

OHIO STATE VS. PENN STATE

OSU Offense Earns Respect After Big Win

Shawn Springs sat natively attired in the post game feeding frenzy of Ohio State's big 38-7 win over Penn State and gave answer after answer about the Buckeye defense.

But then he offered something about the offense, which has proven to be none-too-shabby through four games.

"I look up on the scoreboard and see that it's 24-0 in the second quarter and I ask, 'Is our offense that good?'" he said.

Penn State was probably asking the same question after being blitzkrieged for 565 yards and an average of 6.3 yards per play.

This is a Nittany Lion defense that came in allowing just 254 yards of total offense and 6.8 points a contest.

And OSU made it look easy.

"Nothing is as easy as it looks, but anytime you play Penn State, it's always going to be tough," tailback Joe Montgomery said after putting up a workmanlike 86 yards. "You have to be geared up and ready to go. We were today."

Many people talked about Penn State being more stout than any other team the Buckeyes had faced — the Lions did have a very physical, quick defensive attack — but that didn't seem to affect the way the Buckeyes approached their offense.

"We knew if we came in and played our game we'd be all right," fullback Matt Keller said.

While Orlando Pace was his normal, outstanding self along the offensive line, Eric Gohlin and Juan Porter stepped up mightily, too.

Both played their best game of the year, often paving the way for Pepe Pearson, who showed up large with 141 yards and a touchdown, and Montgomery to do major damage.

Early on Penn State got some good angles and penetration, but OSU was up to the challenge and repelled the Lions as the day wore into evening.

"We knew they were going to give us a lot of move-

**INSIDE
THE
OFFENSE
with
Mike
Wachsman**



TOUGH GRAB — Ohio State sophomore tight end John Lumpkin makes a nifty grab of a pass from Stanley Jackson. Lumpkin was cracked by Penn State safeties Shawn Lee (24) and Kim Herring (3) on the play but held on for the 25-yard gain.

ment and figured it would be tough early," Pearson said. "Once we got into the game, our linemen did what they're supposed to do and we started to control the line of scrimmage."

This game marks two in a row over the Lions, though this year's game certainly wasn't in the dra-

matic fashion of last year's 28-25 win in State College.

Domination was the buzzword going around the giant Horseshoe. Maybe everyone should get used to it. The players certainly are.

"We're a great team and we expect this every week," said Dimitrios Stanley, who had two touch-

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downs among his five grabs for 105 yards. "We've done it the last two weeks convincingly. It's been over in the first half and it hasn't been a fluke."

So when people ask how good this Ohio State offense is — especially in light of losing four offensive studs — Stanley says the light bulbs changing on the scoreboard tell the story.

"It says a lot," he said. "Notre Dame had a great defense, fast guys, Penn State was aggressive and strong. But our line is overwhelming. We have the best line in the country. That makes it much easier when we go against other teams."

Welcome Matts

When it was announced that bullish fullback Nicky Sualua wouldn't play this year because of academics, many fans cringed.

Who was going to lay opposing linebackers on their fannies rushing through the gap? Who'd catch the little swing pass?

Things have been answered by the Buckeyes' two-headed fullback monster: Matt Calhoun and Matt Keller.

Each scored a touchdown via the pass against Penn State and both showed a penchant for timely blocking.

Contingencies had to be made when Sualua was sidelined. OSU offensive coordinator Joe Hollis believes both players work equally well with what they're supposed to do.

"It's a different style," he said. "We move our fullback around. Matt Keller is really a kid who can run and catch. You put Matt Keller against most inside linebackers and he's going to win that match. He did today. Matt Calhoun is a great blocker and he showed he's got some hands, too. We like what they bring to the table."

Keller for one is just happy to be on the field, let alone scoring touchdowns.

"We've taken on some bigger duties," Keller said. "We accept our roles and that we rotate in and out. We know if we can play our game we'll contribute."

They Keep Getting Bigger

Opening the Big Ten season with a victory is always imperative, but when it's against a team that's sure to contend for the crown, that makes it even sweeter.

However, the Buckeyes know they can't get too high after the blowout.

