

# BUCKEYE Sports BULLETIN

75¢

Jan 17 1987

Vol 6, no 15

12802



Earle Bruce

## Bruce Goes With His Heart, Turns Down Arizona Offer

By Jim Wharton

Earle Bruce, the Ohio State football coach for the past eight years, turned down a lucrative contract from Arizona University to stay on with the Buckeyes.

"I'm staying," said Bruce, who had kept things around Columbus buzzing for three days after it was learned that Arizona officials had, with OSU athletic director Rick Bay's permission, discussed the vacant head coaching position with the veteran Buckeye mentor.

"A year ago, they (Ohio State) gave me a three-year contract," said Bruce, who closed out his eighth season at OSU with a 28-12 victory over Texas A&M in the Cotton Bowl. "I've got two years left on it. I am, and I've always been, a guy who feels you should fulfill your obligations and responsibilities. That's what I'm going to do."

It evidently took some soul-searching on Bruce's part — along with late-night and early-morning sessions with Bay and his assistant coaches — for the Buckeye coach to pass on a contract reportedly worth \$1.5 million dollars and five years in length.

"I guess the coaching staff and Rick Bay talking to me did it," said Bruce, who had decided to accept the Arizona post and then changed his mind. "I think the thing probably is just thinking about the team that we've got coming back and the young men that are going to be playing four years at Ohio State that I recruited."

Bay, who proved a solid Bruce supporter, faced the fact that he himself might be conducting a coaching search.

"I don't want to lose Earle," said Bay during those hectic couple of days, "but I don't think it's fair to keep him (from interviewing) if he's interested in another opportunity."

But those conversations in Bruce's San Diego hotel room, where the Buckeye coach and his staff were attending the annual NCAA convention, were persuasive in nature.

"I appealed to his emotions and his loyalty," said Bay. "I knew how he felt in his heart. It wasn't as hard a sell as one might think."

Bay was asked for additional details on those talks.

"We had a two-hour meeting, that was somewhat emotional," he said. "We talked about all of the pluses and some of the minuses relative to staying or going. But there were no promises, there were no deals behind closed doors. He simply turned down a superior contract to stay at Ohio State out of loyalty."

That loyalty had to be based to a degree on names like Cris Carter, Chris Spielman, Eric Kumerow and the other returning players on the OSU team.

That was, according to Buckeye linebacker coach Bill Conley, the approach the assistant coaches took with their boss.

"The main thing was the potential of this team coming back and the fact we have an outstanding class coming back," said Conley. "Plus the overall thing was that so many of us are from Ohio State originally and that it would be a very difficult thing to leave this situation."

The situation for the Buckeyes and Bruce is 16 returning starters from a team that went 10-3 last year,

including nine straight wins after two disastrous losses to start the season.

"Arizona offered a real nice package for Earle Bruce," said Bruce, who has a 75-22 record at Ohio State. "But I couldn't bring myself to leave the people I hired, the players I recruited. Sometimes I wonder why I went to Arizona. But it was an opportunity to talk to somebody and find out what the other side felt like. And it's nice to be wanted."

Whether Bruce was wanted at Ohio State also became a question when it appeared the Buckeye coach was using the Arizona offer for leverage toward getting his contract at OSU extended. Bay reportedly attempted to have Bruce's contract lengthened to the five years Arizona was offering. But he ran into opposition from OSU president Edward H. Jennings.

Jennings, also in San Diego for the NCAA convention, was quoted as saying he had "chatted" with some university trustees and the feeling was that no contract talks would be held until Bruce's present pact expires following the 1988 season.

Would that turn of events cause Bruce to reevaluate his position somewhere down the road?

"I don't know that," said Bruce, who has had the Buckeyes in a postseason bowl game in each of his eight years. "I would think that's something to be decided after two years are up or whenever that's going to be negotiated. There was no intent on my part to negotiate the contract. I know I signed a three-year contract last year that will have to be negotiated when that's up."

Continued On Page 16

## Groves Leaves OSU Golf Post

While one Ohio State coach was announcing that there's no place like home, another decided to pick up and leave his Buckeye roots.

Steve Groves, coach of the OSU women's golf team since September of 1980, announced his resignation. Groves, who led the Lady Buckeye linksters to one unofficial and three official Big Ten championships, left his job shortly after the first of the year. He will take over as professional at the Dubuque (Iowa) Golf and Country Club.

