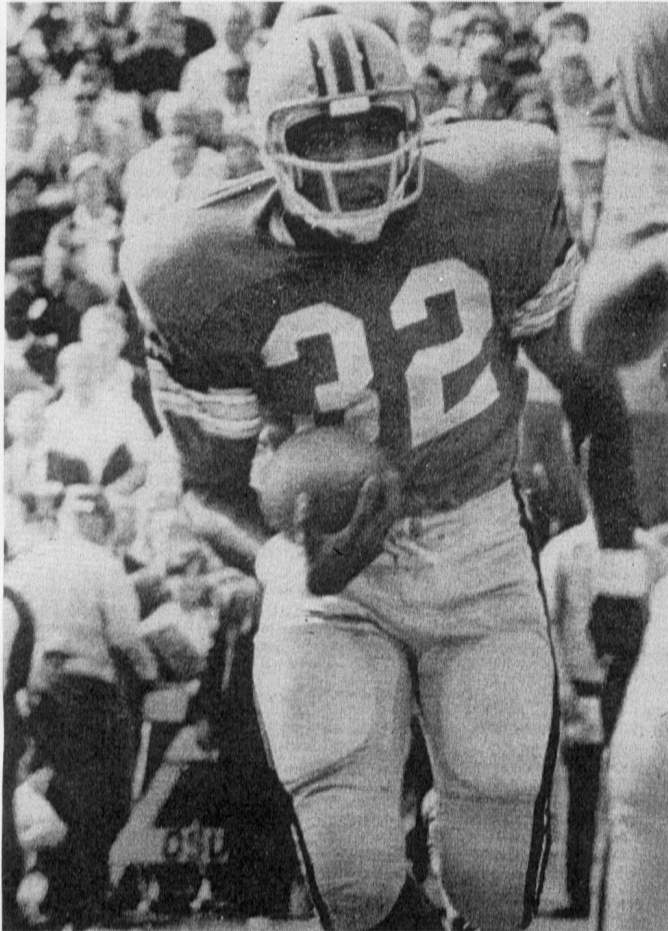


OTIS SCORES FOUR TDs VS. MICHIGAN

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BRINGING IT BACK — Ohio State's Jack Tatum (32) brings back an interception against Michigan in 1968. Tatum was one of three Buckeye defenders who had interceptions in the game as OSU rolled over the Wolverines 50-14.

By **MARK REA**
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

Clearing the last hurdle in an 11-year quest to return to the Rose Bowl, Ohio State completed an undefeated regular season with a 50-14 pounding of archrival Michigan in Ohio Stadium Nov. 23.

The victory meant a lot of things to the Buckeyes. It protected their number one national ranking, gave them their first unbeaten and untied season since 1954, earned them their first Big Ten championship since 1961, and got them a trip to the Rose Bowl for the first time since the national championship of 1957.

OSU head coach Woody Hayes, who just one year earlier heard rumors he might be fired, took a triumphant ride on his team's shoulders after the game and took the traditional tumble in the locker room showers.

"We had a lot of doubters when this season began," Hayes said. "But we knew we had an outstanding group of young men. The way they have played this season is a tribute to them. We can celebrate the championship and look forward to representing our conference in the Rose Bowl."

The Buckeyes' opponent would be the nation's number two team, Southern California. The Trojans were the undefeated champions of the Pac-8 and boasted a powerful offense led by Heisman Trophy candidate O.J. Simpson.

OSU pounded the Wolverines' defense for 421 yards rushing, turning a close, 21-14 halftime lead into the 36-point rout at the finish.

Junior fullback Jim Otis topped off his regular season by carrying 34 times for 143 yards and four touchdowns. The four TDs gave Otis 16 for the season, breaking Howard "Hopalong" Cassidy's single-season record of 14 set in 1955. It also allowed Otis to break Gene Fekete's all-time single-season scoring mark of 92 points set in 1942.

Sophomore quarterback Rex Kern had another excellent day guiding the

offense to victory. He wound up with 96 yards and two touchdowns rushing while completing five of eight passes for 41 more yards.

Sophomore halfback Larry Zelina also completed an excellent season with eight carries for 92 yards. Since cracking the starting lineup four games before, Zelina rushed for 242 yards on just 25 carries (an average of 9.7 yards per carry) and caught 11 passes for 235 yards (an average of 21.4 yards per catch).

On defense, the Buckeyes had even more stars. Sophomore linebacker Jack Tatum, junior defensive end Dave Whitfield, sophomore middle guard Jim Stillwagon and senior linebacker Mark Stier combined for 40 tackles in the game. In addition, Tatum had an interception and Whitfield added two tackles for lost yardage.

Michigan tailback Ron Johnson managed to pick up 91 yards in 21 carries for the Wolverines. He also scored their two touchdowns. Meanwhile, quarterback Denny Brown completed 14 of 24 passes for 171 yards. However, he was intercepted three times and had a net total of minus six yards rushing for the game.

Defensively, senior linebacker Tom Stinic set an all-time single-game record for Michigan with 23 tackles.

