



Ohio State's John Kabealo (16) gets off a punt against Notre Dame in a 1935 game which would later be called one of the greatest ever played. Among those blocking for the Buckeyes

are Gilbert Harre (48) and Frank Boucher (8). Note old scoreboard at right on Ohio Stadium's Southeast Tower. (Courtesy OSU Photo Archives).

## '35 Irish Clash Regarded As 'Greatest'

It's really the type of question for which there never can be a true answer. But they continue to ask it over and over again — especially around Nov. 2 of each year.

The question? Was the 1935 Ohio State-Notre Dame clash in Ohio Stadium the greatest football game ever played?

In 1950, a wire service poll called the 18-13 Irish victory "the most thrilling football game of the half century." In 1969, as part of college football's centennial celebration, a panel of experts called it "the greatest game in the first 100 years of college football."

The 'game' has had many words written about it over the years. The 50th anniversary of its playing brought about even more stories.

Charlie Callahan, writing a special for the Nov. 5 edition of *Football News*, thoroughly detailed the game while also giving some interesting sidelights. Noted author Jerry Bronfield, an OSU grad who wrote *Woody Hayes And The 100-Yard War*, had an inspiring replay of the game in the Ohio State program on the day of the Iowa game — which was the 50th anniversary of the famous contest.

Paul Hornung, who covered Ohio State football for over 40 years, but who wasn't yet in the Columbus area in 1935, wrote a lengthy piece on the game for a Notre Dame program a few years ago.

Personal research by this writer in the files of both the *Columbus Dispatch* and the old *Columbus Citizen*, also found many words written on a game that would go down in history.

One could not begin to tell all. Space would not allow it. But we will try to compile, from the various sources, a replay.

The scenario: Both Ohio State and Notre Dame were unbeaten as they prepared to battle for the first time ever. The Buckeyes, coached by University of Nebraska Law School graduate Francis Schmidt, were heavy pre-game favorites, having scored 160 points in their first four games while giving up only 26. One of those triumphs was by an 85-7 margin over Drake. Notre Dame, on the other hand, had not destroyed its opposition with the same ease.

Lew Byrer, a *Citizen* sports writer, said the matchup would be "the technical perfection

### BUCKEYE FLASHBACK

#### As They Saw It!

*The legends of both sports writing and broadcasting were in Columbus on Nov. 2, 1935 when Ohio State and Notre Dame hooked up in one of college football's all-time greatest games.*

*They had their views when the Irish had made a remarkable comeback to win 18-13.*

**Grantland Rice:** "One of the finest things I've ever seen in football."

**Damon Runyan:** "In the second half, the Irish showed the fight that is the tradition of Notre Dame. What a game!"

**Harry Grayson:** "The greatest reversal of form I have ever seen."

**Paul Gallico:** "The greatest game I have ever witnessed."

**Ted Husing:** "The most exciting broadcast I have ever handled. I have never been so weak after a game."

which Knute Rockne taught and Elmer Layden has carried on against the baffling laterals, forwards and intricate ball-handling plays displayed by Francis Schmidt."

Layden, one of the original Four Horsemen, was rather noncommittal when he arrived in Columbus with his squad. He refused to give direct answers when asked about the game. He was called by one Columbus writer "the most uncommunicative football coach to bring a team into Columbus in years."

Layden had other things on his mind. The 'Scarlet Scourge' of 'Close The Gates Of Mercy' Schmidt posed a big test. Through the first half the Buckeyes made it look like a terrible mismatch, rolling up a 13-0 lead.

OSU fullback Frank Antenucci picked off an Irish pass in the first quarter and lateralled to halfback Frank Boucher, who dashed 76 yards

for the first score. That play was indicative of the razzle-dazzle fans had come to expect from Schmidt-coached teams. Dick Beltz converted for a 7-0 OSU lead.

Sophomore halfback Jumpin' Joe Williams — so nicknamed through a contest conducted by one of the Columbus papers — closed out a 50-yard drive midway through the second quarter with a three-yard TD run.

Schmidt, who was in the second of seven seasons he would spend at the Buckeye helm, was not pleased with the first-half effort.

"You should be ahead by 35 points," Schmidt reportedly yelled at his troops at the break.

At the same time, on the other side of the stadium, Layden supposedly told his squad "they won the first half. Let's go out and win the second half and the game."

They did.

The second half was a whole different ball game. Notre Dame dominated every aspect.

And it was accomplished almost single-handedly by Andy Pilney, a 170-pound senior left halfback from Chicago.

On the final play of the third quarter, Pilney returned an OSU punt to the Buckeye 12. A pass play from Pilney to — of all people — backup quarterback Frank Gaul put the ball at the one. One play later, as the final period unfolded, fullback Steve Miller got the Irish in the point column with a plunge into the line.

Ohio State guard Jim Karcher was in the right place at the right time on the ensuing series when he fell on a Miller fumble to stop a Notre Dame drive that had gotten to the Ohio State one.

Pilney stopped Williams after a 24-yard gain on Ohio State's next possession and the Buckeyes were forced to punt. With four minutes left in the game, Pilney again went to work. He connected with quarterback Wally Fromhart for 39 yards, to Fromhart again for 13 and finally to fullback Mike Layden, younger brother of the coach, in the end zone to make the score 13-12.

Fromhart's placement attempt sailed low and missed, thus leaving the Buckeyes with the one-point margin as the 81,018 fans breathed a collective sigh of relief. After all, there were less than two minutes remaining to be played.

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# The View From 15th and High

By Frank L. Moskowitz, BSB Publisher

## Defense Reaches Potential In Critical Game

It was only fitting that Ohio State's defense should be the key in the Buckeyes' convincing 22-13 win over Iowa.

After all, at the start of the season, the defense was highly-touted and started the campaign with a solid performance against Pitt. However, the defense had slipped badly in the following weeks, including a virtual collapse late in the Illinois game, costing the Buckeyes what could have been a perfect slate through eight games.

The defense was due. I don't think that anyone doubted that the Buckeyes could score points against Iowa. But would the Buckeyes be able to stop Chuck Long, Ronnie Harmon and company?

I've steadfastly maintained, throughout the course of this season, that the Buckeyes had the talent and the coaching to play solid defense. And what better time to prove it than against number one Iowa?

And the Buckeyes showed a national television audience not only that they could play good defense, but play it in the traditional Ohio State way — with some savage hitting. The third quarter play in which Terry White and Derek Isaman jarred the ball loose from Iowa receiver Scott Helverson for a fumble, and Terry White's fourth quarter smash into Quinn Early that turned a possible touchdown into an incompletion quickly come to mind.

That's the way defense should be played at Ohio State. I suspect that the Buckeyes were playing defense that way in the Horseshoe 50 years ago to the day, when OSU tangled with Notre Dame in what many call the greatest college football game of all time. The difference is, on Nov. 2, 1985, the Buckeyes came out a winner.

**EVEN THE** Earle-baiters in the crowd must admit that Bruce and his staff out-coached Hayden Fry on this rainy afternoon. The Buckeyes were able to put points on the board against Iowa, and boy, they sure defended the Hawkeyes. Chuck Long and company had

little idea of how to solve a Buckeye defense that had been scrambled, specifically for the occasion.

And the win came without the aid of Keith Byars. Where would the Hawkeyes have been without Long or Harmon?

My only real criticism of the Bucks comes for the way they defended Iowa's touchdown drive in the second quarter.

The Buckeye tackling got really sloppy on that Hawkeye march, especially on a short pass to fullback David Hudson where virtually every Buck had a shot at him, but he managed a 20-yard gain.

The breakdown may have been good for OSU, however.

If the Bucks had played a near-perfect half, Bruce would have had little to say in the locker room and OSU might have let down in the second half. This way, the Bucks gave Earle something to really scream about and I bet he did.

I can't kick about Earle choosing to sit on the ball late in the game. It was pouring rain, the Bucks had as much as a 22-7 lead and Iowa had to worry about the clock as much as Ohio State. Give the ball to 'Cooop,' (as the Ohio Stadium chants for fullback George Cooper) eat some time up, and let Tom Tupa punt. Let Chuck Long try and play catch-up in that rain against a defense that had his number all afternoon.

**RICH SPANGLER** had what had to be considered an off-day for him, in the field goal department, missing two of four. In fact, he got chastised by Bruce on national TV, with the coach telling his kicker, "we need those points," after a miss.

But there's an aspect of Spangler's game that deserves mention, something he has been doing very well lately.

Spangler proved long ago that he could bang kickoffs out of the end zone. And the ball was brought out to the 20. Lately, however, he has been placing the ball in areas where it has to be returned, and the Buckeyes have been making out very nicely.

