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Oct 3 1987

Vol 7, no 4

12802

*Bruce Unhappy With Officiating***Hurried Bucks Miss Winning Kick***By Ken Halloy*

Time sure flies when you need it. Ohio State needed time and couldn't get it in the waning seconds against fourth-ranked LSU Sept. 26 in Baton Rouge. And OSU coach Earle Bruce wasn't overly surprised.

"That was seven real fine gentlemen out there today," Bruce said about the officials, who were all from the Southeast Conference.

You have to try and understand Bruce's sarcasm. With 27 seconds left in a game that was living up to its advance billing — a real war — seventh-ranked Ohio State had a first down at the LSU 39-yard line with two time-outs left.

**BEFORE THE** Buckeyes could run a play, OSU quarterback Tom Tupa was forced to take a time-out because the 25-second clock almost ran out.

Tupa's thoughts at the time?

"First of all, we came out of the huddle, I looked up and there were only five seconds on the clock. I don't know where the time went, so I had to call a time-out," Tupa said afterward. "We had the ball on the 40, and I thought we would at least get two or three plays off. The refs were slow. They marked the ball fast during the whole game. But we only got one play off. I don't see how that could have happened."

What happened was a handoff to tailback Vince Workman for nine yards up the middle. The Buckeyes, not wanting to use their final time-out, lined up for another play.

**"WE WERE ON** the ball ready to run the play, and the official stood over the ball and we couldn't get off the play," Tupa said. "So we had to call another time-out and kick a field goal."

The kick was unsuccessful, though kicker Matt Frantz said he felt the attempt, deflected by LSU defensive tackle Karl Dunbar, was probably the best footing he put on the ball in the game. Frantz kicked a 27-yard field goal in the first quarter and a 38-yarder in the third quarter. The latter cut the LSU lead to 10-6.

"I really felt I hit it solid, to the point where I really felt it was good," Frantz said. "I was looking down and (holder) Scotty (Powell) told me it had been blocked. I was really surprised."

The miss was Frantz' first in five tries this season.

"They had been getting penetration all the time up the middle," Bruce said. "In the movies we saw they blocked a few others right up the middle and they did it to us. I was concerned about that because on extra points we normally kick them a little faster (than field goals)."

**BUT IT WASN'T** the missed field goal that had Bruce wearing his pit bull grin afterward.

"I think I'll be a gentleman and not say anything about the officials,"

***We're Not Budging . . .***

OSU coach Earle Bruce refused to allow his Buckeyes to enter the hostile domain of Tiger Stadium before the LSU team because of a written agenda by CBS which indicated a stadium cheer led by LSU cheerleaders would follow the Buckeyes' entrance. Bruce didn't want his team subjected to "intimidation tactics." In the end Bruce got his way and the Buckeyes ran onto the field seconds after the Tigers. See page 2 for more details.

Bruce said. "Complain? What do you say? They're seven nice guys from the South."

But he couldn't resist.

"That was terrible, just terrible that we didn't get another play off. They marked the ball and didn't get away from the ball so we could run the play. I think you all saw it," a sweaty Bruce said to reporters. "I hope you saw it. It would have been hard not to see it."

The result was a tie — 13-13. It was Bruce's first tie in 100 games at Ohio State and first ever as a coach at the college level.

**"WE DON'T** normally have ties at Ohio State, and we don't like them," Bruce said.

The last time the Buckeyes left the field with business unsettled was in 1978 against Southern Methodist, 35-35.

Many of the 79,263 crazies who attended the afternoon battle, switched from a 7 p.m. start to accommodate a CBS national television audience, will contend the Buckeyes were fortunate to even have a

chance to win the game. If anything, LSU fans will argue LSU had it in the bag before OSU cornerback Greg Rogan came up with interceptions twice down the stretch.

**More On Rogan  
See Page 9**

Rogan's first interception saved Ohio State from losing and his second gave the Buckeyes their last-second chance at winning.

**LSU HAD THE** ball on the OSU 11-yard line with a first-and-10. With a little more than two minutes remaining, it appeared LSU would run down the clock and try for the game-winning field goal. Instead Tiger quarterback Tom Hodson went with what got them there — a pass.

It was an out-pattern intended for All-American wide receiver Wendell Davis in the left corner of the end zone. Davis had already caught seven passes for 82 yards.

Davis made his move, cut outward, the throw came inside and Rogan

stepped in at the two.

"The ball was coming inside, and I just broke on the ball and there was no one around," said Rogan, who was named Buckeye Sports Bulletin *Buckeye of the Week*. "I had him covered all the way, and I figured something was wrong when he cut to the outside. I was right there. There wasn't anything to the catch," he added.

**"ROGAN MADE A** great effort on the ball when they were going in for the score," Bruce said. "He read it all the way. But he's a senior and a four-year starter. He knows how to do those kinds of things now."

The Bucks couldn't convert a first down and a booming 56-yard punt by Tupa that bounced out of bounds at the LSU two with 0:53 seconds. It appeared the Buckeyes were willing to settle for the tie.

"We wanted to punt them into trouble. Would you give them a chance to have the ball on the 40-yard line? I

**Continued On Page 6**



# Tie Was No Easy Task

Buckeye fans should not be distressed with OSU's tie against fourth-ranked LSU, assuming the poll voters take into account that a recent college coaches poll found LSU's Tiger Stadium the most difficult place in the country for a visiting team to win a football game. Michigan Stadium was second on the list.

The night before the game, more than 16,000 Tiger fans gathered in the Stadium for a pep rally called the "Tiger Roar." Asked to say a few words to the crowd, defensive captain Nicky Hazard offered a few words for OSU coach Earle Bruce. Earlier in the week, Bruce said he didn't believe the crowd noise at LSU would be any louder than at Iowa, Michigan, Purdue or Minnesota.

"I've only got two things to say to Earle Bruce," Hazard said. "One, he's never been to Tiger Stadium, and two, he'll wish he had never come to Tiger Stadium after we get done with them."

Much had been made about LSU playing a day game in Tiger Stadium because their record had been 0-4-1 in day games there since 1980. Traditionally, LSU thrives on home games at night. LSU coach Mike Archer refused to discuss the subject of jinxes during the week leading to the game.

Nevertheless, Hazard and defensive coordinator Pete Jenkins were guilty of slips when referring to the Ohio State game. Both said, "We'll be ready for them tomorrow night."

Perhaps for psychological reasons, the lights in the stadium were turned on just prior to kickoff. It was a sunny, cloudless day.

**BEFORE THE GAME** this warm greeting appeared on the scoreboard: "Welcome to Death Valley, La. Population, 78,000." To the left of the

## Buck Beat

message was a skull and crossbones. In their first away appearance since the Cotton Bowl, the Buckeyes again wore the red shoes they wore in Dallas New Year's Day.

And OSU coach Earle Bruce was nattily attired for the fourth consecutive game. This time Bruce wore a gray suit, blue shirt with a scarlet tie, and a gray fedora with a scarlet feather.

**FOR THE SECOND** straight week, OSU quarterback/punter Tom Tupa sent punts sailing 75 yards in the air during pregame warmups. In the game, though, his first two were low wobblers. Tupa punted nine times, averaging 47.8 yards a kick.

Tupa dropped from first to second nationally in punting. He currently is averaging 47.9 yards a kick. Five of Tupa's punts against the Tigers were for more than 50 yards, the longest being 62 yards.

**THE TEMPERATURE** at game time was 85 degrees with the humidity at 46 percent. Local residents noted to visiting Buckeye fans that Baton Rouge was actually experiencing a cool spell. Temperatures the week before, they said, were in the 100s, with the humidity in the 70 percent range.

**A CBS CAMERA** in the LSU locker room just minutes before the game showed a quiet Tiger team. Most of the players had their heads down. And there was no team prayer going on at the time.

On a sad note, John Matte, a walk-on linebacker for the Tigers, was killed in an automobile accident the night before the game. Tiger players wore white towels with Matte's name in his honor.

**THERE WAS** certainly a bowl atmosphere prior to kickoff. Thousands of purple and gold balloons were freed to the sky as the Tigers entered the stadium to the chant of "LSU."

When team captains were announced, OSU All-American linebacker Chris Spielman drew a large "boo" from the crowd.

The crowd of 79,263 was the fourth-largest in Tiger Stadium history.

**THE TIE WAS** Ohio State's first since 1978, a 35-35 deadlock with Southern Methodist in Ohio Stadium. Ohio State's last tie on the road occurred at Michigan in 1973 — 10-10.

**OSU COACH** Earle Bruce, still upset about the officiating in the LSU game, said when asked about all the penalties against Ohio State, "That's the Southern rule, isn't it?"

# Bruce Held Ground

OSU coach Earle Bruce didn't want to seem like a grouch, but he said he wasn't about to follow the planned pregame agenda set by CBS for his Buckeyes.

Bruce said he was given the itinerary the night before the game, and after reading it over, informed CBS he would not adhere to it.

The schedule started out well enough, Bruce said. It read as follows: 1.) Ohio State enter the field on CBS cue at 1:38:30 p.m. 2.) LSU enters the field on CBS cue at 1:39 p.m.

"That part was very fine when I read that, but then the next line threw me off," Bruce said.

3.) LSU cheerleaders, stadium cheer, field microphone, 50-yard line at 1:41.

Uh oh.

"Now I've never been involved in any place where we are going to have to stand out there while they have a cheerleading session and a pep rally before they play us. And I'm not going to be part of that baloney," Bruce steamed, explaining why he would not bring his Buckeyes out of the tunnel until LSU entered the stadium. "We were part of that baloney at the Cotton Bowl when we had to come out while they (Texas A&M fans) sang the Aggie fight song. That's never going to happen to my football team again."

"And I told CBS beforehand we would not come out if that was going to happen. We would come out in time for the kickoff. If they wanted to do that cheer then they would have to take their football team out first, have the cheer and then we would come out. But no one ever clarified that for me."

In the end, LSU ran onto the field first and the Buckeyes followed seconds later.

"They kept telling me (in the tunnel) I didn't have to come (onto the field before LSU), but they kept motioning me to come," Bruce said. "I said 'I'm not coming.'"

Bruce said he definitely knew he wasn't allowing his team to enter the stadium when the Buckeye captains were summoned for the coin toss earlier than the agenda indicated.

"Now I can read, but I don't know if they can," Bruce said. "They (the

captains) couldn't even stay for the team prayer. That's never happened to us before. It was all a bunch of baloney."

Bruce, obviously still agitated about the ordeal afterwards, apologized to the media for his "soap opera" rambling.

"I've got to tell you the politics about that because it kind of irritates me," he said. "CBS goes with the CFA (College Football Association) and the Southeastern Conference. So when they set up this deal, that's not exactly the way I like it."

And Bruce didn't exactly care for the Southern hospitality his team received in Baton Rouge. He made his point in a roundabout way.

"There are certain things that are class actions. I think those things ought to be brought to bear in college football," Bruce lectured. "It's between two fine institutions and both should have good men at the helm, at the athletic directorship, and both men should like to represent their school with class things happening on the football field. I think that's the way it should be in intercollegiate football, and I think we're going the other way sometimes."

**The warning.** "I think we need to reestablish the fact this was a game between two fine institutions, and that baloney that goes on with intimidation (by fans and players) and other things should be wiped out so we can have a football game," Bruce said. "If anyone can tell me that anyone stands over in front of the visiting team at Ohio State and tries the intimidation game as was tried down at LSU, I'll tell you something — you tell me, and I'll stop it tomorrow. I'll not work if we're going to be that kind of school. I don't want that."

"I want them to come and be treated fairly and squarely."

The intimidation game, Bruce said, is why he never holds a practice in the opponent's stadium the day before a road game.

"You can't practice, you can't do anything, because people are watching you. They won't let you practice," he said. "They won't let you do your job, so we do it here."

holding in the game.

**A WRITER** remarked to Bruce, "You tied LSU, that's something, isn't it?"

"No," Bruce replied, "they tied us. We were ahead 13-10."

**NATIONALLY,** THE Buckeyes rank second in turnover margin (2.67), sixth in net punting (41.9), seventh in scoring defense (10.0 points per game), 17th in rushing defense (94.7 yards per game) and 20th in total defense (277.0 yards per game).

On the 15 turnovers created by the OSU defense this season, 34 points have been converted by the offense.

**TAILBACK VINCE** Workman leads the Buckeyes in both rushing and receiving. He has carried the ball 67 times for 293 yards and one touchdown. He also has caught ten passes for 104 yards.

**FIVE BUCKEYE** players on offense and eight on defense received Buckeye leaves for their efforts against LSU. Fullback George Cooper was

## Letters

Dear BSB,

Coach Bruce should be applauded for his handling of Cris Carter. The young man made a mistake, and he should pay for it. Instead, he will be making a lot of money in the pros, and the OSU football team will pay for his mistake. It is time that college athletes pay for violating rules, no matter how insignificant it may seem. Also, these kids are supposedly student-athletes. Why then, did Cris Carter not remain in school to finish his education? Just another example of the corruption of college athletics.

Paul Smith  
Ann Arbor, Michigan

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# Clutch Catches Are Contributed By Koch

By Ken Halloy

By definition, a freshman is a novice. In three games (though he has only run an offensive down in two games), Jay Koch has caught three passes, two for touchdowns. His other catch was a critical 30-yarder with the Buckeyes cramped deep in their own territory.

A novice?

"It's hard to explain how I feel right now," Koch said after scoring Ohio State's only touchdown on an eight-yard rainbow pass from Tom Tupa in the fourth quarter. "I never expected to have made such an impact."

The score gave Ohio State its only lead in the game, 13-10.

Faced with a third-and-goal, Tupa dropped back, rolled left and found Koch all by his lonesome in the left side of the end zone. Koch, who lined up on the left side, ran straight for the end zone. No one touched him. Once he reached his destination, Koch turned and waited for the pass to come down.

"I came off the line real hard, thinking I was going to get hit, and they just let me go and I got behind everybody," Koch said. "I was wide open and Tupa just threw it to me. He threw it real high to get it over the defense. All I could think was to come down in bounds. After I caught the ball, there was still no one around."

The pass was much like the one Koch caught for a touchdown the week before against Oregon in Ohio Stadium. On a busted play in the second quarter, Tupa lofted a similar floater to Koch in the left side of the end zone to give the Buckeyes a 10-0 lead.

"It was just like the other catch, but this time I was in the right place," Koch said.

In other words, Koch was the intended receiver.

"I was a little surprised the call came my way in that situation, but it does feel good knowing the coaches have that kind of confidence in me to make the play," he said.

"I never thought the pass was going to come down. I'm just standing there waiting. It was one of those situations where it was so easy that you're scared you might mess up."

Tupa likewise said there was no sense in trying to throw too fine a pass.

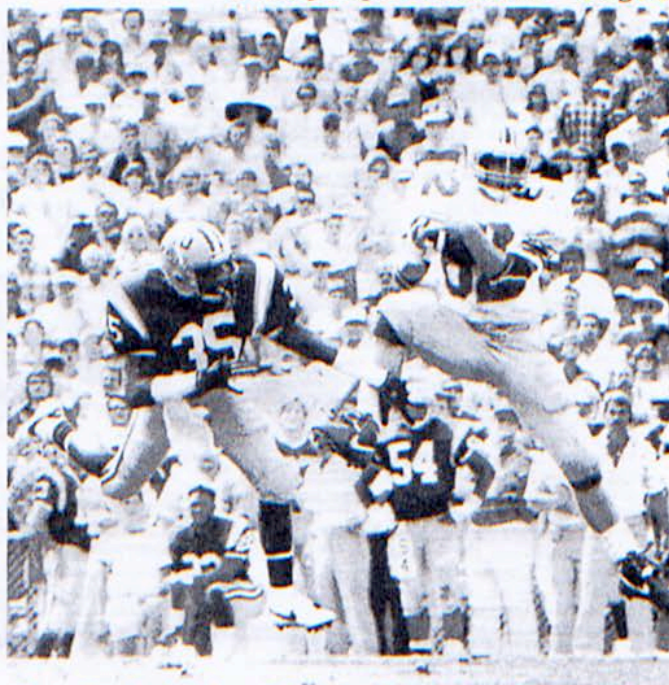
"He was so open, I couldn't believe it. I just thought 'get the ball there, that's all you have to do,'" Tupa said. "Trying to be fancy in a situation like that isn't a good idea."

"It was a great call all the way around. I don't think they were expecting us to go to the tight end in that situation. They were probably looking for an out pattern to one of our receivers."

Or perhaps a sweep to the tailback, Koch suggested.

"All I know is that they surely weren't expecting me to make the catch there. If they were, someone really messed up on their coverage. But I don't think so. We just fooled them."

Though it didn't earn the Buckeyes any points, Tupa said Koch's 30-yard reception over the middle with a little more than nine minutes remaining in the second quarter was almost as pivotal as the scoring play. With a first-and-10 at the Buckeye one-yard line, Tupa dropped back about seven yards deep in the end zone before throwing a



## Jay Koch Makes Critical 31-Yard Reception

bullet to Koch across the middle at the 24. Koch bulldozed his way for eight more yards before being dragged down.

"He ran a good route and he was open," Tupa said. "It was a real gutsy catch because most receivers know they're probably going to get hit hard making a catch over the middle like that."

Koch said he always expects to get hit after making a catch.

"You have to be prepared to get hit, but I wasn't concerned about fumbling or anything," Koch said. "If you concentrate too much on making a mistake, you'll make one."

OSU coach Earle Bruce said recently he would be happy if any freshman was mature enough to make a contribution by the fourth or fifth

game of the season. His critique of Koch's performance was easy to predict.

"Jay Koch is really a nice competitor for a freshman. He most certainly is a nice fresh look," Bruce said. "He's really done the job for us. It's always a great bonus when a freshman contributes like that."

Despite his veteran-like performance Koch was as somber as his teammates about the tie.

"I'm not sure they respect us, and I'm not even sure we care. I'm sure they (LSU) thought they had the game since the beginning. In the newspapers they were talking a lot of stuff. They backed it up today," he said.

"We had the game and just blew it, that's all there was to it."

## BUCKEYE SPORTS BULLETIN

Published 28 times a year (weekly September through November and January through mid-March, monthly April through August and December) by:

Columbus Sports Publications  
1350 W. Fifth Ave., #25  
P.O. Box 12453  
Columbus, Ohio 43212  
(614) 486-2202

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Second Class Postage Paid At Columbus, Ohio and Additional Mailing Offices. USPS 705-690. ISSN 0883-6833. POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to Buckeye Sports Bulletin, P.O. Box 12453, Columbus, Ohio, 43212. Subscription rates: \$23 per year for 28 issues.

## Spielman Arrives, Leaves Angry

By Ken Halloy

Chris Spielman arrived in Baton Rouge in a sour mood. He left just as bitter.

First, there was the tie game. "I don't feel very good about it," Spielman said. "It's disappointing. We did everything in the world to win this football game. We played harder than they did. We wanted it more. They didn't want the game."

And then there was Harvey Williams, LSU's starting running back. Williams sent the intensity siren in Ohio State's All-American linebacker screaming louder than usual during the week of preparation for the clash between the national powers.

Williams, who during the same week declared himself the best running back in the Southeastern Conference, said he was not overly impressed with Spielman as a linebacker and noted he probably faced two better in teammates Nicky Hazard and Eric Hill in practice every day.

The war of words soon followed. Replied Spielman, "He better be ready for some serious collisions. I know I am."

LSU coach Mike Archer sensed the danger and sought to ease the tension with his Spielman assessment.

*"It was a hard-hitting game. It wasn't clean. I'm not going to sit here and lie to you. There were shots going on and guys grabbing and pinching on the pile. If that's the way people want to play, then we'll play that way, too."*

— Chris Spielman

"If ever there is a defensive player deserving of the Heisman Trophy, it's Spielman," Archer said. "He's everything they say he is. You can't run away from him because he'll catch you."

But Williams retaliated as late as the day before the game, unbeknownst to Spielman.

"I just don't know what all the commotion about him is all about," Williams said. "I hear this talk about teams running away from him. We don't have to do that."

But LSU did. CBS football analyst Ara Parseghian pointed out on several occasions during the national telecast that Spielman didn't have many

tackles because LSU was avoiding him.

Spielman finished with 11 tackles and one broken up pass.

"They just ran the ball away from me," Spielman said. "I'm getting used to that now, it's two weeks in a row. I'll just run and make the play when I can. That's the way it is."

Spielman wasn't looking for a shoulder for sulking. He was angry.

"I don't know how many yards he (Williams) rushed for, and I know I hit him about eight times, and I knocked him into the bleachers one time," Spielman said.

Williams, who shares running duties with senior Sam Martin, rushed for 55 yards on 15 carries.

"He never really hit me that hard," Williams said. "He hits hard, but not enough to shake me. I hit the ground harder than he hit me a few times," Williams said.

"Harvey, he's so good that he alternates with Sam Martin," Spielman joked without a smile.

Williams wasn't even impressed with Ohio State's performance.

"We'll play a better team next week — Florida," he said.

But when pressed for one final

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# Nobody Could Win Classic Confrontation

By Ken Halloy

It was the Big Ten versus the Southeastern Conference, number seven against number four. It was North versus South. It was a classic.

Nobody won.  
Ohio State 13, LSU 13.

But in essence, both the seventh-ranked Buckeyes and fourth-ranked Tigers came out of the battle unscathed. Both are still unbeaten and have a legitimate chance at winning the national championship.

The view from the North: "We did everything in the world to win this football game," said OSU linebacker Chris Spielman. "We played harder than they did. We wanted it more."

The view from the South: "We deserved to win that football game. We really dominated them," said LSU linebacker Nicky Hazard. "They're good, but we're a lot better."

One thing is for sure. The game, the first ever between the two schools, lived up to all expectations and then some.

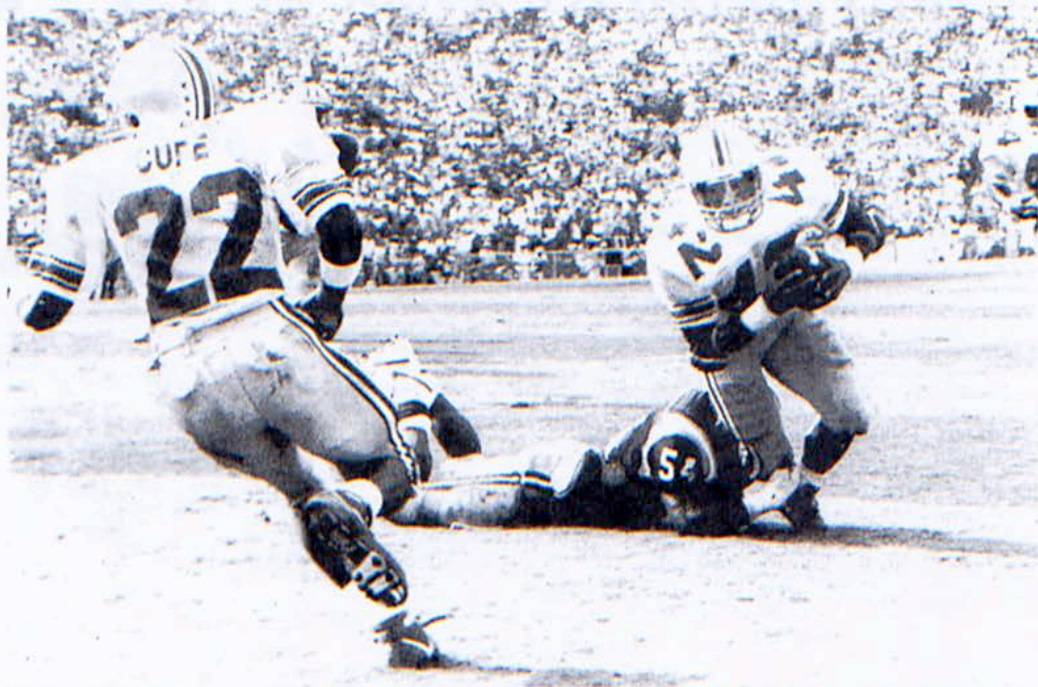
LSU entered the game 3-0, averaging 475 yards and nearly 41 points a game. The Tigers were limited to 229 yards in the final three quarters and 348 yards (267 passing, 81 rushing) for the game by the Buckeyes.

Meanwhile, Ohio State mustered only 246 yards offensively, 128 via the pass and 118 on the ground.

The Tigers came out flying early. After holding Ohio State to seven yards on three plays following the opening kickoff, LSU took over at its 39-yard line after a short, wobbly 35-yard punt by OSU's Tom Tupa.

The Tigers then embarked on a nine-play, 61-yard touchdown drive that sent the 79,263 sun-soaked fans into a frenzy. Running back Harvey Williams, who entered the game averaging nearly 10 yards a carry, picked up 10, six and seven yards on consecutive running plays to move the ball to the Ohio State 38. Williams would gain only 32 more yards on his last 12 carries.

Sophomore quarterback Tom Hodson's first pass fluttered out of his hand and fell incomplete before backup tailback Karl Jones was stopped for a yard loss. An unsportsmanlike penalty against LSU



Vince Workman (42) Tries To Break The Tackle Of LSU's Eric Hill (54)

on the play set up a third-and-26 at the Tiger 46.

Given ample time to throw, Hodson found wide receiver Rogie Magee for a 30-yard completion and a first down at the OSU 24.

OSU linebacker Mike McCray cracked Williams for no gain and Hodson threw wildly on second down. But on third down, Hodson hit Magee zipping across the middle for the touchdown.

But the Buckeyes rebounded. Tailback Vince Workman took the ensuing kickoff at the goal line and returned it up the middle 30 yards. The Bucks, intent on establishing the running game, did just that. Workman and fullback George Cooper combined for 33 yards on seven running plays to

give the Bucks a first down at the Tiger 37.

Workman was stuffed on first down before tight end Alex Higdon fell to his knee after catching a three-yard pass from Tupa. And then the Buckeyes pulled a little third down magic of their own.

Tupa took the snap and pitched left to Workman, who seemingly wanted to toss it back to Tupa, but Tupa fell. Workman, with two Tigers aiming straight at him, javelined the ball down the middle and flanker Everett Ross ran into it at the Tiger nine-yard line. A face mask penalty against LSU moved the ball to the four.

But the Bucks couldn't move in for the kill. Workman picked up two on first down. On the next play Tupa looked to pitch the ball to Workman but outside linebacker Eric Hill charged in and swallowed Tupa for an eight yard loss. Tupa took a time-out and then failed to hit Cooper in the right flat. Cooper took a crushing hit by cornerback Willie Bryant on the play. Kicker Matt Frantz then got the

Buckeyes on the scoreboard with a 27-yard field goal.

The Tiger offense, still in high gear from its last scoring drive, quickly retaliated, driving 61 yards in nine plays, capped by a 20-yard field goal by David Browndyke.

Eddie Fuller returned Pat O'Morrow's kickoff 29 yards to the LSU 36. After tailback Sam Martin picked up a yard, Hodson hooked up with tight end Brian Kinchen for 24 and Magee for 21 yards and a first down at the OSU 20. After a 12-yard completion to Martin was nullified by an ineligible receiver down field penalty, running back Victor Jones lost a yard as the first quarter ended.

