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87,898

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OHIO STATE VS PURDUE—Oct. 23, 1976—Columbus, Ohio

Players in the Game

Offense

SE Ra'Smith, Townsend
QT LeFeber, Barberich
QG Finucan
C Venzin, Wetendorf
SG Zelencik, Sullivan
ST Lafary, McKenzie
TE Eubank, Turner
QB Vitali
FB Skibinski, Boykin
TB Northington, Ri.Smith
FL Arnold, Bremner, Oliver
PK Supan

Purdue

LE B.Smith, Floyd
LT Crosby, Jackson
MG Loushin, Bury
RT C.Barr
RE Cripe, Larkins, Benson
LB Arrington, Motts, Beery
LB Mannella, Burgamy, Robinson
LC King, W.Harris
SS Beery
FS Supan, Jenkins
EC P.Harris, Pope
PT Eagin

Ohio State

Offense

TE Storer, Jaco, Robinson
LT Ward, Cox
LG Savoca, Ayers, Renard
C Lang, Waugh, Ti.Vogler, Datish
FG Lukens
RT Pietrini, Mackie
SL Jones, Hyatt, Ferguson
QB Gerald, Pacenta, Castignola
TB Logan, Springs
WB Harrell, Jackson
FB Johnson, Campbell
PK Skladany

Defense

LE Brudzinski, Hornik
LT Buonamici, Sullivan
MG Brown, Fritz
RT Beamon, Cato, T.Harris
RE Dansler, Dixon, Bell
LB Cousineau, Adkins
LB Thompson, Ross, Blinco
OH Roche, Mills
BH Guess
CB Allegro, D.Griffin
S R.Griffin, Schwartz
PT Skladany
WEATHER: 45° overcast with the wind out of the south-east at 5 - 15 mph

Purdue won the toss and elected to receive; Ohio State to defend the south goal

Skladany kicked off at 1:35 P.M., nine yards deep for the TB

Pur 15:00
1 10 P20  Skibinski moved into rt
2  9 P21 Northtong pitch right -5 Brown
3 14 P16 Vitali passed to Skibinski on delay over middle 13
4  1 P29 Eagain punted 41; rolled dead

Ohio 12:58
1 10 027 Logan option pitch re for 12
1 10 039 Johnson at lg for 2
2  8 O11 Gerald kept and spun into lt 3 (offsetting penalties after play)
3  5 O14 Gerald faded, chased, ran middle for 3
4  2 O17 Skladany punted 35; King returned 13

Pur 11:01
1 10 P31 Vitali passed in deep right flat to Smith (measurement) 9
2  1 P00 Skibinski was stopped for no gain at lg
3  1 P40 Northtong rg for -2 Buonamici
4  3 P38 Eagain punted 37; R. Griffin fumbled rec. D. Griffin 2

Ohio 9:06
1 10 027 Gerald kept thru rt for 4
2  6 O31 Logan thru lg for 10 (Logan hurt - walked off)
1 10 O15 Sptings middle for 4
2  6 O15 Gerald kept inside lg, spun for 15
1 10 P00 Springs into lg for 2
2  8 P38 Gerald passed left, knocked down by Barr inc.
3  8 P38 Harrell countered left for no gain
4  8 P38 Skladany’s FG try was short and wide right for the TB from 55

Pur 6:10
1 10 P20 Skibinski thru lg for 4
2  6 P24 Rickey Smith option pitch re -2 R. Griffin
3  8 P22 Vitali passed deep right for Arnold, broken up Allegro inc.
4  8 P22 Eagain punted 30; Allegro FC

Ohio 4:41
1 10 O18 Logan option pitch re 17
1 10 P35 Logan option pitch le for 7
2  3 P28 Gerald kept le on option for 3 (Gerald hurt - helped off)
1 10 P25 Johnson cut into rt for 3
2  7 P22 Johnson thru lt for 4
3  3 P18 Logan option pitch le for 2
4  1 P16 Johnson at lt for 1; Ohio illegal procedure -5
4  6 P21 Skladany’s FG try was wide right from 38 - TB

Pur 2:43
1 10 P20 Rickey Smith option pitch re for no gain
2 10 P20 Vitali faked, passed over middle; intercepted Brudzinski returned 5

