

# BUCKEYE SPORTS BULLETIN

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Vol. 38, No. 2

"For The Buckeye Fan Who Needs To Know More"

Sept. 15, 2018

## Complete Performance

### *Buckeyes Shine In All Facets Ahead Of TCU Showdown*

By **TIM MOODY**  
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

Sometimes, things just look easy.

Through the first two weeks of the season, that's certainly been true for the Ohio State football team. The No. 4 Buckeyes opened their 2018 slate with a 77-31 win over Oregon State on Sept. 1 then followed that up with a 52-3 victory against Rutgers in the Big Ten opener a week later. Ohio State got two stellar performances from sophomore quarterback Dwayne Haskins, and a much-improved showing from a young defense in week two. Other than a couple of big plays allowed against Oregon State, pretty much everything has gone the Buckeyes' way.

And it all happened with Ryan Day serving as acting head coach during Urban Meyer's three-game suspension.

Soon, though, things could be getting a little bit tougher for the Buckeyes.

On Sept. 15, Ohio State (2-0, 1-0 Big Ten) is set to travel to Arlington, Texas, for a showdown with No. 15 TCU (2-0) at AT&T Stadium, the site of the Buckeyes' victory over Oregon in the 2015 College Football Playoff National Championship.

Even with Haskins leading a high-flying offense and the defensive line spearheading a stingy defense, facing the Horned Frogs will present a different test for Ohio State. Oregon State won just one game last year, after all, and Ohio State has now outscored Rutgers 166-3 since Chris Ash left Columbus to become the Scarlet Knights' head coach for the 2016 season.

"We're excited. Top-20 matchup - we're definitely excited," fifth-year senior receiver Parris Campbell said after the win over Rutgers. "It's the big stage, big lights, so we're ready."



SONNY BROCKWAY

**GETTING TO THE QUARTERBACK** - Junior defensive end Nick Bosa (97) accounted for a sack and three tackles for loss in Ohio State's 52-3 win over Rutgers.

Continued On Page 8

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# FAN FORUM

## Buckeye Leaves

BSB's full-service website, *BuckeyeSports.com*, has 24/7 updates regarding all things Ohio State, including an active Forum where subscribers can chat with BSB staff members and other fans. The Forum also features a live thread during every Ohio State game where staffers and subscribers can share their thoughts, opinions and analysis. We'll also be posting our picks for Buckeye Leaves after every game for standout performers, and we encourage subscribers to share their thoughts as well. Here's a sampling of what BSB staff members and subscribers had to say after the Buckeyes dispatched Rutgers, 52-3.

**Joe Dempsey:** Nick Bosa dominated Rutgers from the start, setting the tone for the Silver Bullet defense with five solo tackles. The 2017 Big Ten Defensive Lineman of the Year also had one sack, three tackles for loss and one quarterback hurry.

Rutgers had the ball with 5:00 left in the first half when Bosa stuffed Raheem Blackshear behind the line of scrimmage, setting up second-and-11. Then after a Chase Young unsportsmanlike conduct penalty gave Rutgers a first-and-10 opportunity with 1:48 left in the half, Bosa shut down any comeback hope by stuffing Jonathan Hilliman for a 3-yard loss.

**James Grega:** Dwayne Haskins was impressive enough week one to earn a Buckeye Leaf, but I went with Mike Weber who rushed for 186 yards and accounted for four scores.

This time, though, Haskins was the clear-cut winner. He completed 20 of 23 passes for 233 yards, tossed four

touchdowns and looked flawless when throwing the deep ball, finding Johnnie Dixon for a pair of scores on deep post routes into Ohio State's south end zone.

His ability to throw the ball hard and with precision and touch is something I have not seen, with this level of consistency, at Ohio State in my lifetime. Granted, it hasn't come against the best of competition, but his arm is impressive, and if Ohio State's offensive line can consistently give him a clean pocket, I don't see how the "Dwayne Train" slows down anytime soon.

**Tim Moody:** I can't argue that Haskins had a great game. Honestly it was one of the best performances I've ever seen from an Ohio State quarterback. But defensive end Nick Bosa was – as he will be in every game this season – the best player on the field.

Bosa didn't play in the second half, but he racked up five tackles (three for losses), a sack and a quarterback hurry before the break. And quite frankly, even on the plays he didn't make it to the QB, Bosa made the Rutgers offensive line look silly. He's the most dominant player on the team and one of the most dominant linemen Ohio State has ever had. For that, he gets my Buckeye Leaf for the second week in a row.

**Garrett Stepien:** Dwayne Haskins was lights-out for Ohio State as he completed 20 of his 23 passes (87.0 percent) for 233 yards and four touchdowns to zero interceptions. In heavy rain, Haskins didn't flinch. In fact, the sophomore quarterback threw the ball even better than he did in his Sept. 1 debut against Oregon State.

How many times would the Buckeyes have dropped back to pass with J.T. Barrett still operating the offense? This unit is heading in a completely different

direction from where it was throughout its past few years, and under the guidance of second-year offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach Ryan Day, Haskins' growth is really starting to show through only two starts.

### BSB Subscribers

Dwayne Haskins. What a game. This guy is the real deal!

– Tiffin Buckeye

Haskins for sure. But maybe have to say the play of both QBs. Tate Martell 10 for 10 passing and two electric runs was pretty special.

– mrbigbux

How about a shout out for Tate Martell? Haskins was obviously superb, but you can't ignore it when a guy goes 10 for 10 and leads the team in rushing. His long touchdown run was electric, and Tate threw a lot of passes I didn't think he had in him. The Buckeyes are in excellent hands at quarterback.

– AcrossTheField

Johnnie Dixon is Ohio State's best deep threat and he was insanely good against Rutgers. Both of his touchdowns were great throws from Haskins, but Dixon did his part as well. There are so many weapons on this team.

– LM28

Aside from Haskins, it was great to see Martell do well. J.K. Dobbins was on fire. Most pistons were firing.

– PeyoteBuck

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### A Balanced Choice

In hindsight, it seems clear that Urban Meyer's relationship with coach Zach Smith was more father-son than employer-employee. He confronted and counseled Smith for inappropriate behaviors but did not disown him.

Having known Coach Smith from a young age and him being the grandson of Earle Bruce seems to have biased Meyer's judgment. However, coaches often give their players second and sometimes third chances as they attempt to correct problematic behaviors and set them on a path to successful lives. Perhaps this philosophy was also a factor.

Advocates of the "Me Too" movement want their pound of flesh, and appropriately so in many cases. But don't they also want a culture change that makes physical and emotional abuse less likely? Urban Meyer believes women should be treated fairly and respectfully. Firing Smith in 2015 would have made his ex-wife happy but would not have changed his behavior. More likely, it would have intensified his hostility because she had ended his career.

Urban Meyer was trying to change Zach Smith's values and behaviors. It did not work, but he tried.

President Michael Drake then had a difficult decision that was sure to offend both supporters and critics. I personally believe he made a balanced decision.

**Robert More**  
Clayton, Ga.

### Meyer's Way Forward

Urban Meyer has many supporters. They're not pleased with what he did or didn't do, but, on balance, they're still with him.

Then there is the neutral group. They are fair and objective and will monitor his conduct as a coach and human being before siding one way or the other.

Finally, there are the Meyer haters. They are scattered all over but primarily work for ESPN or USA Today. I wish the coach would stop with the explanations or clarifications. This group has a definite point of view and will never change. They feign objectivity and professionalism, but their anti-Meyer bias is as transparent as a window pane.

**Jim Chesney**  
Bluffton, S.C.

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# Day, Buckeyes Have Entertaining Duo At QB

To paraphrase a popular song from the 1980s, Ryan Day has quarterbacks and he sure knows how to use them.

One week after Dwayne Haskins enjoyed the most productive day ever for a first-time starting quarterback at Ohio State during his team's 77-31 romp against Oregon State, Haskins and backup Tate Martell put on an absolute clinic while savaging an undermanned Rutgers team to the tune of a 52-3 final that wasn't even that close.

Haskins, who has looked as comfortable as if he were chucking it around in the back yard with his buddies, completed 20 of 23 attempts for 233 yards and four touchdowns against the Scarlet Knights. Normally, his 87.0 completion percentage would have been the third-best single-game performance in OSU history.

I say normally because Martell had a perfect 10-for-10 afternoon, wiping out the program record of 90.9 percent that Bill Mrukowski has held since he went 10 for 11 during a 13-3 win against UCLA in 1961. John Borton, who connected on 15 of 17 passes (88.2 percent) during a 35-7 victory against Washington State in 1952, was bumped to third place. (If you want to learn more about Borton, read my story on page 24 of this issue.)

With his perfect percentage, Martell also equaled the Big Ten record established by Iowa quarterback Brad Banks in 2002 (10 for 10 during a 62-10 win against Northwestern) and matched twice by Kain Colter of Northwestern. Colter completed all 10 of his attempts during a 21-13 win against Minnesota in 2012 and went 12 for 12 against Ohio State in 2013 when the Buckeyes won a 40-30 shootout against the Wildcats.

Before we get completely ahead of ourselves, understand that Haskins and Martell were operating against a depleted Rutgers defense that was without senior starting cornerback Blessuan Austin as well as backup corner Tre Avery, who made the trip but did not dress, and backup safety Kiy Hester, who dressed but did not play. Even so, those Scarlet Knights who were in the lineup were playing a different game than Ohio State, which pretty much exerted its will anytime it wanted – on both sides of the ball.

Still, the kind of quarterback play Haskins and Martell put on display would have excited even the most cynical observer.

Haskins is a prototypical, drop-back quarterback the likes of which has not been seen in Columbus at least since Todd Boeckman a decade ago and perhaps not since Bobby Hoying more than two decades ago. I personally have nothing against the read-option, but I'm admittedly sick of it. After seven years of watching Braxton Miller and J.T. Barrett run the football on what seemed like two out of every three plays, it's kind of nice to watch a quarterback stand and deliver from the pocket.

And, man, can Haskins stand and deliver. He is a polished quarterback whose arm is not only strong but accurate. His 38-yard touchdown strike to Johnnie Dixon early in the first quarter against Rutgers was executed exactly how offensive coordinators have been drawing up post patterns for the last half-century. Haskins dropped a pass into Dixon's hands as if it were a midweek drill and the quarterback was dropping balls into a garbage can.

His second touchdown pass came on a laser beam to Parris Campbell, whose deep crossing pattern split a pair of Rutgers defenders for a 16-yard score. Haskins threw the ball with such velocity that it nearly turned Campbell all the way around as he crossed the goal line.

Haskins' third TD pass was perhaps his easiest throw, a simple flip in the right flat that tight end Luke Farrell turned into a 9-yard score. And then Haskins went back to Dixon early in the third quarter for a carbon copy of their first connection, a pass the sophomore QB put right on Dixon's belt buckle as the OSU receiver streaked past Scarlet Knights freshman cornerback Avery Young.

## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK Mark Rea

While Haskins was bludgeoning Rutgers from long range, Martell provided exactly the kind of change of pace the Buckeyes expect from him moving forward. Not only did he complete all 10 of his pass attempts, he did so while proving he can be a patient quarterback.

For example, the redshirt freshman stepped up and away from a collapsing pocket early in the second quarter and delivered an on-target strike to Terry McLaurin for a 51-yard touchdown.

But Martell's full arsenal of weaponry was on display as he was as dangerous with his feet as he was with his arm. He rushed for a game-high 95 yards, most of it on a fourth-quarter dance that covered 47 yards and accounted for Ohio State's final touchdown. Martell began the play by accepting the shotgun snap in an empty backfield before darting and weaving his way through the Rutgers defense, finishing things off with a dive to the goal-line pylon.

And while we're extolling the virtues of Haskins and Martell, it would be worth our time to give credit to Day for what has been a seamless transition into the position of acting head coach. Despite all of the extra helpings on his plate, Day has managed two games with surgical precision during which the OSU offense has run like a fine timepiece. There have been no unnecessary timeouts due to indecision and only four false-start penalties in 160 offensive snaps despite a new starting quarterback and a reworked offensive line.

Haskins and Martell have already combined to throw for 700 yards – the highest total in program history after just two games – and that number might continue to climb in the coming weeks.

TCU ranks No. 8 nationally in pass defense, but the Horned Frogs opened their season against a pair of opponents – Southern University and SMU – that are passing game-challenged. Last year, the Frogs allowed an average of 227.5 passing yards per game, and they allowed 300 or more through the air in five of their 14 games.

Meanwhile, Tulane, next on the docket after TCU, currently ranks 111th in pass defense out of 128 teams, giving up an average of 308.5 yards per game through the air so far.

I'm not ready to nominate Haskins for the Heisman Trophy, and I believe Martell still has a number of things to work on to become a more finished product at the college level. But I will say the dynamic duo has been mighty fun to watch these first two weeks.

### Some Final Tidbits

Much was made about the victory over Rutgers being No. 900 in Ohio State program history. Actually, that milestone was achieved with last season's 38-7 win against Army. The

NCAA vacated 12 victories from the 2010 season – each of which happened – meaning the win against Rutgers was actually No. 912 all-time for the Buckeyes.

- Haskins established a new program record by totaling nine touchdown passes in the first two games of the season. The previous high total for TD passes through two games was six, first set by Mike Tomczak in 1983 and equaled by Barrett in 2016.

- With 233 yards through the air, Haskins moved his career total to 1,111. He is only the 30th Ohio State quarterback in the program's 129-year history to eclipse the 1,000-yard mark in career passing yardage.

- Haskins would have approached the 300-yard mark for the second straight week had a 43-yard toss to running back J.K. Dobbins not been wiped out by a holding penalty midway through the second quarter. Dobbins came back on the next play for a 21-yard burst to reignite the possession that ended with his 2-yard touchdown run, pushing the Buckeyes' lead to 35-0 at the time.

- Speaking of penalties, the Big Ten officiating crew seemed intent upon calling as many as possible with the teams combining for 18 infractions worth 192 yards. Two were unsportsmanlike conduct penalties called on OSU defensive end Chase Young, which got the sophomore ejected from the game. Young's indiscretions included flipping the football away after a sack in the first half and then entering the field of play early in the fourth quarter to help celebrate teammate Shaun Wade's first career interception. I submit that neither of those penalties would have been called in any other conference, but heaven forbid Big Ten athletes should be allowed to get excited.

- Martell's 19-yard completion to wide receiver C.J. Saunders midway through the third quarter featured equal parts of how the redshirt freshman quarterback has improved and how much he can still improve. The sideline pass came while Martell was on the move, and he put the ball on target where only Saunders could make a play. The QB also displayed some awkward mechanics on the throw, including unnecessarily leaving his feet, something a more talented defense might make him pay for down the line.

- The official Ohio Stadium attendance for the game was 93,057. That marked the first time since the Kent State game in 2002 that a crowd of fewer than 100,000 was on hand in the Horseshoe for an Ohio State football game.

- In five contests against Rutgers since the Scarlet Knights joined the Big Ten, Ohio State has outscored its opponents from New Jersey by a 271-27 margin. The Buckeyes have averaged 597.8 yards per game to just 219.4 for the Knights. In the three games with former OSU co-defensive coordinator Chris Ash at the helm, Rutgers has been outgained by a 1,876-459 margin and outscored 166-3.

- Other than TV revenue from the New York City market, someone is going to have to tell me what Rutgers has added to the Big Ten since joining the conference in 2014. Many of its facilities are below average, there is no good way to get to Piscataway, and the school's overall sports programs are simply not on par with other Big Ten teams. Over the past year, Rutgers has finished with a losing record in nearly every major sport as well as dead last in the most recent league standings in men's basketball, women's gymnastics, softball and women's tennis. As former OSU radio sideline reporter Marty Bannister opined, rather than bringing anything to the Big Ten table, "Rutgers just seems to be cashing checks."



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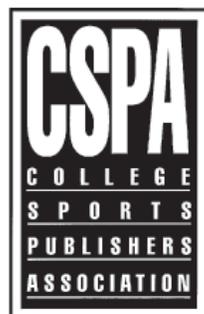
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No. 1	Sept. 8	No. 13	Dec. 15
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No. 11	Nov. 24	No. 23	July
No. 12	Dec. 1	No. 24	August

The next issue (Sept. 22 cover date) will be mailed Sept. 18.

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Charter Member



### Buckeyes Return To Normalcy With Meyer

Nothing about fall camp and the rest of pre-season practice was normal for the Ohio State football team for one glaring reason: Head coach Urban Meyer wasn't there.

Meyer was placed on paid administrative leave Aug. 1, two days before the Buckeyes opened fall camp, and was subsequently suspended Aug. 22 as the result of a two-week investigation into his handling of former assistant coach Zach Smith. Meyer's suspension came to an end Sept. 3, though, two days after the Buckeyes shelled Oregon State, 77-31, to open the season.

That day, Meyer and the rest of the coaching staff – including offensive coordinator Ryan Day, who served as acting head coach in Meyer's absence – arrived early in the morning and quickly got back into the normal swing of game week.

"Coach is Coach. He talked to the staff about moving forward, going to the game," Day said Sept. 3 in regard to Meyer's first morning back with the program. "We debriefed on Saturday's game, and now we're working at game planning today."

Meyer's suspension was reinstated Sept. 8 for Ohio State's game against Rutgers, but he was back with the team the following day. He'll be suspended again Sept. 15 when the Buckeyes travel to Arlington, Texas, to face TCU. After that game, Meyer will be fully reinstated, and Day will step back full time into his role as offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach.

Leading up to the complete end of his suspension, though, Meyer is still the shot caller during the week. Day stressed that, although he was the leader on game day for the Oregon State and Rutgers games, and will be again for TCU, the coaching done leading up to a contest constitutes most of the work.

"So much of coaching is done during the week," Day said. "Today the game planning, the decisions that are made up to the game is really where most of the coaching is done, and then once we get on the field the game plan is in and now it's just a matter of calling the plays and going from there."

"So yes, it's kind of Coach (Meyer) is back, and we're going with Coach, and once we get to the game the decisions are almost made before we get there."

From a coaching standpoint, things were back to normal once Meyer was back in the building. For the players, the same was true as well.

"It felt good," junior running back Mike Weber said when asked what it was like to have Meyer back in the building. "It's like he never left, really."

Leading up to the season opener, the players were insistent that practice had felt the same without Meyer on the sidelines. It still felt the same once he returned, as well, although Meyer can at times bring a different energy to practice.

"Nothing seemed too different," junior defensive tackle Dre'Mont Jones said after Meyer's first practice back with the team Sept. 4. "The coaches kept up the same tempo as if he was there the past couple weeks, so I mean it's good to have him back though."

### Meyer's Absence Exposes Day To Entire Team

The Ohio State football program is a tight-knit community – not unlike a large, loving family. With any extended family, though, there will always be cousins, aunts, uncles or others whom you simply don't know quite as well.

From a football standpoint, that could be compared to the relationship that defensive players have with the offensive coaches, and vice versa.

While Day serves as acting head coach, though, his exposure to the defense is increased exponentially, allowing players such as Jones to build a stronger relationship with a coach whom they never had a reason to be close to previously.

"I didn't associate with the offense at all, especially with the coaches," Jones said. "I mean, I associate with the offense, but rarely do you associate with the coaches as a player. It was good to get to know him."

Jones, one of Ohio State's top defensive players and a team leader, had nothing but praise for Day in his role as acting head coach.

"He's been exceptional," Jones said. "I appreciate having a coach like Ryan Day. He's done a

great job with us these past couple weeks, he's prepared us well. There's nothing much I can really say about him. He's done a good job."

Jones admitted that even when Meyer is at practice, he doesn't have a ton of exposure to the head coach.

Meyer is well known as an offensive mind, and with defensive coordinator Greg Schiano running the show, he is somewhat hands off with the defense. That said, the players still know when Meyer is around.

"I do and I don't," Jones said when asked if he notices Meyer at practice. "He's mainly with the offense, but you feel his presence when it's time to be felt."

### Bowen Out Indefinitely After Another Surgery

Ohio State offensive lineman Branden Bowen won the starting right guard spot for the 2017 season and shone in his first few games, playing a key role for the Buckeyes. During a 62-14 win over Maryland on Oct. 7, though, Bowen broke his leg, forcing him to miss the rest of the season.

That injury led to a pair of surgeries for the 6-7, 312-pound junior from Draper (Utah) Corner Canyon, but he worked his way back to become a partial participant in spring practice. Bowen was expected to compete for, and likely win, a starting spot once again heading into the 2018 season, but he was seemingly limited in fall camp, and fifth-year senior Demetrius Knox was named the starter at right guard before the opener, for which Bowen did not dress.

Three days later, on Sept. 4, Bowen posted on Instagram that he had undergone a third surgery because his leg had never quite healed properly. Ohio State said he was out indefinitely.

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## FAQ Concerning BuckeyeSports.com

As readership of our 24/7 website, BuckeyeSports.com, continues to grow, we field many questions about how to use or maximize use of the site, free to all Buckeye Sports Bulletin print subscribers. We will attempt to answer frequently asked questions.

**Q. In a recent issue of Buckeye Sports Bulletin, I noticed that the BSB staff was really pushing the “In-Game Thread” on BuckeyeSports.com. What is that all about, and can I participate or is it for staff only?**

**A.** On every game day – including during the run-up to the game – we’ll have various threads going on the Forum with all of the latest information each week. That includes an active game thread once the game kicks off, where we’ll have notes, updates and analysis throughout the game. We encourage subscribers to participate as much as possible – we’d love to hear what you’re thinking during the games, and our readers sometimes even point out things that we don’t notice.

**Q. I’ve started checking BuckeyeSports.com for any breaking news and I enjoy staying informed between print publications. However, I don’t check every day, and with as many stories as you seem to post I am afraid I am missing things. Do the stories go away once they are bumped off the front page by the latest news, or can I still access them?**

**A.** Once a story is no longer on the front page, it still appears under one of the drop-down menus at the top of the page. For example, once a football story is no longer on the home page, it can be found by clicking the “Football” tab at the top. Basketball stories move to the “Basketball” tab, while coverage of Ohio State’s Olympic Sports is sorted by sport under the “Sports” tab.

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“This past year has been by far the most challenging year of my life,” Bowen wrote in his social media post. “I found out a couple weeks ago that my fibula hadn’t fully healed and was not connected (known as a non-union), and would most likely never fully heal on its own.

“I tried to play through this for a while, but the pain became too much as it was affecting how I was playing, from running to simply taking my steps as an offensive lineman.

“As frustrating as this injury has been, I know it’s going to make me stronger after it’s all said and done. I know God has a plan for me. I’ll be back and better than ever.”

### Laurinaitis Would Entertain Idea Of Coaching At OSU

James Laurinaitis is one of the most decorated linebackers in Ohio State football history,

which earned him induction into the Varsity “O” Hall of Fame this year (a full story can be found on page 30).

The former Buckeye linebacker was a three-time All-American and retired from an eight-year NFL career following the 2016 season. Now a radio broadcaster for 97.1 The Fan in Columbus and a color analyst for FOX covering college football, Laurinaitis has already built a successful post-football career for himself. However, the Minnesota native said he has thought about returning to the gridiron as a football coach.

Laurinaitis said prior to his Hall of Fame induction ceremony Sept. 7 that he has strongly considered coaching now that his playing career is over and almost joined Luke Fickell’s staff at Cincinnati last season. Ultimately, he felt he couldn’t commit to a full season because he wasn’t “all in” and he

## 2018 Ohio State Football Schedule

Date	Opponent	Result/Time (ET)	TV	Record, Last Result
Sept. 1	OREGON STATE	W, 77-31	ABC	1-1, 48-25 win over Southern Utah
Sept. 8	RUTGERS	W, 52-3	BTN	1-1, 52-3 loss at Ohio State
Sept. 15	vs. TCU#*	8 p.m.	ABC	2-0, 42-12 win at SMU
Sept. 22	TULANE	TBA	TBA	1-1, 42-17 win over Nicholls State
Sept. 29	at Penn State*	TBA	TBA	2-0, 51-6 win at Pittsburgh
Oct. 6	INDIANA	3:30 OR 4 p.m.	TBA	2-0, 20-16 win over Virginia
Oct. 13	MINNESOTA	TBA	TBA	2-0, 21-14 win over Fresno State
Oct. 20	at Purdue*	TBA	TBA	0-2, 20-19 loss to Eastern Michigan
Nov. 3	NEBRASKA	TBA	TBA	0-1, 33-28 loss to Colorado
Nov. 10	at Michigan State*	TBA	TBA	1-1, 16-13 loss at Arizona State
Nov. 17	at Maryland	TBA	TBA	2-0, 45-14 win at Bowling Green
Nov. 24	MICHIGAN*	Noon	FOX	1-1, 49-3 win over Western Michigan
Dec. 1	Big Ten Championship@	8 p.m.	FOX	

\* – 2017-18 bowl team

# – at Arlington, Texas (AT&T Stadium)

@ – at Indianapolis (Lucas Oil Stadium)

didn’t want to do a disservice to Fickell by not giving him his best.

When asked if he would consider coaching at Ohio State if Meyer offered him a position on staff, though, Laurinaitis said it would be something he would have to consider.

“Hypothetically? It would be a long, long thought process on that one for sure,” he said. “It would be hard to say no.”

Ohio State’s current linebackers coach, Billy Davis, was hired by Meyer to replace Fickell following the 2016 season after Fickell left for Cincinnati.

Laurinaitis said he would like the opportunity to make an impact on young athletes, especially those who might have a hard time transitioning to the college atmosphere.

“It is always in the back of my mind because I love football and I also love the idea of helping mold young men,” Laurinaitis said. “I knew the way I was when I showed up on campus, first time away from home, you can go south really quick. How can I help young men mature and then (also) help them outside of football.”

### OSU Sticks At No. 4 In Polls

Following its 52-3 win over Rutgers on Sept. 8, Ohio State stayed put at No. 4 in the Associated Press top 25 and the Amway coaches poll.

Ohio State is behind Alabama, Clemson and Georgia – in that order – in both sets of rankings. In the AP poll, the Crimson Tide led the way with 54 first-place votes, while Clemson received six and Wisconsin had one. In the coaches poll, the Buckeyes earned one top vote, while Alabama had 59 and Clemson had three.

Ohio State’s next opponent – TCU

– checked in at No. 15 in the AP standings and ranked 14th among the coaches.

From the Big Ten, Ohio State was joined in the top 10 of the AP poll by Wisconsin (No. 6) only, while Penn State was 11th, Michigan was 19th and Michigan State fell from 15th to 25th after a 16-13 loss to Arizona State, which debuted in the standings at No. 23. Wisconsin was sixth in the coaches poll as well while Penn State was 10th. Michigan checked in at No. 22 and Michigan State was No. 24, one spot ahead of the Sun Devils.

Maryland (30) and Iowa (23) also received votes in the AP poll while the Terrapins had nine points in the coaches poll.

### Haskins Picks Up B1G Honor

Sophomore quarterback Dwayne Haskins hasn’t been Ohio State’s starter for long, but he didn’t need much time to leave an impression on the conference.

After his first career start against Oregon State, Haskins was named the Big Ten Offensive Player of the Week. He picked up the conference honor after completing 22 of 30 passes for 313 yards and five touchdowns with one interception, while also carrying the ball twice for 24 yards on the ground.

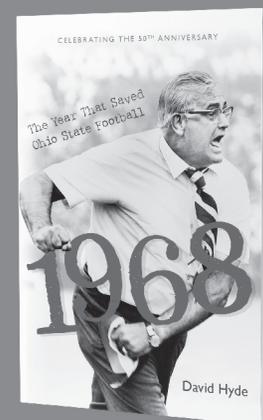
“Going from watching him in the spring, watching him to the fall camp and the way he prepares, he’s starting to get it,” junior wide receiver Austin Mack said of Haskins, his roommate. “It’s awesome. You can see how he handled himself last game (Oregon State). It’s tremendous.”

Continued On Page 6

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# INSIDER

Continued From Page 5

Haskins became the first Buckeye quarterback to throw for 300 or more yards in his first career start, and his five touchdowns were a record for a starting debut as well.

Haskins was the first Buckeye to be named Big Ten Offensive Player of the Week since Weber picked up the award Nov. 13, 2017, after he had carried the ball nine times for 162 yards and two touchdowns in a 48-3 victory over Michigan State two days earlier.

Illinois sophomore linebacker Jake Hansen and Maryland junior defensive back Antoine Brooks Jr. split the defensive award while Michigan sophomore defensive back Ambry Thomas and Minnesota sophomore defensive back Antoine Winfield Jr. were the special teams players of the week. Maryland wide receiver Jashaun Jones and Purdue receiver Rondale Moore split the freshman honors.

## Bosa Earns National Weekly Honor

Junior defensive end Nick Bosa played for only one half against Oregon State, but that was enough to turn plenty of heads nationally.

The Fort Lauderdale (Fla.) St. Thomas Aquinas product, widely expected to be a top-10 pick in the 2019 NFL draft, was named the Bednarik player of the week after recording two sacks and two fumble recoveries (includ-

ing one for a touchdown) in the Buckeyes' win over the Beavers. He finished the first half with four total tackles before spending the final 30 minutes on the sidelines.

The Bednarik Award, which is presented annually to the nation's top defensive player by the Maxwell Football Club, recognized Bosa's exploits with what will likely be the first of various honors for him this season.

## Gill, Proctor Lose Black Stripes

With Meyer back on the practice sidelines after the season opener, he was able to witness a pair of Ohio State's 2018 recruits and a walk-on receiver losing their black helmet stripes.

On Sept. 5, freshman H-back Jaelen Gill and freshman safety Josh Proctor each had their stripes removed, as did walk-on Sam Wiglusz.

Gill (6-1, 185), a Westerville (Ohio) South product, is buried on the depth chart at H-back but has worked as a returner and a valuable scout-team player in practice so far. Proctor (6-2, 198), from Owasso, Okla., made his debut on special teams against Oregon State in the

opener. He could be in line for an increased role at safety as the season progresses.

Wiglusz (6-0, 175) is a freshman from Brecksville-Bridgeview Heights in Brecksville, Ohio.

Including Gill and Proctor, 17 members of Ohio State's 2018 signing class had their black stripes removed through week two of the season.

## OSU Enters Design Phase For New Tennis Center

The Ohio State men's and women's tennis programs are set to have a new home soon. The school announced Sept. 6 that the board of trustees had approved plans to enter a design phase on a new tennis facility.

The indoor facility will be "in the heart of the Athletic District" at Ohio State, a university release said. The Buckeyes' current indoor facility – the Varsity Tennis Center – is located about five miles north of campus.

Ohio State's outdoor courts are already near the rest of the athletic buildings, and the new indoor facility will be adjacent to those courts. It will be named the Ty Tucker Tennis Center after Ohio State's director of tennis, who is the Big Ten's all-time winningest coach in men's tennis.

"I'd like to thank the individuals who have a deep appreciation for the Scarlet and Gray for giving to and supporting this project," Tucker said. "They have touched the lives of generations of Buckeyes, and their impact is immeasurable. I'd also like to give a special thanks to Gene Smith, Justin Kronauge, David Schilling, Carrie Smith, Melissa Schaub, Adam Cohen, the development staff, and all of the current and former men's and women's tennis players that have sacrificed their time and worked so hard to make Ohio State tennis one of the premier programs in the nation."

The new facility will be 75,000 square feet, and it will feature six indoor courts with theater-style seating. It will also house locker rooms and training facilities for the men's and women's programs.

The project is estimated to cost \$21.9 million.

"This facility is going to be one of the best tennis facilities in the country," Tucker said. "With it located in the Athletic District, it will provide the best student-athlete experience for countless Buckeyes in the years to come."

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# Haskins, Martell Post Near-Flawless Passing Day

Continued From Page 1

We're going to celebrate this win and enjoy this one while we can, but we know as soon as tomorrow is over it's time to go to work."

## Through The Air

Through his first two starts for the Buckeyes, Haskins has played just over four quarters of football. In that time, he's already thrown nine touchdown passes, setting himself off on a torrid

start as J.T. Barrett's replacement in Columbus.

Against Rutgers, he was nearly flawless, throwing just three incompletions out of 23 attempts. Those 20 connections went for 233 yards and four touchdowns, and he didn't turn the ball over.

Things have often seemed easy for Haskins thus far, and his arm has opened up Ohio State's offense in a way that was seldom seen with Barrett at the controls.

"It's a whole lot of fun," Haskins said. "It's like every series there's opportunity to go score, there's me throwing it, me running it or giving it to somebody else to do something with. It's a lot of fun."

Against Rutgers, everything clicked. Haskins completed 87.0 percent of his passes, and his backup put up even better accuracy numbers. Redshirt freshman Tate Martell, who played sparingly in the first half before taking over for the majority of the third and fourth quarters, completed all 10 of his attempts for 121 yards and a score.

No matter which quarterback was in the lineup, Ohio State's offense almost never missed a beat.

