

OHIO STATE VS. MICHIGAN

OSU Solves The Maize

Air Game Spurs Buckeyes To 31-16 Defeat Of Wolves

By STEVE HELWAGEN
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

Unlike so many Ohio State-Michigan games down through the years, the team's Nov. 21 battle for Big Ten supremacy was fought mainly through the air and not on the ground.

Ohio State may have stumbled across a formula for success against its nemesis. The seventh-ranked Buckeyes wiped away years of heartache and misery at the hands of the "Team Up North" as they rolled to a 31-16 win over No. 11 Michigan before a season-high 94,339 at Ohio Stadium.

The long-awaited victory clinched Ohio State (10-1, 7-1) a share of the Big Ten championship with Michigan (8-3, 7-1) and Wisconsin (10-1, 7-1). But with Wisconsin defeating Penn State a few hours later to clinch the Rose Bowl berth, the Buckeyes will not know their bowl destination until sometime in early December.

Still, the Buckeyes were not concerned about that after beating their rival for just the second time in 11 years under coach John Cooper.

"I am so happy for our team," Cooper said. "I'm happy for our senior football players. I thought our captains did a great job, and I salute our senior football players."

Ohio State actually drew first blood on the ground after tailback Michael Wiley ripped off an early 53-yard touchdown run. But after that it was the passing combination of quarterback Joe Germaine and split end David Boston that took center stage.

"I thought we played a great game



JEFF BREHM

BLUE BOBBLE — Michigan punter Jason Vinson barely gets the ball away as Ohio State's Kevin Griffin (42) and Steve Bellisari (8) provide pressure. This kick resulted in a net loss of 13 yards, and Vinson later had one blocked by Derek Ross.

today," said Germaine, who completed 16 of 28 passes for 330 yards and three touchdowns. "We were well-prepared for the

game, and they didn't have any surprises for us. That in itself was the biggest thing.

"We had a lot of big plays. We got some wide receivers behind their defensive backs and we were able to connect on some."

Boston caught 10 passes for 217 yards — the most receiving yardage in history against a Wolverine team — and two of those were touchdowns.

"What can you say about David Boston?" Cooper said. "We moved David around from flanker to split end and really looked to him to make the big play."

OSU's wide-open offensive approach was a breath of fresh air in a series that has relied, perhaps too heavily, on smash-mouth football.

"I knew we were going to make plays,"

Boston said. "I didn't know when they were going to come or who was going to make them, but I knew we were going to make plays. When you start off like that with Michael going up the middle, that just gets everything rolling."

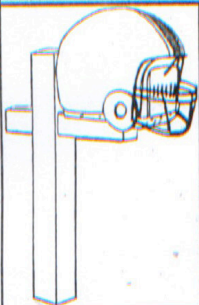
Three of OSU's four touchdowns were longer than 30 yards, a fact that weighed on Michigan coach Lloyd Carr.

"Through the years we've been a team and a defense that has prided ourselves on not giving up the big plays," he said. "Certainly we gave up too many of them today."

"The touchdown run to start the game should not happen. But Boston is a great football player and Germaine is a senior quarterback."

Wiley, who gave way to Joe

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Montgomery as the starter at tailback for this game, also had a big day with 120 yards on 12 carries.

Defensively, the Buckeyes slammed the door against UM's ground game. Michigan finished with just four net yards rushing on 28 carries.

Michigan also looked to the air with quarterback Tom Brady setting school records for attempts (56), completions (31) and yards (375). He connected on one touchdown but also threw two interceptions and was sacked seven times.

"We shut their running game down almost to nothing," Cooper said. "They had about four yards running the football. They're a dangerous passing team, and I thought (Tom) Brady played a good ball game."

And with both the offense and defense going against them, the Wolverines' special teams play was also lacking. UM punter Jason Vinson was tackled as he punted one ball and had another kick blocked. Both mistakes resulted in OSU touchdowns.

"The kicking game kept it from being the kind of game we wanted it to be," Carr said. "We wanted it to be tight going into the fourth quarter. We took ourselves out of the opportunity to play that type of game."

"But you can't have two punts (virtually) blocked and beat a good football team."

Blow By Glorious Blow

The teams traded punts to open the game before the Buckeyes struck gold — or Maize — on their second possession. OSU needed four plays to move 69 yards.

Wiley carried on two of the plays, first picking up 15 yards through a big hole over the right side. Two plays later he took a toss sweep right, followed blocks by Matt Keller, John Lumpkin and Ben Gilbert and rolled for the 53-yard touchdown to stake the Buckeyes to a 7-0 lead just 2:40 into the game.

Wiley was thankful after Keller cut down linebacker Dhani Jones at the point of attack and Gilbert got ahead of the play to control safety Marcus Ray.

"It was a pitch," Wiley said. "I cut it up and Keller made his block, all the offensive linemen made their blocks, and I had to make one guy miss."

"Everybody got their blocks. It was just great."

Ohio State then capitalized after a major UM miscue. Punter Vinson allowed the snap to go through his hands and Buckeyes Kevin Griffin and Steve Bellisari swarmed him as he punted the ball. The ball spiraled out of bounds at the UM 16 — a net loss of 13 yards — and the Buckeyes took over there.

OSU needed three plays to convert the error into points. On third-and-10, Germaine hit Dee Miller on a post pattern. The flanker — catching his first touchdown since the Toledo game — went over UM's Andre Weathers and Ray to pull the ball in and give the Buckeyes a 14-0 lead

with 9:44 left in the first quarter.

"Dee did a good job of keeping his route coming," Germaine said. "He got up behind the safety and made a great catch. That was a lot of momentum to us."

Miller added, "The coaches put a lot of good plays in there today. We had a lot of four wide receiver sets. We felt we could exploit some holes in their defense, and I think we did that today."

The Buckeyes appeared to have UM reeling late in the first quarter when Germaine hit Boston in stride for an apparent 58-yard gain. Although replays showed both of Boston's knees were on the ground, UM's Tommy Hendricks stripped him of the ball and returned it 33 yards to the OSU 29. An OSU late-hit penalty gave the Wolverines possession at the Buckeye 14.

The OSU defense stiffened, though, holding UM to a 27-yard Jay Feely field goal to trim the lead to 14-3 with 14:15 left in the second quarter.

The Buckeyes missed an opportunity midway through the second after Germaine and Boston hooked up on a 31-yard gain to the UM 21. But Germaine was sacked and the Buckeyes were penalized for a false start, pushing kicker Dan Stultz back for a 46-yard field goal. The kick sailed wide left with 6:12 left in the half.

But the Buckeyes capitalized on another UM kicking game mistake when Derek Ross blocked Vinson's punt and teammate Jonathan Wells recovered at the UM 20. The Buckeyes were penalized 15 yards for unsportsmanlike conduct, but they were still in business at the UM 35.

After Wiley picked up five yards on first down, Germaine threw to Boston short in the left flat. He spun around UM's Weathers and Hendricks whiffed on the play as Boston sprinted down the sideline.

As he neared the end zone, he pointed to his UM nemesis Ray, who was powerless to stop the 30-yard touchdown. Boston was hit with an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty of his own, but Stultz's 35-yard extra point put OSU up 21-3 with 3:15 left in the half.

"The one to David was an out pass left," Germaine said. "I got hit and didn't get a chance to see it. I could just hear the crowd roar when he scored."

Michigan rallied just before halftime, going on a nine-play, 80-yard scoring drive. Brady enjoyed his best success of the day, hitting Tai Streets for a 34-yard gain and Marcus Knight for 24 more to set up his 3-yard TD toss — a lob to Streets over OSU's Ahmed Plummer — to trim the gap to 21-10 with 25 seconds left in the half.

Michigan had the ball to open the second half, but OSU linebacker Jerry Rudzinski intercepted a Brady pass at the OSU 46. The senior tipped the ball to himself and caught it while lying on his back.

"Late in the season we were getting beat on some digs across the middle," said Rudzinski, who notched his second career interception. "I was back there seeing if

they would run any of those dig routes. It got tipped before it got to me. I bobbled it a little bit and then I came down with the ball."

OSU needed four plays to cover the remaining 54 yards and extend the lead to 28-10. Wiley picked up 12 yards on first down. Three plays later, Germaine went deep down the middle to Boston on a post route. He got behind Weathers and fought him off at the 5 to complete the 43-yard touchdown with 9:51 left in the third.

Michigan mustered a pair of nice possessions but could only net Feely field goals of 34 and 30 yards to eventually cut the lead to 31-16 with 14:47 left.

The sack-happy OSU defense then came up big with a pair of sacks, one by Clinton Wayne and the other by Ryan Pickett, to force a UM punt with 8:36 left.

OSU's Plummer snuffed another threat with his interception of a Brady pass on fourth down at the OSU 15 with 6:20 left.

"I really didn't have to work too hard on that one," said Plummer, who has four INTs on the year and nine in his career. "Gary (Berry) made a great play on the receiver. He cut him off and I was trailing. He made a great play and tipped it right into my hands."

And, for the record, Plummer broke up a fourth-down pass on Michigan's last-ditch possession with just under two minutes left.

