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Penn State Vanquished, OSU Eager To Zero In On Wisconsin

Buckeyes Clear Another Big Ten Hurdle

By MARK REA

Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

It was a mob scene seldom seen in Ohio Stadium in recent years. In fact, the last time anyone could remember Ohio State fans storming the field after any game was in 1987 when Earle Bruce was carried off on the shoulders of his team after beating Michigan in Ann Arbor in his last game as head coach.

But this . . . This was different. Much different. In the unusual snowy darkness of Halloween eve, Buckeye fans erupted onto the muddy stadium field to help celebrate their team's 24-6 whipping of number 12 (and now Big Ten rival) Penn State.

It was a celebration normally reserved for Michigan games, title-clinching performances and Rose Bowl victories. But somehow, with all of the hype surrounding Penn State's entrance into the Big Ten, the aura that swirls around coaching legend Joe Paterno and a spreading epidemic of championship fever, the venerable Horseshoe exploded in revelry.

As the fans mobbed the players and coaches, and some tried in vain to claim the goal posts as a trophy, there was a sense of triumph in the air that has not been felt for a long, long time.

Then, after the celebration had subsided, it was left to the Buckeyes to once again put a big victory into perspective.

"This is really great," said senior tight end and co-captain Cedric Saunders. "I couldn't get to the locker room and that was the best feeling I've had since I've been here. In the past, we've been kind of up and down and that kind of stuff really never happened here."

"But we can't get too high from this win. This was a great win, but we can't place any more importance on this one than we have any other. We cannot get caught looking back or looking ahead. We're so close to reaching our goals, we do not want to fall short now."

For another senior co-captain, the mob scene following the win over Penn State was a healthy dose of redemption.

Defensive end Jason Simmons was nearly in the midst of another mob scene last year in the Horseshoe, although it would have been a mob scene of much different proportions.

Following the Buckeyes' 20-19 win over Louisville in the 1992 season opener, the team was leaving the field to some nasty epithets, some of which nearly prompted Simmons to go into the stands looking for the offenders.

"Oh, I remember that very well," he said after the Penn State game. "There were people yelling for Cooper's head



CHEWING UP A MUDDY TRACK — The Ohio Stadium turf resembled a quagmire for much of the game between Ohio State and Penn State, but it didn't seem to slow down tailback Raymont Harris (34). Rushing for a career-high 151 yards and one touchdown, Harris helped lead the Buckeyes to a 24-6 victory over the Nittany Lions, preserving OSU's undefeated record and Rose Bowl hopes.

and it was bad. The thing that made it the worst as far as I was concerned, though, was that we won that game. That really upset a lot of people, especially me."

"Then, to come off the field today, it's a 180-degree turnaround. I just couldn't help wondering if the same people who were in the stands that day against Louisville were the same ones who were there today."

The Cooper to which Simmons referred is, of course, Ohio State head coach John Cooper. After five years of spinning on most fans' barbecue spit, Cooper is also beginning to enjoy the fruits of his labors.

"This means a lot to him," said OSU offensive coordinator Bill Young. "He was out there in that mass of humanity at the end of the game and that's a time

when you just want to get out of there with your life."

"But after all he's been through, he stands there and tells me he didn't want to leave the field at the end of the game. He wanted to stay out there and soak it up as much as he could."

So, at least as far as Cooper is concerned, all is forgiven if not forgotten. The same holds true for Simmons.

"I was just trying to keep my body parts and equipment together out there," he said. "When you're winning, it solves a lot of problems. Everybody loves a winner, I guess, and it really does beat the alternative. We're certainly enjoying it and we want to keep it going as long as we can."

Saunders and Simmons are a pair of senior co-captains who, along with fellow captains Chico Nelson and Alan

Kline, have been charged with keeping the Buckeyes focused on each new challenge this season. So far, the foursome has done its job, along with help from their fellow seniors.

"We have always thought that our recruiting class has not really carried the team, but has been the heart of the team," Kline said. "If you look back, and even some of the guys who left out of it who were instrumental in our success, our recruiting class has been through the wars."

"We've seen the rough times, and those kinds of things build character. You're always told that during the tough times and it's kind of hollow at the time, but it is true. Maybe you have

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Buckeyes Roll To 24-6 Victory On Wintry Day In Late October

Penn State Finds Chilly Reception At OSU

TOM CALSON



LET'S CELEBRATE — Raymont Harris (34) helps teammate Joey Galloway (7) celebrate his ninth touchdown reception of the season, a 25-yarder against Penn State.

By MARK REA
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

Before this season began, many people probably thought that it would have to have been a cold day in Hell before a John Cooper team would have beaten one coached by Joe Paterno.

Well, it's unclear what kind of day they were having in the underworld on Oct. 30, but it was an early wintertime setting in Ohio Stadium as Cooper's Ohio State team rolled over Paterno and Penn State by a score of 24-6.

The victory preserved the Buckeyes' perfect 8-0 record as well as their standing in the national polls and set up a showdown in Wisconsin next week and a scenario in which, if everything were to fall in place, the team could clinch its first Big Ten championship since 1986.

For that to happen, not only would OSU have to knock off Wisconsin, but Penn State would also have to beat Indiana while Minnesota was handling Illinois.

But before any of those thoughts could enter the Buckeyes' minds, they stopped to savor the victory over Penn State.

"It's right there, right there from our reach," said OSU senior offensive lineman Jason Winrow, holding his thumb and index finger just two inches apart. "You know, we're inches away from it. We just realize that we're getting closer and closer."

"But we still have to take them one game at a time because when you start looking past people and looking ahead, that's when you get bumped off."

The Buckeyes certainly didn't look past Penn State. In fact, in preparation for the Nittany Lions, the team had one of its best practices in recent memory.

"We had a great week of practice this week," said sophomore linebacker Craig Powell. "Everybody was ready, everybody was focused. Everybody was working on limiting their mistakes. I think we've turned it up a notch."

Powell turned it up a notch himself. Helping to spearhead a smothering Ohio State defense, he had a team-high 11 tackles, recovered a fumble and notched his first career interception.

His pick was just one of four on the day for the Buckeyes, who thoroughly harassed Penn State quarterback Kerry Collins. OSU sacked Collins just once, but there was enough pressure in his face that he completed only 13 of 39 passes for 122 yards.

The Nittany Lions, who had entered the game averaging nearly 440 total yards per game, were held to 271 by the Buckeyes. PSU tailback Ki-Jana Carter was the only solid offensive threat the Lions had all afternoon as he rushed for 123 yards on 24 carries and also caught three passes for 35 yards. Take Carter out of the Penn State lineup and the rest of the Lions accounted for only 113 total yards.

Meanwhile, the OSU offense was finding a way to slice through the muddy conditions. Mostly, it rode on the considerable shoulder pads of senior tailback Raymont Harris, who seems to be getting better with each passing week.

Harris established a new career high with 151 yards rushing, marking his third straight game over the century

mark. He moved his season total to 783 yards in eight games and is well within reach of becoming the first 1,000-yard rusher for the Buckeyes since Robert Smith did it as a freshman in 1990 and only the 10th player in school history to achieve that feat.

Meanwhile, OSU used its tandem of Bobby Hoving and Bret Powers at quarterback to complete eight of 19 passes for a modest 156 yards. But the Buckeyes used a more controlled passing attack than usual. Six of their completions went for first downs, four of them converting third-down situations.

Penn State tried to set the tempo for the game early, putting together a 13-play drive to open the contest. But a couple of misfires by Collins made the Lions settle for a 29-yard field goal from kicker Craig Fayak.

That gave PSU a 3-0 lead and put the Buckeyes behind for the first time all season. They responded as usual, taking their opening possession in for a score for the eighth straight time.

Ohio State started the drive rather uncharacteristically, though, as Hoving rolled out and hooked up with fullback Jeff Cothran on a 29-yard pass play. Three plays later, Hoving kept the drive going by stepping out of the pocket and scrambling seven yards on a third-and-six play.

Most of the rest of the drive belonged to Harris and fellow tailback Butler By'not'e. They combined for 29 yards on the march and Harris scored on a four-yard run to put the Buckeyes ahead 7-3.

Fayak added a season-long 49-yard field goal on Penn State's next possession to pull the Lions within a point at 7-6, but that was as close as they got.

Tim Williams popped a 22-yard field goal through the uprights on the first play of the second quarter, then Powers found split end Joey Galloway in the end zone from 25 yards out less than four minutes later to give the Buckeyes a 17-6 cushion.

OSU preserved its 11-point margin until halftime, then moved it quickly to 18 by marching 68 yards in nine plays following the second half's opening kickoff. Again it was Harris who did most of the work, carrying seven times for 57 yards.

But it was By'not'e who finished things off, sprinting around right end for a five-yard touchdown that made it 24-6.

Penn State tried its best to rally in the second half but always came up a little short. The Lions' two best chances at getting back in the game were thwarted by big defensive plays by the Buckeyes.

Midway through the third period, Fayak attempted another field goal, but it was blocked by OSU junior cornerback Marlon Kerner. Then, the Lions' last gasp was snuffed out when junior safety Walter Taylor cracked PSU tailback Stephen Pitts at the OSU six-yard line, causing a fumble that was recovered by Powell.

