OHIO STATE VS ILLINOIS  
November 6, 1976  
FINAL TEAM STATISTICS

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SCORE BY QUARTERS: 1 2 3 4 -Total  
IILLINOIS  0 3 0 7 10  
OHIO STATE  7 14 14 7 42  

ATTENDANCE  87,654

SCORING SUMMARY

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<td>Hornik</td>
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### OHIO STATE VS ILLINOIS—Nov. 6, 1976—Columbus, Ohio

#### PLAYERS IN THE GAME

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Offense</th>
<th>ILLINOIS</th>
<th>Defense</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SE Johnson</td>
<td>LE Williams</td>
<td>LT DiFeliciano</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gordon, Peach</td>
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<td>Kogut</td>
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<td>LT Melsek</td>
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<td>Thornton</td>
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<tr>
<td>LG Jurczyk</td>
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<td>C P. McDonald</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diedrich</td>
<td>MLB Studwell</td>
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<td>RG Pancratz</td>
<td>MLB Moore, DeFalco</td>
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<tr>
<td>Taylor</td>
<td>ALB McCracken</td>
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<td>RT Finis</td>
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<td>Ashlock</td>
<td>MLB Kingsbury</td>
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<td>TE Friel</td>
<td>MLB Moore</td>
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<td>Sherrod</td>
<td>MLB Kingsbury, Smith</td>
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<td>QB Steger</td>
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<td>Pokorny</td>
<td>MLB Moore, DeFalco</td>
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<td>McCray</td>
<td>ALB McCracken</td>
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<td>TB Phillips</td>
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<td>Coleman</td>
<td>R Mitchem, Dombroski</td>
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<td>FB Schulz</td>
<td>S Hardy, Scott</td>
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<tr>
<td>SB Rouse</td>
<td>CB Stauner, Kelly</td>
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<td>Schooley</td>
<td>CB Tucker, Kirwan</td>
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<td>PK Beaver</td>
<td>PT Vierneisel</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>TE Storer</td>
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<td>Jaco, Laughlin</td>
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<td>LT Ward</td>
<td>LT Buonami</td>
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<td>Robinson, Cox</td>
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<td>LG Savoca</td>
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<td>Dulin, Andria</td>
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<td>C Lang</td>
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<td>Porter, Ayers</td>
<td>Cato, E.Mills</td>
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<td>RG Lukens</td>
<td>RE Dansler</td>
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<td>Ti. Vogler, Renard</td>
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<td>Bell</td>
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<td>RT Pietrini</td>
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<td>Mackie, Burris</td>
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<td>SE Jones</td>
<td>LB Thompson</td>
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<td>Hyatt, M. Cox</td>
<td>Ross, Blinco</td>
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<tr>
<td>QB Pacenta</td>
<td>OH Ruhl, Mills</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strahine</td>
<td>BH Guess, Midlam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Castignola</td>
<td>Ferrelli</td>
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<tr>
<td>TB Logan</td>
<td>CB Allegro, D.Griffin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Springs, Gordon</td>
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<tr>
<td>RJ. Johnson</td>
<td>S R.Griffin, Schwartz</td>
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<td>WB Harrell</td>
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<td>Jackson, Volley</td>
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<td>FB Johnson</td>
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<td>Campbell, Schneider</td>
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<td>PK Skladany</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PT Skladany</td>
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WEATHER: 52° and sunny with the wind out of the S–W at 20–30 mph

Ohio State won the toss and elected to receive. Illinois to defend the south goal

Ohio 14:56
1 10 023 Logan off lt for 4; Illinois offside 5
1 5 028 Pacenta kept left for -4; Mitchem
2 9 024 Pacenta passed to Johnson on delay over middle for 11
1 10 035 Logan dodged thru rt for 7
2 3 0h2 Logan moved outside lg, clear for 10
1 10 Ih8 Logan cut outside rt for 7
2 3 Ih1 Logan cut at lt, fell for no gain
3 3 Ih1 Johnson thru lt 6; Illinois offside – declined
1 10 I35 Logan cut outside rt for 5
2 5 I30 Logan cut outside lt for no gain; Illinois offside 5
1 10 I25 Logan over rt for 5
2 5 I20 Logan hit at lt for no gain
3 5 I20 Pacenta passed over middle for Storer, hit by Mitchem inc.
4 5 I20 Skladany’s FG try from 37 yards was wide left – TB

