

Freshman Shines In Second Half**Spielman Comes Of Age In Opener***By Rich Exner*

He might not admit to shaving everyday yet, and he didn't eat Wheaties for breakfast game day, but the 18-year-old kid from Massillon made a rousing debut in Ohio Stadium Sept. 8.

Linebacker Chris Spielman came to Ohio State touted as one of the finest high school football players in the land last year. His picture even appeared on a Wheaties box.

"Expectations, I love. I love to live up to them," Spielman said. "There's nothing older than yesterday's headlines. It's time to make new ones."

That's exactly what Spielman did with his opening day performance — live up to all expectations and make plenty of new headlines.

Spielman didn't start; in fact he was in for only two plays in the first half. But once he entered the game in the third quarter, he established himself as a leader. The 6-2, 223-pounder ended up with 10 tackles, including two behind the line of scrimmage, and a forced fumble.

"I've never not started a football game in my life. It was hard to

accept at first, but I've got to understand I'm not in high school. I'm playing with men. I'm an 18-year-old kid playing with big guys that shave everyday," Spielman said.

"But when they called my name to go in there, I got that bold feeling back. My body started to tingle, and I said, 'it's time to play football.'"

The new kid on the block went to work. Before long, he recorded his first quarterback sack at Ohio State, and he loved every minute of it.

"I came in there, and I was fresh. I'm a freshman. The guys were looking at me like I was crazy when I started running around, patting everyone on the back — 'What's wrong with this kid.' I think I added a spark and when I got that first sack, they started to respond," Spielman said.

"It's tough for a freshman to come in and be a leader. But once a freshman shows what he can do in practice, he's accepted. If he's a linebacker, he's got to be a leader."

As the game rolled on, the crowd cheered more with every Spielman tackle, watching the new number 36 take his first step toward possibly gaining the fame All-Americans Marcus Marek and Tom Cousineau enjoyed while wearing number 36 and playing linebacker at Ohio State.

"I'm not Marcus Marek or Tom Cousineau. I'm Chris Spielman. A number is a number. I'm just happy to be a linebacker like those two. Hopefully, I'm going to work and try to be better than those two," he said.

At the beginning of the fourth quarter with Ohio State leading,

15-14, and Oregon State driving toward a go-ahead score, Spielman made his biggest play of the day.

"It was a blitz call to shoot through the gap and nobody picked me up. He (quarterback Ricky Greene) was rolling out and he didn't see me. When I wrapped my arms around him, I guess my head hit the ball. I heard the crowd roar and figured it was a fumble. I just laid on him so he couldn't get up, and then I started looking for the ball," Spielman explained.

Fellow linebacker Larry Kolic pounced on the loose pigskin.

"I think it was a turning point in the game," Spielman continued. "We went down and scored. That made me feel good. I just wanted my one shot. It took a while, but I got it."

Spielman got his one shot and some praise from coach Earle Bruce.

"I thought for a first game, Chris Spielman played exceptionally well," Bruce said.

Perhaps Spielman would have played more had he not injured an ankle in the Ohio North-South all-star game July 20. For three weeks, Spielman wasn't even allowed to run. He said, "I felt like a siss."

Once at Ohio State, he re-injured the ankle and the coaches made him put the yellow (no contact) jersey on during practice. He didn't take kindly to the thought of staying out a whole week of practice just one week before the season.

"It kind of made me feel bad. I couldn't eat. I couldn't sleep. I take that stuff personally," he said.