"It's always the same," tight end John Lumpkin said. "A big win is a big win. It's a great way to start off the Big Ten season. But if we lose it won't mean anything. We know we have another big

one next week. They'll be big every week if we keep winning."

Many seem ready to anoint the Buckeyes the best in the land after consecutive whippings of traditional powers.

"We're trying to keep things in perspective," Keller said. "We still have a lot of games to go and we have to stay focused. It's a long season."

But Pace did lobby a little bit for the Buckeyes to receive some consideration as the nation's best.

"If Penn State was No. 4 and we dominated them the way we did, we have a strong campaign for being one of the best teams in the country," he smiled.

Not Passing Up The Run

Ohio State was able to grind out plenty of yardage on the ground against Penn State.

The Buckeyes carried the ball 58 times, rambling for 350 yards and destroying a Penn State front that had been compared to some of Joe Paterno's best-ever groups. Woody would have been proud.

Success or failure by both teams was predicated by one thing — the ability to run the ball.

"The reason they were confused is because we were able to run the ball with some consistency," Hollis said. "They were trying to get secondary guys in on the run. The first touchdown was a busted coverage, but that stems from the fear of someone running the ball consistently."

Much of what Ohio State does so well goes back to the guys up front, but Hollis noted that the Buckeyes' gambling defense has helped him make some different decisions than he might have last year.

"It's like managing a baseball game and you've got an eight-run lead," he said. "What kind of decision is a hit and run at that time? It gives you an opportunity to play offense on offense. It gives you a chance to be more aggressive and attack the field."

In a nutshell, Ohio State sensed the Lions were vulnerable on the ground — Wisconsin tallied 191 yards a week earlier — and used that to full advantage.

"We stuck to our game plan," Montgomery said. "We weren't going to do anything special. We came in with our own package, not countering anything."

Mind-Boggling Numbers

Sometimes statistics don't tell the whole story, but in the case of the

Buckeyes they do.

Ohio State is averaging over 25 first downs per game, upward of 300 yards rushing and nearly 240 yards through the air. The Buckeyes have been averaging a gaudy seven yards per play.

And OSU gets it done early, too.

The Buckeyes have tallied 64 points in the opening quarter and 76 more in the second frame.

Twelve different players have carried the pigskin and another dozen have hauled in at least one pass. In all, 11 players have scored touchdowns.

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Enis Finds Little Running Room At OSU

Things are never supposed to come this easily for the Ohio State Buckeyes.

After withstanding a huge and physical Notre Dame front line and rattling ND's beloved No. 3, Ron Powlus, the Buckeye defense had the dubious task of trying to follow up that performance against mighty Penn State.

Another weekend, another domination.

The game plan differed little, but OSU knew the first step would be trying to slow down, then gang-tackle Curtis Enis, PSU's runaway boxcar. Eleven carries and just 34 yards later, the Buckeyes had pocketed another stellar effort and the Lions and venerable head coach Joe Paterno went home still wondering how to penetrate OSU's defense, especially on the ground.

"That was the key to the game," OSU defensive coordinator Fred Pagac said flatly. "Every game that we go into, we're going to stop the run. If a team can run the ball on you, then they have the ability to do anything they want. Take the run away and you're all right."

"We tried to keep the ball east and west and make them spill it outside. Again, we played a lot of eight-man and nine-man fronts and we're putting pressure on our corners. They took the challenge and played ball."

Poll voters who were unable to see the game still had to be impressed with the box score. OSU held the Lions to just 13 first downs, 68 net yards rushing and 211 total yards. Penn State, in fact, had just two drives that crossed into OSU territory, the latter a fourth-quarter march led by reserve quarterback Mike McQueary that resulted in the only Lions score.

"I never expected this, but we knew if we went out there and played hard and played our style of defense — Silver Bullets flying around — we knew that we could win," OSU safety Rob Kelly said. "But we definitely did not know we could go with a shutout with six or

INSIDE THE DEFENSE with Jeff Rapp

seven minutes left in the game.

"Coach Pagac came up with a great game plan again. It was just like last week. We kept seven, eight, nine guys around the ball and we manned the corners up on the receivers and said, 'Hey, just play ball.' We wanted to stop the run and that's what we did."

