

Buckeyes Enjoyed Fruits Of Coaching Staff's Recruiting Labors

Woody's Approach To Sophs Changed In '68

By JACK PARK

Special To Buckeye Sports Bulletin

During his early years at Ohio State, Woody Hayes was reluctant to use sophomores in his starting lineups. While addressing *The Columbus Dispatch* Quarterback Club one evening, he stated, "You're bound to lose one game for every sophomore you start because of their lack of experience."

Hayes' approach changed drastically in 1968, when his "Super Sophomores" led the Buckeyes to an undefeated national title and one of the greatest seasons in Ohio State football history.

Ohio State's recruiting within its own state was strongly impaired during the early 1960s after the school's Faculty Council turned down a Rose Bowl invitation in 1961. A lot of the state's better talent went elsewhere to play, especially after rival recruiters emphasized, "You don't want to go to Ohio State — the faculty there wouldn't even permit their Big Ten championship team to go to the Rose Bowl!"

After working against this competition for three or four years, Hayes and his staff decided to put more emphasis on recruiting out-of-state talent while still continuing to go after the good Ohio prospects. As a result, the Buckeyes' freshman class of 1967 developed into one of the finest and most successful in college football history.

From 1962 through 1967, OSU won 35, lost 18, and tied one. During those six seasons the Buckeyes beat Michigan four of six but still finished no higher than second in the Big Ten. Ohio State fans were becoming openly dissatisfied — it had been 10 years since the Buckeyes had played in the Rose Bowl.

Ohio State went 6-3 in 1967 but finished on the upswing with four consecutive wins. As expected, the '67 freshman team was extremely impressive (freshmen were not eligible for varsity play until 1972), allowing fans to optimisti-



TWO VITAL COMPONENTS — Sophomore halfback Larry Zelina (16) and senior center John Muhlbach (53), shown here in the Purdue game, were just two important members of Ohio State's 1968 national championship team.

cally look ahead to the next three seasons.

EVERYONE CAN name several of the players who participated on the 1968 national championship team. But how many players can you name who started the first game of the season against Southern Methodist?

Here they are:

Ohio State started with five seniors, eight juniors and nine sophomores. The offensive line was anchored by senior center John Muhlbach and junior

guards Alan Jack and Tom Backhus. Seniors Dave Foley and converted tight end Rufus Mayes started at the tackles.

The tight end and split end positions were filled by sophomores Jan White and Bruce Jankowski.

In the backfield, sophomore Rex Kern earned the quarterback spot over senior Bill Long, who had been the starter the previous two seasons. Juniors Jim Otis and Dave Brungard returned at fullback and left halfback, while sophomore John Brockington

started at the right halfback slot.

Defensively, sophomore Mark DeBevo and junior Mike Radtke opened at the ends, juniors Paul Schmidlin and Brad Nielsen returned at the tackles, and sophomore Jim Stillwagon edged senior Vic Stottlemeyer at middle guard. The linebackers were seniors Mark Stier and Dirk Worden (team MVP in 1967).

In the backfield, junior halfback Ted Provost was joined by three highly promising sophomores in safety Mike Sensibaugh, cornerback Jack Tatum and halfback Tim Anderson.

OHIO STATE wound up the season as the number one team in the nation but began it as number 15. That was the team's national ranking as it headed into the opener against SMU. The Buckeyes were 11-point favorites in the game.

The 73,855 fans in attendance witnessed one of the most exciting (and) offensive openers in Ohio State history. With the two teams throwing 93 passes and running a total of 178 plays, the game lasted over three hours — at the time, the longest in Ohio Stadium history.

Southern Methodist threw 76 passes, the most ever thrown by one team in an NCAA game until Houston threw 78 times against Arizona State in 1989.

The game might have been much closer had the Buckeyes not intercepted five SMU passes deep in OSU territory. Interceptions ended drives by the Mustangs at the OSU 12, 19, 18, two and 20.

OSU players presented the game ball to Radtke, whose wife had given birth to twins during the game.

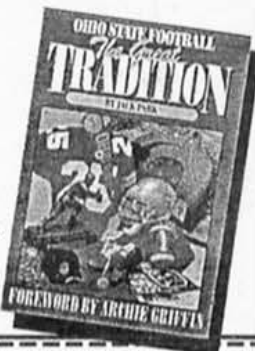
Incidentally, Southern Methodist finished its season with an 8-3 record, losing only to Ohio State, Texas and Arkansas. OSU was the national champ that year, while Texas finished third and Arkansas sixth.

ONE YEAR before Ohio State defeated Purdue, the Boilermakers had

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whipped the Buckeyes 41-6. The defeat in 1967 was the second in the first three games that season and the team's seventh loss in its last 11 games dating back to 1966.

Hayes thanked Purdue head coach Jack Mollenkopf for "holding down the score," but Ohio State fans were getting restless and ever more critical of the Buckeyes' head coach.

That is perhaps why Hayes and the rest of his coaching staff pointed so much toward the Purdue game. A then-record Ohio Stadium crowd of 84,834 saw the Buckeyes start an amazing nine sophomores on offense that day.

However, it was a junior and a senior who carried the afternoon. Junior defensive halfback Ted Provost's 35-yard interception return for a touchdown gave the Buckeyes a 6-0 lead in the third quarter, then senior QB Bill Long came in to relieve a shaken-up Rex Kern and ran 14 yards for the team's second touchdown.

