

# BUCKEYE SPORTS BULLETIN

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Vol. 21, No. 3

"For The Buckeye Fan Who Needs To Know More"

September 29, 2001

## Ohio State Touched By National Tragedy

### Geiger Quick To Postpone Game

By STEVE HELWAGEN  
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

In a time of deep national tragedy, the world of athletics logically went on hiatus.

That was the reaction at Ohio State and across the country in the wake of the series of terrorist attacks Sept. 11 that left over 6,000 people missing or dead in New York, Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C.

Terrorists hijacked four separate cross-country flights that morning and succeeded in flying two of those planes into the World Trade Center towers in New York City and another into the Pentagon outside Washington, D.C. The fourth plane crashed in rural Pennsylvania, killing everyone aboard.

In the hours and days following the tragedy, professional and college athletic teams and their leagues postponed and canceled games for the remainder of the week.

In fact, Ohio State was one of the

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**STAND AT ATTENTION** — A uniformed officer passes by Ohio State football players Maurice Hall (left) and Simon Fraser during the "Show You Care" rally held at Ohio Stadium Sept. 15.

## Defense Capable, Offense Culpable In Loss At UCLA

By STEVE HELWAGEN  
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

If the case ever goes to trial, Ohio State's 13-6 loss at UCLA Sept. 22 would be considered Exhibit A.

The lawsuit in this analogy would be the OSU defense suing the OSU offense for nonsupport. The defense would have an open-and-shut case, based on what happened on a brilliantly sunny day at the Rose Bowl.

But all parties involved say there are no plans to file charges — yet.

"We're in a growth mode and we will be in a growth mode for some time," said OSU head coach Jim Tressel after suffering his first defeat with the Buckeyes. "We knew there would be a point in time where this new family was going to have some tough times. We just have to deal with it."

The OSU defense played well enough to win on just about any other given Saturday. The Buckeyes bottled up explosive UCLA tailback DeShaun Foster, limiting him to just 66 yards on 29 carries. The defense also helped force five UCLA turnovers.

But the OSU offense could not capitalize on any of them, managing just 166 total yards and eight first downs. The Buckeyes got their only touchdown off a Mike Doss blocked punt that was recovered in the end zone by Ricky Bryant.

It should be noted — before the case goes to the jury — that Ohio State was at a small disadvantage. The

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### Sept. 22 Issue Postponed

Because Ohio State's Sept. 15 game with San Diego State was postponed due to the national tragedy, BSB publisher Frank Moskowitz decided to postpone the issue dated Sept. 22. Instead, BSB subscribers will now receive an extra issue in October, dated Oct. 20, when the Buckeyes are now scheduled to host San Diego State.

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- Ohio Stadium site of telethon for American Red Cross disaster relief fund (Page 19)
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- OSU's 1961 Big Ten championship team was denied trip to Rose Bowl — by Ohio State (Pages 24-28)
- OSU verbal A.J. Hawk of Centerville, Ohio, looking forward to his future with Buckeyes (Page 29)



A.J. Hawk



**BAD DAY AT THE OFFICE** — Ohio State quarterback Steve Bellisari (8), trying to avoid UCLA's Marques Anderson, had a rough day in the loss at UCLA. He completed only 5 of 23 passes for 45 yards and two interceptions as OSU fell 13-6.



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**OPINION****The Images That Will Never Fade**

My 2-year-old son, Carter, likes airplanes. We live in Pataskala, just east of Columbus and apparently on the flight path to Port Columbus.

Every three to five minutes, a plane flies over our house and, if Carter sees it, he says, "Plane!"

Fast-forward to the morning of Sept. 11: Carter, his twin sister, Dolen, and I are watching a "Thomas and Friends" video. The video runs out and the TV comes up with pictures of one of the World Trade Center towers on fire.

Moments later, an airplane flies into the screen and crashes into the other tower of the Trade Center.

Carter yells, "Plane!" Then, as they replayed the incident several times, my son became upset.

"Where did the plane go, Daddy?" "It went inside the building, Carter," I replied.

A father should never have to explain to his 2-year-old son that the plane went inside the building, but that's what I was left to do on what began as an otherwise mundane Tuesday morning in our living room.

To say that day changed our lives and our way of living is a mild understatement. I am convinced that my generation has never fully understood the sacrifices our fathers, uncles and grandfathers — and their wives — made to keep this country free.

Rather, we seem to take that freedom for granted, as if it were something out of a spigot — you knew it would always be there. That is no longer the case, though. The world has changed, and definitely not for the better.

The senseless acts of terrorism that resulted in the deaths of thousands of American citizens have shaken this country's sensibilities.

Worse than Pearl Harbor? Incredible, in the year 2001, to say something like that, isn't it?

Fast-forward several hours later: It was almost a surreal feeling as I drove into work, listening to this day of horror unfold on the radio.

Another plane hits the Pentagon, another plane goes down in rural Pennsylvania, and, finally, the WTC towers melt at their core and collapse, killing thousands more in a single instant.

A police car speeds by on I-70 with sirens blaring. My thoughts drift to whether something has happened to our downtown.

I get to the office and dutifully go about my business, wondering — believe it or not — how this whole thing was going to affect me. You see, I had made plans for Ohio State's off week Oct. 20 and didn't want to see those plans screwed up by having the San Diego State game moved to that date.

I made a business call and the man on the other end of the phone was practically in tears.

"This isn't the day to talk about that," he said.

Minutes later, as a shaken Jim Tressell addressed the media at his weekly luncheon — where football was the last thing on anyone's mind — I realized how out of whack my priorities were. The coach discussed how the mother of one of his players worked at the WTC and she was unaccounted for.

Hours later, we discovered she had been found safe and sound, but this tragedy truly was hitting close to home.

Fast-forward to the next day: I'm sitting at home when an older acquaintance telephoned with her concern.

**EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK**  
with  
**Steve Helwag**

And, no, it wasn't about the national tragedy. It was about Ohio State football and the news that the SDSU game was, in fact, moved to Oct. 20.

"You know, Steve, I don't like it that they're not playing that game this weekend," she said. "I think that will hurt them for the UCLA game."

I was so upset I wanted to say, "Given what's happened, I could care less if they ever play again," and slam down the phone.

I mean it was just a moment earlier I was thinking about how many hundreds of children were orphaned when their single parent perished in one of the planes, inside either WTC tower or at the Pentagon.

But I didn't want to hurt her feelings, so I stammered and hemmed and hawed about, "Yeah, this isn't going to help the team, is it?"

Fast-forward two days: High schools around the nation and in Ohio take the field for their usual Friday night football games.

Everybody agrees the major colleges and pros needed to take the weekend off. But for the preps and the small colleges, these games are more about community and participation than entertainment.

At the nearby high school field, the opposing teams stand side by side and everybody stops for a full minute of silence. I'm glad they played these games because it gave people a chance to see their neighbors and talk about the tragedy.

Fast-forward one more day: It is a resplendent Saturday afternoon and the scene is Ohio Stadium. Thousands have flocked to the Horseshoe, but there won't be one football in sight.

Rather, there are American flags in every direction. Thousands of Ohioans are on hand to show their support for the disaster relief effort. Their donations reach more than half a million dollars. The OSU band plays an incredible rendition of "Stars and Stripes Forever." A single bagpiper slowly makes his way out of the stadium's north entrance.

Slowly, we are starting to come out of mourning and beginning to feel good about who we are and what this nation stands for once again.

Fast-forward a couple more days: The OSU football team has returned to the practice field to begin preparing for its impending cross-country excursion to UCLA.

That road trip would have been a tall order even if the Buckeyes had trounced

San Diego State. Without that game's worth of experience, it seemed like UCLA would be a lost cause.

But the Buckeyes seem steeped in their resolve. They, too, feel a responsibility to themselves, their fans and the country — which will be watching on national TV — to do the best they can.

"If we can provide an escape for people from this tragedy for a few hours, I consider that an honor," said OSU tailback Jonathan Wells.

Fast-forward a few more days: This OSU-UCLA game first appeared on the schedule seven years ago. At the time, I can remember thinking, "Wow, that will be great to get to go out to California for the weekend."

