

BUCKEYE SPORTS BULLETIN

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Vol. 38, No. 4

"For The Buckeye Fan Who Needs To Know More"

Sept. 29, 2018

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Moving On

JOSH WINSLOW

BACK IN ACTION – Ohio State head coach Urban Meyer (center) returned from a three-game suspension to lead Ohio State to a 49-6 win over Tulane.

With Meyer Back, Focus Shifts To Penn State

By **TIM MOODY**
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

On Sept. 22, unranked Tulane entered Ohio Stadium with a 1-2 record. The Green Wave left that evening with a 1-3 mark after a 49-6 shellacking at the hands of Ohio State.

For the Buckeyes, beating up on an overmatched opponent is no big deal, at least not under normal circumstances. But this time around, for this game, the circumstances weren't normal.

Not even close.

On the field, things were normal. No. 4 Ohio State racked up 42 first-half points and pulled the starters for the final 30 minutes. It was on the sidelines where something was different – as different as something usually so normal can be.

Head coach Urban Meyer was with his team for the first time this season after serving a three-game suspension for mishandling the employment of former assistant coach Zach Smith. He had watched from home as Ohio State dispatched Oregon State in the season opener, and he did the same for wins over Rutgers and TCU as well.

After offensive-coordinator-turned-acting-head-coach Ryan Day led the Buckeyes to an undefeated start, Meyer took the reins, coaching the Buckeyes in the Horseshoe for the first time since Nov. 18, 2017 – a rainy, 52-14 win over Illinois.

"My family is completely ingrained in this community, they love this place, I love this university," Meyer said after the win. "Walking into that Skull Session and seeing Buckeye Nation's support, myself and our team – that was

something overwhelming and I appreciate that. Very appreciative of it."

Those aren't the type of emotions Meyer would typically have for a week-four nonconference game against a team that never had a chance.

Just go back to Sept. 23, 2017, when Ohio State shellacked UNLV, 54-21, in the fourth game of the year, which was also the team's final nonconference matchup. Meyer's opening statement that day lasted a grand total of seven sentences – two paragraphs when broken down in the transcript. He thanked the fans, praised his team, then took some questions. The same thing he does after nearly every game – but his comments after the win over Tulane were different. Because the game, especially for him, was different.

It was different for the players, too.

"I think we were 10 to 15 minutes early to everything today, so it was really cool having the head guy back," said junior wide receiver Austin Mack. "It was just a lot of energy. It's dope. It's a different feeling. Even when we went to the walk (into the stadium), all these people just came to see Coach Meyer – and even the Skull Session. I can't thank Buckeye Nation enough, just for their support."

Meyer's presence brought a new energy to Ohio Stadium, with a crowd of 103,336 showing up for the game. Ohio State's previous home game, a rainy, 52-3 win over Rutgers, had an announced attendance of just over 93,000. That was due to the weather and an overmatched opponent, but Tulane was overmatched as well.

Meyer is still the man in Columbus. The players recognize that, and the fans recognize that.

"He's basically our leader," said junior defensive tackle Davon Hamilton.

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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 handing out 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 Ohio State cruised on the back of a big first half to beat Tulane, 49-6, in Urban Meyer's return..

Joe Dempsey: Although Dwayne Haskins and Parris Campbell were superb against Tulane, their success did not surprise me much against an overmatched opponent.

I did not expect fifth-year senior linebacker Dante Booker to have such a standout game, however. Entering the game with just four tackles (one solo) on the season, Booker had not played much since losing the starting job to Pete Werner while recovering from shoulder surgery. Even though the Buckeyes blew out Tulane, Booker played with the No. 1 defense for a stretch in the first half and made his presence felt throughout the game. The Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary product recorded four solo tackles, three tackles for loss and one sack in the victory.

James Grega: You could legitimately go with about 20 different Buckeyes for the Buckeye Leaf this week, but I am going to go with Parris Campbell for his eight-catch, 147-yard, two-touchdown performance against Tulane.

All of those stats came in the first half, as the majority of the starters sat the second half while Ohio State gets ready for a prime-time matchup against Penn State.

I have always been skeptical of Campbell's ability as a legitimate wide receiver because of his struggles catching the ball beyond the line of scrimmage, but he appears to have taken great strides in that area since the end of the 2017 season. If he can continue to show consistency as a downfield threat, then he legitimately might be a fringe first-round receiver in the 2019 draft because of his speed. He impressed me Saturday, and he gets my Buckeye Leaf.

Tim Moody: Remember when Parris Campbell couldn't catch the ball past the line of scrimmage? Yeah, forget that.

Campbell had the best game of his Ohio State career against the Green Wave, and he did it without playing in the second half. The fifth-year senior and second-year team captain finished with eight receptions for 147 yards and two scores. The highlight of the day for Campbell was a 37-yard strike from quarterback Dwayne Haskins in the first quarter. Campbell had to make a really difficult catch over his left shoulder on a perfect deep ball, and he did his best Devin Smith impression by reeling it in.

Campbell is one of the most dynamic players on the team, and if he's playing like this, he's probably Ohio State's biggest weapon going forward.

Garrett Stepien: Despite the firepower presented by Ohio State on offense, where multiple players are more than deserving of renown, my Buckeye Leaf comes on defense with fifth-year senior linebacker Dante Booker. From an injury late last season to rumors of a potential transfer before spring camp, Booker battled his way back into the rotation at linebacker and stood out Saturday against Tulane. Some of the highlights came in the second half, but Booker's final numbers – four tackles, three tackles for loss and one sack – showed he can still be a solid contributor among a linebackers group with complementary skill sets.

Frank Moskowitz: I could choose Dwayne Haskins

every week with hardly a blush, but I have to go with Parris Campbell. Campbell's up-and-down career was definitely up against Tulane with eight catches for 147 yards (18.4-yard average) and two scores, all while watching the reserves play in the second half.

The eight grabs are 20 percent of his season total of 40 from last year, and the 147 yards are 25.2 percent of his 584 yards over 13 games. He had only three TD catches in all of 2017. Hopefully this upswing continues against Penn State and beyond.

BSB Subscribers

Tied for me is Ryan Day and Dwayne Haskins, who have brought a passing game to Ohio State. Simply amazing. Enjoy both as it probably will be one year and done.

– Blufftonbuck

Campbell and Booker were definitely good picks, but I don't know how you could choose someone other than Haskins. I think he had more than 300 yards passing and five scores without playing in the second half. That's pretty darn close to being perfect.

Can't wait to watch him the rest of the season, and I hope I get to watch him play for the Scarlet and Gray next year too.

– AcrossTheField

Haskins. I feel like I choose him weekly but the dude is simply amazing! One of the best passing QBs I've personally watched at OSU.

– Tiffin Buckeye

Parris Campbell. He and Haskins seem to have that chemistry that Troy Smith and Ted Ginn Jr. had, like Lennon and McCartney.

– PeyoteBuck

Parris Campbell No. 1 – what a half of football. A close No. 2 of course would be Haskins. Another spectacular performance.

– mrbigbux

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Haskins Won't Be Fazed

When Ohio State takes the field Saturday night against Penn State up in Happy Valley, don't look for Dwayne Haskins to be intimidated by the whiteout crowd. He knows what awaits him and his teammates. The crowd will be the loudest he will face this year in a hostile, unforgiving atmosphere.

Talk about lunatic fringe. Welcome to the insane asylum where the lion constantly "meows" and the crowd erupts like drunken gladiators on every play. The best way to take the wind out of the crowd is to score touchdowns and let your defense swarm and dismantle their offense. I know, easier said than done.

However, that is the game plan. Haskins has thrown 16 touchdowns and only one interception thus far leading the fourth-ranked Buckeyes to 4-0. When you watch Haskins throw the ball, he has a rifle of an arm. He hits his receivers on the run, allowing them to get good yards after catches or touchdowns. He also puts zip on the ball. This allows his F-18s (receivers) to showcase their skills running at full speed.

When was the last time you witnessed such greatness from an Ohio State quarterback in throwing the football with such accuracy? We are watching a Heisman contender right before our eyes. If Haskins continues on his maturation process, and our defense tightens up in the secondary, this is going to be a special season to remember.

In closing, Haskins will have plenty of weapons to lead his team to victory over the Nittany Lions. J.K. Dobbins, Mike Weber, Parris Campbell, K.J. Hill, Austin Mack, Terry McLaurin and Johnnie Dixon will put up enough points so their defense can seal the win for Coach Urban Meyer.

Duane Risko
Brunswick, Ohio

What About Smith?

I'm not saying Urban Meyer is squeaky clean in this soap opera, but it looks to me like the piece of crap Zach Smith is getting a free ride. Ninety-nine percent of stuff being written is about Meyer, not one thing about the abuser Smith. Who's to say Courtney Smith is or is not being truthful, do we believe her or Meyer?

Also, why in the world would she continue to live with this jerk as long as she did? Walk out the door, get a divorce, whatever rather than continue to be abused.

I also must say why would Meyer hire this guy time after time?

Bottom line, he's a coach and not a marriage counselor. Paul Finebaum and the rest of the SEC are having a field day with this, but who cares what they think? He and his love affair with Nick Saban ...

Rich Foust
Troy, Ohio

Complete Story Ignored

Gilbert Gildea's letter (Sept. 22 edition of BSB) was totally on point, and should be read by everyone.

It's a shame that the Urban Meyer haters obviously were not aware of the brilliant investigative reporting of Jeff Snook, who's been covering OSU for years, dating back to the Jim Tressel era. His articles and radio interviews told the complete story, unlike the MSM (mainstream media) style of Brett McMurphy. Snook took his story to ESPN, who rejected it on the grounds that it didn't "fit their narrative." Not surprising.

It's also obvious that the team's loyalty to Meyer was largely left unreported, as was the support of the 2019-20 recruits and their parents, particularly Katrina Miller, Harry Miller's mother.

You're right, Mr. Gildea. The haters almost got what they wanted, that being the dismissal of a very, very good man and one of the greatest CFB coaches of all time. Certainly the greatest of our time. I'll take him over 10 Nick Sabans any day. Long may he reign.

John Sheridan
San Antonio

If you would like to express an opinion concerning Ohio State University sports, please send your letter to BSB Letters, P.O. Box 12453, Columbus, OH 43212, or email it to bsb@buckeyesports.com for use in BSB. Letters must be signed and include the writer's hometown and a daytime telephone number for verification. Publication priority will be given to those letters that are brief, and we reserve the right to edit letters for publication.

Haskins Is Playing Like A Soon-To-Be Pro

21 completions in 24 attempts for 304 yards and five touchdowns – all in the first half. His 87.5 completion rate against the Green Wave represented the fourth-best single-game percentage in program history, and he topped the 300-yard mark for the third time in four games this season. He has also thrown for 16 touchdowns in the season's first four games, something no other OSU quarterback has ever done.

If you got the feeling during Ohio State's 49-6 walkover victory against Tulane that you were watching the kind of highlight reel Dwayne Haskins might send to pro scouts next spring, you're not alone.

It's an unfortunate truth – at least as far as OSU fans are concerned – that as a redshirt sophomore, Haskins can (and most likely will) make himself available for the NFL draft following the 2018 season. Until that happens, though, we can all sit back and marvel at a quarterback whose rare natural skills are a sight to behold.

As most of you know, I have covered Ohio State football for a long time, and I'm struggling to remember a quarterback who played for the Buckeyes who compares favorably to Haskins.

Troy Smith won a Heisman Trophy and Joe Germaine threw for a boatload of yards, but neither had the setup or accuracy displayed so far this season by Haskins. Terrelle Pryor could stand tall in the pocket, Todd Boeckman was a classic pro-style quarterback and Jim Karsatos had a cannon for an arm, but none of them possessed the arm speed or hair-trigger delivery of Ohio State's current quarterback.

If you want perfect examples of what I'm talking about, go back and look at Haskins' first three touchdown passes against Tulane.

The first was a Nolan Ryan-esque fastball that nearly burned the fingertips off Parris Campbell. That throw was a 14-yard strike, and although Tulane cornerback Donnie Lewis Jr. had Campbell pretty well covered at the goal line, Lewis could do little more than make a futile dive as the ball buzzed past him with the force of a speeding freight train.

And if that throw was a freight train, the second was a speeding bullet, this one from 17 yards to Terry McLaurin. Haskins took full advantage of excellent protection from his offensive line, setting up at about the 24-yard line to deliver a clothesline strike to McLaurin, who caught the ball in full stride to give the Buckeyes a 14-0 lead at the 6:56 mark of the first quarter.

At the close of the opening period, Haskins proved he had just as much touch as power on his throws, dropping a 37-yard dart into the waiting arms of Campbell despite good coverage from strong safety Roderic Teamer Jr., perhaps the Green Wave's best defender. From where the ball was delivered to where it was caught covered some 50 yards, and it simply couldn't have been thrown any better in terms of accuracy.

Haskins' easiest touchdown pass of the five he threw during the first half against Tulane was a 31-yard pitch-and-catch to Binjimen Victor, who was all alone thanks to busted coverage. But right before halftime, Haskins returned to his highlight-reel performance with a couple of throws that should fill any future employer with sheer delight.

Near the end of Ohio State's sixth touchdown drive of the first half, Haskins proved that he can not only stand in the pocket and deliver, he can do so on the move. Rolling to his right, the OSU quarterback threw on the dead run and found Campbell along the sideline for a 16-yard connection.

One play later, Haskins chalked up his fifth scoring pass of the afternoon to roommate Austin Mack, who went up and over cornerback Willie Langham to make a dazzling catch. As great as Mack's reception was, Haskins put the ball in a spot where only his receiver could make the play – another attribute that separates all great quarterbacks from the merely good ones.

Haskins finished his afternoon of work with

• Ohio State moved its record to 29-3-1 all-time against teams currently in the American Athletic Conference. The bulk of that total has come against in-state rival Cincinnati, which has won only twice in 16 meetings against the Buckeyes. Those two victories came in back-to-back seasons more than a century ago. The Bearcats took an 8-6 decision in 1896 and recorded a 24-0 shutout win the following year with both games played in the Queen City.

• Tulane is now 8-16 all-time against teams currently in the Big Ten, including winning records vs. Northwestern (3-1) and Illinois (1-0). They are 2-4 against Maryland, 2-5 against Rutgers, 0-3 against Michigan and now 0-1 vs. Minnesota, Ohio State and Penn State. Tulane has never played Indiana, Iowa, Michigan State, Nebraska, Purdue or Wisconsin.

• The Green Wave were seeking their first victory against a top-10 ranked opponent since a 14-0 win against No. 8 LSU in 1973. Tulane is now 7-68-1 all-time against opponents ranked in the top 10.

• Finally, the various off-the-field shenanigans of players and coaches has soured me some on sports over the years, but I admit to still finding a catch in my throat when I witness things such as 100-year-old marching band alumnus Anthony Violi dot the "i" in one of four Script Ohios during halftime of the Tulane game. If you're an Ohio State fan and something like that doesn't get to you, well ... as John Cooper used to say, better check your pulse.

Odds & Ends

• I mentioned Burrow before, and you might be interested to know that his off-season transfer to LSU has been extremely beneficial for the Tigers. With Burrow at the controls, the Bayou Bengals are a perfect 4-0 to start the season for the first time since 2015, and the Associated Press poll released Sept. 23 had them ranked as the No. 5 team in the nation. Through his first four games, Burrow had completed 52 of 106 attempts (49.1 percent) for 731 yards and three touchdowns against no interceptions.

• That poll also had Duke and Kentucky in the same AP football rankings for the first time since Sept. 14, 1957. Conversely, the Blue Devils and Wildcats have been ranked in the same AP basketball poll an astounding 547 times during that span.

• Nebraska's 56-10 loss to Michigan sent the Cornhuskers to 0-3, the first time the program has lost its first three games in a season since 1945, when they opened with five straight losses. Dating back to last season, NU is on a seven-game losing streak, and that hasn't happened since 1957. Nebraska has been playing intercollegiate football since 1890 and has never had an eight-game losing streak.

• Up next for the reeling Cornhuskers is Purdue, which was winless until knocking off No. 23 Boston College on Sept. 22 by a 30-13 final. It was Purdue's first win against a ranked team since a 21-14 victory against No. 23 Illinois in 2011 and the largest margin of victory for the Boilermakers over a ranked team since a 52-28 win against No. 5 Michigan State in 1999.

• Since it was played Friday night, you might have missed Penn State roll to a 63-24 win against Illinois. And if you missed the game, you also missed the fact that the Nittany Lions held only a 28-24 lead after three quarters and surrendered more than 400 yards of total offense to the Fighting Illini.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK Mark Rea

With 1,194 yards so far, Haskins has not only eclipsed the 1,000-yard mark in a season faster than any Ohio State quarterback in history, he is on pace to obliterate Germaine's single-season record set in 1998 at 3,330 yards. Haskins is on track to throw for 3,582 yards during the regular season, and should the Buckeyes play in the Big Ten Championship Game and at least one College Football Playoff contest, the quarterback could throw for well over 4,000 yards. The Big Ten record for most passing yards in a single season is 3,985, set by Curtis Painter of Purdue in 2006.

Obviously, it will be difficult for Haskins to keep up his current pace. After all, he is bound to see better defensive units than the ones put on the field by the likes of Oregon State, Rutgers, TCU and Tulane.

But it's also safe to say that no team on Ohio State's remaining schedule has seen a quarterback playing to the level Dwayne Haskins is playing to right now.

Game Observations

• Haskins already has 16 touchdown passes with two-thirds of the regular season remaining, a total no Ohio State quarterback achieved for an entire season until Art Schlichter had 17 scoring passes in 1981.

• Haskins and backup QB Tate Martell combined to throw for 419 yards against Tulane, the second-highest total in program history. The record was set just last year when J.T. Barrett, Haskins and Joe Burrow combined for 474 yards during a 54-21 win against UNLV.

• Campbell set career single-game records with eight catches for 147 yards. He now has 1,004 career receiving yards, making him the 33rd OSU player with at least 1,000 yards receiving. Teammate K.J. Hill has 1,070 yards for his career, giving the Buckeyes two players with at least 1,000 career receiving yards on the same team for the first time since Corey "Philly" Brown and Devin Smith in 2013.

• Tight end Rashod Berry was not one of 14 receivers with at least one catch against Tulane, but Berry was conspicuous in another way. He was called for holding penalties on two extra-point attempts, putting kicker Sean Nuernberger's consecutive PAT streak somewhat in jeopardy. Nuernberger didn't seem to mind, though. He hit all seven of his attempts against the Green Wave, moving his school record to 206 consecutive PATs without a miss.

• Sophomore defensive end Chase Young threw Tulane QB Jonathan Banks for a 5-yard loss on the Green Wave's first play from scrimmage, setting the tone for a game during which the Buckeyes recorded 14 tackles for loss. The single-game record is 19, set ironically during a 23-10 loss at Penn State in 1999.



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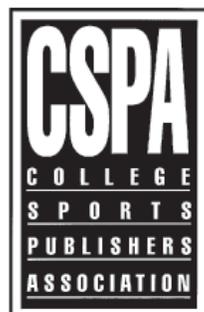
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2018-19 PUBLICATION SCHEDULE (VOL. 38)

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No. 11	Nov. 24	No. 23	July
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The next issue (Oct. 6 cover date) will be mailed Oct. 2.

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Charter Member



Day Could Become Coach In Waiting

On Aug. 1, Urban Meyer was placed on paid administrative leave by Ohio State, and offensive coordinator/quarterback coach Ryan Day was named acting head coach in his place.

Day served in that role throughout fall camp and preseason practice before leading the Buckeyes to a 3-0 start in 2018 with wins over Oregon State, Rutgers and TCU. Meyer returned for the team's 49-6 win over Tulane on Sept. 29, sending Day back to his normal duties, but the school may not be quite ready to close the book on him leading the program.

Ohio State is in talks over a "coach-in-waiting" deal with Day, according to a Sept. 22 report from Ari Wasserman of The Athletic. The report referenced a source who spoke anonymously because discussions over a potential deal were ongoing.

After the 2017 season, Day's first at Ohio State, he received a three-year contract – assistant coaches in Columbus typically sign one- or two-year deals – and was given a \$1 million salary for 2018. He was also given a bonus of \$487,000 for his time spent as acting head coach, which will be paid in one lump sum.

Day has already turned down other coaching opportunities, including the head coaching job at Mississippi State and NFL assistant jobs during the offseason. A deal to make him the coach in waiting would likely mean Day will stick around and succeed Meyer, whenever the latter chooses to end his time with the Buckeyes. Meyer's current contract runs through 2022.

After the report surfaced, Ohio State athletic director Gene Smith issued a statement saying he expected Meyer to be at Ohio State for the foreseeable future.

"We obviously are appreciative of Coach Day's great work and hope he continues to be one of our offensive coordinators for a long time, but we are more than confident Coach Meyer will be our head coach for quite some time," Smith said.

With Suspension Over, Meyer Faces Media

Part of Meyer's suspension ended Sept. 3 – two days after the season opener – when he was allowed to return to work during the week. He was suspended again on Sept. 8, though, as well as Sept. 15 for Ohio State's games against Rutgers and TCU.

After the win over the Horned Frogs, Meyer was fully reinstated. Two days later, he held his first press conference since the evening of Aug. 22 when his suspension was first announced. The head coach had an



JOSH WINSLOW

FOR THE FUTURE – Ohio State is reportedly in talks to make Ryan Day (center) the football team's "coach in waiting."

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Beat The Postal Problems

Buckeye Sports Bulletin subscribers are once again experiencing postal problems this football season.

"I want to assure our loyal BSB readers that Buckeye Sports Bulletin goes to the printer and is mailed at the same time each week, the same time that it always has," said BSB publisher Frank Moskowitz. "I am working diligently with our postmaster to try to isolate the problem within the postal system and resolve it."

This year's postal problems have been unique, according to Moskowitz.

"While delivery delays have been widespread, I am not sure I have ever seen a situation where, for instance, papers are delivered several days late in the central Ohio area, but readers in far-flung places like New Jersey or California are reporting receiving their BSBs before their fellow Buckeye fans in Columbus."

While Moskowitz attempts to speed up the delivery, Buckeye Sports Bulletin is offering two options to readers.

Subscribers can upgrade their delivery to first-class mail in an envelope for \$20 for the remainder of football season or \$30 through football recruiting season. Simply call (614) 486-2202 and we will upgrade you immediately or send your check or money order to P.O. Box 12453, Columbus, Ohio, 43212 and mention the "Football" or "Recruiting" upgrade.

Readers may also read the complete edition of each issue of Buckeye Sports Bulletin online at BuckeyeSports.com on Mondays during football season, a free service with your subscription.

"No one understands better than I, a print guy, that reading BSB online is not the same as holding the paper in your hands, but it is a stopgap until your paper arrives," Moskowitz said. "By going to BuckeyeSports.com you can also enjoy several additional stories per day that don't appear in the print issue and also participate on The Forum, where readers interact with the BSB staff and other Buckeye fans."

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opening statement and took questions from reporters for just under an hour in a more-crowded-than-normal team meeting room at the Woody Hayes Athletic Center.

Meyer opened the proceedings by praising the team's performance against TCU and naming off the players who graded out as champions, the same way he typically starts Monday press conferences during the season. He then moved on to the key points surrounding the circumstances of his suspension and his handling of various issues surrounding fired assistant coach Zach Smith, including the domestic violence allegations that sparked a university investigation and Meyer's leave of absence.

Not counting the press conference that followed the announcement of his suspension, Meyer noted that he hadn't spoken with the media since Big Ten Media Days in July, where his comments regarding the domestic violence allegations did not reflect his full knowledge of the situation.

"I want to start off by apologizing for that performance," Meyer said. "I want to be really clear that there is zero intent to mislead. The (investigative) report found that I did not answer questions with the accuracy that I should have. I didn't listen closely to the questions."

Throughout the press conference, Meyer stressed that he has now and has always had

a firm commitment to one of his main core values – treating women with respect. He noted that Gene Smith told him to let the law enforcement investigation surrounding Courtney Smith's 2015 allegations of abuse by Zach Smith play its course. No charges were ever filed, and domestic abuse was never proven. Meyer said he would have fired Zach Smith if that had not been the case.

"I then asked Gene, I said, 'What do I need to do?' " Meyer said while speaking about the first time he heard about the allegations. "Gene said allow the investigation to take place, do not get involved in the investigation. We'll update you along the journey. And that was right in the middle of the season. Fifteen, as you recall, was a very up-and-down season, very intense season."

Meyer also admitted that his first instinct has always been to help others through their issues, which is part of the reason he kept Zach Smith on staff despite numerous work-related problems, in addition to the abuse allegations. Meyer did say, though, that looking back on everything – and knowing everything he knows now – having Zach Smith on staff at Ohio State was a mistake, and his mishandling of the situation was the cause for his suspension.

Meyer apologized multiple times to Courtney Smith, Gene Smith, the Ohio State

2018 Ohio State Football Schedule

Date	Opponent	Result/Time (ET)	TV	Record, Last Result
Sept. 1	OREGON STATE	W, 77-31	ABC	1-3, 35-14 loss to Arizona
Sept. 8	RUTGERS	W, 52-3	BTN	1-3, 42-13 loss to Buffalo
Sept. 15	vs. TCU#*	W, 40-28	ABC	2-2, 31-16 loss at Texas
Sept. 22	TULANE	W, 49-6	BTN	1-3, 49-6 loss at Ohio State
Sept. 29	at Penn State*	7:30 p.m.	ABC	4-0, 63-24 win at Illinois
Oct. 6	INDIANA	3:30 OR 4 p.m.	TBA	3-1, 35-21 loss to Michigan State
Oct. 13	MINNESOTA	TBA	TBA	3-1, 42-13 loss at Maryland
Oct. 20	at Purdue*	TBA	TBA	1-3, 30-13 win over Boston College
Nov. 3	NEBRASKA	TBA	TBA	0-3, 56-10 loss at Michigan
Nov. 10	at Michigan State*	TBA	TBA	2-1, 35-21 win at Indiana
Nov. 17	at Maryland	TBA	TBA	3-1, 42-13 win over Minnesota
Nov. 24	MICHIGAN*	Noon	FOX	3-1, 56-10 win over Nebraska
Dec. 1	Big Ten Championship@	8 p.m.	FOX	

* – 2017-18 bowl team

– at Arlington, Texas (AT&T Stadium)

@ – at Indianapolis (Lucas Oil Stadium)

football program, the university and school president Michael Drake.

A full video of the press conference and a transcript of Meyer's comments can be found on BSB's full-service website, BuckeyeSports.com.

Bosa Has Surgery, Landers Misses Tulane Game

Ohio State junior defensive end Nick Bosa underwent surgery for a core muscle injury during the week leading up to the Tulane game, Meyer said. Bosa suffered the injury early in the third quarter of the TCU game and did not return, and he missed the win over the Green Wave.

Ohio State doesn't have a timetable for Bosa's return yet, but he is not expected to play against Penn State on Sept. 29 in University Park, Pa.

In addition to Bosa's absence, Ohio State was without junior defensive tackle Robert Landers – also a starter – against Tulane. Landers was probable heading into the

game, according to Meyer, but he sat out with an undisclosed injury. He will likely be available for the trip to Penn State.

Despite playing only about three halves of football so far this season, Bosa is tied for second on the team with 14 total tackles, along with junior safety Jordan Fuller and junior defensive tackle Dre'Mont Jones. Eleven of Bosa's 14 tackles have been solo stops, and he leads the team with six tackles for loss and four sacks. He also has one quarterback hurry, a forced fumble and two fumble recoveries, one of which went for a touchdown against Oregon State in week one.

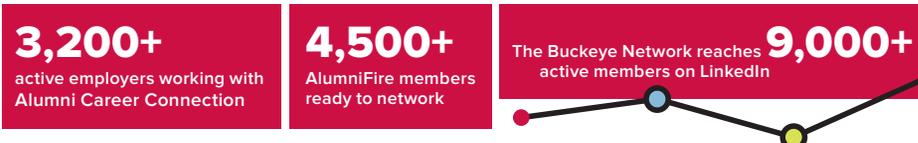
Landers, who also started the first three games of the season, has tallied nine total tackles, including two tackles for loss.

Sophomore defensive end Chase Young started in Bosa's place against Tulane while junior Davon Hamilton started in place of Landers.

Continued On Page 6

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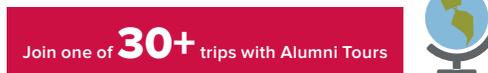
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OHIO STATE INSIDER

Continued From Page 5

Against Tulane, junior running back Mike Weber also suffered an injury when he sprained his foot. Meyer said after the game that he expects Weber to be ready to go for Penn State.

Weber is second on the team through four games (one start) with 299 yards rushing on 52 carries. He also leads the team with three rushing touchdowns and has six catches for 41 yards and another score.

OSU Great Houston Passes Away

Former Ohio State All-American Jim Houston died Sept. 11 at the age of 80 in Massillon, Ohio.

The Massillon Washington product, who played for Woody Hayes as an end from 1957-59, was twice named team MVP with the Buckeyes and was a team captain in

1959. He was inducted into the school's Varsity O Hall of Fame in 1979. Houston was selected for the College Football Hall of Fame in 2005.

