

It's A Thin Line Between Amateur, Pro

When are we going to call off this charade we call amateurism and start giving our young athletes their due as professionals?

Ohio State senior co-captain Vince Workman became a victim of his own poor judgment when he lost his remaining collegiate eligibility for signing with a sports agent. I will not try to condone Workman's action nor will I say OSU was wrong for kicking him off the team. Workman knew the rules and he disobeyed them. It may be a silly rule, but it's a rule nonetheless and he should pay for breaking it.

But, really now, what makes the difference if a college player in any sport signs with an agent? Does that make a difference in his play on the field? Does that make him any better? Does it give his team an edge?

The answer is an unequivocal and resounding "No!"

Vince Workman did no better after signing with California-based sports

*Editor's Notebook
with
Mark Rea*

agent David Lueddekke. In fact, if you look at the statistics, Workman played better before he signed with Lueddekke.

And so what if he signed with him? So what if he took a couple thousand dollars? So what if he tried to cash in on a prospective NFL career a couple of years early?

OSU president Edward H. Jennings said Workman became a professional as soon as he signed that representative contract and took a stack of \$100 bills from Lueddekke. But what about that \$6,300-per-year scholarship that the university gave Workman? And what about that full ride OSU gives to every scholarship student-athlete at Ohio State?

The Olympics is a perfect example of amateurism gone awry. No one is actually naive enough to believe that Carl Lewis, Edwin Moses, Mary Slaney and Jackie Joyner-Kersey gain no income from their track and field endeavors.

Then there is the strange case of Michigan pitching standout Jim Abbott. The Big Ten male athlete of the year was drafted by the California Angels this summer but Abbott said he would not sign a pro contract before competing as a member of the U.S. Olympic baseball team in Seoul.

But, over on the basketball team, we have Kansas standout Danny Manning leading the way. Manning is the same guy who is currently negotiating a multi-year NBA contract with the Los Angeles Clippers. Do you think Manning is performing the negotiations by himself?

And, over on the tennis courts, they made a complete mockery of amateurism. Chris Evert was a member of the U.S. Olympic team after becoming a millionaire several times over on the professional women's tennis circuit.

Why did Abbott choose to remain a "true" amateur while most of the others did not? Is the Big Ten missing something here?

Webster tells us the word "amateur" means one who does something for pleasure and not for pay. Tell me all of those aforementioned athletes were competing in the Olympics for the sheer pleasure of it.

Now tell me that the pittance Vince Workman received for signing with a sports agent makes him any less of an amateur than Chris Evert.

NOW THAT I've climbed off the soapbox, let's talk about the victory over LSU. I've had the pleasure to witness some exciting games in Ohio Stadium in the past but none of them came close to the excitement of the win over LSU.

What happened to all those fans who were ready to wring John Cooper's neck after the loss to Pittsburgh? Woody Hayes hit the nail on the head when he said Ohio State fans are fickle. Cooper had gone from the penthouse to the outhouse and back again in the space of just three short games.

Following the coach's lead, we should perhaps bridge our enthusiasm a bit when looking toward the Big Ten

race. But our enthusiasm begins to bubble over when you consider what some of the other conference schools have done so far against less-than-formidable competition.

Iowa was supposed to be the team to beat but the Hawkeyes have been an exercise in contradiction. They were supposed to be 4-0 right now without even breaking into a sweat. In reality, the Hawks are 2-2 with a lot of questions left to be answered.

No one can tell the toll two tough losses will take on Michigan. The Wolves have a good team, but why couldn't they beat Wake Forest any worse than 19-9?

And, how about defending champion Michigan State? The Spartans have played a tough non-conference schedule and are 0-3 to prove it. George Perles' team doesn't get any rest heading into the Big Ten season either, facing Iowa and Michigan in the first two games.

So, why not Ohio State as a Rose Bowl favorite? Carlos Snow, Greg Frey, Bobby Olive, Vinnie Clark, Jeff Graham, John Kacherski, Jim Peel, Jeff Ellis and Andy Gurd have helped spearhead the Buckeyes' attack in wins over Syracuse and LSU and, best of all, that entire bunch of players are all just sophomores.

Blend in the talent and experience of Michael McCray, Jeff Uhlenhake, Mike and John Sullivan, Dwight Smith and Bill Matlock and it looks like a winning combination.

OSU QUOTEBOOK: Here are some of the memorable lines from Ohio State's come-from-behind win over LSU:

• OSU head coach John Cooper on the roller-coaster ride from the rout in Pittsburgh to the win over LSU: "One week you're stomping the grapes, the next week you're drinking the wine."

