



It's Southfield's own Bruce Ruhl who makes a diving effort in trying to stop Michigan quarterback Rick Leach

The spirits were high in the big game

**Southfield's
Bruce Ruhl
helped lead
his OSU team
to victory
and to the
prestigious
Rose Bowl**



Michigan cheerleader Don Chapman of Farmington Hills is all smiles after a Michigan score

**On the other
side of the
field, Don
Chapman of
Farmington
Hills never
gave up on
his team**

When the Buckeyes of Ohio State met the University of Michigan Wolverines Saturday, Nov. 22, a big threat to a Michigan victory came from Bruce Ruhl of Southfield.

Ruhl, a four-letter athlete at Southfield-Lathrup High School, is the starting left defensive halfback for the Buckeyes. He finished the Michigan game with two solo tackles and one assist.

On Jan. 1, Ruhl will be making his third appearance in the Rose Bowl as a result of Ohio State's 21-14 victory over the Wolverines.

Not a bad record for the Ohio State junior. The 6-1, 188 lb Ruhl played for OSU for two years before being switched to halfback this year. He suffered a knee and hamstring injury in this year's game against UCLA and missed the Iowa, Wisconsin, and Purdue games.

First time back in play, against Indiana, he won the Buckeye Agonias award as defensive player of the week.

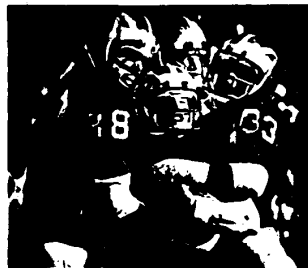
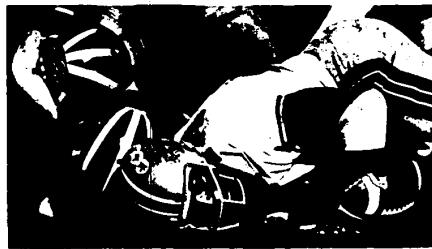
Calling Ruhl "a great ball carrier and a great hitter," Ohio State coach Woody Hayes says he first realized Ruhl's hitting ability when he played halfback in a scrimmage last spring and stopped fullback Camp Herson on the one-yard line. As a sophomore playing safety, Ruhl was responsible for 20 tackles and three interceptions. All three interceptions were in the 1974 game against Wisconsin.

All of the coaches he has played under credit the young man with being an excellent hitter who plays the ball well once it is in the air.

Coach Darrell Harper of Southfield-Lathrup says Ruhl, who earned letters in baseball, basketball, football and hockey while in high school, "would always give 150 percent."

"I haven't had any better player before or since. He will not quit until he's the best."

Come New Year's Day, the Buckeye's will be going for a perfect season, and a national championship. For Bruce Ruhl, a victory would be a perfect end to a perfect season.



Photographed by Gary Friedman

It was a moment that all University of Michigan fans live for—a seven-point lead over the Buckeyes of Ohio State. And U-M cheerleader Don Chapman of Farmington Hills was as pleased with the seven-point margin as anyone.

He knew a victory for the Wolverines meant a trip to the Rose Bowl on New Year's Day. But, the game didn't work out that way.

Instead, it's south to Florida for Chapman, the 10 other cheerleaders and the Wolverine 11, where Michigan will play the Oklahoma Sooners in the Orange Bowl.

It wasn't difficult for the Farmington Hills resident to make U-M's all-male cheering squad the first time he tried out three years ago. While a senior at North Farmington High School in 1972, he was a state champion gymnast.

He had to wait until the end of his freshman year before trying out for the yell squad because of university rules.

Chapman has many opportunities as a yell leader not afforded to the average fan.

"I've seen every Big-10 college in the country, plus I get one of the best seats in the house at every game Michigan plays," he says.

"There aren't too many people who can do what I do. It's nice knowing you can do something not everyone else can do."

Commenting on the disappointing loss to Ohio State, he says, "The guys played their hearts out. We had them until the end of the game. The expressions on the guys' faces at the end makes you feel just as bad as they feel."

In spite of the loss to the Buckeyes, on New Year's Day Chapman and the rest of the Michigan entourage will be at the Orange Bowl in full force, cheering for yet another Michigan victory.