

BUCKEYE

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## OSU AD Rick Bay Congratulates The 'New' Earle Bruce After Victory 'New' Bruce Seeks Image Change With Natty Attire At Cotton Bowl

By Jim Wharton

The descriptions were many: "He sort of looks like Bugsy Moran," said one press box observer.

"He looks like Jake of the Blues Brothers," said another.

"I really think he looks like a mortician," said yet another.

He, in this case, was Ohio State football coach Earle Bruce. The critics were looking for an apt description of what — or who — Bruce looked like when he took his place on the sideline before the start of the Cotton Bowl.

It was the new Earle Bruce. This Bruce, often maligned for his lack of color and his drab appearance, now was looking to change his image. An expensive charcoal-colored suit, a black tie with diagonal white stripes, a black Dobbs fedora hat with a wide band and scarlet feather. Class.

It was not the same mode of dress Bruce had worn during the pre-game workouts. He reportedly stepped back into an office after finishing his pregame remarks. He closed the door, later to emerge in his new attire.

"They kind of looked at me a little differently," said Bruce of his players'

reaction to his clothes. "And they really looked at me differently when I had the hat."

Bruce, who would pace the sideline sans the customary headset because of his dress hat as the Buckeyes downed Texas A&M 28-12, was asked if the new duds could become a permanent part of his wardrobe.

"I don't know," he answered. "I'm going to have to think about it. I've got a long time to think about that."

"This wasn't back in Columbus, this was in Dallas," continued Bruce. "They dress up in Dallas. There are a lot of good-looking threads around Dallas that I see."

Bruce, as he would put it, most certainly must have been referring to Dallas Cowboys coach Tom Landry, who always dresses in the manner in which Bruce dressed for the Cotton Bowl.

The Buckeye coach was asked when he decided to dress up.

"I told my wife I might do that," he said. "I didn't tell anyone but my wife that I was going to do it."

Her reaction?  
"She looked at me a little

differently," said Bruce. "She said 'I don't like that idea too much.' She said 'why are you doing it?' But she saw it and she liked it."

The Ohio State players were stunned when Bruce pranced into the area where the players were prior to the start of the game.

"That kind of shocked me. We were saying 'hey, what's going on?' " said flanker Nate Harris.

"We didn't know if he was going to go out like that, or if he was just kidding. It was a surprise," said quarterback Jim Karsatos.

"Heck yes I was," said outside linebacker Chris Spielman, voted the most valuable defensive player in the game. "The hat got me. I thought it was Mr. Bay."

Spielman mistook Bruce for OSU athletic director Rick Bay, who was, in part, responsible for the appearance of the Buckeye coach.

"We were struggling a little bit in the early going," said Bay a couple of hours after the OSU victory. "We talked about him changing his image."

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## Arizona Talks To Bruce

Could Ohio State football coach Earle Bruce be headed for the sunshine of Arizona?

That possibility surfaced shortly after the Buckeyes defeated Texas A&M in the Jan. 1 Cotton Bowl. A report in a Tucson paper said Bruce visited that city on Jan. 3 to interview for the job left vacant when Larry Smith, who guided the Wildcats to a victory over North Carolina in the Aloha Bowl, accepted the head coaching position at USC.

Although Bruce was unavailable for comment because he was attending the annual NCAA convention in San Diego, OSU athletic director Rick Bay confirmed that he had given his Arizona counterpart, Cedric Dempsey, permission to talk to Bruce.

"That's customary. It's a professional courtesy to call me before they talk to our coach," said Bay. "I think it's apparent anytime you're called to certainly allow one of the people who works for you to talk to somebody else."

Bruce, who finished his eighth year at Ohio State with a 28-12 win over A&M, reportedly had his first talk with Dempsey while in Dallas.

Bay said his inner feelings were that Bruce would not leave Ohio State.

"Right now," said Bay, "I'm fairly optimistic that he's going to stay at Ohio State. I certainly wouldn't want to lose him, although it's understandable, I think, when you have a coach with Earle's record, for people to come knocking on your door when they need one. He's one of the great ones in the country."

Bruce, an Ohio State graduate, has two years left on his contract. He signed his first-ever multiyear contract last spring. Bay felt Bruce would not abandon the Buckeye ship.

"I think Earle feels very good about what's happening to the program here at Ohio State," said Bay. "He not only ended the season on a high note with a great Cotton Bowl victory and a new wardrobe, evidently, but he also has a contract now for the first time, we're putting up a new facility that will be pretty much used for football. So I think he feels pretty good about the way things are going relative to the football program at Ohio State."

Would Bay consider holding Bruce to his contract?

"I'm not saying that I would enforce his contract," Bay said. "I don't think you'd ever want anyone working for you who really doesn't want to work for you. My hope is that he would want to stay at Ohio State."

Victory 'Daggone' Pleasing To OSU Coach**'D' Responds To Challenge From Bruce**

By Jim Wharton

Ohio State football coach Earle Bruce pushed his way through a throng of media representatives and stepped up onto the platform where he was to deliver his post-game remarks after a 28-12 triumph over Texas A&M in the 51st annual Cotton Bowl.

"Ah, daggone it, that was great," said Bruce, pounding his fist on the table as he took his seat. "Do you know that when two linebackers intercept passes and return them for touchdowns, that's something. I've always said that Chris Spielman is the best linebacker against the pass in the country. I don't think I've been wrong. He most certainly demonstrated his ability to get under the pass today and make the big play, along with Michael Kee, who did break the game open at the end with a big interception and return.

"Besides that," added Bruce, "Eric Kumerow had an interception, which was tremendous. So the defense, facing adversity, fought back and did a good job of putting points on the scoreboard. That was the difference today. They did a great defensive job."

The victory over the Aggies culminated a long, arduous season for the Buckeyes. After an 0-2 start, Ohio State finished the year at 10-3.

"When you think we started back the first of August, some would say it was a long season," said Bruce. "Our football team did not make it a long season



Cris Carter wears coach Earle Bruce's now-famous Cotton Bowl hat and Bruce sports the jacket that goes to the Cotton Bowl winner in a happy moment after Ohio State's win over Texas A & M.

because of their actions. They never gave up. They worked hard. I'm very proud of our seniors. As you know, right now I'm very proud of our whole football team and the coaching staff. They did a tremendous job. We're happy to have the Cotton Bowl trophy for the victory. It most certainly is a proud addition to our trophy case.