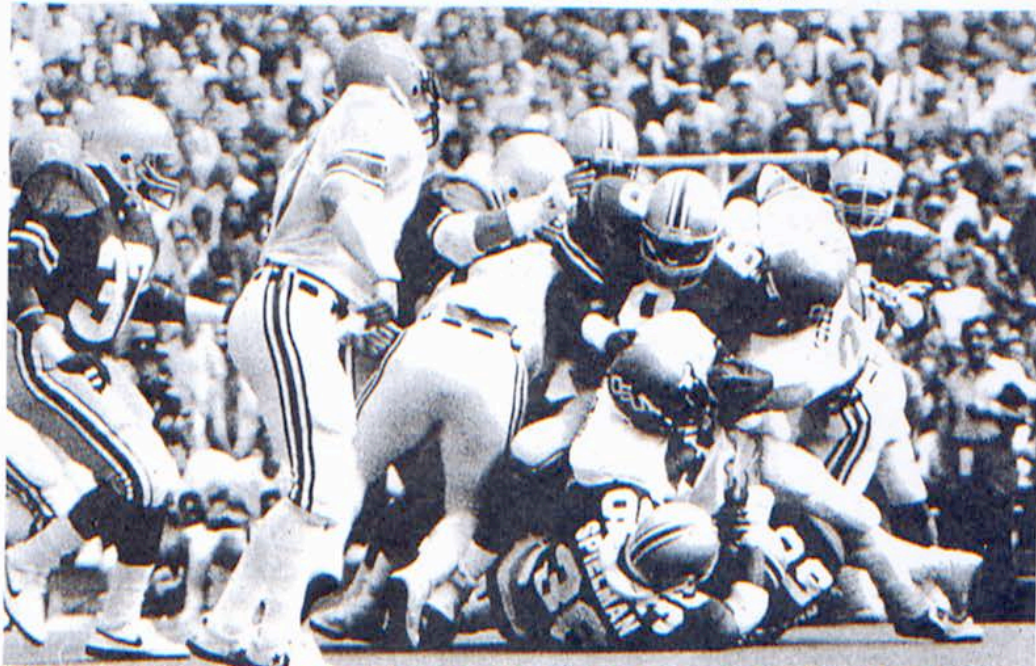
But Spielman was back in practice without the dreaded yellow jersey the week of the

**Chris Spielman**

opener and, come Saturday afternoon, made a successful step from football crazy Massillon, Ohio, to football crazy Columbus. "It's like playing at Massillon here — little Massillon," he said with a smile.

And it wasn't a bad first appearance in "little Massillon" for the rookie who didn't even get to eat the breakfast of champions before the game.

"They wouldn't let me have Wheaties. I had to have a pre-game meal like everyone else," Spielman laughed.

**Chris Spielman (Bottom) And Scott Leach (8) Combine To Stop Beaver****BUCKEYE  
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# Slow Starting Bucks Rally For Victory

By Rich Exner

Ohio State didn't exactly open the 1984 season in spectacular style but, after a halftime talk, the Buckeyes played a solid second half of football in defeating Oregon State, 22-14.

The Beavers threw a wild defense at Ohio State, and the Buckeyes were unable to solve it until halftime.

"They were showing us a 4-3 defense and running something else once the play was called," tailback Keith Byars said. "We made adjustments at halftime."

In the first half, Oregon State successfully kept the line of scrimmage clogged up. Byars found himself, time after time, running into a solid wall of defenders and having to muscle his way for any yardage at all.

Several times, plays were whistled dead with Byars still on his feet after the Beavers had stopped him but were unable to take him down. On one occasion, it took ten Oregon State defenders, all working together, to tackle the big Buckeye tailback.

The only time Byars, who ended

the day with a career high of 182 yards on 34 carries, got more than ten yards on a first half carry came on a play in which he was hit by six defenders. Byars pushed the last one eight yards up the sideline before going down after a 20-yard gain.

When Byars finally did find his way into the end zone, the gain was negated by an illegal motion penalty. The Buckeyes ended up having to settle for a field goal.

Earlier in the game, freshman punter Tom Tupa dropped his first snap, setting up the Beavers' first score after a 14-yard loss. Six plays and 25 yards later, Oregon State took a 7-0 lead with 9:54 on the clock.

The Buckeyes came back with the field goal to narrow the gap to 7-3, but Oregon State retaliated with another touchdown.

Beaver quarterback Ricky Greene, a former outfielder and catcher in the San Francisco Giants organization, superbly mixed the pass with his own running to lead his team on a 15-play, 82-yard march to the end zone.

