it done — and with ease.

After a 47-yard return of the opening kick by Holland, the Buckeyes were in business at the Michigan 45. Karsatos and mates covered those 45 yards in 10 plays, the senior signal-caller hitting Carter on a four-yard TD pass with 10:47 still to play in the initial stanza.

Michigan showed signs of doing likewise, marching from its own 40 to the OSU 10 before bogging down. Fullback Gerald White was dropped for a five-yard loss by Gordon before a delay of game penalty backed the Wolverines another five yards. Harbaugh got five of those back on a screen pass to White before Gillette came on to boot a 32-yard field goal.

Three plays later the Buckeyes grabbed that 14-3 lead. Workman, who ran for 97 yards in the first half, picked

up one. Karsatos connected with Everett Ross and Ross did some fancy stepping for a 32-yard gain. Workman then took a pitch to his right, followed great blocks by Carter and tight end Ed Tuggart, cut back to the middle of the field and headed for the opposite corner of the end zone. He pulled up 46 yards later with the Buckeyes' second touchdown of the day.

Ohio State got the ball back just over two minutes later when safety David Brown intercepted a Harbaugh pass intended for 6-8 split end Paul Jokisch.

Workman went outside left tackle, broke into the clear and raced 29 yards to the Michigan 29. After picking up a first down at the 16, a holding penalty did the Buckeyes in. Frantz came up way short on a 43-yard field goal attempt.

"I felt one of the keys in this game was the third time we had the ball," said Bruce. "when we had an opportunity to make a field goal but didn't. We never want to come out dry in a situation when we move the ball."

Michigan, in upping its record to 10-1 as it prepares for a Dec. 6 regular-season closer at Hawaii, moved the ball to the tune of 529 yards in total offense.

"Like I said," noted Bruce, "they moved the ball. But we had good opportunities early and if we'd have put on our points, it would have been a little different."

It was a disappointing finish to the regular season.

"This is a tough loss," said Bruce. "I never like to lose, especially in Ohio Stadium. It's going to take awhile to get over this one."

The fact his team had accepted a Cotton Bowl bid was met with mixed reactions by the OSU coach.

"Obviously, we're pleased to go to the Cotton Bowl and play in a New Year's Day game," said Bruce. "But when you are Big Ten co-champs, and have the championship game in your grasp, it's a letdown when you don't win."

Karsatos' Trip Home Canceled By Wolves

By Dave Waitkus

Jim Karsatos had visions of heading west, but a team from up north managed to detour him south.

"I was planning on going home," said Karsatos, as he fought back tears following Ohio State's heartbreaking 26-24 loss to Michigan. "It's gonna take a couple of weeks for this to wear off."

OSU's loss, which snapped a nine-game Buckeye winning streak, earned Michigan (7-1, 10-1) and Wolverine quarterback Jim Harbaugh a share of the Big Ten championship and the right to go to the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, Calif., on New Year's Day. Meanwhile, the Buckeyes (7-1, 9-3) and Karsatos, who hails from Fullerton, Calif., must settle for a trip to Dallas and the Cotton Bowl.

"Our offensive game plan going in was real good," continued Karsatos, a senior who finished his last game in Ohio Stadium with 15 completions in 27 attempts for 188 yards and two touchdowns — both to All-American split end Cris Carter.

"We were moving it well, those first two touchdowns — we were doing real well," said Karsatos. "I don't know if we relaxed or what. They held us a couple of times and I think some people relaxed and others kept playing hard. You've got to keep everybody up together."

The Buckeyes were indeed flying high on their first two offensive possessions as Karsatos directed them 45 yards on 10 plays for a score, then 80 yards in just three plays for a quick 14-3 lead. At that point, however, the Buckeyes bogged down and Michigan crept to within eight (14-6) at halftime.

Did Karsatos think the Buckeyes pulled in the offense with such importance riding on the outcome?

"No, not really," he answered. "We did keep mixing it up. We kept trying to keep them off balance. We just had a couple of breakdowns."

In the early going, though, it was Karsatos-to-Carter for the game's first score, a lob into the right corner from

four yards out. Avoiding a blitz, Karsatos spotted Carter one-on-one with cornerback Erik Campbell. The 5-10, 170-pound junior was no match for a leaping 6-3, 194-pound Carter.

Later in the game, with the Bucks trailing 26-17 and facing extinction, the combo hooked up one more time to rally the Bucks. After taking what seemed like an eternity at the line, Karsatos finally zipped a low liner into a diving Carter for a dramatic 17-yard TD. That brought OSU to within two with 9:42 left to play in the game.

"That's what you call makeshift," said Karsatos, referring to the play. "We changed his (Carter's) pattern on the line, then they changed their defense on the snap, so we changed our pattern again as we were running it. We just did with what we had."

Despite all the comebacks, catches and touchdowns, the one play that might haunt Karsatos for weeks will be a near miss that could have rearranged the outcome and the bowl game plane tickets.

Facing a first down at the Michigan 36 with 2:34 left to play, Karsatos rifled a pass headed for Carter in the end zone. Just when it appeared that the strike was going to reach him, Michigan safety Ivan Hicks got a hand in the air and batted the ball away. Keeping in mind that OSU had to settle for an unsuccessful field goal attempt, the play turned out to be a game-saver.

"I thought the pass was a good one," Karsatos said, "but if I had to do it again, I would throw it higher and let Cris go up and get it, because that's what he does well. The defender (Hicks) did a good job."

Then, after a draw to Vince Workman yielded nothing, Karsatos hit Carter with a short pass that fell two yards shy of the first down. Following an Ohio State timeout, the decision was to send Matt Frantz in for a 45-yard field goal attempt, which sailed wide left. Did Karsatos dispute the play call?

"No, it wasn't my decision," he



Jim Karsatos Passes Over UM's Mark Messner

claimed. "If we would have made it, it would have been a great decision. It doesn't matter now. It's over and we can't do anything about it."

Throughout the Buckeyes' last-ditch drive, which began at their own 37, Karsatos repeatedly heaved the ball long down the field. Was Ohio State thinking field goal or touchdown?