"This one means a lot to us because of what happened all season, how they fought back and did the job," continued Bruce, who now sports a 5-3 record — after an 0-2 start — in bowl games since coming to Ohio State.

"You know some said we wouldn't fight back after the Michigan game. I would never let anyone think that Ohio State, the Buckeyes, would ever give up on anything. They are fighters. They are very determined players and they never give up. They are great people to coach. I'm very proud to be the coach of the Buckeyes and all the coaches are very proud of what they did today.

"And the Buckeye fans," continued Bruce. "They were class. They did a nice job today for the Buckeyes."

Having gotten the obligatory niceties out of the way, Bruce was asked about the challenge he posed to the Buckeye defense prior to the Cotton Bowl.

"That was the challenge," said Bruce. "I think you've got to challenge people and the challenge was to the defense. Although we made some mistakes."

The defense, which had faltered somewhat in wins over Northwestern, Wisconsin and a loss to Michigan at the end of the regular season, climbed to the top of the hill. The Buckeyes picked off a Cotton Bowl-record five Kevin Murray passes while holding the Aggies to 296 total yards and only one touchdown.

"We did a great job defending that football team," said Bruce. "That's where I thought the strength of their football team was and we took it away with good defense."

Texas A&M managed 159 of its yards in the first half, yet trailed 7-6 after having to settle for two Scott Slater field goals while the Bucks used a three-yard run by quarterback Jim Karsatos early in the second quarter for their points.

"I thought we got stronger as the game went on and that was good for us," said Bruce, "because we tend to drift off in the last quarter. But we got stronger, made our plays, made our plays that make you a good football team."

And what big plays they were.

On the defensive side, inside linebacker Chris Spielman stepped in front of a Murray pass intended for Aggie tight end Rod Bernstine on the fourth play of the second half. Spielman latched onto the football and raced 24 yards into the end zone. A crushing block on Murray by OSU's Ray Jackson made Spielman's jaunt easy.

Spielman later picked off another Murray pass in the fourth quarter — the fourth by OSU on the day and the sixth of the year for the Buckeye standout.

"I expect Spielman to play like that because he builds himself up to play like that," said Bruce. "He's an outstanding football player and an exceptional man against the pass for a linebacker. He has great ball skills."

Bruce knew Murray, who holds nearly every A&M and Southwest Conference passing record, would become frustrated.

"Sometimes we confused them with what we were doing," said Bruce. "Because we were not only blitzing sometimes, but we were dropping back in coverage and I think that might have fooled him as to where to throw the football."

"I don't know whether we confused their passing game, but we did some things different today. We played a little bit of what some people refer to as the Bear defense, to try and get some

pressure on them. All year we've used what we call a shade defense and we decided that that wasn't going to be good against them. So we went to our away defense package and really played sometimes with only two down linemen.

"We did a little more blitzing today than we've ever done and tried to mix it up with the coverage."

Bruce was savoring the moment. "When you look at the football team we played, fourth in the nation in total offense, that's a very good football team," said Bruce. "I think our kids responded to the challenge of playing a great ball team and played a great football game."

"I hope this is the kickoff for our football season next year because we have a lot of those football players back. We're losing some good seniors, but we've got a lot of good players coming back."

It was a fitting climax to the season. "You know," said Bruce, "it wasn't long after we decided we were coming to the bowl game that someone said 'you can either have the second-best season you've ever had at Ohio State — or the worst season.'"

"Well, there's not much choice in that matter. You'd like to have the second-best season rather than the worst season. But that doesn't matter. The thing that matters is how your team plays."

"They really did respond to everything we tried this week. They've been a joy to coach. The seniors have been really tremendous and they really displayed that today."

**IN THE WEEK** before the game, Bruce had touched several bases:

■ "We are very glad to be in Dallas and playing in the Cotton Bowl," said Bruce after the OSU charter touched down at Love Field. "When all the other people left us earlier in the season

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### Publisher

Frank L. Moskowitz

### Editor

Jim Wharton

### Assistant Publisher

Karen Wachsman

### Photography

Chance Brockway, Jr.  
Scott Brockway  
Rick Thomas

### Contributors

Craig E. Merz  
Rich Exner  
Steve Siegfried  
Dave Kelch  
Dave Waitkus  
Mike Wachsman

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# Spielman Picks Off OSU Win

By Dave Waitkus

All Chris Spielman needed to do to complete the scene was get on a white horse, adjust his cowboy hat and ride off into the glorious Texas sunset.

Spielman, Ohio State's All-American junior linebacker, has probably had what he considers better individual performances in his Buckeye football career. However, what he did to Texas A&M in Ohio State's 28-12 Cotton Bowl victory on New Year's Day must have earned him a spot somewhere just below Davy Crockett in Texas folklore.

Playing Texas A&M in Texas was rough enough for the Buckeye defenders, with thoughts of Michigan's massive offensive totals still stinging. Add to that Kevin Murray, the Aggies' touted quarterback who shattered a host of school and Southwest Conference records this year in leading A&M to a 9-2 mark and the SWC championship. The entire package undoubtedly had the already-intense Spielman near the meltdown point.

How did the 6-2, 232-pound Spielman respond? Well, with 74,188 fans in the Cotton Bowl watching, with countless more tuned into their television sets for the national broadcast, Spielman intercepted Murray twice, once for a game-breaking 24-yard touchdown, ignited OSU's victory and earned as much media attention as Earle Bruce's fancy threads.

"It was great to come down here and win this game," said Spielman, who was a unanimous choice by the media as the game's most valuable defensive player. "We won against the '12th Man,' we won against the waving white towels. We came down here to Texas and played Texas A&M and we won."

That perhaps best sums up Spielman's attitude toward the game. Unlike other players who seek out undue attention, Spielman, who also



Chris Spielman Meets The Media After Defensive MVP Performance

had 11 tackles in the game, prefers the turf over the podium.

