

BUCKEYE Sports BULLETIN

75

Sept 20 1986

Vol 6, no 2

13003

Mistakes Baffling To Bruce After Frustrating Setback

By Jim Wharton

Two days had passed since his Ohio State football team had been chased out of Seattle by a pack of Huskies and Earle Bruce still hadn't gotten over the shock.

"I hate today. I hated yesterday," said Bruce, facing a larger than usual number of media types at his weekly press luncheon. "I just won't feel good until after the game on Saturday — I hope."

BRUCE HAD PLENTY of reasons to feel down in the dumps. Because it was somewhere near there that he had last seen his Buckeyes in action.

A 40-7 annihilation at the hands of Washington — the worst loss by an OSU team in 19 years — left a bad taste in Bruce's mouth.

Where to begin was probably as often-asked a question as how something like that could happen.

"**THERE'S NOT MUCH** for me to discuss," said Bruce. "The Washington game is gone. It's a loss. Whether it's a 7-6 ball game or a 40-7 ball game, it's still a loss. We'll just have to approach it in that the most important game now is Colorado."

The Buckeyes, the first Ohio State team to be 0-2 on the year in this century, did little right against Washington.

"When you lose and if you want to

analyze it, you have to analyze it in execution and readiness to play," said Bruce, who said he could not remember whether he had ever been 0-2 on a year as a collegiate coach. "Particularly in situations where you get your opportunities to convert your plays and you don't convert them. If you convert them, you look good — and I could point out those plays, but it would be negative."

"**YOU JUST CAN'T** have the costly mistakes in execution and dropping the football, especially at the tailback spot or at a critical spot that carries the ball a lot."

Three costly fumbles led to 17 of Washington's points. The Huskies grabbed a 24-0 lead at halftime after being the beneficiary of two Buckeye bobbles in the last 3½ minutes of the first half. Two quick TDs and the Huskies had OSU gasping for air.

"The game did get out of hand after it was 10-0 and we fumbled the ensuing kickoff with 3:40 to go in the half," said Bruce. "If you want to get behind, maybe the first quarter's the time to get behind 24-0. Not the second quarter where you don't have enough time to catch up."

"The defense did play exceptionally well in the third quarter. We just couldn't take advantage of all the things that were happening. Then in the fourth quarter, obviously, it got away from us again."

BRUCE FIELD several questions about the Buckeyes' play selection. The game began with sophomore tailback Vince Workman carrying six straight times. In all, Workman lugged the pigskin 11 times in OSU's first 12 plays from scrimmage.

"The game plan did call for running at them," said Bruce, "and we tried to do that early."

But the Buckeyes were still trying to penetrate the Washington defensive front later in the game when trailing 33-7.

There were the skeptics concerning that strategy.

"**I THINK YOU'RE** forgetting that several times we did run Keith Byars 11 and 12 times," said Bruce, attempting to defend his play calling. "You must have forgotten the Illinois game (1984) or some of the games we ran the tailback a lot."

"We're a tailback-oriented offense. That's like saying don't give the ball to Archie (Griffin). How many times did Archie carry the ball when he made his 100 yards a game?"

"I mean you've got to carry the ball. I don't know whether you guys see the same game I see sometimes. We did want to run right at them. The thing you've got to do is not make the

mistakes. We had the holes, we had the things, but really a couple of bad plays were a disaster for us."

Like Workman, returning a kickoff after the Huskies had taken a 10-0 lead late in the second quarter, running into teammate Jeff Uhlenhake and fumbling the ball away.

"**IF YOU GET** stuck (hit hard) and the ball drops out, that's something else," said Bruce. "But when you run into the back of one of your own players, you don't really like that. We went eight games last year without fumbling. Remember? I thought we had all the answers about fumbling. I kind of laughed about football teams for fumbling three times. I said 'Holy, Golly Days.' Now I can understand a little more, have a little more feeling for those teams that are dropping the ball."

"I think that's an individual thing. Some guys don't fumble, some guys do fumble sometimes."

"But I'm going to stop discussing that because somebody is going to say that's making excuses and I don't believe in that. I don't want to take anything away from Washington. They played good football and they executed well. They executed the plays they needed to execute. They blew us out."

OK. THEN WE look at an offensive line which for the second straight game failed to open the holes for the running backs.

"I say this," said Bruce. "As an offensive football team, you've got to execute your plays and not one guy can break down. Not one guy can break down and then that back has to hit the seam right. That's what you call perfect execution. We haven't had a lot of that and that concerns me."

Bruce must also be concerned about the Buckeye defense, which allowed a whopping 40 points, the most given up by an OSU team since Illinois scored 42 (although the Bucks scored 49) in 1980.

"**SURE, I'M** concerned about the defense," he replied. "But bad field position (created by offensive mistakes) has created some of those problems. On the defensive field, we just have not been able to convert the play. Then, when we do, we have a mistake."

Obviously the confidence factor now becomes another problem for the winless Buckeyes.

"That game's gone and there's nothing we can do about it," said Bruce. "I think we can have a good football team and I think when we get back in Ohio Stadium on Saturday, we'll get that confidence."

"**I THINK ANYONE** who plays football, if you get beat 40-7, you're going to have reservations until you go



Earle Bruce

out and prove it and get rid of those things," continued Bruce. "There's a knack of wanting to make excuses for why that thing happened. But there's no excuse for that. You've just got to accept that it happened and we've got to clear up the problems and not make the mistakes — move from there."

Having confidence is one thing, but one reporter who follows the team suggested that the players are lacking something when they take the field. He talked of mental complacency.

"You ask me that after the Illinois game and I'll give you a real good answer," said Bruce. "I don't think I can make that judgment right now. I think too many times we're looking to point the finger. When I point that finger, there's three of them pointing back at me. I don't think that's the thing. Everybody's looking for a reason. I can't put my finger on it, yet. It's not been long enough."

But two losses in two outings? Something surely is wrong.

"Ask me after the next three ball games and I'll give you an answer to what I can answer," said Bruce. "It would be terrible if I put the finger on the players or the assistant coaches or the fans or the media. That doesn't look good. That doesn't sound good. I guess when you're coaching, you take all the responsibilities. You look in the mirror and say we've got to go from here."

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Winner Picked

John Misko of Canton is the winner of the grand prize in *Buckeye Sports Bulletin's* Season Ticket Spectacular. He wins a pair of 1986 Ohio State season football tickets.

The second prize of two tickets to the Illinois game goes to Earl W. Gillotte of Columbus and the third prize of a pair of tickets to the Northwestern game was won by Stephen P. Leiby of Hudson, Ohio.

