

# BUCKEYE SPORTS BULLETIN

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"For The Buckeye Fan Who Needs To Know More"

January 13, 1996

## Buckeyes Close In On Top-Flight Recruiting Class

By STEVE HELWAGEN  
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

It is strange to say it, but with almost a month remaining until the Feb. 7 national signing day, Ohio State's 1996 football recruiting push could be nearly complete.

The Buckeyes have commitments from 23 players already (see table), and could up that total after welcoming five players in for official visits over the weekend of Jan. 5.

It was widely reported that one of those players, running back Michael Wiley of Spring Valley (Calif.) Monte Vista, had issued a verbal commitment to Ohio State. Just before press time, *BSB* reached Wiley's mother, Felicia, at their home in the San Diego suburb.

"He told me he loves the school," she said. "He told me he had committed to Ohio State, and I said, 'Thank God it's over.'"

Due to a winter storm in Columbus, Wiley's flight home was delayed and, as soon as he landed, he rushed off to play in a high school basketball game. He was unavailable for comment.

The other players who visited OSU over the weekend of Jan. 5 included Garland, Texas, tight end Mike Gandy; Orange Park, Fla., strong safety Robert Pollard; Humble, Texas, wide receiver David Boston; and Miami Senior running back Sedrick Irvin.

Details from their visits and more insight on Wiley are featured in "Recruiting Outlook" on pages 20-22. As of press time, no players were scheduled to make official visits over the weekend of Jan. 12 and, with scholarship spots tight, OSU may welcome only a handful of players the rest of the way.

## OSU Football Commitments

Football players who have issued commitments to play at Ohio State:

Player	Pos	Hgt	Wgt	High School
Joe Brown	OL	6-7	250	Tucson (Ariz.) Catalina Foothills
Mike Burden	SS	6-2	210	Palatine, Ill.
Mark Garcia	QB	6-4	210	Modesto (Cal.) Junior College
Benji Gilbert	OL	6-5	290	Lancaster, Ohio
Mike Gurr	TE	6-7	250	Hamilton, Ohio
Kevin Houser	TE/DE	6-4	240	Westlake, Ohio
Brent Johnson	DE	6-4	250	Kingston (Ont.) Holy Cross
Kevin Johnson	DE	6-7	245	Washington (D.C.) Dunbar
Andy Katzenmoyer	LB	6-4	240	Westerville (Ohio) South
Jefferson Kelley	OL	6-6	305	Cincinnati Colerain
Paris Long	OL/DE	6-5	305	Columbus Beechcroft
Kurt Murphy	C	6-4	275	Columbus DeSales
Marcus Perez	DE	6-4	250	Medina, Ohio
Vanness Provit	WR	6-3	180	Fork Union (Va.) Military Acad.
Carrett Shea	WR/DB	5-11	175	San Jose (Calif.) Bellarmine Prep
Eric Smith	OT	6-6	310	Columbus Walnut Ridge
Rolland Steele	DB	5-11	160	Dublin (Ohio) Scioto
Dan Stultz	K	6-1	185	Orville, Ohio
Tyson Walter	OL	6-5	290	Chagrin Falls (Ohio) Kenston
Derik Wanke	WR	6-1	190	Cuy. Falls (Ohio) Walsh Jesuit
Clinton Wayne	DE/LB	6-4	240	Brempton (Ont.) Centennial
Jerry Westbrook	RB/OLB	6-3	210	Boca Raton (Fla.) P.J. Paul II
Michael Wiley	RB	6-0	180	Spring Valley (Cal.) Monte Vista

Since the December issue of *BSB* was published, Ohio State received five other verbal commitments. Those players included Palatine, Ill., safety Mike Burden; Modesto (Calif.) JUCO quarterback Mark Garcia; Kingston (Ontario) Holy Cross defensive end Brent Johnson; Washington (D.C.) Dunbar defensive end Kevin Johnson and Columbus Walnut Ridge offensive lineman Eric Smith. For more on these commitments, see pages 18-19.

Burden joins Westerville (Ohio) South linebacker Andy Katzenmoyer as *USA Today* first-team All-USA selections in this OSU recruiting class. Katzenmoyer, in fact, was named as *USA Today's* national defensive player of the year.

