

BUCKEYE

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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

**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.

Continued On Page 8



# 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 timer 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.' But 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. Anybody 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."



# Ross Angered By 'Ridiculous' Decision

By Ken Halloy

"Why am I at Ohio State?" asked Everett Ross.

"I thought it was to get an education first and win some football games second. I guess I was wrong."

Not exactly the sentiments one would expect to hear from a Buckeye after beating Michigan, 23-20, Nov. 21 in Ann Arbor. Ross had four catches for 43 yards, including a twisting four-yard touchdown reception to give Ohio State its first points of the game with 1:36 left in the first half. Matt Frantz's placement cut the Michigan lead to 13-7.

Ross, named BSB's *Buckeye of the Week*, wasn't in the mood to talk about the win that put an end to Ohio State's three-game losing skid. The junior split end was angry — angry because coach Earle Bruce was fired; angry because of the timing of the situation; angry at having a new coach in 1988; angry because there would be no bowl game for Ohio State; furious because the players would have no say in any of the above.

"Coach Bruce recruited me. I came here because he was more concerned with my education than me playing football. That's the kind of person he is," said the Columbus Eastmoor High product. "He wants to see a person be successful in life rather than be a hero on the football field. I respect him for that. The last thing he told me in the locker room after the game was to make sure I stay in my books and go to all my classes."

Ross was venting frustration held back all week at the request of Bruce. "He wanted us to only think about Michigan, nothing else," Ross noted. "It's been eating me up inside because what happened to Coach Bruce was wrong. Everybody was down and depressed about it."

Irritating Ross the most is that no reason has been given for Bruce's dismissal by university president Ed Jennings.

"I guess alumni weren't pleased with our performance this year and I've seen a lot of things on TV and in the paper that Columbus people are spoiled," he said. "Ohio State hasn't had a losing season in a while. All of a sudden we have one bad season and the coach gets fired."

"I think people need to realize that all the teams in the country are getting better. Everybody's recruiting better personnel and you aren't going to have Michigan and Ohio State on top all the time like you used to. It's just whoever gets the turn of the ball."

Ross said he hasn't seen Jennings since the firing, nor does he want to.

"I don't know if I could face him eye to eye. It's kind of hard to respect somebody who breaks a contract. A contract is supposed to be something that's binding between two people," Ross insisted. "They could have waited until his contract ended next year. They didn't have to fire him."

Ross has heard the possible reasons leading to Bruce's firing and has answers for all of them. One has Bruce linked to former OSU quarterback Art Schlichter's gambling problems.

"If that's the case, why didn't they fire him a long time ago? Why wait 'til now?" Ross asked.

Another reason criticizes Bruce for not being a motivator.

"I think it takes a hell of a man to do what Coach Bruce did this week. He was fired Monday and he could have quit right then and left us without a coach. But he supported us and put our



**Everett Ross And Earle Bruce Embrace After Big Win Over Wolverines**

minds on this football game," Ross said. "After everything we've gone through this week, tell me he isn't a motivator. We just beat Michigan. In my eyes, he's the greatest coach in the world."

Ross said he heard Bruce would have been fired even if the Buckeyes were undefeated going into the Michigan

game.

"Anybody who fires a 10-0 coach has got to be out of their mind," Ross snapped.

Ross isn't giving up hope of the possibility of Bruce returning to coach the Buckeyes next season.

"If there's any chance I hope he would come back because it's going to

be hard to play under somebody else," Ross said. "It's going to be hard for someone to fill Coach Bruce's shoes."

"This whole situation is ridiculous. I said I was ashamed and embarrassed when we lost to Indiana and Michigan State and Wisconsin. That's nothing compared to the way I feel now. I feel disgraced."



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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-yarder 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 tough 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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# 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 "slandorous 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.

