Throws Two Interceptions

Tomczak Has Off Day At Purdue

By Rich Exner

Against Minnesota, quarterback Mike Tomczak was as sharp as he's ever been.

He completed 13 of 19 passes for 181 yards, two touchdowns and no interceptions. Three of his six incomplete passes were in the receivers' hands. His passes had zip and were on target all night. All six times he passed the ball on third-downs, the results were first downs.

A major reason for Ohio State's 35-22 win was the effectiveness of Tomczak.

Against Purdue, Mike Tomczak had as bad a day quarterbacking the Buckeyes as he's ever had.

He wound up completing 20 of 41 passes for 280 yards and one touchdown. But, even his completed passes were less than perfect. He threw short to several wide-open receivers. And he tossed two costly interceptions. The Buckeyes converted on just five of 19 third down tries in the loss. And there was the blunder.

With the clock ticking down and Ohio State having no time outs remaining, Tomczak was at the center of as much pressure as any quarterback could be in. He quickly lined up the offense at the 28-yard

line and threw the ball out of bounds to stop the clock with five seconds remaining.

But, wait a minute; it was fourth down. Tomczak had intentionally thrown the ball out of bounds to kill the Buckeyes' last-gasp scoring chance.

"What can I say? I'm human," Tomczak answered when questioned about the big mistake committed under intense pressure.

Coach Earle Bruce said, "I could have very easily made the same mistake. He saw the same down marker you did." The sideline marker read third down.

The play ended ten minutes of impressive, leadership football from Tomczak that was beginning to make Buckeye fans forget his poor showing over the first 50 minutes of play.

After Purdue took a 28-17 lead with 10:03 remaining, Tomczak guided the Buckeyes downfield on three drives. The first one ended on the five-yard line. The second one worked and pulled the Buckeyes to within 28-23. And the third one ended with Tomczak throwing the ball out of bounds.

"Everybody in the stadium knew we were going to pass, and we did an excellent job of going down and scoring. We just made a mistake, a crucial mistake," Tomczak said. "When you make a mistake, you pay for it."

Tomczak's first interception since the Fiesta Bowl Jan. 2 came toward the end of the third quarter with Ohio State at the 18-yard line and trying to build on its 17-14 lead.

Coach Earle Bruce called the interception "the key play of the game."

It gave Purdue the football, and the Boilermakers marched 79 yards in eight plays to take a 21-17 lead.

Ohio State's next drive ended when a Tomczak pass ended up in the hands of Big Ten high hurdle champion Rod Woodson, who raced 55 yards on the interception return for a 28-17 Purdue lead.

"Woodson is a great athlete and he made a great play. They mold their defense around him," Tomczak said. "They gamble a lot and some of their gambles paid off today."

But the seasoned Tomczak didn't look at the interception as the end to the Buckeyes chances.

"At Ohio State, you never say die," he said.

"Ohio State is the best football team in the Big Ten. Purdue was just better today. We're a strong family. We're going to come together closer," he continued. "As a result of today, we're going to get better."

In Tomczak's eyes, the Big Ten race is far from being decided.

"The Big Ten is a tough conference. You saw that by



Quarterback Mike Tomczak Had A Bad Outing

Michigan State beating Michigan he said. "Ohio State is a great and Purdue beating Ohio State," football team, and we'll be back."



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Carol Sturgill

Buckeye Sports Bulletin Page 4

570 Yards Were Not Enough At Purdue

It all looked well and good on the stat sheet. Ohio State racked up 570 yards in total offense, its best mark since 1982. The Buckeyes totaled 30 first downs, to only 16 for Purdue and held the ball for 34 minutes

Keith Byars put on a performance worthy of a Heisman Trophy candidate, rushing 30 times for 191 yards and catching nine passes for another 102 yards. It marked the second year in a row that Byars had gained over 100 yards rushing and receiving against Purdue. He also added a

But as cliche as it is, the only stat that counts is the one on the scoreboard, and Purdue pushed its way to sole possesion of first place in the Big Ten with a 28-23 win over OSU before 66,261 at Ross-Ade Stadium, Oct. 6.

In a throw-back to last season, it was the big play that did in the

Buckeyes.

It was a problem apparent from the first series of the game. The Boilermakers took over on their 30 after Rich Spangler booted the ball out of the end zone and marched

the 70 yards in just five plays and drive late in the period, sparked by one minute. Ray Wallace had raced a 22-yard Tomczak to Byars pass, a the Boilers into Ohio State territory with a 34-yard run, and three plays later Jim Everett found Steve Griffin all alone in the end zone for a 20-yard touchdown pass.

Ohio State mounted its first scoring threat midway through the stanza, when Doug Smith took a short pass from Mike Tomczak and broke loose from a would-be tackler for a 38-yard gain up the left sideline to the Boiler 31. The Buckeyes could only advance five more yards, though, and on fourth and five, OSU coach Earle Bruce elected to go for the first down, rather than a 43-yard field goal.

Tomczak's pass to Smith was incomplete and the Boilermakers

took over on downs.

On the next play, Pepper Johnson forced a Wallace fumble, and Larry Kolic recovered, giving the Buckeyes the ball back on the Purdue 29. Byars carried for nine yards and then took a pitch around right end for a 20-yard touchdown. Spangler's kick knotted the score at seven with 4:09 to play in the first period.

The Buckeyes mounted another

10-yard John Wooldrige run and a 16-yard pass from Tomczak to Lanese. The march stalled on the two, and this time Bruce went to his field goal unit.

Spangler missed the 19-yard attempt and the score remained even with 13:53 to go in the half.

Late in the quarter Tom Tupa, the Buckeyes' sensational freshmen punter, buried Purdue at its own five with a 53-yard punt. OSU stopped the Boilers on three plays and forced a Brian Thornson punt from the 14 with 35 seconds to play. The Buckeyes could have had 10 or more seconds to work with, but they were slow in calling time

Still, they took over at their 48, with 28 seconds to play. Tomczak hit Carter for 13 yards, Lanese for 14 and Byars for seven, before Spangler connected on a 34-yard field goal with two seconds on the clock, giving Ohio State a 10-7 lead at the half.

Ohio State went to its strength to

open the second half.

Byars returned the kickoff 61 yards to the Purdue 37. He then carried the ball three straight times - for four yards, 19 yards and for a 14-yard touchdown, marking the 11th straight game he had scored at least two touchdowns.

That's when Purdue went to the

The Boilermakers closed to 17-14 with a 65-yard pass from Everett to Griffin with 5:26 to go in the quarter.

The Buckeyes mobilized again. Wooldridge broke free for an 18yard run, Byars added 22, and Tomczak, ignoring his recently broken leg, rolled around right end, cut to the center of the field and leaped over a final tackler for a 19yard gain to the Purdue 21

Two plays later, Don Anderson picked off a Tomczak pass to end the drive. It was first time Tomczak had thrown an interception this

Everett marched the Boilermakers 79 yards in eight plays, hitting Bruce King with a four-yard touchdown pass and a 21-17 Purdue lead with 13:55 to play in the game.

Purdue pulled off one more big play. On OSU's next possession, Rod Woodson picked off another Tomczak pass and the Big Ten record-setting hurdler raced 55 yards for another touchdown with 10:03 to play.

Ohio State came right back and, with the aid of two major Purdue penalties, moved to the Boiler five, where the Buckeyes turned the ball over on downs.

They got the ball back again on the Boiler 48 after a short punt, and were able to score this time, going in on five plays, with Tomczak hitting Carter from the five for the score with 2:38 left in the game. A

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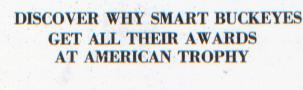
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Continued On Page 12

Ohio State-Purdue, Season Stats

Boilers 28, Buckeyes 23

OHIO STATE PURDUE

PUR — Griffin 20 pass from Everett (Rendina kick) 14:00

OSU - Byars 20 run (Spangler kick) 4:09

OSU - Spangler 34 field goal 0:02

OSU - Byars 14 run (Spangler kick) 13:40 PUR — Griffin 65 pass from Everett (Rendina kick) 5:26 PUR — King 4 pass from Everett (Rendina kick) 14:03

PUR — Woodson 55 interception return (Rendina kick) 10:03 OSU — Carter 5 pass from Tomczak (run failed) 2:38

Att. -66,261

	OSU	PUR	
First Downs	30	16	
Rushing	15	4	
Passing	13	12	
Penalty	2	. 0	
Rushes-Yards	47-290	36-119	
Passing Yards	280	257	
Passes	41-20-2	23-17-1	
Offensive Plays	88	59	
Total Net Yards	570	376	
Third Down Eff.	5-19 ~	3-12	
Punts	5-45.8	8-43.5	
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	1-1	
Penalties	7-74	6-55	
Time Of Possession	34:00	26:00	

Individual Statistics

RUSHING (Att.-Net Yds.) — OHIO STATE: Byars 30-191; Wooldridge 10-75; Bates 4-12; Tomczak 3-12. PURDUE: Wallace 20-89; Carter 5-28; King 6-20; Everett 5-(-18). PASSING (Att.-Comp.-Int.-Yds.-TD) — OHIO STATE: Tomczak 41-20-2-280-1. PURDUE: Everett 23-17-1-257-3.

Everett 23-17-1-25-73.

RECEIVING (Rec.-Yds.) — OHIO STATE: Byars 9-102; Carter 5-66; Lanese 3-42; Wooldridge 2-32; Smith 1-38. PURDUE: Griffin 6-131; Scott 3-26; King 3-15; Brunner 2-58; Carter 2-15; Price 1-12.

