

BUCKEYE SPORTS BULLETIN

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Vol. 38, No. 8

"For The Buckeye Fan Who Needs To Know More"

Nov. 3, 2018

Off Track

Shortcomings 'Exposed' In Loss To Boilermakers

By TIM MOODY
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

Ohio State had a perfect record, a No. 2 ranking and a Heisman Trophy candidate at quarterback, but the Buckeyes already knew things weren't perfect.

For weeks leading into an Oct. 20 road game at Purdue, Ohio State's rush offense had been floundering, the team had struggled to score in the red zone and the defense seemingly gave up big play after big play while committing costly penalties at inopportune times. Those problems had been identified, and the coaching staff had insisted that they would be emphasized until they were fixed.

As soon as the Ross-Ade Stadium clock struck zero, though, the black-clad fans stormed the field and the visitors were sent packing with a 49-20 loss and more questions than answers. The issues were the same as they had been for weeks – except they might have been even worse.

Ohio State (7-1, 4-1) rushed for just 76 yards on 25 carries (3.0-yard average) against the Boilermakers while scoring points just twice in five red-zone tries – two field goals, zero touchdowns.

On defense, the Buckeyes struggled to contain Purdue's big-play threats. Freshman wide receiver Rondale Moore caught 12 passes for 170 yards while running back D.J. Knox ran 16 times for 128 yards. As the game completely unraveled in the fourth quarter, Purdue (4-3,



SONNY BROCKWAY

FALLING SHORT – Ohio State sophomore tight end Luke Farrell (89) had four catches for 24 yards, but the Buckeye offense failed to find the end zone until the fourth quarter against Purdue.

3-1) posted offensive touchdowns of 42, 40 and 43 yards to go with a 41-yard interception return for a score – all in the final frame.

The Buckeyes, one of the most penalized teams around, were undisciplined once again as well, with fouls coming at key moments in the game. Perhaps the worst of those mistakes came in the third quarter with Ohio State trailing, 14-6. The Buckeyes had seemingly gotten a stop when Purdue lined up to punt on fourth-and-3, but Joe Schopper was roughed by junior defensive tackle Davon Hamilton, giving the Boilermakers new life. Four plays later, Knox scored to put the Buckeyes down by 15. Purdue's next touchdown came by way of penalty, too, when on third-and-11 early in the fourth quarter junior defensive tackle Dre'Mont Jones roughed Purdue quarterback David Blough to negate an incompletion and extend a drive that ended with Knox's 42-yard scoring scamper.

Zero touchdowns in the red zone. A running game that

could never get on track. A defense that couldn't prevent big plays. Penalties that turned into touchdowns. That was the story for Ohio State on Oct. 20 in West Lafayette, Ind.

"The glaring shortcomings we have ... were exposed," head coach Urban Meyer said after the game. "The No. 1 (issue) off the top of my head is our red-zone offense. You go down there three times – two field goals, one missed field goal. You've got to score points. We've never had this issue, so we're going to get a real thorough evaluation of that and the big plays on defense."

With the offense stagnant from a scoring standpoint and unable to run the ball – and the defense struggling to make stops – Ohio State ended up reverting to throwing the ball more than ever before. In fact, out of the positives the Buckeyes had going in – that undefeated record, the No. 2 ranking and the Heisman-candidate

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FAN FORUM

Buckeye Leaves

BSB's full-service website, BuckeyeSports.com, has 24/7 updates regarding all things Ohio State, including an active Forum where subscribers can chat with BSB staff members and other fans. The Forum also features a live thread during every Ohio State game where staffers and subscribers can share their thoughts, opinions and analysis. We'll also be handing out Buckeye Leaves after every game for standout performers – win or lose – 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 was upset by Purdue, 49-20.

James Grega: No one really deserves a Buckeye Leaf after that debacle, much like no one deserved it after the 55-24 loss to Iowa last season. However, I will go with the Ohio State wide receiver group as a whole.

With the running game completely inept, the Buckeyes were forced to throw the ball on nearly every down, and for the most part, Ohio State's wide receivers did what they could to keep the Buckeyes in the game.

Nine different players caught two or more passes, and there weren't many drops to go around. Ohio State should never have to throw the ball 70-plus times in any game, but it did against Purdue and Brian Hartline's group was about the only one that played up to its expectations.

Tim Moody: Even in losses, somebody always stands out. Yes, even in 29-point losses to Purdue.

On Saturday night in Indiana, Indianapolis native Terry McLaurin was that guy for the Buckeyes. He finished the game with five receptions for 66 yards and a touchdown, catching the ball on every target except for one. His most outstanding play came on special teams, though, when McLaurin made an acrobatic effort to down a Drue Chrisman punt at the 2-yard line.

It wasn't enough – one guy can't do it all – but McLaurin was Ohio State's best player against the Boilermakers. For that, he gets a Buckeye Leaf.

Garrett Stepien: Dwayne Haskins set a school-record with 470 passing yards, but his performance was nowhere near historic as he went 49 of 73 for two touchdowns and a pick-six in an embarrassing loss.

Junior H-back K.J. Hill followed up a career-high nine receptions for 187 yards and two touchdowns on Oct. 13 against Minnesota with another game over the century mark at Purdue, tying his personal-best nine catches while totaling 105 yards (11.7 average) with a long of 33.

Before the Boilermakers blew the doors off the Buckeyes in the fourth quarter, Hill gave the offense life with meaningful conversions on several Ohio State drives when things were still close.

Frank Moskowitz: I feel like you have to choose somebody, and I'm going with tight end Luke Farrell. He's getting more involved each week, and his catch and churning run for a first down and a few yards more early in the third quarter when the game was still being contested showed that he was giving maximum effort. He finished with four catches.

I also think a popular defensive scapegoat, Isaiah Pryor, is playing better.

Mark Rea: Buckeye Leaves? Really? None for this game. In fact, some players ought to have a couple removed from their helmets.

BSB Subscribers

I agree with Mark – I'm embarrassed. Our playoff chances are shot and this is back-to-back years we blow it against a team worse than us.

– **Tiffin Buckeye**

I will pass as well. Embarrassing coaching, effort, game plan, etc. This team is really only Haskins. This coaching staff has not fixed one issue all week. Mr. Bill Davis, no we are not getting closer. Kirk Herbstreit was on point – we don't have a good scheme and no effort.

– **Blufftonbuck**

Jeffrey Okudah. Even in a loss, individual strong efforts need to be recognized. I saw him shedding strong blocks and effectively tackling the ball carrier several times, particularly early in the game after missed tackles by others. He is going to be a great one next year.

– **AnthonyBuckeye**

Nobody.

– **mrbigbux**

Nick Bosa, because if he had been playing, we would have won.

– **PeyoteBuck**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Help Is On The Way

My name is Dave. I went to Eastmoor High School and Ohio State in the same time frame as No. 45, a guy named Archie. Although I graduated academically, I still have four years of athletic eligibility left. Despite being 66 and having undergone multiple knee surgeries, I have maintained my blazing closing speed with my 7.75 40-yard dash. I am available for immediate help at linebacker and safety and can provide my own transportation, lodging and food – no scholarship required.

Please advise.

Dave Borror

Merritt Island, Fla.

A QB Great

One of OSU's greatest quarterbacks has been ignored by BSB readers and voters. In 1954, Dave Leggett beat out John Borton for the quarterback job. Borton was a team captain and a potential All-American.

All that Leggett did was lead OSU to an undefeated 10-0 season, a Big Ten championship, a Rose Bowl victory where he was named the MVP of the game and then they were voted national champions for just the second time. The 10-win season was the first time an OSU team had won that many games ever.

Historians agree that the 1954 team saved Woody Hayes' job. Leggett's only problem? He played 64 years ago.

Jack Levensgood

New Philadelphia, Ohio

Issues To Address

Are the Buckeyes working so hard on improving during the week that they are flat on game day? Is there a different culture, mood or pressure since Urban Meyer is back and Ryan Day does not direct the ship?

I am glad Coach Meyer is back. Hopefully he will address these possible issues.

Paul Rehder

Camarillo, Calif.

Meyer Is Done

Thank you Urban Meyer for our national championship! If you can't beat Iowa and Purdue, it is time for you to go!

Four trips into the red zone (Editor's note: actually five) resulting in six points – the game has clearly passed you by. Ryan Day had this team running smoothly.

Pence Roth

Bradenton, Fla.

No Progress Made

One would expect a team to progress as the season moves along, but this year's Buckeyes have regressed – to say the least – week by week. The defense for the most part, but after Purdue now the same can be said about the offense. I guess you can't be a one-dimensional team – offense only. It had to catch up to them eventually.

How many times did announcers say the linebackers were nowhere near the play? This year's defensive backs and linebackers may be the worst ever. No. 59 (Isaiah Prince) did not disappoint – two more false starts along with the rest of the team committing penalties. More dropped passes.

I could be wrong, but you've got to put much of the blame on the coaching. These are blue-chip recruits.

Rich Foust

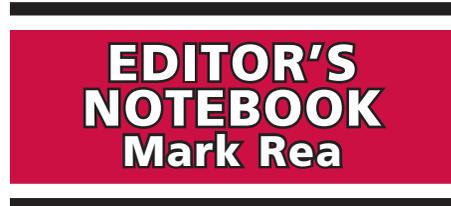
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Buckeyes Are Moving In The Wrong Direction

downs, including runs of 42 and 40 yards in the fourth quarter, late-game backbreakers when the Buckeyes still entertained notions of a comeback.



Again, if you had been watching Ohio State throughout the month of October, the fact that Purdue was able to move the football and score points against the OSU defense wasn't much of a surprise. But what has happened to the once-freewheeling Ohio State offense is more of a head-scratcher.

With cannon-armed accuracy from the quarterback position, a stable of speedy, sure-handed receivers and a pair of 1,000-yard running backs, this was supposed to be the most explosive offense in Ohio State history. Instead, it has become a one-dimensional attack reminiscent of the arena league where teams desperately try to score as many points as possible because they know their defense has no chance to stop the opposing offense.

For everyone who shook their fist at the boring efficiency of Tresselball, hoping for a pinball-machine offense that lit up the scoreboard, congratulations. You got your wish. I just hope you're happy with a style of play that is not only proving to be the antithesis of the foundation on which the tradition of Ohio State football was built, it's quickly proving that it's not winning football.

OSU quarterback Dwayne Haskins shattered his team's single-game records for completions (49), attempts (72) and yardage (470), but those numbers meant very little because his offense has become so predictable.

The Buckeyes have devolved into a team whose once-proud running game appears now to be an afterthought. OSU rushed a season-low 25 times for an Urban Meyer era-low 76 yards, and you have to go all the way back to the disastrous 2011 season to find a more anemic output – just 35 yards during a 10-7 loss to Michigan State.

Not that execution of either the offensive or defensive game plan – or special teams, for that matter – was anything close to stellar.

Rather than firing out of the visiting locker room like you would think the No. 2 team in the nation would do, the Buckeyes once again appeared to believe playing a nighttime road game against a lesser-talented opponent was beneath them. Their initial offensive series featured a false-start penalty before the first snap, a portent of what was to come. The second play featured an illegal formation that was declined.

Ohio State committed 10 penalties worth 86 yards, but it wasn't just the infractions that hurt. It was when the Buckeyes chose to commit those penalties, such as a reckless roughing-the-punter that led to Purdue's third touchdown. Or an equally dunder-headed roughing penalty committed against Blough on a third-and-11 play early in the fourth quarter that kept a possession alive and allowed the Boilermakers to eventually push their lead to 28-6.

To be blunt, Ohio State did not play against Purdue like the second-best team in college football, and the Buckeyes have not played to the level of their own talent in quite some time.

And I'm not just talking about this year. The

29-point loss to the Boilermakers continued a disturbing trend for this program in that the most recent losses have been blowouts – 49-20 to unranked Purdue, 55-24 to unranked Iowa and 31-16 to fifth-ranked Oklahoma last year, and 31-0 to No. 2 Clemson in the 2017 Orange Bowl. In those four losses, the Buckeyes have been outscored by a 166-60 margin, and that computes to being beaten by an average of about four touchdowns per game.

Conversely, Alabama's most recent four losses – each to ranked teams, I might add – have been by an average of 9.8 points. The Crimson Tide hasn't lost to an unranked conference opponent since 2007 – Nick Saban's first year in Tuscaloosa.

I don't know what the problem is, but I do know that after the game at Purdue, Meyer admitted that his team's "glaring shortcomings ... were exposed" before adding at least four times that he and his coaching staff would "get it fixed."

I guess my question would be why did it take a nationally-televised embarrassment to expose to the coaching staff the glaring shortcomings the rest of us have been seeing for the last month?

A Business Decision

If you haven't figured it out by now, college football is a business. A big business. A great, big, multibillion-dollar business.

If it weren't, Saban wouldn't have received a \$74 million contract extension last summer, the College Football Playoff and its associated bowls couldn't dole out more than \$460 million to conferences each winter, and the Big Ten would have to get by without the six-year TV deal it signed last year worth a reported \$2.6 billion.

Is it any wonder, then, why college football players – the unpaid laborers forced to tread water in this ocean of cash – are increasingly flexing their leverage more and more?

Nick Bosa isn't the first player to leave college to devote his full-time attention to preparing for the NFL, and he won't be the last. The way Bosa exited the college stage was a bit unique, but I can't say I really blame the guy. His surgically-repaired core muscle is an injury that might or might not be healed enough for him to contribute to the Buckeyes later this season, so why would he risk his lofty draft status?

I've never had a problem with guys leaving early for the pros. What do you go to college for anyway? To get an education, yes, but mostly to get a better-paying job once you enter the workforce. Just so you know, last year's top NFL draft pick Baker Mayfield will earn approximately \$33 million over the length of his rookie contract, while No. 2 pick Saquon Barkley and No. 3 overall Sam Darnold are each due more than \$30 million.

You might disagree with the way Bosa handled his exit. You might think him selfish or even cowardly as a team co-captain leaving his teammates to fend for themselves. But that's largely an indefensible position. Remember last year when Denzel Ward sat out the Cotton Bowl to avoid any possible injury? Ward, who is near the NFL lead in interceptions as a rookie, is currently working on the first year of his \$29.1 million contract that included a signing bonus of \$19.3 million.

College football is a business, and it's no less of a business to Nick Bosa and Denzel Ward than it is to Nick Saban, the College Football Playoff or the Big Ten. Players, whose only bargaining chip is their labor, are only beginning to realize the power they wield, and Bosa won't be (and shouldn't be) the last one willing to wield that power.

A friend texted me shortly after the fireworks outside Ross-Ade Stadium celebrating unranked Purdue's 49-20 victory against second-ranked Ohio State had faded into the nighttime sky.

"Bad loss to be sure," went the text, "but OSU still has plenty to play for."

My friend's reasoning included the fact that the Buckeyes still control their own destiny within the Big Ten East, thereby controlling their own destiny to get to the conference championship game, thereby retaining a chance to become one of the four College Football Playoff participants.

My reply to him was a curt "I guess so," but I couldn't help thinking my friend simply hasn't been paying attention because those of us who have watched the Buckeyes go through the motions – and quite frankly take several steps backward – since the thrilling victory against Penn State in late September were not at all surprised when Purdue channeled its talent and emotion to engineer a lopsided victory as two-touchdown underdogs to what was purported to be the No. 2 team in college football.

The upset was historic in many respects. Not only was it the first victory against a No. 2 team for the Boilermakers since a 28-23 win at Ohio State in 1984, it represented the largest margin of victory in program history over a top-five team. The previous mark was set in 1945 with a 35-13 win against fourth-ranked Ohio State.

Want more history? The Boilermakers now own the third-largest margin of victory for an unranked team against a top-two team in all of college football history, superseded only by a 43-point win by Holy Cross against No. 1 Boston College in 1942 and a 31-point loss to Arkansas by top-ranked Texas in 1981.

Give the Boilermakers all credit due them for the victory. Perhaps first and foremost, the team was fueled with emotion to play for cancer-stricken Purdue sophomore Tyler Trent, whose grim prognosis did not prevent him from leaving hospice care to attend the game.

Still, college football is a game played each week largely on emotion, so Purdue had to have something else going for it to be able to so thoroughly curb-stomp the Buckeyes. To my mind, that something else was superior coaching.

Second-year head coach Jeff Brohm, as well as his younger brother Brian, who happens to be Purdue's co-offensive coordinator, devised an excellent game plan that exploited each and every weakness the Ohio State defense had displayed over the preceding couple of weeks – little to no pressure on the quarterback, linebackers out of position more often than not and a soft secondary that does more chasing than covering.

As a result, Purdue piled up 539 total yards, the most against the Buckeyes by a Big Ten opponent since Michigan totaled 603 during OSU's 42-41 win in 2013.

Quarterback David Blough threw for 378 yards and three touchdowns, the most for a Purdue QB against Ohio State since Drew Brees torched OSU for 455 yards during a 31-27 win in 2000. Freshman speed demon Rondale Moore became the fourth opposing receiver in the last three games to top the 100-yard mark, grabbing 12 receptions for 170 yards and a pair of touchdowns. Moore's 170-yard effort represented the most receiving yards for a Purdue player against Ohio State since Rodney Carter caught 15 balls for 190 yards during his team's 41-27 loss to the Buckeyes on Oct. 19, 1985.

And running back D.J. Knox collected 128 yards on the ground and tallied three touch-



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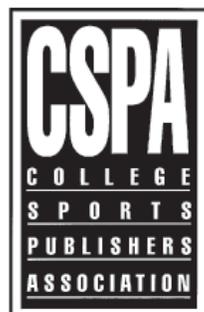
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2018-19 PUBLICATION SCHEDULE (VOL. 38)

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No. 2	Sept. 15	No. 14	Jan. 19
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No. 9	Nov. 10	No. 21	May
No. 10	Nov. 17	No. 22	June
No. 11	Nov. 24	No. 23	July
No. 12	Dec. 1	No. 24	August

The next issue (Nov. 10 cover date) will be mailed Nov. 6.

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Charter Member



Bosa Ends OSU Career

Ohio State junior defensive end Nick Bosa started the first three games of the season before suffering a core muscle injury during the third quarter against TCU. That injury required surgery, and despite an initial expectation that Bosa would try to return this season, he opted to shut down his collegiate career in order to focus on rehabbing ahead of the NFL draft.

The school confirmed the news Oct. 16 via press release, saying that Bosa had opted to withdraw from the university to focus on the next steps in his career.

Bosa underwent surgery Sept. 20, five days after the Buckeyes beat TCU, 40-28, in Arlington, Texas.

"I was hopeful that Nick would be able to return to play again for us," Ohio State head coach Urban Meyer said in a statement. "I know this was an extremely difficult and emotional decision for Nick and his family, and I wish him well as he moves on to get himself 100 percent healthy and ready for his next chapter. I want to thank Nick for the remarkable efforts he gave for this program. He is a first-class young man who we have been honored to coach."

After Bosa first suffered his injury, there wasn't a clear timeline regarding when he might be able to return. After Bosa opted to withdraw from Ohio State, his father, John, told SI.com that the recovery process was likely to total about three months.

"The realistic time frame is 12 weeks," John Bosa said. "Twelve weeks brings us into December."

With that timeline, Nick Bosa would have missed the entire regular season and likely the Big Ten title game if Ohio State were to get to that point. He might have had a chance to return for any other postseason games, but he and his family decided it was best not to rush back considering there was no guarantee on when he'd be able to return.



Nick Bosa

"There's time frames for injuries and then time frames for an elite pass-rusher," John Bosa told SI.com. "It's not about rehabbing so you can be back on the used car lot or be a mechanic."

"When is he able to be safe and play at the same level? When you look at the preparation he goes through in preseason, that's not a realistic time frame for it to be safe. It's just not."

Through week three – the week of his injury – Nick Bosa had been in the top 10 nationally for tackles for loss (10th, 6.0) and sacks (third, 4.0). He had a forced fumble and two fumble recoveries, including one for a touchdown, this year.

The Fort Lauderdale (Fla.) St. Thomas Aquinas product and his older brother, Joey, were both first-team All-Americans at Ohio

State. The younger Bosa is widely projected to be a top-10 pick in the upcoming NFL draft. Joey Bosa was selected third overall by the Los Angeles Chargers (then in San Diego) in 2016.

Bosa's decision to leave Ohio State was hard to embrace for defensive coordinator Greg Schiano, but he indicated the Buckeyes are already moving forward and not dwelling on his departure.

"He's a great player," Schiano said. "It is tough for everybody, including Nick. But that is life in sports. You have to move on and play with who you have."

Since Bosa's injury, sophomore Chase Young has started each game for the Buckeyes.

"In sports, you don't have a choice," Schiano added. "You play with who you have. Everybody has those situations. Every once in a while you get one of those magical years where everybody stays healthy the whole time. The common phrase is 'next man up.' It is probably overused, but it's a reality."

Buckeyes Fall Out Of AP Top 10

After losing to Purdue, 49-20, in West Lafayette, Ind., on Oct. 20, Ohio State fell nine spots to No. 11 in the Associated Press top 25, dropping from the top 10 for the first time this season.

Alabama received all 61 first-place votes in the poll, while Clemson, Notre Dame, LSU and Michigan rounded out the top five.

From the Big Ten, Penn State checked in at No. 17 and Iowa was No. 18. Wisconsin ranked 20th to round out the conference's representatives after Michigan State, previously No. 24, suffered its third loss of the year and fell from the poll. Purdue (17) and the Spartans (8) each received points in the voting.

In the Amway coaches poll, the Buckeyes remained in the top 10 at No. 9, one spot ahead of UCF. Ranked ahead of Ohio State, in order, were Alabama (60 first-place votes), Clemson (2), Notre Dame, LSU, Michigan, Georgia, Texas and Oklahoma. Purdue received seven points in the coaches' vote while Michigan State had one. Penn State (No. 16), Iowa (No. 18) and Wisconsin (No. 19) were all ranked as well.



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Next BSB Print Mails Nov. 6

There will be no Buckeye Sports Bulletin published after the Ohio State football team's Oct. 27 open date. The next issue of BSB will be mailed Nov. 6, following the Nebraska game.

There is no need for BSB readers to miss any of the Buckeye action, including the latest recruiting news, as we will be publishing stories daily on our BuckeyeSports.com website, free to all active subscribers. Readers can also interact with the BSB staff and other readers on The Forum. The action is sure to be spirited there after Ohio State's loss to Purdue.

Those many readers who have been experiencing postal delivery problems this season can also read the complete edition of each issue of Buckeye Sports Bulletin online at BuckeyeSports.com on Mondays during football season.

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2018 Ohio State Football Schedule

Date	Opponent	Result/Time (ET)	TV	Record, Last Result
Sept. 1	OREGON STATE	W, 77-31	ABC	1-6, 49-7 loss to California
Sept. 8	RUTGERS	W, 52-3	BTN	1-7, 18-15 loss to Northwestern
Sept. 15	vs. TCU#*	W, 40-28	ABC	3-4, 52-27 loss to Oklahoma
Sept. 22	TULANE	W, 49-6	BTN	2-5, 27-23 loss to SMU
Sept. 29	at Penn State*	W, 27-26	ABC	5-2, 33-28 win at Indiana
Oct. 6	INDIANA	W, 49-26	FOX	4-4, 33-28 loss to Penn State
Oct. 13	MINNESOTA	W, 30-14	FS1	3-4, 53-28 loss at Nebraska
Oct. 20	at Purdue*	L, 49-20	ABC	4-3, 49-20 win over Ohio State
Nov. 3	NEBRASKA	TBA	TBA	1-6, 53-28 win over Minnesota
Nov. 10	at Michigan State*	TBA	TBA	4-3, 21-7 loss to Michigan
Nov. 17	at Maryland	TBA	TBA	4-3, 23-0 loss at Iowa
Nov. 24	MICHIGAN*	Noon	FOX	7-1, 21-7 win at Michigan State
Dec. 1	Big Ten Championship@	8 p.m.	FOX	

* - 2017-18 bowl team

- at Arlington, Texas (AT&T Stadium)

@ - at Indianapolis (Lucas Oil Stadium)

him early on. I was worried about it early on. And then the snap consistency at TCU, that concerned me, and he's fixed that. Now he's coming off, he's better pulling, he's better one-on-one - we've put him in a lot of one-on-one situations in pass pro."

As good as Jordan has become at center, though, he's not done developing yet. Studrawa said he hopes to see even more improvement as the Buckeyes near their stretch run.

"I'd like to see him still get better because I think there's even more ahead," Studrawa said. "I don't think he's anywhere near the finished product. I think there's more in there."

Jordan, Young Earn All-American Nods

As mentioned, Jordan and Young - key cogs on either side of the ball for the Buckeyes - each earned first-team midseason All-American honors from ESPN.

Jordan, a third-year starter, has started every game at center for Ohio State this year. Young has racked up 20 total tackles and ranks second on the team in tackles for loss (8½) and sacks (4½).

The only other Big Ten players to appear on ESPN's list were Michigan defensive end Chase Winovich and Wisconsin running back Jonathan Taylor.

Jordan and quarterback Dwayne Haskins also earned second-team midseason All-American honors from the AP.

Through eight starts, Haskins is on pace to break most of Ohio State's single-season passing records. He has completed 224 of

315 attempts (71.1 percent) for 2,801 yards with 30 touchdowns and five interceptions.

Former OSU RB Found Not Guilty In Rape Trial

Former Ohio State running back Bri'onte Dunn was found not guilty on two counts of rape Oct. 19 in Columbus.

He had been accused of rape by a woman he met on a dating app in 2017, with the alleged incident occurring Aug. 20 that year, according to The Columbus Dispatch. He testified during the trial that he often had casual, consensual sex with the woman, but denied raping her.

An attorney for Dunn - Joe Landusky - said the accusations were false, according to The Dispatch, and chose to pursue a trial rather than accepting a plea deal. If convicted, Dunn would reportedly have faced up to 22 years in prison after a third count of rape was dismissed.

"I'm happy that the whole world can see that I'm innocent," Dunn said. "I'm just trying to get back with my life and hopefully renewing my career."

The Dispatch reported that Dunn was hoping to play in the Alliance of American Football League, a professional league aiming to launch in 2019.

Dunn, a Canton (Ohio) GlenOak product, played for Ohio State from 2012-15 before being dismissed by Meyer for undisclosed reasons. He carried the ball a total of 49 times for 291 yards and three touchdowns.

"He still has a whole career ahead of him, including in the Canadian Football League or even the NFL," Landusky said. "He still has his dreams."

Baldwin, Williams Lose Black Stripes

Ohio State freshmen Matthew Baldwin and Alex Williams each had their black helmet stripes removed, the team announced Oct. 17.

Baldwin, a four-star quarterback out of Austin (Texas) Lake Travis, has spent the season working his way back from offseason knee surgery to repair an injury suffered in high school. He has battled graduate transfer junior Chris Chugunov, formerly of West Virginia, for third-string duties this year.

Williams is a three-star defensive end out of Pickerington (Ohio) North who fought some injuries early in his collegiate career as well.

Through eight games, neither Baldwin nor Williams has made an appearance for the Buckeyes.

Baldwin and Williams are the 22nd and 23rd members of Ohio State's 2018 recruiting class to lose their black stripes. Only defensive tackle Antwan Jackson and wide receiver Kamryn Babb - who have both been limited with injuries - still have their stripes.

Jordan Building Consistency At Center

In both 2016 and 2017, Ohio State had a star offensive guard switch to center. Each one of those players - Pat Ellein followed by Billy Price - ended up winning the Rimington Award as the nation's best at that position before being drafted into the NFL.

In 2018, Ohio State faced a similar situation when starting left guard Michael Jordan (6-7, 310) switched to the middle of the line ahead of the season after never having previously played the position. While the line has struggled at times, the move has become a success for Jordan, but it wasn't without concerns at the start.

Offensive line coach Greg Studrawa said before the Purdue game that he had concerns about Jordan's move early in the year, especially after he struggled snapping the ball against TCU in week three. Since then, though, Jordan has seemingly improved on an almost daily basis, becoming a consistent performer on an inconsistent line.

"His snap accuracy has gone through the roof since the TCU game," Studrawa said. "We worked on that, we fixed his stance a little bit. He's getting more and more comfortable each game."

Jordan's play hasn't gone unnoticed nationally, either. On Oct. 15, ESPN released

its midseason All-America team, and Jordan made the cut at center. He was one of just two Buckeyes - along with sophomore defensive end Chase Young - to earn the honor.

That's certainly a long way to come at center for a player who likely never expected to play the position in college. Jordan was recruited as a four-star offensive tackle out of Canton (Mich.) Plymouth and started at left guard from week one as a true freshman in 2016.

He was the left guard again last season but ended up being asked to provide help at center this year in a bid to get the best five linemen on the field.

From high school offensive tackle to starting at a completely new position as a junior, Jordan might have ended up in the perfect spot. Studrawa said center could be Jordan's best position as he moves forward in his football career - at Ohio State or at the next level.

"I think it sure can be. Because for a tall guy ... he bends pretty well and he's just getting used to it right now," Studrawa said. "He's growing. Each game, he's gotten better and better and better. It was difficult for

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Buckeyes Caught Off Guard By Loss To Purdue

Continued From Page 1

quarterback – Dwayne Haskins' prolific campaign was the only thing they had left after the game.

Haskins, a sophomore who lost for the first time as a starter, completed 49 of 73 passes for 470 yards with two touchdowns and one interception. The completions broke the school's single-game record – which he had tied each of the past two weeks – by 16. The attempts broke the previous record of 52 (set by Art Schlichter in 1981) by 21. And the yards were a new record as well, breaking Schlichter's mark of 458 that he had held for 37 years.

"I never thought I would have to throw 72 times for us to win a game," Haskins said.

He was right – it wasn't a winning formula for the Buckeyes.

"But you've got to do what you've got to

do to win," he added, "and we just didn't do that today."

Comfort Level

Going into the game, Ohio State certainly knew what it needed to improve. After the game, though, the Buckeyes were surprised that their plan had gone so far off track after what Meyer and the players described as a great week of preparation.

"How surprised am I? Very surprised," Meyer said. "I thought we had a good week of work."

When asked if the players themselves had been comfortable with the plan going in, Haskins kept it simple.

"I believe so, yes," he said.

When given a chance to say that the team had been worried about a result like that going in, fifth-year senior Terry McLaurin – one of seven team captains – stressed that the opposite was the case.

"Nah, you never go into a game thinking you're going to lose," McLaurin said. "Actually, as a team we felt like we had our best week of practice, but if you don't execute at a high level, you can get beat any Saturday."

"We came in actually on a high note thinking we had a really good week of practice."

Junior safety Jordan Fuller had a similar line. He said the Buckeyes knew the plan, were focused on the improvements that needed to be made and thought they were poised for a win.

Instead, the Buckeyes were saddled with their third loss of 29 points or more in the past three years.

"No, I think every week we're just focused on getting better and focused on our jobs," said Fuller, another of the team's captains. "We never go into a game thinking, 'Oh shoot, we might lose this one.' No. Never."

"To uphold the standard at Ohio State, all those big plays aren't what we want at all (on defense). That's definitely been the message but we just couldn't get it done tonight."

Overall, it was clear that those donning scarlet and gray were genuinely surprised by

the way things played out, even if the issues were seemingly the same as they had been for weeks.

Either the Buckeyes thought the problems had been fixed, or they thought their strengths outweighed their weaknesses – as they had through the first seven games of the year.

"I don't really have any explanation," Fuller said. "Definitely just have to evaluate and watch film."

Moving On

The result – a 29-point loss to an unranked team – is certainly unusual in Ohio State history. It's not unheard of, though. In fact, the Buckeyes had a similar game last year, as the Ohio State faithful will remember.

Last November, the Buckeyes traveled to Iowa City, Iowa, and lost, 55-24, to a Hawkeye team that finished the year with a losing record in the Big Ten.

After that result, the Buckeyes had two losses on the season. They still went on to wax Michigan State, 48-3, the following week, beat Michigan in the regular-season finale, win the Big Ten and nearly back into the College Football Playoff.

Just as it they did last November, the

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COVER STORY

Buckeyes still have a chance to reach their goals.

"It kind of happened last year vs. Iowa," Haskins said. "We still – everywhere we wanted to be, we can still make the Big Ten championship. We've got to do what we do to possibly make the playoffs. But we still have a lot of football ahead of us."

That much is true. If Ohio State wins out, the Buckeyes will make the Big Ten title game. If they win that, too, they'll likely make the final four.

But in order for any of that to happen, Ohio State has to get better. Following an off week, the Buckeyes host Nebraska, travel to Michigan State and Maryland and then face Michigan at home. There are no guarantees, but it would be a struggle for the team that showed up against Purdue to win all four of those games.

