

VICTORY SETS TONE FOR HUGE SEASON

By MARK REA
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

Ohio State waited an entire year to exact its measure of revenge on Purdue. And when the Buckeyes got their chance, they made the most of it.

Nearly one year to the day in 1967 when the Boilermakers routed the Buckeyes 41-6 in West Lafayette, Ind., OSU came back with a vengeance and stopped the country's number one team at every turn, upsetting Purdue by a score of 13-0 before the largest crowd ever at Ohio Stadium to that time.

The game was not as close as the score might indicate. The Buckeyes' offense piled up 411 total yards against the Boilermakers, while OSU's defense limited Purdue's high-powered offense to just 186 yards. Three times the Buckeyes turned Purdue away inside the 20-yard line to preserve the shutout.

"We have thought and talked about this game ever since last year," said OSU head coach Woody Hayes. "They embarrassed us last year and we wanted to see to it that it didn't happen again. The assistant coaches and the players have talked all year about winning this game. They deserve a lot of credit."

Much of that credit deservedly went to OSU defensive coordinator Lou McCullough and defensive assistants Bill Mallory and Lou Holtz. Through their tutelage, the Buckeyes not only shut out the Boilermakers, but also held Heisman Trophy candidate Leroy Keyes to just 19 yards rushing. And the OSU defense pressured quarterback Mike Phipps into completing just 10 of 28 passes for 106 yards while sacking him four times.

"The credit must go to these young men on defense," McCullough said. "They are exceptional football players and did everything this coaching staff asked of them. It was indeed a big win for us."

While the Boilermakers were stymied all day long, OSU's backfield accounted for 281 yards in total offense. Sophomore quarterback Rex Kern led the Bucks to their third straight victory by rushing for 45 yards on 12 carries and completing eight of 16 passes for 78 more yards.

Junior fullback Jim Otis was once again the workhorse for the Buckeyes, carrying 29 times for 144 yards. Sophomore John Brockington added 69 yards on 10 carries and junior Dave Brungard chipped in with 41 more yards on 10 carries.

"Let's give credit where credit is due," commented Purdue head coach



GETTING PROTECTION — With a block from fullback Jim Otis (35), Ohio State quarterback Rex Kern (10) prepares to throw a pass against Purdue. Kern threw and ran for 123 yards and Otis bulled his way for 144 yards as the Buckeyes shut out the number one-ranked Boilermakers. The win propelled the team on its way to the national championship in 1968.

John Mollenkopf. "Ohio State came here with an excellent game plan. For that, you have to credit Coach Hayes.

"But the players made that game plan pay off and for that, you have to credit them. We had some op-

portunities, but we didn't take advantage of them. There was no question which team was the best team out there today. I would like to stand here and say that wasn't the case, but there's no sense in that. They beat us and that's that."

Both teams played ball-control offense for the scoreless first half, each getting two golden opportunities to score but failing on field goal attempts. Ohio State later struck twice in the third quarter for all of the points it would need. Both touchdowns were set up by interceptions, one by junior Ted Provost and the other by sophomore Jim Stillwagon.

Even the weatherman cooperated with the big game, presenting the mid-October crowd of 84,834 with balmy 70-degree temperatures at game time.

The Buckeyes won the opening coin toss, received the kickoff and proceeded to march downfield against the Boilermakers.

Otis made the first dent in the Purdue line with a five-yard burst on the opening play. Brungard followed with a pickup of 12 yards and then Brockington took a pitch from Kern. On the play, Brockington crashed into Purdue middle guard Chuck Kyle, a preseason All-American selection, at the line of scrimmage. The hit was heard all the way up to C deck in the stadium, but Brockington got the best of it, knocking Kyle out of the way and picking up six yards.

According to Mallory, that play set the tempo for the rest of the game.

"You could feel that hit all over Columbus," he said. "It just foretold what was going to happen the rest of the day. I think that it taught us that they couldn't stop us."

Brockington showed no ill effects from the big hit by taking the ball 38 yards to the Purdue 15-yard line on the next play. However, Ohio State was called for holding downfield on the play, taking the ball back to the 12

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Two plays later, the Buckeyes got into good position again when Kern hit tight end Jan White with a 16-yard strike at the Boiler-makers' 11-yard line. But OSU was penalized again, this time for clipping. Undaunted, Kern came right back and picked up 21 yards on an option keeper, giving Ohio State a first-and-goal situation at the Purdue eight.

The Boiler-makers' defense finally stiffened and, on a third and goal from the four, Kern's pass for White went over the tight end's head. OSU settled for a field goal try from the 11 by junior kicker Dick Merryman, but the kick sailed wide right.

Purdue finally got the ball at the 10:19 mark of the first quarter and Phipps promptly passed 13 yards to Keyes for a first down. But the OSU defense came back to sack Phipps two plays later and the Boiler-makers eventually had to punt.

