

# Pre-Game Explosions Ignited Buck Fire

Young men, competing in the world of athletics, usually need very little urging to perform at their best. The smallest jab of any sort can serve only to fan the fires that are already smoldering. The Buckeyes of Ohio State, about to face Iowa, the number one ranked team in the country, found two reasons to stew shortly after dawn's early light on Nov. 2.

Which of the two explosions came first for the Bucks is immaterial. Was it the chicken or the egg? Who cares? The reasons, those which fueled the fires, were there.

First, or maybe it was second, was the morning paper in Columbus. *Citizen-Journal* columnist Bert Graeff took somewhat of a potshot at the Buckeye secondary. Personally, I don't feel the article about — or against, as they would have you believe — the Men of Brutality was that derogatory.

Graeff insinuated that the Buckeye defenders would be lucky to keep Long under 1,000 passing yards in the game.

The second reason, or maybe this one was first, was an apparent tirade by Buckeye captain Keith Byars. That's the quiet, reserved, low-keyed Keith Byars, son of a minister.

We can — and probably will — jump around from one to the other among players who addressed the issues following the game. But one thing is sure, the match was struck.

"We got some bad pub in the papers today, talking about our defensive backs and talking about how Long will pass for 1,000 yards today," said linebacker Eric Kumerow. "I think we took that a little personal. We decided to go out and really kick some butts."

## Wharton's View

By Jim Wharton  
BSB Editor

The Hawkeyes felt the sting — right on the seat of their gold and black britches.

"We read the article in the paper this morning," said defensive back Greg Rogan, who had one pass interception and came up with a near-miss on another. "It said we'd be lucky to keep Chuck Long under 1,000 yards and that we'd look in the mirror and see that we might just as well throw in the towel. That just kind of psyched us up to go out there and play even harder."

And play hard they did. Iowa, with Long, the nation's leading passer as the game opened, was in for a long (get it?) day. The talented Hawkeye quarterback, who had passed for six touchdowns the previous Saturday, was harassed into a sub-par performance, with Buckeyes swarming all over him.

Before Long and the Hawkeyes surrendered their number one ranking, Byars would have his say.

It was a players-only meeting around breakfast time in the hotel where the Buckeyes stow away on Friday night. Byars wanted to make a point. Knowing he would watch from the bench because his foot, reinjured a week earlier against Minnesota, had not responded, Byars grabbed center stage for a little heart-to-heart talk with his mates.

Now here's a guy who gets all the 'pub,' grabs all the headlines, all the glory. Respected by his mates? You bet. It must have been a little like the E.F. Hutton commercial.

You know, when Keith Byars speaks, *everybody* listens.

"It was really something else," said OSU fullback George Cooper, who took up some of the slack created by Byars' absence by rushing for 104 yards in 17 carries. "Keith never loses his composure. I guess because he knew he wasn't playing, he didn't want to lose this game. He didn't want us to lose."

So, tell us, George, what happened?

"He kind of got upset," said Cooper of Byars. "He kicked a few things around. That kind of showed us this game meant something. That fired us up a lot. Keith never gets upset and he got upset; a glass here, a table there. A tray."

One report said Byars even tried the table cloth trick. You know, the one where you try to pull the tablecloth out from underneath the knives, forks, spoons, cups and saucers, etc.

"I've never seen Keith like that," said linebacker Pepper Johnson, who shared high-tackle honors in the game with fellow linebacker Chris Spielman — each with 19 tackles. "I know he can always get his point across when he's talking to me. But he wanted to get this point across to everybody."

Byars' antics, which hopefully were controlled enough that the hotel does not send the university a bill for damages, undoubtedly served their purpose.

"I hadn't seen Keith so emotional since I've been here," said wide receiver Mike Lanese. "I can't speak for the other guys, but it sure got me fired up. He came out saying things like Chuck Long and Ronnie Harmon are two great players and Iowa's a very good football team — but we're Ohio State. They're coming into our

hometown, into our stadium — where we've won 19 straight — and no one should beat us at home."

The speech — with minuscule property damage like a broken glass — inspired his teammates.

"I've known him for four years and I've never seen him so excited," said Buckeye quarterback Jim Karsatos. "It was a great speech by a great man."

Evidently.

"Everybody was fired up," said center Bob Maggs. "When we had our meeting this morning, everybody could feel it. Some people are awed by number one. We saw the films. We knew we could beat them if we played our game."

Or, as Rogan looked at it, "We just decided that if we lost here, we wouldn't be going to the Rose Bowl and we probably wouldn't end up as Big Ten champions again."

"The captains and some of the other people just had a little pep talk and got us to come closer together as a unit."

As all of this unfolded in the interview room following the game, it was a shame that Byars had not been present to give his version of the pep talk. But, as it goes each week, reporters request those players who made significant contributions in the game. Byars, not having played, had not.