Garcia gives Ohio State another option in replacing outgoing starting quarterback Bobby Hoying. Garcia, who threw for over 3,000 yards for Modesto in this past season, has already enrolled at OSU and will compete for the starting job alongside juniors-to-be Stanley Jackson and Tom Hoying and sophomore-to-be Joe Germaine.

## Young Heads To Oklahoma Cooper Has Key Post To Fill

By JEFF RAPP  
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

Life goes on and the wheel of coaches just keeps on turning.

The Ohio State football team, which boasted one of its most accomplished staffs in school history this past season, now needs a new defensive coordinator.

Bill Young, who held that position since coming over from Arizona State with John Cooper in 1988, confirmed he is leaving to take the same job at Oklahoma.

Young will work under newly hired John Blake, the youngest Division 1-A head coach at 34 and one of just six African-Americans at the helm of a major program. He'll also work with some old friends including newly hired assistant Joe Dickinson, who in turn recommended Young to Blake.

Young recently ventured to Norman, Okla., to meet with Blake, who left the Dallas Cowboys staff to fill the void left by the resignation of Howard Schnellenberger, and agonized over the decision for a week.

"It wasn't an interview as much as it was a chance to come look around and see if everything was a good fit," Young told *BSB*. "It was, even though Oklahoma has had some tough times lately, and now hopefully we'll build it back up."

Cooper and athletic director Andy Geiger have made strides to increase the salaries of OSU assistants and have said they hope to never lose a coach to a lateral move. But Young and his wife, Lawana, are natives of the area and felt the opportunity was special.

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DUDLEY SCORES — OSU tight end Rickey Dudley scores on a 32-yard pass play, but Tennessee won the CompUSA Florida Citrus Bowl 20-14.

## Fumbles, Miscues Keep Buckeyes From Citrus Win, Top-Five Finish

By STEVE HELWAGEN  
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

Another bowl trip to Florida. Another deflating defeat.

As is becoming almost the annual modus operandi for Ohio State, the Buckeyes fell just short in the CompUSA Florida Citrus Bowl, losing to Tennessee 20-14 on Jan. 1 in Orlando.

The loss ended OSU's season at 11-2 and dropped the Buckeyes, among the front-runners in the polls all season after winning their first 11 games, to sixth in the final Associated Press rankings.

"I told my players that even though we didn't win today, I'm still proud of them," said OSU coach John Cooper. "I thought we had a good year. We finished up 11-2. We got beat by a good football team, and



give Tennessee credit."

This latest OSU bowl loss would be less distressing if not for the fact it was almost wholly self-inflicted. The Buckeyes literally shot themselves in the foot from the opening moments on, although a torrential downpour made holding onto the ball difficult for both teams. Witness:

• Holding a 7-0 lead late in the

first half, Ohio State failed to punch the ball into the end zone or even get a first down on fourth-and-inches at the Vols' 2. OSU sent Heisman Trophy winner Eddie George into the middle of the line on an isolation play, but a surge of Tennessee defenders shoved him back for a 2-yard loss.

• Then, OSU failed to run out the closing minute of the first half and punted to Tennessee with 41 seconds left. Two plays later, Vols tailback Jay Graham ripped off a 69-yard touchdown run to tie the game at 7-7 at halftime.

• OSU held Tennessee on its first possession of the second half, but then roughed the punter. That gave the Vols new life, and quarterback

Continued On Page 6

# OSU Unable To Convert Chances At Citrus

Continued From Page 1

Peyton Manning went for the jugular, passing 47 yards to Joey Kent for the go-ahead score.

The Buckeyes failed miserably on their final four possessions of the game. OSU fumbled three times in the fourth quarter — including one each by George and steady quarterback Bobby Hoying, on a botched option play — all thwarting serious scoring opportunities that could have turned the tide of the game. Hoying also threw a desperation fourth-down pass to right guard LeShun Daniels, creating a penalty that turned the ball over to the Vols on downs.

All of the mental and physical miscues added up to another tough defeat for the Buckeyes, who at one point this year were considered as national title contenders.

Instead, the game becomes the latest footnote to Ohio State's bowl woes: The team is now 1-6 in bowl games under Cooper. OSU has also lost five straight bowl games to SEC teams, including three of the last four Citrus Bowls.

And it is Tennessee (11-1) that moved up a spot from fourth to third in the final AP poll.

"Everyone in the Big Ten's ultimate goal is to get to the Rose Bowl," Hoying said afterward. "We didn't do that. We ended up down here. We didn't beat Tennessee, so you can realize how disappointed we are right now."