Hayes called it "the greatest defensive effort I have ever seen." The Boilermakers, who had been averaging 41 points per game in three previous wins, had been shut out for the first time in 24 games.

OHIO STATE'S great 13-0 victory over Purdue in 1968 was very significant in the life of one of the Buckeyes' most devoted fans — Ed Linser.

Linsers grew up in New York City and joined the Navy in 1948 at age 19. While stationed at Great Lakes Training Center, he became good friends with Bill Wade, an enlistee from Chauncey, Ohio, who was an avid Buckeye fan.

After Linser and Wade were discharged from the Navy, they roomed together for a short time in Columbus. Ed quickly became hooked on the Buckeyes, even though he had never attended a game. He met his wife, Shirley, and the two moved to New York City in 1951.

Finally, after more than 17 years of keeping close account of the Buckeyes, the Linsers returned to Columbus to see their very first game in Ohio Stadium — the famous Purdue game of 1968. Ed went insane! He had never been part of anything as fantastic as an Ohio State football game.

The following spring, Linser, deciding he had to be closer to Ohio Stadium, made a decision that is almost beyond belief. He quit his job, sold his home and moved his family to Columbus. Friends told him he was crazy to give up a good job, especially when he had four school-age children to support and no job waiting in Columbus.

The Linsers lived with Shirley's parents until Ed found a job. They later purchased a home, but Ohio Stadium became their "second home."

THE TEAM'S closest call of the 1968 season came against Michigan State. The Buckeyes were pushed to the limit by the Spartans before earning a 25-20 victory.

Hayes started six sophomores on offense and five more on defense before a Parents Day crowd of 84,859, at the time the largest in Ohio Stadium history.

Coach Hugh "Duffy" Daugherty's 16th-ranked Spartans were 4-2 but had upset Notre Dame 21-17 the previous week. The Buckeyes were ranked second at 5-0.

OSU took a 19-7 halftime lead, but the Spartans fought back and had come within five at the end of the third quarter. That was when the Buckeyes' defense took over. Mike Radtke was especially impressive in the fourth quarter, sacking MSU quarterback Bill

Triplet once and causing him to fumble the ball away twice.

Turnovers helped spell the difference in the game. The Spartans threw three interceptions and lost four fumbles.

ALTHOUGH THE Buckeyes wound up with a 27-16 victory over Southern Cal in the Rose Bowl, there were some hairy moments in the beginning of the game.

USC converted a field goal early in the second quarter to go ahead 3-0 and later in the period took possession of the ball again at their own 20-yard line.

On the first play from scrimmage, Heisman Trophy winner O.J. Simpson got hemmed in at left end, cut back and then sprinted 80 yards for a touchdown. It put the Buckeyes behind 10-0 and put Hayes in a frenzy.

At the end of the first half, defensive backfield coach Lou Holtz tells the story that Hayes put his hands on Holtz and demanded an explanation.

"Why did he go 80 yards?" the head coach asked. "Because that's all he needed, Coach," is what Holtz said he replied.

Later, when Hayes was asked about the play, he said, "O.J. could have run all the way to the Pacific Ocean."

Despite falling behind, though, the Buckeyes were able to rally.

"There was no panic," said quarterback Rex Kern. "I went into the huddle and told the guys, 'We better start playing football.' I think O.J.'s run did more to wake us up than to excite his teammates. I thought Woody did a great job not coming out of his game plan after O.J. scored."

The Buckeyes came back to tie the score 10-10 at halftime, then tallied 17 unanswered points in the second half. The Trojans scored their final points with 46 seconds left in the game on a pass play, even though it appeared that OSU defender Mike Polaski had wrestled the ball away for an interception.

Before the next day's national championship was announced, Hayes was on his way to Vietnam for one of his volunteer trips to visit with U.S. military personnel.

THE NATIONAL championship season of 1968 is one of only two in which two games appear among "Ohio State's Ten Greatest Wins."

Ranked number six is the victory over Southern California in the Rose Bowl. It was a battle of the country's two top-rated teams and Ohio State won it, coming back from a 10-0 deficit.

Ranked as the top victory in OSU football history was the 13-0 win over Purdue. It was a shutout of the nation's number one team just a year after the Boilermakers had beaten the Buckeyes 41-6.

The only other season with two games in the top 10 is 1954. Not coincidentally, that was also a national championship year for OSU.

THERE COULD also be a category called "The Five Greatest Games Ohio State Never Played."

One of those games might have been in 1968 had Penn State been a member of the Big Ten at that time.

The Buckeyes, of course, defeated Southern Cal in the Rose Bowl and won the national championship with a perfect 10-0 record. The Nittany Lions finished second in the national rankings with an 11-0 mark after defeating Kansas in the Orange Bowl.

(Jack Park is a noted college football historian and is the author of *Ohio State Football: The Great Tradition*, a book dealing with the history of the Buckeyes.)

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EARLY DEFICIT, O.J. NO MATCH FOR OSU

By MARK REA

Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

Coming back from an early 10-0 deficit, Ohio State roared to a 27-16 victory over Southern California in the Rose Bowl, claiming the 1968 college football national championship.

The Buckeyes finished the season with an unblemished 10-0 record, a feat accomplished only once before in the school's history. Ohio State posted a 10-0 record in 1954, but its claim to the national title was disputed when only *The Associated Press* voted the team number one. *United Press International* tabbed UCLA as the nation's top team that year.

