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"For The Buckeye Fan Who Needs To Know More"

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'Wide Right' Turns The Tide

Buckeyes Take Double Overtime Thriller Over Indiana

By Steve Helwag

The play "Wide Right" was a winner for Ohio State against Wisconsin, but it served a dual purpose for the Buckeyes against Indiana Feb. 17.

OSU sophomore Jim Jackson, following where teammate Mark Baker went one-on-one to win the Wisconsin game, made two last-second plays on his own ability to lift the second-ranked Buckeyes to a 97-95 win over number four Indiana at St. John Arena.

Jackson's initial heroics came with a basket to force an overtime, and the other was a pass to teammate Treg Lee for the game-winning shot at the end of a second overtime.

Lee's six-foot baseline jumper with four seconds left in the second overtime broke the game's last tie and put an exclamation point on a game that saw a remarkable 21 lead changes and 22 ties.

"That was just a tremendous college basketball game," OSU coach Randy Ayers said. "I've never been involved in a better game."

The win lifted the Buckeyes to 22-1 overall and gave them the Big Ten lead at 12-1. Indiana, which was swept by Ohio State for only the second time in coach Bob Knight's 20-year tenure at IU, fell to 22-3 overall and 10-2 in the conference.

"I think this puts us in a good position," Ayers said. "But it certainly doesn't guarantee us the title."

Jackson, who finished with a career-high 30 points, was the man making the plays to put Ohio State in position to take the school's first conference title in 20 seasons.

"At the end of the game, we really needed Ohio State to not make the play. But they made all the plays they needed to win," Knight said.

The Buckeyes trailed Indiana 78-76 with seven seconds left in regulation when Jackson took the ball, dribbled three quarters of the court to the lane and laid the ball in over IU's Jamal Meeks and Eric Anderson to send the game into overtime.

"That play is called 'Wide Right,'" Ayers said. "We put everybody on the baseline so no one can help on Jimmy. Of course, Jimmy has great strength and he just went up over everybody and got it to go down."

The Buckeyes dodged a huge IU bullet in the first overtime as Lee scored on a shot inside to tie the game at 87 with 45 seconds left.

The Hoosiers failed, though, to get a good game-winning shot off as Chris Reynolds' 14-foot heave glanced off the backboard.

In the second overtime, OSU freshman Jamie Skelton nailed two three-point bombs and Jamaal Brown tied the

game at 95 with a free throw with 1:06 left. After Anderson missed a shot at the Indiana end and Lee rebounded, the stage was set for Jackson to go for a game-winner.

The same sequence — again the "Wide Right" play — was set up for Jackson to take his defender to the basket one-on-one, but Anderson stepped up to stop his penetration at the foul line.

"The play was designed just as the one before," Jackson said. "It was designed for me, but I got double-teamed. Treg made a smart cut and went backdoor. I saw him and hit him. I knew he would hit his shot."

Indeed, Lee caught the gift and deposited it through the basket virtually uncontested.

"We cleared out for Jimmy and he came to my side," said Lee, who finished with 14 points. "I just stepped up on the baseline and he saw me. I shot a little short jumper."

The Hoosiers had a chance to win the game after Lee's jumper, but Pat Graham's 24-foot attempt on an inbounds play from midcourt with one second left caromed harmlessly off the backboard.

Jackson, who also had team highs in rebounds (11) and assists (six), was forced to play OSU's point guard spot for most of the game after starter Mark Baker injured his ankle less than 10 minutes into the game. He left the game for the remainder of the half. Baker tried to play early in the second half, but could not.

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Buckeyes, Hoosiers Play Gem Of College Basketball Contest

By Mark Rea

Simply put, it was one helluva game. Ohio State managed to protect its number two national ranking, stay on track for its first Big Ten championship in 20 years and take dead aim at a lofty seed in the upcoming NCAA Tournament with a 97-95 double overtime victory over fourth-rated Indiana Feb. 17.

"It was a great game," said OSU head coach Randy Ayers. "I don't think I've ever been involved in a better one. Both teams played hard for the entire 50 minutes they were on the floor. A lot of players really laid it on the line today."

The game provided plenty of thrills for the St. John Arena sellout crowd of 13,276 and millions more in a nationwide television audience.