"My whole background, prior to coming to Ohio State, was at a private club," said Groves, a native of Lancaster, Ohio, and a former Big Ten individual champion as a member of the OSU men's golf team. "We decided a year ago about what we were hoping to do five or 10 years from now. One of the things was that I

thought that I wanted to better myself, back as a PGA professional, back at a private club.

"So that's when we decided to start looking," continued Groves, speaking in a plural tense to include his wife, the former Nancy Shafer, also a one-time Buckeye golfer.

"It took us about a year. We've had several other opportunities at some different places. We finished second at a couple of places and this finally came open. It's a very good opportunity for us. It would have to have been something very, very nice for us to leave Ohio State."

Groves, who holds a Class A status with the Professional Golfers' Association, thinks he has found it.

"I really felt like I had a lot more to offer and to give a private club than what I was having the opportunity to do here at Ohio State," he said. "From

the coaching standpoint, I had no problem with that. I really enjoyed the coaching and if I could have been just a coach, period, I would have never left.

"But being a professional golfer, being in the PGA and knowing what I could do, both career-wise and financially from a private club, I knew that I wasn't going to be able to fulfill that here at Ohio State. I knew that I needed to make a move."

"That's what prompted it, we're glad we did it and we know at this point in time it's the right move."

Groves will look back on his 6½ years at Ohio State with fond memories.

"The only thing that I didn't fulfill was winning the national championship," said Groves, who coached three

Continued On Page 15



Steve Groves

# Bruce Able To Stomach Criticism, If . . .

Earle Bruce says he can accept a certain amount of criticism.

"It never bothers me, if they know what they're talking about," said Bruce during a recent interview. "I can accept their criticism directed to either strategy or game tactics or something else, because I sit back and analyze it. "The only difference between them and me is they've got two or three days to think about it, not 25 seconds. That's the difference if you really think about it — to make very important, quick decisions."

**BRUCE ALSO** took on a weighty issue when someone brought up the now-stagnant question about the size of his belly.

## Buck Beat

"I've been watching a lot of coaches," said Bruce. "You know, television kind of gives you a potbelly. I've been looking at some of those pro coaches and I don't see too many skinny guys coaching football.

"Maybe Lou Holtz and a couple other ones. I won't name names. But when I look at pro coaches, they're pretty hefty and yet pretty good coaches.

"It doesn't matter if you're slim and trim or you've got a little roll there. That doesn't make you a football coach."

Bruce, incidentally, noted that he had lost 26 pounds since the season started last September.

**THREE OSU SENIORS**, Ed Taggart, Sonny Gordon and Bob Maggs, participated in postseason all-star games.

Taggart and Gordon were starters on the East team which dropped a 24-21 decision to the West in the East-West Shrine Game in San Francisco.

"It was a lot of fun," said Gordon. "We only played three coverages, so it wasn't that difficult."

Taggart caught three passes for 61 yards in the game.

Maggs played for the East squad which lost 24-17 to the West in the

Japan Bowl.

**BUCKEYE CAGER** Dennis Hopson keeps inching closer to the top of the OSU all-time scoring list.

With 68 points in the setbacks at Michigan and Michigan State, the 6-5 senior out of Toledo Bowers High School passed Gary Bradds and Tony Campbell and moved into seventh place with 1,570 career points.

Next up for Hopson, with his first three points in a home game against Northwestern on Jan. 15, will be Allan Hornyak, who stands sixth on the list with 1,572 points.

**WHILE GARY** Williams was with the Buckeye basketball team in Michigan, he got word of the various changes the NCAA had passed during its 81st annual convention.

One of them, one which reduces the number of basketball scholarships from 15 to 13, drew Williams' wrath.

"The way I read it," he said, of a rule that goes into effect Aug. 1, 1988, "we'll only be able to recruit two players to replace them."

Indiana coach Bobby Knight was even more emphatic.

"That's one of the dumbest things ever," Knight was quoted as saying. "You cannot operate a basketball program today on 13 scholarships. Anybody that would propose that or vote for that is an absolute idiot."

Two other items among several passed by the NCAA were one that prohibits boosters from having anything to do with recruiting and another which cuts by almost 50 percent the recruiting season for football and basketball.

**EVIDENTLY** A little discipline worked wonders for former Ohio State basketball player Brad Sellers.

Sellers, in his first year with Chicago of the National Basketball Association, was recently suspended for four days by Bulls' coach Doug Collins. Sellers reportedly disobeyed Collins' orders about not going home for Christmas. Collins was upset with the way the team was playing and ordered the team to remain together for the holiday.

