

BUCKEYE SPORTS BULLETIN

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OSU Must Prepare For Annual Showdown With Archrival Michigan

Buckeyes Unable To Savor Victory Over IU

By MARK REA

Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

Ohio State's 12-game regular season, whittled to three after the humbling loss to Penn State, is now a one-shot deal with archrival Michigan.

After a decisive second-half performance that helped salt away a 32-17 road victory over Indiana, the Buckeyes almost immediately turned their attention to the business at hand.

The Nittany Lions have already sewed up a trip to the Rose Bowl and, in so doing, knocked Illinois out of a chance at the Big Ten's runner-up spot.

That will now be decided between the Buckeyes and Wolverines when they go at each other in Ohio Stadium Nov. 19.

The teams will be coming into the game boasting modest two-game winning streaks. OSU was left for dead on Oct. 29 after that seven-touchdown drubbing at the hands of Penn State, the same day the Wolverines were handed a surprising setback by Wisconsin, their third loss of the season at home.

But the archenemies appear to enter this 91st renewal of the series on an up tick. Michigan fell behind early, then rolled over Minnesota 38-22 behind a school-record passing day by quarterback Todd Collins. Meanwhile, the Buckeyes were also falling behind early before flexing some second-half muscle and slipping past the Hoosiers.

And Ohio State got the victory by mixing some favorite ingredients — staunch defensive play and another 100-yard game from Eddie George — along with some that have been on the pantry shelf all too often this year. Joey Galloway caught four passes and returned a kickoff 93 yards for a touchdown, while Bobby Hoying rebounded from a shaky first half to take control of the game and throw a pair of second-half touchdown passes to boot.

It was a win the Buckeyes simply had to have. After the crushing defeat to the Nittany Lions at the end of last month, the team seemed to close ranks. Head coach John Cooper switched around the team's weekly practice routine and closed workout sessions to the public.

It was all designed to help eliminate distractions as OSU headed for a stretch run, and the strategy has worked — at least so far. Whether the third time is also the charm remains to be seen.

Of course, no one has to tell Cooper the importance of the upcoming game. Despite now posting eight wins or more in five of his seven seasons at the school, his failure to beat Michigan even



BREAKING THEIR BACKS — Ohio State sophomore defensive ends Matt Finkes (92) and Mike Vrabel (94) sandwich Indiana quarterback Chris Dittoe (14) in the fourth quarter, causing him to fumble. Finkes crawled over Dittoe to recover the loose football, setting up the Buckeyes' final score of the day as OSU rolled to a 32-17 victory.

once in six previous tries with the Buckeyes remains one of the reasons why he remains so unpopular in certain circles.

When asked how frustrating the futility against Michigan has been, Cooper simply replied, "About as frustrating as is humanly possible."

And no one has to tell the players themselves the ramifications of the game. While they may be playing for the future of their head coach — neither OSU president Gordon Gee nor athletic director Andy Geiger has tipped his hand as to which way he may be leaning — the players are also playing for personal pride.

Last year, it wasn't supposed to be a pride thing with the Wolverines. The Buckeyes were playing for an undefeated league record and their own trip to the Rose Bowl. But those dreams went up in smoke as Michigan scored an improbable 28-0 shutout that was almost as painful to the psyche as anything else.

"Have we got something to prove?" said junior linebacker Lorenzo Styles,

repeating a reporter's question aloud. "Yeah, I guess you could say that. But you can say just about anything about that game. It's just talk, and talk doesn't get it done. We have to take care of business this time. Then we can talk."

It used to be that recruiting classes very rarely went through their Ohio State careers without beating Michigan at least once. But since the Buckeyes haven't tasted victory against the bitter rivals since 1987, that has become an alarming trend of late.

Likewise, Ohio State used to frown on head coaches who lost three times in a row to Michigan. Two of the most popular coaches in the school's history — John W. Wilce and Francis Schmidt — fell victim to that practice, while Wes Fesler may have been a three-time All-American player at OSU, but three losses in a row to the Wolverines when he was head coach led to his stormy resignation following the famous "Snow Bowl" in 1950.

Even Woody Hayes was fired after

losing three straight to Michigan, even though the circumstances of the dismissal had little to do with defeats at the hands of "that team from up north."

Gee and Geiger have made it a common practice to tell anyone who asks that they will wait until after the season to make any decision regarding Cooper's future at Ohio State.

In fact, when Geiger was approached by reporters after the Indiana game with a similar question, he replied, "You can look it up, but the last time I checked, we still have one more game."

So which will it be next week? A game to secure Cooper a contract extension? A game to secure a nine-win season and a berth in the Florida Citrus Bowl on New Year's Day? Or a game to win back some of the pride that was lost last year and in previous years?

Maybe all of the above . . . and then some.

"I think a lot of people look at last

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TIM CARSON

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Gee, Geiger Need To Act Quickly

Editor's Notebook with Mark Rea

The university president is determined to do things the right way this time.

After debates concerning coaching contracts in 1987 and 1991, Gordon Gee has walked the right walk and talked the right talk this time around.

That's why, despite eight victories and Gee's continued determination to make sure his football coach's future is not pinned upon wins and losses to Michigan, I don't think you're going to see John Cooper receive any contract extension before the Buckeyes play the Wolverines.

Gee, along with Ohio State athletic director Andy Geiger, are continuing to give most people a sturdy "No comment" when asked about Cooper's coaching future with the Buckeyes.

As you all certainly must know by now, Cooper is in the next-to-last year of his contract, and it is paramount for OSU to act upon that contract after this season.

Both Gee and Geiger have said they will wait until the end of the season before they decide whether Cooper merits an extension or if they decide to go in a different direction.

But it is the two men's definition of "the end of the season" that bothers me. Hopefully, the rumors I hear that "the end of the season" means after the bowl game are untrue.

Gee and Geiger must be ready to act immediately following next week's game with Michigan. What more could they possibly have to deliberate? Neither man has been at Ohio State through the entire Cooper era, but rest assured both have a working knowledge of what has gone on during the last seven years.

If they haven't already made up their minds, each must certainly know what he is looking for in the Michigan game.

Therefore, when that game is over, I hope to see either Gee or Geiger — hopefully both — in the locker room. They either need to inform him that the university is prepared to buy out the remaining year of his contract or offer him an extension of at least three to four years.

Waiting around, tantamount to allowing Cooper and the rest of his coaching staff to twist in the wind, serves no purpose. In fact, it's the worst-case scenario. It would have the same adverse effect on recruiting that a similar situation did following the Liberty Bowl in 1990.

I know that Gee and Geiger are no-nonsense men when it comes to taking action on important matters. But nothing is more important at this point in time, and hopefully they will act, one way or the other, without delay.

LAST WEEK, I brought up the irony of a scenario that, if he leaves Ohio State for whatever reason, Cooper might be a candidate for a possible opening at Texas, thereby replacing John Mackovic, his old nemesis from Illinois.

I threw that out when someone suggested that Cooper might consider returning to his alma mater, Iowa State, in the event that Ohio State opted to make a change.

Whether or not he would be interested, reports we hear are saying that a former Iowa State head coach is already being considered for the Cyclones' job.

How much irony could anyone stand if Cooper and Earle Bruce went against one another for the same job?

Buckeyes would be Illinois and Michigan State. However, the Illini must still play Wisconsin next week while the Spartans have to travel to Penn State on Nov. 26.

Officials from the Holiday Bowl in San Diego, Calif., would love to invite the Buckeyes back for a second year in a row and, according to what I have been told, they do not have a "no-repeat" rule similar to the one which prevented OSU from playing in last year's Citrus Bowl.

However, if the Buckeyes tie with the Illini, the Holiday Bowl may opt to take Illinois because it defeated OSU in head-to-head competition this season. If that were to occur, Ohio State would then be headed for the Hall of Fame Bowl in Tampa, Fla., on Jan. 2.

However, the Buckeyes would have more victories than the Illini — eight to seven — and draw a traditionally larger crowd, both in person at the game and on television, making them the seemingly more attractive choice.

AND FINALLY, a word about Art Schlichter. The former Ohio State quarterback is headed for federal prison early next year for writing bad checks, presumably to feed his gambling addiction.

Arthur was, has been and continues to be a good friend of mine. I have known him for almost 20 years, through the best of times at Miami Trace High School and Ohio State to the worst of times when he was suspended by the NFL and struggled to keep his life afloat. Obviously, that struggle has become too much for him.

I never knew much about gambling as an addiction, but it is plain to see that it is no less an illness than addiction to drugs or alcohol. When it gets into your soul and nothing else matters — not your family, your reputation or even your own well-being — then I believe it is an illness.

Hopefully, some time away from society can help him beat his problem. He is a personable, charismatic individual whose charitable work over the years has been washed away by the public perception that he is now a pathetic creature who preys upon people's good nature to con money.

I prefer to believe that Art Schlichter simply cannot fight the demons within himself any longer. I hope he finds the strength he needs to make it back. His is a life worth saving.

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Ohio State Limits Hoosiers To Only 61 Total Yards After Intermission

Buckeyes Shut Down Indiana In Second Half

By MIKE WACHSMAN
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

At halftime of the Ohio State-Indiana showdown, the Buckeyes found themselves in a tight ball game with a precarious 19-17 lead.

But the Buckeye defense, which gave up a quick score just before the half, rallied after the intermission. The Buckeyes stifled Indiana to the tune of just 61 yards in the second half. They harassed IU quarterback Chris Dittoe, on the mark in the first half, into a five-for-15 showing in the second stanza.

It didn't take an expert to figure out that much of Ohio State's problem was getting caught in personnel changes and playing a tad too passively against a vanilla, but effective, Hoosier attack.

"We adjusted a bunch of our coverages and our calls," defensive coordinator Bill Young said of the halftime changes. "We were having some trouble in the first half with some of the personnel groups they had in. They'd have four receivers in, which is something we hadn't seen before. It got us off balance, but we made adjustments in the second half and things just worked out."

The Hoosiers were dominating the Buckeyes early, going on scoring drives of nine, 14 and 11 plays to account for their points.

The combination of tailback Alex Smith, who rolled up 65 of his 98 yards in the first half, and Dittoe, not pres-



MAKING THE STOP — An unidentified Ohio State player flies up to intercept himself to Indiana tailback Alex Smith (23). Smith managed to gain 98 yards, but only 33 of them in the second half against the Buckeyes' defense.

sured and hitting 15 of 20 passes, staked Indiana to the first-half success.

When the Buckeyes took those two

elements away, the game was sealed.

"It was important for us to go in at halftime and regroup," said defensive end Mike Vrabel. "They were getting the ball in the second half, so we knew we had to come up big and set the tone." And that the Buckeyes did.

After picking up a pair of first downs, the Hoosiers were forced to punt on the first drive of the second half. IU picked up just four more first downs the rest of the game, and Dittoe was sacked three times, all after intermission.

"It was important for us to just get pressure on him," said Vrabel, who had two of the sacks and forced a fumble that set up OSU's insurance touchdown. "We knew in the second half they'd come out throwing, so it was a big key of ours to pressure him."

The Buckeyes sensed Dittoe, who got his first-ever start last year against OSU in Ohio Stadium and played well, was a bit shell-shocked, and they rode that aggressiveness until the end of the contest.

"We felt we were getting to him," senior defensive tackle Randall Brown said. "We thought we were in better shape than they were. They seemed to be dying down in the fourth quarter and we were just getting stronger. They played hard and I take my hat off to

them, but we were just a little bit fresher at the end."

That increased pass rush certainly was a major boost for the Buckeye stop troops.

"I've got a lot of respect for Dittoe," Young said. "He played awfully well. We knew we couldn't let him stand back there and have all that time and confidence in his pass blockers. We made him hold the ball longer in the second half and he couldn't get into a rhythm, which gave the rush time to get to him."

If Ohio State can find the magic potion one more time, in a showdown for redemption with Michigan, then the season would have to be considered a success. Especially against preseason prognostications.

"We hold destiny in our own hands," Vrabel said. "It was key for us to come in here and get a victory. We played great in the second half, which I believe will carry over to next week's game."

IT IS not often that offensive play lifts a defense, but it has happened on a couple of occasions for the Buckeyes and did again with the Hoosiers.

After punting on the first series in the second half, Ohio State went on a 19-play, 86-yard touchdown drive that sent a message to the Hoosiers.

The old saying goes that the best defense is a good offense, and nowhere was that more evident than in Bloomington.

"That was big," Brown said of the scoring drive. "We used up a lot of time on the clock and kept their defense on the field for a long time. Those guys were probably tired. When we scored, that probably broke their backs."

If the Hoosiers' backs weren't broken, they were certainly bowed, which might have accounted for the Buckeyes' oh-by-the-way score near the end of the game.

"Our offense took away some of their momentum," Young said. "We were able to stop them early and then our offense just drove it on them. We stayed together when we could have panicked or turned on each other, but we didn't do that."

Middle linebacker Lorenzo Styles, who finished with eight stops in the game, appreciated the way his offensive mates went out and ate up the clock and, more importantly, the Hoosiers' confidence.

"That gave us a tremendous break," Styles said. "Our offense keeps their defense on the field which helps us play that much better. We came in fresh and that's when our speed took over."

And snowed Indiana under.
THE FIRST 30 minutes of the contest was a typical Ohio State showing,



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at least this season, in that the defense looked alternately brilliant and suspect in consecutive plays.

The Hoosiers, last in the league in passing entering the game, crossed the Buckeyes up by throwing the ball often and successfully.

Needless to say, the Bucks were back on their heels and in need of assistance.

"Their tackles were doing things we weren't really used to," Vrabel said of Indiana. "They were dropping back a little deeper than usual. We talked about what we were going to do. Would we come under, run some line stunts, things like that. They forced us to change up."

Backup linebacker Ryan Miller added, "We changed a little bit by going back to a more basic style of defense. The first half, we tried to change personnel groups and things like that, but in the second half we just lined up and played defense. When we were shuffling personnel we got a little confused, so we

just tried to go back to basics and crank it up emotionally."

Indiana converted nearly half of its third-down attempts in the first 30 minutes, but in the second half was limited to a paltry one of seven.

"We were getting frustrated in the first half because we'd hold them on first and second, then they'd get the big play on third down," Brown said. "Those things happen."

Allowing the Hoosiers to march down the field while OSU was in a prevent defense right before halftime could have spelled disaster, but the Buckeyes averted the usual Saturday spate of upsets by buckling down.

"It tears us up," Young said of IU's score. "We were disappointed that we weren't able to get them stopped. The same thing happened two years ago where we held them on the goal line and that was a momentum swing. We were really concerned going in at halftime. We played too soft and too conservative."

VRABEL AND fellow end Matt Finkes continue to impress, eliciting signs of resignation from some close to the Indiana program when told the pair are just sophomores.

Finkes, who pounced on the late-game fumble caused by Vrabel's square shot on Dittoe, ended the day with four tackles, giving the Buckeyes possibly the most gifted tandem ends in the league.