On Spangler's five kickoffs

against Iowa, the Hawkeyes returned four, getting the ball on their 19, 17, 26 and 12-yard lines. That's a net loss of six yards in field position for the Hawkeyes, compared to what they would have had if Spangler had boomed those kicks for touchbacks.

And, if you hit as hard as the Buckeyes do, there's always the chance that you will force a fumble if you make the opposition return the kick.

In fact, on that final return, Harmon was dropped at the 12 on one of the game's hardest hits, administered by freshman John Sullivan. Two plays later, brother Mike hit Long for a two-yard loss from the middle guard spot. These Sullivan boys look like hitters, and seem the perfect types for special teams play.

**THE BIG WIN** over Iowa was really a big public relations boost for Ohio State. Let's face it. The Buckeyes have looked terrible on national television too many times lately.

Here, they took on the number one team in the nation, a truly worthy opponent, and beat them in the three major areas — offense, defense, and specialty teams play. And as mentioned above, Earle out-coached Hayden Fry, a highly regarded mentor.

Not bad for a rainy day's work. **AS YOU MAY** know, **BSB** recognizes the *USA Today/CNN* college football poll because of its early availability. Now, after its win over Iowa, I'm not saying Ohio State should be ranked number one. I think Florida, with only a tie to blemish its record and wins over Miami (ranked sixth), Auburn (12th), LSU (15th) and Tennessee (21st) deserves to be number one if you recognize schools on probation (I'm not sure I do, but *USA Today* does).

But I have to quibble with Ohio State's fifth ranking.

Penn State at number two? Maybe. They are undefeated, but the Nittany Lions barely slipped by 3-7 Boston College.

Nebraska at number three? Both the Buckeyes and Huskers are 7-1. Nebraska beat Illinois (52-25) and

the Illini beat the Bucks (31-28). But the Bucks beat Colorado by a 36-13 count, while Nebraska nipped the Buffaloes 17-7. On a week in which Ohio State beat the number one team in the country convincingly and Nebraska was beating up on 1-7 Kansas State, I give the edge to the Bucks.

Number four Air Force. Sure the Falcons are undefeated, and I loved it when they beat Notre Dame. But Notre Dame is probably the best team the Falcons have played and Purdue beat Notre Dame and Ohio State beat Purdue. I think anyone who saw Ohio State destroy BYU in the Holiday Bowl would have a hard time voting a WAC team over a Big Ten team.

But the Falcons are undefeated, you say? So are the other Falcons, those of Bowling Green, and they're ranked only 24th.

I call it Florida, Penn State (I'm in a generous mood), Ohio State. You have to remember, however, that in the *USA Today* poll last week, the Bucks beat 20th-ranked Minnesota on the road and dropped from 11th to 12th. Makes a lot of sense, doesn't it?

I think it all goes back to Ohio State's bad PR, as mentioned above. Are the Bucks going to improve that image this season?

**DON'T YOU** figure that former Buckeye Todd Bell wishes he were frolicking with 'The Fridge' and the undefeated Chicago Bears instead of waiting at home for a phone call that's not going to come. How many times have you seen agent Howard Slusher associated with a player who is involved in a needless hold-out?

**SPEAKING OF** *USA Today*, it came up with some interesting statistics (doesn't it always). You often hear about the Big Ten being a weaker conference, *vis-a-vis* other conferences. In a look at non-conference games, the Big Ten is listed as having the best record against non-league foes who were, at the time of the game, in the AP top 20.

The Big Ten was 3-3. Other conferences include the ACC, 0-6-1; Big Eight, 3-4; Pac Ten, 3-4; SEC, 1-2; Southwest, 1-2; and WAC, 1-5.

## Pilney Led Irish To Win In Epic '35 Struggle

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With time against them, the Irish attempted an onside kick only to have tackle Chuck Scales recover it for Ohio State.

Beltz, who today resides in Logan County, southeast of Columbus, fumbled on the first play but recovered it himself. But he repeated the miscue the next play after taking a vicious hit by — you guessed it — Pilney. The rules of the time stated that the last person to touch the ball got credit for the recovery. Notre Dame center Henry Pojman got his fingers on the ball

as it squibbed out of bounds.

The Irish were in business again at their own 49 with less than a minute to play.

Pilney, after first fading to pass, scrambled 32 yards, breaking several tackles on the way as he was brought down hard out of bounds at the OSU 19, stopping the clock with just seconds left.

Pilney didn't get up. He had suffered a severe knee injury and never played football again although he did reach the major leagues in baseball the following year with the Boston Braves. Pilney's major league career consisted

of two pinch-hit appearances in which he went hitless.

Bill Shakespeare went into the game for Pilney. Right halfback Tony Mazzotti took a direct snap from center and lateralled to Shakespeare, who faded to pass. Ohio State's Beltz almost intercepted, but dropped the ball.

Repeating the same play, the Irish tallied when Wayne Millner hauled in a 19-yard pass from Shakespeare. With 32 seconds left, Notre Dame was on top.

A kickoff and one play later, the Scarlet Scourge had been beaten.



*Bucks Beat Michigan Five Times In Decade***Schmidt Era Meant Success In 1930s***By Mark Rea*

After the eventful decade of the Roaring Twenties produced little in the way of championships and winning seasons, Ohio State football fans settled back for one of the most successful decades in history.

From 1930 to 1939, the Buckeyes won nearly three games out of every four they played and captured a couple of Big Ten championships along the way.

The decade did not start out so well, though.

The head coach was Sam Willaman, who had replaced the popular Dr. John W. Wilce in 1929. Willaman brought home winning records in all five seasons that he was with the Buckeyes, but Ohio State fans grew restless with the team's lackluster style of play.

The 1930 season was one of Willaman's best. He then had the services of senior end Wesley Fesler, who was on his way to a third All-American honor.

Behind Fesler, the Buckeyes were able to beat conference rival Illinois for the first time in four years. But they were upended by Northwestern early in the season and lost a 13-0 verdict to Michigan, finishing the season with a 5-2-1 record.

After finishing in a tie for fifth in the conference standings in 1929 and a tie for fourth in 1930, Ohio State finished fourth all by itself in 1931 with a 6-3-0 record.

Included in those six victories was a big 20-7 win over Michigan at Ann Arbor in the third game of the season. It started the Buckeyes' conference schedule with a win, but they turned around the very next week and lost a 10-0 decision in Ohio Stadium to Northwestern.

Pressure from fans and alumni was already mounting against Willaman when the 1932 season began. It didn't help matters when a four-game stretch in the campaign resulted in a 14-0 loss to Michigan and ties with Pittsburgh, Indiana and Wisconsin.

Willaman thought that late-season victories over Northwestern and Illinois would save his position. He was right, but only for a while.

He returned in 1933 and vowed to keep his job. The Buckeyes did their part for the head coach, blowing Virginia off the field in the season opener by a score of 75-0.

OSU went on to post a 7-1-0 record that season, allowing only 26 points all season while scoring 161. But the Buckeyes committed the cardinal sin, losing a 13-0 decision to Michigan. With that loss went a possible Big Ten championship.

University officials couldn't stand the heat any longer and asked Willaman for his resignation following the 1933 season.

Willaman finished his five-year coaching stint with a 26-10-5 record. He went on to become head coach and athletic director at Western Reserve University and requested that Ohio State be placed on the school's 1934 schedule. The Buckeyes won the game 76-0, marking the last time OSU played against an Ohio opponent.

OSU athletic director Lynn St. John was anxious to find a head coach with an enthusiastic style of play. He found such a coach at Texas Christian.

Francis A. Schmidt had compiled a 46-6-5 record in five years with TCU, regularly defeating such area powerhouses as Texas, Baylor, Arkansas, Texas A&M and Southern Methodist.



Dressed in a business suit with trademark bow tie, Ohio State head coach Francis A. Schmidt follows action in Ohio Stadium during the late 1930s. Schmidt always sat on the bench, surrounded by his players and countless sheets of paper containing offensive plays. Schmidt was one of the most popular OSU coaches in history and compiled a 39-16-1 record in seven seasons.

He made no secret about loving to cross up opponents with a flamboyant offense, but he also knew something about defense. In Schmidt's 57 games at TCU, the Horned Frogs registered 34 shutouts.

Schmidt also immediately breathed new life into the Buckeyes' football program. Always dressed in a business suit and bow tie, he was the first OSU coach who did not dress in uniform while on the sidelines.

