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*Calls Win 'Greatest' At Ohio State***Bruce: 'I Will Always Be A Buckeye'***By Ken Halloy*

Earle Bruce is the first Ohio State football coach to end his Buckeye career with a win over Michigan. It was Bruce's fifth win in nine tries against the Wolverines. And he went out in style.

For the finale, a thrilling 23-20 win in front of 106,031 in Ann Arbor Nov. 21, Bruce wore his charcoal suit with fedora. His players wore white headbands, with "Earle" displayed in red and black lettering, in his honor.

It was Bruce's day. He won his 81st game at Ohio State against 26 losses and one tie — ending as the Big Ten's winningest coach during his nine-year tenure. Afterward, thousands of Buckeye thankful flooded the field to congratulate him, as his players hoisted him upon their shoulders, Cotton Bowl-style.

DESPITE BEING fired five days earlier by university president Edward H. Jennings because of "personnel matters," Bruce remained a coach to the end. Bruce then took matters into his own hands by filing a \$7.4 million slander and breach of contract suit against Jennings and The Ohio State University (see page 8 for more).

But minutes after the game, a glowing smile concealed the anguish Bruce had suffered during the week. There was reason to smile. The Buckeyes had overcome a 13-0 second quarter deficit, and won the game with a 26-yard Matt Frantz field goal with 5:18 left.

"There's no sweeter victory in the world than one over Michigan in your last game at Ohio State," said a beaming Bruce afterward. "But the real thrill of that football game was for our football team, down 13-0, to come back and win after the week they've had. They showed me a lot by sticking

**Earle Bruce Is Carried Across Field By His Players After Win Over UM**

together and playing as a team. You talk about coming back from adversity, coming back from almost disaster. Most certainly they're made of the right stuff."

BRUCE WAS IN the mood for fun. It didn't even bother him when, without his knowledge, the players put on the headbands after running into the stadium prior to the opening kickoff.

"You know I don't believe in headbands, but I didn't see them until they went on the field," Bruce said. "But being the last game, I guess you've got to let your hair down a little bit."

Bruce wanted to talk about the game but media persistence angled the conversation to his firing. He was emotionally drained.

"I have a hole in my stomach. I guess I've had a knot there all week," Bruce said. "How do you go from this?"

HE GOES WITH what he calls his greatest win at Ohio State.

"Absolutely, with the things that have happened this week, it's the greatest," he said. "Oh golly, we've had some great victories at Ohio State."

Bruce, lifting a page out of his mentor Woody Hayes' book, focused

directly on the silver lining of the week's trauma.

"Every now and then the lessons you learn on the football field come back. And when you get knocked down and hit real hard — if you stay down — that's sad," Bruce lectured. "When you try to teach that to your kids, how can you not do that when it happens to you?"

"You can't always be taken back by the fact you got hit. You can get hit, (but) you've got to do something about it. You can't fold up. I hope every one of our kids learned a little lesson today about coming back. I don't want any wimps on the football field. You don't want any guys who aren't going to fight."

THE PLAYERS Bruce coached in 1987 could best be classified as survivors. Having been told they would not play in a bowl game regardless of the outcome against Michigan, the Buckeyes stormed back after being dominated statistically in the first half. In doing so, the Buckeyes finished the season with a 6-4-1 record. Michigan, heading for the Hall of Fame Bowl, finished 7-4.

Michigan, behind Jamie Morris' 112 yards rushing in the first half, scored on its first three possessions and rolled

up 283 yards by halftime. The Buckeyes, meanwhile, might as well have spent the first 25 minutes in the locker room, as they netted only 30 yards in that span. But a 61-yard touchdown drive following a Wolves fumble set the tone for the comeback.

The second half was a reversal of the first, as the Bucks amassed 253 total yards while holding Michigan to 91. A five-yard flare pass from quarterback Tom Tupa to tailback Carlos Snow, who ran the final 65 yards for a TD gave the Bucks their first lead of the game, 14-13, with 12:27 left in the third quarter. The Bucks never trailed again, though Michigan did tie the score at 20 late in the third quarter.

"I knew they were going to play well. They were going to play hard," Bruce said. "I was a little worried when the score was 13-0 but I knew they were going to try. And that's all you can ask of a football team."

BRUCE OFFERED lots of praise and, appropriately, began with himself.

"I love the young men I've been associated with and I want to tell you that I've done a great job handling that

Continued On Page 8

**BSB's Final
Weekly Issue**

This is the final weekly issue of Buckeye Sports Bulletin for the 1987 football season. Our next issue will be published in mid-December and we will return to a weekly schedule in January.

The entire staff of Columbus Sports Publications wishes you a very happy holiday season. We look forward to serving you in the coming year.

Santa Spielman Delivers Gift For Bruce

By Stephanie Ewert

Santa Claus visited Michigan Stadium Nov. 21 as the Buckeyes defeated the Wolverines, 23-20, but he wasn't wearing his traditional red suit. This Santa wore red high-top shoes, gray, blood-stained pants, and number 36 on his white jersey.

He is also known as senior OSU linebacker Chris Spielman.

Spielman had a gift for his coach, Earle Bruce, who was fired Nov. 16. And Spielman delivered.

"I was thinking of the firing all week," Spielman said. "I felt so bad for Coach Bruce. We're pretty close. But it was done. He was fired. What are you going to do? I think Coach Bruce doesn't want to get any of his players involved. But he knows, and I told him, anything I can do for him in the future I'd be more than happy to oblige."

"The only thing he told me to do was go out and win the football game. I felt I did my part. I'm with him all the way and I have been since August 1984. He's my coach and he will always be my coach."

Spielman did his part, leading the Buckeye defense with 16 tackles, including one quarterback sack for a nine-yard loss. Bruce has labeled the All-American "the best football player" he's ever coached. But Spielman didn't want the attention. He enjoyed watching as the fans rushed onto the field as time ran out and Bruce was hoisted on the shoulders of the players.

"I felt so satisfied and happy for Coach Bruce. I tried to get out of there," Spielman explained. "I didn't want people coming up to me. It was his last time as a Buckeye, and I wanted him to savor every second, every millisecond."

"That was kind of like Christmas when you give somebody a present and you see the joy on their face. That was satisfaction enough for me. That made my year to see how happy he was."

In the Buckeye locker room, Spielman presented two game balls, one each to Bruce and Rick Bay, who resigned as OSU's athletic director when Bruce was fired.