PUNTING (No.-Ave.-Lg.) — OHIO STATE: Tupa 5-45.8-53. PURDUE: Thornson 8-43.5-

56.
PUNT RETURNS (No.-Ave.-Lg.) — OHIO STATE: Lanese 2-13.5-14; Dawson 2-5.0-10.
PURDUE: Griffin 1-(-2.0)-(-2).
KICKOFF RETURNS (No.-Ave.-Lg.) — OHIO STATE: Byars 1-61.0-61. PURDUE: Woodson 1-11.0-11; Wallace 2-19.0-23.
DEFENSIVE FUMBLES RECOVERED BY — OHIO STATE: Kolic. PURDUE: None.
INTERCEPTIONS — OHIO STATE: T. White. PURDUE: Anderson, Woodson:
TACKLES FOR LOSS — OHIO STATE: Morrill (2), Johnson. PURDUE: Hornor (2),

Houston.

TACKLES (Solo-Ass.-Tot.) — OHIO STATE; Johnson 13-6-19; Kolic 11-2-13; Giuliani 5-6-11; Hueston 5-3-8; Crecelius 7-0-7; Gordon 5-1-6; Rogan 4-1-5; T. White 2-2-4; Morrill 3-0-3; W. White 2-1-3; B. Lee 1-1-2; Richardson 1-1-2; Kumerow 1-0-1; Jenkins 1-0-1; Holliman 1-0-1; Ridder 1-0-1; Leach 1-0-1; D. Lee 1-0-1. PURDUE: Woodson 12-8-20; Sumlin 12-4-16; Visco 7-5-12; Houston 5-3-8; Ziltz 4-4-8; Menke 3-2-5; Hornor 4-1-5; Anderson 5-0-5; Cooper 2-2-4; Wilson 3-0-3; Strickland 1-2-3; Wimberly 2-1-3; Baldwin 1-1-2; Dishman 2-0-2; Roy 2-0-2; Myers 1-1-2; Mulchrone 2-0-2; Brunner 1-0-1; Feulner 1-0-1; M. Williams 1-0-1; J. Williams 1-0-1; Team 2-0-20; Myers 1-0-20; Myers 1-0-20;

Players In The Game
OHIO STATE — Carter, Smith, Graves, Maggs, Lachey, Gilmore, Lowdermilk, Zalenski, Krerowicz, Groza, Higdon, Hutchison, Tomczak, Bates, Byars, Wooldridge, Lanese, B. Lee, Kumerow, Crecelius, Holliman, Giuliani, D. Lee, Morrill, Hueston, Kolic, Johnson, W. White, Richardson, Rogan, Gordon, Cargile, T. White, Holland, Alders, Spangler, Tupa, Dawson, Jenkins, Walker, Blair, Odom, Whitmer, Harvey, Taggart, Ridder, Pfister.
PURDUE — Griffin, Alekna, Banks, Boat, Drenth, Jaumotte, Isbell, Scott, Schumacher, Everett, King, Wallace, Carter, Brunner, Price, Visco, Strickland, Menke, Wimberly, Hornor, Rose, Ziltz, Holley, Baldwin, Lindsay, Houston, Mulchrone, M. Williams, Sumlin, Anderson, Myers, Dishman, Wilson, Cooper, Woodson, J. Williams, Rendina, Lee, Grant, Thornson, McCline, Morgan, Medlock, Feulner, Snyder.

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	OPP	080	RUSHING	ATT		AIN	LOST	NET	AV	TD	LO
FIRST DOWNS	99			141		813	11	802	5.		50
Rushing	52		Byars	141		288	11	286	6.1		31
Passing	44		Wooldridge	34		153	2	151	4.		22
Penalty	3	3	Bates Walker	3,		21	0	21	5.		A
NET YARDS RUSHING	800		Delaney	3		14	o	14	7.		12
Attempts	204			(23	12	11	1.		13
Tards Gained	944		Karsatos			14	7	7	2.		10
Yards Lost	144		Jm. Holland			6	0	6	6.		6
Average Per Came	160.0	255.2	Lanese	10		22	30	-8	0.	- 0	19
Average Per Play	3.9	5.2	Tomozak	10		0	14	-18		- 0	
NET YARDS PASSING	1076		Tupa			U	14	-14		- 0	
Attempted	148	119									
Completed	84	70							200		10
Had Intercepted	9		PASSING	_		COMP		YDS	PC		
Percentage	.568		Tomczak		90	53		681	.58		
Average Per Game	215.2		Karsatos		28	16		171	-57		
Average Per Play	7.3	7.5	Byars		1	1	0	35	1.00	0 1	35
TOTAL NET GAIN	1876	2163									
Total Plays	352	363									
Average Per Game	375.2	432.6									
Average Per Play	5.3	6.0	RECEIVING		NO		ARDS	A	0	TD	L0
POINTS	90	169	Byara		22		222	10	1	2	22
Touchdowns	12		Lanese		19		- 295	15	.5	1	35
Rush-Pass-Other	4-7-1	16-6-1	Carter		16		181	11	.3	3	27
EXP Kicking	10-10	21-19	Taggart		5		67	13	h	0	24
EXP Rushing	1-1		D. Smith		3		60	20		0	36
EXP Passing	1=0		Wooldridge		3		42	14		0	17
Field Goals			Jy. Holland		2		20	10		0	1
	3-2	7-4	by. norrand		. *		20	10			
Safeties											
Average Per Came	18.0	33.0									
PUNTS-HAD BLOCKED	27-0	17-0		TD			REP-E	-	PDB	WO- 45	PTS
Tards	1112		SCORING						0=0	0=0	66
Average Per Punt	41.2	47 .5	Byars	11		2=0	0-0		0=0	7-4	31
Net Average	38.3	45.3	Spangler	0			21-19		0-0	0-0	18
PUNT RETURNS	7	12		3		3-0	0-0			0-0	1
Yards	38	79		5		-0-0	0-0		0-0		
Touchdowns	0	. 0	Lanese	2		1-0	0-0		0-0	0-0	- 1
Average Per Return	5.4	6.6		2		-0- 0	0-0		0-0	0-0	1
KICKOFF RETURNS	21			1		0-0	0-0		0-0	0=0	. (
Yards	414	240	Karsatos	1		-0-0	0-0	0=0	1-0	0-0	
Touchdowns	0	0		1		-0-1	0-0		0=0	0-0	
Average Per Return	19.7	30.0	Tomozak	0	0	-0-0	0-0	1-0	0=0	0-0	
INTERCEPTIONS	4	9									
Yarda	78	125									
Touchdowns	1	1		3 (7	-4.	.57	1)				1
Average Per Return	19.5	13.9									
PENALTIES	22	15					30	19-	34+		
Yarda	170	144									
Average Per Came	34.0	28.8									
	10-6										
FUMBLES-LOST		7-3			19-	00	30-39	40-	10	50+	TOTA
THIRD DOWN EFFICIENCY	31-77	40-74		-	3-		3-1	1-		0=0	7-
Percentage	.403	.541			3-		3-1		'		
SACKS AGAINST	10-94	4-22									
TIME OF POSSESSION	143:56	156104									
Average Per Game	28:47	31:13									
SCORE BY QUARTER			and a second		MAN TH		100				
1 2	3 4	TOTAL									
Opponents 17 31	20 22	90									
Ohio State 30 58	33 48	169									

PUNTING NO YARDS AVG NET T	120 BK LG 1	984 OHIO STATE FOOTBALL RESULTS(4-	1, 2-1
Tupa 17 808 47.5 45.3	1 10 0 64 H	-OSU 22, Oregon State 14+	88,072
		1-03U 44, Washington State 0+	89,297
		1-08U 45, Iova 26+	89,733
		-OSU 35, Minnesota 22+	47.543
PUNT RETURNS NO FC YDS	AVG TD LG A	1-080 23, Purdue 28-	66,261
Lanese 5 2 42	8.4 0 14 1	-Oct. 13 Illinois	
Jy. Holland 4 0 20	5.0 0 11 /	A-Oct. 20 At Michigan State	/
Dayson 3 0 - 17	5.7 0 10	A-Oct. 27 At Wisconsin	1 .
H111 - 1 -	1	H-Nov. 3 Indiana	
		A-Nov. 10 At Northwestern	

	KICKOFF RETURNS	NO	FC	TDS	DVA	TD LG	ATTENDANCE	GAMES	TOTAL	AVERAGE	
	Wooldridge	- 4	0	124	31.0	0 43	Home	. 3	267,102	89,034	
	Byars	3	0	110	36.7	0 61	Away	2	113,804	56,902	
9	Makken		A		6 8	0 6	Bennen	1 B	280 006	76.181	

Walker	1 0	6	6.0	0	6	Season	5	380	906	76,18	1
	100					DEFENSIVE S	TATIST	LCS	TOTAL	TAC-	BACK
PASS INTERCEPT	TONS NO	ARDS	DVA	TD I	o	Johnson	32	29	61	1= 6	-
Johnson	3	40	13.3	0	17	Kolio	26	14	40		
Gordon		42	21.0		25	T. White	19	18	37	2- A	
T. White	2 1	18	9.0		18	Giuliani	15	15	30	3-25	2-23
Kolio	1	25	25.0		25	Morrill	15	15	30	5-18	2-11
W. White	1	. 0	0.0	. 0	á	Gordon	22	. 6	27	1- 2	
The state of the s		1 19	1200		đ	W. White	17	0	26		
						Rogan	10	-	24	1- 4	
						Crecelius	16	- 6	21	2-14	1- 0
PASSES BROKEN	UP (16)					Spielman	. 0	10	19	2-10	17
W. White - 4	Kolic	- 1	1/6 1/11/2		7	Hueston	,	A	15	1-10	1-10
T. White - 3	Jackson	100				B. Lee	,	7	14	1-14	1-14
Hueston - 2	Leach	- 1				H111		0	13	1-1-	
Johnson = 2	Spielman	. 1				Kumerow	7	- 4	12	2-20	2-20
Gordon = 1						D. Lee	6		0	3 6	
						Cargile		1	A		
						Ridder		. 1	7		
						Leach		5			
FUMBLES CAUSED	(7)					Aldera	1	i i	. 5		
Gordon - 1	Ridder	- 1	11 1			Jenkins	1		- 3		
Russton - 1	Spielman	- 1				Higdon	9	0			
Jenkina - 1	Leach	1 1				Richardson	1	4 4	9		
Johnson - 1					V	Holliman		0	1		
						Pristor	1	0	* 1		
						Walker	1	0	1		
FUMBLES RECOVE	ERED [DEFEN	SIVE	(6)	1		Whitmer	1	0	1		
Johnson - 2	Kolic	- 2	84			Bates	. 0	1	1		
Gordon = 1	Jenkins	- 1				Harvey	0	1	1		
						Kee	0	1	1		
	1 1					Lowdermilk	. 0	1	1		
						Sullivan	. 0		1		
OSU FUNBLES -	NUMBER/LOS	T (7-	(F)			-Team-	Sale VIII			4-11	
Karsatos - 1/0	Tomozak	- 1	/1								
Taggart - 1/0	Bates		/1			FUMBLES RE	COVERED	COPPEN	STVET	(4)	
Tubbur o - Il	AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PERSON					Committee Into	MAN PARTIES	LINK KAM	MARKE STATE	1.71	-

TOUCHDOWN SAVES (5)

BLOCKED KICKS (0)

Page 12 Buckeye Sports Bulletin

Bucks' Last Effort Comes Up Short Of Win

Continued From Page 4

two-point conversion run by Tomczak failed.

