

# BUCKEYE SPORTS BULLETIN

## \$2.00

PERIODICAL NEWSPAPER  
CLASSIFICATION  
DATED MATERIAL  
PLEASE RUSH!!

Vol. 16, No. 13

"For The Buckeye Fan Who Needs To Know More"

December 1996

# Destination: Pasadena

## Buckeyes Prepare For Rose Bowl Test With Arizona State

By STEVE HELWAGEN  
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

Its national championship hopes all but dashed after a regular season-ending loss to Michigan, the Ohio State football team is pressing ahead in preparation for its Jan. 1 Rose Bowl date with Arizona State.

That's good, because the No. 2-ranked Sun Devils (11-0) will be gunning for a shot at the national championship if they can secure a win over the Buckeyes (10-1).

"We're trying to forget about Michigan and just practice hard for the Rose Bowl," said OSU junior tailback Pepe Pearson about the team's mood just weeks after the 13-9 loss to Michigan on Nov. 23.

Arizona State stormed through the Pac-10 unbeaten, but stands one notch below ACC champion Florida State (11-0) in both major college football polls. The Seminoles will face No. 3 Florida (11-1) in the Sugar Bowl on Jan. 2 in a rematch of their Nov. 30 showdown.

ASU coach Bruce Snyder likes the way his team has come together, practically stifling its last four Pac-10 opponents in wrapping up the school's second-ever Rose Bowl berth.

"I've not seen anybody play better than us," Snyder said at a news conference for the Rose Bowl coaches. "There might be teams as talented or more talented, but this team is playing so well together, fits so well together."

"I think we're playing well enough to be national champions."

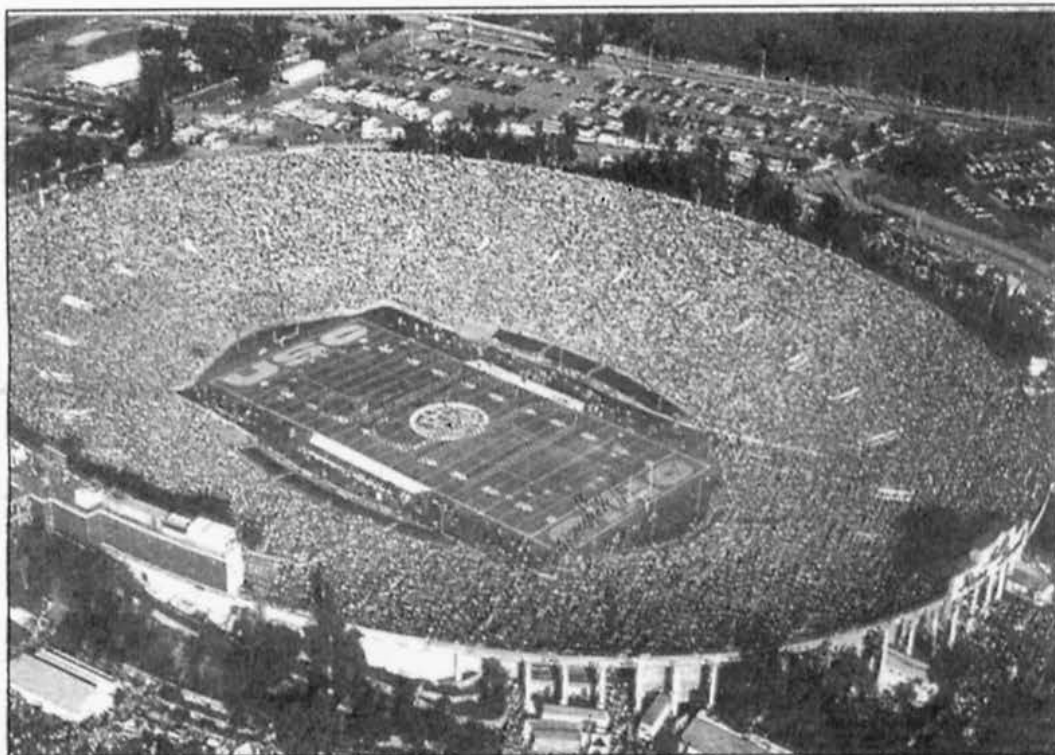
Snyder and the Sun Devils have resigned themselves to the fact that if Florida State beats Florida again, the



• OSU defensive end Mike Vrabel leaving with sack mark (Pages 10-11)

• Arizona State playing for national title (Pages 18-19)

• Rex Kern, Archie Griffin discuss their Rose Bowl experiences (Pages 27-28)



COURTESY: TOURNAMENT OF ROSES

**THE GRANDDADDY OF 'EM ALL** — This was the scene Jan. 1, 1985, as Ohio State opposed Southern California in the Rose Bowl. The Buckeyes will make their first trip to Pasadena in 12 seasons when they tackle Arizona State on Jan. 1, 1997.

outcome of the Rose Bowl may be academic in selecting this season's national champion.

"I think that who goes in (to their bowl) No. 1, and wins their bowl, should be No. 1," he said.

Different scenarios have played out in the past: In 1991, Orange Bowl champion Miami (Fla.) topped the AP poll and Rose Bowl champion Washington headed the *USA Today/CNN* coaches poll. But two years ago, Nebraska won both polls with an Orange Bowl win, while unbeaten Penn State finished No. 2 after dusting Oregon in the Rose.

OSU coach John Cooper, who said he voted ASU No. 1, believes if the Sun Devils win, they deserve better than the fate Penn State got in 1994.

"If they win this game, they should at least share the national championship," Cooper said. "All you can do is win all your games."

Cooper, though, is in no way conced-

ing that outcome.

Rather, he still believes his fourth-ranked Buckeyes could squeeze through the back door to the championship with an impressive win over ASU and a Florida win over FSU.

"I feel like if somebody knocks off Florida State and we're fortunate enough to win the (Rose Bowl) game, we should have a share of the national championship," Cooper said. "If that happens, there's not going to be any undefeated teams."

As the Buckeyes reconvened for practice Dec. 2, they were still shaking off the effects of their loss to Michigan. Yet, they feel they will have no problem getting up to play the Rose Bowl — OSU's first appearance in the Granddaddy of 'Em All since Jan. 1, 1985.

"They probably do have more to play

## BSB To Return After Rose Bowl

This is the only issue of *Buckeye Sports Bulletin* scheduled for the month of December.

BSB will return with the Jan. 11 issue. That issue will contain full coverage of Ohio State's Rose Bowl trip.

That issue, scheduled to be mailed on Jan. 7, will be the first of 10 consecutive weekly issues planned for basketball season.

Continued On Page 6



# BUCKEYE SPORTS BULLETIN

Vol. 16, No. 13  
December 1996

Buckeye Sports Bulletin is published 30 times a year (weekly September through November and January through March, biweekly March through May and monthly June through August and December) by:

Columbus Sports Publications  
1350 W. Fifth Ave., Suite 30  
P.O. Box 12453  
Columbus, Ohio 43212  
(614) 486-2202

Periodical class postage paid at Columbus, Ohio, and additional mailing offices. USPS 705-690. ISSN 0883-6833. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Buckeye Sports Bulletin, P.O. Box 12453, Columbus, Ohio 43212. Subscription rates: \$45 per year.

PUBLISHER  
Frank Moskowitz

ASSISTANT PUBLISHER EMERITUS  
Karen Wachsman

EDITOR  
Steve Helwag

NON-REVENUE SPORTS EDITOR  
Mike Wachsman

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT  
Julia Roy

SENIOR WRITER  
Jeff Rapp

PHOTOGRAPHY  
Sonny Brockway Terry Gilliam  
Jeff Brehm Mike Greer  
Kevin Dye

CONTRIBUTORS  
Nicole Burch Bob Roehm  
Rich Leonardo Steve Siegfried  
Jason Paquet Stacey Stathulis

ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVES  
Wendy Craver & Associates  
Jan Jager Cindy Osborne

1996-97 PUBLICATION SCHEDULE			
No. 1	Sept. 7	No. 16	Jan. 25
No. 2	Sept. 21	No. 17	Feb. 1
No. 3	Sept. 28	No. 18	Feb. 8
No. 4	Oct. 5	No. 19	Feb. 15
No. 5	Oct. 12	No. 20	Feb. 22
No. 6	Oct. 19	No. 21	March 1
No. 7	Oct. 26	No. 22	March 8
No. 8	Nov. 2	No. 23	Mar. 15
No. 9	Nov. 9	No. 24	Mar. 22
No. 10	Nov. 16	No. 25	Apr. 12
No. 11	Nov. 23	No. 26	Apr. 26
No. 12	Nov. 30	No. 27	May 10
No. 13	December	No. 28	June
No. 14	Jan. 11	No. 29	July
No. 15	Jan. 18	No. 30	August

The next issue (Jan. 11 cover date) will be mailed on Jan. 7.

Buckeye Sports Bulletin is a privately owned newspaper and is not affiliated directly or indirectly with The Ohio State University.

Charter Member



P.O. Box 1515 • Columbus, OH 43206  
1-800-762-2216

## OPINION

# Lot At Stake At Rose Bowl

If I have fielded one of these calls in the last three weeks, I've fielded 100 of them:

"What's the mood like there in Columbus?" Well, out-of-towner, with each passing day, the sting of Ohio State's season-ending loss to Michigan has subsided and the community seems to be looking forward to the Rose Bowl.