"I think those two deserve it the most," he said. "With the integrity, the motivation and the drive to get ready for this football game, the footballs have to go to them because they are true Ohio State people. And it's unfortunate some people don't see it that way."

Spielman said the distractions prior to the season finale did not change the coaching staff's game philosophy.

"I think he (Bruce) coached his rear end off. The credit goes to all the coaches," he explained. "Coach Bruce wasn't the only one who got fired. All the coaches coached a super game. They did a great job during the week to prepare us and not be pounded by what happened. It shows a lot of class, a lot of maturity. They could have easily said 'hell with you guys, we need jobs.' They didn't. They got us prepared to play Michigan."

The 1987 football season marked Spielman's toughest year of competition. But closing the season with a victory over Michigan eased the pain.

"I feel great, but I'm happy and sad," said Spielman, who was named a Kodak All-American. "I'm happy we won the football game, and I'm sad that I'll never play another down for Ohio State."

"I'm so proud of this football team. I'm especially proud of Coach Bruce. For a man to have went through what he went through, and get his team prepared to play Michigan is a sign of a true Buckeye. He's not a 'yes' man. And he might not have all the charisma, or all the personality, but there's not a better coach in the country. I think he proved that today."

Spielman said Bruce's firing will not tarnish his feelings for Ohio State University.

"I think the way it was handled was not very good, right before the biggest game of the year," he said. "I love Ohio State and I always will love Ohio State. I have nothing against the university. If you want to coach here, you should love it. And hopefully, I'll coach here."

A coaching position for Spielman will hopefully follow an NFL career, he said. And the end of this season doesn't mean a break for the Massillon, Ohio, native.

"I'm just going to work out (starting Nov. 23) and get ready for what I have to get ready for. Hopefully I'll have a



Chris Spielman

future in the NFL. Anyone who plays football and wears helmets — I'll go to. I'm not going to sit here and say I'm not going to show up if (the right) somebody doesn't pick me. I'm ready."

Ohio State's career leading solo tackler, with 283, earned many accolades during his four years but knows it's time to take the next step.

"They've been exciting," said Spielman as he reflected. "I've had some ups and downs, mostly ups. I can't second-guess anything. It was great. I loved playing here. But at the same time I know it's time for me to move on, and time for somebody else to come up and enjoy the things I have enjoyed."

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White Filled With Mixed Emotions

By Stephanie Ewert

Following Ohio State's 29-27 loss to Iowa Nov. 14, senior cornerback William White insisted he would not finish his Buckeye career on a losing note.

Midway through the second quarter of the season finale against Michigan, the Wolverines jumped out to a 13-0 lead. But White was not deterred.

"I had a bitter taste in my mouth after losing three games in a row," White said. "And to lose a fourth game, I just said there's no way that's going to happen. When we were down 13-0, I just told the fellows we were going to come back and win. And we did win because we shut them down in the second half."

By intermission the Bucks managed to dent the scoreboard, capping a 61-yard drive with a four-yard Tom Tupa touchdown pass to split end Everett Ross. For the half, the Bucks managed only 91 yards total offense while the Wolverines rolled for 283, including tailback Jamie Morris' 112 yards rushing.

But in the second half the Bucks held the Wolves to only 91 yards total offense and a touchdown. Meanwhile the OSU offense added 253 yards and 16 points, including 13 in the third quarter, to give the Buckeyes the 23-20 victory.

"At halftime the defensive coach said we weren't making our plays and we had too many missed tackles," said White, who had three tackles. "We were in the right defense, but it's up to us to make the tackles. With a back like Morris, he's going to make you miss. He (defensive coach Gary Blackney) said we needed another second half like Michigan State (68 total yards allowed). Coach Bruce came in and said 'tackle them with your heart.'"

There was another incentive driving White to hold the Wolverines in the



William White

second half — Bruce's untimely firing Nov. 16.

"The seniors and Coach Bruce could not ever go out on a losing note," White explained. "So we took a gut check and went out there the second half and gave it all we had. Missing tackles is mental. The coaches say if you're playing golf and you say it's going in on a nine-foot putt, it's going in. So, if you say a guy is going down, he'll go down. It's all within your heart."

White said even with the victory, Bruce had to be feeling discontent.

"This is a real sad moment for him and the university," White said. "Most of us are thinking about winning, but right now, he basically has to look for another job. I think he's an excellent coach. They (university officials) talk about his charisma. They hired him to coach a team and win games. He's shown that by winning 75 percent of his games. More than that, he's concerned with us going to classes and graduating. All around he's a very caring person."

For sophomore safety David Brown, the Michigan game was "everything."

"I don't think next month I'll think of something that will top this," Brown exclaimed. "When we came into the locker room after the game, I just had to sit and wonder. It's the greatest feeling — to overcome everything we've been through. We knew what was happening (Bruce's firing) and this wasn't the first time we fought through adversity."

"You can think of the two losses last year (to begin the season) and then the nine straight we won. So, playing with those guys we had, we had the feeling that something good was going to happen."

Something good happened to Brown in the third quarter when he intercepted Demetrius Brown's pass, intended for John Kolesar, at the OSU 49. Three plays later, Tupa scored on a one-yard sneak to give the Buckeyes a 20-13 lead.

"He (Demetrius Brown) was being pressured, but he threw it up there and I got a jump on the ball," said Brown, who returned the theft 32 yards. "I was thinking nothing but six. If that big guy (6-2, 265-pound offensive guard Michael Dames, who tackled Brown) hadn't been there, I would've had it."

"I'd do anything to help us win. I just loved this game, the whole 60 minutes. It was the greatest."

For White, the '87 season finale provided his career high and low points.

"This is a high spot because it's the greatest thing that's happened to us. Our season didn't always go the way we wanted," he said. "Coming out here and beating Michigan at Michigan is the greatest thing in the world."

"But it's kind of sad because Coach Bruce isn't going to be back. But right now I'm the happiest person in the world."

Buckeyes All Smiles After Michigan Win

By Ken Halloy

"All of the things that have happened this year, all of the games we didn't win this year and all that happened this past week makes today worthwhile," said a grinning Tom Tupa.

Tupa's was only one of many smiles in the Ohio State locker room following the 23-20 win over Michigan in Ann Arbor Nov. 21. The media was treated to the first postgame smiles in four weeks, as the Bucks gave a going away present to fired coach Earle Bruce. The Bucks end the season with a 6-4-1 record, 4-4 in the Big Ten.

The win earned Ohio State an invitation to play in the Sun Bowl on Christmas Day, but new athletic director Jim Jones declined the bid after consulting with university president Edward Jennings.

