

For The Buckeye Fan Who Needs To Know More

Buckeye Sports Bulletin

September 17, 1983

Complimentary Buckeye Edition

Volume 3, Number 2

Tomczak Goes To The Air Against Oregon Earning His Reputation As No. 1

By Mike Pramih

There were those who, at the end of last year's football season, scoffed when it was announced OSU quarterback Mike Tomczak led the Big Ten in passing efficiency.

After all, this was the same person who threw THE pass against Stanford, who faltered during the Florida State game, who lost his starting assignment to Brent Offenbecher against Wisconsin.

But Tomczak found himself with a newly attained quality in OSU's 31-6 win over Oregon on Sept. 10, one that he could not possibly have had before the roof fell in a year ago.

"Confidence is the big thing in football," he said. "Once you play in the Big Ten, or even in Ohio Stadium, one year under your belt is a big difference and it seemed exceptionally so during this game. I thought I was 100 percent more prepared than last year."

Confidence. Anyone who watched the junior from Calumet City, Ill., pick apart the Duck defense left the stadium much impressed. For against Oregon, the dropbacks, the passes and the check-offs were all crisp, performed with a precision only confidence could exact.

They were so crisp, in fact, that Tomczak set personal single-game records for most yardage and most touchdowns in his OSU career. He completed 21 of 25 pass attempts for 273 yards and four touchdowns and for his effort was named Key Oldsmobile-Subaru/Rent-A-Wreck *Key Buck of the Week*.

However, Tomczak seemed surprised that he would have his best day as a Buckeye against an Oregon team that was supposed to be susceptible to the run, a team

against which the running game was to be the primary weapon in coach Earle Bruce's arsenal.

But the fact Ohio State beat the Ducks with the forward pass reflects Tomczak's confidence even more.

"I just take what the defense gives me," he said. "If they're going to give me the tailback — drop the linebackers deep — I'm going to hit the tailback. If they're going to play up tight, I'm going to hit the curls, the square-ins and the post — like I did to Cedric."

That 41-yard third-quarter touchdown pass to wide receiver Cedric Anderson unveiled the assured Tomczak, although he had completed eight of 11 passes in the first half. It also gave the Buckeyes a 17-6 lead and a little breathing room.

Tomczak pump-faked to running back Kelvin Lindsey, who had worked his way open across the middle, and aired it out to Anderson, who was wide-open at the four-yard line.

"The change in Mike is tremendous," Anderson said. "I mean, we probably couldn't even say the words to describe him. He had some big shoes to fill in Art Schlichter, and he was kind of young. He hadn't had much experience."

"But he has so much confidence now that we can run a pattern and we are sure the ball will be there."

And the ball was right on the mark on Tomczak's three other touchdown passes. The first, a nine-yard pass to tailback Keith Byars in the left flat, capped the opening drive of the game.

Then in the third quarter, following Doug Hill's interception return to the Oregon five-yard line, Tomczak found Lindsey alone in the left corner of the end zone.

Finally, Tomczak followed up a 33-yard completion over the middle to Anderson with a 21-yard touchdown toss to the fleet receiver, this time on a corner pattern. The Buckeyes had a 25-point lead with 1:29 to go in the third period, and the Ducks began packing their suitcases.

"He had a lot of zing on that ball today," Bruce said. "It worked me up seeing him throw it."

Tomczak showed the knowledge of an experienced quarterback in

**Mike Tomczak Is Playing With Confidence**

completing passes to seven players. Wide receiver Thad Jemison, who started only his second career game, caught six passes for 79 yards. Anderson pulled in four for 99 yards and tight end John Frank had three receptions for 31 yards.

Tomczak found his backfield mates as well. Tailbacks Keith Byars and Kelvin Lindsey each caught three passes, and fullback Vaughn Broadnax and tailback John Wooldridge had one apiece.

It now appears the receivers

have confidence in Tomczak. The coach does, too. And the offensive line has confidence also, considering all the time they graciously allowed Tomczak to sit back and pass at his leisure.