The Buckeyes made a decent attempt at an on-side kick, but Anderson was able to hang on to it for Purdue, at the Boiler 42.

Ohio State's defense did not

allow a first down, forcing a punt which Lanese fair caught at his own 17, giving the Buckeyes a first down with 1:23 to play and no time outs.

Tomczak moved the Buckeyes to their 42 with passes to Wooldridge and Byars. Yet they seemed left for dead when he was whistled for intentional grounding, forcing a fourth-and-25.

Tomczak, who was clearly having an off-day, kept OSU hopes alive, however, with a 27-yard completion to Carter, who went out-of-bounds at the Boiler 46. It had been an emotional, hardhitting game, and at this point, tempers flared. Both teams were charged with unsportsmanlike conduct, and amidst some confusion, the officials called it first-and-25.

Tomczak missed a pass to Smith, then hit Byars with passes of 13 and seven yards to the 34. Still amidst confusion, Tomczak fired the ball out of bounds to stop the clock with five seconds to play, not realizing it was fourth down.

Immediately realizing what he had done, Tomczak slumped to one knee, the victory Purdue's.

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November 16, 2002

Whew!

Jenkins TD Grab, Gamble Interception Help OSU Avoid Upset At Purdue

By STEVE HELWAGEN

Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

Twice in the final two minutes of Ohio State's Nov. 16 game at Purdue, the ball was in the air for deep pass attempts.

Both times, an OSU player came down with the ball, and that was, in essence, the game as the third-ranked Buckeyes preserved their undefeated record with a 10-6 win over the

Boilermakers.
OSU appeared headed toward its first defeat in 11 games this season as it trailed Purdue 6-3 with the clock rolling inside two minutes. Even worse, the Buckeyes were facing a fourth-and-1 at the Purdue 37.

With the Boilers expecting a run, OSU quarterback Craig Krenzel exploited a mismatch by hurling a 37-yard touchdown pass to Michael Jenkins with

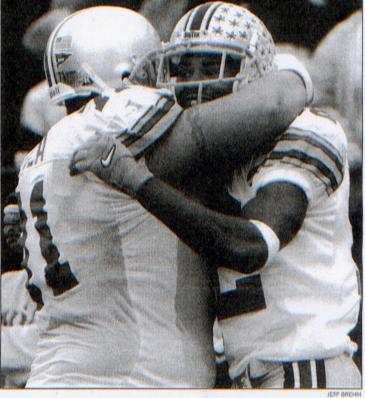
Then, as the OSU defense held on for dear life, two-way starter Chris Gamble broke back and intercepted a bomb from Purdue quarterback Kyle Orton with just 45 seconds left.

"Championship teams make those kind of plays," lamented Purdue coach Joe Tiller, whose team suffered its sixth loss of the season by a touchdown or

The sudden change of fortune — which kept Ohio State (11-0, 6-0 Big Ten) firmly in the national championship hunt (see cover story below) was another chapter of what makes college football special, OSU coach Jim Tressel said.

That was another example of a great Big Ten football game," Tressel said. "No matter what stadium you go to in this

Continued On Page 18



SWEET JUBILATION — Ohio State offensive lineman Shane Olivea (left) embraces Michael Jenkins after the Buckeye wide receiver caught a 37-yard touchdown pass to put OSU ahead of Purdue, 10-6, with 1:36 left in the fourth quarter.

In This Issue Of BSB

· Complete coverage of the win over Purdue (Pages 8-20)

Bryce Bishop delivering on his

immense promise at offensive guard (Page 21)

· Kenny Peterson wrapping up his OSU career in fine style (Pages 22-23)

 Hop Cassady recalls when every body played both and Brandon Maupin (Time ways Change, Page 24)

· Ohio defensive lineman Brandon Maupin has overcome much adversity to become one of

the state's top prospects (Page 29)
• Bruce Hooley's book "Ohio State Unforgettables" profiles number of all-time greats (Page 34)

Jim O'Brien unveils his sixth OSU men's basketball team (Pages 36-38)

Oklahoma Upset Puts Buckeyes Two Wins From Fiesta Bowl

By STEVE HELWAGEN

Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

In the days leading up to Ohio State's Nov. game at Purdue, Jim Tressel recognized something wasn't right.

With his team elevated to No. 2 in the Bowl Championship Series standings and all the talk about playing in the Fiesta Bowl, Tressel knew he had to get his team's atten-

He scrawled a simple message — "Get Focused" — on the back of a clipboard and held it up for the team to see.

Tressel's fears proved prophetic as the Buckeyes struggled mightily against the Boilermakers. But a stout defensive effort and a miraculous fourth-down bomb from Craig Krenzel to Michael Jenkins with 1:36 left (see main cover story) helped lift OSU to a 10-6 win over Purdue.

OSU improved to 11-0 overall and 6-0 in Big Ten play. Later in the day, No. 1-ranked

Oklahoma fell to Texas A&M 30-26. That result left OSU and defending national champion Miami (Fla.), which improved to 9-0 with a 26-3 pasting of Tennessee, as the only two remaining Division I-A unbeatens.

The BCS was set to update its ranking late Nov. 11. But early projections had OSU-comfortably ahead of Miami for the top spot. The top two teams will meet in the national title game at the Fiesta Bowl Jan. 3.

Season-ending wins at Illinois (4-6, 3-3) Nov. 16 and at home over rival Michigan (8-2, 5-1) Nov. 23 would almost assuredly put the Buckeyes in the Fiesta.

"Tve got two more games left and one of those is at home," said senior safety and co-captain Donnie Nickey. "I couldn't have written out a better script.

But, as the last two weeks in which six unbeatens have fallen by the wayside has shown, 14 days is an eternity in college foot-

Continued On Page 20

OHIO STATE VS. PURDUE

Season Reaches Its Boiling Point

A Frantic Finish And A Sigh Of Sweet Relief: OSU 10, Purdue 6

By STEVE HELWAGEN **Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor**

Prior to Ohio State's Nov. 9 road trip to West Lafayette, Purdue's 4-5 record sure didn't look that imposing compared to powerful OSU's gaudy 10-0 mark.

But a look inside the numbers showed that the Boilermakers had endured five tough defeats by a total of 22 points. Ohio State rallied late to deal Purdue

tough loss No. 6, winning a 10-6 defensive battle before 65,250 at Ross-Ade Stadium.

"This is a tough place to play and Purdue is a good football team," said OSU coach Jim Tressel, whose team improved to 11-0 overall and 6-0 in Big Ten play. "Now they've had six losses by seven points or less. They're a tough football team and they played hard. Our kids played hard. Our defense kept fighting."

The third-ranked Buckeyes were outgained 341-267 in total yardage by the upset-minded Boilermakers (4-6, 2-4).

But OSU pulled out the win with a nearly miraculous fourth-down, 37-yard touchdown pass from Craig Krenzel to Michael Jenkins with just 1:36 left. Then two-way starter Chris Gamble intercepted

a deep Purdue pass with 45 seconds left to preserve the win.

"This game was and could have been a disaster," said OSU tight end Ben Hartsock. "We came out flat, but we were able to eke out a win.

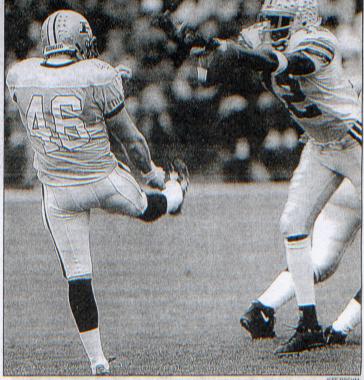
Today was just a consequence of two good football teams going at it," added Krenzel, who hit on 13 of 20 passes for 173 yards with one touchdown and one inter-

Each team lost its starting tailback during the game as OSU's Maurice Clarett and Purdue's Joey Harris both went to the sidelines with injuries. Plus OSU flanker Chris Vance missed the game while attending his brother's funeral in Florida.

The game was tied, 3-3, at halftime after each team made a field goal set up by an interception. Purdue nudged ahead 6-3 on a Berin Lacevic field goal with 7:50 left in the game, setting the stage for OSU's late-game heroics.
With the OSU offense struggling again

— the Buckeyes netted a season-low 94 yards rushing on 39 attempts — the defense had to come up big.

"We like the game to be on our shoulders and in our hands," said OSU line-



IN FOR THE KILL — Before catching the touchdown that ultimately defeated Purdue, Michael Jenkins (right) blocked a punt off the foot

of Boilermaker Brent Slaton with 2:53 remaining in the third quarter.