It has probably helped the healing process quite a bit that Florida lost to Florida State and Nebraska lost to Texas in the Big 12 title game. Those two losses, suffered by arguably the nation's two toughest teams all year, illustrate just how difficult it is to "run the table."

It is no sure bet that OSU would have moved into the top spot anyway after FSU knocked off Florida. Many voters would have elevated the Seminoles to the top spot.

It seems like a broken record, but every year in this December issue I write things like, "This program is at a crossroads," and, "This bowl game would be a chance to take things to a higher level."

I think both of those things are true again this year.

Even with a win over No. 2 Arizona State in the Rose Bowl, Ohio State probably does not have much of a chance at the national championship. After all, No. 1 Florida State will play No. 3 Florida in the Sugar Bowl. If FSU wins, they will probably win the national title, regardless of the Rose Bowl result.

If Florida returns the favor and beats FSU and the Buckeyes beat ASU, many voters will be inclined to put the Gators back at No. 1. Some will vote for OSU, but probably not enough to make the Buckeyes national champions.

Still, there is a lot to play for. Let me detail it here:

- The OSU seniors can still go out as the winningest group in school history with a win. They stand on 40 victories now.

- A win in the Rose Bowl would be Ohio State's first since 1974. It would also be the school's sixth Rose Bowl win — an impressive feat whether unbeaten or not.

- And there is the matter of John Cooper's less-than-stellar OSU bowl record, 1-6. A win here would get a lot of people off Cooper's back (until next October, at least) and help legitimize his tenure at OSU. After all, his predecessor, Earle Bruce, never won a Rose Bowl in two tries, yet is held in high regard by many OSU fans.

As far as the game goes, I think this will shape up to be a great match-up between ASU quarterback Jake "The Snake" Plummer and his offense against OSU's stingy defense. Because of the gambling tendencies on both sides of the football, this match-up will be a treat.

ASU boasts nice yardage averages on defense, but if the Buckeyes can get back on track offensively they should be able to put some points on the scoreboard. Sure, the Sun Devils shut out Nebraska, but their season can be divided almost down the middle: They allowed 34 points in winning their first four Pac-10 games, but just 11 points a game in the stretch run as they began smelling the roses.

Which ASU defense will show up in Pasadena?

And the other thing is, regardless of which defense shows up, the current Sun Devils have never played in a bowl game. OSU's veteran team has played a bowl each of the last three seasons, and that should be an edge for the Buckeyes.

One more stat to ponder: Cooper is 1-0 in the Rose Bowl. As my prediction on page 19 illustrates, he remains perfect — at least in Pasadena.

### More Random Thoughts

- Some award talk:

I can't believe Damon Moore wasn't named first-team All-Big Ten. He had a

## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

with  
Steve Helwag

great year from this vantage point.

Also, some All-American teams are missing Shawn Springs. As the Fabulous Sports Babe would say, "What's that all about?"

Keep an eye out for Orlando Pace to win the Chicago Tribune's coveted Silver Football as the Big Ten's most valuable player — unless they go with hometown boy Darnell Autry of Northwestern.

Pace won't get the Heisman, though. Florida's Danny Wuerffel gets my vote. Consider: Alabama had allowed five touchdown passes all year until Wuerffel victimized the Tide for six in the SEC title game. Wow!

I got my ballot for Big Ten coach of the year and had to use process of elimination to pick my winner. Four of them — Jim Wacker, Jim Colletto (nice job landing with Notre Dame), Bill Mallory and Lou Tepper — lost their jobs. Four more had inexcusable losses — Northwestern's Gary Barnett to Wake Forest, Iowa's Hayden Fry to Tulsa, Michigan's Lloyd Carr to Purdue and Wisconsin's Barry Alvarez to Northwestern.

That leaves Cooper, Penn State's Joe Paterno and Michigan State's Nick Saban. Coop got my vote for landing the Rose Bowl (at long last), followed by Paterno (nice regrouping effort) and Saban (good conference showing).

- Too much has been made of OSU's quarterback controversy. It makes me physically ill when I hear people accuse the coaches of racism in starting Joe Germaine against Michigan.

I lobbied in this forum in mid-November for Germaine to get the nod strictly and solely because he had surpassed Stanley Jackson in effectiveness. Somewhere since the Iowa game, Jackson lost his confidence — if not his patience with the platoon situation — and hasn't been the same. I hope he can get back in the groove and, when given the chance against ASU, produce again.

But for anyone to charge racism — which a university professor and a number of radio talk show callers have — is completely ludicrous. The change was made to give OSU the best chance to win the game and for no other reason.

Germaine earned the start. What's more, this is 1996 — nearly 2000. Why do people still harbor racist feelings? Get over it.

I know Jackson, for one, was embarrassed to be the focal point of this mess. He resents being called "a black quarterback." He's just a quarterback.

- Now that we've closed the racism case, we still have a slight QB controversy. Who will start the Rose Bowl?

As of press time, the OSU staff had not

committed to a starter. The smart money is probably on Germaine.

The darn thing is this quarterback uncertainty is going to rage at OSU for at least the next couple of years. Mark Garcia, back from knee surgery, is wowing people with his powerful arm in practice. Some insiders maintain he would have started if healthy. This spring, he'll join the fray.

In the fall, freshmen Austin Moherman and David Priestley figure to join the hunt, though they will almost certainly be redshirted.

- Speaking of 1997, our insiders have uncovered some possible position moves for next year.

With fullback still posing a problem and plenty of safeties and linebackers in the pipeline, there's a chance Mike Burden might move to fullback.

There are a lot of pluses to that scenario. Burden was a 1,000-yard rusher as a feature back in high school. Plus, he loves to hit. Looks like a great fit.

Burden can leave safety because Moore returns at the strong spot and Che Bryant looks like the heir apparent at free.

Mr. Versatile, Michael Wiley, could find a home at cornerback, where the Buckeyes will lose Ty Howard and probably Springs. Antoine Winfield and Gary Berry could also be in the mix as cover men, although Berry's position will be sorted out after spring experimentation.

Tackle Eric Gohlschtein could be headed to center, where he filled in nicely early this year.

What's more, the Buckeyes are working on another good recruiting class. They figure to take six or seven versatile players in this class with, honestly, no preconceived notion of where they will play until they begin practicing.

- A lot has been made about Joe Hollis — his play calling and his jump to Arkansas State.

If he leaves it looks like Walt Harris would be elevated to offensive coordinator. Short of finding a head coaching job or an NFL spot like Lovie Smith did last year, Harris isn't going to make a lateral move to another college program. After all, why would he uproot and leave one of the nation's top five programs when things are going this good?

I hope, though, that tackles and tight ends coach Mike Jacobs also gets a look for the coordinator spot. Jacobs presided over two national title runs as coordinator at West Virginia.

Don't underestimate the amount of input he has had with the Buckeyes.

- Now, about the basketball schedule (and the fact few are attending these games)...

\$17.50 for Long Island U. is tough — as exhibited by the 4,000 empty seats on a Saturday night, although 11,153 was the "announced" crowd.

Hey, how about a common sense deal like tiered pricing: \$10 for the Long Islands, \$15 for the George Masons and \$20 for the Indiana and Michigans?

### 1000's OF BATTERIES FOR 1000's OF ITEMS®

**BATTERIES FOR:**

- Telephones
- Computers
- Camcorders
- Cameras
- Watches
- Pagers
- Hearing Aids
- Wheelchairs & Scooters

- Smoke Alarms
- Medical Equipment
- Riding Toys
- Security Systems
- Emergency Lighting

- UPS Systems
- Flashlights
- Cars
- Trucks
- Marine/RV

- Jet Ski's
- Mobile Radios
- Power Tools
- Golf Carts
- Motorcycles
- Lawn Mowers
- Tractor & Farm Equipment
- Aircraft
- Buses
- & More!

**1-800-381-2288**

2 Convenient Columbus Locations!

**5960 Scarborough Blvd.**  
(East - Off Brice Road)  
**577-1998**

**5010 North High Street**  
(North - Near Graceland Shopping Center)  
**431-2665**

**HOURS: M-F 8-7 / Sat. 10-4 / Sun. 12-4**



## COVER STORY

# Buckeyes Must Regroup To Face Sun Devils

Continued From Page 1

for than us but we have something to play for ourselves," Pearson said. "We want to win the Rose Bowl. That's what we're going to set out to do."

"I can guarantee you we're going to play hard. Hey, we've got things to play for too."

OSU junior safety Damon Moore agreed the game presents a chance for the Buckeyes to spoil ASU's perfect season. But there's more to it than that, he says.

"I'm not going to state it by saying we're trying to ruin their (season)," he said. "We are trying to win the ball game and if that's what happens, that's what happens."

Cooper looked incredulously at questioners who were concerned about OSU's motivation.

"You guys have got to be out of your mind," Cooper said. "Why would you be concerned about getting up for the Rose Bowl?"

"If they're not ready to play in a Rose Bowl, they shouldn't be playing major college football. I mean, how many Rose Bowls do you get to play in, for goodness sake?"

For one, Cooper is excited to get back to Pasadena, where, ironically, he led Arizona State to a 22-15 triumph over Michigan in the 1987 Rose Bowl.



