

# BUCKEYE SPORTS BULLETIN

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Vol. 18, No. 11

"For The Buckeye Fan Who Needs To Know More"

November 21, 1998

# Showdown At The 'Shoe

## OSU Plays Michigan For Share Of Big Ten Football Championship

By STEVE HELWAGEN  
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

Ohio State will play for its 28th Big Ten championship when it hosts rival Michigan in The Game Nov. 21 at Ohio Stadium.

Michigan (8-2, 7-0) has already clinched at least a share of the title with a win over previously unbeaten Wisconsin on Nov. 14. The Wolverines will be playing for an outright title and the Rose Bowl berth when they invade the Horseshoe.

Ohio State (9-1, 6-1), still smarting from a Nov. 7 upset at the hands of Michigan State, rebounded with a decisive road win at Iowa.

"It will be another classic ball game," OSU coach John Cooper said of the Michigan contest after his team disposed of the Hawkeyes.

Ohio State stood as the nation's consensus No. 1 team prior to the loss to Michigan State. A trip to the first-ever Bowl Championship Series national title game at the Fiesta Bowl seemed a certainty with a victory over Michigan.

But now the Buckeyes must defeat Michigan and hope for some help in the way of having Penn State go into Madison, Wis., and defeat the Badgers just to get to the Rose Bowl.

"We're going to go out with added intensity this week," said OSU linebacker and captain Jerry Rudzinski. "We're just upset we can't control our own destiny. We know what we do have to do is win the rest of our games."

"When we know bowl trips are on the line and league championships are on the line, we're going to pick it up and no doubt pick up the intensity."

While Ohio State remains a long shot to still reach the Fiesta Bowl, its place within the BCS bowl structure is also in doubt — even with a win over Michigan and a 10-1 mark.

That's why Cooper is focusing hard on the task at hand. "All we've got to be concerned about now are the things we have control over. Of course, that's the Michigan game next week," he said.



**GO JOE GO** — OSU tailback Joe Montgomery (33) goes down the sideline on an 80-yard touchdown run as teammate David Boston, who provided a block, and Iowa's Eric Thigpen (21) follow the play. The Buckeyes blistered Iowa 45-14 in their tune-up for Michigan. For more on the Iowa game, see stories on pages 10-19.

"I'd like to see Penn State beat Wisconsin, but we can't be concerned about that."

Despite the bowl ramifications, OSU has a chance in one 60-minute football game to wipe out what has become 10 years of misery against its archrival, not to mention the lingering pain from the upset two weeks prior to the unranked Spartans.

Cooper's OSU teams are 1-8-1 against Michigan. The losses have been especially painful over the last five years, when the Buckeyes have enjoyed lofty status in the national polls.

In that stretch, Michigan wins over Ohio State have denied the Buckeyes a shot at three national championships (1993, '95 and '96) as well as three Rose Bowl bids (1993, '95 and '97) and two Big Ten championships (1995 and '97).

This 95th meeting between the "Big Two" will add more mystique to one of the college game's fiercest rivalries. It will mark the 38th time the game will have a significant impact on the Big Ten title picture since it was moved to the season's final Saturday in 1935. If Wisconsin falters, this will be the 19th time in that stretch the two schools have decided the title between themselves.

But the Michigan rivalry was the last thing Cooper and his players were going to talk about after the Iowa win. Looking at recent history — where inflammatory OSU comments have been used against them — it could be the

Buckeyes' best strategy yet.

"I don't want to talk about Michigan. We'll talk about that this week," Cooper said, referring to his designated media day the following Monday to discuss the upcoming opponent.

When asked about whether he felt good about his team going into The Game after OSU's 45-14 win over the Hawkeyes, Cooper coyly replied, "Do I feel good going into it? I feel good coming off this victory here."

Other than some complimentary mentions of UM, Cooper's players followed that lead closely.

"It's a special week, and we're going to worry about it after our corrections from Iowa," Rudzinski said. "I know we have a lot to improve on from this game."

Added quarterback and captain Joe Germaine, "Michigan's a good team. There's no question they're building some steam and getting better each week."

"Right now we're just going to enjoy this one and then on Monday we'll start looking hard at Michigan."

### Wolverines Deserve Credit

Coming off a national championship and Rose Bowl season last year, Michigan had high hopes to repeat. Season-opening losses to Notre Dame and Syracuse dashed those

Continued On Page 8

## Holiday Gift Guide Insert In This Issue

In this edition of Buckeye Sports Bulletin, we have inserted our annual Holiday Gift Guide.

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## Continued From Page 1

hopes.

"You know they are going to be fired up to play Ohio State," he said. "They are chock-full of talent. They are coached well. And right now they probably have a little

"We worried about our task today (at

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other games are played."



## OHIO STATE VS. IOWA

# OSU Gets Back On Track

## Buckeye Offense Rolls Iowa, 45-14

By STEVE HELWAGEN  
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

A wounded Ohio State team showed up in Iowa City, Iowa, Nov. 14 intent on regaining some of its lost pride.

And after a 45-14 win over the host Iowa Hawkeyes, it is safe to say that mission was accomplished.

"This makes it feel better," said OSU cornerback Antoine Winfield, one week after the Buckeyes were upset at home by Michigan State 28-24. "Last week we really didn't have a good effort. But we came out today and played hard."

Ohio State (9-1, 6-1) found itself in a battle for much of the first half before a late touchdown gave the Buckeyes a 28-14 cushion at the half. That would be all OSU would need, as the Buckeye defense held Iowa (3-7, 2-5) to just 21 yards total offense and no points over the final 30 minutes.

"I thought after we settled down we played a pretty good game," said OSU coach John Cooper.

In the final analysis, it was hard to distinguish which side of the ball stood out

more for the Buckeyes.

On offense, OSU racked up five touchdowns and a season-high 627 yards total offense. That effort was again led by quarterback Joe Germaine, who completed 18 of 30 passes for 319 yards with three touchdowns and two interceptions.

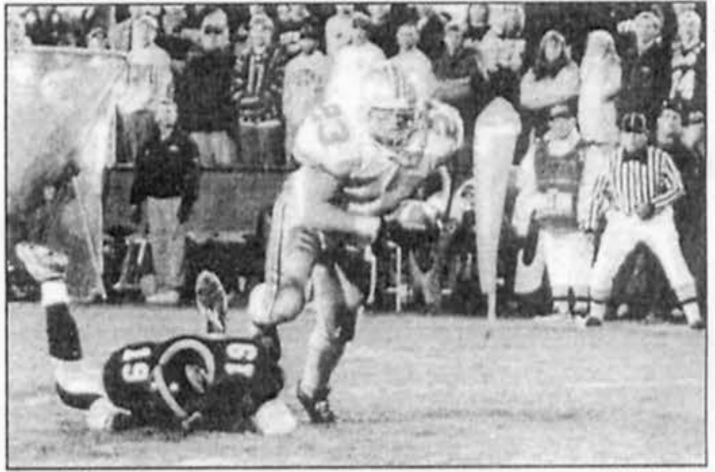
Germaine did most of his business with split end David Boston, who caught five passes for 163 yards and two scores.

And, for good measure, tailback Joe Montgomery returned to the scene of his previous career rushing game (160 yards in 1996) and rolled for 144 yards on 12 carries, including a career-long 80-yard touchdown run.

Defensively, OSU registered a season-high 11 quarterback sacks. That total does not reflect a near-sack that resulted in defensive tackle Mike Collins' 22-yard interception return for a touchdown.

"It was a great performance — the defensive line, the linebackers and the secondary together," Winfield said. "We came in at half-time and made some adjustments and things worked well."