But now it's time for the intrepid reporter to board the plane to go to Los Angeles for the game, and he does not want to go.

But your job is still your job, national tragedy or no national tragedy. The scribe kisses his wife and kids goodbye and hopes above hope he will see them — as well as their unborn brother or sister — again.

At the airport, he stands in extra long lines and is subjected to everything just shy of a full body cavity search before being permitted to board the plane.

The increased security measures reassure him only slightly, but the flight goes off without a hitch. The California midday sun, as they advertise it, is absolutely blinding.

Fast-forward one more day: The Rose Bowl is the ultimate stage in college football and, on this day, it is an amazing scene.

The most telling moment came during the moment of silence. After about 15 seconds, a distant voice in the south end zone blurted out, "God bless America!"

That pierced the silence — and some of the uneasiness — and the game went off without a hitch.

Yes, the Bruins prevailed over the Buckeyes on the scoreboard, and we'll have weeks and months to dissect the X's and O's and what went wrong, as if any of that really matters.

But the real triumph at the Rose Bowl, from this vantage point, was the human spirit and the American way of life.

Along with 73,722 of my closest friends, I shared an experience none of us will soon forget that afternoon at the Rose Bowl.

Yes, I know athletics and specifically big-time college football are largely viewed as entertainment and, no, none of these grand festivities brought back any of the nearly 7,000 victims from this senseless tragedy.

But I think this one exhilarating day in the hot California sun helped at least a few of this nation's survivors move forward.

Now if somebody could just help me with how I'm going to explain all of this to my little boy. Who do I see about that?

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## OHIO STATE VS. UCLA

# No Offense, Buckeyes Lose

## OSU Attack Grinds To A Halt In 13-6 Loss To No. 14 UCLA

By STEVE HELWAGEN  
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

The Rose Bowl in Pasadena, Calif., is one of the most picturesque settings for college football in the U.S.

But 14th-ranked UCLA and No. 21 Ohio State combined to play one ugly football game on the hallowed ground of the Rose Bowl Sept. 22.

Then again, if you're a fan of hard-hitting, defensive football, you probably fell in love with UCLA's 13-6 win over Ohio State.

"I think sometimes people look at us and see those baby blue jerseys and don't think we're very physical," said UCLA coach Bob Toledo, whose Bruins limited Ohio State to just 166 yards total offense and eight first downs. "But after we play, I think they realize we do have some physical football players."

In recent years, UCLA's defense has been both riddled and ridiculed.

So it was certainly a strange sight to see some of the crowd of 73,723 chanting, "Defense, defense!" as the Bruins trudged off the field after a long, hot day in the sun.

"I am really happy and proud of our defensive football team," Toledo said. "They've been maligned and they've been ridiculed, you name it and they've been. For them to pitch a shutout today was outstanding."

"They never gave in to the bad things that happened. They never let themselves get down."

The OSU defense also turned in a stellar effort. It succeeded in bottling up UCLA running back DeShaun Foster. But the OSU offense failed repeatedly to capitalize on the biggest of breaks, including an amazing seven fumbles by the Bruins

— four of which OSU recovered.

In defense of OSU (1-1), this was the school's second game, while the Bruins (3-0) already had wins over Alabama and Kansas to work out the kinks. The Buckeyes missed out on some valuable experience when their Sept. 15 game with San Diego State was postponed after the national terrorist tragedy.

But OSU failed to score after recovering or returning four of those UCLA fumbles inside the Bruins' 45-yard line.

"We probably had more opportunities than we deserved," said Jim Tressel, who suffered his first loss as the OSU head coach. "They were all hurtful. We feel like we let the rest of the group down."

"I'm proud of the way our guys kept fighting. Despite the fact we didn't move the football, the defense still came up with some stops to keep us in the game."

OSU's only touchdown came on a blocked punt by Mike Doss, which teammate Ricky Bryant recovered for a first-quarter score.

Most of the onus for the poor offensive showing was on quarterback Steve Bellisari, who was 5 of 23 passing for 45 yards and two interceptions. Bellisari was a dismal 1 of 17 for 9 yards over the last three quarters.

"Some of the things we asked of Steve, he did," Tressel said. "There were things he could have done better. But at the same time I could say that about the rest of the offense and the coaches, too."

"We struggled some up front. We struggled some with our design. We struggled some at receiver and we struggled some at quarterback."

OSU limited the explosive Foster to 66 yards on 29 carries. He was pulled late in the game after fumbling for the fourth



STEVE HELWAGEN

**LEADING TO A SCORE** — OSU junior Mike Doss (2) leaves his feet to block UCLA punter Nate Fikse's kick. Ricky Bryant (9) recovered the loose ball in the end zone for what proved to be the Buckeyes' only score in their 13-6 loss to the Bruins.

time.

"He's a real good back, up for the Heisman," said OSU defensive tackle Tim Anderson, who forced two UCLA fumbles. "He's quick, he's fast and he's a good cut-back runner. He can run through a tackle. It was important for us to get a lot of guys on him."

Quarterback Cory Paus picked up the slack for the Bruins by completing 16 of 25 passes for 262 yards and a touchdown.

"We were trying to play ball control today," Paus said. "This season we've won a game with 20 points and we've won a game with 13 points. That's a testament to our defense. This is a team game."

OSU made the long flight back to Ohio agonizing over:

- Six penalties that cost them 59 yards in the absolute worst possible moments;
- A missed PAT kick by Mike Nugent and missed field goals by Nugent and Josh Huston;
- Conversion rates of 1 for 14 on third down and 0 for 2 on fourth down. The Buckeyes averaged a paltry 0.8 yards on third down; and
- Failing to score after recovering UCLA fumbles at the Bruins' 9-, 38- and 44-yard lines and returning another to the UCLA 15.

### As It Happened

UCLA opened the game with a 14-play, 80-yard scoring march that lasted just over 7-1/2 minutes.

The Bruins converted all four of their third downs on the drive, including three of them on passes by Paus. The touchdown also came on a Paus pass as he dropped and threw a 24-yard scoring strike to Ryan Smith, who broke loose from safety Donnie Nickey in the right corner of the end zone.

"They caught us on a blitz on that touchdown and he threw a strike in there," Tressel said.

Paus audibled on the play. "The play in the huddle was planned, but the play at the line, I made it up," Paus

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## OHIO STATE VS. UCLA

said.

The touchdown, which put UCLA up 7-0 with 7:27 left in the first quarter, came after UCLA twice averted disaster by recovering Foster fumbles. The Bruins also caught OSU off-guard with a "swinging gate" trick play where Foster took a direct snap from Paus and rolled around the end for 16 yards and a key first down.

A holding penalty curtailed OSU's first possession, but Andy Groom backed the Bruins up to their own 10-yard line with a 61-yard punt.

That advantage in field position meant something moments later as Doss made a pair of big plays. First, he stopped Foster cold on a quick pass in the flat for a 1-yard loss on third down. Then he came up the middle on the fourth-down punt attempt by Nate Fikse, who was slow in delivering the kick, and easily blocked the ball.

The ball bounced into the end zone, where OSU's Bryant fell on it just inside the end line for a touchdown. Nugent's PAT kick was wide right, leaving OSU behind 7-6 with 3:31 left in the first quarter.

"It's always a big play to get a blocked kick like that for a touchdown," Doss said. "We would have liked to have gotten two or three more. We were close, but we couldn't get them."

OSU then got a big break as Nickey hit UCLA receiver Bryan Fletcher to force a fumble, which OSU's Cie Grant scooped up and returned 35 yards to the UCLA 15.

But, in what would become a familiar refrain, the Buckeyes failed to capitalize. The first-down play was negated by a 15-yard face mask penalty by OSU tackle Tyson Walter. Bellisari completed a pair of passes, but OSU had to settle for Nugent's 28-yard field-goal attempt, which he missed wide right.

UCLA then drove into scoring position, but kicker Chris Griffith missed a 40-yard field goal. The Buckeyes gave it right back, though, as Bellisari was intercepted at the OSU 43 by UCLA's Marques Anderson.

The OSU defense held the Bruins out on the ensuing possession, but after an OSU punt, the Bruins drove 39 yards in 10 plays before Griffith came on and kicked a career-long 49-yard field goal to push the UCLA lead to 10-6 with 2:31 left in the first half.