"I let my performance do the talking," said Spielman, who was the first non-Southwest Conference player to run an interception back for a touchdown in the Cotton Bowl since Alabama's Holt Rast pulled off the feat in 1942. "We took a lot of the blame for the Michigan loss (OSU's 26-24 defeat in its regular-season finale), and we felt like we had something to prove. The loss against Michigan will never be erased, but this helps a lot."

Not only did Spielman's interception result in a big Buckeye touchdown, it also touched off a wave of Ohio State thefts that resulted in a record-setting five — all in the second half — against Murray. Throughout the regular season, Murray had tossed just eight interceptions while completing 212 of 349 passes for 2,463 yards and 17 touchdowns.

"I think Chris Spielman's (first) interception got the game going for us," admitted Bruce, who guided the Buckeyes into the Cotton Bowl for the first time in the 51-year history of the contest. "I expect Chris Spielman to play like that. He builds himself up to play like that. He's an outstanding football player and an exceptional man against the pass for a linebacker."

Could Spielman imagine himself

playing such a role in a big contest like the Cotton Bowl? Oh, yeah, you better believe it.

"I try to play hard and play the best," said the Massillon, Ohio, standout. "I expect the most out of myself. If I make a big play, I make a big play. Yeah, I can imagine it. I can imagine just about anything."

While the sun was drenching the festive Dallas crowd at halftime of the Cotton Bowl, Spielman must have been imagining something really big for the final two periods.

Up to that point, the Buckeye defense had been suspect at best. Murray had guided A&M to a pair of field goals, and he had engineered another drive that resulted in a missed field goal. Ohio State's 7-6 lead seemed in extreme jeopardy.

However, just three plays into the second half, Spielman shook Murray's confidence, woke up the scoreboard operator and caused fingers to fly across computer keyboards in the Cotton Bowl press box.

Facing a third down at his own 15, Murray searched for tight end Rod Bernstine over the middle. Instead of hitting number 29, however, Murray hit number 36, and Spielman promptly fired up his new red shoes and raced for the end zone. Murray accused Spielman of espionage in the

afternoon, but Spielman pleaded innocent.

"They were using him as a spy," claimed Murray. "He was just hanging out in the middle. He was reading me, and he dropped off on the first player (Bernstine). He just got it and was gone."

"My responsibilities were the same as they were all year," countered Spielman, who intercepted four passes during the regular season. "When we're in the nickel defense, I cover anything in the middle. That gives us an extra defensive back for passing situations."

As mentioned before, Spielman's theft and ensuing touchdown run not only upped the count to 14-6 in favor of OSU, but started a landslide that resulted in two other Buckeye touchdowns. Senior roverback Sonny Gordon got in on the act during A&M's next series, which led to Ohio State's 59-yard scoring march.

Then, late in the fourth quarter, linebacker Michael Kee one-upped Spielman by picking off a Murray pass and racing 49 yards for a touchdown. Spaced between those thefts was another by Spielman and one by linebacker Eric Kumerow.

In addition to the personal embarrassment Murray undoubtedly suffered, the five interceptions also earned him the top spot in the Cotton Bowl history books as the only quarterback to have five picked off in one game.

"I'm not too big on stats, but our defensive effort and this win restores a little respect for Ohio State," Spielman said. "This is a start for next year. I hope it gets the younger guys out there lifting weights and getting excited about playing football."

Fortunately for Ohio State, Spielman is also expected to be among those veterans returning for one more go-around with the Buckeyes.

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# End Of Career Emotional For Karsatos

After the Ohio State defense had intercepted Texas A&M quarterback Kevin Murray five times in a 28-12 Cotton Bowl victory, Buckeye quarterback Jim Karsatos was asked if he would like to go up against that same defense under game conditions.

"I don't know," answered Karsatos, who completed 10 of 21 passes for 195 yards in his final game as a Buckeye. "We face them in practice. At the beginning of practice, they usually win. By the end of practice, we usually win. So it's kind of a standoff."

But this confrontation, in front of 74,188 spectators, came out the right way for Karsatos as he closed out his collegiate career with a victory.

One scribe asked the senior signal caller from Fullerton, Calif., about finally having finished his "15-year" OSU career.

"Thanks a lot. Try six," snapped Karsatos in a joking tone. "But no, as a matter of fact, I'm trying to control my emotions right now. I'm just happy. I don't know what to say right now. I'll have to talk to the guys individually later."

"But the young guys played their hearts out for the seniors and the seniors were just out there to win the game and have fun. Which we did. I think all of the seniors will tell you they had a great time."

**ONE SENIOR WHO** will tell you he had a great time was inside linebacker Michael Kee.

Kee, out of Columbus Eastmoor High School, capped his five-year career by intercepting a Murray pass and returning it for a touchdown late in the fourth quarter. His TD jaunt — it seemed to take him forever to cover the 49 yards down the left sideline — was

## "Quotebook"

his first as a collegian.

"I'm just grateful to get an interception like that," said Kee, who also had a team-leading 12 tackles, including one for a loss. "Darryl Lee kind of came up and hit the quarterback, made him throw a bad pass and it came right to me. I just had to look it in."

It was a perfect ending to his playing days at OSU.

"I'd have to think so," said Kee, a second-team All-Big Ten selection this season. "The kind of injuries I've had and just to come back and get that touchdown like that, it was a great feeling."

One of the first people to meet Kee when he returned to the bench was his high school coach, Bob Stuart.

Now a volunteer coach with the Buckeyes, Stuart was head coach at Eastmoor for 26 years, turning out such standouts as Archie, Ray, Duncan and Keith Griffin, Doug VanHorn, Byron Lee, Mike Guess, Ken Hollister, Paul Naumoff and many, many more, including Kee.

"He was pretty proud," said Kee. "Like I said, it was just a good feeling to end it like that."

**OSU CO-CAPTAIN** Sonny Gordon, a first-team All-Big Ten pick, said the team accepted the challenge to bounce back from the low at the start of the season, the highs in the middle and another low at the end with the loss to arch-rival Michigan.

"This was a big challenge for us, to see if we could bounce back from defeat," said Gordon, who had one of

OSU's five pass thefts. "I think this is going to set our underclassmen on their way for next season. This is the way I wanted to go out, with a big bang."

Could Gordon, in his wildest dreams, imagine Ohio State recording five interceptions against Murray?

