

OSU STATE BY WOODMAN

OSU Solves The Maize

Air Game Spurs Buckeyes To 31-16 Defeat Of Wolves

By STEVE WOODMAN
 Columbus, Ohio (AP) — The Ohio State Buckeyes solved the maize in a 31-16 victory over the Michigan Wolverines on Saturday night in a game that was a preview of the national championship game.

Quarterback Troy Smith threw for 200 yards and three touchdowns, including a 35-yard touchdown pass to wide receiver Mike Anderson in the second quarter. Anderson caught the ball in the end zone and ran it back 10 yards for a touchdown.

Smith also threw a 22-yard touchdown pass to tight end Greg Payne in the third quarter. Payne caught the ball in the end zone and ran it back 10 yards for a touchdown.

Running back Reggie Miller ran for 100 yards and a touchdown in the fourth quarter. Miller ran a 10-yard touchdown run in the end zone.

The Buckeyes' defense held the Wolverines to 16 points. The defense forced three turnovers, including a fumble by Michigan quarterback Tom Brady in the second quarter. Brady threw the fumble while being sacked by defensive end Greg Payne.

The game was played in a "maize" stadium, which is a stadium made of maize. The stadium was built by the Buckeyes and is the largest stadium in the world.



REGGIE MILLER — Michigan punter Jason Young (right) punts the ball away as Ohio State's Reggie Miller (left) and others (center) try to block the punter. Miller ran for 100 yards and a touchdown in the fourth quarter.

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BSB Reprints: Before Becoming An NFL Star, Brady Went 1-1 Vs. Ohio State

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.

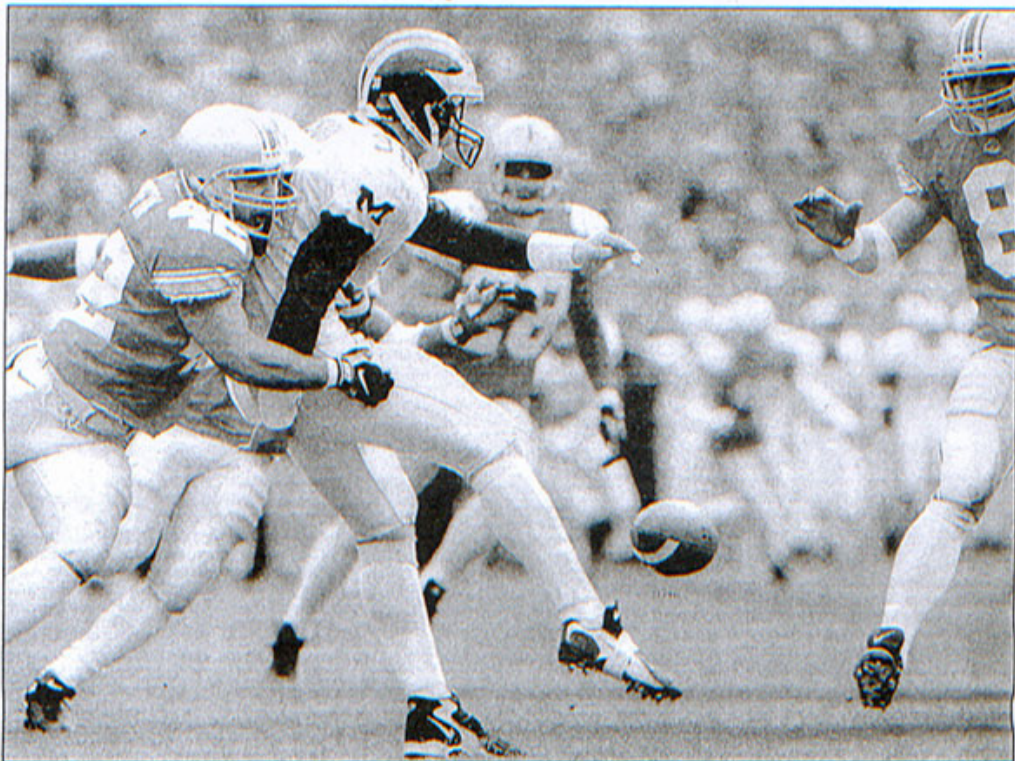
The long-awaited victory clinched Ohio State (10-1, 7-1) a share of the Big Ten championship with Michigan (8-3, 7-1) and Wisconsin (10-1, 7-1). But with Wisconsin defeating Penn State a few hours later to clinch the Rose Bowl berth, the Buckeyes will not know their bowl destination until sometime in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



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."

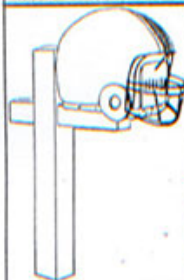
Three of OSU's four touchdowns were longer than 30 yards, a fact that weighed on Michigan coach Lloyd Carr.

"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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On Sunday, Tom Brady will lead the New England Patriots in the Super Bowl. Twenty years ago, though, Brady was starting for Michigan, where he split his two matches in The Game.

First, the Buckeyes dispatched Brady and the Wolverines, 31-16, in 1998. Brady had a big game, completing 31 of 56 passes for 375 yards and a touchdown, but also threw an interception in the loss. Joe Germaine completed 16 of 28 passes for 330 yards and three scores for the Buckeyes.

The following year Brady got his win against Ohio State, a 24-17 Michigan victory in Ann Arbor. The future NFL star was 17 of 27 for just 150 yards with two scores, but that was good enough to out-duel Ohio State's Steve Bellisari, who was just 8 for 20 for 84 yards with two touchdowns and two interceptions.

These reprints are a continuation of the series BSB printed during the 2018 season looking at the evolution of the Ohio State quarterback. With the campaign wrapped up, we're shifting our focus to take a look at some of the great quarterbacks who have faced the Buckeyes during the BSB era.

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