Taylor was another Buckeye defender who had a big day, accounting for 10 tackles and a pair of interceptions, his third and fourth of the season.

After the fumble, Penn State never crossed the OSU 40-yard line the rest of the game as the Buckeyes sewed up the victory.

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Third-Quarter TD March Put Game On Ice

By MARK REA
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

It has been well-documented that Ohio State has scored on each of its opening possessions this year.

But the opening possession of the second half has been a different story. Only once in the previous seven games had the Buckeyes scored the first time they had the ball in the second half.

That trend definitely changed for the better against Penn State and ultimately led to the team's victory.

With a wet snow continuing to fall, the Ohio Stadium field conditions had gone from slow to slippery to muddy. With the Buckeyes holding a 17-6 halftime lead, they decided to take the second half kickoff and try some ball control offense.

"Walking off the field at halftime, we knew that there was no way we could run outside," said head coach John Cooper. "So we decided that we would try and take the ball in the second half and try to establish the running game."

With senior tailback Raymont Harris carrying most of the load and the Buckeyes' offensive line of Alan Kline, Dave Monnot, Jack Thrush, Jason Winrow and Corey Stringer blowing open massive holes in the Penn State defense, the Buckeyes marched 68 yards in nine plays.

The final play of the drive was a

textbook play on third down and three at the Lions' four-yard line. With the Buckeyes in a two tight end set, the same formation they had used much of the game, Cedric Saunders crossed to his right in motion.

With sealing blocks from Stringer and D.J. Jones and finishing blocks from Saunders and fullback Jeff Cothran, senior tailback Butler By'not'e sprinted into the end zone untouched. It gave Ohio State a 17-point lead and seemed to break the will of the Nittany Lions, who seriously threatened to score only twice more in the game.

According to Saunders, the touchdown play was something he had been waiting for all week.

"It was tight end motion to the right side and they have Butler following me," he said. "The guy I think I got was number 97, Tyoka Jackson. He was supposed to be their defensive line stud. All week long the coaches were on me with 'Can you handle this guy? He's their stud and he's killed some tight ends in the past.'"

"But the way I come into every game is that he has to play me, not the other way around. So I came off the ball on him and I really was out to prove something."

What Saunders proved to Jackson was that the Ohio Stadium turf was not only wet, but hard as well as the Penn State defensive tackle slipped down and out of the play. Then, as Cothran took care of Lions safetyman Clint Holes, knocking him on his back, By'not'e ran for the corner of the end zone.

"There was a tight end over there — I think it might have been D.J. Jones — and he had the lead block," By'not'e explained. "Cedric had the block coming off the tight end, then Jeff just basically cleaned everything up. I just tried to get the ball in a position to freeze the other defenders, letting them know I could have gone inside or outside. Then, once they were frozen, I just went to the outside and got in the corner of the end zone."

"You have the option, depending on where the defense goes. Sometimes a

BIG PLAY OF THE GAME



TIM CARSON

THE BUTLER DID IT AGAIN — Earning his nickname of "Quick Six," OSU tailback Butler By'not'e scored a third-quarter touchdown that sealed the win over Penn State for the Buckeyes.

defense will read and when you get the ball, they'll just fight out and run to the ball. But Penn State was trying to read the play and that gave me the time to break it outside."

According to Lions head coach Joe Paterno, the touchdown was a back-breaker for his team.

"To me, it would be," Paterno told reporters after the game. "We came out

of the locker room fired up, but we go from 17-6 to 24-6. But that's the sign of a good football team."

"They made that kind of drive when they had to against Michigan State. They came out in the second half and made a statement. That's when you should be considered a good football team and I certainly consider Ohio State to be a good football team."

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Nittany Lions Powerless To Stop OSU Tailback On His Career Day

Too Much Harris Too Much For Penn State

By JEFF RAPP

Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

They came with a game plan to thwart him and they knew when he was coming, but Penn State could not stop tailback Raymont Harris, the Ohio State "Quiet Storm" who made a loud impression in a Buckeye victory.

Harris darted and dashed, hurdled and bulldozed his way to a career-high 151 yards on a squishy field at Ohio Stadium, marking the third straight game in which he has rambled for more than 100 yards. For his efforts, Harris was named the *Big Bear Buckeye of the Week*.

"I don't understand what was going on with the field, but it wasn't like a regular football field, to say the least," Harris said. "It was reminiscent of a pig sty."

But Harris looked mighty comfortable in the slop and used an able herd of hogs in front of him. He manned the bulk of the running chores in OSU's two touchdown drives of the first half. In the second half, when Harris gained 99 yards on an increasingly wet field, the Lorain, Ohio, lumberer almost single-handedly led the Buckeyes downfield for another score.

"That's his kind of game," said offensive coordinator Joe Hollis. "He's a tough inside runner, he keeps his balance well, he's low to the ground and he holds onto the football. You might classify him as a mudder. Then again, there were a couple of runs that he might have been able to take all the way on dry turf."

Harris, who was asked to handle a career-high 32 carries, gained many of his yards on second and third efforts, but he was quick to praise the men in the trenches.

"In my eyes, we have the best offensive line in the country," he said. "There are All-Big Tens and All-Americans sprinkled throughout the whole line. It makes my job so much easier. I can't say enough about them."



PLAYING OFF A BLOCK — Ohio State tailback Raymont Harris (34), shown getting a block from teammate Cedric Saunders, rushed for a career-high 151 yards against Penn State.

Tight end Cedric Saunders, who contributed mightily to the block party, was glad to make a hero out of Harris.

"He's a quality guy. He fights hard every run," Saunders said. "He complements his blockers and everybody is excited about blocking for him. When Raymont's in there, you get that much more out of the offensive line."

The 6-2, 225-pound senior has always been considered a hard-nosed, between-the-tackles runner, but he had taken a back seat to former OSU backs such as Robert Smith and Carlos Snow and current teammate Butler Bynoe for most of his career. Now in his final year and with Ohio State clinging to an undefeated season and number three national ranking, Harris is the man. He

has stepped up his output in every league game and has not fumbled in 1993.

"I feel the way I've been playing and performing has been the same, but everyone else thinks I've taken it to another level," he said. "I take that as a compliment and I want to keep on taking it."

THE THIRD quarter has, by far, been the least productive for the Buckeyes this season. Coming into the contest with Penn State, OSU had racked up 72 points in the first period, 90 more in the second, 65 in the fourth quarter and a mere 35 in the third.

Much of the reason lies in the lackluster way the Buckeyes had been coming out of the locker room after halftime. In its first series of the second

half this season, the offense had produced the following results: a three-and-out against Rice, a two-play sequence that ended with an interception against Washington, a seven-play drive and interception at Pitt, a three-and-out at Illinois, a five-play drive and interception against Michigan State and a 16-play, 98-yard drive at Purdue that stalled on the one-yard line on fourth down.

Heading into the Penn State tilt, the Bucks had started the second half with a score just once. That came at home against Northwestern in week four when Joey Galloway capped a six-play drive with a nine-yard touchdown run on a reverse.

But the woeful trend came to an end against the Lions. With a chance to get control of the game, Ohio State seized it with a solid display of smash-mouth football. It was a statement that made Hollis gleam with pride.

"Effortwise, it was unbelievable," he said. "Our kids were not going to be denied."

Harris and the Ohio State running game were at their best in the opening drive of the third quarter as Ohio State churned out 68 yards in nine plays — all runs. The result was a touchdown that increased the lead to 24-6.

"Maybe the most important drive of the day was the first one in the third quarter when we kind of put the game away," quarterback Bob Hoyer said. "It's just a credit to the offensive line. We were getting eight or 10 yards a pop."

"It's what we do best — just run the ball inside the tackle box and take it outside and stretch the defense," offensive guard Jason Winrow said. "That was the momentum-builder right there. We knew then we had them where we wanted them."

THE SUCCESSFUL second-half start mirrored OSU's offensive efficiency at the start of every game this year.

In its first series, Ohio State's offense mounted an eight-play, 65-yard scoring drive. It marked the eighth time in eight games the Buckeyes had produced a score in the first offensive series.

"We take pride in that," Harris said. "Fortunately we were able to do that again and I believe it set the tempo for the rest of the game."

Saunders said the team did not want Penn State to put an end to all the early game success.

"At the beginning of the year when it first started happening, we really didn't think too much of it. But after other teams started realizing that our first drive really puts us in the game and puts us over the top, we've emphasized it more now," Saunders said.

Hollis said the opening drives have given everyone involved an important start.

"We try to formulate a good plan to give them a few things that we think we need to see early, then also design some good plays and passes into it. It's worked out so far," he said.

"We don't want to put so much emphasis on it that we're down if we don't score, but we're extremely happy that we have."

Head coach John Cooper told the team captains to defer if they won the coin toss, which they did. The decision

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paid off in the end since OSU took advantage of receiving the ball first in the second half. But it allowed Penn State to strike first on a field goal, handing OSU its first deficit of the season. The offense responded with another well-authored scoring drive.

"That was the first time our offense ever went on the field when we were down, so I think it was very important for us to come in and keep our streak alive," Hoyer said.