• Cooper on sophomore tailback Carlos Snow's second straight good game returning kickoffs: "They were kicking the ball to Carlos. And, I'm telling you, man. Something's going to happen when he gets his hands on the ball. Something that's usually good."

• Snow on the secret to his running style: "I think the key is it's hard to see me back there behind all those tall guys."

• Cooper on the LSU fans in Ohio Stadium: "There were all those LSU fans yelling 'Tiger Bait' before the game and pointing their fingers at us and all that stuff. Well, they got what they deserved. I couldn't find any of them after the game."

• Cooper on the decision to kick deep with less than two minutes left and his team still down by six points: "You have to be lucky. You try an onside kick and they get the ball, everybody's wondering why you didn't kick it deep. You kick it deep and don't stop them, they'll wonder why you didn't try an onside kick. I'll bet \$10 if you were honest with yourself, half of you thought I made the wrong decision."

• Cooper on the second-largest crowd in Ohio Stadium history: "The fans were super, particularly those that stayed."

• Cooper when told everyone else had written off the Buckeyes in the last 4½ minutes: "Hey, everybody else ain't playing. Don't hit me with that. It ain't over 'til it's over. We aren't going to quit. You don't want us to quit, do you? I didn't get to be where I am now by giving up."

• Sophomore Bobby Olive on catching the winning touchdown pass: "I thought I was dreaming."

• LSU head coach Mike Archer after the ball game: "My stomach doesn't feel very good but the sun is going to shine tomorrow."

• Archer on his team's letdown in the final minutes: "We needed to play a 60-minute game and came up 38 seconds short."

• LSU linebacker Ron Sancho after the game: "We lost this game. They didn't win the game. Don't nobody (from Ohio State) impress me that much."

• And this week's quote of the week from OSU sports information director Steve Snapp: "Somebody asked me about the stat sheet and I told them 36-33. That's the most important one."

BUCKEYE SPORTS BULLETIN

Published 30 times a year (weekly September through November and January through mid-March, biweekly mid-March to mid-May and monthly June through August and December) by:

Columbus Sports Publications
1350 W. Fifth Ave., #25
P.O. Box 12453
Columbus, Ohio 43212
(614) 486-2202

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908 South Hull Street, Montgomery, AL 36104
(205) 834-8802 / FAX (205) 263-0407

Second Class Postage Paid At Columbus, Ohio, and Additional Mailing Offices. USPS 705-690. ISSN 0883-6833. POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to Buckeye Sports Bulletin, P.O. Box 12453, Columbus, Ohio, 43212. Subscription rates: \$28 per year for 30 issues.

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Senior Co-Captain Forfeits Eligibility

Workman Draws Variety Of Comments

Here are some comments made after Ohio State senior co-captain Vince Workman was declared ineligible because he took money from a sports agent:

- OSU athletic director Jim Jones: "Vince confirmed for us that he had signed with an agent and accepted money from that agent. That is clearly a violation of NCAA rules and it is my duty to rule him ineligible."

- Ohio State University president Edward H. Jennings: "It's a tragedy for the student, but not for Ohio State. We have to enforce NCAA regulations. It won't be a tragedy for the student if he completes his education. The NCAA is not a law enforcement body. It is an organization of schools. If players sign a contract, they are perfectly within their rights. But we should protect amateurism. And if they become professionals, they should not play for Ohio State."

- Ohio State head football coach John Cooper: "It's unfortunate that it happened. The person that's going to suffer is Vince Workman. I talked to our football squad and certainly we're going to miss Vince. There's no question about it, you can't help but miss a great athlete like he is. But our football squad will go on. Our team has got to be closer together now. We have to circle the wagons a little tighter. All of us, players and coaches, have to do a better job to make up for the loss of Vince."

- Jones on the possibility of having to forfeit games in which Workman played: "I simply called (Syracuse athletic director) Jake Crouthamel and told him that we played an ineligible player and apologized to him for that. He understood the circumstances. I told him I would be writing to him in the future and we will obviously offer to forfeit the game to them if they wish to accept. I don't know of any obligation to forfeit at this point."

- Cooper on the involvement of the U.S. attorney's office in the investigation of sports agents: "I'm glad the federal government is getting involved. We need to clean this business up. I'd say 80 to 90 percent of the agents are open and above board. But unfortunately, that other 10 percent or so are the ones you have to worry about. They're like termites and you've got to eradicate those termites."