Brady bemoaned the fact that Michigan had to rely almost solely on the pass.

"We got very one-dimensional, but we were forced to," he said. "Anytime you do that against a good team, they'll make you pay."

Game Notes

- Fans swarmed the field with 23 seconds left and, after Carr moved onto the field to try to shake Cooper's hand (that never happened) and concede the game, OSU did not have to run a final play.

- Safety Damon Moore notched a career high with his team-high 12 tackles. Cornerback Antoine Winfield and linebacker Andy Katzenmoyer also came up big with 10 tackles each.

- OSU tallied seven sacks of Brady with Brent Johnson getting two.

- OSU's second-half touchdown was the first surrendered by Michigan in Big Ten play.

The 31 points represent the most OSU has allowed since losing to Syracuse 38-28 on Sept. 12. No team had scored more than 10 points on UM since Michigan State scored 17 in a 29-17 loss on Sept. 26.

"We knew they were an outstanding football team," Carr said. "I thought we did a decent job on the running game after the first touchdown."

"You have to stop the rush to beat Ohio State. But on the pass plays, you have to keep the ball in front of you, and we didn't do that."

- The loss snapped Michigan's 16-game conference winning streak, dating to the 1996 win over OSU in Columbus.

While Michigan netted its Big Ten-high 39th conference championship, the Wolverines saw their string of 10 consecutive wins over top-10 ranked opponents snapped.

- Ohio State shortened UM's advantage in the overall series to 54-35-6 and in Ohio Stadium to 20-18-1.

Over the last 47 games (1952 to '98), OSU actually enjoys a 23-22-2 advantage.

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BSB Quotebook: Ohio State 31, Michigan 16

OSU fullback Matt Keller on his team's wide-open offensive approach: "I don't know if it was that they wanted to feature anyone. We knew what our game was. We have great receivers and great backs. It's not a secret that when people play us, they'll put eight up in the box. You're playing right into their hands if you run the ball at them the whole time. If you've got a great quarterback and great receivers, it opens the running game and spreads things out."

OSU flanker Dee Miller on the importance of players stepping up for this game: "All week we've been talking about how in the last four or five years we haven't had anybody offensively make any big plays. We knew we had to come out and throw the ball. Joe (Germaine) just threw a great pass to me (on his touchdown)."

OSU linebacker Jerry Rudzinski talked about his thinking on the play where he intercepted a tipped pass by Michigan's Tom Brady: "We watched last year's film and they threw a dig to Charles Woodson that helped set up one of their touchdowns. It proved to be the deciding touchdown in the game. We knew they would try and pop a pass across the middle, and we were there on that play."

OSU linebacker Na'il Diggs on the efforts of OSU's special teams, which blocked a punt: "Special teams is the first stage of any game. There's no offense or defense on the field. We count on them to help us for when we get on the field."

OSU split end David Boston on perhaps his worst play of an otherwise fine day — a long catch ruled as a fumble when UM's Tommy Hendricks stripped him of the ball as he was going down: "What can I say? I ran a post pattern, the same play we've run all year, and caught the ball down the middle of the field. Then the DB came up and made a great play."

OSU cornerback Ahmed Plummer thanked the crowd for its support: "I give a lot of props to the crowd. They were as fired up as the team. While we were in here



JEFF BREHM

THE BRADY PUNCH — OSU linebacker Na'il Diggs applies a big hit to Michigan quarterback Tom Brady during the Buckeyes' 31-16 victory Nov. 21 at Ohio Stadium. Brady threw for well over 300 yards but was sacked seven times by a ferocious defense.

during pregame getting ready, we could hear the crowd roaring and getting ready. That helps us. Today the crowd was the 12th man out there on the field."

UM quarterback Tom Brady did not think the crowd affected his team, although he agreed it helped lift the Buckeyes: "To tell you the truth, I don't think we had any problems with communication. We got all the plays in and got them called. They had a great crowd here. They got us down and with 95,000 people behind them they had the momentum and they didn't give it up."

OSU safety Damon Moore on how the Buckeyes had to stay within themselves: "We had to keep reminding ourselves to calm down. You don't want to burn up all your adrenaline, but emotions are going high when you look up in the stands and see all those fans. We just had to settle down and play."

OSU quarterback/special-teamer Steve Bellisari on his five-tackle performance, which included a key pressure on UM punter Jason Vinson: "I was just having fun out there. I was just having a good time. I have no clue how many tackles I had. I was just doing what I had to do. When we had kickoffs, they just didn't pick me up. They left me free."

Brady on Michigan's lost afternoon in Columbus: "We came down here for one reason, and we just didn't get it done today."

Michigan linebacker Sam Sword admitted it's tough to face the fact the Wolverines lost their Rose Bowl bid as a result of this defeat: "It's just a sick feeling. If you don't come to play, that's the end result. I hope the young guys learn from that. We knew the only way we could get to the Rose Bowl was with a victory, and that's not going to happen now. We're still co-Big Ten champs, but it would have been better if we could have come out of here with a victory."

OSU coach John Cooper on how he's happy to be done with one Michigan player who enjoyed another big day against the Buckeyes: "Tai Streets is a great receiver. I'm glad to see him leave here."

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Buckeyes Grind UM Running Game To Halt

Fred Pagac has been around the OSU-Michigan rivalry for a lot of years. In fact, nobody on the Ohio State sideline is more attuned to the magnitude and emotion of The Game.

So when the Buckeyes played well in every facet and churned out a memorable 31-16 win, the usually gruff Pagac, a hard-nosed tight end in his day, couldn't help but beam like a third-grader at Six Flags. He even was spotted smiling in the latter stages of the game, including seconds after he was doused with water from the Gatorade cooler by team members.

After the OSU victory, he answered reporters' questions while holding a large Cuban cigar.

"It's a Felipe something, I don't know," he said with a wide grin. "It was a gift."

As usual, Pagac had goals and strategies and personnel groupings to sort out, but he had two main objectives for his defense: Keep the Wolverines under 20 points and play smart football. Intensity, he knew, was going to be a given.

"Our kids played hard the whole game and I'm just happy for them," he said. "Anytime you can hold Michigan to 16 points, I think we'll take that and be happy with it. I tell you what, I feel pretty good right now."

OSU has allowed 20 or more points just six times in the three years Pagac has been defensive coordinator, and that includes last year's 20-14 loss to Michigan when the Wolverines scored just one offensive touchdown. The one time the OSU defense slipped this year was costly — a 28-24 loss to Michigan State two weeks earlier.

This time there was no way the Buckeyes were going to sit back and try merely to contain their foe.

"To stop Michigan, you've just got to be physical," senior outside linebacker Jerry Rudzinski said. "You can't be a finesse player. You've got to take on the block and take it on thick. You've got to get them going east and west."

"Some of their running plays have been run for decades in college football. It's a simple philosophy: They're going to come and try to knock you off the ball."

"We knew if we were stout up front it would work out."

INSIDE THE DEFENSE with Jeff Rapp

It's a challenge that is particularly trying to linebackers like Rudzinski since Michigan generally likes to pound the running game and swing passes in the flat to backs and over the middle to the tight end. But, hey, OSU-Michigan is a linebacker's game.

And OSU has three good ones in Andy Katzenmoyer (10 tackles, a shared sack and a pass breakup), Na'il Diggs (seven tackles) and Rudzinski (four tackles, a shared sack, two pass breakups and an interception).

"We were afraid of overpursuing the ball," Diggs said. "We knew that they were going to try to use our speed to get us outside and try to cut it back, which they tried to do. I think we played very smart, played blocks well and blitzed all right."

With OSU's backers on the spot throughout the afternoon, and OSU getting surprising penetration up front, Michigan was held to a paltry four rushing yards on the day.

"I wouldn't have believed we could do that, but I do now," Diggs said. "It happened. We thought they were going to try to run the counter, run the counter, run the counter, run an iso and maybe pass a little bit. They had a different game plan. It didn't work."

Where's The Cloud Of Dust?

The OSU defense forced a three-and-out on Michigan's first two possessions — with UM quarterback Tom Brady throwing incompletions on second and third down both times. By the time the Wolverines got their hands on the ball again, OSU had forged a 14-0 lead.

That put the Wolves in an altered state for the remainder of the afternoon and took them away from a grind-it-out attack that worked to the tune of 257 rushing yards a week earlier in a win over Wisconsin.

"They did not run the ball a whole lot," Pagac said. "They tried running a couple traps on us early, they might have run four or five counter plays. I'm not sure if they ran the lead play all day."



JEFF BREHM

INTERCEPTION BY PLUMMER — OSU safety Gary Berry (1) tips a pass intended for Michigan's Marcus Knight. OSU cornerback Ahmed Plummer (left) intercepted the pass at the OSU 15 to end a Michigan threat with just over six minutes left.

Added Diggs, "We wanted to concentrate a lot on the run, mainly the isos and counters, which there wasn't much of. They came out with a couple new plays. They had a couple running plays we had no idea they ran."

"But we played great today. They didn't have any long runs on us at all."

