

BUCKEYE SPORTS BULLETIN

Vol. 18, No. 8

"For The Buckeye Fan Who Needs To Know More"

October 31, 1998

\$2.00

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In This Issue Of BSB

• Bucks Down Northwestern

Top-ranked Ohio State got 100 yards and a touchdown on 17 carries from backup tailback and Chicago



native Joe Montgomery in its 36-10 win over Northwestern. See story on pages 12-13.

• D-Line Rotation Works For OSU

BSB delves inside OSU's 10-man rotation along the defensive line, looking back at how all of these players were used in a game earlier this season. See Football 101 on pages 26-27.

• Big Ten Cage Coaches Meet

OSU basketball coaches Jim O'Brien and Beth Burns were among the coaches in attendance at the Big Ten's basketball media day in Chicago Oct. 25. See story on pages 44-45.



Beth Burns

• Hockey Squad Salvages 1 Point

The Ohio State hockey team fell at Notre Dame 3-0 Oct. 23. But the Buckeyes rebounded to tie defending CCHA champion Michigan State 4-4 a night later. See story on page 43.

Getting Defensive

Silver Bullets Rely On Relentless Effort

By MIKE WACHSMAN

Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

You're an offensive coordinator, and you've gone through many sleepless nights trying to figure out ways to beat the Ohio State defense.

Do you dare throw against the nation's best secondary? Sure, you might hit some underneath plays and maybe break a tackle or two, but the air is not a very sure route to success.

That leaves the ground attack. The Buckeyes are ranked among the nation's best there, too, and unless you've got Ron Dayne or Ricky Williams, any yardage you get will be allowed grudgingly.

So what do you do?

"I try to maybe overload one side and try to get guys committed to one thing," linebacker Jerry Rudzinski said. "Put trips out to the left and then run the play right. Plays like that will confuse a defense sometimes."

Northwestern actually scored on a play the Buckeyes worked against, a middle screen to D'Wayne Bates that went for a 60-yard first-quarter touchdown.

But it never worked again because OSU coaches made the proper adjustments and dropped the Buckeyes into zone on third down. Bates hit his TD on third-and-13 against a blitzing Buckeye defense.

After that score, there was really nothing Northwestern had that the Buckeyes didn't stop, and OSU cruised to a 36-10 win.

OSU netted five sacks, picked off three passes, and limited the Wildcats to just 48 yards on the ground.

"We just want to come out in the beginning of the game with a great attitude," end Rodney Bailey said. "Then we come out in the second half and put on more steam. We never lay off as the game goes on. We just keep going."

And that's why the Buckeyes are so dangerous. They bring wave after wave at foes, and it isn't just the stars that do it.

Sophomore end Brent Johnson had a sack and an interception against Northwestern, tackle Clinton Wayne picked off a pass, and rookie tackle Ryan Pickett played his best game, nabbing a sack and collapsing the pocket with regularity.

Even linebacker Nail Diggs, OSU's most consistent defensive force since the start of the Big Ten season, wasn't heralded as a force when the season opened.

"The focus is on our supposed super-



JEFF BREHM

HOFFMAN HURTING — Northwestern quarterback Gavin Hoffman attempts to elude Ohio State defenders Clinton Wayne (90) and Jerry Rudzinski (35) in the Wildcats' loss to OSU. The Buckeye defense has proven itself one of the best in the country.

stars, but I think our whole team is full of superstars," linebacker Andy Katzenmoyer said. "We're all playing well together and focused on one goal."

Coming Out Of The Blocks

Northwestern struck early, putting up 10 first-half points before striking out the rest of the way.

Teams seem to catch OSU early, before the Buckeyes have had a chance to get into the flow of the game.

"It should start in the first quarter, but the way things have been going, teams have been able to come out and put a few points on the board," Diggs said. "That's not something we like at all, so we come out in the second half all fired up."

The fire-and-brimstone attitude,

along with fresh legs, seems to wear opponents down.

"After we put on the steam, they don't come at us as hard," safety Gary Berry said.

With the remainder of Ohio State's schedule devoid of ranked teams — although Michigan could be by the time they hook up on Nov. 21 — it looks like the Buckeyes will have to manufacture reasons to get hyped. That's not always easy against the league's lesser lights.

"It's not hard, but it is challenging for a team to play a non-ranked team that hasn't really done anything late in the season," Diggs said. "It's hard to come out and play them as hard as we played

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Buckeye Sports Bulletin is published 30 times a year (weekly September through November and January through March, biweekly March through May and monthly June through August and December) by:

Columbus Sports Publications
1350 W. Fifth Ave., Suite 30
P.O. Box 12453
Columbus, Ohio 43212
(614) 486-2202

Periodical class postage paid at Columbus, Ohio, and additional mailing offices. USPS 705-690, ISSN 0893-6833. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Buckeye Sports Bulletin, P.O. Box 12453, Columbus, Ohio 43212. Subscription rates: \$46 per year.

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1998-99 PUBLICATION SCHEDULE (VOL. 18)			
No. 1	Sept. 5	No. 16	Jan. 23
No. 2	Sept. 12	No. 17	Jan. 30
No. 3	Sept. 19	No. 18	Feb. 6
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No. 12	Nov. 28	No. 27	May 8
No. 13	December	No. 28	June
No. 14	Jan. 9	No. 29	July
No. 15	Jan. 16	No. 30	August

The next issue (Nov. 7 cover date) will be mailed on Nov. 3.

Buckeye Sports Bulletin is a privately owned newspaper and is not affiliated directly or indirectly with The Ohio State University.

BSB World Wide Web site address is:
<http://buckeyesports.com/>
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OPINION

Bucks Will Be Sweating BCS Points

As the leaves turn to brown and we realize, yes, summer is definitely over, it is time in the college football world to begin jockeying for bowl position.

BSB went to press at midday on Oct. 26, roughly eight hours before the Bowl Championship Series was set to announce its first weekly edition of its rankings as part of ABC's Monday Night Football.

I guess we can look forward to seeing updated editions of the "official" BCS numbers each week on MNF. (You've got to hand it to those ABC people — they are on the ball.)

Anyhow, we've all seen the projections by now — three sets of them each week, all with differing numbers.

But I think it's pretty clear that, while Ohio State has a commanding lead in both the Associated Press and coaches polls, UCLA will be the top-ranked team in the BCS standings with OSU a close second.

That really doesn't bother me. In fact, I think these results spotlight that this system actually works.

On merit, I believe these are the top two teams, apologies to Tennessee and Kansas State, and that is what is most important.

After all, the Buckeyes aren't going to get a seven-point lead in the Fiesta Bowl just because they're the No. 1-ranked BCS team. All that matters is that the nation's best two teams are in Tempe to see it up.

I will say the strength-of-schedule component gets to be a bit nebulous, especially when you have four high-powered teams from different conferences who are unbeaten.

Beyond its singular component, strength of schedule also figures into the three computer polls that are used in the BCS system.

And while the Buckeyes thought they had their bases covered with a strong non-conference season, a weekend like the latest one — when West Virginia loses late to Miami (Fla.) and Missouri nearly upsets Nebraska — appears to be devastating.

Within the Big Ten, all OSU needs is for the teams it plays and defeats to knock off Wisconsin and Purdue every time they play them. That's because OSU gets the points either way in all other Big Ten games, provided it wins out.

But, while I like where this is headed, I can see how some people are a bit wary.

"I couldn't care what the BCS poll is," OSU coach John Cooper said after his team's win over Northwestern. "I could care less about the BCS poll."

When asked to expand on his beliefs about this new system on another occasion, Cooper replied, "It's crazy. I'm sitting here rooting for the teams West Virginia plays and the teams Toledo plays to win. What does that have to do with how good we are?"

But despite the lack of help OSU got from WVU and Missouri this past weekend and from the Big Ten as a whole, I think the Buckeyes are still sitting pretty.

I say that because one component of the BCS system remains the average of the AP and coaches polls. As long as OSU maintains the top spot in those polls, it will have just one point there. For a No. 3-ranked team to vault over OSU and steal a BCS top-two spot, it has to overcome a difference of at least 1.5 BCS points (2.5

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK with Steve Helwag

to OSU's 1.0).