- Former head coach Earle Bruce: "I knew nothing about it. I do know there wasn't anybody I worked harder on at Ohio State than Vince Workman or Cris Carter, trying to make sure they were doing the right things, trying to keep them from getting involved in a mess like this. But what can you do? This stuff has been going on forever. Here's a kid with no money. Someone

offers him money. Others are taking it. So he takes it figuring he won't get caught."

- Sophomore tailback Carlos Snow, now the starter in place of Workman: "I was really looking forward to being the backup to Vince. Vince Workman is one of the main reasons I decided to come here in the first place. He's a nice guy, a class guy, my idol really. He taught me the importance of hard work and study. I can't really picture this team without him. He's a good friend. He was the leader."

- Dublin High School football coach Todd Alles, Workman's prep coach: "What do you do with a kid from a poor family who really has no money to speak of? These agents, they find a kid who is vulnerable and then they hook him. If these kids have to fall and be guinea pigs so that others can learn from all this, then it's not all going for naught. I just happen to love one — Vince Workman — like a son."

- Jones on what OSU can do to prevent another Carter or Workman situation: "I don't know what else we can do to protect ourselves from those leeches in our society who want to prostitute young people for their own personal gain."

- Cooper on what kind of role Workman could now play with the team: "According to Big Ten rules, non-participating players are not allowed on the sidelines during a game. Certainly he's welcome to come to practice. We're not going to kick him out when he needs us more than ever."

- Ohio State quarterback Greg Frey on the attitude of the offense: "Everybody felt bad for Vince. But we've now proved we can win without him. We feel bad for him but we've got to go on."

- OSU defensive backfield coach Ron Zook on the team's attitude after Workman's dismissal: "It was a blow to the team because Vince was a co-captain, a leader. But football is a game of adversity. We have to take the adversity and try to turn it into something positive."

- Cooper when asked if the win over LSU was in response to Workman's loss of his eligibility: "I'd like to tell you that but I don't have that feeling to be honest with you. Our kids went out and played hard. But I don't think they went out and played hard because of what happened during the week with Vince."

- Snow on whether or not he was thinking about Workman during the game: "I definitely was. He has helped me out a lot ever since I've been here. I think I owe him a lot. When I scored my first touchdown today, I dedicated it to Vince Workman."

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Olive Catches Game-Winning Pass

Early Goat Becomes Ohio State Hero

By Mark Rea

Bobby Olive knows how the pendulum can swing in a football game.

Just a few short hours after wearing the goat horns for dropping a punt, the sophomore from Atlanta, Ga., who earned a spot on the roster as a walk-on last year, donned the hero's crown by catching the winning touchdown pass in Ohio State's 36-33 upset of seventh-rated Louisiana State.

"After the first punt, my confidence was really down," admitted the winner of the *Big Bear Buckeye of the Week* award. "But everybody was telling me to keep my head up and I might get another chance. I was real glad that I got that other chance. I would have hated to have lost the game knowing that I fumbled that punt."

The fumble came on the eighth play of the game. With 11:56 left in the first quarter, the Buckeyes' defense held LSU on its first possession and Tiger punter Rene Bourgeois kicked the ball to Olive at the OSU 16.

Olive fielded the ball and took one step toward LSU defender Mike Hebert before dropping it. The ball was scooped up by the Tigers' Tom Fabacher and set up LSU's first score, a 36-yard field goal from David Brownlyke.

Ohio State head coach John Cooper said he wasn't particularly surprised at the turnover.

"I told you all week that punt returns were going to be a problem for us this week," he said. "When we lost Vince Workman, we were left without a player who had ever fielded punts before in a college football game."

Workman, the Buckeyes' top punt returner this year, had been ruled ineligible earlier in the week for violating NCAA rules by signing with a sports agent.

Despite the fact it was his first time on the punt return team, Olive was dejected after the fumble.

"My confidence was really down. I just kept wondering how I could have dropped that ball," Olive said after the game. "I was pretty shaken up. Knowing I fumbled the punt and put us deep in our own territory was a blow. I just wanted to get back in the flow of the game as soon as possible."

"It helped me when Coach Cooper and (quarterback) Greg (Frey) came over to me and told me to keep my head up and not to worry about the dropped punt. That really helped me to put it out of my mind the next time. The next kick, I just forgot about the dropped punt and kept my mind on the flow of the game."

Olive successfully rebounded to catch three key passes and return a crucial kickoff.