Faced with second-and-16, Hodson hit All-American wide receiver Wendell Davis for 20 yards for a first and goal at the Buckeye six-yard line.

But this time, the Buck defense stiffened. Fuller picked up three yards but that would be the closest LSU would get as Hodson couldn't connect

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# Players Unhappy With Tie Against LSU

By Ken Halloy

The Ohio State offense improved. The defense improved. The net result didn't.

"I can't say we won, and I can't say we lost. It's hard to explain how we feel because we have never been in a tie before," said cornerback Greg Rogan. "We're all down. We're kind of taking it as a loss right now because it might hurt our chances to be national champions. That was one of our goals this year."

That seemed to be the feeling of every Buckeye after Ohio State and LSU played to a 13-13 stalemate.

The tie may slightly hamper Ohio State's chances of winning a national title, though the possibility of an unbeaten season remains intact. But to the Buckeye players, 11-0-1 is not the same as 12-0.

"Who likes a 13-13 tie? No one on our team likes that," OSU coach Earle Bruce said. "If they did, I guess I wouldn't like them. I wouldn't want them to be celebrating a tie. I try to tell them the good things that came out of that football game but I don't really like a tie. Our guys always think they should win."

Disappointment was the definitive term in the Buckeye locker room after the game.

"I am disappointed," said quarterback Tom Tupa. "We had a good game plan, and I think we outplayed them overall. We can't really leave here with our heads held high. We didn't win."

The Buckeye offense, though only gaining a total of 246 yards (128 passing, 118 rushing), showed marked improvement. The offensive line put together its best effort of the season as Buckeye backs consistently gained four or five yards on first down up the middle. Tupa also had ample time to throw.

The defense, criticized for sluggish second half performances against West Virginia and Oregon, held LSU to 229 yards over the final three quarters. LSU entered the game averaging nearly 41 points a game.

"I think each week we've improved," Bruce said. "Most certainly our offensive line is much improved over what we were when we started out against West Virginia."

"As I look at our offense, I think on one play we really seem to be gelling and the next one it's either a bad play or bad play selection. We're not getting the maximum efficiency out of our offense. But we're getting better and learning what they can do."

The LSU experience, in front of 79,000 purple and gold football fanatics, will prove invaluable for Tupa as the Buckeyes prepare for the Big Ten opener against Illinois Oct. 3.

Bruce said.

"The guy who needed that game more than anybody else was our quarterback," Bruce said. "It was very important that he get that kind of game under his belt because he can only become better under those circumstances, because there was a lot of things happening out there that he had to take care of. I thought he did an excellent job at the beginning of the football game."

Bruce was referring to the deafening crowd noise. Tupa had to pull away from center on the game's first play from scrimmage because his teammates couldn't hear his signals.

"The official wanted me to snap the ball," Tupa said. "He was pointing at me. I couldn't believe it. The noise was incredible, almost like nothing I could have imagined. It didn't intimidate me or anything. But I knew we wouldn't be able to do anything with the crowd that loud."

After two more strolls up to center, Tupa finally took a snap.

Bruce sensed a bowl atmosphere before the game began.

"It seemed like it exploded on that first play. You could just feel that was going to happen when we walked into the stadium," Bruce said.

Though only about 6,000 of the fans wore scarlet and gray, Bruce appreciated the crowd's energy.

"The crowd was superb," Bruce said. "The crowd hurt us at the beginning of the ball game. But we fought back. I'm a little dismayed by the way we reacted in the first quarter, but I'm glad we got better as we went along. That means we can travel a little better next week."

LSU drove 61 yards in nine plays on its first possession to take a 7-0 lead. The Tigers held the upper hand, 10-3, at the half. And the crowd never lost its enthusiasm.

"I thought it took a little while for our football team to adjust to the tempo and everything that was happening at the very beginning," Bruce said. "But I thought they adjusted well as the game went on, and I think that was very important. We got better, stronger, and I think we learned a lot about the character of our football team."

"You don't like ties, but if you look at that game, they did face adversity and they did fight back."

But that was little consolation to the Buckeye players.

"I don't think you can exactly be thrilled with the way things turned out," said outside linebacker Mike McCray. "I think we earned some respect coming down here, but I'd rather have the win. Ties seem like a waste of time," he added.

"Some people might say we were lucky to get a tie, but we came down here only with winning on our mind,"

said defensive tackle Ray Holliman. "It felt kind of funny walking off the field after the game. I don't know what to feel, really. I wasn't real happy and I wasn't real sad. It's the first time I've ever been in a tie. It doesn't do a lot for me."

Holliman and linebacker Chris Spielman said all the pregame badgering by LSU did nothing but fire them up more.

"We had a lot of respect for them coming in. We knew it was going to be a hostile crowd," Holliman said. "I just felt they did a little too much talk."

And good sportsmanship was the exception.

"After the plays were over they would throw punches," Holliman said. "We tried to play clean ball and play respectable, but they didn't want to do that. And in a football game, you don't forgive, you just lower yourself to that level. Especially on their field."

"But I still insist we outplayed them. That's what makes it even worse — when you outplay them and still tie. That really hurts."

There's more.

"They do have a very good football team, but I don't know how they could do so much bragging," said kicker Matt Frantz. "This is supposed to be a hard place to play, and it was. No one thought we had a chance, so everybody thinks we're lucky to get out of here still undefeated. But we don't feel that way. It feels like a loss."

Frantz didn't appear as dejected from his last-second field goal miss as

he was after missing wide to the left against Michigan last year.

"I feel terrible that we didn't win, but I hit the ball well. I was confident I would make it when I went out there to kick it, and I was just as confident after I kicked it until I looked up and saw it had been blocked."

"But I'll be just as confident the next time I go up to kick another field goal."

Rogan was impressed with the Tigers offensively, especially wide receivers Rogie Magee and All-American Wendell Davis. The duo combined for 12 receptions for more than 200 yards.

"I think their receivers are just as good as any we'll face in the Big Ten," Rogan said. "As for their backs (Sam Martin and Harvey Williams), they had excellent speed. They'll probably be the fastest running backs we'll face all season."

Likewise, Holliman said the Tiger offense was synchronized.

"Their receivers ran their routes very well. You have to give their quarterback (starter Tom Hodson) credit," Holliman said. "I could see him throwing the ball before the receivers were turning for the ball. He had a nice touch."

Spielman admitted the Buckeye defense played an "excellent game." Asked if he felt better about the LSU game as opposed to the Oregon game, after which Spielman was visibly upset about the defensive effort, Spielman barked, "No, because we won last week and we didn't win this week."

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## The Numbers Game

## Buckeyes 13, Tigers 13

OHIO STATE	3	0	3	7	13
LSU	7	3	0	3	13

LSU — Magee 24 pass from Hodson (Brownkye kick) 10:09  
 OSU — Frantz 27 field goal 2:29  
 LSU — Brownkye 20 field goal 13:50  
 OSU — Frantz 38 field goal 2:31  
 OSU — Koch 8 pass from Tupa (Frantz kick) 11:07  
 LSU — Brownkye 40 field goal 6:25  
 Att. — 79,263

	OSU	LSU
First Downs	12	21
Rushing	9	4
Passing	3	15
Penalty	0	2
Rushes-Yards	40-118	27-81
Passing Yards	128	267
Passes	23-11-0	48-25-3
Offensive Plays	63	75
Total Net Yards	246	348
Third Down Eff.	5-17	8-17
Punts	9-47.8	5-33.6
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	4-1
Penalties	8-72	5-30
Time Of Possession	32:09	27:51

## Individual Statistics

RUSHING (Att.-Net Yds.) — OHIO STATE: Workman 19-80; Cooper 11-50; Bryant 6-0; Tupa 4-12; LSU: H. Williams 15-55; V. Jones 4-15; M. Guidry 1-7; Fuller 1-3; S. Martin 3-1; Hodson 3-0.

PASSING (Att.-Comp.-Int.-Yds.-TD) — OHIO STATE: Tupa 21-9-0-92-1; Workman 1-1-0-25-0; Powell 1-1-0-11-0; LSU: Hodson 45-25-2-267-1; M. Guidry 3-0-1-0-0.

RECEIVING (Rec.-Yds.) — OHIO STATE: Workman 3-19; Koch 2-39; Cooper 2-20; Ross 1-25; Cupe 1-16; Bryant 1-6; Higdon 1-3; LSU: Davis 7-82; Magee 5-103; S. Martin 4-18; H. Williams 3-12; B. Kinchen 2-28; Egloff 2-10; Moss 1-13; V. Jones 1-1.

PUNTING (No.-Ave.-Lg.) — OHIO STATE: Tupa 9-47.8-64; LSU: DeFrank 5-33.6-45.

PUNT RETURNS (No.-Ave.-Lg.) — OHIO STATE: Workman 2-0-0-0; LSU: Young 5-10-2-22; Lee 1-13-0-13; Jackson 1-1-0-1.

KICKOFF RETURNS (No.-Ave.-Lg.) — OHIO STATE: Ross 2-17-0-19; Workman 1-30-0-30; LSU: S. Martin 2-27-0-29; Fuller 1-29-0-29; Haliburton 1-5-0-5.

DEFENSIVE FUMBLES RECOVERED BY — OHIO STATE: Holliman; LSU: None.

INTERCEPTIONS — OHIO STATE: Rogan (2); McCray; LSU: None.

TACKLES FOR LOSS — OHIO STATE: Holliman (2); Kumerow; Jackson; McCray; Keenan; LSU: Hill (2); Sancho; Murla; Lawrence.

TACKLES (Solo-Ass.-Tot.) — OHIO STATE: Spielman 5-6-11; Jackson 6-4-10; McCray 3-5-8; Rogan 5-1-6; J. Sullivan 2-4-6; Kumerow 2-3-5; White 2-3-5; Holliman 2-3-5; M. Sullivan 1-1-2; MacCready 0-2-2; Matlock 1-1-2; Brown 0-1-1; Thomas 1-0-1; Coleman 1-0-1; Cooper 0-1-1; Hoak 0-1-1; Moore 1-0-1; Keenan 1-0-1; LSU: Hazard 1-8-9; Sancho 3-6-9; Hill 6-3-9; Clapp 2-7-9; Malbrough 2-6-8; Phillips 2-4-6; Carrier 1-4-5; Guidry 0-4-4; Bryant 0-4-4; Lawrence 2-2-4; Jackson 0-2-2; Dunbar 0-2-2; Murla 1-1-2; Ausberry 0-2-2; Haliburton 0-2-2; Bice 0-2-2; Young 0-1-1; Hebert 0-1-1; Egloff 1-0-1; Mayes 0-1-1; B. Kinchen 1-0-1.

## LSU Went For The Win

## Continued From Page 1

don't want to lose, not when our kids fought that hard," Bruce explained. "Let them make the decision if they want to go for it. Let them make the mistake if they want to do that."

And LSU did.

After Hodson hit flanker Rogie Magee for 15 yards on the right sideline, Hodson had his next attempt broken up by OSU nose guard Mike Sullivan.

"ON SECOND down the quarterback overthrew the tight end (Brian Kinchen) coming down the middle and I happened to be deeper than the receiver and the ball came right to me," Rogan said of his second interception, and third of the season. Rogan made the theft at the LSU 45 and returned it to the 39.

"I thought we were in field goal range and I didn't want to take the chance on fumbling the ball," Rogan said of his tentative running on the return. "I just wanted to give it back to the offense so they could score a touchdown or a field goal. I was thinking touchdown for a minute, but when their guy was in front of me, I just went down with the ball."

Rogan said he was expecting pass

the entire game.

"That's all they really did on films. We thought we could shut down their running game and we did," he said. "On both interceptions, we knew they would come at us; they had done so the whole game. We just did what we had to do in the second half."

Hodson, only a sophomore, passed for 170 yards in the first half, completing 11 of 21 passes. He was held to 97 yards passing (14 for 27) and two interceptions in the second half, as the Buckeye defense was its most dominating this season. The defense came up with all four of its turnovers in the second half, two leading to Ohio State's 10 second half points.

Rogan said he and his defensive mates realized at halftime they would have to become stingier if the Bucks were to overcome the 10-3 deficit. In the first half, LSU's possessions lasted nine, 11, six, eight and four plays, respectively.

"Nothing was really said at halftime," Rogan said. "We just all kind of looked at each other and knew we had to get tougher. We weren't intimidated or anything, but it took us a while to feel out the situation. But we regrouped and pulled together."

## Season Statistics

	OFF	OSU	RUSHING	ATT	GAIN	LOST	NET	AVG	TD	LG
FIRST DOWNS	48	45								
Rushing	14	25	Workman	67	304	11	293	4.4	1	56
Passing	27	18	Cooper	21	70	0	70	3.3	0	13
Penalty	7	2	Higdon	1	31	0	31	31.0	0	31
NET YARDS RUSHING	284	382	Bryant	16	34	4	30	1.9	1	12
Attempts	106	123	Frey	1	0	2	-2	-2.0	0	-
Yards Gained	365	464	Snow	2	0	10	-10	-5.0	0	-
Yards Lost	81	82	Tupa	15	25	55	-30	-2.0	0	9
Average Per Game	94.7	127.3								
Average Per Play	2.7	3.1								
NET YARDS PASSING	547	512								
Attempts	97	81								
Completed	49	43	PASSING	ATT	COMP	INT	YDS	PCT TD LG SA RT		
Had Intercepted	9	1	Tupa	78	41	1	476	.526	4	44
Percentage	.505	.531	Workman	2	1	0	25	.500	0	25
Average Per Game	182.3	170.7	Powell	1	1	0	11	1.000	0	11
Average Per Play	5.6	6.3								
TOTAL NET GAIN	831	894								
Total Plays	203	204								
Average Per Game	277.0	298.0								
Average Per Play	4.1	4.4								
POINTS	30	61	RECEIVING	NO	YARDS	AVG	TD	LG		
Touchdowns	3	7	Workman	10	104	10.4	0	18		
Rush-Pass-Other	0-3-0	2-4-1	Ross	8	140	18.5	1	44		
EXP Kicking	3-3	7-7	Cooper	8	92	11.5	1	19		
EXP Punting	0-0	0-0	Higdon	5	45	9.0	0	20		
EXP Passing	0-0	0-0	Cupe	4	43	10.8	0	16		
Field Goals	3-3	5-4	Koch	3	43	14.3	2	31		
Safeties	0	0	Olive	2	18	9.0	0	11		
Average Per Game	10.0	20.3	Bryant	2	12	6.0	0	6		
PUNTS-HAD BLOCKED	19-1	23-0	Clift	1	7	7.0	0	7		
Yards	647	1102								
Touchback-Inside 20	1-6	5-7								
Average Per Punt	34.1	47.9								
Net Average	31.1	41.9								
PUNT RETURNS-FC	7-3	8-5	SCORING	TD	R-P-O	RPA-K	RPR	RFF	AT-FC	PTS
Yards-TD	139-0	57-0	Frantz	0	0-0-0	7-7	0-0	0-0	5-4	19
Average Per Return	19.9	7.1	Koch	2	0-0-2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	12
KICKOFF RETURNS-FC	10-0	6-0	Bryant	1	1-0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	6
Yards-TD	254-0	139-0	Cooper	1	0-0-1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	6
Average Per Return	25.4	23.2	Ross	1	0-0-1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	6
INTERCEPTIONS	1	9	White	1	0-0-1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	6
Yards-TD	0	103-1	Workman	1	1-0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	6
Average Per Return	0.0	11.4								
PENALTIES-Yards	8-65	21-185								
Offense	5-38	11-73	PUNTING NO YARDS	AVG	NET/AVG	TD	120	RE LG		
Defense	2-12	7-80	Tupa	23	1102	47.9	1037/41.9	5	7	0
Special Teams	1-15	3-32								
FUMBLES-Lost	10-4	8-4								
THIRD DOWN EFFICIENCY	16-45	19-50								
Percentage	.356	.380								
SACKS AGAINST	4-35	5-46								
TIME OF POSSESSION	86:02	93:58								
Average Per Game	28:40	31:20								

## SCORE BY QUARTER

	1	2	3	4	TOTAL
Opponents	7	3	3	17	30
Ohio State	20	3	17	21	61

## FIELD GOALS

	(5-4, .800)
Frantz (5-4, .800)	47+, 34+, 27+, 38+, 47-(BK)

## FG DISTANCE

	0-29	30-39	40-49	50+ TOTAL
Frantz	1-1	2-2	2-1	0-0 5-4

## KICKOFF RETURNS

	NO	FC	YDS	AVG	TD	LG
Ross	4	0	79	19.8	0	23
Snow	1	0	30	30.0	0	30
Workman	1	0	30	30.0	0	30

## PASS INTERCEPTIONS

	NO	YARDS	AVG	TD	LG
White	3	60	20.0	1	29
Rogan	3	39	13.0	0	33
Spielman	2	4	2.0	0	3
McCray	1	0	0.0	0	0

## PASSES BROKEN UP

	(6)
2-White, 1-Kumerow, Rogan, Spielman, M Sullivan	

## FUMBLES CAUSED

	(6)
2-Kumerow, 1-Coleman, Peel, Ridder, Spielman	

## FUMBLES RECOVERED [DEFENSIVE]

	(4)
1-D Brown, Holliman, O'Morrow, J Sullivan	

## OSU FUMBLES - NUMBER/LOST

	(8/4)
Snow (3/2), Bryant (2/0), Ross (1/1), Tupa (1/1), Spielman (1/0)	

## BLOCKED KICKS

	(1)
1-D Brown (Punt)	

## TOUCHDOWN SAVES

	(3)
1-Gurd, McCray, Spielman	

## FUMBLES RECOVERED [OFFENSIVE]

	(4)
1-Cupe, Ridder, Snow, "Team"	

## 1987 OHIO STATE RESULTS

	(2-0-1, 0-0)
H-OSU 24, West Virginia	3+ 88,272
H-OSU 24, Oregon	14+ 89,882
A-OSU 13, Louisiana State	13tie 79,263
Oct. 3 at Illinois	
Oct. 10 INDIANA	
Oct. 17 at Purdue	
Oct. 24 MINNESOTA	
Oct. 31 MICHIGAN STATE	
Nov. 7 at Wisconsin	
Nov. 14 IOWA	
Nov. 21 at Michigan	

## ATTENDANCE

	GAMES	TOTAL	AVERAGE
Home	2	178,154	89,077
Away	1	79,263	79,263
Season	3	257,417	85,806

## DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

PLAYERS	SOLO	ASSIST	TOTAL	TAC-LOSS	QB-SACK
Spielman	18	27	45	1-5	
McCray	9	15	24	2-3	
Jackson	13	7	20	3-14	1-8
M Sullivan	6	14	20	2-4	
J Sullivan	6	12	18		
Rogan	10	7	17		
Kumerow	6	11	17	3-15	2-14
Holliman	4	12	16	2-3	
White	8	5	13		
D Brown	2	5	7		
Gurd	2	3	5		
Shawalter	1	3	4		
MacCready	0	4	4		
Benlo	1	2	3		
Isaman	0	3	3		
Ridder	0	3	3		
Coleman	1	1	2		
Hoak	1	1	2		
Matlock	1	1	2		
Thomas	1	1	2		
Bell	0	2	2		
Dumas	0	2	2		
Craig	1	0	1	1-13	1-13
Keenan	1	0	1	1-1	
Moore	1	0	1		
Cooper	0	1	1		
Lickovitch	0	1	1		
Pelini	0	1	1		
Spencer	0	1	1		
"Team"	6	0	6	5-24	



# Quarterback, Coach Questioned After Tie

By Ken Halloy

LSU's Tom Hodson became a sophomore quarterback and Mike Archer became a first-year head coach in the fourth quarter of the 13-13 tie against Ohio State.

Hodson is a sophomore and Archer is in his first year as a head coach. Yet the two have performed much higher than that in their young careers. Last year's SEC freshman of the year, Hodson entered the OSU game ranked second nationally in passing efficiency. Archer had the Tigers off to a 3-0 start, including a season-opening win over Texas A&M in College Station.

But on this day there were questions to be answered by both. Two situations brought about enquiring minds.

The first: With a little more than two minutes to play and a first down at the OSU 11, LSU tried to pass for a touchdown instead of running out the clock and setting up for a field goal. The result was a Greg Rogan interception at the two.

"We're always going to play for the touchdown in that situation," Archer explained. "In that situation we thought we had a better chance of throwing the ball and getting yardage. The corner (Rogan) played for the out pattern. With the field narrowed down there, you're only dealing with 25 yards. He (Rogan) knew the receiver couldn't go deep on him so he played the out hard."

Hodson wasn't as distressed with the call as he was with his throw.

"I was just bad throwing the ball. I think I had a little problem with pressure, and I was trying to get rid of it," said Hodson, who threw two of the Tigers' three interceptions and lost a fumble from a mishandled snap from center. "I got rid of it in the wrong place."

"We were driving and having success throwing, so we decided to pass. I just made a bad throw, a bad decision."

After Rogan made the interception there was plenty of running room ahead. Only Hodson stood between Rogan and the end zone down the right side line.

"I just wanted to get up and make the tackle and let the defense get on the field and salvage something," Hodson said.

The LSU defense did hold, but a 56-yard Tom Tupa punt pinned the Tigers on their own two-yard line.

With 36 seconds left, Archer, not content with a tie, decided to come out throwing. A 15-yard completion was followed by another Rogan interception down the middle.

"I was trying to make a little too much happen," Hodson said. "I just overthrew the ball. They were covering our guys a lot closer in the second half."

Archer called for the pass to tight end Brian Kinchen that ended in Rogan's hands.

"I know everybody was wondering what we were doing," Archer said. "We were playing to win. We will never play to tie so long as I'm a coach here. You can second-guess me all you want. I'll never do that to my players. They understand it, they believe in it and we'll continue to do it."

Hodson said if he could do it over again, he wouldn't have changed the play selection either.

"The coach just played to win," he said. "I don't want to tie anybody. We've had success moving the ball and

that's what got us here. I have confidence in my ability. It was just a case of if you live by the pass, you die by the pass."

Archer said he was pleased with the Tigers' effort despite four second half turnovers.

"I thought that turnovers hurt us very seriously in the ball game, but our defense was able to play extremely well," he said. "But when you played as hard as we did for 60 minutes and you've got nothing to show for it, you don't feel very good. I don't feel very good, and I don't think the players feel very good."

That summed up the feelings of the players on both teams, actually.

"It feels kind of like a loss," Hodson said. "I feel bad because down there I threw the interceptions. But I want to be in those situations. I wanted to have all the pressure on me. I just made a bad choice and that's what makes me feel a little worse."

"Whenever you play a big team like Ohio State, you can't make turnovers. We were lucky to get a tie because we did have some turnovers. You can't do that and expect to win."

Outside linebacker Ron Sancho said Ohio State's offense never presented much of a problem (the Buckeyes had 246 total yards).

"We knew what they were going to do. I'm not being cocky, that's just the way I feel," Sancho said. "They ran their base defense and came right at us. They did nothing to surprise us."

Even Ohio State's fake field goal was expected, Archer said. On fourth down and four at the LSU 30 early in the fourth quarter with LSU leading 10-6, field goal holder Scott Powell (a backup quarterback) passed to George Cooper in the left flat for 11 yards and a first down.

Ohio State scored its only touchdown six plays later on an eight-yard pass from Tom Tupa to freshman tight end Jay Koch.

"We knew it was going to be a fake out there. Our kids were yelling 'fake,'" Archer said. "We made them aware as we sent them in to watch for the fake. They (Ohio State) lined up in an unbalanced formation. Our kids were watching for it, and they still executed it. That's frustrating."

Sancho agreed.

"You go out there and beat your head for 60 minutes with a team that's that physical, and you're going to be disappointed (with a tie). But it was still Ohio State, and they have top talent there. But it's just a disgusting feeling right now."

The LSU defense did its job, but Ohio State's defense reciprocated. That surprised outside linebacker Eric Hill.

"It was just a defensive struggle the whole game. We were stopping their offense and they were stopping our offense. It was a defensive game all the way around, but I didn't think they could shut down our offense like they did," Hill said.

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**Ray Jackson (47) Pursues Harvey Williams**

"I'm disappointed because this is the best the defense has played all year. We knew we did a good job."

The LSU defense was at its best in the final five seconds when OSU kicker Matt Frantz lined up for what would have been a 47-yard game-winning field goal. But Tiger tackle Karl Dunbar got a paw high in the air and deflected the kick.

"We had come so close to blocking the two other field goals and extra point," said nose guard Darrell Phillips. "I felt very confident either he was going to miss it or we'd get a piece of it. We spent an awful lot of time on

our field goal blocks this week. I was scared to death, but I felt confident."

Archer left Tiger Stadium with his attitude about Ohio State little changed from before the battle.

"I've got a lot of respect for Ohio State. They're a very good football team," Archer said. "They come right at you. They did exactly what we thought they would, and they were very physical."

"But I hope this answers some of the questions as to whether we can physically match up with some of the larger teams in the country. I think it does."



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# Defense Dominated After Intermission

Continued From Page 4

with Williams or Davis on the next two plays. That's when Brownky got the call, and the LSU lead was once again at seven, 10-3.

And that's the way it stayed the rest of the first half. Hard-hitting defense took over, though the Buckeyes did put together a nice drive after an exchange of punts, the latter being a 38-yarder by LSU's Matt DeFrank that was downed at the OSU one-yard line.

In a deep hole, Tupa quickly dug the Buckeyes out. On first down, Tupa stood patiently seven yards deep in the end zone before firing to freshman tight end Jay Koch down the middle at the 24. Koch picked up an additional eight yards with some power running.

Carefully mixing the run and pass, Tupa methodically steered the Buckeyes to the LSU 39 before running into a fourth-and-two situation with 4:27 left in the half.

Tupa again called time out to talk it over with coach Earle Bruce, who after thinking it over, opted to punt. Tupa did so, good for 28 yards and LSU took over at its 11.

Another punt exchange followed before LSU ran out of downs after taking over at its own 47 with less than a minute to play.

It is interesting to note that there were no turnovers in the first half, and despite trailing 10-3, the Buckeyes actually had the ball seven minutes longer than the Tigers offensively.

The Buckeye defense, having gathered momentum near the end of the first half, put it all together in the final 30 minutes, forcing three interceptions and a fumble. Two of the turnovers led to the Buckeyes' 10 second half points.

After each team punted twice, the Buckeyes capitalized on LSU mistake number one. On second-and-11 at the Tiger 45, Hodson pulled away from center too quickly on the snap and fumbled. OSU tackle Ray Holliman recovered at the LSU 40.

On first down Workman picked up 15 on a pitch around right end. Cooper then picked up five bulling up the middle before Tupa missed on an out pattern to Tony Cupe. Tailback Jim Bryant was then nailed for a yard loss on third down, forcing the Buckeyes to settle for a 38-yard Frantz field goal with 2:25 left in the third quarter.