"I think we have a great group of guys here," Day said. "We have a lot of talent on offense. And I think that combined with the tempo has been great. We did play fast at



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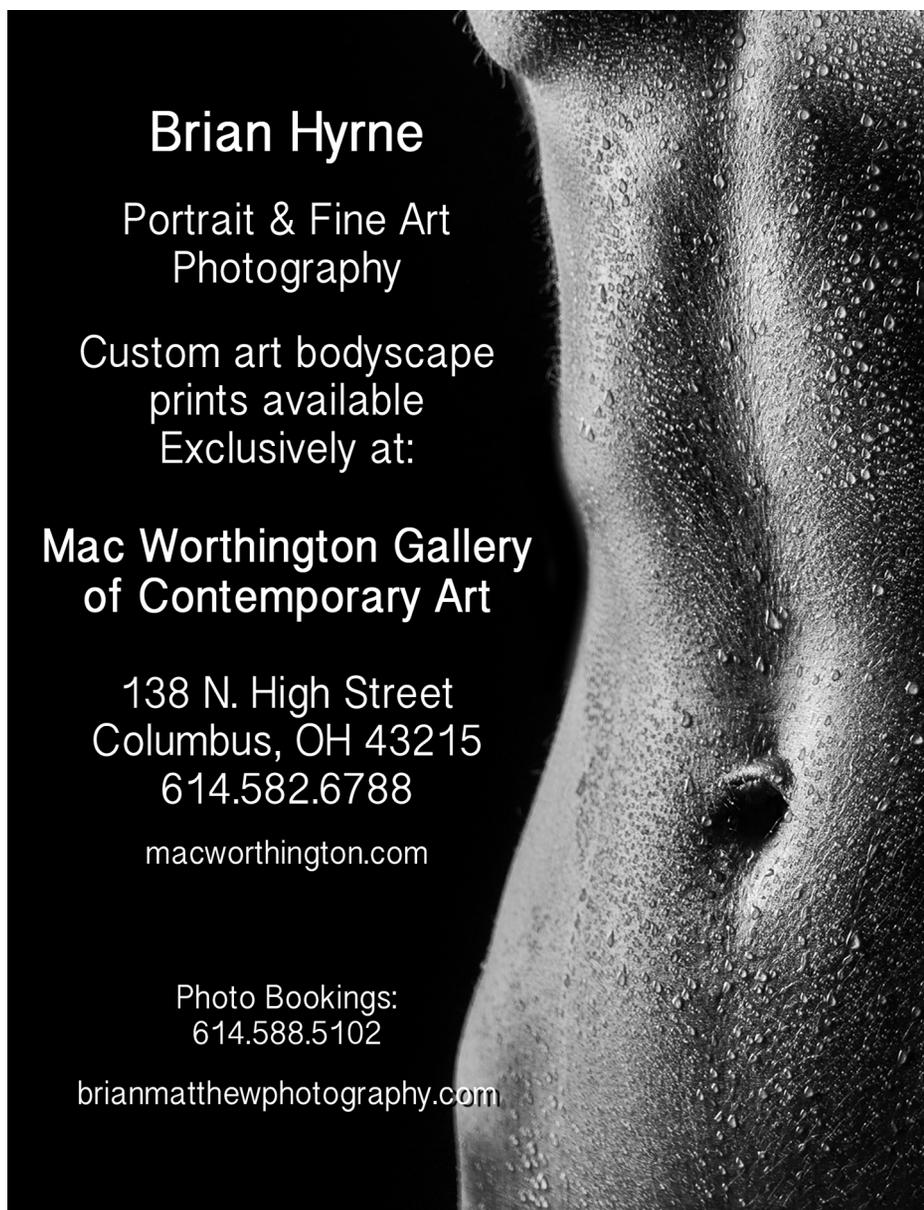
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times today but not as fast as against Oregon State, and that was a little bit by design. I thought we got into some good plays based on what they were giving us, and we took some shots in the pass game and then hit them.”

Of Ohio State's five touchdown passes, three came on deep balls. Haskins found fifth-year senior Johnnie Dixon for scores of 38 and 44 yards, while Martell hit fifth-year wideout Terry McLaurin for a 51-yard touchdown for his first career scoring pass. Ten different receivers caught passes, while Ohio State managed to run up 225 yards and two touchdowns on the ground as well. And the Buckeyes have allowed just two sacks through two weeks, both of which came in the win over Rutgers.

To put it simply, the offense was clicking from start to finish for the second week in a row.

“It feels great,” Campbell said. “We're moving the ball up and down the field. Tempo, I think, is really an advantage for us no matter what defense we play. I just love how our coaches are rolling in plays, we're getting lined up, the offensive line is driving people off the ball, so it feels different.

“We're throwing the ball down the field, able to stretch the field vertically, horizontally, either way. So it feels great. I think we just need to keep doing it, keep getting better, keep performing as a team.”

After the first two wins, though, the game is changing for Ohio State. Oregon State isn't Rutgers, and Rutgers certainly isn't TCU. The next test for the Buckeyes will be the biggest yet.

Unfortunately for Ohio State's future opponents, though, the Scarlet and Gray offense might not have peaked just yet.

“I think we're going to pull a lot more plays out of our playbook,” Campbell said. “Honestly, we haven't even opened it up. We have a big opponent coming up with TCU, so I think you guys will see some more of our playbook.”

### Improved Play

The offense – especially the passing attack – dominated each of the first two games for Ohio State. On defense, though, the Buckeyes struggled at times against Oregon State – specifically when it came to giving up big plays.

Those issues – while notable to begin the season – were seemingly gone against the Scarlet Knights, who didn't have a play from scrimmage go for longer than 15 yards.

In week one, the Beavers racked up 392 total yards – 196 passing and the same number rushing – including touchdown runs of 80 and 78 yards. The defense that faced Rutgers, though, looked almost completely different.

The Scarlet Knights managed just 69 rushing yards on 31 attempts while their two quarterbacks – Artur Sitkowski and Giovanni Rescigno – combined to complete just 11 of 30 passes for 65 yards. The longest completion was just 13 yards, and Ohio State came up with its first two interceptions of the season.

Part of the improvement can be attributed to the return of junior safety Jordan Fuller, who had missed the opener with a hamstring issue.

“He's such a stabilizing force, and what Rutgers does offensively with all the shifts and motions, there's a lot of adjusting to do,” defensive coordinator Greg Schiano said of Fuller, who had three tackles in his return to action.

Schiano, though, noted that he wasn't too concerned after his team gave up 31 against Oregon State. The bulk of the yardage and

scoring came on big plays which, while concerning, can be fixed. The coach also pointed out that Ohio State's backups played for a huge chunk of the season opener, with many of those players getting the first significant action of their careers.

The same could be said about the Rutgers game, when the second-teamers played for a huge chunk of the second half. This time, though, there were no big plays, and the Scarlet Knights generally had no answers.

Next up, though, won't be Rutgers, a team that has never come close to beating Ohio State – or even having a close game against Ohio State – in their five meetings. The Horned Frogs, on the other hand, have become one of the most consistent programs in the nation in recent years, and both TCU and Ohio State have high aspirations for this season.

“This week will be quite a challenge because not only do they have a good scheme but they have really good players,” Schiano said.



SONNY BROCKWAY

**SMOTHERING D** – Defensive tackle Robert Landers (67) and linebacker Baron Browning (5) helped Ohio State hold Rutgers to just 134 total yards.



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# OSU Aerial Attack Dominates Despite Weather

For the second straight week, rain dominated the forecast in Columbus, but it didn't slow down Ohio State's passing attack.

Led by Dwayne Haskins, Ohio State threw for 354 yards against Rutgers on Sept. 8, as the sophomore completed 20 of 23 passes for 233 yards and four touchdowns, three of which came in the first half.

## GAME NOTEBOOK

James Grega

Tate Martell, getting extended playing time for the second straight week, was perfect through the air, completing all 10 of his pass attempts for 121 yards and a score while adding a team-high 95 yards and another score on the ground.

In the win, Martell became the first Buckeye ever to complete 10 passes in a game without throwing an incompleteness. Haskins' completion percentage of .869 is the third-best mark in school history, behind only Martell's perfect day and Bill Mrukowski's 10-of-11 showing against UCLA in 1961. The team completion percentage of .909 ties the mark from that contest against the Bruins for second all-time, behind only a game against Iowa in 1975 when Ohio State completed all eight of its passing attempts.

Haskins found Johnnie Dixon for a 38-yard score on Ohio State's first possession of the game, marking the second straight week the Buckeyes scored on their first drive. After a punt on its second drive, Ohio State again found the end zone on a 16-yard touchdown pass from Haskins to Campbell, the second score of the season for the Akron native. Haskins found tight end Luke Farrell on a short 9-yard touchdown completion early in the second quarter to put the Buckeyes up 21-0, before the Buckeyes made a change behind center.

Much as he had done against Oregon State a week earlier, Martell got into the game in the second quarter, but this time he was much more effective than he had been



SONNY BROCKWAY

**JOHNNIE'S TURN** – Fifth-year senior wide receiver Johnnie Dixon (1) had touchdown catches of 38 and 44 yards against Rutgers for his first two scores of the season.

against the Beavers. Facing a third-and-16 from his own 49-yard line, on a straight drop, Martell found Terry McLaurin up the sideline for a 51-yard touchdown pass, the first of his career.

McLaurin, who had led all Buckeyes with 121 receiving yards against Oregon State, finished the Rutgers win with just the one reception, while Dixon ultimately stole the show. Dixon finished with four receptions for 89 yards and a second touchdown, which also came from Haskins, this one covering 44 yards.

Acting head coach Ryan Day praised Dixon after the game for his contributions both on and off the field.

"Johnnie is really a special young man," Day said. "He gets up in front of the team, guys listen. He has the respect of his teammates. Very well thought out when he's around the team. So much respect for everybody. In terms of his ability, he's a big-play guy. He's down the field and he can track the ball. On those plays, we were trying to take a shot. There was a young corner there on the field. We thought if we got the right look, we'd take that matchup."

Ten different Buckeyes caught passes in the victory, including five each for Campbell and K.J. Hill. Binjimen Victor added his first three receptions of the year for 31 yards.

### Fuller Returns, Borland Has Expanded Role

After missing all of Ohio State's 77-31

win over Oregon State, safety Jordan Fuller returned to action against Rutgers, with his first start of the season. Fuller, who had missed the season opener due to a hamstring issue, recorded three tackles and a pass breakup in his first game action of the year, playing the entire first half before going to the bench midway through the second with the Buckeyes holding a comfortable lead.

Fuller, who is also a captain this season, said it was difficult for him to watch from the sidelines against Oregon State but added he trusted the trainers' judgment and did not protest the decision to hold him out.

"It was so tough, just not being able to contribute at all," Fuller said. "I was just happy we got the win, and I did everything I could to get back on the field this week. I

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# Game Analysis

## What Worked Well

Just about everything. From the start, Ohio State dominated Rutgers en route to 579 total yards on offense. The Buckeyes threw for 354 yards and gained 225 on the ground. For the second straight game, 10 players recorded receptions. Factor in the 52 points and 32 first downs, and OSU dominated play. And on defense the Buckeyes bounced back with a near shutout. Ohio State's Silver Bullets flew to the Scarlet Knights' top playmaker entering the contest, Raheem Blackshear, limiting the versatile running back to 43 yards from scrimmage on 12 touches. On both sides of the ball, OSU flat-out dominated and overcame its big-play woes from Sept. 1 against Oregon State.

## What Didn't Work

Demario McCall. The third-year sophomore muffed two punts – the first recovered by Ohio State in the opening quarter and the second a misstep before he made something out of nothing for a 6-yard gain. In fact, the Buckeyes inserted C.J. Saunders in McCall's stead, and the junior wide receiver showed speed with three returns for 29 yards, highlighted by a 20-yard burst in the second half. McCall had come to life, albeit mostly in mop-up duty, in each of OSU's previous two games against Rutgers with a combined 21 carries for 188 yards and two touchdowns on the ground plus a touchdown catch for 35 yards. McCall had his chance to make an impression after a lack of snaps on special teams and offense in the opener but turned in a sloppy performance. Also of note, Ohio State shot itself in the foot often as the Buckeyes committed 11 penalties for 120 yards. While the errors won't have

an impact against an opponent like Rutgers, OSU's mistakes could prove costly if they occur again Sept. 15 vs. No. 16 TCU.

## Play Of The Game:

Tate Martell's run. While the game was out of reach with Ohio State holding a 45-3 lead in the fourth quarter, Martell made the most of his second-half snaps when he went to the house with a 47-yard touchdown for the finishing touches on the Buckeyes' 52-3 victory.

On a second-and-13 from the Rutgers 47, Martell lined up behind center in a five-wide formation. As he scanned the field, the pocket started to collapse on his right with defensive tackle Julius Turner passing redshirt freshman right guard Wyatt Davis. Martell ran up and took off. Linebacker Rashawn Battle broke down for an open-field tackle at midfield, but Martell cut on a dime, jumping left and running away. Cornerback Jarrett Paul and a swarm of other white jerseys chased, but Martell hit a second gear and bounced out to the right sideline.

Linebacker Tyreek Maddox-Williams tried to cut Martell off near the 15, but freshman running back Brian Snead laid a key block to keep the run alive. Freshman wide receiver Chris Olave missed a block and safety Damon Hayes nearly knocked Martell out of bounds, but No. 18's extra effort – a dive from 4 yards out for the pylon – made the difference.

The video-game-like score put an exclamation mark on Martell's explosive performance, as he finished as the game's leading rusher with 95 yards on eight carries.

– Garrett Stepien

just go with what the trainers tell me. They know what's best, and they wouldn't put me out there if I was in harm's way."

Fuller wasn't the only Buckeye who had missed time against Oregon State to get extended game action against the Scarlet Knights. Tuf Borland, who was limited to about 10 snaps against the Beavers, received extended reps against Rutgers, despite not getting the start. He finished with three tackles after failing to record a stat during the week one victory.

Fuller said that while he has faith in his and Borland's replacements, he sees a noticeable difference in Ohio State's defense when both he and Borland are in the game.

"I notice a difference, just because I am out there," he said. "It is a different perspective. There is a combination of more experience, but as the season goes on, more people start getting comfortable and will come along."

## Numerous Buckeyes Earn Career Firsts

With a blowout win came plenty of firsts for Ohio State, and it wasn't all in mop-up duty.

As mentioned, Martell threw his first career touchdown pass in the second quarter when he found McLaurin for a 51-yard score. Farrell, a third-year sophomore, also notched his first career score in the second quarter on his 9-yard reception from Haskins.

Martell, who added a flashy 47-yard touchdown run in the fourth quarter, said he prefers to score throwing the ball rather than running, but he added he was pleased with his extended playing time.

"That was the first time I really got to go out there and throw the ball and throw in rhythm," Martell said. "I know what I'm doing when I'm out there, which is a huge difference than what it was last year, when I was going out, like in practice, I was kind of second-guessing myself, where this year I know exactly what I'm doing. I know protection and stuff like that, and it's just a whole different ballgame now."

Martell was briefly knocked out of the game in the second half after taking a hard hit as he scrambled toward the Rutgers sideline. He stayed down for a minute while being checked on by trainers, but he returned to the game after just one snap and rattled off his touchdown run two plays later.

In addition to the first career scores, cornerback Kendall Sheffield collected the first interception of his Buckeye career when a pass from Rutgers signal caller Artur Sitkowski deflected off a receiver's hands and into the waiting arms of Sheffield.

Despite playing a big role in the 2017 season, Sheffield failed to record a pick last year while Ohio State recorded 13 as a team.

Redshirt freshman Shaun Wade also collected his first collegiate interception in the second half, stepping in front of a pass from backup quarterback Gio Rescigno to record Ohio State's second interception of the game.

Other firsts included a number of collegiate debuts for the likes of redshirt freshman wide receiver Elijah Gardiner, freshman H-back Jaalen Gill and sophomore offensive lineman Gavin Cupp, in addition to a few walk-ons seeing playing time for the first time. Even West Virginia transfer quarterback Chris Chugunov, who joined the team less than a month before the opener, earned playing time late in the fourth quarter (the full story of Chugunov's journey to Ohio State can be found on page 18).

## Young Ejected After 2nd Personal Foul

Ohio State's 52-3 win over Rutgers was almost flawless, but one of the downsides to the game was Chase Young's ejection in the second half.

Young, a sophomore defensive end, collected a pair of personal foul penalties – both for excessive celebration – in the blowout win, the second of which got him tossed from the game.

The first flag came in the first half when Young sacked Sitkowski, forcing what appeared to be a fumble. Young pounced on the ball and ran out of the scrum with it before spiking it on the Ohio Stadium turf, sending the ball flying close to 15 yards away. The referee not only ruled the runner down by contact but flagged Young for an unsportsmanlike

penalty, costing Ohio State 15 yards and a likely punt.

In the second half, Young was again flagged for unsportsmanlike conduct, this time following Wade's interception after he entered the field of play from the sideline. NCAA rules call for a player who incurs two personal fouls in one game to be ejected from competition. Because Young wasn't called for targeting in the game, however, he will be eligible to return for Ohio State's prime-time game against TCU.

At the time of his press conference, Day said he had not yet addressed his ejection with Young, but he was visibly disappointed when asked about it.

"I didn't have a chance to speak with him. Obviously anytime we want to play with emotion and not let emotion play

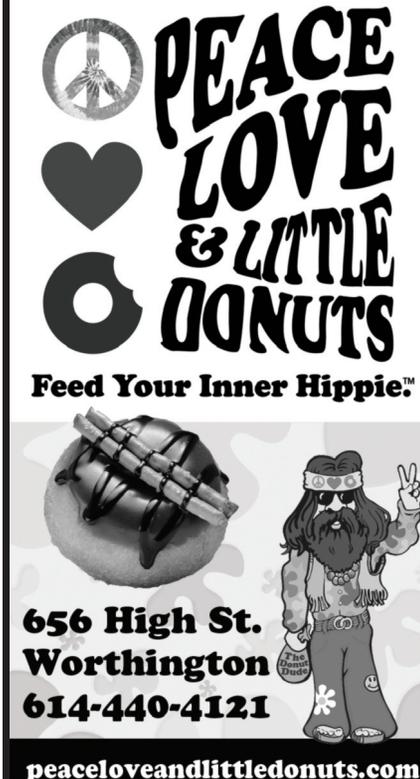
with you," he said. "So that will be addressed."

## Win Comes In Front Of Small Crowd

For the first time in more than 15 years, Ohio Stadium had fewer than 100,000 patrons enter through the gates.

According to the university, 93,057 people attended Ohio State's win over Rutgers. The number marked the first time Ohio Stadium hosted fewer than 100,000 people since 2002, when the Buckeyes defeated Kent State, 51-17, in front of 98,689 in a game that featured temperatures in the low 90s.

The attendance number was the lowest of any Ohio State home game since 92,536 attended an Oct. 4, 1997 game against Iowa, before Ohio Stadium expanded capacity with major renovations in 2001.



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# Buckeyes Cruise To 52-3 Win In B1G Opener

By CRAIG MERZ  
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

Sophomore quarterback Dwayne Haskins and his teammates dispatched another lesser opponent Sept. 8 when No. 4 Ohio State overwhelmed Rutgers, 52-3, in a soggy Ohio Stadium. Now it's on to what should be a sterner test Sept. 15 vs. No. 15 TCU at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas.

Offensive coordinator Ryan Day will be the acting head coach for the final time as Urban Meyer completes his three-game suspension for how he handled former wide receivers coach Zach Smith. Meyer resumed coaching practices beginning Sept. 3 but was not allowed to have contact with the program on game day.

Haskins threw four touchdowns to give him nine in his first two OSU starts, and he was nearly flawless as the Buckeyes (2-0, 1-0 Big Ten) rolled up 579 total yards, including 354 through the air, and did not have a turnover despite persistent showers on the gloomy, 64-degree afternoon.

"I had to be really good with ball placement," Haskins said. "No turnovers, no fumbles, anything like that. Great job by the O-line today."

Haskins completed 20 of 23 passes for 233 yards in a little more than two quarters of work. He had five TDs in a 77-31 win vs. Oregon State on Sept. 1.

In that game, fifth-year senior Terry McLaurin was his go-to guy. Against the Scarlet Knights (1-1, 0-1) it was fellow fifth-



SONNY BROCKWAY  
**INTO THE END ZONE – Ohio State sophomore running back J.K. Dobbins (2) scored his first touchdown of the season against Rutgers.**

year receiver Johnnie Dixon, who caught TD passes of 38 and 44 yards and had 89 yards total on four catches.

"Last week Terry had a pretty good week," Dixon said. "He told me 'This week is going to be your week.'"

Second-string redshirt freshman QB Tate Martell threw a TD pass and was 10 for 10 for 121 yards as the Buckeyes became the second FBS school to win 900 games (900-324-53), trailing only Michigan's 934. That doesn't include the 12 vacated wins from the 2010 season.

Martell left the game for a play after being leveled at the Rutgers sideline on a late hit in the fourth quarter. He returned and passed 7 yards to Demario McCall, then ran 47 yards for the final score of the game. Martell finished as the game's leading rusher with 95 yards on eight attempts.

Sophomore back J.K. Dobbins ran for a TD and had 73 yards on the ground before an unusually small crowd of 93,057. The weather and the lack of a competitive opponent played into a rare attendance below six figures – the first such outing since 2002.

If not for a Rutgers TD with 13 seconds left in the 2015 game, a 49-7 OSU victory, the Buckeyes would have scored 205 consecutive points vs. Rutgers over the past four games. The streak was stopped at 156 when Justin Davidovicz kicked a 41-yard field goal with 8:02 left in the third quarter to make it 42-3.

"Obviously we ran into a very good football team today," said Rutgers head coach and former OSU assistant Chris Ash. "We give them a lot of credit. When you play teams like this, especially on the road, the margin for error is very, very small. We made a lot of mistakes."

OSU junior defensive end Nick Bosa had five tackles with three of them for losses. Rutgers true freshman quarterback Artur Sitkowski had a rough outing before sustaining an injury on the final play of the first half when Bosa had his only sack of the game. Sitkowski was 6 of 18 for 38 yards and an interception.

Rutgers backup Giovanni Rescigno completed 5 of 12 passes for 27 yards. The Scarlet Knights had 134 yards (65 passing, 69 rushing).

## How It Happened

The Buckeyes scored on their first possession, taking over at the OSU 33 after McCall recovered his own muffed punt return.

Three of the five plays on the drive were completions: 12 yards to Parris Campbell, eight to Austin Mack and the 38-yard scoring strike down the middle to Dixon in the end zone for a 7-0 lead with 10:57 left in the first.

The Buckeyes' flourishing offense has shown big-play capabilities under Haskins' watch.

"The thing I told the receivers is that it doesn't matter what game it is or what day of practice it is, anybody can get the ball," he said. "And whether it's Terry one week or anybody else another week, I just want them to run the routes like they're getting the ball every single time and calling the play."

Dixon had TD receptions of 70 and 39 yards vs. the Scarlet Knights in the first half last season during the 56-0 win.

Haskins threw his second TD to make it 14-0 at the 3:22 mark of the quarter. Junior running back Mike Weber started the series at midfield with a 15-yard slashing run. He went 6 yards on the next play, but a 10-yard Luke Farrell gain on third-and-4 from the 29 was needed to keep the drive alive.

Then, on third-and-7 from the 16, Haskins found Campbell cutting left to right at the goal line for the score.

After three straight incompletions and a punt, the Buckeyes took over on the OSU 29 and went on a methodical 13-play, 71-yard march that consumed 4:26 and resulted in Haskins' third TD toss, this time for 9 yards to Farrell, the sophomore tight end who scored for the first time as a Buckeye. Dobbins touched the ball eight times (seven runs, one catch) for 45 yards on the drive.

Martell took the snaps on the next series, and it was quickly 28-0. C.J. Saunders' 20-yard punt return to the Rutgers 45 set the scene. But a holding penalty on left guard Malcolm Pridgeon eventually left the Buckeyes with 16 yards to go on third down from the OSU 49.

Martell went deep down the right sideline and connected with McLaurin at the 4 before the receiver went in for Martell's first career TD pass with 11:05 remaining in the first half.

The domination continued when Haskins led a 76-yard drive that appeared might stall when a 43-yard catch-and-run by Dobbins was negated by a Pridgeon hold.

An undeterred Dobbins rushed for 21 yards to the 50 and added 11 more on a catch. Haskins hit Campbell for 16, and the Buckeyes were on their way to 35-0 advantage when a pass interference on Rutgers set the ball at the 2. Dobbins ran in from there with 5:00 to go.

The half fittingly ended with Bosa's 10-yard sack of Sitkowski at the Rutgers 23.

OSU took the second-half kickoff, and Haskins turned a second-and-10 into a 44-yard strike to a speeding Dixon to make it 42-0 just 2:11 into the third quarter.

After Rutgers scored its first points in the last three games against the Buckeyes, aided by a roughing the passer infraction on Malik Harrison, Sean Nuernberger kicked a 21-yard field goal to make it 45-3.

Later, Martell looked down and out after taking the blow as he scrambled out of bounds.

Junior graduate transfer Chris Chugonov, formerly of West Virginia, made a brief appearance at QB before Martell returned and got a measure of revenge with his long TD run with 8:18 to play to round out the scoring.

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# The Numbers Game

## Ohio State 52, Rutgers 3

Sept. 8, 2018 – Ohio Stadium; Columbus, Ohio

Score by Quarters	1	2	3	4	F
<b>RUTGERS (1-1, 0-1 Big Ten)</b>	0	0	3	0	– 3
<b>OHIO STATE (2-0, 1-0 Big Ten)</b>	14	21	10	7	– 52

### First Quarter

**OSU** – Dixon, 38 yard pass from Haskins (Nuernberger kick), 10:57; 5 plays, 67 yards, 1:51 TOP.  
**OSU** – Campbell, 16 yard pass from Haskins (Nuernberger kick), 3:22; 7 plays, 50 yards, 2:37 TOP.

### Second Quarter

**OSU** – Farrell, 9 yard pass from Haskins (Nuernberger kick), 13:28; 13 plays, 71 yards, 4:26 TOP.  
**OSU** – McLaurin, 51 yard pass from Martell (Nuernberger kick), 11:05; 3 plays, 45 yards, 1:21 TOP.  
**OSU** – Dobbins, 2 yard run (Nuernberger kick), 5:00; 9 plays, 76 yards, 3:41 TOP.

### Third Quarter

**OSU** – Dixon, 44 yard pass from Haskins (Nuernberger kick), 12:49; 5 plays, 84 yards, 2:07 TOP.  
**RU** – Davidovicz, 41 yard field goal, 8:02; 11 plays, 52 yards, 4:47 TOP.  
**OSU** – Nuernberger, 21 yard field goal, 3:19; 11 plays, 58 yards, 4:36 TOP.

### Fourth Quarter

**OSU** – Martell, 47 yard run (Nuernberger kick), 8:18; 3 plays, 66 yards, 1:31 TOP.

**Att.** – 93,057.

**Weather** – 64 degrees, rain; wind NE 10 mph.

### Team Statistics

	RU	OSU
<b>First Downs</b>	12	32
<b>Rushing</b>	4	14
<b>Passing</b>	4	15
<b>Penalty</b>	4	5
<b>Rushing-Yards</b>	31-69	40-225
<b>Passing Yards</b>	65	354
<b>Passes (Comp.-Att.-Int.)</b>	11-30-2	30-33-0
<b>Offensive Plays</b>	61	73
<b>Total Net Yards</b>	134	579
<b>Third Down Efficiency</b>	4-15	9-14
<b>Fourth Down Efficiency</b>	0-0	0-0
<b>Punts-Avg.</b>	9-41.8	4-43.8
<b>Fumbles-Lost</b>	1-0	1-0
<b>Penalties</b>	7-72	11-120
<b>Time of Possession</b>	28:23	31:37

### Individual Statistics

**RUSHING (Att.-Net Yds.)** – **RU**: Blackshear 9-31; Hilliman 7-30; Pacheco 10-21; Rescigno 2-5; Melton 1-0; Sitkowski 2-(-18). **OSU**: Martell 8-95; Dobbins 12-73; Weber 8-31; Teague 5-25; Sneed 4-12; Campbell 1-(-2); Haskins 2-(-9).

**PASSING (Comp.-Att.-Int.-Yds.-TD)** – **RU**: Sitkowski 6-18-1-38-0; Rescigno 5-12-1-27-0.

**OSU**: Haskins 20-23-0-233-4; Martell 10-10-0-121-1.

**RECEIVING (Rec.-Yds.)** – **RU**: Blackshear 3-12; Melton 2-7; Vokelek 1-13; Washington 1-12; Hilliman 1-7; Lewis 1-7; Hayek 1-5; Jones 1-2. **OSU**: Campbell 5-64; Hill 5-25; Dixon 4-89; Victor 3-31; Mack 3-20; McCall 3-10; Saunders 2-27; Farrell 2-19; Dobbins 2-18; McLaurin 1-51.

**PUNTING (No.-Avg.-Long)** – **RU**: Korsak 9-41.8-52. **OSU**: Chrisman 4-43.8-50.

**PUNT RETURNS (No.-Yds.)** – **RU**: None. **OSU**: Saunders 3-29; McCall 2-6.

**KICKOFF RETURNS (No.-Yds.)** – **RU**: Blackshear 1-13. **OSU**: McCall 1-31; Dixon 1-16.

**MISSED FIELD GOALS (Yds.)** – **RU**: None. **OSU**: None.

**FORCED FUMBLES** – **RU**: None. **OSU**: None.

**FUMBLE RECOVERIES (No.-Yds.)** – **RU**: None. **OSU**: None.

**INTERCEPTIONS (No.-Yds.)** – **RU**: None. **OSU**: Wade 1-0; Sheffield 1-0.

**TACKLES FOR LOSS (No.-Yds.)** – **RU**: Morris 1.0-8; Maddox-Williams 1.0-5; Wharton 1.0-2;

Roberts 1.0-1; Lumor 1.0-1. **OSU**: Bosa 3.0-14; Young 2.0-8; Landers 1.0-3.

**Sacks (No.-Yds.)** – **RU**: Morris 1.0-8; Lumor 1.0-1. **OSU**: Young 2.0-18; Bosa 1.0-10.

**TACKLES (Solo-Asst.-Tot.)** – **RU**: Morris 10-1-11; Hayes 6-2-8; Hampton 7-0-7; Young 4-3-7; Wharton 4-2-6; Maddox-Williams 4-2-6; Roberts 2-2-4; Lumor 2-1-3; Tverdov 1-2-3; Previlon 1-2-3; Fatukasi 2-0-2; Turner 1-1-2; Barrow 1-1-2; Bateky 1-1-2; Fogg 0-2-2; TEAM 1-0-1; Melton 1-0-1; Davidovicz 1-0-1; Abdulaziz 1-0-1; Duggan 1-0-1; Jabbie 1-0-1; Bordner 1-0-1; Robinson 1-0-1; Wilkins 1-0-1. **OSU**: Bosa 5-0-5; Hilliard 3-1-4; Wint 3-0-3; K. Jones 2-1-3; Fuller 2-1-3; Landers 2-1-3; Pryor 1-2-3; Borland 0-3-3; Harrison 0-3-3; Young 2-0-2; Wade 2-0-2; Werner 2-0-2; Arnette 2-0-2; D. Jones 1-1-2; Okudah 1-1-2; Riep 1-0-1; Cooper 0-1-1; B. White 0-1-1; Browning 0-1-1; Hamilton 0-1-1.

**PLAYERS IN THE GAME – RUTGERS**: Offense, Cole, Maietti, Jackson, Krimin, Seymour, Sitkowski, Blackshear, Washington, Melton, Jones, Anthony, Davidovicz. Defense, Wilkins, Turner, Bateky, Lumor, Maddox-Williams, Roberts, Morris, Wharton, Young, Hampton, Hayes, Korsak. Reserves, Rescigno, Hilliman, Barnwell, Lewis, Fatukasi, Sneed, Jabbie, Hayek, Robinson, Fogg, Bordner, Pacheco, Izien, Wormley, Barrow, Snorweah, Paul, Abraham, Abdulaziz, Taylor, Battle, Duggan, O'Neal, Taylor, Vretman, Heeman, Hayek, Murphy, Griffin, Vokolek, Previlon, Tverdov. **OHIO STATE**: Offense, Munford, Pridgeon, Jordan, Knox, Prince, Berry, Haskins, Weber, Campbell, Mack, McLaurin, Nuernberger. Defense, Bosa, Landers, D. Jones, Cooper, Harrison, Browning, Werner, Sheffield, Arnette, Pryor, Fuller, Chrisman. Reserves, Martell, Okudah, Dixon, Gant, Hill, Proctor, Dobbins, Wiglusz, Williamson, B. White, Young, Chugunov, Vincent, Sneed, Mitchell, Victor, Cornell, Riep, Pryor, Harris, K. Jones, Olave, Wint, Wade, Gill, McCall, Borland, Teague, Rossi, Pope, Malone, Hilliard, Duarte, McCullough, Booker, Hamilton, Friday, Alabi, Cupp, Woidke, Myers, Togiati, Petit-Frere, Taylor, Saunders, Prater, Gardiner, Ruckert, Farrell, Garrett, Haubeil, Cage.

## Season Statistics

2018 Game-By-Game			
Date	Opponent	Result/Time	Crowd
Sept. 1	(5) OREGON STATE	W, 77-31	102,169
Sept. 8	(4) RUTGERS	W, 52-3	93,057
Sept. 15	vs. TCU	8 p.m.	–
Sept. 22	TULANE*	TBA	–
Sept. 29	at Penn State	TBA	–
Oct. 6	INDIANA	3:30 OR 4 p.m.	–
Oct. 13	MINNESOTA	TBA	–
Oct. 20	at Purdue	TBA	–
Nov. 3	NEBRASKA	TBA	–
Nov. 10	at Michigan State	TBA	–
Nov. 17	at Maryland	TBA	–
Nov. 24	MICHIGAN	Noon	–
Dec. 1	Big Ten Title Game**	8 p.m.	–

OSU's gameday AP ranking is in parentheses before the opponent, while the opponent's ranking is after the name.

