

Wharton's View:

With Jim Wharton

Defense Shattered By Stockstill Barrage

I really haven't spent the last two weeks in a bullet-proof enclosure. But I gave it some serious thought because I'm sure there are those out there who would have taken a potshot at me for the words of praise I kept heaping on the Ohio State defense.

My glass wouldn't have shattered, but my precious defense certainly did. It was shredded into little pieces by one Rick Stockstill and his band of Florida State Seminoles, who whooped and hollered their way to a 36-27 victory over Ohio State.

Stockstill was not supposed to be the best of the four quarterbacks the Buckeyes faced in their first four games, but he weathered the storm and accomplished one thing the other three didn't — he engineered a win for his team over the previously unbeaten and seventh-ranked Bucks.

You can point the finger at a number of reasons for the defeat. I'm not jumping on his bandwagon, but Earle Bruce hit the nail dead center when he alluded to the number of tackles missed by his players during the game.

Most assuredly it was FSU coach Bobby Bowden's game plan which worked to perfection. Perfection that is if you're a Florida State fan.

Bowden, who would say after the game that "we knew their secondary was young with sophomores and freshmen," instructed Stockstill to exploit the Buckeye deep defense with pass after pass.

Knowing full well that the Ohio State linebacking crew would drop a step or two deeper in order to try and protect the secondary youngsters, Stockstill executed "dump" passes to perfection. When the linebackers moved back in to their normal positions, Stockstill took advantage of the situation and burned the Bucks with deep passes.

"Our plan was one of delay and screens," Bowden said after Florida State had beaten a Big Ten team the first time it had played one. "You have to give full credit to our quarterback, Rick Stockstill, because he carried out the plan perfectly."

But, and to make matters worse, the usually reliable OSU defensive line was pushed around by the FSU blockers. After allowing an average of less than 90 yards rushing per game in the first three contests, it surrendered 197 to the Seminoles.

The real damage was done to the OSU secondary. Now I've been touting those youngsters as having, given the circumstances of the three superb quarterbacks they had to face in the first three weeks, done an adequate job. But Stockstill's 25 completions in 42 attempts for 299 yards and two

touchdowns was, hopefully, a learning experience.

I think Glen Cobb put it aptly when he said "you learn from a loss."

Let's just hope the Buckeyes did.

Notes and Quotes

It seems the notes and quotes part of this weekly column always starts with the exploits of linebacker Marcus Marek.

This week is no different.

Marek was in on a game-high 19 tackles against the Seminoles. But, for the first time this season, his efforts did not advance him on the all time OSU tackle list. Marek now has 301 in his career and an average game for him the next time out against Wisconsin will enable him to pass Aaron Brown, who is in sixth place on the list.

Wide receiver Gary Williams, who set a school record in both receptions (13) and yards gained via pass catches (220), has now caught a pass in 28 straight games.

Since the NCAA does not recognize bowl games, and since Williams' streak includes two bowl games, the glue-fingered OSU receiver is still 17 games away from matching the NCAA record of 43 straight games.

OSU tight end Brad Dwelle must not be able to stand prosperity. After catching two touchdowns passes the week before against Stanford, Dwelle had a problem latching onto the ball against Florida State. Three times passes from Art Schlichter were — or appeared to be — on target. But Dwelle came up empty handed each time.

Incidentally, the last time a Buckeye tight end caught two touchdown passes in one game was in 1969 when Jan White caught two against Illinois.

Speaking of last times, when was the last time Ohio State went the whole game without having the fullback run the ball? Veteran

sports writers in attendance at the game were unable to recall such a happening — at least in the past 30 years.

Ohio State fullback Craig Dunn and his replacement for a few offensive plays, Ray Meyers, were used exclusively as blockers.

Or how about the lowly total of 38 yards rushing for a game by the Bucks? That total is third lowest in modern Ohio State history. The lowest? A 22-yard effort in a 32-7 loss to Michigan State in 1965.

Ohio State coach Earle Bruce is now 1-1 against Florida State. Although the Buckeyes and Seminoles were meeting for the first time, Bruce's 1975 Iowa State team defeated FSU, then coached by Darrell Mudra, 10-6. Bruce was denied his 70th win as a college head coach, having to settle instead for his 39th loss.

While on the subject of wins and losses, we inadvertently overlooked a milestone reached by Bruce with the victory over Michigan State a couple of weeks ago. That win marked the 150th win for Bruce as a head football coach.

Bruce posted his first coaching victory in 1956 at Salem (Ohio) High School. A four year mark of 28-9 at Salem preceded stops at Sandusky High School (34-3-3) for three seasons and Massillon (20-0) for two. After spending six years as an assistant to Woody Hayes at Ohio State, Bruce coached at the University of Tampa (10-2 in one season) and Iowa State (36-32 in six years) before taking the OSU post two years ago. Bruce is now 23-5 with the Buckeyes.

Florida State coach Bobby Bowden also reached a plateau of sorts with the win over Ohio State. It marked his 120th win as a head college mentor. Bowden posted a 31-6 record in four years at Samford, a 42-26 mark in six seasons at West Virginia and is now 47-15 in his five-plus campaigns at FSU.

Buckeye placekicker Bob Atha was wide left on his extra point attempt following Ohio State's second touchdown. It marked the first miss in 11 attempts this year for Atha. He is still perfect in three field goal tries.

Middle guard Nick Miller got to Florida State quarterback Rick Stockstill for a sack in the first quarter to give him three QB sacks on the season, tops on the squad.

Tim Spencer, who had returned two kicks for 30 yards in the first three games, took five back 95 yards against the Seminoles.

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OSU Defensive Coordinator Dennis Fryzel flashes signals to the Buckeyes. Fryzel's signals seemed to help little as whatever the Buck defenders tried, Florida State quarterback Rick Stockstill was able to handle. When Ohio State linebackers dropped back, Stockstill hurt the Buckeyes short. When the linebackers moved up, he hurt them with longer passes.

Cobb Hopes Bucks Learn From Loss

By Jim Wharton

You tend to feel sorry for Ohio State defensive captain Glen Cobb.

Cobb, a 6-3, 210 pound junior linebacker out of Miami Trace High School, was just one of 11 players on the field trying to stop the attack of the Florida State Seminoles.

But, being captain, it was Cobb the news media sought out after the stunning 36-27 FSU triumph over the Buckeyes on Oct. 3.

Decked out in two of three pieces of a blue suit, Cobb reflected on what did or did not go right for Ohio State on the field that day.

"I think right off we had it going our way," Cobb said. "We stopped their first series and then we had our problems. We seemed to hold them on the first couple of downs but on third and eight, third and six, they would break a long one on us.

"We just made some mistakes and they executed well. They're a very good football team."

Cobb, who was second to Marcus Marek in tackles in the game with 13 participations, said that maybe the Buckeyes had not prepared quite right for Florida State.

"The main thing was the three previous games they ran the ball a lot," he said. "Then against us they opened up their offense with a lot of short passes and then they'd hit us with the long one. We hadn't seen that on film. That's no excuse, but still we were prepared for the run."

When told that OSU coach Earle Bruce had dwelled most on the number of tackles missed by the Buckeyes in the game, Cobb talked of the mental attitude.

"The mental part of the game can make a lot of difference," he said. "Any team is going to hurt you when you make those kind of mental mistakes, when you miss those tackles like that. It just can't happen."

But Cobb was philosophical about the loss.

"Through a loss you can learn," he explained. "Of course no one likes to lose, but when you play hard and you lose, it can be beneficial. In what ways? Maybe in our attitude to work hard. Not only to play better but to rebound from this loss and go on."



Glen Cobb

Right now we just want to get our mistakes corrected. We'll start when we go over the films tomorrow and then take it from tomorrow.

"We're coming up on the meat of our season — the Big Ten. Florida State was a big loss for us. We didn't want to lose any games. But right now it's the Big Ten. And the Big Ten's for all the marbles. That's what we're going to shoot for and this is a big game coming up (Wisconsin). We'll put the past behind us."

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Buckeyes Deflated By Florida State

By Jim Wharton

There is air in the football and there were footballs in the air as Florida State invaded Ohio Stadium on Oct. 3.

When the final gasp of air was gone from both teams — or at least the last bit of breath had been deflated by the final gun — the upstart Seminoles from FSU had sprung a 36-27 upset on the nation's seventh-ranked Buckeyes of Ohio State.

The game, made considerably longer by the number of passes thrown, resembled a clinic. The clinicians were FSU quarterback Rick Stockstill, a native of Sidney, Ohio, and his OSU counterpart, Art Schlichter.

To steal an old cliché, Schlichter won the battle, Stockstill won the war.

And what a skirmish it was.

Ohio State fired the first shot when, after taking over on the FSU 29 following a short punt by Florida State All-American punter Rohn Stark, and a 15-yard personal foul penalty against the Seminoles, the Buckeyes set their sights on the FSU goalline. Schlichter hit tight end John Frank for 14 before Tim Spencer went six yards and then nine yards for the score. Bob Atha converted and the Bucks led 7-0 with 10:46 left in the first quarter.

With Stockstill hitting four of five passes and tailback Michael Whiting adding short yardage on two rushes, the Seminoles moved from their own 18 to the Ohio State 35. Two straight misfired passes brought up a fourth down and FSU had to be satisfied with a field goal try. Freshman kicker Mike Rendina toed the ball straight and accurately, but almost not far enough. The ball hit the crossbar and bounced over, and the OSU lead was narrowed to 7-3 on the 52 yard effort.

Just over two minutes later the Seminoles grabbed the lead for the first time. Ohio State's drive bogged down after Schlichter had hit Cedric Anderson for a 12-yard gain and a first down at the FSU 33. Three plays netted just two yards and the Buckeyes were set to punt.

Freshman Gary Alders had his punt blocked by Florida State's Ron Hester. After a mad scramble which had the ball bouncing or being batted in the air and unfortunately towards the Ohio State goal, Hester managed to grab it in mid-air at about the five and dashed into the end zone.

Schlichter, who would finish with 31 completions in 52 attempts for 458 yards — all school records — got the Buckeyes started on a scoring drive late in the first quarter. After four completions in five attempts, three of them to Gary Williams covering 19, 14 and nine yards, the Bucks had a first down at the Seminole 14. Spencer

gained three at left guard as the quarter ended.

Jimmy Gayle went over left tackle for four before taking a wide option pitch from Schlichter and skirting right end for the final seven. The scoring drive covered 80 yards in 14 plays with the TD coming with 14:20 showing on the second quarter clock. Atha was wide left on his conversion attempt and the Bucks led 13-10.

That score was the first of four touchdowns that would be scored in less than six minutes of the wild and woolly second quarter.

Florida State, returning to action after a week off, marched 80 yards in just over two minutes to recapture the lead. The big play in the drive was a 37-yard tackle breaking run off a draw play by Whiting. But, after Whiting's run had given the Seminoles a first and goal at the Ohio State nine, the OSU defense stiffened. An incomplete pass, broken up in the



Jimmy Gayle runs for some of his total of only 21 yards rushing against Florida State. The Bucks' rushing total of 38 yards was the third lowest for the team in modern history. The Bucks were held to 22 yards by Michigan State in 1965.

end zone by OSU's Garcia Lane; a four-yard keeper up the middle by Stockstill and another incomplete pass under the rush of a blitz by Jeff Cisco and Marcus Marek of the Buckeyes and Florida State was going to go for a field goal. Or at least that's the way it looked.

Kelly Lowery, listed as a defensive end but a backup quarterback last season, took the snap from center, raised up and

dashed around right end for a fiveyard touchdown run. Lowery's score, his first of the year and the second of his career, capped a nine play, 80-yard drive and came with 12:10 still to play in the first half.

But if the Seminoles could strike that quick, Ohio State wanted to prove it could strike even faster. And it did. Spencer returned the kick to the 27 where Schlichter

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Bruce Frustrated By Missed Tackles

By Jim Wharton

A somber Earle Bruce, frustrated after watching his Ohio State football team lose its first game of the season, played an abbreviated version of "meet the press" after the Buckeyes' 36-27 loss to Florida State.

"Florida State played a fine football game today and did a great job against the Buckeyes," Bruce said in his opening statement. "They moved the ball well and got the opportunities in the specialty teams area with a blocked punt for a touchdown and a fake field goal for a touchdown. That accounted for 14 of their points."

Bruce, obviously at a loss for words, spent a few seconds pondering the final statistics handed him by associate sports information director Steve Snapp.

"I can't remember an Ohio State team being 31 rushes for 38 yards," Bruce said. "Also I can't remember an Ohio State team throwing 52

"I think Florida State, as the momentum grew, wanted the football game."

— Earle Bruce

passes, 31 completions, for about 458 yards. And we had some dropped balls and receivers open all day."

Bruce, unaccustomed to taking part in post-game press conferences after a loss, having coached only five losing games in his three years at OSU, was fidgety and definitely uneasy with the situation.

Unlike previous games which his team had won, Bruce was not his usual self. Normally one to offer almost non-stop dialogue about the game of that day, Bruce waited somewhat impatiently for the questions to come.

When asked about the crucial series in which the Bucks failed to score after having a first down at the FSU two, Bruce replied: "You get three chances at the three yard line and don't get the ball in, four chances really, we came up short and turned the ball over. That could have made a difference in the way we played."

Indeed, Florida State, which Bruce said "totally dominated the game," turned that possession into a relatively easy 99 yard touchdown drive to make a 30-21 lead into one which stood at an even wider margin of 36-21.

"I think Florida State, as the momentum grew, wanted the football game," Bruce continued. "There's no doubt about that. The momentum grew. It was up and

down the field in the first half wasn't it?"

Bruce was asked if he felt the ease with which the Buckeyes scored their first touchdown might have been responsible for a little bit of "this one's going to be easy" by his team.

"I don't think that was a factor. I think the blocked punt, the fake field goal were the factors. As the game went on Florida State got momentum and that hurt. I think it would have been nice to put the ball in the end zone on that third and two just to make it a ball game."

Was his team prepared for a fake field goal?

