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Expanding UW secondary continues to grow

Even though Wisconsin scored 34 points, the key to the victory was again the defense.

The defense forced the mistakes that led to the Wisconsin scores.

The defense held Ohio State to 14 points until that last drive made it 21. And even then the defense made Ohio State take a long time to score. Not quite long enough. UW had to cover another mistake, just like it had to against Purdue. But almost long enough.

The defense kept the mighty Art Schlichter from winning the game. The defense did this even though Matt Vandenberg went out with an injury and Van Manfield hurt his bum shoulder again.

Ron Stevenson, Jerry Vance and Brian Morrow came in and did what



Glenn Miller
Sports editor

was needed to be done, and Schlichter never could light the fire.

After the Michigan game, the coach of the secondary, Doug Graber, said he had "six starters." Saturday, smiling broadly, he said, "Now I have eight."

Vance played slightly injured and played well.

Graber said, "We didn't change anything" to get ready for Schlichter. "We knew we would have to play a lot of man-for-man coverage, but we have been doing that. We just played a little more man-for-man today."

The star of the anti-Schlichter forces was Clint Sims, who played every down on defense. "I have never seen Clint so emotional before a game," Graber said. "I knew we were going to get a great game out of him."

Graber apologized for his enthusiasm. "I know this sounds corny, Glenn, but this team has great human beings. It is different this year. I'd be very disappointed if we didn't just keep right on playing this way."

Graber threw in just one note of caution. "We must stay healthy up

front (in the defensive line)," he said. "While Graber has eight starters, there is not that kind of depth up front."

Sims had the look of a man who knew he had done the job right.

"I have been waiting for this game for two years," he said. "When Vandenberg and Manfield went out, we just pulled together and continued to get the job done."

Like Graber, Sims pointed to the play of Vance, who excelled despite suffering from a hip pointer, a painful, though not serious, injury.

Coach Dave McClain agreed the play of the secondary against Heisman Trophy candidate Schlichter was outstanding. He didn't know how badly Vandenberg was hurt or whether Manfield's shoulder injury was serious.

But he said, "We should be all right in the secondary." Dan Messenger (who had been hurt) will be back, and Morrow is coming on fast now.

If the defense stays solid, there is just no knowing how far this Wisconsin team can go.

But a victory over Ohio State in itself is a thing almost beyond belief. Permit the sports editor to look at it this way.

"I have held this job for 15 years. I have never before reported a Wisconsin victory over the Buckeyes. As far as I saw the victories in 1962, 1966 and 1968. The '62 win sticks in my mind because I was in the Army and got a three-day pass to come back to Madison to see it. The other two I only vaguely remember."

Now we all have a bright, fresh memory of a victory over Ohio State. It sets a whole new tone to this foot-

ball season.

If it is possible, what is not possible?

McClain is on the right track. He set the stage well by handing Jess Cole the football and telling him he was the quarterback. Those quarterback duties of other years did not help the team. Cole hit only two passes Saturday, but both were for touchdowns. That is making the most of things.

The other thing that McClain has done this year is to shorten up the moments of intensive practice, cutting down on practice injuries. That is smart. What is so winning as to lose an important player in practice?

Fans must now harness their enthusiasms so as not to create pressures on this team. But there is no reason not to hope for big things.



Ohio State's Art Schlichter observes the frustration of defeat from the very depths of Camp Randall Stadium.

— State Journal photo by L. Roger Turner

Art losing sight of Heisman

By Tom Oates
State Journal sports reporter

Ohio State's stunning 24-21 loss to Wisconsin Saturday did little for the Buckeyes' chances in the Big Ten Conference race, but it didn't kill them entirely.

Art Schlichter's chances in the Heisman Trophy derby, on the other hand, were left for dead on the Camp Randall Stadium turf.

Schlichter, the highly publicized fourth-year starter whose passing look Ohio State from the Dark Ages to the 20th Century, simply did not play the football expected of a Heisman Trophy candidate.

Schlichter had passed for 458 yards and two touchdowns in last Saturday's 35-27 loss to Florida State and seemed poised to make a Heisman dash in this, his senior season. But with a poor showing against Wisconsin, and with the Buckeyes suffering their second straight loss, Schlichter is now destined to finish well behind in the balloting.

All of which mattered little to Schlichter and the Buckeyes Saturday.