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backer Matt Wilhelm. "To hold them to six points in the game,

Purdue, which used both Kyle Orton and Brandon Kirsch at quarterback, 2002 employed a high-percentage passing game out of its spread offense to keep the ball

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for extended periods. But Orton threw three interceptions that limited Purdue's scoring chances

kept us in the game."

"They basically did everything we expected them to do," said OSU defensive end Darrion Scott, who notched his team's only sack. "They were running the spread offense with short routes and short drops. They weren't giving the D-line a chance to get any pressure.

that was a huge turnaround for our team,

added defensive end Simon Fraser. "That

It was Jenkins' first career blocked punt.

Except for the outcome, Purdue coach Joe Tiller had to search to find fault with his team's effort.

"The game played out the way we wanted it to play out," he said. "We wanted to hold them to under 100 yards rushing. We thought with a great effort from our people we would be able to do that.

"We wanted to be in a position to win the game in the fourth quarter. But we couldn't execute our four-minute offense and we couldn't stop them on fourth down. We had our chances and we had our opportunities, but we couldn't take advan-

tage of it."

With Kirsch nursing a broken finger,
Orton returned to the starting lineup. He ended up completing 18 of 28 passes for 169 yards. He threw two of his interceptions before halftime, leading Tiller to go with the more mobile Kirsch to start the

"We felt like we weren't particularly pleased with the two interceptions," Tiller said. "In this type of ball game, we knew turnovers would be critical."

Kirsch hit on 9 of 11 passes for 116 vards before Orton returned for Purdue's final possession after the Buckeyes took the lead. Orton understood the importance of making good decisions.

You just can't turn the ball over." Orton said. "Their defense played great. I had three picks, and a quarterback has to make good decisions when you're playing against the No. 3 team in the nation. Your margin of error decreases when you play a team the caliber of an Ohio State.

As It Happened

Purdue had the ball to open the game and held it for 11 plays. Orton hit on 6 of 9 passes for 55 yards. The Boilers benefited as well from a 15-yard personal foul penalty on Mike Doss for a late hit. But on third-and-7 at the OSU 15, Orton threw a fade to John Standeford,

who was under double coverage. Doss locked up Standeford, while Dustin Fox made the interception in the back of the end zone for a touchback with 10:24 left in the first quarter.

OSU had some early success on offense, picking up a first down on its first possession and two on its second. But the second one ended disastrously as Krenzel's third-down pass to Bam Childress was tipped in the air by Purdue corner Antwaun Rogers and intercepted by linebacker Niko Koutouvides. His 21yard return put the Boilers in business at

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OHIO STATE VS. PURDUE

the OSU 23.

Purdue got a first down on Orton's 11yard pass to Taylor Stubblefield. But a pair of incompletions stalled the drive and the Boilers had to settle for Lacevic's 21yard field goal and a 3-0 lead with 42 seconds left in the first quarter.

Purdue threatened on its next possession as Orton hit Joey Harris down the right sideline for a 30-yard gain. The Boilers got all the way down to the OSU 19. But on fourth-and-1 there, Lacevic's 36-yard field goal sailed wide left with 9:50 left in the first half.

The Buckeyes got a big break right before halftime. Orton, under pressure, tried to find Stubblefield over the middle. But OSU linebacker Matt Wilhelm made a sliding interception at the PU 41 with 3:15 left.

Clarett converted a first down on a 2yard run to the 30. Two plays later, Krenzel scrambled for 15 yards down to the Purdue 13, but OSU had to call its second timeout with 38 seconds left.

Krenzel threw the ball away on first down before Clarett got 1 yard on an inside give on second. Facing third-and-9 at the 12, OSU called its last timeout with 19 seconds left.

Clarett left the backfield empty when he lined up wide right. Krenzel took the shotgun snap and ran a quarterback draw for 7 yards down to the 5, where Purdue's Shaun Phillips dragged him down.

"We knew going into the play we didn't have a timeout," Krenzel said. "If I didn't have anything, I was supposed to throw it away and let the field goal team get the three points. I saw the middle was wide open and I thought I would get it." He was tackled with 12 seconds left and the clock was rolling. But OSU successfully got its field goal unit on the field. The Buckeyes were set for a second before snapping the ball with a scant one second left. Mike Nugent's 22-yard field goal went through the uprights, tying the game at 3 at halftime.

Tiller charged toward the officials, complaining that the kick should have been nullified. But TV replays clearly showed the field goal unit was set and the ball was snapped before time elapsed.

"That is something we work on a lot," Tressel said. "It came in handy today."

Late in the third quarter, the Buckeyes blocked a punt but could not capitalize on it. OSU's Jenkins came unblocked off the right edge and blocked Brent Slaton's punt at the Purdue 37 with 2:53 left in the third quarter.

Ross gained 2 yards on first down before Krenzel fumbled the snap for a 1yard loss on second down. Finally, Purdue's Phillips beat right tackle Shane Olivea and sacked Krenzel for a 6-yard loss. The play knocked OSU out of field goal range and the Buckeyes had to punt the ball away with 58 seconds left in the third.

Early in the fourth, Purdue broke the tie. Kirsch, opening a drive on his own 20-yard line, dropped and had all day to throw deep left for Ray Williams. Doss released Williams, who lined up wide right, at the line of scrimmage and no one was around when he hauled in the pass. He rolled for 58 yards down to the OSU 22.

The Boilers picked up a first down and got as close as the OSU 4. But on third-

and-3 there, Kirsch tried a bootleg. Wilhelm snuffed it out and tackled him for a loss back at the 15. A Purdue false start penalty backed the Boilers back to the 20. But Lacevic's 37-yard field goal was good to put Purdue up 6-3 with 7:50 left in the game.

Krenzel completed passes of 11 and 12 yards to Jenkins to open the ensuing OSU possession. He then found Bam Childress for a 7-yard gain. But Maurice Hall got only 1 yard on second down and Krenzel was hit and fumbled on third down. Hall recovered it, but OSU had to punt the ball away with 4:50 left.

It was then on the OSU defense to get the ball back. OSU forced a three-and-out as Kirsch's third-down pass to Standeford was 7 yards short of the first-down marker.

Purdue's Slaton uncorked a 57-yard punt, but Gamble returned it 22 yards to the Purdue 46 with 3:10 left.

Krenzel was sacked for a 4-yard loss on first down. His second-down pass to Hartsock was incomplete. On third down, he stepped up and drilled a pass to Hartsock, who got 13 yards down to the Purdue 37.

The play ended with 2:10 left and the clock rolling. But instead of calling timeout, facing fourth-and-1, OSU went through its usual preplay routine. Krenzel dropped and looked underneath for Hartsock, but he was covered. So Krenzel stepped up and threw deep down the left side to Jenkins, who got behind Purdue's Rogers.

Jenkins hauled in the pass in the end zone for the 37-yard touchdown.

"I know Craig was looking underneath

to Ben, but he got mangled," Jenkins said.
"Craig just stepped up and made a great
throw."

Nugent's PAT kick put the Buckeyes up 10-6 with 1:36 left.

Purdue took possession on its own 20 after a touchback on the ensuing kickoff. Tiller sent Orton back into the game at quarterback.

"We went back to Orton at the end of the game because he has a stronger arm than Brandon does," Tiller said. "We thought Orton's opportunity to cash in would be better than Kirsch's."

Orton converted one first down with a 13-yard pass to Standeford. But facing third-and-4 at the Purdue 39, he threw deep down the middle for Stubblefield. Gamble swooped in at the last second and intercepted the pass at the OSU 11 with 45 seconds left.

OSU ran the remaining time out to escape with the win.

Game Notes

- OSU was tied at halftime for the first time this season. But the Buckeyea needed a second-half score to win a game for the fifth time this year.
- The Buckeyes extended their string of second-half dominance. OSU has now outscored its opponents 182-38 in the second half, including 110-14 in the third quarter.

The last OSU opponent to score a second-half touchdown was Northwestern six games ago. Indiana was the last team to score a fourth-quarter touchdown against the Buckeyes. That was in week five.

 OSU is 34-11-2 all-time against Purdue, including 11-5 in West Lafayette.





BSB Quotebook: Ohio State 10, Purdue 6

Purdue linebacker Niko Koutouvides on OSU's decision to throw on fourth-and-1, resulting in the game-winning touchdown to Michael Jenkins: "I give credit to their coaches. We were expecting a run. The corner situation, we had them lined up one on one. Jenkins is a speedy receiver. That was a good throw and a good catch. Antwaun (Rogers) was there, but that's just the way the ball bounced."

OSU linebacker Matt Wilhelm on his team's decision to throw on the final fourth-down play: "It was tough. We had been stuffed on the run all day. They had nine men in the box and it was fourth-and-1. We had to give them something different and we did."

OSU tight end Ben Hartsock on what he saw on the game-winning touchdown: "You just look up and hope for the best. I saw Michael Jenkins had his man beat. When he caught that ball in the end zone, it was just an unbelievable feeling."

OSU quarterback Craig Krenzel on when he knew Jenkins was going to score: "As soon as I threw it. As soon as I threw it, I knew he had his man beat.

OSU's Jenkins on the aftermath of his touchdown catch: "I kind of got tackled. I didn't know what was going on. It was a good feeling. I think our whole bench left the sideline. I was just glad we didn't get a penalty."



ANOTHER SOLID AFTERNOON — Ohio State quarterback Craig Krenzel completed 13 of 20 passes for 173 yards, a touchdown and an interception against Purdue.

OSU split end/cornerback Chris Gamble on what the defense had in mind on the last Purdue possession: "There was like 1:36 left. We knew we just had to go out there and play our hearts out. We told ourselves we had to go out and try to stop

Purdue kicker Berin Lacevic on his team's never-ending string of bad fortune: "Like Coach (Joe) Tiller said, you don't get a chance to play the No. 2 team in the BCS every day. But this was just more bad luck. It's like somebody has cursed us."

