

# BUCKEYE SPORTS BULLETIN

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"For The Buckeye Fan Who Needs To Know More"

January 11, 2003

# National Champs!!

## OSU Ends 34-Year Title Drought With Thriller Over Miami

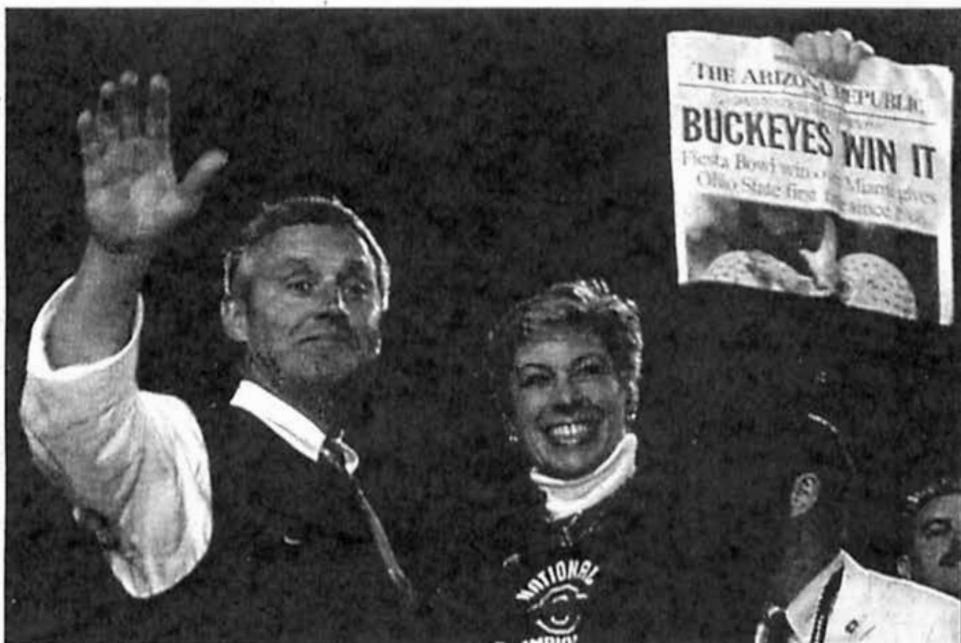
By STEVE HELWAGEN  
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

After 34 years of near misses and close calls, the wait is finally over for Ohio State and its legion of fans. The Buckeyes defied the odds by pulling off a 31-24 double-overtime upset of top-ranked Miami (Fla.) to claim the national championship Jan. 3 at the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl in Tempe, Ariz.

The victory, cheered on by as many as 50,000 OSU fans who made the cross-country journey to see the Buckeyes in person, gave Ohio State its fifth consensus national championship and seventh overall (see chart, page 16).

In typical OSU style, it came in heart-stopping fashion. Miami rallied to force the game into overtime with a final-play field goal then surged ahead 24-17 in the first overtime.

OSU converted a pair of tricky fourth downs — including one on a controversial pass interference penalty — before tying the game. Then, in the second OT, OSU's Maurice Clarett powered in on a 5-yard run before the defense stopped Miami on downs inside the



JEFF BREHM

ON TOP OF THE WORLD — As his wife, Ellen, shows off a local newspaper proclaiming the Buckeyes' victory over Miami, OSU head coach Jim Tressel waves to the Sun Devil Stadium crowd.

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## Krenzel Confounds Miami With His Running Ability

By STEVE HELWAGEN  
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

The list of Fiesta Bowl Offensive MVP award winners is long and distinguished.

It includes quarterbacks such as Notre Dame's Tony Rice, Nebraska's Tommie Frazier and Eric Crouch, and Oregon's Joey Harrington.

Ohio State quarterback Craig Krenzel added his name to that illustrious list with his play as the Buckeyes knocked off Miami 31-24 in double overtime to win the national championship at the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl.

It should be noted that Krenzel did not win the award on the basis of his

**Player Of The Game**

passing skills. After all, he completed just 7 of 21 passes for 122 yards with two interceptions.

Yet he was most definitely Ohio State's leading offensive player in the victory after rushing 19 times for a career-high 81 yards and two touchdowns. Only one of those rushing attempts ended as a quarterback sack.

"All I know is that Craig Krenzel does for us what we need done," said OSU coach Jim Tressel. "He made plays when we needed and he's tough. The number one characteristic a quarterback has to have, especially a quarterback at Ohio State, is they'd better be tough. Craig Krenzel is tough and he played a tough game tonight."

"We have had a lot of great quarterbacks here at Ohio State who just know how to win. Craig Krenzel knows how to

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## COVER STORY: NATIONAL CHAMPS!!

# Respect Is Back For OSU

Continued From Page 1

OSU 2.

The final play saw OSU linebacker Cie Grant pressure Miami's Ken Dorsey, a Heisman Trophy finalist, into an incompletion.

Miami's string of 34 straight wins was history, while OSU's wait of 34 years — dating to the 1968 national championship season — was also complete.

"I tell you what, we are so proud of these young men," said OSU coach Jim Tressel, who won a national championship in his second year on the job. "We have always had the best damn band in the land. Now we've got the best damn team in the land."

Tressel's Buckeyes (14-0), ranked second nationally coming into the game, were the only Division I-A team to finish the year undefeated.

"Anytime you stand alone at the top of the mountain with the people you love, it is a great feeling," said Tressel, who previously won four Division I-AA national championships at Youngstown State.

Ohio State had been a player on the national scene under John Cooper throughout much of the 1990s, finishing second in the AP poll in both 1996 and '98.

But OSU's rise to championship status this season seemed unlikely just five months ago. The Buckeyes, coming off a disappointing 7-5 campaign, were ranked just 13th in the initial Associated Press poll.

The team's 13 seniors had seen upheaval in the program, missing a bowl game after a 6-6 season in 1999 and seeing Cooper fired after an 8-4 year in 2000.

Since the inception of the AP poll in 1936, OSU had never failed to make the final poll in more than three straight years. But OSU was looking at just such a string headed into this season.

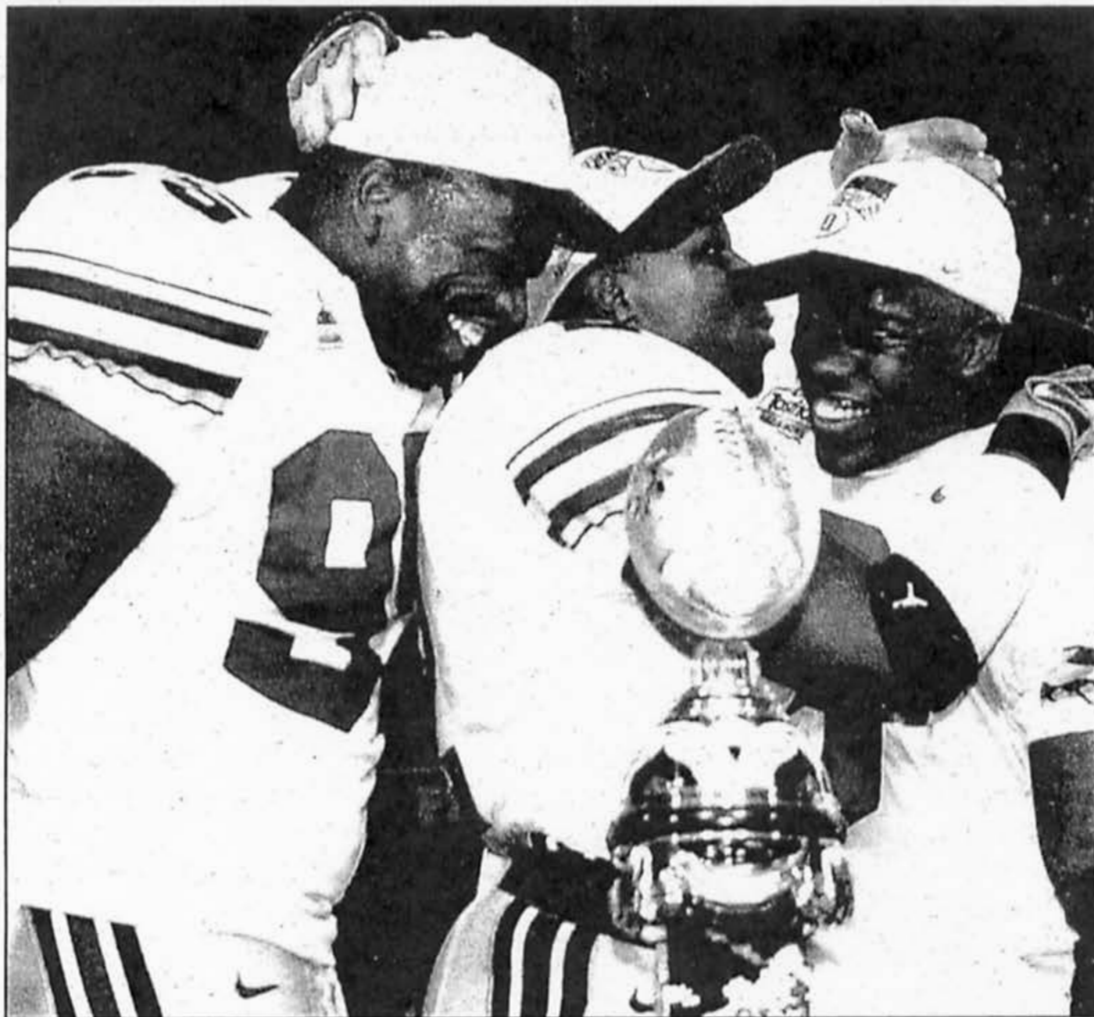
"It was important for us to get the respect back in our program," said Clarett, who ended a dynamic freshman year with 1,237 yards rushing and 18 touchdowns. "After this, people will look at us and take us more seriously."