The Buckeyes went back to work on offense quickly as Kern found split end Bruce Jankowski near midfield for a 15-yard pass play. Then the rushing game took over again as Brockington and Otis shared time on the 10-play drive.

However, the Buckeyes again stalled deep in Purdue territory. This time Hayes decided to switch place-kickers. Since Merryman had missed three straight field goal tries of less than 30 yards dating back to the Oregon game, the Buckeyes went with sophomore Jim Oppermann for the 30-yard attempt. The result was the same, though, as the attempt was short and wide right.

Perhaps spurred on by dodging a bullet for the second time, Purdue's offense finally started rolling near the end of the first quarter. Fullback Perry Williams got much of the rushing work, while Phipps worked the sideline areas to his receivers. The Boilers finally made it to the Ohio State 14 before their drive stalled. Place-kicker Jeff Jones attempted a 22-yard field goal, but it sailed wide to the left.

Ohio State's offense sputtered on its next drive and the Boiler-makers began marching again early in the second period. Phipps passed on nearly every down as Purdue went 15 plays and 59 yards in less than three minutes.

But mirroring OSU's fortunes in the first quarter, Purdue again stalled and had to watch as Jones' second field goal attempt of the day also went wide right.

Ohio State got one last chance to get on the scoreboard in the first half. With time running out, the Bucks strung together an 18-play drive which covered 81 yards in just over three minutes.

But on third down with less than 10 seconds left, Hayes sent Merryman into the game to attempt another field goal. This time Purdue's Billy McKoy blew through the line of scrimmage and blocked the kick.

The half ended in a scoreless tie with both teams combining to get inside their opponent's 20-yard line on five separate occasions and coming up empty each time.

The inability to get points on the scoreboard didn't seem to affect Purdue in the third quarter. The Boiler-makers took the opening kickoff and Phipps immediately began moving the team again. He passed to Keyes for nine yards and then Jim Kirkpatrick got a first down on a four-yard run.

But OSU finally got the break it was looking for. Sophomore Jack Tatum knocked down a pass for Keyes on first down and then Provost stepped in front of a Phipps pass at the Purdue 34 and ran untouched into the end zone. As Provost crossed the goal line, he heard

the football far up into the south stands as the stadium went wild.

The frenzied Ohio Stadium crowd was almost too delirious to notice that the struggling Merryman misfired to the right on the extra point, leaving the score at 6-0 in favor of the Bucks.

OSU gambled on the ensuing kickoff and it didn't pay off. Oppermann tried an onside kick, but it failed, giving the ball to Purdue at the 50-yard line. But the Boiler-makers self-destructed with an offensive pass interference call and were forced to punt the good field position away.

The next time they got the ball, the field position wasn't nearly as good. Starting at their own 19, the Boilers ran off three plays before Stillwagon picked off a pass meant for split end Bob Dillingham.

The Buckeyes took advantage of the turnover. Otis carried three straight times for 17 yards before Kern raced outside and was sacked for a six-yard loss. Kern was shaken up on the play and had to be replaced by senior Bill Long.

On Long's first play, he faded back to pass but found no open receivers. He did, however, find a wide-open middle of the field and he simply waltzed into the end zone from 14 yards out. The Buckeyes' third kicker of the game, Nick Roman, proved to be the charm as he tacked on the PAT for a 13-0 Ohio State lead.

The second touchdown seemed to demoralize Purdue. The Boiler-makers never got their offense going again until late in the fourth quarter when they pounced on an Otis fumble at the OSU 34.

Don Kiepert relieved Phipps at quarterback and moved Purdue to a first-and-goal at the OSU eight. But after Williams got only one yard on first down, Kiepert's next three passes were all incomplete, preserving the victory and the shutout for the Buckeyes.

BUCKEYES 13, BOILERMAKERS 0

| | | | | | |
|------------|---|---|----|---|----|
| PURDUE | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| OHIO STATE | 0 | 0 | 13 | 0 | 13 |

OSU — Provost, 34 interception return (kick failed) 13:34
 OSU — Long, 14 run (J.Roman kick) 3:55
 Att. — 84,834

| | PUR | OSU |
|-----------------------|---------|--------|
| First Downs | 16 | 22 |
| Rushing | 5 | 17 |
| Passing | 9 | 3 |
| Penalty | 2 | 2 |
| Rushes-Yards | 35-57 | 67-333 |
| Passing Yards | 129 | 78 |
| Passes | 34-12-2 | 16-8-0 |
| Plays | 69 | 83 |
| Total Net Yards | 186 | 411 |
| Third Down Efficiency | 6-17 | 12-21 |
| Punts | 6-36-0 | 4-31-3 |
| Fumbles-Lost | 2-0 | 3-2 |
| Penalties | 4-43 | 8-96 |
| Time Of Possession | 24:49 | 35:11 |

Individual Statistics

RUSHING (Att.-Net Yds.) — PUR: Williams 11-29; Keyes 7-19; Kirkpatrick 4-17; Phipps 12-(-4); Kiepert 1-(-4). OSU: Otis 29-144; Brockington 10-69; Kern 11-45; Brungard 10-41; Huff 4-17; Long 1-14; Zelina 2-3.