The game was played in a steady downpour after rainstorms pelted Orlando overnight. The playing field, while slick, was in fine condition, however.

Still, what was billed as a high-scoring shootout between two of the nation's most potent offenses turned into a strong-willed battle of field position, punts and turnovers.

Ohio State got on the scoreboard first, in fact, as a direct result of a blocked punt by Central McClellion late in the first quarter. McClellion burst through from the left side and blocked Larry Binion's punt. The ball rolled dead at the Vols' 23-yard line with 3:00



**BLOCKED** — OSU special teams star Central McClellion (20) blocks this first-quarter punt by Tennessee's Larry Binion as teammates Antoine Winfield (11) and Steve Baird (9) look on. The play helped set up OSU's first touchdown, a 2-yard run by Eddie George, in the Citrus Bowl.

left in the first quarter.

After the block, OSU put the ball safely in George's hands. He took a handoff right on first down, carrying for 17 yards to the 6. A face mask penalty gave OSU a first-and-goal at the 3. After gaining 1 yard on first down, George followed fullback Nicky Sualus's block and dove past a trio of Tennessee tacklers into the end zone for the 2-yard TD and a 7-0 OSU lead with 2:07 left in the first quarter.

The Ohio State defense was seeming-

ly getting the job done, making Tennessee punt on its first four possessions and causing a fumble on the fifth as cornerback Ty Howard put his helmet on the ball after running back Eric Lane caught a screen pass. Howard lost his helmet but pounced on the ball at the Vols' 24 with 6:21 left in the first half.

Ohio State was poised to add to its lead, giving to George on six consecutive plays. But the Heisman winner was stuffed for the previously mentioned 2-yard loss on fourth-and-6 inches at the Tennessee 2 with 3:26 left. It was the turning point for what would end up as a disappointing day for George, who finished with 101 yards on 25 carries and was clearly upstaged by Graham.

"I knew that everything I would get, I would have to work for," George said. "It was that type of game. Things didn't pan out like I thought they would. We were behind and we weren't able to pound them like we wanted to."

OSU forced a Tennessee punt and got the ball back at the Vols' 37 with 1:42 left. Again, it looked like the Buckeyes would pad their lead, but Tennes-

see's Shane Burton had other ideas. He sacked Hoying for a 6-yard loss, knocking OSU out of scoring position. Punter Brent Bartholomew's punt rolled into the end zone for a touchback with 41 seconds left, and it seemed OSU's 7-0 lead would be safe at intermission.

But Graham carried for 11 yards on a first-down draw play. Tennessee called a timeout with 34 seconds left to take a chance at the end zone. Again, the Vols called Graham's number on a draw play. The line opened a gaping hole and Graham was off to the races virtually untouched on a 69-yard touchdown run — the second longest in Citrus Bowl history — to knot the game at 7-7 with 23 seconds left in the half.

"If we were trying to run the time out, we would have taken a knee," said Vols coach Phillip Fulmer on his team's strategy. "We were trying to move the ball out to where we could make some kind of decision on what to do one way or another. He just made a great play."

"I was just trying to run down the middle of the field and it just so happened that one of their guys tried to cut my legs," said Graham, who was voted

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the game's MVP after rushing for 154 yards on 26 carries. "I just jumped over him. One guy hit me and slipped off, and I just ran to the other side and was off."

A critical OSU error early in the second half paved the way for Tennessee to take the lead. The OSU defense had held for a three-and-out on the Vols' first possession, but a trio of punt-block happy Buckeyes including Alonzo Shavers plowed into Binion and were flagged for roughing the punter. The penalty gave Tennessee a first down at the OSU 47.

Manning, content to dink the Buckeyes to that point, wasted no time in throwing the deep ball. He lofted one down the left sideline for his main receiver Joey Kent, who adjusted on the ball around OSU's Antoine Winfield — covering Kent in place of the injured Shawn Springs. Kent made the catch at the 5 and slipped into the end zone for the touchdown and a 14-7 lead with 13:22 left in the third quarter.

"That was a designed play," Kent said. "After the penalty, we took advantage of the opportunity."

"I don't think the DB had an idea where the ball was, and that made it easier for me to make the adjustment and catch the ball. I only had one man to beat," he said.

