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OSU Coach To Meet With Terps

Williams Set To Interview

By Mark Rea

Ohio State basketball coach Gary Williams was scheduled to interview for the head coaching position at Maryland just before *Buckeye Sports Bulletin* went to press.

Williams' interview with Maryland was to take place during the June 10-11 weekend. The interview was reportedly scheduled for a neutral site in neither Columbus nor College Park, Md.

It would probably have taken place June 10, since Williams was hosting a charity run in Columbus on June 11.

Williams has repeatedly told reporters that Maryland is the only school that could lure him away from Ohio State.

"Any player looks back at his alma mater, if he gets into coaching, and thinks somewhere along the line that would be really good," Williams told *The Washington Post*. "But I never entertained it as being especially realistic. Because of the timing and so many other variables, it almost never happens."

"I don't think you can look at one job and say, 'That's where I want to coach,' because you can't go through your career disappointed if it doesn't happen. There are too many variables involved. Timing's always so interesting with jobs."

"You just can't wait for any one job to open, as far as the way you run your coaching career. Once I got to Ohio State, I just didn't think about the Maryland job coming open."

But come open it has after the Terrapins accepted the resignation of head coach Bob Wade.

Maryland officials agreed May 12 to buy out the remaining two years on Wade's contract in return for his resignation. In addition to compiling a 36-50 record in three years with the Terrapins, Wade and the school came under investigation by the NCAA for alleged violations including providing transportation for a former player and arranging cars for players from local automobile dealerships.

Three days later, Ohio State athletic director Jim Jones said he would discuss the possibility of extending Williams' contract. Williams is currently near the end of the third year on a five-year pact with OSU.

Jones emphasized that the contract extension talks had nothing to do with Williams being mentioned as a candidate for the Maryland job. Still, Jones remained pragmatic about the situation.

"I hope Gary doesn't leave," Jones said. "(But) my philosophy is that a coach is free to pursue another opportunity rather than stay against his wishes. If an individual wasn't happy

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Ohio State basketball coach Gary Williams was scheduled to interview with officials from the University of Maryland during the June 10-11 weekend to discuss the Terrapins' vacant head coaching position. Williams has said that Maryland, his alma mater, is the only school that can lure him away from the Buckeyes.



OSU Losing Cage Aide See Page 2



Grass: Yes Canada: No See Page 4



Burson Eyes NBA Chances See Page 10

Williams Tops Terps' List Of Candidates

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here, we wouldn't force him to stay. I don't mean that negatively or in specific reference to Gary."

On May 17, Williams for the first time acknowledged that he would like to be interviewed for the job at Maryland.

"I feel I owe (the Maryland people) the courtesy of interviewing," Williams said. "I was able to get my college education and get into coaching because Maryland gave me an athletic scholarship."

Williams played three years at Maryland under head coach Bud Miliken and was the Terps' co-captain during his senior year and later served as a graduate assistant coach.

"(Maryland) did a lot for me," Williams said. "I learned a lot of basketball there which has helped me in my career. I got my degree that qualifies me to coach."

"So if Maryland wants to talk to me, that's fine. I'll definitely talk to them because it's my school and I care about Maryland and that the basketball team there is successful."

After leaving Maryland, Williams' first coaching job was as an assistant at Woodrow Wilson High School in Camden, N.J. After one season, he took over as head coach and guided the team to a 27-0 record and the state championship.

He spent one more year at Woodrow Wilson before joining Tom Davis' staff at Lafayette. In 1978, Williams accompanied Davis to Boston College and, one year later, was named head coach at American University.

"That was my first head coaching job and I was scared to death," Williams said. "I think the first two years we were 27-27. Then, we started to get some of the Washington, D.C., players."

In 1981, his American University team set a school record for victories with a 24-6 mark, won the East Coast Conference and earned an NIT bid. As a result, he was voted district coach of the year.

Another 20-win season followed and then Williams was hired at Boston Col-

lege. His four-year record there was 76-45 and included two NCAA appearances and one trip to the NIT.

In 1987, Ohio State hired him to replace Eldon Miller and he responded again with a 20-win season. He also treated OSU fans to a more exciting style of play and helped the team achieve a string of sellout crowds at St. John Arena that remains intact.

In three years with the Buckeyes, Williams has a 59-41 record with two NIT bids and one NCAA trip.

He admits that the prospects for the future at Ohio State are excellent. With Jim Jackson and Mark Baker ready to join a cast which already includes Perry Carter, Treg Lee, Jamaal Brown and Chris Jent, the Buckeyes look to be in good shape for years to come.