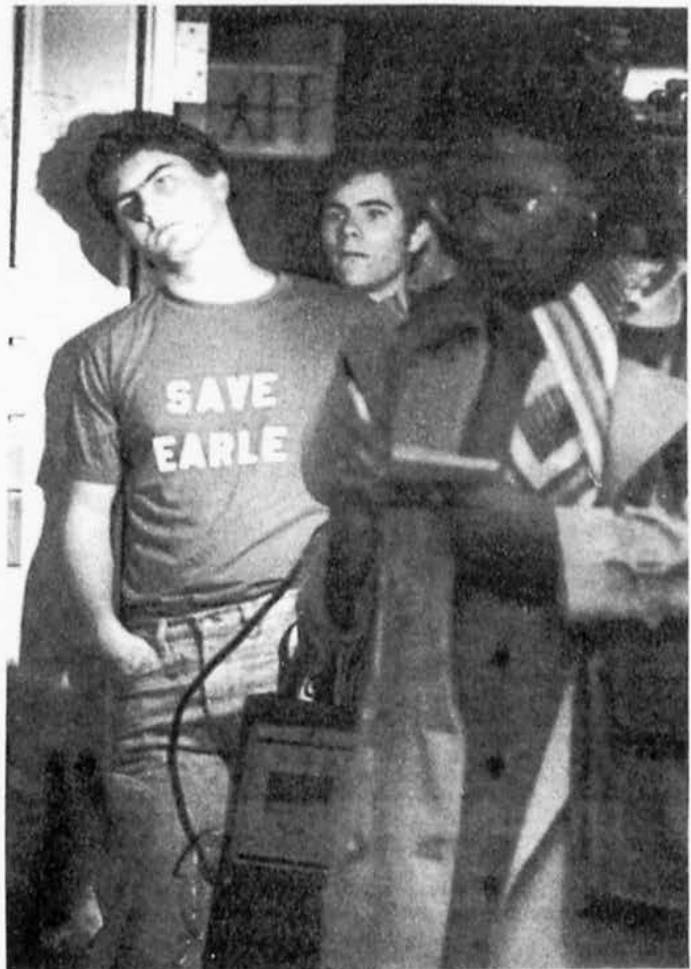
"During his nine years as head coach, Bruce failed to appreciate the university's goals or to realize what the university expected of him," the editorial stated. "His view of his position was incompatible with the view shared by the university and the community. He failed to engender good will for the institution. He failed to subjugate 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 unequalled," 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."



# Jennings Refuses To Divulge Reasoning

By Sarah L. Christian

Earle Bruce's win-loss record at Ohio State is not the reason president Edward H. Jennings decided to fire Bruce one week before the end of the Big Ten season and the game with Michigan.

"It was a personnel issue, and we cannot discuss personnel," Jennings said repeatedly at a press conference Nov. 17, the day after the firing.

Bruce is hailed as the winningest coach in the Big Ten and has a winning percentage of nearly 75 percent. In the years Bruce has coached at Ohio State he has led the Buckeyes to nine winning seasons and eight postseason bowl games.

"I felt it was time for a change in the coaching staff," Jennings said.

Jennings said he would recommend Bruce highly to any other school interested in him.

"This happens consistently across the country where one has left one institution under difficult circumstances and ended up doing well at another university," Jennings said.

Jennings refused to elaborate on the reason behind Bruce's dismissal but hinted that Bruce was fired because he did not represent Ohio State properly.

"With a 75 percent winning percentage, obviously winning is not the only criteria involved with this," Jennings said.

Bruce has often been criticized for not getting involved in community activities outside the university.

"We will look for a coach that will represent the university well," Jennings said.

Jennings denied he was under any outside pressure from wealthy donors to the university to fire Bruce.

"I haven't talked to any of the big donors. They haven't contacted me or called me this week or the week before," he said.

He said there was pressure, in general, from the community but no direct pressure from individual sources. Jennings also said he received input from the trustees casually and socially but not officially. Jennings added that the trustees have been

supportive of his decision to fire Bruce. Jennings defended the honor of the university, saying money from donors does not affect the operation of the institution or, in particular, the firing of Coach Bruce.

"My responsibility is to operate this institution. If (the donors) choose to support the institution we appreciate that. But they cannot choose to influence the institutional decisions on the basis of their donations," he said.

Jennings said he does not think the firing of Bruce will scare potential new coaches away from Ohio State.