The score came when Greene optioned to James Terrell for a 15-yard TD. The play was setup when Beaver fullback Donald Beavers drew the defense toward the middle by diving over the line of scrimmage after a fake handoff.

The Buckeyes were out-gained, 197-110, and out-played in the first half.

"I think everyone found out Oregon State is a little better than they thought," coach Earle Bruce said after the game.

Byars agreed: "You get hung up sometimes reading too much about what Oregon State has and what it doesn't have. You tend to believe it. But as the game went on, I said, 'this is no slouch football team by any stretch of the imagination.'"

So, while four Script Ohios were being spelled out on the field by alumni bands, Bruce was busy making halftime adjustments.

"I learned something a long time ago. You have to make a lot of good adjustments at halftime if you're going to stay at Ohio State, and the coaches did," Bruce said.

Ohio State returned from the lockerroom and played a different

brand of football in the second half.

"They came at us in the second half with tremendous strength," Beaver coach Joe Avezzano said. Byars called it "hard ball."

After Jim Karsatos was intercepted for the second, and last, time of the day, Buckeye defender Sonny Gordon returned the favor by picking off a Greene pass attempt. The interception seemed to put a spark in the Buckeyes with 9:19 remaining in the third quarter.

Byars, finally seeing a hole, rambled 15 yards on the next play. John Wooldridge replaced Byars and went 14 yards. Then Byars returned, took the handoff up the middle, broke to the outside and high-stepped his way in on a 13-yard touchdown run. Rich Spangler's extra point try was wide to the right, leaving the score at 14-9, in favor of Oregon State.

With a nice pass break-up by Buckeye safety Terry White and a 15 yard personal foul penalty, Oregon State's next possession was stopped. Two successful passes and seven running plays later, John Wooldridge scored from the four to put the Buckeyes on top 15-14. Ohio State's two-point conversion pass attempt was incomplete.

After Oregon State got the ball back, freshman linebacker Chris Spielman, who recorded a sack on the previous possession, deflected a Greene pass near the line of scrimmage and later forced a fumble, which Larry Kolic recovered.

The Buckeyes moved the ball 62 yards, 21 of it coming on a fine run by Wooldridge, for the game's final score at the 8:29 mark.

Spangler lined up for a 30-yard field goal attempt with 37 seconds left, to try to seal the victory, but the kick was blocked.

The Buckeyes, ahead by only eight points, were forced to hold the Beavers on their last possession. The game ended with Oregon State at its own 42.

The Buckeyes' young secondary, consisting of two sophomores and two freshmen, held up well under the pressure. Oregon State's Greene hit on 19 of 34 passes for 241 yards but was unable to click for a big-gainer.


Jim Karsatos, making the start for Mike Tomczak, completed nine of 16 attempts for 102 yards.

Freshman Terry White, who was red-shirted last year, led the team with 12 tackles. Spielman was next with 10.


### Ohio State Schedule

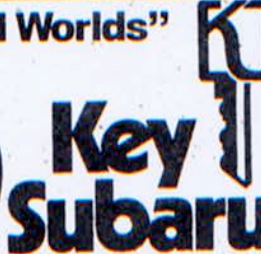
Sept. 15	WASHINGTON STATE
Sept. 22	IOWA
Sept. 29	At Minnesota
Oct. 6	At Purdue
Oct. 13	ILLINOIS
Oct. 20	At Michigan State
Oct. 27	At Wisconsin
Nov. 3	INDIANA
Nov. 10	At Northwestern
Nov. 17	MICHIGAN

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# Game Statistics

OREGON STATE	7	7	0	0	14
OHIO STATE	3	0	12	7	22

ORE — R. Greene 3 run (Breen kick) 9:54  
 OSU — Spangler 20 field goal 0:06  
 ORE — Terrell 14 run (Breen kick) 10:16  
 OSU — Byars 13 run (kick failed) 8:25  
 OSU — Wooldridge 4 run (pass failed) 1:22  
 OSU — Byars 1 run (Spangler kick) 8:33  
 Att. — 88,072

