

# BUCKEYE SPORTS BULLETIN

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## *Buckeyes Barely Survive Late Scare From Louisville*

# Upsetting Ohio State Almost In The Cards



As the football sails over the outstretched arm of Louisville running back Ralph Dawkins, the Cardinals' chances to wrest a victory from Ohio State go with it. Dawkins could not catch up to the pass, allowing the Buckeyes to escape with a 20-19 win.

## *Rib Injury To Smith Provides Wake-Up Call For Ohio State Against Louisville*

By MARK REA  
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

The game between Ohio State and Louisville had a kickoff time posted of 12:36 p.m. It took the Buckeyes about two and a half more hours before they received their wake-up call.

After picking off OSU quarterback Kirk Herbstreit for the second time in the game, the upstart Cardinals had just marched down the field 59 yards for a touchdown, taking a 13-10 lead

over the 17th-ranked Buckeyes.

On the ensuing kickoff, Louisville pounded kick returner Robert Smith off the playing field, knocking him out of the rest of the game with a cracked rib.

The hit against Smith appeared to be a clean one, but it was what occurred after the hit that got the Buckeyes' attention.

Already exuberant over taking the lead in the game, several Louisville players celebrated the hard hit on Smith, a celebration that earned them a 15-yard unsportsmanlike conduct pen-

By MARK REA  
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

Dodging a bullet might not be quite accurate. Surviving a gunshot wound would be more to the point.

When Ohio State walked off the field at the end of its season-opening victory over Louisville, the Buckeyes had survived a comeback from the Cardinals that nearly produced a victory for the visitors.

After marching 67 yards in less than two and a half minutes for a touchdown, the Cardinals were faced with a dilemma: Should they go for the extra-point kick and tie the game at 20, or go for broke and try for a two-point conversion and the victory?

Louisville head coach Howard Schnellenberger called timeout to mull over the possibilities, but there apparently was really never any doubt in his mind. He lamented the fact that he even had to make the decision.

"There were so many things we could have done where we wouldn't even have been going for two," Schnellenberger said. "That's the tragedy. Our extra-point and field goal kicking was not good."

In the first quarter, Louisville wasted the game's opening drive when first-year place-kicker Ken Harnden shanked a 25-yard field goal try. That came after the Cardinals marched 68 yards from their own 24 before being stopped at the Ohio State eight.

Then, just before halftime, Harnden's point-after-touchdown kick was blocked by Steve Tovar.

If either kick had been good, Schnellenberger would not have been faced with the option of going for one or two at the end of the game. But neither was good, and the Cardinals decided to go for the victory.

On the play, UL quarterback Jeff

Brohm faded to pass but was quickly flushed out of the pocket by OSU freshman defensive tackle Dan Wilkinson.

Wilkinson, who was looking for the Cardinals to run something up the middle, lined up in a slot between the guard and tackle on Louisville's left side.

"The guard tried to reach out for me, but I was too far out and I slapped his hands down," Wilkinson explained. "Then I rushed the quarterback. I saw his back mostly, because he was running sort of backward and I was trying to get him."

With Wilkinson in hot pursuit, Brohm backpedaled to his left, and when he did, running back Ralph Dawkins also broke off his pass pattern in the end zone, angling to his left.

"I saw Ralph, but I couldn't quite get squared around," Brohm said. "As soon as I had taken the snap, there was a guy in my face. I guess it was Wilkinson. I was running backward and tried to give the pass some air."

Brohm launched the pass for Dawkins, who had a step on OSU safety Walter Taylor in the left corner of the end zone.

"When I was getting ready to cover him, I collided a little bit with the linebacker and I lost a step on him," Taylor said. "I saw the route he was going to run, but when I ran into the linebacker, it slowed me down. I guess the quarterback didn't realize how far away from him I was."

Taylor would have been too late had the pass been on the money, but Brohm gave it too much air and the football sailed over the outstretched hands of Dawkins and bounced harmlessly to the ground.

"I knew it was overthrown as soon as the ball left his hands," Dawkins said. "It's one of those things. I can't fault Jeff because he did a helluva job just to get the ball off."

While the Ohio Stadium crowd of 89,653 roared, Taylor thrust both arms into the air in jubilation as Dawkins lay face-down on the turf for several moments.

But perhaps OSU linebacker Mark Williams epitomized the moment more succinctly. He simply took off his helmet and went down on one knee, appearing to say a small prayer of thanks.

It indeed appeared that someone was looking down on the Buckeyes with approval. Louisville, one of the country's least effective running teams a year ago, gobbled up 162 yards on the ground, then added 230 more through the air against Ohio State's vaunted defense.