Sellers, who missed only one game during the four-day suspension, bounced back in fine fashion, making strong contributions off the bench in games against Golden State and Boston.

The third game after being set down, Sellers was in the starting lineup for the first time. He responded with 12-14 field goal shooting, scored 27 points and grabbed 12 rebounds. Both the points and rebounds were personal highs.

**RANDY GRADISHAR** was recently inducted into the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame. Gradishar, a two-time All-American at Ohio State, retired last year after an 11-year career with the Denver Broncos of the NFL.

**CHARLES CHANCEY**, the father of Ohio State freshman Mike Chancey, has resigned as head football coach at Meigs.

The elder Chancey, the only coach the school has had since it was formed as a consolidation in the fall of 1967, capped 20 years at the school by winning the championship of the Tri-Valley Conference and posting a 10-0 record. Named the league's coach of the year this fall, Chancey's overall coaching record, including four years as head coach at Pomeroy High School, was 134-90-6.

Continued On Page 16

## CLIP THIS COUPON NOW!!

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY \_\_\_\_\_  
 STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Basketball Weekly, "Free Offer"  
 17820 East Warren, Detroit, MI 48224

06F

Send me a **FREE** Sample Copy of **BASKETBALL WEEKLY.**

Send me 20 issues for \$25.00 and bill me later (a \$50.00 value on the newsstand).

Credit card holders call 1-800-521-8808

**BASKETBALL WEEKLY**, America's #1 cage weekly, will send you a **Free Sample Copy** without cost or obligation. Just fill in the coupon above and send it in now. You'll receive one of our huge pre-season issues worth \$2.50 without cost or obligation (Offer expires 12-15-86).

Or if you so desire you can subscribe for **\$25.00** for the entire season of 20 big issues. You can cancel when you receive your bill if you aren't pleased. Otherwise just send in **\$25.00** for your season ticket to the best basketball information and analysis to be found anywhere.

- 20th Year of Publication
- Over 10 Million Copies Sold
- Complete Coverage of College, Pro, and high school basketball
- Read by Over 1000 Members of Media