After completing his career at Ohio State, Houston was selected by the Cleveland Browns with the eighth overall pick in the 1960 NFL draft (he was also taken first overall in the AFL draft by Buffalo, but he chose the Browns). He went on to be selected to the Pro Bowl in 1964, 1965, 1969 and 1970, helping the Browns to a championship in 1964.

He tallied 14 career interceptions with Cleveland, good for second among linebackers in team history. He was inducted into the team's Legends program in 2006.

During the 1962 season, Houston was dubbed "Mr. Dependable" after he was recalled to active duty with the United States Army. He would fly in for games each weekend to serve as a reserve player throughout the season.

Schiano Praises OSU Linebackers

Big plays have been a concern for the Ohio State defense at times in 2018.

In the season opener against Oregon State, the Buckeyes gave up scoring runs of 78 and 80 yards in a 77-31 win. In week three against then-No. 15 TCU in Arlington, Texas, the Horned Frogs set a program record with a 93-yard touchdown run, the longest play from scrimmage ever allowed by an Ohio State defense.

Even against Tulane, the Green Wave's lone score was set up by a 38-yard pass to the Ohio State 1-yard line.

The Buckeyes are undefeated, though, and the defense has largely played well, but those chunk plays have brought more questions than answers. Some of those questions have been about the Ohio State linebackers,

but defensive coordinator Greg Schiano said they've been one of the most fundamentally sound groups on the team so far this year.

"I think the linebackers have played pretty well, actually," Schiano said during the week leading up to the Tulane game.

He went on to explain that, while no linebacker was in position to make a play on TCU's long touchdown run, that wasn't due to them being out of position. Ohio State was cheating toward another scheme on that play, Schiano said. The Horned Frogs instead did something they had never shown on tape – and that combination led to the big play.

"Sometimes when you cheat, you get (hit)," he said.

Schiano went on to say that the linebackers can certainly still improve, but the group has come a long way. It makes a difference to have sophomore Tuf Borland back in the lineup full time as well after he made his first start of the season against TCU.

"The linebackers, I think, we're not perfect by any means," Schiano said. "But I think we're really playing much more assignment-sound football than we were even in training camp. I think they're getting better and better.

"And then (at middle linebacker) having Tuf in there for a bunch of plays was nice and (sophomore Baron Browning) played well, so that was good."

Junior Malik Harrison leads Ohio State's linebackers with 12 total tackles, including half a tackle for loss, through four games. He also has the position group's only interception. Sophomore Pete Werner has nine tackles and a sack while sophomores Browning and Borland each have eight tackles (Browning has 1½ tackles for loss and a sack while Borland has half a tackle for loss). Ohio State has also gotten some strong play from backup linebacker Dante Booker, a fifth-year senior, who had four solo tackles, three tackles for loss and a sack against Tulane. Booker has eight total tackles for the season.

Buckeyes Stick At No. 4, PSU Ranked 9th

Ohio State will be the No. 4 team in the country, according to the Associated Press top 25, when it travels to Penn State on Sept. 29. The Nittany Lions will be ranked ninth.

Alabama (60 first-place votes) topped the

poll, while Georgia stayed at second and Clemson (1) was third, meaning the top four remained unchanged when the new standings were announced Sept. 23. LSU, led by former Ohio State quarterback Joe Burrow, moved up one spot to fifth, switching places with Oklahoma.

Stanford and Notre Dame checked in at seventh and eighth, respectively, while Auburn ranked 10th.

From the Big Ten, Michigan was up five spots to No. 14 in the new poll while Wisconsin was up three spots to No. 15 and Michigan State checked in at No. 21. Iowa (31) and Maryland (6) also received votes, as did Cincinnati (10), which is coached by former Ohio State player and assistant coach Luke Fickell.

TCU dropped out of the poll completely after losing to Ohio State and Texas in back-to-back weeks.

Ohio State remained at No. 4 in the coaches poll Sept. 23 as well, receiving one first-place vote. The entire top nine remained unchanged from a week earlier (1-10: Alabama, Clemson, Georgia, Ohio State, Oklahoma, LSU, Stanford, Notre Dame, Penn State).

Wisconsin was 13th in the coaches' rankings while Michigan checked in at No. 15 and Michigan State was at No. 18. TCU fell out of the coaches poll as well, while Iowa (23) and Maryland (9) also received votes.

Jones Named B1G's Defensive POTW

After helping Ohio State to a come-from-behind victory against TCU, Jones was named the Big Ten Defensive Player of the Week.

The defensive tackle collected six total tackles, two for loss, a pass breakup, a sack and a 28-yard interception return for a touchdown that put Ohio State on top for good against the Horned Frogs in Arlington, Texas.

Jones is the third Buckeye in as many weeks to earn weekly Big Ten honors. Quarterback Dwayne Haskins took home Offensive Player of the Week honors after throwing for 313 yards and five scores against Oregon State in the season opener before Tate Martell earned Co-Freshman of the Week accolades after compiling 216 total yards of offense and two scores in the week-two win over Rutgers.



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Meyer Presents Day With Game Ball After Win

Continued From Page 1

“Coach Day did a great job while (Meyer) was gone, but that’s our leader for sure. It’s great to have him back.”

None of that is meant to diminish what Day did during fall camp and for the first three weeks of the season. He kept Meyer’s seat warm for him and kept the Buckeyes firing on all cylinders on the field.

After the win over Tulane, Meyer was the first person to praise Day, who is in talks with the university to become the “head coach in waiting,” according to a Sept. 22 report from The Athletic’s Ari Wasserman.

“I also thanked Ryan Day and presented him with the game ball afterwards – 3-0, pretty good record,” Meyer said. “I’m not sure of

the exact winning percentage, but it’s pretty high. He’s done a great job.”

Even with Day as coach in waiting, though – if that ends up being the case – this is Meyer’s team for 2018. It will be Meyer’s team for the foreseeable future after that, too. He has built a program that is one of the best in the nation, a program that was able to withstand more than a month without its head coach without missing a beat.

He’s been at Ohio State six full years now. The win over Tulane (finally) marked the beginning of his seventh season as the head coach in Columbus.

There have been a lot of wins – 74 to be exact – and not many losses (eight). He’s won a national title and two Big Ten championships. He’s already one of the best coaches the program – and the sport – has



JOSH WINSLOW

TWO COACHES – Ohio State head coach Urban Meyer (right) had high praise for offensive coordinator Ryan Day (left) after the win over Tulane.



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ever seen. But, even after all these years and all those accomplishments, Meyer's return to the stadium reminded him of the one moment that gets him week in and week out.

"It's always the same one, between the third and fourth quarter, hearing the band play 'Hang On Sloopy,'" Meyer said. "It's been the same for seven years."

Attention Shift

OK, so Meyer is back. The Buckeyes are near full strength. They have a 4-0 record, and they're already 1-0 in Big Ten play.

But that was Tulane. Next up, the Buckeyes have Penn State.

And it's not just Penn State – it's a trip to University Park, Pa., for a prime-time match-up under the lights at Beaver Stadium. It will be a whiteout in the stands, and every player and coach at Ohio State will know what that means.

The Buckeyes last traveled to face the Nittany Lions on the road in 2016, leaving with a 24-21 loss that derailed their hopes

of winning a Big Ten title. Two years earlier, Ohio State went to Beaver Stadium and took Penn State's best shot before pulling out a 31-24 victory in double overtime. That win helped spring the Buckeyes to a strong finish to the regular season before they won the Big Ten championship and the College Football Playoff National Championship.

Trips to Happy Valley can make or break a season. A make-or-break scenario is certainly in play when the Buckeyes square off with the No. 9 Nittany Lions on Sept. 29.

"Last time we went to Happy Valley we didn't get a happy taste in our mouth," said sophomore quarterback Dwayne Haskins, who will be making the first true road start of his career against Penn State. "So we're excited for this one."

Normally, players preach about being focused on the task at hand. After a win over a team such as Tulane, they would typically say they hadn't even thought about the next opponent yet. That wasn't the case this time around, though. Haskins even admitted that

he had thought about the Nittany Lions before taking the field against the Green Wave.

"On and off, you try not to, try to focus on who we're playing this week but how can't you when they're one of the best teams in the country?" he said of thinking about PSU.

Haskins, who was 21 of 24 for 304 yards and five touchdowns against Tulane, didn't take a single snap in the second half. That allowed him to shift his complete attention to Penn State early – whatever attention wasn't already on the Nittany Lions at least.

"Probably when I got done playing, by second half," Haskins said after being asked when he started thinking about Penn State on game day. "Talking to the O-linemen, just start prepping for them."

Ohio State enters the game undefeated, and Penn State will as well, even if the Nittany Lions have had a couple of early scares. It took overtime for them to beat Appalachian State, 45-38, at home in week one. And on Sept. 21, they trailed in the second half at Illinois before eventually pull-

ing out a closer-than-the-score-shows 63-24 victory.

Close calls or not, though, a road match-up with Penn State will be unlike anything Ohio State has seen so far this year. The Buckeyes already have one game away from home under their belts, but that was a 40-28 win over TCU in Arlington, Texas, where the majority of the fans at AT&T Stadium were supporting Ohio State.

This one will be different, and the Buckeyes know that.

"The difference is Buckeye Nation travels. We had half of that (AT&T) stadium full in red – it was incredible," Mack said. "Now, you're going to Penn State and they're going to have their whiteout, it's going to be a night game, we're going to be in a different environment. It's going to be louder than what it was down in AT&T Stadium.

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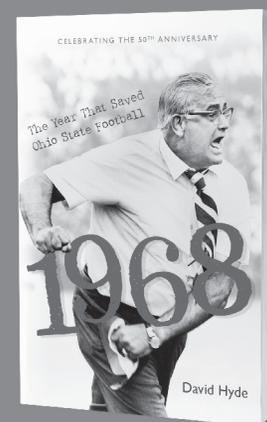
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Haskins Shines Again; Campbell Has Career Day

Dwayne Haskins' performance against Tulane could be described as efficient, yet explosive at the same time.

GAME NOTEBOOK

James Grega

In just a half of football, Haskins completed 21 of 24 passes for 304 yards and five touchdowns, while also giving way to Tate Martell for a series in the second quarter. It was the second time in four starts that Haskins threw five touchdowns in a game, pushing his season total to 16, just one shy of halfway to the school record for most touchdown passes in a single season for a first-year starter. That record is held by J.T. Barrett, who threw for 34 touchdowns in 2014, which also set the program record for most touchdown passes in a season overall. Barrett broke his own record last season, when he tossed 35 touchdowns.

Haskins opened the game by finding Parris Campbell for a 14-yard score. Then he found Terry McLaurin for a 17-yard touchdown to push the lead to 14-0.

Campbell caught his second touchdown of the day on Ohio State's third possession, a 37-yard score from Haskins on an impressive over-the-shoulder catch. Haskins went on to find Binjimen Victor (31 yards) and Austin Mack (14 yards) for touchdowns in the second quarter, helping the Buckeyes take a 42-6 lead into the locker room.

Through four games, Haskins has completed 75.7 percent of his passes for 1,194 yards and 16 touchdowns to just one interception. He did not play the entire second half, as Martell finished the game, completing 10 of 14 passes for 115 yards through the air and adding 22 yards and a score on the ground.

Haskins, who has not thrown an interception since the season opener against Oregon State, credited his teammates for his remarkable start to the season.

"Probably better than what I thought,"



JOSH WINSLOW

FAST START – Fifth-year senior receiver Parris Campbell (21) had eight catches for 147 yards and two touchdowns before the break as Ohio State took a 42-6 halftime lead against Tulane.

Haskins said when asked about how his performance has matched up with his expectations. "I never bought into an idea of what I could do, I just wanted to go out and win games, play really great and (I'm) really

proud of how great my surrounding people are – receivers, tight ends, O-line, running backs, are doing a great job."

Throughout his head coaching career, Urban Meyer has often had dual-threat quar-

terbacks. Haskins, who has carried just 10 times through four games, is a more traditional pocket passer.

Meyer said after the game that the last time he had a quarterback with a similar skill set, he was the head coach at Utah, and that quarterback – Alex Smith – ended up being the No. 1 overall pick in the NFL draft. He added, however, that he didn't want to put unnecessary pressure on Haskins by putting him on Smith's level just yet.

"It's so early, though, I hate to put him in those – game five coming up. This one is a big one coming up, so I'm pleased with his performance," Meyer said. "I remember when I watched him throw at one of his workouts, either right before we signed him or right after, and you could see he had that part of the game."

Campbell Posts Prolific 1st Half

After redshirting in 2014, Parris Campbell's first playing time came in prime time in the 2015 season opener against Virginia Tech.

With the country watching, Campbell started as the likes of Corey Smith, Jalin Marshall and Dontre Wilson were all suspended. On the first drive, Campbell was the target of a pass from Cardale Jones that would have surely gone for a touchdown, but he dropped it.

From then on, Campbell had a reputation for being a player with less-than-stellar hands. That narrative might have changed after the Tulane win.

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Game Analysis

What Worked Well

The passing game. Ohio State sliced Tulane up, totaling 570 yards on offense. However, the Buckeyes did most of their damage through the air with 419 yards. Sophomore quarterback Dwayne Haskins unloaded his latest aerial assault on an opposing defense, firing 21 completions on 24 attempts (87.5 percent) and totaling 304 yards with five touchdowns – all in the first half. When the starter gave way to redshirt freshman quarterback Tate Martell, OSU continued to roll. Martell was 10 for 14 (71.4 percent) with 115 yards. Ohio State completed 31 passes to 14 different receivers.

What Didn't Work

During the Buckeyes' dominance against the Green Wave, flags flew in abundance. OSU committed 10 penalties for 89 yards. In fact, Tulane's only scoring drive survived due to two penalties. On a first-and-10 from midfield, junior defensive end Jashon Cornell was called for offside, negating cornerback Jeffrey Okudah's would-be interception and moving the Green Wave into Ohio State territory. Three plays later, on a third-and-11 from the Buckeyes' 46, junior cornerback Damon Arnette's pass interference moved Tulane to the OSU 42. On a third-and-7 from the Ohio State 39, Jonathan Banks hit Terren Encalade down to the Buckeyes' 1. Darius Bradwell walked into the end zone two

plays later and put the Green Wave on the board. OSU overpowers opponents of lesser talent, like Tulane, so the miscues become irrelevant. However, if discipline is lacking Sept. 29 at Penn State, Ohio State could pay the price.

Play Of The Game

From the beginning, the Buckeyes got after Tulane through the passing game. One play, though, busted open the rout. Before the end of the first quarter, Ohio State faced a second-and-10 from Tulane's 37. With 39 seconds left in the period, offensive coordinators Ryan Day and Kevin Wilson went for the kill shot. In a five-wide set, sophomore running back J.K. Dobbins lined up wide on the left side near the Buckeyes' sideline with fifth-year senior H-back Parris Campbell in the slot. When they shot off the line of scrimmage, Dobbins ran a deep comeback while Campbell streaked up and bounced out to the sideline. With all day in the pocket, Haskins did a simple three-step drop and timed the throw perfectly for Campbell, hitting the receiver in stride and in the back-left corner of the end zone. For Haskins, it was his best throw all day. For Campbell, it showed his all-around improvement as a downfield receiver. For OSU, it broke the blowout open, giving the Buckeyes a 21-0 lead.

– Garrett Stepien

Campbell caught a career-high eight passes for 147 yards and a pair of touchdowns, including the 37-yard score that required him to make a grab over his left shoulder. Campbell had dropped a similar pass in the season opener in 2017 against Indiana, but he made the play look easy against the Green Wave.

Meyer said Campbell, who was discussed as a potential early-round draft pick during the offseason, needed to come back to school in order to prove he could make plays like he did against Tulane.

"I think he's a top first-round draft pick at some point, but he had to improve his ball skills, especially downfield," Meyer said. "He's improved the crossing routes and bubbles and those types of things. The execution today on that pause route was perfect. He's really playing well."

Campbell also earned praise from Haskins, who used the word "dynamic" to describe the fifth-year senior's abilities on the football field.

"He put a lot of effort into working on his hands and catching every pass that gets thrown to him," Haskins said. "He makes a lot of plays with his feet, so being able to get the ball into the hands of the receiver, he's dangerous."

D-Line Thrives Without Bosa, Landers

In addition to being without Nick Bosa, who had surgery for a core muscle problem after suffering an injury against TCU, the Buckeyes were without junior defensive tackle Robert Landers against Tulane.

Landers, who entered the week having tallied nine total tackles, including two for loss, was on the sideline for the win over the Green Wave but did not dress.

In his place, junior Davon Hamilton got the start while sophomore Chase Young started in place of Bosa. The two each collected a pair of tackles and a tackle for loss in limited action. Freshman Tyler Friday, freshman Tyreke Smith and junior Jashon Cornell also all earned time at defensive end while freshman Tommy Togia and sophomore Haskell Garrett earned extended reps on the interior.

The defensive line accounted for 5½ tackles for loss and a sack against a Tulane team that attempted just 16 passes to 42 runs, and Young said that while their best player is out, the Buckeyes are not going to dwell on his absence, especially with a matchup against Penn State looming.

"We don't have to be down like, 'Oh, where is Nick?' (Defensive line coach Larry) Johnson is not like that at all," Young said. "Next man up. Even though it was Tulane, we showed the D-line can still make an impact."

Hamilton echoed Young's comments, adding that he believes his unit is the deepest on the team, preparing them for such a scenario.

"I feel like our unit is probably the deepest unit on the team. We all hang out together, care about each other and if anybody needs anything, the older guys have been stepping up," he said. "Either way, we still have to play better next week."

Both Hamilton and Cornell said they weren't sure if Landers would be able to go against Penn State, but Hamilton said that his presence on the field would be a "huge help" if he is able to play.

Buckeyes Block PAT

For the first time since Meyer's first year at Ohio State, the Buckeyes blocked an extra-point attempt.

Following Tulane's lone score of the game, defensive end Jonathon Cooper blocked Marek Glover's point after attempt. The last time the Buckeyes blocked an opponent's extra point came in 2012, when Johnathan Hankins blocked one in an overtime win against Purdue.

Penalties Plague Ohio State

There wasn't much to be angry about if you're an Ohio State fan in the blowout win against Tulane. However, one glaring statistic that showed up in the box score was the amount of penalties the Buckeyes accumulated against the Green Wave.

Ohio State compiled 10 penalties for 89 yards in the victory, which was almost half as many as it had in the first three games of the season (22 for 209) combined.

The Buckeyes were whistled for a pair of offside penalties, one of which negated a Jeffrey Okudah interception. Justin Hilliard and Jake Hausmann also added unsportsmanlike conduct penalties on special teams.

After Damon Arnette was called for a pass interference on the same drive that Okudah's interception was wiped out, which later led to Tulane's lone score, Meyer said he pulled the defensive backs and defensive coordinator Greg Schiano together to make sure that the Buckeyes didn't lose focus.

"We had a penalty by Damon, and Damon works so hard at practice," Meyer said. "He's just better than that. The lack of discipline, and then I just wanted to make sure the focus is on the fundamentals of performing and not on other stuff, so that's the chat we had."

LB Booker Stands Out

After suffering multiple shoulder injuries and undergoing surgery, Ohio State senior linebacker Dante Booker lost his starting job to Pete Werner during the offseason.

Now healthy and donning a new number (No. 52), Booker earned playing time with the first-team defense and put together a standout performance.

The fifth-year senior tallied four tackles, three for loss and a sack in the win over Tulane, his best performance since making five tackles in a 39-38 win over Penn State in 2017. He played with both the first- and second-team defenses against the Green Wave,

and all four of his tackles were registered as solo stops.

McCall Appears At Running Back

One of the most versatile players on Ohio State's roster, Demario McCall has also become one of the most intriguing players in 2018.

McCall has stood out in garbage time early in his Ohio State career as a running back but has also been hampered by injuries, missing most of the 2017 season and taking a medical redshirt. Late in 2017, he had to learn a new position, too, as he made the switch to H-back. He appeared to make

the transition back to running back against the Green Wave, lining up in the backfield on numerous occasions with the first- and second-team offenses.

He finished the game with four carries for 26 yards and added two receptions for 36 yards, coming just shy of a late touchdown in the fourth quarter.

McCall's time at running back could have been the product of Brian Snead's absence. Snead was not in attendance for the second straight week, after the freshman didn't make the trip to the TCU game a week earlier for disciplinary reasons. Freshman Master Teague added 25 yards rushing on six carries in mop-up duty.

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Ohio State Cruises Past Tulane With Big 1st Half

By CRAIG MERZ
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

Dwayne Haskins was unflappable, unstoppable and nearly flawless in the first half to lead No. 4 Ohio State to an overwhelming 49-6 victory over Tulane before 103,336 fans at Ohio Stadium on Sept. 22.

Haskins, a third-year sophomore in his fourth career start, played only the first two quarters and had statistics that most quarterbacks would love for a game.

He was 21 of 24 for 304 yards with five TDs. For the season he has passed for 1,194 yards and 16 touchdowns with one interception. He also has one rushing TD.

In guiding the Buckeyes (4-0) to scores on their first four drives – redshirt freshman Tate Martell took OSU to another score in the fifth series – Haskins completed 14 of his first 15 passes for 238 yards and four touchdowns.

On the Buckeyes' sixth possession – his final of the game – he completed four straight to make him 18 of 19. He then hit two of four before a 14-yard TD to junior wide receiver Austin Mack to make it 42-6 with 52 seconds left before the break.

Martell was 10 for 14 for 115 yards and rushed for a 1-yard TD with 61 seconds left in the game to make it 49-6.

Fifth-year senior wide receiver Parris Campbell set personal bests in a game for catches (eight), yards (147) and touchdowns (two).

The Buckeyes amassed 425 of their 570



JOSH WINSLOW

SOLID OUTING – Sophomore running back J.K. Dobbins (right) had 11 carries for 55 yards and a second-quarter touchdown against Tulane.

total yards and 24 of their 32 first downs in the first half. OSU had 419 yards through the air and 151 on the ground for the game.

“Dwayne did very good, but throwing the ball takes much more than him,” said OSU coach Urban Meyer. “The offensive line protected well, I think we gave up one sack (actually three total). The receivers were playing at a very high level.”

Tulane had 256 total yards (156 pass-

ing, 100 running) on the last afternoon of summer (fall began at 9:54 p.m.) with the weather an autumn-like 64-degrees under gray skies. Green Wave (1-3) QB Jonathan Banks was 8 of 14 for 141 yards.

Meyer returned after serving a university-imposed three-game suspension for his handling of former assistant coach Zach Smith, who was fired July 23 after allegations of domestic violence and other indiscretions surfaced. Offensive coordinator Ryan Day was the acting head coach for games vs. Oregon State, Rutgers and TCU.

OSU played its first game without junior defensive end Nick Bosa, who underwent surgery during the week to repair a core muscle injury sustained Sept. 15 vs. TCU and is out indefinitely. Sophomore Chase Young started for him and tackled Banks for a 5-yard loss on Tulane's first play from scrimmage.

The Buckeyes had four sacks for a loss of 25 yards.

One down note for the Buckeyes was

junior running back Mike Weber spraining his right foot in the second quarter and leaving the game after six carries for 18 yards. Meyer said Weber should be available for the showdown at No. 9 Penn State on Sept. 29.

How It Happened

Haskins was in form from the start, completing all four passes for 74 yards, including a 14-yard TD to Campbell, to complete the nine-play, 91-yard opening drive for the 7-0 lead at 11:19.

The Buckeyes started at their 9 after a holding penalty on the kickoff. On second down, Haskins tossed a pass to Campbell, and he sped 35 yards to the OSU 46. Later, an 18-yard completion to junior receiver K.J. Hill put the ball at the Tulane 19, and a 5-yard run by sophomore J.K. Dobbins set up the scoring strike to Campbell.

OSU took advantage of Hill's 17-yard punt return to the Ohio State 44 to make it 14-0 with Haskins going 3 for 3 for 38 yards after a pass interference on Tulane placed the ball at the Green Wave 41. He found senior receiver Terry McLaurin cutting across the middle for a 17-yard touchdown at the 6:56 mark.

Haskins completed an epic quarter with a 37-yard lob to Campbell deep in the left corner of the end zone for 21-0 lead with 32 seconds left. Campbell caught the ball in stride, bobbled it but held it against his helmet for control before exiting the field of play.

By that point, Campbell had five catches for 111 yards and Haskins had thrown for 171 yards while completing 10 of 11.

Tulane cut the deficit to 21-6 with 10:36 left in the second quarter after a 10-play, 75-yard drive that was kept alive by an off-side penalty on junior defensive end Jashon Cornell that negated an interception on the OSU 11 by sophomore cornerback Jeffrey Okudah.

“I was wondering why everyone wasn't celebrating with me,” Okudah said. “I saw the Tulane offense hadn't left the field, so I was kind of bummed out.”

On the same drive, the Green Wave had a third-and-11 from the OSU 46 when junior cornerback Damon Arnette was called for pass interference to give Tulane a first down at the 42. Three plays later Banks threw over Okudah for a 38-yard pass to Terren Encalade, and two plays later Darius Bradwell ran in from the 2. The extra point was blocked by junior defensive end Jonathon Cooper.

The Buckeyes went ahead 28-6 on Haskins' fourth TD pass, a 31-yarder to junior receiver Binjimen Victor with 7:55 showing on the clock. After Weber was injured following a 5-yard run to the OSU 49, J.K. Dobbins rushed for 7 and Campbell had a 13-yard reception before Victor scored.

Martell entered the next series and nothing changed. He led the Buckeyes 59 yards in six plays, including a 19-yard run of his own to start the drive and a completion of 24 yards to Hill, and Dobbins rushed for an 8-yard score to make it 35-6 with 3:31 to go.

Haskins returned for the ensuing drive and hit Campbell for 16 yards to the Green Wave 14 before his scoring toss to Mack, who made a twisting grab under pressure, completed the dominant first half with OSU leading 42-6.

Martell had a 1-yard keeper with 61 seconds left in the game for the final score after neither team scored for the majority of the second half. Tulane crossed into Ohio State territory only twice in the second half.

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MARRIOTT

The Numbers Game

Ohio State 49, Tulane, 6

Sept. 22, 2018 – Ohio Stadium; Columbus, Ohio

Score by Quarters	1	2	3	4	F
TULANE (1-3)	0	6	0	0	- 6
OHIO STATE (4-0)	21	21	0	7	- 49

First Quarter

OSU – Campbell, 14 yard pass from Haskins (Nuernberger kick), 11:19; 9 plays, 91 yards, 3:41 TOP.

OSU – McLaurin, 17 yard pass from Haskins (Nuernberger kick), 6:56; 8 plays, 56 yards, 2:50 TOP.

OSU – Campbell, 37 yard pass from Haskins (Nuernberger kick), 0:32; 7 plays, 93 yards, 2:36 TOP.

Second Quarter

TLN – Bradwell, 2 yard run (Glover kick blocked), 10:36; 10 plays, 75 yards, 4:56 TOP.

OSU – Victor, 31 yard pass from Haskins (Nuernberger kick), 7:55; 7 plays, 81 yards, 2:29 TOP.

OSU – Dobbins, 8 yard run (Nuernberger kick), 3:31; 6 plays, 59 yards, 1:40 TOP.

OSU – Mack, 14 yard pass from Haskins (Nuernberger kick), 0:52; 10 plays, 65 yards, 1:47 TOP.

Third Quarter

No scoring.

Fourth Quarter

OSU – Martell, 1 yard run (Nuernberger kick), 1:01; 8 plays, 70 yards, 2:31 TOP.

Att. – 103,336.

Weather – Mid 60s, mostly cloudy; wind NE 8 mph.

Team Statistics

	TLN	OSU
First Downs	14	32
Rushing	5	8
Passing	8	22
Penalty	1	2
Rushing-Yards	42-100	38-151
Passing Yards	156	419
Passes (Comp.-Att.-Int.)	10-16-0	31-38-0
Offensive Plays	58	76
Total Net Yards	256	570
Third Down Efficiency	4-12	5-10
Fourth Down Efficiency	0-1	2-3
Punts-Avg.	7-41.0	2-44.0
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	1-0
Penalties	6-55	10-89
Time of Possession	31:00	29:00

Individual Statistics

RUSHING (Att.-Net Yds.) – TLN: Dauphine 6-53; Bradwell 4-31; Huderson 6-15; Banks 12-14; Jones 7-6; Encalade 2-5; Bertrand 1-2; TEAM 1-(-7); McMillan 3-(-19). **OSU:** Dobbins 11-55; McCall 4-26; Teague 6-25; Martell 8-22; Weber 6-18; Haskins 3-5.

PASSING (Comp.-Att.-Int.-Yds.-TD) – TLN: Banks 8-14-0-141-0; McMillan 2-2-0-15-0. **OSU:** Haskins 21-24-0-304-5; Martell 10-14-0-115-0.

RECEIVING (Rec.-Yds.) – TLN: Mooney 4-77; Encalade 4-62; Toles 1-12; Robertson 1-5. **OSU:** Campbell 8-147; Hill 4-57; Mack 3-32; Saunders 3-10; Victor 2-40; McCall 2-36; Dobbins 2-18; McLaurin 1-17; Olave 1-14; Prater 1-13; Gill 1-11; Weber 1-10; Dixon 1-7; Harris 1-7.

