

## TIME AND CHANGE

# Murphy Spent 41 Years As Team Doctor

Make no mistake, Robert J. Murphy, M.D., bows to no one in his dedication to Ohio State football.

There is one slight difference fanwise, however, between your ordinary garden-variety Brutus and Bertha Buckeyes and Dr. Bob. While a fan's field of assumed expertise has always inclined toward busted plays, frittered-away games and even — sad to say — an occasional lost season, he, by profession, has always concentrated on misfortunes that are actually even worse.

Really.

You know, *seriously* bad breaks. Yes, actual fractures. And sprains, rips, twists, tears, bruises, concussions, contusions, welts, scrapes and nicks, etc., etc. — all of the injuries and physical misfortunes, small and large, that attend the sport.

A man for most seasons — 41 all told, until retiring in 1993 — Dr. Bob was the physician on call when bad things physically happened in Buckeye Country. He was also team doctor in basketball all that time. In football, for all those seasons, he attended to the wounded and ailing first for Woody Hayes, then for Earle Bruce, and finally for John Cooper.

Remember the time center/linebacker Danny Frons came in the week of the 38-28 win at Iowa looking like a man with Mount Vesuvius breaking out all over his body?

Well, maybe you don't, because that's been a while, but Dr. Bob does. Must have

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been 1958, as he remembers.

"He came in after the game the week before saying, 'I don't feel very good.' Well, we took a look at him and he had boils all over his body. I mean, all over.

"We got him into the hospital, and he was there several days and his temperature was 105, 104, 103. After it went down, we checked him on Thursday and he looked pretty good."

Still, Dr. Bob was not a man to flinch where matters of team health were concerned.

"I said there was no way he could play," he said.

But a funny thing happened. On Saturday at Iowa City, Frons came out dressed for action, and ... uh, oh, ... "I saw him talking to Woody and pointing to me.

"I knew what was coming. He came over and said, 'Doc, I feel great. I can play football, or anything else.'"

During this era, Murphy had another medical expert on his side, Dr. Dick Patton, his predecessor and father figure as team physician. He and Patton worked pretty much as co-equals until Patton —



FILE PHOTO

**DR. BOB** — During a 1993 ceremony at Ohio Stadium, then-OSU athletic director Jim Jones (right) presents a plaque to Dr. Bob Murphy. Murphy served as OSU's athletic team physician for 41 years, from 1952-93.

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"the best doctor I've ever known" — relinquished his role to become head of surgery at Riverside Hospital in Columbus in 1970.

They decided to let Frank start, knowing he couldn't play the whole game.

Murphy: "We got a touchdown up and things were going OK and we had them pinned down deep in the second quarter, so I told Woody it might be time to take Danny out. Woody kept saying, 'OK, Doc, OK,' and he finally did. And you can just guess what happened. They beat the new linebacker on the first play and ended up scoring."

And Mount Hayes?

"He just erupted," said Murphy. "He kept screaming, 'You see what you did! You see what you did!' Fortunately, we won the game, or I don't know if I'd have gotten on the airplane home or not."

Memories. Though names momentarily can escape him — he is, after all, about to turn 80 — the reminders of times good — and, yes, sometimes bad — still flow for Dr. Bob. He visits practice, doesn't miss a home game and is a regular at team reunions.

Worst season? 1971.

"We had 17 surgeries — seventeen," he said. "Knees, ankles, fractures, you name it."

And, oh, yes, losses to Michigan State, Northwestern and Michigan the last three games.

Best part-time career? His.

"Remember, this was not a full-time job. I had a full schedule as an internist from 7 in the morning until 3:30 in the afternoon," he said. "I could be dead tired from seeing patients, and then I'd go to football or basketball practice, and it was like going home and going out to a show."

So where do we start?

Try Woody.

"I remember just two times when we took a player out for the right reasons, and he was really angry," Murphy said. "Never physically, understand, but mad. Now, if that happened between you and me, I'd think about it and the next day I'd apologize to you and say I was wrong. But Woody would never say, 'I'm sorry.'"