The injury-plagued Hawkeyes were not helped when starting quarterback Scott



SONEY BROCKMAN

**KELLER SOARS, SCORES** — After taking a pass away from Iowa's Jeff Kramer (19), OSU fullback Matt Keller dives for the end zone to complete a 16-yard touchdown that gave the Buckeyes a 35-14 lead late in the third quarter.

Mullen was lost with a broken collarbone early in the second quarter. Kyle McCann, a previous Iowa starter who was nursing an

ankle sprain, relieved him with decent results in the second quarter. But McCann was sacked eight times in

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## OHIO STATE VS. IOWA

the second half as the Buckeyes slammed the door.

"When Scott Mullen went down, that took out our option game," said venerable Iowa coach Hayden Fry. "McCann did as well as he could do with a high ankle sprain. He had several nice passes and runs. I was surprised."

"We gave them three (touchdowns) in the first half, so we thought we could play with them in the second half. But we didn't have enough time to deliver the ball, and we were worn out on defense."

## As It Happened

Ohio State had a nice drive going on its first possession, but it was Iowa that got on the board first.

Facing third-and-11 at the Iowa 27, Germaine threw to Miller in the right flat. But Iowa's D.J. Johnson stepped in front of the pass and returned it 73 yards down the sideline to the OSU 11.

On first down there, Mullen kept the ball on an option right and danced into the end zone for the 11-yard touchdown and a 7-0 lead with 8:32 left in the first quarter.

But Ohio State had a quick answer. Starting at its own 20 after a touchback on the kickoff, Montgomery went over right tackle, exploded through a big hole and used some nice down-field interference from Boston on the 80-yard touchdown run that knotted the score at 7-7 with 8:16 left in the first.

"It was a counter play," Montgomery said. "I followed Tyson Walter through the hole. Murph (Rob Murphy) crumbled the guy. I went down the sideline and I saw one more guy coming. Dave did a good job picking him up."

"After that I just ran down the sideline. Everything else was cake."

OSU's next touchdown resulted from a scoring drive that was nearly as quick. Taking over after an Iowa punt on its own 33, OSU needed just two plays to cover the distance. On first down, Montgomery went right for 13 yards.

Then Germaine threw the bomb down the left side to Boston, who shrugged off Johnson at the 5 and skittered into the end zone for a 54-yard touchdown and a 14-7 lead with six seconds left in the first quarter.

The defense then found the end zone for the Buckeyes — for the fifth time in the last seven games — as end Brent Johnson pressured a scrambling Mullen and his errant pass was intercepted by Collins. The freshman raced 22 yards the other way for his first career touchdown and a 21-7 lead with 13:49 left in the second quarter.

"It kind of hit me right in the hands, and I had to take off running," Collins said. "I just wanted to put the ball in the end zone and get some points for our team."

Early in the second quarter, Mullen suffered a broken collarbone and was lost when OSU's Joe Brown dumped him after a pass attempt. McCann came on and led the Hawkeyes on an eight-play, 79-yard scoring drive late in the first half.

Like Mullen before him, McCann had success keeping the ball. On third-and-11 at the OSU 13, he dodged Brown in the backfield and headed toward the end zone. He avoided tackle attempts by OSU's Johnson and Nail Diggs and dove for the 13-yard score to make it 21-14 with 2:33 left in the half.

The teams traded possessions after that, but Iowa's mismanagement of the clock cost the Hawkeyes dearly. Instead of melting the clock deep in his own territory, Fry opted to try to tie the score with a series of passes. When that strategy failed, OSU took over at its own 41 after an Iowa punt with 1:03 left.

Where the two-minute offense had failed at the end of the Michigan State game the week before, it came up like roses here. Germaine needed just four plays to put OSU in the end zone, completing three passes for the necessary 59 yards.

After a first-down incompleteness, he scrambled and hit fullback Matt Keller for 25 yards. He then found Miller for 17 more before dialing up a wide-open Boston in the right corner of the end zone for the 17-yard touchdown and a 28-14 lead with just 27 seconds left in the half.

After a rough first half, OSU's defense turned up the heat on McCann in the third quarter. In that period alone, OSU sacked McCann three times and held the Hawkeyes to minus-18 yards total offense.

"We really blitzed their freshman quarterback when he came in the game," Cooper said. "They didn't do anything against us in the second half."

OSU won the field position battle and took over at the Iowa 22 after a 27-yard punt return by Boston.

OSU needed three plays to convert this opportunity. After Montgomery had gains of 5 and 1 yards, Germaine stepped up on third down and threw a bullet to Keller. The fullback went up to take the pass away from Iowa's Jeff Kramer and dove for the 16-yard touchdown to make it 35-14 with 4:33 left in the third.

"I was just supposed to release at the hash and keep going up the sideline, but the guy had me flanked," Keller said. "I tried to go underneath and actually fell down on the play."

"Joe stuck with me and got it to me, and I was fortunate to get it into the end zone."

Germaine joined a collection of reserves in driving 76

yards in 12 plays before Dan Stultz came on to add a 27-yard field goal and make it 38-14 with 13:10 left in the game.

Finally, with backup Mark Garcia in the game, OSU drove 65 yards in six plays to its final touchdown, a 10-yard run by backup fullback Jamar Martin to make it 45-14 with 5:09 left in the game.

## Game Notes

- OSU tailback Michael Wiley moved over the 1,000-yard mark for the season with 61 yards on 16 carries at Iowa. That gives the junior 1,027 yards for the year. He became the 16th OSU running back to reach the 1,000-yard plateau. That marks the 21st time it has happened in OSU history.

- The Buckeyes made a pair of interesting substitutions in the second half.

First, late in the third quarter, Germaine was working with a group of mostly backup players. But, facing a third-and-16 predicament on OSU's own 34-yard line,

Boston was summoned from the sideline to help get the first down.

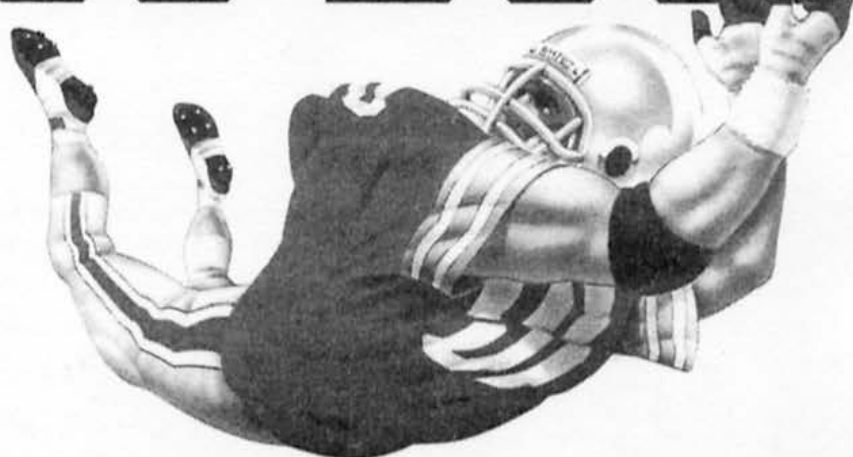
Although he nearly tripped trying to get his overcoat off and get into the huddle, Boston caught a slant pass and rolled for 37 yards and a first down. OSU drove for a field goal to go up by 24 on that drive, and Boston was done for the night.

Then, midway through the fourth quarter, OSU's second-team defense allowed Iowa to move down to the OSU 23 with just over eight minutes left. Most of the starters returned to the field, and they successfully turned the Hawkeyes away when Diggs sacked McCann for a 7-yard loss on fourth-and-15 at the OSU 28.

