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"For The Buckeye Fan Who Needs To Know More"

November 14, 1998

Sacked And Shocked

OSU's National Title Aspirations Snuffed By MSU

By STEVE HELWAGEN
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

The sentiment and the statement were familiar, and the meaning was not lost.

"We shocked the world!" Michigan State tailback Sedrick Irvin exclaimed as his teammates tore up pieces of sod from Ohio Stadium's south end zone moments after the Spartans did the unthinkable, upsetting heavily favored and No. 1-ranked Ohio State 28-24.

On a day when Ohio Sen. John Glenn returned to earth after nine days aboard the space shuttle and news trickled out that House Speaker Newt Gingrich announced his resignation, the upstart Spartans — and certainly, less willingly, the Buckeyes — found themselves as legitimate front-page news.

The defeat all but kills any hopes that Ohio State, the front-runner in both major college football polls since the preseason, will earn its first national championship in 30 years.

The reality of the situation was hard for the Buckeyes to accept moments after a golden scoring chance was denied: The Buckeyes failed to score on four pass plays after earning a first down at the Spartans' 15-yard line with 1:29 left.

"Every day since last summer, every time we've broken it down, we say, 'National champs,'" OSU flanker Dee Miller said. "Today all we could say was 'Hard work.'"

"That hurt a lot. We've put in so much hard work and we've worked hard year in and year out. There was just a missing element today that we didn't have, and we took an 'L.'"

Tough November defeats of this magnitude have become the rule rather than the exception for the Buckeyes in recent years. Four times in five years it has been a team from the state up north, namely archrival Michigan, that has done the honors.

Losses to UM since 1993 have cost highly ranked Ohio State teams two Big Ten championships, three Rose Bowl bids and three shots at a national championship.

But this time it was the Spartans' — Michigan's other Big Ten entry — turn to register the knockout blow. OSU



JEFF BREHM

KNOCKED BACK TO EARTH — The ball isn't the only thing going thud as Cedric Henry bats a ball intended for OSU's Dee Miller to the ground. Ohio State's loss to Michigan State shocked the college football world and left the Buckeyes again wondering what might have been.

coach John Cooper was left to try to pick up the pieces.

"I just got through telling our football team we'll find out what we're made of now," Cooper said. "We'll try to regroup this week, go to Iowa and try to win that game."

"Then we'll come back here and play Michigan, and obviously Michigan will be the best football team we'll play this year."

Ohio State committed five turnovers in the loss, paving the way for MSU's upset. Quarterback Joe Germaine, a

Buckeye hero coming off an unprecedented four straight 300-yard passing games, found himself as the unlikely goat after his two fumbles led to key MSU field goals and his interception with 1:12 left sapped OSU's last gasp.

"We're very disappointed, and we have a reason to be," said Germaine, who was sacked a season-high five times. "We felt we had a great team this year, and I still feel that we do."

"But right now we can do one of two things. We can learn from this, go on and finish the season strong, or tuck

our tail, put everything in the bag and do that."

"We're going to find out what we're made of."

The Buckeyes (8-1, 5-1 Big Ten) fell from first to seventh in both the ESPN/USA Today coaches poll and The Associated Press media poll. More important, the Buckeyes were expected to tumble at least that far when the Bowl Championship Series rankings —

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Buckeyes Can Only Regroup At This Point

Continued From Page 1

the formula used to pick the top two teams for the Fiesta Bowl — were released at midday Nov. 9.

"I don't know if we have a chance to win the national championship," Cooper said. "I mean a lot of things have to happen for us to get back in the Fiesta Bowl picture. There's no question about that. Tennessee's got to lose, Kansas State's got to lose, UCLA's got to lose.

"I don't know how far we'll drop this week."

Anatomy Of A Defeat

A sellout crowd of 93,595 watched and gasped as the Buckeyes essentially self-destructed before their eyes.

Ohio State twice held two-touchdown leads, at 17-3 in the first quarter and at 24-9 after safety Damon Moore returned an interception 73 yards for a touchdown in the third.

But besides Germaine's three turnovers, OSU cornerback Nate Clements was struck with an MSU punt while trying to block for return man David Boston. The Spartans recovered the loose ball and drove for a touchdown. Then, moments later, tailback Michael Wiley fumbled. That set up a 49-yard Paul Edinger field goal, one of his five on the day, which allowed Michigan State to keep the pressure on.

"When we started making some plays in the second quarter, the players started thinking they could win," said MSU coach Nick Saban, whose team was a 28-point underdog. "We pretty much dominated play after that except for the interception they returned for a touchdown."

Aside from his team's miscues,



JEFF BREHM

DEFLATING DEFEAT — OSU safety Gary Berry (1) leaves the Ohio Stadium field as Michigan State players and cheerleaders celebrate in the background. The Spartans ended OSU's run as the nation's top team, downing the Buckeyes 28-24.

Cooper noted how Michigan State had enough talent — namely quarterback Bill Burke, who victimized OSU's stellar pass defense for 323 yards — to pull off the upset.

"This week I thought Michigan State was a good football team," he said. "I thought we'd have to take their best shot, and I think we took their best shot today. It was good enough for them to win the game. I don't have any clue how far we'll drop."

Although Ohio State was judged as the nation's best team coming in, the players admitted that doubts had crept into their minds.

"As a player, it's always in the back of your mind," said tailback Joe Montgomery. "But you never think about it."

"But we were the No. 1 team in the country. You can't sit here and get nervous about it. Play the football game."

"We've played great up until this ball game. I still think we played a decent ball game, but in the end I think they wanted it a little bit more than we did."

Dealing With The Pain

After so many close calls over the past five seasons, this was supposed to be the year Cooper and the Buckeyes finally ascended to the top spot and stayed there for the duration.

But this 60-minute dose of reality will likely leave OSU on the outside looking in. The Buckeyes even need help — either Michigan or Penn State must knock off unbeaten Wisconsin — to get a piece of a Big Ten title.

"All losses hurt, but I think this one especially hurt us," Germaine said. "It was quiet after the game, and it should be. We had great feelings and aspirations for this team."

Offensive tackle Tyson Walter summed up the disaster.

"It's a shock, and it hurts more than any fan will ever know," he said. "It happens. It's part of the game. It's what makes winning so enjoyable."

