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June 2018

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"For The Buckeye Fan Who Needs To Know More"

Buckeyes' State

OSU Prioritizing Top In-State Targets Alongside Nation's Best

By RYAN McGLADE Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

Ohio State signed 26 high school football players to its 2018 recruiting class, five of whom came from the state of Ohio. The Buckeyes have nine verbal commitments so far in their 2019 haul. They have already secured three from within Ohio's border.

Mentor four-star offensive tackle Ryan Jacoby was the first in-state product from the 2019 cycle to pledge to OSU, doing so on March 1. His high school teammate, four-star defensive end Noah Potter, followed suit on April 16. Lexington four-star linebacker Cade Stover then joined the fold on April 29. All three of them are listed among the top 10 Ohio prospects in the 247Sports composite, with Stover being the highest at No. 4.

Mentor head coach Steve Trivisonno, who has helped develop the No. 7 (Potter) and No. 8 (Jacoby)

recruits in the state of Ohio, told BSB that he believes OSU head coach Urban Meyer and his staff have continued to follow their recruiting blueprint of acquiring the elite talent in the Buckeye State, though some have questioned the Buckeyes' efforts in their home state.

"Obviously, in Ohio, you better get the good kids in the state first and then go from there," Trivisonno said. "I think they've done that this year. I'm sure Urban is going out each and every year and getting the best guys he can in the state of Ohio. Everybody is recruiting everybody, so I think it comes down to them deciding who's their best guys. If the best guys are sitting in the state, they're going to take them first, I would imagine."

A fellow northeast Ohio high school football coach, Mac Stephens, is heading into his fourth year at the helm for Cleveland Heights. He has coached two players who have gone on to sign with Ohio State –



TIM MOODY

LOCKED DOWN – Ohio State head coach Urban Meyer got early commitments from three of Ohio's top prospects in the 2019 class among a star-studded group of national targets.

wide receiver Jaylen Harris in 2017 and defensive end Tyreke Smith in 2018.

Acknowledging Ohio State's involvement at Cleveland Heights, Stephens told BSB that he has noticed OSU increase its recruiting efforts this year with in-state prospects, particularly in his neck of the woods.

"I think when you look at the greater Cleveland metro area, in my opinion, it seems like they seem to have an even stronger presence," Stephens said of the Buckeyes. "I think some of it, obviously, has to do with the success under Coach Meyer and the winning culture that they have down there makes it a lot easier to do so. In my opinion, it seems like they have made a stronger presence at least in the northeast Ohio region, which I'm a little more familiar with than the rest of the state."

Stephens noted the significance of Meyer prioritizing the top talent in Ohio, especially when considering where Meyer coached prior to being hired by Ohio State in November 2011. Meyer was the head coach at Florida from 2005-10. During his time with the Gators, Meyer heavily recruited the state of Florida. Since coming to Columbus, Meyer has maintained a presence in the Sunshine State while simultaneously embedding himself in Ohio, which Stephens said has been key to the Buckeyes' recruiting success.

"Early on, the impression that I got was that Urban

Meyer was coming in and he'll probably just target Florida and some of the Southern states because that's what he was used to," Stephens said. "But to be quite honest, the in-state kids are helping to provide the foundation for such strong recruiting classes in the last few years. The coaching staff down there, I think they recognize that in order to compete on the national level like they do, they have to get the in-state blue-chippers."

The finest prospect in Ohio from the 2019 recruiting class is a local product, five-star defensive end Zach Harrison out of Olentangy Orange. Not only is Harrison the top-rated player in the state, he is the No. 2 recruit in the 247Sports composite's national rankings.

Harrison's recruitment is shaping up to be a Big Ten battle, as the 6-6, 240-pounder is primarily considering Michigan, Ohio State and Penn State.

The Buckeyes have positioned themselves well, though, according to Olentangy Orange head coach Zebb Schroeder.

"Of all of the schools, because of proximity, (Harrison has) probably been (to Ohio State) the most," Schroeder told BSB. "Relationships are important to him. He wants to be in a program with a position coach that he can have a lifelong relationship with, be a lifelong friend. Obviously, with Ohio

Continued On Page 10

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BUCKES CON CON

Back on May 18, news broke that former Ohio State quarterback Joe Burrow, who spent the spring competing with Dwayne Haskins for the starting spot in Columbus, was headed to LSU to continue his collegiate career as a graduate transfer after earning his degree earlier in the month. Here's what BSB subscribers and staffers had to say on the BuckeyeSports.com Forum about Burrow's decision to head to the SEC program instead of home-state Cincinnati.

Good for him and good for me. Did not want him leading Cinci into Ohio Stadium next year.

- mrbigbux

Here's to hoping Burrow knocks Nick Saban on his a**.

- Tiffin Buckeye

I don't understand the geography of his choice. That's a long way from Athens, Ohio, distance and culture-wise, but I wish him the best. I hope he beats Alabama every time he plays them.

My least favorite teams: 1. Michigan. 2. Notre Dame. 3. Alabama. 4. Wisconsin. 5. Penn State (current, subject to change).

- Frank Moskowitz, BSB Publisher

I wish nothing but the best for Burrow. I hope he made the right decision for his sake.

- Ryan McGlade, BSB Staff Writer

Before I took a deeper look at the LSU quarterback room, I didn't like the fit for Burrow with the way the Tigers have missed on developing arms through the years. But if anyone has the tools to end that slide, it's him.

I think Burrow enters LSU training camp with a huge chip on his shoulder and hits the ground running. From there, he really could be the missing piece for the Tigers. I'm looking forward to keeping tabs on how he develops in 2018

- Garrett Stepien, BSB Staff Writer

I'm OK with anything that might lead to Alabama taking another loss in the regular season, and I think Joe Burrow deserves the chance to start at a high-level program.

That said, I'll always wonder what he could've done playing for the Buckeves!

- AcrossTheField

From The Pages Of BSB

35 Years Ago - 1983

Upon racking up 1,666 yards as a senior in high school in 1978 at Sandusky, Ohio, Kelvin Lindsey reported to Ohio State as a bright tailback prospect in August 1979.

Injuries, however, limited his availability during his first two years on campus, and academic ineligibility kept him out of the 1981 season. Lindsey then began to show positive signs in 1982, rushing for 101 yards on 15 tries, a 6.6-yard average, while serving as the backup to Tim Spencer and Jimmy Gayle.

Following the 1983 spring game, head coach Earle Bruce named Lindsey the team's No. 1 running back for the upcoming season. Lindsey would finally have his shot.

"I never thought it would take this long," Lindsey said. "It is always discouraging when a person is not able to play football because of academics or injuries. But I'm glad I'm back."

30 Years Ago - 1988

Two-time Heisman Trophy winner Archie Griffin and Ohio State football head coach John Cooper, aided by OSU cheerleaders and members of the band, whipped a crowd of 1,400 Toledo-area Buckeye fans into excitement at a "Meet the Buckeyes Night," held at the Lucas County Rec Center on May 20.

May 20.

Even Cooper was caught up in the excitement of the evening.

"This makes me fired up and ready to play. Heck, I'll take Archie and a couple of the ex-Buckeyes out there and take on anybody," said the new coach, alluding to several former OSU football players from the Toledo area who were in attendance.

25 Years Ago - 1993

As a result of an NCAA investigation of the Ohio State men's basketball program regarding improprieties in the recruitment of Cincinnati Woodward star Damon Flint, the highly-rated prospect was ruled ineligible to play for the Buckeyes.

Flint, who later signed with the University of Cincinnati, had been on an unofficial visit to Ohio State with some friends and Woodward head coach Jim Leon on Oct. 30, 1991. After a dinner meeting at a restaurant near the Ohio State campus, former OSU assistant Paul Brazeau gave money and nylon bags to Leon.

Under NCAA rules, the exchange of money and gifts was

a recruiting violation. Providing expenses automatically made it an official visit for Flint, and under NCAA guidelines, official visits for recruits were not permissible during the player's junior year

20 Years Ago - 1998

Ohio State football signee Derek Ross was arrested May 23 for a host of charges after a bizarre traffic incident in his hometown of Rock Hill, S.C.

According to a police report, Ross was traveling with two older males in a car he had borrowed from another man. However, when he failed to return the car promptly, the owner reported it missing. Police noticed the car and signaled for Ross to pull over.

Instead, Ross stopped the car and he and his passengers got out and tried to flee the scene. But he failed to put the car in park and it continued on and struck a nearby home, although it did no damage.

Ross was subsequently apprehended. He faced charges for failing to stop for a police officer, leaving the scene of an accident, damage to property and a second charge of driving under suspension.

15 Years Ago - 2003

As the coach of the national championship football team, OSU's Jim Tressel was in high demand the offseason following the 2002 campaign. Tressel enjoyed a big thrill May 9 when he rang the closing bell at the New York Stock Exchange on Wall Street

On July 4, he was scheduled to sing "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" during the seventh inning of the Chicago Cubs' game against the St. Louis Cardinals at Wrigley Field.

"Those are two great American traditions, and I am honored to be taking part in them," Tressel said. "It is certainly exciting to be in the financial capital of the world and have an opportunity to view firsthand the New York Stock Exchange."

10 Years Ago - 2008

When Kevin White left his post as director of Notre Dame athletics to take the same job at Duke on May 31, little time passed before Gene Smith's name was raised as a potential successor. Smith, who had replaced Andy Geiger as the Ohio

State AD on March 5, 2005, had little to say on the subject, though.

Reached at the Memorial Tournament in the Columbus suburb of Dublin not long after White made his move, Smith told The Columbus Dispatch he would not comment on such issues

"I'm happy where I am, and I don't even touch that stuff," Smith said.

Five Years Ago - 2013

Ohio State President Dr. E. Gordon Gee let his mouth get him in trouble several times, but never before did the heat on the administrator rise to the level of late May after The Associated Press published inflammatory remarks Gee made about Roman Catholics, the SEC, multiple other universities, former Wisconsin head coach Bret Bielema and others during an Athletics Council meeting in late December.

Gee joked to meeting attendees, "You can't trust those damn Catholics," when discussing the Big Ten's courtship of Notre Dame before the Indiana-based institution eventually decided to join the ACC as a partial member instead

One Year Ago - 2017

During a press conference on June 5, Smith announced that Thad Matta would no longer be the head coach of the Ohio State men's basketball team. Matta closed his career in Columbus with a school-record 337 wins and program-high 460 games coached.

"While this may be a surprise to many, I think it is the right thing for our program, at the right time and we will go about the business of going through a national search immediately," Smith said

Matta, who had coached the Buckeyes for 13 years, was visibly emotional during the press conference, but he stressed that he was thankful for his time at Ohio State.

"I'm thinking about where my emotions are, and there is a song that says, 'Sometimes the light shines brightly on me, other times I can barely see. Lately it has occurred to me what a long, strange trip this has been,' " Matta said, referring to Grateful Dead lyrics. "Obviously, this has been probably the greatest 13 years of my life. Just looking around here and seeing all these things, it's been awesome."



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Charter Member

An Early Look At Ohio State's 2018 Slate

By the time you read this, there will be fewer than 100 days before the start of another Ohio State football season. There will be plenty of trips to the pool, backyard barbecues and "Back to School" sales between now and then, but the 2018 opener will be here before we know it, so here is what the Buckeyes will face this season as they attempt to get back to the College Football Playoff.

Sept. 1 vs. Oregon State – At first blush, this would seem to be a massacre in the making with new Oregon State head coach Jonathan Smith facing a colossal rebuild after Gary Anderson's disastrous two-plus-year run as Beavers head coach ended midway through last year's 1-11 finish.

The Beavers weren't only the worst team in the Pac-12 last year, they were among the worst in all of college football. As an example, they tied for 113th out of 129 teams in scoring offense but were even worse at 127th in scoring defense.

Adding insult to injury, the Beavers are 0-2 all-time against the Buckeyes with both previous games being played in Columbus. No. 2-ranked Ohio State took a 51-10 win in 1974, a game during which Archie Griffin rushed for 134 yards on the way to his first Heisman Trophy. The Buckeyes also squeezed out a 22-14 win against Oregon State in the 1984 season opener. Keith Byars rushed for 182 yards and a pair of touchdowns in that one.

Sept. 8 vs. Rutgers – The Scarlet Knights improved incrementally in Chris Ash's second year as head coach, including securing three Big Ten victories after going winless in the conference in 2016.

Still, Ash has a lot of work to do with most of the heavy lifting remaining on the offensive side of the ball. Rutgers was shut out twice and failed to score more than seven points on two other occasions, leading the Knights to rank near the bottom of the Big Ten in nearly every offensive category.

Perhaps underscoring the task at hand in lifting Rutgers to the upper echelon of the Big Ten is Ash's first two games against Ohio State during which the Buckeyes outscored his teams by a combined 114-0.

Sept. 15 vs. TCU – Scheduled for prime time at palatial AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas, this is obviously the marquee nonconference game on Ohio State's schedule this season. The truth is, however, that the Buckeyes could not have caught the Horned Frogs at a better time.

TCU loses 15 starters from a team that won 11 games and played for the Big 12 championship last year. Still, head coach Gary Patterson has never had any trouble getting his team prepared for big challenges, and Ohio State had better give the Frogs the respect befitting a program that has won 160 games in 17 seasons under Patterson.

The OSU secondary will likely get tested early and often by new quarterback Shawn Robinson and electrifying freshman speedster Taye Barber, who figures to play in the slot as well as in the backfield.

Sept. 22 vs. Tulane – The Green Wave finished with a 5-7 record last year in their second season under head coach Willie Fritz, who has built a pretty nice career for himself since winning a pair of national JUCO championships at Blinn College in the mid-1990s.

Nine offensive starters return for Fritz, including quarterback Jonathan Banks, who threw for 1,797 yards and 12 TDs, as well as receivers Terren Encalade and Darnell Mooney, who totaled 1,329 yards and eight touchdowns on a combined 73 catches.

This will be the first-ever meeting between Ohio State and Tulane, which hasn't had much luck recently against ranked teams. The Wave haven't enjoyed a victory against a ranked opponent since a 31-28 win at No. 12 LSU on Nov. 27, 1982.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK Mark Rea

Sept. 29 at Penn State – The Nittany Lions have this game circled after blowing an 11-point lead with 5:42 to play and suffering a soul-crushing, 39-38 loss to the Buckeyes last October

Penn State went on to post an 11-2 finish, giving the program back-to-back seasons with at least 11 victories for only the second time since it joined the Big Ten in 1993. But that loss to Ohio State has remaining stuck in the craw of James Franklin's team, and they will be seeking redemption in a late September game that will most likely be a prime-time affair.

QB Trace McSorley returns, but there is little doubt he's going to miss consensus All-American running back Saquon Barkley as well as favorite target DaeSean Hamilton, who departed for the NFL as Penn State's all-time leading receiver with 214 career catches.

Oct. 6 vs. Indiana (Homecoming) – The Hoosiers gave the Buckeyes just about all they wanted in last year's opener before dropping a 49-21 decision, a loss that seemed to portend the rest of IU's season – close but no cigar.

Indiana lost to Michigan, Michigan State, Maryland and Purdue, each by eight points or fewer, leaving the Hoosiers still searching for their first winning season since 2007.

Second-year head coach Tom Allen returns most of his starting offense, but that does not include quarterback Richard Lagow, who threw for 410 yards and three TDs against Ohio State last year, or receiver Simmie Cobbs, who torched the OSU secondary for 149 yards on 11 catches.

Oct. 13 vs. Minnesota – Second-year head coach P.J. Fleck isn't at all satisfied with his program's annual also-ran status in the Big Ten. But if the coach truly wants the Golden Gophers to make their first title run since 1967, he's going to have to beef up an offense that ranked 12th in the 14-team league in scoring.

Easing that task would begin by finding a suitable quarterback, but that's easier said than done. Sophomore Vic Viramontes, the top-rated, dual-threat JUCO quarterback from a year ago, signed with Minnesota but has since decided to return to junior college.

The Gophers haven't played Ohio State since 2015, but that's probably just as well. Minnesota doesn't have a win against the Buckeyes since 2000 and has lost 26 of its last 27 in the series.

Oct. 20 at Purdue – After several seasons of abject failure, the Boilermakers posted a 7-6 mark last year, their first winning record since 2011. Most of the reason can be attributed to the hiring of head coach Jeff Brohm, an offensive-minded former quarterback whose team averaged 403.1 yards per game in total offense and boasted the conference's fifth-best passing attack.

Most of that offensive unit returns this season, including quarterbacks David Blough and Elijah Sindelar, who combined to throw for 3,202 yards and 27 touchdowns a year ago.

The schedule-makers didn't do Purdue any favors this fall. After hosting the Buckeyes,

the Boilermakers travel to Michigan State before returning home to play Iowa. Two weeks after that, Wisconsin invades West Lafayette.

Nov. 3 vs. Nebraska – Former Nebraska national championship quarterback Scott Frost returns to his alma mater fresh off a two-year run at Central Florida that included a perfect 13-0 season last year.

It is understandable that Cornhuskers fans thirsty for a return to the glory years of Tom Osborne believe Frost can return the program to prominence. But as the old saying goes, Rome wasn't built in a day, and Nebraska has significant deficiencies to address before it can even approach a return to elite status.

Frost's first order of business should be to address what has become a woeful defense. The once-proud Blackshirts unit finished next-to-last in the Big Ten in scoring defense a year ago and dead last in total defense.

Nov. 10 at Michigan State – Left pretty much for dead after a 3-9 collapse in 2016, Sparty proved that was a one-year aberration by finishing 10-3 last season topped off with a 42-17 Holiday Bowl spanking of Washington State.

One of MSU's three losses was an ugly 48-3 throttling at the hands of Ohio State, and if the Spartans entertain any thoughts of winning the Big Ten East, they'll obviously have to play a whole lot better against the Buckeyes.

Helping that cause would be the fact that Michigan State returns nine starters from a defensive unit that ranked among the top 10 nationally in run defense and total defense, and a host of offensive starters including quarterback Brian Lewerke, who last year became the first QB in school history to throw for at least 2,500 yards while rushing for 500 yards or more.

Nov. 17 at Maryland – To be brutally honest, there hasn't been much to get excited about D.J. Durkin's first two years with the Terrapins. The team finished 6-7 in 2016, but at least it earned a bowl trip. Last year was an unmitigated disaster with a 4-8 finish that included seven losses in the last eight games.

Durkin, who built his reputation as a defensive coach, has had trouble getting his Maryland defense on track. The Terps gave up 30 or more points in nine games last year, and that sent them plummeting to the bottom of the Big Ten in scoring defense.

While the defense remains a work in progress, at least Maryland returns nine starters on offense, including running back Ty Johnson, who rushed for 875 yards and five touchdowns last season. Johnson's 35-yard burst last year against Ohio State was about his team's only highlight during a 62-14 loss to the Buckeyes.

Nov. 24 vs. Michigan – The good news for the Wolverines is that quarterback Shea Patterson, a transfer from Ole Miss, will be eligible for 2018, giving Jim Harbaugh perhaps his most athletically gifted quarterback since the coach returned to his alma mater in 2015.

Patterson, who threw for 2,259 yards and 17 TDs in just seven games last year before suffering a knee injury, might have his mobility tested by an offensive line that allowed the second-most sacks in the Big Ten last year.

Several preseason predictions have Michigan barging its way back into the top 10, but to do that, the Wolverines are going to have to do something they have accomplished just once this century. They're going to have to beat Ohio State in Columbus, something that hasn't happened since 2000.



Remainder Of 2018 Class Arrives On Campus

The remainder of Ohio State's 2018 football recruiting class reported to Columbus in early June. An OSU spokesperson confirmed to BSB on June 4 that all 26 members of the Buckeyes' 2018 class are enrolled in summer courses, which got under way June 5.

Of those 26, 17 were not enrolled early and arrived the first week of June. Those 17 are offensive tackle Nicholas Petit-Frere; tight end Jeremy Ruckert; running back Brian Snead; H-back Jaelen Gill; wide receivers Kamryn Babb, Cameron Brown, Chris Olave and L'Christian "Blue" Smith; defensive linemen Tyler Friday, Javontae Jean-Baptiste, Tyreke Smith and Taron Vincent; linebackers Teradja Mitchell and K'Vaughan Pope; safeties Marcus Hooker and Josh Proctor; and athlete Alex Williams, who told BSB he will begin his Buckeye career playing defensive end.

Kickoff Times Released For 5 Games In 2018

On May 31, the Big Ten Conference, the Big Ten Network, FOX and ESPN released start times and TV designations for five of the Ohio State football team's 12 regular-season games in 2018.

Ohio State will host Oregon State in its season opener Sept. 1 at noon on ABC. A week later, the Buckeyes welcome Rutgers



IOSH WINSLOW

ON CAMPUS FOR GOOD - After countless visits to Ohio State, 2018 signee Jaelen Gill was among the team's June enrollees.

to Ohio Stadium, and the game will kick off at 3:30 p.m. on BTN. The following week, OSU travels to AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas, to take on TCU in an 8 p.m. start on ABC.

Homecoming at Ohio State will be Oct. 6 when the Buckeyes host Indiana. The contest will start at either 3:30 or 4 p.m., with the TV network to be announced at a later date. The season finale against Michigan, which returns to Columbus on Nov. 24, will have the traditional start time of noon and be aired on FOX for a second straight year.

Other prime-time games may still be announced before the season begins, according to the press release. Otherwise, additional game start times and TV network carriers will be announced during the season with the 12-day or six-day window protocol. Prime-time games will be announced at least 12 days in advance.

OSU Makes Announcements For Future Football Schedules

Prior to the start times being unveiled for the upcoming season, Ohio State announced on May 16 that the football team's schedules for the 2020 and 2021 seasons are set. Buffalo will come to the Horseshoe for a date with the Buckeyes on Sept. 19, 2020, while Akron will do the same on Sept. 25, 2021, filling in the final open date for OSU in each season.

Ohio State and Buffalo have squared off only once previously, in 2013 when OSU won, 40-20, in Columbus. The Buckeyes hold a 7-1 edge over Akron in the series. The last meeting between the two squads came in the 2011 season, a 42-0 Ohio State victory. The only time the Zips have topped the Buckeyes was in 1894, a 12-6 decision.

Ohio State's 2020 campaign features nonconference home games against Mid-American Conference schools Bowling Green (Sept. 5) and Buffalo sandwiched around a contest at Oregon (Sept. 12). OSU begins its conference schedule in 2020 at home vs. Rutgers on Sept. 26, followed by Iowa (Oct. 10), at Michigan State (Oct. 17), at Penn State (Oct. 24), Nebraska (Oct. 31), Indiana (Nov. 7), at Maryland (Nov. 14), at Illinois (Nov. 21) and Michigan (Nov. 28).

The 2021 slate includes the home half of the two-game series with Oregon (Sept. 11) followed consecutively by nonconference matchups against Tulsa (Sept. 18) and Akron. Ohio State will open that season at Big Ten West foe Minnesota on Sept. 4 and resume the conference schedule at Nebraska (Oct. 2). From there, the Buckeyes will play Purdue (Oct. 9), at Rutgers (Oct. 23), Michigan State (Oct. 30), at Indiana (Nov.

6), Maryland (Nov. 13), Penn State (Nov. 20) and at Michigan (Nov. 27).

In addition to the 2020 and 2021 schedules being completed, Ohio State and Texas have mutually agreed to move the dates for their home-and-home series from the 2022 and 2023 seasons to the 2025 and 2026 seasons. Ohio State will now travel to Austin, Texas, to play the Longhorns on Aug. 30, 2025, while Texas will make the trip up to Columbus for the return game at Ohio Stadium on Sept. 5, 2026.

The two legendary programs have played each other only three times, with Texas owning a 2-1 advantage. Texas beat Ohio State, 25-22, in Columbus on Sept. 10, 2005. and again in the Fiesta Bowl, 24-21, on Jan. 5, 2009. Ohio State took down Texas in Austin. 24-7, on Sept. 9, 2006.

Lastly, it was announced on May 31 that OSU and Toledo have a one-game agreement that Ohio State will host Toledo at Ohio Stadium on Sept. 17, 2022. This will be only the fourth time the Buckeyes and Rockets have met on the gridiron. Ohio State has won the previous three encounters, with the most recent one (Sept. 10, 2011) being the closest outcome (27-22).

OSU Transfers Find New Homes

Since BSB last went to press, five student-athletes, in addition to Joe Burrow, who used to be on the Ohio State football team have found new schools for which to play.

On May 8, the same day Burrow announced he was transferring from OSU, former Buckeye offensive lineman Matthew Burrell revealed on Twitter that he was heading to Sam Houston State. He will be able to play immediately at the FCS school as a fourth-year junior this fall.

Out of Woodbridge (Va.) Hylton, Burrell redshirted his first year on OSUs' campus. He then played in all 13 games for the Buckeyes as a reserve in 2016, seeing extensive action in blowout wins vs. Bowling Green, Rutgers, Nebraska and Maryland.

In 2017, Burrell was a candidate to start at right guard but lost the competition to Branden Bowen. When Bowen broke his leg on Oct. 7 against Maryland, Burrell replaced him for the rest of the game. The next week at Nebraska, however, Demetrius Knox started at right guard instead of Burrell and did not surrender the position for the remainder of the year.



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Frequently Asked Questions

As more and more Buckeye Sports Bulletin readers are taking advantage of our new 24/7 full-service website, we are receiving many of the same questions as readers learn how to navigate the BuckeyeSports.com site. Here are some of the most frequently asked questions with helpful tips from the BSB staff. Please feel free to contact us at (614) 486-2202 if you have questions of your own. BuckeyeSports.com is a free service to BSB print subscribers.

Q. If stories are not still on the front page are they archived?

A. Whenever a story is posted on BuckeyeSports.com, regardless of whether or not it appears on the front page, it is automatically archived in the corresponding sport's section on the website. For example, any football story can be found by clicking the "Football" menu at the top of the page. Basketball stories can be found under the "Basketball" menu, and stories regarding Olympic sports can be found under the "Sports" tab, which also features a drop-down menu sorted by sport.

Q. My user name is my record number. If I want to go on the message board how do I get a better display name? How does everyone else add their picture or cool graphics?

A. At the top of the page on BSB's Fan Forum there is a black "Edit Profile" button. After clicking that, readers will see a menu on the left side of the page with options such as "Edit Profile," "Edit Identities," "Edit Avatar," "Edit Signature," "Edit Photos" and "Account Settings." Display names can be changed with the "Edit Profile" function, while display pictures can be uploaded with the "Edit Avatar" function. Other graphics and photos can be added by going to "Edit Signature" or "Edit Photos."

Q. I see on the message board that people highlight a previous post and then respond to it. How do I add the previous post to my post?

A. You can keep your responses organized by utilizing the quote function on the forum. In order to highlight a post and respond to it, click the "Quote" displayed above the top right corner of the original comment. From there, the typical add reply screen will pop up with the original post highlighted in a gray box. Your response can be added below that

Q. Is there still such a thing as BSB Quickly?

A. There will no longer be issues of the electronic BSB Quickly, though past issues are archived on the new site. However, rather than having to wait for a BSB Quickly to be posted, Buckeye Sports Bulletin readers can now get their Buckeye sports news, including recruiting news, as it happens with the new 24/7 site. Remember, much of the news can be found on the BuckeyeSports.com message board, and BSB readers are frequently the source of breaking or interesting news as we now have correspondents in all 50 states – you the readers! If you see something, say something.

Complete electronic versions of the print edition of BSB are also available at BuckeyeSports.com on Mondays during football season and Tuesdays the rest of the year and are archived as well. And our popular reprints from past issues of BSB that used to appear in BSB Quickly will now be found at BuckeyeSports.com. Watch for additional features to be announced.

Q. Can non-BSB subscribers access the website?

A. BuckeyeSports.com is available only to current Buckeye Sports Bulletin subscribers. However, non-subscribers can sign up for a free trial through Sept. 30, which includes copies of BSB print as well as full access to the website and message board, by sending their name, address, phone number and preferred email address to subscriptions@buckeyesports.com and requesting the free trial through Sept. 30. At the end of that trial period, readers will receive a special offer with absolutely no obligation.

Burrell was vying for the center spot this spring but quickly fell behind Brady Taylor and Josh Myers. After the spring game on April 14, OSU head coach Urban Meyer said Taylor heads into the summer as the team's starting center. The head coach also pointed out the progress Myers made in the spring but did not mention Burrell, who announced on April 18 that he was leaving Ohio State.

The next departure came from a former walk-on player. A three-year linebacker and long snapper since he made the team after his tryout invite in the summer of 2015, Jared Drake announced on May 24 his transfer to Western Illinois at the FCS level.

Drake, who earned his walk-on spot at OSU after he enrolled locally from Westerville (Ohio) Central, was not listed on the updated roster this spring.

Not long after he arrived at Ohio State, Drake shed his black stripe before the start of his first season with the Buckeyes.

Over his three years with OSU, Drake's action came almost exclusively on special teams. He recorded one tackle in nine games.

With Western Illinois, which went 8-4 last year and lost to Weber State in the first round of the 2017 FCS playoffs, Drake will

be immediately eligible as a senior in the fall. He switches to the offensive side of the ball, playing what he described to be a "fullback hybrid position."

A pair of former Buckeyes unfurled their new landing spots on May 27.