"They're awfully good players right now," Young said of the terrific twosome. "The thing about them is they're both so intelligent and intense. You can't say enough good things about them."

Vrabel's two sacks tied him with Finkes for the team lead with nine and also pushed his tackles for loss total to 17. Jason Simmons holds both single-season school records with 10½ sacks in 1991 and 18½ tackles for loss that same year.

MEMORIAL STADIUM, dubbed "The House" by the Hoosiers, has been the site of many recent Buckeye stumbles, including a 27-27 tie in 1990, a 41-7 loss in John Cooper's opening season as coach and a 24-22 nail-biting win in 1986.

With Indiana now on the docket just

in front of Michigan, it is sometimes difficult to keep attention focused squarely on the Hoosiers. Maybe the first-half lapse by the Buckeyes was because they had one eye on Ann Arbor and one eye on the Memorial Stadium turf.

Whatever it was, OSU is glad the game and the road swings are in the past.

"Their fans were in it," Brown said. "It's always difficult to go on the road.

We feel good about ourselves, though. Our new routine (practicing Sunday and taking Monday off) is working out well. Maybe that's part of why we're playing better."

The Buckeyes finished the season 3-1 on the road in league play and 3-2 overall. Ohio State also won its road opener against Fresno State in Anaheim, Calif., but that is considered a neutral-site contest.

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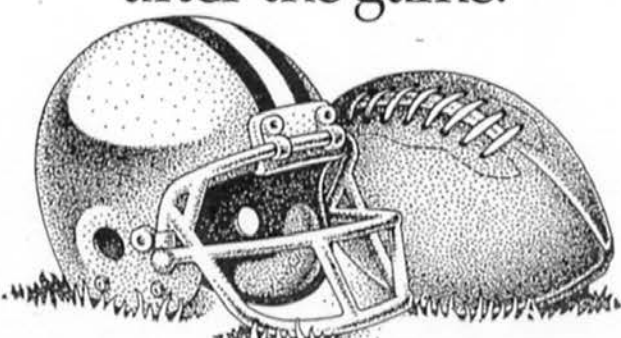
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OFF TO THE RACES — Ohio State senior Joey Galloway (7) goes whizzing by, on his way to a 93-yard kickoff return for a touchdown. Galloway's first-quarter score helped start the Buckeyes on their way to an important victory over Indiana.

Eighth Victory Secure, Coop Hopes For Ninth

EDITOR'S NOTE: Once again, during this football season, *Buckeye Sports Bulletin* will publish excerpts from Ohio State head coach John Cooper's postgame press conferences. Here is what Cooper had to say following the Buckeyes' win over Indiana:

COOPER: "It was another good win for us. I just got through telling our football team that I was proud of the way they played, particularly in the second half."

"We had too many penalties again this week. It's frustrating to see us make nice plays and have them called back by penalties."

"Nothing comes easy, but it was a good victory for us. We have won eight games now and, of course, the big one is next week."

"We're happy that we won the game, didn't get any player injuries, no players hurt. Eddie George looks like he came out of the ball game in pretty good shape."

"I thought Bobby (Hoying) did a nice job throwing the football. The defense played well the second half."

"Obviously, we have got to shore up our kicking game. Our kicking game was great last week, and this week it was awful. We missed two extra points, had one blocked, didn't cover as well on our punt coverage as we should have. So we have a lot of work to do this week on the kicking game."

Q. Indiana was able to move right down the field against your defense at the end of the first half but couldn't seem to do much of anything in the second half. What adjustments did you make defensively at halftime?

COOPER: "I think our coaches... I think we got settled down there at halftime. I think the defensive staff did a nice job. We went back to fundamentals. It was pretty obvious that we were sort of getting our key from their personnel, whether they were run personnel or whether they were going to throw the football, so we were doing a lot of substituting. Of course, that substituting allowed us to get match-ups that were pretty good. The pass rush was a little better in the second half."

"I also think (Indiana quarterback Chris) Dittoe sprained his knee a little bit in the first half because he wasn't quite as active in the second half as he was in the first."

Q. Can you talk about your team's 19-play drive in the second half that pretty much won the ball game for you?

COOPER: "Well, that's what we're

always trying to do offensively. We have a good, strong offensive line and (fullback) Nicky Sualua is really coming on as a blocker. And, of course, Eddie George is a big, strong running back."

"We were able to keep the ball away from them and that's the best defense you have. When your offense is on the field, that's the best defense you have. Bobby converted several third-down plays. The little naked bootleg-type plays were working for us and that's what we tried to do offensively."

Q. Hoying seemed to be a big factor for you in the second half, not only throwing the ball, but also running it as you mentioned.

COOPER: "Well, that's what he has done all year long. I don't know how many yards he had today, but he had another outstanding ball game for us."

Q. Just before the touchdown on the long drive, it looked like George and Joey Galloway got mixed up on a play. Can you explain what happened and what was supposed to happen on that play?

COOPER: "It was supposed to be a reverse and what happened was they got penetration. Eddie was supposed to hand the ball back to Joey, but they got penetration on the play and then it was

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just a great play on Joey's part. I mean, he's an athlete and he made something out of nothing there. He makes things happen."

Q. You were able to hold Indiana's good running back Alex Smith to less than 100 yards today and their whole team to just 77 net yards on the ground. Could you talk about that?

COOPER: "Well, as I mentioned, I thought our defense played pretty well, particularly in the second half. I think they came out really to establish the passing game more so than the running game. But let me say this: Alex Smith is an outstanding football player for a freshman."

Q. But he only had 33 of his yards in the second half and he really was not much of a factor.

COOPER: (Laughs and smiles). You're right. I don't know how many times he carried the ball, but let's face it: With Dittoe at quarterback, they're going to throw it a little more. All year, of course, (John) Paci has been the quarterback and they've been running options, been relying more on the running game.

"So, I imagine the drive they made right before halftime, the way they threw the football, and the way they were throwing it in the first half, obviously they came out in the second half trying to stay with the passing game. I don't know how many times Smith carried it. (He carried 14 times in the first half, eight in the second.) It didn't seem like he carried it too much in the second half."

Q. You have won two games in a row now by fairly good margins. As you look to the final game, has this team finally achieved the consistency you have been looking for all year?

COOPER: "Well, we're 8-3. Not many of you picked us early in the year to win eight football games. We're 8-3 and, right now, tied for second (in the Big Ten standings with Michigan). We're going to find out what happens next week with Michigan."

"We have to have a great week of preparation and we have to eliminate those mistakes we've been making. But I'll tell you right now, it's good to be coming back home and playing next week."

Q. With eight wins now under your belt, do you think that any pressure has been lifted from you personally?

COOPER: (Laughs). Twenty-four hours a day, you know. You have pressure 24 hours a day. You know that. It was a good win today. We've won eight and we'll try to win nine next week."

Q. Your team converted 11 of 16 third-down plays today, including six in a row during that long drive. Do you remember a game in which you had such a remarkable third-down conversion rate? It seemed like every time you had one, you made it.

COOPER: "Well, as I mentioned, that was one way we could keep the ball away from them. We did convert several third-down opportunities and, again, I think a lot of the credit goes to the offensive line for protecting the quarterback."

"Bobby made some good decisions and I don't think we dropped many passes today. We dropped one right before halftime, but I don't think we dropped many in the second half."

Q. Bill Mallory has been criticized lately for being too predictable. Did Indiana seem to be too predictable today on defense, especially on third down?

COOPER: "No, not at all. As a matter of fact, I thought they tried to keep us off balance. A lot of times, they made a substitution and played us in a 5-3 stack on running downs. They sent in a couple of defensive backs and played us man-to-man coverage on several pass plays. And they took away our deep passing game. Geez, we didn't get any long passes today at all."

Q. A couple of weeks ago, you made the statement that offensive tackle Corey Stringer was playing well, but not great. Have you reassessed that judgment?

COOPER: "I think the last two or three games, he has played great. Including today."

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The Numbers Game

Buckeyes 32, Hoosiers 17

OHIO STATE	12	7	0	13	32
INDIANA	7	10	0	0	17

IND — Stoner, 13 pass from Dittoe (Manolopoulos kick) 8:26
 OSU — Galloway, 93 kickoff return (kick failed) 8:14
 OSU — George, 1 run (pass failed) 3:00
 IND — Manolopoulos, 35 field goal 10:58
 OSU — George, 3 run (Jo.Jackson kick) 1:51
 IND — Dittoe, 1 run (Manolopoulos kick) 0:13
 OSU — Dudley, 2 pass from B.Hoying (kick blocked) 14:41
 OSU — Sanders, 20 pass from B.Hoying (Jo.Jackson kick) 2:38
 Att. — 44,672

	OSU	IND
First Downs	21	18
Rushing	12	8
Passing	9	9
Penalty	0	1
Rushes-Yards	49-207	34-77
Passing Yards	170	182
Passes	24-14-1	35-20-1
Plays	73	69
Total Net Yards	377	259
Third Down Efficiency	11-16	4-14
Punts	4-41.3	5-42.0
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	1-1
Penalties	4-39	4-25
Time Of Possession	33:56	26:04

Individual Statistics

RUSHING (Att.-Net Yds.) — OSU: George 26-118; B.Hoying 6-34; Pearson 9-30; Je.Jackson 3-13; Sualua 4-7; Galloway 1-5. IND: A.Smith 22-98; Glover 3-6; S.Lee 2-0; Dittoe 7-27).

PASSING (Att.-Comp.-Int.-Yds.-TD) — OSU: B.Hoying 23-13-1-166-2; S.Jackson 1-1-0-4-0. IND: Dittoe 35-20-1-182-1.

RECEIVING (Rec.-Yds.) — OSU: Galloway 4-69; Sanders 2-32; Tillman 2-24; Sualua 2-14; Jones 1-15; George 1-10; Carter 1-4; Dudley 1-2. IND: Baety 7-66; Stoner 5-66; Kearney 3-21; Glover 3-21; A.Smith 1-6; Matthews 1-2.

PUNTING (No.-Avg.-Lg.) — OSU: Terna 4-41.3-50. IND: DiGuilio 5-42.0-52.

PUNT RETURNS (No.-Avg.-Lg.) — OSU: Galloway 2-10.5-12. IND: Baety 2-12.0-16.

KICKOFF RETURNS (No.-Avg.-Lg.) — OSU: Galloway 3-45.3-93; Houser 1-5.0-5. IND: Matthews 3-21.0-31.

FUMBLE RECOVERIES — OSU: Finkes. IND: None.

INTERCEPTIONS — OSU: Springs. IND: Allen.

SACKS — OSU: Vrabel (2), Powell. IND: None.

TACKLES FOR LOSS — OSU: Vrabel (2), Springs, Styles, Powell, Finkes. IND: Davis (2), Wilmot (2), Thurman, Rasheed.

TACKLES — OSU: Springs 7-1-8; Styles 7-1-8; Powell 5-2-7; Vrabel 4-2-6; Fickell 3-2-5; Finkes 3-1-4; Patillo 3-1-4; Paul 3-1-4; R.Miller 3-0-3; Kerner 2-1-3; Bellisari 2-1-3; Bonhaus 2-0-2; Maag 2-0-2; Kelly 1-1-2; Brown 1-0-1; Sualua 1-0-1. IND: Wilmot 9-3-12; Brown 11-0-11; Thurman 8-2-10; Terrell 7-0-7; Allen 4-1-5; Drake 4-1-5; Davis 4-0-4; Smedley 3-1-4; Warnecke 2-2-4; Baisley 2-1-3; Hammerstein 1-1-2; Surface 1-0-1; Parks 1-0-1; Barzilaukas 1-0-1; Pinnock 1-0-1; Mucci 1-0-1; Rasheed 1-0-1; Oxley 1-0-1; King 1-0-1; Allotey 0-1-1; Kaylor 0-1-1.

Players In The Game

OHIO STATE — Galloway, Glenn, Pace, Dully, Sumner, Moss, Porter, Gohlatin, Daniels, Stringer, Waldon, Jones, Dudley, B.Hoying, S.Jackson, Sualua, Calhoun, George, Pearson, Je.Jackson, Sanders, Tillman, Stanley, Carter, Finkes, Day, Bonhaus, Brown, Fickell, Vrabel, Bellisari, Styles, Powell, R.Miller, Springs, Paul, Patillo, Maag, Kerner, Howard, Terna, Malfatt, Jo.Jackson, Louis, Shavers, Kelly, Colson, Houser, Langenkamp, Lynch.

INDIANA — Pinnock, Parks, Hammerstein, Allotey, Barzilaukas, Drake, Rasheed, Davis, Kaylor, Wilmot, Terrell, Thurman, Smedley, King, Mucci, Allen, Warnecke, Brown, Eloms, Baety, Stoner, C.Smith, Liwianski, Lukawski, Seib, Greene, C.Williams, Klusmeyer, McKinnon, Boyd, Matthews, Wilkerson, Kearney, Dittoe, S.Lee, Glover, A.Smith, Manolopoulos, Scott, DiGuilio, Rabideau, Pilch, Baisley, Surface, Oxley, Bruner, Cr.Goode, Harbottle, Irish, DeWitt, Kizer, Bryant, Mihelic.