For OSU's 15 seniors, it was hard to mask the disappointment.

"We all dream of winning the national championship," said tight end John Lumpkin, who hauled in a 41-yard touchdown pass. "All dreams don't come true. Hopefully the young guys will learn something from this."

"I'm a senior and this was my last shot at it. If anyone should be real sad, it should be me. This is three times since I've been here that we've been in position to win it all and then we lose a game. One

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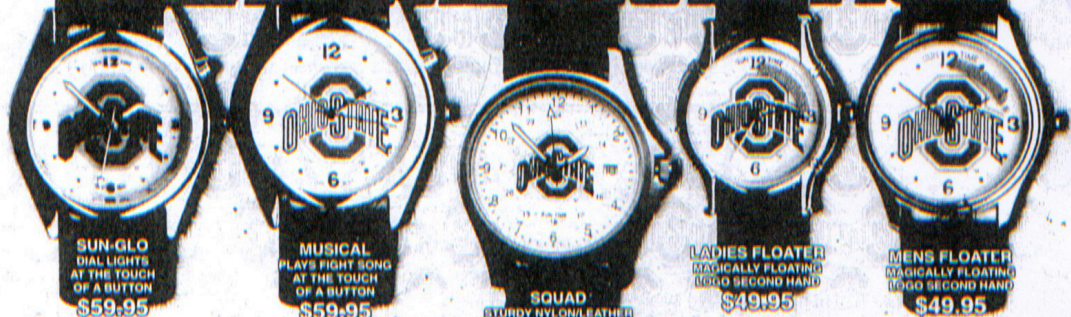
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COVER STORY: SACKED AND SHOCKED

day Ohio State is going to pull through."

Added classmate Dee Miller, "This one hurts the most. We had everything lined up. We didn't play well today. We were outcoached and outplayed. They wanted it more than we did today."

Another senior related the defeat to the loss of his scholarship due to Prop 48 rules several years ago.

"It's like I say, when somebody takes \$17,000 out of your bank account," Montgomery said, "you find out who that person was and you get PO'd about it."

Back To The Future

To a man, the Buckeyes say they must regroup from this calamity and focus on winning their final two games, Nov. 14 at Iowa and at home with Michigan on Nov. 21.

"We have to come back from this," Miller said. "We have a lot of seniors here. We have two more games left to play. We still have a Big Ten championship to play for. Hopefully something will happen to Wisconsin down the road and everything will be all right."

"Realistically, we are probably out of the national title scene. You want to leave a little bit of hope. But realistically, that's probably out of the picture."

"There are two ways we can go," Germaine added. "We'll see which way we go."

This is no time for the Buckeyes to back away from the challenge, Montgomery said.

"We're going to have to play aggressive and play physical," he said. "We need to play with a big-time attitude."

"There is a lot to still accomplish. What are we going to do, kick ourselves in the butt and go home and cry about it? We have two ball games left. We have to make the most of it."

"This will test the character of our football team. We'll see what happens Saturday."

Cooper was asked whether this

loss added more pressure to defeat Michigan, a school his OSU teams have beaten just once in 10 tries.

"Well, it's always important, obviously, and it makes it even more important now, I imagine, because if we don't beat Michigan, we've ruined what could be a great season," Cooper said.

"It could have been a fabulous season. We had a chance, as you know, to play for the national championship, and we probably now don't have that opportunity. But we can play for the Big Ten championship. We can play for a great year."

"But we've got to play better than we played today."

Now trailing several teams in the polls, OSU's Fiesta Bowl hopes seem severely limited. The Buckeyes would need several of the nation's top unbeaten teams, namely Kansas State, Tennessee and UCLA, to fall.

But the winner of the Nov. 21 Florida-Florida State game — a battle of two once-beaten teams — seems primed to capitalize first if that would happen.

If Ohio State can win out and somebody knocks off Wisconsin, the Buckeyes would likely be ticketed for the Rose Bowl as a Big Ten co-champ. But if the Badgers survive their next two games unscathed, OSU could be looking for an at-large bid to the Orange Bowl or Sugar Bowl.

At this point it appears a loss to Michigan could drop the Buckeyes from consideration for any of the four BCS bowls and leave them in Orlando for the Citrus Bowl.

"We can play for the championship, we can play for maybe the Rose Bowl or whatever comes if we win this league," Cooper said.

"I'm not exactly sure of what all can happen, but all we can do now, guys, is try to regroup and beat Iowa next week and then come back here and do something we haven't done in quite a while — that's beat Michigan."

Charting OSU's Biggest Upsets

Michigan State's 28-24 win over the then No. 1-ranked Ohio State Buckeyes Nov. 7 will go down among the biggest upset defeats in OSU history.

Ohio State was a 28-point favorite to dismantle the unranked Spartans. That may be the largest margin OSU has ever been favored by yet failed to at least win the game.

OSU football historian Jack Park detailed several other memorable upsets:

• **Michigan 24, Ohio State 12: Nov. 22, 1969, at Ann Arbor, Mich.** — The top-ranked Buckeyes were a 17-point favorite against No. 12 Michigan.

"I always felt that was the most agonizing and most difficult loss in Ohio State history," Park said. "That was Bo Schembechler's first year and that game broke Ohio State's record 22-game winning streak."

"It denied the Super Sophs their second consecutive national championship. Bo had his team mentally prepared to win that game."

Without a bowl to play in, OSU ended up 8-1 and ranked fourth nationally.

• **UCLA 23, Ohio State 10: Jan. 1, 1976, at Pasadena, Calif. (The Rose Bowl)** — The No. 1-ranked Buckeyes were favored by 20 points over the 11th-ranked Bruins, Park said.

"That was Archie Griffin's senior year," Park said. "Ohio State had beaten UCLA 41-20 earlier in the year and was all set to win the national title."

OSU finished 11-1 and ranked fourth.

• **Michigan 13, Ohio State 9: Nov. 23, 1996, in Columbus** — The No. 2-ranked Buckeyes were favored by 17 points prior to this loss to No. 21 Michigan.

"That was a game Ohio State lost in the first half when it settled for three field goals and a 9-0 halftime lead," Park said.