In fact, Michigan's longest jaunt by a ball carrier was a 6-yard run by Clarence Williams, who led UM with 13 net yards in 11 attempts. The more physical Anthony Thomas, like Williams a 100-yard rusher vs. Wisconsin, took just five handoffs and managed 12 yards. Brady was sacked seven times for a loss of 34 yards off an already underwhelming rushing effort.

"We went out there with the main objective of stopping the run and I think we were

effective," said Rudzinski, who helped hold Michigan to 42 yards in as many carries in 1997.

In an attempt to get back in the game, the Wolverines went to an open passing attack, even showing four-wide sets on occasion, including the first series of the second half. OSU countered by assigning free safety Gary Berry as a cover man and brought in freshman corner Nate Clements as a nickel back. Even swift defensive end James Cotton saw time to help cover a tight end.

UM's All-American candidate at tight end, Jerame Tuman, left the game in the second quarter with a concussion that many thought was caused by a jarring hit from 5-9, 180-pound cornerback Antoine Winfield.

With Tuman, also a key to the run game, out of commission, Michigan relied on the

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pass and lined up Brady in shotgun for much of the second half.

"They had an injury to one of their tight ends, and we kind of figured they were going to adjust their game plan and throw the ball a lot more," Rudzinski said.

Defense Thrives With Lead

Making UM one-dimensional allowed Pagac to turn his dogs loose and the Buckeyes, coming from all angles, registered five of their seven sacks in the second half.

"I thought that Fred Pagac did an outstanding job mixing his coverages and his blitzes," UM head coach Lloyd Carr said. "They had a good pass rush, too."

Michigan ended the second quarter with a touchdown by Tai Streets and started moving the ball via the air on the opening drive of the second half after a pair of Brady connections for first down.

But OSU quashed the momentum with an acrobatic Rudzinski interception after a corner blitz. OSU quickly cashed in with a David Boston touchdown and the defense took over from there by changing up coverages and holding UM to just a pair of field goals.

"It lets you be a little more free-lanced when you've got the lead," Pagac said. "We were turning them loose on different situations and obviously we were trying to mix things up."

In the last home meeting with Michigan, OSU let a 9-0 halftime lead literally slip away with a 69-yard Streets TD that tightened up the team and home crowd. The Buckeyes were determined not to let that happen again.

"We didn't bring up specific games in the past that have come back to haunt us, but we did say that we've got to treat it like it's 0-0," Rudzinski said of the halftime chatter. "They wanted to go to the Rose Bowl and



JEFF BREHM

MORE OF MOORE — OSU safety Damon Moore (13) wrapped his career at Ohio Stadium with a team-high 12 tackles in the win over Michigan. Here, he shrugs off a blocker to wrap up UM tailback Anthony Thomas for one of his 10 solo tackles.

win out in the Big Ten very, very bad, so we knew we were going to get their best shot."

Brady-Streets Combo A Handful

With Brady flinging passes left and right, Michigan unwillingly allowed him to set school records for attempts (56) and completions (31) in a game. He also clipped the previous single-game yardage mark of 372 set a few years ago by Scott Dreisbach with a total of 375.

That meant a workout for the Ohio State cover men, particularly Ahmed Plummer, who often was matched up with the 6-4 Streets. Both players traded off making rather impressive plays in the match-up, but Streets had the upper hand with nine catches for 118 yards and the first-half TD, most of that production against Plummer.

"You can't look at who you're defending," Plummer said. "You have to play your technique and play your game. He's a good wide

receiver, no question about it. It was important for us after he made plays to come back and make the next play."

Streets couldn't muster much yardage in the early going on short outs and receiver screens but began to free up on crossing routes and beautifully hauled in a 40-yard Brady bomb with Winfield with him hip to hip.

Michigan also worked Marcus Knight into the act to the tune of seven catches for 116 yards, and five other Wolverines caught at least two passes.

"It wasn't surprising to me," Plummer insisted. "Once teams start attacking you passwise, they have to mix it up. They can't just keep doing the same thing."

But even in posting record numbers, Brady came away impressed with OSU's vaunted defensive backfield.

"They are a very good secondary," he said. "They have fast guys out there and they are experienced players."

Miscellaneous Notes

- OSU wasn't giving its rival much hope by snuffing out Michigan's first seven third-down attempts. The Wolverines, however, converted their next four third-down plays and finished 9 of 22 for the day. UM was 0-for-2 on fourth down.

- The other key member of the OSU secondary, strong safety Damon Moore, played his last home game in style with a team-high 12 tackles. Winfield and Katzenmoyer both checked in with 10. Moore vaulted into the team lead in total tackles with 76, but Diggs is right behind with 74 and Winfield has 72. Katzenmoyer, a finalist for the Lombardi Award, maintained his hold on fourth place with 69.

Winfield also had 10 tackles last year against Michigan to lead the team and Katzenmoyer had nine.

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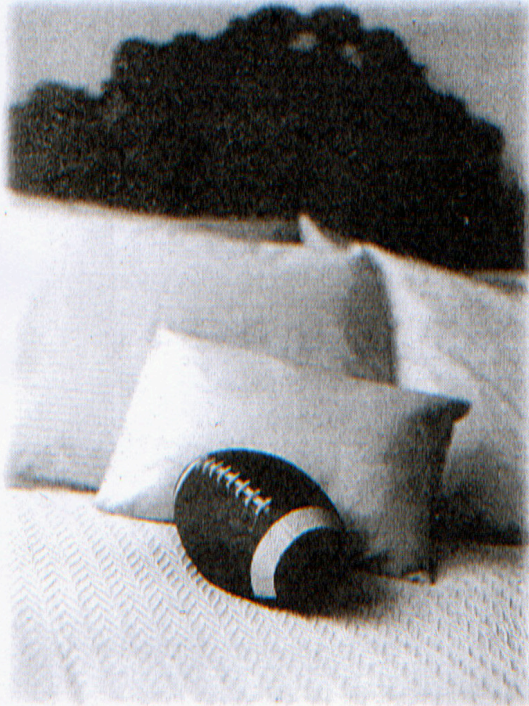
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The Numbers Game

Ohio State 31, Michigan 16

Nov. 21, 1998 — Ohio Stadium; Columbus, Ohio

Score by Quarters	1	2	3	4	F
MICHIGAN	0	10	3	3	- 16
OHIO STATE	14	7	10	0	- 31

First Quarter

OSU — Wiley, 53 run (Stultz kick) 12:20; 4 plays, 69 yards, 1:18

OSU — Miller, 16 pass from Germaine (Stultz kick) 9:44; 3 plays, 16 yards, 1:33

Second Quarter

UM — Feely, 27 field goal 14:15; 4 plays, 5 yards, 0:59

OSU — Boston, 30 pass from Germaine (Stultz kick) 3:15; 2 plays, 35 yards, 0:44

UM — Streets, 3 pass from Brady (Feely kick) 0:25; 9 plays, 80 yards, 2:50

Third Quarter

OSU — Boston, 43 pass from Germaine (Stultz kick) 9:51; 4 plays, 54 yards, 1:14

UM — Feely, 34 field goal 4:47; 9 plays, 27 yards, 5:04

OSU — Stultz, 39 field goal 1:36; 6 plays, 58 yards, 3:11

Fourth Quarter

UM — Feely, 30 field goal 14:47; 10 plays, 68 yards, 1:49

Att. — 94,339

Weather — Cloudy, 38 degrees. Wind 5-10 mph from NW

Team Statistics

	UM	OSU
First Downs	18	14
Rushing	2	4
Passing	15	9
Penalty	1	1
Rushes-Yards	28-4	32-132
Passing Yards	375	330
Passes (Att.-Comp.-Int.)	56-31-2	28-16-0
Offensive Plays	84	60
Total Net Yards	379	462
Third Down Efficiency	9-22	4-13
Fourth Down Efficiency	0-2	0-1
Punts	7-26.9	5-41.4
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	1-1
Penalties	7-55	8-93
Time of Possession	32:59	27:01

Individual Statistics

RUSHING (Att.-Net Yds.) — UM: C.Williams 11-13; A.Thomas 5-12; Shea 3-8; Brady 9-(29). **OSU:** Wiley 12-120; Montgomery 9-16; Keller 2-5; Germaine 9(-9).

PASSING (Att.-Comp.-Int.-Yds.-TD) — UM: Brady 56-31-2-375-1. **OSU:** Germaine 28-16-0-330-3.

RECEIVING (Rec.-Yds.) — UM: Streets 9-118; Knight 7-116; Johnson 4-55; Shea 3-23; A.Thomas 3-23; Tuman 2-24; Terrell 2-11; Campbell 1-5. **OSU:** Boston 10-217; Miller 4-59; Keller 1-49; Wiley 1-5.

PUNTING (No.-Avg.-Long) — UM: Vinson 6-31.3-51; Team 1-0-0-0. **OSU:** Bartholomew 5-41.4-49.

PUNT RETURNS (No.-Yds.) — UM: Knight 2-3. **OSU:** Wiley 2-38.

KICKOFF RETURNS (No.-Yds.) — UM: A.Thomas 5-135; C.Williams 1-17. **OSU:** Wiley 2-38.

FUMBLE RECOVERIES — UM: Hendricks. **OSU:** None.