The fact that the first 15 plays are scripted and rehearsed on Thursdays seems to be a factor in the success. But after that, Hoyer is not sure why the initial series has come easy for the Buckeyes.

"I don't know what it is," he said. "We start off the game with just a great call and picked up 29 yards. You're always going to face adversity in a game, but it seems like we never face it on that first drive."

PREDICTABILITY HAS been a naughty word for the offense in past years, but against Penn State the Buckeyes proved that what you can do carries beyond what the opponent knows.

"After we got through the first 15 plays on our script, it just basically came down to two or three running plays we were doing well and we went with them," Hoyer said.

By not's said the Buckeyes all but announced the play before he scored his third-quarter touchdown.

"They knew probably what the play was going to be, but I tried to trick them by slowing down at the handoff to get them to sit there," By not's said.

After that play gave OSU the commanding 24-6 lead, there was no mystery about what OSU was going to do when with the ball.

"We were going to continue to run and they knew exactly what was coming," said Alan Kline, the starting left tackle and co-captain.

"During the third and fourth quarter, they were in an 'eagle stack' — they were stacking eight guys — which you don't see at all unless a team is really running on you. From the sideline, the field didn't look bad, but when we were out there, we were sinking in three inches. It was hard to get our footing and make any really good blocks, but we managed to get it done. We were basically told, 'We're putting it on you guys, it's your game.'"

Despite waking up to snowfall and freezing cold, the OSU coaches decided during a morning meeting to stay with the script as much as they could in the early going.

Many of the plays were already designed to move the ball on the ground. Two tight end sets were the norm.

"We really wanted to establish the run and neutralize their front four because they're probably the best front four in the Big Ten," Winrow said. "We wanted to keep the ball and keep our defense off the field because Penn State has a great running back in Ki-Jana Carter."

Right tackle Korey Stringer continued his All-American caliber season despite being faced with Penn State's challenging front and a muddy playing field. However, the 6-6, 310-pound sophomore was most impressed with the work of the running backs.

"We did all right, but our backs can do a lot on their own," Stringer said. "Raymont can make his own holes and Butler just runs past you. When Eddie (George) is in there, he's capable of doing both."

THE OFFENSE seems to be peaking at the right time with three tough games and a possible Rose Bowl berth waiting. The group suffered just one turnover — an interception by backup quarterback Bret Powers — and committed minimal penalties.

Saunders, one of the offense's two co-captains along with Kline, said the pieces and team attitude are in place.

"Some people have to block, some people run and some people catch the ball, and everybody on the offense knows their role and how to play it," he said. "They're not trying to play two

roles at once. That's real important when you're talking about teamwork and togetherness."

By not's, another senior, also is pleased but said the best is still ahead.

"We've done well, but I don't think we've reached our peak on offense," he said. "In a game like this, you want to score some points every time you have an opportunity and there were some times we didn't do that, like when we had the interception."

OHIO STATE place-kicker Tim Williams drilled his only field goal attempt of the day, a 22-yarder at the onset of

the second quarter that gave the Buckeyes a 10-6 lead. Williams now stands at seven of eight on field goal attempts, with his only miss coming the previous week at Purdue from 54 yards away.

Amazingly, Williams' trey was the first field goal against Penn State all season.

Williams also made all three of his extra-point attempts to give him a perfect mark of 31 for 31 on one-pointers this year. Earlier this season, he broke the school record for consecutive PATs and now has made 78 straight extra points.

Offensive Balance Keeps Bucks From Being Forced To Play With 'Left Hand'

By MARK REA
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

Two seasons ago, Ohio State tried to return to its roots of smash-mouth football and ended up getting smashed in the mouth.

Under offensive coordinator Elliot Uzelac, the Buckeyes attempted to run the ball down every opponent's throat. That worked, but only up to a point.

OSU won six of its first seven games that season, running over opponents to the tune of 1,787 to 597 rushing yards. That amounted to a 255-yard average on the ground per game for the Buckeyes and only 85 yards for the opposition.

But something happened at the midway point of that season. Opponents began stacking the line of scrimmage against the Buckeyes, almost daring them to throw the ball. But since Ohio State had spent so much time on the running game, they could not throw in crucial situations.

As a result, the Buckeyes lost three of the last five games of the 1991 season and, in those three losses, averaged 109 rushing yards per game. Perhaps a stat more telling would be the team's average per carry in those three games. As Iowa, Michigan and Syracuse stacked the line against them, the Buckeyes gained an average of only 2.4 yards per carry.

Uzelac departed following that season to be replaced by line coach Joe Hollis, who immediately set about achieving a better balance in the OSU offensive attack.

In 1991, the Buckeyes ran almost three running plays for every pass. Last year, the ratio shrank to about 2 to 1 and remains at about that point this season. Again, teams have been trying to line up eight or nine men on the line and daring Ohio State to use its passing game. But Hollis stands calmly on the sideline and instructs OSU quarterbacks Bobby Hoyer and Bret Powers to throw it if necessary.

"We're just trying to give what the defense gives us," Hollis said. "We're really not interested in how many running plays we run or how many passes we call. Sure, we're looking to strike a balance between the two. But if another team wants to overload on one part of the game, we're going to take advantage of what they're giving away."

OSU head coach John Cooper has made it clear that he wants no repeats of the 1991 season. He often remarked during that campaign that his team was trying to play "left-handed," or in other words, not playing to its strength.

"This year, we're trying to eliminate



KEEPING THEM GUESSING — Ohio State has become a more diverse offensive team this season, thanks to a strong running game, an effective passing attack and outstanding blocking.

having a left hand at all," Hollis said. "You hear people say, 'Well, they made us play left-handed,' but if you don't have a left hand, they can't make you play left-handed."

"We have really worked hard on our throwing game, we've really emphasized our running game and we feel like we can do both well."

The stats bear Hollis out. Through eight games, the Buckeyes were averaging 213.9 yards rushing per game and 190.1 yards through the air. Those numbers are up from last year's averages of 186.0 rushing and 163.5 passing and are a much better balance than 1991's averages of 217.9 yards on the ground but only 129.8 through the air.

According to Hollis, though, play

calling only scratches the surface when explaining the Buckeyes' balanced offensive attack.

"I think you have to credit the players," the OSU offensive coordinator said. "They're the ones who have to execute the game plan. I think the most encouraging thing about us offensively is that every Sunday when we break down the tapes, the effort is outstanding."

"We have a bunch of young guys who are on a mission this year. We have goals set and they want to achieve those goals. I can only speak for eight ball games so far, but they've been very focused for eight ball games. We hope it continues, and we have every reason to believe it will."

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Closeness Continuing To Pay Off For Bucks

Continued From Page 1

to go through the downs to truly appreciate the ups. Believe me, we are appreciating what is happening now. That's why I don't think we're ever going to lose focus this year. We know how far we've come and we don't want to stop now."

Looking back on that 1989 recruiting class, the Buckeyes brought in 23 players that year. Ten of them — Raymont Harris, Dave Monnot, Jack Thruish, Tim Walton, Mark Williams, Tim Williams and Jason Winrow, as well as Kline, Nelson and Simmons — are starters this year, while four other players — Alonzo Spellman, Steve Tovar, Roger Harper and Foster Paulk — are former starters for Ohio State, the first three of whom are playing in the NFL.

It might be easy for the upperclassmen to appreciate the hard work that has paid off this season. They can remember all the way back to such disappointments as the 42-3 whipping in Southern California in 1989, the 1990 Liberty Bowl game and the 1991 Michigan game, an embarrassment made complete with Desmond Howard's Heisman pose in the end zone.

But those upperclassmen have somehow impressed enough of their work ethic on their younger teammates to make the Buckeyes a cohesive unit that is able to shrug off a bad play by a teammate and come right back with one to back him up.

"This is my third year and we've never been this close before," said junior cornerback Marlon Kerner. "I've never ever been on a team that was this close. In the past there would be a couple of players close, but it wasn't everybody, so you got that mentality of 'Can I trust you?' Now we don't have that. Everyone trusts each other and takes care of each other."

"I guess it is because everybody stayed here and worked out together in the summer. You hear that a lot, but it was a closeness and a togetherness that we built this summer. Except for a few players, everybody stayed here in the summer and worked out hard. We got

that closeness. Even when we didn't want to run, we pushed each other and that builds closeness on your team."

"You know, on some teams it would be just the black guys hanging around and then the white players are in their own group. But on this team it doesn't matter — black, white, whatever you are — we're going to hang tight. Whenever you're at a party, you'll see a lot of your teammates there. We are really a close group and I think that's showing through."