- Cooper improved to 7-1-1 against his good friend Fry and Iowa. Cooper's Buckeyes are 4-0-1 in Kinnick Stadium, where a crowd of 69,473 — just shy of a sellout — watched this game.

OSU upped its lead in the all-time Iowa series to 39-13-3.

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## OHIO STATE VS. IOWA

## Buckeyes Put Up Big Numbers At Iowa

Ohio State's yardage total at Iowa pretty much spoke for itself.

The Buckeyes notched season highs of 627 yards and 31 first downs in rolling to a 45-14 win over the Hawkeyes.

"That's a lot of yardage, isn't it?" mused quarterbacks coach Tim Salem afterward.

That's also a far cry from the previous week, when the Buckeyes saw their string of 500-yard games snapped at four in a loss to Michigan State. This output gave OSU an unprecedented eight 500-yard games this year.

"I give credit to our players," Salem said. "They came out and responded to the challenge of another new Saturday in college football."

"You can't look behind you and you can't look ahead of you. Here's the game before you, and they came out today and did some good things."

Ohio State achieved what it wanted through the air (358 yards on 35 pass attempts) and on the ground (269 yards on 44 rushes).

"Anytime you have over 600 yards total offense, come over here and put 45 points up on the Hawkeyes, and you have the balance we had running and throwing the ball, you're going to be happy," said OSU coach John Cooper.

The OSU offense scored five touchdowns and a field goal in the game. OSU missed on four more chances inside the Iowa 35, where quarterback Joe Germaine threw

### INSIDE THE OFFENSE with Steve Helwagen

two interceptions, tailback Michael Wiley fumbled, and kicker Dan Stultz had a 39-yard field goal blown off course by a heavy wind.

#### Montgomery's The Man

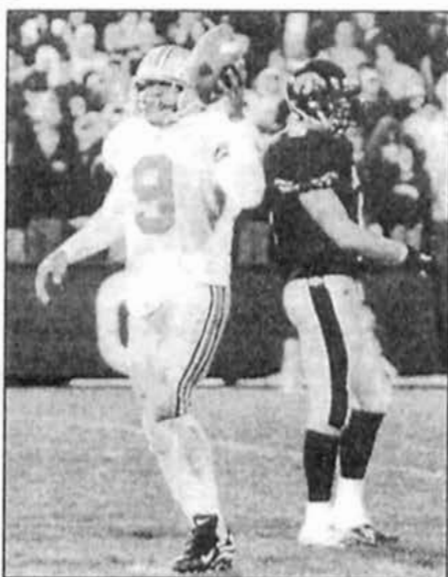
Senior Joe Montgomery returned to the scene of his career game — a 160-yard performance at Iowa in 1996 — and nearly bettered it.

Keyed by an electrifying, career-long 80-yard touchdown run on his first carry, Montgomery finished with a season-high 144 yards on 12 carries.

"I think he's really coming on," Cooper said. "He's running real hard north and south."

There was speculation after the game that Montgomery, now with 654 yards on the year, could supplant Wiley as the starter for the Michigan game. After all, Montgomery's strong running style should be better suited for what could be a tense defensive struggle.

But Cooper did not commit to such a move. Wiley did go over the 1,000-yard



SONNY BROCKWAY

**DAVID DOES IT AGAIN** — There seemingly isn't a receiving record safe from David Boston, who scored twice in OSU's 45-14 win over Iowa. Boston broke Cris Carter's career reception mark in the game, grabbing five for 163 yards.

mark for the season with 61 yards on 16 carries at Iowa.

Wiley now has 1,027 yards for the year, but his rise to that plateau slowed considerably after he amassed an even 500 yards against OSU's three non-conference opponents.

"I don't know if Joe will start next week," Cooper said. "I don't know if we'll make any changes between now and next week. We might start him because he's a senior."

Coming off the bench is fine for Montgomery, who considers himself to be one of the team's spark plugs.

"When I get in there, I'm trying to fire everybody else up," he said. "I'm a guy who will be screaming and shaking my shoulders. But the ref told me, 'Joe, you need to relax,' so I never did it again. I was just out there having fun."

Considering his two biggest games have been at Iowa's Kinnick Stadium, Montgomery was asked if he would have been better off playing his college ball for the Hawkeyes.

"Now, I'm a Buckeye," he replied. "I don't think about playing at any other school. I'm a Buckeye."

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## OHIO STATE VS. IOWA

## Boston Big Again

Split end David Boston did not meet with media following the game, opting to remain mum on OSU's next opponent — remember last year's hubbub — for at least a few days.

But others had plenty to say about the junior's latest command performance.

Against Iowa, he caught five passes for 163 yards and two touchdowns. He also had punt returns of 41 and 27 yards, the second one setting up an OSU score. And, for good measure, he shielded off an Iowa defender from impeding Montgomery on his long touchdown run.

His first big catch came on a fade down the left side. He got behind Iowa freshman corner D.J. Johnson and caught a bomb from Germaine for a 54-yard touchdown.

"He is just so explosive," Germaine said. "For the most part, they were trying to single-cover him, and that enabled him to beat his man deep."

Johnson was also victimized on Germaine's 16-yard touchdown to Boston just before halftime. He felt help would be coming from a safety on both plays.

"It was good I got a chance to play against him," Johnson said. "You don't get a chance like that very often."

Boston continued to rewrite the OSU record book. His five catches give him 170 for his career, eclipsing the former school career catch record of 168 set by Chris Carter.

Boston added to his OSU record for touchdown catches, now at 32. And he became just the third receiver in OSU history to eclipse the 1,000-yard mark in a season. He now has 1,123 yards on the year, just shy of Carter's total of 1,127 in 1986. Boston has two games left to take aim at Terry Glenn's single-season mark of 1,411 yards set in 1995.

## Germaine Shakes Off Start

Germaine's two interceptions came in the first quarter with the first one, by Johnson, returned 73 yards and setting up Iowa's first touchdown.

The senior settled down after that, completing 18 of 30 passes for 319 yards and three scores.

"Everything they showed us we were prepared for," said Germaine, who enjoyed his OSU-record sixth 300-yard game of the year. "We watched film on that during the week. We knew what they were going to give us. We came out early and tried to throw some short stuff, and that kind of got us in trouble (with an interception)."

"After that, we wanted to get some cushion with our receivers with some deep balls."

Salem said he was not alarmed by either of the early mistakes.

"On the first one, the corner hung around and gambled a little bit," Salem said. "That was a good play by him. On the second one (by Tarig Holman), David kind of trips and stumbles. The ball was going to be right there for a 17-yard gain, but it gets intercepted."

A combination of a strong wind — gusts were measured as high as 30 miles per hour from the northwest — and a steady rush from the Hawkeyes gave Germaine a bit of trouble, although the offensive line allowed just two Iowa sacks after surrendering five the previous week in the loss to Michigan State.

"The wind was a factor, especially with my first few throws," he said. "It was an adjustment I had to make."

"Their defensive line did a good job of getting in there a couple of times with (Jared) DeVries. He's going to make some big

plays because he's a great player."

Two of Germaine's biggest plays were to fullback Matt Keller. He avoided what appeared to be a sure sack when tackle Tyson Walter backed into him by rolling left, stepping up and hitting Keller for a 27-yard gain. That play set up Germaine's back-breaking 17-yard touchdown to Boston just before halftime.

Then, in the second half, he found Keller for a 16-yard touchdown.

"We were fortunate enough to scramble around a little bit, and Matt Keller made a great play on the touchdown to take it away from the guy and score," Germaine said.