That seems hard to imagine, especially since OSU figures to stay at or near the top of the various computer rankings and will remain at or below one point in strength of schedule once Michigan is added in (that game is still on, by the way).

If I had to sit here and project things the way I see them today, I would say Ohio State would play UCLA in the Fiesta Bowl.

The Rose Bowl, to my understanding, would then have free rein to take the next two teams since it gives up its two tie-in teams to the Fiesta Bowl.

But the SEC champion (likely Tennessee) and probably the ACC champion (even with one loss, Florida State has already clinched this, hasn't it) would be off-limits because of tie-ins to the Sugar and Orange bowls, respectively.

The boys in Pasadena have to be salivating at the thoughts of Notre Dame — which stands at 5-1 with just one team with a winning record (USC at 5-2) left — finishing 10-1. They could be paired with, in my mind, either K-State or Nebraska from the Big 12 or a 10-1 Penn State team. My bet would be K-State, if it wins out, since it travels so well.

By the way, Penn State going 10-1 precludes Wisconsin from finishing unbeaten and assures Michigan at least a third loss.

Somewhere in here, somebody from the Big East — no, they haven't canceled that league's slate yet — fits in. We don't know who and we don't know where, but they would be the last pick for sure.

If I had to fill out my bracket, I'd go with Tennessee against Nebraska or Penn State in the Sugar and Florida State against West Virginia in the Orange.

Put Wisconsin in the Citrus and Michigan in the Outback. The Big Ten's bowl tie-ins with the Alamo, Sun and new Sunshine Classic are in danger if nobody else from the conference can become bowl-eligible (Minnesota's win over Michigan State all but crushes MSU's hopes with games with OSU and Penn State left).

The talk radio prattle insists on some type of playoff. I do not buy the idea that a three-week December playoff would affect student-athletes, especially since they're out of school by that time.

But as someone who lives to make travel arrangements, I can tell you it

would not work from the standpoint of trying to transport hordes of fans to remote neutral locations for quarterfinal and semifinal games.

That's why the NFL plays its playoffs to get to the Super Bowl in home sites. Maybe that's an answer, with the higher seeds hosting the games.

I can assure you, however, that we should get used to the current BCS system: The powers that be have signed off on that for at least the next three years.

Quick Quips

• We are looking forward to our guided media tour through the close-to-complete Jerome Schottenstein Center this week.

One reporter who does not amaze easily came away awestruck at his recent tour of the facility.

I have to wonder, though, who is going to buy tickets to all of the high-priced concerts and special events, which are literally stacked on top of one another it seems.

• In the same vein, I have to question what's happening with OSU basketball.

The men's team had its photo day on Oct. 14, then opened practice Oct. 17. OSU scheduled a media day for Oct. 23 at the end of the first week of practice.

But most of the Columbus sports press corps were either in Chicago or en route to the Windy City to cover the football Buckeyes. Long story short, hardly anybody attended.

Granted, practice had just started and there wasn't a lot to talk about. But nine days between interview days for this program is too long. On the day we mail this issue, the first scrimmage — and first major event in the arena — is just a week away.

Sure, OSU is No. 1 in football, but the clamor for Soonie Penn et al. should already be reaching a fever pitch.

Unfortunately, it is not.

I've said this time and time again, but apparently it bears repeating: This is a program that still needs all the good PR it can get, especially with 19,500 seats to fill.

Then again, maybe Jim O'Brien has decided to sell his program the old-fashioned way — by buckling down hard, focusing on practices, and winning a few games.

• Everything we hear points to Notre Dame being introduced as a new Big Ten member sometime soon.

The two sides seem to be beyond the kissing stage. You have to wonder, though, if ND's BCS opportunities this year — and the potential to earn its own spot without the Big Ten's help in years to come — will hinder any further progress.

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COVER STORY: GETTING DEFENSIVE

Still Room To Improve, OSU Defenders Say

Continued From Page 1

Penn State. It's mentally hard because they have nothing to lose."

Competitions within each unit — sacks for linemen, tackles and big plays for linebackers, interceptions for the secondary — keep the Buckeyes focused and motivated for the stretch run.

"We're playing pretty good," cornerback Antoine Winfield said. "We allowed a couple of plays today and messed up some coverages. But we're out there making plays, flying around and trying to score every week. You'll see by the end of the year I'll have my share of picks. But it doesn't matter who does it, really. That's why this defense is so good."

To hear some guys tell it, the Buckeyes aren't as good as some might think.

"We're playing well, but we can get better, honestly," Rudzinski said. "We need to work on our consistency. On Northwestern's touchdown, we went out and played lights-out on the first two downs, then on third down we gave up a big play. We have to perform three out of three plays instead of two out of three."

"If we're in the top five (of all categories), that's great. But we're shooting to be the best."

But Rudzinski also knows that shutouts — like the ones OSU put up against Toledo and Illinois — will make for some happier times around the old homestead.

"When you shut a team out, there won't be many complaints," Rudzinski said. "We'll watch the film after a shutout, and of course the coaches are still critical. But there's a lot of smiling going on when you shut out a team. That's about as close to perfect as you're going to get."

Perfection is indeed what OSU is striving for, and should the Buckeyes run the table and finish the season



WAYNE WAKES UP THE WILDCATS — Ohio State defensive tackle Clinton Wayne (90) attempts to outrun Northwestern fullback Levelle Brown (34) to the end zone. Brown caught Wayne, who covered 17 yards on an interception. Na'il Diggs (32) attempts to run interference.

ranked No. 1, odds are high that they'll be playing in the national championship game.

Right now the best bet for an opponent would be UCLA and its high-powered offense, more than a match for the Buckeyes. But before they start thinking about the Bruins or anyone else, they want to get some things done.

"I think it would be natural to start

talking about the computer points and those types of things, but we do a good job of focusing on our task," Rudzinski said. "We've had a couple of years where if we had won all our games and not worried about other people, we'd have some national championship rings. We've learned from that in recent years. We know that if we win out, good things will happen."

Primed For The Finish

The stretch run of the Big Ten won't be an easy one for the Buckeyes. While upcoming opponents don't sport gaudy records, there are different things to worry about.

Indiana has an option threat in quarterback Antwan Randle El, one of the brightest new stars on the Big Ten horizon. OSU needs to play him as well as it did Missouri's Corby Jones earlier this season if prosperity is to continue.

Michigan State likes to grind it out with burly, shifty tailback Sedrick Irvin. But they can also go to the air attack, with 6-6 Plaxico Burress getting the majority of work.

Iowa may have discovered a weapon in quick tailback Ladell Betts, who exploded onto the scene with recent outings of over 100 yards.

And then there's Michigan. The Wolverines have struggled to find offense this season, but you just know they'll be firing on all cylinders when they enter Ohio Stadium Nov. 21, aspirations of spoiling the Buckeyes' dream at an all-time high.

So there's still work to be done.

"This wasn't our best game," Diggs said after the Northwestern outing. "Penn State was our most intense, emotional game we've played this year. They're a strong Big Ten team, they were ranked in the top 10, and we were really, really focused."

"That's how we have to play this last stretch of games. When we come out ready to go from the beginning, it's hard to move the ball on us. Our coaches do a great job adjusting, and they let us as athletes make plays. Northwestern got one, and it was a good play. But you saw we shut them down the rest of the way."

"That's what we'll have to do the rest of the season if we want to reach our goal."

The benchmark for Ohio State defenses under John Cooper would likely be the 1996 group that featured Mike Vrabel, Matt Finkes and Luke Fickell up front, Shawn Springs, Ty Howard and Rob Kelly in the secondary, and Greg Bellisari and Ryan Miller showing the way for Katzenmoyer at linebacker.

The individual stars may not be there this time around — at least on a household recognition basis — but that's why these Buckeyes are so good.

"It just shows that anyone can do it," Diggs said. "It points out that Andy, Antoine, me and Damon (Moore), we're not the only ones out there. There are linemen, and they play as well as they can. Today they made some plays and played hard. Teams can't just gear up to take one of us out of a play because someone else will step up."

