

BUCKEYE Sports BULLETIN

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Byars' 274 Yards Nets Fourth Key Buck Award

Griffin's Record Falls From Books

By Rich Exner

Keith Byars had his name put up there along side Archie Griffin's last year when he rushed for 1,199 yards, becoming only the second sophomore — Griffin was the first — to rush for more than 1,000 yards at Ohio State.

Byars' best game was a 174-yard performance against Wisconsin, well off Griffin's single game rushing mark of 246. But Byars didn't think Griffin's record was out of reach.

"Over the summer, I had a copy of a program that showed all the records," The 6-2, 233-pound speedster said. "I never set a game in which I wanted to break it, but it's a goal — if you are a running back — that you always want. If one person could do it, I was sure another one could do it."

Bramble, as his teammates call him because of what they think is a combination of Jim Brown and Earl Campbell, got that record against Illinois. He also surpassed the 1,000-yard rushing mark, checking in with 1,074 after six games.

Byars' totals of 274 yards on 39 carries earned him his fourth Key Oldsmobile Subaru/Rent-A-Wreck Key Buck of the Week award.

Byars was still well behind the Big Ten single-game rushing record of 350 yards set by Michigan State's Eric Allen in 1971.

"I didn't break the record," Byars said of eclipsing Griffin's single game mark. "I just happened to be the person running the football. I think the whole team broke the record," he proclaimed.

"I didn't know I was even that close until I looked up at the scoreboard and it said 274. I was just amazed that I had done it."

It was not a tainted record, either, in which a back is kept in the game only to get a record. The record came on a 23-yard run that got the Buckeyes' final, game-winning drive going.

His last three yards won the game for the Buckeyes.

The final run came with less than a minute left on the clock and the game knotted at 38. On third down, a time out was called and the offense looked to its leader.

According to Byars, "Mark Krewowicz said, 'Keith, can you get three yards? Can you get three yards?' I said, 'Mark, I can get the three yards.'"

The play — 49 pitch — was called, and Byars swept around left end before cutting into the end zone behind a fine block from fullback George Cooper.

"I said, 'Hey, I've got to go get it. Stop me.'"

The touchdown was Byars' fifth of the day, tying the Big Ten scoring record of 30 points. He shares that record with Pete Johnson of Ohio State (1975), Mike Northington of Purdue (1973), Ron Johnson of Michigan (1968) and Red Grange of Illinois (1924).

The record update shows Bramble leading the country in rushing (179.3 yards per game), all-purpose running (243.5) and scoring (16.0). If Byars can stay anywhere close to his current pace, he will smash Griffin's Big Ten rushing record of 1,695 yards



Barry Walker Leads Keith Byars On His Way

and Pete Johnson's Big Ten scoring record of 156 points. He would finish the season with 2,148 yards and 192 points at his current rate.

Erasing a Griffin record seems like a dream come true for a kid who grew up in Dayton as a Griffin fan.

"Everybody was an Archie Griffin fan in my neighborhood," Byars said.

The summer before Byars' senior year at Dayton Roth High School, Griffin threw a recruiting pitch Keith's way.

"I went down to the Cincinnati Bengals training camp and had the opportunity to talk to him. He told me all about his experiences here at Ohio State. They were all good. He said all the good high school running backs in Ohio should go to Ohio State. He said, 'Be part of the tradition.'"

The longest run Byars turned in on the day was the longest from scrimmage of his career and put Ohio State up by eight, 35-27, midway through the third quarter. On this 67-yard scamper, Byars took the handoff on a draw going right, headed to the sideline, cut back down the middle of the field, lost his left shoe, and out-ran the Illini defensive backs into the end zone.

"I felt the shoe slip, and it just popped off," Byars explained. "I wasn't about to slow down to go

back and get it. I tried to get to the end zone as quick as possible and hope no one would step on my size 14."

As usual, both coaches were in awe of another great Byars performance.

Illinois coach Mike White: "It settled down to the last few minutes to what we did and what we didn't do. But Byars did it all. He is so sudden, so versatile and has everything a good running back needs."

Asked if Byars is the best running back in the country, Ohio State's Earle Bruce said, "If there's another one, I don't know where he is. I know who I'd take. I see him give great effort every, every practice."

And when the game was on the line, Byars came through. Although carrying the ball 39 times — five short of Harold "Champ" Henson's Ohio State record — Byars appeared as fresh as could be on the last drive. Forty-nine of Ohio State's 80 yards on last drive were Byars yards.

Following the game, Byars was asked if he was tired.

"Yah, right now," he said. "During the fourth quarter I wasn't tired at all. I felt myself getting stronger. I felt the momentum shifting our way. I knew I had to stay in there and help the team."