Winners of either \$15 worth of their favorite sports publications from *The Newstand* or *Buckeye Book and News* or a tailgate lunch for two from *Katzinger's Deli* were Donald D. Gintz Jr. of Dundee, Ohio; Margaret Lane of Willoughby, Ohio; James Baker of Columbus; Larry A. Knight of Bellbrook, Ohio; Michael P. Piechuta of Berea, Ohio; Lindsey Hale of Bataskala, Ohio; Jan L. Day of Shelby, Ohio; Wayne Mancino of Youngstown, and Don Kramer of Pickerington, Ohio.

Quarterback Claims Pass Was Working

By Jim Wharton

If first impressions are indeed lasting ones, then Ohio State quarterback Jim Karsatos gave the impression that he might not have been totally pleased with the outcome of the Buckeyes' clash against Washington.

And, as any quarterback of a major college football team would be, he couldn't be expected to easily accept a 40-7 shellacking put on his team by the Huskies.

"We worked our butts off out there," said Karsatos, who completed nine of 17 passes for 89 yards and one touchdown. "I don't know how the defense was doing, but it looked like they were running to the ball."

The senior signal caller from Fullerton, Calif., was asked if his team had a hard time pulling on the helmet and returning to the field after each change of possession in the wake of a score that continued to mount.

"We never got down on offense, even in the third quarter," said Karsatos. "It was just hard to get the plays working. They (the Huskies) have a good defense."

The Washington defense appeared stacked to stop the vaunted OSU ground game, which it did. Perhaps Ohio State should have called more passing plays instead of handing off to tailback Vince Workman time after time after time. Karsatos was instructed to hand off to Workman on 12 of OSU's first 13 plays from scrimmage.

"I didn't call the plays," said



Jim Karsatos

Karsatos, a tinge of second-guessing evident in his voice. "Sure, I'd like to call every play myself. We seemed to have a pretty good time throwing against them. I didn't see any trouble with it. We just didn't do it enough."

Although Ohio State managed only 53 offensive plays in the game to Washington's 79, it seemed that calling rushing plays on 31 occasions was a little far-fetched when you consider that the Buckeyes were

playing from behind almost the entire game.

Was it in the game plan to run so much?

"Game plans change, I guess," said Karsatos. "The game plan was just to take advantage of the defenses they were playing. They didn't play the same ones — they changed."

Bruce defended his game plan.

"I would say the game plan is good as long as the score's close," said Bruce, who serves as his own offensive coordinator and has the final say in which plays to call. "I don't think you reach in and grab a play out. Granted it looked like that on Saturday. But every play is a good play. It's the execution that counts. That's most important. There's no such thing as a bad play or a bad call."

But Bruce did make one change. The Buckeyes, trailing 33-7 early in the fourth quarter, got the ball back on an interception by David Brown. Karsatos found himself on the bench in favor of Tom Tupa.

What did Bruce say to his starter? "We didn't talk," said Karsatos. "He just said 'we've got to get Tom some experience.'"

Bruce backed that up by echoing his starting quarterback's suggestion.

"The game was gone," said Bruce. "We just needed to get Tupa some playing time. It just seemed that the second-string quarterback should get a chance."

That, however, went over like a flat tire as far as Karsatos was concerned. He was not happy.

"It's not my decision," he said. "When I look back, I'll think it's a good decision. But I don't want to leave a game. I want to get back in it. Hopefully we're not faced with that kind of a score against us."

"But I think it was a good idea. Tom's a great quarterback. I was hoping he'd get a chance to see some PT (playing time)."

"But, sure, I'd love to throw the ball more. That's what all quarterbacks love to do. I'd love to throw the ball 50 times a game, but you can't do it all the time."

About the only bright moment on the rain-drenched day for Karsatos was a nine-yard TD pass to Chris Carter that saved Ohio State the embarrassment of being blanked by their hosts.

Karsatos, off to a start which would leave him nowhere near the stature he attained last year when he finished fifth in the country in passing efficiency, then proceeded to sum up the Buckeye setback.

"They did a couple of different things," he said. "Not things, though, that we shouldn't have been able to handle. Our offensive line is young and it's taking longer to gel than we expected it would. But Washington didn't do anything that drastic. We just didn't get the job done."

The Buckeye signal-caller could not put his finger on why his team did not get it done.

"We had a great two weeks of practice," said Karsatos. "And then we played the way we did today. I just don't understand it."

Buckeye Sports Bulletin

Published 28 times a year (weekly September through November and January through mid-March, monthly April through August and December) by:

Columbus Sports Publications
1350 W. Fifth Ave., #25
P.O. Box 12453
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Second Class Postage Paid At Columbus, Ohio and Additional Mailing Offices. USPS 705-690. ISSN 0883-6833. Postmaster: Please send address changes to Buckeye Sports Bulletin, P.O. Box 12453, Columbus, Ohio, 43212. Subscription rate: \$21 per year for 28 issues.

Bryant Moves Toward More Play, Despite Fumble On Initial Attempt

It was not the way a freshman would like to start his collegiate football career. But James Bryant said he hoped to someday look back on that ignominious beginning and laugh.

Bryant, who came to Ohio State as a highly touted running back out of Harrisburg (Pa.) Bishop McDevitt High School, will not soon forget his first rushing attempt in a Buckeye uniform.

There were just less than 13 minutes left in the third quarter and Ohio State was trailing Washington 24-0 in a game the Buckeyes would eventually lose 40-7. Bryant, a 6-0, 212-pounder, took his first collegiate handoff from OSU quarterback Jim Karsatos.

Disaster of the worst kind. Bryant fumbled.

"I just got the ball and found the hole," said Bryant, named an all-stater in his senior prep season after rushing for over 1,300 yards. "I came around and it just popped out."

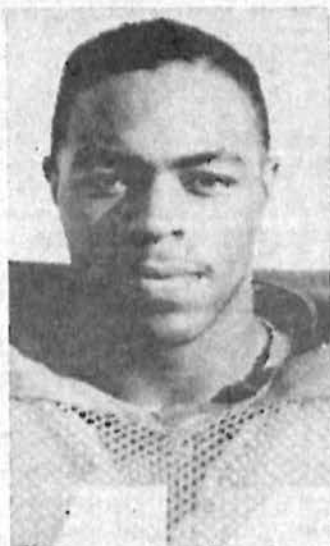
Washington's Art Malone recovered. Six plays later the Huskies upped their lead to 27-0 on a Jeff Jaeger field goal.

Those keeping track of such things in the Washington press box, gave Husky Tim Peoples credit for causing the fumble.

Bryant, however, will take the sole blame for the miscue.

"I can't really blame it on the rain because I had it (the ball) covered up pretty good," said Bryant. "It was just a good hit by the defense and it popped out. It's my fault."

Bryant attempted to redeem himself during the remainder of the game. He carried seven other times, picking up 40 net yards and finishing the



James Bryant

afternoon with a 15-yard gain on a draw play in the last minute of the game.

But he had finally seen some game action after not playing in the Kickoff Classic against Alabama.