\* – At AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas.

\*\* – At Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis.

Team Statistics		
	OSU	Opp
<b>First Downs</b>	67	27
<b>Rushing</b>	30	10
<b>Passing</b>	29	11
<b>Penalty</b>	8	6
<b>Average Per Game/Rush</b>	300.0	132.5
<b>Average Per Game/Pass</b>	350.0	130.5
<b>Total Offense</b>	1,300	526
<b>Total Plays</b>	160	124
<b>Average Per Play</b>	8.1	4.2
<b>Penalties-Yards</b>	17-170	12-121
<b>Fumbles-Lost</b>	2-1	6-2
<b>Third Down Efficiency</b>	21-29	10-31
<b>Percentage</b>	72%	32%
<b>Fourth Down Efficiency</b>	1-1	0-0
<b>Percentage</b>	100%	N/A
<b>Sacks-Yards</b>	8-71	2-9
<b>Time Of Possession Avg.</b>	31:27	28:33

Score						
By Quarters	1	2	3	4	OT	Tot. Avg.
<b>Ohio State</b>	35	42	24	28	–	129 64.5
<b>Opponents</b>	7	7	20	0	–	34 17.0

Individual Statistics					
Rushing	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Long
Mike Weber	28	217	7.8	3	49
J.K. Dobbins	27	147	5.4	1	21
Tate Martell	10	99	9.9	1	47
Master Teague	11	81	7.4	1	33
Brian Sneed	11	37	3.4	1	5
Dwayne Haskins	4	15	3.8	0	17
C.J. Saunders	0	8	0.0	0	0
TEAM	1	-2	-2.0	0	0
Parris Campbell	1	-2	-2.0	0	0
<b>OSU Totals</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>OPP Totals</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>80</b>

Passing	Comp.	Att.	Pct.	Yds.	TD-INT	Eff.
D. Haskins	42	53	79.2	546	9-1	218.05
Tate Martell	13	14	92.9	154	1-0	208.83
<b>OSU Totals</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>82.1</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>10-1</b>	<b>216.12</b>
<b>OPP Totals</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>46.3</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>2-2</b>	<b>91.71</b>

Receiving	Rec.	Net	Avg.	TD	Long
K.J. Hill	11	107	9.7	0	27
Parris Campbell	9	86	9.6	2	16
Austin Mack	8	89	11.1	0	21
Terry McLaurin	5	172	34.4	3	75
Johnnie Dixon	5	99	19.8	2	44
Binjimen Victor	3	31	10.3	0	15
Demario McCall	3	10	3.3	0	7
C.J. Saunders	2	27	13.5	0	19
Luke Farrell	2	19	9.5	1	10
J.K. Dobbins	2	18	9.0	0	11
Jaylen Harris	1	15	15.0	0	15
Jeremy Ruckert	1	13	13.0	0	13
Rashod Berry	1	6	6.0	1	6
Chris Olave	1	5	5.0	0	5
Mike Weber	1	3	3.0	1	3
<b>OSU Totals</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>12.7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>75</b>
<b>OPP Totals</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>10.4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>49</b>

Scoring	TD	EPK	EPR	EPRC	FG	PTS
Mike Weber	4	–	–	–	–	24
S. Nuernberger	–	18-18	–	–	1-1	21
Terry McLaurin	3	–	–	–	–	18
Parris Campbell	2	–	–	–	–	12

Johnnie Dixon	2	–	–	–	–	12
Rashod Berry	1	–	–	–	–	6
Nick Bosa	1	–	–	–	–	6
J.K. Dobbins	1	–	–	–	–	6
Luke Farrell	1	–	–	–	–	6
Tate Martell	1	–	–	–	–	6
Brian Sneed	1	–	–	–	–	6
Master Teague	1	–	–	–	–	6
<b>OSU Totals</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18-18</b>	–	–	–	<b>129</b>
<b>OPP Totals</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4-4</b>	–	–	<b>2-3</b>	<b>34</b>

FG Distance	0-29	30-39	40-49	50+	Total
S. Nuernberger	1-1	0-0	0-0	0-0	1-1
<b>OSU Totals</b>	<b>1-1</b>	<b>0-0</b>	<b>0-0</b>	<b>0-0</b>	<b>1-1</b>
<b>OPP Totals</b>	<b>1-1</b>	<b>0-0</b>	<b>1-2</b>	<b>0-0</b>	<b>2-3</b>

Punting	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Bk	Long
Drue Chrisman	5	240	48.0	0	65
<b>OSU Totals</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>48.0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>OPP Totals</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>620</b>	<b>41.3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>52</b>

Interceptions	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
Kendall Sheffield	1	0	0.0	0	0
Shaun Wade	1	0	0.0	0	0
<b>OSU Totals</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>OPP Totals</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>79.0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>46</b>

Punt Returns	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
C.J. Saunders	5	34	6.8	0	20
Demario McCall	3	32	10.7	0	26
<b>OSU Totals</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>OPP Totals</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

Kickoff Returns	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
Demario McCall	2	52	26.0	0	31
Johnnie Dixon	1	16	16.0	0	16
<b>OSU Totals</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>22.7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>OPP Totals</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>15.5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21</b>

Def. Leaders	Solo	Asst.	Tot.	TFL-Yds.	Sacks
Nick Bosa	7	2	9	5.0-35	3.0-31
Jahsen Wint	8	0	8	–	–
Justin Hilliard	6	1	7	–	–
Pete Werner	6	1	7	1.0-6	1.0-6
Malik Harrison	2	4	6	–	–
Baron Browning	1	4	5	–	–
Isaiah Pryor	1	4	5	–	–
Shaun Wade	3	2	5	–	–
Dre'Mont Jones	4	1	5	2.0-16	2.0-16
Damon Arnette	3	1	4	–	–
Jeffrey Okudah	3	1	4	–	–
Chase Young	3	1	4	2.0-18	2.0-18
Kendall Sheffield	4	0	4	–	–
Robert Landers	3	1	4	2.0-8	–
Tommy Togiati	2	1	3	–	–
Keandre Jones	2	1	3	–	–
Jordan Fuller	2	1	3	–	–
Dante Booker	1	2	3	–	–

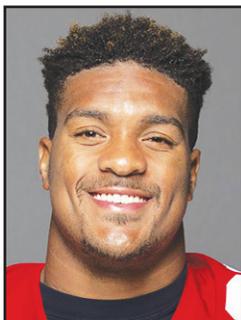
# BSB Quotebook: Ohio State 52, Rutgers 3

**Ohio State acting head coach Ryan Day on the victory against Rutgers:** "Nine hundred wins in Ohio State football history is humbling to be part of a tradition like that. To see our student section out there, to all the Buckeye Nation coming out to a game like this in the rain in the fourth quarter, the student section on both sides is going crazy, chanting and they're staying in there having a blast."

**Ohio State redshirt freshman quarterback Tate Martell when asked if the win showed he and Haskins can complement each other:** "I just want to go out there and just play. That's just how I go out there. I've improved a ton as a passer. And I want to be able to go out there and show that, and I just went out there and made plays with my legs when I had to. And obviously Dwayne is our starter. That's how it is. And I'll be there if something goes wrong."

**Martell on how he bounced back and scored a touchdown after taking a hard hit:** "When I took the shot – I wasn't really ready for it, obviously. And then I got knocked on my back. And I started getting over, and I started like kind of crawling because I couldn't breathe, but I knew I wanted to get back up. As soon as I could breathe, I was like, 'All right, let me up, I got to go back over there, make plays.' So that's what happened."

**Ohio State junior defensive tackle Dre'Mont Jones on feeling at home at AT&T**



Dre'Mont Jones

**Stadium despite TCU's proximity:** "We do. (We) trust and believe our fans are going to be there screaming crazy for us. We're not worried."

**Jones on Ohio State's abundance of talent:** "I feel like we have a lot of depth on this team. We're not a top-tier team. The first guy gets treated like the last guy. Everybody can play."

**Jones on a hypothetical OSU offense vs. OSU defense matchup:** "I don't think it would be that difficult. We know them pretty well, so we can play against them."

**Ohio State junior defensive tackle Robert Landers on the play of defensive ends Chase Young (two sacks) and Nick Bosa (one sack, three tackles for loss):** "Honestly, with them right now it's a race to the quarterback. That's all it is. Even coming out of last week Chase was like, 'I was so close on so many of them and Nick just took them from me.' So I'm happy for Chase that he finally won a race. But between the two of them it's going to be a race every week. And it's going to be hot competition between the two of them to see who can get to the quarterback first. And it's going to be fun to watch."

**Ohio State defensive coordinator Greg Schiano on Young's ejection:** "Well, I love the emotion and the fervor that he plays with. We've just got to make sure we don't let it get

in the way of us winning. In a tight ballgame, it would've been a shame to lose Chase. He understands. I think he's a young guy but he plays with great emotion and he plays – he's a really good player. He's really hard to block. So it's not going to be a big thing, we've just got to kind of make sure that doesn't happen again."

**Ohio State junior safety and Old Tappan, N.J., product Jordan Fuller on how badly he wanted to play against a school from his home state after missing the season opener with a hamstring issue:** "Rutgers was my first offer. I probably visited there, like, five times. There was definitely some emotion in there. I know a lot of players on that team too, so it was definitely a game I wanted to be a part of."

**Rutgers head coach Chris Ash on defending Ohio State's passing attack:** "They are a good team. I don't care if you have a freshman or seniors at cornerback, they are a good football team. Top to bottom they are one of the best teams in the country. That is why they are in the top five in the country. When you can't generate a pass rush, it's going to be really hard to play good pass defense, and then when you make some mistakes in coverage on top of that, it makes it even worse."

**Ash on trying to block Bosa one-on-one:** "He's a pretty good player, and that's what happens. We had ways to try to protect him. He is one of the top players in the country, regardless of position. And we had a plan to try and protect him, but he is still a great player. He made some plays. It is what it is."

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# 2018 Ohio State Football Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Eli.	Hometown/Previous School	No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Eli.	Hometown/Previous School
1	Jeffrey Okudah	CB	6-1	199	So.	So.	Grand Prairie, Texas/South Grand Prairie	39	Malik Harrison	LB	6-3	240	Jr.	Jr.	Columbus, Ohio/Walnut Ridge
1	Johnnie Dixon	WR	5-11	198	5th	Sr.	West Palm Beach, Fla./Dwyer	41	Hayden Jester	LB	6-1	230	Jr.	Jr.	Cincinnati, Ohio/LaSalle
2	Chase Young	DE	6-5	265	So.	So.	Upper Marlboro, Md./DeMatha Catholic	42	Bradley Robinson	LS	6-1	220	Jr.	Jr.	Troy, Mich./Athens
2	J.K. Dobbins	RB	5-10	212	So.	So.	La Grange, Texas/La Grange	42	Lloyd McFarquhar	CB	5-9	165	Fr.	Fr.	Cleveland, Ohio/Brush
3	Damon Arnette	CB	6-0	195	Sr.	Jr.	Fort Lauderdale, Fla./St. Thomas Aquinas	43	Robert Cope	RB	5-11	195	Fr.	Fr.	Dublin, Ohio/Jerome
4	Chris Chugunov	QB	6-1	203	Gr.	Jr.	Skillman, N.J./Montgomery	43	Ryan Batsch	S	6-3	205	Fr.	Fr.	Loveland, Ohio/Loveland
4	Jordan Fuller	S	6-2	204	Jr.	Jr.	Old Tappan, N.J./Old Tappan	44	Ben Schmiesing	LB	6-1	225	Fr.	Fr.	Piqua, Ohio/Piqua
5	Baron Browning	LB	6-4	238	So.	So.	Fort Worth, Texas/Kennedale	46	Cade Kacherski	LB	6-3	190	Fr.	Fr.	Dublin, Ohio/Jerome
6	Brian Snead	RB	5-11	200	Fr.	Fr.	Seffner, Fla./Armwood	47	Justin Hilliard	LB	6-1	230	Sr.	Jr.	Cincinnati, Ohio/St. Xavier
6	Taron Vincent	DT	6-2	285	Fr.	Fr.	Baltimore, Md./IMG Academy	48	Logan Hittle	LB	5-11	193	Jr.	Jr.	Nashport, Ohio/Tri-Valley
7	Dwayne Haskins	QB	6-3	218	Jr.	So.	Potomac, Md./Bullis School	48	Tate Duarte	TE	6-5	245	Sr.	Sr.	Poland, Ohio/Poland
7	Teradja Mitchell	LB	6-2	235	Fr.	Fr.	Virginia Beach, Va./Bishop Sullivan	49	Liam McCullough	LS	6-2	228	Sr.	Jr.	Columbus, Ohio/Worthington Kilbourne
8	Kendall Sheffield	CB	6-0	193	Sr.	Jr.	Missouri City, Texas/Blinn College	49	Xavier Johnson	CB	6-2	212	Fr.	Fr.	Cincinnati, Ohio/Summit Country Day
9	Binjimen Victor	WR	6-4	200	Jr.	Jr.	Pompano Beach, Fla./Coconut Creek	50	Nathan Brock	OL	6-4	288	Jr.	Jr.	Powell, Ohio/Olentangy Liberty
9	Jashon Cornell	DE	6-3	274	Gr.	Jr.	St. Paul, Minn./Cretin-Derham Hall	52	Dante Booker	LB	6-3	240	Gr.	Sr.	Akron, Ohio/St. Vincent-St. Mary
10	Amir Riep	S	5-11	195	So.	So.	Cincinnati, Ohio/Colerain	52	Wyatt Davis	OG	6-4	315	So.	Fr.	Bellflower, Calif./St. John Bosco
10	Daniel Vanatsky	QB	6-2	195	Fr.	Fr.	Cincinnati, Ohio/Christian Academy	53	Davon Hamilton	DT	6-4	310	Sr.	Jr.	Pickerington, Ohio/Central
11	Austin Mack	WR	6-2	215	Jr.	Jr.	Fort Wayne, Ind./Bishop Luers	54	Tyler Friday	DE	6-3	262	Fr.	Fr.	Ramsey, N.J./Don Bosco Prep
11	Tyreke Smith	DE	6-3	260	Fr.	Fr.	Cleveland, Ohio/Cleveland Heights	55	Malik Barrow	DT	6-2	280	Jr.	So.	Tampa, Fla./IMG Academy
12	Matthew Baldwin	QB	6-3	200	Fr.	Fr.	Austin, Texas/Lake Travis	55	Matthew Jones	OL	6-4	305	Fr.	Fr.	Brooklyn, N.Y./Erasmus Hall
12	Sevyn Banks	CB	6-1	190	Fr.	Fr.	Orlando, Fla./Jones	56	Aaron Cox	DL	6-3	255	So.	So.	Mantua, Ohio/Crestwood
13	Rashod Berry	TE	6-4	255	Sr.	Jr.	Lorain, Ohio/Lorain	57	Jack Cappabianca	LB	6-2	225	Fr.	Fr.	Berlin Center, Ohio/Western Reserve
13	Tyreke Johnson	CB	6-1	190	Fr.	Fr.	Jacksonville, Fla./Trinity Christian Academy	58	Joshua Alabi	OL	6-5	305	Sr.	Jr.	Detroit, Mich./Cass Tech
14	Isaiah Pryor	S	6-2	197	So.	So.	Lawrenceville, Ga./IMG Academy	59	Isaiah Prince	OT	6-7	310	Sr.	Sr.	Greenbelt, Md./Eleanor Roosevelt
14	K.J. Hill Jr.	WR	6-0	198	Sr.	Jr.	Little Rock, Ark./North Little Rock	60	Blake Pfenning	OL	6-5	295	Sr.	Sr.	Wapakoneta, Ohio/Wapakoneta
15	Jaylen Harris	WR	6-5	215	So.	So.	Cleveland, Ohio/Cleveland Heights	61	Gavin Cupp	OL	6-4	308	Jr.	So.	Leipsic, Ohio/Leipsic
15	Josh Proctor	S	6-2	190	Fr.	Fr.	Owasso, Okla./Owasso	62	Brandon Pahl	OL	6-2	299	Sr.	Sr.	Cutler, Ohio/Warren
16	Keandre Jones	LB	6-2	228	Jr.	Jr.	Olney, Md./Good Counsel	63	Kevin Woidke	OL	6-6	300	Sr.	Sr.	Cleveland, Ohio/St. Ignatius
16	Kory Curtis	QB	6-3	230	So.	So.	Cape Coral, Fla./Island Coast	64	Jack Jamieson	OL	6-1	285	Fr.	Fr.	Lakewood, Ohio/St. Ignatius
17	Alex Williams	DL	6-7	250	Fr.	Fr.	Pickerington, Ohio/North	65	Phillip Thomas	LS	6-0	230	Jr.	Jr.	Louisville, Ohio/Louisville
17	Kamryn Babb	WR	6-1	189	Fr.	Fr.	St. Louis, Mo./Christian Brothers College	66	Malcolm Pridgeon	OG	6-7	310	5th	Sr.	Central Islip, N.Y./Nassau C.C.
18	Jonathon Cooper	DE	6-4	257	Jr.	Jr.	Gahanna, Ohio/Lincoln	67	Robert Landers	DT	6-1	283	Sr.	Jr.	Dayton, Ohio/Wayne
18	Tate Martell	QB	5-11	207	So.	Fr.	Las Vegas, Nev./Bishop Gorman	68	Zaid Hamdan	DT	5-11	275	Fr.	Fr.	Mason, Ohio/Mason
19	Chris Olave	WR	6-1	170	Fr.	Fr.	San Marcos, Calif./Mission Hills	69	Chris Kuhn	DL	6-5	250	Fr.	Fr.	Sandusky, Ohio/St. Mary
19	Dallas Gant	LB	6-3	215	Fr.	Fr.	Toledo, Ohio/St. John's Jesuit	70	Noah Donald	DL	6-1	275	Jr.	Jr.	Uniontown, Ohio/Walsh Jesuit
20	Darryl Sinclair	WR	5-9	195	So.	So.	Solon Ohio/Solon	71	Josh Myers	C	6-5	308	So.	Fr.	Miamisburg, Ohio/Miamisburg
20	Pete Werner	LB	6-3	235	So.	So.	Indianapolis, Ind./Cathedral	72	Tommy Toggiai	DT	6-2	300	Fr.	Fr.	Pocatello, Idaho/Highland
21	Marcus Williamson	CB	5-10	185	So.	So.	Westerville, Ohio/IMG Academy	73	Michael Jordan	C	6-7	310	Jr.	Jr.	Canton, Mich./Plymouth
21	Parris Campbell	WR	6-1	208	5th	Sr.	Akron, Ohio/St. Vincent-St. Mary	74	Max Wray	OL	6-7	305	Fr.	Fr.	Franklin, Tenn./Franklin
23	De'Shawn White	WR	5-9	170	So.	So.	Canton, Ohio/McKinley	75	Thayer Munford	OT	6-6	319	So.	So.	Cincinnati, Ohio/Massillon Washington
23	Jahsen Wint	S	5-10	196	Jr.	So.	Brooklyn, N.Y./Erasmus Hall	76	Branden Bowen	OL	6-7	312	Sr.	Jr.	Draper, Utah/Corner Canyon
24	Sam Wiglusz	WR	6-0	175	Fr.	Fr.	Brecksville, Ohio/Brecksville-Bridgeview Hts.	77	Nicholas Petit-Frere	OT	6-6	272	Fr.	Fr.	Tampa, Fla./Berkeley Prep
24	Shaun Wade	CB	6-1	192	So.	Fr.	Jacksonville, Fla./Trinity Christian Academy	78	Demetrius Knox	OG	6-4	312	Gr.	Sr.	Fort Worth, Texas/All Saints Episcopal
25	Brendon White	S	6-2	210	So.	So.	Powell, Ohio/Olentangy Liberty	79	Brady Taylor	OL	6-5	302	5th	Sr.	Columbus, Ohio/Bishop Ready
25	Mike Weber	RB	5-10	214	Sr.	Jr.	Detroit, Mich./Cass Tech	80	C.J. Saunders	WR	5-10	185	Sr.	Jr.	Dublin, Ohio/Coffman
26	Cameron Brown	CB	6-1	175	Fr.	Fr.	St. Louis, Mo./Christian Brothers College	81	Jake Hausmann	TE	6-4	245	Jr.	So.	Cincinnati, Ohio/Archbishop Moeller
26	Jaelen Gill	H-B	6-1	182	Fr.	Fr.	Westerville, Ohio/South	82	Garyn Prater	WR	6-5	205	So.	So.	Cincinnati, Ohio/Wyoming
28	Alex Badine	CB	5-11	185	Jr.	Jr.	Brooklyn, N.Y./Monroe (NYC) College	83	Terry McLaurin	WR	6-1	204	Gr.	Sr.	Indianapolis, Ind./Cathedral
28	Amari McMahon	RB	6-0	205	Jr.	Jr.	Dublin, Ohio/Scioto	84	Brock Davin	TE	6-3	235	Jr.	Jr.	Cincinnati, Ohio/St. Xavier
28	Dominic DiMaccio	K	5-8	180	Fr.	Fr.	Columbus, Ohio/DeSales	85	L'Christian Smith	WR	6-6	205	Fr.	Fr.	Huber Heights, Ohio/Wayne
29	Marcus Hooker	S	6-0	185	Fr.	Fr.	New Castle, Pa./New Castle	86	Dre'Mont Jones	DT	6-3	290	Sr.	Jr.	Cleveland, Ohio/St. Ignatius
29	Zack Hoover	P	6-2	185	So.	So.	Toledo, Ohio/Central Catholic	87	Elijah Gardiner	WR	6-3	200	So.	Fr.	Kemp, Texas/Kemp
30	Demario McCall	H-B	5-9	193	Jr.	So.	North Ridgeville, Ohio/North Ridgeville	88	Jeremy Ruckert	TE	6-6	240	Fr.	Fr.	Lindenhurst, N.Y./Lindenhurst
30	Kevin Dever	S	6-0	190	So.	So.	Cleveland, Ohio/St. Edward's	89	Luke Farrell	TE	6-6	250	Jr.	So.	Perry, Ohio/Perry
32	Tuf Borland	LB	6-1	230	Jr.	So.	Bolingbrook, Ill./Bolingbrook	90	Antwan Jackson	DT	6-2	293	Jr.	So.	Ellenwood, Ga./Blinn College
33	Master Teague	RB	5-11	215	Fr.	Fr.	Murfreesboro, Tenn./Blackman	90	Bryan Kristan	P	6-3	195	Sr.	Sr.	Canfield, Ohio/Canfield
34	Mitch Rossi	RB	6-0	235	So.	So.	Franklin, Tenn./Franklin	91	Drue Chrisman	P	6-3	215	Jr.	So.	Lawrenceburg, Ind./LaSalle
34	Owen Fankhauser	S	5-11	193	Jr.	Jr.	Stow, Ohio/Stow-Munroe Falls	92	Haskell Garrett	DT	6-2	293	So.	So.	Las Vegas, Nev./Bishop Gorman
35	Austin Kutscher	WR	6-1	185	Fr.	Fr.	Massillon, Ohio/Washington	93	Jake Metzler	P	6-2	220	Jr.	Jr.	Doylestown, Pa./Central Bucks West
35	Luke Donovan	S	5-11	190	Fr.	Fr.	Scottsdale, Ariz./Desert Mountain	94	Roan McCullough	LS	6-1	225	Fr.	Fr.	Columbus, Ohio/Worthington Kilbourne
36	K'Vaughan Pope	LB	6-2	210	Fr.	Fr.	Dinwiddie, Va./Dinwiddie	95	Blake Haubeil	K	6-4	225	So.	So.	Buffalo, N.Y./Canisius
37	Derrick Malone	TE	6-5	245	Sr.	Sr.	Dayton, Ohio/Thurgood Marshall	96	Sean Nuernberger	K	6-1	228	Gr.	Sr.	Buckner, Ky./Oldham County
37	Trayvon Wilburn	LB	6-0	212	Fr.	Fr.	Cincinnati, Ohio/Mount Healthy	97	Nick Bosa	DE	6-4	263	Jr.	Jr.	Fort Lauderdale, Fla./St. Thomas Aquinas
38	Javontae Jean-Baptiste	DE	6-5	215	Fr.	Fr.	Oradell, N.J./Bergen Catholic	98	Jerron Cage	DT	6-3	295	So.	Fr.	Cincinnati, Ohio/Winton Woods

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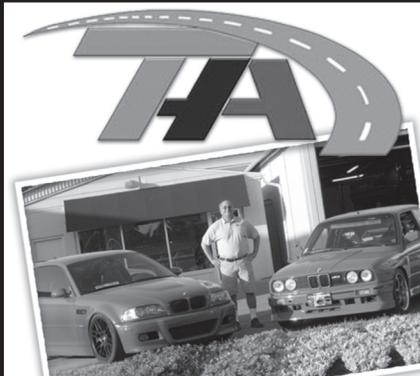
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# Mack-Haskins Connection Goes Beyond The Field

By **CRAIG MERZ**  
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

Rather than being a case study in why familiarity breeds contempt, roommates Dwayne Haskins and Austin Mack have shown their relationship produces results.

Haskins, a first-year starter at quarterback as a sophomore, and junior receiver Mack spend a lot of time together on the field and away from it when they're back at their apartment playing video games, hosting poker nights or listening to rapper J. Cole.

"Me and Dwayne, we've been buddies for a while now," Mack said. "I actually met him in recruiting. He's my best friend and we kind of messed around with 7-11, always open. That's my guy."

Yes, the 7-11 connection. It was Haskins (No. 7) finding Mack (11) for a critical catch in last year's Michigan game that cemented the confidence a QB and his receiver must have.

"We don't only see each other on the field," Mack said. "We can have that conversation off the field, be able to hang out. Just to know the guy builds the trust on the field as well."

Haskins entered the game in Ann Arbor after J.T. Barrett injured his knee in the third quarter. The Buckeyes trailed

20-14 at the time, but Haskins, in his first significant playing time, rallied OSU to a 31-20 victory.

The key play came later in the quarter when Ohio State faced a third-and-13 from the OSU 47 after consecutive false starts. Haskins drilled a 27-yard strike to Mack between two defenders to place the ball at the 26. Mack had to leave the game after the violent but legal hit.



Austin Mack

"I love all my receivers, but I definitely have a special connection with Austin," Haskins said after the game. "We had to make a play and it was one-on-one, and I'll take my boy anytime."

The Buckeyes would later score on the drive and polished off the Wolverines again.

That grab by Mack was one of several that have earned him a reputation for not being

afraid to take a pounding to make a tough catch.

"I don't know if it's Dwayne's fault or I'm in the wrong place at the wrong time," he joked.

Many of his catches are on slants that take him into dangerous areas where defenders are waiting to pop him. He must put that notion out of his mind.

"It's a lot of hard work through the offseason and trying to catch with my hands and have a strong grip to make that tough catch," Mack said. "Just being able to know where you're at. You read the

defense, hopefully you know what kind of defense you're getting. If somebody's in the alley when you're about to catch the slant, you can brace for it."

He said the thousands of throws he's taken from Haskins and the other QBs have helped make him more confident in his routes.

"The trust really comes with the preparation through the camp and this offseason knowing once I get that step and I'm breaking, the ball's going to be right there with any quarterback," Mack said. "It's good in that trust, good in that chemistry."

Mack has become a more reliable receiver since first entering Ohio State as an early enrollee in January 2016.

"The biggest thing is eye control, seeing the ball coming in, carrying the catch, really focusing on making the catch, having good body language for the quarterback and always trying to be open," he said.

Mack (6-2, 215) was a 247Sports four-star prospect at Fort Wayne (Ind.) Bishop Luers and the No. 10 receiver nationally in the 2016 class. He had 49 career touchdowns as a receiver, running back and special teams returner (he had six TDs on kickoffs).

He made a quick impression upon his arrival in Columbus and was the first true freshman to have his black helmet stripe removed, becoming a full-fledged member of the team.

Mack played in 26 games his first two seasons and had 26 catches for 358 yards (13.8 average) with two touchdowns.

In this season's opener vs. Oregon State he caught five passes for 69 yards, and in the next game vs. Rutgers he tallied three receptions for 20 yards.

His numbers might be better, but the Buckeyes are blessed this season with about 10 quality receivers. It could be a curse, though, if egos get in the way.

"My teammates, we're close and we bond together," said junior receiver K.J.

Hill. "It's kind of like basketball. You got a hot hand. You're on one day, you shoot it. If you're not on you get it to the open man who's on fire."

"We all know that if it comes your way you've got to make the most of it because you don't know when it's going to come to you again. The competition is going to bring out the best in me and everybody else."

Acting head coach Ryan Day is pleased with how Mack and others have responded to the challenge of putting the team ahead of individual stats.

"I think sometimes as receivers, you can get selfish," he said after the Oregon State game. "I don't think that's a selfish group. They pull for each other, and they know that if we are playing fast and we are playing depth they need

each other, so it does say a lot about that group."

With so many options downfield for Haskins, Mack said he doesn't expect preferential treatment from his roommate as a play unfolds.

"I'm not selfish," he said. "I want everybody to touch the rock. I trust Dwayne to make the right read. We have a lot of weapons in the receivers room. The fact Dwayne has a tremendous arm and is able to hit us on the break when we need the ball and able to lead us when we need to and run the offense clean is super fun."

Besides, if there are conflicts, the two work them out.

"With any disagreements you have to be up-front, be honest," Mack said. "You don't want to beat around the bush. We talk to each other if we have a disagreement. We handle it like men."

Even when it comes to playing NBA 2K.

"We try to keep it friendly," Mack said. "I beat him all the time. I don't think he's beaten me yet."

Yet Haskins keeps throwing him the ball, and his roomie makes the catch.

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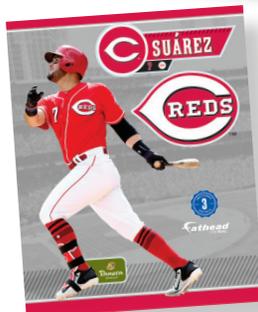
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# Unlikely Journey Leads QB To WVU, Ohio State

By GARRETT STEPIEN  
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

There was a time when Chris Chugunov appeared destined to end up as an FCS football player. Then he bet on himself at West Virginia, and doubled down while carving his path to college football's biggest stage in Columbus.

In the right place at the right time, Chugunov chased his dream, first at West Virginia and now at Ohio State. OSU announced Aug. 27 that Chugunov had officially been added to its roster as a graduate-transfer quarterback from WVU with two years of eligibility left.

From the Buckeyes' final days of fall camp and into their first few weeks of the season, Chugunov's arrival quietly added critical depth to the most important position on the team. While sophomore starter Dwayne Haskins and redshirt freshman backup Tate Martell have rightfully commanded the attention at the position from fans and media since they battled throughout spring camp, Ohio State's latest addition has provided the program with a best-possible safety net behind the scenes.

After emerging as a late-bloomer at Skillman (N.J.) Montgomery, Chugunov became a battle-tested veteran in Morgantown, W.Va. His unlikely journey has now come full circle in Columbus.

"Ohio State opened up where they needed a quarterback, and it was a whirlwind, to be honest with you," Chugunov's former high school head coach, Zoran Milich, told BSB. "It was a lot. A lot went on to make that happen."

## Hometown Hero

At the helm for Montgomery since 2002, Milich has been around football in New Jersey long enough to appreciate exactly what Chugunov did for his program.

After the Cougars went 1-9 in 2010, Milich's worst record in his first nine years on the job, a scrappy freshman quarterback with an enormous chip on his shoulder took over the offense toward the end of 2011. What followed was a three-season turnaround



TIM MOODY

**NEW IN TOWN** – Junior quarterback Chris Chugunov was added to Ohio State's roster less than a month before the season began.

from 2012-14 when Montgomery went 19-11, capped by an 8-2 campaign in Chugunov's senior year in 2014 with the best offense in school history at 35.6 points per game.

"He helped turn the whole program around," Milich said. "We had a couple of years when we

were down before he turned the whole thing around. Honestly, his three-year run was the most successful one we've had."

Chugunov ended his career as the Cougars' all-time passing leader in completions (438), yards (6,308) and touchdowns (47). But what stood out most to Milich was Chugunov's competitive spirit. In fact, after his quarterback was beaten and bruised throughout a sophomore season in which Montgomery finished 5-5, Milich suggested Chugunov transfer to one of the state's powers and make sure he maximized his recruiting potential.

"One of the things that really makes him special is the fact that he didn't have the greatest offensive line in front of him for three years," Milich said. "I think he's the gutsiest kid. He took poundings. You want to talk about his character? He's had chances to transfer to the parochial schools. He could've gone to play elsewhere. He didn't."

"I remember I told him sophomore year, I said, 'Maybe you should go to somewhere else. We're not protecting you as well.' He said, 'Don't worry about it, Coach. I've just got to make the reads quicker. I've got to get rid of the ball quicker. The O-line will be fine. I'm not leaving. I'm staying here.'"

## Chugunov's Chance

Despite the gaudy numbers and eye-popping highlights, Chugunov's offer list didn't take off the way Milich thought it would after the quarterback completed his junior season in 2013. Part of the confusion, Milich believes, actually stemmed from a misprint on Chugunov's recruiting profile on Rivals.com.