**RECAPTURE THE FEELING** — A teary-eyed Orlando Pace is pictured holding up a rose after OSU's Rose Bowl-clinching win over Indiana on Nov. 16. The Buckeyes lost their unbeaten season to Michigan a week later but still will play in the Rose Bowl Jan. 1.

"It's the best bowl game I've ever been involved with," he said. "It's the biggest and most people say it's the best. Most people are envious of the Rose Bowl. It used to pay the most money, more people watch it on TV, it's in the biggest stadium."

"I think it's probably the most prestigious bowl game you can play in."

## About These Sun Devils

A quick perusal of the Arizona State media guide shows that the Sun Devils haven't enjoyed much postseason suc-

cess in recent years.

Heck, they haven't even been to a bowl game in nine years.

But, in this instance, the ASU track record is ancient history. This Sun Devils team can play, Cooper said.

"They're a good football team," he said. "You don't go to the Rose Bowl unless you're a good team. They're probably the best team we've seen this year. I voted them No. 1."

In years past, ASU played the part of Pac-10 also-ran well. The Sun Devils would come close, but never close the deal.

That changed this year under Snyder, finishing his fifth year in Tempe. With quarterback Jake Plummer essentially willing ASU to victory, the Sun Devils survived tight scrapes with Washington, UCLA and USC in the conference and blanked defending national champion Nebraska to claim their position at — or near — the top of the polls.

"They find ways to win," Cooper said. "You watch the UCLA game and you wonder, 'How in the hell did they ever come back to win this game?' but they came back and won. That Southern Cal game goes into overtime. Plummer just finds ways to win."

Plummer, ASU's all-time leading passer, was a Heisman finalist this year. In his last 16 games as a starter, he has 31 touchdown passes against just 11

## The Book of The Year '96

The Perfect Gift... for your friend or for yourself!



SAVE BY ORDERING DIRECT FROM THE PUBLISHER!

THE MOST COMPLETE BOOK AVAILABLE ON COLLEGE FOOTBALL'S GREATEST RIVALRY, OHIO STATE AND MICHIGAN

- Over 400 pages covering the entire 92 game rivalry.
- 8 1/2 x 11 format with hardcover and dust jacket.
- Includes the 1995 game (played on November 25, 1995.)
- Hundreds of pictures, many never before published.
- The story of each game, highlights and results.
- Colorful sideline articles about the fans and results.
- Pictures of past coaches and all of the All-Americans.
- Complete rosters and statistics for both teams for each game.
- Indexed for reference use.
- Hours and hours of reading pleasure.
- Available for immediate delivery.

Order your copies directly from the publisher at only \$39.95 per book.

(This price includes cost of shipping by UPS and any applicable sales tax)

Please enter our order for \_\_\_\_\_ copy(s) of ONE GAME SEASON, Second Edition at \$39.95 per copy. We understand this book(s) will be shipped prepaid to the address below by United Parcel Service.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed by ☐ check ☐ money order ☐ ☐

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Make payment and mail your order to: ONE GAME SEASON • P.O. Box 5633  
Collegeville, Minnesota 56221 • But: (320) 363-2516 • Fax: (320) 363-2052

BS

Ask about our  
No Contract option.

Get the gift  
of gab at  
THE PHONE  
*Works* PLUS

This \$5.99 a month for four months seasonal package just might leave you speechless. Our AirTouch Cellular Holiday Gift Pack includes:



- FREE Phone with a two-year service agreement.
- And, for the first four months:
- \$5.99 per month access fee.
- FREE 10 minutes of airtime per month.
- FREE Unlimited Weekend Calling.

AIRTOUCH®  
Cellular  
Truly a Cellular Idea™

So, give cellular this season, and you'll really have people talking! Just visit your AirTouch Cellular Authorized Agent now.

1295 Bethel Rd. 1750 Brice Rd. 1249 N. Hamilton Rd.  
(614) 459-8001 (614) 759-7466 (614) 337-8255

New activations only. Limited to certain rate plans. Not valid with any other discounts or credits. Free airtime minutes limited to calls originating from your Home market for four months and begin on second bill. Unused minutes will be forfeited. Roaming, toll, long distance, and taxes extra. Free Unlimited Weekend Calling feature begins on second bill and includes off-peak hours from Saturday morning through Sunday evening for four months. This feature will continue as a \$9.99 monthly charge after four months until customer cancels. \*AirTouch Cellular bills in one month increments. Customer will be responsible for payment of the full month access fee for the month in which service is cancelled, in addition to all other usage charges. Other restrictions apply. Offer ends December 31, 1996. AirTouch™ and the AirTouch logo are trademarks of AirTouch Communications, Inc.



## COVER STORY

interceptions.

"The people on the West Coast tell me that he will have bad plays, but does not have bad games," Cooper said.

Plummer is confident Arizona State will sidestep the Buckeyes and claim at least a piece of the national title.

"We've got to go out and take care of Ohio State and do what we can to win that game," he said. "If it's left up to the poll people, regardless of how it comes out, I know going undefeated any time in college football with our schedule, we can say we're national champs even if we didn't get that vote."

"Really, I'm not that worried about that. We have to go out and win the game."

He knows, however, he will have to



contend with OSU's blitzing defense which finished second in the nation in scoring, allowing just 10.4 points per game.

"We saw that from a few different teams," Plummer said of OSU's pressure defense. "If we're prepared and ready and our guys are reading them right and picking up the blitzes, we've been able to do pretty well against it."

"But when they bring more than we can handle, you have to get into the right play."

"Ohio State's got a good defense. They bring them from everywhere. We like the challenge. It's going to be a lot of fun," he said.

Snyder is not comfortable lobbying for the No. 1 spot. He recognizes it's hard for an upstart contender like Arizona State to match poll votes with a perennial

powerhouse like Florida State.

"We have not won consistently over a long period and we weren't going to start very high," he said, recalling that the Sun Devils began the year at No. 20 in the Associated Press poll.

"We did beat Washington early, then Nebraska and that sent shock waves across the country. We knew we were going to jump some, although I'm sure a lot of people were still skeptics, thought that it was just a blip."

Winning the Rose Bowl but not the national championship would not be a source of depression, Snyder said.

"Heck no," he said. "I'm proud as I can be being 11-0. And if we're fortunate enough to be 12-0, I know we're going to receive one vote, mine. And I'm going to be happy and I'm going to celebrate that night."

#### Michigan Malaise Lingers

Try as they might, the Buckeyes had lingering thoughts about what might have been if only they had beaten Michigan.

It could be OSU sitting in the top spot and with the inside track to the school's first national championship in 28 years if only it had beaten Michigan.

"It's hard to forget about them, but I really don't want to talk about the Michigan game," Pearson said.

When pressed further, Pearson revealed it's hard to escape the subject. Even going home for Thanksgiving provided little comfort.

"I'm not really down," he said, speaking in hushed tones. "It's just that you go home after The Game and you get asked questions every day, every day, every day. You just don't know what it's like until you're an athlete and you play for Ohio State."

"But you've just got to deal with it. Everybody was down, but you've got to get over it and concentrate on playing your best game in the Rose Bowl."

Pearson said OSU would use the loss as an instructional tool as well as motivation to finish the season on a high note.

"By losing, we'll learn from what we need to do," he said. "Everybody wants to win, but sometimes a loss helps you get better as a team. Maybe that will help us with this game."

"The most important thing is to focus on Arizona State and try to win the Rose Bowl. I think if we can do that, we can look back and say this was a successful season."

Recent history has shown the Buckeyes haven't played well in bowl games, losing six of seven since Cooper arrived in 1988.

A year ago, OSU suffered a similarly deflating loss at Michigan and then sleepwalked its way to a loss to Tennessee in the Citrus Bowl.

The players vow, though, this year will be different.

"We're going to get better," Moore said. "We're not going to let the Michigan game affect us."

"This isn't like last year — we're not going to let two or three people walk all over us. We're not going to end up with two losses in a row."

Moore agrees that Michigan essentially robbed OSU of its national championship dream, but there is still a lot worth playing for.

"I'd be lying if I said 'No, it didn't hurt,' because that game did take away a lot," he said. "We probably would have been more excited, but don't get me wrong — we are excited about the Rose Bowl."

"And we're not just excited about going there. We want to win it."

**Make it Marysville!**

### Ohio's Winter Fun Center!

Featuring: The Best In Downhill Skiing Scenic Cross Country Trails

- \* Clearfork Ski Area
- \* Snow Trails Resort
- \* Ohio's First Ski Resort!

AND

- \* Malabar Farm State Park
- \* Gorman Nature Center
- \* Richland B&O Trail

For more information on Ski Packages... Call today! 1-800-642-0383

**Mansfield**  
A Division of Buckeye State Bank

**THE FREDERICK FITTING HOUSE**  
A COUNTRY BED AND BREAKFAST

An 1863 Italianate Country Village  
Bed and Breakfast.

Full Breakfast, complimentary beverages and snacks. Other meals by special arrangement.

**72 Fitting Ave.  
Bellville, OH 44813  
(419) 886-2863**

**Ski It To Believe It!**

at Ohio's first and finest ski resort... more skiing with less wait, one good reason for giving Ohio's favorite ski resort. Nestled in the Putnam Run Valley, where temperatures are the coldest in the region (road temperatures help us make better snow), Snow Trails has a large staff of friendly people and a special dedication to less snow skiers. There are more reasons to Ski Snow Trails... come find out for yourself!