Once OSU established that ability, the gang from Happy Valley began to unravel on offense, especially when reverses, halfback passes and other gadgets all went awry.

"Once they started doing the razzle-dazzle and reverses and stuff, that's when we kind of knew we had them," said Kelly, who personally thwarted several of those efforts. "When you see that, you wonder if they still have confidence in their offense."

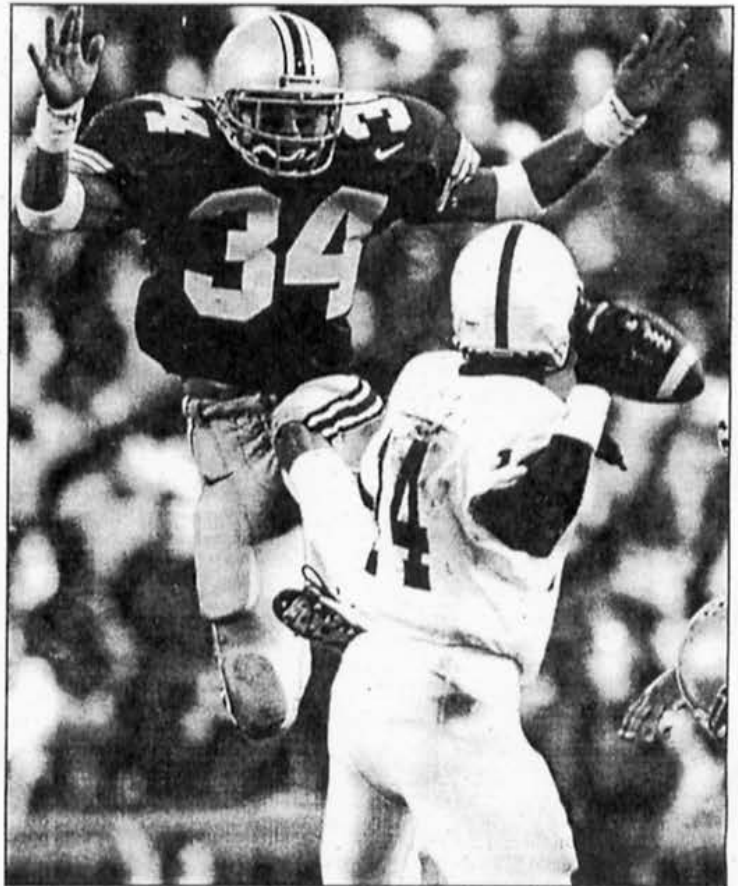
Added linebacker Greg Bellisari, "That could be frustration, but Joe Paterno pulls those things when you don't expect them. I just think that's what he was trying to do. We did take them out of their game plan, though."

One reason for Penn State's long day was OSU strong safety Damon Moore. One week after his breakthrough day in South Bend, Moore led OSU in total tackles (11) and solos (8), mostly by cheating up to stonewall Enis.

"That's a fun way to play," Moore said. "I don't have to worry about the pass as much and it takes a load off my shoulders. I can key on the run and go up there and help the front seven. We can key the tailback or fullback whichever way they go, come up and make something happen."

1, 2, Blitz, Kick

Much of OSU's slam job against Notre Dame was credited to a fierce



THE FLYING BLITZ — OSU safety Rob Kelly leaps to try to bat down a pass by Penn State quarterback Wally Richardson. The Buckeyes utilized their blitz package to confound Richardson, much like they did a week earlier against Notre Dame.

blitzing scheme, but OSU didn't need the tactic as much in shutting down the Lions.

Kelly and cornerbacks Shawn Springs, Ty Howard (who left with an injured ankle) and Antoine Winfield

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had textbook coverage all day and QB Wally Richardson's quick-hit attempts kept OSU in more of a traditional 4-3 look.

"They were going to a lot of three-step drop and when you go to three-step drop you're not going to get there on a blitz anyway," Pagac said. "We tried to play a little more coverage in those situations. You've got to defend what the offense is doing."

With PSU in third-and-too many all day, the Buckeye defensive backs had a field day in breaking up plays. The result was 3-of-16 on third-down conversions and strengthened confidence in OSU's cover men.