Ill 9:10
1 10 I20 Phillips thru rt for 9
2 1 I29 Schulz at rg for 4
1 10 I33 Schulz middle 8
2 2 Ih1 Phillips cut outside le 2
1 10 Ih3 Phillips was hit at rg -1; Boumanici
2 11 Ih2 Rouse on inside counter left -1; Brudzinski
3 12 Ih1 Steger passed to Friel over middle for 18
1 10 Oh1 Phillips into lt, cut left for 16
1 10 025 Steger kept inside le for 2
2 9 024 Steger faked, passed right to Schooley – dropped inc.
3 9 024 Steger rolled right, passed over middle, intercepted by Thompson who returned down east sideline, broke tackle at the ten for the TD at 4:12 – Skladany PAT – OHIO STATE 7 ILLINOIS 0 (81 yard return)
Skladany kicked off into the end zone for the TB

Ill 4:12
1 10 I20 Phillips hit middle for 3
2 7 I23 Phillips slipped at rt for 1 Time out Illinois at 3:04
3 6 I24 Phillips option pitch re -3; Dansler
4 9 I21 Vieimeisel punted 38; downed by Illinois

Ohio 2:49
1 10 Oh1 Logan rt 3
2 7 Oh4 Logan cut left, fumbled out of bounds for 1
3 6 Oh5 Pacenta faded, chased right, passed to Johnson for 9
1 10 Ih6 Johnson rt for 2
2 8 Ih4 Pacenta faded, chased left, chased right, passed behind Storer inc.
3 8 Ih4 Pacenta rolled left, passed to Storer for 17
1 10 I27 Logan cut outside rt, broke tackles right for 11
1 10 Ih6 Johnson cut over center for 3 as the quarter ended
Ohio State vs Illinois
November 6, 1976
Columbus, Ohio
2nd Quarter

3rd Downs 4 - 4

2 7 I13 Johnson into rtg for 4
3 3 I9 Johnson outside lt for 6
1 3 I3 Johnson at rg for 2
2 1 I1 Johnson thru rt for the TD at 13:25 - Skladany PAT
59 yards in 11 plays with 4:24 elapsed
Skladany kicked off 13 yards deep for the TB

Ill 13:25
1 10 120 Phillips lg for 1
2 9 I21 Schulz bounced outside lg for 1
3 8 I22 Steger rolled left, passed to Johnson on sideline for 17
1 10 139 Phillips at lt for 3
2 7 I42 Schulz hit center for 3
3 4 I54 Steger rolled right, passed to wide and high for Johnson in flat inc.
4 4 I55 Vierneisel punted 44; Logan returned 2; Illinois Illegal procedure -5
4 9 I40 Vierneisel punted 30; Allegro FC

Ohio 10:55
1 10 039 Logan into lt for 7
2 3 037 Johnson at rt for 2
3 1 039 Johnson into lt for 5
1 10 014 Logan outside lt, broke tackle, fumbled out of bounds for 6;
Ohio State holding -15
1 19 035 Pacenta passed in left flat for Storer for 8
2 11 013 Pacenta faked, chased right, ran side line for 13
1 10 I44 Pacenta passed deep over middle for Jones for 16
1 10 128 Logan over lg for 5
2 5 I23 Johnson cut into lg for 4
3 1 I19 Johnson same play for 7
1 10 I12 Johnson lt this time for 3
2 7 I9 Pacenta kept inside re, spun for 4
3 3 I5 Johnson outside lt for 3
1 2 I2 Johnson at lt for the TD at 4:28 - Skladany's PAT try was blocked;
Illinois offside 1 - Skladany PAT OHIO STATE 21 ILLINOIS 0
70 yards in 13 plays with 6:27 elapsed
Skladany kicked off 17 yards deep for the TB

Ill 4:28
1 10 120 Steger faked, passed deep on post for Peach for 43
1 10 037 Phillips broke tackle at rt for 8
2 7 020 Phillips cut outside for 3
1 10 026 Phillips lt for 1
2 9 025 Schooley countered at lt for 2
3 7 023 Steger rolled right, passed back left for Friel for 11
1 10 012 Steger passed way too high on screen left to Schulz inc.
2 10 012 Steger rolled right, passed to Rouse at the flag, knocked down Gure Inc.
3 19 012 Phillips was tripped at rt by Brown for -2
4 12 014 Beaver's FG was from 31 yards - OHIO STATE 21 ILLINOIS 3 - at 0:45
66/41 yards in 10 plays with 3:43 elapsed
Beaver kicked off 49 yards; Logan returned right for 13