While that was happening, the Buck-

alty for taunting.

Trailing in your home stadium to a team over which you are favored by some 17 points was bad enough. Having your nose rubbed in it was the last straw.

"I wanted the whole team to get upset because they put one of our players out," said junior tailback Butler Byrd. "I didn't see anything, but there was a flag; so in my opinion, it must have been a cheap shot. We

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*UL's Failed Two-Pointer Preserves Victory For Ohio State***Buckeyes Escape Scare From Cardinals Again**

Ohio State senior quarterback Kirk Herbstreit (4) completed 16 of 20 passes for a career-high 180 yards against Louisville. He threw a couple of interceptions but led the team to scores all four times the Buckeyes got inside the 20-yard line.

By MARK REA  
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

For the second year in a row, Louisville invaded Ohio State as a big underdog and nearly pulled off a huge upset.

Last year, with less than a minute left in the game, Louisville quarterback Erik Watts misfired on a pass to wide receiver Greg Brohm in the end zone, and the Buckeyes survived with a 23-15 victory.

This time, only 33 seconds were left when Louisville quarterback Jeff Brohm overthrew senior running back Ralph Dawkins in the end zone for what would have been a two-point conversion.

Then, the Buckeyes watched while Louisville's try at recovering an onside kick fell about a half-yard short of succeeding. That allowed the Buckeyes to escape with a 20-19 victory over the Cardinals.

When reporters asked OSU defensive coordinator Bill Young if he felt like his team dodged a bullet, he admitted the bullet came too close for comfort.

"I'm trying to find out which side of my head that bullet went by. I'm looking for a singed spot," Young said with a smile.

The smile was definitely a forced one, though. The Buckeyes' defense, which already boasted one All-American, three other players with the potential to be All-Americans, and several more talented youngsters, surrendered 392 yards in total offense to the Cardinals.

Brohm, in his first game back as a starter after breaking a leg in Louisville's 1991 season opener, completed 22 of 30 passes for 230 yards and one touchdown.

But that was really not unexpected. What was unexpected was the way the Cardinals ran the ball on the Buckeyes. Dawkins piled up 125 yards and two touchdowns in the game as Louisville

ground out 162 yards rushing in the game. That from a team that averaged a paltry 68.4 yards rushing per game last season, a figure that ranked 106th — dead last — among NCAA Division I schools.

Still, Young defended his defensive unit, saying the Buckeyes were playing a Louisville team that had vastly improved in the last year.

"We missed some tackles today, but any time you play good athletes, you're going to miss some tackles," he said. "This is football and when you line up out there, you're lining up against guys who get scholarships, too.

"And we knew what Brohm could do. I think he's a pretty doggone good football player. You look at him and his ability, his poise under pressure. We hit him a couple of times and he stayed in there. I was very impressed with him."

Offensively, Ohio State could look at more things to be proud of, but there were mistakes there, too.

Senior quarterback Kirk Herbstreit completed 16 of 20 passes for 180 yards, but he pitched two crucial interceptions in Louisville territory. Junior fullback Jeff Cothran rushed for 49 yards and picked up 21 more on three pass receptions, but he fumbled after a hard hit on one of those interceptions, creating another turnover in Louisville territory.

"We missed some opportunities and those are the things that we need to get straightened out," said OSU offensive coordinator Joe Hollis. "The best thing that happened was that we won the ball game. We can take this game and make it a positive learning experience. We didn't play our best, but we won. Now we can go from here and work to get better."

There were some excellent offensive performances in addition to that of Herbstreit and Cothran. Junior tailback Butler By'not'e, playing in place of Raymont Harris and Robert Smith, who were both injured, was the team's leading rusher with 57 yards.

Senior split end Brian Stablein increased his streak to 14 games with at least one catch. Stablein matched his career high with five receptions on the day for 47 yards. And sophomore flanker Joey Galloway electrified the crowd with a 50-yard touchdown run on a reverse in the second quarter.

That score made it 10-0 in favor of Ohio State and came after junior place-kicker Tim Williams had given the Buckeyes a 3-0 lead in the first quarter on a 30-yard field goal.

Louisville got on the board with just 11 seconds to go in the first half when Brohm hooked up with his brother, Greg, for a three-yard touchdown pass. Steve Tovar blocked the PAT kick, giving OSU a 10-6 halftime advantage.

The Cardinals went ahead late in the third quarter on the first of Dawkins' touchdowns, but the Buckeyes answered immediately, driving 60 yards in just 42 seconds to take a 17-13 lead.

Williams made it 20-13 with 3:09 left in the game on a 26-yard field goal before the Cardinals came roaring back with Dawkins' second touchdown, scored with just 33 seconds remaining.