	ORE	OSU
First Downs	20	22
Rushing	8	16
Passing	11	6
Penalty	1	0
Rushes-Yards	38-146	56-268
Passing Yards	241	102
Passes	35-19-1	16-9-2
Offensive Plays	73	72
Total Net Yards	387	370
Third Down Eff.	9-18	9-15
Punts	6-48-2	2-42-0
Fumbles-Lost	1-1	1-0
Penalties	5-35	2-20
Time Of Possession	31:12	28:48

### Individual Statistics

**RUSHING (Att.-Net Yds.)** — OREGON STATE: Malone 13-48; R. Greene 11-29; T. Greene 5-27; Beavers 5-14; Terrell 3-17; Bynum 1-11. OHIO STATE: Byars 34-182; Bates 11-57; Wooldridge 7-55; Tupa 1-(14); Karsatos 3-(12).

**PASSING (Att.-Comp.-Int.-Yds.-TD)** — OREGON STATE: R. Greene 34-19-1-241-0; Beavers 1-0-0-0-0. OHIO STATE: Karsatos 16-9-2-102-0.

**RECEIVING (Rec.-Yds.)** — OREGON STATE: Bynum 11-148; Dixon 5-79; Stan 1-9; Montagne 1-7; Beavers 1-(1-2). OHIO STATE: Taggart 2-28; Carter 2-20; Jay Holland 2-20; Lanese 1-15; Wooldridge 1-10; Byars 1-9.

**PUNTING (No.-Ave.-Lg.)** — OREGON STATE: Stempeck 6-42.8-50. OHIO STATE: Tupa 2-42.0-46.

**PUNT RETURNS (No.-Ave.-Lg.)** — OREGON STATE: Beavers 1-2.0-2. OHIO STATE: Jay Holland 3-7.0-11.

**KICKOFF RETURNS (No.-Ave.-Lg.)** — OREGON STATE: Beavers 3-13.0-17. OHIO STATE: Wooldridge 1-42.0-42.

**DEFENSIVE FUMBLES RECOVERED BY** — OREGON STATE: None. OHIO STATE: Kolic.

**INTERCEPTIONS** — OREGON STATE: Taylor, T. Brown. OHIO STATE: Gordon.

**TACKLES FOR LOSS** — OREGON STATE: Northington (2), Mingo, Dilulo, Wilson, Lopez. OHIO STATE: Spielman (2), Morrill (2), Giuliani, Crecelius, Gordon, B. Lee.

**TACKLES (Solo-Ass.-Tot.)** — T. Brown 4-9-13; Gonzales 3-8-11; Heller 2-7-9; Lewis 2-7-9; Taylor 2-6-8; Dupee 1-5-6; Mingo 3-3-6; Dilulo 0-5-5; Naone 1-4-5; Dozier 1-4-5; Wilson 1-4-5; Lopez 2-3-5; Saunders 1-3-4; Northington 3-1-4; Cline 0-3-3; Sodaro 1-2-3; Schneider 0-3-3; Laverty 0-2-2; Nielsen 1-0-1; Hawkins 0-1-1; Greene 1-0-1. OHIO STATE: T. White 6-6-12; Spielman 5-5-10; Hill 3-6-9; W. White 6-3-9; Kolic 2-4-6; Morrill 3-2-5; Johnson 1-3-4; Giuliani 1-3-4; D. Lee 3-1-4; Crecelius 2-2-4; Gordon 3-1-4; Alders 1-3-4; B. Lee 1-3-4; Whitmer 1-0-1; Leach 1-0-1; Lowdermilk 0-1-1; Bates 0-1-1.

### Players In The Game

OREGON STATE — Gonzales, Dilulo, E. Brown, Cline, Mingo, Hayes, Naone, Alfieri, Dozier, Todd, Lewis, Sodaro, Saunders, Kerahner, Heller, Schneider, T. Brown, Northington, Wilson, Lopez, Hochevar, DuPee, Taylor, Stempeck, Miller, Stan, Cureton, Laverty, Jackola, Rouse, D. Wright, Jones, Dahlem, Reiter, Briz, Olsen, Emmons, Dixon, Montagne, Hawkins, Galloway, Greene, Steenwyk, McKittrick, Beavers, Terrell, Jordan, D. Malone, Green, Stubblefield, Bynum, Breen, Nielsen.