Ohio 1:51
1 10 P28 Johnson lt for 2
2  8 P6 Pacenta kept inside re for 2
1 10 P17 Logan cut over re for no gain
2 10 P17 Jackson countered over rt for 5 as the quarter ended
3rd Downs 0-3

Ohio State vs Purdue
October 23, 1976
Columbus, Ohio
2nd Quarter

3rd Downs 0-3

Pacenta kept inside le for 2
Skladany's FG was from 27 yards at 14:23
Ohio State 3 Purdue 0
18/10 yards in six plays with 2:28 elapsed
Skladany kicked off 49 yards; Pope returned 18

Pur 14:19
1 10 P29
Vitali faked, passed in left flat for Skibinski short inc.
2 10 P29
Vitali passed to Arnold cutting middle for 17
1 10 P46
Skibinski middle for 6
2 10 P46
Rickey Smith pitch at le for 5
1 10 P43
Skibinski into middle for 5
2 4 P48
Skibinski cut thru rg for 10
1 10 P28
Rickey Smith into rt for 4
2 5 P38
Rickey Smith pitch at rgt for 1
3 0 P23
Vitali faked, rolled right, passed just too high for Eubank inc.
4 5 P23
Supan's FG try from 40 yards was wide left - TB

Ohio 10:20
1 10 P20
Pacenta kept right -3 Crosby
2 13 P17
Pacenta faded, chased, passed right to Storer for 5
3 8 P22
Pacenta passed deep right for Logan wide inc.
4 8 P22
Skladany punted 40; King returned 5

Pur 8:45
1 10 P43
Vitali faked, passed deep on fly left for Eubank too long inc.
2 10 P43
Vitali passed too wide for Townsend left inc.
3 7 P43
Vitali passed to Rickey Smith over middle on delay for 3
4 7 P46
Eagin punted into end zone for the TB - 54 yards

Ohio 7:50
1 10 P20
Pacenta kept inside rt for 2
2 8 P22
Johnson pushed thru lg for 8
1 10 P30
Logan pitch at le, slipped down for -2
2 12 P28
Pacenta faked, passed to Storer over middle for 14
1 10 P42
Purdue illegal procedure 5
1 5 P47
Johnson slipped down cutting at rg for -1
2 6 P46
Logan option pitch at le for 5; Purdue pers. foul 15
1 10 P34
Logan into rt for 4
2 6 P30
Pacenta kept right for zero
3 6 P30
Pacenta kept left, looked to pass, hit for -3 Barr
4 9 P33
Skladany's FG try from 50 yards was short and wide right - TB

Pur 3:07
1 10 P26
Skibinski cut at rg for 4
2 6 P24
Skibinski dodged into center for 7
1 10 P31
Rickey Smith rt for -1 Beamon
2 11 P30
Rickey Smith lt, cut right for 5
3 6 P35
Rickey Smith option pitch re, fumbled out of bounds -4 Beamon
4 10 P31
Eagin punted for the TB - 69 yards (Rickey Smith hurt, helped off)

Ohio 0:35
1 10 P020
Pacenta fell on ball for -1
2 11 P19
The first half ended at 2:33 P.M.
## Ohio State vs Purdue
**October 23, 1976**

### Half-Time Statistics

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**Score by Quarters:**

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### Individual Statistics

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### First-Half Scoring Summary

- **Ohio State**: Skladany Field Goal 27
- **Purdue**: 0

**Score**: 3-0
Ohio State elected to receive; Purdue to defend the north goal

Supan kicked off 47; Springs' fumble recovered by Jenkins

Pur 11:58
1 10 019 Skibinski cut thru lg for 3
2 7 016 Moss into middle 3
3 4 013 Vitale faked, was hit by Dansler as pass went inc. over middle
4 4 013 Supan's FG was from 31 yards at 13:35 OHIO STATE 3 PURDUE 3
6 1/3 yards in four plays with 1:23 elapsed
Supan kicked off 43; Logan returned 11