INTERCEPTIONS (No.-Yds.) — UM: None. **OSU:** Plummer 1-2; Rudzinski 1-0.

SACKS — UM: Sword 2-11; Frysinger 1-10; Gold 1-6; Brackins 1-6; Hall 1-5. **OSU:** Johnson 2-12; Wayne 1-9; Pickett 1-7; Katzenmoyer 1-7; Rudzinski 1-6; Moore 1-2; Collins 1-2; Bailey 1-2; LaVar 1-2.

TACKLES FOR LOSS (No.-Yds.) — UM: Sword 6-16; Peterson 2-3; Frysinger 1-10; Gold 1-6; Brackins 1-6; Hall 1-5; Ray 1-2; J.Williams 1-1; Copenhaver 1-1. **OSU:** Johnson 2-12; Wayne 1-9; Pickett 1-7; Katzenmoyer 1-7; Rudzinski 1-6; Plummer 1-4; Brown 1-3; Moore 1-2; Collins 1-2; Bailey 1-2; LaVar 1-2.

TACKLES (Solo-Assst.-Tot.) — UM: Sword 8-6-14; Weathers 7-0-7; Peterson 4-1-5; J.Williams 4-0-4; Jones 2-2-4; Gold 2-2-4; Hall 3-0-3; Ray 1-2-3; Frysinger 2-0-2; Hendricks 2-0-2; G.Brooks 1-1-2; Renes 1-1-2; Copenhaver 1-1-2; Johnson 1-0-1; Knight 1-0-1; Schanski 1-0-1; Brackins 1-0-1; Feazell 0-1-1. **OSU:** Moore 10-2-12; Winfield 9-1-10; Katzenmoyer 7-3-10; Diggs 6-1-7; Clements 6-0-6; Plummer 5-1-6; Bellisari 3-2-5; Berry 3-1-4; Johnson 3-1-4; Rudzinski 1-3-4; Collins 2-1-3; Pickett 2-1-3; Wayne 1-2-3; Cotton 2-0-2; Bailey 1-0-1; Brown 1-0-1; Ross 1-0-1; Walter 1-0-1; LaVar 0-1-1.

PLAYERS IN THE GAME — MICHIGAN: Starters: Defense, Feazell, J.Williams, Renes, Hall, Jones, Sword, Jordan, Whitley, Ray, K.Jackson, Weathers, Offense, Streets, Backus, Hutchinson, Brandt, Frazier, Jansen, Tuman, Campbell, Knight, Brady, C.Williams. Reserves: Terrell, Howard, Walker, Smokevitch, Johnson, Dreisbach, Patmon, Foote, Gold, Bryant, Peterson, Epstein, A.Thomas, Shea, Vinson, Coleman, Krosel, Hendricks, Schanski, Copenhaver, Sechier, Feely, Brackins, G.Brooks, Miller, Seymour, Wilson, Rasat, Frysinger. **OHIO STATE:** Starters: Offense, Boston, Walter, R.Murphy, K.Murphy, Gilbert, Burris, Lumpkin, Germaine, Keller, Montgomery, Miller, Defense, Bailey, Pickett, Brown, Johnson, Diggs, Katzenmoyer, Rudzinski, Winfield, Berry, Moore, Plummer. Reserves: Mitchell, Rambo, Wiley, Bellisari, Cooper, King, Clements, McClellion, Westbrooks, Wells, Ott, Simpson, Ross, Bartholomew, Griffin, Kirk, Stultz, LaVar, Cheatwood, Cotton, Gurr, Bantley, Perez, Elford, Warnke, Wisniewski, Houser, Wayne, Collins.

Season Statistics

Date	Opponent (AP Rank*)	W/L	Score	Growd
Sept. 5 (1)	at West Virginia (11)	W	34-17	68,409
Sept. 12 (1)	TOLEDO	W	49-0	93,149
Sept. 19 (1)	MISSOURI (21)	W	35-14	93,269
Oct. 3 (1)	PENN STATE (7)	W	28-9	93,479
Oct. 10 (1)	at Illinois	W	41-0	46,390
Oct. 17 (1)	MINNESOTA	W	45-15	93,183
Oct. 24 (1)	at Northwestern	W	36-10	47,130
Oct. 31 (1)	at Indiana	W	38-7	52,049
Nov. 7 (1)	MICHIGAN STATE	L	28-24	93,595
Nov. 14 (7)	at Iowa	W	45-14	69,473
Nov. 21 (7)	MICHIGAN (11)	W	31-16	94,339

*Number in parentheses before opponent's name is OSU's game day AP ranking; number after opponent's name is opponent's game day AP ranking.

Team Statistics		OSU	Opp
First Downs		265	151
Rushing		116	54
Passing		142	84
Penalty		7	13
Avg. Per Game/Rush		198.6	67.4
Avg. Per Game/Pass		304.9	190.4
Total Offense		503.9	283.5
Total Plays		853	762
Average Per Game		503.5	257.7
Average Per Play		6.5	3.7
Penalties-Yards		91-872	54-460
Fumbles-Lost		27-12	12-6
3rd Down Efficiency		71-171	49-188
Percentage		.415	.265
4th Down Efficiency		10-18	5-20
Percentage		.556	.250
Sacks		39-248	29-202
Time of Possession Avg.		30:54	29:06

Score by Quarters		1	2	3	4	Tot.	Avg.
Ohio State	138	116	80	72	406	36.9	9
Opponents	23	67	18	22	130	11.8	3

Attendance		Games	Total	Avg.
Home	6	561,014	93,502	15,584
Away	5	283,391	56,678	11,336
Total	11	844,405	76,764	6,978

Individual Statistics				
Rushing	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD Long
Michael Wiley	182	1147	6.3	10 78
Joe Montgomery	109	670	6.1	6 80
Jonathan Wells	34	167	4.9	2 25
Matt Keller	32	128	4.0	1 12
Derek Combs	31	88	2.8	1 12
Jamar Martin	10	34	2.8	1 10
Dee Miller	3	17	5.7	0 10
John Lumpkin	2	8	4.0	0 11
Charlie Schanski	1	3	3.0	0 3
John Sanders	1	3	3.0	0 3
David Boston	2	1	0.5	0 7
Brent Bartholomew	1	-4	-4.0	0 0
Mark Garcia	6	-13	-2.2	0 7
Joe Germaine	57	-64	-1.1	0 22
OSU Totals	472	2185	4.6	21 80
OPP Totals	348	741	2.1	9 35

Receiving				
No.	Yards	Avg.	TD	Long
David Boston	74	1330	18.0	13 58
Dee Miller	58	887	15.3	3 42
Michael Wiley	22	160	7.3	1 35
John Lumpkin	16	270	16.9	4 30
Matt Keller	15	193	12.9	1 49
Reggie Germany	12	195	16.3	3 47
Ken-Yon Rambo	5	77	15.4	0 39
Jamar Martin	5	68	13.6	0 17
Dank Warnke	5	47	9.4	0 17
Steve Wisniewski	3	43	14.3	0 22
Jimmy Redmond	2	26	12.5	0 15
Kevin Griffin	2	19	9.5	0 14
Joe Montgomery	2	0	0.0	0 5
Chad Caccio	1	11	11.0	0 11
Jonathan Wells	1	11	11.0	0 11
Kevin Houser	1	10	10.0	0 10
Jerry Westbrooks	1	7	7.0	0 7
Derek Combs	1	1	1.0	0 1
OSU Totals	226	3354	14.8	25 58
OPP Totals	197	2094	10.6	7 60

Scoring				
TD	EPK	EPP	EPR	FG PTS
Dan Stultz	0	50-51	—	-12-22 86
David Boston	14	—	—	— 86
Michael Wiley	11	—	—	— 66
Joe Montgomery	5	—	—	— 35
John Lumpkin	4	—	—	— 24
Reggie Germany	3	—	—	— 18
Dee Miller	3	—	—	— 18

Passing					
Comp.	Att.	Pct.	Yds.	INT TD Rating	
Michael Wiley	2	2	1,000	33	0 238.6
Joe Germaine	209	346	,604	301.8	7 24 154.7
Mark Garcia	12	26	,462	189	0 1 119.9
Steve Bellisari	3	5	,600	24	0 0 100.3
Austin Moeherman	0	1	,000	0	0 0 0.0
Jonathan Wells	0	1	,000	0	0 0 0.0
OSU Totals	226	381	,593	385.4	7 25 151.2
OPP Totals	197	434	,476	209.4	7 7 87.4

FG Distance					
0-29	30-39	40-49	50+	Total	
Dan Stultz	5-5	5-8	2-7	0-2	12-22
OSU Totals	5-5	5-8	2-7	0-2	12-22
OPP Totals	3-3	5-6	5-5	0-0	13-14

Punting				
No.	Yds.	Avg.	Bk	Long
Brent Bartholomew	52	2105	40.5	1 57
Team	1	0	0.0	0 0
OSU Totals	53	2105	39.7	1 57
OPP Totals	98	3952	40.5	4 66