"We wanted to get down and get

close enough for a field goal," Karsatos explained. "We were going to take what they were going to give us. If we could get it in the end zone, we were going to take it."

Now, with the outcome of the Michigan contest in the hopper, Karsatos will just have to take a ticket south and hope for a final hurrah in the Cotton Bowl.

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The Numbers Game

Wolverines 26, Buckeyes 24

MICHIGAN	3	3	13	7	26
OHIO STATE	14	0	3	7	24

OSU — Carter 4 pass from Karsatos (Frantz kick) 10:47
 MICH — Gillette 32 field goal 4:18
 OSU — Workman 46 run (Frantz kick) 3:03
 MICH — Gillette 34 field goal 6:47
 MICH — Morris 4 run (Gillette kick) 8:53
 OSU — Frantz 27 field goal 5:26
 MICH — Morris 8 run (pass failed) 3:53
 MICH — Wilcher 7 run (Gillette kick) 12:46
 OSU — Carter 17 pass from Karsatos (Frantz kick) 9:42
 Att. — 90,674 (All-time record)

	MICH	OSU
First Downs	27	19
Rushing	13	8
Passing	13	9
Penalty	1	2
Rushes-Yards	52-268	34-170
Passing Yards	261	188
Passes	29-19-2	27-15-1
Offensive Plays	81	61
Total Net Yards	529	358
Third Down Eff.	3-12	6-13
Punts	2-43.0	4-41.0
Fumbles-Lost	1-1	0-0
Penalties	7-44	4-26
Time Of Possession	35:39	24:21

Individual Statistics

RUSHING (Att.-Net Yds.) — MICHIGAN: Morris 29-210; Perryman 7-27; Wilcher 5-16; G. White 5-10; Harbaugh 6-5. OHIO STATE: Workman 21-126; Cooper 6-25; Karsatos 5-11; Carter 1-6; Holland 1-2.
PASSING (Att.-Comp.-Int.-Yds.-TD) — MICHIGAN: Harbaugh 29-19-2-261-0. OHIO STATE: Karsatos 27-15-1-188-2.
RECEIVING (Rec.-Yds.) — MICHIGAN: J. Brown 5-54; McMurtry 3-64; Perryman 3-53; G. White 3-23; Morris 3-22; Higgins 2-45. OHIO STATE: Carter 7-75; Workman 4-33; Harris 2-37; Ross 1-32; Cooper 1-11.
PUNTING (No.-Ave.-Lg.) — MICHIGAN: Robbins 2-43.0-55. OHIO STATE: Tupa 4-41.0-49.
PUNT RETURNS (No.-Ave.-Lg.) — MICHIGAN: None. OHIO STATE: None.
KICKOFF RETURNS (No.-Ave.-Lg.) — MICHIGAN: Morris 4-17.5-33; G. White 1-10.0-10. OHIO STATE: Holland 4-26.5-47; Ross 1-16.0-16.
DEFENSIVE FUMBLES RECOVERED BY — MICHIGAN: None. OHIO STATE: Gordon.

INTERCEPTIONS — MICHIGAN: McIntyre. OHIO STATE: D. Brown, Kee.
TACKLES FOR LOSS — MICHIGAN: Moeller, Messner. OHIO STATE: Kee (2), Gordon (2), Rogan, Team (3).
TACKLES (Solo-Ass.-Tot.) — MICHIGAN: Moeller 5-8-13; McIntyre 6-6-12; Rivers 3-5-8; Folkertama 0-4-6; Gant 2-3-5; Hicks 2-3-5; Messner 2-3-5; Heren 3-1-4; B. Harris 1-3-4; Campbell 3-0-3; B. White 3-0-3; Mallory 0-2-2; Hassel 0-2-2; Willingham 0-2-2; Thibert 1-1-2; Moons 0-1-1; Bishop 0-1-1; Arnold 0-1-1; G. White 1-0-1; Morris 0-1-1; T. Schulte 0-1-1; Perryman 0-1-1; To. Schulte 0-1-1. OHIO STATE: Spielman 10-19-29; Kee 4-15-19; Gordon 4-6-10; D. Brown 2-7-9; Rogan 5-4-9; Isaman 3-5-8; White 0-7-7; Leach 0-4-4; J. Brown 0-4-4; Lee 0-4-4; Kumerow 0-3-3; M. Sullivan 1-2-3; Thomas 0-2-2; Ridder 1-1-2; McCray 0-2-2; Carter 1-0-1; Bell 0-1-1; Smith 0-1-1; Prelock 0-1-1; J. Sullivan 0-1-1; Hoak 0-1-1; Team 3-0-3.

Players In The Game

MICHIGAN — Willingham, Thibert, Messner, Herrmann, J. Walker, B. Harris, Folkertama, B. White, Heren, T. Schulte, Moeller, Grant, McIntyre, To. Schulte, Rivers, Hicks, Mallory, Gant, Campbell, Arnold, Mouton, Hassel, Bishop, A. Mitchell, Robbins, Moons, Perryman, Higgins, Jokisch, Husar, Dames, Chester, Vitale, Borowski, Hammerstein, Elliott, J. Brown, D. Walker, McMurtry, Harbaugh, G. White, Morris, Wilcher, Gillette.
OHIO STATE — Tuggart, Hutchison, Staysniak, Moxley, Uhlenhake, Maggs, Tom Moore, Zackeroff, Shaffer, Carter, Holland, Karsatos, Powell, Workman, Bryant, Prelock, Cooper, Matlock, Walker, Harris, Ross, Frantz, Kumerow, Graves, Higdon, Anderzack, McCray, H. Brown, Showalter, Ridder, M. Sullivan, Thomas, Lee, Isaman, Spielman, J. Sullivan, Jenkins, Kee, Leach, Gordon, Bell, White, Jackson, Robinson, Dumas, Smith, Rogan, D. Brown, Tupa, O'Morrow.