Ohio 13:31
1 10 028 Logan pitch le for 6
2 4 031 Johnson over rt for 5
1 10 039 Johnson clear at rt for 11
1 10 50 Logan thru rg for 8
2 2 412 Logan pitch at le, slipped tackle for 7
1 10 P 35 Jackson counter at lt for 5
2 5 P 3 skins Logan at rt for 5
1 11 P 25 Pacenta kept left for 44 Cripe
2 11 P 29 Pacenta passed too wide for Storer left inc.
3 11 P 29 Pacenta faked, chased right, passed too wide for Storer inc.
4 11 P 25 Skladany's FG try from 46 yards was wide left - TB

Purdue 9:53
1 10 P 20 Skibinski rg for 5
2 5 P 25 Skibinski clear at middle for 11
1 10 P 36 Moss pitch into rt for 1 - Beamon
2 11 P 35 Skibinski rg 1
3 10 P 36 Skibinski clear at rg for 8
4 2 P 4 skins Eagan punted 47; R. Griffin returned 5

Ohio 6:38
1 10 014 Johnson at rt for 4
2 6 018 Pacenta on option left, was hit and fumbled; recovered by Crosby - 7

Purdue 5:59
1 10 011 Moss slipped down at rg for 1
2 9 010 Arnold option pitch re for zero
3 9 010 Vitali passed in left end zone for Arnold; broken up Allegro inc.
4 9 010 Supan's FG try from 27 yards was wide right - TB

Ohio 4:28
1 10 020 Logan pitch re for 1
2 9 021 Pacenta faked, passed on safety right too low for Logan inc.
3 9 021 Pacenta faked, passed to Storer over middle for 18
1 10 039 Logan pitch le for 12
1 10 P 49 Logan cut outside rg for 7
2 3 P 42 Logan thru lg for 5
1 10 P 37 Johnson at rgt for 3
2 7 P 31 Logan pitch le for 3
3 4 P 31 Pacenta kept inside le for (measurement) 3
4 1 P 28 Johnson hit into lt for 2
1 10 P 26 Logan at rt for 2
2 8 P 24 Pacenta kept right, passed to Harrell on side line for 13
1 10 P 11 Logan was clear at rg for the TD at 0:37 - Skladany PAT
80 yards in 13 plays with 3:51 elapsed OHIO 10 PURDUE 3
Skladany kicked off 58 yards; Pope returned 16

Purdue 0:33
1 10 P 16 Skibinski at lg for 3
2 7 P 21 The quarter ended
Vitali passed to Rickey Smith on delay left, dropped when hit Roche inc.  
Vitali passed to Arnold over middle, low/dropped inc.  
Eagan punted 46; R. Griffin returned right 22

Ohio 1st: 35

1-10 P15
Logan pitch re for 1
2 9 P14
Logan at lt for 2
3 7 P12
Facenta faked, passed to Harrell on hook over middle, broke tackle for 15
1-10 P27
Logan into 1t, cut right for 9  (Motts hurt, helped off)
2 1 P18
Logan pitch at re for 4
1-10 P14
Logan clear at rg, tripped for 7
2 3 P7
Johnson outside lt for 4  (Purdue offside declined)
1-3 P3
Johnson at rtg for 2
1 2 P1
Johnson spun into lt for the TD at 1:17 - Skladany PAT
15 yards in 9 plays with 3:18 elapsed  O.S. 17  P. 3
Skladany kicked off 49 yards; Pope returned 8

Purdue 1st: 11

1-10 P19
Moss option pitch re for 17
1 10 P36
Vitali passed to Arnold over middle left for 9
2 1 P15
Vitali on sneak over rg for 2
1-10 P17
Vitali faked, rolled right passed for Ray Smith, knocked down Thompson inc
2 10 P 17
Vitali's pass over middle was intercepted by Brudzinski ret. 28

Ohio 2nd: 54

1 10 P21
Logan lt 2
2 8 P29
Logan option pitch right end, slipped between tacklers and cut ran
all defenders for the TD at the flag at 9:16 - SKLADANY PAT
31 yards in two plays with 0:38 elapsed  O.S. 24  P. 3
Skladany kicked off 47; Ray Smith returned 8