With all this faith in Tomczak's ability, the only testing point will be in seeing if he can be consistent.

"If the time is given to me, I think I can perform that well," he said. "I'm just going to keep humble, keep this in the back of my head and build on each week's performance."

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The View From 15th and High

By Frank L. Moskowitz, BSB Editor

Tomczak Proves There Is Life After Art

When Art Schlichter finished his four year stay at quarterback for Ohio State, there was a natural assumption among Buckeye fans that there would be a major drop off in the quality of talent at that position.

After all, Ohio State is certainly not known as a haven for pass-oriented signal-callers. If you're a tailback, or a tackle or a linebacker you'd jump at the chance to play for the Bucks. But if you like to throw the ball, are good at throwing it, chances are you're going to head off to Illinois, or Stanford or the like.

Schlichter, of course, was the exception — a quarterback of national stature who chose to stay

home and play for the Buckeyes, a quarterback who helped bring the Ohio State offense into the modern era.

And Ohio State fans had reason to be concerned after Schlichter moved on. The burden of running the offense fell on the shoulders of Tomczak, then an inexperienced sophomore. And Tomczak did little to ease the minds of the OSU faithful.

In the first five games of the post-Schlichter era, the Buckeyes posted a dismal 2-3 record, with an incredible three straight losses at home.

Tomczak completed just 36 percent of his passes in that period, with only one touchdown and eight

interceptions. He was booed off the field by his own fans and had to watch from the bench for a game as Brent Offenbecher took his turn at running the offense.

Yet Tomczak was able to rebound and lead the Buckeyes to seven straight victories, seven impressive victories. He was able to lift his season marks to 96 completions on 187 attempts for 51 percent and 1,602 yards.

During the winning streak he threw for seven TDs and only three interceptions, as he finished the season as the Big Ten's most efficient passer.

He was 19th in the country, second among sophomore's behind Utah's Ken Viera.

By the time Ohio State smashed Brigham Young in the Holiday Bowl, Buckeye fans felt that they had a decent quarterback, though perhaps not enough to make them forget Schlichter.

Yet after Tomczak's 21 of 25, four touchdown performance against Oregon Sept. 10, it may be time to re-evaluate. Is Tomczak better than people have thought?

That question will be answered over the course of this season and next. But it is certain that he was awesome against the Ducks. A couple of plays stand out, painting the picture of an out-of-the-ordinary quarterback.

In the third quarter he made a beautiful pump fake that allowed Cedric Anderson to break alone, full-speed, into the end-zone with a 41-yard bomb. Earlier in the game, Tomczak had appeared trapped on a Duck Blitz, but managed to loft a

13-yard pass to John Frank for a first down at the Oregon four.

Moments later, the Buckeyes scored their first touchdown of the season on a nine-yard pass from Tomczak to tailback Keith Byars.

This brings up one of the most interesting points of the game.

Tomczak repeatedly — and successfully — went to his tailbacks on passing plays, something unheard of in the past at OSU. Tailbacks Byars, Kelvin Lindsey and John Wooldridge had seven receptions among them, accounting for two touchdowns, and fullback Vaughn Broadnax also pulled in a pass.

You have to remember that this team is coached by Earle Bruce, who just last year wondered why he should have his team pass to backs, when they could get the same yardage by handing the ball to the tailback.

Holy smokes, Batman! First John Frank brings the tight end into the offense and now they're throwing to the backs. If this keeps up, those blue chip quarterbacks might start coming to Ohio State.

After all, Art Schlichter and Mike Tomczak already have.

Defensive lineman Mark Hovevar, who was expected to see extended playing time for the Buckeyes this year, has been lost for the season, due to knee surgery. It will be the second time Hovevar has missed a season because of knee problems.

It also appears that freshman lineman Mike Machinsky will be lost for the campaign due to injury.