The things that go on that we usually don't hear about are amazing. It's also a wonder that all of this washed out. Those types of things are usually kept within the family.

But it also made for some interesting conversation. Let's hope, after the way the flames roared against the Hawkeyes, that somebody doesn't stomp out that fire. That was a real barn-burner.

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## Cooper Rambles For 104 Yards Against Hawkeyes

# 'A Train' On Right Track For Buckeyes

By Jim Wharton

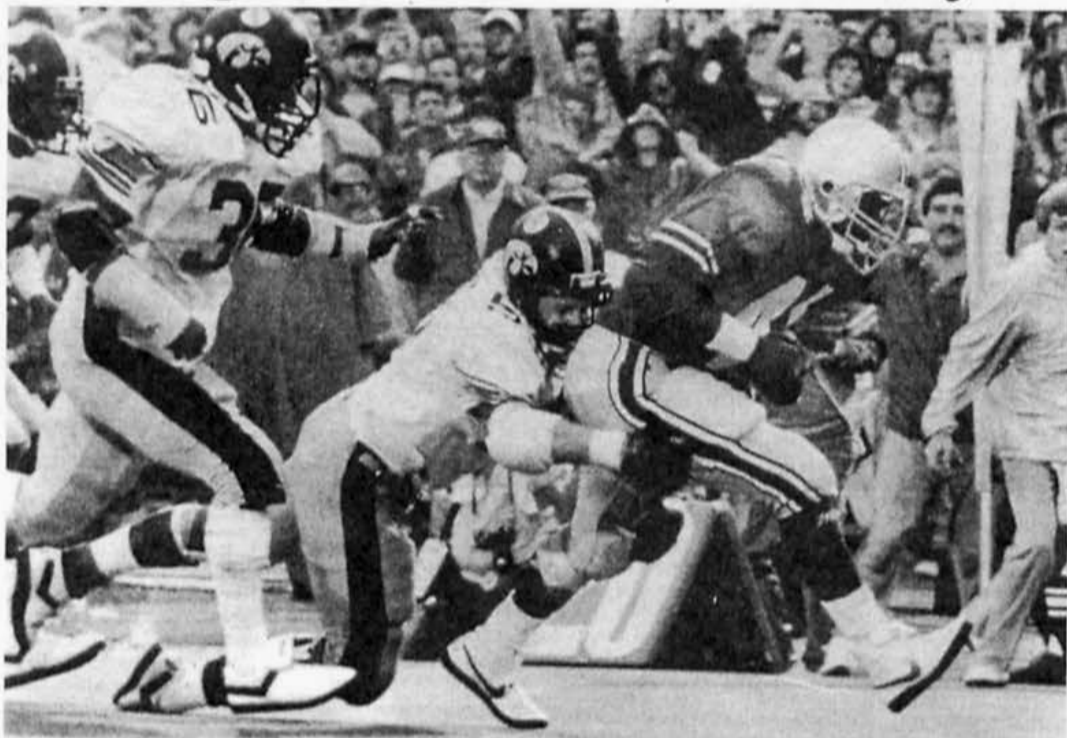
The 'A Train' was at the end of the line, his day complete. He had made the run. Now it was time to gather up his girl friend and slip off to Bob Evans for a quiet dinner.

George 'A Train' Cooper was going to relax and take it easy. His day's work was done. He had rambled (like the 'A Train' which goes uptown in New York, for which he was nicknamed) into the station to the noise of 104 yards in 17 carries against the top-ranked Iowa Hawkeyes.

"Finally, I got that 100 yards," said Cooper, a native of Long Island, N.Y., who had his finest day as a Buckeye in Ohio State's 22-13 victory over Iowa.

Cooper, a sophomore out of Wyandanch High School on Long Island, played an integral part in the Buckeyes' seventh win in eight outings this season. The 6-2, 238-pounder chewed up the clock with his bursts up the middle.

"With me running the ball, the clock will run out," said Cooper, who included runs of 27, 14 and 13 yards in his day on the tracks. "We didn't want to throw too many passes. When it's time to run the clock out, they have confidence in me. I usually don't fumble. Vince



George Cooper Hauls Iowa Tackler On 13-Yard Second-Quarter Gain

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(Workman) was in there and he doesn't fumble either. But he's a freshman."

The confidence the Ohio State coaching staff had in Cooper was welcomed. He knew with Keith Byars watching from the sideline with a sore foot, he would be expected to shoulder some of the burden.

"Yeah," said Cooper, who upped his season rushing total to 457 yards. "The coaches depend on me more. They tell me I've got to give it that little bit extra on my blocking and on my running. With Keith out of there, I feel a little bit of pressure, but not that much. I know what I have to do and I just try to do it."

Cooper blocks. His block on an Iowa defender gave tailback John Woodridge the opening he needed to race 57 yards for a second-quarter score which put Ohio State on top 12-0.