Both teams punted after each picked up one first down, setting up mistake number two for LSU early in the fourth quarter. On first down and 10 at the LSU 37, LSU backup quarterback Mickey Guidry (Guidry had played a

series of downs in the second quarter, Hodson was not hurt) tried to hit a receiver on the right sideline, but instead found the Buckeyes' McCray. McCray made a sensational interception, jumping and grabbing the sharply thrown ball before falling to the ground.

This time the Bucks took full advantage, marching 36 yards on 10 plays. It appeared, however, the Bucks would again settle for three when Frantz came out to attempt a 47-yard field goal. But the kick never came.

Cooper, set up as a blocking back on the right side, slid in motion after the snap and broke into the left flat. Holder and backup quarterback Scott Powell then lofted a high pass that Cooper bobbled with the left hand and then safely tucked away before picking up 11 yards and a first down at the Tiger 19.

Tupa then hit Workman for seven yards and Bryant picked up two more. On third down, Tupa snuck for a yard and a new series of downs. Bryant then gained another yard before Tupa missed an open Cooper on the right side.

## Coaches Pick Cooper On Offense

Continued From Page 2

named offensive player of the game. He graded out at 92 percent. Cooper rushed for 50 yards on 11 carries and caught the pivotal 11-yard pass for a first down off a fake field goal in the fourth quarter.

Other offensive winners were flanker Everett Ross (93 percent), Workman (90 percent), center Jeff Uhlenhake (72 percent) and kicker Matt Frantz.

Outside linebacker Mike McCray was named defensive player of the game. He graded out at 79 percent. Cornerback Greg Rogan won the hustler award, receiving a grade of 90 percent. Other leave winners defensively include tackle Ray Holliman (65 percent), Spielman (78 percent), nose guard Mike Sullivan (69 percent), outside linebacker Eric Kumerow (77 percent), rover Ray Jackson (89 percent) and safety David Brown (93 percent).

Bruce said there was a good reason fullback George Cooper wasn't featured with the shovel pass against LSU. The pass has become one of Cooper's favorites and worked twice successfully the week before against Oregon.

"They had a defense that the play could have been used," Bruce admitted.

Faced with another third down, Tupa rolled left and threw a rainbow to a wide open Koch in the left side of the end zone to give the Buckeyes their only lead of the game. Frantz made it 13-10 with his PAT.

The fun was only beginning. Taking over at the Tiger 30 after the kickoff, Hodson, back at the controls, moved the Tigers 47 yards in 13 plays to the Buckeye 19. Faced with a third-and-nine, Hodson almost made mistake number three, as he again fumbled the snap, but recovered for a four-yard loss. Brownky then drilled a 40-yard field goal for the game's final points with 6:25 left to play.

The Buckeyes could move only two yards on three plays after taking over at their 20 following a touchback. Tupa's 53-yard punt and a 22-yard return gave LSU the ball at its own 47.

The crowd could sense a dramatic finish, and it got one.

Completions to Williams for four yards and Magee for 13, wrapped around an incompletion to Kinchen, gave LSU a first down at the OSU 36. Hodson threw out of bounds on first down and ran for nine on second. Jones

then ran for 16 and a first down at the OSU 11.

With the clock reading less than 2:30, it appeared LSU would run the ball and let Brownky decide the issue. Williams picked up three on first down, but then Hodson, under pressure, tried to hit Davis in the left corner of the end zone. Davis slipped and OSU cornerback Greg Rogan intercepted at the two and returned it 33 yards.

Three downs and seven yards later, Tupa was forced to punt. His 56-yarder bounced out of bounds at the LSU two with 0:53 left. A 15-yard pass to Magee moved the ball to the 17. Two plays later, Hodson overthrew Kinchen over the middle and Rogan intercepted his second pass at the Tiger 45 and returned it six yards at 0:27.

The Bucks would only get off one play, a nine yard run by Bryant, before calling their last time out with five ticks left.

Frantz' 47-yard field goal attempt, as time ran out, was deflected by LSU tackle Karl Dunbar.

A Classic indeed.

"But what you try to do is run the shovel pass when you think you can let them (opponents) forget it a few weeks. Then you come back to it. We look down the line and see when we think it's going to be good again. If someone doesn't see it for a while, they think we forgot about it. But then we'll spring it on them."

**BRUCE SAID HE** is more than pleased with the contribution freshman tight end Jay Koch has made (three catches, two touchdowns), but noted that another freshman tight end, Jeff Ellis, is making his move.

"I ought to warn you that Jeff Ellis is going to be a fine football player. We're going to start playing him," Bruce said.

Freshman tailback Carlos Snow, who has fumbled each of the three times he has touched the ball this season, will likely see action against Illinois Oct. 3, Bruce said.

"We needed to sit him down for a week to regain his confidence, but we'll start bringing him along again this week," he said.

**THE ONLY STARTER** who will definitely miss the Illinois game is freshman offensive tackle John Peterson. Peterson will be out four to six weeks because of a dislocated elbow sustained early in the second quarter

in the LSU game.

Bruce said the play calling on second-and-five against LSU left much to be desired. Tupa threw incomplete passes on four such occasions.

"It was terrible. The second-and-five was a blitz down for them by all the reports we got," Bruce said. "So we wanted to go to some type of pass to control the blitz. But we weren't effective."

Senior Jay Shaffer, who missed the first two games because of an abdominal muscle pull, played briefly in place of Peterson. Sophomore Tim Moxley also saw substantial playing time against the Tigers and is the projected starter this week, Bruce said.

"Jay Shaffer is just not ready to come back fulltime," Bruce said. "And Moxley is an improved player. He really played well against LSU. We need to find out more about him."

## Grass

Continued From Page 15

all sliced up and they would be all week long babying it back into condition."

Bay said it is still premature to say a reverse trend of returning to grass is developing. The Orange Bowl in Miami has completed the cycle of grass to turf, and back to grass again. And Iowa coach Hayden Fry now says he wants Kinnick Stadium to return to its grass roots.

Bay believes if Ohio State did make the bold switch to grass, there would be little opposition, especially from football traditionalists.

"I'm just guessing," Bay said, "but I think most fans would rather watch a game on grass anyway."

Including Bay.

"I really like grass. I was never in favor of changing over in the first place," he said. "I think the tradition, the environment — there's something about seeing a freshly-grown grass field. It really lends itself to college football."

"But it's a moot point because the way we use the field now won't allow us to change back to grass. Too many people use it."

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## Cagers Lose Pair

Junior forward Joe Dumas of the Ohio State basketball team has been ruled ineligible until January and senior guard Kip Lomax has dropped out of school because of academic problems, it was recently announced by OSU athletic director Rick Bay.

By school standards, the 6-9 Dumas needed to have a 2.0 grade point average to retain his eligibility. After summer quarter Dumas' GPA was 1.99.

Dumas, from Irvington, N.Y., played sparingly last season.

Lomax, a 6-0 Columbus native, was ineligible last fall and returned in January of this year as the backup to point guard Curtis Wilson.



# The View From 15th and High

By Frank L. Moskowitz, BSB Publisher

## Who Had The Prettier Sister In Tie With Tigers?

It was appropriate that on the weekend following the death of Duffy Daugherty, with Ara Parseghian in the broadcast booth for CBS, that two of the 1987 collegiate football titans, Ohio State and LSU, would slug it out to a 13-13 tie.

Parseghian and Daugherty, of course, were the rival coaches in the epic struggle between Michigan State and Notre Dame in 1966, which ended in a 10-10 tie.

Now the Ohio State-LSU contest may not go down in history the way that famous Notre Dame-MSU affair did, but this was definitely an outstanding battle between two outstanding football teams. I don't think any of the nearly 80,000 in attendance or the millions of people watching on TV would dispute that. Nor do I think that any of the players would dispute it.

In the end, however, little was resolved with regards to which has the better football team.

As Daugherty would have said, "A tie is like kissing your sister."

Now both OSU and LSU have kissed their sister. The question is, who has the prettier sister?

Both teams come out of the game in good shape ranking-wise and with essentially the same mission. By surviving the game without a loss, both the Tigers and Buckeyes are still in the hunt for the national championship. Both clubs must now win their conference and earn berths in the Sugar and Rose bowls.

Many Buckeye fans are going to say Ohio State should have won that game. That's true. And no OSU coach or player is going to dispute that. What you have to remember is that there is an equal number of LSU fans saying their club should have won the game. And they, too, are correct and no LSU coach or player would dispute that.

It's a tie. Things are equal.

But in a lot of ways, you have to give the edge, if one comes out of a tie with an edge, to the Buckeyes. In terms of respect and prestige, Ohio State went down into what has been voted the most difficult college stadium in which to play in the country, against the number four team in the country, and came away without a loss. After a very slow start, they held the nation's fourth-best scoring offense to just 13 points, forcing four turnovers. Advantage Buckeyes.

And in the quest for the national championship, coming away without a loss could be more beneficial to the Bucks than LSU. The Tigers appear to have a much more difficult schedule ahead of them than the Buckeyes. The Bayou Bengals won't have any time to lick their wounds after the struggle with OSU, as they must tangle with Florida in their next outing. The week after that, they must travel to Georgia. LSU also hosts Alabama yet this

season, in addition to home contests with Kentucky and Mississippi State and road games at Mississippi and Tulane.

A loss to any of these teams would mean one less undefeated team Ohio State would be competing with for the national crown, should the Buckeyes remain undefeated. Advantage Buckeyes.

And to my sisters Liz and Sho, let me say this: I love and miss you both. I look forward to a kiss at Thanksgiving.

Kissing your sister isn't all bad, folks!

**THE BUCKEYES** must put the LSU game behind them and concentrate on Illinois. The Illini have had a week off to prepare for the Bucks, and if OSU is living in the past, in Baton Rouge, they will lose. The bottom line for any Ohio State team, any year, is to go to the Rose Bowl. And the journey to Pasadena starts in Champaign Oct. 3.

The Buckeyes seem to be taking the tie with LSU as a loss, and that may be good in terms of preparation for the Illini. If the Bucks had won, there might have been that dangerous letdown.

My guess is that opposing teams in the Big Ten took notice of the Buckeyes' play against LSU. They know now Ohio State is for real.

**THE MOST** encouraging note coming out of the game is the fact the offensive line finally started blowing some people off the ball. That's a good sign as far as things to come in Big Ten play.

On the flip side of the coin, the LSU game might have been the first this season in which Cris Carter might have made a difference. The Buckeyes displayed a terrible inability to get the ball to their wide receivers.

They completed just a pass each to wide receivers Everett Ross and Tony Cupe, and one of those passes, a 25-yarder to Ross, was thrown by Vince Workman, not quarterback Tom Tupa.

The Buckeye offense played the game the way a team with a questionable offense and a strong defense should play it against a team with a strong offense. The OSU offense did not have a turnover, while the defense was forcing four costly LSU miscues, and the Bucks controlled the ball for 32:09 to 27:51 for the Tigers.

**WITH REGARDS** to the solid offensive line play, many questioned Ohio State's decision on its first scoring drive to pass on second down at the LSU two when the power running game had been working so well. I can go either way on that one.

If you look at film of that play, an Ohio State receiver was open up to the left. If executed properly, that play would have resulted in a touchdown and everyone would have said "gutsy call." Keep in mind that LSU was probably looking for a power run.

And it was gutsy calls such as the pass by Workman or the fake field goal attempt and pass to George Cooper that kept OSU in the game. The Bucks have been accused so often recently of being predictable on offense.

On the other hand, I'm a firm believer in, if possible, ramming the ball down the opposition's throat. The

Tigers hadn't stopped the run to that point. Why not stay with it?

**IS IT JUST** me, or did it seem like the CBS crew was questioning virtually every decision the Buckeyes made? To listen, you would have thought the Bucks were trailing by 30 points, not battling to a tie with a great team in that team's madhouse stadium.

**LSU DID AN** outstanding job of neutralizing Chris Spielman, especially in the first half. Spielman began to take more charge in the third quarter, and it showed as the Bengals were able to score just three points in the second half.

The Buckeyes, on the other hand, did an excellent job of neutralizing Harvey Williams, who had come into the game with 302 yards on just 31 carries. That's almost 10 yards a crack. The Buckeyes held him to 55 yards on 15 carries for a 3.7 yard average.

**WHILE, 21 YEARS** ago, Ara Parseghian elected to play for a tie against Michigan State in that famous game, it appeared neither Ohio State nor Louisiana State was thinking that way.

When the Buckeyes elected to punt with the ball on their own 42 with a fourth and three, it may have seemed they were playing for the tie.

## Spielman, Williams Spar

Continued From Page 3

account of Spielman, Williams paused. "Spielman is a gentleman; he didn't say much," Williams said. "I would get up and tell him it was a nice hit and he wouldn't say a thing. I guess that's just the way he is. Spielman is everything everybody says he is."

Spielman was unaware of Williams' final remarks when he offered his last on the subject.

"I respect every player I play against, but I hate people who are out trying to get attention. And he's the kind of guy who looks for attention."

Archer's postgame analysis of Spielman was a replay of the pregame one.

"Spielman is an outstanding talent. He's all around the football," Archer said. "He's aggressive and he'll knock you down. He enjoys the game. It's fun to watch him on the field."

And OSU coach Earle Bruce offered his usual, but deserved, dose of "Luv Ya Spielman" afterward.

"I have never seen a player like Chris Spielman," Bruce noted. "Never in my whole life, in 35 years of coaching, have I ever seen anyone as tenacious as that young man. He not only plays the run, but he plays the pass. He bats them away and does a heck of a job."

Spielman said the overall lack of respect by LSU for Ohio State football really grabbed his attention during the pregame hype.

"I feel we gained a little respect. All I hear is Ohio State this, they're nothing," he said. "You come down here and hear certain remarks like, 'They're a good team but we'll play four or five teams better on the schedule'

However, putting the game in the hands — or foot — of Tom Tupa and the OSU defense is, for Ohio State, going to your strength. And it proved to be the way to play for a win, as the Buckeyes ended up with the last shot at the victory instead of potentially giving the ball to the high-powered LSU offense in excellent field position with almost a minute to play.

**CARLOS SNOW** was noticeably absent from the Buckeyes' game with Louisiana State. After Snow fumbled the first three times he touched the ball this season, it was doubtful Bruce was going to use him in the biggest game of the season to date.

**BSB's** assistant publisher, Karen Wachsmann, was quick to point out to me that Archie Griffin fumbled the first time he carried the ball for Ohio State. And Griffin went on to be a halfway decent running back.

**A FINAL WORD** about the LSU game. That was an outstanding football game played between two outstanding football teams. I'm willing to wager that not one Buckeye or Tiger woke up on Sunday without plenty of aches and pains. It was an action-packed, rock'em-sock'em 60 minutes.

Things should be interesting in Columbus on Sept. 24, 1988.

What NFL strike?

and things like that.

"Come on. They knew they were in for a war and we gave them a war. We should have won the football game but we didn't."

The game was much like that between two bullies living on the same block. And all's fair in, well, war.

"It was a dirty game," Spielman said. "How many holding penalties did we have against us (OSU had four), and LSU had zero. That tells you something. My jersey was ripped completely off and they had zero holding penalties."

"It was a hard-hitting game. It wasn't clean. I'm not going to sit here and lie to you. There were shots going on and guys grabbing and pinching on the pile. If that's the way people want to play, then we'll play that way, too."

That's the way LSU wanted to play from the opening coin toss, Spielman said.

"I go out there (for the coin toss) and try to say 'have a good game' and the guy gives me a shove," Spielman said. "What the heck? You want to play that way, let's throw the teeth out and play."

"They tried to intimidate us, and I guess they thought they were playing Rice or Cal State Fullerton (LSU's previous two opponents). But they're not going to intimidate Ohio State, and I don't know where they get off trying to intimidate us."

Nothing surprised Spielman on the Buckeyes' trip South, except for the 48 pass attempts between LSU quarterbacks Tom Hodson (45 tries) and Mickey Guidry.

"They threw it a ton," he said. "But we shut down their running game completely. We ran to the ball and hit their rear ends. That's about it."

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BULLETIN

Oct 1 1988

Vol 8, no 4

12802

*OSU Pulls 36-33 Win Out Of Fire***Bucks Rise From Ashes To Beat LSU***By Mark Rea*

It was a rags-to-riches story that made Mark Twain's "The Prince and The Pauper" look like a dime store novel.

Trailing Louisiana State 33-20 with less than 4½ minutes left in the game, Carlos Snow softened up the Tigers with a touchdown jab and then Greg Frey and Bobby Olive combined to deliver the knockout punch as Ohio State pulled out an emotion-filled 36-33 victory over the sixth-ranked Tigers.

"One week you're stomping the grapes and the next week you're drinking the wine," said OSU head coach John Cooper after the game. "I don't know if I've ever been around a more exciting finish. I just finished talking to our recruits and told them the next time they came we'd try to play an exciting game for them."

According to Cooper, who swears allegiance to the Columbus Optimists' Club, he still thought the Buckeyes had a chance to win despite being 13 points down with 4:24 to play.

"I thought we were going to come back and I'm not just telling you that," Cooper said. "You know the old saying, 'It ain't over 'til it's over.' We say that all the time."

Anyone would have forgiven Cooper and the Bucks had they given up. LSU quarterback Tommy Hodson had just completed a 55-yard touchdown pass to



Sophomore tailback Carlos Snow (25) had another outstanding afternoon for the Buckeyes, rushing for 90 yards and two touchdowns. Snow, who also returned three kickoffs for 95 more yards, was voted the outstanding offensive back of the game by the OSU coaching staff.

Continued On Page 24

**Workman Out After Signing With Agent***By Mark Rea*

For the last three years, Vince Workman played the game of football at Ohio State. For the past 20 months, Workman also played another game, one which has cost him the remainder of his collegiate eligibility.

One day after testifying on Sept. 20 to a Chicago grand jury investigating the illegal dealings of sports agents with collegiate athletes, Workman was declared ineligible by OSU athletic director Jim Jones.

"Coach (John) Cooper and I met with Vince this morning and he confirmed for us that he had signed with an agent and accepted money from that agent," Jones said. "Therefore, my responsibility on behalf of the university is to declare him ineligible from this point forward."

Workman, one of the Buckeyes' senior co-captains, admitted to

signing with agent David Lueddekke of Sherman Oaks, Calif., in February 1987. He allegedly accepted \$1,000 from Lueddekke at the time of the signing in the Parke University Hotel in Columbus. He later received an additional \$1,000 in several cashier's checks prior to the 1987 football season.

Workman's banishment comes almost exactly one year after OSU declared wide receiver Cris Carter ineligible after Carter signed with an agent. Carter, now with the Philadelphia Eagles of the National Football League, has pleaded guilty to perjury and mail fraud in connection with the grand jury probe.

Workman's cooperation with the U.S. attorney's office in Chicago means he will face no criminal charges.

Lueddekke is currently under indictment by the federal grand

jury along with Carter's agents, Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom of World Entertainment and Sports Inc.

"I'm sorry I've brought this embarrassment on Ohio State University and on my friends and family," Workman said. "Staying in school and getting an education, that's the most important thing for me now."

Jones said the university would attempt to help Workman keep working toward his degree.

"Our main concern now is for Vince Workman," the OSU athletic director said. "We've encouraged him to stay in school. We do not want what has happened to him to keep him from completing his education."

"He is certainly eligible for financial assistance like any other student through the office of student financial aid. I want you to know that we still care very much about Vince and we

will do whatever we can within the framework of the NCAA and the Big Ten rules to help him get through school."

Cooper agreed with Jones.

"I want to make it very, very plain that we are going to do everything we can to help Vince," the first-year head coach said. "We're not going to kick him out, discard him and forget about him. We want to give him every opportunity to go ahead and get his degree at Ohio State University."

"It's an unfortunate situation. I feel very badly for our football program. But I feel even worse for Vince. He's the guy that's going to suffer. We'll go on. Our football program will go on. We'll regroup and have a good season and a good program. But Vince's collegiate career is over."

Continued On Page 6



**OSU Scores 16 Points In Final 4½ Minutes****Bucks Secure Heart-Stopping Victory**

By Mark Rea

In a stadium which has seen its share of last-second victories by opponents in recent years, the Ohio State Buckeyes chalked up one of those heart-stoppers in the win column Sept. 24.

Perhaps spurred on by the Ohio Stadium ghosts of Gomer Jones, Hopalong Cassidy, Rex Kern and Archie Griffin, the Buckeyes scored 16 points in the final 4½ minutes of the game to hand seventh-ranked and previously unbeaten Louisiana State a 36-33 defeat.

Sophomore quarterback Greg Frey, topping off a career day which saw him complete 24 of 37 passes for 281 yards, hooked up with sophomore flanker Bobby Olive with 38 seconds remaining in the game to cap a frenzied fourth-quarter rally.

OSU totaled 374 offensive yards in the ball game, 97 of them coming on the two touchdown drives in the last 4:24. The other two points came when LSU took an intentional safety.

"I don't know if I've ever been around a more exciting finish," said first-year head coach John Cooper, a winner for the second time in three games this season.

"Obviously, it's exciting for us. It's not very exciting to be on the other side of the ball but I think that's a good example of what can happen when you hang tough and hang tough and hang tough like we did.

"We were ready to play," added Cooper, admitting that was something that obviously was lacking in the 42-10 loss to Pittsburgh. "It was a great hitting ball game. I thought our coaches had a good game plan and we played a great football team today. It was a great victory for us — a super, super victory."

While the win was sure to boost the Buckeyes' spirits, not to mention their national ranking, it was a disheartening loss for LSU. It snapped the Tigers' 14-game road winning streak and cost them a chance at an undefeated season.

"This Ohio State team is a lot better than anyone gives them credit for being," LSU head coach Mike Archer said. "My stomach doesn't feel very



LSU quarterback and Heisman Trophy candidate Tommy Hodson (13) got a rough welcome to Columbus by members of the Ohio State defense. Hodson completed just 20 of 40 pass attempts in the 36-33 loss to the Buckeyes and lost for only the fourth time in 26 career starts.

good, but the sun is going to shine tomorrow. Most of the credit goes to Ohio State. We needed to play a 60-minute game and came up 38 seconds short."

The Buckeyes came into the game with plenty of fire, urging the stadium's second largest crowd ever of 90,584 people to get on their feet and remain there.

OSU won the opening coin toss and deferred its selection until the second half. LSU opted to receive the opening kickoff and the Buckeye defense got its

first up-close look at a bona fide Heisman Trophy candidate in the Tigers' junior quarterback Tommy Hodson.

Hodson showed his skills briefly in LSU's first possession, completing one of two pass attempts. But the Tigers stalled near midfield and punted the ball away. However, Olive — fielding his first punt since senior Vince Workman was ruled ineligible — dropped the kick. LSU backup cornerback Tom Fabacher pounced on the fumble and the Tigers were set up with first down at the Ohio 16-yard line.

Faced with its first real test of the day, the Buckeye defense responded by holding the potent Tiger offense out of the end zone. LSU had to settle for a 36-yard field goal from junior David Brownkyke for a 3-0 lead.

Frey and the Ohio State offense got its first possession and probed different things at the LSU defense for 13 plays before stalling. The teams traded punts and then the Buckeye offense went to work again.

Starting at their own 33-yard line, the Buckeyes got rolling slowly. But the drive gathered speed on sophomore strength. Frey hit sophomore tight end Jeff Ellis for an 11-yard pass and, two plays later, hit him again for a 16-yard gain. Then, Frey faked right, moved left and passed to freshman fullback Scotty Graham in the flat for 13 more yards.

The sophomores went back to work when Frey hit Olive crossing over the middle for a 19-yard shot to the one. Then tailback Carlos Snow, another soph, took a pitch and sprinted into the left corner of the end zone. Junior place-kicker Pat O'Morrow connected on the extra point and OSU took a 7-3

lead just 17 seconds into the second quarter.

The Ohio State defense again rose to the occasion, preventing LSU's offense from answering the score. On third-and-four, Hodson misfired on a pass and the Tigers were forced to punt again.

This time, OSU sophomore defensive back Vinnie Clark blew through the LSU line untouched and blocked Rene Bourgeois' punt. The loose ball took a Sunday bounce right into the hands of senior linebacker Michael McCray who completed the 23-yard play by hitting pay dirt. O'Morrow hit the PAT again, giving the Buckeyes a 14-3 advantage over the stunned Tigers.

They weren't stunned long, though. Freshman Vincent Fuller took the ensuing kickoff and returned it 59 yards to the OSU 31-yard line. Blessed with the excellent field position, Hodson took only two plays to find junior wide receiver Tony Moss for a 30-yard touchdown strike. After Brownkyke's extra point, Ohio State's lead was cut to three.

The Buckeyes tried to get some more points before halftime but were stopped at the LSU 14 when Frey's pass to fullback Bill Matlock hit linebacker Ron Sancho in the head and bounced to teammate Greg Jackson.

Then, with 3:18 left in the half, Hodson got the Tigers rolling again. He moved the team 77 yards in 13 plays, a drive that was topped off by Brownkyke's second field goal of the game, this one a 27-yarder. That cut OSU's lead to 14-13 at halftime.

On their first possession of the second half, the Buckeyes continued to move the ball against Louisiana State.

**This Week In OSU History**

**9-25-48** — Richard Braznell of Missouri returns a punt 80 yards for a touchdown against Ohio State. It was the fourth-longest punt return for a touchdown ever by an OSU opponent. However, Braznell was the only offense the Tigers could muster as the Buckeyes posted a 21-7 win.

**9-24-49** — Ohio State defeated Missouri 35-34 in one of the most exciting openers in history. The margin of victory resulted when the Tigers missed one of their points after touchdown. Jimmy Hague was perfect on all five of his PATs for the Buckeyes.

**9-29-51** — Wayne Woodrow "Woody" Hayes makes his debut as Ohio State head football coach against Southern Methodist. The Buckeyes' offense manages only one touchdown in the game, a scoring pass from Tony Curcillo to Bob Joslin. But the Buck defense plays superbly, shutting out the Mustangs and giving Hayes a 7-0 victory in his first game.

**9-24-55** — Nebraska's Johnny Edwards lumbers 87 yards with an

intercepted lateral to score a touchdown for the Cornhuskers. The play was the second-longest interception return ever recorded by an OSU opponent. Ohio State eventually pulled out a 28-20 victory in a thriller with Nebraska.

**9-28-57** — Jimmy Shofner of Texas Christian stuns Ohio State by returning a punt 90 yards for a touchdown. It was the second-longest punt return by an OSU opponent and helped the Horned Frogs upset the Buckeyes 18-14.