The Big Ten Record Chase

Archie Griffin, 1974

Game	Att-Yds	Totals
Minn., 34-19	26-133	26-133
Ore. St., 51-10	16-134	42-267
SMU, 28-9	24-156	66-423
Wash. St., 42-7	21-196	87-619
Wisc., 52-7	18-112	105-731
Ind., 49-9	22-146	127-877
North., 55-7	18-173	145-1050
Ill., 49-7	20-144	165-1194
Mich. St., 13-16	23-140	188-1234
Iowa, 35-10	23-175	211-1509
Mich., 12-10	25-111	236-1620
USC, 17-18	20-75	256-1695

Keith Byars, 1984

Totals	Att-Yds	Game
34-182	34-182	Ore. St., 22-14
60-327	26-145	Wash. St., 44-0
83-447	23-120	Iowa, 45-26
111-611	28-164	Minn., 35-22
141-802	30-191	Pur., 23-28
180-1076	39-274	Ill., 45-38
		Michigan St.
		Wisconsin
		Indiana
		Northwestern
		Michigan

Griffin's 1974 rushing total is a Big Ten record. Griffin, as Byars is in 1984, was a junior during his record-setting season.

Make Up 24-Point Deficit

Buckeyes Rally With Help Of Byars

By Rich Exner

The crowd in Ohio Stadium was stunned. Favored Ohio State trailed Illinois, 24-0, just 16 minutes into the game.

Illinois drove 80 yards for its first score and 57 yards before kicking a field goal to take a 10-0 lead. Buckeye quarterback Mike Tomczak promptly threw an interception, setting up a second Illinois touchdown and a 17-0 score. Then, Keith Byars fumbled the ball away on Ohio State's very next play, setting up the Illini's third TD.

"I didn't see any eyes of defeat in the Buckeyes when we were down 24-0. I was looking for them," Ohio State coach Earle Bruce said.

Tailback Byars, who had just 20 of his record-setting 274 yards in the first quarter, didn't have "eyes of defeat," but he certainly was surprised.

"We were down, 24-0, and we couldn't help but to second guess ourselves," Byars said. "That's the first time I've ever been down 24 points and comeback to win."

The Buckeyes took the ball on their next possession and, using both the pass and the run, moved the ball for the first time of the afternoon. Ohio State went 79

yards before having the drive stopped without scoring at the 13.

The Buckeye defense held and the offense went back to work, this time starting at its own nine-yard line after Illinois punter Chad Little dropped one out of bounds.

Tomczak connected on all four of his pass attempts — 17 yards to Doug Smith on a tipped pass, 15 to Mike Lanese on a deep curl, 36 to Carter down the right sideline after Tomczak pumped left, and 17 more to Carter.

The last pass gave the Buckeyes a first down at the 16 and set the stage for Byars, who spun off one tackler and burst into the end zone. An ensuing scuffle ended in the ejection of All-Big Ten defensive back Craig Swoope.

"As soon as we scored, that's all we needed to break the ice," Byars said.

After a 15-yard penalty was marched off against Illinois for the Swoope incident, the Buckeyes tried an onside kick and Ohio State's Joe Jenkins came out from under a pile of players with the football.

"The big turning point was the 15-yard penalty and the onside kick that we recovered," Bruce said.

Two plays later, Tomczak faked a handoff to Byars, faked a reverse pitch to Lanese and pumped deep to Carter, who leaped high among three defenders to grab the pass and fall into the end zone for the touchdown. Rich Spangler's extra point made it 24-14.

Sonny Gordon made the next big play.

Illini quarterback Jack Trudeau threw to Randy Grant, who was doing an out pattern. Grant didn't turn around in time to see the ball, and Gordon watched it into his hands for his third interception of the year.

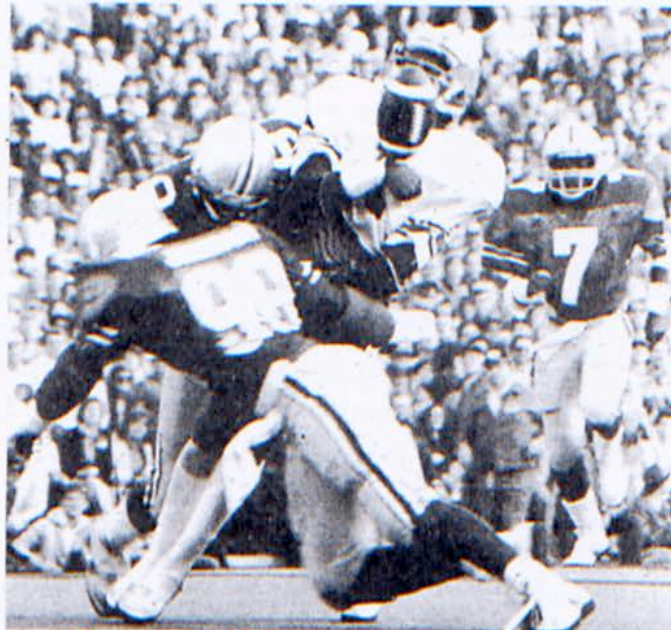
Tomczak completed five of seven passes, and Byars ran one time for 11 yards as the Buckeyes moved to the four-yard line. From there, Byars took a pitch going left and dove over the last defender for the TD, which brought OSU back to 24-21 with only 16 seconds left in the half.

The early game boos turned to thunderous roars in Ohio Stadium as Tomczak led the team off the field waving a towel high in the air.

"It's just funny how momentum changes so quickly. It was exemplified today," Tomczak said following the game.

Things kept going Ohio State's way in the second half. Ray Wilson fumbled the kickoff and William White recovered for the Buckeyes at the 25.

