

Will Coach Quarterbacks, Receivers

Tressel, Buckeyes Get Acquainted

By Mike Pramik

New Ohio State assistant football coach Jim Tressel knows all about adjusting to new players and new co-workers. After all, his appointment to OSU in January was his fourth move in the last nine years.

And he believes he has settled into OSU quite well.

"It's something everyone has to adjust to," Tressel says. "The first year you're with your guys you have to be flexible. You've got to understand, they've had a good coach before you and there are some things they really respond to. You've got to seek them out.

"But you don't want to be so flexible that you're not yourself. You still have to teach the way you want to teach. That's why it's great that we had spring ball together. Now we can go into the fall and they're my guys. In spring they were looking me over, I was looking them over. They're my guys now."

Tressel took over in early January for former OSU quarterback and receiver coach Fred Zechman, who took the head coaching position at New Mexico State University in mid-December. A lifelong Buckeye fan, Tressel grew up in Berea, Ohio and was an All-American quarterback at Baldwin Wallace in 1974.

His father Lee, who died in 1981,

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Editor

Frank L. Moskowitz

Photography

Jim Kirkpatrick
Rick Thomas

Contributors

Karen Wachsman
Craig E. Merz
Rich Exner
Mike Pramik
Pat McSweeney
Mark Naegele
Steve Siegfried

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NCAA Says Tomczak Eligible

By Mike Pramik

More than three weeks of anxiety ended June 28 for OSU quarterback Mike Tomczak, stripped of his right to play football for appearing in a commercial advertisement, when the NCAA restored his eligibility.

In a 30-minute meeting with the five-man NCAA Eligibility Committee, NCAA director of legislative services Tom Yeager and OSU Athletic Director Hugh Hindman, Tomczak was reinstated because he was not reimbursed for his act, posing for a Lazarus advertisement promoting Jean Paul Germain clothing. The ad appeared on the back of the June issue of *Columbus Monthly* magazine.

Also, the fact that neither Tomczak's nor Ohio State's name appeared in the ad was a factor in the NCAA's decision.

Tomczak violated the NCAA rule which states no athlete shall "make any endorsement, expressed or otherwise, of any commercial product."

"I am very pleased with the outcome of our appeal and know that Michael will exemplify the trust placed in him by all concerned," Hindman said in a short, prepared statement.

Hindman declared Tomczak ineligible on June 3 after seeing the advertisement on the newsstands. Neither Hindman nor OSU coach Earle Bruce had any idea that Tomczak was going to appear in the ad, Hindman said at a June 3 press conference.

was a very successful coach at Baldwin Wallace from 1958-80. He racked up a record of 154-53-6, including an NCAA Division III championship in 1978.

Tressel believes his coaching philosophy is modeled somewhat after his father's game plan. Although Tressel was a quarterback who threw most of the time in college, he is not foreign to the benefits of a good running game.

"From an offensive standpoint, my philosophy is that the best teams, the winning teams, will be able to run the football," Tressel says. "But the No. 1 team in the nation will have a good balance. I believe in great balance, just as (OSU coach) Earle (Bruce) does. You make the big plays happen with the pass.

"At Baldwin Wallace, we were a run and shoot team, but we had excellent teams. We only lost eight games my four years there. But my dad's teams really didn't become the best teams in the nation until they got a little better running the ball. They were always in the top



Mike Tomczak

Lazarus officials, who contacted Tomczak to pose in the ad, said they had no knowledge of any wrongdoing on Tomczak's part. Tomczak believed that because he was receiving no money for his services, he was exempt from penalty. Hindman has confirmed the \$40 modeling fee Tomczak received for his work was given to the Leukemia Society.

The junior from Calumet City, Ill., stepped into the spotlight last season as the man who replaced Art Schlichter at the offensive controls. Tomczak led the Buckeyes to seven consecutive wins at the end of the season, including a lopsided victory over Brigham Young in the Holiday Bowl. For the season, he passed for 1,602 yards and eight touchdowns and ran for five touchdowns.

10 in the nation, but they got to be the best when they ran better."

After Tressel graduated, he went to Akron, where he coached from 1975-78. He was an assistant at Miami of Ohio in 1979 and '80, and then became the quarterback coach at Syracuse, where he remained until last January.

Tressel was in the midst of a successful rebuilding process at Syracuse, as a new stadium had been built for the 1980 season. However, the 30-year-old realized that an appointment at Ohio State was too good to pass up.

"I had some young quarterbacks at Syracuse," he says. "I started a freshman quarterback last year who made the freshman All-American team, so I was kind of excited about the prospects for the future.

"I wasn't looking for anything, but when Coach Bruce called there wasn't much doubt in my mind I would come.

"Being an Ohio native, it's a thrill to be here. When I was growing up, naturally I enjoyed

football, and when you grow up in Ohio enjoying football, the Ohio State Buckeyes are the thing.