**FREE FOLDER!**  
Visit Snow Trails, Box 145, Mansfield, OH 44801  
(419) 774-0015 or 1-800-428-3438  
SnowTrails.com

**MANFIELD**  
OHIO'S FAVORITE SKI RESORT

**SKI PACKAGES**  
1996-1997

**KING/SPA ROOM**

- \* King Bed & Sofa
- \* Warm & Relaxing Spa for 2
- \* Microwave & refrigerator
- \* A Complimentary Buffet Breakfast
- \* Lift Tickets for Skiing (Two)

**\$129<sup>00</sup>** plus tax per night per couple

**COZY ROOM FOR TWO**

- \* In-room room of comfort
- \* A Great Complimentary Buffet Breakfast
- \* Lift Tickets for Skiing (Two)

**\$99<sup>00</sup>** plus tax per night

**800-472-3813**  
855 Comfort Plaza Drive  
Bellville, Ohio 44813  
RESERVATIONS  
Phone: (419) 886-4000

**Comfort Inn SOUTH**

**TROPICAL ATRIUM**  
Year Around Swimming  
Tee and Exercise Area.

**NEW!**  
**Your Ski Vacation Starts Here...**

Fit the slopes with our great low ski packages

**\$32<sup>95</sup>** per night

Brand new property. Includes indoor greenhouse pool and whirlpool. Free coffee, free continental breakfast, free in-room coffee maker, free local calls, 3 miles from Snow Trails, near to Cracker Barrel, shopping and more...

**Budgetel Inns**

120 Standard Ave. • Mansfield, OH 44801  
419-774-0005 or 1-800-428-3438

**Ski-lift tickets available w/ room \$89.95 for two**

**Seven Stars**  
Restaurant

**Classical American Dining**

**Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner**  
Seven Days a Week

**Luxury Hotel Rooms and Meeting Facilities**

**Top 10 Fine Dining**  
— *Janet's Choice* —  
— *Joe's Choice* —  
— *This Week* —

**The Worthington Inn**  
649 High Street, Worthington, OH 43085  
(614) 885-2600

**Brand New**

**PACKAGE INCLUDES:**

- \* Room For Two
- \* Lift Tickets For Two
- \* Snow Trails or Clearfork
- \* Breakfast for Two

**1996-1997 SKI PACKAGE COUPON**

Double Queens 199<sup>00</sup>  
Single Kings 199<sup>00</sup>  
Honeymoon or Family Suites 1129<sup>00</sup>

**HOTEL FEATURES:**

- \* Indoor Pool
- \* 10' Hot Tub
- \* Nautilus Weight Room
- \* 25" TV with HBO

**1-71 Ext 162**  
8 miles from Snow Trails  
10 miles from Clearfork

**ARBORS OF WATERMARK STAFF & RESIDENTS**  
**SAY GO FOR THE GOAL!!**

**COME JOIN THE ARBORS TEAM!**  
**IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN A**  
**1, 2, OR 3 BEDROOM LUXURY APARTMENT**  
**CALL THE ARBORS TODAY...486-0023**



## OHIO STATE VS. ARIZONA STATE

# Arizona State Guns For Title

## Sun Devils Bask In Rose Bowl Glow

By STEVE HELWAGEN  
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

Opportunities like the one Arizona State has on Jan. 1 in the Rose Bowl don't come along too often.

That's why ASU coach Bruce Snyder intends on savoring this experience.

"It might truly be a once in a lifetime experience to go undefeated into a Jan. 1 bowl, ranked second and having an opportunity for No. 1," Snyder said as his Sun Devils (11-0) prepare to tackle fourth-rated Ohio State (10-1) in the Rose Bowl.

Prior to the season, Arizona State figured to contend with defending Rose Bowl champion USC for the Pac-10 title.

But after the Sun Devils opened with a September To Remember, beating Washington and top-ranked Nebraska, ASU and quarterback Jake Plummer became household names.

"Going into this whole season, the most important game was the Washington game and getting that first victory," Plummer said of ASU's 45-42 season-opening victory.

"Then, we looked at that third game and Nebraska was No. 1. It was a great opportunity for this program.

"With the way we played them down there last year (a 77-28 loss), we knew we could do some good things. Plus, with the improvement of our defense, we were able to do some real good things as far as shutting them down," he said.

ASU forced three Nebraska safeties, and with Plummer throwing for 292 yards and a touchdown, the Sun Devils shocked the two-time defending national champions 19-0.

As the win resonated across the country, it served to lift an ASU pro-

gram seemingly stuck on 6-5, finishing with that mark four of the last five years.

"That gave us confidence, put us up to the top of the country (in the polls) and we were able to carry that momentum out," Plummer said.

ASU followed a bumpy, though thrilling, path to Pasadena — including one previous stop there. The Sun Devils rallied from 21 points down to defeat UCLA 42-34 in the Rose Bowl. A week later, ASU needed two overtimes to dispatch USC 48-35.

"We knew we were going to jump some, although I'm sure a lot of people were still skeptics, that it was just a blip," Snyder said as his team paraded through the Pac-10.

The Sun Devils clinched the conference title with a 35-7 win over Cal and, just for good measure, went to Tucson and crushed archrival Arizona 56-14.

As previously unbeaten powers Florida and Ohio State dropped key games, Arizona State rose to No. 2 in the country behind unbeaten Florida State.

Snyder's happy to be there, but he's not necessarily content: He is bucking to be No. 1.

"I've not seen anybody play better than us," he said. "There might be teams as talented or more talented, but this team is playing so well together, fits so well together."

"I think we're playing well enough to be national champions."

### They Have Plummer And . . .

Plummer, profiled on page 22 of this edition of BSB, is ASU's cocksure leader. He stands as the school's career passing leader and is among the top candidates for this year's Heisman Trophy.

Since Arizona State hasn't been a



COURTESY: SCOTT TROMANOS/ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

**ROQUE EXCELS** — Arizona State senior offensive tackle Juan Roque was one of the main building blocks in the Sun Devils' perfect 11-0 season. Roque helped pave the way for tailback Terry Battle to enjoy a 1,000-yard rushing season.

### STEELE'S DISPLAY CASES

5665 State Route 605  
Westerville, Ohio 43082  
614-965-4626 Order: 1-800-589-2944

Protect it with glass : Show it with class



ROSE BOWL SPECIAL  
\$29.99 max & shipping included  
For all your BUCKEYE Memorabilia

No need for expensive mounting or framing!

Available in walnut, oak, or cherry hardwoods



## APPLE VACATIONS®



### RESORT SPECIAL

NON STOP  
COLUMBUS

- ✶ NON STOP COLUMBUS VIA TAESA AIRLINES.
- ✶ FREE OPEN BAR TO/FROM CUNCUN - EVERY FLIGHT!
- ✶ AIRPORT/HOTEL TRANSFERS.
- ✶ 10% HOTEL ROOM TAX, TIPS TO BELLMEN.
- ✶ 6 NIGHTS HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS.
- ✶ EXCLUSIVE CUNCUN TRAVELERS GUIDE.

CUNCUN  
**\$498**

from

7 DAYS  
6 NIGHTS

Effective Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25

6045 Memorial Drive • P.O. Box 3186  
Dublin, Ohio 43016-0087  
614-764-8747  
800-445-3952  
Fax 614-764-9187



Northwest Travel

SINCE 1975

The prices listed are for a double occupancy room for two adults. Taxes and fees are extra. Airfare is based on current rates. Airfare is subject to change without notice. Airfare is based on current rates. Airfare is subject to change without notice. Airfare is based on current rates. Airfare is subject to change without notice.



## OHIO STATE VS. ARIZONA STATE

major player on the national scene in recent years — this will be only the second Rose Bowl appearance by ASU and the school's first bowl of any kind in nine years — publicity is just now finding the Tempe campus and ASU players other than Plummer.

One of them, massive 319-pound left tackle Juan Roque, was a finalist for the Lombardi Award. Roque, a sure-fire All-American at tackle alongside Lombardi winner Orlando Pace of Ohio State, has truly come into his own.

"All other left tackles stand in Juan's shadow," Snyder said.

Dynamic Keith Poole, a 6-2 senior, leads the receiving corps. He caught 46 passes for 857 yards and 11 TDs this season. He is a Biletnikoff Award candidate after nearly jumping to the NFL a year early.

Other than Plummer, Roque and Poole, though, ASU has kind of a no-name group.

"Even if there were not a Rose Bowl or a national ranking or a Lombardi or a Heisman, but to go from where we were two years ago (3-8) and to jump like we did, I have a tremendous amount of pride for what these players have accomplished," Snyder said.

One of ASU's true up-and-comers is junior tailback Terry Battle. He began the year as the No. 3 tailback, but ended up as the Sun Devils' leading rusher with 1,043 yards and 18 touchdowns on 160 carries. He also returned a pair of kicks for scores this year.

Poole is complemented by sophomore Lenzie Jackson at the other receiver spot and senior Steve Bush at tight end.

Roque is one of three seniors on the offensive line. He is joined up front by classmates Kirk Robinson at center and 308-pounder Pat Thompson at right guard.