Ohio State sophomore flanker Bobby Olive (8) went from goat to hero in the Buckeyes' 36-33 win over LSU. Olive dropped a punt in the first quarter of the game to set up the Tigers' first score, but came back with just 38 seconds left in the game to catch the winning touchdown pass.

He caught a 19-yard pass from Frey early in the second quarter, setting up the Buckeyes' first touchdown of the game. But he saved his best performance for the fourth quarter.

After LSU had taken a 33-20 lead with less than 4½ minutes left in the game, Olive participated in another Buckeye touchdown drive, crossing over the middle for a 12-yard reception. Five plays later, Carlos Snow went over the middle for a five-yard touchdown to make the score 33-27.

The Bucks held LSU's offense on the next possession and, after the Tigers took an intentional safety, Olive was called upon to return the free kick. He responded beautifully by taking the ball on his own 32-yard line and returning it 30 yards to the LSU 38.

Olive said the coaches simply told him to take the ball as far downfield as he could.

"I remember (fellow sophomore) Jeff

Graham threw a real good block for me and I was able to get a pretty good run out of it," Olive said. "But I didn't want to run too much time off the clock. The coaches told me if I couldn't get any more yards, just run out of bounds down in there and stop the clock."

"I was just following the blocks of the two-deep group and, as I said, Jeff gave me a real good block and I just followed him for a real good gain."

Olive's return set up the Buckeyes 38 yards away from the end zone with just 1:24 remaining. Frey threw to Graham for 15 yards and then, two plays later, found Olive streaking across the middle of the end zone.

Olive explained the play as a simple post pattern which the Buckeyes used in the second quarter on his 19-yard gainer.

"When I split out, there was a safety and a cornerback there standing beside each other," Olive said. "The free safety rolled up and that allowed me to be one-on-one with the corner. It surprised me that they were covering me one-on-one knowing the time that was on the clock."

"But I knew it was going to be coming to me. When I made my post move, I looked up and saw the ball coming. I said to myself that I had to catch it because I really wanted to make up for that dropped punt."

Getting the call with the game on the line was something which pleased Olive.

"All along, I've known that Coach (Jim) Colletto (the Buckeyes' offensive coordinator) had a lot of faith in me," Olive said. "I didn't want to let him down. I was thankful I was able to go

out and make a pretty good catch."

Olive remembered a play in a similar situation while at Frederick Douglass High School in Atlanta, but admitted the magnitude of the game-winning catch paled in comparison to the reception against LSU.

"I had something similar to this in high school," he said, "but nothing is like catching the winning touchdown in front of 90,000 people at Ohio State on national TV to upset a Top Ten team."

For the 6-1, 154-pound Atlanta native, to catch the game-winner against a southern school was especially gratifying.

"I don't want to say that I was boasting or pointing the finger any, but I think I proved to southern schools that I can play," Olive said. "LSU is a southern school and not that many southern schools recruited me. I just wanted to show them what I could do, especially against southern schools."

Although he caught the winning pass, Olive was quick to divert much of the praise to the rest of the team.

"I was just fortunate to be in the right place at the right time," he said. "We were able to move the ball all day. We have a lot of faith in our offense and we also have a lot of faith in our defense. The first thing we thought as an offense near the end of the game was to score and give the defense an opportunity to get the ball back for us."

"We did our job and they did their job. Really it was just a team effort all day. That's what you have to do to win. Last week against Pittsburgh, we lost as a team. Today against LSU, we won the same way — as a team."

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DOWNTOWN

*Soph Sets Up OSU's Second Touchdown***Bucks Given Charge By Clark's Block***By Mike Miller*

Sophomore cornerback Vinnie Clark had a big "hand" in the 36-33 Ohio State victory over sixth-ranked LSU.

Clark, a graduate of the Cincinnati Academy of Physical Education, blocked a punt attempt by LSU punter Rene Bourgeois and teammate Michael McCray picked up the loose ball and returned it for a touchdown to give the Buckeyes a 14-3 lead early in the second quarter.

"Coach told me to go through the right side of the tackle. I got below the block and broke right through there," Clark said of his punt block. "I was hoping he was going to kick it just as I got there. It was just something that happened, and it helped us to win."

Clark said it was only the third kick he has ever blocked. He noted that he blocked an extra point kick attempt by Chagrin Falls Kenston in a state playoff game in 1986. CAPE won that game 7-6 and went on to win the state championship. Clark said his only punt block came during his junior year at CAPE.

