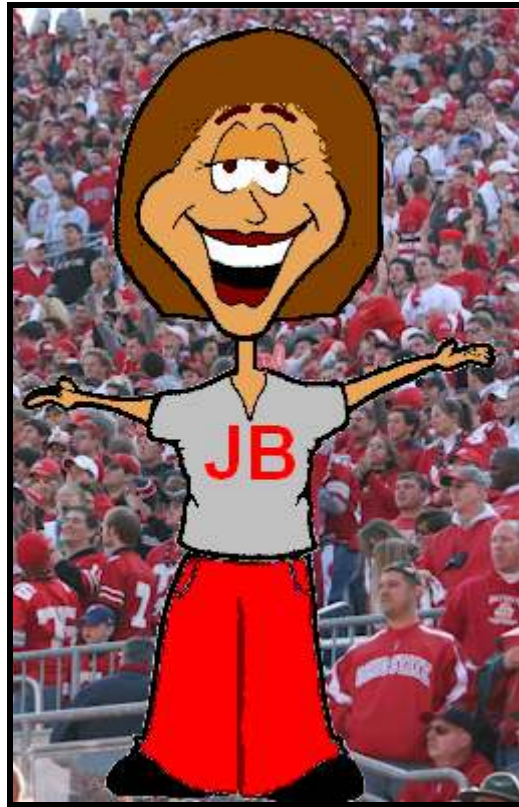


JENNY BUCKS

09/09/07



Greetings from C-bus:

Well, the Bucks are 2-0 and while it wasn't pretty at times yesterday, there is some huge improvement on defense worthy of call-out ...

The Buckeye D held Akron to 3 total 1st downs, 2 in the first drive and 1 in their last drive on the way to 13 straight 3-and-out possessions by the Zips. I don't know if that's a record - it might be that no one keeps that kind of stat but it was the tale of the game. The Buckeye D had at least 5 TFLs in the game with the tempo set early by Doug Worthington and James Laurinaitis who were wrecking havoc with the Akron O line. Akron had 69 total yards, 3 yards rushing on 19 carries and no TDs. In fact, Akron never scored on O. Akron probably had about 70 total plays too. Do the math ... they didn't even average 1 yard per play ... or worse. And the Zips had 14 punts on the day ... that might be a record too. And he got some nice rolls ... resulting in the Bucks starting deep in the hole a couple of possessions ... more on that later. So what does the D have to work on before getting on the

plane to Seattle this week - turnovers! There were many opportunities for the D to gather in the ball but excepting Jamario O'Neal's forced fumble/recovery, the Bucks failed to capitalize and catch the ball! I know Coach Heacock will probably run a tip drill or two this week in practice.

Now for the Buckeye offense. Much work still needs to be done. And I don't think I'm the only one noticing. Quoting OT/Captain Kirk Barton, "we're not on the slope we need to be on" and he added, "It seems we are either flat lining - or worse" - i.e., the offense should be on the upward slope working to improve their play week after week but ... 5 turnovers!
GASP!

First of all the O Line needs to get low, get nasty, get it done. Frankly there were instances where the pulling guard was so slow getting around behind the line that Beanie nearly tripped over him trying to find the hole that should have been blown open by then. There are also those who think that Beanie is getting to the line of scrimmage too slow. Not sure. But Saine and Mo Wells did seem faster to finding that tiny seam in the line. But again, there were too many Zips in the backfield.

Gameplan-wise, it appeared to me that the coaches were playcalling Boeckman to work on that space right behind the Linebackers in order to force the LBs to drop back a bit or at least think twice about loading the box. I think that was successful to the extent that Boeckman hooked up early and often with Brian Hartline over the middle. Unfortunately you mix the turnovers with stupid, stupid penalties (5 for 36 yards) and we kept shooting ourselves in the foot. There were several times that I thought we were about to drive it right down there and then ... oops ... splat. Nothing.

Beanie did get it in gear earning about 50% of his yards in the 4th quarter. Personally, I think the Zips were worn down. The Bucks have the luxury of rotating a lot of guys in there, particularly on the D line and in the LB corps, but the Zips were largely fixed on their trench players and they had to be tired. Beanie zipped off his longest runs in the 4th earning his first 100+ yard games finishing with a strong 20 carries for 143 yards but note the long was 40. Tressel said in the postgame that the goal was to get Beanie 20 carries. Done. They also wanted Saine and Mo Wells to get 10 a piece and Saine had 9 for 28 yards, long of 9 and Mo had 7 for 12, long of 5. Passable but not great.

The passing game was probably a C+ ... the plus given for the second half play. I thought Boeckman didn't seem to see the field as well this week - there were open receivers a few times on what appeared to be go-routes and Boeckman seemed to pull the trigger a bit quickly. If I were to differentiate Boeckman and Schoenhofst though, clearly Schoenhofst is not patient enough in the pocket. He runs on the least bit of pressure and pulls the trigger too quickly, even into coverage. Boeckman seems cool and collected in the pocket but I don't think he lets some of those long routes develop at times but clearly, via his passes completed to TE Rory Nicol (3 for 12 yards), he is going through his progressions. Robo was getting separation, though Akron had double on him several times, but Boeckman had looked off him by the time the separation was there. I think the better play of the OL in the second half helped Boeckman hit the longer routes in the second half.

And was it just me, or did the offense seem to play slow? Tressel always talks about a team playing fast and maybe it was because the D was playing so fast ... but didn't the O seem slow ... particularly in the first half.

Special teams - good job by Pretorius - kickoffs into the end zone with the new ball placement 5 yards further back seem to be much more of a rarity this season. And good job by Pretorius getting the first 6 points for the Bucks! AJ Trapasso did a nice job punting - 4 for 46.2 average and a long of 57. The weather conditions were less than ideal in the first half but neither appeared affected. Now the return game. I'm not sure the Bucks know who they want back there with Ray Small still out with an ankle injury. I don't like to see Robo back there ... he's too valuable on offense but he's sure handed. The double set with either Robo and Hartline or Robo and Jenkins aren't the double set of Gonzo and Ginn yet. Hartline is lucky that the hit resulting in the fumble turned out to be just a bruise (X-rays were negative for a break). Again, isn't he too valuable on offense to be used in that way. Yet, Gonzo and Ginn ... yeah, I know.

Next up ... Cinderella better known as the Washington Huskies. Seemed like the spin-masters of ESPiN couldn't say enough good things about the surprising play of the Huskies yesterday and their win that ended the Boise St. winning streak. Frankly, isn't it too early to tell if the Huskies are good, if Boise St. is good, if UM is good ... oh wait, we know the answer to that one. NO! If ND is good ... oh wait, we know the answer to that one too. NO! But really, the Huskies

should pose a real, true test for the Bucks. Five turnovers again, and we lose. On the road in a hostile environment, slow play isn't going to win the game. And a kid named Jake Locker, the Husky redshirt-freshman QB seems to be "all that". Note, the Huskies did have 2 turnovers. I think the Buckeye D should be keyed up to hit them hard, often, and force some turnovers next week. If they play fast, I guarantee no Pac 10 team has seen a defense like the Bucks yet this season.

The game kicks at 2:30 central on ESPN.

GO BUCKS from JennyBucks!