Purdue 2nd: 12

1 10 P13
Skibinski at rt for 6
2 4 P27
Skibinski middle 3
3 1 P30
Vitali sneak for 2
1 10 P32
Moss pitch re 5
2 5 P37
Skibinski rg 6
1 10 P3
Skibinski at rt 3
2 7 P16
Vitali passed to Arnold over middle left for 14
1 10 O10
Vitali passed just too long for Townsend deep right sideline inc.
2 10 O10
Vitali faked, faded, sacked by Beazon -12; Ohio Pers. Foul 15
2 7 O37
Skibinski lt for 10
1 10 O27
Vitali rolled right passed just out of bounds for Townsend inc.
2 10 O27
Vitali rolled right passed to Ray Smith for 18
1 9 0 9
Vitali faked, rolled right, passed to Townsend; deflected Thompson inc.
2 9 0 9
Skibinski at lt 1  (Rubank hurt- helped off)
3 8 0 8
Vitali passed quick in right end zone for Ray Smith, broken up Roche inc.
4 8 0 8
Vitali rolled left, passed too high in left end zone for Turner inc.

Ohio 3rd: 10

1 10 O6
Campbell at lg for no gain
2 10 O8
Springs thru rt for 4; Ohio illegal procedure -3
2 13 O5
Facenta kept inside 1e for 3  Time out Purdue at 2:02
3 10 O8
Sprints pitch at re for 6
4 4 O14
Skladany punted 47; King recovered own fumble for -2

Purdue 3rd: 30

1 10 P37
Vitali passed deep left; Roche intercepted off Moss' hands; no ret.

Ohio 4th: 24

1 10 O40
Springs option pitch re for 1
2 9 O31
Springs at rt, cut right for no gain
3 9 O31
Jackson fumbled -1 on inside reverse; recovered by Floyd

Purdue 4th: 06

1 10 O40
Vitali passed over middle for Arnold for 8 as the game ended at 4:05 P.M.
Coach Alex Agase's comments:

I felt our kids played one helluva a good defensive football game. We were tied 3-3 at the half and in good shape.

We forced the breaks in the second half at the beginning, we just failed to capitalize. It hurt, if we could have put points on the board it would have made the difference. That's the difference in the game. We recovered the fumble and couldn't score a touchdown. Field goals are points, but against a team like Ohio State you need the setens. Not just three.

You just have to get across the goal line, we didn't.

Our kids played with their hearts. A great effort.

The turning point was not the missed field goal, it was the fact we couldn't score a touchdown.

Gerald was very quick, a fine quarterback, Pacenta slower, but we didn't change defenses because Pacenta was in. It didn't matter.

I felt Ohio State played a very fine football game.

We didn't execute on offense so we lost, it's that simple.

I rate Jeff Logan as a very fine football player...but I've seen Rivky Bell and Scott Dierking and they are GREAT football players. Jeff Logan is a fine football player.

This Ohio State team is similar to the others we've faced.

Coach Hayes: We sure hated to lose Rod Gerald but that's football. We just have to make the most of it.

I sure was proud of the way Jim Pacenta responded to the challenge. He is a very intelligent person and highly competitive. He got better as he went along. We'll be all right with Jim in there. I have complete confidence in him. Now we must bring a freshman along as a backup man.

Our team responded very well today. Our defense was superb. After two bad mistakes we put our defense in a hole, but all Purdue could get was three points. That's great team defense. Bob Brudzinski was just great, but he has been all year.

Our offense played well too, especially in the second half. You don't play great football till the offense and the defense are playing well. We saw that today. I thought this was Jeff Logan's best game of the year, and he has been good every game so far. Logan sent word to the bench that he was tired and that we should Ron Springs in. The next play Logan made his 29 yard touchdown run. Maybe we should run Logan along the sideline to get him tired. That was a great run.

This team is young and enthusiastic. We won't change our offense with Jim Pacenta at quarterback. I still think we can get better and we will.
Ohio State shook off its season-long second half lethargy behind the spectacular running of Jeff Logan — who gained 175 yards — to whip a crippled and outmaneuvered Purdue football team 24-3 Saturday in Ohio Stadium.

Nearly half of the crowd of 87,890 failed to see any of the three Buckeye touchdowns, having departed at halftime in rain whipped by a cold wind.