Clark said he was pleased with the play of the Buckeye defensive unit in the first half in holding LSU to just 13 points and late in the game in clutch situations.

"We had a few good defensive stands. We played together well. We played hard. We really hit them," said Clark, who broke up three passes and was credited with three tackles. "We hit a lot harder this week."

Clark said the Buckeyes missed a few tackles against LSU, but the misses essentially were caused by over-aggressiveness.

"I was just so excited. We were playing on national television (ABC). I was just happy to hit those guys," Clark said.

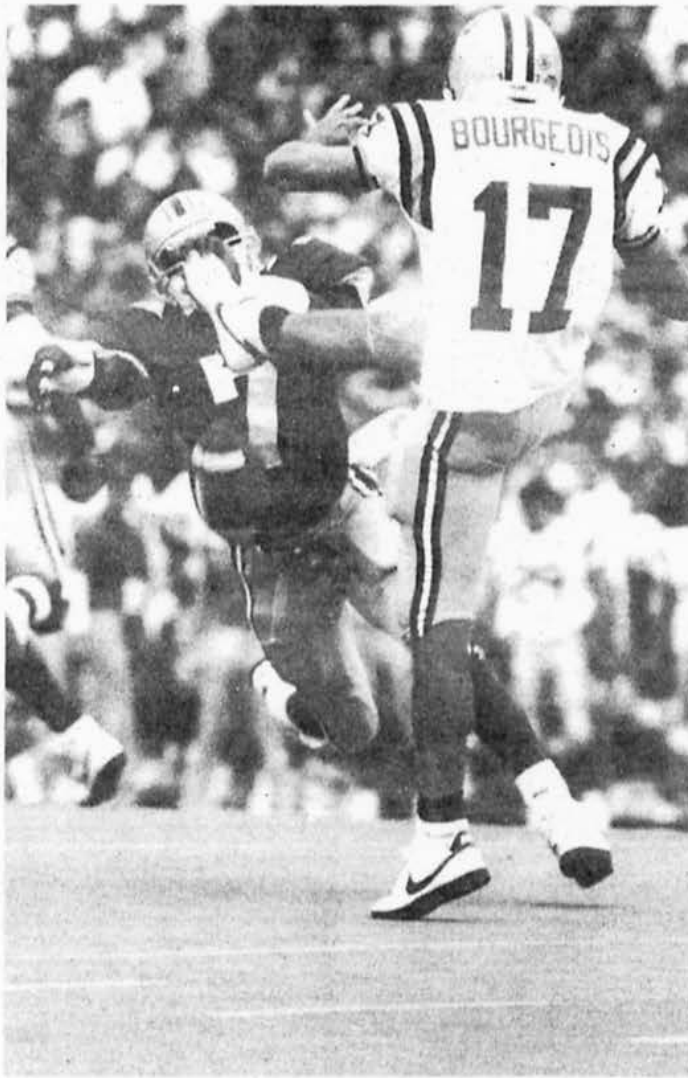
Ironically, Clark said he unloaded his best hit of the game on LSU junior wide receiver Tony Moss late in the third quarter.

Unfortunately for Clark and the Buckeyes, the ball popped out of Moss' hands and landed in the hands of Tiger wide receiver Alvin Lee, who was wide open about 10 yards downfield. Lee dashed down the sidelines for a 55-yard touchdown, which gave the Tigers a 33-20 lead with only 4:29 remaining.

Sophomore Greg Frey brought the Buckeyes right back. Frey engineered a 10-play, 59-yard drive in a little more than two minutes to move OSU within six points, 33-27, with 1:56 left. Sophomore tailback Carlos Snow, a teammate of Clark at CAPE, capped the drive with a five-yard run.

Snow started in place of senior Vince Workman, who was dismissed from the team earlier in the week because he admitted to accepting money from an agent after his sophomore season.

After finding out that Workman had



Smothering the punt of LSU's Rene Bourgeois is Ohio State defensive back Vinnie Clark (7). Clark got his first chance to play extensively and he didn't disappoint the Scarlet and Gray faithful, playing an excellent defensive game while blocking this punt to set up OSU's second touchdown of the day.

been kicked off the team, Clark gave Snow a few words of encouragement.

"I told him 'just play hard, man, and think about when we were in high school and do it the way you did it in high school and it'll click for you,'" Clark recalled. "He showed us something today. I'm real proud of Carlos."

Clark said the absence of Workman

proved to have a positive impact on the team.