A microcosm of the day came in the third period when Richardson rifled an out pass (his best-looking throw of the afternoon) to Joe Jurevicius, only to have it broken up perfectly by Springs in front of the PSU sideline. One play later, standout kicker Brett Conway clanged a field goal attempt off the left upright.

"Personally, I would have rather had a pick, but I'm glad I broke it up to get a defensive stop," Springs said.

Spring was a legitimate candidate for the Jim Thorpe Award coming into the season and he looked every bit the All-American on this day, holding the 6-5 Jurevicius, Penn State's top receiver, to just one catch for 12 yards.

"It doesn't matter who we play — Florida State, Florida, or whatever — when I line up I just imagine this kid cannot be as good as Joey Galloway or Terry Glenn," Springs said. "I've been going against those guys for three years. That's 4.17 and 4.25 (speed). If he's faster than that, he shouldn't be on a football scholarship, he should be somewhere on a track scholarship."

"If he's faster than them, I don't want to check him. He should be in the pros."

That's where many figure Springs will be at this time next year. Not only is he a big-time talent, he seems most relaxed and in control in the big games.

"It's pressure, but it's not pressure because it's expected," said Springs, who nearly committed to Penn State out of high school. "I personally feel like I can go out and handle any receiver in the country one-on-one. That's why I came to Ohio State, to play teams like Penn State, Syracuse, Michigan, Wisconsin."

"These last two weeks, you can't get bigger than these."

Reserve Tank Not Empty

While Springs was master of his domain on one side, Winfield was a more-than-worthy supporting cast member on the other. The diminutive sophomore corner entered the fray in the first quarter after Howard hobbled off with an ankle sprain and, as stated by OSU head coach John Cooper, the Buckeye D never missed a beat.

"I kind of figured out from his injury when I went back to the sideline that he was out the rest of the game," said Winfield, who finished with six tackles, one for loss. "I just stayed confident and played calm."

"It's not like last year. Last year I was kind of nervous. I got a year of experience and I'm ready to play now."

Winfield may be a backup, but he is clearly OSU's third corner and a star in waiting. His teammates know it even if opponents and OSU fans do not.

"They know I can play," said Winfield, who turned in a valiant effort in last year's win at Penn State with

Springs nursing an ankle. "They can see that in practice. I've experienced a lot of things over the last year or so and I've gotten better. I know what to expect."

Winfield's confidence was stoked after a few plays against the Lion wide-outs, who have struggled somewhat since the departures of stars Bobby Engram and Freddie Scott.

"Their receivers; they're all right, but they're not what I expected," Winfield said. "They're sure not Bobby Engram and the other receiver they had last year. You can't replace those."

"The receivers, we expected to shut them down. Then our defensive front did a good job shutting down Curtis Enis."

Still, the Lions insisted on testing Winfield deep.

"I guess they saw the Tennessee film from last year," he said with a laugh.

Fans Have Long Memory

As the Buckeyes continued to pad their lead, the fans stayed involved, especially when the OSU stop troops were on the field.

"This was as loud as it has been — this, Notre Dame, Michigan — and it definitely had a lot to do with it (the outcome)," Moore said. "They couldn't hear their calls, so the crowd played a huge factor. We've got to give them some credit."

The relentless attitude of the fans was a clear plea to lay it on the rival Lions, much the same way Paterno's boys rolled it up in a 63-14 rout in 1994.

"We discussed it a lot at halftime," Kelly said of that unforgettable day. "We wanted to keep the pressure on. Penn State's a great-coached team, but we wanted to keep the shutout going and keep the rushing yards low."

Where From Here?

Now that OSU has essentially stymied its first four opponents, the question can be posed: Just how good is this Buckeye defense? Ohio State entered conference play ranked sixth nationally in scoring (7.7 points per game), total defense (206 yards per game) and defensive passing efficiency (68.39), and none of those numbers were

hurt after baffling the Lions.

One of the secrets to success has been a commitment to sturdy tackling.

"The main thing we're doing is flying around the ball," Kelly said. "We've got guys coming from every angle. We may miss a tackle here and there, but then we've got another guy coming from another angle that's going to blast him if we miss him."