"I was itching to play since the second half of the Alabama game," said Bryant, who served as a backup to starter Vince Workman against the Huskies. "I knew when they called my number, I was kind of excited to get the ball. Then, when I did, I was just all

blanked out. But I wasn't nervous or anything."

Perhaps Bryant, who admires Chicago Bears standout Walter Payton, might have been made to feel easier when his number was called for the first time on a pass play. With Washington having just scored late in the first half to boost its lead to 24-0, the Buckeyes had 17 seconds remaining in which to do something.

Karsatos connected with Bryant for an eight-yard gain, the latter's first contact with the football in actual game competition at the collegiate level.

"I can't really say it was to my benefit, whether a handoff or a pass," said Bryant, who turned 19 in June. "I didn't play against Alabama and I was ready to play today."

And Bryant felt his teammates also were ready for the Huskies, despite what the scoreboard said at the end.

"We've been fired up for two games now," said Bryant, who once returned a punt 98 yards for a touchdown in high school. "I know standing on the sidelines before I went in and looking in, it looked like the Huskies were fired up for us. They were ready to play us and they were hitting hard."

So hard, in fact, that the Buckeyes were saddled with an 0-2 record as they returned home for a date with Colorado on Sept. 20.

"I don't know what's been happening these last couple of games," said Bryant, "but we'll bounce back. I think we've got the potential. We'll bounce back."

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Buckeyes Suffer Worst Loss Since 1967

By Jim Wharton

OUCH!

That's about all that could be said about things after the Ohio State football team had its ears pinned back by a determined pack of Washington Huskies in Seattle on Sept. 13.

"Nothing good happened for Ohio State and everything right happened for Washington," said OSU coach Earle Bruce after his team, which had already dropped a 16-10 decision to Alabama in the Chase Kickoff Classic two weeks earlier, fell to 0-2 on the season. "We made a lot of mistakes and they capitalized on them. The thing that hurt us were the turnovers and the penalties."

Washington, playing its first game of the year in front of 61,071 rain-soaked fans in refurbished Husky Stadium, took advantage of three OSU fumbles, notching 17 points off the Buckeye miscues.

"It was 10-0 and then all of a sudden it got out of hand," said Bruce as Ohio State suffered its worst defeat since a 41-6 thrashing at the hands of Leroy Keyes and the Purdue Boilermakers of 1967.

The avalanche in mountain country began early in the second period when the Huskies, who had moved from their own six to the OSU 25, put three points on the board, a 42-yard field goal by Jeff Jaeger. With 12:41 left in the first half, the Huskies had their first points

of the season.

The Buckeyes picked up one first down on the ensuing possession, but a bobble of a snap from center Bob Maggs to quarterback Jim Karsatos resulted in a fumble. Karsatos recovering for a three-yard loss which helped stall the drive and brought on a punt.

Pinned rather deep in their own territory, thanks to a 55-yard wind-aided punt by Buckeye booter Tom Tupa, the Huskies began barking again.

Chris Chandler, a 6-3 junior from Everett, Wash., moved his team 83 yards in 11 plays. Senior tailback Rick Fenney, the workhorse on the day with 22 carries for 74 yards, slipped into the end zone from the two. An effective block by tight end Scott Jones cleared the way for the six-point drive.

The big play in the drive was a 37-yard completion from Chandler to flanker Darryl Franklin, which gave Washington a first down at the two.

One play later the Huskies had the ball again. Buckeye sophomore Vince Workman, moving up the middle of the field on the kick return, ran up the back of teammate Jeff Uhlenhake, causing the former to fumble. Jay Roberts recovered for the Huskies.

On the fifth play of the short, 22-yard drive, Chandler handed off to sophomore tailback Vince Weathersby, who went the final eight yards,

Top 25

The USA Today rankings of the top 25 teams in the country. BSB recognizes this poll because of its early availability.

Rank	School	W	L	T
1.	Oklahoma	1	0	0
2.	Miami (Fla.)	3	0	0
3.	Michigan	1	0	0
4.	Alabama	3	0	0
5.	Penn State	1	0	0
6.	Nebraska	1	0	0
7.	LSU	1	0	0
8.	Washington	1	0	0
9.	Baylor	2	0	0
10.	Auburn	1	0	0
11.	Arizona	2	0	0
12.	Florida State	1	1	0
13.	BYU	2	0	0
14.	Florida	1	1	0
15.	UCLA	0	1	0
16.	Arkansas	1	0	0
17.	Texas A & M	0	1	0
18.	Georgia	1	0	0
19.	Arizona State	1	0	0
20.	Iowa	1	0	0
21.	Mississippi St.	2	0	0
22.	Maryland	2	0	0
23.	Tennessee	1	1	0
24.	Fresno State	2	0	0
25.	USC	1	0	0

While it rained from shortly after the start of the game until well into the third quarter, the only lightning came from the arm of Chandler. And it came quick.

Chandler, who completed 14 of 21 passes for 204 yards and two touchdowns, hooked up with Lonzell "Mo" Hill deep for a 45-yard gain and first down at the OSU 11. The Huskies' signal-caller then hit tight end Rod Jones for six before lobbing a five-yard scoring pass to Hill. Jaeger's third straight conversion gave the Huskies a 24-0 lead at the half.

"They kept the ball a lot in the first half," said Bruce after watching as an Ohio State team lost two games to open the season for the first time since 1894. "They were able to move the ball and they kept the ball."

Ohio State's offense was almost nonexistent in the first half. The Buckeyes, who had to regroup quickly for their home-opener Sept. 20 against Colorado (0-2), managed only 35 ground yards while Karsatos hit on three of six passes for 41 yards.

Washington, meanwhile, piled up 261 yards, 144 of those coming through the air.

"We looked to be a little more physical in this game than we did at times last year," said Washington coach Don James, a former prep quarterback at Massillon, Ohio and once the head coach at Kent State. "We got a little help from the Rain God on shutting down their passing. I didn't dream this could happen. Even if they (the Buckeyes) were playing the Chicago Bears, you wouldn't expect it."

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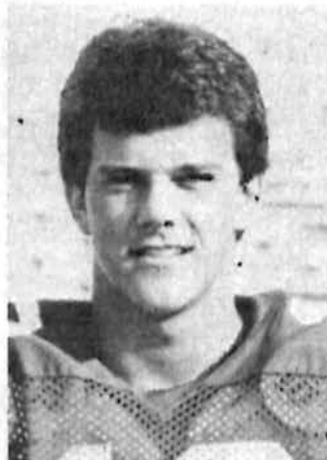
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Tom Tupa

Blocked Punt By Washington Prompts Questions For Tupa

Tom Tupa was in a position he would rather not have been in after Ohio State dropped a 40-7 decision to Washington on Sept. 13.

A second-string quarterback and the Buckeye punter, Tupa was surrounded by a hoard of media persons in a hallway outside the OSU lockerroom.

Unfortunately, those around Tupa had to ask about the blocked punt which resulted in a Washington touchdown in the third quarter.

