

Thanks for all the contributions over the last month, and sorry I didn't manage to get a newsletter out last time - I don't know why I always think I'll have spare time over the Xmas period, because it never seems to work out that way! Anyway, hope everyone had a good Xmas and New Year and are now ready to buckle down to some serious gameplanning! This issue includes the contributions I received for week four and a short summary of the results before moving on to last week.

## Week Four Summary

Miami kept Pittsburgh winless with impressive displays on both sides of the ball, racking up nearly 600 yards of offense while holding the Panthers to under 300 - the final scoreline perhaps flattered the home side somewhat. UCLA kept pace with the leaders by handing Nebraska yet another defeat, the Huskers had a halftime lead but their lack of confidence showed through once the Bruins got on the board in the second half. Auburn gave third ranked Colorado all they could handle, and led after three quarters, but a fourth quarter collapse meant a comfortable final margin for the Buffaloes. OSU travelled to South Bend and, typical of Buckeye games, a shootout ensued in which the Irish fell steadily behind the awesome passing attack of their visitors. Washington continued to be the only unbeaten team in A8 with another fine performance, Michigan stayed close until halftime but fell apart

## Comments from Ohio State (after week four)

Asked about the Stats issued by the League office after knocking off the undefeated Notre Dame, Ohio State Head Coach Gordon Milnes just grinned and said "It's fun." Those two words sum up the way this team has reached 3-1. Coach Milnes has given his young Buckeyes the chance to enjoy themselves - and they are repaying him with victories. The Buckeyes sit atop Yards per game mainly due to their incredible 537 Passing yards per game. Woody Hayes would be turning in his grave at the thought, but yes, Ohio State are really employing a Fun and Gun Offense unheard of in Buckeye country. The days of Robert Smith and Archie Griffin grinding out the yards are long gone as the dynamic young coach places great emphasis on Senior QB Craig Krenzel and Sophomore WR Michael Jenkins. "It's a great feeling to know your coach has such faith in you," said Jenkins "we know that no matter what the other team does we are going to be able to beat it." It's a scary thought that after losing to Colorado, Gordon Milnes has decided not to look at any film or documents on his opposition - the results: Ohio State 45 Miami 39, Ohio State 47 Notre Dame 43. "Coach Milnes said to us we had to enjoy ourselves." explained Krenzel "Part of doing



that he says is just playing football, not being stuck in a room watching film. He said 'Hey lets get really good at what we do and then we won't have to worry about what they do.'

The result is the Buckeyes are riding a wave of optimism and sitting 1 game behind the unbeaten Huskies, with two Heisman contenders in Jenkins and Krenzel. The two showed their ability again against Notre Dame - Krenzel finished with figures of 28 of 39 for 572 yards, 6 TD's and 1 INT, while Jenkins amassed an astonishing 15 catches for 350 yards and 5 TD's - as the Buckeyes vaunted 0 destroyed yet another opponent. With the 0-4 Pittsburgh Panthers visiting Columbus next week, Jenkins and Krenzel will be looking to add more firepower to their push for the National Championship and Heisman. Jenkins was certainly looking forward to it: "Yeah it's a good opportunity because we are playing football and every time we play we enhance our chances, but the Panthers are no different to any other team: they want to win the ball game. It doesn't matter if it's the 0-4 Panthers or the 4-0 Huskies they both want to win the game, so you can't overlook anyone in this league."

Gordon Milnes has changed the Ohio football philosophy but sleep easy Coach Hayes - they are winning.

## Week Four News from Penn State

Well I think I've got my tactics sorted out. Talk the game up as being a tough one that's likely to be close, but point out that I believe the Lions can win. The players will then respond by going out and getting a convincing win (see the last two weeks as examples).

To sum that one up in one word - wow! I think that goes down as my second biggest ever points haul and winning margin from all my years in gameplan (bettered only by a highly memorable but highly ridiculous 82-10 in advanced many years ago).

Another great performance from the defence, which is now operating with something of a bend but don't break policy; gives up some yards, without giving too many points. It seems to be getting its fair share of big plays too. The offence was also very productive, particularly in the second half, scoring on every possession.



After a poor week 1, the Cornhuskers improved greatly and had a pair of good (but none winning) performances. I tipped them (and a couple of others who also lost!) to pull off a surprise win and beat the Bruins, but UCLA proved too strong. This now looks on paper, against a winless team who've only scored 62 points, our easiest game of the season \* ahh \* no \* said the wrong thing. Will be a tough game. Should be close. Think we can win. That should do the trick.

after the break. Penn State produced the most impressive scoreline of the day, racking up a frightening 31 fourth quarter points on their way to a total of 69, Alabama were a long way behind.

### Performances of the week

Offense: Miami Hurricanes, almost 600 yards, good balance between run and pass, it's only surprising they didn't score more points.

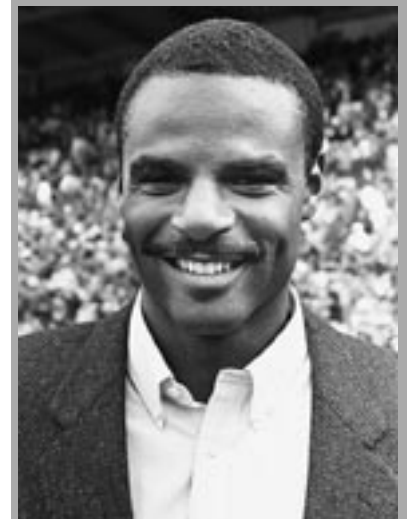
Defense: Penn State Nittany Lions, the offense may have racked up a bag load of points, but it was the defense which provided the platform for victory with four turnovers and some hard hitting in the redzone.

special teams: Michigan wol-

verines, over two hundred yards on kickoff returns weren't enough to help them to victory.

