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"For The Buckeye Fan Who Needs To Know More"

November 13, 2010

All Treats, No Tricks

Rout, Spartans' Loss Tighten Big Ten Race

By MARK REA
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Managing Editor

Minnesota staged a huge Halloween party Oct. 30 at TCF Bank Stadium with everyone in attendance from Elvis to Lady Gaga. It wasn't all that difficult, though, to figure who was who when it came time for the unmasking at night's end.

As with most masquerade parties, early deception gave way to reality as Ohio State simply overpowered its mistake-prone hosts and ran away with a 52-10 victory.

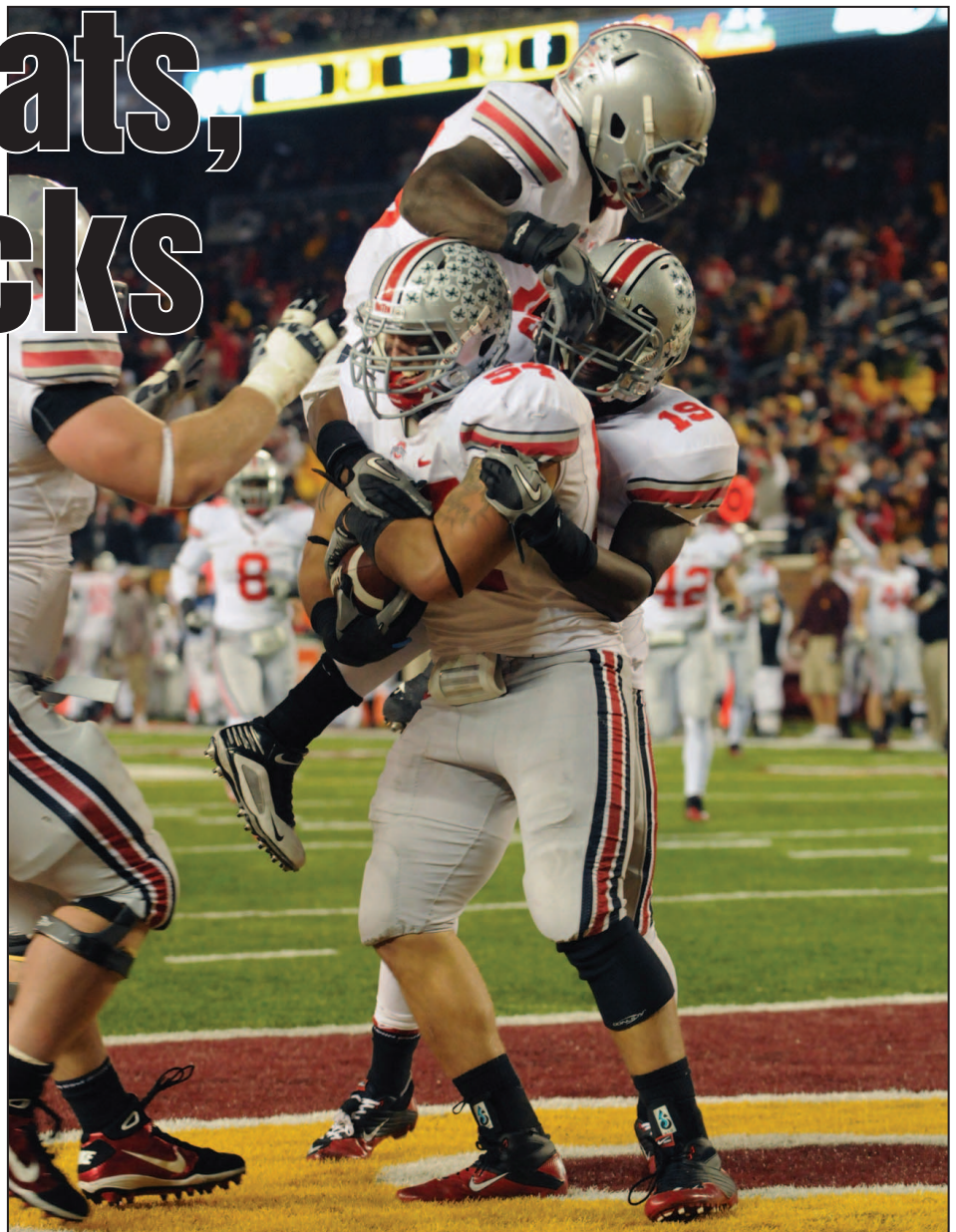
As the evening's festivities began, the Golden Gophers did their best impression of an offensive juggernaut, scoring an early touchdown on a quick-strike drive that covered 74 yards in less than two minutes. Unfortunately, many of their fans missed the early fireworks since they came convincingly disguised as empty seats – the announced attendance of 48,717 seemed to be stretching it a bit.

The Buckeyes did some masquerading of their own, often resembling Swiss cheese on defense in the early going as Minnesota quarterback Adam Weber completed his first three pass attempts of the game for 103 yards.

But after the Gophers tied the score at 7 at the 7:44 mark of the first quarter, OSU had evidently had all of the tricks it was going to stand. The Buckeyes outscored the Gophers by a 45-3 margin from that point and gained 461 total yards to only 158 for the disappointed party hosts the rest of the way.

The victory only topped off a day of treats for Ohio State. About an hour before the Buckeyes and Gophers kicked off in Minneapolis, Iowa was putting the finishing touches on a 37-6 blowout of previously unbeaten Michigan State, an outcome that sent the Big Ten standings into a frightful first-place logjam.

Heading into November, the Buckeyes and the Spartans were in a tie for first place with identical 4-1 conference records and 8-1 overall marks. One-half game off that pace were Wisconsin and



SONNY BROCKWAY

PARTY IN THE END ZONE – Teammates Brian Rolle (top) and Orhian Johnson (19) were among the first to celebrate with defensive lineman John Simon (54) after the sophomore returned an Adam Weber fumble 30 yards for a touchdown in the fourth quarter Oct. 30 during Ohio State's 52-10 win at Minnesota.

Iowa at 3-1, although the Badgers had the better overall record at 7-1. The Hawkeyes were 6-2.

That means the final month of the regular season shapes up to an entertaining one with a multitude of scenarios that will determine which of those teams earn big-money BCS bids and which ones don't.

Nearly every member of the Buckeyes admitted to watching at least part of the MSU-Iowa game in their hotel rooms before leaving for the Minnesota game, but none of them

indicated it had much impact on the mental state of the team once it arrived at TCF Bank Stadium.

"We watched it on TV, yeah, but Michigan State was getting handled at halftime by about 30, so by the time we got on the bus to leave for the stadium it was pretty much already out of our minds," OSU defensive end Nathan Williams said.

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Charter Member

OPINION

Buckeyes Looked Like Champs Against Gophers

On the day before each Ohio State football game, BSB staffers offer their predictions on the upcoming contest in our electronic newsletter. Before the Oct. 30 matchup with Minnesota, this is what I wrote:

"In a season that has already featured plenty of Jekyll-and-Hyde moments, which costumes will the Buckeyes don Saturday night when the Golden Gophers throw their Halloween party at two-year-old TCF Bank Stadium?"

"Will OSU come dressed as an efficient passing team as it did against Indiana and in the second quarter last week against Purdue? Or will the Buckeyes resemble Swiss cheese as they have so often this season on special teams?"

"Will the team show up as a locomotive, grinding out the tough yardage on the ground as it did late in the game at Illinois? Or perhaps the Buckeyes will feel unmotivated and just throw something together at the last minute as they appeared to do early against Wisconsin."

"The scariest thing about this Ohio State team? It is nearing the three-quarter pole of the 2010 season still in the middle of an identity crisis. The Buckeyes don't yet know what kind of team they want to be and decision time is rapidly running out."

"Not that it will matter much against the Gophers, who occupy last place in the Big Ten standings and deservedly so. OSU should go to Minnesota and win by 50 points because that's what championship teams do. But are the Buckeyes a championship team or simply masquerading as one?"

"Stay tuned."

Hindsight being 20/20, we now know Ohio State didn't quite win by 50 points, but it did play like a championship team while rather easily dispatching the Golden Gophers. Like most title contenders, the Buckeyes manufactured their own points and then made Minnesota pay dearly whenever it made a mistake.

OSU piled up 507 yards on offense and tacked on another 184 in hidden yardage – 154 on kickoff and punt returns and 30 more on John Simon's fumble return for a touchdown. The Buckeyes scored nearly every way a football team can score – running, passing, kicking a field goal, blocked punt, fumble return. About the only thing missing was a kick return for a touchdown, and junior Jordan Hall nearly provided that by taking a punt back 70 yards to the Minnesota 2.

Yet, there were flaws. Early pass-coverage breakdowns the Gophers exploited for a quick first-quarter touchdown. Terrelle Pryor's brain cramp of an interception in the second quarter near the goal line after Hall's long return. Devin Barclay's missed 21-yard field goal. Still too much yardage surrendered on kickoff returns.

You may argue that criticizing a handful of mistakes during a 52-10 blowout victory is nipping at the highest degree. I would argue that any number of those mistakes can cost the Buckeyes and cost them dearly during the final three games of the regular season.

Despite what happened to previously undefeated Michigan State at Iowa, the cold, hard truth of the matter is the Ohio State must play flawless football against Penn State, Iowa and Michigan to close the season. It goes without saying that the Buckeyes must win all of those games, but they also have to play well while accomplishing those victories.

After the BCS standings were revealed Oct. 31 and Ohio State didn't budge out of the No. 11 spot – while an idle Wisconsin moved up from 10th to ninth – it now appears the

Buckeyes have very little wiggle room if they want a sixth straight bid to a big-money Bowl Championship Series game.

Several years ago, the BCS took style points and/or margin of victory out of the equation to determine its participants, but I maintain those facets of competition continue to play a vital role in the human polls that still make up two-thirds of the BCS standings. Therefore, Ohio State not only has to win out, it has to win out convincingly.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK Mark Rea

Perhaps it is unfair to ask that of any team. But whoever said life was fair? Right or wrong, the team's losses in back-to-back national championship games still hang around the program's neck, and nearly everyone outside the Big Ten looks for the smallest of excuses to downgrade anything OSU does.

The only way for the Buckeyes to combat that is to play like the championship team they are supposed to be.

Numbers Don't Lie

Anyone you care to talk to has Auburn quarterback Cameron Newton as the front-runner for this year's Heisman Trophy.

As you probably know by now, I have a Heisman vote and I cannot dispute the terrific season Newton is having so far. He has his team at No. 2 in the USA Today coaches' poll, No. 3 in the Associated Press writers' poll and No. 2 in the most important poll of all, the BCS rankings that determine which teams play for the national championship.

Auburn has run out to its first 9-0 start since 2004 and has bludgeoned opponents with Newton as the main weapon. In five of their nine games, the Tigers have topped 500 yards in total offense.

What's more, Newton's personal story is an intriguing one with a relatively short career already featuring more stops and starts than a New York City taxicab.

For example, did you know Newton was once Tim Tebow's backup at Florida? Since that time, he was suspended by Gators head coach Urban Meyer after a burglary arrest, transferred from Florida, led Blinn College (Texas) to the 2009 junior college national championship, signed with Auburn and then won SEC offensive player of the week honors after his first game with the Tigers.

Newton is an imposing 6-6, 250-pound specimen who can effortlessly throw and run the football with confident authority. And he has the stats to prove it.

Trouble is, Newton's stats are not all that more impressive than another junior quarterback of similar body type and talent. Yet while Newton is universally embraced as a bona fide Heisman Trophy candidate, Pryor hasn't even completely won over his own Ohio State fan base.

But the numbers don't lie.

Newton is No. 3 in the nation in pass efficiency with a 172.61 rating. He has completed 108 of 162 attempts (66.7 percent) for 1,573 yards, 15 TDs and five interceptions. His touchdown percentage is 9.26 percent, and his interception percentage 3.09 percent.

Pryor is No. 6 in the nation in pass efficiency with a 165.22 rating. He has completed 152 of 225 attempts (67.6 percent) for 1,997 yards, 20 TDs and seven interceptions. His touchdown percentage is 8.89 percent

and his interception percentage is 3.11 percent.

Where the two begin to separate is in their respective rushing stats. Newton is No. 7 in the nation in rushing with an average of 124.7 yards per game. He has rushed for 1,122 yards on 168 carries, good for an average of 6.68 yards per carry. Meanwhile, Pryor's rushing average of 51.4 yards per game does not rank him among the national top 100. He has rushed for 463 yards on 84 carries, good for an average of 5.51 yards per carry.

However, when you look at total offense, the numbers are uncannily similar.

Newton is No. 14 in the nation in total offense, Pryor is No. 21. Newton averages 299.44 yards per game, Pryor averages 273.33. Newton averages 8.17 yards per play, Pryor averages 7.96.

Obviously, the tiebreakers right now are the facts that Newton's team is undefeated and everyone loves the SEC while Pryor's one-loss team plays in the respect-challenged Big Ten. But is there really much difference between the two quarterbacks? Not so much that one should be far and away the Heisman front-runner while the other doesn't even show up in most voters' top five.

Some Final Thoughts

- Brian Rolle turned in a rare triple play against Minnesota – a sack, forced fumble and fumble recovery on the same play. Late in the third quarter, Rolle blitzed past Minnesota QB Adam Weber's protection and smacked Weber hard enough to dislodge the football. Then practically in the same motion, Rolle pushed 305-pound Golden Gophers center D.J. Burris backward and pounced on the loose football.

- All that weight training must be paying off. On his recovery of a blocked punt in the end zone, OSU sophomore Zach Domicone somehow managed to wrestle the football away from Minnesota junior Anthony Jacobs. Making the play even more remarkable was the fact the 6-3, 211-pound Domicone was giving up nearly 90 pounds to the 6-2, 300-pound Jacobs.

- Talk about no love for the Buckeyes. In its latest bowl projections, CBSSports.com has Ohio State playing LSU in the Outback Bowl. The website foresees Wisconsin and Iowa to represent the Big Ten team in the BCS – the Badgers in the Rose Bowl vs. Boise State and the Hawkeyes against Auburn in the Sugar Bowl.

- Head coach Jim Tressel seemed extremely bothered by Pryor's second-quarter interception vs. Minnesota, the only perceptible mistake the OSU quarterback made in the game. Tressel mentioned the pick more than once during his postgame comments, and the last time the head coach seemed that piqued with the play of his quarterback was after the 2008 game at USC. Senior co-captain Todd Boeckman was benched the following week.

- It's been pretty popular these past few years to dump on the Notre Dame football program, but let me be completely serious for a moment. Head coach Brian Kelly should be fired after 20-year-old videographer Declan Sullivan was killed Oct. 27 when a scissor lift he was on to film an outdoor practice session collapsed in 50-mph winds. I realize nothing will bring Sullivan back, but if you are going to be paid millions of dollars to be head coach at a major university, you have to take ownership of everything that happens with your program. Everything. So if what happened in South Bend on Oct. 27 isn't a firing offense, I don't know what is.

COVER STORY

Herron Finally Records 100-Yard Performance

Continued From Page 1

Senior offensive guard Bryant Browning said despite the fact the outcome of that game put the Buckeyes right back into the mix for a Big Ten championship and possible Rose Bowl berth, there wasn't much discussion about it.

"I think we were just trying to focus in on what we were doing tonight," Browning said. "We always talk about working hard to better ourselves and everything else kind of takes care of itself. That's always our approach."

But when one reporter suggested that the Iowa victory at the very least put a smile on his face, the big lineman let out a hearty laugh.

"Yeah, I guess you could say that," Browning said. "We knew we were back in it as one of the teams that has a chance to win the Big Ten. But again, we can't look at what happens after the season is over. We still have three games to go – three tough games to go – and we have to focus on what we need to do to get better and win those games."

"If anything, I think the road is going to be even tougher now that our destiny is back in our own hands."

The marquee game remaining on the conference schedule would appear to be Nov. 20 when Ohio State visits Iowa with the loser facing almost certain elimination from the championship race. Additionally, however, there are several intriguing matchups involving each of the front-runners including Iowa traveling to Northwestern on Nov. 13, Wisconsin playing at Michigan on Nov. 20 and Michigan State visiting Penn State in the Nov. 27 regular-season finale for both teams.

History runs deeply through each of those games.

Ohio State has had its way with Iowa over the years. The Buckeyes are 44-14-3 all-time against the Hawkeyes and haven't lost a game in the series since 2004. In addition, playing at Kinnick Stadium has never been much of a problem for OSU. The team is 14-2-1 on its last 17 trips there.

Iowa fares much better all-time against Northwestern, boasting a 46-20-3 advantage over Northwestern in a series that began in 1897. But current Hawkeyes head coach Kirk Ferentz has struggled against the Wildcats.