"We dedicated the game to Vince," Clark noted. "Vince came to practice a couple of times to talk to us. We were shocked (about Workman's dismissal from the team). We knew we just had to do it. Coach Cooper told us it would be a big letdown for the team, and we've got to come together as a team to help

Vince out and to win the ball game. Running into LSU, we knew not having Vince could hurt us."

Clark said he thought the Buckeyes' team leaders really came through after Workman's dismissal.

"I think our captains and our seniors brought us more together," Clark said. "And Vince told us not to think about what he had done. It brought us more together."

"I thought we did everything right during the week. We had good practices all during the week," Clark said. "We were real psyched up, because of the thing with Vince and the fact that we lost last week. I'm sure the people all around us — the press and everybody else — thought we were going to be down because we lost Vince and because of the loss last week. Coach Cooper brought us all together."

"Last week (against Pittsburgh) was just something that happened. We relaxed too much. I think that loss last week helped us against LSU, because we played good."

LSU quarterback Tommy Hodson, a preseason Heisman Trophy candidate, had his good moments in Saturday's contest, but the Buckeye defense stopped Hodson in the crucial situations late in the game. The most important play of the waning moments may have been an incomplete pass thrown by Hodson on third-and-12 deep in Tiger territory. Hodson's incompletion forced LSU to punt from the end zone. LSU punter Bourgeois took the snap from center and ran the ball out of the end zone for a safety with 1:30 remaining.

On the free kick, Bourgeois punted the ball to Bobby Olive, who returned it 30 yards to the LSU 38-yard line — setting up the game-winning touchdown pass from Greg Frey to Olive.

Clark said he was not surprised that Hodson threw the ball on the third-and-12 play, even though Ohio State had used up all its timeouts. A running play would have kept the clock running, and LSU may have been able to punt from a little better field position. Hodson's incompletion stopped the clock and saved some valuable time for the Buckeyes.

"I was just hoping he was going to throw the ball. I was hoping he would be throwing because I wanted to get an interception," Clark said. "He's been throwing good all year. He's one of the best quarterbacks I've ever seen in my life. I might see some better ones, but he's the best I've ever seen."

"He has such a quick release. He telegraphs where he's going to throw it, but he gets it there so quick that the receiver already has it when the defender gets there. I felt he threw a couple that I thought I could have intercepted, but it got there so quick that I just had to make the tackle."

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Co-Captain Returns Blocked Punt For TD**McCray In Right Place At Right Time***By Mike Miller*

Sometimes it is better to be lucky than good. Just ask Ohio State outside linebacker Michael McCray.

McCray, a 6-3 senior from Dayton, just happened to be in the right place at the right time to help the Buckeye defense pull off a big play in Saturday's 36-33 victory over highly-ranked LSU at Ohio Stadium.

After Vinnie Clark blocked a punt attempt by LSU's Rene Bourgeois, the ball bounced right into the hands of McCray, who returned it 23 yards for a touchdown. The play gave the Buckeyes a 14-3 lead with 12:46 left in the first half. Those six points proved to be crucial late in the game.

"I saw Vinnie out of the corner of my eye block it," McCray recalled. "We work on blocking punts every day in practice."

When he saw the ball bouncing around, McCray said he had visions of a touchdown dancing in his head.

McCray's touchdown kept Ohio State in the lead until early in the third quarter. LSU went on a 30-6 scoring spree after the block.

McCray, who had five steps to bring his season total to 19, fourth on the club, said his teammates showed a lot of heart in coming from behind in the final 4½ minutes of the game.

"We took a gut-check, and I think the seniors and everybody else came together as a team. We played together good as a team," McCray said.

After LSU went ahead 33-20, McCray said, "Our defense got



Ohio State senior linebacker Michael McCray (99) holds the football aloft and receives an escort from his teammates after running for a touchdown with a blocked punt against LSU. McCray's run, after teammate Vinnie Clark blocked the kick, helped the Buckeyes in their thrilling 36-33 victory over the Tigers.

together and we said we need to hold LSU to three plays and out and give our offense another chance to score."

After the offense scored on a five-yard run by sophomore tailback Carlos Snow, the Buckeye defense responded

by knocking the potent LSU offense backward. With the help of Jim Peel's tackle of Tiger quarterback Tommy Hodson three yards behind the line of scrimmage and a delay of game penalty, the Tigers were forced to punt

from their own end zone. Bourgeois took the snap from center and ran the ball out of the end zone for a safety to put the Buckeyes within four points, 33-29.