Ohio State finally got untracked and tied the game at 14-14 after embarking on a 10-play, 66-yard scoring drive that carried over into the fourth quarter. Cooper rolled the dice early in the drive, allowing Hoying to run a quarterback keeper on fourth-and-2 inches at the OSU 41. Hoying then dialed up Glenn for an 18-yard gain and hit Buster Tillman for 7 more.

A reverse to Glenn lost 4 yards and ended the third quarter. After an incomplete pass, Hoying's third-down pass went down the middle to tight end Rickey Dudley. He got behind Vols linebacker Scott Galyon, caught the ball at the 20 and rolled easily into the end zone for the 32-yard touchdown that, after Josh Jackson's PAT kick, tied the game at 14-14 with 14:48 left.

"Bob saw me on a couple of occasions, he hit me and I was able to make some plays," said Dudley, who enjoyed his biggest day of the season with five catches for 106 yards.

Undaunted, Tennessee went back to work and moved 63 yards to the OSU 8. A false start penalty and a pair of Manning incompletions forced the Vols to settle for Jeff Hall's 29-yard field goal and a 17-14 lead with 9:24 left in the game.

On OSU's next possession, George was hit by Vols linebacker Tyrone Hines and fumbled. Galyon pounced on it at the OSU 39 and, with just 7:35 left, it appeared the Vols would wrap it up.

"He knocked it out of my hands," George said. "I took a handoff and it wasn't completely secure and it just popped out."

## Bowl Results

Date	Bowl	Teams, Records and Results
Dec. 14	Las Vegas	Toledo (11-0-1) 40, Nevada (9-3) 37, OT
Dec. 25	Aloha	Kansas (10-2) 51, UCLA (7-5) 30
Dec. 27	Copper	Texas Tech (9-3) 55, Air Force (8-5) 41
Dec. 28	Alamo	Texas A&M (9-3) 22, Michigan (9-4) 20
Dec. 29	Sun	Iowa (8-4) 38, Washington (7-4-1) 18
Dec. 29	Independence	LSU (7-4-1) 45, Michigan State (6-5-1) 26
Dec. 29	Holiday	Kansas State (10-2) 54, Colorado State (8-4) 21
Dec. 30	Liberty	East Carolina (9-3) 19, Stanford (7-4-1) 13
Dec. 30	Carquest	North Carolina (7-5) 20, Arkansas (8-5) 10
Dec. 30	Peach	Virginia (9-4) 34, Georgia (6-6) 27
Dec. 31	Sugar	Virginia Tech (10-2) 28, Texas (10-2-1) 10
Jan. 1	Outback	Penn State (9-3) 43, Auburn (8-4) 14
Jan. 1	Citrus	Tennessee (11-1) 20, Ohio State (11-2) 14
Jan. 1	Gator	Syracuse (9-3) 41, Clemson (8-4) 0
Jan. 1	Cotton	Colorado (10-2) 38, Oregon (9-3) 6
Jan. 1	Rose	USC (9-2-1) 41, Northwestern (10-2) 32
Jan. 1	Orange	Florida State (10-2) 31, Notre Dame (9-3) 26
Jan. 2	Fiesta	Nebraska (12-0) 62, Florida (12-1) 24

But the Vols failed to move the ball and OSU got the ball back after a punt at its own 20 with 6:29 left. The chance ended, though, on fourth-and-1 at the 50 when Hoying's mistimed option pitch to George hit backup fullback Matt Calhoun in the helmet and Tennessee's Tori Noel recovered at the OSU 47.

The OSU defense stiffened with Finkes knocking Graham for a 2-yard loss that helped force another Vols punt with 3:27 left.

Ohio State began this possession at its own 17. Hoying hit George for an 8-yard gain on first down, but then threw a pair of incompletions. On fourth-and-2, Hoying found himself under immediate pressure and desperately tried to throw the ball upfield. Daniels, an ineligible receiver, caught it and advanced it before the play was whistled dead. OSU was penalized 10 yards and loss-of-down for illegal touching, giving the Vols the ball at the OSU 15 with 2:33 left.

But even this was not enough to kill Ohio State's chances completely. Once again, the defense kept the Vols out of the end zone. Vrabel knocked Graham for a 4-yard loss this time, and the Vols settled for Hall's 25-yard field goal and a 20-14 lead with 2:06 left.