Ohio 0:11
1 10 021 Pacenta on sneak for 12
1 10 036 Pacenta passed deep over middle, too high for Storer; intercepted Stammer no return

Ill 0:21
1 10 I30 Steger rolled right, passed out of bounds for Johnson inc.
2 10 I34 Schulz middle for 6 as the half ended at 2:31 P.M.
### OHIO STATE VS ILLINOIS

**November 6, 1976**

**HALF-TIME STATISTICS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>OHIO STATE</th>
<th>ILLINOIS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Rushing - Passing - Penalty</td>
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<td>Third Down Efficiency</td>
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<td>Net Yards Rushing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attempts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Yards Passing</td>
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<td>89</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attempted - Completed - Had Intercepted</td>
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<td>10-4-1</td>
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<tr>
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**Score by Quarters:**

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<tr>
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<td>14</td>
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### Individual Summary

**Rushing**

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<th>TD</th>
<th>LG</th>
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<tr>
<td>Logan</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Johnson</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>50</td>
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**Passing**

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<th>YDS</th>
<th>TD</th>
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<tr>
<td>Pacenta</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Steger</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>89</td>
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**Receiving**

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<td>20</td>
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<td>11</td>
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<td>Storer</td>
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<td>18</td>
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### First-Half Scoring Summary

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<tr>
<td>OSU</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4:12</td>
<td>Thompson 81 Pass interception (Skadany kick)</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>OSU</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>13:25</td>
<td>Johnson 1 run (Skadany kick)</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>OSU</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4:28</td>
<td>Johnson 2 run (Skadany kick)</td>
<td>21</td>
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<tr>
<td>ILL</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0:45</td>
<td>Beaver 31 Field goal</td>
<td>21-3</td>
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</table>
Illinois elected to receive; Ohio State to defend the south goal

Skladany kicked off at 2:53 P.M. 6 yards deep for the TB

1 10 I20 Steger kept left for no gain
2 10 I20 Steger faked, faded, sacked by Beamon for -9
3 19 I11 Schulz draw left tackle for no gain
4 19 I11 Viereisel punt 40; Logan returned 1

Ohio 13:03
1 10 50 Logan counter at rt, broke tackles for 14
1 10 I36 Pacenta faked, passed to Hyatt on deep curl for 15
1 10 I21 Logan rt 3
2 7 II8 Logan cut into middle, dodged for 10
1 8 I 8 Pacenta kept inside 1e for 4
2 4 I 4 Johnson thru 1tg for the TD at 10:57 - Skladany PAT
50 yards in six plays with 2:06 elapsed - OHIO STATE 28 ILLINOIS 3
Skladany kicked off 7 yards deep for the TB

1 10 I20 Steger faked, rolled right, passed for Rouse; intercepted Ruhl, no return

Ohio 10:50
1 17 II3 Springs pitch 1e for 1
2 9 II2 Pacenta faked, passed over middle for Storer for 25
1 10 I17 Springs at 1t, cut right for 11
1 6 I 6 Pacenta kept inside 1e for 4
2 2 I 2 Johnson rt 1
3 1 I 1 Johnson into rt for the TD at 8:20 - Skladany PAT
13 yards in six plays with 2:30 elapsed - OHIO STATE 35 ILLINOIS 3
Skladany kicked off 11 yards deep for the TB

1 10 I20 Steger faked, faded, passed to Phillips wide left on safety inc.
2 10 I20 Coleman draw at 1t for 5
3 5 I25 Rouse counter 1t for no gain
4 5 I25 Viereisel punt 50; rolled dead

Ohio 6:58
1 10 025 Campbell's fumble at center was recovered by March for no gain

1 10 I53 Steger faked, rolled right, passed to Friel for 12
1 10 013 Steger passed to Coleman at right flag; intercepted Thompson TB

Ohio 6:26
1 10 020 Campbell lt for 3
2 7 023 Strahine fumbled on hagi off for -3; recovered by McCracken

1 5:47
1 10 020 Coleman cut outside rt for -3, Beamon; Illinois holding -15
1 28 038 Steger faded, passed too long right for Coleman on safety inc.
2 28 038 Steger rolled left, pass intercepted by Brudzinski, return 35