However, this season there could be no denying Ohio State. The Buckeyes won the mythical national title on the field in front of 102,063 fans watching the country's top two rated teams slug it out.

"Now let 'em vote," said OSU quarterback Rex Kern, named the game's most valuable player after completing nine of 15 passes for 101 yards and two touchdowns despite separating his left shoulder during the game.

When Kern received the silver trophy, symbolic of the game's MVP award, he waved it around the locker room and said, "Every part of this belongs to you guys, the greatest team in the nation."

Although Kern won the MVP award and most of the game focused on the OSU offense, it was the Scarlet and Gray defense that ultimately won the game, essentially shutting down USC and Heisman Trophy winner O.J. Simpson in the second half.

"The biggest factor was our defense in the second half," said OSU head coach Woody Hayes. "O.J. broke loose for that big one in the first half, but we



DISCUSSING STRATEGY — Ohio State quarterback Rex Kern and head coach Woody Hayes discuss strategy on the sideline of the Rose Bowl. Whatever the two were discussing, it must have been correct as the Buckeyes overcame an early 10-0 deficit to take a 27-16 victory over Southern Cal. That allowed OSU to capture the undisputed national championship for the 1968 season.

did a good job stopping him in the second half.

"We did a good job rushing the quarterback and we forced them into three fumbles and two interceptions.

That's five turnovers, and the biggest thing was that we had no fumbles or interceptions."

Simpson made a valiant effort for the Trojans in defeat, catching eight passes for 85 yards and rushing for 171 yards, including an 80-yard touchdown bolt in the first half that helped USC achieve its early 10-0 lead.

After the game, Simpson made his way into the OSU locker room to offer his congratulations.

"You're the best team in the country and don't let anybody tell you you aren't," Simpson told the Buckeyes.

In addition to Kern, the individual heroes on the Ohio State team were numerous. Senior center John Muhlbach and senior linebacker Mark Stier played gutsy games despite injuries, while senior backup tackle Bill Urbanik and reserve middle guard Vic Stottlemeyer combined for a fumble that led to OSU's second touchdown and a 20-10 lead.

Junior fullback Jim Otis rambled for 101 yards and one touchdown, winding up the season with 985 yards and a school-record 17 touchdowns. And sophomore halfback Leo Hayden, getting an increased workload due to an injury to Larry Zelina, chipped in with 90 yards on 15 carries.

Sophomore defensive backs Mike Sensibaugh and Tim Anderson each had an interception, while sophomore cornerback Jack Tatum, junior defensive back Mike Polaski and Stottlemeyer all recovered second-half fumbles.

"We got beat, that's all I can say," said USC head coach John McKay. "When you fumble deep in your own

area, you'll get beat. But Ohio State is a fine team. They moved on everyone they played, so I assumed they'd move on us some. I just think that if we hadn't given them the ball deep in our own territory, we would have given up not more than two or three touchdowns and that we'd win."

The Trojans had no intention of giving up the ball in the first half. Much



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|--------------|---|----|---|----|----|
| OHIO STATE | 0 | 10 | 3 | 14 | 27 |
| SOUTHERN CAL | 0 | 10 | 0 | 6 | 16 |

USC — Ayala, 21 field goal 5:20
 USC — Simpson, 80 run (Ayala kick) 8:22
 OSU — Otis, 1 run (J.Roman kick) 13:15
 OSU — J.Roman, 26 field goal 14:57
 OSU — J.Roman, 25 field goal 13:20
 OSU — Hayden, 4 pass from Kern (J.Roman kick) 1:08
 OSU — Gillian, 16 pass from Kern (J.Roman kick) 4:55
 USC — Dickerson, 19 pass from Sogge (pass failed) 14:15
 Att. — 102,063

| | USC | OSU |
|-----------------------|--------|---------|
| First Downs | 21 | 19 |
| Rushing | 16 | 8 |
| Passing | 5 | 10 |
| Penalty | 0 | 1 |
| Rushes-Yards | 67-260 | 42-177 |
| Passing Yards | 101 | 189 |
| Passes | 15-9-0 | 32-19-2 |
| Plays | 82 | 74 |
| Total Net Yards | 361 | 366 |
| Third Down Efficiency | 8-18 | 10-17 |
| Punts | 7-45.6 | 6-36.7 |
| Fumbles-Lost | 1-0 | 3-3 |
| Penalties | 6-53 | 3-51 |

Individual Statistics

RUSHING (Att.-Net Yds.) — OSU: Otis 30-101; Hayden 15-90; Kern 12-35; Gillian 6-14; Zelina 1-9; Brockington 2-6; Huff 1-5. USC: Simpson 28-171; Scott 5-16; Lawrence 1-9; Sogge 8-(-19).

PASSING (Att.-Comp.-Int.-Yds.-TD) — OSU: Kern 15-9-0-101-2. USC: Sogge 30-19-1-189-1; Simpson 2-0-1-0-0.

RECEIVING (Rec.-Yds.) — OSU: Gillian 4-69; Hayden 2-8; White 1-17; Zelina 1-5; Jankowski 1-2. USC: Simpson 8-55; Klein 4-31; Dickerson 3-50; Lawrence 3-16; Chandler 1-7.

PUNTING (No.-Yds.-Avg.) — OSU: Sensibaugh 7-319-45.6. USC: Young 6-221-36.8.
 PUNT RETURNS (No.-Yds.-Avg.) — OSU: Zelina 2-14-7.0; Sensibaugh 1-6-6.0. USC: Battle 5-35-7.0.