It took Ohio State less than a minute to score again. A touchdown pass from Greg Frey to Bobby Olive with 38 seconds left gave OSU the victory.

McCray said the defense struggled the whole game to get to Hodson, who has not been sacked this season.

"It really frustrated us because he'd get back there (in the pocket) in five steps. It's really hard to get to him," McCray said. "By the time we got back there, he'd already gotten rid of the ball."

McCray said he felt the defensive unit performed well late in the game because head coach John Cooper decided not to overwork the team in practice during the week.

"We got a little rest this week because Coach Cooper didn't run us as much. We got our legs back," McCray said. "I thought we played with a little more enthusiasm than we did last week."

McCray said the 42-10 loss to Pittsburgh may have sucked all the overconfidence out of the Buckeyes' system. He doesn't think the LSU victory will make the players overconfident the way the Syracuse victory did.

"I just hope we didn't get cocky like we did last week," McCray said. "I just hope we come back together and stick together and work hard. I think this will make us feel like we can win."

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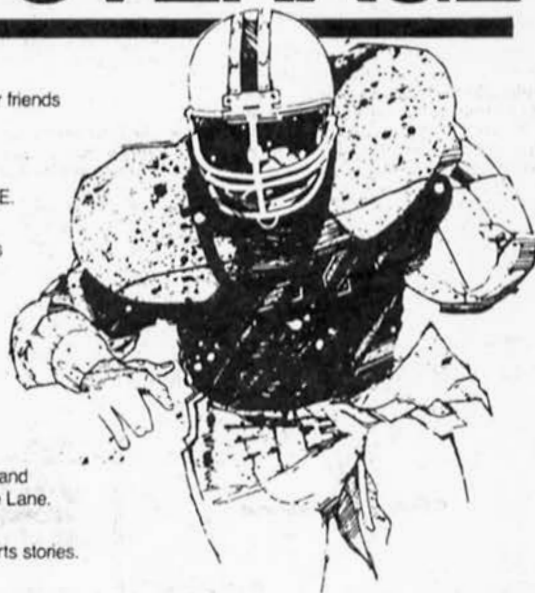
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The View From 15th and High

By Frank L. Moskowitz, BSB Publisher

Did Loss To Pitt, Loss Of Workman Help Buckeyes?

College football is often a game of emotion. So while many Buckeye fans may have feared the worst when the Buckeyes tangled with LSU, the combination of a humiliating loss to Pittsburgh and the loss of Vince Workman might have actually been just what the doctor ordered for OSU.

The big question throughout the young Ohio State season has been how good (or bad) are the Bucks. Given the up and down play of the Buckeyes in the first three weeks, I'm not sure that question has been answered yet.

I have maintained, however, that Ohio State is not nearly as bad a team as it might have appeared in the 42-10 loss to Pitt. I believe that after the relatively easy win over Syracuse, the OSU players thought that the rest of the season would be a similar breeze. I also think the players ended up with so much faith in their new coach and staff that they believed, perhaps subconsciously, that the victories would just add up, whether the Buckeyes showed up ready to play or not.

Much was made of how much faster Pitt was than the Buckeyes. When you're not mentally in the game, it's real easy to look like you're a step behind on every play (which is how the Buckeyes looked).

The humiliation of the Panther debacle, along with the loss of one of the team's leaders in Workman, gave the Buckeyes something to focus on, a reason to rally together. It gave the Buckeyes back the emotion they lacked against Pittsburgh. The result was a victory that, while perhaps not as overpowering as the one over Syracuse, was probably more impressive, certainly more dramatic, and one that will probably have a greater impact over the course of the season. It is doubtful the Buckeyes will ever feel out of a game again, unless, of course, they play like they did against Pitt.

ONE THING I liked was the fact the Bucks finally came out hitting on defense. John Sullivan set the tone of the game for the OSU defense with a couple of savage hits early.

Vinnie Clark, seeing his first significant playing time, looks like he is a defensive back out of the traditional Ohio State mold — that is, he's a hard-hitter also.

It is worth repeating, again, that if Clark, along with fellow Cincinnati Carlos Snow and Greg Frey, continue to play well, perhaps things will loosen up recruiting-wise for the Bucks in the Queen City.

ANOTHER KEY factor in the game came on what would have been the Buckeyes' first possession. Ohio State had just held LSU with its high-powered offense on the first possession of the game and the Tigers punted. Bobby Olive, making his first collegiate appearance as a punt return man, promptly fumbled the kick, giving the ball back to the Bayou Bengals on the OSU 16.