Michigan receiver Tai Streets capitalized on a slip

by OSU corner Shawn Springs to score on a 69-yard touchdown.

"Michigan had taken away OSU's bid for the Rose Bowl and a national championship with a (31-23) win there the year before," Park said.

"Ohio State had already sewn up the Rose Bowl before the Michigan game in '96, but I think to most fans that wasn't as important as finally beating Michigan. And this was a Michigan team that had lost four times, including one to Purdue."

The Buckeyes rebounded with their Rose Bowl win over Arizona State to finish 11-1 and ranked second.

• **Illinois 9, Ohio State 7: Nov. 22, 1919, in Columbus** — This season-ending upset cost OSU a third straight Western Conference title.

"This was Chic Harley's last game at Ohio State, and he was the guy who most feel first put Ohio State football on the map," Park said. "He had come in and won everything for three years except this last game."

"Ohio State was ahead 7-6, but Illinois kicked a field goal with eight seconds left to win the game at old Ohio Field."

• **Others Of Note** — Park also cited the 1977 Oklahoma game, won by the visiting Sooners 29-28 on Uwe von Schamann's 41-yard field goal with three seconds left, as well as Michigan State's 16-13 win in 1974 in East Lansing.

In that game, the top-ranked Buckeyes appeared to win the game on a Champ Henson touchdown run as time expired. But after a 25-minute debate — including a discussion with Big Ten commissioner Wayne Duke — the officials penalized OSU for illegal procedure and negated the touchdown.

— Steve Helwagen

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AP/WIDEWORLD

OHIO STATE VS. MICHIGAN STATE

Upset In The 'Shoe

Heavy Underdog MSU Devastates Top-Ranked OSU

By STEVE HELWAGEN
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

Michigan State, despite a handful of enigmatic performances this season, came into Ohio Stadium Nov. 7 as a dangerous, talented team.

"We came in here with the attitude that we were the squirts in the neighborhood who had to go up and pick a fight with the bully — not that we wanted to pick one," said Michigan State coach Nick Saban.

"It was on the schedule, so we had to do it."

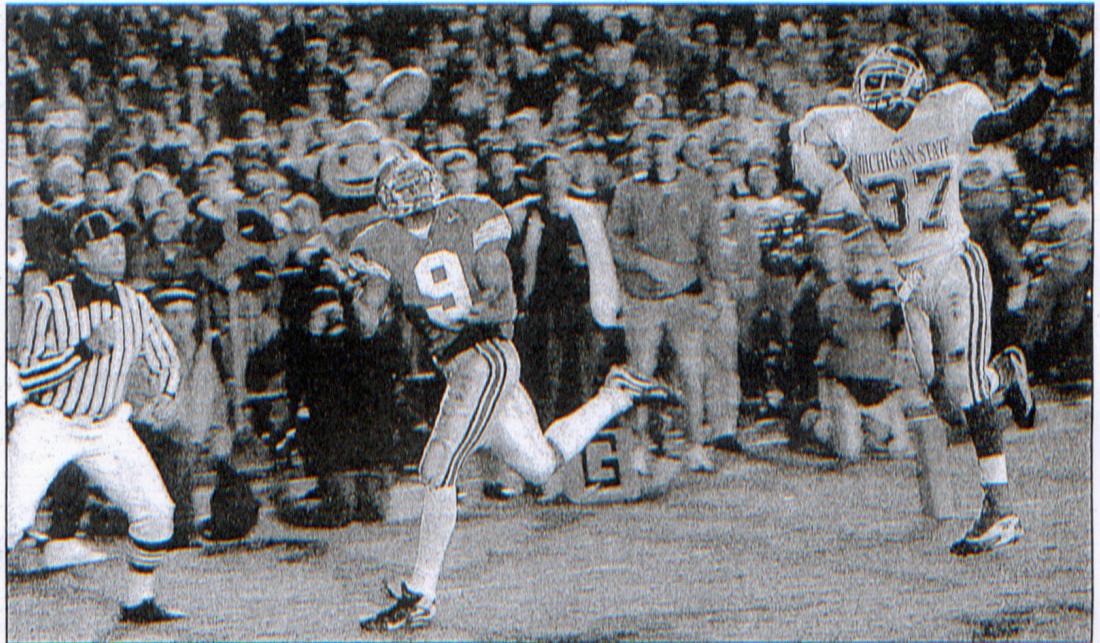
Saban's Spartans did it, all right.

Michigan State, a four-touchdown underdog, registered one of the all-time upsets in the history of the Horseshoe as it toppled top-ranked Ohio State 28-24 before 93,595 stunned fans.

"They outcoached us, they outplayed us, their defense was better than ours, their offense was better than ours, their kicking game was better than ours and, of course, they came away with the victory," OSU coach John Cooper said in assessing the loss that likely will kill any national championship hopes for his Buckeyes (8-1, 5-1 Big Ten).

MSU (5-4, 3-2) twice trailed by margins of two touchdowns. But the Spartans rallied and more than held their own on both sides of the ball. MSU scored the upset by capitalizing on four key OSU fumbles and stopping an OSU scoring threat at the 15-yard line with a little over a minute to play to score the win.

"It was obviously a great win for Michigan State University," Saban said. "I'm very proud of the way our players competed



JEFF BREHM

WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN — OSU split end David Boston (9) tries to collect a Joe Germaine pass in the end zone after Michigan State's Cedric Henry deflected it. The ball fell incomplete on this first down play with 1:29 left. Three plays later, MSU had turned OSU away and preserved a 28-24 win.

today.

"Ohio State's got a great football team. Our players competed. We got behind in the game, and I think it showed a lot of character and maturity on their part to play their way back into the game after the first quarter. They played at the end of the game to win it."

All season, quarterback Joe Germaine has been one of the key cogs in the OSU machine. But his string of 300-yard passing

performances was stopped at four. His two fumbles led to important MSU field goals, and his interception to Spartans cornerback Renaldo Hill with 1:12 left killed OSU's comeback bid.

"We had some opportunities," said Germaine, who finished 16-of-34 passing for 239 yards. "We came very close. But we didn't take advantage of our opportunities and, in a game like this, that will beat you."

The Spartans pressured Germaine throughout the day, sacking him five times and hitting him on a number of other occasions. When he did have time, MSU's secondary was equal to the task.