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## Cardinals Roll Up Nearly 400 Yards In Total Offense

# Defenders Admit They Took UL Too Lightly

By MIKE WACHSMAN  
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

The first game of the season for any football team is one of anticipation and challenge, and all the participants are sky-high from the outset.

Or are they?

In Ohio State's 20-19 win over Louisville Sept. 5 in Ohio Stadium, there was a decided lack of emotion from the Buckeyes, especially the defense, which came into the game as the vaunted part of the team.

Louisville gained 392 yards in total offense and, but for a failed two-point conversion with 33 seconds remaining and some missed kicking opportunities earlier in the game, played well enough to win.

The Cardinals were outmanned in terms of talent but seemed to thrive on emotional play, and that, more than anything, kept them in the game.

"We played better; everybody knows we did," said UL defensive back Ray Buchanan. "We just don't have the 'W' on our record."

That lack of emotion may also be what almost cost the Buckeyes the season opener.

"We weren't as emotionally at edge as we had hoped," defensive coordinator Bill Young said. "There wasn't that fire on the sidelines for one reason or another, and we have to gain that before the next game."

"It's like Coach Cooper told the team after the game, 'When you play defense, you have to play it with emotion.' And we didn't do as much as we needed to."

The players also took their share of the blame for not being as charged as they needed to be.

Defensive captain and middle line-backer Steve Tovar, who finished the day with a game-high 11 tackles, felt things just never clicked for the defense.

"We came out a little flat today, I'll agree with that," he said. "We tried to get things going and then things would happen. As a team, we kept saying, 'We've got to get it going, we've got to get it going.' It just was never totally

there. There were some times, like before, during and after the two-point conversion, that we were pumped, but in general, that's something we have to work on."

Young said his charges can rest assured that working on things like getting pumped up will be the first and last order of business as the Buckeyes prepare for Bowling Green, coached by former OSU assistant Gary Blackney, Sept. 12.

"The defense is not hanging their heads," Young said. "Any time you come into a game as 16-point favorites and don't win by 17, you don't feel very good about yourselves. We played just good enough to win, but we're not satisfied with that."

"We can sit back and shed some tears, or we can get our nose to the grindstone and do a better job next week. I think we'll do the latter."

According to defensive end Jason Simmons, who finished with OSU's only sack of the game, the uncertainty of the opener may have contributed to the lack of emotion.

"I don't think we knew what to expect," Simmons said. "We may have been a little flat. It was the first game of the season and it had been eight months since we played a game. We had expectations of winning, but maybe we forgot we had to win the game by playing it, not just thinking about winning it."

"It was kind of a wake-up call, an eye-opener. We know we have to come in and work from here on out and get after it from the very beginning."

Even defensive tackle Dan Wilkinson, who pressured Louisville quarterback Jeff Brohm on the two-point conversion just enough to make him overthrow Ralph Dawkins and seal OSU's victory, knew something was missing from the win.

"For whatever reason, we just didn't have it today," Wilkinson said. "We won the game and we'll take it, but the defense will, and has to, get a lot better. The emotion will be there from now on and I'll do what I can to make sure of that. We'll put this game away — it's over now — and take it from here."

Despite the fact OSU escaped by the skin of its teeth for the win over the Cardinals, nose guard Greg Smith said one game does not make a whole season.

"We're not going to pitch it in or anything," Smith said. "We're going to treat this as a win, as hard as that is to do, and go back to work. We have a long road ahead of us and we just have to get back out there and play with more emotion."

"Talent is needed, yes, but sometimes, if you have more emotion than the guy across from you, you'll win the battle. Louisville played with emotion today and they almost won this game."

Tovar added that perhaps the Buckeyes learned a valuable lesson.

"I was kind of upset that things got that close," he said. "But when reality sets in that you won the game, you're not going to worry about it."

"As long as we won the game and the point gets across that we have to get better and get more emotional out there, then maybe this was a good game for us."



Ohio State junior defensive end Jason Simmons (91) wraps up Louisville quarterback Jeff Brohm in the second quarter, knocking the football loose. Simmons got credit for a sack on this play, but it was not ruled a fumble.