## CLIP THIS COUPON NOW!!

# The Numbers Game

## Season Statistics

(FISAL SEASON 13-GAMES)	OPP	OSU	WORKMAN	ATT	GAIN	LOST	NET	AVG	TD	LG	
<b>FIRST DOWNS</b>	238	258	Workman	210	1079	49	1030	4.9	8	46	
Rushing	113	131	Bryant	181	684	28	656	4.7	3	33	
Passing	113	110	Cooper	113	473	6	467	4.1	6	15	
Penalty	12	17	Karasatos	47	189	61	128	2.7	3	29	
<b>NET YARDS RUSHING</b>	1932	2453	Walker	9	36	1	35	3.9	0	11	
Attempts	536	582	Woodridge	10	31	1	30	3.0	0	7	
Yards Gained	2280	2677	Higdon	3	22	0	22	7.3	0	11	
Yards Lost	348	224	Tupa	23	56	38	18	0.8	0	9	
Average Per Game	148.6	188.7	Hollins	3	18	0	18	6.0	0	8	
Average Per Play	3.6	4.2	Ross	3	16	0	16	5.3	0	7	
<b>NET YARDS PASSING</b>	2288	2530	Greacock	5	15	1	14	2.8	0	6	
Attempted	373	324	Matlock	3	9	0	9	3.0	0	6	
Completed	190	176	Harris	2	7	0	7	3.5	0	4	
Had Intercepted	27	13	Carter	1	6	0	6	6.0	0	6	
Percentage	50.9	54.3	Holland	8	36	33	3	0.4	1	26	
Average Per Game	176.0	194.6	*Team*	1	0	6	-6	-	-	-	
Average Per Play	6.1	7.8									
<b>TOTAL NET GAIN</b>	4220	4983									
Total Plays	909	906	<b>PASSING</b>	<b>ATT</b>	<b>COMP</b>	<b>INT</b>	<b>YDS</b>	<b>PCT</b>	<b>TD</b>	<b>LG</b>	
Average Per Game	324.6	383.3	Karasatos	272	145	10	2122	.533	13	72	
Average Per Play	4.6	5.7	Tupa	49	30	2	398	.612	3	33	
<b>POINTS</b>	179	347	Workman	2	1	0	10	.500	1	10	
Touchdowns	18	42	Ross	1	0	1	0	.000	0	0	
Rush-Pass-Other	11-5-2	21-17-4	<b>RECEIVING</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>YARDS</b>	<b>AVG</b>	<b>TD</b>	<b>LG</b>	<b>TD</b>	<b>LG</b>	
KICKING	13-13	40-38	Carter	69	1127	16.3	11	72	11	72	
KXP Kicking	1-1	1-0	Harris	30	496	16.5	2	58	2	58	
KXP Rushing	4-1	1-0	Workman	19	157	8.3	1	20	1	20	
KXP Passing	25-18	29-19	Cooper	16	156	9.8	0	19	0	19	
Field Goals	0	0	Ross	15	291	19.4	2	38	2	38	
Safeties	0	0	Taggart	12	109	9.1	0	21	0	21	
Average Per Game	13.8	26.7	Holland	8	182	17.8	1	37	1	37	
<b>HURTS-HAD BLOCKED</b>	64-1	57-1	Holland	5	34	6.8	0	11	0	11	
Yards	2519	2381	Dawson	2	18	9.0	0	11	0	11	
Touchback-Inside 20	6-8	10-18	<b>SCORING</b>	<b>TD</b>	<b>R-P-O</b>	<b>EPA-E</b>	<b>EPN</b>	<b>EPF</b>	<b>AT-PG</b>	<b>PTS</b>	
Average Per Punt	39.4	41.9	Frantz	0	0-0-0	26-26	0	0	0	20-15	71
Net Average	34.6	38.9	Carter	11	0-11-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	66
<b>PUNT RETURNS-FC</b>	23-7	36-8	Workman	9	8-1-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	54
Yards-TD	175-1	303-0	Cooper	6	6-0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	36
Average Per Return	7.6	8.4	O'Morrow	0	0-0-0	14-12	0	0	0	0	24
<b>KICKOFF RETURNS-FC</b>	61-0	43-0	Bryant	3	3-0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	18
Yards-TD	1421-0	828-0	Karasatos	3	3-0-0	0-0	0	0	1-0	0	18
Average Per Return	23.3	19.3	Harris	2	0-2-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	12
<b>INTERCEPTIONS</b>	13	29	Holland	2	0-2-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	12
Yards-TD	127-1	428-4	Ross	2	0-2-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	12
Average Per Return	9.8	18.8	Holland	2	0-2-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	12
<b>PENALTIES-Yards</b>	66-54	72-54	Ross	2	0-2-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	12
Offense	38-27	32-23	D. Brown	1	0-0-1	0-0	0	0	0	0	6
Defense	17-19	29-28	Kee	1	0-0-1	0-0	0	0	0	0	6
Special Teams	11-7	11-8	Rogan	1	0-0-1	0-0	0	0	0	0	6
<b>FUMBLE-Lost</b>	31-21	22-11	Spielman	1	0-0-1	0-0	0	0	0	0	6
THIRD DOWN EFFICIENCY	56-180	84-191	*Team*	0	0-0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	6
Percentage	.311	.440	<b>PUNTING</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>YARDS</b>	<b>AVG</b>	<b>NET/AVG</b>	<b>TD</b>	<b>TD</b>	<b>LG</b>	
<b>SACKS BY</b>	12-69	21-173	Tupa	56	2391	42.7	2225/39.7	10	18	175	
TIME OF POSSESSION	380:28	399:32	Ross	35	8	296	8.5	0	43	0	
Average Per Game	29:16	30:44	Workman	1	0	7	7.0	0	7	0	
<b>SCORE BY QUARTER</b>	1 2 3 4 TOTAL	Opponents 23 59 41 56 179	Ohio State 92 102 94 59 347	<b>1986 OHIO STATE RESULTS</b>	(10-3, 7-1)						
<b>FIELD GOALS</b>	(29-19, .655)	1986 OHIO STATE RESULTS	(10-3, 7-1)								
Frantz (20-15 .750)	43- 21- 22- 22- 22- 22-	N-OSU 10, Alabama	16- 68,296								
21- 36- 30- 39- 37- 41- 20- 23-	25- 19- 52- 21- 33- 43- 27- 45-	A-OSU 7, Washington	40- 61,071								
0'Morrow (9-4 .444)	42- 37- 44- 29- 4-	N-OSU 13, Colorado	10- 88,404								
34- 19- 40- 31- 54-		N-OSU 64, Utah	6- 89,645								
		N-OSU 14, Illinois	0- 90,030								
		A-OSU 24, Indiana	22- 51,641								
		A-OSU 39, Purdue	11- 68,737								
		N-OSU 33, Minnesota	0- 89,936								
		A-OSU 31, Iowa	10- 67,640								
		N-OSU 30, Northwestern	9- 89,808								
		A-OSU 30, Wisconsin	17- 62,020								
		N-OSU 24, Michigan	26- 90,674								
		N-OSU 28, Texas A & M	12- 74,188								
		6 played at The Headwaters, New Jersey									
		5 played at The Cotton Bowl, Dallas, TX									
		<b>ATTENDANCE</b>	<b>GAMES</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>AVERAGE</b>						
		Ross	6	538,497	89,750						
		Kee	7	453,593	64,799						
		Spielman	13	992,090	76,315						
		<b>DEFENSIVE STATISTICS</b>	<b>TAC-</b>	<b>QB</b>							
		PLAYERS	<b>SOLO</b>	<b>ASSIST</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>LOSS</b>	<b>SACK</b>				
		Spielman	105	100	205	9-26	2-13				
		Gordon	54	40	94	7-31	1-17				
		Kee	48	45	93	7-20					
		Rogan	49	30	79	5-16					
		D. Brown	39	31	70						
		Kumerow	42	24	66	9-62	6-54				
		Leach	24	39	63	5-20	1-8				
		Lee	16	36	52	4-29	3-28				
		Isaman	16	30	46	3-3	1-1				
		M. Sullivan	22	23	45	2-12	1-7				
		Hidder	24	18	42	7-25	2-12				
		J.Sullivan	15	25	40	3-21	2-18				
		White	18	20	38	1-5					
		H. Brown	14	13	27	2-9	1-7				
		Jackson	14	9	23	1-1					
		Dumas	8	5	13						
		Showalter	7	6	13						
		McCray	5	8	13						
		Smith	6	4	10						
		Graves	3	6	9	2-9	1-8				
		Bell	3	4	7						
		Thomas	3	4	7	1-4					
		Hollins	5	1	6						
		Higdon	4	2	6						
		Jenkins	2	3	5						
		Zisakovio	2	2	4						
		Hoak	1	3	4						
		Craig	2	1	3						
		Hutchinson	2	1	3						
		Carter	2	0	2						
		Holland	2	0	2						
		Robinson	2	0	2						
		Noore	1	1	2						
		Frellock	0	2	2						
		1 Solo Tackles: Haggis, Tupa, Isakeroff									
		1 Assisted Tackle: Walker									
		*Team*									
							11-62				