"They still have him (listed) from his freshman year where he was 5-10, 160 pounds," Milich said. "Meanwhile he was actually 6-1, 185-190 pounds. They weren't updating those. I remember a coach who was once with Rutgers coming in ... he was like, 'Oh my God, he's a lot bigger than those (measurements say he is). Yeah, he's bigger than (New Orleans Saints quarterback) Drew Brees and some of the other guys (attributed to his listed height)."

"I said, 'I know. All of you guys think he's a small kid. He's not. He's not 6-4, but he's a legit 6-1.' He was 190 pounds as a senior, going into his last year. So having said that, I think that kind of hurt his recruiting a little bit with how frequently some of these sites had it."

In the spring 2014 evaluation period, college coaches flocked to central Jersey for Chugunov's throwing sessions. After a flurry of over 20 offers on the spot, largely from FCS schools, the best-kept secret in the 2015 recruiting class finally got out to the FBS level when a relatively regional school in the Big 12 became the first Power 5 program to fully pursue Chugunov.

"West Virginia came, they saw him and they were like, 'Wow, he's really good,'" Milich said. "They sent a coach, he flew in and had to go from Philly to here. He went to Philly to see a kid and then saw Chris. They brought their offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach, (then-Mountaineers assistant Shannon Dawson), and he said to me, 'I don't know why he doesn't have offers, but I've been down to Florida, all the way up the East Coast and out to the Midwest and this kid throws the ball better than anyone that I've seen.'"

"And he goes, 'We've offered like five or six kids – we've got all of these offers out – but he's better than all of them.' So he says, 'I've got to get (WVU head coach) Dana (Holgorsen) in to see him.' So they had this one-day camp, and he went down there and tore it up. They offered him on the spot."

After the performance, it didn't take long for Chugunov to make his decision. In fact, he committed June 10, 2014, within 24 hours of the offer.

"The whirlwind with West Virginia was he had to go down there, he had to prove himself, and it was funny – apparently, they thought something was off," Milich said. "They were like, 'Why are you so good? There's got to be some kind of dark secret. Why don't you have all these offers?' So it was one of the weirdest recruiting things from that standpoint."

"Once West Virginia came, he had that opportunity, and he jumped on it because he wanted to prove himself on the big stage. (Their) offense was pretty similar to what we were running at that time, too, so it made sense."

## Battle-Tested

Following a redshirt season in 2015, Chugunov played sparingly for the Mountaineers as a freshman in 2016 with two completions on five attempts for 15 yards and an interception. As a third-year sophomore in 2017, though, a major shake-up threw Chugunov into action.

Late last season, WVU starter Will Grier broke the middle finger on his throwing hand when he plunged for the pylon in the first quarter of a Nov. 18 game against Texas. Grier – who has since blossomed into one of the top quarterbacks in the country and a 2018 Heisman front-runner – left the game, and Chugunov stepped in.

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## OHIO STATE FOOTBALL

"It's time to go," Chugunov said after the game. "You've worked for that all week. It's the nature of the game. Someone goes down, you've got to step up. I just went out there and tried to do my best for the seniors today."

West Virginia dropped a 28-14 battle with the Longhorns, but Chugunov competed as a 14-of-26 passer with 189 yards and a touch-down – a 12-yard dart over the middle on a fourth-and-5 in the fourth quarter to keep the Mountaineers within a score late in the game.

"It's the nature of the beast," Chugunov said. "I'm just an in-the-moment kind of guy. So when (Grier's injury) happened, I was like, 'All right. Let's go.' I was hoping Will was OK, but as it turns out, he wasn't. You've got to go in and do your job."

The next week, Chugunov went from backup to starter and led WVU into hostile territory Nov. 25 against eventual Big 12 champion and College Football Playoff semi-finalist Oklahoma.

"He's smart, he's a 4.0 student," Holgorsen said before the game. "He's gotten a lot of reps throughout spring and (fall) camp (in 2017). He's been through three springs, three (fall) camps. He's ready to go."

"I was happy with the way he competed (against Texas). He went in there and competed his tail off. He got knocked around a little bit, kept getting up and knew where to go with the ball."

The Mountaineers were unable to keep up on the wrong side of a 59-31 shootout loss to the Sooners and 2017 Heisman-winning quarterback Baker Mayfield, but Chugunov's demeanor in a 10-of-20 performance with 137 yards stood out to WVU offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach Jake Spavital.

"I thought Chugs handled the situation really well," Spavital said after the game. "The kid didn't have any hesitation about him, especially going into an atmosphere like that. I was very pleased with how he was."

Those experiences give Ohio State an experienced option in Chugunov as the Buckeyes build their quarterback room around Haskins and Martell, while freshman Matthew Baldwin nears 100-percent health after ACL surgery in January.

"Obviously they have a starting quarterback there, but Chris brings a great backup presence and safety net," Milich said. "If he needs to step in, you're not getting some guy who is stepping in front and it's his first college game. You're talking about a guy who's faced Texas. You're talking about a guy that's faced Oklahoma. You're talking about a guy who's been put up against Utah. You're talking about a guy that's played most of these games, so he's been in big situations. I think it kind of let itself grow into a pretty good situation for Chris at this point – and hopefully for Ohio State, too."

### Perfect Timing

For OSU, Chugunov's impact goes beyond an on-field option after Haskins and Martell. As the veteran in Ohio State's group of sig-

nal callers, Chugunov's mentorship could go a long way. Despite offers elsewhere, Chugunov (6-1, 203) chose to compete at the highest possible level on and off the field, pursuing his master's degree in hospitality management after earning his bachelor's degree in finance from West Virginia.

"I think it's a great situation for him," Milich said. "He's content with it. He's at The Ohio State, so for him, it's a great situation. I think it's great for Ohio State. They can breathe a little bit easier. They don't have to worry about a guy twisting an ankle or something like that, which would put them in trouble. You've got two years of eligibility, too, so you bring some value for more than a year."

"Here's the thing – he's got veteran experience. He's the most veteran guy they have there on that staff (of quarterbacks). He's played in those games, and I think, from that standpoint, helping the quarterbacks as well, he's been there. Once he gets the playbook – he's very, very bright and processes things as fast as anyone I've ever had. So for him, I think there's going to be good things. I just think it's going to be a good situation for everyone involved."

Ohio State acting head coach, offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach Ryan Day addressed Chugunov's arrival the week of the team's Sept. 1 season opener against Oregon State. As head coach Urban Meyer and Day sifted through the graduate-transfer market, they found a perfect match with Chugunov, who was torn between Ohio State, Arizona State and Division II Florida Tech. His brother, Mitch, is a sophomore wide receiver at Florida Tech after he transferred from the Mountaineers as well in the offseason.

"(We wanted) somebody with some experience," Day said, "somebody that's played in some college football games. Somebody that is old enough and mature enough where he's going to be able to come in and, in a short period of time, pick up the offense, and then quick release and accuracy (also stood out)."

For the sake of Haskins and Martell, Meyer and Day hope they never actually need Chugunov. But in case of emergency, Milich knows Chugunov will answer the call just as he did at his past two stops.

"He's a kid who has a lot of confidence and he doesn't shy away from competition or a bad situation," Milich said. "I think that's one of the things that they're going to get. I think that's something that Coach Meyer and a lot of people around the program are going to like about the young man. He's not shying away. He's not an excuse maker. He's not. He's the type to say, 'We'll get it done.' That intestinal fortitude got him places."

Chugunov had to answer the call when Martell was knocked out of the Rutgers game for a play after a hard hit as he went out of bounds in the fourth quarter. Chugunov later was called on to close out the 52-3 rout, leading the Buckeyes to a first down on the final drive of the game.

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# Pridgeon Earns Starting Job After Long Wait

By JAMES GREGA  
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

When Malcolm Pridgeon arrived on campus in 2016, he figured to factor into the starting rotation almost immediately at Ohio State.

A five-star junior-college transfer, Pridgeon came in widely regarded as one of the biggest – both literally and figuratively – recruits in the 2016 cycle and looked the part during fall camp. However, a knee injury sidelined him for the majority of the season, as he took a redshirt year and he watched the Buckeyes get blasted, 31-0, by Clemson in the College Football Playoff semifinals.

Last season, Pridgeon went through spring and fall camp battling for an opening along Ohio State's offensive line, with the Buckeyes looking to replace Billy Price, who had bumped down to center to fill in for the departed Pat Elflein. Ultimately, Pridgeon lost out to Branden Bowen and again to Demetrius Knox when Bowen went out for the year with an injury. He earned playing

time in mop-up duty but never was put in for meaningful reps in 2017, leaving 2018 as his final chance to win a starting job.

Pridgeon entered fall camp as a candidate to compete for a number of jobs along Ohio State's offensive line. The Buckeyes had openings at guard, center and even tackle after Jamarco Jones and Price were lost to graduation while Knox's job at guard was reopened.

Ultimately, Michael Jordan was moved to center, and Pridgeon earned the final opening at guard opposite Knox prior to the season opener, which Ohio State won 77-31 over Oregon State. The experience was a long time coming for the New Jersey native, who said Sept. 5 that it was surreal to finally earn a starting job.

"My journey has been a long one, but I have great coaches. Coach (Urban) Meyer, Coach (Greg Studrawa) and Coach (Kevin) Wilson stuck with me through the whole

struggle, pushing me every summer and every off day, even through the season last year," Pridgeon said. "Saturday was an amazing feeling, but it was a feeling I knew was always going to come. It was the long route, but it finally came."

Pridgeon not only helped the Buckeyes rush for 375 yards in a win over the Beavers, but he also helped keep starting quarterback Dwayne Haskins clean, as Ohio State's offensive line did not allow a sack in the blowout win.

In addition to starting himself, Pridgeon is in a position where he is playing next to Jordan every snap, someone whom he has a very close connection with.

When he arrived in Columbus in 2016, Jordan became Pridgeon's roommate. That same season, Jordan became the first true freshman offensive lineman to start the season opener at Ohio State since Orlando Pace, while the older Pridgeon was forced to watch from the sideline with an injury. Though he could have been jealous of his younger roommate's success, Pridgeon said he was thrilled for Jordan because he knew how talented the Michigan native was.

"M.J. has been my best friend since I got here," Pridgeon said. "We have been through a lot. With his body size and him knowing the game so well, I knew he was going to start."

Ultimately Pridgeon replaced Jordan at left guard after his move to center. Jordan was not moved to center until the summer months, despite having never played the position before at any time during his football career.

That move not only helped Pridgeon move into a starting role but also helped Ohio State get the best five linemen on the team onto the field, according to Jordan.

"It was my choice, and I ultimately chose to play center," Jordan explained. "We can have the best five guys out there at all times."

For reference, Ohio State's remaining offensive linemen include left tackle Thayer Munford, right guard Knox and right tackle Isaiah Prince.

From his new position, Jordan said he has seen Pridgeon, who stands at a towering 6-7, 310 pounds, grow much more as a player mentally.

"He has always been physical, he has always been dominant and that was never a problem," Jordan said of his roommate Sept. 5. "He has grown in the (mental) part of the game."

Following Ohio State's win over Oregon State, Pridgeon was brought up in front of the team along with Terry McLaurin and Mike Weber, players who combined for six touchdowns against the Beavers. The three players were praised not only for their work in Ohio Stadium on Sept. 1 but also for what they do behind the scenes in practice.

"We brought three guys up in the locker room," acting head coach Ryan Day said. "Weber was one of them. Malcolm Pridgeon was another one. And Terry McLaurin was the third. And those three guys have arguably been three of the best practice players we had. And they had really big days for us today. So that was great."

Though it took some time for his day to come, Pridgeon said he never doubted himself or his abilities. For him, it was a matter of when, not if, he would be able to walk out with the first-team offense at Ohio State.

"Coach Stud brought me here for a reason," Pridgeon said. "It wasn't to sit the bench. The goal is to play. (Studrawa) has been in my corner since day one, and he did a great job coaching me."



Malcolm Pridgeon

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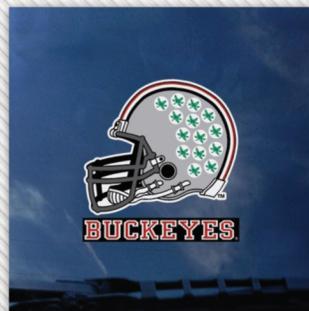


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# Robinson, TCU Face 1st True Test Vs. OSU

By **TIM MOODY**  
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

Ohio State will travel to Arlington, Texas, on Sept. 15 with a young, talented quarterback and a stingy defense in tow. Waiting in the Lone Star State will be – you guessed it – a young, talented quarterback and another stingy defense.

The Buckeyes and TCU will face off at 8 p.m. Eastern at AT&T Stadium – the site of Ohio State's Cotton Bowl win over USC last year and the team's national title in the 2014 season – in what will be the first big test of the year for both teams. TCU will be led by head coach Gary Patterson, one of the top defensive minds in the game, and sophomore quarterback Shawn Robinson, one of the most talented first-year signal callers around.

Robinson, like Ohio State sophomore quarterback Dwayne Haskins, is 2-0 early in his first year as a starter. In week one, he completed 17 of 24 passes for 182 yards and three scores while rushing twice for 45 yards and two more touchdowns in a 55-7 victory over Southern. Robinson followed up that outing by going 16 of 29 for 154 yards with one touchdown and an interception through the air and rushing eight times for 67 yards and a touchdown in a 42-12 road victory over SMU on Sept. 7, the day before Ohio State dispatched Rutgers, 52-3.

Because the Horned Frogs played late Friday night before the Buckeyes' Saturday Big Ten opener, Ohio State players were able to take a sneak peek before rolling the Scarlet Knights.

"They're fast, they're athletic, they're aggressive," Ohio State junior defensive tackle Robert Landers said of TCU after the win over Rutgers. "They have some

great athletes on the perimeter. They have an elite quarterback, an elite running back, so it will be a great test for us defensively."

Southern and SMU, though, aren't Ohio State. Both teams were unranked opponents, while the Buckeyes sit at No. 4 in the AP Top 25. Robinson and TCU are 15th.

The Sept. 15 showdown at the home of the Dallas Cowboys will be a different test for the Horned Frogs' young signal caller, but he has been able to keep things in perspective early this season.



Shawn Robinson

Despite thrashing Southern for a win in his first start of the year, Robinson noted that he should have been better.

"I've just got to calm down and throw the ball," he said after the win. "That's all I've got to do – just sit back there and deliver it."

He was at least somewhat critical of himself after the win over SMU as well.

"Feel all right. A lot of mistakes," Robinson said. "Go watch the film tomorrow and

do better."

Not only is Robinson one of the top young quarterbacks in the nation, but he'll be the first dual-threat signal caller the Buckeyes have faced in 2018. That adds another wrinkle that Ohio State has to be ready for.

However, Ohio State has already proved that it can make adjustments from week to week. The Buckeyes struggled at times defensively against Oregon State in week one, allowing 31 points and a few big plays. Against Rutgers in week two, though, Ohio State allowed just three points and no play of longer than 15 yards – a huge swing from the opener.

TCU and Robinson, however, present something different altogether, but Ohio State is used to that, too.

"Every week in college football is a different game," Ohio State defensive coordinator Greg Schiano said when asked about going up against a dual-threat quarterback

## Get To Know ... TCU

### About TCU

- **2018 Record:** 2-0.
- **Team Information:** Offensive Formation – Spread; Defensive Formation – 4-2-5; Starters Returning – Offense 5, Defense 6, Specialists 2.
- **Head Coach:** Gary Patterson, 17th year, 162-57 (all at TCU).
- **Series History:** Sixth meeting; Ohio State leads, 4-1-1.
- **School Facts:** Location – Fort Worth, Texas; Enrollment – 10,489; Nickname – Horned Frogs; Colors – Purple & White; Conference – Big 12; Stadium – Amon G. Carter Stadium (Surface, Natural Grass; Capacity, 45,000).

### Top Offensive Players

Rushing	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Long
Shawn Robinson	10	112	11.2	3	36
Darius Anderson	17	105	6.2	0	15
Sewo Olonilua	16	102	6.4	0	21

Passing	Comp.-Att.	Pct.	Yds.	TD-INT
Shawn Robinson	33-53	62.3	336	4-1

Receiving	Rec.	Net	Avg.	TD	Long
KaVontae Turpin	8	111	13.9	1	42
Jalen Reagor	8	98	12.3	1	23
TreVontae Hights	1	57	57.0	1	57

### Team Offensive Stats

Points Per Game – 48.5  
Rushing Yards Per Game – 237.0  
Passing Yards Per Game – 209.0  
Total Offense Avg. Per Game – 446.0

### 2018 Schedule

Date	Opponent	Result/Time (ET)
Sept. 1	SOUTHERN	W, 55-7
Sept. 7	at SMU	W, 42-12
<b>Sept. 15 vs. Ohio St.</b> (Arlington, Texas)		<b>8 p.m.</b>
Sept. 22	at Texas	TBA
Sept. 29	IOWA STATE	TBA
Oct. 11	TEXAS TECH	7:30 p.m.
Oct. 20	OKLAHOMA	TBA
Oct. 27	at Kansas	TBA
Nov. 3	KANSAS STATE	TBA
Nov. 10	at West Virginia	TBA
Nov. 17	at Baylor	TBA
Nov. 24	OKLAHOMA STATE	TBA

### Top Defensive Players

Def. Leaders	Solo	Ast.	Tot.	TFL-Yds.	Sacks
Arico Evans	8	2	10	1.0-2	–
Alec Dunham	8	2	10	1.5-2	–
Innis Gaines	8	1	9	1.0-2	–
Garret Wallow	4	5	9	1.5-10	1.0-9
Ridwan Issahaku	6	2	8	–	–
Niko Small	5	3	8	–	–
Corey Bethley	6	1	7	4.0-21	3.0-20

Interceptions	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
Ridwan Issahaku	1	21	21.0	0	21
Innis Gaines	1	0	0.0	0	0

### Team Defensive Stats

Points Per Game Allowed – 9.5  
Rushing Yards Per Game Allowed – 107.5  
Passing Yards Per Game Allowed – 106.0  
Total Offense Avg. Per Game Allowed – 213.5

such as Robinson. "That's the difference. In pro football, there's two or three offenses and you play them all season. Every week in college football, it's a different challenge, whether it's gun-run, whether it's two-back gun-run, whether it's pro-style like today (against Rutgers). That makes it quite a challenge."

### Players To Watch

While Robinson gets the majority of the attention, he's far from TCU's only threat on offense. Most notably, senior wide receiver KaVontae Turpin has found multiple ways to make an impact.

Through two games, Turpin leads TCU with eight receptions for 111 yards and a touchdown while also carrying the ball twice for 28 yards. He's added seven punt

returns for 145 yards, including a 78-yard touchdown against SMU.

On the ground, juniors Darius Anderson (17 carries, 105 yards) and Sewo Olonilua (16 carries, 102 yards) are each averaging better than 50 yards per game to go along with Robinson's three touchdowns on the ground.

On defense, senior linebacker Alec Dunham is a difference maker with 10 tackles through two games, tied for the team lead with fellow senior linebacker Arico Evans. The Horned Frogs have had success getting into the backfield as well, with sophomore defensive tackle Corey Bethley leading the way with four tackles for loss and three sacks so far. Senior linebacker Ty Summers has added three tackles for loss and two sacks of his own.

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# Ohio State vs. TCU

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## Projected Depth Charts

## How We See It

### WHEN OHIO STATE HAS THE BALL...

**OHIO STATE**

**FS**  
2 NIKO SMALL, 5-10, 183, SR.  
17 Trevon Moehrig-Woodard, 6-2, 190, Fr.  
27 Ar'Darius Washington, 5-8, 175, Fr.

**WS**  
31 RIDWAN ISSAHAKU, 6-1, 196, SR.  
26 Vernon Scott, 6-2, 206, Jr.  
3 Markell Simmons, 6-1, 197, Sr.

**MLB**  
30 GARRET WALLOW, 6-2, 212, SO.  
1 Jawaun Johnson, 6-0, 218, Sr.

**SLB**  
6 INNIS GAINES, 6-2, 203, JR.  
20 La'Kendrick Van Zandt, 6-1, 206, R-Fr.  
14 DeMauryon Holmes, 6-1, 200, Fr.

**SS**  
7 ARICO EVANS, 6-2, 206, SR.  
23 Alec Dunham, 6-1, 220, Sr.

**CB**  
24 JULIUS LEWIS, 5-10, 169, JR.  
OR 21 NOAH DANIELS, 6-0, 205, R-FR.  
22 Michael Onyemaobi, 6-1, 196, R-Fr.

**LE**  
94 COREY BETHLEY, 6-2, 290, SO.  
93 George Ellis III, 6-2, 304, R-Fr.

**DT**  
15 BEN BANOUGU, 6-4, 249, SR.  
40 Michael Epley, 6-3, 259, Sr.  
32 Ochaun Mathis, 6-5, 235, Fr.

**DT**  
95 TERRELL COOPER, 6-2, 286, R-FR.  
54 Joseph Broadnax Jr., 6-0, 294, Sr.  
40 Michael Epley, 6-3, 259, Sr.

**RE**  
42 TY SUMMERS, 6-2, 235, SR.  
91 L.J. Collier, 6-4, 276, Sr.  
41 Brandon Bowen, 6-4, 235, So.

**CB**  
12 JEFF GLADNEY, 6-0, 183, JR.  
28 Tony James, 5-10, 159, Sr.  
4 Keenan Reed, 5-11, 179, Jr.

**WR**  
75 THAYER MUNFORD, 6-6, 319, SO.  
58 Joshua Alabi, 6-5, 305, Jr.

**LT**  
11 AUSTIN MACK, 6-2, 215, JR.  
9 Binjimen Victor, 6-4, 200, Jr.

**LG**  
66 MALCOLM PRIDGEON, 6-7, 310, 5TH-SR.  
61 Gavin Cupp, 6-4, 308, So.  
OR 79 Brady Taylor, 6-5, 302, 5th-Sr.

**C**  
73 MICHAEL JORDAN, 6-7, 310, JR.  
71 Josh Myers, 6-5, 308, R-Fr.  
OR 79 Brady Taylor, 6-5, 302, 5th-Sr.

**RG**  
59 ISAIAH PRINCE, 6-7, 310, SR.  
77 Nicholas Petit-Frere, 6-6, 272, Jr.

**RT**  
89 LUKE FARRELL, 6-6, 250, SO.  
OR 13 RASHOD BERRY, 6-4, 259, JR.  
88 Jeremy Ruckert, 6-6, 240, Fr.  
81 Jake Hausmann, 6-4, 245, So.

**TE**  
78 DEMETRIUS KNOX, 6-4, 312, 5TH-SR.  
52 Wyatt Davis, 6-4, 315, R-Fr.

**P**  
91 DRUE CHRISMAN, 6-3, 215, SO.  
96 Sean Nuernberger, 6-1, 228, 5th-Sr.

**RB**  
7 DWAYNE HASKINS, 6-3, 218, SO.  
18 Tate Martell, 5-11, 207, R-Fr.

**QB**  
2 J.K. DOBBINS, 5-10, 212, SO.  
OR 25 MIKE WEBER, 5-10, 214, JR.  
6 Brian Snead, 5-11, 200, Fr.  
OR 33 Master Teague, 5-11, 215, Fr.

**H**  
3 PARRIS CAMPBELL, 6-1, 208, 5TH-SR.  
14 K.J. Hill, 6-0, 198, Jr.  
OR 80 C.J. Saunders, 5-10, 185, Jr.

**WR**  
83 TERRY MCLAURIN, 6-1, 204, 5TH-SR.  
19 Chris Olave, 6-1, 170, Fr.

**K**  
96 SEAN NUERNBERGER, 6-1, 228, 5TH-SR.  
95 Blake Haubeil, 6-4, 225, So.

### OHIO STATE RUSH OFFENSE vs. TCU RUSH DEFENSE

The Buckeyes will likely continue to alternate Mike Weber and J.K. Dobbins. If form holds, it will be Dobbins' turn to start, not that it matters. He got the nod in the opener vs. Oregon State, but Weber outgained him 186-74. In the second game vs. Rutgers, Dobbins rushed for 73 yards on 12 carries while the starter Weber had 31 on eight tries. What's important is that they have combined for 364 yards and four touchdowns on 55 attempts through two games. Those are impressive numbers considering they haven't been used much in the second halves of consecutive blowouts. And, oh by the way, backup quarterback Tate Martell was the leading runner against Rutgers with 95 yards on just eight carries. A QB with the most yards? Man, it must be years since that happened. Never mind. TCU is going to have its hands full trying to stop the Buckeyes. The Horned Frogs gave up a 51-yard TD run to SMU in their last game but limited the Mustangs to 80 yards on the other 32 rushes. **EDGE: OHIO STATE**

### TCU RUSH OFFENSE vs. OHIO STATE RUSH DEFENSE

The Horned Frogs gained 239 yards on a 5.8 average and three scores vs. SMU so the running game will be a factor. Darius Anderson, TCU's leading rusher last season, gained 69 yards with a long of 15 last game while quarterback Shawn Robinson had 67 yards, including an 18-yarder. Sewo Olonilua had a 21-yard burst among his 59 yards. In other words, TCU, like OSU, has options. It will be up the Buckeyes' defense to prevent the gashing runs that net big results. **EDGE: EVEN**

### OHIO STATE PASS OFFENSE vs. TCU PASS DEFENSE

It's been a fun ride so far watching Dwayne Haskins throw spirals to the receivers and spread the wealth around. The first game it was Terry McLaurin with a big outing. Last time out Johnnie Dixon used his speed for TD catches of 38 and 44 yards. The efficiency vs. Rutgers on a rainy afternoon was remarkable: Between Haskins (20 of 23) and Martell (10 for 10) there were 30 completions in 33 throws for 354 yards, five TDs and no picks. Tight end Luke Farrell had a score, Dobbins had two catches, Parris Campbell and K.J. Hill had five grabs each. In all, 10 players were in the reception line. Giving Haskins time will be key. TCU, the Big 12 sacks leader last season with 42, has seven this season in two games, including four against the Mustangs. OSU's line has yet to be tested this season, but that will change. **EDGE: OHIO STATE**

### TCU PASS OFFENSE vs. OHIO STATE PASS DEFENSE

Speaking of rushing the quarterback, defensive ends Nick Bosa and Chase Young have been unstoppable, and a strong supporting cast along the defensive front makes it difficult to key on one player. Robinson was 16 for 29 for 154 yards and had a TD and an interception last week. The score was a 42-yard catch-and-run by KaVontae Turpin, a 5-9, 157-pound dynamo capable of burning an OSU secondary that is culpable to yielding big plays. Robinson has thrown seven TDs vs. one pick on 79 career passes. **EDGE: OHIO STATE**

### SPECIAL TEAMS

Turpin can be a game-changer. His 78-yard punt return touchdown vs. SMU was the fourth of his career, the most in TCU history. His five career returns for TDs (one kickoff) are also a school mark. C.J. Saunders had a nifty punt return of 20 yards for the Buckeyes against Rutgers but overall, he and Demario McCall have been a nightmare back there. **EDGE: TCU**

### INTANGIBLES

TCU is a good program that doesn't get a lot of respect in the shadows of Texas and Texas A&M. A prime-time upset of the Buckeyes would make everyone take notice. The Horned Frogs are playing at home, sort of, at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, but OSU fans know how to get there and have seen Ohio State win a national championship and Cotton Bowl there in recent seasons. Still, the first road game always presents a challenge. It's been too easy for the Buckeyes so far, but their performances in blasting Oregon State and Rutgers by a combined score of 129-34 breeds confidence. **EDGE: EVEN**

### PREDICTION

Buckle up, Buckeye fans, this has a Virginia Tech 2014 feel to it. Haskins will be making only his third start. While everyone points to his success in relief of an injured J.T. Barrett at Michigan last year, Haskins was thrown into a dire situation and reacted. He has time to think about what's ahead. Also, the Wolverines knew nothing about him. TCU coach Gary Patterson is known for his defense, so they will be poring over every Haskins play. The good news is there haven't been many bad ones to find. This is the last outing of head coach Urban Meyer's three-game suspension. The Buckeyes do not want to let him down and suffer another early-season defeat. **OHIO STATE 35, TCU 17**

### WHEN TCU HAS THE BALL...

**TCU**

**SS**  
14 ISAIAH PRYOR, 6-2, 197, SO.  
OR 23 JAHSEN WINT, 5-10, 196, SO.  
15 Josh Proctor, 6-2, 190, Fr.  
30 Kevin Dever, 6-0, 190, So.

**LB**  
39 MALIK HARRISON, 6-3, 240, JR.  
16 Keandre Jones, 6-2, 228, Jr.

**MLB**  
20 PETE WERNER, 6-3, 235, SO.  
52 Dante Booker, 6-3, 240, 5th-Sr.

**LB**  
5 BARON BROWNING, 6-4, 238, SO.  
OR 32 TUF BORLAND, 6-1, 230, SO.  
47 Justin Hilliard, 6-1, 230, Jr.

**FS**  
4 JORDAN FULLER, 6-2, 204, JR.  
10 Amir Riep, 5-11, 195, So.  
OR 25 Brendon White, 6-2, 210, So.

**CB**  
8 KENDALL SHEFFIELD, 6-0, 193, JR.  
24 Shaun Wade, 6-1, 192, R-Fr.  
21 Marcus Williamson, 5-10, 185, So.

**DE**  
67 ROBERT LANDERS, 6-1, 283, JR.  
53 Davon Hamilton, 6-4, 310, Jr.  
OR 6 Taron Vincent, 6-2, 285, Fr.

**DT**  
18 JONATHON COOPER, 6-4, 257, JR.  
OR 2 CHASE YOUNG, 6-5, 265, SO.  
9 Jashon Cornell, 6-3, 274, Jr.

**DT**  
97 NICK BOSA, 6-4, 263, JR.  
11 Tyreke Smith, 6-3, 260, Fr.  
54 Tyler Friday, 6-3, 262, Fr.

**DE**  
86 DRE'MONT JONES, 6-3, 290, JR.  
92 Haskell Garrett, 6-2, 293, So.  
OR 72 Tommy Togiati, 6-2, 300, Fr.

**CB**  
3 DAMON ARNETTE, 6-0, 195, JR.  
1 Jeffrey Okudah, 6-1, 199, SO.

**WR**  
68 ANTHONY MCKINNEY, 6-8, 314, JR.  
OR 56 AUSTIN MYERS, 6-5, 303, SO.  
51 Quazzel White, 6-3, 317, R-Fr.

**C**  
55 KELTON HOLLINS, 6-2, 292, SO.  
69 Coy McMillon, 6-4, 280, R-Fr.

**RG**  
77 LUCAS NIANG, 6-7, 328, JR.  
62 David Bolisomi, 6-6, 322, Jr.

**RT**  
2 JAEAN AUSTIN, 6-2, 198, SR.  
OR 25 KAVONTAE TURPIN, 5-9, 157, SR.  
87 TreVontae Hights, 6-3, 195, Jr.

**T/F**  
70 CORDEL IWUAGWU, 6-3, 311, JR.  
57 Casey McDermott Vai, 6-4, 280, Sr.

**QB**  
74 CHRIS GAYNOR, 6-5, 295, SR.  
OR 52 TREY ELLIOTT, 6-4, 294, SR.  
78 Wes Harris, 6-4, 295, R-Fr.

**WR**  
84 COLE NOVAK, 6-6, 260, SR.  
88 Artayvius Lynn, 6-6, 265, So.  
47 Carter Ware, 6-4, 237, R-Fr.

**P**  
29 ADAM NUNEZ, 6-0, 186, JR.  
34 Andrew David, 5-9, 181, Jr.

**RB**  
3 SHAWN ROBINSON, 6-2, 228, SO.  
10 Michael Collins, 6-5, 214, So.  
17 Grayson Muehlstein, 6-4, 211, Sr.

**WR**  
1 JALEN REAGOR, 5-11, 195, SO.  
19 Ni'Jeel Meeking, 6-3, 206, R-Fr.  
7 John Stephens Jr., 6-5, 215, Fr.

**K**  
6 DARIUS ANDERSON, 5-11, 212, JR.  
33 Sewo Olonilua, 6-3, 231, Jr.  
16 Kenedy Snell, 5-8, 179, So.

**WR**  
37 COLE BUNCE, 5-10, 170, JR.  
OR 46 JONATHAN SONG, 5-10, 163, JR.

**WR**  
22 JARRISON STEWART, 6-0, 200, SR.  
4 Taye Barber, 5-9, 186, Fr.

**WR**  
11 DYLAN THOMAS, 6-1, 199, JR.  
80 Al'Dontre Davis, 6-0, 210, R-Fr.

# Borton's Numbers Were Something From Another Era

By MARK REA  
BSB Managing Editor Emeritus

The numbers stick out like the proverbial sore thumb.

A single-season yardage record that stood for nearly a quarter-century. A single-game mark for touchdown passes that was not eclipsed for more than 60 years.

During the modern era of spread offenses and point-per-minute offenses, it has become standard for college quarterbacks to amass tremendous numbers in terms of yardage and touchdowns passes. No fewer than 30 QBs threw for 300 or more yards during the first game of their 2018 seasons, and nearly a dozen of them totaled five or more touchdown passes. That company included Dwayne Haskins, who threw for 313 yards and five scores in the most productive day ever for a first-time starting quarterback at Ohio State.

But this is now. Way back when, those kinds of numbers were unheard of – especially in Columbus.

Sixty-six years ago, Woody Hayes was beginning the second season in what would become a 28-year run as head coach of the Buckeyes. It was a tenure marked by a run-first mentality on offense that produced a string of All-America fullbacks as well as history's only two-time Heisman Trophy.