Pagac had no scientific explanation for a unit that is surely among the elite in the country.

"We've got good players that are playing hard and having fun," he said.

Whatever the reason for the dominance, captain Bellisari sees no reason why it won't continue.

"We've got everything going and that's exciting," he said. "This team has great confidence and we know the difference between confidence and arrogance. Next week we're going to prepare

for Wisconsin and we're going to work hard and carry that confidence over."

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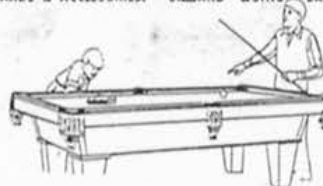
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Cooper Celebrates One More Monster Victory

Throughout the football season, *Buckeye Sports Bulletin* is publishing excerpts from Ohio State head coach John Cooper's postgame press conferences. Here is what Cooper had to say following the Buckeyes' win over Penn State:

COOPER: "Guys, obviously you're looking at a very, very happy head football coach. I'm so proud of our team the way we played today. I thought defensively, Freddy Pagnac and his staff had a great game plan. He's doing a great job with our defense so I gave him the game ball after the game was over."

"Offensively, I thought we executed the game plan, we got control of the game early, we were able to play a lot of football players in the second half, and I'm a little disappointed we let them on the scoreboard at the end of the ball game. We were able to play an awful lot of young football players."

"Just a great victory for us. I don't know if we can play much better than that. We had a couple breakdowns in the kicking game. We can kick the ball better than that, but before you jump on us for our special teams we got a lot of good field position with our punt returns early in the ball game."

"Just a great victory over, I think, an outstanding football team. Last week, of course, we got Lou (Holtz) and Notre Dame. Today we were able to get Coach (Joe) Paterno and Penn State."

"I thought the crowd was absolutely fantastic today. I hope that was the biggest crowd to ever watch us play. I don't know, I didn't hear that total, but I thought the crowd was in the ball game. It was a great day for college football and a great day for the Buckeyes."

Q. What have you heard about Ty Howard?

COOPER: "I think he had a sprained ankle and we held him out of the second half. I didn't get an update on him."

Q. When it's 17-0 and they've got to throw the ball, are you sitting there thinking you've got it where you want it?

COOPER: "Well, I'll be honest with you. I was more concerned about Curtis Enis and their running game going into the ball game. I think he's a big, strong, physical back. The job that our defense did shutting down Penn State's running

game was the difference in the ball game."

Q. Would you say this is your biggest pair of wins back to back?

COOPER: "It doesn't get much better than Lou Holtz one week and Joe Paterno the next, if you want to put it that way. I don't put it that way myself because I think it's Ohio State beating Notre Dame and our football team beat their football team."

"First of all, you don't get the opportunity to play two nationally ranked teams, two top-five football teams very often, really. For us to win as convincingly as we did against both those football teams, obviously, has a lot of satisfaction."

Q. Where would you rank Ohio State now?

COOPER: "I don't know. I haven't seen Florida play. I don't know if we're better than Florida or Florida State, but if we keep playing like we did today we've got to move up."

Q. Are you surprised with how you were able to shut down Enis?

COOPER: "Guys, I am surprised with the way we won that ball game, absolutely. I thought it was going to be a nail-biter. I thought it was going to be a real tough ball game and I think most people did."

Q. Could you ever have imagined in your wildest dreams having to try to hold down the score?

COOPER: "Well, we weren't trying to hold down the score. Don't get me wrong. We were playing everybody on the bench — we played guys that hadn't played since the first couple ball games. We weren't trying to hold the score down. I thought Joe Montgomery ran real hard and it was good to get Jermon Jackson some playing time. We're going to need those guys down the road."

Q. How is (Greg) Bellisari doing?

COOPER: "I think we're OK. Obviously, we've got some kids that are a little bit banged up. I don't think we have anybody, including Ty Howard, who's going to miss the ball game this week."

Q. Joe Germaine did a nice job in relief today, didn't he?

COOPER: "How about Joe Germaine? The second play he's in the ball game I think he threw the post for a touchdown and of course hit Michael Wiley right down the pike again for



COOP MEETS PAPA JOE — Ohio State head coach John Cooper shares a word with Penn State coach Joe Paterno prior to the teams' meeting Oct. 5 at Ohio Stadium. In Paterno's 29 years at Penn State, he has a record of 3-5 against Ohio State.

another touchdown. Mike was looking back in the sun and dropped the ball."