Tressel noted how everything came into proper alignment for the Buckeyes this season.

"We are so proud of those 13 seniors and of those coaches," Tressel said. "The leadership that both of these groups gave, credit them. Throw in the fact that the younger players believed, throw in the fact that our crowd was electric and energized us."

OSU became the first Big Ten team to play in the designated championship game in the brief five-year history of the Bowl Championship Series. The Buckeyes emerged from this dramatic win with the conference's first unanimous national championship since 1968. (Michigan split the 1997 national title with Nebraska.)

"This is such a great feeling," said OSU tight end Ben Hartssock. "I think it's



IT'S OURS, BABY — Ohio State safety Michael Doss (center), linebacker Cie Grant (right) and defensive lineman David Thompson celebrate together in front of the Fiesta Bowl trophy.

important to understand what this means to our whole state. Every away game we go to, there are people waiting to meet us at the airport.

"It is a worldwide thing. It is neat to see the way Ohio State reaches out to people. It's amazing."

OSU safety and co-captain Mike Doss set the tone for this title run when he decided last January to stick around for his senior year. He could have joined teammates Derek Ross and Darnell Sanders in leaving school early for the NFL. But he was rewarded for his decision by earning All-American honors for the third time as well as a national championship ring.

"I believed in our team," said Doss, who set up OSU's first touchdown with an interception. "Twelve months ago on Jan. 9, my mom's birthday, I made the decision to come back. I had one goal in mind and that was to win a national championship."

"I have won a championship on every level since I was 8 years old. I was able to come back and we got it done."

The Buckeyes also were aided by an unprecedented showing of support. It was estimated that as many as 80 percent of the 77,502 in attendance at Sun Devil Stadium were rooting for OSU. Many of those fans had paid \$500 and up for their tickets to the title game.

"This was like the Ohio State branch

campus today," Hartssock said. "This was the 'Shoe for the day. It seemed like there was a 1,000-to-1 ratio of Ohio State fans. That really was a spark for us, offensively and defensively."

## A Fitting Conclusion

Between the Bowl Alliance (1995-97) and the first four years of the BCS, only one of the designated title games was decided by a touchdown or less, as Tennessee edged Florida State 23-16 in the 1999 Fiesta Bowl.

But after the Buckeyes rallied to defeat Miami, many college football pundits were calling the game — which lasted a robust three hours and 56 minutes — perhaps the greatest title game ever.

"Miami is a great football team and that's what the national championship game should go like — double overtime," Tressel said.

Miami (12-1) was bidding to become the game's first repeat national champion since Nebraska in 1994-95. The Hurricanes were installed as a 13-point favorite.

But if the Buckeyes were supposed to roll over and become Miami's 35th

## OSU's National Championships

Here is a look at Ohio State's seven full or partial national championships.

Year	Record	Poll Titles
1942	9-1	AP
1954	10-0	AP (UCLA won UPI, FWAA)
1957	9-1	UPI, FWAA (Auburn won AP)
1961	8-0-1	FWAA (Alabama won AP, UPI)
1968	10-0	Unanimous
1970	9-1	NFF (Nebraska won AP, FWAA; Texas won UPI)
2002	14-0	Unanimous

**Note:** AP, Associated Press media poll; UPI, United Press International coaches poll; FWAA, Football Writers Association of America; NFF, National Football Foundation.

straight victim, they never got that memo.

"I never thought of us as underdogs," Clarett said. "We all believed in ourselves."

The championship game was the kind of back-and-forth affair Ohio State thrived upon during the regular season.

"It was tough, but that's why you play this game," said OSU offensive tackle Shane Olivea. "To come out here and have this opportunity, it was unbelievable. Hey, no one gave us a chance. Not

**COVER STORY: NATIONAL CHAMPS!!**

one person gave us a chance and that's why you play the game."

Miami opened the scoring with a first-quarter touchdown drive. OSU then grabbed a 14-7 halftime lead after capitalizing on a pair of UM turnovers.

OSU led for the entire second half until a 50-yard punt return by Roscoe Parrish set up Todd Sievers' 40-yard field goal on the final play of regulation, which tied the game at 17 and forced overtime.

Miami opened the first overtime with a touchdown to go up 24-17. OSU converted a sticky fourth-and-14 predicament with a 17-yard pass from Craig Krenzel to Michael Jenkins.

Moments later, OSU faced fourth-and-3 at the Miami 5. Krenzel threw incomplete in the end zone to Chris Gamble, but UM cornerback Glenn Sharpe was flagged for pass interference. Miami had already begun its victory celebration when the field judge made his call, throwing the flag 3-1/2 seconds after the play ended.

Given new life, OSU knotted the score at 24 on a 1-yard Krenzel quarterback sneak.

"We didn't panic," said OSU safety and co-captain Donnie Nickey. "We didn't do that all season, either. We had it in our minds to never surrender and not to give up all season."

OSU went first in the second overtime and scored in a methodical five plays. Claret's 5-yard TD run put the Buckeyes up and set the tone for the defense, which allowed Miami to get all the way down to the OSU 1 before stopping the 'Canes cold.

When Dorsey's final pass fell harmlessly to the ground, a raucous OSU celebration ensued on the field. After accepting the various championship trophies, Tressel convened his team for its usual postgame ritual — a rendition of "Carmen Ohio" with the OSU marching band.

"It feels real good," said Gamble, OSU's two-way star and a native of the Miami suburb of Sunrise. "Ever since I went back home for the holidays everyone was like, 'Oh, you all are going to lose to Miami.'"

"I just want to let everybody back home know I did it and the team did it."

For Doss and several of the seniors, beating Miami was a fitting way to go out: They opened their careers with a 23-12 loss to the 'Canes in the 1999 Kickoff Classic.

"All the teams I've played against in my career, I've ended up either .500 or with a winning record against them," Doss said. "Miami was the last one I needed. They had a 34-game winning streak, but we knew if we snapped that we would be national champions."

**A Season To Remember**

Ohio State led the nation with seven games decided by a touchdown or less, including the title game victory.

Over the course of the year, these Buckeyes were in and out of tough spots more than Harry Houdini.

But where other teams would have fractured or folded, this OSU team typically pulled together.

"These guys were so willing to grow together and learn to care about each other," Tressel said. "They have been through transition and a lot of adversity."

"They each have a role, not one more important than the other."

Hartsoc added, "Just about every game has been tight for us. We haven't won pretty, but we've won."

While few outside the program

believed a national championship was in the cards, the players themselves began to believe.

"Everyone deserves credit," said defensive end Simon Fraser, who sacked Dorsey late in regulation. "Everyone believed we could get it done. Right out of camp, we had the mind-set and the attitude to go the whole way."

"We grew together as a team. The camaraderie on this team is unbelievable. This is something that books are written about."

OSU survived close calls at Cincinnati and Wisconsin early in the season. The 23-19 win at UC was predicated by a late defensive stand in the red zone, capped by a Will Allen interception in the end zone.

The Buckeyes then rallied for wins over Penn State and at Purdue and Illinois. OSU went to overtime for the first time in school history to secure the 23-16 win over the Illini.

"We'd been in overtime before," noted OSU defensive tackle David Thompson. "Miami hadn't been in overtime before. I knew we had to just keep fighting and keep playing. Our team stuck together. That's the thing about Ohio State football this year. We play to the last minute. We stick together."

The 14-9 season-ending victory over Michigan — also capped by a late interception by Allen near the goal line — gave the Buckeyes a school-record 13 wins and secured their spot in the national title game.

"After the Michigan game, we had written a chapter in history," Hartsoc said. "I think we would have been remembered even if we had lost the national championship game."

"But we hung in and got the win here. I think we'll be one of the teams that people will always talk about. It is a new era of greatness at Ohio State. To be part of that is overwhelming."

No team in the previous 112 years of Ohio State football had ever won more than 11 games. So, yes, it seems this 14-game winner will be revered for quite a while.

"I think we all had that in the back of our minds going into the game that we'd be part of Ohio State history for a very

long time," said OSU linebacker Matt Wilhelm. "We were out to get some respect and out to make history."

**Can They Repeat?**

One of the obvious questions in the afterglow of the Miami victory was whether the Buckeyes could repeat in 2003.