Offensive lineman Kevin Feder, who announced in January that he was transferring from OSU, took to Twitter to say he will continue his academic and football career at Kansas. He received a degree from Ohio State in sports industry in May as a third-year sophomore and therefore will be able to play immediately as a graduate transfer while having two years of eligibility remaining.

Feder, a three-star product of Ramsey (N.J.) Don Bosco Prep, spent much of his first two seasons at Ohio State dealing with a foot injury. His lone appearance in 2017 came during a 52-14 win over Illinois on Nov. 18 in Columbus.

Also on May 27, Bill Greene of 247Sports reported that Eric Glover-Williams will play at Division II Slippery Rock in western Pennsylvania this coming fall.

Glover-Williams began his Ohio State career in 2015 as a defensive back. The

Canton (Ohio) McKinley product then switched to H-back before the 2017 season but left the program ahead of the opener. He played in 20 games in 2015 and 2016, primarily on special teams.

Glover-Williams later enrolled at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, the same junior college for which former OSU quarterback-turned-receiver Torrance Gibson played last year. Glover-Williams, however, did not play football at MGCCC.

Wayne Davis was the fifth former OSU gridder to reveal his new college decision. On May 30, Davis tweeted that he was transferring to James Madison, which won the FCS national title two years ago and was the runner-up last year. He will be able to play right away and will have three years of eligibility left.

A product of Lake Taylor High School in Norfolk, Va., Davis redshirted his first year at Ohio State in 2016 and did not see any action last season.

Davis was a four-star recruit coming out of high school and was rated the No. 335 overall prospect and No. 33 cornerback in the 2016 class, according to the 247Sports composite. He announced on May 10 that he was leaving Ohio State.

With all of these exits, Ohio State has met the limit of 85 scholarship players on its roster for the 2018 season.

For more on Burrow's transfer decision, and Ohio State's quarterback situation heading into the 2018 season, see page 11.

2019 CFB HOF Ballot Includes 3 Buckeyes

Three former Ohio State players – running back Keith Byars, fullback Jim Otis and offensive tackle Chris Ward – are included with 73 others on the list of nominees for the 2019 College Football Hall of Fame class.

The National Football Foundation and College Football Hall of Fame released the annual ballot, which can include up to three candidates from each school, on June 4 for the 2019 class.

In addition to being ranked eighth in Ohio State history for career rushing yards (3,200) and sixth for career all-purpose yards (4,369), Byars is second on the all-time touchdowns list with 50 scores. A unanimous All-

American and Heisman Trophy runner-up in 1984, Byars led the nation in rushing with a then school-record 1,764 yards and a still-standing program mark of 2,441 all-purpose yards. The Dayton native also led the nation in scoring that year with 144 points.

In 1968, Otis was a consensus All-American and national champion. One of only four players to lead the team in rushing for three seasons, the Celina, Ohio, native logged 2,542 career rushing yards to sit 16th on Ohio State's all-time list.

Anchoring the offensive line as Ohio

State won four straight Big Ten titles, Ward was a two-time All-American, receiving consensus honors in 1976 and becoming a unanimous selection in 1977. The Dayton native was a three-time first-team all-conference selection.

Laurinaitis Headlines OSU Athletics HOF Class of 2018

On June 4, Ohio State announced its 2018 Athletics Hall of Fame class, which is headlined by former Buckeye linebacker James Laurinaitis.

Joining Laurinaitis – who logged 375 career tackles, 13 sacks and nine interceptions while playing in 51 games at OSU from 2005-08 – in the 10-member class are Dick Bruggeman (men's track), Cassie Dickerson (women's soccer), Greg Drown (rifle), Linda Haussener (field hockey), Ray Hupp (men's track), Bryan Koniecko (men's tennis), Mike Pucillo (wrestling), Jerry Welsh (men's hockey) and Brandon Wynn (men's gymnastics).

The class will be officially inducted on Sept. 7 during a dinner at the Ohio Union before being introduced Sept. 8 during half-time of Ohio State's home football game against Rutgers.

OSU Grad Armour Places In Top 25 At Memorial Tourney

Playing in the Memorial Tournament at Muirfield Village Golf Club in Dublin, Ohio, for just the second time, Ohio State product Ryan Armour made the cut and placed in the top 25 at Buckeye great Jack Nicklaus' event, which was played from May 31-June 3.

Armour opened the tournament with a 4-under round of 68 and followed with a minus-2 70 to head into the weekend near the top of the leaderboard. He followed with an even-par 72 on Saturday and a 3-under 69

in the final round to finish in a tie for 23rd – along with PGA TOUR legend Tiger Woods and others.

The finish gave Armour, who graduated from Ohio State in 1999, a \$76,985 check along with 35 FedExCup points.

Armour, 42, is enjoying his best PGA TOUR season yet, making 15 cuts in 22 events so far, including six top 25s and his first TOUR win at the Sanderson Farms Championship. Through the Memorial Tournament,

Armour was 51st in the FedExCup rankings with 581 points. He is 57th on the money list with \$1,373,389 in winnings this season.

The Memorial Tournament was won by Bryson DeChambeau in a three-way playoff. DeChambeau, Kyle Stanley and South Korea's Byeong Hun An were tied at minus-15 after four rounds. Stanley bogied the first playoff hole, leaving just DeChambeau and An to advance, and the American birdied the second to clinch the

Continued On Page 6







Continued From Page 5

victory and the \$1.602 million first-place prize.

Former Buckeye Wins Primary For U.S. House Seat

Former Ohio State and NFL wide receiver Anthony Gonzalez won the Republican primary for Ohio's 16th Congressional District on May 8.

He will advance to November's General Election to face Democratic primary winner Susan Moran Palmer. That seat in the U.S. House of Representatives was vacated by Republican Jim Renacci, who won a GOP primary for one of Ohio's two U.S. Senate seats.

The 16th district includes all of Wayne County and parts of Cuyahoga, Summit, Portage, Medina and Stark counties.

"I cannot thank each of you enough for the faith you placed in me and our team to deliver this result for Northeast Ohio," read a portion of the note Gonzalez, a Cleveland native, posted to his Twitter account the night of the primary. "Our goal has been to authentically represent our shared values while articulating our vision for the future of Northeast Ohio and our great country. We were beyond proud to earn endorsements from local elected officials, grassroots leaders, and everyday voters. These incredible people, and countless others throughout the 16th district, helped make tonight a reality.

"As we look forward to the November election and a new challenge, we will continue to double down on this same strategy. This seat belongs to the voters of the 16th district, not me, our Democratic opponent, or anyone else. Our campaign will reflect that reality as we hit the trail seeking to shake every hand, knock every door, and earn every vote."

Gonzalez played for Ohio State from 2004-06. He appeared in 33 career games, catching 87 passes for 1,268 yards and 13 touchdowns. Arguably his most memorable reception as a Buckeye came in the 2005 Michigan game when he went airborne to snag Troy Smith's pass inside the red zone, setting up Antonio Pittman's game-winning touchdown run in the final minute that gave OSU a 25-21 victory.

Gonzalez was selected by the Indianapolis Colts in the first round of the 2007 NFL draft before struggling with injury issues throughout five seasons with the team. He closed his professional career with 99 receptions for 1,307 yards and seven touchdowns in 40 games.

Dakich Returning To OSU Hoops As Grad Assistant

Former Ohio State point guard Andrew Dakich will return to the basketball Buckeyes for the 2018-19 season as a graduate assistant, according to a report by The Columbus Dispatch.

Dakich walked on at Michigan in 2013 and spent four years in Ann Arbor, one of which he redshirted. He played in 49 games as a Wolverine, logging an average of just 4.1 minutes per contest.

Dakich then joined the Ohio State basketball program last summer as a graduate transfer. He proved to be a key piece in OSU's run to the NCAA Tournament last season, averaging 19.0 minutes, 3.0 points and 2.1 assists per game while playing in all 34 contests.

He will now be a graduate assistant on Chris Holtmann's staff while he finishes his degree.

"I don't know if I'm 100 percent committed to coaching," Dakich told the Dispatch, "but I know I'm 100 percent committed to knowing if I want to get into it."

Bates-Diop Participates In NBA Draft Combine

Keita Bates-Diop showcased his basketball talent during an outstanding 2017-18 season at Ohio State. He gave NBA general managers, scouts and the like an up-close view of his skills at this year's NBA draft combine, which lasted May

16-20 in Chicago.

On May 17, Bates-Diop checked in at 6-7¼ without shoes (6-8½ with shoes) and 224 pounds with just 5.35 percent body fat. He was listed at 6-7, 235 on Ohio State's official roster last season. The Normal, Ill., native's wingspan at the combine was measured at 7-3¼. He recorded a standing vertical jump of 30½ inches and a running vertical jump of 35 inches.

Bates-Diop is considered by many to be a late first-round pick in this year's NBA draft, which will be held on June 21 at the Barclays Center in Brooklyn, N.Y. A year ago at this time, being selected in the first round might have been a pipe dream for Bates-Diop.



Keita Bates-Diop

Holtmann, who stopped by the Windy City to check in on Bates-Diop, told BSB that he is hearing glowing comments from NBA personnel about his former player. "I think he's tested very well," Holtmann said of Bates-Diop on May 23. "I think his

Last June, he was only a few months

removed from season-ending surgery for

a stress fracture in his left shin that grew

progressively worse during the 2016-17 sea-

son. Despite undergoing a serious opera-

tion, Bates-Diop was named the 2018 Big

Ten Player of the Year after averaging 19.8

points, 8.7 rebounds, 1.6 assists and 1.6

blocks per game while shooting 48.0 percent

(247 of 515) from the field and 35.9 percent

(66 of 184) from three-point range.

"I think he's tested very well," Holtmann said of Bates-Diop on May 23. "I think his workouts have gone well. I think his team interviews have gone well. All of that stuff has been really well received. He's got a month left to go, and we'll see. All of the feedback that I've gotten has been really positive."

Meyer Visits Police Officer Shot In Line Of Duty

Meyer took time out of his schedule on May 16 to visit Grant Medical Center in Columbus to see injured Franklin County Sheriff's deputy Jacob Heaberlin and his family.

According to a report from The Columbus Dispatch, Heaberlin was shot below his protective vest in his lower abdomen during a

traffic stop after he attempted to pull over a vehicle for erratic driving on May 13. Heaberlin responded to the 911 call of the truck, driven by 55-year-old Darrell Bruffy, running red lights, weaving, speeding, and hitting objects. Bruffy's truck fishtailed and crashed into a pole, which is when Heaberlin got out of his cruiser with his gun drawn and the shootout occurred.

Bruffy was shot and killed. He

had outstanding arrest warrants for domestic violence, assault, criminal trespassing and violations of a protection order.

Buckeyes Host Safe Tackling Clinic

The Ohio State football program welcomed approximately 170 local and regional youth and middle school football coaches to

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Ohio State Sets New Record For Academic All-B1G Selections

Ohio State posted a new school record as 274 student-athletes earned academic All-Big Ten honors for spring and at-large sports. That number accounted for just over 14 percent of the 1,906 student-athletes who earned the academic distinction across the conference.

For the academic year, Ohio State totaled 489 all-conference honorees, setting a new Big Ten record in the process. The Buckeyes had 106 academic All-Big Ten honorees in the fall and 109 more in the winter. The previous record, also held by Ohio State, was 393 (2016-17).

Students selected for academic all-conference honors must be part of a varsity program while being enrolled full time for at least 12 months and carrying a cumulative grade-point average of 3.0 or higher.

Out of the 274 honorees from Ohio State, three posted perfect 4.0 GPAs – fencers Gabriela Cecchini and Aleksandra Kolmykova and golfer Will Voetsch.

The rowing team led all programs with 36 honorees, followed by women's track and field with 33. On the men's side, the lacrosse team had the most selections with 25.

The complete list of Ohio State's spring and at-large academic All-Big Ten honorees for 2018 can be found below, listed alphabetically by sport.

BASEBALL – Jacob Barnwell, Jr., criminology; Dominic Canzone, So., sport industry; Matt Carpenter, So., finance; Brady Cherry, Jr., sport industry; Bo Coolen, Sr., sport industry; Connor Curlis, Jr., sport industry; Ryan Feltner, Jr., strategic communications; Andrew Fishel, Jr., finance; Seth Kinker, Sr., sport industry; Andrew Magno, So., sport industry; Kyle Michalik, Sr., human development and family studies; Adam Niemeyer, Sr., real estate and finance; Nate Romans, Jr., operations management; Scottie Seymour, So., finance; Jake Vance, So., strategic communications; Noah West, So., logistics management; Ridge Winand, Jr., sport industry.

MEN'S FENCING – Julien Baneux, Sr., finance; Marc-Antoine Blais Belanger, Sr., mechanical engineering; Robert Caldwell, Sr., public affairs; Leon Cao, So., electrical and computer engineering; John Culpepper, So., pre-law; Jax Diaz Miranda, Jr., marketing; James Hu, Sr., marketing; Domenik Koch, So., undeclared; Nicolas Pouliquen, Sr., computer science and engineering; Oliver Shindler, Jr., criminology; Stas Sudilovski, Sr., earth science; Lewis Weiss, Sr., international studies.

WOMEN'S FENCING – Alexandria Aply, Jr., neuroscience; Gabriela Cecchini, Jr., world literatures; Joanne Chen, Sr., human nutrition; Natalia Falkowski, So., international business; Alana Goldie, Sr., criminology; Eleanor Harvey, Sr., psychology; Aleksandra Kolmykova, So., economics; Gabriella Leccese, Jr., neuroscience; Sarah Merza, So., psychology; Morgan Mzhen, Sr., biology; Emma von Dadelszen, Jr., health science.

MEN'S GOLF – Jeg Coughlin III, So., family resource management; Will Grimmer, Jr., communication; Jack Mancinotti, So., finance; Caden Orewiler, So., human development; Will Voetsch, Jr., finance; Daniel Wetterich, Jr., finance; Josh Wick, Sr., master's of accounting; Justin Wick, So., marketing.

WOMEN'S GOLF – Jaclyn Lee, Jr., finance; Lexie Long, So., exploration; Niki Schroeder, Jr., international studies; Adeena Shears, So., early childhood education; Rio Watanabe, Sr., kinesiology.

WOMEN'S ICE HOCKEY – Samantha Bouley, So., mathematics; Lauren Boyle, Jr., marketing; Jincy Dunne, Jr., psychology; Madison Field, Jr., sport industry; Rebecca Freiburger, So., exercise science and education; Julianna Iafallo, Sr., health sciences; Erin Langermeier, Jr., finance; Jacyn Reeves, Jr., human development and family science; Elise Riemenschneider, So., communication; Dani Sadek, Sr., sport industry; Kassidy Sauve, Sr., sport industry; Olivia Soares, So., sport industry; Lauren Spring, Sr., physical education, sport and physical activity.

MEN'S LACROSSE – Brendan Barger, Sr., marketing; Matthew Borges, Jr., finance; Lukas Buckley, Jr., finance; Chase Bunce, Jr., accounting; Alex Burgdorf, Sr., health sciences; Colin Chell, Sr., logistics operations; Erik Evans, Sr., sport industry; Freddy Freibott, Sr., history; Jeff Henrick, So., sport industry; Trevor Hodgins, Sr., operations management; Jack Jasinski, Jr., exercise science education; John Kelly, Sr., insurance and marketing; Josh Kirson, So., finance; Carter Kistler, Jr., agribusiness and applied economics; Bo Lori, Sr., sport industry; Logan Maccani, Jr., accounting; Caleb Mahoney, So., civil engineering; Nick Musci, So., marketing; Ben Randall, Sr., finance; Joey Salisbury, So., accounting; Austin Seiple, Sr., marketing; Matthew Smidt, Sr., biology; Cullen Sowder, Jr., finance; Ryan Terefenko, So., sport industry; Brendan Wallace, So., political science.

WOMEN'S LACROSSE – Kimberly Apuzzo, So., speech and hearing science; Madison Castelein, Sr., human resources; Sage Darling, So., speech and hearing science; Sara Dickinson, Jr., health sciences; Regina Doty, So., civil engineering; Sarah George, So., child and youth studies; Liza Hernandez, So., human resources; Erika Keselman, Jr., operations management; Caroline Mackrides, Jr., pharmaceutical studies; Mackenzie Maring, Jr., accounting; Meghan Matey, So., communication; Emalee Mongno, Sr., marketing; Jaclen Moxley, So., exercise science education; Erin Nagle, Jr., biology; Baley Parrott, Jr., finance; Jill Rizzo, So., logistics management; Shannon Rosati, Sr., sport industry; Anna Seanor, Sr., human resources; Lauren Sherry, Sr., communication; Emily Skrzypczak, So., health science; Alex Vander Molen, So., accounting; Abigail Wise, Sr., electrical and computer engineering; Molly Wood, Sr., finance.

MEN'S RIFLE & PISTOL – Joshua Black, Sr., biology; Drew Cheezum, Sr., finance; Zachary Dahmen, Jr., business finance/insurance; Robbie Delagrange, So., criminology and criminal justice; Mark Matheny, Sr., finance; Anthony McCollum, Jr., mechanical engineering; Patrick Sardo, Jr., architecture; Brendan Whitaker, Jr., computer and information science; Quintin Wotring, Jr., biology.

WOMEN'S RIFLE & PISTOL - Irina Andrianova, Sr., biology and criminology and crim-

inal justice; Alli Kissell, So., athletic training; Emily Rust, Jr., sport industry; Rhiann Travis, So., agricultural communication; Bailey Urbach, Jr., neuroscience.

ROWING - Michayla Binkley, So., psychology; Sophie Blair, Jr., communication; Sierra Cydrus, Jr., health promotion, nutrition and exercise science; Rachel Engel, Sr., communication; Abigail Ernst, Sr., history of art; Anjali Fernandes, So., English; Simone Fishel, So., food science and technology; Lillian Flinders, So., political science; Maddie Frendberg, So., animal sciences; Hanna Gottschalk, Sr., health sciences program; Chelsea Harpool, Sr., social work; Hannah Hites, Sr., psychology; Morgan Hummel, Sr., sport industry; Annie Jachthuber, Sr., environment, economy, development and sustainability; Cassandra Johnson, Sr., communication; Kaylee Koker, Sr., physical education, sport and physical activity; Olivia Kwiecinski, So., environment, economy, development and sustainability; Grace Libben, So., public health; Kendell Massier, So., speech and hearing science; Kathleen McCarthy, Jr., speech and hearing science; Madalyn McKeone, So., human development and family science; Catherine McNutt, Sr., civil engineering; Rachel Parker, Sr., computer information systems; Maddie Perrett, So., biology; Bianca Piloseno, Sr., materials science engineering; Michaela Price, Sr., agricultural communication; Alice Riley, Sr., history of art; Ashley Saba, Sr., civil engineering; Bridget Schodorf, Sr., psychology; Rachel Serafy, Jr., communication; Madison Sheahan, Jr., public management, leadership and policy; Helen Sudhoff, Sr., environmental policy and decision making; Sierra Tiede, So., international studies; Emma Warns, So., health sciences program; Kimberleigh Warriner, Sr., psychology; Emily Witker, Jr., food business management.

SOFTBALL – Amy Balich, So., mechanical engineering; Bri Betschel, Jr., human development and family science; Megan Choinacky, Jr., pharmacy; Kat Duvall, Jr., language arts education; Andi Farrah, So., health sciences; Carley Gaskill, So., accounting; Becca Gavin, Sr., biology; Maddie Marotti, Sr., sport management; Shelby McCombs, Sr., human development and family science; Lilli Piper, Jr., sport industry; Morgan Ray, Jr., health sciences; Spencer Sansom, So., physical activity and coaching specialist; Bailee Sturgeon, Sr., sport industry.

SYNCHRONIZED SWIMMING – Kaitlyn Carboun, So., international studies and political science; Phoebe Coffin, So., human development and family science; Quinn Connor, Sr., anthropology and communication; Wenjing Deng, Jr., electrical and computer engineering; Jessica Giannuzzi, Sr., arts management; Elizabeth Hernandez, Sr., communication; Alyssa Hoying, Sr., sport industry; Laila Huric, So., biology; Breanna Malone, So., arts management; Alexandra Meredith Le Roux, Jr., health sciences; Shea Ramsey, Sr., art; Noelle St. John, Sr., psychology; Stephanie Thielemann, Jr., psychology; Monica Velazquez-Stiak, Sr., sport industry; Elizabeth Walsh, Jr., human nutrition; Rachel Warren, Jr., sport industry; Elizabeth Welzien, Sr., communication.

MEN'S TENNIS – Martin Joyce, Jr., finance; Alex Kobelt, So., marketing; Matt Mendez, Sr., finance; Riley Reist, Sr., communication; Kyle Seelig, Jr., middle childhood education; Joseph Thomas, So., finance; Mikael Torpegaard, So., communication; Hunter Tubert, Jr., finance; Jacob Wareti, So., health science; JJ Wolf, So., communication.

WOMEN'S TENNIS – Andrea Ballinger, Jr., psychology; Shiori Fukuda, So., communication; Anna Sanford, Sr., neuroscience; Maria Tyrina, So., economics; Danielle Wolf, Jr., communication.

MEN'S TRACK & FIELD – Steven Bauers, So., finance; Kevin Blank, Sr., operations management; Drelan Bramwell, Sr., communication; Reggie Browley, Jr., consumer and family financial services; Asa Burke, So., pre-middle childhood education; Coty Cobb, Jr., communication; Cole Gorski, Sr., marketing; Matthew Hurley, So., criminology and criminal justice; Luke Landis, Jr., finance; Mitch Leitch, Sr., operations management; Jake Mandel, Sr., finance; Daniel Mastropaolo, So., pre-business; Kyle McKinney, Jr., marketing; Robby Oswald, So., international studies; Max Seipel, Sr., middle childhood education; DaJuan Seward, Jr., human development and family science; Daniel Soehnlen, Jr., human nutrition; Evan Stifel, Sr., nursing; Aaron Wood, So., civil engineering.

WOMEN'S TRACK & FIELD – Brittany Atkinson, Jr., accounting; Grace Azenabor, Sr., marketing; Courtney Clody, Sr., marketing; Kate Deaton, Sr., agribusiness and applied economics; Taylor DeLoach, So., marketing; Alexis Dowdy, Jr., human development and family science; Christine Frederick, Sr., accounting; Erin Gyurke, Sr., early childhood education; Beatrice Hannan, Sr., fashion and retail studies; Megan Hoffman, So., human nutrition; Sarah Kanney, Jr., marketing; Devon Leahy, So., biology; Abby Nichols, So., speech and hearing science; Sarah Okeafor, So., pre-health sciences program; Sade Olatoye, Jr., health sciences program; Jessica Passwater, Jr., nursing; Alexus Pyles, So., pharmaceutical sciences; Julia Rizk, Jr., finance; Madison Roberts, Sr., biochemistry; Vanessa Robinson, Jr., communication; Lilly Saniel-Banrey, Jr., architecture; Mikaela Seibert, Jr., fashion and retail studies; Allyson Simmons, Sr., special education; Olivia Small, Sr., human nutrition; Olivia Smith, Sr., logistics management; Sarah Stanley, Jr., finance; Emily Stoodley, Jr., pre-health, promotion, nutrition and exercise science; Lainey Studebaker, So., exercise science education; Grace Thomas, So., pre-health, promotion, nutrition and exercise science; Annie Ubbing, So., communication; Claire Wiles, Jr., finance; Karrington Winters, Jr., communication; Maddie Woods, Jr., operations management.

MEN'S VOLLEYBALL – Jason Bruggemann, So., pre-mechanical engineering; Reese Devilbiss, So., sport industry; Jake Hanes, So., economics; Paul Henken, So., finance; Maxime Hervoir, Sr., communication and technology; Andrew Hillman, So., finance; Shawn Hughes, So., aerospace engineering; Nick Laffin, Sr., real estate; Blake Leeson, Sr., sport industry; Aaron Samarin, Sr., sport industry; Nicolas Szerszen, Sr., mechanical engineering; Sanil Thomas, Jr., finance; James Wolmering, Jr., civil engineering.

- Tim Moody

the Woody Hayes Athletic Center on May 22 for a free youth tackling safety seminar.

Led by co-defensive coordinator and safeties coach Alex Grinch, members of the Ohio State football staff instructed and taught on the fundamentals of safe tackling. Coaches in attendance also received a free DVD on tackling fundamentals.

The goal of the clinic, which lasted 90 minutes, was to give youth coaches the proper training and techniques to teach safe tackling.

"We all love the game of football and feel like it's part of our responsibility to pass these important drills and techniques on to the people who will mold the next generation," said Tim Hinton, the Ohio State executive director for football relations/special assistant to the head coach who spent 34 years as a high school and collegiate coach, including four (2012-15) as the Buckeyes' tight ends coach. "The best way to inspire and help athletes reach their potential is to be prepared, and this clinic will help these

coaches be the best possible teachers in the area of safe tackling techniques."

To keep up with all the breaking Ohio State sports news between now and the next print edition of Buckeye Sports Bulletin, scheduled to be mailed July 3, check out BSB's BuckeyeSports.com website daily for up-to-theminute reports.

2-Sport Star Shaw Handpicked By OSU's Grinch

Brvson Shaw

By GARRETT STEPIEN Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

Before he even entered high school, Bryson Shaw already had an idea of where he wanted to continue his academic and athletic career.

In the eighth grade, he blossomed into a national prodigy in his sport. Three weeks into his freshman year at Mount Saint Joseph High School in Baltimore, Shaw made up his mind and pulled the trigger Sept. 17, 2015, when he committed to Maryland.

The catch? His sport was lacrosse.

Shaw spent his freshman year at Mount Saint Joseph as a two-sport athlete before transferring to The Bullis School in Potomac, Md., where he continued playing both football and lacrosse.

Little did he know how much the future of his athletic career was about to change, starting with a football commitment to Wisconsin and culminating with a flip to Ohio State.

"He was a top (lacrosse) recruit," Bullis head football coach Pat Cilento told BSB. "Originally, he committed to Maryland. He was top five in the country in the 2019 (lacrosse) class."

Bullis is an independent, coed and K-12 private school with prestigious academics. Beyond the classroom, it boasts an elite football program that plays in the highly competitive Interstate Athletic Conference and consistently challenges the talent-rich District-Maryland-Virginia (DMV) area's top teams.

With Bullis having produced current Big Ten players such as Penn State junior linebacker Cam Brown, Wisconsin sophomore safety Pat Johnson and Ohio State sophomore quarterback Dwayne Haskins, who is poised to start for the Buckeyes in 2018, Cilento immediately saw Shaw's potential to join them at the next level.

As a sophomore in 2016, Shaw started at quarterback and inside linebacker before he moved to wide receiver and defensive back.

"We had to get the ball in his hands," Cilento said. "He would make people look silly for running the zone read. He wasn't a great thrower, but he could run – there was no question.

"When he made the change from quarterback to receiver,

you really got to see how fast and how productive he could be."

Months later, in the spring of 2017, the football opportunities steadily started to flow for Shaw. Virginia (Feb. 1), Rutgers (May 2) and Wake Forest (May 3) were the first to extend scholarship offers. When Wisconsin offered May 4, it stuck with Shaw into his junior season, which transformed into a breakout campaign and left no doubt about his athletic future being on the gridiron.

"He had four touchdowns over 80 yards, scored five different ways, had three defensive touchdowns – I think another four or five kickoff returns – and you just don't see that production in our

conference, which is one of top 50 in the country," Cilento said. "When we beat two Washington Catholic Athletic Conference schools, which are probably two of the most respected schools in the conference in the area, he scored two touchdowns in the first 30 seconds of the season opener

- a kickoff return and a fumble return for a touchdown.

"So he's doing it against great competition. The different ways in how he's able to affect a game – it's just unbelievable."

When he took an unofficial visit Jan. 27 to Wisconsin after the season, Shaw saw enough during the trip and committed on the spot. But that didn't stop Ohio State from entering the equation eight days later with an offer to the 6-2, 175-pounder.

About a month into his job as co-defensive coordinator and safeties coach, Alex Grinch targeted Shaw and made him a priority. Before the hire of Grinch, Shaw was nowhere to be found on Ohio State's recruiting radar.

After multiple trips to Bullis in the winter, Grinch got Ohio State into the mix for Shaw, despite his Wisconsin pledge. Grinch returned to the school April 24 for one more visit, putting his cards on the table and pushing for the flip.

"Grinch had been here a couple times in the winter, so to speak, to watch (Shaw) and our guys workout," Cilento said. "Basically, his message was, 'I can be anywhere in the country I want to be, and I find myself at Bullis, time and time again, because we want you and we think you're a great safety.'"

The sentiments resonated with Shaw. Four days later, he dropped from Wisconsin's class and flipped his commitment to Ohio State

This time, in an April 28 announcement, Shaw shut the door entirely on his recruitment.