Interceptions				
No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
Ahmed Plummer	4	2	0.5	0 2
Damon Moore	2	73	36.5	1 73
Central McClellion	1	60	60.0	1 60
Mike Collins	1	22	22.0	1 22
Steve Bellisari	1	19	19.0	0 19
Nat'l Diggs	1	18	18.0	0 18
Clinton Wayne	1	17	17.0	0 17
Brent Johnson	1	11	11.0	0 11
Percy King	1	3	3.0	0 3
Tim Cheatwood	1	0	0.0	0 0
Nate Clements	1	0	0.0	0 0
David Mitchell	1	0	0.0	0 0
Jerry Rudzinski	1	0	0.0	0 0
OSU Totals	17	225	13.2	3 73
OPP Totals	7	75	10.7	0 73

Punt Returns				
No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
Ken-Yon Rambo	19	128	6.7	0 24
David Boston	18	268	14.9	1 70
Gary Berry	15	65	4.3	0 13
Derek Ross	1	27	27.0	0 27
Percy King	1	8	8.0	0 8
Nate Clements	1	7	7.0	0 7
David Mitchell	1	2	2.0	0 2
Team	1	0	0.0	0 0
Joe Cooper	0	0	0.0	0 1
OSU Totals	87	506	5.8	2 70
OPP Totals	28	399	7.1	0 30

Kickoff Returns				
No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
Ken-Yon Rambo	10	201	20.1	0 26
Michael Wiley	6	143	23.8	0 34
Jonathan Wells	3	63	21.0	0 23
Matt Keller	2	16	8.0	0 11
Steve Bellisari	1	22	22.0	0 22
Reggie Germany	1	14	14.0	0 14
OSU Totals	33	459	13.9	0 34
OPP Totals	42</			

OHIO STATE VS. MICHIGAN

Great Effort, Bad Result

OSU Turnovers, Penalties Help UM To 24-17 Win

By STEVE HELWAGEN
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

Ohio State saved one of its best — if not *the* best — efforts of the season for last. Unfortunately, though, it was too little, too late.

The Buckeyes ventured to Michigan Nov. 20 needing a win to qualify for a bowl bid. And for the longest time, it looked like OSU, a 12-point underdog, would pull off the upset.

But the same mistakes that have plagued the Buckeyes the entire season came back to bite them in the second half as the 10th-ranked Wolverines rallied for a 24-17 win in The Game before an NCAA-record crowd of 111,575 at Michigan Stadium.

"I thought our effort was great," said OSU coach John Cooper, whose team ended the season 6-6 overall and 3-5 in Big Ten play. "It's too bad we didn't play like that all season long."

The loss ends OSU's 10-year string of consecutive bowl appearances. The Buckeyes last missed a bowl in Cooper's first year, 1988, when they finished 4-6-1.

It also was the latest chapter in OSU's problems with Michigan. Under Cooper, the Buckeyes are now 2-9-1 against the Wolverines. The defeat extended OSU's losing streak in Ann Arbor to six games, dating to 1987.

The Buckeyes actually led Michigan (9-2, 6-2) 14-7 at halftime after a pair of long scoring drives netted touchdown passes.

But the Buckeyes committed three crucial turnovers — two interceptions by



SONNY BROCKWAY

WELLS RUMBLES — OSU tailback Jonathan Wells sidesteps Michigan's Ian Gold (20) with teammate Ben Gilbert (64) providing a block on a run down the sideline. Wells later pulled off a similar play to the other sideline, rolling for a season-long 76-yard run before he was dragged down from behind.

quarterback Steve Bellisari and a fumble by receiver Vanness Provitt — in the second half. For the game, they were flagged for 13 penalties for 115 yards to UM's one penalty for 7 yards.

"Michigan is a big rivalry," said OSU flanker Ken-Yon Rambo. "Things go back

and forth. When you go up, you can't just shut it down and think you're going to win the game. You've got to keep on going and try to score as many points as you can."

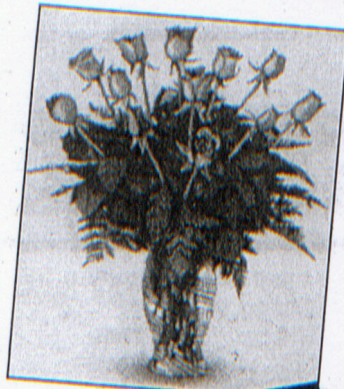
"I felt we were in control, but we had a couple of turnovers in the second half and

we didn't stop them when we needed to," added OSU defensive end James Cotton, who notched a pair of sacks in his final game as a Buckeye.

The Buckeyes' outgained Michigan 368 yards to 252. In fact, OSU piled up 263 yards rushing behind tailbacks

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OHIO STATE VS. MICHIGAN

Michael Wiley (22 carries, 92 yards) and Jonathan Wells (three carries, 85 yards).

Bellisari was 8 of 20 passing for 84 yards with two touchdowns and two interceptions.

"We didn't do a good job throwing the ball today," Cooper said. "I thought we ran the ball today, obviously, the best we have all year long."

Defensively, the Buckeyes held the Wolverines in check until the fourth quarter. UM took the lead after a 10-play, 77-yard scoring drive netted the game-winning touchdown when Tom Brady connected with Marquise Walker for a 10-yard TD with 5:01 left.

"Defensively, we stepped it up the whole game," said OSU cornerback Nate Clements, who led OSU with nine tackles and a pass deflected. "We just couldn't put it away. We came out and played hard."

Brady completed 17 of 27 passes for 150 yards and two touchdowns, while workhorse tailback Anthony Thomas had 31 carries for 111 yards and a touchdown. Thomas also caught five passes for 51 yards.

Brady credited the Buckeyes for hanging tough.

"When you come in as the favorite and you don't play like you should, you give the other team a lot of confidence," he said. "They made it a four-quarter game."

As It Happened

Ohio State controlled field position for the game's first few possessions, pinning the Wolverines back after the opening kickoff and then driving to the UM 37

yard before being forced to punt.

After the OSU defense forced a second UM punt, the Buckeyes took over on their own 49-yard line. They covered the remaining 51 yards in seven plays to score the game's first touchdown.

Bellisari came up with the first big play as he deftly avoided a sack, broke another tackle and scrambled for 9 yards.

Four plays later, OSU faced third-and-6 at the UM 32. Wiley took a pitch right and, behind a block from Matt Keller, rolled for 26 yards down to the UM 6. The Buckeyes caught Michigan shifting its defense the wrong way before Wiley stiff-armed UM's Cato June to pick up additional yardage.

After Wiley went for no gain on first-and-goal, Bellisari rolled left to pass. Under heavy pressure, he unloaded to tight end Kevin Houser at the 4. June was on the spot to attempt the tackle, but he was unable to corral Houser. The tight end got away and dived for the end zone to complete the 6-yard touchdown and give the Buckeyes a 7-0 lead with 5:33 left in the first quarter.

The field position advantage then shifted slightly to Michigan after OSU was flagged for roughing UM punter Hayden Epstein. A collection of Buckeyes, including Tim Cheatwood, Courtland Bullard and Donnie Nickey, were coming to attempt a block and they knocked Epstein down. UM got a fresh set of downs and eventually drove to the OSU 38 before punting.

After OSU went three-and-out, the Wolverines took possession on their own 30. They embarked on an 11-play, 70-

yard scoring march. The key play on the drive was a well-executed screen pass from Brady to Thomas, which covered 32 yards down to the OSU 13.

Brady then found David Terrell for a 7-yard gain to the 6 before Thomas powered for four more yards and a first down at the OSU 2.

Thomas went up the middle for 1 yard on first down before powering in for the 1-yard touchdown on the next play to tie the game, 7-7, with 7:45 left in the first half.

Ohio State answered with a 12-play, 80-yard scoring march to regain the lead. The possession got off to a good start as fullback Jamar Martin took a quick give and rumbled for 21 yards.

Wells then came on to convert a third-and-1. He picked up 9 yards on a toss sweep right to give OSU a first down at the UM 41. Bellisari converted the next third down by throwing to a leaping Provitt for 19 yards down to the UM 25.

Martin then came up big again with a 15-yard gain up the middle down to the 10. The Buckeyes then got a big break as Bellisari threw into the end zone for Rambo, who was shoved down by UM's James Whitley. The interference penalty gave the Buckeyes a first down at the 2.

Bellisari kept for 1 yard on first down before Martin came out of the backfield and slipped by UM's Victor Hobson to haul in the 1-yard TD and give the Buckeyes a 14-7 lead with 3:44 left in the first half.

"We watched a lot of film and we worked on it all week," said Martin, who finished with 35 yards on two carries.

"Michigan was giving up touchdowns to the fullback in the flat and the tight end in the back of the end zone.

"We ran it today and it was open." Michigan had two opportunities at the end of the half, but OSU sacked Brady each time — once by Cotton and once by Mike Collins — and the Buckeyes preserved their 14-7 halftime lead.