"I'm confident we can attract the finest coach in the country and I am confident we can do that," Jennings said. He added he expects the new coach will receive a multi-year contract.

There will be a nationwide search for a new football coach and the process should take a relatively short period of time — by Jan. 1, Jennings predicted.

Jennings also said that the other coaches at the university do not need to

worry about their jobs or fear if they have one bad season it will be the end of their careers at Ohio State.

"I don't think they have to worry at all," he said. "This is an individual decision and has no reflection on any of the other coaches."

Jennings has received a lot of criticism about the timing of the announcement. Many people said it should have come after the Michigan game so it would not put a damper on the classic.

Jennings said he would have preferred to wait but noted it was athletic director Rick Bay's decision to bring it all out in the open at a press conference Nov. 16, a few hours after Jennings informed Bay of the decision.

Upon telling Bay of the decision to fire Bruce, Bay resigned his position as athletic director because of "philosophical differences" with Jennings. Bay also contended he could not work with Bruce for an entire week without telling the coach he had been fired.



Edward H. Jennings

"I knew there was no way to keep it under wraps and there was no way I could work with this staff as hard as I've supported them and deal with them face-to-face knowing the situation," Bay said at the Monday press conference.

He also said there was the possibility of bowl bids coming to him during the week and he could not turn them down without giving a reason.

Jennings said he "is sorry the football players have to go through this at the stage (of the year). I wish it had been otherwise but the director chose to make this public and we have to deal with that."

Jennings did not wait to tell Bay of his decision because he considers it "appropriate to inform people of the situation. We should not try to hide things from our individuals."

The decision will not send out a message that Ohio State will "win at any cost," Jennings said.

"In many ways it could be interpreted in reverse," he said. "We have had a winning program for a number of years under Coach Bruce and that this is not a win-lose type of situation. This was a judgmental call that it was best to make a change at this time."



Fan Reaction Has Been Negative In Columbus

## Rally Held In Bruce's Honor At Athletic Facility

By Stephanie Ewert

During the Ohio State-Iowa game Nov. 14, airplanes circled Ohio Stadium with messages for OSU coach Earle Bruce. One read, "Earle Call Eldon," a reference to the former OSU basketball coach. Another read, "Noose Bruce."

But the tone has changed following Bruce's untimely firing Nov. 16.

For the first time in Bruce's OSU tenure, practice was open to the public during Michigan week. Bruce allowed the fans who responded to OSU Hospitals technician Kim Graham's call for a Nov. 19 rally to enter the gates and watch practice from the sidelines at the new athletic complex.

During the rally, a plane flew overhead with the message "Keep Earle, Fire Jennings." And the crowd of about 300 cheered for Bruce in support. Bruce showed his appreciation by shaking hands with fans as he later took the team inside the facility to finish practice.

"I'm opposed to the decision that was made by President Jennings, and I thought it was real important for the community that feels this way to show their support for Earle Bruce and Rick Bay," Graham said.

OSU senior Karl Johnson said there

were reasons to attend the rally other than showing support for Bruce.

"I think that a lot of people (at the rally) aren't Bruce supporters, but I am," he explained. "I think a lot of people are upset just at how the situation was handled."

Johnson defended Bruce supporters who have been questioned about their support for Bruce before the firing.

"I think the people that were in support of Earle Bruce just could never be heard over the cries of the Noose-Bruce fans," said Johnson, a Copley, Ohio, native. "I think that the people who were in support of Earle, which is a lot more than people thought, are coming out now because something bad has happened."

During the rally, Johnson circulated a petition requesting Jennings' resignation. For two days' work, Johnson had more than 800 signatures. He plans to present the petition to the OSU board of trustees at its Dec. 4 meeting.

"It seemed like they (OSU officials) sent a message that winning at any cost, money and politics seem to be taking precedence over the actual football game and football team," Johnson said. "I think the university

has to come up with a lot of answers. I'm not sure we'll ever get the real reason, or the straight scoop of who the pressure was applied from."