From there, Byars ran four times, diving over from the one, and Ohio State led, 28-24, climaxing a rally that saw the Buckeyes score 28 unanswered points. From there on out, it was a

**Scott Leach (8), Pepper Johnson (98) Apply Hit**

battle of two nearly unstoppable offenses.

Trudeau's short passing game put Chris White, son of coach Mike White and the Big Ten's leading kicker, in range for a 46-yarder. But Ohio State still led, 28-27, with 10:35 on the clock in the third quarter.

Once again, the Buckeyes looked to Byars and, once again, the big tailback came through, breaking to the right side on a draw play and cutting back up the middle for a 67-yard touchdown. Halfway through the run — Byars' longest ever — he lost his left shoe but, with the help of blocks from Cris Carter and Jamie Holland, was still able to out-run the Illini secondary.

With that run and the extra point that followed, Ohio State went up, 35-27.

The two teams traded punts before Illinois, behind some more short passing by Trudeau and good running from Thomas Rooks, reached the end zone again. Trudeau rolled right on a two-point conversion try and, with the receivers covered, tucked the ball up and ran in to tie the game at 35.

Rich Spangler split the uprights with a 47 yarder, equaling his career long set against Brigham Young and Purdue.

After Illinois elected not to go for the touchdown on fourth and inches, White was called upon to kick a 16-yarder to tie the score at 38-all. Coach White called on his son after Fred Ridder stopped Rooks cold on third down.

Just 3:18 remained in the game and, after the kickoff was downed in the end zone, Ohio State stood 80 yards away from its destination.

"We said, 'Hey, this is the season right here,'" Byars said. "Last

year, we went all the way down and got stopped. They came back and won the football game on us."

Tomczak looked to Carter on first down but the pass was knocked away by David Edwards, the man who returned an interception for a touchdown against Ohio State last year.

Then, the Buckeyes went to their franchise, the ground game led by Keith Byars, who ran 23 yards on the next play to break Archie Griffin's Ohio State single-game rushing record.

John Wooldridge ran for eight, Byars for three, Wooldridge for five, Byars for eight, Byars for seven and Wooldridge for 18 to the eight-yard line. After picking up five and being stopped for no gain, Byars took a pitch going left and cut into the end zone off a good block from fullback George Cooper for the winning TD with 32 seconds left in the game.

The defense held and Ohio State emerged a 45-38 winner in a game that saw 1,073 yards in total offense.

"It was a great college football game," coach White said after the game. "It was our best performance of the year. We did not win because we could not stop them."

Big Ten Standings

Ohio State	3-1 5-1
Purdue	3-1 4-2
Iowa	3-1 4-2
Michigan	3-1 4-2
Illinois	3-2 4-3
Michigan State	2-2 3-3
Minnesota	2-2 3-3
Wisconsin	1-3 3-3
Northwestern	1-4 1-6
Indiana	0-4 0-6

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Tomczak Gets To Pick Up Byars' Shoe

By Craig James

Mike Tomczak remembers the play well.

The handoff went to tailback Keith Byars. Byars went through right tackle, found an opening and then cut to the left on his way to a 67-yard touchdown run that put Ohio State up 35-27 over Illinois in the third quarter.

Along the way, one of Byars' shoes came flying off, but it didn't slow him down any. Tomczak got the honor of carrying the shoe back to the Buckeye bench.

"After he shifted into high, he kind of blew a tire," the quarterback remarked. "I had to pick up the treads and bring them over to the sideline. I was like the pit crew, more or less."

Tomczak's own performance in Saturday's victory kind of got lost in the shuffle as Byars basked in the spotlight with his 274-yard rushing game against the Illini. But while the game's outcome was

based on Ohio State's running versus Illinois' passing attack, the senior signal-caller also had some impressive statistics to show off when the day was done.

He completed 16 of 26 passes for 236 yards and a touchdown, a marked improvement over the off-day he had a week before at Purdue.

"Any time we get a victory, I feel happy with my performance," he said. "I'm not a greedy person. I'm just going to go out there and do whatever it takes."

Tomczak's play in the early going, however, reflected the type of shaky play that the entire team exhibited. The OSU offense couldn't get anything going and the Illini was piling up a 24-0 lead. Tomczak was blitzed on his first pass attempt, forcing him to throw too long for split end Cris Carter.

On his second attempt, another pass intended for Carter was picked off by Illinois cornerback Mike Heaven, the same fellow who tackled Tomczak in Champaign a year before, causing a concussion.

Illinois scored following the interception, and did so again after recovering a Byars fumble during the Buckeyes' next possession.

"(Heaven) made a great play," commented Tomczak about the steal. "It's the game of football. You can't reflect on that. The

play's over. And when Keith fumbled the ball, you can't do anything about that. I said, 'Keith, hang in there, buddy. We're going to go. We're going to explode sooner or later.' Keith kept his head on."

Evidently, considering the way OSU rallied to eventually win the game.

"I knew myself that we weren't out of the game," the quarterback said, "because you never say die here at Ohio State. We were behind 24-0, but we just stuck together. We're family and we proved it today."

Ohio State was a family that knew how to play football very well, and when the Buckeyes had trouble with their ground game at first, they resorted to the airways.