OSU, now without any timeouts, took over after the ensuing kickoff at its own 31-yard line. After a pair of incompletions, Hoying hit Glenn for a 12-yard gain and George for 5 more. Now facing second-and-5 at the OSU 48, he dropped back and hit Dimitrious Stanley for a 14-yard gain to the Vols' 38. But the backup split end was popped by DeRon Jenkins and fumbled. The loose ball was recovered by Craig King with 57 seconds left.

OSU's comeback hopes were finally crushed.

fourth quarter when a long Manning pass down the left sideline soared out of bounds. Brutus caught the errant pass but was immediately plowed to the ground by Tennessee receiver Kevin Nash. Still, he held on.

The play made the postgame highlight reel and was also selected as CNN's "Play of the Day."

Attendance for the Citrus Bowl was generously announced at 70,797. That was, apparently, the paid total. Due to the heavy rain, there was an abundance of empty seats throughout the 72,000-seat stadium. The crowd was also mainly pro-Vols, primarily because Tennessee sold 18,000 seats to OSU's 12,000.

The game, matching two teams tied for the No. 4 ranking coming in, was also widely viewed on ABC's national telecast. The game drew an 11.1 rating, a new record shading the 11.0 mark for the '95 game between OSU and Alabama.

### Citrus Bowl Notes

Ohio State's record in bowl competition dipped to 12-16 with the loss. The Buckeyes are now 1-3 in the Citrus Bowl. OSU defeated Brigham Young 10-7 in 1985, but fell to Georgia 21-14 in 1993 and to Alabama 24-17 last year.

The loss also dropped Cooper's OSU combined record in Michigan games and bowl games to 2-12-1 (.167). His overall record at OSU after eight seasons stands at 65-25-4 (.691).

The Big Ten-SEC rivalry in the Citrus moved to 3-1 in favor of the SEC with OSU absorbing all three of the losses since the deal was set up in 1992. Penn State beat Tennessee for the only Big Ten win after the '93 season.

While players from both teams had trouble holding onto the ball, Brutus Buckeye certainly did not.

The OSU mascot was in the right place at the right time early in the

The Citrus has risen to the No. 5 spot in terms of payout (\$3 million per team) and is poised to make a jump to the bowl alliance at some point, although its deal with the Big Ten and SEC runs through the 2000 season.

"I have to like the future of this bowl," said Florida Citrus Sports executive director Chuck Rohe. "No. 1, we have a contract for 6 years, and if the alliance sticks together, we will continue to get teams like this."

According to Rohe, the Citrus could be in line for a spot in an enlarged bowl alliance as early as 1998 if current contracts are renegotiated and especially if Walt Disney World gets involved.

The Citrus Bowl celebrated its 50th anniversary with this game, although it was known as the Tangerine Bowl through the 1982 season.



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# Two Long Touchdowns Cloud Effort By Defense

If you had told OSU defensive coordinator Bill Young before the Citrus Bowl that his troops would hold Tennessee to two touchdowns, he probably would have been ecstatic.

After all, his defense has been backed by one of the nation's most potent offenses this season.

But after Tennessee made a pair of long touchdown plays and a pair of short field goals stand up for a 20-14 win over the Buckeyes, Young was pleased with the effort, but certainly not with the result.

"We gave them two home runs and let them drive the ball on us when we shouldn't have," Young said. "But I think they played hard. Take away those two plays and we played a hell of a game."

Tennessee's two home runs — a 69-yard touchdown run by Jay Graham and Peyton Manning's 47-yard TD pass to Joey Kent — obscured the fact that the OSU defense repeatedly kept the Vols out of the end zone in the fourth quarter. Down the stretch, Tennessee began three possessions in OSU territory after quick-change turnovers, and the OSU defense allowed the Vols just two field goals, keeping OSU's comeback hopes alive.

"There's a ton of positives from this game," Young said.

But Graham's long touchdown run caught the OSU defense off guard, for sure.

On first down at the Tennessee 31 with just 34 seconds left in the half, Graham took a handoff on a draw play. He cut back into a hole at left tackle, picked up a block from his tight end on OSU linebacker Jerry Rudzinski, avoided a trio of diving Buckeyes and outraced OSU cornerback Ty Howard down the left side to the end zone.

It was reminiscent of the feeble tackling efforts the OSU defense had made against Michigan's Tim Biakabutuka when he ripped them for 313 yards in the regular-season finale.

"We were shocked, really shocked," said Howard, whose team went into halftime tied at 7-7 rather than leading 7-0. "He was pretty fast and I just couldn't run the guy down. I couldn't catch him."