"I followed them very closely. My idols were Rex Kern and those kind of people. So it's really a thrill to be back here and be a part of that."

Tressel's migration from Syracuse to Columbus is not the only one in recent years by OSU assistant football coaches. Nick Saban, Steve Szabo and Dennis Fryzel, all former OSU defensive coaches, once coached at the New York university.

Just as he had a good, young quarterback at Syracuse, he has one at OSU in Mike Tomczak. Tomczak, after being declared ineligible by Athletic Director Hugh Hindman on June 3 for appearing in an advertisement in *Columbus Monthly* magazine, was reinstated by the NCAA June 28.

Tomczak had a mediocre spring, until he passed for 165 yards and two touchdowns on 12 of 17 passes in the spring game in Ohio Stadium. Tressel looks on the bright side of all of the quarterbacks' failure to be consistent this spring, saying the defense may have had something to do with it.

"None of them emerged," Tressel says of his quarterbacks. "I don't think Mike had a super spring. I think he made some strides. I think they all made strides. But no one dazzled anybody.

"But you know what? That tells me we have a pretty good defense. At the same time I wish they (quarterbacks) would have done better, it also tells me we're playing better defense."

In addition to overseeing the progress of the quarterbacks, Tressel is also the coach of the Buckeye receivers. This season, his two primary players will be seniors Cedric Anderson and Thad Jemison. Anderson, who has considerably more experience than Jemison, draws raves from Tressel.

"Cedric Anderson is the finest athlete I've ever been around," Tressel says. "He's incredible. When we really get down to discussing what we're going to do next year against Oregon, Oklahoma and so forth, we're going to devise some things for Cedric Anderson to highlight his abilities.

"Thad Jemison, I thought started well, kind of leveled off in the middle of the spring, and you saw what he did in the spring game (at Ohio Stadium — eight catches, 147 yards, three touchdowns).

"He has the ability. What kind of summer he has — getting ready for the season — is going to be important. But those two guys can win it all for us."

Tressel points out some other

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The View From 15th and High

By Frank L. Moskowitz, BSB Editor

Local USFL Team Could Feature Buckeyes

What four members of the Ohio State football coaching staff also played football for the Buckeyes? The answer later.

July is perhaps the toughest month to come up with story ideas for *Buckeye Sports Bulletin*. After all, there's not a whole lot going on, sports-wise at Ohio State during July.

Partially out of curiosity, partially out of a desire to take a short trip to Chicago, and mostly out of need for some stories, I recently went to Blitz Park, home of the Windy City's United States Football League entry, to interview the three ex-Buckeyes on the team — Tim Spencer, Lenny Willis and

Stan White. The results of my efforts can be found elsewhere in this issue.

In this space allow me to discuss an idea that has been talked about in Columbus, an idea that I certainly considered when I was at Blitz headquarters — the idea of a USFL franchise in Columbus.

Let me go on record as being all for the idea.

Anyone who has lived here knows that Columbus is a fine city and has plenty to offer. But one of the reasons people around the country still perceive Columbus as a "cow town" is that we have no "major league" teams. Thus we are not a "major league" city.

Granted, the USFL isn't the National Football League, but I

maintain that a USFL team is one of the few pro teams that might have a chance of succeeding here.

The problem that a pro team, particularly in football or basketball, faces is having to compete with the Buckeyes in a town that is admittedly Buckeye crazy.

But a USFL team, like the highly successful Columbus Clippers baseball team, would have the luxury of not competing with the Buckeyes (unless you're one of those who wait all year for the Scarlet and Gray game). In fact, a Columbus team loaded with ex-Ohio State players would give the serious Buckeye football fan a chance to get a year-round football fix.

"I think it would be great," Lenny Willis said of the possibility of a USFL football team, "because at that time of year Columbus is not really doing anything. It's like a sleeping giant."

"Everybody is pro Ohio State. But you get into the spring and the biggest event they have is the Jesse Owens Track meet."

Willis, however, worries about the Big Ten rule barring professional teams from playing in conference stadiums. So does Tim Spencer.

"If there was a team, I really don't think they'd let them play in Ohio Stadium," Spencer says.

Spencer says that Columbus is "Buckeye crazy," but adds that whether a USFL team is successful or not "would depend a lot on how the team was doing. If the team was winning, I think people would support them."

Stan White adds this observation:

"It seems some college towns have a little problem accepting professional football. I remember when the Browns and Bengals played in Ohio Stadium, they didn't draw well. And I see down in Birmingham (sometimes home for Alabama), they started slow. But they came along when they started winning."

"If it would be accepted there, I think it would be great to have a team in Columbus, Ohio. I just don't know if I can last long enough to play there," the 12th-year man adds.

Willis has that problem licked. "I hope, one day, a team will be based in Columbus. And I hope I can coach there."