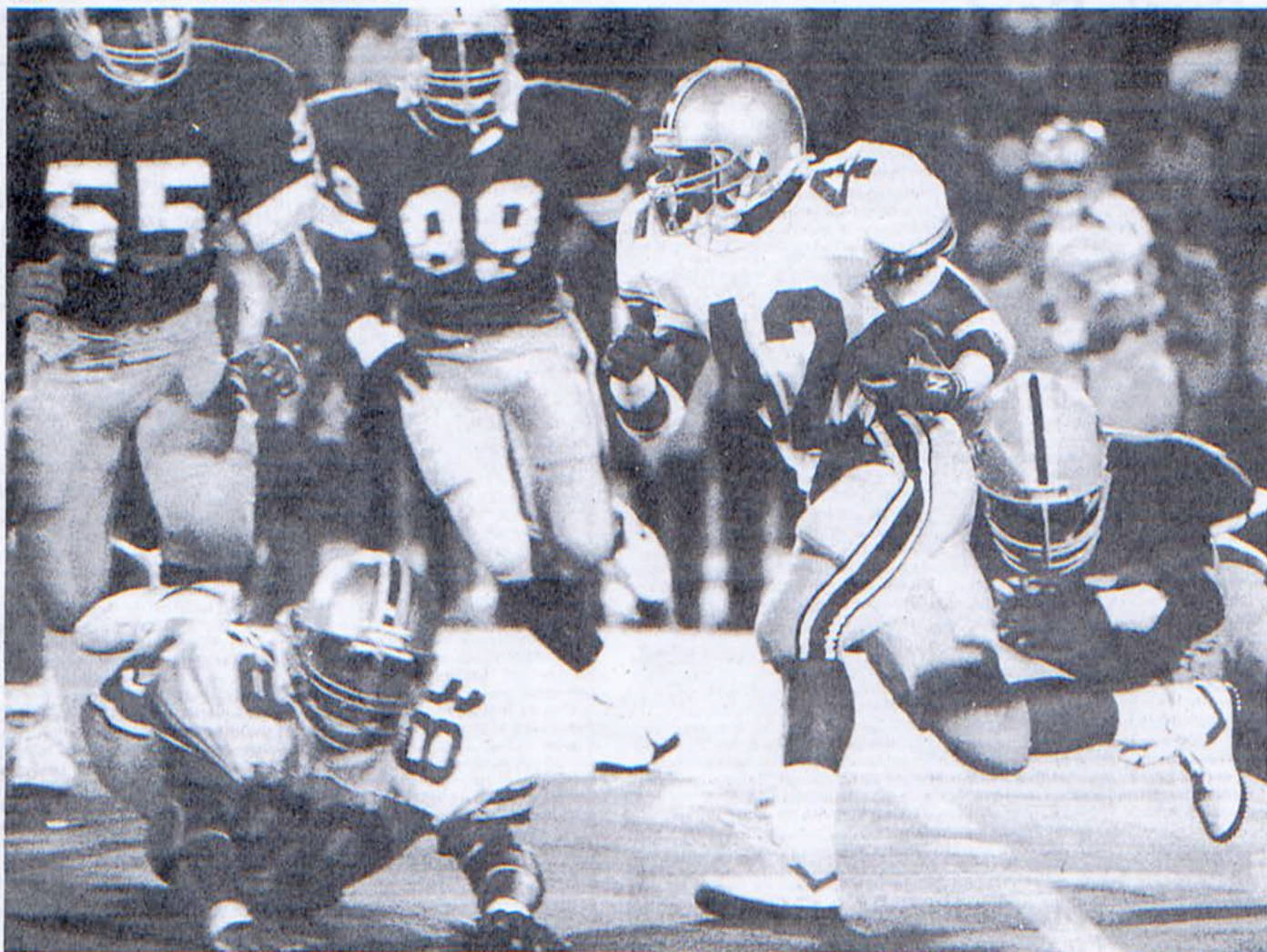
**9-27-69** — Ohio State opens the 1969 season with a 63-0 whipping of Texas Christian. In the game, played in Columbus, the Buckeyes' offense is so potent it participates in 101 plays, the most ever recorded by an OSU offense.

**9-27-86** — Ohio State administers a 64-6 pounding to Utah. In the game, the Buckeyes roll for 715 yards in total offense, the biggest offensive output ever by an OSU team.

**BUCKEYE BIRTHDAYS** — Former punter Tom Orosz is 29.

Continued On Page 9





This was one of the final times Ohio State senior tailback and co-captain Vince Workman (42) carried the ball for the Buckeyes. Workman was declared ineligible at a Sept. 21 press conference for signing a representation contract with a

sports agent shortly after his sophomore year. The signing was in violation of NCAA regulations and Ohio State officials had no choice but to drop Workman from the active roster and take away his remaining college eligibility.

## Workman

Continued From Page 1

Workman not only loses his final year of college eligibility. In accordance with NCAA guidelines, he loses all financial aid including room, board, books and tuition. That scholarship alone is reportedly worth more than \$6,300 per year.

In addition, Workman will be out of uniform as professional scouts begin looking for potential draftees. That could cost Workman a lot more money.

"We had a player at Arizona State — David Fulcher, now with the Cincinnati Bengals — who signed with an agent as an underclassman and lost his eligibility," Cooper said. "David went to the pros as a third-round draft choice. He has started every ball game since he's been with the Bengals. He should have been a first-round draft choice. Signing with that agent cost this kid a half a million dollars."

"For \$2,000, Vince gave up his last year of eligibility, his scholarship and maybe a chance to go on and play in the National Football League. That's a big price to pay for that small of an amount."



Former Ohio State tailback Vince Workman patiently answers questions at a press conference concerning his involvement with a sports agent. Workman lost the remainder of his college eligibility because of that involvement. Also pictured behind Workman is OSU athletic director Jim Jones.



*Olive Catches Game-Winning Pass***Early Goat Becomes Ohio State Hero**

By Mark Rea

Bobby Olive knows how the pendulum can swing in a football game.

Just a few short hours after wearing the goat horns for dropping a punt, the sophomore from Atlanta, Ga., who earned a spot on the roster as a walk-on last year, donned the hero's crown by catching the winning touchdown pass in Ohio State's 36-33 upset of seventh-rated Louisiana State.

"After the first punt, my confidence was really down," admitted the winner of the *Big Bear Buckeye of the Week* award. "But everybody was telling me to keep my head up and I might get another chance. I was real glad that I got that other chance. I would have hated to have lost the game knowing that I fumbled that punt."

The fumble came on the eighth play of the game. With 11:56 left in the first quarter, the Buckeyes' defense held LSU on its first possession and Tiger punter Rene Bourgeois kicked the ball to Olive at the OSU 16.

Olive fielded the ball and took one step toward LSU defender Mike Hebert before dropping it. The ball was scooped up by the Tigers' Tom Fabacher and set up LSU's first score, a 36-yard field goal from David Brownlyke.

Ohio State head coach John Cooper said he wasn't particularly surprised at the turnover.

"I told you all week that punt returns were going to be a problem for us this week," he said. "When we lost Vince Workman, we were left without a player who had ever fielded punts before in a college football game."

Workman, the Buckeyes' top punt returner this year, had been ruled ineligible earlier in the week for violating NCAA rules by signing with a sports agent.

Despite the fact it was his first time on the punt return team, Olive was dejected after the fumble.

"My confidence was really down. I just kept wondering how I could have dropped that ball," Olive said after the game. "I was pretty shaken up. Knowing I fumbled the punt and put us deep in our own territory was a blow. I just wanted to get back in the flow of the game as soon as possible."

"It helped me when Coach Cooper and (quarterback) Greg (Frey) came over to me and told me to keep my head up and not to worry about the dropped punt. That really helped me to put it out of my mind the next time. The next kick, I just forgot about the dropped punt and kept my mind on the flow of the game."

Olive successfully rebounded to catch three key passes and return a crucial kickoff.



Ohio State sophomore flanker Bobby Olive (8) went from goat to hero in the Buckeyes' 36-33 win over LSU. Olive dropped a punt in the first quarter of the game to set up the Tigers' first score, but came back with just 38 seconds left in the game to catch the winning touchdown pass.

He caught a 19-yard pass from Frey early in the second quarter, setting up the Buckeyes' first touchdown of the game. But he saved his best performance for the fourth quarter.

After LSU had taken a 33-20 lead with less than 4½ minutes left in the game, Olive participated in another Buckeye touchdown drive, crossing over the middle for a 12-yard reception. Five plays later, Carlos Snow went over the middle for a five-yard touchdown to make the score 33-27.

The Bucks held LSU's offense on the next possession and, after the Tigers took an intentional safety, Olive was called upon to return the free kick. He responded beautifully by taking the ball on his own 32-yard line and returning it 30 yards to the LSU 38.

Olive said the coaches simply told him to take the ball as far downfield as he could.

"I remember (fellow sophomore) Jeff

Graham threw a real good block for me and I was able to get a pretty good run out of it," Olive said. "But I didn't want to run too much time off the clock. The coaches told me if I couldn't get any more yards, just run out of bounds down in there and stop the clock."

"I was just following the blocks of the two-deep group and, as I said, Jeff gave me a real good block and I just followed him for a real good gain."

Olive's return set up the Buckeyes 38 yards away from the end zone with just 1:24 remaining. Frey threw to Graham for 15 yards and then, two plays later, found Olive streaking across the middle of the end zone.

Olive explained the play as a simple post pattern which the Buckeyes used in the second quarter on his 19-yard gainer.

"When I split out, there was a safety and a cornerback there standing beside each other," Olive said. "The free safety rolled up and that allowed me to be one-on-one with the corner. It surprised me that they were covering me one-on-one knowing the time that was on the clock."

"But I knew it was going to be coming to me. When I made my post move, I looked up and saw the ball coming. I said to myself that I had to catch it because I really wanted to make up for that dropped punt."

Getting the call with the game on the line was something which pleased Olive.

"All along, I've known that Coach (Jim) Colletto (the Buckeyes' offensive coordinator) had a lot of faith in me," Olive said. "I didn't want to let him down. I was thankful I was able to go

out and make a pretty good catch."

Olive remembered a play in a similar situation while at Frederick Douglass High School in Atlanta, but admitted the magnitude of the game-winning catch paled in comparison to the reception against LSU.

"I had something similar to this in high school," he said, "but nothing is like catching the winning touchdown in front of 90,000 people at Ohio State on national TV to upset a Top Ten team."

For the 6-1, 154-pound Atlanta native, to catch the game-winner against a southern school was especially gratifying.

"I don't want to say that I was boasting or pointing the finger any, but I think I proved to southern schools that I can play," Olive said. "LSU is a southern school and not that many southern schools recruited me. I just wanted to show them what I could do, especially against southern schools."

Although he caught the winning pass, Olive was quick to divert much of the praise to the rest of the team.

"I was just fortunate to be in the right place at the right time," he said. "We were able to move the ball all day. We have a lot of faith in our offense and we also have a lot of faith in our defense. The first thing we thought as an offense near the end of the game was to score and give the defense an opportunity to get the ball back for us."

"We did our job and they did their job. Really it was just a team effort all day. That's what you have to do to win. Last week against Pittsburgh, we lost as a team. Today against LSU, we won the same way — as a team."

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# Ohio State's Late Surge Shocks Bengals

Continued From Page 4

Moving to the LSU eight-yard line, Frey rolled left and looked for a receiver in the end zone but Sancho got to him first, registering a sack. That third-down play forced OSU to settle for a field goal attempt. O'Morrow connected on the 35-yarder.

Then Hodson took over. After getting the ball back, the LSU quarterback hooked up with several of his sticky-fingered receivers to move the ball quickly. Hodson found Moss for a 37-yard gain on the drive's first play and later got one to tailback Eddie Fuller, who made a spectacular leaping catch for a 28-yard gain to the OSU three. Fuller took care of the rest of the drive with a three-yard plunge and put the Bayou Bengals in the lead.

OSU's offense sputtered throughout the rest of the third quarter against LSU's defense. As it was sputtering, LSU was continuing to score points. Brownly hit a 35-yard field goal near the end of the third period to give LSU a 23-17 lead.

O'Morrow matched that with a 41-yarder early in the fourth quarter, his seventh straight of the season, to get the Buckeyes back within three points of the Tigers. But Hodson went back to work, engineering two fourth-quarter drives — the first covering 42 yards in 4½ minutes and the second moving 75 yards in just 2½ minutes.

The last touchdown was almost a backbreaker for the Buckeyes. Hodson rolled right and passed for Moss who tipped the ball into the waiting arms of teammate Alvin Lee. Lee took the deflected ball and easily finished off the 55-yard pass play, giving LSU a 33-20 lead with 4:29 remaining in the game.

While many of 90,000-plus fans started to head for the exits, Cooper was busily making plans for the Buckeyes' comeback. When someone suggested everyone else wrote off the Bucks at that point, Cooper shot back, "Everybody else ain't playing. Don't



The Ohio State defense, led by the likes of sophomore linebacker John Kacherski (95), did an excellent job against LSU's potent offense. The Tigers piled up more than 400 yards in total offense during the game, but the OSU defense held when it had to in the upset victory.

hit me with that. It ain't over 'til it's over. We aren't going to quit. I really thought we could come back and I'm not just saying that."

Cooper apparently convinced his quarterback of the same thing.

In all, Frey went to the air eight times in the 10-play drive. But it was Snow who topped off the possession, plowing straight ahead five yards for the score.

Then came a gutsy call on Cooper's part. He crossed up nearly everyone in the stadium by instructed O'Morrow to send the kickoff deep instead of attempting an onside kick.

The first-year OSU coach simply explained, "My feeling was if we try an onside kick and don't get it, the ball game is over. We had a chance to take two timeouts and stop the clock and then get the ball back in good field position again. I really felt our defense could stop them in that situation."

Stop them it did as LSU had a net minus-two yards on two rushing plays. Then, on third-and-12, Hodson threw an incompletion to set up one last possession for the Buckeyes. But, rather than punt from deep in LSU territory, Archer instructed Bourgeois to take a delay of game penalty and then step out of the end zone for an intentional safety.

That gave the Tigers a shot at a free kick at the 20-yard line. Olive fielded the kick and turned it upfield for a 30-yard return to the LSU 38.

At the 1:24 mark, Frey passed to Jeff Graham on the left sideline for 15 yards and then found Snow over the middle for three yards, putting the ball at the LSU 20.

On second down, working out of the shotgun formation without benefit of a huddle, Frey tried to force another throw down the middle to Ellis but it was broken up by two Tiger defenders.

On the next play, Frey called Olive's number in the huddle for the same play that gained 19 yards in the second quarter and set up the Buckeyes' first TD. This time, it worked even better as the sophomore from Atlanta, Ga., stretched wide out to gather in the touchdown pass about one yard deep in the end zone.

"I thought I was dreaming," Olive said. "Then, when everyone was jumping on my back, I knew we had won the game."



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## GO BUCKS • GO BUCKS • GO BUCKS



*Soph Sets Up OSU's Second Touchdown***Bucks Given Charge By Clark's Block**

By Mike Miller

Sophomore cornerback Vinnie Clark had a big "hand" in the 36-33 Ohio State victory over sixth-ranked LSU.

Clark, a graduate of the Cincinnati Academy of Physical Education, blocked a punt attempt by LSU punter Rene Bourgeois and teammate Michael McCray picked up the loose ball and returned it for a touchdown to give the Buckeyes a 14-3 lead early in the second quarter.

"Coach told me to go through the right side of the tackle. I got below the block and broke right through there," Clark said of his punt block. "I was hoping he was going to kick it just as I got there. It was just something that happened, and it helped us to win."

Clark said it was only the third kick he has ever blocked. He noted that he blocked an extra point kick attempt by Chagrin Falls Kenston in a state playoff game in 1986. CAPE won that game 7-6 and went on to win the state championship. Clark said his only punt block came during his junior year at CAPE.

Clark said he was pleased with the play of the Buckeye defensive unit in the first half in holding LSU to just 13 points and late in the game in clutch situations.

"We had a few good defensive stands. We played together well. We played hard. We really hit them," said Clark, who broke up three passes and was credited with three tackles. "We hit a lot harder this week."

Clark said the Buckeyes missed a few tackles against LSU, but the misses essentially were caused by over-aggressiveness.

"I was just so excited. We were playing on national television (ABC). I was just happy to hit those guys," Clark said.

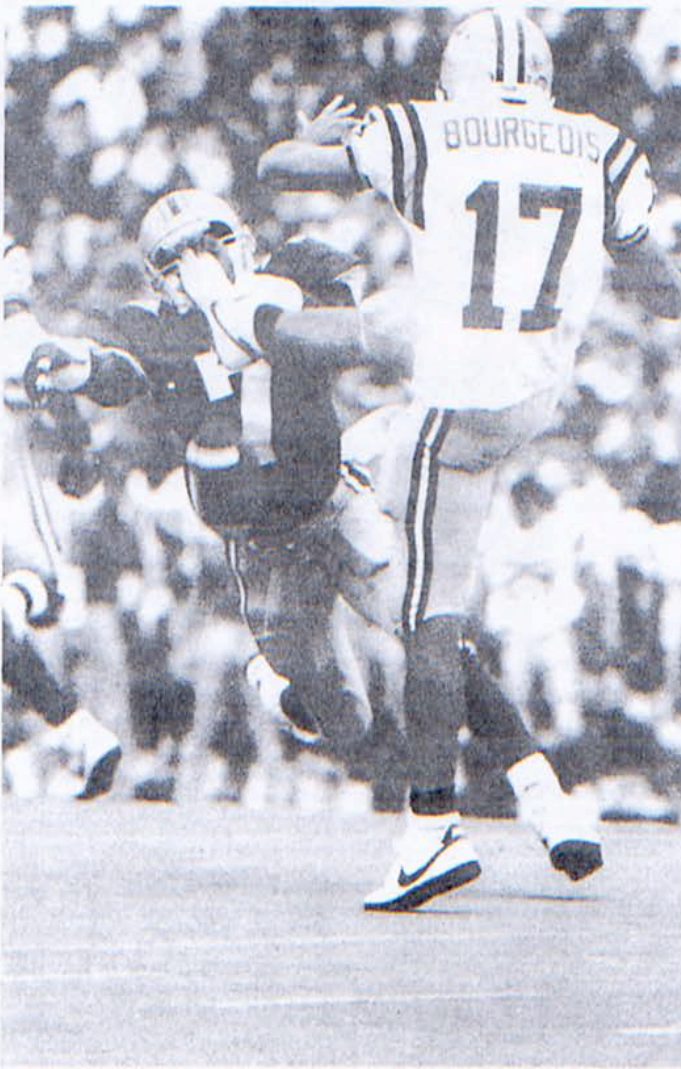
Ironically, Clark said he unloaded his best hit of the game on LSU junior wide receiver Tony Moss late in the third quarter.

Unfortunately for Clark and the Buckeyes, the ball popped out of Moss' hands and landed in the hands of Tiger wide receiver Alvin Lee, who was wide open about 10 yards downfield. Lee dashed down the sidelines for a 55-yard touchdown, which gave the Tigers a 33-20 lead with only 4:29 remaining.

Sophomore Greg Frey brought the Buckeyes right back. Frey engineered a 10-play, 59-yard drive in a little more than two minutes to move OSU within six points, 33-27, with 1:56 left. Sophomore tailback Carlos Snow, a teammate of Clark at CAPE, capped the drive with a five-yard run.

Snow started in place of senior Vince Workman, who was dismissed from the team earlier in the week because he admitted to accepting money from an agent after his sophomore season.

After finding out that Workman had



**Smothering the punt of LSU's Rene Bourgeois is Ohio State defensive back Vinnie Clark (7). Clark got his first chance to play extensively and he didn't disappoint the Scarlet and Gray faithful, playing an excellent defensive game while blocking this punt to set up OSU's second touchdown of the day.**

been kicked off the team, Clark gave Snow a few words of encouragement.

"I told him 'just play hard, man, and think about when we were in high school and do it the way you did it in high school and it'll click for you,'" Clark recalled. "He showed us something today. I'm real proud of Carlos."

Clark said the absence of Workman

proved to have a positive impact on the team.

"We dedicated the game to Vince," Clark noted. "Vince came to practice a couple of times to talk to us. We were shocked (about Workman's dismissal from the team). We knew we just had to do it. Coach Cooper told us it would be a big letdown for the team, and we've got to come together as a team to help

Vince out and to win the ball game. Running into LSU, we knew not having Vince could hurt us."

Clark said he thought the Buckeyes' team leaders really came through after Workman's dismissal.

"I think our captains and our seniors brought us more together," Clark said. "And Vince told us not to think about what he had done. It brought us more together."

"I thought we did everything right during the week. We had good practices all during the week," Clark said. "We were real psyched up, because of the thing with Vince and the fact that we lost last week. I'm sure the people all around us — the press and everybody else — thought we were going to be down because we lost Vince and because of the loss last week. Coach Cooper brought us all together."

"Last week (against Pittsburgh) was just something that happened. We relaxed too much. I think that loss last week helped us against LSU, because we played good."

LSU quarterback Tommy Hodson, a preseason Heisman Trophy candidate, had his good moments in Saturday's contest, but the Buckeye defense stopped Hodson in the crucial situations late in the game. The most important play of the waning moments may have been an incomplete pass thrown by Hodson on third-and-12 deep in Tiger territory. Hodson's incompletion forced LSU to punt from the end zone. LSU punter Bourgeois took the snap from center and ran the ball out of the end zone for a safety with 1:30 remaining.

On the free kick, Bourgeois punted the ball to Bobby Olive, who returned it 30 yards to the LSU 38-yard line — setting up the game-winning touchdown pass from Greg Frey to Olive.

Clark said he was not surprised that Hodson threw the ball on the third-and-12 play, even though Ohio State had used up all its timeouts. A running play would have kept the clock running, and LSU may have been able to punt from a little better field position. Hodson's incompletion stopped the clock and saved some valuable time for the Buckeyes.

"I was just hoping he was going to throw the ball. I was hoping he would be throwing because I wanted to get an interception," Clark said. "He's been throwing good all year. He's one of the best quarterbacks I've ever seen in my life. I might see some better ones, but he's the best I've ever seen."

"He has such a quick release. He telegraphs where he's going to throw it, but he gets it there so quick that the receiver already has it when the defender gets there. I felt he threw a couple that I thought I could have intercepted, but it got there so quick that I just had to make the tackle."

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***Co-Captain Returns Blocked Punt For TD*****McCray In Right Place At Right Time***By Mike Miller*

Sometimes it is better to be lucky than good. Just ask Ohio State outside linebacker Michael McCray.

McCray, a 6-3 senior from Dayton, just happened to be in the right place at the right time to help the Buckeye defense pull off a big play in Saturday's 36-33 victory over highly-ranked LSU at Ohio Stadium.

After Vinnie Clark blocked a punt attempt by LSU's Rene Bourgeois, the ball bounced right into the hands of McCray, who returned it 23 yards for a touchdown. The play gave the Buckeyes a 14-3 lead with 12:46 left in the first half. Those six points proved to be crucial late in the game.

"I saw Vinnie out of the corner of my eye block it," McCray recalled. "We work on blocking punts every day in practice."

When he saw the ball bouncing around, McCray said he had visions of a touchdown dancing in his head.

McCray's touchdown kept Ohio State in the lead until early in the third quarter. LSU went on a 30-6 scoring spree after the block.

McCray, who had five steps to bring his season total to 19, fourth on the club, said his teammates showed a lot of heart in coming from behind in the final 4½ minutes of the game.

"We took a gut-check, and I think the seniors and everybody else came together as a team. We played together good as a team," McCray said.

After LSU went ahead 33-20, McCray said, "Our defense got



Ohio State senior linebacker Michael McCray (99) holds the football aloft and receives an escort from his teammates after running for a touchdown with a blocked punt against LSU. McCray's run, after teammate Vinnie Clark blocked the kick, helped the Buckeyes in their thrilling 36-33 victory over the Tigers.

together and we said we need to hold LSU to three plays and out and give our offense another chance to score."

After the offense scored on a five-yard run by sophomore tailback Carlos Snow, the Buckeye defense responded

by knocking the potent LSU offense backward. With the help of Jim Peel's tackle of Tiger quarterback Tommy Hodson three yards behind the line of scrimmage and a delay of game penalty, the Tigers were forced to punt

from their own end zone. Bourgeois took the snap from center and ran the ball out of the end zone for a safety to put the Buckeyes within four points, 33-29.

It took Ohio State less than a minute to score again. A touchdown pass from Greg Frey to Bobby Olive with 38 seconds left gave OSU the victory.

McCray said the defense struggled the whole game to get to Hodson, who has not been sacked this season.

"It really frustrated us because he'd get back there (in the pocket) in five steps. It's really hard to get to him," McCray said. "By the time we got back there, he'd already gotten rid of the ball."

McCray said he felt the defensive unit performed well late in the game because head coach John Cooper decided not to overwork the team in practice during the week.

"We got a little rest this week because Coach Cooper didn't run us as much. We got our legs back," McCray said. "I thought we played with a little more enthusiasm than we did last week."

McCray said the 42-10 loss to Pittsburgh may have sucked all the overconfidence out of the Buckeyes' system. He doesn't think the LSU victory will make the players overconfident the way the Syracuse victory did.

"I just hope we didn't get cocky like we did last week," McCray said. "I just hope we come back together and stick together and work hard. I think this will make us feel like we can win."

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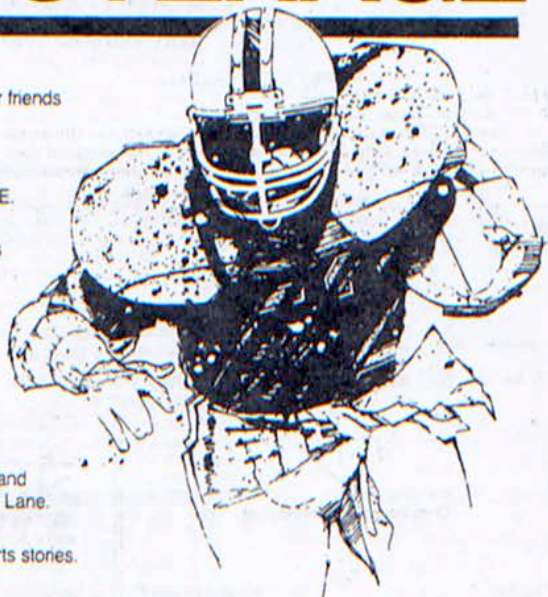
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## The Numbers Game

## Buckeyes 36, Tigers 33

LSU	3	10	10	10	33
OHIO STATE	0	14	3	19	36

LSU — Brownnyke, 36 field goal 10:21  
 OSU — Snow, 1 run (O'Morrow kick) 14:43  
 OSU — McCray, 23 blocked punt return (O'Morrow kick) 12:46  
 LSU — Moss, 30 pass from Hodson (Brownnyke kick) 11:47  
 LSU — Brownnyke, 27 field goal 0:00  
 OSU — O'Morrow, 35 field goal 11:30  
 LSU — E. Fuller 4 run (Brownnyke kick) 9:42  
 LSU — Brownnyke, 35 field goal 2:10  
 OSU — O'Morrow, 41 field goal 13:26  
 LSU — Brownnyke, 20 field goal 8:43  
 LSU — Lee, 55 pass from Hodson (Brownnyke kick) 4:29  
 OSU — Snow, 5 run (O'Morrow kick) 1:56  
 LSU — Safety, Bourgeois ran out of end zone 1:34  
 OSU — Olive, 20 pass from Frey (O'Morrow kick) 0:38  
 Att. — 90,584

	LSU	OSU
First Downs	21	20
Rushing	7	4
Passing	13	16
Penalty	1	0
Rushes-Yards	35-120	35-93
Passing Yards	299	281
Passes	40-20-0	37-24-1
Offensive Plays	75	72
Total Net Yards	419	374
Third Down Eff.	7-17	9-15
Punts	4-28.8	4-37.5
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	1-1
Penalties	7-65	8-65
Time Of Possession	28:20	31:40

## Individual Statistics

RUSHING (Att.-Net Yds.) — LSU: E.Fuller 20-87; Jones 4-17; D.Williams 1-9; Hodson 4-6; Moeck 1-5; Egloff 1-5; Watkins 3-4; Team 1-4(3). OSU: Snow 21-90; S.Graham 5-12; Matlock 2-7; Frey 7-16.