"We have good players, good coaches and we're going to get to work," said Meyer, who felt that the problems could be fixed within the two-week time frame before Ohio State's next game. "We lost a game last year and came right back, so we have good guys and we're going to work hard (on) what's off and get this thing right."

Ohio State has already been working hard on those issues, though, and not a lot of progress has been made. Meyer acknowledged that, and he noted there will be evaluation of everything – including the work of the coaching staff – going forward.

From the standpoint of the players, McLaurin pointed to the veteran leadership that allowed Ohio State to bounce back from its loss to Iowa last year for an undefeated finish to the season. He said senior right tackle Isaiah Prince addressed the team after

the loss to Purdue, just as Billy Price had after the loss to the Hawkeyes.

Now, McLaurin said, it's time for everyone – not just the veterans – to take it upon themselves to get things right.

"There's no pointing fingers, we've just all got to look in the mirror and see what we could have (done) better," he said. "We got hit in the mouth, but it's about how you come back from it."

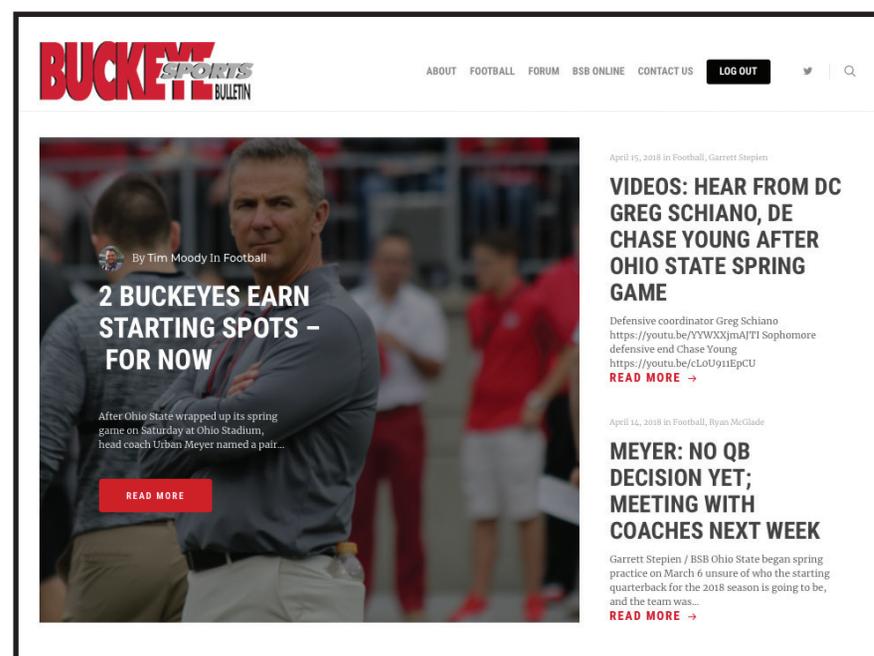
That starts at the top – with Meyer and the coaching staff – but the mentality has to trickle down the roster. As the Buckeyes enter their week off, an attitude adjustment might need to accompany any changes on the field.

As McLaurin said, that will start with the captains – the veteran leaders have seen it all, more or less. Now their attitude needs to spread throughout the rest of a young, talented and struggling roster.

"I feel like at the top, our leaders are really tough and we've just got to make sure that permeates through everybody," McLaurin said. "I remember being a young guy and feeling a loss. When you're so invested as an older guy, it hurts even more."

"So my message to some of the older leaders is we've just got to make sure everybody feels life or death; it's not just football. I come out here every single day – this is all I do and school, that's it. My main message going forward is to treat this like it's life or death. I know we're not in war or anything like that – I would never disrespect what those guys do – but that type of mentality where you're going into battle with somebody that's trying to knock you off, if you don't come ready to go, it's happening."

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The screenshot shows the Buckeye Sports Bulletin website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for ABOUT, FOOTBALL, FORUM, BSB ONLINE, CONTACT US, and a LOG OUT button. The main content area features a large article titled "2 BUCKEYES EARN STARTING SPOTS - FOR NOW" by Tim Moody in Football. Below the title is a "READ MORE" button. To the right of the article, there are two smaller article teasers. The first is titled "VIDEOS: HEAR FROM DC GREG SCHIANO, DE CHASE YOUNG AFTER OHIO STATE SPRING GAME" with a "READ MORE" link. The second is titled "MEYER: NO QB DECISION YET; MEETING WITH COACHES NEXT WEEK" also with a "READ MORE" link. The website has a clean, professional layout with a focus on sports news.

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OSU's Undefeated Start Derailed By Boilermakers

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

Ross-Ade Stadium continues to haunt Ohio State.

On a frosty 37-degree night in West Lafayette, Ind., the No. 2 Buckeyes were stopped cold by Purdue, suffering a 49-20 upset Oct. 20 behind two touchdown passes by David Blough in the first half and three TD runs from D.J. Knox in the second half.

Ohio State is 13-9 at Purdue all-time and has lost three of the past four games there. Since 2000, the Boilermakers' five wins against Ohio State are tied with Penn State for the most by a Big Ten opponent.

OSU (7-1, 4-1 Big Ten) could not run the ball (76 yards on 25 rushes, 3.0 average) and had to rely on the arm of third-year sophomore Dwayne Haskins, who was 49 of 73 for 470 yards (all school records) with two TDs and an interception.

Purdue (4-3, 3-1) has won four straight and made it look easy before a crowd of 60,716.

Blough was 25 of 43 for 378 yard with the two TDs and no interceptions against a secondary that was missing injured junior cornerback Damon Arnette.

That helped Rondale Moore have a big game with 12 catches for 170 yards and two TDs. He also added 24 rushing yards. Knox bulled his way through the defense for 128 yards on 16 carries.

Meanwhile for the Buckeyes, junior Mike Weber had 45 yards on nine runs



SONNY BROCKWAY

EMPTY NUMBERS – Quarterback Dwayne Haskins set program records for completions (49), attempts (73) and pass yards (470) against Purdue.

and sophomore J.K. Dobbins 24 yards on 11 carries.

"I wouldn't say it has anything to do with Mike or J.K. or the O-line," Haskins said. "We've just got to do a better job making some bigger holes, making some players miss, and it will all come together."

Junior K.J. Hill (105 yards) and fifth-year senior Parris Campbell (43 yards) led the Buckeyes with nine receptions each.

Junior linebacker Malik Harrison had a

team-high 10 tackles (nine solo), including one sack. Purdue sophomore linebacker Markus Bailey, from Hilliard Davidson in suburban Columbus, had 15 tackles (eight solo) and a late pick-six.

How It Happened

Purdue took the lead with 1:10 left in the first quarter, marching 98 yards after a Drue Chrisman punt, when Blough threw a 13-yard TD to Isaac Zico in the right corner.

A face-mask infraction on OSU freshman cornerback Shaun Wade helped the drive along, putting the ball on the Boilermakers' 44. Penalties were again a reoccurring theme for the Buckeyes, who had 10 for 86 yards.

The Boilermakers kept the drive alive with a quarterback sneak for 3 yards that gave Purdue a first down at the OSU 44. Later, Blough had a 13-yard completion to Moore to the OSU 23, but an offensive interference penalty two plays later pushed the ball back to the 38.

Undeterred, Blough found Knox for 23 yards to the 15. Junior corner Kendall Sheffield forced Knox to fumble, but after the ball went out of bounds, Purdue was awarded possession at the 12. After a Markell Jones run lost a yard, the Boilermakers finished the 15-play series that consumed 7:09.

After fifth-year senior receiver Johnnie Dixon returned the kickoff 31 yards to the Ohio State 46, two personal fouls helped set up a 24-yard field goal by Blake Haubeil at 14:14 of the second quarter. The biggest play from scrimmage was a pass to fifth-year senior receiver Terry McLaurin of 11 yards to the 7, but on third down from the 6, Haskins was off target to McLaurin.

The Ohio State red-zone offense got bogged down late in the second quarter, and a 16-play, 83-yard drive was stopped at the 15 and Haubeil missed a 33-yard field-goal try with 1:51 remaining. OSU got into position thanks to a 33-yard reception by Hill to the Purdue 16. Two incompletions and a 1-yard run by Dobbins followed.

Purdue, with three timeouts left, was aggressive and used big plays and a fake field goal to stun the Buckeyes for a 14-3 lead when Blough tossed a 9-yard pass to Moore with 27 seconds left to complete an 80-yard, eight-play drive in 1:24.

D.J. Knox got the drive going with a 19-yard

run. Later, Zico had a 37-yard catch to the OSU 20. Facing a fourth-and-3 from the 13, Purdue lined up for a field goal, but holder Joe Schopper took the snap and ran to the 9 before the Boilermakers scored on the next play.

OSU opened the third quarter with a 23-yard field goal by Haubeil at the 12:25 mark to make it 14-6. Junior wide receiver Austin Mack had a 24-yard catch and a 15-yard grab by Campbell got OSU to the 10, but three Haskins passes, two completed, netted just 4 yards.

On the ensuing possession, Knox had a 1-yard TD run with 8:36 left in the third quarter for a 21-6 lead thanks in part to a roughing-the-kicker penalty on junior defensive tackle Davon Hamilton that breathed new life into the drive as it gave the Boilers a first down at the OSU 31. After two Blough completions of 15 yards each, Knox ran in for the score.

The Buckeyes' chance to get back into the game after the kickoff dissolved when an 11-play, 73-yard march ended at the Purdue 2 on Haskins' fourth-down incompletion to Hill, wasting back-to-back passes to junior Binjimen Victor for a combined 36 yards.

OSU's five trips to the red zone resulted in only six points on the night.

Purdue added another long scoring drive (eight plays, 76 yards, 3:14) when Knox ran 42 yards for a 28-6 lead with 11:39 left in the fourth quarter. A personal foul on junior defensive tackle Dre'Mont Jones aided the drive.

Dixon had 24-yard kickoff return to the OSU 29, and he ended the eight-play, 71-yard, 2:03 drive with a 32-yard TD catch to make it 28-13 with 9:36 left.

Any hope of a comeback faded when Knox rushed for a 40-yard score with 6:46 left to put Purdue ahead 35-13. The drive was five plays, 75 yards in 2:50.

Haskins then took the Buckeyes 70 yards in nine plays (2:06 time) and tossed a 34-yard touchdown to McLaurin for a 35-20 score but only 4:40 remained.

Purdue recovered an onside kick at the OSU 46, and three plays later a short pass to Moore turned into a gashing 43-yard TD to make it 42-20 with 3:37 left.

Bailey capped the scoring with his 41-yard interception return with 2:08 remaining.

Haskins kept firing away and threw five times in eight plays on the final possession, completing three for 15 yards as the Buckeyes ended the game at the Purdue 17.

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OSU Run Game Stagnant Again In Upset Loss

For weeks on end, it has been evident Ohio State was struggling to establish a consistent run game. With only four games remaining in the regular season, not much has been done to remedy the Buckeyes' problems up front.

GAME NOTEBOOK James Grega

Ohio State managed just 76 rushing yards in a 49-20 loss to Purdue on Oct. 20 in West Lafayette, Ind., 23 of which came on the final drive of the game with the contest already well out of hand. Quarterback Dwayne Haskins was forced to attempt a school-record 73 passes, shattering the previous mark of 52 set by Art Schlichter in 1981.

After the game, head coach Urban Meyer was seemingly lost for words when asked if Ohio State could be successful as a team that has to rely purely on Haskins' arm to win games in 2018.

"No, not at all. It's just – when I look up at the board and I see the rushing yardage again, we're just ... we've got to get something going," Meyer said. "You can't just – you throw for 400 yards and then that's worked a few times, but down the stretch here we've got to get some run game."

Junior Mike Weber tallied 21 of his 45 rushing yards on the final drive of the game, finishing with nine carries in the defeat.

Sophomore starter J.K. Dobbins toted the ball 11 times for 24 yards, while Haskins kept five times for 7 yards and was sacked just once despite the high number of drop-backs.

From his perspective, Haskins said he doesn't believe it is just one thing Ohio State needs to fix in the run game, but rather working on getting better collectively as a group.

"We've just got to do a better job making some bigger holes, making some players miss, and it will all come together," he said.

Combined with a 30-14 win against Minnesota, Ohio State has failed to record a rushing touchdown in back-to-back games for the first time since Meyer took over as head coach in 2012. The Buckeyes' 76 yards rushing were also the least of Meyer's tenure at Ohio State in a single game and the worst rushing performance by OSU since a 10-7 loss to Michigan State in 2011 when the Buckeyes managed just 35 yards on 39 carries under then-interim head coach Luke Fickell.

After the game, Meyer wasn't sure exactly what the Buckeyes needed to do to fix the issues with the ground game.

"If it was that easy – a one-sentence answer – I'd give it to you," Meyer said. "But it's not that easy of an answer, so we're going to work real hard and get it fixed."

Haskins Sets OSU Passing Records

With Ohio State's running game rendered

ineffective, Haskins was forced to throw the ball more than any Buckeye quarterback has ever thrown in a single game.

Haskins broke Ohio State's completions, attempts, and passing yardage records in the loss to Purdue, completing 49 of 73 passes for 470 yards. He threw two fourth-quarter touchdown passes and an interception that was returned for a 41-yard touchdown, the exclamation point on the Boilermaker victory.

Haskins had already tied the completions record at 33 each of the past two weeks – a mark he shared with J.T. Barrett – before shattering it against the Boilermakers. Schlichter set the previous attempts and yardage (458) records in a loss to Florida State 37 years ago. The game

also marked Haskins' third in a row with more than 400 yards. Previously, Schlichter's performance against the Seminoles had been the only 400-yard individual passing performance in program history.

Despite the multiple records, Haskins said the offense was out of sync for a good portion of the game and that is what led to the Buckeyes posting just 20 points, the worst scoring performance by Ohio State since a 31-16 loss to Oklahoma early last season.

"With the offense it's all about timing and momentum, and we didn't do a good job with that today," he said, "and we're going to go on the bye week and we're going to work on that stuff."



Mike Weber

The loss was Haskins' first as Ohio State's starting quarterback and snapped the country's second-longest winning streak at 12 games (Central Florida has the longest with 20). Despite his big numbers, Haskins said the entire offense needs to execute at a higher level if the Buckeyes are to regroup and finish the season strong.

"We're going to get together as an offense, and we're going to figure out what we need to do, what are the problems we need to fix," he said. "It's not just one thing or another, it's the collective unit, and we've got to figure out how we can play better football together. Once we figure that out, we're going to be where we need to be."

Penalties Doom Buckeyes

Ohio State was outplayed for the majority of the game, but the Buckeyes also suffered from multiple self-inflicted wounds against Purdue that buried any chances they had of securing a comeback victory.

The Buckeyes were whistled for 10 penalties, costing them 86 yards. Three of the 10 penalties resulted in Purdue first downs, including a costly roughing-the-kicker call on a Boilermaker punt early in the second half and a roughing-the-passer call early in the fourth quarter that both led to touchdowns.

Through eight games, Ohio State ranks 12th in the Big Ten in penalty yards per game, averaging 75.9. Meyer was visibly frustrated when discussing the penalties after the game, citing the roughing-the-kicker penalty on defensive tackle Davon Hamilton as the backbreaker.



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Game Analysis

What Worked Well

Ohio State's pass game was the offense's only pulse. Sophomore quarterback Dwayne Haskins dropped back a school-record 73 times and amassed a school-record 470 yards on – you guessed it – a school-record 49 completions. In the fourth quarter, he tossed two touchdowns when the Buckeyes had no other choice but had an interception housed for six the other way. For the most part, the Buckeyes were able to move the ball up the field on shallow crossing routes, which is where junior receiver K.J. Hill made his mark as he tied a career-high nine receptions and went for 105 yards (11.7 average) with a long of 33 to give OSU timely conversions before the Boilermakers blew things open.

What Didn't Work

The run game. The red-zone offense. You name it. Start on the ground, where Ohio State was unable to get any push – and, at times, appeared too afraid to try – with 25 rushes for 76 yards (3.0 average). Reliant on Haskins, the Buckeyes needed the quarterback's arm to get into Purdue territory, where the offense largely came away empty-handed, highlighted by OSU going without a touchdown on five red-zone trips. As Ohio State settled for two field goals and a miss from sophomore kicker Blake Haubeil, the Boilermakers converted on the missed opportunities. Purdue

gashed Ohio State for 539 total yards with 378 passing yards, ripping off several big plays, especially later in the game between touchdowns from Rondale Moore (43-yard reception) and D.J. Knox (42-yard run) as trends in recent weeks proved not anomalies and came back to haunt the Buckeyes on the big stage.

Play Of The Game

Despite the sluggish start for Ohio State, Purdue led only 7-3 late in the first half when the Boilermakers faced a fourth-and-3 from the Buckeyes' 13. As Spencer Evans stepped up to take the chip-shot attempt and put Purdue up 10-3 near the end of the second quarter, Joe Schopper picked up the hold and sprinted left. With Pete Werner laying out from up the middle, plus Isaiah Pryor and Kendall Sheffield overpursuing off the right edge, Schopper escaped and bounced outside. Jordan Fuller whacked Schopper for the tackle, but not before the Boilermakers converted the first down, setting up first-and-goal from the 9. On the very next play, David Blough hit Moore in the right flat for the 9-yard score. The cunning play call paid off for head coach Jeff Brohm as the Boilermakers went up 14-3 with 27 seconds left in the half, riding the momentum and outscoring OSU by a 35-17 margin the rest of the way.

– Garrett Stepien

"We had a handful of them a couple games ago and that's been an issue this year," Meyer said. "The one, the punt, to run into the punter, that's one of those ones you just – I can't remember the score at the time (14-6) – but I think it was still within (striking distance). Just not very disciplined and I think they're effort penalties, but just ridiculous."

Ohio State started the game off with back-to-back flags, first getting called for a false start on its first offensive snap (junior tight end Rashod Berry) before being flagged on the next snap for illegal formation, which was ultimately declined.

Offensive tackle Isaiah Prince was twice flagged for a false start in the first half, while Berry and center Michael Jordan also picked up crucial holding calls in the second quarter setting the Buckeyes well behind the chains.

Red-Zone Woes Continue

Ohio State's red-zone problems were evident against Minnesota in a 30-14 win as the Buckeyes twice had to settle for field goals in that area against the Golden Gophers.

It only got worse against Purdue, with the Buckeyes managing just six points on five red-zone trips against the Boilermakers.

With the offensive line unable to win at the line of scrimmage, Ohio State often threw near the goal line but failed to find the end zone with those calls. The only touchdowns of the game came on long throws to Johnnie Dixon (32 yards) and Terry McLaurin (34 yards).

The Buckeyes had multiple opportunities to find the end zone against Purdue but didn't find pay dirt until the fourth quarter on Haskins' pass to Dixon. Each time it looked as though Ohio State was going to steal momentum away from Purdue, the Boilermaker defense stiffened, effectively taking the Buckeyes out of the game.

"I thought we were going to come out here and play our tails off," Meyer said. "I think we had opportunities to get right back in it, and every time you thought we were going to swing and get back in it, you didn't score in the red zone, you have a turnover or we give up a big hit."

On the other sideline, Purdue converted on all three of its red-zone attempts, including a touchdown right before the half

that was set up by a fake field-goal run by the Boilermaker holder and punter Joe Schopper.

"Obviously we have a little bit of a tendency there and they executed and we did not," Meyer said of the fake field goal. "Those are all part of things I've got to evaluate."

Moore Posts Big Night

Former Ohio State recruiting target Rondale Moore had perhaps the biggest night of his Purdue career against the Buckeyes in the upset victory.

The true freshman caught a career-high 12 passes for 170 yards and a pair of touchdowns, the second of which featured multiple broken tackles en route to a 43-yard score.

The game put Moore atop the Big Ten receiver rankings in terms of statistics. He now leads the conference in receptions (57) and yards (728) and is tied for second in touchdown receptions with seven. McLaurin leads the Big Ten in touchdown receptions with eight.

Moore accounted for nearly half of Purdue's completions as starting quarterback David Blough finished the night 25 of 43 for 378 yards and three touchdowns to zero interceptions. The Boilermakers did not commit a turnover in the game.

It was the best performance by an opposing receiver since Nebraska's JD Spielman caught 11 passes for 200 yards and a score against the Buckeyes last season in a 56-14 Ohio State victory in Lincoln, Neb.

Boilers Black Out Ross-Ade Stadium

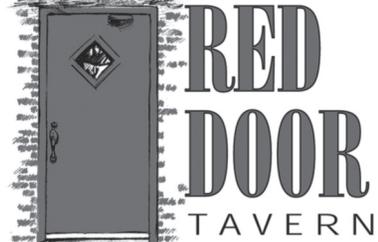
Purdue football fans haven't had much to cheer about in recent years, but the Boilermaker faithful showed up

in droves to watch their team upset the Buckeyes.

The announced attendance at the Ross-Ade Stadium blackout on Oct. 20 was 60,716, the highest-attended game in five years and the most since a renovation project removed 6,000 seats in 2014.

The last time Purdue packed Ross-Ade Stadium like they did against Ohio State was in 2013 against Notre Dame, when 61,127 saw the Irish beat the Boilers, 31-24.

Those in attendance were rewarded with an outstanding performance from the home team and a chance to get on the field – the crowd stormed out of the stands after the final whistle to celebrate with the team.



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BSB Quotebook: Purdue 49, Ohio State 20

Ohio State head coach Urban Meyer on why he thinks his staff can right the ship: "That's a good question. We're 7-1 and the objective is to get to be 8-1 and find a way to get these things fixed in the bye week – and get some guys healthy. We're on fumes on the back end of our defense right now, so we've got to get some guys healthy."

Meyer on if OSU needs to make drastic changes: "I don't know if it's blow up – once again, we're 7-1, and we've got the chance to be 8-1. That's the only focus. But there's some serious shortcomings right now we've got to get fixed."

"The bye week gives you a little bit of time, but you're week ... eight, nine, you're into it now. No. 1 thing you've got to find out about the health of our team, and that's hard to do right now – to make drastic changes when you're dealing with a banged-up football team."

OSU fifth-year senior wide receiver Terry McLaurin on whether OSU needs to make drastic offensive changes: "I feel like it's just execution. Our plays work. We've been running the same plays all year. The defense got some stops and as an offense we just want to execute a lot better. We're not pointing fingers. We just run the plays that our coaches call and that we practice all week."

Meyer on assessing his coaching staff: "That's part of this whole week, and I do love our coaching staff and want to make sure we're going to have a lot of work get done this week."

OSU sophomore quarterback Dwayne Haskins on if he felt the need to be perfect with the run game struggling: "I wouldn't say it had anything to do with the running game. I feel like every game I play I want to be perfect when I'm throwing the football, so it had nothing to do with the running backs or O-line."

Haskins on OSU's failed fourth-and-goal attempt: "It's kind of a play we've seen in the NFL. We try to run it. We just didn't execute at a high level. (We've got to) keep getting better at that play."

Haskins on if he believes too much is being asked of him offensively: "No, I wouldn't say that. I'm going to keep getting better. I know I'm nowhere near where I can be. It's only the beginning. So right now, 7-1, and not what we thought we were going to do vs. Purdue, but we have an opportunity to go win some more games so we're going to make the most of it."

McLaurin on who stepped up in the locker room postgame: "Isaiah Prince said some words to us, I'm not going to get into specifics. But similar to what Billy (Price) was saying last year (after the loss to Iowa). When it's coming from your O-line – that's the heartbeat of our team and I just hope everybody is in there listening and looking at how we're going to get better from this. Life – you can't say everything goes good when we come back and beat Penn State and we lose this and it's just like, 'Woe is me.' You've got to take the good with the bad, and

you've just got to look at how you can get better personally."

OSU junior safety Jordan Fuller on leadership: "I would say it's more important than ever right now. These moments obviously you don't want, but it's all about how you respond. We have the talent, we have the leadership. We've just got to really self-evaluate over this week and into next weekend."

Fuller on his emotions leaving the field: "I don't think it's anything you can really describe. It's just a feeling you never want to experience."

Purdue head coach Jeff Brohm on the upset win: "It is a huge moment. It wasn't like we won by one point. Our guys came ready to play. If you put in the time, if you have a great attitude and keep working hard to improve yourself and your team, anything can happen."

"I don't think last year and even before this week we were ready for this moment. I told them, 'We are ready for this moment now. You guys can win the game if you believe you can. If we play as hard as we can for 60 minutes and give it everything you have, good things will happen.' They surpassed my expectations with the way we played today."

Purdue running back D.J. Knox on Brohm's play-calling: "When he called the trap run (which went for a 42-yard touchdown), I was thinking, 'This man is a genius.' Coach Brohm knows exactly when to call every play. You just know schematically we're going to be set up to win."

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The Numbers Game

Purdue 49, Ohio State 20

Oct. 20, 2018 – Ross-Ade Stadium; West Lafayette, Ind.

Score by Quarters	1	2	3	4	F
OHIO STATE (7-1, 4-1 BIG TEN)	0	3	3	14	– 20
PURDUE (4-3, 3-1 BIG TEN)	7	7	7	28	– 49

First Quarter

PUR – Zico, 13 yard pass from Blough (Evans kick), 1:10; 15 plays, 98 yards, 7:09 TOP.

Second Quarter

OSU – McLaurin, 24 yard field goal, 14:14; 6 plays, 48 yards, 1:56 TOP.

PUR – Moore, 9 yard pass from Blough (Evans kick), 0:27; 8 plays, 80 yards, 1:24 TOP.

Third Quarter

OSU – Haubeil, 23 yard field goal, 12:25; 10 plays, 69 yards, 2:35 TOP.

PUR – Knox, 1 yard run (Evans kick), 8:36; 10 plays, 73 yards, 3:49 TOP.

Fourth Quarter

PUR – Knox, 42 yard run (Evans kick), 11:39; 8 plays, 76 yards, 3:14 TOP.

OSU – Dixon, 32 yard pass from Haskins (Haubeil kick), 9:36; 8 plays, 71 yards, 2:03 TOP.

PUR – Knox, 40 yard run, 6:46; 5 plays, 75 yards, 2:50 TOP.

OSU – McLaurin, 34 yard pass from Haskins (Haubeil kick), 4:40; 9 plays, 70 yards, 2:06 TOP.

PUR – Moore, 43 yard pass from Blough (Evans kick), 3:37; 3 plays, 46 yards, 1:03 TOP.

PUR – Bailey, 41 yard interception return (Evans kick), 2:08.

Att. – 60,716.

Weather – 37 degrees, clear; wind NW 18 mph.

Team Statistics

	OSU	PUR
First Downs	31	24
Rushing	4	9
Passing	24	12
Penalty	3	3
Rushes-Yards	25-76	29-161
Passing Yards	470	378
Passes (Comp.-Att.-Int.)	49-73-1	25-43-0
Offensive Plays	98	72
Total Net Yards	546	539
Third Down Efficiency	11-22	6-15
Fourth Down Efficiency	2-3	2-2
Punts-Avg.	5-38.6	6-43.3
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	1-0
Penalties	10-86	7-95
Time of Possession	31:17	28:43

Individual Statistics

RUSHING (Att.-Net Yds.) – OSU: Weber 9-45; Dobbins 11-24; Haskins 5-7. PUR: Knox 16-128; Moore 2-24; Jones 5-12; Schopper 1-4; Blough 5-(-7).

PASSING (Comp.-Att.-Int.-Yds.-TD) – OSU: Haskins 49-73-1-470-2. PUR: Blough 25-43-0-378-3.

RECEIVING (Rec.-Yds.) – OSU: Hill 9-105; Campbell 9-43; Victor 5-67; McLaurin 5-66; Weber 5-22; Dixon 4-58; Dobbins 4-34; Farrell 4-24; Saunders 2-17; Mack 1-24; Berry 1-10. PUR: Moore 12-170; Sparks 3-43; Hopkins 3-37; Zico 2-50; Herdman 2-36; Anthop 2-16; Knox 1-26.

PUNTING (No.-Avg.-Long) – OSU: Chrisman 5-38.6-47. PUR: Schopper 6-43.3-56.

PUNT RETURNS (No.-Yds.) – OSU: Hill 1-16. PUR: Moore 1-9.

KICKOFF RETURNS (No.-Yds.) – OSU: Dixon 5-98. PUR: Moore 3-49.

MISSED FIELD GOALS (Yds.) – OSU: Haubeil 33. PUR: None.

FORCED FUMBLES – OSU: Sheffield. PUR: None.

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

INTERCEPTIONS (No.-Yds.) – OSU: None. PUR: Bailey 1-41.

TACKLES FOR LOSS (No.-Yds.) – OSU: Harrison 2.0-11; Werner 2.0-4; Cooper 1.0-5; Hamilton 1.0-1; Young 0.5-2; D. Jones 0.5-1. PUR: Watts 1.0-2; Bailey 0.5-1; Blackmon 0.5-0.

SACKS (No.-Yds.) – OSU: Harrison 1.0-9; Cooper 0.5-3; Young 0.5-2. PUR: Watts 1.0-2.

TACKLES (Solo-Asst.-Tot.) – OSU: Harrison 9-1-10; Pryor 4-2-6; Fuller 5-0-5; Okudah 5-0-5; Browning 4-1-5; Wade 3-0-3; Werner 3-0-3; Cooper 1-2-3; Sheffield 2-0-2; Hamilton 2-0-2; Wint 2-0-2; D. Jones 1-1-2; White 1-0-1; Borland 1-0-1; Campbell 1-0-1; Hilliard 0-1-1; Young 0-1-1; Landers 0-1-1. PUR: Bailey 8-7-15; Major 8-4-12; Thieneman 7-2-9; Blackmon 6-2-8; Mosley 6-2-8; Barnes 4-2-6; Smiley 4-2-6; Jones 4-1-5; Watts 3-1-4; Neal 2-2-4; Cason 2-1-3; Horvath 1-0-1; Dotson 1-0-1; Zico 1-0-1; Mackey 1-0-1; Hardy 1-0-1; Thieneman 0-1-1; Higgins 0-1-1.

PLAYERS IN THE GAME – OHIO STATE: Offense, Mack, Campbell, Munford, Pridgeon, Jordan, Knox, Prince, Berry, McLaurin, Haskins, Dobbins, Haubeil. Defense, Young, Hamilton, D. Jones, Cooper, Harrison, Browning, Wade, Sheffield, Fuller, Pryor, Okudah, Chrisman. Reserves, Gant, Smith, Dixon, Proctor, Hill, White, Davis, Vincent, Mitchell, Cornell, Victor, Riep, Harris, K. Jones, Olave, Werner, Wint, Weber, Hooker, McCall, Borland, Pope, Hilliard, McCullough, Booker, Friday, Alabi, Cupp, Woidke, Landers, Myers, Togiai, Petit-Frere, Saunders, Hausmann, Ruckert, Farrell, Garrett. PURDUE: Offense, Sparks, Moore, Hermans, Evans, Barron, Edwards, McCann, Hopkins, Zico, Blough, Knox, Evans. Defense, Reviere, Neal, Watts, Higgins, Bailey, Jones, Barnes, Blackmon, Mosley, Thieneman, Major, Schopper. Reserves, Mackey, Hardy, Makowski, Jones, Mendez, Jones, Wright, Catlett, Cason, Fuller, Smiley, Larry, Anthop, Alexander, Thieneman, Horvath, Marks, Yacoobi, Swingler, Smart, Burgess, Pittman, Dotson, Trussell, Herdman, Fakasiieiki.