"He just couldn't do that. He couldn't admit he was wrong. But the same thing

happened both those times. For the next two or three weeks, I'd read little things in the newspaper when he went out of his way to praise me. Or he'd do it on his TV show. That was his way."

Murphy was with Hayes almost from the beginning and until the end. He got to know him well during two weeks on the Coast leading into the 1955 Rose Bowl. In an era of \$1 million-and-up coaching contracts, one memory is particularly instructive.

It was a miserably rainy day — a day that would put the polish on a perfect season and an Associated Press national championship for Ohio State — and a coating of sand laid on the field as an absorbent left the players covered with grit when they came in from their warmups.

Hayes and Murphy watched from an anteroom as the squad wiped the sand off the best it could. The fourth-year coach turned reflective.

"Doc, you know what? This is going to make me able to buy my house," he whispered.

"Over the years, he gave away money like you wouldn't believe," said Murphy. "To everybody. But this meant that he was going to be able to make enough from speeches and appearances and things to finally pay for the home he didn't own."

From then on, they trod the same path, enjoyed the same ups, suffered the same downs. They were together in 1957, in football's Death Valley days, when practice-field heat strokes were scything down players right and left.

"That was a scary time," said Murphy. "There was no water on the fields in America and our staff spent the next five years traveling around the country changing that. Woody was very supportive. As soon as we talked to him about it, it made sense."

"One thing about Woody — He always prided himself that he would get the best athletes in Ohio to come to Ohio State. He always said that's all he needed."

(Case in point: His 1957 United Press International national championship team had only one non-Ohioan. Fullback Bob White was a stone's throw away, from just across the Ohio River in Covington, Ky.)

"But around 1964, he realized he just wasn't going to have the material," Murphy said. "That's when we went out and got that group."

That group: You know the names — Brockington and Mayes. Stillwagon and Tatum. Kern and Jan White. On and on. A freshman class that Murphy says "could have beaten the varsity" in that more restrictive eligibility era.

Their subsequent 1968 perfect-record, national title team would be the last for Hayes or his successors. Still, until that fateful 1978 Gator Bowl, the good times pretty much rolled on till the end.

About which, Dr. Bob weighs his words.

"I think that last year he was getting to be not as concise as before," he said. "He was physically failing. What really happened is that he was letting his coaches call the shots."

As it turned out, when the final shot came — this one thrown by the head coach with the world watching — Dr. Bob would see it like everyone else. But not until after the game, on TV. He was tending an injured player when Hayes struck Clemson's Charlie Bauman near the end of a 17-15 loss.

"I think Woody knew that was it," he said. "In the locker room afterward, he just kind of sat there. For 45 minutes, he just sat there."

An awful way to go out, with a 7-4-1 record, in national notoriety? Not so fast.

"He should have won that game. But he got fired, and when he did he shut his mouth and started working for the university," Murphy said. "He was always positive. He became a cult hero in this town. What he would have hated was to go 3-7 or 3-8 and then been fired."

"I have to believe that this way was a pretty good way. All those negative things came out about him, and when they were playing or coaching for him not many would say they liked him — but not one would ever say he wasn't a better man for doing it. He was a true friend to me, and I'm sure glad I knew him. I liked all of them."

What about Earle Bruce? Old 9-and-3 Earle?

"One of the best coaches we've ever had," Murphy said. "What happened to him was a damn shame. I was very, very disappointed. I don't think I'm going to say anything else about that."

The scars, you see, from Bruce's 1987 firing still linger.

"The Cotton Bowl in Dallas, and the tuxedo, I did not know that was coming," he said. "I was in the doctor's room and he had just given his pregame speech, and all of a sudden out he comes all dressed up. I said, 'What the hell are you doing, Earle? And he says, 'I'm going to change my image.'"

Before the year was out, new image he damned, Bruce was gone.

And how about John Cooper?

"A pretty good football coach, and do you realize how many great assistants he hired?" Murphy said. "Part of the problem was his not being in the same mold as Woody and Earle. John wanted to go home to his family at the end of the day, and there's nothing wrong with that. And there was the fact that he was from the South."