Morgana Roberts, also known as the Kissing Bandit who has appeared nationwide displaying affection at various sporting events, attended the rally and treated Bruce with a kiss. She lives in the Upper Arlington (Ohio) area.

"I am an Earle Bruce supporter," she said. "This (Columbus) is my home, and he is my coach. He has the best record in the Big Ten. Why should he be fired? The team loves him, the students love him and 99 percent of the Columbus area loves him."

"It's politics. That's obvious. You would think we would be able to keep politics a little bit out of sports, wouldn't you? Four losses, that's no reason."

Although OSU president Edward H. Jennings doesn't seem to be on Morgana's next-to-get list, resigned athletic director Rick Bay just might be.

"I wouldn't be out here saying 'let's keep Ed,'" Morgana said. "I think Rick Bay is a class gentleman. He stood for what he felt was right, and I think that's nice. He's one of my new heroes."

Todd Theis, a part-time student from Dublin, Ohio, said Bruce deserved better treatment.

"The man should be here until he wants to leave, or at least until the end of his contract," said Theis, who is Bruce's nephew. "The pressure with Michigan week and the pressure with the type of season they've had is enough. It's a crying shame that this has got to add to it."

Although he would like to see the decision reversed, Theis is not counting on that happening. He said Bruce will still come out on top.

"There's tomorrow. I know Earle will get an offer from a school whose program needs turned around," Theis said. "He's done that before and he'll do that again. Whatever coaching days he has left, he's going to be a success. He's always been a success, and that's the way it will be."

About 800 fans attended the "OSU Beat Michigan" pep rally later that evening.

"This has been a trying week for our football team," said Bruce, who was joined on stage by about 50 players. He cited the team as "the greatest group of young men in the 32 years I've coached."



# Trustees Supporting President's Verdict

By Stephanie Ewert

OSU board of trustees chairman Edmund Redman insists OSU coach Earle Bruce's firing was not based on his win-loss record.

However, board members Hamilton Teaford and Deborah E. Casto said the Buckeyes' record this season affected the decision.

"I don't think anyone will suggest he (Bruce) wasn't doing anything right," Teaford said. "That wouldn't be fair at all. He ran a clean program. I think the only reason he was discharged this year was because (OSU president Edward H.) Jennings thought he would have less opposition in a year where he (Bruce) did not have a good record."

Casto, president of James D. Casto Enterprises, a Columbus real estate investment and shopping center development company, believes a 5-4-1 record caused the decision.

"It was this season. Everyone in the community will tell you they aren't happy with this football team," Casto said. "People here haven't been happy for some time."

Redman suggested Bruce may have been fired because his public image "was not as good as it might be. The public was dissatisfied and we must be concerned with what they think," Redman said.

Redman offered the criteria he would use in selecting Bruce's successor.

First, the applicant's age would be taken into consideration. Redman suggests someone under 50 years old.

"I think we should go for the long haul," Redman said. "Another 25 years like we had with Woody Hayes, or another nine years like we had with Bruce."

Though the decision has not been made as to whether Bruce's successor will be offered a multi-year contract, Redman said it may be necessary.

"I doubt very much we're going to get a qualified coach to come here on a one-year contract," said the head of a local public accounting firm and trustee member since 1979. "Whatever is necessary to get the right fellow will be done."

Bruce was in the second year of a three-year contract. Hayes accepted 28 consecutive one-year deals while Bruce was given seven one-year pacts before being awarded a three-year contract last year.

Redman's second consideration for interested applicants is demonstrated coaching ability in terms of wins and losses from previous jobs.

A major college coach should also be

charismatic in his public image, Redman said, which is where Bruce fell astray.

"I think the image of the coach is a very important part of the job," he said. "If you read (Columbus Dispatch sports editor) George Strode's column (in which Strode prints letters from the public) this last month and what the fans had to say about Earle, that reflects (on the university). There are very few positive statements in those columns. It's in the public image."

"Maybe it was wrong, but that's the way it was. I haven't had a negative comment about (OSU basketball coach) Gary Williams."

Redman's final specification is the next OSU football coach must have demonstrated he will play according to NCAA regulations. Redman said Bruce ran a "clean, honest program."