OHIO STATE — Jay Holland, Carter, Doug Smith, Ro. Graves, Maggs, Lachey, Lowdermilk, Odom, Whitmer, Zalenski, Krerowicz, Taggart, Groza, Higdon, Karsatos, Byars, Wooldridge, Delaney, Rogan, Bates, Blair, Lanese, Spangler, Alders, Crecelius, Giuliani, D. Lee, Morrill, Sullivan, B. Lee, Hueston, Kolic, Spielman, Johnson, Jenkins, Harvey, Pfister, Davidson, Gordon, Cargile, Richardson, W. White, Jackson, Leach, Hill, T. White, Tupa.

## Buckeye Q & A

# Gerald's Numbers

By Rich Exner

*Buckeye Question and Answer allows OSU fans to write BSB and inquire about certain matters of trivia, history and rules. If you would like a question answered, write Q & A, Buckeye Sports Bulletin, P.O. Box 12453, Columbus, Ohio 43212.*

**Q.** What were Rod Gerald's passing, receiving and rushing statistics in 1978, the year he was moved from quarterback to wide receiver to make room for Art Schlichter? — Bill Welt, Short Hills, N.J.

**A.** Gerald was the second leading receiver on the team in 1978, collecting 16 receptions for 314 yards and one touchdown. His biggest pickup was a 60-yard catch. Only Doug Donley, now with the Dallas Cowboys, had more catches (24). Gerald rushed nine times for just seven yards, and he completed both the passes he attempted for 12 yards.

**Q.** How does the NCAA figure the efficiency rating for quarterbacks and how do Mike Tomczak and Art Schlichter compare with other top passing seasons by Buckeye quarterbacks? — Joe Buti, Houston, Texas.

**A.** Here's what the 1983 NCAA Football Book says about the efficiency rating: "Beginning in 1979, passers were ranked on Efficiency Rating Points (comparing passers to the national averages for 14 seasons of two-platoon football starting with 1965. 100 points equals the 14-year averages of all players. To determine rating points, multiply a player's yards per attempt by 8.4, add his completion percentage, add his touchdown percentage times 3.3, then subtract his interception percentage times two)." Got that?

Here's how the top ten single-season performances in passing yardage at Ohio State compare in efficiency: 1. Art Schlichter ('79 season, 1,816 yds.) 146 rating; 2. John Borton ('52, 1,555) 144; 3. Schlichter ('80, 1,930) 140; 4. Cornelius Green ('75, 1,066) 137; 5. Mike Tomczak ('83, 1,942) 130; 6. Tomczak ('82, 1,602) 126; 7. Schlichter ('81, 2,551) 124; 8. Bill Long ('66, 1,180) 105; 9. Don Unverferth ('65, 1,965) 95; 10. Schlichter ('78, 1,250) 93.

**Q.** I understand that Ohio State won 47 straight regular season basketball games from 1960-62. Is that the longest such streak in the Big Ten? — J. Johnson, Cleveland.

**A.** Fred Taylor's cagers did win 47 consecutive regular season games during that time. According to the 1984 NCAA Basketball Book, that is the second best by any Big Ten team (note that the wins include all regular season games, not just Big Ten games). Indiana won 57 straight in 1975-77. UCLA has the longest national streak with 77 wins.

**Q.** When the Ohio State football team had six captains in 1982, was that the most ever? — Gayle Jacoby — Cincinnati.

**A.** The six captains in 1982 were the most of any Buckeye football team. They were Glen Cobb, Marcus Marek, Joe Lukens, Jerome Foster, Gary Williams and Tim Spencer. In 1974, there were five captains — Steve Myers, Archie Griffin, Arnold Jones, Neal Colzie and Pete Cusick, according to the Ohio State Football Media Guide.