The elusive Plummer may cover for some of the line's deficiencies at times, though. ASU allowed nearly three sacks a game this year.

## Defense Staunch Against Run

The Arizona State defense has the shutout of usually high-scoring Nebraska to hang its hat on. But it must be pointed out that the 'Huskies are heavily tilted to the run, and stopping that is ASU's forte.

The Sun Devils allowed opponents just 98 yards a game rushing.

The big name up front is junior defensive end Derrick Rodgers, a 6-2, 222-pounder who tallied 12 sacks and a whopping 23 tackles-for-loss this year.

While Rodgers may be a little light for a line spot, his line mates make up for it. He's flanked by 6-8, 278-pounder Brent Burnstein on the other end and Shawn Swayda (276 pounds) and Albrecht Battle (285) at the tackle spots.

Senior inside linebacker Scott Von der Ahe was a Butkus Award candidate — rightfully so — accumulating a team-high 106 tackles.

Junior linebacker Pat Tillman is a solid contributor with 91 stops and four interceptions.



Bruce Snyder

The ASU secondary, keyed by corners Jason Simmons and Marcus Soward, allowed a respectable 206.7 yards per game passing in the pass-happy Pac-10.

## Snyder: Hot Property

Snyder will be a serious contender for national coach of the year honors this year.

The 56-year-old Snyder is wrapping up his fifth season in Tempe after previous stints at Utah State and Cal. He bolted Cal after a 10-2 season in 1991 to replace the fired Larry Marmie at ASU.

Having now reached the promised land with the Sun Devils, he has started to ponder his future — in Tempe.

"I don't have some optimum job some place other than right here," Snyder said. "It seems to me like everybody leaves the door open, so it seems that is my obligation, too."

"I need to do what's best for my fam-

ily and for me. Right now it is Arizona State and to get ready for the Rose Bowl and win that game."

"I guess if someone came to me who had enough authority and said, 'You will never be fired,' then I would say, 'Then I'll never quit.' But I don't know if anybody will say that."

"That is what I mean by keeping doors open. But right now I'm not looking for another job," he said.

## Previous Meetings

Snyder and OSU coach John Cooper have only faced each other one other time.

Ironically, Cooper was in his final year at ASU in 1987 when his team traveled to Cal to face Snyder's Golden Bears. Cal prevailed 38-20.

Ohio State and Arizona State have only met one previous time on the gridiron.

That meeting came in 1980 when coach Earle Bruce's Buckeyes thumped Darryl Rogers' ASU team 38-21 in Ohio Stadium.

# Wendy's®

## Single Combo

### \$3.19



## Now Playing at Great Savings

Now you can enjoy Wendy's Single Combo at a sensational price! It's an Old-fashioned Quilted Pound® Single, fries and a drink — all for one low price. So come in to a nearby Wendy's and pick up a Single Combo. Limited time offer at participating Wendy's. Cheese and tax extra.

\*net weight before cooking



## 97 KICK OFF SALE

at Ron Rush

# SAVE! with this ad

## ANY NEW '96-97 LINCOLN-MERCURY

### \$200 Over Invoice

## You Get The Rebate

Like We've Said For Over 64 Years...Shop For It Anywhere, You'll Buy It At Rush

# Ron Rush

2350 Morse Rd

LINCOLN Mercury 471-9980 • 1-800-282-5590





# The Numbers Game

## Ohio State Statistics

1996 Game-By-Game				
Date	Opponent (AP rank)	W/L	Score	Cred
Sept. 7	at Rice	W	70-7	93-470
Sept. 11	PITTSBURGH	W	72-0	93-068
Sept. 28	at Notre Dame (5)	W	29-16	50-075
Oct. 5	PENN STATE (4)	W	38-7	94-241
Oct. 12	WISCONSIN	W	17-14	94-215
Oct. 19	at Purdue	W	42-14	60-172
Oct. 26	at Iowa (20)	W	38-26	70-397
Nov. 2	MINNESOTA	W	45-0	93-588
Nov. 9	at Illinois	W	48-0	54-432
Nov. 16	at Indiana	W	27-17	49-271
Nov. 23	MICHIGAN (21)	L	13-9	94-676
Jan. 1	Arizona State (2)*			

\*Rose Bowl, Pasadena, Calif.

Team Statistics				
	OSU	Opp		
First Downs	245	144		
Rushing	132	69		
Passing	106	62		
Penalty	7	13		
Avg. Per Game/Rush	236.9	97.6		
Avg. Per Game/Pass	214.2	145.6		
Total Offense	4,962	2,676		
Total Plays	822	707		
Average Per Game	451.1	242.3		
Average Per Play	6.0	3.8		
Penalties/Tards	53-460	49-362		
Fumbles/Lost	16-7	14-10		
3rd Down Efficiency	73-168	42-159		
Percentage	43.5	26.4		
4th Down Efficiency	15-23	7-17		
Percentage	65.2	41.2		
Sacks	35-230	17-111		
Time of Possession Avg.	31:50	28:10		

Score By Quarters				
	1	2	3	4 Tot. Avg.
Ohio State	91	151	117	76 435 39.5
Opponents	24	20	26	44 114 10.4

Attendance				
	Games	Total	Avg.	
Home	6	564,167	94,028	
Away	5	293,327	58,665	
Total	11	857,494	77,554	

Individual Statistics				
	Att.	Net.	Avg.	TD Long
Running				
Pete Pearson	286	1,373	4.8	17 76
Joe Montgomery	68	460	6.8	2 50
Jermon Jackson	51	319	6.3	4 36
Michael Wiley	10	144	9.0	1 49
Stanley Jackson	47	132	2.8	2 21
Matt Keller	23	117	5.1	1 22
Nick Gongis	12	56	4.7	0 24
Matt Calhoun	6	16	2.7	0 8
Tom Hoyer	4	13	3.3	0 6
Chase Sanders	5	9	1.8	0 4
Carmin Elmore	3	8	2.7	0 4
Joe Germaine	14	41	2.9	0 2
OSU Totals	535	2,606	4.9	25 62
OPP Totals	398	1,074	2.7	7 49

Receiving				
	No.	Yards	Avg.	TD Long
Dimitrios Stanley	38	705	18.6	7 48
David Boston	29	430	14.8	5 58
Pete Pearson	18	214	11.9	0 35
Matt Keller	14	111	7.9	2 63
John Lumpkin	12	159	13.3	3 28
D.J. Jones	10	139	13.9	2 27
Buster Tolman	10	97	9.7	0 17
Dee Miller	8	129	16.1	0 43
Michael Wiley	6	194	32.3	3 60
Matt Calhoun	6	26	4.3	3 8
Jermon Jackson	2	14	7.0	0 14
James Redmond	1	22	22.0	0 22
Nick Gongis	1	15	15.0	0 15
Bob Houder	1	1	1.0	0 1
OSU Totals	156	2,356	15.1	25 62
OPP Totals	140	1,602	11.4	5 86

Scoring				
	TD	EPK	EPF	EPG
Pete Pearson	17	—	—	—
Josh Jackson	0	50-53	—	—
Dimitrios Stanley	7	—	—	—
David Boston	6	—	—	—
Michael Wiley	4	—	—	—
Jermon Jackson	4	—	—	—
Matt Keller	3	—	—	—
Matt Calhoun	3	—	—	—
John Lumpkin	3	—	—	—
Joe Montgomery	2	—	—	—

Passing				
	Comp.	Att.	Pct.	Yds. INT TD Rating
Stanley Jackson	81	151	53.6	1,239 5 11 140.0
Joe Germaine	71	130	54.6	1,062 4 13 150.1
Tom Hoyer	3	5	60.0	34 0 1 183.1
Pete Pearson	1	1	100.0	21 0 0 276.4
OSU Totals	156	287	54.4	2,356 9 25 145.8
OPP Totals	140	309	45.3	1,602 20 5 81.3

FG Distance				
	0-29	30-39	40-49	50+ Total
Josh Jackson	6-7	4-6	0-1	0 7-11
Dan Stultz	0-0	0-0	0-1	0 0-1
Andy Stamp	0-0	0-1	1-1	0 0-2
OSU Totals	6-7	4-7	1-2	0 11-17
OPP Totals	2-2	2-3	2-6	0-1 6-12

Punting				
	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Bk. Long
Brent Bartholomew	50	2,096	41.9	1 56
Team	1	0	0.0	0 0
OSU Totals	51	2,096	41.1	1 56
OPP Totals	81	3,311	40.9	1 73

Interceptions				
	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD Long
Damon Moore	5	44	8.8	1 28
Ty Howard	4	26	6.5	0 26
Rob Kelly	3	86	28.7	0 62
Andy Katzenmoyer	3	49	16.3	1 42
Antoine Winfield	1	27	27.0	0 27
Gary Berry	1	19	19.0	0 19
Anthony Gwyn	1	19	19.0	0 19
Luke Fickell	1	0	0.0	0 0
Jerry Rudinski	1	0	0.0	0 0
OSU Totals	20	270	13.5	2 83
OPP Totals	9	23	2.6	0 19