On the touchdown, Keller outleaped an Iowa defender for the ball and dived for the goal line. He was just happy to be in the right place at the right time.

"Joe's been taking some flak about holding onto the ball too long, but as you saw today, Joe is a complete quarterback," Keller said. "He's a tough kid. He's just not going to go down. He's always out there trying to make plays."

Like Boston, Germaine did his own record book work at Iowa. He moved past Mike Tomczak (5,569 yards) into fourth place on OSU's career passing list with 5,818 yards. He is in position to threaten No. 3 Greg Frey (6,316) with two strong games.

In career touchdowns, he moved past Art Schlichter (50) into second place with 52. He still trails Bobby Hoying's mark of 57.

His 2,778 yards and 21 touchdowns this season place him second to Hoying (3,269 yards, 29 TDs) on both of those single-season lists.



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## OHIO STATE VS. IOWA

# Buckeyes Put Iowa QBs Under Pressure

One week after sacking Michigan State quarterback Bill Burke a grand total of one time in a 28-24 defeat, the OSU defense made getting to the quarterback its primary objective at Iowa.

Using a combination of well-timed stunts and blitzes, the Buckeyes succeeded in rattling, jarring and confusing Iowa's two quarterbacks, Scott Mullen and Kyle McCann.

OSU sacked those quarterbacks a combined 11 times. That total does not include defensive tackle Joe Brown's hit on Mullen after a throw, a blow that caused the Iowa passer to suffer a broken collarbone when he landed awkwardly.

It also doesn't reflect end Brent Johnson's pressure of Mullen, causing him to throw a pass right to OSU defensive tackle Mike Collins. Collins returned the interception 22 yards for a touchdown.

It was that kind of day for the men

## INSIDE THE DEFENSE with Steve Helwagen

in the trenches.

"I can't tell you how proud the secondary and linebackers are of the D-line," safety Damon Moore said. "They got ripped a little bit last week. That wasn't fair because the defensive backs were giving up big plays."

"They got after it today. They weren't satisfied. They wanted to keep making big plays. You could hear them in the huddle, 'Hey, I'm going to get there this time.'"

"That's the attitude we need to have: Everybody try and get to the ball first and we'll be successful."

Ends Rodney Bailey and Matt LaVrar and outside linebacker Na'il Diggs led the onslaught with two sacks apiece. Collins, Johnson, linebackers Andy Katzenmoyer and Chris Kirk and backup cornerback David Mitchell also got into the act.

After allowing Burke far too much time the previous week when he threw for 323 yards, the Buckeyes got after Mullen and later McCann with reckless abandon.

"One of our goals was to get a lot of



SONNY BROCKWELL

**PRESSING THE ISSUE** — Ohio State pinned its ears back and went for broke against Iowa, which was down to third-string quarterback Scott Mullen. Mullen's collarbone was broken on this play after a hit by OSU's Joe Brown (right). The defense netted a season-high 11 sacks in the game.

pressure on the quarterback, and we did that tonight," Diggs said. "I think we came out with a new attitude this week with our blitz packages."

"We had to prove to ourselves that we can get after the quarterback."

Defensive coordinator Fred Pagac said the scheme wasn't much different from what the Buckeyes tried to do against Michigan State, save for a few twists and stunts.

"Obviously the stunts worked better today, didn't they?" he said.

"As the game wore on, some of our stunts were working pretty good and we stuck with them. That created

some pressure on the quarterback."

The OSU defense is a goal-oriented group. In a typical week, they set out to meet a number of statistical objectives with, of course, the biggest one being a win.

But after last week's loss, Pagac said he put aside those ideas in favor of a new one — just play hard and smart.

"Honestly, we had no goals this week," he said. "We wanted to go out and play good, solid, sound defense. We wanted to try and be aggressive. I think it worked."

According to Collins, OSU made it

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## OHIO STATE VS. IOWA

a priority to pressure the two inexperienced Iowa quarterbacks.

"Coach Pug put in some good stunts," said Collins, who, at 6-3, 290 pounds, is believed to be the largest Buckeye to ever score.

"They put in some great movements for us. We flew around a lot better, and we knew we had to put pressure on the quarterback to win."

The freshman put the strategy into easy-to-understand terms.

"We had the right plays called, we were able to destroy the man across from us and make plays," Collins said.

## One More Strong Second Half

Ohio State's reputation as a strong second-half team was bolstered again at Iowa.

The Buckeyes came into their 10th game having allowed a total of 100 points on the season (11.1 per game). Opponents had scored 66 of those points in the first half, compared to just 34 after halftime.

Those numbers actually looked a lot better prior to the Michigan State game, in which the Spartans tallied 19 second-half points (two touchdowns and two field goals) in the final 30 minutes to seize the win.

But the Buckeyes got back on track at Iowa, allowing the Hawkeyes just 21 yards total offense and no points in the second half.

"I thought we played well from the second quarter on," Pagac said. "I thought we made a few mistakes in the first half. I'm not sure we were tackling real well to start the game off."

Moore noted how this Buckeye defense has been able to shut teams off in the second half.

"Second half, we've been pretty much stingy all year," he said. "We start 0-0. We knew they were going to give us their best punch, and we wanted to be ready."

## Option Problems

Cagey Iowa coach Hayden Fry threw a new wrinkle at the Buckeyes, having Mullen try to run the option.

The strategy worked to perfection as, after an Iowa interception gave the Hawkeyes possession at the OSU 11, Mullen scored the game's first touchdown with an option run.

"They might have caught us off-guard with the options they were running, but once we settled down we took care of that," Pagac said.

Added cornerback Antoine Winfield, "We didn't expect that. We hadn't practiced against that in practice."

## Miscellaneous Notes

• McCann scored Iowa's other touchdown, but that came on a 13-



**COLLINS CONGRATULATED** — Ohio State defensive lineman Mike Collins is mobbed after returning an interception for a score in the Buckeyes' win over Iowa. It was the first interception return for a score against Iowa since OSU's Shawn Springs did it in 1996.

yard run after he was flushed out of the pocket on a pass attempt.

• Overall, the Buckeyes kept their record of not allowing a 100-yard rusher intact. Iowa's Ladell Betts finished with just 44 yards on 18 carries.

• The Buckeyes entered the game ranking sixth nationally in total defense, allowing 252.9 yards per game.

OSU was first nationally in pass efficiency defense with an 83.4 rating, third against the run (79.6 yards per game) and fourth in scoring defense.

Within the Big Ten, OSU was first in the Big Ten in pass efficiency and second in the three other disciplines.

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## BSB Quotebook: Ohio State 45, Iowa 14

OSU coach John Cooper on how the Kinnick Stadium crowd began to file out after the Buckeyes scored before halftime to make it 28-14: "It was a little disappointing to see their crowd abandon their football team as quickly as they did."

OSU quarterback Joe Germaine said he did not panic after throwing interceptions to end two of his team's first three possessions: "No, not at all. It was one of those things where you make a bad play but you have to put it behind you or you aren't going to be any good the rest of the game. I had to adjust to the conditions."

Germaine on how he failed to take the wind, which gusted as high as 30 mph at different points, into account early in the game: "The first interception, it was into the wind and I just didn't put anything on it. That taught me a lesson that I have to adjust to the conditions."

OSU tailback Joe Montgomery on the importance of his 80-yard touchdown run, a score that came on his team's first play after the Hawkeyes had grabbed a 7-0 lead: "I think college football is a game of momentum. Whoever has that momentum, it's a big advantage for their team. I just wanted to come in and do what I could."