He usually coached from a table on the sideline which was stacked with hundreds of plays, all written on scraps of paper. Quarterbacks who played for Schmidt had to keep a list of plays under their helmet so they would be able to decipher signals from the bench as to which play was being called.

A World War I combat veteran with a law degree from the University of Nebraska, Schmidt was embraced quickly by the OSU fans and players.

Shortly after being hired, Schmidt was asked about Michigan's dominance over Ohio State. He replied simply, "They put their pants on one leg at a time, the same as the rest of us."

That led to the formation of the Michigan Pants Club, which was made up of local businessmen and alumni. After each victory over Michigan, miniature gold pants were awarded to honored guests. Schmidt wore his on his watch chain and accumulated four of them in his seven years with the Buckeyes.

Another of his trademarks was profanity. He would use it any time, in any situation. But it only seemed to add to his colorful character.

In his first season, Ohio State finished with a 7-1-0 record. After losing a heartbreaking 14-13 decision to Illinois in the second game of the season, the Buckeyes never lost again, finishing the

season with big victories over conference rivals Chicago, Michigan and Iowa.

The team's 34-0 victory over the Wolverines was OSU's first against Michigan since 1931 and only the sixth in 29 tries.

Schmidt could have run for governor and probably would have won. He was endeared to fans because of his eccentricities, some of which included drawing up new plays on a linen tablecloth while dining in a restaurant and hiding new wrinkles from his assistants and players before a game.

The following year became one of the most fabled in Ohio State history.

With Schmidt at the controls and such All-American stars as Merle Wendt, Inwood Smith and Gomer Jones in the lineup, the Buckeyes tuned up for the conference season with a 19-6 win over Kentucky and an 85-7 drubbing of Drake.

That was followed by consecutive victories over Indiana and Northwestern, before the Bucks took a break from the conference schedule to take on Notre Dame.

The Fighting Irish came into Ohio Stadium and couldn't do a thing in the first half, falling behind 13-0. But backup quarterback William Shakespeare rallied the Irish to a come-from-behind 18-13 victory that many football historians rank among the greatest games ever in college football.

The Buckeyes were stunned and it carried over to the next week when a superb Chicago team was leading late in the game before OSU pulled out a 20-13 victory.

That seemed to get the team back on track and it finished with a 6-0 win over Illinois and 38-0 thrashing of Michigan in Ann Arbor to claim a Big Ten championship.

Both Ohio State and Minnesota fin-

ished undefeated in five conference games that season. Since neither team played one another, co-championships were awarded. It was the Buckeyes' first Big Ten title since 1920.

The following season was not as bright. Starting over with a team filled with underclassmen, Schmidt guided the Buckeyes to a 5-3-0 record which included losses to Pittsburgh, Notre Dame and Northwestern by the combined total of 12 points.

It didn't matter much to Ohio State fans that the team finished tied for second in the conference. The season ended with a 21-0 victory over Michigan.

Schmidt continued his winning ways in 1937, starting the season with a 14-0 win over his old team Texas Christian.

After that came victories over conference rivals Purdue, Northwestern, Chicago, Illinois and Michigan, but a 10-0 loss to Indiana in Columbus cost the Buckeyes a chance for another co-title with Minnesota.

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## ND Comeback Cost Bucks Perfect Record

## OSU-Irish Game Of '35 Still Recalled

By Mark Rea

Ohio State fans love to reminisce about their favorite Buckeye games.

For some, it was the 1984 game against Illinois in which Keith Byars gained 274 yards and scored five touchdowns.

Others might look back at the 1974 Rose Bowl against Southern Cal in which Archie Griffin and Pete Johnson combined for 243 yards rushing and four TDs.

Still others might point to the infamous "Snow Bowl" against Michigan in 1950.

But for the old-time Ohio State football fans, no game could compare to the 1935 contest between the Buckeyes and Notre Dame.

It was the first-ever meeting between the two schools and both featured head coaches in their second years.

OSU head coach Francis Schmidt had the Buckeyes poised for the Big Ten championship in 1935, going into the game with a perfect record after four games.

Meanwhile, the Fighting Irish were shadows of their former selves. Although almost two years had passed, the school was still recovering from the shock of Knute Rockne's death in an airplane crash.

Elmer Layden was in his second season as head coach at Notre Dame, but the football program had yet to get over Rockne's loss.



Ohio State punter John Kabealo (16) gets off a kick against Notre Dame during a 1935 game in Ohio Stadium. Among those blocking for Kabealo on the play are Gilbert Harre (48) and Frank Boucher (8). The game, won by the Irish 18-13 after a furious second-half comeback, is called one of the greatest ever played.

The Buckeyes scored early in the first quarter of the game after Frank Antenucci intercepted a pass for the Buckeyes.

Antenucci picked the ball off at about the OSU 24-yard line and then

lateraled to teammate Frank Boucher, who raced 76 yards down the far sideline for a touchdown.

Place-kicker Dick Beltz added the extra point, giving the Buckeyes a quick 7-0 lead.

In the second quarter, the Buckeyes put together an offensive drive behind quarterback William "Tippy" Dye, who kept a list of plays concealed in his helmet because Schmidt wanted to be able to call any of 300 plays at any moment.

The Buckeyes' scoring march was capped by a one-yard touchdown run by "Jumping" Joe Williams. OSU missed the extra point but still had a 13-0 lead.

Notre Dame was stopped at every turn in the first half. Irish quarterback Phil Pilney could complete only two of seven passes for 12 yards and already had pitched three interceptions.

But the Irish would not give up. In the third quarter, Pilney returned a John Kabealo punt 53 yards to the Ohio State 12-yard line. Two plays later, Pilney connected with Francis Gaul for a first down at the two-yard line.

From there, backup halfback Steve Miller bounced into the end zone for the touchdown. The Irish missed the extra point, making the score 13-6.

Notre Dame came right back in its next possession, driving all the way to the Buckeyes' one-yard line. Miller tried to score again but fumbled at the goal line, and Ohio State recovered.

But the Irish were undaunted. After stopping the Buckeyes, Pilney rallied his team by passing them down the field until Notre Dame reached the OSU 15. From there, Pilney pitched out to Mike Layden, who ran into the end zone for a touchdown.

The extra point attempt was missed again, preserving Ohio State's lead at 13-12. That lead would not hold up, though.

With less than two minutes remaining in the game, Notre Dame tried an unsuccessful onside kick.

With the game clock ticking away, the Buckeyes tried to freeze the ball. But Beltz, playing fullback, fumbled the ball after an eight-yard pass and Notre Dame's substitute center, Henry Pojman, touched it before it went out of bounds.

In 1935, the last team touching the ball before it went out of bounds got possession. Therefore, the Irish got one last opportunity to win the game.

Starting at his own 45, Pilney went back to pass but could find no open receivers. He then turned upfield and made an excellent run all the way to the Ohio State 19-yard line.

However, Pilney twisted a knee on the play and had to be helped from the field.

Backup quarterback William Shakespeare entered the game and tried a pass on his first play. Beltz nearly intercepted the pass, but could not hold onto the ball.

On the second play, Shakespeare threw high in the end zone to end Wayne Millner, who leaped between two defenders to catch the ball. With less than 30 seconds left in the game, the Irish had scored their third touchdown of the final period and secured the 18-13 victory.

Even though the Buckeyes went on to share the Big Ten championship that year, Schmidt always admitted the loss to Notre Dame haunted him.

Addressing a Notre Dame football banquet some years later, Schmidt told the audience, "I kept running and rerunning the films of the second half of the 1935 game. Someday, Millner is going to drop that ball."

The two teams met again the following year in South Bend, Ind., with the Irish taking a 7-2 victory in a game played in the rain and mud.

It marked the last time the two schools ever met on the gridiron. They are scheduled to meet again in the 1995 season, which will be the 60th anniversary of the Irish's come-from-behind victory.

## BSB "100" Trivia Contest

Test your knowledge of Ohio State football trivia with the following questions. If you score 9-10, you are an All-American; 7-8, all-conference; 5-6, letterman; 3-4, casual fan; 0-2, Michigan grad.