OSU's first score, coming in the second quarter, was set up primarily by Tomczak and his receivers. The senior connected on three straight passes at one point to split end Doug Smith, flanker Mike Lanese and Carter for gains of 17, 15 and 36 yards respectively. After OSU was assessed a holding penalty, Tomczak got another throw off to Carter for a 17-yard pickup to the Illinois 16. Byars reached the end zone on the next play.

On the second play during Ohio State's next possession, set up after the Bucks recovered an onside

kick, Tomczak faked a reverse and passed down the middle for 30 yards and into the waiting hands of a leaping Carter for the touchdown.

The quarterback used three receivers again to account for 48 of the 62 yards that OSU covered in its third scoring drive of the second frame, which began when rover Sonny Gordon stole an Illini pass.

In all, Tomczak threw for 209 yards in the second quarter, completing 13 of 20 aerials.

"There were some passes last week (at Purdue) that were crucial that hurt us," he said. "This week, we had one interception on the first pass of the game. They surprised us, but sooner or later, we come back."

"Just like Keith did in running, I knew my passing would come sooner or later."

The Illinois game reminded him of another during his senior year at Thornton Fractional High School. Rich Central took a 21-0 lead in the first half, but Tomczak came out throwing for over 300 yards in the last two frames and Thornton ended up winning 28-21.

"I was having the worst day of my life the first half," he said of that game. "We came back and I had the greatest day in my life the second half."

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Carter Hauls In 7 Passes Against Illini

By Craig James

A great game like Ohio State's 45-38 win over Illinois last Saturday had more than its share of great plays. Take any of the five touchdown runs turned in by tailback Keith "One Shoe" Byars, for example.

But another play that made the fans stand up and cheer was the incredible 30-yard scoring reception of split end Cris Carter in the second quarter.

Ohio State had just scored its first touchdown of the afternoon moments earlier. The Buckeyes then attempted an onside kick which was recovered by outside linebacker Joe Jenkins on the Illinois 31-yard line. After Byars gained one yard to the 30, quarterback Mike Tomczak threw a fake reverse pass down the center of the field for Carter, who started looking for the ball around the two.

Carter leaped up and snared the catch as Illini defensive backs Mike Heaven, David Edwards and George Arvanitis quickly closed in on him. Carter was tackled in the air, but when he came down, he was in the end zone and OSU had cut Illinois' lead to 24-14.

"We're taught to catch the ball at the highest point and I just tried to jump up to catch it," said Carter. "Fortunately, I caught the pass."

Carter was being modest, but other people in the Buckeye camp were quick to lavish praise on the freshman's play.

"He had a tremendous game," remarked coach Earle Bruce. "He was super. He went up in the air and took some (passes) that you couldn't believe, especially that one on the goal-line that he fell in with. He went up after that one."

"He's got a vertical jump you can't believe."

"Cris is going to be a great athlete," said Tomczak. "He's maturing more and more every week. The catch he made in the end zone just shows his great athletic ability."

"He vertical jumps 31 feet. You get the ball up there and he's going to make a great catch. And sure enough, he did. He made a couple of other key catches on third down conversions that helped us out."

Well, maybe the 31 feet was an exaggeration. Carter, who was a star basketball player as well as an All-American receiver at Middletown High School, estimates his vertical leap at 33 inches. In any case, the talented player finished the game with seven catches for 134 yards and the one score, an average of 19.1 yards per reception.

Carter, who started his third

straight game, downplayed all the fuss.

"I believed we could come back and win," he said. "Even when they were up 24-0, I still thought we had the ability to come back."

Our offense really wasn't going and our defense was staying on the field too long. Once we got the offense going, we got a couple of breaks. Once we start going, I feel we have the best offense in the country and nobody can stop us.

"I was just thinking if the opportunity arose for me to catch a pass, I have to catch it. That's all part of the team effort."

"I really wasn't thinking that I was going to be the one to have to pull it out, because it was a total team effort that got us back into the ball game."

Carter, who caught five passes in the second quarter alone for 110 yards, is now tied with Byars for second place on the OSU receiving list with 23 catches so far this season, just behind flanker Mike Lanese's 24. But even after the performance he put together against Illinois, Carter has no illusions about the type of team for which he plays.

"Ohio State is a running football team," he said. "I'm not planning to come here and change it into a passing football team. When they call upon us to catch the pass, we catch it. When we block, we have to block."

"You have to expose your greatest athletes on the team, and (Byars) is the greatest athlete on this team."


Carter showed his ability to come back after the disaster at Purdue in more ways than one after it was revealed earlier in the week that he had been ejected from that game by officials. But he said he wasn't motivated for the Illinois game for that reason.

"I was just getting prepared, because I knew (the Illini) were going to play a lot of man-to-man coverage," he said. "You have to run excellent routes against man-to-man coverage to get open. We just happened to get open this week. Next week, we might not catch the ball. You just have to be ready for your opportunity."

There were many golden opportunities for the Buckeyes last week, and Carter, for one, made the most of them.



Cris Carter Goes High For Touchdown Catch



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Wooldridge Makes Key Runs In Final Drive**Buckeyes' Other Tailback Also Stars***By Rich Exner*

On Ohio State's winning drive against Illinois, the other tailback made three runs for a total of 31 yards.

It wasn't anything new for the other tailback to be called upon in a key situation; John Wooldridge has made plenty of big runs for the Buckeyes before.