That bond has showed through time and time again this season and it was on display again vs. Penn State. Here are just three instances:

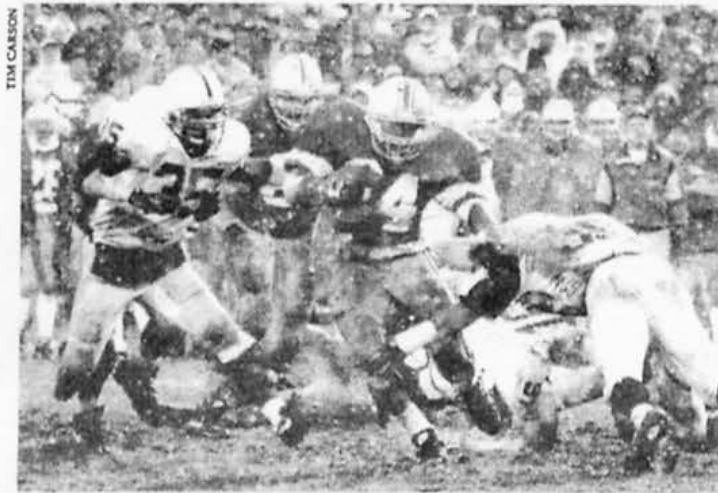
- In the first quarter, OSU place-kicker Tim Williams had problems with the slippery turf and kicked off out of bounds twice, giving Penn State good field position. The defense came to the rescue, limiting the Nittany Lions to field goals on both possessions.

- In the third quarter, OSU linebacker Craig Powell intercepted a pass but then fumbled, setting up Penn State with possession at the Ohio State 44-yard line. Kerner later snuffed out that drive when he blocked a field goal attempt by the Lions.

- And late in the third period, after punter Scott Terna got off his shortest kick of the day and it was returned all the way to the OSU 32, the defense came up strong again when safety Walter Taylor caused PSU tailback Stephen Pitts to fumble at the six-yard line and it was recovered by Powell.

That has been the way it has been all season for the Buckeyes. And now, with a perfect record still intact just three games away from the end of the regular season, some players believe their team is a runaway freight train that will not be stopped.

"We want to go out there every down, every play, every game, every practice and prove we are the best," said senior offensive lineman Jason Winrow. "The end result is hearing that victory bell ringing every Saturday afternoon. That bell gets louder every week and the sound just keeps getting sweeter and sweeter to my ears."



WINTER WONDERLAND — OSU tailback Raymont Harris blows through the snow and a huge hole between Penn State defenders Derek Bochna (35) and Lee Rubin (39).

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Buckeyes Hold PSU's Potent Offense Well Below Yardage Average

Nittany Lions Buried Under OSU Avalanche

By MIKE WACHSMAN
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

The falling white snow on the Ohio Stadium grass wasn't Penn State's biggest problem. No, the real snowstorm that buried the Nittany Lions was the Buckeyes' scarlet and gray defense.

OSU, continuing a roll that started on a summery day with a resounding win over Rice, braved inclement conditions to completely white-out the Nittany Lions offensive attack.

When Penn State wanted to run, there was a snowbank in the form of linebackers Craig Powell and Lorenzo Styles. When Penn State wanted to pass, there was the oncoming hail of OSU's pass rush blinding Lions quarterback Kerry Collins, who struggled through a frigid 13 of 39 passing day, amassing just 122 yards while throwing four interceptions.

"All we really wanted to do was go out and play good defense because the last few ball games we haven't played like we're capable of playing," said safety Walter Taylor, who finished with two interceptions, a forced fumble and 10 stops. "We just wanted to go out and establish ourselves as another good defense in this league and in the country. That's what we did today."

Penn State entered the game ranked first in the league with 277.8 rushing yards per game, but OSU snuffed out the Lions' ground game, limiting them to just 149 yards.

"Our main goal this week was to limit them to 150 yards rushing, and we did that," said Powell, who had a monster day with 11 stops, an interception and a fumble recovery at the OSU five-yard line that quashed a Penn State drive.

After PSU scored on its first two possessions, the Buckeyes made the necessary adjustments, put on their snowshoes and put the clamps on the Nittany Lions' offense the rest of the day.

"We got things taken care of and they couldn't run the ball as much as they wanted to after that first drive," defensive end Jason Simmons said. "We forced them to do a lot more passing than they hoped to, which we knew would play into our hands."

Although Dan Wilkinson wasn't a force on the stat sheet, he was a force on Penn State's backfield, getting good pressure on Collins most of the day.



BIG DADDY WITH A BIG PLAY — It was his only credited tackle of the day, but Ohio State defensive tackle "Big Daddy" Dan Wilkinson made it an important one, sacking Penn State quarterback Kerry Collins late in the first quarter. The entire OSU defense pestered Collins all day, intercepting him four times and limiting him to just 13 completions in 39 attempts for 122 yards.

"Penn State really relies on the rush, but we stoned them there so they had to pass the ball," Wilkinson said. "It's not their style to do that."

The key to forcing Penn State into throwing the ball was getting an early lead. Once the Nittany Lions began hoisting the ball skyward, OSU knew it was in good shape, especially since Penn State entered the game ranked 10th in the league in passing.

"One of the things we wanted to do was take them out of their running game and make them throw it," said Simmons. "They want to be in position to throw when they want to, not when they have to. Today, they threw because they had to and you see where it got them."

PENN STATE showed a bit of resolve after getting down 24-6 early in the third quarter when it took its first drive and methodically marched down the field.

The breaks even went the Lions' way as Powell picked off a Collins pass but fumbled while trying to return the ball. PSU tailback Ki-Jana Carter pounced on the loose ball, retaining possession for PSU.

"I was bobbling it," Powell said. "I never really had it. They probably should have called it incomplete. I was just looking for somewhere to run."

Running and passing, Penn State moved the ball to the OSU 17, where it was faced with third down and five. Collins heaved a pass to Bobby Engram and OSU's Marlon Kerner got there at what appeared to be the same instant as the ball, or even after, but was flagged for pass interference. That gave Penn State new life and a first down at the OSU 11.

But, as usual, the defense hunkered down, knocking Penn State back to the 13, where it set up for a field goal that would have kept its frail hopes of winning alive.

But Kerner, wanting redemption, came around left end unblocked and took one in the gut for the team.

"I was still mad because of the pass interference, so I figured that field goal was as good as blocked," Kerner said. "I just laid out and it hit me in the stomach."

From that point on, Penn State appeared deflated.

"That was a tremendous series for us because it would have put them back within striking distance," Young said. "As it was, we kept them far enough out that it made things tough on them."

Simmons, one of the defensive captains, understood the importance of keeping Carter, Collins and crew off the scoreboard.

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"That was a huge play," Simmons said. "When something like that happens, it demoralizes a team. We had it happen three years ago against Illinois and it kind of took the wind out of our sails."

POWELL WASN'T the only Buckeye defender to shine on this winterlike day in October.

Taylor picked off two passes for the second time this year and is now the team leader with four. The Buckeyes stole four Nittany Lions passes, with cornerback Tim Walton also getting in on the act.

While the Buckeyes' pass rush was spotty, it was enough to disrupt the erratic Collins and force him into poor passes.

"It was a mix of everything — the field, our rush and our coverage," Young said. "It was a great job of coaching by (secondary coach) Larry Coker and was a great effort by the players. We were expecting to have a good game today from everyone."

Taylor felt the interceptions were a piece of cake considering the mayhem his front-line cohorts were creating for Collins.

"We didn't want Penn State to get into second-and-short situations so we wanted to get him into situations where he'd have to drop back and throw it," Taylor said. "Big Daddy, Luke (Fickell), Jason and Randall (Brown) all got up in his face and caused havoc in there, which led to our interceptions."

And about those interceptions?

"The first one, the receiver tried to do a post corner and go, and I was looking at the quarterback," Taylor explained. "We're always taught to play the ball, and read the quarterback's eyes, so I did that. I was just waiting for it to come down. It was up there a long time."

"I'd say he threw it too early, but when you have a man like number 72 (Wilkinson) in your face, you have to hurry up and get rid of it."

FANS STORMING the field after the win forced the Buckeyes to hurry into the locker room. But in the brief period they were out there, it was enjoyable.

"That was a great feeling," Taylor said. "The atmosphere was just like when we played Washington. I've never been in a situation like that. It was great, everyone was out there pumped, talking about Rose Bowls, smelling it. We were just out there having a good time with the fans."

Those fans, who tried to tear down the goal posts but only bent one at the field's north end, got far enough out of hand that Mace had to be used to simmer things down.

Three police officers were hurt when fans connected with punches and beer bottles, and one person was charged with assaulting an officer.

But most of the fans were mindful of the situation and just took in the moment and magnitude of the Buckeyes being undefeated, ranked number three and sitting solo atop the Big Ten perch.

And was that smell emanating from the Ohio Stadium field the aroma of roses?

"All I could smell was liquor coming from the fans," Wilkinson said, "so I knew they were having a good time."

WHILE THE fans were having a good time chanting "Rose Bowl, Rose Bowl," the players know it's still a tad early to let their thinking drift westward.

After Wisconsin upended Michigan, and Indiana toppled Michigan State,

the Buckeyes' next two games become the biggest.

"It's too early to be talking Rose Bowl because we've got a super tough opponent next week and it's in one of the most difficult places in the country to play," Simmons said. "Wisconsin's playing great and it might be a bigger challenge than today's game was."

And while Wilkinson admits his mind, in lazy moments, drifts to Pasadena, he doesn't let it pervade his thought processes.

"We're always going to think about it," he said. "It's really too soon to focus

in on that, though. We have three big games left in the regular season."

The win over Penn State, while maybe not sealing up a Rose Bowl berth, may give the Buckeyes a bit more respect in national circles.