The seasons pass, football begets basketball — wherein the team physician could write yet another book — and the years fly by.

"The most amazing thing to me is to see the growth in size of the athletes," Murphy said. "Every school has problems with alcohol and drugs, but that's true of all the students. And I don't like these supplements. I think we could do without all of them. A lot of it is in the head, rather than in the body."

This is, after all, first and foremost Doctor Bob.

"Fortunately, I never had a death, and that was a blessing more than anything I did," Murphy said. "We had two who were paralyzed. The worst, over at Purdue, was paralyzed from the neck down and didn't get it back for about two hours, in the hospital."

"He was on the field for 17 minutes, and that was really scary. But they both came out of it and we got them both out of athletics."

"The mothers worry a lot, you know. I tell them it's a great sport, and a lot safer than riding a motorcycle."

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# Game Has Changed But Memories Haven't

They are in their mid-60s now — if not there already, heading into retirement — and the game they played was your father's game.

A game with no-passing signs generally affixed to it, as parched and arid as the desert sands, played by 19- to 22-year-olds who were prepared to go for the full 60 minutes, and often did.

They lifted no weights and drank no water and gave no quarter and in the fall of 1957 — the autumn when the Soviet Sputnik hurtled the world into the space age — propelled Ohio State from an opening-game loss to an 8-1 regular season, a Big Ten championship, a Rose Bowl victory and a national championship.

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with

Dick Fenlon

"The game has changed so much," said Bob White, a most unlikely hero.

So much, indeed. Consider White. When he arrived for his first sophomore practice — freshmen were ineligible for the varsity then — he remembered being the 15th — *fifteenth!* — fullback.

Before the season was over, he was the second-team center and occasional



FILE PHOTO

WELCOME TO CALIFORNIA — Members of the 1957 Ohio State Buckeyes are greeted after landing in Pasadena, Calif., for the 1958 Rose Bowl.

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long-snapper, an inside and outside line-backer (though often the writers didn't yet totally grasp how to describe that position) and the crunching 215-pound fullback who carried the ball seven times for 65 of the 68 yards needed in the touchdown drive that brought a 17-13 win over Iowa, the conference title and the Rose Bowl bid.

White gained 157 yards on 22 carries and the winning 65 yards in that game (halfback Dick LeBeau, the Cincinnati Bengals' Dick LeBeau, gained the other 3 in the drive) but the game sticks in his mind for another reason.

"I had 13 unassisted tackles," White said from his home in Venice, Fla., "but nobody mentioned it. That wasn't a statistic then."

It was the dawning of the age of specialization, but the sun had yet to come up. So when the chips were down, as they usually were, players went both ways. In a 56-0 romp over Indiana, 57 members of the oversized varsity squad

saw action.

In a 31-14 win at Michigan in which White ran 30 times for 163 yards and LeBeau scored his seventh and eighth touchdowns, 14 players went all but the final 25 seconds.

Of course, Woody Hayes, on his way to his second national title in six OSU coaching seasons, could never be too careful when it came to Michigan.

"The game was in transition then," said Aurelius Thomas, who, like White, would be recognized as an All-American. "I had been on the unbeaten '54 team that won the Rose Bowl and the national championship and I continued to play both ways — right guard on offense, nose guard on defense."

What happened to Thomas in 1954 was the precursor to the later campaign that Ohio State physicians and trainers would launch to bring water to the football fields of America. He spent 28 days in the hospital as a sophomore in 1954 after passing out after a preseason practice.

"What happened, my body ran out of water," he said. "That was when you couldn't get water on the practice field, and that was when (team physician Dr. Bob Murphy) started his research on it. My body chemistry was totally out of balance."

Granted an extra year, he started what then became his sophomore season in 1955.

"What I remember the most are the differences," said Dick Schafrath, a junior tackle on the '57 team that will mark its 45th anniversary by appearing at halftime of OSU's Oct. 12 homecoming game with San Jose State.

"Nobody even thought of stats. You could have made 20 tackles and nobody thought of it. You didn't think anything of playing on everything from the opening kickoff on."