"We had someone that's supposed to contain that football. He didn't see the moving. They stood up and he didn't see them so he didn't contain them. Florida State has been known for all kinds of trickery on the kicking game. We should have been prepared for that. We practiced for that. It's execution. Just like the blocked punt. When you have a punt blocked, that's not what you want."

Bruce paid his compliments to the Florida State team.

"I think they opened up their attack a little more and just passed the heck out of the ball," he said. "Bobby Bowden's to be commended for bringing his team back from Nebraska (a 34-14 loss two weeks earlier) and doing a good job at Ohio State."

About his plan of attack going into the intersectional clash of two outstanding football teams, Bruce said: "I thought we could mix the run and the pass. They (FSU) did an outstanding job of defending it. They made some tackles and did a good job against the run. We weren't able to rush it in there."

What about the apparent dejection shown by the Ohio State players on the sidelines near the end of the game?

"I wouldn't want rejoicing on the sidelines when you lose a football game. I would think that basically we would be let down and be disappointed. Just like emotions that you might have after you lost a football game. I hope that they have a lot of courage and the confidence to come back from this defeat."

Will the Buckeyes bounce back and show improvement?

"I don't know about that," Bruce said. "I hope that it comes. I'm totally disappointed in our tackling, missed tackles, total lack of tackling, total lack of concentration and desire. We've got to put that together, rather quickly, I might add."

"We've got to be a lot more disciplined. We need a lot more physical toughness on the part of the Buckeyes. I would think the Ohio State football team will have to do better."



A Somber Earle Bruce Ponders Questions

Wharton's View . . .

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How about the efforts of receiver Cedric Anderson? His eight catches for 158 yards would have made headlines on any other day, but they didn't against Florida State because teammate Gary Williams hauled in 13. Anderson caught just one pass in the three previous games this season.

A visitor to the press box during the game was golfing great Jack Nicklaus, a graduate of Ohio State. Nicklaus' son Steve is a freshman wide receiver on the Florida State team, but did not see any action.

Also present in the press box were representatives of the Orange Bowl in Miami. Florida State has appeared in the Orange Bowl following each of the last two seasons. Ohio State lost to Colorado in the Jan. 1, 1977 Orange Bowl.



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Takes Over As Buckeye Quarterback

Offenbecher Has Mixed Results

By Michael Pramikh

Brent Offenbecher waited for his moment for more than three years. When his moment finally came, it was consistent with the effectiveness of the entire Ohio State football team this season—good and bad.

"Well, it's a loss," he said of his first substantial action as a Buckeye. "I think we had some good things that we did, but there were too many bad things."

"I'm happy that I got to play. It would have been that much sweeter if we'd have won."

Offenbecher could sense that he might get a shot at playing Saturday. He was second on the Buckeye depth chart going into the game.

"I felt that if Michael (Tomczak) didn't do real well today that I might get in to play," Offenbecher said, "and I just got my chance."

Tomczak was less than effective in the first half, completing only two of eight passes for 13 yards. He had one pass intercepted, and Offenbecher did get his chance. And at first, his appearance was nothing short of heroic.

Offenbecher entered the game with 9:04 left in the second quarter, following a 30-yard Seminole touchdown drive set up by a Tomczak interception. The score was 21-10 in favor of FSU. By the

time the half ended, Offenbecher had completed five of eight passes for 109 yards and one touchdown. The halftime score was 21-17.

"Coach (Glen) Mason (offensive coordinator) came over to me and told me to get some snaps from Craig Pack," Offenbecher said. "He didn't say that I was going in, but just to be ready."

"I thought I didn't throw the ball exceptionally well. Our receivers made some great catches. They were fantastic."

Probably the greatest catch for the Buckeyes was when Tim Spencer pulled in Offenbecher's first touchdown pass of his OSU career. It came with 2:18 left in the first half. Offenbecher faded back from the FSU 31, turned to the right, then came back left and found Spencer in the left corner of the end zone.

"It was actually a broken play," Offenbecher said. "It's called a 'zoom' pass and we isolate the 'z' back — Cedric Anderson — and I came off the wrong way."

"I noticed I came off the wrong way and turned back around. I was really running for my life and just saw Timmy Spencer running for the corner of the end zone. He just faded off and made a nice catch."

But the second half was not to be as kind to Offenbecher as was the first. He was intercepted three times as OSU failed to score. In the meantime, the Seminoles doubled the Buckeyes' score in a 34-17 win.

"You can't turn over the ball — my three interceptions and Mike's one — you can't do that and expect to win," Offenbecher said. "Two or three years ago Ohio State was leading the nation in less turnovers. We were averaging less than one a game. You just can't win with turnovers. You just can't do it."

Although Offenbecher looked brilliant at times, the OSU quarterback picture is still a foggy one. Coach Earle Bruce will attest to that.

"I think there's going to have to be a total re-evaluation of the quarterback position," Bruce said. "We've got to get a lot of consistency established at that position. I thought Brent Offenbecher played well at times. I think there are some things he's got to think about."

"Of course Mike Tomczak will have to do that too. He's a young quarterback, and he's got the ability to come back a little. But I would think Brent Offenbecher would be number one right now."

If Offenbecher starts the Wisconsin game, it will be his first start as a Buckeye. He transferred from Wake Forest after his freshman season in 1979, sat out 1980 under the transfer rule, and saw only junior varsity action last year.



New Quarterback Brent Offenbecher

He played briefly in the Buckeyes' 31-10 win over Michigan State, leading OSU to its last score. Overall, Offenbecher thinks he can move the team, something which hasn't occurred regularly for the last six quarters.

"Oh yeah, I think every player on this team is confident they can play," he said. "And if they weren't they wouldn't be here."

"This next week we're just gonna come down on Monday, and it's going to start. We can still go to the Rose Bowl. All our guys know that, and believe me, we are not dead."

The Buckeyes may not be dead, but a second consecutive four-interception game makes them look rather sickly. The only way to resurrect a humiliating 2-2 beginning of the season is to start from scratch at practice. Offenbecher agrees.

"I think we've just got to work on not turning the ball over," he said.

"Turning the ball over is something you can help. You hold on to the ball, and you don't throw it up for grabs. You really can't practice on not throwing interceptions, but I think this next week we're gonna come back."

One aspect of the game that didn't bother Offenbecher was pressure. Playing his first game in front of 89,000-plus fans, was no problem, he said.

"To me a game's a game, and I get in there, and honest to god I don't even know there's people in there," he said with a laugh. "There's too many other things on your mind. The only time I ever hear them is when we score a touchdown."

"I love pressure. I love to play under pressure. That's what football's about. If it was easy, I don't think anybody would enjoy it. It's a challenge, and you've just got to accept it — just go out and play as hard as you can."

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(614) 486-2202

Editor

Frank L. Moskowicz

Photography

Jim Kirkpatrick
Rick Thomas

Contributors

Tim Doulon
Ray Stein
Mark Naegele
Craig E. Merz
Pat McSweeney
Rich Exner
Philip M. Brown, Jr.
Steve Siegfried

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Will Offenbecher Cure Ohio State's Ills?

At the beginning of this Ohio State football season, head coach Earle Bruce was faced with finding a replacement for Art Schlichter. And now, after four games have been played, the problem seems to have become a crisis.

When the Buckeyes took the field before their 34-17 loss to Florida State, sophomore Mike Tomczak was burdened with the task of trying to make the masses forget about Stanford and all the John Elways of the world.

But when the door to the press room opened following the game, a new face walked briskly in and was immediately swamped by a horde of reporters. It was not Tomczak, for he had fallen by the wayside in the first half as his passing numbers dropped grimly to 20 of 56 on the season (293 yards) and his interception total raised menacingly to eight.

The new face belonged to junior Brent Offenbecher, a Massillon, Ohio product, via Wake Forest, who, according to Bruce, is now the starting quarterback for Ohio State — at least until next week.

So for the first time in a long, long time in Columbus, the Buckeyes will head into the bulk of their Big Ten season with a 2-2 record, a two-game losing streak and a shaky confidence in the man calling the signals.

With Stanford still on the minds of many, a rumble of trouble began

View From The Press Box

With Dave Waitkus

as the record crowd of 89,491 in Ohio Stadium jealously watched Florida State quarterback Kelly Lowrey. The Lake City, Fla. junior — who was also elevated for the game above former starter Blair Williams — superbly pitched and passed his way around the over-worked Ohio State defense. For the second straight week, the spotlight belonged to the opposition quarterback, an occurrence in Columbus which is about as popular as a Michigan T-shirt worn on High Street in late November.

Meanwhile, Tomczak was showing bursts of good offensive movement and streaks of high passes and poor execution. Bruce admitted after the game that Tomczak was a suspect starter after Stanford, but had removed the doubt with a good week of practice. In other words, practice makes perfect but the points must go up on the board on Saturday.

The tension of instability at quarterback eased momentarily in the first quarter after Kelvin Bell set up an early Ohio State lead with a fumble recovery on the Seminoles' 12-yard line.

The Hall of Fame game celebration was quelled quickly, however, as Lowrey went to work and tied the score.

Grumbles returned as the Buckeyes almost wasted a superb 75-yard kickoff return by Kelvin Lindsey, settling for a Rich Spangler field goal after Tomczak threw way over the head of Gary Williams on one attempt and had a second pass dropped by Jimmy Gayle. Ohio State quarterbacks do not get the ball on the enemy's 25 and fail to score.

The *coup de grace*, however, came on the next Ohio State series. In three successive plays, with Florida State's loaded offense ahead 14-10, Tomczak had a pass knocked down by cornerback Gary Henry; heaved a second pass way over the head of Williams; and ended his day with an interception to safety Larry Harris.

From my press box perch, it was easy to see offensive coordinator Glen Mason as he huddled with Offenbecher. It was just as easy to see the look of anguish on Mike Tomczak's sweat-soaked.

Now if Offenbecher could have quit at halftime, there would have

been no doubt as to whom the quarterback position rightfully belonged.

Coming into the game with just one rush for three yards and nary a pass thrown, Offenbecher: hit on five of eight tries, two of which were to Williams for 48 yards; had 148 passing yards to his credit; and threw one touchdown pass to tailback Tim Spencer, which cut the Seminoles' lead to 21-17 — all in the last 9:04 of the second period.

And then came the second half. In a nightmarish 30 minutes for the Buckeyes — in a game which was hoped would be a springboard for the upcoming Wisconsin contest — the OSU attack faltered. Offenbecher threw three interceptions and hit only six of 16 passes and the Buckeye offense wilted in the 80-degree heat.

Meanwhile, Lowrey and Blair Williams, equally talented at running the wide-open FSU offense, feasted on the sputtering OSU defense and piled up 13 more points. The win, coupled with last season's 36-27 victory in Ohio Stadium, gave Florida State a rarity — two straight wins over the Buckeyes on their home turf.

Sound like the makings of a crisis. It was a wonder that Bruce didn't need an ambulance.

But hold the stretcher — at least for one week. As Offenbecher was bombarded with questions — after

Continued On Page 11

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Despite close coverage by Florida State's Larry Harris, Cedric Anderson pulled in this pass. Anderson had two receptions for 37 yards against the Seminoles.

Stumbling Bucks Fall To Seminoles

Ohio State, through its own ineptness, did something that hadn't been seen around Ohio Stadium since 1971 when it lost to Florida State on Oct. 2 — the Buckeyes dropped back-to-back home games.

Florida State ran past the slower Buckeyes to a 34-17 triumph, the second season in succession the Seminoles have come into Columbus and set Ohio State on its ears.

FSU coach Bobby Bowden thought maybe his team had caught Ohio State looking ahead to the following week's game against Wisconsin and resumption of Big Ten play. If so, the glance cost the Buckeyes dearly. For the first time in 15 years, the Bucks stand 2-2, four games into the season.

"How could you be fired up about Florida State," asked Bowden after the Seminoles' victory. "I read in the paper an Ohio State player's quote that they were concerned about the Big Ten race. That was good for us."

Ohio State coach Earle Bruce admitted that he must work on the Buckeyes' mental outlook for the game with Wisconsin.

"Now is the time you work on the mental side of football," said

Bruce. "It is probably the biggest thing in football. We've got to play better than we have been. That is the job of the head coach."

And, judging by an inability to move the ball offensively, Bruce has his work cut out for him.

Things didn't start badly for the Buckeyes, Tim Spencer taking an option pitch from quarterback Mike Tomczak and dashing into the end zone behind Gary Williams from six yards out for a touchdown on Ohio State's second possession.

Defensive back Kelvin Bell had set up the short, 12-yard scoring march by recovering a fumble by quarterback Kelly Lowrey one play after OSU's Karl Edwards had punted.

But it didn't take the swift Seminoles long to draw even. A 39-yard return of the kickoff by Greg Allen and Florida State had good field position at its own 40.

Eight plays later, FSU faced a second-and-goal at the Ohio State 11. The Seminoles proceeded to work a trick play to perfection.

Running back Cedric Jones took a pitchout and headed right with the flow of the OSU defense heading in the same direction. Instead of carrying through with

Continued On Page 11



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*Points To Mistakes In Explaining Loss***Bruce Says Bucks Weren't Worn Down**

Ohio State football coach Earle Bruce was not in a mood to talk after his Buckeyes had absorbed a 34-17 whipping at the hands of Florida State on Oct. 2. But he did.

"There's not too much to say about that game," said Bruce as he opened his post-game press conference after making media members wait for over an hour after the completion of the game.

"Florida State played a fine football game, ran the ball up and down," said Bruce. "At times the defense responded and stopped them, recovered some fumbles. But they (the Seminoles) have some very fine skill people and they did a great job today."

"From our standpoint, I think you saw a great split end in Gary Williams make some really fine catches."

Fine and dandy Earle, but those were not the lines of thinking we had in mind. Explain the problems that confounded the Buckeyes?

"You probably saw too many mistakes on the part of the Ohio State football team," said Bruce, "interceptions, a fumble on the kickoff

**Earle Bruce**

BSH File Photo

when we were just down by 10 points. We had the opportunities to come back; we moved the ball well but we didn't move it well at times when we needed to."