Trustee member Leonard J. Immke Jr., president and general manager of Len Immke Buick Inc., agreed with Redman that as the OSU football coach, the win-loss record isn't everything.

"All I've heard or all I've seen in defense of Earle Bruce is his win-loss record," stated the seven-year member. "We want him (Bruce's successor) to be able to build the organization from strengths rather than weaknesses. We want him to surround himself with the best possible people, and do a top-notch job of recruiting. We want him to get the best possible players, always with an emphasis on education and the real purpose of Ohio State University."

Immke and Teaford said the decision to fire Bruce had been under consideration all season.

The board had an informal dinner meeting Nov. 5, and though no formal vote was taken, most trustees agreed that Bruce should have been fired, Immke and Casto said.

"Jennings' decision was to do it at the end of the season," Teaford said. "And it was (resigned OSU athletic director Rick) Bay's decision to do it before then. You don't do those things in the middle of a season."

The biggest disagreement in Bruce's firing has been the timing. Teaford said the decision was made prior to the Michigan game to keep Ohio State from attending a bowl. The decision was not to be made public, however, until after the game.

"I don't think with the tradition that Ohio State has they should go to bowl games when they have such a poor record," the Columbus attorney said. "Also, if we went to a bowl game it would delay even further when we



Edmund Redman



Deborah E. Casto



Hamilton J. Teaford



Leonard J. Immke Jr.

could get a new coach.

"I think by doing it this quickly we were able to minimize the problems there might be in recruiting this year. I truly don't think recruiting would be hurt beyond this year."

Redman, Immke and Teaford support the president's decision, though all admit the timing was poor.

"I do not agree with the method in which it was done. But I don't think that the president is responsible for that," Immke said. "The president had far better and more palatable mind arrangements as to how to do this. When he arrived at his decision, he tried it with the trustees and gained their support. He did the next thing he thought was his responsibility to do, and that was to inform his athletic director."

"His athletic director at that point chose to resign and inform his coach and the coaching staff they had been terminated. He (Bay) called a press conference and announced it in a very untimely, and in my opinion, an unthought-out manner."

The question was raised as to whether Jennings should have withheld the decision from Bay until after the Michigan game, considering

Bay has a reputation for his strong support of Bruce.

"Yes, he (Jennings) knew that," Immke said. "But he also knew all along he (Bay) had been a supporter of the administration of the university. So he (Jennings) had really no feeling that someone as close to him, and a supporter of him, was going to do what he (Bay) did."

Teaford commented, "After all, Rick Bay is the athletic director. It seems to me if you can't tell your athletic director, who can you tell? I couldn't find fault in that (Jennings telling Bay)."

Bruce's firing has created negative reaction across the country, but Teaford said this does not mean the decision was wrong. He also said the action will not tarnish the university's reputation.

"I'm not going to second-guess the president — ever. I do not have any difficulty with the decision," he said. "I think it's been blown way out of proportion. Firing a football coach, as far as I'm concerned, is not an important event in the life of the university."

Teaford said the decision to fire Bruce is irreversible because Jennings has full support of the trustees. Reversing the decision would be a "total mistake," Immke said.

"I don't think anybody would want it reversed if all the facts were there," he said. "I don't know of any decision that could be made that would satisfy everyone, including if we had the possibility of bringing Woody (Hayes) back."

Immke said Bruce had the opportunity to escape Hayes' shadow. "He's (Hayes) a tough man to fill his shoes, there's no question about it," Immke said. "But you've got to remember Earle Bruce has been here nine years, not three years. He's been here a long time, and I think, while he followed Woody Hayes, he had ample time to establish his own record and his own organization. It wasn't like he wasn't given the opportunities."

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# 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 Elliott 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 Northwestern 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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# Jones Says University Image Healthy Despite Controversy

By Jerry Lima

OSU president Edward H. Jennings has named James L. Jones as athletic director. Jones replaces Rick Bay, who resigned Nov. 16 due to philosophical differences with Jennings over the firing of coach Earle Bruce.