Still, Williams admits to having feel-

ings for the program at Maryland, rocked in recent years from the Len Bias death to the reassignment of Lefty Driesell to the apparent forced resignation of Wade.

"This is a critical time for Maryland," Williams told the Post. "The way I see it, the future of Maryland basketball can be great. Whatever's happened has happened. They can't go back."

"Now at Maryland you have to ask 'What can it be?' You have to dream, to have a vision of where you want to see that program. I think that's what the people at Maryland are doing right now."

Other candidates reported for the job are North Carolina-Charlotte coach Jeff Mullins, Bob Wenzel of Rutgers and Morgan Wooten of DeMatha High School in Hyattsville, Md.

Mullins told *The Associated Press* he felt that Williams should be considered the leading candidate.

"It seems to me that it's Gary Williams and everyone after that," said Mullins, who had not decided whether to pursue the position. "I would be very surprised if he is not (offered the position). But I have no way of knowing that for sure."

Should Williams decide to stay at Ohio State, some sources say Maryland could add Jim Calhoun of Connecticut to its list of prospective coaches.

No one has been rumored as a possible replacement for Williams should he leave Ohio State, although former OSU assistant Rick Barnes, now head coach at Providence, and current assistant Randy Ayers have both been mentioned as possible successors.

Fraschilla Accepts Assistant Coaching Post At Providence

By Mark Rea

Fran Fraschilla, an assistant basketball coach at Ohio State for two years, has accepted a similar post at Providence College.

Fraschilla will join head coach Rick Barnes' staff at Providence. Barnes is a former OSU assistant coach. The two men are good friends.

"For me, professionally, it's a good move because of my association with Rick in the past," Fraschilla said. "It really made me feel like I could be a key part of what they're building at Providence."

Fraschilla joined Ohio State in June 1987, after spending six years as an assistant at Ohio University.

A native of Brooklyn, N.Y., Fraschilla graduated from Brooklyn College in 1979 and began his coaching career in 1980 as an assistant at New York Tech. In his only season there, Tech compiled a 26-3 record.

He later coached one season at Rhode Island under former Villanova



Fran Fraschilla

coach Jack Kraft. That year, URI posted a 21-6 mark.

The following year, Fraschilla became an assistant at Ohio University under then head coach Danny Nee. He spent five seasons with Nee and during that stretch the Bobcats recorded four 20-win seasons. When Billy Hahn took over the OU program in 1987, Fraschilla remained on the Bobcats' staff and continued his duties as recruiting coordinator.

One year later, after Jim Clemons left OSU to become head coach at Youngstown State, Buckeyes head coach Gary Williams hired Fraschilla as an assistant.

"Fran has an Eastern background and feels it's time to get back to that part of the country," Williams said.

"At Providence, you usually look south to recruit and that means New York City," Williams told *The Columbus Dispatch*. "Fran is from Brooklyn and he knows that area very well."

Both men said Fraschilla's acceptance of the Providence job had nothing to do with Williams being the reported front-runner for the head coaching job at Maryland.

"Absolutely not," Fraschilla said. "Gary was very supportive of this because he saw that it was a way for me to get back closer to my roots."

"It's a chance to broaden my background as a coach. I've spent eight years in Ohio and loved every minute of it. Now I'm going back to my roots."

"I'm excited about it. I've talked to a lot of people and New York and New Jersey is the area where Providence has recruited a lot of great players. That's an area that I am familiar and comfortable with."

Barnes called Williams June 4 asking for permission to talk to Fraschilla. The opening was created when Herb Sendek left Providence to join new Kentucky coach Rick Pitino.

Williams said he would recommend part-time assistant Paul Brazeau to replace Fraschilla. Brazeau would join Randy Ayers as OSU's two full-time assistants permitted under NCAA rules.

"Paul has worked hard and done a great job," Williams said. "He's been with me four years at Boston College and two years here."

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Both Schools Have Things Going For Them**Will Gary Williams Stay Or Will He Go?**

Why would Gary Williams want to go to Maryland?

It's been the burning question around Ohio State for the past several weeks as Buckeye fans ponder the possibilities of losing their extremely popular basketball coach.

Why would Williams want to go to Maryland? The answers are obvious.

First and foremost, Maryland is his alma mater. There is a lot of emotion attached with "going home," and this may be the only chance that Williams has to do that.

Another reason is that Maryland will undoubtedly offer Williams a generous sum of money to take over the troubled program. Williams has said that money is not and never has been an issue for him, but he certainly cannot discount it altogether.