SONNY BROCKWAY

ROLLING ALONG – Ohio State junior tailback Dan "Boom" Herron (1) found plenty of holes during his 114-yard performance at Minnesota on Oct. 30.

He is only 4-5 during his career against NU, and that includes losses in four of the last five meetings.

Meanwhile, Michigan has had its troubles in the Big Ten since Rich Rodriguez took over as head coach in 2008. But the Wolverines still enjoy a lopsided 49-13-1 advantage over Wisconsin in their all-time series, and the Big House has been a House of Horrors for the Badgers. They haven't won there since 1994, and their most recent trip was in 2008 when Michigan overcame a 19-0 halftime deficit for a 27-25 victory.

Likewise, visiting Happy Valley has seldom been a happy experience for Michigan State. The Spartans have lost five of the last six in the series, including eight in a row at Beaver Stadium – six of those by 19 points or more.

Those history lessons would seem to bode well for the Buckeyes, but they insist they will take nothing for granted while approaching their final three regular-season games.

"You can quote all the numbers you want to, but the bottom line is that it's November now," senior co-captain Brian Rolle said. "In November, it feels different than any other games you play. We all know that the way you play in November determines your whole season. We all know the Big Ten championship is won in November."

Still, it's nice to know that what happened in Iowa City at the end of October means the Buckeyes can begin the final month of the season knowing they still have a chance at a record-tying sixth consecutive conference title.

"Of course it's good to know that," Rolle said. "Actually, before the game (OSU head coach Jim) Tressel mentioned that Iowa did their job and now we have to go out and do ours. Some of us got to watch the game at the hotel and it's shocking what can happen to a team when you're maybe not as focused as you need to be."

"It was a good lesson for us to see that because we go up to Iowa in a couple of weeks and we know how tough it is to play there. We knew that before we saw what they did to Michigan State, but it wasn't a bad thing to be reminded. Adversity – yours

or someone else's – is always a pretty good teacher."

Century Mark For Herron

While the Buckeyes celebrated getting back into the Big Ten title chase, junior tailback Dan "Boom" Herron had a celebration of his own. The 5-10, 202-pounder tallied the first 100-yard game of his career, finishing with 114 yards and a touchdown on 17 carries.

"That has definitely been one of my goals, and it is a great honor to get 100 yards as an Ohio State running back," Herron said. "I'm just glad for the opportunity to be able to run the ball here. Our offensive line did a great job tonight, and I certainly couldn't have done it without them."

The junior tailback is getting more and more comfortable in his role as the Buckeyes' leading ball carrier. After gaining only 137 yards in the season's first three games, Herron has been over 90 in three of the last five contests. During those five games, he has not only averaged 88.4 yards but also a tidy 5.1 yards on 87 carries.

The rise in production is due to getting more chances to carry the ball, but Herron said other things factor in as well.

"Definitely part of it is getting more carries, but it's also really just being with my coaches and listening to them," he said. "(Running backs coach Dick) Tressel definitely helps me a lot. And then watching film, just being patient – you know, it just all goes together."

"We seem like we're really getting into the groove of things and really feeling better about our running game."

OSU quarterback Terrelle Pryor said he thinks the secret to Herron's recent success has been the fact the running back has stopped trying to force the issue and now lets the game come to him.

"He's slowing down a little bit and waiting for the blocks," Pryor said. "He's slowing his body down a little bit and he's not cutting right away. He's being very patient when he gets the ball. I turn and hand the ball off and I look and see how patient he is and how much he's grown from a running back standpoint."

Perhaps even better for Herron than his rising yardage total is the fact that he seems to be making most of his carries count. For example, nine of his attempts against the Golden Gophers either gave his team a touchdown or first down. It began with his first carry of the evening, a 10-yard bolt through the heart of the Minnesota defense on the Buckeyes' third play from scrimmage, and it fittingly ended with a 10-yard touchdown scamper on his 17th and final tote of the game.

Herron said he was so caught up in the flow of the game that he didn't have time to notice how many times he moved the chains.

"You never really realize that kind of stuff when you're out there and everyone is flying around," he said. "Your mind is on other

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COVER STORY

things. You never realize that until you go back the next day and look at the film. Coach always says just to make the play when it comes to you. The offensive line did a great job, opened a lot of holes, and when they do that, it's a lot easier to do my job."

The feeling is mutual.

"He's making us look good, isn't he?" Browning said. "You know, that's always one of our goals – to get one of our backs over the 100-yard mark. Sometimes we mix it up with personnel and who's playing, so we really haven't had much of a chance to get to that particular goal this season, but this was a big game for Boom and it was a big game for us. I know he really enjoyed getting that 100-yard game."

And he could have had even more. All of his carries came in the first half as the Buckeyes were building a 31-7 lead. The backups took over after intermission as Brandon Saine, Jordan Hall, Jaamal Berry and Carlos Hyde combined for 18 carries for 90 yards. Ohio State finished the game with 263 yards on the ground, the third-highest total for the season and best against any Big Ten opponent so far.

"We had a nice lead, so the other guys needed their opportunities, too," Herron said. "I was fine with it. Sure, I would have liked to have gotten a couple of carries in the second half, but at the same time I knew we were up by a lot and the other guys work hard, too, to get their opportunities to play. It's always good to get the younger guys in there and get them some experience."

Defensive Trick Or Treat

The OSU offense set the early tempo when Hall took the short opening kickoff back 34 yards to set up a 46-yard touchdown drive.

But just as quickly as the Buckeyes had

grabbed a 7-0 lead, the Golden Gophers seized momentum right back when Weber struck with surgical precision. Minnesota's first offensive play resulted in a 35-yard pass over the middle from Weber to sophomore receiver MarQueis Gray, and two plays later the QB went up top again to find junior tight end Tirie Eure for a 32-yard gain.

Junior running back DeLeon Eskridge then topped things off with a 7-yard touchdown run to cap the four-play, 74-yard touchdown drive that took only 1:41.

The Buckeyes seemed a little shell-shocked after that – except that they're weren't. In fact, the Gophers didn't do anything on that first drive that was unexpected.

"We knew they were going to come out and throw the ball," Rolle said. "Actually, that first pass they hit – we talked about that. We said, 'Watch them come out with play action and throw deep,' and that's exactly what they did."

OSU safety Jermale Hines nodded his head in agreement, admitting he had an up-close-and-personal view of Weber's completion to Gray.

"It was something we were expecting most definitely," Hines said. "I was right there and should have had a better angle (on Gray). But at the same time you never want to overplay it and make a bad situation worse by missing a tackle and letting him go for a touchdown. Give Minnesota credit. They had a good game plan and they went after us right from the beginning."

Rolle said he believed the early breakdowns were simply because players wanted to do too much to set an early tone.

"We had some guys that were maybe a little too hyped up on that first drive," he said. "But you saw what happened after that when we settled down and settled in and did what we had to do."

After completing his first three passes of the game for 103 yards, Weber was under constant attack from the Buckeyes. The senior QB managed to connect on only six more attempts for the remainder of the game, finishing 9 for 20 for 162 yards and no touchdowns. He was also sacked five times and intercepted once.

The five sacks were a season-high total for the Ohio State defense and marked the second year in a row the Buckeyes had corralled Weber five times.

"We felt we had to get after Adam," Tressel said after the game. "We felt like we had to get some heat on him because we could not let him sit there and add to his 10,000-plus (career) yards."

"I thought we came at him good, and even the first couple of ones he hit down the field we had some people breathing down his neck. I don't know how many times we sacked him. Five times? We needed to do that."

For Weber, it was another tough outing against the Buckeyes. Last season, he was able to complete only 10 of 23 passes for 112 yards with a pair of interceptions during a 38-7 loss in Columbus. And three years ago during his freshman season, Weber managed to complete 27 of 44 attempts for 232 yards vs. Ohio State, but he was sacked once and intercepted twice as the Buckeyes ran away with a 30-7 victory.

"I don't care what their record is and how he's done against us in the past," Hines said. "He's a great quarterback and if you leave him back there with time, he can definitely take a defense apart."

The trouble for Weber was that the Buckeyes simply didn't allow him time to maneuver. As the game wore on, his protection seemed to break down more and more. Four of the five sacks came in the second

half, and two of them led to fumbles by the Minnesota quarterback.

The first came midway through the third quarter when Rolle steamrolled his way past two would-be blockers to sack Weber. The OSU linebacker also caused the quarterback to fumble and then hit the rare trifecta on the same play by recovering the loose football.

"That was a lot of fun for me," said Rolle, who led the Buckeyes with six tackles. "Actually both sacks I had against him were the exact same play. We were in man coverage both times and I happened to be covering the back. I was playing the play-action and just ran right by him to the quarterback."

"Both were great jobs by our defensive line just keeping their quarterback at bay back there, not letting him get the ball out quick because he knew our deep guys were covering well."

Then early in the fourth quarter, the OSU defense struck again when senior Chimdi Chekwa broke free on a corner blitz and wiped out Weber. The Minnesota quarterback fumbled again, and this time the loose ball was scooped up by sophomore defensive lineman John Simon, who rumbled 30 yards for his first career touchdown.

"That's what we can do when we're playing the way we can," Rolle said. "After they hit those first couple of passes, the front seven got together and told each other that we needed to get after them. We didn't change up the scheme or change up the defense or change anything we were doing. We just needed the mind-set that we were going to get after them."

"After that, they tried to slow us down a little bit by trying to run it, but they couldn't do that. So they had to pass a little more and we were able to kind of tee off on Weber."

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OHIO STATE VS. MINNESOTA

New Stadium, Same Result: OSU Cruises

By MARCUS HARTMAN
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

On the night before Halloween, Ohio State turned TCF Bank Stadium into a house of horrors for the home team during a 52-10 throttling of Minnesota in Minneapolis on Oct. 30.

The 11th-ranked Buckeyes (8-1, 4-1) scored touchdowns on offense, defense and special teams, but they also made enough mistakes to give head coach Jim Tressel and his coaching staff plenty to look at during a week off before a Nov. 13 home game against Penn State.

"I think the reality of our situation is that we get to head home tomorrow and catch up a little bit academically and get some guys healthy, and then we've really got to look and see where we've got to get better," Tressel said.

Among the miscues were a missed field goal, an interception tossed inside the Minnesota 5-yard line and a kickoff that went out of bounds.

"There are probably a multitude of things that we've got to get better if we're going to go into November and have a chance to contend for the conference championship, so we'll make great use of this week," Tressel said.

Cashing In Early

Ohio State jumped on the Golden Gophers (1-8, 0-4) immediately, taking the opening kickoff and driving 46 yards for a touchdown. Terrelle Pryor capped the drive



SONNY BROCKWAY

IT'S MINE – Ohio State sophomore Zach Domicone (16) scored his first collegiate touchdown Oct. 30 when he got to a blocked punt in the end zone before Minnesota's Anthony Jacobs (97) in the third quarter of the Buckeyes' 52-10 win.

with a 1-yard quarterback sneak. The junior completed 2 of 3 passes for 26 yards on the march and also tossed a 12-yard swing pass to Dane Sanzenbacher that counted as a lateral.

Minnesota struck back with a four-play

drive covering 74 yards, including a 35-yard pass from quarterback Adam Weber to wide receiver MarQueis Gray and a 32-yarder from Weber to tight end T'ree Eure. The latter toss set up DeLeon Eskridge's 7-yard touchdown run, and Eric Ellestad's PAT kick knotted the score at 7 less than eight minutes into the game.

The Buckeyes responded with a 13-play scoring drive highlighted by a 34-yard Pryor scramble that converted a third-and-11 into a first down at the Gopher 21. Four plays

later, Pryor faked a handoff then threw to a wide-open Brandon Saine in the end zone for a 3-yard touchdown at the 0:22 mark of the first quarter, giving the Buckeyes a lead they would not relinquish.

After Ellestad missed a 35-yard field goal, Ohio State extended its lead to 10 with a 23-yard field goal by Devin Barclay with 8:24 left in the first half.

The Buckeyes opened things up on the field-goal drive. Pryor started it with a 19-yard play-action pass to DeVier Posey and

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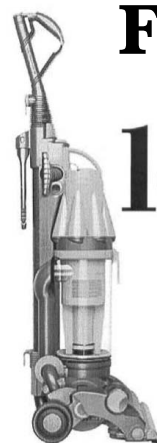
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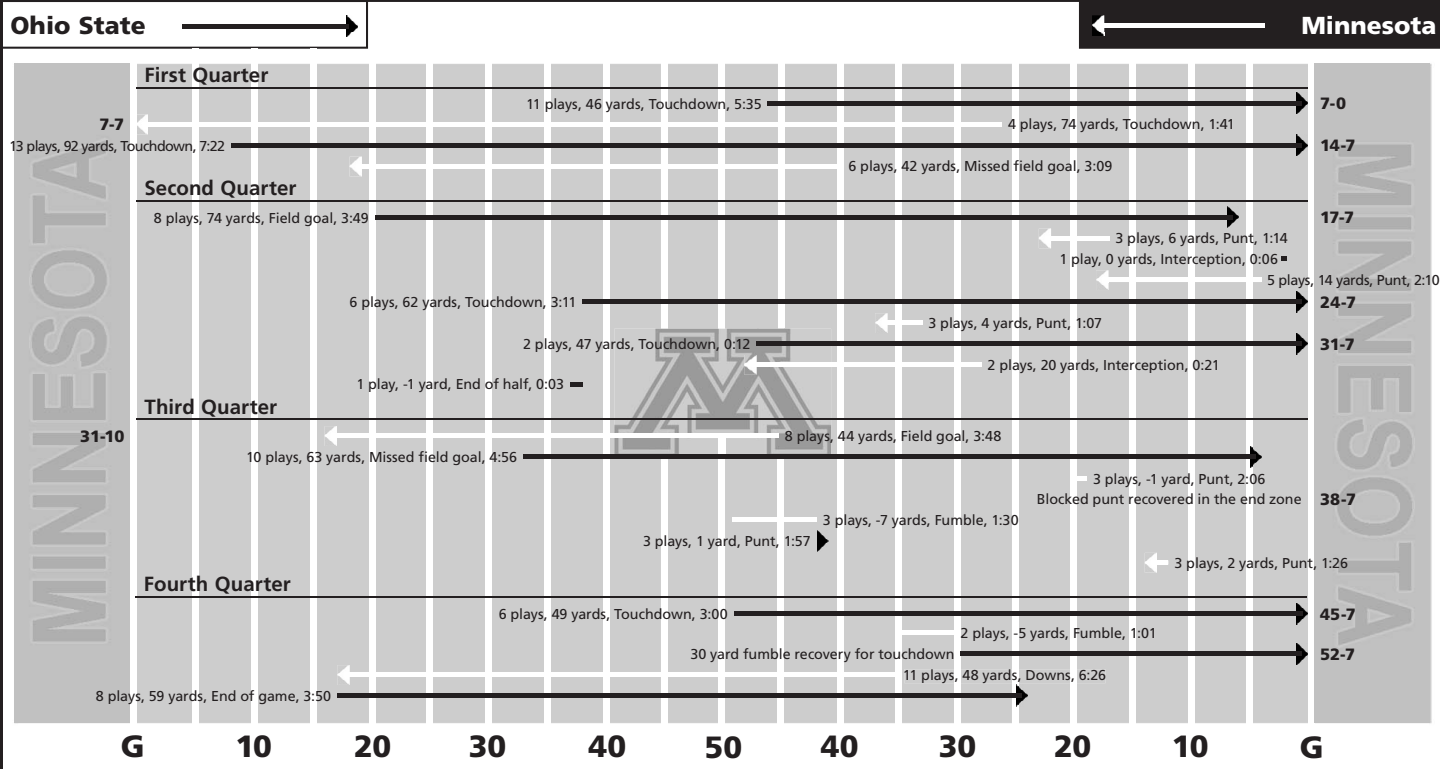
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OHIO STATE VS. MINNESOTA

Drive Chart



later put the Scarlet and Gray in scoring position with a 39-yard connection with Sanzenbacher. The senior co-captain was brought down by Minnesota safety Kyle Theret at the Minnesota 14, but the drive stalled from that point.

The Buckeyes had to settle for the field goal after backup tailback Jordan Hall was stuffed at the line of scrimmage on third-and-2 at the 6.

The Buckeye defense followed that with a quick three-and-out, and Ohio State looked poised to blow the game open after Hall returned the ensuing punt 70 yards to the 2-yard line.

Minnesota safety Ryan Collado, a Cincinnati native, had other plans, though, as he stepped in front of a Pryor pass intended for fullback Zach Boren in the end zone and picked it off.

When the Buckeyes got the ball back after another short Gopher possession, Tressel allowed little chance for another pick. Ohio State drove 62 yards in six plays, picking up every yard on the ground. One pass play was called, but that resulted in a 5-yard Pryor scramble when he could not find anyone open downfield.