The Buckeyes picked up a first down on their last possession of the first half but could not move past the UCLA 30 before punting on the final play of the half.

OSU figured to have an advantage by getting the ball to open the second half. But Bellisari threw an ill-advised interception on the fourth play of the series. He was rolling left off a fake and tried to throw back across the field to TB Jonahan Wells. But Wells was double covered and the pass was easily picked off by UCLA cornerback Matt Ware, who returned it to the OSU 17.

After OSU's Anderson and Will Smith sacked Paus on third down, Griffith returned to attempt a 38-yarder. His kick was no good, and OSU had dodged another bullet.

The Buckeyes then got a huge break as Mike Collins punched the ball away from Foster and Tim Cheatwood recovered the fumble at the UCLA 9 with 8:45 left in the third quarter.

But this possession, too, was doomed. Bellisari went down on a coverage sack on second down and his third-down jump ball to Michael Jenkins in the back of the end zone was batted away by UCLA linebacker Ryan Nee. Then, after OSU was backed up 5 yards by an illegal procedure penalty, Huston came on in relief of Nugent and missed a 32-yard field goal wide left.

The Bruins answered with a strong 10-

play drive, including Paus spirals of 18 and 21 yards to tight end Mike Seidman. But the OSU defense stiffened and forced UCLA to settle for Griffith's 33-yard field goal and a 13-6 lead with 3:00 left in the third quarter.

The Buckeyes got one more huge break early in the fourth quarter as Cheatwood hit Foster and forced another fumble, this time recovered by Doss at the UCLA 44.

Bellisari scrambled for a 10-yard gain — giving the Buckeyes just their seventh first down of the game with 13:45 left — but the drive stalled at the UCLA 30, where Bellisari's fourth-down pass down the right sideline to Chris Gamble was batted away by UCLA's Anderson.

OSU had one more golden chance as UCLA punt returner Craig Bragg was stripped of the ball by OSU's Jason Bond and teammate Angelo Chattams recovered it at the UCLA 38 with 6:06 left.

But two running plays netted just 3 yards before Bellisari threw incompletions on the next two plays. On fourth-and-7 at the UCLA 35, Bellisari rolled left but was pressured by UCLA's Steve Morgan. As he was going down, his desperation pass was nearly intercepted by Joe Hunter, who caught the wounded duck but fell out of bounds.

UCLA regained control with 4:39 left and succeeded in putting the game away. Paus hit fullback Matt Stanley, a Bexley, Ohio, native, for a 25-yard gain and then drilled in a 17-yard rocket to Tab Perry. OSU had used two of its timeouts previously, so the Bruins were able to take the clock all the way down to 14 seconds before OSU regained control after a punt.

But the Buckeyes were backed up on their own 5, and the game ended after two more Bellisari incompletions.

"I think these kind of games are good because it makes you really realize that you've got to keep hanging in there, you've got to keep battling, you've got to keep fighting, and if you do, it always gives you a chance to win at the end," Toledo said.

## Game Notes

• OSU's six points were the school's fewest since being shut out 28-0 at Michigan in 1993.

• The series between the two schools is now dead even at 4-4-1. This was the

return game for UCLA's 1999 visit to OSU, which the Buckeyes won 42-20.

• OSU's 166 yards of offense and eight first downs were the team's lowest totals in each category since 1999, when the Buckeyes had 79 yards and four first downs in a 23-7 loss to Michigan State.

The total of 45 yards passing is OSU's lowest in that department since a 37-yard output in a 1989 win over Indiana. The Buckeyes defeated the Hoosiers 35-31 that day behind 253 yards rushing. Quarterback Greg Frey was 5 of 6 with two touchdowns in that win.

For UCLA, the passing yardage allowed was the lowest for a UCLA opponent since a 1994 win over Oregon State.

Discounting the 1999 Kickoff Classic loss to Miami (Fla.), where Bellisari played sparingly and threw only one pass, this was his second-lowest yardage total in his two-plus seasons as a regular. He was 6 of

12 for 40 yards in the 1999 win at Minnesota as he split time with backup Austin Moherman.

• The Buckeyes failed to contain UCLA linebacker Robert Thomas, who finished with nine tackles with five of them going for losses.

• As many as 10,000 OSU fans filled most of the north end zone at the Rose Bowl and, along with a small alumni band, provided good spirit for much of the game.

However, the first resounding boo of the Tressel era came with 5:18 left. Facing second-and-9 at the UCLA 37, Bellisari ran a keeper and was stuffed after a 2-yard gain.

Two incompletions later, OSU's last real chance to pull the game out had ended.

• Country recording artist Lila McCann sang the national anthem prior to the game, while UCLA student Tesz Milan highlighted the patriotic halftime show with her rendition of "America, the Beautiful."

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## OHIO STATE VS. UCLA

# Tressel Says Struggles Were More Than At QB

Throughout the football season, BSB is publishing excerpts of Ohio State head coach Jim Tressel's postgame press conferences. Here is what Tressel had to say following the loss to UCLA.

**Q.** Did changing quarterbacks at all enter into your mind?

**Jim Tressel:** "I just didn't think there was a right time for it. Strictly subjective."

**Q.** It looked like the big problem was you had trouble blocking people and Steve (Bellisari) had trouble hitting people. What's your thought after the game?

**JT:** "Anytime you do good things, there's a whole bunch of people that you have to say good things about, and when you struggle, there are a whole bunch of people who struggled. We struggled some up front, we struggled some with our design as coaches, we struggled some at receiver, we struggled some at quarterback. But there was nobody that you could say wasn't part of us not getting the job done."

**Q.** They came out and scored on the first series. Did they hit you with some things you did not see or did not expect?

**JT:** "They came up with a couple of little things ... That little swinging gate that tricked us when we had them under

control. They hit a couple of good throws and good catches. They caught us in a blitz on the touchdown and threw the strike in there. But there's no question that our guys defensively, from that point on, went after it with a vengeance and gave us many opportunities to win the game."

**Q.** Talk about your young kickers.

**JT:** "Well, they're young kickers. I've been around a lot of real good kickers in my life, and when all of them were young, they had their moments. We mentioned to our team after the game that all of us have been young at some point in time. Make sure we find some of these young guys that are in our room right now and tell them we're going to stick with you."

**Q.** In the first half you had something like 15 yards rushing, yet you didn't abandon the running game in the second half.

**JT:** "We made a few less mistakes in the second half. We didn't eliminate them. That first half we would have a good first-down play and then have a penalty or something and it was second-and-long. So we really were out of sorts in the first half. In the second half, maybe we got an inch better, but not enough."

**Q.** It looked like their penetration up front really kept you guys from getting

consistency. What was going on up there, what were your linemen telling you was going on?

**JT:** "There's no question they reared their ears back and came after us. They've got some veteran players up there and we have some guys who I'm not sure you'd call veterans. LeCharles (Bentley) and Tyson (Walter) tried to hang in there with us. Give UCLA's front some credit but we need to grow."

**Q.** Is there any one chance that hurts

you more than another? You had it twice inside the 15 and then the last fumble. Just reflect on all the opportunities.

**JT:** "Well, they seemed like they were never-ending. We had more opportunities than we deserved. They're all as hurtful as the rest. We feel we let the rest of the group down, and that's the most disappointing part of it. We had moments there where some people were good enough to allow us to win and, over on our offensive side, we didn't do that. We don't feel good



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CONGRATULATIONS OFFERED — Jim Tressel congratulates UCLA's Bob Toledo at midfield of the Rose Bowl as the two head coaches met following the Bruins' 13-6 victory over the Buckeyes.

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## OHIO STATE VS. UCLA

about that."

**Q.** Do you almost feel like it was a season opener with all the misfires and mis-takes?

**JT:** "I don't know if it felt like a season opener. We're in a growth mode and we will be for some time. We knew there was going to be a point in time where this new family was going to have some tough times. Sometimes they happen in the beginning, sometimes in the middle and sometimes when you think you've got it going. We just have to deal with it."