What mattered were the three interceptions Schlichter threw, his meager 133 yards passing total, the bad pick to Tim Spencer that set up Wisconsin's go-ahead field goal right before halftime, the overthrown pass to wide open tight end John Frank in the third quarter, and the time Schlichter slipped while fading to pass on third-

and-six with Ohio State driving in the fourth quarter. ("I don't know why I slipped on that play. It's still amazing," said Schlichter.)

To be sure, Schlichter had several passes dropped. And split end Gary Williams, one of the Big Ten's premier receivers, was never right after being hit by Matt Vandenberg on the game's first series. But even Schlichter admitted his performance wasn't up to par.

"I didn't play well. I made two or three mistakes that hurt us," Schlichter said after the game. "Any time you lose you don't feel you played very well."

"I know I could play a lot better. I just had a bad day and that's part of the game. It's something I have to cope with and something we have to cope with as a team."

Carle Bruce, Schlichter's coach, agreed that it wasn't a vintage Schlichter performance.

"I don't think I would rate that as his best performance," Bruce said. "He's been better, and so has Ohio State."

With a shaky offensive line and only one good running back (Spencer, who was hobbled by an ankle injury), it can be argued that as Schlichter goes, so goes Ohio State. With Ohio State's wide receivers having difficulty getting open, the Buckeyes were forced to run the ball, something they don't do as well as they once did.

"We were basically running the ball," Schlichter said. "We made a couple of mistakes early passing the ball. I didn't throw the ball as well as I can. I threw two interceptions early."

"Then we went to the running game," he added. "We mixed it in a little bit with the short passing game and got moving a little bit. Then we gave up those points at the end of the half and got behind."

We were in the hole in the third quarter and really didn't get out until late in the third quarter and early in the fourth, but we just didn't capitalize when we had opportunities.

Interceptions by David Greenwood and Brian Morrow in the first half and Jerry Vance in the second half all ended Ohio State drives.

"The first one (by Greenwood) was a play where we had two receivers out," Schlichter said. "I just misjudged their safety and didn't throw it over his head. I hesitated a little bit. As a result, I wasn't fast enough to get it."

"I pulled the ball and it was behind Cedric Anderson on the second one (by Morrow). The last one (by Vance) was just a tipped ball."

None of the three was a good throw by Schlichter, who didn't seem particularly pleased by Ohio State's decision to stick with the running game.

"We were down in our end most of the time and we were staying on the ground and they were stopping us," he said. "It was as simple as that. We made mental mistakes and they hurt us, and they played solid defense."

That didn't kill the Buckeye hopes, however. Ohio State has played in too many big games for that to happen.

"We had our chances in the second half to come back and win the game and we didn't do it," Schlichter said.

The main reason was the fine play of Wisconsin, especially on defense.

"They have good football players and a great coach," Bruce said. "They have fine football players. There's an array of talent here."

"I would think that (Tim) Krumrie is fine. (Dave) Jernstedt is fine. (David) Greenwood is fine and a few other defensive backs, just to point out a few," Bruce added. "I think (Jess) Cole has helped to turn them around as far as offensive football is concerned. (Dave) Mohapp is a strong football player and the offensive line comes off the ball."

"Hell, they're a good football team."

— By Tom Oates

Badgers' Gladem: home run kicker

By John Hughes
State Journal sports reporter

When Wendell Gladem's number is called, which isn't often, he's expected to hit the home run.

Almost 13 months separated his field goal Saturday and the last one he kicked before that.

Gladem, the sophomore place-kicker from Mount Horeb, is a specialist among specialists. He doesn't kick off for the University of Wisconsin football team, Pat Hady does that. He doesn't kick extra points, either. The Badgers have steady Mark Doran for that duty.

Gladem doesn't even have a lock on the field goal job. On any kick of less than 40 yards the Badgers feel more comfortable with Doran.

What Gladem kicks are the long ones, the home runs. And he gets only one pitch to do it.

Wisconsin went to its fifth game of the 1981 season before needing a long ball from Gladem. Badger coaches called on him to kick from 50 yards away with three seconds left in the first half of Saturday's game against Ohio State, and Gladem hit one right on the nose.

From the hold of Randy Wright, Gladem kicked a beauty that would have been good from five or 10 yards farther back.

It was, of course, the winning margin in Wisconsin's 24-21 victory.

"What can you say about Wendell Gladem?" asked Badger Head Coach Dave McClain. "One play in (five) games. Talk about being mentally ready. That was a fantastic kick."

It also capped a fantastic stretch for the Badgers during which they scored 11 points in 24 seconds to turn a 14-6 deficit into a 17-14 halftime lead. Wisconsin had just scored a touchdown and a two-point conversion when Ohio State fumbled and hit the ball on its first play. After an incomplete pass attempt, Gladem was sent onto the field for his long-shot try.