"Nobody lifted weights, so nobody was out of proportion. That's why you could run, run, run. But the amazing thing was no water. I had to be fed intravenously three times myself. You could lose 20-25 pounds. I was only 215 at most, and I'd go down to 180-185 pounds. Of course, I played in high school with no face mask and came down here with one bar."

Your father's game, indeed. The Buckeyes lost their opener to Texas Christian 18-14 and didn't lose again until the sixth game of the 1958 season.

A field goal by Don Sutherin broke a tie in a comeback 16-13 win at Wisconsin. Another Sutherin field goal helped OSU beat Oregon 10-7 in the Rose Bowl.

By that time, the Buckeyes already had won the national title assigned by the UPI and the Football Writers Association of America. Auburn won the Associated Press title.

The Buckeyes might ordinarily pass three or four or six times a game and when they did the passer was as likely to be LeBeau on a sweep as quarterback Frank Kremblas.

For Bob White, who played at Covington (Ky.) Holmes, it was all a matter of "being in the right place at the right time."

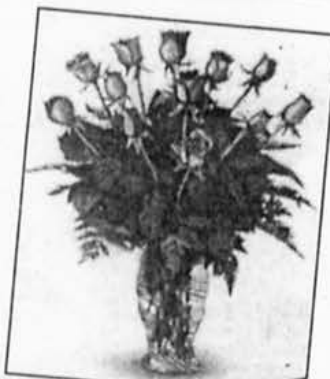
His father was a linotype operator at The Cincinnati Enquirer. His uncle Clyde "King Kong" Redding, whom he barely remembers, played for Duke in the 1942 Rose Bowl. Spurred by a picture taken of him as a child with his uncle's trophy from that game, he grew

up wanting to play in the Rose Bowl himself. It began to take on reality when his high school coach sent game films of him to Hayes.

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### 1957 OSU Football

| No. | Player               | Roster Pos. | Ht.  | Wt. | Class |
|-----|----------------------|-------------|------|-----|-------|
| 66  | Richard Anders       | LG          | 5-8  | 180 | So.   |
| 68  | Birthe Arnold        | RG          | 6-2  | 269 | So.   |
| 61  | Ralph Bailey         | RG          | 6-0  | 198 | Jr.   |
| 67  | Thomas Baldacci      | LG          | 6-0  | 195 | Sr.   |
| 41  | Jerry Balingier      | LM          | 5-10 | 178 | Jr.   |
| 87  | Russell Bowersmaster | LE          | 6-2  | 202 | Jr.   |
| 55  | Edward Brehl         | C           | 6-0  | 192 | Sr.   |
| 85  | Leo Brown*           | RE          | 5-10 | 165 | Sr.   |
| 16  | Joseph Cannavino     | LM          | 5-11 | 172 | Sr.   |
| 43  | Leroy Carr           | RH          | 6-1  | 178 | So.   |
| 36  | Galen Cisco*         | FB          | 5-11 | 203 | Sr.   |
| 18  | Donald Clark         | LM          | 5-11 | 191 | Jr.   |
| 77  | Ronald Cook          | RT          | 6-1  | 204 | Sr.   |
| 62  | Leroy Cowans         | RG          | 5-10 | 207 | So.   |
| 78  | Al Crawford          | LT          | 6-0  | 234 | Jr.   |
| 23  | Thomas Crawford      | QB          | 5-11 | 178 | Sr.   |
| 82  | Larry Disher         | LE          | 5-11 | 182 | Sr.   |
| 46  | John Dresser         | LM          | 6-1  | 192 | So.   |
| 51  | Jerry Fields         | C           | 6-1  | 206 | So.   |
| 58  | Daniel Frank         | C           | 5-11 | 189 | Jr.   |
| 30  | Ralph Gage           | FB          | 5-10 | 174 | Jr.   |
| 84  | James Houston        | LE          | 6-2  | 216 | So.   |
| 53  | Dan James            | C           | 6-2  | 258 | Jr.   |
| 85  | William Jobko        | LG          | 6-1  | 215 | Sr.   |
| 59  | Herbert Jones        | LG          | 5-10 | 192 | Sr.   |
| 19  | David Kilgore        | PK          | 5-9  | 164 | So.   |
| 22  | Frank Kremblas       | QB          | 6-1  | 193 | Jr.   |
| 44  | Richard LeBeau       | RH          | 6-0  | 181 | Jr.   |
| 76  | James Marshall       | RT          | 6-3  | 226 | So.   |
| 72  | John Martin          | RT          | 5-11 | 212 | Sr.   |
| 74  | James Matz           | RT          | 6-0  | 222 | So.   |
| 86  | Richard Michael      | LE          | 6-2  | 217 | So.   |
| 88  | Thomas Morgan        | RE          | 6-2  | 196 | Jr.   |
| 70  | Alex Nagy            | LT          | 6-2  | 230 | Sr.   |
| 25  | Andy Okulovich       | QB          | 5-11 | 184 | Jr.   |
| 48  | Philip Robinson      | RH          | 5-9  | 176 | Jr.   |
| 21  | James Sanuels        | QB          | 6-0  | 182 | So.   |
| 71  | Richard Schafrath    | LT          | 6-2  | 208 | Jr.   |
| 83  | Fred Schenking       | RE          | 6-4  | 206 | Jr.   |
| 75  | Bruce Schram         | LT          | 6-0  | 206 | Jr.   |
| 60  | Ernest Spychalski    | RG          | 6-2  | 234 | Jr.   |
| 45  | Donald Sutherin      | RH          | 5-11 | 194 | Sr.   |
| 64  | Aurelius Thomas      | RG          | 6-1  | 204 | Sr.   |
| 35  | Joseph Trivisonno    | FB          | 5-11 | 209 | Sr.   |
| 73  | David Wagner         | LT          | 6-2  | 230 | So.   |
| 15  | William Wentz        | RH          | 5-11 | 188 | So.   |
| 33  | Robert White         | FB          | 6-2  | 212 | So.   |
| 47  | David Zuhars         | LM          | 6-1  | 178 | So.   |