"We thought we were still in there in the first half," said UM head coach Bump Elliot. "Then we made some mistakes in the second half and they took advantage of them. You can't make mistakes against a team like Ohio State and expect to win the ball game."

With temperatures rising near an unseasonal 60 degrees, things got hot in the contest before the record Ohio Stadium crowd of 85,371 had a chance to settle.

Four plays into the game, Brown was pressured from behind and fumbled the football. Sophomore defensive end Marc Debevc recovered on the Michigan 36 to set up the Buckeyes in good field position.

But they couldn't cash in. The drive stalled quickly and Zelina's field goal attempt from 35 yards was short and wide left.

The Wolverines were spurred on by dodging that bullet and started on an 80-yard scoring drive.

There were three big plays in the march. On third down and nine, Brown hit tight end Jim Mandich for a gain of 11 yards and a first down. Two plays later, Johnson broke through right tackle and rambled 39 yards before being brought down from behind by Tatum.

Two plays after that, Brown hooked up with Mandich again for a 21-yard gain. That set up a one-yard touchdown run by Johnson to give Michigan the early lead. Place-kicker Tim Killian added the PAT for the Wolves' 7-0 advantage with 7:54 left in the first quarter.

OSU's troubles continued when sophomore split end Bruce Jankowski fumbled after a pass reception and



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Michigan recovered. But the Buckeyes came back late in the first quarter.

Starting at the UM 45, Kern led the Bucks on a 10-play drive that featured 10 consecutive rushing plays. The last one came on fourth and inches from the five-yard line when Otis thundered over left guard for the touchdown. Senior place-kicker Jim Roman booted the extra point to tie the game at 7-7.

Then the defense took over. The unit backed up Michigan to the shadow of its own end zone and then took over at the UM 32 after junior punter Mark Werner got off a punt of only 23 yards.

The Buckeyes again stayed on the ground and Otis converted another fourth-and-inches play to sustain the drive. Two plays later and just 23 seconds into the second quarter, Kern squirted through the left side of the Michigan line for a five-yard touchdown run. Roman added the extra point, giving the Bucks a 14-7 advantage.

The lead didn't last long, though. Michigan used another OSU turnover to set up a touchdown. Junior return man

Mike Polaski mishandled a punt at his own 28-yard line and the Wolverines recovered the ball.

Taking a page from Ohio State's playbook, the Wolves stayed exclusively with the run, and Johnson vaulted over left tackle from the one on the eighth play of the drive. Killian added the PAT to tie the score at 14 with 7:12 left in the first half.

The game was a tough battle between the two Big Ten powers to that point. But something happened when the Buckeyes took over for their next drive. Using nearly seven full minutes, OSU embarked on a 17-play drive. Fifteen of the plays were rushes as the entire Scarlet and Gray backfield of Kern, Otis, Zelina, junior Ray Gillian and sophomore John Brockington hammered away at the Wolverines.

Otis got the honors for the touchdown, bolting over right tackle from two yards out with 36 seconds left in the half. Roman added the conversion again, giving the Buckeyes a 21-14 halftime lead.

The second half was no contest. Ohio State piled up 302 total yards in the final two quarters to just 150 for the Wolverines. In addition, the Buckeyes outscored the Wolves 29-0 in the third and fourth quarters.

It all started on OSU's first possession of the second half. Taking the half's opening kickoff to their own 28-yard line, the Buckeyes moved the ball 72 yards in an 11-play drive which featured nothing but the running game.

Otis had a 13-yard run early in the drive, while Zelina set up the touchdown with a 21-yard gain after getting a pitchout from Kern on the option. Two plays later it was Zelina again, this time going wide left off tackle for a six-yard TD run. Roman's kick was wide to the left, leaving the score at 27-14 in favor of the Buckeyes.

Brown tried to rally the Wolverines in the third quarter. He moved his team from his own 23-yard line to the OSU 18. But pass attempts on third and fourth downs fell incomplete.

On UM's next drive, Brown passed for 14 yards to Mandich but was intercepted by Tatum on the next play.

That was enough incentive for the Buckeyes to put things away in the fourth quarter. Their first drive of the final period stalled at the UM 15, but Roman connected for a 22-yard field goal to make it 30-14 in favor of Ohio State.

One play later, OSU sophomore Doug Adams intercepted Brown at the 31-yard line. Once again the Buckeyes stayed on the ground for six plays in a row, topped off by Kern's three-yard keeper for a touchdown. Roman's PAT gave OSU a 37-14 advantage with 10:14 left in the game.

A few minutes later, the Wolverines were caught on fourth down attempting a fake punt and the Buckeyes took over again. Four plays into the drive, Gillian broke through right tackle and took off for a 50-yard run before he was stopped at the five.

Two plays later, Otis had his third touchdown of the day, a two-yard run over left tackle. Roman booted the PAT again, making it 44-14.

Then, with three minutes remaining in the game, Brown was intercepted again, this time by backup junior line-backer Art Burton at the Michigan 11-yard line.