PASSING (Att.-Comp.-Int.-Yds.-TD) — LSU: Hodson 40-20-0-299-2. OSU: Frey 37-24-1-281-1.

RECEIVING (Rec.-Yds.) — LSU: Moss 6-117; Lee 6-108; E.Fuller 4-48; Haliburton 3-19; Jones 1-7. OSU: Snow 5-41; Ellis 5-46; J.Graham 4-68; S.Graham 4-43; Olive 3-61; Edwards 2-23; Matlock 1-9.

PUNTING (No.-Ave.-Lg.) — LSU: Bourgeois 3-38.3-43; Team 1-0-0-0. OSU: Bohlman 4-37.5-51.

PUNT RETURNS (No.-Ave.-Lg.) — LSU: None. OSU: Olive 2-20-4; Clark 1-19-0-19; McCray 0-0-0-23.

KICKOFF RETURNS (No.-Ave.-Lg.) — LSU: Watkins 4-28-0-42; V.Fuller 1-59-0-59; D.Williams 1-15-0-15. OSU: Snow 3-31.7-50; Hicks 1-13-0-13; Lickovitch 1-11-0-11; Koch 1-0-0-0.

DEFENSIVE FUMBLES RECOVERED BY — LSU: Fabacher. OSU: None.

INTERCEPTIONS — LSU: Jackson. OSU: None.

TACKLES FOR LOSS — LSU: Sancho (2½), Ausberry, Phillips, James, Team, Hill (½). OSU: Team (2), Peel.

TACKLES (Solo-Ass.-Tot.) — LSU: Harmon 8-7-15; Ausberry 5-9-14; Sancho 5-6-11; Hill 4-7-11; Young 4-5-9; Phillips 1-5-6; Bice 2-3-5; James 2-3-5; Mayes 1-3-4; Raymond 0-3-3; Dunbar 1-2-3; Jackson 2-0-2; Egloff 2-0-2; Team 1-0-1; Brownnyke 1-0-1; V.Fuller 1-0-1; Brown 1-0-1; Hebert 0-1-1; O'Neill 0-1-1; Rush 0-1-1. OSU: D.Smith 3-6-9; Gurd 6-3-9; Showalter 2-7-9; Peel 3-5-8; J.Sullivan 2-5-7; M.Sullivan 2-4-6; MacCready 1-5-6; Dumas 2-3-5; McCray 2-3-5; Clark 3-0-3; D.Brown 2-1-3; Herman 1-1-2; Benio 2-0-2; Kacherski 1-1-2; Team 1-0-1; O'Morrow 1-0-1; Rogan 0-1-1.

## Players In The Game

LSU — Sancho, Hebert, Dunbar, Norris, Ausberry, Middleton, Bowman, Phillips, Robinson, Harmon, Brown, James, Boutee, Hill, Young, V.Fuller, Giron, Bice, Raymond, Jackson, Houston, Mayes, Childers, Fabacher, Bourgeois, Lee, Tolbert, Rush, Norwood, Martin, Rodrigue, Coutee, O'Neill, Hubicz, Packnett, Hutchinson, Haliburton, W.Williams, Moss, W.Williams, Hodson, Moeck, E.Fuller, Watkins, Egloff, Jones, Brownnyke.

OSU — Kuri, Staysniak, Davidson, Uhlenhake, Tom Moore, Zackeroff, Moxley, Ellis, Palmer, Lickovitch, Huffman, Edwards, Olive, Koch, Hicks, Frey, Powell, Snow, S.Graham, Matlock, Siegenthaler, J.Graham, O'Morrow, Zizakovic, Kacherski, Showalter, Coleman, M.Sullivan, Thomas, MacCready, Frimel, McCray, Rogan, Gurd, Herman, J.Sullivan, Benio, Keenan, Smith, Clark, Brown, Peel, Rutledge, Warner, Dumas, Price, Bohlman.

## Season Statistics

1988 OHIO STATE FOOTBALL STATISTICS

1988 OHIO STATE FOOTBALL STATISTICS	W	L	T	OT	W	L	T	OT
WON 2, LOST 1, -BIG TEN WON 0, LOST 0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

SCORE BY QUARTER	1	2	3	4	TOTAL
Opponents	20	27	10	27	84
Ohio State	3	31	9	29	72

RUSHING	ATT	GAIN	LOST	NET	AVG	TD	LG
Snow	38	176	3	173	4.6	3	26
Matlock	20	90	0	90	4.5	0	13
Workman	16	63	2	61	3.8	0	15
S.Graham	10	29	0	29	2.9	0	6
Bryant	4	18	0	18	4.5	0	7
Spencer	4	15	0	15	3.8	0	6
Wagoner	1	5	0	5	5.0	0	5
Hicks	1	1	0	1	1.0	0	1
Frey	16	11	54	-43	-	0	4

PASSING	ATT	COMP	INT	YDS	PCT	TD	LG	SA	SY
Frey	83	45	2	564	.542	2	36	7	47
Wagoner	1	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0

RECEIVING	NO	YARDS	AVG	TD	LG
Ellis	11	99	9.0	1	16
Olive	9	157	17.4	1	35
J.Graham	5	78	15.6	0	26
S.Graham	5	61	12.2	0	18
Snow	5	41	8.2	0	26
Siegenthaler	3	71	23.7	0	36
Edwards	3	32	10.7	0	12
Matlock	1	9	9.0	0	9
Koch	1	7	7.0	0	7
Palmer	1	6	6.0	0	6
Workman	1	3	3.0	0	3

SCORING	TD	R-P-O	EPA-K	RPO	KPO	AT-FC	PTS
O'Morrow	0	0-0-0	7-7	0-0	0-0	7-7	28
Snow	4	3-0-1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	24
Ellis	1	0-0-1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	6
McCray	1	0-0-1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	6
Olive	1	0-0-1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	6
"Team" (Safety)	2						2

PUNTING	NO	YARDS	AVG	NET/AVG	TD	120	RE	LG
Bohlman	14	540	38.6	470/33.6	2	4	0	53

PUNT RETURNS	NO	FC	YDS	AVG	TD	LG
Workman	2	1	9	4.5	0	12
Olive	2	1	4	2.0	0	4
Clark	1	0	19	19.0	0	19
McCray	0	0	23	-	1	23

Average Per Return	8.8	11.0	Snow	4	3--0-1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	24	
KICKOFF RETURNS-YC	13-1	19-0	Hillis	1	0-1-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	6	
Yards-TD	289-0	527-1	McGray	1	0-0-1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	6	
Average Per Return	22.2	27.7	Olive	1	0-1-1-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	6	
INTERCEPTIONS	2	2	*Team* (Safety)								2

FIELD GOALS	(7-7), 1,000	1988 OHIO STATE RESULTS (2-1, 0-0)
O'Morrow (7-7, 1,000)	27+, 33+, 41+, 30+, 26+, 30+, 26+	H-OSU 26, Syracuse 9 89,768
		A-OSU 10, Pittsburgh 42 56,500
		H-OSU 36, Louisiana State 33 90,584

FG DISTANCE	0-29	30-39	40-49	50+ TOTAL
O'Morrow	2-2	3-3	2-2	0-0 7-7

KICKOFF RETURNS	NO	FC	YDS	AVG	TD	LG
Snow	9	0	332	36.9	1	100
Hicks	5	0	118	23.6	0	35
Olive	2	0	43	21.5	0	30
Workman	1	0	23	23.0	0	23
Palmer	1	0	11	11.0	0	11
Koch	1	0	0	0.0	0	0

PASS INTERCEPTIONS	NO	YARDS	AVG	TD	LG
McCray	1	7	7.0	0	7
D Brown	1	2	2.0	0	2

EXTRA POINT SUMMARY	OFFENSE	DEFENSE
(Att.-Made)	RUN PASS INT KICK	
none		

PASSES BROKEN UP	(9)
3-Clark, 2-Gurd, 1-D Brown, Benio, Dumas, McCray	

FUMBLES CAUSED	(1)
1-Dumas	

FUMBLES RECOVERED [OFFENSIVE]	(3)
1-Frey, Matlock, Zackeroff	

OSU FUMBLES - NUMBER/LOST	(6/3)
Frey (2/0), Workman (1/1), Snow (1/1), Olive (1/1), Matlock (1/0)	

BLOCKED KICKS	(1)
1-Clark (Punt)	

TOUCHDOWN SAVES	(2)
1-Huffman, O'Morrow	



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# Gutsy Kickoff Call Helps OSU To Victory

Continued From Page 1

split end Alvin Lee who picked off a tip from teammate Tony Moss. That made the score 33-20 with 4:24 remaining.

But OSU got things back together when sophomore quarterback Greg Frey engineered a drive which covered 59 yards and 10 plays but only took 2:28 off the clock. The first nine plays of the drive were passes, but Snow's number was called on the 10th play and he plowed into the end zone from five yards out to close Ohio State's deficit to six points at 33-27.

On the ensuing kickoff, Cooper crossed everyone up by instructing place-kicker Pat O'Morrow to boot the ball deep. The junior kicker responded

by kicking the ball just inside the goal-line flag for a touchback.

The choice to kick it deep was the turning point in the game.

"We talked about it," Cooper said. "We had two timeouts left. Had we only had one timeout left, obviously we would have had to try an onside kick."

"My feeling was if we try an onside kick and don't get it, the ball game is over. So let's kick the ball deep. I didn't think they were going to throw the football and we had a chance to take two timeouts, stop the clock and then get the ball in good field position."

When the Tigers were stopped on two rushing plays, LSU head coach Mike Archer decided to take a shot at getting the first down through the air. The

gamble didn't pay off as Hodson overthrew Lee crossing over the middle. As things turned out, the incomplete pass stopped the clock for OSU and served as the Buckeyes' fourth timeout of the half.

Cooper refused to second-guess Archer for the third-down pass — "You're not going to get me to do that," he said — but admitted he saw the reason for the attempt.

"I guess when you've got a quarterback like Hodson and have receivers like that, you think you can get the first down. They got a lot of first downs like that throughout the game," Cooper said.

After the third-and-12 pass failed, Archer instructed his team to first take

a five-yard delay of game penalty and then told punter Rene Bourgeois to run out of the end zone for an intentional safety. Cooper said he agreed with that call, too.

"I think they were wise in taking the safety," the OSU coach said. "We expected them to take the safety. As a matter of fact, when they took a delay of game penalty on purpose, I was trying to get us to decline the penalty but I couldn't get word on the field to our players."

Following the safety, Bourgeois got a free kick at the 20-yard line and punted a high spiral to Olive. The OSU sophomore fielded the ball cleanly and then, following a good block from fellow sophomore Jeff Graham, returned the kick 30 yards to the LSU 38.

Then, with just 38 seconds left in the game, Frey threw over the middle again to Olive who stretched as far as he could to reel in the pass one yard deep in the end zone.

"It was the same post pattern we used in the second quarter," Olive said. "When I split out, there was a safety and a cornerback there standing beside each other. The free safety rolled up and that allowed me to be one-on-one with the corner."

"I knew the pass was coming to me and the first thing I was wondering was if I was to get open, make sure I catch the ball. I didn't want to drop it. When I made my post move, I looked up and saw the ball coming. I said to myself that I had to catch it because really I wanted to make up for that dropped punt."

Olive fumbled LSU's first punt of the game, setting up the Tigers' first field goal.

"My confidence was really down after that first punt," Olive said. "But everyone kept telling me to keep my head up and good things would happen. I was thankful that I could catch that pass to win the game."

"I really thought I was dreaming. I stood up to do my little dance moves and everything broke loose."

"I had a situation similar to this in high school," said the Atlanta, Ga., native, "but nothing like catching the winning touchdown in front of 90,000 people at Ohio State on national TV to upset a Top Ten team."

While Olive was giving thanks for the catching of the winning touchdown pass, Frey was claiming things worked out just the way the Buckeyes had planned.

"I really thought we could come back," said the quarterback. "We were moving the ball on them all day; we just didn't stick it in a couple of times. We only stopped ourselves."

"Plus I remembered Michigan lost last week after being up 30-14 and Miami came back. So I knew we had a chance to come back. I just couldn't believe that we really did it."

On the winning touchdown, Frey said the play, called "Con Firm 63-Y Bench," was a simple post pattern.

"It looked like they were going to play some kind of two-deep and they left the middle wide open," Frey said. "My pre-read didn't look like anyone was open but when I dropped back, everyone just flew out of there and left the middle wide open."

"I saw the free safety coming into the play so I tried to lead Bobby and throw it low. If I would have thrown it high, the safety probably would have had a pretty good shot on Bobby. As it turned out, everything was perfect on the play."

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# The View From 15th and High

By Frank L. Moskowitz, BSB Publisher

## Did Loss To Pitt, Loss Of Workman Help Buckeyes?

College football is often a game of emotion. So while many Buckeye fans may have feared the worst when the Buckeyes tangled with LSU, the combination of a humiliating loss to Pittsburgh and the loss of Vince Workman might have actually been just what the doctor ordered for OSU.

The big question throughout the young Ohio State season has been how good (or bad) are the Bucks. Given the up and down play of the Buckeyes in the first three weeks, I'm not sure that question has been answered yet.

I have maintained, however, that Ohio State is not nearly as bad a team as it might have appeared in the 42-10 loss to Pitt. I believe that after the relatively easy win over Syracuse, the OSU players thought that the rest of the season would be a similar breeze. I also think the players ended up with so much faith in their new coach and staff that they believed, perhaps subconsciously, that the victories would just add up, whether the Buckeyes showed up ready to play or not.

Much was made of how much faster Pitt was than the Buckeyes. When you're not mentally in the game, it's real easy to look like you're a step behind on every play (which is how the Buckeyes looked).

The humiliation of the Panther debacle, along with the loss of one of the team's leaders in Workman, gave the Buckeyes something to focus on, a reason to rally together. It gave the Buckeyes back the emotion they lacked against Pittsburgh. The result was a victory that, while perhaps not as overpowering as the one over Syracuse, was probably more impressive, certainly more dramatic, and one that will probably have a greater impact over the course of the season. It is doubtful the Buckeyes will ever feel out of a game again, unless, of course, they play like they did against Pitt.

**ONE THING** I liked was the fact the Bucks finally came out hitting on defense. John Sullivan set the tone of the game for the OSU defense with a couple of savage hits early.

Vinnie Clark, seeing his first significant playing time, looks like he is a defensive back out of the traditional Ohio State mold — that is, he's a hard-hitter also.

It is worth repeating, again, that if Clark, along with fellow Cincinnatians Carlos Snow and Greg Frey, continue to play well, perhaps things will loosen up recruiting-wise for the Bucks in the Queen City.

**ANOTHER KEY** factor in the game came on what would have been the Buckeyes' first possession. Ohio State had just held LSU with its high-powered offense on the first possession of the game and the Tigers punted. Bobby Olive, making his first collegiate appearance as a punt return man, promptly fumbled the kick, giving the ball back to the Bayou Bengals on the OSU 16.

If LSU had scored a quick touchdown, the Buckeyes might have sensed that it was going to be Pittsburgh all over again. Instead, the Buck defense limited the Tigers to a field goal, setting the tempo for a hard-

fought game, rather than another blowout.

**SPEAKING OF** defense, can you imagine what kind of confidence-builder it must have been for the OSU defense when Cooper elected to pass up the inside kick late in the game and kick deep to the Bengals? Defense is supposed to be one of the question areas for the team this year. Yet Cooper sent a very clear message to his defenders. In one of the biggest games of the season, against one of the best offenses in the country, with the game on the line, he felt they could do the job. And they did.

**AFTER THE** big win over Syracuse, Buckeye fans were recalling 1979, the last time Ohio State had a first-year coach. As you remember, the Bucks, expected to go nowhere that season, came within a point of the national championship.

After the Bucks loss to Pitt, people seemed to write off the possibility of another season like that. After the LSU win, however, I ask you to think back, again, to 1979.

Think of how, in the fourth game of that season, Art Schlichter engineered a last-minute 80-yard drive to secure a dramatic 17-13 win over UCLA. Schlichter hit on all six of his passes in the 95-second march as the Bucks scored the winning touchdown with just 42 seconds left to play in the nationally televised game.

The win set the tone for the Buckeyes' exciting campaign and helped establish Schlichter, then a sophomore, as one of the greatest (if not the greatest) Buckeye quarterbacks of all time.

Will the dramatic win over LSU do the same for the 1988 Bucks and sophomore Greg Frey?

**THE VINCE** Workman situation casts a bad light on the Ohio State athletic department. With so many OSU players being linked with agents, both on the football field and the basketball court, it gives the impression that there are agents lurking in every shadowy corner of Ohio Stadium and St. John Arena.

Now that the situation has been so vividly brought to light, the entire OSU athletic staff must be extra vigilant in attempting to make sure this situation doesn't recur. And I certainly hope that the other players have gotten the message.

The story with Workman was like something out of a bad novel — the agent theatrically lining up 10 one hundred dollar bills across a hotel room table and Workman unable to say no.

What Workman did was against NCAA regulations. He knew it; he had to carry it around with him for months. Then he had to pay for it. The one thing I did want to say about Workman, however, was the fact that once this all came to light, Workman stood up in front of the media like a man and answered all questions. He didn't hide or deny what he had done. He gained my respect for that.

**THE ONE** silver lining to the Workman situation is that it gives Carlos Snow sole possession of the tailback slot.

It was hard not to play Workman at that position. He had proven that he could gain 1,000 yards rushing at this level and no one disputes that he understood the blocking schemes and overall offensive concept better than any running back on the team.

Despite that, however, it's tough to keep Snow on the bench.

"He's a threat to score every time he touches the ball" is perhaps a cliché in football these days. But with Snow, it is the truth. He's already ripped off a 100-yard kickoff return this season and several times against LSU, on a run, a reception or a return, he was one player away from breaking free for another long touchdown.

And don't think that Snow utilizes speed and little else. He is powerful for his size, has great balance, excellent technique and gives outstanding second effort after being hit. And as he plays more, he should become as adept as Workman in terms of blocking and the overall offensive scheme.

**I'M AT** a loss as to why Big Ten teams did poorly against non-league competition. I'll say this much. Even though they are the only undefeated team, I don't think the Hoosiers of Indiana are the team to beat, especially after that tie with Missouri. I think it will come down to Michigan and Ohio State, just like many people think it should every year. I certainly wouldn't count the likes of Iowa, Michigan State or Indiana out, however.

Perhaps some of our readers would like to express their opinion concerning the hard times of the Big Ten in our letters to the editor section.

**I WANT** to send out a couple of special get well messages. I first want to send a get well to Mike Shade, one of our very loyal readers down in South Carolina. You're right, Mike. You'll whip this thing like the Buckeyes whipped the Bayou Bengals.

And I want to send a special get well to one of my special business partners, Joyce Cohn. I'm glad to hear you've maintained your sense of humor. Get well soon, Joyce. The NBA season is approaching faster than you think.

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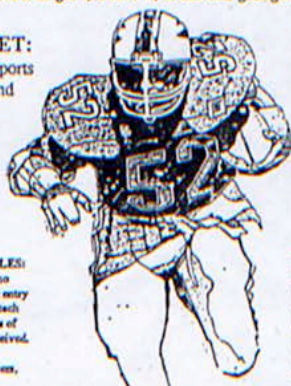
When Indiana beat Ohio State in 1951, Woody Hayes swore OSU would never lose to the Hoosiers again. Last season, 36 years later, Indiana crushed the Buckeyes, 31-10. Here's a chance to win a trip for two to Bloomington, Oct. 8-9, to see this grudge match.

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"For The Buckeye Fan Who Needs To Know More"

January 12, 2008

# Tough Two Take

## Mental Mistakes Cost Buckeyes In 38-24 Loss

By MARCUS HARTMAN  
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

The BCS National Championship Game was supposed to be the Ohio State football team's chance to prove it could run with any of the best teams from the nation's top conferences – one conference in particular. The trouble is, the Buckeyes lost their heads too many times in the effort, leading to a 38-24 loss to LSU Jan. 7 in New Orleans.

Thus, six minutes into the third quarter the Buckeyes and their fans who made the trek to the Louisiana Superdome had to endure chants of "S-E-C" from the largely pro-LSU crowd after Tiger Early Doucet caught a short pass in the flat, broke a couple of tackles and scampered across the goal line.

The purple-and-gold clad horde had reason to be excited because Doucet's 4-yard touchdown catch completed a run of 31 straight LSU points and put the Tigers ahead, 31-10. They were well on their way to victory, but it did not appear that happened because Ohio State was outclassed from a talent standpoint, as many national observers might have guessed would be the case.

No, Doucet's touchdown and the crowd's delight were made possible by two OSU personal fouls that kept that particular drive alive, and the margin of the lead was inflated by a multitude of similar foul-ups in the first half.

By the time confetti began falling on yet another opponent, the Buckeyes had been whistled for five personal fouls, committed three turnovers and had a field goal blocked during an un-Tresselballesque evening on the bayou.

As he walked off the field following his final college game, Buckeye linebacker Larry Grant confirmed that he felt the Buckeyes had done as much to beat themselves as the Tigers had.

"We made too many mental mistakes," Grant said. "We basically hit ourselves in the back with all the penalties we had, but I can't take anything away from LSU. That's a great team coached by some great coaches. That's just a crazy loss today."

In the locker room a few minutes later, captain Dionte Johnson said he felt the same way.

"Of course – I mean I'm not taking away from LSU or their defense; they did a great job," Johnson said. "They executed, and that's 90 percent of the game. They were able to bait us, and we got some stupid unsportsmanlike conduct penalties. They did a great job with the turnovers. You can't win a game when you lose the turnover ratio. All that plays a factor. I feel our guys gave a great effort. We just came up short."

Short for a second year in a



SONNY BROCKWAY

**THE HAT BESTS THE VEST – Ohio State head coach Jim Tressel (center) greets LSU's white-capped head coach Les Miles after the Tigers defeated the Buckeyes 38-24 in the 2008 BCS National Championship Game.**

row, of course. But this 14-point loss looked nothing like the 41-14 shellacking Florida handed Ohio State 364 days earlier in Glendale, Ariz.

In that contest, Florida seized control quickly and ran circles around the Buckeyes, who may have decided by that time that they enjoyed just a little too much looking at themselves in the mirror with the No. 1 ranking they had held all season and might have let their pregame preparations slide. As a result, the Gators had the look of a vastly more talented team at many positions.

This season, Ohio State returned to the national title game promising to be a more focused group. The Buckeyes spoke of their time in the Big Easy as a business trip, saying they would pass on seeing the neon lights of Bourbon Street in favor of concentrating on the task of beating LSU.

Though they played a far better game in the dome than in the desert, the mental lapses proved to be deadly, particularly on defense and special teams.

"They were critical, oh yeah, they were critical, no doubt about it," offensive coordinator Jim Bollman confirmed. "That was certainly a big factor a couple of times, taking us out of position and giving them some position."

The mental errors began in the first quarter when left guard Steve Rehring was whistled for a false start prior to a second-and-5 at the Tigers' 10-yard line.

Already leading 7-0 thanks to a 65-yard touchdown run by Chris "Beanie" Wells, the Buckeyes were poised to tack on perhaps seven more points, but Rehring's penalty had them essentially starting over again on that set of downs with one less play with which to work.

They ultimately would settle for a 25-yard field goal by Ryan Pretorius after two Todd Boeckman scrambles yielded

just 6 yards.

The Tigers responded with a field goal, and after an Ohio State punt they put together an 84-yard drive that took just 2:07 and, capped by a 13-yard touchdown pass from Matt Flynn to tight end Richard Dickson, knotted the score at 10.

That scoring drive included 28 free yards after Ohio State's first two personal fouls of the evening, a late hit committed by defensive tackle Todd Denlinger and a half-the-distance 13-yarder on linebacker James Laurinaitis for grasping the facemask.

Ohio State's ensuing drive got off to a promising start as Wells broke off a 29-yard run and Boeckman hooked up with Brian Robiskie for a 19-yard pass play that ended at the LSU 28.

Brian Hartline picked up a personal foul on the next play, however, and though the Buckeyes were able to get a large chunk of that yardage back on a 22-yard pass from Boeckman to Brandon Saine, Robiskie dropped a potential touchdown pass on third-and-3.

The Buckeyes' momentum was stifled and they were eventually forced to settle for a 38-yard field-goal try by Pretorius.

"My emotions got the best of me," Hartline said of the penalty call. "It was uncharacteristic of me. I deserved that penalty."

The damage was compounded when Ricky Jean-Francois broke through the OSU protection and blocked Pretorius' kick, a play that reignited the LSU fans' enthusiasm and sent the Tigers on an 84-yard march that would yield their go-ahead touchdown.

Continued On Page 8

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**Vol. 27, No. 14**  
**January 12, 2008**  
**www.BuckeyeSports.com**

Buckeye Sports Bulletin (USPS 705-690, ISSN 0883-6833.) is published 30 times a year (weekly September through November and January through March, biweekly March through May and monthly June through August and December) by:

Columbus Sports Publications  
1350 W. Fifth Ave., Suite 30  
P.O. Box 12453  
Columbus, Ohio 43212  
(614) 486-2202

Periodical class postage paid at Columbus, Ohio, and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Buckeye Sports Bulletin, P.O. Box 12453, Columbus, Ohio 43212. Subscription rates: \$65.95/year.

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**2007-08 PUBLICATION SCHEDULE (VOL. 27)**

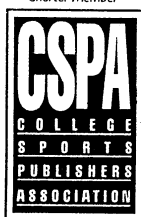
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No. 12	Nov. 24	No. 27	May 11
No. 13	December	No. 28	June
No. 14	Jan. 12	No. 29	July
No. 15	Jan. 19	No. 30	August

The next issue (Jan. 19 cover date) will be mailed on Jan. 15.

Buckeye Sports Bulletin is a privately owned newspaper and is not affiliated directly or indirectly with The Ohio State University.

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**OPINION**

# How Will OSU Explain This Loss?

In some respects, Ohio State's loss in this year's BCS National Championship Game may prove to be a tougher obstacle to overcome than last year's trip to the Florida woodshed.