At least on paper, each of the nation's final top five — OSU, Miami, Georgia, USC and Oklahoma — will go into the off-season with serious designs on winning the national title at next year's Sugar Bowl.

"We want to start a winning streak like Miami did," Gamble confirmed. "We want to be back here in the championship game again next year."

Tressel said those questions are inevitable, although he wanted his team to savor this win for a short while before getting back to work.

"These guys are going to enjoy this, celebrate with class and they'll be very proud of their accomplishments," Tressel said. "Those younger guys go back to school on (Jan. 6) and I don't think we'll throw them into the weight room right away but a lot of this is about what comes next. We'll go to work pretty soon."

Now that the underclassmen have a taste of a championship, it may be hard to accept anything less.

"I think the only way to top this is to do it two more times," said OSU kicker Mike Nugent. "I've got two years left, so hopefully we can keep doing it."

**EDITOR'S NOTE** — In the weeks ahead, BSB will take an early look at OSU's 2003 football team, provide profiles on key returning players and examine the team's nonconference opponents and Big Ten competitors.

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**OHIO STATE VS. MIAMI (FLA.)**

# From Dejection To Elation, Thanks To Late Flag

By **STEVE HELWAGEN**  
and **MIKE WACHSMAN**  
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writers

Excluding extra points, there were nine different scoring plays in Ohio State's Tostitos Fiesta Bowl double-overtime win over Miami (Fla.).

But none of them registered as the play of the game.

Rather, the most talked about play of the game simply helped prolong the contest in the first overtime.

OSU trailed Miami 24-17 and, for the second time in the first OT, faced sudden death with a fourth-down predicament. Quarterback Craig Krenzel had converted the first one with a 17-yard pass to Michael Jenkins just moments earlier.

But the game was on the line again as OSU faced fourth-and-3 at the Miami 5. The Canes spent their only timeout to set up their defense, while Krenzel suggested the play to OSU coach Jim Tressel.

"We knew that they were going to be looking for the fade, so we went for a fade stop," said OSU tight end Ben Hartsock.

Krenzel rolled to his right and threw to flanker Chris Gamble, who broke off his route near the goal line and the right sideline.

Replays were inconclusive as to when Miami cornerback Glenn Sharpe initiated contact with Gamble, but he made strong contact and broke up the pass. Replays did show Sharpe wrapping a hand around Gamble's waist before knocking the ball down.

Line judge Derick Bowers from the Big 12 crew signaled incomplete pass from his spot on the goal line. Field judge Terry Porter did likewise from the corner of the end zone. But Porter then also sent his

penalty flag flying toward the area of the play.

"I was a little sad because I thought he interfered and I didn't see a flag," Gamble said. "I thought we had lost. Then I looked around and saw the flag and was happy again."

"He was holding me the whole time. I think the official was trying to get the flag out and he finally got it. (Sharpe) was into my face mask and my shoulder pads. I still tried to make the catch."

ESPN replays determined Porter's flag flew into the screen 3-1/2 seconds after the play ended. In the meantime, Fiesta Bowl organizers had sent up fireworks to celebrate Miami's supposed win. Miami players stormed the field as well.

Porter said he was deliberate with the call because he wanted to get it right.

"I saw the guy (Sharpe) holding the guy (Gamble) prior to the ball being put in the air," Porter said. "He was still holding him, pulling him down while the ball was in the air. I gave the signal for holding. Then I realized it should be pass interference because the ball was in the air."

"I replayed it in my mind. I wanted to make double sure it was the right call."

Krenzel had an obstructed view of the play, but joined Gamble in looking for a flag.

"As I threw that, I got hit," Krenzel said. "I saw a lot of contact. While I was laying on the ground, I saw it fell incomplete. Their team rushed the field and I was feeling dejected about how much effort we had put into it."

"I didn't see the flag until after I got up. I thought it was the right call and fortunately we took advantage of it."

Hartsock had a view of the play as well.

"When you've got an athlete like Chris Gamble, it's hard to stop somebody like that and they ended up interfering," he said. "It just shows that you shouldn't put yourself in a position for a judgment call to determine the outcome of the game."

Tressel also was adamant that his receiver had been fouled.



JEFF BREHM

**CONTROVERSIAL PLAY** — On what may have been the most important turn of events in the game, OSU's Chris Gamble (7) went up for a fourth-down pass, was met by Miami cornerback Glenn Sharpe and the ball fell to the turf. But then a flag was thrown.

"I thought there was interference but I didn't see a flag, so for a moment I thought it was a bad way to end a game," the coach said. "I thought Craig put it on the money and did think Chris got interfered with. We don't complain about things that don't go our way, but it was good to see that guy come from the back of the end zone and make what I thought was a good call."

The Miami sideline seemed to disagree with Porter's call.

"I did not have a chance to see the call," Miami coach Larry Coker said. "I don't know. I know the call was made.

have never been in that position."

Once play resumed, five Miami defenders teamed to shove OSU's Maurice Clarett out of bounds at the 1 on first down. Clarett got no gain on second down before Krenzel churned in from the 1 on third down to tie the game at 24 and force the second overtime, when OSU ultimately won.

"That's how you win championships, to keep playing and to make plays," Tressel said. "Our guys keep playing and we were fortunate to make plays. Miami has nothing to hang its head about because that's a great football team."

That's what we have to deal with. We have to adjust and go on to the next play.

"Obviously on fourth-and-long, it was a huge, huge play in the game. You hate for an official to have to make that call. You would like it to be a legitimate call."

The penalty gave the Buckeyes a first down at the Miami 2. Play was delayed while officials cleared the field. Plus, Miami safety Sean Taylor had to leave the game after breaking his helmet during the abbreviated celebration.

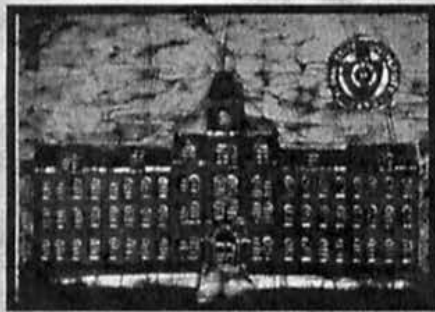
"Officials make the calls," Taylor said. "That wasn't a turning point. We should

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OHIO STATE VS. MIAMI (FLA.)

# Perfect End To Perfect Season

## Buckeyes Faze 'Canes, Capture National Title

By STEVE HELWAGEN  
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

If ever there was such a thing as an "Instant Classic," this was it.

Ohio State's stunning 31-24 double-overtime victory over top-ranked Miami in the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl — regarded by the Bowl Championship Series as the national championship game — left college football historians wondering if there had ever been a game that meant so much that was so good.

"That's what the national championship game should look like," OSU coach Jim Tressel remarked after his second-ranked Buckeyes pulled off the upset before 77,502 at Sun Devil Stadium Jan. 3 in Tempe, Ariz.

Ohio State (14-0) claimed its first consensus national championship since 1968 and its fifth overall. It denied Miami (12-1) a second consecutive national title and its sixth crown in 20 years.

The victory also snapped Miami's 34-game winning streak, dating to early in the 2000 season. The streak stood as the sixth longest in Division I-A history.

"I want to congratulate Coach Tressel and his staff for an excellent effort," said Miami coach Larry Coker, a former OSU assistant who suffered his first defeat in 25 games as a head coach. "They're a great football team and well-coached. I'm really proud of our football team, the way we fought back and gave our team a chance to win. But it just wasn't meant to be tonight."

For the seventh time this season, the resilient Buckeyes needed late-game heroics to pull out the win. This time, Miami rallied from a 17-7 deficit to tie the game at 17 on Todd Sievers' 40-yard field goal on the final play of regulation.

After the Hurricanes grabbed a 24-17 lead in the first overtime, OSU was twice down to its final play before getting fourth-down conversions. One of those was on a controversial pass interference penalty.

OSU quarterback Craig Krenzel tied the game at 24 with a 1-yard touchdown run.

Then the Buckeyes moved ahead for good in the second extra period on a 5-yard touchdown run by Maurice Clarett. The 'Canes drove all the way down to the OSU 1-yard line but lost the ball on downs after an incomplete pass by Heisman Trophy finalist Ken Dorsey ended the game.

"We knew our kids would play all day long and never stop," Tressel said after the three-hour, 56-minute affair had reached its thrilling conclusion.

Krenzel was named the game's Offensive MVP award winner. He completed just 7 of 21 passes for 122 yards and two interceptions.

But he dinged Miami for a game- and career-high 81 yards rushing and two touchdowns on 19 carries.

"Our guys gave an outstanding effort on every play," Krenzel said. "Sometimes when things aren't working you go on to others. Tonight, we made those plays when we had to."



JEFF BREHM

**GO-AHEAD SCORE** — Ohio State freshman running back Maurice Clarett (13) plows in for a 5-yard touchdown to give the Buckeyes a 30-24 lead in the second overtime. It was Clarett's second score of the evening.

Clarett finished with 47 yards and two touchdowns on 23 carries for the Buckeyes.

"That was a good game, the most intense game I've been a part of," he said.