# Letters

Dear BSB:

How about our Buckeye football team in the Cotton Bowl! They were great. How about Coach Bruce and his game plan and Coach Blackney and the defense. What a treat to watch a game of that caliber.

I was pleasantly surprised with Coach Bruce's new attire. I wonder if it's here to stay? And the new shoes the Buckeyes were wearing. I hope they are here to stay.

Congratulations Buckeyes on a job well done.

Concerning radio broadcast rights of Ohio State sports events, I hope Rick Bay is able to award the rights to WTVN radio. WTVN undoubtedly has the best broadcast crew and does a great job promoting Ohio State. I hope Mr. Bay takes into account the high quality of WTVN's broadcasts when he awards the radio contract.

Dennis A. Peto  
Port Clinton, Ohio

Dear BSB:

First of all, I would like to congratulate the Buckeyes and the coaching staff for their fantastic Cotton Bowl victory over Texas A&M. If it weren't for Ohio State, the Big Ten would have been totally humiliated in bowl games. I truly feel the win can carry over into next season. I'm sure I'm not alone when I say next season could be one of our best chances in many years for a national championship.

In a recent USA Today article, they listed OSU, Oklahoma and Miami as the top teams to beat next season. It should also be pointed out that LSU was included on the list (the Buckeyes' third game of the season next fall).

If Earle comes up with some innovative offensive schemes to feature our outstanding receivers and our improving running backs, we should score at least 30 points a game next season.

On another note, Earle sure surprised a lot of people with his attire at the Cotton Bowl. Here's one alumnus that says the image change was much needed. The coat and tie should stay for all games.