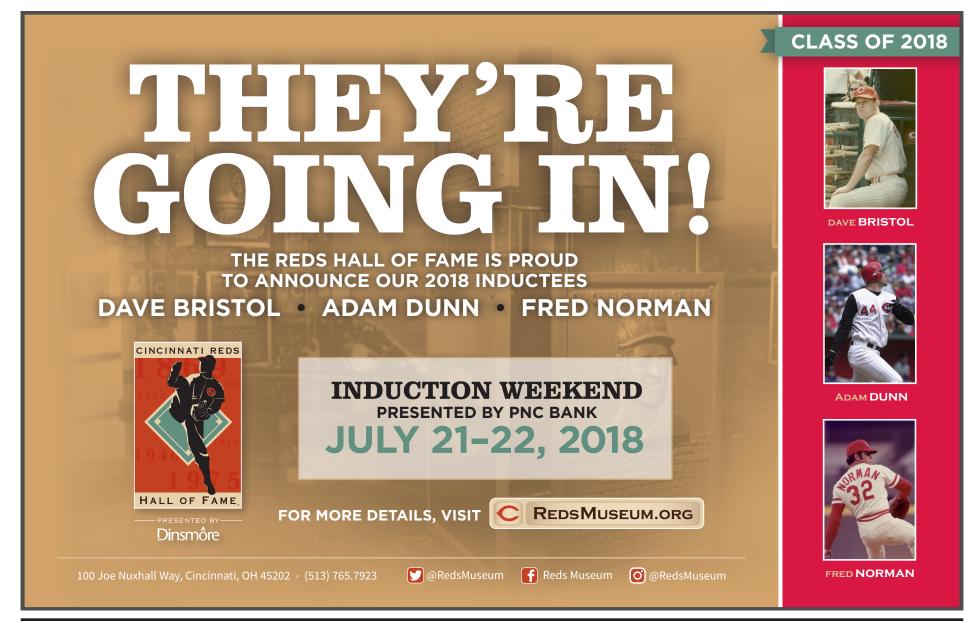
"At the end of the day, the kid has to make the best choice for him," Cilento said. "I think he rushed the Wisconsin commitment. I think he got a little overwhelmed. It was the first Big Ten school he'd been at, so I think it was a little bit of a surprise – but not a shock – that he would flip."

Rated by the 247Sports composite as the No. 583 overall player, No. 46 safety and No. 11 player in Maryland, the three-star Shaw remains raw.

While early enrollment isn't on the table for Shaw, who is required by Bullis to graduate next spring, he has a whole year of development ahead of his arrival to Ohio State next summer.

With the way Shaw shot up the football ranks as his athleticism adapted to different positions on the gridiron, Cilento couldn't put a cap on the former lacrosse prospect's potential.

"As a safety, in any kind of defense, you have to be athletic," Cilento said. "He's a competitor, he loves to be physical, and once you add in speed, he's going to be an asset to any defense."





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Bucks Have Sights On Top Ohio Prospect Harrison

Continued From Page 1

State having Coach (Larry) Johnson, they have one of the best in the country. I know (Harrison's) relationship with (Johnson) is very strong. They probably talk once a week or so. (Johnson) is a big part of why (Harrison) likes Ohio State."

In addition to Harrison, some of the other 2019 in-state options Ohio State is pursuing are Dayton Dunbar three-star offensive tackle Jonathan Allen; Pickerington Central three-star defensive tackle DeWayne Carter; Cincinnati Anderson four-star offensive guard Zeke Correll; Springfield three-star defensive tackle Isaiah Gibson; Columbus DeSales four-star defensive tackle Rodas Johnson; and Akron Hoban four-star offensive guard Nolan Rumler, who is committed to Michigan.

So with roughly six months remaining until the early signing period in December, assuming it is not altered, and eight months left until National Signing Day on Feb. 6, how many more Ohio recruits will the Buckeyes take? Ryan Donnelly, the Ohio State football recruiting analyst for LandOf10.com, told BSB he sees that total being very similar to the 2018 class. He is confident the Buckeyes will land Allen and Harrison, should they push for the former. That would make five in-state signees, the same number as the 2018 batch.

Donnelly added that he could envision Correll signing with Notre Dame and Buford, Ga., four-star center/guard Harry Miller inking his letter of intent to OSU, which would satisfy all parties involved. He also believes Rumler will not flip from the Wolverines. As for the aforementioned defensive tackles, Donnelly said the Buckeyes probably will not offer any of them because they've already offered seven DTs, two or three of whom will likely commit.

"It feels a little similar where I think there are a lot of kids in both classes who have the chance to maybe get an offer from Ohio State, but I think the results are going to end up looking a lot like the same," Donnelly said, comparing OSU's 2018 and

2019 recruiting hauls. "I think when it plays out, when it is all said and done, you're going to see about the same number of guys committed to Ohio State from the state of Ohio."

No Complaints

Should Ohio State sign only a handful of in-state prepsters in this upcoming recruiting class, it appears many would be understanding as to why the program did so.

Trivisonno said it comes down to the talent in the state vs. who's available across the country.

"They're looking for who their best kid is," Trivisonno said of the Buckeyes. "As an Ohio coach, you want to see some Ohio kids there (at Ohio State). I don't ever think that Urban and those guys have ever gone out not to recruit Ohio kids. They're going out and what they see is the best. My guess is if they're equal, they'd certainly take the hometown kid. I don't think they're going to take lesser kids just because they're hometown kids. His job is still to win, so he's got to take what they think is the best."

Pickerington North head coach Nate Hillerich shares that opinion. Before his first season at Pickerington North last year, when he coached 2018 Ohio State signee Alex Williams, Hillerich was the head coach at Hamilton Township for seven years. There, he said Ohio State recruited some of his players who ended up going to other schools such as Bowling Green, Louisville, Toledo and West Virginia.

Hillerich told BSB that while he was at Hamilton Township, OSU coaches explained to him that they'll favor an in-state player over a national recruit if there is little to no difference between the two.

"They're pretty honest and tell you up front that if two kids are close or the same, they're going to take the Ohio kid," Hillerich said. "They want Ohio kids. Ohio State is the top program in the country. They're going to recruit nationally, and they want to get the best players in the country. They're pretty up front and honest about that."

Donnelly echoed a similar sentiment.

"If it could work out, I think Ohio State would love to recruit nothing but Ohio kids," he said. "Unfortunately, I just

don't think that's always a realistic option because of talent level. I was out at Massillon (Washington), and I was talking to Nate Moore, the head coach there, who said something to the effect of, 'I'm sure Ohio State would love to recruit nothing but Ohio recruits every year, but they owe it to the state of Ohio and The Ohio State University to get the best players possible. So if those best players happen to be from Georgia or Florida, Urban Meyer and his staff have an obligation to go get the best player available.'

"But I think when it is a comparable thing, like Zach Harrison and Kayvon Thibodeaux (the No. 1 weakside defensive end in the country) from California, let's say there's some magical scenario where those two guys are fighting for a spot. Obviously, the tie goes to Zach Harrison. He's a local kid. He's a Columbus kid. He's an Ohio kid."

Stephens said Ohio State's recruiting tactic is not lost on parents either. He interacts with parents from a number of schools in the Cleveland area because he owns a training facility where high school players work out. He said recruiting comes up often in his conversations with parents, who realize how Meyer and his assistants must recruit to stay nationally relevant.

"I think right now, with what Coach Meyer and his staff have been able to accomplish, everybody just sees Ohio State in a very positive light right now," Stephens said. "I think if they were losing two, three, four games a season, it would be a different story. But you can't argue with the success."

Donnelly said the impression he's gained from discussing Ohio State recruiting with in-state high school coaches and student-athletes has been positive as well.

"At the end of the day, I think coaches and players understand that your job is dependent on you succeeding," he said. "If Urban Meyer isn't winning enough football games, he's not going to get paid \$7 million a year anymore. At the end of the day, his job is reliant on him getting the best players and winning the most games possible. Oftentimes you have to go outside the state of Ohio to do that. I think people understand that when you put it in that perspective."



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With Burrow Gone, Buckeyes Are Haskins' Team

By RYAN McGLADE **Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer**

When Urban Meyer walked away from the lectern following Ohio State's spring game on April 14, the quarterback situation was still as foggy to the public as it was when spring practice began on March 5.

In his press conference immediately after the intra-squad scrimmage, Meyer said he and offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach Rvan Day and offensive coordinator Kevin Wilson would meet in the week that followed to evaluate the spring as a whole and then meet with Joe Burrow, Dwayne Haskins and Tate Martell to give some kind of private assessment of where everybody stood.

Burrow, who graduated on May 6 with a degree in consumer and family financial services, provided clarity to the matter when he announced on May 8 that he was transferring from Ohio State. Ten days later, he revealed that was headed to LSU as a graduate transfer with two years of eligibility remaining.

Speaking at the Pro Football Hall of Fame Luncheon Club on May 14 in Canton, Ohio, Meyer confirmed what Burrow's transfer means: Haskins, who will be a third-year sophomore in the fall, is in position to be the Buckeyes' starting quarterback for the 2018

"This is really the first time I've talked about this since the spring game, but as of now it looks like Dwayne Haskins will get the first opportunity to be the starter," Meyer said at the luncheon, according to The (Canton) Repository.

The head coach noted how Haskins took over for the injured J.T. Barrett in the third quarter of the game at Michigan last season with OSU trailing, 20-14, and led the team to a 31-20 victory. On Haskins' first drive of that game, he threaded a 27-yard pass between two Michigan defenders to Austin Mack to convert a third-and-13, which was set up because of back-to-back false start penalties. Two plays later, Haskins scampered for 22 yards before J.K. Dobbins punched it in from a yard out to give Ohio State the lead for good. Haskins (6-3, 218) finished the contest completing 6 of 7 passes for 94 yards with no touchdowns or interceptions while running three times for 24 yards.

"Dwayne is a young guy that came in against our rivals and did a heck of a job," Meyer said. "You go back and watch that again, he came in on the first drive and took us down the field and scored on that first drive against that defense. So he's got a great release, he's got good size and he's a mobileenough quarterback. It is going to change how we attack defenses.



TIM MOODY

HIS TEAM - After competing with Joe Burrow and Tate Martell in spring practice, Dwayne Haskins (7) enters the summer as Ohio State's undisputed starting quarterback.

While Mever talked about what Haskins will bring to the squad, he made sure at the luncheon to share his feelings toward Burrow, who broke a bone in his throwing hand during fall camp last year.

"He's a very good player," Meyer said of Burrow. "I love Joe. I love his family. He did everything the right way. I have nothing but good things to say about him. Joe and I are extremely close."

Haskins came to Ohio State as a four-star product out of Potomac (Md.) Bullis School, where he racked up 5,308 yards and 54 touchdowns in his high school career. He threw for 1.963 vards and 24 touchdowns as a junior in 2014, when he was named the Maryland Gatorade Player of the Year. He then completed 170 of 286 passes as a senior for 2,217 yards and 20 scores. The New Jersey native helped Bullis to consecutive Interstate Athletic Conference titles as a sophomore and junior.

Directly observing Haskins' development as a prepster, Bullis head coach Pat Cilento told BSB that Haskins has more than earned

his shot at being the starting signal caller for the Buckeyes

"The kid deserves it," Cilento said. "He's one of the hardest-working kids that we've had come through here. I've never seen a kid so in-tune to football. I'm not going to say he's the hardest worker in the weight room or anything like that, but I've never seen a kid perfect his craft the way he has. He would leave practice, he would go throw in the indoor facility because he didn't like the way the ball was coming out. He didn't stop working until he had it down to where it was perfect throwing the ball.

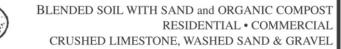
Cilento said Haskins routinely returns to Bullis to work with the quarterbacks currently playing for the high school or to throw with the receivers. In fact, Cilento said Haskins was back in town in early May for six days, three of which he spent working out with the quarterbacks.

Cilento said Haskins' latest visit is just an example of how much the student-athlete has grown over the years.

The biggest change that I've seen over Dwayne in the last three or four years is his maturity level," Cilento said. "It just continues to grow and grow, and he gets more and more serious about it every time I see him. Since he was here, it was football and school, That was it. There were no distractions, You can just see he's got more focus now than he ever has.



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Harrison Headlines OSU Targets At The Opening

By GARRETT STEPIEN Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

With well over 400 high school football players from the region in competition May 5 at Massillon (Ohio) Washington's Paul Brown Tiger Stadium, Nike's The Opening Regional Canton showcased some of the top talents in the country.

Among them, a handful of top targets for Ohio State were on display. In fact, upon the conclusion of the camp, three of those on the recruiting radar for the class of 2019 earned invitations to The Opening Finals.

Lewis Center (Ohio) Olentangy Orange five-star defensive end Zach Harrison, Chicago Phillips Academy four-star tight end Jahleel Billingsley and West Bloomfield, Mich., four-star outside linebacker Lance Dixon made up the trio of priority prospects for the Buckeyes

headed to the June 30-July 3 finals in Frisco, Texas.

"It's great, knowing that I'm going against the best of the best," Dixon, who earned the honor of linebacker MVP at the camp, told BSB. "So it was great, coming out here and coming to compete for a chance to advance."

Although there was a rather long list of notable absences from the original registration roster – Huntington, W.Va., five-star offensive tackle Darnell Wright and

Cincinnati Anderson four-star offensive guard Zeke Correll were two top targets who didn't make the trip – the competition proved to be elite and highlighted the OSU prospects in attendance.

The 247Sports composite considers Harrison the No. 2 overall player, No. 2 weakside defensive end and No. 1 player in Ohio. The 6-6, 240-pounder looked and performed the part as arguably the top prospect in the class of 2019 with the way he displayed his combination of speed and burst off the line of scrimmage.

The highlight of potentially finishing his recruiting cycle atop the rankings, though, ultimately isn't on Harrison's mind.

"Not really," Harrison said of possibly being ranked No. 1 in the class of 2019. "I mean, it's great, but no, I don't think about it."

Harrison dominated the camp until he collided with Oak Park, Mich., offensive guard Justin Rogers. The 6-4, 280-pounder held his own in one-on-one drills and got the best of Harrison on a handful of reps.

"At the beginning, he got me a few times – I'm not going to lie," Harrison said of Rogers. "Then I kind of figured out and adapted to what his weaknesses are and what he'd do. So it was fun. It was really fun."

Rogers was in the minority as a class of 2020 prospect, but being a year younger than

the majority of the competition didn't keep him from standing out.

In fact, Rogers won offensive line MVP after showcasing his physical talent and ability to adjust on the fly to the technical suggestions made by coaches at the camp.

"It's really about working and stuff – I came out here and competed," Rogers said. "It's a little nervous. I'll be getting nervous every camp. So I just prepare myself, calm down and really come out here and compete.

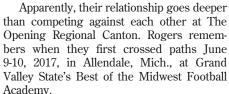
"I actually competed with one of the top 2019 D-ends in the nation, so it was real good. We've got a real good relationship. It's unbelievable how I can come out here and compete with (Harrison).

"I held up good, but it's just like there's stuff I can do better. I need to move my feet and move better, so I just need to go home and work on that. It's just using hands and using feet, like coaches were just saying out

here. Just use your feet and your hands."

Following the camp, Rogers took to his Twitter account and teased the idea of playing with Harrison at the next level. In the classes of 2019 and 2020, respectively, Harrison and Rogers are priority prospects for Ohio State.

"Good work bro," Rogers said in a tweet with attached photos of him hugging Harrison after a drill. "One day we can play on the same team."



"We met at a camp in Michigan," Rogers said. "So that was one of the first times I saw him. It was at Grand Valley State. So after that, we just started building a relationship and then just started talking to each other."

Harrison, who earned his second straight invite to The Opening Finals after he stood out as an underclassman in 2017 at The Opening Regional Cleveland, sees similar traits in Rogers.

"He's going to be good – he's going to be really good," Harrison said of Rogers. "We talked about some of the same schools recruiting us a little bit, but not really too much."

Fort Lauderdale (Fla.) University School four-star safety Josh Sanguinetti and Belleville, Mich., four-star cornerback Julian Barnett rounded out the five players from the Canton camp to receive invitations to The Opening Finals, but others who were on hand are likely to receive invites down the line.

The Buckeyes had offered both Sanguinetti and Barnett, but OSU isn't in the picture ${\sf SU}$

with either right now. Sanguinetti recently excluded Ohio State from his top five, while Barnett has been committed since Dec. 22 to Michigan State.

5-Star Harrison Sets Decision Timeline

Right in Ohio State's back yard at Olentangy Orange High School, Harrison has spent the past few years of his recruiting process hearing all about how he is destined to become a Buckeye.

By now, Harrison has grown used to it. While he ultimately holds OSU in high regard as his recruitment winds down ahead of his senior year, Harrison made it clear he and his family are the only ones who know what will be in store for him.

"They don't know," Harrison said of the outside assumptions from fans and media. "My family knows what I like the best and what I don't like the best, so I don't really pay attention to it."

With a reserved demeanor, Harrison rarely does interviews, which made for an interesting update when he spoke on his recruitment with reporters in Canton.

"It's just different for them," Harrison said of the schools recruiting him. "They all have to change their approach because I'm not the one who's going to get all hyped up over pictures of me in their jersey and everything. It's just not me. So they have to change their approach and adapt to what I find important."

After he competes at The Opening Finals, Harrison will be close to his commitment decision with a tentative date in mind.

"Hopefully, my birthday – Aug. 14 – but I don't know," Harrison said. "That's not set in stone. If I know by then, great, but if not, then I'm not deciding."

Harrison named Ohio State in his mix of top schools with Clemson, Michigan and Penn State also recruiting him the hardest. He took his first of five allowed official visits April 20-22 when Harrison spent the weekend in State College, Pa., for the Nittany Lions' spring game.

"It was fun," Harrison said of PSU. "We just did a bunch of stuff. We went around. It was just a bunch of guys there. So they brought me with the other recruits – (North Stafford, Va., four-star running back) Devyn Ford and (East Kentwood, Mich., four-star defensive tackle) Mazi Smith, who was my roommate, so it was pretty cool."

No concrete dates are set for his other official visits at the time, but Harrison knew where he wants to spend at least two of them.

"I'm not camping anymore (outside of The Opening Finals), but probably (taking) an official (visit) to Michigan and Ohio State sometime soon," Harrison said.

More on his official visit plans can be found in Outlook on pages 14-17.

Harrison last unofficially visited the Buckeyes for spring practice April 6, when he caught up with head coach Urban Meyer and defensive line coach Larry Johnson on his latest trip to campus.

"Coach J is probably the highlight of Ohio State," Harrison said. "It's just because he's great. He's the best at what he does.

"It's not even really about the NFL pedigree. It's just that he's real. He cares, too. He's one of those guys who really cares about his players. He puts his players' best interests at heart."

When he camped at OSU last summer, Harrison personally experienced what it would be like to play for Johnson.

"He's going to push you, definitely, which is

what I like," Harrison said. "But it's not going to be like he's going to be in your face and scream at you. He's going to tell you what to do and expect you to do it, so that's how he does it."

After an offseason spent on the track, where he reported runs of 10.7 seconds in the 100-meter dash and 20.15 seconds for Ohio's top time in the 200-meter dash, Harrison is preparing for his final football season in high school. When he makes his decision, Harrison knows what he wants at the next level.

"Just the atmosphere," Harrison said. "I'm a big family guy, so I like to go more so about the way the players care about each other, coaches care about the players, players care about the coaches, the community cares. I want to go somewhere where it's not just like a school.

"The players, the coaching staff, the education – how they're going to help me after football is probably No. 1 – and the connections I can get. So the players and stuff like that after football, pretty much."

OSU 'Pretty High' For 4-Star Billingsley

Billingsley's drive to Massillon took a detour May 4 when he swung down to Columbus and unofficially visited Ohio State. About two months after the Buckeyes offered him March 7, Billingsley already viewed OSU highly.

However, when he sat down with Meyer in the head coach's office, their one-on-one conversation cemented where the Scarlet and Gray stand in Billingsley's recruitment.

"As far as top schools right now, they're pretty high on my list," Billingsley said of Ohio State. "They're probably top five."

Ohio State joins Auburn, Florida, Illinois and LSU among the five favorites on Billingsley's short list. The Buckeyes gained ground on the others after the 6-5, 225-pounder connected with Meyer.

"We've talked on the phone, but that was my first time meeting him," Billingsley said. "It was weird – it was uncomfortable, at first – but it was a good uncomfortable. I felt like it was good."

Billingsley brushed off the initial wave of nerves and bonded with Meyer, learning all about what Ohio State had to offer on and off the field

"I really, most of the time, sat in the office with Coach Meyer," Billingsley said. "But they showed me around the campus.

"We just talked about real-life situations. I mean, just about how to be a man – not really about football."

Billingsley, who wants to major in sports medicine, considers those aspects critical when he evaluates his recruiting process.

"I don't (want to talk football)," Billingsley said. "I mean, I do. I just want to know how they're going to prepare me for life, not just with football. I mean, football – if it does (or doesn't) happen, you've got to have a backup plan."

After his experience with the Buckeyes, Billingsley plans to use one of his official visits at OSU. Billingsley had a planned trip the weekend of May 18 to Florida, which ended up being an unofficial visit, leading him to name the Gators the leader in his recruitment.

While Ohio State and Florida are in the thick of things for Billingsley, Illinois surprisingly sits high on his list.

"I feel like Illinois will turn around," Billingsley said. "If they get the right players, they've got the right coaches. If they can get the right players, things are going to turn around. They can turn a season into a winning season."



Zach Harrison



OHIO STATE FOOTBALL RECRUITING

As he sorts through exactly where and when to take all five of his official visits, Billingsley comes closer to a decision timeline.

"Commitment will happen soon, but more so in the summer," Billingsley said. "I mean, I want to make a decision before the season starts. It's about comfort, but just somewhere where I can get the best of both worlds – academics and football.

"All the schools really talk about me coming in and making an impact immediately as a freshman. I mean, that's what I want to hear. I don't really want to sit on the bench too much."

Billingsley is rated by the 247Sports composite as the No. 282 overall player, No. 10 tight end and No. 4 in Illinois.

OSU Constantly Contacts 4-Star Dixon

Dixon is among the best defensive prospects in the country and is in a five-way recruiting race between the Big Ten's best.

The 6-3, 200-pounder brought burst and athleticism to the camp on his way to linebacker MVP honors and a trip to the finals. Ohio State is in a tight battle with Wisconsin, Penn State, Michigan and Michigan

State, Michigan and Michiga State for Dixon's services.

"I definitely have a crazy process, but I'm starting to narrow down my lists," Dixon said. "It's starting to settle down a little bit."

Dixon is ranked No. 252 overall, No. 16 at outside linebacker and No. 5 in Michigan. Earlier this spring, he checked out the Nittany Lions for their Feb. 3 junior day. On March 15, he unofficially visited the Badgers.

While the Buckeyes have not received a trip to campus from Dixon since his March 26 unofficial visit, they remain in constant contact with him, dating back to Jan. 31 when Meyer went up to Michigan with an offer on his visit to West Bloomfield High School. Since then, linebackers coach Bill Davis has maintained OSU's message with Dixon.

"Ohio State is a great school," Dixon said. "They've been putting a lot of people in the NFL. So with Coach Davis, I talk to Coach Davis a lot. He's a great coach."

Dixon has the length and speed that intrigues coaches at the next level. He ran a laser-timed 40-yard dash of 4.50 seconds, validating the case for him to potentially play in a hybrid position between outside linebacker and safety.

"He wants me to play outside linebacker," Dixon said of Davis. "He likes the way I move, he likes the way I have speed and thinks I can contribute immediately."

While Ohio State appears likely to receive one of his five official visits, as well as U-M and MSU, Dixon has scheduled such trips over the summer to PSU (June 8) and UW (June 15).

4-Star Mathis Mulls Buckeye Offer

Dwan Mathis, a four-star quarterback from Oak Park, Mich., has a complex situation on his hands.

After he camped July 21, 2017, with the Buckeyes and made multiple return visits to campus, the offer never came. Mathis pledged Sept. 23 to the Spartans, but OSU crawled back into his recruitment May 3 when offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach Ryan Day finally delivered an offer at his high school.

"It just mixed things up a lot," Mathis said of the offer from Ohio State. "I mean, some guys at the camp here are like, 'Ohio State, Ohio State, Ohio State, Vike, everybody

keeps getting on me and asking what am I going to do. But right now, I'm 100 percent committed to Michigan State."

The 6-5, 195-pounder stood out among the crop of quarterbacks. Mathis highlighted the position group with his arm strength and athletic frame, zipping tight spirals throughout the drills. His rating by the 247Sports composite as the No. 261 overall player, No. 11 pro-style quarterback and No. 6 in Michigan was backed up by the way Mathis performed.

Although he was coy about any immediate plans to visit the Buckeyes, Mathis confirmed his May 6 participation in the Rivals 3 Stripe Camp at Hilliard (Ohio) Bradley.

"I talked to Coach Meyer a couple days ago," Mathis said. "He called me, told me to get down there sometime soon, but I'm not really sure if I can do that because I'm committed.

"I'm not sure (about visiting OSU while in the Columbus area). Maybe if a couple of my teammates stopped in (from the camp), then I'm sure (visiting could be a possibility). But if they don't, then so be it."

Mathis made it to Ohio State for the visit. Days before it transpired, Mathis explained

how much Meyer and Day made it known they want him.

"Coach Day just told me they were going to come harder than they ever did," Mathis said. "They're really going to recruit me this time. I've just got to be ready for it."

Since his recruitment started with Day, Mathis holds the coach in high regard on and off the field.

the field.

"He's a great person," Mathis said of Day. "I've been knowing

him for two years now. I got to go down there for a game, a camp and a couple of visits. So he's a pretty good person.

"Tve seen, in the past, they were running the ball more (with the quarterback). But now, they're throwing it a lot more and putting up more points. They're going a lot faster."

MSU, meanwhile, immediately got in touch with Mathis when his offer from the Buckeyes became public, but he confirmed his committed status – for now – to head coach Mark Dantonio's staff.

Where his recruitment goes from here remains to be seen, but Mathis is keeping a humble outlook on an otherwise hectic process.

"I wouldn't say it's tough," Mathis said. "I'd say it's like a blessing to even (have an offer from Ohio State). I just got an opportunity. Most kids don't have any offers. I'm just unbelievably grateful to have as much as I do. That's really a blessing. I don't look at it like (it's tough)."

CB Devonshire Cutting List Soon

Aliquippa, Pa., three-star cornerback MJ Devonshire showed he was on the Ohio State recruiting radar Nov. 13 when the Buckeyes extended an offer.

However, with the offseason departure of cornerbacks coach Kerry Coombs to the Tennessee Titans, Devonshire didn't know what to think when the news broke in January regarding his main recruiter.

"I was kind of shocked," Devonshire said.
"I never had heard anything about it. I just, when they said it, I was wondering who's coming in."

When OSU announced the hire of Taver Johnson, Devonshire felt at home. Recruited by Johnson while he was the defensive coordinator at Temple, Devonshire didn't skip a beat with Ohio State.

"When they told me it was Coach Johnson, it

was OK because coming from Temple, we had a relationship already," Devonshire said. "So I was kind of seeing it coming, but once they told me he came, I knew. I was like, 'OK,' because he came and he was at Ohio State once before."

Hearing from the Buckeyes a few times a week, as well as from other programs such as West Virginia and Indiana among the current top contenders, Devonshire maintains a favorable bond with OSU.

"We really don't talk about much," Devonshire said. "I talk to them like friends. We just keep building a relationship. We just talk about how my week's going, what I'm doing throughout the week.

"They're a top school. They're good at recruiting. They're very, very, very good at making pushes on me. Sometimes my decision swings on where I want to go, so when we talk about it, they make a good push."

With tentative plans to trim his top schools at the end of the spring, depending on other potential offers to come, Devonshire is considering camps elsewhere in the summer before he sets his official visits in the fall.

When does the 247Sports composite's No. 408 overall player, No. 37 cornerback and No. 5 Pennsylvanian see a decision down the line?

"Hopefully, by December," Devonshire said. "At the latest, December."

OSU In Top 2 For Rogers

The primary focus for Ohio State recruiting currently resides in the class of 2019, but the Buckeyes have already begun to make waves in the next cycle with one of the best offensive linemen in the country. In Canton, Rogers showed why so many schools across the nation are after his services so early in the process.

The 6-4, 280-pounder proved his physical

and mental ability on the way to earning offensive line MVP against a stacked group of competitors.

Meyer and offensive line coach Greg Studrawa have both made a strong impression on Rogers since July 26 when Ohio State offered.

"Urban Meyer, I talk to him every week," Rogers said. "It's the same thing. He's just like, 'Keep getting better,' and stuff. That's one funny guy.

"Coach Stud is a good guy, good guy – a good offensive line coach. He truly cares about his offensive line, working against the defense. He really talked down on the defense, but he loves the offensive line."

After multiple trips to campus this past year, including a recent unofficial visit May 6 following the Rivals 3 Stripe Camp in Hilliard and a return trip June 2, Rogers considers the Buckeyes among his short list of early favorites.

"It's right in the middle of Ohio State and Georgia," Rogers said of his current top two. "They're in my top two. Then it's Michigan in my top three. It's really nice."

Rogers repeatedly emphasized academics, but he pointed to an all-around aspect of what makes OSU stand out against the rest.

"How they produce people," Rogers said.
"It's really about off the field, how you carry yourself off the field than just on the field."

Far down the road from his commitment announcement on his birthday Sept. 12, 2019, Rogers has a stacked list of schools he plans to see this summer.

"I'm hitting the West Coast, then I'm making my way down to Georgia," Rogers said. "I'll make my way to Michigan, UCLA, USC, Texas, Texas A&M, Arizona State and Arizona. Georgia, I'm going to make it down to Georgia. I'm going to make my way down to Florida State, Florida. I'm going to hit the whole country."



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Ohio State vs. Michigan State: Nov. 9-11–2-night motorcach trip to Mt. Pleasant/East Lansing.