Clarett was responsible for one of Miami's five turnovers after stripping Miami defensive back Sean Taylor, who had intercepted a Krenzel pass. The play set up a third-quarter OSU field goal.

The OSU defense came up big with four more turnovers. Dorsey was 28 of 43 passing for 296 yards with two touchdowns and two interceptions. He also lost a fumble, which led to an OSU touchdown and a 14-7 halftime lead.

"Ohio State is a great team," Dorsey said. "They deserve a lot of credit. We made a few mistakes and that's what cost us the game. If we hadn't turned the ball over, we would have been in great shape."

Dorsey and fellow Miami Heisman finalist Willis McGahee, a 1,686-yard rusher during the regular season, each paid a heavy price against the Buckeyes.

Dorsey, 38-1 as Miami's starting quarterback prior to this loss, left the game briefly after a hit in overtime. He accepted the Fiesta Bowl's Sportsmanship Award before heading to a nearby hospital for treatment for dehydration and a possible concussion.

But that was tame in comparison to McGahee's fate. The third-year sophomore was likely headed into the 2003 NFL draft as a first-round pick. But that all changed when he suffered torn knee ligaments on a fourth-quarter tackle by

OSU's Will Allen with 11:39 left.

McGahee finished with 67 yards rushing and a touchdown on 20 carries. His replacement, Jarrett Payton, managed just 17 yards on eight carries over the remainder of the game.

"(The Ohio State defense) didn't surprise us that much, but they're very good at what they did," said Coker, whose team was held to 369 yards total offense after averaging 475.4 in the regular season.

"It sort of caused us some problems. Losing McGahee hurt us. We didn't have enough offense to finish it off."

### As It Happened

Miami gained an early field-position advantage by downing a punt at the OSU 1-yard line midway through the first quarter.

The 'Canes got the ball back after an OSU punt on their own 48-yard line and needed just five plays to open the scoring.

Dorsey exploited OSU's zone with a 28-yard pass to tight end Kellen Winslow Jr., who ended up with 11 catches for 122 yards.

Three plays later, Roscoe Parrish lined up as the middle receiver in a trips right formation. He ran a slant route in front of OSU's Mike Doss and hauled in a 25-yard touchdown pass from Dorsey, carrying Doss with him for the last 5 yards. The play helped Miami grab a 7-0 lead with 4:09 left in the first quarter.

Things looked bleak for OSU moments later as Krenzel tried to throw a deep pass to Chris Vance. Miami's

Taylor tipped the pass to himself and intercepted it.

The OSU defense quelled the threat and, one Miami possession later, struck for an interception of its own as corner Dustin Fox hauled in a Dorsey overthrow.

"Dorsey is a great player," Fox said. "But sometimes when you can get pressure on him, he'll just chuck it up there. When he does that, you have to make plays on the ball."

OSU used Krenzel runs of 9 and 11 yards to move down to the Miami 17-yard line. On fourth-and-1, the Buckeyes lined up to try a 35-yard field goal. Holder Andy Groom tried to run for the first down on a fake but was stopped short, and OSU lost possession with 7:58 left in the first half.

Once again, the OSU defense came up big. Dorsey threw to go-to man Andre Johnson in the left flat but saw the pass go through his hands and right to Doss, who returned it 35 yards to the Miami 17 with 5:36 left in the half.

"Dustin Fox was fortunate to get one and then I got a blessing with a tipped pass," Doss said. "Our defensive line played well and got some pressure on

Dorsey and he put the ball up where we could get it."

OSU needed seven plays to find the end zone. Krenzel converted a first down with an 8-yard pass to Chris Vance down to the Miami 4.

Once again, Tressel rolled the dice and went for the touchdown on fourth-and-goal inside the 1. Krenzel went behind right guard Bryce Bishop and, on a second effort, got the touchdown to tie the game at 7 with 2:28 left in the half.

After Mike Nugent backed the 'Canes up to their own 20 with a touchdown on the kickoff, the 'Canes coughed up the ball again. On first down, Dorsey dropped to pass. OSU's Kenny Peterson brought pressure and punched the ball out to teammate Darriin Scott, who recovered it at the Miami 14 with 2:15 left.

"We knew coming into the game we had to get pressure on Dorsey," Peterson said. "I was fortunate to come through. I give all the credit to my guys in the backfield for giving me time to get back there."

OSU's Lydell Ross got 2 yards on first down before a Miami offsides penalty moved the ball down to the 7. On second down, Clarett took the ball up the middle, juked a defender and took Miami linebacker D.J. Williams into the end zone with him on a 7-yard TD run that put the Buckeyes up 14-7 with 1:10 left in the half.

Miami tried to mount a last-second drive to end the half but got only as far as its own 32-yard line. The OSU-partisan crowd sent its team into the locker room

## OHIO STATE VS. MIAMI (FLA.)

at the intermission with a standing ovation.

The OSU defense stopped Miami on its first possession of the third quarter before the offense moved into scoring position at the Miami 6 after Krenzel found Chris Gamble for a 57-yard bomb down the left sideline.

But on first down, Krenzel tried to force a pass into tight end Ben Hartssock. Miami's Taylor intercepted and started the other way only to have Clarett track him down and take the ball away at the Miami 28.

"(Running backs coach Tim) Spencer always talks about trying to strip the ball away when that happens," Clarett said. "Coach Spence came through with that tonight."

"I saw him running with the ball and I didn't want him to score a touchdown. I did my best to try and catch him."

That play set up Nugent's 44-yard field goal, which pushed the OSU lead to 17-7 with 8:33 left in the third quarter.

Late in the third quarter, Miami put together a seven-play, 55-yard scoring march. Dorsey found Winslow for gains of 23, 5 and 7 yards on the possession, setting up McGahee's 9-yard TD run, which cut the OSU lead to 17-14 with 2:11 left in the third quarter.

The Buckeyes clung to the lead, withstanding a missed 54-yard field goal by Sievers with 11:26 left in the game.

Nugent then misfired on a 42-yard field goal of his own with 6:36 left.

The 'Canes threatened as Dorsey found Parrish for a 29-yard gain down to the OSU 23. But OSU's Fox succeeded in knocking the ball away after the catch and Allen recovered it at the OSU 18 with 5:08 left.

"I was just trying to tackle him and the ball was there," Fox said. "I just got it out. It was like a perfect tackle, and Will was there to pick it up."

OSU managed one first down but was forced to punt. Parrish atoned for his fumble by returning the punt 50 yards down the right sideline to the OSU 26 with 2:02 left.

Once again, the OSU defense stiffened with defensive end Simon Fraser sacking Dorsey for a 4-yard loss at the OSU 30. After Dorsey threw underneath to Payton for a 7-yard gain down to the 23, the 'Canes allowed the clock to dwindle down to 3 seconds before calling timeout.

OSU then called two timeouts of its own — icing Sievers for a total of nearly five minutes — before he kicked the game-tying 40-yard field goal just inside the right upright to send the game to overtime.

### The First Overtime

OSU won the toss and chose defense, while Miami elected to use the "open" south end of the stadium.

"I wouldn't say we were really chipper, but we had a sense that we had been there before and we could handle the situation," OSU tight end Ben Hartssock said of his team's mind-set headed into the extra period.

Miami needed just five plays to find the end zone. Dorsey capped the drive with a 7-yard TD pass to Winslow, who shrugged off interference by OSU's Allen to put his team up 24-17.

OSU was behind the eight ball quickly as Krenzel was sacked at the Miami 29. But his pass to Michael Jenkins on fourth-and-14 netted 17 yards and a first down at the Miami 12.

"They were playing us with a Cover-2 zone, and we called a comeback route,"



UNCHARTED WATERS — It's fair to say that Miami quarterback Ken Dorsey (11) had never seen a defense like Ohio State's this season. He was pressured for most of the night by the Buckeyes, including linebacker Cie Grant (6) who forced a wild incompletion here on the game's final play.

Krenzel said. "The offensive line did a great job of protecting me. That gave Mike a chance to get into the route. I threw it on time and he caught it."

Jenkins added, "It was fourth-and-14 and we had to have it. But that hurt. I messed up my foot a bit when I came down, but that was cool."

Krenzel sandwiched a 7-yard run around two incomplete passes, leaving the Buckeyes with fourth-and-3 at the Miami 5.

Krenzel threw to Gamble in the right corner of the end zone, but Miami's Glenn Sharpe broke up the pass. The game appeared to be over as fireworks exploded overhead and Miami players stormed the field.

But field judge Terry Porter, standing in the back corner of the end zone, seemingly overruled himself and tossed a late pass interference flag on Sharpe.

Given new life, the Buckeyes capitalized. Krenzel tied the game at 24 with his 1-yard TD plunge behind left guard Adrien Clarke.

### The Second Overtime

OSU had the ball first and needed just five plays to score. Krenzel converted a third down with a 5-yard gain on a keeper. He then found Jenkins for a 6-yard gain, setting up Clarett's 5-yard TD burst up the middle to give the Buckeyes a 31-24 lead.

"Number 36, the safety (Maurice Sikes), tried to sideswipe me," Clarett said. "I just dived to the end zone and got in."