Moving over to basketball, Rick Bay and Gary Williams are doing an excellent job of changing the images of OSU basketball and St. John Arena. Watching the OSU vs. Indiana game on TV, it was great seeing all the banners hanging and the Ohio State logo displayed everywhere. I'm convinced that within the next couple of years, Gary will have the Buckeyes challenging for the Big Ten crown and the NCAA's.

I would like to wish luck to all Buckeye teams, and here's looking forward to next fall! Go Bucks!

George R. Knoske  
Chicago

Dear BSB:

I am writing to congratulate the Buckeyes, particularly the defense, for a fine effort in the Cotton Bowl. I have criticized the defense over the past decade for being soft, and deservedly so, but in the Cotton Bowl they certainly merited congratulations!

However, I also want to add a point or two regarding the current Earle Bruce-Arizona coaching job issue. I keep hearing the word "security" from both Bruce and Rick Bay as being a prime consideration of Bruce. Well, I

believe the head coach job at OSU should never offer "security," only "opportunity." If Bruce requires "security," he is not the coach for OSU.

Earle Bruce has compiled a good record at OSU. Since he lost both Rose Bowls and has only split even with Michigan, his record can't be called great! Therefore I believe he can be replaced. This incident will certainly harm his credibility with recruits! In view of all this, I hope Earle Bruce has decided to take the Arizona job by the time this letter is printed.

Dave Graham  
Cleveland.

Dear BSB:

To the Ohio State Buckeye fans, President Jennings, and trustees of the Ohio State University, it is now time for us to show our total support for Mr. Rick Bay, athletic director and above all, coach Earle Bruce.

Coach Bruce and his staff have developed a sound football program at the university. It is an honest program. This is why the University of Arizona was interested in Coach Bruce.

It is time that Coach Bruce and his staff is given equal treatment in the Athletic Department. Coach Bruce's contract should be five years in length, the same as our basketball coach, Gary Williams. Mr. Rick Bay should have the outright authority to develop this situation.

It is also time for all loyal Buckeyes to be positive toward the total athletic program of the Ohio State University. Mr. Rick Bay, is a very capable administrator.

Gary L. Ritchey  
Napoleon, Ohio

Dear BSB:

Not to sound like an overzealous fan, but one must be enthusiastic about what's happening in Ohio State athletics these days. First off, give coach Gary Williams an A-plus for his sterling recruiting and coaching effort to date. Nine wins and six losses allow with Treg Lee, Eli Brewster, and James Bradley could add up to a Big Ten title down the road. Now let's continue this success by remembering the names of 7-0 William Robinson and Eric Riley from Canton McKinley and Cleveland St. Joseph, respectively.

On the gridiron it was all Scarlet and Gray in the Cotton Bowl victory over Texas A&M. However coach Earle Bruce reapplied pressure to his Buckeye post by using his past laurels as leverage in an attempt to go elsewhere, that being Arizona. Although he won the battle, now it will be up to Admiral Bruce to keep his Buckeye ship afloat. Bruce and his staff need a banner recruiting year at the skilled positions in hopes of taking the 1987 edition to a possible national championship!

In retrospect, coach Gary Williams has pumped much needed positive energy back in the Buckeye basketball program. However, the jury still remains out on both Williams and Bruce, for the fact that they are coaching in the heartland of America. If these two successful coaches meet the criteria of well coached clubs, solid recruiting efforts, solid academics and winning, well then welcome aboard and Buckeye fans will be happy everywhere.

Greg Shook  
Kent, Ohio

# The View From 15th and High

By Frank L. Moskowitz, BSB Publisher

## Bruce Made Wise Move By Staying In Columbus

Throughout the couple of days when Ohio State football coach Earle Bruce was considering taking the head post at Arizona, I felt fairly certain that Bruce would, in the end, stay at OSU. The reasons I felt he would stay were many of the same reasons that Earle gave for turning down a very lucrative offer from Arizona.

For one thing, Earle is a Buckeye. He went to school at Ohio State, he was a high school coach in Ohio, he coached at Ohio State under Woody Hayes, and he's been the head man in Columbus for the last eight years. Maybe if he were an Arizona grad, had roots in Arizona, he would have taken the job. But for someone with Earle's background, the Ohio State job is as high as you can go. It is *the* job. Why give it up?

In my book, Arizona is a major step down from Ohio State. Why go from the top of the Big Ten to a school that would have to be considered in the middle of the Pac-10 pecking order, behind UCLA, USC, Washington and even Arizona State.