KICKOFF RETURNS (No.-Yds.-Avg.) — OSU: Gillian 2-27-13.5; Hayden 1-18-18.0; J.Roman 1-0-0-0. USC: Berry 2-32-16.0; Chandler 2-32-16.0; Simpson 1-20-0-20; Scott 1-0-0-0.

DEFENSIVE FUMBLES RECOVERED BY — OSU: Tatum, Stottlemeyer, Polaski. USC: None.

INTERCEPTIONS — OSU: Sensibaugh, Anderson, USC: None.

TACKLES — OSU: Stillwagon 6-3-9; Adams 5-3-8; Anderson 5-3-8; Stier 4-3-7; Tatum 4-1-5; Nielsen 1-4-5; Sensibaugh 2-2-4; Debevc 1-3-4; Schmidlin 1-3-4; Whitfield 1-3-4; Muhlbach 3-0-3; Provost 2-0-2; Polaski 1-1-2; Radtke 1-1-2; Stottlemeyer 1-1-2; Urbanik 1-1-2; Bartley 1-0-1; Burton 1-0-1; Ehrsam 1-0-1; Politt 0-1-1. USC: Snow 6-10-16; Battle 4-10-14; Redding 2-12-14; Jensen 4-6-10; Shaw 4-5-9; W.Scott 4-4-8; Gunn 3-4-7; Terry 1-6-7; Cowlings 1-5-6; Dirko 1-2-3; Hayhoe 1-2-3; Young 1-2-3; McConnell 1-1-2; Bowie 1-1-2; McArthur 0-2-2; Allmon 1-0-1; Haluchak 1-0-1; Khasigian 1-0-1; Klein 1-0-1; Failor 0-1-1.

Players In The Game

OHIO STATE — Whitfield, White, Radtke, Kuhn, Schmidlin, Foley, Urbanik, Stillwagon, Donovan, Backhus, Stottlemeyer, Gentile, Stier, Muhlbach, Politt, Roman, Trapuzzano, Adams, Jack, Strickland, Bartley, Kern, Nielsen, Mayes, Holloway, Debevc, Jankowski, Sobolewski, Rusnak, Sensibaugh, Kurz, Maciejowski, Long, Provost, Hayden, Polaski, Brungard, Brockington, Anderson, Zelina, Gillian, Tatum, Otis, Huff, Burton.

SOUTHERN CAL — Dickerson, Gunn, DeKraai, O'Malley, Redding, Mullins, Hayhoe, Khasigian, Scott, Allmon, Obberreuter, Snow, Lehmer, Jensen, Yary, Haluchak, Fielder, Smith, Terry, McArthur, McConnell, Klein, Cowlings, Miller, Obbea, Sogge, Battle, Ayala, Simpson, Berry, Young, Bowie, Chandler, Durko, Lawrence, Ray, Scott, Shaw, Failor, Covington.

rated shoulder, senior tackle and co-captain Dave Foley, Gillian, and senior quarterback Bill Long, who played on the scout team in preparation for the game.

TWO DAYS after the game, Hayes made a trip to visit the troops in Vietnam and adjacent military installations. He had already made plans for the trip before the game and altered them only slightly after — he took a color film of the contest with him on the trip.

HAYES AND McKay offered one another congratulations after the game but couldn't resist comparing one another to more familiar opponents.

"Ohio State isn't as big as Notre Dame, but they are a lot quicker and a lot faster," McKay said. USC came from 14 points down to tie ND 21-21 on the final day of their regular season.

"I'd put Purdue and Michigan and this team on par," Hayes said. "All three are great football teams."

In 1968, Ohio State defeated the three by a combined score of 90-30.



of the first quarter was played between the 20-yard line before Ohio State got what seemed like the first break in the game with less than four minutes remaining in the period.

After Sensibaugh booted a beautiful 47-yard punt to pin USC back at its own nine-yard line, the Trojans' offense stalled without gaining a first down.

USC punter Bob Young kicked a 34-yarder to midfield and Zelina returned it 12 yards to the Trojans' 38-yard line. On the play, Zelina was hit hard and suffered a cracked rib which would later drive him out of the game.

Nevertheless, he stayed in to help the Buckeyes march to the 10-yard line where they faced third down and six.

Kern tried to find Zelina with a pass near the goal line, but it bounced off the receiver's fingertips. Zelina was obviously hurting from the rib injury, but he remained on the field long enough to attempt a 27-yard field goal, well within his range. However, he pushed the kick wide right on the first play of the second quarter.

The Trojans came right back with their best drive of the game to that point. The biggest plays in that march involved Simpson, but not on rushes. USC quarterback Steve Sogge found his star halfback three times on pass plays of 22, 15 and 16 yards, each time picking up a first down.

The 16-yarder went to the OSU three-yard line before Tatum saved the touchdown by knocking Simpson out of bounds. The Trojans could get no closer as they settled for a 21-yard field goal from Ron Ayala and a 3-0 lead.

When the Trojans got the ball the next time, they struck in lightning fashion. Taking a pitchout to the left, Simpson cut back against the Ohio State defense and didn't stop until he crossed the goal line 80 yards downfield. It was the second longest scoring run in Rose Bowl history and, after Ayala's kick, gave the Trojans a 10-0 advantage with 6:38 left in the first half.

Despite trailing by 10 points, members of the OSU team claim they weren't fazed.

