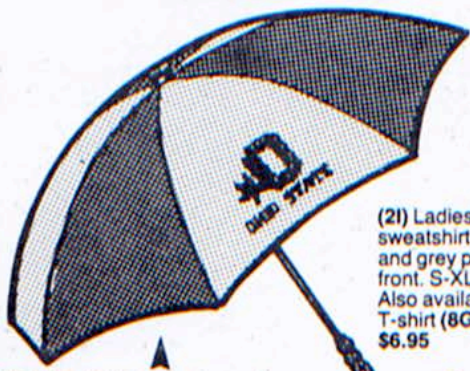




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Bay Reports Carter Not In Real Trouble

Buck Beat

With Jim Wharton

Ohio State athletic director Rick Bay feels Buckeye wide receiver Cris Carter is not guilty of any wrong in an NCAA investigation over New York-based attorney Norby Walters' allegations that he gave several college football players money in an effort to sign them up as clients.

"At this point," said Bay, "based on what he said, there would be no reason to think he wouldn't be eligible. I have no evidence of any wrongdoing and Cris assured me there hasn't been any."

Walters, in a copyrighted story in *The Atlanta Journal and Constitution*, admitted giving money to undergraduate football players as a lure to sign them to representation contracts.

Upon learning of Carter's name being mentioned, Bay met with the OSU standout.

"I asked him all the pointed questions," said Bay. "I asked him if he had heard of the guy (Walters). Yes. I asked him if he had taken any money. No. I asked him if he had signed a contract. No."

"The agent thing is a continuing problem," added Bay. "This isn't the first time we've gone through this. That's all you can do, really — approach the kid. You're kind of stonewalled. If the kid says he didn't do it and even a guy like Walters, as reckless as he seems to be, isn't ready to come through."

The NCAA, which reportedly is conducting its own investigation, forbids players from entering into contracts with agents before using up their eligibility. They are, however, allowed to consult agents.

DR. ALLEN BOHL, an assistant athletic director for external affairs at Ohio State, has been named the new athletic director at the University of Toledo.

Bohl, 38, is a native of Vermillion, Ohio and is a 1970 graduate of Bowling Green State University. He will replace Vern Smith, who announced his retirement last October.

Bohl, who also earned a doctorate from OSU in 1978, will officially begin his duties July 1. But between his appointment date and the date he starts work, he will be involved in finding a replacement for departed basketball coach Bob Nichols.

At Ohio State, Bohl was responsible for the ticket office, fund-raising, marketing and promotions. He joined the OSU staff in May of 1982 as director of athletic fund-raising and was promoted to assistant director of athletics in December 1984.

FORMER OSU Heisman Trophy winner Vic Janowicz will be among

three inducted into the National Polish-American Sports Hall of Fame in Detroit.

Janowicz, a salesman in Columbus, had his greatest season in 1950 when he earned All-American honors while also winning the Heisman Trophy. He later played professional baseball for the Pittsburgh Pirates and then played two years of pro football with the Washington Redskins.

He will be joined by former pro football standout Jack Ham and golfing great Bob Toski at induction ceremonies May 28-29.

GENE MILLARD, the former Ohio State cager who scored the first official basket in St. John Arena, was honored with the Paul Walker Award at the recent Ohio high school state tournament in Dayton.

The 52-year-old Millard, who announced following the regular season that he was retiring after 29 years of coaching at Washington C.H. and Bexley, was honored for his longtime contributions to Ohio basketball. The award is named for Paul Walker, the legendary coach who guided Middletown to five state cage championships. It is sponsored by the Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Association.

Millard, the OHSBCA and *United Press International* coach of the year in 1986 and twice the District 10 coach of the year, recorded a 405-224 record in four years at Washington C.H. and 25 at Bexley. His 1983 team captured the Class AA state championship while his 1986 squad went unbeaten (20-0) in the regular season.

"I may find I miss it a lot," said Millard about retiring. "I know I'm going to miss working with the kids and being around them at practice and things like that. I'll only know how much I miss it when the season starts next year."

Millard, who helped Fred Taylor coach the Buckeye freshmen the first year he was out of college, will remain at Bexley as a teacher and as athletic director.

THREE FORMER Buckeye gridders and one former basketball player picked up degrees at winter quarter graduation ceremonies on March 20. Getting B.S. degrees in Education were Dave Morrill, Michael Kee and Roman Bates. Francine Lewis received a B.A. degree in Social and Behavioral Science.

Morrill lettered as a sophomore on the OSU grid squad in 1982 and then started 24 straight games at defensive tackle as a junior and senior. Kee started nine games at inside linebacker last fall after lettering as a freshman and junior. Bates gained 494 yards in 103 carries and scored six touchdowns from 1983 through 1985. He was dismissed from the team prior to the start of the 1986 season for a rule infraction.

Lewis, known as "Francine The Machine" on the cage floor, lettered for four years (83-86) and scored 1,134 points, 10th on OSU's all-time list.

FORMER OSU assistant basketball coach Bob Huggins is reportedly

Continued On Page 20

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Carter Suspended From Team

Cris Carter, the all-time leading receiver in Ohio State football history, did not participate in the last two weeks of spring drills.

Carter, who set OSU records with 69 receptions for 1,127 yards and 11 touchdowns last fall, was suspended from the team.

Just why Carter was suspended may never be known. Ohio State coach Earle Bruce said the suspension was for "violating team rules." Carter, a product of Middletown (Ohio) High School, avoided commenting on the suspension by going into hiding for the remainder of spring practice.

"It's between Cris Carter and me," said Bruce. "If Cris Carter wants to announce it, that's up to him. But what we announce for everybody is the same thing: violation of team rules and suspension from the football team. I'm not giving (the reason) to anybody."

Bruce was reminded that by not announcing the reasons behind a suspension, speculation immediately centers on drugs.

"That's the price Cris Carter is going to have to pay for now," said Bruce. "I can't help that. I'm going to be a true friend to Cris Carter. That's the number one priority as far as I'm concerned. It (speculation) is going to have to run wild. The only guy that's going to say anything as far as I know is Cris Carter, if he wants to say something."

Bruce refused to budge when prodded for the reason.

"I think that's personal," he said. "I'm disappointed that it happened. I'm sorry it happened. I hope that everything is worked out, corrected, and we get on with it. If you violate team rules, you've got to pay the penalty. He's got to pay the penalty like anybody else."

Sportswriters around the state wrote speculation stories after it was announced on April 23 that Carter had been suspended.

One report had the suspension linked to the fact that Carter had signed a contract and maybe even received money from New York-based agent Norby Walters of World Sports & Entertainment Inc.

"It's got something to do with that," said Butch Carter, an older brother to Cris and the basketball coach at Middletown. "We have a brother (George) who might have been involved with Walters in some way."

George Carter reportedly recruits clients for Walters and a couple of reports suggested that George had accepted the money — intended for Cris — from Walters or his subordinate, Lloyd Bloom, and possibly passed it along.

"There's never been anything proven about an agent or about his brother," said Bruce. "That story is ridiculous."

Carter's association with Walters surfaced in March when it was reported the agent had already made deals with several top collegiate seniors or seniors-to-be. It is against NCAA regulations for a player to sign a contract with an agent, or be paid by one, before completing his eligibility.

OSU athletic director Rick Bay said, after grilling Cris Carter in depth, that the Buckeye receiver had done nothing illegal. Bay, at that time, said he had not heard from the NCAA about a possible investigation.



Cris Carter

But Bob Minnix of the NCAA enforcement and compliance department, in a telephone interview with *The Dispatch*, said "we're looking into it, no question about that. We can't provide specific information about any investigation, however. I will say this. We try to keep up with not just Cris but any potential violation of NCAA rules."

The Columbus newspaper then said a source close to the Ohio State football team had told it that Carter was suspended for using marijuana. That same source said the suspension "has nothing to do with any NCAA investigation . . . it involves a social thing."