Ohio State sophomore forward Jim Jackson (22) hoists the ball over Indiana's Matt Nover (24) for the basket that tied the game at the end of regulation. Jackson and the Buckeyes went on to post a 97-95 double overtime victory over the Hoosiers.

Like two heavyweight boxers taking turns landing hard punches, the Buckeyes and Hoosiers staged one of the most exciting college basketball matches in recent memory.

The game was tied on 22 separate occasions and the lead changed hands 21 different times, and the momentum swayed back and forth throughout the entire contest.

However, when the game was on the line, both at the end of regulation and near the end of both overtime sessions, it was the Buckeyes who rose to the challenge.

By virtue of the victory, Ohio State was able to sweep a season series from Bob Knight's Hoosiers for the first time since 1985.

More important, the Buckeyes

squeezed some breathing room between themselves and the Hoosiers in a Big Ten race that has been too close for comfort all season.

Ohio State came out of the game with a 12-1 conference mark, one and a half games ahead of Indiana at 10-2. The Hoosiers' only two league losses have come at the hands of the Buckeyes.

OSU has five games remaining on its regular-season schedule. The Buckeyes were slated to visit Illinois on Feb. 20 before returning home for their final two St. John Arena dates of the season, Feb. 23 against Minnesota and March 3 versus Michigan State.

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OSU Victorious Minus Baker

Continued From Page 1

"I think our kids really pulled together after Mark got hurt," Ayers said. "They tell me it could be a week to 10 days before he'll be able to play."

Indiana was spirited by three great individual performances. Freshman Damon Bailey scored a career-high 32 points and hit two three-pointers during the extra periods.

"I loved Damon Bailey today," Ayers said. "For a freshman, he showed why he's a winner."

IU sophomore Calbert Cheaney scored 26 points before fouling out near the end of regulation, while Anderson pumped in 20 points and hauled in seven rebounds.

OSU center Perry Carter scored 22 points, while Brown added 17 and Skelton had eight.

The Buckeyes appeared sunk after Bailey sank a free throw with 1:09 left

in regulation for a 77-72 IU lead. Brown hit two free throws with a minute left to cut the lead to 77-74 before Lee stole the ball away from Cheaney with 20 seconds left.

Cheaney made a desperation foul on Lee and fouled out at that point. Lee made both his free throws, cutting the lead to 77-76. Jackson then fouled Bailey in the backcourt with 12 seconds left.

The IU freshman sank the first free throw but missed the second. Brown rebounded and got the ball to Jackson, who called timeout with seven seconds left to set up his shot that forced the overtime.

The Hoosiers had two timeouts and the ball as the first overtime clock wound down, but they failed to use their chance to stop the clock and also failed to get a good shot away to win the game.

Victory Solidifies Bid

Continued From Page 1

The Buckeyes finish the regular season on the road at Purdue March 6 and at Iowa March 9 or 10.

"This doesn't sew up anything for us," said OSU senior center Perry Carter. "It puts us one step closer to our goal, but we know there are still a lot of games ahead of us. This was a good victory, but we can't dwell on it too long."

While Buckeye fans may prefer to dwell on the double overtime victory as long as they can, some are also looking at the Indiana game as one that could springboard the team into excellent position when the NCAA Tournament rolls around.

The prevailing thought is that the Big Ten champion will receive the top seed in the Midwest Regional. Should the eventual champion be Ohio State, the Buckeyes would likely open the tournament as the number one seed in the Midwest and would begin play at the University of Dayton Arena March 15.

Winners of two opening-round contests in the Midwest will move on to regional competition at the Silverdome in Pontiac, Mich., March 22 and 24.

The winner of the Midwest will take on the winner of the West Regional, probably top-rated and undefeated Nevada-Las Vegas, in one of the Final Four semifinal games, set for March 30 in the Hoosier Dome in Indianapolis.

The finals will be played April 1 in the Hoosier Dome.

Before the Buckeyes can dream about tournaments and Final Fours, however, they must continue to get superlative performances such as the one they received from sophomore sensation Jim Jackson down the stretch against Indiana.

Each time the game was on the line, it was Jackson who turned the tide for the Buckeyes.

When junior point guard Mark Baker went down early with an ankle injury, it was Jackson who stepped forward to assume the point guard duties.