Starting tailback Dan Herron did most of the work, including a 25-yard burst through a gaping hole on the left side of the line to open the drive and a 10-yard touchdown run on which he bounced outside. Barclay's extra point extended the Ohio State lead to 24-7.

Minnesota looked like it could get to half-time trailing by only 17 until Dan Orskeske's 10-yard punt gave the Buckeyes one last chance to strike with 36 seconds left in the second quarter. The visitors took over at the Minnesota 47 and wasted no time.

Pryor found Sanzenbacher for 9 yards on first down then tossed a pretty fade pass to Posey, who made a tough catch in the end zone for a 38-yard touchdown with 24 seconds left on the clock.

While the first half was hard on the Minnesota partisans in a crowd of 48,717, there was even less for them to cheer about after intermission.

The Gophers moved 44 yards for another Elletstad field goal to open the half on a drive aided by a 15-yard face-mask penalty on Ohio State safety Jermale Hines, but that was the last score of the night for the hosts. Buckeye senior safety Aaron Gant nearly snuffed out the drive without any points, but his chance for an interception went for naught when Hines inadvertently knocked a Weber pass away from his teammate on third down.

Ohio State's next points came on special teams, but not the way Tressel probably envisioned. Kicking from an awkward angle on the left hash during the ensuing drive, Barclay missed a 21-yard field goal. The ball clanged off the left upright, giving possession to the Golden Gophers at their own 20.

They quickly went three-and-out, including a third-down sack by blitzing Ohio State linebacker Brian Rolle that resulted in a 6-yard loss.

One play later, the Gophers lined up to punt, but a bad snap resulted in disaster. The ball bounced back to Orskeske, who tried to get it off anyway but did not have time before Ohio State linebacker Jonathan Newsome stormed in from the left wing and blocked the kick.

Ohio State backup fullback Adam Homan tried to scoop the ball up and return it for a touchdown but only knocked it into the end zone, where teammate Zach Dominone covered it for his first touchdown since his days as a quarterback at Beavercreek, Ohio. The touchdown extended Ohio State's lead to 38-10.

The Buckeye offense got on the board one more time in the fourth quarter with a 49-yard drive full of Jeannette, Pa., flavor. Hall and Pryor, former high school teammates, accounted for every yard, including

The Bottom Line

It was over when ... the Buckeyes tacked on one last touchdown before halftime. Things looked bleak enough for Minnesota before punter Dan Orskeske hit a punt that traveled only 10 yards, giving Ohio State possession at the Gopher 47. Two plays later, Terrelle Pryor hooked up with DeVier Posey for a 38-yard touchdown pass that gave Ohio State a 31-7 lead with 24 seconds to go in the second quarter.

Game ball goes to ... Dan "Boom" Herron. The junior tailback capped a strong October with the best game of his career. Herron ran 17 times for 114 yards – all in the first half – and scored a touchdown. His emergence has helped Ohio State re-establish an identity as a power-running team.

Stat of the game ... 5. Fans have been wondering where the Buckeye pass rush has been all season, and it showed up in a big way in the sack column at Minneapolis as five different players got at least a piece of Golden Gopher quarterback Adam Weber before all was said and done.

– Marcus Hartman

a 13-yard Pryor run and a 13-yard pass play between the pair. Hall capped the drive with a 16-yard scoring run with 11:17 left in the game.

The Buckeye defense closed out the scoring 1:01 later when defensive lineman John Simon scooped up a Weber fumble and returned it 30 yards for a touchdown. Blitzing cornerback Chimdi Chekwa, who had an interception in the first half, knocked the ball loose on the first sack of his career. His sack was one of five on the night for the Buckeyes, who outgained their hosts 507 to 232.

After the two early scoring drives, the Golden Gophers were able to do next to nothing on offense.

"They just kept doing what they do," Minnesota interim head coach Jeff Horton replied when asked about the Buckeye defense adjusting. "Their front seven is

great and strong and hard to run against. When the game starts turning and you are not running the ball, then you are playing into their strengths. That is when it started to get away from us a little bit."

Weber finished the game 9 for 20 passing for 162 yards with an interception. Gray was his leading receiver with 81 yards on three grabs. Backup running back Duane Bennett was the only other Gopher to catch more than one pass, making two receptions for 6 yards. Eskridge ended the day with 79 yards on 23 carries.

His interception aside, Pryor was sharp most of the night. He completed 18 of 22 passes for 222 yards and a pair of touchdowns, and the junior added 55 yards rushing despite a dearth of designed runs called for him.

Continued On Page 12

OHIO STATE VS. MINNESOTA

Despite Minor Ankle Ailment, Rolle Led Defense

Continued From Page 11

Herron led a ground game that piled up 263 yards. The junior tailback did not carry the ball in the second half but finished the day with a career-best 114 yards on 17 carries. Freshman Carlos Hyde added 32 yards

on three totes, and Hall carried seven times for 30 yards while senior co-captain Saine picked up 23 yards on five carries.

Pryor's top target was Posey, who amassed 115 receiving yards on six grabs, while Sanzenbacher finished with 67 yards on five catches.

Brian Rolle led the defensive charge for the visitors. The senior linebacker had a team-high six tackles, including 2½ for loss and 1½ sacks. He forced and recovered a fumble and shook off the effects of an early ankle injury that temporarily knocked him out of the game.

Cornerback Travis Howard and end Nathan Williams also had sacks for Ohio State, and nose guard Dexter Larimore was credited with half a sack.

Williams and junior linebacker Andrew Sweat both had five total tackles while Howard and redshirt freshman reserve safety Jamie Wood had four apiece.

Third down was a good one for the Buckeyes on both sides of the ball. They converted 6 of 9 third-down plays on offense and held the Gophers to conversions on only 2 of 11 tries.

Game Notes

- In addition to his interception, Collado led Minnesota in tackles with 11. A senior from Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy, Collado is one of four Gophers from Ohio. Joining him are freshman linebacker Willie Tatum (Pickerington Central) and senior offensive linemen D.J. Burris (Kenton) and Dominic Alford (Shaker Heights). Burris and Alford start-

ed at center and left tackle, respectively. Tatum did not see action.

- Minnesota lost its eighth consecutive game after opening the season with a 24-17 win at Middle Tennessee State. The Gophers fell to 0-2 under Horton, who replaced the fired Tim Brewster on Oct. 17.

- The Buckeyes continued their domination of the series with the Gophers. Ohio State leads the series 43-7, including a 21-4 mark in Minneapolis. Ohio State made its first appearance at the Gophers' 2-year-old TCF Bank Stadium. The Buckeyes have won the last eight meetings with Minnesota and 24 of the last 25 overall. Minnesota's last win in Minneapolis was a 35-31 decision Nov. 7, 1981, in the penultimate game at the Gophers' old Memorial Stadium.

- Pryor has enjoyed his three meetings with Minnesota. The junior has 787 yards of total offense and nine TDs in three career games against the Gophers. That mark includes 531 yards passing and five touchdowns through the air along with 256 yards rushing and four more scores.

- His classmate Posey has 15 catches for 287 yards and three touchdowns in three career games against the Gophers.

- Herron's 100-yard game was the first by a Buckeye running back since Saine had 103 yards in the season opener against Marshall. Pryor broke the century mark three times in the meantime with 113 yards against Miami (Fla.) and 104 against Eastern Michigan and Illinois.

- Pryor became the third Buckeye to surpass 7,000 total yards for his career. He

finished the game with 7,275, moving past Bobby Hoying (7,151, 1992-95) into second place behind Art Schlichter (8,850, 1978-81).

- Pryor ran his career touchdown pass total to 50, tying him with Schlichter for fourth on Ohio State's all-time list. Hoying holds the record with 57, followed by Joe Germaine (56, 1996-98) and Troy Smith (54, 2003-06).

- By accounting for three touchdowns, Pryor passed Smith for second on the all-time Ohio State list. Pryor's 69 touchdowns trail only Schlichter's 85.

- Pryor amassed 277 total yards for his 19th game with 200 or more. That ties Smith's school record.

- Ohio State went over the 500-yard mark for the third time this season. The last time the Buckeyes had 500 yards against a Big Ten opponent was last season when they amassed 509 yards against Minnesota.

- Tressel improved to 102-22 at Ohio State and 237-79-2 overall. He is the second-winningest active Division I-A coach behind Joe Paterno of Penn State, the Buckeyes' next opponent. Paterno won his 399th game against Michigan the same day the Buckeyes downed the Gophers.

- Newsome's blocked punt was the first for Ohio State since Nov. 15, 2008, during a 30-10 win at Illinois. The Buckeyes' last punt blocked for a touchdown came earlier that season when linebacker Etienne Sabino returned one 20 yards in a 16-3 defeat of Purdue on Oct. 11 in Columbus. Then-senior defensive back Malcolm Jenkins blocked both punts.

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The Numbers Game

Ohio State 52, Minnesota 10

Oct. 30, 2010 — TCF Bank Stadium; Minneapolis, Minn.

Score by Quarters	1	2	3	4	F
OHIO STATE	14	17	7	14	52
MINNESOTA	7	0	3	0	10

First Quarter

OSU — Pryor, 1 yard run (Barclay kick), 9:25; 11 plays, 46 yards, 5:35 TOP.

MINN — Eskridge, 7 yard run (Ellestad kick), 7:44; 4 plays, 74 yards, 1:41 TOP.

OSU — Saine, 3 yard pass from Pryor (Barclay kick), 0:22; 13 plays, 92 yards, 7:22 TOP.

Second Quarter

OSU — Barclay, 23 yard field goal, 8:24; 8 plays, 74 yards, 3:49 TOP.

OSU — Herron, 10 yard run (Barclay kick), 6 plays, 62 yards, 3:11 TOP.

OSU — Posey, 38 yard pass from Pryor (Barclay kick), 0:24; 2 plays, 47 yards, 0:12 TOP.

Third Quarter

MINN — Ellestad, 33 yard field goal, 11:12; 8 plays, 44 yards, 3:48 TOP.

OSU — Domicone, blocked punt recovered in the end zone (Barclay kick), 4:10.

Fourth Quarter

OSU — J.Hall, 16 yard run (Barclay kick), 11:17; 6 plays, 49 yards, 3:00 TOP.

OSU — Simon, 30 yard fumble recovery (Barclay kick), 10:16.

Att. — 48,717.

Weather — 46 degrees, clear and crisp; wind, NNE 12 mph.

Team Statistics

	OSU	MINN
First Downs	24	10
Rushing	16	3
Passing	8	5
Penalty	0	2
Rushes-Yards	43-263	31-70
Passing Yards	244	162
Passes (Att.-Comp.-Int.)	24-20-1	20-9-1
Offensive Plays	67	51
Total Net Yards	507	232
Third Down Efficiency	6-9	2-11
Fourth Down Efficiency	0-0	0-1
Punts-Avg.	1-29.0	5-27.6
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	3-2
Penalties	5-52	3-20
Time of Possession	34:01	25:59

Individual Statistics

RUSHING (Att.-Net Yds.) — OSU: Herron 17-114; Pryor 5-55; Hyde 3-32; Hall 7-30; Saine 5-23; Berry 3-5; Sanzenbacher 2-5; TEAM 1-(-1). **MINN:** Eskridge 23-79; Allen 1-0; Weber 7-(-9).

PASSING (Comp.-Att.-Int.-Yds.-TD) — OSU: Pryor 18-22-1-222-2; Bauserman 2-2-0-22-0. **MINN:** Weber 9-20-1-162-0.

RECEIVING (Rec.-Yds.) — OSU: Posey 6-115; Sanzenbacher 5-67; J.Hall 2-13; Saine 2-(-1); Fragel 1-14; Schwartz 1-13; C.Brown (WR) 1-11; Fields 1-9; Stoneburner 1-3. **MINN:** Gray 3-81; Bennett 2-6; McKnight 1-36; Eure 1-32; Allen 1-4; Lair 1-3.

PUNTING (No.-Avg.-Long) — OSU: Buchanan 1-29.0-29. **MINN:** Orseske 4-34.5-49.

PUNT RETURNS (No.-Yds.) — OSU: J.Hall 2-70; Newsome 1-19. **MINN:** None.

KICKOFF RETURNS (No.-Yds.) — OSU: Berry 2-31; J.Hall 1-34. **MINN:** Stoudermire 5-144; Bennett 1-30; Hughes 1-6; J.Johnson 1-0.

FUMBLE RECOVERIES (No.-Yds) — OSU: Simon 1-30; Rolle 1-0. **MINN:** None.

INTERCEPTIONS (No.-Yds.) — OSU: Chekwa 1-0. **MINN:** Collado 1-4.

SACKS (No.-Yds.) — OSU: Rolle 1.5-10; Howard 1.0-7; Chekwa 1.0-7; N.Williams 1.0-5; Larimore 0.5-4. **MINN:** None.

TACKLES FOR LOSS (No.-Yds.) — OSU: Rolle 2.5-11; Howard 1.0-7; Chekwa 1.0-7; N.Williams 1.0-5; Larimore 0.5-4. **MINN:** Theret 1.0-4; Rallis 1.0-3; Stoudermire 1.0-1; Reeves 1.0-1.

TACKLES (Solo-Assst.-Tot.) — OSU: Rolle 4-2-6; N.Williams 3-2-5; Sweat 0-5-5; Howard 4-0-4; Wood 3-1-4; Thomas 2-1-3; Chekwa 2-1-3; O.Johnson 2-1-3; Klein 2-1-3; Domicone 2-0-2; Gant 1-1-2; Oliver 1-1-2; Torrence 1-1-2; Heyward 1-1-2; Larimore 1-1-2; Simon 0-2-2; Newsome 1-0-1; Clarke 1-0-1; Goebel 1-0-1; Hines 1-0-1; Basil 1-0-1; Ebner 0-1-1; Berry 0-1-1; Saine 0-1-1; Hankins 0-1-1; Whiting 0-1-1. **MINN:** Collado 6-5-11; Cooper 6-4-10; Theret 7-1-8; Stoudermire 4-3-7; Henderson 5-1-6; Tinsley 4-2-6; Rallis 4-1-5; Reeves 2-3-5; Kirksey 2-1-3; Grant 1-0-1; Lewis 1-0-1; Eure 1-0-1; Hill 1-0-1; Schwerman 1-0-1; Edwards 0-1-1; Jacobs 0-1-1; Manuel 0-1-1; Klitzke 0-1-1; Hageman 0-1-1.

PLAYERS IN THE GAME — OHIO STATE: Offense, Pryor, Adams, J.Boren, Brewster, Browning, Shugarts, Posey, Herron, Z.Boren, Sanzenbacher, Fragel, Barclay. Defense, N.Williams, Larimore, Simon, Heyward, Rolle, Sweat, Newsome, Torrence, Chekwa, Hines, O.Johnson, Buchanan. Reserves, Saine, Berry, Hall, Gant, C.Brown (WR), Stoneburner, Bauserman, Domicone, Schwartz, Howard, Oliver, Wood, Basil, Hyde, Clarke, Rice, Klein, Ebner, Whiting, T.Jackson, Sp.Smith, A.Homan, Hankins, Goebel, Miller, Linsley, Mewhort, C.Smith, Norwell, Fields, Crawford, Fellows, Bellamy, McQuaide, Thomas. **MINNESOTA:** Offense, Gray, McKnight, Lair, Alfrod, Bunders, Burris, Carufel, Wills, Weber, Eskridge, Hughes, Ellestad. Defense, Wilhite, Edwards, Kirksey, Jacobs, Rallis, Tinsley, Cooper, Stoudermire, Theret, Collado, Henderson, Orseske. Reserves, Cotton, Schwerman, J.Johnson, Reeves, Lewis, Buckner, Lueck, Bennett, Manuel, Salamon, Grant, Klitzke, Coleman, Garin, Sveum, Henry, Hill, Olson, Orton, Allen, Eure, Gregory-McGhee, Simpson, Hageman.

Season Statistics

2010 Game-By-Game

Date	Opponent	Result/Time	Crowd
Sept. 2	(2) MARSHALL	W, 45-7	105,040
Sept. 11	(2) MIAMI (FLA.) (12)	W, 36-24	105,454
Sept. 18	(2) OHIO	W, 43-7	105,075
Sept. 25	(2) E. MICHIGAN	W, 73-20	105,017
Oct. 2	(2) at Illinois	W, 24-13	62,870
Oct. 9	(2) INDIANA	W, 38-10	105,291
Oct. 16	(1) at Wisconsin (18)	L, 31-18	81,194
Oct. 23	(10) PURDUE	W, 49-0	105,387
Oct. 30	(11) at Minnesota	W, 52-10	48,717
Nov. 13	PENN STATE	TBA	
Nov. 20	at Iowa	TBA	
Nov. 27	MICHIGAN	TBA	

* OSU's gameday AP ranking is in parentheses before the opponent, while the opponent's ranking is after the name.