It will certainly be more difficult to explain.

From a lengthy layoff to a stale routine in Arizona to too many linemen gorging themselves on too many fast-food hamburgers, the beatdown that has come to be known as "The Debacle in the Desert" could at least be explained in a variety of ways. It was a painful loss but Jim Tressel, his coaching staff and players were supposed to have learned from the mistakes they made that night.

The coaches and players said this year's visit to New Orleans was a business trip. Changes were made, both in the way they approached the assignment and the way they prepared themselves for it – less time at the venue, no partaking in the Bourbon Street experience, etc.

But whatever changes the Buckeyes made, they had the same net result of their hedonistic ways in the Arizona desert.

So, in the wake of a second straight failure on college football's biggest stage, the Buckeyes will enter the 2008 season with their previous two years' worth of work – back-to-back outright Big Ten champions, 23 wins in 26 games, consecutive appearances in the national championship game – perceived as nothing more than a fluke.

That's a shame, too, because Tressel and Ohio State have accomplished an awful lot these past two seasons. Unfortunately for them, they happen to play football in a conference whose national perception these days ranks somewhere between Britney Spears and Vladimir Putin.

It's like broadband vs. dial-up, the iPod vs. the Sony Walkman, the Blackberry vs. the Rolodex. Haven't you heard? They play stale, vanilla football in the Big Ten. So what if you win that championship? So what if you win it three years running? The South is where it's at as far as college football is concerned, and the SEC is where you'll find all the star power.

Is that a fair assessment of Ohio State's accomplishments these past two seasons? Of course not. The fact of the matter is that it's damned unfair. Last year's team spent the entire regular season at No. 1 and produced two first-round NFL draft choices and the Heisman Trophy winner. This year's team overachieved. It wasn't picked to do better than third place in the Big Ten, yet ascended all the way to a second consecutive berth in the national championship game.

For those accomplishments alone, there are about 115 other Division I-A football programs that would be dancing in the streets.

But the expectations are a little higher at Ohio State. No one in Columbus is going to suggest building a statue in anyone's honor for merely making an appearance in a big game. Here – and I would dare say in college football as a whole – you are judged on the number of championship banners that hang from your walls. And in this day and age, while Big Ten championships and victories over Michigan are extremely gratifying, they may no longer be enough.

Of course, the jaded way Ohio State fans assess each season nowadays is Tressel's fault. Had he not set the bar so high for his own program by winning the national title in 2002 – only his second year on the job – perhaps an achievement such as back-to-back berths in the national championship game would be sufficient.

**EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK**

**with**  
**Mark Rea**

But once fans get the taste of winning in their mouths, and get used to that savory taste, they become insatiable. That is why Tressel incurred the wrath of the Buckeye Nation last January and why that wrath will make it an even colder winter this year for the OSU coach.

The funny thing is that the Buckeyes have a very real chance of getting to the championship game again next year. Only two seniors – offensive tackle Kirk Barton and linebacker Larry Grant – started against LSU, leaving Tressel with the potential for a star-studded veteran team in '08. The coach is also in the process of signing a talent-filled recruiting class that should bolster the roster even more.

Next year's schedule seems a little more daunting than this year's turned out to be. The team must make a visit to Southern Cal for the third game of the season and also has to play on the road at Wisconsin and Illinois. Both Penn State and Michigan come to Columbus, but the Buckeyes will face opponents next season that combined for a 90-60 record in 2007 – as if that will cut any mustard in the national media because anything Ohio State accomplishes will be questioned from now until it wins another national championship.

Last year at this time, I wrote in this space that you could chalk up the loss to Florida as simple fate. If you coach as many games as Tressel has during his career, sooner or later there are going to be instances when the other team shows up with an unbeatable game plan. You simply have to give them credit, try to learn from what happened and move on. I still believe that was the case in Arizona last January.

But did the Buckeyes learn from what happened last year and move on? It is one thing to talk the talk, a completely different thing to walk the walk.

Maybe that's why a lot of fans are having a little tougher time accepting the loss to LSU and trying to put it into some kind of perspective. The Tigers were arguably the better team on the field Jan. 7 but only marginally so. Speed really wasn't a factor – execution was. The gap in roster talent wasn't such that the eventual champions should have been able to score 31 unanswered points.

For the second year in a row, there is plenty of blame to go around. No need to start naming names because it was pretty much a team loss. There were mental mistakes, physical errors, missed assignments, blown coverages and adjustment failures. Some of that can be attributed to an excellent team such as LSU creating those kinds of situations. But you can't give the Tigers all the credit. They had some help – a lot of it.

It's going to be nine long months until the Buckeyes tee it up again, and from the very instant you read the words on this page until the ball is in the air against Youngstown State, the question marks about Tressel and his program are going to hover over Ohio Stadium like the Goodyear blimp.

I have always believed that Tressel "gets it." He understands the nature of Ohio State

football, the vital role it plays in so many people's lives. I also continue to believe in Tressel as a coach, motivator and teacher. These last two national championship appearances notwithstanding, his overall record through the years speaks for itself.

But Tressel's long honeymoon with Ohio State fans may be coming to an end.

The coach is fond of repeating the Biblical phrase, "To whom much is given, much is expected." He is right, of course, but those words may begin to hang around his neck like an albatross.

Ohio State football fans give their undying devotion to their team and if their team is going to get to the national championship game, they expect the Buckeyes to win it.

**Wells For Heisman**

There is no doubt that Florida quarterback Tim Tebow will be the odds-on favorite to win his second Heisman Trophy next season. But if the Buckeyes can find a suitable replacement for Barton, I think Beanie Wells is going to give the Gators QB a run for his money.

Wells is probably the best running back in America that no one outside the Big Ten seems to know. Hopefully, that situation was remedied by his 146-yard performance against LSU in the national championship game, a performance that was equal parts Jim Brown, Walter Payton and Barry Sanders.

Players are lucky if they experience one marquee moment on such a national stage, and Wells had at least two.

The first, of course, was his 65-yard touchdown run in the first quarter. It combined every facet of what an excellent running back should bring to the table – finding and then hitting a hole with authority, the ability to change directions in a split-second and enough speed to leave pursuing would-be tacklers in the dust.

That touchdown run had them all. Wells was like Brown when he exploded through a hole over right guard then made like Sanders with a quick shift of his hips and a dash to the end zone.

The second highlight moment came on a 29-yard run early in the second quarter. Wells showcased his power again on that carry before employing a Payton-like stiff-arm to fend off LSU cornerback Chevis Jackson. If you're old-school like me, you love a good, old-fashioned stiff-arm and Wells swatting Jackson away was one of the best I've seen in a long time. Riding back to the media hotel after the game, one veteran sportswriter claimed it was one of the top three he'd ever seen in 40 years of covering professional and college football.

By gaining 146 yards against the Tigers, Wells achieved his ninth game this season of 100 yards or more and pushed his 2007 total to 1,609 yards, the fourth-highest single-season total in Ohio State history. Considering the rich history of running backs for the Buckeyes, a total that trails only Eddie George, Keith Byars and Archie Griffin speaks for itself.

Punctuating just how good his '07 season was is the fact that Wells played through injuries the entire year. He had a well-publicized ankle injury that plagued him from spring ball before he injured his wrist late in the regular season. Somehow, though, he seemed to get stronger as the campaign wore on – another attribute that separates the great backs from the merely good ones.

It is scary to think about the numbers he could put up if he is 100 percent healthy.

Heisman-type numbers, I would think.



## COVER STORY: TOUGH TWO TAKE

## Blocked Field Goal Helped LSU Take Control

Continued From Page 1

OSU receiver Ray Small saw the blocked field goal as the most significant play of the game.

"My thought was, 'Wow, momentum changed pretty quick,'" Small said.

Ohio State trailed 24-10 at the half but managed to reach the intermission without being knocked out, as they had been a year before by Florida when the Gators took a 34-14 lead into the locker room.

Though LSU began the second half with the ball, the defense appeared to come up with the stop it needed to give Boeckman and company a chance to get the Buckeyes back within one score.

That went out the door, however, when the Buckeyes were flagged for personal fouls on consecutive plays.

First reserve linebacker Austin Spitler drew a flag for roughing Tiger punter Patrick Fisher on a fourth-and-23 at the LSU 40. One play later, freshman defensive end Cameron Heyward cost his team 15 more yards on another personal foul and the Tigers suddenly were in business with a first down at the Buckeye 29.

Two plays later, Doucet made his score and the Buckeyes were sprawled on the mat.

"They definitely helped them," Buckeye cornerback Malcolm Jenkins said of the personal fouls. "Nobody gives somebody 30 free yards. That helps their drive and puts us in a bad situation.

"When it came to penalties, a couple of times we had just gotten a big stop and

were just about to get off the field, then we get another (penalty) so they're in scoring position. We gave them a lot of free yards and put them in position to score."

Johnson said his team simply suffered from a lack of execution.

"I felt the guys played with all their hearts, but when you have 15-yard penalties it really builds back the momentum the other way, and they were able to capitalize on it," he said. "Coach (Jim) Tressel preaches to us day in and day out that you can't have mental breakdowns or turnovers, and that's what we had."

The miscues in an area in which Tressel emphasizes excellence — special teams — proved just as damaging as lost fumbles or interceptions.

"The blocked field goal, that's a turnover," Johnson said. "It was fourth-and-forever and we get a roughing the punter call. That kind of stuff hurts. It hurts the defense. You can't really expect them to bounce back after something like that. Then we got an unsportsmanlike conduct. Those things, I don't want to say they made or broke the game, but they definitely had an effect on it."

Spitler said he had no idea how he missed blocking Fisher's kick.

"I went right through the line untouched and I took my eye off of it, I guess," he said. "I figured it would hit me in the chest at least. I was there. I figured I'd make the play. Nobody touched me. I just took my eye off it and missed.

"Special teams always play a key role. We look at it every game line and special teams always play a role. Unfortunately

tonight it didn't fall our way."

Defensive coordinator Jim Heacock was unhappy with the way his troops performed, and his displeasure was more from a mental standpoint than it was physical. The stop unit that finished the regular season allowing a national-best 10.7 points per game was burned for more than three times that number.

"We just didn't execute," Heacock said. "They're a good football team, they really are. You can't give them the stuff we gave them and expect to beat them."

The Tigers especially hurt Ohio State on third down, where they converted 11 of 18 tries and 11 of their first 14.

That 61.1-percent success rate was aided greatly by the fact that nine of the successes came on third-and-4 or less.

LSU got into those spots because the Buckeyes got themselves out of position too often and did not tackle well when they were where they were supposed to be. That was an especially damaging mistake to make against an offense with as much variety as LSU's, one that is just as comfortable in an I-formation as it is the spread.

"They did a lot of things, and you better be disciplined because if you're not disciplined they'll get you," Heacock said. "There were a couple times when we uncharacteristically had guys running around trying to go make plays instead of executing their responsibility and doing what they need to do and what they've done all year. We got a little bit out of character and things started not going so good."

Heacock saw no problems in the pre-game work.

"One thing about this group is they prepared maybe as hard as any group I've ever been around," he said. "They worked hard, they were focused, they were in watching film, doing the whole deal and when things aren't going good I don't think it's a time to turn on them. We tried to make them realize the importance of execution. You've got to have 11 guys executing. We had some breakdowns and they were costly breakdowns."

The 14-point loss to another SEC team is likely to give more ammunition to those who feel the Big Ten plays an inferior brand of football these days, but that is not a notion the Buckeyes buy into themselves.

Spitler said they are not the only ones. "I think the SEC knows," he said. "We're (in the title game) for a reason. Everybody has speed. I think it showed tonight. Last year everybody talked about the speed difference. It wasn't the speed difference, it was the physicality of the game. We got outphysicalled. We knew coming into the game LSU was a great team, very physical, and we'd have to be physical to play with them."

The Tigers can argue they won the line of scrimmage but by a slim margin.

LSU finished with a slight rushing edge of 152-145 but did so with the aid of 41 yards Ohio State lost on five quarterback sacks, four of which came in the second half after Tiger pass rushers were able to pin their ears back knowing the Buckeyes would need to go to the air more often to

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## COVER STORY: TOUGH TWO TAKE



SONNY BROCKWAY

**BIG PLAY** – Malcolm Jenkins (2) intercepted a Matt Flynn pass in the second half, but overall it was a rough night for the OSU defense.

cut into their deficit.

However, the Tigers' total was tempered by a 15-yard loss on a mishandled snap during the first series and three kneel-downs on the final possession of the game that totaled 8 yards.

Flynn lost 15 yards on his one sack and, like Boeckman, was hit at or near the time of the release of many of his passes on the evening.

Flynn was named the game's most outstanding offensive player after completing 19 of 27 passes for 174 yards and four touchdowns.

Boeckman's 134.9 passer rating might have been closer to Flynn's outstanding 195.6 had the Buckeye receivers not dropped a few passes along the way.

"I thought at first we started getting it going a little bit," Boeckman said. "We were hanging with them, but momentum shifted a little bit. You can't have those personal fouls, those turnovers. That just killed us."

Small, Jenkins and Johnson all felt the teams matched up fairly evenly from a physical standpoint.

"I just think they executed a little better than us," Small said. "We had a couple penalties and that was our downfall."

"They weren't dominating us," Jenkins said. "Every time you give up free yardage, it hurts you."

Johnson was happy with his team's preparation and effort level.

"I think we finally put to rest the myth that they were faster and things like that," the fullback said. "That wasn't really the case. We gave them great field position when they were scoring. Our offense did a great job. We were moving the chains."

"Penalties and turnovers," he said with a sigh. "That's the parts that you've got to take out of the game."

"All that talk about SEC and Big Ten, (that) the Big Ten is inferior can be put to bed because you saw the Michigan-Florida game," Johnson said, referring to the Wolverines' 41-35 win over the Gators Jan. 1 in the Capital One Bowl. "It's any given night. That's the most important thing, who's ready on that day."

Noting that his team did not have an issue with personal fouls during the regular season, Heacock said he had no explanation for the explosion of them in New Orleans.

"They're not bad kids," he said. "They're not going to go out and cheap-shot somebody."

Like every Buckeye queried on the subject, Johnson said he would not have believed it if he had been told the morning of the game that that many major penalty flags would be thrown against his team.

"But that's a part of football," he said. "We knew coming into this game we shouldn't hurt ourselves, and we did anyway."

On the issue of talent, Bollman offered a somewhat dissenting opinion. Of course, his offense had to contend with a Tigers defense that finished the season ranked third in the country in yards allowed, a greater challenge than that posed by the LSU offense.

Speaking of his unit, Bollman felt good that the plethora of missed blocking assignments that played a huge role in the 2007 blowout had not repeated themselves in 2008. He made it clear he felt much better walking out of the Superdome locker room than he had when leaving University of Phoenix Stadium.

"I'm not sure that I should or shouldn't without seeing the film, but I feel like walking out of here we ... I feel like we played – the guys were focused," the coach said. "They played hard. They gave great effort the whole game. There wasn't a lot of mental errors. We got beat physically on some plays. It wasn't at all like last year's game."

"There were some plays in the pass-

ing game that we needed to make, but we didn't. We had chances to catch a couple balls that we didn't, had a couple misfires."

So did this loss to an SEC team look like the last one?

"No, no, no, no," he said emphatically.

Bollman concluded by saying the season was still pretty good for what many had dubbed a rebuilding year in August.

But that is probably not how the rest of the nation will see the latest setback. No matter how many of the faces were new this season in the Buckeye starting lineup, the bottom line on websites, newspapers and television screens across the country was that Ohio State again took a highly rated defense onto a big stage and got blown up, giving up 38 points this time after surrendering 41 a year ago.

Asked about that, Heacock said, "I don't think people are going to stop talking, if that's what you mean. We're all hurt. We work real hard for this. Our kids have been living 364 days for this. Our kids were picked third in the Big Ten conference and I think they worked their butts off and put themselves in position to be here. I think is a pretty good accomplishment, and I give them a lot of credit for that."

"I don't know who gave us a lot of credit heading into the year, so I think there were some good things that went on and we came out to this game and we didn't play well. They played better than we did. They made fewer mistakes than we did. They executed better than we did, and we didn't do a good job tackling. But they average 39 points a game – they're a good offense, and they're a better offense when you make mistakes."

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## OHIO STATE VS. LSU

# Similar Script In Another Buckeye BCS Loss

By MARK REA

Buckeye Sports Bulletin Managing Editor

Ohio State suffered a terrible case of déjà vu Jan. 7 in the BCS National Championship Game.

Just like last year, the Buckeyes jumped out to an early lead. Just like last year, that lead evaporated quickly. And just like last year, the team wound up on the business end of a rough outcome, courtesy of another Southeastern Conference team.

Louisiana State was the culprit this time, spotting OSU an early 10-point lead before partying like it was Mardi Gras. Before 79,651 fans, the largest crowd ever to watch a game inside the refurbished Louisiana Superdome, the Tigers reeled off 31 consecutive points on their way to a 38-24 victory.

As a result, LSU head coach Les Miles capped a month of personal upheaval with his first national championship while his Tigers became the first two-loss team to capture the Bowl Championship Series title. The team also became the first-ever two-time national champion under the BCS format.

"I have to give credit to some divine intervention and some grace that allows us to be in this position," said Miles, who had been linked to the head coaching job at alma mater Michigan before the Wolverines finally hired Rich Rodriguez away from West Virginia. "We have a great group of young men ... who understand how to really commit to a team, really fight like hell and not let any obstacle stand in their way."

"There will always be a wonderful place in my heart for Michigan. It's just that simple. It will never change. But there will also be an extremely warm spot in my heart for LSU because of this very special season, this very special team."

While the Tigers were celebrating all of their firsts, Ohio State became only the second team to lose back-to-back title games since Oklahoma in 2004 and '05. Ironically, the Sooners' loss in 2004 came in the Superdome, a 21-14 defeat courtesy of LSU.

In a game that was billed as the hulking titans of the Big Ten against the speed demons from the SEC, the game boiled down



SONNY BROCKWAY

**BEANIE BLOWS BY** – Just as they did a year prior, the Buckeyes jumped out to an early lead with a touchdown. This time, it was a 65-yard run by Chris "Beanie" Wells that put OSU in front.

to a few key plays – LSU made the most of its opportunities and Ohio State did not.

"Hats off to LSU," Ohio State head coach Jim Tressel said. "They did a great job preparing for this game. We said all along they're a very tough football team, a very mature football team. That's why they're the SEC champions, and they're very deserving national champions."

"It was a clean, hard, tough football game. Our kids played hard to the bitter

end, and we just didn't do things that you need to do to win a ballgame of this nature. But we're awfully proud of our 2007 Ohio State Buckeyes and very aware that LSU is a deserving champion."

The Buckeyes actually outgained the Tigers by a 353-323 margin, led by a 146-yard effort from tailback Chris "Beanie" Wells. That left him with 1,609 yards for the season, the most ever for an OSU sophomore.

Unfortunately, Wells was rendered ineffective in the second half by the fact the Buckeyes had squandered their early lead into a 24-10 halftime deficit. Ohio State was forced to throw the ball more often than it had planned, and Wells was limited to just 27 yards on 10 carries after the break.

With OSU forced to throw the ball, the Tigers began to tee off on quarterback Todd Boeckman. He started well by completing four of his first seven passes for 92 yards by the middle of the second quarter. But Boeckman was battered down the stretch under a relentless LSU rush.

The 6-5, 238-pound junior managed to complete 15 of 26 passes in the game for 208 yards, two touchdowns and two interceptions. But he was also sacked five times and fumbled three times.

While Boeckman was struggling, his LSU counterpart was enjoying one of his finest games. Senior quarterback Matt Flynn was named the game's most valuable offensive player after completing 19 of 27 pass attempts for 174 yards and a career-high four touchdowns.

"This team has grown a lot this year," Flynn said after the game. "We've come together strong and we've had a lot of close games – a lot of tough game that went to the wire. But we're stubborn. We don't know when to say quit and we don't know when to give up."

"But I'll be honest – I'm glad this is over. Obviously, I'm glad we came out on top. It just feels incredible."

Incredible, however, was a relative term. "To go to the national championship game twice and lose?" asked an incredulous Wells as he shook his head. "I mean, it's incredible."

On defense, LSU sophomore defensive tackle Ricky Jean-Francois overshadowed his more decorated senior counterpart Glenn Dorsey. Jean-Francois totaled six tackles, including 1½ for loss, assisted on a sack and blocked a field goal, and he was named the game's outstanding defensive player.

Dorsey finished with five tackles and a sack while senior linebacker Ali Highsmith led the Tigers with eight total stops and 1½ sacks. He also recovered one of Boeckman's fumbles.

For Ohio State, junior middle linebacker James Laurinaitis recorded a career-high 18 tackles, including 12 solos. Fellow linebacker Marcus Freeman registered 14 stops, and safety Kurt Coleman added a career-high 10 stops. Defensive end Vernon Gholston logged OSU's lone sack of the game while cornerback Malcolm Jenkins grabbed an interception.

## Wells Strikes Early

It took Ohio State only four plays to open the game's scoring. Boeckman was forced to throw early on first down before Wells got 5 yards to give the Buckeyes a third-and-5 at their own 28.

The team converted that situation when Boeckman completed a 7-yard pass to Brian Robiskie for a first down at the LSU 35. On the next play, Wells took a handoff and squirted through a hole at left guard. He motored ahead and then cut toward the sideline, running away from most of the LSU defense. Senior strong safety Craig Steltz gave pursuit and made a dive for Wells at about the 20, but the tailback never broke stride.

The 65-yard touchdown romp, which was followed by kicker Ryan Pretorius' PAT, was the longest touchdown run in BCS title

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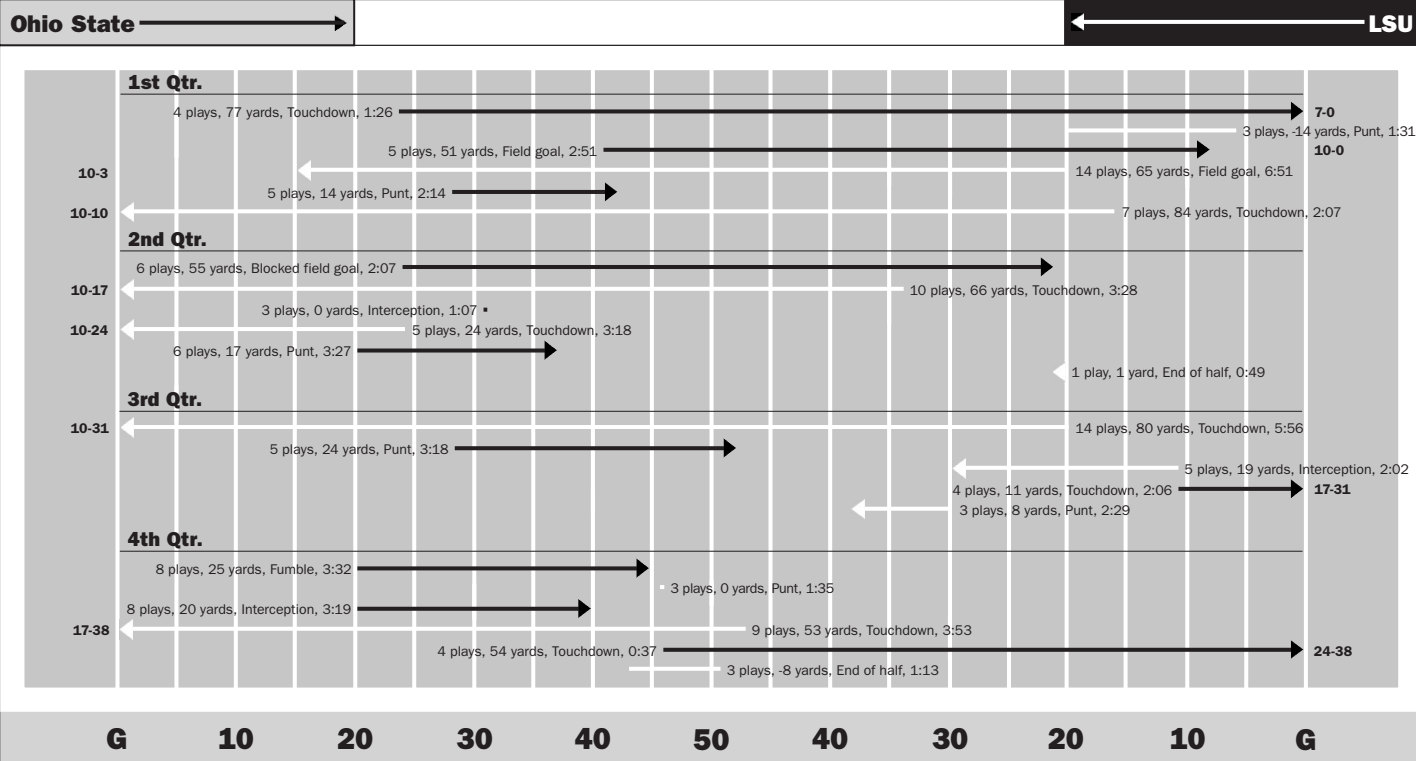
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## OHIO STATE VS. LSU

## OSU-LSU Drive Chart



game history. More importantly, it gave the Buckeyes a 7-0 lead less than a minute and a half into the contest.

OSU continued its excellent early play by forcing LSU to go three-and-out on its first offensive series. In fact, the Tigers went backward with minus-14 yards to show for their first three plays from scrimmage.

When the Buckeyes got the ball back, they immediately got back into the red zone when Boeckman dropped in a pass to Brandon Saine along the sideline that the freshman tailback turned into a 44-yard gain. Unfortunately, the drive stalled at the LSU 8 and Ohio State was forced to settle for a 25-yard field goal from Pretorius.

Still, the three-pointer made the score 10-0 at the 9:12 mark of the first quarter and the Buckeyes appeared to be in control.

But LSU got itself untracked on offense and marched 14 plays in 65 yards to get its first score of the game, a 32-yard field goal from kicker Colt David. But that was only the beginning. Thanks to costly mental errors and physical mistakes committed by Ohio State, the Tigers totaled three touchdowns in rapid succession to turn their early deficit into a 14-point halftime lead.

Two personal-foul penalties on the Ohio State defense gave LSU an extra 30 yards on its next possession. That allowed the Tigers to get close enough for a 13-yard pass from Flynn to tight end Richard Dickson for a touchdown with 13:00 showing on the clock. David added the extra point to tie the game at 10.

Dickson would prove to be a consistent thorn in the Buckeyes' side all game long. He got loose in the OSU secondary on several occasions, finishing the game with four receptions for 44 yards and a career-best two touchdowns.

A personal-foul penalty on the OSU offense crippled the Buckeyes' next drive and they had to settle for a 38-yard field-goal attempt by Pretorius. Instead of Ohio State

retaking the lead, however, the kick was blocked by Jean-Francois and the Tigers took the ball the other way on a 10-play, 66-yard drive that culminated in another Flynn touchdown pass, this time for 10 yards to receiver Brandon LaFell.