OSU fullback Matt Keller on the leaping grab he made to complete a 16-yard touchdown pass from Germaine in the second half: "As far as being at Ohio State, that's probably the best catch I've had. Hopefully in the next cou-



**JAMAR-VELOUS OUTCOME** — Ohio State freshman Jamar Martin puts the capper on the Buckeyes' throttling of Iowa, rushing to the end zone on a 10-yard jaunt late in the fourth quarter. It was Martin's first touchdown as a collegian.

ple games I can make a couple more of those."

OSU fullback Jamar Martin, who capped the scoring with a 10-yard touchdown run, on the direction of the offense: "We put last week's

loss behind us. We're moving forward. We're still a real good college football team. We're capable of putting up 600 yards."

OSU defensive tackle Mike Collins on his emotions after his 22-yard interception return for a touchdown: "It was pretty neat. It's a dream come true. To make it here and be playing, it's great."

Iowa coach Hayden Fry on the Buckeyes: "They just have the greatest conglomeration of talent I've ever seen. They're just unbelievable. I still think Ohio State has no worse than a tie for the best team in the nation."

Iowa linebacker Matt Hughes, who tallied a game-high 18 tackles, on how the Hawkeyes hurt themselves: "It seems like it's the tale of our whole season. Costly errors at costly times. You can't defeat a team like Ohio State with breakdowns like that."

Iowa quarterback Scott Mullen on the injury he suffered from a hit by OSU's Joe Brown after he delivered a pass: "I took a bad hit and fell on my shoulder and it snapped my collarbone. Maybe it was (a late hit), but nothing was called, so I guess it wasn't."

Iowa freshman cornerback D.J. Johnson said there is no shame in getting beat by David Boston for a long touchdown: "He's a grown man. I'm only 18."

The embattled Fry summed up the defeat and his team's 3-7 year: "Geez, what a year. There's not a whole lot of good things to talk about."



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## OHIO STATE VS. IOWA

## Montgomery's TD Was Huge, Cooper Says

Throughout the football season, BSB is publishing excerpts of Ohio State head coach John Cooper's postgame press conferences. Here is what Cooper had to say following the win over Iowa.

**COOPER:** "Obviously we're happy to get out of here with a victory. I thought after we settled down we played a real good football game. The Hawkeyes were well-prepared and played hard, and losing their first-team quarterback hurt them a little offensively."

"Anytime you have over 600 yards total offense, and when you have the balance we had between passing and running, you've got to be very happy. We threw the ball very well again today."

"David Boston had a great ball game. That might be the best ball game I've seen him play. In addition to catching the football, he got a great block on Joe's (Montgomery) long run. He's the guy who shielded their last guy and did a great job. That goes to show you if you block people like that you have a chance to make big plays."

"Everything went pretty much like I expected it to go today. We had a couple stupid penalties, and I hate to see us get those. Our kickoffs could be a little better than they were. But anytime you come over here and hang 45 points and over 600 yards on the Hawkeyes, you've

got to be happy."

**Q:** Were you paying any attention to the scoreboards at all?

**COOPER:** "They were telling me upstairs, we were keeping track of the Tennessee-Arkansas game — I guess Tennessee made a late comeback to win that one. And of course Kansas State and Nebraska, the PA guy kept us posted on that."

**Q:** What did Montgomery's 80-yard run do for you guys?

**COOPER:** "That was the big play of the game, there's no question about it. They had the momentum there, they intercepted a pass and ran it back and scored on the first play. It was important for us to come back and not only get momentum but take their crowd out of the ball game."

"The score right before halftime was another big play because it gave us a two-touchdown margin. Both of those were big plays."

**Q:** Was having Montgomery in more of an attempt to get more of a power game?

**COOPER:** "Not really. We tried to alternate those two backs. We've been doing that through the course of the season."

**Q:** Is Joe coming on big right now?

**COOPER:** "He's really coming on. He's running really hard, running north and south. He's doing a really good job."

**Q:** Is he coming on enough to start next week?

**COOPER:** "I don't know if he'll start next week or not. We haven't even thought about next week yet. I don't know if we'll make any changes between now and next week. I'm not down on Michael Wiley, though I am disappointed to see him fumble the football. That was really a pass-run option. He looked like he got a little careless with the ball."

**Q:** Given what could have happened today — Kansas State could have lost, Tennessee could have lost — do you come out of here a little disappointed with those results?

**COOPER:** "I would have loved to see both of those teams lose, but there's a lot of football left to be played. Kansas State's got Missouri left, probably Texas A&M left, and Tennessee has to play probably Arkansas again. They have to play Kentucky next week, and Kentucky's a dangerous football team."

**Q:** And you've got to play Michigan?

**COOPER:** "We play Michigan."

**Q:** What's your gut feeling on Michigan, seeing what they've done the last two weeks?

**COOPER:** "Obviously Michigan's a different football team than they were the first two games. You knew they were going to have a great defensive team with the personnel they had coming back and the coaching staff they had. It'll be another classic ball game."

**Q:** Was Andy Katzenmoyer not being a finalist for the Butkus Award a result of having more talented linebackers around him starting this year?

**COOPER:** "You've got to answer that question. I can't answer it for you."

**Q:** Can you measure how much it means for next week that you dominated today?

**COOPER:** "I think it's important to come over here and play a good football game, regain your confidence as much as anything else. Iowa, they were banged up and beat up, and when you lose your quarterback like that and have to bring a freshman off the bench, there was never a point in this game where I thought we were going to lose. I felt that the way we started out, if we let them live it would be a contest, but I never felt like we'd lose."

**Q:** The second half started a little unceremoniously for you guys. Was the short punt huge?

**COOPER:** "It absolutely was. They got great field position on us after the bad punt. That was a great defensive stand for us."

**Q:** Can you evaluate Joe Germaine's play today?

**COOPER:** "I thought he played another good game. He threw again for over 300 yards but had a couple interceptions, which is not like him. I thought Joe stayed in the pocket and did a nice job throwing the ball."

**Q:** Have they run the option that

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## OHIO STATE VS. IOWA

much with their quarterback?

**COOPER:** "No, we had not seen them run the option that much. They run it a little bit, but they surprised us a little with the option. I think they worked on that play during the off week."

**Q:** Do you think the punt returning was a little better with David today?

**COOPER:** "David's a good athlete. He returned for us all last year, so it wasn't a matter of us solving anything. It's just a matter of us settling on somebody. David's who we'll go with next week."

**Q:** You put Gary Berry in on that one, though.

**COOPER:** "The defense was on the field then, so we just left him in."

**Q:** The one thing that did go your way was Michigan beating Wisconsin. That opens you up to still have a chance at the Rose Bowl. Is that firm in your thoughts at this point?

**COOPER:** "All we've got to be concerned with right now is things we have control over, and that's the Michigan game next week. I can't worry about Penn State. I'd love to see Penn State beat Wisconsin, but I can't worry about that."

**Q:** Did your heart skip a beat when Gary Berry walked away from that punt?

**COOPER:** "I could not tell from where I was. Gary is an intelligent football player. He's got enough common sense to know that if the ball had hit him he would have tried to pick it up or at least fallen on it."

**Q:** Did Iowa show you anything other than the option that you didn't expect?

**COOPER:** "That's about it, really. They had that one unusual formation one time with four or five guys on one side of the field, but you can expect Hayden (Fry) to show you something

like that."

**Q:** You talked about regaining confidence. How far down was this team?

**COOPER:** "I don't want to make an issue about that. I don't think it was a matter of us not being confident or losing our confidence. Our feelings were hurt from losing the game last week. We talked to them about doing what it took to win the game, and one thing you've got to do is take care of the football. You can't turn the football over five times against anybody and expect to win the game."