Most of the talk has centered around Florida State and Notre Dame vying for the national championship, and Alabama and even Miami have been mentioned as having an outside shot at the crown. But the Buckeyes are often glossed over.

"The national rankings are nice," Young said. "We just want to win."

Everything will fall into place if we do our job. Right now, there's too many things to worry about besides our ranking."

And while any team wants respect, if lack thereof fires the Buckeyes up, then keep talking them down. They've responded in big situations and feel they will again.

"One thing you can say about this team is that we thrive under pressure," Simmons said. "We've been put under pressure to perform and we have. We've risen to the occasion every week and we're going to continue doing that."

Penn State TB Carter Does About All He Can Do In Return To Central Ohio

By MARK REA
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

Kenneth Leonard Carter likely had childhood dreams of rushing for over 100 yards in a Big Ten game in front of more than 95,000 fans in Ohio Stadium.

He probably would never admit to it now, but those dreams probably had him performing that feat in an Ohio State uniform.

Maybe that's why the Westerville (Ohio) South product who grew up in the shadow of Ohio Stadium and is known more widely by his nickname of Ki-Jana described his first time in the Horseshoe as a member of the Penn State team as "weird."

"At first, it was weird when we came out," Carter said. "Everyone was booing us. But once I was playing, there was really no big difference. I really didn't think about the crowd. I was just thinking about seeing what I had to do right."

Carter did plenty right for the Nittany Lions, accounting for a team-high 123 yards on 24 carries. In fact, counting his three pass receptions for 35 yards, Carter was worth nearly 60 percent of his team's total offense on the day and earned praise from several of the Ohio State defenders who tried to stop him.

"Ki-Jana ran real hard today," said OSU defensive end Jason Simmons. "He never gave up. He's a tremendous running back and probably would have had a bigger day if it was a dry field."

OSU defensive tackle "Big Daddy" Dan Wilkinson, who usually gives opponents credit sparingly and begrudgingly, admitted that Carter played an excellent game.

"He did well today," Wilkinson said. "He's a better back than I thought. He's got a lot more experience to get, but he's pretty good."

The plaudits and individual performance aside — Carter became the first opposing runner this year to go over 100 yards against the Buckeyes — Carter was unhappy with his team's showing.

"It's very disappointing," he said. "We wanted to come in here and hopefully get a win so we could be back in the Big Ten race. But we were unsuccessful."

"I tried to play my hardest. I think the rest of the team did, too, but we just came up short. We made a lot of mistakes, but nothing we can't correct."

Carter moved his season total to 859 yards on the season and closed in on a 1,000-yard season. If he accomplishes that feat, he will be the first Penn State rusher to have a 1,000-yard season since Blair Thomas did it in 1989. He would also join some elite company with



LOOKING FOR RUNNING ROOM — Penn State running back Ki-Jana Carter (32) looks for a way to escape from the grasp of Ohio State linebacker Mark Williams (51).

Lydell Mitchell, John Cappelletti, Lenny Moore, Curt Warner, D.J. Dozier and Thomas as the only Nittany Lions ever to rush for 1,000 or more yards in a single season.

"I'm not thinking about stuff like that right now," Carter said. "I'm only interested in how the team is doing right now. I want to do what I can to get us back on track. There are still four games left in our season and we still have a chance to have a pretty good finish."

Last season, Penn State started quickly with five straight wins, then struggled home with a 7-5 record. This year, the Lions again started with five straight wins but now have lost two in a row. However, Carter swears a repeat of last season will not occur.

"We still want to come in second in the Big Ten and go to the Citrus Bowl, wherever it is," he said. "We still want to go out on a winning note. We don't want to go out losing the rest of our games, so we'll come back."



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The Numbers Game

Buckeyes 24, Nittany Lions 6

PENN STATE	6	0	0	0	6
OHIO STATE	7	10	7	0	24

PSU — Fayak, 29 field goal 12:54
 OSU — Raymont Harris, 4 run (T. Williams kick) 10:03
 PSU — Fayak, 49 field goal 7:39
 OSU — T. Williams, 22 field goal 14:56
 OSU — Galloway, 25 pass from Powers (T. Williams kick) 11:19
 OSU — By'not'e, 4 run (T. Williams kick) 10:17
 Att. — 95,060

	PSU	OSU
First Downs	18	22
Rushing	8	16
Passing	8	6
Penalty	2	0
Rushes-Yards	32-149	57-224
Passing Yards	122	156
Passes	39-13-4	19-8-1
Plays	71	76
Total Net Yards	271	380
Third Down Efficiency	5-14	10-17
Punts	4-31.0	7-36.0
Fumbles-Lost	1-1	1-1
Penalties	4-30	5-46
Time Of Possession	21:54	38:06

Individual Statistics

RUSHING (Att.-Net Yds.) — PSU: Carter 24-123; Archie 3-20; Pitts 3-11; Witman 1-2; K. Collins 1-(-7). OSU: Raymont Harris 32-151; By'not'e 15-42; George 8-22; B. Hoyer 1-7; Powers 1-2.

PASSING (Att.-Comp.-Int.-Yds.-TD) — PSU: K. Collins 39-13-4-122-0. OSU: B. Hoyer 11-4-0-107-0; Powers 8-4-1-49-1.

RECEIVING (Rec.-Yds.) — PSU: Brady 4-36; Carter 3-35; Pitts 2-14; Engram 1-15; LaBarca 1-10; O'Neal 1-8; Archie 1-4. OSU: Galloway 3-45; Sanders 2-56; Cothran 1-29; Jones 1-22; Saunders 1-4.

PUNTING (No.-Avg.-Lg.) — PSU: Muscillo 4-31.0-41. OSU: Terna 7-36.0-53.

PUNT RETURNS (No.-Avg.-Lg.) — PSU: Engram 6-13.0-22. OSU: Galloway 1-10.0-10; Taylor 1-4.0-4.

KICKOFF RETURNS (No.-Avg.-Lg.) — PSU: Hammonds 2-19.0-19; Witman 1-5.0-5. OSU: By'not'e 2-27.5-30.

FUMBLE RECOVERIES — PSU: Carter. OSU: Powell.

INTERCEPTIONS — PSU: Pittman. OSU: Taylor (2), Powell, Walton.

SACKS — PSU: None. OSU: Wilkinson.

TACKLES FOR LOSS — PSU: Bochna, Ravotti, Perry, Stewart, Forbes, Jackson, Brennan, Team. OSU: Styles, Simmons, R. Brown, Wilkinson.

TACKLES — PSU: Bochna 8-6-14; Monaghan 6-6-12; Gelzeiser 7-4-11; Bonfatti 3-7-10; Ravotti 2-4-6; P. Yeboah-Kodie 3-2-5; Perry 3-2-5; Holmberg 2-3-5; Stewart 3-1-4; Pittman 1-3-4; Forbes 2-1-3; Jackson 1-2-3; Miller 0-3-3; Rubin 2-0-2; Brennan 1-1-2; Tate 1-1-2; Clair 1-1-2; Holes 0-2-2; Smith 0-2-2; Atkins 1-0-1; Herring 1-0-1; Engram 1-0-1; King 1-0-1; Team 1-0-1; J. Collins 0-1-1; Hammonds 0-1-1. OSU: Powell 5-6-11; Taylor 8-2-10; Styles 6-2-8; Walton 7-0-7; M. Williams 3-3-6; Simmons 3-1-4; Pickell 1-3-4; Finkes 0-4-4; R. Brown 2-1-3; Maag 1-2-3; R. Miller 1-1-2; Kerner 1-1-2; Saunders 1-1-2; Nelson 0-2-2; J. Gwinn 0-2-2; A. Gwinn 1-0-1; Rodriguez 1-0-1; Wilkinson 1-0-1; Galloway 1-0-1; R. Kelly 0-1-1; Louis 0-1-1.

Players In The Game

PENN STATE — Jackson, Perry, Clair, Stewart, Bonfatti, Ravotti, Gelzeiser, Brennan, Monaghan, W. Smith, P. Yeboah-Kodie, Holmberg, Hammonds, Tate, Rubin, Bochna, Holes, Forbes, Pittman, Engram, P. Collins, Pickett, A. Johnson, Malinoski, Greeley, Hartings, Rivera, Harvey, Brady, Olsommer, K. Collins, O'Neal, Milne, Witman, Carter, Archie, Pitts, LaBarca, Scott, Williams, Fayak, Conway, Muscillo, Atkins, B. Miller, King, Dingle, Conlin, Pantall, Marczyk, J. Collins, Herring.

OHIO STATE — Galloway, Tillman, Carter, Kline, Winrow, Porter, Thrush, Monnot, R. Smith, Stringer, Wargo, Saunders, Jones, B. Hoyer, Powers, Cothran, Houston, Raymont Harris, By'not'e, George, Sanders, Glenn, R. Brown, J. Gwinn, Wilkinson, Beckman, Fickell, Finkes, Simmons, Vrabel, M. Williams, Styles, Powell, R. Miller, Walton, Paul, Nelson, A. Gwinn, Taylor, Kerner, Terna, T. Williams, Ost, Borchers, Dully, Houser, Calhoun, Wilkerson, Rodriguez, Louis, Patillo, Maag, Howard, R. Kelly.