With Tupa punting from his own end zone after the Bucks were stalled at their own nine yard line, Tim Peoples of the Huskies broke through the OSU defense and blocked the punt. Tony Zackery fell on the ball before it rolled out of the end zone and the Huskies led

33-7.

"The guy came around the right end and he got in pretty fast," said Tupa. "He just got in there. He got in there quick."

The blocked punt, which those watching felt was going to happen sooner or later after a couple of other near misses earlier, was typical of the kind of day it was for Ohio State. Three lost fumbles and critical penalties at the wrong time did in the Buckeyes.

"A couple of the penalties did hurt us," said Tupa, a junior out of Brecksville, Ohio. "And we had a couple of fumbles and they had a couple of good, long drives. That all hurt. I don't know how to explain it."

Tupa, perhaps, has watched his

punting suffer as he tried to divide his concentration between the punting duties and being a second-string quarterback itching for the chance to play.

He doesn't buy that theory.

"We spend as much time on punting every day as we've done since my first year here," said Tupa, who led the nation in net punting as a freshman only to have his figures fall off last year. "I don't think quarterback's hurting me at all. I punted pretty well except for that one blocked punt. So I don't think it's hurt me at all."

Ohio State coach Earle Bruce also took exception to anybody getting

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Even Spielman's Dog Upset With Embarrassing Defeat By Huskies

As usual after a defeat, OSU linebacker Chris Spielman was suffering from mental anguish.

"I can't explain it," said Spielman of the beating the Buckeyes took against Washington. "Right now, I'm hurting and embarrassed. You just have to put your head between your legs and crawl away or whatever."

Despite having a team-leading 22 tackles against the Huskies, which earned Spielman his second straight *Buckeye Sports Bulletin* Buckeye of the Week honor, he probably had to restrain himself from beating his head against the equipment truck he was leaning on while trying the digest and discuss the setback.

"I'm embarrassed about the way we got beat," he said. "Never in my life have I played on a team that has been beaten like that."

Could Spielman offer words for the way the Huskies manhandled Ohio State?

"They're very big and they did a good job," he said. "They're going to get better with each game. I thought they played well. I thought their backs ran hard. The quarterback did a good

"Quotebook"

job. Their whole team played well. I don't think they knocked us off the ball. They got momentum. It was like a tidal wave. It got bigger and bigger."

Why? How can an Ohio State team which coach Earle Bruce said earlier this year might have its best defense in the eight years he has been on board, get blasted out of the water so easily?

"I don't have the answers right now," said Spielman, who also earned CBS Television Player of the Game honors. "It was kind of like climbing up an oil-slicked hill or something. I'm sure the coaches will be working on that next week."

But Spielman would not soon forget the defeat.

"They booted our butts," he said. "I'm upset, my father and mother are upset and my dog is upset."

OSU DEFENSIVE lineman Fred Ridder, who stopped one Husky drive by intercepting a shovel pass midway through the first quarter, also was asked about the way Washington

controlled the line of scrimmage.

"I don't think you blow Ohio State off the line," said Ridder. "They had hard runners. They ran hard and they just put us in a hole. I believe they were running hard and were just hitting the holes where they were. If there weren't holes, there were missed tackles and big problems for us overall."

It did not set well with Ridder, a fourth-year junior out of Eaton, Ohio.

"Ohio State prides itself on being a physical team," he said, "and we just don't get pushed around like that often."

TAILBACK VINCE Workman, who started because John Wooldridge was out with a strained knee, and Buckeye coach Earle Bruce seemed to have differing opinions on the former's two fumbles.

"The ball was wet from the rain and I just didn't tuck it away well enough," said Workman, who committed one of his fumbles without even being hit, running into the backside of teammate Jeff Uhlenhake on a second-quarter kickoff return. "I don't think the rain had anything to do with it. We just had bad ball-handling," said Bruce.

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NOV. 9	L.A. RAIDERS AT DALLAS
NOV. 15	UCLA AT WASHINGTON
NOV. 15	PENN STATE AT NOTRE DAME
NOV. 22	MICHIGAN AT OHIO STATE
NOV. 22	OKLAHOMA AT NEBRASKA
NOV. 24	N.Y. JETS AT MIAMI
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Huskies Stomp Bucks

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You also wouldn't expect an Ohio State team to be outgained 408 yards to 186. Bruce was at a loss for words, cutting his post-game press conference short.

"This was a total blowout," said the eighth-year OSU coach. "I won't know what happened until I get back home and look at the film. They kicked us hard and they played us good. We just made too many mistakes. You can't fumble the ball, you can't do those kind of things."

Those kinds of things went much the same way in the second half.

Washington punted on its first possession of the third quarter but the Buckeyes again played giveaway. Freshman running back James Bryant, on his first carry as a Buckeye, coughed the ball up at the OSU 31.

Seven plays later, on a fourth-and-16 at the 22 thanks to a sack of Chandler by Buckeye linebacker Eric Kumerow, Jaeger established an all-time

Washington career scoring record with a 39-yard field goal.

Ohio State again was forced to punt but Rogan got the ball back for the Buckeyes with an interception at the Washington 45.

Karsatos gave the Buckeyes their only TD of the day on the seventh play of the drive when he found Carter going left-to-right across the end zone and hooked up with him on a nine-yard scoring toss.

The quick strike again surfaced from the Huskies when Tim Peoples blocked a Tupa punt in the end zone. Tony Zackery fell on the loose ball before it rolled out of the end zone for another Washington score.

The slaughter came to an unmerciful conclusion late in the fourth quarter when Chandler drove his team 93 yards in 10 plays. A 31-yard bomb to Hill was the final nail in the coffin.

Bruce was solemn in defeat.

"A loss is a loss," he said. "Whether you lose by one point or 40 points, it's a loss. That game's gone and there's nothing we can do about it."

Tupa Shocked By Defeat

Continued From Page 5

down on Tupa. There was a suggestion that Tupa is slow in dropping the ball toward his foot.

"No," said Bruce. "I don't think that had anything to do with the blocked punt. We're kicking the ball in 2.1 (seconds), which is adequate to get the ball off. If we were kicking it slower than that, I would worry."

"There was one breakdown in that particular play and it was a bad execution by one of our players on his assignment. They had the 10-man rush on and we knew it was coming. I don't think he was slow getting the ball off at all."

Tupa, in trying to analyze his total game, then contradicted an earlier statement he made. It went back to the punter and/or quarterback thing.

"I feel the only time I didn't get the distance today was my last couple of punts when I was in there playing quarterback. I thought before that I was hitting the ball good."

Tupa, as mentioned earlier, was also a quarterback on this day, getting rare playing time when he was sent into

combat with 11:40 left in the fourth quarter and Ohio State trailing 33-7.

"Coach said get ready to play," said Tupa.