The Terrapins play in a prestigious conference. The Atlantic Coast Conference has every bit of the national spotlight that the Big Ten enjoys. Bringing the Maryland program back to the prominence it enjoyed not so long ago would certainly be a career coup for Williams.

Also at Maryland, basketball is the kingpin. Can you honestly name the Terrapins' head football coach? Do you remember the last time they were in the Top Ten? Williams would never have to worry about taking a back seat to any other sport on the campus at College Park.

Of course, Maryland doesn't have everything going for it. There are some things that should induce Williams to want to stay in Columbus.

The two biggest reasons that come immediately to mind are Jim Jackson and Mark Baker. Jackson, the sensational recruit from Toledo, and Baker, one of the best point guards around, will both join the Buckeyes next season in what could be one of the best campaigns in recent memory.

Jackson is the player that Buckeye fans have been waiting for since the glory days of the late 1950s and early 1960s. He has the potential to become a great college basketball player, capable of leading the Buckeyes to championships of all kinds.

In the same vein, Baker is the point guard that the Buckeyes sorely missed last season. If he can knock off the rust of sitting out a year due to Prop 48, Baker has the ability to become one of the nation's top players at his position.

In addition to those newcomers, Williams will still have the services of Perry Carter and Treg Lee, a pair of players who have the potential to become one of the most dominating duos in the Big Ten.

And don't forget the likes of Jamaal Brown and Chris Jent, a couple of players who showed vast improvement during the final stretch of the 1988-89 season. The team's depth continues with Bill Robinson, James Bradley, Eli Brewster, Steve Hall and recruits Alex Davis and Tom Brandewie.

It is an Ohio State basketball team with as much potential as any in recent memory.

Of course, the prospects for rewards on the basketball court are not the only things that should entice Williams to stay with the Buckeyes.

Should he remain at Ohio State, Williams is also virtually assured of getting job security in the form of a contract extension. He is currently winding up the third year on a five-year deal and could receive as much as a three-year extension from athletic director Jim Jones. That would make him OSU coach through the 1993-94 season and assure Buckeye fans of exciting action for at least that long.

Editor's Notebook with Mark Rea

Williams also seems to have a genuine feeling for Ohio State and its players.

You only had to witness Williams at the press conference announcing Jay Burson's neck injury to see how he truly feels about his players.

Several times during the press conference, Williams had to stop mid-sentence to retain his composure. The fact that Burson, who had meant so much to the Buckeyes during his four-year career, would never play in a Scarlet and Gray uniform again really got to Williams.

It was a genuine display of emotion from a man whom the general public knows only from the way he coaches basketball games and the way he acts in television commercials.

Many people have offered the argument that Williams is an Easterner and longs to return to that part of the country. That all goes along as part of the "going home" factor.

In recent years, though, it has seemed that Williams has effectively taken Columbus as his home. He seems to have the support of the Ohio State athletic department and undoubtedly

has the undying devotion of 99 percent of all Buckeye fans.

Last but not least, Williams would be facing a complete overhaul of a wrecked Maryland program.

The Terrapins are reeling from the cocaine-induced death of star player Len Bias, the revelations of academic shortcomings of some players, the reassignment of former head coach Lefty Driesell, the apparent forced resignation of head coach Bob Wade and the impending NCAA sanctions that led to Wade's resignation.

Williams would have to be willing to dedicate himself, body and soul, to revitalizing the program. That means 16-20 hour workdays for about two years. Even then, the program may not recover.

As you can see, the pros and cons for both the Ohio State and Maryland jobs are numerous. Perhaps that is the reason why Williams has not been in a big hurry to make his decision.

Probably by the time you read this, Williams will have either decided to stay at OSU or leave for Maryland.

In my opinion, I think Williams is an excellent basketball coach and Ohio State ought to be thankful it has his services. Personally, I hope he stays with the Buckeyes.

But he has to make the decision based upon what is best for him, not what is best for Ohio State or Maryland.

It's Gary's decision to make. Frankly, I'm glad it's not mine.

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The View From 15th and High

By Frank L. Moskowitz, Publisher

Buckeye Fans Adamant About Keeping Williams

By the time you read this column, Gary Williams may already have made his decision as to whether he is going to go to Maryland or stay at Ohio State. While what he is going to do is uncertain as I write, one thing is certain. Every Buckeye fan we have spoken to in the past few weeks is adamant about wanting Williams to stay in Columbus.

The question they ask most often is why would Williams even consider going to Maryland. And there are certainly a lot of reasons to stay at Ohio State.