"They had a great scheme," he said. "They challenged us with some bump-and-run coverage and they blitzed us. Overall, they outplayed us."

Cooper said, "Sometimes we didn't make the right adjustments, sometimes we didn't throw the right pass. You know, give them credit."

On the other side of the ball, Saban's devil-may-care attitude was more than apparent. While the Buckeyes limited MSU standout tailback Sedrick Irvin to 52 yards on 26 carries, largely untested quarterback Bill Burke made plays when he needed to.

Burke completed just 18 of 46 passes, but those passes went for 323 yards and a touchdown.

"We threw a bunch of passes and they defended a bunch of them, but we made a few plays," Saban said. "We made enough to win."

The Spartans averaged nearly 18 yards per catch, hitting eight plays for 20 or more yards against one of the nation's stingiest defenses. Burke did most of his damage with lanky receivers Plaxico Burress (four catches, 125 yards) and Gari Scott (six for 88).

"They made some big plays," said OSU cornerback Ahmed Plummer, who had a busy night covering the large MSU

receivers. "I give them credit for it. We found ourselves in some positions we didn't want to be in. They took advantage of it."

As The Ball Bounces

Ohio State held comfortable leads of 17-3 after one quarter and 24-9 early in the third.

But things began to unravel when an MSU punt hit OSU's Nate Clements while he was trying to block for punt returner David Boston. After a mad scramble, MSU's Scott Ehrnsberger recovered the loose ball at the Spartans' 49.

With new life, the Spartans moved 51 yards in five plays to their first touchdown. Burke hit Scott for a 28-yard gain before hooking up with Lavaile Richardson on the 23-yard TD pass over Plummer. Paul Edinger's PAT kick was wide, but the Spartans had cut the lead to 24-15 with 6:02 left in the third quarter.

Ohio State then held the ball for just two plays before tailback Michael Wiley, who finished with 100 yards on 22 carries, was hit by MSU's T.J. Turner. Pete Govens recovered Wiley's fumble for the Spartans, who were in business at the OSU 34.

Although MSU failed to pick up a first down, Edinger's 49-yard field goal, which barely cleared the crossbar, trimmed OSU's lead to 24-18 with 4:55 left in the third.

As the third quarter wore into the fourth, the Spartans earned their next touchdown. MSU put together the longest scoring drive against the Buckeyes of the season, going 92 yards in eight plays. Burke was the main culprit again, going to Scott for a 12-yard gain, Burress for 37 yards, and tight end Chris Baker for 23 more down to the OSU 12.

Three plays later Irvin went over left tackle, taking OSU linemen Joe Brown and Mike Collins with him, on a 3-yard touchdown run that gave MSU its first lead at 25-24 with 14:20 left.

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Just over three minutes later, things went from bad to worse for Ohio State. On third-and-3 at the MSU 47, Germaine was hit by Spartan end Julian Peterson and fumbled. MSU's Josh Shaw picked up the loose ball and returned it 22 yards to the OSU 18.

"I was trying to do too much on that play," Germaine said. "That's the play that really shot us in the foot. That gave them the momentum. It's my fault. Next time I just have to throw it out of bounds. All I can do is just learn from it and go from there."

Again, MSU failed to pick up a first down. But Edinger's 42-yard field goal attempt was true and the Spartans now had a 28-24 cushion with 9:26 left.

"Julian stripping that ball from Joe was the difference in the game because that gave us the field goal that gave us a four-point lead and made them have to score a touchdown to beat us," Saban said.

Ironically, Peterson was playing in place of starter Robaire Smith, who suffered a broken fibula in the first half. He ended up with two sacks and three tackles-for-loss.

"Peterson made some great plays today," Saban said. "He had to play almost the entire game when Robaire got hurt."

Ohio State had two possessions after that point but could not put the ball in the end zone to reclaim the lead.

On the first one, OSU kept the ball exclusively on the ground, mixing Wiley and backup Joe Montgomery. The strategy worked to a point as OSU picked up 55 yards in 12 plays. But on fourth-and-1 at the MSU 26, Montgomery slammed into the middle of the line and Turner, Courtney Ledyard and Sorie Kanu turned him back for no gain.

"When I saw the free safety (Kanu) come

up, I knew it was going to be hard," Montgomery said of the play that gave MSU possession with 3:33 left. "Mike (Wiley) said nobody came off on the Mike (middle) linebacker. I'm already six yards deep, so it's going to be kind of hard."

MSU picked up a first down on the ensuing possession, but the Buckeyes eventually forced a punt with 1:39 left. Boston returned the kick 26 yards and the Buckeyes were in business at their own 49-yard line.

Ohio Stadium was rocking as visions of Germaine's Rose Bowl heroics from two years prior danced in the heads of the OSU faithful. He drilled passes of 16 yards to Boston and 20 more to John Lumpkin, giving the Buckeyes a first down at the OSU 15.

Although Ohio State had exhausted all of its timeouts on defense, Saban stopped the clock himself to regroup with 1:29 left.

"When we were playing zone, they went through us like Grant took Richmond," Saban said. "When they got it to the 15, we knew we had to stiffen up and put the pressure on them. Our corners came through with flying colors."

Germaine tried to pick on MSU's Cedric Henry first, going to Boston in the end zone on first down. Henry batted that pass away. On second down, Germaine threw behind Boston incomplete.

Now it was Hill's turn. He batted down a crossing pass to Dee Miller at the goal line. Finally, on fourth down he stepped in front of Miller and intercepted Germaine's floater at the MSU 2 to end the OSU threat.

"I had to throw it earlier than I wanted to, so I had to put some air under it and let him try and run under it," Germaine said. "He made a good play on it. That's just how the game goes."

Miller added, "It was a post corner route. He had been getting some pressure all day and the timing wasn't there today. That showed on that last play."

"The ball was underthrown. That was basically it."

Nobody was happier than Saban to see his corners stand up to the test against OSU's vaunted passing attack.

"They went at the two corners four times in a row," Saban said. "We full blitzed on every one of those plays. We played bump-and-run. Cedric knocked down two and Renaldo had the next two. Those two guys did a great job to save the game at the end."

MSU took over at its own 2 and needed to simply run two plays to kill the remaining 1:12.