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	(4) at Penn State (9)	W, 27-26	110,889
Oct. 6	(3) INDIANA	W, 49-26	104,193
Oct. 13	(3) MINNESOTA	W, 30-14	100,042
Oct. 20	(2) at Purdue	L, 49-20	60,716
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	242	150
Rushing	82	52
Passing	139	77
Penalty	21	21
Average Per Game/Rush	171.8	149.6
Average Per Game/Pass	383.8	241.1
Total Offense	4,444	3,126
Total Plays	658	532
Average Per Game	555.5	390.8
Average Per Play	6.8	5.9
Penalties-Yards	66-607	44-470
Fumbles-Lost	5-2	13-7
Third Down Efficiency	59-120	37-113
Percentage	49%	33%
Fourth Down Efficiency	11-16	4-9
Percentage	69%	44%
Sacks-Yards	26-171	12-53
Time Of Possession Avg.	31:23	28:37

Score

By Quarters	1	2	3	4	OT	Tot.	Avg.
Ohio State	83	104	64	93	–	344	43.0
Opponents	34	61	47	41	–	183	22.9

Individual Statistics					
Rushing	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Long
J.K. Dobbins	120	521	4.3	4	21
Mike Weber	96	516	5.4	3	49
Tate Martell	18	121	6.7	2	47
Master Teague	17	106	6.2	1	33
Dwayne Haskins	35	56	1.6	1	17
Brian Snead	11	37	3.4	1	5
Demario McCall	4	26	6.5	0	15
Parris Campbell	4	11	2.8	0	18
C.J. Saunders	0	8	0.0	0	0
K.J. Hill	1	-3	-3.0	0	0
TEAM	9	-25	-2.8	0	0
OSU Totals	315	1,374	4.4	12	49
OPP Totals	275	1,197	4.4	12	93

Passing					
Comp.	Att.	Pct.	Yds.	TD-INT	Effic.
D. Haskins	224	315	71.1	2,801	30-5 174.06
Tate Martell	23	28	82.1	269	1-0 174.63
OSU Totals	247	343	72.0	3,070	31-5 174.10
OPP Totals	139	257	54.1	1,929	11-6 126.59

Receiving					
Rec.	Net	Avg.	TD	Long	
Parris Campbell	52	600	11.5	7	71
K.J. Hill	49	656	13.4	4	42
Austin Mack	26	331	12.7	1	48
Terry McLaurin	21	398	19.0	8	75
Johnnie Dixon	21	284	13.5	4	44
J.K. Dobbins	15	164	10.9	1	35
Binjimen Victor	14	236	16.9	3	47
Mike Weber	14	75	5.4	1	15
C.J. Saunders	10	73	7.3	0	19
Luke Farrell	9	93	10.3	1	24
Demario McCall	5	46	9.2	0	35
Rashod Berry	4	36	9.0	1	11
Jaylen Harris	2	22	11.0	0	15
Chris Olave	2	19	9.5	0	14
Garyn Prater	1	13	13.0	0	13
Jeremy Ruckert	1	13	13.0	0	13
Jaalen Gill	1	11	11.0	0	11
OSU Totals	247	3,070	12.4	31	75
OPP Totals	139	1,929	13.9	11	93

Scoring	TD	EPK	EPR	EPRC	FG	PTS
S. Nuernberger	–	39-39	–	–	3-5	48
Terry McLaurin	8	–	–	–	–	48
Parris Campbell	7	–	–	–	–	42
J.K. Dobbins	5	–	–	–	–	30
Johnnie Dixon	4	–	–	–	–	24
K.J. Hill	4	–	–	–	–	24
Mike Weber	4	–	–	–	–	24
Binjimen Victor	3	–	–	–	–	18
Blake Haubeil	–	5-5	–	–	5-6	20
Tate Martell	2	–	–	–	–	12
Rashod Berry	1	–	–	–	–	6
Nick Bosa	1	–	–	–	–	6
Luke Farrell	1	–	–	–	–	6
Davon Hamilton	1	–	–	–	–	6
Dwayne Haskins	1	–	–	0-2	–	6
Dre'Mont Jones	1	–	–	–	–	6
Austin Mack	1	–	–	–	–	6
Brian Snead	1	–	–	–	–	6
Master Teague	1	–	–	–	–	6
OSU Totals	46	44-44	–	0-2	8-11	344
OPP Totals	24	21-22	0-1	0-1	6-12	183

FG Distance	0-29	30-39	40-49	50+	Total
S. Nuernberger	2-2	1-2	0-1	0-0	3-5
Blake Haubeil	4-4	0-1	1-1	0-0	5-6
OSU Totals	6-6	1-3	1-2	0-0	8-11
OPP Totals	1-1	4-6	1-4	0-1	6-12

Punting	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Bk	Long
Drue Chrisman	31	1,350	43.5	0	65
OSU Totals	31	1,350	43.5	0	65
OPP Totals	48	1,934	40.3	1	56

Interceptions	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
Kendall Sheffield	2	0	0.0	0	0
Dre'Mont Jones	1	28	28.0	1	28
Malik Harrison	1	13	13.0	0	13
Isaiah Pryor	1	0	0.0	0	0
Shaun Wade	1	0	0.0	0	0
OSU Totals	6	41	6.8	1	28
OPP Totals	5	174	34.8	1	46

Punt Returns	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
C.J. Saunders	8	50	6.2	0	20
K.J. Hill	7	33	4.7	0	17
Demario McCall	3	32	10.7	0	26
OSU Totals	18	115	6.4	0	26
OPP Totals	8	36	4.5	0	12

Kickoff Returns	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
Johnnie Dixon	10	216	21.6	0	38
Demario McCall	2	52	26.0	0	31
C.J. Saunders	2	24	12.0	0	14
OSU Totals	14	292	20.9	0	38
OPP Totals	16	250	15.6	0	22

Farrell Leads Improving OSU Tight End Group

By CRAIG MERZ
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

Luke Farrell sat at the interview table on the indoor turf at the Woody Hayes Athletic Center. He looked around the dozen or so media members with TV cameras, cell phones with video and good old-fashioned audio recorders.

He was in his element at the practice facility, but in the early evening of Oct. 10 he was also outside the norm as one of Ohio State's tight ends.

"I haven't been interviewed like this since high school," said the third-year sophomore from Perry, Ohio. "Interesting."

Those around him laughed.

"The tight end position doesn't get a ton of love," Farrell said. "You just do your work so it's actually kind of nice to get some love today."

There's been more of that plus passes thrown to him and junior tight end Rashod Berry in recent weeks after they were afterthoughts in the Buckeyes' pass-happy offense earlier in the season. Farrell, Berry, third-year sophomore Jake Hausmann and freshman Jeremy Ruckert constitute the talented but largely unnoticed tight ends room.

Through the midway point of the season, the sixth game vs. Indiana, the group had five catches for 52 yards and a touchdown apiece for Berry and Farrell.

Head coach Urban Meyer to that point gave them collectively a grade of B.

"It's something we're still dealing with," he said. "The pass game, we need to get them more involved."

"Blocking, they're getting much better. They're all new, first-time players. I know Rashod played a little bit last year. Luke's really a first-time player. We want more out of Jake Hausmann, and Jeremy Ruckert is going to be an excellent player."

Upon cue, tight ends were more engaged in the 30-14 win over Minnesota on Oct. 13. Farrell had two grabs for 37 yards, including a 24-yarder, and Berry had 11- and 9-yard receptions among the 33 completions on 44 attempts by third-year sophomore quarterback Dwayne Haskins.

Farrell for the season has nine catches for 93 yards and a touchdown of 9 yards against Rutgers in the second game. Berry has four grabs for 37 yards and a 6-yard TD in the season opener vs. Oregon State, and Ruckert a catch for 13 yards. Hausmann, who missed the first three games because of a hamstring injury, has no receptions but has been involved on special teams.

Offensive coordinator and tight ends coach Kevin Wilson said after the Minnesota game that he was pleased not only with the statistical contributions from the tight ends but other aspects as well.

"More than anything, the way they can block and block better to complement the line is going to make us a better run team and a more complete team," he said.

Yes, if you want to get on the field as a tight end, you'd better learn to block.

"Guys have to always prove themselves,

blocking first, which we've been doing pretty well," Farrell said. "As Coach Wilson always talks about, you run into a lot of problems if you don't have a tight end that blocks well, whether it's protection or perimeter running or running the quarterback too much and getting hits on him.

"He feels, and we feel, it's crucial for offense that we block."

That's not an easy adjustment. Playing in the trenches and clearing paths for others takes some getting used to for a player like Farrell.

His junior season at Perry he had 43 receptions for 730 yards and six touchdowns. The next year he had 33 catches for 446 yards to help his team earn a playoff berth.

Farrell was rated a four-star prospect and the No. 7 tight end nationally by 247Sports and received an overall ranking of 163rd by ESPN.

Even though the Ohio State offense rarely features tight ends in the passing game, that was not a deterrent to his signing with the Buckeyes.

"I didn't come in assuming that," Farrell said of being featured. "I knew I had to prove myself as a blocker to get on the field and be able to contribute, and the passing and the receptions would go on from there."

He redshirted his first season at Ohio State and last season played in eight games and caught two passes for 19 yards.

When the 2018 season rolled around, he had earned the starting job.

"I proved myself in blocking and the interior pass pro (protection)," he said "I made a big leap my freshman spring and the following fall. I thought I did a lot to make my name there."

He did so in another not-so welcome way at Penn State on Sept. 29 when he took a face-mask penalty that negated a 33-yard field goal by Sean Nuernberger that would have put the Buckeyes ahead 17-14. Although the ensuing 48-yard try failed, Ohio State still won 27-26.

"Technique error," Farrell said. "Unfortunate but I can't have my hands like that. I'll take responsibility for that."

Fortunately for Farrell he meets the requirements needed by a tight end to see playing time.

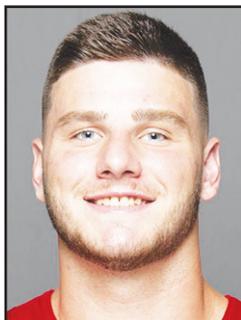
"Running crisp routes, straight ahead on getting downfield, being able to spread the defense open when you get your spot," he said of what it takes.

The coaches have so much trust in their tight ends and what they can offer that Berry and Farrell are sometimes on the field together.

"We kind of take on that responsibility when it's needed, getting the two tight ends out there," Farrell said. "That's what Coach Wilson wants to do, and I think we've been able to do that and we're going to keep on doing it because it helps."

Farrell (6-6, 250) said quick feet and hands and a healthy dose of determination make for a good blocking tight end in the OSU scheme.

"For me, it's coming in tall and long and just being able to play with the passion we need to play with, getting low and then working my hands," he said.



Luke Farrell



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Buckeyes Need Big Changes With Little Time

On Oct. 20, Ohio State traveled to West Lafayette, Ind., with a No. 2 ranking and an undefeated record in tow. It was the Purdue Boilermakers, though, instead of the Buckeyes who left Ross-Ade Stadium with a resounding 49-20 victory.

The loss – which came ahead of Ohio State's off week – moved the Buckeyes to 7-1 overall and 4-1 in the Big Ten as they fell to No. 11 in the Associated Press top 25.

The problems against Purdue – lack of a run game, lack of a red-zone offense, penalties and an inability to prevent big plays on defense – have plagued Ohio State all season. Against the Boilermakers, they finally led to a loss.

With the off week coming up and the loss in the rearview mirror, Buckeye Sports Bulletin staffers James Grega, Tim Moody and Garrett Stepien sat down to talk about the state of Urban Meyer's team.

Right off the bat, what is your confidence level with the coaching staff?

Garrett Stepien: When Ohio State got off to its 3-0 start, I gave the coaching staff a lot of credit for upholding the culture Meyer established and keeping the Buckeyes on the right path through training camp and into the TCU game. In hindsight, how much of that was a product of OSU's lesser competition? From the offensive line to the back seven of the defense, the regression is no longer an anomaly – it's this team's reality. Schematically, I don't think Greg Schiano is a terrible defensive coach – we've seen him have success during his tenure in Columbus – but Billy Davis in particular hasn't shown

much improvement with the linebackers from 2017 to now.

You look at two new hires in the secondary with Taver Johnson and Alex Grinch – two defensive coordinators from Temple and Washington State, respectively – and this was supposed to be a star-studded cabinet. It's not like Ohio State doesn't have the talent or athletes on either side of the ball, so for those positions in question that have been mentioned, a lot of what we've seen throughout the course of the season absolutely falls on those coaches. One of the biggest points is that changes just haven't been made despite the problems being there in the previous seven games, and look what happened week eight. I don't know where to point the finger, but I do know that you have to rope Meyer into the equation as well when personnel changes are glaring and needed, and yet things stay the same. Until those tweaks are made, you can't be all that confident in the staff, regardless of résumé.

James Grega: Like Garrett said, there were glaring problems on both sides of the ball all season, especially after the TCU game, and they were blatantly ignored. That falls on Urban Meyer for better or worse, as he makes the final call on changes regardless of whether it's offense or defense.

Meyer's biggest problem at Ohio State has been waiting to make changes until there is a drastic loss. This year, the running game has been dormant and the defensive secondary has been ripped to shreds, yet no changes have been made, and history repeated itself in West Lafayette.

Tim Moody: I'm not one to call out individual coaches very often, and I'm not in the room, so I can't pinpoint exactly which coaches are responsible for which issues. Except for one: Meyer.

Like James said, it all comes back to the head coach. I'm not saying I've lost confidence in Meyer's ability, but he's proved to be too stubborn at times when it comes to making drastic changes. It's time to fix the gaps, and Ohio State can't do that unless Meyer gives in.

Whether or not any actual staffing changes need to happen will have to be determined after the season. My guess would be that at least one, if not two key assistants will be coaching elsewhere in 2019.

What should Ohio State do to fix the running game?

JG: I have said it for weeks now, but Tate Martell needs to be involved in the run game, especially in the red zone. I am not suggesting that this is an automatic fix or a cure-all, but I do think it would help in short-yardage and goal-line situations.

This is the worst rushing attack the Buckeyes have had since 2004 when Lydell Ross and fullback Branden Joe were getting the majority of the carries. The most concerning thing for me is that Ohio State's coaching staff hasn't made any effort to try to jump-start the running effort up front. There hasn't been one personnel change or

any significant wrinkle. It has been the same thing all year.

If it were me, I would situationally play Martell and give defenses something to think about. Up front, it might also be time for a change at guard. Moving Michael Jordan back to guard and giving Josh Myers a crack at center would be my first choice.

GS: The fact that Martell hasn't played since Sept. 22 vs. Tulane is a shame on Ohio State's coaching staff, which is ignoring a game-changing talent as its run game begs for a jolt of any kind – especially in the red zone. As said by James, no one is saying Martell needs to be in at any other point. But when you continually get down in the red zone and have the same issues, what wrong could a change of pace in Martell do? You still have to account for his arm, and he brings a dual threat that defenses ignore in Haskins.

Martell is only a part of the solution to the red-zone woes. Up front is where the core of the issues are. Like James suggested, slide Jordan back to left guard and make Myers center. From there, it gets tricky. I don't know about bringing Branden Bowen back to right guard just yet, considering his return from another leg surgery, but he definitely deserves a look if he's healthy enough to push Demetrius Knox. Wyatt Davis has been "coming on," according to Meyer, but is probably

Continued On Page 16

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OSU Should Consider Mixing Up CB Rotation

Continued From Page 15

still a year off from being a solid starter in the trenches. Whatever ultimately gets done, though, the interior offensive line absolutely needs an overhaul. There's no reason why talented tailbacks such as 1,000-yard rushers J.K. Dobbins and Mike Weber should be getting held to under 4 yards per carry on a weekly basis, and it's not on them right now.

TM: First off, I don't think putting Martell in fixes the running game at all – unless you expect him to break an inhuman number of tackles or throw a few blocks himself. It would help equate numbers – especially in the red zone – but that's not the answer here.

The running backs can't run right now because the offensive line isn't blocking. From my standpoint, that's the entirety of the issue – and it's a huge issue. So, what do you do when guys aren't blocking? You put in different guys.

Ohio State has been too stubborn about personnel changes – and maybe the coaches are right, there's no guarantee anyone else would do any better. But Ohio State is better off with Jordan at guard and Myers at center. Then the Buckeyes need to get Bowen healthy and put him in the lineup as soon as he's ready to go. He's a pretty big step above Knox as a player – that much was clear last season.

If any, what personnel changes would you make on defense?

GS: The secondary needs a full shuffle, starting at cornerback with Jeffrey Okudah on the outside for Damon Arnette. Okudah has the length, athleticism and ball instincts to be better suited opposite Kendall Sheffield in Ohio State's press-man coverage scheme. Arnette, meanwhile, should bump back to the Buckeyes' third cornerback in the nickel package while Shaun Wade replaces Isaiah

Pryor at strong safety next to Jordan Fuller at free safety.

Wade's all-around instincts as a ball-hawking defensive back, plus his physicality, make him a textbook fit for safety. Pryor has had long enough to take control of the starting spot, and while the ability is there, Wade is more of a sure thing back there with Fuller. As for Okudah, he fits the mold of OSU's press-man cornerbacks over Arnette, who has simply been average and burned quite a bit in contrast to glimpses of success last season in the nickel.

TM: I fully agree that Arnette should be playing in the slot with Okudah on the outside – I might even argue that Okudah is already Ohio State's best all-around corner. That change would give the defense an instant boost (assuming Arnette is healthy sooner than later).

That said, to me, benching Pryor in favor of Wade would be a huge mistake. Pryor has

improved week to week and, quite frankly, Wade has largely struggled after showing some flashes early in the year. He was torched all night by Rondale Moore in the slot, while Pryor was one of the few Buckeye defenders to play a decent game against the Boilermakers.

To me, right now, Wade is a rotational player who will be a starter next year. Pryor should keep his spot at safety.

JG: I tend to agree with everything Garrett said about the secondary, but I think Ohio State has a problem at linebacker too. The Buckeyes are lacking speed at the position, especially on the outside, and the only linebacker I feel comfortable with on Ohio State's defense is Malik Harrison. Outside of him, I think the Buckeyes need to open the other two spots up for competition in practice during the off week.

If I had to choose right now, I would give Keandre Jones an opportunity on the

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OHIO STATE FOOTBALL ANALYSIS

outside – especially against spread offensive teams – and Baron Browning more reps in the middle. In the secondary, I am with Garrett. Sheffield and Okudah full time at corner, Wade at safety and Arnette as the nickel man. Isaiah Pryor has had more than half of the regular season to secure the spot. It is time to try some new blood there.

In your mind, is Ohio State still a playoff contender?

TM: Ohio State controls its own destiny, but how do you define contender?

Yeah, the Buckeyes have a shot to make the College Football Playoff. Yes, on any given day, any team can win. But no, I don't think Ohio State – right now – has a chance to win the national championship.

That can change, though, and maybe it will. The Buckeyes could get their issues fixed, come out of the off week and roll through the rest of the regular season, win the Big Ten and make the playoff. Or they could lose to Nebraska on Nov. 3 – I honestly wouldn't be shocked by either scenario.

To me, that means Ohio State isn't a contender. But contenders don't have to be contenders until December if they can make it that far.

JG: It is hard to say no considering Ohio State was a fringe playoff team last year even after the blowout loss to Iowa. However, when you look at the top four teams in the country (Alabama, Clemson, Notre Dame, LSU), I don't think the Buckeyes are in any shape to contend with any of them as it stands right now.

The good news for Ohio State is, a lot can change in a month, and if the Buckeyes win out, beat Michigan and win the Big Ten title, it will be hard for the committee to keep them out.

I disagree with Tim about the idea that the Buckeyes control their own destiny right now. They need help and probably need Michigan to win out as well, for that game to propel Ohio State in the rankings, should they defeat the Wolverines.

A lot needs to happen, but Ohio State's playoff chances aren't dead yet, even though they are hanging on by the thinnest of threads.

GS: If Ohio State wins out and takes the Big Ten title, I feel like there's still stock in the Buckeyes' season résumé and overall

brand as a 12-1 conference champion. Based on precedent, as exhibited in 2017 with Alabama's top-three win over Florida State to open the campaign before the Seminoles finished with six losses, OSU's victory against then-No. 15 TCU still counts as a top-15 win. The same goes for then-No. 9 Penn State, which still counts as a top-10 win. From there, Ohio State could have a top-10 or top-five win over Michigan to end the season. Those results, plus a Power 5 championship in the Big Ten, still count for something.

I'm reluctant to say yes because of what I saw with my own eyes at Purdue, plus the fact that those issues were building up in recent weeks, but you technically have to still consider the Buckeyes as College Football Playoff contenders. To get there, though, change is needed. If Meyer sits on his hands and personnel stays the same the rest of the way, OSU isn't reaching the end of the regular season without at least another loss, which could come as lopsided if those corrections aren't made.



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Nebraska Starts Turning Corner After Brutal Start

By JAMES GREGA
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

The excitement surrounding the Nebraska football program was at a fever pitch prior to the 2018 season. National title-winning quarterback Scott Frost returned home to Lincoln, Neb., to coach the Cornhuskers, and Nebraska fans were anticipating immediate contention.

Those plans were quickly put on hold when the season began.

Perhaps it was a bad omen when Nebraska's season opener against Akron was canceled due to inclement weather, or maybe it was a blessing in disguise (Akron defeated Northwestern weeks later). Either way, the start to the 2018 season could not have been more nightmarish for the Cornhuskers as Frost's team dropped the first six games of the season, including a 24-19 loss to Troy at home on Sept. 15.

In addition, the Cornhuskers have lost four players to transfer, with three heading to Oregon State, where former head coach Mike Riley is now an offensive analyst. The brutal 2018 season likely won't end in a postseason game like many Cornhusker fans had hoped, but Frost is confident that the worst days for the Nebraska program, at least under his watch, are over.

Frost said he believed the program had hit bottom following a 56-10 loss to Michigan on Sept. 22, but one week later it fell 42-28 to Purdue at home. It was after that game in which the Cornhuskers surrendered 516 yards of offense and committed 11 penalties for 136 yards that Frost ripped his team for a lack of discipline.

"We look like one of the most undisciplined teams in the country," Frost said. "And it kills me. I'm tired of coaching an undisciplined team. I don't want to be the only one who won't put up with it. The team has to not put up with it."

"They look like they love losing."

The Cornhuskers put an end to their losing streak Oct. 20, however, as Frost's team got into the left-handed column with a 53-28 win over Minnesota.

Through six games, Nebraska was the most penalized team in the country, aver-

aging 10.2 penalties for 96 yards per game. In its win over Minnesota, however, the Cornhuskers were penalized just six times, a season low.

While the Nebraska defense ranked 13th in the conference through seven games, allowing 449.9 yards per game, the Cornhusker offense has experienced some success in 2018.

Led by true freshman quarterback Adrian Martinez, Nebraska boasts the fourth-ranked offense in the league in terms of yardage, averaging 471.7 yards per game through seven games.

After leading Central Florida to an undefeated season in 2017-18 that culminated in a win over Auburn in the Peach Bowl, Frost still has a long way to go to reach the success he experienced with the Golden Knights. However, the win over Minnesota and a matchup against FCS opponent Bethune-Cookman on Oct. 27 might be enough to give Nebraska positive momentum going into their trip to Columbus to face the Buckeyes.

Players To Watch

Although there hasn't been much to cheer for if you're a Nebraska fan, the future of the Cornhuskers, especially offensively, looks very bright.

A former four-star high school prospect, Martinez was rated the No. 7 dual-threat quarterback in the 2018 recruiting class and has shown flashes of brilliance as a freshman.

Despite missing the better part of two games due to injury, Martinez has posted impressive numbers, throwing for 233.4 yards and rushing for 58 yards per game. He accounted for nine total touchdowns through the first half of the season despite not playing in the loss to Troy in the second game of the year.

One of his best games of the first half of the season came on the road against Wisconsin Oct. 6, as he completed 24 of 42 passes for 384 yards and a pair of scores to zero interceptions in a 41-24 loss to the Badgers. In the win over Minnesota he completed 25 of 29 passes for 276 yards and three touchdowns, while not throwing an interception. He also accounted for 125 yards rushing and another score on the ground, toting the ball 15 times.

He said after his impressive perfor-

Get To Know ... Nebraska

About Nebraska

- **2018 Record:** 1-6 (1-4 Big Ten).
- **Team Information:** Offensive Formation – Multiple; Defensive Formation – Multiple; Starters Returning – Offense 6, Defense 8, Specialists 1.
- **Head Coach:** Scott Frost, third season, 20-13 (first at Nebraska, 1-6).
- **Series History:** Seventh meeting, Ohio State leads, 5-1.
- **School Facts:** Location – Lincoln, Neb.; Enrollment – 26,079; Nickname – Cornhuskers; Colors – Scarlet & Cream; Conference – Big Ten (West Division); Stadium – Memorial Stadium (Surface, FieldTurf; Capacity, 86,047).

Top Offensive Players

Rushing	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Long
Devine Ozigbo	85	600	7.1	7	59
Adrian Martinez	81	415	5.1	4	53
Maurice Washington	53	296	5.6	2	29

Passing	Comp.-Att.	Pct.	Yds.	TD-INT
Adrian Martinez	121-183	66.1	1,443	9-5

Receiving	Rec.	Net	Avg.	TD	Long
JD Spielman	48	614	12.8	7	75
Stanley Morgan	37	556	15.0	3	67
Maurice Washington	14	92	6.6	0	24

Team Offensive Stats

Points Per Game – 27.6
Rushing Yards Per Game – 219.9
Passing Yards Per Game – 251.9
Total Offense Avg. Per Game – 471.7

2018 Schedule

Date	Opponent	Result/Time (ET)
Sept. 8	COLORADO	L, 33-28
Sept. 15	TROY	L, 24-19
Sept. 22	at Michigan	L, 56-10
Sept. 29	PURDUE	L, 42-28
Oct. 6	at Wisconsin	L, 41-24
Oct. 13	at Northwestern	L, 34-31 (OT)
Oct. 20	MINNESOTA	W, 53-28
Oct. 27	BETHUNE-COOKMAN	Noon
Nov. 3	at Ohio State	TBA
Nov. 10	ILLINOIS	TBA
Nov. 17	MICHIGAN STATE	TBA
Nov. 23	at Iowa	Noon

Top Defensive Players

Def. Leaders	Solo	Ast.	Tot.	TFL-Yds.	Sacks
Mohamed Barry	29	35	64	7-27	1.0-9
Aaron Williams	31	18	49	–	–
Luke Gifford	22	21	43	10-39	4.5-31
Dedrick Young	24	19	43	3-3	–
Tre Neal	20	17	37	1-2	–
Khalil Davis	17	11	28	3-23	2.0-16
Dicaprio Bootle	18	7	25	–	–

Interceptions	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
Tre Neal	1	14	14.0	0	14

4 others tied with 1 interception with no return each

Team Defensive Stats

Points Per Game Allowed – 36.9
Rushing Yards Per Game Allowed – 169.6
Passing Yards Per Game Allowed – 280.3
Total Offense Avg. Per Game Allowed – 449.9

mance against the Badgers that he felt the Cornhuskers were close to turning the corner.

"We've been through so much as a team already, ups and downs and little things not going our way," Martinez said after the loss to the Badgers. "We're battling through adversity. We're getting closer as a unit knowing that we're going through this struggle together and knowing that we're going to be back. We're going to get this thing turned around. We just can't lose the faith. I feel like this week we really just kind of adopted that idea wholeheartedly."

Part of Martinez' success has been due to an impressive stable of wide receivers.

Through the first half of the season, Nebraska had a pair of wide receivers who ranked in the top 10 of the conference in receiving yards per game. The better of the

two, sophomore JD Spielman, averaged 87.7 yards receiving through the first seven games of the year catching 48 passes for 614 yards and seven touchdowns in that span. Spielman is the nephew of former Ohio State great Chris Spielman.

Last season against Ohio State in Lincoln, Spielman caught a career-high 11 passes for 200 yards against Ohio State, including one of Nebraska's two touchdowns in a 56-14 loss to the Buckeyes.

The other Nebraska wide receiver who ranked in the top 10 through seven games is Stanley Morgan. Through Oct. 20, Morgan caught 37 passes for 556 yards and three touchdowns. A senior in his final year as a Cornhusker, Morgan led Nebraska in receiving as a junior, hauling in 61 passes for 986 yards and 10 touchdowns.

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Ohio State vs. Nebraska

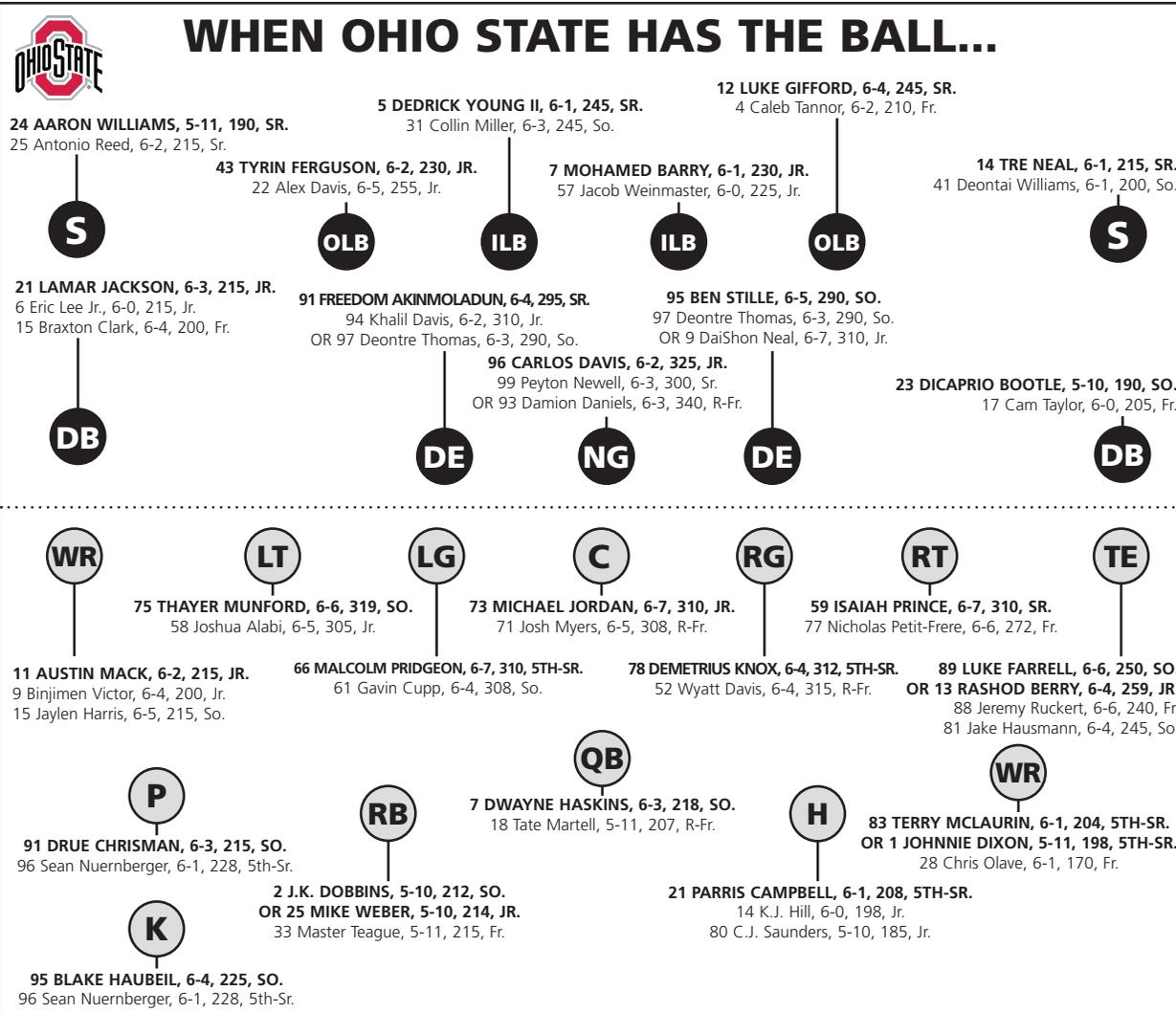
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Projected Depth Charts

How We See It

WHEN OHIO STATE HAS THE BALL...