Team Statistics

	OSU	Opp
First Downs	209	114
Rushing	100	44
Passing	98	61
Penalty	11	9
Average Per Game/Rush	211.8	84.0
Average Per Game/Pass	244.0	150.2
Total Offense	4,102	2,108
Total Plays	629	516
Average Per Game	455.8	234.2
Average Per Play	6.5	4.1
Penalties-Yards	37-349	50-428
Fumbles-Lost	5-2	19-9
3rd Down Efficiency	50-113	33-113
Percentage	44%	29%
4th Down Efficiency	6-7	3-10
Percentage	86%	30%
Sacks-Yards	16-110	19-115
Time of Possession Avg.	33:03	26:57

Score

By Quarters	1	2	3	4	OT	Tot.	Avg.
Ohio State	114	140	61	63	—	378	42.0
Opponents	42	34	12	34	—	122	13.6

Individual Statistics

Rushing	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Long
Dan Herron	129	634	4.9	12	39
Terrelle Pryor	84	463	5.5	4	66
Jaamal Berry	29	251	8.7	1	67
Brandon Saine	54	247	4.6	2	45
Carlos Hyde	23	137	6.0	0	16
Jordan Hall	31	126	4.1	2	16
Corey Brown (WR)	2	27	13.5	0	18
Kenny Guiton	4	21	5.2	1	15
Dane Sanzenbacher 4	14	3.5	0	12	
Bo DeLande	2	8	4.0	0	6
Joe Bauserman	7	0	0.0	0	13
TEAM	9	-22	-2.4	0	0
OSU Totals	378	1,906	5.0	22	67
OPP Totals	275	756	2.7	7	42

Passing	Comp.	Att.	Pct.	Yds.	TD-INT	Effic.
Terrelle Pryor	152	225	67.6	1,997	20-7	165.2
Joe Bauserman	16	22	72.7	174	2-1	160.1
Jordan Hall	1	1	100.0	20	1-0	598.0
Kenny Guiton	1	2	50.0	5	0-1	-29.0
TEAM	0	1	0.0	0	0-0	0.0
OSU Totals	170	251	67.7	2,196	23-9	164.3
OPP Totals	132	241	54.8	1,352	4-15	94.9

Receiving	Rec.	Net	Avg.	TD	Long
Dane Sanzenbacher	42	658	15.7	8	65
DeVier Posey	40	601	15.0	5	62
Brandon Saine	17	182	10.7	5	60
Dan Herron	11	137	12.5	0	47
Jake Stoneburner	11	121	11.0	1	21
Jordan Hall	8	83	10.4	1	25
Corey Brown (WR)	7	92	13.1	1	23
Reid Fragel	7	74	10.6	0	15
Zach Boren	6	60	10.0	0	22
Grant Schwartz	5	39	7.8	0	13
Taurian Washington	4	48	12.0	0	19
Chris Fields	3	22	7.3	0	10
Adam Homan	3	18	6.0	0	7
Spencer Smith	2	31	15.5	1	23

Terrelle Pryor	2	19	9.5	1	20
Ricky Crawford	1	6	6.0	0	6
Garrett Hummel	1	5	5.0	0	5
OSU Totals	170	2,196	12.9	23	65
OPP Totals	132	1,352	10.2	4	41

Scoring	TD	EPK	EPR	EPP	FG	PTS
Devin Barclay	0	47-47	—	—	13-16	86
Dan Herron	12	—	—	—	—	72
D. Sanzenbacher	8	—	—	—	—	48
Brandon Saine	7	—	—	—	—	42
DeVier Posey	5	—	—	—	—	30
Terrelle Pryor	5	—	—	—	—	30
Jordan Hall	3	—	—	—	—	18
Jaamal Berry	1	—	—	—	—	6
Corey Brown (WR)	1	—	—	—	—	6
Zach Domicone	1	—	—	—	—	6
Kenny Guiton	1	—	—	—	—	6
Brian Rolle	1	—	—	—	—	6
John Simon	1	—	—	—	—	6
Spencer Smith	1	—	—	—	—	6
Jake Stoneburner	1	—	—	—	—	6
Reid Fragel	0	—	—	1	—	2
Drew Basil	0	—	—	—	0-2	0
OSU Totals	48	47-47	—	1	13-18	378
OPP Totals	15	14-15	—	—	6-12	122

Cameron Heyward recorded a safety.

FG Distance	0-29	30-39	40-49	50+	Total
Devin Barclay	6-7	5-6	2-3	0-0	13-16
Drew Basil	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-2	0-2
OSU Totals	6-7	5-6	2-3	0-2	13-18
OPP Totals	1-1	3-5	1-4	1-2	6-12

Punting	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Bk	Long
Ben Buchanan	29	1,170	40.3	1	56
TEAM	1	0	0.0	0	0
OSU Totals	30	1,170	39.0	1	56
OPP Totals	53	2,177	41.1	1	60

Interceptions	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
Chimdi Chekwa	3	22	7.3	0	15
Brian Rolle	2	30	15.0	1	30
Cameron Heyward	1	80	80.0	0	80
Devon Torrence	1	25	25.0	0	25
Jermale Hines	1	23	23.0	0	23
Nathan Williams	1	22	22.0	0	22
Andrew Sweat	1	18	18.0	0	18
Storm Klein	1	13	13.0	0	13
Ross Homan	1	7	7.0	0	7
Orhian Johnson	1	7	7.0	0	7
Dominic Clarke	1	0	0.0	0	0
Tyler Moeller	1	0	0.0	0	0
OSU Totals	15	247	16.5	1	80
OPP Totals	9	54	6.0	0	18

Punt Returns	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
Jordan Hall	21	203	9.7	0	70
Corey Brown (WR)	4	32	8.0	0	11
Jonathan Newsome	1	19	19.0	0	0
Zach Domicone	0	0	0.0	1	0
OSU Totals	26	254	9.8	1	70
OPP Totals	11	144	13.1	1	79

Kickoff Returns	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
Jaamal Berry	18	471	26.2	0	45
Jordan Hall	9	232	25.8	0	47
Brandon Saine	1	18	18.0	0	18
OSU Totals	28	721	25.8	0	47
OPP Totals	59	1,327	22.5	2	97

Def. Leaders	Solo	Asst.	Tot.	TFL-Yds.	Sacks
Brian Rolle	21	26	47	5.0-22	2.5-20
Ross Homan	24	17	41	2.0-2	1.0-1
Jermale Hines	21	17	38	1.5-4	0.5-3
Nathan Williams	17	19	36	7.0-32	3.5-26
OSU Totals	332	244	556	50-199	16-110
OPP Totals	380	322	702	54-187	19-115

Fumbles Forced: 2 — Chimdi Chekwa, Tyler Moeller; 1 — Dorian Bell, Jordan Hall, Orhian Johnson, Ross Homan; Nate Oliver; Brian Rolle; Andrew Sweat; Solomon Thomas; Nathan Williams.

Fumbles Recovered: 2 — John Simon; 1 — Cameron Heyward, Jermale Hines, Ross Homan, Nate Oliver, Brian Rolle, Devon Torrence, Nathan Williams.

OHIO STATE VS. MINNESOTA

Tressel Happy With Win, Ready For Open Week

After certain games this season, BSB is publishing excerpts of Ohio State head coach Jim Tressel's postgame press conferences. Here is what he had to say following the Oct. 30 win at Minnesota.

Jim Tressel: "Well we knew they would come out trying to throw the ball deep, max protecting and so forth. To their credit, they put together a good drive there to make it 7-7, and I thought our guys did a good job making some plays offensively, defensively and obviously special teams with the blocked punt. The defensive score at the end made it obviously decisive. I think the reality of our situation is we get to head home tomorrow and catch up a little bit academically and get some guys healthy. Then we really have to look and see where we've got to get better. There's some obvious things like kickoff coverage, and you can't miss field goals. But there are probably a multitude of things that we have to get better if we want to go into November and have a chance to contend for a conference championship. So we'll make great use of this week."

Q: Much more complete game for you on the road. Dan "Boom" Herron was the tone-setter there and Terrelle Pryor goes over 7,000 yards of total offense. Only two guys at this school have done that.

JT: "Who's the other one? Arch?"

Q: Art Schlichter and Bobby Hoying.

JT: "Yeah, Boom is a player. He has good vision and breaks tackles. We really think he lifts us up. Terrelle, I thought, did a good job. That one big step-up run was huge for us at a time we needed it, about a 30-some yarder. He came up with some big passes."

"I don't have the stats in front of me, but as coaches we think about the things we could have done better. The one where we were down on the (2)-yard line and we throw an interception, you're going to lose tight games if we do something like that. But, yeah, Boom had 114 and Terrelle had 55 (yards rushing). He was 18 of 22 for 222 yards. That's a good thing."

"But that interception we have to get squared away. We've got work to do, but I think our guys are going to be anxious to do it. They were pleased that they played better on the road than we had. We still have a chance, which is all you can ask."

Q: Michigan State's loss tightens things up once again.

JT: "I think everyone's got a loss in our league, don't they? So we've got a chance."

Q: Did you stay with Pryor into the fourth quarter because you won't be playing for two weeks. What was the thinking there?

JT: "Gosh, I don't know. We didn't really talk about anything else. I don't even know what the score was, 38-10? That's not that far ahead. We wanted Joe (Bauserman) to get in, and then they had the ball so long and we had a defensive touchdown so they had two series. We wanted Joe to get a couple of throws. I wanted Joe to stay ahead of Terrelle in the Big Ten passing efficiency race. We'll see if he did."

Q: At the end of the first half you guys called timeout before a punt and you got a touchdown. That sequence to be able to add points at the last minute had to be nice.

JT: "You always are discussing about when you're going to use timeouts near the end. You don't want to do it too quickly because all of a sudden you give them more

time to maybe go down and score. The last thing we wanted them to do was score at the end of the half and then get the ball to start the second half. Once it became apparent they were going to be punting the ball to us, we wanted to get that clock stopped and get lined up to go after their punt a little bit."

"They ended up shanking it, which was very helpful. Then we hit a couple of plays and got a score before the half. We've done that probably three or four of our ballgames where we've in the last two or three minutes of the half made something happen, which can be huge especially if you're not getting the ball back to start the second half."

Q: How good was it to see DeVier Posey with man-to-man coverage in that situation?

JT: "They were going to blitz us, you could see that. They started blitzing when they left the locker room. That's what they were going to do. They had steamed up their blitzing maybe 15, 20 percent more in the last game or two. Plus when you look back at our game from a year ago they blitzed us a decent amount. So we thought they might even do it more. Really we thought they did. We'll have to watch the film, but I thought they blitzed a bunch. I guess it's a 'you live by the sword and die by the sword' type of thing."

Q: The punt block for a touchdown was a big play.

JT: "We always have a guy pressuring. To me it looked like the snap skipped. Jonathan Newsome I think is the one that blocked it. He's been good at it in practice, even when the snaps were good. He bends the corner pretty good, and once he learns to stay off the punter - he splattered a couple of punters early in the preseason - but he's done a good job of his body control and coming under control. That was huge because we hadn't scored a point (in the second half) and that was late third quarter."

Q: Touchdowns from Zach Domicone and John Simon and everyone gets to play - what does that do for team morale?

JT: "Everyone works extremely hard, and only 70 got to come and only 69 dressed. You hope guys get opportunities, like it was fun watching Carlos (Hyde) and Jaamal Berry and the second line. That's great to have that happen. You wish you could get some of those guys who weren't able to come to have opportunities, but it's not the way it works. These kids work hard. They spend a lot of time. That's why this upcoming few days is going to be good for them. They won't really have anything practice-wise until Wednesday. Hopefully the morale is good, and we can go into November with an honest evaluation of what we have to do to become a contender."

Q: Jordan Hall had a nice punt return. He almost scored there.

JT: "I don't know if he scored or not. I was at least 25 yards away. I don't know if he was in or not. All I know is we threw an interception right after that. I'm still having trouble with that one."

Q: What's the update with Devon Torrence?

JT: "He came back in the game after he got banged, so I think he was fine. I think he got the wind knocked out of him or something."

Q: Brian Rolle was out and came back in.

JT: "I think they taped his ankle up. I think he got his ankle rolled under. I don't

know how many plays he missed. What, he missed the first series? Then I think he was back in that second series. He played the rest of the way."

Q: What did you think of the atmosphere here, being here for the first time?

JT: "This is a neat place. It was very well done when they built it. I thought the crowd was enthusiastic, and there was a great number of Buckeye fans there as well. And anytime our band can be with us, to us that's a bonus. Our guys love going down and singing with them when we're on the road."

"I thought it was a nice atmosphere. It was a beautiful night. It was warm. It might not have been for the people sitting in the stands, but for the guys playing it was a gorgeous night. My brother (running backs coach Dick Tressel) used to always tell me, who lived here for 23 years, that October was almost exactly the same in Minnesota as it was in Ohio. We think of Minnesota as being way up north, but he said, 'Hey, October is as gorgeous and has similar temperatures to the way Ohio is.' Big brother is right again."

Q: Will you BCS watch a little more tomorrow night with a couple of teams losing like Missouri and Michigan State?

JT: "I'm not sure where you go to watch that."

Q: What's the lesson when these teams ahead of you lose? What's the lesson to your team?

JT: "It's hard to beat everyone you play. You've got to be ready and not make mistakes. You have to have a realistic view of where you need to get better and keep getting better. That's, to me, what this week's going to be all about. We have to be honest with ourselves and say, 'We've got to get better at certain things.' Then everyone else will get to play this weekend, and it'll be a new set of circumstances and then November begins for us."

Q: Is Boom your (No. 1) running back now? Every time you look he's getting 14, 15, 17 carries or whatever. What do you see different about him than maybe you saw in game one or game three?

JT: "Knock on wood, we've been for-

tunate that Boom has stayed healthy. We missed him for four or five games in the middle of last season. I think anytime going into a season we try not to overburden anyone from a number of carries or reps or those kinds of things because it's a long season. So what did he have? Seventeen carries? That's a good number."

"I'd like to think he can stay healthy with those kinds of numbers. We probably didn't run the ball as much. Normally we didn't have the ball that much, although we had 34 minutes (of possession time). Oh well. Jordan (Hall) and (Brandon) Saine and those other guys are good backs, too. But there's no doubt Boom is special."

Q: You had several sacks tonight and many came off blitzes.

JT: "We felt we had to get after Adam (Weber). In fact, I was looking for him after the game because I remember him in youth camp and I think he's done a wonderful job here. I never did get to catch up to him. We felt like we had to get some heat on him because we could not let him sit there and add to his 10,000-plus (career passing) yards. I thought we came at Adam good, and even those first couple of ones he hit down the field on us we had people breathing down his neck. I don't know how many times we sacked him. Does anyone know that? Five? We needed to do that, and our guys got after him pretty good."

Q: After the loss to Wisconsin, to come back against Purdue and the win this week, do you like what you've seen going into this rest, what you've seen from your guys coming off a tough loss?

JT: "It was a hard loss. Our guys went up and played against a very good team. We were excited about playing and just didn't do the things you need to do to win a game like that. Our guys were disappointed, there's no question. And I don't know that they put it behind them necessarily, but they went to work on what we had to do to get ready for Purdue and they went to work for what we had to do to get ready for Minnesota. I think we all know November is going to be turned up a notch. So if we'll go to work and get ready for November, you never know what can happen."



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OHIO STATE FOOTBALL

Herron Happy To Let Play Make His Noise

By CRAIG MERZ
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

"Boom" Herron conjures images and sounds of a running back who thrives on the game-within-the-game between the ball carrier seeking real estate and the defenders who want push him out of the stadium and into the parking lot.

"I love carrying the football," he said. "Every carry I get I want to make the best of it. You're pretty sore after every game, and I've played in a lot of hard games."

Dan Herron, the junior tailback for Ohio State, is the alter ego of "Boom."

Away from the field he finds it difficult to express what he likes doing with his spare time other than hanging around with friends. He speaks to reporters in a low-key manner, so much so that it's sometimes difficult to pick up his voice on a tape recorder when there's a roomful of people.

"That's who I am, I guess," he said.

It's the football side that fans watch every week and his coaches and teammates see every day.

"Boom always puts in the work on and off the field," right guard Bryant Browning said. "Especially at practice – he asks us certain things, (tells us) some of the tendencies he sees, basically trying to find lanes to run. He came in as a very talented back. He does a pretty good job and I know he'll do better."

The humble side of Herron is put away when it's game time.

"Boom has that ability to electrify the huddle and the room when he walks in it," coach Jim Tressel said following the Buckeyes' 49-0

victory against Purdue on Oct. 23. Herron ran for 74 yards on 16 attempts, and his two touchdowns vs. the Boilermakers extended his streak to seven straight games with at least one rushing score. He followed that Oct. 30 with a career-high 114 yards and one TD during the team's 52-10 win over Minnesota.