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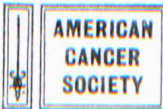
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UPI Votes Tomczak Week's Top Player

By Mike Pramlik

OSU quarterback Mike Tomczak was named **UPI** Midwest Offensive Player of the Week for his efforts against Oregon, Sept. 10. He threw for 273 yards, completing 21 of 25 pass attempts. That computes to an 84 percent completion percentage, very close to the NCAA record of 87.2 percent set by Dick Norman of Stanford in 1959.

Tomczak's passing yardage is a personal high, as are his number of completions, touchdowns (four) and total offense yardage (291).

"Football can be easy if you just take what they give you," he said after the game.

Tell us about it, Mike.

Buckeye fans hope it will be as

easy against Oklahoma, a team which is ranked among the best teams in the country. Leading that corps is, of course, sophomore tailback Marcus Dupree. But there are several other Sooners that will keep the Buckeyes occupied.

They include senior defensive tackle Rick Bryan, quite a load at 6-4, 260. Danny Bradley is no slouch at quarterback, having the speed to run the wishbone, still a valuable asset of the Sooner offense. Other notables are linebacker Jackie Shipp and defensive end Kevin Murphy. If a weak spot exists it is in the secondary.

From the "if it works, stick with it" department: After the Oregon game, Buckeye coach Earle Bruce had an interesting comment on a

certain pass route that come Michigan or high water, rarely seems to fail.

"One pass play is phenomenal," bubbled Bruce. "Last year it was 17 of 18. Right now, I think we threw it three times and completed it three times (against Oregon), it's 20 of 21. That's an unbelievable percentage."

Just what is that apple of Earle's eye? He wouldn't say, but a safe guess is that it is the pass to tight end Frank over the middle. Frank caught three passes on that route against Oregon, making him OSU's fourth all-time leading receiver with 79 receptions.

Speaking of Frank, it looks as if the senior from Mt. Lebanon, Pa. will be playing against Oklahoma even though Sept. 17 is Yom Kippur, the primary Jewish holy day. The Judaic tradition is to perform no work on that day, but Frank pointed to his team commitment when saying he would be eligible for duty against the Sooners.

"I'll be in the synagogue Friday night (in Oklahoma City) for an hour or so, around six o'clock to about eight o'clock," Frank said. "Normally on Yom Kippur, a Jew is supposed to fast for a day. That's another custom I'm going to have to let slide this year."

The holiday is celebrated yearly in September or October, and it has never been a problem for Frank at Ohio State. Well, maybe once, as he pointed out.

"The only time it was really a conflict was my freshman year against Minnesota — and I was on the bench."

The weather was indeed of the scorching variety for the Oregon game, with a record-tying high of 96 degrees recorded shortly after 2:30 p.m. How hot was it for the players? Sources say the temperature (an estimated 120 degrees on the field) was the highest ever for a game in Ohio Stadium.

Few fans other than those in the stadium's 'B' deck found solace. A few who did, however were located in 'C' deck — alongside the south-east tower, where a small spot of shade remained for much of the game.

No major injuries were sustained by OSU players during the Oregon game. Bruce reported that only some nicks and scrapes were suffered and said they should heal by mid-week.

Senior offensive guard Scott Zalenski, who was switched from a starter to a reserve for the game because of a leg injury, should be ready to go full strength soon.

Game Statistics Buckeyes 31, Ducks 6

	ORE	OSU
First Downs	11	23
Rushing	2	10
Passing	9	12
Penalty	0	1
Rushes-Yards	37-82	46-185
Passing Yards	160	284
Passes	26-13-3	27-22-0
Offensive Plays	63	73
Total Net Yards	242	469
Third Down Eff.	3-15	4-11
Punts	7-41.1	5-38.8
Fumbles-Lost	3-2	5-4
Penalties	4-30	8-62
Time Of Possession	27:56	32:04

Individual Statistics

RUSHING (Att.-Net Yds.) — OREGON: Willhite 10-34; Johnson 8-24; Mack 5-5; Jorgensen 4-4; King 4-5; Bland 3-12; Barnes 2-(-6); McCall 1-4. **OHIO STATE**: Broadnax 14-76; Lindsey 12-49; Byars 5-4; Wooldridge 4-13; Tomczak 3-18; Walker 2-11; Bates 2-10; Lanese 2-2; Anderson 2-2.