Ohio 5:12
1 10 II1 Campbell rt for 6
2 4 I35 Castignola kept inside 1e for 10
1 10 I25 Springs cut outside rt for 16
1 9 I 9 Campbell rg for 1
2 8 I 8 Castignola kept inside 1e for 6
3 2 I 2 Campbell at lg for 1
4 1 I 1 Johnson was stopped at lg for (inches short) no gain

1 1:49
1 10 I1 McCray sneak for 1
2 9 I 2 McCray sneak for 1
3 8 I 3 Illinois illegal procedure -2
3 10 I 1 McCray sneak for 1 OHIO STATE TIME OUT AT 0:23
4 9 I 2 Viereisel punt out of bounds right for 25

Ohio 0:18
1 10 I27 Sp rings at 1t for no gain as the quarter ended
2 10 127 Springs lt, cut right for 15
1 10 112 Springs hit for -3 – Thornton
2 13 115 Springs rg for 5
3 8 110 Jackson inside cngt right for 2
4 6 1 8 Castignola faked, passed too wide for Campbell; broken up by Studwell inc.

111 12 44
1 10 1 8 McCray passed in deep right flat to Rouse for 22
1 17 130 Collins at rt for 8
2 2 138 Coleman rt for 3
1 10 111 McCray rolled left, passed to Gordon on sideline for 15
1 10 114 Coleman thru lg, cut right for 11
1 10 103 Coleman at rt for -1 – Buonamici
2 11 034 McCray passed to Gordon left for 9
3 2 025 Cole man broke tackle at center for 7
1 10 018 Coleman pitch 1e -1 – Dansler, Thompson
2 11 019 McCray rolled right, sacked by Brown for -5
3 16 024 McCray passed to Collins left; fumble recovered by Allegro

Ohio 8:15
1 10 014 Springs was hit on deep handoff left -2; Studwell (Springs hurt, walked off
2 12 012 Garden at rt for 1
3 11 013 Ohio illegal procedure -5
3 16 1 8 Skladany punted 42; Stauner fumbled and returned 2; OSU ill. pro. declined

111 6 42
1 10 009 McCray passed on left side line to Schooley for 17
1 10 031 Collins lt for 4
2 6 027 McCray rolled right, passed to Peach over middle too long inc.
3 6 067 McCray faded, sacked by Cato and Bell -11 Time out Illinois at 5:21
4 17 036 McCray passed over middle on screen for Coleman; deflected Sullivan inc.

Ohio 5:17
1 10 038 Johnson, Ricky into 1t for 4
2 6 012 R. Johnson again over 1t for 8
1 10 50 Strainlne kept right for no gain
2 10 50 R. Johnson juggled pitch at re for -2 – McCracken
3 12 088 R. Johnson option pitch at 1e for 7
4 5 015 Skladany punted 36; rolled dead

111 2:10
1 10 1 9 McCray passed over middle for Gordon; intercepted by Adkins who
returned for the TD weaving his way at2:00 – Skladany PAT (19 yards)
Ohio State offside OHIO STATE 42 ILLINOIS 3
Skladany kicked off (form his 45) 47 yards; Coleman returned 15

111 1:15
1 10 123 McCray passed too long right for Rouse inc.
2 10 123 McCray passed left to Peach for 18
1 10 111 McCray rolled right passed just too high for Gordon on sideline inc.
2 10 111 McCray rolled right, passed to Schooley for 15
1 10 014 Coleman on draw for 5 Time out Illinois at 0:42
2 5 039 McCray passed deep left for Rouse for 22
1 10 017 McCray rolled right, passed just too wide for Peach inc.
2 10 017 McCray rolled right, passed back left way to high for Coleman inc.
3 10 017 McCray rolled right, passed way short as Fritz held on inc.
4 10 017 McCray passed in left end zone for Prikel for the TD at 0:03
Beaver PAT – OHIO STATE 42 ILLINOIS 10
77 yards in ten plays with 1:12 elapsed
Beaver kicked off two yards deep for the TB

Ohio 0:03
1 10 029 Schneider into rt for 3 as the game ended at 4:01 P.M.
Coach Blackman

I was awfully disappointed in today's game. I thought we were ready. We had had super practices all week. Our morale was good coming into this game. You have to play error free football to win and we didn't. We threw the ball badly and the game was just a combination of penalties and interceptions.

Thompson's interception return was a big play. Ohio State has so many great football players. There must be at least five who are bonafide All-Americans.