"I still knew we were going to go," Otis said, while Kern responded with, "When the number two team's got you down 10-0, what do you do? Do you fold or do you come back like champions?"

The answer was easy. The Buckeyes responded to the quick touchdown by simply returning to their workmanlike style — three yards and a cloud of dust.

Taking possession at its own 31, Ohio State used Otis and Hayden almost exclusively on the drive. The 13-play, 69-yard march featured Otis or Hayden nine times for 47 of the yards.

Otis capped the drive with a one-yard dive. Senior Jim Roman booted the extra point, cutting OSU's deficit to three with 1:45 left in the half.

However, the Buckeyes weren't through. After stopping the Trojans cold, they went back to work on offense. Kern quickly found tight end Jan White for a 17-yard pass play and later hit halfback Ray Gillian with a 19-yarder to get the team in scoring position.

With just three seconds showing on the clock, Roman entered the game and booted a 26-yard field goal, tying the game 10-10 at halftime.

The three-pointer gave the Buckeyes the momentum they needed for a big second half. In Hayes' words, Roman's field goal was "as big as the devil."

Southern Cal began to falter in the third quarter. The Trojans were in the midst of another drive when Simpson fumbled a pitchout near midfield and Tatum recovered it.

Later, a Young punt traveled only 26 yards to set up the OSU offense at its own 46-yard line. Otis and Hayden again pounded away at the Trojans' defensive line, combining for eight carries during the 12-play drive.

Then, with 1:40 remaining in the third period, Roman connected on his second field goal of the day, a 25-yarder, to put the Buckeyes ahead for the first time at 13-10.

After falling behind, the Trojans simply fell apart.

On the second play of their next possession, Sogge was sacked hard by Urbanik and the USC quarterback fumbled. Stottlemeyer pounced on the loose football to give the Buckeyes possession at the USC 21.

Five plays later, Kern found Hayden in the end zone for a four-yard pass play. Roman made the PAT, giving Ohio State a 20-10 advantage.

Less than four minutes later, Sogge completed a swing pass to Simpson, who again fumbled. This time Polaski recovered to give OSU the ball at the USC 16-yard line. Kern took care of all 16 yards in one play, passing the ball to Gillian for the touchdown. Roman made the extra point attempt, giving the Buckeyes a 27-10 advantage.

In a space of just over six and a half minutes, Ohio State accounted for 17 points. Overall, they turned around a 10-point deficit with 27 unanswered points and Southern Cal never recovered.

The Trojans' next two possessions ended in interceptions and when they finally scored on a 19-yard pass from Sogge to tight Sam Dickerson at the 1:45 mark of the fourth quarter, it was too late.

After the 27-16 victory, Hayes paused to acknowledge the cheers from approximately 20,000 OSU fans in attendance and then entered the delirious Buckeye locker room and tried to determine if the 1968 team was the best he ever coached.

"This team won its ninth (against Michigan) game more decisively," he said. "But that '54 team was a fabulous team."

Rose Bowl Notes

The game was the first Rose Bowl played between two unbeaten teams in the 22-year history of the contract between the Big Ten and Pacific 8 conferences. It was played before a national television audience of some 100 million people and a sellout crowd at the game of 102,063, which included President-elect Richard M. Nixon.

AFTER SOUTHERN Cal scored a meaningless touchdown in the final minutes of the game, Hayes ran onto the field to confront officials about the call. Polaski, OSU's defensive back, had appeared to wrestle a ball away from USC receiver Sam Dickerson, but the referees ruled it a catch and a touchdown for the Trojans.

Despite the fact there were only 46 seconds left and the outcome was no longer in doubt, the OSU head coach stormed onto the field in protest.

"I knew it was going to cost me 15 yards, but I wanted to find out what had happened," Hayes explained. "Well, I got the penalty, but darned if I know yet what happened. The official said he'd tell me sometime, but right now he was telling me 15 yards. Well, at least I kept my hands in my pockets. He can't claim that I threatened him."

FIVE GAME balls were passed out to members of the Buckeyes after the game. They went to Muhlbach, who played despite a seriously sprained ankle, Stier, who played with a sepa-

O.J. Visits, Kern Accepts MVP Trophy, Bus Leaves Woody Behind

Bedlam Reigns In Rose Bowl Locker Room

By PAUL HORNUNG

Courtesy Of The Columbus Dispatch

PASADENA, Calif. — Woody Hayes sat down on a bench, holding the game football under his arm. Buckeye players quickly gathered around, each shaking his hand, and someone started the chant: "One, One, One," with forefinger brandished above his head and soon the whole squad was jammed around Hayes screaming "One, One, One" and holding up the one finger.

Then the chant switched to a deafening "Rose Bowl, Rose Bowl." As this died down, one of the Bucks near the dressing room door yelled, "Hey, guys, quiet: O.J., O.J."

"It's O.J.," attested several others, pleading: "Quiet, guys."

Suddenly, the boisterous room grew silent and all eyes turned to the doorway where stood a sweating, husky young man in a rumpled red and gold uniform with number 32 on the front. O.J. extended his hand and said loud enough for all to hear: "You're the best ball team in the country and don't let anybody tell you you aren't — congratulations."

The Buckeyes grabbed his hand and Woody came over to shake hands, murmuring, "Thanks, thanks." Southern Cal's Heisman Trophy winner waved his hand over his head, two fingers upraised — indicating he'd ac-



O.J. ON THE MOVE — Southern Cal running back O.J. Simpson piled up 171 yards against Ohio State in the 1969 Rose Bowl, but it wasn't enough as the Buckeyes beat the Trojans 27-16.

cepted the number two ranking behind the Buckeyes — as he left for his own dressing room.