**Q.** Where are you quarterback-wise coming out of this game?

**JT:** "I think it's hard to tell. There were some things Steve did that we asked of him and there were things he could have done better and there were things we could have done better coaching-wise."

**Q.** Andy Groom seemed to be having a good game. B.J. Sander got off the one punt and ended up not hurting you in the long run. What was that call there?

**JT:** "We went into the game thinking that from our own goal line to the 40, that Andy would be the punter. From the 40 to the 40, it would be B.J., and if we were ever pooching it from the 40 and in, it would be Andy. It just fell in with the formula. The other thing is that B.J.'s punt is hard to field, and they had muffed four punts in nine tries in their first two games. We felt B.J.'s punt, the way it drifts, might have been something that came into play."

**Q.** Was it unfair from your perspective to put Scott (McMullen) into a tight game? Is that why you didn't go with Scott, because the time never seemed right to get him an opportunity there?

**JT:** "I didn't think it was the right thing for the group. Whenever we think about what we're going to do, we think about that and the individual as well. We didn't just protect Scott so it wouldn't hurt Scott. I didn't think it was the right thing for the group."

**Q.** Did having a more mobile quarterback play into that?

**JT:** "We had some things in the plan that we wanted our quarterback to move around. You have to admit Steve's a tough kid. He's got a bit of a banged-up foot. How much did it do?"

**Q.** How much did the missed kicks

alter your game plan?

**JT:** "Not much. When we went for fourth downs, those would have been long attempts — 47 yards, 48 yards."

**Q.** Do you think you might have gone for them anyway had the earlier kicks been made?

**JT:** "I don't think so. We had a lot of confidence in our defense. The way it looks right now, even if we get stopped, they're going to get us the ball back and really they did."

**Q.** Despite the loss, are you just happy to have gotten back on the field today?

**JT:** "Football is part of who we are, football is part of this society. The people that came out here today, this was great therapy for them. I hope the people who watched on TV, that it was a great plus for them. We're proud to be in the group that provides some of those positive things."

**Q.** What did you tell your players after the game?

**JT:** "We just talked about the fact that we felt bad for them and that we didn't take advantage of some opportunities. We appreciated how much effort they gave us. We know we're going to have to grow from this. We're going to challenge ourselves to become closer and stronger when you go through these tough times."

**Q.** You didn't go to the tight end more than once. Were they taking that away?

**JT:** "We had him in the route progression a normal number of times, and in fact we threw to him the first play of the game. We just didn't complete it."

**Q.** Was the misdirection screen they intercepted something they just read well or is it a thing where Steve maybe gave it away?

**JT:** "In all decisions we make, we have to see what's there before we make it. I'm not sure we saw what was there. We say to our quarterbacks that your most important throw of the day might be the one you throw out of bounds. That might be a case right there."

**Q.** You have two kickers you say you're confident in, yet you get no points from the kicking game. How disappointing is that situation?

**JT:** "That's disappointing. It's a big game and we didn't make the kicks. They make them in practice, and now they've been in prime time and didn't make them and what will their reaction be?"

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# The Numbers Game

## UCLA 13, Ohio State 6

Sept. 22, 2001 — The Rose Bowl; Pasadena, Calif.

Score by Quarters	1	2	3	4	F
OHIO STATE	6	0	0	0	- 6
UCLA	7	3	3	0	- 13

### First Quarter

UCLA — Smith, 24 yard pass from Paus (Griffith kick), 7:27; 14 plays, 80 yards, 7:33 TOP.

OSU — Bryant, blocked punt recovery in end zone (Nugent kick failed), 3:31.

### Second Quarter

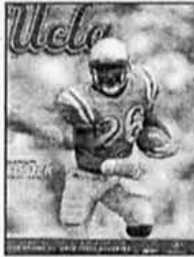
UCLA — Griffith, 49 yard field goal, 2:31; 10 plays, 39 yards, 3:54 TOP.

### Third Quarter

UCLA — Griffith, 33 yard field goal, 3:00; 10 plays, 64 yards, 4:08 TOP.

Att. — 73,723

Weather — 84 degrees, hazy; wind 10 MPH from S.



### Team Statistics

	OSU	UCLA
First Downs	8	18
Rushing	7	-4
Passing	1	13
Penalty	0	1
Rushes-Yards	35-121	41-61
Passing Yards	45	262
Passes (Att.-Comp.-Int.-Yds.-TD)	23-6-2	26-16-0
Offensive Plays	58	67
Total Net Yards	166	323
Third Down Efficiency	1-14	6-15
Fourth Down Efficiency	0-2	0-0
Punts	7-41.4	5-36.6
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	7-4
Penalties	6-59	4-30
Time of Possession	27:32	32:38

### Individual Statistics

**RUSHING (Att.-Net Yds.)** — OSU: Wells 14-47; Martin 2-32; Maldonado 8-26; Bellisari 9-15; Ross 2-1. UCLA: Foster 29-66; Stanley 3-19; Harris 4-5; Bragg 1-8; Paus 4-21.

**PASSING (Att.-Comp.-Int.-Yds.-TD)** — OSU: Bellisari 23-5-2-45-0. UCLA: Paus 25-16-0-262-1; Perry 1-0-0-0-0.

**RECEIVING (Rec.-Yds.)** — OSU: Wells 2-16; Jenkins 1-11; Martin 1-9; Chatters 1-9. UCLA: Perry 4-83; R. Smith 4-49; Seidman 2-39; Fletcher 2-35; Stanley 1-25; Poll-Dixon 1-17; Bragg 1-15; Foster 1-1.

**PUNTING (No.-Avg.-Long)** — OSU: Groom 6-46.8-61; Sander 1-9-0-9. UCLA: Fikse 4-45.8-49; Team 1-0-0.

**PUNT RETURNS (No.-Yds.)** — OSU: Vance 1-9; Doss 1-17. UCLA: Manning 2-14; Bragg 1-14.

**KICKOFF RETURNS (No.-Yds.)** — OSU: None. UCLA: None.

**FUMBLE RECOVERIES** — OSU: Grant 1-35; Doss 1-0; Cheatwood 1-0; Bryant 1-0; Chatters 1-0. UCLA: None.

**INTERCEPTIONS (No.-Yds.)** — OSU: None. UCLA: Ware 1-17; M. Anderson 1-0.

**SACKS** — OSU: W. Smith 1-8; Peterson 1-6; Bullard 1-6. UCLA: M. Anderson 1-2.

**TACKLES FOR LOSS (No.-Yds.)** — OSU: Scott 3-5; Wilhelm 2-12; W. Smith 2-12; Bullard 2-8; Doss 2-2; Peterson 1-6; Cheatwood 1-2. UCLA: Thomas 5-11; Kocher 2-3; Anderson 1-2.

**TACKLES (Solo-Asst.-Tot.)** — OSU: Wilhelm 8-2-10; Doss 6-1-7; Cheatwood 5-0-5; Grant 4-0-4; D. Ross 4-0-4; Scott 4-0-4; Bullard 3-1-4; J. Cooper 3-1-4; Nickey 3-1-4; Peterson 3-0-3; W. Smith 3-0-3; Collins 2-0-2; Reynolds 2-0-2; T. Anderson 1-1-2; Wells 1-0-1; Britton 0-1-1. UCLA: Thomas 6-3-9; Nece 6-2-8; T. Anderson 5-3-8; Kocher 2-3-5; Stephens 0-4-4; Leisle 2-1-3; Coleman 2-0-2; Ware 2-0-2; Williams 1-0-1; Vieira 1-0-1; Short 1-0-1; Reese 1-0-1; Hunter 1-0-1; Manning 1-0-1; Chillar 1-0-1; Fletcher 0-1-1; Ball 0-1-1.