With the USFL's territorial draft, a Columbus club would be assured of lining up the top Ohio State players available. And there's even a certain quarterback available, who might help improve the odds of the Columbus team being a success.

As for the problem of where to play, there's always Franklin County Stadium, a beautiful facility, equipped for football. Franklin County Stadium has seen standing room crowds of 20,000 for baseball, and if a USFL team could prove it would draw at least that many people each outing, there is plenty of room for additional seating.

The money for a USFL team in Columbus is there. It's only a question of someone stepping forward to organize the group of investors.

Granville Waiters, the Ohio State basketball team's starting center the past two seasons, was selected in the second round by the NBA Portland Trailblazers.

Portland is in desperate need of back-up help at center and the 6-11 Waiters apparently has an honest shot at making the club.

Waiters, a Columbus native, was the third leading scorer on the Buckeyes this season, scoring 10.4 points a game, and was the second leading rebounder with 7.5. He shot .533 from the field.

Portland is said to also like his defensive ability. Waiters blocked 66 shots last season. Tony Campbell was next on the team with just 14.

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15th & High: Kellogg Wins NBA All-Rookie Team Honors

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Walters' chum Clark Kellogg of the Indiana Pacers, was a unanimous selection by the NBA coaches as a member of the league's all-rookie team. Kellogg was in some solid company as James Worthy (L.A.), Terry Cummings (San Diego), Dominique Wilkins (Atlanta) and Quinten Dailey (Chicago) were also on the team.

Those wandering around St. John Arena late this spring could have caught Kellogg at his best. He was involved in pick-up games that

included other NBA former Buckeyes Herb Williams and Kelvin Ransey, as well as current members of the OSU team.

With the level of competition high, and no coaches to cramp anyone's style, it was phi slamma jamma all the way, and probably the most entertaining basketball seen in St. John for some time.

After two years of official Big Ten competition for women, Ohio State owns more team crowns than any other league school, with eight.

The Lady Buckeyes have two championships each in fencing, swimming and diving, and basketball (one co-championship) and one each in golf and gymnastics.

Indiana is the closest rival, with four women's championships.

Also in women's sports, Ohio State diver Kelly McCormick captured the gold medal off the three-meter springboard at the National Sports Festival in Colorado Springs, Col.

McCormick's mother, Pat, a winner of gold medals in diving at the 1952 and 1956 Olympics was present as Kelly scored one of her biggest victories ever.

In softball, Ohio State's Kelly Kellin was named to the NCAA Atlantic All-Regional team.

Sarah Josephson was named this year's Sub Station II synchronized swimmer of the year. Harrison House, 222 W. Lane Ave., will join *Buckeye Sports Bulletin* in sponsoring the award next year.

In baseball, Robby Cobb pulled a Big Ten double, being named to both the league's all-academic

team and the all-conference team.

Cobb, who rewrote the OSU career record book, while hitting .426 overall, was joined on the all-academic team by teammates Jeff King and Bill Cunningham. Ohio State was the only school with three players honored for their work in the class room.

King, who hit .360, with a new school record 13 home runs, was named to the Big Ten's second team all-star unit, while Keith Belcik, who hit .325, but .424 in league play, was named to the third team.

Assistant coaches Glen Mason, Randy Hart and Fred Pagac and head coach Earle Bruce all played football for Ohio State. Mason, a middle guard, lettered for the Buckeyes in 1970, Pagac, a tight end, in '71, '72 and '73, and Hart, an offensive lineman, lettered in '67, '68 and '69.

Bruce, if you can picture him slimmed down, was a halfback and sprinter before coming to Ohio State. However, a knee injury as a freshman ended his career.



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Jim Tressel

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receivers that may help. A back up was searched for at length in the spring, since no one stood out.

"That was a goal of ours in the spring — to see what we had as backups," Tressel says. "Doug Smith (junior) came along pretty well. Jay Holland (junior) showed some improvement. Dave Wagner (sophomore) and Kevin Delaney (sophomore) came along pretty well. Then Jay Jackson (sophomore) showed some improvement, but I wouldn't expect him or Joe Zawodny (junior) to be involved too much."

Tressel says the future may mark his return to the Division III ranks, although he has no target dates for when he would like to be a head coach. Although it may seem natural that Tressel should have a love for Division III football, it is not something that he is limiting himself to.

"I've always felt that the small college level would be one that would interest me," he says, "because I had such a great feeling as I grew up at that level."

"Almost every assistant has that feeling that he can run his own show one day. Realistically, you have to go through your growing pains and mature enough. I think that's the key. You have to be mature enough to handle what a head coach has to handle."

"At the first place I worked, the athletic director made a statement to me that kind of stuck pretty close. He said 'keep your mind and your rear where they are and you're going to do OK.'"

It's people that think that the grass is greener somewhere else — they have the problems. If you just pump it up where you're at, good things will happen."

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