Season Statistics

(FINAL REGULAR SEASON)	OPP	OSO	RUSHING	ATT	GAIN	LOST	RET	AVG	TD	LG	
FIRST DOWNS	220	242	Workman	197	1029	44	985	5.0	7	46	
Rushing	103	121	Bryant	139	681	28	653	4.7	3	33	
Passing	106	104	Cooper	100	417	5	412	4.1	6	15	
Penalty	11	17	Karsatos	43	180	54	126	2.9	2	29	
NET YARDS RUSHING	1701	2368	Walker	9	36	1	35	3.9	0	11	
Attempts	4925	5346	Woolbridge	10	31	3	30	3.0	0	7	
Yards Gained	2093	2549	Tupa	21	54	31	23	1.1	0	9	
Yards Lost	392	181	Higdon	3	22	0	22	7.3	0	11	
Average Per Game	141.8	197.3	Holland	6	28	10	18	3.0	1	26	
Average Per Play	3.4	4.3	Robinson	3	18	0	18	6.0	0	8	
NET YARDS PASSING	2152	2312	Ross	3	16	0	16	5.3	0	7	
Attempted	340	295	Greenock	5	15	1	14	2.8	0	6	
Completed	177	163	Matlock	3	9	0	9	3.0	0	6	
Had Intercepted	22	10	Harris	2	7	0	7	3.5	0	4	
Percentage	.521	.553	Carter	1	0	0	6.0	0	6		
Average Per Game	179.3	192.7	*Team*	1	0	6	-	-	-		
Average Per Play	6.3	7.8									
TOTAL NET GAIN	3853	4680									
Total Plays	835	841	PASSING ATT COMP INT YDS PCT YD LG SA RT								
Average Per Game	371.1	390.0	Karsatos	251	135	8	1927	.538	13	72	8
Average Per Play	4.6	5.6	Tupa	41	27	1	375	.659	3	33	2
POINTS	167	319	Workman	2	1	0	1	.500	1	10	0
Touchdowns	17	38	Ross	1	0	1	0	.000	0	0	0
Hub-Pass-Other	10-5-2	19-17-2									
KICKING	13-13	36-34									
KICKING	1-1	1-0	RECEIVING NO YARDS AVG TD LG								
KICKING	3-1	1-0	Carter	65	1066	16.4	11	72			
Field Goals	22-16	29-19	Harris	24	391	16.3	2	58			
Safeties	0	0	Workman	19	157	8.3	1	20			
Average Per Game	13.9	26.6	Cooper	15	146	9.7	0	19			
FOULS-HAD BLOCKED	58-1	51-1	Ross	18	206	20.8	2	38			
Yards	2266	2180	Tuggart	12	129	9.1	0	21			
Touchback-Inside 20	7-7	10-16	Holland	7	105	15.0	1	23			
Average Per Funt	39.1	42.7	Bryant	5	34	6.8	0	11			
Net Average	34.0	39.5	Dawson	2	18	9.0	0	11			
PUNT RETURNS-FC	21-7	35-5									
Yards-TD	166-1	295-0	SCORING TD R-P-O EPA-K EPA-EFF EFF AT-FUT FTR								
Average Per Return	7.9	8.4	Frantz	0	0-0-0	22-22	0-0	0-0	20-15	67	
KICKOFF RETURNS-FC	57-0	40-0	Carter	11	0-11-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	66	
Yards-TD	131-0	794-0	Workman	8	7-1-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	48	
Average Per Return	23.9	19.9	Cooper	6	6-0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	36	
INTERCEPTIONS	10	24	O'Morrow	0	0-0-0	14-12	0-0	0-0	19-4	24	
Yards-TD	110-1	342-2	Bryant	3	3-0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	18	
Average Per Return	11.0	14.3	Harris	2	0-2-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	12	
PENALTIES-Yards	63-530	61-484	Holland	2	1-1-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	12	
Offense	35-261	25-196	Karsatos	2	2-0-0	0-0	0-0	1-0	0-0	12	
Defense	17-196	26-236	Ross	2	2-0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	12	
Special Teams	11-73	10-72	D. Brown	1	0-0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	6	
FUMBLES-Lost	30-21	21-11	Rogan	1	0-0-1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	6	
THIRD DOWN EFFICIENCY	53-163	75-174	Sullivan	1	0-0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	6	
Percentage	.325	.431	*Team*	0	0-0-0	0-0	1-0	0-0	0-0	0	
SACKS RT	10-55	20-165									
TIME OF POSSESSION	349:05	370:55	PUNTING NO YARDS AVG RET/AVG TD LG SA RT								
Average Per Game	29:05	30:55	Tupa	50	2180	43.6	2023/40.5	10	16	175	

SCORE BY QUARTER	1	2	3	4	TOTAL	POSS	NO	PC	YDS	AVG	TD	LG	
Opponents	20	56	41	50	167				34	5	288	8.5	0
Ohio State	92	95	80	52	319				1	0	7	7.0	0

FIELD GOALS	(29-19, .655)	1986 OHIO STATE REUNITS	(9-3, T-1)
Frantz (20-15 .750)	43+, 21+, 22+, 22+,	H-OSU 10, Alabama	16- 68,296
21+, 36+, 30+, 39+, 37+, 41+, 20+, 23+,		A-OSU 7, Washington	40- 61,071
28+, 19+, 52+, 21+, 33-, 43-, 27+, 45-		H-OSU 13, Colorado	10+ 88,044
O'Morrow (9-4 .444)	42-, 37+, 44-, 29+,	H-OSU 44, Utah	6+ 89,645
38-, 19+, 40+, 31-, 54-		H-OSU 14, Illinois	0+ 90,030
		A-OSU 24, Indiana	22+ 51,641
FG DISTANCE	0-29 30-39 40-49 50+ TOTAL	A-OSU 39, Purdue	11+ 68,737
Frantz	10-10 5-3 4-2 1-0 20-15	H-OSU 33, Minnesota	0+ 89,836
O'Morrow	2-2 3-1 3-1 1-0 9-4	A-OSU 31, Iowa	10+ 67,640
		H-OSU 30, Northwestern	9+ 89,808
KICKOFF RETURNS NO FC YDS AVG TD LG		A-OSU 10, Wisconsin	17+ 62,200
Holland	23 0 490 21.3 0 47	H-OSU 24, Michigan	26- 90,674
Workman	7 0 162 23.1 0 39		
Ross	7 0 124 17.7 0 25		
M. Sullivan	2 0 18 9.0 0 10		
Carter	1 0 0 0.0 0 0		