"Coach (Miles) told me to back up off the ball a little bit because their line wasn't trying to put their hands out or anything – they were using their shoulders," Jean-Francois explained about the blocked kick. "So I backed up and just came off quick as possible, trying to time the ball."

"When I got back there and I saw my hand, I was like, 'Please, let me block this ball.' But when I finally blocked it, I was shocked."

It was the fourth blocked field goal of the year in 23 attempts for Pretorius and the 10-point swing changed a potential 13-10 lead for the Buckeyes into a 17-10 deficit with 7:25 remaining until the half.

The Tigers went looking for more points just three plays later when Boeckman was intercepted in the deep flat by LSU cornerback Chevis Jackson. Jackson returned the pick 34 yards to the OSU 24, and just five plays later, running back Jacob Hester squeezed his way over the goal line from the 1 with 4:16 remaining in the first half.

David's extra point allowed LSU to enjoy a 24-10 halftime lead despite being out-gained 234-198 in the first half. The Tigers had an advantage, however, in several other key categories – they were 8 of 10 in third-down conversions while the Buckeyes were 2 of 7; they had 15 first downs to only seven for Ohio State; the only turnover of the first half went LSU's way; and OSU had four penalties for 48 yards while the Tigers went unflagged.

#### Game Slips Away

Another critical mistake cost Ohio State on LSU's opening possession of the third period.

## The Bottom Line . . .

**It was over when ...** the Buckeyes tried to make something happen by going after LSU punter Patrick Fisher early in the third quarter. A big play on special teams at that juncture could have turned the tide for Ohio State. But when linebacker Austin Spittler was penalized for roughing Fisher, an infraction that carried with it an automatic first down, LSU scored a touchdown four plays later and the Buckeyes never recovered.

**Game ball goes to ...** LSU quarterback Matt Flynn. Maligned by many, including his own fans who believed sophomore backup Ryan Perrilloux was better suited to run the offense, Flynn capped his senior season – and only one as a starter – with a superlative performance. Not only did he complete 19 of 27 passes for 174 yards and a career-high four touchdowns, he showed plenty of poise early when the Tigers needed it most and gave them excellent game management down the stretch.

**Stat of the game ...** 11 for 18. Ohio State's defense entered the game ranked No. 7 in the nation in third-down efficiency, limiting 12 previous opponents to only 31 percent efficiency on 139 third-down plays. LSU converted 11 of its 18 third downs (61.1 percent), including 10 of its first 12. Defenses that can't get the opposing team off the field on third down typically have trouble winning games.

– Mark Rea

The Buckeyes appeared to have stopped the Tigers after Flynn was called for intentional grounding on second down and threw incomplete on third down. That pushed LSU all the way out of Ohio State territory and

back to its own 40-yard line with a fourth-and-23.

Continued On Page 12

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## OHIO STATE VS. LSU

## LSU's Defense Thwarted Comeback Attempts

Continued From Page 11

But Tressel evidently saw a chance to make something happen at that point and called for his team to go after LSU punter Patrick Fisher. Ohio State linebacker Austin Spitler put on an excellent rush and got to Fisher just as the ball was reaching the punter's foot. Unfortunately, Spitler did everything but get a hand on the football. He ran into Fisher, picking up a roughing penalty and giving the Tigers an automatic first down at the OSU 45.

On the next play, the Buckeyes were flagged again for a 15-yard personal foul, pushing the ball to the Ohio State 29. In all, OSU was hit with five personal-foul penalties in the contest and wound up with seven penalties for 83 yards.

Three plays later, Flynn threw a 4-yard touchdown pass to receiver Early Doucet and it was 31-10 LSU at the 9:04 mark of the third quarter.

Ohio State had its chances to get back in the game. Junior cornerback Malcolm Jenkins intercepted Flynn late in the third quarter, setting up a 5-yard TD pass from Boeckman to Robiskie with 1:38 to go in the period. After Pretorius' conversion kick, it was 31-17 and the Buckeyes had some hope.

But every time OSU looked to get back in the game, a drive fizzled when the LSU defense came up with a big play.

Early in the fourth quarter, Tressel rolled the dice by going for a fourth-and-7 at the Tigers' 34-yard line. But when Boeckman was flushed from the pocket and rolled to his right, he was snowed under by Highsmith and fumbled the ball away.

Then when the Buckeyes got the ball back at the 9:02 mark of the final period, they moved only 20 yards in eight plays before Boeckman was intercepted again, this time by LSU free safety Curtis Taylor.

The dagger came at the 1:50 mark when Flynn pitched a 5-yard floater to a wide-open Dickson in the end zone. David tacked on the PAT to make it 38-17.

A 15-yard touchdown pass from Boeckman to Brian Hartline with 1:13 remaining closed the gap back to two scores at 38-24. But when the Buckeyes tried an onside kick and LSU running back Charles Scott recovered, OSU was powerless to stop the clock more than once. Flynn knelt down on the game's final play and raised the football in the air.

Several minutes later, the LSU quarterback kissed the crystal football trophy as he hoisted it in the air, symbolic of the Tigers' national championship.

## Game Notes

- With the loss, Ohio State dropped to 4-2 all-time in Bowl Championship Series games and 18-21 overall in bowl contests. The Buckeyes are now 1-2 in the BCS National Championship Game, defeating Miami (Fla.) for the 2002 title and losing to Florida last year and LSU this year.

- Miles now has a 7-8-1 lifetime record against Ohio State. He was previously 0-2 as a player at Michigan, 6-5-1 as an assistant coach for the Wolverines, and 0-1 as the head coach at Oklahoma State, losing a 33-7 decision in the 2004 Alamo Bowl.

- Tressel's record in NCAA championship games dipped to 5-4. He was 4-2 in Division I-AA title contests while at Youngstown State and is now 1-2 on the I-A level with the Buckeyes.

- LSU upped its record to 2-6-1 all-time against teams ranked No. 1 in The Associated Press poll. Their most recent contest against a top-ranked team before taking on OSU also resulted in a victory – 27-21 over Florida in Baton Rouge in 1997.

- The Tigers completed their season hav-



SONNY BROCKWAY

**ROUGH NIGHT** – Ohio State linemen Kirk Barton (74) and Alex Boone (75) struggled against LSU's agile defensive line. OSU quarterback Todd Boeckman (17) also had difficulties, completing 15 of 26 passes for 208 yards, two touchdowns and two interceptions.

ing scored 21 or more points in every contest. Never before had the Tigers gone the entire length of a season scoring at least 21 points in every game. The only other LSU team to score at least 20 points in each game over a single season was the 1969 squad that finished 9-1.

- Laurinaitis did not set a personal record with his 18 tackles against the Tigers. (He had registered 19 against Wisconsin earlier this season in the Buckeyes' 38-17 win over the Badgers.) But his total did set a BCS game record, besting the previous single-game mark of 17 set by Rufus Alexander of Oklahoma in last year's Fiesta Bowl loss to Boise State.

- The 65-yard touchdown run by Wells beat the previous national championship game record by a single yard. It had been held by Justin Vincent of LSU, who ran for 64 yards on the first play of the game against Oklahoma in the 2004 Sugar Bowl.

- Rushing for 146 yards gave Wells the second-highest total in BCS title game history. Only Texas quarterback Vince Young did

better, running for an even 200 yards against Southern California in the 2006 Rose Bowl.

- Fisher crushed the single-game BCS punting record by averaging 56.7 yards on three attempts. The previous mark was held by Kyle Tucker of Kansas, who averaged 50.0 yards against Virginia Tech in this year's Orange Bowl.

- OSU punter A.J. Trapasso also had three punts in the contest and averaged 50.0 yards. His 63-yarder in the second quarter was the longest in BCS history. It broke the record of 62 set by Tucker and then equaled just one quarter earlier by Fisher.

- Former Buckeyes in attendance at the game included Will Allen, Drew Carter, Chris Gamble, Antonio Holmes, Anthony Schlegel, Ted Ginn Jr., David Patterson, Troy Smith, Bobby Carpenter, Donte Whitner, Will Smith and Craig Krenzel. Also in the Superdome as members of various broadcasting teams were Joe Germaine, Eddie George, Maurice Hall, Jim Lachey and Kirk Herbstreit.

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# The Numbers Game

## LSU 38, Ohio State 24

Jan. 7, 2008 — Louisiana Superdome; New Orleans, La.

Score by Quarters	1	2	3	4	F
LSU	3	21	7	7	38
OHIO STATE	10	0	7	7	24

### First Quarter

**OSU** — C. Wells, 65 yard run (Pretorius kick), 13:34; 4 plays, 77 yards, 1:26 TOP.

**OSU** — Pretorius, 25 yard field goal, 9:12; 5 plays, 51 yards, 2:51 TOP.

**LSU** — David, 32 yard field goal, 2:21; 14 plays, 65 yards, 6:51 TOP.

### Second Quarter

**LSU** — Dickson, 13 yard pass from Flynn (David kick), 13:00; 7 plays, 84 yards, 2:07 TOP.

**LSU** — LaFell, 10 yard pass from Flynn (David kick), 7:25; 10 plays, 66 yards, 3:28 TOP.

**LSU** — Hester, 1 yard run (David kick), 4:16; 5 plays, 24 yards, 2:02 TOP.

### Third Quarter

**LSU** — Doucet, 4 yard pass from Flynn (David kick), 9:04; 14 plays, 80 yards, 5:56 TOP.

**OSU** — Robiskie, 5 yard pass from Boeckman (Pretorius kick), 1:38; 4 plays, 11 yards, 2:06 TOP.

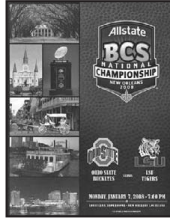
### Fourth Quarter

**LSU** — Dickson, 5 yard pass from Flynn (David kick), 1:50; 9 plays, 53 yards, 3:53 TOP.

**OSU** — Hartline, 15 yard pass from Boeckman (Pretorius kick), 1:13; 4 plays, 54 yards, 0:37 TOP.

**Att.** — 79,651.

**Weather** — Dome.



### Team Statistics

	LSU	OSU
First Downs	25	17
Rushing	12	6
Passing	9	10
Penalty	4	1
Rushes-Yards	49-152	30-145
Passing Yards	174	208
Passes (Att.-Comp.-Int.)	27-19-1	26-15-2
Offensive Plays	76	56
Total Net Yards	326	353
Third Down Efficiency	11-18	3-13
Fourth Down Efficiency	1-1	2-3
Punts	3-56.7	3-50.0
Fumbles-Lost	2-0	3-1
Penalties	4-36	7-83
Time of Possession	33:56	26:04

### Individual Statistics

**RUSHING (Att.-Net Yds.)** — **LSU**: Hester 21-86; Murphy 2-33; K. Williams 2-20; Holliday 3-13; Flynn 12-8; Doucet 2-7; C. Scott 2-6; Perrilloux 1-4. **OSU**: C. Wells 20-146; Hartline 1-6; Boeckman 9(-7).

**PASSING (Comp.-Att.-Int.-Yds.-TD)** — **LSU**: Flynn 19-27-1-174-4. **OSU**: Boeckman 15-26-2-208-2.

**RECEIVING (Rec.-Yds.)** — **LSU**: Doucet 7-51; Dickson 4-44; Byrd 2-28; LaFell 2-15; Zinger 1-18; C. Scott 1-16; Q. Johnson 1-3; K. Williams 1(-1). **OSU**: Hartline 6-75; Robiskie 5-50; Saine 3-69; Small 1-14.

**PUNTING (No.-Avg.-Long)** — **LSU**: Fisher 3-56.7-62. **OSU**: Trapasso 3-50.0-63.

**PUNT RETURNS (No.-Yds.)** — **LSU**: C. Jones 1-8. **OSU**: Hartline 1-9.

**KICKOFF RETURNS (No.-Yds.)** — **LSU**: Holliday 1-30; C. Scott 1(-8). **OSU**: Small 5-95; M. Wells 1-19; O'Neal 1-10.

**FUMBLE RECOVERIES (No.-Yds)** — **LSU**: H. Coleman 1-14. **OSU**: None.

**INTERCEPTIONS (No.-Yds.)** — **LSU**: C. Jackson 1-34; Taylor 1-4. **OSU**: Jenkins 1-23.

**SACKS** — **LSU**: Highsmith 1.5-18; T. Jackson 1.0-9; Dorsey 1.0-5; Pittman 1.0-3; Jean-Francois 0.5-1. **OSU**: Gholston 1.0-15.

**TACKLES FOR LOSS (No.-Yds.)** — **LSU**: Highsmith 1.5-18; Jean-Francois 1.5-4; T. Jackson 1.0-9; Dorsey 1.0-5; Pittman 1.0-3. **OSU**: Gholston 1.0-15; Abdallah 1.0-3; Heyward 1.0-1.

**TACKLES (Solo-Asst.-Tot.)** — **LSU**: Highsmith 3-5-8; Pittman 4-3-7; Jean-Francois 3-3-6; Taylor 4-1-5; Dorsey 4-1-5; Zenon 4-0-4; Steltz 0-4-4; McCray 3-0-3; C. Jackson 2-0-2; Murphy 2-0-2; Riley 2-0-2; Beckwith 1-1-2; H. Coleman 1-1-2; Sanders 1-1-2; R.J. Jackson 1-0-1; Andrus 1-0-1; T. Jackson 1-0-1; Eugene 1-0-1. **OSU**: Laurinaitis 12-6-18; Freeman 6-8-14; K. Coleman 8-2-10; Grant 4-4-8; D. Washington 3-2-5; Russell 3-2-5; Gholston 2-1-3; Heyward 1-2-3; Jenkins 0-3-3; Worthington 0-2-2; Barrow 0-2-2; Larimore 1-0-1; Gant 1-0-1; Hartline 1-0-1; Abdallah 1-0-1; Rehling 1-0-1; Chekwa 1-0-1; Thoma 1-0-1; C. Wells 1-0-1.

**PLAYERS IN THE GAME** — **LSU**: Offense, Flynn, Hester, Byrd, LaFell, Zinger, Doucet, Black, H. Johnson, Helms, Hitt, Stewart, David, Defense, T. Jackson, Dorsey, Jean-Francois, Pittman, Sanders, Beckwith, Highsmith, Zenon, C. Jackson, Steltz, Taylor, Fisher, Reserves, Sheppard, C. Jones, Eugene, K. Williams, Holliday, Perrilloux, McManus, H. Coleman, Murphy, R.J. Jackson, Hawkins, C. Scott, Andrus, Jordan, McCray, Q. Johnson, T. Johnson, O'Hair, C. Trueta, Riley, Miller, Gaudet, Arnold, Barksdale, Toliver, Cole, Dickson, Alem, C. Mitchell, J. Mitchell, Nevis, Livingston, Woods, Favorite. **OHIO STATE**: Offense, Boeckman, C. Wells, Saine, Robiskie, Hartline, Nicol, Boone, Rehling, Cordle, Person, Barton, Pretorius, Defense, Heyward, Worthington, Abdallah, Gholston, Freeman, Laurinaitis, Grant, Jenkins, D. Washington, K. Coleman, Russell, Trapasso, Reserves, Small, Hines, J. Scott, Schwartz, Pettrey, O'Neal, Chekwa, Dye, Gant, B. Smith, Sanzenbacher, Amos, Robinson, Patterson, M. Williams, Moeller, Lane, M. Wells, Rolle, Spitler, Whaley, Thoma, D. Johnson, Makridis, Haas, Browning, Larimore, C. Smith, Barrow, Ballard, Daly, Denlinger.

## Season Statistics

### 2007-08 Game-By-Game

Date	Opponent	Result/Time	Crowd
Sept. 1	(11) YOUNG. ST.	W, 38-6	105,038
Sept. 8	(12) AKRON	W, 20-2	104,317
Sept. 15	(10) at Washington	W, 33-14	74,927
Sept. 22	(8) N'WESTERN	W, 58-7	105,178
Sept. 29	(8) at Minnesota	W, 30-7	51,611
Oct. 6	(4) at Purdue (23)	W, 23-7	65,497
Oct. 13	(3) KENT STATE	W, 48-3	105,051
Oct. 20	(1) MICHIGAN STATE	W, 24-17	105,287
Oct. 27	(1) at Penn State (24)	W, 37-17	110,134
Nov. 3	(1) WISCONSIN	W, 38-17	105,449
Nov. 10	(1) ILLINOIS	L, 28-21	105,453
Nov. 17	(7) at Michigan (23)	W, 14-3	111,941
Jan. 7	(1) #LSU (2)	L, 38-24	79,651

\* OSU's gameday AP ranking is in parentheses before the opponent, while the opponent's ranking is after the name.

# BCS National Championship Game, New Orleans.

### Team Statistics

	OSU	Opp
First Downs	268	180
Rushing	137	80
Passing	114	86
Penalty	17	14
Average Per Game/Rush	196.4	82.8
Average Per Game/Pass	197.3	150.2
Total Offense	5,118	3,029
Total Plays	883	832
Average Per Game	393.7	223.0
Average Per Play	5.8	3.6
Penalties-Yards	72-574	53-483
Fumbles-Lost	20-8	18-8
3rd Down Efficiency	84-183	69-207
Percentage	46%	33%
4th Down Efficiency	9-14	9-15
Percentage	64%	60%
Sacks-Yards	43-285	19-136
Time of Possession Avg.	31:50	28:10

### Score

By Quarters	1	2	3	4	OT	Tot.	Avg.
Ohio State	121	98	98	91	—	408	31.4
Opponents	32	45	55	34	—	166	12.8

### Attendance

	Games	Total	Avg.
Home	7	735,773	105,110
Away	5	414,110	82,822
Neutral	1	79,651	79,651
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1,229,534</b>	<b>94,580</b>

### Individual Statistics

Rushing	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Long
Chris Wells	274	1,609	5.9	15	65
Maurice Wells	103	367	3.6	3	26
Brandon Saine	60	267	4.4	2	37
Todd Boeckman	56	63	1.1	0	35
Ray Small	4	49	12.2	0	37
Brian Hartline	6	46	7.7	0	9
Antonio Henton	9	41	4.6	0	10
Marcus Williams	14	38	2.7	0	6
Rob Schoenhof	10	32	3.2	1	16
K.C. Christian	5	31	6.2	0	13
A.J. Trapasso	1	18	18.0	0	18
Joe Gantz	3	3	1.0	0	2
Dionte Johnson	1	-1	-1.0	0	-1
TEAM	7	-10	-1.4	0	0
<b>OSU Totals</b>	<b>553</b>	<b>2,553</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>OPP Totals</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>1,077</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>80</b>

Receiving	Rec.	Net	Avg.	TD	Long
Brian Robiskie	55	935	17.0	11	68
Brian Hartline	52	694	13.3	6	65
Ray Small	20	267	13.4	2	60
Rory Nicol	16	84	5.2	0	11
Jake Ballard	13	149	11.5	2	22
Brandon Saine	12	160	13.3	1	44
D. Sanzenbacher	12	89	7.4	1	15
Maurice Wells	10	47	4.7	1	20
Chris Wells	5	21	4.2	0	8
Devon Torrence	4	31	7.8	0	17
Taurian Washington	3	46	15.3	1	37
Brandon Smith	3	30	10.0	0	11
Trevor Robinson	3	10	3.3	1	9
Marcus Williams	1	11	11.0	0	11
Tyler Whaley	1	4	4.0	0	4
Todd Boeckman	1	-13	-13.0	0	13
<b>OSU Totals</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>2,565</b>	<b>12.2</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>68</b>
<b>OPP Totals</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>1,952</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>50</b>

Scoring	TD	EPK	EPR	EPP	FG	PTS
Ryan Pretorius	—	48-49	—	—	18-23	102
Chris Wells	15	—	—	—	—	90
Brian Robiskie	11	—	—	—	—	66
Brian Hartline	7	—	—	—	—	42
Maurice Wells	4	—	—	—	—	24
Brandon Saine	3	—	—	—	—	18
Jake Ballard	2	—	—	—	—	12
Ray Small	2	—	—	—	—	12
T. Washington	1	—	—	—	—	6
D. Sanzenbacher	1	—	—	—	—	6
Malcolm Jenkins	1	—	—	—	—	6
Trevor Robinson	1	—	—	—	—	6
Vernon Gholston	1	—	—	—	—	6
Donald Washington	1	—	—	—	—	6
Rob Schoenhof	1	—	—	—	—	6
TEAM	—	—	0-1	—	—	—
<b>OSU Totals</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>48-49</b>	<b>0-1</b>	—	<b>18-23</b>	<b>408</b>
<b>OPP Totals</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20-20</b>	—	—	<b>8-11</b>	<b>166</b>

\* Akron recorded a safety.

Passing	Comp.	Att.	Pct.	Yds.	TD-INT	Rating
T. Boeckman	191	299	63.9	2,379	25-14	148.94
R. Schoenhof	17	25	68.0	129	0-0	111.34
Antonio Henton	3	6	50.0	57	1-0	184.80
<b>OSU Totals</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>63.9</b>	<b>2,565</b>	<b>26-14</b>	<b>146.75</b>
<b>OPP Totals</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>406</b>	<b>53.2</b>	<b>1,952</b>	<b>13-11</b>	<b>98.74</b>

FG Distance	0-29	30-39	40-49	50+	Total
Ryan Pretorius	6-7	6-9	5-6	1-1	18-23
<b>OSU Totals</b>	<b>6-7</b>	<b>6-9</b>	<b>5-6</b>	<b>1-1</b>	<b>18-23</b>
<b>OPP Totals</b>	<b>3-3</b>	<b>3-3</b>	<b>2-5</b>	<b>0-0</b>	<b>8-11</b>

Punting	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Bk	Long
A.J. Trapasso	53	2,199	41.5	0	63
Jon Thoma	1	13	13.0	0	13
<b>OSU Totals</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>2,212</b>	<b>41.0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>OPP Totals</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>4,085</b>	<b>39.7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>68</b>

Interceptions	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
Malcolm Jenkins	4	53	13.2	1	24
James Laurinaitis	2	16	8.0	0	14
Donald Washington	1	70	70.0	1	70
Nick Patterson	1	34	34.0	0	34
Larry Grant	1	19	19.0	0	19
Chimdi Chekwa	1	9	9.0	0	9
Doug Worthington	1	0	0.0	0	0
<b>OSU Totals</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>18.3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>70</b>
<b>OPP Totals</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>9.1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>54</b>

Punt Returns	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
Ray Small	21	153	7.3	0	21
Brian Hartline	20	229	11.4	1	90
Brian Robiskie	7	60	8.6	0	14
Malcolm Jenkins	3	16	5.3	0	21
Larry Grant	1	8	8.0	0	0
Devon Torrence	1	6	6.0	0	6
<b>OSU Totals</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>472</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>OPP Totals</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16</b>

Kickoff Returns	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
Ray Small	22	391	17.8	0	35
Maurice Wells	4	81	20.2	0	22
Brandon Saine	3	60	20.0	0	39
Anderson Russell	2	47	23.5	0	29
Jamario O'Neal	1	10	10.0	0	10
Tyler Whaley	1	10	10.0	0	10
Rob Schoenhof	1	1	1.0	0	1
<b>OSU Totals</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>17.6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>OPP Totals</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>1,266</b>	<b>21.1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>99</b>

Def. Leaders	Solo	Asst.	Tot.	TFL-Yds.	Sacks
James Laurinaitis	51	70	121	8.5-34	5.0-29
Marcus Freeman	66	43	109	9.5-23	1.5-9
Kurt Coleman	29	35	64	3.5-5	1.0-2
Anderson Russell	38	25	63	7.0-29	3.0-23
<b>OSU Totals</b>	<b>490</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>850</b>	<b>103-410</b>	<b>43-285</b>
<b>OPP Totals</b>	<b>561</b>	<b>418</b>	<b>979</b>	<b>86-287</b>	<b>19-136</b>



## OHIO STATE VS. LSU

# Impressive Start Leads To Lackluster Finish

Where did it all go wrong?

For the second straight season, Ohio State had an early lead in the BCS National Championship Game. This time, the Buckeyes had demonstrated more than the ability to run a kickoff back for a touchdown: They had managed to mount two successful scoring drives as well as force the LSU offense into a three-and-out.

For the first 5:48, it all appeared to be going OSU's way. But then suddenly everything changed, and by the time the Buckeyes scored again they had surrendered 31 consecutive points, committed six penalties for 78 yards, turned the ball over once and faced what would prove to be an insurmountable three-touchdown deficit. By the time the dust settled, LSU had captured a 38-24 victory.

In short, they got away from doing what had been successful as personal fouls and a patient yet deadly LSU offense prevented the nation's top-ranked defense from ever truly getting comfortable on the field.

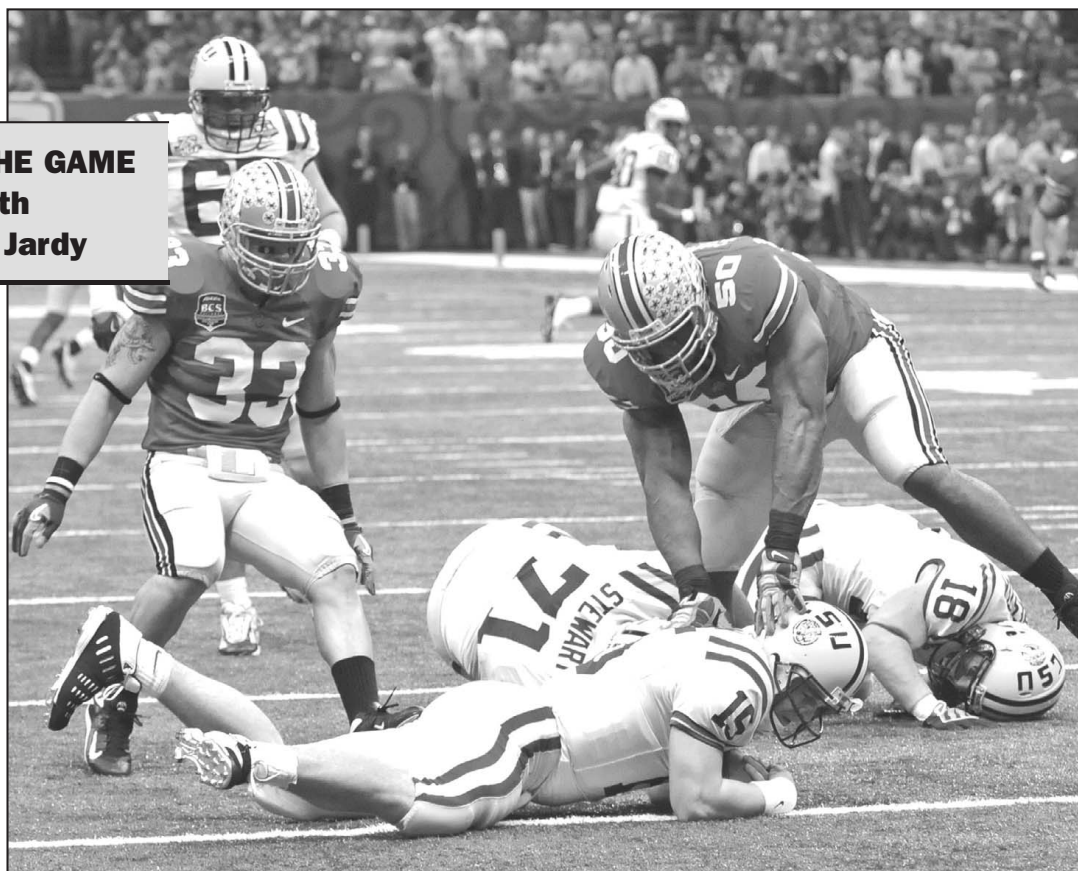
It all adds up to OSU's second loss in as many years in the biggest game on the college football landscape.