Q. Jermon Jackson of Ironton looked awfully tough in that fourth quarter. Comment on that for us.

COOPER: "Well, I've already commented. I'm proud of the way he ran the football. He's sort of been on the back shelf here for the last couple weeks, he's been down on himself a little bit, so it's good to get him out there. Jermon can run the football. That's not his problem. He needs to improve on his pass-blocking and catch the ball a little better coming out of the backfield."

Q. Is this a better football team now than you've seen at this time last year?

COOPER: "I don't know. We lost a lot of great players off last year's football team. I think we're better defensively. We've got the veteran defensive team coming back, but I don't know if we're better than we were last year."

Q. Talk a little bit about Dimitrious

Stanley's performance.

COOPER: "Dimitrious Stanley's a winner. Dimitrious Stanley does things to help you win football games. He blocks, he runs the precise routes, he catches the ball. I'd say he's probably one of the most underrated players that has played around here in a long, long time."

Q. What were the factors in the ball game that allowed you to stop Curtis Enis?

COOPER: "Well, first of all, I think we've got a good defense. Our defense came to play. I think we had a good scouting report on them. They've played five football games and when you've played as many games as both of us have played now obviously you've got tendencies. I thought we tackled real good and were able to get our safeties up. We matched up pretty good with them on the corners. Shawn Springs, I think, took (Joe) Jurevicius out of the

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OHIO STATE VS. PENN STATE

ball game. I don't know how many passes he caught but it wasn't very many."

Q. Is it the personnel or scheme on defense?

COOPER: "I'd like to think it's both. You better have personnel to carry out the scheme. We're not doing a whole lot different. I think you all are reading a lot into this being a new defensive scheme and that kind of stuff. We're a little more aggressive up front, we're bringing our safeties a little bit closer to the line of scrimmage, but we're playing a lot of the same defense we played last year."

Q. Was Penn State's defense a little weaker than you expected?

COOPER: "No, no. Penn State's got a good football team, guys. I think rather than to say that, I think our offense had a good game. We were able to take advantage of some things they were doing. You've got to keep in mind they've played a lot of young football players, too. At one point they substituted and put the second unit on the field and if I'm not mistaken they had four freshman defensive backs in the game."

Q. Were you aware of the Michigan Northwestern score?

COOPER: "Yeah, we got that score before we went out on the field."

Q. What was the reaction?

COOPER: "Big deal. Michigan gets beat. We watched part of that game downtown. I think it was 9-0 when we left, then somebody mentioned going on the field that Northwestern had just scored. I guess they kicked a field goal."

Q. Your defense did a good job on

Enis. Can you tell us what you did there?

COOPER: "I think we were able to gang up on him a little bit. I've got a lot of respect for Curtis Enis. Guys, I can't tell you how many phone calls I've made... the article this week about us recruiting him never mentioned one thing about me. I probably called that family, (his parents) Thelma and Lincoln... I could almost give you their phone number if you want it. I probably called them maybe 20, 25 times during the recruiting process. I've got a lot of respect for Curtis Enis, but we were able to gang up on him pretty good today. Today was our day."

Q. Your corners really seemed to take care of their wideouts. Did that have a lot to do with what you were able to do?

COOPER: "If our corners can't match up with wideouts we can't play defense. I'll tell you who played a football game for us was Antoine Winfield. We put little number 11 out there and never missed a beat."

Q. Can you talk about Damon Moore, coach?

COOPER: "Damon Moore's a football player. Damon Moore and Rob Kelly both are football players. Both of them supported the run very well, got up on the line of scrimmage and did the job that we asked them to do."

"Talking about the defense, I think a little credit needs to go toward Jon Tenuta and Jim Heacock and Bill Conley. We've got some good coaches on the defensive side of the ball."