PASS INTERCEPTIONS NO YARDS AVG TD LG	ATTENDANCE GAMES TOTAL AVERAGE		
Gordon	6 39 6.5 0 21	Ross	6 538,897 89,750
Rogan	5 39 7.8 1 31	Away	6 379,805 63,234
D. Brown	4 117 29.3 1 100	Season	12 917,902 75,492
Spielman	4 84 21.0 0 56		
White	2 35 17.5 0 35	DEFENSIVE STATISTICS	TAC- QB
Ridder	1 13 13.0 0 13	PLAYERS SOLO ASSIST TOTAL LOSS BACK	
Craig	1 12 12.0 0 12	Spielman	98 96 194 8-24 2-13
Kee	1 3 3.0 0 3	Gordon	52 37 89 6-29 1-17
		Kee	37 44 81 6-18
		Rogan	45 27 72 5-16
		D. Brown	35 28 63
		Kumerow	38 23 61 9-62 6-54
		Leach	18 34 52 3-10 1- 8
		Lee	14 36 50 3-21 2-20
		Isaman	16 30 46 3-3 1- 1
		M. Sullivan	21 22 43 2-12 1- 7
		Kidder	24 18 42 7-25 2-12
		J. Sullivan	15 25 40 3-21 2-18
		White	15 20 35 1- 5
		H. Brown	14 13 27 2- 9 1- 7
		Jackson	13 9 22 1- 1
		Dumas	7 5 12
		Showalter	5 6 11
		Smith	6 4 10
		Graves	3 6 9 2- 9 1- 8
		McCray	2 7 9
		Wollman	5 1 6
		Higdon	4 2 6
		Jenkins	3 3 5
		Thomas	1 4 5 1- 4
		Zisakovic	2 2 4
		Hoak	1 3 4
		Craig	2 1 3
		Hutchison	2 1 3
		Bell	1 2 3
		Carter	2 0 2
		Holland	2 0 2
		Robinson	2 0 2
		Moore	1 1 2
		Prelock	0 2 2
		Maggs	1 0 1
		Tupa	1 0 1
		Zackeroff	1 0 1
		Walker	0 1 1
		Team	10-57

PASSES BROKEN UP (30)	FUMBLES GAINED (19)
6-Kumerow, 4-Leach, 3-Jackson, White,	4-Rogan, 3-Kee, Isaman, 2-Kidder, Gordon,
2-D. Brown, Kidder, Rogan, Spielman,	1-H. Brown, Kumerow, Leach, Spielman,
1-H. Brown, Graves, Isaman, Kee, Smith,	White
J. Sullivan	
FUMBLES RECOVERED [DEFENSIVE] (21)	
4-Gordon, 3-D. Brown, 1-Anderson, Higdon,	
Kee, Kumerow, Leach, Lee, Kidder, Rogan,	
Jenkins, Showalter, Spielman, J. Sullivan, Thomas,	
White, *Team*	
OSO FUMBLES - NUMBER/LOST (21/11)	
Workman (7/5) Bryant (3/3) Cooper (1/3)	
Karsatos (3/0) Ross (4/0) *Team* (1/0)	
H-OSU KICKS (2)	
1-M. Sullivan (Punt), Lee (Field Goal)	
TOUCHDOWN KAYS (4)	
2-Holland, 1-D. Brown, Rogan	
FUMBLES RECOVERED [OFFENSIVE] (10)	
3-Carter, Karsatos, 1-Ross, Spielman,	
Staysniak, Workman	

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End Of Career Emotional For Karsatos

After the Ohio State defense had intercepted Texas A&M quarterback Kevin Murray five times in a 28-12 Cotton Bowl victory, Buckeye quarterback Jim Karsatos was asked if he would like to go up against that same defense under game conditions.

"I don't know," answered Karsatos, who completed 10 of 21 passes for 195 yards in his final game as a Buckeye. "We face them in practice. At the beginning of practice, they usually win. By the end of practice, we usually win. So it's kind of a standoff."

But this confrontation, in front of 74,188 spectators, came out the right way for Karsatos as he closed out his collegiate career with a victory.

One scribe asked the senior signal caller from Fullerton, Calif., about finally having finished his "15-year" OSU career.

"Thanks a lot. Try six," snapped Karsatos in a joking tone. "But no, as a matter of fact, I'm trying to control my emotions right now. I'm just happy. I don't know what to say right now. I'll have to talk to the guys individually later."

"But the young guys played their hearts out for the seniors and the seniors were just out there to win the game and have fun. Which we did. I think all of the seniors will tell you they had a great time."

ONE SENIOR WHO will tell you he had a great time was inside linebacker Michael Kee.

Kee, out of Columbus Eastmoor High School, capped his five-year career by intercepting a Murray pass and returning it for a touchdown late in the fourth quarter. His TD jaunt — it seemed to take him forever to cover the 49 yards down the left sideline — was

"Quotebook"

his first as a collegian.

"I'm just grateful to get an interception like that," said Kee, who also had a team-leading 12 tackles, including one for a loss. "Darryl Lee kind of came up and hit the quarterback, made him throw a bad pass and it came right to me. I just had to look it in."

It was a perfect ending to his playing days at OSU.

"I'd have to think so," said Kee, a second-team All-Big Ten selection this season. "The kind of injuries I've had and just to come back and get that touchdown like that, it was a great feeling."

One of the first people to meet Kee when he returned to the bench was his high school coach, Bob Stuart.

Now a volunteer coach with the Buckeyes, Stuart was head coach at Eastmoor for 26 years, turning out such standouts as Archie, Ray, Duncan and Keith Griffin, Doug VanHorn, Byron Lee, Mike Guess, Ken Hollister, Paul Naumoff and many, many more, including Kee.