OHIO STATE RUSH OFFENSE vs. NEBRASKA RUSH DEFENSE

What can you say about a running game that averaged 3.0 yards a carry against Purdue? Exactly. The kind and gentle will say the Buckeyes' 76 yards on 25 carries is a result of playing from behind and relying on quarterback Dwayne Haskins. The realists respond that if the beefy offensive line could open a few holes and allow the backs to breathe, maybe OSU wouldn't need to chuck the ball three-fourths of the time. Ohio State's longest run against Purdue was 11 yards by Mike Weber on the second-to-last play of the game. By that time the fans were on the field drinking Boilermakers. Eleven yards? Back in the day Archie Griffin used to get that bending over to tie his shoe. The somewhat good news is that Nebraska is 12th in the Big Ten (all games) in rush defense, allowing 169.6 yards per game, about what OSU averages rushing a game (171.8). **EDGE: EVEN**

NEBRASKA RUSH OFFENSE vs. OHIO STATE RUSH DEFENSE

Not to harp much more on the OSU rushing, but the Buckeyes gained 92 yards against Minnesota on Oct. 13. Nebraska in its 53-38 victory over the Golden Gophers on Oct. 20 had three players run for more than 100 yards against the nation's 28th-stingiest rush defense at the time. In compiling 383 yards, Devine Ozigbo had 152 on 12 carries and two touchdowns, true freshman quarterback Adrian Martinez ran 15 times for 125 yards and a score, and Maurice Washington added 109 yards and a TD on 14 carries. The Cornhuskers (1-6, 1-4 Big Ten) are fifth in conference rushing (219.9) while the Buckeyes rank seventh in rush defense (149.6). **EDGE: NEBRASKA**

OHIO STATE PASS OFFENSE vs. NEBRASKA PASS DEFENSE

Haskins can use the open weekend of Oct. 27 to ice his arm. But seriously, folks, he set the school marks for passes (73), completions (49) and yards (470) in the 49-20 blowout loss to Purdue on Oct. 20. His two TDs give him 30 along with 2,801 yards. He did throw a pick-six with two minutes left to give him five interceptions for the season. Parris Campbell (52 catches, 600 yards, seven touchdowns) and K.J. Hill (49, 656, 4) are his favorite targets, but Terry McLaurin (29, 398, 8) is Mr. Reliable. OSU has the best passing game (383.8) while Nebraska is 12th in Big Ten pass defense (280.3). **EDGE: OHIO STATE**

NEBRASKA PASS OFFENSE vs. OHIO STATE PASS DEFENSE

Not only can Martinez run, he's dangerous with his arm as well. He's 121 for 183 (66.1 percent) with 1,443 yards and nine touchdowns to five interceptions. He has three games of more than 400 total yards to already tie the school career record. OSU has built a reputation for giving up large chunks of real estate, and the Cornhuskers vs. Minnesota had plays of 59, 63 and 67 yards among their 659 total yards. Stanley Morgan had a career-best 10 receptions for 163 yards and two TDs, including a 67-yarder. JD Spielman had eight catches for 77 yards and tops the conference with 87.7 receiving yards per game to go along with seven TDs. The OSU pass defense needs to do two things: get healthy and get better. They might be related. The Buckeyes' pass defense is 10th at 241.1 yards allowed per game and shows no signs of making progress. **EDGE: NEBRASKA**

SPECIAL TEAMS

OSU's Blake Haubeil stepped in for the injured Sean Nuernberger against Minnesota and made all three field goals, including a 47-yarder. Then Haubeil missed a 33-yard attempt vs. Purdue that could have pulled the Buckeyes to within 7-6 just before the half. The Boilermakers went down to get a TD, and the rest is history. Nebraska's Barret Pickering is 6 of 10 with a long of 35. Drue Chrisman continues to pin Buckeye opponents deep with his punts only to see the defense falter. **EDGE: OHIO STATE**

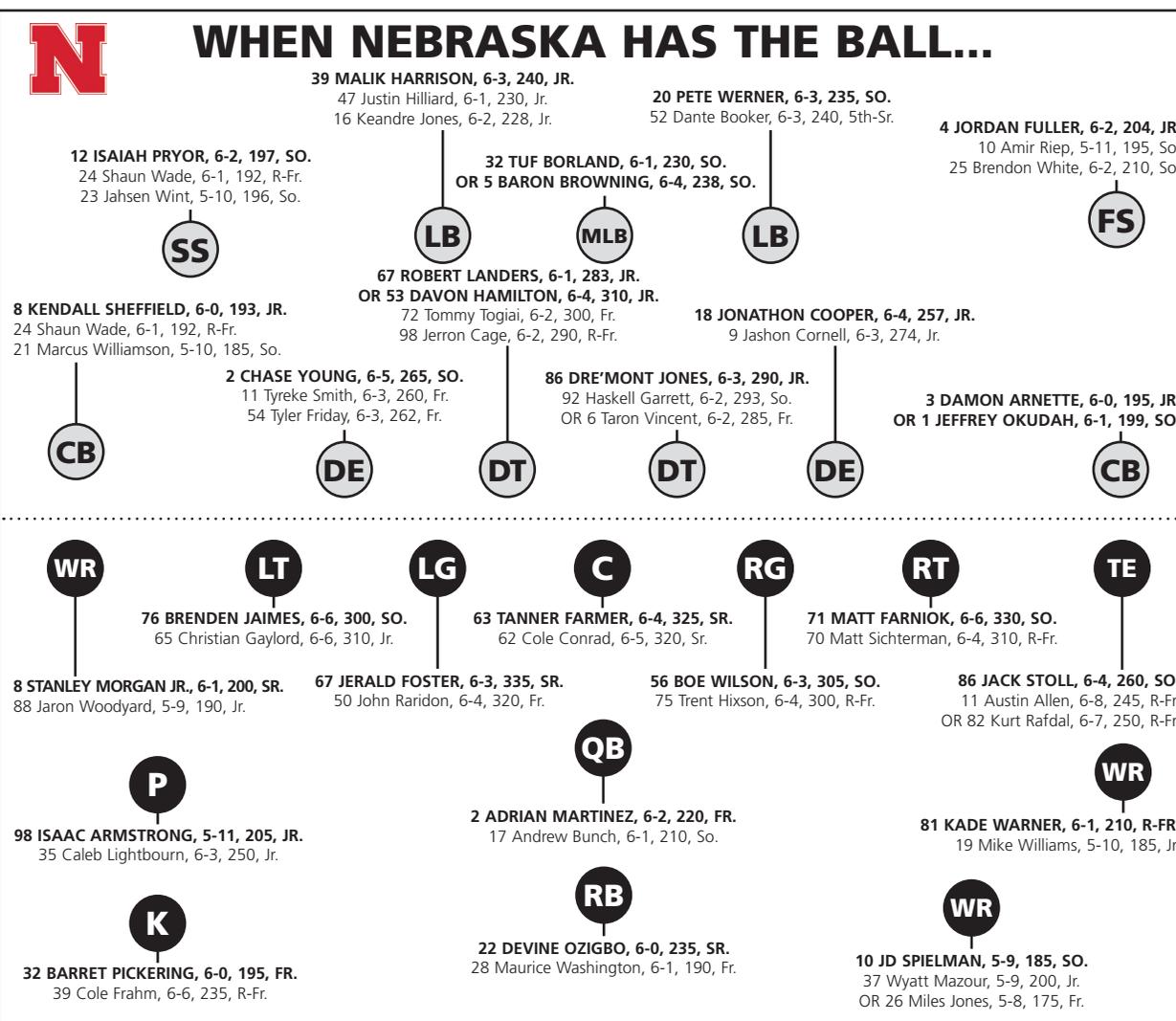
INTANGIBLES

The Buckeyes (7-1, 4-1) are hurting physically and psychologically, and their many weaknesses have been exposed. The truth is they might have been the least deserving undefeated before going to Purdue. They now are the team most needing a weekend off. How they will respond is anybody's guess. On the other hand, the Huskers will have a chance for a second straight win for new coach Scott Frost when they host Bethune Cookman on Oct. 27. If they win (likely) they'll come into Columbus armed with confidence and thinking upset. **EDGE: NEBRASKA**

PREDICTION

This is a game Ohio State should win by 30-plus points. Coming off an embarrassing defeat, the Buckeyes will be angry and looking for vengeance. The only thing holding them back is the coaching staff. For having so much talent, they've collectively done a poor job of developing players. The elite programs find replacements when key players get injured. There are just too many questions that need to be answered this late in the season. **OHIO STATE 45, NEBRASKA 24**

WHEN NEBRASKA HAS THE BALL...



Kern Spearheaded OSU's Historic 1968 Season

By MARK REA
BSB Managing Editor Emeritus

College football historians often point to 1968 as the season that saved Ohio State football. That might be overstating the importance of the national championship run that year, but there is no overstating the impact the season had on Woody Hayes' ongoing tenure as head coach.

For more than three seasons beginning in 1964, the Buckeyes seemed to be spinning their wheels, and fans as well as university power brokers didn't like it. The team entered the final month of the 1967 season having won only 14 its previous 26 games, a .538 winning percentage that made the seat underneath Hayes incredibly hot.

Reports began to circulate that the coach's success – not to mention his prickly personality – had run its course after 17 years and that the school would likely begin searching for his replacement at season's end. But then the Buckeyes finished the 1967 campaign with four consecutive victories, including a 24-14 win at Michigan, an outcome that unquestionably earned Hayes at least one more year in Columbus.

Still, the legendary coach embarked upon the 1968 season intending to stick to his antiquated philosophy of controlling the game's tempo with a fullback-centric offense. But roster changes as well as a tweak to the coaching staff changed all that – despite more than a little objection from Hayes himself.

OSU quarterbacks coach Larry Catuzzi had resigned after three seasons on Hayes' staff to become head coach at Division III Williams College, and he was replaced by George Chaump, a successful high school coach in Pennsylvania.

Also joining the Buckeyes in 1968 was perhaps the most talented recruiting class in program history, a group known as the "Super Sophomores" that included such future All-Americans as John Brockington, Mike Sensibaugh, Jim Stillwagon and Jack Tatum as well as Rex Kern, an athletic quarterback who with the aid of Chaump would help usher in a completely new offensive era at Ohio State.



FILE PHOTO

DYNAMIC DUO – Head coach Woody Hayes (left) and quarterback Rex Kern (right) led Ohio State to a national title in 1968.

Kern, the younger of two sons of a barber and housewife from Lancaster, Ohio, grew up in a town nestled in the middle of the picturesque Hocking Hills. Rex's father, Trenton, operated a two-chair shop on Garfield Avenue where he would cut hair, dispense advice, listen to his customers' troubles and opine on baseball, football and basketball. His younger boy wanted to be a major league baseball player almost from the time he could wrap his tiny fingers around a plastic bat, but it really didn't matter which sport he was playing just as long as he was playing.

"It gave me a real adrenaline surge to make that basket or hit the ball or throw the pass, but it was the competition more than the winning," Kern said. "That's what I really enjoyed – physically competing. It fit my personality. I had a little more aggressiveness than some kids. Probably being the younger one in the family – second-born, last-born – made me more aggressive.

"That, and being the smallest kid in the neighborhood. They beat up on you all the time. And probably having red hair. They always made fun of my hair. I think that tempers your personality. You're thinking, 'Wait a minute. I'm tired of this stuff.' If I got

a chance to hit you, I hit you. If you can do that within the confines of an athletic contest, that's great."

While most star quarterbacks began throwing a football almost as soon as they knew what a football was, things transpired a little differently for Kern. It wasn't until he was in the seventh grade that he discovered he had an aptitude for throwing a football.

"I had played sandlot football in my neighborhood, of course, but in those kinds of games, you took turns playing different positions," he said. "One day, I was at the local park and there was a football there laying on the ground, and we just started kind of throwing it around.

"They were just starting a Pop Warner league, and one of the coaches asked me if I'd like to be his quarterback. Here I was, just a seventh-grader, and this guy was offering me the opportunity to play all the time rather than get beat on by the upperclassmen on our school team. So, I shrugged my shoulders and said, 'Sure, I'll be your quarterback.' That was for the Hocking Hornets. Of course, we ran the ball more than we threw it, but I remember it being a lot of fun."

As a youngster, Kern followed the fortunes of the Cleveland Browns and quarterbacks Milt Plum and Frank Ryan, but he admitted his favorite while growing up was Johnny Unitas, the future Hall of Fame quarterback for the Baltimore Colts. In a twist of fate, Kern was drafted by the Colts after his college career had ended, leading to an awkward meeting with his boyhood idol.

"In training camp, they put my locker right next to Johnny U's," Kern said. "To say I was awestruck would be an understatement, but I mustered all my strength, went over and introduced myself and asked what I should call him – Mr. Unitas, Johnny U, John. He said, 'Just call me John,' and then I couldn't leave well enough alone.

"I said, 'I remember watching you when I was 9 years old when you beat the Giants in the 1958 NFL Championship Game.' I could immediately feel my face turn red as soon as the words left my mouth. 'Gee, thanks, rookie,' he said with a weird kind of grin. I felt about two inches tall, but he took it good-naturedly, and we always had a great relationship."

Kern, who was signed by the Colts to play defensive back, said it was Unitas and backup quarterback Earl Morrall who initially made him feel welcome with his new team.

Following a preseason workout, the veterans asked the rookie if he wanted to accompany them to a local watering hole. Kern eagerly accepted before thinking better of the invitation. After all, he didn't drink alcohol.

"I'm thinking, 'Oh my, gosh, I don't want to go there,'" he said. "So, I showered real quick, grabbed my playbook, ran outside and hid in the bushes, hoping they wouldn't see me. Pretty soon, Johnny drove up in his car and Earl got in. They sat there for five minutes before Earl rolled down the window and yelled, 'Hey, rookie, get out of the bushes and get into the car.'

"So, we walk into the bar and there are all the guys – Tom Matte, Jerry Logan, Dan Sullivan – and I go to sit down and there are about six cans of beer in front of me before I ever hit the seat. Well, I act like I'm drinking, but I'm really just lipping it, and after a while they say, 'Hey, rookie, we've got to get going or we'll miss our meal.' So, they all joined in and finished my beers. That's when I felt I belonged."

That Kern became a star quarterback at Ohio State as well as a professional football player was something of a fluke. He was so adept at baseball that he was offered a major league baseball contract from the Kansas City Athletics after high school.

But he was equally adept at basketball, and he was good enough to earn scholarship offers from the likes of such coaches as John Wooden of UCLA and Dean Smith of North Carolina. But he wanted to stay closer to home to play at Ohio State for Fred Taylor.

"That is one of my first real memories," Kern said. "Since the fourth grade, my goal was to play basketball for Fred Taylor."

Once Hayes got wind that Kern was interested in becoming a Buckeye, he inquired if the youngster would consider playing two sports in college. Kern agreed and accepted a football scholarship so he wouldn't count against Taylor's smaller quota of grants-in-aid. But he made it clear to Hayes that basketball would take precedence if a choice had to be made in the future.

Kern quarterbacked the 1967 freshman team for Hayes, and once his football duties had ended, he made a seamless transition to the freshman basketball team. Toward the end of the season, however, he felt a twinge

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in the back of one of his legs. Shrugging it off as a slight hamstring pull, Kern finished the basketball season and began spring football drills a few months later.

The nagging injury never seemed to go away and got so bad that Kern could barely get out of bed one day. An examination by Ohio State team doctors diagnosed a ruptured disk in Kern's back, and surgery the following June repaired the problem.

Less than three months later, Kern was under center for the Buckeyes as they embarked upon their 1968 national championship season.

Updating Woody's Philosophy

While Kern was recuperating, his position coach was undergoing a baptism of fire as the newest assistant on Hayes' staff. Chaump had been poring over film of the 1967 freshman team and almost couldn't believe his eyes.

"What I saw was amazing," he told PennLive.com earlier this year. "I thought there was more talent than I'd ever seen, including, ironically enough, a great quarterback."

Most observers believed Chaump was hired because he had delivered one of his star players to the Buckeyes. Tight end Jan White had been an all-state performer for Chaump's teams at John Harris High School in Harrisburg, Pa., helping them to win 35 consecutive games at one point.

But Chaump was an innovative young coach who saw unlimited offensive possibilities for the Buckeyes – if he could get Hayes to adopt a new way of thinking, and that was tantamount to rolling a bowling ball up the side of Mount Everest with your nose.

"When I got there," Chaump said, "the offense was monotonous – all 'Dead-T' sets, no imagination, no spreading out the field, no using receivers. Finally, I was at lunch with a bunch of the assistants, and I said, 'Is this the way Woody runs all of his meetings? Geez, we're all treated like a bunch of elementary kids. Do we ever get a chance to ask questions?'"

Offensive line coach Hugh Hindman, who had played for Hayes at Miami (Ohio) before joining his staff at Ohio State, answered with a droll smirk, "Sure, George. Ask a couple of questions."

When the staff reconvened after lunch, Hayes began diagramming plays based upon his fullback-oriented offense. That's when Chaump raised his hand and asked if he could diagram some plays of his own. He drew up several options on how to get the ball to his more athletic players in space, most of it out of an I-formation. Hayes then asked his young assistant if he thought a tailback was better at running the ball than a fullback, and when Chaump answered in the affirmative, the windows began to rattle.

"Nobody's going to come in here and tell us we're not going to run the fullback!" Hayes erupted. "If you think you're going to come in here and change that, you're not going to work here! You get the hell out of here, and I mean right now! Go ahead! You're gone!"

A red-faced Chaump gathered his belongings and slinked out of the room only to be stopped in the hallway. Hayes opened the door and yelled, "Hey, George! Get back in here! I've never fired a coach in my life, and I'm not going to break my record for the likes of you."

When Chaump returned, Hindman told Hayes that he should listen to his newest assistant.

"Coach, I played for you," Hindman said. "I've coached under you, and I understand you. I know how emotional you get. But let me tell you something. Quite frankly, I think we should talk about those ideas George had

on the board. I think we should talk about them and see what we can do."

One by one, the rest of the offensive assistants agreed.

"He was suddenly like a little boy up there," Chaump remembered. "Finally, he said, 'Well, if we're going to do this, we better learn more about it.'"

Chaump sent away for films from programs that used the I-formation, and the new offense was installed during spring practice. Then when the Buckeyes unveiled their new look in the fall, fans couldn't believe what they were seeing.

"We lined up in the slot-I, and 80,000 people in Ohio Stadium thought it was an illegal formation," Chaump said with a laugh.

The Buckeyes rolled to a 35-14 victory against SMU in the 1968 season opener, touching off an undefeated national championship run culminating in a 27-16 win against defending national champion USC in the Rose Bowl. But things were not as easy during the opener as the final score might indicate.

Ohio State's first offensive series was a three-and-out, and after a pair of penalties put the Buckeyes deep in their own territory, Hayes decided to punt the second series away on third down.

"Punting on third down? I'd never seen that happen in my life," Kern said.

The offense finally found its rhythm and had staked the Buckeyes to a 14-0 lead by the end of the first quarter. But in the second quarter, the unit stalled again, forcing two straight possessions to end in punts. When a third appeared headed the same way near the end of the first half, Kern decided to take matters into his own hands.

"Before the season," he said, "Woody had taken me aside and told me that there would be times when I would have a better feel for how things were going than he would. He said, 'That's when you'll have to go with your gut.' I said, 'That sounds good to me,' and I put that to use in our opener against Southern Methodist."

Faced with fourth-and-10 at the SMU 41, and the first-half clock winding under two minutes, Hayes sent in the punting team only to have it waved off the field by Kern.

"My interpretation of the situation was that we were close to hitting on all cylinders and it was time to make something happen," he said. "I called for a Robust Fullback Delay

– a pass designed to go to Otey (fullback Jim Otis). Only things didn't quite work out the way I envisioned them."

SMU had Otis double-covered as he came out of the backfield, causing Kern to improvise. As he turned away from the oncoming rush, he was hit by an SMU defender who caused the sophomore quarterback to pirouette 360 degrees in the air before hitting the ground and dashing around right end for 16 yards and a first down.

Three plays later, Kern found halfback Dave Brungard in the end zone for an 18-yard touchdown that padded OSU's lead to 26-7 at the half.

"Stat-wise, that was not my best game," said Kern, who finished 8 of 14 for 139 yards and two touchdowns with another 45 yards and a score on the ground. "But if you're asking me what I think was my best game at Ohio State, I think I'd say the one against Southern Methodist."

"Looking back, I like to think that our offense set the tone in that game for the remainder of that season as well as the next two. We let our talent take over, and that is probably my fondest memory."

QBs Past And Present

In October 1970, SPORT magazine hit newsstands with a cover featuring Kern and three of the nation's other top college quarterbacks – Archie Manning of Ole Miss, Joe Theismann of Notre Dame and 1970 Heisman Trophy winner Jim Plunkett of Stanford.

The cover photo was adorned with the headline "Year of the Quarterback" as well as a story chronicling the aforementioned QBs as well as such contemporaries as future NFL starters Dan Pastorini of Santa Clara, Lynn Dickey of Kansas State and Ken Anderson of Division III Augustana (Ill.) College.

Getting Kern to rank himself against his peers, however, is an exercise in futility.

"I don't know how to do that," he said. "There were so many elements and so many different kinds of offenses that people were running in those days. I mean, take your pick. It would be hard to single out just one."

As far as his favorite Ohio State quarterbacks, it's an easier decision.

"One of my all-time favorites is Mace," Kern said, referring to teammate Ron Maceyowski, who relieved Kern several times during their respective careers and started

several contests when Kern was sidelined with an injury. "Mace had a great arm and a great feel for our offense. Without him, we wouldn't have been as successful as we were. No question about that."

Kern also mentioned 2002 national championship QB Craig Krenzel as well as 2006 Heisman Trophy winner Troy Smith, but he saved much of his praise for current quarterback Dwayne Haskins, who seems on his way to rewriting the program's record books for passing.

"Holy cow, it's amazing what that young man is doing," Kern said. "You have to remind yourself that this is his first year as a starter, and I wouldn't hesitate to say he might be the best quarterback we've ever had at Ohio State. He has pocket presence, he has a rocket for an arm, a quick trigger and he's very accurate. My gosh, he's doing an incredible job."

Now 69 and retired, Kern lives with his wife, Nancy, a former Rose Bowl princess whom he met in 1968, in suburban Denver. Fifteen surgeries – including seven on his back, two hip replacements and several shoulder procedures – have slowed him to the point where he admits his activity is basically nonexistent.

"Fortunately, I can still get around," he said, returning to Columbus in mid-October for the OSU game against Minnesota as well as the 50th reunion of the 1968 national championship team that weekend.

And believe it or not, he can still throw a football – maybe just not quite as far as he used to.

"Last year, we were in town for the Penn State game," Kern said. "We went over to the Schottenstein Center, and I bought our grandson Caleb a little scarlet and gray football. Well, we get outside in the parking lot and he wants me to throw it to him. He takes off running and yells, 'Throw it to me, Poppa! Throw it to me!' I said, 'Come back here. I can't throw it that far.'"

"So, he came running back and we had a little game of catch. Let me tell you, I can still throw a pretty tight spiral. Only about 5-7 yards, but it's tight."

Then he added with a laugh, "That's only about as far as Woody would have let me throw it anyway."

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

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OSU Turning Up Recruiting Pressure For Off Week

After a huge recruiting weekend at home for the Minnesota game followed by a road trip to Purdue, the Ohio State coaching staff is headed into its off week with the aim of building more momentum in recruiting.

RECRUITING OUTLOOK Garrett Stepien

Before the staffers disperse to high schools across the country, the Buckeyes got ahead of the action. OSU made waves in the classes of 2019 and 2020, picking up a preferred walk-on commitment from an in-state lineman for the current cycle and dipping down to the Southeast with offers to two defensive backs for the next cycle.

In addition to the movement on the trail, though, Ohio State received mixed news

with injury updates on two of its top recruits – a four-star commitment and a five-star target – for 2020.

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

QB Commit Miller Injures Knee

In an Oct. 19 showdown between two of Arizona's top high school teams, Scottsdale Chaparral took on Phoenix Pinnacle without Jack Miller. The four-star quarterback, who committed July 1 to Ohio State, suffered a high-grade medial collateral knee sprain early in the Firebirds' Oct. 12 game against Phoenix Mountain Pointe.

According to the Arizona Republic, Miller was expected to be out three weeks with his return hopeful for Nov. 2 when the state's

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
Dwan Mathis	QB	6-4	197	★★★★	Oak Park, Mich.
Harry Miller	C	6-4	310	★★★★★	Buford, Ga.
Doug Nester	OG	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
Jameson Williams	WR	6-1½	169	★★★★	St. Louis Cardinal Ritter
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

6A playoffs begin. Chaparral closes its regular-season schedule Oct. 26 vs. Peoria Liberty.

Miller suffered his injury on Chaparral's second drive, but he elected to stay in the game. The 6-4, 210-pounder ended up passing for 267 yards and three touchdowns in a 42-24 defeat. For the season, he has 141 completions on 256 attempts (55.1 percent) for 2,431 yards and 27 touchdowns to six interceptions in eight games.

Chaparral's clash with Pinnacle was broadcast on ESPNU, scheduled with the initial idea of featuring Miller against 2019 five-star quarterback and Oklahoma commitment Spencer Rattler (6-1, 181). However, Rattler did not play either, battling a knee injury of his own after he sprained an MCL earlier in the week during practice. Despite the future Sooners being sidelined for Pinnacle's senior night, the Firebirds fell, 23-7.

Four-star running back Darvon Hubbard (6-0, 200), who committed July 25 to join Miller and the Buckeyes for 2020, has 92 carries for 699 yards and seven touchdowns in six games on the campaign.

Miller and Hubbard hope to be back in Columbus the weekend of Nov. 24 for the Michigan game. Miller (No. 64 overall prospect, No. 4 pro-style quarterback, No. 4 player in Arizona) and Hubbard (No. 171 overall prospect, No. 16 running back and No. 6 player in Arizona) are two cornerstone commitments in Ohio State's six-member class of 2020.

took aim at a Miami (Fla.) commitment, extending an offer in the 2020 class to Homestead (Fla.) South Dade three-star safety Jaiden Francois on Oct. 16.

Five days earlier, the Buckeyes offered a Hurricanes pledge in the 2019 cycle, potentially looking to flip Jacksonville (Fla.) Trinity Christian Academy three-star running back Marcus Crowley.

The latest offer to Francois comes ahead of OSU's off week when its coaching staff gets set to hit the road, checking on 2019 commits and targets while identifying prospects and extending scholarships for 2020.

Francois projects to fall under the category of the latter as Ohio State prepares for its recruiting swing to the Sunshine State. Prior to the Buckeyes entering his mix, he pledged July 27 to Miami on an unofficial visit. The 6-0, 184-pounder picked up offers from Syracuse (Jan. 23) and Georgia Tech (June 18) with the 'Canes (May 3) issuing one in between.

Right in Miami's back yard, Francois has been to campus plenty of times since the original decision, making four unofficial visits. After his junior season started, though, upper-tier Power 5 programs started to take notice. In addition to OSU, Florida State (Oct. 11) and Penn State (Oct. 18) offered over the course of the week.

Francois is the 247Sports composite's No. 479 overall prospect, No. 26 safety and No. 71 player in Florida for 2020.

Bucks Offer Another 'Canes Commit

For the second straight week, Ohio State

OSU Nets 2019 PWO Pledge

While plenty of scholarship targets

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ASK AN ANALYST

With CBS Sports Network's Tom Lemming

Frankfort (Ky.) Western Hills 2019 four-star all-purpose back Wandale Robinson (5-9½, 179) is scheduled to announce his commitment Nov. 1 with Ohio State in the mix among five other finalists. The Buckeyes were previously involved with Louisville (Ky.) Trinity 2018 four-star wide receiver Rondale Moore (5-9, 175) before they cooled and he went to Purdue, where he has taken off as a freshman. How do those two compare?

"They're both explosive. They're both dynamic. Rondale was all-state as a sophomore (in 2015), so I've paid attention to both of them. Wandale is similar. You've got two guys with good hands, explosive and speedy. They're just quick-twitch athletes who know how to get themselves open. They're game breakers, both of them. They were and are both high school game breakers.

"Wandale would fit into Ohio State's offense perfectly. I think if you want more of a slot receiver, that's where he would excel at and I would think that he could come in and play as a freshman. Those kinds of guys play right away, like Rondale does at Purdue. If they're as successful as you think they're going to be, then they usually leave after three years anyway."

Eight games into its season, Ohio State has played in three prime-time games (Sept. 15 against TCU, Sept. 29 at Penn State and Oct. 20 at Purdue) with

Nov. 3 vs. Nebraska setting up as another potential night kickoff from Ohio Stadium. Head coach Urban Meyer has expressed his displeasure with night games because he dislikes the impact they have on the team's weekly and postgame routines. But whether the Buckeyes take the prime-time slot at home or on the road, does it have a positive impact on recruiting?

"The prime-time settings are good at home. The kids love the attention. They love seeing the cameras because they're on the field before the game. It always helps. (Nebraska) could be a blowout for Ohio State, but all things kind of point to that being a great weekend for Ohio State (with official visitors such as Katy, Texas, four-star running back Deondrick Glass and Jacksonville [Fla.] Trinity Christian Academy three-star running back Marcus Crowley slated to attend) as long as the weather holds up. If it's bad weather, then the recruits don't even like to be on the field most of the time.

"There's a lot of factors that go into a great weekend. Usually, good weather is a part of it. But exciting football is a factor, too. Obviously, Ohio State's got everything for a great visit. It starts with great facilities. So I think it will be a big weekend. I think all visits are great, but it will be better when there is a big game and there is a lot of electricity in the air.

"With road games, a lot of times, the teams can't talk to the kids. But the kids see the performance in the game, how they use their players schematically and everything else on national television and a lot of it helps. The more they see you, the better it is, especially when you're an elite program like Ohio State."

Before the Buckeyes host the Cornhuskers and hit the final stretch of the campaign, the team takes its Oct. 27 off week. While Ohio State is idle on the field, recruiting normally intensifies with coaches out on the trail. How big are those days during the week and over the weekend for Meyer and the staff to gain ground on the road?

"It's huge. In fact, a lot of it, I would say, might even be 2020 recruiting at this stage. Either way, it's real big. You always want to be able to get a jump on the competition and get ahead of them. Once you offer your scholarships, it's real important to properly identify and be one of the first schools to offer because the kids remember that. So getting a jump in not only evaluating but offering is real important. A lot of those offers often come in the season during the school's off week. They've all got one. Some of them, like Alabama, have two. They use 75 percent of that off week, between practices, to go out and get a leg up on recruiting."

remain for Ohio State in 2019 as its class contains 14 commitments, the Buckeyes added a future team member Oct. 16 when lineman Ryan Smith took to Twitter and announced that he had accepted his preferred walk-on offer from OSU.

"Extremely excited to announce I've officially committed to play football and further my education at The Ohio State University!" Smith's tweet read. "Through persistent hard work anything is possible!"

From Buckeye High School in Medina, Ohio, Smith chose Ohio State after a preferred walk-on offer came Oct. 10, following an unofficial visit to campus Oct. 6 when the Buckeyes recorded a 49-26 win over Indiana.

On Oct. 17, Smith told The (Medina) Gazette that he had been hoping for an offer from a Mid-American school after camping

at Kent State over the summer. As a fan of the Scarlet and Gray growing up, though, his home-state dream school suddenly became a reality.

"It was an opportunity I felt like I couldn't pass up," Smith said. "It's crazy. I remember in seventh grade we took a field trip to the Horseshoe. They took us to the recruiting room, and I was like, 'What do I have to do to be in here?'"

Before OSU entered the mix, Smith added his first offer Sept. 16 from Lake Erie College (Division II). On Sept. 23, he added a Division-I offer from Morehead State (Football Championship Subdivision).

The 6-3, 270-pound Smith plays offensive tackle and defensive tackle for his high school team. He projects as an offensive lineman at the next level.

As a freshman, Smith weighed 150 pounds before undergoing a physical transformation. He now boasts a 350-pound bench press and 450-pound squat. With plans to study business, his 3.8 grade point average and overall work ethic make attaining a scholarship down the road possible, he said.

"They said it's very possible," Smith said. "With my hard work and mind-set, I'm persistent with what I do. I believe in myself to do that. It's just all a dream right now for me. It's surreal."

5-Star Target Calls Meyer After Surgery

As the 247Sports composite's No. 13 overall prospect, No. 2 outside linebacker and No. 1 player in Washington, D.C., St. John's College High School five-star Mekhail

Sherman is among the top targets for Ohio State and just about every other Power 5 program for 2020.

In the Cadets' 31-10 win over Forestville (Md.) Bishop McNamara, though, his junior season took a turn for the worse when he suffered a torn ACL.

After Sherman underwent surgery to repair the knee injury Oct. 17, he said Ohio State head coach Urban Meyer was one of his first calls.

"Urban Meyer was one of the first people I called right after my surgery," Sherman told Lettermen Row, "just him being there for me."

Among his post-op contacts, Sherman said Meyer was the only college coach he called over the phone, although personnel

Continued On Page 24

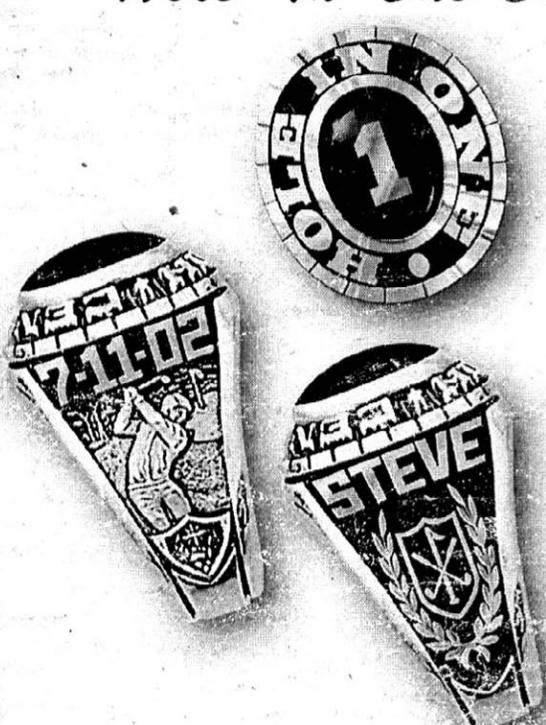


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5-Star Contacts OSU Coach Meyer After Surgery

Continued From Page 23

from other programs communicated with him via text message.

Sherman remains on the Buckeyes' short list of priority prospects for the next cycle. He and two 2020 teammates – the four-star duo of defensive tackle Tre Williams (6-1½, 308) and wide receiver Rakim Jarrett (6-0, 182) – unofficially visited OSU from July 27-28.