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# Freshmen Make Presence Felt In Opener

Freshmen were everywhere in Ohio State's opener against Oregon State. They were on defense. They were on offense. And they were on specialty teams.

In all, 10 freshmen saw action. Seven of those were incoming freshmen, just three months out of high school, and three were red-shirted last year.

There were almost as many freshmen in the game as there were players from other classes — 12 seniors, 13 juniors and 12 sophomores.

And the Buckeye freshmen were not making just token appearances.

## Inside Look

With Rich Exner

• Safety Terry White, who was red-shirted last year, led the team in tackles with 12 and was named by the coaches the defensive most valuable player. For a little guy at 5-9, 170 pounds, he showed the ability to make the big hits.

• William White got the start at one cornerback position and ended up with nine tackles. He rushed for 1,444 yards at Lima Senior High School last season, but already seems at home on the defensive side of the field.

• Chris Spielman, called by *Parade* magazine the best high school linebacker in the nation last year, didn't play much until the second half but made the most of his debut, collecting 10 tackles, deflecting a pass and causing a fumble. Bruce said of Spielman: "I would think he has a good chance of starting after this week's work," but added that the practice sessions would decide that.

• Cris Carter, brother of NBA guard Butch Carter, showed signs of future stardom with a pair of super-quick legs. He had two catches, each of 10 yards.

• Tom Tupa got off to a rough start on his Ohio State punting career, dropping the first snap and taking a 14-yard loss, but came back with a 46-yarder and a 38-yarder, the second of which he

angled out of bounds at the nine yardline.

• Other freshmen seeing action were outside linebacker Joe Jenkins and cornerback Ray Jackson, both red-shirts from last year, as well as three newcomers — tight end Alex Higdon, running back Greg Rogan and linebacker Jim Davidson.

In the age of wholesale red-shirting of freshmen, seven incoming freshmen playing in the first game was certainly an indication of the quality of Bruce's latest recruiting class.

Last year, for instance, the only recruits playing at all during the entire season were Henry Brown, Reggie Graves, Sonny Gordon, Ray Holliman and Ed Taggart. The only recruits to avoid the red-shirt year in 1982 were Keith Byars, Dennis Hueston, Pepper Johnson, Mike Lanese and Byron Lee.

JOE CONCHECK, after some successful work in summer school classes, has become eligible to play basketball fall quarter.

However, when coach Eldon Miller opens practice Oct. 15, he will be without forward Keith Wesson, who is ineligible. Miller said, "Keith will be in school this fall and will pay his own way. He is determined to be back for basketball competition in the Winter Quarter."

Miller certainly has not gotten the most out of his 1982 recruiting class; none of the four recruits from that year will be in uniform for the Nov. 24 opener against Lafayette. Matt Lucas, Alan Kortokrax and

Clinton Smith have all left Ohio State, and Wesson is ineligible.

**ELIGIBILITY PROBLEMS** also hit the football team. Safety Kelvin Bell, a veteran of 33 starts at Ohio State, and rover Kevin Richardson went to summer school and passed classes before being eligible for the season. Both have returned to practice and, according to Bruce, will have to work their way back into the lineup. Both were listed as starters on the pre-season depth chart.

**THE COACHING** staff selected its most valuable players for the Oregon State game. Terry White, as mentioned above, was named the defensive MVP. Byars was picked the offensive player of the game and Jim Lachey was the lineman of the week.

All five starting offensive interior linemen — Lachey, Rory Graves, Kirk Lowdermilk, Scott Zalenski and Mark Krerowicz — graded winning performances. The only defensive player with a winning performance was linebacker Larry Kolic.

**BYARS WAS** named by *United Press International* as the Midwest back of the week.

At Bruce's weekly Monday press luncheon, the coach played reporter and asked his big tailback a few questions. Bruce's final question to Byars concerned being in shape to run the ball 35 times each week. Bruce said Marcus Allen ran 40 yards beyond the line of scrimmage every time he carried the ball in practice during his Heisman year and asked Byars if he would like to do the same.