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# The Numbers Game

## Buckeyes 20, Cardinals 19

LOUISVILLE	0	6	7	6	19
OHIO STATE	3	7	7	3	20

OSU — T.Williams, 30 field goal 2:38  
 OSU — Galloway, 50 run (T.Williams kick) 9:45  
 UL — G.Brohm, 3 pass from J.Brohm (kick blocked) 0:11  
 UL — Dawkins, 5 run (Harnden kick) 2:54  
 OSU — Cothran, 9 run (T.Williams kick) 1:05  
 OSU — T.Williams, 26 field goal 3:09  
 UL — Dawkins, 2 run (pass failed) 0:33  
 Att. — 89,633

	UL	OSU
First Downs	20	21
Rushing	12	14
Passing	8	6
Penalty	0	1
Rushes-Yards	35-162	44-204
Passing Yards	230	180
Passes	30-22-0	20-16-2
Plays	65	64
Total Net Yards	392	384
Third Down Efficiency	5-13	6-12
Punts	5-44.4	2-37.0
Fumbles-Lost	1-1	2-1
Penalties	8-85	6-44
Time Of Possession	28:47	31:13

### Individual Statistics

**RUSHING** (Att.-Net Yds.) — UL: Dawkins 19-125; Shelman 6-26; Fitzpatrick 1-4; Asher 5-4; J.Brohm 4-3. OSU: By'not'e 8-57; Galloway 1-50; Cothran 13-49; Rob Smith 11-47; George 1-3; Herbstreit 10-(-2).

**PASSING** (Att.-Comp.-Int.-Yds.-TD) — UL: J.Brohm 30-22-0-230-1. OSU: Herbstreit 20-16-2-180-0.

**RECEIVING** (Rec.-Yds.) — UL: Dawkins 6-35; Gonzalez 4-54; Ferguson 3-32; Asher 3-20; Bailey 2-84; Cook 1-8; Shelman 1-4; G.Brohm 1-3; Blumeier 1-(-10). OSU: Stablein 5-47; Cothran 3-21; Saunders 2-36; Beatty 2-35; Galloway 2-20; By'not'e 1-13; Sanders 1-8.

**PUNTING** (No.-Avg.-Lg.) — UL: Brookfield 5-44.4-62. OSU: Kessel 2-37.0-40.

**PUNT RETURNS** (No.-Avg.-Lg.) — UL: Buchanan 1-5.0-5. OSU: Rob Smith 2-14.0-18; Stablein 2-12.0-20.

**KICKOFF RETURNS** (No.-Avg.-Lg.) — UL: Dawkins 5-22.4-30. OSU: Rob Smith 2-27.5-31; Saunders 1-5.0-5.

**DEFENSIVE FUMBLES RECOVERED BY** — UL: Bridges. OSU: Foster.

**INTERCEPTIONS** — UL: Cavallo, Bridges. OSU: None.

**TACKLES FOR LOSS** — UL: Cavallo (3), Johnson (3), Team (3), Boykin, Culley, Brown. OSU: Simmons (2), Cook, Wilkinson, Beckman.

**TACKLES** (Solo-Asst.-Tot.) — UL: Cavallo 6-4-10; Bridges 6-4-10; Gaines 4-6-10; Boykin 5-2-7; Johnson 4-3-7; Sumpter 2-4-6; Culley 2-4-6; Hanna 3-2-5; Roscoe 0-4-4; Team 3-0-3; Bynoe 2-1-3; Buchanan 2-1-3; Bean 2-1-3; Smith 1-2-3; Brown 2-0-2; Neely 2-0-2; Hill 2-0-2; Dueberry 0-2-2; Ray 0-2-2; Knuutila 1-0-1; Strickland 1-0-1; Jackson 1-0-1; Brookfield 1-0-1; Minnis 0-1-1; Quinn 0-1-1. OSU: Tovar 2-9-11; M.Williams 3-7-10; Harper 6-3-9; B.Johnson 6-1-7; Cook 4-3-7; G.Smith 3-4-7; Kerner 4-2-6; Nelson 2-4-6; Simmons 4-1-5; Walton 3-2-5; Powell 1-4-5; Foster 2-1-3; Taylor 1-2-3; R.Brown 0-3-3; Fickell 0-3-3; Wilkinson 1-1-2; Christopher 1-0-1; Beckman 1-0-1; By'not'e 1-0-1; Long 1-0-1; Cothran 0-1-1.

**PLAYERS IN THE GAME** — LOUISVILLE: Smith, Ray, Jackson, Lillard, Hanna, Roscoe, Johnson, Brown, Cavallo, Dueberry, Standifer, Culley, Bean, Sumpter, Hill, Bridges, Knuutila, Boykin, Bynoe, Buchanan, Givins, Gaines, G.Brohm, Ferguson, Blumeier, Oben, Atkins, Patrick, Debold, Bock, Gonzalez, Utley, J.Brohm, Asher, Fitzpatrick, Quinn, Dawkins, Shelman, Cook, Bailey, Harnden, Brookfield, Fanning, Campos, Henderson, Neely, Henchy, J.Williams, Strickland. OHIO STATE: Stablein, Beatty, Kline, Thrush, Hartman, Long, Monnot, Winrow, Stringer, Saunders, D.J.Jones, Herbstreit, Cothran, Houston, George, Rob Smith, By'not'e, Galloway, Sanders, DeGraffenreid, Foster, R.Brown, Beckman, Wilkinson, G.Smith, Bonhaus, Simmons, Fickell, M.Williams, Styles, Tovar, Christopher, B.Johnson, Powell, Cook, Harper, Nelson, Taylor, Walton, Kerner, T.Williams, Kessel, Borchers, Hoying, Pope.