Punt Returns				
	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD Long
David Boston	20	282	9.7	1 66
Shawn Springs	17	190	11.2	0 38
Dimitrios Stanley	1	7	7.0	0 7
Rob Kelly	1	23	23.0	0 23
Kevin Griffin	0	0	0.0	0 0
OSU Totals	48	502	10.5	1 66
OPP Totals	24	256	11.1	1 80

Kickoff Returns				
	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD Long
Dimitrios Stanley	12	298	24.8	0 85
D.J. Jones	1	17	17.0	0 17
Michael Wiley	1	12	12.0	0 12
Tom Hoyer	1	8	8.0	0 8
OSU Totals	15	335	22.3	0 85
OPP Totals	62	1,144	18.5	0 38

Defensive Leaders				
	Solo Ast.	Tot. TFL	Yds.	Sacks
Greg Bellizzi	53	26	79	8-22
Andy Katzenmoyer	50	27	77	18-55
Damon Moore	53	24	17	5-14
Matt Finkes	36	28	64	14-71
Rob Kelly	33	28	61	3-18
Mike Vrabel	31	17	48	10-101
Ryan Miller	35	13	48	9-46
Luke Fickell	30	18	48	8-28
Antoine Winfield	31	10	41	3-9
Shawn Springs	26	8	34	—
Central McCaffrey	22	4	26	—
Winfield Garrett	14	11	25	5-15
Ty Howard	20	4	24	—
Alfred Plummer	12	6	19	1-6
Che Bryant	12	5	17	2-9
Matt LaVar	13	3	16	1-4

Fumbles Forced				
	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD Long
3 — Andy Katzenmoyer; 2 — Shawn Springs; Rob Kelly; 1 — Matt Finkes; Mike Vrabel; Che Bryant; Kevin Griffin; Clinton Wayne.				

Fumbles Recovered				
	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD Long
2 — Shawn Springs; Rob Kelly; 1 — Matt Finkes; Mike Vrabel; Che Bryant; Mike Burden; Kevin Griffin; Tony Eisenhard.				

Blocked Kicks				
	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD Long
2 — Rob Kelly (FG, punt); 1 — Luke Fickell (PAT).				

## Arizona State Statistics

1996 Game-By-Game				
Date	Opponent (AP rank)	W/L	Score	Cred
Sept. 7	WASHINGTON	W	45-42	73-379
Sept. 14	NORTH TEXAS	W	52-7	46-173
Sept. 21	NEBRASKA (1)	W	19-0	74-089
Sept. 28	OREGON	W	48-27	54-618
Oct. 5	BOISE STATE	W	56-7	49-018
Oct. 12	at UCLA	W	42-34	66-107
Oct. 19	USC (2 OT)	W	48-35	74-947
Oct. 26	at Stanford	W	41-9	32-550
Nov. 2	at Oregon State	W	29-14	21-946
Nov. 9	CALIFORNIA	W	35-7	74-963
Nov. 23	at Arizona	W	50-14	59-920
Jan. 1	Ohio State (4)*			

\*Rose Bowl, Pasadena, Calif.

Team Statistics				
	ASU	Opp		
First Downs	264	190		
Rushing	125	67		
Passing	124	95		
Penalty	15	28		
Avg. Per Game/Rush	248.6	98.0		
Avg. Per Game/Pass	243.9	206.7		
Total Offense	5,417	3,352		
Total Plays	874	774		
Average Per Game	492.5	304.7		
Average Per Play	6.2	4.3		
Penalties/Tards	93-842	86-709		
Fumbles/Lost	21-5	26-15		
3rd Down Efficiency	80-169	38-166		
Percentage	47.3	22.9		
Sacks	44-320	32-177		
Time of Possession Avg.	31:15	28:45		

Score By Quarters				
	1	2	3	4 Tot. Avg.
Arizona State	92	129	110	120 451 42.8
Opponents	56	61	16	56 198 17.8

Attendance				
	Games	Total	Avg.	
Home	7	447,187	63,884	
Away	4	180,523	45,131	
Total	11	627,710	57,065	

Individual Statistics				
	Att.	Net.	Avg.	TD Long
Rushing				
Terry Battle	160	1,043	6.5	18 50
Michael Martin	95	475	5.0	18-36
Marion Farrow	71	352	5.0	4 21
J.R. Redmond	63	301	4.8	2 41
Jeff Paule	43	267	6.2	1 52
Keith Poole	4	127	34.3	1 50
Jake Plummer	85	63	0.7	3 25
Greg Spann	1	32	32.0	0 32
Kevin Tomlinson	5	21	4.2	0 7
Mike Morales	3	18	6.0	0 8
Ricky Boyer	3	10	3.3	0 10
Kenney Mitchell	1	7	7.0	0 7
Lance Anderson	1	6	6.0	0 6
Steve Campbell	3	4	1.3	0 8
ASU Totals	538	2,734	5.1	30 82
OPP Totals	467	1,078	2.7	10 7

Receiving				
	No.	Yards	Avg.	TD Long
Keith Poole	46	857	18.6	11 56
Lance Anderson	36	505	14.0	3 52
Steve Bush	22	263	12.0	3 36
Ricky Boyer	18	187	10.4	1 27
Devon Kendall	14	109	7.8	0 29
J.R. Redmond	9	107	11.9	2 55
Kenney Mitchell	9	154	17.1	1 27
Michael Martin	9	108	12.0	1 35
Terry Battle	9	45	5.0	0 12
Kenney Mitchell	7	82	11.7	1 26
Isiah Mustafa	5	50	11.2	0 18
Greg Spann	3	13	4.3	0 6
Jake Plummer	1	16	16.0	1 16
Jack Romero	1	5	5.0	0 5
Jeff Paule	1	2	2.0	0 2
ASU Totals	190	2,683	14.1	24 56
OPP Totals	167	2,274	13.6	14 14

OPP Totals					167	2,274	13.6	14		
Scoring					TD	EPK	EPF	EPR	FG	PT
Terry Battie					20					170
Robert Nycz					0	60-60			11-16	93
Keith Poole					12					72
Jake Plummer					4		0-1			24
J.R. Radmond					4					24
Marion Farlowe					4					24
Steve Bush					3					18
Lenzie Jackson					3					18
Mervand Maxini					2					12



# Game 12: Ohio State vs. Arizona State

## Game Data

- **Date, Time:** Wed., Jan. 1, 5 p.m. (EST)
- **Location:** The Rose Bowl (Capacity, 104,091; Surface, grass); Pasadena, Calif.
- **TV:** ABC (National); WSYX-TV (Ch. 6) Columbus

## About Arizona State

- **Record, ranking:** 11-0 overall; 8-0 Pac-10; second in AP poll.
- **Squad Information:** Offensive Formation — I & Split Back; Defensive Formation — Multiple; Starters Returning — Offense 10, Defense 9, Kickers 1.
- **Leading Players:** Quarterback Jake Plummer (179 of 313, 2,575 yards, 23 TDs, 9 INTs); tailback Terry Battle (160 carries, 1,043 yards, 20 TDs); tailback Michael Martin (95 carries, 475 yards); wide receiver Keith Poole (46 catches, 857 yards); wide receiver Lenzie Jackson (36 catches, 505 yards); tight end Steve Bush (22 catches, 263 yards); defensive end Derrick Rodgers (12 sacks, 23 tackles-for-loss).
- **Head Coach:** Bruce Snyder (fifth year at ASU, 32-23; 17th year overall, 100-84-5).
- **Series History:** OSU leads series 1-0 (OSU won 38-21 in 1980).
- **Arizona State Schedule:** Sept. 7, Washington, W 45-42; Sept. 14, N.Texas, W 52-7; Sept. 21, Nebraska, W 19-0; Sept. 28, Oregon, W 48-27; Oct. 5, Boise State, W 56-7; Oct. 12, at UCLA, W 42-34; Oct. 19, USC, W 48-35 (2 OT); Oct. 26, at Stanford, W 41-9; Nov. 2, at Oregon State, W 29-14; Nov. 9, California, W 35-7; Nov. 23, at Arizona, W 56-14.
- **School Facts:** Location — Tempe, Ariz.; Enrollment — 42,626; Nickname — Sun Devils; Colors — Maroon and Gold; Conference — Pac-10; Stadium — Sun Devil Stadium (Capacity, 73,656)