"I was isolation, me against the linebacker," said Cooper. "I guess I was the main block. John had to follow me. The linebacker really took himself out of the play and when I hit him he backed up. So John had an open way — and luckily John's fast."

And Cooper runs. He switched tracks from 'A Train' to 'Freight Train' on a couple of occasions, rambling once for 27 yards, his longest run of the year. It's a continuation of vast improvement Cooper has shown.

"I've improved about 100 percent," said Cooper. "Now I look for the holes instead of going where they are designed to go. They allow me freedom to cut back or do whatever I want. They have



George Cooper

confidence in me, so they call my play a lot."

Calling Cooper's number lately has kept the defenses from stacking up on the talented tailbacks in the Buckeye lineup.

"If they key up on me," said Cooper, "then the tailbacks will get 200 yards. So I won't mind. If they key on me, they can't key on the tailbacks. If they key on the tailbacks, they can't key on me. Plus, with our passing now — we have pretty good passing — it's going to leave everything open."

Cooper is pleased that things are opening up for him. But he'd much rather stay in the shadows.

"I really don't like being in the spotlight," said Cooper, who was the first OSU fullback to rush for over 100 yards since Vaughn Broadnax gained 101 in the 1982 season opener against Baylor. "With them keying on the tailbacks, a lot of defenses, a lot of

opposing teams, don't think about the fullback too much. That's helped me a lot, getting my yardage. They think I'm just another player out there. I'm giving my all, so I should break one every now and then."

Having the chance to show his wares also is somewhat surprising to Cooper.

"I figured I was going to be blocking most of the season, with this being Keith's last year," said Cooper. "But since Keith's been hurt, I guess they worked me more into the offense. I was hoping to get maybe five or six carries. But it's been fluctuating between 10 and 17. That's not bad. I didn't even expect to get half that. I don't mind how many I get as long as we're winning. When we're winning, that means the coaches are calling the right plays."

But Cooper feels the Buckeyes still can improve.

"There's a lot of things we can do better. With Keith coming back, we'll probably do better, too. He's just a team by himself. So, with him back, we'll probably be that much better."

And that much better could mean a Big Ten championship.

"I think it's really just going to give us more confidence," said Cooper of Ohio State controlling its own destiny during the remaining games. "We know we have a chance to win the Big Ten. That's going to make us play that much harder. We can't let down now. The coaches aren't going to let us let down. We've got three more to go and, hopefully, we'll do well in all three. No more '9-and-3s.' "



# Wooldridge Sparkling In Triumph

By Craig James

John Wooldridge was one of the reasons why Buckeye coach Earle Bruce was fretting the week of the Iowa game.

In Ohio State's game at Minnesota, Bruce's number one tailback, Keith Byars, had suffered a foot bruise on the same right foot that the senior had broken a bone in almost two months before.

Now with the top-ranked Hawkeyes coming to town, Byars was listed as "doubtful." On top of that news, Wooldridge, who had been sidelined with bruised ribs in the same game, wasn't progressing as fast as the coach had hoped. Wooldridge was "probable" for the Iowa game, but he would have to wear a flak jacket. Plans were made to start freshman Vince Workman as the number one tailback.

But as the contest with the Hawkeyes developed, it was obvious that OSU's running game needed some help. Workman was stopped for a two-yard loss on his first carry of the game. At the end of the first quarter, the Buckeyes had only gained 14 yards in eight carries, even though Ohio State's strategy had been to open it up with the pass.

Wooldridge, meanwhile, had been used only on passing plays to that point. But in the second quarter, with OSU unable to punch the ball into the end zone, Bruce decided to chat with his backup tailback.

"He said, 'Can you run?'" Wooldridge recalled. "I said, 'yes,' and he said, 'I want you to run the ball.' I said, 'Okay.'"



**John Wooldridge (Center) Dashes Through Big Hole For Eight Yards**

"He was counting on me to do something and I felt I had to answer. He put me in for a purpose — to run the ball. That's what he wanted me to do and I had to do it to the best of my ability, with or without pain."

And Wooldridge was in pain.

At game time, he figured he was only about 80 percent at the most. The way he felt the Saturday before at Minnesota, he didn't believe he would be able to play against Iowa at all. Bruce reported that Wooldridge didn't practice on Monday and Tuesday and just ran the rest of the week. He was not involved in contact practice all week, Bruce added.

"(But) on Wednesday, I was starting to believe I might get a chance to see some action," said Wooldridge. "The more the week went on and the more treatment I

got, the better I began to feel."

So the junior went in the game, right after cornerback William White had intercepted a pass from Iowa quarterback Chuck Long. After a five-yard run by fullback George Cooper to the Ohio 43, a play to feature Wooldridge was sent in.

The tailback took a handoff from Karsatos to the right to avoid noseguard Hap Peterson, then cut through the center of the line. With key blocks by Cooper and guard Jeff Uhlenhake, Wooldridge saw a hole and went for it. Free safety Devon Mitchell jumped in to get a piece of Wooldridge, but the tailback sidestepped him.