Ohio State team physician, Dr. Robert Murphy, refused to confirm or deny the newspaper's drug theory.

"There have been several reports and I'm not going to comment on any of them," said Murphy. "This is a family affair, and he's been suspended. I hope that everything works out for the best."

Tom Lichtenburg, who coaches the OSU quarterbacks and wide receivers, also refused to elaborate on Carter's suspension.

"We have team rules and they apply to everybody," said Lichtenburg. "I think Cris has probably been hurt enough by just this suspension. I hope that when the suspension is up, he sees that he, too, must do things the right way."

Bruce wasn't pleased with the drug report, either.

"I think that's speculation on the part of some damn writer that wants to break a story," said Bruce, who is preparing for his ninth season at the Buckeye helm. "How do they have the facts? How can you break a story like that and not have the facts?"

Although it was reported that Carter had been suspended for the remainder of spring drills, Bruce said he had not decided how long the suspension would last. But Bruce gave a hint of how long Carter would be sidelined.

"I think this is going to hurt him enough, being suspended from spring ball," said Bruce. "But the rules apply to everyone."

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Bay Decides Against Taking Maryland Job

Ohio State athletic director Rick Bay, who was considered to be a prime candidate for the same position at Maryland, withdrew his name from consideration and will remain at OSU.

"I talked to Maryland today," Bay said on April 28. "They were very aggressive and very generous and I like the people I met very much. It just didn't come to pass. We didn't work anything out. I'm pleased to be staying here. I've got a lot of things going here and I didn't want to leave them."

Bay, who is nearing the completion of his third year at OSU, interviewed twice with Maryland officials. Maryland, located in the Washington suburb of College Park, is searching for a replacement for Dick Dull, who resigned last year after the death of basketball star Len Bias, a death attributed to drugs. The athletic department at Maryland has been in a turmoil since the Bias incident. Basketball coach Lefty Driesell resigned and football coach Bobby Ross took the head coaching job at Georgia Tech.

"We had some long and interesting discussions, and I feel good about that," said Bay. "But I felt the thing to do was stay here at Ohio State. I've just simply withdrawn my name from consideration."

One report said Bay was offered a five-year contract by Maryland worth more than \$100,000 per year. He presently makes \$84,000 a year at Ohio State and is on a one-year contract which expires June 30.

"In the short run, it would have been a great move," said Bay. "But despite the contract offer, there wasn't really any solid long-term security there."

One of the reasons Bay reportedly sought the Maryland job was for a long-term contract with financial security, such as annuities.

OSU president Edward Jennings and Bay reportedly had differences when Buckeye football coach Earle Bruce was being courted for the head coaching position at Arizona. Bay wanted to grant Bruce a contract extension that would put him in line with what Arizona was offering in terms of the length of the contract. Jennings and some university trustees did not want to grant the extension. Bruce remained at Ohio State with his contract.

Bay, however, denied seeking the Maryland job because of those differences with Jennings.

"I considered the Maryland opportunity in a vacuum," said Bay. "I never considered it as any sort of



Rick Bay

leverage. I told the president that I was looking and he said he hoped I didn't go. I said I hoped the same thing, too. I hope people understand that. I wasn't playing games."

Bay also is reported to be a candidate to replace Don Canham as athletic director at Michigan when the latter retires in December. Bay played football and wrestled at Michigan and later coached the Wolverine wrestling team.

"I don't think I could consider that and be in good standing at Ohio State," said Bay. "I love being here. As long as I feel good about my situation here and the people here feel good about me, I feel it is an ongoing situation."

"We've worked hard here for three years," he added. "Now we're just starting to see the fruits of all of our labors at Ohio State."

One of Bay's prized considerations at Ohio State is the ongoing athletic building program fund drive that presently has over eight million dollars in commitments.

"It's a major step for Ohio State," said Bay, making a special note that the multipurpose indoor facility now under construction at the North Facility is expected to be ready for occupancy Aug. 1.

"It is the first time anything has been built exclusively for athletics in 20 years."

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Dealings With Agent Cost Carter Career

By Jim Wharton

The rumors had been circulating for nearly four months, but it took only a short and simple statement to confirm them.

"It's my disappointing, depressing, disheartening task this afternoon to announce to you that Cris Carter is ineligible for the 1987 season and for anytime thereafter," said Ohio State athletic director Rick Bay as he began a news conference on July 15. "The Ohio State University will not appeal for the restoration of his eligibility any time in the future. As far as I know, Cris Carter will never play football again for The Ohio State University."

Just like that, the brilliant collegiate career of Carter came to a premature end. The Buckeye standout accepted money from an agent and signed a representation contract.

Bay said Carter, the all-time leading receiver in OSU history, admitted signing a representation contract and promissory note for a \$5,000 loan from Lloyd Bloom and Norby Walters, agents for World Entertainment and Sports, Inc. Carter also accepted \$150 a month for nearly a year after signing with Bloom and Walters May 1, 1986.

NCAA rules prohibit an athlete from signing with an agent before the athlete's eligibility ends, or before his or her freshman class graduates.

Carter, in a printed statement handed out at the press conference, said, "I regret the actions I took that make it necessary for Ohio State to declare me ineligible. I did not realize at the time the consequences that



Cris Carter And Earle Bruce In Happier Days Following Cotton Bowl

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would result or the pain I would cause my mother, The Ohio State University, my teammates, or Coach Bruce. What I did was wrong and I apologize."

Bruce, who was vacationing in Atlanta, was contacted by the *Columbus Dispatch* later that day. He was torn by the outcome.

"He obviously wasn't a Buckeye off the field," Bruce said of Carter. "Anyone who did what he did could not have any feelings toward our program. He knew what he was doing when he accepted money. There is no excuse for that."

Bruce also could not accept the fact that Carter lied when questioned over the previous three months about involvement with agents.

"I gave him so many opportunities to tell me, and he lied about it," Bruce said. "He just outright lied."

In a copyrighted story appearing in the *Dayton Daily News* and *Journal Herald* July 24, Carter said he wanted to apologize to Bruce.

"I didn't want to be mean to (Bruce)," Carter said. "He exploited my talent to the best. In crucial situations, he always went to me. He even went to me times I didn't want him to come to me."

"William White said 'you ain't a man unless you stand up for what you've done.' First of all, I have to be satisfied with myself before I talk to (Bruce)."

At the Big Ten Luncheon in Chicago July 30-31, Bruce said he had not heard from Carter.

Bay said Carter, who caught 69 passes for 1,127 yards and 11 touchdowns last season, was summoned to his office when allegations first surfaced in an article published by the *Atlanta Constitution* in March.

"I asked him explicitly if he knew Norby Walters and he said he did," Bay said. "I asked him if he had ever taken money from him or his organization, either directly or

indirectly. He said he had not. I asked him if he had ever signed a contract or any sort of agreement with him or his organization. He said he had not."

"I talked to him about the penalties involved for such infractions and reviewed with him all of the rules that we had gone over with him and every other player — especially football and men's basketball players — on this campus a thousand times. He was aware of the rules, but, for whatever reason, there were other pressures. He chose to take the money and sign the agreement."

Carter told the *Dayton Daily News* he knew what he was getting into from the beginning.

"I knew it was wrong, but I thought the way they had set it up, it would be all right," Carter said. "There isn't a day go by I don't think about it. There ain't a day go by I don't think of my friends either. They (other OSU players) wish me luck and they're glad I didn't wait until we go 9-0 or 10-0 and then go public."

While Carter ultimately has to answer to himself for what he did, there were those who helped lead him down the path to destruction.

"What I think the agents did was clearly irresponsible, and I'm being charitable," Bay said. "But I would also say, and I think Cris would agree, that we counsel our athletes about these matters time and time again. It would be naive, I think, and wishful thinking, to suggest that the only culprits every time a college athlete goes off and does something like this are the agents. It's simply not the whole story. We're not talking about a technicality here."

