



**Buckeye Sports Bulletin December 15, 2018**

# BUCKEYE SPORTS BULLETIN

Vol. 38, No. 13

"For The Buckeye Fan Who Needs To Know More"

Dec. 15, 2018

**\$3.00**

PERIODICAL NEWSPAPER  
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## End Brings A Beginning



TIM MOODY

**CALL IT A CAREER** – Ohio State head coach Urban Meyer is set to retire after leading the Buckeyes for seven seasons, leaving Columbus with a national championship and three Big Ten titles to his name.

### Day Pegged As Ohio State's 25th Head Football Coach

By TIM MOODY  
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

When 2018 comes to an end, Ryan Day will have never served as the full-time head coach of a football team. The same will be true the next day, when Ohio State faces Washington in the Rose Bowl.

When Day wakes up Jan. 2, 2019, though, he will officially be the 25th head football coach in program history. But the 39-year-old from Manchester, N.H., isn't your average first-time head coach. In fact, Day will begin his first season as the lead man in Columbus with a 3-0 head coaching record to his name.



Ryan Day

When Urban Meyer was placed on paid administrative leave before fall camp, Ohio State selected Day to be the interim head coach instead of elevating defensive coordinator Greg Schiano, a former collegiate and NFL head coach, or offensive coordinator Kevin Wilson, whose last job was as head coach at Indiana.

That showed a trust in Day from the start, and it also served as a chance for athletic director Gene Smith to evaluate the coach and, in the long run, played a role in him being named Meyer's successor when Meyer announced his imminent retirement Dec. 4, the same day Ohio State named Day the next man up and gave him a five-year contract worth an initial \$4.5 million annually.

"We all know the tremendous job he did and the challenging time," Smith said Dec. 4. "He led our program through unbelievable adversity earlier in the year. He offers us a terrific, terrific skill and talent. We're just so fortunate that he was here."

Day's appointment as head coach comes amid somewhat of a meteoric rise in the profession. He played collegiately as a quarterback at New Hampshire from 1998-2001 then got his first job as the tight ends coach there in 2002. After that, Day had collegiate coaching stops at Boston College (2003-04, 2007-11, 2013-14), Florida (2005 as a gradu-

### Rose Bowl To Be Meyer's Finale

By TIM MOODY  
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

There's no one perfect way to sum up Urban Meyer's seven-season run as Ohio State's head football coach.

There's the good – an 82-9 overall record, a 54-4 mark in the Big Ten, a Cotton Bowl win over USC, a Fiesta Bowl victory against Notre Dame.

Then there's the great – three Big Ten championships, a perfect 7-0 mark against Michigan, that Sugar Bowl win over Alabama and the first-ever College Football Playoff National Championship against Oregon. He led the Buckeyes to a 12-0 season his first year in Columbus and didn't lose a game until the following December.

There was some bad, too. The Buckeyes lost back-to-back games to end the 2013 season, first to Michigan State in the Big Ten title game then to Clemson in the Orange Bowl. They fell, 31-0, to Clemson in the 2016 College Football Playoff as well. Then came 2018, when Meyer was placed on paid administrative leave ahead of fall camp before being suspended for three games for mishandling the employment of former wide receivers coach Zach Smith. Then Meyer collapsed with a severe headache during the Indiana game, an issue caused by an

arachnoid cyst on his brain. Those health issues persisted throughout the season – they've actually been persisting for years – and Meyer eventually found himself making a decision that he later admitted had been in the back of his mind for a while.

That all culminated Dec. 4 when, three days after Ohio State beat Northwestern for the Big Ten championship, Meyer announced that he would be retiring after the Rose Bowl, paving the way for offensive coordinator Ryan Day to take over as the 25th head coach in program history.

So came the end of one of the most decorated coaching tenures in program history – one of the most successful careers in the history of the sport, in fact – an end brought on by the negatives, but a career that will be remembered in Columbus for the highs.

The school officially announced Meyer's retirement early that Tuesday morning before holding a press conference in the afternoon. When the time came to give his first remarks as the soon-to-be former head coach, Meyer took a moment to wish his grandson, Troy, a happy second birthday before expanding on his decision.

"I'm honored to have represented my home state and this great university the past seven sea-

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