Miami seemed poised to force a third overtime, despite losing Dorsey for a

play due to an injury. Backup Derrick Crupud completed an 8-yard pass to Quadtrine Hill before Dorsey converted a fourth down with a 7-yard pass to Winslow.

OSU face mask and pass interference penalties helped move the 'Canes down to the OSU 2. Payton got 1 yard on first down before Dorsey's second-down pass to Eric Winston was wide and incomplete.

A quick give to fullback Hill was snuffed by OSU's Matt Wilhelm for no gain on third down.

Finally, Dorsey dropped and tried to throw on fourth down. But OSU linebacker Cie Grant came unblocked off the right edge — his first blitz of the game — to pressure Dorsey into throwing wildly. Dorsey's pass glanced off OSU safety Donnie Nickey with no receiver even close.

The game was over and Ohio State had finally — at long last — realized its championship dream.

### Game Notes

- Ohio State snapped a two-game bowl losing streak and improved its all-time bowl record to 15-19.

- That mark includes a 2-1 record in the Fiesta Bowl. The Buckeyes lost the 1980 Fiesta Bowl to Penn State but won the 1983 game over Pittsburgh.

- OSU also is 2-0 in BCS bowl games. The Buckeyes won the 1999 Sugar Bowl over Texas A&M.

- Miami's bowl record dropped to 16-13 all-time, including 0-4 in the Fiesta Bowl. OSU snapped Miami's five-game bowl winning streak.

- Ohio State improved to 4-7 all-time against the top-ranked team in the Associated Press poll.

- Other OSU wins over No. 1-ranked teams include a 1952 triumph over Wisconsin, a 1968 victory over Purdue and a 1985 win over Iowa.

- Since the inception of the AP poll in 1936, the nation's top two teams have now met 34 times. OSU became the 12th No. 2 team to upset the No. 1 team.

- No. 2-ranked teams now have a record of 12-20-2 in such games.

- Top-ranked OSU defeated No. 2 USC 27-16 in the 1969 Rose Bowl in the only other 1-vs.-2 game involving the Buckeyes. Miami fell to 3-3 in such games, including 0-3 as the No. 1 team.

- OSU improved to 2-1 all-time against Miami. OSU defeated Miami 10-0 in 1977 in Columbus, while the 'Canes evened the series with a 23-12 win in the 1999 Kickoff Classic.

- Miami trailed at halftime for just the third time all year. Florida State and Rutgers each led the 'Canes at intermission during the regular season.

- Miami's seven first-half points were the fewest of the season and the least it has scored since it trailed Washington 21-3 at halftime of a 34-29 loss in 2000, the last time the Hurricanes had tasted defeat.

- This was OSU's second all-time overtime game. The Buckeyes defeated Illinois 23-16 in a single-overtime game earlier this year.

- No current Miami player has ever played an OT game. The 'Canes last went to overtime in 1998, when Virginia Tech prevailed 27-20.

**BSB Quotebook: Ohio State 31, Miami 24**

OSU flanker/cornerback Chris Gamble on mistakenly running on the field as the 12th offensive man to start the game: "I thought they had called the personnel group where I'm the third receiver. But they weren't screaming, 'Gray,' like I thought they were. It was just the first play. We were able to get it adjusted."

Miami coach Larry Coker on the feeling after suffering his first defeat as a head coach in his 25th game: "This is about what I expected. It's very painful. You play a lot of these plays for a long time. That's the way it should be."

OSU defensive end Kenny Peterson on the helpless feeling he felt as the Buckeyes faced must-have fourth downs in the first overtime: "I just got down on my knees and left it in God's hands. All we could do was leave it up to him. I thank God we were able to come through with the big plays."

Miami quarterback Ken Dorsey on committing three of his team's turnovers: "I should have made some more throws. I take responsibility on that. That's on me."

OSU's 325-pound offensive guard Adrian Clarke, sometimes maligned for his weight problems, answered his critics: "Make sure you put it in the paper — Clarke is getting slimmer; Clarke did a good job tonight."

OSU's Peterson on seeing tailback Maurice Clarett track down Miami's Sean Taylor and force a fumble after Taylor had intercepted an OSU pass: "That explains what kind of player he is. He never gives up. He's always going 100 mph. If he wants the football, he's going to get it."

Clarett on possibly taking a turn on defense, a la Gamble: "Hopefully, they'll let me play some at linebacker. (Linebackers coach Mark) Snyder talked about letting me come off the edge and blitzing. I'm more of an athlete than to play on just one side of the ball."

OSU safety and co-captain Donnie Nickey on how he planned to celebrate the national title: "I'm going to go and find my family as soon as I can and just get lost in the moment for a while."

Miami's Dorsey on the overtime rules in college football: "It's fair. We got our shot there at the end. We had our opportunity to win the game and we didn't do it."

OSU offensive tackle Shane Olivea on the outpouring of support the Buckeyes felt in Tempe: "That's why we came to school here. We have the best fans in the country and today they showed us why."

Dorsey on tight end Kellen Winslow Jr., who finished with 11 catches for 122 yards and a touchdown: "Kellen is a great player. He is something special. He has a chance to be a great player here for a long time. Anytime I can get him the ball, I do it. He has the ability to win the game for us."

Miami's Winslow on matching up with the Buckeyes: "They had some good athletes, but they couldn't match up with our talent. But talent only takes you so far. That's what we found out tonight."

OSU safety and co-captain Mike Doss on his team's perceived lack of speed: "We feel we have enough speed to line up in a track meet with anybody. But this is football. On the field, there is game speed and football speed. We feel we can play with anybody in the country when it comes to that."

OSU's Clarett on the same topic: "I didn't think they were that fast. I thought that was blown out of proportion. They were fast, but I think we were able to run with them."

Miami linebacker D.J. Williams on OSU's ability to move the ball: "We knew they were going to try and run the ball, but we thought our speed would shut that down. We didn't count on the little intangibles that sometimes happen in a game."

Dorsey on if he'll ever appreciate how great this game was: "Not now and probably not ever."

OSU tight end Ben Hartsock on having one more of his team's games go down to the wire: "This was a storybook ending. I think we may need to ask for some type of royalty or something from ESPN Classic after this one."



JEFF BIRDM

**DOSS GETS THINGS ROLLING** — With his second-quarter interception and subsequent 35-yard return to the Miami 17-yard line, OSU safety Michael Doss put the Buckeyes into position for their first touchdown of the game.

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OHIO STATE VS. MIAMI (FLA.)

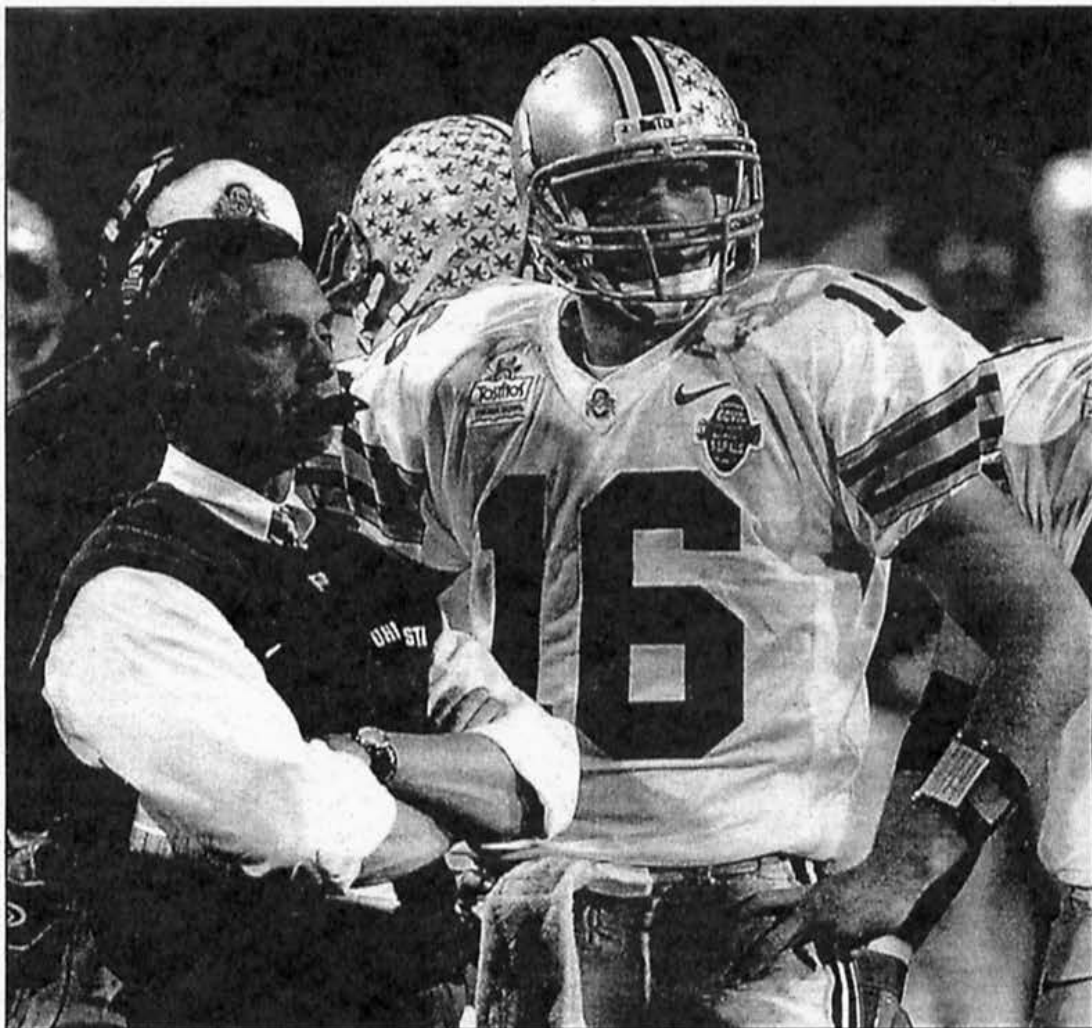
# Soon Enough, Buckeyes Will Be Back To Work

Throughout the football season, BSB has published excerpts of head coach Jim Tressel's postgame press conferences. Here is what Tressel had to say following his team's national championship game victory over Miami (Fla.) in the Fiesta Bowl.