Sounds like it's time for offensive architects in the Big Ten to keep the coffee pot percolating and the projectors whirring. It's going to be another long night.

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OHIO STATE VS. NORTHWESTERN

OSU Depth Does In NU

Buckeyes Cruise To 36-10 Win

By STEVE HELWAGEN
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

With Ohio State on top of the national polls, its top players — your Joe Germaine, Andy Katzenmoyer and Antoine Winfield — have become fairly well-known.

But OSU's 36-10 win at Northwestern on Oct. 24 illustrates this team is more than just a handful of stars.

"We're certainly not one-dimensional," said OSU coach John Cooper after his Buckeyes prevailed before 47,130 at Ryan Field. "We feel like we have some depth."

Examples of this team's depth included:

- Backup tailback Joe Montgomery, a Chicago native, rushing 17 times for a game-high 100 yards and a touchdown.

- Tight end John Lumpkin again stepping into the spotlight with a highlight-reel 35-yard touchdown catch where he took the ball away from an NU defender.

- Defensive linemen Brent Johnson and Clinton Wayne and freshman safety Steve Bellisari all notching interceptions. Johnson was also among a group of Buckeyes who combined to register a season-high five quarterback sacks.

"The focus is on our supposed superstars, but I think our whole team is full of superstars," said Katzenmoyer, OSU's Butkus Award-winning linebacker. "We're all playing well together and focused on one goal."

That isn't to say OSU's established stars didn't get into the act.

Germaine, OSU's standout quarterback, eclipsed the 300-yard barrier for the third consecutive game. He completed 19 of 35 passes for 342 yards and three

touchdowns against one interception.

"It's exciting for our offense to know we can put up some numbers like that," Germaine said. "I think we can do better than that. I thought we were kind of up and down. Northwestern had a lot to do with that. They took away some of our key plays."

Germaine did most of his business with split end David Boston, who hauled in eight catches for 171 yards and a pair of scores.

But while the Buckeyes (7-0, 4-0 Big Ten) appeared to have the game in control most of the way, it wasn't until they tacked on a pair of second-half scores that they finally put the Wildcats (2-6, 0-5) away.

"We stopped ourselves at times," Cooper said. "We jumped offsides and had some illegal motion penalties. We had a key penalty we overcame on one touchdown drive."

"It was a heck of a defensive effort by our coaches and players," NU coach Gary Barnett said, despite the fact OSU piled up 524 yards total offense. "It was frustrating to stand on the sidelines and watch our offense not be able to capitalize on what they gave us."

"If there was ever a table set for us to take advantage of, that was it."

Germaine himself had trouble finding the open man early in the game. But he credited OSU's relentless nature for another relatively easy win.

"We have a great offensive scheme," Germaine said. "If something doesn't work, we have confidence and know the next thing will."

Defensively, the Buckeyes slammed the door again, allowing just one touchdown on a catch-and-run screen pass from



GOOD TO BE BACK HOME — Ohio State senior tailback Joe Montgomery had his best day of the season against Northwestern, rambling for 100 yards and a touchdown. Montgomery hails from Oak Lawn, Ill., a suburb of Chicago.

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OHIO STATE VS. NORTHWESTERN

Gavin Hoffman to D'Wayne Bates.

"They had a great call on their one touchdown," Cooper said. "They got the ball to Bates, and he is a great player."

Otherwise, though, the Buckeyes confounded Hoffman, who ended up 15 of 39 for 173 yards and two interceptions, and stopped the Wildcats for just 48 yards rushing on 30 attempts.

"In the first half, they came out with some tricky stuff," said OSU linebacker Na'il Diggs, who notched a team-high 11 tackles. "They had a good play — one good play."

As It Happened

Ohio State opened the scoring on its first possession of the game, moving 63 yards in five plays. Germaine found plenty of running room, going for 18 yards on a keeper down to the NU 28.

Two plays later, tailback Michael Wiley went left behind blocks by center Kurt Murphy, fullback Matt Keller and flanker Dee Miller for the 28-yard touchdown, putting OSU up 7-0 with 12:32 left in the first quarter.

After registering a third consecutive three-and-out on defense, the Buckeyes drove 63 yards on 10 plays. The key play was Germaine's 20-yard pass to Boston. But the drive stalled at the NU 20, and the Buckeyes settled for Dan Stultz's 37-yard field goal and a 10-0 lead with 5:31 left in the first quarter.

Northwestern answered with a four-play, 75-yard scoring drive to mount its lone touchdown of the day. Hoffman hit his star receiver Bates on an inside screen. He avoided three OSU tackle attempts and used some nifty running to go 60 yards for the touchdown and trim the lead to 10-7 with 4:07 left in the first.

"They caught us blitzing seven or eight guys," Katzenmoyer said. "We call it a cheap touchdown."

Bates added, "They had an eight-man blitz and, really, I would have been mad at myself if I hadn't scored on that."

Ohio State moved ahead 17-7 with a five-play, 75-yard scoring march. The big play was Germaine's 30-yard pass to Boston down the right sideline. NU's

Napoleon Harris was assessed a personal foul for shoving Boston onto the asphalt out-of-bounds, moving the ball to the NU 26.

Three plays later, Montgomery went right through a huge hole and broke several tackles before shrugging off NU's Harold Blackmon and Barry Gardner at the 3 on a 19-yard touchdown run with 2:21 left in the first.

Northwestern got on the board again midway through the second quarter. The Wildcats drove to the OSU 22 but had to accept Brian Gowins' 39-yard field goal to trim the margin to 17-10 with 6:32 left in the first half.

The second quarter was also marked by a pair of interceptions by OSU defensive linemen Wayne and Johnson. The second one, by Johnson at the NU 28, set up OSU's third touchdown. It took four plays to convert the turnover as Germaine rolled left on fourth-and-17 and threw deep to Lumpkin.

Lumpkin made a nice catch over NU linebacker Conrad Emmerich for the 35-yard scoring strike.

"I rolled out left and they had taken Dee Miller away," Germaine said. "John came open behind the safety. With his height, I just wanted to give him a shot. I threw a jump ball to him, and he took it away from him and made a great catch."

Lumpkin added, "He had position on that play because the ball was short. I was able to reach over the guy and get the ball."

While everything was good with the catch, Lumpkin made the mistake of showing Emmerich the ball and was assessed a personal foul penalty. That shoved OSU back for a 35-yard PAT attempt by Stultz. The kick sailed wide left, but OSU still led 23-10 with 1:46 left in the first half.

"That play gave us some momentum and kind of got the ball rolling," Germaine said.

The Buckeyes got back into the end zone again late in the third quarter, driving 76 yards in five plays. Germaine and Boston hooked up for gains of 24 and 12 yards before going deep into the right cor-

ner for a 37-yard touchdown. Boston got behind NU's Gerald Conoway and Mike Nelson Jr.

"That was a streak route," Germaine said. "It was one-on-one coverage and we thought it was a good match-up for us. He made a good catch on that guy."

Leading 29-10 with 2:31 left in the third, Cooper opted for a two-point conversion play. The Buckeyes overloaded the right side with three receivers, but Germaine's pass back across the grain was intercepted by NU's Mycal Jones.

Ohio State struck once more in the fourth quarter, driving 87 yards in seven plays. Germaine hit Miller for 32 yards down the left sideline to set up his 31-yard TD pass down the right side to Boston, pushing the lead to 36-10 with 8:11 left.

"That one was a post route," Germaine said. "Dee Miller did a great job. He did a good job of taking the safety away and making him honor his route. David was fortunate to get behind him."

"All good receivers have that extra gear, and he caught up to that one and made a great catch."

Consecutive sacks by Diggs and Pickett thwarted an NU scoring threat at the OSU 22 with 3:34 left, and the Buckeyes simply ran the final 1:35 out after Bellisari intercepted NU backup passer Nick Kreinbrink.

Game Notes

• The 500-yard effort was OSU's sixth in seven games. Penn State was the only game OSU failed to reach that mark.

"That's something we rack up week in and week out, and we hope we can continue to do that," Lumpkin said. "Joe is just a real efficient passer. If you stop him in one half, we'll make some adjustments in the second half."