OSU Season Statistics

RUSHING	ATT	GAIN	LOST	NET	AVG	TD	LG		OPP	OSU
Raymont Harris	167	801	18	783	4.7	8	39	FIRST DOWNS	130	177
Butler By'not'e	66	358	31	327	5.0	4	49	Rushing	42	107
Eddie George	42	238	15	223	5.3	3	32	Passing	76	64
Jeff Cothran	35	161	5	156	4.5	1	20	Penalty	12	6
Travis McGuire	35	161	11	150	4.3	1	15	AVG PER GAME/RUSH	92.0	213.9
Joey Galloway	6	42	5	37	6.2	2	14	AVG PER GAME/PASS	195.8	190.1
Chris Sanders	2	35	0	35	17.5	0	28	AVG PER PLAY/PASS	5.9	8.7
Bret Powers	8	35	7	28	3.5	0	9	TOTAL OFFENSE	2302	3232
Keith Wilkerson	1	24	0	24	24.0	1	24	Total Plays	543	566
Matt Calhoun	5	25	1	24	4.8	1	12	Average Per Game	287.8	404.0
William Houston	1	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	Average Per Play	4.2	5.7
Terry Glenn	1	0	7	-7	-	0	0	PENALTIES-YARDS	34-287	44-369
Bobby Hoying	22	43	112	-69	-	0	13	Offense	18-137	19-143
OSU Totals	391	1923	212	1711	4.4	21	49	Defense	12-115	14-111
OPP Totals	277	985	249	736	2.7	2	20	Special Teams	4-35	11-115
PASSING	ATT	COMP	INT	YDS	PCT	TD	LG	FUMBLES-LOST	15-9	12-9
Bobby Hoying	132	71	5	1063	53.8	7	45	3rd DOWN EFFICIENCY	44-128	52-103
Bret Powers	43	27	2	458	62.8	5	64	Percentage	344	505
OSU Totals	175	98	7	1521	56.0	12	64	4th DOWN EFFICIENCY	3-9	4-5
OPP Totals	266	139	15	1566	52.3	9	60	Percentage	333	800
SACKS BY								SACKS BY	12-97	17-121
								TIME OF POSSESSION	223:23	256:37
								Average Per Game	27:55	32:05

Sacks: Bobby Hoying 11-93, Bret Powers 1-4

RECEIVING	NO	YARDS	AVG	TD	LG	SCORING	TD	EPK	EPT	EPR	FG	PTS
Joey Galloway	31	615	19.8	9	64	Joey Galloway	11	-	-	-	-	66
Cedric Saunders	11	114	10.4	0	29	Tim Williams	-	31-31	-	-	7-8	52
Buster Tillman	10	138	13.8	0	19	Raymont Harris	8	-	-	-	-	48
Jeff Cothran	10	137	13.7	1	36	Butler By'not'e	5	-	-	-	-	30
Terry Glenn	7	146	20.9	0	45	Eddie George	3	-	-	-	-	18
Chris Sanders	7	136	19.4	0	32	Jeff Cothran	2	-	-	-	-	12
DeWayne Carter	5	59	11.8	0	21	Josh Jackson	-	6-6	-	-	2-2	12
Dimitrios Stanley	4	61	15.3	1	23	Scoring One TD: Dimitrios Stanley, Eric Moss, Matt Calhoun, Terry Glenn, Travis McGuire, Keith Wilkerson, Matt Finkes, Marlon Kerner						
Raymont Harris	4	41	10.3	0	14	OSU Totals	37	37-37	-	-	9-10	286
D. J. Jones	3	37	12.3	0	22	OPP Totals	11	9-9	1-2	-	12-18	113
Butler By'not'e	2	2	1.0	0	7							
Matt Calhoun	1	13	13.0	0	13							
Eric Moss	1	9	9.0	1	9							
Robbie Davis	1	7	7.0	0	7							
William Houston	1	6	6.0	0	6							
OSU Totals	98	1521	15.5	12	64							
OPP Totals	139	1566	11.3	9	60							

FG DISTANCE	0-29	30-39	40-49	50+	TOTAL
Tim Williams	3-3	3-3	-	1-2	7-8
Josh Jackson	1-1	1-1	-	-	2-2
OSU Totals	4-4	4-4	-	1-2	9-10
OPP Totals	8-9	2-6	2-2	0-1	12-18

FIELD GOAL DISTANCE

(9-10, .900)

Tim Williams (7-8, .875) RICE 27+, 39+;

NOR 39+, 20+; ILL 52+, 39+; PUR 54+; PSU 22+;

Josh Jackson (2-2, 1.000) NOR 32+; PUR 20+

Defensive Statistics

DEFENSE	SOLO	AST	TOT	TAC-LOSSES	QB-SACK	PBU	FC	FR	TDS	BK
Lorenzo Styles	53	22	75	4-5	-	3	-	1	-	-
Craig Powell	31	29	60	5-26	3-16	2	2	1	-	-
Randall Brown	26	13	39	6-40	2-20	3	1	1	-	-
Tim Walton	26	12	38	2-7	-	1	-	-	-	-
Walter Taylor	22	16	38	-	-	5	1	-	-	-
Chico Nelson	16	19	35	1-2	-	-	-	1	-	-
Mark Williams	21	14	35	1-5	-	2	1	-	-	-
Jason Simmons	21	12	33	8-44	4-34	-	1	1	-	-
Luke Fickell	15	14	29	3-17	1-10	2	-	1	-	-
Alex Rodriguez	17	9	26	2-7	-	1	-	-	-	-
Dan Wilkerson	14	12	26	7-31	2-18	1	-	-	-	-
Marlon Kerner	17	8	25	-	-	2	-	-	1	1(FG)
Ryan Miller	9	8	17	3-19	-	-	2	-	-	-
Tim Patillo	10	6	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jayson Gwinn	6	8	14	1-7	1-7	3	-	-	-	-
Matt Finkes	6	7	13	3-12	2-8	1	-	1	-	-
Anthony Gwinn	8	4	12	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Greg Bellisari	9	2	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dennis Maag	7	3	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ty Howard	7	2	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tito Paul	6	3	9	-	-	-	1	-	-	1(PT)
Mike Vrabel	6	3	9	2-8	2-8	-	-	-	-	-
Rob Kelly	4	5	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Preston Harrison	0	6	6	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Pete Beckman	2	3	5	1-2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jason Louis	2	3	5	1-1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Obie Stillwell	4	0	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rick Huntzinger	0	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Joey Galloway	2	0	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cedric Saunders	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Team	3	0	3	3-8	-	-	-	-	-	-

Solo Tackle: Dimitrios Stanley, Brian Stoughton,

Tommy Stokoe, Keith Wilkerson, Alan Kline, Jeff Cothran

Assist Tackle: Robert Guilian, D. J. Jones, Chris Sanders

Pass Broken Up: Matt Christopher

Fumble Recovered: Terry Glenn

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BSB Quotebook: Ohio State 24, Penn State 6

Ohio State head coach John Cooper's assessment of the game: "I'm very pleased about this victory and I'm very happy for our players and our football program. They have worked hard together to achieve everything they have achieved so far and it just pleases me and the entire coaching staff to see what they've accomplished."

Penn State head coach Joe Paterno's assessment of the game: "I thought Ohio State played a great football game. A lot of things we would have liked to do with our quickness, we weren't able to do because of the field conditions. But if you're a good football team, you adjust. Ohio State did and deserved to win the game."

OSU senior offensive lineman Jason Winrow describing the muddy playing conditions during the game: "It was sloppy. If I had my choice, I'd like a nice 65-degree day and dry conditions. But, you know, bring the mud, bring rain, snow ... Nothing is going to stop us from winning."

OSU sophomore quarterback Bobby Hoying on the same subject: "It wasn't too bad in the first half, but the second half, it just seemed like you'd get a handful of mud coming up with the snap and that makes it difficult to throw. But we were able to run the ball consistently today and that was the key to the ball game."

OSU senior tight end Cedric Saunders, a Florida native, on whether he has gotten used to snow: "Not at all. When I got up this morning and looked out, I wasn't that excited. I knew it was going to be freezing today. This was my first time playing in snow and I really thought it was going to be bad. But after I got out there and warmed up, I started having fun. I really enjoyed it."

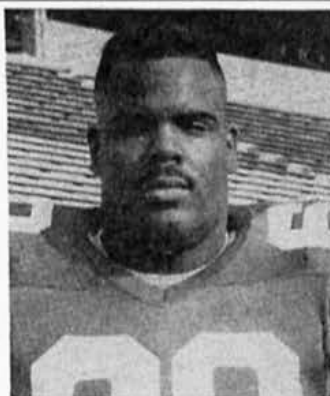
OSU senior tailback Raymont Harris, nicknamed Quiet Storm, on the unusual late-October weather conditions: "I couldn't believe it. I was like, 'This is October?' Then when I stepped outside, it was cold and it was kind of a sleety-type feeling and I said to myself, 'Wow, this is stormy weather. Weather for the Storm.'"