Jones, 51, has been a member of OSU's athletic department for 20 years. In 1967, Woody Hayes hired Jones as academic counselor for the football team. Jones, a 1958 graduate of Kent State University, moved to assistant athletic director in 1970. In 1977, he was named senior associate athletic director.

Jones, a finalist for the job when Bay was hired in 1984, now faces the difficult task of finding a new head football coach, and restoring the image of Ohio State and its athletic program.

The following is a recent interview with Jones. He addresses Bruce's firing, his relationship with Jennings, the image of the Ohio State University, and the current status of intercollegiate athletics at OSU.

**Q. Were you disappointed that you lost on the AD job to Rick Bay in 1984?**

**A.** "Sure. I still felt the disappointment up until Monday (Nov. 16) afternoon."

**Q. Did you consider opportunities for an AD position at other institutions after losing out to Bay?**

**A.** "I had considered offers from other universities. In fact, I interviewed for those jobs (Northwestern, North Carolina, Wisconsin, Cincinnati), but we never reached a point where it was either 'yes I will come, or no I won't come.' I realized I didn't want that situation, and didn't pursue the offers further."

**Q. Did you feel a sense of reluctance taking the AD position under the circumstances surrounding Bruce's dismissal?**

**A.** "I wanted to walk out of President Jennings' office Monday with a great big smile, kick my heels, and shout out loud. But the hurt I felt for Coach Bruce and his family, our players — especially the seniors, and

Rick and Denise Bay tempered my jubilation. Nonetheless, I'm damned proud to be the athletic director here at this great institution."

**Q. Do you feel the reputation of Ohio State University and its athletic department have been dealt a serious blow by what has transpired?**

**A.** "You have to keep in mind that we're a strong university with great tradition. We can take hits that appear to be severe blows. Comments by the media that appear to hurt Ohio State will heal with time. I don't see that this university has been hurt severely. This

whether I want to or not. It's an awesome responsibility, but one I welcome."

**Q. Does the job description of AD include the hiring and firing of coaching personnel at Ohio State?**

**A.** "Yes. Choosing coaches is one of the key functions of athletic director."

**Q. How do you feel about working for a president who may go over your head to fire a coach, as in the case of Earle Bruce?**

**A.** "In every organization someone is the boss. Even the boss has a boss. We all answer to someone, whether it's this university, IBM, or Ford Motor Co."



Jim Jones

decision was made on. As far as the timing, I think that has been answered."

**Q. How do you respond to accusations that you are a "yes" man, and that you will not stand up to, or oppose President Jennings?**

**A.** "I am offended that anyone would accuse me of being a 'yes' man. Time and people will be the judge of what kind of a man I am. I guess it's easy to decide someone gets pressure from above and bows to that pressure. I don't think that means you're a 'yes' man. We all have someone to report to. Like in all businesses, the chairman of the board makes decisions. The president is the ultimate authority at this university."

**Q. There seems to be a conflict of philosophy, in terms of Ohio State University's push to emphasize academics and downplay athletics. The circumstances surrounding the firing of Coach Bruce appear to run counter to this philosophy. Do you agree?**

**A.** "This university is committed to excellence — in academics, athletics, and all other aspects of the university. Money affects all of us, even in our home lives. It's a fact of life. But this university is not run by the pressures of somebody's checkbook."

**Q. You've been through the dismissal of Woody Hayes and now Earle Bruce. Will the ill feelings associated with Bruce's firing fade with time?**

**A.** "This too shall pass, because it should pass. This institution is bigger and more important than all of us involved with it. We will all come and go, but The Ohio State University will be here a long time. The future of the university is what's important."

**Q. How do you feel about the current state of college athletics? Are the pressures of alumni contributions, television contracts, and the need to generate revenue justifiable in college athletics?**

**A.** "They're all justified. Intercollegiate athletics are not out of control, and we're not about to become another SMU. They (college athletics) have their ups and downs, and situations like what has happened here tend to distort the view. One institution should not speak for the whole of the nation."