OSU Season Statistics

RUSHING	ATT	GAIN	LOST	NET	AVG	TD	LG	FIRST DOWNS	OPP	OSU
Eddie George	234	1306	24	1282	5.5	11	76	198	226	
Pepe Pearson	81	343	17	326	4.0	2	25	88	123	
Jermon Jackson	45	215	13	202	4.5	3	17	96	95	
Stanley Jackson	34	179	41	138	4.1	1	23	14	8	
Nicky Sualua	17	91	9	82	4.8	0	13	125.9	202.5	
Bobby Hoying	47	186	110	76	1.6	1	45	177.7	196.7	
Joey Galloway	12	58	6	52	4.3	1	12	6.1	7.5	
Dimitrios Stanley	12	43	3	40	3.3	0	14	3340	4392	
Matt Calhoun	4	21	1	20	5.0	0	10	753	780	
Terry Glenn	1	5	0	5	5.0	0	5	303.6	399.3	
Tom Hoying	3	11	7	4	1.3	0	11	4.4	5.6	
Alex Rodriguez	1	1	0	1	1.0	0	1	58-459	61-585	
Robbie Davis	1	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	34-237	29-256	
OSU Totals	492	2459	231	2228	4.5	19	76	16-139	25-264	
OPP Totals	434	1771	386	1385	3.2	11	39	8-83	7-65	

PASSING	ATT	COMP	INT	YDS	PCT	TD	LG	3rd DOWN EFFICIENCY	OPP	OSU
Bobby Hoying	256	148	13	2030	57.8	17	78	Percentage	398	478
Stanley Jackson	28	10	0	105	35.7	0	22	4th DOWN EFFICIENCY	8-20	4-15
Tom Hoying	4	1	0	29	25.0	0	29	Percentage	400	267
OSU Totals	288	159	13	2164	55.2	17	78	SACKS BY	21-125	32-231
OPP Totals	319	180	14	1955	56.4	10	90	TIME OF POSSESSION	331:07	328:53

Sacks: Bobby Hoying 15-87, Stanley Jackson 5-33, Tom Hoying 1-5, OPP 32-231

RECEIVING	NO	YARDS	AVG	TD	LG	SCORING	TD	EPK	EPP	EPR	FG	PT	
Joey Galloway	32	477	14.9	5	67	Eddie George	11	-	-	-	-	66	
Buster Tillman	32	449	14.0	2	34	Josh Jackson	-	27-32	-	-	11-14	60	
Chris Sanders	31	495	16.0	8	78	Chris Sanders	8	-	1m	-	-	50	
D.J. Jones	18	254	14.1	0	43	Joey Galloway	7	-	-	-	-	42	
Eddie George	16	117	7.3	0	17	Jermon Jackson	3	-	-	-	-	18	
Terry Glenn	7	110	15.7	0	24	Rickey Dudley	2	-	1m	-	-	14	
Rickey Dudley	7	80	11.4	2	26	Pepe Pearson	2	-	-	-	-	12	
DeWayne Carter	5	44	8.8	0	17	Buster Tillman	2	-	-	-	-	12	
Nicky Sualua	5	35	7.0	0	11	Greg Bellisari	1	-	-	-	-	6	
Pepe Pearson	2	13	6.5	0	7	Bobby Hoying	1	-	-	-	-	6	
Dimitrios Stanley	1	44	44.0	0	44	Stanley Jackson	1	-	1a	-	-	6	
Brian Heinlen	1	29	29.0	0	29	DeWayne Carter	-	-	1m	-	-	2	
Max Langenkamp	1	11	11.0	0	11	Mike Malfatt	-	1-2	-	-	0-3	1	
Jermon Jackson	1	6	6.0	0	6	Bobby Hoying	-	-	3a	-	-	0	
OSU Totals	159	2164	13.6	17	78	"Team"	-	-	-	-	-	2	
OPP Totals	180	1955	10.9	10	90	OSU Totals	38	28-34	3-4	-	11-17	297	
						OPP Totals	22	19-19	0-1	-	0-2	10-19	181

FG DISTANCE	0-29	30-39	40-49	50+	TOTAL	PUNTING	NO	YDS	AVG	TD	120	BK	LG
Josh Jackson	6-6	5-7	0-1	-	11-14	Scout Terna	48	2002	41.7	9	13	-	60
Mike Malfatt	-	-	0-1	0-2	0-3	OSU Totals	48	2002	41.7	9	13	-	60
OSU Totals	6-6	5-7	0-2	0-2	11-17	OPP Totals	60	2282	38.0	3	14	-	60
OPP Totals	2-2	4-7	3-7	1-3	10-19								

INTERCEPTIONS	NO	YARDS	AVG	TD	LG	PUNT RETURNS	NO	YARDS	AVG	TD	LG
Greg Bellisari	3	46	15.3	1	35	Joey Galloway	14	137	9.8	0	22
Tim Patillo	3	0	0.0	0	0	Shawn Springs	3	22	7.3	0	13
Anthony Gwinn	2	27	13.5	0	27	Matt Finkes	1	10	10.0	0	10
Marlon Kerner	2	10	5.0	0	10	Jason Louis	1	9	9.0	0	9
Lorenzo Styles	1	18	18.0	0	18	Pepe Pearson	1	8	8.0	0	8
Ryan Miller	1	8	8.0	0	8	OSU Totals	20	186	9.3	0	22
Shawn Springs	*1	1	1.0	0	1	OPP Totals	23	161	7.0	0	43
Dennis Maag	1	0	0.0	0	0						
OSU Totals	14	110	7.9	1	35						

Defensive Statistics

DEFENSE	SOLO	AST	TOT	TAC-LOSSES	QB-SACK	PBU	FC	FR	TDS	BK
Lorenzo Styles	63	60	113	7-17	-	4	1	-	-	-
Marlon Kerner	48	18	66	1-5	-	5	1	-	1	-
Matt Finkes	32	29	61	15-72	9-61	-	2	1	-	3@
Craig Powell	35	26	61	6-30	3-19	2	3	1	-	PG
Mike Vrabel	38	21	59	17-91	9-68	4	2	2	-	-
Tim Patillo	35	22	57	-	-	4	-	1	1	-
Shawn Springs	34	19	53	2-20	1-12	6	-	-	-	-
Greg Bellisari	31	18	49	3-25	1-19	3	-	-	-	-
Tito Paul	27	18	45	4-8	1-5	2	1	1	-	-
Luke Fickell	25	20	45	4-8	2-5	4	-	-	-	-
Ryan Miller	34	8	42	4-10	-	-	-	-	-	-
Preston Harrison	18	13	31	2-12	1-6	-	1	-	-	-
Dennis Maag	18	6	24	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Randall Brown	17	6	23	6-30	2-22	3	-	-	-	-
Matt Bonhaus	13	10	23	5-19	2-13	1	1	1	-	-
Pete Beckman	6	5	11	1-2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rob Kelly	6	3	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Obie Stillwell	6	2	8	1-7	-	-	1	-	-	-
Dan Colson	4	3	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Anthony Gwinn	4	2	6	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
John Day	4	1	5	1-5	-	-	-	1	1	-
James Ross	3	1	4	1-1	1-1	-	-	-	-	-
Will Connery	2	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Joey Galloway	3	0	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Alonzo Shavers	2	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ty Howard	1	2	3	-	-	-	3	-	-	-
Rickey Dudley	1	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scott Lynch	1	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brian Stoughton	1	1	2	1-1	-	-	-	1	1	-
D. J. Jones	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chris Sanders	2	0	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jason Louis	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	PT
*One Solo Tackle: Mike Baker, Bobby Hoying, Orlando Pace, Mike Malfatt, Bob Houser, Nicky Sualua										
"Team"	4	-	4	4-32	-	-	-	-	-	-

Tackles for loss by OSU 85-395 Sacks by OSU 32-231 @-two punts and a field goal

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BSB Quotebook: Ohio State 32, Indiana 17

Ohio State head coach John Cooper's assessment of the game: "This was another good victory for us. I thought our team really came together, particularly there in the second half. Indiana gave us a couple of problems in the first half, but we made some adjustments and played really well in the second half. I was particularly pleased with the defense, which shut Indiana down there late."

Indiana head coach Bill Mallory's assessment of the game: "I felt good coming in at halftime. I thought we had the momentum with that drive we had and then getting the ball. But, in the second half, we just didn't make the plays on either side of the ball. It seemed like whenever we had an opportunity to make a stop on them defensively, we came up with a big, fat zero."

Ohio State junior middle linebacker Lorenzo Styles on the adjustments the Buckeyes made defensively at the half: "We really didn't make many. They threw us off a little bit when they came out throwing more than we thought they would. But we just settled down in the second half, took it to them and played straight-up-defense."

Ohio State senior defensive tackle Randall Brown on Indiana's offensive game plan: "We knew they had changed quarterbacks and we figured they'd probably throw a little more. But they ran away from a lot of things that we had seen on film. There was one particular play that they had run a lot, a play that was designed to come right at me, and I don't think they ran it one time all day."

Indiana sophomore quarterback Chris Dittoe on the play of the Ohio State defense: "It was obvious that they were trying to rattle me. When they came in and got a shot at me, I think it was the hardest shot that they could ever take because that's what it felt like. They know I'm not that mobile of a quarterback and I think they just wanted to get as much pressure on me as possible. I know I'll feel pretty sore tomorrow, but I'll be back."

Ohio State sophomore defensive end Mike Vrabel on pressuring Dittoe: "I don't think it was the only thing we had on our minds, but we always want to get pressure on the other team's quarterback. It was a little easier late in the game because I could feel we were getting stronger and they were getting a little tired. It seemed like we got a lot more pressure on him late in the game."

Ohio State sophomore defensive end Matt Finkes on Dittoe's fourth-quarter fumble that sewed up the victory for the Buckeyes: "We were talking in the huddle and we knew that we had to make a play to preserve the win. I think Mike and I got to him at about the same time, and when I looked up, the ball had come loose, so I just scrambled after it and was fortunate enough to fall on it."

Dittoe on the play of Vrabel and Finkes: "It wasn't exactly a surprise because we've seen those two guys operate on film and we knew going in that we'd have to control them in order to win. We did that in the first half, but they just kept coming. Their ends are very quick, maybe the quickest in the league. I got to know them well today. Too well."

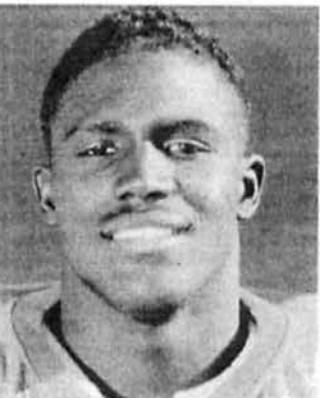
Ohio State defensive coordinator Bill Young on the play of his team in the second half: "We were really concerned going into halftime, to be quite honest with you. They had passed the ball right down the field and scored right before the half and that hurt. But we stayed together. We could have panicked and turned on each other, but we didn't do that. We did what we had to do and came out and played a strong second half."



Mike Vrabel



Joey Galloway



Shawn Springs



Eddie George

Ohio State senior split end Joey Galloway on his 93-yard kickoff return for a touchdown: "I was kind of letting it set up. Then I saw a hole and I just went for it. With the blocking we had, it was definitely the easiest play I've made all year. The blocking was just great because no one ever laid a hand on me. All I had to do was run up the sideline. I think anyone could have done what I did."

Ohio State redshirt freshman cornerback Shawn Springs on his block on IU kicker Bill Manopolous that sprung Galloway: "That's a block you have to make. I mean, here's the last guy your man has to beat and he's the kicker. If I don't get a block on him, I know I'm going to hear about it. Fortunately, I got him a couple of times and just kept pushing him until Joey could get by."

Mallory on that same play: "Here we are, feeling pretty good about moving down the field, establishing some momentum, taking an early lead, and then boom! That was just poor execution on our part. Boy, what a cheapie. It really hurt us to give up a play like that, especially in that situation. It really negated what we had done to that point."

Ohio State senior flanker Chris Sanders on his 20-yard touchdown reception in the fourth quarter: "They were in man coverage and I just ran my normal route. You have to give credit to the line and Bobby on that one. They blocked their tails off up front all day and Bobby put that one in there, right on the money. When the line is blocking and Bobby is on, it makes my job pretty easy."

Ohio State junior quarterback Bobby Hoying on running the ball six times in the game: "I didn't go into the game thinking I was going to run it that many times. Anytime I did was when it opened up right in front of me or when protection broke down right away. They didn't have anybody assigned to me, so I was able to pick up the first downs. Michigan is going to realize maybe they have to put somebody on me."

Ohio State junior tailback Eddie George on the play of offensive tackle Korey Stringer in the game: "Every week, Korey is outstanding. Korey is, in my opinion, the best tackle in the country. He dominated today as usual. I don't think they had a guy who could stop him. He was blocking straight ahead and pulling and they just couldn't do anything about it. It's really a lot of fun to run behind him."

Galloway on whether he has been frustrated by a lack of big plays this season: "I wouldn't say I've been frustrated. We all have a job to do out on the field. I don't sit back and say, 'When am I going to break a big one?' I just have to go out and do my job and when a big one comes my way, I have to be ready to make the play. Everybody wants the ball. You just have to be ready when you get it."

Mallory on Galloway's ability to turn the course of a game: "Well, I think everyone is well aware of his talents and what he can do. You saw it today with the return and some of the clutch catches he made. You're talking about a whale of an athlete. At times, he just kind of outskilled us. But that's no sin. He's done that to a lot of other people."

Cooper's final thoughts on the win: "As I mentioned, this was a good, solid victory for us. But it's one that we can't afford to celebrate very long. We've won eight games now, but we want that ninth one. We're coming home next week to play Michigan and I don't have to tell anyone what that game means. We have to have the kind of concentration, preparation and work ethic that we've had these past two weeks."

Players Trying To Remain Focused For Game

Continued From Page 1

year's game and somehow figure that we have this thing about Michigan where we can't beat them. I don't think that's true," said OSU sophomore defensive end Matt Finkes. "Our problems last year started when we fell behind early in the game.

"We got down early last year and we had never been down early and really didn't react well. This year, we've been in dogfights most of the first half in just about every game, so I don't think something like that would affect us much this year. We know how to come back from adversity. We've done that several times, and while we've been criticized for that in the past, it could end up being a plus for us in the end."

Senior flanker Chris Sanders agrees.

"We've faced adversity a lot this year and I think that's helped to build the character of this team," he said. "In a lot of ways, we've grown up together over the last 10 or 11 weeks, especially in the last two.

"A couple of weeks ago, I would have looked into some people's faces in the huddle during a close game and wouldn't have seen what I saw today. Out here today, even though the game got close there for a while, there was never any panic or anything like that. We all knew that we were going to do what we needed to do to win this game.

"I think that's what has happened around here in the last couple of weeks. We had the game over at Penn State and it really hit us over the head. After that, we really closed up around ourselves and became more of a family."

When the time comes for Ohio State to play Michigan each year, it also touches off a week filled with traditional events, such as Senior Tackle.

And while most of the team's veterans are eagerly awaiting that, others are looking to share in another tradition that has gone unobserved since 1987.

"We have a tradition here about the Gold Pants you get whenever you beat Michigan and I don't have any yet," said defensive tackle Randall Brown. "All the time I've been here, people have showed me those things. Carlos Snow had a pair, (running backs) Coach (Tim) Spencer has a pair. We've seen guys who have come to talk to us, they all have a pair.

"They're just these little things, but they mean so much. Sometimes it eats at you, knowing you're a senior and this is your last chance to get those things.

"But I think we can do it this year. If we play the way we've played the last two weeks, I think they're definitely attainable."

And what about the status of Cooper and his staff?

"I'm not really playing for Coach Cooper's job," Brown said. "I'm playing for myself, my teammates and the fans at Ohio State. If we win and that benefits Coach Cooper and his situation, that's a plus.

"I think it's wrong in the first place to say that one game should determine whether he stays or goes. I think you have to look at all the things he's done over the time he's been here, not just

pick out one or two games or one or two series of games. You have to look at the overall picture, not just one or two things."

And while there is an urgency with this year's veteran players — "This is my last go-around playing Michigan," Sanders said, "and I want to be in the senior class that got this thing stopped." — perhaps it's the underclassmen who have the best handle on things.

"Gold Pants, records, bowl games, Coach Cooper's situation . . . that doesn't affect us," Finkes said. "That doesn't affect me. We want to win the game. That's the bottom line. Michigan is our biggest rival and we just want to win the game. Period."