Mich., with accommodation at the Soaring Eagle Casino Resort and Hotel in Mt. Pleasant with daily meal allowance and casino credit and game tickets. See website for pricing.

Ohio State vs. Maryland: Nov. 15-18 — 3-night motorcoach trip (or land only) to Washington, DC/College Park, Md., with accommodations at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Georgetown with breakfast daily and full day of DC touring on Friday and game tickets. Pricing and inclusions on website.

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Harrison Quiet On Recruitment, High On OSU

Zach Harrison is one of the best high school football prospects in the 2019 recruiting class. His personality would not indicate that, though.

RECRUITING OUTLOOK Ryan McGlade

A five-star product out of Lewis Center (Ohio) Olentangy Orange, Harrison is the No. 2 overall prospect and the No. 2 weakside defensive end in the 247Sports composite's rankings for the 2019 recruiting class. He holds offers from numerous schools, some of which include top programs such as Alabama, Clemson, Georgia, Michigan, Notre Dame, Ohio State, Penn State and USC.

Based on what Olentangy Orange head coach Zebb Schroeder told BSB, though, it sounds like Harrison isn't preoccupied with where recruiting websites have him ranked or how long his offer list is. Schroeder said Harrison is more concerned about his grades and developing strong bonds with his high school teammates, priorities that influence how he approaches the recruiting

"He's not top-of-the-class good, but he's a good student," Schroeder said of Harrison. "In his mind, it's not just about football all of the time. He knows that school and college is a means to a better life or a professional life. School is important to him, and if he doesn't do well on a test it bothers him. I think that makes him special. He's not just a football player. He is such a good kid in the locker room. He's probably one of the most likeable kids that we have.

"You would never know he's the No. 1 kid in the country just by his interactions with our players. His best friends are the guys that he played middle school ball with and freshman ball with. It's a weird dynamic. He's humble and kind of shy and put off



OHIO'S BEST - Five-star defensive end Zach Harrison of Lewis Center (Ohio) Olentangy Orange is the top prospect in the Buckeye State for 2019.

about this whole recruiting process. He hasn't made a decision yet. He's just a fun kid to be around who would much rather talk about something fun like a movie or video games or his buddies or what color socks we should be wearing as opposed to talking

about his recruitment. For his recruitment, we've got to pull it out of him sometimes.'

Given that Harrison puts such a heavy emphasis on his friendships with those he grew up with, one may think the top-rated recruit in the state of Ohio wants to stay close to home for college. Schroeder said that may have been a possibility earlier in his star player's career but that Harrison's mind-set has changed as he prepares for his senior year of high school. Harrison took an official visit to Penn State on April 20 and has ones scheduled for Michigan and Ohio State in late June

When I talked to him and his mom and dad as a sophomore, I probably would have said yes," Schroeder said when asked if he believes Harrison is likely to stay close to home. "But as kids mature, now that he's heading into adulthood, I think he's realizing, 'Hey, I could go away from home.' I have no idea where that would be. I'm just saying I think he could. I also think that he's smart enough to realize all of the good programs that are within a couple-hour drive, too."

When it comes to Ohio State, Schroeder said Harrison has a strong affinity for OSU defensive line coach Larry Johnson and what he has been able to accomplish during his time in Columbus. Since being hired by head coach Urban Meyer in January 2014, Johnson has coached each recipient of the





ASK AN ANALYST

With CBS Sports Network's Tom Lemming

Throughout the month of June, Ohio State is set to host camps and participate in satellite camps at places such as Rutgers or Florida Atlantic. From your experience in national recruiting over the past few decades, what is the biggest benefit of this type of camp scene for a program like OSU and the prospects participating in them?

"These are the best camps. I'm not a big fan of a lot of the other camps because they don't do any good for the kids. They're sort of ego camps that are formed off of trying to sell product, most of the other ones. So I think these camps are great. That's when the kids can get offers. I always tell them, 'The key is to get an offer, not to build up your ego. It's to get a college scholarship.' A lot of the kids, the ones that have a ton of offers, don't need to go to any camps – they can just stay home. As a matter of fact, many of the camps, for the perceived prestige, they want to compare themselves against other players which is awfully tough. It's not really a game. But I think it means everything, going to these camps hosted by the schools.

"The benefit is for Ohio State to first get a look at kids from those areas (like New Jersey and Florida) who couldn't afford to come to Columbus and also just to get your name out there because the camps will be written about. For the kids and the programs involved, any kind of publicity is great. Urban Meyer and Jim Harbaugh,

they're leading the way in the Big Ten in doing camps like that and getting everybody going. So I think it's real important – especially in Florida, which is the state that has the most players."

Lewis Center (Ohio) Olentangy Liberty five-star defensive end Zach Harrison has been a top target for Ohio State, setting his official visit the weekend of June 23-24 to see the Buckeyes. He's right in OSU's back yard, but with Penn State and Michigan in close contention, how important is he as a prospect for the hometown team to lock up?

"I think it's important – mainly, for prestige and also for the fact that he's a great player. The way Ohio State's built its recruiting for right now, which is the way (former USC head coach) Pete Carroll once told me, you recruit Southern California kids because it's a loaded area because you look for No. 1 draft choices and then you look around the rest of the country. If you lose a couple of recruits around L.A., it doesn't really matter because you'll likely get another top player to fill that need from somewhere else.

"That's what Urban's done. He's taken Ohio State from being more of a regional school – Ohio was something the previous coaches used to really zone in on – but I think now, they're national. Everywhere I go, when you talk about a five-star or four-plus guy, Ohio State's offered the kid. So they're more national. But with Harrison, his

addition would be more about prestige. If they don't get him, they'll get another one of similar talent over the next year or so."

Houston St. Pius X four-star quarterback Grant Gunnell has been largely considered Ohio State's top target at his position in the class of 2019, but his recruitment has begun to trend away from the Buckeyes and in favor of Arizona. If OSU misses out on him, how do you evaluate the situation?

"Not too concerned. There will be a lot of guys coming in the next year (the class of 2020). They miss a good one in one year, they get a great one in the next year. Ohio State's one of those elite programs, like Clemson and Alabama, that even if you miss out on one year, which Alabama has done in the past and then they go out and land two great ones the next year, it all evens out. There's only a few programs in the country you can say that about, but it all evens out in the end because of their reputation and what they've done the past few years and their ability.

"I'm not even sure Grant's that great. Grant's not someone who really fits into Ohio State, at least it doesn't seem like he's a real quick-footed guy. I've been down there each of the last three years. He's more of a pro-style guy who, while Ohio State might be going in that direction with (offensive coordinator/quarterbacks coach) Ryan Day, he stays in the pocket and doesn't do much running at all."

A Look Back At Recruiting From The Pages Of BSB

25 Years Ago - 1993

Griffin, Ga., product Tommy Willis became the fourth quarterback from the 1993 recruiting class to commit to Ohio State, but he wasn't going to play that position once he arrived at Columbus in the summer.

He was set to play wide receiver for the Buckeyes instead. At 6-2, 195 pounds, Willis had the physical attributes to play wideout, a position he had coveted for years.

"In high school, I always wanted to play wide receiver, but Coach wanted me to play quarterback, so that's what I did," Willis said. "It's going to be a big change switching, but I'm going to adjust and work on getting stronger and faster."

The other three quarterbacks in the class were Mark Zhan, Tom Hoying and Stanley Jackson.

20 Years Ago - 1998

St. Henry, Ohio, offensive lineman Matt Zahn became the latest to join Ohio State's 1999 recruiting haul when he chose OSU on May 11

Zahn (6-7, 250) was offered a scholarship April 15. He attended an OSU spring scrimmage two days later as well as the April 25 spring game before choosing the Buckeyes over Indiana, Michigan, Notre Dame and Penn State.

State.

"We sat down and went through the information about the schools," he said. "(Ohio State has) a lot of different things you can major in. They've got a great program with great people in a great city. It's close to home."

15 Years Ago - 2003

Ohio State picked up two commitments in the month of May for its 2004 class, bringing the total to six verbals.

On May 16, Carrollton, Ohio, tight end/ linebacker Chad Hoobler picked OSU over Boston College, Penn State and West Virginia. Three days later, Columbus Beechcroft defensive back Sirjo Welch pledged to the Buckeyes over offers from Boston College, lowa, Michigan, Michigan State and Wisconsin, among others.

Hoobler was planning to announce his decision on May 27, but he moved it up 11

days.

"May 16 was the two-year anniversary of my dad dying," said Hoobler, who lost his father in an industrial accident. "I know he always wanted to see me do this, so I decided to do it on that day."

10 Years Ago - 2008

With 14 prospects already committed in the Buckeyes' 2009 recruiting cycle, Ohio State added two more in May, both of whom were plucked from the state of Michigan. Grand Ledge wide receiver James Jackson joined the fold in mid-May, and Grosse Point South tight end Reid Fragel did so toward the end of the month

end of the month.

"I committed," Fragel said. "I called them
up. I talked to (tight ends coach John) Peterson
and figured out what time it would be best to
call Coach (Jim) Tressel. I called him around
7:30. We're all excited. Coach is excited, and it
is nice to be done with all this stuff."

Five Years Ago - 2013

Ohio State got a big boost to its 2014 recruiting class on May 23 when Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary outside linebacker Dante Booker declared to the Buckeyes. The 6-3, 217-pounder selected OSU over scholarship offers from such programs as Illinois, Indiana, Louisville, Maryland, Michigan, Nebraska, Notre Dame, Oklahoma, Penn State, Tennessee and Wisconsin.

"I think I knew the moment I got the Ohio State offer that I would commit to them," Booker said. "I just kind of knew the whole time and waited for the right time. There really wasn't a reason to wait, but I just wanted to take it slow and be sure. I wanted to weigh all my options."

One Year Ago - 2017

The top inside linebacker in the country and No. 16 overall player in the 2018 class, Teradja Mitchell, announced his commitment to Ohio State over Florida State on June 2 in his hometown of Virginia Beach, Va.

Mitchell, who became the 12th commitment in the class for Ohio State, said it was the Buckeyes' combination of football and academics that put OSU over the top in his recruitment.

"In football, they develop players year in and year out," Mitchell said. "They put out first-round draft picks and they win championships. From the academics standpoint, their business school is the top in the country."

last four Big Ten Defensive Lineman of the Year Awards.

Johnson knows how to produce NFL talent as well. Six defensive linemen who have been under Johnson's tutelage at Ohio State have gone on to be drafted – Michael Bennett (sixth round of the 2015 NFL draft to the Jacksonville Jaguars), Joey Bosa (No. 3 overall in 2016 to the San Diego Chargers, who have since moved to Los Angeles), Adolphus Washington (third round of the 2016 NFL draft to the Buffalo Bills), Tyquan Lewis (second round of the 2018 NFL draft to the Indianapolis Colts), Sam Hubbard (third round of the 2018 NFL draft to the Cincinnati

Bengals) and Jalyn Holmes (fourth round of the 2018 NFL draft to the Minnesota Vikings).

"The defensive line pedigree is something that, obviously, gets (Harrison's) attention from what they've done recently," Schroeder said of the Buckeyes. "The success the program has had and the relevance, not only on a local scale but also on a national scale. I think he understands that Coach Meyer runs an elite program. That's Ohio State. Ohio State is a traditional, elite program, and so are the other three or four schools recruiting him. Obviously, I envy his position but it's hard to pare down."

As for Harrison's play on the field, Schroeder said the 6-6, 240-pound prospect is more than worthy of his rankings.

"Obviously, he's a difference maker," Schroeder said of Harrison. "Probably the No. 1 thing that we try to get him to understand is how much he impacts the game far more than just stats would show. When you put him on the field, so many teams just run into the boundary away from him. It kind of makes them play left-handed a little bit. If they want to run to the short side of the field and play to the boundary, then more power to them."

Schroeder also pointed out that Harrison

began to lay the groundwork last fall as a junior for transforming into a premier rusher off the edge.

"He really progressed, I thought, and started working on some pass-rushing moves," Schroeder said. "He's got elite linear speed, but like any young kid, he's probably kind of raw when it comes to pass-rush moves. That's the funny dilemma he's in and we're in with him sometimes. At our level, he doesn't need moves because his sheer length, speed and power is good enough to just beat a kid physically. Those kind of showed out sometimes when it came to beating an offensive tackle off the edge."

An essential stage in that development of becoming a dominant pass rusher is quickly getting out of a three-point stance once the ball is snapped, something that Harrison is constantly trying to improve.

"He's worked hard on this this offseason, kind of on his own. He's got to get better at getting off the football with that initial first step," Schroeder said. "He knows he has to get better at that. Once his second and third step hit the ground, it's over. But that first step, I think, can get better. The first step is the next phase of his development."

JUCO CB Commits To Ohio State

Alex Badine, a junior-college prospect from New York, announced via Twitter on June 4 that he had committed to Ohio State as a preferred walk-on.

Badine originally was a member of the 2015 recruiting class as a cornerback out of Brooklyn (N.Y.) Grand Street. He committed to Rutgers in January 2015 as a walk-on after a torn ACL cut his senior season short and limited scholarship opportunities.

Rather than stay with the Scarlet Knights, Badine opted for the JUCO route at Brooklyn (N.Y.) ASA College in 2016 before transferring to Bronx (N.Y.) Monroe College in 2017. Badine, who was listed at 5-10, 180 on Monroe College's 2017 roster, played in four games for the Mustangs last fall, recording

Continued On Page 16

Stover Looked At All Options Before Commitment

Cade Stover

Continued From Page 15

three tackles and one pass breakup. He has two years of eligibility remaining.

The journey I've been through from Grand St. (High School) until now was adversity," Badine wrote in a note attached to his tweet. "It strikes for many reasons. No matter how long you go through it, there's always an amazing blessing at the end. I want to thank God for putting me in the position I'm in. I really appreciated all the schools who took the time and interest in me. The relationships I've built throughout the JUCO process was amazing. I am grateful to say for the next 2-3 years I will be furthering my education and football career at The Ohio State

Current Players At OSU Key In Stover's College Decision

lege football team's coaching staff is one

of the reasons a prospect will mention as to why he committed to that particular institution.

In Cade Stover's case, it was more so the players.

Stover, a four-star standout from Lexington, Ohio, pledged to Ohio State on April 29. The No. 134 overall prospect and eighthbest outside linebacker visited OSU at least seven times, including an official visit the weekend of April 21, before declaring to the Buckeyes.

Lexington head coach Taylor Gerhardt told BSB that Stover, while on his trips to Columbus, established tight connections with student-athletes who currently play for Ohio State, which proved to be significant.

"One of the things that stands out to me when we would talk about it is the players," Gerhardt said. "He felt that he fit in with them and they fit him. When we would talk about things, I would say, 'Hey listen, it's great to like the coaches and all of that, but you're going to be around those players. You're going to go through a lot, so you've got to be comfortable with the kids

that you're playing with because you're going to spend more time around them than anybody else - even your family - for the time you're down there.' That really, really struck a chord with him as far as when he felt real comfortable around the players down there. They made him feel welcomed. They made him feel like he was a part of the family. That was important to him."

Gerhardt also mentioned that remaining close to home was a

key factor in Stover's decision to go with the Buckeyes.

"It is important for him to be home," Gerhardt said of Stover, the No. 4 prospect in the state of Ohio. "He's also a big family guy. In feeling that he felt at home with the players in the program, it synced right up with him. Family is very, very important to him, and being closer to them than farther to them certainly was important to him."

In addition to Ohio State, Stover was looking at Notre Dame, Oklahoma, Penn State and others. He had received offers from more than 20 schools but, according to his high school head coach, had done enough research.

"He wanted to take his time, No. 1, and not do it too soon before he explored all of his options," Gerhardt said, referring to why Stover made his announcement when he did. "But two, I know he wants to focus on his senior year. He wants to be there for his teammates as a football player here at

Lexington. I know that's important to him. He's a team player, he's a team kid, and he wanted to be able to go into the summer and the fall with a decision made and comfortable and be able to focus on what the task is at hand.'

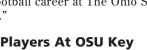
Stover was long considered to be an Ohio State commit, so it didn't come as a shock to many when he opted for the Scarlet and Gray, including Gerhardt.

"I was not surprised that he is a Buckeye, but I was also proud of him that he went through the process and was comfortable with his decision, which is hard for a young person," Gerhardt said. "These kids are 17 years old, maybe 18 years old. We think we know a lot at that age but we don't. I was just really proud of him. But make no mistake, to be a Buckeye, run out on the Horseshoe, was always something that was special for Cade.'

Assuming Stover (6-4, 225) signs with Ohio State, Gerhardt said Meyer and his staff are getting a sure tackler.

"When he hits - you either can hit or you can't, and then some guys who can hit have that extra thump that just is something you can't explain," Gerhardt said. "He has that. One of the things that was always impressive to me about Cade is you can't be a kid who gets over 100 tackles without having a nose for the ball. And that's coach-speak and football-speak and sometimes that's overused, but what Cade brings to the table is he certainly has a nose for the football and his natural instinct.

"He has the ability to put his body in a position to make a sound, clean tackle. That's impressive because a lot of guys are there, but they're glancing off and holding on and knocking people down and kind of swinging around and they get them on the ground. One of the things that Cade does in



Oftentimes, a relationship with a col-**OSU Football Verbal Commitments**

Ohio State. (Star ratings reflect 247Sports composite rankings.) Wt Stars High School Pos Ht

layer	1 03.	iic.	wwc.	Juis	riigii scilooi
Steele Chambers	ATH	6-2	215	****	Roswell (Ga.) Blessed Trinity Catholic
Ronnie Hickman	ATH	6-1	200	****	Wayne (N.J.) DePaul Catholic
Ryan Jacoby	OT	6-5	270	****	Mentor, Ohio
Sampson James	RB	6-1	211	****	Avon, Ind.
Doug Nester	OT	6-51/2	295	****	Huntington (W.Va.) Spring Valley
Noah Potter	DE	6-5	250	****	Mentor, Ohio
Bryson Shaw	S	6-2	175	***	Potomac (Md.) Bullis School
Cade Stover	OLB	6-4	225	****	Lexington, Ohio
Garrett Wilson	WR	6-0	185	****	Austin (Texas) Lake Travis

Players in the class of 2019 who have issued verbal commitments to play football at

Player in the class of 2020 who has issued a verbal commitment to play football at Ohio State. (Star ratings reflect 247Sports composite rankings.)

Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Stars	High School
Jake Wray	ОТ	6-5	290	****	Marietta, Ga.









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Other

Instructions:

Number your picks 1-10 (feel free to write in any players we left off the list) and mail this ballot to Buckeye Sports Bulletin, P.O. Box 12453, Columbus, OH 43212. Lists can also be emailed to bsb@buckeyesports.com or subscribers can vote on the forum at BuckeyeSports.com. Please provide your name, age and any additional comments regarding your ballot. Copies of the ballot are accepted and voters are welcome to attach additional paper if more space for comments is needed.

Comments:

and out through all of his tackles is he just instinctually and naturally gets himself in a great tackling position in space in comparison to where the runner is. There's not a lot of places for that (runner) to go once he

OSU Had Everything Jacoby, Potter Were Looking For

Joining Stover as fellow in-state prospects committed to Ohio State's 2019 recruiting haul are four-star offensive tackle Ryan Jacoby and four-star defensive end Noah Potter, both of whom prep at Mentor High School.

Jacoby (6-5, 270) pledged to OSU on March 1, and Potter (6-5, 250) did the same on April 16. Along with Ohio State, Jacoby fielded offers from Kentucky, Michigan, Oregon and West Virginia, to name a few. Potter entertained offers from Alabama, Florida, Notre Dame, Ohio State, Penn State, Wisconsin and others.

Both Jacoby, the No. 281 overall prospect and No. 31 offensive tackle, and Potter (No. 271 overall, No. 22 strongside defensive end) visited Ohio State multiple times and took trips to other schools as well.

In the end, Ohio State satisfied all of their needs, Mentor head coach Steve Trivisonno told BSB.

"I think they got what they wanted," Trivisonno said of Jacoby and Potter. "In every part of their recruiting, they did their due diligence and looked around and did what they needed to do. But at the same time, (Ohio State) had everything they wanted academically, athletically, coaching-wise and facility-wise. Once you saw it and had been a part of it and looked into it, it was a good fit for them."

Trivisonno said it was a breeze for Mever and his assistants selling Ohio State to Jacoby and Potter because they were in-state

"Obviously, your recruiting pitch is pretty easy," Trivisonno explained. "You're going to come play at Ohio State. When you're an Ohio kid, that's always everybody's dream as a little guy to play at Ohio State. So, No. 1, that's an easy sell from that standpoint. Then you've just got to look at the facilities, the program and the fact that you've got a chance to win a national championship every year. It's not a hard pitch. It's your home. It's one of the top three programs in the country. It's a pretty easy pitch. I don't think it's a hard sell for them.'

Trivisonno added that playing at Ohio State ranked high on the list for both Jacoby and Potter.

"That always fits in because, in the end, your parents still got to get there and see it," Trivisonno said. "It's close. But they're going to look at the whole program. They're one of the top two or three programs in the country and it's a great academic institution and great coaching. Noah and Coach Johnson got close - same with (offensive line coach Greg Studrawa) and Ryan. They develop those relationships with guys. It's where they feel the most comfortable.

For the latest in Ohio State recruiting news, be sure to visit BuckeyeSports.com, where recruiting news is posted as it happens. BuckeyeSports.com is a free service for Buckeye Sports Bulletin print subscribers. If you are not signed up to enjoy this service, email your name and address to subscriptions@buckeyesports.com to receive simple instructions.

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Victor Seeks Consistency In Bid To Reach Potential

By JOE DEMPSEY Special To Buckeye Sports Bulletin

Coming off a highlight-filled sophomore season, Ohio State wide receiver Binjimen Victor is preparing to break through the high ceiling of his potential in 2018.

Victor demonstrated his big-play potential last season by hauling in four catches of 20 or more yards, including three for scores. His longest reception of the season was a 48-yard touchdown against Michigan

Ohio State head coach Urban Meyer has taken notice of Victor's potential - giving the Florida native high praise - but Meyer noted this spring that there is room for improvement.

"He's still got a ways to go," Meyer said. "That's one of the most talented receivers we've ever had."

Meyer's praise of Victor should not be taken lightly because he has coached various standout receivers, including NFL Pro Bowler Michael Thomas, in his time at Ohio State. Victor showed flashes of his ability in his first two seasons in Columbus but lacked consistency.

The 6-4 receiver reeled in seven touchdowns as a sophomore in 2017, ranking second on the team. However, he failed to record a catch in some of the biggest games of the regular season against Penn State, Iowa and Michigan and didn't have a catch in the postseason against Wisconsin or USC, either.

"I feel like I can be more consistent," Victor said. "That's going to be my main focus in the summer and my play and helping my teammates develop that confidence

Victor hauled in four catches for 64 yards and one touchdown as a freshman in 2016 and totaled 23 receptions for 349 yards

The Pompano Beach, Fla., native has had a knack for finding the end zone in his first two seasons as a Buckeye, scoring on 25 percent of his catches as a freshman

ON THE CUSP - Junior wide receiver Binjimen Victor is aiming for more production in 2018 after an up-and-down sophomore campaign.

and 30.4 percent of his catches as a soph-

The long-limbed receiver uses his size

to his advantage, especially when matched up with smaller defensive backs. Victor displayed his ability to go up and get the ball in

deep passes of 30 and 43 yards. He finished the day with five catches for 91 yards and one touchdown, thrown by newly-minted starter Dwayne Haskins.

the 2018 Ohio State spring game, snagging

"We mainly focus on wanting and high-pointing the ball," Victor said. "I feel like I needed to high-point it (for the catch over Tyreke Johnson) - that's what I did. One of our aspects is high-pointing and wanting the ball. Don't ever wait on the ball.

The Coconut Creek High School product did not wait on the ball in the spring game - he jumped up and took it. Victor was certain when asked if he can rely on his talent more now that he has a better grasp on the play calls and his role.

"Most definitely," Victor said. "That confidence and not having to worry about what I have to do on the field - just go out there and play.'

The feeling that he can relax and use his strengths to his advantage comes as a relief to Victor, who has dealt with difficulties in his time in Columbus

"The journey has been pretty up and down with the playing level, the meeting rooms, gaining weight and all of that,' Victor said. "But that's what football is about. It's not an easy sport. I've just got to go through it and maintain like I can.

The former four-star recruit said he has made some progress but has confidence he will continue to improve to the point he needs to for the Buckeyes to achieve their

"I think I'm halfway," Victor said. "It's kind of up and down still, but I'm going to get there and help my teammates win in the fall.'

With constantly trying to improve on the mental aspect of the game, Victor credited his mentors in Florida and current coaches for continually pushing him to improve.

"A couple people back home, Coach (Zach) Smith and Coach (Brian) Hartline they've been really helping me be a better version of myself," Victor said. "I've just got to keep putting it on the field and listening to them and taking coaching points."

Hartline, a Buckeye graduate assistant, has helped Victor improve on his technique as a receiver using his experience as a former Ohio State wideout who played seven seasons in the NFL. By being coachable and locked in on his goals, Victor is poised to break out in 2018 with aspirations of playing at the highest level as Hartline once did.

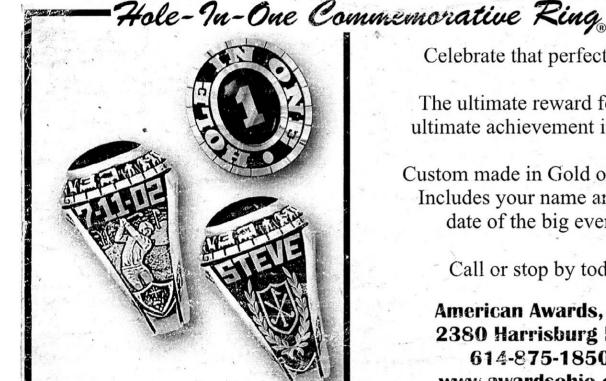
'My family always drives me to go hard each and every day," Victor said. "Hopefully I get an opportunity to go to the next level next year or the year after. I'm just going to keep working and focusing on that and just have a good season."

What does Victor have to improve at for him to achieve his goals? Meyer weighed in after the receiver's impressive showing in the spring game.

"It's consistency and fight and those kinds of things (that need to improve)," Meyer said. "When he does (have consistency and fight), it's fun to watch. He's a very talented guy."

After playing two seasons at the Division I level and adjusting to the speed of the game, Victor said he is ready to take the

"I feel like I got way better," Victor said. "I feel like everything is slowing down for me. I've just got to go out there and put it on the field."



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B1G Football Schedule Could Return To 8 Games

Is a change coming soon to the future of Big Ten football scheduling? Nebraska athletic director Bill Moos alluded to the possibility on May 22 during his monthly appearance on Husker Sports Network's "Sports Nightly" radio show, where he indicated the conference could cut its slate from nine games back to eight.

BIG TEN NOTES Garrett Stepien

"We might have some other schedule news here in a week or so in regards to 2022, on," Moos said. "It was something I really became a bulldog on in regards to Nebraska and some of the traditional power programs in the Big Ten not beating each other up so bad. Because in my opinion the strength of schedule really hasn't had much impact on who's being selected for the College Football Playoff. We are in the process of addressing that to hopefully my and others' satisfaction."

After the Big Ten went from eight games to nine in 2016, its teams from top to bottom have felt the impact Moos described.

The conference missed out on the 2018 College Football Playoff after two-loss Ohio State, which knocked off undefeated Wisconsin for a 27-21 victory in the Big Ten Championship Game, was on the outside looking in at No. 5 in the committee's final rankings. In the previous season, the one-loss Buckeyes narrowly made the 2017 College Football Playoff over Penn State – a two-loss team and Big Ten champion.

While the Big 12 and Pac-12 play nine-game conference schedules like the Big Ten, the ACC and SEC maintain eight-game slates to round out the Power Five. Evidently, the structure paid off for the SEC when it sent Alabama and Georgia to the 2018 College Football Playoff – and ultimately the national championship game to guarantee a winner from the conference when the Crimson Tide walked off with a 26-23 triumph in overtime.

Although he didn't suggest the league's teams should back down from a strong nonconference schedule, Moos made the argument for why the Big Ten needs to look out for itself when it comes to the structure of its conference slate.

"First of all, we play nine conference games," Moos said. "Six in the division, and then the crossovers. Like I said, in recent years those crossovers have pitted the powerhouses against each other on a consistent basis. For nonconference scheduling, it's a fine balance. Without freshman teams anymore, you want to hopefully have opponents that you are just primarily playing at home, so it's a money game, you have a realistic chance of winning, and you can play a lot of players and get a look at them early in the year. I do like an intersectional game with a Power Five opponent."

With nine-game conference schedules already announced through the 2021 season, the earliest for a cut to eight league contests could come at the start of the 2022 campaign. The Big Ten's television rights deal with ESPN and Fox expires after the 2022-23 year, however, giving it flexibility to adjust its number of conference games.

While one fewer Big Ten game brings the upside of better chances for at least one team from the conference in the College Football Playoff, which carries additional money and renown for the league, the move might include a couple of hurdles.

With an extra nonconference game left, the demand for scheduling FCS or low-level FBS

opponents is likely to increase. Therefore, the buy rates for those contests could shoot up. Also as a result, television negotiations are at risk of becoming more complicated because networks will always prefer more league games than not.