PUNTING (No.-Avg.-Long) – TLN: Wright 5-39.2-43; Block 2-45.5-46. **OSU:** Chrisman 2-44.0-50.

PUNT RETURNS (No.-Yds.) – TLN: None. **OSU:** Hill 2-19; Saunders 2-16.

KICKOFF RETURNS (No.-Yds.) – TLN: Jones 1-22. **OSU:** Dixon 1-19; Saunders 1-10.

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

FORCED FUMBLES – TLN: Johnson. **OSU:** None.

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

INTERCEPTIONS (No.-Yds.) – TLN: None. **OSU:** None.

TACKLES FOR LOSS (No.-Yds.) – TLN: Sample 2.5-7; Johnson 1.0-6; Graham 1.0-1; Williams 0.5-1. **OSU:** Booker 3.0-19; Browning 1.5-7; D. Jones 1.5-3; Cornell 1.0-8; Hilliard 1.0-7; Friday 1.0-6; Young 1.0-5; Hamilton 1.0-2; K. Jones 1.0-1; Fuller 1.0-1; Pryor 1.0-1.

Sacks (No.-Yds.) – TLN: Johnson 1.0-6; Sample 1.0-5; Graham 1.0-1. **OSU:** Booker 1.0-12; Browning 1.0-6; Friday 1.0-6; K. Jones 1.0-1.

TACKLES (Solo-Asst.-Tot.) – TLN: Teamer 6-3-9; Sample 3-6-9; Graham 5-2-7; Keyes 5-2-7; Lewis 3-2-5; Williams 2-3-5; Johnson 4-0-4; Kuerschen 3-1-4; Moody 1-3-4; Barge 3-0-3; Brown 2-1-3; Johnson 1-2-3; Kennedy 1-2-3; Monroe 2-0-2; TEAM 0-2-2; Clark 1-0-1; Joyce 1-0-1; Langham 1-0-1; Thomas 0-1-1; Eatherly 0-1-1. **OSU:** Booker 4-0-4; Wint 3-1-4; K. Jones 3-1-4; Gant 2-2-4; Cornell 3-0-3; Fuller 3-0-3; Arnette 3-0-3; Okudah 3-0-3; Browning 2-1-3; Pryor 2-1-3; D. Jones 1-2-3; Smith 1-2-3; Hilliard 2-0-2; Togiai 2-0-2; Friday 2-0-2; Hamilton 1-1-2; Young 1-1-2; Cage 1-0-1; White 1-0-1; Brown 1-0-1.

PLAYERS IN THE GAME – TULANE: Offense, Banks, Bradwell, Mooney, Toles, Encalade, Fisher, Briggs, Dublin, Leglue, McLeod, Wallace, Glover. Defense, Johnson, Sample, Williams, Johnson, Moody, Harris, Lewis, Shenall, Teamer, Harper, Keyes, Wright. Reserves, Brown, McMillan, Thomas, Bertrand, Dauphine, Langham, Monroe, Jones, Newman, Robertson, Hall, Vallien, Joyce, Huderson, Jones, Brooks, Barge, Graham, Kuerschen, Clark, Vault, Monjarres, Block, Johnson, Hatcher, Woullard, Eatherly, Jackel, Knighton, Johnson, Claybrook, James, Clewis, Kennedy, Wright. **OHIO STATE:** Offense, Munford, Pridgeon, Jordan, Knox, Prince, Berry, Haskins, Dobbins, Campbell, Mack, McLaurin, Nuernberger. Defense, Young, Hamilton, D. Jones, Cooper, Harrison, Borland, Werner, Sheffield, Pryor, Fuller, Arnette, Chrisman. Reserves, Gant, Hill, Dixon, Martell, Okudah, Smith, Williamson, Brown, White, Browning, Vincent, Mitchell, Cornell, Victor, Pryor, Harris, K. Jones, Olave, Wint, Wade, Weber, Gill, McCall, Teague, Pope, Hilliard, McCullough, Booker, Friday, Cox, Alabi, Cupp, Woidke, Donald, Myers, Togiai, Petit-Frere, Saunders, Hausmann, Prater, L. Smith, Ruckert, Jackson, 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	(4) vs. TCU* (15)	W, 40-28	64,362	
Sept. 22	(4) TULANE	W, 49-6	103,336	
Sept. 29	at Penn State	7:30 p.m.	-	
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
First Downs	128	63
Rushing	51	23
Passing	65	32
Penalty	12	8
Average Per Game/Rush	233.2	142.0
Average Per Game/Pass	365.8	181.2
Total Offense	2,396	1,293
Total Plays	316	258
Average Per Game	599.0	323.2
Average Per Play	7.6	5.0
Penalties-Yards	32-298	23-216
Fumbles-Lost	3-1	7-3
Third Down Efficiency	30-51	21-58
Percentage	59%	36%
Fourth Down Efficiency	3-4	0-1
Percentage	75%	0%
Sacks-Yards	15-119	6-22
Time Of Possession Avg.	30:45	29:15

Score

By Quarters	1	2	3	4	OT	Tot.	Avg.
Ohio State	66	66	44	42	-	218	54.5
Opponents	14	20	34	0	-	68	17.0

Individual Statistics					
Rushing	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Long
J.K. Dobbins	56	323	5.8	2	21
Mike Weber	52	299	5.8	3	49
Tate Martell	18	121	6.7	2	47
Master Teague	17	106	6.2	1	33
Brian Snead	11	37	3.4	1	5
Dwayne Haskins	10	28	2.8	1	17
Demario McCall	4	26	6.5	0	15
C.J. Saunders	0	8	0.0	0	0
TEAM	3	-7	-2.3	0	0
Parris Campbell	2	-8	-4.0	0	0
OSU Totals	173	933	5.4	10	49
OPP Totals	148	568	3.8	6	93

Passing	Comp.	Att.	Pct.	Yds.	TD-INT	Effic.
D. Haskins	87	115	75.7	1,194	16-1	207.04
Tate Martell	23	28	82.1	269	1-0	174.63
OSU Totals	110	143	76.9	1,463	17-1	200.69
OPP Totals	59	110	53.6	725	3-4	110.73

Receiving	Rec.	Net	Avg.	TD	Long
K.J. Hill	21	259	12.3	1	27
Parris Campbell	19	299	15.7	5	63
Austin Mack	15	205	13.7	1	48
Johnnie Dixon	10	145	14.5	2	44
Terry McLaurin	9	218	24.2	4	75
Mike Weber	6	41	6.8	1	15
Binjimen Victor	5	71	14.2	1	31
Demario McCall	5	46	9.2	0	35
J.K. Dobbins	5	39	7.8	0	16
C.J. Saunders	5	37	7.4	0	19
Jaylen Harris	2	22	11.0	0	15
Chris Olave	2	19	9.5	0	14
Luke Farrell	2	19	9.5	1	10
Garyn Prater	1	13	13.0	0	13
Jeremy Ruckert	1	13	13.0	0	13
Jaalen Gill	1	11	11.0	0	11
Rashod Berry	1	6	6.0	1	6
OSU Totals	110	1,463	13.3	17	75
OPP Totals	59	725	12.3	3	51

Scoring	TD	EPK	EPR	EPRC	FG	PTS
S. Nuernberger	-	29-29	-	-	3-4	38

Parris Campbell	5	-	-	-	-	30
Terry McLaurin	4	-	-	-	-	24
Mike Weber	4	-	-	-	-	24
Johnnie Dixon	2	-	-	-	-	12
J.K. Dobbins	2	-	-	-	-	12
Tate Martell	2	-	-	-	-	12
Rashod Berry	1	-	-	-	-	6
Nick Bosa	1	-	-	-	-	6
Luke Farrell	1	-	-	-	-	6
Davon Hamilton	1	-	-	-	-	6
Dwayne Haskins	1	-	-	0-1	-	6
K.J. Hill	1	-	-	-	-	6
Dre'Mont Jones	1	-	-	-	-	6
Austin Mack	1	-	-	-	-	6
Brian Snead	1	-	-	-	-	6
Master Teague	1	-	-	-	-	6
Binjimen Victor	1	-	-	-	-	6
OSU Totals	30	29-29	-	0-1	3-4	218
OPP Totals	9	8-9	-	-	2-4	68

FG Distance	0-29	30-39	40-49	50+	Total
S. Nuernberger	2-2	1-2	0-0	0-0	3-4
OSU Totals	2-2	1-2	0-0	0-0	3-4
OPP Totals	1-1	0-1	1-2	0-0	2-4

Punting	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Bk	Long
Drue Chrisman	13	551	42.4	0	65
OSU Totals	13	551	42.4	0	65
OPP Totals	28	1,120	40.0	1	52

Interceptions	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
Dre'Mont Jones	1	28	28.0	1	28
Malik Harrison	1	13	13.0	0	13
Kendall Sheffield	1	0	0.0	0	0
Shaun Wade	1	0	0.0	0	0
OSU Totals	4	41	10.2	1	28
OPP Totals	1	79	79.0	0	46

Punt Returns	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
C.J. Saunders	8	50	6.2	0	20
Demario McCall	3	32	10.7	0	26
K.J. Hill	2	19	9.5	0	17
OSU Totals	13	101	7.8	0	26
OPP Totals	0	0	0.0	0	0

Kickoff Returns	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
Johnnie Dixon	3	73	24.3	0	38
Demario McCall	2	52	26.0	0	31
C.J. Saunders	2	24	12.0	0	14
OSU Totals	7	149	21.3	0	38
OPP Totals	9	140	15.6	0	22

Def. Leaders	Solo	Asst.	Tot.	TFL-Yds.	Sacks
Jahsen Wint	12	3	15	0.	

BSB Quotebook: Ohio State 49, Tulane 6

Ohio State head coach Urban Meyer on the win: "I have a lot of respect for Tulane, a triple-option type offense that you have to be assignment-sound for the most part. We played pretty good defense, still can get better, but overall I'm very pleased."

OSU sophomore defensive end Chase Young on the moment he could feel that Meyer was back after his three-game suspension: "Pregame meal, I knew he was back. He had a lot of excitement, had a smile on his face. I felt good for him to do that."

Meyer on the Buckeyes' offense and sophomore quarterback Dwayne Haskins: "Dwayne was 21 of 24 for 300 (plus) yards, five touchdowns, and we didn't turn the ball over. Bigger games, that's going to be the key, and everybody in this room knows that. Dwayne did very good, but throwing the ball takes much more than him. The offensive line protected well, I think we gave up one sack. The receivers were playing at a high level."

Meyer on the work that offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach Ryan Day did as acting head coach for the first three games of the season: "It's a job very well done. He was the first one to thank – and (AD Gene Smith) was down there – to thank the coaching staff. That includes guys like (strength coach Mickey) Marotti and the support staff, guys like (director of player personnel) Mark Pantoni. It's a healthy, strong program, and Ryan was exactly the guy we needed to lead it and get us through this, and he did a hell of a job."

Meyer on pulling the starters at halftime: "We've been very cautious about, you know, just about the burnout of a player and the health and welfare of our guys. That's one of the reasons we decided at halftime to end it and to get ready for this one (the Sept. 29 game against Penn State)."

OSU junior wide receiver Austin Mack on the conversation at halftime: "I don't think a lot was even said, we were putting it on them pretty well. It was just making sure that when the twos came up it didn't look any different, that



JOSH WINSLOW

CRUISING – Ohio State quarterback Dwayne Haskins threw five first-half touchdowns in a 49-6 win over Tulane.

the Ohio State Buckeyes were still playing the same Buckeye football."

Haskins on the OSU offensive line: "They played great. They've been playing great for the first four games. Every Monday they go out for lunch together because they do a great job. But I'm really proud of them, how much they do – on the field, off the field. They take care of me, so I appreciate it."

Haskins on how he deals with hearing his name in the Heisman Trophy conversation: "You just try to silence the noise and have got to focus on week-to-week. Because once you start thinking about the end goal, you start falling short. So I'm just trying to stay in the moment."

"You've got to win games to be in the Heisman conversation, so we'll see what happens."

Haskins on how his everyday life has changed since becoming the starter: "Probably more film more so than anything. I go to class, go back to my car, go home, hang out with my dogs, my girlfriend, teammates, practice. It doesn't really change much, but it's a lot more pressure I would say. But I don't really feel it."

Young when asked if the defensive line has confidence even playing without junior Nick Bosa: "For sure. I think (DL coach Larry) Johnson has a method, you know, next man up. I think we played pretty good today, so now our focus is on Penn State."

OSU junior defensive end Jashon Cornell on the play of the defensive line: "I think we did exactly what we were supposed to do. We kept the offense (to 100 rushing yards) even though they're a wishbone offense. I think the defensive line, we picked up the slack. I think we did a great job today."

OSU junior defensive tackle Davon Hamilton on the team's comfort level playing without two starters (Bosa and junior DT Robert Landers): "I thought we were fine beforehand, just before the game. Everybody was in a vibe and everybody was ready to go. You could see it in people's eyes. I think we were ready before."

Tulane head coach Willie Fritz on Ohio State: "Congratulations to Ohio State, they have a fine team. I have played a lot of good teams over the years and that's the best football team I have played. They are big, long and physical. They play the game the right way, they play with great effort. They are on-point most of the time and make you earn every yard. Really good defensively and offensively."

Fritz on Haskins: "Big. Tall. He's a very poised quarterback. Watching him on tape you would have thought he is a third-year starter. He handles things really well out there. He's got a big arm, good touch. He's hard to bring down, a big guy."

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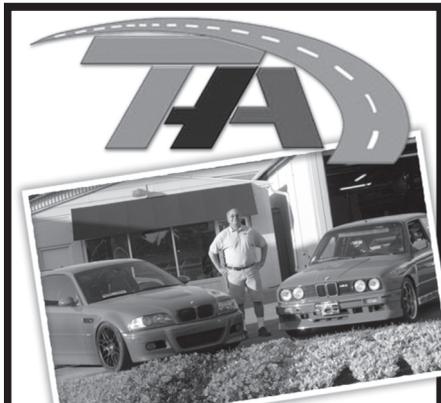
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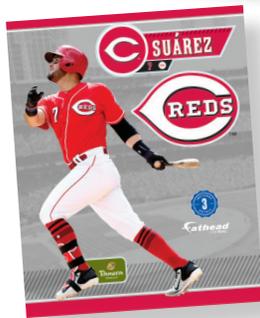
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Hamilton Making A Big Impact For OSU D-Line

By CRAIG MERZ
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

Defensive tackle Davon Hamilton became an overnight sensation in his fourth year with the Ohio State football program when he fell on the football and scored a touchdown against TCU on Sept. 15.

If that seems like a contradiction, so be it because the junior has toiled in anonymity after being one of the final commitments in the 2015 recruiting class. After a redshirt season he played sparingly the next two years, making 22 tackles, including seven for losses, in 26 career games.

Being from Pickerington Central High School in suburban Columbus, more was expected of him after being a three-year starter on offense and defense and being named first-team All-Ohio at defensive tackle by The Associated Press in 2014.

After overcoming fitness problems and self-doubt, he said scoring in the prime-time game to help the Buckeyes defeat TCU 40-28 was a matter of perseverance.

"When I came here, I knew I could play here at this level," he said. "Not maybe the first year when I came in just because we had so much talent up front. But eventually,



SONNY BROCKWAY
FIRST SCORE – Junior defensive tackle Davon Hamilton (53) recovered a fumble for Ohio State's first touchdown against TCU on Sept. 15.

end Nick Bosa strip-sacked TCU quarterback Shawn Robinson at the Horned Frogs' 1-yard line. The ball bounded toward the back of the end zone where defensive tackle Dre'Mont Jones pounced on it.

The ball squirted free and Hamilton fell on it for his first TD since, "I want to say sophomore year in high school," he said.

Little did Hamilton know at the time that Jones might have been out-of-bounds when he touched the ball and the play could have been ruled a safety. It wasn't reviewed.

"I wouldn't have been mad at all," if it was a safety, Hamilton said. "As long as you're putting points on the board, that's fine with me. We're all just going hard. We're doing whatever we can to win games."

"It was a big moment for me. But really, the opportunity wouldn't have even been there if it wasn't for Nick. So, I'm really proud of both of us, really."

Unfortunately for the Buckeyes, Bosa left the game in the third quarter with an injury, and head coach Urban Meyer announced Sept. 20 that his star had undergone surgery on a core muscle and would be out for an undetermined time.

With the possible No. 1 pick in the 2019 NFL draft sidelined, Hamilton said it's time for him and others to fill the void.

"It's just what our motto is every day – competitive excellence," he said. "So the next man's got to step up. We'd love to have Nick, obviously, because he really is that good. But reality is we've got to step up."

"Everybody's talented here. You wouldn't come here if you weren't talented."

I'm going to have my own day when I'm out there. And when I'm out there, I'm going to go as hard as I can and make plays, do what I have to do for my team."

He was in the right place at the right time early in the first quarter when defensive



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OHIO STATE FOOTBALL

Bosa missed the Sept. 22 win over Tulane, as did junior defensive tackle Robert Landers. With Landers out, Hamilton got his first start for the Buckeyes, tallying two tackles (one for loss) in a 49-6 victory.

Hamilton – whose first name was mispronounced by ESPN announcer Chris Fowler as “DAY-von” instead of “Duh-VON” – was a popular guy with the media and especially his friends back home after the game in AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas.

“Being from central Ohio, it’s definitely a lot of fans, old teammates, a lot of old coaches hit me up,” he said.

He appreciated the congratulations but is mature enough to understand fame can be fleeting.

“I won’t say my life changed or anything,” Hamilton said. “Either way I’ve still got to play well next week.”

That’s because he’s been on the other side where expectations of what he should do at Ohio State didn’t match reality.

“I know a lot of people think just going to college you’re going to start immediately,” he explained. “Especially being from around this area, they just expect you to be playing as soon as you get here. But really, not too many people see behind the scenes what it takes to actually start here, to actually play here. So it’s kind of a big deal.

“Now that I’m playing, it’s really cool. Everybody acknowledges me. You can just see it all through social media and people texting me and everybody’s just proud to see me out there doing what I have to do.”

Meyer acknowledged Hamilton’s progress during the Big Ten’s teleconference on Sept. 18.

“I think him and (defensive line coach) Larry Johnson have worked well together,” Meyer said. “He is one of our most improved players. He was really a nonfactor early in his career, but you could see the talent and he comes from a very good family.”

Left guard Malcolm Pridgeon said Hamilton came out of nowhere during this season’s fall camp.

“He’s more aggressive getting off the ball,” Pridgeon said. “He’s been fast. He’s definitely in shape now.”

When asked about that last comment, Hamilton agreed that several things had been holding him back.

“For the last couple of years, along with confidence, I feel like I’ve been out of shape a lot and then just a not knowing what I was doing type of thing,” he said.

He entered college at 315 pounds but is a leaner 308 now.

“(Being fit) helps a lot anytime I play a game because game speed is a lot faster than any practice or conditioning test,” Hamilton said.

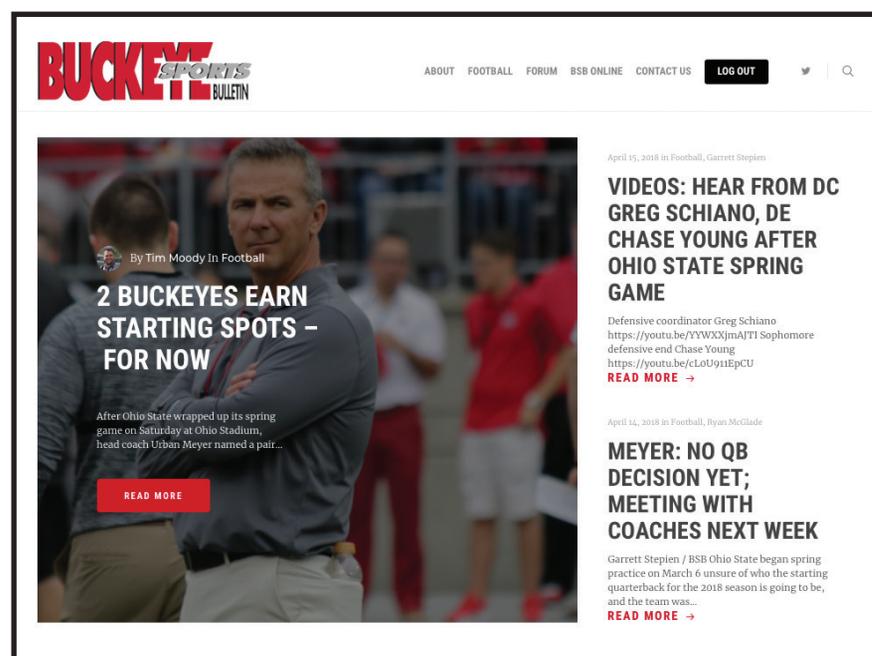
With his weight down, his confidence has gone up.

“I feel like, over the years, I’ve gained more confidence, gaining a lot more skill sets. So that helps out a lot,” he said. “People around me are helping me, like Dre’Mont and Nick, they all helped me out before and it’s just helping me improve more.”

Jones is happy to see everything click for Hamilton.

“He has always had it,” he said. “It was always just a confidence issue. He didn’t have confidence in his abilities sometimes but would just show it out of nowhere. I think this year, he is just letting go.”

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OSU's Day Transitioning Back Into Regular Role

By JAMES GREGA
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

After helping Ohio State to a 24-7 win in the Cotton Bowl against USC to cap a successful 12-2 season, Ryan Day was sitting pretty.

Day was reportedly offered multiple jobs after his first season at Ohio State, including offers to return to the NFL as an assistant and a head coaching job in the SEC. Instead, Day accepted a promotion and a significant pay raise to stay at Ohio State as the offensive coordinator. Before training camp could even begin, however, he was given another (temporary) promotion, one he wasn't expecting.

Head coach Urban Meyer was placed on administrative leave two days before fall camp amid a university investigation into his handling of former assistant Zach Smith. Instead of placing Kevin Wilson or Greg Schiano – both former head coaches – in Meyer's shoes for the time being, Day was given the nod to be acting head coach.

Day, who admitted he was slightly taken aback by the promotion, said he couldn't thank Wilson and Schiano and the rest of the staff enough for their assistance and understanding.

"I think it is more about what this whole staff did," Day said of Ohio State's undefeated start in Meyer's absence. "I have said it before and you may be tired of hearing it, but this staff, they are almost all head coach guys. They manage their units, they can see problems, they are constantly communicat-

ing with the coaches and me. It was a team effort."

Schiano, despite having more than 10 years of head coaching experience, was passed over in favor of Day but said before Ohio State had even taken the field in 2018 that he could tell Day was going to thrive in his new, temporary position.

"I'm so impressed, just working underneath and observing him and trying to help him, that, I mean, he's got the 'it.' When you work on the other side of the ball, you really don't get to sit in the room with him very much and game plan and do all that stuff," Schiano said Aug. 27. "So our relationship was more friends than professional because we don't do a lot together professionally. Observing him over the last whatever it is, 25 days, he's got the 'it.'"

Meyer was back for practice starting Sept. 3, but he returned to his full-time duties the day after Ohio State's win over TCU. Meyer praised Day for his work during his absence, adding that he believes Day is one of the brightest young coaches in the game today.

"He's done and this coaching staff has done phenomenal," Meyer said Sept. 17 in his first press conference since his suspension was announced. "You guys are witness to it. I knew Coach Day was a difference maker when we hired him. Ryan Day is elite. As well as other coaches on our staff, I'm very thankful for (them)."

Through the three games Day coached, Ohio State's offense ranked third nationally in yards per game (608.7) and points per game (56.3) en route to a perfect 3-0 record and a signature 40-28 win over TCU in



JOSH WINSLOW

SHOT CALLER – Ohio State offensive coordinator Ryan Day (center) called plays from the sidelines during each of the team's first four games.

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Arlington, Texas. After leading the Buckeyes to such an impressive start to the season, Day returned to his usual duties as offensive coordinator, handing the keys to the car back to Meyer, who returned for Ohio State's 49-6 shellacking of Tulane on Sept. 22.

Despite spending the entire 2017 season in the press box as co-offensive coordinator, Day remained on the sidelines for the win over Tulane, continuing to call the offense from field level, as he did through the first three games.

He said that the decision to keep him on the field was relatively easy because it had worked so well through the first quarter of the season.

"I think that there is a comfort level between the quarterbacks, Dwayne (Haskins), Tate (Martell) and myself and the offense," Day said. "It seems to be going well so we are going to keep it going. I think it just kind of happened organically, just in that I was down on the field for the first few games and there is a comfort level now. We are in that routine with the team, and we don't want to change that anytime soon. They like it and I like it so we are going to keep it going."

Now back in the role he expected to take on when the season started, there is slightly less pressure on Day when the ball is kicked on game day. The decisions of whether to go for select fourth downs or when to take timeouts no longer weigh on him.

However, that isn't to say there is no pressure on the 39-year-old coach. He still has a pair of young quarterbacks to coach, in addition to calling an offense that, through four games, has looked almost unstoppable.

The idea that Day will now get more time with a quarterback who is firmly in the Heisman discussion excites Haskins, who said Sept. 19 that Day can better help him adjust to defenses from the sideline than from the box – especially with Wilson still viewing the game from above.

"Coach Wilson is a great mind, too, so whether it is him or Coach Day on the field, it helps out a lot," he said. "Just to be able to look back on the sideline and if there is a look (the defense is giving), Coach Day can help me change it. I feel like (Coach Day) likes to stay on the field better so that is why he stayed down there."

Since Meyer has been around practices since early September, Day said the day-to-day preparations haven't changed much around the Woody Hayes Athletic Center. He added that with Meyer back, he can focus more on the offense between series, whereas before he had to be locked into what the defense and special teams were doing as the head coach.

"It's the same as it has been the last couple of weeks," Day said of the week leading up to games. "Meetings and getting ready for the game. Practice has been great so it has been about the same. The job of coaching the quarterbacks and working with Kevin and the rest of the guys on offense is still a major task. It takes a lot of work. You get here early in the morning and you leave late at night. You never quite stop thinking about our job. It is our responsibility to make sure we are doing the best we can for these kids. It will be the same this week (against Tulane)."

For his three-game stint as acting head coach, Day was paid a lump sum of \$487,000. That payment was in addition to his annual \$1 million salary, which he earned after signing a three-year contract in January.

On Sept. 19, Day thanked the university powers that be for their understanding and handling of his personal situation during the time he was head coach but did not comment further on the additional payment or length of his contract.

"Being here is awesome," Day said of his time at Ohio State. "The whole administration and university put me in this position, and I am honored to be a part of it and I am very thankful for what they did. It means a lot to me and my family."

Once the season is over, Day will surely be on the short list of every major school looking to hire a new head coach. While he didn't directly respond to a reporter's statement of being called a "household name" in the coaching industry, he did say that the experience of being head coach was one that will be valuable to him as he moves forward in his career.

"Every day, it was a little different," he said. "Early on, it was overwhelming and then every day it became a little more normal. Then the focus was just trying to keep everything going so that when Coach got

back, it was in good shape. I think every day brought on a new challenge and there were things I wasn't ready for, things I was ready for and I think every day it was an opportunity for me to get experience in that role."

Keys To The Car

Since he arrived at Ohio State in 2012, Meyer has always been very hands-on as an offensive coach. After watching what Day did through three games as the acting head coach and offensive coordinator, though, Meyer appears to be letting Day have more free rein over the Buckeye offense.

Meyer described himself as more of a game manager on the Big Ten teleconference on the Tuesday prior to the Tulane game, and he said the day before that he was not as involved in the offensive discussions as he had been in the past.

"I'm a fundamental person, a ball-security guy," Meyer said. "I watch things very closely. I'm very involved in the kicking game. I have not been that involved in the offense. I give my ideas. And I think they're doing exceptional. So I'm trying to just help, do the best I can."

A day later, Day told the media that he

viewed Meyer's comments and actions as a compliment to what he and the rest of the coaching staff have been able to accomplish early on in the season. He added that there is a level of trust among the coaching staff that has been crucial to the early season success.

"Coach has a great feel for the game and always had a great feel for the situation and the human spirit," Day said. "That has been a huge part of this thing from the beginning. His input is always very important. I think we have had some success early, but it is still a long road. I think every day that things go well, you get more faith put in you. It is the whole group."

"Obviously Kevin and I have been working together going on two years, but we are really talented. (Offensive line coach Greg Studrawa), (running backs coach Tony) Alford and (interim wide receivers coach) Brian Hartline now, we have a bunch of young coaches that are really talented, so everybody gets involved," he added. "As a group, I think Coach (Meyer) believes in us, and he is a part of that too. We are all in there together trying to solve problems and put the best product on the field."

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Some Big Ten Schools Enduring Early Struggles

By JAMES GREGA
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

Big Ten play officially began week one when Northwestern outlasted Purdue on Aug. 30. However from Sept. 29 on, Big Ten teams will exclusively play conference games (with the exception of Michigan State) after nonconference play came to an end Sept. 22.