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Two Teams Vying For Berth In Citrus Bowl, Bragging Rights Until '95

Bucks, Wolverines Playing For Second Place

By MARK REA

Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

Ohio State head coach John Cooper and Michigan counterpart Gary Moeller have taken widely divergent paths this season, but both have wound up at the same fork in the road.

Cooper's team was savaged by graduation losses and the defection of defensive lineman Dan Wilkinson to the NFL, so the Buckeyes were picked to finish somewhere in the middle of the Big Ten standings.

Moeller's team, however, was made up of largely veterans and was expected to not only win the Big Ten title and return to the Rose Bowl, but figured to be a player in the national championship chase.

The real truth was obviously somewhere in between. The Buckeyes have played a little better than what was forecasted and the Wolverines have fared a little worse than expected. Neither team's season, however, sits well with its fans as both Cooper and Moeller have been widely criticized.

So, while Penn State will be making the trip to Pasadena this year, marking the first time since a three-year stretch from 1965-67 that OSU or Michigan has missed out on the Rose Bowl in consecutive seasons, Cooper and Moeller seek a victory in the season finale to keep the wolves from the door.

If both teams entered the contest with winless records, it would still mean something. This year, in fact, it's for undisputed second place and a berth in the Florida Citrus Bowl.

While that is likely to be not such a great destination, figuring that the Southeastern Conference opponent could be Alabama or Florida, either team would be willing to take its chances.

"I think that is our focus right now," said Moeller. "We had some goals this season that have not been fulfilled. But we can still win out, finish as best we can and get ready for the postseason."

A couple of years back, Moeller came under fire for suggesting that Ohio State was no longer his team's biggest rival. That was a bit hard for anyone to swallow, especially since he is a former Ohio State captain and has been involved in the rivalry for most of the last three decades.

He has since come off that statement a bit, clarifying that while OSU-Michigan is still a huge game, Michigan State is his program's biggest rival in terms of recruiting and booster money.

"There's no way anybody around here thinks the Ohio State game is any less important than it has always been," Moeller said recently. "Talk to anybody who has been around that rivalry and they'll tell you the same thing: It's the biggest thing going."

The Wolverines have dominated the series, both through history and for the past six seasons. Michigan built up a tremendous lead early in the series, winning 13 of the first 15 games from 1897 through 1918. The two games it didn't win were ties.

Throw out those games and the series is remarkably close at 38-33-4 in favor of the Wolverines. But before you accuse anyone of revisionism, there is no doubt that U of M has held the upper hand since Cooper got to Ohio State.

The closest the Buckeyes have come since their emotional 1987 win in Earle Bruce's last game as head coach was a 13-13 tie two years ago. That makes Michigan 5-0-1 against Cooper at Ohio State. The Wolverines did lose a Rose Bowl to him when he was head coach at Arizona State.

"But I don't think that should lead you to draw any conclusions about this year's game," Moeller said. "We have had some success here recently, that's true. But these games seldom go the way you think they're going to go."

"Look at last year. Ohio State had everything going its way and we were kind of banged up and we ended up getting the breaks and winning the game. You just never know."

In addition to making a host of costly mistakes, one of the problems the Buckeyes had last season was stopping Michigan tailback Tyrone Wheatley.

In three previous games against OSU, Wheatley has gained 284 yards, including 100 or more in each of the last two. And it's not like he is a workhorse, either, since he has averaged 6.2 yards per carry in his career against the Buckeyes.

This season, a persistent shoulder injury cost him a run at the Heisman Trophy, but Wheatley is still one of the premier backs in the nation, entering the game with 972 yards and 11 touchdowns.

Whenever Wheatley needs a rest, the Wolverines can hammer away with two more talented tailbacks in sophomore Tim Biakabutuka and junior Ed Davis. Biakabutuka is Wheatley's heir apparent and has 710 yards and seven TDs this season. Meanwhile, Davis has been playing more and more lately and has 284 yards and three scores this season. But the Buckeyes already know what he can do — Davis riddled them for 96 yards and a touchdown in last year's game.

Both of Michigan's fullbacks, junior Che Foster and sophomore Jon Ritchie, were prep All-American running backs with a combined 8,590 yards and 117 touchdowns. But they are primarily blocking backs for the Wolverines now with only nine carries between them for 71 yards and no TDs.

At the controls of the UM offense is senior quarterback Todd Collins. The perception is that Collins' production is down from a year ago and that is evidenced by the fact that he has thrown for only 11 touchdowns so far after hitting for 17 a year ago.

But he has shown signs of making a stretch run, especially after throwing for a school-record 352 yards against Minnesota last week. His completion rate is still above 65 percent and numbers such as 2,196 yards and only six interceptions in 242 attempts indicate a pretty good year. His back-to-back 2,000-yard passing seasons are a first for any quarterback in Michigan football history.

Collins can also scramble when the situation calls for it, but he has been a little more reluctant in recent weeks after suffering a painful hip pointer in the team's Oct. 29 loss to Wisconsin.

The Wolverines do not appear to have the depth at receiver that they have enjoyed in recent years, but juniors Amani Toomer and Mercury Hayes are an excellent one-two punch.

Toomer is the team's leading pass catcher with 46 receptions for 938 yards and five TDs. Hayes backs that up with 32 catches for 548 yards but has inexplicably been held out of the end zone so far this year.

Collins has also made a habit of hooking up with tight end Jay

Riemersma, a 6-6, 252-pound converted quarterback. Riemersma has caught 31 balls this season, many of them on third downs, for 315 yards and a pair of touchdowns.

The Buckeyes will also need to keep tabs on running backs coming into the flat. Wheatley, Biakabutuka, Foster and Davis have combined for 35 catches and 273 yards with three TDs.

Up front, the Wolverines feature about what you would expect — a big, beefy line that excels in both run blocking and pass protection.

It is a relatively young line as well, especially after sophomore Thomas Guynes supplanted veteran starter Mike Sullivan at right tackle. Joe Marinaro is back from off-season knee surgery to man the right guard spot,

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Ohio Stadium (ABC-TV)

SQUAD INFORMATION

Offensive formation: Multiple I

Defensive formation: 3-4

Lettermen returning/lost: 42/19

Starters returning/lost: 14/8

LEADING PLAYERS

Tyrone Wheatley, tailback

(972 yds., 5.5 avg., 11 TDs)

Todd Collins, quarterback

(159/242/6, 2,196 yds., 11 TDs)

Remy Hamilton, place-kicker

(22/26 FGs, 23/25 PATs, 89 PTs)

Steve Morrison, inside linebacker

(102 tackles, three fumble rec.)

HEAD COACH

Gary Moeller (fifth year)

Record at Michigan: 43-12-3

College career record: 49-36-6

SCHOOL FACTS

Location: Ann Arbor, Mich.

Enrollment: 36,758

Nickname: Wolverines

Colors: Maize and Blue

Conference: Big Ten

Stadium: Michigan Stadium

Capacity: 102,501

SERIES HISTORY

91st Meeting, UM Leads 51-33-6

Cooper vs. Michigan, 1-5-1

Moeller vs. Ohio State, 3-3-1

MICHIGAN SCHEDULE

Sept. 3 Boston Coll. W, 34-26

Sept. 10 Notre Dame W, 26-24

Sept. 24 Colorado L, 27-26

Oct. 1 Iowa W, 29-14

Oct. 8 Michigan St. W, 40-20

Oct. 15 Penn State L, 31-24

Oct. 22 Illinois W, 19-14

Oct. 29 Wisconsin L, 31-19

Nov. 5 Purdue W, 45-23

Nov. 12 Minnesota W, 38-22

Nov. 19 Ohio State Away



TOP WOLVERINE — Now in his fifth season as head coach at Michigan, Gary Moeller has suffered through a tough year. His team was picked as a national championship contender but lost three times at home for the first time since 1967.

while sophomore Rod Payne is in his first year as the starting center.

Over on the left side, Michigan features a pair of trees — tackle Trezelle Jenkins at 6-8 and 298 pounds and guard Jon Runyan at 6-8 and 299 pounds.

Offense has seldom been a problem for the Wolverines this season, especially since they average in excess of 435 yards and exactly 30 points per game. But for the first time in recent memory, Michigan appears vulnerable on defense. This year's team has allowed 232 points, the most ever scored on the Wolverines in their history.

The team is not among the top three teams in any defensive category and is a woeful next-to-last in pass defense, allowing a league-high 21 touchdown passes this season while picking off only six enemy aerials. The Wolves allowed only 11 TDs through the air all of last year and had 17 interceptions.

Because of those problems, Moeller has shuffled his starting lineup. Red-shirt freshman Earnest Sanders has been moved ahead of sophomore Chuck Winters at strong safety, while senior Deon Johnson has overtaken sophomore Tyrone Noble at cornerback on the short side of the field.

Joining them are sophomore Clarence Thompson at free safety and veteran Ty Law at cornerback on the weak side. Law is the leading tackler among the starting secondary with 55 stops, and he has also broken up five passes.

The Wolverines still boast an excellent four-man linebacking corps, led by senior Steve Morrison. A semifinalist for the Butkus Award, Morrison is the leading tackler on the squad with 110 stops and also has recovered three fumbles, deflected three passes, intercepted another and chalked up six tackles for

OHIO STATE vs. MICHIGAN — HOW WE SEE IT

OSU RUSH OFFENSE vs. MICHIGAN RUSH DEFENSE

This is one of the weaker Michigan defenses in recent memory, although it is better against the run than against the pass. Lesser backs than Eddie George have had a field day against the Maize and Blue, who seem to be soft up the middle and have been bitten by injuries in the linebacking corps. **EDGE: OSU**

MICHIGAN RUSH OFFENSE vs. OSU RUSH DEFENSE

OSU has been fairly consistent down the stretch against the good backs, save Penn State's Ki-Jana Carter, who makes a lot of people look bad. However, Tyrone Wheatley is one of the league's top three runners, and his speed gives the Buckeyes another dimension to worry about. UM also utilizes the backs as receivers, and depth is an advantage, too. **EDGE: MICHIGAN**

OSU PASS OFFENSE vs. MICHIGAN PASS DEFENSE

This is where the Wolverines have truly been horrendous. UM has a league-low six pickoffs and a league-high 21 TDs allowed. Look for Joey Galloway and Chris Sanders to get open. UM also has a penchant for leaving the middle open, and if OSU can utilize the tight end better than it has the last few weeks, it will be a long day via the airways for Michigan. **EDGE: OSU**

MICHIGAN PASS OFFENSE vs. OSU PASS DEFENSE

If there is any group of receivers to rival Ohio State, it's Michigan. Walter Smith returns from an injury, adding to an already deep stable, and Amani Toomer and Mercury Hayes are vying with Galloway and Sanders for the league's best one-two punch. Jay Riemersma has been a revelation at tight end and Todd Collins has been outstanding at QB. But the Bucks lead the league in sacks and Michigan has lapses on pass blocking. **EDGE: OSU**

SPECIAL TEAMS

Remy Hamilton has been the league's best kicker for Michigan, while Scott Terna may wind up as the All-Big Ten punter for OSU. Toomer, Seth Smith and Galloway could put on a show as return men. Look for some special teams play to turn the game. **EDGE: Even**

INTANGIBLES

Michigan has been very good on the road, while OSU has lost just once at home. Each team has a big-play threat — Wheatley for UM, Galloway for OSU — and the coaching is a wash. Michigan's defense has allowed the most points in school history, while OSU's offense seems to be finding its stride. This game will be determined by who gets out of the blocks first. **EDGE: Even**

PREDICTION

So here we are again, the Michigan game looming large in the overall success of a season. The Buckeyes have done better than nearly everyone believed, but if they don't win here, it will be all for naught. Michigan would like some momentum going into the bowl game. The Buckeyes haven't won this game since 1987 and — call it a hunch if you want to — we believe the streak stops here. **OSU 14-10**

— Mike Wachsman

loss. Fellow inside linebacker Jarrett Irons is another hard tackler as well.

by his 92 stops, second only to Morrison. The outside linebackers are also extremely talented. Senior Matt Dyson has missed four games with an injury but is still an effective cover man and pass rusher, while sophomore Trevor Pryce briefly lost his starting job but has played much better in recent weeks.

The defensive line of senior Tony Henderson at middle guard and juniors Jason Horn and Trent Zenkewicz at the tackles has been steady. Zenkewicz is the leading tackler in the group with 49 and also leads the team in tackles for loss with 12. Meanwhile, Horn is right behind him in tackles for loss with 10 and is tops on the squad with five sacks.

Michigan has been able to win a couple of games this year with its play on special teams. Sophomore place-kicker Remy Hamilton is enjoying an excellent first season as the starter, having knocked home a school-record 22 field goals. Three times this year, Hamilton has kicked four field goals in a game and needs just three more to set a new Big Ten single-season mark.

The Wolverines have also been productive with their return game. Kickoff returner Seth Smith is leading the nation with an average of 29.5 yards per return and broke a 100-yarder against Wisconsin for a touchdown.

And Toomer handles the punt returns, averaging 6.5 yards, and he broke one earlier this year, going 72 yards against Illinois for a touchdown.

About the only problem the Wolves have on special teams is in the punting game. True freshman Kraig Baker has averaged just 35.9 yards per punt this season, dead last in the Big Ten among regular punters.

Game Notes

Ohio State has not been able to solve the Michigan riddle since 1987, but the Buckeyes can take solace in this year's

venue. OSU has a record of 2-3-1 in the last six meetings between the two teams at Ohio Stadium and all three of the losses were by three points or less.

In the overall series, the site of the game doesn't really matter. The Wolves have posted a 25-17-2 record (58.0 percent) in Columbus and a slightly better 26-16-4 mark (60.9 percent) in games played at Ann Arbor.

A LOT of talk is made about Ohio State and Michigan dominating the Big Ten and it's a true statement.

Since the conference started keeping track of standings in 1896, either the Wolverines or Buckeyes have won or shared the championship 63 times. All of the rest of the teams in the Big Ten have combined for only 77.

But even more remarkable than their 63 titles is the fact that Michigan and Ohio State have combined to finish in second place on 31 occasions. This season makes it 32.

DID YOU know that Ohio State and Michigan provided the opposition at one another's stadium dedication games?

Ohio Stadium was dedicated on Oct. 21, 1922, and the Wolverines spoiled the day's activities with a 19-0 victory.

Almost five years later to the day, on Oct. 22, 1927, the Buckeyes traveled to Ann Arbor to help dedicate Michigan Stadium. This time, the home team was victorious as the Wolverines shut out OSU again, 22-0.

THERE HAVE been many ironic occurrences during the OSU-Michigan rivalry, but none more so than what occurred in 1961.

That year, the Buckeyes pulverized the Wolverines by a 50-20 score, the second most points tallied by the two teams in the overall series.

Who was calling the offensive plays that day for Ohio State? None other than assistant coach Bo Schembechler.