"Obviously there's a lot of thinking's got to go into Ohio State football right now, over the weekend and next week in order for the Big Ten football season to resume with Wisconsin."

It was suggested to Bruce that Florida State coach Bobby Bowden felt the Buckeyes had worn down physically in the second half, thus allowing the Seminoles to score two touchdowns while holding the Bucks scoreless.

"I don't think we were dead in the second half," said Bruce. "I thought we played fairly well in the third quarter except for some mistakes, obvious mistakes. You can't make those mistakes against Florida State. You'd like them to make some mistakes against you. They did fumble and we did recover a few. But you can't do what we did. You can't throw the

Continued On Page 16

PICK AND WIN!

Pick the most winners in Buckeye Sports Bulletin's Pick and Win Contest and win the following: A \$7.50 gift certificate from Mole's Record Exchange; a \$7.50 gift certificate from Morningstar Natural Foods; a 16" 2-item Pizza or 2 giant 16" subs from Scarlata & Gray; the record album and cassette tape "Great Ohio State Memories"; an Ohio State decal; a "Carmen, Ohio" tray; and an Instant Millionaire certificate.

Rules: In the appropriate box, check your pick for the winner in each of the games below. Also give your prediction for the total combined number of points to be scored in the tie-breaker.

The contest winner will be the person to choose the most winners. In case of a tie, the person among those tied who comes closest to predicting the combined score in the tie-breaker will be declared winner. If, after the tie-breaker, there is still a tie, a special drawing will be held to determine the winner.

Entries must be mailed to **Pick and Win #4, Buckeye Sports Bulletin, P.O. Box 12453, Columbus, Ohio, 43212**. One entry per person please. All entries must be received by the Friday before the games involved. The contest is not open to employees of Columbus Sports Publications or their families and employees of companies contributing prizes for the contest or their families.

Pick and Win #1 winner: Richard Stewart of Columbus selected 19 winners on Sept. 25, failing only to choose Penn State over Nebraska.

Games of Oct. 16

- | | |
|---|---|
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Wisconsin | <input type="checkbox"/> Michigan State |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Georgia | <input type="checkbox"/> Vanderbilt |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Maryland | <input type="checkbox"/> Wake Forest |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tennessee | <input type="checkbox"/> Alabama |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Auburn | <input type="checkbox"/> Georgia Tech |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clemson | <input type="checkbox"/> Duke |
| <input type="checkbox"/> North Carolina | <input type="checkbox"/> North Carolina St. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Penn State | <input type="checkbox"/> Syracuse |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bowling Green | <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Illinois |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Virginia Tech | <input type="checkbox"/> West Virginia |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Central Michigan | <input type="checkbox"/> Toledo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pittsburgh | <input type="checkbox"/> Temple |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Michigan | <input type="checkbox"/> Ohio U. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> South Carolina | <input type="checkbox"/> Furman |

Tie-Breaker: The combined total points of the Memphis State-Cincinnati game: ().

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Ohio State-FSU, Season Statistics

Seminoles 34, Buckeyes 17

FLORIDA STATE	7	14	0	13	34
OHIO STATE	10	7	0	0	17

OSU — Spencer 8 run (Spangler kick) 7:52
 FSU — Lowrey 11 pass from C. Jones (Hall kick) 4:11
 OSU — Spangler 40 field goal 3:09
 FSU — Mowatt 6 pass from Lowrey (Hall kick) 13:41
 FSU — C. Allen 7 run (Hall kick) 9:05
 OSU — Spencer 31 pass from Offenbecher (Spangler kick) 2:11
 FSU — Hester 9 pass from Bl. Williams (kick failed) 11:54
 FSU — R. Williams 10 run (Hall kick) 10:04
 Att. — 89,491

	FSU	OSU
First Downs	24	18
Rushing	14	10
Passing	10	7
Penalty	0	1
Rushes-Yards	53-274	38-154
Passing Yards	202	217
Passes	30-19-0	32-13-4
Offensive Plays	83	70
Total Net Yards	476	371
Third Down Eff.	8-15	5-12
Punts	5-37.6	3-42.0
Fumbles-Lost	5-4	2-1
Penalties	7-50	5-35
Time Of Possession	33:36	26:24

Individual Statistics

RUSHING (Att.-Yds.) — FLORIDA STATE: G. Allen 18-104; R. Williams 16-77; Burnett 5-24; T. Smith 4-24; Lowrey 4-(-1); B. Allen 3-27; C. Jones 2-11; McKinnon 1-8. OHIO STATE: Spencer 16-99; J. Gayle 6-31; Offenbecher 7-(-10); Tomczak 4-26; Broadnax 4-9; Anderson 1-0.
 PASSING (Att.-Comp.-Int.-Yds.-TD) — FLORIDA STATE: Lowrey 23-14-0-130-1; C. Jones 1-0-11-1; Bl. Williams 6-4-0-61-1. OHIO STATE: Tomczak 8-2-1-13-0; Offenbecher 24-11-3-204-1.

RECEIVING (Rec.-Yds.) — FLORIDA STATE: Johnson 5-90; Mowatt 3-14; C. Jones 3-8; Burnett 2-16; Lowrey 1-11; Hester 1-9; Wheeler 1-11; Allen 1-20; R. Williams 2-23. OHIO STATE: Williams 5-104; Anderson 2-37; Spencer 2-36; Jemison 2-25; Frank 2-15.

PUNTING (No.-Ave.-Lg.) — FLORIDA STATE: Harlow 5-37.6-43. OHIO STATE: Edwards 3-42.0-54.

PUNT RETURNS (No.-Ave.-Lg.) — FLORIDA STATE: C. Jones 1-(-2). OHIO STATE: Lane 5-9.2-19.

KICKOFF RETURNS (No.-Ave.-Lg.) — FLORIDA STATE: G. Allen 3-27.7-39. OHIO STATE: Lindsey 2-48.5-75; J. Gayle 1-22.0-22.

FUMBLES RECOVERED BY — FLORIDA STATE: Harris. OHIO STATE: Bell, Riehm, S. Gayle, Hill.

INTERCEPTIONS — FLORIDA STATE: Young (2), Harris, McCrary. OHIO STATE: None.

TACKLES FOR LOSS — FLORIDA STATE: McLean, Harris, Fojtik, Carreker, Ponder. OHIO STATE: Foster (3), Tatum (2), Giuliani (2), Riehm, Crecelius, Czyzynski.

TACKLES (Solo-Ass.-Tot.) — FLORIDA STATE: McLean 3-5-8; Harris 3-3-8; Young 2-5-7; Clayton 4-2-6; Hutchinson 3-3-6; Fojtik 4-1-5; Carreker 2-3-5; McCrary 3-2-5; Ponder 3-1-4; Roe 0-3-3; Campbell 0-3-3; Restal 2-1-3; Taylor 1-2-3; B. Williams 1-1-2; Henry 2-0-2; Houston 1-1-2; Matt 1-1-2; Mack 2-0-2; Milligan 1-1-2; Burnett 1-0-1. OHIO STATE: Lane 5-8-13; Marek 3-9-12; Tatum 6-5-11; Kolic 0-11-11; Foster 5-5-10; Riehm 2-5-7; Hill 2-5-7; Lewis 2-3-5; Anthony 3-2-5; Crecelius 3-2-5; Lowdermilk 1-3-4; S. Gayle 1-3-4; Lowry 0-3-3; B. Lee 1-2-3; Morrill 2-1-3; Johnson 0-3-3; Czyzynski 1-2-3; Giuliani 2-0-2; Cobb 0-2-2; Bell 2-0-2; Backus 1-1-2; Keuchler 0-1-1; Spencer 1-0-1; Krowicz 1-0-1.

Players In The Game

FLORIDA STATE — Johnson, H. Jones, W. Thompson, Bowden, Thompson, Render, Riopelle, McCormick, Restivo, Roberts, Dukes, Gavin, Widner, Harp, Mowatt, Wheeler, Mobley, Lowrey, Bl. Williams, R. Williams, G. Allen, B. Allen, Burnett, C. Jones, Smith, Hester, McKinnon, Hall, Rendina, Campbell, Gray, Jax, Fojtik, Nichols, Ponder, I. Williams, Carreker, Reyes, Ionata, McLean, Br. Williams, Houston, Young, Mack, Matt, Wyatt, Roe, Taylor, Merson, Barwick, Clayton, Harris, Milligan, Wessel, Kinsey, McCrary, Henry, Harlowe.

OHIO STATE — Frank, Dwelle, Roberts, Krowicz, Zalenski, Palahnuk, Pack, Dooley, Whitmer, Lukens, Lachey, Smith, Carson, Williams, Jemison, Tomczak, Offenbecher, Spencer, J. Gayle, Lindsey, Broadnax, Myers, Byars, Anderson, Spangler, Lowrey, Lee, Foster, Crecelius, S. Gayle, Lowdermilk, Giuliani, Riehm, Morrill, Braun, Tatum, Czyzynski, Alders, Heuston, Cobb, Kolic, Johnson, Marek, Backus, Lane, Palmer, Lewis, Richardson, Hill, Keuchler, Cisco, Bell, Anthony, Gotttron, Edwards.

1982 OHIO STATE FOOTBALL STATISTICS

RECORD: Won 2, Lost 2 (Big Ten 1-0)

	OPP	OHIO	RUSHING	ATT	GAIN	LOSS	NET	AVG	TD	LG
First Downs	75	70								
Rushing	35	45	Spencer	93	417	30	387	4.1	3	15
Passing	37	23	Broadnax	38	179	1	178	4.6	4	22
Penalty	3	2	J. Gayle	35	143	15	128	3.6	0	26
Net Yards Rushing	636	810	Tomczak	20	99	8	91	4.5	1	22
Attempts	157	200	Lindsey	3	28	0	28	9.3	1	17
Yards Gained	705	880	Byars	1	3	0	3	3.0	0	3
Yards Lost	69	70	Marek	1	2	0	2	2.0	0	2
Average Per Game	159.0	202.5	Offenbecher	8	9	16	-7	-0.3	0	3
Net Yards Passing	776	560	Anderson	1	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Completed	142	81								
Had Intercepted	69	32								
Average Per Game	194.0	140.0								
Total Net Gain	1412	1370	Tomczak	56	20	8	293	3.57	1	42
Total Plays	299	281	Offenbecher	24	11	3	204	4.58	1	31
Average Per Game	353.0	342.5	Williams	1	1	0	63	1.000	0	63

	OPP	OHIO	PASSING	ATT	COMP	INT	YDS	PCT.	TD	LG
Fumbles	12	7								
Lost	6	5								
Penalties	22	17								
Yards	204	150	Williams	14	267	19.0	1	42		
Interceptions	11	7	Anderson	6	133	22.1	0	63		
Yards	98	82	Frank	4	57	14.2	0	24		
Punts-Blocked	23-0	18-1	Spencer	4	55	13.7	1	31		
Total Yards	921	699	Jemison	3	43	14.3	0	18		
Average Per Punt	40.0	38.8	Lanese	1	5	5.0	0	5		
Punt Returns	6	19								
Yards	50	173								
Kickoff Returns	13	10								
Yards	253	295								
Time of Possession (Avg)	28:52	31:02								
Third Down Efficiency	29-63	25-56								
Quarterback Sacks By	4-19	5-32								
Points	81	89								
Touchdowns	10	11								
Rush-Pass-Other	4-6-0	9-2-0								
EXP Kick Att-Made	10-9	11-11								
EXP Rush Att-Made	0-0	0-0								
EXP Pass Att-Made	0-0	0-0								
Field Goals Att-Made	9-4	6-4								
Avg Pts Per Game	20.2	22.2								

	OPP	OHIO	RECEIVING	NO	YDS	AVG	TD	LG
Score By Quarters								
Opponents	1	2						
Ohio State	14	21						
	23	23						
	31	0						
	35	89						

	OPP	OHIO	SCORING	TD	R-F-O	EXP-K	ATT-PG	PTS
Opponents	1	2						
Ohio State	14	21						
	23	23						
	31	0						
	35	89						

	OPP	OHIO	PUNT RETURNS	NO	YDS	AVG	TD	LG
Opponents	1	2						
Ohio State	14	21						
	23	23						
	31	0						
	35	89						

	OPP	OHIO	KICKOFF RETURNS	NO	YDS	AVG	TD	LG
Opponents	1	2						
Ohio State	14	21						
	23	23						
	31	0						
	35	89						

	OPP	OHIO	INTERCEPTION RET	NO	YDS	AVG	TD	LG
Opponents	1	2						
Ohio State	14	21						
	23	23						
	31	0						
	35	89						

	OPP	OHIO	FIELD GOALS	SP	26+	31-	40+	27-	(Michigan State)	(Stanford)	(Florida State)
Opponents	1	2									
Ohio State	14	21									
	23	23									
	31	0									
	35	89									

	OPP	OHIO	FG DISTANCE	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+	Total
Opponents	1	2						
Ohio State	14	21						
	23	23						
	31	0						
	35	89						

	OPP	OHIO	PASS INTERCEPTIONS	COBB	2	Foster	1	Marek	2	Tatum	1	Bell	1
Opponents	1	2											
Ohio State	14	21											
	23	23											
	31	0											
	35	89											


	OPP	OHIO	PASSES BROKEN UP	Lane	6	Marek	1	Hill	3	Tatum	1	Helm	2	S. Gayle	1	Lewis	2	Anthony	1	Cobb	1
Opponents	1	2																			
Ohio State	14	21																			
	23	23																			
	31	0																			
	35	89																			

	OPP	OHIO	FUMBLES RECOVERED																		
Opponents	1	2																			
Ohio State	14	21																			
	23	23																			
	31	0																			
	35	89																			

	OPP	OHIO	TOUCHDOWN SAVES																		
Opponents	1	2																			
Ohio State	14	21																			
	23	23																			
	31	0																			
	35	89																			

	OPP	OHIO	BLOCKED KICKS																		
Opponents	1	2																			
Ohio State	14	21																			
	23	23																			
	31	0																			
	35	89																			

	OPP	OHIO	DEFENSIVE STATISTICS	PLAYER	SOLO	ASSIST	TOTAL	LOSS	SACK	QB
Opponents	1	2								
Ohio State	14	21								
	23	23								
	31	0								
	35	89								



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Bowden Liked Heat

Continued From Page 7
the rushing attempt, Jones passed back to his left to a wide-open Lowrey, who dove into the end zone for the TD with 4:11 remaining in the opening period.