"We averaged something like four turnovers a game," replied the senior roverback from Middletown (Ohio) High School. "I wouldn't have imagined five interceptions. Maybe something like three or four."

**SENIOR CENTER** Bob Maggs also liked the way his Ohio State story ended.

"Oh, yeah, a great ending," said the two-time All-Big Ten selection. "I came in winning my first year and I went out now a winner. I'm real happy, but yet sad my career is over. I had a great time at Ohio State. I'd never change anything about it. It's just real mixed emotions I have right now."

**PRIOR TO THE** game, Karsatos was asked about his size. Several references were made that he looked more like an offensive guard than a quarterback.

"They all think I'm a little big for a quarterback," said Karsatos. "But you know, it's not the size, it's the quality of the package."

**CHRIS SPIELMAN** got off a couple of quotable quotes during various pre-game interviews.

"The atmosphere, the part of being here at a bowl game is a reward," said Spielman. "Last night we were sitting there, we had a nice Texas barbecue, we had cowboy hats. Today, we are going to a dude ranch, and we can pop on a horse for a few minutes. These are the things the committee has planned for us and things like that. What you

are doing is living rich for a week. That is a good feeling."

Spielman addressed the issue of playing against the Aggies.

"With the type of people we have played, week in and week out, in playing Alabama and Washington, and the Big Ten schedule, we play a number of great athletes each week," said Spielman. "We have a tremendous amount of confidence in our abilities."

"They tell you when you come to Ohio State, you're a good football player or you would not be playing at an Ohio State, a Michigan or Texas A&M. We respect our opponents, but then again, we are not going to be up here shaking and being intimidated. We are going out there to play. When it comes time to strap them up, we will be there and they will be there."

**JUNIOR SAFETY** William White was asked about the Buckeyes losing senior roverback Sonny Gordon after this season.

"I'll miss him something terrible," said White, feigning a cry. "We've held hands in the huddle for three years. He's always out there. I have really good confidence in him. We know each other, without even saying anything. The coaches like a lot of communication on the field. But me and Sonny very seldom say anything, and yet we always seem to be on the right page."

**GARY BLACKNEY**, Ohio State's defensive coordinator, was asked whether the game would be a high-scoring or low-scoring affair.

"I hope it is low scoring," said Blackney, "because I have to meet with Coach Bruce Friday morning. I hope it's low scoring and we come out the winner. But the potential for a high-scoring game is there."

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# Bucks Ride Tall On Dude Ranch Horses

The Circle R Ranch northeast of Dallas probably wondered what hit it when the Ohio State football team was treated to an afternoon of horseback riding, horseshoe pitching, a real-life rodeo and chow.

As three busloads of Buckeye gridders unloaded, the mad dash began for the chow line. Texas-sized steaks. Potatoes. The whole 40 yards of Texas hospitality.

But the fun also was about to begin. "I'm not riding a daggoned thing," said OSU coach Earle Bruce. "I've got to coach football."

Bruce probably was quick to think back to last July 4 when he broke a foot while playing back yard volleyball at his Worthington, Ohio, home.

Over around the horseshoe pits, defensive nose guard Fred Ridder quickly was tabbed "Dead-eye Ridder." Larry Kotterman, ruled out of the Cotton Bowl because of knee surgery performed after the Minnesota game, said "close is good enough for us" when it came to scoring.

But the biggest and longest laughs of the day came from the barn area when Buckeye gridders tried to ride horses.

Defensive tackle Darryl Lee needed

the help of two people to mount his steed.

Fullback George Cooper, with a souvenir bandana around his face like an 1870s bank robber, looked bigger than his horse.

"No, I can't control this one," said Cooper, when asked if he thought he needed a bigger horse.

Offensive tackle Joe Staysniak, with a posterior bigger than the saddle on his horse, had to listen as someone in the crowd suggested "you're going to have to bring the elephant out."

Freshman wide receiver Tony Cupe dismounted after his ride through the Circle R pastures and quickly picked up a tree branch to dig at some excess baggage on the bottom of his shoe.

"I've never ridden a horse before in my life," said Cupe. "I was scared a little bit. That horse acted like it just wanted to take off."

Cupe, who evidently wasn't watching where he stepped after getting off his horse, cleaned off his shoes and headed for other parts of the ranch.

William White, who had onlookers in stitches with his hilarious antics, stepped down from his horse after

acting like he had been riding all his life.

White, a junior defensive back from Lima, Ohio, gave a great impression of a bowlegged cowboy as he strode away.

Jay Shaffer ambled down the hill from the chow hall toward the corral to take his place in line to ride into the sunset.

"They're going to call me 'Hoss,'" said Shaffer in his best western drawl.

Back at the horseshoe pit, things were warming up. The crowd watching had to keep an eye open for errant tosses, some landing far from the target.

Everett Ross, a sophomore wide receiver, looked like Pepe LePew with his French beret and his handkerchief draped around his neck.

"Look out now, y'all can't see me," said wide receiver Cris Carter as he let go a toss.

Carter had drawn considerable criticism from his teammates for wearing a sweat suit to the ranch.

"Hey," said Carter, "I ain't ridin' no animals. I'm not gettin' no horse hair on my sweat suit. I'm an urban cowboy."

Sundown finally came and the shootout was over after the Buckeyes watched a rodeo performance. But the Circle R will never be the same.

ANOTHER FESTIVITY the Buckeyes participated in was the "Beef Bowl." Sponsored by Lawry's, The Prime Rib, the OSU players — and their counterparts from Texas A&M — were treated to a dinner of prime rib, creamed spinach, mashed potatoes, Yorkshire pudding and scrumptious desserts.

The Beef Bowl has been a Cotton Bowl tradition since 1983 when Lawry's opened its Dallas restaurant. The affair began in 1956 at the Los Angeles Lawry's restaurant when the idea was originated to treat the Rose Bowl contenders to a prime rib feast. Iowa and Oregon State were the first participants 31 years ago.

Originally, there was a tradition that the team that ate the most, scored the most. But a comment by television newscaster Connie Chung a few years ago caused Lawry's officials to put an end to that approach.

Chung said it was disgusting that the athletes were eating all that food when there were hungry people in the world.