Former Indiana, OSU Football Coach Mallory Dies

Indiana announced on May 25 that legendary football coach and former Ohio State assistant Bill Mallory had died at the age of 82. The all-time winningest football coach in Hoosiers history, Mallory spent 13 years at the helm and went 69-77-3. After an initial 0-11 season, he turned Indiana around with a 69-66-3 record the rest of the way. In that 12-year span, Mallory led the Hoosiers to six bowl games and seven winning seasons.

"The entire Indiana University family is deeply saddened by the passing of Bill Mallory," Indiana athletic director Fred Glass said. "Bill was not only a Hall of Fame football coach, but also an extraordinary man who has had an immeasurable impact on countless individuals throughout the course of his career and life. Bill's passion for the sport of football was matched only by his love of his players, his coaches and, most of all, his family. I feel extremely fortunate to have had the opportunity to know him and his wonderful family. IU Athletics extends our heartfelt condolences to Ellie, Curt, Doug, Mike, Barbara and the entire Mallory family. Bill will be missed by many, but never forgotten."

Mallory was named Big Ten Coach of the Year in back-to-back years (1986-87), making him the conference's first to earn consecutive honors. He was inducted into the Indiana Athletics Hall of Fame in 2002.

"I will always appreciate the opportunity given to me to be the head football coach at Indiana University," Mallory said at his induction. "I cherish all of the people with whom I was associated during my 13-year tenure at IU. Those people were my coaching staff, the players, the support staff, the administration, the faculty, and the loyal Hoosier supporters. These people made my experience at IU very enjoyable and rewarding. It has also been very rewarding to watch my former players, after they have graduated from IU, continue suc-

ceeding in their future endeavors. This has been even more rewarding than our victories and bowl games. I will always be thankful and appreciative to have been a part of the program I dearly love, Indiana University football."

Indiana hired Mallory after he went 99-52-1 during his previous three stops at Northern Illinois (1980-83), Colorado (1974-78) and Miami of Ohio (1969-73).

Before taking over the head job at Miami, he served as an assistant on Woody Hayes' staff at Ohio State from 1966-68. He helped guide the Buckeyes to the national championship in '68 on a staff that included such other notables as Earle Bruce and Lou Holtz.

While coach of the Hoosiers, Mallory led IU to a stunning 31-10 victory over Ohio State in Ohio Stadium in 1987, a game Bruce, then coach of the Buckeyes, called the "darkest day in Ohio State football." It marked the first time Indiana had defeated Ohio State since 1951, Hayes' first year at Ohio State. Mallory's Hoosiers also crushed the visiting Buckeyes, 41-7, in 1988, John Cooper's first season at Ohio State.

Mallory, a Sandusky, Ohio, native played football at Miami under coaches Ara Parseghian and John Pont. He received three varsity letters, earning first-team All-MAC honors as a team co-captain in 1956.

Former MSU WR Suing School

Former Michigan State wide receiver Keith Mumphery is suing the university, according to a May 22 report by the Detroit Free Press, after an article from the publication at this time last year revealed his expulsion from the school because of an alleged sexual assault.

The story published on May 31, 2017, stated that Mumphery in 2016 was expelled from his graduate studies program and banned from campus for violating the university's relationship violence and misconduct policy, according to MSU police documents obtained by the Free Press via the Freedom of Information Act.

Mumphery, who played for the Spartans from 2010-14, was selected by the Houston Texans as a fifth-round pick in the 2015 NFL draft. The Texans cut him from the team on June 2, 2017, days after the Free Press published its initial report.

"Despite a previously unblemished disciplinary record and Michigan State's initial finding of 'no responsibility,' Plaintiff now finds himself permanently dismissed from Michigan State based on false allegations of sexual misconduct and sexual exploitation by a female Michigan State student," the lawsuit said. "Michigan State's findings were not based on any concrete evidence. The disciplinary process and ultimate finding were motivated by an antimale and anti-athlete discriminatory bias against (Mumphery)."

The lawsuit claims Mumphery's expulsion left him unable to finish his graduate degree in communications and cost him a job outside of the NFL.

The encounter at issue occurred on March 17, 2015, between Mumphery and a female Michigan State student. Mumphery had completed his playing career with the Spartans in the fall of 2014 but was back on campus to work out in front of NFL scouts at MSU's annual pro day.

The female student, who is not named in the case, reported to MSU police later that night that she was sexually assaulted by Mumphery in her dorm room. Mumphery's side of the story left conflicting reports as to who was the aggressor and whether or not elements of their sexual behavior were consensual, according to police.

Michigan State police passed the case along to the Ingham County Prosecutor's Office and requested third-degree criminal assault charges later in the month. However, five months later in August 2015, the prosecutor's office dropped the case because it was unable to be proven beyond reasonable doubt.

Mumphery's case went through MSU's Title IX process, though. On June 7, 2016, he received an emailed letter from the university that noted he had violated university policy on relationship violence and sexual misconduct. As a result, he was barred from applying for re-enrollment and banned from campus until Dec. 31, 2018.

The woman is also suing Michigan State, alleging it helped Mumphery come back to campus after his expulsion. Her lawsuit claims the university only took according action after the federal Office of Civil Rights forced it to re-evaluate the case and after Mumphery had exhausted his playing eligibility at MSU.



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189 Buckeye Athletes Receive Degrees From OSU

By TIM MOODY Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

Year in and year out, Ohio State student-athletes achieve remarkable success on the field of play, from individual accolades to team titles and, in a few cases, Olympic medals. On May 5, 189 of those student-athletes – some still at Ohio State, and some who returned to the university after a taste of the professional ranks – earned one of the top off-field achievements by receiving their degrees at the school's spring commencement at Ohio Stadium.

The 189 graduates join 49 student-athletes who earned their degrees in the winter, pushing the athletic department beyond the 200-gradute mark for the academic year.

The list of graduates this spring included numerous standout athletes from various sports. Among the headliners was women's basketball player Kelsey Mitchell, who leaves Ohio State as the team's all-time leading scorer and the No. 2 all-time scorer in the NCAA record books. She was the 2018 Big Ten Medal of Honor female winner for the Buckeyes in addition to being a four-time All-American, the first in program history.

From the football team, eight current and former Buckeye earned their degrees, including quarterback Joe Burrow, who announced after graduation that he was headed to LSU next season.

The list also included linebacker Dante Booker, who is set to be a fifth-year senior for the Buckeyes in 2018, and former team captain Christian Bryant, who returned to school via Ohio State's degree-completion program.

Men's basketball player Kam Williams earned his degree as well, following in the footsteps of teammates Jae'Sean Tate and Keita Bates-Diop, who both graduated in the winter.

Other notable athletes from the Buckeyes' Olympic sports included men's volleyball star Nicolas Szerszen, who led the Buckeyes to national titles in his sophomore and junior seasons. Men's tennis player Mikael Torpegaard, a two-time Big Ten Player of the Year, earned his degree as well, as did men's gymnast Sean Melton, who is also a member of the U.S. Senior National Team.

A complete list of Ohio State's 189 graduates, including their majors, can be found below in alphabetical order by sport.

Baseball – Curtiss Irving, logistics management; Seth Kinker, sport industry; Kyle Michalik, human development and family science; Adam Niemeyer, real estate; John Pavlopoulos, logistics management; Ridge Winand, sport industry; Austin Woodby, communication.

Men's Basketball - Kameron Williams, sociology.

Women's Basketball – Sierra Calhoun, sociology; Shayla Cooper, communication; Alexa Hart, anthropology; Kelsey Mitchell, sport industry; Makayla Waterman, psychology.

Cheerleading – Brennan Burt, industrial engineering; Madison Creps, human resources; Erin Evans, dance; Axel Halvarson, human development and family science; Joshua Harris, neuroscience; Kyler Holland, art; Morgan Kamins, world politics; Mackenzie Packard, marketing; Joseph Pearl, finance; Austin Sandlin, biomedical engineering; Morgan Snyder, human development and family science; Kelsie Strother, dental hygiene; Nathan Vale, city and regional planning; Brooke Warner, dental hygiene; Michaela Wilson, human development and family science; Maria Yallourakis, hospitality management; Sarah Zink, human development and family science.

Men's Cross Country/Track & Field – Kevin Blank, operations management; Patrick Kunkel, psychology; Mitchell Leitch, operations management; Jacob Mandel, finance.

Women's Cross Country/Track & Field

Olivia Smith, logistics management; Rachel
Weber, communication; Madison Woods, operations management.

Men's Diving – Clay White, biology.

Women's Diving – Hannah Thek, biomedical engineering.

Men's Fencing – Fares Arfa, political science; Robert Caldwell, public management, leadership and policy; Abraham Coull, math; Marco de Guzman, communication; Hector Florencia, sport industry; Joseph Guinan III, accounting; Nicolas Pouliquen, computer science and engineering; Alec Walker, operations management.

Women's Fencing - Alexa Antipas, textiles and clothing; Alanna Goldie, criminology; Eleanor Harvey, psychology.

Field Hockey – Lauren Carroll, communication; Natalie Faust, sport industry; Sofia Haramis, human resources; Madeleine Humphrey, communication; Kelsey Nolan, linguistics; Caroline Rath, sport industry; Elizabeth Tamburro, Spanish; Carolina Vergroesen, applied economics.

Football – Dante Booker, sport industry; Christian Bryant, sociology; Joseph Burrow, family resource management; Kevin Feder, sport industry; TreVon Forte, sport industry; Cin'Quan Haney, physics; Michael Lawless, exercise science; Nicholas Seme, exercise science; Clay Raterman, finance.

Men's Golf – Colin Biles, family resource management.

Men's Gymnastics – Samuel DeWitt, environmental policy and decision making; Seth Delbridge, computer science and engineering; Sean Melton, hospitality management; David Szarvas, biology; John Williams, finance.

Women's Gymnastics – Megan Feltham, comparative studies; Kaitlyn Hofland, communication; Stefanie Merkle, sport industry.

Men's Hockey – Matthew Joyaux, criminology; Kevin Miller, finance; Janik Moser, economics; Matthew Weis, sport industry.

Women's Hockey – Jessica Dunne, psychology; Allison Gasuik, communication; Liv Halvorson, finance; Julianna Iafallo, health sciences program; Alexandria LaMere, psychology; Danielle Sadek, sport industry; Kassidy Sauve, sport industry; Lauren Spring, physical education.

Men's Lacrosse – Brendan Barger, marketing; Alexander Burgdorf, health sciences program; Colin Chell, logistics management; Erik Evans, sport industry; Frederick Freibott, history; Trevor Hodgins, operations management; John Kelly Jr., insurance; Robert Lori, sport industry; Jacob Pearson, family resource management; Austin Seiple, marketing; Matthew Smidt, biology.

Women's Lacrosse – Katherine Burgee, biology; Madison Castelein, human resources; Meghan McGillis, medical dietetics; Emalee Mongno, marketing; Shannon Rosati, sport industry; Anna Seanor, human resources; Lauren Sherry, communication; Molly Wood, finance.

Pistol – Irinia Andrianova, criminology.

Rifle – Joshua Black, biology; Bernard Cheezum III, finance; Mark Matheny, finance.

Rowing - Kelly Ahearne, forestry fisheries and wildlife; Sarah Davis, city and regional planning; Rachel Engel, communication; Abigail Ernst, history of art; Hanna Gottschalk, health sciences program; Chelsea Harpool, social work; Hannah Hites, psychology; Morgan Hummel, sport industry; Anne Jachthuber, environment, economy, development and sustainability; Kaylee Koker, physical education; Catherine McNutt, civil engineering; Rachel Parker, computer science and engineering; Sarah Peffley, animal science; Michaela Price, agricultural communication; Alice Riley, history of art; Ashley Saba, civil engineering; Bridget Schodorft, psychology; Karen Somes, data analytics; Helen Sudhoff, environmental policy and decision making; Kimberleigh Warriner, psychology.

Men's Soccer – Matthew Appel, electrical and computer engineering; Hunter Robertson, economics; Nathan Kohl, physical education.

Women's Soccer – Nya Cason, communication; Sydney Dudley, human resources; Samantha Edwards, communication; Mary Palmer, human resources; Emma Wangsness, civil engineering; Morgan Wolcott, human resource management.

Softball – Rebecca Gavin, biology; Bailee Sturgeon, sport industry; Taylor White, sport industry.

Men's Swimming – Mark Belanger, health promotion, nutrition and exercise science; Nathan Christian, exercise science; Michael Eaton, logistics management; Joshua Fleagle, human development and family science; Clark Jackman, logistics management; Ching Lim, international business; Andrew Lindstrom, physics; Gregory Nymberg, finance; Brayden Seal, biochemistry.

Synchronized Swimming – Quinn Connor, communication; Jessica Giannuzzi, art education; Elizabeth Hernandez, communication; Carolina Jimenez, human nutrition; Shea Ramsey, art; Noelle St. John, psychology; Elisabeth Welzein, communication.

Women's Swimming - Katie Antal, communication; Elizabeth Auckley, chemistry; Macie McNichols, health promotion, nutrition and exercise science; Amanda McNulty, marketing; Molly Washko, criminology.

Men's Tennis – Hugo Di Feo, communication; Matthew Mendez, finance; Herkko Pollanen, communication; Riley Reist, communication; Mikael Torpegaard, communication.

Women's Tennis – Gabriella De Santis, communication; Sandra Niehaus, communication.

Men's Track & Field - Aaron Zedella, economics.

Women's Track & Field – Grace Azenabor, marketing; Katelyn Deaton, agribusiness and applied economics; Beatrice Hannan, textiles and clothing; Chantel Ray, sport industry; Madison Roberts, biochemistry; Allyson Simmons, special education.

Men's Volleyball – Matthew Dorn, food, agriculture, and biological engineering; Nicholas Laffin, real estate; Blake Leeson, sport industry; Aaron Samarin, sport industry; Nicolas Szerszen, mechanical engineering.

Women's Volleyball – Kalisha Goree, sport industry; Ashley Wenz, marketing.

Wrestling – Matthew Fleming, information systems; Ryan Harris, sport industry; Jeffrey Bo Jordan, sport industry; Blake Riley-Hawkins, construction systems management.





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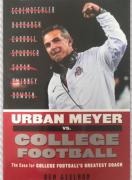
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Your Head to Toe Buckeye Source

OSU Has 'A Ways To Go' After Successful 1st Year

By RYAN McGLADE Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

Three hundred sixty-five days. A lot can happen in a year.

June 9 marks the one-year anniversary of when Chris Holtmann was named the 14th head coach in Ohio State men's basketball program history.

Holtmann, who replaced Thad Matta and said goodbye to Butler, where he had been the four previous seasons, spent no time dawdling at his new post. Essentially at the moment his hiring became official, he began contacting high school prospects to reconstruct OSU's 2018 recruiting class that had crumbled in the wake of Matta's exit.

Holtmann and his assistants also were tasked with restoring a roster that had seven players leave after the 2016-17 season for various reasons. The new staff managed to flip Kyle Young from Butler, have Musa Jallow reclassify from the 2018 recruiting class to the 2017 cycle, convince former Michigan walk-on Andrew Dakich to join the team as a graduate transfer and add three walk-ons – Connor Fulton, Danny Hummer and Matt Lehman.

That's just scratching the surface of all the chores Holtmann had to complete before the 2017-18 season started.

With a revamped roster, he guided the Buckeyes to a 25-9 record, including a 15-3 mark in the Big Ten to finish second in the conference, the highest they've placed since 2012-13. Ohio State knocked off then-No. 1 Michigan State at home, 80-64, on Jan. 7, led by a 32-point performance from Keita Bates-Diop. Exactly a month later, the Scarlet and Gray took down then-No. 3 Purdue, 64-63, in West Lafayette, Ind., on Bates-Diop's game-winning put-back in the final seconds. C.J. Jackson capped off the regular season by hitting a three-pointer with 1.7 seconds left in double overtime to give Ohio State an 80-78 victory at Indiana on Feb. 23.

The success the Buckeyes enjoyed during the regular season was punctuated with Bates-Diop being named the 2018 Big Ten Player of the Year and Holtmann earn-



KEVIN DYE

NEW HEIGHTS – Ohio State head men's basketball coach Chris Holtmann surpassed most expectations by leading the Buckeyes to the NCAA Tournament in his first season.

ing the distinction of 2018 Big Ten Coach of the Year.

OSU went on to qualify for the NCAA Tournament for the first time in three seasons, losing to Gonzaga in the second round, 90-84, on March 17.

Now that it is the offseason, Holtmann said in an exclusive interview with BSB that he has finally been able to relish what his group accomplished in his first year at

Columbus – but only for a few, brief instances

"When you have a team that is fun to coach and when you have a team that achieves some things and has a lot of special moments, you do take some time in May and June to just appreciate the opportunity that you have with that group and enjoy it," Holtmann told BSB. "You do that a little bit. But in this business, if you take too long

savoring what your year was, you're going to lose sight of the challenge, and the challenge is to keep pressing forward.

"While you can take a moment to take a deep breath and appreciate the fact that you had a lot of really fun moments this year, the challenge is we've got to keep recruiting and we've got to find ways to develop our current guys in the program to the highest level. The savoring is pretty momentary."





OHIO STATE MEN'S BASKETBALL

In addition to continuing the grind of being a head coach, Holtmann has the pressure of succeeding Matta, a man who is the all-time leader in the Ohio State annals for wins (337) and games coached (460).

Matta also spearheaded one of the most successful periods in OSU men's basketball history. From the 2004-05 season through the 2014-15 campaign, he led the Buckeyes to nine NCAA Tournament bids, including two trips to the Final Four (2007, 2012) and five Sweet 16 appearances. He also won five regular-season Big Ten titles and four league tournament crowns in his 13 seasons as head coach.

In hopes of returning Ohio State back to where Matta once had it, Holtmann has been hitting the recruiting trail hard this offseason. In conversing with people while

on his travels, he said he has sensed that those outside of the program have a different perception of OSU than they did when he first took over.

"Certainly, that has been the sentiment that I think people feel there is a real optimism," Holtmann said. "Yet people also remember Thad having so many great years here, and they have an appreciation for what that was and hopefully an optimism about if we can eventually get back to

that. But I do think people, whether it was a recruit or a recruit's family, who came around the last couple years and then came around this year's team, they remarked at how different the overall feel was, which is a credit to our guys."

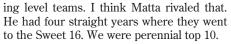
Ron Stokes, who played for the basketball Buckeyes from 1982-85 and has been the color analyst for Ohio State men's basketball radio for the last 21 years, told BSB that fans' opinions of the program transformed similarly to those of the recruits and recruits' families to which Holtmann referred.

"There were fans who would walk by our booth this past year and say, 'Man, it's so enjoyable to come watch this team play,' "Stokes told BSB. "Compared to (the previous) year, there were fans who would walk by our booth and say, 'This is not fun to watch. They didn't play together. They didn't play smart. They didn't play hard all of the time.' That was the perception that I heard from fans. It was different this year."

Stokes added that Ohio State men's basketball experienced a slight decline in success only during the last two years of Matta's tenure, largely because all five play-

ers who signed with OSU in the 2015 recruiting class transferred out of the program before their junior year.

"If you look at Thad's history, Thad, obviously, had our program at the most consistent level dating back to the early '60s when Fred Taylor had (John) Havlicek and (Jerry) Lucas and those guys in the NCAA championship game three years in a row and the Final Four in '68. Those '60s were some pretty outstand-



"When you talk about coming a long way, I just think it was a little drop because of recruiting. When you miss on an entire class, it's hard to come back from that. Every single guy from that class is gone. In essence, you lost an entire year, and it's

not like you've got a LeBron James in your program who's going to be there for four or five years. So that really hurt Thad. I looked at it more of a dip.

"In Thad's second-to-last year, it's not like we were in last place. We went to the NIT, and then we missed the (postseason) altogether the year after. I don't want to necessarily say we've come a long way. We just got back on track. That's a better word for me. We just got back on track with having guys who are very proud of wearing the uniform with Ohio State across the front. We had guys on the team (last year) who respected the jersey and the university and played well."

As for Holtmann's perspective on how far the program has come since last June, he said that progress is still in its infancy.

"I think we have a ways to go because we have some really important recruiting classes coming in these next couple years, including the one that's coming in (this year)," he said. "I think as we have a chance to kind of rebuild our roster, we'll see what the current guys on the team learned and took from Jae'Sean Tate, Keita Bates-Diop, Andrew Dakich and Kam Williams – what they were able to take from them in terms of understanding how to lead a group. We'll see how much that was transferred down.

"We're still very much a work in progress. I think we've taken some good strides moving forward, but we are very much a work in progress."

An Adverse Situation

Though Holtmann was fully aware of the exodus of the 2015 recruiting class prior to taking the Ohio State job, he said what gave him more pause when he was contemplating

leaving Indianapolis for Columbus was cutting ties with Butler, where he had been the head coach for three years and an assistant for one.

"My thought was, 'Am I ready to leave Butler?" more so than concerned about (the state of the OSU program)," Holtmann said. "I think I had an understanding from a distance of what went on within the program in terms of the recruiting class transferring out, which would now be the senior class, and some of the issues that may have come up with some of the kids in the program – academic or whatever. I think I knew from a distance some of Thad's frustration. But I didn't ever have a really detailed conversation with him about why he was frustrated and what were the specifics."

Holtmann noted that Ohio State athletic director Gene Smith provided him some reassurance by being transparent about his perspective of the team. Holtmann said Smith told him Bates-Diop could have a big year if he stayed healthy. Bates-Diop was coming off season-ending surgery for a stress fracture in his left shin that grew progressively worse during the 2016-17 campaign. And because there were so many departures on the roster, Holtmann said Smith acknowledged that the team was thin at some positions.

"Gene was very up-front with me about what he felt like the potential of the program was and some of the concerns, some of the things we were going to have to deal with," Holtmann said. "I didn't feel like in any way Gene was trying to hide anything. I felt like he was honest in terms of his assessment."

The full version of this story can be found on BuckeyeSports.com. For signup information regarding BSB's new full-service website, free to all print subscribers, see page 5.

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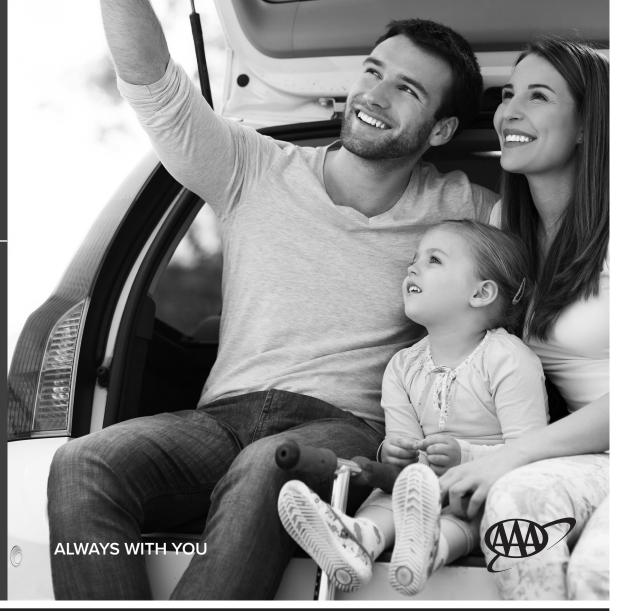
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Holtmann Fully Aware Of Tough 2018-19 Slate

The full 2018-19 schedule for the Ohio State men's basketball team has yet to be released, but it is shaping up to be a formidable one, especially for a team featuring four freshmen and three sophomores on scholarship.

COURT REPORT Ryan McGlade

On May 15, the Big Ten and Big East Conferences announced the matchups for the fourth-annual Gavitt Tipoff Games, which will have Ohio State travel to face Creighton on Nov. 15.

Creighton finished the 2017-18 season with a 21-12 overall record, losing to Kansas State in the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

The Buckeyes are 5-3 all-time against Creighton. The teams last met on Nov. 24, 2004, in the Guardians Classic in Kansas City, Mo. OSU fell to the Bluejays, 65-63, in overtime.

Chris Holtmann, who is entering his second year as the head coach of Ohio State, coached in the Big East at Butler for four seasons – one as an assistant, three as the head coach – before taking over the OSU program last June. He went 3-3 against Creighton as Butler's head coach, including a 1-2 mark in Omaha, Neb.

Holtmann didn't mince words when describing the atmosphere at Creighton's home venue, CenturyLink Center, where the Bluejays have posted a 43-11 record over the past three years.

"It's one of the hardest places to play in the country," Holtmann told BSB. "You look at their home record, it's phenomenal. They sell out every single game. It doesn't matter who they play, they sell out. It's one of the best home environments that I've ever coached in. It's an incredible experience that our guys will have."

Ohio State has participated in the Gavitt Games once previously. Providence visited



KEVIN DYE

YOUNG BUCKS – Fifth-year senior guard C.J. Jackson will be one of Ohio State's few veterans in 2018-19.

OSU on Nov. 17, 2016, for a matchup the Buckeyes won, 72-67. Only two players currently on Ohio State's roster played in that contest. Center Micah Potter, who will be a junior, played just four minutes while point guard C.J. Jackson, who will be a fifth-year senior, played five. Neither scored in the game.

The Gavitt Tipoff Games are named in honor of Dave Gavitt, founder of the Big East and basketball visionary.

Roughly two weeks after playing Creighton, the Buckeyes will host Syracuse in the annual ACC/Big Ten Challenge on Nov. 28 at Value City Arena, the school announced June 1.

Syracuse went 23-14 last season and made it to the Sweet 16 of the NCAA Tournament before being eliminated by Duke.

The Buckeyes are 5-1 all-time against Syracuse. The last time the two teams squared off was in Boston in the Elite Eight of the 2012 NCAA Tournament, with Ohio State winning, 77-70. The last time the Buckeyes and Orange met in Columbus was on Jan. 4, 1982, a 67-57 victory for the Scarlet and Gray. OSU is 2-0 all-time against Syracuse in Ohio's capital, with the other victory coming by a 48-17 margin in 1911.

Ohio State has participated in the ACC/Big Ten Challenge for the last 16 years and has a 6-10 record in such games. The Buckeyes' first contest in the Challenge, which will be in its 20th year this fall, was against Duke during the 2002-03 season in Greensboro, N.C. The Blue Devils won, 91-75. Ohio State's first win in the event came against Virginia

Tech at home during the 2005-06 campaign, a 69-59 decision.

Ohio State is 67-49 all-time vs. the current alignment of the Atlantic Coast Conference. The Buckeyes have faced every league member at least once and have wins against each team except Clemson (0-2) and North Carolina State (0-1). OSU lost to Clemson last year in the ACC/Big Ten Challenge at Columbus, 79-65.

Prior to taking on Creighton and Syracuse, Ohio State will open the 2018-19 season at Cincinnati, a 31-5 squad last year that was bounced in the second round of the NCAA Tournament by Nevada, on Nov. 7.

Add in the fact that Ohio State will play UCLA in the CBS Sports Classic at the United Center in Chicago on Dec. 22, and the Buckeyes have quite a gauntlet for the nonconference portion of the 2018-19 schedule.

"We've got some very challenging road contests there early in the season with a really young team," Holtmann said. "We'll learn a lot about ourselves here early."

OSU Returning To Vegas For 2019 CBS Sports Classic

Looking ahead to the 2019-20 slate, the CBS Sports Classic announced on May 17 that Kentucky, North Carolina, Ohio State and UCLA will compete in the annual event at T-Mobile Arena in Las Vegas in 2019.

On Dec. 21, 2019, Ohio State will face Kentucky while North Carolina will take on UCLA in the sixth edition of the CBS Sports Classic. Las Vegas also hosted the event in 2016, when the Buckeyes lost to UCLA, 86-73.

Ohio State is 1-3 in the CBS Sports Classic so far. In addition to the aforementioned loss to UCLA, the Buckeyes have also fallen to North Carolina twice – 82-74 at Chicago in 2014 and 86-72 at the Smoothie King Center in New Orleans last season. Their lone win in the event came against Kentucky, a 74-67 victory at the Barclays Center in Brooklyn, N.Y., in 2015.

OSU is 9-11 all-time vs. Kentucky, 2-12 vs. North Carolina and 4-6 vs. UCLA.





OHIO STATE MEN'S BASKETBALL

Former OSU, Michigan Players Join Forces For TBT

Once considered rivals, former players on the Ohio State and Michigan men's basketball squads will team up this summer in The Basketball Tournament, a 72-team, single-elimination, winner-take-all event.

Former Buckeyes Andrew Dakich, who transferred from Michigan to Ohio State last summer, Jae'Sean Tate and Kam Williams will join former Wolverines Mark Donnal, Stu Douglass, Jon Horford and Duncan Robinson on a team called "Big X" in this year's TBT, which is now in its fifth year.

Dakich, Tate and Williams all finished up their collegiate careers last season. Dakich, who walked on at Michigan in 2013, dished out 72 assists in his one year at Ohio State and turned out to be a significant cog in the Buckeyes' run to the 2018 NCAA Tournament. Tate, the heart and soul of the team during his four seasons as a Buckeye, averaged 12.3 points, 6.2 rebounds and 2.9 assists while starting all 34 games in 2017-18. Williams contributed 9.0 points per contest as a fifth-year senior but upped that average to 20.5 points in OSU's two NCAA Tournament games against South Dakota State and Gonzaga.