Manning's bomb to Kent also caught the Buckeyes off guard, at least personally.

Ohio State had planned to use a lot of nickel coverage against Manning, who set a Tennessee single-season passing record this year. But those plans were foiled when a pair of backup safeties, Che Bryant and Damon Moore,

## Inside The Defense with Steve Helwagen

never made it to the game due to disciplinary reasons — Bryant was academically ineligible, while Moore was sent home from Florida for a team rules violation.

"We'd already lost our second-team nickel back (Damon Moore)," Young said. "We had to send him home. We ended up playing the Buck linebacker, and we hadn't planned on doing that."

Then, star cornerback Shawn Springs left the game midway through the first quarter due to a fractured left shoulder blade.

"We lost our best defensive back on the first series of the game, and it almost took us completely out of our defensive game plan," Young said. "We wanted to get a lot of pressure and go with man coverage. We planned on putting Shawn Springs man-to-man on Kent, and all of a sudden he's not in the game."

Without Springs, freshman Antoine Winfield ably stepped into the void. But when Manning looked deep down the left sideline for Kent early in the second half, the All-SEC receiver had beaten the rookie, curling around him to make a nifty catch and dance into the end zone with the go-ahead touchdown.

"Springs was on me every play before he got injured," Kent said. "When he left the game, that kind of opened the door of opportunity for me."

"I think they stayed with their game plan after Springs went out. They had a tremendous athlete back there in Winfield, but we were able to take advantage of him at a bad point for him," he said.

Manning agreed that Springs' injury was a key turning point in the game. With Springs out, Manning concentrated on Kent and hit him with seven passes for 109 yards.

"Springs was going to wherever Kent was," Manning said. "Normally, he's the field corner, but he went wherever Kent was. It meant a lot (when he left)."

With a steady rainstorm cascading the field throughout the game, Manning was content to dink the Buckeyes with high-percentage, short passes. He completed 20 of 35 passes, but for only 182 yards.

"We concentrated a lot on disguising our coverages, getting pressure on him and not letting him have a lot of time to find his receivers," said OSU defensive



**BIG HIT BY HOWARD** — OSU cornerback Ty Howard (2) lost his helmet but recovered the football after delivering a crushing hit on Tennessee running back Eric Lane. Buckeyes Rob Kelly (34) and Luke Fickell (99) converge on the play as well.

end Matt Finkes, who was named his team's defensive player of the game after logging a team-high nine tackles including four tackles-for-loss and a sack.

Young had drilled his team throughout the bowl practice on trying to contain Manning, Kent and Graham, who was named the game's MVP after a 154-yard rushing performance.

"We knew Manning was a great player, and they really didn't do anything too much differently than we thought they would," Young said. "The tailback, Graham, we knew was a great player, and the receiver, Kent, we knew was a phenomenal player, and they didn't disappoint us."

Disappointing, however, were the two long touchdowns, Finkes said.

"We played pretty sound on defense, but then again, we came in thinking we had to stop the big play on defense and they hit two of them on us. You're not able to win like that," he said.

**MIKE VRABEL**, OSU's stellar

defensive end, broke his own single-season record for sacks with one in the Citrus Bowl. That upped his total to 13 for the year, eclipsing his mark of 12 from last year. He also set a new single-season mark for tackles-for-loss with 26.

Vrabel, a third-team AP All-American this year, is now in second place on both the school's all-time sacks list with 27 and the tackles-for-loss chart with 48. He needs one sack and nine tackles-for-loss in 1996 to take over the career lead in both departments. Jason Simmons, who played from 1990 to '93, currently owns both records with 27½ sacks and 56½ tackles-for-loss.

Finkes finished the year with five sacks and 19 tackles-for-loss, upping his career marks to 19 sacks and 43 tackles-for-loss.

Middle linebacker Greg Bellisari held on for the team lead in tackles with 98, with outside linebacker Ryan Miller second with 93. Springs led the club in interceptions with five.

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# BSB Quotebook: Tennessee 20, Ohio State 14

Ohio State coach John Cooper on the fourth-down option call that went awry: "It's short yardage. Looking back, we probably should have called a timeout. They gambled a little bit, came with a blitz, and we didn't execute it very well. Again, it's a good call if you execute it or if they've got two people coming outside, you can't pitch the ball. But that's one of those situations where you guys can second-guess all you want to."