The unofficial "champion" at the Dallas Lawry's is Boston College middle guard Mike Ruth, who ate three 15-ounce cuts in 1984. Buckeye freshman Erik Grimm downed 2½ pieces to lead the 1986 OSU contingent.

Sophomore linebacker Tom Anderzack was treated to a birthday cake by Lawry's. Anderzack was celebrating his 21st birthday the day the Buckeyes visited.

OHIO STATE players also took in a couple of basketball games while in Dallas.

On Sunday they were guests of the professional Dallas Mavericks while on Monday they were introduced to the Reunion Arena crowd taking in the Purdue-North Carolina clash.

OSU OFFICIALS attended a reception in the grand ballroom of the Hyatt-Regency Hotel in downtown Dallas.

Outside linebacker coach Fred Pagac and Sue Ann Lichtenberg, the wife of quarterbacks and receivers coach Tom Lichtenberg, were a nifty twosome dancing a polka.

Faculty representative C.J. Slanicka and his daughter, Karen, were really into it dancing to "In The Mood," as performed by the Floyd Dakil Band. Dakil and his band have performed in Niles, Dayton and Shaker Heights, Ohio.

SEVERAL NAMES familiar to sports fans the world over were inducted into the Texas Sports Hall of Fame at a luncheon the day before the game.

Enshrined in the hall were former Boston Red Sox pitcher Tex Houston; UTEP basketball coach Don Haskins, who led Texas-Western to the NCAA championship; former Cleveland Browns defensive end Bill Glass; Jerry Heidenreich, who won two gold, one silver and one bronze medal in the 1972 Olympics; former professional football player and coach Jack Pardee, recently named the new head coach at the University of Houston; and NFL Hall of Famer Y.A. Tittle, a star quarterback in the NFL.

DEFENSIVE BACKS William White of Ohio State and Kip Corrington of Texas A&M were honored by Cotton Bowl officials as winners of the American Airlines scholar-athlete awards.

## Cotton Victory Pleases Bruce

Continued From Page 3

when we were 0-2, the Cotton Bowl stuck with us. I know it will be a great game."

"We really didn't want to end the season with a loss to a rival like Michigan. But we'll bounce back. We just can't look back. We have to look ahead. All our kids are looking forward to this game."

"When I look at Texas A&M, I see a big, talented, well-coached team. They feature an offense that controls the ball with both the pass and run. (Roger) Vick is an exceptional runner. (Kevin) Murray is a good reader of defenses. He can get the ball to Vick, (Keith) Woodside or (Rod) Bernstine, but he also can throw the ball deep. And I don't think we've played against a 347-pound offensive tackle (Marshall Land), but we'll do that in this game."

"They try to pressure you on defense with a good linebacker in John Holland. Their defense is also big and

fast and runs to the football."

"I have always viewed a bowl game as a reward for the season. I don't know if we'd be ready to play today, but six or eight days from now we had better be ready. That's our job as coaches to make sure they're ready. If you look at football, professional or college, winning and losing comes down to execution. If you execute, you win. It's that simple. That's what football is all about. The team that doesn't execute usually loses."

"You have to have some pride to come from where we were to get where we got to. You don't like to be 0-2, but the way to deal with that is to make the players feel like they're good players. A lot of negative things come from something like that. If the players read that they're no good, they might start believing it. It's the way a player feels about himself that counts. I'm sure glad we kicked that field goal to beat Colorado (13-10). That was the turning point for us."

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# OSU In Cotton Win Thanks To Defense

By Dave Waitkus

In order to win on the other guy's playground, you sometimes have to steal the ball and run the other way.

That was the formula Ohio State followed to perfection on New Year's Day as the football Buckeyes intercepted Texas A&M's bid for a second straight Cotton Bowl triumph in Dallas. Picking off Aggie quarterback Kevin Murray five times in the second half — including twice for touchdowns — Ohio State rallied for a 28-12 victory and capped a wild and eventful 10-3 season.

"We did a great job defending that football team (the Aggies). The whole football team did a good job," said a dapper Ohio State coach Earle Bruce, who appeared before a Cotton Bowl crowd of 74,188 resplendently attired in a dark suit and matching fedora. "The (Buckeye) defense, facing adversity at times, fought back and put some points on the scoreboard. That was the difference in the game."

Actually, the entire OSU squad faced adverse conditions in sunny Dallas as it represented the Big Ten for the first time in the 51-year history of the

Cotton Bowl. Challenging Texas A&M — which entered the game 9-2 and ranked eighth in the nation — the Buckeyes faced a task similar to taking on USC or UCLA out west in their own back yard.

However, not even the waving white towels or the maroon-clad Aggie "12th Man" could halt the Buckeye tide once Chris Spielman ignited a wave of Ohio State interceptions.

Normally serving as a catalyst with his stiff defense and bone-jarring tackles, Spielman could hardly wait to get his hands on a Murray pass early in the third period.

Trailing 7-6 at the half, A&M — the champion of the Southwest Conference for the second straight year — set up shop deep in its own territory at the 18. Two plays and a penalty moved the Aggies back to the 15, and Murray, who was five of 12 for 79 yards and no interceptions in the first half, searched for his favorite receiver, tight end Rod Bernstine.

Instead, however, he found Spielman, who was lurking in the middle at his linebacker spot. Although intercepting the pass was no

## Bucks Unveil Surprise With Spiffy Red Shoes

The business suit and dress hat of coach Earle Bruce were not the only things new around the Ohio State football team as it took on — and pounded — the Aggies of Texas A&M in the Cotton Bowl on Jan. 1.

The Buckeyes scampered onto the field for their pre-game conditioning and workouts sporting new red shoes.

"I've got to be honest with you," said Bruce after OSU had gained a 28-12 victory over the Aggies. "It was a Nike promotion. They thought the red shoes were flashy. You win some, you lose some. It might be red shoes from now on. I think 70 or 80 or 90 percent liked them."

Outside linebacker Chris Spielman was one of those who liked the new shoes.

"I'm going to wear them the rest of the year," said Spielman, a unanimous selection as the game's most valuable defensive performer. "I

scored a touchdown. I like the red shoes."