PASSING (Att.-Comp.-Int.-Yds.-TD) — PUR: Phipps 28-10-2-106-0; Kiepert 6-2-0-23-0. OSU: Kern 16-8-0-78-0; Brungard 1-0-0-0-0.

RECEIVING (Rec.-Yds.) — PUR: Keyes 4-44; Dillingham 3-34; Williams 2-26; Kirkpatrick 2-16; Engelbrecht 1-9. OSU: Otis 3-22; Jankowski 2-23; White 1-16; Zelina 1-11; Kuhn 1-6.

PUNTING (No.-Yds.-Avg.) — PUR: Emch 6-216-36.0. OSU: Sensibaugh 4-125-31.3. DEFENSIVE FUMBLES RECOVERED BY — PUR: Webster, Wirgowski. OSU: None. INTERCEPTIONS — PUR: None. OSU: Provost, Stillwagon.

Players In The Game

PURDUE — Dillingham, King, Roberts, Frame, Stydahar, DeNuccio, Griffin, Phipps, Kirkpatrick, Brown, Keyes, Williams, McKoy, Yancher, Kyle, Davis, Maree, Wirgowski, Yunaska, Marvel, Paraskevas, Foley, Webster, Mahurt, Emch, Jones, deGrandmaison, Kiepert, Engelbrecht, Cooper, Whitehead.

OHIO STATE — Sensibaugh, Kern, Gillian, Brungard, Polaski, Zelina, Trapuzzano, Burton, Long, Anderson, Tatum, Bartley, Huff, Otis, Suber, Brockington, Provost, B.Smith, J.Roman, Muhlbach, Stier, Radtke, Worden, Jack, Strickland, Adams, Donovan, Stillwagon, Stottlemeyer, Foley, Hutchison, Mayes, Schmidlin, Oppermann, Nielsen, Urbanik, White, Kuhn, Jankowski, Debeve, Whitfield, Sobolewski, Pollitt, Merryman.

Provost's Interception Set Tone For Run At '68 National Championship

By MIKE WACHSMAN
 Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

Being a housing contractor, Ted Provost knows a little bit about setting a good foundation.

So it isn't surprising that Provost, a junior defensive back on Ohio State's magical 1968 team, may have laid the foundation for the Buckeyes' storybook season with his interception return that helped defeat top-ranked Purdue 13-0.

The teams played to a scoreless tie at halftime, but Ohio State turned up the heat on Purdue quarterback Mike Phipps in the second half, harassing him at every turn.

OSU was also wary of all-purpose threat Leroy Keyes, who could single-handedly turn a game around on any play. But the Buckeyes thoroughly confused Phipps defensively, which led to Provost's shining moment.

The play before, linebacker Jack Tatum had knocked away a pass intended for Keyes, making it second and 10 at the Purdue 31-yard line. Then Phipps tried to get the ball to Keyes again.

"Phipps had the read and after the play before, was obviously a little thrown," Provost said. "Normally, Jack would have been in the flat, but since we switched, Jack was covering Keyes



Ted Provost

and I was more in the flat. He read Jack away from Keyes and threw the ball to the inside right to me. I just took off and scored."

Provost carried the ball 34 yards into the end zone and triumphantly heaved the ball into the stands. His tally was the catalyst for the win and may have given the Bucks the needed boost for the rest of the season.

"That game did kind of set the tone for the rest of the year," he said. "They came into our stadium ranked number one and we knocked them off. We knew they had a good team and didn't think the game was in the bag after I scored. We knew we had to play the rest of the game."

Backup quarterback Bill Long ran 14 yards for the final touchdown about 10 minutes after Provost's TD to give the Buckeyes the 13-0 win. It not only gave the team the impetus for a championship season, but it also avenged a 41-6 whipping at the hands of the Boiler-makers the year before.

"We really got blown out the year before, so we wanted to play a lot better," Provost said. "We knew we had more talent in 1968, though. Purdue had been scoring 40 points a game and we just shut them down. It proved we were one of the better teams in the nation."

By the time the season had ended, the Buckeyes had proven they were the best team in the nation.

"I guess the special part is that no other Big Ten team has won the national title since we did," Provost said. "That's kind of surprising, but it shows just how hard we worked. To win a national title is a pretty big feat. Not a lot of teams can say they were the best, but in 1968, we were."