OSU quarterback Bobby Hoying on the difficulty he and Vols passer Peyton Manning had in the rainy conditions: "I had a really tough time throwing the ball in the first half, and I think Peyton did, too. It just wouldn't come out right. After the first two drives, all of the balls were saturated. I felt a lot more comfortable throwing the ball after the rain stopped in the second half. But it was like that for both teams. In all honesty, I felt a sloppy field would help our team out a little more."

Manning shared his thoughts on how treacherous the conditions were for the offenses: "Some of the timing passes were hard to execute. Mainly, we wanted to concentrate on the safe passes and take care of the ball."

Tennessee tailback Jay Graham, selected as the game MVP after rushing for 154 yards and a touchdown, on his "duel" with OSU Heisman winner Eddie George: "I've heard that question about 800 times this week, but the most important thing for me is to win. I don't care. He has nothing to do with me. He's not at linebacker, but he is a great tailback. He just had a tough game."

OSU offensive tackle Orlando Pace tried to pinpoint his team's lack of success in the Citrus Bowl: "I think every-



Ty Howard



Orlando Pace

body came out and played hard. Maybe with the time off we had, we just came out flat and weren't in sync."

Hoying on how the Buckeyes knew ahead of time that Tennessee would provide a great challenge: "We came down here and everybody said, 'There's going to be a letdown.' But as soon as we saw them on film, we knew we would have our hands full. Tennessee has got a great offense and a quick defense. It was different than Michigan, because it's my last game and I'm never going to play for Ohio State again and that hurts pretty bad."

OSU cornerback Ty Howard on what cost his team the Citrus Bowl: "They made two big plays. If you take two plays out of this game, it's a completely different game. It just hurts to send our seniors out this way. I couldn't imagine going out a senior and losing my last game. I feel really bad about that."

Vols coach Phillip Fulmer talked about receiving a postgame telephone call from Vice President Al Gore: "That was great. I appreciated that very much. He just congratulated us very much and basically said we had made the state of Tennessee very proud. He, of course, is a Tennessean."

Tennessee defensive end Leonard Little on his team's motivation against OSU: "We just wanted to come out and show people we could play with the best in the nation. They're one of the best offensive teams in the nation."

Fulmer, whose team finished up 11-1 and third in the final Associated Press poll, talked about some unfinished business for his team: "It's a great win, but my dream is to win it all. We're not there yet."

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# Buckeye Briefs

## New Recruits

Several Ohio State teams inked top-notch prospects in the recent signing period.

Both tennis teams signed premier performers, the men getting Bjorn Munroe from Freeport, Grand Bahamas, and the women inking prospects from Missouri and California.

Munroe is the Bahamian 18-and-under national champ in singles and one half of the championship doubles team. A member of the Bahamian National team, Munroe will represent his country in the Sunshine Cup World Junior Team Championships, to be played in Florida later in December. Munroe hails from the same hometown as former OSU star Roger Smith, a Big Ten titlist in 1985.

The women brought in two well-regarded netters, including Jefferson City, Mo., native Kristen Jordan, ranked 45th in the nation by the USTA. She is the highest nationally ranked player to sign with OSU in recent memory and is a three-time Missouri singles champion.

Joining Jordan is Megan Wachtler out of Newport Beach, Calif., the 10th-ranked player in the Southern California regional rankings and a state dou-

bles champ.

Women's gymnastics added two athletes, Catherine McGhee from Jonesboro, Ga., and Jill McMillon of Tipp City, Ohio.

McGhee is an AAU National Championship qualifier, finishing first in floor exercise and beam and third in the all-around. She was Georgia state champion in the Junior Olympic level from 1989-91 and was a USA Classics qualifier in 1993.

McMillon finished third in the vault and floor exercise at the Ohio state championships in 1995, and at regionals placed 15th in the all-around. That was good enough to qualify for the national competition.

## Baseball

Though football just wrapped up and it's now the heart of hoop season, another Buckeye season is just around the corner — baseball.

OSU's diamond squad will be shooting for its sixth consecutive league championship, and if preseason pundits are to be believed, the Bucks should have little trouble repeating.

*Collegiate Baseball* recently released its preseason top 40 and Ohio State nestled in comfortably in the 20th position. The Buckeyes and Notre Dame

(24th) are the only Northern schools in the West Coast-dominated rankings.