The Buckeyes moved those 11 yards in five plays with Otis scoring his fourth touchdown of the game with 1:23 showing on the clock.

BUCKEYES 50, WOLVERINES 14

MICHIGAN	7	7	0	0	14
OHIO STATE	7	14	6	23	50

- UM — Johnson, 1 run (Killian kick) 7:54
- OSU — Otis, 5 run (J.Roman kick) 2:04
- OSU — Kern, 5 run (J.Roman kick) 14:40
- UM — Johnson, 1 run (Killian kick) 7:12
- OSU — Otis, 2 run (J.Roman kick) 0:36
- OSU — Zelina, 6 run (kick failed) 10:32
- OSU — J.Roman, 22 field goal 12:25
- OSU — Kern, 3 run (J.Roman kick) 10:14
- OSU — Otis, 2 run (J.Roman kick) 3:37
- OSU — Otis, 2 run (pass failed) 1:23
- Att. — 85,371

	UM	OSU
First Downs	17	28
Rushing	8	24
Passing	8	3
Penalty	1	1
Rushes-Yards	41-140	79-421
Passing Yards	171	46
Passes	24-14-3	9-6-1
Plays	65	88
Total Net Yards	311	467
Third Down Efficiency	4-12	11-19
Punts	5-39.8	2-30.5
Fumbles-Lost	5-1	4-2
Penalties	4-43	4-37
Time Of Possession	25:42	34:18

Individual Statistics

RUSHING (Att.-Net Yds.) — UM: Johnson 21-91; Craw 8-25; Werner 1-13; Moorhead 1-11; Brown 10-6. OSU: Otis 34-143; Kern 19-96; Zelina 8-92; Gillian 5-66; Brockington 10-20; Hayden 1-4; Long 1-1; Huff 1-(-1).

PASSING (Att.-Comp.-Int.-Yds.-TD) — UM: Brown 24-14-3-171-0. OSU: Kern 8-5-1-41-0; Long 1-1-0-5-0.

RECEIVING (Rec.-Yds.) — UM: Mandich 7-78; Johnson 3-18; Harris 2-34; Staroba 1-28; Insland 1-13. OSU: Jankowski 3-22; Brockington 2-19; Bob Smith 1-5.

PUNTING (No.-Yds.-Avg.) — UM: Werner 5-198-39.6. OSU: Sensibaugh 2-61-30.5.

DEFENSIVE FUMBLES RECOVERED BY — UM: Seymour, Hartman. OSU: Debevc. **INTERCEPTIONS** — UM: Healy. OSU: Burton, Adams, Tatum.

TACKLES FOR LOSS — UM: Team (2), Moore, Huff, Pryor. OSU: Debevc (3), Whitfield (2), Schmidlin, Adams, Team.

TACKLES — UM: Stincic 8-15-23; Parks 9-10-19; Goss 7-9-16; Pryor 5-8-13; Hoey 4-6-10; Hill 3-7-10; Seymour 3-5-8; Hartman 4-2-6; Moore 2-2-4; Wedge 0-4-4; Curtis 3-0-3; Huff 3-0-3; Miklos 0-3-3; Team 2-0-2; Johnson 1-1-2; Healy 1-0-1; Newell 1-0-1; Denzin 0-1-1; Penska 0-1-1; Mandich 0-1-1; Staroba 0-1-1. OSU: Tatum 7-5-12; Whitfield 5-5-10; Stier 4-5-9; Stillwagon 3-6-9; Debevc 4-4-8; Adams 2-6-8; Polaski 4-1-1; Provost 2-2-4; Nielsen 1-3-4; Stottlemeyer 0-4-4; Schmidlin 2-1-3; Radtke 2-1-3; Anderson 1-2-3; Bartley 2-0-2; Team 2-0-2; Burton 1-1-2; Urbanik 1-0-1; White 1-0-1; Sobolewski 1-0-1; Holloway 1-0-1; Pollitt 0-1-1.

Players In The Game

MICHIGAN — Mandich, Hankwitz, Seymour, Newell, Penska, Goss, Caldarazzo, Harring, Hill, Denzin, Moore, Broadnax, Hall, Parks, Titas, Dierdorf, Pryor, Wilhite, Insland, Harris, Stincic, Killian, Brown, Moorhead, Hartman, Johnson, Healy, Huff, Scheffler, Gabler, Staroba, Hoey, Miklos, Pierson, Craw, Sipp, Curtis.

OHIO STATE — Whitfield, White, Kuhn, Radtke, Lapuh, Ecrement, Stowe, Schmidlin, Urbanik, Foley, Stier, Donovan, Bachhus, Adams, Muhlbach, J.Roman, Stillwagon, Stottlemeyer, Jack, Strickland, Nielsen, Mayes, Holloway, Roush, Jurz, Debevc, Jankowski, Rusnak, Sobolewski, Bob Smith, Kern, Polaski, Sensibaugh, Long, Provost, Brockington, Trapuzzano, Coburn, Anderson, Zelina, Gillian, Akers, Page, Tatum, Otis, Bender, Suber.

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