The week's events gave the game an anticlimactic setting going in, but the two rivals knocked heads in typically clean, hard-hitting style.

Michigan delivered most of the blows in the first half, before the Buckeyes retaliated in the final 30 minutes, as Matt Frantz dealt the knockout punch — a 26-yard field goal that broke a 20-20 tie with 5:18 left.

Considering the Buckeyes' luck in recent weeks, many considered Iowa's last-second TD pass that beat OSU a week earlier, fitting. Against Michigan, the Buckeyes found justice.

The Buckeye offense, maligned much of the season, put together a 77-

yard, 15-play drive, consuming 6:45, to set up Frantz's game-winner.

And Tupa, who has taken the heavy heat for the offensive decline, ended his OSU career with his best quarterbacking performance of the year. He completed 18 of 26 passes for 219 yards and two touchdowns. Tupa did not throw an interception.

The possibility of a fourth straight loss for OSU appeared very real in the first half as Michigan, behind 112 yards rushing by tiny tailback Jamie Morris, scored on its first three possessions and jumped out to a 13-0 lead.

After the Buckeyes punted following the opening kickoff, Michigan marched 73 yards in seven plays, capped by a one-yard TD dive by Morris. Morris picked up 29 yards on five carries in the drive and fullback Jarrod Bunch picked up 39 yards on a screen pass from quarterback Demetrius Brown near the left sideline.

Following another Tupa punt, Michigan went 55 yards in 10 plays, capped by Mike Gillette's 34-yard field goal on the first play of the second quarter, for a 10-0 reading.

After three downs and out for the Buckeye offense, Michigan waltzed 58 yards in 10 plays, but was thwarted after failing on three attempts from the Buckeye five-yard line. Gillette's 19-yard chip shot completed the Wolves' first half scoring at 5:49 in the second quarter.



Zack Dumas (21) Nails UM's Demetrius Brown

The Buckeye offense, meanwhile, in Bruce's words "spit and sputtered," rummaging for only 30 yards and two first downs in the first 25 minutes. The big break came for Ohio State when Bunch fumbled on Michigan's next possession and OSU outside linebacker Mike McCray recovered at the Buckeye 39 with 4:44 left in the half.

Ten plays later, Tupa, rolling left, tossed a four-yard TD pass to a twisting Everett Ross. Tupa completed all six of his passes in the drive for 52 yards, including completions of 16 and 13 yards to Ross. Matt Frantz's placement cut the lead to 13-7 and the Buckeyes were back in business in a game, in which statistically, they had no business being.

But statistics can be deceiving. Just consider Ohio State's second score, which gave it the lead early in the third quarter. Tupa is given credit for a 70-yard touchdown pass on a completion he actually threw only five yards. The recipient, Carlos Snow, took Tupa's flare near the left sideline, broke loose between two defenders and with the help of an outstanding block by Ross raced to the end zone. Snow made a nifty stutter and cut inside near the Wolves 20 to elude safety Doug Mallory. Frantz made it 14-13 with only 2:28 elapsed in the second half.

The teams then exchanged punts before OSU safety David Brown intercepted Brown's pass over the middle and returned it 32 yards to the Michigan 19. Brown was hit hard as he released the pass.

Three plays later, Tupa snuck over from the one for the score at 7:11 in the third quarter. Tupa and flanker Vince Workman hooked up for 15 yards near

the left sideline preceding Tupa's sneak. Frantz then missed wide left on the conversion, keeping the spread at seven points. It was Frantz's first miss in his Buckeye career after making a school record 52 consecutive PATs.

Michigan responded, driving 46 yards for the tying score after Snow fumbled on a dive off left tackle. Backup fullback Leroy Hoard bulled the final 11 yards for the touchdown, breaking several tackles in the process. Gillette's conversion knotted the score with 1:14 left in the third.

Wide open offense ruled in the quarter. There were nine possession changes in all. The Buckeyes showed numerous offensive sets, including utilizing two men in motion out of the robust formation. For the game, Tupa passed 10 times on 17 first down plays.

Michigan coach Bo Schembechler even called for, and Monte Robbins perfectly executed, a fake punt in the quarter. Robbins scooted 25 yards down the left sideline for a first down at the Buckeye 37 on a fourth-and-five play. Brown, however, fumbled two plays later.

The OSU defense limited Michigan to 91 total yards in the second half, as Morris gained only 18 more yards on eight carries after intermission.

Ohio State's winning drive was flawless. Tupa completed four of five passes for 30 yards, including a nine-yard bullet to Ross at the Michigan 12-yard line.

However, Tupa's backup, freshman Greg Frey, delivered a stinging blow when he came off the bench for one play and hit Workman with a perfect lead pass, good for 19 yards to the Michigan 18. More impressive was the fact the play came on a third-and-nine.

Frey was called into action when Tupa was hit hard on the preceding play. Tupa returned after Frey's completion. Four plays later, Frantz gave the Buckeyes the lead for good.

Michigan had one last chance, moving the ball to the Buckeye 47 on its next possession, but Hoard fumbled and OSU's Eric Kumerow recovered with 4:15 left.

The Buckeye offense then ran all but the final nine seconds off the clock, as they drove to the Michigan one-yard line before turning the ball over on downs.

And as Brown's ill-fated bomb fell incomplete on the last play of the game, Bruce was lifted on the shoulders of his players.

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Frantz Finds Revenge Against Michigan

By Ken Halloy

Matt Frantz was given words of inspiration by OSU president Ed Jennings the day before the annual Buckeye-Wolverine showdown.

"I saw him (Jennings) on campus and he told me that he wanted us to go out and do the job," Frantz explained. "And if he wanted us to get pumped up, he told me to tell everybody on defense to think of his face on the other side of the ball," Frantz said. "And I think that's what we did in the second half."

Ohio State overcame a 13-7 halftime deficit to beat Michigan, 23-20, and Frantz provided the game-winner, a 26-yard field goal with 5:18 left. Frantz admitted catching a glimpse of Jennings' visage on the ball as he was about to score the game's final points.

"It felt good. I hit it good," Frantz grinned. "We went through a living hell this week because of everything that's happened. It's obvious no one thought about the players and coaches when they made the decisions they did."

It was that kind of a postgame interview — the players being drilled about the week's happenings. The win seemed secondary in nature, other than sending coach Earle Bruce off with an OSU career-ending win.