THE FOURTH straight Big 10 triumph was a very costly one for the Buckeyes. Quarterback Rod Gerald suffered a bad injury and will probably be lost for the season. He was hurt with 4:14 to play in the first period and admitted to Riverside Hospital.

Akron senior Jim Pacenta, who had played only 19 minutes in the six previous games, came off the bench and directed a Buckeye attack which erased a 3-3 tie with a touchdown in the third period, then added two more in the final 15 minutes.

The win kept the Bucks in pursuit of an unprecedented fifth straight conference championship with a 4-0 league record. Ohio State is 5-1-1 overall.

IT WAS THE second loss in four conference games for the Boilermakers, whose overall record slipped to 3-4.

Playing without its leading ground gainer, Scott Dierking, Purdue lost its replacement Mike Northington on his second carry in the first period with a shoulder injury.

Northington's substitute, Rickey Smith, also sustained a shoulder injury, but came back in the second half for limited action.

Neither team could generate much offense in the first half. On the second play of the second period, Tom Skladany, who had missed previous field goal attempts at 55 and 38 yards, was good from 27 yards to give the Buckeyes a 3-0 lead.

PURDUE CAME BACK to reach the Ohio State 23 — its deepest first half penetration — but Rick Supan was wide left on a 40-yard field goal attempt.

Skladany's missed 50-yard field goal try late in the quarter ended a nine-play Ohio State drive and the half ended with the Buckeyes leading 3-0.

Purdue tied the score with its only points of the game just two minutes into the second half.

Ron Springs took Supan's kickoff at the 12, but fumbled and Boilermaker Jim Jenkins recovered at the 19.

John Skibinski and Rick Moss, in for the injured Smith, gained six yards to the 13. On third down, quarterback Mike Vitali's pass was broken up by Kelton Dansler and Bob Brudzinski in the end zone.

SUPAN THEN KICKED a 31-yard field goal to make the score 3-3.

On the Bucks' next series, Skladany missed his fourth field goal attempt from 37 yards out.

Purdue could not capitalize on its best scoring opportunity of the game after Cleveland Crosby recovered a fumbled Pacenta to Logan putout on the Ohio State 11. Three plays failed as did Supan's 27-yard field goal attempt.

Logan, who punished the Purdue defense for two touchdowns in addition to his 175 net yards, powered the Buckeyes' first TD drive. He carried seven times in the 13-play march, scoring from the 11. The scoring play was set up by Pacenta's 13-yard pass to Jim Harrell.

SKLADANY'S CONVERSION kick was good and the Bucks had breathing room at 10-3.

Ray Griffin's 20-yard runback of a Purdue punt early in the fourth period set off Ohio State's second touchdown march. Again Logan was the workhorse with five carries, moving the ball from the Purdue 45 to the seven.

Fullback Pete Johnson hit right guard for the final yard and the touchdown. Skladany converted and the Buckeyes owned a 17-3 lead.

Brudzinski, again a bear on defense, keyed the final Buckeye touchdown when he intercepted a Vitali pass on the OSU 41 and ran it to the Purdue 31.

LOGAN PICKED UP TWO to the 29 and then swept wide right with a pitchout and outran the Boilermaker secondary into the end zone. Skladany's kick completed the scoring.

However, Purdue came to the Ohio State nine on a 16-play drive with Skibinski running and Vitali passing. Vitali completed passes for 17 and 14 yard gains along the way.

Two Vitali passes were broken up by the Buckeye defense, Aaron Brown stacked up Skibinski without gain and Vitali's final pitch to Keena Turner was high out of the end zone.

With 3:10 left in the game, Ohio State attempted to run out the clock. One final Purdue fling was snuffed out by Tom Roche's interception of a Vitali pass on the OSU 40.

WHILE LOGAN WAS THE busiest and most productive of the Buckeye ball carriers, Johnson gained 51 yards in 14 attempts. Johnson's touchdown was the 51st of his career, adding to his Big 10 record.

The solid Buckeye defense yielded only 115 yards rushing, almost all in chunks churned by Skibinski — 97 yards in 20 carries.

Ohio State returns to the road next Saturday, meeting Indiana at Bloomington.
Woody Hayes almost calmly accepted the loss of his regular quarterback for the remainder of the season — which Ohio State did Saturday in a 24-3 win over Purdue — and praised on the seldom-used senior who replaced him.