"He was pretty proud," said Kee. "Like I said, it was just a good feeling to end it like that."

OSU CO-CAPTAIN Sonny Gordon, a first-team All-Big Ten pick, said the team accepted the challenge to bounce back from the low at the start of the season, the highs in the middle and another low at the end with the loss to arch-rival Michigan.

"This was a big challenge for us, to see if we could bounce back from defeat," said Gordon, who had one of

OSU's five pass thefts. "I think this is going to set our underclassmen on their way for next season. This is the way I wanted to go out, with a big bang."

Could Gordon, in his wildest dreams, imagine Ohio State recording five interceptions against Murray?

"We averaged something like four turnovers a game," replied the senior roverback from Middletown (Ohio) High School. "I wouldn't have imagined five interceptions. Maybe something like three or four."

SENIOR CENTER Bob Maggs also liked the way his Ohio State story ended.

"Oh, yeah, a great ending," said the two-time All-Big Ten selection. "I came in winning my first year and I went out now a winner. I'm real happy, but yet sad my career is over. I had a great time at Ohio State. I'd never change anything about it. It's just real mixed emotions I have right now."

PRIOR TO THE game, Karsatos was asked about his size. Several references were made that he looked more like an offensive guard than a quarterback.

"They all think I'm a little big for a quarterback," said Karsatos. "But you know, it's not the size, it's the quality of the package."

CHRIS SPIELMAN got off a couple of quotable quotes during various pre-game interviews.

"The atmosphere, the part of being here at a bowl game is a reward," said Spielman. "Last night we were sitting there, we had a nice Texas barbecue, we had cowboy hats. Today, we are going to a dude ranch, and we can pop on a horse for a few minutes. These are the things the committee has planned for us and things like that. What you

are doing is living rich for a week. That is a good feeling."

Spielman addressed the issue of playing against the Aggies.

"With the type of people we have played, week in and week out, in playing Alabama and Washington, and the Big Ten schedule, we play a number of great athletes each week," said Spielman. "We have a tremendous amount of confidence in our abilities."

"They tell you when you come to Ohio State, you're a good football player or you would not be playing at an Ohio State, a Michigan or Texas A&M. We respect our opponents, but then again, we are not going to be up here shaking and being intimidated. We are going out there to play. When it comes time to strap them up, we will be there and they will be there."

JUNIOR SAFETY William White was asked about the Buckeyes losing senior roverback Sonny Gordon after this season.

"I'll miss him something terrible," said White, feigning a cry. "We've held hands in the huddle for three years. He's always out there. I have really good confidence in him. We know each other, without even saying anything. The coaches like a lot of communication on the field. But me and Sonny very seldom say anything, and yet we always seem to be on the right page."

GARY BLACKNEY, Ohio State's defensive coordinator, was asked whether the game would be a high-scoring or low-scoring affair.

"I hope it is low scoring," said Blackney, "because I have to meet with Coach Bruce Friday morning. I hope it is low scoring and we come out the winner. But the potential for a high-scoring game is there."

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OSU In Cotton Win Thanks To Defense

By Dave Waitkus

In order to win on the other guy's playground, you sometimes have to steal the ball and run the other way.

That was the formula Ohio State followed to perfection on New Year's Day as the football Buckeyes intercepted Texas A&M's bid for a second straight Cotton Bowl triumph in Dallas. Picking off Aggie quarterback Kevin Murray five times in the second half — including twice for touchdowns — Ohio State rallied for a 28-12 victory and capped a wild and eventful 10-3 season.

"We did a great job defending that football team (the Aggies). The whole football team did a good job," said a dapper Ohio State coach Earle Bruce, who appeared before a Cotton Bowl crowd of 74,188 resplendently attired in a dark suit and matching fedora. "The (Buckeye) defense, facing adversity at times, fought back and put some points on the scoreboard. That was the difference in the game."

Actually, the entire OSU squad faced adverse conditions in sunny Dallas as it represented the Big Ten for the first time in the 51-year history of the

Cotton Bowl. Challenging Texas A&M — which entered the game 9-2 and ranked eighth in the nation — the Buckeyes faced a task similar to taking on USC or UCLA out west in their own back yard.

However, not even the waving white towels or the maroon-clad Aggie "12th Man" could halt the Buckeye tide once Chris Spielman ignited a wave of Ohio State interceptions.

Normally serving as a catalyst with his stiff defense and bone-jarring tackles, Spielman could hardly wait to get his hands on a Murray pass early in the third period.

Trailing 7-6 at the half, A&M — the champion of the Southwest Conference for the second straight year — set up shop deep in its own territory at the 18. Two plays and a penalty moved the Aggies back to the 15, and Murray, who was five of 12 for 79 yards and no interceptions in the first half, searched for his favorite receiver, tight end Rod Bernatine.

Instead, however, he found Spielman, who was lurking in the middle at his linebacker spot. Although intercepting the pass was no

Bucks Unveil Surprise With Spiffy Red Shoes

The business suit and dress hat of coach Earle Bruce were not the only things new around the Ohio State football team as it took on — and pounded — the Aggies of Texas A&M in the Cotton Bowl on Jan. 1.

The Buckeyes scampered onto the field for their pre-game conditioning and workouts sporting new red shoes.

"I've got to be honest with you," said Bruce after OSU had gained a 28-12 victory over the Aggies. "It was a Nike promotion. They thought the red shoes were flashy. You win some, you lose some. It might be red shoes from now on. I think 70 or 80 or 90 percent liked them."

Outside linebacker Chris Spielman was one of those who liked the new shoes.

"I'm going to wear them the rest of the year," said Spielman, a unanimous selection as the game's most valuable defensive performer. "I

scored a touchdown. I like the red shoes."

Ohio State athletic director Rick Bay was not as sure about the new footwear.

"At first," said Bay, "I didn't like the red shoes. And then I thought well, anything that can detract from the red shoes is good. But I didn't expect a suit."