In addition, Bruce would have been leaving the new football facility that he had wanted so badly before it was built. He would have to build up new recruiting contacts after spending virtually all of his adult life building a recruiting network in Ohio. And let's face it. Even though the weather is a lot nicer in Tucson than Columbus, because of its tradition, it's got to be a lot easier to recruit at OSU than at Arizona.

Yet most important, in my mind, as a reason to stay at Ohio State is this: who would not want to come back to Ohio State for at least one more year, with two All-Americans returning, along with several potential All-American and All-Big Ten performers? The Buckeyes should have a great team next year and with solid momentum built at the Cotton Bowl, it would be tough to leave.

And Bruce elected to turn down a major increase in salary and stay.

Let's face it. As it is, Earle's not hurting for cash. And I've always felt that if things didn't work out at Ohio State, Bruce would have no trouble finding another job. There will be other offers in the future. Bruce is very highly regarded in the Big Eight, for instance, and Arizona, a school that produced a bowl winner and highly ranked team this season, was quite willing to make him a wealthy man.

In fact, I would go so far as to say that in just about every place but Ohio, Earle Bruce is very highly regarded. You can bet they're impressed with him in Texas, where he thoroughly out-coached Jackie Sherrill, the first of the high-priced coaches, believed to be one of the best in the business.

This brings up the question of how much all the abuse that Bruce takes at Ohio State contributed to his looking elsewhere for a job. I've always felt that if that type of thing bothered Bruce, he would have been gone long ago. However, I'm sure he enjoyed having another school show so much interest in him. Even for Earle Bruce, the heat in the Ohio State coaching kitchen must be tough to stand sometimes. The lucrative offer from elsewhere had to be reassuring.

PEOPLE HAVE been asking me all week how I think Bruce's possible move elsewhere might affect recruiting. I have to think that if the Buckeyes are recruiting kids with any brains, and I hope they are, those kids will say "well, if this guy would turn down an extra \$100,000 a year to stay at Ohio State, there must be something good going on up there."

If anything, I think Bruce's staying, coupled with the impressive Cotton Bowl win, should help recruiting. What would have hurt recruiting is if Bruce had left at such an awkward time. Although if he were going to leave, this would have been a good year to leave, recruiting-wise, because the Buckeyes will not be inking a large freshman class this time around.

BRUCE HAS NOW won in five of his last six bowl games. Contrast that to the record of his arch-rival, Bo Schembechler, who just doesn't seem to have it when it comes to bowls. After falling to Arizona State in the Rose Bowl this year, Schembechler was left with a 3-11 record in bowls, 1-7 in the Rose Bowl. He came in for some savage criticism in *The Sporting News*.

Here's just a sample from Art Spander's column in the Jan. 12 issue of *TSN*:

*So now you've lost in the Rose Bowl to Washington, UCLA, Southern Cal and Arizona State. What do you want? Oregon State? The way your guys turn into pumpkins, they'd probably beat you, too.*

*Bo, a friend called you the "Gene Mauch of college football." But I said he was wrong. Mauch never gets to the final. You do. Congratulations.*

*Bo, about that Michigan fight song. I love the melody and the rhythm, but the lyrics need some revising. "... champions of the West," just doesn't make it the way your team plays in California.*

And that's just a sample. Talk about hurting recruiting.

I HEAR MANY people talking about a potential national championship for Ohio State next season. The Buckeyes should have a good team next year. There's no doubt about that. But I'd like to warn Buckeye fans that Ohio State is often hurt in its quest for a national title, as it was in 1986, by the fact that the Buckeyes play a tough schedule. The 1987 season, as mentioned in this column before, will be no exception.

Please consider the fact that in 1986, Ohio State played eight games against teams that went to bowl games, counting Texas A&M.

In contrast, Miami played just four bowl teams, counting Penn State (also Texas Tech, Oklahoma and Florida State) and the Nittany Lions played only Boston College, Alabama and Miami. It's easier to prepare for the big games when you have a week off before the Oklahoma game as Miami did, in addition to scheduling the likes of Northern Illinois, Cincinnati, Tulsa and East Carolina. Penn State also met Cincinnati and East Carolina, along with Temple and Rutgers, besides playing its traditionally tougher games with the likes of Maryland, Pitt and Notre Dame.

Ohio State has tough schedules for years to come and an occasional loss

will be inevitable. Still, next year's team does stand to be a good one.

Perhaps the biggest question I have is how Tom Tupa will do at quarterback, if he indeed wins the job, as it appears he will. I must say I like the fact that Tupa has seen action in several games, including a major bowl game when that game was still on the line. That has to help.