Projected Depth Charts

MICHIGAN DEFENSE

JASON HORN, 6-5, 277, JR. DT SE
Steve Evans, 6-4, 261, So. MG LT
TONY HENDERSON, 6-2, 273, SR. MG LT
Will Carr, 6-0, 285, So. DT LG
TRENT ZENKEWICZ, 6-6, 270, JR. DT LG
Damon Denson, 6-4, 276, So. OLB C
TREVOR PRYCE, 6-6, 247, SO. OLB C
Jeff Holtry, 6-3, 225, Fr. ILB RG
JARRETT IRONS, 6-1, 231, SO. ILB RG
Bobby Powers, 6-0, 229, Sr. ILB RT
STEVE MORRISON, 6-3, 242, SR. ILB RT
Rob Swett, 6-2, 229, Fr. OLB TE
MATT DYSON, 6-5, 256, SR. OLB TE
Ben Huff, 6-4, 232, Fr. SCB QB
DEON JOHNSON, 6-2, 209, SR. SCB QB
Tyrone Noble, 5-11, 196, So. SS FB
EARNEST SANDERS, 6-3, 199, FR. SS FB
Chuck Winters, 6-0, 192, So. FS TB
CLARENCE THOMPSON, 6-1, 190, SO. FS TB
Steve King, 6-1, 193, So. WCB FL
TY LAW, 6-0, 201, JR. WCB FL
Jean-Agnus Charles, 5-11, 186, Jr. P PK
KRAIG BAKER, 6-0, 168, FR. P PK
Nate DeLong, 6-2, 214, Fr.

MICHIGAN OFFENSE

AMANI TOOMER, 6-4, 194, JR. SE DE
Todd Richards, 6-0, 166, Jr. LT DT
TREZELLE JENKINS, 6-8, 298, JR. LT DT
John Partchenko, 6-4, 287, Fr. LG NG
JON RUNYAN, 6-8, 299, SO. LG NG
Harold Goodwin, 6-2, 283, So. C DE
ROD PAYNE, 6-4, 288, SO. C DE
Eric Wendt, 6-4, 286, So. RG OLB
JOE MARINARO, 6-4, 290, JR. RG OLB
Thomas Guynes, 6-5, 299, So. RT MLB
THOMAS GUYNES, 6-5, 299, SO. RT MLB
Mike Sullivan, 6-7, 299, Jr. TE OLB
JAY RIEMERSMA, 6-6, 252, JR. TE OLB
Pierre Cooper, 6-2, 225, So. QB CB
TODD COLLINS, 6-5, 216, SR. QB CB
Jason Carr, 6-1, 198, Jr. FB SS
CHE FOSTER, 6-2, 245, JR. FB SS
Jon Ritchie, 6-2, 232, So. TB FS
TYRONE WHEATLEY, 6-1, 226, SR. TB FS
Tim Blakabutuka, 6-1, 205, So. FL CB
MERCURY HAYES, 5-11, 195, JR. FL CB
Seth Smith, 5-11, 174, Fr. PK P
REMY HAMILTON, 6-0, 196, SO. PK P
Erik Lovell, 6-0, 189, Sr.

OHIO STATE OFFENSE

JOEY GALLOWAY, 5-11, 186, SR. TE
Terry Glenn, 5-11, 180, So. ORLANDO PACE, 6-5, 320, FR. ORLANDO PACE, 6-5, 320, FR. Mike Dully, 6-4, 295, Sr. **JAMIE SUMNER, 6-4, 290, JR.** JAMIE SUMNER, 6-4, 290, JR. Eric Moss, 6-4, 310, So. **JUAN PORTER, 6-4, 285, SO.** JUAN PORTER, 6-4, 285, SO. Eric Gohlsin, 6-3, 300, Fr. **LESHUN DANIELS, 6-2, 280, SO.** LESHUN DANIELS, 6-2, 280, SO. Greg Kuszmaul, 6-4, 294, Jr. **KOREY STRINGER, 6-5, 315, JR.** KOREY STRINGER, 6-5, 315, JR. Larry Waldon, 6-4, 320, Fr. **D.J. JONES, 6-4, 250, JR.** D.J. JONES, 6-4, 250, JR. Rickey Dudley, 6-7, 240, Jr. **BOBBY HOYING, 6-4, 223, JR.** BOBBY HOYING, 6-4, 223, JR. Stanley Jackson, 6-1, 198, Fr. **NICKY SUALUA, 5-11, 245, FR.** NICKY SUALUA, 5-11, 245, FR. Matt Calhoun, 6-0, 237, So. **EDDIE GEORGE, 6-3, 230, JR.** EDDIE GEORGE, 6-3, 230, JR. Pepe Pearson, 5-10, 175, Fr. **CHRIS SANDERS, 6-1, 175, SR.** CHRIS SANDERS, 6-1, 175, SR. Buster Tillman, 6-1, 185, So. **JOSH JACKSON, 5-11, 162, SO.** JOSH JACKSON, 5-11, 162, SO. Mike Malfatti, 6-3, 210, Fr.

OHIO STATE DEFENSE

MATT FINKES, 6-2, 258, SO. MATT FINKES, 6-2, 258, SO. John Day, 6-3, 245, Fr. **RANDALL BROWN, 6-3, 276, SR.** RANDALL BROWN, 6-3, 276, SR. Matt Bonhaus, 6-5, 285, Jr. **LUKE FICKELL, 6-4, 260, SO.** LUKE FICKELL, 6-4, 260, SO. Pete Beckman, 6-4, 260, So. **MIKE VRABEL, 6-4, 260, SO.** MIKE VRABEL, 6-4, 260, SO. Brian Stoughton, 6-2, 240, Jr. **GREG BELLISARI, 6-1, 230, SO.** GREG BELLISARI, 6-1, 230, SO. Ryan Miller, 6-2, 217, So. **LORENZO STYLES, 6-2, 240, JR.** LORENZO STYLES, 6-2, 240, JR. Will Connery, 6-1, 235, Jr. **CRAIG POWELL, 6-5, 224, JR.** CRAIG POWELL, 6-5, 224, JR. Ryan Miller, 6-2, 217, So. **MARLON KERNER, 5-11, 188, SR.** MARLON KERNER, 5-11, 188, SR. Ty Howard, 5-9, 174, So. **TITO PAUL, 6-1, 196, SR.** TITO PAUL, 6-1, 196, SR. Anthony Gwinn, 6-0, 189, So. **TIM PATILLO, 5-10, 178, SR.** TIM PATILLO, 5-10, 178, SR. Dennis Maag, 6-1, 176, Jr. **SHAWN SPRINGS, 5-11, 181, FR.** SHAWN SPRINGS, 5-11, 181, FR. Rob Kelly, 6-2, 200, So. **SCOTT TERNA, 5-11, 196, SR.** SCOTT TERNA, 5-11, 196, SR. Mike Malfatti, 6-3, 210, Fr.

MICHIGAN MEMORIES — LES HORVATH

Horvath Recalls Time When He Didn't Play

By JEFF RAPP

Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

When looking back at the Ohio State-Michigan series, former Heisman Trophy winner Les Horvath understandably has many memories.

Horvath helped lead the Scarlet and Gray to huge wins over the hated Wolverines in 1942 and 1944, the only two victories over UM in the decade. But the game that stands out most prominently for Horvath during his long and storied college career may be the tussle with UM in 1941.

He remembers the 20-20 tie and the fever pitch of Michigan Stadium that day. Most of all, he remembers stewing on the sideline.

"Coach (Paul) Brown told me he was going to start Tom Kinkade because he was a senior, but that I should be on my toes and ready to play," recalled the talented running back. "I was ready, but I never got in. That was the only game in my life I didn't play in."

Horvath voiced his displeasure and for a while had his doubts about his future with the team. As it turned out, the benching fueled him to post his breakthrough season as a collegian. Horvath came back to the Buckeyes a man on a mission in 1942. He and a very talented cast that included such players as Charles Csuri, Bill Willis, Lin Houston, Dante Lavelli, Hal Dean and Gene Fekete rolled over nine of 10 opponents that year en route to the school's first-ever national championship.

OSU had slipped at Wisconsin but had a chance to make amends with a win over Michigan. The Buckeyes did just that with a decisive 21-7 victory in Ohio Stadium. Ironically, the run-oriented Buckeyes scored all three touchdowns via the air as Paul Sarringhaus tossed TD passes to Bob Shaw and Horvath and Horvath returned the favor with a scoring strike to Sarringhaus.

"That's what sticks out most about

that game by far because Ohio State certainly wasn't known for its passing then," said Horvath, now retired and living in Los Angeles. "We weren't even aware of the national championship then."

Ohio State won over the voters by dropping the Iowa Seahawks 41-12 the following week.

In 1940, Horvath was not expected to play much in his first year of eligibility. But the sophomore from Parma, Ohio, found his way onto the field at both offensive and defensive halfback because of a rash of injuries on the team.

"It was unusual for (former head coach) Francis Schmidt to do that because he didn't like to play sophomores, but we were without a lot of key players that year. I don't know what he'd do in today's era. I think he'd have a heart attack if he saw how many freshmen are playing," Horvath said with a chuckle.

Heading into that season, Ohio State was picked by some to be the best team in the land, but the injuries took their toll. The Buckeyes won three games in a row to have a chance at a winning mark but were shut out 40-0 by the Maize and Blue to finish 4-4, a result that caused the ouster of Schmidt.

"What I remember most is I made a tackle on Tom Harmon, which was a terrific thrill for me because he was the legendary player of that era," Horvath said. "I still think he's one of the all-time great running backs in college football."

Harmon moved college football into the sports spotlight that year by capturing both the imagination of fans and the Heisman Trophy. Little did he know it at the time, but Horvath would follow in that path four years later, becoming Ohio State's first-ever winner of the Heisman. He was granted a fourth year of eligibility that season by the NCAA and came through with 2,055 yards of total offense.

Horvath played for his third coach in 1944 that season as Carroll Widdoes took over for Brown, who had enlisted



Les Horvath

in the U.S. Navy. Because of the war, the 44-member team consisted of 31 freshmen. But the Buckeyes, buoyed by eight home games that year, had Horvath to call the signals and recorded big wins over Minnesota and Great Lakes, now coached by Brown. The "Baby Bucks" sported a perfect 8-0 mark heading into the game with Michigan. Since the Big Ten had a rule prohibiting league teams from playing in post-season games, everything was on the line.

"I remember we were going into the game with Michigan that year and the athletic director, (L.W.) St. John, came to practice and told us we would be invited to go to the Rose Bowl to play Southern Cal if we won. Of course, that was kind of uplifting," Horvath said.

"We had the scouting report on them already. I was reading it that week because I knew we were going to beat Michigan."

Horvath also was busy getting his health back.

"A lot of guys may not remember now, but I had a lot of problems that week with charley horses in each leg and really had a lot of trouble even walking up stairs," he said. "That week I thought, 'Oh God, I don't know if I'm going to be able to play this game or not.'"

"Fortunately, we had a tremendous trainer in Ernie Biggs and he worked on me all week. He added more cushion to my thigh pads and it ended up being the only game where I ever played all 60 minutes."

Horvath did not even practice until Thursday of that week, but it was no matter. In the 18-14 win, he gained over

100 yards in 33 carries.

"But the final three were me just kneeling down to run out the clock," he reminded.

Ohio State trailed in a seesaw battle but recovered a shocking onside kick attempt by Michigan late in the game. A few plays after Dick Flanagan rambled for nine yards on fourth and one, Horvath called his own number and scored the game winner off a direct snap into the backfield.

"Bill Hackett, who was a great All-America guard for us, told me to follow him because he knew he would beat his man," Horvath said. "I ran a dive play from the single wing and just ran right over him and scored."

Flanagan came through again with an interception to ice the game and complete Horvath's personal 2-1-1 mark against the Wolverines. The Big Ten later denied Ohio State a trip to the Rose Bowl, but Horvath still went out a winner.

"We were made very aware that as far as our season was concerned, Michigan was the big game," he said. "That either made your season or it broke your season."

Horvath skipped the 1943 season because he was enrolled in the Army's dental school and the military wouldn't allow cadets to play during wartime.

Horvath actually served with three different branches of the U.S. Armed Forces. He coached under Brown at Great Lakes in 1945 while assigned there as a member of the Navy. He was later stationed in Hawaii and attached to the Marine Corps.

After a brief career in the NFL, Horvath began practicing dentistry in Los Angeles in 1950 and retired in 1991. Having lived a majority of his life in Southern California, Horvath keeps hoping he'll get another chance to see his alma mater play in Pasadena.

"I don't get to see Ohio State play too often," said Horvath, who played two years with the Los Angeles Rams and another for the Cleveland Browns. "We have an alumni function out here in Los Angeles that hypes the Michigan game and that's a lot of fun. Hopefully, they can get back to the Rose Bowl soon so I can see them again."

Horvath, however, got a close-up look at this year's team at the homecoming game with Purdue. He was the highlight of a halftime ceremony that honored championship teams from years past, most notably the 1944 Big Ten champs.

"I can't believe it was 50 years ago," he said. "It's like a fantasy now. When I see these guys who are playing now and how big they are, I have to stop and wonder, 'Did I really play here?'"

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MICHIGAN MEMORIES — BOB WHITE

Win Propelled Buckeyes To National Crown

By MARK PODOLSKI
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

Forgive former Ohio State fullback Bob White and the rest of the Buckeyes if Michigan was not the only game on their minds in 1957.

That's because Ohio State, owner of a 7-1 record entering the annual clash with the Wolverines, was in the hunt for a national championship and already had clinched a Rose Bowl appearance by beating powerhouse Iowa a week earlier.

"That year, the big thing with Michigan was, if we win that one, we have a shot at the national title," White said. "That gave us a little extra incentive in the game, as if that game ever needs it."

But the Buckeyes might have gotten too emotionally high and it was that kind of thinking that might have spoiled their championship season. Michigan, a team that finished the season in sixth place in the Big Ten standings, took a surprising 14-10 lead at halftime.

Not until Ohio State head coach Woody Hayes gave a sermon-like speech at halftime, White said, did the Buckeyes resurrect themselves for three second-half touchdowns behind White's 163 rushing yards and a 31-14 win.

That victory, combined with a 10-7 win over Oregon in the Rose Bowl, gave Ohio State a share of the 1957 national

title with Auburn. The Buckeyes finished first in the United Press International poll, while the Tigers were the first-place team in The Associated Press final poll.

Yet even with the big win over the Wolverines, White admits that version of "The Game" was not as big as it later became.

"It was on the verge of becoming big back then," he said. "During my sophomore and junior years, we had relatively easy times with Michigan. But before that, we had a lot of problems with them. In fact, I guess you could say that it was a lot like it is now."

Ohio State had trouble defeating Michigan from 1944 to 1950. During that span, the Buckeyes went through three coaches, beating the Wolverines only twice, and became well-known as "The Graveyard of Coaches."

So when Hayes was hired as head coach in 1951, he knew wins over Michigan were imperative so that his tombstone wasn't the next one in the "graveyard."

"We were well aware of the emotional conflicts Woody had during the Michigan games," White said. "He never wanted to lose anytime, but it was just magnified the week of the Michigan game."