His first action at quarterback this season resulted in one completion in five passing attempts as he called the shots on Ohio State's last three possessions. Two of those led to two punts and a desperation possession at game's end with Tupa being sacked for a 12-yard loss on the final play.

It was a shocking experience for Tupa and his teammates.

"At first I think we were kind of shocked that this was happening to us," he said. "But I think it might be good in the long run to take a game like this and use it as a booster to play together. I think this can make us closer as a team. I think it might get us to pull together closer as a team and go out there and get it now."

"Oh-and-two, that's not Ohio State style. And I don't think we'll lose too many more this year. I think we'll pull together and go for a Big Ten championship."

Bryant

Continued From Page 3

Bryant might play a bigger role as the Buckeyes attempt to plug the holes before the ship goes completely under water.

OSU coach Earle Bruce said a couple of days after the Washington game that the newcomer, despite the fumble, had been impressive.

"I thought James Bryant did well," said Bruce. "I didn't like the one time he dropped the ball. But he shows me a slashing type of running. He's a big runner. I think we had to throw him in there a little earlier than I'd like to have thrown a young man in there, but that's through necessity."

"But he's going to get better and better."

Bruce added that Bryant would get more work with the first offensive unit as the Bucks prepared to host the Buffaloes.

So Bryant will have his chance. He will also have the memory of that fumble on his first carry at Ohio State.

"I'll definitely remember that," he said. "One day I'll be able to laugh about it."

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The Numbers Game

Washington 40, Ohio State 7

OHIO STATE	0	0	7	0	7
WASHINGTON	0	24	9	7	40

WASH — Jaeger 42 field goal 12:41
 WASH — Fenney 2 run (Jaeger kick) 3:44
 WASH — Weathersby 6 run (Jaeger kick) 1:13
 WASH — M. Hill 5 pass from Chandler (Jaeger kick) :24
 WASH — Jaeger 39 field goal 8:18
 OSU — Carter 9 pass from Karsatos (O'Morrow kick) 3:42
 WASH — Zackery recovered blocked punt in end zone (pass falled)
 :30
 WASH — M. Hill 31 pass from Chandler (Jaeger kick) 6:09
 Att. — 61,071

	OSU	WASH
First Downs	11	24
Rushing	6	13
Passing	4	9
Penalty	1	2
Rushes-Yards	31-82	58-204
Passing Yards	104	204
Passes	22-10-0	21-14-2
Offensive Plays	53	79
Total Net Yards	186	408
Third Down Eff.	3-11	9-16
Punts	8-37.9	3-35.0
Fumbles-Lost	5-3	1-1
Penalties	2-20	4-31
Time Of Possession	22:10	37:50

Individual Statistics

RUSHING (Att.-Net Yds.) — OHIO STATE: Workman 18-52; Bryant 8-40; Cooper 2-12; Karsatos 1-(-3); Holland 1-(-7); Tupa 1-(-12). WASHINGTON: Fenney 22-74; Weathersby 17-63; St. Jones 4-23; Chandler 9-18; Jenkins 2-15; Covington 4-11.
 PASSING (Att.-Comp.-Int.-Yds.-TD) — OHIO STATE: Karsatos 17-9-0-85-1; Tupa 5-1-0-19-0. WASHINGTON: Chandler 21-14-2-204-2.
 RECEIVING (Rec.-Yds.) — OHIO STATE: Carter 5-60; Holland 1-19; Bryant 1-8; Taggart 1-7; Workman 1-6; Cooper 1-4. WASHINGTON: Franklin 4-64; M. Hill 3-81; Weathersby 3-33; R. Jones 3-25; Fenney 1-1.
 PUNTING (No.-Ave.-Lg.) — OHIO STATE: Tupa 7-43.3-57; Team 1-0-0-0.
 PUNT RETURNS (No.-Ave.-Lg.) — OHIO STATE: Workman 1-7-0-7; Ross 1-4-0-4. WASHINGTON: Riley 2-10.5-12; Peoples 1-9-0-9; Zackery 0-0-0-0.
 KICKOFF RETURNS (No.-Ave.-Lg.) — OHIO STATE: Holland 3-22.7-23; Workman 3-18.3-22; Ross 2-18.5-23. WASHINGTON: St. Jones 2-36.5-45.
 DEFENSIVE FUMBLES RECOVERED BY — OHIO STATE: Ridder. WASHINGTON: S. Roberts, Malone, J. Roberts.
 INTERCEPTIONS — OHIO STATE: Rogan, D. Brown. WASHINGTON: None.
 TACKLES FOR LOSS — OHIO STATE: M. Sullivan, Ridder. WASHINGTON: Rogers (1.5), J. Roberts, Alvord (0.5).
 TACKLES (Solo-Ass.-Tot.) — OHIO STATE: Spielman 12-10-22; J. Sullivan 2-10-12; Kumerow 5-4-9; D. Brown 3-3-6; Ridder 3-3-6; M. Sullivan 3-3-6; Isaman 2-3-5; Rogan 1-3-4; H. Brown 3-0-3; Gordon 2-1-3; Lee 0-2-2; Holland 1-0-1; White 1-0-1; Leach 0-1-1. WASHINGTON: D. Hill 8-2-10; Erlandson 2-5-7; Rogers 3-2-5; Peoples 2-3-5; Hawkins 2-2-4; Beall 2-1-3; Gaffney 2-1-3; J. Roberts 2-1-3; S. Roberts 1-2-3; Andrews 0-3-3; Habib 1-1-2; Hall 0-2-2; Rideout 0-2-2; Yates 0-2-2; J. Brown 1-0-1; Chandler 1-0-1; Covington 1-0-1; Williams 1-0-1; Alvord 0-1-1; Bracken 0-1-1; James 0-1-1; Malone 0-1-1; R. Meyer 0-1-1; Thomas 0-1-1; D. Toy 0-1-1.

Players In The Game

OHIO STATE — Carter, Ross, Staysniak, Moxley, Uhlenhake, Jm. Davidson, Maggs, Tm. Moore, Morris, Zackeroff, Kotterman, Taggart, Hutchison, Huffman, Karsatos, Tupa, Workman, Bryant, Prelock, Cooper, Walker, Harris, Holland, O'Morrow, Kumerow, Graves, Ridder, H. Brown, M. Sullivan, Lee, Showalter, Isaman, Higdon, Spielman, Leach, J. Sullivan, Kee, Jenkins, Gordon, White, Jackson, Rogan, D. Brown, Lishewski.
 WASHINGTON — S. Roberts, J. Roberts, P. Waskom, Habib, J. Brown, Alvord, Kirkland, Rogers, Willig, Harrison, Yates, Travis, Domingue, Rill, Beall, Kahn, Erlandson, Andrews, Hawkins, Zackery, Williams, Gaffney, Malone, Lang, James, Hall, Rideout, Peoples, Toy, Cleland, M. Hill, Jackson, McLeod, John-Lewis, Wiese, Thomas, Brontek, Larsen, Zandofsky, Luta, Gogan, Griffith, R. Jones, Sc. Jones, Buaz, Chandler, Conklin, Fenney, Covington, Jenkins, Meyer, Weatherby, St. Jones, Riley, Fanklin, Slater, Cole, Jaeger.