Leading by just 13 points at halftime, Germaine was especially sharp in the third quarter. He completed 10 of 13 passes for 168 yards in that period.

"We didn't move the ball as well as we wanted to early, and we definitely had to pick it up in the second half," Germaine said.

• The Buckeyes may be on their way to becoming college football royalty, but more than a few eyebrows raised with 2:30 left in the game when the public address announcer said, "The OSU tackle was by King and Queen."

Of course, he was referring to backups Percy King and Heath Queen, who teamed up to stop NU's Tyrone Gooch for a 4-yard gain.

• The OSU defense deserves even more praise after limiting a fourth consecutive opponent to under 80 yards rushing.

The Buckeye defense has also gone eight quarters in second-half play without allowing an opponent to score. That streak, which discounts a Minnesota safety scored on the OSU punt team, dates to the Penn State game.

• OSU's win streak over Northwestern improved to 21 straight, including a perfect 8-0 under Cooper. OSU's last loss to the Wildcats was a 14-10 defeat at Ohio Stadium in 1971.

OSU hasn't lost in Evanston since 1958 (21-0).

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OHIO STATE VS. NORTHWESTERN

Once They Got Going, Bucks Tough To Stop

The Buckeyes could have blamed their periodic offensive struggles against Northwestern on a sloppy field, an up-and-down day by their quarterback, or even the lack of motivation that comes with playing yet another second-division Big Ten team.

Instead, the Buckeyes say, they were too pumped up.

Bad blood was still spilling from the fact that the Wildcats stole OSU's Rose Bowl slot in 1995 and shared the Big Ten title with the Buckeyes in 1996. NU wasn't happy with getting bombed in Columbus last year and wanted to show more fight this time.

The result was a game fraught with penalties, miscues and post-play gab, all which seemed to leave OSU a little disjointed offensively.

"Maybe we were out there running our mouths a little too much and pushing people around," said OSU fullback Matt Keller. "I don't think I've ever played in a dirtier football game than that. It's a shame. And it kind of took us out of our game."

"I guess them trash-talking and all their late stuff kind of worked to their advantage."

One Buckeye who seems to thrive in such situations is running back Joe Montgomery, who made no apologies for his team's attitude.

"I think a lot of guys had a lot of extra motivation again," he said. "A couple years ago those guys were laughing at us when they kept us from getting in the Rose Bowl. A few of the guys felt offended. They were doing a lot of dirty things like pushing and twisting and things like that. But that's part of football. We're not here to cry. We're here to play football."

Offensive coordinator Mike Jacobs told his players at halftime that they were too classy an outfit to be engaging in all the talking and unpleasanties. One such transgression by John Lumpkin sacked OSU with a 15-yard taunting penalty after a score and cost them the extra point when Dan Stultz pulled the attempt.

The Buckeyes buttoned it up for the most part in the second half and dominated to the tune of 13-0.

INSIDE THE OFFENSE

with
Jeff Rapp

But they left town knowing they weren't anywhere near sharp with the ball.

"We're greedy," right guard Ben Gilbert said. "Every time we get the ball we want to score a touchdown. If we don't score three drives in a row we look around like, 'Hey, what's going on.'"

Added Montgomery, "That's one thing that marks a great football team — we didn't play our best game and we know it, but we still came out with a victory."

Offensive captain Joe Germaine expects OSU's thirst for top-notch play will continue.

"There are a lot of expectations for our team," said the senior quarterback. "We've got a lot of things going for us and we're 7-0, so I guess there's pressure to perform perfectly. We understand that's probably not going to happen, but we are constantly pushing ourselves to reach a new level."

Germaine-Like, Or Not

The high expectations for the offense are reflected mostly in Germaine, who by his standards struggled badly in the second quarter but still finished 19 of 35 for 342 yards and three touchdowns.

Shaking off a rather unimpressive half and an interception — which bounced off Dee Miller — Germaine did nearly half of his damage in the third quarter by completing 10 of 13 passes for 168 yards. He also added a picturesque 31-yard touchdown strike to David Boston in the fourth quarter that capped the day.

"I thought we were kind of up and down throughout the game, and Northwestern had a lot to do with that," Germaine said. "I thought they did a good job of taking away some of our key plays."

"But we have a great offensive scheme



JEFF BISHOP

BOSTON SCORES — OSU receiver David Boston stretches out to make a touchdown grab in front of Northwestern defensive back Fred Wilkerson. Boston had eight catches for 171 yards and a pair of touchdowns in OSU's 36-10 win over the Wildcats.

and our coaches are always going to come up with the right play. If it doesn't work for whatever reason, we still have confidence that the next one will."

Of course, having receivers like Boston and Miller can keep your spirits up. They both committed a drop early on and didn't burst in some routes, but they went on to combine to catch 14 of Germaine's passes for 266 yards.

"There were a few times Dee and I weren't on the same page with Joe, but we

made our corrections at halftime and we went out in the second half and did our job," Boston said.

"They shuffled their guys around and mixed their coverages up a little bit, and sometimes it's hard to pick all that up. It was patience on our part. You can't go out there and complete every ball every play. But you've got to stay confident, and we're confident what we do in practice will work in games eventually."

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OHIO STATE VS. NORTHWESTERN

Germaine was credited with a 35-yard TD on his heave to Lumpkin that preceded the taunting penalty and gave OSU a 23-10 halftime lead. He'll take it.

"That was very big," he said. "It gave us momentum and kind of got the ball rolling for us. I just wanted to give John a shot with his height, and with him being a basketball player he just jumped up and took it away from the guy."

But as for his day, Germaine was his normal shoulder-shrugging self.

"It was a quiet 300, I'll tell you that," he said. "I don't know if it was surprising with our receivers, but it took some work. That's why we play the games."

Keller also found Germaine's 342 yards a ho-hum statistic.

"With Joe, you know he's always going to be productive. Sometimes it's more quiet than other days," Keller said. "I didn't even know he had 300 yards, but that's the norm for him anymore."

Jacobs said his view from the press box left him both thrilled and concerned depending on the play.

"That last touchdown was a great throw and catch," he said. "That got me a little noisy. Overall, we knew we were getting some and yet you could see we were missing some opportunities."

Another Boston TE Party

Germaine's final numbers were impressive, but it also would be difficult to overlook Boston.

The sensational junior not only racked up 171 yards on eight catches, he also leapfrogged Cris Carter to claim the top spot on OSU's career touchdown receptions list. Boston came in with 26 such scores, one behind Carter, but he moved to 28 for his career with two diving TD grabs in the second half.

"I just go out there, play and have fun, and I guess the records will come," Boston said. "I don't worry about the records."

"(But) it's a great feeling. Cris Carter is a great athlete and a great player. He's made plays all his life. It feels good to be associated with him."

Jacobs made sure to congratulate his split end afterward.

"Anytime you're involved with a name like Cris Carter and breaking a record such as David has done, that's real special," Jacobs said. "He ought to feel real honored to be mentioned in that category, and he is."

"He's an amazing athlete. If you can get the ball up there and protect, he can do some great things for you."

Hometown Hero

Another Buckeye who had a memorable day was Montgomery, who recorded an even 100 yards in 17 carries in front of 22 relatives from his nearby hometown of Oak Lawn, Ill.

"It felt good to see my family in the stands, and it made me come in with an extra motivation," he said.

Montgomery seems to be near plum out of extra motivation these days. He's publicly drawn on things like his rough background, moving up and down the depth chart, a gruesome knee injury, and whatever else to spur him to better play.

No matter the inspiration, Montgomery is making his presence known almost as soon as he shoots in from the sideline to spell starting tailback Michael Wiley.

He carried the ball the first four plays he was on the field against Northwestern and gained a pair of first downs with 33 yards. Most noteworthy was his fluidity on sweeps.

"I saw a lot of overflow on those runs and I just read my blocks and the line did a great job," he said. "I cut it up a couple times and

got good yards."

Wildcats Dine On OSU Line

Evident once again in the Northwestern game were the continuing struggles of the offensive line, a problem that may be leading to a lack of confidence by Wiley. The shifty back scored the first TD of the day with a nifty 28-yarder around left end but finished with 37 yards in 13 carries.