For Frantz, the 26-year-old served as a means of atonement. He missed a 45-yard field goal against Michigan last year in the game's waning moments in a 26-24 loss.

"I had a good feeling all week about kicking in this game. Everybody knows what this game means to me because of last season's game," he

said. "I've just been concentrating so well this whole week about what I had to do to help this team beat Michigan. That field goal did it. I've just kept my head into it all week."

Frantz lost his head on an extra point for the first time in his Buckeye career in the third quarter, thus making his fourth quarter boot essential. After the Buckeyes scored a touchdown on a one-yard sneak by quarterback Tom Tupa to increase the lead to 20-13, Frantz pulled the conversion attempt to the left. It ended a streak of 52 consecutive extra points — a school record.

"I don't even know what happened on that," Frantz said. "But I know every time I watch a game on TV and see someone miss an extra point, someone says how it's going to come back to haunt them. That was haunting me a little bit, and then some of the assistant coaches came up and said 'don't even think about it. A field goal's going to win the game.' And it did."

The kick was no more difficult than an extra point, Frantz said.

"There was a little bit of wind, but before the game I was kicking fine from both ends of the stadium," he said. "When I went out to kick it I didn't even think about the wind because I knew I had the leg to get it in."

It appeared the Buckeyes would add insurance points after driving 47 yards to the Michigan one-yard line in the final four minutes. The Buckeyes failed to score and turned the ball over on downs, following dive plays on third and fourth downs.

But the final score of 23-20 didn't bother Frantz. At all.

"I was being a little bit selfish towards the end of the game when we got down to the goal line. He (Bruce) asked me if I wanted to kick another one (field goal on fourth down). I'm confident I would have made it but I'm glad we didn't go for it," said Frantz, who also made his first career kickoff after his game-winner.

The win did not seem to completely soothe the sting of last season's miss against the Wolverines or the events surrounding Bruce's firing, the senior said.

"Everybody asks me if it takes the sting away, but I haven't even thought of it that way. This was the game for me," he said. "All of the coaches told us to think of this as our bowl game, so this was the bowl game for Ohio State."

As for the team mood when hearing earlier in the week that the seniors and the coaches would be involved in their last game, Frantz said the win over Michigan was inevitable. It had to be.

"We were shocked. Of course there's always talk about losing a coach when you lose a couple of games, but everybody thought because of the fine past he's had at Ohio State and the big wins that we've had like Texas A&M, it wouldn't happen," he said. "It's still a touchy situation with everybody on the team because of what we had to go through this week. But the coaches did such a great job of helping us put that into the back of our minds and think about the Michigan game. I'm just thankful we won."



Matt Frantz

The postgame celebration will continue for several weeks to come, Frantz said, because the Buckeyes had overcome adversity few thought they were capable of doing.

"We all wanted to go out and win this last game for ourselves and him (Bruce). He knows that because he wanted to win more than anyone else," Frantz said. "He just said he's never been more proud of a football team in his whole life."

"We feel the same about him." The issue of Bruce's firing still isn't settled, and some have speculated Bruce may somehow be pacing the Buckeye sidelines again next year. That's what Frantz would like to see, but he isn't sure if that's likely.

"I don't know, but if he isn't it's a hell of a way to go out."

Holliman Savors Win

By Stephanie Ewert

As a Buckeye, Ray Holliman has traveled to the Fiesta, Rose, Citrus and Cotton bowls. However, in his final season there will not be a postseason trip for Holliman and his teammates.

But the defensive tackle played his bowl game this year and left the university a winner when Ohio State defeated Michigan, 23-20, in Ann Arbor Nov. 21.

The Michigan game has always been a bowl game for Holliman, a Holland, Mich., native. But the 1987 classic took on special meaning when OSU coach Earle Bruce was fired Nov. 16.

"I was fired up because anytime I come to play Michigan it's for my bragging rights and pride," Holliman explained. "Then with how the season was going (The Bucks entered 5-4-1), I really wanted to end it on a good note. I wanted to leave Ohio State with a good

feeling, and I can't get any better feeling than beating Michigan."

"With the firing of Coach Bruce, I think we just wanted to put one back in the university's eye, and show them that they might be losing a good coach."

A damper fell on Michigan week practices, making concentration difficult, Holliman said.

"I've been around here five years and I know how Michigan week is, and it didn't feel like Michigan week," he said. "We just had to try to fire ourselves up and show the university maybe what they did wasn't the right thing to do."

For Holliman, who had three tackles against the Wolverines, only the 21-6 victory over Michigan in '84 for the Rose Bowl berth could compare to the '87 Michigan game.

Although Holliman said he will always be a Buckeye, the university officials' handling of firing Bruce damages his image of the university.

"I think it shows you that sometimes in life you can't trust people," Holliman said. "The university might say one thing and do something else. People who you think are high class, and you think Ohio State is a very classy place, might not be as classy as you thought they were."

"I will always remember what they did to my senior year. Maybe some of the scars and wounds will be healed (in the future), but right now I'm going to leave the university with a bad taste in my mouth for some of the people here. It's very disappointing."

But Holliman, a criminology major, will graduate this spring and move on. "I'll see what the pro scouts have to say and go with the flow."



Ray Holliman

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GOBUCKS! GOBUCKS!

Bruce Sues Jennings On Slander Charges

By Ken Halloy

Earle Bruce will not give up his coaching job without a fight.

Bruce is suing The Ohio State University and President Edward H. Jennings for almost \$7.5 million, saying he was wrongfully fired and slandered by Jennings. Of that total, Bruce is seeking \$5 million from Jennings.

John S. Zonak, Bruce's attorney, filed the suit in Franklin County Common Pleas Court Nov. 20, the day before the Michigan game.

Only about five hours after the win over the Wolverines, Bruce held a press conference.

"I am not a wimp. Coaching is my life," Bruce said. "What would you do?"

The nine-page suit accuses Jennings of acting "maliciously . . . and in a wanton and reckless manner" in his firing of Bruce Nov. 16. It also accuses Jennings of breach of contract. Bruce just completed his second year of a three-year contract which guarantees him \$87,120 annually.

Jennings' "intentional, malicious . . . statements and implications also indicated that the plaintiff (Bruce) was too old for the position of head football coach and that a younger head football coach would better suit the image of The Ohio State University," the suit states.

Also, the president's actions "caused the plaintiff and his family to be outraged, subjected to humiliation, shame, anxiety, grief and rage, and further caused severe mental and physical distress," the suit says.