While the campaign continues for Williams and Jarrett as Sherman watches from the sideline, Sherman said they are likely to return to Columbus on an unofficial visit Nov. 24 for the Michigan game.

Bucks Offer No. 2 2020 Safety

Two days after Francois announced an offer, Ohio State extended one to another safety from the Sunshine State on Oct. 18 in DeLand four-star Avantae Williams.

Williams is the 247Sports composite's No. 47 overall prospect, No. 2 safety and No. 5 player in Florida for 2020. He announced April 2 his intention to play in the 2020 Under Armour All-America Game, becoming one of the first few prospects slated to compete in the annual all-star contest in Orlando, Fla.

The Buckeyes became his latest offer, less than 24 hours after he received one Oct. 17 from Penn State. Williams was committed to Miami (Fla.) from Feb. 9, 2017, to May 8 when he announced his decommitment. Since Williams dropped from the 'Canes' class, his list grew with six offers, capped by OSU.

Williams boasts an offer list that already includes Alabama, Florida, Florida State, Georgia, LSU, Michigan, Oklahoma and Penn State over the past two years. As far as visits go, his two reported unofficial trips have occurred over the past few months at Florida State on June 10 and Miami on Sept. 22 for the 'Canes' 31-17 win over Florida International.

OSU Offers 2019 North Carolina DE

With room to add along the defensive line for 2019, Ohio State issued an offer Oct.

A Look Back At Recruiting From The Pages Of BSB

30 Years Ago – 1988

While head coach John Cooper had his tendencies to seek out-of-state recruits, the local prospects caught Ohio State's attention with several blue-chip linemen among the top targets for the Buckeyes.

Cleveland St. Joseph offensive lineman Rod Smith (6-4, 285), Chillicothe defensive lineman Chuck Jones (6-4, 285) and Youngstown East two-way lineman Sylvester Stanley (6-3, 260) received high praise from recruiting expert Tom Lemming.

"More than a couple of schools consider Rod to be the top offensive lineman prospect in the country," Lemming said of Smith, who was considering OSU with Michigan and others. "He's simply a ferocious competitor. He never wants to come off the field. He's everything you want in an offensive lineman and more."

25 Years Ago – 1993

As Ohio State searched for its quarterback on the trail, the process led the Buckeyes to consider Scott Mutryn of Cleveland St. Ignatius, which was USA Today's No. 1 high school football team in the country. The 6-3, 200-pounder had just cut his list down to Miami (Fla.), Florida, Penn State, Wisconsin and Notre Dame in addition to OSU.

"Wherever I go, I kind of expect to be redshirted," he said. "It's kind of hard to learn the whole system as a freshman. I think redshirting is necessary for a quarterback. However, Ignatius has helped me prepare athletically and academically. Hopefully, I can compete right away."

20 Years Ago – 1998

With open arms, Ohio State welcomed two players from Jacksonville (Fla.) Raines in wide receiver Maurice Harris and defensive back Lito Sheppard when the pair of blue-chip prospects from the Sunshine State officially visited the Buckeyes for the weekend.

Harris (6-3, 200) and Sheppard (5-11, 185) highlighted roughly 30 visitors for the Minnesota game Oct. 17. According to The National Recruiting Advisor's national rankings, Harris had been considered among the top 20 receivers with Sheppard as the No. 3 free safety.

The duo was trying to attend the same school, making OSU an appealing choice. Harris and Sheppard were mutually considering Ohio State with Miami (Fla.) and Florida, among others.

"We're trying to, but it doesn't make a difference," Harris said of going to the same school.

15 Years Ago – 2003

Among the visitors at Ohio State on Oct. 18 for a 19-10 victory against Iowa, Toledo Rogers wide receiver target Fred Davis (6-4, 210) and Erie (Pa.) McDowell offensive lineman target Kyle Mitchum (6-6, 245) were the headliners.

Davis, Rivals.com's No. 3 wide receiver and No. 2 player in Ohio, originally was supposed to be on an official visit but turned it into an unofficial visit at coaches' request. As a result, he scheduled an official visit for the weekend of Dec. 5, following trips to Miami (Fla.) and Southern California.

Mitchum, meanwhile, was the No. 43 overall prospect and No. 4 offensive tackle in the country, and he was among OSU's top remaining uncommitted recruits. He was considering the Buckeyes with Tennessee and Wisconsin in addition to a visit planned for Iowa on Oct. 24-25.

10 Years Ago – 2008

Months after William Campbell reopened his recruitment after he decommitted from Michigan, the Detroit Cass Tech five-star defensive tackle scheduled several national trips with Ohio State as a potential option.

Although the Buckeyes had yet to offer, Campbell brought attention from all over after dropping from the Wolverines' 2009

recruiting class. The 6-4, 327-pounder was still considering U-M and scheduled the school for one of his three official visits with Miami (Fla.) the following weekend – both coming after Nov. 7-9 at LSU for its Alabama game – while keeping options open for the final two available trips.

"I'm thinking about USC, Georgia and Oklahoma," Campbell said. "I'll see if someone else comes in later."

Five Years Ago – 2013

Ohio State's search at tight end in the 2014 recruiting class continued Oct. 17 when Manahawkin (N.J.) Southern Regional's Mike Gesicki picked Penn State. The 6-4, 235-pounder's commitment came on the heels of the Nittany Lions' four-overtime win over Michigan in Happy Valley.

"Both schools are phenomenal academically," Gesicki said of Ohio State and Penn State. "And either way, it was going to be a good decision. Ohio State, with (head coach Urban) Meyer and the way he developed tight ends (at Florida). Penn State and Coach (Bill) O'Brien, he came from the NFL and the way he utilized tight ends and had one of the best quarterbacks with Tom Brady."

One Year Ago – 2017

As Ohio State navigated the 2018 recruiting class, an opening on defense led the Buckeyes to keep tabs on Cincinnati Winton Woods four-star outside linebacker Chris Oats. The 6-4, 215-pounder had taken an official visit to Kentucky with another planned for Oklahoma when the Sooners hosted TCU on Nov. 11.

Oats added that Kentucky, Michigan State, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Ohio State and Texas were recruiting him the hardest. However, he said his focus was away from the process and on finishing out the senior campaign.

"Right now, I'm just kicking (recruiting) to the curb and focusing on the season," Oats said. "I've got a long way to go still."

19 to Waynesville (N.C.) Tuscola's Brayden Monday.

The 6-4, 240-pounder has seen an uptick in his recruitment since he switched from linebacker in 2017 to defensive end this fall. Monday held offers from Charlotte, North Carolina State, Tulane and Florida International before the Buckeyes entered the equation.

OSU currently has one defensive end

recruit committed to its 2019 class in Mentor, Ohio, four-star Noah Potter (6-5½, 250).

Decisions Near For Top 2019 Targets

While the commitment clock winds down for a Frankfort (Ky.) Western Hills four-star all-purpose back Wandale Robinson with the 5-9½, 179-pounder's

Nov. 1 decision on the horizon, another top target for Ohio State in 2019 appears to be close as well.

According to Gabe Brooks of 247Sports, Odessa (Texas) Permian four-star athlete Peyton Powell's decision is coming "real soon." The 6-2, 182-pounder told Brooks after Permian's 32-25 win over Amarillo Tascosa that he was looking for his "best opportunity to get on the field" with a handful of colleges moving up the list.

Recruited by several schools on both sides of the ball, Powell has been targeted by the Buckeyes as a defensive back since he received his May 15 offer. Powell took an official visit to OSU the weekend of June 22-24 following the previous weekend at Virginia. He since took two more of his five official visits Sept. 29 at TCU and Oct. 13 at Texas for the Longhorns' 23-17 victory against Baylor.

Powell has yet to schedule his fifth and final official visit, and the possibility remains that he might not take it at all. Powell, who plays quarterback for his high school team, is among the best uncommitted prospects available in the current cycle and among Ohio State's top remaining targets. He is the 247Sports composite's No. 351 overall prospect, No. 19 athlete and No. 42 player in Texas.

Robinson, on the other hand, has burned all five of his official visits with the last coming Oct. 6 in Columbus for the Buckeyes' 49-26 win over Indiana at Ohio Stadium. He has a final six of OSU, Alabama, Kentucky, Michigan, Nebraska and Purdue. The speedy Robinson is the

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Recruiting Updates

Those Buckeye Sports Bulletin readers who follow football recruiting closely should not only monitor the regular stories on our BuckeyeSports.com website daily but also check out the site's Forum, where recruiting tidbits are frequently found. Readers should also monitor the Official Game Thread on the Forum each Saturday game day. BSB staffers are on the sidelines before the game, especially home games, watching for recruits and any recruiting activity. The Game Thread goes on to offer insight from the staff and BSB readers throughout the game.

Access to BuckeyeSports.com is free to all BSB subscribers. For simple sign-up instructions see page 5 of this issue or give us a call at (614) 486-2202 and we will be glad to answer any of your questions or assist you with your access. Remember, BuckeyeSports.com is part of your enhanced, 24/7 Buckeye Sports Bulletin experience.

247Sports composite's No. 248 overall prospect, No. 4 all-purpose back and No. 7 player in Kentucky.

Ohio State Commit Receives AA Jersey

Exactly a month after Ronnie Hickman committed to Ohio State, the four-star athlete from Wayne (N.J.) DePaul Catholic pledged May 13 to the 2019 All-American Bowl on Jan. 5 in San Antonio. At his high school Oct. 19, the All-American Bowl came and presented Hickman with his jersey. The honor made the next step start to sink in.

"It's a huge blessing," Hickman said. "I grew up watching the games, watching great players come through there. So it's an honor and a blessing. I'm just very appreciative for it."

Hickman, who remains on track for early enrollment, has 19 tackles and five pass breakups for the Spartans (6-2). After he graduates from DePaul Catholic at the end of his fall semester, Hickman will be joined by his high school head coach, John McKenna, in the All-American Bowl. McKenna will help out coaching for the East team.

"It's going to be great," the 6-1, 200-pounder said. "We have a great connection, great bond that we've built for these past few years. So I'm glad he gets to come down there with me. I could kick it with him, he could kick it with me. So it'll be great."

Hickman, who projects to play safety at the next level but could grow into outside linebacker, is one of several future Buckeyes slated to play in the annual all-star game. Austin (Texas) Lake Travis five-star wide receiver Garrett Wilson (6-0½, 181); Buford, Ga., five-star center Harry Miller (6-4, 300); and Huntington (W.Va.) Spring Valley four-star offensive guard Doug Nester (6-6½, 314) are the others. Lewis Center (Ohio) Olentangy Orange five-star defensive end Zach Harrison (6-5½, 243) and Robinson are two top targets for OSU who have also accepted invitations to play in the game.

Another 2020 5-Star DE Adds Offer

With Ohio State's Oct. 20 offer to Sanford

(N.C.) Lee County five-star Desmond Evans, the Buckeyes have now extended scholarships to the top three defensive ends in the 2020 class.

Before OSU entered the equation over the weekend for Evans, the Scarlet and Gray identified a pair of five-star defensive ends from Maryland as top targets with offers to Bryan Bresee (6-5, 290) of Damascus and Chris Braswell (6-3, 211) of Baltimore St. Frances.

The 6-6, 238-pound Evans has been racking up scholarship offers over the

past two years now. He earned his first offer Sept. 5, 2016, from Kentucky as a freshman and followed with N.C. State and East Carolina over the next two months.

Recently, though, Evans' recruitment has been cranked up a few notches with Alabama (Oct. 19) and Ohio State getting involved. Penn State extended an offer Sept. 13 and his most recent unofficial visit came Sept. 29 to N.C. State for the Wolfpack's 35-21 win over Virginia.

Evans is the 247Sports composite's No.

29 overall prospect, No. 2 weakside defensive end and No. 1 player in North Carolina for 2020. He ranks second at the position only to Braswell, who is also the No. 19 overall prospect. Bresee, meanwhile, is the top-ranked strongside defensive end in the next cycle.

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

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Emotions Spill Over In Michigan-MSU Rivalry

The battle for the Paul Bunyan Trophy has been dominated by Michigan State over the last 10 years, but before Michigan and the Spartans kicked off to renew their rivalry Oct. 20, it was Michigan doing the trash-talking.

BIG TEN NOTES James Grega

As Michigan State did its traditional walk across the field from one end zone to another by lining up arm-in-arm, a handful of Wolverines refused to move from their spot on the field where they were warming up.

The situation resulted in a pregame skirmish that involved Michigan linebacker Devin Bush, who proceeded to deface the Spartans midfield logo by scraping his

cleats across it, pulling up chunks of grass. Michigan State's field crew was forced to repaint the logo prior to kickoff.

As for the game, Michigan thoroughly dominated the Spartans, defeating Michigan State in East Lansing, 21-7. It was just the third time in 11 years the Wolverines had beaten the Spartans, and it was just the second win against MSU for Wolverine head coach Jim Harbaugh.

After the game, Harbaugh was asked about the pregame scuffle, and he called Michigan State "bush league" for their involvement in the fracas.

"Well, I just heard about it in here, I didn't see it," Harbaugh said. "But Dave (Ablauf, Michigan football's director of communications) saw it, but apparently they clotheslined two of our guys, came out in their helmets. Lawrence Marshall was put under clothesline, an old-fashioned clothesline. Ripped off, one of their guys ripped off Lavert Hill's headphones. Total bush league, and apparently coach (Mark) Dantonio was 5 yards behind it all, smiling. I think it's bush league, that's my impression of it. Our guys, they didn't blink. They didn't come here to back down or get intimidated by anybody. They never have in this game. Guys did what they had to do. It will be a happy bus ride home."

Dantonio took the postgame podium shortly after Harbaugh and fired back at his head coaching counterpart.

"That's BS," Dantonio said. "You guys get

your cameras out. I'm not going to go to that. Go ahead, next question."

The postgame comments didn't stop there. On the field after the game, Michigan defensive lineman Chase Winovich was interviewed by a Fox Sports sideline reporter and paid tribute to former Michigan running back Mike Hart by once again calling Michigan State the Wolverines' "little brother."

"We knew that they couldn't hang with us," Winovich said. "We did what we had to do. Sometimes your little brother starts acting up, and you just got to put them in place."

Winovich tallied four assisted tackles in the win over the Spartans, including half a tackle for loss. Michigan moved up to No. 5 in the AP poll with the win, making it the highest ranked team in the Big Ten following Ohio State's loss at Purdue.

The game in East Lansing also featured an hour-long weather delay in the first quarter in which the stadium was evacuated due to lightning in the area. It was the second time this season and the third time in the last two years that Michigan State has dealt with a weather delay.

Ellison Dismissed By Indiana

Shortly after he was suspended 2½ years by the university for his alleged involvement in an off-campus sexual assault, the Indiana football program dismissed Morgan Ellison



Jim Harbaugh

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	Conf.			All		
	W	L	Pct.	W	L	Pct.
East Division						
Michigan	5	0	1.000	7	1	.875
Ohio State	4	1	.800	7	1	.875
Penn State	2	2	.500	5	2	.714
Maryland	2	2	.500	4	3	.571
Michigan State	2	2	.500	4	3	.571
Indiana	1	4	.200	4	4	.500
Rutgers	0	5	.000	1	7	.125
West Division						
Northwestern	4	1	.800	4	3	.571
Iowa	3	1	.750	6	1	.857
Wisconsin	3	1	.750	5	2	.714
Purdue	3	1	.750	4	3	.571
Illinois	1	3	.250	3	4	.429
Nebraska	1	4	.200	1	6	.143
Minnesota	0	4	.000	3	4	.429
Oct. 20 Scores						
Wisconsin 49, Illinois 20						
Iowa 23, Maryland 0						
Northwestern 18, Rutgers 15						
Michigan 21, Michigan State 7						
Nebraska 53, Minnesota 28						
Penn State 33, Indiana 28						
Purdue 49, Ohio State 20						
Oct. 26 Game						
Indiana at Minnesota, 8 p.m. (FS1)						
Oct. 27 Games						
Bethune-Cookman at Nebraska, Noon (BTN)						
Purdue at Michigan State, Noon (TV TBA)						
Wisconsin at Northwestern, Noon (TV TBA)						
Illinois at Maryland, 3:30 p.m. (BTN)						
Iowa at Penn State, 3:30 p.m. (ABC or ESPN)						
Nov. 3 Games						
Iowa at Purdue, Time/TV TBA						
Michigan State at Maryland, Time/TV TBA						
Minnesota at Illinois, Time/TV TBA						
Nebraska at Ohio State, Time/TV TBA						
Notre Dame at Northwestern, TBA (ABC/ESPN2)						
Penn State at Michigan, Time/TV TBA						
Rutgers at Wisconsin, Time/TV TBA						

from its roster Oct. 20, the same day it lost to Penn State at home, 33-28.

Ellison, who has maintained his innocence and claimed that the encounter was consensual, has reportedly appealed the decision made by the university.

Ellison has not been charged in the situation and is not the subject of a police investigation, but a university investigation found that "the aggravating factor of (Ellison) engaging in sexual activity while Complainant was asleep, and (Ellison)'s use of force during the incident" was grounds for the 2½-year suspension and ultimate dismissal from the program.

A Pickerington, Ohio, native, Ellison led the Hoosiers in rushing last season, carrying 143 times for 704 yards and six touchdowns as a freshman. He was briefly recruited by Ohio State but ultimately landed in Bloomington, Ind., after the Buckeyes added J.K. Dobbins in the 2017 class with Mike Weber, Antonio Williams and Demario McCall still on the roster at the time.

Both Iowa TEs Get Mackey Honor

For the first time in the history of the John Mackey Award, two tight ends from the same team shared the award's player of the week honor.

Iowa's Noah Fant and T.J. Hockenson were named the John Mackey players of the week, an award given to the best tight end in college football for his weekly performance.

In a blowout 42-16 win over Indiana on

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From The Pages Of BSB

35 Years Ago – 1983

A freak accident caused Curt Curtis to miss the rest of the season following his Oct. 18 crash through a French Field House door while running sprints at an Ohio State practice.

The linebacker ran too far and intended to kick his foot against the door to help him stop, but he missed the handle and put his foot through the glass. The result was a cut through his left calf muscle, which was surgically repaired that night at University Hospital and put him in a cast through November.

"This is the worst I remember in 20 years," said head team physician Dr. Robert Murphy.

The injury marked the end of Curtis' career with the Buckeyes. At the time of the incident, he was third on the team in tackles with 42 stops. He had paced OSU with 12 tackles for loss, totaling 49 yards, and added five sacks for 31 yards.

30 Years Ago – 1988

John Cooper recorded his first Big Ten victory as head coach of Ohio State when the Buckeyes edged Minnesota for a 13-6 win Oct. 22 before a crowd of 44,221 at the Metrodome in Minneapolis.

OSU held the Golden Gophers to 284 total yards, limiting an opponent to under 300 total yards for the first time since 275 total yards were allowed Sept. 10 in its 26-9 victory against Syracuse.

"I'm just so proud of our defensive football team," Cooper said. "If you would have told me we were going to not let them get a touchdown, I'd have probably thought you were the biggest fool on the face of the earth."

25 Years Ago – 1993

After the NCAA investigated potential violations committed by the Ohio State men's basketball team in its recruitment of Damon Flint, a report of four players applying for loans to purchase automobiles from a Columbus dealership surfaced as well.

According to sources contacted by BSB, two of the players – sophomores Greg Simpson and Charles "Killer" Macon – received co-signed loans from relatives. Two other Buckeyes – senior Jamie Skelton and sophomore Derek Anderson – had non-relatives co-sign the loans. The co-signers were reportedly connected with the summer basketball league in Worthington, Ohio, possibly constituting an NCAA rules violation.

OSU athletic director Jim Jones and head coach Randy Ayers were slated to meet Oct. 25 and discuss the incident. Prior to their conversation, Jones told BSB, "I can't comment about anything at this time."

Reports stated that the players had attempted to purchase Isuzu Rodeo Sports vehicles at the Dennis Autopoint in Columbus. An investigator from the NCAA and an attorney for OSU reportedly studied dealership records Oct. 20, with a source telling BSB that the NCAA appeared to find no wrongdoing.

20 Years Ago – 1998

Ohio State's 45-15 win over Minnesota on Oct. 17 doubled as Glen Mason's return to Ohio Stadium. The former Buckeye player and assistant coach, who lettered as a linebacker on OSU's 1970 Big Ten championship team and later worked for Woody Hayes (1978) and Earle Bruce (1979-85), became the Golden Gophers' head coach in 1997. The Ohio State-Minnesota game marked his first time back at the Horseshoe since he was standing on the home sideline in 1985.

"I think there was way too much said about that before the game," Mason said. "I have a great feeling for Ohio State. Ohio State provided me with an opportunity to leave New Jersey and to come and get a great education."

15 Years Ago – 2003

Ohio State's 19-10 win over Iowa on Oct. 18 came without senior linebacker Robert Reynolds, who served a one-game suspension from an incident in the previous week. In the Buckeyes' 17-10 loss at Wisconsin, Reynolds choked Badgers quarterback Jim Sorgi following a tackle late in the third quarter.

While Reynolds was not flagged on the play, head coach Jim Tressel took disciplinary action the next day. On the same day, Reynolds apologized over the phone to Sorgi and UW head coach Barry Alvarez, additionally addressing the situation publicly at Tressel's weekly press luncheon.

"It's a violent game, and it just happened so fast," Reynolds said. "It was somewhat of an instinct, but it wasn't. I should be able to control myself out there, and for the most part, I do."

10 Years Ago – 2008

On Oct. 15, Gene Smith told BSB that he had signed a contract extension to keep the athletic director at Ohio State through 2016. Smith, who had replaced Andy Geiger in 2005, received an increase in base salary from \$600,000 to \$648,000 with incentive bonuses worth \$100,000 per year tied to athletic programs' competitive and academic successes. Smith's extension formalized his new role as vice president of the university, appointed by president Dr. E Gordon Gee the previous year, and was designed to allow Smith leadership outside of athletics.

"All of us at Ohio State – our students, faculty, staff alumni and friends – are very fortunate to have his sound judgment and leadership," Gee said of Smith.

Five Years Ago – 2013

Seven games into the season with Ohio State's 34-24 win over Iowa on Oct. 19, the Buckeyes suffered their first casualty with the new targeting rule when they lost Bradley Roby after the cornerback's hit on tight end C.J. Fiedorowicz led to an ejection.

"When he threw the flag, I already knew what type of call it was," said linebacker Ryan Shazier. "I was watching a game earlier today and it happened in the South Carolina game, so I already knew what the outcome was."

The rule, which caused helmet-to-helmet contact penalties to result in a 15-yard foul and a player's ejection, was still relatively new at the time after the NCAA's approval in March.

"I think we were all just shocked that it happened," said sophomore Armani Reeves, who replaced Roby. "When that happens the first time to your team, you don't really believe that it's really going to happen."

After the game, head coach Urban Meyer declined to go into detail on what he thought about the hit.

"Obviously the officials made the call that they did, and we don't have to agree with it," Meyer said. "I haven't seen it in particular because at that point in time we were a little focused and worried about something else, and you can't let that event alter everything else that we do. It is something we'll go back and evaluate."

One Year Ago – 2017

Ohio State entered its off week after dispatching Nebraska, 56-14, on Oct. 14, but one glaring issue remained as the Buckeyes entered the second half of the season.

OSU's pass defense, struggling through the first half of the campaign, was gashed for 303 yards and two touchdowns by the Cornhuskers' Tanner Lee.

In an otherwise dominant performance, Meyer was unhappy with the recurring issue as it continued to plague the defense with Penn State on Oct. 28 around the corner.

"You look up at the board and you saw 300 yards passing so I'm sure there's going to be some issues to deal with and I know maybe it was – still 300 yards passing," the head coach said. "I think our run defense was outstanding. But there were too many big hits in the pass game against our defense."

Oct. 13, both players caught four passes. Fant racked up 102 yards and Hockenson had 107 yards, with Hockenson edging Fant in both yards and touchdowns as he found the end zone twice to Fant's lone score.

B1G Players Of The Week

Rondale Moore is the easy choice for this week's Big Ten player of the week honor

from Buckeye Sports Bulletin, but there were several notable performances around the league on Oct. 20.

In Nebraska's first win of the year, 53-28 over Minnesota, freshman quarterback Adrian Martinez completed 25 of 29 passes for 276 yards and three touchdowns while not throwing an interception. He also accounted for 125 yards rushing and another score on the ground, toting the ball 15 times.

He was one of three 100-yard rushers in the game for Nebraska. Running backs Devine Ozigbo (152) and Maurice Washington (109) also topped the century mark.

In that same game, Nebraska wide receiver Stanley Morgan Jr. hauled in 10 passes for 163 yards and a pair of scores while his counterpart, Tyler Johnson, corralled 11 passes for 184 yards for Minnesota in the loss to the Huskers.

Moore sparked Purdue's 49-20 win over Ohio State by catching a career-high 12 passes for 170 yards and two touchdowns to go with two carries for 24 yards. The freshman was in contact with the Buckeyes during the recruiting process but reportedly never received a committable offer. Moore had an Ohio State hat on the table when he announced his decision to attend Purdue.

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Men's Hoops Adjusting To Young, Talented Roster

By JAMES GREGA
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

Expectations for the 2018-19 Buckeyes are higher than they were entering last season, but still not all that high.

Ohio State was picked in the unofficial media poll to finish eighth in the Big Ten despite a second-place finish and an NCAA Tournament appearance a year ago. Much of that likely has to do with the new-look roster Ohio State is set to deploy in year two of the Chris Holtmann era.

The Buckeyes are set to debut five newcomers in 2018-19, including four freshmen and graduate transfer Keyshawn Woods, who comes to Columbus by way of Wake Forest.

Team cohesion has been the theme of the offseason for Ohio State, as Holtmann took his team to Spain for three exhibition games, although the trip was more about team bonding than basketball.

Ohio State won all three of those games during its August trip, but junior center Micah Potter said during the Buckeyes' media day that team unity, both on and off the court, is still the main focus as Ohio State gears up for the 120th season of Buckeye basketball.

"The biggest thing is to continue to get the younger guys adjusted," Potter said. "We have a lot of new guys. Spain helped out a lot with that, working together over the summer. There is always a lot to work on, and getting guys to settle in and play their game is the biggest thing. And that is not only for the young guys, but the older guys too as we continue to jell together."

Keita Bates-Diop, Jae'Sean Tate and Kam Williams are gone and Andrew Dakich has moved down the bench, serving as a graduate assistant in 2018-19 after playing his graduate senior year with the Buckeyes last year.



Micah Potter

Leadership could be by committee this season. Holtmann has mentioned C.J. Jackson, Woods, Potter and Andre Wesson all as players who have the ability to step up in that role.

However, one area in which Ohio State could be better than last season is perimeter shooting. Holtmann has said

all offseason that he believes that can be a strength for the Buckeyes, and Potter agreed with him, going so far as to say that Ohio State doesn't have any holes on the team when it comes to shooting behind the arc.

"There is not really a weakness when it comes to shooting on the team,"

Potter said. "I definitely think we can be a great three-point shooting team this year."

Despite having proven and experienced big men in Potter and Kaleb Wesson, Ohio State figures to make up plenty of its offensive production at guard, which is where we start our player-by-player breakdown of the 2018-19 Buckeyes. Players at each position are listed in order of projected impact for the Buckeyes.

Guard

C.J. Jackson, 6-1, 175, Sr. (12.6 points per game, 3.9 rebounds per game, 3.9 assists per game in 2017-18) – The third-year Buckeye had the best statistical season of his career last season, finishing second on the team in scoring behind only Bates-Diop, and led the team in assists in his first full season as Ohio State's primary point guard.

Now entering his final season as a collegian, Jackson is the lone senior on the Buckeye roster with significant playing experience at Ohio State. Joey Lane and Woods are also in their final year of eligibility, but Lane came to Columbus as a walk-on and Woods is a graduate transfer.

Jackson knows that he will have to take on a leadership role with the likes of Bates-Diop and Tate gone, a role that he is ready to embrace, according to Holtmann, who

sent Jackson to an offseason workshop with Athletes In Action. Athletes In Action is an organization that focuses on Christian values in college athletics.

"The coaches sent me to basically be a leader for this team. I really liked the experience," Jackson said over the summer. "To hear other perspectives from guys at other schools, it was interesting to see how they perceived things on their teams and how I can bring that back to our team."

Jackson showed elevated confidence toward the end of the 2017-18 season, connecting on a game-winner in a double-overtime win over Indiana in the regular-season finale and scoring a combined 38 points in two NCAA Tournament games.

Keyshawn Woods, 6-3, 205, GR-Sr. (11.9 ppg, 2.5 rpg, 1.9 apg at Wake Forest) – A graduate transfer from Wake Forest, Ohio State is the third collegiate stop for Woods in his career.

Woods played his freshman year at Charlotte before transferring to Wake Forest following the 2014-15 season. After scoring 8.4 points per game as a freshman for the 49ers, Woods had his best statistical season as a third-year sophomore in 2016-17, averaging 12.5 points, 4.2 rebounds and 3.5 assists per game for the Demon Deacons.

Last season, however, Woods saw his role lessened, which likely contributed to



Chris Holtmann

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OSU MEN'S BASKETBALL SEASON PREVIEW

2018-19 OSU Men's Basketball Projected Starting Lineup

3 • C.J. Jackson • G											2 • Musa Jallow • G											24 • Andre Wesson • F											25 • Kyle Young • F											34 • Kaleb Wesson • F																					
Ht.: 6-1 • Wt.: 175 • Class: 5th-Sr.											Ht.: 6-5 • Wt.: 200 • Class: So.											Ht.: 6-6 • Wt.: 220 • Class: Jr.											Ht.: 6-8 • Wt.: 205 • Class: So.											Ht.: 6-9 • Wt.: 270 • Class: So.																					
Yr.	GP-GS	Min./G	PPG	RPG	A	TO	Bk.	Stl.			Yr.	GP-GS	Min./G	PPG	RPG	A	TO	Bk.	Stl.			Yr.	GP-GS	Min./G	PPG	RPG	A	TO	Bk.	Stl.			Yr.	GP-GS	Min./G	PPG	RPG	A	TO	Bk.	Stl.			Yr.	GP-GS	Min./G	PPG	RPG	A	TO	Bk.	Stl.													
15-16											17-18	33-10	14.0	2.5	1.5	27	29	4	17			16-17	29-0	11.6	2.3	1.2	9	18	5	6			17-18	34-5	18.5	2.9	1.8	37	37	5	11			17-18	25-0	8.6	1.8	1.6	4	9	3	7			17-18	33-30	20.7	10.2	4.9	36	34	21	18		
At Eastern Florida State																																																																	
Led team in assists (131) in 2017-18 and finished second on the team in points per game (12.6).											Made 10 starts as a true freshman after leaving high school a year early in order to enroll in Columbus.											Started five games and played a key role off the bench, averaging nearly 20 minutes per game last year.											Signed with Butler before deciding to follow head coach Chris Holtmann to OSU ahead of last season.											One of four players to average double digits in scoring for OSU last year after starting 30 games.																					

2018-19 Ohio State Men's Basketball Roster/Schedule

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Hometown/Previous School
0	Micah Potter	C	6-9	240	Jr.	Mentor, Ohio/Montverde Academy
1	Luther Muhammad	G	6-3	185	Fr.	Jersey City, N.J./Hudson Catholic
2	Musa Jallow	G	6-5	200	So.	Bloomington, Ind./North
3	C.J. Jackson	G	6-1	175	5th-Sr.	Charlotte, N.C./Eastern Florida State
4	Duane Washington	G	6-3	190	Fr.	Grand Rapids, Mich./Sierra Canyon
10	Justin Ahrens	F	6-5	180	Fr.	Versailles, Ohio/Versailles
13	CJ Walker	G	6-1	195	Jr.	Indianapolis, Ind./Florida State
14	Joey Lane	G	6-1	180	Sr.	Deerfield, Ill./Deerfield
23	Jaedon LeDee	F	6-9	230	Fr.	Houston, Texas/The Kinkaid School
24	Andre Wesson	F	6-6	220	Jr.	Westerville, Ohio/South
25	Kyle Young	F	6-8	205	So.	Canton, Ohio/Jackson
32	Keyshawn Woods	G	6-3	205	GR-Sr.	Gastonia, N.C./Wake Forest
34	Kaleb Wesson	F	6-9	270	So.	Westerville, Ohio/South
40	Danny Hummer	G	6-0	175	Jr.	Upper Arlington, Ohio/Air Force

Head Coach – Chris Holtmann (Taylor, 1994).