In 1952, however, Hayes had not yet settled upon the three-yards-and-a-cloud-of-dust approach that would ultimately lead to up to five national championships (depending on whom you recognize) and 13 Big Ten titles.

Ohio State football was in a period of unrest in 1952. Hayes was the program's fifth head coach in a decade, and the Buckeyes had just one conference title to show for their previous seven seasons – a shared crown with Michigan in 1949 – and an 0-6-1 record against the archrival Wolverines during that stretch.

Hayes, coming off a nondescript first season during which his 1951 team finished at 4-3-2 overall and 2-2-2 in the conference that was good enough only for fifth place in the league standings, was looking for a new

approach and stumbled upon what he was looking for during the offseason.

Longtime Missouri head coach Don Faurot had written a book titled "Football: Secrets of the Split-T Formation," outlining and explaining the future College Football Hall of Famer's innovative offensive alignment. The offensive line in the Split-T was spread over almost twice as much ground as the basic T-formation, prompting the defensive front to widen as well and create gaps for the offense to exploit.

Hayes devoured Faurot's book and then traveled to the University of Oklahoma during the summer to receive a crash course on how to implement the offense. While in Norman, Hayes met with Sooners offensive line coach Gomer Jones, who had been an All-America lineman at Ohio State in the 1930s. Jones showed Hayes the kind of philosophy and technique needed to utilize the Split-T, and the coach returned to Columbus with a new philosophy with regard to his offense.

"Gomer Jones was extremely helpful to me along with the rest of the Oklahoma staff," Hayes wrote in "You Win With People," the coach's best-selling book from 1973. "I came back to our spring practice and put in the Split-T exactly the way it had been explained to me. Going out to Oklahoma in the spring of 1952 (was) where I really learned the basis of our running game."

Well ... almost.

The Buckeyes had yet to recruit such future fullback stars as Bob White, Bob Ferguson and Jim Otis, whose combination of power and speed would become the ultimate weapons in Hayes' version of the Split-T. But while the formation created acclaim for running backs, it still relied upon the quarterback and his quick assessment of the defensive alignment for success.

Earning the starting nod at quarterback in 1952 was sophomore John Borton, a three-sport star from Alliance, Ohio, who had earned All-Ohio honors during his senior season with the Aviators. Borton beat out several teammates for the starting job in the fall of '52, including two-year starter Tony

Curcillo, who was moved to defense for his senior season.

Borton didn't seem like a perfect fit for the Split-T formation. After all, he was a drop-back passer who had played linebacker during his freshman season in 1951 with the Buckeyes. But Hayes became convinced Borton had the athleticism and intelligence necessary to run his new offense.

That would become more and more evident as Borton went on to rewrite the program's record book for passing.

## Piling Up Passing Yardage

The Split-T formation – the one that would become more and more familiar to Ohio State fans in the coming years – worked well during the 1952 season opener. Freshman sensation Howard "Hopalong" Cassidy rushed for a pair of touchdowns and caught a 27-yard TD pass from halfback "Fearless" Fred Bruney as the Buckeyes rolled to a 33-13 victory against Indiana.

No one could foretell the kind of season Borton would have, however. He was a modest 6 for 13 passing for 87 yards against the Hoosiers, a performance that included a 15-yard scoring toss to Bruney early in the first quarter.

The euphoria of the opening-day win lasted only a week before the mistake-ridden Buckeyes dropped a 21-14 decision to Purdue. The eventual winning score came following a Borton interception in the third quarter, one of three OSU turnovers in the game.

Borton made amends the following week, however, directing the offense on drives of 88, 64 and 55 yards to lead the Buckeyes to a 23-14 upset victory against top-ranked Wisconsin. The week after that, however, served as the quarterback's coming-out party.

With Washington State selling out its defense to stop the Ohio State running attack, Borton completed 15 of 17 passes for a school-record 312 yards and five touchdowns during a 35-7 romp over the Cougars. The 88.2 completion percentage remains the third highest for a single game in OSU history, and the yardage figure remained

the highest for nearly three decades until Art Schlichter threw for 458 yards against Florida State in 1981.

Five touchdown passes in a single game was a record not equaled by an Ohio State quarterback until Bobby Hoying did it against Purdue in 1994, and the mark was not broken until Kenny Guiton threw for six TDs against Florida A&M in 2013 – more than 60 years after Borton established the record.

Four of Borton's scoring passes against Washington State went to senior end Bob Grimes, who finished with 12 receptions for 187 yards. No OSU receiver had more catches and yardage in a single game until Gary Williams totaled 13 receptions for 220 yards against Florida State in 1981, and although three players have equaled Grimes' four touchdowns in a game, no one in an Ohio State uniform has ever exceeded that total.

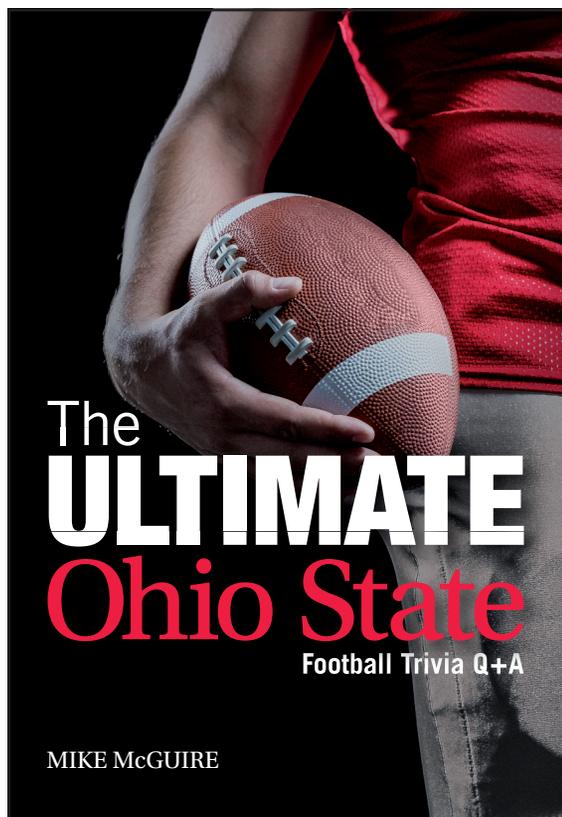
Additionally, Borton's single-game pass efficiency mark of 339.4 is a number that has never been surpassed by an OSU quarterback.

"Maybe the strangest part of that game was the fact that Washington State was supposed to have the stronger passing game," longtime OSU football historian Jack Park told BSB. The previous season, Cougars quarterback Bob Burkhart had set a new Pacific Coast Conference record with 15 touchdown passes, while receiver Ed Barker had established a new NCAA record with 847 yards receiving.

"Looking back at that game, and knowing what would come after it and in subsequent seasons under Coach Hayes, what John Borton was able to accomplish that afternoon was truly remarkable," Park said.

Three weeks later, Borton was at it again. Despite a 21-14 loss to Pittsburgh, he threw an amazing 44 times, completing 25 of those attempts for 282 yards and two touchdowns. No Woody Hayes quarterback had ever attempted that many passes in a single game, and no one ever came close to that number of attempts again during Hayes' tenure.

The Buckeyes closed out the 1952 season with a 27-7 win at Illinois and a satisfying



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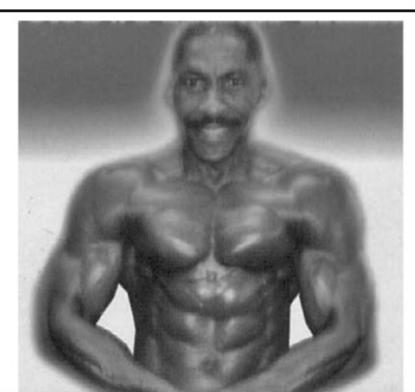
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## THE OHIO STATE QUARTERBACK

27-7 victory against No. 12 Michigan, their first win in the series since 1944. Borton put an exclamation point on his season by accounting for all four touchdowns against the Wolverines – three scoring passes and a 4-yard run.

Ohio State finished with a 6-3 record in 1952 and in third place in the Big Ten standings. But what made the season so remarkable were the passing stats piled up by Borton. He obliterated most of the program's record book with 115 completions in 196 attempts (58.7 percent) for 1,555 yards and 15 touchdowns against only six interceptions.

Only six times in Hayes' 28 seasons in Columbus did he have a quarterback who threw for 1,000 or more yards in a single season, but no one ever approached the 1,555 yards Borton amassed in 1952. Schlichter came closest when he threw for 1,250 as a freshman in 1978, Hayes' final year as head coach.

Likewise, no Hayes quarterback ever had more completions, attempts or touchdown passes in a single season than Borton totaled in 1952.

The following season, Borton was poised to repeat his exploits, and the Buckeyes broke from the gate with easy wins against Indiana and California. But during a 41-20 loss to Illinois in week three, Borton suffered an injury to one of his fingers on his passing hand. It was likely ligament or tendon damage – injury reports were sketchy at best in those days – but the injury plagued him the rest of the season. He finished with only 552 passing yards as a junior and eventually lost his starting job to Dave Leggett, a more run-oriented quarterback.

Borton returned for his senior year in 1954 and was named a team co-captain. But he could not unseat Leggett and mostly watched from the bench as Ohio State enjoyed an undefeated season that led to a national championship. The Buckeyes cemented their title with a 20-7 win against USC in the Rose Bowl, a game that was well in hand in the fourth quarter when Hayes began to empty his bench.

Normally, Borton would have been called upon to take the final snaps – a fitting climax to the career of the senior co-captain. However, Borton went to Hayes and suggested the coach put third-string quarterback Bill Booth into the game instead. Booth's father, Dick, had played fullback for Pittsburgh in the 1928 Rose Bowl and was watching the 1955 game from the stands.

"At that time, there had never been a father-son combination that had played in the Rose Bowl, and Borton somehow knew that," Park said. "Borton told Woody that it would mean a lot more to Dick Booth if he put (Bill) in. Woody complimented him on the gesture and sent Booth into the game to run the last three or four plays.

"John may have been Ohio State's only able-bodied player not to play in that game, but because of his generosity, he gave up his spot so another player could play. I've been told many times that's the kind of unselfish person John Borton was."

Borton's selflessness had come to the fore during his sophomore season and might have cost him a chance for All-America honors, perhaps even the Heisman Trophy.

On the heels of his 282-yard performance against Pittsburgh, Borton and Illinois quarterback Tommy O'Connell were among the nation's leading passers. But early in the game against the Fighting Illini, Borton told Hayes that Illinois was keying on the pass, making itself vulnerable against the run.

As a result, Borton repeatedly faked passing plays only to hand off to running backs who

broke off large chunks of yardage. OSU went on to rush for 252 yards during the 27-7 victory.

"Early in the game, Borton had told us that our quick hitters were very effective against Illinois' looping defense," Hayes said later. "He elected to exploit those weaknesses rather than pass the ball.

"As we walked off the field into the locker room, every man on our squad was aware of the contribution this 19-year-old quarterback had made. He had sacrificed his own national recognition – his chance to be an All-American – in order to call plays that were best for his team."

Maryland quarterback Jack Scarbath eventually was named the first-team All-America quarterback, and he finished second in the 1952 Heisman Trophy balloting to Oklahoma running back Billy Vessels. Scarbath threw for 1,149 yards and 10 touchdowns for the Terrapins, who finished with a 7-2 record that season.

### Calling His Own Plays

Hayes' casual mention of Borton calling plays against Illinois that "were best for the team" features an interesting insight into the way football was played – and coached – in the 1950s. Most quarterbacks of the era were given play-calling duties during games, meaning coaches entrusted their teams' futures to their signal-callers much more than they do today.

"That's the way it was in those days," former OSU defensive back Dick Brubaker told BSB. "You practiced the game plan all week, but when it came time for the game, the quarterback was usually in charge of making the play-calling decisions. You couldn't have found a better guy to do that than John. He was in pre-law and he was really smart – just the kind of player Woody loved."

Borton, who was a first-team Academic All-American in 1952 and a two-time Academic All-Big Ten selection, finished his college career with 2,129 passing yards and 19 touchdowns. Those career marks weren't approached until Don Unverferth broke the yardage figure in 1965 and Rex Kern tied the touchdown total in 1970.

Borton was selected in the 1955 NFL draft by the Cleveland Browns, but he wasn't taken until the 13th round because Browns head coach Paul Brown knew Borton was obligated for service in the U.S. Naval Reserve.

Once that obligation had been satisfied, Borton joined the Browns in 1957 and was expected to challenge for the starting quarterback job with the announcement of Otto Graham's retirement two years earlier.

At the time, Borton admitted to some apprehension about resuming his football career after a 2½-year layoff. He made the roster but couldn't dent the starting lineup, serving as a backup to Milt Plum and O'Connell, his old adversary from Illinois. Borton saw action in only five games in 1957 and completed just 3 of 6 pass attempts for 22 yards as the Browns posted a 9-2-1 record, losing a 59-14 decision to the Detroit Lions in the NFL championship game.

Ironically, Borton's best professional game came during the team's preseason game against the Lions when he entered the game as a last-minute injury replacement for Plum and completed 12 of 18 passes for 163 yards and a touchdown.

"John always said he had a bad shoulder in that game, but he was the only one who knew the plays," said Brubaker, who was a fellow co-captain with Borton on the 1954 national championship team at Ohio State. "He told Paul (Brown) he couldn't throw long but he could throw short, and it turned out that he played a helluva game.

"Paul Brown really liked him because he liked smart players. John did really well and I think could have had a pretty good pro career, but he developed a bad back and his shoulder got worse. I don't think he had the kind of football career he thought he might have had."

The 1957 campaign was to be Borton's only NFL season. He took a job at Youngstown, Ohio-based Republic Steel and remained there for the next 27 years before retiring in 1985 as a vice president of the company.

Borton's later life was plagued by bipolar disorder, a condition that apparently only football could assuage.

His daughter, Betsy Hedrick, told The (Canton) Repository in 2009, "If we could get him talking about football, he'd return to his old self. Otherwise, he'd be troubled a lot by his medical condition."

Another daughter said she thought the closest connections her father made during his lifetime were with his Ohio State teammates.

"He would go to the captains' breakfasts every year," Mary Borton told the Repository, "and he went to maybe one game a year toward the latter part of his life. He also followed high school sports and the Browns, of course."

Borton died April 9, 2002 at the age of 69. Seven years later, he was inducted into the Stark County High School Football Hall of Fame, earning recognition as the first in a long line of talented quarterbacks produced by legendary Alliance head coach Mel Knowlton.

Another quarterback on that list is Len Dawson, who starred at Purdue before embarking upon a Pro Football Hall of Fame

career that included a Super Bowl championship with the Kansas City Chiefs.

"John was a great example for the young quarterbacks coming through the system at Alliance," Dawson said. "We all looked up to him."

Borton rarely talked about his own exploits, although it seemed to those closest to him that he sometimes wondered what might have been.

"He just wasn't the type to dwell on it," his son, Stephen, told the Repository in 2009. "In fact, he rarely talked about any of the many things he'd done for others. If he said anything, it was to praise a coach or another player.

"When my father died, we opened his trunk down in the basement, and there was his stash. Game programs, pictures, newspaper clippings – stuff that we never knew he had and that he'd never talked about."

Brubaker, who competed alongside Borton in college and against him during the quarterback's lone season in the NFL, said Borton had the intangibles to become practically anything he would have wanted.

"He remained one of my best friends until he died," said Brubaker, who played three pro seasons for the Chicago Cardinals and Buffalo Bills before beginning a long and successful law career in northeast Ohio. "He was really smart, and what he wanted to do was go to law school. I think he would have made a helluva lawyer. I think he would have made a helluva football player.

"What he became, though, was a helluva family man. He was just a great guy, and I miss him."

*Buckeye Sports Bulletin will be running features on Ohio State quarterbacks throughout the 2018 football season.*



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# Rutgers Game A Popular Trip For OSU Recruits

With the evaluation period under way between now and Nov. 24, Ohio State is active on the recruiting trail between hosting priority prospects and checking on top targets in the classes of 2019 and 2020.

## RECRUITING OUTLOOK Garrett Stepien

As the Buckeyes maneuver their way through the two cycles, they hold on to top-12 groups among the national team rankings for both on the 247Sports composite. OSU boasts 14 commitments at No. 12 in 2019, while the 2020 haul sits at No. 3 nationally with six pledges on board.

During the second week of the 2018 season, though, Ohio State made waves with recruits in focus for those classes with notable names on campus Sept. 8 for the Big Ten opener against Rutgers. The Buckeyes extended a new offer, two targets trimmed their lists and other recruiting movements took place.

To stay in the know on Ohio State recruiting, head to BSB's 24/7, full-service website, BuckeyeSports.com. A free service for Buckeye Sports Bulletin print subscribers, members can sign up by emailing their name and address to [subscriptions@buckeyesports.com](mailto:subscriptions@buckeyesports.com) to receive simple instructions on further access.

### OSU Offers CB

As the evaluation period continues, Ohio State and others are expected to become more active on the trail. Shortly after the dead period ended Sept. 1, the Buckeyes sent out their first offer of the evaluation period Sept. 2 when they extended a scholarship bid to five-star cornerback Fred Davis II in the 2020 class.

For a multitude of reasons, the 6-2, 177-pound Davis is an intriguing prospect for OSU. He attends the same high school, Jacksonville (Fla.) Trinity Christian Academy, as two current Ohio State cornerbacks in redshirt freshman Shaun Wade and true freshman Tyreke Johnson.

The Buckeyes pulled Wade (2017) and Johnson (2018) from the Florida prep powerhouse in back-to-back cycles. Like Davis, Wade and Johnson were five-star prospects in the 247Sports composite before they each enrolled early for spring camp the past two years.

Interestingly enough, Davis is the second 2020 cornerback currently at Trinity Christian Academy in possession of an offer from OSU. On June 23, the Buckeyes extended an offer to four-star cornerback Miles Brooks (6-2, 171).

The offer to Brooks came after he impressed in front of Ohio State's staff June 22 at Friday Night Lights. Davis planned to make the trip with Brooks to Columbus for camp with the Buckeyes, but he ultimately did not travel due to an illness.

Among others on an early list of national offers, Sunshine State schools such as Florida and Miami have been heavily involved with

### OSU Football Verbal Commitments

Players in the class of 2019 who have issued verbal commitments to play football at Ohio State. (Star ratings reflect 247Sports composite rankings.)

Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Stars	High School
Jordan Battle	S	6-1	187	★★★★	Fort Lauderdale (Fla.) St. Thomas Aquinas
Steele Chambers	ATH	6-2	215	★★★★	Roswell (Ga.) Blessed Trinity Catholic
Cormontae Hamilton	TE	6-2	263	★★★	Memphis (Tenn.) Whitehaven
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.
Dwan Mathis	QB	6-4	197	★★★★	Oak Park, Mich.
Harry Miller	C	6-4	310	★★★★★	Buford, Ga.
Doug Nester	OT	6-5½	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	6-5	235	★★★★	Lexington, Ohio
Garrett Wilson	WR	6-0½	181	★★★★★	Austin (Texas) Lake Travis
Craig Young	ATH	6-4	200	★★★	Fort Wayne (Ind.) Wayne

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

Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Stars	High School
Lejond Cavazos	S	6-0	186	★★★★	Bradenton (Fla.) IMG Academy
Darvon Hubbard	RB	6-0	200	★★★★	Scottsdale (Ariz.) Chaparral
Paris Johnson	OT	6-7	285	★★★★★	Cincinnati St. Xavier
Jack Miller	QB	6-4	210	★★★★	Scottsdale (Ariz.) Chaparral
Jake Wray	OT	6-5	290	★★★★	Marietta, Ga.
Luke Wypler	OL	6-3½	285	★★★★	Montvale (N.J.) St. Joseph Regional

Davis between camps and visits over the summer. He spent Sept. 8 at South Carolina, where the Gamecocks dropped a 41-17 home game to Georgia.

Davis does not have any other dates lined up for visits throughout the fall. He is the 247Sports composite's No. 27 overall prospect, No. 3 cornerback and No. 1 player in Florida for 2020.

### Johnson Welcomes Meyer

When Urban Meyer returned to the Woody Hayes Athletic Center the morning of Sept. 3, the head coach's welcome back to football operations for Ohio State's week of practice came with a surprise visitor.

Cincinnati St. Xavier 2020 five-star offensive tackle Paris Johnson (6-7, 285) spent Labor Day in Columbus on campus with his

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# ASK AN ANALYST

## With Lettermen Row's Jeremy Birmingham

Ohio State hosted a pair of 2020 wide receivers from Michigan in Bay City Central three-star Devell Washington and Detroit King four-star Rashawn Williams for its Sept. 1 season opener against Oregon State. The Buckeyes are believed to be in front for another Michigan prospect as they battle Georgia and others for 2020 five-star offensive guard Justin Rogers from Oak Park, where OSU already flipped 2019 four-star quarterback Dwan Mathis from Michigan State. How much should Ohio State's inroads up north worry Michigan and Michigan State?

"It started back in the 2014 class, really, with (former Detroit Cass Tech four-star cornerback and eventual Ohio State safety) Damon Webb and the work that (former cornerbacks coach and area recruiter) Kerry Coombs did around Detroit. That's when all of it really got started for the Buckeyes. The reality is that they took a little dip when (head coach Jim) Harbaugh picked it up at Michigan. But because the prospects still haven't seen the turnaround there that they were expecting, I think that people still are waiting to see progress – especially kids up there who have grown up never seeing Ohio State lose to Michigan. It makes it difficult for them to form this sort of ironclad allegiance to Michigan, which is why you see Michigan State even sometimes having a better reputation among those kids than Michigan does itself.

"With Dwan Mathis and this year's class, Mathis is really the only one. But in 2020, as you said, there's Devell Washington, there's Rashawn Williams, whom Ohio State is absolutely in front for each of those two guys if they want them. They can get them both right now. Justin Rogers is obviously a little bit of a different case for a kid that really plays the game of recruiting and wants to be all over the place. He's back at Ohio State (Sept. 8 for

Rutgers), along with his teammate, Enzo Jennings, who's the second-ranked player in Michigan for 2020.

"It's something Michigan needs to stay concerned about, I'd imagine, because the state is starting to develop a lot more talent and the Buckeyes have offered a handful of kids up there already in the 2021 class. So they've established that it's a place that's kind of ripe for the picking right now because, ultimately, Michigan State is still not on the same level, despite beating the Buckeyes in a few big games. Michigan still has this national-recruit-first mentality, kind of like Ohio State does now in Ohio. If you're allowing other schools of that status to get involved with these kids early, you're putting yourself at risk."

**Ohio State lost Nashville (Tenn.) CPA four-star linebacker Kane Patterson, who decommitted from the Buckeyes on Aug. 24 and pledged to Clemson on Sept. 4. Are there any national or local names for OSU to pursue, in your opinion, as it aims to replace Patterson in the 2019 recruiting class?**

"I think it's an interesting question. I don't know that they're going to necessarily replace him. From the start, the addition of Patterson was sort of the cherry on top of the linebacker position because, right now, the plan is for (Lexington, Ohio, four-star outside linebacker) Cade Stover (6-5, 235), (Wayne [N.J.] DePaul Catholic four-star athlete) Ronnie Hickman (6-1, 200) and (Fort Wayne [Ind.] Wayne three-star athlete) Craig Young (6-4, 200) to potentially play linebacker out of this class. But there are questions about how big Cade gets because he's got a defensive-end frame, in my opinion and I think a lot of people's opinions. And they do have three freshman linebackers (Teradja Mitchell, Dallas Gant and K'Vaughan Pope) who may all redshirt this year. So it's kind of up in the air as to what's really needed.

"There are a couple (three-star) kids in the state –

(Boston College commitment) Tommy Eichenberg (6-3, 225) at Cleveland Ignatius, who is, I think, the top one. (Michigan State commitment) Luke Fulton (6-3, 215) from Youngstown (Cardinal Mooney) is another. Those two are the two guys I'd really look at in northeast Ohio. And then you have (Iowa commitment) Jestin Jacobs (6-3, 210) down in southwest Ohio at Clayton Northmont. He's a guy that I think is like (former Ohio State linebacker) Jerome Baker – a type of player as somebody with the off-the-edge speed and somebody who can really make a difference in the pass-rush game, maybe more as a coverage guy. I really like him, but there hasn't been any contact yet with them. There hasn't been any contact with any of them yet."

**Plenty of people point to Urban Meyer as an ace recruiter, which he is, but what would you say about the role Ryan Day has played on the trail in the time he has been acting head coach?**

"We learned this last year, really, that Ryan Day is the best recruiter on Ohio State's staff outside of Urban Meyer. And he proved it. The fact is that Ryan Day is the reason that Harry Miller committed to Ohio State to begin with. Ryan Day is the reason that Garrett Wilson committed to Ohio State to being with. They had nothing to do with (offensive line coach) Greg Studrawa and (former wide receivers coach) Zach Smith. Those are Ryan Day's guys. He has proven himself to be invaluable for this staff.

"I don't know that there's anyone else or anywhere else in the country where you could have said – if (Alabama head coach) Nick Saban left, would these recruits stay if this coordinator was the head coach? Ryan Day, if he would have become the permanent head coach at Ohio State, that appointment would have been enough to keep those guys in the mix. They wouldn't have lost any commitments other than the one they did, if everything else changed, which is incredible."

family, recruiting assistant Ed Terwilliger and Meyer.

Johnson and his family have made frequent trips up and down Interstate 71 to see the Buckeyes, but their latest day at the WHAC further showed the offensive tackle's commitment to OSU. Johnson joined the 2020 class when he announced his commitment to Meyer's program June 28.

### Patterson Picks Clemson

Nashville (Tenn.) Christ Presbyterian Academy four-star inside linebacker Kane Patterson, who decided on Aug. 24 to drop from Ohio State's 2019 recruiting class, completed his move to Clemson on Sept. 4 when he took to Twitter and announced his new commitment.

"When I said my sophomore year that Clemson was my 1st choice, I had no idea the journey I was going to take to get there," Patterson's tweet read. "Thank you to so many people who made this possible. Incredible what all God put in place to put me at Clemson. His timing is perfect. With that being said, I'm blessed to announce that I'm committing to Clemson University."

Patterson (6-1, 225) originally committed to the Buckeyes on July 9 over Alabama, Tennessee and Texas A&M. Nineteen days after he reported his offer from the Tigers on Aug. 5, Patterson decommitted from Ohio State.

After all signs pointed to Clemson, Patterson's process played out as expected. His pledge to the Tigers gave the ACC

powerhouse its 24th addition for 2019. He is the 247Sports composite's No. 199 overall prospect, No. 9 inside linebacker and No. 7 player in Tennessee.

As a result of his change, Patterson's position potentially remains an area of need for Ohio State. Although the Buckeyes received commitments from three prospects with linebacker potential in Wayne (N.J.) DePaul Catholic four-star athlete Ronnie Hickman (6-1, 200), Lexington, Ohio, four-star outside

linebacker Cade Stover (6-5, 235) and Fort Wayne (Ind.) Wayne three-star athlete Craig Young (6-4, 200), Patterson had provided OSU its only pure linebacker commit before he dropped out of the class.

### Rouse Eliminates Bucks

When Walter Rouse moved forward with his recruitment and trimmed his list down to

Continued On Page 28



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# Buckeyes Still Considering Tight End Options

Continued From Page 27

two schools, he left Ohio State on the outside looking in. The three-star offensive tackle from Washington (D.C.) Sidwell Friends School announced his top two of Notre Dame and Stanford on Sept. 5, crossing out the Buckeyes from contention after he recently visited campus.

Before the dead period began Aug. 1, Rouse took a trip to Columbus and spent July 25 on campus. He met with Meyer, offensive line coach Greg Studrawa and defensive line coach Larry Johnson, among others, but subsequent visits to Stanford and Notre Dame separated them from the pack.

Immediately after his OSU trip, Rouse crossed the country to see the Cardinal and came away impressed. When the Fighting Irish opened their season Sept. 1 with a 24-17 win over Michigan, Rouse was in attendance on an official visit.

The following weekend, he returned to Stanford for an official visit – his third of five, with the first coming June 12 at Northwestern and the second taking place at Notre Dame. Rouse watched the Cardinal record a 17-3 victory against Southern California.

Rouse, who received an offer from Ohio State on May 10 and included the Buckeyes in his top 10 on July 6, is one of the top uncommitted offensive tackles in the country. He is the 247Sports composite's No. 524 overall prospect, No. 47 offensive tackle and No. 6 player in D.C. for 2019.

In the current cycle, two of OSU's three committed offensive linemen are projected tackles. The four-star duo of Huntington (W.Va.) Spring Valley's Doug Nester (6-5½, 295) and Mentor, Ohio's Ryan Jacoby (6-5, 270) became Ohio State's first pledges for the class on Aug. 5, 2017, and March 1 of this year, respectively.

Buford, Ga., five-star center Harry Miller (6-4, 300) rounds out the Buckeyes' offensive linemen for the 2019 class while Paris Johnson, Marietta, Ga., four-star offensive tackle Jake Wray (6-5, 290) and Montvale (N.J.) St. Joseph Regional four-star center Luke Wypler (6-3½, 285) make up OSU's three commitments in the trenches for 2020.

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## A Look Back At Recruiting From The Pages Of BSB

### 30 Years Ago – 1988

As head coach John Cooper started out at Ohio State, in-state product Shane DeSimone made his interest in the Buckeyes known. The 6-1, 195-pound linebacker from Portsmouth expressed an affinity for OSU after he started his senior campaign with 14 tackles in a 27-18 win over Washington Court House.

"I've watched the Buckeyes all my life," DeSimone said. "For me to get a chance to actually play football at Ohio State would be a dream come true."

### 25 Years Ago – 1993

As the Buckeyes aimed to replace quality in the trenches, Ohio State heated up its recruitment of Orlando Pace. The 6-8, 310-pound Pace, a Sandusky, Ohio, prospect, provided an immediate option for OSU as it competed with Michigan, Notre Dame, Michigan State, Southern California and Miami (Fla.) for his services.

"I've talked to their coaching staff, and they told me there was going to be an opportunity to play," Pace said. "Their academics seem good there, and Coach Cooper seems fair. The main thing you look at with them is all the tradition they've got going for them."

### 20 Years Ago – 1998

After joining a group of 30 prospects in attendance for Ohio State's Sept. 12 home opener against Toledo, Shaker Heights, Ohio, offensive lineman Adrien Clarke came close to a Buckeye commitment.

"Not yet," Clarke said when asked if he pledged to OSU, "but I'm thinking about it."

Set to choose between Ohio State and Michigan State, the 6-6, 315-pounder was one of the top offensive linemen in the country.

Beyond Rouse, Ohio State's top targets along the offensive line, particularly at tackle, remain in play. Huntington, W.Va., five-star offensive tackle Darnell Wright (6-6, 320) – No. 1 on the Buckeyes' board – included OSU in his top 10 when he announced the list July 26.

At The Opening Finals near Dallas June 30-July 3, Wright said he initially was not going to consider Ohio State because Nester was committed there.

"I didn't really want to go to a school that a rival player was at because I feel like people would have thought I was getting on the bandwagon," Wright said. "But then I think I've matured, and that shouldn't stop me from going somewhere."

Nester and Wright are rivals on the field at crosstown high schools in West Virginia, but Spring Valley head coach Brad Dingess does not believe that will play into where Wright ends up.

"They don't hate each other," Dingess told BSB. "It's nothing like that. They don't mouth each other or any kind of things. Doug's committed. Darnell made that comment about not going to Ohio State because that was the rivalry, but you've got to believe that's how 16-year-olds think."

"I don't think anything of it, and I don't think Doug going to Ohio State would keep (Wright) from coming there too. Darnell, he's put himself in the position where he can wait until the last minute to decide. Whatever school he chooses, they're going to take him."

### TE Trims List

Ohio State already added a tight end for 2019 when Memphis (Tenn.) Whitehaven three-star Cormontae Hamilton (6-2, 263) committed July 27, but if the Buckeyes take two, Concord (Calif.) De La Salle four-star Isaiah Foskey remains an option.

He deadlifted more than 600 pounds, ran a 5.1-second time in the 40-yard dash and did not allow a sack as a junior on his way to 27 pancake blocks.

### 15 Years Ago – 2003

Cleveland Heights defensive end Michael Massey (6-5, 225) cut his list down to Ohio State and Michigan after he eliminated Pittsburgh.

Rated by Rivals as the No. 9 strong-side defensive end, Massey had family ties to the Buckeyes and the Wolverines as he neared his decision. Massey's older brother Jim played for OSU while another, Pat, was on U-M's roster at the time.

"I might wait until after the season and take official visits to both schools," Massey said. "Other schools are calling, but I'm telling them it's down to Ohio State and Michigan."

### 10 Years Ago – 2008

Two of Ohio State's 25 commitments in the 2009 recruiting class came from Pickerington (Ohio) Central, where linebacker/fullback Zach Boren and defensive back/wide receiver Jamie Wood were excited about their journey together as future Buckeyes.

"It's amazing," Boren (6-1, 255) told BSB. "I've been playing with him for three years, and he's a great player. He should have a great future at Ohio State."

Wood echoed similar sentiments for Boren. "Me and Zach, we're like best friends," Wood (6-2, 190) said. "We're both captains, we're both seniors and we're both going to the next level with each other. It's just going to build that relationship even stronger."