**Q:** Were the practices good?

**COOPER:** "We had a good week of practice."

**Q:** How did you feel about the penalties today?

**COOPER:** "I was disappointed in one particular penalty. They called an unsportsmanlike penalty on Tim Cheatwood, and I'm very disappointed

in that one. I did not see Andy's late hit. I don't know how close that was. How many did we have during the ball game?"

**Q:** At the end of the third quarter they said it was eight.

**COOPER:** "Eight? Well, then that's eight too many. But that's been true for us all year. We've had way more calls against us than our opponents have, and I'm not saying they're not deserved. But we'll try to straighten that out."

**Q:** At this early stage, can you guess what the Michigan game will come down to, or certain factors?

**COOPER:** "I don't want to talk about the Michigan game right now. We'll talk to you this week about that."

**Q:** Do you feel good going into it?

**COOPER:** "Do I feel good going into it? I feel good coming off this victory right here."

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# The Numbers Game

## Ohio State 45, Iowa 14

Nov. 7, 1998 — Kinnick Stadium; Iowa City, Iowa

Score by Quarters	1	2	3	4	F
OHIO STATE	14	14	7	10	45
IOWA	7	7	0	0	14

### First Quarter

IOWA — Mullen, 11 run (Bromert kick) 8:32; 1 play, 11 yards, 0:06

OSU — Montgomery, 80 run (Stultz kick) 5:16; 1 play, 80 yards, 0:16

OSU — Boston, 54 pass from Germaine (Stultz kick) 0:06; 2 plays, 67 yards, 0:22

### Second Quarter

OSU — Collins, 22 interception return (Stultz kick) 13:49

IOWA — McGinn, 13 run (Bromert kick) 2:24; 8 plays, 79 yards, 3:06

OSU — Boston, 17 pass from Germaine (Stultz kick) 0:27; 4 plays, 59 yards, 0:36

### Third Quarter

OSU — Keller, 16 pass from Germaine (Stultz kick) 4:33; 3 plays, 22 yards, 1:27

### Fourth Quarter

OSU — Stultz, 27 field goal 13:10; 13 plays, 76 yards, 5:22

OSU — Martin, 10 run (Stultz kick) 5:09; 6 plays, 65 yards, 2:45

Att. — 69,473

Weather — Clear, 61 degrees. Wind 17-20 mph from NW

### Team Statistics

	OSU	IOWA
First Downs	31	17
Rushing	12	8
Passing	18	6
Penalty	1	3
Rushes-Yards	44-269	41-21
Passing Yards	358	159
Passes (Att.-Comp.-Int.)	35-21-2	31-16-1
Offensive Plays	79	72
Total Net Yards	627	180
Third Down Efficiency	7-13	7-18
Fourth Down Efficiency	0-1	0-2
Punts	2-19.0	9-39.0
Fumbles-Lost	2-1	0-0
Penalties	9-80	4-40
Time of Possession	29:11	30:49

### Individual Statistics

**RUSHING (Att.-Net Yds.)** — OSU: Montgomery 12-144; Wiley 16-61; Wells 1-25; Martin 6-21; Keller 3-19; Combs 2-11; Germaine 4-12. IOWA: Betts 18-44; Mullen 5-25; Burger 3-9; Crockett 1-1; McCann 14-58.

**PASSING (Att.-Comp.-Int.-Yds.-TD)** — OSU: Germaine 30-18-2-319-3; Garcia 4-2-0-21-0; Wiley 1-1-0-18-0. IOWA: Mullen 6-2-1-16-0; McCann 24-13-0-120-0; Betts 1-1-0-23-0.

**RECEIVING (Rec.-Yds.)** — OSU: Boston 5-163; Miller 3-37; Warnke 3-26; Keller 2-41; Wisniewski 2-40; Wiley 2-26; Lumpkin 1-16; Rambo 1-9; Griffin 1-5; Montgomery 1-5. IOWA: Hill 5-59; Yarnini 5-38; Remister 2-37; Barton 2-24; Wheatley 2-1.

**PUNTING (No.-Avg.-Long)** — OSU: Bartholomew 2-19.0-22. IOWA: Baker 9-39.0-57.

**PUNT RETURNS (No.-Yds.)** — OSU: Boston 3-68; Clements 1-7. IOWA: None.

**KICKOFF RETURNS (No.-Yds.)** — OSU: Bellisari 1-22; Rambo 1-14. IOWA: Hill 4-87.

**FUMBLE RECOVERIES** — OSU: None. IOWA: Holman.

**INTERCEPTIONS (No.-Yds.)** — OSU: Collins 1-22. IOWA: D.J. Johnson 1-73; Holman 1-0.

**SACKS** — OSU: Diggs 2-17; Bailey 2-17; LaVrar 2-9; Mitchell 1-10; Katzenmoyer 1-9; Johnson 1-9; Collins 1-7; Kirk 1-5. IOWA: DeVries 1-10; Kampman 1-6.

**TACKLES FOR LOSS (No.-Yds.)** — OSU: Bailey 3-18; Katzenmoyer 3-16; Diggs 2-17; LaVrar 2-9; Collins 2-8; Mitchell 1-10; Johnson 1-9; Kirk 1-5; Pickett 1-1. IOWA: Kampman 2-7; DeVries 1-10; Woods 1-5; Kramer 1-2; Holman 1-1; Saidat 1-1.

**TACKLES (Solo-Asst.-Tot.)** — OSU: Diggs 5-4-9; Katzenmoyer 5-1-6; Moore 5-1-6; Berry 4-1-5; Winfield 4-1-5; Rudzinski 3-2-5; Chestwood 2-3-5; Collins 3-1-4; LaVrar 3-1-4; Bailey 3-0-3; Pickett 2-1-3; Johnson 2-1-3; Mitchell 2-1-3; Plummer 2-1-3; Clements 2-0-2; Bellisari 1-1-2; Griffin 1-1-2; King 1-0-1; Cooper 1-0-1; Queen 1-0-1; Ott 1-0-1; Kirk 1-0-1; Ross 1-0-1; Wiley 1-0-1; McClellion 0-1-1. IOWA: Hughes 12-6-18; Thigpen 7-4-11; Kampman 7-3-10; Bowen 3-5-8; Holman 6-0-6; Kramer 5-1-6; DeVries 3-3-6; Klein 4-1-5; Loftin 2-1-3; Woods 2-0-2; Baker 2-0-2; D.J. Johnson 2-0-2; Slattery 2-0-2; M.Brown 1-0-1; Herron 1-0-1; Saidat 1-0-1; Stockdale 1-0-1; Hansen 1-0-1; Thein 1-0-1; Burger 0-1-1; Senters 0-1-1; R.Clark 0-1-1.

**PLAYERS IN THE GAME** — OHIO STATE: Starters: Defense, Bailey, Pickett, Brown, Johnson, Diggs, Katzenmoyer, Rudzinski, Winfield, Berry, Moore, Plummer, Offense, Boston, Walter, R.Murphy, K.Murphy, Gilbert, Burris, Lumpkin, Germaine, Keller, Wiley, Miller. Reserves: Mitchell, Rambo, Bellisari, Cooper, Moherman, Garcia, King, Clements, Cacchio, McClellion, C.Sanders, Westbrook, Wells, Ott, Montgomery, Simpson, Ross, Martin, Bartholomew, Griffin, Combs, Kirk, Stultz, LaVrar, Chestwood, Cotton, Hopkins, Gurr, Jacobs, Bentley, Elford, Germany, Warnke, Wisniewski, Houser, Wayne, Homa, Collins, Queen. IOWA: Starters: Offense, Yarnini, Sobieski, Reisch, Rose, Karkhoff, Raitt, Flemister, Mullen, Hill, Betts, Thein. Defense, Kramer, DeVries, Klein, Herron, Loftin, Hughes, Kampman, Slattery, Bowen, Thigpen, Holman. Reserves: Ghene, Dodge, McCann, Oliver, Baker, M.Brown, Hall, Hansen, Crockett, Stockdale, O'Hare, Miller, Meyer, Shay, D.J. Johnson, Boilers, Bromert, R.Clark, Pollio, Allen, Senters, English, Sheldon, Bickford, Deal, Rogers, Cunningham, Tpeier, Burger, Wheatley, Kasper, Barton, Montgomery, C.Brown, Woods, Saidat.