The only thing that has kept Wooldridge's name out of the headlines is Keith Byars' record-breaking season. You see, Byars plays in front of Wooldridge.

"Keith is a good back; I'm a good back," Wooldridge said. "Somebody has to get the job and somebody has to back up. It's my job to back him up."

When Wooldridge does get the chance to replace Byars, he usually makes the best of it. He carried the ball eight times for 52 yards against Illinois. The 5-11, 190-pounder would have been over the 100-yard mark, but an illegal motion penalty negated a 65-yard touchdown run.

"Normally it wouldn't bother me," Wooldridge said of the penalty, "but in a close game, it did."

For the year, Wooldridge has run the football 50 times for 338 yards.

**Jim Lachey (64) Opens Hole In Iowa's Defense For John Wooldridge**

His yard per carry average sparkles at 6.8. Last year, Wooldridge picked up 264 yards on 51 carries.

"The more I play, the smarter I'll become, and the better football player I'll be," Wooldridge said.

Wooldridge was recruited out of Akron Central-Hoyer High School the same year Roman Bates and Keith Byars were recruited. Bates and Wooldridge were red-shirted while Byars played sparingly the first year. Because of the red-shirt year, Wooldridge can look to 1986 as the year he may be the Buckeyes' starting tailback after the graduation of Byars.

"I wasn't happy at first," Wooldridge said of being red-shirted. "Now that I've grown more mature, I realize that it was a good decision on my part to accept it."

Ohio State's spectacular 45-38 come-from-behind victory over Illinois was a memorable day for Wooldridge.

"I've never been involved in a football game like this," he said. "We spotted them 24 points. I turned my head, turned around again, and it was still 24 points."

The game came down to the last drive as mentioned above. The Buckeyes had just one more chance and needed an effective ground game to run the clock down so

Illinois wouldn't have much time to comeback.

"It was intense," Wooldridge said. "We were more or less like a family in there. We were holding hands. We don't usually do that. We needed to score, and we needed to grind out the clock."

Wooldridge's last run of the day was his longest and most important. It came on a second and three from the Illini 26. He busted off left guard and then cutback to the right for an 18-yard gain to the eight-yard line. That set the stage for the final three runs by Byars.

"It wasn't a lot of rah, rah," Wooldridge said of the team's reactions during the touchdown march. "We were trying to keep ourselves calm and relaxed."

Wooldridge may have been able to keep his emotions down during the drive but sure was excited after the game.

"I'm excited. Electricity was flowing through Ohio Stadium like I never saw before," he said. "It's something I'll carry with me. All the records that were broken, I was part of."

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Ohio State-Illinois, Season Statistics

Buckeyes 45, Illini 38

ILLINOIS	17	7	11	3	38
OHIO STATE	0	21	14	10	45

ILL — Grant 3 pass from Trudeau (White kick) 7:40
 ILL — White 26 field goal 2:58
 ILL — Williams 9 pass from Trudeau (White kick) 1:14
 ILL — Boso 8 pass from Trudeau (White kick) 14:47
 OSU — Byars 16 run (Spangler kick) 4:13
 OSU — Carter 30 pass from Tomczak (Spangler kick) 3:23
 OSU — Byars 4 run (Spangler kick) 0:23
 OSU — Byars 1 run (Spangler kick) 13:40
 ILL — White 46 field goal 10:42
 OSU — Byars 67 run (Spangler kick) 8:57
 ILL — Wilson 9 pass from Trudeau (Trudeau run) 1:09
 OSU — Spangler 46 field goal 10:21
 ILL — White 16 field goal 3:18
 OSU — Byars 3 run (Spangler kick) 0:36
 Att. — 89,937

	ILL	OSU
First Downs	27	23
Rushing	10	11
Passing	17	11
Penalty	0	1
Rushes-Yards	38-196	49-328
Passing Yards	313	236
Passes	52-32-1	26-16-1
Offensive Plays	90	75
Total Net Yards	509	564
Third Down Eff.	12-18	8-12
Punts	2-31-0	3-55-0
Fumbles-Lost	2-1	1-1
Penalties	4-50	6-47
Time Of Possession	31:48	28:12

Individual Statistics

RUSHING (Att.-Net Yds.) — ILLINOIS: Rooks 28-168; Brazas 2-13; Trudeau 4-8; Wycoff 3-6; Wilson 1-1. OHIO STATE: Byars 39-274; Wooldridge 8-52; Bates 1-1; Walker 1-1.
 PASSING (Att.-Comp.-Int.-Yds.-TD) — ILLINOIS: Trudeau 52-32-1-313-4. OHIO STATE: Tomczak 26-16-1-236-1.

RECEIVING (Rec.-Yds.) — ILLINOIS: Boso 10-73; D. Williams 7-73; Grant 5-91; Wilson 4-48; Rooks 4-6; Boatright 1-15; Reese 1-7. OHIO STATE: Carter 7-134; Lanese 5-68; D. Smith 3-35; Byars 1-1.

PUNTING (No.-Ave.-Lg.) — ILLINOIS: 2-31-0-34. OHIO STATE: Tupa 3-55-0-61.
 PUNT RETURNS (No.-Ave.-Lg.) — ILLINOIS: Arvanitis 2-15.5-16. OHIO STATE: Dawson 1-0-0-0.