Wooldridge finished the play by running for 57 yards and a touchdown after easily beating out cornerback Nate Creer who was in pursuit.

"It was an isolation play," said Wooldridge. "George went through a man (linebacker Larry Station) and put an excellent block on him."

"The play was well executed. (Cooper) took him one way and I went the other way. I saw a gaping hole and my eyes lit up."

"The one really good run that Wooldridge had was outstanding, when he cut back," said Bruce. "He's a great cutback runner and

then he had enough speed to get in the end zone."

"He played hurt. He sucked it up today to go."

The tailback felt that was the least he could do.

"I felt real good about it, because (Bruce) had confidence in me, even though I have badly bruised ribs," said Wooldridge. "He had enough confidence in me to put me in on one run, to want me to run the ball."

Wooldridge was injured in the fourth quarter after being tackled and stayed out the rest of the game, but he had already made his contribution to OSU's win. He finished the game with 89 yards on nine carries for a 9.9 yard average.

"(The touchdown run) psyched us up a lot, because we needed some big plays," he said. "We had plenty of chances to score, but we were just not putting the ball in the end zone like we were supposed to. We missed a couple of field goals."

"So we needed a big play, a big offensive play to get our offense really generating so we could get some points. I guess that play helped us carry over to the next quarter."

And after that, "Things were going well for us," Wooldridge said.

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# Bucks Pass Iowa Test With Flying Colors

Ohio State's 22-13 victory over top-ranked Iowa might have caused Buckeye boss Earle Bruce and his staff to be a bit generous when it came to grading films. Perhaps the triumph allowed them to overlook small flaws — if there were any — in the play of his Buckeyes.

Whatever the case, Bruce handed out more plaudits than in any game since he became the OSU coach in 1979.

"The performance level of our football team was just tremendous," said Bruce two days after the game. "We're talking about everybody who started the game grading a winning performance. That's unusual. I've never had that since I've been here."

Bruce could also have added that not only the 22 starters in the game graded out to winning efforts, but two backup players also earned the same distinction.

Linebacker Chris Spielman received the longest and loudest pat on the back.

"He was all over the football field," said Bruce, while also noting that the Massillon, Ohio, sophomore was named both the Player of the Game and the Defensive Player of the Game. "Truly an outstanding football player who plays with great intensity. He was ready to play."

But so, evidently — after the coaching staff finished grading the game films — were the rest of the Buckeyes.

The players on defense who "did a tremendous job against the Hawkeyes" were: Terry White, Derek Isaman, Larry Kolic, Pepper Johnson, Greg Rogan, Sonny Gordon, Eric Kumerow, Fred Ridder, William White, Darryl Lee and Byron Lee.

Isaman, who spelled an injured Byron Lee at one of the outside linebacker spots, was the non-starter.

George Cooper, who rushed for 104 yards, was named Offensive Player of the Game, while center Bob Maggs picked up Offensive Lineman of the Week honors.

"He's an outstanding offensive lineman," said Bruce of Maggs, a junior out of Youngstown, Ohio. "If there's a better center in the country, I haven't seen him yet. He's big, strong and gets good movement off the line."

Others on offense receiving winning grades were Jim Karsatos, Cris Carter, Mike Lanese, John Wooldridge, Jim Gilmore, Jeff Ulenhake, Rory Graves, Larry Kotterman, Ed Taggart and Vince Workman.

Wooldridge, who had a 57-yard touchdown run in the second quarter, was the non-starter here. Workman, the freshman out of nearby Dublin, Ohio, started at tailback although he shared playing time with Wooldridge, who was still recovering from a rib injury suffered in the Minnesota game the previous week.

## Grid Bits

With Jim Wharton

OSU coaches obviously were not as pleased with the overall effort in the Minnesota game. That fact was brought to the surface when only one player received any kind of weekly honors.

Tackle Larry Kotterman won Offensive Lineman of the Week honors. But nobody was named for defensive honors, hustle award or player of the week.

BRUCE, in a joyful frame of mind at his weekly press luncheon, beat the press to the punch on one occasion.

"I'll get to the injury report because that's always the first question," he said.

Right. What's the status of this fellow named Keith Byars?

"It will be a daily thing this week to see if he can run," answered Bruce. "He should be able to, but you never know. But Keith needs to practice, he needs to take some handoffs. If he can't do that by Wednesday, we'll have to call him doubtful."

Byars, who has played in only two of Ohio State's eight games this season, sat out the Iowa game after the foot he broke in preseason was stepped on in the win at Minnesota.

Greg Zackeroff, second-string left guard, suffered a severe twisted ankle and was, according to Bruce, probably going to miss the entire week of practice and the Northwestern game.

Byron Lee (ankle and knee) was expected to return to the practice field on Tuesday, missing just one day of work.