The only other conference game that was played prior to Sept. 21 was Ohio State's 52-3 shellacking of Rutgers on Sept. 8. The Big Ten opened the year with plenty of optimism, especially in the East Division. However, a rough month of September softened the expectations, with Michigan, Michigan State and Wisconsin all suffering early-season losses.

Below is a brief look at each Big Ten team, excluding Ohio State, as conference play ramps up. Teams are listed in alphabetical order.

Illinois (2-2, 0-1)

The Lovie Smith era in Champaign is in its third year, and the Fighting Illini have yet to take a significant step forward in the Big Ten West.

The Illini survived a week-one scare against Kent State, 31-24, before winning convincingly over FCS opponent Western Illinois. In week three Illinois looked to be in control against South Florida before the Bulls stormed back, scoring 18 unanswered in the fourth quarter to stun Illinois.

A week later, Illinois had No. 10 Penn

State briefly on the ropes at home, holding a 24-21 lead in the third quarter, before the Nittany Lions rattled off 42 straight points to hand Illinois its first conference loss of the year.

Smith's team has an off week before traveling to Rutgers on Oct. 6, where it will attempt to collect its first Big Ten win since it defeated Michigan State 31-27 on Nov. 5, 2016.

Key Player: Linebacker Del'Shawn Phillips has been one of the more consistent players for Illinois on either side of the ball this season and has been one bright spot in an otherwise rough first month for the Illini. Through four games, Phillips is tied for third in the Big Ten in tackles with 32 and is also tied with six other players for first in the conference in interceptions with two.

Indiana (3-1, 0-1)

The Hoosiers opened the season with three straight wins, defeating Florida International, Virginia and Ball State before beginning Big Ten play against Michigan State.

Tom Allen's squad fell 35-21 in its Big Ten opener Sept. 22 but did stage a valiant fourth-quarter comeback that fell just short. Trailing 28-7, Indiana clawed its way to within a score at 28-21 with 3:28 to play before Michigan State responded with a 75-yard score 11 seconds later to seal the Hoosiers' doom.

Indiana still appears to be in good shape to reach a bowl game this season, with winnable games against Rutgers, Minnesota,

Maryland and Purdue still on the schedule. The Hoosiers have not won a bowl game since 1991 when IU defeated Baylor in the Copper Bowl.

Key Player: Freshman running back Stevie Scott is having a phenomenal start to his college career. Through four games, Scott is third in the conference in rushing yards with 406 and second in carries with an even 80. He has scored three times but was held in check against Michigan State, tallying just 18 yards on 11 carries.

His backfield mate Peyton Ramsey is also critical to Indiana's success. The sophomore quarterback is completing 72.1 percent of his passes and has thrown seven touchdowns to four interceptions. He is also a weapon running the ball, and is Indiana's second-leading rusher this season, having carried 41 times for 119 yards and a score.

Iowa (3-1, 0-1)

Iowa's Kinnick Stadium magic came to an end Sept. 22 when the Hawkeyes lost a heartbreaker, 28-17, to No. 18 Wisconsin in prime time on national television.

The Hawkeyes carried a 17-14 lead into the fourth but surrendered two touchdowns in the final minute as the Badgers avoided a two-game losing streak.

All isn't lost for the Hawkeyes, though. They boast the second-best defense in the conference in terms of total yards allowed per game (260.5). Iowa is set for an off week before playing three very winnable games against Minnesota (Oct. 6) and Indiana on the road (Oct. 13) and then at home against Maryland on Oct. 20. After that, the Hawkeyes are set to travel to University Park, Pa., to play Penn State before ending with Purdue, Northwestern, Illinois and Nebraska.

Key Player: The Hawkeyes have a pair of tight ends who might be the best in the conference. Sophomore T.J. Hockenson leads all Big Ten tight ends in receiving yards, having tallied 238 yards on just 15 receptions. Teammate Noah Fant also has 15 receptions this season and has become Iowa's top red-zone threat, catching four touchdowns in as many games.

Maryland (3-1, 1-0)

The Terrapins have had one of the more up-and-down months a football team could have.

After their head coach, DJ Durkin, was placed on leave amid an investigation into the death of offensive lineman Jordan McNair (more on page 30), Maryland opened the season with a shocking 34-29 defeat of Texas. The Terps followed that up with a convincing win over Bowling Green before getting blasted by Temple, 35-14, at home.

Maryland then immediately got back on track by dominating Minnesota at home, 42-13, to open conference play. The Terps will get their second major test of the season in week six, as they are set to travel to Ann Arbor, Mich., to take on Michigan on Oct. 6 following an off week.

Key Player: Senior linebacker Tre Watson leads the Big Ten in tackles through four games with 39 and has also grabbed a pair of interceptions. His second interception of the season was returned 36 yards for a touchdown in the blowout win over the Golden Gophers.

Michigan (3-1, 1-0)

The Shea Patterson era didn't get off to the start Michigan fans had hoped for in a season-opening 24-17 loss to Notre Dame on national television, but the Wolverines have since settled in and are winners of three straight blowouts.

Since the loss to the Irish, Michigan has outscored its opponents 150-33 in wins against Western Michigan, Southern Methodist and Nebraska. Patterson is completing 70.1 percent of his passes while the Wolverines have found a weapon in wide receiver Donovan Peoples-Jones, who has caught four touchdown passes and has returned a punt for a score as well.

The Wolverines are set to take on Northwestern on the road (Sept. 29) and host Maryland before playing a murderers' row of sorts, as Michigan will play Wisconsin, Michigan State and Penn State in three straight games with an off week separating the Spartan and Nittany Lion matchups. Michigan will play the Badgers and Nittany Lions at home but will have to travel to East Lansing to take on the Spartans.

Key Player: Defensive linemen Rashan Gary and Chase Winovich are arguably the best defensive line duo in the Big Ten now that Nick Bosa is sidelined for Ohio State.

The two have combined for 11 tackles for loss and four sacks this season, helping Michigan lead the conference in total defense. The Wolverines are surrendering just 240.3 yards per game this season.

Michigan State (2-1, 1-0)

Mark Dantonio's squad opened the season as one of the top 15 programs in the nation but quickly fizzled from their ranking after back-to-back lackluster performances to start the year.

The Spartans needed a last-minute defensive stand to hold off Utah State in the season opener before falling to unranked Arizona State a week later in Tempe, Ariz.

After an off week, Michigan State rebounded to defeat Indiana on the road, 35-21, and will play its final nonconference game of the season Sept. 29 against Central Michigan. From there, the Spartans will host Northwestern before back-to-back games at Penn State and home against Michigan on Oct. 13 and Oct. 20, respectively.

Key Player: Quarterback Brian Lewerke

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looks every bit the part of an NFL quarterback, but his numbers haven't shown it this season.

Lewerke has thrown five touchdown passes to four interceptions this season, which is tied for second worst in the Big Ten. He has turned the ball over at least once in each game this season, and the Spartan offense ranks 10th in the league in terms of total yardage (393.0 per game).

Minnesota (3-1, 0-1)

The Golden Gophers got off to a solid 3-0 start to the season with wins over New Mexico State, Fresno State and Miami (Ohio) but opened conference play with a disappointing 42-13 loss at the hands of Maryland on Sept. 22.

P.J. Fleck's team has struggled to move the ball offensively, averaging just 346.8 yards per game, which ranks 13th out of 14 teams in the Big Ten, ahead of only Rutgers.

Defensively, Minnesota ranks third in the league, surrendering just 300.3 yards per contest. Following an off week, the Golden Gophers are set to host Iowa before traveling to Columbus to take on Ohio State in what will be a homecoming of sorts for Fleck, who served as a graduate assistant under Jim Tressel in 2006.

From there, the Gophers aren't set to play a ranked opponent until the season finale, a road trip to Madison, Wis., to take on Wisconsin.

Key Player: The Gophers have lost arguably their two best players to injury this season, as running back Rodney Smith and cornerback Antoine Winfield, Jr. are both set to miss the remainder of the 2018 campaign.

That leaves Tyler Johnson as perhaps Minnesota's most talented starter. The junior wide receiver is tied for the Big Ten lead with five touchdown receptions in four games and is third in the league in receiving yards with 295 on 22 catches.

Nebraska (0-3, 0-1)

The Scott Frost era is off to a nightmarish start at Nebraska. The Cornhuskers are winless through the first third of the college football season.

After the season opener against Akron was canceled due to inclement weather, the Cornhuskers promptly dropped home games to Colorado and Troy before getting waxed by Michigan in Ann Arbor, 56-10.

The Cornhuskers still have three more ranked teams left on the schedule. They are set to travel to play Wisconsin (Oct. 6) and Ohio State (Nov. 3), and host Michigan State (Nov. 17). A bowl trip isn't looking likely for the first year of the Frost era, but an upset against one of those ranked teams could send the program in the right direction.

Key Player: Freshman quarterback Adrian Martinez got banged up in the loss to Colorado and didn't play in the loss to

Troy. He played early on against Michigan but was ultimately ineffective, throwing for just 22 yards and rushing for minus-12 in the blowout loss.

When healthy, Martinez is perhaps the most dynamic player on Nebraska's roster and is likely the key to any success the Cornhuskers could have this season.

Northwestern (1-2, 1-0)

Pat Fitzgerald's team opened the season on national television with an impressive 31-27 win over Purdue on Aug. 30 on the road, but everything has been downhill since then.



P.J. Fleck

The Wildcats returned home for a week-two matchup and were beaten by Duke, 21-7, in a game that had Northwestern dominate nearly every statistical category other than the final score.

A week later, the Wildcats were stunned, 39-34, by Akron, a Mid-American Conference team that had not won a game against a Big Ten opponent since 1897. Unfortunately for Northwestern, things aren't going to get any

easier. The Wildcats will host Michigan on Sept. 29.

Key Player: Quarterback Clayton Thorson is viewed as a future NFL quarterback but has struggled to return to top-tier form since tearing his ACL in the Wildcats' bowl game last season. In three games, Thorson has thrown just three touchdowns to three interceptions, completing 61.2 percent of his passes for 753 yards. He has had to split time with backup TG Green at times, which has influenced his stats.

Penn State (4-0, 1-0)

The only Big Ten team ranked in the top 10 other than Ohio State, the Nittany Lions have looked impressive on offense but have struggled mightily at times defensively.

Penn State is allowing 172.5 yards per game on the ground, which ranks 11th in the Big Ten. Only Indiana, Illinois and Rutgers are surrendering more.

Offensively, the Nittany Lions are scoring points at an alarming rate. They lead the Big Ten in scoring, averaging 55.5 points per game after putting up 63 on Illinois in week four. Thirteen different offensive players have found the end zone this season for Penn State, seven of whom have scored more than once.

Key Player: With Saquon Barkley gone to the NFL, quarterback Trace McSorley is now Penn State's most important player.

Since Penn State is struggling to stop opponents on defense, the Nittany Lions have relied on McSorley and the offense to outscore opponents, something he has done so far this season. The Nittany Lion signal caller has accounted for 14 touchdowns this season (eight passing, six rushing) and has committed just two turnovers in four games.

Purdue (1-3, 0-1)

Year two of the Jeff Brohm project was supposed to feature plenty of success, but the Boilermakers opened the season with three straight losses to Northwestern, Eastern Michigan and Missouri by a combined eight points.

Purdue rebounded in a big way though in week four, upsetting No. 23 Boston College for its first win of the 2018 campaign.

After initially rotating quarterbacks for the first two weeks of the season, the Boilermakers appear to be set on David Blough, who has thrown for 868 yards and six touchdowns to just one interception in Purdue's last two games.

Key Player: Blough didn't start the season against Northwestern, but after taking over for Elijah Sindelar in week three, he has not relinquished the reins of Brohm's offense.

He and freshman phenom receiver Rondale Moore appear to be one of the most dangerous combinations in the league, and if they can stay healthy and consistent, Purdue might be able to bounce back enough to get to a second straight bowl game.

Rutgers (1-3, 0-1)

The third year of the Chris Ash era was supposed to be the best yet for Rutgers, however things have quickly taken a turn for the worst in Piscataway, N.J.

After a 35-7 win over Texas State in the season opener, the Scarlet Knights have dropped three straight games by a combined score of 149-30 against Ohio State, Kansas and Buffalo.

The Scarlet Knights figured to contend for a bowl spot this season but instead might be trying to avoid a 1-11 season. Rutgers' next

four games come against Indiana, Illinois, Maryland and Northwestern before closing the season against Wisconsin, Michigan, Penn State and Michigan State.

Key Player: Linebacker Trevor Morris is second in the Big Ten in tackles with 35 and has been one of the only bright spots on a Rutgers defense that has been gashed through the last three weeks. He collected a season-high 11 stops against Ohio State and was second in the Big Ten last season in total tackles with 118.

Wisconsin (3-1, 1-0)

The Badgers are still a popular pick to win the Big Ten West, but their chances at a College Football Playoff berth took a major hit on Sept. 15 when Wisconsin was upset 24-21 at home by then-unranked BYU.

Wisconsin rebounded with a comeback win against Iowa on the road on Sept. 22 to take early control of the West. Alex Hornibrook, long criticized for his lack of arm strength, helped lead the comeback, throwing three touchdown passes, including the go-ahead score with less than a minute left.

Paul Chryst's team is still a heavy run offense, though, as Jonathan Taylor continues to be the Badger workhorse. Through four games, Taylor has carried 102 times for 628 yards and five scores. His 102 carries is the most of any player in the country through the first four weeks of the season.

Key Player: Taylor is the easy answer here, but Hornibrook is the key to the Badgers' success. When he can make throws in critical situations, the Badgers can beat anyone in the Big Ten. When he doesn't, the BYU game is the more likely scenario for Wisconsin, as opponents often load the box against the Badgers.

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Trips To PSU Often Produce Historic Showdowns

By **TIM MOODY**
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

Michigan will always be Ohio State's rival. The annual bout between the Buckeyes and Wolverines will always be The Game.

But from an on-field standpoint, Ohio State has had much fiercer battles in much more important matchups with Penn State in recent seasons, especially when it comes to traveling to Beaver Stadium in University Park, Pa. Since Urban Meyer took charge in 2012, the Buckeyes have traveled to Happy Valley three times, coming away with two wins and a loss for their efforts, with all three matchups coming in some of the most notable seasons of Meyer's tenure.

In anticipation of Ohio State's latest trip to Beaver Stadium, BSB decided to take a look back at the three other times Meyer-led Buckeye squads have made the trip. The three contests are broken down below in chronological order.

Ohio State 35, Penn State 23 Oct. 27, 2012

After Meyer took over the program in 2012, the Buckeyes got off to a roaring start with their new head coach. They opened the season with a 56-10 win over Miami (Ohio) at home and streaked to an 8-0 start through Oct. 20, with the eighth win coming in dramatic fashion in overtime against Purdue.

A week later, Meyer made his first trip to Happy Valley as Ohio State's head coach, looking to keep his undefeated start alive. The Buckeyes were ranked ninth at the time, while Penn State was 5-2 with a 3-0 mark in Big Ten play.

The matchup got off to a slow start, with neither team scoring in the opening frame. With 6:15 on the second-quarter clock, Penn State blocked a punt and recovered the ball for a touchdown to take a 7-0 lead. The Buckeyes didn't strike back until running back Carlos Hyde punched it in from a yard out with 34 seconds to go before the break.

"When you go on the road, your defense better play," Meyer said after the game. "You better take care of the football and you better be tough."

In the second half, it was that defense that struck first when Ohio State linebacker Ryan Shazier returned an interception 17 yards for a score. Penn State tacked on a field goal to make it 14-10, then Buckeye quarterback Braxton Miller took over the game.

He ran for 1-yard scores twice in the third quarter and eventually hit tight end Jake Stoneburner for a 72-yard touchdown in the fourth to help boost Ohio State to a 12-point victory, improving its record to 9-0 overall and 5-0 in conference play.

Miller's first touchdown run was one of the highlights of his career, as he avoided at least three Penn State defenders before eventually diving into the end zone.

"We work on that," Meyer joked. "We have a drill. Make seven people miss and dive across."

"All I heard in my headset was, 'Oh my God!'"

Miller finished the game with 25 carries for 134 yards and those two scores, sparking the offense as Hyde managed just 55 yards on 22 attempts. Miller also threw for 143 yards in the win. Shazier sparked Ohio State's defense with eight tackles, two sacks, a forced fumble and that pick-six.

Penn State quarterback Matt McGloin had some success, going 27 of 45 for 327 yards with two scores, but he also threw a pick and was sacked four times.

Ohio State 31, Penn State 24 (2OT) Oct. 25, 2014

Ohio State was 5-1 when it traveled to University Park to face a 4-2 Penn State squad, and it looked like the Buckeyes would cruise when they took a 17-0 lead into halftime.

Nothing is that easy in Happy Valley, though. Not during a prime-time whiteout in front of 107,895 Nittany Lion faithful.

Penn State struck back less than two minutes into the second half when Anthony Zettel, a defensive lineman, returned an interception of redshirt freshman quarterback J.T. Barrett 40 yards for a touchdown. The Nittany Lions added another touchdown in the fourth when Christian Hackenberg hit Saeed Blacknall for a 24-yard score, then

kicker Sam Ficken converted from 31 yards to tie the game at 17 with nine seconds on the clock to force overtime.

"It comes down to execution," Hackenberg said. "Consistently, we executed better in the second half."

Penn State got the ball first in overtime and scored a touchdown by way of a 1-yard run by Bill Belton to cap a seven-play drive.

Ohio State didn't have much trouble, either. Barrett ran for 17 yards on second-and-7 to put the ball at the 5-yard line then scored on the next snap to tie the game again at 24. The Buckeyes got the ball first in overtime two and, thanks in part to a personal foul against Penn State, quickly moved the ball to the 4-yard line, where Barrett scored on third-and-2 to put the Buckeyes up – and he did it all on a sprained MCL suffered earlier in the game.

From there, Penn State's possession stalled, and they eventually faced a fourth-and-5 at the OSU 20. Defensive end Joey Bosa strayed from his assignment on the play and, overcome with fatigue, found a way to end the game by tackling Hackenberg and a PSU running back all at once for a walk-off sack.

"I was so tired I didn't even know it was a sack," Bosa said. "The guys started hugging me and I just went to the ground. This might have been a double-overtime win, but it doesn't make it any less important, winning in a crazy environment like this."

Barrett finished the game 12 of 19 for just 74 yards with one touchdown and two picks, but his two overtime touchdowns made it a signature moment in one of the best seasons for a quarterback in program history. Running back Ezekiel Elliott ran for 109 yards and a score in the win, while Bosa racked up six tackles and 2½ sacks and linebacker Joshua Perry totaled 18 tackles, including two tackles for loss.

The win sparked Ohio State, which went on to win five more games in a row to close the regular season. The Buckeyes then, of course, swept the postseason trio of Wisconsin, Alabama and Oregon to win the first-ever College Football Playoff National Championship.

Penn State 24, Ohio State 21 Oct. 22, 2016

When Ohio State arrived at Beaver Stadium in 2016, it was ranked No. 2 in the nation and had an undefeated record at 6-0 overall and 4-0 in the Big Ten. Penn State was unranked, holding a 4-2 overall mark and a 2-1 record in the conference.

That's irrelevant, though, as it was the Nittany Lions who left the game controlling their own fate in the Big Ten race.

By the 1:14 mark in the second quarter, Ohio State had a 12-0 lead thanks to two field goals from Tyler Durbin and a touchdown pass from Barrett to tight end Marcus Baugh.

"I thought we were rolling," center Pat Elflein said after the game.

Penn State struck back when Trace McSorley found Chris Godwin for a 20-yard touchdown with nine seconds on the clock, though, sending the teams to halftime with Ohio State ahead, 12-7.

The Buckeyes got a boost again after the break when Curtis Samuel ran for a 74-yard touchdown, and the Buckeyes added a safety with 8:31 on the third-quarter clock to take a 21-7 lead.

They wouldn't score again.

In the fourth quarter, McSorley scored on a 2-yard run and Tyler Davis hit a 34-yard field goal to pull the Nittany Lions within four. Then, with 4:27 left on the clock, Penn State blocked a Durbin field-goal attempt and returned it 60 yards for a touchdown to make it 24-21 Lions.

Needing just a field goal to tie the game, Ohio State's Parris Campbell fumbled the ensuing kick before recovering and being stopped at the 11-yard line, meaning the Buckeyes had 89 yards between them and the end zone.

After a Barrett 1-yard run, a 5-yard pass to Samuel, a false start and a 15-yard strike to Samuel, the Buckeyes had a first down at their own 27. Barrett hit running back Mike Weber for gains of 4 and 3 yards before finding Dontre Wilson for 8 yards to set up another first down at the 34.

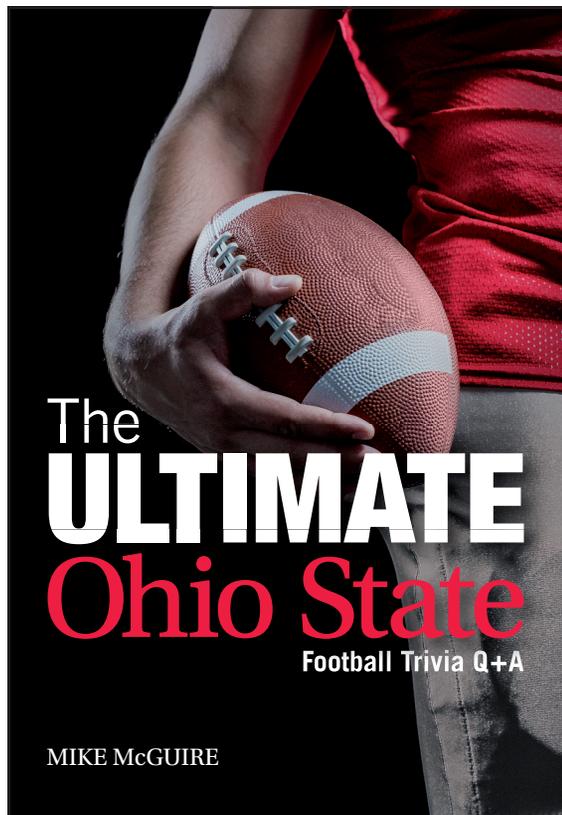
After an incompletion, Barrett had James Clark open down the sideline and threw an inch-perfect pass that might have gone for a touchdown, and certainly would have put the Buckeyes in field-goal range, but it was dropped. He was then sacked on back-to-back snaps as sophomore right tackle Isaiah Prince saw his nightmare evening continue, handing the ball back to the Nittany Lions, who ran out the clock.

"We're not a great team right now," Meyer said.

Penn State finished the game with six sacks as the Ohio State offense struggled to get going for much of the game. Barrett was 28 of 43 for 245 yards, but he threw just one touchdown and ran for just 26 yards on 17 attempts. Samuel provided some of the only sparks, going for 71 yards on two carries and catching eight passes for 68 yards. But it wasn't enough to save Ohio State's Big Ten aspirations.

The Nittany Lions ended up winning out and eventually winning the Big Ten championship over Wisconsin. Ohio State won out, too, and actually got in the College Football Playoff ahead of Penn State.

Ohio State fans won't want to remember that game, though, as the Buckeyes were trounced by Clemson, 31-0, in the Fiesta Bowl. The Tigers went on to beat Alabama to win the national championship.



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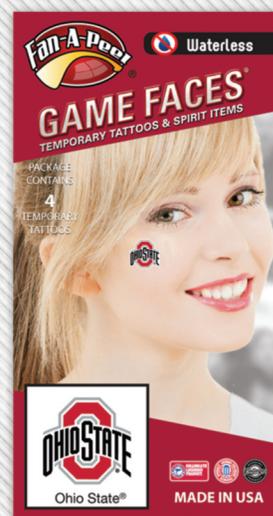


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"Your Head to Toe Buckeye Source"

PSU Sports Perfect Record, Imperfect Play

By JAMES GREGA
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

After the first week of the college football season, Penn State didn't exactly look the part of a top-15 team. The Nittany Lions had to overcome a fourth-quarter deficit to defeat Appalachian State in overtime in their season opener and trailed Pittsburgh early on in a week-two matchup before eventually waxing the Panthers, 51-6.

Penn State then made quick work of Kent State before traveling to Illinois to open conference play Sept. 21 on national television.

The Fighting Illini took a brief 24-21 lead in the third quarter before the Nittany Lions reeled off 42 unanswered points to blast Illinois, 63-24, on a Friday night in Champaign, Ill. Despite the win, Penn State showed moments of weakness.

James Franklin's team surrendered 245 yards on the ground in the eventual blowout victory over Illinois and turned it over twice while also committing eight penalties for 72 yards.

Despite the inconsistencies, Franklin said he is confident in his team's abilities heading into a prime-time showdown with Ohio State on Sept. 29.

"Obviously, whenever you can go on the road and win a Big Ten game, it's a positive," Franklin said after dispatching Illinois. "We're going to build on that. We were able to put some points on the board. Overall, we did some good things. We didn't play as well as we're capable of playing in the first half, but we're 4-0. We're going to have to get some things cleaned up, and I think that's the exciting thing. There are a lot of things that we have to get better at in all three phases. We have to get back, enjoy the win for a few hours, and then Sunday we have some work to do."

Much of the Nittany Lions' struggles this year have come, in part, due to a lack of veteran leadership. According to Franklin, 30 of Penn State's 74 players on its travel roster are true or redshirt freshmen. Penn State graduated more

than half of its starters on defense from a year ago and has struggled at times to slow down opposing offenses.

One of Franklin's main concerns remains the defensive side of the ball, where Penn State continues to struggle to find the right mix of 11 players.

"I don't think we're in a situation where we have 11 guys that we know on defense right now, especially at the linebacker position," Franklin said. "We have starters and we have guys that we're rotating in, but I don't know if anybody has separated themselves from the pack, and I think that's probably some of our challenges there. Having a guy that you know is running the defense and can be an eraser for you in terms of making plays, we're not there yet."



Miles Sanders

After its win over Illinois, the Penn State defense ranked ninth in the Big Ten in total defense, surrendering 345.8 yards per game. The good news for the Nittany Lions? The offense is still very high-powered.

Led by veteran quarterback Trace McSorley, the Nittany Lions average 55.5 points per game, which leads the nation. The Buckeyes are second in that category, averaging 54.5 points per

contest following a 49-6 shellacking of Tulane.

McSorley, who is in his third season as Penn State's starter, has seen his passing numbers dip significantly this season, perhaps in part due to the absence of former running back Saquon Barkley, who is now playing in the NFL. After completing 66.5 percent of his passes a season ago, McSorley is completing passes at just a 53.8 percent clip through four games this year, all against unranked opponents.

He is also accumulating considerably less yards through the air than he did in 2017. After averaging 274.6 yards per game last season, McSorley is averaging just 190.8 yards passing this year, despite the less-than-stellar strength of schedule to open the campaign.

One positive for Penn State has been its run game, even without its former star Barkley.

Get To Know ... Penn State

About Penn State

- **2018 Record:** 4-0 (1-0 Big Ten).
- **Team Information:** Offensive Formation – Multiple; Defensive Formation – Multiple; Starters Returning – Offense 8, Defense 3, Specialists 1.
- **Head Coach:** James Franklin, eighth year, 64-32 (fifth at Penn State, 40-17).
- **Series History:** 34th meeting, Ohio State leads, 19-14.
- **School Facts:** Location – University Park, Pa.; Enrollment – 42,034; Nickname – Nittany Lions; Colors – Blue & White; Conference – Big Ten (East Division); Stadium – Beaver Stadium (Surface, Natural Grass; Capacity, 106,572).

Top Offensive Players

Rushing	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Long
Miles Sanders	71	495	7.0	5	48
Trace McSorley	41	235	5.7	6	20
Ricky Slade	25	147	5.9	4	61

Passing	Comp.-Att.	Pct.	Yds.	TD-INT
Trace McSorley	57-106	53.8	763	8-2

Receiving	Rec.	Net	Avg.	TD	Long
KJ Hamler	9	170	19.0	3	46
Juwan Johnson	12	141	11.8	1	19
Brandon Polk	6	119	19.8	2	41

Team Offensive Stats

Points Per Game – 55.5
Rushing Yards Per Game – 275.0
Passing Yards Per Game – 239.5
Total Offense Avg. Per Game – 514.5

2018 Schedule

Date	Opponent	Result/Time (ET)
Sept. 1	APPALACHIAN ST.	W, 45-38 (OT)
Sept. 8	at Pittsburgh	W, 51-6
Sept. 15	KENT STATE	W, 63-10
Sept. 21	at Illinois	W, 63-24
Sept. 29	OHIO STATE	7:30 p.m.
Oct. 13	MICHIGAN STATE	3:30 OR 4 p.m.
Oct. 20	at Indiana	TBA
Oct. 27	IOWA	TBA
Nov. 3	at Michigan	TBA
Nov. 10	WISCONSIN	TBA
Nov. 17	at Rutgers	TBA
Nov. 24	MARYLAND	TBA

Top Defensive Players

Def. Leaders	Solo	Ast.	Tot.	TFL-Yds.	Sacks
Jan Johnson	13	11	24	0.5-1	0.5-1
Garrett Taylor	16	7	23	1.5-7	-
Micah Parsons	12	10	22	0.5-4	-
Nick Scott	10	10	20	1.0-10	1.0-10
Cam Brown	10	8	18	4.0-13	1.0-4
Amani Oruwariye	13	3	16	1.0-3	-

Interceptions	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
Amani Oruwariye	2	0	0.0	0	0
Ellis Brooks	1	28	28.0	0	28
Jan Johnson	1	0	0.0	0	0

Team Defensive Stats

Points Per Game Allowed – 19.5
Rushing Yards Per Game Allowed – 172.5
Passing Yards Per Game Allowed – 173.3
Total Offense Avg. Per Game Allowed – 345.8

Junior Miles Sanders has rushed for a solid 495 yards on 71 carries this season, finding the end zone five times through a third of the regular season. The win over Illinois was his best game in the blue and white, as he rushed 22 times for an even 200 yards and three touchdowns.