PASSING (Att.-Comp.-Int.-Yds.-TD) — OREGON: Jorgensen 17-9-2-121-1; Owens 9-4-1-39-0. **OHIO STATE**: Tomczak 25-21-0-273-4; Karsatos 2-1-0-11-0.

RECEIVING (Rec.-Yds.) — OREGON: Hampton 4-73; McCall 4-58; Gaiser 2-7; Barnes 1-10; Herman 1-11; Willhite 1-1. **OHIO STATE**: Jemison 6-79; Anderson 4-99; Frank 3-31; Byars 3-29; Lindsey 3-19; Broadnax 1-4; Wooldridge 1-12; Holland 1-11.

PUNTING (No.-Ave.-Lg.) — OREGON: Hicks 7-41.1-51. **OHIO STATE**: Edwards 5-38.8-44.

PUNT RETURNS (No.-Ave.-Lg.) — OREGON: Barnes 1-(-2.0)-(-2). **OHIO STATE**: Lane 1-3-0.3; Lanese 1-7-0-7. **KICKOFF RETURNS** (No.-Ave.-Lg.) — OREGON: Judge 3-21.7-28. **OHIO STATE**: Frank 1-10.0-10.

DEFENSIVE FUMBLES RECOVERED BY — OREGON: Judge, Ralph, Maley, Devaney. **OHIO STATE**: Nelms, T. Johnson.

INTERCEPTIONS — OREGON: None. **OHIO STATE**: Tatum, D. Hill, T. Johnson.

TACKLES FOR LOSS — OREGON: Ralph, Judge, Devaney, Mikels, Dornig, Culp. **OHIO STATE**: Lowry, Nelms, Backus, Gayle, Lane, B. Lee, D. Lee.

TACKLES (Solo-Ass.-Tot.) — OREGON: Williams 7-11-18; Ralph 3-9-12; Hudetz 1-11-12; Cason 4-6-10; Duffy 1-7-8; Judge 3-5-8; D. Brown 2-5-7; Devaney 3-3-6; Youngblood 2-3-5; Maley 2-3-5; Mikels 1-4-5; Dornig 1-3-4; Byrne 0-4-4; Hulbert 2-2-4; Core 3-1-4; Wilken 0-4-4; Wilchuck 0-2-2; Zemp 1-1-2; Shepard 0-2-2; Culp 1-0-1; Pelum 1-0-1; McCallister 1-0-1; Welch 0-1-1; Rivera 0-1-1; Jorgensen 0-1-1. **OHIO STATE**: Tatum 4-9-13; Lowry 1-6-7; Crecelius 1-6-7; Nelms 4-3-7; Backus 1-5-6; Curtis 1-4-5; Gayle 3-2-5; Lane 2-2-4; Gorley 4-0-4; B. Lee 1-2-3; Morrill 0-3-3; T. Johnson 1-2-3; D. Hill 0-3-3; D. Lee 3-0-3; Palmer 1-1-2; Richardson 0-2-2; Kee 1-1-2; Lanese 0-2-2; S. Hill 0-2-2; Czynynski 1-0-1; Bell 0-1-1; Giuliani 0-1-1; Byars 1-0-1; Pfister 1-0-1; Frank 0-1-1; Hueston 0-1-1; Team 2-0-2.

Players In The Game

OREGON — Dornig, Wilchuck, Byrne, Culp, Ralph, Youngblood, Devaney, Mikels, DeBasschop, Robertson, Hudetz, Core, Zemp, Duffy, Welch, Rivera, Pellum, Judge, Hill, Cason, Hulbert, Johnson, D. Brown, Wilken, Williams, Hicks, Hampton, Hall, Anderson, Jensen, Smetana, Shepard, Vaccher, Zinke, Warner, Zimmerman, B. Smith, Schwab, Stringer, Gaiser, Christensen, Herman, Jorgensen, Owens, McCall, King, Willhite, Bland, Johnson, Mack, Barnes, Thomas, Schwabe.