"He's a real sportsman," Hayes assured.

Happy bedlam reclaimed the hot, crowded quarters under the Rose Bowl. Hayes called for quiet and held a private talk with his unbeaten young stars, turning them loose for Wednesday evening and all day Thursday —

"except for a meeting at 9 o'clock in the morning — before I leave for Vietnam."

"Who gets the game ball?" he asked and, as he often does, supplied the answer: "How about John Muhlbach? The little guy probably had his ankle fractured today. (A groan went up from John's teammates.) Doggone, he deserves it anyway."

Several nominations from the floor included Ray Gillian, who replaced injured Larry Zelina and caught two big passes; co-captain Dave Foley; "all the seniors;" Mark Stier, who played superbly with a painful shoulder injury and others. Woody nominated Billy Long, who'd "been 'Steve Sogge' all week against our defense."

"I guess we'll wind up giving about five," the coach concluded — Muhlbach, Foley, Stier, Gillian and Long. He suggested making the award to Muhlbach "right now," but the injured senior center was in the shower and the ceremony was postponed.

Assistant coach Hugh Hindman came rushing in with news that another "important visitor" was coming. Woody immediately guessed President-elect Nixon, who attended the game, but as Hugh was mixing that assumption, Bill Schroeder of the Helms Foundation arrived.

Carrying a silver trophy, Bill explained that it goes each year to the outstanding player in the Rose Bowl, as judged by the writers. "This year," he announced, "it goes to Rex Kern."

Cheers bounced around the locker room again and teammates pummeled Rex. "Don't hit him on this shoulder," Woody pleaded, protecting Kern's left. "It went out again today."

"Every part of this belongs to you guys," proclaimed Rex, waving the trophy around the room, "the greatest in the nation."

MORE CHEERS, the taunts for guard Tom Backhus, who'd climbed on top of a locker to get a flash picture.

"Prayer," shouted several Bucks, repeating Hayes' call for quiet. Silence settled once more on the room, but outside the OSU marching band was booming with all its brass and Hayes had to speak over it. Heads bowed and he gave a longer-than-usual prayer.

With the "Amen" echoed by some, the

Buckeyes began ripping off their uniforms, shouting and responding like you would expect one of the youngest teams ever to win a national championship and finish 10-0.

WOODY MOVED toward the interview room, because a platoon of writers had become noisily impatient. The police guard opened the door and the scribes swarmed around Hayes. Through the open door came chants of "We Want Woody."

"Is that the band?" he asked. Someone said it was. As he started for the door, the writers protested. "I gotta say hello to the band," Woody maintained.

It wasn't the band after all. They'd gone, but Woody waved to the fans who responded with a lusty "Woody's Number One." He was again engulfed by the press and jumped up on a training table so he could be heard by more of them.

"The biggest factor," he said, "was our defense in the second half. O.J. broke loose for that big one in the first half, but we did a good job of stopping him in the second half. We did a good job of rushing (quarterback Steve) Sogge. We forced them into two fumbles and two interceptions. That's four turnovers and the biggest thing was that we had no fumbles and no interceptions."

"WHAT DID YOU think when Southern Cal went ahead 10-0?" someone called.

"I thought we'd win," Woody assured. "Hell, yes. Oh, sure."

"Why? Because I felt we could move the ball on them. They took away our wide game, but to do it they put eight men up front and we hurt them with our passing and we could run inside. I felt if we just played our football we could still win."

What was the biggest single play a writer asked and when Hayes hesitated, another suggested Sogge's fumble that led to Ohio State's second touchdown and a 20-10 lead.

"I hate to put the rap on the kid," Woody said, "but I guess you could say that was a big play." Tackle Bill Urbanik jarred Sogge and Vic Stottmeyer grabbed the ball. Both incidentally were filling in at the time for Buckeye starters.

What about Jim Roman's field goal that tied the score at 10-10 in the fading seconds of the first half?

"That was as big as the devil," Woody agreed. "Say, we were a great field goal team today, weren't we?" (The Bucks made two of three, one to tie, one to go ahead 13-10.)

Out in the locker room Kern was probably coming closer to explaining it: "There were many key plays," said Rex. Hayes later agreed Rex's run on a pass play to the USC four to set up the second TD was another big play. So were Gillian's catches, one for a score, another to set up a score.

What about O.J.'s 80-yard run? "It takes a great back to cut back," Woody commented, "but that son of a gun sure did it. That's the biggest play we've had broken on us in 10 games."

IS THIS your best team? "It won its ninth game more decisively," Hayes mused, "but that '54 team was a fabulous team. We had some great runners on that team, too. Maybe not as many as we do now and not as much speed on the line. Our '61 team was awfully good, too."

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Woody called in Lou McCullough, "who coaches all our defense" and turned the writers over to him. He sent a manager to get Hindman to answer further questions on the offense (Hugh is senior assistant in this area).

Stealing swiftly away, Hayes checked on Muhlback, who was on the way out with Dr. Bob Murphy to have X-rays taken of the injured ankle (X-rays showed no fracture).

BY THIS time, most of the Buckeyes had dressed and left. But Woody went around to those remaining, shook hands and talked quietly. Eventually, he got back to his own locker. The press had gone, the trainers had gone. Only equipment chief Paul West remained.