Where offensive line used to be a concern for Penn State, it has now become a strength, something Franklin has been encouraged by.

"I think we're getting better up front on the offensive line," Franklin said. "I think Miles is getting more comfortable and confident, and I thought (freshman running back) Ricky (Slade) came in and did some nice things, as well. I think our tight ends are doing a better job. We had a pretty good plan going into it."

Players To Watch

McSorley is the obvious answer, having played against Ohio State twice before, winning in 2016 before falling to the Buckeyes in Columbus a season ago.

In two games against Ohio State, McSorley has completed 25 of 52 passes (48.1 percent)

for 346 yards and three touchdowns to zero interceptions. He led the Nittany Lions to a shocking 24-21 win over the Buckeyes in Happy Valley two years ago, before Ohio State returned the favor last season, dispatching Penn State 39-38 in a comeback victory for itself.

Sanders and freshman Slade have become a solid one-two punch after Barkley's departure. However the surprise of the young season has been sophomore wide receiver KJ Hamler.

Hamler has caught just nine passes this season but has become Penn State's big-play threat downfield. He has accumulated a team-high 170 yards receiving on those nine catches and has scored on three of them.

A former four-star recruit from Michigan and eventually Bradenton (Fla.) IMG Academy in the 2017 cycle, Hamler (5-9, 173) was never offered a scholarship by Ohio State despite saying publicly he was "really interested" in the Buckeyes.

He will get his first chance to prove himself against the Buckeyes in prime time on Sept. 29.

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Ohio State vs. Penn State

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Projected Depth Charts

How We See It

WHEN OHIO STATE HAS THE BALL...

OHIO STATE

7 KOA FARMER, 6-1, 230, GR-SR.
11 Micah Parsons, 6-3, 240, Fr.
33 Jake Cooper, 6-1, 234, Sr.

6 CAM BROWN, 6-5, 223, JR.
9 Jarvis Miller, 6-2, 223, Jr.
41 Dae'Lun Darien, 6-4, 223, So.

4 NICK SCOTT, 5-11, 200, GR-SR.
23 Ayron Monroe, 5-11, 206, Jr.
26 Jonathan Sutherland, 5-11, 201, R-Fr.

17 GARRETT TAYLOR, 6-0, 203, JR.
38 Lamont Wade, 5-9, 194, So.
26 Jonathan Sutherland, 5-11, 201, R-Fr.

36 JAN JOHNSON, 6-2, 234, JR.
13 Ellis Brooks, 6-1, 233, R-Fr.
40 Jesse Luketa, 6-3, 236, Fr.

21 AMANI ORUWARIYE, 6-1, 203, GR-SR.
2 Donovan Johnson, 5-9, 182, R-Fr.
14 Zech McPhearson, 5-11, 188, So.

30 KEVIN GIVENS, 6-1, 285, JR.
53 Fred Hansard, 6-3, 316, R-Fr.
42 Ellison Jordan, 6-0, 291, So.

99 YETUR GROSS-MATOS, 6-5, 259, SO.
18 Shaka Toney, 6-3, 241, So.
46 Nick Tarburton, 6-3, 246, Fr.

48 SHAREEF MILLER, 6-5, 260, JR.
49 Daniel Joseph, 6-3, 253, So.
46 Nick Tarburton, 6-3, 246, Fr.

54 ROBERT WINDSOR, 6-4, 295, JR.
55 Antonio Shelton, 6-2, 310, So.
93 PJ Mustipher, 6-4, 300, Fr.

29 JOHN REID, 5-10, 180, JR.
2 Donovan Johnson, 5-9, 182, R-Fr.
38 Lamont Wade, 5-9, 194, So.

29 JOHN REID, 5-10, 180, JR.
5 Tariq Castro-Fields, 6-0, 186, So.
14 Zech McPhearson, 5-11, 188, So.

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

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

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

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

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.

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

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.

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

83 TERRY MCLAURIN, 6-1, 204, 5TH-SR.
OR **1 JOHNNIE DIXON, 5-11, 198, 5TH-SR.**
19 Chris Olave, 6-1, 170, Fr.

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

OHIO STATE RUSH OFFENSE vs. PENN STATE RUSH DEFENSE

The right foot of running back Mike Weber will be the focal point leading to the matchup against Penn State. For sure, the Buckeyes are in a good spot with J.K. Dobbins (56 attempts, 323 yards, 5.8 average, two touchdowns) more than capable of going it alone if Weber (52, 299, 5.8, 3) is not fully recovered from rolling his foot/ankle in the second quarter vs. Tulane on Sept. 22. But playing on the road in an unfriendly (mildly put) environment may call for some ground control to quiet the crowd and maybe even the need to squeeze the clock if OSU (4-0, 1-0 Big Ten) can pull ahead of the Nittany Lions, who have an identical record. Having two fresh runners for a possible 30-plus carries game could be a difference maker. OSU is 27th nationally with an average of 233.2 yards rushing per game. Penn State is 82nd in stopping the run (172.5) and allowed 245 yards on the ground vs. Illinois on Sept. 21. **EDGE: OHIO STATE**

PENN STATE RUSH OFFENSE vs. OHIO STATE RUSH DEFENSE

Saquon Barkley is no longer toting the ball for the Nittany Lions and terrorizing Big Ten defenses after being the second pick by the New York Giants in the 2018 NFL draft. His replacement, junior Miles Sanders, ain't so shabby. He had had 22 totes for 200 yards and three touchdowns in the 62-24 win over the Illini on Sept. 21, a game in which PSU scored 42 unanswered points in the second half, 35 of them in the fourth quarter. Sanders had a 48-yard TD run in the third to spark the rout, and he is seventh in the NCAA with an average of 123.8 yards per game (71 carries for 495 yards, 7.0 avg.). He has five of the Nittany Lions' nation-leading 20 rushing touchdowns. PSU is 10th with 275.0 rushing yards a game while the Buckeye defense is yielding 160.0 yards to rank 60th. **EDGE: PENN STATE**

OHIO STATE PASS OFFENSE vs. PENN STATE PASS DEFENSE

Third-year sophomore Dwayne Haskins is on a tear with 16 TD passes against only one interception for the Buckeyes. He is No. 14 in the country with 298.5 yards per game despite sitting out the majority of the second halves in three of four games and is second in percent completed (87 of 115, 75.7). Known for his strong and accurate arm, the key vs. PSU may be his ability to adjust to a shorter, quick-release passing game. Penn State is 30th against the pass (173.3) and will not let him sit back and choose among his collection of impressive receivers. Haskins is not a strong scrambler so look for the OSU offensive line to be challenged. **EDGE: OHIO STATE**

PENN STATE PASS OFFENSE vs. OHIO STATE PASS DEFENSE

Trace McSorley was overshadowed by Barkley's Heisman Trophy candidacy last season, but he easily presents the biggest test yet to the OSU secondary. Because of the running attack, McSorley has not posted gaudy numbers of his own but can still sling the ball. He was 12 of 19 for 160 yards and three TDs vs. Illinois. For the season, McSorley is 57 for 106 (53.8 percent) for 763 yards, eight touchdowns and two picks. Oh, and he ran for a career-high 92 yards against the Fighting Illini. OSU will no doubt miss injured All-America end Nick Bosa for a second straight game. His presence alone would cause disruption among the Penn State blockers and free Chase Young, Jonathon Cooper, Dre'Mont Jones and others to wreak their own havoc. The stop troops performed well against Tulane, but a whole different level is needed vs. PSU. **EDGE: PENN STATE**

SPECIAL TEAMS

Beaver Stadium will bring back nothing but awful memories for the Buckeyes' special units from the last visit there in 2016. A blocked punt and a blocked field goal returned for a TD helped reverse a 21-7 OSU lead in the fourth quarter that resulted in Penn State's 24-21 upset of the No. 2 Buckeyes. You can believe the OSU coaches will put an added emphasis on avoiding a repeat of those meltdowns. Penn State's Jake Pinegar has made a 32-yard field goal but missed his two other tries between the 40 and 49. OSU's Sean Nuernberger is 3 of 4 with a long of 30 without an attempt beyond the 40. **EDGE: EVEN**

INTANGIBLES

Another night game, another whiteout. Penn State has been eager for revenge since the Buckeyes last season in Ohio Stadium pulled off a ridiculous comeback from a 15-point fourth-quarter deficit to win 39-38. The place will be rocking, but OSU must show better discipline than the 10 penalties for 89 yards it had against Tulane. An injured J.T. Barrett (remember him) had his coming-of-age game at PSU in 2014, leading the Buckeyes' to a double-overtime win. Could it be Haskins' turn? **EDGE: EVEN**

PREDICTION

Ohio State hasn't faced a challenge like this all season. PSU hasn't seen a team that can match the Buckeyes' talent. Penn State is first nationally in scoring (55.5) and OSU is right behind (54.5). The Buckeyes have lost a September game in two of the past four years (Virginia Tech 2014 and Oklahoma last year), and this looks like a nail-biter that could continue the trend of the home team winning the past three games in the series. **OHIO STATE 38, PENN STATE 35**

WHEN PENN STATE HAS THE BALL...

PENN STATE

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

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

14 ISAIAH PRYOR, 6-2, 197, SO.
23 Jahsen Wint, 5-10, 196, So.
15 Josh Proctor, 6-2, 190, Fr.
30 Kevin Dever, 6-0, 190, So.

32 TUF BORLAND, 6-1, 230, SO.
5 Baron Browning, 6-4, 238, So.
47 Justin Hilliard, 6-1, 230, Jr.

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

67 ROBERT LANDERS, 6-1, 283, JR.
OR **53 DAVON HAMILTON, 6-4, 310, JR.**
72 Tommy Togiai, 6-2, 300, Fr.
98 Jerron Cage, 6-2, 290, R-Fr.

18 JONATHON COOPER, 6-4, 257, JR.
9 Jashon Cornell, 6-3, 274, Jr.

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

2 CHASE YOUNG, 6-5, 265, SO.
11 Tyreke Smith, 6-3, 260, Fr.
54 Tyler Friday, 6-3, 262, Fr.

86 DRE'MONT JONES, 6-3, 290, JR.
92 Haskell Garrett, 6-2, 293, So.
OR 6 Taron Vincent, 6-2, 285, Fr.

3 DAMON ARNETTE, 6-0, 195, JR.
1 Jeffrey Okudah, 6-1, 199, So.

81 JUWAN JOHNSON, 6-4, 225, JR.
81 Cam Sullivan-Brown, 6-0, 188, R-Fr.
86 Daniel George, 6-2, 220, Fr.

74 STEVEN GONZALEZ, 6-4, 325, JR.
73 Mike Miranda, 6-3, 298, R-Fr.
72 Bryce Effner, 6-5, 272, Fr.

66 CONNOR MCGOVERN, 6-5, 323, JR.
69 C.J. Thorpe, 6-3, 328, R-Fr.
79 Charlie Shuman, 6-8, 324, Gr-Sr.

18 JONATHAN HOLLAND, 6-4, 252, JR.
OR **80 DANNY DALTON, 6-4, 247, SO.**
OR **87 PAT FREIERMUTH, 6-5, 258, FR.**
83 Nick Bowers, 6-4, 260, Jr.

93 BLAKE GILLIKIN, 6-2, 192, JR.
49 Cade Pollard, 5-11, 207, Fr.
95 Vlad Hilling, 5-10, 217, Fr.

2 TOMMY STEVENS, 6-5, 240, JR.

91 JAKE PINEGAR, 6-2, 197, FR.
Justin Tobin, 6-2, 191, So.
OR 95 Vlad Hilling, 5-10, 217, Fr.

24 MILES SANDERS, 5-11, 215, JR.
8 Mark Allen, 5-6, 184, GR-Sr.
OR 4 Ricky Slade, 5-9, 198, Fr.

1 KJ HAMLER, 5-9, 173, R-FR.
12 Mac Hippenhammer, 5-11, 177, R-Fr.
5 Jahan Dotson, 5-11, 169, Fr.

Meyer's Return Brings Top Visitors To Columbus

When head coach Urban Meyer returned to the sideline Sept. 22 and led Ohio State to its 49-6 rout of Tulane at Ohio Stadium, success on the field wasn't the only result of his return

RECRUITING OUTLOOK Garrett Stepien

Meyer's presence had an obvious impact on recruiting as the team hosted commitments and targets – some of whom were expected to visit while others were surprises – across four cycles including 2019, 2020, 2021 and even 2022.

Without another commitment just yet, Ohio State's 2019 recruiting class remains ranked No. 15 nationally in the 247Sports composite with 14 pledges. As for the Buckeyes' 2020 recruiting class, six members strong, Ohio State is No. 3 in the country.

Despite a slow streak, OSU moved closer to a recruiting resurgence with Meyer's return. With the staff at full strength, Ohio State offered a pair of running backs and hosted a handful of priority prospects, including the No. 1 overall prospect in 2020 and a four-star tight end for 2019.

To stay in the loop on Ohio State recruiting, head to BSB's 24/7, full-service web-



JOSH WINSLOW

BACK ON CAMPUS – Four-star quarterback Dwan Mathis (center), an Ohio State commit in the 2019 class, was among the visitors to campus for the Buckeyes' win over Tulane.

site, 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 to receive simple instructions on further access.

Ohio State Offers 2020 Duo

Before the Buckeyes began their big weekend with recruits on campus, they increased interactions on the trail with two new offers to prospects in the 2020 class.

On Sept. 17, OSU went national with offers to Rockwall, Texas, four-star wide receiver Jaxon Smith-Njigba and Cambridge (Mass.) Buckingham Browne & Nichols 2020 three-star offensive tackle Zak Zinter. They each announced their Ohio State offers on Twitter.

The Buckeyes became the latest Power 5 program to enter Smith-Njigba's blossoming recruitment. Over the past two months, he added offers from Arkansas (Sept. 10), Texas Tech (Sept. 6) and TCU (Aug. 1).

His process originally blew up between the spring evaluation period and summer camp circuit from April through June. He has since racked up 16 offers, including the most recent from Ohio State. The 6-1, 188-pounder is the 247Sports composite's No. 287 overall prospect, No. 58 wide receiver and No. 36 player in Texas for 2020.

As for Zinter, the massive offensive tackle's recruitment picked up about two months ago. He earned offers from Duke and Purdue on July 30, following Penn State's offer on July 29 after his impressive camp perfor-

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

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ASK AN ANALYST

With Buckeye Grove's Marc Givler

Ohio State got Damascus, Md., five-star defensive end Bryan Bresee – the No. 1 overall player for 2020 – on campus Sept. 22. Taking into account Bresee's attendance for head coach Urban Meyer's first game back from suspension, what do you make of the move and what it means for the Buckeyes?

"I think it's good timing to get back on campus because he has not been on campus in almost a year, and he made a lot of visits – kind of national – taking some out-of-region visits and he's been to Penn State a few times. So it will be a great opportunity to regain some momentum with Bryan, not having him on campus in a while and having Penn State being a very strong competitor there and getting him on campus in a few weeks. Actually, I believe Bryan is going to be at the Penn State-Ohio State game next week. So they actually have a chance to spend a lot of time with him this weekend and go on the road next weekend and show him something as a guest of Penn State.

"I think it was important timing. Certainly, the next two weeks give them an opportunity to make a move. We'll see what happens, but it definitely feels like Penn State has some momentum. Ohio State is certainly one of the schools that has a chance, but they need to regain some momentum here."

Considering how much the Buckeyes battle the Nittany Lions on the trail, what ramifications – if any – does their prime-time matchup have in recruiting?

"Every kid's a little bit different, but you'd like to think it does. I think it is true – the outcome of one single game isn't going to completely turn a recruitment

upside down, but a lot of things can be reinforced. So if you're an Ohio State defensive line recruit and you watch them – let's say (junior defensive end) Jonathon Cooper, (sophomore defensive end) Chase Young and (junior defensive tackle) Dre'Mont Jones go out there and kind of dominate the game or whatever – it can reinforce those positive feelings you might have about one school or the other. I almost think the road team has more to gain sometimes when we're talking about these individual recruiting battles because if you're a guest of the home team and the road team comes in and just kind of rips the hearts out of the fans and everything, it actually can have a negative effect."

With Meyer's return, how much do you expect recruiting to pick up for Ohio State going forward? How much has Meyer's suspension halted potential commitments?

"Certainly, it should help their momentum. Not that they had a ton, but it's been kind of a weird class anyway in 2019. Some of the circumstances, I think, were coincidences. The Clemson offer to (Nashville [Tenn.] C.P.A. four-star linebacker) Kane Patterson was something they were going to have to deal with anyway. Oklahoma getting involved with (Odessa [Texas] Permian four-star athlete) Peyton Powell was something they were going to have to deal with. (Lewis Center [Ohio] Olentangy Orange five-star defensive end) Zach Harrison was simply not ready to make a decision and, really, that was something he told me almost a month out before the Urban suspension happened. That decision was likely not going to be made.

"So a lot of this is kind of circumstantial evidence. A lot of this was going to happen anyway. Obviously,

you can't get commitments when your head coach is suspended, is on a leave of absence, isn't able to call recruits. The month of August in general is just a bad month for recruiting. You're not allowed to make visits. The college coaches are getting ready for their season. The high school kids are getting ready for their season. Everyone's kind of in their little bubble, so it doesn't set itself up for commitments anyway.

"You look at a guy like (St. Louis Cardinal Ritter College Prep four-star wide receiver) Jameson Williams who could decide soon. He keeps saying he might and then he keeps not doing it, but could they have maybe made a bigger push with a guy like Jameson Williams before the season? I think that's possible. I just think things were getting a little stagnant before and now they still are.

"The Tulane weekend is the first time we start to see some juice with Meyer back on the sideline and everything, and as we get into the Big Ten schedule here in October, I think we'll see things start to pick back up. It's hard to recruit when you don't have a head coach, so that definitely stalled them out a little bit, and now, like I've said with Bryan Bresee, they've got to just regain some momentum.

"I'm not a huge knee-jerk guy where the fans have been like, 'Oh, it's been "X" amount of weeks, "X" amount of months since we've gotten a commitment.' The commitments just happen at random times, but it would be nice for them to get one, especially in 2019. I think 2020's going to be fine because it's in good shape right now. But for them, it would help them to just get one aboard here. So we'll see what happens."

mance in front of the Nittany Lions' coaching staff.

The 6-6, 300-pounder also holds FBS offers from Massachusetts (June 9) and Boston College (June 4). Zinter took an unofficial visit Sept. 8 to Notre Dame for the Fighting Irish's 24-16 win over Ball State and plans to take an unofficial visit Oct. 6 to Stanford for the Cardinal's matchup against Utah.

Zinter's timeline includes his unofficial visits to Michigan on June 28 for camp with the Wolverines and a local trip down to Connecticut on March 29. He is the 247Sports composite's No. 398 overall prospect, No. 45 offensive tackle and No. 3 player in Massachusetts.

2019 4-Star WR Cancels Oregon Official Visit

As he navigates his recruitment, one more school appears to be out of the Jameson Williams sweepstakes. The four-star wide receiver from St. Louis Cardinal Ritter College Prep was slated to be in attendance Sept. 22 for then-No. 20 Oregon's prime-time showdown against then-No. 7 Stanford. However, he announced Sept. 18 on Twitter that his plans had changed.

"I won't be taking my official visit to Oregon this weekend anymore," the statement read.

While the move wasn't entirely unexpected, the cancellation is significant for Ohio State. The Buckeyes hosted Williams on his first of five available official visits when he came to Columbus the weekend of June 22-24. OSU has been believed to be the leader for the 6-1½, 169-pounder despite the drawn-out decision process.

Williams remains slated for official visits Sept. 29 at Nebraska and Oct. 13 at Alabama after he spent Sept. 15 at UCLA, but his announcement could come soon-

er than later. Between Meyer's full-time return and interim wide receivers coach Brian Hartline's budding relationship with Williams, Ohio State continues to be heavily involved for the 247Sports composite's No. 130 overall prospect, No. 24 wide receiver and No. 2 player in Missouri for 2019.

2020 3-Star RB Receives OSU Offer

On Sept. 19, the Buckeyes extended an offer to Landen Bartleson, who announced the move on Twitter that evening. OSU becomes the latest to offer the three-star running back from Danville (Ky.) Boyle County, one day after Tennessee did so. The 6-1, 182-pounder boasts offers from Kentucky (Aug. 3), Colorado (May 25) and Purdue (May 1) as well. Louisville on Nov. 9, 2017, became the first school to extend him an offer.

Bartleson has been on Ohio State's recruiting radar for months now. On June 12, he came to Columbus for the Buckeyes' second one-day camp of the summer. In contact with recruiting assistant Devon Smith and co-defensive coordinator Alex Grinch, Bartleson's performance before OSU's coaching staff included a 4.39-second time recorded in the 40-yard dash.

Bartleson is the 247Sports composite's No. 525 overall prospect, No. 45 running back and No. 7 player in Kentucky. With one running back commitment already in the fold for Ohio State after Scottsdale (Ariz.) Chaparral four-star Darvon Hubbard pledged July 25, Bartleson's offer brings flexibility as a potential H-back or slot receiver for 2020.

OSU Offers 2021 RB

When Donovan Edwards arrived Sept. 22 in Columbus for an unofficial visit, the

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Continued On Page 28

WR Washington Makes Quick Return To OSU

Continued From Page 27

Buckeyes offered the 2021 running back. Edwards attended the OSU-Tulane game with several teammates from West Bloomfield, Mich., including 2020 four-star safety Makari Paige, whom Ohio State offered May 7.

Edwards is only a sophomore in high school but possesses early offers from Purdue (May 8), Kentucky (May 7) and Pittsburgh (May 30). Michigan became the first to extend an offer April 17.

Running backs coach Tony Alford and special teams/cornerbacks coach Taver Johnson, who recruits the Detroit area, extended the Buckeyes' offer to Edwards.

"They said that they cannot pass up on offering me," Edwards told Steve Wiltfong of 247Sports.

2020 Michigan Prospects Return To Columbus

In addition to Edwards and Paige, two other notable names from Michigan for 2020 returned to Ohio State on Sept. 22 for the Tulane game.

For the second time this season, the Buckeyes welcomed Bay City (Mich.) Central three-star wide receiver Devell Washington. He attended the Sept. 1 opener against Oregon State and told BSB at the time that he and his family felt like a priority between discussions with offensive coordinator/quarterbacks coach Ryan Day, Hartline and director of player personnel Mark Pantoni.

Washington, who holds additional offers from Michigan (June 18) and Michigan State (July 31), made his third trip to OSU. He earned the offer from Ohio State's coaching staff after an impressive performance June 22 at Friday Night Lights.

During the Tulane game, Washington sat behind the Buckeyes' bench with Cincinnati St. Xavier 2020 five-star offensive tackle commitment Paris Johnson. Washington, a 6-4, 200-pounder, is the 247Sports composite's No. 451 overall prospect, No. 84 wide receiver and No. 11 player in Michigan for 2020.

"The visit was great," Washington told BSB. "My family and I enjoyed everything about it. The support of Coach Meyer was

A Look Back At Recruiting From The Pages Of BSB

30 Years Ago – 1988

Considered by several national recruiting experts as one of the top lineman prospects in Ohio, Zanesville tackle Matt Warth was on the recruiting radars of many – including Ohio State.

The 6-4, 245-pounder had been contacted by nearly every team in the Big Ten, Pac-10 and Mid-American conferences. National high school recruiting expert Tom Lemming pointed to the fact that Warth added 20 pounds of muscle to his frame with more room to grow.

"He's definitely a good prospect," Lemming told BSB. "He certainly has the size to play major-college football. And he appears to be still growing."

25 Years Ago – 1993

From the same school as Buckeye legend Archie Griffin, Columbus Eastmoor running back Marcus Ray was out to prove his ability as he started a comeback season in 1993.

After an ankle injury in the summer of 1992 forced him to sit out as a sophomore, Ray (6-0, 195) returned to action for his junior campaign. Despite the time out, he had the attention of Ohio State, which hosted him on a visit in July.

"It was nice," Ray said. "We learned a lot about the school and saw the campus. I also went to the Ohio State football camp in 1992, and I really enjoyed it."

20 Years Ago – 1998

Haddon Heights, N.J., linebacker Shawn Price (6-3, 224) put Ohio State with Michigan and Florida State in his top three when he broke down his recruitment to BSB.

Price, the No. 4 weakside linebacker according to The National Recruiting Advisor, had notched 27 sacks over the previous two years. With a 335-pound bench press and 10.8-second time in the 100-meter dash, schools such as OSU were starting to take notice and increase communication.

"I think Ohio State has called, but I haven't been here," Price said. "I know Florida State wants me and Michigan wants me. Ohio State has sent me a lot of stuff, but I don't think they've offered."

15 Years Ago – 2003

One of Ohio's top three prospects, Huber Heights Wayne linebacker Marcus Freeman, was closing in on a decision with Ohio State firmly in the mix. Freeman's final handful of choices included the Buckeyes and Notre Dame as finalists after he attended and enjoyed his visit to the OSU-N.C. State game the previous weekend.

With a Sept. 24 announcement press conference scheduled at Wayne, Freeman was believed to be an Ohio State lean. Rivals.com rated Freeman the No. 44 overall prospect and No. 4 inside linebacker leading up to the announcement.

10 Years Ago – 2008

After Ohio State's 35-3 loss at Southern California, the Buckeyes were hoping to avoid any negative impact in recruiting.

While recruiting director John Peterson said "time will tell" with the defeat's impact on prospects' perceptions, Clayton (Ohio) Northmont four-star cornerback C.J. Barnett's commitment to Ohio State was unwavering. In fact, he was in the process of setting up early enrollment.

"I haven't checked my mail at all," Barnett said. "I'm completely, 100 percent committed to OSU. It's been great to get to just be able to focus on my senior year."

Five Years Ago – 2013

After a few misses by head coach Urban Meyer on the trail, particularly at linebacker, Ohio State made the cut for its top target at the position when Hinesville (Ga.) Liberty County five-star Raekwon McMillan included the Buckeyes with Alabama, Clemson, Florida and Georgia in his final five.

"I have had Ohio State at the top before and they are still high on my list, but after my Clemson visit, I decided to pull back a little," McMillan said. "I don't really have a leader right now."

OSU was in the mix for McMillan, the 46th overall prospect and No. 5 middle linebacker in the 2014 recruiting class, largely due to Meyer.

"The thing about Ohio State is my relationship," McMillan said. "I have good relationships with other schools, but me and Urban Meyer have had some of the best talks. I really like the coaches at Ohio State, and the relationship I have is a key component in my decision. The only downside is distance, but I am OK with that. That is not that big of a deal."

One Year Ago – 2017

Ohio State hosted Blairstown (N.J.) Blair Academy four-star defensive end Jayson Oweh, one of its top targets for 2018, on Sept. 9 for an official visit to the Oklahoma game. Despite the Buckeyes' 31-16 loss to the Sooners at Ohio Stadium, the No. 67 overall prospect in the country came away impressed.

"It was crazy," Oweh told Scout recruiting analyst Brian Dohn. "I think (the announced crowd of 109,088) was the second-most people they've ever had. You could just feel the love the school has for their football players."

Oweh's only other official visit after the trip to see the Buckeyes was scheduled for Nov. 18 at Penn State when the Nittany Lions were slated to host Nebraska. At the time, though, OSU made its mark.

"(Meyer) just stressed to me that I'll be an immediate impact player given that they're losing a lot next year," Oweh said. "He said he believes I'm only scratching the surface of what I can become and that (defensive line coach) Larry Johnson can make me the best in the country."

great to see. I spent a lot of time with Paris. That's my guy."

Washington also spent time with another top target from up north for OSU in Grand Rapids (Mich.) East Kentwood three-star offensive guard Dallas Fincher. The 6-4, 260-pounder returned to Ohio State for the first time since he received his offer on an unofficial visit July 27.

Fincher is the 247Sports composite's No. 521 overall prospect, No. 21 offensive guard and No. 18 player in Michigan for 2020. Before his return trip to see the Buckeyes, where he met with Meyer at the end of the game, Fincher took an unofficial visit Sept. 15 to Wisconsin when the then-No. 6 Badgers lost, 24-21, to BYU. Previously, he spent Sept. 1 at Notre Dame for the Fighting Irish's 24-17 win over Michigan.

