

DEFENSIVE CHARGE FUELS NARROW WIN

By MARK REA
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

A pair of sophomore quarterbacks and a tandem of junior defensive ends were the stars of the game for Ohio State as the Buckeyes survived an opponent's second-half onslaught for the second straight week, beating Michigan State by the score of 25-20.

Quarterbacks Rex Kern and Ron Maciejowski were the offensive stars, combining for 265 yards and two touchdowns. But the defensive stars were ends Mike Radtke and Dave Whitfield, who turned in several key plays including a combined effort to cause and recover a Spartan fumble in the final minute of play as the Spartans were driving for a possible go-ahead touchdown.

"Our defense rose to the challenge," said head coach Woody Hayes. "When we had to have the big play, they made the big play. This is the second week in a row that we've had a team down and let them get back in the game in the second half. We've got to stop doing that."

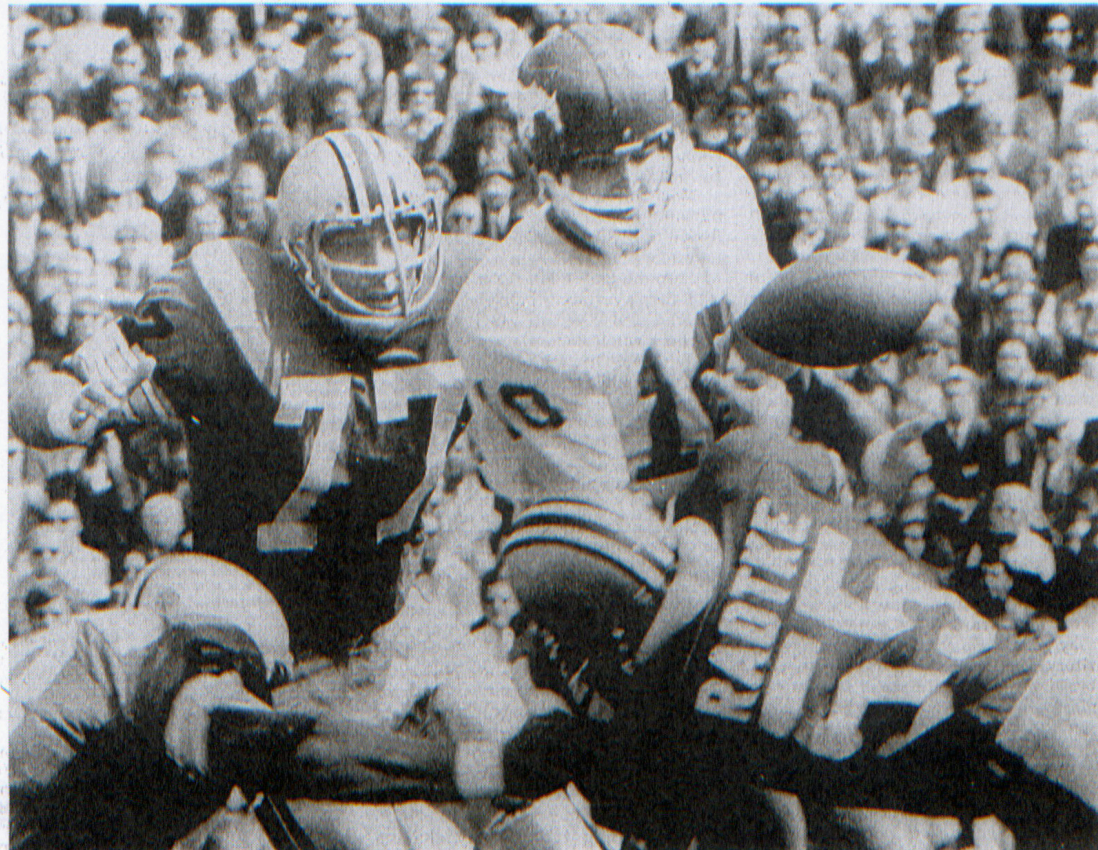
The previous week the Buckeyes rolled out to a 24-0 halftime lead against Illinois only to have the Illini make adjustments which resulted in a tied score late in the game. It took a late Ohio State touchdown march to allow the Buckeyes to secure a 31-24 victory.

Against the Spartans things went much the same way. The Bucks flew out to a 19-7 lead at halftime, then watched as Michigan State scored two third-quarter touchdowns to get within five points. However, the Scarlet and Gray defense stiffened in the fourth quarter and, thanks to Radtke and Whitfield, the Buckeyes chalked up their sixth victory of the season without a defeat.