### Five Years Ago – 2013

On an otherwise quiet visitor weekend

On Sept. 5, Foskey took to Twitter when he cut his list down to five schools and included OSU. Foskey (6-5, 233) is also still considering California, Michigan, Notre Dame and Washington.

"I give credit to all the coaches for teaching me the game and pushing me past my limits," part of Foskey's tweet read.

Foskey, who hauled in an offer from Ohio State on Feb. 6, traveled April 5 to Columbus during a string of unofficial visits through the Midwest and recounted an excellent experience.

"When I took four unofficial visits, including Ohio State, to the Midwest and down south, I felt like Ohio State was the best overall unofficial visit," Foskey told Brandon Huffman of 247Sports. "I was able to participate in the 'Real Life Wednesday' (program). That was something that I've never been a part of on an unofficial visit. They always go against great competition and put their players into the NFL every year."

Foskey has four of his five official visits available after he burned the first one the weekend of April 6-8 at Penn State. However, California's campus in Berkeley is only about 17 miles from his high school, so he does not necessarily need the fifth official visit as it relates to the top five.

Foskey and Parkersburg, W.Va., four-star tight end Brenton Strange (6-5, 210) are two of the first names that come to mind for the Buckeyes' top targets – if any – at tight end after Hamilton. Foskey is the 247Sports composite's No. 172 overall prospect, No. 6 tight end and No. 22 player in California, while Strange is the No. 350 overall prospect, No. 16 tight end and No. 3 player in West Virginia.

### Drennen Discusses OSU

Near Ohio State's campus in Dublin, four-star athlete Michael Drennen contin-

ues to emerge as a priority prospect for the Buckeyes. After Drennen and his high school team, Dublin Coffman, downed crosstown rival Dublin Jerome, 45-14, the running back and slot receiver told BSB he felt like a top target for the local powerhouse.

After all, OSU running backs coach Tony Alford did spend that Friday night down on the field for the game, a performance in which Drennen dashed for three rushing touchdowns.

"I had Alford in the back, had to show him something," Drennen said of Alford, who watched from the back of the west end zone as the 2020 recruit dominated. "Hopefully, I'm his No. 1 now."

Alford and Ohio State have been involved with the 5-11, 190-pound Drennen increasingly over the past few months. After he camped June 12 with the Buckeyes, Drennen returned 10 days later to the Woody Hayes Athletic Center for a meeting with Meyer in the head coach's office and left with an offer.

"He's my dude," Drennen said of Meyer. "I love the Bucks, love the Bucks."

In fact, before Dublin Coffman's game, Meyer reached out to Drennen earlier in the day.

"He hit my phone earlier today," Drennen said of Meyer. "He just wished me good luck and told me to be elite, the best in the country."

In the moment, Drennen mulled his first visit back to OSU for Sept. 8 against Rutgers but did not make the trip. However, Drennen said he does plan to stop by Ohio Stadium to catch up with the staff sooner rather than later.

Watch for more on Drennen in an upcoming issue of Buckeye Sports Bulletin.

**Priority Targets Witness Win**  
Despite damp conditions during a rainy

## OHIO STATE FOOTBALL RECRUITING

Sept. 8 for Ohio State's 52-3 rout of Rutgers, the Horseshoe hosted priority prospects in the classes of 2019 and 2020.

Three commitments from the 2019 class made the Big Ten opener as the Buckeyes welcomed Oak Park, Mich., four-star quarterback Dwan Mathis (6-6, 205); Mentor, Ohio, four-star defensive end Noah Potter (6-5½, 250); and Stover. Paris Johnson was the lone pledge in attendance from the 2020 group.

Among the commitments for the current cycle, the return of Mathis was most notable for OSU. Before he flipped to Ohio State from Michigan State, his previous visit was actually a surprise trip to Columbus for Friday Night Lights on June 22. Back on campus as the Buckeyes beat the Scarlet Knights, the arrival of Mathis made for the signal caller's first visit as an OSU pledge.

Also with Mathis, Oak Park's 2020 duo of five-star offensive guard Justin Rogers (6-2½, 311) and four-star athlete Enzo Jennings (6-2, 175) made it down to Ohio State. According to the 247Sports composite, Rogers and Jennings are Michigan's top two players for 2020. Rogers ranks No. 14 nationally, No. 1 in the state and No. 1 at the position. Right behind Rogers, Jennings is No. 2 in the state, ranked nationally as the No. 5 athlete and No. 83 overall prospect.

Rogers remains atop the Buckeyes' board for 2020, making his latest trip to campus after he took several visits to Columbus through the spring and summer. Jennings received his offer from OSU on May 6 when he blew up during the spring evaluation period.

As for 2019, the top uncommitted recruit on site at the 'Shoe was Wandale Robinson. On an unofficial visit, Robinson raved about Ohio State's new-and-improved offense after the Buckeyes tallied 52 points and 579 total yards.

"The offense is really becoming a force," Robinson told Steve Wiltfong of 247Sports. "They're able to move the ball with ease and score points with ease. Seeing that offense go was good to see."

The four-star athlete from Frankfort (Ky.) Western Hills has been on OSU's radar increasingly since the spring evaluation period. He unofficially visited Ohio State on April 6 before his May 23 offer.

Recruited as an H-back and slot receiver, Robinson (5-9½, 179) touched base with acting head coach Ryan Day and interim wide receivers coach Brian Hartline after the game. "Seeing the offense and the things they can do, and Coach Meyer is one of my favorite coaches, knowing they're always going to be in contention for a national title is a good thing," Robinson said.

So far, Robinson has taken three of his five official visits. Robinson knocked out trips to Purdue (June 8-10) and Michigan (June 22-24) before he burned his latest at Nebraska the weekend of Sept. 1, where the Cornhuskers' game against Akron was canceled due to inclement weather.

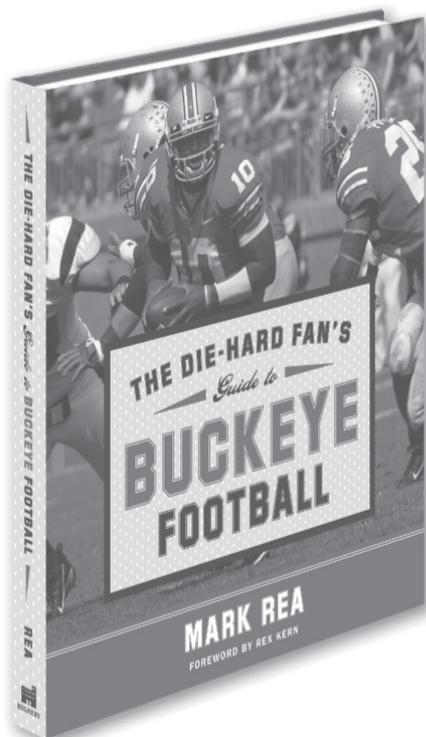
Locked into Alabama for his fourth official visit the weekend of Sept. 22 when the Crimson Tide take on Texas A&M, he remains undecided on where he will spend the fifth official visit. Between home-state Kentucky and OSU, one of the two would likely get the last shot at Robinson before he ultimately decides on his commitment.

Robinson is the 247Sports composite's No. 319 overall prospect, No. 4 all-purpose back and No. 7 player in Kentucky.

*For the latest in Ohio State football recruiting, be sure to check out BuckeyeSports.com, free to all BSB print subscriber, daily. For simple sign-up information, see page 5.*

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# Laurinaitis Highlights 2018 OSU HOF Class

By JAMES GREGA  
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

In 2005, linebackers coach and former Buckeye defensive end Luke Fickell recruited a three-star linebacker from Minnesota to play at Ohio State.

Thirteen years later, that linebacker was inducted into the Varsity "O" Hall of Fame.

James Laurinaitis was enshrined in the Ohio State Athletics Hall of Fame Sept. 7 as one of 10 Buckeye greats to be inducted in Columbus during the second week of the football season. The three-time All-American is one of the most decorated linebackers in school history, having won two Big Ten titles, the Butkus Award (2007) and the Bronko Nagurski Trophy (2006).

The honor was almost surreal for Laurinaitis, who said prior to his induction that he was surprised by his selection for the Hall of Fame.

"It was extremely humbling when you think about all the athletes that have been through here," he said. "You can go through just the football guys and be impressed, but when you think about all athletics and to be included in the hall is what humbles me the most.

"I never thought that growing up in Wayzata, Minn. - I was just a three-star kid with two offers - and I remember stepping on campus and I knew about A.J. (Hawk), Bobby (Carpenter), Anthony (Schlegel) and those guys but I had no idea about their backups. I saw their backups and thought, 'I'll never see the field.'

"To look back on that moment and then today, it's like, 'How the heck did this happen?'"

Laurinaitis said he was notified of his induction months prior to the official ceremony with a phone call from former Ohio State quarterback Ron Maciejowski. The call, which came from a number Laurinaitis did not recognize, went unanswered at first.

"One of my best friends from high school, Dominique Barber, texted me and said, 'Hey, Mr. Maciejowski is trying to get ahold of you.' And I am like, 'I don't know who that is.' His son played at Minnesota with Dom. He said, '(Ron) asked if he could have your number, I hope you don't mind.'

"My wife said, 'Will you just call him back? You're so weird about this.' So I called him back and he said, 'You can't tell anyone for about a month, but congratulations, you're going into the Hall of Fame,' and I was just floored."

As a Buckeye, Laurinaitis was an All-American each year he was a starter. He accumulated 375 total tackles, 13 sacks and nine interceptions, helping Ohio State reach back-to-back national title games and a pair of Fiesta Bowls.

His first chance to play in a big game came his freshman year in the regular-season finale against Michigan in 2005. On the first defensive play from scrimmage, Carpenter suffered an injury that forced him to miss the rest of

the game and the subsequent bowl game as well. Because Marcus Freeman had suffered an injury and staph infection earlier that year, he was redshirted, forcing Laurinaitis into his first significant game action.

Although he tallied just one tackle in a 25-21 win over the Wolverines, Laurinaitis said he still gets complimented for his play in that game from fans who remember him being thrust into action.

Even though he didn't fill up the stat sheet against Michigan as a freshman, Laurinaitis never relinquished the starting linebacker job, starting every game for the rest of his Buckeye career.

"I think about it because there are so many things that happened in my career at both levels, where it was just kind of a surprise," Laurinaitis said. "First play of the game, you're in there. I am thankful for Coach Fick for

having me ready. Once he realized he was going to have a true freshman behind Bobby and I was one play away, he made sure I was prepared."

Following a successful collegiate career, Laurinaitis was drafted in the second round of the 2009 NFL draft by the St. Louis Rams. He played his first seven seasons with the Rams before the franchise moved to Los Angeles in 2016. He left the organization as the team's all-time leading tackler before finishing his professional career with the New Orleans Saints in 2016.

Now, the former Buckeye is settling in

as a broadcaster both on the radio and on television. He is the co-host of his own radio show, "Bishop and Laurinaitis," in Columbus with 97.1 The Fan and is also settling into a new role as a color analyst for FOX Sports covering college football.

Laurinaitis said he is enjoying his life post-football and added that while he doesn't miss the in-game portion of the sport, he continues to miss the camaraderie of the locker room and being around his teammates.

"I don't necessarily miss playing the game anymore," he said. "I feel like I emptied that tank the best I could. I miss the locker room. I miss the trash talk, the banter back and forth. I miss that part of it."

Nine other Buckeyes joined Laurinaitis in the 2018 class. What follows are brief bios on each.

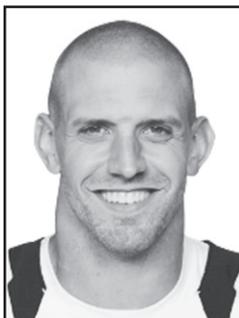
## Richard Bruggeman (men's track)

A track star and future Olympian, Bruggeman competed for Ohio State from 1967-70 and captured the 1968 Big Ten 400-meter hurdle title, finishing as the runner-up in the event twice.

He was a two-time indoor All-American and won the 400-meter hurdle championship at the 1972 AAU meet, qualifying him for the 1972 Olympics. A muscle injury hampered him for the games, but he continued to compete for USA Track and Field, traveling with them to compete in 1975 in China.

## Cassie Dickerson (women's soccer)

A three-year letter winner at Ohio State, Dickerson competed from 2008-10 as a



James Laurinaitis

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## OHIO STATE ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME

Buckeye, taking home Big Ten Defensive Player of the Year honors as a senior.

She was a National Soccer Coaches Association of America first-team All-American in 2010 and helped the Buckeyes capture a Big Ten title that same season. Being inducted into the Varsity "O" Hall of Fame is an honor Dickerson said was hard to put into words.

"I think it's greater than words almost. I grew up an Ohio State fan from that state up north and part of the reason when I was narrowing down my schools one of the things that drew me to Ohio State and why I decided to come here was the prestigious athletics history of all of the sports, of the entire program," she said. "I knew I wanted to be somewhere where my peers would challenge me and hold me to the highest standards. So it's kind of crazy now somehow kind of becoming part of that tradition and history that inspired me to become a Buckeye."

### Greg Drown (rifle)

A four-time letter winner, Drown won three NRA gold medals while competing at Ohio State from 1981-84. During his time with the Buckeyes, he captured four Big Ten titles individually and was named a first-team All-Big Ten selection four years in a row.

He competed internationally, trying out for the 1984 Olympic team, before developing neurological problems with his back and legs. After major back surgery in 2001, the problem was diagnosed as multiple sclerosis.

Despite the setback, Drown returned to competitive shooting in 2006, and in 2017-18 he competed as a member of the U.S. National Paralympic Development Team.

### Linda Haussener (field hockey)

A three-time All-American, Haussener accumulated 45 career goals in her Buckeye career from 2005-08, which ranks sixth in school history. Her senior year, she tallied 52 total points, the sixth most productive season in program history.

Being included in a group with some of Ohio State's greats was almost overwhelming for her, she said.

"It means a lot. I was really excited when I heard the news," she said. "I think it's something very, very special. Also, seeing who else is already in there and who else is being inducted I'm just really excited to be here."

### Ray Hupp (men's track)

Already inducted into the Ohio Association of Track and Cross Country Coaches Hall of Fame in 1974, Hupp was a first-team All-American at Ohio State in 1971 when he won the 1971 NCAA decathlon title.

A letterman from 1969-71, his decathlon record of 7,456 points stood for more than 40 years and remains No. 2 in program history.

### Bryan Koniecko (men's tennis)

A letterman from 2006-09, Koniecko finished his career second in school history with 254 combined victories.

He led the Buckeyes to four Big Ten regular-season titles and was a back-to-back Big Ten Athlete of the Year in 2008 and 2009. Since his graduation, Ohio State's tennis program has flourished, winning the 2018 Big Ten title and announcing plans for a new on-campus facility to break ground within the year.

Koniecko said he is proud of what he helped set the table for and what his former coach Ty Tucker has been able to build at Ohio State.

"I remember dating back to my recruiting trip when Ty was pitching me his vision of this place before Ohio State tennis was the powerhouse that it is," he said. "And to be a part of the group of guys to get the ship going in the right direction and to see all these players that I know very well through stories or through Ty to keep this thing going in the right direction, especially for being a cold-weather state school, to be good in tennis is incredible."

### Mike Pucillo (wrestling)

A four-year letterman, Pucillo captured the national championship in the 184-pound class in 2008. He finished his college career with a 107-16 overall record, which still ranks as one of the top 10 winning percentages in school history.

### Jerry Welsh (men's hockey)

One of the most important people in Ohio State hockey history, Welsh played for the Buckeyes from 1970-73 but is perhaps better known as the head coach of the program from 1976-1995.

As a player he was voted Most Valuable Player of the team each of his last three seasons and accumulated 143 career points and 81 goals as a Buckeye.

Two years after his playing career ended, he was named Ohio State's head coach, a post he kept for 20 years. His best season as a coach came in 1983-84, when the Buckeyes rose to No. 1 in the country for the first time in program history and finished with a 30-10-1 record, which set the school record for wins in a single season. A full feature on Welsh can be found on page 32.

### Brandon Wynn (men's gymnastics)

A two-time NCAA champion and six-time All-American, Wynn excelled on the rings in his time as a Buckeye. He won NCAA and Big Ten championships in the event in both 2010 and 2011, his junior and senior seasons.

He went on to compete in the 2012 Olympic trials before winning multiple gold and silver medals in the 2016 U.S. championships. He currently resides in Los Angeles, where he operates his own fitness facility.



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# Welsh's HOF Induction Brought Mixed Memories

By CRAIG MERZ  
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

Jerry Welsh and his wife, Paula, have the popular Garden Grove Bed & Breakfast near the shores of Lake Michigan up for sale and are ready for the next chapter after running their business in a renovated 1925 farmhouse for the past 18 years.

"We're trying to retire from my last career and buy a hammock," Jerry Welsh joked. "I'm too old to get up a ladder and wonder what am I doing here? I've got to get away from this."

Leaving on his own terms is something that Welsh, 68, desires after the way his long association with the Ohio State hockey program ended unceremoniously 23 years ago for the former Buckeye standout player (1970-73) and head coach (1976-95).

BSB caught up with the program's winningest coach via telephone Sept. 5 as he prepared for a trip to Columbus from his home in Union Pier, Mich., about 70 miles from Chicago.

Welsh two days later became the sixth member of the men's hockey program to be inducted into the Ohio State Athletics Hall of Fame, joining Paul Pooley (class of 1994), Bill McKenzie (2001), Jamie Macoun (2005), Hugo Boisvert (2013) and Paul Tilley (2015).

He either played or coached (or both) with all but Boisvert during his time with the Buckeyes.

For someone who helped lead OSU to the 1972 Central Collegiate Hockey Association regular-season and tournament championships (Ohio State has won only one other title since the team was formed in 1963 – the 2004 CCHA tournament) and as a coach set numerous milestones, it seems like the recognition is long overdue.

Maybe Welsh's first thought when he learned of the honor said it all: "Mixed reaction for sure."

It's been complicated for Welsh coming to grips with his parting from the school nearly a quarter century ago. For someone who bled scarlet and gray, the black and white of his coaching record would indicate a change in direction was necessary when he resigned on Feb. 14, 1995, after athletics director Andy Geiger informed him his contract would not be renewed at the end of the season.

The Buckeyes were 5-22-2 at the time and in the midst of their ninth straight losing season. Anyone looking at that would say Welsh had overstayed his welcome.

But digging deeper, his supporters would argue there's more to the story than wins and losses. To them, Welsh kept the program afloat despite casual indifference – not his words – and obstacles that competing Division I coaches did not encounter.

"To measure his value to Ohio State in the last six or seven years of his coaching career on that basis is totally unfair," said McKenzie, a teammate on the 1972 team and longtime assistant coach for Welsh, in a phone interview. "He's one of the most competitive guys you'll ever come across, and he basically put that program on his back and willed it forward."

To be clear, during a candid and sometimes raw conversation with Welsh, he did not bash the university or demean those whom he had to work for or with. He just stated what many who had seen the rise and fall of the program knew to be the truth.

"Things have changed for the better," Welsh said. "They've got the tools now I never had. I was trying to fix my car with a hammer and saw when I was doing that, and



COURTESY OF OSU ATHLETICS

**INTO THE HALL – Jerry Welsh (left) was honored by the Ohio State Varsity "O" Hall of Fame and president Ron Maciejowski (right) on Sept. 7.**

I was happy to do it. I loved it there, but it would have been nice to have some tools."

The Ohio State program is on firm footing now. The Buckeyes have played in the cavernous Value City Arena since 1999, are a member of the now six-year-old Big Ten hockey conference and have made two trips to the Frozen Four. The first was in 1998 under Welsh's successor, John Markell, and last season Steve Rohlik guided the Buckeyes to the national semifinal game in their second consecutive NCAA appearance.

For years Welsh never had a full-time paid assistant where other schools had at a minimum one and usually two. He often had fewer scholarships to offer, and of course, there was the rink.

The OSU Ice Rink back in the 1970s and '80s was outdated even then with its cramped, dingy dressing rooms, small capacity (1,400 bleacher seats) and less-than-regulation ice surface.

"I would do some recruiting calls, and I would literally hear from players, 'We've heard your building is just terrible. That's what everybody says,' " McKenzie said. "I always joked, 'No, it's probably worse.'"

Still, Welsh thrived early, but as college hockey in the U.S. grew in importance, spurred no doubt by the 1980 Olympic gold medal ("The Miracle on Ice") that was won by a mostly collegiate roster, Ohio State did not keep up.

A Buckeye Hall of Famer who played for Welsh took note of that growth while making the case for his coach's enshrinement.

"The thing that really stuck with me was his ability to retain high standards in the face of financial, facility and priority challenges. At no point did he make excuses because of the hand he was dealt. He was always looking for a way to succeed as a team and program. The goals were set high for his players and teams, and the expectation was to win.

"His dedication and love for The Ohio State University and the hockey program was, and still is, second to none. Jerry Welsh was Ohio State Hockey."

Those words were written in a nominating letter to the Hall of Fame committee by Pooley. That it was dated Nov. 28, 2007, tells you that some people at Ohio State struggled for years with how to honor a coach who had a sub-500 record and no national titles or even NCAA appearances.

However, the wait may have benefited Welsh, who has finally come to terms with his relationship with the university.

"I'm trying to grab my arms around the whole thing. I've had so many close people – Bill (McKenzie), who's a close friend, and my son (Scott) who for some reason is a pretty hard-core Ohio State fan – help me," Welsh said. "The point is love it or list it, it's my legacy.

"There's no secret to the people who know me well enough that I've struggled with giving the same kind of commitment mentally and emotionally to the school now that I had put in for more than 20 years there.

"I really believe I had some success there without all the proper tools you'd expect to have success with and put everything into it physically, mentally and emotionally."

What hurts the most is that he never made it across the finish line, that is taking his team into a gleaming new facility that would have removed many of the disadvantages he had in recruiting.

By the time of his departure, Geiger, who had been on the job less than a year, and OSU president E. Gordon Gee were engaged in an arena war of sorts with the city of Columbus as to who could build a multipurpose facility first. This time, the school was serious about it after decades of teasing.

Columbus got Nationwide Arena, home of the NHL's Blue Jackets, and Ohio State built a venue with 17,500 seats for hockey.

"I think I worked for five ADs altogether. Then when they decided they were going to go ahead and do something more 'right' for the program, they decided it wasn't going to be me carrying the torch any longer," Welsh said.

"At that point it was a sour pill to take. I haven't done a great job working towards swallowing it better than I have.

"I've had to work my way around that and really come up with the bigger picture, which I should have been doing all along instead of being attached to the minutia of the whole last year."

For the record, Welsh was 328-381-56 (.465) at Ohio State.

His last winning season was a 23-19-1 record in 1985-86. Over his final 8½ seasons the Buckeyes were 89-218-35 (.321) in 342 games.

Prior to that is when he had success. In his first 11 seasons he recorded a 239-163-21 (.589) mark.

Welsh, at age 25, took over a program in 1975 that the previous year was 7-22-1, and he led the Buckeyes to an 18-15-1 record. Between 1978 and 1984 he averaged 24 wins per season and was second in the CCHA in five of six seasons.

OSU earned its first top-10 national ranking in December 1979 and finished in the top 10 four times during that six-year span.

For the 1982-83 season he was named CCHA Coach of the Year and was the national runner-up for the award. The program reached its zenith under his direction the following season when the Buckeyes started 13-0-0 and reached the top of the rankings for the first time and stayed there for three of the four weeks in November 1983.

His career record at the time after 301 games was 180-114-7 (.609).

OSU finished with a school-record 30 wins (10 losses, one tie). Pooley was a first-team All-American and the national player of the year. His twin, Perry, was a second-team All-American, and goalie John Dougan made honorable mention.

"As a coach, Jerry brought the program into national prominence. He led the 1983-84 team to a No. 1 ranking, a feat that is still remarkable today given the challenges that he faced as a coach. His teams were always prepared and competitive," Paul Pooley wrote in his recommendation letter.

Pooley would later join Welsh's staff and is now the associate head coach at Notre Dame. His nephew, Perry's son Austin, is a sophomore on the OSU hockey team.

Welsh sent eight players to the NHL, including Macoun, who won a Stanley Cup with the Calgary Flames in 1989, and he recruited 20 players who were selected in the NHL draft.

"It's amazing what he was able to do," McKenzie said. "He's the type of guy who to this day won't accept excuses – 'Just go do the job.' As other programs started to move forward, Ohio State financially didn't give the same support."

## The Promise

As a young Jerry Welsh was looking for a college in the U.S. to attend, the Oshawa, Ontario, native heard from Ohio State head coach Harry Neale, who, like his predecessor Glen Sonmor, would go on to coach in the NHL.

"I started hearing scuttlebutt about a new arena for hockey on campus for Ohio State from Harry Neale back in 1968," Welsh said. "I firmly believe he believed it."

Any Buckeye player from the 1960s to mid-'90s heard the same rumor.

"When Harry Neale was recruiting me there was the joke, 'We're going to have a building before you leave,' " said McKenzie, who stayed on Markell's staff for one season, and later was an analyst on OSU telecasts. "Well, Harry didn't realize it was going to be 30 years before I left and it was the Schottenstein Center."

Welsh had a stellar playing career. He was the team's Most Valuable Player his last three seasons and had 143 points (81 goals, 62 assists) in 100 career games. He is tied for seventh on OSU's all-time goals list and 21st in points.

As a junior he led the Buckeyes with 28 goals on the way to the CCHA title in 1972, and he served as captain the next season.

After graduating, Welsh played two professional seasons in the minors before OSU came calling and he replaced his coach, Gerald Walford.

McKenzie later joined Welsh's staff as the volunteer goaltender coach following an eight-year pro career, including 91 NHL games.

"Even I didn't understand the depth of the lack of support he had because he never

## OSU ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME: JERRY WELSH

shared it with me. For him it was no excuses," McKenzie said. "I came back to the program in '80 after I finished playing. That's when I realized what was going on. He never complained. He just soldiered on."

That was Welsh's style.

According to news reports in 1984, Welsh was 21st among 25 Ohio State head coaches in salary. His \$22,200 on a nine-month contract was the second lowest among the 31 Division I hockey coaches. Burke made \$4,235 as an assistant coach for five months.

Besides the low pay, Welsh had to deal with the lack of grants-in-aid. There was a stretch in the 1980s when schools were allowed a maximum of 20 hockey scholarships, but OSU offered only 17.

Welsh recalls a time when NCAA-mandated bylaws forced Ohio State to reduce scholarships across the board for nonrevenue sports (i.e. not football or men's basketball) and hockey dropped to 15.

"We were in the hunt every year it seemed for the CCHA," Welsh said. "Then when we went down to 15 and we're competing against schools with 20, so going against a whole line and two defensemen – all quality players on scholarship – was too much to give up."

"We went from competing at the top echelon of that league to struggling to stay in the middle after that. We did return to the cap later on, but the damage was done."

"I tell the story now, but I wouldn't have told it then."

He couldn't.

"It wasn't going to help me any to have people realize what the reality there was," he said. "Because of the negative recruiting against us, you really couldn't go after the top 20 percent of the hockey players, the recruits, out there."

"I didn't need that to go to the top 30 percent, so I tried to keep as much as I could secret."

The 1984 team, despite its 30 wins, did not make the eight-team NCAA tournament after losing 8-1 to Michigan State in a CCHA semi-final. Even though OSU rebounded to beat Bowling Green 3-2 in overtime the next day in the consolation game, it was the Falcons who got an at-large bid with a 31-7-2 record.

More galling, BG went on to win the national championship to put another dagger in the heart of Ohio State hockey.

For years Falcons fans loved to come to the OSU Ice Rink and taunt the home crowd with chants of "new rink, new rink," and there was no retort.

In the late '80's with the OSU program waning, Michigan coach Red Berenson even suggested the Buckeyes didn't belong in the CCHA without a new facility.

"Those were exactly his comments," McKenzie said. "He wanted to get the pimple gone, especially having to play in that building."

Welsh didn't blame Berenson.

"He was coach of the year in St. Louis in the National Hockey League before he came to Michigan, then he finds himself walking between his players with equipment bags on the floor almost tripping on them in our dressing room stinking to high heaven," he said. "It was almost an embarrassment to ask a coach of the year in the NHL to do, but that was our life."

There were periodic rumblings during that period that the school was considering disbanding the hockey program. Welsh said he was told as much by an administrator.

"Had I decided to move on, it would have been the perfect time to drop it, so I felt pres-

sure to stay, do a good job and keep it clean and all that," he said.

But the clock was ticking. In his last two full seasons, the Buckeyes won just 17 of 65 games and recruiting against that record and playing in a 30-year-old rink were taking a toll.

"I was naive enough for the first few years to think none of my competition knew how bad the rink was," Welsh said. "Well, they did because they had to go in there and play in it, but the players they were recruiting were aware of it too."

In a Michigan Daily article two months before Welsh resigned, Bowling Green player Quinn Fair discussed why he transferred there instead of OSU after Kent State dropped hockey after the 1992-93 season.

"One of the obvious reasons is the facility there (at OSU) and the tradition (at Bowling Green)," said Fair, who used the word "brutal" to describe the OSU Ice Rink locker rooms. "It's like an ice rink I played in as a peewee."

"If Ohio State wanted to be a top-notch program, they could. It doesn't seem they want to make an effort."

Markell was named the interim coach after Welsh's departure, but the university in searching for Welsh's replacement reportedly looked at Maine's Scott Walsh, Northern Michigan's Rick Comley and Gino Gasparini of North Dakota. At the time they had combined for five NCAA titles.

But Comley was not interested, telling the Grand Forks (N.D.) Herald that Ohio State "isn't making a legitimate effort to upgrade its program."

OSU instead hired Markell after the urging of the players, and the school in fact was about to finally keep its promise of a new facility.

At 7:08 p.m. on Jan. 2, 2009, Boisvert took the opening faceoff for the first hockey game at Value City Arena in the Jerome Schottenstein Center.

Welsh years earlier likely would have been unable to recruit a talent such as the Hall of Famer Boisvert.

"The opening of the Schottenstein Center just took this to a brand-new level," Boisvert said in March. "I came on my official visit and was absolutely convinced I had found the place for me. I believe it certainly had something to do with our success. Not too sure without it how things would have been."

Welsh wasn't present that night and had been to only one game there years ago before he returned Sept. 7, the morning of his induction, when he, his family and several of his former teammates were given a tour by Rohlik.

That evening more than 50 people were in the Ohio Union on Welsh's behalf at the Hall of Fame banquet, a sign that he is neither forgotten nor underappreciated for his efforts over the years.

"I along with a lot of other people who were around at that time feel that if it hadn't been for Jerry we would probably not have a hockey program through the '70s and '80s," McKenzie said.

Welsh is finally at peace with what he could and couldn't do for the program.

"I felt good we accomplished something, had some successes," he said. "I kept it in the race so sometime whenever a new rink was going to happen, whether it was a new rink back in the Harry Neale era in '68, to where they really did get a rink and put some cash into the program for staff and support staff and a budget to feed the players, that there was something there to move forward with."

"I guess I did that."



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# Edwards Suspended By BTN Over Twitter Outburst

Former Michigan wide receiver stand-out Braylon Edwards was hired by the Big Ten Network during the offseason to be a studio analyst. Before the second week of the college football season could get started, he was suspended.

## BIG TEN NOTES James Grega

BTN suspended Edwards indefinitely Sept. 4 for a violation of the network's social media policy, three days after he sent out a tweet during Michigan's 24-17 loss to Notre Dame that used profanity to describe the Wolverines' performance.

"Ruiz is weak, line is weak, shea is scared, f\*\*\*\*\* Michigan offense is so pre-

dictable.....Michigan football is sadly one thing.....Trash," his tweet read.

The tweet referenced starting offensive lineman Cesar Ruiz and quarterback Shea Patterson directly, while also attacking the team as a whole. Michigan head coach Jim Harbaugh was asked about Edwards' tweet on Sept. 3 and was critical of the former All-America wide receiver.

"There's nobody in our program who thinks those things about any player on our team, let alone the two players that he described," Harbaugh said. "On the other level, it's disappointing that a member of the Big Ten Network would choose to attack the character of two of our players. That's disappointing.

"And I would say that if somebody wants to attack the character of anybody on the ballclub, come after me, not our youngsters."

Edwards later apologized for the nature

of his comments but doubled down on his criticism of the program as a whole.

"I admit I was excessive and emotional and inebriated. Mix those together. But the focus of my tweets remains intact. I stand by that. I was over-excessive Saturday night at 10:29, but I don't back down on my overall stance as an alum and a fan. I've always defended Michigan. Even this year, I was high on Michigan," he told the Detroit Free Press.

From 2001-04, Edwards was one of the best wide receivers in the country at Michigan. He caught 252 passes for 3,541 yards and 39 touchdowns in his Wolverine career and was selected No. 3 overall in the 2005 NFL draft by the Cleveland Browns.

Current Wolverine player and defensive end Rashan Gary also chimed in on the situation, criticizing Edwards for taking shots at his teammates.