"We're talking about \$5,000 cash. We're talking about continuing payments," Bay continued. "Cris would be the first one to admit, he has admitted in his own statement, that he was wrong. He would tell you probably

that he knew better, that he was counseled against this sort of thing time and time and time again."

Nevertheless, the damage had been done, and Bay said Carter wasn't the only one affected.

"Still, the fact that he did it reflects poorly on me and on the athletic department and the university, because apparently we didn't do a good enough job," he said. "But it wasn't through lack of effort. Everyone is to blame, I guess, to some extent when this sort of thing happens."

Bay explained that Carter, who was represented at the press conference by Boston College law professor Robert Berry, was coerced, to a degree, by his brother George.

George Carter reportedly persuaded Cris to take the money and sign the agreement.

"That's a tough situation when someone in your own family is allegedly leading you down the wrong path," Bay said. "When you think of it from just a reasonable perspective, how little money Cris Carter got in exchange for his last year of eligibility — and God knows what else in relationship to the future — it's just a shame. It doesn't make any sense."

"While there would be people out there that would encourage these young people to make these sorts of mistakes, and tempt them with, while it isn't very much money, a lot more money than most of these kids have seen, it's beyond me. It's repugnant to me that we have people out there that do this sort of thing. But the athlete, the department, the coaches and the athletic director all share in the responsibility."

Bruce also leveled a few words against the agents.

"I'm bitter to think any agent would try to do that to somebody," Bruce said.

Continued On Page 4

OSU Pays Price For Receiver's Blunder

By Ken Halloy

Cris Carter's acceptance of a \$5,000 loan from agents, and subsequent suspension from the Ohio State football team, ended taking about \$4,000 dollars out of the pocket of the OSU athletic department.

That's what OSU sports information director Marv Homan estimates it cost to change the cover of the 1987 Ohio State football *Official Media Guide* and all copy mention and photos of Carter within the yearbook.

Homan said the media guide's cover initially featured game, isolation, color photos of both Carter and linebacker Chris Spielman.

"We had what we thought," Homan laughed, "was going to make a good

cover shot. Obviously that went down the drain."

In addition, Homan, author of the guide, said 17 pages of copy had to be changed, as well as four additional photos of Carter replaced.

Obviously, news of Carter's suspension came as a surprise to Homan.

"We had copy at the printers and we were ready to go. I suspect they had started some phases of the brochure," Homan said. "As far as I was concerned, it was done. The final copy had been checked and returned for approval. And then we got the word Carter was going to be ineligible."

Homan said he was informed of Carter's suspension the evening before athletic director Rick Bay made the announcement at a press conference July 15.

"I started immediately changing it.

There were so darn many things that had to be changed," Homan recalled.

Homan said rewriting the two-page "Ohio State Football Outlook" was painstaking.

"Obviously, somebody with the ability of Carter is going to be very prominently mentioned there, at least three or four times," he said. "The pages were already set with the exact number of lines. I had to kill out some of that. But I had to make the additions fit the space available. In other words, I might be talking about a line and a half in one case, and a half of a line in another case. That's where it got tricky and time-consuming."

The cover now sports only a color shot of Spielman. Though portions of the brochure's interior had likely gone to print, the cover had not. That's fortunate, Homan said, because reprinting the cover in color would

have meant a "much higher financial loss." Homan said he's not sure how much more that loss would have been because he is not familiar with the breakdown costs of the media guide.

"He (the printer) would have had the color separations, so we lost out (financially) on that part," he said. "But we were very lucky he hadn't started (printing) the cover."

Homan said even if the cover had already been printed, he would have ordered the necessary changes.

"I would not have run a player who was not on the team, especially a player I guess you'd say now, is controversial," Homan said. "We would have had to redo it, there's no question about it."

Homan said the complete transformation took the "equivalent of a day."

"But that's all I did that day."

Carter Looking For Refuge In NFL

Continued From Page 3

"I feel it must be the lowest life in the world. If I ever wished any bad on anybody, I wish it on those guys. They are despicable."

A few days after the first story appeared about Carter's involvement with an agent, the 6-3, 194-pound wideout reportedly wanted to admit his wrongdoing. But because a grand jury in Chicago was already investigating such dealings, Carter opted not to tell the story.

"I couldn't say anything then," Carter told the Dayton newspapers. "There was an investigation going on."

Bay understood.

"I'm told that from the time that I talked with him originally and the time that he went to Mr. Berry two days later, he has pretty much wanted to come forward," Bay said. "But because he had been subpoenaed by the grand jury and because of the involvement with the U.S. Attorney, they did not want him to come forward until a later date."

Berry, respected for his knowledge of sports law, sent a petition to the National Football League July 20 seeking to allow Carter entrance to the NFL through a supplemental draft. The NFL has never received a petition to allow a player in the draft because of dealings with an agent.

"This cannot be allowed to happen," an unidentified NFL official told *The Columbus Dispatch*. "It will be like opening Pandora's box."

The NFL has a "verbal" agreement with college football that no player will be accepted who either has not graduated, has not used his eligibility, or whose class has not graduated.

Carter could qualify under the eligibility part of the understanding because he has been declared ineligible.

Bruce is vehemently opposed to the NFL allowing Carter to play.

"He does something as inexcusable as taking money from an agent, and they're considering punishing him by letting him into the NFL," Bruce said. "If they let him in, what would keep other athletes from signing with agents when they know if they get caught they can just go into the NFL? The NFL could establish a very dangerous precedent if they allow him in."

At press time, the NFL had not reached a decision.

Despite the bid to allow Carter into the NFL, Berry said he did not agree with Ohio State's decision not to appeal to the NCAA to get Carter's eligibility reinstated.

"We had hopes that we might convince Ohio State University, once it reviewed the facts and some of the extenuating circumstances, to carry an appeal to the NCAA and that somehow part of his eligibility might be maintained," Berry said. "I'm partially in disagreement with Mr. Bay on not taking it forward and seeing if the extenuating circumstances could be explored, although I would be the first to admit that the chances of the NCAA ever reversing are slim."

Berry said those extenuating circumstances related to George Carter.

"The circumstances under which he (Cris) was induced to take the money, and to enter into the contract, I think are rather extraordinary to an extent. We have some evidence that suggests at the time that George Carter supposedly picked up a brochure in Cris' apartment and opened it and said 'Cris, have you ever talked to these people?' And Cris said 'no.' And George said 'do you mind if I give them

a call just to find out what they are about?' This was World Sports and Entertainment.

"We believe," Berry continued, "although we do not have hard-fact evidence, that George Carter was already in the employ of World Sports and Entertainment at that point. His (George's) subsequent trip to New York and convincing Cris, first to consider taking loan monies, was part of a ruse to entrap Cris."

Bay said an appeal would mean ignoring the facts.

"This was a case of a blatant violation of the rules. Cris knew that what he was doing was wrong," Bay said. "We have to face up to the situation. By appealing, we're asking to be pardoned for a wrongdoing that was intentional. We couldn't live with something like that. It's not right."

Lloyd Bloom reportedly came to Columbus and went for a drive with Cris and George Carter in Cris' car. Bloom and the elder Carter then allegedly enticed the Buckeye standout to sign the representation agreement.

The rest is history. Bruce says life will go on without Carter. "The Ohio State football program," Bruce said, "will survive."

Ross Wants Banner Year

Continued From Page 1

said. "I need to read defenses better. I can read basic defenses, but when teams disguise their defense, I have a little trouble with that. We'll work a lot on that in fall camp."

There might be one other thing Ross might want to work on, too.

"THE ONLY PROBLEM he (Ross) has catching the ball is that he wants to run with it before he catches it every once in a while," Lichtenberg said. "But he has the best hands on the team. They are huge, soft hands. Shake hands with him, and they'll wrap around yours. For a guy who doesn't have soft hands, the ball gets to them and goes *plunk*. But the guy with the soft hands, it's like *pfft*, just like a suction cup. That's Ross."