Kern started the game and completed nine of 12 passes for 138 yards and one touchdown. He also rushed for 20 yards before leaving the ball game late in the second quarter when his back injury flared up. Kern had back surgery just 16 weeks before the season began.

Maciejowski relieved Kern and completed seven of 14 passes for 77 yards and added another 30 yards and one touchdown on 12 rushes.

Also having a big day for the Buckeyes were sophomore back Larry Zelina with 63 yards on just seven carries, junior fullback Jim Otis with 52 yards and two touchdowns on 18 carries, sophomore split end Bruce Jankowski with



PUTTING ON THE PRESSURE — Ohio State defensive end Mike Radtke (55) jars the ball loose from SMU quarterback Chuck Hixson while OSU teammate Brad Nielsen (77) prepares to finish off the play. Radtke had several big hits like this one, including two in the final quarter against Michigan State that produced Spartan fumbles and allowed OSU to preserve a 25-20 victory.

eight receptions for 88 yards and a touchdown, and sophomore tight end Jan White with four catches for 46 yards.

But as many stars as the offense had, the defense had just as many. The Buckeye defense caused Michigan State to commit seven turnovers in the game and sacked Spartan quarterback Bill Triplett nine times. In addition, six OSU defenders registered 11 tackles or more. Sophomore Doug Adams was the team leader with 16 stops while another sophomore, middle guard Jim Stillwagon, had 13 tackles. Mark Stier, Ted Provost, Mike Sensibaugh and Bill Urbanik were all credited with 11 tackles in the game.

A crowd of 84,859 basked under the

sunny skies and unusual 70-degree warmth of the early November afternoon, and it basked in the glow of the Ohio State offense, which took the opening kickoff and marched 83 yards for a touchdown.

Known for their powerful rushing attack, the Buckeyes crossed up the Spartan defense and came out throwing. Kern completed a seven-yard strike to Jankowski and then found White over the middle for a 10-yard gain.

Two plays later, the sophomore quarterback from Lancaster, Ohio, faked an option play, got an excellent block from sophomore halfback Leo Hayden and turned upfield for an 18-yard gain.

Two more plays later, with Ohio

State in possession at the MSU 47, Kern flicked a pass to Hayden in the left flat that went for seven yards, and then he found Jankowski for a 39-yard completion, which took the ball to the Spartans' one-yard line.

From there Otis bulled his way into the end zone for a touchdown. Senior place-kicker Jim Roman added the extra point and the Buckeyes took a 7-0 lead with only 1:53 gone from the first quarter.

The Buckeyes got the ball right back when Triplett was intercepted on second down by Sensibaugh, who returned the ball to the MSU 37 to give the Buckeyes excellent field position.

But they squandered the opportunity by failing to get a first down. Roman's

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field goal try from 40 yards was short and wide left.

The Buckeyes failed to get anything going the rest of the quarter on offense, stopping themselves a number of times with penalties. Meanwhile, the OSU defense was smothering the Spartans as junior cornerback Mike Polaski chalked up an interception and Sensibaugh recovered a fumble to kill two MSU drives.

Sensibaugh's recovery gave OSU the ball on its own 39-yard line and Kern began directing another drive to the goal line. He passed 11 yards to White on the final play of the first quarter and then hooked up with Zelina for a 35-yard catch-and-run play to open the second quarter.

Three plays later, Kern found an open Jankowski in the end zone for an eight-yard touchdown pass. Roman shanked the PAT attempt to the left, leaving the Buckeyes with a 13-0 advantage at the 13:36 mark of the second quarter.

Michigan State finally cured its offensive penchant for turning the ball over and strung together the best drive of the day following OSU's second touchdown. Triplett guided the Spartans 71 yards on a 19-play march that lasted nearly eight minutes.

Triplett chipped away at the OSU defense slowly, gaining seven yards on a keeper and then passing 13 yards to split end Frank Foreman. The latter play got the Spartans into Buckeye territory and Triplett and Foreman combined six plays later for a 21-yard pass play, moving the ball to the OSU 13.

The Spartans kept the ball on the ground from there, converting a fourth-and-one at the OSU four-yard line. Two plays later, Triplett scored on a one-yard drive. MSU place-kicker Gary Boyce made the extra point, but it was wiped out when both teams were offside. Boyce made his second attempt, but it too was nullified when the Spartans were called for holding. Unfazed, Boyce split the uprights on his third try, pulling Michigan State to within six points at 13-7.

The Buckeyes' offense, rested during the Spartans' long drive, went right back to work after the ensuing kickoff. Maciejowski, relieving Kern, started the 83-yard drive by immediately gaining 13 yards on a keeper.