Defending national champion Cal State-Fullerton is at the top, followed by Stanford, Louisiana State, Tennessee and California. Buckeye opponent Long Beach State is ranked 19th, the only OSU foe in the preseason listings.

The Buckeyes should be up to the challenge of reclaiming their title, mainly because most of the infield returns. Mike Estep at third, Mark Carek at shortstop and Alex Eckelman

at second are steady, and if Mark Chonko hits well, he'll be the guy at first.

Big Ten freshman of the year Dan Seimetz is back for his sophomore campaign, and pitchers Mike Biehle and Bob Spears should anchor a better-than-believed rotation.

Estep and Spears, both seniors, have been elected as co-captains for the '96 season, which begins with a road trip to Lake Charles, La., for the McNeese State Tournament Feb. 23-25.

# Young Headed To Oklahoma

## Continued From Page 1

"The overriding factor in the decision was home," Young said. "She has family close to there and we wanted to get close to them."

Young said his wife, who is a special education teacher, has an invalid brother and other siblings in the Oklahoma City area.

"Coach Cooper has been as good as he possibly can be," Young added. "Both he and Helen (Cooper's wife) have been really understanding and supportive. This is a tough move for us because it's hard to leave here. I don't know if you could ever find a place better than Ohio State."

The 48-year-old Young grew up in Oklahoma City and actually was a Coke vendor at OU football games while in junior high school. He went on to play for rival Oklahoma State as a three-year letter winner and graduated in 1967.

He began his coaching career at the high school level, then returned to his alma mater to coach the defensive line. He then spent two years as an assistant at Iowa State before beginning his 16-year association with Cooper at Tulsa, ASU and Ohio State.

"It's tough to leave a guy like that and a place like this. Columbus has been a great community to live in and the people have been great. I'm going to miss the kids, the coaches, the maintenance man, the trainers — everyone."

Under Young, several top-flight athletes found OSU stardom, a list including Roger Harper, Alonzo Spellman, Dan Wilkinson, Steve Tovar, Chico Nelson, Lorenzo Styles, and current Buckeyes Mike Vrabel and Shawn Springs. Also, and maybe more impressive, once lesser-known recruits such as Jason Simmons, Greg Smith, Matt Finkes and Ryan Miller were able to flourish.

As Cooper once said, the cupboard was bare when Young took over the defense. But after allowing a school-worst 297 points in 1989, the defense perennially rated with the league's best under Young. In 1994, OSU ranked 10th nationally in scoring defense (15.6 points) and 16th in total defense (300.3).

This past year, the defense was looked at as a liability of sorts as the offense was breaking school records left and right. Truth be told, the unit improved steadily — a Young staple — and finished second only to Northwestern in scoring defense (16.9) in the conference. It also ranked third in pass defense despite opponents' throw-from-behind mentality all season.

"I'm very proud of what we were able to accomplish. We had some disappointment at the end of the year, but you've



Bill Young

got to look at the positives and we've had a lot of them," said Young, who has been burdened by early departures to the NFL from Harper, Spellman, Wilkinson, Styles and Craig Powell. The last three would have been seniors this past season.

In the Citrus Bowl, Ohio State held high-powered Tennessee to just two touchdowns and All-American quarterback Peyton Manning to 182 yards passing. However, rushing defense was a concern as OSU ranked in the middle of the Big Ten pack, thanks mostly to a record-setting, 313-yard performance by Michigan's Tim Biakabutuka.

Still, Young is leaving an OSU defense that should be among the best in the nation with the return of the entire 1995 two-deep, departing defensive lineman Matt Bonhaus being the lone exception.

Cooper was in New Orleans for the AFCA convention and was unavailable for comment. However, he recently was quoted by *The Columbus Dispatch* just prior to the decision, saying, "Sometimes you've got to do what's best for your family. I know this — they don't come any finer than Bill Young."

A source near the program said Cooper will take a strong look from within to find Young's successor. That could make linebackers coach Fred Pagac the leading candidate. Pagac, who accompanied Cooper to New Orleans, is a former Buckeye tight end and has the most seniority of any assistant coach. He joined the OSU staff in 1978.

Defensive backs coach Lovie Smith may also be considered, but he just finished his first year at OSU. Defensive ends coach Bill Conley also is well-regarded, but he has spent most of his energy as OSU's unofficial recruiting coordinator.

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