Ross said he doesn't expect to break any NCAA records this year, but in his own little utopian corner of the world he has set down a few goals.

"I'd like to score 15 or 20 touchdowns and I'd just like to catch every ball thrown to me," he said. "I want to make all the big plays when we need

them. And I want everyone to feel they can throw to me in any critical situation."

Ross is well aware of his potential, but is cautious of the adage "potential just means you haven't done a whole heck of a lot yet." In his outspoken, yet inoffensive, way, he yearned to lay to rest, at least for now anyway, the comparisons with Carter.

"I think I can catch a ball in any situation. Anybody can really go up and catch a ball with one hand; it's just that Cris made a lot more than most people would normally think about," Ross said. "If the opportunity comes where I can get up there and concentrate on the ball, I think I can pull it down with one hand, too."

"I think I'm a bona fide starter and I'm ready to play. I think I can be as good as Cris — maybe better," he continued. "It just depends on how good I want to be. If I want to be the best, I'll have to work very hard. It's going to be very hard trying to overcome some of Cris' accomplishments, but if I work hard and do what I'm supposed to, then I think I can be as good as I want to be."

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Two-Part Decision Ends Carter's Career

By Ken Halloy

Cris Carter still is not a Buckeye. So what's new?

Many thought a lot when the NCAA reinstated Pitt defensive back Teryl Austin even though he, like Carter, accepted money from agents Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom. Thoughts were that Carter's reinstatement would follow.

But Ohio State president Edward Jennings said the university could not change its prior decision, July 15, that declared Carter ineligible.

Jennings announced Monday, Aug. 31, at the Fawcett Center for Tomorrow, the results after a 90-minute consultation earlier with OSU coach Earle Bruce and athletic director Rick Bay. Jennings said he also personally met with Carter.

"We have reached a two-part decision that addresses his continued eligibility as an intercollegiate athlete, and more importantly, his status as a student at this institution," Jennings said. "First we have decided not to appeal to the NCAA our earlier decision declaring Cris Carter ineligible. This is consistent with Ohio State's tradition of upholding stricter standards than those provided for by the NCAA or even the Big Ten.

"I believe it is a decision that is in the best interests of The Ohio State University, of intercollegiate athletics and, I hope, of Cris Carter himself, for his long-term future.

"Second, it is our intention to see that Cris has the opportunity to continue his studies at Ohio State. What has been lost in the past several weeks of national publicity surrounding Cris Carter the football player, is Cris Carter the college student. It is his status as a student that has been my primary concern, and is reflected in Ohio State's decision.

"Although Cris will not be playing college football for Ohio State," Jennings continued, "I do not believe that he should be further penalized. He should be given the opportunity to continue his studies in communication, and to that end, the university will grant Cris financial aid, as long as he continues to make satisfactory progress toward his degree.

"In my view, completing his degree is the wisest option for Cris at this time, to put this situation behind him and prepare for his future as, I hope, an Ohio State University graduate."

Carter, a senior from Middletown, Ohio, said last week his first choice would be to play for Ohio State as opposed to entering an NFL supplemental draft with Pitt running back Charles Gladman, who was declared ineligible for refusing to cooperate in a school investigation.

The supplemental draft, originally scheduled for Aug. 28, was postponed a week after commissioner Pete Rozelle and a group of college athletic directors, including Bay, agreed to give the NCAA a chance to reinstate the two players' eligibility.

Austin was reinstated on the grounds he repaid the \$2,500 he accepted from the agents and sever all ties with them. Austin was also suspended for the first two games of the season.

The same was expected to happen with Carter. Jennings said the Austin and Carter cases were very similar, but



President Ed Jennings Made Announcement

noted that OSU originally declared Carter ineligible without consulting the Big Ten or NCAA offices.

"We don't compromise principles, but obviously with new information, these are never clear-cut issues. Anytime new information comes, we consider these things very seriously," Jennings said. "I'm not sure there are differences in the cases but Ohio State

made a decision six weeks ago that there was a major violation of an NCAA rule and the Teryl Austin case does not change that."

Bay agreed the evidence in the two cases was alike, but emphasized a circumstance which made them different.

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OSU Players Had Hoped For Appeal, But Understand University Decision

By Ken Halloy

The day before OSU decided not to appeal Cris Carter's case to the NCAA, Carter told his former roommate, senior defensive back William White, he believed he had a "50-50 chance" of regaining his eligibility on the Ohio State football team. White said after hearing news of the decision.

"I talked to him yesterday and he sounded pretty good — as well as can be expected," White said. "It's just one of those things where what he does with his life is in someone else's hands."

White said he is disappointed with the decision, but said "life and Ohio State football must go on."

"It's their decision, not mine, to make. I feel they did what they thought was best and I just have to go with it," White said. "If someone makes a rule, you follow it regardless of whether you like it or not. That's the way I have to take it. If he's not coming back that's just a fact of life."

The football team "probably had their hopes up higher than 50-50," White said.

"He really felt he had a chance, and I think we all hoped he would get that chance," White said. "We've been practicing all this time without him. Everybody I talked to wanted him back because we looked at it like he made a mistake and everyone makes mistakes.

He deserves a second chance."

In a word, the Buckeye football team is "disappointed."

"I'm very disappointed. It would have been nice to have Cris back, but I understand the decision in a way," said fullback George Cooper. "I don't think it would have hurt to at least try to appeal. I think the team wants to see him back. We care about him, too. Now I guess if he wants to go pro, he can go."

Split end Everett Ross, who will replace Carter in the starting lineup, said he never had mixed feelings about the possibility of Carter being reinstated.

"I was glad to hear they were thinking about the appeal. At least he had a little chance to come back and play," Ross said. "I felt good about it. For Cris, I felt good for him. I believe everybody deserves a second chance. Nobody is perfect, some more than others."

"When it all started I didn't know what to think," Ross continued. "I was hoping because the other player got reinstated, Cris would get reinstated. I really didn't know what to think, or what they were going to do. I just think people are going to have to respect President Jennings' decision and we go on from there."

Ross said he is glad Carter will get the opportunity to return to school.

Though Carter lost his eligibility, he will still receive financial aid from Ohio State as long as he makes satisfactory progress toward graduation.

"I really don't know why they didn't reinstate him to the team, but at least he has his chance to get an education to better himself and go on from there," Ross said.

Junior tailback Vince Workman wouldn't comment except to say, "Everybody thought we weren't going to be very good two years ago when Keith (Byars) got hurt. Everybody thought we weren't going to be any good. One player doesn't make a team. We just have to keep going on."

Linebacker Chris Spielman wouldn't comment.

Outside linebacker Eric Kumerow said he's glad the ordeal is finally over. "I'm disappointed. I'm just sorry he's not going to be with us this year because we're going to have some fun out there," Kumerow said. "I don't really know how to put it. He's gone now and that's it. That's supposed to be the final word and we just have to get going now. There's nothing we can say about it."

Quarterback Tom Tupa paused a moment when asked to comment about the Carter controversy.

"Carter? We'll miss him."

Failure To Confess Hurt Carter's Chances

Continued From Page 3

"In the Austin situation, he came forward seeking help on his own," Bay said. "But there were so many untruths in our situation. Cris never asked for help. The situation was uncovered without any information from him. There is a difference there. I'm not saying had Cris come forward from the beginning that we still wouldn't have made the same decision, though."

Bay, who had been adamantly opposed to Carter's reinstatement despite the NCAA's change of mind, said he did, however, keep an open mind when reevaluating Carter's case. "You know where I have stood on this issue all along and I said obviously the institution would have to take the Pittsburgh development under consideration," Bay said. "It hadn't changed my mind, but possibly had changed the mind of others, so we had to investigate that. And that's what we did."

"None of us, despite my strong viewpoint, saw this as a black and white issue. There's a gray area in there. We have compassion for Cris. We wish the best for Cris. He's really a fine young man. He made a serious mistake and the integrity of the institution was on the line so we had to certainly think long and hard about what we were doing."