1. Only five Ohio State running backs have ever rushed for 200 or more yards in a single game. Name them.
2. Fred Pagac is the only former Ohio State player who is a member of the Buckeyes' full-time coaching staff. But Pagac is not a native Ohioan. In what state was he born?
3. The co-captains for the 1973 Ohio State team were Randy Gradishar and John Hicks. What uniform numbers did those two Buckeye greats wear?
4. This wide receiver never played high school football, but led the Buckeyes in pass receiving for two straight seasons. Name him.
5. This offensive tackle from Lorain, Ohio, played most of his career in the shadow of John Hicks. Still, he managed to win All-Big Ten honors in 1973 and 1974. Name him.
6. Name Ohio State's first three-time All-Big Ten selection.
7. Name the only non-Ohio native in this list of OSU greats who played on the 1968 national championship team: Rex Kern, Mike Sensibaugh, Ron Maciejowski, Jim Stillwagon, Jan White, Leo Hayden or Jim Otis.
8. Speaking of the 1968 national championship team, can you name that season's co-captains?
9. Name the player who succeeded Cornelius Greene as Ohio State quarterback in 1976.
10. Art Schlichter was a first-round draft choice of the Baltimore Colts in 1982. But he was not the Colts' first draft selection that year. What player did the Colts draft ahead of Schlichter that year?

BONUS #5: In 1978, quarterback Art Schlichter was issued jersey number 10, the same number he wore in high school. Who wore the jersey number 10 for the Buckeyes during the 1977 season?

Answers appear on page 28 of this edition of BSB. Answers to the bonus question will appear at the end of the football season. Readers submitting the correct answers to all 11 bonus questions can win 100 free issues of Buckeye Sports Bulletin. Questions will appear each week through the Nov. 30 issue. Mail all 11 answers to BSB Trivia Contest, P.O. Box 12453, Columbus, OH 43212. Entry deadline is Dec. 16. Phone entries not accepted. No purchase necessary. In case of a tie, a drawing will be held.

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# Schmidt Began Ohio State Tradition Of 'Gold Pants Club' Back In 1930s

By JOHN REDD

Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

Considering the awesome strength of this year's Michigan team, Ohio State head coach John Cooper may want to remind his Buckeyes that the Wolverines "put their pants on one leg at a time."

That was the approach former OSU head coach Francis Schmidt took to the traditional rivalry when he was named head football coach at Ohio State in 1934.

When Schmidt was asked by

reporters how he would handle Michigan, which had beaten the Buckeyes 22 of the 30 times the teams had played, he simply stated he wasn't concerned about Michigan.

"They put their pants on one leg at a time," Schmidt said, "same as everybody else."

To help prove his point, his first Buckeye team whipped the Wolverines by a 34-0 score in 1934, and to help commemorate Schmidt's statement, the "Gold Pants Club" was born.

A group of alumni and athletic department supporters started the organi-

zation, known then as the Michigan Pants Club, to raise money in order to buy each player and coach a small charm to signify the victory over Michigan and Schmidt's now-famous quotation.

The charm is a small pair of gold football pants with the initials of the player or coach, the date of the game and the final score.

Generally, the gold pants are displayed on a pocket watch chain, a necklace or a girlfriend's or wife's bracelet.

No matter where they are displayed or kept, the gold pants are one of the most cherished possessions any Buckeye can hold.

"It was exciting to win the gold pants," said All-American guard Inwood Smith, a member of Schmidt's first team in 1934. "I've still got my three pairs. The award was significant because we were able to beat Michigan."

Smith said the Buckeyes dominated Michigan during Schmidt's first four seasons, shutting them out all four games.

"During my three years, not only did we shut them out, they never got inside our 30-yard line," he remembered.

John Kabealo, another member of Schmidt's first Ohio State squad, also has fond memories of winning the gold pants.

"The gold pants mean quite a bit," he said. "We beat Michigan in 1934 and 1935. It was also special to see my brother, Michael, win them in 1936 and 1937."

The record for most gold pants ever awarded belongs to former OSU All-American and longtime assistant coach Esco Sarkkinen. He won two pairs as a player and 16 more as an assistant coach under Woody Hayes.

"Like so many other things about Ohio State, the gold pants are a great legend and a great tradition," Sarkkinen said. "The women particularly like them. My wife made a bracelet out of mine. Of course, she had more to



Francis Schmidt

work with than anyone else."

Sarkkinen said the gold pants award was born in the 1930s along with several other Ohio State traditions.

"That's when the captains breakfast began, where past OSU captains honor the present captains," he said. "We also started playing Michigan the last game of the season in those years, and I believe the dotting of the 'I' in Script Ohio started then, too."

"The gold pants are also a part of the 1930s, which was a period where many of our great traditions started. Those things just sort of sprang up and continued."

Current Ohio State linebackers coach Fred Pagac said winning a pair of gold pants is one of the greatest things a Buckeye can achieve. He won one pair as a player under Woody Hayes in 1972 and has three more pairs as an assistant coach.

"Obviously, the gold pants are a very, very cherished item that is probably one of the most important things you can earn as an Ohio State Buckeye," he said. "I know every player on this team knows the significance of the gold pants. Everybody on the team knows about them, and everybody wants a pair."

Jim Karsatos, who was a backup

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quarterback on one of the last Ohio State teams to beat Michigan and win the Big Ten championship in 1984, is proud he was able to earn a pair of gold pants.

"They're great," he said. "When I got to Ohio State, it was the goal to win four sets of gold pants. I think it's a pretty cool tradition."

One of the worst feelings a Buckeye could ever have is playing at Ohio State for four years and never beating Michigan.

Vic Janowicz has the 1950 Heisman Trophy among his awards, but not one pair of gold pants. He is the only one of Ohio State's four Heisman winners to never beat the Wolverines. The closest he came was a 7-7 tie in 1949.

"My worst memory of the Ohio State-Michigan rivalry is never winning the game and earning the gold pants," he said. "You know, I never realized the significance of the gold pants until my playing days were over."

"During the years when you're playing, the gold pants don't mean as much. But as time goes by, you really regret never earning a pair. It's really just a small trinket, but it means a heckuva lot."

Since none of the present Buckeye players have won a pair of gold pants, they should have added incentive to get them this year, especially with the incredible talent at Michigan.

"I think it should be a great incentive for them," Janowicz said. "I don't know if anyone on this team knows what the gold pants look like, unless Fred Pagac has showed them."

Actually, most of the current Buckeyes know what they look like. Three-time All-American Tom Skladany proudly displayed his at last year's Senior Tackle, while former captains Carlos Snow and Scottie Graham made sure everyone on last year's team got a good look at theirs.

Still, if the oddsmakers are correct, this year's crop of Buckeyes will miss out again on getting the gold pants. However, this season's Ohio State team is in a position similar to that of the

## 'Canes Pad Lead In CSAN Ratings

A big win over Temple increased Miami's lead in the CSAN Editor's Top 20 poll, but Alabama and Florida State keep nipping at the 'Canes heels.

Meanwhile, Ohio State moved up two places to number 17 following its win over Indiana.

Here is this week's CSAN poll, with first-place votes in parentheses:

1. Miami (Fla.) (13) .....	279
2. Alabama (1) .....	263
3. Florida State .....	252
4. Texas A&M .....	236
5. Washington .....	223
6. Michigan .....	197
7. Syracuse .....	194
8. Notre Dame .....	190
9. Colorado .....	166
10. Georgia .....	156
11. Florida .....	143
12. Nebraska .....	117
13. Southern Cal .....	105
14. North Carolina State .....	97
15. Arizona .....	86
16. Stanford .....	81
17. Ohio State .....	59
18. Mississippi State .....	45
19. Boston College .....	26
20. Kansas .....	8

Others receiving votes: North Carolina 5, Tennessee 4, Hawaii 3, Wake Forest 3, Penn State 2.

1934 team, the one that began the tradition.

"With the powerful talent of this year's Michigan team, Schmidt's saying is as relevant as ever," Kabealo said. "This could be the year the Buckeyes finally win another pair of gold pants."

"If our guys really want to play hard, they'll win. I think this year we're really going to give them a battle."

And at least one former OSU great believes that if Ohio State can beat Michigan this season, not only will the Buckeyes join the "Gold Pants Club," but they will also be back in the national spotlight.

"If Ohio State beats Michigan this year with all of their great talent, it will completely turn the program around," Janowicz said. "The Buckeyes will take a back seat to nobody."

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# Notre Dame Shocked World With Comeback

A black and white photograph capturing a dynamic moment during a football game. In the center-right of the frame, a player wearing a dark jersey with the number 28 is running forward, clutching the football. He is being tackled from behind by a player in a light-colored jersey. To the left, another player in a light-colored jersey is also engaged in the play. The background is filled with a dense crowd of spectators in the stands, creating a textured, high-contrast backdrop. The overall scene conveys the intensity and physical nature of the sport.

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Mike Layden and intercepted it. After running with it for 10 yards, Antenucci lateraled it to speedy teammate Frank Boucher, who raced the remaining 65 yards untouched for the game's first touchdown. Dick Beltz kicked the extra point and OSU quickly led 7-0.