OHIO STATE — Frank, Groza, Taggart, Hutchison, Roberts, Rory Graves, Lowdermilk, Maggs, Hulshult, Dooley, Odom, Gilmore, Whitmer, Lachey, Zalenski, Krowicz, Carson, Jemison, Smith, Tomczak, Offenbecher, Karsatos, Lindsey, Byars, Bates, Lanese, Wooldridge, Broadnax, Blair, Walker, Anderson, Holland, Herring, Spangler, Lowry, B. Lee, Crecelius, Giuliani, Sullivan, Nelms, D. Lee, Morrill, Brown, Curtis, Czynynski, Hueston, Backus, Johnson, Pfister, Tatum, Kee, Lane, Palmer, Gordon, Gayle, Richardson, D. Hill, S. Hill, Cargile, Gorley, Bell, Edwards.



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Tomczak Falls Short Of Percentage Mark

Buckeye quarterback Mike Tomczak was on the verge of several school records with his 21-of-25 passing performance against Oregon.

Tomczak's .840 completion percentage was just short of the .857 John Borton recorded against Washington State in 1952. The four touchdown passes Tomczak had was one short of Borton's OSU-record five in the same Washington State game.

Tomczak's 10 straight completions to end the game left him one short of the team record of 11 straight in one game posted by Art Schlichter in 1980 against Illinois. Tomczak can break the consecutive mark over two games if he completes his first three against Oklahoma. Bill Mrukowski completed 12 in a row over two games in 1961.

The last Buckeye quarterback to throw four TD passes in one game was Schlichter in the 49-42 thriller over Illinois in 1980.

The 90-degree heat for the opener reportedly climbed to 120 degrees on the artificial carpet in Ohio Stadium.

OSU athletic director Hugh Hindman said preparations had been made for any heat-related injuries to players.

"We've got 4,000 pounds of ice for each team," said Hindman. "And we've got an IV room set up in case anything happens to any of the kids."

Ohio State's defense, held the Ducks to just 99 net yards on the ground.

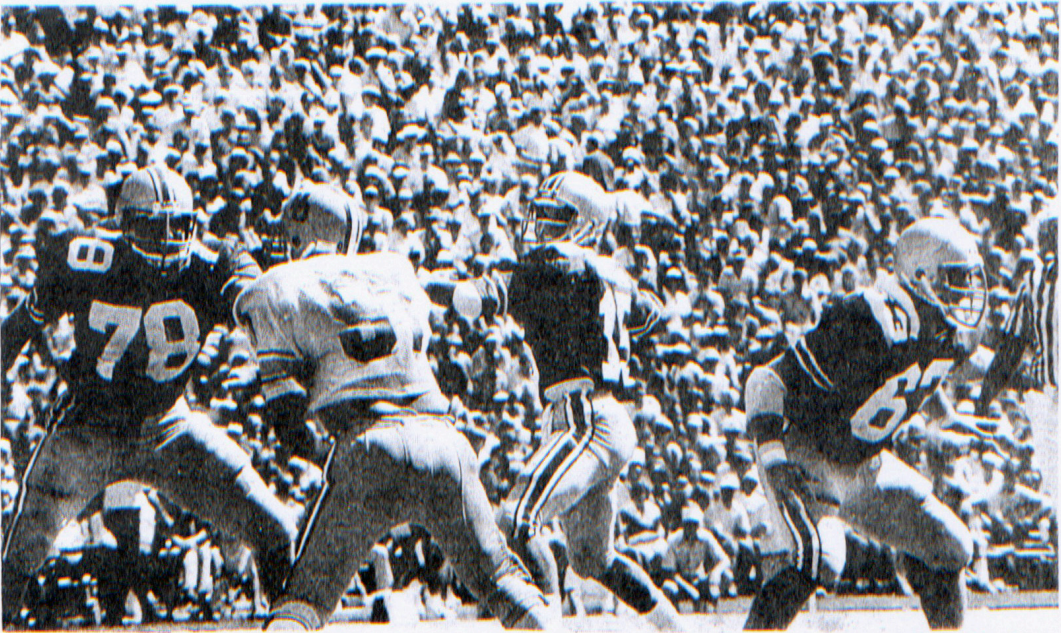
Kevin Willhite, rated by several sources as the top high school running back in the country in 1981, before being injured and eventually red-shirted his freshman year last season, was the leading Oregon rusher with 34 yards in 10 carries. When you consider he got 18 of those on one carry late in the third quarter, the Buckeyes did an effective job of bottling him up.