Germaine suffered two sacks, several hurries and threw on the run much more than usual. And along with protection problems, the trench men committed several penalties.

"There's a lot of inconsistency out there," Gilbert said. "It seems like we're always one block or one cut by the back away from really breaking one, and that's really frustrating. But I thought we did OK toward the end and toward the beginning, so you do what you've got to do to win."

Jacobs was most alarmed with the major drop-off in the second quarter.

"I thought we came out and had a great first quarter. We had 17 points on the board and we were moving the ball well," said the coordinator. "Then for whatever reason we lost concentration and focus here or there. We had way too many penalties and mistakes, and when you have those types of things you're going to get out of sync."

Continuing to struggle was right tackle Brooks Burris, who was yanked in favor of Henry Fleming briefly after his second illegal motion penalty of the day and gave up a sack upon returning.

"I don't think they lost confidence in him or anything like that," Gilbert said. "That was just to get back his concentration. Brooks is a good player, he's just got to get it together."

Miscellaneous Notes

• With the Ryan Field sod still smarting from a slop-fest with Michigan in the rain a week earlier, the Buckeyes made sure to attack the outside of the field, which held up much better. Wiley turned the corner on his TD run, and a majority of Germaine's first-half passes were flung to the outside.

"I think one thing that we can hang our hat on on offense is we've got a lot of speed," Germaine said. "I think it would be foolish of us not to try to take advantage of that outside. The field was a little sloppy between the hashes — basically it was dirt out there — so that went into our thoughts."

In the second half, OSU regrouped offensively with more slants and up-the-gut runs, which put the field factor to rest.

"At Ohio State we don't worry about things like the field," Montgomery said. "Sure there were tough conditions, but at the same time nothing keeps us from winning. I guess those are Coach Cooper semantics."

• OSU was a woeful 3 of 17 on third-down conversions, the worst such showing for the season. The Buckeyes came into the game with a 48 percent success rate on picking up third downs. OSU also failed to convert a fourth-down play for just the second time all season. That occurred when Germaine misfired while rolling out and looking for Boston on fourth-and-4 from the NU 23.

• The Buckeyes surpassed the 500-yard plateau for total offense for the sixth time in seven games with a net of 524 vs. Northwestern.

OSU, however, also amassed 82 yards in penalties with an even 10 infractions. That put OSU over the 500 mark for penalty yardage this season. A vast majority of OSU's 57 penalties have been on the offense.

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BSB Quotebook: Ohio State 36, Northwestern 10

OSU coach John Cooper assessed his defensive line after its three-sack, two-interception performance: "I thought our defensive line played pretty good. We're getting a little bit better pass rush. We're making him (the quarterback) read on the run and make some secondary throws."

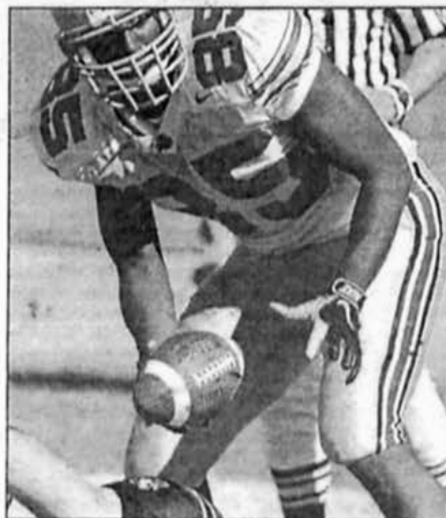
OSU linebacker Na'il Diggs also weighed in for the D-line, joking about the rare interceptions: "I thought our defensive line played a great game, both in coverage and in getting to the quarterback."

OSU running back Joe Montgomery, who rushed for 100 yards and a score, on playing just 45 minutes from his childhood home in the Chicago area: "It felt good to see my family in the stands. It gave me extra motivation."

Montgomery on his 19-yard touchdown run, where he shed a pair of tacklers at the 3-yard line: "When I get in the red zone, it's just an attitude I have. I feel like somebody is trying to steal something from me. I can't feed my family if I can't get into the end zone. That assaults me. Even if the other person didn't do anything to me, it still assaults me."

OSU safety Gary Berry on the field conditions at Ryan Field: "It wasn't good at all. But I think it's 100 percent better than a week ago when they played Michigan."

OSU quarterback Joe Germaine on his fourth-down pass to John Lumpkin, which resulted in a 35-yard score: "That was the same play as the Sugar Bowl touchdown. Being a basketball player like he is, he jumped up and took it away from



JEFF BREHM

LUMPKIN NO BUMPKIN — Ohio State has started looking for big tight end John Lumpkin as a true option in the passing game. The senior caught a touchdown pass in the Buckeyes' 36-10 win over Northwestern, one of two grabs on the day.

(NU's Conrad Emmerich)."

Lumpkin admits he went over Emmerich on his touchdown catch, but he doesn't feel he interfered on the play: "We were both going for the ball. I don't think it should have been interference or anything. I was just able to make the

grab."

OSU split end David Boston on his two long touchdown catches: "Those were just regular routes we work on every day. The defensive backs were playing way off me both times. I just did my job, and Joe made great throws on both of them. I put in a lot of hard work in the winter and the spring. I've been working really hard. I expect to make those kind of plays."

NU coach Gary Barnett stopped short of praising the OSU defense, saying NU's offense failed to convert on several chances: "I won't say they were great. When we had guys open, we couldn't hit them. We knew how good they were coming in. Their coverage guys are good. It was a game of chess out there, but you've got to execute."

NU receiver D'Wayne Bates on how the Wildcats stopped themselves: "We had good opportunities. Our defense got two turnovers and stopped Ohio State three-and-out two times in a row. We just couldn't capitalize on it."

OSU cornerback Antoine Winfield on his team's depth: "We have a lot of game-breakers on offense, and we have a lot of game-breakers on defense. It can't always be me, Andy Katzenmoyer, Joe Germaine and David Boston doing everything. We have other players who can do it."

Barnett on one of the differences between the two teams: "If you looked at that game, the main thing that stood out in my mind were the differences at quarterback. We did the best we could against Germaine. But in the end it was Germaine that won for Ohio State."

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OHIO STATE VS. NORTHWESTERN

Defensive Line Puts Best Foot Forward At NU

There was a party going on down on Northwestern's Ryan Field Oct. 25, and though few of the Wildcats were happy with the romping and whooping, nearly all of the Ohio State troops were overjoyed.

The party was of the coming-out variety, centering around the Buckeyes' defensive line. Playing hard but getting minimal results during the season, the OSU front wall finally came through, picking off a pair of passes and netting three of the Buckeyes' five sacks.

"They're young, but they're out there making plays," cornerback and defensive leader Antoine Winfield said. "They're going to get better. Clinton Wayne and Brent Johnson made some big interceptions and set the tone."

Johnson finished with just two tackles, but one was a sack, and he was around Northwestern quarterback Gavin Hoffman all afternoon. He has taken hold of one starting defensive end role, and though that comes as a surprise to some, his teammates saw it coming.

"It's good to see guys like Brent and Clinton Wayne have something like that happen so they can get some attention," linebacker Jerry Rudzinski said. "The defensive unit knows what they're capable of doing. A lot of people think Na'il (Diggs) is the surprise, but we don't feel he's a surprise. Same with Brent. He had a great spring, and teams might be focusing on some other areas of our defense. He had a great game today."

INSIDE THE DEFENSE with Mike Wachsman

Ohio State defensive coordinator Fred Pagac was proud of his entire unit, but he was especially pleased at the play of Johnson and the line.