Bay was alluding to Bruce's attire. Archie Griffin, the only two-time winner of the Heisman Trophy, told of the Buckeyes having worn red shoes in the past. According to Griffin, Ohio State teams of 1972 and 1973 donned red shoes at the discretion of the players. The last time any Buckeyes wore red shoes was in the 1976 Rose Bowl.

"People probably didn't notice them that much," said Griffin of the Cotton Bowl experience with new footwear. "But the players liked the look and they wanted to change."

unique feat for the Buckeye junior, Spielman — who was later named the game's most valuable defensive player — broke new ground when he reeved up his new red shoes and raced 24 yards for his first collegiate touchdown. Suddenly, following Matt Frantz's successful extra point, the Bucks were the proud owners of a 14-6 lead.

Not to be overshadowed in his final game as a Buckeye, senior roverback Sonny Gordon further spoiled Murray's New Year's celebration when he halted the Aggies' ensuing drive with a diving interception at the OSU 41. That pass was also intended for Bernatine, but Gordon picked it off and pointed Ohio State toward its game-breaking score.

Buckeye quarterback Jim Karsatos hooked up with split end Nate Harris for 30 of those yards to the Aggie 31. Two plays yielded only two more yards, so Karsatos went back to Harris on third down. Catching the ball in the flat, Harris cut in behind a good block from tailback Vince Workman and moved 18 yards to the 11.

Workman, who gained just 45 yards in 13 attempts during the contest, made his longest run of the day — eight yards — count for six big points to cap the march. Taking a pitch left from Karsatos on third down, Workman outraced the Aggie defenders to the flag for the TD. The score, including the point after, gave the charged-up Buckeyes a healthy 21-6 advantage with 7:19 left in the third period.

"We played very well defensively in the second half, but we did not play very well offensively in the second half," said A&M coach Jackie Sherrill. "You're not going to make that many turnovers and be in the game with a team like Ohio State."

"We knew Ohio State was a very good football team," he continued, "but we didn't know they would make the great plays they did."

Although the Buckeyes did get another big play in the form of an Eric Kumerow interception to open the fourth quarter, it was an Alex Morris theft of a Karsatos pass which kept A&M in the game.

Following Morris' effort, which gave the Aggies the ball on OSU's 42, Murray guided A&M into the end zone. Using a pair of Ohio State penalties to their advantage, the Aggies finally hit paydirt when Roger Vick scored from two yards away. A two-point conversion pass attempt from Murray

to Keith Woodside failed, however, and Ohio State maintained the upper hand with a 21-12 lead.

Vick, who hurt the Buckeyes with 52 yards in the first half, earned most valuable offensive player honors for the game, as he finished with 113 yards on 24 carries. The closest player to Vick's total on the ground was OSU's George Cooper, who managed 55 yards in 13 carries.

Following the touchdown, Ohio State suffered its last anxiety attack of the day, as A&M forced a Buckeye punt from the 12. Tupa's punt carried only to the OSU 46, and the Aggies were back in action at the 43 with 6:32 left to play.

Once again, though, it was Spielman to the rescue as Murray's rough second half became a record-setting nightmare. Overall, Murray's five interceptions broke the dubious Cotton Bowl mark of four, which had been held by former Notre Dame quarterback Joe Montana. The grand total of eight interceptions in the game (five by Murray, two by Karsatos, one by Tupa) also tied a Cotton Bowl record which had stood since 1962 when Mississippi and Texas combined for eight.

On second down from the Buckeye 45, Murray again found Spielman, and the junior All-American returned the ball 10 yards before he was finally brought down.

"I felt like we were still in the game until the fourth interception," claimed Sherrill. "We did throw the ball well at times, but I don't think we threw it with the same velocity as we have in the past."

Buckeye linebacker Michael Kee put the finishing touches on Murray and Texas A&M's nightmare a short time later when the Aggies loaded up for one last attempt at a miracle comeback.

With the clock heading for the three-minute mark, Murray dropped back to pass. The aerial found Kee in the middle, though, and the Buckeye senior rambled 49 yards for a touchdown and capped OSU's stunning 28-12 victory.

Ohio State's second-half defensive efforts also offset a first half that was spiced with a lot of impressive A&M offense. The Aggies, however, could not put the ball in the end zone and were forced to settle for a pair of field goals.

In fact, A&M struck first when it took the opening kickoff and marched

The Numbers Game

Buckeyes 28, Aggies 12

OHIO STATE	0	7	14	7	28
TEXAS A&M	3	3	0	6	12

A&M — Slater 30 field goal 10:45
 OSU — Karsatos 3 run (Frantz kick) 14:19
 A&M — Slater 44 field goal 9:27
 OSU — Spielman 24 interception return (Frantz kick) 13:39
 OSU — Workman 8 run (Frantz kick) 7:16
 A&M — Vick 2 run (pass failed) 9:10
 OSU — Kee 49 interception return (Frantz kick) 2:49
 Att. — 74,188

	OSU	A&M
First Downs	16	18
Rushing	10	10
Passing	6	7
Penalty	0	1
Rushes-Yards	36-85	42-160
Passing Yards	218	136
Passes	29-13-3	33-13-5
Offensive Plays	65	75
Total Net Yards	303	296
Third Down Eff.	9-17	3-17
Punts	6-35.2	6-42.2
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	1-0
Penalties	11-70	3-15
Time Of Possession	28:37	31:23

Individual Statistics

RUSHING (Att.-Net Yds.) — OHIO STATE: Cooper 13-55; Workman 13-45; Bryant 2-3; Karsatos 4-2; Tupa 2-(minus 5); Holland 2-(minus 15). TEXAS A&M: Vick 24-113; Woodside 11-32; Murray 5-12; Valentine 1-5; Bernatine 1-(minus 2).

PASSING (Att.-Comp.-Int.-Yds.-TD) — OHIO STATE: Karsatos 21-10-2-195-0; Tupa 8-3-1-23-0. TEXAS A&M: Murray 31-12-5-143-0; Stump 2-1-0-(minus 7)-0.

RECEIVING (Rec.-Yds.) — OHIO STATE: Harris 6-105; Carter 4-61; Holland 1-37; Cooper 1-10; Ross 1-5. TEXAS A&M: Bernatine 4-59; Walker 3-35; Woodside 3-14; Vick 2-17; Thompson 1-11.