"But I feel satisfied with what we did," Bay said. "I can't say I'm happy about it because there's certainly a down side relative to Cris personally, and to Coach Bruce and the football team. But all things considered, this was the better decision."

Meanwhile, Bruce, who initially stood firm with Bay in OSU's decision not to appeal Carter's case, seemed to have a change of heart after meeting with Carter Aug. 28.

"Cris is obviously sorry about what has happened, and wants to play football for Ohio State again. Think about it. Here's a 21-year-old kid who made a mistake and he's sorry for it," Bruce said a day later. "But you just can't go making hasty decisions and say 'let's put him back on the football team.' There are a lot of things that have to be considered, such as what's best for Cris, the football team, and especially Ohio State University."

"Being selfish," Bruce continued, "I can say it would be nice to have him back on the team again. But that's not ultimately my decision."

Indeed, it was Bay's and Jennings' decision, and Bay said he realizes not everyone would have been thrilled regardless of what option they chose.

"Reaction has been mixed. You could predict no matter how we came down on this issue, we were going to be criticized by some people and praised by others," Bay said. "It didn't make any difference. It was a no-win situation. If you were looking for a consensus, there isn't any."

"Some people will say we did the right thing and some people will say we were unfair. That's just the nature of my job and this controversy."

Bruce, who said he promised himself he would not comment one way or the other about the decision, shrugged his shoulders and said, "It's over. We've got a football game against West

Virginia Sept. 12 to get ready for. Nothing more needs to be said."

Jennings and Bay said they both hope Carter decides to return to school, but Carter indicated otherwise in a prepared statement.

"I wanted to play football for OSU this fall and I thought I was going to get that chance. I still don't know why they didn't appeal," Carter said. "Now I've got to go back and think about the NFL supplemental draft. That won't be easy, but it has to be done and it looks like I have no other choice but to go into the draft."

"I just want to say that I will always be a Buckeye and I will be rooting for Ohio State all the way to the Rose Bowl this year."

The supplemental draft was not popular with many teams, as more than half of the 28 teams said by Aug. 20 they wouldn't pick Carter or Gladman. Some teams refused on principle while others said they were declining because of lack of want or need of the two players.

Only a scout from the St. Louis Cardinals appeared at a Carter workout in Indianapolis Aug. 20. Prior to the workout, Carter had difficulty finding a facility that would allow him to work out for pro scouts.

The supplemental draft will be held Sept. 4.

Bay said the decision will do little to alter the relationship between the NCAA and NFL.

"The stature of the NFL is one where they've always been willing to look at exception cases and they considered this an exception. I don't ever think you're going to find the NFL is going to go to court over one exception case and risk the possibility of losing the draft

as we know it today."

"The worst thing that could happen to the NFL, and I think Pete Rozelle will tell you this, is if they go to court over one case, they may not only lose that case, but some judge might decide that the entire draft is wrong, and that every college athlete ought to come out of college a free agent. And that would be disastrous for the NFL."

"So while they're trying to protect general, fundamental principles that they're not by and large going to draft underclassmen, when exception cases do occur, they're not going to go to court to fight that."

"I still don't like the NFL taking underclassmen under any circumstances, but I understand the legal ramifications they may face if they don't," Bay said. "And there's also the moral question as to whether or not youngsters who want to turn professional in any sport at any time shouldn't be able to do so. I think that's going to have to be examined and we're going to have to look at the rules that currently prevail. They're different in all pro sports. I'm not sure we shouldn't have some consistency."

And Bay doesn't believe the decision is a landmark victory for education over athletics.

"I'm not sure it's that broad of a decision and I don't want to make it out to be anything more than it is," he said. "It's one decision that we think affects the principles of this institution. In this case, it certainly affects one individual dramatically. But aside from that, it will take time and others to tell what this decision has meant, if anything, beyond what's right here."

WBNS TV reporter Dom Tiberi had an exclusive interview with Carter on

the ordeal, the day after the appeal decision. Tiberi also talked to agent Lloyd Bloom by telephone and taped the conversation for Carter to hear. Bloom told Tiberi he believed Carter "is not a bad young man, but I feel he was influenced by two older brothers that are just totally bad people."

Bloom said he still expects Carter to honor the contract which gives Bloom six percent of Carter's gross income when he signs a professional contract. Carter said he has no intention of honoring the pact.

"When he signed a contract he knew the rules and regulations of the NCAA, and both George and Cris Carter signed contracts with us," Bloom told Tiberi. "Are we really the bad guys when we supported Carter and his family and gave them money whenever they needed it? Or are they the bad guys who took the money and ran from it?"

Carter refuted Bloom's statements. "No one in my family received any money except for me. If they received any money he would be asking for that, money back," Carter said.

"He would call every other day for money," Bloom said. "And one better, other times we sent his brother George money because Cris called me up in the middle of the night and said 'send me money tomorrow, but send it in George's name so this way nobody in Columbus, Ohio, sees me (Cris) picking it up at Western Union.'"

"That's definitely not true," Carter replied. "If that was true I would probably owe him \$50,000, and I approximately only got \$6,800. We're going to pay him back the money and we've already cut off all our ties with him. So that's basically it."

Spielman Can Play Both Pass, Run

Continued From Page 4

I am and they know it and respect it. I talk a lot on the field. I don't know what I say sometimes but I'm out there rattling on."

Spielman was awarded MVP of last season's Kichoff Classic and Cotton Bowl, and was also a finalist for the Butkus Award.

"The one thing that makes Spielman better than any other linebacker to play the game is that he can play the run and the pass. No one does it better," Bruce said. "There are linebackers who have gotten credit for playing the run but who never played the pass. I've seen him. I've watched. He doesn't get faked very often."

Last season, Spielman had a contact average of 26 percent, meaning he was involved in one of every four plays defensively. The average percentage for a linebacker, Conley says, is about 18 percent, "which is excellent in itself."

"That's how you measure a great player," Conley said. "That percentage tells you that he is in on a play every series of downs. That includes the pass. That's incredible when you think how much teams try to throw down field on us."

Every preseason college football publication sports at least one photo of Spielman, and all name him a first

team All-American. Some publications, including Sports Illustrated, call Spielman the best linebacker in the country.

Spielman's exploits have Buckeye faithful believing Spielman can win college football's highest award — the Heisman Trophy. No defensive player has ever won the award.

Behind Holy Cross' Gordie Lockbaum, who plays offense and defense, Spielman is the next-highest vote-getter returning this season.

Spielman considers his chances about nil.

"I don't think I'm a candidate. I'd love to win it, but I have to be realistic about it. I play defense. We don't win it," he said. "I think for me to have a legitimate shot at winning, we would have to win the national championship. Who knows? Maybe I do have a chance."

"Without a doubt he's the best linebacker I've ever coached and the best college linebacker I've ever seen," Conley said. "If any defensive player deserves a Heisman, it's Spielman. He's earned it. If you look at what he's accomplished at Ohio State, you can match those figures against any defensive linebacker that's ever played the game."

"But the nice thing about it is he deserves it as a person, not just a football player. He's a 2.8 student who has earned, through hard work, everything he's gotten. It would be nice to see a good guy win the Heisman — a person with great character, personality and commitment. A Spielman."

Bruce believes.

"Why shouldn't I believe he is a Heisman candidate? He's amazed me for three years already. Winning the Heisman would just be the icing on the cake."

But again, Spielman plays defense. "And that's a shame because no one means more to a football team than Chris Spielman means to our team," Bruce said. "That's how winning a Heisman should be measured a little bit. The problem is the media puts the hype into it too early, before the players ever really prove themselves that season. I know that may sound like sour grapes, but it's true."

"Now if someone decides to hype, let's say the guy from Holy Cross, how in the hell can a Holy Cross player be compared to a Big Ten guy? That's not putting down Holy Cross because Lockbaum is a super player. But let's face facts."