According to Allen Trieu of 247Sports, Fincher has UW and OSU with Michigan State in his current top three. However, Fincher's process remains ongoing as he

prepares for his latest trip Sept. 29 at Penn State for the Nittany Lions' whiteout game against Ohio State.

Commitments Come Back To Columbus, Recruit Others

Among the abundance of prospects at Ohio State for the Tulane game, some of the most important recruits returning to campus included a surprising amount of commitments for 2019 and 2020.

BSB confirmed six pledges in attendance. Buford, Ga., five-star center Harry Miller; Oak Park, Mich., four-star quarterback Dwan Mathis; Mentor, Ohio, four-star defensive end Noah Potter; Mentor, Ohio, four-star offensive tackle Ryan Jacoby; and Fort Wayne (Ind.) Wayne three-star athlete Craig Young represented the 2019 pledges back in Columbus for Meyer's return. Paris Johnson, a frequent traveler up and down Interstate 71 from Cincinnati, was the lone 2020 commitment known to be on site.

On top of touching base with Meyer and the staff, the 2019 commitments went to work on their own recruiting as they hung around a surprise visitor. Parkersburg, W.Va., four-star tight end Brenton Strange made an unofficial visit – his fourth to Ohio State – for the game, spending time with offensive coordinator/tight ends coach Kevin Wilson on the field during pregame warmups.

The 6-5, 210-pounder earned an offer June 12 at the Buckeyes' second one-day camp of the summer and returned June 22 on an unofficial visit for Friday Night Lights. Over that weekend, Mathis was also in Columbus for a surprise official visit before the quarterback flipped June 24 from Michigan State to OSU.

Before the Tulane game got under way, members of Ohio State's on-campus recruiting staff led Mathis and Strange along the end zone. The Buckeyes already have a tight end committed in Memphis (Tenn.) Whitehaven three-star Cormontae Hamilton, but they remain open to adding another player at the position to the class.

Strange is the 247Sports composite's No. 354 overall prospect for 2019, No. 16 tight end and No. 3 player in West Virginia. Like Fincher, he heads to Happy Valley on Sept. 29 for Penn State's prime-time battle with OSU in a whiteout at Beaver Stadium.

Top 2020 Recruit Makes Trip To OSU

Damascus, Md., five-star defensive end Bryan Bresee made an unofficial visit to Ohio State for the Tulane game. He returned to Columbus for the first time since Oct. 28,

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2017, when the Buckeyes beat Penn State, 39-38.

The 6-5, 290-pounder first emerged on OSU's recruiting radar in the summer of 2017 at a one-day camp. Ohio State has kept in touch ever since, staying on Bresee since he earned his ranking as the No. 1 overall 2020 prospect in the 247Sports composite.

After the game, Bresee caught up with D-line coach Larry Johnson outside the southeast tower of Ohio Stadium. According to Bill Kurelic of 247Sports, Bresee talked with Meyer before the game.

"He wanted to make sure I'm still interested in Ohio State," Bresee said of Meyer. "I told him I'm definitely interested in Ohio State."

Bresee added that he plans to trim his list down to five or seven later in the fall. From there, he told Kurelic, Bresee hopes to take

all five official visits starting late in the spring and ending next fall.

"Ohio State is up there," Bresee said. "Penn State and Georgia are in there. I'm just going to games right now. That will help me to decide (on top choices)."

Until then, Bresee has his next unofficial visit planned for Sept. 29 at Penn State. Later in the season, he heads to Georgia for an unofficial visit Nov. 10 when the Bulldogs host Auburn.

Local 2021 DE Visits, Meets Meyer

Defensive end Jack Sawyer made an unofficial visit to Ohio State for the Tulane game. The 6-5, 220-pounder returned to campus from nearby Pickerington North for the first time since his camp experience in June. The Buckeyes offered April 6.

Meyer, Larry Johnson, Grinch and defensive coordinator Greg Schiano established a relationship back then with Sawyer. Before his return to campus, he looked forward to further building those bonds with OSU's coaching staff.

"Just getting to see everybody again," Sawyer told BSB. "Coach (Larry) Johnson, Coach Meyer, Coach Grinch, Coach Schiano. Just talking to everybody, keep building relationships and really enjoy talking to them."

Sawyer holds offers from Georgia Tech (May 2), Pittsburgh (March 27), Maryland (March 27), Michigan State (Feb. 10), Kentucky (Feb. 8) and Michigan (Jan. 29). He is slated to attend Penn State's Sept. 29 game against Ohio State, marking his first trip back to Happy Valley since his June 23 camp with the Nittany Lions.

"I always just want to be better," Sawyer said. "There's always room for improvement. I always push myself to the max, whether I'm lifting weights or running a pass in practice or going against offensive linemen. I always pride myself on going as hard as I can."

"That kind of helps keep me grounded because I know all these offers are a blessing, but they can all go away if I don't keep working hard."

OSU Gets Ahead, Hosts 2022 QBs

Ohio State got a head start on recruiting for 2022, hosting a pair of Ohio quarterbacks with high upside. Centerville's Chase Harrison and Columbus Franklin Heights' Jeffery Beverly have been on the Buckeyes' board among early freshman prospects, making their returns to campus for OSU's game against Tulane.

The 6-2, 185-pound Harrison had yet to even take a snap in high school when Louisville became his first offer June 4. Since then, Ohio State has taken notice. He attended the Buckeyes' second one-day camp of the summer June 12, drawing interest from OSU's coaching staff.

"Coach Wilson from Ohio State was at my high school and said they wanted to see me throw in person, so I'm excited to go there," Harrison told Bill Greene of 247Sports.

In a similar position, before his freshman year had even begun, Beverly caught the Buckeyes' attention over the summer when he attended one of OSU's one-day camps. He stood out enough to Day and assistant quarterbacks coach Corey Dennis that Ohio State suggested his return to camp June 22 at Friday Night Lights, where Beverly impressed again.

The 6-4, 195-pound Beverly returned to campus for the Tulane game and touched base with recruiting assistants Smith and Ed Terwilliger. Their message, he said, was encouraging.

"The main message was that we will be in contact, and they said since I'll be getting my first (varsity) start this week (Sept. 28 for Franklin Heights at Groveport-Madison) that I need to stay calm and confident and make my reads like they know I can," Beverly told BSB. "They said they still can't believe I'm only a freshman and have the size of some of their starters already. They also said they would love to see me back on campus and they'll let me know when."

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.



JOSH WINSLOW

TOP PROSPECT – Five-star defensive end Bryan Bresee, the No. 1 prospect for 2020, visited Ohio State on Sept. 22.

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Maryland Found Culpable In McNair's Death

Following the death of offensive lineman Jordan McNair, University of Maryland officials launched an investigation into his passing and on Sept. 21 found that the school was culpable in his death.

BIG TEN NOTES James Grega

McNair was hospitalized following an intense summer workout May 29 and died June 13 due to complications from heatstroke. An ESPN story in August reported multiple cases of over-straining and mistreating players. As a result, head coach DJ Durkin was placed on indefinite leave while strength coach Rick Court "parted ways" with the university.

The first of two reports set to be released by Dr. Rod Walters, who was hired by Maryland to conduct the investigation, concluded that the university was culpable in McNair's passing.

"The injury evaluation did not include any assessment or documentation of vital signs, including core temperature," Walters said Sept. 21. "There was a failure to identify escalating symptoms associated with exertional heat illness, including assessing vital signs, identifying the condition and aggressively treating the patient's elevated core temperature. No apparatus was used for prompt cool-

ing of the patient. Inadequate cooling devices were used."

Maryland has concluded that no further personnel decisions will be made until Walters' second report is concluded. The Terrapins have compiled a 3-1 record to open the 2018 season with Matt Canada serving as acting head coach in Durkin's place. Maryland defeated Texas, 34-29, in the season opener, before waxing Bowling Green, 45-24, in week two. The Terps were then upset by Temple, 35-14, in week three before rebounding with a 42-13 victory over Minnesota in their Big Ten opener.

Frost: Nebraska Has Hit "Bottom"

The start to the Scott Frost era has been anything but successful in Lincoln, Neb.

The Cornhuskers saw their season opener against Akron canceled before losing back-to-back nonconference games to Colorado and Troy. Things only got worse in the fourth week of the season when Nebraska was throttled, 56-10, by Michigan in Ann Arbor, Mich.

Despite everything that has gone wrong, and with not many positives to build on, Frost said after the game he doesn't think things can get any worse for his program.

"I told them I honestly believe this is going to be the bottom right here," Frost said after the Michigan game. "I don't know how many times I've been in a game like that, but we got beat in every phase. We're really going to find out who loves football and who loves each other.

"We're not ready to beat a team like this yet, but the key word to me is 'yet,'" Frost added. "I know where it's going. It certainly isn't happening as quickly as I would like, but I'm kind of excited because it's not going to get worse than this. It's only up from here."

Nebraska's 0-3 start is its worst since 1945, and the Cornhuskers rank 13th out of 14 teams in the Big Ten in both scoring offense (19.0 points per game) and scoring defense (37.7 ppg).

Cornhusker athletic director Bill Moos expressed his confidence in Frost and the overall direction of the program following the blowout loss to the Wolverines.

"I have faith in Scott and continue to," Moos told HuskerOnline.com after the game. "I knew it wasn't going to happen overnight. We knew we wanted to build it the right way, on a solid foundation and something that could be sustainable.

"You've got to be patient," Moos added. "We've got a big hole to dig out of. It's a transition time. Players are learning a new offense, new defensive scheme. The good news is that we have a coaching staff that doesn't have to be taught. It's tough to have that snowball rolling the other direction, and I'm very confident that we have a staff that can stop that and get back and get some wins here this year."

Nebraska still has road trips to Wisconsin (Oct. 6), Ohio State (Nov. 3), Northwestern (Oct. 13) and Iowa (Nov. 23) on its schedule this season, with home games against Purdue (Sept. 29), Minnesota (Oct. 20), Illinois (Nov. 10) and Michigan State (Nov. 17) remaining.

Former Gopher Lineman Dies

Former Minnesota offensive lineman Nick Connelly died Sept. 19 after losing a battle with Burkitt's lymphoma, a rare and aggressive form of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Connelly was 22 years old.

Connelly played for the Golden Gophers from 2015-17 and started five games at tackle last season for P.J. Fleck's team before being forced to retire due to injuries. Minnesota honored Connelly with helmet stickers for its game against Maryland on Sept. 22.

"We are devastated to learn of the pass-

BIG 2018 Standings

	Conf.			All		
	W	L	Pct.	W	L	Pct.
East Division						
Ohio State	1	0	1.000	4	0	1.000
Penn State	1	0	1.000	4	0	1.000
Maryland	1	0	1.000	3	1	.750
Michigan	1	0	1.000	3	1	.750
Michigan State	1	0	1.000	2	1	.667
Indiana	0	1	.000	3	1	.750
Rutgers	0	1	.000	1	3	.250
West Division						
Wisconsin	1	0	1.000	3	1	.750
Northwestern	1	0	1.000	1	2	.333
Iowa	0	1	.000	3	1	.750
Minnesota	0	1	.000	3	1	.750
Illinois	0	1	.000	2	2	.500
Purdue	0	1	.000	1	3	.250
Nebraska	0	1	.000	0	3	.000

Sept. 21 Score

Penn State 63, Illinois 24

Sept. 22 Scores

Purdue 30, Boston College 13

Buffalo 42, Rutgers 13

Maryland 42, Minnesota 13

Michigan 56, Nebraska 10

Ohio State 49, Tulane 6

Michigan State 35, Indiana 21

Wisconsin 28, Iowa 17

Sept. 29 Games

Central Michigan at Michigan St., Noon (FS1)

Indiana at Rutgers, Noon (BTN)

Purdue at Nebraska, 3:30 p.m. (BTN)

Michigan at Northwestern, 4:30 p.m. (FOX)

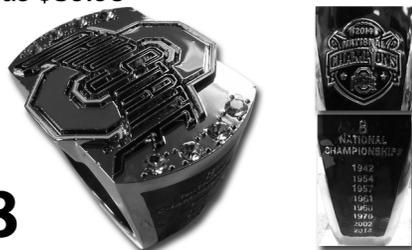
Ohio State at Penn State, 7:30 p.m. (ABC)

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Former Gopher Lineman Dies

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Connelly played for the Golden Gophers from 2015-17 and started five games at tackle last season for P.J. Fleck's team before being forced to retire due to injuries. Minnesota honored Connelly with helmet stickers for its game against Maryland on Sept. 22.

"We are devastated to learn of the pass-

ing of Nick Connelly," Fleck said. "He was an amazing young man who took exceptional pride in playing for his hometown Gophers and loved wearing the maroon and gold. Nick's family and friends are in our thoughts, and we will honor him this Saturday at Maryland."

Big Ten Players Of The Week

The lone Big Ten game on Sept. 21 put Penn State and Illinois in a prime-time match-



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From The Pages Of BSB

35 Years Ago – 1983

Kirk Lowdermilk flipped from defense to offense, sliding into a starting role at tackle. His move during summer practice paid early dividends for Ohio State, which started the season 2-0 largely due to Lowdermilk's assistance in stabilizing the Buckeyes along the offensive line.

"I didn't know anything about playing offense until a week before I came back for summer camp," the 6-3, 250-pounder said. "They gave me a call and asked if I wanted to. I wasn't really sure. I didn't know what I wanted to do. I had my doubts, but I went along with it."

Lowdermilk, who played on the defensive line in 1982 and was on OSU's wrestling team, brought a blend of athleticism and motor to the other side of the trenches.

"I can relax when the game comes," he said. "During the week it's all-out. For those two days we have pads on, I can't let down a second. If I do, somebody's going to beat me out. And I don't like that."

30 Years Ago – 1988

Ohio State overcame a 13-point deficit with roughly four minutes left in the fourth quarter and topped LSU, 36-33, at Ohio Stadium, snapping the Tigers' 14-game road winning streak and bouncing back from the Buckeyes' 42-10 loss to Pittsburgh.

"I don't know if I've ever been around a more exciting finish," head coach John Cooper said of OSU, which scored 16 unanswered points to close the contest.

Ohio State scored its final points on sophomore tailback Carlos Snow's 5-yard touchdown run, LSU's safety and sophomore quarterback Greg Frey's 38-yard touchdown pass to sophomore receiver Bobby Olive with 38 seconds to play.

Following Snow's score, though, was when Cooper rolled the dice and decided to kick off deep instead of an onside attempt.

"My feeling was if we try an onside and don't get it, the ballgame is over," Cooper said.

25 Years Ago – 1993

Ohio State junior nose guard Matt Bonhaus was not expected back for the season after sleeping problems surfaced in the summer, but the Buckeyes were hopeful of his return for the 1994 season. The issues became so serious for Bonhaus to the point where he dropped out of school and could not report to fall workouts.

OSU team physician Dr. John Lombardo told BSB that Bonhaus would likely enroll for the winter quarter with the plan to rejoin the program for the next year.

"The easiest way to describe it is burnout," Lombardo told BSB. "Someone with that much intensity who goes at

something that hard, as Matt does with football, is eventually going to burn out."

20 Years Ago – 1998

In the wake of Ohio State's 49-0 shutout over Toledo, debates resurfaced on whether the Buckeyes should continue to schedule in-state opponents for their nonconference slate.

OSU's regular seasons from 1998-2002 had games scheduled against MAC foes for each year. John Cooper understood Ohio State's thought process behind the opponents from the conference, which was producing competitive programs and threatening upsets, but the head coach ultimately wanted easier opponents for the Buckeyes' nonconference tune-up contests.

"I'm not here arguing whether we should play a MAC school or not," Cooper said. "I understand why we're doing it. And I'm not all that upset with it, either. All I can tell you is the legendary Woody Hayes I don't think ever played an in-state school, did he? And he never played Notre Dame. So I rest my case."

Athletic director Andy Geiger explained his side of how he viewed the scheduling.

"In the past, we've paid Pitt and Rice to come in here, and we've scored in the 70s on them," Geiger said. "I need a team for our sixth game every year. Why not keep the money in state? Why send that \$350,000 to \$400,000 to Texas?"

15 Years Ago – 2003

Ohio State's Sept. 10 official announcement of sophomore running back Maurice Clarett's suspension for at least the entire 2003 season led to several twists and turns.

A few days later, Clarett's attorney, Alan C. Milstein, faxed a letter to the NFL for a meeting regarding draft rules, which required players to be three years removed from high school in order to be eligible.

Then on Sept. 18, Clarett's camp took legal action against Ohio State to answer questions regarding a university police report Clarett filed April 18 after his vehicle was burglarized in the Woody Hayes Athletic Center parking lot, leading to Clarett's Sept. 9 charge with falsification of a report.

Clarett's request for discovery alleged that his fifth and 14th Constitutional amendment rights were violated because the university "conducted parallel administrative and criminal investigations." As a result, Clarett asked Ohio State to answer 12 "interrogatories" on its handling of the police report by Sept. 30.

On the field, Clarett had not made a decision on his football future as he contemplated the possibility of trying to go pro.

10 Years Ago – 2008

After a whirlwind preseason with questions about whether

James Scott would be back with the Buckeyes, closure came for the sophomore defensive back Sept. 15 when he reportedly began classes at his next stop – the University of Mississippi.

"He is at Ole Miss," Daytona Beach (Fla.) Seabreeze coach Marc Beach told the Daytona Beach News-Journal. "He started school (Sept. 15). I haven't talked to him. I don't know what the delay was. I got a call from Ohio State that he was going to transfer, so he transferred to Ole Miss."

Scott played in eight games as a true freshman in 2007, recording six tackles and making a case for time on the two-deep in 2008 after defensive backs Donald Washington and Jamario O'Neal were suspended for two games and Eugene Clifford left the program.

"There are a lot of players that you have (and) the ones that you lose are the ones that you really never forget," cornerback coach Taver Johnson said after Scott's move became public. "James is a really good young man. We actually just texted each other the other day, so I expect to keep in contact with him. Sometimes change is good, and that's how we approach it."

Five Years Ago – 2013

Head coach Urban Meyer earned his first shutout at Ohio State when he and the Buckeyes blanked Florida A&M 76-0 on Sept. 21 at Ohio Stadium. OSU's 16th straight win kept Meyer undefeated in Columbus and extended the nation's longest winning streak. The rout of the Rattlers was Ohio State's largest margin of victory since its 85-7 win over Drake in 1935.

Quarterback Kenny Guiton, starting in place of the injured Braxton Miller, tied the program record with six touchdown passes, all of which came in the first half.

One Year Ago – 2017

In a court record filed Sept. 18, Ohio State asked a federal judge to dismiss a lawsuit started by Buckeye great Chris Spielman regarding image rights after the former linebacker from the 1980s alleged earlier in the year that Ohio State used athletes' images without consent.

The schools' filing claimed that federal courts did not have jurisdiction in regard to the complaint, adding that Spielman had not met the required legal burden for an antitrust lawsuit.

"(Spielman) has not alleged that he sought and was denied a trademark license from Ohio State or that he was in any way precluded from exercising his own intellectual property rights by Ohio State's contracts," said the university.

Spielman was asking for compensation above \$75,000, but he noted his plans to donate any money received back to the athletics department.

up, and Nittany Lion running back Miles Sanders stole the spotlight.

Taking over for Saquon Barkley this season, Sanders had yet to put together a complete performance in 2018, but he was the main reason the Nittany Lions were able to break the game wide open against the Illini in Champaign, Ill.

After Illinois took a brief 24-21 lead in the third quarter, Sanders answered with

a 48-yard touchdown scamper that all but ended Illinois' chances at a comeback. The junior finished with 200 yards rushing on 22 carries and found the end zone three times in the victory, as Penn State scored 42 unanswered points to thrash Illinois, 63-24.

Even Sanders' backup had a big night. Freshman Ricky Slade carried 10 times for 94 yards and a pair of scores, ripping off a

61-yard touchdown run in the second half. He plunged in from a yard out on the ensuing Penn State drive before third-string tailback Journey Brown capped the scoring with a short touchdown run of his own.

Quarterback Trace McSorley added 92 yards rushing on 15 attempts in the win and also completed 12 of 19 passes for 160 yards and three scores.

Purdue's Rondale Moore also had a big week, catching eight passes for 110 yards and two touchdowns in the Boilermaker's 30-13 upset win over No. 23 Boston College on Sept. 22.

Through four games, Moore leads the Big Ten in receptions (33) and receiving yards (372) and is tied for second in touchdown receptions with four.



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Wesson Developing Perimeter Shot For 2018

In the first year under Chris Holtmann, Ohio State had varying success from behind the three-point arc. Now the Buckeyes have lost two of their most productive shooters from the perimeter to graduation as both Keita Bates-Diop and Kam Williams have moved on, leaving C.J. Jackson as Ohio State's most productive returning shooter from three-point range. Jackson shot a consistent 37.9 percent from long range last year, but the rest of the returners on the roster leave much to be desired when it comes to expanding the floor.

COURT REPORT James Grega

Micah Potter, Andre Wesson, Kaleb Wesson, Kyle Young and Musa Jallow combined to shoot 26.3 percent (38 of 144) from behind the arc last season, a number that figures to improve for a group of young players. One of those players, though, is making it a point of emphasis to become a bigger threat from deep in 2018-19.

Kaleb Wesson, Ohio State's starting center, doesn't exactly look like someone who would strike fear into the hearts of an opponent from beyond the three-point line, but Holtmann wants him to do just that.

After attempting just 14 shots from beyond the arc last year, the younger Wesson brother is looking to expand his

game for two reasons, the first being to help the 2018-19 Buckeyes extend defenses.

"I am working mostly on my shot," Wesson said recently, "trying to expand the floor. The game is changing, so I am trying to change myself."

Which leads us into the second reason Wesson is trying to develop a more consistent jumper: His ultimate goal is to play in the NBA.

The majority of the Ohio State basketball team gathered to watch the NBA draft in late June, in anticipation of Bates-Diop getting selected. Their former teammate fell in the draft but was ultimately chosen by the Minnesota Timberwolves with the 48th overall pick in the second round. While Wesson was watching mainly to see where his former Buckeye teammate would land, he also took notice of the rest of the draft board and he noticed something that was troubling to him.

"You watched the draft, and guys like me weren't getting picked," he said. "I noticed I had to change myself or I wasn't going to be able to get there."

Early reports of Wesson's shooting stroke have come back positive. After returning from a trip to Spain in which Ohio State finished a perfect 3-0 in games against semi-professional opponents, Holtmann said that Wesson was perhaps the Buckeyes' most consistent threat from behind the arc.

"I think he was our most accurate guy from three," Holtmann said. "Collectively, our ability to shoot the ball this year could be a strength for us. Kaleb's ability to



KEVIN DYE

BIG WEAPON – Sophomore center Kaleb Wesson is expected to be one of Ohio State's main scoring threats in 2018-19.

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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

stretch the floor – I don't think he is going to be a high-volume guy, but I do think it is going to be important that he adds that element to his game and I could see him take two-to-three times as many as what he did last year."

In addition to his shooting, Wesson is also working to improve his perimeter defense. As a freshman, many teams would try to put him in switching situations, forcing him to play defense on the perimeter against shorter, faster guards and forwards. He said he has spent a lot of time with strength and conditioning coach Quadrian Banks to improve his footwork and quickness, in addition to his explosiveness in the paint.

"A lot of work with Coach Q, our strength and conditioning coach. A lot of squats, just working on my explosion," Wesson said. "It helps me tremendously as far as rebounding goes and just being able to carve out more space (in the paint)."

Lastly, Wesson has continued to cut weight in preparation to take on more minutes as a sophomore.

Wesson, who trimmed more than 60 pounds from his senior season at Westerville (Ohio) South to his freshman year at Ohio State, has set a goal of weighing 255 pounds by the time the ball is tipped Nov. 7 against Cincinnati. For reference, he said he finished the 2017-18 season weighing 289 pounds.

Wesson averaged just 20.7 minutes per game last season, the least of any Ohio State starter. Through the offseason, though, Holtmann said he has been pleased with the work ethic Wesson has shown to get himself in better shape for his second campaign in Columbus.

"He has been good with it," Holtmann said of improving his conditioning. "I think he understands how important it is. It will always be something that is important for him. He is a big guy, and that is something that a lot of big guys have to manage. I think his approach has been really good. We are going to need more from him in pretty much every area this year, as expected when you lose what we lost, and he returns as one of our leading scorers."

Holtmann In St. Louis

As the season begins to inch closer, Holtmann is getting a few last-minute visits in before he begins serious preparations for the 2018-19 season. According to multiple reports, Holtmann took to St. Louis to visit a pair of four-star prospects in the 2020 recruiting cycle.

Holtmann visited with 6-6, 180-pound small forward Cam'Ron Fletcher (Vashon High School) on Sept. 19 before also watching point guard Caleb Love (6-3, 170) from Christian Brothers High School. Both players are St. Louis natives and four-star prospects by 247Sports and the top two players in the state, with Love currently holding the top spot in the rankings.

Neither player has landed an offer from Ohio State, but both are ranked in the top 50 nationally by 247sports in the 2020 cycle.

After visiting St. Louis, Holtmann returned to the Buckeye State to visit with Zach Loveday, a 7-foot center out of Gallipolis, Ohio (Gallia Academy).

A four-star prospect, Loveday is rated by 247sports as the top player in the state

in the 2020 class and holds seven offers, including one from Ohio State which he received late October 2017 following an unofficial visit.

One day later, Holtmann was in for 2020 Ohio point guard Zeb Jackson out of Toledo (Maumee High School). Jackson, a four-star prospect and the second-best player in the state behind Loveday according to 247sports, is one of Ohio State's many point guard targets in the class. The Buckeyes have also expressed serious interest in Dominiq Penn, the son of former Buckeye great and current staffer Scoonie Penn. Dominiq is the No. 3 player in the state (Dublin Coffman High School) and a

three-star prospect but is not ranked nationally by 247Sports.

Holtmann and his staff are still awaiting a decision from Illinois standout EJ Liddell (Bellevue West High School), who is their top remaining target in the 2019 class. Should the Buckeyes land Liddell, who is also considering Missouri and Illinois, it would round out a recruiting class that would likely finish in the top-15 nationally as Liddell would join four-star Alonzo Gaffney (Brewster Academy, N.H.) and five-star DJ Carton (Bettendorf High School, Iowa).

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Ohio State Braces For 'Tough' 2018-19 Slate

Since head coach Kevin McGuff took over the women's basketball program at Ohio State in April 2013, the Buckeyes have usually opened the season against top competition. The slate for 2018-19, set to begin in a little over a month, is no different.

DOUBLE DRIBBLE Garrett Stepien

Now in his sixth year at the helm, McGuff is working with an overhauled roster and has a tough start to the season coming up. Ohio State has an exhibition Oct. 28 against Indiana University of Pennsylvania, a Division-II program, before the team has to switch gears for its nonconference schedule.

To start the 11-game nonleague slate, the Buckeyes host South Florida on Nov. 6 and

Detroit Mercy on Nov. 9 before traveling to Connecticut on Nov. 11, throwing the inexperienced players quickly into the fire.

OSU faces a run leading up to the Big Ten opener Dec. 28 at Purdue that McGuff knows will be a challenge. Despite eight of the 12 players currently on the roster being new additions, McGuff said he stands by the decision to schedule strong competition before the conference action takes off with the game against the Boilermakers.

"That's the thing is we kind of do have to get it together sooner than later because our schedule's tough," McGuff told BSB. "A more sane coach would have scheduled a little more differently, but it's tough. I just always believed in playing a tough nonconference schedule, and I just didn't want to get away from it (because of the new players)."



Kevin McGuff

Ohio State's influx of new players includes three freshmen and five graduate transfers giving the team almost an entirely new squad.

Ohio State had five seniors graduate, and fifth-year senior guard Sierra Calhoun transferred in August to Rutgers.

Freshmen additions Aaliyah Patty, Janai Crooms and Dorka Juhasz have impressed McGuff since the trio arrived to campus over the summer. Graduate transfers Carmen Grande, Ashanti Abshaw, Carly Santoro, Adreana Miller and Najah Queenland round out the group of newcomers.

With that blend of young talent and veteran experience, McGuff is ready to rev up the preseason workload with the practice set to resume in the last week of September.

"The other thing is that, as we continue to progress with the program, if you go totally against it and away from the schedule, then all of a sudden it just doesn't come back right away," McGuff said. "Then you're trying to start them all over again. So I said, 'Hey, we're just going to keep playing a pretty good, aggressive schedule and we'll kind of look at it like we always do because it's going to help us grow and get better and reveal where we need to improve and we'll take those lessons.' Hopefully, the growth that I know we'll need to have this year will accelerate because of it."

Details Set For OSU's Nonconference Slate

The Buckeyes start the regular season

Nov. 6 with their two-game homestand against South Florida at 7 p.m. on BTN Plus, with the same time and network Nov. 9 vs. Detroit Mercy before they close out the first week of action on the road Nov. 11 at Connecticut for a noon tipoff on CBS Sports Network.