Two plays later he found Zelina for a 14-yard gain to midfield and then passed to White for nine more yards. Two more plays later, Maciejowski called his own number again and slithered through right tackle for 13 yards.

Hayden gained seven yards on the next play to take the ball to the MSU 18 and, two plays later, Maciejowski passed for six yards to Jankowski, giving the Buckeyes a first down on the Spartans' 12.

Otis took over from there, getting eight yards on his first try and then finishing the job two plays later with a three-yard run. The Buckeyes faked the conversion kick, but holder Bill Long's pass to Ray Gillian was incomplete.

Nevertheless, the Buckeyes went into the locker room at halftime with a 19-7 lead over the Spartans.

Ohio State looked as if it were ready to put the game away early in the second half when Provost intercepted Triplett on the second play. But the Buckeyes turned the ball over themselves when Maciejowski's pass for Zelina was picked off by MSU's Jack Breslin near midfield.

The turnover seemed to inspire the Spartans on offense. Triplett went to his

favorite receiver, Foreman, for 12 yards and a first down at the OSU 45. Triplett and tailback Tom Love alternated rushing plays, taking the ball to the OSU 13, and then the Michigan State quarterback found Foreman again, this time in the end zone for a 13-yard score. Boyce added the extra point, which pulled the Spartans to within five points of the Buckeyes at 19-14.

On the kickoff, sophomore John Brockington returned the ball 22 yards to his own 38, but the Spartans were slapped with a personal foul call, giving the Buckeyes the ball at the MSU 47.

Maciejowski wasted no time taking advantage of the good field position. He tossed a five-yard pass to Jankowski and then pitched to Zelina, who took the ball around left end for 12 more yards.

Two plays later, Maciejowski found Hayden uncovered in the flat and the halfback ran it 26 yards to the Michigan State three. Otis tried the center of the Spartans line twice and was turned back, so Maciejowski faked the handoff on third down and scampered around left end himself for a two-yard touchdown run.

The Bucks lined up for the two-point conversion again and Maciejowski's pass was knocked down, leaving the Buckeyes with a nine-point cushion at 25-14.

Late in the third quarter Ohio State had the ball again, but the Spartans defense rose to the occasion. Defensive tackle Ron Curl sacked Maciejowski for an eight-yard loss and then, when the OSU quarterback was faced with another charge on the next play, he threw the ball away. The referees called intentional grounding and moved the ball back to the Ohio State eight, where the Buckeyes faced a third-and-29 situation.

Not wishing to take any chances, Hayes sent punter Sensibaugh into the game. He kicked the ball only 33 yards and MSU's Frank Walters returned it to the Ohio State 31-yard line.

From there, Triplett engineered a ball-control drive, passing only once in nine plays. Love topped off the short drive with a one-yard plunge. The Spartans tried a fake conversion of their own, but holder Chuck Wedemeyer's pass to Rich Berlinski was stopped by Provost.

Still, the Spartans had cut Ohio State's lead to five points at the end of three quarters.

The fourth quarter belonged to the Buckeye defense. On MSU's first possession of the period, Radtke got to Triplett, sacking him for a 14-yard loss on a third-and-five play.

When Michigan State got the ball a third time, it was Adams' turn. He played the option perfectly and when Triplett's pitch to Love was mishandled, Adams pounced on the loose football to give the ball back to OSU.

Michigan State got the ball a fourth time in the final period and again Triplett was sacked, this time by Whitfield and sophomore cornerback Jack Tatum.

Then with less than two minutes in the game and the score still 25-20 in favor of Ohio State, the Spartans got the ball one last time. Starting at his own 26, Triplett went back to pass on first down and threw incomplete. Then, on second down with 1:16 showing on the clock, Triplett faded again and Radtke was there to meet him. The ball popped loose and Whitfield recovered, ending the Spartans' last threat.

Ohio State took over at the MSU 20 and moved the ball to the seven before time ran out.