Purdue's Koutouvides also discussed his team's tough year: "No matter how you look at it, they are now 11-0 and we get the loss. They found a way to win and that's all there is to it. It's getting frustrating that we are in so many games and can't get the close

Purdue quarterback Kyle Orton on why he was benched at halftime: "I don't know the reason and I didn't ask why. It is Coach Tiller's decision. Whatever the head man says, goes, There is no discussion or debating the decision.

Purdue quarterback Brandon Kirsch on his injured hand: "It was fine. The adrenaline was rushing and I couldn't feel any pain in it. It got a little sore toward the end of the game. I really didn't have much control when I was looking to throw. On the last drive, I think Kyle gave us the best opportunity with my hand being hurt. We were going to have to throw the ball the whole drive."

OSU's Krenzel on his play against the Boilermakers: "I think I played pretty well. I stepped up and made a few good plays. I had the one inter-ception where Bam (Childress) was jammed up a bit. I needed to put it out in front of him where only he could get it. It was my fault."

OSU kicker Mike Nugent on his team's rushed field goal at the end of the first half: "I saw it coming, When we got the ball back (with 3:15 left), I thought it might come down to that. I figured I might have to go out there and just try and aim it through with two seconds left."

OSU safety Donnie Nickey on the contrast to the team's loss at Purdue two years ago: "It feels good. When Mike caught that touchdown, I had a flashback. But it was the flip side. It felt good."

OSU defensive end Darrion Scott on finally getting to Kirsch for a secondhalf sack after chasing him and Orton around most of the day: "It felt good. I was just focused on getting the quarterback down. I didn't hit him like I wanted to. But I was just glad to finally sack him."

OSU coach Jim Tressel stonewalled a questioner who asked if he thought the Buckeyes would drop after the tough loss: "From here (pointing to platform)? We're not going to drop in the Big Ten standings. That's what's most important to us.

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The Numbers Game

Ohio State 10, Purdue 6

Nov. 9, 2002 — Ross-Ade Stadium; West Lafayette, Ind.

Score by Quarters	1	2	3	4		F.
OHIO STATE	0	3	0	7	-	10
PURDUE	3	0	0	3	-	6

First Quarter

PUR — Lacevic, 21 yard field goal, 0:42; 6 plays, 19 yards, 1:57 TOP.

Second Quarter

OSU — Nugent, 22 yard field goal, 0:00; 9 plays, 36 yards, 3:15 TOP.

Fourth Quarter

PUR — Lacevic, 32 yard field goal, 7:50; 8 plays, 65 yards, 4:18 TOP.

OSU — Jenkins, 37 yard pass from Krenzel (Nugent kick), 1:36; 4 plays, 46 yards, 1:34 TOP.

Att. — 65,250

Weather - 63 degrees, mostly cloudy; wind 17 MPH from S/SW.

Team Statistics				
	OSU		PUR	
First Downs	13		17	
Rushing	4		4	
Passing	9		12	
Penalty	0		1	
Rushes-Yards	39-94	12	29-56	
Passing Yards	173		285	
Passes (AttCompInt.)	20-13-0		39-27-3	
Offensive Plays	59		68	
Total Net Yards	173		341	
Third Down Efficiency	4-15		4-16	
Fourth Down Efficiency	1-1		1-1	
Punts	8-41.9		5-35.0	
Fumbles-Lost	3-0		0-0	
Penalties	3-25		5-30	
Time of Possession	28:20		31:40	

Individual Statistics

RUSHING (Att.-Net Yds.) — OSU: Clarett 14-52; Ross 11-24; Krenzel 12-19; M.Hall 1-1; Team 1-(-2). PUR: B.Jones 12-28; J.Harris 11-25; Vold 1-2; Kirsch 5-1. PASSING (Att.-Comp.-Int.-Yds.-TD) — OSU: Krenzel 20-13-1-173-1. PUR: Orton 28-18-3-169-0; Kirsch 11-9-0-116-0.

RECEIVING (Rec.-Yds.) — OSU: Jenkins 5-87; Gamble 3-51; Hartsock 2-21; Ross 1-8; Childress 1-7; Clarett 1-(-1). PUR: Standeford 8-57; Stubblefield 7-63; Chambers 7-44; J.Harris 2-45; R.Williams 1-58; B.Jones 1-9; Rhinehart 1-9.

PUNTING (No.-Avg.-Long) — OSU: Groom 8-41.9-58. PUR: Slaton 4-43,8-57;
Team 1-0-0.

PUNT RETURNS (No.-Yds.) — OSU: Gamble 2-35; Jenkins 1-11. PUR: Chambers 1-20; Morales 1-2.

KICKOFF RETURNS (No.-Yds.) - OSU: Joe 2-10. PUR: None.

FUMBLE RECOVERIES - OSU: None. PUR: None.

INTERCEPTIONS (No.-Yds.) — OSU: Wilhelm 1-0, Fox 1-0, Gamble 1-0. PUR: Koutouvides 1-20.

SACKS (No.-Yds.) — OSU: Scott 1-4. PUR: L.Johnson 1-6; Phillips 1-6; Villarreal .5-2: Dzolovic .5-2.

TACKLES FOR LOSS (No.-Yds.) — OSU: Wilhelm 1-6; Scott 1-4; Reynolds 1-2; Peterson 1-1. PUR: Phillips 2-7; L.Johnson 2-6; Schweigert 1-2; Villarreal 1-2; Dzolovic 1-2; Koutouvides 1-1; Ra.Turner 1-1; Grover 1-1; Nesfield 1-1.

TACKLES (Solo-Asst.-Tot.) — OSU: Doss 7-2-9; Wilhelm 5-3-8; Smith 5-2-7; Fox 4-3-7; Nickey 4-2-6; Gamble 5-0-5; Reynolds 4-1-5; Anderson 1-4-5; Thompson 2-1-3; Grant 2-1-3; Allen 2-1-3; Peterson 1-2-3; Scott 1-2-3; Krenzel 1-0-1; Fraser 0-1-1; Mangold 0-1-1. PUR: L.Johnson 5-6-11; Schweigert 5-5-10; Koutouvides 4-5-9; Ra.Turner 3-3-6; Phillips 5-0-5; Villarreal 1-4-5; Rogers 3-1-4; Odom 3-0-3; Grover 1-1-2; Team 1-0-1; Gardner 1-0-1; Goldsberry 1-0-1; Nesfield 1-0-1; Reeves 1-0-1; Dzolovic 0-1-1.

PLAYERS IN THE GAME — OHIO STATE: Defense, Smith, Anderson, Peterson, Scott, Grant, Wilhelm, Reynolds, Fox, Gamble, Nickey, Doss, Groom. Offense, Jenkins, Douglas, Clarke, Stepanovich, Bishop, Olivea, Hartsock, Gamble, Krenzel, Clarett, Joe, Nugent. Reserves, Britton, Childress, D'Andrea, Carter, Conwell, Salley, Allen, M.Hali, Ross, Everett, O'Neill, Carpenter, Schnittker, Hawk, Underwood, Kne, Kudla, K.Andrews, Fraser, Sims, Hamby, Arden, Bond, Green, Thompson. PURDUE: Offense, Standeford, B.Jones, Rhinehart, Lougheed, M.Turner, Mruczkowski, Ro.Turner, Butler, Rucks, Orton, J.Harris, Lacevic. Defense, Phillips, B.Johnson, Grover, Nesfield, L.Johnson, Koutouvides, Odom, Reeves, Schweigert, Ra.Turner, Rogers, Slaton. Reserves, R.Williams, Chambers, James, Ferrell, Kirsch, Dickerson, Gardner, Stubblefield, Noel, Petty, Levin, Void, Vogel, Iwuchukwu, Schaub, Goldsberry, Leimberger, Dzolovic, Shelbourne, Wilson, Morales, Davis, Flemings.

Season Statistics

	2002 Game-By	-Game	
Date	Opponent (AP Rank#)	Result	Crowd
Aug. 24	(13) TEXAS TECH	W, 45-21	100,037
Sept. 7	(8) KENT STATE	W, 51-17	98,689
Sept. 14	(6) WASHINGTON ST. (10)	W, 25-7	104,553
Sept. 21	(6) at Cincinnati	W, 23-19	66,319
Sept. 28	(6) INDIANA	W; 45-17	104,194
Oct. 5	(5) at Northwestern	W, 27-16	43,489
Oct. 12	(5) SAN JOSE STATE	W, 50-7	104,892
Oct. 19	(4) at Wisconsin	W, 19-14	79,729
Oct. 26	(4) PENN STATE (18)	W, 13-7	105,103
Nov. 2	(6) MINNESOTA (23)	W, 34-3	104,897
Nov. 9	(3) at Purdue	W, 106	65,250
Nov. 16	(2) at Illinois	3:30 p.m.	
Nov. 23	MICHIGAN	12:15 p.n	1.

#-OSU's gameday AP ranking is in parentheses before the opponent, while the opponent's ranking is after the name.