Assistant Coaches – Ryan Pedon (Wooster, 2000); Mike Schrage (Indiana, 1998); Terry Johnson (Lamar, 1996). **Director of Recruiting and Player Development** – Scoonie Penn (Ohio State). **Director of Basketball Operations** – David Egelhoff (Ohio State, 2001). **Special Assistant to the Head Coach** – Mike Netti (Syracuse, 2002). **Assistant Director of Strength and Conditioning** – Quadrian Banks (Texas, 2003). **Coordinator of Recruiting and Operations** – Kyle Davis (Ohio State, 2013).

Schedule:

Nov. 1 UNC PEMBROKE (exhibition), 7 p.m.; **7** at Cincinnati, 6 p.m.; **11** PURDUE FORT WAYNE, 4 p.m.; **15** at Creighton, 7 p.m.; **18** SOUTH CAROLINA STATE, 2 p.m.; **20** SAMFORD, 7 p.m.; **23** CLEVELAND STATE at St. John Arena, 8 p.m.; **28** SYRACUSE, 7 p.m.
Dec. 2 MINNESOTA, 7 p.m.; **5** vs. Illinois at Chicago, 7 p.m.; **15** BUCKNELL, Noon; **18** YOUNGSTOWN STATE, 7 p.m.; **22** vs. UCLA at Chicago, 3 p.m.; **29** HIGH POINT, TBA.
Jan. 5 MICHIGAN STATE, Noon; **9** at Rutgers, 7 p.m.; **12** at Iowa, 2:30 p.m.; **18** MARYLAND, 6:30 p.m.; **23** PURDUE, 7 p.m.; **26** at Nebraska, Noon; **29** at Michigan, 9 p.m.
Feb. 2 RUTGERS, Noon; **7** PENN STATE, 7 p.m.; **10** at Indiana, 1 p.m.; **14** ILLINOIS, 7 p.m.; **17** at Michigan State, 1 p.m.; **20** NORTHWESTERN, 8:30 p.m.; **23** at Maryland, 2 p.m.; **26** IOWA, 7 p.m.
March 2 at Purdue, 2 p.m.; **6** at Northwestern, 9 p.m.; **10** WISCONSIN, 4:30 p.m.; **13-17** Big Ten Tournament at Chicago.

ed. I think he's waiting a little bit to assert a level of leadership. I think he wants his teammates to observe how he works on a day-to-day basis."

Musa Jallow, 6-5, 200, So. (2.5 ppg, 1.5 rpg, 0.8 apg) – Jallow is entering his second season as a Buckeye despite being the age of a true freshman.

The Bloomington, Ind., native reclassified to the 2017 class last year to join Holtmann's first team at Ohio State and, despite playing a limited role, showed flashes of brilliance as a freshman.

After going scoreless for the better part of a month, Jallow contributed 10 points off the bench in an upset win over Purdue on Feb. 7, hitting 3 of 4 shots from behind the arc in a 64-63 win.

Known more for his defense, Jallow worked on his jump shot a lot in his first full offseason as a Buckeye after sitting out most of last summer due to NCAA reclassification rules.

"It was fun just being here all summer," he said at Ohio State's Media Day. "I feel comfortable now being here completely. I feel like I was at home. I

worked on pretty much everything, but shooting mostly."

With Williams gone, Jallow figures to see his minutes per game jump drastically in 2018-19 after playing just 14.0 minutes per game last season.

Luther Muhammad, 6-3, 185, Fr. – The highest-rated recruit in Holtmann's first full Ohio State recruiting class, Muhammad figures to make an immediate impact in his freshman year.

The No. 79 overall prospect in the 2018 class according to the 247Sports composite, Muhammad brings tenacity to the defensive end as well as a dynamic offensive game.

Muhammad was a critical recruit for Ohio State not only because of his play-making ability, but also because of the Buckeyes' lack of depth at the position following the transfers of JaQuan Lyle and Braxton Beverly before the 2017-18 season.

"Luther Muhammad has been a really important recruit for us, given our lack of guard depth," Holtmann said. "We have loved coaching him. He has a tremen-

Continued On Page 30



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his transfer. Woods' numbers dipped and he found himself looking for a new home. He eventually landed at Ohio State because of Holtmann and his staff, who had recruited him twice before – both as a high school athlete and a transfer prospect.

"Originally, I wanted to go somewhere I could get healthy," Woods said in late August. "I wanted to go somewhere I knew I could play and be a big factor, and also, a team that has an opportunity to go to the NCAA Tournament. Coach Holtmann has recruited me for a while now. He recruited me out of high school. So I already had a relationship with him. The way they do

things, the way the guys are really close, that drew me here."

Woods is expected to play a prominent role for the Buckeyes as both a scorer and facilitator for the offense. Despite Woods' experience as a college basketball player, Holtmann said he will have to ease his way into a leadership role as he continues to get familiar with his new teammates.

"He's been good for us," Holtmann said. "He's a solid player right now, has a terrific feel for the game, which means he's going to play a significant amount of point guard for us, as well as off the ball, really all three perimeter spots – kind of what we've expect-

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Freshman Washington A Pure Scoring Option

Continued From Page 29

dous work ethic, capacity for work. He is really competitive. I think he has the ability to impact the game on both ends. He's been really well-coached in high school. He comes from a terrific program.

"He's going to play an important role really from day one for us," he added. "We're excited about his development. I think some of his challenges will be like any freshman: understanding some of the things you can and cannot do at this level."

Duane Washington, 6-3, 190, Fr. – The other guard in this year's class, Washington comes to Ohio State from California as the Buckeyes went national in the 2018 cycle.

A three-star prospect, Washington has shown a consistent three-point stroke early in open practices and in Ohio State's trip to Spain over the summer. He has been praised by his older teammates for his ability to score throughout the offseason.

"Duane Washington is a scorer," sophomore forward Kaleb Wesson said. "He's a pure scorer. Right now, he's just learning the game. He's still working on getting through ball screens and everything like that on the defensive end, but he's a pure scorer. He's going to give you everything he's got every play."

Washington will have to battle with the likes of Jackson, Woods, Jallow and Muhammad for playing time in the backcourt but figures to fit into the rotation early in the season as Holtmann attempts to figure out which lineups prove most productive.

Joey Lane, 6-1, 180, Sr. (1.1 ppg,

0.4 rpg, 0.2 apg) – Originally a walk-on under the Thad Matta regime, Lane eventually earned a scholarship and has become a fan favorite at Ohio State despite not playing significant minutes.

He connected on 2 of 7 shots from behind the arc in 2017-18, including one make against Maryland that brought the student section to a fever pitch in mop-up duty.

Despite his limited role on the court, Lane is viewed as a leader in the Ohio State locker room, a role Holtmann said Lane has more than earned.

"The guys like him and they respect him," the coach said. "They know he is all about Ohio State playing well and Ohio State winning. That is his only agenda. Joey Lane is a tremendous person, and I do think he will have a level of influence. It's a little harder when you're not on the floor, but he is a guy that when you poll the team on who

The Ohio State women's basketball season preview will run in the Nov. 10 edition of Buckeye Sports Bulletin

their leaders are, he is a guy – it is going to be him and C.J."

CJ Walker, 6-1, 195, Jr. (8.0 ppg, 2.5 rpg, 2.4 apg at Florida State) – A transfer from Florida State, Walker will have to sit out the 2018-19 season due to NCAA transfer rules.

A true sophomore last season for the Seminoles, Walker helped lead FSU to the NCAA Tournament as his team reached the Elite Eight before falling to Michigan, 58-54.

Walker was praised for his tenacity by Jackson, who despite not getting to play with Walker on the floor at Ohio State, will take Walker on in practice throughout the season.

"He is talented and he brings toughness,"



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OSU MEN'S BASKETBALL SEASON PREVIEW

Jackson said. "He is one of those Coach Holt, tough guards. (Walker will) kind of get in your face. He is not a back-down kind of person. He will fit right in with us. He will be a tough person to guard every day in practice, and seeing that every day will be good for us."

Danny Hummer, 6-0, 175, Jr. – Hummer transferred to Ohio State from Air Force last season and did not appear in any games for the Buckeyes.

In two seasons at Air Force from 2015-17, Hummer played 40 total minutes. A native of Upper Arlington, Ohio, Hummer has two years of eligibility left as a Buckeye.

Forward

Kaleb Wesson, 6-9, 270, So. (10.2 ppg, 4.9 rpg, 1.1 apg) – Wesson's first year in the scarlet and gray was a productive and successful one. Despite averaging just 20.7 minutes per game as a starter, Wesson averaged double-digit points and was named to the Big Ten All-Freshman team at the end of the season.

This season, Wesson's minutes per game figure to increase greatly because of the absence of such players as Bates-Diop and Tate, where Ohio State got most of its offensive production. Holtmann acknowledged that Wesson will play a much bigger role this season on the offensive end but hinted that in late-game situations, the approach will be more by committee.

"I think that is going to fall on Kaleb, for sure," Holtmann said of Ohio State's offensive touches lost to graduation. "I think also that is going to be a collective thing for us. The open man will be the most important option late in games."

The good news for Ohio State is that

Wesson has shown an elevated ability to pass out of double teams in the post and hit cutters in the lane. The Buckeyes will likely play through Wesson early and often in 2018-19, especially early in the year with a tough nonconference schedule.

One thing that Holtmann expects to see more from Wesson in 2018-19 is a more consistent perimeter jumper. Wesson connected on just four three-pointers a year ago, but Holtmann has hinted throughout the offseason that the big man will be asked to take more shots behind the arc as a sophomore in an effort to further extend defenses.

Andre Wesson, 6-6, 220, Jr. (2.3 ppg, 1.8 rpg, 1.1 apg) – Through two years at Ohio State, the older Wesson brother has proven himself as an above-average defender, but the offense has yet to come.

Wesson has shown glimpses of offensive skill, however, and began to score more consistently as his sophomore year progressed. He scored a career-high 13 points in Ohio State's upset win over then-No. 3 Purdue on Feb. 7, including a banked-in three-pointer that gave the Buckeyes a lead in the final minutes. He also posted eight-point games against Michigan and Penn State down the stretch last season.

That offensive production will need to evolve in 2018-19 from Wesson if Ohio State is going to have success this season, Holtmann said.

"Andre gives us a lot of versatility. He was critical in a lot of games last year, but he was critical in playing a specific role," he said. "He is going to need to increase his scoring and production."

Wesson's offensive skill set is that of a catch-and-shoot perimeter player. However

his three-point field-goal percentage dropped from 35.1 percent in 2016-17 to 28.6 in 2017-18.

Kyle Young, 6-8, 205, So. (1.8 ppg, 1.6 rpg, 0.2 apg) – Thought of as one of Ohio State's most athletic players, Young played sparingly as a freshman in 2017-18.

Young flipped from Butler to Ohio State when Holtmann left Indianapolis to come to Columbus, but he sat behind the likes of Bates-Diop, Tate and the Wesson brothers on the depth chart for much of the season.

His potential isn't lost on his teammates, though, especially Jackson, who said over the summer that Young sometimes doesn't realize what he is capable of on the floor.

"I am really trying to harp and stay on Kyle Young," Jackson said in July. "I go to the gym with him and text with him all the time, maybe just grab a bite to eat because I really think he can help us this year. I tried to explain to him that, 'It's your team as well. This year can be what you make it.'"

Young showed flashes of his athleticism last season, throwing down highlight dunks against Minnesota and Clemson. He appeared in 25 of 34 games and averaged just 8.6 minutes per contest.

Jaedon LeDee, 6-9, 230, Fr. – A Texas native, LeDee looks every bit like a

Big Ten big man. Described as a rebounding specialist by his teammates, LeDee is physically ready to play right away but still has some room to grow in his technique.

A four-star recruit out of the Lone Star State, LeDee might have a hard time cracking the rotation with Kaleb Wesson and Potter ahead of him down low, but should Ohio State need a boost on the boards, LeDee would be the guy to insert into the lineup.

Justin Ahrens, 6-5, 180, Fr. – The lone Ohio prospect in the recruiting class, Ahrens brings a consistent perimeter jumper to the Ohio State offense that the Buckeyes lost when Williams exhausted his eligibility.

Ahrens has room to grow on the defensive end but can earn consistent playing time if he can connect on three-point shots early in the season. Holtmann said he believes Ohio State can be a better three-point shooting team than it was a season ago, and Ahrens appears to be a big reason why.

Center

Micah Potter, 6-9, 240, Jr. (4.1 ppg, 2.4 rpg, 0.3 apg) – Potter lost his

Continued On Page 32

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Potter To Be One Of Ohio State's Top Leaders

Continued From Page 31

starting job to Kaleb Wesson early last season after suffering an ankle injury that lingered for most of the year.

Now healthy, Potter figures to be one of the first players off the Ohio State bench in

2018-19 and a leader in the locker room as one of the more veteran players on the roster.

Potter said in the summer that he was preparing during the offseason for a leadership role, especially with the likes of Bates-Diop and Tate gone to the next level.

"I think people might have higher expect-

tations for us, but at the same time, I don't know that the expectations are that high because of how much we lost," Potter said. "We lost a lot of talent, but that is my opportunity to step up. I feel like I am ready. I am ready to take my game to the next level, and hopefully this season will prove that."

Much like Kaleb Wesson, Potter has the ability to extend defenses despite his position as a post player. He was averaging 11 points per game before his ankle injury last season and has shot 30 percent or better from the perimeter in each of his first two years as a Buckeye.



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Despite Fishy Tradition, Meyer Fitting In At OSU

One of the benefits for the Ohio State athletic teams in Value City Arena is the opportunity to sample a sushi stand by the locker rooms of the men's and women's basketball and men's hockey teams on Wednesdays during their seasons.

IN THE CREASE Craig Merz

It's a nice perk and the players look forward to trying the various offerings – except for men's hockey junior forward Carson Meyer, a transfer from Miami (Ohio) playing his first season for the Buckeyes.

It's not that he's being snobbish or anti-social, but he and creatures from the water don't mix well. Maybe someday, but not now.

His is a story first reported by The Athletic in May. It's one of some bad sushi, a creature from the original "Alien" movie and a serendipitous chance to play for the hometown team.

Meyer, a sixth-round NHL pick (No. 179 overall) by the Columbus Blue Jackets in 2017, had a good freshman season at Miami with 26 points (10 goals, 16 assists) in 32 games but struggled last season as his weight and stamina, not to mention his performance, dropped dramatically.

He was fatigued and the 15 dropped pounds to 170 on a 5-11 frame made him look gaunt and sickly.

By his estimation he underwent 10 blood tests and was treated for mononucleosis and a low B12 level among other things. He was also suffering mentally because no one could find a cause for his malaise.

Finally, an answer came, and it wasn't pretty.

Warning: Stop if you're eating at this moment.

Meyer was using the bathroom in late February when out popped a 25-inch orange, full-bodied tapeworm. Doctors determined it likely formed from eating improperly cooked fish and was in his body for about a year while robbing him of proteins, other nutrients and his strength.

Now you can understand why he is wary of the sushi being offered to his teammates. The irony is not lost on Meyer.

"Yeah, it's messed up," he said to BSB. "It's right in my face every Wednesday. Everybody jokes with me about it. I stay as far away as I can. I take the long way around the rink. No sushi or fish for me."

For the record, the school was doing the sushi thing before Meyer enrolled at Ohio State.

"No, they're not targeting me," he joked.

Meyer began taking medication to relieve the symptoms, but the damage was done on several fronts. He had just 10 points (six goals, four assists) in 36 games last season and afterward decided to transfer because he didn't feel comfortable in Miami's program anymore.

He doesn't necessarily blame the doctors at Miami for the misdiagnosis but felt the

coaching staff didn't take his problems seriously enough.

Meyer, from the Columbus suburb of Powell, opted to join an Ohio State team that reached the Frozen Four last season and was ranked No. 1 the first two weeks of this season.

But first, he had to appeal to the NCAA to waive the transfer rule that forces an athlete to sit a season. He and his family representative argued that his medical condition presented a special hardship.

If the appeal was denied, Meyer could not play for the Buckeyes until the 2019-20 season nor could he play junior hockey this season. Both scenarios would have been harmful for an NHL prospect.

The key was Miami. The relationship between the two hockey programs is frosty – the schools ended a nearly 40-year series last season – but RedHawks coach Enrico Blasi did not stand in the way of Meyer coming to OSU and okayed the transfer at the end of July.

Meyer has his weight back to 185 and is adjusting to his new surroundings.

"It's a little bit weird, just the whole dynamic of it," he said. "Different team. Different guys. A different style of play and systems. I'm catching on pretty quickly here."

Meyer had a goal and an assist in two games when the Buckeyes swept Arizona State on Oct. 12-13 to open the season.

"It was good to play again, have fun, be confident out there and be with a new group of guys I'm excited to play with," he said. "I feel like I'm faster. I'm stronger. I'm definitely more confident than last year, that's for sure."

OSU coach Steve Rohlik is pleased with his progress.

"He's learning that it's a 200-foot game," he said. "That's his advantage. He's big and strong, can shoot the puck. What he's getting the concept of is he's got to play without the puck here, too. He's picking up that you've got to be responsible without the puck."

"Certainly, he's a great kid for us."

The home opener on Oct. 19 was special for Meyer. He had played in Value City Arena before, but that was two years earlier for Miami.

"Last time I was playing against Ohio State," he said. "Now playing for Ohio State in my hometown, with a lot of family watching, I definitely had a little extra jump."

It was almost a Hollywood ending. He scored twice, including a penalty shot, but the Buckeyes were upset by UMass, 6-3.

"I would have felt a lot better if we got the win tonight," he said afterward. "Obviously, it's always nice to get rewarded for hard work. I feel like I'm back on track and getting my confidence."

"But after two long seasons my freshman,

sophomore years, the only thing that matters is wins and losses. When you're losing games it's miserable. It doesn't matter if it's one loss or 20 losses, they all hurt."

Meyer has four points (three goals, and an assist) for the Buckeyes (3-1-0).

So, did Meyer wonder if he would get back to the point of being productive again?

"I'm glad you asked that because it's something that's in your head all offseason definitely," he said. "I kind of battled myself all summer. What if I can't get back to that player?"

"I feel like I'm in the right direction. I've taken some strides I wasn't sure I would be able to take, and I feel pretty good about it. It's easy to get in your own head, especially when something as bizarre as that happens. The coaches trust me and have given me an opportunity."

He doesn't feel added pressure knowing Blue Jackets staff will be keeping tabs on him now that he's nearby.

"I'm excited to show them what I'm capable of and remind them why they drafted me at this point because after a tough year like last year, they gratefully stuck with me all year and I want to showcase what I can do for them," he said.

"It obviously sucked going through it all, but looking back, it's almost a blessing because not only did I learn to get over something that was really hard, but I also got the opportunity to play at Ohio State because of it and compete for a championship on this team."

Wait A Minute

Being the top-ranked team in the country means getting the best from an opponent every game. That was the case in the home opener when UMass sprinted to a 3-0 lead before Meyer pulled the Buckeyes back to within a goal in the 6-3 loss.

The Minutemen (3-1-0) took a 4-2 lead on a power-play goal with 12 minutes left, but senior Dakota Joshua responded for the Buckeyes. OSU pressed for the equalizer but got caught on the counterattack, and Bobby Trivigno finished a 2-on-1 at 15:43 for a 5-3 advantage. Cale Makar scored an empty-netter with 3:04 left.

Ohio State won the Oct. 20 rematch, 3-1, behind two goals from junior Tanner Laczynski and 35 saves by sophomore Tommy Nappier. Laczynski broke a 1-1 tie with 1:22 left in regulation, and senior Mason Jobst added an empty-net goal with 48 seconds to play.

The Buckeyes host Bowling Green on Oct. 26 at 7 p.m. before playing the Falcons in Bowling Green the following night to start a stretch of five straight away games.

For a complete recap of Ohio State's home-opening series with UMass, go to BSB's BuckeyeSports.com website, free to all Buckeye Sports Bulletin subscribers.

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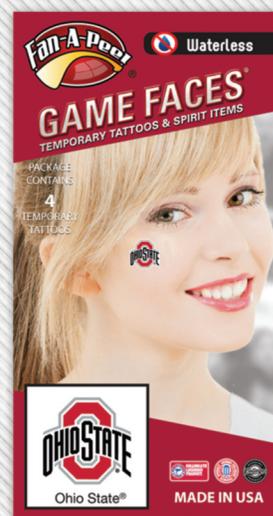


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Women's Cross Country Team Has Elite Potential

By JOE DEMPSEY
Special To Buckeye Sports Bulletin

The Ohio State women's cross country team won its first two meets of the season, the Queen City Invitational and the Commodore Classic. After a third-place finish at the Loyola Lakefront Invitational and placing No. 13 at Pre-Nationals, the Buckeyes are poised to finish the year strong.

In his second season at the helm of the cross country program, head coach Khadevis "KD" Robinson said he looks forward to the women's team realizing its elite potential.

"They're working, man," Robinson said. "We actually have a really good team. And they're getting better."

Robinson admitted he's probably sounded like a broken record while continually stressing the talent on the team but contends that it's because he wants the team to realize its potential.

With a strong senior class led by Julia Rizk and Emily Stoodley, Robinson said there is a bitersweet element that comes with having strong veteran leaders. It's good while they're on the team, but it's bad because you're losing them.

"It's good to lean on when we're out of words," Robinson said. "At some point, coaches, we've done all the work, we've made all the motivational speeches, and it just comes down to performing. It really does. And so having seniors like Emily and Julia and some of these other girls – when you can depend on their consistency, that makes my job a little easier."

Rizk, a nearby Blacklick, Ohio, native, transferred to Ohio State in 2017 after running track

and cross country for two years at UCLA. A stress fracture in her tibia held Rizk out of cross country last season, which did not ease her transition.

"It was really hard because I was in the pool every day so I didn't really get to integrate with the team during cross country season," Rizk said when asked how difficult it was to sit out. "Fortunately, I was there for indoor and outdoor track, so that was fine. But it was tough being in the pool for three months by myself."

Rizk returned from injury to run for the Buckeyes during the indoor track season and thrived once the outdoor season came along. The Columbus Academy product displayed the prowess on the track that made her an 800-meter state champion in high school and USTFCCCA Outdoor Second-Team All-American at UCLA. Rizk set the Ohio State school record in the 1,500-meter run with a blazing 4:18.25 in the preliminaries of the Big Ten championships.

Robinson, a four-time U.S. champion in the 800-meter dash, said Rizk's ability in middle-distance events helps her in cross country because she can finish stronger than many other runners. Rizk agreed with her coach, while admitting she sometimes saves a little too much for the homestretch.

"Just continue to build my confidence and my strength and my belief in KD's training," Rizk said when asked where she needs to improve. "And just trusting my fitness and just knowing that I have a lot left in the tank. And to go when I need to go and not leave it all for the end of the race."

With Robinson's middle-distance back-

ground comes a different approach to training for cross country. Rizk said she was running 45-50 miles per week at UCLA but approximates the total as closer to 30 miles weekly under Robinson's tutelage – with an emphasis on cross training and form.

"KD's definitely a different coach for cross country," Rizk said. "I had him in track but I think we've finally gotten used to his style of training."

The runners and their coach are on the same page, and Rizk said the team is extremely excited for the championship stretch. Robinson and Rizk both stressed the importance of self-belief within the team.

"I think everyone needs to believe in themselves a little bit more," Rizk said. "KD gets us ready and prepared for anything. We just have to have confidence in ourselves and in our training to be able to compete that way."

Although she's been a standout on the track, Rizk enjoys her other sport just as much.

"I love cross country," Rizk said. "I get way less nervous for cross country meets. It's a lot of fun just toeing the line with everyone next to you. It kind of takes the pressure off your shoulders and spreads it out across everyone."

Rizk has enjoyed success in cross country, too, running a career-best 17:19.74 in the 6k at the Loyola Lakefront Invitational, where eight Buckeye runners set personal records. She also ran a career-best 21:30.5 in the 8k at Pre-Nationals.

As a fourth-year studying finance, Rizk is an Ohio State Scholar-Athlete as well as an Academic All-Big Ten honoree. She credits her parents, Sam and Sharon, for instilling the value

of academics in her at a young age.

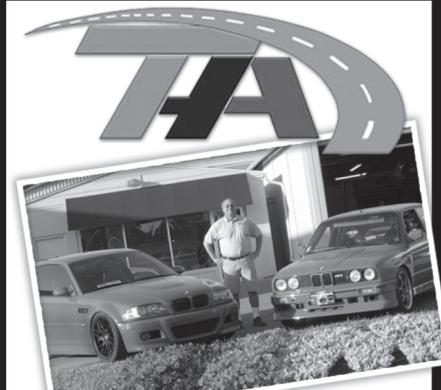
Described as diligent in her work and "tough" by Robinson, Rizk understands how essential having balance is as a busy two-sport student-athlete.

"I think me and Emily are super similar in that we come to practice and we're just here to have a good time," Rizk said. "And we'll buckle down when we need to, but mostly we do this to get away from school and the stress of academics and things like that. So we lean on each other a lot and lift each other up when we need to be and make sure we're doing the right things at the right time."

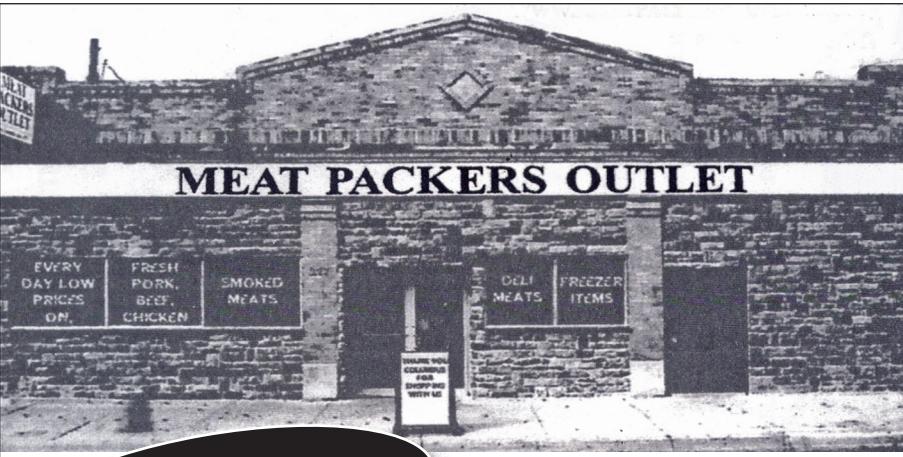
The Buckeyes are also coached by a decorated cross country runner, assistant coach Sara Vergote, who is a member of the University of Toledo Athletics Hall of Fame. She emphasized the importance of continually improving, because of the length of the cross country season and the fact that each runner can always get better.

"I think it's a situation where we keep talking about getting a little bit better every single week," Vergote said. "The idea for us is Big Tens and Regionals and Nationals is where the focus has to be. So as long as we're building every week and getting better at the things we need to get better at, we're in a great place."

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 roundup of all the games, matches and meets involving OSU's teams each Monday on our BuckeyeSports.com website, free to all print subscribers.



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Buckeye Faithful Have Various Great Dining Options

Whether you're hosting the big game-watch party, joining up with friends to watch on a big screen or looking for good eats before or after the game, Columbus has something for everyone. *Buckeye Sports Bulletin* once again offers its suggestions as to where fans can eat on game day or any day.

- An all-occasion steak tavern that glows with sizzle and warmth, **The Avenue** serves fine steaks and tavern fare in Grandview's historic Bank Block neighborhood and in Historic Dublin. The Avenue – a Cameron Mitchell restaurant – features incomparable appetizers such as shrimp dejonghe and oysters Rockefeller followed by mouth-watering entrées including veal Milanese with mozzarella, arugula and linguine; Atlantic salmon with spinach, fennel and chardonnay butter sauce; or a selection of USDA prime steaks and chops. The Avenue also features a wide array of beverages, including local favorites such as classically inspired cocktails and a carefully selected collection of Old and New World wines.

Visit the Grandview location at 1307 Grandview Ave. (614-485-9447) or The Avenue in Dublin at 94 N. High St. (614-591-9000). For reservations, call or go online at theavenuesteaktavern.com.

- Can't decide if you're in the mood for breakfast or lunch? Then check out **BLunch** – **An Urban Café** and sample some of the house specialties which include Huevos Rancheros, blueberry lemon-ricotta pancakes, house-smoked Benedicts and much more. Dine in a bright, casual and inviting atmosphere and enjoy a mimosa, BLunch Bloody or cherry Bellini. Whatever strikes your fancy will be found here. Ask about their takeout menu also. Open Monday-Friday 7 a.m.-2 p.m. and Saturday-Sunday 7:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Visit them at 2973 N High St. or online at www.blunchcolumbus.com. Call (614) 641-7501.

- **Callahan's** at 520 Park St. in the Arena District is a laid-back Irish pub offering good food, a friendly atmosphere and enjoyable music. Have fun in the downstairs pub, enjoy the rooftop patio or dance the night away upstairs. Callahan's features a variety of appetizers, salads, pizza and sandwiches including the meatball hoagie, grilled chicken and mushroom sandwich with Swiss cheese, sautéed mushrooms and BBQ sauce and the classic hamburger on a soft Kaiser roll. Or try one of Callahan's favorites – the Callahan's Club loaded with bacon, ham, turkey, Swiss cheese, lettuce, tomato and mayonnaise and The Irish – marbled rye bread stuffed with corned beef, melted Swiss, sauerkraut and homemade 1000 Island dressing.

Callahan's is open Tuesday-Friday 4 p.m.-close and Saturday 2 p.m.-close. Call (614) 223-1200 or go online to www.callahanscolumbus.com.

- **Cap City Fine Diner & Bar**, created by Cameron Mitchell Restaurants, offers a dining experience you won't soon forget. You can expect a menu that will satisfy the most discriminating palate. Try the weekend brunch from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. for classic eggs Benedict, French toast, torta, eggs on hash, spinach quiche, smoked salmon and bagel, four-egg omelet, breakfast burrito or the "diner" steak and eggs special with your favorite drink. Or meet up with friends for happy hour Monday through Friday from 4-6:30 p.m. for specially priced appetizers and drink specials in the bar. Choose from a variety of fresh salads and selections such as balsamic chicken or pecan-crusted pork chops, or try one of the delicious diner sandwiches or desserts. There are three locations

at 1299 Olentangy River Road (614-291-3663), minutes from Ohio Stadium; 1301 Stoneridge Drive in Gahanna (614-478-9999) or 6644 Riverside Drive in Dublin (614-889-7865).

- When the mood for Mexican food strikes, head to **Cazuela's Grill** for a taste of south-of-the-border. Stop in for lunch or dinner and savor a cool margarita while selecting from an array of tempting Mexican favorites including chimichangas, Chilaquiles Verdes o Rojos and Enchiladas Blancas among many other specialties. Catering is also available, and watch for their food truck around town. Stop by for happy hour every day from 2-6 p.m. and 10-11 p.m. with half off appetizers and \$1 draft beers. Choose from three locations including 2321 N High St. (614-884-0755) near campus, 8134 E. Broad St. (614-868-3538) and 1260 Southgate Parkway in Cambridge (740-435-3251). Visit them at www.cazuelsmexicancantina.com.

- Count on **Champps** at 1827 Olentangy River Road for a delicious menu in a fun atmosphere just a long punt from Ohio Stadium. Whether you are in the mood for soup, salad or burgers, you can find it here. Try an appetizer like the mile-high nachos or four-pepper seared Ahi tuna. Or enjoy an entrée like the Nashville hot chicken or beer-battered fish 'n' chips. Don't miss the blackened chicken alfredo or bourbon salmon. Want a burger? Order a traditional cheeseburger or try the Carolina or Truffle Mushroom Wagyu Burger. Enjoy a mojito or margarita or a domestic or craft beer with your meal. Also available are turkey and Southwest black bean burgers and great desserts too. Champps is also perfect for your next event for 10 to 100 people. Their experienced event coordinator can help you plan your event. Stop by online at www.champps.com or call them at (614) 298-0833.

- The **Chocolate Café** at 1855 Northwest Blvd. has the cure for your cravings with a delicious menu of treats. Their lobster bisque is served daily along with an amazing array of specialty sandwiches including their BMT flatbreads, Greek pitas and Cajun chicken paninis. Grilled cheeses are a specialty, and be sure to order a soup and salad too. Choose from an extensive dessert menu including real hot chocolate, chocolate dipped strawberries,

hand-dipped Buckeyes, assorted ice cream flavors, fondue and over 50 assorted candies. Visit them online for details at www.chocolatecafecolumbus.com or call (614) 485-2233.

- Hometown favorite **City Barbeque** has been feeding Buckeye fans since 1999. Load up your tailgate party with their award-winning brisket, competition-quality St. Louis-cut ribs, Texas smoked sausage and classic pulled pork. There's a full roster of made-from-scratch classic sides, from collards and corn pudding to mac & cheese and potato salad. City Barbeque makes game day simple for groups of all sizes – just pick the Party Pack that fits your crowd. Check out citybbq.com or download the city bbq app for \$5 off your first order.