**Jim Tressel:** "We are so proud of those 13 seniors and of those coaches. The leadership that both of these groups gave, credit them. Throw in the fact that the younger players believed, throw in the fact that our crowd was electric and energized us."

"Miami is a great football team and that's what the national championship game should look like — double overtime."

**Q.** When you were hired at Ohio State, you told a story of how, after your first Division I-AA national champi-



**A PAIR OF GENERALS** — Ohio State coach Jim Tressel takes in the action with quarterback Craig Krenzel (right). Tressel was ever-calm for most of the game but also displayed large amounts of emotion on the Buckeyes' scoring plays.

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onship win at Youngstown State, a reporter immediately asked about your chances of repeating. So, keeping with that tradition, what do you think about winning another I-A championship next year?

**JT:** "You guys were a little slow asking me that because they asked me before we came off the field. They hustled a little more."

"These guys are going to enjoy this, celebrate with class and they'll be very proud of their accomplishments. Those younger guys go back to school on Monday and I don't think we'll throw them into the weight room right away, but a lot of this is about what comes next. We'll go to work pretty soon."

**Q.** Talk about the two fourth-down plays in the first overtime and how big they were at the time you called them.

**JT:** "If we don't make them, we're not sitting here. They were pretty key. Craig Krenzel stepped up, Michael Jenkins ran a great route, we had him on a comeback route and he got the first. On the next one, Chris Gamble got interfered with. Craig called that play. The ball was there and there was interference, and then



**OSU VS. MIAMI (FLA.)**

Maurice Clarett scored the last one.  
"That's how you win championships, to keep playing and to make plays. Our guys keep playing and we were fortunate to make plays. Miami has nothing to hang its head about because that's a great football team."

**Q.** Talk about the play of Krenzel. He really outplayed a Heisman Trophy finalist (Miami's Ken Dorsey) tonight.

**JT:** "I don't know about that. All I know is that Craig Krenzel does for us what we need done. He made plays when we needed and he's tough. The number one characteristic a quarterback has to have, especially a quarterback at Ohio State, is they'd better be tough. Craig Krenzel is tough and he played a tough game tonight. I think their guy, No. 11, played a tough game, too."

**Q.** Being 14-0 is unprecedented, but you mentioned before the season that a long season was kind of what you liked. Do you still feel that?

**JT:** "We felt we needed a long season because we were young in a lot of areas. We knew our two-deep would be filled with young players. A long season was going to be to our benefit if we stayed

Continued On Page 30

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## OSU VS. MIAMI (FLA.)

# Look Out, Here Come Cornrows

Continued From Page 29

healthy and had the time to get better."  
Q. How much of a difference did the crowd make here tonight?

JT: "We felt we were in a home game. It really felt like a home game. The crowd was loud when we needed it loud and not quite as loud when we needed it softer. We came out a little bit hyped up. We had a couple of penalties, but once we got our feet on the ground and felt the electricity of that crowd, our guys played like crazy."

Q. Are we going to see the cornrows now?

JT: "Yep. I've got to grow my hair a little longer they say. I'll grow it out and then put in some cornrows, some gray cornrows."

Q. Did you let some emotion go in the locker room?

JT: "The game was over so late that I didn't have time to get ready to emote. We wanted to find all the people who were special in our lives and let them know that we appreciate them. We reminded each other how much we love one another."

Q. A lot of people said Ohio State didn't have a chance in this game. What did you do to keep that from affecting the players?

JT: "We knew we could do the things we needed to do and we would compete. It was a pretty even match-up, two great heavyweights slugging it out, and our guys had every confidence in our ability to get it done."

Q. When did you start to know you matched up well with Miami?

JT: "The more you get to know a team, you feel as if you can put things together to match up with them. I thought we had a good plan offensively and special teams-wise. We wanted to punt out of bounds and we did it pretty well except for that one that almost cost us the football game."

"We had a good plan and our guys were focused on studying film, but you still have to come out and do it on game night."

Q. Did you think the game was over before the flag came out on the interference?

JT: "I thought there was interference but I didn't see a flag, so for a moment I thought it was a bad way to end a game. I thought Craig put it on the money and did think Chris got interfered with. We don't complain about things that don't go our way, but it was good to see that guy come from the back of the end zone and make what I thought was a good call."

Q. Did you have a timetable for getting to this point?

JT: "We had hoped to win it in 2001 but we didn't do the things we had to do to win. We set out to learn from those things, and our guys started in late January on what needed to be done. They deserve everything they get."

# The Numbers Game

## Ohio State 31, Miami (Fla.) 24 (20T)

Jan. 3, 2003 — Sun Devil Stadium; Tempe, Ariz.

Score by Quarters	1	2	3	4	OT	20T	F
OHIO STATE	0	14	3	0	7	7	— 31
MIAMI (FLA.)	7	0	7	3	7	0	— 24

### First Quarter

**MIAMI** — Parrish, 25 yard pass from Dorsey (Sievers kick), 4:09; 5 plays, 52 yards, 2:12 TOP.

### Second Quarter

**OSU** — Krenzel, 1 yard run (Nugent kick), 2:28; 7 plays, 17 yards, 3:08 TOP.

**OSU** — Clarett, 7 yard run (Nugent kick), 1:10; 2 plays, 14 yards, 1:05 TOP.

### Third Quarter

**OSU** — Nugent, 44 yard field goal, 8:33; 4 plays, 1 yard, 2:00 TOP.

**MIAMI** — McGahee, 9 yard run (Sievers kick), 2:11; 7 plays, 55 yards, 2:54 TOP.

### Fourth Quarter

**MIAMI** — Sievers, 40 yard field goal, 0:00; 4 plays, 3 yards, 2:02 TOP.

### First Overtime

**MIAMI** — Winslow, 7 yard pass from Dorsey (Sievers kick); 5 plays, 25 yards.

**OSU** — Krenzel, 1 yard run (Nugent kick); 11 plays, 25 yards.

### Second Overtime

**OSU** — Clarett, 5 yard run (Nugent kick); 5 plays, 25 yards.

**Att.** — 77,502.

**Weather** — 70 degrees, clear; wind 9 MPH.



### Team Statistics

	OSU	MIAMI
First Downs	14	19
Rushing	7	3
Passing	6	14
Penalty	1	2
Rushes-Yards	52-145	33-65
Passing Yards	122	304
Passes (Att.-Comp.-Int.)	21-7-2	44-29-2
Offensive Plays	73	77
Total Net Yards	267	369
Third Down Efficiency	6-18	6-18
Fourth Down Efficiency	2-3	1-2
Punts	6-47.7	4-43.2
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	3-3
Penalties	9-49	6-30
Time of Possession	46:27	28:33

### Individual Statistics

**RUSHING (Att.-Net Yds.)** — OSU: Krenzel 19-81; Clarett 23-47; Ross 9-17; Groom 1-0. MIAMI: McGahee 20-67; Payton 8-17; Hill 1-0; Dorsey 4-(-19).  
**PASSING (Att.-Comp.-Int.-Yds.-TD)** — OSU: Krenzel 21-7-2-122-0. MIAMI: Dorsey 43-28-2-296-2; Crudup 1-1-0-8-0.  
**RECEIVING (Rec.-Yds.)** — OSU: Jenkins 4-45; Gamble 2-69; Vance 1-8. MIAMI: Winslow 11-122; Parrish 5-70; Johnson 4-54; Sands 3-34; McGahee 3-5; Hill 1-8; Payton 1-7; Geathers 1-4.  
**PUNTING (No.-Avg.-Long)** — OSU: Groom 6-47.7-63. MIAMI: Capshaw 3-43.3-44; Crudup 1-43.0-43.  
**PUNT RETURNS (No.-Yds.)** — OSU: Gamble 1-1; MIAMI: Parrish 2-56.  
**KICKOFF RETURNS (No.-Yds.)** — OSU: M.Hall 1-15. MIAMI: Johnson 1-39.  
**FUMBLE RECOVERIES** — OSU: Allen 1-0; Clarett 1-0; Scott 1-0. MIAMI: None.  
**INTERCEPTIONS (No.-Yds.)** — OSU: Doss 1-35; Fox 1-12. MIAMI: Taylor 2-28.  
**SACKS (No.-Yds.)** — OSU: Peterson 2-10; Fraser 1-5; Smith 1-3. MIAMI: Green 1-4.