Linebacker Eric Kumerow had a stiff knee but was expected to miss only one day of practice.

AND HOW DID Bruce celebrate the victory?

"I have a friend, Masami Hagiwara, who comes in from Japan once a year," said Bruce. "He picked the Iowa game this year. He's been here since (Oct. 30). After the ballgame, and you have to understand he doesn't understand much English, he just shakes hands and says 'good game, good game' and we drove home."

"But we had dinner with him and some friends from Iowa City and then I went down to do the TV show about 9 o'clock."

TO KEEP THE questions rolling, one reporter asked Bruce if he participated in any of the polls, and if so, could he tell us how he voted?

"Wellllll," said Bruce, drawing out the opening part of his reply, "I thought the polls were supposed to be secret. But, yeah, I'll tell you. I voted Penn State first because they're undefeated. I voted Air Force second because they're undefeated. After that you probably have a pretty good idea of who I voted for."

CONTINUING ON, tell us about Cris Carter's ill-fated pass play which was ruled an illegal forward pass, brought about a five-yard penalty and forced the Bucks to settle for a field goal.

"Boy!" exclaimed Bruce, "Don't get me started on that because I'll get mad. When the referee calls a penalty that isn't there, I get mad. If the referee calls a penalty that's there, then I don't mind. But to call a penalty that isn't there, I start burning. Now I'll probably get censored. But I'm still hot about that one."

Carter, a wide receiver, had taken a handoff on what appeared to be a reverse. After moving back toward the center of the field, he

lofted an off-balance, wobbly throw into the end zone to tight end Ed Taggart. The pass was incomplete and Carter was ruled to have been across the line of scrimmage. Television monitors in the press box and TV screens at home clearly showed Carter was not beyond the original line of scrimmage when he released the ball.

To take this play a couple of steps further, Bruce let the cat out of the bag when he said the play was intended to be a touchdown pass to Jim Karsatos. The Buckeye quarterback was, provided the Hawkeyes had not unveiled a defense Bruce said he had never seen before in that area of the gridiron, supposed to be wide open in the end zone.

Carter was credited with a one-yard run on the play because D.C. 'Mr. Stats' Koehl of the OSU sports information department said he had to compensate for the officials moving the ball back from the four to the eight on the five-yard, loss-of-down penalty.

"I have to assume the officials felt he released the ball from the three," said Koehl. "That's the only thing I can figure since they spotted the ball at the eight when the original line of scrimmage had been the four."

JIMMY CRUM, the affable TV sportscaster who co-hosts *The Earle Bruce Show*, asked Bruce why, with the best winning percentage among active Big Ten coaches, he still did not have complete respect among OSU fans and some segments of the media.

"There's no way you can coach to please the people," said Bruce. "You're only as good as your last

Continued On Page 17

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# Icers Squander Leads, Drop Two Games

By Craig Merz

It might be a little overblown to call the two-game home set with Western Michigan Nov. 8-9 critical for the Ohio State hockey team.

But not by much.

The Buckeyes (3-5 overall and in the Central Collegiate Hockey Association) suffered two frustrating losses at the hands of second-place Bowling Green Nov. 1 and 2. The Bucks squandered leads in both games and were victimized by their special teams' play.

The Falcons (5-2, 5-2) beat OSU 9-5 in the series opener before the usual standing-room only crowd of 3,400 at BG. A SRO crowd greeted the two Ohio combatants at OSU the next evening — late into the next evening.

The usual 7:30 start was moved back a half-hour to avoid some of the aftermath of the OSU-Iowa football game. That didn't help the Falcon team bus which needed a police escort through the traffic to the rink. Nonetheless, the game did not start until 8:30.

Early or late, the result was the same, much to the disappointment of the crowd of 1,600, save the 300 or so BG followers. The Falcons won 7-4.

"It's a critical weekend," Buckeye coach Jerry Welsh said of the matchup with the enigmatic Western Michigan team. "It's more important than the Lake Superior weekend to get back in it."

OSU reached the .500 mark with a sweep at Superior Oct. 25 and 26. The Soo Lakers are in third-place in the standings and were ranked tenth in the nation at the time. So far, the Bucks have played the top three teams in the league with mixed results.

With season-opening home losses to Michigan State the Bucks have a 2-4 mark, including an 0-3 home mark.

Welsh had hoped before the season his young squad could be at the 5-5 after this weekend series, capping off what is regarded as the toughest part of the schedule.

"There's a tendency to panic a little," he said. "We lose two games most people thought we would lose anyway and suddenly we're supposed to be in a hole. We're in a slight hole. We're a bit behind."

"We need to come up big and win when the schedule starts swinging our way."

That could be the weekend of Nov. 8-9 against the Broncos, who are 2-4 in league play. However, they have gone to Wisconsin and beaten the Badgers and also handed Michigan State a 5-1 setback. On the other hand, they lost twice at home to Superior while BG was doing a number on OSU.