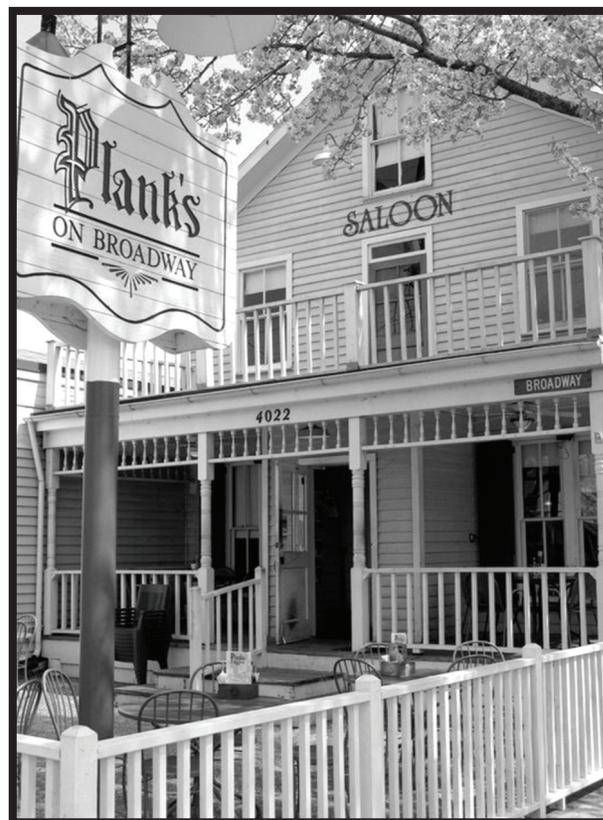
Of the eight City Barbeque joints in Columbus, the original Upper Arlington location is closest to Ohio Stadium: 2111 W.

Henderson Road, (614) 538-8890. Visit their website for other convenient locations.

- Cancel those airline tickets to Mexico and head for **Cuco's Taqueria** at 2162 W. Henderson Road instead. If you are in the mood for some authentic Mexican cuisine, you will love their extensive menu, from starters such as fresh ceviche or queso fundido with melted Chihuahua cheese and chorizo to main entrées like carnitas and steak ranchero. Try their signature tacos, and choose from a variety of soups and salads. Don't miss the fajitas platter, the enchiladas or tamales either. Stop by for breakfast too. You will leave happy when you stop by. Visit them online at www.cucos-taqueria.com or call (614) 538-8701.

- Make **Der Dutchman Restaurant** your headquarters for comfort food and Amish-

Continued On Page 38

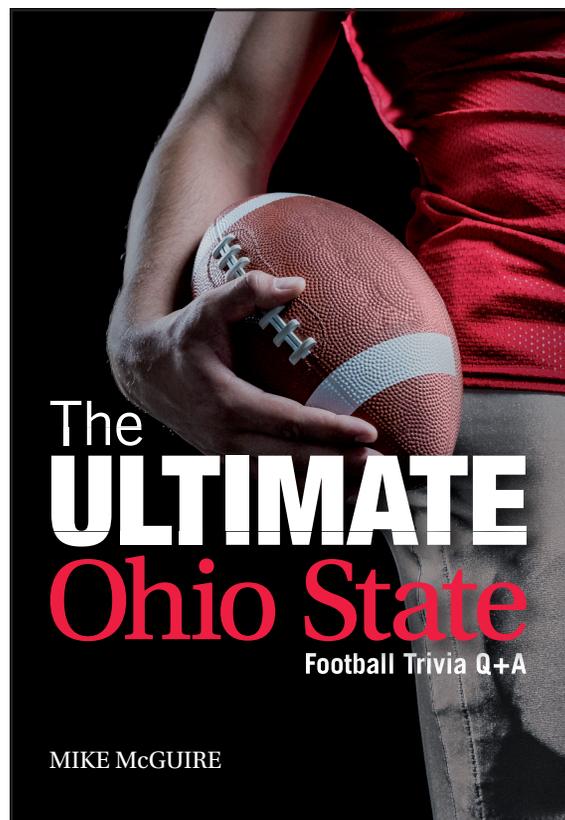


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To purchase, contact Mike McGuire
at 602.793.2383

McGuire
Publications

Columbus Boasts Restaurant Options For All Tastes

Continued From Page 37

style cooking. Der Dutchman has locations at 445 S. Jefferson Ave. in Plain City, only 30 minutes from the 'Shoe, and in Bellville, at exit 165 off I-71 if you're coming down to Columbus for the game, as well as locations in Berlin, Walnut Creek, Sugarcreek and Sarasota, Fla. Enjoy the food your grandma made such as broasted chicken, roast beef, real mashed potatoes, dressing, noodles and homemade dinner rolls. Relax in the large dining rooms where families and friends can gather around the table. Enjoy great company and food before and after the games, and don't forget to check out the extensive bakeries for cookies, pies and pastries to take home. Call (614) 873-3414 (Plain City) or (419) 886-7070 (Bellville) or visit www.derdutchman.com.

- **Donatos** features an elaborate array of pizzas, subs, calzones and salads. In addition to everybody's favorite pepperoni or lavish cheese pizzas, you can create your own, go for one of the many recommended specialty pizzas, or opt for hot chicken pizza, mariachi chicken, mariachi beef, serious meat, Hawaiian, margherita or spinach chicken mozzarella pizza. As if that weren't enough, available are special orders of meatballs, boneless wings, traditional wings and cheese bread. And don't forget dessert: apple pie, cinnamon bread, and Cheryl's cookies and brownies. All dishes can be ordered in party sizes. This business is founded and based in Columbus, with many locations. No artificial colors or flavors or MSG or high-fructose corn syrup is permitted in any of this flavorful array. Go to www.donatos.com for the location nearest you, menus and coupon offerings.

- Stop in and try the tasty Mexican menu items at **El Vaquero**, within walking distance of Ohio Stadium and the hotels on Olentangy River Road north of OSU. Choose from a variety of fresh, authentic cuisine selections such as the queso fundido with grilled shrimp, onions, mushrooms and melted cheese. Try one of the many salads or order a bowl of Sopa Azteca and have a frosty, crafted margarita from the bar. El Vaquero offers happy hour from 4-8 p.m. daily. Sample the fresh guacamole and bring the family for a great time. A kids menu is available too. No game tickets, no problem. Watch on the big-screen projector. Come celebrate another Buckeye victory at 3230 Olentangy River Road or call (614) 261-0900 for information.

- **Grandad's Pizza** is a family-owned and -operated pizzeria located in Grandview Heights. They offer pizzas, old-school subs, sandwiches and more at affordable prices. Whether you're in the mood for a traditional pizza with fresh toppings or a specialty pizza like the chicken bacon ranch pizza, you're sure to find something to please everyone. Complete your meal with a fresh Italian or Caesar salad or boneless or traditional wings with your choice of seven different sauces. Located at 1254 West 3rd Ave., Grandad's also offers discounts to businesses with advance ordering and features daily lunch specials. Call (614) 488-9700 or visit www.grandadspizza.com. Visit their new location at 4093 Trueman Blvd. in Hilliard (614-767-3020).

- **The Guild House** is an artisan eatery featuring creative American cuisine available for breakfast, lunch and dinner daily and weekend brunch. Brunch items include steak and eggs, smoked chicken hash, pancakes and truffle eggs. The chefs at The Guild House collaborate to create seasonal offerings that are regionally and globally inspired, all with artistic technique in an energetic and inviting

space. Located in the Short North Arts District (624 North High St., 614-280-9780), The Guild House offers happy hour seven days a week from 3-6 p.m. in the bar with half-price featured wines, cocktails, beers and selected items from their chef-inspired menu.

- **Harvey & Ed's** is a Modern American restaurant where traditional noshes are honored with an upscale contemporary twist – focusing on fresh ingredients, simple preparations and familial hospitality. Irresistible lunch and dinner menu favorites include homemade matzo ball soup, popular deli-style sandwiches, fish towers and a broad range of nostalgic, chef-driven entrées. Throwback desserts such as cheesecake, chocolate babka and black & white cookies are baked fresh daily.

Harvey & Ed's serves brunch every Saturday and Sunday at 10 a.m. and is open for lunch and dinner daily with happy hour seven days a week from 3-6 p.m. Harvey & Ed's features counter service for carryout orders, catering and delivery and is located in the Short North Arts District just a short distance from campus at 698 N. High St. (614-641-4040).

- The menu at **Hudson 29** is nothing short of an expansion and redefinition of American cuisine, taking it to new heights through simple preparations that allow the flavors of the expertly sourced ingredients to shine through. You'll savor this simplicity throughout the menu, a familiar and hearty collection of starters, prime steaks, roasted chicken and knife-and-fork sandwiches.

The bar has been raised in similar fashion. The focus is on wine, with an artfully composed list of 100 bottles. Cocktails crafted with house-made mixers and fresh-squeezed juices and an ever-changing list of craft beers round out the selection. Hudson 29 serves lunch and dinner daily with weekend brunch. Enjoy happy hour at Hudson 29 Monday through Saturday featuring special prices on appetizers, handcrafted cocktails, wines by the glass, draft beers and ales. There are two locations at 1600 W. Lane Ave. (614-487-0622) minutes from Ohio Stadium, and 260 Market St. in New Albany (614-859-2900).

- **Los Guachos** is the place to head when in the mood for authentic Mexican food. And they just opened their third brick-and-mortar restaurant in Dublin, located at 7370 Sawmill Road, in addition to their other two locations: 5221 Godown Road and 1376 Cherry Bottom Road. Los Guachos has been named one of America's best taco spots by Yahoo and voted one of the best taco spots by the Food Network. Also, it was recognized by Every Day with Rachel Ray and Maxim Magazine as having some of the best tacos in the country, among other mentions within the Columbus press.

Visit them for tasty Mexican dishes including their famous Gringas, Juanas and original Tacos al Pastor. Open Sunday-Thursday 11 a.m.-midnight and Friday and Saturday 11 a.m.-1 a.m. at their Columbus locations and every day from 11 a.m.-11 p.m. in Gahanna. Call ahead for carry-out at (614) 538-0211 (Godown Road), (614) 471-4717 (Gahanna) or (614) 726-9185 (Sawmill Road). Stop by online at los-guachos.com.

- Try a longtime Buckeye fan favorite at **Minelli's Pizza and Next Door Tavern** at 1189 N. Wilson Road. Enjoy Minelli's thin-crust pizza, Italian specialties from manicotti to chicken parmesan, subs, sandwiches and salads while catching the Buckeye action on one of 14 large-screen TVs at the Next Door Tavern. Test your Buckeye knowledge with the collection of Ohio State photos, and don't miss any of the game with the Big Ten Network and NFL Sunday Ticket.

Take the family to dine at the old-fashioned pizzeria or meet your friends next door at the Tavern and enjoy your favorite beverages with great food from Minelli's. Quench your Buckeye fever at the Tavern's seven-hour happy hour. Too good to be true? Call them at (614) 279-3344 and find out.

- You're sure to find something for everyone at **Paul's Fifth Avenue**, a Grandview tradition for over 50 years. Open for breakfast and lunch seven days a week, Paul's features an eclectic mix of cuisine. Enjoy all your favorites at breakfast, including eggs made-to-order, omelets, waffles, pancakes and home fries. Be sure to try Paul's famous Callahans, your choice of toppings on a bed of home fries.

At lunch, try one of the traditional sandwiches such as the Reuben or a burger made from fresh-ground short rib and beef round paired with Paul's famous Italian wedding soup. Or treat yourself to one of the traditional Italian favorites including Mama Panzera's lasagna and chicken or veal parmesan. With ample parking and located at 1565 W. Fifth Ave. in Grandview just five minutes from campus, Paul's is a convenient option for dining before the game. Phone (614) 481-8848 or visit www.paulsonline.com.

- There are days when nothing will do but a donut. Or two. Visit **Peace Love & Little Donuts** at 656 High St. in Worthington for a taste treat and bask in their '70s themed atmosphere. Relax in a colorful setting with tie-dye and music and grab a coffee with your selected donut(s). Choose from dozens of flavors for your donut cravings for an experience you won't soon forget. Open Monday-Friday 7 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Visit them online at www.peaceloveandlittledonuts.com or call (614) 396-6503.

- **The Pearl** is an urban and cozy tavern that showcases made-from-scratch food, classically inspired cocktails and an exclusive selection of ales, lagers and stouts. Start off with the creamy clam chowder with chorizo dust. For raw bar aficionados, The Pearl offers oysters and clams on the half shell, or try the N'Awlins baked oysters or the Shellfish Tower featuring oysters, clams, peel 'n' eat shrimp and Louie dressed colossal crab. Entrées include classics such as Southern fried chicken with a cinnamon sticky bun and cider-braised greens, Great Lakes fish 'n' chips or the braised short rib with horseradish mashed potatoes.

- The Pearl's brunch stands out from the bunch and is served every Saturday and Sunday beginning at 10 a.m. Or hook up with friends for happy hour weekdays from 4-6 p.m. The Pearl is located at 641 N. High St. in the Short North Arts District, just a short distance from campus, and is open daily at 4 p.m. Call (614) 227-0151.

One great option for affordable family dining in Grove City, just south of Columbus, is **Plank's On Broadway**, which features a wide variety of sandwiches and entrées in addition to the ever-popular pizza. Favorites include burgers, grilled chicken salad and, of course, good cold beer. Patrons can enjoy a large all-the-way pizza for four for about \$18 or a burger, fries and a beer for about \$9.

Plank's is located at 4022 Broadway, off I-270 west of I-71. For more information, call (614) 875-7800.

- For great food and atmosphere, try **Press Grill** at 741 N. High St. in the Short North (614-298-1014) and **Press Pub on 5th** (614-817-1198) in Grandview at 1505 W. 5th Ave. Their menu features a variety of selections including shrimp Po Boys, pesto chicken sandwiches

and their famous Press Grill burger (burger with egg). Choose from a well-stocked bar and sample the daily specials. Monday night is Nathan's hot dog night, two for \$5. Tuesday, try the 85-cent wings and don't miss the \$1.50 tacos on Wednesdays. Every Thursday is Thanksgiving Dinner night for only \$12. Visit www.pressgrill.net to find out more.

- **Quaker Steak and Lube** is located at 8500 Lyra Drive and is dedicated to making sure you don't leave hungry. The half-pound steak burgers come in a variety of styles including Arizona El Camino, mac & cheese or Kentucky bourbon. Try the baby back ribs or one of the many varieties of sandwiches including house pulled pork, Mustang chicken or blackened cod to name a few. And of course sample their famous wings which are served with your choice of special sauces. If you are craving something green, try the garage, Caesar or biker chicken salads to complement your meal. You won't resist the Magna-Fries or mozzarella sticks. Seafood is also available. For more information visit www.thelube.com or call (614) 430-9464.

- Bring your appetite to **The Red Brick Tap and Grill** located at 292 East Gates St. in Columbus. Whatever your mood they have it with a variety of burgers, dogs, gyros, pizza, calzones and salads. Peruse the amazing list of bottled and draft beers (more than two dozen rotating taps) and wine selections. Happy hour is weekdays from 3-7 p.m. and The Red Brick serves brunch from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. on Saturday and 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday. Ask about the daily specials, and visit their site for special events at www.theredbrick-tapandgrill.com. Call today at (614) 444-2742.

- **The Red Door Tavern** has been a Columbus favorite since 1964 and is easy to find at 1736 W. Fifth Ave. in the Grandview area. Treat yourself to some comfort today with a range of menu items guaranteed to satisfy. Start with one of their delicious appetizers such as the fried cheese ravioli or fried calamari or one of their many hearty soups. Signature sandwiches include the Red Door Famous Reuben, the best in town Red Door Club and the famous Twisted Pelican, voted one of the top sandwiches in Columbus. Or try one of their delicious entrées, including the shrimp and chicken linguine, chicken and broccoli fettuccine alfredo or fried shrimp. The Red Door also features pork sliders and delicious veggie wraps with fresh cucumber, tomato, red onion, banana peppers, mixed greens, provolone cheese and Italian dressing wrapped in a sun-dried tomato basil tortilla.

The Red Door Tavern is open Sunday-Wednesday 11 a.m.-midnight, Thursday 11 a.m.-1 a.m., and Friday and Saturday 11 a.m.-2:30 a.m. Visit them at www.reddoortavern.com or call 614-488-5433.

- Make **Roosters** your headquarters to watch the Buckeyes while enjoying great wings and good times – before, during and after the games. Locally owned and operated, Roosters is open seven days a week with multiple area locations. Voted best wings by Columbus Monthly, Columbus Alive and 614 Magazine, Roosters invites you to come watch the game in a casual atmosphere while enjoying the selection of wings, burgers, pizza, salads and a ton of appetizers. Roosters has a great variety of sandwiches and subs too.

Look for the Roosters Road Show at Ohio State home games in the Fanfest area between St. John Arena and the Ice Rink. Roosters is the Official Wing Sponsor of Ohio State Athletics. Visit www.roosterswings.com for locations and hours.

- Don't bark up the wrong tree when it

WHERE TO EAT ON GAME DAY

comes to great food and good times – stop by **Rude Dog** at their Polaris location at 8711 Sancus Blvd. From burgers and dogs to salads and pizza, you won't go home hungry. Specials include tasty items such as Caesar salads, sweet potato gnocchi, soups of the day, hummus plates and much more. Don't forget to try the Rude Dog Deluxe pizza with pepperoni, sausage, pepper medley, shaved onions and a blend of cheeses. Or try the hand-battered fish and chips or blackened salmon. The kitchen is open until midnight every day and 1 a.m. on Friday and Saturday with a full menu. Or get delivery through Uber Eats and Door Dash.

Rude Dog is also a great spot to host a party. Their outside patio offers a covered portion with an awning, giant Jenga, cornhole, firepit, entertainment stage for acoustic music and 4 TVs. They are open every day from 11 a.m. to 2:30 a.m. Visit online at www.rudedog-barcolumbus.com or call (614) 847-7364.

• **Rusty Bucket** is a casual American restaurant and tavern, a gathering place where people come to share laughter, smiles and great conversation over food that makes everyone happy. Satisfying and familiar, the menu is classic American fare, thoughtfully prepared from scratch by their executive chef. Cocktails are considered a craft, made-to-order by highly-skilled bartenders. From barrel to glass, no shortcuts are taken with the carefully selected beer list. The perfect draft is guaranteed. Stop by for lunch, meet family and friends for dinner, or stop in before or after the game. Rusty Bucket's motto is great food, great drinks, great people – the Bucket Life.

Large party reservations, online waitlist and private dining are available. Visit one of their 10 Columbus locations today, available at www.MyRustyBucket.com.

• A longtime central Ohio destination restaurant remains the anchor of historic downtown Canal Winchester as **Shade on the Canal** (19 S. High St.) continues to be a gathering place for locals and visitors alike. And now the Shade brand has expanded with Shade on State Street in Athens (994 E. State St.) and Shade on 30th Street (850 S. 30th St.) in Heath.

Shade's, as it is popularly known, offers the best in casual dining and sports pub atmosphere with a friendly staff, flat-screen TVs, upbeat music and walls lined with local black and white photos. You'll find great food including award-winning pizza, great wings, fresh cut salads, sandwiches, tasty appetizers, homemade soups and more. Are you planning a special event? Check out Shade's historic Pine Room at the Canal Winchester location. For information or carry-out orders call the Canal Winchester location at (614) 837-9873, the Athens location at (740) 566-1009 or the Heath location at (740) 788-9287.

• **Smoked on High** is your headquarters for great ribs, brisket and good times. Located at 755 S. High St., you can visit them and dine in or call for takeout. Choose from a variety of delicious fares including smoked brisket, spare ribs and chicken drummies. Add to your selection from a delicious list of sides including mac 'n' cheese, coleslaw, cornbread and collard greens. Coke products are available. It's fast and casual food in a Victorian-era house – don't miss out. Open 11 a.m. – 8 p.m. Wednesday-Sunday. Call (614) 754-9711 or visit online at www.smokedonhigh.com.

• Since opening in 1995, **Starliner Diner** in Hilliard has been a local favorite with its eclectic menu and kitschy décor. The Cuban inspired menu also includes American and Southwestern influences and features popular dishes such as Creole Macaroni and Huevos

Rancheros. Starliner Diner is frequently recognized as one of the best breakfasts in town, and it's no wonder why. Starliner offers a wide selection of omelets, from the traditional ham and cheese to the Mexican chorizo with peppers, onions, garlic, jack cheese and cilantro. Or try the enormous breakfast burrito or chilaquiles Southwestern scramble. For lunch, check out the fish Po' Boy or Cuban sandwich, or choose from a wide variety of dinner entrées.

Starliner Diner is open seven days a week and features a full bar with Sunday alcohol sales. It is located at 4121 Main St. in historic old Hilliard. Call (614) 529-1198 or visit starlinerdiner.com.

• **Tio's Tacos and Tequila** is located in downtown Columbus at 201 S. High St. for your dining convenience. Relax with a margarita along with some of the tastiest Mexican cuisine this side of the border. Try a house specialty such as the Enchiladas de Lechuga – lettuce wraps filled with grilled chicken, peppers, onions and tomatoes, covered with their Special Tio's Sauce, queso fresco and avocado slices – or the wonderful Pollo a la Crema with poblano peppers, onions and their special cream sauce. Also choose from a selection of wraps and tortillas, or try the Burrito Mexicano filled with grilled chicken, steak, rice, beans, chorizo and sour cream topped with melted cheese, green sauce and burrito sauce. Happy hour specials are available. Open Monday-Thursday 11 a.m.-10 p.m., Friday-Saturday 11 a.m.-2 a.m. and Sunday 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Check them out online at www.tiostacostequila.com or call (614) 914-8818.

• **The Whitney House** at 666 High St. in downtown Worthington north of campus serves made-from-scratch, rustic-yet-refined, American comfort food. Step back in time for delicious and old-fashioned

fare in the style of family Sunday dinners. The Whitney House is open for lunch, dinner and brunch with fresh, locally sourced ingredients everyone will enjoy. Appetizers include roasted beets or avocado toast as well as cast-iron sticky buns and Mimi's Matzah Ball Soup. Proceed to the main dishes and try the seared Ruby Red trout with purple-potato hash, bacon, wilted greens and Tabasco butter sauce or the Manchester Farms quail with pork belly and plum stuffing, roasted parsnips and asparagus, whole grain mustard and tarragon glacé.

For brunch, you'll be tempted by the short rib scramble with caramelized onions, potatoes, tomatoes, peppadews, scrambled eggs or the Chilaquile Verdes, a delicious blend of tomatillo-braised pork shoulder, crunchy tostitos, fresh avocado, black bean relish, queso Chihuahua and fried eggs. The Whitney House serves brunch Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., lunch Monday-Friday 11 a.m.-3 p.m. and dinner seven days a week starting at 3 p.m. Call (614) 396-7846 or visit www.thewhitneyhouserestaurant.com.

• **Z Cucina**, in the heart of the popular Grandview area at 1368 Grandview Ave., offers modern and traditional Italian fare in a warm and inviting atmosphere. The menu offers flavorful and well-seasoned small plates, salads and main courses. Among the items made in-house from scratch are the ricotta and mozzarella cheeses, sausage, breads and desserts, and the menu includes handmade ravioli and tortelli, as well as other pastas. Z Cucina is known for its well-crafted, artisan wine list, and there is a full bar for your enjoyment. Z Cucina also offers full-service catering for functions both on and off site. Z Cucina is open Monday-Saturday at 5 p.m., with happy hour weekdays from 5-7 p.m. For reservations or more information call (614) 486-9200.

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ALWAYS WITH YOU

BUCKEYE SCOREBOARD

FOOTBALL (7-1, 4-1 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 (9) Penn State, W 27-26.

Oct. 6 INDIANA (Homecoming), W 49-26; 13 MINNESOTA, W 30-14; 20 at Purdue, L 49-20.

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.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Nov. 1 UNC PEMBROKE, 7 p.m.; 7 at Cincinnati, 6 p.m.; 11 PURDUE FORT WAYNE, 4 p.m.; 15 at Creighton, 7 p.m.; 18 SOUTH CAROLINA STATE, 2 p.m.; 20 SAMFORD, 7 p.m.; 23 CLEVELAND STATE at St. John Arena, 8 p.m.; 28 SYRACUSE, 7 p.m.

Dec. 2 MINNESOTA, 7 p.m.; 5 vs. Illinois at Chicago, 7 p.m.; 15 BUCKNELL, Noon; 18 YOUNGSTOWN STATE, 7 p.m.; 22 vs. UCLA at Chicago, 3 p.m.; 29 HIGH POINT, TBA.

Jan. 5 MICHIGAN STATE, Noon; 9 at Rutgers, 7 p.m.; 12 at Iowa, 2:30 p.m.; 18 MARYLAND, 6:30 p.m.; 23 PURDUE, 7 p.m.; 26 at Nebraska, Noon; 29 at Michigan, 9 p.m.

Feb. 2 RUTGERS, Noon; 7 PENN STATE, 7 p.m.; 10 at Indiana, 1 p.m.; 14 ILLINOIS, 7 p.m.; 17 at Michigan State, 1 p.m.; 20 NORTHWESTERN, 8:30 p.m.; 23 at Maryland, 2 p.m.; 26 IOWA, 7 p.m.

March 2 at Purdue, 2 p.m.; 6 at Northwestern, 9 p.m.; 10 WISCONSIN, 4:30 p.m.; 13-17 Big Ten Tournament at Chicago.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Oct. 28 IUP (Exhibition), 2 p.m.

Nov. 6 USF, 7 p.m.; 9 DETROIT MERCY, 7 p.m.; 11 at UConn, Noon; 16 at Sacramento State, 11:30 p.m.; 18 at Stanford, 4 p.m.; 29 NORTH CAROLINA, 7 p.m.

Dec. 2 CINCINNATI, 2 p.m.; 5 at Washington, 11 p.m.; 16

FLORIDA at St. John Arena; 20 vs. Virginia Tech at West Palm Beach, Fla., 12:15 p.m.; 21 vs. Butler at West Palm Beach, Fla., 12:15 p.m.; 28 at Purdue, 4 p.m.; 31 NEBRASKA, 1 p.m.

Jan. 5 at Maryland, 4 p.m.; 10 INDIANA, 6 p.m.; 14 MICHIGAN STATE, 7 p.m.; 17 at Penn State, 7 p.m.; 20 at Michigan, 3 p.m.; 24 MARYLAND, 8 p.m.; 28 at Minnesota, 7:30 p.m.; 31 ILLINOIS, 7 p.m.

Feb. 3 at Northwestern, 4:30 p.m.; 6 PENN STATE, 7 p.m.; 11 IOWA, 4 p.m.; 14 at Rutgers, 7 p.m.; 17 WISCONSIN, 2 p.m.; 21 at Michigan State, 6 p.m.; 28 at Wisconsin, 9 p.m.

March 3 RUTGERS, TBA; 6-10 Big Ten Tournament at Indianapolis.

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, Men: 9th/26 (248); Women: 3rd/33 (85).

Oct. 13 Pre-Nationals at Madison, Wis., Men: 31st/34 (814); Women: 13th/35 (389); 28 Big Ten Championships at Lincoln, Neb.

Nov. 9 NCAA Regionals at Terre Haute, Ind.; 17 NCAA Championships at Madison, Wis.

FIELD HOCKEY (11-7, 4-4 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, W 1-0; 30 IOWA, L 2-1.

Oct. 5 at Northwestern, W 2-1; 7 OHIO, W 5-2; 12 JAMES MADISON, W 5-0; 14 at Kent State, W 4-0; 19 MICHIGAN STATE, W 6-1; 21 MICHIGAN, L 2-1.

MEN'S GOLF (FALL)

Sept. 15-16 Northern Intercollegiate at Sugar Grove, Ill., 4th/14 (881); 24-25 Bearcat Invitational at Cincinnati, Cancelled; Inverness Intercollegiate at Toledo, NTS; 30-Oct. 2 Nike Collegiate Invitational at Fort Worth, Texas, 10th/15.

Oct. 8-9 JACK NICKLAUS INVITATIONAL at Dublin, Ohio, vs. Clemson, T 2½-2½; vs. Florida State, L 3½-2½; 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, 7th/14; 12-14 Tar Heel Invitational at Chapel Hill, N.C., 16th/18 (915); 28-29 Jim West Challenge at San Marcos, Texas.

MEN'S SOCCER (1-12-2, 0-5-1 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, L 3-1; 30 RUTGERS, L 3-2.

Oct. 5 CLEVELAND STATE, L 2-0; 8 at Syracuse, L 3-0; 12 MICHIGAN STATE, L 2-1; 16 KENTUCKY, L 3-0; 19 at Maryland, L 5-0; 24 INDIANA, 7 p.m.; 28 at Wisconsin, 4 p.m.

WOMEN'S SOCCER (9-5-3, 6-2-3 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, W 2-0; 30 NEBRASKA, T 1-1 (2OT).

Oct. 5 at Michigan, L 1-0; 7 at Michigan State, W 1-0; 12 RUTGERS, T 0-0; 14 MARYLAND, T 1-1 (2OT); 18 at Purdue, W 2-1; 21 (19) WISCONSIN, W 2-1.

MEN'S ICE HOCKEY (3-1-0)

Oct. 12-13 at Arizona State, W 3-2; W 3-0; 19-20 MASSACHUSETTS, L 6-3; W 3-1; 26 BOWLING GREEN, 7 p.m.; 27 at Bowling Green, 7:07 p.m.

Nov. 2-3 at Notre Dame, 7:30 p.m.; 7:30 p.m.; 9-10 at Colgate, 7 p.m.; 4 p.m.; 16-17 WISCONSIN, 7 p.m.; 5 p.m.; 23-24 PENN STATE, 5 p.m.; 8 p.m.; 30-Dec. 1 at Minnesota, 8 p.m.; 5 p.m.

Dec. 28-29 MERCYHURST, 7 p.m.; 8 p.m.

Jan. 4-5 at Michigan State, TBA; 8 p.m.; 11-12 MICHIGAN, 7 p.m.; 7 p.m.; 18-19 at Penn State, 7 p.m.; 7 p.m.

Feb. 1-2 NOTRE DAME, 7 p.m.; 7 p.m.; 8-9 at Wisconsin, 8 p.m.; 8 p.m.; 15-16 MINNESOTA, TBA; 6 p.m.; 22-23 at Michigan, 6:30 p.m.; 6 p.m.

March 1-2 MICHIGAN STATE, 6:30 p.m.; 5 p.m.; 8-10 Big Ten Tournament First Round; 16 Big Ten Tournament Semifinals; 23 Big Ten Tournament Finals; 29-31 NCAA Regionals.

April 11/13 NCAA Frozen Four at Buffalo, N.Y.

WOMEN'S ICE HOCKEY (6-2-0, 3-1-0 WCHA)

Sept. 28-29 at Quinnipiac, W 3-2; W 3-2.

Oct. 5-6 COLGATE, W 4-3; L 5-2; 12-13 MINNESOTA STATE, W 4-0; W 2-1 (OT); 19-20 at Minnesota, L 3-0; W 3-2; 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 (12-10, 3-7 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, L 3-1; 29 at Maryland, L 3-2.

Oct. 5 at Rutgers, W 3-2; 6 at (9) Penn State, L 3-0; 12 MICHIGAN, L 3-2; 14 MICHIGAN STATE, W 3-0; 19 at Indiana, L 3-0; 20 at Purdue, L 3-0; 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.

WRESTLING

Nov. 3 vs. Navy at Owings Mills, Md., 7 p.m.; 11 Ohio Intercollegiate Open at Cleveland, TBA; 16 at California Baptist, 10 p.m.; 18 at Arizona State, 2 p.m.; 30-Dec. 1 Cliff Keen Las Vegas Invitational, TBA.

Dec. 9 WISCONSIN, 4 p.m.

Jan. 6 N.C. STATE, 6 p.m.; 11 at Indiana, 7 p.m.; 13 MICHIGAN STATE, 2 p.m.; 25 MICHIGAN, 7 p.m.

Feb. 1 at Illinois, 9 p.m.; 3 at Northwestern, 1 p.m.; 8 PENN STATE, 8:30 p.m.; 15 at Purdue, 7 p.m.; 17 NEBRASKA, 2 p.m.; 22 at Cornell, 6:30 p.m.