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BSB Quotebook: Ohio State 38, Penn State 7

OSU coach John Cooper about comments made by ESPN's Lee Corso that Ohio State wasn't in top condition: "One thing that popped into our head at halftime was somebody made a comment this week about our team not being in condition. We challenged them a little bit at halftime to go out there and work harder in the second half."

OSU flanker Dimitrious Stanley on what makes this Buckeye team special: "We have a bunch of good people and good things are going to happen for us because we work hard. We condition more than anybody else in the country."

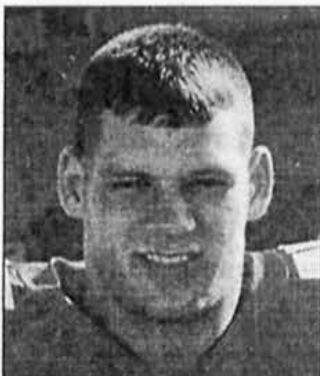
OSU tight end John Lumpkin on how the Buckeyes surprisingly dominated Penn State: "We came out and expected a lot more, but when we play like that and we're playing at home, nothing can save you. The team's got great chemistry, the offense was clicking and the defense was shutting them down."

OSU tailback Pepe Pearson on another strong rushing performance in his team's win: "We're out there having fun, doing our job. Everything is working really well, the offensive chemistry has come along."

OSU quarterback Stanley Jackson on the potential this team has: "Damon Moore and I were talking along with Ty Howard on the sideline. It's almost scary to think about how good we can be. We've beaten two pretty good teams here the last two weeks, and we beat them kind of handily. I think we need to put that in perspective and continue to work as hard as we can."



Dimitrious Stanley



Andy Katzenmoyer

OSU fullback Matt Keller on where he feels the Buckeyes rate right now: "We ought to get some respect. We came out the first two games, and people didn't think we were as good as we were. We went to Notre Dame and beat Notre Dame. Today, we handled Penn State. That shows we should get some respect in the rankings."

OSU linebacker Andy Katzenmoyer compared Notre Dame and Penn State: "They're both quality ball clubs. It was a little different because we played at Notre Dame last week and today we were playing Penn State at home. We had the crowd on our side."

OSU linebacker Greg Bellisari on the first half knee injury that sent him to the sideline, but did not knock him out of the game: "I took a helmet to the knee and just kind of hyperextended it. It was a scary moment, but I came out of it OK."

Cooper on who received the game ball for the Penn State win: "I gave the game ball to (defensive coordinator) Fred Pagac. He's from Pennsylvania, you know. Our defense came to play. The job our defense did in shutting down Penn State's running game was the difference in the ball game. I think we ganged up on Curtis Enis and our defense was unstoppable."

Penn State coach Joe Paterno on what makes Ohio State a top-caliber team: "They're quick and they're good and they're smart and they're well coached. It will take an awfully good football team to beat them or they will have to have a really bad day."

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THE VIEW FROM 15TH AND HIGH

OSU Completes First Step Of Big Ten Climb

You've got to hand it to Ohio State. The Bucks are probably the only football team in the country that could win its first two games by scores of 70-7 and 72-0 and still have fans and media members — OK, myself included — with questions about how good the team was.

I think it's safe to say that after two extremely convincing wins over two traditional powers, everyone — myself included — has had their questions answered and knows this is a very good football team.

I put a lot more value in the win over Penn State than Notre Dame. I think the Bucks played even better against PSU than they did against Notre Dame, if that's possible. More important, the win over the Lions is the first step in the eight-step journey toward Pasadena. And coupled with Michigan's loss to Northwestern, the victory would seem to put the Buckeyes clearly in the driver's seat for the Rose Bowl nod.

Let me give my weekly disclaimer. There is an awful lot of football to be played and the Buckeyes have been in the driver's seat several times in recent years, had great teams, yet still ended up in Orlando or San Diego.

Which Offense Is Better?

I found it interesting that during the week of the Penn State game two differ-

THE VIEW FROM 15TH AND HIGH
Frank Moskowitz, Publisher

ent people told me that this year's OSU offense is much more diverse than last year's offense, primarily because Bobby Hoying locked on to Terry Glenn at the expense of his other weapons last season.