**Q. In terms of recruiting, how badly will the football program be hurt by the change of head coaches?**

**A.** "To say that we will not be affected would be untrue, but it's difficult to say how badly Ohio State will be affected. Recruiting is the lifeblood of this program. We want to encourage people to look with favor on Ohio State."

Jennings will recommend Jones to the board of trustees at the Dec. 4 meeting.

Jones and his wife, Linda, reside in Upper Arlington, Ohio. They have two children, Bill and Lynnae.

*"You must understand, like it or not, the president runs this university. In the end, I either do what he asks or I leave."*

— Jim Jones

is a great university, and in my opinion, the athletic director job here is the best job in America."

**Q. What can you do to restore the image of Ohio State athletics?**

**A.** "My job is not to dwell or look back on what has happened. I can't judge whether or not people made the right decisions (firing Bruce). I was not privileged to that decision. I want to go forward and find the best possible coach for our program. Right now, that's what I'm concerned about."

**Q. Were you surprised at Rick Bay's decision to resign?**

**A.** "Not at all. I respect Rick Bay's intelligence and integrity. He's highly principled, and those principles would override any decision he had to make regarding the situation (Bruce's firing). I must say, though, that I never expected Rick Bay to leave here."

**Q. How does your new position differ from the associate AD position you held for the past ten years?**

**A.** "My previous position in a lot of ways afforded me opportunities to do most all of the things an athletic director does. The real difference is that I now sit at the head of the table,

The fact that the president participates in decisions does not mean he overrides other administrators. I'm sure there will be times when he does not agree with some of my decisions. We will come to a meeting of minds, and try to reach an agreement on issues. You must understand, like it or not, the president runs this university. In the end, I either do what he asks or I leave."

**Q. As a member of the search committee to find a replacement for Woody Hayes, were you in favor of hiring Earle Bruce?**

**A.** "I have never divulged that information, just as I will not divulge candidates to be interviewed to replace Coach Bruce. Let me say that we on the committee were not in opposition to hiring Earle Bruce."

**Q. Were you in favor of replacing Coach Bruce, and do you approve of President Jennings' handling of the situation?**

**A.** "I was not involved in the decision to make a coaching change. That was between President Jennings and the board of trustees. It is not my place to judge the handling of the affair. I don't know what basis the

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# Bay Not Bitter, Only Thankful For Tenure

By Ken Halloy

Rick Bay remembers vividly his first impression of OSU president Edward Jennings. The two met when Bay interviewed for the athletic director's position at Ohio State in 1984.

"He was young and energetic. He certainly said all the right things and I must have said all the right things," Bay recalled. "I wanted to be assured that I would run the athletic department. He gave me that assurance at the time, and I believe his intentions were sincere at the time."

"But I knew he had a reputation for getting involved in departmental matters where it wasn't necessary."

Obviously, Bay got the job and three years later, the two heads collided. Jennings fired his football coach and lost an athletic director in the process. Bay resigned Nov. 16, the same day Jennings informed Bay that Bruce had been fired.

"He's the boss and sometimes it is appropriate for him to step in. On occasion we haven't always seen eye to eye, but by and large my relationship with President Jennings has been good," Bay maintains.

But the two could not see eye to eye when it came to firing Bruce. Bay was satisfied with Bruce's winning percentage and the integrity with which he operated the program. Jennings, for reasons still unexpressed, felt differently.

Bay has been under fire by Jennings and board of trustees members who are blaming Bay for announcing, during the team's preparation for the Michigan game, that Bruce would be fired. Jennings asked Bay to keep the issue quiet until after the game.

"The finger has been pointed at me about the timing," Bay said. "That's all right with me. The president is exactly right. He did ask me to wait until after the Michigan game. But there was no way I could do that. Once I knew I had to tell my coaches. I could not lie to them for the entire week. My job is not to lie to anyone. There were rumors flying around as it was."

"If the president and the board of trustees didn't want me to say anything, they should not have made a

decision or acted until the season was over."

Bay denies he acted hastily and said he warned Jennings of the negative reaction that would occur nationwide. Bay said he met with Jennings the Monday following the Wisconsin game.