It was Jackson's whirling jumper in the lane just before the buzzer that sent the game into overtime. It was Jackson's offensive rebound and pass to

senior Treg Lee that allowed Lee an uncontested eight-footer that sent the game into double overtime.

And it was Jackson who drove the lane and then dished to Lee again with 0:04 showing in the second extra period that allowed the OSU senior forward another uncontested jumper that meant the difference in the game.

Jackson wound up the game with lofty numbers — a career-high 30 points, a game-high 11 rebounds, six assists and one steal.

But it was the fact that the basketball was in his hands at every crucial juncture of the game that stood out more than mere numbers.

"I just have confidence in myself," Jackson explained.

Ayers said he had run out of superlatives for his star player.

"What more can I say?" the OSU head coach asked. "Jimmy just stepped forward and showed why he's the great player that he is."

Ohio State extended its defense and forced Bailey to dish at the last second to Reynolds on the perimeter. Reynolds' shot missed the mark.

"If we screwed anything up, we may have screwed that up," Knight said. "We had more of a defensive team in the game and we maybe should have called timeout with 25 seconds left to make an adjustment."

Skelton's two three-pointers in the second overtime served to keep the Buckeyes in pace with the Hoosiers, who were led by Bailey and Anderson in Cheaney's absence.

"Jamie Skelton hit two really big shots for us in the second overtime," Ayers said.

Indiana (95)

Player	mn	fg	ft	fta	rb	a	pf	tp
Anderson	44	8	15	4	6	7	0	4
Cheaney	34	10	16	4	4	2	2	5
Nover	28	5	9	0	2	3	0	5
Bailey	46	11	15	7	10	3	4	3
Meeks	38	1	3	0	0	2	1	2
G.Graham	23	1	4	2	2	4	3	4
P.Graham	10	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Reynolds	21	0	1	1	2	3	3	4
Lawson	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Jones	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Totals	250	36	65	18	26	25	23	29

3-point FG's: Bailey (3-4), Cheaney (2-2), G.Graham (0-1), P.Graham (0-1). Total FG's: 1st half, .630 (17-27); 2nd half, .500 (19-38); Game, .554. Three-point FG: 1st half, .600 (3-5); 2nd half, .667 (2-3); Game, .625 (5-8). FT's: 1st half, .500 (5-10); 2nd half, .813 (13-16); Game, .692. Team rebounds—1. Deadball rebounds—7.

Ohio State (97)

Player	mn	fg	ft	fta	rb	a	pf	tp
Jackson	45	12	21	6	8	11	6	3
Lee	41	4	6	6	6	8	1	4
Carter	38	8	9	6	9	6	2	4
Baker	10	0	3	0	0	3	0	0
Brown	42	4	9	8	9	4	6	3
Jent	30	2	5	0	2	3	5	4
Robinson	9	0	0	2	4	0	1	0
Skelton	22	3	8	0	2	1	1	8
Brandewie	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Davis	7	0	2	0	0	1	0	0
Totals	250	33	63	28	36	38	23	20

3-point FG's: Skelton (2-5), Brown (1-3), Davis (0-1). Total FG's: 1st half, .500 (14-28); 2nd half, .543 (19-35); Game, .524. Three-point FG: 1st half, .000 (0-2); 2nd half, .429 (3-7); Game, .333 (3-9). FT's: 1st half, .750 (12-16); 2nd half, .800 (16-20); Game, .778. Team rebounds—1. Deadball rebounds—5. Halftime—Indiana 42-40. Regulation—Tied 78-78. 1st Overtime—Tied 87-87. Att.—13,276.

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Buckeyes Hush Critics' Whispers With Win

There were still some whispers about whether Ohio State really was the second best team in the country behind Nevada-Las Vegas, and a team that could knock off Indiana twice in one season.

No one doubted what Ohio State had accomplished and that this really is the best Buckeye team in a long, long time, but reservations were being harbored by some conservative thinkers.

Erase any lingering doubts now.

Inside Look with Rich Exner

Ohio State proved it is a great basketball team Feb. 17, 1991, a date that will be stored in the minds of many people as the day they watched one of

the greatest basketball games they will ever see.

Everyone has their favorites. I'll never forget John Havlicek and the Boston Celtics losing a 1974 championship series game against the Milwaukee Bucks and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar in double overtime, 102-101. That evened the series, 3-3, and Boston won game seven.