## Week Five Summary

Miami continued their recent run of good form with another solid victory, outlasting UCLA and scoring 17 unanswered fourth quarter points to secure victory. Pittsburgh found a way to slow down the OSU offensive machine long enough to build an 18 point lead by the end of the third quarter, the Buckeyes came storming back



warren Moon - still number one

in the fourth but the Panthers did enough to maintain a comfortable margin. Colorado maintained their third place ranking with a solid home win against Michigan, the Wolverines worked hard to stay in the game but



Penn State get ready to lay on a week 4 whuppin



The practice starts to pay off for Auburn

## Week Six Preview

Michigan at Miami - The Hurricanes have looked dominant over recent weeks, particularly on offense. Michigan have been struggling to mount a consistent attack and it will be a surprise if they can keep up with the home team. Miami by 10



The Hurricanes celebrate another score

Colorado at Alabama - The Buffaloes are one of the

early Gold Bowl favour-

gradually slipped behind and by the fourth quarter had no more answers. The Auburn run defense, not the strong point of the team, got trampled on by the Alabama offense, fortunately for the Tigers their offense was doing a similar job on the Crimson Tide secondary. Nebraska failed once again to register their first victory of the season, they didn't even come close, Penn State were three touchdowns up by halftime and maintained that lead until the final whistle. The Huskies found the Notre Dame defense a bit more hard work than they're used to, but the all round quality of the number one ranked team showed through as they held the Irish scoreless in the fourth quarter while adding two decisive scores.

### Performances of the week

Offense: Auburn Tigers, nearly 500 yards of offense in very limited time on the field.

Defense: Washington Huskies, gave up some yards but came up big when they needed the to.

Special teams: Penn State Nittany Lions, a kickoff return touchdown helped them on their way.

### Huskies Still Running Strong

Respect to the Notre Dame Fighting Irish, that is the closest we have come to defeat so far this season. It is a little disappointing, after four convincing away victories, to struggle a little in our first home game of the season - we were hoping to serve up a treat for our fans - but I give full credit to Coach Denyer for a solid defensive gameplan. His D did an excellent job of containing our running game, particularly QB Moon's scrambling ability, and the result was a bit more of a struggle for our offence. It is however good to see that even in a tight ball game, this offence doesn't give in, and that Warren particularly didn't cave under pressure as some might expect of a QB of his tender years. Our D also deserves special mention, all three turnovers were of immense importance in such a tight game - the two interceptions came within the games first five minutes, putting our O in excellent field position and leading us to an early 14 zip lead. And



LB Joe Kelly effectively won this game for us, flooring Irish TE Mark Bavaro at our 2 yard line, and recovering the fumble. Given that the Irish scored on their next possession to move within one point of our lead, that was a key turnover. Without it we could well have been behind entering the 4th quarter. With hindsight it is easy to see that this was a game the Huskies defence won, more than our offence, but as head coach it is good to know that we can win games when our offence comes up against a well prepared D. My message to Coach Denyer and his players would be this - keep playing to that level and you'll be in the Gold Bowl Playoffs.

This week sees us entertaining the Nebraska Cornhuskers, whose defence looks good but who seem to be having a few problems with their offence. Despite their position at the bottom of the league, rest assured we won't be underestimating them - one more win will see the Huskies guaranteed a winning record in NCAA8's inaugural season, and that will then be our first aim achieved.



## Irish Pride Dented

One word can say why we couldn't put ourselves in position to win the last two games - turnovers. We conceded 13 points off them against Ohio and just didn't have enough firepower to match Gordon's pass attack and last week Washington were 14-0 after only running three offensive plays after Montana was intercepted twice in the first two of our drives of the game. The running game is standing up fine and we may have to depend on them a bit more as the season goes on but looking to future and Mike Stonebreaker leaving us to join the NFL at the end of the season Ned Bolbar hailing from Philipsburg PA will be joining us to bolster a defence which has suffered a little from big time offences in the last two weeks.



ites, the Crimson Tide have struggled to get their power rushing attack into gear. Colorado by 14

Penn State at Pittsburgh - Pittsburgh got their first win last week, was it a flash in the pan or a new beginning? Even if they play to their full potential they may struggle to match the impressive Nittany Lions. Penn State by 10

Ohio State at UCLA - You know what you're going to get with the Buckeyes: all offense, all the time. The Bruins are at home, and have the style of offense that can keep the dangerous OSU offense off the field. UCLA by 3

Auburn at Notre Dame - Two teams apparently going in opposite directions, Auburn won two of the last three, the Irish have lost their last two. The strength of Notre Dame is a defense which will probably be good enough to slow the Tigers down. Auburn will have to hope their defense stands up and makes some stops.

Nebraska at Washington - Could be mismatch of the week, Nebraska haven't won a game yet, the Huskies are yet to lose. It will be a major upset if the Huskers sneak past the number one ranked team. Washington by 21

My name is Rob Crowther, coach of the Auburn Tigers, and I can be contacted at this address:

35a Dukes Avenue  
Finchley  
London  
N3 2DE

Or by email at 'gameplan@crowther.info'. If you are interested in talking about Gameplan then you should also check out the Yahoo! Gameplan Group:

<http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/gameplan/>