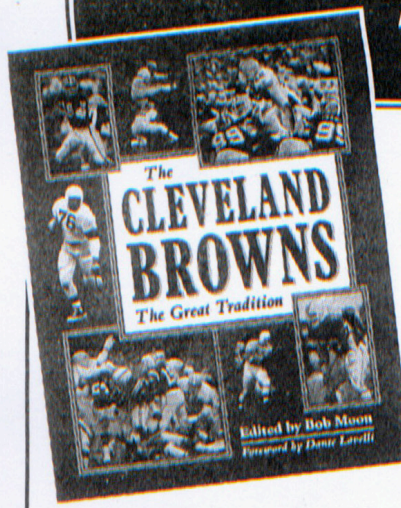
OSU had the ball to start the second half but could not capitalize as Bellisari's high pass for Reggie Germany was intercepted by UM safety DeWayne Patmon. He returned it 32 yards to the OSU 23.

But the Buckeye defense stiffened, forcing a Brady incompletion on second down, and linebackers Nail Diggs and Jason Ott stopped Thomas for a 5-yard loss after he caught a swing pass. Epstein booted a 42-yard field goal to trim the lead to 14-10 with 11:22 left in the third quarter.

Ohio State got those points back, though, after Rambo returned the ensuing kickoff 53 yards to the UM 43. Wiley then converted a fourth-and-2 situation at the UM 35 with his nifty halfback option pass between two defenders to Rambo for 21 yards and a first down at the 14. But the Buckeyes could not find the end zone after Wiley was stopped shy of the first down marker on third-and-8 at the 12, and OSU settled for Dan Stultz's 27-yard field goal and a 17-10 lead with 8:13 left in the third quarter.

Each team then missed a golden opportunity. Michigan drove to the OSU

Continued On Page 22



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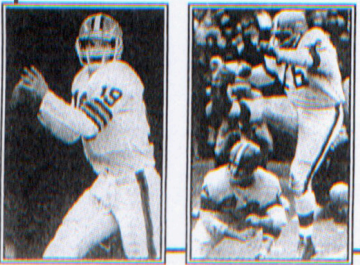
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OHIO STATE VS. MICHIGAN

OSU Unravels In Second Half At Michigan

Continued From Page 21

12, only to lose possession when Brady was stripped by freshman safety Mike Doss and teammate Clinton Wayne recovered.

Then, OSU's Wells ripped off a 76-yard run down the right sideline, spinning out of a tackle and getting a block from Martin, before he was dragged down from behind by UM's Todd Walker at the Michigan 6.

But OSU could not cash in as Bellisari threw an incomplete, Wiley picked up 2 yards on second down, and Bellisari was sacked by UM's Tommy Hendricks on third down.

"They had a real good call on third down," Cooper said. "They came with some outside pressure and we were fortunate to hang on to the ball."

A high snap on Stultz's ensuing 30-yard field goal attempt forced him to double clutch and he shanked the kick wide left.

"Because of great hustle by Todd Howard, we had a place to defend there, even though it was at the short end of the field," said UM coach Lloyd Carr, who improved to 4-1 against the Buckeyes.

Michigan finally tied the game after one more Ohio State miscue. This time, Bellisari threw a split second late to tight end Darnell Sanders down the middle. UM linebacker Ian Gold intercepted

the pass at the OSU 25 and returned it 17 yards to the OSU 8.

On first down there, UM had trips left but Brady rolled right and threw to tight end Shawn Thompson. Doss scraped off UM fullback Aaron Shea and made a desperation tackle attempt, but Thompson was able to stretch the ball over the goal line for the 8-yard TD. Epstein's PAT kick knotted the game at 17 with 37 seconds left in the third quarter.

The teams then traded possessions before the Buckeyes mounted a serious threat to take the lead. OSU drove 36 yards to the Michigan 34. But on second-and-14 there, Bellisari threw to Provitt in the left flat. UM's Whitley popped him to force a fumble, which June recovered at the Michigan 23 with 9:05 left in the game.

Michigan then put together the game's decisive scoring march. The key play was Brady's 20-yard pass to tight end Shawn Thompson, who was wide open down the middle of the field on third-and-3 at the UM 30.

Later in the drive, Brady dropped to pass and, after waiting for roughly eight seconds, dropped the ball off to Walker, who rolled ahead for 17 yards down to the OSU 11.

Two plays later, Brady and Walker hooked up for the 10-yard touchdown as Walker again was open in the left flat before avoiding OSU's Clements and diving for the end zone. Epstein's PAT gave

UM a 24-17 lead with 5:01 left.

"We were having some problems throwing the ball early in the game, but I knew at crunch time we would get the job done," Brady said.

Brady completed the pass despite having Diggs blitzing at him.

"I saw their linebackers walk up and I knew they were going to blitz," Brady said. "Na'il Diggs was to my left, where Marquise was lined up. I knew I'd throw to Marquise if (Diggs) blitzed."

Needing a touchdown to force overtime, Ohio State picked up a first down on its final possession as Bellisari lunged forward for 2 yards on a fourth-down quarterback sneak.

But the Buckeyes were unable to move the chains again. Bellisari's deep pass to Germany fell incomplete on first down at the OSU 31. He then hit Wiley with a screen for an 8-yard gain but was sacked by UM's Dhani Jones for a 7-yard loss on third down.

Finally, his fourth down pass to a sliding Germany fell incomplete and the Wolverines took over with 2:05 left.

A pair of OSU penalties, a face mask and offsides penalty, helped UM obtain the game-clinching first down with 50 seconds left.

Game Notes

• OSU jumbled its starting lineup on the offensive line with positive results.

Junior Tam Hopkins started at left guard in place of LeCharles Bentley, who moved over to right tackle in place of Henry Fleming.

• Another lineup switch that appeared to be working was starting Mike Doss at strong safety.

Doss, with 29 total tackles, was OSU's leading tackler over the season's final three games, tallying 12 against Michigan State, 10 against Illinois and seven against Michigan. He made his first career start against the Illini and was in the lineup again at UM.

His biggest play was the strip of Brady, which thwarted a serious UM

scoring threat.

"I think Michael made a good play on that," said defensive coordinator Fred Pagac. "He's a young player and he probably made some mistakes today, but I thought he played well."

• Just prior to Doss' strip, fellow safety Gary Berry had an interception and 57-yard return nullified due to a holding penalty on OSU defensive end Rodney Bailey.

Bailey latched on to Shea, who was coming out of the backfield to run a pass pattern.

• The crowd of 111,575 eclipsed the previous NCAA record, set earlier this year when 111,523 saw Michigan host Notre Dame.

Michigan also became the first school to average better than 111,000 fans per home game. UM attracted 666,049 fans for its six home dates for an average of 111,008.

• Many in that capacity crowd felt OSU's Percy King got away with a fair catch interference penalty on UM punt returner DiAllo Johnson.

King blasted Johnson a split second after he fielded a second-quarter OSU punt and a flag was thrown. The officials conferred, leading many to think they were going to flag King for a personal foul for a deliberate vicious hit.

But, upon conferring, the officials ruled King had been blocked into Johnson. ABC's cameras showed only incidental contact from the UM blocker, though.

King, absolved of any wrongdoing, considered it a heads-up play.

"I didn't care if I got flagged," he said. "If he had caught the ball I would have had to stand there and let him run, so I decided I might as well hit him and take the penalty. Five yards, what's that?"

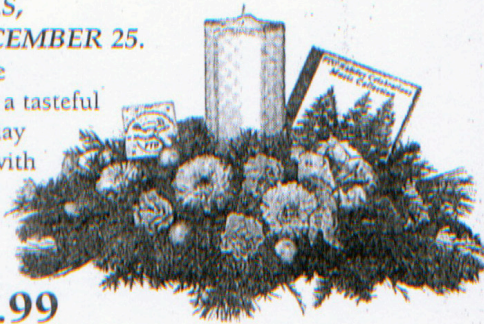
• Michigan increased its lead in the series to 55-35-6, including 29-16-4 in Ann Arbor. However, since 1952 the series is now dead even at 23-23-2.

OSU missed a chance to win consecutive games in the series for the first time since 1981-82.

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OHIO STATE VS. MICHIGAN

Pagac Happy With Way Buckeyes Responded

For a day anyway, it looked like the Ohio State defense of old.

The Buckeyes played lights out on the stop side of the ball in a 24-17 loss to Michigan, allowing the archrival Wolverines just 252 yards of total offense. It was the second straight time Ohio State turned in a sterling defensive effort in Ann Arbor only to see it go to waste.

"This was a good defensive football game for both sides," Ohio State defensive coordinator Fred Pagac said. "I'm sure there are some positives we can take out of this."

"We did pretty much what we wanted to do today defensively. We played hard, made plays and made tackles. We pressured them and things went well for us most of the game."

Three costly turnovers hamstrung Ohio State, and that more than anything was the difference in the game.

Especially impressive was the play of the secondary, which allowed UM quarterback Tom Brady only 150 yards through the air. The Wolverines had been running a fairly wide-open attack of late, but Michigan had no answer for the harassing, physical man defense of the Buckeyes.

"We played man," cornerback Ahmed

INSIDE THE DEFENSE with Mike Wachsman

Plummer said. "We played man about three-fourths of the time. I was on (David) Terrell the whole game, and I love competition and challenges."

Terrell, Michigan's biggest threat, was limited to 15 yards on just two catches.