"After the score (the touchdown), you kind of relax," Gladem said. "Then the ball's back quick with only a few seconds left. I really didn't have a whole lot of time to think about it."

Gladem's last field goal before Saturday was a 27-yarder in last year's 23-3 triumph over Brigham Young in the second game of the season. In the opening game last season against Purdue he kicked two 34-yarders. His 38-yarder Saturday tied the record for the longest in Wisconsin's modern (after Pat O'Dea) history. Vladimir Lialine kicked a 50-yarder in 1975.

Being the kicker of the pre-typer field goals has its advantages.

"I don't get as nervous on the long ones as I would on the shorter ones, the 28- or 30-yarders," he said. "None of them (the longer ones) are supposed to be for sure."

"Actually, 50 yards isn't so long," he said. "In high school I made a 56-yarder and a 51-yarder. But this was definitely the best feeling."



Wendell Gladem



Mark Doran

Gladem said it has been frustrating at times, waiting for a chance, but that he understands his station.

"I pretty much know how it's going to be," he said. "Things have been going well. Doran's been kicking well, so you can't put another guy in there. I know I'm going to get a chance if the distance is far enough."

Everyone realized the importance of Gladem's field Saturday.

"That gave us all the momentum for the second half," said assistant coach Doug Graber. "Up to that point, I felt we were losing it a little bit."

"That's what a home run can do for a team."

Lakers cut Knuckles

PALM SPRINGS, Calif. (AP) — Second-round draft choice Harvey Knuckles, a former University of Toledo and Racine (Wis.) St. Catherine's High School star, was cut Friday by the Los Angeles Lakers.

Ohio State's 'special' teams aren't

Ohio State's special teams are anything but special in Buckeye Coach Earle Bruce's eyes.

In fact, if Ohio State was a professional team, the members of the Buckeye special teams might well find themselves on waivers today.

Bruce, you see, believes that poor special teams play has been directly responsible for back-to-back upsets by Florida State and Wisconsin.

"For the second week in a row we made major mistakes in our kicking game," a testy Bruce said after the Buckeyes' 24-21 loss in Wisconsin Saturday. "It was very costly."

In last week's 35-27 loss to Florida State, the Seminoles' defense blocked punt for a touchdown and later scored a touchdown on a fake field goal.

In Saturday's loss to the Badgers, punter Bob Ahl's fumbled snap on the 14-yard line led to Wisconsin's first field goal, and punt returner Jeff Cusack's fumble on the 29-yard line just before halftime set up the Badgers for the game-tying touchdown.

"The team lost the football game," said Bruce, emphasizing "team." "But the mistakes in the kicking game is

what ultimately lost the game. That and the fine play of Wisconsin.

"We played well and so did they," he added. "But we had two major mistakes on the kicking game — a dropped punt and when we dropped the ball punting. That accounted for 11 of their points and then we made the bad play right before the half (a fumble that led to a Badger field goal)."

"Our team is blocking and tackling, which is damn important, but we're not winning."

Wisconsin, on the other hand, is winning. And the Badgers have earned a lot of respect from Big Ten Conference powers like Ohio State.

"Wisconsin is a good ballclub," said nose guard Nick Miller. "Every team in the Big Ten is good. People expect us to just go out and run everybody and it's just not like that anymore. Wisconsin beat us, they beat Michigan and they beat Purdue. They proved they're a very good ballclub."

Bruce and star quarterback Art Schlichter agreed.

"Dave McClain has done an outstanding job here," Bruce said. "He's brought 'em all the way back in two years. There's a great football team

They did everything they had to do to win the game."

"They're a good football team all the way around," Schlichter said. "They're steady; they don't make a lot of mistakes. They made less mistakes than us today and they won the game."

Indeed, Wisconsin's defensive opportunities were major factors in stopping Ohio State, just as they had been against Michigan and Purdue. They had to be because Ohio State's defense yielded little.

"Our defense played really well," Miller said. "We really can't account for those 11 points at the end of the half. Their big plays beat us."

"I thought Ohio State blocked well, tackled well and played good defense," Bruce said. "Overall it was a good football game, but a few mistakes were very costly."

The biggest mistakes came right before halftime, when the two Buckeye fumbles keyed Wisconsin's swing from a 14-6 deficit to a 17-14 lead.

"I thought our defense reacted well to it," linebacker Glen Cobb said. "That the momentum had switched. There

was definitely a change with the fans behind them."

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