Team	Statistics	
	osu	Орр
First Downs	202	177
Rushing	111	54
Passing	88	112
Penalty	3	11
Average Per Game/Ru	sh 204.4	77.2
Average Per Game/Pa	ss 182.1	231.6
Total Offense	4,251	3,397
- Total Plays	722	718
Average Per Game	386.5	308.8
Average Per Play	5.9	4.7
Penalties-Yards	54-406	48-428
Fumbles-Lost	16-10	13-7
3rd Down Efficiency	52/138	52/160
Percentage	38%	32%
4th Down Efficiency	9/14	7/21
Percentage	64%	33%
Sacks-Yards -	28-158	25-124
Time of Possession A	vg. 32:21	27:39

Score By Quar	ters 1	2	3	4	Tot.	Avg.
Ohio State Opponents	62 49	98 44	110 14			31.1 12.2
Attendance	Cam		Total			Ave

	Individ	ual Sta	tistics		
Rushing	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Long
Maurice Clare	tt 179	1,071	6.0	13	59
Lydell Ross	142	551	3.9	6	36
Maurice Hall	57	298	5.2	2	28
Craig Krenzel	85	241	2.8	1	29
Chris Gamble	3	49	16.3	. 1	43
JaJa Riley	12	44	3.7	0	10
Donnie Nicke	y 1	28	28.0	0	28
Roshawn Par	ker 1	6	6.0	0	6
Jim Otis	1	2	2.0	. 0	2
Scott McMull	en 4	1	0.2	1	7
Brandon Schn	ttker 1	1	1.0	0	. 1
Branden Joe	1	. 1	1.0	0	1
Andy Groom	1	-16	-1.6.0	0	0
Team	10	-29	-2.9	0	. 0
OSU Totals	498	2,248	4.5	24	59
OPP Totals	310	1,142	2.7	4	46
Receiving	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Long
Michael Jenk	ins 47	833	17.7	. 5	49
Chris Gamble	27	402	14.9	0	48
Box Hautecal		4.04	0.4		20

Scoring TO)	EPK	EPR	EPP	FG	P
OPP Totals 230	3	2548	10.8	1	1	5
OSU Totals 140	•	2003	13,7	_		4
Scott McMullen	L	-1	-1.0		0	
Brandon Schnittker	L	12	12.0	1, 1	0	1
John Hollins	L	14	14.0		0	1
Ryan Hamby	2	29	14.5		1	1
Maurice Hall	1	40	10.0	1	0	1
Bam Childress	1	47	11.8		0	1
Redgie Arden	1	50	12.5		0	1
Lyden Ross	,	1 60	0.0		•	

10

Chris Vance

Maurice Clarett 10

155 15.5

147 14.7

69

Scoring	TD	EPK	EPR	Ebb	FG	PTS
Mike Nugent	-	37-38	_	-21	-21	100
Maurice Clarett	15	_	-	-	_	90
Lydell Ross	6	_	-	_	_	36
Michael Jenkins	5	-	-	_	_	30
Chris Vance	3	_	-	_	_	18
Chris Gamble	2	-	_	-	-	12
Maurice Hall	2	_	-	_	_	12

Ben Hartsock	2	_	_	_	_	12
Mike Doss	1	_	_	_	-	6
Ryan Hamby	1	_	_	_	_	6
A.J. Hawk	1	-	_	-	_	6
Craig Krenzel	1	_	_	-		6
Scott McMullen	1	,	-	-	_	6
Team	-	-	_	-	_	2
OSU Totals	40	37-38	0-1	0-1	21-21	342
OPP Totals	15	12-13	-	1-2	10-16	134

 Passing
 Comp. Att.
 Pct.
 Yds. INT TD
 Rating

 Craig Krenzel
 121193
 62.7
 1,688
 511
 149.79

 Scott McMuller
 25
 31
 80.6
 315
 0
 2
 187.29

 OSU Totals
 146 224
 62.2
 2,033
 513
 154.98

 OPP Totals
 236 408
 57.8
 2,548
 15.11
 11.11.85

FG Dist	tance	0-29	30-39	40-49	50+	Total
Mike N	ugent	6-6	7-7	7-7	1-1	21-21
OSU To	tals .	6-6	7-7	7-7	1-1	21-21
OPP To	tals	3-5	3-6	.3-4	0-0	9-15

Punting	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Bk	Long
Andy Groom	43	1,944	45.2	- 1	74
Team	1	0	0.0	0	0
OSU Totals	44	1,944	44.2	1	74
OPP Totals	62	2,273	36.7	4	57

Interceptions	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
Chris Gamble	4	40	10.0	1	40
A.J. Hawk	2	. 44	22.0	1	34
Matt Wilhelm	2	0	0.0	0	0
Dustin Fox	2	0	0.0	0	0
Mike Doss	1	45	45.0	1	45
Cie Grant	1	23	23.0	0	23
Will Allen	. 1	0	0.0	0	0
Tyler Everett	1	0	0.0	0	0
Will Smith	1	0	0.0	0	0
OSU Totals	15	152	10.1	3	45
OPP Totals	5	59	11.8	0	22
			Land Land		

Punt Returns	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
Chris Gamble	28	249	8.9	0	27
Mike Doss	4	25	6.2	0	14
Donnie Nickey	1	14	14.0	0	0
Michael Jenkins	1	11	11.0	0	0
Dustin Fox	1	10	10.0	0	. 0
Chris Vance	1	5	5.0	0	5
OSU Totals	36	314	8.7	0	27
OPP Totals	25	259	10.4	0	46

Kickoff Returns	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
Maurice Hall	13	321	24.7	0	45
Chris Gamble	11	253	23.0	0	56
Mike Doss	2	37	18.5	. 0	24
Brandon Joe	2	10	5.0	0	10
Chris Vance	1	2	2.0	0	2
OSU Totals	29	623	21.5	0	56
OPP Totals	31	658	21.2	0	67

Defensive Leaders	Solo	Ast.	Tot.	TFL-Yds.	Sacks
Matt Wilhelm	54	30	84	14-33	2-8
Mike Doss	48	30	78	3-4	_
Dustin Fox	48	15	63	3-4	_
Cie Grant	36	13	49	10-47	4-36
Donnie Nickey	29	1.8	47	1-2	_
Robert Reynolds	26	18	44	4-16	1-4
Will Smith	27	15	42	9-26	4-19
Darrion Scott	20	21	41	9-38	8-36
Kenny Peterson	19	13	32	6-23	4-21
Tim Anderson	13	15	28	1.3	1.3
David Thompson	16	10	26	4-9	1-6
A.J. Hawk	12	12	24	3-12	1-5
Will Allen	17	6	23	2-24	1-11
E.J. Underwood	17	4	21	-	-
OSU Totals	479	270	749	73-267	28-158
OPP Totals	486	335	821	69-220	25-124

Fumbles Forced

2 — Darrion Scott, Matt Wilhelm; 1 — Mike D'Andrea, Dustin Fox, Simon Fraser, Cie Grant, Kenny Peterson, Robert Reynolds.

Fumbles Recovered

2 — Donnie Nickey; 1 — Mike Doss, Dustin Fox, Mike Kudla, Darrion Scott, David Thompson.

Blocked Kicks

2 — Donnie Nickey; 1 — Dustin Fox, Michael Jenkins.

COVER STORY: WHEW!!!

Purdue Thought Run But OSU Went Deep

Continued From Page 1

league it will be a battle until the end. Both teams fought extremely hard and Purdue prepared extremely hard and fought like crazy.

"We said all week they could be sitting there with eight or nine wins."

The Buckeyes were caught between a rock and a hard place when they got the ball back after a punt at the Purdue 46 with 3:10 left. They needed at least a field goal to force overtime. Anything less would have been disastrous.

"It was make it or break it on that drive," said tight end Ben Hartsock, whose 13-yard grab helped set up the touchdown. "That was our season in a nutshell. Our entire year of preparation and everything came down to that moment.

"And the last play with Michael Jenkins and Craig Krenzel, what can you say? That was huge."

A Fourth Down To Remember

Just before the touchdown, Krenzel had to step up under heavy pressure and fire the pass to Hartsock near the sideline.

The tight end bulled his way down to the Purdue 37, but was still a yard shy. The clock had hit two minutes and was still rolling. OSU had two timeouts left, but Tressel decided to save them and to go ahead and call the fourth-down play.

Had OSU not at least gotten the first down, the soonest the Buckeyes would have gotten the ball back would have been with 45 seconds left. And, likely, it would have been deep in their own end.

"I don't think anyone was thinking the season hinged on that one play."
Krenzel said. "But all of our mental focus was on that one play."

The play — "King-Right, 64 Wide-Shadow Swat" — gave Krenzel several options to try to get the first down.

"It depended on what they were in," Tressel said. "It was only fourth-and-1 and part of the route would have gotten the first down. They happened to be manned up on the receivers."

The word was passed quickly to the offense, which did not huddle. Meanwhile, the Purdue defense was stacked to try to stop the run. The Boilermakers committed nine men to the box, leaving the corners alone on Jenkins and Gamble.

"Against a team like Ohio State that runs the ball, if you don't load up to stop the run on fourth-and-1, I would suggest you're a fool," Tiller said. "We didn't have any choice. We ran a run blitz, thinking that if we plugged every hole they wouldn't gain a yard."

they wouldn't gain a yard."

OSU lined up with tailback Lydell
Ross in an offset-I behind Krenzel. As itturned out, he was just a decoy — and a
key pass protector.

key pass protector.

The Boilermakers brought seven men on the rush.

"Coach sent that play in," Krenzel said. "They were getting up to try and stop the run. They were playing Cover-0 with nobody deep and man-to-man coverage. They brought a blitz and our offensive line did a good job and picked it up great."

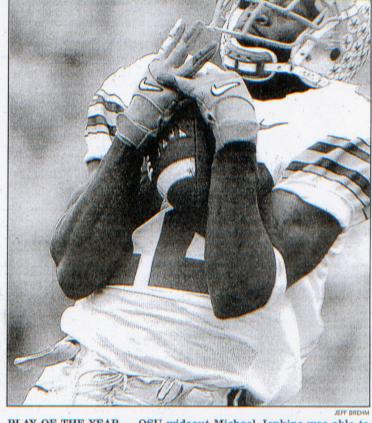
Krenzel recalled his various options.

"I think we caught them off-guard by not huddling in such a critical situation," he said. "We called it at the line of scrimmage.

"I was passing it with the thought I might be able to step up and get the 1 yard we needed for the first down. My first read was Ben underneath. I was supposed to try and deliver him the ball first. Chris Gamble was running a dig route to the right and Mike was running the post to the left."

Krenzel and Jenkins were on the same page as Purdue cornerback Antwaun Rogers ventured up into bump-and-run coverage.

"I saw the safeties down by the line of



PLAY OF THE YEAR — OSU wideout Michael Jenkins was able to haul in a 37-yard touchdown pass that went a long way toward allowing the Buckeyes to stay undefeated.

scrimmage," Jenkins said. "They were expecting the run. They pressed us up man. I knew then that Craig was just going to have to throw it up there and try and give us a chance.