KICKOFF RETURNS (No.-Ave.-Lg.) — ILLINOIS: Wilson 3-21.7-29. OHIO STATE: Byars 3-18.0-23; Wooldridge 1-18-0-0.

DEFENSIVE FUMBLES RECOVERED BY — ILLINOIS: Swoope. OHIO STATE: W. White.

INTERCEPTIONS — ILLINOIS: Heaven. OHIO STATE: Gordon.

TACKLES FOR LOSS — ILLINOIS: Ayers. OHIO STATE: None.

TACKLES (Solo-Ass.-Tot.) — ILLINOIS: Edwards 8-5-13; Ayers 7-4-11; Teafattler 2-4-6; Ellsworth 2-4-6; Avery 3-3-6; Bohm 1-4-5; Aina 2-3-5; Heaven 2-3-5; Nelson 1-4-5; Arvanitis 1-4-5; Sebring 2-2-4; Gibson 0-3-3; Swoope 1-2-3; Tagart 1-2-3; Glielmi 0-2-2; Hairston 0-2-2; Pugh 1-1-2; Brazas 2-0-2; McBain 1-1-2; White 0-2-2; Dombrowski 0-1-1; Jenkins 0-1-1. OHIO STATE: Johnson 7-8-15; Rogan 4-7-11; Morrill 6-4-10; Hueston 2-7-9; Gordon 4-3-7; T. White 3-4-7; Ridder 4-3-7; Kolc 1-5-6; Leach 0-5-5; Pfister 0-5-5; B. Lee 3-1-4; Crecelius 1-3-4; Giuliani 0-3-3; Jenkins 1-2-3; W. White 2-0-2; Bell 0-2-2; Harvey 2-0-2; Sullivan 1-0-1; Holliman 0-1-1; Wooldridge 0-1-1; Richardson 0-1-1.

Players In The Game

ILLINOIS — Hairston, Gibson, Bourke, Campos, Teafattler, Bohm, Nelson, Martin, Aina, Dombrowski, Sebring, Jenkins, Searcy, Ellsworth, Tagart, Glielmi, Pugh, Ayres, Avery, Edwards, Arvanitis, Giddings, Lawlor, E. White, Elliott, Swoope, Bell, Heaven, Little, D. Williams, Boatright, Juriga, Birk, Babyar, Kisner, Miller, Carlini, Schulte, Dennis, Kehoe, Scully, Boso, Reese, A. Williams, Grant, Passmore, Trudeau, Cruz, Wilson, Wycoff, Rooks, Ashley, Brazas, McBain, M. Williams, C. White.

OHIO STATE — Groza, Hutchison, Higdon, Ro. Graves, Maggs, Lachey, Gilmore, Lowdermilk, Whitmer, Zalenski, Krerowicz, Carter, D. Smith, Tomczak, Byars, Wooldridge, Jam. Holland, Bates, Walker, Blair, Lanese, Dawson, Spangler, Hueston, Crecelius, Giuliani, D. Lee, Morrill, Sullivan, B. Lee, Kumerow, Alders, Kolc, Pfister, Jenkins, Harvey, Johnson, Ridder, Gordon, Cargile, Richardson, W. White, S. Hill, Jackson, Palmer, Rogan, Leach, T. White, K. Bell, Tupa.

Record: Won 5, Lost 1 - Big Ten Won 3, Lost 1									
OPP	PTS	ATT	YDS	ATT	YDS	INT	TD	AVG	TD
FIRST DOWNS	126	143	RUSHING	180	1087	11	1076	6.0	14
Rushing	62	78	Byars	50	340	2	338	6.8	2
Passing	61	61	Wooldridge	35	154	2	152	4.3	2
Penalty	3	4	Dates	5	22	0	22	4.4	0
NET YARDS RUSHING	996	1604	Walker	2	14	0	14	7.0	1
Attempts	242	293	Delaney	5	23	12	11	1.8	1
Yards Gained	1140	1682	Karnatos	3	14	7	7	2.3	0
Yards Lost	144	78	Jm. Holland	1	6	0	6	6.0	1
Average Per Game	165.0	267.3	Lanese	10	22	30	-8	-	0
Average Per Play	4.1	5.5	Tomczak	1	0	14	-14	-	0
NET YARDS PASSING	1389	1123	Tupa	5	22	0	22	4.4	0
Attempts	200	145							
Completed	116	85							
Had Intercepted	10	5							
Percentage	.580	.593	Tomczak	116	69	3	917	.595	6
Average Per Game	231.5	187.2	Karnatos	28	16	2	171	.571	0
Average Per Play	6.9	7.7	Byars	1	1	0	35	1.000	1
TOTAL NET GAIN	2385	2727							
Total Plays	442	438							
Average Per Game	397.5	354.5							
Average Per Play	5.4	6.2							
POINTS	128	214							
Touchdowns	16	29							
Field Goals-Other	4-11-1	21-7-1							
KICKING	13-13	27-25							
KICK Rushing	2-2	1-0							
KICK Passing	1-0	1-0							
Field Goals	6-5	8-5							
Safeties	0	0							
Average Per Game	21.3	35.7							
PUNTS-HAD BLOCKED	26-0	20-0							
Yards	1175	973							
Average Per Punt	40.5	48.7							
Net Average	37.8	45.2							
PUNT RETURNS	9	13							
Yards	69	79							
Touchdowns	0	0							
KICKOFF RETURNS	7-7	6-1							
Yards	25	13							
Touchdowns	505	312							
Average Per Return	20.2	24.0							
INTERCEPTIONS	5	10							
Yards	78	129							
Touchdowns	1	1							
Average Per Return	15.6	12.9							
PENALTIES	26	21							
Yards	220	191							
Average Per Game	36.7	31.8							
FUMBLES-LOST	12-7	8-4							
THIRD DOWN EFFICIENCY	43-95	48-86							
Percentage	.453	.558							
SACKS AGAINST	10-24	4-22							
TIME OF POSSESSION	175:14	184:16							
Average Per Game	29:17	30:43							
SCORE BY QUARTER									
Opponents	34	38	31	25	128				
Ohio State	30	79	47	58	214				