The Wolverines had success with dumpoffs in the flat to Aaron Shea and Shawn Thompson, the latter scoring UM's tying touchdown when OSU linebacker Na'il Diggs chose to rush Brady. That left Thompson open in the flat and Brady floated the ball to him.

The Buckeye front line got good pressure on Brady, sacking him four times and hurrying him seven more.

James Cotton had two of the Buckeyes' sacks, and he felt OSU overpowered a touted Michigan offensive line.

"He is a rhythm passer," Cotton said. "We thought if we could take him off his



SONNY BROCKWAY

BIG STOP — OSU defensive end Brent Johnson (60) and linebacker Joe Cooper (10) celebrate after a key Buckeye stop. The OSU defense largely held Michigan in check, allowing the Wolverines just 252 yards total offense.

rhythm we could make some things happen."

Michigan ran a pretty elementary scheme, occasionally going to a three-wide set. But there were few four-wide sets or trips formations, which made OSU's job easier.

"We knew the routes they'd run and the athletes they had," safety Gary Berry said. "Hats off to Coach Pagac and Coach (Jon) Tenuta. We had a great game plan."

At times it seemed the Buckeyes knew Michigan's plays. UM's line was

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OHIO STATE VS. MICHIGAN

tipping its hand at times, and that allowed the Buckeyes the chance to dominate.

"Their tendencies held true and we reacted to what they were doing," Cotton said. "We knew what they were going to run by the way they lined up and by the way their line set up. They just made some plays in the second half."

Candy Man Proves Hard To Stop

Michigan tailback Anthony Thomas put up his fifth-straight 100-yard game by notching 111 yards on 31 tough carries, an average of just 3.6 yards per tote.

The Wolverines relied on Thomas to set up the passing game, and they were successful to a large degree.

One constant in the rivalry seems to be that the team that runs the ball better wins. However, that wasn't the case this time.

OSU knew it would be fed a steady diet of Thomas, especially as the fourth quarter dawned.

"This is Ohio State-Michigan," defensive end Rodney Bailey said. "We know each other very well. We expected them to grind it out and we had the scheme down."

Thomas caught a screen pass in the first half — one of his five receptions — and did a nice job all afternoon of breaking tackles. OSU's inability to stop passes to the flat again proved to be its undoing.

"They hit us on a couple of critical situations — the screen to Thomas in the first half and a couple of shallow routes to the tight end in the second half," Pagac said.

Effort Was First Rate

A lackluster loss to Illinois a week earlier made many think the Buckeyes would mail it in against the Wolverines.

But just the opposite was true.

OSU made plays all afternoon because of spirit, heart and desire. Those were missing most of the season, but they came to the fore for one day and were nearly enough to get the Buckeyes over.

"It was a big-time game, and even though it didn't turn out the way we wanted, I'm proud of all these guys," Plummer said. "They hung in and gave it their best shot."

The magnitude of the game — a win would have made the Buckeyes bowl-eligible — wasn't lost on the seniors, who rallied the troops and played their most consistent game of the season.

"It comes from the heart," Plummer said. "Everyone knows this is a big game. Everybody in the country watches this game. We believed we could win this game and everyone went out and gave it all they had."

The common thought pervading the postgame comments was that the Buckeyes would have been a contender had they played as hard all season as they did against Michigan.

Pagac, like OSU's other coaches, wasn't receptive to the idea that the effort

has been lacking this season. But he did applaud his troops.

"I'm not sure it was any more than any other week," the coach said. "But we came together and let it all hang out."

Putting It In Perspective

No one on the OSU squad envisioned a season like this, and the hurt will linger for some time.

But there seemed to be a sense of purpose, of resolve, from the Buckeyes as they sifted through the aftermath of their eighth loss to Michigan this decade.

"It's a disappointment because at

Ohio State you don't go .500," safety Percy King said. "You want to win at least 10 games, win the national championship. When you don't do that, it feels like the season was for nothing."

There were the same problems all season for the defense — lack of sure tackling, not enough forced turnovers and the surprising ability to fold when adversity called.

That disappeared against the Wolverines, making Plummer think there may be light at the end of the tunnel.

"If we had the answer for the problems we had earlier in the year, we sure-

ly would have put those out there and solved what was going on," Plummer said. "You can't explain it. This is a game where guys step up every year."

He had some words of advice for the returning members of the defense, kind of some fatherly advice to ensure 1999 doesn't happen all over again in 2000.

"It's up to them," Plummer said. "I've talked to some of them already and I'm sure I'll talk to others. It all starts in the off-season. The work habits the veterans showed will have to rub off on the young guys. It's their time to take over and be Ohio State Buckeyes and turn this thing around."

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The Numbers Game

Michigan 24, Ohio State 17

Nov. 20, 1999 — Michigan Stadium; Ann Arbor, Mich.
Score by Quarters

	1	2	3	4	F
OHIO STATE	7	7	3	0	- 17
MICHIGAN	0	7	10	7	- 24

First quarter

OSU — Houser, 6 pass from Bellisari (Stultz kick), 5:33; 7 plays, 51 yards, 3:36

Second quarter

UM — Thomas, 1 run (Epstein kick), 7:45; 11 plays, 70 yards, 5:27

OSU — Martin, 1 pass from Bellisari (Stultz kick), 3:44; 12 plays, 80 yards, 4:01

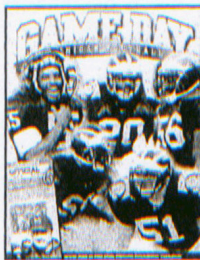
Third quarter

UM — Epstein, 42 field goal, 11:22; 4 plays, -2 yards, 1:34
 OSU — Stultz, 27 field goal, 8:13; 8 plays, 33 yards, 3:09
 UM — Thompson, 8 pass from Brady (Epstein kick), 0:37; 1 play, 8 yards, 0:07

Fourth quarter

UM — Walker, 10 pass from Brady (Epstein kick), 5:01; 10 plays, 77 yards, 4:04
 Att. — 111,575

Weather — 45 degrees, cloudy, light rain; wind 15 MPH from W-SW.



Team Statistics

	OSU	UM
First Downs	16	19
Rushing	11	10
Passing	4	6
Penalty	1	3
Rushes-Yards	48-263	39-102
Passing Yards	105	150
Passes (Att.-Comp.-Int.)	21-9-2	27-17-0
Offensive Plays	69	66
Total Net Yards	368	252
Third Down Efficiency	5-15	5-13
Fourth Down Efficiency	2-3	0-0
Punts	4-40.3	6-35.7
Fumbles-Lost	4-1	2-1
Penalties	13-115	1-7
Time of Possession	29:58	30:02

Individual Statistics

RUSHING (Att.-Net Yds.) — OSU: Wiley 22-92; Wells 3-85; Martin 2-35; Bellisari 13-27; Keller 8-24. **UM:** Thomas 31-111; Team 1(-1); Brady 7(-8).

PASSING (Att.-Comp.-Int.-Yds.-TD) — OSU: Bellisari 20-8-2-84-2; Wiley 1-1-0-21-0. **UM:** Brady 27-17-0-150-2.

RECEIVING (Rec.-Yds.) — OSU: Rambo 2-37; Provitt 2-30; Germany 2-23; Wiley 1-8; Houser 1-6; Martin 1-1. **UM:** Thomas 5-51; Thompson 3-37; Walker 3-26; Terrell 2-15; Johnson 2-14; Shea 2-7.

PUNTING (No.-Avg.-Long) — OSU: Stultz 4-40.3-45. **UM:** Epstein 6-35.7-47.

PUNT RETURNS (No.-Yds.) — OSU: Rambo 2-7. **UM:** Johnson 1-0; Cooper 1-0-1. **UM:** Johnson 1-0.

KICKOFF RETURNS (No.-Yds.) — OSU: Rambo 3-93; Wiley 1-24. **UM:** Cross 2-45.

FUMBLE RECOVERIES — OSU: Wayne. **UM:** June.

INTERCEPTIONS (No.-Yds.) — OSU: None. **UM:** Patmon 1-32; Gold 1-17.

SACKS — OSU: Cotton 2-9; Diggs 1-9; Collins 1-2. **UM:** Hendricks 1-8; Jones 1-7; Whitley 1-6; Hall 1-0.

TACKLES FOR LOSS (No.-Yds.) — OSU: Cotton 2-9; Ott 2-7; Diggs 1-9; Collins 1-2; Clements 1-1; Pickett 1-1. **UM:** Jones 2-10; J. Williams 2-8; Hendricks 1-8; Whitley 1-6; Renes 1-1.

TACKLES (Solo-Ass.-Tot.) — OSU: Clements 9-0-9; Ott 7-0-7; Doss 6-1-7; Diggs 4-3-7; Berry 5-1-6; Collins 4-2-6; Cotton 4-1-5; Plummer 2-1-3; Pickett 2-0-2; Bullard 1-1-2; Mitchell 1-0-1; Bailey 1-0-1; Walter 1-0-1; LaVrar 1-0-1; Wilhelm 1-0-1; Wiley 1-0-1; King 1-0-1; Cooper 1-0-1. **UM:** June 7-3-10; Hendricks 9-0-9; Gold 8-1-9; Jones 5-3-8; Howard 4-1-5; J. Williams 4-1-5; Hobson 3-1-4; Whitley 2-2-4; Hall 3-0-3; Petruziello 2-0-2; Brackins 1-1-2; Wilson 0-2-2; Thompson 1-0-1; Renes 1-0-1; Askew 1-0-1; Bellamy 1-0-1; Foote 1-0-1; Patmon 1-0-1.