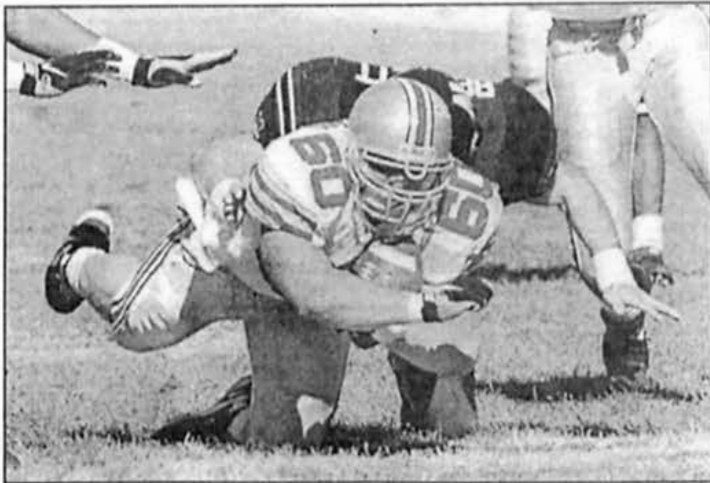
"He played well," Pagac said. "I like what he did today. I was a little angry he dropped that one interception there. He played solid the whole game."

Johnson and Wayne are connected in ways other than just being Buckeye defensive linemen. They're both from Ontario, Canada, and each played a part in OSU's big day decimating the Wildcats.

"It was good," Johnson said. "I couldn't believe he (Wayne) tipped it up and it just fell into my hands. He gets jealous about me getting two interceptions. That's why I turned one down today."

Ohio State managed just eight sacks in its first five games but has picked it up the past two weekends. With five sacks against Northwestern, OSU has nine in two games.

Whether they've been coverage sacks or just better pressure from the guys up front, OSU's line has become more productive. Freshman Ryan Pickett got into the fray, too, picking up the third sack from the defensive line.



JEFF BREHM

BRENT'S BIG BREAKOUT — Ohio State defensive end Brent Johnson (60) led a resurgence for the Buckeye defensive line. OSU tallied five sacks, three from the line, and Johnson picked off one pass in OSU's drubbing of Northwestern.

"Half of it is the X's and O's with the coaches, and the other half is that we've been working on our blitz attitude," Rudzinski said. "You can draw it up on the chalkboard all you want, but until you pin your ears back and run with reckless abandon at the quarterback,

you're not going to get any sacks."

Johnson's counterpart at end, sophomore Rodney Bailey, also netted a sack, and he sees a bit of a change in OSU's attitude.

"It felt like we wanted to get there more," Bailey said. "We have to put aside



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OHIO STATE VS. NORTHWESTERN



JEFF BREHM

BENNETT BREAKS FREE — There weren't many highlights for Northwestern in a 36-10 loss to Ohio State, but the performance of fullback Sean Bennett (with ball) was solid. Here Bennett runs against Andy Katzenmoyer (45) and Antoine Winfield (11).

the frustration and just have fun. We had more of that today."

Getting In The Zone

Northwestern kept things interesting for a half, trailing just 23-10 at intermission. The Wildcats were breaking some big gainers, including their first touchdown, a simple 5-yard middle screen to D'Wayne Bates that turned into a 60-yard jaunt to pay dirt.

Bates finished the day with seven catches for 95 yards but really wasn't much of a factor after his touchdown.

That's because the Buckeyes went to zone coverage on third down, the down Northwestern went with the screen most.

"We went to a lot more zones on third

down because we knew the screens were coming," Diggs said. "We did a lot of zone dogs and zone blitzes and things like that."

That Northwestern hit the big play to Bates was amazing because the Buckeyes actually knew it was coming.

"We worked on that play in practice all week and knew they wanted to get Bates involved," Rudzinski said. "We felt he was their biggest offensive weapon. We game planned for it, but he made some tacklers miss."

The second-half adjustments were crucial as OSU held Bates to just three catches for 23 yards.

Touted as an All-Big Ten candidate, Bates was pretty impressive. But if Ohio State were doing the voting, there might not be many honors for the senior.

"He's a good player," Winfield said. "I don't want to talk bad about him or anything, but I don't know if he'd be on the All-American lists."

Running On Empty

Northwestern came into the game knowing it needed to put the ball in the air. That would seem counterproductive against the nation's top-ranked pass defense, but it's exactly what the Wildcats attempted.

"Why am I not connecting the way I did in high school?" Hoffman asked. "Because I'm not in high school anymore. I'm playing against Ohio State, and this is all new to me."

The attitude was definitely there for the Buckeyes, who allowed just 92 total yards in the second half. Northwestern's rushing total of 48 net yards showed the Buckeyes came up big in their top goal — stopping the run.

It all goes back to attitude.

"Every game, we're gunning for a shutout," Bailey said. "Even when we give up three points, it's bad. Every down and every play, we're trying to give up as few yards and points as possible."

Bates said it wasn't only OSU's talented secondary that kept the Wildcats spinning their wheels.

"Their secondary is the best one we've played against this season," Bates said. "We ran our routes and we were open at times, but their front seven just put a lot of pressure on him (Hoffman). It wasn't their secondary that shut us down."

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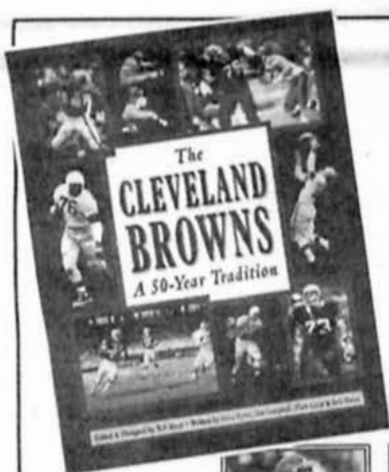
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OHIO STATE VS. NORTHWESTERN

Kicking Game Real Concern For Cooper

Throughout the football season, BSB will publish excerpts of OSU coach John Cooper's postgame press conferences. Here is what Cooper had to say after OSU's win at Northwestern.

Cooper: "I think we beat a real scrappy Northwestern football team. Give that team a lot of credit. They had a good game plan. They really nickel-and-dimed us a lot with their short passing game. They had a great call on the only touchdown they scored, that little screen pass to (D'Wayne) Bates. Bates is a very, very good football player."

"I'm really proud of the way we

played defensively. We shut them out in the second half. We missed a couple of chances to score on defense. I'm a little disappointed in how many penalties we had again. I'm disappointed in our return game. We didn't get that going today."

"I thought both punters did an excellent job kicking the football. We missed a field goal, missed an extra point, but we've got some good skilled athletes."

"Joe (Germaine) maybe again today didn't have his best game, but he did throw for over 300 yards. David (Boston) broke Cris Carter's record for touchdown catches in a career. I'm really proud of Joe Montgomery, running for a hundred yards after coming back



JEFF BREHM

NICE TO SEE YOU AGAIN, GARY — Ohio State and Northwestern didn't play each other when the Wildcats won back-to-back league titles, so you can bet John Cooper (left) was happy to be back in Evanston. Here he chats with NU's Gary Barnett.

Q: What was said to the team at halftime?

Cooper: "I just think we came out in the second half and threw the ball down the field a little more. We had the wind there a time or two in the fourth quarter, and we hit David with

the touchdown. John Lumpkin's catch just before halftime was a big play. We made some adjustments defensively at halftime and tried to control their short passing game more in the second half than we did in the first."

Q: Was it a good sign that even though you're the No. 1 team in the country that you can get better?

Cooper: "I hope we can get better. This point in the season you have to get better. Everybody's fatigued, everybody's tired, and if you aren't careful the season will wear on you. But I expect our team to get better."

Q: Did things get a little out of hand at times?

Cooper: "It was real sloppy. There was too much talking, too much pushing, too much shoving going on after the plays were over. We will get that addressed this week. I don't like that. I don't think there's any place in football for that, and I know Gary (Barnett) probably feels the same way. There was too much of that going on."

Q: Do you think your defensive line really came up big today?

Cooper: "Because of their short passing game and the formations they were using against us, it makes it difficult to blitz on every play. So sometimes your D-line has to tee it up and control the rush themselves. I thought they played pretty good. We didn't give up any rushing touchdowns, and they didn't have many yards tackle-to-tackle. I thought our defensive line played pretty good."

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OHIO STATE VS. NORTHWESTERN

Q: Do you think we can lay that low sack question to rest?