"At the end of the day, we're college

## BIG 2018 Standings

### East Division

	Conf.			All		
	W	L	Pct.	W	L	Pct.
Ohio State	1	0	1.000	2	0	1.000
Indiana	-	-	-	2	0	1.000
Maryland	-	-	-	2	0	1.000
Penn State	-	-	-	2	0	1.000
Michigan	-	-	-	1	1	.500
Michigan State	-	-	-	1	1	.500
Rutgers	0	1	.000	1	1	.500

### West Division

	Conf.			All		
	W	L	Pct.	W	L	Pct.
Northwestern	1	0	1.000	1	1	.500
Illinois	-	-	-	2	0	1.000
Iowa	-	-	-	2	0	1.000
Minnesota	-	-	-	2	0	1.000
Wisconsin	-	-	-	2	0	1.000
Nebraska	-	-	-	0	1	.000
Purdue	0	1	.000	0	2	.000

### Sept. 8 Scores

Wisconsin 45, New Mexico 14  
Michigan 49, Western Michigan 3  
Duke 21, Northwestern 7  
Eastern Michigan 20, Purdue 19  
**Ohio State 52, Rutgers 3**  
Colorado 33, Nebraska 28  
Iowa 13, Iowa State 3  
Maryland 45, Bowling Green 14  
Indiana 20, Virginia 16  
Illinois 34, Western Illinois 14  
Minnesota 21, Fresno State 14  
Penn State 51, Pittsburgh 6  
Arizona State 16, Michigan State 13

### Sept. 15 Games

Kent State at Penn State, Noon (FS1)  
Rutgers at Kansas, Noon  
Ball State at Indiana, Noon (BTN)  
Temple at Maryland, Noon (BTN)  
Troy at Nebraska, Noon (BTN)  
BYU at Wisconsin, 3:30 p.m.  
SMU at Michigan, 3:30 p.m. (BTN)  
Miami (Ohio) at Minnesota, 3:30 p.m. (BTN)  
South Florida at Illinois, 3:30 p.m. (BTN)  
Missouri at Purdue, 7:30 p.m. (BTN)  
Northern Iowa at Iowa, 7:30 p.m. (BTN)  
Akron at Northwestern, 7:30 p.m. (BTN)  
**Ohio State vs. TCU, 8 p.m. (ABC)**

students, we're college football players and we love what we do," Gary said Sept. 3. "We take it to heart. For someone to stab at somebody - I didn't see the tweet - but to take shots at a player and you're a grown man, I don't think that's cool."

As of Sept. 9, Edwards had not been reinstated by BTN.

### Dudek Suffers Another Injury

For the third time in four years, Illinois' top wide receiver Mikey Dudek will miss the majority of the season due to a knee injury.

Dudek, who suffered season-ending knee injuries in both 2015 and 2016, suffered yet another knee injury in the Fighting Illini's season opener against Kent State.

Dudek exploded onto the scene at Illinois in 2014, catching 76 passes for 1,038 yards and six touchdowns, and appeared poised to be a repeat All-Big Ten candidate. After missing the next two seasons with knee injuries, he appeared in seven games a season ago, catching 24 passes for 262 yards and a score while battling through additional setbacks.

He caught four passes for 64 yards and carried once for 7 yards in the 31-24 win over the Golden Flashes before his season once again came to an end.

"It's kind of hard to put it into words," head coach Lovie Smith said of Dudek's

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**From The Pages Of BSB**

**35 Years Ago – 1983**

Ohio State quarterback Mike Tomczak was named UPI Midwest Offensive Player of the Week after he went 21 of 25 with 273 yards and four touchdowns Sept. 10 in the Buckeyes' 31-6 win over Oregon.

Tomczak's completion rate of 84.0 percent came close to the single-game NCAA record set by Stanford's Dick Norman (87.2 percent) in 1959.

**30 Years Ago – 1988**

Ohio State started the John Cooper era with a bang Sept. 10 when the Buckeyes delivered a 26-9 victory over Syracuse in the 1988 season opener.

Before a record opening day crowd of 89,768 at Ohio Stadium, the head coach soaked in an unforgettable debut at OSU.

"It was a great opening victory for us," Cooper said. "I told our squad that I don't know if I was any prouder of a football team than I was the way we played today."

Ohio State snapped Syracuse's 14-game unbeaten streak. Perhaps the biggest takeaway, as Cooper put it, was the Buckeyes' ball control.

"I guess that's the thing that makes me as happy as anything else about the ball game is the fact that we did not turn the ball over," he said. "Mark that down. If you don't turn it over, you're going to have a chance to beat most good football teams."

**25 Years Ago – 1993**

Rod Smith was at risk of missing his senior season after a combination of issues led to NCAA and team discipline.

After he served a one-game suspension for running up a long-distance phone bill of \$500, charged to unauthorized university numbers, Smith was kept out of practice by head coach John Cooper because the offensive lineman had yet to repay a student loan that he owed the university.

"We'll welcome him back when this gets settled," Cooper said. "But I thought it was going to be worked out last week. He needs to get it done. Every day he misses, he falls further and further behind."

**20 Years Ago – 1998**

Ohio State strengthened its hold on the No. 1 spot in both polls after the Buckeyes downed Toledo, 49-0, and No. 2 Florida State fell in week two.

OSU increased its vote count from 39 to 57 of the 70 first-place tallies in the AP poll and from 38 to 52 of the first-place tallies in the USA Today/ESPN coaches poll, followed by Florida and Nebraska.

"If you're ranked 10th, you've got to win," Cooper said. "If you're ranked No. 1, you've got to win. Michigan was ranked 14th last year, and they just kept winning, winning, winning."

"If you keep winning, I don't care how ugly it is ... If we win all our games, we will play for a national championship. Just keep winning, because somebody is going to get knocked off."

**15 Years Ago – 2003**

As Ohio State opened its season, star sophomore running back Maurice Clarett remained out until a "definitive decision" came about on his NCAA issues after he violated NCAA Bylaws 10 and 12, respectively dealing with ethical conduct and amateurism.

After Clarett was held out of the Buckeyes' team picture Aug. 6, he remained a practice participant until head coach Jim Tressel announced the running back's removal from game-week preparations until further notice.

"Until we get a definitive decision, we won't have him practice," Tressel said of Clarett.

Director of athletics Andy Geiger declined to go into detail but revealed a complicated situation between the NCAA, OSU and Clarett's conduct.

"We're going to receive a great deal of criticism for this, and I understand that," Geiger said.

Clarett was in question for his truthfulness to the NCAA and Ohio State after he allegedly cashed a \$100 check from a stranger and three checks totaling \$500 from a "surrogate father."

**10 Years Ago – 2008**

Over the weekend of Ohio State's first home football game, the athletic department inducted 12 members into the

2008 Varsity "O" Hall of Fame class. They included Carolina Moraes, synchronized swimming (1999-2002); Isabela Moraes, synchronized swimming (1999-2002); Amy Langhals, golf (1994-97); Krista Keir, track and field (2002-03); Megan Mirick, lacrosse (1999-02); Maxi Meissner, rowing (2000-03); Bob Todd, baseball coach (1987-present); Drew Durbin (1994-97), gymnastics; Bobby Hoying, football (1993-95); Johnny Edwards, baseball (1958); Jeff Uhlenhake, football (1985-88); and two-sport star Fred Keller, lacrosse (1956-58) and soccer (1955-57).

**Five Years Ago – 2013**

Former Ohio State running back Roman Bates died Sept. 5 in Memphis, his hometown, at 49 years old. Bates grew up in Tennessee, but he made his affinity for the Buckeyes known when speaking with BSB in 1983.

"I used to watch Archie Griffin," Bates said. "That's when I became interested in Ohio State. Then after he left, I began following Tim Spencer and Jimmy Gayle. My senior year they started recruiting me, and I took advantage of it. I came up here and checked it out, and it was like I hoped it would be."

Bates lettered for OSU from 1983-84 before head coach Earle Bruce dismissed him prior to the 1986 campaign for a team rules violation. Bates earned his bachelor's degree in business and physical education in 1987.

**One Year Ago – 2017**

Days after Ohio State opened its season at Indiana on Aug. 31, junior wide receiver Eric Glover-Williams was no longer a member of the team due to what head coach Urban Meyer described as a "school conduct issue."

Glover-Williams, who initially committed to the Buckeyes' 2015 recruiting class, came to Columbus as a defensive back and was one of only four freshmen to see the field that season after he enrolled early in the spring.

In 2016, he became a special teams standout with seven tackles in 13 games. Glover-Williams moved to offense in 2017 as OSU attempted to maximize his athleticism and speed at H-back.

He was on the travel roster for Ohio State's first game with the Hoosiers but did not make the trip to Bloomington, Ind.

latest injury. "Mike has meant so much to our program."

Dudek took to Twitter following his injury, thanking the Illinois fans who have supported him over the years, as his college eligibility will run out at the end of the season.

"You can't allow adversity to define your life. You must take the good with the bad and continue to move forward," he said. "I am forever grateful for all the support I have received these past 5 years. #NoBadDays Thank you Illini Nation."

**MSU Falls In Desert**

The Big Ten East suffered its first upset of the season on Sept. 8, when No. 15 Michigan State fell to unranked Arizona State in the desert.

The Spartans suffered their first loss of the season despite carrying a 13-3 lead into the fourth quarter. Sun Devil quarterback Manny Wilkins led back-to-back scoring drives to end the game, the final drive resulting in a game-winning field goal from kicker Brandon Ruiz as time expired, giving Arizona State a 16-13 win.

It was the second loss for the Big Ten East outside of conference play, joining Michigan's week one loss to Notre Dame. Both losses came in prime time.

Each team found the end zone just once in a game played in extreme heat, as the game temperature was in triple digits in Tempe, Ariz., Sept. 8. Each quarterback also threw for more than 300 yards, while the Spartans and Sun Devils each failed to rush for more than 70 yards.

Spartan quarterback Brian Lewerke completed 27 of 39 passes for 314 yards and a touchdown while Wilkins finished 30 of 48 for 380 yards and a late score. Each signal caller also threw an interception.

Michigan State will stay on the road and open Big Ten play in its next contest, traveling to Indiana on Sept. 22 following an idle week.

**Frost Era Starts Cold**

After Nebraska's first game of the 2018 season was canceled due to severe weather, the Cornhuskers finally kicked off the Scott Frost era Sept. 8, but the excitement quickly turned to disappointment in Lincoln, Neb., when Frost's crew fell 33-28 at home to Colorado.

The Cornhuskers quickly went down 14-0, as the Buffs notched the first two scores of the game. From there, Nebraska scored 21 unanswered points before ultimately carrying a 21-17 lead into halftime.

Frost's team held the lead until there was 1:06 left in the fourth quarter when Colorado quarterback Steven Montez completed a 40-yard touchdown pass to receiver Laviska Shenault Jr. to ultimately give the Buffs the victory.

In his first career start, Nebraska freshman quarterback Adrian Martinez accounted for 304 yards of offense, throwing for 187 yards and a score and adding another 117 yards on the ground with two more touchdowns. He did, however, leave late in the game due to injury and did not return. As of the time BSB went to print, Nebraska had not announced the severity of Martinez's injury.

"We're going to wait before we talk about it and see what the doctors (say) and everything looks like," Frost said. "But I thought he played great. I thought Adrian played a great game, especially for his first game. He's going to be a really good player."

**B1G Player Of The Week**

The reigning conference freshman of the year continued his torrid pace on the ground in week two of the college football season.

Wisconsin running back Jonathan Taylor, one week after racking up 145 yards on 18 carries, ran all over New Mexico in week two, rushing for 253 yards on 33 carries and finding the end zone three times in a 45-14 victory Sept. 8.

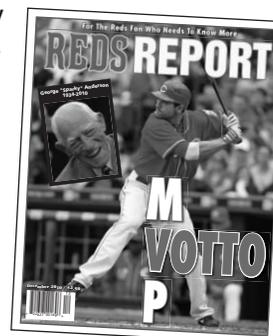
Taylor rushed for a Big Ten-best 1,977

yards last season as a freshman and currently leads the conference in rushing yards with 398 yards and five scores through two games.

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# Lucas, Oden Headline OSU Alumni Dinner

When Thad Matta arrived in Columbus as Ohio State's head basketball coach in 2004, the former Butler and Xavier man wanted to find a way to connect with the alumni of the Buckeye program.

## COURT REPORT James Grega

He started a new tradition, inviting former players and even managers to his Columbus residence for dinner once a year to keep them involved with the program. The event eventually became so big that Matta had to move it to the floor at the Schottenstein Center in order to accommodate all of the attendees.

Once Matta was dismissed as Ohio State's head coach, it immediately became clear that newly hired head coach Chris Holtmann was going to make numerous efforts to make sure the alumni stayed engaged in the program. Holtmann has routinely invited alumni to practice on campus, but perhaps more importantly, he kept the dinner tradition going, and on Sept. 7, numerous former Buckeyes filed into Value City Arena for a gourmet dinner on the floor that many of them played on.

More than 100 former players and managers showed up to join Holtmann and the entire 2018-19 Buckeye squad for dinner, including Ohio State basketball legends Jerry Lucas and Greg Oden.

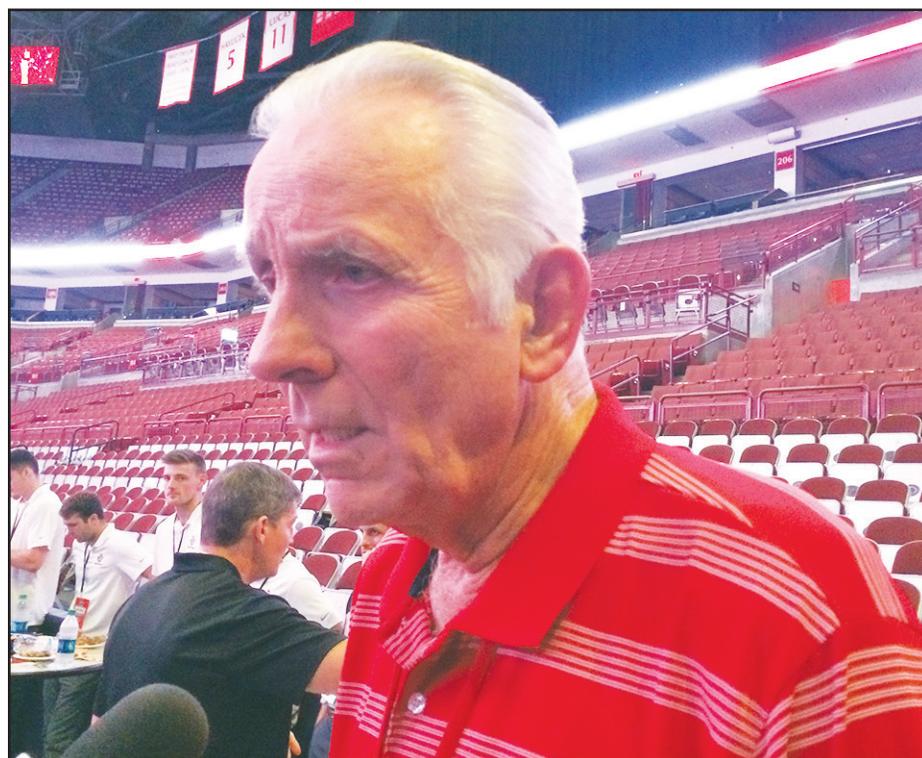
Lucas, whose No. 11 is retired by Ohio State, played in Columbus from 1959-62 and helped the Buckeyes win their lone national championship in 1960. He was a two-time Associated Press player of the year, two-time Final Four Most Outstanding Player and a three-time consensus first-team All-American when he wore the scarlet and gray.

The Middletown, Ohio, native went on to play 12 years in the NBA, where he was named the NBA Rookie of the Year in 1964, was a seven-time All-Star and won an NBA title in 1973 with the New York Knicks.

Lucas said he is thrilled that Holtmann has continued inviting the alumni back for a banquet-style dinner, adding that it speaks to the tradition and pride within the Ohio State program.

"I think it is important," Lucas said. "Everybody who is involved here loves Ohio State basketball. It is a tradition that I hope goes on forever. It brings guys back that you haven't seen in a long time. I think it speaks to the history of Ohio State. Not only the current leaders, but past leaders as well. To have Chris and the current people continue it is very gratifying to me."

In his first year as head coach, Holtmann turned around an Ohio State team that was expected to finish near the bottom of the Big Ten. The Buckeyes made the NCAA Tournament and finished second in the league instead. The Scarlet and Gray finished 26-9 in the first year under Holtmann and were just five minutes away from a Sweet 16 appearance, before Gonzaga pulled



JAMES GREGA

**BUCKEYE LEGEND** – Basketball Hall of Famer Jerry Lucas helped lead Ohio State to its only national title in 1960.

away from OSU late in the second-round game in Boise, Idaho.

Lucas said he is proud of what Holtmann is building at Ohio State and added that while he isn't involved with the program outside of attending the alumni dinner, he enjoys cheering the Buckeyes on as a fan.

"He has done a tremendous job," he said. "Obviously, we are all very pleased and proud of what he has done. To do what he did in his first year being here is a marvelous accomplishment. I follow the program very, very closely, but I am not involved at all. I am just a fan today, like a lot of people are. For any fan, this is very positive. To look forward to more success in that area is what every fan wants, and that's what I am today, just a fan like everybody else."

Lucas, who is arguably the biggest name in Ohio State basketball history, said he is a proud alumnus and hopes that the Buckeyes continue to build on their tradition on and off the court.

"Anyone who has played for the Buckeyes is involved in a tradition that is hundreds of years old and will continue to be. We are all proud to be part of Ohio State history," he said. "We want to see it succeed in the future, and it is a joy to be here and see the kinds of things that are happening."

### The (Other) Big Man

It isn't often Greg Oden is not the first person everyone sees when they walk into a room.

During Ohio State's alumni dinner, though, most eyes turned to Lucas instead of



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**Ohio State vs. Purdue: Oct. 19-21** – 2-night motorcoach trip to Indianapolis/West Lafayette, Ind., with hotel accommodations at the new Drury Inn located in Carmel, Ind., with breakfast daily and Drury Inn's famous "kick-back party" on Friday night with game tickets. Pricing on website.

**Ohio State vs. Michigan State: Nov. 9-11** – 2-night motorcoach 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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**OSU Basketball Verbal Commitments**

Players in the class of 2019 who have issued verbal commitments to play basketball at Ohio State. (Star ratings reflect 247Sports composite rankings.)

Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Stars	High School
DJ Carton	PG	6-1	189	★★★★★	Bettendorf, Iowa
Alonzo Gaffney	SF	6-9	190	★★★★	Wolfeboro (N.H.) Brewster Academy

the 7-0 student coach and, oh by the way, the former No. 1 overall pick in the NBA draft.

Oden, who is entering his second season on Holtmann's coaching staff, said attending events like the one Sept. 7 immediately puts him in a good mood. That hasn't always been the case, though.

Following a rocky NBA career that was shortened due to multiple injuries, Oden previously admitted he struggled with alcohol abuse and depression before ultimately deciding to return to school and finish his degree.

Being back at Ohio State has had a positive influence on Oden's life, and the alumni dinner was just one of many examples of how much Ohio State means to him.

"Something like this just puts a smile on my face," he said. "Seeing all these guys and seeing the smiles on everybody's face when they see their old teammates or managers or people they haven't seen in forever, it's that camaraderie and I hope we can continue the tradition of bringing us all back."

Oden, who played just one season at Ohio State in 2006-07, is in his final year as a student. He said as of now, he is set to graduate in May, but he isn't getting ahead of himself just yet.

"I am just trying to pass the classes first," Oden said with a smile. "I am not even thinking that far. When that time comes, then I will think about that."

When he is on campus at Ohio State, Oden is usually the biggest man in the room, both literally and figuratively. However, much like Lucas, Oden said he is also a fan of the program and enjoys meeting and talking with other Buckeye legends.

"I know the history here, so when I see these guys and talk with them and learn a lot from them, that kind of brings me back to where we came from, so that is always a great thing," he said.

**Muhammad Impressing**

The top-rated recruit in Holtmann's 2018 class, Luther Muhammad, figures to make an immediate impact for Ohio State when the new season tips off in early November. He saw his first game action as a Buckeye when Ohio State played three games in Spain against semipro teams that Holtmann equated to Division II college programs.

The Buckeyes went 3-0 in those games, and Muhammad scored 12 points in a 93-61 win over the Madrid Generals on Aug. 6. However, it is Muhammad's defense that has caught the eye of graduate transfer Keyshawn Woods, who is entering his final collegiate season after a year at Charlotte and two more at Wake Forest.

"I love Luther," Woods said Aug. 29. "Luther loves defense. He doesn't want anyone to score on him, and he takes it very personal. I can always play with a player like that because he makes you want to be the same way, like, 'I don't want my man to score.'"

Woods added that it is rare for a player who has yet to play a collegiate game to exert so much energy on the defensive end.

"Even myself, as a freshman you think you're going to come in and prove yourself that I can score, do this and that," Woods said. "A lot of kids, their first thought is not defense, but his is."

**Buckeyes Make Top-4**

Ohio State has room for one more recruit in the 2019 class, and while the top target is still Belleville (Ill.) West four-star forward EJ

Liddell, the Buckeyes appear to be keeping their options open for other potential prospects.

The Buckeyes made the top four for Valparaiso, Ind., guard Brandon Newman on Sept. 2, joining Purdue, Indiana and Xavier.

A four-star prospect, Newman earned an offer from Ohio State on July 5, just nine days before DJ Carton committed to the Buckeyes. He is set to take an official visit to Columbus on Sept. 21 and is expected to remain on campus through the weekend and

attend the Ohio State football game against Tulane.

Newman has already taken his official visits to Indiana and Purdue but did not have an official visit scheduled for Xavier as of Sept. 9.

A shooting guard, Newman is a volume shooter from behind the three-point line. During the Nike EYBL summer circuit, Newman averaged 18.3 points per game, playing for AAU team Mean Streets. At 6-3, Newman doesn't provide great size, but he is perhaps one of the best pure jump-shooters in his recruiting class.

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# Freshman Duo Leading OSU Women's Soccer

By JOE DEMPSEY  
Special To Buckeye Sports Bulletin

The Ohio State women's soccer team improved from 11-7-3 and 4-4-3 in the Big Ten in 2016 to 15-5-1 and 9-2 in conference play a season ago. However, entering the 2018 campaign, the team faced the tall task of replacing its top goal scorer in Sammy Edwards.

The Scarlet and Gray returned numerous starters, but who would take the place of Edwards' offensive production of 10 goals and five assists was uncertain heading into the season.

Enter freshman forwards Kayla Fischer and Emaly Vatne. The Buckeyes' new duo wasted no time making a name for themselves, earning consecutive Big Ten Freshman of the Week awards early in their collegiate careers.

Fischer earned the honor first, scoring the Buckeyes' first goal of the season in the form of a game-winning strike against No. 5 Florida on the road Aug. 24. The Gators were the highest-ranked opponent Ohio State had defeated since a 2-0 victory against No. 3 Penn State in the 2004 Big Ten tournament championship game.

Fischer also earned Big Ten Offensive Player of the Week honors following her game-winning performance. The Kent, Ohio, native is no stranger to success, scoring

a school-record 73 goals and earning second-team all-Ohio honors as a junior and first-team all-state as a senior at Theodore Roosevelt High School.

However, Fischer quickly noticed a significant difference in talent and speed at the collegiate level upon arriving in Columbus.

"It definitely helps a lot having a lot of skilled players around you, and it makes you keep wanting to push yourself so you don't



Kayla Fischer

fall in a shadow," Fischer said. "And since there are so many good people, you don't always stand out, but you just need to do your part and stand out in your way."

Head coach Lori Walker-Hock said Fischer came to Columbus with one of the greatest characteristics for an incoming freshman: She is willing to take risks and make mistakes.

"Kayla, first of all, is just a fun human being to be around, and when she plays there's an element of just joy," Walker-Hock said. "She loves what she's doing. She doesn't take herself particularly seriously, and because of that, she's strong in her soccer, but when she makes a mistake, she's super coachable."

Coachability extends beyond the player-coach relationship, and Fischer said her fellow freshman forward, Vatne, helps her hone her skills.

"Emaly has helped me a lot," Fischer said. "I know right when I got here I was really down on myself because my touch-

es are a lot slower than a lot of people's, just from playing at that level in high school, and not having that high skill level on my first touch. I know she kept pushing me to keep my head in it and just keep working."

The guidance helped Fischer score the game-winning goal against Florida, but when the Buckeyes welcomed Morehead State to Bert L. & Iris S. Wolstein Field on Aug. 30, Vatne stood out in her own way. She became the third freshman in program history to notch a hat trick in an 8-0 victory.

The Sterling Heights, Mich., native also added an assist, and her seven points represent the second-highest total in school history. Lisa Suttmiller was credited with eight points against Valparaiso in 1996. Vatne's offensive outburst earned her Big Ten Freshman of the Week honors.

Walker-Hock said she was not surprised by Vatne's early success, describing her as a "soccer junkie" who watches as many games as she can then emulates what she observes. Vatne competed on both the U.S. Under-16 Girls' National Team and U-18 Girls' National Team, the highest level for those age groups.

"She's got an eye for the game, which gives her a bit of a wisdom as a young player that other players don't have," Walker-Hock said. "And so a lot of what we're trying to do with her is that our team

needs to learn to play with her. It's a little less that Emaly has to learn to play with us. We've got to learn to adjust to what she sees because it's at such a high level."

Vatne remains humble despite the praise from her coach, saying that her vision helps with working with new players and eases the transition to the collegiate level. She added that her success is a product of team leadership.

"Of course it's exciting, but all of our freshmen have been killing it," Vatne said. "And it's all thanks to our senior leadership. They've taught us so much already in these past few weeks."

"Everything that they taught us on the practice field, when we're off the field, in games, in the locker room, everything is a credit to them."

Combining talented freshmen with veteran leaders might not have been accidental. Walker-Hock said the team spends time each spring preparing to welcome young players, and it's the responsibility of the upperclassmen to alleviate any pressure on the freshmen.

"Behind every great freshman is great team leadership," Walker-Hock said. "I think it's twofold: It's one, those freshmen taking advantage of the opportunity. But two, they're really enjoying themselves, which is a product of the upperclassmen creating an environment for them to just play free."



Emaly Vatne

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## FOOTBALL

**(2-0, 1-0 BIG TEN)**

**Sept. 1** OREGON STATE, W 77-31; **8** RUTGERS, W 52-3; **15** vs. TCU at Arlington, Texas, 8 p.m.; **22** TULANE, TBA; **29** at Penn State, TBA.

**Oct. 6** INDIANA (Homecoming), 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, Noon.

**Dec. 1** Big Ten Championship Game at Indianapolis, 8 p.m.

## CROSS COUNTRY

**Sept. 1** Queen City Invitational at Highland Heights, Ky., Men: 6th/10; Women: 1st/10; **8** (Men) Golden Eagle Invitational at Cookeville, Tenn., 1st/4; **15** Commodore Classic at Nashville, Tenn.; **29** Loyola Lakefront Invitational at Chicago.

**Oct. 13** Pre-Nationals at Madison, Wis.; **28** Big Ten Championships at Lincoln, Neb.

**Nov. 9** NCAA Regionals at Terre Haute, Ind.; **17** NCAA Championships at Madison, Wis.

## FIELD HOCKEY

**(5-2)**

**Aug. 24** (9) DELAWARE, L 3-2; **26** at (8) Louisville, W 3-2 (OT).

**Sept. 1** vs. (25) Maine at Boston, L 2-1 (OT); **3** at (19) Boston University, W 4-2; **7** BALL STATE, W 6-0; **9** LEHIGH, W 5-0; **14** PENN STATE, 4 p.m.; **16** MIAMI (OHIO), 1 p.m.; **21** at Maryland, 1 p.m.; **23** at Rutgers, 1 p.m.; **28** INDIANA, 4 p.m.; **30** IOWA, Noon.

**Oct. 5** at Northwestern, 3 p.m.; **7** OHIO, 1 p.m.; **12** JAMES MADISON, 4 p.m.; **14** at Kent State, Noon; **19** MICHIGAN STATE, 3 p.m.; **21** MICHIGAN, Noon.

## MEN'S GOLF (FALL)

**Sept. 15-16** Northern Intercollegiate at Sugar Grove, Ill.; **24-25** Bearcat

Invitational at Cincinnati; Inverness Intercollegiate at Toledo.; **30-Oct. 2** Nike Collegiate Invitational at Fort Worth, Texas.

**Oct. 8-9** JACK NICKLAUS INVITATIONAL at Dublin, Ohio; **22-23** Muskies Classic at Cincinnati.

## WOMEN'S GOLF (FALL)

**Sept. 16-18** East & West Match Play at Ann Arbor, Mich.

**Oct. 1-2** Windy City Collegiate at Chicago.; **12-14** Tar Heel Invitational at Chapel Hill, N.C.; **28-29** Jim West Challenge at San Marcos, Texas.

## MEN'S SOCCER

**(1-4)**

**Aug. 24** WOLSTEIN CLASSIC vs. FURMAN, L 2-0; **26** WOLSTEIN CLASSIC vs. HOFSTRA, W 1-0; **31** Dayton Classic vs. Marshall, L 1-0.

**Sept. 2** Dayton Classic vs. Milwaukee, L 1-0; **7** USF, L 1-0; **11** BOWLING GREEN, 7 p.m.; **16** at Penn State, 1 p.m.; **21** NORTHWESTERN, 7:30 p.m.; **25** at Michigan, 7 p.m.; **30** RUTGERS, Noon.

**Oct. 5** CLEVELAND STATE, 7 p.m.; **8** at Syracuse, 7 p.m.; **12** MICHIGAN STATE, 5 p.m.; **16** KENTUCKY, 7 p.m.; **19** at Maryland, 7 p.m.; **24** INDIANA, 7 p.m.; **28** at Wisconsin, 4 p.m.

## WOMEN'S SOCCER

**(3-3)**

**Aug. 16** at (3) Duke, L 2-0; **19** at (6) North Carolina, L 2-0; **24** at Florida, W 1-0; **26** DUQUESNE, Cancelled; **30** MOREHEAD STATE, W 8-0.

**Sept. 2** at Notre Dame, W 1-0; **7** FLORIDA GULF COAST, L 1-0; **14** at Penn State, 6 p.m.; **20** at Illinois, 8 p.m.; **23** at Northwestern, 1 p.m.; **27** IOWA, 7 p.m.; **30** NEBRASKA, 2:30 p.m.

**Oct. 5** at Michigan, 7 p.m.; **7** at Michigan State, 1 p.m.; **12** RUTGERS, 7:30 p.m.; **14** MARYLAND, 2 p.m.; **18** at Purdue, 6 p.m.; **21** WISCONSIN, 2 p.m.

## WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

**(8-1)**

**Aug. 24** ALBANY, W 3-1; **25** OHIO,

W 3-0; TEXAS A&M, W 3-0; **31** vs. Southern Miss at Oxford, Miss., W 3-2; at Ole Miss, L 3-2.

**Sept. 1** vs. Samford at Oxford, Miss., W 3-0; **7** vs. Princeton at Towson, Md., W 3-1; at Towson, W 3-0; **14** vs. Evansville at Dayton, 3 p.m.; **15** vs. Tennessee at Dayton, 10:30 a.m.; at Dayton, 7 p.m.; **19** at Wisconsin, 7 p.m.; **22** PENN STATE, TBA; **26** INDIANA, 7 p.m.; **29** at Maryland, 7 p.m.

**Oct. 5** at Rutgers, 7 p.m.; **6** at Penn State, 7 p.m.; **12** MICHIGAN, 7 p.m.; **14** MICHIGAN STATE, 1 p.m.; **19** at Indiana, 7 p.m.; **20** at Purdue, 7 p.m.; **24** NEBRASKA, 7 p.m.; **28** at Northwestern, 2 p.m.

**Nov. 2** ILLINOIS, 7 p.m.; **4** NORTHWESTERN, 1 p.m.; **7** at Michigan State, 7 p.m.; **10** MARYLAND, 7 p.m.; **16** WISCONSIN, 7 p.m.; **17** MINNESOTA, 7 p.m.; **23** at Nebraska, 8 p.m.; **24** at Iowa, 8 p.m.

## Buckeye Sports BulletinBoard

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# Scarlet And Gray Too Much For Scarlet Knights

Rutgers came into Ohio Stadium with a chip on its shoulder and something to prove. The Scarlet Knights were 0-4 against the Buckeyes and hadn't scored a single point against the Ohio State defense in their last two outings.

The Rutgers offense is putting their future

## COACH'S CORNER With Bill Conley

in the hands of true freshman quarterback Art Sitkowski, who had put up respectable numbers in week one in a victory over Texas State, but he did throw three interceptions.

The question coming into the game was could the Knights' offensive line give Sitkowski the protection necessary to have success against the Buckeye defense – a defense which gave up too many big plays against Oregon State but, at the same time, dominated the game in the trenches.

It was going to take a superb effort up front by Rutgers to hold off the best defensive line they will see all season. They would have had to pull the upset in a steady downpour, away from home, against a team they had never beaten – a heavy-duty task to say the least.

### Haskins Is For Real

If there were any doubters about the abilities of Dwayne Haskins after week one, his perfor-

mance against Rutgers should put those doubts to rest. He followed the Oregon State five-touch-down, record-breaking display with four more scoring tosses against Rutgers.

He is a quarterback who passes the test in terms of fundamentals and gameday production. In just two games as the Buckeyes' starting signal caller, Haskins has thrown 42 completions for 546 yards. He is on pace to break the 1,000-yard passing mark prior to the heart of Big Ten play. Even more spectacular are his third-down and overall completion percentages that are off the charts.

Haskins has all the quarterback mechanics in terms of a strong arm, quick release and ball placement, but he also has shown early maturity in terms of the intangibles like decision making and competitiveness. Haskins' leadership at the quarterback position is a great inspiration to his teammates and there is an excitement and energy to the offensive unit that is apparent and fun to watch.