Coach: Woody Hayes.

\* Denotes co-captain

### Season Results (9-1; 7-0, Big Ten/National champs)

| Date     | Opponent (AP Ranking*) | Result   |
|----------|------------------------|----------|
| Sept. 28 | Texas Christian        | L, 18-14 |
| Oct. 5   | at Washington          | W, 35-7  |
| Oct. 12  | Illinois               | W, 21-7  |
| Oct. 19  | Indiana                | W, 56-0  |
| Oct. 26  | (12) at Wisconsin      | W, 16-13 |
| Nov. 2   | (8) Northwestern       | W, 47-6  |
| Nov. 9   | (6) Purdue             | W, 20-7  |
| Nov. 16  | (6) Iowa (5)           | W, 17-13 |
| Nov. 23  | (3) at Michigan (19)   | W, 31-14 |
| Jan. 1   | (2) Oregon             | W, 10-7  |

Final AP Ranking: No. 2 (first in UPI and Football Writers)  
\* OSU's gameday ranking appears before opponent; opponent's gameday ranking appears after opponent's name.

### Award Winners

- Team MVP: Bill Jobko, LG.
- All-Americans: Aurelius Thomas, RG.
- All-Big Ten: Leo Brown, RE; Donald Clark, LM; Aurelius Thomas, RG.



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# OSU Hall Of Fame Full Of '57 Members

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"One thing led to another," White said. "The funny thing is, it was the worst scholarship I ever had. It was the last year of work-study scholarships. We were all in the same boat. We worked five hours a week during the

season and 12 hours a week during the off-season. For that you got a hundred dollars. And out of that \$100 you had to pay your room and board and books and laundry and everything else.

"When they came in with the grant-in-aid the next year it got a lot better — better, actually, than they've got it now." From 15th fullback in the preseason

— "Remember, there would be a hundred players on the sideline and only 14 or 15 got in a game" — he was third behind Galen Cisco and Joe Trivisonno when the season began.