Cooper: "We're getting a little better pass rush. It's a combination of things — you have to have a pass rush and your secondary has to play well. They have to make the quarterback read on the run and make some secondary throws. We did that pretty well."

Q: Was this a perfect case of just how deep your team is? You have Joe, not your featured back, rush for 100 yards, Lumpkin catches a touchdown, Brent Johnson makes an interception.

Cooper: "We're certainly not one-dimensional. We feel like we have some depth. I'm a little disappointed we didn't get those young running backs into the game — Derek (Combs) and Jonathan (Wells). They deserve more playing time than they're getting. We've got to cut down on our penalties. We look at film and wonder why in the world we're getting so many, but it turns out the refs are right most of the time."

Q: Did you just decide to come out and pass more in the second half?

Cooper: "No, not really. We had the wind in the fourth quarter and they were almost forcing us to throw the football. They're pretty physical up front. They were a pretty scrappy football team, they have some pretty big players. I don't know how big they looked from the press box, but they've got some big, good-looking guys."

Q: Did it take awhile for Germaine to

get wound up today?

Cooper: "I don't think he had his best game today, but it wasn't a bad game. Joe can throw better than he did today, and he'll be the first one to tell you that."

Q: Are you not worrying about what anyone else does and just concerning yourself with your team?

Cooper: "We don't have any control over that. I listen to some of those scores, but I don't have any control over that. You'll wake up in the morning and find out there are some pretty good football teams that either won ugly or didn't win at all. I've been in it long enough to just appreciate a victory."

Q: Did Barry Gardner just jump out at you today?

Cooper: "He's a good football player. I don't know how many tackles he ended up with, but he's a good football player. Again, the kind of offense we're running, it's a lot of two tight ends and run tackle-to-tackle. I don't know if he played better than he has all year, but he's an outstanding football player."

Q: Talk about Lumpkin's big touchdown catch.

Cooper: "That was a big play for us. We had just intercepted a ball there and needed to get something. We just threw it up. It was what we call a dash play, Joe threw it up in the end zone and big John made a great catch. John made some other key catches in the game today."

Q: Are you concerned about Dan

Stultz?

Cooper: "Am I concerned about him? Are you? Should I be? I'm concerned about our kicking game."

Q: Did you talk to Gary (Berry) after the muffed punt?

Cooper: "I told him at that stage of the ball game don't take a chance. What happened to the old fair catch rule? Just catch it. The only way we can lose the game is to give them a bad play. Sometimes I think the guys are trying to do too much on their own back there."

Q: You alluded to the pushing and shoving. What was it that bothered you about it?

Cooper: "There was just way too much of it. I don't know why, but I can tell you we'll address it. I don't like it. I know this week (Rob) Murphy talked about he liked to get into their minds and talk to them, but I don't think there's any place in college athletics for that. I'm going to see that it stops."

Q: Talk about David Boston's place in OSU history.

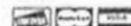
Cooper: "He had another good ball game. They were trying to play him man-to-man coverage and he made some great catches. I hope he's got a long time to add to his history. I hope he continues to play down the stretch like he's playing now. If we get man coverage on him, then we're foolish not to use him."

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The Numbers Game

Ohio State 36, Northwestern 10

Oct. 24, 1998 — Ryan Field, Evanston, Ill.

Score by Quarters	1	2	3	4	F
OHIO STATE	17	6	6	7	36
NORTHWESTERN	7	3	0	0	10

First Quarter

OSU — Wiley, 28 run (Stultz kick) 12:32; 5 plays, 63 yards, 1:07

OSU — Stultz, 37 field goal 5:31; 10 plays, 63 yards, 4:25

NU — Bates, 60 pass from Hoffman (Gowins kick) 4:07; 4 plays, 75 yards, 1:24

OSU — Montgomery, 19 run (Stultz kick) 2:21; 5 plays 75 yards, 1:46

Second Quarter

NU — Gowins, 39 field goal 6:32; 7 plays, 21 yards, 3:37

OSU — Lumpkin, 35 pass from Germaine (kick failed) 1:46; 4 plays, 28 yards, 0:59

Third Quarter

OSU — Boston, 38 pass from Germaine (pass failed) 2:31; 5 plays, 76 yards, 1:38

Fourth Quarter

OSU — Boston, 31 pass from Germaine (Stultz kick) 8:11; 7 plays, 87 yards, 2:42

Att. — 47,130

Weather — Sunny, 52 degrees. Wind 9 mph from SW

Team Statistics

	OSU	NU
First Downs	22	11
Rushing	8	3
Passing	13	7
Penalty	1	1
Rushes-Yards	44-182	30-48
Passing Yards	342	190
Passes (Att.-Comp.-Int.)	36-19-1	43-17-3
Offensive Plays	80	73
Total Net Yards	524	238
Third Down Efficiency	3-17	4-19
Fourth Down Efficiency	1-2	0-0
Punts	8-42.1	13-42.4
Fumbles-Lost	3-1	1-0
Penalties	10-82	10-70
Time of Possession	30:01	29:59

Individual Statistics

RUSHING (Att.-Net Yds.) — OSU: Montgomery 17-100; Wiley 13-37; Keller 4-22; Germaine 5-11; Garcia 1-6; Wells 1-4; Combs 3-2. NU: Bennett 3-40; Anderson 9-28; Marshall 8-17; Gooch 3-9; Kreinbrink 3-(-17); Hoffman 4-(-29).

PASSING (Att.-Comp.-Int.-Yds.-TD) — OSU: Germaine 35-19-1-342-3; Garcia 1-0-0-0-0. NU: Hoffman 39-15-2-173-1; Kreinbrink 3-2-0-17-0; Broxterman 1-0-1-0-0.

RECEIVING (Rec.-Yds.) — OSU: Boston 8-171; Miller 6-95; Lumpkin 2-41; Keller 2-16; Germany 1-19. NU: Bates 7-95; Tant 4-30; Bennett 2-15; Anderson 1-17; Marshall 1-17; Stuart 1-11; Burden 1-5.

PUNTING (No.-Avg.-Long) — OSU: Bartholomew 8-42.1-57. NU: Standing 13-42.4-51.

PUNT RETURNS (No.-Yds.) — OSU: Berry 7-13. NU: Bates 5-35.

KICKOFF RETURNS (No.-Yds.) — OSU: None. NU: Simmons 2-39.

FUMBLE RECOVERIES — OSU: None. NU: Letts.

INTERCEPTIONS (No.-Yds.) — OSU: Bellisari 1-19; Wayne 1-17; Johnson 1-11. NU: Nelson 1-0.

SACKS — OSU: Diggs 1-13; Winfield 1-11; Bailey 1-9; Johnson 1-6; Pickett 1-3. NU: Missouri 1-10; Schmidt 1-5.

TACKLES FOR LOSS (No.-Yds.) — OSU: Diggs 2-15; Katzenmoyer 2-9; Winfield 1-11; Bailey 1-9; Johnson 1-6; Pickett 1-3. NU: Missouri 2-11; Buck 2-3; Schmidt 1-5; Sanders 1-3; Gardner 1-2; Cummings-John 1-1.

TACKLES (Solo-Assist-Tot.) — OSU: Diggs 9-2-11; Katzenmoyer 5-2-7; Rudzinski 5-2-7; Winfield 4-1-5; Moore 4-1-5; Berry 3-2-5; Johnson 2-0-2; Pickett 2-0-2; Ross 2-0-2; Bellisari 1-1-2; Wayne 1-1-2; Plummer 1-1-2; Houser 1-1-2; Clements 1-0-1; Bailey 1-0-1; Cooper 1-0-1; Queen 0-1-1; King 0-1-1. NU: Gardner 11-5-16; Wilkerson 6-1-7; Ja. Collins 4-2-6; Buck 4-1-5; Nelson 4-1-5; Schmidt 3-2-5; M. Jones 3-2-5; Harris 3-0-3; Emmerich 2-1-3; Letts 2-1-3; Missouri 2-0-2; Morton 2-0-2; Dyra 1-1-2; Barnes 1-1-2; Bennett 1-0-1; Clelland 1-0-1; Simmons 1-0-1; Sanders 1-0-1; Cummings-John 1-0-1; Conoway 0-1-1.