"Was this your biggest victory?" Woody was asked.

"I suppose it was," he agreed as the hot shower water splashed on the tile floor. "Pretty convincing, wasn't it?"

"I was a little worried," he confessed. "We weren't sharp and we had Stier hurt — and Rex's shoulder. But Mark played the whole game and Rex's shoulder went out again, but he said it

went right back in after he went all the way."

Defensive backfield coach Lou Holtz dashed in. "Coach," he shouted into the shower, "the boys are getting awfully restless. They'd like to get going."

"Don't wait on me," Woody waved. "I'll get back to the hotel. Get 'em going."

THERE WAS an almost immediate thunder of a big bus revving up in the stadium tunnel outside and away they went.

"Happy?" Woody repeated a question. "Why sure I'm happy. Say, I have to get back to the hotel. The President of the United States is going to call. That's the word they got to me, I don't want to miss that."

Hayes becomes an unofficial envoy to servicemen in Vietnam and adjacent military installations as of Friday and will be happy to show the color movies of Wednesday's classic? He promised to go win or lose, but it's bound to be better after one of football's greatest victories — for the national title, against an unbeaten foe, after

you've spotted a team with the great O.J. Simpson 10 points.

"THE WORLD will never know what Mark Stier did today," Ohio State defensive coach Lou McCullough told a group of writers, "unless you tell them."

What Stier did was play probably his greatest game as a Buckeye, despite suffering a shoulder separation Monday (two days before the game). He called the defensive signals, as usual, and made tackles all over the hot Rose Bowl field (it was 81 degrees New Year's Day).

"It hurt quite a bit," Mark conceded, "but they did a pretty good job of padding it up."

There was some question whether Stier could play at all, or whether he would last more than a few plays.

"It was a good way to go out," conceded the senior linebacker.

"O.J. Simpson," he noted, "deserves the Heisman Trophy. He was always looking to cut back, but we did a pretty good job of stopping him. On that long run, he cut back behind about eight guys."

"When the number two team's got

you down 10-0," observed Rex Kern, "what do you do? Do you fold up or do you come back like champions?"

The Buckeyes answered that question convincingly.

"Our running backs did a tremendous job," he decided.

Leo Hayden confessed he didn't expect so much work in the game.

"It surprised me somewhat," he noted, explaining that he's had a slight muscle pull for the last few days. But he started and carried 15 times for 90 yards.

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| RUSHING | | | | | | PASS RECEIVING | | | | | |
|-------------|--------|------|------|------|------|----------------|-------------|---------|-------|------|--|
| Player | Trials | Gain | Lost | Net | Avg. | TD's | Player | Catches | Yards | TD's | |
| Otis | 219 | 992 | 7 | 985 | 4.5 | 17 | Jankowski | 31 | 326 | 3 | |
| Kern | 131 | 641 | 107 | 534 | 4.1 | 18 | Zelina | 18 | 327 | 1 | |
| Zelina | 39 | 339 | 1 | 338 | 8.7 | 1 | White | 21 | 283 | 1 | |
| Hayden | 61 | 301 | 17 | 284 | 4.6 | 1 | Bruckington | 7 | 104 | 0 | |
| Bruckington | 66 | 266 | 5 | 261 | 3.9 | 1 | Gilliam | 6 | 100 | 1 | |
| Maciejowski | 43 | 253 | 61 | 192 | 4.5 | 4 | Ois | 10 | 82 | 0 | |
| Bruckington | 45 | 204 | 17 | 187 | 4.1 | 1 | Hayden | 12 | 41 | 1 | |
| Gilliam | 19 | 129 | 4 | 125 | 6.6 | 0 | Bruckington | 2 | 38 | 2 | |
| Huff | 15 | 52 | 5 | 47 | 3.1 | 0 | Bender | 1 | 37 | 1 | |
| Long | 5 | 40 | 0 | 40 | 8.0 | 1 | Kuhn | 2 | 29 | 0 | |
| Greene | 5 | 18 | 1 | 17 | 3.4 | 0 | Rustak | 1 | 10 | 0 | |
| Colburn | 2 | 8 | 0 | 8 | 4.0 | 0 | R. Smith | 1 | 10 | 0 | |
| White | 1 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2.0 | 0 | Totals | 104 | 1384 | 10 | |
| Kuhn | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | | | | | |
| Sembach | 2 | 7 | 9 | -2 | -1.0 | 0 | | | | | |
| Totals | 656 | 3252 | 234 | 3018 | 4.6 | 34 | | | | | |

| FORWARD PASSING | | | | | | KICKOFF RETURNS | | | | | |
|-----------------|------|-------|------|-------|-------|-----------------|-------------|--------|-------|---------|------|
| Player | Att. | Comp. | Int. | Yards | Comp. | TD's | Player | Number | Yards | Average | TD's |
| Kern | 131 | 75 | 6 | 972 | 57.2 | 7 | Zelina | 9 | 204 | 22.7 | 0 |
| Maciejowski | 52 | 25 | 3 | 387 | 5.95 | 3 | Hayden | 3 | 58 | 19.3 | 0 |
| Long | 14 | 4 | 2 | 25 | 2.86 | 0 | Bruckington | 3 | 53 | 17.6 | 0 |
| Bruckington | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .000 | 0 | Gilliam | 1 | 41 | 41.0 | 0 |
| Totals | 188 | 104 | 11 | 1384 | 5.53 | 10 | Ois | 2 | 21 | 10.5 | 0 |
| | | | | | | | White | 1 | 13 | 13.0 | 0 |
| | | | | | | | Kuhn | 1 | 1 | 1.0 | 0 |
| | | | | | | | Jack | 1 | 0 | .0 | 0 |
| | | | | | | | Cheney | 1 | 0 | .0 | 0 |
| | | | | | | | Roman | 1 | 0 | .0 | 0 |
| | | | | | | | Totals | 28 | 434 | 15.5 | 0 |