Pincura helped set up OSU's second score by intercepting a pass by ND's William Shakespeare at midfield late in the first quarter.

From there, the Buckeyes used their solid ground attack to march toward the end zone. Williams went over the right side from three yards out for the score. Sam Busich's PAT kick missed the mark, but the Buckeyes led 13-0 and the rout appeared to be on.

Gradually, though, the tide shifted to Notre Dame. Throughout much of the rest of the game, the Irish won the battle for field position behind the excellent punting of Shakespeare. Throwing caution to the wind, Coach Layden used his second-team "Shock Troops" to start the second half. This move put fresh bodies in to attack the OSU line and allowed him to save his key players until the game would be on the line.

Notre Dame's miraculous comeback actually began late in the third quarter when Andy Pilney made the first of a series of heroic plays.

Pilney returned an OSU punt 37 yards to the Buckeyes' 13-yard line. After the teams exchanged ends to open the fourth quarter, Pilney rifled a third-down pass to Francis Gaul at the OSU 1-yard line. On the next play, Steve Miller crashed in for the touchdown. Ken Stilley's extra-point kick hit the crossbar and failed, but the Irish had gotten on the scoreboard at 13-6.

Notre Dame then drove all the way down to OSU's 1 again, but Miller fumbled this time. OSU's Jim Kärcher pounced on it for the touchback. But, again, the Irish forced an Ohio State punt with three minutes left.

The Irish went to the air and, looking like their future favorite son Joe Montana, moved down the field with ease. Beginning at his own 21, Mike Layden hit Wally Fromhart and Pilney with a pair of long passes putting the ball on OSU's 15-yard line. The industrious Irish then reversed the passing connection with Pilney passing over the middle to Layden for the remaining yardage and the score with just under two minutes left.

The crowd gasped as Fromhart lined up to try the extra point. The snap was high, Fromhart slipped and his kick crashed into the wave of blockers. It was no good, leaving OSU with a 13-12 lead and, perhaps, the game.

OSU's Schmidt had employed several reserves in an attempt to block the kick. They, along with Beltz, who he put in for the kickoff return, had to stay in the game for the final series. The OSU coach was roundly criticized later for putting his subs in and for also electing to take the kickoff instead of kicking deep and pinning the Irish in their own territory (teams could elect to kick or receive after allowing touchdowns then).

The Irish, naturally, attempted an onside kick, but OSU's Charles Gales secured the free ball at OSU's 48.

All that was left was for the Buckeyes to run the time out. Pincura could have frozen the ball with "kneel downs," but they still would have had to punt it away on fourth down. He opted instead to push forward to try to get a game-clinching first down.

On the first play, Beltz took a hand-off and was popped by ND's Pilney. The ball squirted toward the sideline, where head linesman Ernie Vick ruled that ND's Henry Pojman was the last man to touch it before it went out of bounds at OSU's 49-yard line. This was critical because, in those days, the last team to touch a fumbled ball got possession, unlike today where it must be fully secured in the field of play.

The OSU faithful were mortified as Notre Dame prepared to put the ball in play with just over a minute left. As legend has it, Coach Layden was on the sideline, nervously crouching and chain-smoking as his team moved toward victory.

On first down, Pilney went back to pass but was flushed and took off running. He raced for 30 yards until he was forced out at the OSU 19. But the heroic Pilney's day was done as he was injured and carted off after the play. Layden sent Shakespeare in to lead the Irish. On the next play, Mike Layden threw a pass in and out of the hands of OSU's Beltz in the end zone. Had he held on, OSU would have won.

Just 40 seconds remained as Coach Layden turned to Jim McKenna. Legend also has it that McKenna, a fourth-team quarterback, snuck aboard the team's train to Columbus and was hidden in a berth by his teammates. When he couldn't buy a ticket to the game, he talked his way into the ND dressing room and was promptly suited for play.

McKenna was sent in with the game's pivotal play. He took the snap and pitched the ball to Shakespeare,

Continued On Page 10

## The Game Of The Century

### Notre Dame 18, Ohio State 13

Nov. 2, 1935 — Ohio Stadium; Columbus, Ohio

NOTRE DAME	0	0	0	18 — 18
OHIO STATE	7	6	0	0 — 13

#### First Quarter

OSU — Boucher 65 lateral return after 10 interception return by Antenucci (Beltz kick)

#### Second Quarter

OSU — Williams 3 run (kick failed)

#### Fourth Quarter

ND — Miller 1 run (kick failed)

ND — Layden 15 pass from Pilney (kick failed)

ND — Millner 19 pass from Shakespeare (kick failed)

Att. — 81,018

#### Team Statistics

	ND	OSU
First Downs	10	10
Rushing	5	9
Passing	5	1
Penalty	0	0
Rushes-Yards	38-140	38-104
Passing Yards	140	7
Passes	21-10-3	4-2-0
Total Net Yards	280	111
Punts	7-35.7	11-39.0
Fumbles-Lost	3-2	4-2

#### 1935 Season Records

NOTRE DAME (7-1-1)		OHIO STATE (7-1, 5-0)	
Kansas	W, 28-7	Kentucky	W, 19-6
at Carnegie Tech	W, 14-13	Drake	W, 85-7
at Wisconsin	W, 27-0	Northwestern	W, 28-7
Pittsburgh	W, 9-6	at Indiana	W, 28-6
Navy (at Baltimore)	W, 14-0	Notre Dame	L, 18-13
at Ohio State	W, 18-13	at Chicago	W, 20-13
Northwestern	L, 14-7	Illinois	W, 6-0
Army (at New York City)	T, 6-6	at Michigan	W, 38-0
Southern Cal	W, 20-13	Big Ten Co-Champions	

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# Notre Dame Loss Was OSU's Only Blemish In '35

Continued From Page 9

who dropped back and threw deep into the end zone, where Wayne Millner caught it on the dead run just over the outstretched hands of Beltz for the game-winning touchdown. Marty Peters missed the extra-point, but it didn't matter — the Irish had a five-point lead with 32 seconds left.

"I've thought a lot about the pass," said Shakespeare, a native of Cincinnati, 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. If he'd held it, Wayne and I both would have been bums."

Wary of a long runback by Williams, ND kicked short and OSU guard Gus Zarnas received it. The Buckeyes had time for just one play, but it backfired when Pincura was sacked attempting a pass. The Game of the Century was over, and Notre Dame had won.

"If anybody has to be blamed, blame me, not the boys," said Schmidt, admitting a day later that he had only an hour of sleep on the Saturday night after the game.

"I kept lying there thinking of how much easier it would have been to have won that game than to have lost it," he said.

Beltz, the man who fumbled and then dropped a sure interception, was so upset after the game he hurried into his clothes without taking a shower and went home. Learning of this, Schmidt



**GAME OF THE CENTURY** — Ohio State's John Kabealo (16) punts the ball away as several Notre Dame players provide pressure during the 1935 game at Ohio Stadium. OSU's Gilbert Harre (45) and Arthur Boucher (8) are pictured blocking for Kabealo.

sent an assistant coach to console him. OSU fans stood in shocked silence as the Notre Dame throng stormed the Ohio Stadium turf, uprooted the goal

posts and left with them. The goal posts ended up downtown at the Deshler Wallick Hotel at Broad and High as Irish fans partied well into Sunday.

And this one miraculous comeback, where the Irish had nine first downs to

Continued On Page 17

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## NOTRE DAME MEMORIES — MERLE WENDT

## Wendt Recalls Hysteria Surrounding '35 Clash

By JEFF RAPP  
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

For years, Merle Wendt heard the gossip: Ohio State and Notre Dame officials were looking into a renewal of the schools' brief yet epic series on the football field.

With the chatter came hope, then reality.

"I know there has been interest in it for a long time," the 80-year-old Wendt said from his home in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. "I'm not sure when I heard it was going to happen, but it got my attention."

Wendt is not alone. The long-awaited rematch — set for Sept. 30 in the Horseshoe — and next year's tussle at Notre Dame have caused a football fervor not seen in the Midwest since the OSU-Michigan wars of the 1970s.

The two-year home-and-away agreement gives longtime Buckeyes like Wendt a chance to even the score. OSU was edged in its only two contests with the Irish, a series that began 60 years ago in Ohio Stadium.

Those results don't sit well with Wendt, a former captain and All-American who helped the Buckeyes to a record of 19-5 from 1934-36 but has walked through life having never beaten the Irish.