"Then, when (former Michigan coach) Bo (Schembechler) got there and was coaching against Woody, it became an intensity far above what we even experienced. I think it got to be the top game in college football."

Not that it wasn't always an important rivalry. When White was a junior in 1958, each team entered the contest going in a different direction.

Ohio State had a 5-1-2 record and was ranked seventh in the country while Michigan had just two victories all season. On paper, it looked like a rather was imminent in Columbus.

That was hardly the case.

The Wolverines scored first for a 6-0 lead after the opening period and they held a 14-12 lead at halftime. But the Buckeyes marched 80 yards in 11 plays in the third quarter with White scoring on a six-yard touchdown run. The two-point conversion was good to give the Buckeyes a 20-14 lead.

That lead looked like it would hold up until late in the game when, with 40 seconds left, Michigan had the ball on OSU's four-yard line with a fourth-and-one play pending.

On the play, Michigan's Brad Myers fumbled the ball and it was recovered by OSU's Jerry Fields, thus preserving the six-point win.

During White's senior year in 1959, the OSU-Michigan game was a dis-



Bob White

appointing one. Both teams were average at best with the Buckeyes holding a 3-4-1 record and Michigan at 3-5.

Ohio State had been dealt several serious injuries during the season, including an almost unbelievable 17 during a 17-0 loss early in the season to Southern California.

White was one of those who was injured, but he continued to play the rest of the season until he simply couldn't go any longer. That Michigan game was the only one in three years that he missed due to injury. However, he will

never forget what Hayes did for him as the team traveled to Ann Arbor for the game.

"Woody kept me on the traveling squad even though I didn't dress for the game," White said. "I appreciated that, I really did. I thought it was one of the great acts of kindness a man ever did."

Although his playing days might not have brought out the best games during this rivalry, White has witnessed the intensity OSU-Michigan has exemplified over the years.

"Woody and Bo were a rivalry in themselves," White said. "Those two really reflected the whole bitterness of the game and that was carried through even when Woody left."

However, he has also witnessed Ohio State struggle through recent seasons and wonders if the game still retains the substance it once did.

"I just wonder if the intensity of it is dying," White said. "I don't think it's what it used to be."

He also admits he wonders how much stock is given to the Michigan game since OSU head coach John Cooper has been in Columbus. He cited the fact that no coach before Cooper had ever survived three straight losses to the team from up north without getting fired.

"You know, if the coach is playing for survival, the Michigan game's one thing," White said. "But if it doesn't matter whether he wins or loses, I think that takes a big part of the edge off it."

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MICHIGAN MEMORIES — STAN WHITE

Defeat, Redemption, Tirade Marked Series

By MARK PODOLSKI
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

Former Ohio State linebacker Stan White truly knows what the Ohio State-Michigan rivalry is all about. That's because he has witnessed "The Game" from both ends of the spectrum.

From the unbelievable 24-12 loss to Michigan in 1969 to redemption a year later in a 20-9 victory to Woody Hayes' explosion in the 1971 game, White saw it all during his three OSU-Michigan games.

"The Michigan game was our second, but maybe most important, season," White said. "There were the first eight or nine games of the season and that was first on our agenda. Then came the Michigan game and that was a season all by itself. The bowl game was an afterthought.

"The Michigan game was more important than the first eight games or the bowl game. We saw so much film of them and so many pictures of them, you learned to hate the sight of those uniforms and those ugly helmets they still wear."

Yet, when White recalls his playing days, he cannot help but think back to his sophomore season of 1969 and his first encounter with the Maize and Blue.

Ohio State entered the Michigan game riding a 22-game winning streak, ranked number one in the country and hoping for a second consecutive national

championship. Responsible for this were young players such as White and OSU's talented class of juniors that included Rex Kern, John Brockington, Jim Stillwagon and Jack Tatum.

The Buckeyes were being hailed by the national media as perhaps the greatest college football team ever. However, all that blew up in their faces during one afternoon in Ann Arbor.

Under the guidance of former Woody Hayes assistant and first-year UM head coach Bo Schembechler, the Wolverines ruined Ohio State's chance for another undefeated season and Rose Bowl berth with a stunning 24-12 upset.

The game started out well for the Buckeyes, who were 17-point favorites going in. On their first possession, they marched down the field for a touchdown and a quick 6-0 lead.

The lead was short-lived, though, as seven turnovers, and perhaps a bit of overconfidence, did in Hayes' team.

"We scored so easily the first time we had the ball, we all thought, Here we go again," White said. "But they made a few plays and that got their 100,000 fans going.

"It was just so amazing that we lost that game because we had such a great team and it was such a great upset."

While that loss will forever be etched in White's mind as his greatest disappointment as a football player, he enjoyed what he terms his greatest moment one year later when Ohio State rebounded to avenge that loss with a 20-9 victory.



Stan White

"Every game was an exhibition leading up to the Michigan game that year," he said. "We came and played the best football game, I think, I've ever been associated with as a football player."

Both teams entered the game undefeated and ranked in the top five nationally with the Rose Bowl berth on the line. However, for once, Pasadena was the last thing on Ohio State's mind.

Call it redemption. Call it revenge. The one thing on everyone's mind was beating Michigan.

"We went to class, of course, but I don't remember going," White said of the week prior to the 1970 game. "That was the week everything in the world was put aside except the preparation for that game."

"The pain from the game in '69 lived with us for the whole year. The only way we were able to exorcise that pain was to beat them."

Just as it was for Michigan a year earlier, Ohio State would not be denied. On the opening kickoff, Michigan's Lance Scheffler fumbled the ball and Ohio State recovered.

That turnover was converted into a 3-0 lead and the Buckeyes were on their way to victory.

White played a big part in the win. With Ohio State up 13-9 in the fourth quarter, he intercepted a pass at the Michigan 24-yard line and returned it to the nine, setting up Ohio State's final touchdown and clinching the win.

"The only time I remember hearing the crowd during a game was when I in-

tercepted that pass," White said. "It was like it turned into slow motion. It was almost surrealistic, the memory I have of that moment. It's etched in my mind as something I'll never forget."

With the win, Ohio State was set to face a Jim Plunkett-led Stanford team in the Rose Bowl. Entering the game as huge favorites, the Buckeyes played otherwise and lost 27-17.

For White at the time, it did not seem to bother him, even though the loss probably cost the team a national championship, an honor that went to Nebraska.

"To me, it wasn't that exciting, and that's strange, because it was my only Rose Bowl," he said. "Looking back, I realize the magnitude of the game, but at the time, it was like we accomplished what we needed to accomplish and that was beating Michigan. I think the fact that the Michigan game was so big, it hurt our focus for the Rose Bowl."

In 1971, the OSU-Michigan game did not have nearly the same implications as the previous two. Michigan entered undefeated with a Rose Bowl berth already locked up while the Buckeyes had three losses and were suffering through a host of injuries.

But for Hayes, his team's 10-7 loss was overshadowed by his own antics. Driving for the potentially go-ahead score late in the game, Michigan defensive back Thom Darden appeared to go over the back of Ohio State receiver Dick Wakefield on a pass play and intercepted the ball.

Hayes insisted there should have been an interference penalty on the play, and when he didn't get the call, the OSU head coach threw probably his most famous temper tantrum by berating officials and eventually tearing up the sideline downs markers.

Two players and an assistant coach had to lead Hayes off the field before Michigan ran the clock out.

"That was one of the first big explosions Woody had beyond the normal stuff," White said. "But we were ready to back him up. We wanted to tear things up, too."

When he looks back on the three OSU-Michigan games he played in, White knows those games typify what the rivalry is all about.

"Nothing comes close to Ohio State-Michigan," he said. "It's a rivalry that touches coaches, players and fans. It's really almost indescribable how much it means."

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MICHIGAN MEMORIES — CHAMP HENSON

Fullback Went Unbeaten Against Michigan

By JOHN REDD
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

Very few Ohio State football players can claim to have never been beaten by Michigan during their college careers, but Harold "Champ" Henson is one who can.

The fullback who hails from Ashville, Ohio, has nothing but fond memories — as well as a couple of pairs of Gold Pants — from the classic series. In his first taste of the OSU-Michigan game, Henson scored the Buckeyes' first touchdown when Ohio State beat the top-ranked Wolverines 14-11 in 1972.

He was also a key player on the 1974 team that beat Michigan. The Buckeyes played the Wolverines to a 10-10 tie in '73, their only blemish on a 10-0-1 record, but Henson was sidelined with a knee injury. He came back the following year and OSU edged its archrival 12-10 during Henson's senior year in 1974.

The Buckeyes won Big Ten championships and went to the Rose Bowl in each of Henson's three seasons with the team, and they won one of those trips to Pasadena, rolling over Southern California 42-21 on New Year's Day in 1974.

But the 1972 OSU-Michigan game, Henson's first, remains his most memorable.

"In that game, Michigan was number one in the country and we won 14-11. It was really emotional and everyone was drained at the end of the game. Our defense stopped them 12 times inside our five-yard line," Henson said. "It was a great team effort and, in that game, I scored our first touchdown."

In that season, Henson scored what was then an Ohio State-record 20 touchdowns and led the nation in scoring. He was well on his way to duplicating, or maybe even bettering, that mark in 1973 when he tore up a knee in the second game of the year against Texas Christian.

But he returned in 1974 for his senior year and took his place alongside Heisman Trophy winner Archie Griffin.

Michigan was always a priority when Henson was at Ohio State and the Buckeyes prepared for the Wolverines 12 months out of the year.

"It was a year-round preparation," Henson said. "Spring practice was spent focusing a lot on Michigan. Even during the season against some of the weaker teams, we would take a day or two of practice and devote it to the Michigan defense. We weren't really looking ahead. It was more of a calculated effort."

That effort was because of head coach Woody Hayes' obsession with beating "that team up north." And Henson confirmed that all of the stories — the ones about ripping caps, stomping watches and punching himself — about Hayes are true.

"The Michigan game was more or less the culmination of the whole season. It was very intense, especially with the way Coach Hayes felt about it," Henson said. "We more or less practiced for that game all year, but when that particular week of preparation came around, it was really intense. By the time we were ready to play the game, we were ready to explode."

The game was already considered one of the classic rivalries in college football before 1969. But when the personal rivalry between Hayes and Michigan head coach Bo Schembechler began, that made the game even bigger than it already was.

"For the coach, it was kind of like what his life revolved around. The way he approached the game and the way Bo approached the game, it was like they were mortal enemies," Henson remembered. "But, in all actuality, they probably felt closer to each other than anyone else."

"I guess the game was really sup-



Champ Henson

posed to be about the intense competition, yet Woody and Bo were still the best of friends. That game is what college football should be about."

By helping the Buckeyes to beat Michigan twice, Henson was awarded two pairs of Gold Pants, the small charm given to all of the members of the team whenever Ohio State beats the Wolverines.

"It was pretty neat when we got those," he said. "It's a tradition that goes back to the 1930s, I think, and I al-

ways remember seeing (assistant coach and former player) Esco Sarkkinen's wife wearing a charm bracelet with about 30 pairs. I always thought that was neat."

Henson said he doesn't have either pair of his Gold Pants. "I gave my wife a pair," he said, "and my mom got the other."

There are a lot of differences between "The Game" now and when he was playing and, unfortunately, Henson fears some of the luster may be wearing off the great rivalry.

"Times change," he said, "and I think the fact that Woody and Bo are both gone takes away from it a little bit. Plus, we haven't had a win in quite a while, so people outside the two schools probably think it's not as big as it once was. Those of us who played in it, though, know better."

Henson is so busy running the family farm in Ashville these days that he rarely has the opportunity to attend an Ohio State game. In fact, this year will mark his first appearance at the Michigan game since he was a player in 1974.

"I'm too busy to go to many games," he said. "But I am going to get to the Michigan game this year. I'm going to take my oldest son. My son likes going. I don't like the crowds too much, but he's really looking forward to it. We've been to a couple of other games and he really likes the whole atmosphere."

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MICHIGAN MEMORIES — CALVIN MURRAY

Battle Of Bands Helped Get Team Fired Up

By RICH LEONARDO
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

On Nov. 17, 1979, "The Game" was played the way it was meant to be, with a life-and-death intensity that was commonplace in this contest.

In Ann Arbor, in front of 106,255 rabid fans, Ohio State capped an improbable undefeated regular season with an 18-15 victory over archrival Michigan, giving the Buckeyes the Big Ten title and a trip to the Rose Bowl in Earle Bruce's first year as head coach.

Despite the passage of 15 years, the memory of that game still looms large in the mind of OSU's leading rusher that season, tailback Calvin Murray.

"It was great beating Michigan at their stadium," Murray said. "Plus, it meant we would finish the season undefeated. I can remember being in the locker room before the game and we could hear our band outside, playing our fight song.

"Then the Michigan band started playing, too, and it was as if they were battling on this day as well. Hearing them just served to put some extra fire in our eyes, although we were already totally focused on the task at hand."

According to Murray, the task of defeating the Wolverines was something the team focused on the entire year.

"Beginning with the first day of practice, we started preparing for Michigan," he said. "On the weeks before we played a team like Northwestern, or any other team we felt we would physically dominate, we'd practice for the Michigan game. We'd eventually look at some film of whomever we were playing that Saturday, but the focus of those weeks was always on beating Michigan."

The team's tunnel vision approach to the Michigan game was a direct result of its leadership. Murray was recruited and played two seasons for Woody Hayes and finished his Buckeye career under the tutelage of Bruce, a former player and assistant under Hayes.

"Both Woody and Earle were really great motivators," Murray said. "I mean, the intensity those coaches brought to that game made you feel, as a player, like there was no other game worth playing. You know, they were right."

Is it possible that Murray and the rest of the Buckeyes back then really did disregard the other 10 games of the season in lieu of the duel against Michigan?

"To be a Buckeye and to line up against Michigan meant everything," he said. "It was why we played football. It was why we played football at Ohio State. All we thought about all year was



Calvin Murray

beating Michigan. Our main objective was simply to beat them and, quite frankly, everyone else was just in our way."

According to Murray, the passion he felt about playing Michigan was not unique to just him, the team and the coaches, but to millions of others as well.

"The community got so involved, the state got so involved, it was unbelievable," Murray said. "Bragging rights were at stake, recruiting was at stake and, usually, the Rose Bowl was at stake. You just don't realize the importance of the game until you've played in it and then again when you're removed from it. Fifteen years later, it is still important to me."

Over the past decade and a half, Murray has admittedly sensed a change in the perception of the game and it's a change that saddens him.

"I just feel the focus is no longer there," he said. "The city was different then, the media were different. Heck, even the student support was different. But I still think that beating Michigan this year would put a different attitude in everyone's mind. It's what the fans, the city and the entire state of Ohio want to see."

"And as for the players, their season cannot be complete and their careers cannot be complete without beating Michigan."