Kelvin Lindsey, a junior out of Sandusky, Ohio, brought the record-setting crowd of 89,941 to its feet with a spectacular 75-yard runback of the ensuing kickoff.

But a Tomczak pass far over the head of Gary Williams in the end zone; a two-yard gain at left tackle by Jimmy Gayle and an incompletion when Gayle dropped a pass in the right flat, and the Buckeyes had to settle for a 40-yard field goal from freshman Rich Spangler for a 10-7 lead with 50 ticks left on the first-quarter clock.

Florida State stormed right back, moving 80 yards in 12 plays, with Lowrey firing for the score on a six-yard pass - another of the cross-fire variety - to Zeke Mowatt.

Eight plays later, the Seminoles were back in business again, this time thanks to a 35-yard return of a Tomczak interception by Larry Harris. Spencer saved the touchdown by catching up to Harris from behind.

Allen, a sophomore who led FSU in rushing last season but is not a starter this time around, went the final seven yards on a pitch to the right. Phil Hall's conversion boot was good and Florida State had grabbed a 21-10 lead with 9:05 left in the first half.

With junior Brent Offenbecher taking over for Tomczak, Ohio State began a march of its own. But the drive stalled and Spangler missed wide left on a three-point attempt from 27 yards.

The Buckeyes got the ball back six plays later when Chris Riehm fell on a Mowatt fumble after the latter was hit hard by Rowland Tatum following a pass reception.

Two keepers by Offenbecher netted three yards before the

transfer from Wake Forest connected with Williams for a 21-yard gain to the FSU 31. Following a time out by the Buckeyes at 2:18, Offenbecher and Spencer hooked up on a 31-yard scoring play into the left corner of the end zone.

A pair of touchdowns in the second half and the Florida crew was on its way back south with the victory.

For Bowden, the win meant more than a 3-1 record, with home games coming up against Southern Illinois and East Carolina.

"This win puts things back in our hands because, if we wanted national prominence, we had to win today," he said.

Bowden pinned the unexpected one-sided victory - the Seminoles were eight-point underdogs - to the northern heat. It was a muggy 80 degrees midway through the game, and much warmer on the artificial carpet of the stadium.

"The weather was all in our favor," Bowden said. "It's like throwing Brer Rabbit in the briar patch. It worked against Ohio State. They just tired in the second half. The heat got to them."

Lowrey said it differently after throwing for one touchdown and catching a pass for another score.

"We ran real well against Ohio State," said Lowrey, who was forced to leave the game late in the third quarter because of a leg cramp. "because we're quicker than they are."

Bruce blamed the loss on poor tackling on the part of his squad. Missed tackles helped the Seminoles to a lot of their 476 total yards. Ohio State had yielded 970 yards in those two straight home losses to Stanford and Florida State.

"I don't think we were worn out," Bruce said. "When you lose, there's a direct correlation to missed tackles and there were a lot of missed tackles."

Lanese Leads Buckeyes Past Junior Wolverines

Freshman tailback Mike Lanese rushed for 122 yards and scored a pair of touchdowns to lead the Ohio State junior varsity to a 17-6 win over the Michigan JV squad at Michigan Sept. 27.

Lanese, a Mayfield (Ohio) product, capped a 12-play, 40-yard scoring drive by plunging over from the one with nine seconds to play in the first quarter. Scott Neff converted for the 7-0 lead.

Byron Lee, a freshman from Columbus, set up the junior Buckeyes' second score with a fumble recovery. After Lee came up with the ball, a 21-yard run on a third-and-10 by quarterback Scott Woolf, a sophomore from Beloit, Ohio, paved the way for a 22-yard

field goal by Neff, a freshman out of Spring Valley, Ohio.

The Wolverines drove 83 yards on nine plays for their only touchdown. Greg Powell hit Sim Nelson on a 23-yard scoring pass to make the score 10-6. The try for a two-point conversion failed.

Ohio State put the game on ice with 13 seconds left in the contest, when Lanese capped a 70-yard drive with his second one-yard scoring plunge of the day. Dave McFarland (senior, Oberlin, Ohio) added the 17th point.

Freshman Thomas Johnson, a Detroit, Mich. product, helped the Buckeye defense with an interception.

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Brent Confident

Continued From Page 6

the game, he tried to assure everyone that he was the cure to any Buckeye offensive illness.

"I can move this offense," stated the new signal-caller with firmness in his voice. "We are not dead and we will bounce back. I know that."

Offenbecher added that large crowds do not bother him - a bonus from his formative years at Massillon - and that he can get the ball to the receivers consistently.

So with everything, at least according to Offenbecher, back in its proper perspective, Ohio State will go about business as unusual (two straight home losses) in preparation for Wisconsin. And if the Buck doesn't stop at Offenbecher, the sarcastic calls for the return of Woody Hayes and Art Schlichter may get very loud in Earle's ear.

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The View From 15th and High

By Frank L. Moskowitz, BSB Editor

Reading Newspapers No Fun For Buckeyes

That the Ohio State football team is having problems, seems fairly obvious.

Why the team has those problems is not as easy a question to tackle.

Football coaches often complain of how every sportswriter thinks he is an expert on the game and thus feels qualified to second-guess the coach. Let me be one of the first sportswriters to admit in print that I am not a grid expert.

Baseball's my game. Ask me why the Atlanta Braves have done so well this season, and I'll tell you that Gene Garber and Steve Bedrosian have been excellent in relief all season and Jerry Royster has really been a sparkplug down the stretch.

But ask me to tell you exactly why Ohio State has lost two straight games at home, and maybe I don't have a definite answer.

Yet, while I don't know as much as I perhaps should about football, I do know a bit about the power of the media and about Columbus and football at Ohio State University.

Certainly, every loss the Ohio State football team suffers and every mistake that the team

makes, is very well-chronicled in the papers and on radio and TV.

Let's face it. Players must read this stuff. They must hear themselves criticized repeatedly on sports talk shows and see it in write-in columns. I wonder what kind of demoralizing effect this has on players as individuals and the team as a whole.

My first fear after the unnecessary loss to Stanford was that young quarterback Mike Tomczak may have ended up emotionally scarred for life after experiencing the reaction to what is now commonly known as 'The Play.' Tomczak's performance against Florida State did little to allay my fears.

You had to wonder if Tomczak had more on his mind than just the Seminoles as he got off to such a slow start.

I guess the point of all this is that Ohio State football can be some sort of self-feeding, self-destructing monster. When a top-notch high school athlete comes to Ohio State, he is aware of the type of publicity an Ohio State athlete receives, the type of pressure to perform that any Buckeye feels.

That type of attention, that type

of adulation, that type of publicity is one of the reasons a player comes to Ohio State.

However, when things start to go wrong, that publicity, that attention, the winning tradition at Ohio State can all come back to haunt you. A player begins to doubt himself, a team begins to doubt itself because it reads in the paper, hears on the radio that it has reason to doubt itself.

Ohio State football is a big thing in Columbus and across the state and it always will be. People expect winners at Ohio State. Winning heals all wounds. In fact, I'm one of those who thinks that if OSU had been 11-0 when Woody Hayes hit that Clemson player, the old master would still be coach here.

It's just that the Ohio State football team is going to have to close out all the negative publicity

and go about the business of winning football games. There is a long way to go yet, and the team remains undefeated in league play. Nothing would do more to eliminate the memories of the Stanford and Florida State games than to go all the way from here, with wins against Michigan and in the Rose Bowl.

Ohio State has a fine football team. The players and coaches must ignore the past, ignore the outcries and play and coach the rest of the season to the best of their abilities. If they weren't good, they wouldn't be at Ohio State. They must draw on that ability within them and not doubt because others are doubting.

If things don't improve, it-is going to be very tough for the Ohio State football team to pick up a newspaper this season.

Buckeye Briefs . . .

Continued From Page 2

the first year guaranteed. Money details were not disclosed, but the *Star* quoted Kellogg as saying "It's pretty much what number one drafts got two or three years ago with a cost of living increase. My feeling is that they offered me what

they could."

Kellogg, the most valuable player in the Big Ten last season, appears to be the heir apparent to the Pacer power forward spot manned by former teammate Herb Williams last season. Williams has been moved to center.

Bruce Calls Offenbecher Number One Quarterback

Continued From Page 8

ball into the other person's hands that many times."

Bruce was alluding to the four interceptions thrown by starting quarterback Mike Tomczak and his reliever Brent Offenbecher.

Which, since Bruce mentioned it, brings us to the quarterback situation.

Tomczak, a sophomore out of Calumet City, Ill., moved the Buckeyes to one touchdown but was relatively ineffective, causing Bruce to insert Offenbecher into the lineup in the second quarter.

"I think there's going to have to be a total reevaluation of the quarterback position," said Bruce. "We've got to get a lot of consistency established at that position."

Asked for a quick summation of his quarterbacks, Bruce said: "I thought Brent Offenbecher played well at times. I think there are some things he's got to think about. Of course, Mike Tomczak will have to do that too. But he's a young quarterback and has got to have the ability to come back a little bit."

"But I would have to think it would be Brent Offenbecher that would be No. 1 right now and that we're going to have to look at Tim Stephens also."

"I hope we can distinguish what they can and can't do," continued the fourth-year Buckeye grid boss. "There's going to have to be some time spent with those quarterbacks to find out who can do the job for us. We're going to try Offenbecher to see what can happen."

Does that mean Tomczak is out of the picture?

"Well," said Bruce, "you can't throw the way

he did, where he did at the time he did."

Bruce added that he was concerned about the lack of execution on the part of both quarterbacks.

"We didn't execute very well today," noted Bruce. "I don't know what was the matter. At times I thought we were a little sluggish out there, both offensively and defensively."

Perhaps, through the lack of consistency, the lack of maintaining offensive drive, the defense spent too much time on the field. Perhaps the defense was overworked.

"Early in the game it was for some people," Bruce said. "We're hurting with Curt Curtis and Spencer Nelms not being able to play today. That took some of our defensive linemen away which was not a problem but most certainly it would have been nice to have those people. But it helped us; we had to play some younger guys."

"But they (the Seminoles) really did a good job with their trick stuff early in the game to keep us off balance; with the end around and some of the things working from the very first play. Obviously they came out to try everything — and it worked."

"Then," added Bruce, "I thought our defense did a good job at times when it got down in there; it stiffened up and with the score 21-17 going into the third quarter, I thought we had good opportunities. The defense gave us good opportunities and we weren't able to put the ball in the end zone."

With some new and younger faces in the defensive alignment, was Florida State picking on them?

"I think they picked on things like the

reverses, like the cross country pass that looked wide open," Bruce said. "Things that after you get ahead and can goof around with and play with. And they all worked for them."

Again, as with the game a week earlier against Stanford, play calling on the part of the Ohio State quarterbacks and coaches appeared to be sporadic in nature.

"I would think," said Bruce, "that everything is based on one thing in offensive football and that's execution. We've got to get to be executing what we do. Right now I guess you're in a process of trying to find out what you can do."

But Earle, this was the fourth game of the season; if you're not executing in the game what you know you can do and do in practice, why is it taking so long to find out what these kids can do?

"Because," said Bruce with a firm look on his face, "sometimes you execute some things well and then the next time we don't execute it as well as we did the last time. We're inconsistent. You can see that in the offensive thinking. It's just we're inconsistent."

Working on doing the things the team does best, and doing them two times in a row, was going to be foremost in Bruce's mind.

"I'm going to go to work on Wisconsin like anybody else would," replied Bruce when asked what was in store for the rest of his weekend. "Obviously we've got to come back strong. There are some things that have got to happen for this football team. We've got to reconnoiter. We've got to get things back together."

BUCKEYE SPORTS BULLETIN

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Speed Main Factor In OSU's Sugar Bowl Crash

Florida State Sprints
Past Buckeyes 31-14

By STEVE HELWAGEN
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

It isn't strictly a North/South thing that explains how and why Florida State dominated Ohio State in the Sugar Bowl.

No, more to the point, it was a speed thing.

Florida State's superior speed, specifically on the defensive line and at wide receiver, helped the Seminoles cruise to a 31-14 win over the Buckeyes Jan. 1 in New Orleans.

"I didn't underestimate their speed at all," OSU coach John Cooper said after his team ended the year 10-3 including the Sugar Bowl loss. "I think I talked all week about the speed of not only their skill people, but their other players as well."

"They are really a good, solid team. They are every bit as good as we thought they were coming into the game. They are quick. Their defense reminded me an awful lot of the Alabama team we played in the Citrus Bowl a few years ago. They are a big, strong, quick defensive football team."

"Looking ahead, I think that's one thing we can learn from coming down here and playing these Southern teams. Their pass rush is the best I've seen in a long time. We did not have time to throw the football."

Florida State controlled the game on both sides of the ball. Offensively, the Seminoles pressured OSU with a no-huddle offense, putting the ball in quarterback Thad Busby's hands. He and star receiver E.G. Green connected for 176 of FSU's 334 yards passing — a season high against the Buckeyes.

"It's just speed, speed and more speed," said OSU linebacker Andy Katzenmoyer. "Plus, they have execution. They executed extremely well today and we didn't."

"I didn't think they were too fast. It's just a matter of adjusting to the no-huddle."

On defense, FSU's athletic front applied steady pressure to the OSU quarterbacks, sacking Buckeye passers six times and forcing three bad-throw interceptions.