Vaughn Broadnax led Buckeye ball carriers with 76 yards in 14 carries. His longest was a 14-yard burst on the fourth play of the game. Kelvin Lindsey, a fifth-year player out of Sandusky, Ohio, netted 49 in 12 trips, the longest being an 18-yarder in the game-opening drive to a touchdown.

The Buckeyes employed five different tailbacks. Sophomore Keith Byars collected seven yards in five carries. John Wooldridge got 16 in four with a gain of 18 yards in the fourth quarter being called back by a penalty. Roman Bates netted 10 yards in two carries, while Mike Lanese had six yards in two tries.

Jim Karsatos, still a freshman although in his third year since being recruited, directed the OSU offense on its final possession of the game. Karsatos, from Fullerton, Calif., completed one of two passes for an 11-yard gain. His

Continued On Page 12



Ohio State quarterback Mike Tomczak loads up to fire one of his 21 completions in the Buckeyes' 31-6 opening win over Oregon. Providing protection for the Calumet City, Ill. junior are Joe Dooley (78) and Kirk Lowdermilk (63).

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Karsatos Mopped Up; Jemison Led Catchers

Continued From Page 11
completion went to Jay Holland, a former Columbus Mifflin star who was converted to wide receiver this season after playing defensive back his first two years.

Senior split end Thad Jemison led Buckeye pass catchers with six receptions for 79 yards. Cedric Anderson hauled in four Mike Tomczak arials for 99 yards and two touchdowns.

Buckeye coach Earle Bruce was not pleased with the punting efforts of Groveport, Ohio senior Karl Edwards. Edwards booted five punts for a 38.8 average.

Buckeye defenders picked off three passes and recovered two fumbles in the game. Linebackers Rowland Tatum and Thomas Johnson had one interception each, and defensive back Doug Hill had the other. Johnson and Spencer Nelms were credited with fumble recoveries.

Tatum led OSU tacklers in the game with four solos and nine assists. Orlando Lowry, Dave Crecelius and Nelms had seven each. The Buckeyes stopped Oregon ball carriers seven times for losses totaling 17 yards. Lowry, Nelms, Clark Backus, Shaun Gayle, Byron Lee, Darryl Lee and Garcia Lane each had one tackle for a loss.

Eight freshmen saw action in the game. Tight end Ed Taggart, defensive tackle Henry Brown, middle guard Darryl Lee, linebacker Mike Kee and cornerback Sonny Gordon participated on the line of scrimmage. Dewitt Herring and Jeff Cargile played on the special teams.

There certainly is no placelike home for Ohio State football teams.

The triumph over Oregon upped Ohio State's season-opening record to 80-10-4, including a 79-6-4 mark at home. The Buckeyes have now won 15 of 16 openers since 1967. Since taking over the coaching reins at OSU, Earle Bruce is 5-0 in opening-day wins.

Ohio State opened at home for the eighth straight year.

Ohio State leads the series over Oregon 6-0. The teams last met in 1968, Ohio State winning 21-6. Other meetings between the teams came in 1967 (30-0); 1962 (26-7); 1961 (22-12) and the Jan. 1, 1958 Rose Bowl (10-7). All the games, with the exception of the Rose Bowl contest, have been played in Columbus.