"I don't think Spielman can worry about winning the Heisman," Bruce said. "If he has a better year than last year I would say he will be a legitimate Heisman candidate. They can't deny him that. He just needs to go out and perform, and pretty soon if he gets the job done, people will start talking about him."

All Spielman said he wants is to one day be the complete ball player, a "mix of Knute Rockne, Vince Lombardi and Woody Hayes." He says he'll know when he becomes that player.

"If I make it to the Professional Football Hall of Fame, that's when you can say my name in the same sentence with those three," he said. "But not until then."

Chris Spielman is a Heisman Trophy candidate in 1987.

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OSU Star Accepted Money From Financial Planner Back In January

NCAA Suspends Galloway For Two Games

By JEFF RAPP
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

Joey Galloway has been a willing centerpiece in the college football spotlight for a full year now. But that light was blinding at the beginning of this month when the Heisman Trophy candidate admitted accepting money from a financial planner and was subsequently suspended for two games by the NCAA.

Ohio State athletic director Andy Geiger confirmed the ruling in a statement released by the university Sept. 7, one day before the Buckeyes traveled to Seattle for a weekend match-up with Washington.

"The situation was disclosed during a normal investigative procedure by the NCAA," Geiger said. "We declared Joey ineligible, then appealed to have his eligibility restored. The NCAA has restored his eligibility, but after the Pittsburgh game."

Galloway, a senior co-captain, violated NCAA rules when he did not return the money before he decided to remain at OSU for his final season.

The All-American wideout remained in Columbus as Ohio State lost to the Huskies 25-16. He'll complete the punishment by sitting out the Sept. 17 home opener with Pittsburgh, then return to the field the following Saturday for OSU's home preconference tuncup with Houston.

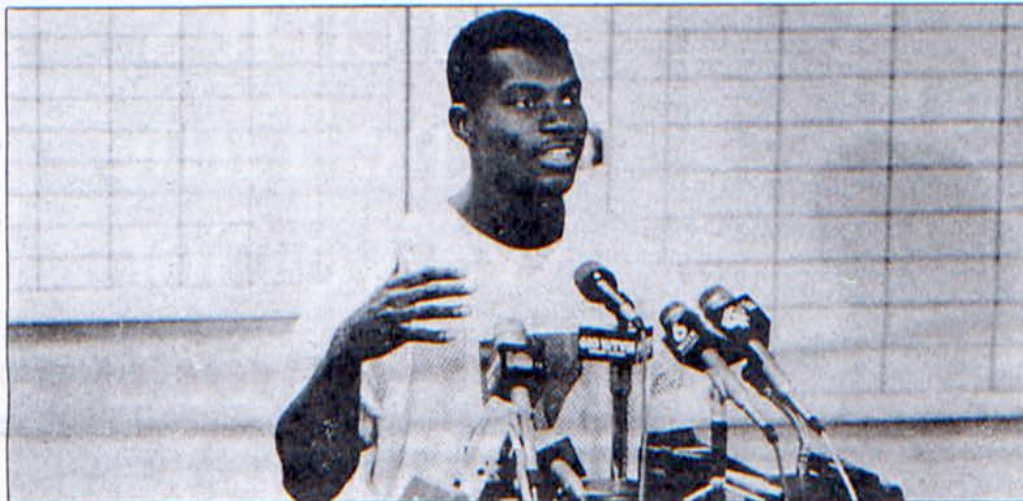
He spoke to the media following a team practice Sept. 7 in a meeting room at the Woody Hayes Athletic Center. With television cameras pointed, radio mikes anchored to the podium and reporters' pens in motion, the 5-11, 186-pound split end admitted his error.

"When I took the money, I considered myself as 100 percent leaving college football," Galloway said. "I took the money at that time. Later on, I went home, changed my mind about the decision to leave, and I just did not repay the money."

"That is definitely my mistake. I'm a grown man and I have to accept the responsibility for that."

Galloway would not finger who the outside source was, but *The Columbus Dispatch* reported it was planner/agent Michael Weisberg. Several messages left for Weisberg at his Chicago-area office were not returned to *BSB*.

Galloway led Ohio State with 47 receptions for 946 yards and a record-setting 11 touchdown catches last season. In OSU's 34-10 blowout of Fresno State in the Aug. 29 Pigskin Classic, he handled the ball just six times but compiled 152 all-purpose yards and scored a pair of touchdowns. Ohio State will not be



KEVIN DYK

FACING THE FACTS — Ohio State senior co-captain Joey Galloway answers questions from the media after accepting a two-game suspension from the NCAA. Galloway admittedly took money from a financial planner last January when he was contemplating a move to the NFL.

With Star Receiver Watching From Home, Buckeyes Suddenly Forget How To Score

By MARK REA
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

With its top scoring threat back in Columbus watching on television, Ohio State suffered an acute case of touch-down amnesia against Washington.

The Buckeyes squandered at least five scoring opportunities, committed three turnovers and had several other mental and physical breakdowns as they dropped a 25-16 decision to the Huskies Sept. 10 before 70,861 fans in Husky Stadium.

OSU was playing the game without split end Joey Galloway, suspended by the NCAA for two games after admittedly taking money from a financial planner last January.

The absence of the Buckeyes' Heisman Trophy hopeful, coupled with the career-high 211 yards from Napoleon Kaufman, Washington's Heisman candidate, might have been enough in itself to carry the day for the Huskies.

But Ohio State insisted on making nearly every mistake possible in the first quarter and that resulted in a 19-0 hole the Buckeyes could never crawl out of.

OSU lost the opening coin toss and things went downhill from there. Penalties and fumbles combined with



BLUCE MOYER

WHERE'S MY PROTECTION? — Ohio State quarterback Bobby Hoying was sacked six times by a blitzing Washington defense during the Buckeyes' 25-16 loss to the Huskies in Seattle.

missed assignments on both offense and defense, providing Washington with excellent field position and three early touchdowns.

The Huskies pushed the lead to 22-0 at halftime, giving the Buckeyes every indication they envisioned a scenario

similar to that of 1986 when Ohio State last visited Seattle and limped home 40-7 losers.

But OSU gamely stayed in the contest in the second half and even had a

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Galloway's Honesty Avoids Stiffer Penalty

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forced to forfeit that game despite Galloway's participation.

As he has in the past, Galloway shrugged off questions about the Heisman Trophy. In response to a question posed at the press conference asking him to measure the impact of the suspensions on his chances, he said simply, "I had no comment on the Heisman before this incident and I still have no comment on the Heisman."

During his Jan. 10 announcement that he would remain at Ohio State instead of opting for the pros, held in the same room at the WHAC, Galloway told reporters that money was not going to sway him in his decision.

"Money is important, don't get me wrong, but it's not driving my life," said Galloway, who said he received the \$200 in the first week of January. "I don't really put much emphasis on material things because I wasn't brought up that way. That money will be there."

To his credit, Galloway did return the money — plus \$18 interest — but that was only after he was confronted by an NCAA investigator. Galloway said the money was given to him for a specific purpose, but when asked what that purpose was, he replied, "I'm not quite sure."

It is believed the investigator also talked briefly with OSU players Corey Stringer and Lorenzo Styles, a pair of certain future pros, in the NCAA's recent attempts to crack down on player dealings with agents.

Ohio State head coach John Cooper would not confirm that other players were interviewed, saying only, "Joey is the only player that was involved with the NCAA."

Cooper added no further NCAA investigation will occur and that Galloway's trouble was an open-and-shut case.

S. David Berst of the NCAA compliance office said his office has no plans to take any further action concerning the wrongdoing.

"I hope it's an isolated incident," Berst told *BSB*. "We certainly did not consider the institution or program at fault. We were more concerned with the individual student-athlete and the potential danger involved with the situation."

Galloway said he is still upbeat despite the suspension.

"I've talked to a lot of the players and I've tried to pump them up, to let them know I'm behind them 100 percent," he said. "They know that they have a job to do, regardless of whether I'm there or not. All I can do is look forward to getting back and helping us win the Big Ten and beat Houston."