OSU is now 16-3 during Herron's career when he runs for a TD.

Forget about Dan Herron the nice guy when he puts on a scarlet and gray uniform.

"When I'm on the field, it's a whole different story," he said. "It gets very serious out there. It's all business. We're out there to win a game. You have to really be ready and juiced up to go."

"I try to get guys going just as I am. I love to win. I love to play the game. When I get out there it's all out."

Herron is not one of the team's six co-captains, but there's a good chance he will be next season.

"I've always wanted to be a leader," he said. "That's just me being me."

Tressel sees the necessary leadership qualities.

"We always talk about an impact player being someone that does not just do their job but they can raise everyone else up. We don't even know for what reason. He just has a presence," the OSU head coach said. "We always talk about good leaders have what we call a sense of impending greatness. They seem to say, 'If you stick with me, something great is going to happen.'"

"Boom has that. Boom has that presence – in part because he practices that way every day and he's in class every day early and he

does everything you're supposed to do. He's full speed ahead and he loves contact, and this is a contact sport. He just has that ability to lift up everyone."

Tressel added that Herron leads by example.

"You can't do that if you're not doing your job well, though," the coach said. "He happens to be doing his job. You can be an electric guy and really someone that people want to follow, but they'll stop following you if you don't produce. Boom Herron produces."

Herron carried the ball 129 times for 634 yards through the Minnesota game, and his 12 touchdowns left him with an outside shot of becoming the fifth OSU runner to rush for 20 in a season.

"That would be great. I hope to get to that point," he said. "If we just take it one game at a time, hopefully we can make that happen."

His statistics would be more impressive, but he shared the running duties with Brandon Saine early in the season and did not make his first start until the fifth game – the Big Ten opener at Illinois. On a windy day that limited passing, the Buckeyes literally ground out a 24-13 victory with Herron solidifying his first-team status with a workhorse performance in the fourth quarter.

That was when he had 54 of his 95 yards and scored an insurance touchdown from 6 yards with 1:49 to play. Three of his 12 rushes in the final quarter resulted in first downs.

Two weeks later in the 31-18 loss at Wisconsin that knocked the Buckeyes out of the No. 1 national ranking, it was Herron who scored twice on the ground in the second half to pull OSU to within three at 21-18 after trailing by three touchdowns.

Herron finished with 91 yards on 19 carries against the Badgers. He picked up where he left off the following game against Purdue when the 5-10, 202-pounder was given the ball the first five plays and he responded with 45 yards and a touchdown.

He was quick to credit others afterward.

"It's a team thing," he said. "I really couldn't do it without the offensive line."

Fullback Zach Boren said Herron has improved because he's in sync with his blockers.

"He's communicating with the offensive line when I don't think he's done that in the past," Boren said. "He's seeing the whole field well

and he's understanding the blocking schemes going on in front of him. His communication is better with the offensive line."

Herron agreed.

"It helps the offensive line, helps the offense. Period. Communication is big out there. You see a lot of different types of schemes. You might want to talk to them and see which way they want to go and make the way for which way I might want to go."

He's in a unique position to see what the defense is doing and often points out blitzes or coverage to Boren, who relays the information to the line.

"Standing 7 or 7½ yards from the line of scrimmage I can sometime see things (the offensive linemen) don't see," Herron said. "I ask Zach most of the time what he thinks of the situation and most of the time Zach communicates with the offensive line."

"It's not really about going left or right. For a running back, it's basically all reaction because things aren't always going to go the way you plan for it to go."

Herron had never rushed for 100 yards at Ohio State before the Minnesota game but had been in the 90s five times with a career-high of 97 vs. Iowa last season when the Buckeyes clinched a spot in the Rose Bowl. That game was also a high mark for carries (32) and Herron said he could do more if needed, noting he thinks he had 42 playing for Warren (Ohio) Harding.

"Once I get the ball a couple of times I get into a pretty good groove," he said.

There's something he loves about players colliding, maybe like a boom sound?

Actually, he credits his father, David Herron Sr., for the nickname that originally had nothing to do with football.

"My dad says it's from – I'm not sure of the guy, Daniel Boone? – and he called me that," Herron said.

Daniel Boone was an American frontier pioneer in the late 1700s who was popularized in a TV series from 1964-70 with actor Fess Parker as the lead character. Herron said "Boone" became "Boom" when he started playing youth football although he's heard another theory.

"My uncles said I fell down the steps, rolled down the steps, and I laughed and they called me 'Boom,'" he said. "But I like going with my dad's story."



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OHIO STATE FOOTBALL RECRUITING

Miller Helped Lead McKinley Past Archrival

Last season, a hobbled Steve Miller was able to play only a supporting role in Canton (Ohio) McKinley's annual rivalry game with Massillon Washington. As the Bulldogs earned a 35-21 victory, the five-star defensive line prospect gritted it out and recorded six tackles including one 10-yard sack.

This season, an again-injured Miller recorded less production on the stat sheet in what proved to be a more lopsided victory. With the Ohio State verbal commitment recording two sacks for a loss of 11 yards, McKinley avenged a 10-7 loss to Washington in last season's regional final with a 40-17 victory.

RECRUITING OUTLOOK Adam Jardy

The 6-4, 230-pound defensive end played with a brace on an injured elbow but was still able to cause havoc in the Washington backfield according to BuckeyeSports.com recruiting analyst Bill Greene, who was on hand for the game.

"Miller was as intense and active as ever against archrival Massillon," Greene wrote. "He basically dominated the man across from him, and the Tigers were forced to double-team him, often unsuccessfully. Normally a quiet person, Miller was very vocal with his teammates, both exhorting and demanding. I've seen him play often since the first game of his sophomore season, and I've never seen him better."

Standing in front of the scoreboard showing

the final score, Miller told Greene in a video interview that the key to victory was remaining focused and still having fun throughout the week of practice.

He also tried to describe how it felt to have played his final regular-season game for McKinley after climbing into the starting lineup as a sophomore.

"It went by too fast," he said, "but it was fun."

Miller added that the elbow didn't bother him too much during the game.

In the contest, Washington was limited to 290 yards of total offense and turned the ball over five times. Miller received help from junior lineman Se'Von Pittman, who recorded a game-high four tackles for loss including one sack.

"We had a bet before the game (on who could pressure the quarterback more), so that motivated us a lot," Miller said.

Listed at 6-4, 225 pounds, Pittman has been rated a four-star prospect in the class of 2012. He holds an offer from West Virginia but head coach Ron Johnson said OSU, Alabama, Florida and others are legitimate players for Pittman's services. Pittman said he heard those first three schools are planning to offer him.

The lineman said he wants to learn more about the Crimson Tide and that he likes how the WVU coaches treat their players.

"They love you and understand you," he said. "They want to get to know you on a one-on-one level."

He said he has the same feelings about the Buckeyes, "But when it all comes down to it, it's about which one best suits me."

Although Pittman began the afternoon

OSU Football Verbal Commitments

Players in the class of 2011 who have issued verbal commitments to play football at Ohio State.

Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Stars	High School
Michael Bennett	DL	6-3	275	****	Centerville, Ohio
Brian Bobek	C	6-2½	278	****	Palatine (Ill.) Fremd
Tommy Brown	OT	6-5	300	***	Akron Firestone
Chris Carter	OG	6-4	325	***	Cleveland John F. Kennedy
Jeremy Cash	S	6-2	190	****	Plantation, Fla.
Chase Farris	DT	6-6	270	****	Elyria, Ohio
DerJuan Gambrell	CB	6-2	180	****	Toledo Rogers
Joel Hale	DT	6-5	295	***	Greenwood (Ind.) Center Grove
Ken Hayes	DE	6-5	255	****	Toledo Whitmer
Jeff Heuerman	TE	6-5	230	***	Naples (Fla.) Barron Collier
Braxton Miller	QB	6-3½	199	****	Huber Heights (Ohio) Wayne
Steve Miller	DE	6-4	230	****	Canton (Ohio) McKinley
Devin Smith	WR	6-1	175	****	Massillon (Ohio) Washington
Evan Spencer	WR	6-1	185	****	Vernon Hills, Ill.
Ron Tanner	S	6-1	190	****	Columbus Eastmoor
Antonio Underwood	OG	6-3	295	***	Shaker Heights, Ohio
Nick Vannett	TE	6-6	230	****	Westerville (Ohio) Central

Players in the class of 2012 who have issued verbal commitments to play football at Ohio State.

Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Stars	High School
Warren Ball	RB	6-2	200	****	Columbus DeSales
Bri'onte Dunn	RB	6-1	215	****	Canton (Ohio) GlenOak
Kyle Kalis	OT	6-5	305	****	Lakewood (Ohio) St. Edward
Josh Perry	OLB	6-3	225	NR	Lewis Center (Ohio) Olentangy

wearing No. 2, he had to switch to No. 97 for reasons out of his control.

"I got held a lot and that thing just got ripped up," he said.

Miller was matched up against a future teammate in Washington wide receiver Devin Smith. Although the four-star prospect was held out of the end zone, he caught seven passes for 135 yards and carried the ball five times for 23 yards. He also attempted a pass, but it was intercepted.

He received plenty of attention from the Bulldogs.

"The key to the victory was putting pressure on (their quarterback) and stopping the great Devin Smith," Pittman said. "We had to stick to our assignments and have fun out there. I just told him good luck and wished him the best of luck at the next level."

Pittman finished the regular season of his junior year with 39 tackles including a team-high 14 for loss and two sacks. Miller wrapped up the slate with 26 tackles,

11 tackles for loss and a team-high four sacks.

To see video of Miller, Pittman and others in action against Washington, go to our website at www.BuckeyeSports.com.

Future Buckeyes Learn Ohio Playoff Fates

Ohio's regular season has come to a close and now a number of future Buckeyes are chasing dreams of earning a state championship. Although starting times and locations had not been announced as BSB went to press, playoff pairings had been released. All games will be played Nov. 5-6.

Despite the loss to McKinley, Smith and his Washington teammates will play another future Buckeye in the first round of the playoffs. Four-star defensive lineman Ken Hayes will lead Toledo Whitmer against the Tigers. Whitmer (9-1) earned a No. 3 seed in the Division I, Region 2 bracket while Washington (7-3) was seeded sixth.

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OHIO STATE FOOTBALL RECRUITING

McKinley earned the No. 1 seed in the same region after posting an 8-2 record. The Bulldogs will face 8-2 Medina.

Huber Heights Wayne and five-star quarterback Braxton Miller squeezed their way into the postseason with a 7-3 record. The Warriors drew the eighth seed in the Division I, Region 4 bracket and will face top-seeded and undefeated Middletown.

Should his team score the upset, Miller could be facing a future teammate in the second round. Four-star defensive lineman Michael Bennett and his Centerville (8-2) teammates drew the No. 5 seed in the same bracket and will face Cincinnati Moeller. The winners of both games will face each other.

Cleveland John F. Kennedy and three-star offensive guard Chris Carter finished 7-3 and drew the No. 6 seed in the Division II, Region 6 bracket. They will face 7-3 Olmsted Falls.

Four-star safety Ron Tanner from Columbus Eastmoor and his teammates finished 6-3 overall. They earned the sixth seed in the Division III, Region 10 bracket and will take on 9-1 Tiffin Columbian.

Junior running back Warren Ball and his Columbus DeSales teammates compiled a 5-5 record and qualified for the playoffs as the No. 8 seed in the same bracket as Eastmoor. The Stallions, who finished second in the state a season ago in Division III, face the region's top seed, Columbus Bishop Watterson (9-1).

Fellow 2012 verbal commitment Kyle Kalis, an offensive tackle from Lakewood St. Edward, watched from the sidelines with an illness Oct. 30 as his team finished the regular season 10-0 with a win against Cleveland St. Ignatius. His team earned a No. 3 seed in the Division I, Region 1 bracket and will face 7-3 Mentor.

To access the latest information on the tournament, check out the Ohio High School Athletic Association's website at www.ohsaa.org.

QB Jones Travels To Happy Valley For Visit

One weekend before his Cleveland Glenville team attempts to get back into the state title game, senior quarterback Cardale Jones was planning on taking an unofficial visit to Penn State.

The three-star prospect could not be reached for comment before BSB went to press, but he told Scout prior to the weekend that he was looking forward to getting an up-close look at what the Nittany Lions have to offer while checking out the team's Oct. 30 game with Michigan.

"Penn State is just a good school overall," he said. "It's not just about football there."

The Nittany Lions have offered him a scholarship, as have Michigan, LSU and others. Although the 6-5, 230-pound Jones said he remains open to all schools recruiting him, the three aforementioned schools might be separating themselves from the pack.

His hope is to cut his list to five schools as soon as next month, and his first official visit could come Dec. 10 to Michigan.

"I like that they are pretty close and it's a great family atmosphere there," he said. "It's a very good offense and they are starting to get things going. They are definitely doing much better this season compared to last year and I think that's because of the coaches. You can tell they've done a great job with (quarterback) Denard Robinson...it says a lot about them."

Asked about the spread attack favored by U-M head coach Rich Rodriguez, Jones said, "I like that offense a lot. It's a lot like what we run, so I think it fits me well."

Jones added that he is not worried about how long Joe Paterno will remain the head coach at Penn State and that he thinks he would have a shot at early playing time for the Nittany Lions.

The Buckeyes have not offered Jones but remain somewhat in the picture.

"They're recruiting me a little, but there's no telling if they'll offer," he said.

He has no plans to make an early decision. Scout ranks him the No. 23 quarterback in the nation and the No. 24 prospect in Ohio.

"I'll wait until near signing day," he said. "It's a huge step and a big decision and I don't want to regret it. I want to find a place where I'll have a good opportunity to play and where I'll feel at home."

Glenville, the second-seeded team in Division I, Region 1, will begin the playoffs Nov. 6 against Warren Harding.

To read more on how Jones has gotten to this point, check out our recruiting profile on page 31.

Tarbladders Could Provide Linebacker Solution

Anyone who has followed the Buckeyes as they have assembled their class of 2011 knows they have struggled to land any linebackers. In all, seven linebackers listed by Scout as holding offers from OSU have committed elsewhere.

While the program remains in on three others with offers – five-star prospect Anthony Wallace from Dallas Skyline, four-star pros-

pect Denzel Perryman from Coral Gables, Fla., and three-star prospect Connor Crowell from Waldorf (Md.) North Point – a new name closer to home could be emerging on the radar.

That would be Frank Clark, a senior tight end/linebacker from Glenville. Listed as a three-star prospect and the No. 31 tight end in the nation, the 6-3, 205-pound Tarbladder told Scout that the Buckeyes have been expressing interest.

"Just this week, (head coach Ted) Ginn (Sr.) told me that Ohio State has been asking him about me," Clark told Greene Oct. 26. "I haven't spoken to them recently, but Coach Ginn said that (OSU head coach) Jim Tressel called him about me and Ohio State is very interested."

"I haven't been to any games at Ohio State this year, but I would take an official visit there if they invited me to come. I know the Ohio State staff saw me play earlier in the year when we played in Columbus, so they know what I can do."

Clark recently received an offer from Akron, adding to a list of California, North Carolina and Eastern Michigan. Some of the schools showing interest view him as a future wide receiver.

"It doesn't matter to me at all what position I play," he said. "I'm doing real well in the class-

room and I know a lot of schools are happy to see that. We're having a good year and we are looking forward to the playoffs this year."

"I want to wait until after the season to set up my visits, to see who else might offer. LSU, UCLA and Michigan are still in contact, but they have not offered yet. Right now, I'm definitely favoring North Carolina and Cal, and I would say those two are tied."

Youngest Boren Brother Battling Knee Injury

Junior offensive lineman Jacoby Boren suffered a sprained knee during an Oct. 22 victory against Grove City, but the younger brother of current Buckeyes Justin and Zach said it should not affect his availability for the playoffs.

Pickerington (Ohio) Central completed a 9-0 regular season and earned the top seed in the Division I, Region 3 bracket. They will take on 8-2 Troy.

"I won't need surgery or anything like that, so it's nothing really," he told Greene. "I've been fitted for a brace and it will be fine. I was just blocking my man when I was hit from the side and I went down. At first I thought it was bad, but I got pretty lucky. I had an MRI a few

Continued On Page 30

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OHIO STATE FOOTBALL RECRUITING

Washington's Offer List Continues To Grow

Continued From Page 29

days later and it was clear. I see my doctor (Nov. 1) and I'm hoping to be cleared to play."

The 6-2, 273-pound guard prospect has landed an early scholarship offer from Ohio State and is viewed as a strong Buckeye lean. However, the unranked prospect said the recruiting front has otherwise remained largely quiet.

"I hear from Cincinnati and they are in contact pretty often, but they haven't offered yet," he said. "I'm also hearing from most of the Big Ten schools, and I like Iowa a lot. I really haven't gone out to see any other schools but Ohio State so far. I'm hearing from Illinois and I like them also."