## How About That SEC ... Power?

Leading up to the title game, it was nearly impossible to hear about the matchup between OSU and LSU without hearing some pundit talking about the great speed discrepancy between the two teams. LSU, a member of the Southeastern Conference, was advertised as being clearly superior in the speed department.

But it became evident as the game went on that the Buckeyes did not suffer from a lack of speed. Ironically, it was an inability to be physical enough in the trenches on both sides of the ball that helped to bury OSU this time around.

When the Tigers had the ball, the Buckeyes found themselves largely unable to get pressure on LSU quarterback Matt Flynn. However, the final statistics do not completely tell the final story.



SONNY BROCKWAY

**NOT ENOUGH** – Vernon Gholston (50) stopped LSU quarterback Matt Flynn in his tracks here, but the Buckeyes were unable to slow the Tigers offense down in a 38-24 loss. James Laurinaitis (33) led OSU with 18 tackles on defense in what may be his last game as a Buckeye.

On paper, the Buckeyes outgained LSU by a 353-326 margin in total offense, averaging 6.3 yards per play compared to 4.3 for the Tigers. OSU had three plays go for a combined 130 yards – take them out, and the Buckeyes' average drops to 4.2 yards

per play.

It all began at the point of attack. The Tigers had six tackles for loss and five sacks against the OSU offensive line.

"We were ready to come out there, come off the ball at full speed, be aggressive," said LSU sophomore defensive tackle Ricky Jean-Francois, who was named the game's top defensive player. "The coaches told us just to slow down for a minute. Coach (Les) Miles and (defensive coordinator Bo) Pelini just told us to slow down for a minute, just look at what we were doing, what was the mistake from the last play. And we just corrected from there."

That much was evident as OSU quarterback Todd Boeckman was consistently harassed from the first play of the game. One season ago, the Buckeyes had problems stopping a Florida defensive line that also racked up five sacks in the title game.

Last year, the pressure came around the ends. This year, it came right up the gut.

"They just got us a couple of times," OSU sophomore center Jim Cordle said. "Then they started blitzing more when it's a passing situation. You've got to avoid long down and distance, and when you've got a guy like Glenn Dorsey and their D-line, you've got to play as good as you can. That didn't

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## OHIO STATE VS. LSU

happen."

As Cordle said, it helped LSU's line when the Buckeyes found themselves needing to move the ball through the air in the second half in a vain effort to catch up. Not only did Boeckman suffer the five sacks, he was hurried countless other times and stripped of the ball three times.

In spite of that, OSU offensive line coach Jim Bollman said he initially felt better about the team's performance along the offensive line than he did one season ago.

"Obviously at times it wasn't quite good enough, but at times I thought it was OK," he said of the team's protection. "I think those guys were pretty good. You weren't going to run the ball all night on them. I think that we missed some opportunities in the passing game a few times, and we had some opportunities in the second half to get back in the game and weren't good enough on those occasions to pull it off. That's my first reaction.

"There weren't that many real break-downs, I didn't think. There were a couple of times I saw a guy get beat here, a guy get beat there, but that's going to happen when you play a game like this against people like that. I'm not walking out of here feeling like anything was a disaster of any means. We just weren't quite good enough to make a couple of plays that we needed to get done. In a game like this against these guys, you've got to make some plays."

Boeckman rushed for 34 yards, but his five sacks cost the team 41, leaving him with a net of minus-7. None was more damaging than a sack that ended an OSU drive in LSU territory midway through the fourth quarter.

Trailing 31-17, Boeckman was sacked on third-and-4 from the LSU 31-yard line, setting up fourth-and-7. With all three wide receivers going deep, Boeckman rolled to his right to find his intended target in sophomore wideout Brian Hartline covered. With two LSU defenders bearing down on him, he attempted to heave a desperation pass but was nailed by senior linebacker Ali Highsmith, who knocked the ball loose.

The Buckeyes gave up 16 yards on the sack and 14 on the return, but a 15-yard unsportsmanlike conduct penalty on the Tigers helped to negate some of that.

"Give a lot of credit to LSU," Boeckman said. "They did a lot of good things out there.

We didn't make the plays when we needed. You have to give Dorsey and the guys up front a lot of credit because they did some good things out there."

On the other side of the ball, LSU's presence was felt much more often.

As a whole, the Buckeyes did nothing unexpected on defense. They began the game in their base, 4-3 defense and seldom deviated from it. However, the team's defensive tackles were frequently beaten at the point of attack, leading to more frequent substitutions. Sophomore Doug Worthington and junior Nader Abdallah earned the starting nods, but they were rotated liberally with redshirt freshman Dexter Larimore and sophomore Todd Denlinger.

Regardless of who was in the game for the Buckeyes, though, they could get little pressure.

"We obviously weren't getting the job done so we wanted fresh guys in there, and that's why we rotated a little bit more," Larimore said. "I think this kind of game is won in the trenches, and if we would've got a little more pressure maybe it could have changed the outcome of the game. We just didn't get it done."

Early during the game, the Buckeyes dialed up blitzes that were effective in getting to Flynn. As the game went on, though, the quarterback said he was able to pick up on what the OSU defense was trying to do.

As a result, the pressure the Buckeyes wanted to get on Flynn was largely rendered ineffective.

"We want to be aggressive all the time," said OSU defensive coordinator Jim Heacock. "We wanted to be aggressive last year. You've got to beat blocks and make plays. We played a little more man and that hurt us a bit. We felt like we had to get after them and play a pressure defense."

OSU blitzed players from every position, but it seemed the Tigers were prepared.

Facing a second-and-11 play from the OSU 46-yard line during the second quarter, Flynn hit wideout Demetrius Byrd on a slant across the middle for 20 yards. Byrd was wide open because OSU sophomore safety Kurt Coleman — who was originally lined up over Byrd — was blitzing. Flynn saw that, reacted and almost immediately hit Byrd for the big gain.

"The funny thing is, you expect a team to

have so many days off, they're going to show something new," OSU junior linebacker Marcus Freeman said. "We knew everything they were going to do and we just didn't execute well and they made the plays."

For the game, the Buckeyes had just three tackles for loss and one sack that was actually an intentional grounding penalty on the Tigers but recorded as a sack.

Senior linebacker Larry Grant said he was surprised with the lack of execution as a whole from the OSU defense. From his point of view, the team might have been too excited to play in the game.

"We were very surprised because we had a great week of practice," Grant said. "We had a great 51 days of practice and preparation. We were locked in and so intense. We were so ready to play this game. The intensity got the best of us when the game started.

"For a game like this, you've got to be amped. But as the game carried on, our intensity level was so high and being in this atmosphere, it just carried on. Maybe we were doing a little bit too much extra things that got us carried away."

Larimore, who had one tackle, was more blunt with his assessment.

"The thing is, there's no real reason why they beat us except that they just beat us (physically)," he said. "You can't point the finger at anybody: They just flat-out beat our butts. Shoot. That's what hurts the most. They beat us in the run game, they beat us in the pass game, they did everything right and we did everything wrong. That's what hurts the most for me."

#### The OSU Offensive Wrinkle

During the 51-day layoff between the Michigan and LSU games, the Buckeyes were busy finding a wrinkle to add to their offense

to use against the Tigers. With the move of sophomore quarterback Robby Schoenhof to tight end and the ascension of dual-threat quarterback Antonio Henton to second-team status, it widely was speculated in the days leading up to the game that Henton could be the new asset to the OSU offense.

Henton, as it turned out, did not play a single snap against the Tigers. Instead, the secret weapon OSU unveiled on the first play of the game was freshman tailback Brandon Saine, who had seen limited playing time as the season had progressed.

On the game's first play, the 6-1, 220-pound Saine lined up in the backfield in the fullback position as the Buckeyes opened with two wideouts, one tight end and one tailback. Boeckman took the snap, faked the handoff to the tailback and tried to find Saine in the flat for a pass.

It fell incomplete, but it would mark just the beginning of Saine's night and signal an increased role for the native of Piqua, Ohio. Before the game was over, he would line up at fullback, tight end and tailback as the Buckeyes tried to find ways to utilize his speed and elusiveness in space.

"He's a really gifted receiver," Bollman said. "He's a multitasking guy in there for you and I'm sure in the future he can be more of a running back kind of guy, but he gives you an added factor as a wide receiver in there. That was largely his role tonight. I'm sure that will change in the future."

His abilities as a wide receiver were ably demonstrated on the first play of OSU's second drive. After lining up on the wing along the left side of the line, Saine got free from the LSU defense and hauled in a pass from

Continued On Page 16

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## OHIO STATE VS. LSU

# Wells' Big Game Not Enough For Ohio State

Continued From Page 15

Boeckman, tiptoeing down the sideline for a 44-yard pickup.

He would finish the afternoon with three catches for 69 yards, the second-most yardage total among OSU targets.

"I feel like I can move pretty well in open space, catch the ball and run the ball well," Saine said. "I just like getting the ball. Sometimes it might be out catching a pass, but I like running the ball too."

Saine said his role has grown in practice during the latter part of the season. Senior fullback Dionte Johnson said he has been quick to pick up the nuances of playing a multitude of positions.

"He's coming into his own as an athlete," the senior captain said. "You've just got to find a way to get him the ball. I think that he was able to make some big plays for us. He did everything. He's one of those guys who is tough enough to make the blocks and fast enough to run the routes. He's definitely a gifted athlete."

## The LSU Offensive Wrinkle

Schoenhof's move to tight end during the preparations for the bowl game was made in part because of a desire to better help the Buckeyes prepare for LSU's two primary tight ends – sophomore Richard Dickson and senior Keith Zinger.

The move appeared to not help the Buckeyes much, as they frequently lost track of the LSU tight ends and paid dearly for doing so.

The first Tiger touchdown of the game

knotted the game at 10 and came on a 13-yard pass from Flynn to Dickson. With three wide receivers bunched to the right, Dickson lined up on the left side of the offensive line against OSU's base defense. Junior defensive end Vernon Gholston blitzed from the left end but did not make contact with Dickson, who found himself wide open and hauled in the easy scoring pass from Flynn.

It was not an isolated incident. Dickson finished as LSU's second-leading receiver with four catches for 44 yards and two touchdowns, while Zinger added another grab for 18 yards.

"We were in man coverage and did not have great eye control," Heacock said. "I think everybody was trying to make a play and got a little flustered. This offense is so multiple and so good that you've got to have 11 guys doing their job, and that's probably what we didn't do a good job of doing."

Bookending the scoring, Dickson hauled in the final touchdown of the game for the Tigers in a similar fashion as the team's first touchdown. After pretending to stay in tight and block, he suddenly streaked into the end zone and found himself wide open again, this time for a 5-yard touchdown pass that made it 38-17 with 1:50 remaining.

Dickson's two touchdowns tied him with four other players for the second-most receiving touchdowns in title game history.

OSU head coach Jim Tressel cited two reasons that LSU's tight ends could get so wide open on multiple occasions.

"I'm sure one of two things happened.

One, it was a misdirection pass, I think, in both cases, and our guys love to pursue to the ball. And the tight end leaked back away from it. I can't tell you that I know if it was a man defense or a zone defense where a backside zone defender was just pursuing what he thought was a run play.

"But in either case, those were well-conceived and well-executed. And those were good football plays and we didn't stop it."

## The Ground Game

Despite OSU's struggles in the protection game, the Buckeyes were able to pave the way for sophomore tailback Chris "Beanie" Wells to have a big day on the ground.

Wells wasted little time making a big impact. After Boeckman's pass for Saine fell incomplete, Wells took a pitch around the left end for 5 yards, helping set up third-and-5. OSU would pick it up on a 7-yard completion from Boeckman to junior wide-out Brian Robiskie, setting the stage for the game's first big play.

On first-and-10 from the OSU 35-yard line, Wells took the handoff from Boeckman and plunged off the left guard. Sensing some open field, he cut back to his right just as junior right guard Ben Person provided a sealing block.

Untouched, Wells accelerated up the right side of the field and took the ball to the house. The 65-yard scamper gave the Buckeyes an early 7-0 lead and accounted for the longest run from scrimmage in BCS title game history.

"The offensive line did a tremendous job

blocking," Wells said. "I give them all the credit in the world. They make the holes. I just run through them."

In the first 15 minutes, Wells carried the ball six times for 89 yards and one touchdown – an average of 14.8 yards per carry.

Later in the half, Wells took a handoff and ran around the left end where LSU senior defensive back Chevis Jackson tried in vain to bring Wells down with an arm tackle. Instead, he received a stiff arm as Wells blew past him, picking up 29 yards.

At the half, Wells had 10 carries for 119 yards but the Buckeyes trailed 24-10. As a result, his role diminished greatly in the second half when OSU tried to mount a comeback.

In addition, Boeckman said he felt the Tigers adjusted defensively to stop Wells, who finished with 20 carries for 146 yards – the second-highest total in BCS championship game history.

"We just felt we could run the ball on them, do a few tosses and sweeps, and they took that away from us," the quarterback said. "They adjusted well and did a lot of good things."

Miles said that was just part of being able to win the game in the trenches.

"I think certainly they won their share of battles," the victorious coach said. "But as the game wore on, our defensive line stopped their run. Our offensive line allowed us to pass the football and run the football. So maybe the big guys had more influence on this game than maybe other spots."

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## OHIO STATE VS. LSU

## BSB Quotebook: LSU 38, Ohio State 24

**LSU head coach Les Miles' assessment of the game:** "We certainly respected that opponent, knew we'd have to play well to win and feel very fortunate to have played as well as we have."

**Ohio State head coach Jim Tressel's assessment of the game:** "Hats off to LSU. They did a great job preparing for this game. We said all along they're a very tough football team, a very mature football team. That's why they're the SEC champions. They're very deserving national champions."

**Ohio State captain Kirk Barton on his team's effort:** "I'm just proud that our guys kept fighting because last year I think we kind of went in the tank a little bit and they really took it to us. This year we were fighting. I'm proud of my guys."

**Fellow offensive captain Dionte Johnson on the loss compared to last year's title-game defeat to Florida:** "It's a little more painful. One, it's my senior year, it's my last go-around, it's my last chance to strap up as a Buckeye, but two, we're so close. Last year it seemed like they ran away with it. This year it was just us. We were committing the penalties, the personal fouls, the turnovers."

**OSU safety Kurt Coleman on the difference between last year's title loss to Florida and this loss:** "It's a different feeling. I felt like we never gave up. We went to the end, and it's a good point because we can look at next season and we're going to look good. It's taking the good with the bad."

**Ohio State offensive coordinator Jim Bollman on the difference between the two games:** "It's weird to say, but I didn't feel the same way when I was walking off the field last year knowing all the errors that we made."

**OSU tailback Chris "Beanie" Wells on losing the game:** "It hurt tremendously. I mean, the pain, you really can't compare it to anything. To go to the national championship twice and lose, I mean, it's incredible."

**Buckeye linebacker James Laurinaitis on the loss:** "Anytime you lose a game, no matter the margin, you're going to be upset about it. I'm obviously disappointed."

**Ohio State cornerback Malcolm Jenkins on the game:** "This game is about momentum. We started off with the momentum but then we gave it away. We tried to get ourselves back in the game, but we kept giving it away with penalties and turnovers. We kind of shot ourselves in the foot."

**OSU defensive tackle Doug Worthington on LSU's offense:** "They made the plays when it counted. That's the main point that I'm sad about. We didn't execute when it was time to, and it's just a bitter taste in your mouth."

**OSU left guard Alex Boone on OSU's early 10-0 lead:** "We're thinking this game is going to be a lot easier than it was. I think that was our mistake. We scored early and we kind of thought, 'These guys are nothing.'"

**OSU defensive end Vernon Gholston on Ohio State's fast start:** "We came out playing like we were capable of playing, and then I guess we kind of



SONNY BROCKWAY

**ALMOST HAD IT –** It looked for a split second that Brian Robiskie had a touchdown reception in the second quarter, but he was unable to hold on with LSU cornerback Chevis Jackson (21) defending.

toned it down. It just shows that if you have a game like this, you have to keep it going full speed for 60 minutes."

**Buckeye wideout Brian Hartline on the personal fouls suffered by OSU:** "That's a lot of swing yards they got in their favor. They were disciplined, we weren't and that's part of the game."

**Ohio State quarterback Todd Boeckman on a dropped second-quarter touchdown pass by Brian Robiskie:** "I thought he had it. He was manned up, and whenever Brian's manned up I'm going to try to get him the ball. The LSU defender knocked it out and made a good play on it. I just said, 'Heck of a job, keep your head up, and the next time you'll get it.'"

**OSU center Jimmy Cordle on OSU's offense, which finished with more yards than LSU's:** "We were moving the ball, we just couldn't finish those drives. It would have been a whole 'nother game if we could have done that."

**Cordle on LSU All-America defensive tackle Glenn Dorsey:** "He's got an unbelievable nose for the ball. He just knows where the ball is. And he was healthy, he really was. He ran to the ball. He was doing all kinds of different things."

**OSU linebacker Marcus Freeman on LSU's offense:** "We knew how good of a team they were, and we knew 10 points wouldn't be enough. They came back and showed how good of a team they are."

**Tressel on attempting to block an LSU punt during the third quarter, the result of which was a roughing the punter call on linebacker Austin Spitzer:** "I guess the first thing as a coach, you think to yourself maybe we should have been in punt safe, maybe we shouldn't have been rushing. That's your first self-evaluation."

**Miles after unleashing an exuberant yell during the postgame press conference:** "Just kind of had to do that."

**Tressel's assessment of LSU's 21-point second quarter:** "That was a quarter where we certainly won't make a highlight reel of it. We didn't do the things that we would sure like to think we could do."

**Ohio State freshman tailback Brandon Saine, who caught a 44-yard pass on OSU's second drive:** "It meant a lot for them to go to me that early in such a big game."

**Miles on winning the national title at 12-2:** "It's the first time that a two-loss team has played for a national title and won, certainly. And I have to give great credit to some divine intervention and some grace that allows us to be in this position."

**Hartline on the SEC vs. Big Ten argument:** "Oh, I do think they're a better conference. It's difficult because, are they good? Yeah, they're good. I think the Big Ten is good as well. They just play a different kind of football."

**Cordle on the end of the season:** "It was a fun season. We were a young team. We stepped up but we couldn't get it done in the end. Just the way that guys stepped up this year, we'll be back next year."

**ESPN.com's Mark Schlabach on the game:** "(The Tigers) more than proved they were worthy of playing for the BCS championship. More people might be asking if the Buckeyes truly deserved to be here."

**CNN.com's Stewart Mandel on the OSU mental errors:** "An Ohio State team whose coach, Jim Tressel, preaches structure and discipline aided the Tigers' cause with an unfathomable series of brain farts."

**One of the chants from the Tiger faithful with LSU comfortably ahead:** "S-E-C."

**Laurinaitis' response to the chant:** "That hurts, just because the media really builds it up as we are slow and all of that stuff. I don't think that it is a speed thing. I think that the team that wins in this type of game is the team that is more physical and the team that executes the best. They executed tonight and they did it longer than we did."



## THE VIEW FROM 15TH AND HIGH

# Physical Play – Not Speed – Told Game's Story

Let me say right off the bat that LSU's victory over Ohio State in the BCS National Championship Game had nothing to do with speed. I know that's hard to believe after having heard so much for the last year about the speed of the SEC and the lack of speed at Ohio State and throughout the Big Ten.

In fact, I was quite surprised by the physical nature of the Tigers' play, a physical style of play that had a far greater impact on the outcome of the game than any speed the Bayou Bengals might have possessed. LSU's performance was quite Big Ten-esque in the muscle department.

None other than victorious LSU coach Les Miles would seem to agree.

"As the game wore on, our defensive line stopped their run. Our offensive line allowed us to pass the football and run the football. So maybe the big guys had more influence on this game than maybe other spots."

So much for that speedy SEC dominating the plodding Big Ten.

Let me warn all of you that I have become obsessed with the mantra of the SEC being far superior to the Big Ten and Ohio State in particular. I'm just so tired of hearing it. Maybe it's true, maybe it isn't, but I think so much of this talk is based on Ohio State's performance against Florida in the championship game last year. And this notion that Ohio State didn't belong in the championship game, I believe, is fueled in part by a national dislike for the Buckeyes.

For those who, after LSU's 38-24 championship victory, continued to question Ohio State's presence in the Superdome, might I point out that the championship game was shaping up as a West Virginia-Missouri matchup until final-week upsets vaulted the Buckeyes and Tigers into the championship game.

Would we still be discussing the merits of the Big Ten and SEC if the Mountaineers and Missouri's version of the Tigers had made it to the big dance? Would the credentials of those teams and those of the Big 12 and Big East be under scrutiny? Or would fans and pundits accept that those teams did what they had to do within the BCS structure to earn their way into the game, just as the Buckeyes and – maybe – LSU did.

To my knowledge, there is no clause in the BCS guidelines that says that because ESPN and various talk radio shows have declared the SEC the class of the country, their champion should get an automatic berth in the title game.

I'm not going to try to justify Ohio State's performance in its loss to LSU.

But I would contend that the penalties and kicking game miscues – that I don't believe are caused by a talent gap – had a lot to do with the seemingly lopsided nature of the game. Take those Ohio State gaffes away and maybe the Buckeyes don't win the game, but I don't think we would be having this discussion about the wide gulf between Ohio State and LSU, Florida and any other SEC team that happens to enter the discussion.

Keep in mind, also, that once the Tigers built up their large lead against Ohio State, it made it a lot easier to play defense. Everyone in the Superdome knew that the Buckeyes were going to have to pass to catch up so the Bayou Bengals could be more aggressive in attacking quarterback

## THE VIEW FROM 15TH AND HIGH

### Frank Moskowitz, Publisher

Todd Boeckman. The score also fairly well negated the Buckeyes' biggest weapon of the evening, running back Chris Wells.

So if you accept my contention that LSU was not as dominant over the Buckeyes as the score might indicate and consider that in the other two bowl games pitting the SEC and the Big Ten, Wisconsin was competitive with Tennessee and Michigan beat Florida, the gap between the two conferences might not be as great as some would like us to believe. As an aside, I should say that I am so bothered by this debate that I actually found myself rooting for slow, plodding Michigan over fleet Florida in the Capital One Bowl, and I'm not a big one for the Wolverines.

For the belittling pundits to point to OSU's now 0-9 record against SEC teams in bowl games as proof of Ohio State's failure to match up against that conference is much like saying that the Buckeyes can't compete with Michigan. I say this because five of the OSU bowl losses against teams from that conference were racked up in the John Cooper years, when the Buckeyes struggled in virtually all bowl games, just as they struggled against their rival Wolverines at that time. This logic would also mean that the Buckeye program does not stack up against those of Syracuse or Air Force, teams that also defeated OSU in the postseason during the Cooper era.

Ohio State turned things around against Michigan under Jim Tressell and, if given another chance, will hopefully get the SEC monkey off its back, as well.

So where does that leave the Ohio State program right now?

I think everyone – fans, players and coaches alike – is disappointed after the loss. Once you make it to the big one, you want to come away a victor. And after the bad taste from last year's title game, I think fans, players and coaches wanted this championship game really badly.

I just worry that the understandable disappointment makes people forget all the Ohio State football program has accomplished these past few years. Conference championships, wins over Michigan – these are things that any Ohio State team aspires to and few Buckeye teams are able to achieve with this type of regularity. While a national championship is always the goal, these successes that help earn the right to play for the championship are things to be savored.

People forget how difficult it is just to make it to the title game. I hear talk of how next year's Buckeye team could be even better than this year's club. That hardly guarantees a third straight visit to the BCS championship game. As this year so vividly proved for so many teams, it's a long road to those top two spots in the BCS rankings.

On the flip side, I disagree with those who minimize the loss to LSU because the Buckeyes were supposed to be rebuilding this year and were said to be a year away from being championship material. If you are good enough to get there, you are good enough to win.

Ohio State fans have every reason to be

disappointed after a second straight loss in the BCS National Championship Game. They also have every reason to be proud of their Buckeyes.

As I have said in this space before, I believe that years from now this will be looked back upon as one of the golden ages of Ohio State football.

I just hope that when people look back upon this era, they look back upon a win over an SEC team somewhere in the mix.

### Hard-Nosed Roots

The physical nature of LSU's play shouldn't be such a surprise when you consider that the team's coaching staff has strong Ohio, Big Ten and Midwest roots.

Miles' Michigan connection is well-documented. And defensive coordinator Bo Pellini, now free to assume his duties as head coach at Nebraska, is a former Ohio State football player. Defensive backs coach Doug Mallory played his collegiate football at Michigan, and his father, Bill Mallory, was an assistant to Woody Hayes on OSU's 1968 national championship team and was a longtime head coach at Indiana.

LSU offensive line coach Greg Studrawa is a Fostoria, Ohio, native who played his college ball at Bowling Green, where he also coached. He served as a graduate assistant for Ohio State under John Cooper in 1997.

### Holiday Promos Continue

Many of you have asked us if the BSB holiday promotions are still in effect. If you received any holiday gift offer from us, you may still take advantage of it. With interest shifting to recruiting, now would be a great time to give a gift of Buckeye Sports Bulletin to that Buckeye fan whom you still haven't found something for as interest in BSB is always high this time of year.

Simply use the form we sent you or give us a call at (614) 486-2202 for more information.

### BCS Quick Kicks

I continue to worry about Boeckman's tendency to underthrow his deep ball. I don't know if it is a question of arm strength, mechanics, footwork or what. But I know it is a recipe for disaster.

One thing I don't question about Boeckman is his toughness. He took a beating in the game with LSU and kept coming back to try to lead his club to victory.

• Speaking of arm strength, I continue to be amazed by Wells' ability to use the old-fashioned stiff-arm. There's nothing fancy about a stiff-arm. I'm sure it was used in the days of Chic Harley. But it can really be effective, as Wells has demonstrated repeatedly, including on a 29-yard run in the second quarter of the championship game.

• You can add sloppy tackling to the list of miscues by the Buckeyes in the title tilt. Some of that can be attributed to the play of the Tigers, but most of that has to fall on Ohio State. While people talk about Austin Spitzer's failure to block that LSU punt and the Tigers' subsequent new life after his roughing the kicker penalty, they don't seem to mention that poor Buckeye tackling helped the Tigers gobble up the final 45 yards for the decisive touchdown.

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