Being a part of one of college football's most heated rivalries meant a lot to Murray. However, it appeared for a while like he might not taste victory over the Wolverines.

Michigan defeated the Buckeyes in 1976, 1977 and 1978, the first time it had ever defeated Hayes three straight times. The losses in '76 and '77 were especially painful since Ohio State enter-

ed both games undefeated in league play and had to settle for Big Ten co-championships with Michigan while watching the Wolverines go to the Rose Bowl.

But Murray and his teammates finally got redemption with the victory over the Maize and Blue in his senior season.

"You never forget the game, especially when you win it," Murray said. "I can still see Jim Laughlin blocking that punt and Todd Bell picking the ball up and going in for a touchdown. I can still feel the ground shaking from the roar of the crowd that day and I can still feel the joy of hearing that final gun go off and seeing the scoreboard read Ohio State 18, Michigan 15."

As a proud alumnus of both the university and the football team, Murray has some sage and hopefully helpful advice for this year's squad.

"Never forget what being a Buckeye means," he said. "For the seniors, this is their last chance, so I hope they realize the importance of the game and come out of it with a victory."

"In this game, there is no close, no almost. There is no second-best. You'll only remember if you won or lost, and winning over Michigan is definitely something you can take with you the rest of your life."



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MICHIGAN MEMORIES — TIM SPENCER

First Michigan Game Was Best For Spencer

By MIKE WACHSMAN
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

Tim Spencer is in a unique position as an onlooker for the Ohio State-Michigan showdown.

He has already been in the game as a player and watched it intently on television after his days at Ohio State were over. And this year, Spencer will again have an active role to play in the game as the Buckeyes' running backs coach and that gives him a chance to see the contest from both sides. He joins linebackers coach Fred Pagac and defensive ends coach Bill Conley as former Ohio State players now on the coaching staff who have witnessed the game on the sidelines from both perspectives.

Still number two on OSU's all-time rushing list with 3,553 yards, Spencer had the honor of topping the Wolverines three times in his four-year career, including his first time out of the box, an 18-15 Buckeye win that jettied the Scarlet and Gray to Pasadena.

Because he was a rookie, that may have been Spencer's most memorable tussle with the Maize and Blue.

"That first one when we played Michigan for the Rose Bowl was great," he said. "Without a doubt, that was my fondest memory because we beat them to go to the Rose Bowl. We beat them three out of four times when I was here as a player, which is a pretty good feat."

Spencer's 1981 Buckeye squad knocked off the Wolverines 14-9. He made a major contribution to the 24-14 victory in 1982, gaining 124 yards with one touchdown.

Because of an odd number of league games that year, Michigan had already clinched the Rose Bowl, so to win the game was even more satisfying.

Three wins in four tries might be

enough for some people, but, ever the competitor, Spencer wishes for more.

"We probably should have won when I was a sophomore, but it didn't happen," he said, speaking of a 9-3 Michigan victory.

Buckeye fans talk about the OSU-Michigan game as one for bragging rights and the winner often does a lot of bragging from year to year. But while there seems to be some sort of inbred hatred between fans of the two schools, the Ohio State players involved in the rivalry don't hate the Wolverines. They don't pal around with them, but there certainly isn't much animosity.

"We didn't particularly hate those guys. We just kind of prided ourselves on the competition," Spencer said. "Respect is the word I'd use. Both schools really respect each other's tradition. We all go out there and lay it on the line. It's just played the way you like to play football."

Many fans feel they know the tradition behind "The Game," but until you play in it, you really don't have an appreciation or understanding of just how emotional and intense it really is.

"There are no words to explain how it feels. You have to put on the pads, don your helmet and go out and hit. Then, and only then, will you have a taste of what it's like.

That's the way Spencer approaches telling people — and players in particular — about gearing up for the game.

"The closest you can get, especially when you're speaking to freshmen, is to equate it with their biggest rivalry in high school, but 10 or 20 fold," he said. "You try to approach it that way. You really cannot equate it with anything you've ever experienced. They really won't know until they play in one."

Michigan head coach Gary Moeller, a former Ohio State captain, has stated in



Tim Spencer

end. But when you look at and listen to Spencer, you see that just isn't true.

Asked about the age-old tradition of the Gold Pants and Spencer reaches beneath his collar and pulls out a necklace with the prize dangling from the end.

He has three such souvenirs and he's currently using the one around his neck to explain how rich in tradition the series is.

"I always keep them on and sometimes I'll put them out and some of the guys will ask about them," Spencer said. "They all know now what it's about. But earlier on they would ask, 'What are they?' or 'Where do you get them?' You have to tell them the tradition and how you get them and kind of build on that."

But there is still some work to do.

"A lot of guys don't really know what it's all about," Spencer said. "A lot of guys don't really realize until years later what it really meant to them."

"We always wanted the Gold Pants because we were told about them by the older guys. I remember I gave one pair to my mom, one to my dad and I kept one for myself. And I didn't put them away either. I wear them because I feel I worked for them. That's what you have to do, too, work for them. You can't get them any other way. Maybe that's why the guys who have them are so proud of them."

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MICHIGAN MEMORIES — JIM KARSATOS

Rivalry Was Big Even For West Coast Native

By **MIKE WACHSMAN**
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

You might think that because Jim Karsatos grew up on the West Coast, he wouldn't know about goings-on in the Big Ten, specifically Ohio State and Michigan meeting out their brand of justice on November Saturdays.

You'd think wrong.

Karsatos, a native of Fullerton, Calif., knew all about the battle for Big Ten supremacy, also known as "The Game." He'd sit down in front of the tube, chips and pop nearby, and watch both teams go at it tooth and nail.

And he loved it.

"I knew it was big when I was growing up," Karsatos said. "It was on right before the USC-UCLA game and we always watched it. And let me say that I'm from the West Coast and that game doesn't compare in intensity with ours. It's big, but USC might have a bigger game with Notre Dame."

"As a transplanted Californian, I ate up the whole thing. I heard every story that was involved with the history of the game."

In fact, having a chance to play in the annual Rose Bowl decider was one reason Karsatos chose to plunk himself down in the colder climes of Columbus.

Once he had an opportunity to put himself squarely in the middle of the rivalry as a starting quarterback in 1985, he made the most of it.

Unfortunately, the Buckeyes came

out on the short end of a 27-17 tally, thanks to Karsatos' "good buddy" Jim Harbaugh. Karsatos threw a touchdown to Cris Carter that narrowed Michigan's lead to 20-17, but Harbaugh was too much, completing 16 of 19 passes for 230 yards and leading the Wolverines to a victory.

Seeing the game from the bench and playing in it are two markedly different feelings, and Karsatos remembers the fever pitch of practice leading up to his immersion in the greatest of college football rivalries.

"It was really exciting," he said. "There was a lot going on everywhere on campus that week. Practice, for one of the rare times, was fun. You didn't feel tired and the bumps and bruises didn't bother you. The coaches didn't have to tell the players anything because we knew what we had to do."

Karsatos' second and final chance really appeared to be the one that would send him back to the West Coast and the Rose Bowl.

In 1986, Ohio State had won nine straight games, pitching two shutouts and scoring seemingly at will against most of the Big Ten.

The Rose Bowl, as it often was, was the prize for the winner, the Cotton Bowl for the loser.

Many people remember the contest for Michigan tailback Jamie Morris gaining 210 yards on the ground, Chris Spielman tying the Ohio State single-game record with 29 tackles, or perhaps kicker Matt Frantz pushing the poten-



Jim Karsatos

tially game-winning field goal ever-slightly left to preserve a 26-24 win for the Wolverines.

What some forget, though, is the day Karsatos had. He finished with 15 completions in 27 attempts for 188 yards and two TD passes, both to Carter.

Michigan led 26-24 with little over a minute remaining when Frantz was called on to become the hero and send the Buckeyes packing for California. Instead, he missed (though some still believe the kick was good) and the Bucks instead went deep in the heart of Texas, where they dismantled a seemingly unbeatable Texas A&M squad 28-12 in the Cotton Bowl.

But even though the Buckeyes whipped the Aggies, the loss to Michigan and missing out on a trip to Pasadena was hard to swallow.

"Everybody played their hearts out," Karsatos said. "That was my last Michigan game and it was probably a little more memorable because I was pretty emotional. I didn't usually get emotional after games, but I did for that one because it was my last. We played a good game; we just came up short."

In his nearly 10 years removed from the rivalry, Karsatos has gotten a chance to really see the game from the outside. Currently working for WBNS Radio as a color analyst and statistician on game day, the former QB believes a bit of the shine has left the game, especially with the players.

"The players know how big the game is, but a lot of them today don't know about the history of the game," Karsatos said. "The fans who have followed it un-

derstand the history, but the players don't seem to do that. Some kids, like a Shawn Springs, whose dad played in the rivalry, or players like that would understand. But, by and large, a lot of these kids don't know the stories behind the tradition. You can't blame the kids, though, because of the generation they were born.

"None of the kids on this team has seen a pair of Gold Pants. I thought that was the neatest thing ever. They don't realize it now, but after this game is over, especially the seniors, they'll want to go back and say they wish they had one more chance against Michigan."

That said, Karsatos would not for a minute trade the incomparable feeling of coming to the Horseshoe on OSU-Michigan day.

The feeling is still there after all this time.

"The tradition is amazing," Karsatos said. "You can still feel it in the air, although, in my opinion, it has lost a little bit. It will always be a great game, though, and whenever it's for the Rose Bowl, boy, that's something extra. I still look forward to the game and get pumped before I get to the stadium. I'm sure I will again this year."

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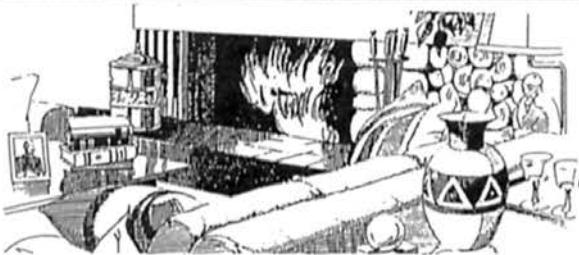
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MICHIGAN MEMORIES — CARLOS SNOW

Tailback's Biggest Thrill Was TD Reception

By MARK REA
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

Things didn't exactly go the way Carlos Snow had planned.

Coming out of Cincinnati Academy of Physical Education as one of the top-rated high school running backs in the nation, Snow was on a parallel with Emmitt Smith of Pensacola, Fla.

Of course, we all know now that a myriad of leg injuries has finished Snow's career on the gridiron and Smith continues to win NFL rushing titles and Super Bowl rings with the Dallas Cowboys.

But Snow insists he has no regrets. In fact, he owns a piece of jewelry Smith will never own and wouldn't trade it for a Super Bowl ring.

"These little pants," Snow said, referring to the Gold Pants he earned as a member of the 1987 Ohio State team that defeated Michigan. "I look at these things and remember a lot of good times. I'm disappointed that I'm not playing football now, but I look at these and have a lot of good memories."

Snow earned his Gold Pants as a freshman in the 1987 game. As it turned out, he had three more cracks at the Wolverines but never won another pair. But he still counts that game in '87 as one of his most thrilling ever on the gridiron.

Just days before the game, Ohio State head coach Earle Bruce was fired, throwing the team into disarray — but only temporarily. Snow says the Buckeyes later used the firing as a rallying point.

"That whole week leading up to that game was a strange one," he remembered. "We had expected to have an excellent season, too. It was my first year, and we had beaten Texas A&M in the Cotton Bowl the year before and things were really going great. But we had some tough losses and then, out of the blue, Coach Bruce got fired."

"We were kind of going around in a daze for a while after that. But we got together as a team and got mad. That finally fired us up and we decided we had to win the game for Coach Bruce."

The game was played on a raw day in Ann Arbor and all of the Buckeyes entered the field wearing headbands with "EARLE" written on them. But it didn't go the way the team had planned, at least not at the beginning.

The Wolverines took an early 13-0 lead on a one-yard touchdown run by Jamie Morris and a pair of Mike Gillette field goals.

But the Buckeyes came roaring back with a touchdown just before halftime, then took the lead when quarterback Tom Tupa hit Snow with a short pass and the OSU tailback turned it into a 70-yard touchdown romp.

"I remember that pass was just a little toss. I took the ball and turned around and didn't see anybody in front of me," he said. "I didn't know where everybody had gone, but I didn't wait around. I took off running as fast as I could. I never looked back because I was worried somebody might be gaining on me."

The Buckeyes later added another touchdown to take a 20-13 lead, but kicker Matt Frantz missed the extra point. That play looked as though it would loom large when Michigan tied the game at 20 with 1:14 left in the third quarter.

But Ohio State stiffened on defense and, with 5:18 left in the game, Frantz atoned for his earlier miss with a 26-yard field goal. The Wolverines tried to mount a last-second rally, but OSU linebacker Eric Kumerow recovered a Leroy Hoard fumble near midfield to snuff the comeback.

"That was just a great game," Snow said. "I couldn't believe that emotion in the locker room after the game. Our team won two state championships in high school, but it's hard to say I've ever had that type of feeling I had after that game."

Perhaps Snow's finest individual effort against the Wolverines came as a



Carlos Snow

sophomore in 1988. He carried 25 times for a career-high 170 yards, including 106 of it in the second half as the Buckeyes rallied from a 20-0 halftime deficit.

But they couldn't quite hold off a last-second Michigan rally and lost the game by a 34-31 score.

"As much as the game the year before was great, that one hurt," Snow said. "We were having a losing season and this was our chance to salvage something. We were getting blown out in the first half, then we got mad. We finally had a lead late in that game, but we just couldn't hold it."

Snow missed the next two Michigan games with injuries. A bad knee held

him out of the '89 game and he missed the entire 1990 season after off-season hip surgery.

He returned for his senior season in 1991 and played in a Michigan game he just as soon would like to forget. Behind the play of eventual Heisman Trophy winner Desmond Howard, the Wolverines pounded out a 31-3 victory.

"I don't like to even talk about that one," Snow admitted. "They took us out of that one early."

He found the going tough against Michigan on that day, gaining only 54 yards on 24 carries. But he also had four receptions for 33 yards and accounted for nearly 40 percent of his team's offensive yardage.

Despite tasting victory over the Wolves only once in his OSU career, Snow still cherishes his memories about playing in the rivalry.

"I don't think you can describe it," he said. "I know that you should probably take it just like any other game, but it's not. You can't help but feel a little extra whenever that week rolls around. I know in my junior year, when I was hurt and couldn't play, it tore me up. I would have done anything to get out there."

"Some people say that it's lost something over the years, too, but I don't believe that. I can't speak for the guys who played before me and I can't speak for the guys who are playing now. But when I was there, playing under Coach Bruce and Coach Cooper, it was still the biggest game we played every year. I'm pretty sure it's still that and probably always will be."

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Tucker To Wait Until Late Signing Period; Bucks Still Pursuing Traylor

Stringer Jumps OSU Class Number To Eight

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

Cleveland Heights (Ohio) basketball standout Damon Stringer woke up Nov. 13 and decided the chance to join Ohio State's ever-growing recruiting class was just too great.