"They're second to none," OSU quarterback Stanley Jackson said of the FSU defense. "The closest I've seen is when we



SONNY BROCKWAY

HEY, WATCH THE GAME — OSU coach John Cooper states his case to Sugar Bowl referee Steve Usechek of the Big 12 after a touchdown off a fake field goal was wiped away by penalty. Cooper later claimed the Buckeyes followed the rules on the play.

had (Matt) Finkes, (Mike) Vrabel and Winfield Garnett.

"Other than that, I haven't seen a defensive line that can be that dominating. And they don't change up much. They run two defenses — stack and flex. They strap their chin straps on and they're coming to get you. You've just got to try and stop them."

Florida State coach Bobby Bowden discussed his team's speed, an advantage it holds over most — if not all — opponents.

"We probably have as much athletic ability and speed as any team in the country," he said. "I won't say more — there's probably some who have just as much."

"I see us send in five guys, and Ohio State didn't sub. We're playing so many people it wore them down."

Loss Clouds Good Season

The loss puts a damper on OSU's third straight 10-win season. It dropped the

Buckeyes from ninth to 12th in the final Associated Press poll.

"We had a good year but not a great year," Cooper said. "We lost to two great football teams in Michigan and Florida State."

"And Penn State, even though I don't think they finished the year as well as Coach (Joe) Paterno would have liked, was ranked No. 1 or No. 2 on the day we played them. They had some injuries and some other things hurt them toward the end."

The loss, coupled with a regular-season-ending defeat to AP national champion Michigan, leaves a bad taste as the Buckeyes go into the long off-season.

"Of course it takes something away," said OSU quarterback Joe Germaine. "You never want to end a year on a negative note. It's hard for our seniors who are leav-

OSU Hires Maryland President

Kirwan Tabbed
To Replace Gee

By STEVE HELWAGEN
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

Almost in unison, William "Brit" Kirwan and Andy Geiger expressed disbelief.

"How about that?" they said, sharing a hug after Kirwan's appointment as The Ohio State University's 12th president was announced on Jan. 5 at the Fawcett Center.

After the embrace, Geiger stepped back and smiled, asking Kirwan, "Does this mean you're not mad at me anymore?"

You see, Geiger and Kirwan worked together previously at the University of Maryland. Kirwan, the university president, was not happy to lose Geiger, UM's athletic director, when he left for OSU in 1994.

Now, just three and a half years later, the two were reunited as Kirwan was unanimously appointed by OSU's board of trustees to succeed Gordon Gee, who left Jan. 1 to become the president at Brown University.

"One of the joys about accepting this position is the fact I am reuniting with Andy," Kirwan said. "I am the person that ripped him away from Stanford. Then I held onto his leg as Ohio State took him away."

"My wife, Patty, and I have deep affection for Andy and Eleanor. We are being reunited with two of our favorite people."

Kirwan, 59, has enjoyed a fine 33-year tenure at Maryland, including the last eight-plus years as that university's president.

He was selected for the OSU post after a nationwide search.

"We set high standards in this search — so high that some people questioned whether or not we could reach them," said Alex Shumate, chairman of the OSU board of trustees. "The result is everything we could have hoped for and much more."

"As president at Maryland, Brit Kirwan has been widely recognized for his success



William Kirwan

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PUBLISHER
Frank Moskowitz

ASSISTANT PUBLISHER EMERITUS
Karen Wachsman

EDITOR
Steve Helwag

NON-REVENUE SPORTS EDITOR
Mike Wachsman

SENIOR WRITER
Jeff Rapp

PHOTOGRAPHY
Jeff Brehm Terry Gilliam
Sonny Brockway Mike Greer
Kevin Dye

CONTRIBUTORS
Nicole Burch Bob Roehm
Rich Leonardo Steve Siegfried
John Redd Stacey Stathulis
Rebecca Roberts Paula Weston

ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVES
Ron Friedman Cindy Osborne
Bill Rucker Jack Woodworth

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OPINION

Loss Exposes Holes For Bucks

Well, I guess Jostens can hold off on making those 1998 national championship rings for Ohio State just yet.

I was one of the first people to publicly broach the idea that Ohio State was national championship material next year.

But the Sugar Bowl loss to Florida State exposed a number of weaknesses in what should/could be a national title contender in the new year.

I have to say I was not impressed with OSU's overall effort. Yes, the players played hard. But there was little sharpness to their work in the Sugar Bowl.

Here are a few of the things I have qualms about in the wake — and I do mean wake — of this latest OSU bowl loss:

• **Line Play** — At some point, youth no longer is an excuse. OSU's offensive and defensive lines simply were not up to national championship caliber in this game, and FSU made the Buckeyes pay the price because of that.

Losing Rob Murphy to an early knee injury hurt the offensive line. Joe Germaine was routinely buried as he tried to deliver passes. His two interceptions were flat bad throws, but you would be tentative too if you were in the midst of taking a real beating.

I can recall four different plays where Germaine was punned — the Sam Cowart hit on the interception, the high/low hit near the OSU goal line, the blindside hit after unloading to John Lumpkin on the touchdown, and the blindside hit by Todd Frier.

According to several players, members of the OSU defense left their halftime meetings to chide/challenge the offensive line for its play.

Defensively, the wrinkle of playing Na'il Diggs as a stand-up rush end has paid dividends. But what was up with all the off-sides penalties?

• **The Quarterback Deal** — I was in a state of near shock to learn after the game that OSU opted to change the quarterback rotation just two days before the game.

It was a gamble made to keep FSU off-balance. It, too, paid dividends at times, but this was clearly a departure from how the Buckeyes had dealt with the QBs all year.

But if you're going to do it, why not go all the way with it? I was especially confused about the scenario where it was third-and-goal at the 5 in the second quarter and Stanley Jackson was asked to throw the lob to David Boston in the end zone.

With a game-shaping touchdown riding on that play, Germaine should have come in to try one of his specialty passes. Instead, Jackson was nowhere near the mark, although you shouldn't fault him because he was under heavy pressure. Then, the whole fake field goal fiasco ensued (more on that later).

• **Timing, Game Management** — In what was an ongoing problem all season long, the OSU offense was constantly under time pressures in getting plays down from the booth, through the assistant on the sideline, onto the field with a messenger, to the quarterback and to the team.

While OSU wasn't assessed any delay penalties, it was routine to see the team finally reach the line with just five or six seconds left on the play clock. Forget about reading the defense. Just run the play — and watch FSU stuff it for one of 19 tackles-for-loss.

Another gripe I had was with the sce-

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK with Steve Helwag

nario that led to Germaine's late first-half interception by Shevin Smith, which paved the way to FSU's 21-3 halftime lead.

Prior to that play, an FSU player was injured. The injury timeout gave the Buckeyes plenty of time to devise an effective pass-blocking scheme for the next play. There shouldn't have been any surprises. Instead, FSU linebacker Sam Cowart came untouched off the edge and forced Germaine to throw a wobbler that Smith easily picked off. The ensuing TD all but wrapped things up for the Noles.

Also in this realm, if pass protection was too much to ask for to execute a drop-back passing game, where were the three-step and five-step drop passes, the percentage passes and the shotgun?

• **The Fake Field Goal Fiasco** — The fake field goal was a neat premise that turned into a noble failure.

I felt it maybe smacked of desperation. After all, OSU got the idea from Michigan State and Nick Saban, who used it to get a cheapie touchdown against a stingy Michigan defense.

Was this the same thing? Was OSU really in need of a gimmick to put the ball in the end zone?

Depending on whom you talk to, the officials may have botched the call. It seems the officials may have been confused about where Lumpkin actually was. And the 15-yard penalty seemed a bit excessive for the chicanery. Maybe it's in the official's case book that way, but that should have just been a 5-yarder.

• **The Weeks Leading Up To The Game** — Ohio State had three full weeks to prepare for this game. Yet, OSU opted to use them separately — one before exams, one after exams and one just before the game.

Plus, the first week of practice in early December was spent working out with no opponent in sight.

I think that made things a bit disjointed, especially in the aspect of having the week before Christmas off. The team played sluggish, perhaps a byproduct of having that key week off to fatten up and then spending a little too much time on Bourbon Street. And you can't fault Dave

Kennedy. Given the schedule he had to work with it had to be hard to try and run them hard, yet leave something for the game.

The argument was made that this schedule allowed the players to be with their families for Christmas. But that argument really holds no water.

For example, Jerry Rudzinski — who lives in Kettering, Ohio — had to be at the Cincinnati airport (one hour away) at 9 a.m. Christmas morning to catch his flight to New Orleans.

The players got to spend Christmas Eve at home, but most of them would likely say they spent most of Christmas trying to get to New Orleans.

In addition, I did not like this whole get-there-on-your-own-and-pocket-the-\$300-to-\$500-of-traveling-money thing.

I thought this was supposed to be a team. They should travel together. When they got to New Orleans, everybody did their own thing, and that's exactly what it looked like on game night.

In retrospect, it makes more sense for the team to get back into practice for a few days in early December, take a break for exams and then use the remaining couple of weeks in succession leading up to the game.

Yes, you can call me the Grinch, but at least the team might retain some semblance of sharpness on game day.

• **Summing Up** — New Orleans is a great place to visit, but as former Buckeye-turned-Saint Luke Fickell said, "I wouldn't raise a cat there."

It became pretty clear from the first few hours we were in the Crescent City that this was not Orlando, Fla. You leave the kids at home on this trip.

I was especially delighted by the legions of OSU fans who showed up to support the team. This enthusiastic group more than drowned out the Florida State contingent at the Superdome.

As far as football goes, I hate to see a team's whole year's worth of effort clouded by losses in the last two games to Michigan and Florida State.

The Sugar Bowl, in particular, was not OSU's finest moment.

Still, I recognize these losses were to two of the top three ranked teams in the country.

Is Ohio State in the same league as those schools? Yes.

Does Ohio State have a lot of work to do to become the best team in that league? Oh, my, yes.

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COVER STORY: KIRWAN NAMED PRESIDENT

Geiger: Kirwan Will Support OSU Athletics

Continued From Page 1

in making diversity an institutional goal, his commitment to fiscal responsibility, and his capability for leading a university in an urban setting.

"Now he shares our commitment to take Ohio State University to the next level."

In his first public appearance at OSU, Kirwan wasted no time invoking one of the university's most beloved figures to prove a point.

"The thing that piqued our interest in this opportunity is the people we have met here," he said. "It was a revered member of this community, Woody Hayes, who once said you win with people."

"Patty and I are convinced that Ohio State University has winning people."

Kirwan, born in Louisville, Ky., in 1938, received his bachelor's degree from Kentucky — where his father served as the football coach for a short time — in 1960. He went on to receive his master's and doctorate from Rutgers in 1962 and '64, respectively.

He became a member of the Maryland faculty as an assistant professor of mathematics in 1964 and, except for one year spent as a guest lecturer at the University of London, has been there ever since.

He rose through the ranks to associate professor, full professor, chair of the math department, vice chancellor for academic affairs, provost, acting president and, in February 1989, to president.

"This is a very tough day because I have been there for so many years," he said of the College Park, Md., school. "That is an institution I will always care about."

During his tenure at Maryland, Kirwan was recognized for doing more to improve the school's academic standing and diversity than any previous president. Plus, he dealt with cuts in state funding during a budget crunch in the early 1990s.

To smooth the transition at Maryland, Kirwan has offered to remain there through the end of this academic year. At the same time he will be familiarizing himself with Ohio State and is expected to assume his duties in Columbus no later than July 1. His salary will be \$275,000.

During the transition, Richard Sisson,

senior vice president and provost at Ohio State since 1993, will continue to manage the operations of the university as interim president.

Values And Aspirations

Kirwan said during his academic career he has developed four values and aspirations. They are:

- **The pursuit of academic excellence** — "We will work in this community, as we have at Maryland, to build distinguished programs known for their excellence," he said.

- **The delivery of high-quality education at both the undergraduate and graduate levels** — "The thing about a research institution like Ohio State is we can bring the elements together for an undergraduate education that other universities cannot," he said.

- **The development of a 21st century land grant mission** — "We need to be able to reach out to our community and bring the expertise we have to all facets of Ohio. We need to use the great resources of our university to help develop the high-tech economy of our state," he said.

- **The commitment to ethnic diversity** — "I believe the University of Maryland and Ohio State University must both reflect the diversity of the states they are honored to serve. My colleagues and I will make certain that the students of Ohio State learn to become citizens of the global community," he said.

Following A Legend

To many, the dashing, sometimes madcap Gee became an icon by which to recognize OSU.

Kirwan said he hopes to continue many of Gee's lofty initiatives, although he asserts he will be his own man.

"I admire Gordon tremendously," he said. "In many ways, having the opportunity to follow him at Ohio State is the best opportunity that can happen to a person. He set this institution on a course and established many initiatives to help it realize its aspirations."

"People will find that we are both different, but we share many values in common."

Geiger, having now spent time working for both men, offered the following comparison:

"I would say in terms of my experience

here and at Maryland, both of these men are involved, both of these men care, and they are visible."

"Both are good recruiters. Gordon Gee helped us recruit student-athletes and Brit Kirwan will do the same. He will be visible at athletic events and use athletic events as a meeting place for town and gown to meet."

While Gee was a real quipster, Kirwan measures his words more closely, Geiger said.

"He has a sense of humor, but he doesn't quite do the stand-up routine Gordon does," Geiger said. "He works quietly. He's not flashy, but he can be strong and stern when he needs to be."

Supporting Athletics

Geiger said one thing is certain — Kirwan will demand excellence at OSU in the classroom and on the playing field.

"He wants to win," Geiger said. "He was a loyal and vigorous supporter of the Terps. He wants to win with honor and good values. He'll want to see improved graduation rates and academic improvement."

Kirwan understands OSU's rich athletic history and hopes the school can build on it during his tenure.

"If you talk to people back at Maryland, you'll find I'm a very competitive person," he said. "I want this university to be associated with excellence in everything it does."

"If we have a rowing team, I want it to win the Henley Regatta. If we have a mathematics department, I want it to be the best in the country."

Kirwan is also involved in issue-related leadership within collegiate athletics.