"Ohio State has been wonderful to my family and the football program has been a great source of excitement to me," said Wendt, a two-way star at left end for the Buckeyes. "I know people will be pretty excited for this game. We'll try and make sure we don't get beat this time."

Wendt has seen hundreds of football games, but he can still remember the electric atmosphere of the famous 1935 Ohio State-Notre Dame clash.

"Things were all hopped up," he said. "I don't just mean that afternoon, either. There were weeks of anticipation. People were coming into town weeks and days before the game to get ready for it."

"If you were at the game, you represented either Ohio State or Notre Dame. There was no in-between. There might have been as many Notre Dame fans there, I don't know. Whenever something happened out there, you could really feel the crowd react."

Late in the game, Notre Dame had the ball and OSU led by a mere point when Wendt tried to change up the defense by retreating into pass coverage. ND quarterback Andy Pilney took advantage of the void and rattled off a 32-yard run to the OSU 19, where he was leveled near the sideline by OSU halfback Frank Fisch.

Pilney's injury only set the stage for more drama as backup Bill Shakespeare had just seconds to complete the miracle. On the game-winning play, Wendt made a furious rush on Shakespeare.

He didn't get there in time.

Shakespeare had already flipped a pass and Wayne Millner reached up and grabbed the fateful toss near the sideline of the end zone.

ND hung on for a heart-stopping 18-13 win as the emotions of the split crowd shifted like a teeter-totter.

Merle's girlfriend and eventual wife, June, was among the 81,018 in the stands that day.

"I remember the silence," she said. "Such a quiet came over our boys the moment they scored. It was a stunning disbelief."

"But our players were to be commended. They handled themselves with real dignity and, believe me, it was a bitter defeat."

Merle Wendt still speaks fondly of the game despite his pain.

"It was a good game against a good, tough team," he said. "It was great to be a part of it. I still think we should have beat them, but you have to get over it."

"I didn't feel they rubbed it in. I liked the Notre Dame people. I just wish we were better."

All the hoopla that preceded and followed the game — not to mention the

## OSU's Three-Time All-Americans



WENDT WAS OSU STAR — Merle Wendt, pictured with his wife June, was a three-time All-American for Ohio State from 1934 to '36. He was also the team's captain in his senior year of 1936.

Here is a list of Ohio State's three-time All-American selections in football:

Player	Position	Years
Chic Harley	Running back	1916-18
Wes Fesler	End	1928-30
Lew Hinchman	Halfback	1930-32
Merle Wendt	End	1934-36
Archie Griffin	Tailback	1973-75
Tom Skladany	Kicker	1974-76

drama that unfolded on the field — has caused several writers and historians to label the '35 encounter as the single greatest game in the history of college football.

Wendt isn't so sure.

"I don't know if you can make a claim like that," he said. "It was one of the top games of that year, and there were some good ones, upsets and all that. It certainly was great, but it's hard for me

to think any game can be that strong."

"I'll say one thing, though — they really pushed that game."

Despite Wendt's no-hard-feelings attitude, there are many who felt the Notre Dame fans twisted the knife that day. The moment ND backers raced onto the field in triumph, one of the most drawn-out and wild celebrations Columbus had ever seen ensued.

Many wanted Wendt to lead his

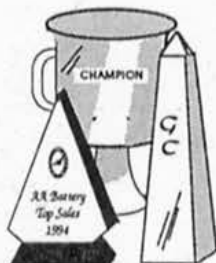
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## Buckeye Sports Bulletin

## A Rivalry Renewed

Page 15

Buckeye teammates into South Bend the next year with a vengeful mind-set. But Ohio State had enough to worry about, entering the game with a 2-2 record.

The Buckeyes banged at the Irish like a jackhammer all day but missed on seemingly every opportunity and fell again, 7-2.

The loss was particularly painful for head coach Francis Schmidt, who trademarked his teams by installing high-powered offenses.

"He's the best offensive coach I've ever seen," Wendt said of Schmidt, who became coach in 1934 and stayed until Paul Brown took over in '41. "He wouldn't have cared about defense if he didn't have to. He'd always say, 'You got to beat 'em by making more points.' If they got 20, he'd say, 'That's all right. We'll get 25.'"

Schmidt was notorious for drumming up 15 to 20 new offensive plays for each game.

"You couldn't count 'em all," Wendt said. "He was really something."

Wendt didn't care for his rough language, which former players will tell you was just as bad — only not as legendary — as that of Woody Hayes.

"He was a very eager man and my gosh did he have a loud voice," Wendt said. "He had a good side — he told you when you did well. But you better believe you were going to hear it when you did wrong."

At Notre Dame, Wendt turned in a performance even his demanding coach could admire. He filled his role as senior captain and All-American with possibly his finest game. He dominated the left side of the line and became a force on offense by rattling off gainers on laterals.

Wendt was clearly one of the best

**"All the players were close then. We made ourselves best friends. And we always left the field knowing we did the best we could."**

• Merle Wendt

players on the field and among the best in the country.

Following his senior season, Wendt was named All-American for the third straight year. Only five other Buckeyes — legends all — have pulled off that feat: Chic Harley, Wesley Fesler, Lew Hinchman, Archie Griffin and Tom Skladany.

"I'm very happy with that because I only played three years and there are so few that have done it," he said proudly.

After leaving Ohio State, Wendt naturally had opportunities to play professional football.

"There were only eight teams in the NFL then and I got offers from seven. The best offer was from Green Bay," he said.

The Packers were on the rise at the time and coming off an NFL title the year before.

"It was very tempting, I can assure you of that," Wendt said.

But instead of running off to the pros, Wendt proposed to June, a drama major at OSU who was beginning to get feelers from Hollywood and prominent modeling agencies.

The two were married March 26, 1938, just six days after Merle received his degree in chemical engineering from Ohio State.

Since then, it's been a life filled with bliss. Merle became the director of chemical engineering at the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company in Akron. After 37 years with Goodyear and 57 years of marriage, he still has no regrets.

"We gave up some opportunities that most people wouldn't have, but we didn't want to live apart from each other," he said. "I was happy with my education and did what I said I always wanted to do, so you'll never hear me complain. We've had just a wonderful life."

The Wendts try to attend three or

four Ohio State football games per year and, not surprisingly, they have plans to be on hand when Ohio State hosts the Irish.

"I still really enjoy watching them (the Buckeyes) because they always have good teams and they don't do a lot of the things you see other teams do on the field. They seem to be pretty disciplined and they play well together."

"We really had a good, strong team that liked the game and enjoyed playing it. All the players were close then. We made ourselves best friends."

"And we always left the field knowing we did the best we could."

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## NOTRE DAME MEMORIES — JIM MCDONALD

## McDonald Went On To Become Tennessee Coach

By JEFF RAPP

Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

Jim McDonald, Buckeye gridiron great of the mid-1930s, went on to athletic success as a two-sport star, professional football player, coach and administrator.

But McDonald has passed through his long and illustrious life haunted by a dark part of his football heritage that just won't go away: His Buckeyes never beat Notre Dame.

Not yet, anyway.

"I have no resentment toward them now," McDonald admitted, referring to the Fighting Irish. "I did then. That '35 game with them was a hell of a ball game. They had a good ball team, but so did we. It hurts a little to know we should've won."

McDonald was an eager, wide-eyed sophomore when the storied Irish marched into Columbus in 1935. ND won the contest in come-from-behind fashion, 18-13, as the drama actually surpassed the pregame hype. Many historians still label the war as the greatest game in the history of college football.

That's all grand and good, but it still doesn't take away the hurt of watching ND score three fourth-quarter touchdowns and pull out a heartbreaking win on OSU's home field.

The final ND score, of course, was the most dramatic. The Irish were moving on a last-ditch drive when



Jim McDonald

quarterback Andy Pilney was leveled near the sideline after a long run. McDonald, a fierce linebacker on defense, remembers being in on the play.

"I got a pretty good whack on him," he said. "They had to carry him off. That was good enough for me because it was just a rough, rough game."

When Pilney's replacement, Bill Shakespeare, backpedaled to pass moments later, McDonald tried to confuse the youngster by dropping into pass coverage. Shakespeare, however, found

a crack, lofting a game-winning TD to Wayne Millner along the sideline of the end zone.

"I faded back," McDonald recalled, "but he just barely got it over my head and our halfback's. It was a good pass he threw. That guy (Millner) didn't have to run a damn yard."

"When the game ended, people went crazy. They must have put on a show for at least a half-hour out on the field."

OSU's excitable coach, Francis Schmidt, was understandably pithy afterward.

"He just told us, 'Men, they won today; we'll get 'em next year,'" McDonald recalled. "I remember right then and there all I wanted to do was get revenge at their place."