In order to earn an automatic bid into TBT, teams needed fan votes within their respective regions. Voting closed June 1, and the field was set to be announced June 6.

Should Big X be accepted to play in TBT, it will be the second team featuring former Buckeyes competing for the grand prize of \$2 million. Coached by former Ohio State point guard Scoonie Penn, who is currently OSU's director of player development, and former Ohio State forward Evan Turner, the 2010 National Player of the Year, Scarlet & Gray includes, among others, former Buckeyes William Buford, Aaron Craft, Jon Diebler, David Lighty and Evan Ravenel. That Ohio State alumni squad was eliminated in the TBT national semifinals last year by Team Challenge ALS in double overtime, 88-83.

Columbus will be one of the four regional sites for this year's tournament. The games will be played at Capital University's Capital Center from July 20-22. The other three regional sites are Brooklyn, N.Y.; Los Angeles; and Richmond, Va.

Teams that advance through the first two rounds will then play in the Super 16 in Atlanta from July 26-29. The finals will take place in Baltimore on Aug. 2 and 3.

Holtmann told BSB that a few factors contributed to the former players from the rival programs uniting, one of them being the loquacious Dakich.

"There wasn't any more room on the Buckeyes' squad – Scoonie's and Evan's team," Holtmann explained. "There just wasn't any room. I think (Dakich, Tate and Williams) said, 'Hey, we want to keep playing.' They weren't ready to give up their playing days. Obviously, Scoonie's and Evan's team is really loaded. They did a great job putting that together. I understand why they didn't have any more spots because that team is tremendous. But I just think (Dakich, Tate and Williams) wanted to keep playing. Leave it to a Dakich to put a team together of those two schools."

2019 Top-Rated Iowa PG High On OSU

Holtmann has said on multiple occasions that he and his staff are prioritizing the backcourt in the upcoming recruiting classes. One of the point guards from the 2019 cycle they have targeted is Bettendorf, Iowa, four-star D.J. Carton. OSU offered the 6-2, 195-pounder on Dec. 19.

Carton's high school head coach, Curtis Clark, told BSB that the Buckeyes have his star player's attention.

"He's obviously very interested in Ohio State," Clark said of Carton. "I know it was a really nice offer that he received and was excited about. He has had a real connection with them."

Clark said Ohio State assistant Mike Schrage is leading the charge in the recruitment of Carton, the No. 27 overall prospect and third-best floor general in the 247Sports composite, but Holtmann is certainly involved as well. In fact, Clark said Holtmann visited Bettendorf on Jan. 4 to watch a 6 a.m. practice before guiding Ohio State to a 92-81 win over Iowa in Iowa City that night.

Carton then took an unofficial visit to OSU on April 12, which Clark said went well.

"He was very impressed," Clark said of Carton's trip to Columbus. "He really enjoyed the community. Obviously, he enjoyed being around the players. He was very impressed with how hard the guys played. That real-

OSU Basketball Verbal Commitments

Player in the class of 2019 who has issued a verbal commitment to play basketball at Ohio State. (Star ratings reflect 247Sports composite rankings.)

Player Pos. Ht. Wt. Stars High School

Alonzo Gaffney PF 6-9 190 ★★★★ Cleveland Garfield Heights

ly stuck out in his mind when he went there, just how competitive it was. He really enjoyed that. I know he got a chance to meet (OSU football head coach) Urban Meyer and (former basketball Buckeye) Clark Kellogg as well, so that was pretty cool for him and that made an impact."

Less than a month after his unofficial to Ohio State, Carton released a list of his top six schools on May 10. Joining the Buckeyes as programs that made the cut were Indiana, Iowa, Marquette, Michigan and Xavier.

Although fans may get excited when a prospect includes the school they support on his list, Holtmann told BSB he doesn't have much of a reaction when a recruit mentions Ohio State as a top option.

"Most times when it's narrowed to four or five, you have a good idea of kind of where you're at and you have a pretty good idea of where you stand with the kid," Holtmann said. "It's nice to see, but you probably already – in a lot of cases – have already been told that or know that."

Clark noted that Ohio State is confident that Carton, the top-rated player in the state of Iowa, would smoothly assimilate into its program.

"I think they have a great read on D.J. and the people he surrounds himself with," Clark said. "I think they feel really comfortable and know that he'd fit the program really well. I think they're hopeful that they'll get a chance with D.I."



OSU's Offseason Features Continued Changes

Kevin McGuff

From the court to the sidelines, the Ohio State women's basketball team projects to feature plenty of new faces when the Buckeyes open the 2018-19 season.

DOUBLE DRIBBLE Garrett Stepien

Tasked with the challenge of avoiding a rebuilding campaign and keeping a competitive squad on the hardwood after OSU graduated five seniors, three of whom took their talents to the WNBA, head coach Kevin McGuff has hit the recruiting trail.

But beyond the roster reload, which has continued to take shape as the program has added three more graduate transfers and another international prospect late in the 2018 recruiting cycle, Ohio State on May 25 announced the hire of assistant coach Jennifer Sullivan, who will replace former assistant Mark Mitchell, the father of the program's all-time leading scorer, Kelsey.

"I am really excited to add Jennifer to our staff," McGuff said. "Her basketball knowledge and her diverse background will be a great asset as we continue to build a championship program."

Sullivan, who worked the past five years at Missouri State as an assistant coach and recruiting coordinator, joins McGuff's staff after she helped the Lady Bears and head coach Kellie Harper to 93 wins and the 2016 NCAA tournament in that span.

Sullivan played at Memphis from 2001-05. A four-year letter winner and three-year starter, she capped her career on the court with 800 points, 310 rebounds and 99 steals. As a senior for the Tigers in 2004-05,

Sullivan was named team MVP after averaging 11.5 points and 4.2 rebounds per game.

After graduating from Memphis with a degree in communications, Sullivan stayed in town when she earned her first coaching job. Sullivan started out in Memphis at the Division III level as an assistant coach with Rhodes College from 2005-07. Her climb up the ladder as an assistant coach continued when she returned to her alma mater

with the Tigers in 2007-08, followed by McNeese State in 2008-09.

She was an assistant coach and recruiting coordinator with Arkansas State in her hometown of Jonesboro, Ark., from 2009-2012 before moving to the University of Louisiana-Lafayette as its associate head coach and recruiting coordinator for the 2012-13 season.

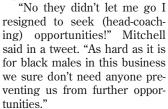
With the Buckeyes, Sullivan makes a breakthrough to the Big Ten. OSU marks her first job at a high-major program.

McGuff's addition of Sullivan to his three-assistant staff comes after Mitchell, who was hired by McGuff before the 2014-15 season and spent four years as an assistant coach, announced on May 8 from his Twitter account that he had left Ohio State to pursue opportunities elsewhere.

After a report saying he was "let go" by the Buckeyes surfaced from a Twitter account with the username "@wbballhoopscoop" earlier in the day, Mitchell addressed

his situation in a subsequent

reply.



OSU added Mitchell from Cincinnati Taft, where he was the boys varsity head coach for 11 years and went 221-50

(.815). He is the father of both Kelsey, who is now playing in the WNBA, and her twin sister, Chelsea, who spent the final few months of the past campaign away from the team to focus on academics. On May 31, Mitchell told ABC affiliate WCPO-TV in Cincinnati that he had accepted the boys varsity head coach job at Western Hills.

Associate head coach Patrick Klein and assistant coach Carrie Banks remain members of McGuff's staff. Klein, who was retained by McGuff after working for former Ohio State head coach Jim Foster from 2011-13, enters his eighth season with the Buckeyes. Banks, on the other hand,

approaches her third year at OSU after coming from Northwestern in 2016-17.

Ohio State Recruits 3 More Grad Transfers

Ohio State already had a pair of graduate transfers committed to join the team for the 2018-19 season, but the Buckeyes now have additional immediate reinforcements on the way.

On top of the previous pledges it received from Pacific guard Najah Queenland and Bowling Green guard Carly Santoro, OSU picked up three more graduate-transfer commitments from LaSalle guard Adreana Miller, Cleveland State forward Ashanti Abshaw and Ball State guard Carmen Grande.

In the span of a week – Miller on May 21, Abshaw on May 22 and Grande on May 28 – Ohio State continued its roster reshape with three more scoring options.

As a two-year starter in three seasons at LaSalle, the 5-11 Miller emerged in the 2017-18 campaign as the Explorers' second leading scorer with 13.6 points per game. While shooting 33.9 percent from the field, the Somerset, N.J., native added averages of 3.4 rebounds and 1.2 assists per game. Miller graduated early from LaSalle with a degree in international marketing.

Abshaw, on the other hand, comes down to Columbus after spending the past four years in Cleveland. The three-year starter capped her Cleveland State career with 18.5 points per game this past season. She shot 42.0 percent from the floor and averaged 4.2 rebounds and 2.1 assists in 26 games. A



OHIO STATE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

native of Cleveland Heights, the 5-9 Abshaw graduated from Cleveland State with a degree in communications management.

After three seasons at Ball State, where she became the program's all-time assists leader with 697, Grande rounds out Ohio State's influx of graduate transfers. The 5-8 Grande dished out 9.2 dimes per game last year, leading the Cardinals to a 25-7 mark and WNIT bid. The Madrid, Spain, native also averaged 11.5 points and 3.8 rebounds per game while shooting 38.0 percent from the field.

Buckeyes Add Another 2018 International Prospect

After it added Miller and Abshaw off the graduate-transfer market, Ohio State wasn't done with the 2018 recruiting class.

The Buckeyes on May 23 received a commitment from incoming freshman Aixa Wone. The four-star forward from Barcelona, Spain, chose OSU over Missouri after visiting both schools during the last week of April.

Rated by ProspectsNation.com as the No. 15 international recruit, Wone will join Ohio State after playing within the Spanish national team system at the FIBA U18 Women's European Championship from Aug. 4-12 in Udine, Italy.

In the pipeline for Spain's national team program over the past couple of years, the 6-2 forward averaged 7.3 points in 20.0 minutes in seven games at the 2017 FIBA U18 Women's European Championship from Aug. 5-13 in Sopron, Hungary.

Wone is the Buckeyes' fourth incoming freshman and second international prospect in the class of 2018. She joins signees including Lombard (Ill.) Montini Catholic threestar post Aaliyah Patty, Barrington (R.I.) St. Andrew's four-star guard Janai Crooms and Pecs, Hungary, four-star forward Dorka Juhász. The combination of Juhász, rated by ProspectsNation.com the No. 12 international recruit, and Wone gives OSU two prospects in the cycle's top 15 internationally.

Between the influx of graduate transfers and incoming freshmen, OSU's roster for the 2018-19 season currently projects to feature eight new players.

The team graduated Kelsey Mitchell, Stephanie Mavunga, Linnae Harper, Alexa Hart and Asia Doss. In the WNBA, Mitchell and Mavunga are with the Indiana Fever while Harper plays for the Chicago Sky.

Fifth-year senior guard Sierra Calhoun, fifth-year senior forward Makayla Waterman and junior guard Jensen Caretti return the most experience for Ohio State.

Two former walk-ons, junior guard Karlie Cronin and sophomore forward Savitha Jayaraman, round out the roster after McGuff placed them on scholarships roughly two months into last season.

Assuming the Buckeyes keep Cronin and Jayaraman on scholarships, they have 14 scholarship players for next season. The NCAA-mandated limit of 15 scholarships means OSU has one more open.

One of those could go to Chelsea Mitchell, who would be a fifth-year senior, but her status for next year remains unclear.

Columbus Sets Standard For Final Four

Ohio State fell short of the Final Four at Nationwide Arena on March 30 and April 1, but its city delivered as the host site for the sport's biggest showcase.

A month and a half after Columbus hosted a wild finish to March Madness, culminating in consecutive buzzer-beater shots from Notre Dame guard Arike Ogunbowale on the way to lifting the Fighting Irish past UConn and Mississippi State for the national title,

the committee came back to Ohio's capital on May 14 and honored it as the first Final Four city to gain "Evergreen" status – the highest level of sustainability awarded by the Council for Responsible Sport.

In conjunction with the Greater Columbus Sports Commission, the NCAA planted a ceremonial tree in McFerson Park, a short distance from Nationwide Arena, to symbolize the feat.

"This is no small feat," Christy Cook, global director of food and waste prevention company LeanPath, said. "In fact, with over 150 certified events in eight countries, only 11 other events have reached this highest-possible level of sustainability certification."

Nationwide Arena possesses a capacity of 19,500 for basketball. In each of its three Final Four games, the venue sold out.

"The city of Columbus did a tremendous job," said NCAA vice president of women's basketball Lynn Holzman. "Even before the tournament field was announced ... they did a tremendous job getting ready for it and getting prepared for fans to come out to the games, and all the games and events.

"That continued through, even though (Ohio State) didn't make it to the Final Four – the team itself – but the fans came out of the woodwork to support this premier event and also to support women's basketball."

The third-seeded Buckeyes were upset in the second round March 19 when No. 11 seed Central Michigan ran them out of St. John Arena in a 95-78 rout. However, hometown fans still flocked downtown for the Final Four. From media to operations, OSU's athletic department assisted both the NCAA and Greater Columbus Sports Commission behind the scenes and allowed the Final Four to run smoothly.

While the Final Four heads to Tampa Bay in 2019 and New Orleans in 2020, could it return to Columbus in the future?

"On behalf of the committee – and I would even say, personally, as an NCAA representative – we would highly encourage Columbus to, if it wants to, continue looking at bidding for NCAA championships and in particular the women's Final Four," Holzman said. "The city, as we've talked about today, did a tremendous job. They've set the foundation and they are continuing to earn the reputation of being a great sport-city destination."

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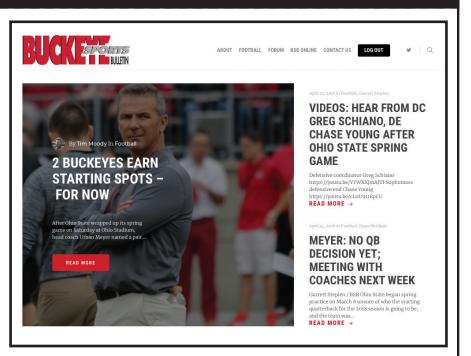
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JUCO Transfers Lead OSU Baseball Resurgence

By JOE DEMPSEY Special To Buckeye Sports Bulletin

After a disappointing 2017 season when Ohio State was 22-34 and 8-16 in the Big Ten, the Buckeyes rebounded with a 36-24 season, going 14-10 in the Big Ten and qualifying for the NCAA tournament in 2018, where they were ultimately eliminated by UNC-Wilmington on June 2.

From junior college transfers to four-year players, the Buckeyes came together as a team to bring success back to the Ohio State baseball program.

Junior College Transfers Shine For Buckeyes

The Ohio State baseball team enjoyed great success from transfers brought in

from junior colleges across the country. The three players with the highest on-base percentages on the team all came to Ohio State after first playing at the JUCO level.

Noah McGowan transferred from McLennan Community College in Waco, Texas, prior to the 2017 season. After hitting .214 with five home runs and 19 RBI in 39 games a year ago, McGowan improved drastically and became one of the most

feared hitters in the Big Ten. The Houston native improved his slugging percentage from .405 to .561 and his on-base percentage from .352 to .438 from his first season to his second. McGowan totaled only 28 hits in 2017 and racked up 29 extra-base hits and 80 hits overall in 2018 as he hit a team-leading

Tyler Cowles transferred from Sinclair Community College in Dayton prior to the 2017 season. After hitting just .190 with four doubles, three home runs and 15 RBI in 39 games in 2017, the Grove City, Ohio, native hit .322 with 20 doubles, eight home runs and 49 RBI in 2018. Cowles' 2017 slugging percentage was a meager .314 and his on-base percentage was .320, but the left fielder slugged .522 with an on-base percentage of .398 in 2018. Cowles' 20 doubles tied for the most in the Big Ten, and his eight outfield assists led the team. Cowles was named to the Big Ten All-Tournament Team, hitting .385 (6 for 15) with one run scored,

three doubles, one home run, six RBI and three walks. He drove in the Buckeyes' first run in all four tournament games and had a team-high .846 slugging percentage.

Kobie Foppe transferred from South Mountain Community College in Phoenix prior to the 2018 season. Perhaps the most unheralded member of the Buckeyes' lineup, Foppe hit .335 and finished second on the team with 47

runs scored in his first year in Columbus. The Phoenix native led the team with a .441 on-base percentage and reached base in a team-high 26-consecutive games. Foppe laid down a team-high 14 sacrifice bunts, nine more than anyone else. The junior second baseman also stole 8 of 10 bases, ranking second on the team.

As someone who knows how difficult adjusting to the Division I level can be, McGowan has been impressed with how smoothly Foppe transitioned at Ohio State.

"Kobie's done a lot better than I did my first year up here," McGowan said. "The kid is a great hitter. He's real patient at the plate. He battles every (at bat). The kid will have 10-pitch at bats every game if he needs to. He does what he can to get on. When (Dominic Canzone) gets on with nobody out, you can almost bet Kobie's going to try to lay down a bunt and push him over - do whatever he has to do just for the team. The kid's an all-around solid player and one of the best infielders I've played with for sure.'

Kinker A Finalist For Senior CLASS Award

Senior righthander Seth Kinker was integral to Ohio State's success as a shutdown reliever in the bullpen. The Huntington (W.Va.) Cabell-Midland product struck out 60 batters, while walking only five batters for an impressive 12-1 strikeout to walk ratio. Kinker totaled 15 saves, and only 10 pitchers in the nation had 15 or more saves as of June 2. The 6-1 senior went 6-2 in 30 appearances and pitched 631/3 innings, averaging more than two innings per outing.

Kinker's stellar season made him a second-team All-American, the 51st AllAmerican in program history. Kinker was also named to the Big Ten All-Tournament Team after pitching 41/3 scoreless innings of relief with seven strikeouts and two saves. He set Ohio State's career appearances record at 109, breaking the previous record of 102 by Trace Dempsey, who is also a native of Huntington.

"It's very humbling to be able to call myself the career appearance leader," Kinker said, "But it's also one of those things where I'm just happy to go out there and perform for the team."

Head coach Greg Beals said he is very proud of what his reliever has been able to accomplish, but not surprised.

"He plays with a great deal of confidence and a great deal of awareness in who he is and a trust in his ability," Beals said. "And he knows how he is going to go about doing it and does it. It's one thing to have awareness and it's one thing to know how, and it's another thing to be able to execute. And he executes. And that's what makes it special."

Along with all of his success on the field. Kinker has been recognized for his ability to excel off the field as a student-athlete. He was named a finalist for the 2018 Senior CLASS Award, which requires a student-athlete to be classified as an NCAA Division I senior and have notable achievements in four areas of excellence: community, classroom, character and competition.

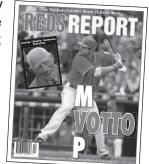
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use their platform in athletics to make a positive impact as leaders in their communities, according to SeniorClassAward.com.

Fan votes will be combined with media and Division I head coaches' votes to determine the winner. The 2018 Senior CLASS Award winner will be announced during the College World Series in June.

"I'm truly blessed to be able to represent The Ohio State University for the Senior CLASS Award as a finalist," Kinker said. "Baseball has brought me meaningful opportunities in my life, but with the resources Ohio State has offered on and off the field, it's an honor to be able to be a finalist for this award"

6 Buckeyes Named To All-Big Ten Teams

McGowan became the 59th player in pro-

gram history to be named a first-team All-Big Ten selection. The versatile senior played first base, third base and right field for Ohio State in 2018, but he stood out in the batter's box. The Houston native ranked in the top 10 in the Big Ten in eight offensive categories, including third in hits and doubles, and fifth in RBI as of June 2.

Sophomore right fielder Dominic Canzone was named a second-team All-Big Ten honoree. The Sagamore Hills, Ohio, native led the Big Ten with 83 hits and ranked fourth in doubles with 18. Canzone ranked third on the team with a .323 batting average and struck out only 29 times while drawing 31 walks. The Walsh Jesuit product also led the team with 51 runs scored.

Kinker was also named a second-team All-Big Ten selection.

Sophomore Conner Pohl was named a third-team All-Big Ten honoree. The 6-5 corner infielder hit .279 with seven home runs and 49 RBI. The Arcanum, Ohio, native led the team with 36 walks.

Cowles was also named a third-team All-Big Ten selection while freshman Dillon Dingler was named to the Big Ten All-Freshman team. After coming to Columbus as a catcher, Dingler, a Massillon (Ohio) Jackson product, converted to center field during the season. Dingler hit .244 with four home runs, eight doubles and 17 RBI. The 6-3, 220-pound freshman played in 53 games, including 44 starts.

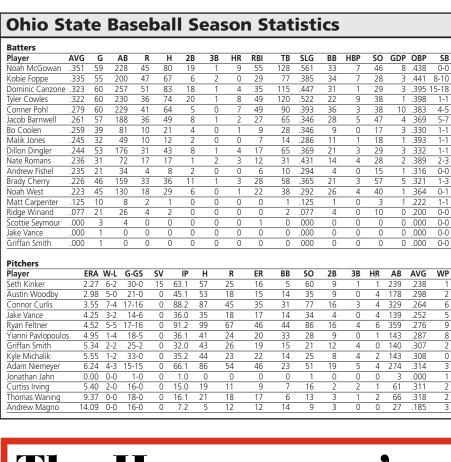
End Of Season Action Recapped Online

Ohio State's May exploits on the field, including the Buckeyes' run in the Big Ten tournament as well as their June appearance in the NCAA tournament, were recapped online at BuckeyeSports.com.

BSB's new full-service website, free to all print subscribers, features daily news stories, game recaps, a fan forum and much more. For signup information for BuckeyeSports. com. see page 5.









Former Crew Star Making Return To Columbus

By CRAIG MERZ Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

Accepting the offer to be the next men's soccer coach at Ohio State was a no-brainer for Brian Maisonneuve, but that didn't make the decision any easier.

Maisonneuve, who turns 45 on June 28, had spent more than a quarter of his life associated with the Indiana Hoosiers, first as a decorated player, then for the past nine years on the IU staff where he most recently was associate head coach to his longtime friend Todd Yeagley.

"Mais" and "Yeags" played four seasons together at Indiana for Yeagley's father, Jerry, then spent seven seasons as teammates on the Columbus Crew, beginning with the inaugural year of Major League Soccer in 1996.

"It was tough to leave Bloomington, obviously a little bittersweet, but what a great opportunity to come back to Columbus," Maisonneuve told BSB on May 30. "It's been awesome."

The bond between Maisonneuve (pronounced may-zun-off) and Todd Yeagley is long and strong, not to mention successful. The Hoosiers were national runner-up in 1994 when Maisonneuve as a senior won the Hermann Trophy as the nation's best college player.

As coaches, they guided Indiana to the 2012 NCAA title and lost the College Cup final in 2017.

With such strong ties Maisonneuve, who in 2012 and '15 was named the top assistant coach for the Great Lakes Region by the National

Soccer Coaches of America Association, wasn't going to depart Bloomington for just any job.

The right one arose when John Bluem announced March 19 that he was retiring as the OSU head coach after 21 seasons. His 206 wins are the most in program history, and the Buckeyes won four Big Ten titles and made 10 appearances in the NCAA tournament, including the 2007 College Cup, during his tenure.

"I've had other opportunities but to be totally honest there wasn't any interest to pursue it further down the road," Maisonneuve said. "It didn't make much sense besides this one."

He immediately applied for the job when it became open, not knowing if he would even get an interview. Nonetheless, he and Yeagley spent hours discussing the possibility that Maisonneuve might be on the move.

"He was honest with me,"
Maisonneuve said. "He said it was an opportunity you really couldn't pass up. He knew what the Ohio State athletic department was all about. We have such a great relationship but he knew what was in front of me. He encouraged me to go after it like any good friend would do."

"I am excited for Mais and his new opportunity to lead the OSU men's soccer program," Yeagley said upon Maisonneuve's hiring by the Buckeyes on April 23. "He has been a big part of our IU success since he started here as a player in 1991. I have been really lucky to work next to one of my best friends over the years, sharing special memories on and off the field."

had when he retired after the Crew's 2004 season.

"We always said if he had a chance, we wanted to come back to Columbus," he said. "I loved the community. There's so many great things about the city of Columbus.

"I got to know Ohio State obviously when

Landing the Ohio State job fulfilled sort of

a prophecy Maisonneuve and his wife, Diania,

I was with the Crew. We worked hand in hand with them and played against them (in exhibitions). You just know what kind of athletic department they are, and to be part of such a special athletic department, that sells itself. To be part of the university and then with the city of Columbus, it's one of those packages that you can't do any better

As much as he was bent on pursuing the job, Ohio State was quickly sold on him.

than that.

"His experience as a player at the highest level, working with a national championship program as a coach and his high character and core values as a person made him the perfect fit for our program," said Shaun Richard, the associate athletic director overseeing the OSU men's soccer program.

Maisonneuve, a native of Warren, Mich., is a Midwestern guy through and through. He was a high-school All-American; at IU he was a two-time Big Ten Player of the Year and All-American.

The midfielder was a member of the 1996 United States Olympic Team in Atlanta, leading the Americans with two goals, and made 13 career appearances for the national team, including starting all three matches at the 1998 World Cup in France.

He joined the Crew after the Olympics and on Sept. 7, 1996, had the first hat trick in team history during a 5-1 win at Kansas City. He made 189 regular-season and playoff appearances (175 starts) with 23 goals and 30 assists and was a three-time MLS All-Star despite several injuries before retiring at the age of 31.

Maisonneuve had surgery on his right ankle in January 2000, but a series of infections followed and he underwent four more operations over the next seven months to reconstruct the ankle. He was told he might not play again, but he returned to set career highs in goals (eight) and added five assists in 2001.

The Crew on four occasions were within a game of playing for the MLS Cup but failed each time. However, the Crew won the 2002 U.S. Open Cup and in 2004 set a league record (since broken) with an 18-game unbeaten streak to finish with the best regular-season record.

Upon retirement he got an assistant coaching position with the U.S. Under-17 team. After four years there, he served as an assistant at the University of Louisville before accepting the same title with his alma mater in 2010.

His knowledge of soccer in the region was a major reason for his hire. The University of Akron is the top program in the state, and Maisonneuve would like to change that.

"If we can get the best kids in Ohio to come to Ohio State to be Buckeyes, we're going to be more than just fine," he said. "There's some really good players coming out of Columbus, coming out of the state of Ohio that need to be Buckeyes. Plus, the Midwest has produced some great soccer players. To have those connections with club coaches, with high school coaches is crucial."

He also said he will call on the many former Crew teammates who still reside in Columbus.

"You use all the connections you have," he said. "Whenever you have good relationships with people and they come across a student-athlete they think is right for your program, any of those heads-up from people that you trust or played with are huge."

The Buckeyes were 8-10-1 overall and 3-5-0 in the conference last season. Coincidentally, their season ended with a 4-0 loss to Indiana in the Big Ten semifinals.

Maisonneuve is eager, sort of, to renew the rivalry with the Hoosiers.

"It's tough when you play someone that you're that close with, but at the same time it will be a lot of fun," he said. "Obviously Yeags and I know each other in and out, and we know how each other likes to play and we probably know the next tactical move the other one is going to make."

Adding some spice to the situation are the coaching moves since his hiring. Indiana women's soccer associate head coach Sergio Gonzalez joins Maisonneuve's staff as the associate head coach, and former IU player and Ohio (North Olmsted) native Matt Foldesy will be an assistant after spending a year as a graduate assistant at Lewis University. Foldesy played for the Hoosiers in 2014-15.

Yeagley hired ex-Crew (2007-13) and Indiana defender Danny O'Rourke as an assistant coach on May 16. O'Rourke is from Columbus and led Worthington Kilbourne High School to a state champion-ship in 2000.

To make Maisonneuve's arrival back in town even more interesting is the distinct possibility that the Crew could be relocating to Austin, Texas, after the 2018 season at the whim of its owner/investor, Anthony Precourt.

"I love the Crew and I love Columbus and there's nothing more I want than for them to stay in Columbus," Maisonneuve said. "I was there almost 10 years, and that's my whole professional career. That club is close to my heart and a big part of me. To have the Crew in Columbus, I don't know anything different. That franchise meant so much to me."

If the Crew does leave, Maisonneuve will be left as one of the conduits to what once was a proud franchise. That can only help bring attention to the Buckeyes' program.



Brian Maisonneuve

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OSU Track & Field Makes History In May

From the Big Ten championships to the NCAA East preliminaries, the past month served the Ohio State track and field team well. The Buckeyes won the men's conference title for the first time since 1993 and fifth time in history, program director Karen Dennis earned Big Ten Men's Outdoor Coach of the Year and OSU sent nine overall athletes to the NCAA championships.

The men's conference title felt like déjà vu for Dennis after the team won the Big Ten Indoor Championships in Geneva, Ohio, on Feb. 23 and 24.

"I felt like it was history repeating itself," said Dennis, who became the first female ever to win Big Ten Men's Indoor Coach of the Year and Big Ten Men's Outdoor Coach of the Year honors. "It was our time and this group of men was the one to make it happen. We had some outstanding performances with championships and personal bests. We received points from student-athletes who stepped up beyond what they have done in the past. As a team, we knew we needed

that, and this team did an excellent job and exceeded its point potential."

Ohio State competed May 11-13 in the Big Ten championships at Indiana's Robert C. Haugh Track & Field Complex in Bloomington, Ind. Both sides featured 13 teams in competition, and the Buckeyes finished first on the men's side and fifth on the women's side.