Imagine his surprise one day to walk in at midseason and find himself to be a second-team center — "because the center was also a linebacker and there was a weakness at inside 'backer."

"So I started playing a little bit and I'd also get stuck in at fullback, so they saw I could play a little bit at fullback, too," White said. "The Iowa game, people don't know this, but I had two long snaps on punts to Frank Kremblas (also the punter) in the end zone. People will never know what pressure that is, because nothing can turn a game around like a bad snap on a punt. I actually played four positions in that game, and it was the championship game."

Ah, memories.

"On the opening kickoff, I went down and made the tackle, and I tore my fin-

gernail off," White said. "And all I thought about the whole game was how my finger was hurting. And then they gave me the ball to carry, and when I gained some yards they kept giving me the ball. And when the game was over, I had no idea what happened."

"I was 19 years old, and it was a heavy load for a 19-year-old to carry, and I probably didn't do a very good job of it. I guess I wasn't as humble as I should have been. If I would give any suggestion to young guys like that now — boys, it's very fragile, be careful how you carry it."

Your father's kind of team, now 45 years removed. Off it, Hayes, assistant Ernie Godfrey and sole surviving assistant Gene Fekete are in the OSU Athletics Hall of Fame.

So is White, who went on to be an educator with a Ph.D. And so are three other All-Americans — Thomas, tackle Jim Marshall and end Jim Houston.

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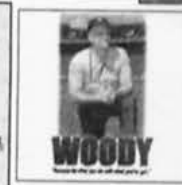
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## Goat Of '35 OSU-ND Game Was A Survivor

Dick Beltz died last month at 90. His obituary mentioned that he played football at Ohio State. Right, and the Titanic was a ship.

Richard Henry Beltz, who died on Oct. 18 in St. Marys, Ohio, was, in fact, a prime figure — for Ohio State the prime figure — in the most famous game played in college football's first century.

Nov. 2, 1935: Notre Dame 18, Ohio State 13. A game for heroes. And a game that needed a goat.

Dick Beltz filled the bill. Yes, he went down with the ship that long-ago day in Ohio Stadium. But he was anything but a disaster. I

found out just what kind of a survivor he was nearly half a century later after I first tracked him down in December 1984 at Indian Lake, just north of Bellefontaine, Ohio, where he and his wife, Ruth, were then living in retirement.

Driving over after making the arrangements by telephone, I wondered what kind of a reception I'd get. Sure, he'd fumbled the ball to give Notre Dame the opportunity to score the winning touchdown in the waning moments of the game a panel of experts assembled by the NCAA in 1969 decided was the greatest of all the games played over the previous 100 years.

And, yes, seconds later, he wasn't able to hold on to an interception that would have still preserved the win for Ohio State. But with the 50th anniversary of that game coming up, how would you like to have had it all dredged up again had you been in his shoes?

Oh, how it must have hurt.

There were 175 sportswriters from all over the country in the press box

TIME AND  
CHANGE

with

Dick Fenlon



STEVE HELWAGEN

**BACK IN COLUMBUS** — Dick Beltz (9) and Frank Antenucci (7) were among members of OSU's 1935 team who returned to campus for the 1995 OSU-Notre Dame game. Beltz, who recently passed away, was seen by many as the goat in OSU's 1935 loss to Notre Dame. But he never let that get him down as he went on to a career as a high school teacher and coach. Other former OSU greats pictured include John Hicks (right) and Ike Kelley (next to Beltz).

that day, Grantland Rice included, for the first game ever between Ohio State and Notre Dame. Famous radio network broadcasters such as Red Barber, Ted Husing and Bill Slater. Maybe even, although no one seemed to be sure, a little-known young announcer named Ronald Reagan from WHO in Des Moines.

And an SRO crowd of over 80,000, although a lot of people figured 200,000 tickets could have been sold had there been room.

And then halfback Dick Beltz fumbled and lost the ball. And then, on the

defensive side, he couldn't secure an errant pass thrown by Notre Dame's Bill Shakespeare. And then, with maybe 30 seconds left, there he was, left with nothing but Wayne Milner's legs to tackle when Shakespeare hit him in the end zone from the OSU 19-yard line with the winning touchdown pass.