The difference in the BG weekend was the penalty-killing, or in OSU's case, lack of it. The Falcons scored on five of seven power play opportunities in the Friday game and added two more on Saturday. To add insult to injury, they scored two shorthand-



Dave Beaudin

ed goals in the third period of Game Two to break it wide open.

The frustration was evident in talking to defenseman Mark Shortt after the series: "We were right in both games," said Shortt. "We got in trouble with penalties and they go a couple of goals ahead."

"Tonight (Saturday) we're up 3-2, we get two penalties. We've got to bear down."

Bowling Green opened the scoring in the series finale with old nemesis Jamie Wansbrough scoring late in the period. He also added three assists to go with two goals and two assists Friday. After Clarke Pineo made it 2-0 at 17:07, Buckeye winger Mark Anderson responded with a stuff shot through goalie Gary Kruzich. Jeff Madill assisted.

Madill picked up the slack for injured center Rick Brebant who has a broken hand. Brebant played sparingly Friday and was not dressed the following night. He is expected back for the Western series.

The Bucks took a 3-2 lead in the second period on two Madill goals. On the first, Anderson sucked the defense to the right of the goal, turned and hit Madill with a perfect centering pass. The Bucks scored one of their two power play goals on the night at 10:18 as Madill snuck around Kruzich and jammed in the puck. Darcy Gryba and Shortt assisted.

It was all BG after that. Brian McKee (11:57) and Todd Flichel (13:45) scored on the power play. Iain Duncan scored a solo effort 17 seconds into the third and two shorthanded tallies in the middle of the period made it a rout.

The Bucks' Brown brothers — Rick and Bill — completed the scoring. Bill, in his first game of the year, scored with Rick and Gryba assisting. It was Rick Brown's first point of the year.

Bob Krautsak stopped 23 of 30 shots fired his way as his record dropped to 0-4. Kruzich, playing with a broken wrist, made 35 saves. Freshman Roger Beedon suffered his first collegiate loss in the opener with 22 saves. Welsh found



Mark Anderson

more fault with defensive players than the final line of defense.

"They left people in front of the net all night long," he said. "I couldn't find very much fault with the goaltending."

Freshman Andy Forcey opened the Friday scoring with a power play goal. Anderson and Bob Gruhl assisted. After BG tied the game another frosh, Dan Wilhelm, used feeds from Eric Furland and Mike Wurst to give OSU a short-lived lead. Joe Tracy scored at 16:48 of the second to cut the BG lead to 4-3.

Wilhelm and defenseman Don Perkins scored in the third period. It is time for the Buckeyes to look ahead.

"If we get two wins we're right back on track," Welsh said. "We're not playing all that well and we've still managed to win three games. I'm more concerned with how we're playing than our record. We have to attend to the dumb mistakes."

**NOTES:** The strain is beginning to show. When you've got a job to do and you're not doing it the anxiety builds.

Dave Beaudin knows the heat is on. He can feel it. So can Joe Tracy.

Those two were the top scorers for the Buckeye hockey team last season. Beaudin, a junior center, scored 25 goals and added 24 assists. Tracy scored 21 times en route to a 45-point season.

Production is down for both of them as the team looks for offensive output. Beaudin has five points (2-3) in eight games while Tracy is second in scoring with three goals and four assists.

"The coaching staff must be frustrated with some key players who are not producing, including myself," Beaudin said. "But, I won't say there's a monkey on my back."

"We're in a situation where we are hoping too much. We're hoping we will score; hoping to do this. We've got to turn that around."

Tracy also knows his role: "The goal-scorers have got to score. Myself and Dave, we're not producing. If we don't score we don't win." Tracy also feels the Bucks need production out of the

third and fourth lines to ease the burden on the team's top scorers.

Of course, the defense has to get in line, too.

"We scored five goals (Friday); that should have been plenty," said defenseman Mark Shortt.

**QUOTES:** Shortt on the Bucks' 0-3 home record: "We have a reputation in our rink, a pretty good record. It's frustrating to have a team come in and dominate. We practice in it. No one knows it better than us."

Beaudin on the rookies: "They're having a hard time adapting — that's expected. It's also expected the upperclassmen take control themselves and help out."

Still, he is optimistic about the Nov. 8-9 home (7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday) series with Western Michigan: "We'll be all right if we play like we did this weekend. We played BG hard."

**MORE NOTES:** Tracy's brother is in his first year as an assistant at Western. "I know he wants me to do well," Tracy said. "But, not this weekend." . . . Rick Brebant (2-6); Andy Forcey (4-4) and Jeff Madill (5-3) lead OSU in scoring. Madill leads in goals and Darcy Gryba heads the assist department with seven . . . BG leads the series 48-27-1. Falcon coach Jerry York is 13-14-1 against OSU and the team has a lifetime mark of 19-15 in the OSU Ice Rink.