Ohio State athletic director Rick Bay was not as sure about the new footwear.

"At first," said Bay, "I didn't like the red shoes. And then I thought well, anything that can detract from the red shoes is good. But I didn't expect a suit."

Bay was alluding to Bruce's attire. Archie Griffin, the only two-time winner of the Heisman Trophy, told of the Buckeyes having worn red shoes in the past. According to Griffin, Ohio State teams of 1972 and 1973 donned red shoes at the discretion of the players. The last time any Buckeyes wore red shoes was in the 1976 Rose Bowl.

"People probably didn't notice them that much," said Griffin of the Cotton Bowl experience with new footwear. "But the players liked the look and they wanted to change."

## The Numbers Game

### Buckeyes 28, Aggies 12

OHIO STATE	0	7	14	7	28
TEXAS A&M	3	3	0	6	12

A&M — Slater 30 field goal 10:45  
 OSU — Karsatos 3 run (Frantz kick) 14:19  
 A&M — Slater 44 field goal 9:27  
 OSU — Spielman 24 interception return (Frantz kick) 13:39  
 OSU — Workman 8 run (Frantz kick) 7:16  
 A&M — Vick 2 run (pass failed) 9:10  
 OSU — Kee 49 interception return (Frantz kick) 2:49  
 Att. — 74,188

	OSU	A&M
First Downs	16	18
Rushing	10	10
Passing	6	7
Penalty	0	1
Rushes-Yards	36-85	42-160
Passing Yards	218	136
Passes	29-13-3	33-13-5
Offensive Plays	65	75
Total Net Yards	303	296
Third Down Eff.	9-17	3-17
Punts	6-35.2	6-42.2
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	1-0
Penalties	11-70	3-15
Time Of Possession	28:37	31:23

#### Individual Statistics

RUSHING (Att.-Net Yds.) — OHIO STATE: Cooper 13-55; Workman 13-45; Bryant 2-3; Karsatos 4-2; Tupa 2-(minus 5); Holland 2-(minus 15). TEXAS A&M: Vick 24-113; Woodside 11-32; Murray 5-12; Valentine 1-5; Bernstine 1-(minus 2).

PASSING (Att.-Comp.-Int.-Yds.-TD) — OHIO STATE: Karsatos 21-10-2-195-0; Tupa 8-3-1-23-0; TEXAS A&M: Murray 31-12-5-143-0; Stump 2-1-0-(minus 7)-0.

RECEIVING (Rec.-Yds.) — OHIO STATE: Harris 6-105; Carter 4-61; Holland 1-37; Cooper 1-10; Ross 1-5. TEXAS A&M: Bernstine 4-59; Walker 3-35; Woodside 3-14; Vick 2-17; Thompson 1-11.

PUNTING (No.-Ave.-Lg.) — OHIO STATE: Tupa 6-35.2-58; TEXAS A&M: Stump 1-41-0-41; Tschantz 5-42.2-60.

PUNT RETURNS (No.-Ave.-Lg.) — OHIO STATE: Ross 1-8.0-8. TEXAS A&M: Harris 2-4.5-5.

KICKOFF RETURNS (No.-Ave.-Lg.) — OHIO STATE: Ross 1-17.0-17; Holland 1-13.0-13; M. Sullivan 1-4.0-4. TEXAS A&M: Harris 4-15.0-23.

DEFENSIVE FUMBLES RECOVERED BY — OHIO STATE: None. TEXAS A&M: None.

INTERCEPTIONS — OHIO STATE: Spielman 2, Gordon, Kumerow, Kee. TEXAS A&M: Brooks, Kelm, Morris.

TACKLES FOR LOSS — OHIO STATE: Lee, McCray, Spielman, Kee, Leach, Gordon. TEXAS A&M: Roper, Saddler, Muller, Howard, Kelm, Holland.

TACKLES (Solo-Ass.-Tot.) — OHIO STATE: Kee 11-1-12; Spielman 7-4-11; Leach 6-5-11; Rogan 4-3-7; D. Brown 4-3-7; Gordon 2-3-5; Kumerow 4-1-5; Bell 2-2-4; McCray 3-1-4; White 3-0-3; Thomas 2-0-2; M. Sullivan 1-1-2; Showalter 2-0-2; Lee 2-0-2; Jackson 1-0-1; Dumas 1-0-1. TEXAS A&M: Kelm 9-4-13; Howard 9-3-12; Holland 8-3-11; Brooks 8-0-8; Bullitt 3-5-8; Corrington 5-2-7; Saddler 2-2-4; Muller 3-1-4; Flowers 1-2-3; Morris 3-0-3; O'Brient 3-0-3; Roper 1-1-2; Holley 2-0-2; Jones 1-1-2; Balcar 1-1-2; Haverd 1-0-1; Motley 1-0-1; Tankersley 1-0-1.

unique feat for the Buckeye junior, Spielman — who was later named the game's most valuable defensive player — broke new ground when he revved up his new red shoes and raced 24 yards for his first collegiate touchdown. Suddenly, following Matt Frantz's successful extra point, the Bucks were the proud owners of a 14-6 lead.

Not to be overshadowed in his final game as a Buckeye, senior roverback Sonny Gordon further spoiled Murray's New Year's celebration when he halted the Aggies' ensuing drive with a diving interception at the OSU 41. That pass was also intended for Bernstine, but Gordon picked it off and pointed Ohio State toward its game-breaking score.

Buckeye quarterback Jim Karsatos hooked up with split end Nate Harris for 30 of those yards to the Aggie 31. Two plays yielded only two more yards, so Karsatos went back to Harris on third down. Catching the ball in the flat, Harris cut in behind a good block from tailback Vince Workman and moved 18 yards to the 11.

Workman, who gained just 45 yards in 13 attempts during the contest, made his longest run of the day — eight yards — count for six big points to cap the march. Taking a pitch left from Karsatos on third down, Workman outraced the Aggie defenders to the flag for the TD. The score, including the point after, gave the charged-up Buckeyes a healthy 21-6 advantage with 7:19 left in the third period.

"We played very well defensively in the second half, but we did not play very well offensively in the second half," said A&M coach Jackie Sherrill. "You're not going to make that many turnovers and be in the game with a team like Ohio State."