Fast Start For Naught

The Buckeyes felt that if they could get MSU down, the Spartans would fold. After all, that's what happened in MSU's previous losses to Oregon and Michigan.

But despite grabbing a 17-3 lead, the Spartans never gave in.

"When you're backed into a foxhole and nobody expects you to win, you can play loose and make some plays," Burke said.

OSU opened the scoring on Dan Stultz's 20-yard field goal with 12:26 left in the first quarter. That play was set up by Germaine's 35-yard sideline pass to Wiley.

MSU answered with Edinger booting a 33-yard field goal to make it 3-3 with 8:12 left in the first.

Ohio State then jumped ahead 10-3 as Germaine hit a wide-open Lumpkin down the middle of the field on a 41-yard TD with 6:25 left in the first.

The Buckeyes capitalized on an MSU turnover when cornerback Antoine Winfield

blitzed Burke, forced a fumble and recovered it at the MSU 12-yard line. Four plays later, Wiley vaulted over the top for the score from one yard out, making it 17-3 with 39 seconds left in the first.

Edinger's 43-yard field goal with 13:31 to play in the half and 22-yard field goal with 11:22 left led to a 17-9 OSU advantage at halftime.

The Buckeyes extended their lead to 24-9 after safety Damon Moore intercepted a Burke pass and returned it 73 yards for a touchdown with 9:51 left in the third.

Game Notes

- The loss snapped OSU's 11-game home winning streak dating to the 1996 Michigan game.

- MSU improved to 3-12-1 in games against the nation's No. 1-ranked team. One of the other wins came against the Buckeyes, a 16-13 decision in East Lansing that dropped OSU from No. 1 to No. 4 in November 1974.

- The Spartans' other win over a No. 1-ranked team was also notable. Prior to this game, MSU was the last unranked team to defeat a No. 1, disposing of Michigan in 1990.

- OSU's record as the No. 1-ranked team dropped to 51-8-1 (.858). The loss ended OSU's nine-week stint as the No. 1 team — the second-longest tenure in the top spot in OSU history.

- OSU faced a fourth-and-39 predicament late in the first half. The Buckeyes dug that hole as a Germaine screen pass to fullback Matt Keller lost eight yards. OSU was then penalized five yards for having an ineligible receiver downfield. After a second-down incompleteness, Germaine was sacked for a 16-yard loss.

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OHIO STATE	17	0	7	0	- 24

First Quarter

OSU — Stultz, 20 field goal 12:26; 8 plays, 72 yards, 2:34
 MSU — Edinger, 33 field goal 8:12; 11 plays, 60 yards, 4:14
 OSU — Lumpkin, 41 pass from Germaine (Stultz kick) 6:25; 5 plays, 80 yards, 1:47

OSU — Wiley, 1 run (Stultz kick) 0:39; 4 plays, 12 yards, 1:36

Second Quarter

MSU — Edinger, 43 field goal 13:31; 7 plays, 33 yards, 2:08
 MSU — Edinger, 22 field goal 11:02; 7 plays, 23 yards, 1:37

Third Quarter

OSU — Moore, 73 interception return (Stultz kick) 9:51
 MSU — Richardson, 23 pass from Burke (kick failed) 6:02; 5 plays, 51 yards, 3:38

MSU — Edinger, 49 field goal 4:55; 4 plays, 2 yards, 0:50

Fourth Quarter

MSU — Irvin, 3 run (Edinger kick) 14:20; 8 plays, 92 yards, 2:53

MSU — Edinger, 42 field goal 9:26; 4 plays, 7 yards, 2:40

Att. — 93,595

Weather — Clear, 48 degrees. Wind 5-10 mph from W

Team Statistics

	MSU	OSU
First Downs	16	21
Rushing	21	11
Passing	13	10
Penalty	1	0
Rushes-Yards	34-48	47-114
Passing Yards	329	245
Passes (Att.-Comp.-Int.)	47-19-1	33-15-1
Offensive Plays	81	81
Total Net Yards	377	353
Third Down Efficiency	6-20	2-15
Fourth Down Efficiency	0-2	2-4
Punts	6-38.0	7-38.6
Fumbles-Lost	1-1	4-4
Penalties	2-14	5-64
Time of Possession	30:38	29:22

Individual Statistics

RUSHING (Att.-Net Yds.) — MSU: Irvin 26-52; Clemons 2-3; Burke 6-(-7). OSU: Wiley 22-100; Montgomery 11-41; Keller 4-7; Boston 2-1; Germaine 9-(-41).

PASSING (Att.-Comp.-Int.-Yds.-TD) — MSU: Burke 46-18-1-323-1; Irvin 1-1-0-6-0. OSU: Germaine 33-15-1-245-1.

RECEIVING (Rec.-Yds.) — MSU: Scott 6-88; Burreas 4-125; Baker 4-59; Richardson 1-23; Haygood 1-18; Irvin 1-8; Burke 1-6; Clemons 1-2. OSU: Miller 5-74; Boston 4-49; Lumpkin 2-61; Wiley 2-43; Keller 2-18.

PUNTING (No.-Avg.-Yds.) — MSU: Jarrett 5-39.8-50; Team 1-29.0-29. OSU: Bartholomew 7-38.6-47. PUNT RETURNS (No.-Yds.) — MSU: Scott 3-38. OSU: Boston 4-51.

KICKOFF RETURNS (No.-Yds.) — MSU: Haygood 3-62. OSU: Rambo 5-97; Keller 1-11.

FUMBLE RECOVERIES — MSU: Shaw 2, Ernsberger, Govens. OSU: Winfield.

INTERCEPTIONS (No.-Yds.) — MSU: Hill 1-2. OSU: Moore 1-73.

SACKS — MSU: Peterson 3-29; Ledyard 1-16; Turner 1-8. OSU: Rudzinski 1-7.

TACKLES FOR LOSS (No.-Yds.) — MSU: Peterson 5-39; Ledyard 1-16; Turner 1-8; Morris 1-6; Hill 1-6; Thornhill 1-2; Saylor 1-2; Govens 1-2. OSU: Bailey 3-7; Diggs 2-10; Winfield 1-8; Rudzinski 1-7; Brown 1-3; Pickett 1-2; Wayne 1-2; Collins 1-2.