"I have been actively involved in intercollegiate athletics," he said. "I have served on the NCAA's president's committee. I am currently the ACC representative on the new board of directors structure."

While there is a cry for a college football playoff, Kirwan said he remains a staunch supporter of the bowl system.

"I have been on record on many occasions, saying I think the alliance bowl concept can work," he said. "It hasn't worked to date the way people want to see it, but we need to give it time to work."

The Kirwan File



STEVE HELWAGEN

REUNITED — OSU athletic director Andy Geiger (left) welcomes William Kirwan, his former boss at Maryland, as OSU's new president.

- **NAME** — William English "Brit" Kirwan
- **BORN** — April 14, 1938; Louisville, Ky.
- **EDUCATION** — Bachelor's in mathematics, University of Kentucky, 1960; master's, math, Rutgers University, 1962; doctorate, math, Rutgers, 1964.
- **ACADEMIC CAREER** — Assistant instructor, Rutgers, 1963-64; assistant professor, University of Maryland, 1964-68; visiting lecturer, Royal Holloway College/University of London, 1966-67; associate professor, Maryland, 1968-72; professor, Maryland, 1972-present; chair, Department of Mathematics, Maryland, 1977-81; vice chancellor for academic affairs, Maryland, 1981-88; provost, Maryland, 1986-88; vice president for academic affairs, Maryland, 1988; acting president, Maryland, 1988-89; president, Maryland, 1989-98; president The Ohio State University, 1998.
- **BOOKS** — *Advances in Complex Analysis*, co-editor with L. Zalcman, Springer Verlag, 1976.
- **HONORS** — Distinguished alumnus, University of Kentucky, 1989; honorary president, Sino-American Cultural Society, 1993; international leader of the year, World Trade Center Institute, 1997.
- **VOLUNTEER/COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES** — Chairman, Prince George's County Board of Education's Citizens Advisory Committee; chairman, Prince George's County 1996 United Way campaign.
- **HOBBIES/INTERESTS** — Classical music, tennis.
- **PERSONAL** — Married Patricia Harper of Lexington, Ky., in 1960; two children, son, William E. Kirwan III, a Maryland graduate and Washington, D.C., architect; daughter, Ann Elizabeth, Maryland graduate in journalism; two grandchildren.

When Geiger arrived at Maryland in 1990, Kirwan enlisted him to help clean up a basketball program racked with problems stemming from Len Bias' drug-induced death and the unruly tenures of coaches Lefty Driesell and Bob Wade.

"The first thing I had to do there was similar to the first thing I had to do here — announce that our basketball program was going on probation," Geiger said. "That was a very difficult time, but we pulled through it, made some changes and started to rebuild that program."

At Ohio State, Kirwan finds an athletic department on the rise. With Gee's approval, Geiger and his staff are in the midst of over \$240 million in building projects, including construction of the Schottenstein Center arena and the renovation of venerable Ohio Stadium.

Funding those projects — as well as others on the OSU campus — will be part of Kirwan's immense challenge.

Still, Kirwan showed on his first day that he has his priorities straight.

"We're going to beat Michigan, that's a given," Kirwan said, smiling. "They have to play us here next year."

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COVER STORY: THE SUGAR BOWL

Buckeyes Admit FSU's Speed Hard To Beat

Continued From Page 1

ing us, and I feel bad for them.

"But it's a game and things didn't happen our way."

Added Jackson, who was among 12 seniors playing their last game: "Of course it didn't end up like I wanted it to. I was hoping we would come down here and get a big win. We fought hard. Florida State is a good football team and we took their best shot."

"We didn't get the W and that's what we came down here for. It was disappointing to end our season this way. Now we need to move on to other things."

Another outgoing senior, tailback Pepe Pearson, was also disappointed in the effort.

"I think we played good football today," Pearson said. "But we made a lot of turnovers and we didn't score when we were in the red zone. We missed a field goal. Against a great team like Florida State and a great team down South, you have to take advantage of every chance you get."

Safety Damon Moore shared his idea of what the Buckeyes should have done.

"We just needed to come out and play Ohio State football," he said. "Our offense didn't play well and our defense gave up some big plays. We miss a field goal or two. It was a total team effort, and we didn't get the job done."

"If we had gone out and played Ohio State football — 11 Silver Bullets football

— I think we would have fared a lot better."

The season goes down, though, as less than fulfilling — no Big Ten title, another Michigan loss, and no bowl win.

That's hard to accept, Katzenmoyer said.

"I think this year's team has more heart and more courage than the Rose Bowl team did the year before," he said. "We came out and played hard the entire year. We had some letdowns against Penn State and Michigan and, of course, tonight we just didn't come out and play."

On Another Level

In recent years, Florida State has built its reputation as a top-five powerhouse around bowl wins over the likes of Nebraska, Florida and Notre Dame.

Now Ohio State can be added to that list.

"It's always exciting to play an Ohio

College Bowl Results

Date	Bowl	Teams (Records)
Dec. 20	Las Vegas	Oregon (7-5) 41, Air Force (10-3) 13
Dec. 25	Aloha	Washington (8-4) 51, Michigan State (7-5) 23
Dec. 26	Motor City	Mississippi (8-4) 34, Marshall (10-3) 31
Dec. 27	Insight.com	Arizona (7-5) 20, New Mexico (9-4) 14
Dec. 28	Independence	LSU (9-3) 27, Notre Dame (7-6) 9
Dec. 29	Sp. Humanitarian	Cincinnati (8-4) 35, Utah State (6-6) 19
Dec. 29	Carquest	Georgia Tech (7-5) 35, West Virginia (7-5) 30
Dec. 29	Holiday	Colorado State (11-2) 35, Missouri (7-5) 24
Dec. 30	Alamo	Purdue (9-3) 33, Oklahoma State (8-4) 20
Dec. 31	Sun	Arizona State (9-3) 17, Iowa (7-5) 7
Dec. 31	Liberty	Southern Miss (9-3) 41, Pittsburgh (6-6) 7
Dec. 31	Fiesta	Kansas State (11-1) 35, Syracuse (9-4) 18
Jan. 1	Outback	Georgia (10-2) 33, Wisconsin (8-5) 6
Jan. 1	Gator	North Carolina (11-1) 42, Virginia Tech (7-5) 3
Jan. 1	Citrus	Florida (10-2) 21, Penn State (9-3) 6
Jan. 1	Cotton	UCLA (10-2) 29, Texas A&M (9-3) 23
Jan. 1	Rose	Michigan (12-0) 21, Washington State (10-2) 16
Jan. 1	Sugar	Florida State (11-1) 31, Ohio State (10-3) 14
Jan. 2	Peach	Auburn (10-3) 21, Clemson (7-5) 17
Jan. 2	Orange	Nebraska (13-0) 42, Tennessee (11-2) 17

State or a Notre Dame or a Penn State and win because their tradition is so good," Bowden said.

But tradition can only take a program so far.

A year ago, Ohio State won a piece of the Big Ten championship and went on to win the Rose Bowl over Arizona State. That win lifted OSU to an 11-1 finish and a No. 2 perch in the final polls.

This year, Michigan rolled through the season unbeaten and claimed the AP national title.

The common denominator between those teams' two seasons, though, is the fact neither beat a high-ranked team from one of the Southern conferences to earn their lofty ranking.

Moreover, Ohio State hasn't beaten a top-10-ranked team from below the Mason-Dixon Line since a 1988 win over LSU. In fact, since that win, OSU has lost four straight to top-10 teams from the South including defeats to the likes of Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee and now FSU.

But the Buckeyes aren't ready to concede that the only good football is played

down South.

"I don't think we're at any lower level than any other team in the country," tight end John Lumpkin said. "We came out here today and played hard. They just beat us. We always have to work hard. Regardless of where we're ranked, we have to come in in the off-season and work hard and come in and take care of business next season."

Looking Ahead

Katzenmoyer, for one, is hopeful the Buckeyes see this as a sign they need to improve their team speed and endurance.

"I hope he steps up the program," Katzenmoyer said regarding strength and conditioning coach Dave Kennedy's already strenuous off-season regimen. "I, myself, am willing to go out there and do whatever he asks and even more. Conditionally, I don't think we were there at times."

As far as rankings, this loss means the Buckeyes are likely to be overlooked early next year despite having eight starters back on offense, nine back on defense and both kickers returning.

"I don't know what the voters are going to think," said OSU linebacker Jerry Rudzinski. "We didn't have a good showing today. We lost to a great football team, though, and we do have a lot coming back. I think it was kind of a wake-up call and now we know the caliber of team we need to be. It's just going to add to our work ethic in the off-season."

"We know we have the talent and obviously the coaches to be a great team next year and to be an elite program. But it's not going to be easy. We have to keep playing physical football and we need to recruit some great athletes. If we want to be a power in the nation, we have to have a bit of everything."

"We saw today what a national powerhouse does in a big game."

Next Week: BSB will have a full look ahead at Ohio State's prospects for the 1998 season as well as a look at the Big Ten and OSU's non-conference opponents.

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OHIO STATE VS. FLORIDA STATE

FSU Speeds Past Bucks

Seminoles Cruise To 31-14 Sugar Bowl Win Over OSU

By STEVE HELWAGEN
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

In a stadium made famous for hosting Super Bowls and Sugar Bowls, the Ohio State Buckeyes played more like the sad-sack New Orleans Saints.

Fourth-ranked Florida State (11-1) fed off a collection of OSU mistakes and rolled past the ninth-ranked Buckeyes 31-14 in the Sugar Bowl played Jan. 1 in the Louisiana Superdome.

"Florida State is really a good, solid team," said OSU coach John Cooper, whose team ended the year 10-3. "They were every bit as good as we thought they were. They gave us relentless pressure. Their pass rush is something we haven't seen in a long time. We did not have time to throw the football."

The final box score credited FSU with an incredible 19 tackles-for-loss, including six quarterback sacks. There were countless other instances where OSU's quarterbacks were hurried and/or buried as they tried to deliver the pass.

FSU end Andre Wadsworth was all he was cracked up to be. The All-American finished with two sacks and an interception.

"Our defense was the key, as it has been all year," said FSU coach Bobby Bowden, who improved to 16-4-1 in bowl games and locked up an 11th consecutive top-five finish with the Seminoles. "They continued to get big plays, they continued to get turnovers, and they continued to get sacks."

Then, there was OSU's shuffling of quarterbacks Stanley Jackson and Joe Germaine in the first half. Instead of

changing quarterbacks by series — as they had done all season — they made situational substitutions.

"We thought we would borrow a little bit from (Florida coach Steve) Spurrier," said Cooper, referring to Florida's alternating quarterback scheme in its 32-29 win over FSU. "In the second half, we went back to our regular rotation."

Neither quarterback appreciated the switch.

"Why are we borrowing stuff from Florida?" said Jackson, who finished 6 of 10 passing for 34 yards and an interception and was sacked four times. "We're Ohio State. We should do our own thing."

Germaine had his problems, too. He was 10 of 26 for 173 yards and a touchdown. But he threw two interceptions and was sacked twice.

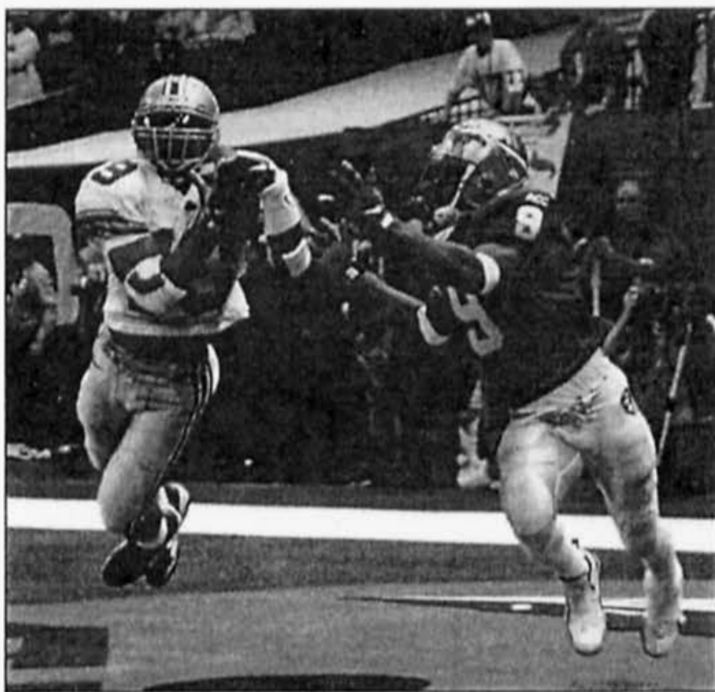
"It is very difficult to get something started," Germaine said. "Once you get a play under your belt, somebody comes in for you. But we can't use that as an excuse. We have to come in and execute no matter who is in."

FSU wide receiver E.G. Green was the star of the show. He earned game MVP honors by catching seven passes for 176 yards and a touchdown.

"If you hear Michael Jordan say he gets in a zone, that's what it felt like out there," Green said. "I'll always remember this. This is my last game as a Florida State Seminole, and this is a good memory for me."

FSU quarterback Thad Busby was 22 of 33 for 334 yards with two interceptions and a touchdown.

"It's tough when somebody throws for 300 yards against you, especially when you're the second-ranked pass



STEVE HELWAGEN

NOT THIS TIME — OSU struggled to slow down the Florida State passing game, but cornerback Ahmed Plummer did his part on this play, snuffing out a potential touchdown toss by making a diving interception in front of Peter Warrick.

defense in the country," said OSU safety Damon Moore. "That hurts your pride a little bit, but you can also say they're a good football team."

Ohio State got a major break on the game's second play from scrimmage, but failed to capitalize. Busby's pass down the middle for Green was high and Moore intercepted it and returned it 24 yards to the FSU 39.

But OSU tailback Pepe Pearson was slammed for a 4-yard loss on first down, he picked up a yard on second down, and Jackson's third-down screen pass to Matt Keller went for no gain. The Buckeyes had to punt the ball away.