Buckeye Question, Answer

By Rich Exner

Buckeye Question and Answer allows OSU fans to write BSB and inquire about certain matters of trivia, history and rules. If you would like a question answered, write Q & A, Buckeye Sports Bulletin, P.O. Box 12453, Columbus, Ohio 43212.

Q. What is the lifetime series record between OSU and the University of Arizona? — Brad Bower, Tucson, Ariz.

A. Ohio State lost its only outing to Arizona. The two schools met in Ohio Stadium in 1967, and Arizona was a 14-7 winner. By the way, Ohio State has also played Arizona State just once. The Buckeyes won that game in Ohio Stadium in 1980, 38-21.

Q. What were Lou Holtz's records at William & Mary, North Carolina State and Arkansas before going to Minnesota? — Jerry Meeker, Akron.

A. Holtz didn't get off to such a good coaching career at William & Mary as his three-year record beginning in 1969 was 13-20. In 1972, Holtz began a four-year stint at North Carolina State, his record was 34-12-3. In seven years at Arkansas, his record was 60-21-2.

Q. When were the last times Ohio State players led the country in either rushing or scoring? — Frank Baldwin, New York, N.Y.

A. Oddly enough, an Ohio State player has never led the country in rushing. The most common guess would be in 1974 when Archie Griffin set the Big Ten rushing record with 1,695 yards. However, Temple's Steve Joachim rushed for 2,227 yards that year.

Twice, Ohio State players have led the country in scoring. Harold Henson scored 120 points in 10 games in 1972 and Pete Johnson scored 150 points in 11 games in 1975, both to lead the country.

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Bruce: Win Stadium's Most Exciting Ever

By Rich Exner

Ohio State coach Earle Bruce was totally impressed with his team's ability to comeback from a 24-0 deficit to score a thrilling 45-38 victory over Illinois Oct. 13.

"When you dig your own hole because of your own mistakes and

comeback to win, that's a great tribute to your football team," Bruce said. "The crowd did stick with us. When we scored, you could feel it generate."

"I don't know of a more exciting game in this stadium than the 24-0 comeback by the 1984 Buckeyes,"

he added following the game. "This can really bring us together quite a bit."

"It was a great football game, and I certainly enjoyed it at the end," he added.

Bruce was especially impressed with some of his top players.

"We won, and we won with Keith Byars (274 yards rushing). He did a great job along with Mike Tomczak (236 yards passing) and Cris Carter (seven catches)," said Bruce, who later added kicker Rich Spangler to the list of stars.

"Rich Spangler did an exceptional job," Bruce said of Spangler's 47-yard field goal, five extra point kicks, an onside kick and the strong kickoffs.

Punter Tom Tupa, with three punts for a 55-yard average, also received a special mention along with several other Buckeyes.

Byars appeared strong all the way through his 39-carry afternoon.

"He was worn out, not fatigued. He was emotionally high and physically fit," Bruce said. "You will not see a better running back, ever."

When Ohio State got the football back with 3:18 remaining in the game and the contest knotted at 38, the Buckeyes needed to put a time-consuming drive together and score. It couldn't have worked much better as Byars ran into the end zone with just 36 seconds left. "It was a picture-perfect drive," Bruce said.

Throughout the game, Ohio State showed its inability to stop Illinois' short passing game as receivers crossed in front of the linebackers for six, seven and eight-yard pickups.

"It's like a basketball game," Bruce said. "If you play him inside, he breaks outside for the ball."

"We know we are inexperienced on defense, especially against these strong offensive football teams. I don't know how you keep (Iowa's) Chuck Long and (Illinois') Jack Trudeau out of the end zone," he said. "On the defensive field, we had our hands full — no doubt about it."

The ejection of All-Big Ten defensive back Craig Swoope after Ohio State's first touchdown was called a turning point in the game by Bruce. On top of Swoope being ejected for "slugging" Kirk Lowdermilk, a 15-yard penalty was assessed on the kickoff.

"I guess the big turning point in the game was the 15-yard penalty and the onside kick that we recovered," Bruce said. "Without that recovery, we don't know what they could have done with the football."

Third-string fullback George Cooper was called upon when Roman Bates went out with an ankle injury and Barry Walker was forced to leave the game with a shoulder injury. Given the chance, Cooper came through with some key blocks including a big one on Byars' game-winning touchdown run.