"I was supposed to run a post toward

"I was supposed to run a post toward the middle of the field. But he was inside of me, so I just kept going straight. Craig saw me come open and I was able to make a play."

Krenzel gave Hartsock, who was shadowed by a linebacker, only a cursory glance before looking long.

"They closed Ben off and when people

man on you you can throw over the top," Tressel said. "Craig did a great job stepping up in the pocket and threw it to Mike Jenkins and gave him that little extra time to get separation."

As he has all season, Krenzel felt the pressure coming. Left guard Adrien Clarke handed his man off to Ross, who shielded him from Krenzel's blind side. A split-second later, Purdue strong safety Ralph Turner came free and was lunging toward the quarterback.

Jenkins and Rogers had been jostling all the way down the sideline. Rogers clearly grabbed Jenkins before the receiver used his right arm to brush the defender out of the way.

"That's what receivers here have to do," said Jenkins, who hauled in his team-high fifth touchdown. "I gave him a little nudge at the end to create some space and catch the ball. We were grabbing each other. That's just part of football. That's what happens.

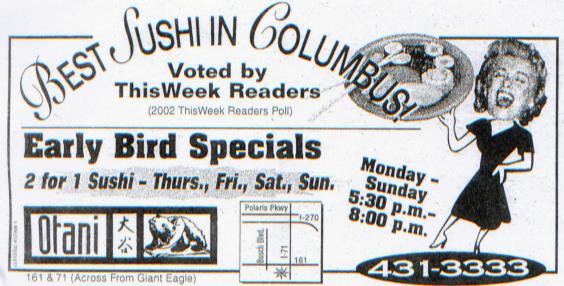
"You have to get separation when the ball is in the air. Craig made a great throw. I just ran under it and made a play."

Just as Turner was closing in, Krenzel stepped forward and threw off the wrong foot. It didn't matter because it was an almost picture-perfect spiral.

"They gave me time to hang in there," Krenzel said. "I just stepped up and delivered it. Mike ran a good route and made a great catch."

Jenkins caught the ball in stride at the 1-yard line and scored easily, touching off a massive OSU celebration.

"I can't even tell you," Krenzel said when asked to describe his reaction to the play. "I can't explain it. I just wish everyone in the world could feel that



COVER STORY: WHEW!!!

kind of excitement and a natural high. It was an unbelievable feeling."

For many, the play was reminiscent of the teams' meeting in West Lafayette two years earlier. On that day, Purdue moved a step closer to the Rose Bowl when Drew Brees threw a 64-yard touchdown pass to Seth Morales, who got behind OSU's Mike Doss, to secure a

This time, the shoe was on the other foot and it was Purdue forced to do some explaining.

"I'm going to hear about this one," Rogers said. "I've just got to take it like a man for a year. He made a play. I'll

ke it."
But Tiller understood completely. "The corner is on an island, coach said. "What the heck? They know that when it is called. It was a great throw into the wind and a great catch by their guy

Purdue safety Stuart Schweigert added, "It's hard. As a DB in (single) cov-erage, it's just you. You can't hide from anyone. It takes a lot of (guts) to play out there.

Certainly, the OSU side hopes that touchdown and this win spur them toward at least a conference crown. Regardless, the last-ditch play figures to go down as one of the school's most memorable scores

"I knew all the guys wanted it and that was our season right there," Jenkins said. "They wanted to spoil it, but we got it. It's a great feeling.

Gamble Pays Off Huge

Of course, there was still the matter

of the remaining 1:36.

Purdue had jockeyed quarterbacks Kyle Orton and Brandon Kirsch but decided to go with Orton, the stronger passer, for the final drive, which began at the Purdue 20 after OSU kicker Mike Nugent sailed his kickoff through a heavy wind into the end zone for a touchback.

The Boilermakers got as far as their own 39-yard line, but Orton, who threw a pair of first-half interceptions, got a little greedy.

OSU was playing a soft three-deep zone, intent on keeping the PU receivers in front of them. With all kinds of time to throw against a three-man rush, Orton saw Taylor Stubblefield come open deep down the middle of the field.

Orton heaved the ball for Stubblefield, Safety Donnie Nickey recovered to check the receiver, while Gamble turned and sprinted from as far as 30 yards away. It was no contest as Gamble got to the pass and easily intercepted it at the OSU 11

"I saw the quarterback rolling and I saw the receiver going deep, Gamble, who made his team-high fourth interception. "I just waited for the quarterback to throw it up in the air.

"I treated it like I was the receiver on a post pattern. I just went and brought

OSU defensive coordinator Mark Dantonio credited Gamble for his awareness on the play.

We were in a three-deep zone, so he had the outside third of the field," he said. "But we squeezed the wide receiver to the post and made the play.'

Gamble was pressed into extra duty, starting on both sides of the ball for the third straight game. His interceptions against Cincinnati, Wisconsin and Penn State earlier this year helped lock up wins. They also led the coaches to make him a full-time player on defense

But the matter was complicated for this game as backup flanker Chris Vance was absent from the team while attending his brother's funeral in Florida. That meant that Gamble, who also returns punts and kicks, hardly left the field at Purdue.

"I wasn't tired today," he said. "This was a big game we had to have. I had to stay in there and help the team.

I want to keep playing the whole game. I never give up. I just try to keep playing 100 percent. I want to be out there to help the team. I want to play four quarters. I don't want to let the team down. I just want to play as hard as I can."

Tressel said the coaches talk about giving Gamble a break. But a look at the numbers in this game show he is just too valu-

able to spend many plays on the sideline.

Against Purdue, Gamble had three catches for 51 yards on offense. He had five tackles and an interception on defense. And, for good measure, he returned two punts for 35 yards.

"No doubt about it, he did it on both sides of the ball," Tressel said. "We talked over the headphone about giving Chris a little rest, but in games like we've been playing there's no time for him to rest. He's the best available

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COVER STORY: UPSET HELPS OSU

Two Wins And OSU Is In Fiesta Bowl

Continued From Page 1

"That was another example of a great Big Ten football game," Tressel said after his team had barely dodged a gigantic gold and black locomotive. "No matter what stadium you go to in this league it will be a battle until the end. Both teams fought extremely hard and Purdue prepared extremely hard and fought like crazy."

If OSU succeeds in capping a firstever 13-0 season, the Buckeyes can point to this game in West Lafayette as a moment when they overcame incredible adversity.

"We've got good character," Tressel said. "I think there have been a lot of good turning points. I think we continue to grow. They never stop playing." Defensive end Simon Fraser said the

Defensive end Simon Fraser said the Buckeyes are taking Tressel's message to heart.

"The whole team is going week to week," Fraser said. "Coach Tressel has done a good job getting "s physically and mentally prepared fo. each challenge we've faced. We know we can't overlook anybody. The second you do that, you'll probably lose."

OSU's superior strength of schedule and computer rankings were expected to give the Buckeyes the nod — at least for now — over Miami (Fla.), although the Hurricanes moved into the top spot in both the Associated Press media poll and the USA Today/ESPN coaches poll. (OSU was second in both.)

But in the euphoria of a win OSU fans will remember for many years, the rankings were the last thing on anybody's mind.

"We're not focusing on the rankings," said flanker/cornerback Chris Gamble, whose interception with 45 seconds left iced the game. "We just have to keep playing hard and get ready for these last two games."

The same mood applied when the topic became bowl assignment. OSU can lock up a Fiesta Bowl berth with two wins. At the same time, the Rose Bowl looks like a remote possibility.

An OSU loss would certainly make things somewhat murky.

In that case, Iowa (10-1, 7-0 Big Ten) could clinch the conference title outright as well as the Rose Bowl berth with a Nov. 16 win at Minnesota (7-3, 3-3).

OSU would be left to fend for one of



ALMOST THERE — Right before OSU quarterback Craig Krenzel hit Michael Jenkins for the go-ahead touchdown, Krenzel found tight end Ben Hartsock (right) for a 13-yard gain on third-and-14 from the 50-yard line.

two BCS at-large berths to either the Sugar or Orange Bowl. But Notre Dame (9-1) and Texas (9-1) also would be attractive picks for those spots.

It is entirely possible that OSU could end up 12-1 and still be relegated to the Capital One Bowl (formerly the Citrus) in Orlando, Fla.

"Who cares?" replied linebacker Matt Wilhelm when asked about the various bowl scenarios. "All we can do is win. If we do that, we'll be fine. Today, we played a great football team and came out victorious. The polls don't mean anything to us.

"We don't care what bowl game we go to. We just want to go undefeated and win the Big Ten championship."

Jenkins was among a collection of OSU players who was mobbed by Buckeye fans in the south end zone of Ross-Ade Stadium following the game. The euphoria of that moment made any other considerations pale in comparison.

"It is great right now to be 11-0," he said. "It is a great feeling. It really hasn't hit home yet. We just have to take it in stride."

For a while, the game looked like a carbon copy of Purdue's 31-27 win over OSU two years ago in West Lafayette. Purdue's Drew Brees victimized OSU with a long touchdown pass late in the game to pull out that win.

"We're not thinking about the past," Wilhelm said. "We're thinking about the next step ahead. We play the defending Big Ten champions next week."

Where's The Offense?

The OSU defense again delivered a command performance, holding an opponent to seven or fewer points for the fourth time in five games.

That was a good thing because the OSU offense, limited once again after starting tailback Maurice Clarett left due to recurring shoulder problems, was held to a season-low 94 yards rushing. The total offense figure of 267 ranked as the season's second-lowest total behind just a 253-yard performance two weeks earlier against Penn State.

OSU's winning total of 10 points was the school's lowest output in a win since 1987

The defense isn't ready to file suit for nonsupport yet, but the lawyers have begun typing.