With the OSU offer already in hand, Boren said a commitment could be coming in the near future.

"I'm not sure, really, but there's a chance I could be committing to Ohio State soon," he said. "I want to talk to the coaching staff again, and if everything is all good, I might go ahead and commit to them. I can't see how there could be a better school out there for me, both athletically and academically."

The Buckeyes are recruiting Boren as a center. He has been in attendance at the team's last two home games.

"My parents are letting it up to me, and they would support me with whatever I decide to do," he said. "Having Justin and Zach there has allowed me to see the program up-close, and I know Ohio State really well. I've been to the past two home games and I've spoken to (offensive line coach) Jim Bollman a lot."

Recruitment Heating Up For Junior Lineman

Cincinnati Taft defensive lineman Adolphus Washington is continuing to add new scholarship offers.

"Things are really starting to take off for me," he told Greene. "I now have offers from Alabama, Texas, Boston College, Texas A&M, Indiana, Ohio State and possibly a few others. Alabama is like a second home to me, because that's where my family is from. I have a cousin going to Alabama right now, and my dad is from there. I've never been to the school, but I've been in the state before. I have a lot of interest in the Alabama program."

"I don't know a lot about Texas, but I know they don't offer too many players outside their state. They are in the national championship hunt every year, and I know it's a great program. I don't have any unofficial visits set up but I'd love to be able to do that next summer."

Listed at 6-6, 240 pounds, Washington camped at OSU during the summer and has also taken in a game at Ohio Stadium this season.

"Things are good with Ohio State, for sure, and I might be going to the Michigan game in a few weeks," he said. "I haven't really spoken to anyone from Ohio State lately, but everything's good there. Ohio State is close to home, but it's not real close, so it's still like going away to school. They are definitely one of my top choices."

However, distance will not be a deciding factor in his decision.

"I just want to find the right school for me, and I'm looking for the right environment for me to succeed," he said. "That would include my course of study, which will be business, and also the depth chart in front of me."

Taft finished the regular season 7-3. Washington and his teammates earned the No. 8 seed in the Division IV, Region 16

A Look Back At Recruiting From The Pages Of BSB

25 Years Ago – 1985

Ohio State assistant recruiting coordinator Bill Andrews confirmed that just a short drive from campus around central Ohio could allow one to see many top high school prospects.

"David Key, Jeff Davidson and Tony Cupe are probably the top three around here," Andrews said. "Those three are definitely big-time players."

Davidson was an offensive tackle at Westerville North, the son of former Ohio State gridders Jim Davidson and brother of current Buckeye Jim Davidson.

Key was a running back at Columbus Hartley, while Cupe was a wide receiver and defensive back at Columbus South.

20 Years Ago – 1990

Youngstown looked like one of the top areas in Ohio for talent in the class of 1991.

Recruiters from across the country had their eye on Ursuline High School for prospects such as defensive back Deollo Anderson, nose guard Jamar Fordham and offensive lineman Matt Emch, while Boardman boasted big-name quarterback John Ryan and linebacker Tony Knez.

15 Years Ago – 1995

The Buckeyes upped their list of verbal

commitments to 12 with pledges from Tucson (Ariz.) Catalina Foothills offensive tackle/defensive end Joe Brown and Brampton (Ontario) Centennial defensive end Clinton Wayne.

Brown was drawn to Ohio State in part by his mother and grandmother living in Columbus.

Wayne turned down opportunities to visit Michigan, Michigan State and Washington.

Several of Ohio's top juniors attended Ohio State's 24-13 defeat of Michigan State. They included Hamilton defensive back E.J. Underwood, Canton McKinley running back Tyler Everett and teammate Rocco Maragus, Westerville North tight end George Cooper Jr. and Warren Harding running back Maurice Claret.

Pierre Woods, a senior defensive end at Cleveland Glenville, ended his recruitment with a verbal commitment to Michigan.

Glenville head coach Ted Ginn Sr. told The (Cleveland) Plain Dealer being a Wolverine was a lifelong dream for the 6-6, 215-pounder with 4.53 speed in the 40-yard dash.

Ohio State commitment Chris Wells, a

the country during the weekend of Oct. 29. All players are seniors unless otherwise noted.

Tommy Brown, OT, Akron Firestone – Akron Buchtel clinched the Akron City Series championship with a 38-25 win against Firestone at InfoCision Stadium.

Both teams came into the game with identical 5-0 records in the City Series, and the game was tied 18-18 at halftime before the Griffins (7-3, 6-0) took command in the second half. Quarterback Stephen Parker completed 7 of 13 passes for 104 yards and two touchdowns. His top target was Corey Smith, who had four catches for 67 yards and a pair of scores.

Cody Grice led the attack for Firestone (6-4, 5-1). Grice, who verbally committed to the University of Akron during the week, rushed for 110 yards on 33 carries with a touchdown. Firestone did not qualify for the playoffs.

Bri'onte Dunn (junior), RB, Canton (Ohio) GlenOak – GlenOak ended the season with a 35-33 loss at Massillon Perry.

Perry (7-3, 4-2 Federal League) rallied in the fourth quarter after trailing by 13 points. That comeback overshadowed another impressive effort by Dunn, who rushed for 100 yards against a Perry front that was expecting the run. Dunn's efforts pushed him past 2,000 yards for the season. He also scored a 12-yard touchdown with 1:22 left in the third quarter that gave GlenOak (4-6, 2-5) a 27-14 lead.

DerJuan Gambrell, CB, Toledo Rogers – Gambrell scored twice on offense as Rogers ended the season with a 65-6 rout of visiting Toledo Scott.

Gambrell rushed for scores of 56 and 57 yards, and Rogers (6-3, 5-1) piled up 476 yards of total offense. Conversely, Scott (1-9, 1-5) was held to 50 yards rushing and 112 passing.

Jeff Heuerman, TE, Naples (Fla.) Barron Collier – A stopped two-point conversion gave Barron Collier a 14-13 win at Naples Golden Gate.

The Titans (6-4, 1-4 District 3A-12) had the conversion run stopped short with 1:27 to go to allow the Cougars (6-2, 4-1) to leave with the victory. The win clinched a playoff spot for Barron Collier, its fourth consecutive postseason berth.

Heuerman caught a 12-yard touchdown pass to give Barron Collier a 7-0 halftime lead.

running back from Akron, told BSB he enjoyed his trip to USC, but his commitment remained firm.

The Buckeyes' destruction of Illinois was witnessed in person by a number of out-of-state recruits, including Columbia, S.C., fullback Aram Olson, Spartanburg, S.C., quarterback/defensive back Nick Prochack and Bay City, Mich., offensive lineman Bryant Nowicki.

The Buckeyes continued pursuit of Pomfret, Md., cornerback A.J. Wallace, the No. 3 player in the nation at his position according to one major recruiting service.

Freddie Lenix, formerly of Cleveland Glenville, told BSB he was going to Cuyahoga Community College in Cleveland in an attempt to raise his grades enough to gain admittance to Ohio State.

One Year Ago – 2009

Ohio State's class of 2011 doubled in size with the addition of Canton (Ohio) McKinley defensive end Steve Miller.

"I know Steve felt strongly that Ohio State was the place for him, so he decided (now) would be a great day to get it done," McKinley head coach Ron Johnson said of the four-star prospect.

Miller had offers from Michigan, Michigan State and Nebraska, among others.

That lead increased to 14-0, which would be enough for the Cougars.

Evann Spencer, WR, Vernon Hills, Ill. – Spencer took the opening kickoff of Vernon Hills' IHSA Class 5A playoff opener 84 yards for a touchdown, and that set the tone in a 51-0 win against visiting Chicago Harlan.

The fourth-seeded Cougars (9-1) had little trouble against Harlan (6-4). Spencer added a 10-yard touchdown reception from quarterback Chris Argianas during a 28-point first quarter for Vernon Hills.

Vernon Hills will face No. 12 Tinley Park (7-3) next week.

Noteworthy

• Junior offensive tackle Zach Higgins from Alliance (Ohio) Marlinton has visited a few OSU games this season and has spoken with Bollman but said he does not yet have a solid relationship with him. The 6-5, 305-pound Higgins holds an offer from Ball State but is hearing from Cincinnati, Notre Dame, Kentucky, Northwestern and Wisconsin, among others.

• Higgins has been blocking for 2013 prospect Dymonte Thomas. The 6-0, 175-pound running back entered the weekend of Oct. 29 with 1,107 yards rushing on 119 carries and had recorded 90 tackles including five for loss and one interception returned for a touchdown from his safety position. He is cousins with Dunn, a member of OSU's class of 2012. "If I play with him, it would be a great thing," he said.

• Four-star junior wide receiver Angelo Jean-Louis said OSU is one of a number of schools to have offered him a scholarship. The 6-0, 185-pound target from Wellington (Fla.) Palm Beach Central also holds offers from Florida, Florida State and Miami (Fla.), among others. He has been to see the Gators and is hoping to see the Buckeyes this season as well.

• Junior four-star running back Matt Jones from Seffner (Fla.) Armwood claims an offer from the Buckeyes. Listed at 6-3, 210 pounds, Jones also lists Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Miami (Fla.), Notre Dame, South Carolina and USC as having offered.

BSB staff writer Matthew Hager contributed to this report.

OHIO STATE FOOTBALL RECRUITING PROFILE

Glenville Quarterback Stressing Little Things

By ADAM JARDY
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

There are plenty of people across the nation already convinced that Cardale Jones is a great quarterback. Just ask the dozen or so colleges to have offered him a scholarship as well as the others still debating such a move.

But as Jones has gone through his senior season at Cleveland Glenville, one of the most important voices in his life has been preaching a decidedly different message to the three-star prospect.

That would be Tarblooders head coach Ted Ginn Sr., who has taken it upon himself to make sure Jones realizes what is expected of him as a quarterback.

"I cannot allow him to get caught up in the 60-yard pass, which is hard because you've got the outside influence and you've got everybody that's talking to him," the coach said. "I have to be the guy to cut his throat because I work with him every day and I want him to be successful. That's what our job is, to put kids in position to reach their full potential."

During a summer scrimmage, Jones turned a busted play into a 60-yard touchdown. When Jones came off the field, the first thing he heard was Ginn giving him the business.

The reason? Bad footwork.

"He stays on top of me to make sure that I do every little thing right," Jones said.

The process has been ongoing. As the Tarblooders took on Senate League foe Cleveland John F. Kennedy on Oct. 1, Jones was held out until midway through the second quarter for what Ginn said was a disciplinary action.

After entering the scoreless game, Jones went 10 of 14 for 219 yards and four touchdowns against no interceptions. In addition, he added two rushes for 18 yards and a touchdown and also converted two point-after attempts as Glenville cruised to a 51-12 victory.

Standing near the team's buses on a blustery afternoon, Ginn said Jones remained a work in progress from a maturity standpoint.

"Being a quarterback, there's a certain way you've got to carry yourself and certain things you've got to do," the coach said. "His life and what he becomes is more important than being a quarterback and all that kind of stuff. A lot of people are looking at you that want to be like you, so we have to make sure that we do things right. If I have to lose a game to save his life, that will be."

That's pretty heavy stuff for a guy who only started playing quarterback as a freshman. Until that point, Jones - who now checks in at 6-5, 230 pounds - had been lining up elsewhere while playing youth football for the Glenville Titans of the Greater Cleveland Muny Football League.

"In Muny League I was taller and bigger than everyone else, and I played tackle and sometimes tight end and defensive end," he said. "It was (tough to adapt), but I knew I wasn't going to be a tackle because guys like Aundrey Walker were the same size in ninth grade (as they are now)."

Today, Walker is a four-star offensive guard prospect for Glenville who checks in at 6-6, 355 pounds.

Jones wears No. 10 in high school, the same number former Tarblooder quarter-

back Troy Smith donned while winning a Heisman Trophy for the Buckeyes. The senior has drawn favorable comparisons to Smith at the same stage of his development.

"He reminds me of Troy a lot," Ginn said. "That's why I've been on him so hard. Naturally he doesn't understand it every day because he's a young kid and everybody's telling him he's great and I'm telling him he's the worst thing on the field."

While playing for the Titans, Jones lined up with a number of his current teammates. When they joined the Tarblooders as freshmen, Jones said there was an immediate kinship.

Last season, that nearly paid off with the first state championship in program history. After advancing to the Division I title game, Jones and his teammates dropped a 16-15 decision when Hilliard Davidson scored the winning touchdown with 1:04 remaining. Jones completed 16 of 31 passes for 210 yards and one touchdown and also rushed for a 10-yard score in the defeat.

Having been there, Jones said the Tarblooders - who finished the regular season 10-0 with a 38-20 victory Oct. 29 against John Marshall - now know what it takes to get it done.

"I know we have high expectations and I'm looking to reach every last one of them from winning the state championship to getting guys on our team more scholarships," he said.

That means dealing with higher expectations than any other Glenville team in its storied history.

"It's a privilege to be pressured," he said. "That's what I tell our team every day. If you feel that pressure it means you're somewhere good and you're about to do something big. The pressure has grown for us because we have a lot of guys coming back, especially starters, so we have to live up to expectations."

"It feels like unfinished business. We had that ring on our finger."

One other thing Jones is lacking is a scholarship offer from Ohio State. The Buckeyes have a verbal commitment from the nation's top quarterback prospect in Huber Heights (Ohio) Wayne product Braxton Miller, and when he committed the five-star prospect told reporters he had been told Ohio State would not be recruiting any other quarterbacks.

However, Jones has long held the belief that OSU will eventually issue him a scholarship offer. Should that happen, Miller said it would not impact his thoughts on Ohio State.

Jones has been listed as a package deal along with fellow Tarblooders Walker, linebacker Andre Sturdivant and wide receiver Shane Wynn, but what will happen between now and National Signing Day is anyone's guess.

Ginn said scholarship offers - which have already come from such schools as Michigan, Penn State and LSU - will continue to take a backseat to Jones' continued development both on and off the field.

"It doesn't make any difference if Ohio State offers or anybody offers," the coach said. "He's got to be a certain guy and a certain way. He represents more than Cardale Jones. He represents this community and this district. Every time he walks

Get To Know: Cardale Jones

NAME - Cardale Jones

HIGH SCHOOL - Cleveland Glenville

POSITION - Quarterback

HEIGHT, WEIGHT - 6-5, 230 pounds

40 TIME - 4.55 seconds

RANKINGS - Scout.com lists Jones as a three-star prospect, the No. 23 quarterback in the nation and the No. 24 overall prospect from Ohio.

PLAYER EVALUATION - "A gamer.

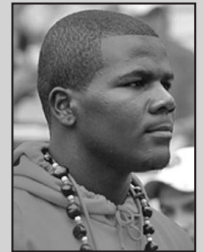
That's the best way to describe Jones.

He'll struggle in a camp setting because his mechanics are subpar, but once the game starts, he has excellent field vision and throws with better accuracy when he's able to move around in the pocket and pick his spots. (With) arm strength to throw the ball 60 yards downfield, Jones needs to shorten his release and be more consistent, but he has a lot of tools and a good feel for game." - Scout director of scouting Scott Kennedy

STRENGTHS - Arm strength, intangibles, running ability/mobility

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT - Accuracy/consistency, release, technique

SCHOOLS INTERESTED - Michigan, Penn State and LSU appear to be leading for Jones, but Ohio State and a number of other schools are in the mix. The Buckeyes have not offered.



Cardale Jones

by, somebody says, 'That's Cardale Jones, and he plays for Glenville High School, coached by Ted Ginn Sr.' That's a big job. He's got to put that in his head."

As he has taken in Ginn's teachings, Jones said he has worked on his leadership.

"I'm working on being a more vocal

leader because I was a junior last year and we had two seniors in Christian Bryant and Latwan Anderson who were such amazing athletes that I let them do all the talking because they were just so amazing," he said. "They could back it on the field. Now I have more confidence in myself and my team."



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OHIO STATE MEN'S BASKETBALL

Matta's Men Feature Mix Of Vets, Freshmen

By ADAM JARDY
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

Last season, Ohio State head coach Thad Matta had one of his dreams come true when he coached a team devoid of freshmen. Gone was the need to slow down early practices in order to teach players drills, and gone was the need to try to assimilate new faces into the program.

It stands to reason this season could be a nightmare for Matta.

Although he welcomes back four starters from a team that reached the Sweet 16 of the NCAA Tournament last season, the coach also ushers in six freshmen and one transfer student this year.

On the eve of practice getting started, however, Matta was not exactly bemoaning his fate.

"I wouldn't say I'm dreading it," he said. "I'd say that's the exciting part of coaching. We have had to do it quite a few years here. All these guys have shown a high capacity to learn and really try to understand."

"There's always going to be the transition of maybe we don't get to what I want to get to as quickly as I want to get to it, but for us it's keeping it simple early and getting the basic fundamentals and building every day."