OSU offensive coordinator Joe Hollis on the success of the team's scripted plays, resulting in another first-possession touchdown: "It's worked for us, so we're sticking with it. But we don't talk about it that much. We have always felt that the best calls come during the week. We're just trying to formulate the best plan we know how."

Paterno on why opposing teams seemingly can't stop Ohio State's first drive of the game: "It's not like you know what's coming. I mean, they don't send you the script. They have a good plan going in, they execute well and they're an excellent football team. What else is there?"

Penn State sophomore tailback Ki-Jana Carter on Ohio State: "I would say them and Florida State are probably the best teams in the country by now. They have no weak spots. The defense is solid, the offense is very powerful, the kicking game is real good. They're just a good team. That's really the only thing I can say."

Winrow on when he thought the Buckeyes finally had Penn State put away: "When the game was over. You just can't lose your focus. You still have to get first downs, you still have to get touchdowns. I'll tell you what: The guy who played over me, Lou Benfatti, came every snap. He's from New Jersey and I'm from New Jersey and there might have been a little in-state rivalry there. But their whole team kept coming. They didn't quit."



Jason Winrow



Cedric Saunders



Alan Kline



Jason Simmons

Penn State quarterback Kerry Collins on his team's fumble near the end of the third quarter deep in OSU territory: "The fumble was big, very big. But it was just one of several mistakes we made. We hurt ourselves with those kind of things. You aren't going to win big games doing stupid things like we did today."

Penn State sophomore offensive guard Jeff Hartings on whether another open week for the Lions led to so many mistakes: "I don't know. Looking back, mistakes cost us in the Michigan game and we had an off-week before that. Then mistakes cost us again today. So maybe it's not so good to have an off-week before a big game."

OSU sophomore offensive tackle Korey Stringer on the continued excellent play of the team's offensive line: "I think it was our best game of the year. We handled Purdue last week, but Purdue and Penn State are a different caliber of defense. This was a big confidence boost for us."

OSU senior offensive lineman Alan Kline on whether the Buckeyes are getting respect this season: "I think we are. I know that some of our coaches have talked to coaches in California and we're getting respect out there. So I think it's starting to spread nationwide. And if not, who cares? If we keep winning, I'm sure people will take notice."

OSU senior defensive end Jason Simmons on the same subject: "I was watching ESPN this morning and I think it was Craig James who said that Penn State was going to win the battle of the trenches. Now, I don't know if ESPN has something against us, but they've been saying that Penn State was going to beat our butts all year long and it's nice to finally shut those guys up."

OSU junior safety Marlon Kerner on the fans who stormed the field to celebrate the victory: "It felt great. The fans around here are going crazy and we don't want to let them down. We knew we had a good team last year. We just had a couple of shortcomings. We corrected that this year and you'll see this kind of thing again."

Hoying on the same subject: "It was an unbelievable feeling. You know, growing up in Ohio and loving Ohio State for as long as I have, and getting a chance to be out there and beating Penn State and having one of the biggest wins in a long time at Ohio State, it was just incredible. We have to take this and build on it."

Paterno's response when asked by a reporter what it would take to knock off Ohio State: "I don't know. They have a tremendous defense and a great offense with great backs. They're solid all the way around. To beat them, I don't know what you have to do. Obviously, we don't know."

Hollis on the resurgence of fan enthusiasm for the Buckeyes this season: "I've been here three years and I've seen the whole circle. I've had people cuss at me and throw stuff at me and now I've had people storm the field and pat you on the back. As a coach, you try to take that all in stride and try not to take anything to heart either way."

Cooper's final thoughts on the victory: "This was a tremendous victory for our players and our program. We are very happy to have beaten a very, very tough Penn State team today. But we still have to come back next week and play another tough opponent in Wisconsin. We've been saying this all along and it's still true: We have to keep working hard. We're close to where we want to be, so we can't let up now."

PSU Gets Its Comeuppance From Buckeyes

First, Luke and Laura return to General Hospital, then the Buckeyes bash Penn State. How much more bliss can one guy take in a week?

The most blissful thing about the win was OSU taking the game and stuffing it to the snobbish Eastern elitists. For years, we've heard how tough it is to play Eastern football, how the Lambert Trophy was the be-all and end-all of Eastern teams' seasons and so on and so forth.

Well I've got news for you Seaboarders: the Midwest has some pretty good football, too. It must be a shock to the system to find the Big Ten waters so difficult to navigate. You'll get no sympathy from this corner, though, because it's been a long time coming.

Maybe it was the sportswriters who said it, but whoever it was that said the Nittany Lions would run roughshod over the Big Ten now has to swallow a big dose of Ipecac. Tasty, ain't it?

When the game was in danger of turning Penn State's way, the Buckeye defense, as it has so many times, became the keystone for victory. Big play after big play after big play.

And you wanna know something? There's more where that came from with games against Wisconsin, which was taken off life support with a win over Michigan; Indiana, which a certain scribe thinks is doing it with mirrors; and those boys in maize and blue. Wouldn't it be nice to put the capper on a possible 5-6 season for the Wolverines?

Each game from here on will have pressure, but that's the way these Buckeyes like it. The hotter the kitchen, the more cooking gets done.

"We love games like this and having pressure on our shoulders each week," one Big and Muddy Daddy was heard to exclaim after sending the Lions home with tails tucked between four legs. "All season long this team has risen to the pressure and we aren't going to stop now."

That means more people nationwide will be jumping on the Buckeye bandwagon. But don't worry, there's room for everyone. Just don't ask to be dropped off if the vehicle stutters a little bit because it's a seasonlong ride headed West. And I don't mean San Diego.

HERE'S ONE that might get up the dander of some of the OSU fans not totally sold on John Cooper. *College & Pro Football Newsweekly* came out with a list of the top 25 coaches in college football compiled by the nation's best-named sportswriter, Kelso Sturgeon.

Sturgeon goes fishing through the collegiate waters to find the top dogs at leading their teams and, lo and behold, who shows up at number five but one

Mike Wachsman

The Facts Man

John Cooper. How d'ya like that?

The top five in order are Louisville's Howard Schnellenberger, Virginia's George Welsh, Arkansas' Danny Ford, Penn State's Joe Paterno and Cooper.

Other notables include Notre Dame's Lou Holtz at number 10, Memphis State's Chuck Stobart at 11, Wisconsin's Barry Alvarez at 15, Florida State's Bobby Bowden at 16, Miami's Dennis Erickson at 19 and Indiana's Bill Mallory at 20.

With Cooper, the accompanying notes read, "He brings an unusual understanding of the offensive and defensive balance it takes to win. His teams are always prepared to play and, when you beat them, you know you've been in a real battle."

It certainly seems to be the case this year, but some OSU faithful would maintain it's too long coming.

About the first four: Schnellenberger isn't a bad pick, but first? True, he did take a moribund Miami program to the national title and established the foundation the Hurricanes have now, as well as taking Louisville to a few good seasons. But I don't know if I'd put him first.

Welsh is one of America's most overlooked coaches, but he has the Cavaliers contending and in a bowl game year after year after year. He, too, took over a nearly non-existent program and shaped it into one of the nation's steadiest winners.

Danny Ford's a cheater, so I'm not rating him anywhere. Put him at the bottom of the list with Jackie Sherrill and his ilk.

Paterno obviously is a coaching legend who still is able to get his team up a couple of times per year. But I have a feeling his theories are becoming a little outdated. He sure can recruit, though.

I'd rate Bowden first, Erickson second, Welsh third, Florida's Steve Spurrier fourth and UCLA's Terry Donahue fifth. I know the Bruins have been down a bit the last few years, but they seem to be back and better than ever.

I ALWAYS knew coaches didn't take voting in the polls seriously, but this is ridiculous.

In one of the recent *USA Today/CNN* polls, Ohio University, holder of the longest winning streak in the MAC — a whopping three games — received a

vote. If this coach had a vote in the baseball Hall of Fame proceedings, he'd probably vote for Dave Kingman and Mickey Rivers.

Even OU coach Tom Lichtenberg was bewildered, and when he was told by a poll representative that it was just another coach's way of telling Lichtenberg he's doing a good job, Lichtenberg replied, "I told him, 'Next time, tell him to send me a telegram.'"

I SAID last week Florida State could mail it in against Wake Forest, and the Seminoles came through again, struggling to a 54-0 win.

With Arizona losing to UCLA, an unbeaten Rose Bowl is no longer possible.

If the Buckeyes do indeed make it, they'll likely play the resurgent Bruins. But first they have to get by those pesky Badgers, never an easy task.

Here is this week's top 10 with upcoming opponents. Welcome back, Mountaineers:

1. Florida State (8-0).....at Maryland
2. Notre Dame (9-0).....idle
3. Ohio State (8-0).....at Wisconsin
4. Nebraska (8-0).....at Kansas
5. Tennessee (6-1-1).....Louisville
6. Alabama (7-0-1).....LSU
7. Miami (Fla.) (6-1).....at Pittsburgh
8. Texas A&M (7-1).....idle
9. Auburn (8-0).....New Mexico State
10. West Virginia (7-0).....Rutgers

From The Pages Of BSB

TEN YEARS AGO — 1983

Led by quarterback Mike Tomczak, tailback Keith Byars and a resurgent defense, the Buckeyes abruptly ended a two-game losing streak to Wisconsin with a 45-27 win.