TACKLES (Solo-Assist-Tot.) — MSU: Thornhill 12-2-14; Morris 9-4-13; Turner 7-5-12; Peterson 9-0-9; Kanu 6-2-8; Hill 6-2-8; Marshall 4-2-6; Ledyard 3-3-6; Saylor 2-3-5; Truitt 1-2-3; Newsome 2-0-2; Henry 2-0-2; Ernsberger 2-0-2; Haygood 1-1-2; Shaw 1-0-1; Wright 1-0-1; Neal 0-1-1; Newkirk 0-1-1; Govens 0-1-1; Baker 0-1-1. OSU: Moore 9-2-11; Diggs 6-2-8; Plummer 6-0-6; Winfield 3-3-6; Brown 3-2-5; Bailey 3-2-5; Katzenmoyer 4-0-4; Berry 3-1-4; Rudzinski 3-0-3; Pickett 3-0-3; Clements 3-0-3; Bellisari 2-0-2; Johnson 1-1-2; Cotton 1-1-2; Wayne 1-1-2; Collins 0-2-2; Bartholomew 1-0-1; LaVrar 1-0-1; Simpson 0-1-1.

PLAYERS IN THE GAME — MICHIGAN STATE: Starters: Defense, Saylor, Newkirk, Govens, R. Smith, Ledyard, Thornhill, Turner, Marshall, Morris, Kanu, Hill, Offense, Burreas, Sucura, Harker, Strayhorn, Jensen, Robinson-Randall, Baker, Scott, Burke, Gould, Irvin. Reserves: Edinger, Haygood, Guess, Richardson, Truitt, Jarrett, Foster, Flowers, McFadden, Wright, Newsome, Greene, Clemons, Henry, Franklin, Ernsberger, Neal, Thomas, Bonito, Myers, Rainko, McCoy, Rance, Shaw, Peterson. OHIO STATE: Starters: Defense, Boston, Walter, R. Murphy, K. Murphy, Gilbert, Burris, Lumpkin, Germaine, Keller, Wiley, Miller, Defense, Bailey, Pickett, Brown, Johnson, Diggs, Katzenmoyer, Rudzinski, Winfield, Berry, Moore, Plummer. Reserves: Mitchell, Rambo, Bellisari, Cooper, Garcia, King, Clements, McClellion, Westbrook, Wells, Ott, Montgomery, Simpson, Ross, Martin, Bartholomew, Kirk, Stultz, LaVrar, Cotton, Bentley, Elford, Germany, Wisniewski, Payne, Houser, Wayne, Wilson, Homa, Collins.

Season Statistics

Date	Opponent (AP Rank*)	W/L	Score	Crowd
Sept. 5	(1) at West Virginia (11)	W	34-17	68,409
Sept. 12	(1) TOLEDO	W	49-0	93,149
Sept. 19	(1) MISSOURI (21)	W	35-14	93,269
Oct. 3	(1) PENN STATE (7)	W	28-9	93,479
Oct. 10	(1) at Illinois	W	41-0	46,390
Oct. 17	(1) MINNESOTA	W	45-15	93,183
Oct. 24	(1) at Northwestern	W	36-10	47,130
Oct. 31	(1) at Indiana	W	38-7	52,049
Nov. 7	(1) MICHIGAN STATE	L	28-24	93,595
Nov. 14	at Iowa			
Nov. 21	MICHIGAN			

*Number in parentheses before opponent's name is OSU's game day AP ranking; number after opponent's name is opponent's game day AP ranking.

Team Statistics	OSU	Opp
First Downs	220	116
Rushing	100	44
Passing	115	63
Penalty	5	9
Avg. Per Game/Rush	198.2	79.6
Avg. Per Game/Pass	296.2	173.3
Total Offense	445.0	227.6
Total Plays	714	606
Average Per Game	494.6	252.9
Average Per Play	6.2	3.8
Penalties-Yards	74-699	43-365
Fumbles-Lost	24-10	11-6
3rd Down Efficiency	60-145	33-148
Percentage	41.4	22.3
4th Down Efficiency	10-16	5-15
Percentage	62.5	33.3
Sacks	21-131	23-164
Time of Possession Avg.	31:31	28:29

Score By Quarters	1	2	3	4	Tot.	Avg.
Ohio State	110	95	63	62	330	36.7
Opponents	16	50	15	19	100	11.1

Attendance	Games	Total	Avg.
Home	5	466,675	93,335
Away	4	213,918	53,479
Total	9	680,593	75,621

Individual Statistics	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Long
Michael Wiley	154	956	6.3	9	76
Joe Montgomery	88	510	5.8	5	30
Jonathan Wells	33	142	4.3	2	14
Matt Keller	27	104	3.9	1	12
Derek Combs	29	77	2.7	0	12
Dee Miller	3	17	5.7	0	10
Janar Martin	6	13	2.2	0	7
Jermion Jackson	2	8	4.0	0	4
Jerry Westbrook	1	3	3.0	0	3
Charlie Sanders	1	3	3.0	0	3
David Boston	2	1	0.5	0	7
Brent Bartholomew	1	-4	-4.0	0	0
Mark Garcia	6	-13	-2.2	0	7
Joe Germaine	43	-43	-1.0	0	22
OSU Totals	398	1784	4.5	18	76
OPP Totals	279	716	2.6	3	35

Receiving	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
David Boston	59	950	16.1	9	53
Dee Miller	51	791	15.5	2	42
Michael Wiley	19	129	6.8	1	35
John Lumpkin	15	254	16.9	4	41
Reggie Germany	12	195	16.3	3	47
Matt Keller	12	103	8.6	0	26
Janar Martin	5	68	13.6	0	17
Ken-Yon Rambo	4	68	17.0	0	39
Jimmy Redmond	2	25	12.5	0	15
Dan Warnke	2	21	10.5	0	17
Kevin Griffin	1	14	14.0	0	14
Chad Caccio	1	11	11.0	0	11
Jonathan Wells	1	11	11.0	0	11
Kevin Houser	1	10	10.0	0	10
Janar Martin	1	7	7.0	0	7
Joe Montgomery	1	5	5.0	0	5
Steve Wisniewski	1	3	3.0	0	3
Derek Combs	1	1	1.0	0	1
OSU Totals	189	2666	14.1	19	53
OPP Totals	150	1560	10.4	6	60