Of course, it helps that the incoming class is one of the most highly rated in the nation. Scout.com pegged the class that included five-star prospects Jared Sullinger and Deshaun Thomas as the third best in the nation behind No. 1 Kentucky and Memphis.

Adding that group to a core of players

who captured a share of last year's conference crown as well as the Big Ten tournament championship should mean big things for the Buckeyes this season.

According to Matta, it will all depend on how quickly the players can buy into the team concept he preaches.

"They appear at this point to be extremely coachable and have been a very close-knit group," he said. "One of the biggest things we had last year that a lot of people probably didn't know was just how close the guys were and what a difference that makes."

"It's like I told the freshmen when they got here in June: 'This program has over the course of the last six seasons accomplished a great deal, and you haven't had one thing to do with it. You've got to make sure you have great respect and humility. The guys we have returning will tell you there's an honor to uphold here. We do things a certain way.'"

The following is a position-by-position look at the Ohio State roster for the 2010-11 season (with notable statistics from last season where applicable). Projected starters are listed first.

Guard

William Buford, 6-5, 205 pounds, Jr. (14.4 points per game, 5.6 rebounds per game, 43.8 field-goal percentage) – The hope is that Buford can make a step similar to the one Evan Turner made a season ago. A leading candidate to assume some of the responsibilities at Turner's vacated point guard position, Buford figures to be a lot of things for this year's squad.

Being an impact player has not been a difficult task for Buford since his arrival in Columbus. He was named Big Ten Freshman of the Year in 2008 after averaging 11.3 points, shooting 44.8 percent from the floor and starting 25 games while showcasing an accurate midrange jumper.

His role expanded last year despite some early-season shooting struggles that he described as the most pronounced of his entire career, but now Buford will be charged with being the focal point of the offense and not a player benefiting from Turner's presence.

Matta said he likes the progress Buford has shown since the 2009-10 season came to a close.

"He has really a totally different demeanor about him," the OSU coach said. "He's matured. He's got a great understanding. I think that he took the offseason and basically said, 'I've got to make the most of it.' He's shown that he can score. Late last year he became a very good defender. I think his ball handling has gotten a lot better."

"Hopefully we can ask him to do a little bit more. The greatest thing I've seen with William right now is he wants to do it and he knows why he wants to do it. That's very important to me."

Buford's game received a boost during the summer when he was selected as one of 20 collegians to practice for a week against the U.S. National Team. Although he declined to go into specifics – "You'll see on the court," he told BSB – the junior apparently added new facets to his game he was eager to show his OSU teammates.

This summer, Buford worked on improving his entire game but focused most on two key areas: defense and ball handling.

"I've worked on getting better all around, being a better all-around player and getting to the basket," he said. "I want to guard the best scorer on the opposite team. I worked on my handle and my shooting and just being more of a leader for the young guys. Dribbling, getting to the hole, post moves – I've been working on everything basically."

The question is how much he will handle the point. During an Oct. 20 scrimmage open to members of the Agonis Club of Columbus, Buford was part of a two-guard front that shared the point guard responsibilities, but he seemed to instigate much of the offense.

Though Buford's ability to play defense was a source of ridicule from Matta as a freshman, he said his goal was to be the Big Ten Defensive Player of the Year before his OSU career was complete. That goal continues to drive him as well as the desire to find more ways to score points.

"In practice I try to guard whoever is scoring," he said. "I'll switch onto them. I watch film now, a lot more than I used to and try to get better on D. I'll see how I was dribbling high and how I wasn't playing defense the way I needed to. I want to get to the hole and shoot more free throws."

Jon Diebler, 6-6, 205, Sr. (13.0 ppg, 42.0 three-point percentage, 37.2 minutes per game) – It was a record-breaking year for Ohio's most prolific prep scorer, but Diebler is still looking for new ways to add to his game.

Diebler finished his junior season with 260 career three-pointers, eclipsing the previous record of 242 set by Jamar Butler

(2005-08). His 116 treys during the year are a program record for a single season, and it marked the third consecutive season he increased his three-point percentage. After going 28.9 percent from behind the arc as a freshman (48 for 166), he rebounded as a sophomore to hit 41.6 percent (96 for 231).

So while his ability to connect from long range has been well-established, Diebler said one of his goals for this season is to get back to his offensive approach in high school. That means getting to the basket with more regularity.

"This year, Coach challenged me to be able to put the ball on the floor more and it's something I've taken to heart," he said. "I really worked on it. Not only is it going to make me better, but it's going to help our team out."

That has meant both coming in early and staying late to do extra ball-handling work. In the Agonis Club scrimmage, he was the other guard up high with Buford to help with the point guard responsibilities.

However, it is impossible to expect his primary responsibility to be anything but draining three-pointers for the Buckeyes.

"Coach Matta said he obviously wants me working on ball handling but at the same time don't go away from what you do well," Diebler said. "I had to keep getting up shots and working on shooting on the move."

Matta has continually praised Diebler's overall game since his arrival in Columbus. He has led the team in minutes played for the past two seasons, but the hope is that a deeper bench this season will result in Diebler being given fewer minutes each night.

"You know you've got three guys who have logged a lot of minutes for you (in Diebler, David Lighty and Buford) but my hope is we're a lot deeper this year," Matta said.

Aaron Craft, 6-2, 195, Fr. – The former Tennessee verbal commitment figures to be the key to bringing it all together this season for the Buckeyes. Although expectations are high, the one knock on the team is the lack of a proven point guard to direct the offense.

Enter Craft, a hard-nosed player from Findlay (Ohio) Liberty-Benton known for being physical and playing defense. A solid if unspectacular player, Craft could become the quiet piston that keeps the OSU offensive machine pumping.

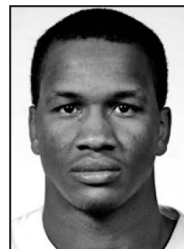
On the team's Photo Day, Matta said he hopes that Craft is a one-and-done type of talent – but one that does not leave quite so early.

"That means he's really good," the coach said. "You're asking me about the point guard, and if I have a one-and-done we're going to have a heck of a basketball team. What I meant by that is I hope he has a great year. I know nobody in college basketball is going to work harder than he is."

Matta pointed out that Craft could also play away from the ball as well. Scout.com rated him the No. 19 point guard prospect in the nation and a four-star recruit.

The coach also said a goal has been for Craft to work on knocking down open jumpers to help round out his offensive game. Buford said he has been impressed with his overall game.

"He's a real good point guard," the junior said. "He knows his fundamentals and



William Buford

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OHIO STATE MEN'S BASKETBALL

2010-11 Projected Starting Lineup

44 • William Buford • G
Hgt.: 6-5 • Wgt.: 205 • Class: Junior
Yr. GP/GS Min/G PPG RPG A TO Bk. Stl.
08-09 33-25 29.3 11.3 3.7 35 39 12 28
09-10 37-37 34.4 14.4 5.6 116 65 10 41



Buford needs 96 points to become the third player on the Ohio State roster to reach 1,000 for his career.

4 • Aaron Craft • G
Hgt.: 6-2 • Wgt.: 195 • Class: Freshman
Yr. GP/GS Min/G PPG RPG A TO Bk. Stl.
True Freshman



Craft, a natural point guard, was the 2010 AP Division III Player of the Year and was a two-time first team all-state selection.

33 • Jon Diebler • G
Hgt.: 6-6 • Wgt.: 205 • Class: Senior
Yr. GP/GS Min/G PPG RPG A TO Bk. Stl.
07-08 37-8 21.1 5.9 2.3 45 43 6 26
08-09 33-33 36.7 11.2 3.6 82 53 10 34
09-10 37-37 37.2 13.0 2.8 54 38 3 42



Diebler broke the school record for career three-pointers (260) and single-season threes (116) during the 2009-10 season.

23 • David Lighty • G/F
Hgt.: 6-5 • Wgt.: 220 • Class: Senior
Yr. GP/GS Min/G PPG RPG A TO Bk. Stl.
06-07 39-7 16.3 3.7 2.3 40 45 6 20
07-08 37-37 32.0 9.0 3.6 89 83 9 48
08-09 7-7 32.9 9.7 5.7 13 13 2 10
09-10 37-37 36.3 12.6 4.5 110 85 20 58



Lighty fractured a bone in his right foot during the offseason but is ready to go to start this season.

0 • Jared Sullinger • C
Hgt.: 6-9 • Wgt.: 280 • Class: Freshman
Yr. GP/GS Min/G PPG RPG A TO Bk. Stl.
True Freshman



Sullinger was a highly decorated high school star, winning the 2010 High School Naismith Award among other accolades.

2009-10 Ohio State Men's Basketball Roster/Schedule

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht./Wt.	Yr.	Hometown/Previous School
0	Jared Sullinger	F	6-9/280	Fr.	Columbus, Ohio/Northland
1	Deshaun Thomas	F	6-6/230	Fr.	Fort Wayne, Ind./Bishop Luers
2	Jordan Sibert	G	6-4/180	Fr.	Cincinnati, Ohio/Princeton
4	Aaron Craft	G	6-2/195	Fr.	Findlay, Ohio/Liberty-Benton
10	Eddie Days	G	6-0/180	Sr.	Richmond Hts., Ohio/Richmond Hts.
15	J.D. Weatherspoon	F	6-7/210	Fr.	Columbus, Ohio/Northland
23	David Lighty	G/F	6-5/220	Sr.	Cleveland, Ohio/Villa Angela-St. Joseph
24	Nikola Kecman	F	6-8/220	Jr.	Belgrade, Serbia/Eastern Arizona Coll.
30	Evan Ravenel	F	6-8/260	Jr.	Tampa, Fla./Boston College
32	Lenzelle Smith Jr.	G	6-3/230	Fr.	Zion, Ill./Zion-Benton
33	Jon Diebler	G	6-6/205	Sr.	Upper Sandusky, Ohio/Upper Sandusky
44	William Buford	G	6-5/205	Jr.	Toledo, Ohio/Libbey
52	Dallas Lauderdale	F	6-8/255	Sr.	Solon, Ohio (Solon)

Head Coach – Thad Matta (Butler, 1990).

Assistant Coaches – Jeff Boals (Ohio, 1995); Dave Dickerson (Maryland, 1990); Brandon Miller (Butler, 2003). **Director of Basketball Operations** – David Egelhoff (Ohio State, 2001). **Video Coordinator** – Kevin Kuwik (Notre Dame, 1996). **Athletic Trainer** – Vince O'Brien (Ohio State, 1991). **Associate Strength & Conditioning Coach** – Dave Richardson (Louisiana-Monroe, 1989).

Regular Season Schedule:

Nov. 7 WALSH (Exhibition), 2 p.m.; **12** GLOBAL SPORTS INVITATIONAL vs. NORTH CAROLINA A&T, 7 p.m.; **16** Global Sports Invitational at Florida; **20** GLOBAL SPORTS INVITATIONAL vs. UNC WILMINGTON, 8 p.m.; **23** GLOBAL SPORTS INVITATIONAL vs. MOREHEAD STATE, 7 p.m.; **26** MIAMI (OHIO), 4 p.m.; **30** Big Ten/ACC Challenge at Florida State, 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 9 IUPUI, 7 p.m.; **12** WESTER CAROLINA, 2 p.m.; **15** FLORIDA GULF COAST, 6:30 p.m.; **18** SOUTH CAROLINA, 2 p.m.; **21** UNC ASHEVILLE, 8:30 p.m.; **23** OAKLAND, 8 p.m.; **27** TENN.-MARTIN, 8:30 p.m.; **31** at Indiana.

Jan. 4 at Iowa; **9** MINNESOTA, TBA; **12** at Michigan; **15** PENN STATE, 5:30 p.m.; **19** IOWA, 6:30 p.m.; **22** at Illinois; **25** PURDUE, 9 p.m.; **29** at Northwestern.

Feb. 3 MICHIGAN, 7 p.m.; **6** at Minnesota; **12** at Wisconsin; **15** MICHIGAN STATE, 9 p.m.; **19** or **20** at Purdue; **22** ILLINOIS, 7 p.m.; **26** or **27** INDIANA, TBA.

March 1 at Penn State; **6** WISCONSIN, TBA; **10-13** Big Ten Tournament at Indianapolis.

doesn't make too many mistakes. He can shoot. He's real solid."

Jordan Sibert, 6-4, 180, Fr. – A lanky guard who has the look of Turner as a freshman, Sibert's best chance for playing time will be as a reserve off the bench.

As a senior at Cincinnati Princeton, he earned first-team all-state honors after suffering a broken leg in April of his junior season. He averaged 18.7 points per game and was named player of the year in his district by The Associated Press after leading Princeton to a 19-5 record. He also was named the Gatorade Player of the Year for Ohio, becoming the third Buckeye to be so honored (B.J. Mullens in 2008 and Jon Diebler in 2007).

Scout rated him a four-star recruit and the No. 14 shooting guard prospect in the nation. He played AAU ball with Craft and fellow freshmen Jared Sullinger and J.D. Weatherspoon.

Lenzelle Smith Jr., 6-3, 230, Fr. – Billed as a player who could come in and compete with Craft for the point guard position, Smith has instead been sidelined since the summer after undergoing wrist surgery.

He is expected to be back in action this season, but Matta did not completely rule out the possibility of a redshirt.

"We'll see where it is in a few weeks," he said Oct. 14. "He won't be cleared to do anything until Nov. 1 and probably won't be

in contact until mid-November, we're hoping. First thing is to get him on the court and see what he can do and where he is at that particular point."

A three-star prospect, Smith was the nation's No. 24 point guard prospect. He is viewed as less of a true point guard than Craft and is more likely to find time off of the ball. As a senior, he averaged around 20 points and eight rebounds while earning first-team all-state honors for the second straight season at Zion (Ill.) Zion-Benton.

As a sophomore, he led his team to a berth in the state title game by averaging 13.6 points and 7.2 rebounds.

Eddie Days, 6-0, 180, Sr. (4 games played) – A walk-on guard who averaged 22 points, six rebounds and five assists as a senior at Richmond Heights, Ohio, Days joined the program last season and has one more year of eligibility remaining.

In four games of action, he recorded one steal and one rebound while missing two three-point attempts. He suffered a broken foot during the offseason and was expected to be back in action around the start of the season.

Forward

David Lighty, 6-5, 220, Sr. (12.6 ppg, 4.5 rpg, 1.6 steals per game, 36.3 mpg) – The player Matta joked is the only

person in the program who has been there longer than him is back for his fifth and final season with the Buckeyes. A versatile cager who could legitimately see minutes at any position, Lighty is Matta's version of a Swiss Army knife.

"Dave is a guy who can play any position," Diebler said. "He's a great athlete. Even this offseason with him getting hurt, he was always working on his ball handling. When he was sitting in a chair in a boot he was dribbling."

After a broken foot caused him to take a medical redshirt two seasons ago, Lighty suffered the same injury during the summer but was cleared to return to action before practice began. His primary task was to regain the explosiveness he said was the only part of his game that had not yet returned when camp began.

While Turner missed time last season with a back injury, Lighty helped out at point guard and could be a candidate to help out there this season as well. During the summer, Lighty said he borrowed from Turner's preparation including dribbling with his eyes closed.

"Oh yeah, I get my Evan Turner on," he said with a laugh. "Eyes closed, back and forth, all that. I talk to him a lot, asking things he's done like pull-up shots and stuff he worked on. We were working out together in the spring until I got hurt. It's something that I was getting better and better at."

However, his primary responsibilities will likely be in the post. Last season, Lighty served as a slightly undersized power forward given the task of playing taller than his frame. It was not until Tennessee was able to get him into foul trouble in the NCAA Tournament that his lack of height caught up with the Buckeyes.

This season, he is OSU's third-team center behind Dallas Lauderdale and Sullinger but figures to play at either power or small forward.

Asked if he will play less power forward this season, Lighty said, "With the team we have, I might. It depends on the game. At Tennessee we might put another big in. It depends on what's going on and what gives us the best chance to win."

In his four seasons in Columbus, Lighty has appeared in 120 games including 65 starts. If he remains healthy this season, he will surpass Butler for the most career games played in his career Jan. 22 when the Buckeyes take to the road to face Illinois.

Although Lighty said he would not protest a greater role on the perimeter, his favorite thing to do on the court remains guarding bigger players.

"When I guard bigs, it's fun when I see them frustrated because I'm sitting on their knees and they can't get the ball or can't rebound," he said. "In my head, I'm just laughing. Guards, it's the same thing. I pressure them. The only thing about guards is they can get a screen from a big so that is the toughest thing. Guards are a little tougher but I think I can get the job done."

In his career, Lighty has averaged 8.4

points and 3.6 rebounds per contest. The Big Ten coaches voted him third-team all-conference last season.