The Ohio State coach was aware that Rod Gerald would be in a cast for 5-6 weeks with a hairline fracture of lumbar vertebrae when he spoke enthusiastically about the way his Buckeyes reacted to that loss.

HE HAD GLOWING praise for Jim Pacenta, who replaced Gerald and delivered several crucial plays in a touchdown drive that turned the tide of a hard-hitting, tense battle in the third quarter.

“That second half was unquestionably our best performance of the year,” Hayes said. “We gave them the ball on our 17 and again on our 10 and the defense held them without a first down and they had to kick two field goals, one of which they made.

“That was the turning point of the game. Our kids took over and did a whale of a job.”

The Buckeye coach noted that “the fourth quarter syndrome just did not materialize.” There has been considerable discussion about Ohio State's downhill play in the second half in its last four games.

THIS TIME IT outscored the Boilermakers 21-3.

“The first half,” Woody continued, “the defense outplayed the offense by quite a bit, but in the second half they both played good ball.

“This was by far the best offensive game we’ve played, because Purdue was a good defensive team. But offensively, they were probably a little better than defensively. They’ve been averaging about 411 yards a game. I thought our defense played a great game.”

Hayes decided that all of the Buckeyes had distinguished themselves in the second half, but hailed especially “the job Jim Pacenta did. He passed just enough to keep us moving.

“Then the job Jeff Logan did and Pete (Johnson) picked up and did a good job, and the line blocked. They all did a great job.”

SOMEONE ASKED Hayes if he was surprised by Pacenta, considering that he played only 19 previous minutes this season.

“Let’s say I’m highly pleased,” the coach answered. “He hasn’t played much, but he’s the kind of kid we knew he would be better under pressure because he’s a quality kid. He has about a 3.7 or 3.75 average in pre-med.

“He responded extremely well. I was surprised by his passing. He passed better than we thought he would. Better than he does in practice. He’s a pretty effective runner. We’ll option with him in there.

“He didn’t make any big mistakes there in the second period (when Gerald was hurt). We ran out the time at the end of the half, because a big mistake down there would have ruined us.

“T I hate to lose Rod, but that’s something we can’t do anything about. Now, we’ve got to get a freshman ready to back up Pacenta.”

GERALD IS EXPECTED to be in Riverside Hospital for 4-5 days and then will be in a cast for 5-6 weeks, according to Team Physician Dr. Bob Murphy. He might be able to resume football in time for a Bowl game, if the Buckeyes qualify.

And Woody said several times in the post-game interview that he felt the Buckeyes were still very much in that picture.

“We’re definitely getting better,” he said, “Sure this team can get a lot better. It’s young and enthusiastic. We figure to keep on winning. We’re improving.”

Failure To Throw Sevens Hurt Riveters, Says Agase

“When you’re playing against a team like Ohio State,” said rain-soaked Purdue Coach Alex Agase, “you got to get seven. We only got three.”

Agase said his injury-plagued Boilermakers were scuttled, 24-3, Saturday at Ohio Stadium because of their own inability to cash in on scoring opportunities early in the second half.

“We had a chance to take charge of the game,” he said in reference to fumble recoveries at the Ohio 19 and 11. “Particularly the way our defense was playing.

“The turning point of the game was when we didn’t score when we had two golden opportunities. If we had scored two touchdowns . . .

HIS VOICE TRAILED off before he resumed, “The breaks we forced and got . . . We had every opportunity to take command of the game. But we failed to get a first down and got only one field goal out of it. Therein lies the difference.”

Agase conceded that “Ohio State is a very, very strong football team. They’re strong on defense and strong on the goal line. But you like to feel you can get it across the goal line. You have to do it to win games. We didn’t.”

He considered the Buckeyes “very similar to what they’ve been in the past.” What bothered him most was that “they made a few more mistakes than they normally do, and we couldn’t capitalize on them.”

PURDUE PLAYED without Scott Dierking, the Big 10 rushing leader, and several others who have been first-stringers.

Agase claimed that “they would have helped, but I’m not going to make excuses. Ohio State played a real fine football game and our kids played a good defensive game. They played with their hearts. It was a great effort.”