In week two, OSU returns to action across the country at Sacramento State for an 11:30 p.m. ET start before they head to Stanford Nov. 18 for a 4 p.m. ET start. Ohio State comes back to Columbus on Dec. 2 for its in-state showdown against Cincinnati at 2 p.m. on BTN Plus. The Buckeyes kick back out to the West Coast for a clash with Washington on Dec. 5, which remained without a time or broadcast when BSB went to press.

After an 11-day layoff, OSU hosts Florida on Dec. 16 at 1 p.m. on BTN Plus. Ohio State then goes to West Palm Beach, Fla., for the West Palm Invitational featuring Virginia Tech on Dec. 20 and Butler on Dec. 21. Both games are set for 12:15 p.m. with kuseahawks.com to stream the action online.

OSU Picks Up 5-Star Commitment

McGuff won a much-needed recruiting battle when Ohio State secured a commitment from Canton (Ohio) McKinley five-star Kierstan Bell.

Bell (6-1) is rated by ESPN's 2019 HoopGurlz Recruiting Rankings as the No. 6 overall player and No. 2 guard in the nation. She joins Dublin (Ohio) Coffman five-star combo guard Jacy Sheldon, who committed Nov. 19 to Ohio State, and Indianapolis North

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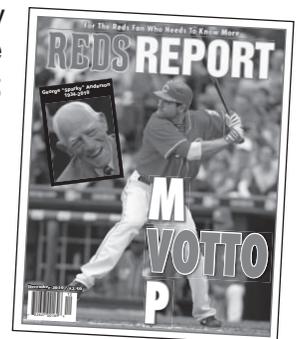
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OHIO STATE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Central five-star point guard Rikki Harris, who committed Dec. 17, as the third member of OSU's 2019 recruiting class.

In a January evaluation, Collegiate Girls Basketball Report owner and director Greg Olson – who prepares ESPN's 2019 HoopGurlz Recruiting Rankings – wrote of Bell, "Athletic off-guard with poised floor game; manufactures, delivers off the dribble; superb interior passer, court awareness, consistent offensive game to the arc; versatile in the back court, skilled guard, difference maker."

With Bell's pledge, Ohio State could be on the path to McGuff's best class since he became head coach. Bell gives the Buckeyes three top-50 commitments from ESPN's 2019 rankings, joining Sheldon (No. 41 overall, No. 10 guard) and Harris (No. 24 overall, No. 6 point guard). OSU also remains heavily in the mix for Columbus Africentric five-star Jordan Horston, the No. 2 overall prospect and No. 1 guard in the country.

Buckeye Sports Bulletin originally reported Bell's commitment on its BuckeyeSports.com website.

Smith Enters Naismith Hall Of Fame

Buckeye legend Katie Smith became engraved in basketball history Sept. 7 when the former Ohio State standout (1992-96) was inducted into the Naismith Hall of Fame at Springfield Symphony Hall in Massachusetts.

The lead-up to the ceremony, an honor that she was notified of on March 31, included her June 9 induction to the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame in Knoxville, Tenn.

When Smith spoke about the latest achievement, the speech started off where the journey began.

"In trying to capture my thoughts and

feelings at this moment, one word – exactly four letters – have stayed at the forefront of my mind," Smith said during her induction speech. "So rather than fight it, I decided to honor it. Those four letters are O, H, I, O. Ohio is my Buckeye State. I grew up here, went to school at The Ohio State University and I still reside there in the offseason. My family in Ohio has made me who I am."

The Logan, Ohio, native was a home-state hero throughout her career with the Buckeyes. Smith led OSU to a national runner-up finish in 1993 and earned Big Ten Player of the Year honors in 1996, scoring 2,578 career points – third in program history. In 2001, she went on to become the first female athlete at Ohio State to have her number retired.

Smith's professional career remains an ongoing journey. After her playing career started with the ABL's Columbus Quest from 1997-98, she starred in the WNBA from 1999-2013. As a seven-time All-Star (2000-2003, 2005, 2006, 2009), Smith won WNBA titles in 2006 and 2008 with the Detroit Shock with the latter resulting in her being named WNBA Finals MVP. She also won Olympic gold with Team USA in 2000, 2004 and 2008.

Smith recently closed her first season as head coach of the WNBA's New York Liberty. As her story continues, she has looked back on her time in Columbus fondly for how it shaped her on and off the court.

"To be a homegrown kid and continue to share this journey with those who knew me best – my love and gratitude knows no bounds," she said. "The support from the university has been steadfast. My love and gratitude is always going to be there. I'd specifically like to thank the athletic directors there at that time – Jim Jones, Andy Geiger and the trailblazing Phyllis Bailey."



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Countless Ohio State fans will be visiting Columbus this fall to watch their beloved Buckeyes attempt to march to another national title. To take the worry out of figuring out where to stay while you're in town, *Buckeye Sports Bulletin* offers the following suggestions.

- If you want to be in the center of the action in Columbus, stay at the **Courtyard Columbus Downtown**, located at 35 W. Spring St. in the heart of downtown Columbus and just minutes from Ohio Stadium. The Courtyard Columbus Downtown is within walking distance to multiple restaurants, bars, theaters, shops and other entertainment, including Nationwide Arena, the Ohio Statehouse, the Palace Theatre, Columbus Commons, the North Market and the Scioto Mile. Its location is central to all the Columbus hotspots, including German Village, the Brewery District, the Short North Arts District and campus.

The Courtyard Downtown features Courtyard Terrace outdoor seating and an on-site bistro serving Starbucks and offering breakfast and dinner options for purchase. Relax in the indoor saline pool or whirlpool, or enjoy the 24-hour fitness center. The Courtyard offers complimentary wireless

throughout the hotel, a 24-hour market and valet parking. Call (614) 228-3200 or visit www.marriott.com/cmhc for reservations.

- The newly renovated **Embassy Suites Columbus Dublin** is located at 5100 Upper Metro Place, just minutes away from Ohio Stadium, off I-270. Each guest room is a spacious two-room suite with separate living and bedroom areas. Enjoy a complimentary cooked-to-order breakfast, complimentary Wi-Fi and complimentary evening reception. Visit any one of the 150 restaurants within a five-mile area of the hotel and shop at Tuttle Crossing Mall. Call for reservations at (614) 790-9000 or (800) 220-9219.

- The **Embassy Suites by Hilton Columbus**, located at 2700 Corporate Exchange Drive on the north side of Columbus, is a great option for Buckeye fans. All rooms are spacious suites with a microwave, mini fridge, wet bar and sleeper sofas. Relax in the casual on-site bar and restaurant, The Exchange, or enjoy drinks and snacks in the open-air atrium during the complimentary evening reception. Buckeye fans will love the spectacular block O in the eight-story atrium.

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Suites Columbus is offering a 10 percent discount off the standard guest rate this season. Call (614) 890-8600 or visit www.columbusembassysuites.com.

- The **Fairfield Inn & Suites OSU** is one easy mile from Ohio Stadium and the Schottenstein Center, at 3031 Olentangy River Road. With 165 guest rooms, they have one that is just right for you. They have an indoor swimming pool and a business center for your convenience. Relax at the Fillmore Lounge Tuesday through Saturday and enjoy the exercise room every day. Internet is free. Breakfast is free and be sure to try one of their Tuxedo Muffins to start your day. Parking is free, and their shuttle is available Monday through Saturday within a five-mile radius of the hotel. Visit their website at www.marriott.com/CMHSU or call (614) 267-1111. Click or call today to reserve your stay.

- The **Hampton Inn Columbus-Airport**, located at 4280 International Gateway by John Glenn Columbus International Airport, is convenient to just about anywhere in Columbus. It's just minutes from downtown and offers easy access to campus. Every stay includes free Wi-Fi in each room, a free hot breakfast and complimentary access to the gym/fitness center. Unwind after a long day working or sightseeing with a few laps in the

outdoor pool or soothe tired muscles in the whirlpool. The Hampton Inn is so confident you'll love the facilities and service that if you're not 100 percent satisfied, you'll get your money back. Call (614) 235-0717 or visit www.columbusairport.hamptoninn.com to find out more.

- Meanwhile, the **Hampton Inn & Suites Downtown** is in the heart of Columbus' vibrant core at 501 N. High St. Located in the Arena District and just south of the Ohio State campus, the Hampton Inn & Suites is within walking distance of the Short North, and there is no shortage of activities nearby. Guests are greeted by a beautiful rotunda, and amenities include in-room coffeemakers, irons and high-speed Internet, as well as 24-hour coffee service and a hot breakfast.

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- For convenience and comfort, it's hard to beat the **Hampton Inn & Suites University Area**, located at 3160 Olentangy River Road less than a mile from OSU. Unwind in a comfortable guest room or suite equipped with complimentary Wi-Fi, a 40-inch HDTV, a large work space and refrigerator. You can start each day with a free hot breakfast buffet, featuring hearty oatmeal and fresh waffles, or grab a free "Hampton's On the Run Breakfast Bag." Energize yourself in the 24-hour fitness center, or take a dip in the indoor pool.

To reserve your room or find out more, visit www.columbusuniversityareasuites.hamptoninn.com or call (614) 268-8700.

- The **Hilton Garden Inn Columbus Airport** is located just 10 minutes from shopping, museums and theaters and provides easy access to Interstate 270 and Interstate 670. The hotel is only two minutes' drive from John Glenn Columbus International Airport and provides a complimentary airport shuttle service. The hotel provides on-site recreation such as swimming and a fitness center, and there's even more fun nearby. Basketball and tennis courts, a walking trail and a driving range are within a few miles of the hotel. It's just a short drive to downtown Columbus, where guests will enjoy entertainment, arts and dining, or to OSU for the big game. The Hilton Garden Inn features complimentary Wi-Fi and a 24-hour business center as well as a full-service restaurant on the property providing everything you need to make your stay successful.

The Hilton Garden Inn Columbus Airport is located at 4265 Sawyer Road near the airport. To find out more, visit www.columbusairport.stayhgi.com or call (614) 231-2869.

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• The **Residence Inn Columbus Worthington** at 7300 Huntington Park Drive

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The 136 suites offer separate areas for sleeping in airy beds and living areas with a new West Elm sleeper sofa with a twin trundle bed, work desk, ergonomic work chair, mini refrigerator and microwave, and the suite also features a 37-inch flat-screen TV with full cable. Free, hot buffet breakfast is included and the hotel has a full bar open from 5 p.m.-11 p.m., all days but Sunday.

Call for reservations at (614) 297-9912 or visit www.SpringHillSuitesOSU.com.

• The **Varsity Inn South** is also one of the closest hotels to the Horseshoe at 1445 Olentangy River Road and is adjacent to a Bob Evans restaurant. Plenty of other dining and shopping is within easy walking distance. Easily accessible from state Route 315, the hotel is just minutes from campus.

The Varsity Inn offers some guest rooms with microwaves and refrigerators. All guests can enjoy the in-room amenities such as high-speed wireless Internet, coffeemaker, ironing board and iron, and a work area with a desk and chair. For reservations, call (614) 291-2983 or visit www.varsityinn.com.

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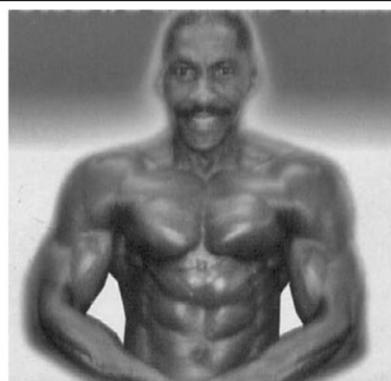


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Lee Leading Buckeyes Amid LPGA Attempt

By JOE DEMPSEY
Special To Buckeye Sports Bulletin

Jaclyn Lee is the No. 23 women's amateur golfer in the world. As her senior season at Ohio State ramps up, she is striving toward the top of the college ranks while competing for a future spot on the LPGA Tour.

If you had told Lee that she'd be in that position when she came to Ohio State, she might not have believed you. Despite becoming the youngest Alberta Ladies Amateur Championship winner ever as a 17-year-old in 2014, Lee was not ranked in the top 500 of the Women's Golf Coaches Association rankings.

However, Lee has been incredibly successful since arriving at Ohio State. She played a big role in the Buckeyes' winning the 2016 Big Ten championship as a freshman then earned All-Big Ten second-team honors as a sophomore before earning All-America second-team honors as a junior.

Therese Hession, the longtime head women's golf coach at Ohio State and current director of golf for both the men's and women's programs, says Lee's perfectionist tendencies prevent her from becoming complacent.

"I think she stays grounded because she just expects more out of herself," Hession said. "And as much as she's excited about

where she's gone and what she's done, she sees so much more for herself.

"Some kids, they kind of get satisfied with where they've improved to. And once she gets to where she wants to go, she always sets new goals and she's got more work to do. So you've got to love that – she's just a coach's dream to coach."

Lee's desire to get better fuels her work ethic, which has led to vast improvement, particularly with her short game. As a junior she shattered the school scoring record and ranked 11th nationally at 71.14, breaking Allison Hanna's previous mark of 72.58 set during the 2003-04 season.

In addition to working with Hession, who was an All-America golfer herself at Southern Methodist University, Lee attributes much of her improvement to her training with the Canadian National Team.

"Being a part of the Canadian National Team really helped me grow my game," the Calgary, Alberta, native said. "And to be on that team and represent Canada everywhere I go, even when I'm here competing for Ohio State, means a lot to me. I'm definitely proud of where I come from, and I want to represent them well."

Lee won her fourth Big Ten Golfer of the Week award for her dominant victories

in her two matches and her No. 1 finish in the stroke-play portion of the East & West Match Play at Radrick Farms Golf Club in Ann Arbor, Mich., on Sept. 16. She says she's honored by the recognition, just not satisfied.

"I think that you're really striving to do more and more," Lee said. "And so what you've done in the past is great, and when I look back on my season I accomplished a lot of great things, but there's also a lot I've yet to accomplish."

One thing Lee hasn't done yet is her ultimate goal of turning pro. The grueling LPGA Qualifying Tournament consists of three highly competitive stages, and the schedule conflicts with her life as a student-athlete.

Lee has already completed the first stage of the LPGA Qualifying Tournament in late August, but she had to miss the first two weeks of class. Missing class might not sound bad to some people, but as a two-time WGCA All-American Scholar studying finance, Lee takes her schoolwork seriously.

"Academics are the reason why I chose Ohio State in the first place, because I wanted a good balance between academics and athletics," Lee said. "I work hard in the classroom because my grades and my learning are really important to me."

Stage two of the LPGA Qualifying Tour will be from Oct. 13-18 in Venice, Fla., and only the top 25 finishers advance to the Final Stage. Unfortunately for Lee, she will miss even more class time while competing against some of the world's best. Despite missing so much school, Hession said Lee is still striving for at least a 3.8 GPA this semester.

In addition to missing class, Lee will miss a tournament with her teammates. Although she has personal obligations, she remains closely connected to her team and would love to once again win the Big Ten championship. Lee added that team success holds a special place in her heart.

Another thing Lee has yet to accomplish is reaching the pinnacle of collegiate golf by winning the NCAA championship. Last season, Lee went to the championship in Stillwater, Okla., without high expectations but found herself leading all golfers with three holes to go.

The final stretch did not go her way, but Lee said her fifth-place finish was better than she anticipated prior to the tournament. Her finish was the best in Ohio State history, but Lee's experience left her hungry for more.

"I think it's kind of my chip on my shoulder this year," Lee said. "I want to have redemption at that and put myself in a better position where I can win it. Having that experience, it's good to take in all the learning situations that you can out of that because it's going to help for the future."

"I didn't win that week but maybe what I learned is going to help me win it another week. Just taking what I learned last year and just building on my confidence that I can be in contention for the championship – that's probably what's going to be what drives me back there, to give myself another opportunity to hoist that trophy."

Lee doesn't look back at her recruitment or previous rankings in a negative light. Instead, she perceives everything she's gone through as part of her golf journey.

"I started late compared to a lot of my competitors, so I wasn't a super standout junior," Lee said. "I was good, but it's not like I was going to go pro right away and not go to college. I've just spent a lot of time trying to hone my game and hone my skills, and I think that with time it's really nice to see that hard work is paying off."

In order to better introduce BSB readers to Ohio State's Olympic sports teams and athletes, we have shifted to more feature-oriented coverage of the various squads. Buckeye Sports Bulletin will provide a round-up of all the games, matches and meets involving OSU's teams each Monday on our BuckeyeSports.com website, free to all print subscribers.



Jaclyn Lee

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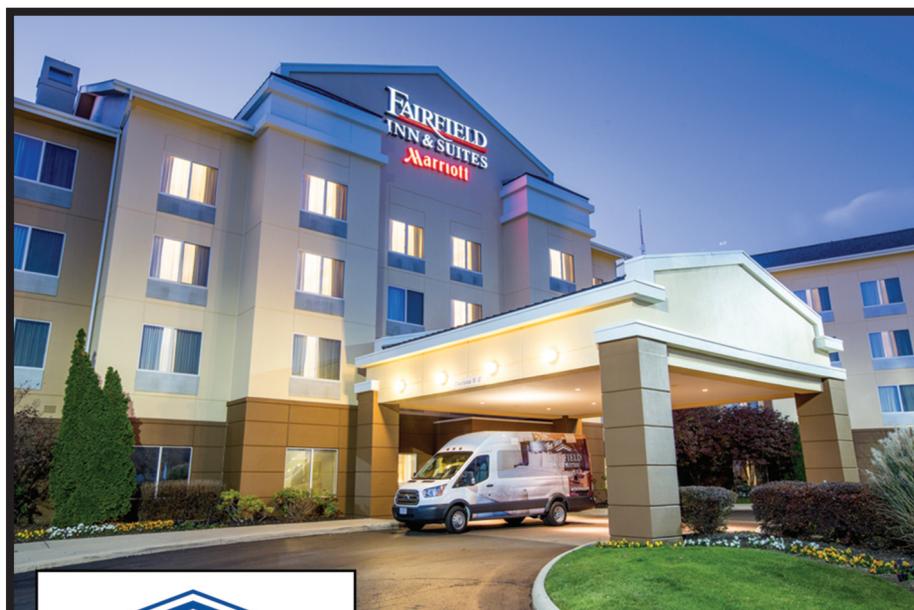
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BUCKEYE SCOREBOARD

FOOTBALL

(4-0, 1-0 BIG TEN)

Sept. 1 OREGON STATE, W 77-31; **8** RUTGERS, W 52-3; **15** vs. (15) TCU at Arlington, Texas, W 40-28; **22** TULANE, W 49-6; **29** at Penn State, 7:30 p.m.

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., Men: 8th/14; Women: 1st/19; **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

(5-5, 1-2 BIG TEN)

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** (6) PENN STATE, L 3-2; **16** MIAMI (OHIO), L 2-1; **21** at (3) Maryland, L 1-0; **23** at (17) Rutgers, W 4-3; **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., 4th/14 (881); **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 East & West Match Play at Ann Arbor,

Mich., Stroke Play: 4th/8 (585); **17** East & West Match Play at Ann Arbor, Mich., vs. UC Davis, L 3-2; **18** East & West Match Play at Ann Arbor, Mich., vs. Oregon State, W 3-2.

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

(1-5-2, 0-1-1 BIG TEN)

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, T 1-1 (2OT); **16** at Penn State, L 3-1; **21** NORTHWESTERN, T 0-0 (2OT); **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

(5-4, 2-1 BIG TEN)

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, L 4-0; **20** at Illinois, W 2-0; **23** at Northwestern, W 1-0 (OT); **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.

MEN'S ICE HOCKEY

Oct. 12-13 at Arizona State, 9:05 p.m.; 9:05 p.m.; **19-20** MASSACHUSETTS, TBA; TBA; **26** BOWLING GREEN, TBA; **27** at Bowling Green, 7:07 p.m.

Nov. 2-3 at Notre Dame, TBA; TBA; **9-10** at Colgate, 7 p.m.; 4 p.m.; **16-17** WISCONSIN, TBA; TBA; **23-24** PENN STATE, TBA; TBA; **30-Dec. 1** at Minnesota, TBA; TBA.

Dec. 28-29 MERCYHURST, TBA; TBA.

Jan. 4-5 at Michigan State, TBA; TBA; **11-12** MICHIGAN, TBA; TBA; **18-19** at Penn State, TBA; TBA.

Feb. 1-2 NOTRE DAME, TBA; TBA; **8-9** at

Wisconsin, TBA; TBA; **15-16** MINNESOTA, TBA; TBA; **22-23** at Michigan, TBA; TBA.

March 1-2 MICHIGAN STATE, TBA; TBA; **8-10** Big Ten Tournament First Round; **16** Big Ten Tournament Semifinals; **23** Big Ten Tournament Finals; **29-31** NCAA Regionals.

11/13 NCAA Frozen Four at Buffalo, N.Y.

WOMEN'S ICE HOCKEY

Sept. 28-29 at Quinnipiac, 6 p.m.; 2 p.m.

Oct. 5-6 COLGATE, 6:07 p.m.; 3:07 p.m.; **12-13** MINNESOTA STATE, 6:07 p.m.; 1:07 p.m.; **19-20** at Minnesota, 8:07 p.m.; 5:07 p.m.; **26-27** at St. Lawrence, 6 p.m.; 3 p.m.

Nov. 2-3 ST. CLOUD STATE, 6:07 p.m.; 3:07 p.m.; **9-10** at Bemidji State, 4:07 p.m.; 4:07 p.m.; **16-17** MINNESOTA DULUTH, 6:07 p.m.; 1:07 p.m.

Dec. 1-2 at Minnesota State, 7:07 p.m.; 3:07 p.m.; **15-16** MERCYHURST, 3:07 p.m.; 1:07 p.m.

Jan. 5-6 MINNESOTA WHITECAPS, 3:07 p.m.; 12:07 p.m.; **11-12** WISCONSIN, 6:07 p.m.; 3:07 p.m.; **18-19** at Minnesota Duluth, 8:07 p.m.; 5:07 p.m.; **25-26** at Minnesota, 6:07 p.m.; 3:07 p.m.

Feb. 1-2 at St. Cloud State, 4:07 p.m.; 4:07 p.m.; **8-9** BEMIDJI STATE, 6:07 p.m.; 3:07 p.m.; **22-23** at Wisconsin, 8:07 p.m.; 4:07 p.m.

March 1-3 WCHA Quarterfinals; **9-10** WCHA Final Faceoff at Minneapolis; **16** NCAA Quarterfinals; **22/24** NCAA Frozen Four at Hamden, Conn.

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

(10-4, 1-1 BIG TEN)

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 3-0; **8** vs. Missouri at Towson, Md., W 3-1; at Towson, W 3-0; **14** vs. Evansville at Dayton, W 3-1; **15** vs. Tennessee at Dayton, L 3-1; at Dayton, L 3-2; **19** at (6) Wisconsin, L 3-0; **22** (4) PENN STATE, W 3-1; **26** INDIANA, 7 p.m.; **29** at Maryland, 7 p.m.

Oct. 2 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.



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Buckeyes Got An Easy Win And Necessary Rest

The script couldn't have been written any better for the Buckeyes in the win over Tulane in Ohio Stadium.

COACH'S CORNER With Bill Conley

First of all, Ohio State was able to jump on the visitors quickly by scoring 42 points in the first two quarters. At the same time, the "Silver Bullet" defense gave up just six points and completely dominated the Green Wave from the outset. As a matter of fact, Tulane didn't top the 100 total yardage mark until their last offensive play of the first half.

Secondly, as early as the second quarter the Buckeye coaching staff started substituting second-teamers into the game. This was important because it enabled the younger players to get valuable game experience and allowed the first-teamers to stay fresh and healthy for next week's big game against Penn State. It was especially important to get backup quarterback Tate Martell playing time since he didn't get into the game against TCU last week and he needs as much work as possible in case Dwayne Haskins should ever go down with an injury. Right now there is a huge dropoff between the two quarterbacks even though Martell was extremely impressive against Rutgers earlier this year.

The Urban Effect

Urban Meyer returned to the sideline against Tulane. As expected, the team didn't miss a beat in the victory over the Green Wave as Coach Meyer picked up his first win of the season.

The primary reason the Buckeyes won has nothing to do with who was the head coach for that day but is that Ohio State has superior athletes who are bigger, faster and stronger than the opposition. It is also true that the Ohio State football program has developed a culture of success. That culture did not start under Urban Meyer's watch, but he has done an absolutely marvelous job of continuing and even building upon that tradition of success.

Three of the four wins this season have been over inferior teams, but the victory over TCU was a hard-fought contest against a nationally ranked foe with a ton of talented players. The Buckeyes, for the first time this season, had to come from behind and play for all four quarters. Some teams would never have been able to survive all the off-field chaos of the last six weeks and still play at such a high level. The Urban Meyer effect is ever present even when he is not physically there.

Urban Meyer has taken recruiting to a new level, and his teams are well-organized and competitive. He asks his players to be students of the game through intense film study and complete analysis of every team on the schedule. Players are expected to execute the fundamentals of the game to perfection along with going through one of the toughest and most complete strength and conditioning programs in all of college football.

Coach Meyer believes in developing the complete athlete both physically and mentally. That formula has brought not only success but consistency, which many college football programs lack. Ohio State has a proud legacy of head coaches such as Paul Brown, Earle Bruce, John Cooper, Jim Tressel and, of course, Woody Hayes. They all have left an undeniable imprint on the football program. They all were winners who were innovative, motivating and unique in their own ways.

Urban Meyer has earned the right to be mentioned along with other great Ohio State head coaches in terms of performance on the field, development of athletes, and overall success of the program. Even though he missed the first three games of the season, the Urban Meyer effect is current and it is real. So you see, Urban hadn't ever really left the sideline.

Defensive Line Still Solid

It's a rare occasion that a defensive lineman is the leader of the team in tackles. Nick Bosa was exactly that when he went out of the game in AT&T Stadium. The very best defensive player in college football is out indefinitely and there is no doubt his pass rush ability, physical presence and toughness, and on the field leadership will be sorely missed. He has been an absolute nightmare to opposing offenses and has attracted so much attention as "the guy you have to neutralize" that other teams have had to devise schemes to block him in order to protect their quarterback. This concern to stop Bosa has also allowed other Buckeye defensive linemen the chance to win one-on-one battles of their own up front.

The effect of Bosa's loss is yet to be determined, but one thing is for sure: His teammates have got to pick up the slack and play at a higher level each and every week.

The Buckeye defensive front played exceptional against Tulane, and the Ohio State coaches played at least nine different defensive linemen in the first half alone. The coaches obviously have trust in the talent level of the entire defensive front, and the continual rotation of fresh defenders helps wear down opposing offensive linemen. The depth of Ohio State at the defensive line position

gives the Buckeyes a chance to still be dominant even though their very best player is out.

Penn State Challenge

This year's game between Ohio State and Penn State looks to be a match between the Big Ten's two best teams. Both the Buckeyes and the Nittany Lions have explosive offenses and physical defenses.

The two best quarterbacks in the league, Dwayne Haskins and Trace McSorley, will lead their offensive units into battle. Both teams have exceptional offensive skill athletes and experienced offensive lines. Offensive production comparisons for 2018 are so close it is almost eerie. Ohio State averages 54.5 points per game while Penn State averages 55.5, which includes back-to-back 63-point performances.

The Buckeyes have the experience edge in terms of defensive returners. Appalachian State took the Nittany Lions to overtime, and Illinois played them close till the fourth quarter. With that being said, the Penn State defense has given up 78 points so far this season compared to Ohio State's 68 total points allowed.

The two teams have faced each other 24 times since Penn State entered the conference in 1993. Ohio State has won 16 games in the matchup while Penn State has been victorious eight times, but the Buckeyes and Nittany Lions have a 6-6 split in State College, Pa. Happy Valley is a tough place to play, and it is indeed a hostile environment. It's important for the Buckeyes to control the tempo of the game and not turn the football over, especially on our side of the 50. Special teams have to be sound and flawless in terms of execution. Usually the most physical defense wins the contest, but with the offensive talent that exists on both teams in 2018, this could turn out to be a high-scoring shootout between these two Big Ten East rivals.

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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Haskins Off To Dream Start As OSU's Quarterback

Dwayne Haskins is living a dream, and it's Ohio State fans who don't want to wake up.

The Buckeyes quarterback is playing with startling efficiency, tossing 16 touchdowns to just one interception through four games, and he's given the offense a jolt, a shot in the arm that it may have been missing the past few seasons.

THE FACTS MAN Mike Wachsman

Don't get me wrong – J.T. Barrett was an all-time great Ohio State quarterback and a consummate winner. He's someone who should be fondly remembered in Columbus.

But he could not do with his arm what Haskins can do with his, and it's given Ohio State another dimension – one that could only be counted on sporadically during Barrett's time under center.

"I just want to show how dangerous this offense is," Haskins said. "With me at the helm, a lot of plays can be made."

Haskins completed nearly 88 percent of his 24 passes against Tulane, and they weren't all of the dink-and-dunk variety, either. His 12.7 yards per attempt was his best of the season, and he was once again able to showcase not only his deep accuracy but his lightning-quick release on a couple of touchdown strikes.

There are things that need work – he has a tendency to weaken his stance when pressured. But that will come with more experience, no doubt. It's nitpicking, sure, but Haskins has been about as close to flawless as a coach could ask for.