"Offensively, I think we've got to figure some things out," said tight end Ben Hartsock. "I was talking to Donnie Nickey after the game. I said, 'You guys have every right to be upset over our performance.'

"He said, 'We won.' That was our worst offensive performance by far. But nobody from the defense came over and was upset with us. That's a credit to them.

"That's the kind of attitude that has made us successful."

The OSU defense lowered its points allowed per game total to 12.2, the nation's second-best average.

But the offense has generated just seven touchdowns over the last four games. Meanwhile, Illinois (averaging 31.8 points over the last four games) and Michigan (averaging 45 points over the last two games) will test the OSU defense.

"It was an ugly win, and we've had several of those," Hartsock said. "We've got to get something figured out if we're going to win two more games and even that third one down the line.

"We've got to get some things shored up if we want to reach the level we want to reach."

Next Up: Illinois

The Purdue showing was OSU's fourth subpar road performance in as many outings. The Buckeyes have won their seven home games by an average of 26.3 points.

But OSU appears completely vulnerable away from home, where it has won its four road games by an average of just 5.8 points.

"We were very fortunate today, like we've been in all of our other away games," said defensive end Darrion Scott. "We definitely have to play better on the road. We look forward to performing well next week at Illinois."

This marks just the fourth time in OSU history that the Buckeyes have opened a season 11-0 (see note, page 7). The Buckeyes have never opened 12-0, although they have a chance to do so at Illinois.

"We have a chance to go 12-0," Krenzel said. "In the game of college football, that says a lot right there. We have to go out now and play a pretty good Illinois football team."

Tilinois has won two of the last three meetings with OSU, including a 34-22 decision last year in Columbus. The Illini need wins in their last two games to qualify for postseason play.

"This will be a big game," Jenkins said. "Illinois has played well the last few games. We know they will be pumped up. We just have to try and get out of there with the win."

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THE VIEW FROM 15TH AND HIGH

Thankfully For OSU, This Is 2002, Not 2000

Pardon me for repeating myself, but as I said a few issues ago after the Ohio State-Wisconsin game, big players make big plays in big games. Now as big games go, the OSU-Purdue game doesn't rank up there with Ohio State-Michigan or the Buckeyes vs. Penn State, or even the previously mentioned Buckeye-Badger

But at this late point in an undefeated season, with other undefeated teams dropping like flies, every game is a big game for Ohio State. And big players Craig Krenzel and Michael Jenkins teamed up for a big play, connecting for the game-winning touchdown pass on a

fourth-and-1 play with 1:36 to play.

The big plays by big players weren't over, though. The Boilermakers had plenty of time to mount a touchdown drive of their own, and quarterback Kyle Orton went for a big chunk of the yardage needed for the six points with a long heave to Taylor Stubblefield.

Now admit it. As soon as that ball went in the air, you were thinking back to the Purdue game in 2000, when, after the Buckeyes had scored a touchdown to take the lead with 2:16 left, Drew Brees hit Seth Morales with a 64-yard scoring pass for the Boilermaker victory.

But this time, out of nowhere, here comes Chris Gamble, another big player, who made the leaping interception to preserve Ohio State's improbable victory. That's the same Gamble who helped set up Ohio State's final scoring drive with a 22-yard punt return. The same Gamble who finished the day with three receptions for 51 yards, five tackles and 35

return yards to go with his interception.

The call by OSU coach Jim Tressel to go long on fourth-and-short was a gutsy one. If the play had failed, he would have been bombarded with criticism for not going the safer route toward a first down, especially given what was seemingly unimaginative play-calling throughout the game. But the play worked to perfec-

After the game, Tressel indicated that there were other, shorter options available to Krenzel on the play. I don't doubt that there were, but it looked to me like the purpose of the call was to catch Purdue looking short, and I don't think Krenzel and his mates were ever thinking anything but touchdown.

And for one of the few times in the

game, things worked correctly on offense for the Buckeyes. The line provided protection for one of the few times in the game. Krenzel stepped up in the pocket and then put the ball right on the money for Jenkins, who, despite being held almost the entire way down the field, separated from his defender to break

open for the touchdown.

The OSU defense was again stellar, holding the Big Ten's leading offense to just 341 yards and two field goals. Ohio State has now not allowed a touchdown in the last two games and allowed just Purdue's three points in the second half of the past four games, lowering its season points allowed average to 12.2 a con-

However, the Buckeyes can't continue to rely on the defense to bail the team out. If the offense continues to struggle, particularly in the first half, there is likely a disaster in the Buckeyes' future and it could come as early as the next game

THE VIEW FROM 15TH AND HIGH Frank Moskowitz, Publisher

Ohio State was averaging just 19.0 points in the last four games. Take out the 34 that the Buckeyes posted against Minnesota and that average drops to 14.0. In that four-game span, the Buckeyes had scored just 29 points (7.25 average) in the first half.

It's easy to point to the play-calling as the offensive culprit. The best play call in the world, however, be it a pass or a run, is not going to work if it isn't blocked

properly.

Let's face it. The offensive line has not been as strong in the past couple of games — especially at Purdue — as it was earlier in the season. There was very little running room against the Boilermakers and Krenzel, who was sacked three times, seemed to be scram-

bling for his life the entire game.
I'm starting to wonder if the grind of the long season isn't beginning to catch up with the big guys up front. While I have lauded the conditioning of the Buckeyes as a whole this season, you begin to wonder if some of the OSU linemen, especially those who look like they are hiding Vlade Janakievski under their jerseys, are starting to tire from 10 straight weeks of pounding

Way too many times, there are OSU offensive linemen standing around looking at the end of plays rather than being body-on-body with a defender. With so much on the line, the big guys are going to have to ride the rush of a title drive and play with the strength and enthusi-

asm they are capable of

I also think the coaching staff needs to make a decision about Maurice Clarett. If his shoulder injury is going to be an ongoing problem, maybe they need to go ahead and shut him down. He was clearly favoring the shoulder on runs against the Boilermakers, and a Clarett who doesn't put his shoulder down at the end of runs is not a Clarett at his best (though still better than most backs). The Purdue defenders were clearly going after the shoulder, and I'm sure future opponents will do the same.

Not only is this a question of Clarett's health, but I think the offense might be better off if the coaches go ahead and make the commitment to Lydell Ross and Maurice Hall and look at any contribution by Clarett as a bonus rather than continuing to leave Hall and Ross in

limbo.

The two could get more reps in practice and the coaches could draw up game plans based on using those two rather than Clarett. Hall's speed to the outside might have opened things up a little against Purdue, rather than the Buckeyes' continued failures running inside against the Boilermakers.

There is also a psychological aspect to committing to Ross and Hall. You can tell a reserve he has to be ready, that he's only one play away from being called on, and I think the pair have done a good job of being ready when being sent in. But it's different when you know if and when you are going to play.

If Clarett's shoulder is going to contin-

ue to be a problem, then for everybody's - particularly Clarett's

Despite any shortcomings people may perceive in the Buckeyes, the team is 11-0 and ranked No. 2 in the country. I have to think that even the most optimistic Buckeye fans wouldn't have really believed that Ohio State would be in this position at this late date.

I keep coming back to the poise of this team - coupled, of course, with a great defense and the aforementioned playmakers - as the main reason that the Buckeyes are where they are. While one might criticize Tressel for his play-calling, you have to admit that the poise starts with the coach and works its way

I have been almost a bigger advocate of taking things one week at a time this season than Tressel. Yet I have to wonder, after the stunning finish against Purdue, if this Buckeye team isn't a team of destiny.

Now that I've let that slip out, let's concentrate on Illinois.

Quick Kicks

· After watching Krenzel scurry and scramble all afternoon, I was a bit surprised that he ended the game with 13 completions on 20 attempts with one very big touchdown against one interception. It looked a lot worse than the statistics show.

This game and the big play at the end were more proof that - as people have been saying all season — Krenzel's play may not always be pretty, but he does what he has to do to win.

• I don't think Ohio State has run a two-minute drill since Tressel has been at Ohio State that, following the game, I haven't mentioned in this column that the coach doesn't seem to handle this sit-

uation very well.

Against Purdue, the Buckeyes took over with very favorable field position at the Boilermakers' 41 with 3:15 to play in the first half and two timeouts remaining. They ended up having to scramble to get a Mike Nugent field goal as time expired.

After the game it came out that Krenzel had run on his own in an attempt for a first down that would have stopped the clock right before Nugent's - a run that fell short, setting up the mad kick scramble. But the Buckeyes, as they tend to do, had already mismanaged the clock.

In these situations, the Buckeyes

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appear indecisive on play-calling and don't seem to have a plan on how to use the clock or their timeouts. I found it particularly maddening how casually Krenzel would stroll to the line with absolutely no sense of urgency as the clock ticked.

If the logic was to use up the remaining time to keep Purdue from having a chance to score after a Buckeye score, I fault that logic. Having more than three minutes to cover just 41 yards was more than ample time to go for a touchdown that might have changed the momentum of the game

I find Tressel's performance in the two-minute arena interesting for a coach who has four national championships to

his credit. It's not like the two-minute drill is different in Division I-AA.

The Best Of The Best

In a story on two-way players on page 24 of this issue, it is noted that Ohio State Heisman Trophy winner "Hop" Cassady was named AP Male Athlete of the Year in 1955, beating out Otto Graham, Mickey Mantle, Ted Williams and Rocky Marciano. That sounded pretty impressive, but I thought I'd check and see what those all-time greats did in

Mantle hit .306 for the New York Yankees while leading the league in home runs with 37. He scored 121 times and knocked in 99 as the Yankees won the American League pennant. Williams, playing in just 98 games, hit .356 with 28 home runs and 83 RBI and a .703 slugging percentage.

Graham led the NFL in passing while guiding the Cleveland Browns to a 9-2-1 record and a 38-14 victory over the Los Angeles Rams for the NFL championship. Marciano defended his heavyweight boxing title twice, including a ninth-round knockout of Archie Moore, to

remain undefeated.



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