## 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	(1) at Indiana	W	38-7	52,049
Nov. 7	(1) MICHIGAN STATE	L	28-24	93,595
Nov. 14	(7) at Iowa	W	45-14	69,473
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	281	133
Rushing	112	52
Passing	133	69
Penalty	6	12
Avg. Per Game/Rush	205.3	73.7
Avg. Per Game/Pass	302.4	171.9
Total Offense	507.7	245.6
Total Plays	793	678
Average Per Play	507.7	245.6
Penalties-Yards	83-779	47-405
Fumbles-Lost	26-11	11-6
3rd Down Efficiency	67-158	40-166
Percentage	.424	.241
4th Down Efficiency	10-17	5-18
Percentage	.588	.277
Sacks	32-214	25-180
Time of Possession Avg.	31:17	28:43

Score by Quarters	1	2	3	4	Tot.	Avg.
Ohio State	124	109	70	72	375	37.5
Opponents	23	57	15	19	114	11.4

Attendance	Games	Total	Avg.
Home	5	466,675	93,335
Away	5	283,391	56,678
Total	10	750,066	75,006

### Individual Statistics

	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Long
Rushing					
Michael Wiley	170	1027	6.0	9	76
Joe Montgomery	100	654	6.5	6	80
Jonathan Wells	34	167	4.9	2	25
Matt Keller	30	123	4.1	1	12
Derek Combs	31	88	2.8	1	12
Jamar Martin	10	34	3.4	1	10
Dee Miller	3	17	5.7	0	10
Jerron 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	1	1	0.5	0	7
Brent Bartholomew	1	-4	-4.0	0	0
Mark Garcia	6	-13	-2.2	0	7
Joe Germaine	47	-55	-1.2	0	22
OSU Totals	440	2053	4.7	20	80
OPP Totals	320	737	2.3	5	35

### Receiving

	No.	Yards	Avg.	TD	Long
David Boston	64	1113	17.4	11	54
Dee Miller	54	828	15.3	2	42
Michael Wiley	21	155	7.4	1	35
John Lumpkin	16	270	16.9	4	41
Matt Keller	14	144	10.3	1	26
Reggie Germany	12	195	16.3	3	47
Ken-Yon Rambo	5	77	15.4	0	39
Jamar Martin	5	68	13.6	0	17
Derek Warnke	5	47	9.4	0	17
Steve Wisniewski	3	43	14.3	0	22
Jimmy Redmond	2	25	12.5	0	15
Kevin Griffin	2	19	9.5	0	14
Joe Montgomery	2	0	0.0	0	5
Chad Cacchio	1	11	11.0	0	11
Jonathan Wells	1	11	11.0	0	11
Kevin Houser	1	10	10.0	0	10
Jerry Westbrook	1	7	7.0	0	7
Derek Combs	1	1	1.0	0	1
OSU Totals	210	3024	14.4	22	54
OPP Totals	166	1719	10.4	6	60

### Scoring

	TD	EPK	EPR	FG	PTS
Don Stultz	0	46-47	—	—	11-20
David Boston	12	—	—	1	—
Michael Wiley	10	—	—	—	60
Joe Montgomery	6	—	—	—	36
John Lumpkin	4	—	—	—	24

### Passing

	Comp.	Att.	Pct.	Yds.	INT	TD	Rating
Michael Wiley	2	3	1,000	33	0	0	238.6
Joe Germaine	193	318	.607	2778	7	21	151.5
Mark Garcia	12	26	.462	189	0	1	119.9
Steve Bellisari	3	5	.600	24	0	0	100.3
Austin Maherman	0	1	.000	0	0	0	0.0
Jonathan Wells	0	1	.000	0	0	0	0.0
OSU Totals	210	353	.595	3024	7	22	148.1
OPP Totals	166	358	.464	1719	15	6	83.8

### FG Distance

	0-29	30-39	40-49	50+	Total
Don Stultz	5-5	4-7	2-6	0-2	11-20
OSU Totals	5-5	4-7	2-6	0-2	11-20
OPP Totals	2-2	3-4	5-8	0-0	10-11

### Punting

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Bk	Long
Brent Bartholomew	47	1898	40.4	1	57
Team	1	0	0.0	0	0
OSU Totals	48	1898	39.5	1	57
OPP Totals	88	3664	41.6	3	66

### Interceptions

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
Armed Plummer	3	0	0.0	0	0
Damon Moore	2	73	36.5	1	73
Central McClellion	1	60	60.0	1	60
Mike Collins	1	22	22.0	1	22
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	15	223	14.9	3	73
OPP Totals	7	75	10.7	0	73

### Punt Returns

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
Ken-Yon Rambo	19	128	6.7	0	24
David Boston	18	268	14.9	1	70
Gary Berry	15	65	4.3	0	13
Percy King	1	7	7.0	0	7
Nate Clements	1	0	0.0	0	0
Team	0	0	0.0	0	0
Joe Cooper	0	0	0.0	0	0
OSU Totals	55	476	8.7	2	70
OPP Totals	26	156	7.5	0	30

### Kickoff Returns

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
Ken-Yon Rambo	10	201	20.1	0	28
Michael Wiley	4	105	26.3	0	34
Jonathan Wells	3	63	21.0	0	25
Matt Keller	2	16	8.0	0	11
Steve Bellisari	1	22	22.0	0	22
Reggie Germany	1	14	14.0	0	14
OSU Totals	27	421	20.0	0	34
OPP Totals	46	810	17.6	0	33

### Defensive Leaders

	Solo	Asst.	Tot.	TFL	Yds.	Sacks
Na'il Diggs	51	16	67	14-70	6-44	1-1
Damon Moore	48	16	64	5-16	5-16	1-1
Antone Winfield	49	13	62	5-34	2-17	—
Andy Katzenmoyer	50	9	59	12-45	2-17	—
Jerry Rudzinski	29	15	44	8-38	3-24	—
Gary Berry	30	9	39	2-9	1-5	—
Armed Plummer	32	4	36	3-10	—	—
Brent Johnson	20	12	32	6-31	5-26	—
Joe Cooper	15	9	24	1-3	—	—
Ryan Pickett	14	4	18	4-12	1-3	—
Mike Collins	11	7	18	4-13	2-10	—
Joe Brown	10	8	18	4-16	1-6	—
Tim Chestwood	8	10	18	1-3	—	—
Central McClellion	7	10	17	—	—	—
Steve Bellisari	11	5	16	—	—	—
Rodney Bailey	10	4	14	9-38	4-29	—
Clinton Wayne	7	7	14	1-2	—	—

### Fumbles Forced

1 — Joe Cooper, Jerry Rudzinski, James Cotton, Na'il Diggs, Antone Winfield.&lt;/



## OHIO STATE VS. MICHIGAN

# Michigan: Champs Again

## Wolverines Playing For Outright Big Ten Title

By JEFF RAPP

Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

Was there ever any doubt the Michigan Wolverines would find themselves in time for the Ohio State game?