And Buckeyes coach Urban Meyer has had some other excellent quarterbacks in the past, so when he doles out praise it is something to take to heart.

"I had Alex Smith at Utah and obviously when Cardale (Jones) got hot," Meyer said. "It's so early, though, I hate to put him in those – game five coming up. This one is a big one coming up, so I'm pleased with his performance. I remember when I watched him throw at one of his workouts, either right before we signed him or right after, and you could see he had that part of the game."

Haskins flashed a little bit of that last year when he saved Ohio State's season by engineering a second-half comeback over hated rival Michigan. His arm talent was still better than Barrett's, but he wasn't nearly as comfortable running the offense.

That's no longer an issue.

"He's getting the command of everything, and the players are just responding to him so he's playing very well," Meyer said.

Barrett made the Buckeyes a bit tougher to defend due to the always present quarterback run off RPOs, something that isn't happening this year with Haskins at the controls.

But while OSU may be just a tad easier to game-plan for, stopping the execution and precision that Haskins brings to the table is an entirely different concern.

Tulane wasn't able to do it, as Haskins registered the week's highest Total QBR, an ESPN metric that measures all facets of efficiency, not just the passing. It also shows just how much of the passing game the quarterback is responsible for (a short pass

taken the distance by a receiver would be downgraded, for example). After weeks in the top five, Haskins finally ascended to the top spot, with a 98.8.

Meyer believes teams are getting more of a read on the Buckeyes now that games are accumulating, and he saw some things that, going in, could have been worrisome.

"Today we were challenged. It was a lot of single coverage all over the place, and that touchdown to Parris Campbell over his left shoulder, what a beautiful throw and catch," the coach said. "But it is, as a defensive coach, when you are a dual-threat quarterback, that presents problems. If you don't have a dual-threat quarterback, you better be extremely accurate and make that be legitimate, or it's going to be hard to run the ball because they'll load the box on you."

You frequently see a video of a young Haskins – probably 8 or 9 years old – wearing a No. 7 jersey and white headband in the Ohio State locker room. You can hear a young Haskins being asked, "What do you think of this place?" and Haskins responding "It's great. I'm going to play quarterback here."

Man, is he ever playing quarterback.

The dream continues.

Rousing Ovation

It was never in doubt that Meyer would be welcomed back by Buckeye Nation, but the roar that went up as he led the Buckeyes out of the tunnel before the Tulane game was louder than usual.

For that, Meyer is thankful.

"This community and this school and this university mean the world to you," he explained. "The state, this is our home state. This is something that, you know, in 2012, when Gene made a call and asked me if I would be interested in coming back to Ohio State, and we were going through a tough time then as well, and we did. My family is completely ingrained in this community, they love this place, I love this university. Walking into that Skull Session and seeing Buckeye Nation's support, myself and our team that was somewhat overwhelming and I appreciate that. I'm very appreciative of it."

Next Men Up

It's never easy when you lose your team's best player – and make no mistake about it, Nick Bosa is Ohio State's best player. Heck, he's one of the top five players in all of college football, a guy that opposing coaches game plan for. That means he's special.

Bosa being sidelined is a blow for the Buckeyes, but not as bad as it could be. One big position of depth for OSU is the defensive line, which means that Chase Young will now have a chance to realize the potential he's had since arriving in Columbus last season. Opposite Jonathon Cooper, Young could really have a chance to flourish. Add in Tyreke Smith and other young players and it's apparent that the coaching staff isn't terribly worried about generating a pass rush.

The Buckeyes managed four sacks against Tulane – not a bad number considering the Green Wave attempted just 16 passes – as well as 14 tackles for loss. So the aggressiveness and production were still there, even without Bosa.

The next test will be a much bigger one as Ohio State heads to State College to take on the biggest threat to the Buckeyes' crown, Penn State. The Nittany Lions were

tabbed as overrated after eking out a week-one victory over Appalachian State but have since hit high gear and looked like the team many expected. This is why it's foolish to make assumptions/proclamations about teams after week one – because you often look ridiculous.

Penn State has a multipronged offensive attack, but it all begins and ends with quarterback Trace McSorley. If Ohio State can affect him, it should win the game with little difficulty. But if it cannot throw him off rhythm, if it allows him to get outside the pocket and extend plays, it could be a sad night in Happy Valley for the visitors.

With apologies to TCU – a team I think is actually quite good – Penn State is better than any opponent the Buckeyes have faced.

OSU has won four of the last five played at Penn State, but the last one is most vivid in the memories of Buckeye Nation – a 24-21 PSU victory thanks to two big special teams plays. Last year's game in Columbus was an instant classic, the Buckeyes erasing a double-digit second-half deficit to win 39-38. In fact, three of the last four games have been decided by seven points or less. This one has the makings of another thriller.

If Ohio State can crank up the pass rush in a hostile, raucous environment, it will win the game.

You have to believe Bosa would love to be out there. But that would be impossible, and unwise, too. Trying to push it now, to win one game, would be robbing Peter to pay Paul. The long-term implications would be too great, so the best move is to let Bosa heal and return for the latter part of the schedule.

Besides, after this game the Buckeyes shouldn't need him that much anyway.

Math Challenged?

Most people know that Ryan Day took over as acting head coach during Meyer's suspension and did a bang-up job.

He guided the Buckeyes to a 3-0 mark and did a great job of not panicking when the team was trailing against TCU. His calm, cool demeanor seemed to rub off on the

team, which had a huge second half and put away the Horned Frogs in pretty convincing fashion.

Meyer noted Day's contributions and made a statement that was right up my math-hating alley.

"I thanked Ryan Day, and presented him with the game ball afterwards," Meyer said. "3-0, pretty good record. I'm not sure of the exact winning percentage, but it's pretty high."

Buckeyes In The Mix

It's not a news flash that Alabama is the best team in America right now. The Crimson Tide is playing its typical brand of car-crash defense, but new this year is an offense that can go toe-to-toe with anyone. Tua Tagovailoa is one of the few quarterbacks playing at a higher level than Haskins, and he is presenting opponents with challenges that most Nick Saban-coached teams have not – a dynamic air attack.

That said, Ohio State is squarely in the mix for national title honors. At least in the mind of Tulane boss Willie Fritz.

"That's a team that may win the national championship this year," Fritz said after watching the Buckeyes dismantle his Green Wave. "I've played some pretty good teams in the past. That's the best team I've ever played. They are physically dominant. They have good size, length and speed. They play with a chip on their shoulder. They're not a dirty team in any way, shape or form. They just play tough. They are very impressive."

The Buckeyes would be in the top tier right now, along with Alabama, Georgia and maybe Clemson. The Tigers have stumbled a bit offensively but seemed to get right in a big win over Georgia Tech.

Teams that could have a say in how things finish include Oklahoma, West Virginia, Penn State, Washington, Stanford and maybe LSU, though I am not completely sold on the unbeaten but mostly inefficient Tigers. Offense is still a struggle for Joe Burrow's team – it's either big plays or punts, not a whole lot of solid drives. That's going to hurt against better teams.

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After Hour-Long Presser, Meyer Is Moving On

For the first time since his suspension was announced Aug. 22, Ohio State head coach Urban Meyer stood in front of assorted local and national media Sept. 17. And as soon as the press conference began, it was clear that Meyer was going to stand there and take every question thrown his way.

MOODY MUSINGS Tim Moody, Editor

That's exactly what he did, after a suspension that lasted all of August and into September, including the Buckeyes' first three games of the season. He answered questions about his conduct, he apologized for his mistakes, he praised Ryan Day, who served as acting head coach during Meyer's suspension, and he fiercely defended his own core values.

Amid a situation that was largely handled poorly from a PR standpoint, the final press conference couldn't have been handled better. And for that, Meyer deserves credit. Some expected him to show up and refuse to answer any non-football questions. Some expected him to mishandle the press conference – just as he had done in Chicago in July when he completely fumbled his appearance at Big Ten Media Days, which ultimately led to his suspension.

But he didn't. He answered questions. He accepted criticism. He apologized for what he did wrong and denied doing many other things he was accused of without proof. From where I sat – about five feet from Meyer at the time – he was honest, thorough and professional. It was the press conference that needed to happen – likely should have happened weeks earlier – and it brought to an end one of the biggest and most adverse stories in program history.

Then, on Saturday, Meyer returned to the sidelines, truly marking the end to what I'm sure he would describe as the low point in his coaching career. The low point in his life, really.

Since the controversy is seemingly over, I'll treat this as my last time writing in depth about what happened this fall – at least I hope so.

I've already written a lot. I won't go back and count the stories or the number of words, but my opinion has been clear. Meyer messed up and the suspension was warranted. But he didn't cover up domestic violence, and the punishment was certainly closer to being harsh than it was lenient. And he certainly never deserved to be fired, as so many people in the national media seem to believe for no apparent reason.

And Meyer needed to address what happened, and that's exactly what he did.

I was impressed by the press conference, and I was impressed to see him actually take every question thrown his way. I was also impressed that none of the questions were particularly unfair.

From a press conference that lasted nearly an hour, though, a few key points stood out to me.

Perhaps the tensest question asked came twice when Meyer was asked if he believed that Courtney Smith, the ex-wife of fired assistant coach Zach Smith, was a victim of domestic violence. It was her allegations that were at the epicenter of the investigation into Meyer. The coach didn't give a direct answer – which was the correct decision. This isn't about what he believes or about what anyone else believes.

"I can only go by what was told to me by law enforcement," Meyer said. "What I have learned is that, especially a situation as serious with law enforcement, you need to ask more questions.

"And I've always been kind of told not to. And I just think that after going through this that I need to ask more questions."

Meyer's probably right about that. He could have asked more questions. If he had, more of Zach Smith's transgressions likely would have surfaced – many of which Meyer didn't know about until the investigation was complete. If those had surfaced, he would have known that Zach Smith had no business being employed at Ohio State, and he would have made a move long before July 23. And Meyer never would have been suspended.

But he can't be expected to be an investigator. It is not and never should be a coach's job to get to the bottom of any such allegation – especially not when the police are involved. Maybe the police needed to do a better job. That's not on Meyer.

But Zach Smith's issues went far beyond

his marriage, and Meyer probably could have known more. What he did know should have been an indicator that he needed to ask more questions. I think Meyer gets that now – too late as far as Zach Smith is concerned, but he'll be able to handle similar situations better in the future.

It's hard to determine exactly what Meyer's mistake was in this case because it was a fluid situation over the course of many years. But he probably pinpointed it in his press conference, saying he chose to attempt to stabilize a situation rather than removing Zach Smith from the program. From what Meyer could see, that was the right choice. Looking back now, he was wrong.

"I learned a lesson, and that's how far do you go to try to help someone out," Meyer said. "To be honest, to this day, right now, I struggle with that. Because I've always gone on trying to go help someone who, especially the people in difficult situations – we have these family nights. I see children, beautiful kids (Zach Smith and Courtney Smith have two children). I see them around the office, I would say, once a week. And that's throughout the whole year. I encourage our families to be around here. I've seen Courtney many, many times over the years.

"And I start to see these families, and part of the obligation of a leader, especially the way we do it here, is you're obligated to ... do the right things, to follow the rules, to perform on the field so people don't lose jobs and families get uprooted.

"And that's the way my mind works. When I saw this situation, and once domestic violence was taken out of the equation, my mind-set was how do you help stabilize this situation?"

His first step was to help by keeping Zach Smith around, helping him and his family through everything that came their way. It turned out that Zach Smith probably couldn't be helped.

"We made a decision, and for many people out there that think that was a very wrong decision – I look back now with all the other decisions together, it was the wrong decision," Meyer said. "But what I knew at the time, I can tell you I thought we were doing the right thing at the time."

You can have it both ways. People have to accept that Meyer thought he did the right thing in 2015, even if he didn't. He knows that now. Everyone knows that now.

Now it will be up to Meyer and Ohio State to do a better job in the future, because they can't do anything about what has happened in the past.

Coach In Waiting?

Ohio State easily dispatched Tulane, 49-6, on Sept. 22, marking Meyer's first win of the season. The victory was expected – almost guaranteed – before the game even began, though.

A much more important win might be coming soon for Ohio State – and I'm not talking about the game against Penn State (which I do think the Buckeyes will win, for what it's worth).

After the Tulane game, a report by The Athletic's Ari Wasserman said that Ohio State was working on a deal to make Day the team's "coach in waiting," suggesting that he'll be sticking around in Columbus and, eventually, taking over for Meyer as the head coach.

I can't think of a better scenario for Ohio State, and the pros far outweigh the cons for Day as well.

A lot of people will wonder how long a coach like Day, who is going to be a hot commodity when head jobs open up this offseason, would be willing to wait. Well, if Ohio State pays him accordingly, I see no reason why Day – whose family, including a young son, has taken a liking to Columbus – would need to move on.

Sure, he'd have to turn down the chance to build his own program – but why take that risk? If Day left, even if it were for a top program like, say, USC, he'd be working with a program that has resources to be great, but he'd be building his way from the bottom up. He'd have to overhaul whatever the previous coach left behind, because the only reason one of those jobs would come open is if the program was floundering.

If Day stays in Columbus and waits patiently for Meyer to leave, though, he'd simply have to take the wheel of a Lamborghini of a program. Everything is already in place, and Day would be all but guaranteed a long, successful career as a head coach. There would be very few question marks to worry about.

As things stand now, I do expect Day to stick around in Columbus. He likes the city, he's adored by the fan base, and he's in line to be the next head coach of one of the nation's top two programs.

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Buckeyes Doing Just Fine Without A Running QB

Urban Meyer returned to the Ohio State sideline against Tulane on Sept. 22, and the result for the Buckeyes was little different than it had been the previous three weeks in Meyer's absence. Ohio State jumped out to a 42-6 lead by the half, forcing Meyer to make perhaps his first major decision since his return, electing to pull the starters for the second 30 minutes and protect them for the upcoming battle with Penn State, the biggest game so far in 2018.

While the team and Buckeye Nation seemed thrilled that their leader was back, there may have been a silver lining to his absence for the first three weeks.

His suspension may have allowed the more wide-open offense of acting head coach Ryan Day and offensive coordinator Kevin Wilson to take hold. The duo allowed first-year starting quarterback Dwayne Haskins do what he does best, and Meyer had to be impressed with the results from both the signal caller and the offense.

Meyer is smart enough to know that if it ain't broke, don't fix it. But he tipped his hand as to what his preference for a quarterback might be when he said after the Tulane game, "When you are a dual-threat quarterback, that presents problems. If you don't have a dual-threat quarterback, you better be extremely accurate and make that be legitimate, or it's going to be hard to run the ball because they'll load the box on you."

Wilson and Day did not attempt to pound a square Haskins into Meyer's round quarterback hole, and the sophomore has responded as Meyer required, being "extremely accurate," as evidenced by his 75.7 passing percentage after four games.

Despite Haskins carrying the ball only 10 times through the first four games and the QBs rushing just 28 times total, the Buckeyes have averaged 233.2 yards per game on the ground thus far. Last year, with the dual-threat J.T. Barrett at the controls, Ohio State averaged 229.8 yards rushing yards through the first four games with Barrett carrying 43 times for 174 yards.

Meanwhile, Haskins and Tate Martell have racked up an average of 365.8 yards passing per game so far, as compared to 319.3 yards at the same point last year, leaving the offense, at least on paper, more efficient in 2018 with a primarily passing quarterback at the helm.

One of the things that really impressed me in the win over Tulane was the pass protection provided by Ohio State's offensive line. It would be hard for any defense, including Penn State's, to stop Haskins and the Buckeye aerial attack if the big men give him that kind of time to survey the field and then use his quick and accurate release.

But it's not just the offensive line that has allowed Ohio State and Haskins to mount such a dynamic attack through the air. The Buckeyes feature a receiving corps that is virtually identical to the one from last year that more closely resembled the "clown show" present upon Meyer's arrival in 2012 than the aerial circus of 2018. And it's not just one or two receivers who have stepped up their game, it's virtually everyone. It seems like it's a different combination of Buckeye receivers that steps up each week.

Five different Buckeye receivers have nine receptions or more so far this season, led by K.J. Hill with 21 catches, as opposed to just three with that many at this time last year. Parris Campbell has five TD catches, Terry McLaurin four and Johnnie Dixon two in 2018, while Campbell, McLaurin, Dixon and Binjimen Victor led the Buckeyes with just two each after four games last season.

Except for the brief blip by Austin Mack –

THE VIEW FROM 15TH & HIGH Frank Moskowitz, Publisher

who still has 15 catches for 205 yards – when he dropped several passes against TCU, the receivers have been brilliant this year after toiling under blanket coverage for most of last season.

One is left asking if it's the passing of Haskins, the play-calling of Wilson/Day or the coaching of interim receivers mentor Brian Hartline that has made the difference. I suspect it is some combination of all three.

One thing I would like to see against Penn State and beyond would be more use of the tight ends. So far, there have been just four completions to that position group.

With Haskins having already been battle-tested on the road at Michigan last year and under the big lights against TCU in Ohio State's impressive, 40-28 victory against the Horned Frogs on Sept. 15, I see no reason for the Buckeye offense to falter against the Nittany Lions. PSU has played a fairly weak schedule so far, with wins over Appalachian State, Pittsburgh, Kent State and Illinois, a game in which the Lions trailed in the second half before roaring back for a 63-24 victory.

Many Buckeye fans worry about Ohio State's defense, but Penn State's defense has struggled as well, yielding 345.8 yards to opponents, including 172.5 on the ground, as opposed to 323.2 by the Buckeye defense.

"I don't think we're in a situation where we have 11 guys that we know on defense right now, especially at the linebacker position," PSU coach James Franklin said. "We have starters and we have guys that we're rotating in, but I don't know if anybody has separated themselves from the pack, and I think that's probably some of our challenges there. Having a guy that you know is running the defense and can be an eraser for you in terms of making plays, we're not there yet."

With all due respect to Penn State quarterback Trace McSorley, if the game turns into a shootout – which it might – I'll put my money on Haskins and the Buckeyes.

One thing to watch for that might trip up the Buckeyes is if they continue to rack up the penalties.

Ohio State was flagged 10 times for 89 yards against Tulane, and the Green Wave's only touchdown was aided by two Buckeye fouls, including one that negated a Jeffrey Okudah interception. The Buckeyes are averaging eight penalties a game. But Penn State has not been immune to the same problem. The Lions committed eight penalties against the Illini for 72 yards.

I love big football games. Bring on the Nittany Lions.

Bosa Vs. Bosa

We tend to remember that which we have seen most recently. After watching Nick Bosa get off to his flashy start this season before going down with an injury in week three against TCU, the prevailing wisdom was that he might be even better than his college and pro star brother, Joey.

The elder Bosa actually entered his junior season with better stats than his brother brought into the 2018 season.

Nick had 29 tackles in his solid freshman campaign of 2016 with seven tackles for loss good for 36 yards and five sacks for 32 yards and three quarterback hurries.

Despite playing in a rotation, Nick had a

breakout sophomore season last year with 16 TFLs for 74 yards and 8½ sacks for 61 yards among his 34 stops. He added a forced fumble and nine hurries.

That gave him two-year totals of 63 stops with 23 TFLs for 110 yards and 13½ sacks for 93 yards and 12 hurries.

Joey got off to a faster start than his younger brother. He had 44 stops his freshman year of 2013 with 13½ tackles for loss for 71 yards and 7½ sacks for 58 yards. He also had six QB hurries and recovered a fumble.

I think people forget what a monster year Joey had as a sophomore.

He had only a modest increase in his tackle total to 55, but he had 21 TFLs for 116 yards and 13½ sacks for 96 yards. He also forced four fumbles, recovered one and hurried the quarterback four times. Keep in mind that the Buckeyes played 15 games that season, but Joey was a huge factor in Ohio State winning the national championship with all those stops and negative plays.

Joey's two-year totals exceeded Nick's, with 99 total stops, 34½ TFLs for 187 yards, 21 sacks for 154 yards, four forced fumbles and a recovery, though he had only 10 hurries.

The elder Bosa's numbers dropped off a bit in his third and final year as he, in effect, played just 11 games after being tossed early in the Fiesta Bowl and suspended for the season opener at Virginia Tech, and he also was a primary focus of opposing defenses, as both Bosas have been since early in their freshman years. Joey had 51 tackles, 16 TFLs for 60 yards, five sacks for 23 yards, a forced fumble and an interception. He did have 14 hurries, which would seem to indicate he was falling just short of the sack after fighting through double-teams.

Barring a miracle recovery from his recent surgery, Nick's numbers will most likely also be down in his third and probably last season at OSU.

I think one reason Nick has captured the fancy of Buckeye fans is his flair for the high-light-reel play, but Joey had his share of those too. Who can forget his signature play, the game-ending stop against Penn State in the '14 championship year, where he drove a hapless Nittany Lion running back into quarterback Christian Hackenberg for an 8-yard sack to end the 31-24 Buckeye victory in double overtime?

Or what about the play that ended his college career? With the Buckeyes, leading 14-0, primed to turn their Fiesta Bowl game with Notre Dame into a blowout in just the first quarter, he came crashing in on quarterback DeShone Kizer, forcing what appeared to be an Ohio State interception. Bosa was called for targeting on the hit and was thrown out of the game.

"Just a few short years ago Bosa and the Buckeye defense would have been lauded for a spectacular defensive play," I said in this space in the Jan 16, 2016, BSB, lamenting the targeting rule. "Instead Bosa's college football career was over and he made the highlight reels for the wrong reasons."

I'm not suggesting that Joey is better than Nick or vice versa. I'm suggesting that Ohio State and Buckeye fans have been blessed with an incredible six-year run of Bosas, two truly remarkable football players.

The only way that the run could be better is

if Nick returns this season and equals his older brother in the feat that matters most – a national championship.

A Picture's Worth 1,000 Words

I hope you enjoyed our feature on Greg Frey as part of our ongoing look at Ohio State quarterbacks that ran in last week's issue of BSB. To complement the article, we ran reprints covering some of Frey's more significant games at OSU on BuckeyeSports.com. Included were stories from the LSU game in 1988, which Frey helped win with a last-minute TD toss, and the 1989 Minnesota game, in which he engineered a record-breaking comeback for a Buckeye victory.

Also chronicled was the 1990 Michigan game, a loss best remembered for Frey being stopped on an ill-fated fourth-down option call late in the game, setting up the Wolverines' winning field goal.

I wanted to make sure BSB readers saw the picture that ran on the cover of the Nov. 30, 1990, issue of Buckeye Sports Bulletin. It is one of the better pictures we have ever run. In the photo of the crucial fourth-down play, taken by Tim Carson, Frey is surrounded by a horde of Michigan players with only one Buckeye far in the background. Take special note of the Michigan player on the ground holding Frey's legs.

If this picture is any indication, Frey never had a chance to convert the first down on this play.

To view the Frey reprints on BuckeyeSports.com, free to all BSB subscribers, click on the "BSB Online" tab at the top of the home page, and when the menu drops down, click on "Reprints." Remember, Thursday is Reprint Day at BuckeyeSports.com, when we post interesting or relevant stories from the pages of Buckeye Sports Bulletin.

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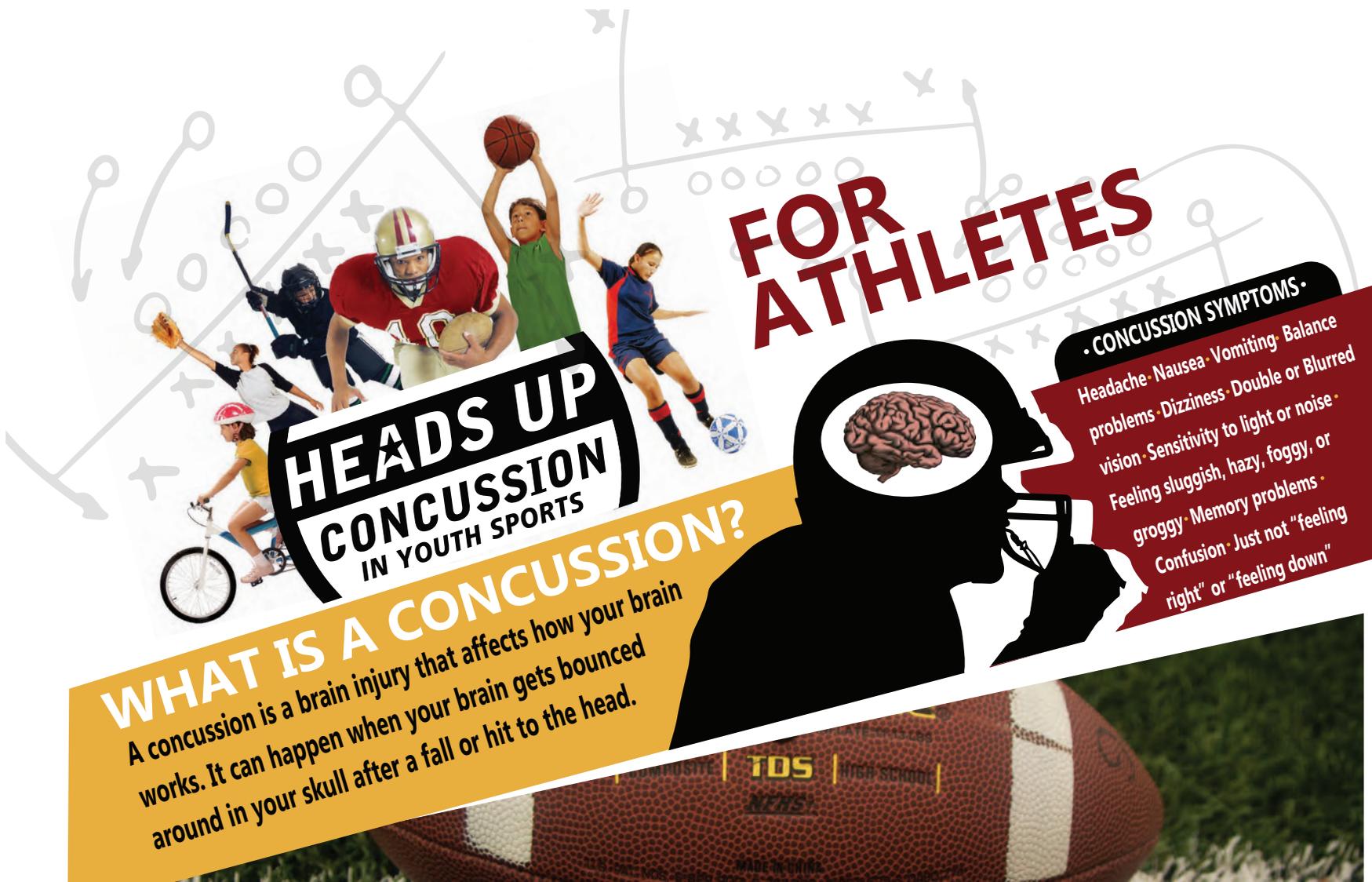
As mentioned elsewhere in this issue, many Buckeye Sports Bulletin readers have been experiencing postal delays this football season. I am working, I admit sometimes futilely, with our postmaster to improve this situation and will continue to do so. I want to assure BSB readers that the paper is printed and mailed at the same time each week, including the weekend of Labor Day.

One way to make your delivery more consistent is to upgrade your service to first-class mail in an envelope for just \$20 through the end of football season and \$30 through the end of football recruiting season. Give us a call at (614) 486-2202 and we will upgrade your service immediately. You may also send your check or money order to P.O. Box 12453, Columbus, Ohio, 43212.

Additionally, don't forget that the entire Buckeye Sports Bulletin is posted online each Monday on BuckeyeSports.com. By accessing BuckeyeSports.com you can not only check up on the current issue of BSB – as well as archived issues – while you wait for your paper to arrive in your mailbox, but you will also enjoy many stories throughout the week that are not included in your print issue, including the reprints, as well as the latest in recruiting news.

We also encourage readers to participate in the BuckeyeSports.com Forum, where you can interact with the BSB staff as well as your fellow subscribers. Readers from around the state and country often post news tidbits that even the BSB staff is not aware of.

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 - Confusion
 - Just not "feeling right" or "feeling down"

WHAT IS A CONCUSSION?

A concussion is a brain injury that affects how your brain works. It can happen when your brain gets bounced around in your skull after a fall or hit to the head.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I THINK I HAVE A CONCUSSION?

REPORT IT. Tell your coach, parent, and athletic trainer if you think you or one of your teammates may have a concussion. It's up to you to report your symptoms. Your coach and team are relying on you. Plus, you won't play your best if you are not feeling well.

GET CHECKED OUT. If you think you have a concussion, do not return to play on the day of the injury. Only a health care provider can tell if you have a concussion and when it is OK to return to school and play. The sooner you get checked out, the sooner you may be able to safely return to play.

GIVE YOUR BRAIN TIME TO HEAL. A concussion can make everyday activities, such as going to school, harder. You may need extra help getting back to your normal activities. Be sure to update your parents and doctor about how you are feeling.

WHY SHOULD I TELL MY COACH & PARENTS ABOUT MY SYMPTOMS?

Playing or practicing with a concussion is dangerous and can lead to a longer recovery.

While your brain is still healing, you are much more likely to have another concussion. This can put you at risk for a more serious injury to your brain and can even be fatal.

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