**TACKLES FOR LOSS (No.-Yds.)** — OSU: Peterson 3-12; Wilhelm 3-5; Smith 2-4; Fraser 1-5; Doss 1-1; Allen 1-1; Anderson 1-1; Thompson 1-1. MIAMI: McIntosh 2-3; Wilfork 1-7; Green 1-4; Williams 1-2; McDougale 1-1.

**TACKLES (Solo-Asst.-Tot.)** — OSU: Wilhelm 6-4-10; Doss 3-6-9; Smith 6-2-8; Fox 5-2-7; Grant 4-3-7; Peterson 4-1-5; Gamble 3-2-5; Nickey 3-2-5; Allen 3-2-5; Reynolds 3-1-4; Anderson 1-3-4; Thompson 0-3-3; Everett 1-0-1; Childress 1-0-1; Clarett 1-0-1; Scott 1-0-1; Fraser 1-0-1; Groom 0-1-1; Kudla 0-1-1; Team 0-1-1. MIAMI: Vilma 5-9-14; Sikes 2-10-12; Taylor 2-9-11; Williams 3-5-8; McIntosh 2-6-8; Walters 4-3-7; Rolle 2-2-4; Harris 1-3-4; Joseph 2-1-3; Green 2-1-3; Haji-Rasouli 2-0-2; Sharpe 1-1-2; Williams 1-1-2; McDougale 1-1-2; McGahee 1-0-1; Wilfork 1-0-1; Marshall 1-0-1; Scott 1-0-1.

**PLAYERS IN THE GAME** — OSU: Defense, Smith, Anderson, Peterson, Scott, Grant, Wilhelm, Reynolds, Fox, Gamble, Nickey, Doss, Groom. Offense, Jenkins, Sims, Clarke, Stepanovich, Bishop, Olvea, Hartsock, Gamble, Krenzel, Clarett, Joe, Nugent. Reserves, Childress, Moore, Vance, D'Andrea, Carter, Conwell, Salley, Allen, Hall, Ross, O'Neill, Carpenter, Schnittker, Hawk, Tucker, Underwood, Kne, Douglas, Mangold, Kudla, Andrews, Fraser, Hamby, Arden, Caldwell, Bond, Green, Thompson, Everett. MIAMI: Offense, Johnson, C.Joseph, Haji-Rasouli, Romberg, Myers, Carey, Winslow, Parrish, Dorsey, McGahee, Hill, Sievers. Defense, Green, Walters, W.Joseph, McDougale, D.J.Williams, Vilma, McIntosh, Marshall, Rolfe, Taylor, Sikes, Capshaw. Reserves, Geathers, Sands, Crudup, Jennings, Maxey, Threat, Scott, Sharpe, Payton, Peattie, Humphrey, L.Williams, Clark, McClover, Weaver, Kunz, Harvey, Rodriguez, Wilfork, Jolla, D.Williams, Winston, Harris, A.Williams.

## Season Statistics

### 2002 Game-By-Game

Date	Opponent (AP Rank)	Result	Crowd
Aug. 24 (13)	TEXAS TECH	W, 45-21	100,037
Sept. 7 (8)	KENT STATE	W, 51-17	98,689
Sept. 14 (6)	WASHINGTON ST. (10)	W, 25-7	104,553
Sept. 21 (6)	at Cincinnati	W, 23-19	66,319
Sept. 28 (6)	INDIANA	W, 45-17	104,194
Oct. 5 (5)	at Northwestern	W, 27-16	43,489
Oct. 12 (5)	SAN JOSE STATE	W, 50-7	104,892
Oct. 19 (4)	at Wisconsin	W, 19-14	79,729
Oct. 26 (4)	PENN. STATE (18)	W, 13-7	105,103
Nov. 2 (6)	MINNESOTA (23)	W, 34-3	104,897
Nov. 9 (3)	at Purdue	W, 106	65,250
Nov. 16 (2)	at Illinois (OT)	W, 23-16	58,810
Nov. 23 (2)	MICHIGAN (12)	W, 14-9	105,539
Jan. 3 (2)	Miami (1) (20T)	W, 31-24	77,502

#OSU's gameday AP ranking is in parentheses before the opponent, while the opponent's ranking is after the name.

### Team Statistics

	OSU	Opp
First Downs	245	243
Rushing	133	72
Passing	106	155
Penalty	6	16
Average Per Game/Rush	191.3	77.7
Average Per Game/Pass	173.2	243.1
Total Offense	5,103	4,492
Total Plays	909	964
Average Per Game	364.5	320.9
Average Per Play	5.6	4.7
Penalties-Yards	76-571	66-561
Fumbles-Lost	17-10	20-12
3rd Down Efficiency	64/179	78/219
Percentage	36%	36%
4th Down Efficiency	12/18	11/27
Percentage	67%	41%
Sacks-Yards	40-227	32-167
Time of Possession Avg.	32:48	28:17

Score by Quarters	1	2	3	4	OT	Tot.	Avg.
Ohio State	75	112	120	82	21	410	29.3
Opponents	59	53	31	33	7	183	13.1

Attendance	Games	Total	Avg.
Home	8	827,904	103,488
Away	6	391,099	65,183
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1,219,003</b>	<b>87,072</b>

### Individual Statistics

Rushing	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Long
Maurice Clarett	222	1,237	5.6	16	59
Lydell Ross	166	619	3.7	6	36
Maurice Hall	78	370	4.7	4	28
Craig Krenzel	125	368	2.9	3	29
Chris Gamble	3	49	16.3	1	43
Jaja Riley	12	44	3.7	0	10
Donnie Nickey	1	28	28.0	0	28
Roshawn Parker	1	6	6.0	0	6
Jim Otis	1	2	2.0	0	2
Scott McMullen	4	1	0.2	1	7
Brandon Schnittker	1	1	1.0	0	1
Brandon Joe	1	1	1.0	0	1
Andy Groom	2	-16	-8.0	0	0
Team	12	-32	-2.7	0	0
<b>OSU Totals</b>	<b>629</b>	<b>2,678</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>OPP Totals</b>	<b>418</b>	<b>1,088</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>46</b>

Receiving	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Long
Michael Jenkins	61	1,076	17.6	6	50
Chris Gamble	31	499	16.1	0	57
Ben Hartsock	17	137	8.1	2	20
Chris Vance	13	178	13.7	3	37
Maurice Clarett	12	104	8.7	2	26
Drew Carter	10	147	14.7	0	28
Lydell Ross	10	75	7.5	0	28
Maurice Hall	5	43	8.6	0	16
Redgie Arden	4	50	12.5	0	19
Bam Childress	4	47	11.8	0	17
Ryan Hamby	2	29	14.5	1	18
Brandon Schnittker	2	27	13.5	0	15
John Hollins	1	14	14.0	0	14
Scott McMullen	1	-1	-1.0	0	0
<b>OSU Totals</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>2,425</b>	<b>14.0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>57</b>
<b>OPP Totals</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>3,404</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>58</b>

Scoring	TD	EPK	EPR	EPP	FG	PTS
Mike Nugent	—	45-46	—	—	—	25-28 120
Maurice Clarett	18	—	—	—	—	108
Lydell Ross	6	—	—	—	—	36
Michael Jenkins	6	—	—	—	—	36
Maurice Hall	4	—	—	—	—	24
Craig Krenzel	3	—	—	—	—	18
Chris Vance	3	—	—	—	—	18

Chris Gamble	2	—	—	—	—	12
Ben Hartsock	2	—	—	—	—	12
Mike Doss	1	—	—	—	—	6
Ryan Hamby	1	—	—	—	—	6
A.J. Hawk	1	—	—	—	—	6
Scott McMullen	1	—	—	—	—	6
Team	—	—	—	—	—	42
<b>OSU Totals</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>45-46</b>	<b>0-1</b>	<b>0-1</b>	<b>25-28</b>	<b>130</b>
<b>OPP Totals</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>16-17</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1-2</b>	<b>17-25</b>

Passing	Comp.	Att.	Pct.	Yds.	INT	TD	Rating
Craig Krenzel	148	249	59.4	2,110	7	12	140.90
Scott McMullen	25	31	80.6	315	0	2	187.29
<b>OSU Totals</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>61.8</b>	<b>2,425</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>146.04</b>
<b>OPP Totals</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>546</b>	<b>57.7</b>	<b>3,404</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>111.93</b>