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Season Statistics

1986 OHIO STATE FOOTBALL STATISTICS

OFF OSU

FIRST DOWNS

Rushing

Passing

Penalty

NET YARDS RUSHING

Attempts

Yards Gained

Yards Lost

Average Per Game

Average Per Play

NET YARDS PASSING

Attempts

Completed

Had Intercepted

Percentage

Average Per Game

Average Per Play

TOTAL NET GAIN

Total Plays

Average Per Game

Average Per Play

POINTS

Touchdowns

Rush-Pass-Other

EXP Kicking

EXP Rushing

EXP Passing

Field Goals

Safety

Average Per Game

PUNTS-HAD BLOCKED

Yards

Touchback-Inside 20

Average Per Punt

Net Average

PUNT RETURNS-FC

Yards

Average Per Return

KICKOFF RETURNS-FC

Yards

Average Per Return

INTERCEPTIONS

Yards

Average Per Return

PENALTIES-Yards

Offense

Defense

Special Teams

FUMBLES-Lost

THIRD DOWN EFFICIENCY

Percentage

SACKS BY

TIME OF POSSESSION

Average Per Game

SCORE BY QUARTER

Opponents

Ohio State

1986 OHIO STATE RESULTS

N-OSU TO, Alabama

A-OSU 7, Washington

Sept. 20 COLORADO

Sept. 27 UTAH

Oct. 4 ILLINOIS

Oct. 11 at Indiana

Oct. 18 at Purdue

Oct. 25 MINNESOTA

Nov. 1 at Iowa

Nov. 8 NORTHWESTERN

Nov. 15 at Wisconsin

Nov. 22 MICHIGAN

played at The Meadowlands, New Jersey

ATTENDANCE

Home

Away

Season

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

PLAYERS

Solo Assist Total Loss Sack

Spielman

J. Sullivan

Kee

Gordon

Kumerow

Rogan

D. Brown

Ridder

Holliman

Lee

M. Sullivan

Isaman

H. Brown

Higdon

Holland

White

Teach

Team

Record: Won 0, Lost 2 -Big Ten Won 0, Lost 0

RUSHING

ATT GAIN LOST NET AVG TD LG

Workman

Bryant

Woodridge

Cooper

Holland

Karsatos

Tupa

Team

PASSING

ATT COMP IT YDS PCT TD LG SA SY

Karsatos

Tupa

RECEIVING

NO YARDS AVG TD LG

Carter

Workman

Taggart

Harris

Cooper

Holland

Ross

Bryant

SCORING

TD R-P-O EPA-K EPR EFF AT-FC PTS

Holland

Carter

O'Morrow

FIELD GOALS

(3-1, .333)

O'Morrow (3-1, .333) 42-, 37-, 44-

PG DISTANCE

0-29 30-39 40-49 50+ TOTAL

O'Morrow

PUNTING

NO YARDS AVG NET/ AVG TD I20 BK LG

Tupa

Team

PUNT RETURNS

NO FC YDS AVG TD LG

Ross

Workman

KICKOFF RETURNS

NO FC YDS AVG TD LG

Holland

Workman

Ross

PASS INTERCEPTIONS

NO YARDS AVG TD LG

Gordon

Ridder

Spielman

D. Brown

Rogan

PASSES BROKEN UP

(2)

Spielman (1) White (1)

FUMBLES CAUSED

(2)

Ridder (1) Spielman (1)

FUMBLES RECOVERED [DEFENSIVE]

(3)

Gordon (1) Anderson (1) Ridder (1)

OSU FUMBLES - NUMBER/LOST

(8/4)

Workman (3/2) Bryant (1/1) Cooper (1/1)

Karsatos (1/0) Ross (1/0) Team (1/0)

BLOCKED KICKS

(0)

TOUCHDOWN SAVES

(1)

Holland (1)

FUMBLES RECOVERED [OFFENSIVE]

(4)

Carter (2) Karsatos (1) Workman (1)

*Return of Intercepted Fumble

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Fassel's Results In First Year Have People Buzzing In Utah

It was noted in one national football publication that Utah coach Jim Fassel had the Beehive state's capital city buzzing with football fever.

And well he should.

Fassel, regarded as an offensive wizard, brought the Utah football program out of the doldrums and into the limelight in his first year at the school. The Utes posted an 8-4 record in 1985, the best mark at the school since the 1981 squad went 8-2-1.

Much the same is expected for the Utes in 1986. Fassel, who leads his squad into Columbus for a Sept. 27 battle with Ohio State, expects his team to contend for the title in the Western Athletic Conference. That might be a tall order when you consider the fact that Air Force and Brigham Young are the perennial powers in the league.

Well, at least Fassel fits into the scheme of the WAC, known for its pass-happy offenses.

A former quarterback at Fullerton Junior College, USC and Long Beach State, Fassel has made his name in coaching by developing quarterbacks. He served as an assistant coach at Stanford, where he recruited and coached John Elway. He also coached Turk Schonert, who led the nation in passing one year, and Steve DeBerg.

Fassel, the fourth quarterback taken in the 1972 NFL draft by the Chicago Bears, has been around some of the great coaches and great players through the years.

Former college and pro coach John Ralston calls Fassel "one of the bright, young football minds of the game today. I've been around a lot of people who have prepared themselves for head coaching jobs, but no one is better prepared than Jim Fassel. He has a brilliant offensive mind. I've had people like Dick Vermeil and Bill Walsh on my staff and Jim is cut from the same mold."

Some of that showed up on the field in Fassel's first stint as a head coach.

Utah quarterback Larry Egger, who heads a list of 12 returning starters, threw for almost 3,000 yards and 18 touchdowns and finished seventh in the nation in total offense last year. He also set several school records and was only the sixth player in NCAA history to pass for over 200 yards in 11 straight games.

Backing the 6-2, 195-pound Egger will be Chris Mendonca (5-11, 185) and Darren Hughes (6-1, 170). Incoming freshman Scott Mitchell (6-6, 210) was the best prep quarterback in Utah in a

The Utes

Coach: Jim Fassel (Year at school: Second; Record at school: 8-4; Career record: 8-4).

Last year: 8-4, 5-3 in Western Athletic Conference (third place).

Returning starters: 13 (10 offense: T James Hansen, G Isaako Poti, C Montel Bryant, C Gary Andersen, QB Larry Egger, WR Loren Richey, WR James Hardy, TE Don Woodward, UB Craig McEwen, PK Andre Guardi, 3 defense: NG Gamaliel Rivers, T Jeff McMillian, S Mike Jones).