"That was the first time I really believed he was serious about firing Coach Bruce. You could tell he was under pressure. He wouldn't tell me where the pressure was coming from, but said he might have to make a move," Bay said.

"But I urged the president not to travel down this path because I knew it would be a public relations nightmare if it happened before Earle's contract expired. It might have been a little less severe if it happened after the Michigan game, but the implications relative to the integrity and credibility of the university would have been the same because Earle wouldn't have had a chance to complete his contract."

Jennings has given no reason as to why he didn't wait until after the Michigan game to fire Bruce. Board of trustees president Edmund Redman has speculated that Bruce's suspect public image has been a major hindrance, and thus led to his dismissal.

"I'm not unmindful of public relations and community service," Bay said. "I try to do some of that myself and I try to get Earle to do the same and he has. Last summer we were co-chair of the March of Dimes Walkathon. He has gotten out more and done more public speaking. He's worked very hard to improve his image."

"I think the university has to rethink what its criteria is and how we're going to judge our coach. If we expect to have somebody who is attractive and goes 12-0 every year and wins a national title, you're not going to get it."

Bay said he wasn't alarmed by the timing of Jennings' decision to inform him Bruce was fired. After all, Bay could be used as the scapegoat. If Bay kept quiet until after the Michigan game, he would have been ridiculed for not remaining faithful to the coaches. If he went public with the news, as he

did, he would be criticized for making the announcement during Michigan week, which he was.

But that's not the only reason Bay believes Jennings fired Bruce before the end of the season.

"It's very difficult to fire an Ohio State coach after you've just beaten Michigan, regardless of the record. Let's face that fact. This was his best opportunity and he took advantage of it," Bay said. "I know Earle is not perfect, and I know from time to time he might say something that makes an audience wince. But by and large, when we were winning nine and 10 games a season, all other things seemed acceptable."

"It's all one big excuse," Bay continued. "If we were sitting here with a 9-1 record, all of these great problems everyone is talking about would have never surfaced."

Bay has reasoned through the scenario. The public image cloud cast over Bruce's head becomes even more meaningless, Bay said, when you consider that Bruce has never been known for his flamboyance anyway.

"They knew what they were getting when they hired him nine years ago — a proven winner. I wasn't here when Coach Bruce was hired but I'm sure he hasn't changed much in the time I've known him," Bay said. "But for whatever reason — I still don't understand it — Earle has his detractors, perhaps more so here than in other places because the expectations of the people in Columbus are out of perspective. Winning has taken on, perhaps, too much priority."

Bay strongly refutes Jennings' statement that Bruce would have been fired even if the Bucks had gone undefeated this season.

"I don't believe that. People who wanted to get him felt very strongly about this. They didn't have an excuse until his record began to fall," he said. "If they really wanted to make a statement saying that winning wasn't important, why didn't they fire him after the Cotton Bowl? After all, we had a 10-win season and were probably one of the strongest teams in the country at the end of the season. Or



Rick Bay

why not do it after the loss to Wisconsin?

"It's obvious that the fourth loss, the first time that's ever happened to Earle at Ohio State, was the killer. Without a doubt, it has to be his record that got him fired."

And that's intolerable to Bay. And Bay is not alone in that view, judging by the negative reaction in Columbus and nationwide to Bruce's firing.

"If you don't think we understand it in Columbus, based on all the calls I've gotten there's total puzzlement from coast to coast," Bay said. "All the nation doesn't know about Bruce's personality, only his record and the fact that he runs a program with integrity and graduates his players. And by normal standards, not Columbus', he has a great record."

Nevertheless, Bay has the entire ordeal in perspective.

"I'm not disillusioned by the whole thing. This is a part of life. The sooner you face it, the faster you move on. I think everything I've done has been the right and honest thing to do. I have no regrets and I'm not bitter," he said. "I've seen too many people consumed by bitterness. I'm proud of what I've done here and now it's time to move on. I'll survive and so will Coach Bruce. He's a proven winner. Hopefully, I will be one in time, too."

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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 epic competition, junior Oz Baldessari went 8-7, senior Jim DeBonis went 7-8, and junior Bill Niederding 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 Birnrich 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.