Cooper appeared to be the more disturbed man at the press conference.

"Obviously, I feel very bad for our football team; I feel very bad for Joey," said the OSU head coach. "What's this going to do for our team? I talked to the squad this afternoon. We've got to become a little closer now, we've got to circle the wagons. Other people are going to have to pick up the slack."

Cooper did not make excuses for Galloway, but he said the outside enticements are getting out of hand.

"I wish that something could be done," he said. "I think the number one problem we have in college football

right now, and as football coaches we talk about this all the time, is so-called agents."

The incident was the first of its kind at Ohio State since tailback Vince Workman was unceremoniously dumped from the program during his senior season in 1988, Cooper's first year as head coach. Workman, a running back out of Dublin, Ohio, now playing with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, played in the first two games of the season before it was discovered that he had already accepted money from and signed with an agent.

Workman actually got away with his infraction for a year and a half. He inked a deal with David Lueddekke in February of 1987 and allegedly accepted at least \$2,000 from Lueddekke prior to the 1987 season. He played against Syracuse and Pittsburgh, then lost the remainder of his college eligibility Sept. 21, one day after testifying to a Chicago grand jury.

At the press conference, Cooper said the Workman incident marked his only previous association with the agent/player suspension issue. However, defensive back David Fulcher signed with an agent as an underclassman and lost a final year of eligibility while in Cooper's Arizona State program.

"David went to the pros as a third-round draft choice and he should have been a first-round draft choice," Cooper told *BSB* in 1988. "Signing with that agent cost him a half a million dollars."

A year before the Workman trauma, standout wide receiver Cris Carter was lost for the 1987 season as a result of a federal grand jury probe of agents Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom. Carter reportedly accepted \$5,750 from the duo. The incident set the table for the

demise of former head coach Earle Bruce, who was fired at the end of the '87 season.

Ironically, Carter shares the OSU touchdown reception record with Galloway, and Workman was a team captain along with 1988 seniors Michael McCray, Mike Sullivan and Jeff Uhlenhake.

Galloway said his blunder should not go unnoticed by teammates and players in the same position.

"I've heard of plenty of incidents where people have been approached," he said. "I hope that a lot of guys learn from this situation. I'm sure that I will learn from this situation. I'm a young man in college and I have some growing up to do, and I think this incident right here will help me do that."

Cooper said the university decided against an appeal of the NCAA's suspension, saying, "This is normal to miss a couple ball games for something like this." Galloway said he accepts it as a just penalty.

"I'm happy that I guess I know what's going to happen. I can't say I'm relieved because, of course, I miss the games," he said. "And I apologize to my family, my friends, The Ohio State University, my teammates, fans — I'm just sorry that something like this happened and a lot of people have to share in the pain of the whole situation."

David Williams II, vice president for student affairs at OSU, said athletes in all programs are repeatedly warned against accepting money and gifts from outside sources such as player agents, financial planners and advertisers. He realizes Galloway's mistake is in no way good PR for an institution still smarting from other publicized troubles such as kicker Mike Malfatt's felony theft case or the dismissal of basketball player

Gerald Eaker for firing a gun at a teammate's automobile.

"I don't want to say it's embarrassing, but certainly we would prefer these things not happen," Williams said. "But they do happen and our job throughout the university is to work with young adults and help them grow."

"If you look at how Joey handled himself, he's a guy who came in and said, 'Look, I made a mistake and I'm willing to pay for it.' So to a certain degree, I'm glad that whatever part we've had that we've helped Joey accept that."

"Embarrassed is not the right word. But I could do without talking to you all."

According to Berst, Galloway avoided a more severe fate by being both honest and direct when investigated.

"Simply reviewing past procedures in similar cases where individuals professionalize themselves in accepting money or agreeing to enter a professional realm, their eligibility is exhausted immediately," Berst said.

"In this instance, he changed his mind and was forthcoming when approached about the matter. In our view, he was not attempting to do something untoward. The only benefit was the dollars he received, which were remitted. Therefore, he received a comparably light suspension."

Berst added that had Galloway failed to produce the money or delayed response to the matter, it likely would have cost the star player his entire senior season. As for how the NCAA became aware of the matter, Berst would not say.

"That's irrelevant," he said. "The fact that we received the information is what's important. We're not about to divulge any information regarding that."

Kaufman Solidifies Heisman Candidacy

Continued From Page 1

couple of opportunities to win. However, despite touchdowns and two-point conversions in both the third and fourth quarters, the mistakes that had plagued the Buckeyes in the first half continued to occur in the second half.

"We had a plan of coming in here, taking the first possession and scoring to take their crowd out of it," said OSU head coach John Cooper. "Instead, just the opposite happened. We made mistakes, we got behind early, their crowd got into it and we were just fighting for our lives the rest of the game."

What damage the Buckeyes couldn't inflict upon themselves early, Kaufman provided. He rushed for 144 yards and one touchdown in the first half alone, then proceeded to move past the legendary Hugh McElhenny as Washington's all-time leader in all-purpose yardage.

"I think a player like Napoleon makes you look good as a coach," said Washington head coach Jim Lambright. "It doesn't really take much know-how to give him the ball and let him run."

While Kaufman was solidifying his Heisman candidacy, Galloway did not make the trip to Seattle and has probably forfeited any chance he had to win this year's award.

However, his absence meant a lot more to his teammates than just dwindling Heisman hopes.

"I'm not sure that we would have done anything different today, but you never know," said OSU offensive coordinator Joe Hollis. "You can't say that we wouldn't have made the same mistakes we made had Joey been on the same field. But he gives us a presence that no one else does. That much, we know."

In place of Galloway, sophomore split end Buster Tillman put up career highs with nine catches for 106 yards and a touchdown. The performance was good enough to win him *Big Bear Buckeye of the Week* honors. In addition, flanker Chris Sanders and tight end D.J. Jones combined for seven receptions and 135 yards, while backup receiver Terry Glenn, playing his first game after finally clearing up academic problems, chipped in with two catches for 38 yards.

But there was still something clearly missing.

"I think we did a pretty good job without Joey," Tillman said. "But that doesn't mean I wouldn't have rather had him out there with us. I'm already looking forward to getting him back."

The defeat was Ohio State's first non-conference loss (not counting bowl games) since that infamous 35-26 loss to Southern Cal during a rainstorm in 1990.

It also marks the team's worst start since 1989, when the Buckeyes also were 1-1. OSU has not lost two of its first three games in a season since

1986, when it lost to Alabama in the Kickoff Classic and then went to Washington for that 40-7 drubbing before returning home to beat Colorado.

Meanwhile, the Huskies avoided their first 0-2 start since 1985. It was an important victory since they travel to Miami (Fla.) on Sept. 24 to meet the Hurricanes. Washington hasn't lost its first three games in a season since 1969.

Washington remains on Pac-10 probation and cannot go to a postseason bowl game. But the Buckeyes are still focused on their goal of successfully defending the Big Ten title and said the loss would not deter them.

"It's a loss and it hurts," said linebacker Lorenzo Styles. "But it doesn't hurt us as far as the Big Ten or the Rose Bowl is concerned. We wanted to win for national pride, but we can come back from this. We have to go back home and get better. That's all."

Offensive tackle Corey Stringer agreed.

"This is not the end of the season," he said. "We wanted to win this game, obviously, but we didn't."

"I think what you saw in the second half today is what we're capable of. We didn't quit until the final gun. We have a long way to go and two more games before we start the Big Ten. That's what we're shooting for. We made mistakes today. Now we have to learn from them so those mistakes will eventually make us a better team."

OHIO STATE INSIDER



Smith Suspended After Alleged Booster Benefit

Ohio State traveled to the Alamo Bowl without one of its most potent offensive weapons when the university suspended quarterback Troy Smith for allegedly accepting improper benefits from a booster.