Against Ohio State: First meeting.

long time and also could challenge for playing time.

"We have a lot more confidence in our quarterback situation than we did last fall," said Fassel, who also played professionally with the San Diego Chargers and Houston Oilers.

The second-year Utah coach also has to have some confidence in 5-8, 175-pound running back Eddie Johnson, who gained over 1,000 yards as a freshman two years ago but who was hobbled last season by nagging injuries. Also back at tailback is Gerald Johnson (6-0, 185), no relation to Eddie. Converted quarterback Bryan Bero (6-0, 212) did an excellent job at fullback in the spring and will be hard to beat out.

"We are looking forward to having Eddie Johnson back," said Fassel. "We are looking for him to have a season like he did his freshman year. Gerald Johnson has proven to be an excellent runner. Both Johnsons are also good pass receivers and blockers. Bryan Bero had an outstanding spring and showed he is capable of playing."

Starting experience returns in three of the five spots on the offensive front. Isaako Poti (6-3, 272), James Hansen (6-4, 253), Montel Bryant (6-0, 246) and Gary Andersen (6-4, 265) all started at some point in 1985.

"The offensive line has the potential to be the best I've ever been around," said Fassel, before adding, "we have quality backups, good size, experience and athletic ability."

The Utes, who started the 1985 season at 4-1 before losing five of their last seven, are strong in the receiving department. Back for the '86 season are wide receivers Loren Richey, James Hardy and Craig McEwen and tight end Don Woodward.

The 6-0, 175-pound Richey set a school record with 73 catches a year ago, a figure which made him seventh in the nation. McEwen (6-1, 207)

caught 47, Hardy (6-0, 175) snared 31 and Woodward (6-3, 213) latched on to 13.

"The offense is where we have most of our people back," said Fassel. "After implementing the offense a year ago, we have made great strides and should continue to develop. We will need the offense to play well, especially early in the season. Hopefully, we will continue to be balanced. We need to zero in on not hurting ourselves with mistakes and penalties."

If the offense bogs down, the Utes can call on record-setting place-kicker Andre Guardi, who booted game-winning field goals three times with less than three seconds left in the game a year ago.

Guardi, a senior, owns virtually all the Utah kicking records for a single game, a season and a career. He also set WAC records in 1985 for most kicking points in a season (98), most consecutive field goals (11) and most consecutive extra points (87) and best conversion average (.983). Guardi, a soccer-style booter, has converted 117 of 119 PATs in college while hitting on 31 of 45 field goal attempts.

Utah, which played San Diego State in its opener on Sept. 13 and then had a week off before meeting Ohio State, was hurt the most by the losses it suffered on defense. Only three starters — nose guard Gamaliel Rivers, tackle Jeff McMillian and strong safety Mike Jones — are back.

Rivers (6-3, 250), who was moved from tackle to nose guard, and "Tiny" McMillian (6-3, 290) are the bricks which Fassel is building his defensive front around. Rivers recorded 59 tackle participations last year, seventh on the squad but tops among those returning.

"The defensive line has more experience and better depth than any other spot on the defense," said Fassel. "We have more depth in that spot than we have had in a long time. Our front seven should be really good."

Mark Geiselmayer (6-1, 236), who started a couple of games last year, anchors the linebackers while Jones (5-11, 206) should be one of the best defensive backs in the country after being under par last year because of injuries.

"I think we are going to be better than a lot of people think," said Fassel of his defense. "We have put together a solid defense. We are still counting on our defense to create turnovers like it did last season. We are going to have to have some players continue to develop through the season."

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Bruce

Continued From Page 1

More, then, on the mental attitude of a team.

"I think it would be good to consider that there's not only a physical side of football, but there's a mental side of football," said Bruce, "and I'm going to be very interested in the mental side of our football team the next three weeks."

"An upswing. I think that's daggoned important. And emotion. And enthusiasm. You've got to have that when you play. Emotion, obviously, can sometimes overcome a little physical differences. We have to do that from here on in. We have to be a little more emotional and a little more mentally ready to play."

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The View From 15th and High

By Frank L. Moskowitz, BSB Publisher

Is Hayes Philosophy Holding Back '86 Buckeyes?

Is Earle Bruce being crippled by his years as a player and assistant coach under Woody Hayes?

It was apparent against Washington that it pained Earle, who comes from the "only three things can happen when you pass and two of them are bad school," to put the ball in the air.

Ohio State tried desperately to establish the running game in the first half against Washington, with little success. It is the view from this corner that the strength of the Buckeye offense this year should be the pass. I've always felt that Jim Karsatos has a better arm than either Art Schlichter or Mike Tomczak. And Chris Carter has to be one of the best receivers in the country.

On the other side of the ledger, the Buckeyes are lacking a back like Keith Byars or Tim Spencer, a power back who makes it easier to grind out the ground yardage (big George Cooper apparently was banished to Siberia after his critical fumble against Alabama, carrying the ball only twice against the Huskies).

But most importantly, stretching well back until last season, the Ohio State offense has been struggling. The Buckeyes didn't need to establish a ground game; they needed to come out and score some points in a hurry.

Trust me. The problem with Ohio State right now, despite the 40 points Washington put on the board, is not on the defensive side of the football.

The Buckeye defenders came out hitting hard, just the type of OSU-style hard-hitting that really starts to take its toll later in a game. The Huskies were racking up yardage, but not scoring big points. Unfortunately, the Buckeyes weren't scoring any points. OSU committed a couple of key turnovers late in the first half, and suddenly the game was out of hand.

Once a team gains momentum like Washington did, all the hurt from the big hits goes away. You can no longer demoralize that team.

The Buckeyes might have stemmed the tide, however. Trailing 17-0, OSU had finally gone to the pass in the last minute of play in the first half. A couple of quick strikes from Karsatos to Carter rapidly moved the ball down to the Huskie 37, where the Buckeyes called time out.

After talking it over, what did the Buckeyes, needing points, come up with? A running play.

Big Ten Notes

Continued From Page 11

collegiate start ever. Odomes had 12 tackles and three interceptions, including one he ran back 73 yards for a score in the Badgers' loss to Hawaii.

QUOTES OF THE WEEK: The first is from Indiana coach Bill Mallory. The Hoosiers have three receivers with 4.4 speed, Kenny Allen, Ernie Jones and Stacy Dawsey, and Mallory has said, "We definitely will go for the bomb this season. If not, somebody should come down from the stands and kick me in the tail."

Hayden Fry gives us the other quote. Fry was claiming QB Mark Vlasic has a stronger arm than Chuck Long, last year's starter. "He proves it every day in practice by overthrowing receivers."

Vince Workman promptly fumbled, proving that bad things can happen when you run the ball, also.

Whereas someone from the Woody Hayes school might have run the clock out at this point, Don James elected to go for it all, quarterback Chris Chandler caught the Buckeyes napping with a bomb, and the Huskies took a 24-0 lead into the locker room.