Highlighting the action on day two, senior Zack Bazile earned the men's long jump title at 8.03 meters while senior Nick Demaline secured second in the shot put at 20.14 meters.

OSU's momentum continued on day three, starting with junior DaJuan Seward taking second in the men's triple jump at 16.00 meters. The quartet of freshman Eric Harrison Jr., senior Duan Asemota, senior Drelan Bramwell and Bazile ran a time of 38.93 in the men's 4x100 relay to win the event and break the Big Ten Men's Outdoor Championships record set by Ohio State in 1993. In addition to his contribution to the relay title, Harrison Jr. won the men's 200-meter dash with a career-best time of 20.39 seconds, followed by Nick Gray in second also with a career-record 20.55.

On the women's side, sophomore Julia Rizik recorded a readout of 4:28.37 in the 1,500-meter run for third place. Senior Maggie Barrie notched a personal-record time of 51.36 seconds in the 400-meter run for second place.

Ohio State returned to compete May 24-26 when it sent 39 entries to the NCAA East preliminaries at South Florida's USF Track and Field Stadium in Tampa, Fla. To advance for the NCAA championships from June 6-9 at Oregon's Hayward Field in Eugene, Ore., an individual must place in the top 12 of an event.

The Buckeyes got down to business on day one when senior Cole Gurski, Bazile and senior Christine Frederick punched their tickets to the nationals. Gurski placed ninth in the men's pole vault with a clearance of 5.35 meters, Bazile finished fifth in the men's long jump with a leap of 7.80 meters and Frederick notched 11th in the women's 10,000-meter run with a career-best time of 34:23.40. On day two, OSU added another advance to nationals when Barrie placed third in the women's 400-meter run with a time of 51.74 seconds

To close out day three, Ohio State gained qualifiers in five more events. Harrison Jr., Asemota, Bramwell and Bazile highlighted the bunch when they clocked a time of 38.91 seconds in the 4x100 relay, edging the school-record time of 38.92 seconds set in 1993. In the women's 100-meter hurdles, senior Chantel Ray ran a readout of 13.37 seconds for 10th place. On both sides of the 4x400 relay, the Buckeyes qualified. Bramwell, sophomore Asa Burke, junior Nick Gray and freshman Andre Jeff ran a 3:06.98 to place third for the men. Barrie, junior Karrington Winters, freshman Syaira Richardson and sophomore Tamani Wilson logged a 3:32.25 to finish second for the women. In the field, Seward earned fifth place in the men's triple jump with a distance of 16.12 meters to move on. Demaline joined Seward in that regard, notching 10th place in the men's shot put with a throw of 18.87

OSU Men's Tennis Finishes 2nd In NCAAs

The Ohio State men's tennis team advanced to the finals before coming up shy of the national title May 22 when it dropped a 4-2 match against Wake Forest. Six days later, the same result occurred for senior Mikael Torpegaard and junior Martin Joyce

when they fell in the doubles championship match May 28 to UCLA's Martin Redlicki and Evan Zhu.

The team defeat snapped a 22-match winning streak for the No. 3 Buckeyes (34-3), who battled the No. 1 Demon Deacons (31-2) down to the wire. Both national title matches took place at Wake Forest Tennis Complex in Winston-Salem, N.C.

In the team matchup, OSU started off on the wrong foot when it conceded the doubles point. When the contest switched to singles, Joyce and sophomore Kyle Seelig secured victories for Ohio State, but Wake Forest maintained the edge with three wins to take the team title.

The Demon Deacons downed the Buckeyes in doubles when sophomore JJ Wolf and Joyce lost 7-5 to Borna Gojo and Skander Mansouri, while Petros Chrysochos and Bar Botzer defeated Torpegaard and freshman John McNally by the same score. Despite wins from Joyce (6-1, 6-3 over Christian Seraphim) and Seelig (6-2, 6-2 against Alan Gadjiev), OSU fell behind on three losses from Wolf (6-1, 6-3 to Chrysochos), McNally (6-2, 6-2 to Mansouri) and freshman Tim Seibert (6-4, 7-5 to Botzer).

Torpegaard, Joyce and Wolf stayed in town for the doubles and singles portion of the tournament. Torpegaard lost 4-6, 6-2, 7-6 (2) to Chrysochos in the singles quarterfinals, while Wolf fell 6-4, 6-4 to Florida's Alfredo Perez in the singles first round. Joyce and Torpegaard advanced all the way to the doubles final but were unable to overcome Redlicki and Zhu in a 6-7(8), 7-6(4), 1-0(9) defeat.

On the way to the team final, its first since 2009 when it fell to Southern California, Ohio State outscored five opponents by a 20-5 margin. In the first two rounds, the Buckeyes blitzed by East Tennessee State on May 11 and Kentucky on May 12 in a pair of 4-0 triumphs. OSU added its third win of the season over Minnesota on a 4-1 result in the third round on May 18, followed by a 4-3 edge of Mississippi State in the quarterfinals on May 20 and a 4-1 victory against UCLA in the semifinals on May 21.

Women's Tennis Falls In 1st Round

Although it made the NCAA tournament, the Ohio State women's tennis team was unable to mount a postseason run. In the first round at Currey Tennis Center in Nashville, Tenn., on May 11, the Buckeyes dropped a 4-1 match to Clemson and ended the season with a 14-9 overall record.

"Today was tough," head coach Melissa Schaub said after the match. "We did not have one of our better days. I think we accomplished a lot this season. We were dealt a tough hand, but the team never stopped competing. I don't think one match defines the season we had. I am happy with what we were able to do, and I think we will be tougher in the future because of it.

"Our seniors Anna (Sanford) and Olivia (Sneed) gave so much to our program, and they are definitely going to be missed. They are leaving the team in good hands, and the future is bright."

Freshman Mary Beth Hurley and Sneed lost 6-2 to Tate Schroeder and Ally Miller-Krasilnikov, while sophomore Danielle Wolf and redshirt freshman Maria Tyrina dropped a 6-4 decision to Daniela Ruiz and Sydney Riley as the Tigers clinched the doubles point.

Clemson pushed to a 3-0 advantage when it won the first two singles matches. Sneed



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BRIEFS

fell 6-3, 6-2 to Schroeder and Wolf slipped 6-3, 6-3 against Riley. OSU bounced back with Hurley's 6-4, 6-2 win over Miller-Krasilnikov, but Sanford dropped a 6-4, 7-6 (7-3) result against Marie Leduc as the Tigers took the match and improved to 14-13 overall.

Though the team's season ended, Sanford went to Wake Forest Tennis Complex in Winston-Salem, N.C., for the singles tournament. She lost 6-0, 7-6 (3) in the opening round to Anna Turati of Texas on May 23.

Men's Lax Loses In B1G Semis

An up-and-down season for the Ohio State men's lacrosse team ended May 3 when it dropped a 6-5 battle against Johns Hopkins in the semifinals of the Big Ten tournament.

The defeat to the second-seeded Blue Jays at U-M Lacrosse Stadium in Ann Arbor, Mich., snapped a three-game winning streak for the third-seeded Buckeyes (8-7).

Statistically, OSU outplayed JHU with edges on shots (37-17), face-offs (11-3) and ground balls (28-15). However, Ohio State was ultimately unable to break through when it mattered most.

In a 5-5 tie late in the fourth quarter, Alex Concannon scooped up a ground ball in front of the cage for the game-winning goal with 11 seconds left. The Buckeyes won the ensuing face-off, but Brock Turnbaugh saved a last-second shot. Turnbaugh outdueled redshirt freshman goalie Josh Kirson, who recorded four saves and fell to 3-4 between the pipes.

Freshman midfielder Jackson Reid paced OSU with two goals while junior attackman Jack Jasinski, sophomore attackman Tre Leclaire and sophomore defenseman Jeff Henrick pitched in one score apiece.

Ohio State had overcome inconsistencies throughout the campaign when it rattled off ranked victories over then-No. 20 Michigan (8-5, April 13), then-No. 1 Maryland (12-10, April 22) and then-No. 9 Rutgers (10-7, April 28) to sneak into the conference's four-team postseason.

"We've played as tough of a schedule as anybody in the toughest conference there is," said head coach Nick Myers after falling in the conference tourney. "We've been playing really good lacrosse lately and have some quality wins. All you can do is hope to see our name come up on Sunday (at the NCAA selection) and have a chance to compete for a championship."

The Blue Jays posted a 13-10 win over the top-seeded Terrapins in the final May 5 for the Big Ten title and an automatic bid to the NCAA tournament, where JHU (12-5) lost in the quarterfinals.

Softball No-Hit In **Regional Final**

With a bid to the NCAA Super Regional on the line, the Ohio State softball team's season came to an end May 20 when it fell 4-0 to Florida in the Gainesville (Fla.) Regional at Katie Seashole Pressly Stadium.

The Gators' Ocasio Aleshia no-hit the Buckeyes, going the distance while fanning 12 and walking three. Senior righthander Shelby McCombs (17-8) pitched a complete game as well but battled command issues with 11 walks to four strikeouts, allowing four runs (three earned) on two hits.

UF got on the board in the top of the first inning on a bases-loaded walk to take a 1-0 lead over OSU. Florida struck again in the top of the fifth inning on a fielder's choice and threatened for more, but Ohio State kept the deficit at 2-0 when junior shortstop

Lilli Piper and senior catcher Becca Gavin

Continued On Page 34



Continued From Page 33

connected on a play at the plate to limit the

In the top of the sixth, the Gators pushed their lead to 4-0 over the Buckeyes on a tworun double. OSU attempted a rally in the bottom of the seventh with four-pitch walks from junior second baseman Emily Clark and senior first baseman Ashley Goodwin before freshman Niki Carver reached on a fielder's choice for runners at the corners, but Ocasio buckled down and ended the game on a strikeout to close the door.

The loss to UF was Ohio State's second in the double-elimination Gainesville Regional. following a 10-2 defeat to the Gators on May 19. Florida went 3-0 to reach the Super Regional and eventually the College World Series, while the Buckeyes recorded a 2-2 mark with a pair of wins over South Florida. OSU opened the Gainesville Regional with a 3-1 win over the Bulls on May 18, surviving elimination afterward on May 19 with a 3-2 win before the second loss to the Gators the next day.

Earlier in the month, Ohio State fell 5-1 to Iowa on May 10 in the opening round of the Big Ten tournament at Wisconsin's Goodman Diamond in Madison, Wis. Prior to the postseason, the Buckeyes closed out their regular-season slate with a series defeat at Michigan from May 4-6 after a nonconference victory against Pittsburgh on May 2. Following the Buckeyes' 5-1 triumph over the Panthers at Buckeye Field in Columbus, OSU ventured north for a three-game set at Wilpon Complex in Ann Arbor, Mich. After it dropped the first two contests, 3-2 on May 4 and 8-0 in five innings on May 5, Ohio State closed out with a 10-1 win in five innings on May 6.

Ending the season at 36-16 overall, the Buckeyes notched their best record thus far under fifth-year head coach Kelly Kovach

Men's Volleyball 3-Peat **Effort Falls Short**

After back-to-back national titles, the Ohio State men's volleyball team was unable to pull off a three-peat among the seven-team field in the NCAA tournament at Pauley Pavilion in Los Angeles. Following the sixth-seeded Buckeyes' five-set victory over No. 5 seed UC Irvine in the quarterfinals on May 1, their four-set loss to No. 1 seed Long Beach State in the semifinals (25-22, 25-23, 25-27, 32-30) on May 3 ended a historic run.

The postseason loss to LBSU (27-1), which advanced to the final and defeated UCLA for the national championship, was the first for OSU (25-6) since 2015, snapping a streak of seven straight NCAA tournament wins.

"We had walked out the door last year and had to put some new faces and new young men on the floor," head coach Pete Hanson said. "I'm very proud of what they've accomplished, how they handled themselves, how they competed in this tournament, and I think the future is very bright for Ohio State volleyball. I'm really proud of those young men.'

After it won the first two stanzas, LBSU lost a 27-25 third frame in overtime and nearly allowed Ohio State to nab the fourth in similar fashion. Ultimately, however, LBSU closed out a 32-30 win for the match.

Prior to the defeat, the Buckeyes won a thriller against UC Irvine (21-10) in five sets (25-19, 22-25, 25-23, 22-25, 16-14). Four total points separated the two teams in the 110-106 combined final score.

For their efforts throughout the three matches, which included an opening-round triumph over King University on April 26, redshirt freshman opposite Jake Hanes and senior outside hitter Nicholas Szerszen earned all-tournament honors. In the last two matches, Hanes combined for 43 kills and 13 digs while Szerszen totaled 38 kills and 22 digs.

Wetterich Paces Men's Golf Team

As the only member of the Ohio State men's golf team to qualify for the event from May 14-16, junior Daniel Wetterich tied for 46th place with a 14-over 227 (79-75-73) in the NCAA Columbus Regional at OSU's Scarlet Course.

On the team side of the action, which the Buckeyes were not collectively in competition for, Oklahoma State finished in first place with an 8-under 844.

Individually, Wetterich led OSU over the course of the spring season with six top-20 finishes and a scoring average of 72.2.

Lee Breaks Women's **Golf Records**

The Ohio State women's golf team participated in the NCAA championships from May 18-23 at Karsten Creek Golf Club in Stillwater, Okla., where junior Jaclyn Lee led the way with the best finish in program history when she tied for fifth place with a 4-under 284 (72-72-66-74), while the team finished 23rd in stroke play.

"Recording the best finish in school history means a lot to me," Lee said. "It would have been great to go out there and win it today, but I put myself in some difficult situations on the golf course and recovered on the last hole. I played my heart out, and that's all I can ask for.'

Previously, Kristen White set the program record when she tied for sixth in backto-back years at the 2003 and 2004 NCAA championships. In addition to surpassing White, Lee's average of 71.14 lapped Allison Hanna's 72.58 in 2003-04 for the school's single-season scoring record.

"I am extremely proud of how Jaclyn competed this week," said Ohio State head coach Therese Hession. "Her progress this year has been phenomenal, and I know she will continue to get even better. I'm so excited for her and the future.'

Among the field of 24 teams, OSU finished near the bottom with a final score of 926 as only the top 16 teams advanced to the fourth round. At the top, Alabama and UCLA tied for first place with a total of 1,161. Arizona defeated the Crimson Tide in match play, 3-2, to win the national championship.

Ohio State featured Lee, junior Niki Schroeder, sophomore Alex Wright, sophomore Adeena Shears and senior Rio Watanabe. Wright tied for 109th with a 20-over 236 (76-85-75), Watanabe finished in a tie for 121st on a 27-over 243 (80-81-82), Schroeder shot a 28-over 244 (82-83-79) to tie for 123rd and Shears rounded out the Buckeyes in 128th with a 31-over 247 (87-

Prior to the NCAA championships, OSU advanced after the team tied for fourth place with a final score of 863 at the NCAA Madison Regional. Duke's 850 placed first among the 16-team field during the May 7-9 action at University Ridge Golf Course in Madison, Wis.



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BUCKEYE SCOREBORRD

FOOTBALL

Sept. 1 OREGON STATE, Noon; **8** RUTGERS, 3:30 p.m.; **15** vs. TCU at Arlington, Texas, 8 p.m.; **22** TULANE, TBA; **29** at Penn State, TBA.

Oct. 6 INDIANA, 3:30 OR 4 p.m.; 13 MINNESOTA, TBA; 20 at Purdue, TBA.

Nov. 3 NEBRASKA, TBA; **10** at Michigan State, TBA; **17** at Maryland, TBA; **24** MICHIGAN,

BASEBALL (36-24, 14-10 BIG TEN)

Feb. 16 Snowbird Classic at Port Charlotte, Fla., vs. UW-Milwaukee, W 11-7; vs. Canisius, W 6-4; **17** Snowbird classic at Port Charlotte, Fla., vs. Canisius, L 5-4; **18** Snowbird Classic at Port Charlotte, Fla., vs. UW-Milwaukee, W 13-3; **22** Big Ten/Pac-12 Challenge at Surprise, Ariz., vs. Utah, W 7-2; **23** Big Ten/Pac-12 Challenge at Surprise, Ariz., vs. (2) Oregon State, L 10-8; **24** Big Ten/Pac-12 Challenge at Surprise, Ariz., vs. Utah, W 20-13; **25** Big Ten/Pac-12 Challenge at Surprise, Ariz., vs. (2) Oregon State, L 6-1.

March 2 Cox Diamond Invitational at Pensacola, Fla., vs. Nicholls State, W 6-3; 3 Cox Diamond Invitational at Pensacola, Fla., vs. (16) Southern Miss, W 9-6; 4 Cox Diamond Invitational at Pensacola, Fla., vs. Eastern Michigan, L 6-1; **9** Environmental Staffing Chanticleer Classic at Conway, S.C., vs. High Point, W 8-6; 10 Environmental Staffing Chanticleer Classic at Conway, S.C., vs. High Point, L 8-4; at (21) Coastal Carolina, L 10-8; 11 Environmental Staffing Chanticleer Classic at Conway, S.C., at (21) Coastal Carolina, W 7-5; **13-14** at UNC-Wilmington, W 8-3; W 8-1; **16** CSUN, W 2-1.; **18** CSUN W 11-6; W 7-3; 21 EASTERN MICHIGAN, Canceled; 23-25 GEORGETOWN, W 13-5; L 5-1; W 5-4 (10 innings); 28 TOLEDO, W 19-4; **30-April 1** NEBRASKA, L 7-3; W 7-4; W 15-14.

April 4 KENT STATE, Cancelled; **7** at Iowa, W 2-1; L 9-5; **8** at Iowa, L 2-1; **10** OHIO, W 4-0; **13** at

Penn State, W 1-0; **14** at Penn State W 5-1; W 19-8; **17** MIAMI (OHIO), Cancelled; **18** YOUNGSTOWN STATE, W 12-3; **20-22** (8) INDIANA, L 4-0; W 5-4; W 6-5 (12 innings); **27-29** (21) MINNESOTA, L 11-1; L 2-1; W 6-5.

May 2 at Ball State, L 12-11; 4-6 at Illinois, W 6-5; L 11-3; W 10-5; 8-9 CAMPBELL, W 10-6; L 13-8; 11-13 PURDUE, W 4-2; L 8-2; W 16-6; 15 at Cincinnati, L 14-4 (7 innings); 17-19 at Michigan State, W 10-8; L 6-2; L 8-3; 23 Big Ten Tournament at Omaha, Neb., vs. Purdue, L 8-2; 24 Big Ten Tournament at Omaha, Neb., vs. lowa, W 2-0; 25 Big Ten Tournament at Omaha, Neb., vs. Michigan, W 5-3; 26 Big Ten Tournament at Omaha, Neb., vs. Minnesota, L 8-1.

June 1 NCAA Tournament Greenville Regional at Greenville, N.C., vs. South Carolina, L 8-3; 2 NCAA Tournament Greenville Regional at Greenville, N.C., vs. UNC-Wilmington, L 4-3 (13 innings).

MEN'S GOLF

Feb. 9-10 Big Ten Match Play Championship at Palm Coast, Fla., W 5-1/W 4-3; L 6-0/W 6-0; **18-20** Puerto Rico Classic at Rio Grande, Puerto Rico. 10th/15 (882).

March 18-20 Linger Longer Invitational at Greensboro, Ga., 4th/16 (861).

April 14-15 Boilermaker Invitational at West Lafayette, Ind., T-14th/17 (598) – Final round cancelled; 21-22 ROBERT KEPLER INTERCOLLEGIATE, 4th/16 (869); 27-29 Big Ten Championships at Baltimore, 2nd/14 (851).

May 14-16 NCAA REGIONAL, NTS.

WOMEN'S GOLF

Feb. 11-13 Northrop Grumman Regional Challenge at Palos Verdes, Calif., 17th/18 (922); **25-26** Westbrook Spring Invitational at Peoria, Ariz., 2nd/15 (840).

March 16-18 Clover Cup at Mesa, Ariz., 4th/16 (882); **23-25** Clemson Invitational at Sunset, S.C., 5th/15 (864).

April 14-15 LADY BUCKEYE SPRING INVITATIONAL, 7th/14 (598) – Final round cancelled; 20-22 Big Ten Championships at Cincinnati, T-4th/14 (865).

May 7-9 NCAA Regional at Madison, Wis., T-4th/18 (863); 18-23 NCAA Championships at Stillwater, Okla., 23rd/24 (926).

MEN'S LACROSSE (8-7, 3-2 BIG TEN)

Feb. 3 at Cleveland State, W 13-6; **10** (20) BOSTON UNIVERSITY, W 15-9; **17** HOFSTRA, W 9-7; **25** at Jacksonville, W 12-11 (OT).

March 2 Midwest Lacrosse Classic at Detroit vs. (18) Marquette, L 8-7 (OT); **4** Midwest Lacrosse Classic at Detroit vs. Detroit Mercy, W 8-7; **10** TOWSON, L 7-6 (OT); **17** at (6) Denver, L 12-7; **25** (4) NOTRE DAME, L 9-8; **31** PENN STATE, L 12-4.

April 7 at (6) Johns Hopkins, L 13-10; **13** (20) MICHIGAN, W 8-5; **22** at (1) Maryland, W 12-10; **28** RUTGERS, W 10-7.

May 3 Big Ten Tournament Semifinals at Ann Arbor, Mich., vs. Johns Hopkins, L 6-5.

SOFTBALL

(36-16, 14-8 BIG TEN)

Feb. 9 FAU "First Pitch" Classic at Boca Raton, Fla., vs. NIU, W 9-1 (6 innings); vs. Duke, W 5-2; 10 FAU "First Pitch" Classic at Boca Raton, Fla., at Florida Atlantic, W 10-1; vs. NIU, W 10-2; 11 FAU "First Pitch" Classic at Boca Raton, Fla., vs. Boston University, W 3-2 (8 innings). 16 Big Ten/ACC Challenge at Raleigh, N.C., at N.C. State, L 5-4 (8 innings); 17 Big Ten/ ACC Challenge at Raleigh, N.C., vs. Louisville, W 6-5 (9 innings); at N.C. State, W 5-4 (8 innings); 18 Big Ten/ACC Challenge at Raleigh, N.C., vs. Louisville, W 4-0; 23 Texas Invitational at Austin, Texas, vs. Virginia Tech, canceled (rain); vs. Wichita State, W 4-3; 24 Texas Invitational at Austin, Texas, at Texas, W 8-5; vs. Wichita State, W 9-0 (5 innings).

March 9 Louisville Slugger Invitational at Fullerton, Calif., vs. San Diego State, W 7-0; 10 Louisville Slugger Invitational at Fullerton, Calif., vs. San Jose State, W 6-3 (8 innings); 11 Louisville Slugger Invitational at Fullerton, Calif., vs. UCLA, L 11-0 (5 innings); at Cal State Fullerton, W 3-1; 13 at Loyola Marymount, W 2-1 (8 innings); W 7-0; 14 at CSUN, W 5-1; 16 Easton Invitational at Fullerton, Calif., vs. Grand Canyon, L 7-6; at Cal State Fullerton, W 6-2; 17 Easton Invitational at Fullerton, Calif., vs. CSUN, W 4-2; 18 Easton Invitational at Fullerton, Calif., vs. (5) Oklahoma, L 5-0; 23 at Indiana, L 6-0; L 9-3; 25 at Indiana, L 4-1; 28 KENTUCKY, Postponed; 30-April 1 WISCONSIN, W 9-7; L 3-1; W 7-0.

April 6-8 at Rutgers, W 12-3 (6 innings); W 6-2; W 10-3; 11 PENN STATE, W 9-1 (6 innings); W 7-4; 13 at Northwestern, L 10-2 (6 innings); 15 at Northwestern, L 14-6 (6 innings; game three cancelled); 18 OHIO, L 7-0; 20-22 MICHIGAN STATE, W 10-2 (5 innings); W 6-2; W 6-5; 27-29 MARYLAND, W 13-5 (6 innings); W 9-5: W 5-2.

May 2 PITTSBURGH, W 5-1; 4-6 at Michigan, L 3-2; L 8-0 (5 innings); W 10-1 (5 innings); 10 Big Ten Tournament at Madison, Wis., vs. (12) lowa, L 5-1; 18 NCAA Regional at Gainesville, Fla., vs. USF, W 3-1; 19 NCAA Regional at Gainesville, Fla., vs. Florida, L 10-2 (6 innings); vs. USF, W 3-2; 20 NCAA Regional at Gainesville, Fla., vs. Florida, L 4-0.

MEN'S TENNIS (34-3, 11-0 BIG TEN)

Jan. 20 XAVIER, W 7-0; CLEVELAND STATE, W 4-0; 27 ITA KICKOFF WEEKEND vs. YALE, W 4-0; 28 ITA KICKOFF WEEKEND vs. NORTH FLORIDA. W 4-0; TOLEDO. W 5-0.

Feb. 3 (13) TEXAS, W 4-0; 9 (6) TEXAS A&M, W 4-3; 11 (11) FLORIDA, W 5-2; 16 ITA National Team Indoor Championship at Seattle vs. (20) Duke, W 4-0; 17 ITA National Team Indoor Championship at Seattle vs. (7) UCLA, L 4-1; 18 ITA National Team Indoor Championship at Seattle vs. (3) North Carolina, W 4-3; 25 at (17) Notre Dame, W 5-2; 28 PENN STATE, W 7-0.

March 7 at (21) Georgia, L 4-0; **13** at (11) USC, W 4-3; **14** vs. Arizona State at Los Angeles,

W 4-2; **23** at Michigan State, W 7-0; **25** (8) MICHIGAN, W 6-1; **30** at Minnesota, W 5-2.

April 1 at Wisconsin, W 6-1; 4 at (22) Kentucky, W 4-2; 6 IOWA, W 4-0; 8 NEBRASKA, W 7-0; TOLEDO, W 4-0; 14 (6) ILLINOIS, W 4-0; 15 NORTHWESTERN, W 7-0; 20 at Indiana, W 5-2; 22 at Purdue, W 4-0; 27 Big Ten Tournament at Iowa City, Iowa, vs. Iowa, W 4-0; 28 Big Ten Tournament at Iowa City, Iowa, vs. Minnesota, W 4-1; 29 Big Ten Tournament at Iowa City, Iowa, vs. (8) Illinois, W 4-0.

May 11 NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS vs. ETSU, W 4-0; 12 NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS vs. KENTUCKY, W 4-0; 18 NCAA Championships at Winston-Salem, N.C., vs. Minnesota, W 4-1; 20 NCAA Championships at Winston-Salem, N.C., vs. Mississippi State, W 4-3; 21 NCAA Championships at Winston-Salem, N.C., vs. UCLA, W 4-1; 22 NCAA Championships at Winston-Salem, N.C., vs. Wake Forest, L 4-2.

WOMEN'S TENNIS (14-9, 7-4 BIG TEN)

Jan. 19-21 Miami Spring Invite with Vanderbilt, Kentucky, Miami (Fla.), NTS; 26 ITA KICKOFF WEEKEND vs. KANSAS, W 4-1; 27 ITA KICKOFF WEEKEND CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH vs. WAKE FOREST. L 4-2

Feb. 1 KENTUCKY, W 4-1; **4** NOTRE DAME, W 6-1; **22** at Penn State, W 7-0; **25** (22) ARIZONA STATE, W 4-3.

March 2 at Baylor, L 4-1; 4 at (18) Texas, L 4-0; 7 NEBRASKA, L 4-3; 13 DAYTON, W 6-1; BOWLING GREEN, W 7-0; 25 at lowa, W 6-1; 30 MICHIGAN, L 4-3.

April 1 MICHIGAN STATE, W 5-2; 6 at Minnesota, L 4-3; 8 at Wisconsin, W 5-2; 13 at Indiana, W 6-1; 15 at Purdue, W 5-2; 20 (15) ILLINOIS, W 4-3; 22 (12) NORTHWESTERN, L 4-2; 27 Big Ten Tournament at Minneapolis vs. Purdue, W 4-1; 28 Big Ten Tournament at Minneapolis vs. (12) Northwestern, L 4-1.

May 11 NCAA Championships at Nashville, Tenn., vs. Clemson, L 4-1.

OUTDOOR TRACK & FIELD

March 16-17 UCF Invite at Orlando, Fla., NTS; 23-24 Power 5 Trailblazer Challenge at Los Angeles, Men: 1st/5 (152); Women: 3rd/5 (103); 30 Raleigh Relays at Raleigh, N.C., NTS.

April 5-7 Jim Click Invite at Tucson, Ariz., Men: 3rd/6 (113); Women: 6th/6 (83); 12-14 Tennessee Invite at Knoxville, Tenn., NTS; 20-21 JESSE OWENS CLASSIC, NTS; 27-28 Drake Relays at Des Moines, Iowa, Men: T-3rd/21; Women: 2nd/23.

May 11-13 Big Ten Championships at Bloomington, Ind., Men: 1st/13 (109); Women: T-5th/13 (60); 24-26 NCAA East Preliminaries at Tampa, Fla., NTS.

June 6-9 NCAA Championships at Eugene, Ore.