"I was just sure, I don't know why exactly," Stringer told *BSB*.

Maybe it was the fact that Ohio State still had room for a top-notch point guard like Stringer. Maybe it had to do with reading the names of other in-state players who jumped at the opportunity to be Buckeyes. Probably it had a lot to do with mom and dad, who urged Stringer to reconsider when he nearly pulled the trigger on Clemson instead of nearby Ohio State.

"I really was somewhat big on them (Clemson), but I was never really sure," he said. "I got a lot of reinforcements at home."

"Some of the problems they've had there (OSU) with players had me worried for a little while, but they've turned it around 180 degrees. They've got a big class with some prime-time players in it, so everything is going positive right now."

The class grows to an Ohio State all-time high of seven with the addition of Stringer, a 5-11 point guard who aver-

aged nearly 20 points, six assists and two steals per game while leading Heights to the state's final four as a junior.

At press time, Stringer indicated he planned to sign by the end of the early period, Nov. 16. His letter of intent will join those already sent to the OSU offices by 6-1 guard Jami Bosley of Massillon (Ohio) Jackson, 6-3 guard Neshawn Coleman of Toledo St. John's, 6-6 swingman Jason Singleton of Southgate (Mich.) Aquinas, 6-8 forward Scott Gradney of Louisville (Ky.) Ballard, 6-7 forward Shaun Stonerook of Westerville (Ohio) North and 6-10 center Mark Howard of East Canton, Ohio.

Stringer said his family and friends are excited about the prospect of seeing him play on television for the Buckeyes. Chances are they could see him do it as a starter since current lead guard Doug Etzler is a senior and no other Buckeyes are considered to be true point guards. The landing of Stringer was yet another coup for Ohio State head coach Randy Ayers, who impressed the Stringers with his honesty and integrity.

"I really liked the coaches at both schools," Stringer said of Ayers and Clemson head coach Rick Barnes, a former OSU assistant. "But I feel pretty close to Coach Ayers. I think we have a good relationship."

Stringer also clicked with Buckeyes Carlos Davis and Otis Winston on his late October visit to OSU. And he is predicting good karma with the other incoming players.

"I'm looking forward to helping them turn things around and I think we can do it because there are a lot of highly rated players coming in," he said. "I see Neshawn as being big-time and everybody knows about Stonerook because his team won the state championship."

"If everyone comes with the same thing in mind — to play their game and to commit to winning — then only good things will happen."

STRINGER IS familiar with Stonerook since Stonerook's 20-point, 22-rebound performance against Cleveland Heights put Westerville North in the title game. Current Buckeye walk-on Kevin Martin also came up big in the clutch as North won one of the more improbable state championship's in a while.

Now Stonerook is looking to join both and shock disbelievers again. At his press conference to announce his decision, held Nov. 9 in the North library, Stonerook said he wants to prove that things like defense, rebounding and teamwork prevail on the court.

Stonerook has been labeled as too frail to play forward in the Big Ten, but North coach Dave Hoover isn't buying it.

"Kids have to be allowed to be kids," Hoover said. "Shaun just turned 17 in August and he's actually stronger than maybe a lot of people think he looks. He bench presses about 240 and he works out in the weight room. As his body matures and he gets older I think he's going to be a good, strong player."

"There are ways of getting around not being super strong, too, if you are an intelligent basketball player and you have good athletic skills, which Shaun has both of those qualities. I have confidence in Shaun being able to evaluate what an opponent has and what his weaknesses are and being able to attack those. He's one of the most intelligent players I've ever coached."

Stonerook averaged 18.5 points, 12.9 rebounds and shot 65 percent from the field with 59 assists, 49 blocked shots and 45 steals last year. But he really came into prominence in the tournament.

"I think a lot of it had to do with that," said Stonerook, who was chiefly recruited by OSU assistant coach Dave Cecutti. "People got a chance to see I could play against the bigger, better people in the state. I think that made some people say, 'Hey, he can really play.'"

Stonerook considered playing a level below the Big Ten, but eventually picked the Buckeyes over Penn State.

"I'm not really sure exactly what it was," he said. "I felt real comfortable with Penn State, the coaches, the atmosphere down there. I think they're going to do really well. They're building a new arena. I think that program is going uphill."

"But when it came down to it, I felt most comfortable with Ohio State. There wasn't one specific thing that made me go there, though."

Stonerook made an official visit to Ohio University and had the Bobcats in mind late until narrowing to Penn State and Ohio State. Xavier and Clemson also made in-home visits and Vanderbilt and Notre Dame were in the picture early.

Stonerook said he gave some brief thought to his father's alma mater, Michigan, but decided against the more flashy Wolverines.

"I'm not the type of player that would fit in at Michigan," he said. "I'm more of a team player."

Besides, he likes the direction of the Ohio State program right now.

"I think Ohio State by the people they're recruiting now and getting signed are making steps to be the best they can be," he said. "I like that and I want to be a part of it. I think it would be neat to take this team to a Big Ten championship knowing where they are now."

As Martin may be proving this year, Stonerook thinks he may have an advantage over other freshmen next season since he plays for such a high-caliber program.

"Coach Hoover's a great coach," said Stonerook, who has vowed to work on his ball handling and outside shooting this year. "He teaches a lot of stuff that I'm going to need to know about when I go into the Big Ten and play. It's basic stuff I've seen a lot of people playing college who don't know."

THE FIRST recruit to raise his hand and say yes to the Buckeyes, Mansfield forward Sean Tucker, did not sign with OSU in the early period. Tucker re-took the ACT Oct. 22 and probably will not know the results until sometime in December. Also, Tucker's grade-point average is still below a 2.5. Current NCAA rules state 1995 freshman who earn a minimum score of 700

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on the SAT or 17 on the ACT need a GPA of 2.5 or higher for core courses.

Tucker plans to stay committed to the program until he can gain his initial college eligibility and sign, hopefully in the spring. He would bring OSU's total of scholarship players to eight.

"I think the reason behind it is the ACT score," Mansfield Senior coach Ron Hetler told *BSB*. "The first time he took it he didn't qualify and now we're waiting for the results. He's not going to sign now."

"I don't think you want to put yourself in a situation like that. In his case, it's a wise decision. He had a 3.0 GPA for the first grading period, but we still have three grading periods to go and I would think he'd have to at least do that or better from here on out."

Hetler said his 6-7 forward is keeping his head up.

"I think he seems OK with it. He's not depressed or anything," said the second-year coach.

Tucker played with Stonerook on an AAU team coached by Jerry Watson of Columbus. The two players reportedly became fast friends as the team played in Las Vegas.

WHILE TUCKER is playing the waiting game, Ohio State's other summer commitment is signed and sealed. Bosley, who has been committed to the Buckeyes since June, made good on his early word and signed his letter of intent in front of family, friends, classmates and local media at Jackson High School. Howard made the 40-minute trip from East Canton to be by Bosley's side and to put his signature on a letter.

"It was both of our ideas and Coach Ayers and Coach Cecutti thought it would be nice," Howard said. "I've played with Jami before. He's a real good basketball player and a real nice guy."

Like Bosley, Howard was crossing his fingers for the chance to be a Buckeye. When OSU began recruiting him and asked him to visit, Howard nearly committed on the spot.

"I was pretty much decided, but I still wanted to go down there," said Howard, who made an official visit Oct. 28-29 with Stringer. "Everything went real well. I'm just real excited and

happy right now. I can't wait to go."

Bosley is anxious to don the scarlet and gray as well.

"They're both real excited right now and they've got a lot of people in this area who are proud of them and looking forward to seeing them as Buckeyes," Jackson coach Larry Taylor said. "Jami was just thrilled to death. He told me he couldn't sleep the night before."

"The Ohio State staff made him feel good and comfortable with everything. They did an outstanding job."

Taylor said he is certain Bosley, a hard-nosed guard who led Jackson to the state tourney, will find a way to excel on the Big Ten level, even though he has many detractors.

"He only knows one gear," the coach said. "He's unbelievable. The first time I saw him was in the seventh grade and he scored 44 points."

"But as far as Jami and what he's capable of on the court, he's always had that syndrome with him. When he was a freshman, everyone said he would struggle and he was terrific. When he was a junior, all I heard was how he was going to be double-teamed and wouldn't do anything and he had another great year."

"I've always said he can do what he wants to do when he puts his mind and heart to it. I realize playing at Ohio State will be tougher on him, but I'm telling you, this kid doesn't back down from anybody."

Howard may, in fact, require a longer adjustment period, but Ohio State needs his size in the immediate future. He averaged close to 20 points, 12 rebounds and five blocks as a junior. If he continues to develop this year, Howard could be the true center lacking in the program right now.

"They need inside players and I feel I have the ability to score and rebound," Howard said. "I know my way around the basket, so I think I'll fit in."

Howard will try to mature as a player under Tom Crank, East Canton's newly appointed head coach. Crank takes over from Joe Pangrazio, who resigned in the fall.

OHIO STATE is still holding out hope of landing an even more imposing middle man in Robert Traylor, a 6-9, 300-pounder at Detroit Murray Wright.

Traylor is considered by many recruiting services to be among the top five players in the nation.

Ohio State would reach its limit of eight scholarships to give out for next year if Tucker does indeed sign with the team, but Traylor is the kind of player the coaches will make room for if necessary.

A cousin of Ohio State football player and Detroit native Larry Waldon, Traylor said he will be in Ohio Stadium Nov. 19 when the Buckeyes host Michigan.

"I'm going to see my cousin and also to take an unofficial visit," he told *BSB*. "I'm looking seriously at Ohio State. They have a pretty good coach and they're doing a good job of getting players."

"I think it would be better to join a big group like that. I'd have a chance to play four years with most of the guys on the team."

Traylor, who has lived in the Waldon household since childhood, is good friends with Singleton and said he has followed Ohio State's recruiting. He currently includes OSU on a long list of schools he is considering. The list is headlined by Michigan, believed to be the front-runner for him, and also includes Michigan State, Detroit-Mercy, Kentucky, Houston, Weber State and James Madison.

Traylor will be a late signee if he can become academically eligible. He's on the brink with a 16 on the ACT and a 2.4 grade-point average. He re-took the ACT Oct. 22 in hopes of jumping a point or two.

Traylor has been hearing regularly from Ayers on the phone and is eager to meet him in person.

"I'll probably ask him about my chances of playing and about the school in general," he said.

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Top Five Recruit Makes 'Odd' Choice; Smith Tabbed As Big Ten's Best Player

By MIKE WACHSMAN
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

Choosing a college at which to play sports can be an agonizing and difficult decision for a high-schooler, especially a nationally known star.

It's made doubly tough, though, when parental control is involved. That is apparently what took place with Baltimore Western forward Chanel Wright, one of the five best players in the nation according to *Blue Star Index*, and craved by nearly every major school in the country.

The 6-footer, who posted fine averages of 22.8 points and 8.8 rebounds last year, chose national champion North Carolina over Ohio State, something of an odd decision considering the circumstances.

"It seems very odd that she'd choose North Carolina after telling me that she didn't particularly enjoy her visit there," Western head coach Breezy Bishop told *BSB*. "She said all along that Ohio State was her favorite visit and that's where I thought she would go. But it was taken out of my control. I really believe she was given some bad information. You can quote me on that."

Wright, who also visited Tennessee before making her decision, could have made an impact at Ohio State almost immediately. With her fluid style and clutch shooting, she was a must-have for any school.

Now that she's heading off to Chapel Hill, Bishop hopes she will be happy.

"I find it difficult to believe she'll really have any peace of mind," the

coach said. "In the last week and a half, her mother began handling things and I was left out of a great deal."

"One week she said she was going to OSU, the next week she said Tennessee and the next week, North Carolina. I'm very perplexed."

Wright was scheduled to sign her national letter of intent at a press conference at the school on Nov. 14.

Ohio State was still awaiting word from 6-3 center Adrian Williams of Fresno (Calif.) Clovis West, who finished her visits with a trip to Purdue Nov. 11-13.

When reached at home, Williams' mother said, "We're hopeful of having a decision by (Nov. 16), but we want Adrian to have a clear head about it."

Also deliberating between Southern Cal and Fresno State, Williams averaged 15 points and 11 rebounds for the Golden Eagles last year and should do even more as the focal point of the offense.

Meanwhile, Ukari Figgs, a 5-9 guard from Georgetown (Ky.) Scott County, chose Purdue over Stanford, Duke and Ohio State, making her decision on the evening of Nov. 13.

"She just went on and on about their engineering program," Scott County head coach Wayne Atkins said of Figgs, a 4.00 student. "She didn't really talk about any of the schools in a basketball sense, but really from an educational perspective."

"I've coached her for seven years (dating back to middle school) and I know she felt comfortable with the Purdue players. But she found good things about all the schools. She researched it well and I'm sure she'll be happy with her choice."

The Buckeyes were hoping to add Wright to a class of 6-3 center Mindy Fusetti of Ashville (Ohio) Teays Valley and 6-1 forward Marrita Porter of Louisville (Ky.) Butler High School.

Hopeful of signing as many as two more players, the Buckeyes will turn

their attentions to the late signing period that begins in April.

BY AND large, the Big Ten has done well in the early signing period.

Among the top names are 6-4 center Amy Herrig of Dubuque, Iowa, going to Iowa and 6-5 center Amy Weirsma of Randolph, Wis., going to Wisconsin.

Purdue inked 5-5 guard Alison Edgar of Spencerville, Ind., and 6-6 center Summer Erb of Lakewood, Ohio, in addition to the signing of Figgs.

Wisconsin also plucked one out from its own backyard, nabbing 6-footer Tanisha Boston of Bayview High School in Milwaukee, while Illinois scored something of a coup by getting 6-2 forward Sally Albers of Apple Valley, Minn., the same hometown as last year's Big Ten player of the year, Carol Ann Shudlick of Minnesota.

Northwestern received a signing from 6-1 forward Anne Giblin of Caldwell (N.J.) Mount St. Dominic's.

OHIO STATE may not be thought of too highly in the preseason predictions, but junior Katie Smith did get the nod as the league's preseason player of the year at the Big Ten Tipoff Luncheon in Indianapolis Nov. 10.

Smith, OSU's leading scorer last year at 22.0 points per game, was the only unanimous selection to the preseason all-league team. Joining her



Katie Smith

on the squad are Leslie Johnson of Purdue, Tia Jackson of Iowa, Tina Nicholson of Penn State and Barb Franke of Wisconsin.

Purdue, co-champion last year with Penn State, was tabbed as the team to beat by the league's coaches and is already ranked number two in the preseason by *The Associated Press*.

In the league standings, the Lady Lions were chosen number two, followed by Iowa, Ohio State and Indiana.

The second tier consists of Northwestern and Wisconsin tied for sixth, Michigan State eighth, Minnesota ninth, Illinois 10th and Michigan last.

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