Deshaun Thomas, 6-6, 230, Fr. – The latest in a line of McDonald's All-Americans to join the program, Thomas joins Sullinger as the other five-star prospect in the class of 2010. A prolific prep scorer, Thomas finished third in Indiana state history after scoring 3,018 points while playing for Fort Wayne (Ind.) Bishop Luers.

A stocky forward who likes to shoot, Thomas has drawn some early comparisons to former Buckeye Ivan Harris, who was one of the starters in the 2007 national championship game. He figures to be one of Matta's first options off the bench, although Buford said the versatile Thomas needs to find a role first.

"Deshaun can do a lot of things," the junior said. "He's a big man who can shoot and he can go to the post if he needs to. He can dribble. He's a combo guard and he can play forward too."

Lighty said he can foresee Thomas causing matchup problems for opponents this season.

"His game is real versatile," the senior said. "He can shoot it real well and he's physical down low in the post as well. He can open things up. With a bigger guy checking him he can get around him and get to the basket. With a smaller guy checking him he can go right to the post."

Scout ranked Thomas the nation's No. 6 power forward and the No. 24 overall prospect. Matta said that in order for Thomas to have a big season, he will first have to take care of some little things.

"(The other day) Deshaun Thomas comes out and I look at his shoes and said, 'Deshaun, something's not right. Put your shoe up on the chair,'" the coach told the Agonis Club. "I started lacing his shoes up and there was probably (eight inches) from the knot to the top of his shoe. He literally didn't know how to tie his shoes yet. Assuming (freshmen) know everything sometimes is not the smartest thing to do."

J.D. Weatherspoon, 6-7, 210, Fr. – The sixth and final member to join the class of 2010, Weatherspoon might also be the least polished of the group. A natural athlete with loads of ability, the task for the former three-star prospect is to turn that potential into on-court production for Matta's teams. He figures to be at least a year away from having any serious responsibilities but could help in a limited role this season.

As a senior, he averaged 13.5 points and 6.0 rebounds. In leading Columbus Northland to a state title as a junior, Weatherspoon averaged around 15 points and eight boards a game and had a team-high 18 points in the title game.

Scout rated him the No. 37 power forward in the country.

Nikola Kecman, 6-8, 220, Jr. (15 games, 1.9 ppg, 1.1 rpg) – Billed upon

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OHIO STATE MEN'S BASKETBALL

Ohio State Welcomes Top Freshman Sullinger

Continued From Page 33

his arrival as a shooter in the same vein as former Buckeye Matt Sylvester (2003-06), Kecman was unable to carve out a role on last year's team and saw action only in the closing moments of games already well in hand.

Kecman's situation worsened during the summer when he suffered a torn ACL in workouts, the second time he has torn the left one during his OSU career. He is expected to be back in action somewhere around midseason, but any contributions the Buckeyes will get from Kecman figure to come in practice.

His biography in the official OSU media guide reads, "When healthy, Kecman adds depth at the power forward spot and has the ability to score, run the floor and rebound."

In two seasons, Kecman has recorded 16 appearances and averaged 2.2 points while going 2 for 15 (13.3 percent) from three-point range.

Evan Ravenel, 6-8, 260, Jr. – When center Zisis Sarikopoulos opted to sign a professional contract this summer in his home country of Greece, the Buckeyes needed to secure a capable replacement. They found Ravenel, who transferred into the program after spending two seasons at Boston College. He will sit out the year to satisfy NCAA transfer rules and will have two years of eligibility remaining.

Matta noted his assimilation to the team since his arrival.

"I've been very pleased with what Evan has done just from the time he's gotten here

and how he's changed his body," the coach said. "He's a great kid. He's really fit in well with our guys."

"As we talked to him when he was transferring, there's two types of transfers: those that go and know they can't play and don't do a whole lot. (Then) there's those like Ron Lewis. When he transferred in here I thought he had maybe the greatest year I'd seen a transfer have and it paid off for him."

In two years with the Eagles, Ravenel saw action in 39 games and averaged 2.8 points and 2.1 rebounds per contest.

Center

Jared Sullinger, 6-9, 280, Fr. – Matta has made a living by welcoming talented freshmen centers, having landed five-star prospects at the position in four of the past five years. The addition of Sullinger is expected to help propel the Buckeyes toward a national championship, and he is likely to bump senior Dallas Lauderdale from the starting lineup.

Matta has been vague on how he plans to use the nation's top center prospect in his class. Although he went up against Lauderdale during the Agonis Club scrimmage, the two big men could see action at the same time should the Buckeyes want to use a big lineup.

The coach's first goals for Sullinger have been simple – to get accustomed to the collegiate game.

"Points, rebounds, anything like that I really don't know," Matta said of his expectations for Sullinger. "I just hope he's productive."

That he has been during his career to this point. As a senior, Sullinger averaged 24.5 points, 12.3 rebounds, 3.0 blocked shots and 2.4 assists per game while shooting around 78 percent from the field, 38 percent on three-pointers and 77 percent at the line. That season, he was named a McDonald's All-American, the High School Naismith Award winner, a Jordan Brand High School All-American and the 2010 Parade Magazine Player of the Year.

He is the first Ohioan to bring home the latter award since LeBron James did so in 2002 and 2003. Sullinger is also a two-time Ohio Associated Press Mr. Basketball honoree.

Prep accolades will not score Sullinger any points in college, however, and Matta said he has been impressed with the freshman's desire to improve his physique since arriving on campus.

"We talked about it," the OSU coach said on the eve of practice. "He's in really, really good shape right now and his body has drastically changed. I think from that perspective I've been very pleased. Once we get started here, he'll slim down even more. I think (associate strength and conditioning coach Dave Richardson) has done a tremendous job with him."

Diebler said he saw the same improvement in the big man.

"He's doing really well," the senior guard said. "I'm very impressed with how he's accepted the challenge of changing his body, getting stronger and losing weight. Jared is a guy where obviously he's talented. The main thing with him is he's got to be able to come in and run up and down the court. I think this offseason, he's done a great job of getting in

shape. You'll see once the season starts. He's going to look completely different."

Dallas Lauderdale, 6-8, 255, Sr. (6.5 ppg, 5.2 rpg, 77 blocks, 77.3 field-goal percentage) – Although he showed flashes of being a dominant post player for the Buckeyes last season, Lauderdale is likely to play a relief role behind Sullinger this season. Matta said he spoke with Lauderdale in the offseason about becoming a more consistent player, something that has eluded the big man thus far in his OSU career.

As a junior, he scored in double figures in four straight games and did not reach that plateau again until seven games later. More of an afterthought than a key component of the OSU offense, Lauderdale's points came from the paint where he connected at a high rate. In all, 74 percent of his shot attempts came from inside the key.

In an effort to be more consistent, Lauderdale said he worked on the mental side of the game during the summer.

"I can play with anyone physically but I think what really changed was mentally just being more focused," he said. "It changes my thinking. I really can't explain the way it changes me. I can't really explain how it changes my thinking. I just feel different. I'm definitely more confident and ready to have a big year."

Lauderdale's 159 career blocked shots rank fifth best in OSU history. His eight blocks against UC Santa Barbara in the first round of the NCAA Tournament tied him for the sixth-best performance in school history.

"In the time he's been here, he's had some tremendous moments," Matta said.

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OPINION

All Buckeyes Can Do Now Is Keep Winning

When the Ohio State football team lost its game at Wisconsin on Oct. 16, there was all sorts of discussion about what that loss meant as far as the Buckeyes' chances on the Big Ten and national title scene as well as what would have to happen among the other conference and national contenders for OSU to be a player at the end of the season.

The Buckeyes have no control over what the other teams in the conference and across the country do. Once they lost their game with Wisconsin, they were put in the position of having to win their games – the only games they can control – and hope for some help from others the rest of the way.

Two games later and the team has held up its end of the bargain, trouncing Purdue and Minnesota. And the Buckeyes have gotten some of the needed help, particularly a much-needed loss by Michigan State to Iowa to keep Ohio State in the hunt for a share of a record-tying sixth straight Big Ten championship.

Now it gets more tricky. The mission remains the same for the Buckeyes – keep winning games. The competition gets a little tougher, however, as Ohio State closes with Penn State, Iowa and Michigan. The Nittany Lions and Wolverines may be a little down this year, but it would be a serious mistake to underestimate those traditional rivals, especially if Michigan invades Ohio Stadium on Nov. 27 with head coach Rich Rodriguez's job as well as Ohio State's shot at a conference championship both on the line.

Jim Tressel-coached teams traditionally round into form in November, and the Buckeyes are probably excited rather than fearful that they close the season with tough opponents. If the way the Ohio State offensive line and running game seem to be coming around is any indication, this looks to be yet another year when the team is getting better as the season progresses.

For many, however, the jury is still out. After the loss to the Badgers, Ohio State has rolled over Purdue and Minnesota, but those two teams are hardly the class of the conference. How will the Buckeyes fare as they step back up in class in the final month of the season?

Then again, the jury is probably still out on contenders Michigan State, Iowa and Wisconsin, each of which has had mixed results as well.

As Oakland Raiders owner Al Davis so famously said, "Just win, baby."

If the Buckeyes do that, everything else will take care of itself.

Disposing Of The Gophers

As mentioned previously, Minnesota was not the toughest of opponents, but the Golden Gophers were the next game on Ohio State's schedule and you play them as they come. The Buckeyes looked solid on offense, defense and special teams as they disposed of the reeling Gophers by a 52-10 score.

Offensively, OSU was able to move the ball both on the ground and through the air, racking up a balanced 263 yards rushing and 244 passing for an impressive 507 yards of total offense.

Defensively, the Buckeyes looked vulnerable to long passes over the middle to start the game, but as is so often the case with the Ohio State defense, the unit made the adjustments and the Gophers with veteran quarterback Adam Weber were pretty much held in check the rest of the way.

One thing OSU fans had to like was the fact that the defense – which had frequently put pressure on opposing quarterbacks but had few sacks to show for it – took Weber down five

THE VIEW FROM 15TH & HIGH

Frank Moskowitz, Publisher

times for 33 yards in losses and also forced him to lose the ball on fumbles twice, one of which John Simon returned 30 yards for a touchdown. Ohio State entered the game with only 11 sacks on the season.

Another thing that fans and coaches alike had to appreciate was the fact that key defenders Brian Rolle and Devon Torrence each returned to the injury-riddled defense after leaving the field with injuries of their own in the game with the Gophers. The Buckeyes can ill afford to lose any more players on defense, let alone leaders such as Rolle and Torrence.

As far as special teams, so much attention had been paid to the Buckeyes' troubles defending kick returns that fans haven't seemed to notice that Ohio State appeared on the verge of breaking some sort of return of its own. Against Minnesota, Jordan Hall got the Buckeyes rolling with a 34-yard burst on the opening kickoff to the Minnesota 46, aided by a fine block from Storm Klein. Later, Hall turned in a dazzling 70-yard punt return to the Gophers' 2 that unfortunately the Buckeyes could not convert into points following a Terrelle Pryor interception. OSU also blocked a punt which it turned into six points.

However, Devin Barclay missed a chip-shot field goal, and while Ohio State did not give up a long return, the Buckeyes still struggled on kickoff coverage, giving Minnesota an average starting point of its own 34 following nine kicks.

Three points lost or less-than-ideal field position after a kickoff could come back to haunt Ohio State down the stretch.

Still, it all added up to a pretty good performance by the Buckeyes. While the team played well as a whole, I thought several individuals had especially good games.

Dan "Boom" Herron continues to take charge of the tailback position and gets better every week. He was a workhorse in the first half, carrying the ball 17 times for 114 yards and a 6.7-yard average in the first 30 minutes.

I don't know if the holes opened by the line are getting bigger or Herron is finding them better, but he really appears to be in sync with the big guys up front and his continued improvement from week to week bodes well for the Buckeyes in what is always a physical month of November.

Tressel and his staff gave Herron the second half off, and Ohio State's bevy of other backs saw plenty of action in the second 30 minutes.

Have you noticed that Carlos Hyde seems to be getting the nod over Jaamal Berry lately? Hyde was the first of the freshman duo to get a carry against Minnesota, and he gained 32 yards on his three tries. Berry also ran three times but gained only 5 yards. In the last four games, Hyde has carried 17 times for 101 yards and a 5.9-yard average, while Berry has been called on 14 times for 74 yards, good for 5.3 yards a carry.

Pryor was once again accurate with his passing in the game against the Gophers. He clicked on 18 of his 22 passes for 222 yards and two touchdowns, hitting a variety of receivers with passes short, long and in between. However, he threw the boneheaded interception that negated Hall's long punt return. Those unforced picks continue to be what separates Pryor from greatness.

While it was apparent the game plans against Purdue and Minnesota called for Pryor to remain in the pocket unless it became necessary to scramble, it was nice to be reminded what he can do when he tucks and runs.

Pryor gained 55 yards on only five carries against Minnesota, including a vintage 34-yard run in the first quarter. However, I cringed when he ran for a 13-yard gain in the fourth quarter. Herron, with his ample group of capable backups, was long gone from the contest and I wondered why the franchise quarterback was still in the game and carrying the football.

One of Pryor's favorite targets against the Gophers was DeVier Posey, who I thought turned in one of his best performances of the season. He ran good routes and caught both the easy ones as well as the hard ones, including a well-defended 38-yard rainbow for a touchdown with 24 seconds to go in the first half. That made the score a backbreaking 31-7 at intermission.

On defense, I thought Rolle may have played his best game of the season. Always solid, the 5-11, 218-pound senior bounced back from his early injury to record six tackles, including 2½ for loss and 1½ sacks. He forced and recovered a fumble on the same play, a play on which he also recorded a half-sack.

Cornelback Chimdi Chekwa also played well against the Gophers. He intercepted a Weber pass and, like Rolle, recorded multiple stats on one play when he sacked Weber and forced a fumble. What I really liked on that play is that he bounced up after hitting Weber and threw a key block to spring Simon for the 30-yard fumble return for a touchdown. Players on championship teams battle until the whistle blows on every play, and Chekwa did that.

Those were all strong performances from key players, and this is the time of year when you expect your leaders to step it up a notch. I think that's a good sign for the Buckeyes.

Birth Of Tresselspeak

Now I know how an archaeologist or historian must feel when he or she makes an important discovery. In our "From the Pages of BSB" feature in this issue, I believe I may have uncovered the first recorded example of Tresselspeak. (See page 2.)

Back in 1985, the then-Ohio State assistant coach was working with the Buckeye quarterbacks among other positions. He was evaluating Jim Karsatos, who had just equaled the OSU record for touchdown passes in a season with 17.

"He's as good as there is in the country for one reason," Tressel said. "He does what we ask him to do. The making of a quarterback

is what he can do for his team. Well, Jim Karsatos can do for Ohio State what we need done.

"You start adding up yardage, adding up completions and touchdowns and all that – and people typically have arguments – but as far as what he can do for Ohio State, he's the best in the country."

I wonder if Tressel feels the same way about Terrelle Pryor today.

Karsatos wound up with 19 touchdown passes in 1985, a mark that still ranked fifth in OSU history coming into this season. However, Pryor's two TDs against Minnesota gave him 20 for the year, dropping Karsatos to sixth place. Troy Smith holds the school record with 30 TD tosses during his Heisman Trophy season in 2006.

In case any of you think Tressel's style of offense is something new at Ohio State, you should go to the same "From the Pages of BSB" feature. Back in 2000, former head coach John Cooper's team had battled to a hard-fought 13-13 tie at the half against Michigan State. After intermission, the Buckeyes ran the ball 34 of 36 plays in the second half and scored a 27-13 victory.

"One of our 10 commandments is win the surest way, and today the surest way was to run it, keep it away from them and take care of the ball in key situations," Cooper said. "We got very, very conservative. Again, blame me for that. Don't blame (offensive coordinator Chuck) Stobart or (quarterback) Steve Bellisari or anybody else. Blame the head coach."

By the way, in case you were wondering, OSU punters Dan Stultz and B.J. Sander combined for three punts and a 44.7-yard average in that win over the Spartans.

No BSB; Yes Newsletter

I'll try to save you the phone call to us and remind you there will be no Buckeye Sports Bulletin next week because of Ohio State's open date on the schedule. The next BSB will be mailed Nov. 16 following the Penn State game.

If you are not already enjoying our additional electronic newsletters, this would be a great time to sign up as we will post newsletters on Nov. 5 and 12, which will cover any breaking news, including injuries or news on the recruiting front.

To start enjoying the electronic newsletters as well as the ability to read the complete Buckeye Sports Bulletin online on Mondays during football season and Tuesdays the rest of the year, send your name, address, phone number and preferred e-mail address to subscriptions@buckeyesports.com and we will send you simple instructions on how to enjoy these special perks for BSB subscribers. Remember, subscriptions@buckeyesports.com is an e-mail address, not a website.

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