MEN'S VOLLEYBALL (25-6, 11-3 MIVA)

(25-6, 11-3 MIVA)
Jan. 6 NORTH GREENVILLE, W 3-0; 12
STANFORD, W 3-1; 13 (6) BYU, L 3-2; 18 Big Ten/
Pac-12 Challenge vs. (13) USC at Los Angeles, W
3-1; 20 Big Ten/Pac-12 Challenge vs. (2) UCLA at
Los Angeles, L 3-2; 25 SAINT FRANCIS (Pa.), W
3-0; 28 PENN STATE, W 3-0.

Feb. 2 at Charleston (W.Va.), W 3-0; 3 at George Mason, W 3-0; 8 BALL STATE, W 3-2; 10 FORT WAYNE, W 3-0; 15 LINDENWOOD, W 3-0; 18 QUINCY, W 3-0; 22 at (9) Lewis, L 3-0; 24 at (8) Loyola, L 3-2.

March 2-3 at McKendree, W 3-1; W 3-0; 16 at Penn State, W 3-2; 17 at Saint Francis (Pa.), W 3-0; 23 at Quincy, W 3-0; 25 at Lindenwood, W 3-2; 29 (6) LOYOLA, W 3-1; 31 (10) LEWIS, W 3-0.

April 6 at Fort Wayne, W 3-0; 7 at Ball State, L 3-2; 14 MIVA QUARTERFINALS vs. QUINCY, W 3-0; 18 MIVA SEMIFINALS vs. LEWIS, W 3-2; 21 MIVA FINALS vs. LOYOLA-CHICAGO, W 3-0; 26 NCAA TOURNAMENT OPENING ROUND MATCH 1 vs. KING. W 3-0.

May 1 NCAA Tournament Opening Round Match 2 at Los Angeles vs. UC Irvine, W 3-2; 3 NCAA Tournament Semifinals at Los Angeles vs Long Beach State, L 3-1.



Nothing Is Guaranteed For Ohio State In 2018

The calendar has finally turned to June, and that can mean just one thing – college football.

THE FACTS MAN Mike Wachsman

Yes, believe it or not, it won't be long before the pads are popping and the season is under way. At the moment, it's all about projection, and early returns have Ohio State as one of the teams to beat this fall.

But should they?

The Buckeyes are ridiculously talented, with four- and five-star players dotting every portion of the lineup. Man for man, OSU appears to be better than every team in the conference. But that alone doesn't guarantee success.

The Big Ten is on an upward trajectory, especially OSU's East Division. There won't be any cakewalk, and for a team lacking experience at crucial positions it seems a tad puzzling to be anointed as a prohibitive favorite.

Among the worry spots for OSU is the secondary, which lost three starters from a year ago. The one returnee, safety Jordan Fuller, is one of the best in the Big Ten, but the other three spots appear to be up for grabs. Ohio State has been churning out defensive backs with regularity in the Urban Meyer era, so that's not a huge concern.

More troublesome is the offensive line, which lost its two best players in Billy Price and Jamarco Jones. Michael Jordan is rock-solid at one guard spot and has even appeared on a few preseason All-America lists. But he appears to be the only sure thing. Thayer Munford looks to have one spot, but he's a newcomer to the lineup. Isaiah Prince is a veteran, but he's had ups and downs. The other guard spot should go to Branden Bowen, who was solid last year before suffering an injury. Center is completely new, and while Brady Taylor has gotten a vote of confidence from his teammates, you have to believe he'll be a step down from Price and his predecessor Pat Elflein - both of whom should have long NFL careers.

Meyer believes center is the most important position up front, so fans have to hope Taylor plays well from the beginning.

The biggest question mark comes at quarterback.

The recent transfer to LSU by Joe Burrow means Ohio State's quarterback room will be dangerously thin. If favorite Dwayne Haskins goes down - not an impossibility given the recent injury history of Buckeyes starters - then it could be a real problem, as only redshirt freshman Tate Martell and true freshman Matthew Baldwin would be left. Baldwin spent the spring recovering from an injury suffered at the end of his high school career, while Martell has proved to be adept at running but erratic at passing - at least in his spring game performance. No Haskins would mean the Buckeyes offense is likely to get very conservative and would kill almost any championship dreams.

Even Haskins, however, is not a sure thing.

Fans were wowed by his arm after he took over for an injured J.T Barrett against archrival Michigan, but being the man is a bit different. Teams can game plan for you now, so the element of surprise is gone. Further, we remember what happened last time the

incumbent didn't start the season, right? Cardale Jones seemed to be a no-doubter in 2015 but struggled for much of the season before being replaced by Barrett.

First-year starters at Ohio State have had mixed returns. Going back to the decade of the '80s, this is how first year quarterbacks have fared for the Buckeyes (* won national title, # played for national title):

- 1982 Mike Tomczak (51.3%, 8 TD, 11 INT, 9-3 record, 2nd Big Ten, 12 National Ranking)
- 1985 Jim Karsatos (61.2%, 19-8, 9-3, T4th B1G, 11 NR)
- 1987 Tom Tupa (55.4%, 12-10, 6-4-1, 5th B1G)
- 1988 Greg Frey (51.9%, 8-13, 4-6-1, 7th B1G)
 1991 Kent Graham (51.6%, 4-6, 8-4, 3rd
- B1G)
 1992 Kirk Herbstreit (58.7%, 4-6, 8-3-1,
- 1993 Bobby Hoying (54.0%, 8-8, 10-1-1,
- 1st B1G, 11 NR)
 1996 Stanley Jackson (52.7%, 12-5, 11-1,
- 1350 Stanley Jackson (32.7%, 12.9, 11.1, 1st B1G, 2 NR)

 1997 Joe Germaine (61.4%, 16-9, 10-3,
- 2nd B1G, 10 NR)
 1999 Steve Bellisari (45.1%, 12-9, 6-6,
- 8th B1G)
- 2002 Craig Krenzel (59.4%, 12-7, 14-0, 1st B1G, 1 NR) *
- \bullet 2004 Justin Zwick (52.4%, 6-6, 8-4, 5th B1G, 20 NR)
- 2005 Troy Smith (62.9%, 16-4, 10-2, 1st B1G, 4 NR)
 2007 Todd Boeckman (63.9%, 25-14,
- 11-2, 1st B1G, 5 NR)#

 2008 Terrelle Pryor (60.6%, 12-4, 10-3,
- 1st B1G, 9 NR)
 2011 Braxton Miller (54.1%, 13-4, 6-7, 4th
- 2011 Braxton While (34.1%, 13-4, 6-7, 4th B1G East) • 2014 J.T. Barrett (64.6%, 34-10, 14-1, 1st
- B1G East, 1 NR)*
 2015 Cardale Jones (62.3%, 8-5, 12-1, 1st

B1G East, 4 NR)
So, breaking it all down, that gives Ohio
State seven league or division titles in 19
years with a first-year starter and eight top-10

rankings.

There have been three shots at a national title, with two wins, in the last 16 seasons, so that's a little better. But history says that Haskins and the Buckeyes likely will not make it to the College Football Playoff, so maybe Ohio State fans should temper expectations just a little bit. Road games against Michigan State – which will be looking for payback after last year's 48-3 bludgeoning in Columbus – and Penn State – which returns the league's best quarterback – will be tough, and Michigan may finally have the quarterback in Ole Miss transfer Shea Patterson to get the job done, even though the game is in Columbus.

The talent on defense could be enough to offset some offensive inconsistency, but will it be enough?

Two of the earliest preview magazines, Athlon and Street & Smith's, both have the Buckeyes in the CFP – in fact, both have Alabama, Georgia, Clemson and OSU as their top four teams. There will be pressure on OSU from the start, which is a marked contrast from the last two times the Buckeyes won the national title.

In 2002, fans knew Jim Tressel was turning the program around but did not expect OSU to win it all. The same was true in 2014 after Miller went down with an injury just before the season, leaving the inexperienced Barrett to pilot the ship.

Haskins seems ready for the moment,

which is a good thing. Whether or not he and his teammates have enough to put the Buckeyes in contention for a national title remains to be seen.

We won't know the answer to that question until the calendar flips to December.

Big Ten Bits

One of the more enjoyable things about preparing for the upcoming season is training – you should see me getting ready to run my 40-yard dash and putting in work to improve my lateral agility. No, training in this case is going over notes and depth charts and stats, so as to be ready and knowledgeable for the 2018 season.

Uncovering interesting and sometimes even relevant facts is fun, and I thought it might be interesting to note a salient number for each Big Ten team. These will be done in alphabetical order:

Illinois – .212. The Illini's Big Ten winning percentage this decade (14-52).

Indiana – 31.8. The percentage of times the Hoosiers gained 5 or more yards on non-sack carries, fifth worst in the nation.

Iowa – 46.0. The percentage of incompletions through interceptions or breakups the Hawkeyes' opponents had. That figure was the second best in all of FBS football in 2017.

Maryland – 4. The number of starting quarterbacks the Terrapins used in 2017, just one season after going through three.

Michigan – 28.9. Percentage of opponent rushes stuffed at or behind the line of scrimmage in 2017, best in FBS.

Michigan State - 100. Percentage of

returning passing yards and receiving yards from 2017, as well as 76 percent of its rushing yards.

Minnesota – 4.3. Average yards per play on first down in 2017, second worst in FBS.

Nebraska – 46.8. Percentage of opponent rushes gaining at least 5.0 yards in 2017, second worst figure in FBS in 2017.

Northwestern – 20.1. The Wildcats' havoc rate in 2017 – combined tackles for loss, forced fumbles and passes defended divided by total defensive plays – putting them in the top 10 nationally.

Ohio State – plus-1.8. The difference between average points scored and allowed per trip inside the opponent's 40-yard line in 2017, best in FBS. The Buckeyes averaged 5.3 points scored and allowed just 3.5.

Penn State – 167.7. The late-season passer rating for Nittany Lions quarterback Trace McSorley. In the last two seasons, McSorley has gone from 141.4 in October to 167.7 in November and beyond.

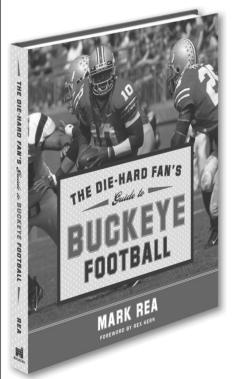
Purdue – 6. Number of years between the Boilermakers' most recent bowl victories. Purdue beat Arizona in last season's Foster Farms Bowl, its first postseason triumph since edging Western Michigan in the 2011 Little Caesars Bowl.

Rutgers – 2.7. The average per game of 20-plus yard gains in 2017, which ranked 129th in FBS.

Wisconsin – plus-1.77. The Badgers' margin of points scored and allowed per trip inside opponent's 40-yard line, second to Ohio State in FBS in 2017.

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Projecting Early Returns For OSU's June Enrollees

At a school like Ohio State, it's hard to earn your spot.

Regardless of rankings coming out of high school, every player on head coach Urban Meyer's roster has an uphill battle just to see the field for meaningful moments at any time in his career, let alone as a freshman. That said, every once in a while a transcendent talent arrives in Columbus and proves to be so talented that he has to play right away, either as a starter or key role player.

MOODY MUSINGS Tim Moody, Editor

In recent seasons, the best examples of impact true freshmen are linebacker Raekwon McMillan, who played a key role on the 2014 national championship team, offensive guard Michael Jordan, a starter at left guard in 2016 as a freshman, and running back J.K. Dobbins, who was arguably Ohio State's best offensive player a year ago.

These days McMillan is in the NFL, Jordan is heading into his third year as a starter and Dobbins is getting ready for a potential run at the Heisman Trophy in 2018. They're no longer the new kids on the block, but a fresh set of freshmen recently arrived in Columbus during the first full week of June, and each one of them will be hoping to make a big impact in 2018 – but few of them actually will.

Of the 26 players Ohio State signed in the 2018 recruiting class, nine enrolled early back in January. I've written plenty about them already, so I'll leave them out for this column. Instead, I'm focusing on the 17 players who arrived in early June, breaking them down into groups based on what kind of impact they should – or at least could – have this season.

Instant Impact

It's hard to really know how freshmen will do until they arrive on campus, and really there's no way to know for sure until they prove it on the field. However, once in a while a prospect comes along who simply seems like a can't-miss player – that's where tight end Jeremy Ruckert comes in.

Ruckert, a Lindenhurst, N.Y., product, is the best tight end prospect Meyer has signed at Ohio State and might be the best tight end prospect to ever land in Columbus, period.

He has the size, athleticism and talent to be one of the best pass catchers on the team on day one – not just among the tight ends; among everyone – and that will get him on the field. If Ruckert can become a high-level blocker as well, then he'll be the starter before the end of fall camp.

He's helped along by the fact that tight end is a position of need, with unproven Luke Farrell heading into the summer as the starter and inconsistent players Rashod Berry and Jake Hausmann behind him.

Flipping to the other side of the ball, Virginia Beach (Va.) Bishop Sullivan Catholic linebacker signee Teradja Mitchell earned rave reviews from the coaching staff throughout spring practice, and he wasn't even on campus yet. Ohio State doesn't have a starter locked in at any of the three linebacker spots just yet, and Mitchell is physically advanced and extremely talented. He'll arrive in Columbus ready to compete for a starting spot and looks like a player who will be in the rotation early on at least.

In The Hunt

Although Ohio State's offensive tackle spots are pretty much locked up with Thayer Munford on the left side and Isaiah Prince on the right, it's hard to completely count out a top-10 prospect such as Nicholas Petit-Frere, the gem of the Buckeyes' 2018 class. Petit-Frere is a bit light – he checked in at 272 during his recruitment – but a summer in Ohio State's weight program will get him physically prepared for the college game, and his talent will mean he will at least push the starters. Expect Petit-Frere to be listed on the two-deep when the season begins.

Similar comments can be made about Bradenton (Fla.) IMG Academy defensive tackle Taron Vincent and Westerville (Ohio) South H-back Jaelen Gill, both of whom have the talent to play right away anywhere. The problem is they both enter crowded position groups, meaning a starting spot is unlikely.

Gill is quite simply a game-breaker with the ball in his hands, and he'll immediately push Parris Campbell, K.J. Hill and Demario McCall for playing time. (Yeah, the Buckeyes have an embarrassment of riches at H-back right now.)

Vincent, on the other hand, is one of the best recruits to arrive in Columbus during Meyer's tenure, and his talent should see him break into a deep rotation at defensive tackle. But he will be playing behind Dre'Mont Jones, a likely first-round pick in next year's NFL draft, so don't expect him to be the star man just yet.

Along with Vincent, Cleveland Heights defensive end Tyreke Smith should find himself in the defensive line rotation early on, but he won't be a starter. In fact, Smith is likely to spend the season as the fourth man up behind Nick Bosa, Chase Young

and Jonathon Cooper – not a bad list of guys to learn from. He'll develop in 2018 and be ready to break out as a key player in 2019.

Safety Josh Proctor – an Owasso, Okla., product – will push for playing time on defense as well, but he'd be hard-pressed to beat out Isaiah Pryor for a starting spot alongside Jordan Fuller. And, since the Buckeyes don't rotate much at safety, Proctor is likely to make on impact on special teams before he finds himself in the starting lineup in a year or two.

Limited Role

A long list of other freshmen could be in line to see the field in 2018, but they'll likely be limited to garbage-time minutes or special teams duties – which is important nonetheless.

Guys I'd expect to see the field without playing a significant role on offense or defense include St. Louis Christian Brothers College receiver Kamryn Babb, Seffner (Fla.) Armwood running back Brian Snead, Huber Heights (Ohio) Wayne receiver L'Christian Smith and Dinwiddie (Va.) County linebacker K'Vaughan Pope.

Redshirts

It's always inevitable that a few players from every class will redshirt, and that group can be hard to predict. Some players simply need time to develop, some might suffer injury setbacks, and others might simply not be ready for the college game. From the June enrollees, I'll predict the redshirts to be Ramsey (N.J.) Don Bosco Prep defensive end Tyler Friday, Oradell (N.J.) Bergen Catholic defensive end Javontae Jean-Baptiste, Christian Brothers College receiver Cameron Brown, San Marcos (Calif.) Mission Hills wide receiver Chris Olave, Pickerington (Ohio) North athlete Alex Williams and New Castle, Pa., safety Marcus Hooker.

While those players might not see the field in 2018, Ohio State has obtained big contributions from former redshirts every season under Meyer, and all could be poised to have big careers in Columbus regardless of their first-year exploits.





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Thoughts On Many Sides To OSU's QB Situation

Let me ramble a little bit about the Ohio State quarterback situation and Dwayne Haskins and Joe Burrow. Rambling is really all I can do because I have so many thoughts on this it is hard to organize.

First of all, Buckeye fans seems to fall into any number of camps when it comes to Haskins and Burrow.

There is the one group that decided, that fateful day last November when Haskins threaded that needle to Austin Mack to put the Buckeyes back on track to beat archrival Michigan, Haskins was their man. After four years of watching J.T. Barrett and what they perceived was – rightly or wrongly – a weak arm, they were ready for Haskins – the next Cardale Jones and the key to a wide-open, vertical offense.

There was another group that, in the limited look it had at Burrow and Haskins, was comfortable with either QB. Let them battle it out and may the best man win.

Then there were those who believed that losing Burrow was the worst thing to happen in Urban Meyer's tenure at Ohio State. A coach's son, Burrow was the best suited to run Meyer's offense. He offered the ideal combination of passing and running skills. And don't forget, his backers remind, he was Barrett's backup until injuring his hand, and who's to say he wouldn't have led the Buckeyes to victory over the hated Wolverines.

And there was the group that figured, if Burrow and Haskins were close in the competition, go with Burrow because Haskins' situation was such that he would be more likely to stay in Columbus if he didn't win the starting job, giving the Buckeyes a stacked quarterback room.

Which leads into the last group, those Buckeye fans who can't figure out why Burrow would take his talent elsewhere, even if he might never have a chance to start. This is Ohio State. If you were a player even on the scout team at OSU and had a chance to start at, say, an SEC power, surely you would stay in Columbus and get your brains beat out in practice every day just for the pride of being able to say you wore the scarlet and gray.

I guess I was/am among the group that was comfortable with either quarterback. Even with Haskins' performance against Michigan, I'm not sure we had seen enough of either QB to make an unequivocal choice. Nor, perhaps, had Meyer and his offensive brain trust. Don't forget there was also the Dwayne Haskins last year who telegraphed an ill-advised interception against UNLV that was returned 65 yards for a score. The two, for the most part, appeared equally talented and equally untested.

I know that some of you think that I am on the horn with Urban all the time and he shares with me the intimate details of the quarter-back competition and the selection process. Unfortunately, that is not the case. I don't know that Meyer and Co. made a firm choice of Haskins after spring ball. They may have still considered the competition extremely close and wanted the battle to continue into fall camp.

For Burrow, that would be pretty much the same as choosing Haskins as the starter. If Burrow were going to move on, he had to do it sooner rather than later so that he could begin competing for the starting job at whatever school he chose – which was ultimately LSU.

Now I am of the school that says that Burrow took care of business, graduated from Ohio State, and earned the right to do whatever was best for him and his family. He determined that to be to move on. It's hard to argue against his choice. By virtue of his college degree he will always be a Buckeye. He never did anything THE VIEW FROM 15TH & HIGH Frank Moskowitz, Publisher

to embarrass Buckeye Nation, and we should wish him the best and be proud of what he accomplishes going forward. I hope he beats Alabama any chance he gets and hope, by luck of the postseason draw, he never faces Ohio State. Awkward!

Which brings up an interesting thought.

Haskins will still be competing with Burrow, even though the Athens, Ohio, product has moved on to the Bayou. Buckeye fans will be watching how their wandering quarterback does and comparing it with Haskins' play, each and every week. I personally hope they both do well. But if Burrow shines and Haskins struggles, Ohio State message boards, including ours at BuckeyeSports.com, will light up all across the Internet.

Burrow's departure has already started hand-wringing among the "glass half empty" group of Buckeye fans. All of the sudden, Ohio State is lacking in quarterback depth. Those who were looking forward to seeing special packages inserted specifically for the young Tate Martell back when the depth chart was loaded with quarterbacks are now suggesting that Meyer not play Martell for fear of him getting injured.

You can't coach that way.

You have to do what gives you the best chance of winning now. If changing things up and bringing Martell in for certain situations helps the Buckeyes win this season, then do it. Players can get injured in practice or even walking to class. You can't coach to prevent injuries. You coach to win.

And who's to say the Buckeyes don't have depth in the quarterback room? Who knew about Kenny Guiton before Braxton Miller got injured? Who knew about Barrett until Miller got injured? And who knew what Jones or Haskins could do until Barrett was knocked out of separate Michigan games? Freshman Matthew Baldwin needs to work hard and be ready. Players are recruited to Ohio State to play. Next man up.

There's one thing I do know, now that Haskins appears to be the chosen one. He is destined for mediocrity if the offensive coaching staff doesn't implement an offense that is built around Haskins and the assemblage of athletes around him. The Buckeyes have a strongarmed quarterback, a whole fleet of receivers eager to live up to their potential and two 1,000-yard running backs. If the quarterback ends up running the ball 30 times a game, I will scream and so too, I am sure, will many of you. And I doubt the Buckeyes will win the national championship.

Assuming the offensive line comes around, if allowed to this offense should be one of the best Buckeye units in recent years, with a nice mix of running and short and downfield passing.

I can't wait!

Finally, BSB editor emeritus Mark Rea had an interesting appearance on Louisiana sports legend Bobby Hebert's New Orleans radio show after Burrow announced his decision to attend LSU. While on hold before joining Hebert on the air, Rea listened as a giddy LSU fan noted that the SEC has had great success with transfers, pointing in particular to Cam Newton, who transferred from Florida via Blinn College to Auburn, where he won the 2010 Heisman Trophy.

When Mark took to the air with Hebert, the host wondered if Burrow had a mental aspect to the game similar to that of someone like Peyton Manning in terms of seeing the field, reading defenses and understanding the playbook. Mark reminded Hebert, who quarterbacked the New Orleans Saints to their first NFL playoff appearance, that Burrow, to date, had a limited body of work to evaluate, but assured the Cajun Cannon that if Burrow were already as good as Newton or Manning, he would be starting at Ohio State right now.

Dobbins For Heisman?

While out in Las Vegas each spring for the College Sports Publishers Association convention, I always pick up the odds sheets for teams to win the college football and basketball national championships. I found something a little different this year in addition to the traditional championship odds – odds to win the Heisman Trophy. With Vegas sports books ready to take action on virtually any proposition, I am sure these odds existed in the past, but I had never seen them on a futures sheet previously.

I first saw the Heisman sheet at a small sports book on the strip, William Hill. Ohio State's J.K. Dobbins opened on March 7 with 10-1 odds, third best behind Stanford's Bryce Love and Wisconsin's Jonathan Taylor at 8-1 each to win the Heisman. By my late May arrival in Vegas, Dobbins' chances had fallen to 11-1 and he trailed Love and Taylor, now at 7-1, and Tua Tagovailoa of Alabama at 10-1.

Vegas seems to believe Haskins also has a shot at the Heisman. He opened at 25-1 but has since dipped to 28-1. If you want to play a long shot, put a few bucks on Nick Bosa, who is a 100-1 shot to win the Heisman Trophy.

I later found a more well-known book's take on the Heisman action with MGM Resorts being less bullish on the Buckeyes.

Dobbins is listed at 15-1 behind Love (4-1); Taylor, Arizona's Khalil Tate and Georgia's Jake Fromm (6-1); and Tagovailoa and Jarrett Stidham of Auburn at 10-1. Penn State's Trace McSorley joins Dobbins at 15-1.

MGM has Haskins at 30-1 and Bosa at the same 100-1

Personally, I think it will be hard for Dobbins to win the Heisman because he will be splitting carries with Mike Weber. In fact, Weber, not listed on either of the sheets I found, might be another long shot. Who's to say, if he gets off to a hot start, that he might not get more carries than Dobbins? I like Dobbins' chances better next year, when he will most likely have the bulk of the carries to himself.

As for the national championship, Meyer's Buckeyes opened in February at 6-1, tied with Clemson for the second-best odds behind Alabama's 5-2. The Tide was still at 5-2 upon my trip in late May, and the Buckeyes were grouped with Clemson and Georgia at 5-1. I raised an eyebrow over Michigan being next at 12-1. Jim Harbaugh seems to continually mesmerize experts and fans alike, even though I am not sure what part of his performance in Ann Arbor, so far, people find so impressive. Michigan's move to the fourth-best odds came at the expense of Penn State, which fell from 10-1 in February to 15-1 in late May in the odds posted by MGM Resorts.

Big Ten fans who are lottery-minded might consider placing a wager on Indiana or Rutgers, who have the worst odds of the 52 schools listed at 750-1. Indiana dropped from an opening of 400-1, while the Scarlet Knights have stayed consistent at 750-1.

As for basketball, Ohio State still has a long way to go in the eyes of the oddsmakers. The Buckeyes opened at 40-1 in April and were drawing the same odds in late May along with Butler, OSU coach Chris Holtmann's previous coaching outpost. Kansas and Duke led the way at 6-1, followed by Kentucky and defending champion Villanova at 10-1. Michigan State (18-1) and Michigan (20-1) had the best odds among Big Ten schools. Of the 119 schools with assigned odds, Rutgers again brings up the rear in a group with 1,000-1 odds to win it all. Among schools that Vegas deems having a better chance to win the national championship than Rutgers are St. Mary's (300-1), Harvard (400-1), Middle Tennessee State and Grand Canyon (500-1) and Northern Kentucky and Belmont (750-1).

As for the College Sports Publishers convention itself, survival seems to be the order of the day.

Publishers at Purdue and Michigan State recently stopped producing their print products entirely and are now online only. Such outlets as Michigan and Penn State still put out print products but had already scaled back to monthly publishing only.

Buckeye Sports Bulletin seems to be the only publisher among Big Ten schools committed to putting out a weekly print edition, supplemented by a 24/7 Internet product offered exclusively to its print subscribers.

Reaction to our new BuckeyeSports.com website has been extremely positive, and we are now in a position to offer up-to-the minute Ohio State sports news between print publishing dates. The print edition of BSB, however, remains our core product.

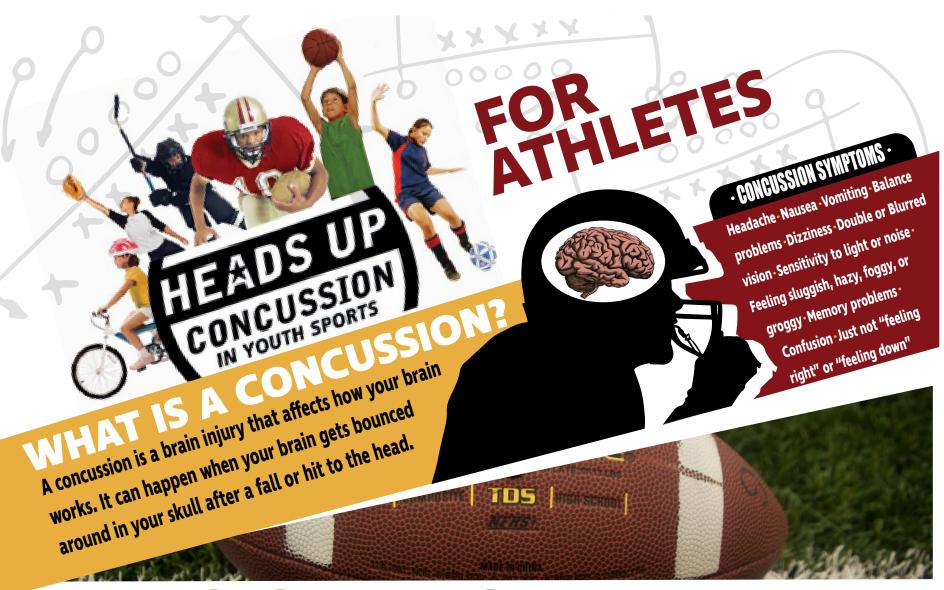
As for BuckeyeSports.com, we are especially excited about our new electronic fan forum, which allows BSB readers to interact with members of the BSB staff as well as Buckeye fans from around the world. In fact, the BuckeyeSports.com forum has allowed BSB readers to contribute content for the benefit of all readers as they post Buckeye items that they have found on their own.

As we like to say, we now have correspondents in all 50 states. If you see something relevant to Ohio State sports, be sure and post it on the forum. Our motto is the purloined, "If you see something, say something." This might include news on a prospective recruit or a former Buckeye in your area or just news of Big Ten or general interest.

And of course, if you have an opinion or just want to vent about Ohio State sports, now you have the place. If you disagree with a poster, tell Buckeye Nation why. If you have a question of a BSB staffer, ask it.

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REPORT IT. Tell your coach, parent, and athletic trainer if you think you or one of your teammates may have a concussion. It's up to you to report your symptoms. Your coach and team are relying on you. Plus, you won't play your best if you are not feeling well.

GET CHECKED OUT. If you think you have a concussion, do not return to play on the day of the injury. Only a health care provider can tell if you have a concussion and when it is OK to return to school and play. The sooner you get checked out, the sooner you may be able to safely return to play.

GIVE YOUR BRAIN TIME TO

HEAL. A concussion can make everyday activities, such as going to school, harder. You may need extra help getting back to your normal activities. Be sure to update your parents and doctor about how you are feeling.

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Playing or practicing with a concussion is dangerous and can lead to a longer recovery.

While your brain is still healing, you are much more likely to have another concussion. This can put you at risk for a more serious injury to your brain and can even be fatal.

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