Former center Tom Scanlon (circa mid 70s) was in town as part of alumni weekend activities. He won a chance to win some albums in the puck shoot. He missed from center ice putting the puck through a slot in the board covering the goal by a few inches. Twice . . . The last time Western and OSU faced each other was in the opening round of the playoffs last season in Kalamazoo, Mich. The teams split the two games but OSU won the series on total goals, 8-7, on a Bruce Tillotson goal in overtime . . . One year ago the Buckeyes were 3-5 after splitting with BG. State then went to Western and split two games.

## Grid Bits

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game. Sometimes not that good."

**WITH TWO OF** the best teams in the nation playing, there were representatives from 10 bowl games present at the OSU-Iowa game.

Watching the Buckeyes prevail were: Jim Brock, Field Scovell and John Scovell, Cotton Bowl; Charley Glueck and Jerry Romig, Sugar Bowl; Ben Benjamin and Pete Williams, Orange Bowl; Bruce Skinner and Bob Davies, Fiesta Bowl; Muddy Waters and Joe Calucci, Cherry Bowl; Larry Catuzzi, Bluebonnet Bowl; Vince Benstead, Holiday Bowl; Tim Treadwell and Ed Cicala, Liberty Bowl; John Lanahan, Gator Bowl; and Chuck Rohe, Citrus Bowl.



# The View From 15th and High

By Frank L. Moskowitz, BSB Publisher

## Defense Reaches Potential In Critical Game

It was only fitting that Ohio State's defense should be the key in the Buckeyes' convincing 22-13 win over Iowa.

After all, at the start of the season, the defense was highly-touted and started the campaign with a solid performance against Pitt. However, the defense had slipped badly in the following weeks, including a virtual collapse late in the Illinois game, costing the Buckeyes what could have been a perfect slate through eight games.

The defense was due. I don't think that anyone doubted that the Buckeyes could score points against Iowa. But would the Buckeyes be able to stop Chuck Long, Ronnie Harmon and company?

I've steadfastly maintained, throughout the course of this season, that the Buckeyes had the talent and the coaching to play solid defense. And what better time to prove it than against number one Iowa?

And the Buckeyes showed a national television audience not only that they could play good defense, but play it in the traditional Ohio State way — with some savage hitting. The third quarter play in which Terry White and Derek Isaman jarred the ball loose from Iowa receiver Scott Helverson for a fumble, and Terry White's fourth quarter smash into Quinn Early that turned a possible touchdown into an incompletion quickly come to mind.

That's the way defense should be played at Ohio State. I suspect that the Buckeyes were playing defense that way in the Horseshoe 50 years ago to the day, when OSU tangled with Notre Dame in what many call the greatest college football game of all time. The difference is, on Nov. 2, 1985, the Buckeyes came out a winner.

**EVEN THE** Earle-baiters in the crowd must admit that Bruce and his staff out-coached Hayden Fry on this rainy afternoon. The Buckeyes were able to put points on the board against Iowa, and boy, they sure defended the Hawkeyes. Chuck Long and company had

little idea of how to solve a Buckeye defense that had been scrambled, specifically for the occasion.

And the win came without the aid of Keith Byars. Where would the Hawkeyes have been without Long or Harmon?

My only real criticism of the Bucks comes for the way they defended Iowa's touchdown drive in the second quarter.

The Buckeye tackling got really sloppy on that Hawkeye march, especially on a short pass to fullback David Hudson where virtually every Buck had a shot at him, but he managed a 20-yard gain.

The breakdown may have been good for OSU, however.

If the Bucks had played a near-perfect half, Bruce would have had little to say in the locker room and OSU might have let down in the second half. This way, the Bucks gave Earle something to really scream about and I bet he did.

I can't kick about Earle choosing to sit on the ball late in the game. It was pouring rain, the Bucks had as much as a 22-7 lead and Iowa had to worry about the clock as much as Ohio State. Give the ball to 'Cooooop,' (as the Ohio Stadium chants for fullback George Cooper) eat some time up, and let Tom Tupa punt. Let Chuck Long try and play catch-up in that rain against a defense that had his number all afternoon.

**RICH SPANGLER** had what had to be considered an off-day for him, in the field goal department, missing two of four. In fact, he got chastised by Bruce on national TV, with the coach telling his kicker, "we need those points," after a miss.

But there's an aspect of Spangler's game that deserves mention, something he has been doing very well lately.

Spangler proved long ago that he could bang kickoffs out of the end zone. And the ball was brought out to the 20. Lately, however, he has been placing the ball in areas where it has to be returned, and the Buckeyes have been making out very nicely.

On Spangler's five kickoffs

against Iowa, the Hawkeyes returned four, getting the ball on their 19, 17, 26 and 12-yard lines. That's a net loss of six yards in field position for the Hawkeyes, compared to what they would have had if Spangler had boomed those kicks for touchbacks.