Scoring	TD	EPK	EPP	EPR	FG	PTS
Dan Stultz	0	40-41	—	—	10-18	70
David Boston*	10	—	—	1	—	62
Michael Wiley	10	—	—	—	—	60
Joe Montgomery	5	—	—	—	—	30
John Lumpkin	4	—	—	—	—	24

Reggie Germany	3	—	—	—	—	18
Dee Miller	2	—	—	—	—	12
Jonathan Wells	2	—	—	—	—	12
Derek Combs	1	—	—	—	—	6
Matt Keller	1	—	—	—	—	6
Joe Cooper	1	—	—	—	—	6
Na'il Diggs	1	—	—	—	—	6
Central McClellion	1	—	—	—	—	6
Damon Moore	1	—	—	—	—	6
Jerry Rudzinski	1	—	—	—	—	6
Joe Germaine	0	—	1-2	—	—	0
OSU Totals	43	40-41	1-2	110-18	330	
OPP Totals	10	8-9	0-1	010-11	100	

Passing	Comp.	Att.	Pct.	Yds.	INT	TD	Rating
Michael Wiley	1	1,000	15	0	0	226.0	
Joe Germaine	175	288	.608	2459	5	18	149.6
Mark Garcia	10	22	.455	168	0	1	124.6
Steve Bellisari	3	5	.600	24	0	0	100.3
Austin Moherman	0	1	.000	0	0	0	0.0
Jonathan Wells	0	1	.000	0	0	0	0.0
OSU Totals	189	318	.594	2666	5	19	146.4
OPP Totals	150	327	.459	1560	14	6	83.4

FG Distance	0-29	30-39	40-49	50+	Total
Dan Stultz	4-4	4-6	2-6	0-2	10-18
OSU Totals	4-4	4-6	2-6	0-2	10-18
OPP Totals	2-2	3-4	5-6	0-0	10-11

Punting	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Bk	Long
Brent Bartholomew	45	1860	41.3	1	57
Team	1	0	0.0	0	0
OSU Totals	46	1860	40.4	1	57
OPP Totals	79	3313	41.9	3	66

Interceptions	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
Ahmed Plummer	1	0	0.0	0	0
Damon Moore	2	73	36.5	1	73
Central McClellion	1	60	60.0	0	60
Steve Bellisari	1	19	19.0	0	19
Na'il Diggs	1	18	18.0	0	18
Clinton Wayne	1	17	17.0	0	17
Brent Johnson	1	11	11.0	0	11
Percy King	1	3	3.0	0	3
Tim Chestwood	1	0	0.0	0	0
Nate Clements	1	0	0.0	0	0
David Mitchell	1	0	0.0	0	0
OSU Totals	14	201	14.4	2	73
OPP Totals	5	2	0.4	0	2

Punt Returns	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
Ken-Yon Rambo	19	128	6.7	0	24
David Boston	15	200	13.3	1	70
Gary Berry	15	65	4.3	0	13
Percy King	1	8	8.0	0	0
Team	1	0	0.0	0	0
Joe Cooper	0	0	0.0	0	0
OSU Totals	51	401	7.9	2	70
OPP Totals	26	196	7.5	0	39

Kickoff Returns	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
Ken-Yon Rambo	9	187	20.8	0	26
Michael Wiley	4	105	26.3	0	34
Jonathan Wells	3	63	21.0	0	23
Matt Keller	2	16	8.0	0	11
Reggie Germany	1	14	14.0	0	14
OSU Totals	29	385	20.3	0	34
OPP Totals	101	672	72.3	17	29

Defensive Leaders	Solo	Ass.	Tot.	TFL	Yds.	Sacks
Damon Moore	43	15	58	5-16	1-1	
Na'il Diggs	46	12	58	12-53	4-27	
Antoine Winfield	45	12	57	9-34	2-17	
Andy Katzenmoyer	45	8	53	9-29	1-8	
Jerry Rudzinski	26	13	39	8-38	3-24	
Gary Berry	26	8	34	2-9	1-5	
Ahmed Plummer	30	3	33	3-10	—	
Brent Johnson	18	11	29	5-22	4-17	
Joe Cooper	14	9	23	1-3	—	
Joe Brown	10	8	18	4-16	—	
Central McClellion	7	9	16	—	—	
Ryan Pickett	12	3	15	3-11	1-3	
Steve Bellisari	10	4	14	—	—	
Mike Collins	8	6	14	2-5	1-3	
Clinton Wayne	7	7	14	1-2	—	
Tim Chestwood	6	7	13	3-3	—	
James Cotton	8	4	12	3-11	1-7	
Percy King	7	5	12	—	—	
Nate Clements	10	1	11	—	—	
Rodney Bailey	7	4	11	6-20	2-12	

Fumbles Forced
 1 — Joe Cooper, Jerry Rudzinski, James Cotton, Na'il Diggs, Antoine Winfield.

Fumbles Recovered

White Has Come Far Since First Summer

By Steve Burkley

When William White entered the Ohio State football scene four summers ago as a freshman out of Lima, Ohio, he brought along with him some modest expectations.

"Four years ago at this time I was in awe of everything here," said White, who starred for the football and basketball teams at Lima Senior High. "All I wanted to do was make the traveling squad that first year."

"I think I've been fortunate."

White, 21, did more than make the Buckeyes' traveling squad that first season. He did much more.

"I got to start the first game," he pointed out.

Since then White has played in 35 games during his three years at Ohio State, all as a starter, though he missed two games last year because of an ankle injury.

"Most guys are done with their careers after that many games," defensive backfield coach Chuck Heater said of White. "He should be a dominant force out there for us. By repetition alone, he should be an improved player."

White has come a long way since his first start, a 22-14 win over Oregon State.

"I was very nervous before that game," he said. "But after that first hit everything was fine. That first hit settled me down. I made 10 tackles which is the most I've ever had in a game. I was a freshman and the new boy out there, so they really run it at me and tested me."

"I guess I was at the right place at the right time," said White, recalling the opportunity to immediately jump into a starting position. "And I guess the coaches liked what they saw of me."