**PLAYERS IN THE GAME** — **OHIO STATE: Starters:** Offense, Jenkins, Walter, Stepanovich, Bentley, Bishop, Olivea, Sanders, Bellisari, Wells, Martin, Hartsock, Huston. Defense, Scott, Collins, T. Anderson, W. Smith, J. Cooper, Wilhelm, Bullard, D. Ross, Nickey, Doss, Britton, Groom. **Reserves:** Childress, Vance, Maldonado, Grant, Bryant, McNutt, Chatters, McFadden, Groom, Sander, Allen, Kline, L. Ross, M. Cooper, O'Neill, Reynolds, Pagac Jr., Muhammad, Tucker, Cheatwood, Clarke, Jacobs, Fraser, Hooks, Gamble, Nugent, Bond, Thompson, Peterson. **UCLA: Starters:** Defense, Coleman, Fletcher, Leisle, Ball, Chillar, Thomas, Nece, Manning, Stephens, M. Anderson, Ware, Fikse. Offense, Poll-Dixon, Bohlander, Eiseff, Danoff, S. Seidman, Saffer, Fletcher, Paus, Stanley, Foster, Perry, Griffith. **Reserves:** Altar, Short, Norton, Lehmann, Hunter, Raymo, Joyce, Harris, D. Reese, White, Brant, Faga, M. Reese, Ball, Sua, Grau, R. Lehmann, Vieira, S. Smith, Dubravac, Bragg, Peters, Morgan, Williams, Warfield, Fletcher, Kocher, Phillips.

## Season Statistics

Date	Opponent (AP Rank)	Result	Crowd
Sept. 8	(25) AKRON	W, 28-14	102,602
Sept. 22	(21) at UCLA (14)	L, 13-6	73,723
Sept. 29	at Indiana		
Oct. 6	NORTHWESTERN		
Oct. 13	WISCONSIN		
Oct. 20	SAN DIEGO STATE		
Oct. 27	at Penn State		
Nov. 3	at Minnesota		
Nov. 10	PURDUE		
Nov. 17	ILLINOIS		
Nov. 24	at Michigan		

\*OSU's game day AP ranking is in parentheses before the opponent, while the opponent's ranking is after the name.

### Team Statistics

	OSU	Opp
First Downs	35	32
Rushing	19	11
Passing	16	19
Penalty	0	2
Average Per Game/Rush	178.5	87.5
Average Per Game/Pass	167.0	198.0
Total Offense	691	571
Total Plays	143	132
Average Per Game	345.5	285.5
Average Per Play	4.8	4.3
Penalties-Yards	9-89	5-35
Fumbles-Lost	5-2	8-5
3rd Down Efficiency	8/29	10/30
Percentage	28%	33%
4th Down Efficiency	0/2	0/2
Percentage	0%	0%
Sacks-Yards	5-32	3-17
Time of Possession Avg.	31:29	28:31

Score by Quarters	1	2	3	4	Tot.	Avg.
Ohio State	20	7	7	0	34	17.0
Opponents	7	10	3	7	27	13.5

Attendance	Games	Total	Avg.
Home	1	102,602	102,602
Away	1	73,723	73,723
Total	2	176,325	88,163

Rushing	Individual Statistics			TD	Long
	Att.	Net	Avg.		
Jonathan Wells	38	166	4.4	2	15
Sammy Maldonado	22	94	4.3	0	19
Jamar Martin	2	32	16.0	0	31
Maurice Hall	3	30	10.0	0	28
Lydeell Ross	6	17	2.8	0	5
Steve Bellisari	18	17	0.9	0	11
Scott McMullen	2	1	0.5	0	1
OSU Totals	91	357	3.9	2	31
OPP Totals	74	175	2.4	0	30

Receiving	Individual Statistics			TD	Long
	Att.	Net	Avg.		
Michael Jenkins	7	117	16.7	0	25
Ricky Bryant	4	46	11.5	0	19
Jamar Martin	4	32	8.0	1	12
Jonathan Wells	2	16	8.0	0	8
Chris Vance	1	61	61.0	1	61
Darnell Sanders	1	27	27.0	0	27
Ben Hartsock	1	15	15.0	0	15
Chris Gamble	1	11	11.0	0	11
Angelo Chatters	1	9	9.0	0	9
OSU Totals	22	334	15.2	2	61
OPP Totals	31	396	12.8	2	46

Scoring	TD	EPK	EPREPP	FG	PTS
Jonathan Wells	2	—	—	—	12
Chris Vance	1	—	—	—	6
Jamar Martin	1	—	—	—	6
Ricky Bryant	1	—	—	—	6

Josh Huston	0	2-2	—	—	0-1	2
Mike Nugent	0	2-3	—	—	0-2	2
OSU Totals	5	4-5	—	—	0-3	34
OPP Totals	3	3-3	—	—	2-5	27

Passing	Comp.	Att.	Pct.	Yds.	INT	TD	Rating
Steve Bellisari	20	47	42.6	291	2	2	100.09
Scott McMullen	2	5	40.0	43	1	0	72.24
OSU Totals	22	52	42.3	334	3	2	97.42
OPP Totals	31	58	53.4	396	0	2	122.18

FG Distance	0-29	30-39	40-49	50+	Total
Mike Nugent	0-1	0-1	0-0	0-0	0-2
Josh Huston	0-0	0-1	0-0	0-0	0-1
OSU Totals	0-1	0-2	0-0	0-0	0-3
OPP Totals	0-0	1-3	1-2	0-0	2-5

Punting	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Bk	Long
Andy Groom	8	381	47.6	0	61
B.J. Sander	4	119	29.8	0	46
OSU Totals	12	500	41.7	0	61
OPP Totals	13	524	40.3	1	55

Interceptions	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
OSU Totals	0	0	0	0	0
OPP Totals	3	104	34.7	1	87

Punt Returns	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
Chris Vance	5	61	12.2	0	18
Mike Doss	1	17	17.0	0	0
Ricky Bryant	0	0	0.0	1	0
OSU Totals	6	78	13.0	1	18
OPP Totals	5	21	4.2	0	14

Kickoff Returns	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
Jonathan Wells	1	18	18.0	0	18
OSU Totals	1	18	18.0	0	18
OPP Totals	2	44	22.0	0	23

Defensive Leaders	Solo	Asst.	Tot.	TFL	Yds.	Sacks
Matt Wilhelm	9	6	15	2-12	—	—
Joe Cooper	12	2	14	1-6	—	—
Donnie Nickey	7	3	10	—	—	—
Mike Doss	7	3	10	3-10	1-8	—
Derek Ross	9	0	9	1-1	—	—
Cie Grant	7	1	8	1-0	—	—
Tim Cheatwood	8	0	8	3-8	1-4	—
Courtland Bullard	5	2	7	3-10	1-6	—
Darrion Scott	6	0	6	3-5	—	—
Will Smith	3	1	4	2-12	1-8	—
Mike Collins	3	1	4	—	—	—
Tim Anderson	1	2	3	—	—	—
Kenny Peterson	3	0	3	1-6	1-6	—
David Thompson	2	1	3	—	—	—
Robert Reynolds	2	0	2	—	—	—
Simon Fraser	1	1	2	2-4	—	—
Bobby Britton	1	1	2	—	—	—
Jason Bond	1	0	1	—	—	—
Sammy Maldonado	1	0	1	—	—	—
Maurice Lee	0	1	1	—	—	—
Dustin Fox	0	1	1	—	—	—
Jonathan Wells	1	0	1	—	—	—
OSU Totals	89	26	115	22-74	5-32	—
OPP Totals	81	62	143	13-39	3-17	—

**Fumbles Forced**  
2 — Tim Cheatwood; 1 — Matt Wilhelm, Donnie Nickey, Darrion Scott, Mike Collins, Angelo Chatters.

**Fumbles Recovered**  
1 — Mike Doss, Cie Grant, Tim Cheatwood, Jason Bond, Angelo Chatters, Ricky Bryant.

**Blocked Kicks**  
1 — Mike Doss.

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## COVER STORY: DEFENSE CAPABLE, OFFENSE CULPABLE

# Offense Struggled To Find Any Sort Of Consistency

Continued From Page 1

Buckeyes had played just one game, while UCLA had road wins over Alabama and Kansas to its credit. OSU was counting on building some momentum for this game by hosting San Diego State Sept. 15. But that game was postponed after the terrorist attacks that gripped the nation earlier that week.

When asked how missing that game affected his team, Tressel replied, "No differently than it did any other team. We worked hard to get better at some things. I think in two-thirds of the game we did take some steps forward with our special teams and our defense.

"As everybody who was there knows, we struggled to gain any kind of rhythm or consistency offensively.