I still maintain, though, that playing quarterback affects Tupa's punting. This was especially evident when Tupa got sacked hard on a third down play in the second quarter and then shanked a 22-yard punt that might have proved very costly if the Buckeye defense had not been so tough against the Aggies.

## Bruce Turns Arizona Down

Continued From Page 1

Perhaps Bruce might feel Jennings was saying "see you later, Earle."

"If I'm going to look at things that way, then I really shouldn't stay," said Bruce. "I have to look at the reasons why I wanted to stay."

Besides the aforementioned returning players, Bruce would have had to answer to his own heart had he taken the Wildcat job.

"I guess I'm a Buckeye through and through," said Bruce, who came to Ohio State in 1949 as a swift running back but had his playing career cut short by a knee injury. "That's part of the excitement of Ohio State football,

## Buck Beat

Continued From Page 2

FORMER BUCKEYE assistant Glen Mason was named Mid-American Conference coach of the year for guiding Kent State to a 5-6 record and a tie for second place in the conference in his rookie season as a head coach.

Mason, a former Buckeye grinder who lettered as a junior but had his career ended by a broken ankle just prior to his senior season in 1972, had his team in a three-way tie for the MAC lead going into the final week.

ANOTHER EX-Buckeye assistant coach, this one of the basketball variety, had his team receive preseason honors.

The Zips of Bob Huggins, now in his third season of heading up the cage fortunes at Akron University and a former assistant under Eldon Miller at OSU, have been tabbed as the team to beat in the Ohio Valley Conference.

Huggins had his team in the NCAA Tournament last year and finished with a 22-8 record after suffering a first-round loss to Michigan.

Working under NCAA probation for violations which happened before he got there, Huggins was shackled by recruiting restraints in his first two seasons. But that problem is behind him and Huggins has been making the best of it. The signing of five recruits during the early signing period proved that point.

One of the players to sign with Akron was on everybody's wish list for both his football and basketball abilities. Vince Marrow, a 6-4, 215-pound senior at Youngstown Cardinal Mooney, chose basketball and signed on with

This is a situation that Earle Bruce will have to monitor.

Tupa's experience at quarterback has to make him more attractive to the pros, though. He's proven that he's a big league punter. And in these days of reduced NFL rosters, having a punter who can also play quarterback would be very helpful.

WHILE MUCH IS being made of the fact that Ohio State is losing only six starters from its 1986 football team, it should be noted that the Buckeyes are losing six good ones. Jim Karsatos, Bob Maggs, Ed Taggart, Darryl Lee, Mike Kee and Sonny Gordon take a wealth of experience and ability with them and will be missed next season.

of coaching, the great tradition of Ohio State football and the winning tradition and everything else. I think it's a great challenge and I think I'm a pretty good Buckeye."

But the money Arizona reportedly offered?

"Financially," said Bruce, "I guess if you were looking at that, it was a tremendous opportunity for a head football coach. But there are other factors involved. The money isn't bad at Ohio State. If I were going to try to be a rich man, I wouldn't have been a football coach."

Bruce is a football coach and will ply his trade at Ohio State for at least one more year.

Akron. Marrow, a top-notch football wide receiver and defensive back, was the Class AA Northeast District player of the year as a basketball-playing junior.

Marrow was being heavily recruited by several Big Ten schools, including Ohio State, to play football.

FORMER OSU assistant coach Jim Tressel had more downs than ups in his first year as a collegiate head coach.

Tressel, named to the Youngstown State post just prior to the Buckeyes taking on Brigham Young in last year's Florida Citrus Bowl, watched and agonized as his team posted only two wins in 11 games — winning its opener and its finale, dropping nine decisions in between.

But that season-ending triumph was a mighty big one for the Penguins.

"As we look back 10 years from now, we might see Nov. 21, 1986 as maybe the turning point," said Tressel, shortly after his team had defeated arch-rival Akron, 40-39. "It's a tremendous springboard for next season. It's a big plus for recruiting because it's the last thing people remember."

FORMER OSU and professional baseball player Barry Bonnell is about to embark on a new career.

Bonnell, released at his own request during the summer by the Seattle Mariners after a 10-year major league career, is going to fly planes.

A private pilot for more than 11 years, Bonnell plans to take a flying test for his commercial rating, which would enable him to apply to be an airline pilot.