PUNTING (No.-Ave.-Lg.) — OHIO STATE: Tupa 6-35.2-58; TEXAS A&M: Stump 1-41-0-41; Tachantz 5-42-2-60.

PUNT RETURNS (No.-Ave.-Lg.) — OHIO STATE: Ross 1-8-0-8. TEXAS A&M: Harris 2-4-5-6.

KICKOFF RETURNS (No.-Ave.-Lg.) — OHIO STATE: Ross 1-17-0-17; Holland 1-13-0-13; M. Sullivan 1-4-0-4. TEXAS A&M: Harris 4-15-0-23.

DEFENSIVE FUMBLES RECOVERED BY — OHIO STATE: None. TEXAS A&M: None.

INTERCEPTIONS — OHIO STATE: Spielman 2, Gordon, Kumerow, Kee. TEXAS A&M: Brooks, Kelm, Morris.

TACKLES FOR LOSS — OHIO STATE: Lee, McCray, Spielman, Kee, Leach, Gordon. TEXAS A&M: Roper, Saddler, Muller, Howard, Kelm, Holland.

TACKLES (Solo-Ass.-Tot.) — OHIO STATE: Kee 11-1-12; Spielman 7-4-11; Leach 6-5-11; Rogan 4-3-7; D. Brown 4-3-7; Gordon 2-3-5; Kumerow 4-1-5; Bell 2-2-4; McCray 3-1-4; White 3-0-3; Thomas 2-0-2; M. Sullivan 1-1-2; Showalter 2-0-2; Lee 2-0-2; Jackson 1-0-1; Dumas 1-0-1. TEXAS A&M: Kelm 9-4-13; Howard 9-3-12; Holland 8-3-11; Brooks 8-0-8; Bullitt 3-5-8; Corrington 5-2-7; Saddler 2-2-4; Muller 3-1-4; Flowers 1-2-3; Morris 3-0-3; O'Brien 3-0-3; Roper 1-1-2; Holley 2-0-2; Jones 1-1-2; Balcar 1-1-2; Haverd 1-0-1; Motley 1-0-1; Tankersley 1-0-1.

Continued On Page 20

The View From 15th and High

By Frank L. Moskowitz, BSB Publisher

Credit Cotton Bowl Victory To Defense

The Ohio State defense owed the team one.

The OSU offense put 24 points on the board against Michigan in the regular season finale, normally enough to put the Wolverines away. But the defense, touted as the strength of the team and featuring some of the best players in the country, was unable to contain Michigan, giving up 529 yards and allowing the Maize and Blue to keep Ohio State from realizing a truly storybook ending to a season that had started in such turmoil.

With the Rose Bowl part of the script out of the question, however, the Buckeyes still came up with a fine ending to their 1986 story. Their victory over Texas A&M was an impressive one, and you can chalk this one up to that same defense that allowed Michigan to control the ball so well just a few weeks earlier.

To fully appreciate the job that the OSU defense did, you have to appreciate what the Aggies had done on offense this season. They were averaging 440.2 yards a game, third in the country and were averaging 32.7 points an outing. Ohio State held A&M to 296 yards and just 12 points, with only one touchdown, scored on a drive aided by two major penalties against the Bucks. Only Arkansas, which scored a 14-10 victory in Little Rock, held the Aggies to fewer points.

The two-time Southwest Conference champions had converted on 46.7 percent of their third downs during the regular season, but clicked only three times in 17 tries against OSU for 17.6 percent.

The job that the Buckeyes did on A&M quarterback Kevin Murray and the Aggie passing game was especially outstanding. Murray had a superb 1986 season, completing 60.7 percent of his 349 passes for 2,463 yards, 17 touchdowns and only eight interceptions. Murray had been picked off only once in his last seven games.

The Buckeyes intercepted him five times, holding him to only 12 of 31 passing for 143 yards, more than 80 yards below the 223.9 he was averaging coming into the game.

Much credit has to be given, not only for the Buckeyes' execution on defense, but to the defensive game plan drawn up by the coaches. Murray was clearly confused on several occasions and his statistics during the game speak for both themselves and the OSU defense. On several plays where the Buckeyes chose to mount only a minimal pass rush, Murray had as much time as he wanted in the pocket, but was still unable to find a receiver.

About the only fault I could find with the Buckeye defense was that on several occasions OSU players hit Aggie runners hard at the line of scrimmage, but A&M was still able to turn the plays into solid gains.

AS FOR THE OSU offense, it was not spectacular, but it did what it had to do to win. I was especially impressed with the way Ohio State, recognizing that All-American Cris Carter was receiving double and triple coverage, looked to other receivers. At times this season, I felt the Buckeyes were guilty of forcing the ball to Carter instead of looking to secondary receivers.

By looking elsewhere against Texas

A&M, quarterbacks Jim Karsatos and Tom Tupa were able to hit Nate Harris six times for 105 yards, including a big 51-yarder, and Jamie Holland hauled in an outstanding 37-yarder to set up OSU's first touchdown. Holland might have had more if he had a little better luck holding on to the ball.

Carter was still able to pull in four passes for 61 yards, more yards than any Aggie receiver. The Buckeyes would be well served, however, if they learn a lesson from their success at the Cotton Bowl and design the passing game to go elsewhere when Carter is covered. Eventually, if other receivers turn in games like Harris did in Dallas, defense will loosen up on Carter, truly one of the best in the game.

IT WAS INTERESTING to note that while Oklahoma linebacker Brian Bosworth was sidelined at the Orange Bowl because traces of steroids were detected in his system, OSU linebacker Chris Spielman turned in a game-breaking performance against the Aggies. That has to help Spielman's stock in terms of next season's post-season awards.

IT IS THE VIEW from this corner that winning is the bottom line for most Ohio State fans. If OSU had lost to Texas A&M, Earle Bruce would have, no doubt, been ridiculed for his new sideline attire. However, with OSU's convincing win over the Southwest Conference champs, the coach's dress became just one more subject for conversation at post-game victory parties.