"It would have been good to have another game. I think we learned a whole bunch of things in the Akron game and it would have been neat to see if we learned them or not, but everyone is going through that."

Instead, the Buckeyes were on the firing line on a red-hot day in Pasadena, Calif. Unfortunately, the OSU offense wilted like, well, three-week-old roses.

"It was a tough situation to be in," said OSU center LeCharles Bentley. "We don't like it, and we have to bounce back from it."

Tressel praised the defense for its stellar play.

"I'm proud that the guys kept fighting," he said. "Despite the fact we didn't move the football, they kept coming up with ways to keep us in the game — the special teams and the defense.

"Of course, I'm disappointed with what we did and didn't do on offense. That's just something we need to bang away at. We said going into the game that if we played superior special teams and relentless defense and didn't make mistakes on defense, we would win. But we didn't get there."

## A Case For The Defense(s)

This game seemed to have the makings of an offensive shootout. But each side took turns stymying the other.

"I really couldn't ask the defense to play better football than they did today," said OSU tailback Jonathan Wells. "The job they did was outstanding. We didn't put any points on the board for them. That has to fall on our shoulders.

"But we're going to stick together and we're going to get better."

Freshman receiver Angelo Chatterms, who notched his first career reception, seemed to sum it all up.

"Personally, I feel we let the defense down," he said.

OSU defensive end Tim Cheatwood emerged as one of the leaders with the



STEVE HELWAGEN

**ANY SUGGESTIONS?** — OSU head coach Jim Tressel and offensive coordinator Jim Bollman had a tough time coming up with much offense against UCLA. The Buckeyes were held to 166 total yards and just 45 through the air, the least since 1989.

way he helped hound Foster.

"We pretty much did the job we wanted to do, but I guess it wasn't good enough because we didn't win," he said. "If we don't have a 'W' in our column, we didn't play good enough."

But Cheatwood and his defensive mates said they will not abandon the OSU offense.

"It's a little frustrating, but we're all a team here," he said. "We're not going to look down on our offense for not getting the job done today. There will probably be times during the season that we don't get the job done and they'll pick us up."

Added OSU linebacker Matt Wilhelm, "We're not down on them. They're probably down on themselves and disappointed. Some guys are even saying they're sorry. But, hey, we lost the game so we're all down right now."

## No 'O' In This Team?

Much of the debate following the loss at UCLA centered on the status of quarterback Steve Bellisari. Playing on a tender ankle — which he appeared to reinjure — the senior co-captain was an abysmal 5 of 23 passing for 45 yards with two interceptions.

Bellisari was not available to reporters following the game.

But Tressel was grilled about whether he considered pulling Bellisari in favor of backup Scott McMullen.

"I didn't think it was the right thing for the group," Tressel said. "I wasn't trying to protect Scott. I just didn't think it was the right time for it. That was strictly subjective."

Reporters then went a step further, asking Bellisari's teammates to assess his performance.

"I can't really evaluate him," Bentley said. "I think he always goes out and plays hard. That's all you can ask of a quarterback each week, to go out and play hard."

Wells added his two cents to the

now three-year-old debate.

"That's not my call," he said. "I'm just trying to make plays in the backfield. That's a coach's decision."

The questions kept coming such as, "What is wrong with this offense?"

"I don't know either," Bentley said. "We have to watch the film and the coaches have to make those decisions. We have great coaches and it will be up to them."

## Getting Back To Action

When factored against the trying times the U.S. has faced since the terrorist attacks, OSU's defeat takes on much less significance.

In fact, OSU and UCLA were featured in a national telecast by ABC from the Rose Bowl, perhaps the nation's most revered football theater.

"We were all proud to be part of this game," Tressel said. "It was a game that was coast to coast on national television. We talked about the fact that we wanted to represent, with the way we played the game, just how proud we are of where we live and the people who have done great things."

UCLA coach Bob Toledo said it was a relief to finally play.

"I told the team in my pregame talk, 'You don't know what tomorrow is going to bring. Live each day to the fullest, go out and give it your very best,' and they did," he said. "To get out there and see a great crowd and have a great college football game in that setting was really a great experience."

For the Buckeyes, the real relief will probably come Sept. 29, when they visit Indiana to begin Big Ten play.

"To travel this distance and play in the Rose Bowl, this is something we can build off of," Doss said. "We came out here and traveled long hours. We were just trying to get this victory, but we came up a little short."

With nine games left — including all eight Big Ten games — Tressel has already begun circling the wagons.

"We challenged our older guys to be there for our younger kids," the coach said.

It sounded like the message had gotten through.

"As a captain of this team," said full-back Jamar Martin, "I feel like it's my responsibility to say something to each player, and after the game I just told everybody, 'This is not the end of the season. We've got a long way to go and we've got a lot more opportunities to take advantage of. There's a lot of big things that we still need to do.'"

"So we need to move on, learn from this game and put it behind us. We can't dwell on it for too long. We need to really focus on ourselves and make ourselves better."



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## COVER STORY: OSU TOUCHED BY TRAGEDY

## Geiger: Playing Would Be Wrong Thing To Do

Continued From Page 1

first college teams to announce a postponement. Speaking less than 12 hours after the hijackings, OSU athletic director Andy Geiger announced the school's Sept. 15 home game with San Diego State had been postponed until Oct. 20, an open date for both schools.

"I think we felt strongly that we should not play on Saturday," Geiger said. "It was very clear that trying to play this game would be the wrong thing to do."

"I cannot imagine, feeling the way I feel right now and seeing the pictures on television that we've all seen all day long, bringing 100,000 people to Ohio Stadium in four days."

Adding to the uncertainty was the fact that San Diego State would have needed to make a cross-country flight. The Federal Aviation Administration closed all airports nationally for two days after the tragedy.

Initially, a number of Division I-A schools announced plans to go ahead and play their weekend football games. However, by Sept. 13, all Division I-A games had been canceled. Major League Baseball also canceled all games through Sept. 16, while the National Football League wiped out its slate of games set for Sept. 16-17.

According to Geiger, his quick decision was based on discussions with football coach Jim Tressel, university administrators and San Diego State athletic director Rick Bay.

"Getting Jim's feelings on the mood of the team, we didn't feel that we needed to go any further," Geiger said. "I talked with (OSU President) Dr. (Brit) Kirwan and I met this afternoon with the university vice presidents and the president's cabinet."

"I also chatted with Rick Bay several times today and found him very much concurring with the decision."

Bay, a former OSU AD, said the postponement was an easy call.

"This is the right thing to do," Bay told the San Diego Union-Tribune. "Some would argue that the U.S. is weakened by any interference to its normal activities, but in this case I feel the proper thing to do is reflect on what happened and make the game up (Oct. 20)."

In addition to the football game, Ohio State also canceled all other intercollegiate games and competitions through Sept. 16.

However, the newly renovated Ohio Stadium served as the site for a hastily planned rally and telethon Sept. 15. Over 15,000 attended the event, includ-

ing members of the school's athletic squads and marching band, and over \$585,000 was raised for the American Red Cross disaster relief fund (see story, page 19).

## Initial Reaction

Reporters met briefly with Tressel just two hours after news had broken on the hijackings. The coach, fresh off a 28-14 win over Akron in his first game as the OSU coach, appeared at his weekly press luncheon.

But football was the last thing on anyone's mind.

"We've said and known all along there are a lot more important things than football," Tressel said. "This is another tremendous example of that."

Tressel said he contacted his daughter, Carlee, who was planning to go to the University of Chicago in the days following the tragedy.

"You would think that Chicago would also be a primary target," he said. "You really don't know what to think."

Reporters tried to get Tressel's sense on whether the games should go on.

"There are a lot of emotions," the coach admitted. "You are mad at the people who are doing it. You don't want them to ruin this country. But then you also have to be compassionate and think of the families and the people."

"We can't even visualize what's taken place, the disaster. As we sit here, that puts a lot less importance on Saturday."

Tressel said Geiger told him of the initial attack during a morning meeting of all OSU athletic coaches at the Faculty Club.

"Andy whispered in my ear that there appears to be a terrorist attack," Tressel said. "I thought he was kidding at first."