Ohio State obviously needed a lot of points and they needed them fast. But you could tell that Earle still didn't really want to put the ball in the air. He continued mixing running plays into the Buckeye scheme in the third and fourth quarter.

If you are in a 15-round boxing match, and after 10 rounds you know you are badly behind on points, you have to go for the knockout. If you, in turn, are knocked out, so be it. You were going to lose anyway. Winning a couple of late rounds isn't going to do much for you.

If you're the Buckeyes, put the ball up there for Chris Carter (or one of the other fine OSU receivers who were non-entities against the Huskies) and see what happens. An interception couldn't have put the Buckeyes in a hole much deeper than they were already in. I'd rather see a team go down fighting than to just lose.

And one thing about the pass versus the run. If a pass falls incomplete, the clock stops. Running the ball is too time consuming when the clock is a bigger enemy than the opposition.

Early in the fourth quarter, the Bucks appeared to throw in the towel. With a fourth and 11 at the Washington 41 and just over 13 minutes showing on the clock, OSU, trailing 33-7, punted instead of going for the first down. Tom Tupa's punt

Tomczak

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Tomczak threw another touchdown pass, but he also made some errors which caused Ditka's fire to rage again.

"He called some plays that aren't even in the playbook," Ditka fumed after the game.

But Ditka obviously liked what he saw during the preseason. For when it came time to replace McMahon on opening day, Ditka didn't even think about putting Fuller in the game. Tomczak made sure of that.

"It was Coach Ditka's decision and I was right in his face after Jim got hurt," Tomczak said. "It's either lead, follow, or get the hell out of the way. I was a leader."

Ditka put Tomczak to the test throughout the summer, and the young quarterback passed with flying colors. With McMahon sidelined indefinitely with a badly bruised shoulder, Tomczak got his first regular-season start and guided the Bears to a 13-10 overtime victory over the Philadelphia Eagles.

"This kid has the potential to be as good as he wants to be," said Ditka, before Tomczak completed 10 of 20 passes for 116 yards — although having two picked off — against the Eagles. "I have great confidence in his leadership. He's got a good head on his shoulders."

landed in the end zone, giving Washington the ball on the 20 for a net OSU gain of 21 yards. What did punting prove? OSU had to score each time it had the ball.

The bottom line here, the question many are asking, is whether Earle Bruce is in trouble.

I think it's too early to call on that. The first goal for any Ohio State team always is to win the Big Ten championship and go to the Rose Bowl. Thus, the season is far from over for the Buckeyes and Earle can certainly come out of this intact.

However, Ohio State can not afford too many more humiliations on national TV. And if the Buckeyes are to win the Big Ten title, they are going to have to regroup in a hurry.

Earle's been in worse situations than this before.

A couple of years back, the Bucks lost three straight games at Ohio Stadium. The heat was really on then. But Bruce rallied his troops for seven straight victories, including a convincing 24-14 win over a Rose Bowl-bound Michigan team. The Bucks really played good ball during that seven game stretch.

Look at the captains of that 1982 team, though — Glenn Cobb, Marcus Marek, Bill Lukens, Jerome Foster, Gary Williams, and Tim Spencer. Those guys were leaders. Ohio State football is at a low point right now, and some leaders are going to have to step forward and help the team reach back for that something extra.

And Earle Bruce is going to have to remember that in Woody Hayes' day, Ohio State was bigger, faster and better than nearly every team in the country and could bully the opposition with the ground game. Changes in scholarship rules and other factors have evened things out lately and the Buckeyes must now use a more diverse offense. It also should be noted that when Hayes was at the helm, the Buckeyes, as was evident in the 35-6 Sugar Bowl loss to Alabama following the 1977 season, were ill-equipped to play catch-up.

Ohio State appeared to be ill-equipped to play catch-up against Washington. But the Buckeyes have all the tools to play offense the way it's

Pro Notes

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anything at all. So I guess I'll leave it at that."

KEITH BYARS made his pro debut as the Eagles dropped a 41-14 decision to the Washington Redskins.

Although Byars did not start, he did serve as a replacement for starters Junior Tautalatasi and Mike Waters, seeing his first pro action early in the second quarter. Byars carried two times for two yards and caught one pass for four yards.

The fact that Byars played in the season opener was somewhat surprising. After suffering a broken bone in his right foot prior to Ohio State's 1985 campaign, Byars was slow to come around physically.

"I think (the timetable) has moved up a great deal," said Philadelphia coach Buddy Ryan prior to the opener. "To start with, we didn't know whether we'd have him at all. Then we thought

played in the '80s. Earle just has to be willing to use everything in his arsenal.

ONE THING THAT has troubled me during the first two games of the season is the difficulty OSU has in calling time out during its two-minute offense. In both games, the Buckeyes have allowed valuable seconds to tick off the clock in obvious time-out situations before making the call. That's just poor mental execution.

USA TODAY recently featured its first All-USA prep team, which was selected back in 1982. On that team was Ohio State linebacker Eric Kumerow out of River Forest (Ill.) High School.

Kumerow is often overshadowed by Chris Spielman, but keep an eye on him during games. He's really developed into a big part of the Ohio State defense.

The only other active Big Ten player on that first all-star team was Rod Woodson, a star defensive back at Purdue out of Snider High in Fort Wayne, Ind. Mike McGann, an offensive lineman out of Joliet (Ill.) High went to Illinois, but is out with academic problems. Lineman Glenn Mogle from Riverview High in Sarasota, Fla., went to Michigan, transferred to Florida, and after a neck injury is now out of football.

MUCH HAS BEEN made of Earle Bruce's weight in Columbus lately. As someone who shares that problem with the coach, I'm not going to criticize him for it. However, what galled me was that fact that Ray Perkins, slim, wearing a neat shirt and tie at the Chase Kickoff Classic, was held up as someone for comparison.

Football coaches should be graded by the achievement of their football teams, not the way they look. At Alabama, a school every bit the equal to Ohio State in football prestige and tradition, Perkins was 5-6 in 1984. He could have been the best dresser in the world and you can bet he would have been run right out of Columbus if he came up with that record at Ohio State.

Earle better make sure that his Buckeyes don't come up with a similar log this year, however.

early November or something like that. Now, he could be around real early."

Byars, who came back the next week, although he gained only 32 yards on 19 carries, was permitted to sprint for the first time by team trainer Otho Davis on Aug. 18.

TODD BELL is making news with the Chicago Bears. After missing the entire 1985 season due to a contract dispute, Bell signed with the Bears two weeks before training ended. Thus far he has seen limited action, but he doesn't mind. Bell is just happy to be back after missing the Super Bowl campaign.

"I feel like a rookie," Bell said. "I know I'm coming back on the second team. I have to work at the job all over again."

JIM GILMORE, signed as a free agent earlier this summer by the Eagles, was waived one day and then had those waivers withdrawn the next.