I am pleased for Alex Agase. But this will make Michigan meaner and tougher than ever.

Was I surprised with Pacenta? No, Pacenta is not your johnny-come-lately quarterback. He would have had a great college career elsewhere. The passing didn't surprise me. Ohio State just did a great job.

This is one of the most disappointing game ever.

As to the Michigan - Ohio State game, it could go either way. It sure will be one helluva battle.

Coach Hayes:

I really didn't think we were quite as good defensively as we were in the last two games, but our five interceptions will make teams think twice about passing against us. We stopped the run pretty well today, but Illinois had to play with catch-up football.

Pacenta played very well. He moves the team well and is a good leader. He showed good poise.

Our offense was more consistent today.

Why did we pass more today? - Illinois was ranked 8th in the Big Ten in pass defense. That's why we decided to throw more. I don't think we will do this each week though. And we aren't getting frivolous.

Teams tend to stack the defenses against us and that allows us to pass.

I have no thought on the Michigan - Purdue game. I don't know what effect that game will have. Alex Agase is a very fine coach and he beat a great football team.

I think we are getting better on offense.

Will we look past Minnesota? Absolutely not. There is no chance of this. We take nothing for granted.

Don't overlook Pacenta's running. He ran well today and Pete Johnson did a good job too,
By Wil Kilburger

Pete Johnson scored four touchdowns — pushing his career total to 57 — as Ohio State crushed Illinois 42-10 before 87,654 Ohio Stadium fans Saturday afternoon and moved a step closer to its fifth straight Big Ten football championship.

That step may have been shortened a bit by Purdue's stunning 16-14 upset of previously unbeaten and nationally No. 1 ranked Michigan. The Buckeyes climb to the top of the Big Ten standings with a 5-0 mark (7-1-1 overall) with Minnesota and the Wolverines yet to play.

THE BUCKEYES' triumph was as consistent as it was easy. The Ohio State defense continued its starchy brilliance, shutting off the Illini with only a field goal until a touchdown pass with three seconds remaining in the game.

Pass interceptions set up three of Ohio State's six touchdowns. The other three scores came on sustained drives of 41, 70 and 50 yards.

Tom Skladany had a perfect day, kicking all six conversions, although he missed his only field goal attempt from 37 yards.

Johnson's four touchdowns runs his NCAA-recognized regular season total to 53. The NCAA does not count statistics from postseason games. Johnson has four touchdowns in Rose Bowl competition.

JEFF LOGAN WAS the Buckeyes' leading ground gainer with 94 yards in 16 carries. He is only 10 yards shy of becoming the fifth player in OSU history to accumulate 1,000 yards in one season.

Buckeye linebacker Ed Thompson intercepted a Kurt Steger pass on the Ohio State 19-yard line late in the first period and ran 81 yards along the sideline, protected by a convoy of Ohio State blockers, for the first touchdown.


The second Buckeye score came in the second period when Johnson went over right tackle standing up to cap a 12-play, 41-yard junket.

On its next possession, Ohio State needed 15 plays — with Johnson, Logan and quarterback Jim Pacenta alternating the ball carrying — for the score. Pacenta also had an 18-yard pass to Herman Jones in the drive. Johnson scored from the one to make it 21-0.

ON ILLINOIS' FIRST play of the next possession, Steger hit end John Peach with a 44-yard pass that carried to the Ohio State 36. Eight plays, with Chubby Phillips carrying four times and Steger hitting Marty Friel for a 11-yard pass, took the Illini to the 14 where Dan Beaver kicked a 31-yard field goal.

The Buckeyes led 21-3 at halftime. Ohio State's defense earned credit for the next two Buckeye touchdowns. Holding the Illini deep and gaining field position at the Illinois 49, the Buckeyes used but five plays to turn Johnson up the middle for his third touchdown from the four.

Bruce Ruhlin then intercepted a Steger pass on the Illini 43.

A PACENTA TO GREG Storer pass was good to the Illinois 25 and Ron Springs picked up 11. Three plays later, Johnson zoomed in and the Buckeyes led, 35-3.

The Buckeye defense against the rush was unyielding and Ohio State's offense was sprinkled with replacements throughout the third period.

The Buckeyes missed their third TD of the period when Johnson was stopped on the one-foot line.