Jennings is also accused of voicing "slanderous and libelous untrue statements to others regarding the good reputation of the plaintiff."

Though Jennings has publicly stated the decision to fire Bruce was his alone, the suit also states that "Jennings wrongfully yielded to two small pressure groups in an effort to protect his own personal interests."

At the press conference, Bruce and Zonak talked about the suit to all the media except *The Columbus Dispatch* and WBNS-TV, both owned by the Wolfe family of Columbus.

Bruce and Zonak blame a contract dispute the coach had with WBNS-TV as the reason the Wolfe family allegedly coerced Jennings into firing Bruce.

An editorial appearing in the *Dispatch* Nov. 18 supported Jennings' decision to fire Bruce.

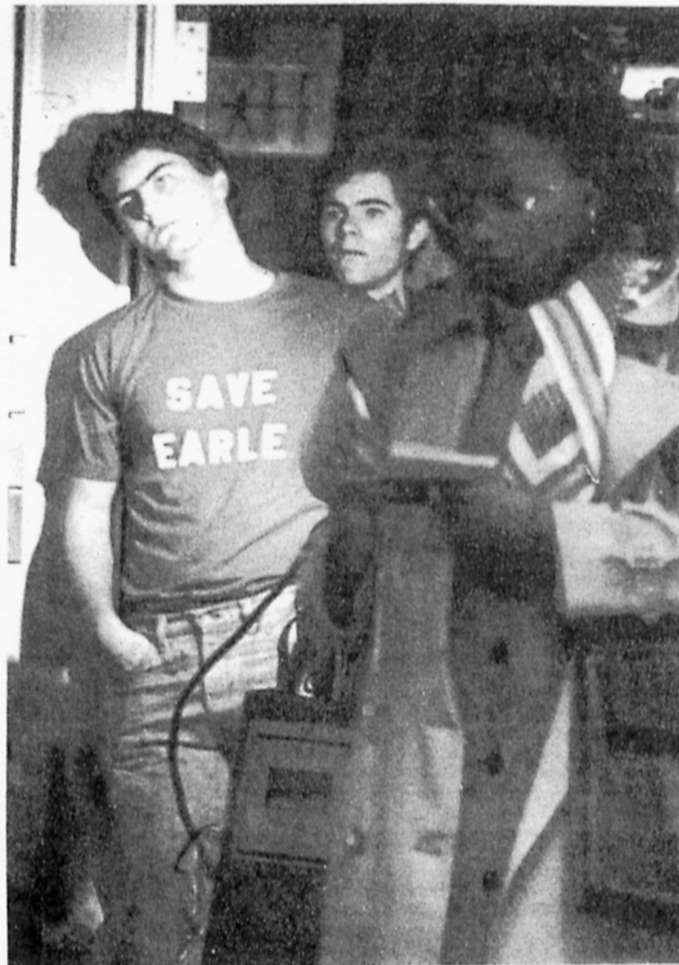
"During his nine years as head coach, Bruce failed to appreciate the university's goals or to realize what the university expected of him," the editorial stated. "His view of his position was incompatible with the view shared by the university and the community. He failed to engender good will for the institution. He failed to subordinate his personal interests to those of the university. He failed to develop civic ties that would enable him to extend the university's influence in constructive ways into many segments of the community."

Jennings has denied receiving outside pressure in firing Bruce.

The above-mentioned protection of Jennings' personal interests has sent rumors flying. Zonak said Bruce was fired because the coach did not approve of Jennings' personal lifestyle.

"I do not know what the reasons are for the president's behavior," Zonak said. "I can only speculate it's due to excessive drinking."

Zonak was unhappy with Ohio Gov. Richard F. Celeste's reported comments in Des Moines, Iowa, Nov. 18, that Bruce was fired because he frequented the race track and had improperly handled the gambling problems of former OSU quarterback Art Schlichter. Zonak said his comments about Jennings were made in the same light as Celeste's about Bruce. Celeste has indicated that his remarks, made in an informal setting, were purely speculation on his part.



Bruce Followers Came Out Of Closet Too Late

Zonak's comments forced Jennings to call a press conference Nov. 21, at which Jennings read a prepared statement saying he would not respond to the personal attacks of Bruce's lawyer.

Edmund C. Redman, chairman of the board of trustees, also read a prepared statement at the conference.

"The personal attacks made against president Edward Jennings and The Ohio State University by Earle Bruce and his attorney in the last 24 hours are shocking, given the leadership President Jennings has provided Ohio State during the last six years," Redman said.

Redman said he consulted with other board members and "on their behalf wish to assert our support . . . Edward Jennings is one of the outstanding university presidents in America. His accomplishments during the past six years are unequaled," Redman said.

Redman and Jennings refused to answer questions.

In the lawsuit, Zonak is also asking the court to order the OSU board of trustees to turn over minutes of its meetings dating to May 1986. He also wants Jennings' personal and financial records, and university employment records and personnel files pertaining to Jennings.

Lastly, Zonak has asked for the deposition of Barbara Real, who was recently divorced and is the director of Ohio State's regional fund-raising campaign.

Zonak said Nov. 22 that Real is known to be a companion to the university president. *The (Cleveland) Plain Dealer* reported Nov. 23 that Jennings, who is separated from his

wife, and Real were to travel to London Nov. 24 for a nine-day vacation, according to the Trans World Airline reservation line. The airline confirmed, the evening of Nov. 23, Real and Jennings were "traveling as a party of two," the *Plain Dealer* reported.

On the morning of Nov. 24, the airline reservations had been cancelled, the *Cleveland paper* confirmed.

Zonak denied asking for Real's deposition for harassment purposes.

"Her personal life has nothing to do with the lawsuit. I want files and records she has in her possession," the *Plain Dealer* quoted Zonak as saying.

Zonak hasn't hidden his feelings about Jennings.

"The man is a weakling," Zonak told the *Plain Dealer*.

Bruce, in response, has asked Zonak to ease speculation about Jennings' private life, and Zonak has obliged, the paper reported.

In another development, Columbus lawyer Philip D. Cameron filed Nov. 23 for a temporary restraining order to prevent the university from hiring a replacement football coach. The request was denied, but Franklin County Common Pleas Judge William T. Gillie scheduled a hearing next month on Cameron's request for an injunction against Ohio State.

In a letter to Jennings, Cameron said Bruce's firing was a waste of taxpayers' money and embarrassing to the university.

Said Cameron in the letter, "Your actions, apparently taken with some degree of support from (the) board of trustees, amounts to administrative meddling and deliberate interference with the performance of Mr. Bruce's contract."