## Projected Depth Charts

OHIO STATE OFFENSE		ARIZONA STATE DEFENSE	
SE	3 DIMITRIOS STANLEY, 5-10, 181, SR.	RE	94 BRENT BURNSTEIN, 6-8, 278, SR.
	15 Dee Miller, 6-1, 190, Sr.		55 Dave Baumgartner, 6-3, 240, Sr.
LT	75 ORLANDO PACE, 6-6, 330, JR.	RT	99 SHAWN SWAYDA, 6-5, 276, SR.
	79 Larry Walden, 6-6, 330, Jr.		92 Jeremy Staal, 6-5, 273, Jr.
LG	56 ROB MURPHY, 6-5, 285, RFR.	LT	97 ALBNEY BATTLE, 6-3, 285, SO.
	64 Ben Gilbert, 6-5, 290, Fr.		98 Vince Arney, 6-3, 281, Jr.
C	65 JUAN PORTER, 6-4, 295, SR.	LE	59 DERRICK RODGERS, 6-2, 222, JR.
	63 Kurt Murphy, 6-4, 275, Fr.		58 Derrick Ford, 6-1, 237, So.
RG	57 LESHUN DANIELS, 6-2, 285, SR.	LB	36 DEREK SMITH, 6-2, 235, SR.
	77 Tyson Walter, 6-5, 292, Fr.		30 Larry Johnson, 6-1, 232, So.
RT	50 ERIC GOHLSTIN, 6-3, 295, JR.	LB	42 PAT TILLMAN, 5-11, 204, JR.
	67 Brooks Burris, 6-6, 295, Jr.		37 Paul Reynolds, 6-1, 220, Jr.
TE	89 O.J. JONES, 6-4, 260, SR.	ILB	50 SCOTT VON DER AHE, 6-0, 245, SR.
	85 John Lumpkin, 6-8, 270, So.		53 Ron McCook, 6-2, 233, Jr.
QB	7 JOE GERMAINE, 6-2, 196, SO. OR	RCB	10 JASON SIMMONS, 5-10, 184, JR.
	8 STAN JACKSON, 6-1, 203, JR.		12 Lamont Morgan, 6-0, 194, So.
PB	39 MATT CALHOUN, 6-0, 237, SR.	SS	39 DAMIAN RICHARDSON, 6-2, 207, JR.
	23 Matt Keller, 6-0, 221, RFR.		22 Raenard Turpin, 6-2, 203, Jr.
TB	29 PEPE PEARSON, 5-10, 206, JR.	FS	13 MITCHELL FREEDMAN, 6-0, 196, SO.
	25 Jermon Jackson, 5-11, 200, Jr.		9 Thomas Simmons, 5-11, 181, Jr.
FL	9 DAVID BOSTON, 6-3, 205, FR.	LCB	32 MARCUS SOWARD, 5-11, 179, Sr.
	12 Buster Tillman, 6-2, 192, Sr.		23 Courtney Jackson, 6-0, 182, RFR.
PK	4 JOSH JACKSON, 5-11, 175, SR.	P	17 LANCE ANDERSON, 6-1, 223, SR.
OHIO STATE DEFENSE		ARIZONA STATE OFFENSE	
DE	92 MATT FINKES, 6-2, 258, SR.	WR	83 LENZIE JACKSON, 6-0, 184, SO.
	97 John Day, 6-3, 245, Sr.		81 Kenny Mitchell, 6-3, 200, So.
DT	68 WINFIELD GARNETT, 6-6, 305, JR.	LT	74 JUAN ROQUE, 6-8, 313, SR.
	95 Jim Bell, 6-5, 272, Jr.		79 Troy Davis, 6-5, 252, So.
NG	99 LUKE FICKELL, 6-4, 270, SR.	LG	56 KYLE MURPHY, 6-4, 300, JR.
	62 Shane Clark, 6-2, 270, Jr.		76 Mike Barnes, 6-2, 264, So.
DE	94 MIKE VRABEL, 6-4, 260, SR.	C	65 KIRK ROBERTSON, 6-5, 284, SR.
	91 Jeff Wilson, 6-3, 250, So.		51 Grey Ruegamer, 6-5, 270, So.
ILB	30 GREG BELLISARI, 6-1, 230, SR.	RG	67 PAT THOMPSON, 6-2, 308, SR.
	48 Matt Laviar, 6-3, 225, RFR.		70 Glen Cable, 6-5, 297, Jr.
MLB	45 ANDY KATZENBACHER, 6-4, 250, FR.	RT	51 GREY RUEGAMER, 6-5, 270, SO.
	30 Greg Bellman, 6-1, 230, Sr.		79 Troy Davis, 6-5, 252, So.
WLB	43 RYAN MILLER, 6-2, 220, SR.	TE	82 STEVE BUSH, 5-3, 256, SR.
	35 Jerry Rudzinski, 6-1, 220, So.		88 Devin Kendra, 6-2, 248, Jr.
CB	2 TY HOWARD, 5-9, 181, SR.	QB	16 JAKE PLUMMER, 6-2, 192, SR.
	11 Antoine Winfield, 5-9, 178, So.		11 Steve Campbell, 6-6, 229, So.
SS	34 ROB KELLY, 6-2, 200, SR.	TB	8 TERRY BATTLE, 5-11, 194, JR.
	26 Anthony Gwinn, 6-0, 200, Sr.		4 Marion Farlow, 5-10, 197, So.
FS	13 DAMON MOORE, 5-11, 200, SO.	FB	44 JEFF PAULK, 6-1, 245, SO.
	18 Che Bryant, 6-1, 195, So.		45 Kevin Tommasini, 6-0, 215, So.
CB	24 SHAWN SPRINGS, 6-0, 190, JR.	WR	3 KEITH POOLE, 6-2, 193, SR.
	20 Central McClellan, 5-11, 180, So.		24 Ricky Boyer, 5-8, 153, So.
P	41 BRENT BARTHOLOMEW, 6-2, 198, SO.	PK	41 ROBERT NYCZ, 5-11, 189, JR.

## How We See It

### OSU RUSH OFFENSE vs. ARIZONA STATE RUSH DEFENSE

It might seem like Ohio State is wedded to the run — even when it isn't working — but, despite leading the league in rushing, that might not be a sound strategy against the Sun Devils, who allow 98 yards per contest on the ground. Derrick Rodgers is a hungry end and can play the pass and run equally well. He's sort of ASU's Mike Vrabel. Safety Damien Richardson is decent in run support and the linebackers are stout, so the best plan of attack might be for Pepe Pearson to follow big No. 75 around end. **EDGE: EVEN**

### ARIZONA STATE RUSH OFFENSE vs. OSU RUSH DEFENSE

The Sun Devils are primarily a passing team, but that doesn't mean the Bucks can load up to stop Jake Plummer and his aerial assault. Terry Battle, who started the year as third-string tailback, has ramled his way up the depth chart and over opponents (1,043 yards and 18 TDs). Plummer isn't a bad runner, either, so OSU will have to keep containment. ASU's offensive line is good, paving the way for nearly 250 yards per game. Juan Roque, the largest lineman in the Pac-10, is nearly as good as Pace and center Kirk Robertson is solid. The Buckeyes need to close off Battle's running lanes, which are usually between guard and center. That puts the onus on Luke Fickell and Winfield Garnett. **EDGE: OHIO STATE**

### OSU PASS OFFENSE vs. ARIZONA STATE PASS DEFENSE

ASU is usually easy pickings when teams decide to air it out, but against the Buckeyes the Devils might just be successful. OSU's throwing game has gone downhill since midseason, with predictable routes, quarterbacks locking onto one guy and missing open receivers. The pass blocking hasn't been bad, so all Stan Jackson and Joe Germaine need is a little confidence. ASU is led by safety Mitchell "Fright Night" Freedman, known for his teeth-rattling hits. When Rodgers lines up over Pace, it's a war worth watching. **EDGE: EVEN**

### ARIZONA STATE PASS OFFENSE vs. OSU PASS DEFENSE

This will be where the game is won or lost. If the Buckeyes give Plummer as much time as they gave Brian Griese, it's curtains. Plummer can beat you by himself, but he doesn't have to with speedster Keith Poole and shifty Lenzie Jackson at his disposal. Tight end Steve Bush has soft hands and isn't afraid to block. ASU has allowed 32 sacks, but some of that is when Plummer leaves the pocket. If OSU gets to him early, there's a small chance he'll get rattled. The Mike Vrabel-against-Roque match-up could be the key to that scenario. More likely the Buckeyes will have to get a few picks to shake his confidence. Matched up with Poole, Shawn Springs might get that elusive pick he's been waiting all year for. **EDGE: ARIZONA STATE**

### SPECIAL TEAMS

Battle has been dangerous as a kick returner, and J.R. Redmond is slippery bringing back punts. ASU has one of the nation's best return units, so OSU will have to stay in its lanes to avoid a big runback. Punter Lance Anderson has a big leg and has put 14 punts inside the 20. OSU likes to bring the house, but Anderson hasn't had one blocked yet. Kicker Robert NYCZ has missed just four field goals, so if the Buckeyes don't block a kick, there isn't much chance of winning this fight. **EDGE: ARIZONA STATE**

### INTANGIBLES

This should be interesting: ASU has one eye on the national championship and the Buckeyes, traditional sad-sacks in the postseason, are playing for redemption. And they do it against the team that sent John Cooper to Columbus. There are still plenty of hurt feelings stemming from Michigan, but the Buckeyes need to put that in the past. Plummer might be the wild card here because he has the confidence to bring his team back from almost any deficit. There's no shortage of confidence on the ASU side. Ohio State hasn't been to Pasadena for 12 years, so there's a good shot at showing well. **EDGE: ARIZONA STATE**

### OUR PREDICTIONS

**Steve Helwag (10-1):** Conventional wisdom says Arizona State joins the long list that left off last year with Tennessee and the year before with Alabama. However, it's just not that cut and dried. Arizona State squashed Nebraska, but that was eons ago. Sure, OSU lost to Michigan, but ASU probably should have lost both the UCLA and USC games. I think the OSU defense finds a way to stop the elusive Plummer. We're probably looking at a defensive struggle that somehow goes OSU's way at the end on a Josh Jackson field goal. Besides, I thought it would only be sporting of me to pick the Bucks and give Jeff and Mike a chance to catch me. **Ohio State 17-14**