"We were mad that whole next year about it and I don't think there's any doubt a lot of us were thinking about revenge. We really took it to them, too. We beat the hell out of them. They had a lot of boys hurt. I thought we gave them a pretty good lickin'."

The only problem was the scoreboard didn't reflect it, as Notre Dame completed the sweep with a 7-2 win in South Bend in 1936.

"I thought we had a better team both times," McDonald said. "They got a break or two and that was the difference."

Notre Dame was one of just three schools to score on OSU that season. All three of those opponents won. OSU's five wins in '36 came on shutouts.

Looking for more offensive consistency, Schmidt moved McDonald from fullback to quarterback in 1937. The adjustment was minor considering McDonald would be calling the offensive plays for the third straight year. Also a place-kicker during his OSU career, McDonald showed his versatility and ability by being named as an All-American QB following his senior year.

He co-captained the team with his center and fellow All-American, Ralph Wolf, as OSU went 6-2. All six wins were shutouts.

A rough-and-tumble athlete from Springfield, Ohio, McDonald was a by-product of toughness. His family believed in no-holds-barred competition and his high school football coach, Art Mansfield, was a Big Ten boxing champ at Wisconsin.

McDonald brought a fighting spirit to the basketball court as well, lettering from 1936-38 under coach Harold Olsen as the Bucks posted a combined mark of 37-23. Those teams laid the foundation for Buckeye basketball. In '39, OSU played in the first-ever NCAA title game, finishing runner-up to Oregon.

A 6-2, 202-pounder, McDonald became Ohio State's first-ever first-round

pro draft pick when he was plucked in the early going by Philadelphia in 1938. He went on to play for the Detroit Lions, but his NFL career was a brief two years.

In 1940, McDonald, who had received his degree in physical education, returned to Springfield High School to become the head football coach and phys ed teacher and he stayed in that capacity until 1944.

McDonald and his wife, Billie, who lived across the street from him as a child, left the Buckeye State in 1955 when he was hired as an assistant under University of Tennessee head coach Bowden Wyatt, an old friend. McDonald served as linebackers coach from 1955-62, then took over the head coaching duties when Wyatt was let go. While heading up a depleted program, McDonald led the Volunteers to a 5-5 mark.

Even though the .500 season surpassed expectations, UT brought in the up-and-coming Doug Dickey. McDonald stepped down to serve as the school's assistant athletic director from 1964-81.

McDonald never grumbled publicly about his quick exit as Volunteers head coach. In fact, he did not discourage his son from joining the program, even when Jim Jr. picked the SEC school over Ohio State. The younger McDonald went on to letter as a defensive end from 1966-68 as UT posted a combined record of 25-7-1.

McDonald retired from the athletic department at the mandatory age of 65 in 1982. He has endured some circulation troubles and sometimes curses his football knees, but for the most part he remains both sturdy and strong-willed at 79.

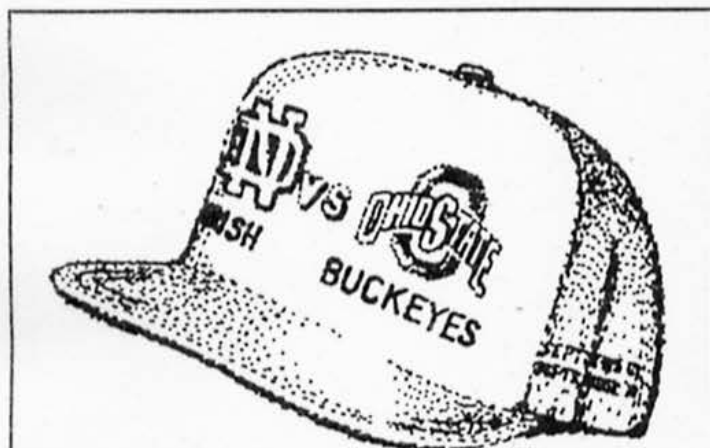
He and Billie, who still live in Knoxville, have been looking forward to the OSU-Notre Dame game for years now and plan to arrive in Columbus Sept. 27 to take in some of the festivities.

"I go up there and see about two games a year and try to make it to the captains' breakfast," he said. "It's good to go back. I played with a hell of a bunch of guys."

"I appreciate everything Ohio State has done for me. I was very fortunate that I went to school there."

The McDonalds also are blessed with two grandchildren — Jimmy, 2, and Susie, 1.

Jim and Billie also have two children who have found productive lives away from home. Jim Jr. is now the assistant superintendent of Southern Railroad and his sister, Suzanne, lives comfortably in Fort Worth, Texas.



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# Observers Recount '35 Game

Continued From Page 10

OSU's one in the second half, seemed to bring to life the words to Notre Dame's longtime fight song: "What though the odds be great or small, old Notre Dame will win over all."

**AFTER WINNING** at Ohio State, Notre Dame was proclaimed as a possible Rose Bowl team. This was, after all, in the days prior to the Big Ten/Pac-10 arrangement. But those hopes were dashed a week later when the Irish fell at home to Northwestern 14-7. ND then tied Army and beat Southern Cal to finish 7-1-1.

Ohio State closed with a flourish, winning at Chicago, at home against Illinois and at Michigan (the first time this game capped the regular season) to finish 7-1 overall and co-champions in the Big Ten with Minnesota at 5-0.

**THE 1935 Ohio State-Notre Dame game** is considered by many to be the greatest college football game ever played. Here are reactions from several of the participants and observers at Ohio Stadium that autumn day:

• *New York Herald Tribune* legend Grantland Rice: "This was one of the finest things I've ever seen in football."

• Revered scribe Damon Runyan: "I thought in the first half, Ohio was one of the best teams I had ever seen. In the second half, the Irish showed the fight that is the tradition of Notre Dame. What a game!"

• CBS Radio broadcaster Ted

Husing, who called the action: "I have never been so weak after a game."

• The *Chicago Tribune's* Wilfrid Smith: "In the annals of gridiron lore are countless tales of famous rallies, but no Notre Dame team ever has written a more brilliant page in football's history than these boys today."

• OSU's Schmitt: "I'd rather give Notre Dame credit for winning a great game with one of the greatest comebacks I've ever seen than to discredit them by telling why we should have won."

• When Layden, a member of Notre Dame's famed Four Horsemen as a player in 1924, died at age 70 in July 1973, the *Tribune* still praised him for leading Notre Dame to its most stirring upset:

"The win over Stanford (in the 1925 Rose Bowl) would have left Layden's name enshrined in Notre Dame's lore. But in 1935, his second year as head coach, Layden took a weak Fighting Irish team to Columbus to battle Francis Schmidt's Ohio State powerhouse. The most lopsided defeat in Notre Dame history was forecast."

"It still was 13-0 in the fourth quarter. Then, Layden's team rallied as few football teams ever fought back, striking for three touchdowns that gave the Irish an 18-13 conquest."

"From then on, when pep talks were needed to rouse the Irish to superhuman performances, the Ohio State success was recounted with fervor."

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## NOTRE DAME MEMORIES — TIPPY DYE

## Dye Was True Three-Sport Star For Buckeyes

By MIKE WACHSMAN  
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

He's not sure when exactly the game slipped away. All William "Tippy" Dye knows is that the Buckeyes had Notre Dame whipped but didn't finish off the job.

The OSU quarterback saw firsthand what it was like on the Ohio Stadium field during the frenzied final minutes of the Buckeyes' clash with Notre Dame in 1935. He knew OSU had to hold on if it was to entertain any hopes of a national title. Both teams were, after all, unbeaten.

The tide shifted from the Buckeyes, dominant for 45 minutes, to the Irish in a heartbeat. That Notre Dame scored 18 points in the final quarter is, by itself, an amazing feat. To do it on an unbeaten Ohio State in Ohio Stadium was a huge lift.

"We always liked playing at home because we would have huge crowds," Dye said. "That day was no different. There was a large crowd that day, and they were really into the game. But it became very quiet after we got behind at the end. For them to come into our stadium and beat us shows how good that Notre Dame team was."

"They really never quit, but we should have won the football game," Dye said. "We pushed them around for three quarters and held them scoreless. Then they stage a great comeback and win. It was something I'm proud to be a



Tippy Dye

part of, but they might have had some good fortune on their side."

Notre Dame certainly had breaks on its side late in the contest. OSU's Dick Beltz fumbled on the Buckeyes' first play after a kickoff. Notre Dame, trailing 13-12, recovered and appeared well on the way to a game-winning drive.