I can't really say whether the Buckeye victory over Indiana was more exciting, but I do know it is the only thing in my mind that compares to that thriller in Boston 17 years ago. If you're a basketball fan, you'll recall a couple great games, but this one is sure to be included.

The Indiana-Ohio State game had everything. The biggest lead by either team was six points. Regulation time ended with a big-time clutch drive by Jimmy Jackson to tie the score. The first overtime ended with tenacious Buckeye defense preventing Indiana from getting off a good shot. And the second overtime ended with Jackson dumping off to Treg Lee for a clutch, short jumper with two seconds remaining and then Indiana missing a last-second three-pointer that could have given the Hoosiers the victory.

It had great players playing great in a great game.

Jackson, only a sophomore although he plays like a fifth-year senior, had his best game as a Buckeye, leading Ohio State in points with 30, rebounds with 11 and assists with six. Calbert Cheaney, Indiana's sensational sophomore and Jackson's stiffest competition for Big Ten player of the year honors, scored 26 points before fouling out with 20 seconds left in regulation, and Indiana freshman Damon Bailey scored 32.

The game was filled with spectacular plays, starting and finishing with two between Jackson and Lee. Ohio State's first points came when Jackson tossed a slick, one-handed bounce pass through the lane to a racing Lee for a dunk, and the Buckeyes' final points came when Jackson made another slick pass to Lee

for the game-winner on a short jump shot.

The game was very important, not just because Ohio State entered ranked second nationally and Indiana fourth; the winner would become the clear favorite to win the Big Ten title and for Ohio State, that means a good chance to do something that hasn't been done in Columbus in 20 years.

Entering the game, there were a lot of factors that led the impartial fan to believe Indiana would win, although the game was being played in Columbus.

Most pointed to the fact that Ohio State hadn't seemed at the top of its game since beating the Hoosiers in Indiana earlier. And many believed that Bobby Knight, given a full week to prepare for the Buckeyes, would have his team more ready than ever to play the game.

Those theories proved bogus as Ohio State, minus star point guard Mark Baker for the final 40 minutes, hung on to win.

"I really thought our kids pulled together when Baker got injured," coach Randy Ayers said, perhaps understating the fact.

To play like the Buckeyes did without their point guard on the floor and to come back from being five points down with 1:09 to play proved this team really is special.

But when you watched Ayers walk on the floor, head held high but not in jubilation except for a shake of the fist in the air, you got the feeling he considered his third victory in four tries over Knight as just another step in making his team better.

"We just stayed tough through the 50 minutes," he said later. "That's why you work hard every day, to get into a position to win a tough game."

No one will dispute UNLV deserves to be number one, but this game and Ayers' determination to make the team better has me excited about the possibility of getting a rematch with UNLV.

The Runnin' Rebels knocked Ohio State out of the NCAA Tournament last year, 76-65. You'll recall that Ohio State trailed only 39-37 at halftime of that second-round West Regional game in Salt Lake City.

This year's Buckeyes appear better prepared to stay with UNLV for an entire game.

Let's hope we get to find out.

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"He was so ugly as a child, his parents had to hang pork chops around his neck to get the family dog to play with him."

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The View From 15th and High

By Frank L. Moskowitz, Publisher

OSU-Indiana Contest More Than Lives Up To Its Hype

More often than not in this era of hype, it seems that big games don't measure up to all of the expectation and anticipation.

Take most Super Bowls, for instance. With the exception of the most recent clash, most of the NFL championship games, after all the buildup, prove to be super bores instead of Super Bowls.

The buildup for the most recent Ohio State-Indiana game started immediately after the Buckeyes held off a furious charge by the Hoosiers to score only their second victory ever in Assembly Hall on Jan. 21. The excitement kept right on building.

By the time the teams squared off in St. John Arena Feb. 17, they were playing in arguably the biggest game ever to be played in the 34-year-old building.

By the time the game was over, they had played in arguably the most exciting game ever played in the OSU venue. This game probably exceeded the expectations of most who viewed it in person or on national television and typified the excitement of Big Ten basketball in particular and college basketball in general.

And best of all for Ohio State fans, after all the excitement, the Buckeyes won. Too many times in recent years, both in football and basketball, the Bucks have come up on the short end in these exciting contests.