Bruce Wins In Finale

Continued From Page 1

football team, not only on the field but off the field," he said. "We've had some great scholar athletes at Ohio State, great graduation rates since I've been there. Plus, we've had a program with a lot of integrity."

And then there was Rick Bay, who resigned in protest of Bruce being fired.

"I've met no man in my whole life like Rick Bay. It's unbelievable the courage that man has. I wanted to hit him back when the Cris Carter incident happened, but he stuck by his guns when the NCAA said they might look at the possibility of restoring his eligibility," Bruce said. "But he was right. He's a super, super human being. He's the kind of guy I would like to be associated with in anything. I'd take him into a foxhole and we could fight the world."

THEY PRETTY much had to do that off the field. And leading the fight on the field was All-American linebacker Chris Spielman, who tackled Wolverines 16 times, including 14 solos.

"The greatest player I've ever coached is Chris Spielman. He runs to

the football, he hits you, he plays hard on every play," Bruce said.

Bruce and Bay were presented game balls by the players. Jennings, who attended the game, did not make an appearance in the locker room afterward. If he had, he would have heard nary a word from Bruce.

"I don't think President Jennings would be here," Bruce said when asked what he might say to the president if he were there. "I think that would be personal and I don't think we'd be doing much talking."

BRUCE WAS ASKED what he thought about the idea of a university president firing a football coach over the athletic director's head.

"That's his prerogative. I'm a lifetime member of the Ohio State alumni association, so watch out," he joked.

For the moment, everything could remain a joking matter. The Bruce era had ended amidst controversy, some even speculating he would somehow return to coach the Buckeyes in 1988.

"I don't know how that could happen," he replied at the possibility of again being a Buckeye next year. "I'll always be a Buckeye, though. This (win) is one for the Buckeyes. God bless them. I love them."

Big Ten Coaches Dismayed By Decision

By Ken Halloy

Bo Schembechler calls Earle Bruce's firing "ridiculous" and says that Woody Hayes would be "disappointed in his university." Don Morton says it's "tragic," Mike White declares it "very unfair" and Hayden Fry doesn't want to say anything because "I'll have to clean up my language."

Not even 24 hours had passed and the nation was buzzing about the sudden firing of nine-year OSU coach Earle Bruce. Lack of reasoning from OSU president Edward H. Jennings and the notion that Bruce's dismissal was based on his poor public image had the Big Ten coaches scratching their heads in sympathy and disgust.

"This is a sad day for college football," Schembechler said. "Earle Bruce coached with honesty and integrity. His record speaks for itself and this will not detract from his reputation as an outstanding coach."

Only a day earlier Schembechler joked that if Bruce was fired, "I'll take the athletic directorship at Michigan and hire him (Bruce)." Schembechler was in no laughing mood when the joke became reality.

"That (Woody Hayes) was the first thing I thought of, and I think his reaction would have been disappointment in his university. The thing that happened down there used to happen frequently before Woody went there," Schembechler said. "I recall going in there with him as a graduate assistant in 1951 and how everybody called that the graveyard of coaches. Woody changed all of that. He was tough and stood up to them and consequently turned it into the great job it is today."

"And Earle has come in there and done an outstanding job. He's a great football coach. He's done it with honesty, integrity and has done everything a top football coach should do. The whole thing is ridiculous. I would think by now Earle has proven himself as a great coach."

The other coaches seemed to express more disbelief than anything. Fry knows what Bruce is going through firsthand. Fry was fired as coach at SMU in 1972, though the Mustangs finished only a half game out of first place in the Southwest Conference.

Noteworthy is that Jennings, as the University of Iowa vice-president, and athletic director Bump Elliot hired Fry in 1979. "I respect Ed Jennings," Fry said. "He's a businessman, a management man. He's very tough and it's my understanding he's had quite a few people change positions at Ohio State since he's been there. I do know that one man does not make a decision for a university. Ed Jennings merely acted as the figurehead. I don't think it was his decision completely."

Still, Fry couldn't begin to grasp any possible reasoning behind the decision to fire Bruce.

"I have no idea what motivated the people that fired Earle. They have a right to hire a man and fire a fella. They are the employer. But other than that, I think every coach in America has the same feeling at this time for Coach Bruce and his staff, and that's one of sympathy," Fry said. "Coach Bruce is one of the class coaches in college football. He's a class gentleman and that's all I'm going to say because I'm afraid I'll have to clean up my language."

Wisconsin's Morton picked up where Fry left off.

"I think it's very tragic for the profession, for college football and it's going to be a very tragic situation for



Bo Schembechler

the Ohio State University," Morton said. "We talk about integrity, we talk about graduation rates, about not cheating and Earle Bruce's record is impeccable."

Morton said whether the charge against Bruce is his image or record, it proves false on either count.

"The one thing you realize is that there is no coach who can live up to the expectations of a naive public," he said. "It's great that Bear Bryant broke Amos Alonzo Stagg's record (for wins), but someone in his career in the administration stood up when the public wanted to fire him. Every coach goes through it."

"By every criteria Earle Bruce is at the peak of his profession. Then you read in the Columbus papers, the Ohio papers, and they keep talking about a charismatic young coach. Well, what the heck is charisma? Charisma is the result of effective coaching, not the other way around."

Besides, Morton said, Ohio State knew what they were getting when they hired Bruce in 1979.

"What is this, a beauty contest? They didn't hire Rock Hudson and all of a sudden he became Telly Savalas," Morton said. "They knew, but they hired a proven winner. They hired a person with integrity. I think it's a real dangerous situation and it's certainly a black mark against Ohio State."

Illinois' White agrees with Morton.

"It's very unfair," White explained. "In any business, there has to be criteria for success. In this case I don't see any area he didn't measure up to. The won-lost record is better than anybody's in the conference," White said. "He's done the job we'd all love to be doing ourselves. I don't see how it can be justified."

Michigan State coach George Perles was under fire early in the season, but received the support of the administration, as he was assured his job wasn't in jeopardy. That assurance made a difference, Perles said. Michigan State is playing in the Rose Bowl Jan. 1.

"They said it quite clear and there was no problem. I didn't have to be concerned. You have to have the backing," Perles said. "I have great compassion for Earle, for his wife and kids."

Perles said he realized Bruce's boat had been rocking for some time.

"It's been tough following a legend," the MSU coach said. "It's been tough on him and his family for a few years, and of no fault of his. But the good news is, the biggest problem he has right now is picking the job that's offered to him. I'm sure he'll have a lot of opportunities."