One thing is certain. Bruce and his Buckeyes went over well in Texas. If you go down there, you appreciate the fact that most people in Texas, unless they went to A&M, hate the Aggies. So the Buckeyes won one for the entire non-A&M oriented part of the state. And they won convincingly.

With the Ohio State defense doing an impressive job of stopping the high-powered Aggie offense and the OSU offense connecting on several long passes, Bruce came off in Texas as innovative. And after the Dallas papers featured stories on how Bruce lacked color, Texans probably even found the Buckeye coach a little colorful after he surprised football fans with his formal attire. Tom Landry isn't considered the most colorful coach either and he's done very well in Dallas wearing a suit and hat.

Ohio State was so well received in Dallas that one is left wondering if the Buckeyes might not land a Texas prep prospect in the near future. By my recollection, the last football player to come to Columbus from Texas was Victor Langley, an extremely highly regarded running back from the Dallas area who chose OSU over Texas and Oklahoma in 1980. Things did not work out at Ohio State for Langley and the Bucks haven't landed a Texan since.

BACK IN August, *Buckeye Sports Bulletin* ran its annual preseason consensus top twenty, compiled from the preseason picks of several major publications. In that poll, the Ohio State football team was chosen to come in ninth.

After all the ups and downs for the Buckeyes in 1986, they ended up finishing seventh in the final AP poll.

Interestingly, Ohio State finished ahead of all three teams that defeated the Buckeyes this season, in the final poll.

By the way, in that preseason consensus poll, Oklahoma was the choice to finish first, followed by Michigan, Miami, Alabama, Penn State, Texas A&M and Nebraska. The Buckeyes and Tennessee rounded out the top ten, tied for the ninth spot.

THE BIG WIN in the Cotton Bowl could give OSU some excellent momentum heading into 1987 when the Buckeyes again face an extremely tough schedule. Not only must Ohio State play West Virginia and travel to LSU in 1987, but the Bucks close their campaign with Iowa at home and Michigan in Ann Arbor. In addition, the Buckeyes drop Northwestern from the schedule in 1987 and pick up Michigan State.

PERHAPS ONE OF the most moving moments at the Cotton Bowl

Bruce Seeks New Image

Continued From Page 1

Bruce remembers the conversation, which came shortly after the 13-10 win over Colorado.

"He said 'you'd better change your image,'" said Bruce. "Those were his exact words."

Bay picks it up from there:

"I went in and said 'you know, it will take some of the pressure off the kids. Even your detractors will smile and say the guy does have a sense of humor and is concerned about what others say, is sensitive to what others think.' I said 'you ought to come out there with a tux.' He said 'Holy God, I can't possibly do that.' He was thinking about throwing me out of the office."

The thought of Bruce wearing a tuxedo was a little too much.

"Well," said Bay, "at least a suit. I said I think it will really make a statement. The kids will be more relaxed and they'll enjoy it. Well, he said, 'well, it's not a bad idea. Let me think about it.' That's the last I said about it."

Buckeyes Intercept Aggies

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to the OSU 14. A third-down pass intended for Bernstine sailed high, though, and Sherrill was content to settle for Scott Slater's 30-yard field goal.

Ohio State took that notion one step further on its first possession, as the Bucks took the ensuing kick and charged toward the Aggie end zone. Karsatos and Harris — who finished as the game's leading receiver with six catches for 105 yards — hooked up for 51 of the yards on one pass play down the left sideline. The drive misfired, however, when A&M's Terrance Brooks intercepted a pass intended for Cris Carter in the end zone.

Using even more big plays, including a leaping 33-yard reception by Carter on third down, Ohio State finally dented the scoreboard on the second play of the second quarter.

came when nearly every Ohio State fan in attendance stayed after the game to watch and listen to the OSU marching band perform the *Script Ohio*. Throughout the game, Buckeye fans had to be impressed with the assorted cheers that every Aggie seemed to know by heart. The impressive spirit of the Aggie fans made OSU's victory that much sweeter and the post-game performance gave the Ohio State faithful a chance to show that they, too, have traditions and pride in their school.

THE WINNER OF the trip for two to the Cotton Bowl in BSB's Buckeye Bowl Bonanza was Marie Weidman of, interestingly enough, San Antonio, Texas.

The two-for-one gift subscription offer that we had in conjunction with the contest is valid until Feb. 15, 1987, so if you are still looking for a late gift for two people, take advantage of this chance to buy two gift subscriptions for \$21 today.

"He didn't do anything about it for 10 weeks," continued Bay. "When he came out today, I was as shocked as anyone else. I'm now officially his fashion consultant. I carry his clothes around. But I'm not taking blame for the hat. I didn't have anything to do with the hat. I'm taking the fifth on that."

Someone suggested that Bruce had even outdressed A&M coach Jackie Sherrill, himself a dapper dresser.

"I do think it helped his image," said Sherrill. "I think it helped his physique a little bit. You know, wearing dark suits makes you look a little thinner."

Bruce agreed.

"You're right about that, they really do."

Again, the question came up about whether Bruce would continue to dress up for Buckeye games.

"It might be a new image," said Bruce. "I don't know. I used to dress like this all the time in high school ball. We all dress sort of casual. But when we come to Dallas they all dress up. They put you to shame. We have threads up North too, you know."

Shortly after a diving Jamie Holland moved the Buckeyes to the one with a 38-yard catch, Karsatos faced second down from the three. Rolling right with tailback Jim Bryant on the option, Karsatos faked a pitch and cut in for the score. The march covered 80 yards, and it gave the Bucks the lead for good at 7-3.

The Aggies, however, narrowed the gap at 9:27 before intermission when a poor Tupa punt gave them the ball at the Ohio State 29. The OSU defense allowed them only two yards in three plays, though, and A&M was again forced to settle for Slater's field goal, which came from 44 yards away.

A&M even threatened once more in the half, but two straight incompletions left the Aggies at the Buckeye 36. This time, Slater's 53-yard attempt was wide to the right and the Bucks held their slim 7-6 lead at the half.