Mike McCray replaced Steger-late in the third period and the Illini went almost exclusively to the air. Meanwhile, freshmen Greg Castignola and Mike Strahine came on to handle the Ohio State quarterbacking duties.

A BUCKEYE DRIVE stalled on the Illinois eight when a Castignola pass was broken up in the end zone.

Illinois came back and moved to the Ohio State 24 where Joe Allegro fell on a fumble by Mike Collins at the 19.

After the Buckeyes failed to move from their own 16, Illinois took over at the 50. With McCray passing, the Illini came right back to the OSU 26.

But McCray was trapped for a 13-yard loss and Ohio State took possession on a fourth down incomplete pass.

For third time in the period, Ohio State's substitute-filled offensive unit could not move and a Skladany punt set the Illini back to their nine.

ON THE FIRST PLAY, McCray's pass was intercepted by Ohio State linebacker Dave Adkins on the 19 and he ran in for the touchdown with two minutes left in the game. Skladany's placement was the Buckeyes' 42nd point.

Illinois, with McCray passing on almost every play, came back to march to the Ohio State 17. McCray hit tight end Marty Friel in the end zone for the touchdown with three seconds to play. Beaver kicked the point for the 42-10 score.

While the Buckeyes ran almost at will against Illinois, the OSU defense gave up only 81 yards rushing. The Illini, taking its third loss in conference competition, rolled up 246 yards passing, completing 14 of 33 attempts, but with five interceptions.

The Buckeye offense rushed for 271 yards and added 101 on Pacenta's seven completions in 10 attempts.
By Paul Hornung
Of the Dispatch Staff

Woody Hayes decided his Ohio State football team is "getting better every time it steps out there on the field," as was demonstrated Saturday against then-third in the Big 10 Illinois, 42-10, in Ohio Stadium.

But with Michigan's defeat at Purdue, sending the Buckeyes into undisputed first place in the Conference, might his team look past Minnesota next week?

"THERE ISN'T A chance in the world," Hayes replied. "If you want a reason, you're looking at him. Napoleon said after he was defeated there at Moscow, 'from the ridiculous to the sublime is but one step.'

"You just don't dare take anything for granted. I guarantee you we will not take Minnesota lightly."

He said he does feel better about the offense and its new leader, Jim Pacenta because his successful passing (7 of 10) should open up more running opportunities.

"Our offense looked a little more consistent," he said. "We're getting better every time we step out there. I think our line played pretty well. We're getting better passing and we've got some kids who are good receivers. "We need those passes because everybody stacks in on us. The more we can show passing, the more we can come back to running."

Hayes conceded the Buckeyes planned to pass more against the Illini than usual, because "they came in here third in the Big 10 in rushing defense, but eighth against passing. We felt we could hurt them passing. The holes were there, too, and our quarterback hit them pretty well."

HAYES POINTED out that he had removed most of his regulars by mid-third quarter, explaining "I see no purpose in running up the score and I see no purpose in getting a regular hurt. Particularly, a fellow like Pacenta. We're going to need him."

He scanned the statistics and noted tailback Jeff Logan had rushed for 94 yards. He needed 104 Saturday to become the fourth Ohio State back ever to hit 1,000 yards in a season, which Hayes knew.

"We only ran him three times in the second half," he said, "but that's better than running him four times and getting him hurt."

A NOTCH BELOW in the stats, Hayes noted Pete Johnson with 56 yards, but four TD's.

"Pete has had an unfortunate year," the coach said, recalling the big fullback's two sprained ankles in the Missouri game and how they've handicapped him. "But he's getting better. In a week or so, he should be in pretty good shape."

Hayes didn't think the "defense was quite as good as in the last two games, but they did have five interceptions and we felt the quarterback for Illinois was a real good passer. We feel every interception costs (the opponent) 40 yards, so that would be 200 yards they'd have to make up by passing."

"OUR PASS defense was very very alert. And our defense did stop Illinois twice when our Red II (second offensive unit) gave them the ball down deep in our own territory."

Hayes said "we are grateful," but found reason for pause in this, too: "The offense might get used to it. The offense had better put some points on the board."

WHAT WERE HIS thoughts about the Michigan shock?

"I don't have any thoughts about it," the coach said. Would he have preferred that Michigan come to Ohio Stadium Nov. 20 with a 10-0 record?

"I'd have to think about that," he said. "I don't know. But I do know Michigan is a very fine football team. Alex Agase (Purdue) also is a very fine football coach. I know, because I have to play him."