BUCKEYES 25, SPARTANS 20

MICHIGAN STATE	0	7	13	0	20
OHIO STATE	7	12	6	0	25

OSU — Otis, 1 run (J. Roman kick) 13:17
 OSU — Jankowski, 8 pass from Kern (kick failed) 13:36
 MSU — Triplett, 1 run (Boyce kick) 5:51
 OSU — Otis, 3 run (pass failed) 1:16
 MSU — Foreman, 13 pass from Triplett (Boyce kick) 9:17
 OSU — Maciejowski, 2 run (pass failed) 7:04
 MSU — Love, 1 run (pass failed) 0:43
 Att. — 84,859

	MSU	OSU
First Downs	18	24
Rushing	9	13
Passing	7	10
Penalty	2	1
Rushes-Yards	59-134	54-214
Passing Yards	137	215
Passes	15-9-3	26-16-1
Plays	74	80
Total Net Yards	271	429
Third Down Efficiency	6-16	7-15
Punts	5-38.6	7-37.2
Fumbles-Lost	4-3	2-1
Penalties	4-26	7-71
Time Of Possession	30:44	29:16

Individual Statistics

RUSHING (Att.-Net Yds.) — MSU: Wedemeyer 7-71; Love 21-59; Highsmith 6-20; Berlinski 1-2; Triplett 24-(-18). OSU: Zelina 7-63; Otis 18-52; Hayden 10-47; Maciejowski 12-30; Kern 5-20; White 1-2; Kuhn 1-0.
 PASSING (Att.-Comp.-Int.-Yds.-TD) — MSU: Triplett 15-9-3-137-1. OSU: Kern 12-9-0-138-1; Maciejowski 14-7-1-77-0.
 RECEIVING (Rec.-Yds.) — MSU: Foreman 7-123; Bowdle 1-8; Love 1-6. OSU: Jankowski 8-88; White 4-46; Zelina 2-48; Hayden 2-33.
 PUNTING (No.-Yds.-Avg.) — MSU: Berlinski 5-193-38.6. OSU: Sensibaugh 7-261-37.2.
 PUNT RETURNS (No.-Yds.-Avg.) — MSU: Waters 4-60-15.0. OSU: Zelina 1-(-3)-(-3.0).
 KICKOFF RETURNS (No.-Yds.-Avg.) — MSU: Highsmith 2-44-22.0; Love 2-29-14.5; Foreman 1-0-0-0. OSU: Zelina 2-36-18.0; Brockington 1-21-21.0; Gillian 1-14-14.0.
 DEFENSIVE FUMBLES RECOVERED BY — MSU: Law. OSU: Sensibaugh, Whitfield, Adams.
 INTERCEPTIONS — MSU: Breslin. OSU: Sensibaugh, Polaski, Provost.
 TACKLES FOR LOSS — MSU: Dawson (2), Martin (2), Team (2), Curl, Phillips. OSU: Urbanik (2), Radtke, Stillwagon, Whitfield, Stier, Schmidlin.
 TACKLES — MSU: Bailey 6-7-13; Heft 7-3-10; Rich Saul 3-6-9; Martin 5-3-8; Law 4-4-8; Waters 6-1-7; Phillips 6-1-7; Hogan 1-6-7; Curl 1-5-6; Team 5-0-5; Brenner 3-2-5; Nowak 0-5-5; Breslin 0-5-5; Fox 2-0-2; Dawson 1-1-2; Zindel 0-2-2; Young 0-2-2; Triplett 0-1-1; Ron Saul 0-1-1; Willing 0-1-1; Thomas 0-1-1; Wedemeyer 0-1-1; Tobin 0-1-1; Kutachinski 0-1-1; Van Elst 0-1-1; Foreman 0-1-1. OSU: Adams 4-12-16; Stillwagon 2-11-13; Provost 7-4-11; Urbanik 5-6-11; Stier 4-7-11; Sensibaugh 3-8-11; Radtke 3-5-8; Whitfield 2-6-8; Schmidlin 2-4-6; Team 5-0-5; Tatum 2-3-5; Polaski 1-2-3; Trapuzzano 2-0-2; White 2-0-2; Hayden 1-0-1; Jankowski 1-0-1; Zelina 1-0-1; Nielsen 0-1-1; Pollitt 0-1-1; Stottlemeyer 0-1-1.

Players In The Game

MICHIGAN STATE — Triplett, Love, Berlinski, Wedemeyer, Highsmith, Foreman, Bowdle, Breslin, Law, Bailey, Heft, Rich Saul, Martin, Waters, Phillips, Hogan, Curl, Nowak, Brenner, Dawson, Zindel, Fox, Young, Ron Saul, Willing, Thomas, Tobin, Kutachinski, Van Elst, McLoud.
 OHIO STATE — Kern, Zelina, Otis, Hayden, Maciejowski, White, Jankowski, Sensibaugh, Kuhn, Radtke, Nielsen, Adams, Stier, Tatum, Whitfield, Schmidlin, Stillwagon, Urbanik, Provost, Stottlemeyer, Holloway, Jack, Anderson, Foley, Backhus, Muhlbach, Mayes, Trapuzzano, J. Roman, Oppermann.

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