Certainly Lloyd Carr's squad — despite his off-season preachings about staying humble and focused — didn't appear to be moving toward imposing in September. His Wolverines got directly off the national championship path of a year ago with losses to Notre Dame and Syracuse to open the season.

But that seems like three seasons ago now that UM has rekindled its defensive dominance, established a much-needed running game, found some confidence in quarterback Tom Brady, and even welcomed the return of exiled safety Marcus Ray.

Yes, the swagger in UM football is back, and so is the focus on the once-cloudy Rose Bowl picture.

"It's hard to come back from 0-2," tailback Anthony Thomas said after UM dismantled previously unbeaten Wisconsin Nov. 14. "Everyone was down. But we knew we were a good team, and we just had to come out and show it."

The Wolverines (8-2, 7-0) did just that when the national media were beginning to forget about them. Prior to the destruction of the Badgers — which included a 257-yard rushing day and the shutdown of Wisconsin's Ron Dayne — Michigan waxed a staunch Penn State squad to the tune of 27-0.

Ray returned to the field after being suspended for six games for dealings with an agent and helped fire up a once-groggy defensive unit.

Michigan squeaked by Iowa (12-9) and Northwestern (12-6) in October road tilts (albeit on rain-soaked fields) and couldn't generate any hint of a running game in a

15-10 win at Minnesota Oct. 31. But as is typically the case, the Wolverines have looked like world-beaters in November, this time drawing on pride.

"What is beautiful is that when things go bad, you have to shut out the outside distractions," Carr said. "If you allow them to take hold, it can take away your unity."

Now together, the Wolverines are in a daunting yet almost comforting position. They can claim an outright Big Ten title and berth in the Rose Bowl with a win at Ohio State on Nov. 21, but they'll enter the Horseshoe as underdogs.

It's just the kind of pressure cooker that seems to make UM teams thrive.

"Pressure is what you make of it," Carr said. "I think you can look at it as a burden or as an opportunity. The key always, regardless of the pressure, is to prepare the best you can."

"If you're prepared, you'll have a good chance to handle pressure. If you're not, you won't. As a coach, you try and let them know it's a game and you try to relieve the pressure."

### Wolves Finding Balance

Last year's offense was run, run, throw if you have to.

This year the UM coaches are gaining confidence in first-year starting quarterback Tom Brady, another in a long line of tall, strong-armed Michigan QBs.

Tending to safe passes and flips to running backs, Brady is completing roughly 62 percent of his passes, but he also can wing it deep. When he does, he generally looks for wideout Tai Streets, who is having an outstanding season with eight touchdowns and 70 yards receiving per game. Tight end Jerame Tuman is another top option via the pass, but he hasn't been nearly as involved as in the past.

Michigan had an ideal day offensively vs. Wisconsin with the 250-plus yards rushing — with more than 100 each by Clarence

Williams and Thomas — and effective throwing from Brady, who was 15 of 24 for 202 yards.

But UM still is averaging about 3.6 yards per carry as a team, below standards and disappointing with the shifty Williams and the more powerful Thomas, just a sophomore. Freshman Justin Fargas, one of the nation's most prized recruits last year, is no longer an option after suffering a gruesome ankle injury vs. UW.

Still, there's every reason to believe Michigan will run early and often vs. Ohio State and behind an offensive line that boasts standouts such as left tackle Jeff Backus, left guard Steve Hutchinson and right tackle Jon Jansen, a 6-7 senior and the best of the bunch. Michigan does not have a 300-pound lineman who rotates in but is typically physical up front.

### Defense Faces Stark Challenge

After having all sorts of trouble with Notre Dame and Syracuse and their athletic quarterbacks, Michigan's defense was ranked 84th in the nation. Now the Wolverines are in the much more UM-like position of 11th after slowing down all comers in Big Ten play.

Overcoming the loss of Heisman Trophy-winning cornerback Charles Woodson, defensive end Glen Steele and Ray took time. But the only conference opponent to score more than 10 points against Michigan was rival Michigan State way back in September.

That string is in jeopardy vs. Ohio State, which has rolled up 500-yard days with regularity and features all-league candidates in Joe Germaine, David Boston, Dee Miller and lineman Rob Murphy and has a hot running back in Joe Montgomery.

"Against Ohio State we have to stop everything," safety Tommy Hendricks said. "They have two great receivers and backs and tight ends that can get it done. Their quarterback is more than capable of running their offense. So there's no one thing we can focus on."

Inside linebacker Sam Sword is on pace for his second-straight 100-tackle season and is the top play-stopper. Hendricks, meanwhile, is as good as any free safety in the country when it comes to supporting the run. DeWayne Patmon remains the starting strong safety, but Ray, a Columbus native, figures to play a bunch.

James Whitley entered the year with the unenviable task of "replacing" Woodson, but he's held up relatively well. Andre Weathers, who played a key role in last year's defeat of Ohio State, mans the other corner. Nickel back William Peterson has a team-high four interceptions.

James Hall, the team's leading sacker, is listed as an outside linebacker but lines up mostly as an end in the down position. Nose tackle Rob Renes plugs up plays inside, and Jaquinn Feazell is another player to watch, though he's been quiet this year. Dhani Jones is a typically gifted UM outside backer, but ILB Ian Gold is the defense's wild card.

Jay Feely, owner of a 51-yard field goal this season, is having a solid year on placements, but veteran punter Jason Vinson, at right around 40 yards per punt, has been unspectacular.



COURTESY: UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

**THE KID NAMED HALL** — Michigan linebacker James Hall (56) has been a big factor in helping the Wolverines clinch a second straight Big Ten title.

Like Ohio State, Michigan has struggled to find a consistent punt returner. Thomas and Williams will likely return kickoff with Fargas out.

### Miscellaneous Notes

- UM's success and stranglehold on Ohio State this decade mirrors its strong showing against top-10 teams in the 1990s. Buckeye fans need not be reminded that OSU was eyeing possible national championships in 1993, '95, '96 and '97 before crashing down in losses to the Wolverines.

- OSU entered those games ranked fifth, second, second and fourth, respectively, in the AP poll.

- Last year Michigan hung on for a 20-14 win to secure a perfect season and a trip to the Rose Bowl, where the Wolverines faced and defeated Washington State for a share of the national title. Woodson secured the Heisman in front of a home crowd of 106,982, the largest in Michigan Stadium history until this year's expansion.

- Woodson set up UM's first score, a 1-yard plunge by Thomas, with a 37-yard reception, and he put one on all the national highlight reels with a 78-yard punt return for a score. He also snuffed out an OSU scoring chance by intercepting Stanley Jackson in the end zone.

- Weathers later intercepted Jackson as he was almost to his knees and raced 43 yards to produce a seemingly insurmountable 20-0 lead. But the Buckeyes came back with a 56-yard bomb from Germaine to Boston over Woodson — the longest play from scrimmage against Michigan all season — and a 2-yard Pepe Pearson run that was set up by a Jerry Rudzinski fumble recovery.

- But OSU was shut down from there thanks to the fierce pass rushing of Steele and sticky coverage in the UM secondary. The Wolves prevailed despite 12 first downs and just 42 yards rushing in as many carries. Jackson and Germaine completed just 9 of 26 passes.

- UM stopped unbeaten OSU teams in 1993 (28-0 in Ann Arbor), '95 (31-23 in Ann Arbor) and '96 (13-9 in Columbus).

- OSU's 22-6 win in 1994 in Columbus stands as the Buckeyes' only win over UM in the past decade, although the teams tied 13-13 in 1992.

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