Hayden Fry

Purdue coach Fred Akers faced a similar situation to Bruce's at the University of Texas, where he was fired at the end of last season. Akers compiled an 86-32-1 record in 10 years at Texas, but was given the boot when last year's team struggled to a 5-6 record.

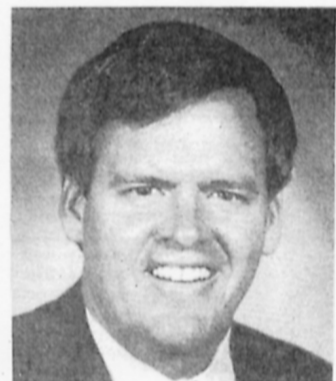
Akers said his not hanging around the right "downtown" people may have proved his downfall, as could be the case now with Bruce.

"I met the masses, but I didn't meet the right individuals. Things have changed in the last 20 years. There isn't as much loyalty among the institutions now," he said. "And I'm disappointed for Earle's sake. He's a fine football coach and a fine man."

Indiana coach Bill Mallory can also sympathize from experience. He was fired as coach at the University of Colorado after posting a five-year record of 36-21. Colorado was Big Eight co-champion in 1976, Mallory's third season, but he was fired after a 6-5 record two years later.

"It's definitely wrong, and unfortunately it's something we've seen before. But Earle Bruce is the top of the line in coaching," Mallory said. "I don't understand this at all. Ohio State does not look very good in the nation's eyes at all today."

There's no need to express support for Bruce, said Minnesota coach John Gutekunst.



Don Morton

"I don't need to speak for Earle. He can do that and his record certainly does that," Gutekunst said. "It's sometimes fitting when you keep hearing the remark, there are two kinds of coaches—those that are going to get fired and are fired. That doesn't make it right."

"It's just sad because I have all the respect in the world for Earle Bruce, and one of the reasons I wanted to be a coach is because of Bo Schembechler, Lou Holtz and my college coach, Bill Murray. Earle Bruce certainly fits into that category."

Winning over the support of the community is something Northwest-ern coach Francis Peay worked hard to do. Now in his second year, Peay has earned the support and says he realizes every coach is only as good as the people standing behind him.

"There are a lot of wrong things that happen in college athletics these days, and this is one of the worst and one of the saddest," Peay said. "It's a shame because he obviously didn't have the support he deserves. There's something really wrong here."

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The View From 15th and High

By Frank L. Moskowitz, BSB Publisher

Show Of Support For Bruce Was Late In Arriving

I'm confused.

From the time we arrived at the BSB office on Monday, Nov. 16, until 4:30 p.m. that afternoon, we fielded dozens of phone calls. Each of the callers asked virtually the same thing, the same thing that callers and letter-writers had been asking for weeks, the same thing callers and letter-writers had been asking for virtually the entire seven years we've been in business.

"When," the callers would ask, "is Earle Bruce going to be fired?"

And then, at 4:30 on Monday afternoon, a strange thing happened. We received a barrage of phone calls protesting the firing of Earle Bruce. We turned on the TV and sportscasters, who had belittled Ohio State's ninth-year coach on many occasions, were making impassioned commentaries in his defense. We walked out into the hall and our neighbors, who used to berate us about "Ol' 9-3 Earle," were bending our ears about how a coach shouldn't be fired after just one "bad" season.

Where were all these Earle Bruce supporters before?

BSB reader Craig Domsitz of Houghton Lake, Mich., dropped us a note to take me to task — saying that while I did run "a few letters supporting Earle Bruce," I "seemed to enjoy printing as much 'hate' mail" as I could.

Thank you, Craig, for helping me make my point.

BSB always runs pro or con Earle Bruce letters in the proportion in which they are received. We just never received a lot of pro-Earle Bruce letters until this week. Some of you may remember how, in this very column last season, I mentioned that, while we received dozens of letters after Ohio State lost to Alabama and Washington, when the Buckeyes put together a nine-game winning streak we went weeks without receiving even one letter, pro or con. I was amazed.

I've given a lot of thought to this sudden appearance of pro-Earle Bruce sentiment over the last few days.

I think one thing that happened is that in Columbus and throughout Ohio, the Ohio State-Michigan week is sacred. You just don't do anything that will in any way distract Ohio State players from their sole mission that week, their sole mission all season — to beat the Wolverines. Firing the coach before *The Game* is an absolute no-no.

Earle probably got a boost because of the poor timing of the announcement and the accompanying public backlash.

There also may just have been a large, silent group of Earle Bruce supporters out there. And those supporters, through their silence, got what they deserved — the firing of Bruce.

It seems that belittling Earle had become all the rage in Ohio. This silent

mass was too timid to stand up and defend Bruce, and in my mind it was lack of public support that led to his demise. If the people who are speaking up now had stood up to be counted all along, there would have been more enthusiasm for the program, which in turn might have improved recruiting, which in turn might have improved the win-loss record, which, in turn, might have saved Earle Bruce's job.

Though I have been pretty much a supporter of Earle's through the years, I had come to the conclusion that it was time to make a change at Ohio State, not because of anything the Buckeyes had or had not done on the field (and I've had my complaints), but because public support for the coach had so thoroughly eroded.

Or so I (and, perhaps, President Jennings) thought.

THE EVENTS OF the last week have probably added \$100,000 a year onto the next contract that Earle Bruce signs. He is most definitely in line for a job comparable to the one he turned down at Arizona at the start of the year. It's time for Earle to start to think about himself and his family and get a job where he will be appreciated and financially rewarded.

I fully understand his attachment to his alma mater. But when the hubbub over his dismissal subsides, he will realize he had the great fortune to do something very few have done. In fact, more people have been president of the United States than have been an Ohio State football coach. And Bruce leaves the only job he ever really wanted as the third winningest coach in the school's history after serving the third longest tenure. That's something of which he can be very proud.

ALMOST LOST IN all the furor surrounding the Bruce axing was Ohio State's first victory over Michigan in three outings. It was an important win for Bruce, as he leaves OSU with a 5-4 record over his arch-rival, Bo Schembechler.

I've taken Tom Tupa to task in this column when he deserved it this season, and I also want to pass the praise along when it is warranted. The senior quarterback was outstanding against Michigan, and outstanding down the stretch. Over the last three games, Tupa hit on 47 of 72 passes (65.3%), averaging 207 yards passing a game, throwing for five touchdowns and rushing for two more.