But it's safe to say that Ohio State fans have something very special in this edition of their basketball team, a team capable of winning the big ones. The team displayed most of the qualities that make it special in the game with the Hoosiers.

First of all, the Buckeyes have a variety of weapons. There are many players on the Bucks who can hurt you, and at some point during the game, most of those players will do some damage. Such was the case against Indiana.

Perry Carter, who had been the subject of some criticism in taverns and on the street corners of Columbus this season, responded to the challenge of Indiana by hitting on eight of nine shots from the field, scoring 22 points, grabbing six rebounds and blocking two shots. Jamaal Brown added 17 points and Treg Lee scored 14 points, pulled down eight rebounds, blocked three shots and hit the big buckets at the end of both overtime periods.

And then there was Jim Jackson. Need I say more?

Not only do the Bucks have ample weapons, but they also have depth. Ohio State scored the victory with Mark Baker, one of its key players, logging only 10 minutes after suffering a sprained ankle.

Jamie Skelton, who had played more than 10 minutes only once in the pre-

vious 12 games, was on the court 22 minutes against the Hoosiers and scored eight points, including two critical three-pointers in overtime.

The Buckeyes also showed that, like most championship caliber teams, they don't wilt under pressure.

They were down by five points with 1:09 to play in regulation, but came back for the tie. They trailed by four with 2:08 to play in overtime and trailed by one with 1:06 to play in the second overtime.

The Bucks also showed they have outstanding coaching. Randy Ayers matched wits with Bobby Knight, who has the rings on his fingers to prove his coaching skills, for 50 minutes and came out on the winning end for the second time this season. Not many coaches can say they've done that.

And the other thing that this edition of the Ohio State basketball team has, the other thing that it showed against Indiana, is something that it didn't really show, because it's not something you can see or put your finger on.

It's that certain intangible that separates the great teams from just the good teams. OSU's 1960 basketball team had it. The 1968 football team had it, as well.

It's a little early to put the Buckeye basketball team in the class of those two illustrious squads. But it's safe to say this team is something special.

THE GAME not only featured the league's two best teams, but also two of its best players in Jackson and Calbert Cheaney.

Cheaney is a superb talent, as evidenced by his 26 points against OSU in 34 minutes and his 21.6-point average for the season. Obviously, I've seen Jackson play far more than Cheaney, but from what I have seen, I think Jackson may be able to do more things than his Indiana rival.

The 6-6 sophomore from Toledo trails Cheaney in scoring average with his 18.8 mark. He is also slightly behind Cheaney in rebounding, 5.0 per game to 4.8. However, Jackson holds a substantial margin in assists (4.3 to 1.4), steals (1.9 to 0.7) and blocks (0.8 to 0.4) per game.

Steve Smith of Michigan State would seem to be the only conference player in the same league as Jackson and Cheaney. With Smith moving on after this season, the two sophomores will battle it out for top player honors over the next two seasons.

That is, of course, if Cheaney and Jackson stick around for the next two seasons.

Another player who may ultimately prove to be one of the top players in the conference also showcased his wares in the OSU-Indiana game.

Damon Bailey, who we've been hearing about since he was in junior high school, lived up to his advance billing. All the freshman did was see 46 minutes of action, scoring a game-high 32 points and passing out four assists.

The thing that probably impressed Buckeye fans the most about the Hoosier phenom was how well he played under the pressure of such a big game.

With Cheaney gone with five fouls, Bailey seemed happy to pick up the

scoring burden. I like that in a freshman.

BUCKEYE FANS who are also Cleveland Browns fans were probably a little concerned when Nick Saban was named defensive coordinator for the Browns recently.

Saban, who was secondary coach for the Buckeyes for two seasons, was one of three defensive coaches that then-head coach Earle Bruce purged following the 1981 Liberty Bowl because of OSU's troubles on defense.

The Bucks had given up a school-record 252 points during that 9-3 season.

The Kent State grad was responsible for coaching the OSU defensive backs, a talented but young group that had trouble defending against the pass during the recently

completed season," the Jan. 16, 1982, *BSB* reported.

"The three defeats inflicted on the Buckeyes this season were directly blamed on the ineffective coverage in the secondary. Ohio State was 136th of 137 NCAA Division I schools in passing defense."

Other aides to get the ax along with Saban were defensive coordinator Dennis Fryzel and defensive line coach Steve Szabo.

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