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 Shawn Jackson, 6-1, 170, So.  
 KEVIN BLUMEIER, 6-3, 268, SR.  
 Roman Oben, 6-4, 260, Fr.  
 XZAVIA ATKINS, 6-4, 275, SR.  
 Stephen Henchy, 6-6, 267, So.  
 GARIN PATRICK, 6-2, 252, JR.  
 Jason Stinson, 6-4, 235, Fr.  
 DAVE DEBOLD, 6-2, 265, JR.  
 Stephen Henchy, 6-6, 267, So.  
 SHAWN RODRIGUEZ, 6-5, 265, SR.  
 Jermaine Williams, 6-4, 270, So.  
 JOSE GONZALEZ, 6-4, 230, SR.  
 Kevin Humphrey, 6-1, 212, So.  
 JEFF BROHM, 6-1, 200, JR.  
 Marty Lowe, 6-2, 193, So.  
 CHRIS FITZPATRICK, 5-10, 203, SO.  
 Jamie Asher, 6-3, 215, So.  
 RALPH DAWKINS, 5-9, 195, JR.  
 Anthony Shelman, 6-3, 200, So.  
 KEVIN COOK, 6-0, 190, JR.  
 Vertis McKinney, 5-10, 175, Fr.  
 KEN HARNDEN, 5-9, 160, FR.  
 Chris Young, 5-7, 163, So.

### LOUISVILLE DEFENSE

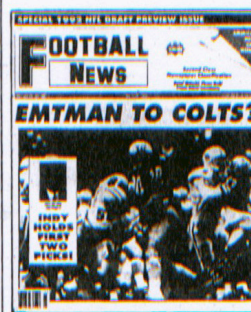
BREVIN SMITH, 6-3, 245, SR.  
 Jay Fanning, 6-5, 230, Fr.  
 LEONARD RAY, 6-3, 265, JR.  
 Derrick Lillard, 6-4, 250, Fr.  
 JIM HANNA, 6-4, 240, JR.  
 Terrence Roscoe, 6-2, 260, So.  
 JOE JOHNSON, 6-3, 250, SO.  
 Kendall Brown, 6-3, 230, So.  
 TOM CAVALLLO, 6-3, 220, JR.  
 Vincent Dueberry, 6-0, 215, Jr.  
 ANDY CULLEY, 6-3, 223, SR.  
 Carlos Bean, 6-2, 245, Fr.  
 BEN SUMPTER, 6-2, 210, JR.  
 Marcus Hill, 6-0, 224, So.  
 ROBERT KNUUTILA, 5-11, 180, SR.  
 Anthony Bridges, 5-9, 165, So.  
 RAWLEY BYNOE, 5-11, 180, SR.  
 Deral Boykin, 5-11, 195, Sr.  
 RAY BUCHANAN, 5-9, 190, SR.  
 Kelvin Givins, 6-1, 180, So.  
 KEVIN GAINES, 6-0, 181, JR.  
 Greg Minnis, 6-1, 191, Jr.  
 BRANDON BROOKFIELD, 6-0, 185, SO.  
 Ken Harnden, 5-9, 160, Fr.

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 ALAN KLINE, 6-7, 290, JR.  
 Jack Thrush, 6-4, 276, Jr.  
 LEN HARTMAN, 6-2, 280, SR.  
 Juan Porter, 6-5, 305, Fr.  
 PAUL LONG, 6-5, 282, SR.  
 Brian Smith, 6-6, 260, Fr.  
 DAVE MONNOT, 6-5, 275, JR.  
 C.J. Kelly, 6-5, 285, Fr.  
 JASON WINROW, 6-6, 300, JR.  
 Corey Stringer, 6-6, 310, Fr.  
 CEDRIC SAUNDERS, 6-3, 238, JR.  
 D.J. Jones, 6-5, 260, Fr.  
 KIRK HERBSTREIT, 6-2, 212, SR.  
 Bob Hoying, 6-5, 220, Fr.  
 JEFF COTHRAN, 6-2, 235, JR.  
 Eddie George, 6-3, 225, Fr.  
 ROBERT SMITH, 6-2, 195, SO.  
 Butler By'not'e, 5-11, 185, Jr.  
 JOEY GALLOWAY, 5-10, 180, SO.  
 Chris Sanders, 6-1, 175, So.  
 TIM WILLIAMS, 5-9, 180, JR.