The coaching staff has continued to appreciate what White has meant to a defense that led the Big Ten in the fewest points allowed last season.

"He's a smart player. He studies films and he prepares himself for each opponent," Heater said.

The coaches have demonstrated their confidence in White by playing him at the open side cornerback position. The players showed their faith by voting White one of the Buckeyes' four captains this year.

"We have William playing the open end of the field which means he has no help back there," Heater said. "You play your best player back there. William has been back there all three years."

White responded by making 38 tackles last year and 137 over the past three seasons. He has also played the pass well, intercepting 11 of them during his career, including a personal high six as a sophomore.

His career stats also include one touchdown (as a freshman), 14 pass deflections and six fumble recoveries.

White is taking the honor of being captain along with Chris Spielman, Eric Kumerow and Tom Tupa, in stride, saying he's not the rah-rah type that captains are often perceived as being.

"I'm not going around boasting about it," he pointed out. "The way I feel about it, if someone needs advice, then he'll come to me. I think the players feel I lead by example. I'm not one to hoot and holler. I'm going to lead as I know how. I get excited but I like to have fun. So when I do holler, I also like to laugh a little."

That doesn't mean White won't jump on a teammate if he feels it's necessary.

"I'll kick somebody in the rear if needed," he added. "It's an honor being voted captain of the Ohio State football team. It feels a little bit better that the players on the team picked me rather than the coaches. It always means more when your peers have that kind of faith in you."

White has improved his game to where he no longer just knows his role in the Buckeyes' defensive schemes, but also where his teammates belong.

"My freshman year, I knew what I was supposed to do at the corner. Then as I got more experience, I knew the whole defensive backfield and what each player was supposed to do each play. Then last year, I knew the concept of the whole defense," White explained.

"I'll never know everything. That's why coaches are always out there, so you can still keep learning. I'm always working on the little things. I can still get better at some of the little things, things that the people in the stands don't always see."

White is joined in the backfield by fellow fourth-year starting cornerback Greg Rogan. Sophomore David Brown is back to start his second year at safety with senior Ray Jackson, a backup last fall, slated to start at rover.

White, 5-10 and 192 pounds, is a big part of the Buckeyes' highly-regarded defense, though he may not participate in as many plays as linebackers Spielman or Kumerow.

"His position, by nature, is one where he's not involved in that many plays," explained Heater. "There might be 80 plays in a normal college football game and he might be asked to make five plays. So for William, he's in a position where he has to make those four or five plays each game. We've come to expect a lot from him."

Part of White's responsibility as captain is to make sure the Buckeyes' high preseason rankings don't go to the players' heads.

"The way I feel, preseason rankings mean nothing," he said. "We have the talent, but we haven't won a game yet. It's where we are at the end of the season that counts. That's what matters to me."

"If we take it one game at a time and



This Is William White's Fourth Year As Starter

let the chips fall where they may, we'll be all right. There are a lot of things we don't have any control over. What we do have destiny over is winning the Big Ten and then winning the Rose Bowl. I feel if we're 12-0 then we should be the national champs."

White, who also excels in the

classroom as an honor student in mechanical engineering, says it's time to forget the preseason hype and prepare for the Sept. 12 season opener against West Virginia.

"Now is the time to stop all the talking," he said, "and make that (talk) become a reality."

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Brains, Ability Help White Into Lineup

By Dave Kelch

Back in the early spring, before William White had been handed his high school diploma as an honor student at Lima (Ohio) Senior High School, a statement was made by an Ohio State assistant football coach. At the time, it was speculation; it could not have been closer to the truth.

"I think he (White) could possibly help us early because he'll learn the system quickly," said Jim Tressel, the Buckeye offensive backfield coach who recruited the 5-10, 180-pound defensive back. "Freshmen sometimes have trouble learning it, but he won't. It's very unusual. His maturity level is so much greater than others."

That is what was said about the inner makings of White. Now for what was said about his physical attributes:

"As we watched film (of White's prep exploits for the Spartans), we felt he was an outstanding athlete," said Tressel. "I watched seven or eight of his game films and in the Cincinnati Moeller passing (scrimmage) film I saw some great things. What really assured me was watching him play basketball (a point guard). He has outstanding quickness."

So, when White came to freshman camp this summer, there



Freshman William White (Bottom) Trips Up Cougar Richard Calvin.

was little doubt in the coaching staff's mind that White was a very capable individual, capable of handling the emotional and

physical demands of college football.

And that brings us to the present, two games into the 1984 season. White impressed enough heads during preseason camp that in the opener against Oregon State he was the only first-year freshman at the 22 offensive and defensive positions to start. He opened at wide-side cornerback and had a very fine game, tying for third on the defense in tackles with nine (six solo, three assists) and breaking up two passes, which tied him for first.

"I thought it (the opener) went pretty well," said White, who will be a mechanical engineering major once school starts. "It was a nice game to have to improve upon. I have one (prior to Washington State) under my belt."

"I was really nervous before we came out for the pre-game," he added. "My stomach had knots in it and I could barely bend over, but my teammates (on defense) and the upper classmen helped me out."

White was elevated to first-team status a little more than a week before the opener. It did not shock him and he kept things in proper perspective.

"I had been on the first team for a week or so and I was just trying to stay there," he said. "I knew all along they needed some new defensive backs this year and I was blessed with the misfortune of others (several returning defensive backs had spent the summer in school to avoid becoming ineligible and were not allowed to practice until their grades were cleared). I didn't hope for it to be that way."

As a high school senior, White was an all-district and third team all-state running back for the Class

AAA Spartans of the tough Greater Miami Conference (includes defending state champion Cincinnati Princeton, Middletown and Hamilton). White rushed for 1,444 yards and scored 12 touchdowns, then was the point guard for coach Ron Niekamp's regional finalists in basketball.

Although a freshman, White has been particularly miffed by all the preseason talk saying the OSU secondary would be the early sore spot of the team. Three of four starters from 1983 were gone.

"That rumor about the defensive secondary being the weakest part of the team inspired us," said White. "The whole defense really got involved in it and stuck behind us."

As long as White and his secondary buddies stick behind the linemen and linebackers, they will have confidence in the secondary and return the favor.



William White

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