Beltz had a chance at redemption later in the game after the Buckeyes knocked out Notre Dame quarterback Andy Pilney. But Bill Shakespeare came in and led ND to a final touchdown, completing a 35-yard pass to

Wayne Millner. Beltz had the coverage but saw the ball too late. Notre Dame scored to make it 18-13 and held on for the unlikely victory.

"That was a real tough one to swallow," Dye said. "It was a case of a team coming together for one quarter and winning a game. We played the better overall game, but they came out ahead."

Dye thought the Buckeyes would get the upper hand when Pilney went out, but Shakespeare set Ohio State on its ear.

"We figured he'd be good, but not as good as he played," Dye said. "He ran the team with precision and did everything he was supposed to do right."

A resourceful player known more for his passing than his running, Dye was a threat to march the Buckeyes downfield on almost any possession.

But he really didn't have much say in the loss to Notre Dame. He played, and played well, but was involved in just one pivotal play, a slightly overthrown pass to Trevor Rees after the Bucks had amassed 60 hard-fought yards on the ground.

"We just didn't have an answer for Notre Dame in that second half," Dye said. "They really did a good job of shutting us down. We had a very high-powered attack and we struggled every step of the way in the second half. It was exciting, but you'd rather win."

One of the better athletes of his day, Dye also lettered for the Ohio State baseball and basketball teams, being chosen All-Big Ten in hoops in 1936-37.

But he felt most at home on the gridiron, and to play in a spectacle many have called the greatest college football game ever played is something he'll always cherish.

"Sometimes things become a little fuzzy when you get further away from them, but not this game," said Dye, now retired and living in Port Charlotte, Fla. "I remember it vividly, as I'm sure every

player who participated in it does.

"I really enjoy the way the game is talked about and the way this year's game is being anticipated," Dye said. "I haven't seen it like this in a long, long time. Everyone wants to be a part of it, and that's partly because of what happened in 1935 and 1936 (a 7-2 Notre Dame win in South Bend)."

After college, Dye gained acclaim as a coach, leading the Ohio State basketball team to a Big Ten championship in 1950 and a berth in the NCAA Tournament. His final overall record was a very respectable 53-34, and he brought a solid foundation to a program that would win the national title just 10 years later.

He was later chosen as athletic director at Northwestern University, a position he believes was among the most important of his life.

"I always enjoyed sports and this was a way to keep in touch with that," Dye said. "I was able to oversee many programs and stay in contact with a lot of important people."

Though the two tussles with Notre Dame ended in Ohio State setbacks, Dye still holds on to everything he experienced. And he feels he's all the better for it.

"You couldn't have asked to play with a better bunch of players," Dye said. "We were all very talented, but, more importantly, we all wanted to win. We were on the same page. Sometimes you don't have that and you lose. They were a great bunch of guys."

"My playing days were among the best of my life. I had a chance to play for a great school like Ohio State, face Michigan and play against Notre Dame twice. That was a great time in my life, and the games with Notre Dame really meant something to me. Everyone who saw it said the same thing. So it must have been very special."



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## NOTRE DAME MEMORIES — NICK WASYLIK

## Wasylik Remembers Excitement Of '35 Game

By MIKE WACHSMAN  
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

The play caused a major rule change, but that didn't help Ohio State's cause very much.

The defining moment of Notre Dame's 18-13 win over Ohio State in 1935's "Game of the Century" came when OSU's Dick Beltz fumbled the football after a series of moves designed to confuse Notre Dame. An ND defender touched the ball, which went out of bounds. Because of rules in place at the time, Notre Dame got the ball. That series led to the winning touchdown pass from Bill Shakespeare to Wayne Millner that sealed Ohio State's fate and sent Notre Dame to one of the greatest wins in its storied history.

The following year, the rule was changed to give the ball to the team which last had possession. Had it been instituted a year earlier, the Buckeyes might have held on to win the fabled game.

As it was, faces were pretty long.

"That was a very heartbreaking ending," Buckeye back Nick Wasylik said. "We felt we lost the game by making our own mistakes."

The setback carried over the following week to the Buckeyes' contest with the University of Chicago, which had powerful running back Jay Berwanger. He, of course, took home the very first Heisman Trophy.

"We had to take a train to Chicago and that was one of the quietest train rides I've ever been on," Wasylik said. "We had no zip or anything in the first half of the game. We came back to win 20-13, but the loss was still very much with us."

The mind-set going into the Notre Dame contest was definite bragging rights for the Midwest, as well as a chance to move up in the national rankings.

Both teams had yet to taste defeat, and though Notre Dame had an understandable mystique, Ohio State treated

it as any other opponent.

"Coach (Francis Schmidt) tried to impress upon us that (former ND coach Knute) Rockne was gone and the magic wasn't going to be there," Wasylik said. "Coach Layden was a fine coach, but Rockne had an aura about him that led people to believe there was a magic surrounding the program. Coach told us we just had to go out there and play."

And play they did. Both squads.

Ohio State's first touchdown may have seemed like a stroke of resourcefulness on the part of Frank Antenucci, who lateraled to Frank Boucher for the Buckeyes' opening score, but it was actually a planned play.

"From inception to completion, that play may have been the best I've ever seen," said Wasylik, who spent many seasons coaching at the college and professional level. "Antenucci intercepted and lateraled to Boucher, who ran up the west sideline. There were two of the greatest blocks I've ever seen on that play, including one by our captain, Gomer Jones."

Ohio State controlled the game for three quarters and led 13-0 at intermission. There was no way of knowing what lay ahead for his team, so Wasylik naturally assumed the Buckeyes would march on to victory.

Even after the last Notre Dame score, which proved to be the final margin, Wasylik still held out hope of a miraculous Buckeye finish.

"Coach Schmidt said I should catch the kick and run it back for a touchdown," Wasylik chuckled. "They kicked off short, though, and I was unable to fulfill his request. I was usually very good at handling punts and kickoffs, so he had me back there. I was very fast. I usually just took the ball and ran."

Wasylik didn't know at the time the game would go down as one of college football's all-time great contests, but with time for reflection, he can see why.

He also believes the 1935 team doesn't get its proper due.

"People had a very high opinion of

the game," Wasylik said. "I didn't know what to think because we lost. But there was just the surge of Notre Dame, and we were trying with everything we had to hold them back. Everyone was biting their fingernails, wondering if they were going to keep coming at us."

"The quality of the '35 team sometimes goes unnoticed, I believe. There were seven players on that team that were eventually chosen as All-Americans. I got a vote for the coaches All-American team as the fifth back. Clint Frank of Yale got all the other votes. So maybe you can say we had 7 1/4 All-Americans."

After football, Wasylik decided to go into coaching and teaching. He followed that path to St. Clairsville High School and Bucyrus High School before heading into the collegiate ranks.

He coached at Colgate and Lafayette, both among the Eastern powers at that time, before becoming offensive coordinator for the Baltimore Colts.

He assumed a similar position with the Chicago Cardinals before a stroke of fortune hit.

"We were practicing in Lake Forest (a Windy City suburb) when I was asked if I wanted to become head football coach and athletic director there," Wasylik explained. "I took it and stayed there for 21 years. I finally retired in 1979 after my wife told me she wanted to live in one place."

Currently commissioner of the Mid Ohio Conference, Wasylik tries to get to each college at least once a month. He goes to conventions and is considered a chief administrative agent for the conference.

"It's something I enjoy quite a bit," he said. "I know I retired in 1979, but I hated being idle. I just wanted something to do. This keeps me quite busy."

The opportunity to play for a team or in a game that is indelibly etched in the sphere of the mind is rare.

Wasylik was able to make the most of that chance and he still has great fondness for those times.

"Those of us from the team that still live in Columbus keep in frequent contact," said Wasylik, deeply involved with plans for the 60th reunion of the team. "I have thoughts about that game quite often."

"When you think of how many football games have been played since 1935, and for this one to be called maybe the greatest game ever played, that really says something. To have played in that game, even though we didn't come out on top, was really something special. I'd love to see both teams play each other on a regular basis. There's great tradition, they aren't far from each other, and it would be a fever pitch. There should be more opportunities for players to experience something like this."

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1-800-816-2716

BUCK 135  
ALLOW 2-3 WEEKS FOR DELIVERY

MAKE PAYMENT TO:  
SPORTS WATCH  
P.O. BOX 615  
PINELLAS PARK, FL 34665-0615

SPORTS WATCH OFFER

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ CHECK ☐ MONEY ORDER ☐ DISCOVER ☐ MASTERCARD ☐ VISA  
CARD # \_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ EXPIRATION DATE \_\_\_\_\_