He truly has the potential to be a Buckeye quarterback who is well-suited for the next level, but let's just enjoy him while we have him. Dwayne Haskins is special.

### Spread The Wealth

In the first two games of the 2018 campaign, 10 different players have crossed the goal line and that includes four running backs, three receivers, two tight ends and even second-string quarterback Tate Martell. The amount of skilled talent on this Buckeye team is second to none in the country.

Quarterbacks Haskins and Martell have completed passes to 15 different players in the past two weeks. Opposing defenses are finding it tough to double-cover anyone since there is no go-to guy; instead there are a lot of go-to guys.

Accolades go to the offensive staff for having a play mix that is unpredictable and fast tempo. Defenses are finding it tough to stop the Ohio State offensive strategy of multiple formations and personnel groupings. It is also tough for the opponents to even substitute and call blitzes or line stunts against an offense that runs at NASCAR pace. The Buckeyes have averaged 80 plays per game in the last two weeks and have only slowed the tempo down late in the game to get more players in and to not completely embarrass the opposition.

### Problems Solved

The issues the linebacking and secondary corps had against Oregon State seem resolved, at least for the moment.

The biggest plays Rutgers had against the Buckeye defense were two runs of just 15 yards and a pass of 13. The Scarlet Knights had just 134 total yards for the day and scored only on a second-half field goal, the first score against Ohio State in the last twelve quarters of competition.

The Buckeyes did what all good defensive teams do after a less-than-stellar performance the week before – they shut down the things that had hurt them. Rutgers' screen passes were handled, and leverage on the football was much better than against the Beavers. The communication within the back end of the defense was excellent, and the return of Jordan Fuller to the lineup was a big plus.

Cornerbacks Kendall Sheffield and Shaun Wade made the first interceptions of the season for Ohio State, which enabled the turnover margin to be plus two by game's end. The 2017 season ended with that margin being just plus five.

We are accustomed to a strong rush by the defensive front four, and week two was no exception. The stars up front were Robert Landers, Chase Young and all-world defensive end Nick Bosa. This trio accounted for six tackles for a loss of 35 yards, which is more than half of Rutgers' total rushing yardage for

the day. Three times quarterback Art Sitkowski was sacked, and a devastating hit by Bosa right before half ended Sitkowski's day against the Buckeyes, leaving the field with just 38 yards passing.

### Tough Task Ahead

The Sept. 15 game at the AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas, against TCU will be the first real test for the Buckeyes. The same could be said for the Horned Frogs.

TCU has had two impressive wins over Southern University and SMU and is averaging over 48 points per game while its defense has allowed only 19 in two victories.

There is a ton of excitement surrounding the matchup as well as "College GameDay" interest. These are two undefeated ranked teams that feature high-powered offenses representing the Big 12 and the Big Ten conferences. The only thing missing is Urban Meyer.

The Gary Patterson-Meyer faceoff was something the college football world was eager to see, but Urban will be there only in spirit. It will, however, be his influence and preparation this week in practice and meetings that Ryan Day will carry into Arlington. The Buckeyes should be fine, but this is one game they could miss their leader.

The Buckeye defense has got to stop an offense that is much like their own. TCU has a bunch of skilled runners and receivers. They also have a quarterback who can throw the ball, accounting for over 300 yards passing but with the added dimension of being a talented runner. Shawn Robinson has thrown for four touchdowns but also has scored three via his legs. He is by far the most mobile quarterback the Silver Bullets have faced this season.

At the same time, TCU will face the most fierce defensive front it will go up against all season. This showdown has all the makings of a Texas shootout between a couple of college football's top gunslingers.

*Known as one of the top recruiters in college football, Bill Conley is a national championship-winning coach and player at Ohio State who suited up for Woody Hayes and spent 17 years on the staffs of Earle Bruce, John Cooper and Jim Tressel.*



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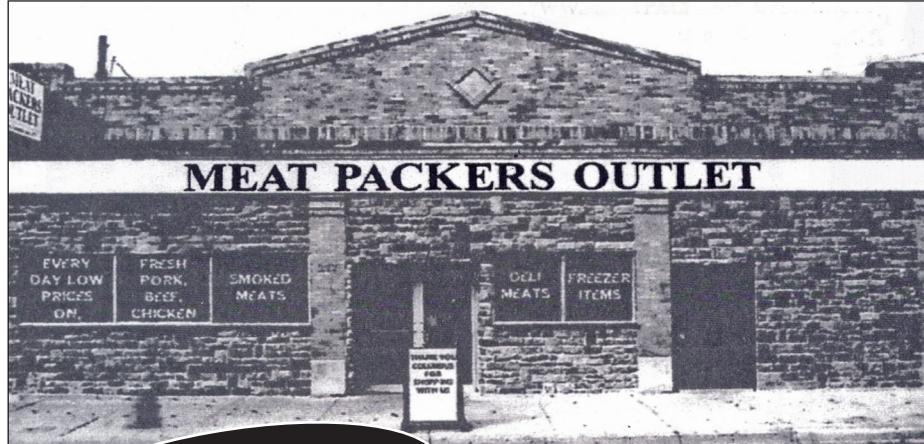
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# Ohio State's 1st True Test Is Around The Corner

There was a long-running show on NPR called "Whad'Ya Know?" that had interviews and comedy and some trivia. It really wanted to see what you knew.

## THE FACTS MAN Mike Wachsman

Though the show's run finished in 2017, it might be appropriate for OSU fans as the Buckeyes head into a Sept. 15 showdown with TCU – their first on the road and last without Urban Meyer on the sidelines.

What do we really know about the Buckeyes after two weeks?

Well, we know that the offense hums like a precision sports car, and if OSU isn't making its own mistakes there don't seem to be many teams that can slow it down.

Dwayne Haskins can sling the rock like few I have seen in Columbus. The only one that really comes to mind is Troy Smith, but Haskins is sleeker, prettier. Smith had that long windup, but Haskins simply surveys the field, goes through his progressions and BAM! The ball is out. And it usually winds up in the arms of its intended target. Through two games Haskins has missed just 11 passes, tossed nine touchdowns and given up just one interception, on a play where he was under duress and trying to make something happen.

The receiving corps is an embarrassment of riches. Although there may not be a true star, someone on the level of a Michael Thomas, each and every one is capable of getting the job done. In week one it was Terry McLaurin; this time around it was Johnnie Dixon. The affable senior had two touchdown grabs and has a ridiculous 10 career touchdowns on just 30 catches. You want a big play, you call Dixon.

"We've seen a lot of quarters (coverage) film, so we were trying to plan up some post routes today," Haskins said. "Just being able to, with the weather and seeing Johnnie get open like that, it's a lot of fun for me. Basically, he's wide open for me from that perspective. Johnnie did a great job today."

The running game is also humming, as the Buckeyes are 11th nationally in rushing yards (600) and tied for sixth in rushing touchdowns (7). OSU is seventh nationally in yards per play (8.13), the best measure of effectiveness, fourth in total yards (1,300) and second in yards per game (650.0). That, my friends, is an efficient, high-powered offensive unit.

"I think we have a great group of guys here," acting head coach Ryan Day said. "We have a lot of talent on offense. And I think that combined with the tempo has been great. We did play fast at times today but not as fast as against Oregon State, and that was a little bit by design. I thought we got into some good plays based on what they were giving us, and we took some shots in the pass game and then hit them."

Oddly, even though the stats say the Buckeyes have been uber-effective running the ball, it doesn't always feel like it. The holes haven't been as wide as they were last year, and J.K. Dobbins especially doesn't appear to be running with the same shiftiness he did in 2017. Last year he was flat-out electric, jumping and hopping and darting all over the place. This year he seems to be taking a more direct path – which maybe gets more yardage in the long run but doesn't seem quite as exciting. He had a couple of flashbacks to last year against Rutgers, bouncing through a hole and turning

sideways to pick up more yardage on a couple of ways.

Mike Weber has been the workhorse so far, and even though his day against Rutgers was average, he looks sleek and ready to fire at any time. His burst to the hole seems better, and when he's in the open field he's sometimes making guys miss – which hasn't always been the case. He used to be a guy who relished contact, and while he still has power he's running smarter and evading tacklers. Comes with age, apparently.

The offensive line is still a work in progress and will need to take a few steps forward next time out as TCU does not play around. Gary Patterson is one of the best defensive minds in the game, and he'll have his guys blitzing from all angles, disguising looks, doing anything he can to throw Haskins off rhythm. If his guys can get to No. 7, the Buckeyes could be in for a long evening.

But that's a big if.

What isn't a big if is if Nick Bosa is going to dominate every time out.

I have always loved a good pass rusher, a guy who strikes fear into the heart of the guy lining up across from him. A guy who wins the battle before the ball is snapped, because the offensive tackle knows there isn't a thing he can do to stop this guy.

That's what Nick Bosa is.

Watch how quick off the ball he is. It's usually two steps and he's into the backfield. He has strength, too, often pushing the tackle out of the way so he can get to the football. But he's not only a pass rusher. He can play against the run, too. Numerous times against Rutgers, Bosa exploded off the ball and, seeing a handoff, cut off his rush to the passer to make the tackle. He can play against the run, which makes him lethal. For my money, he's better than older brother Joey – and that's a guy who won NFL Defensive Rookie of the Year honors in 2016.

The Buckeyes were stung by Oregon State scoring 31 points, especially in the manner it happened – two long runs and a couple of blown coverages.

They were not going to allow history to repeat itself.

"Obviously Greg (Schiano) and all the guys on defense have a high standard that they hold themselves to," Day said. "And they didn't like to put up that number like that. So this week we called up Nick at the end of the – at our meeting there right at the end we brought the team up, he addressed how this week it was a tough week of practice. And they got after the guys."

"You could see it during the game. They were in the backfield, I felt like, every other play, really creating havoc. I thought they played with an edge, which was great moving forward."

A couple of other things we know are that the punt return units are a big-time work in progress. The Buckeyes had problems on at least three returns against Rutgers, including C.J. Saunders getting bailed out by a punt return interference call after he allowed the ball to bounce up and hit him in the hand. Rutgers recovered, but OSU got the ball because of the penalty.

OSU went through similar issues a few years back with Jalin Marshall – he would field punts he shouldn't, let punts go that he should have fielded, fumble, you name it. He ended up being a pretty dangerous weapon, but he gave his coaches some pretty anxious moments, too. That seems to be what this year's return group is doing, and it won't get away with it against TCU, perennially one of the top special teams groups in America.

One other thing that we definitely know: Day has handled this entire process seamlessly. He has said all of the right things, has the look of a future coaching star and just goes about his business. He doesn't seem fazed by the added responsibility or attention. He seems to be attacking the position the same way he does his work with the quarterbacks. That could be the most amazing part – he's running the show yet still working with the signal callers. Their play through two games shows that he definitely knows what he's doing – though it probably doesn't hurt that it's a wildly talented group.

So, that's what we know – maybe.

TCU will be the first true battle the Buckeyes face, and there will be some adversity. How OSU responds to that adversity will go a long way toward telling us what this team really has. Right now everything looks great, but the opposition has been less than stellar.

If Ohio State looks this good against the Horned Frogs, then we'll know something else – the Buckeyes are championship material.

### Quick Hits

- Though Rutgers is largely devoid of the talent needed to challenge in the Big Ten, quarterback Art Sitkowski is different. The kid has a big-time arm, has a presence and was able to stand in the pocket in the face of unrelenting pressure and fire the ball pretty accurately. It's too bad he had to leave the game at halftime after taking a huge hit from Bosa. Chris Ash will need to bring in more guys who can play, but he seems to at least have found a capable signal caller. And that's a start.

- Not quite sure what to make of the Big Ten after two weeks.

Penn State looked shaky in week one only to look like world beaters against Pittsburgh, a squad expected to be competitive in the ACC this season. Iowa plays the same game every week, smothering you with defense and putting you to sleep with grind-it-out offense. But it works, as Iowa State found out. Michigan found itself against a pretty weak Western Michigan bunch. Minnesota surprised by beating a Fresno State team that won 11 games last season, with the game-winning play coming

from Antoine Winfield Jr. as seconds were winding down. Wisconsin didn't play great but didn't have to in a blasting of New Mexico. Northwestern undid most of the good from an opening-week win over Purdue by losing at home to Duke. Purdue fell on a last-second field goal to Eastern Michigan, so you can bet Jeff Brohm has realized year two won't be as easy as year one.

And then you have Michigan State.

Oh, Mark Dantonio. You do this every year. Either your team plays down to the level of its competition and ekes out a win or fools around too long and allows a (seemingly) inferior team to grab a victory. The latter is what happened as MSU went just 4 of 12 on third-down conversions and averaged just 2.3 yards per carry – but continued to run the ball in a 16-13 loss to Arizona State. I know that teams like to have balance, but when it's apparent that you aren't going to have success at one thing, forget about it. Sparty averaged 8.1 yards per attempt through the air, and Brian Lewerke was creating magic seemingly every other play. Yet MSU continued to pound the rock. It was also undisciplined, committing nine penalties, including a couple in the fourth quarter that kept scoring drives alive.

So maybe we should pump the brakes on Sparty being a contender, because it still has to face Penn State, Michigan and the Buckeyes, as well as Notre Dame, and it's doubtful they are going to run the table from here.

- I am firmly of the belief that rankings should not appear until the first weekend of October, after teams have had a chance to play four or five games. Right now I know who I think is good, but is that really possible after two weeks? Snap judgements would have told people that Penn State stunk, that OSU's defense wasn't all that, that Notre Dame was a world beater, that BYU was good again. None of these things are true, or at least don't appear to be.

But this is the hot-take world we live in, a world where folks offer up opinions and drop the mic. Never mind that they are often wrong.

Anyway, I will not be ranking anything until after the Penn State game, by which time we will have a much better handle on the Buckeyes and college football at large.

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# Don't Worry – Meyer Knows How To Use Haskins

People seem to be excited about Dwayne Haskins in Columbus, and they certainly should be.

## MOODY MUSINGS Tim Moody, Editor

Through two games, Haskins has been nothing short of fantastic, and he's honestly bordered on perfection – which is nearly impossible in sports. The showing he had against Rutgers was as good as, if not better than, any I've ever seen from a Buckeye quarterback. He finished 20 of 23 for 233 yards with four touchdowns and didn't turn the ball over.

That'll work, no matter the opponent. And I don't care that it was Rutgers, just as I didn't care that it was Oregon State the week before when he threw five touchdowns in his first start. Haskins is special. He's the type of quarterback Ohio State has never had. Ever.

Along with the excitement over Haskins, though, there's a weird sort of consternation stirring up regarding how Urban Meyer will use the sophomore signal caller when he returns as Ohio State's head coach in week four.

Let me keep it simple: Anyone worried that Meyer will suddenly decide to run Haskins 817 times a game is concerned over nothing. He's not going to pull the reins back on the offense, he's not going to play "Haskins left, Haskins right" and Ohio State isn't going to suddenly resemble a

broken-down covered wagon on that side of the ball when Meyer's suspension is over. I'm not really sure why anyone thinks any of that would happen, to be honest.

Yes, I get it. Ohio State ran J.T. Barrett too often, especially in close games against tough opponents.

Well, kind of.

What was Ohio State's closest game against a top team last year? Yeah, it was the 39-38 win over Penn State. Let me remind you about Barrett's stat line from that game: 33 completions on 39 attempts, 328 passing yards, four touchdowns and zero interceptions. Sure, he ran it 17 times as well, but he picked up 95 yards on the ground.

People seem to forget that Barrett was, you know, a really good runner. Meyer didn't over-rely on the quarterback run – he simply over-relied on Barrett, at least on a few occasions.

Yes, Meyer was way too conservative in the 2015 loss at home to Michigan State in the rain, and when he did run it, he didn't go with workhorse running back Ezekiel Elliott often enough. But don't forget that Ed Warinner and Tim Beck were heavily involved back then – they're now at Michigan and Texas, respectively, where the offenses have, well, kind of sucked so far this year. That's not a big surprise.

This idea that Meyer isn't going to play to Haskins' strength comes from nothing. If anything, the problem with Barrett was that Meyer played to his strength – running the ball – too often. And really, the Buckeyes probably should have thrown a lot less than they did while Barrett was in Columbus.

He finished his career in Columbus with 1,211 pass attempts, or an average of more than 300 per season. That's too much for a quarterback like Barrett, but when you have a guy like Haskins, you should be throwing it even more – and Meyer will understand that.

Trust me, he watched the first two games. He was there in Ann Arbor, Mich., last November when Haskins torched the

Wolverines. He was there throughout the spring and summer. He's been at practice since Sept. 3. Meyer knows what he has in Haskins. He knows the signal caller from Maryland is, quite frankly, nothing like Barrett. And, if nothing else, Meyer knows how to play to the strengths of his quarterback.

Yes, Meyer has a history of running his quarterback. But he also has a history of having a starting quarterback who happens to be good at running.

At Bowling Green from 2001-02, Meyer's quarterback – Josh Harris – was great with his legs. He rushed for 28 touchdowns in those two seasons while putting up serviceable passing marks. Then Meyer moved on to Utah, where he turned Alex Smith into the first overall pick in the NFL draft. Smith was a solid runner as well, totaling a little over 1,000 yards in his two seasons with Meyer to go with 15 touchdowns on the ground. But he was a better passer, and – especially in his final season in 2004 – Meyer let him sling it. That year, Smith was 214 of 317 for 2,952 yards with 32 touchdowns to just four interceptions.

They played to his strength, and it led to an undefeated 12-0 record.

Then Meyer moved on to Florida, where Chris Leak – a pass-first quarterback – was his starter from 2005-06. Over those two seasons, Leak averaged almost 370 pass attempts while throwing a total of 43 touchdowns and carrying the ball fewer than 200 times.

Again, Meyer played to Leak's strengths.

Then came Tim Tebow, who started for Meyer at Florida from 2007-09. Yeah, he ran the ball a lot, but that's because Tebow was an extremely talented runner – it wasn't Meyer forcing a square peg into a round hole. That's just what worked.

Oh, and by the way, Tebow threw 83 touchdown passes in that three-year stretch as well.

I'll skip 2010 because Meyer's last starting quarterback at Florida, John Brantley, quite simply wasn't very good.

By 2012, though, the head coach was in Columbus and the quarterback was running wild. That was because Braxton Miller is arguably the best runner in program history – certainly the best running quarterback. Nobody would've wanted to go away from the Miller run.

Then came Barrett and, for 10 games, Cardale Jones. Honestly the only time Meyer has ever run an offense that didn't quite fit his quarterback was when Jones started at the beginning of 2015, but it was clear that the offense was still designed for Barrett, who eventually got his job back after Jones struggled.

Every step of the way, Meyer has been one of the best offensive minds in the game. His play calling with Barrett was certainly over-reliant on the QB run, but Barrett was a better runner than passer, so it makes sense. Haskins is nothing like that, and he and Barrett aren't even in the same universe as passers.

Meyer knows that. Ryan Day knows that. Kevin Wilson knows that. I know that. Everyone else knows that.

There's nothing to worry about here. When Meyer is back, the offense will still be flying high, and Haskins will still be proving who he is: the best passing quarterback Ohio State has ever had.



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# Ohio State Impressive With TCU Test Up Next

You can only play the schedule you are handed, so while some might worry that Ohio State's early success has come against lesser opponents, the Buckeyes have done just what you are supposed to do against lesser opponents – dispatch them by a combined score of 129-34. And while Oregon State and Rutgers are not Alabama and Clemson, they are also not Western Michigan or Appalachian State.

OK. The competition steps up a couple of notches Sept. 15, when the Buckeyes face TCU in Arlington, Texas. Why should we think that the Buckeyes will struggle against the Horned Frogs? Maybe they won't record another blow-out, but what have they done so far to indicate that they will be overmatched?

For the second week in a row, the Buckeye offense displayed a first-rate quarterback, a variety of playmakers who can move the ball in a variety of ways, and an offensive line that has certainly surprised me with its play, in a 52-3 win over Rutgers.

The Buckeyes gained "only" 579 yards against the Scarlet Knights after piling up 721 the week before against the Beavers. There were still some eye-popping numbers, though.

After an offensive outburst against Oregon State that may have lacked the long passes that bomb-starved Buckeye fans have been craving since Dwayne Haskins took over for J.T. Barrett, Ohio State scored from long range on plays of 38 and 44 yards from Haskins to Johnnie Dixon and 51 yards from Tate Martell to Terry McLaurin.

The two quarterbacks combined for an incredible 30-of-33 passing afternoon (90.9 percent), good for 354 yards. Now that's accuracy! Haskins and Martell threw for a total of five TDs and neither threw an interception. Lost in the passing barrage was 225 yards on the ground, led by Martell and his 95 yards on eight carries.

It was just another day at the office for the offense.

It was the defense, however, that had people worried after it yielded 31 points, 392 yards and some really big plays against Oregon State, including a TD pass of 49 yards and scoring runs of 80 and 78 yards by Artavis Pierce.

What a difference a week – and the presence of Jordan Fuller and Tuf Borland – made. With the return of two of their top players in what had been a disorganized back seven (Borland had played sparingly against the Beavers), it was a completely different defense.

Well it wasn't *completely* different. The defensive line still wreaked havoc on the opposition.

But while that unit was the same, the defense as a whole allowed just 134 total yards – 69 on the ground and 65 through the air – and the big play was nonexistent, with 15 yards (twice) being Rutgers' longest play from scrimmage.

In fact, Ohio State defensive end Chase Young gained the second-most yards for the Scarlet Knights with 30 on two unsportsmanlike conduct penalties, which was bested only by Raheem Blackshear's 31 yards rushing on nine carries.

Young had a pair of sacks for 18 yards to help offset his miscues and also broke up a pass and had a possible fumble that was overruled. Despite the penalties, I love Young's enthusiasm.

Defensive coordinator Greg Schiano seems to agree.

"I love the emotion and the fervor that he plays with," Schiano said of Young. "We've just got to make sure we don't let it get in the way of us winning."

Or as acting head coach Ryan Day put it, "We want to play with emotion and not let emotion play with you."

Nick Bosa was his usual disruptive self. He

## THE VIEW FROM 15TH & HIGH Frank Moskowitz, Publisher

was so omnipresent in the Scarlet Knight backfield that I was surprised he ended up with only one sack, though he was credited with three tackles for loss total, along with a quarterback hurry.

Bosa not only produces but plays with a flair that seems to ignite his teammates and certainly Buckeye fans. Another player with such flair might be Martell.

Obviously he showed in his first extensive playing time that he can produce with both his arm and his legs. But ever since his recruitment, we had heard that Martell possessed a certain "it" factor that most players just don't have. He showed that on this 47-yard touchdown run for sure, but the play where I saw it for the first time came late in the third quarter.

He was flushed out of the pocket, and I thought he was going to take off and run. Suddenly he stopped and fired a 19-yard strike to C.J. Saunders. Most quarterbacks would have been satisfied taking the rushing yards in front of them, and not many could have changed tactic and connected on the pass.

It was an impressive day for the redshirt freshman. It was an impressive day for the Buckeyes.

My biggest beef would probably be the 11 penalties for 120 yards. That's not a championship-caliber statistic – the penalties and my ongoing complaint about OSU punt returns. This time it was Demario McCall who had trouble handling two of them, though Saunders did have a 20-yard punt return.

The punts and penalties are the type of problems that can derail the championship aspirations of a team that has shown in its first two games that it can play with – and defeat – anyone.

Bring on TCU.

### No Johnny-Come-Lately

Ohio State's win over Rutgers went down as Ohio State's 900th victory in school history. Let me first of all note that BSB recognizes 912 wins for OSU. All of us saw the 12 wins in 2010, and we have traditionally found vacating victories absurd, serving little punishment to a team but punishing those of us who have to try to keep stats and records.

Which is not the point I wanted to make.

There are a lot of outlets out there covering Ohio State sports now, especially online, that claim to be experts. When they announced the milestone, it occurred to me (after a bit of basic math), that Buckeye Sports Bulletin had covered 39.4 percent of Ohio State's victories (based on 912 wins.) That may not seem like a huge percentage until you consider that Ohio State football has been around since 1890, longer than even your humble publisher.

I find chronicling that many wins a remarkable achievement that has allowed us to earn our stripes, and I want to thank all of the many outstanding staff members of BSB through the years who have helped us log 359 wins and two national championships since 1981. But more importantly, I want to thank the thousands of readers from across Ohio, around the nation and around the world who have allowed us into their homes and hopefully enjoyed our efforts.

### My, How Time Flies

Many of the wins that BSB has covered came under John Cooper. It's hard to believe

that it has been 30 years since Coop coached his first game at Ohio State on Sept. 10, 1988.

In anticipation of that anniversary, we ran reprints from our Football Preview issue leading up to that first game of the Cooper era on our website, BuckeyeSports.com. The stories are archived on the site for your enjoyment.

One of the quotes from Cooper in the cover story of that issue, which ran under the headline "Cooper Era Set to Begin for Bucks," stood out to me with the benefit of 30 years of hindsight.

The coach, coming off a successful stint at Arizona State, was talking about the talent on his first Buckeye squad in the story written by Mark Rea, BSB managing editor emeritus, who was then in his first year as editor of the paper.

"There's no question about it," Cooper said. "I'd rather be loaded and people know about it. But we're not loaded and maybe people think I'm playing a little coy with them. That's not my style at all. I try to be honest with people."

Elsewhere in that paper I commented on the talent issue in this very space.

"Cooper has been fairly low-key in his selling of the team to the public, which is a good way to play it," I wrote. "By perhaps selling the team a bit short, Cooper is keeping expectations down. If the Bucks do well, he looks great. If they struggle a bit, no one is disappointed."

After 13 years of watching Cooper at Ohio State and many years of knowing him afterward, I was wrong in that early assessment of what he was trying to do with the fans. He really *was* just being honest. And Buckeye fans hated him for his constant candor. They considered it excuses. And it was just one of many elements that went in to him getting off on the wrong foot with Buckeye fans, and he was never able to get on the right foot.

He ultimately would have many great teams at Ohio State, but he was never quite able to get over the final hump in terms of the team's success or winning over the fans.

His 1998 team may have been the best of the bunch, which makes the note from 1998 in our "From the Pages of BSB" feature, found on page 35 of this issue, interesting and ironic.

The Buckeyes were ranked No. 1 in the country in the early going, and Cooper was talking about the importance of continuing to win.

"If you're ranked 10th, you've got to win," Cooper said. "If you're ranked No. 1, you've got to win. Michigan was ranked 14th last year, and they just kept winning, winning, winning."

The Wolverines had won a share of the national championship the previous season.

"If you keep winning, I don't care how ugly it is ... If we win all our games, we will play for a national championship," Cooper said. "Just keep winning, because somebody is going to get knocked off."

Ironically, it was Cooper's Buckeyes who got knocked off. Michigan State, led by Nick Saban, came into Ohio Stadium in week nine and upset the undefeated Buckeyes, 28-24. Ohio State would win out, including wins over Michigan and Texas A&M in the Sugar Bowl, but would finish second in the final AP rankings to Tennessee.

That season proved to be Coop's final hurrah. Two seasons later, he was gone.

By the way, his Buckeyes were flawless in that opener against Syracuse 30 years ago. They

did not commit a turnover or a penalty in a 26-9 victory. Buckeye fans could not have been more enthusiastic.

But a week later the Buckeyes were manhandled at Pittsburgh, 42-10, committing seven penalties and three turnovers, and the honeymoon was over.

### Recognizing Borton

After his 30 years with our organization, I seldom suggest stories to managing editor emeritus Rea. He usually comes up with his ideas himself. But I am pretty sure I suggested he do the story found on pages 24-25 in this issue. I wanted to know about John Borton, whose stat line from 1952 had fascinated me for years. He passed for an unheard of 1,555 yards that season, a figure that had never been even approached at Ohio State and was not surpassed until 1979 when Art Schlichter threw for 1,816. I couldn't fathom a player passing for that many yards under Woody Hayes.

Thanks to Mark for turning in an outstanding story that I hope you will enjoy as much as I did and that will serve as the first in what will be a series on Ohio State quarterbacks that will run throughout this football season.

Hopefully, I will get to listing my picks for the best quarterbacks in Ohio State history in an upcoming issue of BSB.

### Short, Sweet, To The Point

I was a speaker on the same program as acting Ohio State wide receivers coach Brian Hartline at the Agonis Club luncheon on Sept. 7. I can report that Hartline was an entertaining and informative speaker, able to explain things in a way that those of us non-football people in attendance could understand.

After hearing him, I have little doubt that he can be a successful coach at Ohio State. If he is to stay on Meyer's staff, I think it will come down to recruiting, which was the strength of the coach he is replacing on an interim basis – Zach Smith. If he communicates as well with prospective players as he did with the crowd, and apparently with current receivers, he should do just fine on the recruiting trail if he is willing to put in the work.

Hartline asked that those in attendance not post any of his comments on social media. Although he didn't say anything about newspapers, I'm going to refrain from recounting his remarks here. However, while we are talking about Ohio State quarterbacks, I don't think Hartline will mind me sharing one question and answer.

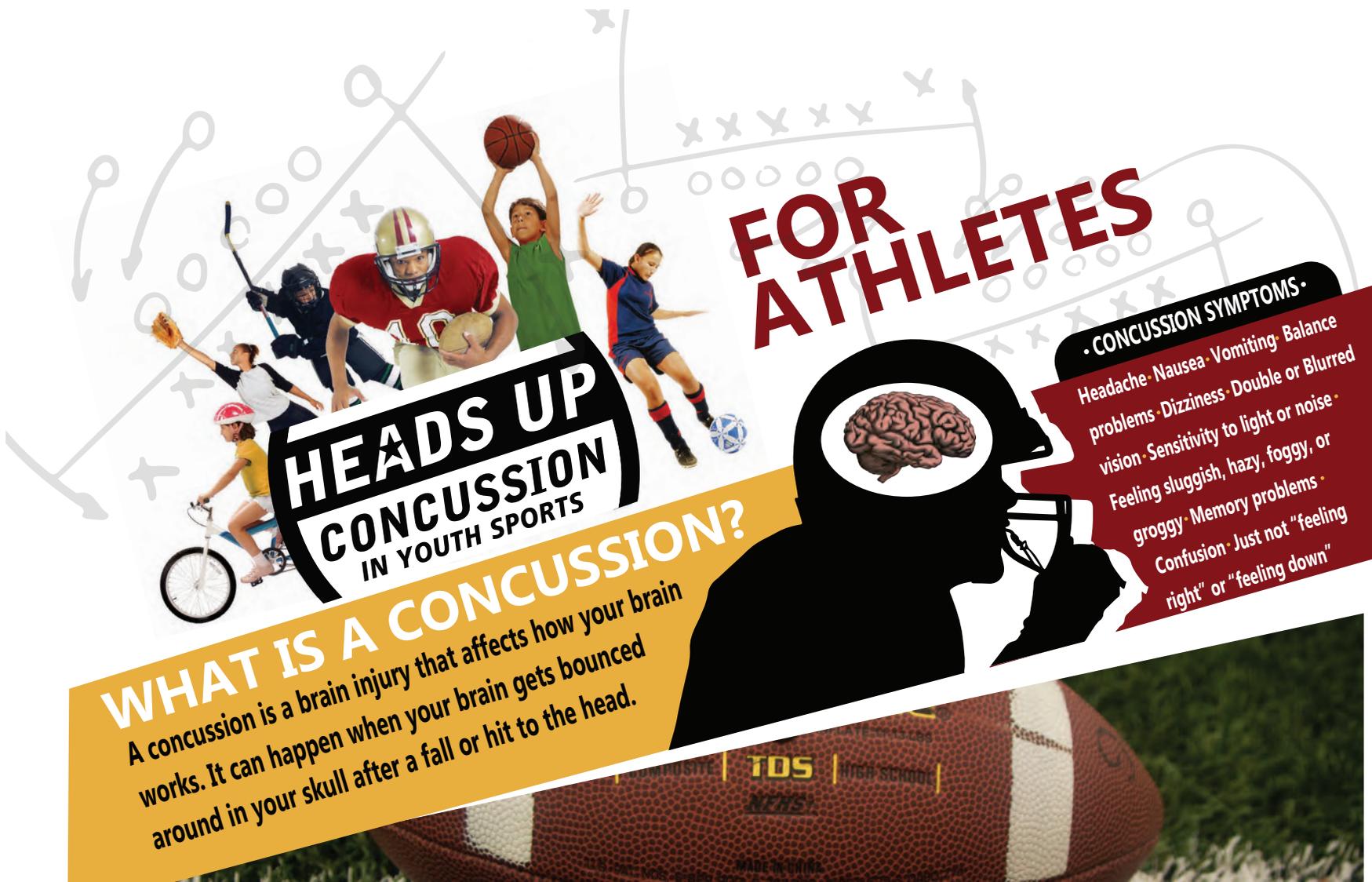
An Agonis member, impressed with Haskins' arm, asked if the sophomore signal caller "could throw the ball 80 yards."

"He shouldn't have to," was Hartline's succinct reply.

### Labor Day Blues

The Monday Labor Day holiday seems to have played havoc on the delivery of the BSB edition covering the Oregon State game. We received calls from all corners of Ohio and the nation from subscribers who did not receive their paper in a timely fashion. In fact, the paper we mail to ourselves for quality control purposes did not arrive until Thursday, even though we are only a few miles from the postal distribution center.

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