Byars wasn't about to let for that bait: "Marcus Allen weighed a lot less than I do."

By the way, Byars says he's ready to carry the ball 35 times each week.

"After the game, it was no problem but I woke up Sunday morning pretty sore. But, I'll be ready to go 100 percent again Saturday," Byars said.

**BARRY WALKER** practiced Tuesday Sept. 10 and is expected to see some action Sept. 15 against Washington State. Walker had been out of practice with a head injury.

The Buckeyes escaped the opener without any major injuries. However, red-shirt freshman Eric Kumerow, who missed the opener with a heel injury, is not expected to return for the Washington State contest. He was listed as the Buckeyes' starter at outside linebacker.

**THE BAND** will have to make a reversal after entering the stadium and marching down the field this year.

In the past, the band marched down to the south end of the stadium and faced the flag pole to play the National Anthem. The flag pole has been moved to the north end; so the band must now turn around and go north to face the flag pole.

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# The View From 15th and High

By Frank L. Moskowitz, BSB Editor

## Score In Opener Worse Than Performance

As August moved to September, people would constantly ask me what I thought of this year's Ohio State football team. My answer was, invariably, "ask me after Sept. 8."

I'm the type of person who likes to see a team in action before I make any judgements. Any team can look good on paper.

Well, Sept. 8 has passed. And what do I think of the Buckeyes?

For one thing, Ohio State's performance was not as bad as the score may have indicated. The Buckeyes were totally dominant in the second half. The question is, of course, whether the Buckeyes are really like the team that played in the first half or the team that flexed its muscles in the second half.

I'm going to guess there most like the latter.

Looking at some of the points of interest.

Jim Karsatos is no Mike Tomczak at quarterback. At least

not yet. But he settled down after two interceptions and led the team to victory. That makes him 2-0 in starts and the experience he gained against Oregon State will be invaluable next season, when he is the likely starter, or this year if Tomczak is unable to rebound from his leg injury.

Keith Byars, on the other hand, proved that he is everything he has been cracked up to be. He didn't break any long-gainers against the Beavers, but there wasn't anybody among the 88,072 at Ohio Stadium who left doubting his ability.

There may be other backs with Byars' speed, and even a few with his power. But in watching the Dayton product against Oregon State, it occurred to me that the thing that really sets him apart from other backs is his excellent second, third or even fourth effort. Byars has a tremendous ability to keep his legs churning while defenders are holding him up top. This allows him to either drag the

defenders for extra yardage, a la Vaughn Broadnax, or in many cases to simply bust free.

Byars seemed to miss Broadnax. It never hurts to have the equivalent of an extra lineman blocking for you. But once OSU's big offensive line started doing what it's supposed to do, blow people off the mark, Byars started doing what he's supposed to do — gain yards and score touchdowns. If the 6-2, 233-pounder can get through the opposing line with a head of steam, any 175-pound (or even 200) defensive back has to think twice about making a serious attempt at stopping him.

As expected, when Ohio State was on defense, the Beavers took to the air. But the very young Buckeye secondary appeared to survive. Rickey Greene ended up posting a fine set of numbers, but unlike in the past, the Buckeyes did not get burned by the big play. It seemed before that Ohio State would play very deep, allowing the

receiver plenty of room and then hitting him hard when the ball arrived.

Against Oregon State, the Buckeye secondary still hit hard, but also showed a penchant for going after the ball.

Any Buckeye defender you talk to lately tells you that the Buckeyes' pass defense problems are not created just by the secondary. There needs to be a greater pass rush, they tell you. They seemed to prove their point against the Beavers, because when OSU went to the blitz, and went to it well I might add, Greene was much less effective.

And Chris Spielman? He proved in one half of play, that he just may be equal to his press clippings. He's going to play. The question is where. Pepper Johnson is one of the most dependable players on defense, and Larry Kolic, in his first start, turned in a solid performance. Ah, a little competition never hurts.

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