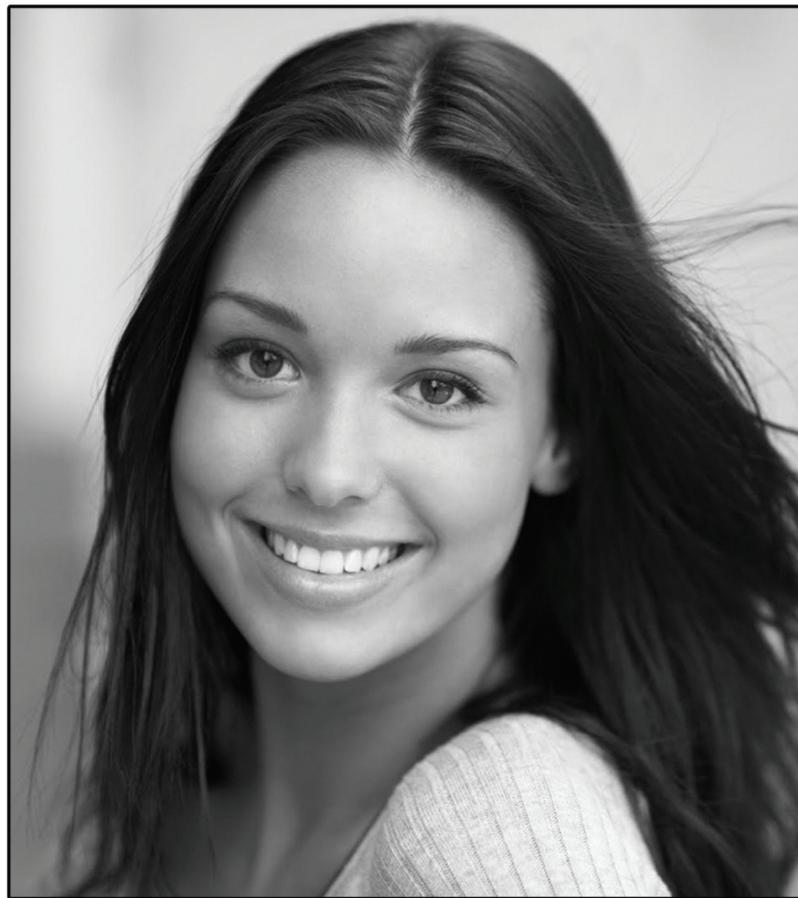
March 9-10 Big Ten Championships at Minneapolis; 21-23 NCAA Championships at Pittsburgh.

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Buckeyes Dismantled By Purdue In West Lafayette

Playing a night game in West Lafayette, Ind., is anything but fun. It's a tough place to get to, a tough place to play and a tough place to get out of. It's a long and difficult trek for Buckeye fans and a dreary environment to play in for the athletes.

COACH'S CORNER With Bill Conley

The facilities are average at best, the grass field gets slippery when wet, and there is just an eerie feeling to the whole experience. Saying all that, championship teams find a way to get the job done and then get out of town. That was exactly the task for the second-ranked Buckeyes on Oct. 20. Even though Ohio State has been dominant in the long series with Purdue, the Boilermakers have had times when they have been "Spoilermakers," especially in Ross-Ade Stadium. Purdue has now upset the Buckeyes five times since the 2000 season, all in West Lafayette. To add to the frustration, many of the Ohio State victories over Purdue have been too close for comfort.

Prior to Oct. 20, the Purdue team that struggled early in the season was on a three-game winning streak and had outscored its opponents 118-48 during that run. Their senior quarterback David Blough had earned his starting job back and had emerged as the No. 2 quarterback in the Big Ten in passing yards. It was Ohio State's job to stop the winning streak, kill Purdue's hope of winning the Big Ten West, and show improvement in several areas both offensively and defensively. As Woody Hayes often said, "It's the time of year you either get better, or you get worse, you never stay the same," and the Buckeyes needed to prove they were getting better.

One of the specific areas that had to be addressed for the Buckeyes was to first establish a running game. The previous week against Minnesota, the Ohio State offense gained only 92 yards rushing, the least since the Clemson game in 2017. Mike Weber and J.K. Dobbins had only rushed for 51 and 35 yards, respectively, against the Golden Gophers. Against

Minnesota, the Ohio State offense had shown an inability to control the line of scrimmage. Not only did the offense fail to establish a running attack, the offensive line gave up three sacks to the Gophers. It was apparent the Buckeyes had to show more consistency both in run blocking and pass protection, or it would be a long night in West Lafayette.

Defensively, the "Silver Bullets" were still giving up less than 20 points per game and had shut out Minnesota in the second half. The concerns for the defense, however, rest in the fact they were giving up too many big plays and long drives for a unit made up of a number of outstanding athletes. Obviously, injuries to key players such as Nick Bosa and Malik Harrison took its toll, and some young Bucks were called upon to play at a high level despite their lack of experience. Minnesota had also frustrated the Ohio state defense by running the ball at will between the tackles. It was obvious the defense had to come out of the gate faster and shut down a Purdue offense that had been on fire the last three games.

As good as the outcome has been after every game this season, the Buckeyes knew they had to eliminate their shortcomings to be a championship- and playoff-caliber team. They also had often-times stopped their own momentum with costly penalties. Let's look at these deficiencies and see if the Buckeyes showed the improvements necessary to say, "We got better against Purdue."

Run Game

The first half of the Purdue game was another disaster for the running game of the Buckeye offense. For the second week in a row, Ohio State couldn't rush the football for more than 3.0 yards a carry, and again it had the opportunity to score touchdowns in the red zone and failed.

Instead, OSU walked away with only two field goals and six points in five red-zone trips. Poor execution, poor communication and a lack of confidence defined the evening for the Buckeye offense that totaled just 76 yards on the ground.

Fast Starting Defense

While the Buckeye offense struggled coming out of the gate the first half Saturday, the defense forced Purdue into a four-and-out and a three-and-out on the Boilermakers' first

two drives of the game. The Buckeye defense was mixing things up and putting pressure on Blough. Things were looking positive for Ohio State when Terry McLaurin downed a Drue Chrisman punt on the Purdue 2-yard line. That's when Blough masterfully put together a 98-yard, 15-play drive for a touchdown. By the time both teams went to the locker room, Purdue had scored again for an 11-point lead on a drive kept alive by a fake field goal called by Purdue head coach Jeff Brohm.

The second half looked like a rendition of the "Keystone Cops" defensively. More than once, Buckeye defenders broke coverages and let Boilermaker receivers run free. The mark of a great defense is one that makes plays in crucial third-down situations. Ohio State showed neither the ability nor the discipline to get that done against Purdue. Too many times the Boilermakers made plays on critical third-down situations and absolutely shredded the bewildered Buckeyes.

Penalties

The number of penalties committed by Ohio State in West Lafayette was characteristic of the entire season at a glance. A number of drive-ending penalties that ranged from illegal procedure to illegal formations showed a lack of poise and discipline by an offense that had been able to fight through those penalties prior to the Purdue game against previous opponents. This time was different. There would be no late comeback for an offense that lacked consistency and big play-making ability against a stingy Purdue defense.

Defense and special teams contributed their part to the disaster in West Lafayette in terms of penalty yardage. Roughing the quarterback, pass interference, roughing the kicker, running into the kicker and personal fouls doomed any chance of stopping the Purdue offensive machine. Ten total penalties for the night totaling 86 yards is a disastrous statistic for a team on the road.

Purdue Owned The Night

The Boilermakers deserved to win. They outplayed and outcoached the Buckeyes. Purdue played aggressively, on both sides of the ball, and didn't bat an eye against a team that had superior athletes but lacked the cohesiveness necessary to keep their win streak alive.

Conley To Answer Readers' Questions

Former Ohio State player and coach and Buckeye Sports Bulletin columnist Bill Conley will be fielding questions from readers on BSB's BuckeyeSports.com website each Wednesday, starting on Oct. 31 until the end of football season.

Conley will offer his expertise on all things Buckeye past and present in his insightful and entertaining way. Readers should watch The Forum at the BuckeyeSports.com site the week of Oct. 29 for information on how to get their questions in the queue, and the coach will begin answering at 3 p.m. Columbus time.

If you are not already enjoying the benefits of BuckeyeSports.com, free with your BSB subscription, see page 5 of this issue for simple instructions on how to access the site. Or feel free to give us a call at (614) 486-2202 and we will be glad to help you.

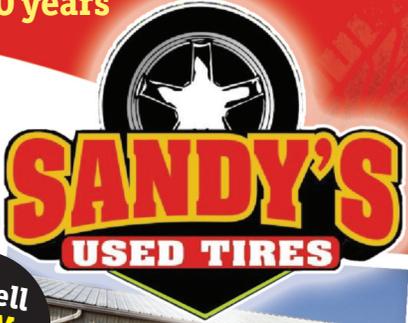
It is apparent after eight games that Ohio State is a one-dimensional team that has to make major changes to its offensive structure to establish a running attack.

At the same time, the Ohio State defense is porous against the run, out of position in the secondary, misses way too many tackles and doesn't disengage blocks.

After the nightmare in West Lafayette, it's back to the drawing board for Urban Meyer and staff. Ohio State has got to get better in all areas of the game and, most importantly, keep from self destructing. The Buckeyes have a long way to go to be a championship team. It's time to get back to the basics.

Known as one of the top recruiters in college football, Bill Conley is a national championship-winning coach and player at Ohio State who suited up for Woody Hayes and spent 17 years on the staffs of Earle Bruce, John Cooper and Jim Tressel.

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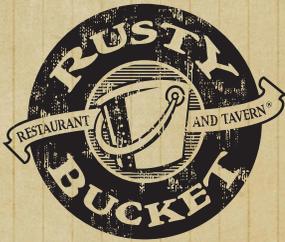
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Buckeye Running Game Still MIA In Upset Loss

What in the name of Woody Hayes is going on at Ohio State?

Where has the three yards and a cloud of dust gone? Heck, at this point I'd take just the cloud of dust.

THE FACTS MAN Mike Wachsman

The Ohio State Buckeyes cannot run the football. Let that sink in for a second. Ohio State has no ground game.

There have been individual games in OSU history where rushing the ball proved futile. But I cannot recall a season-long struggle to pound out yardage on the ground, as this one is.

OSU has two excellent running backs in J.K. Dobbins and Mike Weber, each of whom were touted as possible 1,000-yard rushers in 2018. Barring a huge finish, it looks as though neither will reach that mark. At this rate, either would be lucky to hit 800.

Dobbins has 521 yards, Weber 516. They've combined for seven touchdowns in eight games, but Weber hasn't scored since the opener against Oregon State.

The Buckeyes somehow managed to peak in the opener, gaining 375 yards on the ground against the Beavers. OSU hasn't come close to 300 again, and in fact hasn't even eclipsed 250 in the subsequent seven contests. The last two have been under 100 yards, which seems impossible for a team with Ohio State's rich history of churning out ground yardage.

"I look up at the board and I see the rushing yardage again and we're just going to, you know we've just got to get something going," OSU coach Urban Meyer said. "You can't just throw for 400 yards. Down the stretch here we've got to get some run game."

The Buckeyes have largely been a one-dimensional team for a while now but were fortunate to face opponents lacking the firepower to make them pay. Purdue wasn't so forgiving.

The Boilermakers came into the game just 3-3, but closer examination showed a team hamstrung by bad luck and an inability to close games early in the season. The three losses were by a total of eight points, and since starting its win streak, Purdue has shown itself to be a dangerous team.

Rondale Moore was a real find for Purdue and should be a star for the next two seasons. His ability to get open, get to top speed in one step and stop and start on a dime is something you don't see in many players. He had a big 43-yard TD reception to end Ohio State's late push, putting the Boilers

up 42-20 and effectively ending the game. Moore finished with 12 grabs for 170 yards and two scores and was the best player on the field all night.

All week long it was talked about – the night-game setting, the fact that Purdue was a dangerous team, that it could be a trap game for the Buckeyes.

None of it mattered. Purdue had bounce from the opening moments and didn't stop until it had bounced the Buckeyes out of West Lafayette – the only venue in the Big Ten in which OSU has a losing record since 2000. OSU is just 3-5 at Purdue in that span, the other losses coming by four, seven, eight and three (in overtime). All of those games had moments where the Buckeyes could have turned the outcome.

There was nothing that could be done about this one.

There doesn't appear to be any sense of urgency, any real soul-searching going on. How else can you explain the Buckeyes sleepwalking through games the majority of the season? Where is the leadership, the guy who will shake the team out of its malaise?

In recent seasons it would have been J.T. Barrett or Billy Price, guys who would knock over their mother to win a football game. It's hard to tell just how important it is to these guys. Sure, they're talented – but are they really football players? I'm talking about in the old sense of the word. The kind of guys who would fight back when hit in the mouth, who would dig down and find a way to come through.

There was precious little of that in West Lafayette on this night.

It was mostly just more of the same, and the cracks that had started became full-fledged holes.

What the Buckeyes are going to do about it remains to be seen.

"My main message is we have to treat this like it's life or death," Terry McLaurin said. "You have to have that type of mentality going into battle when someone's trying to knock you off. If you don't come ready, this happens."

"Our program is prided on our O-line and D-line, so for somebody to step up like that and say something at a time like this, it's necessary. There's no pointing fingers. It's all about looking in the mirror and see what we could have done better. We got hit in the mouth, but it's about how you come back from it."

OSU lost to Iowa last year and responded well, winning out from that point. But that was a much more mature team.

The body language of this group isn't the best, and sometimes it appears they get down on themselves after giving up a big play instead of dusting themselves off and thinking they'll get 'em on the next one.

The lack of mental focus is atrocious – 10

penalties, including a few that were back-breaking.

OSU was about to get off the field after forcing a Purdue incompletion on third down but committed a roughing-the-passer foul. The Buckeyes were also guilty of a roughing the kicker on a punt and a number of false-start penalties. Those are about focus and attention to detail. Pass-interference penalties you can live with because those are at least about effort. The others are just unacceptable, especially when they are committed as frequently as they are by the Buckeyes.

Ohio State entered this game near the bottom of the heap, averaging eight penalties per game.

Meyer says he's tired of it.

"It's been an issue this year," Meyer said. "Not very disciplined. I think they're effort penalties, but just, I mean, ridiculous."

Even with the Buckeyes sputtering in recent weeks, the result at Purdue caught Meyer completely by surprise.

"I'm very surprised," Meyer said. "I thought we had a good week of work. The glaring shortcomings we had were exposed. Number one, off the top, is our red-zone offense. We go down there a few times, two field goals and one missed field goal. We've never had this issue. We're going to get a real thorough evaluation of that."

Which all circles back to running the ball.

Maybe Meyer should, during this time of reflection, ask WWWD – What Would Woody Do?

Don't go back to all run but commit to it. Show you're tough, that you won't be pushed around. That you have something to lean on to close out games.

The last four Ohio State losses have all been by at least 14 points. That is not the mark of a championship team.

Time to start working, fellas.

Night And Day

Is it just me, or did the Buckeyes have more energy and consistency when Ryan Day was acting head coach?

Sure, they gave up some plays, but it seemed at that time like nothing would bother them. They just pulled up their bootstraps and went out and played.

Meyer's return appears to have bogged the team down. The game plan seems different, as well.

Earlier in the season Meyer said he was going to step aside and let Day and Kevin Wilson do their thing, craft the offense to OSU's strengths. It looked like a stroke of genius early on as the Buckeyes at least gave the hint of being two-dimensional. The offense at that time hid a lot of the defensive warts, which have since grown into a full-fledged outbreak.

OSU doesn't seem to operate with an offensive purpose now. It's not difficult to call out the plays, and if that can be done from a living room, imagine how easy it is for opposing coaches.

Could Meyer be back into the meddling game, bogging down the offense in the process?

Think about it – this offense for him is like fitting a square peg into a round hole. He's never really led an offense that wasn't RPO heavy, that didn't have a running quarterback. That quarterback was often a great leader and one of the toughest players on the roster – think Barrett and Tim Tebow. As wondrous as Haskins is with his arm, it has been proven that can pressure rattle him,

throw him off his game. I never really got the sense that he was going to lead Ohio State back to win the game, where in previous years I would have thought until the end that Barrett had a chance to pull something off.

Meyer could be trying to put some RPO principles into an offense that doesn't know how to use them, and that would be a problem.

The hope is that the off week will provide the necessary time for the Buckeyes to go back to the drawing board and fix their litany of issues – run game, offensive line getting pushed off the ball, linebacker play, secondary configuration. There are a number of things to work on.

And lest Ohio State think it cannot lose to Nebraska – the Cornhuskers looked dominant in a win over the same Minnesota team that gave the Buckeyes all they could handle for three quarters.

Let's hope that OSU's focus is where it needs to be – on itself.

And let's see if Meyer can find a way to rally the team and his coaching staff and show that the \$7 million plus investment that's been made in him is legitimate.

Dandy Dozen

If precedent holds, Ohio State won't have to worry about making the College Football Playoff field.

In its short history, the CFP has never selected a team that lost a regular-season game by 29 points or more. Ohio State fits that bill. It lost to Iowa by 31 last year, and that was a major reason the Buckeyes, even with a Big Ten title in their pocket, were left out of the festivities.

So while a championship appears to be out the window, a Big Ten title is still within reach.

This corner is not typically a fan of off weeks, but Ohio State's comes at the perfect time. It will give the coaching staff and players a chance to self-examine everything – scheme, desire, talent. Maybe having an extra week to think about this loss will be the tonic necessary to kick-start the Buckeyes toward a big finish.

Anyway, I never believed Ohio State was the second-best team in America. Too many issues were there on a weekly basis. I mean, top teams do not struggle with Minnesota, which Ohio State did. That should have been a warning alarm for Buckeyes fans.

While OSU falters, its rival to the north is playing the best football in the Big Ten.

Michigan is looking the way many felt it would last season. The defense is still lethal, but the Wolverines are finally getting the quarterback play that has been sorely lacking in Jim Harbaugh's tenure. Shea Patterson brings a steadiness to the offense, makes teams defend the entire field and is a boost to the run game as well. Right now, U-M appears to have the upper hand on the Big Ten East Division title.

One man's rankings:

1. Alabama
2. LSU
3. Clemson
4. Notre Dame
5. Michigan
6. Texas
7. Georgia
8. Oklahoma
9. Kentucky
10. UCF
11. Ohio State
12. Florida

In the mix: Texas A&M, Iowa, Washington State, Penn State, West Virginia, Washington, Fresno State, South Florida.

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For A Game, At Least, Purdue Was The Better Team

THE VIEW FROM 15TH & HIGH Frank Moskowitz, Publisher

Given Ohio State's track record against Purdue and especially *at* Purdue and given that the Buckeyes had consistently displayed flaws this season that they have been unable to correct, I am not certain why anyone was surprised by the Boilermakers' 49-20 victory over the Buckeyes.

Let me digress for a moment and look back to 1988, John Cooper's first year at Ohio State (the Boilermakers beat the Buckeyes 31-26 that year, by the way). Never back then would I have imagined that 30 years later I would frequently be quoting Coop and his homespun truisms, which were just that – truisms.

In the coming days and weeks, Buckeye fans will dissect exactly what they believe Ohio State did wrong against the Boilers. In situations like this, Coop would often remind us, "Sometimes we don't give enough credit to the other team. Their players are on scholarship too."

So before we start nitpicking the Buckeyes' frailties, frailties that have been apparent for weeks now, let's give a little credit to the other team. On this particular evening, Purdue was the better team. Not the more talented team, but the better – and better coached – team.

The Boilermakers, to even a casual observer better than their 3-3 record indicated, entered the game on a roll and with maybe just the right amount of swagger to show the 60,716 in West Lafayette, Ind., and a national television audience the problem areas that continue to plague the Buckeyes and to exploit them. News Flash. Those problems would include a porous defense, a lack of a running game and unnecessary penalties.

While other teams have exploited those weaknesses for parts of games, especially in the first half, Purdue was the first team to take advantage of the Buckeyes' shortcomings from start to finish, and the result – after a couple of scares earlier – was Ohio State's first loss of the season.

It didn't hurt the Boilermaker cause that they really had nothing to lose in the game. Win and the fans storm the field as they did after this victory. Lose and all you did was what everyone thought you were going to do to begin with – lose to the No. 2 team in the nation.

Thus Purdue coach Jeff Brohm could get away with going for that fake field goal late in the first half, a play that I found to be pivotal in the game. If the gamble had failed, the Boilermakers would still have most likely led going into the intermission, and by that first 30 minutes, the Purdue players and coaches had to have realized – as I think Buckeye fans had – that the home team could stay with the Buckeyes and even had a good shot at beating them.

While I heed Coop's advice and give proper credit to the victors, it takes two to tango, and Ohio State hardly played like the No. 2 team in the country. Again, what's annoying to any Buckeye fan is that the problems are the same and the team, despite seven straight wins to open the season, has not gotten any better.

"If it was that easy – a one-sentence answer – I'd give it to you," head coach Urban Meyer said of fixing what ails his club. "But it's not that easy of an answer, so we're going to work real hard and get it fixed."

Haven't they been working hard and trying to get it fixed already? At this point, who is to say they can fix it?

Let's look at the offense first.

Who would have ever imagined that this pair of stat lines – 49 of 73 passing for 470 yards and 25 carries for 76 yards rushing

and a 3.0 average – would be associated with Ohio State football. In the same game, no less. Woody Hayes must be spinning in his grave.

I have worried for a couple of weeks now that there would come a time when Dwayne Haskins could not throw his team to victory if Ohio State was giving up yards and points and was unable to run the football. The struggles in the red zone, to my way of thinking, are directly related to problems with the running game. Opposing pass defenders have far less space to cover in the shadow of the goal line, and passing, even for someone as good as Haskins, becomes much more difficult.

Over the course of the game, Ohio State had first downs at the Purdue 7, 10 and 8 among its red-zone trips. In those three goal-to-go situations, Ohio State ran five times for 7 yards. What happened to the days when the Buckeyes would have powered the ball in from such short range or at least used the threat of the run to ease up pass coverage?

And surely the explosive running of the J.K. Dobbins and Mike Weber of old would have extended some drives or resulted in long gainers. Against the Boilermakers, Ohio State's longest run from scrimmage was 11 yards, and that came on the second-to-last play of the game, when the outcome was long determined. In fact, 23 of OSU's 76 rushing yards came on that meaningless last drive. Take those away and the Buckeye rushing numbers would have been 22 carries for 53 yards and a 2.4 yard average. Yikes!

And if the blatant problem with the running game wasn't enough to slow the Buckeyes, the intermittent problem of dropped passes or failure to reel in difficult but catchable passes reared its head again.

A side note about the offense. I hope that Meyer, Ryan Day and Kevin Wilson saw that Purdue extended their first touchdown drive when it converted a fourth-and-1 on an innovative play – a quarterback sneak.

As for the defense, I am going to surprise you and say I thought it played better – at least for a while. But before you can fully assess the Buckeye defense, you have to look at that third ongoing problem: penalties. From the time Ohio State was flagged six times for 50 yards in the opener and followed that up with 11 for 120 yards against Rutgers, I knew that at some point penalties were going to bite the Buckeyes in the rear. That day of reckoning came against Purdue.

Against the Boilermakers it wasn't the quantity of the penalties, still staggering at 10 for 86, but the quality, or lack of such, in the fouls against Purdue.

I needn't remind you of the big ones – you saw them – but I will anyway.

Trailing just 14-6 early in the third quarter, the defense forced a punt at the OSU 46. Unfortunately, Davon Hamilton roughed the punter and Purdue continued the march, ultimately taking a 21-6 lead. Technically, the Buckeyes were still in it when David Blough missed on a third-and-11 pass at the Boiler 33 early in the fourth and OSU still trailing by 15, which should have forced a punt. Instead, Dre'Mont Jones roughed Blough and again the drive continued, and Purdue took a 28-6 lead with 11:39 left to play. The rout was pretty much on after that.

You combine those drive-continuing penalties with the fact that the defense also buckled down and stalled a lengthy Purdue drive at the end of the first and forced a field-goal attempt, an attempt that turned into a fake that allowed Purdue to take a 14-3 lead into the locker room, and you see why I might think that the defense, at the least, could have kept the Buckeyes in the game without the penalties.

Incidentally, while some in the office disagree with me – see the staff roundtable on pages 15-17 – I think Isaiah Pryor is improving. I thought he played one of the better games among Buckeye defenders. The guy I kept searching for was Chase Young, who had only an assist and half of a TFL against Purdue. There would be a lot less whining about the departure of Nick Bosa if Young were playing like he did in week five against Penn State.

By the way, Purdue didn't play a clean game either. The Boilermakers were flagged for even more yards than the Buckeyes at 95. That gave Ohio State more yards on Purdue penalties than they gained on the ground. But as we learned, it's not how many penalties you are charged with, it's *when* you are charged.

So the question becomes where does Ohio State go from here?

We all raved in the early season about the quality of the Buckeye coaching staff. Good coaches, starting at the top with Meyer, don't become bad coaches overnight. But their inability to fix problems so obvious that your grandmother with the bad eyes can see them is indeed troubling.

The Buckeyes saw firsthand with Purdue that a team can change its fate in a hurry. The Boilermakers started 0-3, including a humiliating defeat at the hands of Eastern Michigan (did the Eagle fans storm the field like fans do when their team beats the Buckeyes?), but turned things around enough to score what may be a program-defining victory over Ohio State.

If the Buckeye can turn things around, they still control their own destiny, and I believe if they run the table, they would qualify for the College Football Playoff. But that's a huge if on turning things around, and given Ohio State's track record the past few games, they are just as likely to lose to Nebraska as run the table. The Boilermakers have given any team down the stretch, even Maryland, a glimmer of hope as far as defeating Ohio State.

I'm hopeful the team can turn things around. But I think everyone has to admit that, as of now at least, there is something very wrong with the Buckeyes.

How Could I Forget?

In this space last issue I recalled some of the sometimes strange losses to Purdue and also noted that even victories sometimes came with difficulty against the Boilermakers.

I somehow failed to recall one of the most dramatic wins for the Buckeyes, not just against Purdue, but in school history – the 10-6 win in 2002 in West Lafayette that preserved Ohio State's march to the national championship.

Because Buckeye fans need something a little positive right now, I'll let the Nov. 16, 2002, issue of BSB tell a story with a happy ending.

"OSU appeared headed toward its first defeat in 11 games this season as it trailed Purdue 6-3 with the clock rolling inside two minutes. Even worse, the Buckeyes were facing a fourth-and-1 at the Purdue 37.

"With the Boilers expecting a run, OSU quarterback Craig Krenzel exploited a mismatch by hurling a 37-yard touchdown pass to Michael Jenkins with just 1:36 to play.

"Then, as the OSU defense held on for dear life, two-way starter Chris Gamble broke back and intercepted a bomb from Purdue quarterback Kyle Orton with just 45 seconds left.

" 'Championship teams make those kind of plays,' lamented Purdue coach Joe Tiller."

The late Tiller correctly predicted Ohio State's ultimate destiny that season.

We will run reprints of stories from that issue of Buckeye Sports Bulletin as part of our Reprint Thursday on our BuckeyeSports.com website on Oct. 25. We will also run reprints from the Oct. 13, 1984, issue of BSB covering the last time that Purdue knocked off a No. 2 Ohio State team in West Lafayette.

Remembering The 1968 Champs

Speaking of reprints, I mentioned last issue that Ohio State's 1968 national championship team has been the most chronicled team in the annals of Buckeye Sports Bulletin. Because of that, we have kind of soft-sold their 50th anniversary this fall.

BSB editor Tim Moody and I got together after the team celebrated this milestone the weekend of the Minnesota game and decided that we should be giving the team, led by the Super Sophs, a little bit more recognition.

Back in 1993, on the team's 25th anniversary, BSB did a special commemorative celebrating the team. We will shortly begin running reprints from that publication on BuckeyeSports.com, and we will run them periodically throughout the remainder of the season leading up to stories on the Rose Bowl from that season on Jan. 1. Remember, BuckeyeSports.com is a free service for all Buckeye Sports Bulletin subscribers.

No BSB The Week Of Oct. 29

There will be no print issue of Buckeye Sports Bulletin the week of Oct. 29, following Ohio State's off week. However, there is no need to miss any of the Buckeye action as the BSB staff will be posting stories daily, along with a question-and-answer session with former Buckeye coach and player Bill Conley on Wednesday, Oct. 31.

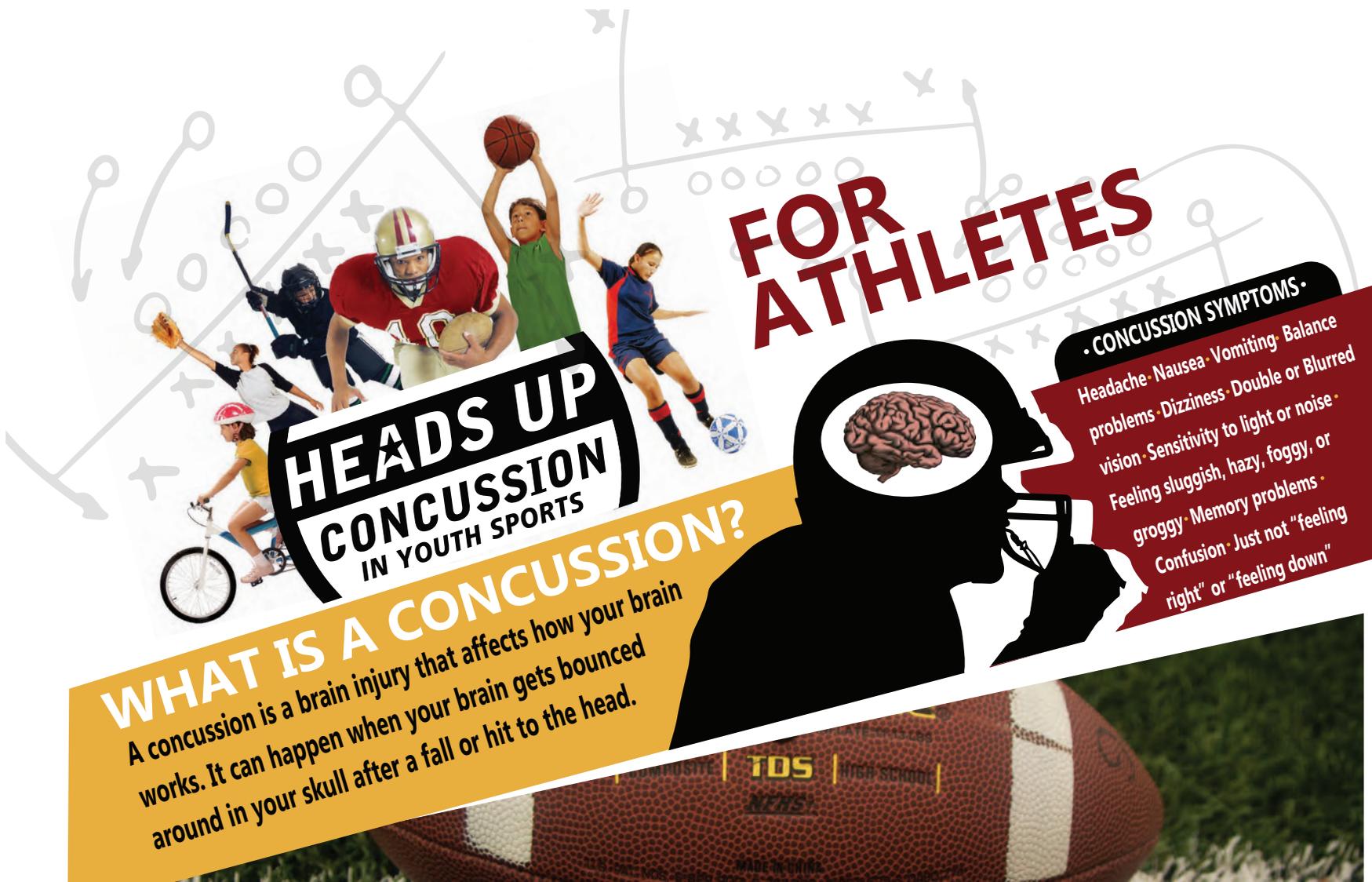
Will the loss to Purdue have any effect on Ohio State recruiting? Any breaking news on the recruiting front can be found on BuckeyeSports.com as well, and the conversation on The Forum is sure to be spirited, given the continuing struggles of the Buckeyes.

For simple sign-up instructions for BSB subscribers, see page 5 of this issue or give us a call at (614) 486-2202 if you need assistance.

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I have reached out to a higher level of postal officials as I continue to work to correct problems with BSB mail service, especially in the central Ohio area.

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FOR ATHLETES

**HEADS UP
CONCUSSION
IN YOUTH SPORTS**

CONCUSSION SYMPTOMS:
Headache · Nausea · Vomiting · Balance problems · Dizziness · Double or Blurred vision · Sensitivity to light or noise · Feeling sluggish, hazy, foggy, or groggy · Memory problems · 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.

GOOD TEAMMATES KNOW: IT'S BETTER TO MISS ONE GAME THAN THE WHOLE SEASON

<http://www.healthy.ohio.gov/concussion>



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