"I've thought a lot about that pass," Shakespeare would say years later. "But I wake up nights dreaming about the one before it — the one the Ohio State guy had in his hands and dropped

it."

The rules of the game, infinitely more restrictive than today's, made a three-touchdown fourth-quarter comeback by Notre Dame seem like an impossibility. For long moments, fans sat stunned in their seats, seemingly unbelieving. By radio, in print and certainly in popular reaction, Dick Beltz became The Goat of The Greatest Game.

"I just went up by myself in the stadium and sat by myself for a couple of hours," he said at our first meeting.

Some news is far too good to whisper.

In fact, it's really worth shouting about.

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## TIME AND CHANGE

"A long time," Ruth chimed in. "Remember? I waited for you."

And that's the rest of the story. The former Ruth Logeman, who survives her husband, was a student then at Ohio Wesleyan and Dick's guest at the game. They married in 1938.

"We went out to dinner after that game," she said in 1984, "and the first thing anyone said to Dick was, 'So you're the one who lost the game?' It kept up for years."

"I hurt because I thought I had let so many others down," Dick Beltz said. "If I could have taken the attitude earlier that I did later, I would have been a lot better off."

Drafted at age 32 in World War II, he played service football for Red Strader, a well-known coach who convinced him that one game shouldn't spoil a life.

And it didn't. He played professional-

ly for the former Cleveland Rams. He went back to college and got his teaching certificate. He coached and taught for years at five Ohio high schools. On the eve of Ohio State's game with Notre Dame in 1995, the first between the two teams in 59 years, we sat down again to talk of old times.

A chance, too, alas, to reopen an old sore.

"Whenever I moved someplace, people wanted to talk about it," he said. "One thing I learned from that was not to blame. I would never blame a boy for losing a game."

And what would he say to him?

"Be unhappy that you didn't win," he said. "But remember, this is only four or five seconds in a lifetime. Don't let it bother you. Know what the value of it is, and don't let it ruin your life."

He didn't. It should be his epitaph.



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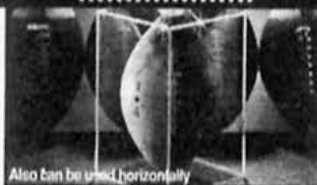
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## TIME AND CHANGE

## Hop, An Old Two-Wayer, Likes Gamble's Style

From somewhere out of the distant past of Ohio State football there arrived this season the apparition named Chris Gamble, here to occupy the newest yet oldest on-field position.

Call him the throwback.

Not since the mid-1960s has a Buckeye player even remotely attempted to do what Gamble does — play offense; play defense; run back kickoffs; run back punts; catch passes; defend against passes; block, if necessary; and tackle, if need be.

"I think he's great," said Howard "Hopalong" Cassidy, age 68, who must by personal experience rank as an expert on the subject. "He's a tough player. He's involved in everything. He goes after the ball. He tackles. For a player, it's a lot more fun to play both ways than just one way. If you're a good athlete, you should be playing both ways."

It's a losing argument, of course, and even Cassidy — who by doing so won the Heisman Trophy and became the Associated Press Male Athlete of the Year in 1955 — knows it.

The game has long-since gone modern from its iron-man past. The old arguments for and against have long since been decided — except, perhaps, in the minds of those who played it the old way.

"How can you call someone a great football player when they never made a tackle, never intercepted a pass, never returned a punt, never returned a kick-off?" Cassidy would like to ask. "You've got to play both ways in judging the great, great players."

Argue as he would, he also bows to the obvious.

"It's better for the fans now, I know that," he said. "You've got 22 players they can like. But what happens, it's not that much fun for the players. I enjoyed playing both ways. It's all I knew."

And all that most of the players of his generation and those that went

## TIME AND CHANGE

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before knew. From Rutgers vs. Princeton in 1869 to Michigan against Army in Yankee Stadium on Oct. 13, 1945, college football was predominantly a game of players who played both offense and defense.