| SCORING | | | | | | PUNT RETURNS | | | | | |
|-------------|------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|------|--------------|--------|-------|---------|------|--|
| Player | Touchdowns | Extra Points | Field Goals | Total Points | | Player | Number | Yards | Average | TD's | |
| Ois | 17 | 0 | 0 | 102 | | Sembach | 10 | 93 | 9.3 | 0 | |
| Kern | 8 | 0 | 0 | 48 | | Zelina | 9 | 61 | 6.8 | 0 | |
| J. Roman | 0 | 0 | 21-28 | 36 | | Polaski | 7 | 57 | 8.1 | 1 | |
| Maciejowski | 4 | 0 | 0 | 24 | | Ois | 1 | 17 | 17.0 | 0 | |
| Bruckington | 3 | 0 | 0 | 18 | | Tatum | 1 | 17 | 17.0 | 0 | |
| Jankowski | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | | Probst | 2 | 0 | .0 | 0 | |
| Zelina | 1 | 1 | 1-2 | 0-2 | | Totals | 30 | 245 | 8.2 | 1 | |
| Hayden | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | |
| Long | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | |
| Probst | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | |
| White | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | |
| Bender | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | |
| Polaski | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | |
| Bruckington | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | |
| Gilliam | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | |
| Merryman | 0 | 0 | 6-9 | 0-4 | | | | | | | |
| Oppermann | 0 | 0 | 0-1 | 0-1 | | | | | | | |
| (Safety) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | |
| Totals | 36 | 8 | 28-40 | 1-5 | 5-14 | 323 | | | | | |

1 touchdowns by pass interception
1 touchdowns by blocked kick

| PUNTING | | | | | | SCORE BY QUARTERS | | | | | |
|---------|--------|-------|------|--|--|-------------------|----|----|----|----|-------|
| Player | Number | Yards | Avg. | | | Opponents | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Total |
| Sembach | 52 | 1937 | 37.2 | | | OHIO STATE | 14 | 44 | 49 | 43 | 150 |
| | | | | | | | 60 | 90 | 75 | 98 | 323 |

| SO. METHODIST | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|------|
| Rank | Opp. | Score | Time | Score | Time | Score | Time | Score | Time | Score | Time |
| 11 | 5 | 21 | 1 | 27 | 50 | 437 | 47 | 98 | 76 | 40 | 5 |
| 13 | 5 | 0 | 16 | 227 | 145 | 372 | 80 | 17 | 0 | 0 | 11 |
| 15 | 7 | 0 | 22 | 284 | 148 | 456 | 95 | 25 | 12 | 4 | 1 |
| 17 | 5 | 0 | 2 | 16 | 37 | 129 | 184 | 49 | 14 | 12 | 2 |
| 22 | 1 | 0 | 22 | 313 | 74 | 411 | 83 | 16 | 8 | 0 | 1 |
| 24 | 7 | 3 | 18 | 104 | 184 | 284 | 75 | 31 | 14 | 2 | 7 |
| 27 | 4 | 2 | 24 | 247 | 218 | 565 | 88 | 19 | 10 | 0 | 4 |
| 31 | 4 | 2 | 21 | 200 | 103 | 303 | 74 | 23 | 9 | 1 | 4 |
| 37 | 6 | 0 | 24 | 240 | 143 | 453 | 74 | 24 | 14 | 2 | 4 |
| 41 | 7 | 2 | 18 | 124 | 137 | 271 | 74 | 15 | 9 | 3 | 5 |
| 43 | 10 | 1 | 24 | 214 | 215 | 429 | 80 | 26 | 16 | 1 | 7 |
| 47 | 4 | 2 | 27 | 48 | 49 | 137 | 40 | 15 | 6 | 1 | 9 |
| 51 | 4 | 2 | 27 | 101 | 167 | 468 | 86 | 25 | 15 | 1 | 3 |
| 55 | 9 | 11 | 1 | 21 | 243 | 246 | 257 | 76 | 33 | 20 | 2 |
| 59 | 13 | 4 | 3 | 117 | 45 | 420 | 43 | 12 | 5 | 2 | 1 |
| 63 | 8 | 1 | 17 | 140 | 171 | 311 | 43 | 34 | 14 | 3 | 5 |
| 67 | 24 | 3 | 1 | 28 | 421 | 44 | 447 | 89 | 9 | 4 | 1 |
| 71 | 8 | 10 | 1 | 19 | 277 | 189 | 246 | 74 | 32 | 19 | 2 |
| 75 | 16 | 4 | 0 | 27 | 191 | 381 | 1 | 45 | 40 | 7 | 1 |
| 79 | 24 | 45 | 13 | 173 | 1183 | 1772 | 2325 | 729 | 304 | 133 | 23 |
| 83 | 140 | 62 | 11 | 227 | 3018 | 3414 | 4402 | 844 | 188 | 104 | 11 |



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