FG Distance	0-29	30-39	40-49	50+	Total
Mike Nugent	6-6	9-10	9-11	1-1	25-28
<b>OSU Totals</b>	<b>6-6</b>	<b>9-10</b>	<b>9-11</b>	<b>1-1</b>	<b>25-28</b>
<b>OPP Totals</b>	<b>5-6</b>	<b>5-8</b>	<b>7-8</b>	<b>0-2</b>	<b>17-25</b>

Punting	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Bk	Long
Andy Groom	60	2,697	45.0	1	74
Team	1	0	0.0	0	0
<b>OSU Totals</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>2,697</b>	<b>44.2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>74</b>
<b>OPP Totals</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>2,821</b>	<b>37.1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>57</b>

Interceptions	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
Chris Gamble	4	40	10.0	1	40
Dustin Fox	3	12	4.0	0	12
Mike Doss	2	80	40.0	1	45
A.J. Hawk	2	44	22.0	1	34
Will Allen	2	0	0.0	0	0
Matt Wilhelm	2	0	0.0	0	0
Cie Grant	1	23	23.0	0	23
Tyler Everett	1	0	0.0	0	0
Will Smith	1	0	0.0	0	0
<b>OSU Totals</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>OPP Totals</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>12.4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>28</b>

Punt Returns	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
Chris Gamble	35	293	8.4	0	27
Mike Doss	4	25	6.2	0	14
Donnie Nickey	1	14	14.0	0	0
Chris Vance	1	5	5.0	0	5
Dustin Fox	1	10	10.0	0	0
Michael Jenkins	1	11	11.0	0	0
<b>OSU Totals</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>OPP Totals</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>12.8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>52</b>

Kickoff Returns	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
Maurice Hall	19	434	22.8	0	45
Chris Gamble	11	253	23.0	0	56
Brandon Joe	2	10	5.0	0	10
Mike Doss	2	37	18.5	0	24
Brandon Schnittker	1	11	11.0	0	11
Jack Tucker	1				

## OHIO STATE VS. MIAMI (FLA.)

# OSU Was Sure QB Draws Would Work

Continued From Page 1

win."

Krenzel capped a perfect junior season with a 14th straight victory. Including two starts at the end of the 2001 season, his lifetime mark as a starter is now 15-1.

But Miami, with its athletic defensive unit, was supposed to be the ultimate test.

In scouting the Hurricanes, though, the OSU coaching staff found Miami's seven-man defensive front was vulnerable to quarterback draws.

Pittsburgh's Rod Rutherford and Virginia Tech's Bryan Randall each rolled up nice yardage against Miami in the season's final weeks.

"We came into the game with some designed quarterback runs," Krenzel said. "We knew coming into the game we were confident in our abilities. We felt like we matched up with them well."

The Buckeyes wasted no time in unveiling the draw and it worked to the tune of 31 yards on three first-half attempts.

"I think they wanted to make sure they left two men on Michael Jenkins," Tressel said. "We felt that was something we could take advantage of by letting Craig run. He executed it well."

Offensive tackle Shane Olivea added, "We had planned to start using Craig more running the ball and he just happened to come through."

Krenzel got OSU on the scoreboard with his second effort on a fourth-down quarterback sneak from the 1-yard line. The play tied the score at 7 with 2:28 left in the first half.

In the first overtime, OSU was in a bind: After suffering his first sack of the game, Krenzel and the Buckeyes faced fourth-and-14 at the Miami 29. Miami already had scored to go up 24-17, so the season was on the line.

Just as they had done to pull out the Purdue game, Krenzel played pitch-and-catch with Jenkins, who hauled in an out pass and got his feet inbounds at the Miami 12 to pick up the first-down.

On the subsequent series, Krenzel kept the ball for a 7-yard gain down to the Miami 5. Miami linebacker Jonathan Vilma delivered a crushing hit, peeling Krenzel backward. It was a play some guys would not have gotten up from.

"We sure didn't expect him to run that much or that well," Vilma told reporters later.

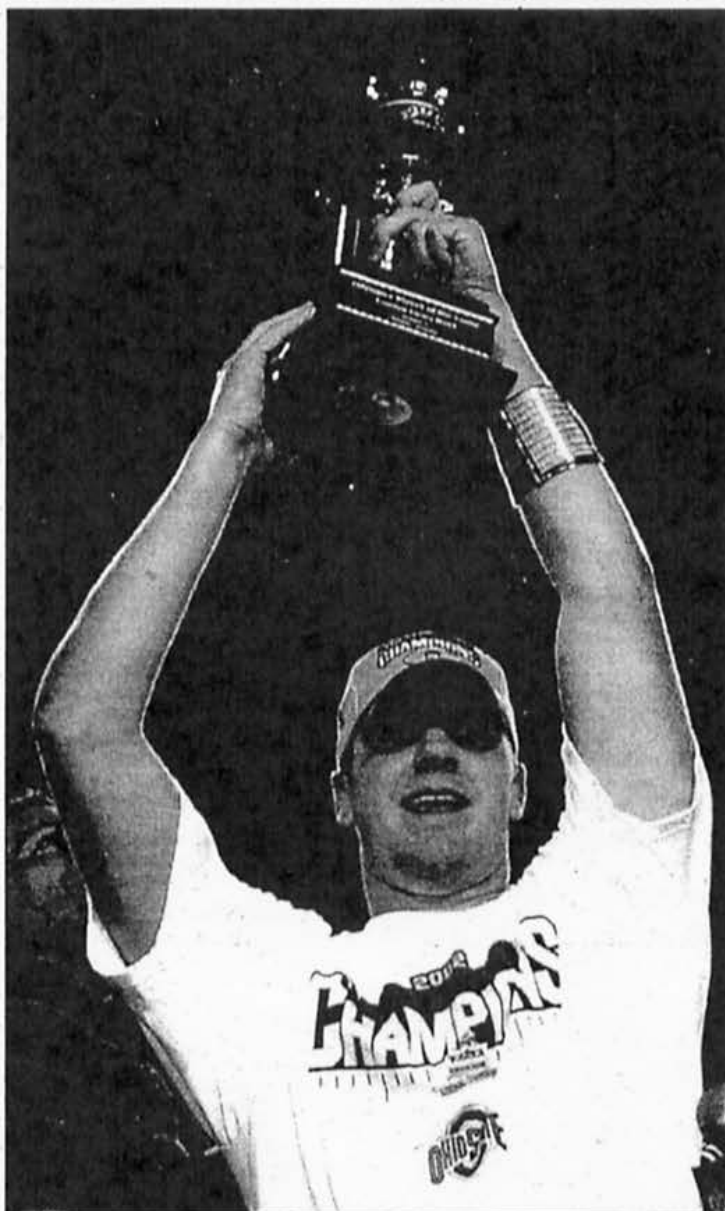
Two plays later, OSU faced fourth-and-3 at the Miami 5. During a timeout, Krenzel suggested an out pass to Chris Gamble.

He threw the pass and it fell incomplete. But Miami's Glenn Sharpe was flagged for pass interference, giving OSU new life with a first down at the 2.

Three plays later, Krenzel followed left guard Adrien Clarke into the end zone on a 1-yard sneak to tie the score at 24 and force the second overtime.

Krenzel's last running play of the night — a 5-yard sneak blast behind center Alex Stepanovich — gave the Buckeyes a first down at the Miami 11. He then found Jenkins for a 6-yard gain, setting up Maurice Claret's 5-yard go-ahead touchdown in the second overtime.

After all the dust had settled — and the OSU defense had succeeded in stop-



JEFF BREHM

**A DIFFERENCE MAKER** — The gritty play of quarterback Craig Krenzel was a huge factor in OSU's 31-24 win over Miami. Here, he holds up one of the many trophies awarded to the Buckeyes after the game.

ping the 'Canes on downs at the OSU 1-yard line to end the game — Krenzel's teammates hailed their quarterback for his grace under extreme fire.

"He did a good job," Claret said. "He was the MVP and he deserved it in every right."

Tight end Ben Hartssock added, "He has never been dubbed a super athlete. He is a smart quarterback, however, and tonight was a credit to his decision making."

Even Krenzel's defensive teammates recognize his importance.

"Craig, to me, is the toughest guy on the team," said defensive end Kenny Peterson. "Some of those hits he took were pretty bad. He is the smartest guy on the team, too. He made some great decisions tonight."

"Craig is a leader. He's a born leader." Tressel sees many of the same qualities. In a year when the coach opted to use rotating game captains on offense, Krenzel got the nod on four different

occasions. They were, arguably, the team's four biggest games — the season opener with Texas Tech, Penn State, Michigan and the Fiesta Bowl against Miami.

He would have to be considered a shoo-in to return as the starter at quarterback next fall and to be one of the team's full-time captains as well.

For the record, Krenzel ended his 14-game junior campaign by throwing for 2,110 yards and 12 touchdowns against seven interceptions. He also was fourth on the team in rushing with 368 yards.

After the Fiesta Bowl, Krenzel was basking in the glow of helping OSU end a 34-year national championship drought.

"The people in my family are the greatest people in the world," he said. "I want to be with them tonight and tomorrow."

Then he added, "And I also want to enjoy the weather here and get a round of golf in before I go home."

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