"We had to bring somebody out of red-shirt to play. We were trying to red-shirt George Cooper," Bruce said. "He did a pretty good job of blocking."

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The View From 15th and High

By Frank L. Moskowitz, BSB Editor

Illinois Game Reminiscent Of Ring Battle

If you had the good fortune to see one of the Ali-Frazier fights, you know what it's like to see two championship-caliber heavyweights slug it out for 15 rounds.

That's essentially what happened in Ohio State's 45-38 win over Illinois. Two good football teams slugged it out from start to finish. Illinois scored early, knocking the Buckeyes to the canvas, before Ohio State came back in the middle rounds, the Illini made a rally, and then the Buckeyes dealt the knockout punch in the 15th round.

Oftentimes in boxing, to extend this metaphor, if you go to the opposition's body, you can wear him down. You won't see a lot of boxers knocked out with body punches. But nothing will soften a boxer up better than a prolonged attack to the body.

Ohio State pounded at Illinois' midsection with bruising Keith Byars throughout the game. And when the bell rang for the 15th round, Illinois was ripe for the knockout.

When the Buckeyes started their final drive, there wasn't one person on the Illinois squad, one person in a frenzied Ohio Stadium, nor one person in the network TV audience who didn't know that Keith Byars was going to get the ball. Yet Byars, along with running mate John Wooldridge, was able to score repeated blows against the exhausted Illini defense as the

Bucks marched 80 yards in 11 plays.

The beauty of the final drive was that it ended with only 36 seconds left in the game. The Buckeyes had hardly a better idea as to how to stop the Illini offense at the end of the game than they did at the beginning. Better let the clock stop them, than have the defense try and contain them.

By the way, if you don't think this was a rough game, check out Ohio State's injury list in Rich Exner's column on page 2.

WHEN OHIO STATE was down by 24, I could already hear the abuse that Earle Bruce was going to take, see the letters that were going to appear in local newspapers. With the exciting victory, that was all probably stifled for at least the time being.

You have to give Bruce credit, though. He obviously teaches his teams character. We saw it at Purdue, when the Buckeyes battled down to the wire, and we certainly saw it against the Illini in a game where lesser teams would have folded. And we also saw it two years ago, when Ohio State dropped three straight games, then bounced back to roll to seven straight victories.

And as the Buckeyes came back against Illinois, I thought about Gerry Fast, and what it would be like for him if he were here in Columbus. People would blow his house up, tar and feather him, or

who knows what.

Which leaves me asking, how long are those kids from Moeller going to keep going to a school that goes 6-5 when they could be coming to a school where 9-3 is considered a bad season.

It's a lot tougher when *all* the teams can recruit, isn't it Gerry?

ANOTHER THING I thought about as the Buckeyes were stumbling was how Keith Byars was botching his big chance on national television. **WRONG!** It just took Keith some time to get warmed up.

While it appears that many Heisman voters have already decided on Doug Flutie, Keith Byars seems to understand the task in front of him and he is out to make the voters stand up and take notice. I have maintained all along that all someone has to do is see Byars and he or she will be a believer.

And I can assure you. There were 89,937 believers at Ohio Stadium on Oct. 13.

Each week, you wonder how he will better his last performance, and he always seems to manage bettering it. And remember, he is accomplishing all of this with entire defenses keyed to stop him.

Craig James, one of our staff members, says we should rename *Buckeye Sports Bulletin*, *Byars Sports Bulletin (BSB)* because of the way the big back from Dayton has dominated our pages lately.

ONE OF THE MOST delightful aspects of Keith Byars is his tendency to quote himself when he is talking. Watch for it. He does it several times in our cover story this week.

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to revert to their old ways on defense against the Illini, laying far off the ball. At times it seemed like the Buckeyes had four defenders in the parking lot and another four in the end zone, leaving only three men to rush, and all this when Illinois had the ball on its own 20. (This is an exaggeration, folks!)

Obviously, these rushers were unable to mount much pressure on Jack Trudeau, and with all that time, it was pretty easy for him to find one of his five receivers.

The pass rush should improve with the return of Chris Spielman. The blitz, which worked fairly well early in the season, has been ineffective of late. Spielman should help in that area.

Lost in all the Byars hoopla was the fact that Illinois running back Thomas Rooks racked up 168 yards rushing. This gives you an idea of just what kind of problems the Buckeye defense was having.

I WANTED TO TAKE this opportunity to thank so many of you for your patience as we have combined our subscriber list with that of the now-defunct *Buckeye Leaves*. While we have cleared up most of the problems, some of you are still having difficulty.

If you are still receiving two copies of *Buckeye Sports Bulletin*, please send us the mailing label from each copy. You will notice that they are slightly different. We will combine these two subscriptions and extend them.

We have received a large volume of letters in the last few weeks, and we are unfortunately unable to answer each of them. However, please notify us if you continue to have problems.

THIS ISSUE INCLUDES our first game coverage of the 1984-85 OSU hockey season. We will once again have Craig Merz, widely recognized as Columbus' leading hockey writer, covering the skating Buckeyes.

We are proud to have Craig on our staff and hope you follow the hockey team through his stories in each issue of *Buckeye Sports Bulletin*.

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