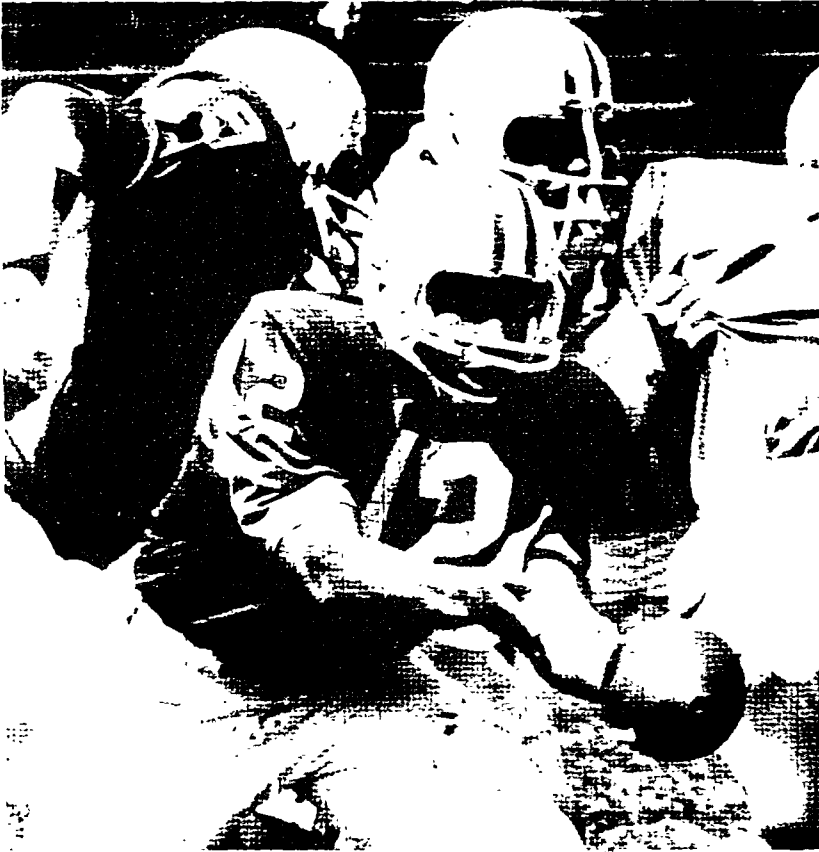


At Univ. Park, Nov. 17

Ohio: schedule tough, are Bobcats?



Quarterback Rich Bevy

By BECKY MADEIRA
Sports Staff
The Post

ATHENS, O. — One good thing to say about the '73 addition of Ohio football is that they have a good schedule.

But a shallow, untested Ohio squad might mean big-name opposition will be the only impressive thing about the upcoming season.

Then again, a healthy, consistent team could allow Ohio to survive this year with some degree of respectability, after all.

Powerhouse Penn State, South Carolina and Northwestern won't make it easy and the '73 schedule may end up with Ohio having to say they're sorry.

The schedule didn't seem all that absurd at the beginning of last season when speculators predicted Ohio would dominate the Mid-American Conference. But that was before injury cut short the performance of stalwarts Bill Gary and Rich Bevy, leaving the 'Cats floundering.

With nowhere to go but up, the squad has survived spring football without crippling injury and if the season enjoys the same favor, even the competition might take Hess's Hopefuls seriously.

Bevy, the MAC's total offensive leader in the quarterback slot his rookie season, holds the key to momentum this year. Following his injury last campaign, Ohio couldn't win a game.

Tailback Gary didn't see enough action to effect last year's outcome either, after torn ligaments in the season's debut forced his sole contribution to be sideline support. But if the Central Michigan opener, in which he gained 35 yards in two carries, was any indication of potential, Bevy may have found a playmate.

If Bevy keeps form and Gary's knees weather the entire campaign, Ohio could

surprise a lot of people. If not, only the writers and coaches who picked Ohio for sixth in a six-team race will look good.

Either way, it is doubtful Penn State's Nittany Lions will be impressed. Joe Paterno, who holds the top winning percentage among active coaches, boasts that his '73 Lions "could be the strongest squad he's ever coached." Considering that in their last two meetings Ohio was humiliated 42-3 in a score which indicated Penn State's domination and 32-22 in one which didn't, circumstances do not appear encouraging.

So the schedule is big league but what about the team? If they remain healthy and cool, there just might be two good things you can say about Ohio football.



Running back Bill Gary

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