I don't think that's giving nearly enough credit to Hoying or last year's offense. I don't remember Hoying getting tunnel vision toward Glenn until the Michigan game. Last year's offense was plenty diverse. There was a guy named Eddie George, as well as Rickey Dudley, Buster Tillman and even Nicky Sualua, in addition to the spectacular Glenn.

Is this year's OSU offense better? I'll wait until the end of the season to try and make that call. It certainly has the potential to be better, for several reasons. While all of the above-mentioned stars other than Tillman are gone, the Buckeyes appear to have plenty of talent and probably more depth at quarterback, tailback, wide receiver, tight end and fullback than they did last year.

Also, the offensive line lost only Jamie Sumner, perhaps its weakest

link, and has an added year of experience under its belt. The big boys look dominant. And talking about another year under the belt, it's the second year in this diverse offensive system we've been talking about with no changes on the dynamic offensive coaching staff. That has to help in execution, and it shows as the Buckeyes continue to gobble up huge chunks of yardage.

Interestingly, I think this year's offense has been aided by Ohio State's much-improved defense. The field position has been better and the defense, coupled with the outstanding offense, has allowed the Buckeyes to take control of games early. Getting out in front early gives you more flexibility with what you can do on offense, as well as ultimately taking some of the will out of the opposing defense.

Stop The Run!

You can't help but notice that the Buckeye defense is doing a much better job at stopping the run this season. Even when the Buckeyes were charging toward the top of the national polls last season, they were having problems stopping the run.

Last year, Notre Dame rushed 47 times for 204 yards, with Randy Kinder picking up 143 yards on 28 carries and fullback Marc Edwards adding 49 on 12 carries. This time around, the Irish gained only 126 ground yards on 41 carries. Autry Denson led ND with 55 yards on 19 carries, with Kinder picking up just 20 yards on seven carries and Edwards only 18 yards on seven tries.

At Penn State last year, the Lions rushed for 209 yards on 49 tries with Curtis Enis grinding out 146 yards on 25 attempts. In this year's 38-7 OSU victory, the Lions gained only 68 yards on 27 carries, with Enis having a particularly unproductive day with 34 yards on 11 attempts.

Through the Penn State game last year, the Ohio State defense had given up 771 yards on 184 carries for a 4.2-yard average in five games (154.2 per game).

Through the Penn State game this year, the Buckeye stop troops had given up just 411 yards on 145 rushes for only a 2.8-yard average and 102.8 per game.

For all the fancy passing you see these days, you still need to stop the run to beat the good football teams. You're

not going to lose many football games allowing 2.8 yards a carry.

The biggest differences on defense, aside from the additional year of experience for the bulk of the starters, would seem to be the addition of Andy Katzenmoyer and Winfield Garnett to strengthen the middle, the move of Greg Bellisari to his more natural outside linebacker position, and the fact that the defense seems to have taken on the personality of its fiery coordinator, Fred Pagac.

Slow Delivery Of Your BSB?

By now you've had a chance to see if your *Buckeye Sports Bulletin* is going to be delivered in a timely fashion this football season. Reports from publishers at our sister publications around the country have been that the mail service has been worse this year than in quite some time, and we at BSB would probably have to agree.

BSB is always mailed on Tuesday during football season. If you're not getting your paper by game day, we strongly suggest upgrading to first class mail in an envelope. To that end, we are once again having a first class mail sale. You can buy a year of *Buckeye Sports Bulletin* delivered by speedy first class mail in an envelope for just \$61, a \$13 savings over the regular \$74 rate. Additionally, we will convert the remainder of your existing subscription to first class at the rate of one issue for each 1.4 that you have remaining.

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Now He's Mobile

Isn't it interesting how when Stan Jackson was running for his life behind the third-stringers, he had "happy feet," far too quick to run out of the pocket. Now that he's leading the powerful first-team offense to victory, he's "mobile."

The reality is that, when under control (which is much easier to do behind Orlando Pace and company), Jackson is quite a threat with his scrambling ability. Not only did he rush for 53 yards on eight carries against the Nittany Lions, but he also used his mobility to buy more time on several passes.

As if opposing defenses don't have enough to worry about when trying to stop the Buckeyes. Now they are also having to worry about the element that Jackson's speed brings to the game.

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