Though the rule allowing players to enter the game at any time first came on the books in 1941, not until Michigan coach Fritz Crisler opted to use eight players strictly on offense and eight others strictly on defense against the heavily favored Cadets four years later did anyone seize the opportunity.

Pitted against mighty Army with World War II over just two months before, Crisler realized his draft-depleted team could be overwhelmed if he didn't do something drastic. For three periods, it worked. The score was tied 7-7 until Army scored three fourth-quarter touchdowns in a 28-7 win.

It convinced Red Blaik, who went to separate units on offense and defense, too. He was an Army colonel. So he called them "platoons." Platoon football had arrived.

But wait, the traditionalists weren't quite finished. In 1953, after a prolonged battle in the rules committee, two-platoon football was abolished and players were allowed to enter only once in each period.

From then until 1965, when unlimited substitution returned for good, only creeping changes lessened football's one-way character.

That left pro football Hall-of-Famer Paul Warfield, who played from 1961-63 for Woody Hayes, as OSU's last near precursor to Gamble — a skilled offen-



"It's really a matter of opinion," he said. "I felt the really great players had to block and tackle. On the other hand, I had to recognize that your 11 best offensive players might not also be your 11 best defensively. Without question, this is better football now. But the other was darn good football, too. People who say it wasn't just don't have good memories."

Nothing really wrong with Cassidy's, of course.

Rewind back to 1952, when freshmen were eligible because of the Korean War, and Ohio State's season opener against Indiana. On Thursday, the kid just out of Columbus Central High was running plays against the varsity, and after the practice Hayes told him to get a uniform. With 13 and 40 as the only available numbers, he chose 40.

It was a natural. Broad Street, old Route 40, passed near where he lived in the Bottoms west of downtown.

"And there was no way I was going to pick No. 13," he said.

In the third quarter, Hayes inserted him to return a punt and there he remained, scoring three touchdowns and playing safety in a 33-13 victory.

You must know the rest: a four-year starter and finisher. The Big Ten's MVP (over Heisman winner Alan Ameche of Wisconsin) in the perfect-record national championship, Rose Bowl season of 1954. His own Heisman and the AP Male Athlete of the Year Award (he beat out Rocky Marciano, Otto Graham, Mickey Mantle and Ted Williams) in 1955.

That year, he rushed for 978 yards, scored 15 touchdowns and led the team in both receptions and interceptions. Try those on for size.

"People seem to forget about all the trophies I won," he said. "I guess that's because it was so long ago. I played 60 minutes a lot of times. I played a lot of games with separations,

cracked ribs, broken bones. I broke all my fingers, and in my last game in the pros (he played eight seasons, mostly for the Detroit Lions, for whom he scored the final touchdown in their last NFL championship year of 1957) I broke my leg."

Often, as in college, that was going both ways.

"You just didn't go into the game and they took you back out," he said. "They never took me out until the game was sewed up. That's just the way it was then."

Tired?

"I never noticed it," he said. "The adrenaline would be running pretty high. (Trainer) Ernie Biggs would tape one finger to another and they'd patch you up pretty good at the half and they'd X-ray you the next day, or sometime."

But, God, how he loved it.

They all did.

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**TWO-WAY BUCKEYE** — Long before Chris Gamble became the first OSU player in decades to start on offense and defense, 1955 Heisman Trophy winner Howard "Hopalong" Cassidy did it for the Buckeyes.

sive back who could double up as a pass defender on defense.

"Paul was a running back," longtime former sports information director Marv Homan recalled. "But they also used him as a wide receiver and on defense when the opponent had a very gifted receiver."

"I remember when we played Wisconsin, Woody played him one-on-one against Pat Richter, a great receiver. That's pretty much what Jim Tressel does now with Gamble, except it isn't one man, Gamble covers the wide side of the field. Woody had Paul cover Richter wherever he went. Richter was big and overpowering, but Woody figured Warfield had the pure athletic ability to compensate. And it worked."

Joining a crowd, Homan admitted that he himself warmed to the final victory of the two-platoon game only grudgingly.