"We knew Ohio State was a very good football team," he continued, "but we didn't know they would make the great plays they did."

Although the 'Buckeyes did get another big play in the form of an Eric Kumerow interception to open the fourth quarter, it was an Alex Morris theft of a Karsatos pass which kept A&M in the game.

Following Morris' effort, which gave the Aggies the ball on OSU's 42, Murray guided A&M into the end zone. Using a pair of Ohio State penalties to their advantage, the Aggies finally hit paydirt when Roger Vick scored from two yards away. A two-point conversion pass attempt from Murray

to Keith Woodside failed, however, and Ohio State maintained the upper hand with a 21-12 lead.

Vick, who hurt the Buckeyes with 52 yards in the first half, earned most valuable offensive player honors for the game, as he finished with 113 yards on 24 carries. The closest player to Vick's total on the ground was OSU's George Cooper, who managed 55 yards in 13 carries.

Following the touchdown, Ohio State suffered its last anxiety attack of the day, as A&M forced a Buckeye punt from the 12. Tupa's punt carried only to the OSU 46, and the Aggies were back in action at the 43 with 6:32 left to play.

Once again, though, it was Spielman to the rescue as Murray's rough second half became a record-setting nightmare. Overall, Murray's five interceptions broke the dubious Cotton Bowl mark of four, which had been held by former Notre Dame quarterback Joe Montana. The grand total of eight interceptions in the game (five by Murray, two by Karsatos, one by Tupa) also tied a Cotton Bowl record which had stood since 1962 when Mississippi and Texas combined for eight.

On second down from the Buckeye 45, Murray again found Spielman, and the junior All-American returned the ball 10 yards before he was finally brought down.

"I felt like we were still in the game until the fourth interception," claimed Sherrill. "We did throw the ball well at times, but I don't think we threw it with the same velocity as we have in the past."

Buckeye linebacker Michael Kee put the finishing touches on Murray and Texas A&M's nightmare a short time later when the Aggies loaded up for one last attempt at a miracle comeback.

With the clock heading for the three-minute mark, Murray dropped back to pass. The aerial found Kee in the middle, though, and the Buckeye senior rambled 49 yards for a touchdown and capped OSU's stunning 28-12 victory.

Ohio State's second-half defensive efforts also offset a first half that was spiced with a lot of impressive A&M offense. The Aggies, however, could not put the ball in the end zone and were forced to settle for a pair of field goals.

In fact, A&M struck first when it took the opening kickoff and marched

Continued On Page 20

# The View From 15th and High

By Frank L. Moskowitz, BSB Publisher

## Credit Cotton Bowl Victory To Defense

The Ohio State defense owed the team one.

The OSU offense put 24 points on the board against Michigan in the regular season finale, normally enough to put the Wolverines away. But the defense, touted as the strength of the team and featuring some of the best players in the country, was unable to contain Michigan, giving up 529 yards and allowing the Maize and Blue to keep Ohio State from realizing a truly storybook ending to a season that had started in such turmoil.

With the Rose Bowl part of the script out of the question, however, the Buckeyes still came up with a fine ending to their 1986 story. Their victory over Texas A&M was an impressive one, and you can chalk this one up to that same defense that allowed Michigan to control the ball so well just a few weeks earlier.

To fully appreciate the job that the OSU defense did, you have to appreciate what the Aggies had done on offense this season. They were averaging 440.2 yards a game, third in the country and were averaging 32.7 points an outing. Ohio State held A&M to 296 yards and just 12 points, with only one touchdown, scored on a drive aided by two major penalties against the Bucks. Only Arkansas, which scored a 14-10 victory in Little Rock, held the Aggies to fewer points.

The two-time Southwest Conference champions had converted on 46.7 percent of their third downs during the regular season, but clicked only three times in 17 tries against OSU for 17.6 percent.

The job that the Buckeyes did on A&M quarterback Kevin Murray and the Aggie passing game was especially outstanding. Murray had a superb 1986 season, completing 60.7 percent of his 349 passes for 2,463 yards, 17 touchdowns and only eight interceptions. Murray had been picked off only once in his last seven games.

The Buckeyes intercepted him five times, holding him to only 12 of 31 passing for 143 yards, more than 80 yards below the 223.9 he was averaging coming into the game.

Much credit has to be given, not only for the Buckeyes' execution on defense, but to the defensive game plan drawn up by the coaches. Murray was clearly confused on several occasions and his statistics during the game speak for both themselves and the OSU defense. On several plays where the Buckeyes chose to mount only a minimal pass rush, Murray had as much time as he wanted in the pocket, but was still unable to find a receiver.

About the only fault I could find with the Buckeye defense was that on several occasions OSU players hit Aggie runners hard at the line of scrimmage, but A&M was still able to turn the plays into solid gains.

AS FOR THE OSU offense, it was not spectacular, but it did what it had to do to win. I was especially impressed with the way Ohio State, recognizing that All-American Cris Carter was receiving double and triple coverage, looked to other receivers. At times this season, I felt the Buckeyes were guilty of forcing the ball to Carter instead of looking to secondary receivers.

By looking elsewhere against Texas

A&M, quarterbacks Jim Karsatos and Tom Tupa were able to hit Nate Harris six times for 105 yards, including a big 51-yarder, and Jamie Holland hauled in an outstanding 37-yarder to set up OSU's first touchdown. Holland might have had more if he had a little better luck holding on to the ball.

Carter was still able to pull in four passes for 61 yards, more yards than any Aggie receiver. The Buckeyes would be well served, however, if they learn a lesson from their success at the Cotton Bowl and design the passing game to go elsewhere when Carter is covered. Eventually, if other receivers turn in games like Harris did in Dallas, defense will loosen up on Carter, truly one of the best in the game.

IT WAS INTERESTING to note that while Oklahoma linebacker Brian Bosworth was sidelined at the Orange Bowl because traces of steroids were detected in his system, OSU linebacker Chris Spielman turned in a game-breaking performance against the Aggies. That has to help Spielman's stock in terms of next season's post-season awards.

IT IS THE VIEW from this corner that winning is the bottom line for most Ohio State fans. If OSU had lost to Texas A&M, Earle Bruce would have, no doubt, been ridiculed for his new sideline attire. However, with OSU's convincing win over the Southwest Conference champs, the coach's dress became just one more subject for conversation at post-game victory parties.