OSU cornerback Ahmed Plummer snuffed an FSU threat as he dove and intercepted Busby's third-and-goal pass to Peter Warrick in the end zone for a touchdown with 6:08 left in the first quarter.

The Buckeyes then drove 57 yards in 10 plays, getting on the scoreboard first on Dan Stultz's 40-yard field goal with 1:56 left in the first. OSU alternated quarterbacks throughout the possession with Jackson first picking up 26 yards on a scramble. Germaine then came on to hit David Boston for a 14-yard gain. Jackson returned and connected with Boston for 13 more yards before OSU had to settle for the field goal and the 3-0 lead.

Florida State answered with a quick-strike, six-play, 79-yard scoring drive. Green was the star here, catching three passes from Busby for a total of 57 yards including the 27-yard touchdown. On the scoring play, he crossed from right to left, caught the ball in full

stride, split OSU defenders Antoine Winfield and Gary Berry, and rolled down the sideline for the touchdown and a 7-3 lead on the final play of the first quarter.

"You can't question their speed," Winfield said of the fleet Green and Warrick, who had three catches for 82 yards. "They're fast. They're great receivers. We saw that on film."

Ohio State drove deep into FSU territory on its next possession, but came away empty after its fake field goal attempt for an apparent touchdown was denied by the officials. The Buckeyes drove 66 yards in 10 plays down to the FSU 4.

OSU lined up for a field goal on fourth-and-goal at the FSU 4. Holder Brent Bartholomew took the snap and threw to John Lumpkin, who had straggled onto the field late. The pass was complete for an apparent touchdown, but the officials flagged the play and began discussing it.

They ruled that Lumpkin was not inside the numerals to be a legal player coming onto the field. To compound matters, they ruled it as a 15-yard unsportsmanlike conduct penalty for deliberately trying to deceive the opponent.

Cooper and his staff argued to no avail.

"I thought we had it set up," Cooper said. "I thought I had covered that to the best of my abilities with the officials prior to the game. Then, I thought we executed the play."

"It's a bowl game," Lumpkin said. "Things happen. It was a trick play. It

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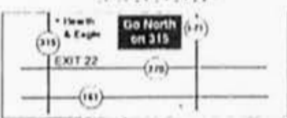
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OHIO STATE VS. FLORIDA STATE

was a real close call to make in a game like this. But, hey, I'm not that official, and I'm not knocking him."

Then, after OSU was assessed another 5-yard penalty for a false start, Stultz was the victim of a bad snap and missed a 42-yard field goal with 11:28 left in the first half.

As the first half rolled to a close, the Buckeyes gave up a pair of devastating touchdowns that sent them to the locker room on the wrong end of a 21-3 score.

The FSU defense set up the first one as Jackson was sacked on three consecutive pass attempts and the Seminoles took over after a Buckeye punt at their own 45. It took two plays to reach the end zone as Busby exposed a blown OSU coverage and threw underneath to a wide-open Green, who rolled 46 yards down to the OSU 9.

"That was me," said Moore. "That was my man. He ran an under route. I went to break down on top of him. He slipped over top of me and got behind me. I was trailing from then on. Busby put it on the money, led him where he needed to go, and he made a big gain out of it."

Busby then executed a perfect quarterback draw, scoring the touchdown on a 9-yard run to put FSU up 14-3 with 3:25 left in the first half.

OSU drove to the Seminoles' 28-yard line in the closing minute of the half, but Germaine was pressured by FSU's Sam Cowart and threw a wounded duck off his back foot that FSU's Shevin Smith easily intercepted and returned 51 yards to the OSU 23 with 27 seconds

left in the half.

"(Cowart) came free at the left end," Germaine said. "I was trying to throw the ball out of bounds. I just couldn't get it there."

After a five-yard offside penalty, Busby hit Minor out of the backfield for a 17-yard pickup to the OSU 1. Fullback William McCray then bulled in from the 1 for the touchdown and a 21-3 lead with just 10 seconds left in the half.

Game, set, match, Florida State.

"That was a big swing because instead of going into halftime down 14-3 or 14-6, we go in down 21-3," Cooper said.

"That's huge," Moore added. "Our offense wasn't playing a great game. On defense, we weren't holding our part up."

"But then you've got to give credit to them. They're a great football team. They had one loss and it showed why they've been ruling the ACC since they've been in there. They're coached very well and they were just the better team today."

They did come back out to play the second half, and when they did Jackson was back at quarterback. The Buckeyes got the ball to start the second half and, by mainly pounding Pearson, ran 14 plays and took over 7-1/2 minutes off the clock before settling for Stultz's 34-yard field goal. That kick trimmed the gap to 21-6 with 7:29 left in the third quarter.

The OSU defense, which surrendered 280 yards in the first half, played much better in the second half, keeping OSU in the game.

In fact, OSU defensive tackle

Winfield Garnett helped the Buckeyes get on the scoreboard next as he flushed Busby out of the pocket in the end zone and he stepped out of bounds for a safety, closing the gap to 21-8 with 1:13 left in the third.

But Jackson was then intercepted by Wadsworth on an ill-advised wobbler back against the grain, a play that led to Sebastian Janikowski's 35-yard field goal and a 24-8 FSU lead with 14:56 left in the game.

Germaine returned for the fourth quarter and helped provide perhaps the game's brightest moment for the Buckeyes.

Facing third-and-10 at midfield, he bounced off a pair of would-be FSU sackers and rolled to his left. He threw deep to Lumpkin, who plucked the ball out of the air a foot from the ground, bobbled it and held on for the 50-yard touchdown.

"On that one, I was able to get downfield and get behind the safeties and Joe made a good throw," Lumpkin said. "He scrambled around and got the ball down there, and I was able to get it into the end zone."

"It was low and everything, but that's my job. They throw the ball and I'm supposed to catch it. If it hits your hands, you catch it. That's a rule when you're a receiver. I was just doing what I was called on to do."

Trailing 24-14 with 8:57 left, OSU attempted a two-point conversion, but Germaine's pass to Dee Miller was off the receiver's hands and incomplete.

After FSU missed a field goal with 6:13 left, the Buckeyes failed to pick up

a first down and punted the ball away.

FSU wore the clock down inside of a minute before Busby completed a surprising third-and-3 pass to Warrick for 30 yards down to the OSU 1. One play later, McCray went up the middle for the game-icing touchdown and a 31-14 lead with 47 seconds left.

Sugar Bowl Notes

• Florida State's big-play offense was in full force at the Sugar Bowl. The Seminoles had 11 plays go for 15 or more yards, including six in excess of 25 yards.

"We gave up more big plays in the game tonight than we did all season long," Cooper said.

• How bad did things go for the OSU defense in the first half?

Consider that the Buckeyes held 10 of their previous 12 opponents to fewer than 200 passing yards. Arizona passed for a season-high 210 yards against the Buckeyes.

Busby completed 18 of 25 passes for 232 yards and a score in the first half.

• The safety Garnett forced on Busby was the first in the Sugar Bowl since 1969.

• OSU dropped all three of its games against top-five ranked opponents this year, falling to 23-28-5 all-time against those opponents.

The Buckeyes are also now 0-3 against Florida State with the previous losses coming in 1981 and '82.

OSU's all-time bowl record slid to 13-17, including 2-7 under Cooper. OSU is also now 0-2 in the Sugar Bowl, having lost the 1978 game to Alabama.

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STEVE GREENBERG AND DALE RATERMANN
FOREWORD BY BO SCHEMBECHLER

OHIO STATE VS. FLORIDA STATE

Cooper Credits Florida State After Defeat

Throughout the football season, *Buckeye Sports Bulletin* is publishing excerpts of Ohio State head coach John Cooper's postgame press conferences. Here is what Cooper had to say following OSU's loss to Florida State in the Sugar Bowl:

Cooper: "Florida State is a really good, solid team, every bit as good as we thought they were coming into the ball game. Their defense reminds me a lot of the Alabama team we played two or three years ago in the Citrus Bowl. They are a big, strong football team, playing a lot of people to keep them fresh and giving us relentless pressure throughout."

"Looking ahead, that's one thing we can learn from coming down and playing these Southern teams. They do play a lot of people because it's so hot early in the season. Their pass rush is the best I've seen in a long, long time. We felt like we could throw the ball on them. They got some guys injured, their linebacker (Daryl) Bush went out early in the game and a corner that went out early. We tried to take advantage of that but did not have time to throw the football. It hurt us when we lost Rob Murphy and we had to make some adjustments there, and we didn't do a good job giving our quarterbacks time to throw."

"We alternated our quarterbacks a little more early in the game than we have in past games, trying to borrow a little bit from (Florida coach Steve) Spurrier. If we thought one quarterback was better running a certain play, we had them in. In the second half we went back to our regular rotation."

"We did some good things defensively. We got some turnovers, got some pressure on their quarterback at times. We gave up more big plays in the game tonight than we have all season. They've got some great skill people. I think Coach (Bobby) Bowden does a great job, their defensive staff does a great job. We got beat by an outstanding football team."

Q. What was the explanation on the call on the fake field goal?

Cooper: "The fake field goal is something we saw Michigan State run against Michigan earlier in the year for a touchdown and we thought we had it set up. I covered that to the best of my abilities with the officials before the



SONNY BROCKWAY

SOUTHERN GENTLEMEN — Born and reared in SEC country, head coaches John Cooper of Ohio State and Bobby Bowden of Florida State share a laugh prior to the Sugar Bowl. Bowden ran his all-time bowl record to 16-4-1 with the win.

game, told them how we were going to run the play. I thought we executed the play the way we told them we were going to do it, and they didn't see it that way."

Q. Did they clarify that with you before the game?

Cooper: "We talked about that. The misunderstanding — I was not under the impression you had to be lined up inside when the ball is marked ready to play. That play is a big play in the ball game, but it did not cost us the game."

Q. Did you underestimate their speed?

Cooper: "No, not at all. I knew they

were quick. It wasn't only the speed of their skill people — the other people, they have people who can run. Their linebacker was out-running some of our receivers on that interception. Overall they have great team speed."

Q. You said the field goal didn't cost you the game. What did?

Cooper: "We played a superior football team. There were probably a lot of plays that cost us the game. I don't know if you can say one play cost you a ball game."

Q. You tried to establish the run early in the game but really didn't have much success until the second half. Why was that?

Cooper: "They play their ends extremely wide and they're thinking pass rush. Early in the game we were trying to run some counters, some misdirection, our quarterback carried the ball a lot. We felt we had to do some of

that. But they were so quick and they got so much penetration. We rushed the ball 19 times in the first half for something like 20 yards."

"We wanted to come out in the second half and play Ohio State football. We felt we should run north and south. We had some success with that, but we didn't get as many points as we needed. We had some opportunities we just didn't take advantage of. Looking back, I think we would have had more success running north and south because of their quickness and penetration early in the game."

Q. You flanked Pepe Pearson and Michael Wiley outside quite a bit. Why was that?

Cooper: "Pepe can catch the football. And we had Wiley out there some. The problem we had, when you spread the field like that, you've taken your protection out. We were trying to keep someone in. (Andre) Wadsworth is outstanding. We played two or three real good pass rushers in our league, but we haven't played anybody that's as good as him since maybe those Alabama teams we played."

Q. Comment about the play of E.G. Green.

Cooper: "He made great catches. It looked like we had him covered. He caught the ball against Antoine Winfield, against Ahmed Plummer, against everybody we lined up out there. They looked like they were jump balls and he came up with them."

Q. How do you leave this season?

Cooper: "When you lose a bowl game like this, that lingers a little bit longer because you don't have another game. We have the winter conditioning program and spring ball and all that."

"I just got through telling our team we had a good year. It wasn't a great year. We lost to two truly great football teams, Michigan and Florida State, and the day we played them, Penn State was a very good team. They lost some players, their fullback got hurt, and I'm not sure they finished as strong as Coach (Joe) Paterno would have liked. They were second in the country when we played them."

Q. What does it look like as far as next season?

Cooper: "We've got a lot of people coming back, but we've got a lot of work to do. There's no question in my mind we have a lot of work to be done if we're going to be the kind of team I expect to have next year. It's not going to happen, we've got to make it happen."

Q. How do you pinpoint the Big Ten's lack of success in bowl games this year?

Cooper: "There's a lot of reasons for that. I can't speak for those other teams, but we've played an outstanding football team here tonight in Florida State. Some of the other teams might have been better than the ones we sent down from the Big Ten. I didn't get a chance to see those games, so I don't want to comment any more about that."

Q. Where was (John) Lumpkin on the fake field goal?

Cooper: "He was on the field, then came off the field, but he never left the field of play. We don't huddle up on the field goal, and he came in. He'd been on because he was playing offense. We worked on that play during the week. He never left the field of play. In his opinion he felt he broke the zone you have to be in."

Q. Now that you've seen both teams, try to compare Florida State and Michigan.

Cooper: "They're both great football teams. The day we played Michigan they were an outstanding defensive team. Again, different conditions. We're playing on a grass field, a field that was pretty much chewed up and the conditions weren't like playing out here. This team we played tonight was an excellent team. It would be a great, great game if Florida State played Michigan."

Q. What were the one or two plays that really hurt you tonight?

Cooper: "A couple plays that really hurt us, one in particular, was the interception before halftime. If we can go in down 14-3, we're going to get the second half kickoff. We had a chance. But when you go down 21-3, that hurts. We're running the football, but we're running the clock, too."

"They all of a sudden kick another field goal and we have to score twice to beat them and there's eight minutes left in the game. It was third-and-15 or so and they hit Green on a post corner route in front of their bench to keep the drive alive. We lined up offside four or five times in the game. Their offensive line gets as far off the ball as they possibly can and we were lined up on the linemen instead of the ball. The touchdown right before halftime and the one at the end of the ball game really hurt us."

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The Numbers Game

Florida State 31, Ohio State 14

The Sugar Bowl

Jan. 1, 1998 — Louisiana Superdome; New Orleans, La.