## Dealing With Tragedy

With San Diego State off the docket — at least for the time being — the OSU football team focused on its impending Sept. 22 trip to UCLA.

But even Tressel was having a problem putting the week's events in perspective.

"I'm not an expert on dealing with tragedies like this," he said. "I know first and foremost that we have to have respect for the victims and just let those people who have been directly affected know that they're in our thoughts and prayers."

"I think this is a time of true reflection for all of us. I'm not telling anyone what to reflect about, it's just a time to be there for each other. That's what's



DARRELL DAWSON

**SIGNS SAY IT ALL** — A pair of attendees at the Sept. 15 rally held at Ohio Stadium display the thoughts that were on the minds of many.

wonderful about being part of a group in a difficult time."

The coach and his players hoped the remainder of their games this season would help the healing process.

"I think we understand that we are somewhat entertainment to people," Tressel said. "Obviously, it's an opportunity to teach the kids what we're involved with and for our fans it's definitely something for them to emote about."

"Maybe they can get their minds off those other things for three hours as we play."

Linebacker Joe Cooper voiced concerns over the safety of players and fans alike in the days following the terrorist activity.

"It makes you think," he said. "On Saturday, especially at a school like Ohio State, there's going to be a lot of people (there). I'm no genius. I don't know anything, but to me it seems like they'd try to attack where there's a lot of people and there's over 100,000 people in the Horseshoe on Saturday, so it's in the back of your mind."

"You take it for granted sometimes and say, 'Well, it would never happen here,' but you can't think like that."

Linebacker Matt Wilhelm was asked if winning games each week means as much in the wake of this tragedy.

"Winning still means the same," he said. "It definitely is the same. I know for me personally it's important. You want to win for yourself, but you feel like you've got to take on another opponent, even though they're from the United States of America, and get out some aggression, because you do have pent-up aggression in a situation like this."

"You don't know whom to blame. There are guys who get paid a lot of money who are trying to figure that out. But you've just got some aggression inside you that just has to come out, whether it be on the practice field or in the game."

"We're lucky as football players that

once a week or so we get to let it loose. If you talk to pro athletes, college athletes or even some guys in high school, they will tell you they feel free on a football field, and in that moment everything outside of football kind of fades away."

Wilhelm was glad OSU wasted no time in making the proper call.

"I was proud of that," he said. "It's a great representation of the university that we were the example for the rest of the country, and I think it speaks highly for the type of people we have leading this university in President Kirwan, Andy Geiger and Coach Tressel."

Tailback Jonathan Wells admitted it was hard to face a beautiful fall Saturday without football, but he said his school made the right choice.

"I knew it would happen yet I was still a little disappointed," he said. "But there's a much bigger issue going on. I couldn't agree with the decision more. A lot of innocent people lost their lives. It's bigger than Ohio State football, way bigger."

For OSU, the only point of reference was the situation in November 1963, when OSU and Michigan postponed their season-ending game one week after the assassination of President Kennedy (see story, page 20).

Never before in its 112 years of football had Ohio State postponed or canceled a game due to war or civil unrest.

The SDSU game was to serve as the induction weekend for the 2001 class for the OSU Athletics Hall of Fame. Those ceremonies will now take place over the weekend of Oct. 19.

The SDSU game was also to be broadcast by ESPN with a 12:10 p.m. start time. No starting time or television assignment had been announced for the new date on Oct. 20, although 12:10 p.m. still seemed like a safe bet.

BSB staff members Jeff Rapp and Mike Wachsmann contributed to this story.



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## RALLY AT OHIO STADIUM

# Thousands Show Their Spirit At Stadium Rally

By DARRELL DAWSON  
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

At times, it sounded as if there was a game going on in Ohio Stadium. Other times, you couldn't even hear its ghosts.

Such is life in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 terrorist tragedies. But for a couple of hours, fans and dignitaries from across Ohio remembered those lost and celebrated the nation we live in.

There were a variety of speakers at the Horseshoe Sept. 15 for the "Show You Care" rally and telethon. But all it took was a single bagpiper to upstage some of the state's most beloved statesmen and public figures.

A crowd in excess of 15,000 attended the rally and, by the time the three-hour broadcast on WBNS-TV and Ohio News Network had gone off the air at 3 p.m., more than \$170,000 had been raised for the American Red Cross disaster relief fund.

Including donations made by telephone, the sale of American flags at the stadium and drive-up donations made outside the Horseshoe, WBNS-TV reported a total of over \$585,000 in donations had been made by the time its 11 p.m. newscast hit the air.

Near the end of the two-hour-long program, the City of Columbus Bagpipers played a traditional Scottish version of "Amazing Grace." During the closing strains, one of the players got up from his perch with the others in the north end zone and walked up the north ramp and out of view.

You could hear a pin drop. On the turf.

Each of the event's speakers was at the top of his or her game.

"They were just like us," said OSU President Brit Kirwan of those who died in New York, Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania. "Mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers, husbands and wives, sons and daughters — all gone. Here today at Ohio Stadium we mourn their losses."

Ohio Gov. Bob Taft spoke of the many Ohioans who are on the scene at the disaster sites and those who are helping closer to home through donations of blood, money and food.

"It is time to demonstrate that the American spirit is alive and thriving here in this stadium, here in Columbus, here in Ohio and throughout this great nation of ours," he told the flag-waving crowd to loud cheers.

"Let's move toward a new peace on Earth. A peace that was meant to be."

Following a speech by Columbus Mayor Michael Coleman, OSU athletic director Andy Geiger took the microphone.

"This is a place of celebration, of human achievement, whether academic when commencement is held here, or athletic," Geiger said. "We would rather be watching football, for that would mean that last Tuesday never happened."

Throughout the process of refurbishing Ohio Stadium over the past couple of years, Geiger talked about the three prongs the project represented: preservation, renovation and expansion.

During his speech, he widened his thoughts on those three sentiments.

- "Preservation — We must believe even more deeply in our freedoms and our democratic ways of life.

- "Renovation — We must learn of our new sense of vulnerability ... We must also work on sensitivities toward

our fellow human beings.

- "The third part is expansion. The tragic loss of life is all-inclusive. ... Our love for one another should also be all-inclusive."

Soon after Geiger left the podium, it was OSU head football coach Jim Tressel's turn. Though Buckeye fans only recently reacquainted themselves with Tressel, many look to the coach for words of wisdom at times like these, regardless of whether the coach ever asks to be put in that position.

By all accounts, Tressel came through. He gave what may have been the most uplifting thought of the day.

"A week ago today, we came out in front of 100,000 fans and I wasn't sure there would ever be a more glorious day in Ohio Stadium," he said.

"But once again, central Ohio proved us wrong. There's never been a more glorious day in Ohio Stadium than today."

Mitch Brown, safety director for the city of Columbus, also spoke. WBNS-TV anchorwoman Angela Pace was the emcee.

The OSU marching band provided a number of patriotic tunes, including a stirring rendition of "Stars and Stripes Forever." The Otterbein College concert choir also provided music.



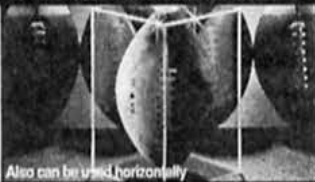
DARRELL DAWSON

**WORDS OF COMFORT** — Old Glory flies above Ohio State head football coach Jim Tressel as he talks to the gathering at the "Show You Care" rally at Ohio Stadium Sept. 15.

Athletes from many of OSU's athletic teams, including the football squad, filled a section of seating in the lower level of the stadium.

Those from the general public nearly filled all of the sections in the north end zone of the stadium.

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## OHIO STATE RECRUITING PROFILE

## Hawk Another In Long Line Of Tough Senior LBs

By GARY HOUSTEAU

Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

In what could very easily be coined the "year of the linebacker" on the Ohio prep scene, A.J. Hawk of Centerville High School doesn't have to take a back seat to anyone.

With his first three seasons as a defensive starter already in the books for the Elks, Hawk tallied an impressive total of 503 tackles while playing mostly at the inside 'backer position but also spending some time early on in his career as an outside 'backer.