To hear Bruce talk, one of the reasons for Tupa's improvement might be more experience on the part of OSU's receivers.

At the Buckeye Boosters Annual Huddle Luncheon before the Michigan game, Bruce indicated that Tupa might have been the most exciting quarterback he had ever coached if receivers Cris Carter and Nate Harris were still on board.

"Young receivers run bad routes, young receivers are bumped out of place and young receivers drop passes," Bruce explained.

"Nate Harris had his best game ever at the Cotton Bowl," Bruce continued. "You should have seen him when he first got here, when the coach would scream at him all the time. You would have thought he would have quit."

Harris, who caught six passes for 105 yards in the Cotton Bowl, hauled in 30

passes overall last year.

One reason for the win over the Wolverines was some Cris Carter-type play out of Everett Ross. Not only did Ross use his athletic ability to make some great catches, *a la* Carter, he also threw the key block on Carlos Snow's 70-yard pass reception. One of the facets of Carter's play often overlooked was his outstanding blocking.

Alex Higdon also had a good block on Snow's big run.

SNOW HAS given every indication he can be one of the most exciting players ever to don the Scarlet and Gray. Michigan safety Doug Mallory is still looking for the athletic supporter Snow faked him out of on his TD gallop.

But Snow must work harder to hang on to the ball. He fumbled nine times this season, losing five.

IT WAS ALSO great to see Ohio State put together several drives against Michigan, similar to the one the Bucks fashioned to almost win the Iowa game.

The Bucks drove 61 yards in 10 plays for their first score. They drove 77 yards in 15 plays to set up Matt Frantz's game-winning field goal. And they held on to the ball for 10 plays, moving the ball 51 yards, before turning the ball over to Michigan on the Wolverine one-yard line with just nine seconds to play.

WHILE I THINK Buckeye followers will take a win over Michigan any way they can get it, I think everyone enjoyed seeing Frantz pick up the winning points. It had to have seemed much longer than a year for the senior kicker between his winning boot this season and the kick he missed in 1986 against Michigan that cost the Bucks a trip to Pasadena.

ONE AREA I felt the Buckeyes hurt themselves this season was with the specialty teams. A check of the stats seems to support me on this.

On kickoffs, Ohio State averaged 17.9 yards a return, while opponents averaged 21.3. On punts, the opposition averaged 11.3 yards a return, while the Bucks had an 8.1 mark.

VETERAN sportscaster Jimmy Crum gave a glowing introduction for Archie Griffin at the Huddle Luncheon, calling the two-time Heisman winner Ohio State's greatest public relations asset.

"I feel like the guy who died and stuck his head out of the grave to read his epitaph," Griffin replied. "Either somebody's quite a liar," the man said, "Or I'm in the wrong hole."

YOU SHOULD have known better, Mike! Former Buckeye quarterback Mike Tomczak cost the Chicago Bears a chance at a last-minute victory over Denver in a recent Monday night game when he lost track of the downs and threw a short pass in a fourth and long yardage situation.

As many Buckeyes fans will remember, Tomczak made a similar mistake in a game at Purdue when he threw the ball out of bounds, trying to stop the clock on a fourth down play, thus turning the ball and the game over to the Boilermakers.

I bet Mike never makes that mistake again!

Buckeye Briefs

The women's swimming team didn't have much luck in a road meet with Cincinnati, bowing to the Bearcats by a 68-45 score. The only winners for the Bucks were senior Shelly Kightlinger, taking the 200 breaststroke in 2:31.13, and senior Karen LaFace in the three-meter diving, scoring 282 points. The 800 freestyle relay team also won, posting a time of 8:19.75.

The swimmers' fortunes weren't much better in a double dual meet in Tempe, Ariz., facing off against Arizona State and UCLA. The Sun Devils beat the Bucks 95-27, and the Bruins won over OSU by a 99-23 score.

Ohio State had just two individual winners, sophomore Mary Jo Moavero in the 200 butterfly (2:05.49), and senior and All-American Janelle Bosse, who won the 400 individual medley (4:28.33).

THE LAST ROAD trip of the season was not kind to the women's volleyball team. The Lady Spikers ventured to Iowa and Minnesota, and came up empty on both occasions.

Iowa defeated the Bucks 15-7, 16-14, 6-15, 9-15, 16-14, and Minnesota won by scores of 15-10, 15-3, 14-16, 15-1.

The losses dropped the team's record to 17-17.

Buckeye volleyballer Holly O'Leary, a freshman from Cincinnati, received Big Ten player of the week honors. O'Leary had 48 kills and 22 digs in Ohio State wins over Northwestern and Wisconsin Nov. 13-14.

AT THE CORNELL Intercollegiate fencing tournament in Ithaca, N.Y., the women's team finished second, behind Rochester, while the men finished last out of six teams.

For the women, junior DeAnn

Dobesh compiled a record of 23-0 at the tourney, and freshman Julie O'Dea went 18-6. Other OSU fencers included juniors Patricia Haas (10-12) and Theresa Locke (10-14), and sophomore Stephanie Fronista (1-2).

On the men's side, in the epee competition, junior Oz Baldessari went 8-7, senior Jim DeBonis went 7-8, and junior Bill Nieberding finished 6-9. In foil, freshman Dave Leviton went 9-6, sophomore Martin Haas finished 3-12, and senior Darrell Cousino concluded at 1-14. In sabre, junior Jim Clark was 5-10, freshman Ken Nieradka went 3-12 and sophomore Ken Billig went 1-14.

THE MEN'S SWIMMING team lost to the University of Cincinnati by a 63-50 score Nov. 20 in Cincinnati.

OSU senior Mark Birnbrich was a double winner, taking the 200 freestyle in 1:42.14, and the 100 freestyle in 48.94. Graduate student Pat Jeffrey won the three-meter diving event, and sophomore Greg Grotke was a victor in the 200 breaststroke, clocking a 2:13.60. The 400 freestyle relay team was also victorious, covering the span in 3:12.41.

TWO OHIO STATE field hockey players have been named to 1987 postseason honors teams. Sophomore Kim Finlayson, who coach Karen Weaver brought to Ohio State from Salisbury State, was named second team All-Big Ten. She led the Bucks in points (15), and tied for the team lead in goals (5) and assists (5).

Junior Beth Senich earned honorable mention honors in the Midwest Region All-American voting. The award is voted on by the College Field Hockey Coaches Association. Senich led OSU with 11 defensive saves.