Score by Quarters	1	2	3	4	F
OHIO STATE	3	0	5	6	14
FLORIDA STATE	7	14	0	10	31

First Quarter

OSU — Stultz, 40 yard field goal 1:56; 10 plays, 57 yards, 4:12
 FSU — E.G. Green, 27 yard pass from Busby (Janikowski kick) 0:00; 6 plays, 79 yards, 1:56

Second Quarter

FSU — Busby, 9 yard run (Janikowski kick) 3:25; 2 plays, 55 yards, :26
 FSU — McCray, 1 yard run (Janikowski kick) 0:10; 2 plays, 23 yards, :17

Third Quarter

OSU — Stultz, 34 yard field goal 7:29; 14 plays, 63 yards, 7:31
 OSU — Safety, Busby stepped out of bounds in end zone 1:13

Fourth Quarter

FSU — Janikowski, 35 yard field goal 14:56; 4 plays, 4 yards, :18
 OSU — Lumpkin, 50 yard pass from Germaine (pass failed) 8:57; 7 plays, 80 yards, 1:44

FSU — McCray, 1 yard run (Janikowski kick) 0:47; 7 plays, 59 yards, 4:03

Att. — 67,289

Weather — Indoors

Team Statistics

	OSU	FSU
First Downs	21	18
Rushing	7	4
Passing	11	13
Penalty	3	1
Rushes-Yards	44-118	27-60
Passing Yards	207	334
Passes (Att.-Comp.-Int.)	36-163	33-22-2
Offensive Plays	80	60
Total Net Yards	325	394
Third Down Efficiency	4-18	3-13
Fourth Down Efficiency	1-1	0-0
Punts	7-45.4	6-42.7
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	0-0
Penalties	10-70	9-74
Time of Possession	35:04	24:56

Individual Statistics

RUSHING (Att.-Net Yds.) — OSU: Pearson 22-60; Rudzinski 1-24; Keller 6-20; S.Jackson 9-19; Wiley 3-9; Germaine 3-14; FSU: Minor 12-53; Feaster 2-10; Glenn 2-5; McCray 2-2; Coles 2-1; Busby 7-11.

PASSING (Att.-Comp.-Int.-Yds.-TD) — OSU: S.Jackson 10-6-1-34-0; Germaine 26-10-2-173-1; FSU: Busby 33-22-2-334-1.

RECEIVING (Rec.-Yds.) — OSU: Miller 6-79; Boston 3-40; Lumpkin 2-61; Pearson 2-27; Keller 2-43; Rambo 1-3; FSU: Minor 9-55; E.G. Green 7-176; Warrick 3-82; Coles 3-21.

PUNTING (No.-Avg.-Long) — OSU: Bartholomew 7-45.4-57.

FSU: Cottrell 6-42.7-54.

PUNT RETURNS (No.-Yds.) — OSU: Boston 3-25; FSU: Feaster 3-26; Warrick 2-18.

KICKOFF RETURNS (No.-Yds.) — OSU: Wiley 2-29; FSU: Feaster 2-45; Stringer 1-32.

FUMBLE RECOVERIES — OSU: None. FSU: None.

INTERCEPTIONS (No.-Yds.) — OSU: Moore 1-24; Plummer 1-0. FSU: S.Smith 1-51; Wadsworth 1-3; D.Jackson 1-1.

SACKS — OSU: Garnett 2-16; Katzenmoyer 1-8; Bailey 1-2. FSU: Wadsworth 2-10; Bryant 1-13; Frier 1-11; J.Johnson 1-6; L.Green 1-0.

TACKLES FOR LOSS (No.-Yds.) — OSU: Garnett 3-20; Moore 3-11; Katzenmoyer 2-9; Bailey 1-2; Diggs 1-1. FSU: Wadsworth 3-14; J.Johnson 2-10; Simon 2-6; L.Green 2-5; Stephens 2-4; Pittman 2-2; Bryant 1-13; Frier 1-11; Bush 1-4; Rolle 1-3; Rhodes 1-2; Spies 1-1.

TACKLES (Solo-Assst.-Tot.) — OSU: Moore 8-1-9; Winfield 7-1-8; Garnett 5-0-5; McClellion 4-1-5; Diggs 4-0-4; Griffin 4-0-4; Katzenmoyer 3-1-4; Berry 3-1-4; Rudzinski 3-0-3; Plummer 3-0-3; Bell 2-1-3; Bailey 2-1-3; Willis 1-0-1; K.N.Johnson 1-0-1; Keller 1-0-1; Boston 1-0-1; Miller 1-0-1; Brown 0-1-1. FSU: D.Jackson 6-3-9; Cowart 5-4-9; S.Smith 6-2-8; Pittman 5-2-7; L.Green 6-0-6; Cody 4-1-5; J.Johnson 4-1-5; Wadsworth 4-0-4; Stephens 3-0-3; Frier 3-0-3; Rhodes 2-1-3; Saunders 2-1-3; Simon 1-2-3; Warren 2-0-2; Rolle 1-1-2; Spies 1-1-2; Seymour 1-0-1; Walker 1-0-1; Rackley 1-0-1; Bryant 1-0-1; McCorkel 1-0-1; Busby 1-0-1; Warrick 1-0-1; Chaney 1-0-1; Bush 0-1-1.

Season Statistics

Date	Opponent	W/L	Score	Crowd
Aug. 28	(9) WYOMING*	W	24-10	89,112
Sept. 13	(9) BOWLING GREEN	W	44-13	93,151
Sept. 20	(9) ARIZONA	W	28-20	91,152
Sept. 27	(7) at Missouri	W	31-10	58,882
Oct. 4	(7) IOWA (11)	W	23-7	92,536
Oct. 11	(7) at Penn State (2)	L	31-27	97,282
Oct. 18	(11) INDIANA	W	31-0	92,368
Oct. 25	(9) NORTHWESTERN	W	49-6	92,445
Nov. 1	(9) at Michigan State (21)	W	37-13	74,903
Nov. 8	(7) at Minnesota	W	31-3	47,706
Nov. 15	(4) ILLINOIS	W	41-6	92,008
Nov. 22	(4) at Michigan (1)	L	20-14	106,982
Jan. 1	(9) Florida State (4)	L	31-14	67,289

*Final Ranking: 12th

*Eddie Robinson Football Classic

& Sugar Bowl, New Orleans, La.

#Number in parenthesis before opponent's name is OSU's game-day ranking in the Associated Press poll; the number after the opponent's name is the opponent's ranking.

Team Statistics		OSU	Opp
First Downs		267	188
Rushing		117	88
Passing		142	87
Penalty		8	13
Avg. Per Game/Rush		164.1	119.3
Avg. Per Game/Pass		242.0	158.3
Total Offense		5,279	3,215
Total Plays		927	680
Average Per Game		406.1	277.6
Average Per Play		5.7	4.1
Penalties-Yards		78-581	57-474
Fumbles-Lost		31-17	25-11
3rd Down Efficiency		68-189	50-208
Percentage		36.4	24.4
4th Down Efficiency		5-14	14-27
Percentage		36.1	52.0
Sacks		36-272	47-317
Time of Possession Avg.		30:55	29:05

Score by Quarters	1	2	3	4	Tot.	Avg.
Ohio State	74	132	121	67	394	30.3
Opponents	36	56	28	50	170	13.1

Attendance	Games	Total	Avg.
Home	7	643,772	91,967
Away	5	385,755	77,151
Neutral	1	67,289	67,289
Total	13	1,096,816	84,370

Individual Statistics		Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Long
Rushing		192	869	4.5	10	47
Pepe Pearson		105	588	5.6	6	32
Michael Wiley		59	257	4.4	0	16
Matt Keller		81	217	2.7	2	41
Stanley Jackson		30	105	3.5	0	28
Joe Montgomery		25	82	3.3	0	15
Derek Combs		9	54	6.0	0	13
Sean Penny		2	44	22.0	0	24
Jerry Rudzinski		9	24	2.7	0	11
Nick Goings		1	19	19.0	0	19
Dee Miller		2	15	7.5	0	11
Charlie Sanders		1	7	7.0	0	7
David Boston		1	7	7.0	0	7
Steve Gehlert		2	0	0.0	0	2
Ken-Yon Rambo		4	-23	-5.8	0	0
Mark Garcia		32	-132	-4.1	0	10
Joe Germaine		555	2133	3.8	18	47
OSU Totals		487	1551	3.2	10	51

Receiving		No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
David Boston		73	970	13.3	14	56
Dee Miller		58	981	16.9	5	45
Matt Keller		19	139	7.3	0	22
John Lumpkin		17	320	18.8	3	50
Steve Wisniewski		12	175	14.6	2	33
Pepe Pearson		9	104	11.6	0	23
Michael Wiley		9	83	9.2	0	24
Ken-Yon Rambo		7	145	20.7	1	38
Vanness Provitt		6	56	9.3	0	15
Nick Goings		3	70	23.3	0	35
Darik Warne		2	20	10.0	0	11
Kevin Griffin		2	18	9.0	0	11
Joe Montgomery		1	7	3.5	0	5
Tom Hoving		1	29	29.0	1	29
Reggie Germany		1	17	17.0	0	17
Sean Penny		1	12	12.0	0	12
OSU Totals		222	3146	14.2	26	56
OPP Totals		182	2058	11.3	7	47

Scoring	TD	EPK	EPP	EPR	FG	PTS
Dan Stultz	—	47-48	—	—	15-25	92

David Boston	14	—	—	—	—	84
Pepe Pearson	10	—	—	—	—	60
Michael Wiley	7	—	—	—	—	42
Dee Miller	5	—	—	—	—	30
John Lumpkin	3	—	—	—	—	18
Stanley Jackson	2	—	—	—	—	12
Gary Berry	2	—	—	—	—	12
Steve Wisniewski	2	—	—	—	—	12
Ken-Yon Rambo	1	—	—	—	—	6
Tom Hoving	1	—	—	—	—	6
Andy Katzenmoyer	1	—	—	—	—	6
Clinton Wayne	1	—	—	—	—	6
Ahmed Plummer	1	—	—	—	—	6
Team Safety	—	—	—	—	—	—
OSU Totals	50	47-48	0-0	0-0	15-25	394
OPP Totals	20	17-19	0-0	0-0	11-18	170

Passing	Comp.	Att.	Pct.	Yds.	INT	TD	Rating
Michael Wiley	3	4	75.0	69	0	1	302.4
Joe Germaine	129	210	61.4	1847	9	16	151.9
Stanley Jackson	81	135	60.0	1055	3	8	140.8
Mark Garcia	9	23	39.1	175	1	1	108.7
OSU Totals	222	372	59.7	3146	13	26	146.8
OPP Totals	182	393	46.3	2058	7	7	85.5

FG Distance	0-29	30-39	40-49	50+	Total
Dan Stultz	5-7	5-5	4-11	1-2	15-25
OSU Totals	5-7	5-5	4-11	1-2	15-25
OPP Totals	3-3	4-6	4-7	0-2	11-18

Punting	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Bk	Long
Brent Bartholomew	72	3252	45.2	1	63
Team	1	0	0.0	0	0
OSU Totals	73	3252	44.5	1	63
OPP Totals	102	4272	41.9	1	67

Interceptions	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
Gary Berry	5	166	33.2	1	45
Ahmed Plummer	5	83	16.6	1	83
Damon Moore	3	38	12.7	0	24
Andy Katzenmoyer	2	25	12.5	1	20
Antoine Winfield	2	25	12.5	0	25
Clinton Wayne	1	38	38.0	1	38
Kevin N. Johnson	1	8	8.0	0	8
Roland Steele	1	7	7.0	0	7
Percy King	1	0	0.0	0	0
OSU Totals	21	390	18.6	4	83
OPP Totals	13	186	14.3	1	51

Punt Returns	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
David Boston	47	392	8.3	0	22
Gary Berry	3	17	5.7	1	7
Marcel Willis	1	34	34.0	0	0
OSU Totals	51	443	8.7	1	22
OPP Totals	36	406	11.3	1	78

Kickoff Returns	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
Michael Wiley	13	334	25.6	1	100
Ken-Yon Rambo	4	100	25.0	0	42
Gary Berry	3	59	19.7	0	26
Matt Keller	2	27	13.5	0	14
Steve Wisniewski	2	9	4.5	0	9
Jerry Rudzinski	1	10	10.0	0	10
John Lumpkin	1	-2	-2.0	0	0
OSU Totals	26	547	21.0	1	100
OPP Totals	52	1189	22.9	0	57

Defensive Leaders	Solo	Ass.	Tot.	TFL	Yds.	Sacks
Antoine Winfield	82	18	100	8.40	3-30	3-30
Andy Katzenmoyer	80	17	97	13-30	2-13	2-13
Kevin N. Johnson	52	29	81	10-30	2-13	2-13
Damon Moore	52	15	67	5-24	1-12	1-12
Jerry Rudzinski	39	26	65	9-47	4-37	4-37
Gary Berry	38	10	48	2-10	1-8	1-8
Winfield Garnett	33	14	47	10-44	4-29	4-29
Ahmed Plummer	30	12	42	1-30	1-30	1-30
Marcel Willis	27	8	35	2-8	1-3	1-3
Jim Bell	20	12	32	6-34	5-30	5-30
Na'il Diggs	21	7	28	8-39	6-36	6-36
Central McClellion	18	10	28	—	—	—
Matt LaVar	20	5	25	1-5	1-5	1-5
Joe Brown	15	8	23	2-9	1-7	1-7

Fumbles Forced
 2 — Jerry Rudzinski, Gary Berry, 1 — Andy Katzenmoyer, Courtland Bullard, Jerry Westbrook, Kevin N. Johnson, Ahmed Plummer, Antoine Winfield, Jim Bell.

Fumbles Recovered
 2 — Damon Moore, Jerry Rudzinski, 1 — David Mitchell, Kevin N. Johnson, Joe Brown, Jim Bell, Na'il Diggs, Gary Berry, Rodney Bailey.

Blocked Kicks
 2 — Percy King, 1 — Andy Katzenmoyer, Marcel Willis.