One thing is certain. Bruce and his Buckeyes went over well in Texas. If you go down there, you appreciate the fact that most people in Texas, unless they went to A&M, hate the Aggies. So the Buckeyes won one for the entire non-A&M oriented part of the state. And they won convincingly.

With the Ohio State defense doing an impressive job of stopping the high-powered Aggie offense and the OSU offense connecting on several long passes, Bruce came off in Texas as innovative. And after the Dallas papers featured stories on how Bruce lacked color, Texans probably even found the Buckeye coach a little colorful after he surprised football fans with his formal attire. Tom Landry isn't considered the most colorful coach either and he's done very well in Dallas wearing a suit and hat.

Ohio State was so well received in Dallas that one is left wondering if the Buckeyes might not land a Texas prep prospect in the near future. By my recollection, the last football player to come to Columbus from Texas was Victor Langley, an extremely highly regarded running back from the Dallas area who chose OSU over Texas and Oklahoma in 1980. Things did not work out at Ohio State for Langley and the Bucks haven't landed a Texan since.

BACK IN August, *Buckeye Sports Bulletin* ran its annual preseason consensus top twenty, compiled from the preseason picks of several major publications. In that poll, the Ohio State football team was chosen to come in ninth.

After all the ups and downs for the Buckeyes in 1986, they ended up finishing seventh in the final AP poll.

Interestingly, Ohio State finished ahead of all three teams that defeated the Buckeyes this season, in the final poll.

By the way, in that preseason consensus poll, Oklahoma was the choice to finish first, followed by Michigan, Miami, Alabama, Penn State, Texas A&M and Nebraska. The Buckeyes and Tennessee rounded out the top ten, tied for the ninth spot.

THE BIG WIN in the Cotton Bowl could give OSU some excellent momentum heading into 1987 when the Buckeyes again face an extremely tough schedule. Not only must Ohio State play West Virginia and travel to LSU in 1987, but the Bucks close their campaign with Iowa at home and Michigan in Ann Arbor. In addition, the Buckeyes drop Northwestern from the schedule in 1987 and pick up Michigan State.

PERHAPS ONE OF the most moving moments at the Cotton Bowl

## Bruce Seeks New Image

Continued From Page 1

Bruce remembers the conversation, which came shortly after the 13-10 win over Colorado.

"He said 'you'd better change your image,'" said Bruce. "Those were his exact words."

Bay picks it up from there: "I went in and said 'you know, it will take some of the pressure off the kids. Even your detractors will smile and say the guy does have a sense of humor and is concerned about what others say, is sensitive to what others think.' I said 'you ought to come out there with a tux.' He said 'Holy God, I can't possibly do that.' He was thinking about throwing me out of the office."

The thought of Bruce wearing a tuxedo was a little too much.

"Well," said Bay, "at least a suit. I said I think it will really make a statement. The kids will be more relaxed and they'll enjoy it. Well, he said, 'well, it's not a bad idea. Let me think about it.' That's the last I said about it."

## Buckeyes Intercept Aggies

Continued From Page 8

to the OSU 14. A third-down pass intended for Bernstein sailed high, though, and Sherrill was content to settle for Scott Slater's 30-yard field goal.

Ohio State took that notion one step further on its first possession, as the Bucks took the ensuing kick and charged toward the Aggie end zone. Karsatos and Harris — who finished as the game's leading receiver with six catches for 105 yards — hooked up for 51 of the yards on one pass play down the left sideline. The drive misfired, however, when A&M's Terrance Brooks intercepted a pass intended for Cris Carter in the end zone.

Using even more big plays, including a leaping 33-yard reception by Carter on third down, Ohio State finally dented the scoreboard on the second play of the second quarter.

came when nearly every Ohio State fan in attendance stayed after the game to watch and listen to the OSU marching band perform the *Script Ohio*. Throughout the game, Buckeye fans had to be impressed with the assorted cheers that every Aggie seemed to know by heart. The impressive spirit of the Aggie fans made OSU's victory that much sweeter and the post-game performance gave the Ohio State faithful a chance to show that they, too, have traditions and pride in their school.

THE WINNER OF the trip for two to the Cotton Bowl in BSB's Buckeye Bowl Bonanza was Marie Weidman of, interestingly enough, San Antonio, Texas.

The two-for-one gift subscription offer that we had in conjunction with the contest is valid until Feb. 15, 1987, so if you are still looking for a late gift for two people, take advantage of this chance to buy two gift subscriptions for \$21 today.

"He didn't do anything about it for 10 weeks," continued Bay. "When he came out today, I was as shocked as anyone else. I'm now officially his fashion consultant. I carry his clothes around. But I'm not taking blame for the hat. I didn't have anything to do with the hat. I'm taking the fifth on that."

Someone suggested that Bruce had even outdressed A&M coach Jackie Sherrill, himself a dapper dresser.

"I do think it helped his image," said Sherrill. "I think it helped his physique a little bit. You know, wearing dark suits makes you look a little thinner."

Bruce agreed.

"You're right about that, they really do."

Again, the question came up about whether Bruce would continue to dress up for Buckeye games.

"It might be a new image," said Bruce. "I don't know. I used to dress like this all the time in high school ball. We all dress sort of casual. But when we come to Dallas they all dress up. They put you to shame. We have threads up North too, you know."

Shortly after a diving Jamie Holland moved the Buckeyes to the one with a 38-yard catch, Karsatos faced second down from the three. Rolling right with tailback Jim Bryant on the option, Karsatos faked a pitch and cut in for the score. The march covered 80 yards, and it gave the Bucks the lead for good at 7-3.

The Aggies, however, narrowed the gap at 9:27 before intermission when a poor Tupa punt gave them the ball at the Ohio State 29. The OSU defense allowed them only two yards in three plays, though, and A&M was again forced to settle for Slater's field goal, which came from 44 yards away.

A&M even threatened once more in the half, but two straight incompletions left the Aggies at the Buckeye 36. This time, Slater's 53-yard attempt was wide to the right and the Bucks held their slim 7-6 lead at the half.