And, if you hit as hard as the Buckeyes do, there's always the chance that you will force a fumble if you make the opposition return the kick.

In fact, on that final return, Harmon was dropped at the 12 on one of the game's hardest hits, administered by freshman John Sullivan. Two plays later, brother Mike hit Long for a two-yard loss from the middle guard spot. These Sullivan boys look like hitters, and seem the perfect types for special teams play.

**THE BIG WIN** over Iowa was really a big public relations boost for Ohio State. Let's face it. The Buckeyes have looked terrible on national television too many times lately.

Here, they took on the number one team in the nation, a truly worthy opponent, and beat them in the three major areas — offense, defense, and specialty teams play. And as mentioned above, Earle out-coached Hayden Fry, a highly regarded mentor.

Not bad for a rainy day's work.

**AS YOU MAY** know, *BSB* recognizes the *USA Today/CNN* college football poll because of its early availability. Now, after its win over Iowa, I'm not saying Ohio State should be ranked number one. I think Florida, with only a tie to blemish its record and wins over Miami (ranked sixth), Auburn (12th), LSU (15th) and Tennessee (21st) deserves to be number one if you recognize schools on probation (I'm not sure I do, but *USA Today* does).

But I have to quibble with Ohio State's fifth ranking.

Penn State at number two? Maybe. They are undefeated, but the Nittany Lions barely slipped by 3-7 Boston College.

Nebraska at number three? Both the Buckeyes and Huskers are 7-1. Nebraska beat Illinois (52-25) and

the Illini beat the Bucks (31-28). But the Bucks beat Colorado by a 36-13 count, while Nebraska nipped the Buffaloes 17-7. On a week in which Ohio State beat the number one team in the country convincingly and Nebraska was beating up on 1-7 Kansas State, I give the edge to the Bucks.

Number four Air Force. Sure the Falcons are undefeated, and I loved it when they beat Notre Dame. But Notre Dame is probably the best team the Falcons have played and Purdue beat Notre Dame and Ohio State beat Purdue. I think anyone who saw Ohio State destroy BYU in the Holiday Bowl would have a hard time voting a WAC team over a Big Ten team.

But the Falcons are undefeated, you say? So are the other Falcons, those of Bowling Green, and they're ranked only 24th.

I call it Florida, Penn State (I'm in a generous mood), Ohio State. You have to remember, however, that in the *USA Today* poll last week, the Bucks beat 20th-ranked Minnesota on the road and dropped from 11th to 12th. Makes a lot of sense, doesn't it?

I think it all goes back to Ohio State's bad PR, as mentioned above. Are the Bucks going to improve that image this season?

**DON'T YOU** figure that former Buckeye Todd Bell wishes he were frolicking with 'The Fridge' and the undefeated Chicago Bears instead of waiting at home for a phone call that's not going to come. How many times have you seen agent Howard Slusher associated with a player who is involved in a needless hold-out?

**SPEAKING OF** *USA Today*, it came up with some interesting statistics (doesn't it always). You often hear about the Big Ten being a weaker conference, *vis-a-vis* other conferences. In a look at non-conference games, the Big Ten is listed as having the best record against non-league foes who were, at the time of the game, in the AP top 20.

The Big Ten was 3-3. Other conferences include the ACC, 0-6-1; Big Eight, 3-4; Pac Ten, 3-4; SEC, 1-2; Southwest, 1-2; and WAC, 1-5.

## Pilney Led Irish To Win In Epic '35 Struggle

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With time against them, the Irish attempted an onside kick only to have tackle Chuck Scales recover it for Ohio State.

Beltz, who today resides in Logan County, southeast of Columbus, fumbled on the first play but recovered it himself. But he repeated the miscue the next play after taking a vicious hit by — you guessed it — Pilney. The rules of the time stated that the last person to touch the ball got credit for the recovery. Notre Dame center Henry Pojman got his fingers on the ball

as it squibbed out of bounds.

The Irish were in business again at their own 49 with less than a minute to play.

Pilney, after first fading to pass, scrambled 32 yards, breaking several tackles on the way as he was brought down hard out of bounds at the OSU 19, stopping the clock with just seconds left.

Pilney didn't get up. He had suffered a severe knee injury and never played football again although he did reach the major leagues in baseball the following year with the Boston Braves. Pilney's major league career consisted

of two pinch-hit appearances in which he went hitless.

Bill Shakespeare went into the game for Pilney. Right halfback Tony Mazziotti took a direct snap from center and lateralled to Shakespeare, who faded to pass. Ohio State's Beltz almost intercepted, but dropped the ball.

Repeating the same play, the Irish tallied when Wayne Millner hauled in a 19-yard pass from Shakespeare. With 32 seconds left, Notre Dame was on top.

A kickoff and one play later, the Scarlet Scourge had been beaten.