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DERRICK FOSTER, 6-5, 260, SR.  
 Randall Brown, 6-3, 260, So.  
 PETE BECKMAN, 6-5, 254, SO.  
 Dan Wilkinson, 6-5, 299, Fr.  
 GREG SMITH, 6-2, 250, SR.  
 Matt Bonhaus, 6-5, 250, So.  
 JASON SIMMONS, 6-5, 240, JR.  
 Luke Fickell, 6-5, 255, Fr.  
 MARK WILLIAMS, 6-4, 225, JR.  
 Lorenzo Styles, 6-3, 230, Fr.  
 STEVE TOVAR, 6-4, 240, SR.  
 Alex Rodriguez, 6-1, 230, So.  
 BRENT JOHNSON, 6-1, 220, SR.  
 Craig Powell, 6-5, 227, Fr.  
 BRYAN COOK, 6-3, 200, SR.  
 Tito Paul, 6-1, 195, So.  
 ROGER HARPER, 6-4, 224, JR.  
 Jason Louis, 6-2, 185, Fr.  
 CHICO NELSON, 6-1, 197, JR.  
 Walter Taylor, 6-0, 190, So.  
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# BSB Quotebook: Ohio State 20, Louisville 19

Ohio State head coach John Cooper's assessment of the game: "I think we dodged a bullet. I don't think there's any question we dodged a bullet. Any time the team is going for two points to win the game with 30 seconds left to go, sure, you have to say you dodged a bullet. But we dodged it, came out with a win, and we're happy."

Louisville head coach Howard Schnellenberger's assessment of the game: "I was certainly proud of our football team this afternoon. I was proud of their effort, their play, and their toughness, but I was obviously disappointed that we made too many mistakes early in the game that kept us from winning."

OSU defensive coordinator Bill Young on the old coaching adage that a team improves most between the first and second games of the season: "Lee Corso (of ESPN) said that the other night. It sounds good. I just hope it's true."

OSU junior defensive end Jason Simmons on Louisville's game plan: "They had a good one. They had that trap up the middle and we were rushing the perimeters, trying to get heat on the quarterback, so that was a good play on their part. We're going to have to make adjustments for that play this week in practice."

OSU sophomore flanker Joey Galloway, responding to a reporter who asked if the close game was beneficial to the Buckeyes in any way: "I can't see how. The only thing you can say about this game was that we won. It shouldn't have been as close as it was, but we won. I don't think it's ever good to have a close game. I'm the kind of guy who wants to go out and kick somebody's butt and beat them by 20, 30, or 40 points."

OSU junior fullback Jeff Cothran on why the Buckeyes could not put the Cardinals away: "We kind of underestimated them, I think. They had a good game plan. They prepared very well for this game. We kind of slacked off a little bit because we're in the Big Ten, and they're in the whatever."

Louisville junior quarterback Jeff Brohm's assessment of the Buckeyes: "Ohio State is a good team and I predict they'll do well this year. But we're a good team, too, and our best football is still ahead of us. It felt good to compete against a traditional power like Ohio State, but we all know we belonged on the field with them today."

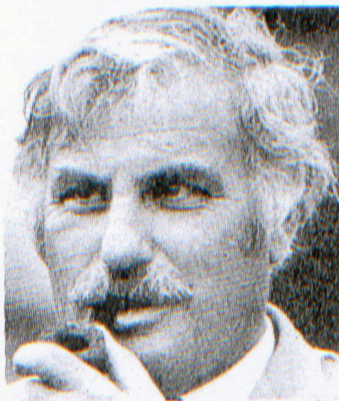
Louisville senior safety Ray Buchanan on his team's play in the game: "We're not disappointed in ourselves. I think we proved to Ohio State and the rest of the country that we can play with anybody. If you don't believe me, just go over to the other locker room and ask them."

OSU sophomore safety Walter Taylor on whether or not the defensive effort deserved criticism: "People are entitled to their opinion. We'll know how well we played when we see the film and get our critiques from the coaches. We did some good things, but we did some bad things. This can be a learning experience for all of us."

Simmons on Ohio Stadium fans in the south stands who noisily booed the Buckeyes as they entered the tunnel to leave the field after the victory: "They were (bleeping) me off. We're walking out at the end of the game and they're yelling at Coach Cooper to get his bags packed. I wanted to tell those people to go home and don't come to the game at all. If they're not going to stay behind us, win or lose, stay home and bitch at the TV. I'm not going to put up with that."