PLAYERS IN THE GAME — OHIO STATE: Starters: Defense, Bailey, Pickett, Brown, Johnson, Diggs, Katzenmoyer, Rudzinski, Winfield, Berry, Moore, Plummer, Houser, Boston, Walter, R. Murphy, K. Murphy, Gilbert, Burris, Lumpkin, Germaine, Keller, Wiley, Miller. Reserves: Mitchell, Rambo, Bellisari, Cooper, Garcia, King, Clements, Westbrooks, Wells, Ott, Montgomery, Simpson, Ross, Martin, Bartholomew, Griffin, Combs, Kirk, Stultz, LaVar, Cheatwood, Hopkins, Gurr, Bentley, Fleming, Elford, Germany, Warnke, Wisniewski, Houser, Wayne, Wilson, Homa, Eisenhard, Queen. NORTHWESTERN: Starters: Defense, Burden, Souza, Clelland, Fay, Hemmerle, LaBelle, Tant, Bates, Hoffman, L. Brown, Anderson, Defense, Missouri, Dyra, Ja. Collins, Schmidt, Gardner, Emmerich, Buck, Blackmon, Nelson, M. Jones, Wilkerson. Reserves: Cummings-John, Bentley, I. Miller, Burrell, Harris, Conoway, Kreinbrink, Broxterman, Gowins, Gooch, Barnes, T. Johnson, Rubin, Morton, Bennett, Marshall, Sanders, Simmons, Forderwalt, Standing, Letts, Silva, Friedrich, Perry, Harnedy, Hodge, R. Johnson, Stuart, Konopka, Simon.

Season Statistics

1998 Game-By-Game

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	at Indiana			
Nov. 7	MICHIGAN STATE			
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	169	88
Rushing	81	37
Passing	85	43
Penalty	3	8
Avg. Per Game/Rush	216.4	84.4
Avg. Per Game/Pass	290.1	144.7
Total Offense	3540	1604
Total Plays	545	462
Average Per Game	506.6	229.1
Average Per Play	6.5	3.5
Penalties-Yards	57-511	33-257
Fumbles-Lost	19-5	8-4
3rd Down Efficiency	50-115	23-112
Percentage	.435	.205
4th Down Efficiency	6-8	4-12
Percentage	.750	.333
Sacks	17-105	17-100
Time of Possession Avg.	31:22	28:38

Score By Quarters

	1	2	3	4	Tot.	Avg.
Ohio State	79	68	49	52	268	38.3
Opponents	13	37	6	9	65	9.3

Attendance	Games	Total	Avg.
Home	4	373,080	93,270
Away	3	161,929	53,976
Total	7	535,009	76,430

Individual Statistics

	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Long
Michael Wiley	116	786	6.8	7	75
Joe Montgomery	69	426	6.2	5	30
Jonathan Wells	29	132	4.6	2	14
Matt Keller	21	84	4.0	1	12
Derek Combs	25	62	2.5	0	12
Dee Miller	2	14	7.0	0	10
Joe Germaine	31	11	0.4	0	22
Jamon Jackson	2	8	4.0	0	4
Jamar Martin	5	6	1.2	0	4
Jerry Westbrooks	1	3	3.0	0	3
Brent Bartholomew	1	-4	-4.0	0	0
Mark Garcia	6	-13	-2.2	0	7
OSU Totals	308	1515	4.9	18	75
OPP Totals	214	891	2.8	2	35

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
David Boston	46	791	17.2	7	53
Dee Miller	35	558	15.9	2	42
Michael Wiley	13	65	5.2	1	20
Reggie Germany	12	195	16.3	3	47
John Lumpkin	10	164	16.4	2	35
Matt Keller	7	61	8.7	0	15
Jamar Martin	4	52	13.0	0	17
Ken-Yon Rambo	3	55	18.3	0	39
Jimmy Redmond	2	25	12.5	0	15
Derek Warnke	2	21	10.5	0	17
Kevin Griffin	1	14	14.0	0	14
Jonathan Wells	1	11	11.0	0	11
Jerry Westbrooks	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	140	2031	14.5	18	53
OPP Totals	115	1013	8.8	4	60

	TD	EPK	EPP	EPR	FG	PTS
Dan Stultz	0	32-33	—	—	—	8-16
Michael Wiley	8	—	—	—	—	48
David Boston	7	—	—	—	1	44
Joe Montgomery	5	—	—	—	—	30
Reggie Germany	3	—	—	—	—	18
John Lumpkin	2	—	—	—	—	12
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
Jerry Rudzinski	1	—	—	—	—	6
Joe Germaine	0	—	1-2	—	—	0
OSU Totals	35	32-33	1-2	1	8-16	268
OPP Totals	7	6-6	0-1	0	5-6	65

	Passing	Comp.	Att.	Pct.	Yds.	INT	TD Rating
Joe Germaine	129	210	.614	1863	4	14	154.1
Mark Garcia	8	20	.400	144	0	1	116.9
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	140	237	.591	2031	4	15	148.8
OPP Totals	115	248	.464	1013	12	4	76.3

FG Distance	0-29	30-39	40-49	50+	Total
Dan Stultz	2-2	4-6	2-6	0-2	8-16
OSU Totals	2-2	4-6	2-6	0-2	8-16
OPP Totals	3-3	2-2	2-2	0-0	5-6

Punting	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Blk	Long
Brent Bartholomew	35	1476	42.2	1	57
Team	1	0	0.0	0	0
OSU Totals	36	1476	41.0	1	57
OPP Totals	65	2790	42.9	2	66

Interceptions	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
Ahmed Plummer	3	0	0.0	0	0
Central McClellion	1	60	60.0	1	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 Cheatwood	1	0	0.0	0	0
David Misanin	1	0	0.0	0	0
Damon Moore	1	0	0.0	0	0
OSU Totals	12	138	11.5	1	60
OPP Totals	4	0	0.0	0	0

Punt Returns	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
Ken-Yon Rambo	19	128	6.7	0	24
Gary Berry	15	65	4.3	0	13
David Boston	8	77	9.6	0	37
Percy King	1	8	8.0	0	8
Joe Cooper	0	0	0.0	1	0
OSU Totals	43	278	6.5	1	37
OPP Totals	22	156	7.1	0	34

Kickoff Returns	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
Michael Wiley	4	105	26.3	0	26
Ken-Yon Rambo	4	90	22.5	0	26
Jonathan Wells	3	63	21.0	0	23
Reggie Germany	1	14	14.0	0	14
OSU Totals	12	272	22.7	0	26
OPP Totals	34	573	16.9	0	29

Defensive Leaders	Solo Ast.	Tot. TFL-Yds.	Sacks
Na'il Diggs	37 9	46 10-43	4-27
Damon Moore	36 7	43 6-15	—
Damon Moore	30 12	42 5-16	1-1
Antoine Winfield	35 6	41 4-26	2-17
Jerry Rudzinski	19 12	31 4-27	2-22
Gary Berry	19 7	26 2-14	1-10
Ahmed Plummer	23 2	25 3-10	—
Brent Johnson	14 10	24 4-17	3-12
Joe Cooper	14 7	21 1-9	—
Central McClellion	7 9	16 —	—
Ryan Pickett	9 3	12 2-9	1-3
Mike Collins	7 4	11 1-3	1-3
Tim Cheatwood	5 6	11 1-3	—
Steve Bellisari	8 2	10 —	—
Percy King	6 4	10 —	—
Joe Brown	5 5	10 2-7	—
Derek Ross	7 2	9 —	—
David Mitchell	6 3	9 —	—
Clinton Wayne	4 5	9 —	—
James Cotton	6 2	8 3-11	1-7
Nate Clements	6 1	7 —	—
Kevin Houser	6 1	7 —	—
Randy Homa	5 2	7 3-4	—

Fumbles Forced

1 — Joe Cooper, Jerry Rudzinski, James Cotton.

Fumbles Recovered

1 — Tim Cheatwood, Ahmed Plummer, Jerry Rudzinski, Na'il Diggs.

Blocked Kicks

1 — Steve Bellisari, Percy King.

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