"When I think of A.J. Hawk, I think of him not so much as a linebacker or a running back, I've always told people I just think of A.J. as a football player," said Centerville head coach Ron Ullery.

"I think he's the prototypical football player, kind of a throwback type. A.J. just loves to play football. I think what makes him such a good football player is his passion for the game. There is no doubt in my mind that that's what makes him great. He loves the game, he loves preparing for the game, he loves the workouts in the off-season in preparation for the season. Those are really the great things about A.J."

"Sure I can talk about his athleticism, his strength, his size, his agility, and all those things are great also, but I just think it's his passion for the game that makes him a great football player."

Hawk abruptly burst on the varsity scene in the third game of the season of his freshman year at Centerville, when he entered the game as a backup and promptly led his team in tackles for the game. He went on to start the last seven games of that year and led the team in tackles with 142 stops on the campaign.

"He just has a nose for the football and since then he's only gotten better," Ullery said. "Over the last two years, he's gone over 500 tackles in his career and he's become a great running back on offense. He doesn't say a whole lot but that's OK with me, because just his work ethic and his passion for the game speak volumes."

In addition to his highly touted defensive exploits over the past three seasons, Hawk has become a legitimate threat offensively as well. As a sophomore, he lined up at tailback in the same backfield as his brother Ryan, who went on to play quarterback at Miami (Ohio). Last year as a junior, mainly at fullback, A.J. racked up 688 yards and scored nine touchdowns carrying the football.

"With his statistics and his reputation that he's gotten as a linebacker, his ability as a running back has kind of been lost," Ullery said. "He's a tremendous running back. He's got good speed ... he doesn't have tremendous speed, but he's got tremendous balance and tremendous leg strength. He's got great hands, he's an outstanding running back as well as a linebacker. I think he's got a future at either position."

In addition to being an integral member of both the offensive and defensive units this year, Hawk also punted and was in his first season as the team's placekicker, taking over the job from current Buckeye Mike Nugent.

However, just as abruptly as his career began at Centerville, it's been put on hold after he suffered a knee injury in the opening game of the season. (For more on Hawk's injury, see Recruiting Outlook on pages 30-33.)

Of course, not having a talented player like Hawk at your disposal has certainly contributed to the team's slow start this year. The Elks were still looking for their



A.J. Hawk

first victory heading into the halfway point of the season.

"It's been a number of things for us, but obviously losing A.J. is a great loss. He's two players we're losing," Ullery said. "But he's not just two players, he's one of the best linebackers in Ohio and one of the best running backs in Ohio. If you could imagine going to any team and taking one of the best running backs and linebackers in the state of Ohio off that team, that's going to obviously have a tremendous impact."

"We've had a multitude of injuries happen to a very inexperienced team to begin with, so A.J.'s loss is really a great loss also."

Hawk is certainly regarded as one of the top linebackers in Ohio and was recruited during the off-season in that capacity. After being heavily courted by Penn State, Hawk was pretty close to becoming a Nittany Lion at one point this past summer before he ultimately chose the Buckeyes.

"It was really nice to make that commitment," Hawk said. "It was flattering to know that I got to choose between Penn State and Ohio State to play college football because a lot of kids just want to play college football anywhere and I got to choose from two of the best schools in the country. It was just unbelievable."

"I was really serious about Penn State. I really liked Coach (Joe) Paterno and his son, Jay, who is the quarterback coach and recruiting coordinator. But once I got to camp at Ohio State and I met all the coaches, I loved it and I could tell that was where I wanted to play."

Hawk received that much-coveted offer on the second day of OSU's camp, obviously impressing the Buckeye coaching staff with his abilities during the early part of the camp.

"I waited maybe four or five days (because) I was supposed to go to Penn State's camp the following Saturday," he said. "I kind of thought about it and realized that I wasn't going to Penn State, Ohio State was where I wanted to be. So I canceled my trip to Penn State and I think I committed to Ohio State on that following Monday."

With Mike Kudla also in the fold now and fellow prep linebackers Mike D'Andrea, Bobby Carpenter, Bryan Andrews and Stan White Jr. all potential Buckeyes, Ullery thinks Hawk may have a certain special talent that could set him apart from all of the others in the group.

"I've never seen any of the others and, being an Ohio State fan, I hope they get them all," the coach said. "But with A.J., I think the number one thing is that he's just

## The Hawk File

NAME — A.J. Hawk

HIGH SCHOOL — Centerville, Ohio

POSITION — Outside linebacker

HEIGHT, WEIGHT — 6-2, 230 pounds

40-YARD DASH TIME — 4.6 seconds

BENCH PRESS — 365 pounds

GRADE-POINT AVERAGE — 3.1

COLLEGE ENTRANCE TEST — Scored a 20 on the ACT.

**VITAL STATISTICS** — Hawk has been a standout for the Elks since his freshman year, although he suffered a knee injury in week one of his senior season that has sidelined him for the time being. In three seasons, he amassed 503 tackles — 142 as a freshman, 192 in 12 games as a sophomore and 169 more in 10 games last year. He also worked at running back on offense, totaling 688 yards and nine touchdowns last year. He had 20 carries for 140 yards in week one this season. He is ranked Ohio's 14th-best prospect by The Ohio Football Recruiting News. He was a first-team All-Southwest District and second-team All-Ohio pick in Division I last year.

**COACH'S COMMENT** — "He has tremendous athletic ability. Here's a kid who is 230-some pounds, runs around a 4.6 40, has a vertical jump of 35 inches and he's a tremendous punter and kicker. He's our backup quarterback also, or he was before he was injured. There's a lot of places A.J. Hawk can play on the football field."

"He comes from a tremendous family and he's a very responsible young man, an extremely hard worker, very dedicated and unselfish. You can come up with any adjective you want in a football player and that's A.J. His brother, Ryan, was the same way when he was here, I'm going to miss having a Hawk on this football team. We've had them here for a long time and they've just been brought up extremely well and it reflects in all facets of their lives."

"A.J. is going to be a player at the next level. If A.J.'s past is any indication of his future, he will work hard enough to make himself important in the next four or five years at Ohio State." — Centerville head coach Ron Ullery

**HOBBIES** — Lifting weights and fishing for bass and trout.

**SCHOOLS INTERESTED IN** — Committed to Ohio State over Penn State and Miami (Ohio) on June 28.

got a nose for the football. Some of these other guys might be a little faster, some might be a little bigger than him, but I've seen A.J. and he's the best linebacker to ever play at this school. He may be the best football player to ever play at this school, and we've had some pretty good ones."

"So I just think it's his nose for the football; he finds a way to get there. When you're getting 170 to 190 tackles a year, you've got to know where the ball is and I think A.J. usually does."

Hawk himself spoke in no-nonsense terms to describe his style of play on the field.

"I try to be kind of a throwback and old-school player," he said. "I don't need any of the hype or anything, I just like to make every play and be around the ball every single play. That's my main goal when I'm playing. I want to make every single tackle when I'm on the field, that's what I try to do. I try to model my game after Zach Thomas of the Miami Dolphins. I love to watch him play. He's always around the ball."

Prior to attending high school, Hawk was more of an offensive player and he still wears No. 34 in honor of Bo Jackson.

"I was always a running back. I played linebacker on defense still, but I was mainly offense," he said. "But then once I got to high school, I realized that linebacker was where I wanted to be. That's where I want to play, especially at the next level. My freshman year I played both linebacker positions, and these past three years I've been playing just

in the middle.

"I like the outside in the college game. The middle linebacker gets to plug the holes but the outside gets to get out and run and chase the plays, I like that a lot actually. I think running sideline to sideline is my best asset, chasing down plays. I love to do that. So wherever they want to put me I'll play, but I think I can play all three."

Despite his prowess at linebacker, Hawk said he'd certainly consider offense if that's where he could help the team.

"They've never really said anything to me about that," he said. "But if they wanted me to play some fullback, I would definitely do it. I love to play offense, too."

Ohio State fans are looking forward to eventually seeing a healthy Hawk in a Buckeye uniform.

"I'm really excited for that. I can't wait," said Hawk, a lifetime OSU fan. "I can't wait to get up there, especially with Coach (Jim) Tressel there and all the good coaches they have."

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