**Jeff Rapp (9-2):** I'd like to tell you the Buckeyes will trek west with the same go-for-broke mentality that made them look like a dominant team at Notre Dame. I'd like to say we'll see Michael Wiley make an impact in his home state, that Pearson will piece together two big halves, that the offensive line will again bring the syrup and butter. I'd like to guarantee the defense will completely ruffle Plummer, that ASU hasn't played a real college power in months and that this Devils destiny stuff is a bunch of hooey. I can't. And I can't be assured the Buckeyes will have their hearts in it or that the coaches will allow this team of committed fellows to just have fun and play football. History just won't allow it. **Arizona State 24-17**

**Mike Wachsmann (9-2):** I might be one of the few living, breathing souls who think Ohio State has a chance in this game. And it does. The Sun Devils aren't more talented, top to bottom, than the Buckeyes. They have a little more to play for, maybe, but that's about it. Should OSU's brain trust realize its gaffe from Michigan and once again decide to spread the wealth — as it did early in the season — the Buckeyes could be a genuinely tough team, especially if the QBs are clicking. Use every weapon in your arsenal, coaches. You're more likely to score a hit that way. This one has a chance to be the best of the Jan. 1 bowls. **Arizona State 21-20**



# SPORTSITE

## INDOOR SPORTS FACILITY

(614) 451-0022

### SOCCER/ROLLER HOCKEY

- Adult Soccer Leagues
- Youth Soccer Leagues
- Adult Soccer Clinics
- Youth Soccer Clinics
- Soccer Tournaments
- Soccer B-Day Parties
- Roller Hockey B-Day Parties
- Youth Roller Hockey Leagues
- Adult Roller Hockey Leagues
- Summer Sports Camps
- Field Rentals

SPORTSITE INDOOR SPORTS FACILITY FEATURES FULL SERVICE CONCESSIONS, CABLE TV AND AREAS FOR COMPANY PARTIES. CALL FOR BROCHURES AND MORE INFORMATION.

(614) 459-7483

### SOFTBALL/BASEBALL

- Adult Softball Leagues
- Youth Baseball Leagues
- High School Hitting Leagues
- Youth Baseball Clinics
- Bunting Cages
- Softball Tournaments
- Individual Instruction
- Girls Fastpitch Leagues
- Girls Fastpitch Clinics
- Baseball B-Day Parties
- Field Rentals



## OHIO STATE VS. ARIZONA STATE

## Snake Good Nickname For Elusive Plummer

By STEVE HELWAGEN  
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

When you ask Arizona State quarterback Jake Plummer where his nickname "The Snake" comes from, the answer is pretty simple.

"I got it probably in the eighth grade when my brother started calling me the Snake," Plummer said. "He got me turned on to Kenny Stabler. His nickname was the Snake, and I read his book and remembered him from when I was really young. That's when it started."

"It rhymes with Jake and it's a good nickname."

Both the nickname and the comparison to the former Alabama and Oakland Raiders great Stabler are appropriate.

Plummer has guided Arizona State to a perfect 11-0 record almost on sheer will. If he has to complete a big pass, he does it. If he has to scramble to avoid a sack, he gets it done.

Heck, he even caught a 16-yard touchdown pass — a highlight reel-caliber play where he had to break several tackles — that the Sun Devils desperately needed in their come-from-behind 42-34 win at UCLA.

"Any time you can be a guy who's considered a play-maker, that's a compliment," Plummer said. "If I get happy feet

or I want to get out of there, I have guys around me who are able to make me look good, whether it's Keith (Poole) coming back to the ball or somebody else."

The Plummer-to-Poole combination has been among ASU's most lethal weapons, combining for 19 touchdowns over the past two years.

Moreover, Plummer is ASU's all-time passing leader with 8,626 yards. He is tied with Danny White for the ASU career lead in touchdowns with 64, a mark he could set on his own in the Rose Bowl with a TD pass against Ohio State.

"There is not a single player in college football who means more to his team than Jake Plummer," ASU coach Bruce Snyder said of his Heisman Trophy and Davey O'Brien Award candidate.

"We all should just be enjoying this guy, not just at Arizona State but everybody in college football should be. He's a heck of a football player. His team loves him. He loves his team. He's what it's all about," the coach said.

ASU's starter since midway through his freshman year in 1993, Plummer really began to find his stride toward the end of last season. He helped ASU to late-season wins over ranked powers Oregon and UCLA, games that served as building blocks for this year's Pac-10 championship season.

In fact, over his last 16 games — including the final five of last year — Plummer has 31 touchdowns against just 11 interceptions.

Yet his style could be described best as freewheeling. Like a snake, he is hard to pin down behind the line of scrimmage.

"He's sick and crazy," Poole said of his quarterback. "I told him to quit running around back there and throw the ball."

Plummer looks at things differently, to say the least.

"I pride myself on having the ability to make something out of nothing," he said. "It's gotten us out of some situations when things weren't looking that good."

One of Plummer's best assets, many



COURTESY: SCOTT THOMAS, ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

**CALL THE PLUMMER** — Arizona State quarterback Jake Plummer will graduate from ASU with the school's career lead in passing yardage and touchdowns. He, along with OSU's Orlando Pace, was one of four Heisman finalists this year.

say, is his ability to put the bad plays behind him. That, in fact, is a trademark of Snyder's coaching style.

"I've had four different (position) coaches in four years and I've learned a lot from them," Plummer said. "The main thing I learned was to let things go. If you throw an interception or make a bad play, you have to let it go."

"That also comes from Coach Snyder's philosophy of 'One At A Time.' That comes down to one game at a time, one quarter at a time and even one play at a time. I can't let one play hinder my performance because the team relies on me to be the cool-headed guy in the huddle."

Plummer was among the four finalists invited to New York City for the Heisman Trophy presentation Dec. 14. The acclaim is nice for this Boise, Idaho, native.

"I'm enjoying it, but it's a credit to my

teammates," he said. "If I didn't have the guys surrounding me allowing us to win games, I wouldn't be in this position. I've had a couple bad games, but we were able to pull through with the help of our running backs and our defense."

"It's my team that's keeping me in it. I'm surprised to be there."

#### An Outspoken Man

An exciting player on the field, Plummer also has a lot to say off of it. Here are some opinions he shared recently:

- Plummer aired out ESPN college football analyst Lee Corso, slow to buy into Arizona State's legitimacy. He picked the Sun Devils to fail at various points in their Pac-10 run.

- "He does his job and he doesn't do a very good job at it," Plummer said of Corso. "I'm going to be really mad if he picks us to beat Ohio State because he hasn't picked us all year and we've turned around and made him look like a real idiot."

- "Hopefully, he'll pick Ohio State so we can do it again to him."

- On an Associated Press poll voter from Norman, Okla., who was giving Nebraska a first-place vote despite ASU's unbeaten mark and head-to-head win, he said, "There's another idiot out there, I guess."

- When asked about OSU coach John Cooper's 1-6 bowl record with the Buckeyes, he replied, "A few of the guys on the team who are big sports fans may know about that. I know about it through my brothers and just from watching games."

- "He hasn't done very well in the big games. That doesn't matter. Anything can happen."

- "Regardless of whether he is a big game coach or not, he is going to have his team ready to play. In these type of games, it's up to the players to come out and do the job."

#### ULTIMATE GOLF GIFT!

Personalized Golf Balls:  
6 for \$19.95  
12 for \$29.95

Send your Name, Initials, Monogram even your Signature!

Price includes: Top-Flite XL Balls.  
Tax, Shipping and Handling.  
Perfect Holiday or Birthday Gift.

We need: • Your Copy or Artwork  
• Check or money order made payable: Logo Golf  
1487 West Fifth Ave.  
Dept. 218 Columbus, OH  
43212-2403

For more information call: (614) 630-0460

#### A Resort-Like Setting

#### Columbus Corporate Lodging Plus



#### Move Up to a Suite ... At No Extra Charge

- Fully Furnished, Luxurious, Spacious 1 & 2 Bedroom Apartment Suites with Fireplaces • Enclosed Patios • Fully Equipped Kitchens
- All Utilities Paid • VCR's Available • Free Local Calls • Stocked Fishing Lakes • Washers & Dryers • Seasonal Pool & Jacuzzi • Tennis Courts • Jogging/Walking Trail • Health Club

#### DAILY • WEEKLY or MONTHLY RATES

Conveniently Located  
in Northwest Columbus  
Near I-270 & 161

(614) 798-0040

Out of Town  
Customers Call  
1-800-635-0040

5357 Drumcally Lane in the Asherton of Dublin Community

#### LOOKING FOR THE LATEST LINE?

Your most complete selection of sports periodicals

#### Tip Sheets Schedules Newspapers Magazines

We feature: • The Gold Sheet • Winning Point • All Major Sports Publications

#### AREA'S LARGEST SELECTION OF OUT-OF-TOWN PAPERS

#### The Newsstand

EAST 2976 E. Broad St.  
(614) 236-5632  
M-F 8-8 • Sat 9-8  
Sun 8-4

#### Buckeye Books and News

DOWNTOWN 51 North Pearl  
(at Gay St. - 1/2 block E. of High)  
(614) 464-0777  
M-F 8-8 • Sat 9-5 • Sun 8:30-2