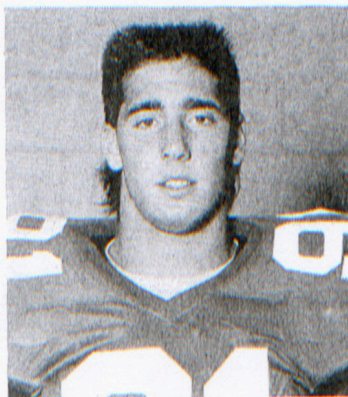
John Cooper



Howard Schnellenberger



Joey Galloway



Jason Simmons

Schnellenberger on his decision to go for two points at the end of the game: "It would have been pointless to go for a tie in the opening ball game. We've tied a Big Ten school, Purdue some five years ago, but we haven't beaten a Big Ten school. That was what we came here to do."

Louisville junior running back Ralph Dawkins on the decision to pass for two points: "I said a little something because, personally, I wanted to run for the conversion. I really think we should have run the ball more. Ohio State has a good defense, but they were a little slow today. I think we could have run on them all day."

OSU senior linebacker Steve Tovar on Dawkins' performance: "You have to give a lot of credit to him for being a good player. He reminds me a little of Dante Lee, to be totally honest. Maybe Dawkins is a little heavier, but that's the kind of back he is. He's a good back."

Schnellenberger on the onside kick the Cardinals nearly recovered at the end of the game: "Through my eyes, it wasn't short, although it probably was. I didn't see their front-line guys advance at all and I saw the ball going through their guys. But I was focused more on the players than on the field."

Tovar on the same play: "I don't know how to explain how I felt when I saw that. My heart just dropped. But I grabbed my helmet, put my mouthpiece in, and was ready to go if we had to go back out there. We would have found some way to try and stop them. We knew it would be resting on our shoulders and we had to get the job done. It was a big relief, though, when they ruled the ball hadn't gone far enough."

OSU senior nose guard Greg Smith on that same play: "They were already in field goal range easy. I thought, 'Oh, no, we're done.' But we would have gone out there and given it our best shot and tried to block the field goal. They had already missed one kick and we had blocked another, so we thought we'd have a chance."

OSU freshman offensive tackle Korey Stringer on his first taste of college action: "I wasn't sure what would happen, so I tried to stay low and use good technique. I did OK, I thought. Now I'm confident I can play at this level. Before you get in there, you never know. But I'm confident that I can play up here."

OSU freshman linebacker Matt Christopher on the same subject: "You don't want to think about anything except what you're supposed to do. What I've got to do is keep the intensity up and the mental part down. I made one tackle and I lost one I should have had."

OSU freshman defensive end Luke Fickell on the same subject: "It's nice to know Coach Young had the confidence to have me in there as much as he did. I know I have a lot to learn, but I feel like this is the first step to becoming a better player. It feels great to have that first one out of the way."

Cooper's final thoughts on the victory: "I don't think we'll lose any momentum just because it was a close game. The attitude in the locker room after the game was the fact that we were happy to win the ball game, but let's keep this in perspective. Let's work hard this week in practice, eliminate those mistakes that we made, give credit to Louisville, and be thankful that we won the ball game. It was a close game, but the important thing is that we won. Now we have to continue building from here."



# Among Mistakes, There Were Bright Spots

Continued From Page 1

eyes were squandering scoring opportunities. On their first possession, they had first and goal at the Louisville seven-yard line and had to settle for a field goal. Two other forays into Cardinals territory were ended by interceptions and another was spoiled by a fumble.

On another occasion, a 25-yard punt return by Brian Stablein in the third quarter would have given the Buckeyes the ball in Louisville territory. But a holding penalty wiped out the return, forcing OSU to start the drive back at

its own 20.

"We made way too many mistakes today," said Ohio State head coach John Cooper. "The mistakes we made today get you beat, and that's almost what happened to us."

But while the Buckeyes lamented their problems, there were some bright spots in the game.

Senior quarterback Kirk Herbstreit played admirably. Throw out his two ill-timed interceptions, and the senior co-captain had an excellent game passing. He completed 16 of 20 attempts for 180 yards.

Sophomore flanker Joey Galloway

made good on his preseason billing by taking a reverse that almost lost yardage, and turning it into a 50-yard touchdown run. Galloway also had a couple of receptions for 20 yards.

Sophomore tailback Robert Smith returned after a year off and flashed some of his old brilliance before leaving the game in the third quarter with a cracked rib. Smith rushed for 47 yards, returned two kickoffs for 55 yards and ran back a couple of punts for 28 more yards.