Earle Bruce is now 39-10 at Ohio State. That is the best mark among Big Ten coaches over that four year and one game span. Bruce has an overall 85-44-0 mark as a college coach and is now 4-3 against Pac-10 teams.

Oregon is scheduled to return to Columbus to help the Buckeyes kick off the 1987 season.

The Ohio State Alumni band was on hand for the opener, helping form four script Ohios at halftime.

Over 60 alumni cheerleaders also showed up, dating back as far as 1947.

A peaky raccoon had fans in B deck in an uproar at halftime. Seems he was snarling at the fans as they tried to watch the band show. Animal control officials were summoned but there was no report as to what transpired.

Looking ahead.
With sophomore running sensation Marcus Dupree having a rough day, freshman tailback Earl Johnson ran for two touchdowns to lead Oklahoma to a 27-14, season-opening victory over Stanford Sept. 10.

Dupree rushed for 138 yards, with one breakaway dash of 40 yards. But he got only 31 net yards in the first half, when he was thrown for 17 yards in losses and fumbled once to set up a Stanford touchdown.

Johnson ran 16 yards early in the second period for the game's first touchdown. In the third period, he darted 33 yards to give Oklahoma a 25-7 lead, and he finished his first college game with 96 yards.

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OHIO STATE OFFENSE		OHIO STATE DEFENSE	
TE	89 John Frank, 6-3, 226, Sr.	OLB	37 Orlando Lowry, 6-3, 222, Sr.
	85 Judd Groza, 6-2, 227, Sr.		82 Byron Lee, 6-3, 223, So.
LT	70 Bill Roberts, 6-5, 278, Sr.	LT	97 Dave Crecelius, 6-5, 252, Jr.
	75 Rory Graves, 6-6, 274, Jr.		59 Tony Giuliani, 6-0, 244, Sr.
LG	63 Kirk Lowdermilk, 6-3, 256, Jr.	MG	54 Spencer Nelms, 6-3, 242, Jr.
	64 Jim Lachey, 6-6, 264, Jr.		95 Darryl Lee, 6-3, 262, So.
C	78 Joe Dooley, 6-6, 268, Sr.	RT	57 Dave Morrill, 6-3, 262, Jr.
	50 Tim Odom, 6-3, 240, So.		94 Henry Brown, 6-4, 250, Fr.
RG	74 Scott Zalenski, 6-5, 256, Jr.	OLB	11 Curt Curtis, 6-2, 210, Sr.
	56 Jim Gilmore, 6-5, 250, Jr.		66 Rich Czyzynski, 6-2, 218, Sr.
RT	73 Mark Krowicz, 6-4, 278, Jr.	LB	17 Clark Backus, 6-0, 210, Sr.
	77 Jim Carson, 6-5, 272, Sr.		98 Thomas Johnson, 6-3, 228, So.
SE	88 Thad Jemison, 6-2, 195, Sr.	LB	32 Rowland Tatum, 6-1, 226, Sr.
	49 Doug Smith, 6-1, 190, Jr.		33 Larry Kolic, 6-1, 235, Jr.
QB	15 Mike Tomczak, 6-1, 190, Jr.	CB	12 Garcia Lane, 5-10, 178, Sr.
	7 Brent Offenbecher, 6-1, 199, Sr.		3 James Palmer, 5-11, 182, Jr.
TB	20 Kelvin Lindsey, 6-0, 190, Sr.	RC	2 Shaun Gayle, 5-11, 195, Sr.
	41 Keith Byars, 6-2, 226, So.		21 Kevin Richardson, 6-0, 188, Jr.
FB	38 Vaughn Broadnax, 6-2, 252, Sr.	ROV	27 Doug Hill, 6-1, 192, Sr.
	43 Barry Walker, 6-0, 214, So.		19 Steve Hill, 6-1, 190, So.
FL	22 Cedric Anderson, 5-10, 170, Sr.	S	23 Rod Gorley, 6-0, 194, Sr.
	34 Jay Holland, 5-11, 174, Jr.		4 Kelvin Bell, 6-2, 190, Jr.