The biggest reason to stay, in my mind, is the fact that most people, especially people with Williams' type of pride and desire, don't like to leave a job until it is finished. Williams has put the excitement back in Ohio State basketball. He's put people back in the seats at St. John Arena. He's had a fair amount of success in the win-loss department. And, probably most importantly, he's brought quality athletes back into the Ohio State basketball program.

Not since people like Herb Williams, Clark Kellogg and Kelvin Ransey all played on the same team several years back, has Ohio State had the type of athletes on its basketball team that it will have next season. Too many times

in the past few years have the Buckeyes had to face teams like Illinois and Michigan, that simply had too much fire power for OSU.

But for all those positives that Williams has brought to the Ohio State basketball program, the bottom line still is hanging new banners from the rafters of St. John Arena. While the foundation has been laid, that hasn't been done yet. And I think a guy like Gary Williams won't be satisfied until he wins a Big Ten championship and contends for the national title.

With so many talented players in the fold, why, we are so often asked, would Williams want to leave Ohio State for Maryland, a school facing possible NCAA sanctions, a school that has to compete with the biggies of the ACC, as well as perennial power Georgetown?

Obviously, one major reason is that Williams is a Maryland grad. Let's face it. People have a thing about their alma mater. If they didn't there probably wouldn't be such a publication as *Buckeye Sports Bulletin*.

There have also been reports that the relationship between Williams and OSU athletic director Jim Jones has been strained at times and that Williams is unhappy with basketball's posi-

tion versus football at Ohio State.

All of us have been in situations where we sometimes have problems getting along with people with whom we work. Williams and Jones, however, are both professionals and if there are differences, I think they can work through them.

As for the status of football at Ohio State, I think it will always be number one. However, Williams has done a good enough job that perhaps some extra consideration should be given to the needs of his program.

I offer these final thoughts on the Williams situation:

The fact that Bob Wade was in trouble at Maryland and that Williams would most likely be the Terrapins' first choice as coach has been known for some time. The OSU athletic department might have moved more quickly to sign Williams to the contract extension he apparently desires, heading off this extended waiting period which doesn't particularly help the Buckeye basketball program. Sometimes it's better to act than to be forced to react later.

On the other hand, Williams is already under contract to Ohio State and will be for another two years. Yet he is considering taking another position. So

does a contract extension really mean anything?

I'VE SEEN many great Big Ten athletes in the several years that I have been covering sports in this conference. Surely, for me, the most inspirational has been former Michigan and Olympic and current California Angels pitcher Jim Abbott.

I must admit, however, that I was a little concerned when the Angels elected to bring him up to the big club without any minor league experience. The pressure on any player who makes the jump right to the big leagues is immense, as is the media attention. In Abbott's case, because he has been able to overcome what can hardly, for him, be called a handicap, that pressure, from the media in particular, was surely even greater.

Much to my surprise and pleasure, Abbott seems to have prospered so far for the Angels. Through games of June 4, Abbott had a 5-3 record in nine starts, with a solid 3.42 ERA and 35 strikeouts in 55 1/3 innings, helping the Angels to first place in the American League West. The Angels finished in fourth place last season.

In this time of drug, gambling and sex scandals in baseball, Jim Abbott is truly someone we can all look up to.

SPEAKING OF Big Ten baseball and grit and determination, you've got to take your hat off to the OSU baseball team. No one can say that the baseball Bucks backed into the conference playoffs.

With their backs against the wall, the Buckeyes swept a pair of double-headers at Michigan State to take the fourth and final playoff spot. I think that kind of performance under pressure says a lot about coach Bob Todd and his baseball team.

IF YOU'VE been thinking about joining Buckeye Boosters, now might be a good time to do so. The Boosters have some great things planned for the upcoming months.

The seventh annual Buckeye Boosters golf tournament will be held on Friday, June 16. There will be 28 fivesomes playing in the tourney with an OSU coach, administrator or former player and four Boosters in each group.

Proceeds will go to benefit the OSU football and basketball programs.

Boosters members are also admitted to the OSU football team's picture day on Aug. 26, and the annual Scrimmage Dinner, honoring the grid seniors, is scheduled for Sept. 6 at the Hyatt on Capitol Square in Columbus.

Once again, the Boosters have put together exciting packages for all the OSU away games this season, highlighted by a trip to San Francisco and the USC game. The trip will feature four nights at the Hyatt Regency on the Embarcadero in San Francisco, as well as the big game with the Trojans in Los Angeles. This is a great opportunity to share fun and football with others who share your love of the Buckeyes.

Finally, you won't want to miss the annual Huddle Luncheon, to be held Nov. 21, also at the Hyatt on Capitol Square. This is always one of the highlights of Michigan week.

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