Junior place-kicker Tim Williams was two-for-two on field goals and extra points and kicked off inside the five-

yard line every time. And senior punter Joel Kessel averaged 37.0 yards per kick on two attempts. One was a beauty of a coffin-corner punt that pinned Louisville back at its own three-yard line.

On defense, there were a couple of big plays in addition to Wilkinson's pressure on the two-pointer. Strong safety Roger Harper blitzed Brohm early in the fourth quarter, forcing him to intentionally ground the ball. That thwarted a potential go-ahead scoring drive for the Cardinals.

Tovar was in on two big plays as, along with his blocked PAT, he caused a fumble in the third quarter that was scooped up by teammate Derrick Foster to stop another Louisville drive.

But the big plays for the defense were few and far between. The Buckeyes surrendered six plays that covered 15 yards or more, and three of those were for more than 25 yards. A 58-yard bomb from Brohm to backup wide receiver Aaron Bailey helped set up the Cardinals' first touchdown late in the second quarter, and a 26-yarder from Brohm to Bailey in the third period set up Louisville's second touchdown and gave the Cardinals a brief 13-10 lead.

But for all of the second-guessing and hand-wringing, the Buckeyes still managed to come out with a victory, something that junior tailback Butler By'not'e helped put into perspective.

"A win is a win," he said. "No one is going to look back eight weeks from now and say, 'Well, they only beat Louisville by one point.' It was an ugly win, but it was a win."

## Third-Quarter Drive Key To Win

Continued From Page 1

needed to get cranked up at that point. So when I went in there, I told the offensive linemen to get upset. I guess they did."

Starting at their own 40-yard line, the Buckeyes immediately answered the Cardinals. They moved 60 yards in just 42 seconds, a drive that enabled them to re-establish momentum in the game and, ultimately, hang on for the 20-19 victory.

The drive began with Herbstreit rolling out to hit Brian Stablein for a nine-yard pass. Fullback Jeff Cothran bulled through the line for five yards on the next play, then Herbstreit found tight end Cedric Saunders in the right flat, and Saunders dodged a couple of tacklers to turn the short pass into a 27-yard gainer.

Herbstreit connected with Greg Beatty for 10 more yards; then Cothran finished things off with a nine-yard touchdown run.

"That drive was something we had to do at that point," Cothran said. "They had knocked Robert out of the game, and we needed an answer for that. I think we gave them a pretty good one."

When Smith was knocked out of the game, the tailback position was taken over by By'not'e. The forgotten man in the OSU backfield because of Smith's return and the excellent play of Rayment Harris, who missed the entire game with a sprained ankle, By'not'e made the most of his appearance, picking up *Big Bear Buckeye of the Week* honors.

The first time he touched the ball, he went 36 yards. By'not'e wound up the

team's leading rusher on the day with 57 yards on eight carries and added another 13 yards on a screen pass reception. Not bad for a guy who got almost no publicity during the preseason, despite the fact he was the team's leading returning rusher from last season.

"That stuff doesn't bother me anymore," By'not'e said. "I just have to be a man about it and wait for my opportunities to present themselves. You just have to persevere."

"For the past two years, I've basically been in the same situation, and I've learned from the past. You can't let yourself get down because then, when you do get a chance, your performance level goes down. So I just figure I'll always rise to the top."

Most quarterbacks would be worried when their number one tailback was knocked out of the game with an injury. But Herbstreit said he never gave another thought to By'not'e entering the lineup.

"Robert is an exceptional back, I'm not taking anything away from him. I love Robert. I love them all," Herbstreit said. "But you guys (in the media) really try to take away from Butler and Rayment, and they're both really big-time backs."

"Butler is going to make some big plays like he did today. And that is a credit to him for staying in the game mentally, staying focused. He knew what he was going to see. He was hungry and, I guess, sick and tired of people trying to knock him out of it."

With Smith and Harris on the shelf, though, it left only By'not'e at the tailback spot. Freshman Lou Willard was

penciled in at the number three position, but OSU offensive coordinator Joe Hollis indicated the Buckeyes would have moved freshman fullback Eddie George to tailback had By'not'e gotten hurt.

"We say all the time we have quality and depth at running back. We do, and we needed it all today," Hollis said. "We were going to have to bring Eddie to tailback if something happened to Butler. Eddie's taken some reps at tailback and we had him do that just in case."

That would also give the Buckeyes a chance to redshirt Willard this season.

The depth at tailback is not expected to be a problem much longer. Harris was expected back for Bowling Green, but Smith has been ruled out for that game.

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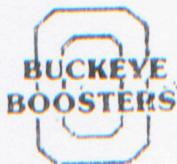
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