PLAYERS IN THE GAME — OHIO STATE: Starters: Defense, Cotton, Pickett, Collins, Johnson, Diggs, Ott, Bullard, Clements, Berry, Doss, Plummer, Stultz. **Offense:** Germany, Walter, Bentley, Murphy, Gilbert, Hopkins, Wisniewski, Bellisari, Keller, Wiley, Rambo. **Reserves:** Mitchell, Grant, Cooper, Cacchio, King, Lindsay, Nickey, Westbrook, Wells, Wilhelm, Martin, LaVrar, Cheatwood, Douglas, Long, Gurr, Massey, Perez, Brown, Fleming, Provitt, Houser, Sanders, Wayne, Bailey, Eisenhard, Peterson, Queen. **MICHIGAN: Starters:** Defense, Terrell, Backus, Hutchinson, Brandt, Siemann, Frazier, Thompson, Knight, Brady, Shea, Thomas, Epstein. **Offense:** Walker, Cross, Renes, Hall, Hobson, Gold, Jones, Whitley, Hendricks, June, Howard. **Reserves:** Walker, Cross, Johnson, Patmon, Foote, Butler, Bellamy, Bryant, Drake, Smokevitch, Askew, Coleman, Rosel, Schanski, Sechler, Moundros, Sgroi, Brackins, Siemann, M. Williams, Mast, Seymour, Jopru, Rumishek, Kratus, Petruziello, Lazarus, Frysinger.

Season Statistics

1999 Game-By-Game

Date	Opponent (AP Rank)	W/L	Score	Crowd
Aug. 29 (9)	Miami (Fla.) (12)*	L	23-12	73,037
Sept. 11 (13)	UCLA (14)	W	42-20	93,283
Sept. 18 (13)	OHIO U.	W	40-16	93,222
Sept. 28 (12)	CINCINNATI	W	34-20	93,407
Oct. 2 (12)	WISCONSIN	L	42-17	93,524
Oct. 9 (21)	PURDUE (17)	W	25-22	93,766
Oct. 16 (18)	at Penn State (2)	L	23-10	97,007
Oct. 23 (22)	at Minnesota (24)	W	20-17	50,842
Oct. 30 (21)	IOWA	W	41-11	93,561
Nov. 6 (20)	at Mich. State (19)	L	23-7	74,639
Nov. 13 (25)	ILLINOIS	L	46-20	93,429
Nov. 20	at Michigan (10)	L	24-17	111,575

*Kickoff Classic
 #OSU's game day AP ranking is in parentheses before the opponent, while the opponent's ranking is after the name.

Team Statistics

	OSU	Opp
First Downs	210	232
Rushing	101	116
Passing	91	103
Penalty	18	13
Avg. Per Game/Rush	166.5	159.7
Avg. Per Game/Pass	181.2	202.7
Total Offense	417.2	434.8
Total Plays	780	871
Average Per Game	347.7	362.3
Average Per Play	5.3	5.0
Penalties-Yards	71-564	78-662
Fumbles-Lost	26-15	16-9
3rd Down Efficiency	60-159	72-186
Percentage	.380	.390
4th Down Efficiency	7-15	5-12
Percentage	.470	.420
Sacks	29-162	40-262
Time of Possession Avg.	27:17	32:43

Score by Quarters

	1	2	3	4	Tot.	Avg.
Ohio State	53	87	96	49	285	23.8
Opponents	55	108	63	61	287	23.9

Attendance

Games	Total	Avg.
Home	7, 654,192	93,456
Away	5, 407,100	81,420
Total	12	1,061,292

Individual Statistics

	Att.	Net.	Avg.	TD	Long
Rushing					
Michael Wiley	183	952	5.2	10	69
Steve Bellisari	116	332	2.9	2	68
Jonathan Wells	51	292	5.7	3	76
Derek Combs	43	173	4.0	3	39
Jamar Martin	19	100	5.3	1	21
Jerry Westbrook	17	70	4.1	1	15
Matt Keller	16	61	3.8	0	11
Ken-Yon Rambo	5	34	6.8	0	22
Nate Stead	2	8	4.0	0	5
Andre Griffin	3	6	2.0	0	4
Team	3	-8	-2.7	0	0
Austin Moherman	18	-22	-1.2	0	8
OSU Totals	476	1998	4.2	20	76
OPP Totals	514	1916	3.7	17	53
Receiving	No.	Yards	Avg.	TD	Long
Reggie Germany	43	656	15.3	1	42
Ken-Yon Rambo	41	833	20.3	6	68
Michael Wiley	14	153	10.9	1	27
Matt Keller	8	130	16.3	1	38
Vanness Provitt	7	122	17.4	1	41
Steve Wisniewski	6	91	15.2	1	24
Kevin Houser	6	55	9.2	2	20
Jonathan Wells	5	17	3.4	0	9
Chad Cacchio	4	44	11.0	0	19
Jamar Martin	3	10	3.3	1	5
Steve Bellisari	1	28	28.0	0	28
Derek Combs	1	16	16.0	0	16
Nate Stead	1	10	10.0	0	10
Darnell Sanders	1	7	7.0	1	7
Jerry Westbrook	1	2	2.0	0	2
OSU Totals	142	2174	15.3	15	68
OPP Totals	213	2432	13.4	14	75

Scoring

Player	TD	EPK	EPP	EPR	FG	PTS
Michael Wiley	11	—	—	1-1	—	68
Dan Stultz	0	31-34	—	—	—	12-16
Ken-Yon Rambo	6	—	—	—	—	36
Derek Combs	3	—	—	—	—	18
Jonathan Wells	3	—	—	—	—	18
Steve Bellisari	2	—	—	0-1	—	12
Jamar Martin	2	—	—	—	—	12
Kevin Houser	2	—	—	—	—	12
Darnell Sanders	1	—	—	—	—	6
Steve Wisniewski	1	—	—	—	—	6
Jerry Westbrook	1	—	—	—	—	6
Reggie Germany	1	—	—	—	—	6
Gary Berry	1	—	—	—	—	6
Vanness Provitt	1	—	—	—	—	6
Matt Keller	1	—	—	—	—	6
OSU Totals	36	31-34	0-0	1-2	12-16	286
OPP Totals	31	23-23	1-5	2-3	24-30	287

Passing

Player	Comp.	Att.	Pct.	Yds.	INT	TD	Rating
Steve Bellisari	101	224	.451	1616	9	12	116.33
Austin Moherman	36	78	.460	435	5	2	92.19
Michael Wiley	5	5	1.00	123	0	1	372.64
OSU Totals	142	304	.467	2174	14	15	113.85
OPP Totals	213	357	.597	2432	12	14	123.11

FG Distance

	0-29	30-39	40-49	50+	Total
Dan Stultz	3-3	4-6	5-7	0-0	12-16
OSU Totals	3-3	4-6	5-7	0-0	12-16
OPP Totals	7-11	11-14	5-6	1-1	24-31

Punting

Player	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Bk.	Long
Dan Stultz	61	2353	38.6	0	58
G.J. Sander	2	45	22.5	0	34
OSU Totals	63	2402	38.1	0	58
OPP Totals	61	2534	41.5	0	68

Interceptions

Player	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
Ahmed Plummer	5	64	12.8	0	37
Nate Clements	1	36	36.0	0	36
Kenny Peterson	1	31	31.0	0	31
Jason Ott	1	14	14.0	0	14
Gary Berry	1	12	12.0	0	12
Donnie Nickey	1	0	0.0	0	0
Joe Cooper	1	0	0.0	0	0
OSU Totals	12	167	13.9	0	37
OPP Totals	14	229	16.4	0	48

Punt Returns

Player	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
Nate Clements	18	175	9.7	0	27
Ken-Yon Rambo	3	20	6.7	0	13
OSU Totals	21	195	9.3	0	27
OPP Totals	25	170	6.8	0	18

Kickoff Returns

Player	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
Ken-Yon Rambo	31	653	21.1	0	53
Michael Wiley	8	114	14.3	0	24
Chad Cacchio	1	12	12.0	0	12
Matt Keller	1	9	9.0	0	9
Joe Cooper	1	0	0.0	0	0
Percy King	1	0	0.0	0	0
OSU Totals	43	788	18.3	0	53
OPP Totals	44	844	19.2	0	59

Defensive Leaders

Player	Solo	Ass.	Tot.	TFL	Yds.	Sacks
Na'il Diggs	64	30	94	15-53	6-38	6-38
Nate Clements	76	14	90	8-29	—	—
Gary Berry	65	21	86	6-20	3-2	3-2
Jason Ott	55	24	79	11-32	2-10	2-10
Donnie Nickey						