Former coach Woody Hayes dotted the "i" in Script Ohio during halftime, marking the fifth time that a non-band member had handled the dotting chores.

The others were former OSU president Novice G. Fawcett and his wife in 1971, band music arranger Richard Heine in 1974, Bob Hope in 1978 and former band director Jack Evans and his wife in 1979.

FIVE YEARS AGO — 1988

Ohio State made four costly turnovers in the second half while losing a 20-10 decision to Michigan State in East Lansing. The loss dropped the Buckeyes to 1-4 in the Big Ten.

Elsewhere, the word out of Minneapolis was that former OSU athletic

director Rick Bay would become the next AD at the University of Minnesota, which would be Bay's fourth job in a year.

ONE YEAR AGO — 1992

Ohio State seemed to be putting on a late-season surge, rolling over Iowa 38-15 in Iowa City to sit in a three-way tie for second place in the conference alongside Indiana and Michigan State and two games behind front-running Michigan.

In basketball news, the Lady Buckeyes showed off a new attitude on media day despite their 9-9 Big Ten record the year before.

"I do feel we can contend for the Big Ten championship this year," said senior guard Averill Roberts. "I don't feel there's any pressure on us. I feel like we're due, we're due to do something. I don't know exactly what it is. Hopefully it's good. I feel like this is the year for us."

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The View From 15th and High

By Frank L. Moskowitz, Publisher

Taking Them One Week At A Time Has Worked For Bucks So Far

You seem to hear it every week, but it seems to hold more truth every week. The Ohio State football team needs to take them one game at a time. Now that Penn State has been taken (quite convincingly) one game at a time, the Bucks must prepare to take upstart Wisconsin, one game at a time.

The results of Big Ten games of Oct. 30 also seem to reinforce the often repeated warning that Ohio State's final four-week stretch would be a grueling one. Upcoming foes Wisconsin and Indiana are OSU's main roadblocks between here and the Rose Bowl. And anyone who thinks Michigan will be a pushover in the season finale is probably mistaken, particularly if the Wolverines are trying to salvage something from a disappointing season.

The Badgers may have done Ohio State a favor by defeating Michigan. This way, the Buckeyes know Wisconsin is for real. If Michigan had gone up to Madison and thrashed the Badgers, the Buckeyes, coming off of their big win against Penn State, might have been ripe for that dangerous combination of a letdown and underestimating Wisconsin.

After watching this Buckeye squad for eight games now and after listening to them for eight games, I don't think these guys are the type to underestimate or not properly prepare for anyone. On the other hand, they seem to respond well to big challenges and big games. This Wisconsin game, while maybe not having the aura of two traditional powers meeting like the Penn State game did, is now every bit as big as the game with the Nittany Lions in terms of the Buckeyes' quest for the Rose Bowl.

OHIO STATE fans have been waiting a long time to see their beloved

Bucks beat up on a traditional power. With wins over Washington and, even more impressively, Penn State this season, fans have enjoyed it twice, both times in Ohio Stadium and both times before a national television audience.

In both games the Buckeyes won the old-fashioned way, overpowering their opponent. There was nothing cheap or controversial in this latest victory, as virtually every questionable call seemed to go against OSU and the Bucks still pounded the Lions.

How many times in the last eight or nine years have the Buckeyes been humiliated on national television, all too often with a particularly obnoxious Brent Musburger at the mike? It's really starting to get fun around Columbus as Buckeye fans, whose hearts have been broken so frequently in recent seasons, finally are allowing themselves to loosen up and enjoy what has been a really exciting season.

One thing about those late starting games is that people begin tailgating early, and fans were pretty well juiced up by kickoff with the Nittany Lions. It's been awhile since I've seen the often tomlike Ohio Stadium that revved up.

After the convincing win, many surged onto the field. When was the last time fans had reason to surge onto the field? This is a town where businesses on High Street used to have to board up their windows on the weekend of the OSU-Michigan game. There hasn't been much reason for rampaging fans lately.

I would call the game with Penn State the biggest in the stadium since the Michigan game in 1986, when the Buckeyes entered the finale undefeated in conference play with the trip to Pasadena on the line. The Wolverines won the game and the Rose Bowl berth, with the Buckeyes traveling to Dallas to

thrash Texas A&M in the Cotton Bowl.

I would consider the win over the Nittany Lions the biggest OSU win in the stadium since the Buckeyes' conquest of top-ranked Iowa in 1985. That game, too, was played in inclement weather and in that game, too, the Bucks were dominant.

WITH THE weather the way it was, it became apparent to me that if one of the teams could open up a lead early, it would be very difficult for the other team to play catch-up on that sloppy field. The scenario played itself out as the Bucks went up 17-6 at halftime and then iced the game with their impressive drive to open the second half.

The combination of the elements, a Penn State quarterback and offense perhaps not the best suited for catch-up ball and an outstanding Ohio State defense pretty much sealed the fate of the Lions after the score was 24-6.

One thing about playing in sloppy conditions: It's a lot more fun to play in the cold and mud when you are winning than it is when you're losing. While the Lions never appeared to throw in the towel (and it would have been a muddy one), the elements surely took away some of their resolve as the second half wore on.

WHILE WIDE-OPEN offenses have become a way of life in college football, Ohio State fans, raised on Woody Hayes, seem to get special pleasure out of rock'em, sock'em drives like the ones the Buckeyes put together to beat Michigan State or to open the second half against PSU. To that end, Raymond Harris, with his hard-nosed, straight-ahead running style, is rapidly becoming a real fan favorite.

Harris' outlook on the season seems to be typical of the team's as a whole and is an indicator of why the squad is playing so well. While fans were foaming at the mouth as the Penn State game approached, Harris admitted it was a big game. But he said it was a big game because that was the game the Buckeyes were playing that week, just as the Northwestern or Purdue games were big in their weeks.

Take them one week at a time.

THE FACT that the coaches inserted Bret Powers into a big game like the one with Penn State is indicative of the way the quarterback situation has been handled this year and of the unity on the team.

Powers has played well and was rewarded with playing time in the middle of a big game and responded with a touchdown pass to Joey Galloway.

Starter Bobby Hoying didn't sulk and the team didn't miss a beat. Offensive linemen have also been rotated this season and you don't hear any whining about playing time. This truly appears to be a team.

Speaking of Hoying, he made what I believe to be one of the key plays in the game on OSU's first possession. With the Buckeyes facing a third and six at the PSU 32 and the streak of scoring the first time they had the ball in each game this season on the line, the sophomore dropped back to pass. Unable to find an open receiver, he was flushed out of the pocket. Hoying tucked the

ball away and ran seven yards around right end for the first down. Four plays later, Harris scored.

If Hoying had not converted, it might have changed the tempo of the game.

YOU'RE MISSING a treat if you haven't heard former Buckeye coach Earle Bruce's analysis of OSU football on WTVN radio in Columbus.

Earle really seems to be having a good time and he really gets pumped up while carrying out his duties. There's no attempt at being an unbiased journalist here. Earle uses the word "we" when referring to the Buckeyes.

You can tell that Bruce particularly enjoys it when the Bucks get physical with teams like they did against Penn State. That's his style of football.

Bruce's return to Columbus has been kind of a phenomenon, as he has returned somewhat the hero after taking more than his share of criticism during his nine years as head coach. His standing has been helped by the gracious way he has dealt with Cooper. Of course, the fact that Cooper's team has been winning convincingly has made Bruce's job as analyst a lot easier.

I GOT a kick out of some comments by former Buckeye Robert Smith in an interview with *The Minneapolis-St. Paul Tribune* that was reprinted in *The Columbus Dispatch*. Smith was asked about a conversation he was having in the Minnesota Vikings locker room.

"We were talking about the origin of the human race, the whole thing about where the races came from and all that," Smith said. "It was kind of a theology vs. science thing, and we got into archaeology, paleontology and anthropology."

It makes me a little embarrassed that here at *BSB*, we seem to talk about things like the latest episode of "Seinfeld" or who are the Cy Young Award winners whose last names start with the letter "V."

I'd be curious to hear Smith's eloquent explanation of why the Buckeyes are doing so much better this season than they were last year, when he was their star running back.

Smith also admitted that if he played 10 seasons in the NFL, it would be hard for him to go back to med school.

By the way, for those of you not interested in paleontology, the three Cy Young winners were Fernando Valenzuela, Pete Vukovich and Frank Viola.

ELSEWHERE IN this issue, *BSB* columnist Mike Wachsmann tells you about one writer's opinion of the top 25 coaches in the country.

In case you were wondering, here are *College & Pro Football Newsweek's* picks for the worst 10, listed in alphabetical order: Ron Dickerson (Temple), Mark Duffner (Maryland), Spike Dykes (Texas Tech), Gary Gibbs (Oklahoma), Ray Goff (Georgia), David Lee (Texas-El Paso), Al Luginbill (San Diego State), Jim Strong (UNLV), Bob Stull (Missouri) and Barry Wilson (Duke).

FOR THE record, while it was wet at the Penn State game, I think it was colder with that wind whipping off the lake when the Buckeyes played Northwestern in Cleveland in 1991.

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