If LSU had scored a quick touchdown, the Buckeyes might have sensed that it was going to be Pittsburgh all over again. Instead, the Buck defense limited the Tigers to a field goal, setting the tempo for a hard-

fought game, rather than another blowout.

SPEAKING OF defense, can you imagine what kind of confidence-builder it must have been for the OSU defense when Cooper elected to pass up the onside kick late in the game and kick deep to the Bengals? Defense is supposed to be one of the question areas for the team this year. Yet Cooper sent a very clear message to his defenders. In one of the biggest games of the season, against one of the best offenses in the country, with the game on the line, he felt they could do the job. And they did.

AFTER THE big win over Syracuse, Buckeye fans were recalling 1979, the last time Ohio State had a first-year coach. As you remember, the Bucks, expected to go nowhere that season, came within a point of the national championship.

After the Bucks loss to Pitt, people seemed to write off the possibility of another season like that. After the LSU win, however, I ask you to think back, again, to 1979.

Think of how, in the fourth game of that season, Art Schlichter engineered a last-minute 80-yard drive to secure a dramatic 17-13 win over UCLA. Schlichter hit on all six of his passes in the 95-second march as the Bucks scored the winning touchdown with just 42 seconds left to play in the nationally televised game.

The win set the tone for the Buckeyes' exciting campaign and helped establish Schlichter, then a sophomore, as one of the greatest (if not the greatest) Buckeye quarterbacks of all time.

Will the dramatic win over LSU do the same for the 1988 Bucks and sophomore Greg Frey?

THE VINCE Workman situation casts a bad light on the Ohio State athletic department. With so many OSU players being linked with agents, both on the football field and the basketball court, it gives the impression that there are agents lurking in every shadowy corner of Ohio Stadium and St. John Arena.

Now that the situation has been so vividly brought to light, the entire OSU athletic staff must be extra vigilant in attempting to make sure this situation doesn't recur. And I certainly hope that the other players have gotten the message.

The story with Workman was like something out of a bad novel — the agent theatrically lining up 10 one hundred dollar bills across a hotel room table and Workman unable to say no.

What Workman did was against NCAA regulations. He knew it; he had to carry it around with him for months. Then he had to pay for it. The one thing I did want to say about Workman, however, was the fact that once this all came to light, Workman stood up in front of the media like a man and answered all questions. He didn't hide or deny what he had done. He gained my respect for that.

THE ONE silver lining to the Workman situation is that it gives Carlos Snow sole possession of the tailback slot.

It was hard not to play Workman at that position. He had proven that he could gain 1,000 yards rushing at this level and no one disputes that he understood the blocking schemes and overall offensive concept better than any running back on the team.

Despite that, however, it's tough to keep Snow on the bench.

"He's a threat to score every time he touches the ball" is perhaps a cliché in football these days. But with Snow, it is the truth. He's already ripped off a 100-yard kickoff return this season and several times against LSU, on a run, a reception or a return, he was one player away from breaking free for another long touchdown.

And don't think that Snow utilizes speed and little else. He is powerful for his size, has great balance, excellent technique and gives outstanding second effort after being hit. And as he plays more, he should become as adept as Workman in terms of blocking and the overall offensive scheme.

I'M AT a loss as to why Big Ten teams did poorly against non-league competition. I'll say this much. Even though they are the only undefeated team, I don't think the Hoosiers of Indiana are the team to beat, especially after that tie with Missouri. I think it will come down to Michigan and Ohio State, just like many people think it should every year. I certainly wouldn't count the likes of Iowa, Michigan State or Indiana out, however.

Perhaps some of our readers would like to express their opinion concerning the hard times of the Big Ten in our letters to the editor section.

I WANT to send out a couple of special get well messages. I first want to send a get well to Mike Shade, one of our very loyal readers down in South Carolina. You're right, Mike. You'll whip this thing like the Buckeyes whipped the Bayou Bengals.

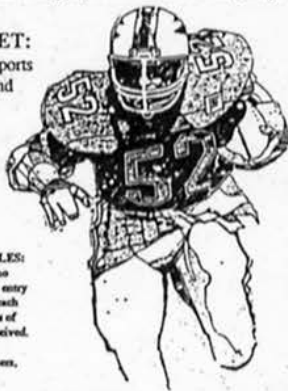
And I want to send a special get well to one of my special business partners, Joyce Cohn. I'm glad to hear you've maintained your sense of humor. Get well soon, Joyce. The NBA season is approaching faster than you think.

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