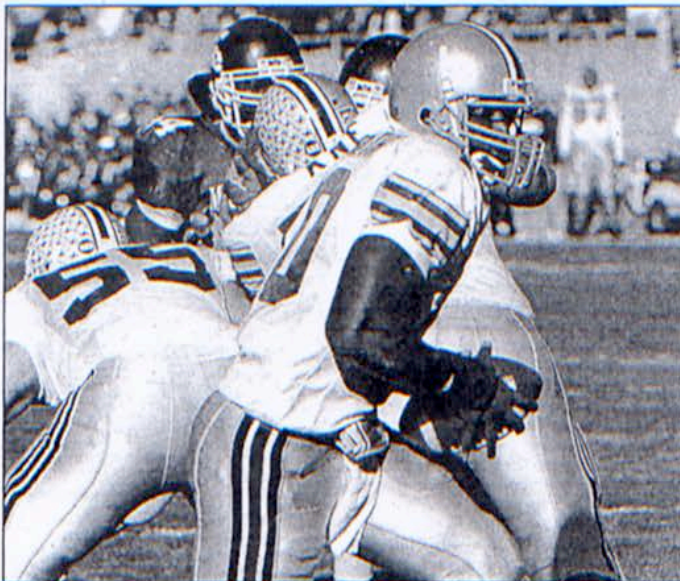
The Buckeyes made the announcement Dec. 20, just two days before they were scheduled to depart for San Antonio and the bowl game. Smith allegedly took an unspecified amount of money last spring from businessman Robert Q. Baker, a direct violation of team and NCAA rules.

Smith was suspended from the Alamo Bowl and may face at least one more game next season during which he will have to sit out. Additionally, the university will have to petition the NCAA for Smith's reinstatement.

OSU athletic director Andy Geiger said he didn't expect the penalties against Smith to be any more severe but tempered that statement by adding, "I don't want to prejudice anything. We're pretty far down the road with the NCAA on the case, but I expect there will be more."

"They have announced nothing (and) we have no letters of inquiry. Those may or may not be coming, but that case was handled textbook-style and we'll see what happens."

As far as the booster in question,



JEFF BREHM

FALL OF TROY — Ohio State quarterback Troy Smith had the world on a string after leading the Buckeyes to a win over Michigan, but it was soon learned that the sophomore had allegedly taken money from a booster and he was subsequently suspended from the Buckeyes' Alamo Bowl contest.

Geiger said school officials will take whatever steps they can to sanction the 46-year-old Baker, a Springfield, Ohio, resident who shares a luxury suite at Ohio Stadium. Possible penalties include blocking Baker from buying tickets to OSU football games or not allowing him to buy into a luxury suite.

The violation came a month after Maurice Clarett made allegations to ESPN The Magazine of payments and improper academic help, allegations Geiger vehemently denied. In the wake of the Smith situation, however, the athletic director was more contrite.

"I'm not sure that I think everything that Maurice said lacked credence," Geiger told the Akron Beacon Journal. "But what wasn't there is what is there

now — we have an example of something that has happened. Do I think it's systemic or widespread? I have no evidence of that."

Geoffrey Webster, an attorney for Baker's former company, Columbus-based Poly-Care Services, called the university Dec. 9 after employees described an envelope being given to an Ohio State player who doesn't work for the company.

An employee was disturbed by Baker's boast, "Now, I own him," Webster told The (Cleveland) Plain Dealer.

"I can't think of any way to make that a good statement," Webster told the paper. "I've spent 30 years as an attorney, word-smithing things. I have a real hard time coming up with anything else that he could have meant that could be a positive. I just can't. To say something like that is really wrong and really inappropriate."

Geiger told ESPN announcer Mike Tirico the morning before the Alamo Bowl that a misguided booster is any program's biggest fear.

"Good boosters are terrific and exactly what you want," the OSU athletic director said. "The rogue booster is what you constantly worry about, what causes you (to lose) sleep. It is impossible to know what you don't know. When you find out something, you automatically delve into that situation to find out if there is other history."

Webster said that being an Ohio State alumnus did not prevent

Get Your Recruiting Fix With Our Website

With the Feb. 2 national signing day rapidly approaching, Buckeye Sports Bulletin readers can get up-to-the-minute news on Ohio State football recruiting by visiting BSB's home on the internet — BuckeyeSports.com.

Premium subscribers receive the most up-to-date recruiting news available, and the upcoming Jan. 14-16 weekend is especially pivotal in Ohio State's recruiting season.

Highly rated players such as running back Maurice Wells of Jacksonville, Fla., and linebacker Rico McCoy of Washington, D.C., are scheduled to announce their college choices during the All-American Bowl on Jan. 15, and BuckeyeSports.com will have those commitments as they happen.

Also, the weekend features a host of official visitors to the Ohio State campus including linebacker Tavares Kearney of Tucker, Ga.

BuckeyeSports.com is also the place where BSB staffers such as Chris Nida, Bill Kurelic and Mark Rea hold weekly chat sessions. Nida will appear each Tuesday at 2 p.m. Eastern through signing day, while Kurelic and Rea regularly chat at noon each Thursday and Friday, respectively.

For more information about the website, visit BuckeyeSports.com on the internet, call BSB at (614) 486-2202 or call Rivals.com at 1-866-2-RIVALS.

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#Alamo Bowl; San Antonio, Texas • *-Bowl team

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Nov. 12	NORTHWESTERN	6-6
Nov. 19	at *Michigan	9-3

*-Bowl team

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OHIO STATE INSIDER

him from coming forward with the damaging details.

"I love Ohio State," Webster told The Plain Dealer. "I just think it's going to take awhile for this small cadre of boosters to figure out that this is not acceptable behavior. My concept of the booster program is that it's there to establish mentors for young men and women.

"A booster should be someone who helps them make good decisions, not someone who throws envelopes at a kid and puts them in a position where they have a hard time making a good judgment."

Smith was told of his suspension by OSU head coach Jim Tressel, who said his quarterback acknowledged his wrongdoing and accepted whatever punishment came with it.

"He said that he knew he was going to be at the bottom of the totem pole now and was willing to work his way back," Tressel said. "It was unfortunate for the team and for Troy, but we had no choice."

Smith did not accompany the team to San Antonio.

Tressel Gets Some Heat From San Antonio Press

Things got a little heated for Tressel at his final press conference before the Alamo Bowl as reporters repeatedly grilled him on the nature of his relationship with Baker.

Reporters wanted to know if Tressel knew Baker, if Baker's ownership of a luxury suite on the 35-yard line at Ohio Stadium allowed him any extra benefits in terms of getting closer to team members and whether Baker had ever flown on the team charter to away games.

"Do I know him? Yes," Tressel replied. "But I don't think he had ever traveled on an away trip with us. I'm pretty focused on other things when we're traveling, but I would have to say that I don't believe he has ever traveled with us."

The Smith-Baker incident topped off what had been a bad couple of months for Tressel and his program, at least from a public relations angle. It began with allegations from Clarett of rampant improprieties throughout the university's academic and athletic programs and continued with the suspension of Smith.

Lumped onto the top of other off-the-field problems — from several player arrests involving alcohol and the arrests and subsequent dismissals of Louis Irizarry and Ira Guilford — the OSU stadium has taken more than its share of body shots.

Through it all, Tressel and Geiger have maintained that each situation was unique unto itself and each player was dealt with individually. Still, the public perception appeared to be one of the Ohio State football program with a somewhat tarnished reputation. Tressel disagreed, however.

"What does that word — reputation — mean?" he asked rhetorically. "Reputation is largely in the eye of the beholder, but if I thought we weren't providing the best possible atmosphere for the student-athlete that we could, then I might feel that way.

"But I feel good about our program and our university, and I feel good about the way that our institution attacks problems and tries to solve them."

The program's argument against stiff penalties from the NCAA in the Smith case stems from the fact that no one on staff knew about the relationship

Two-Time All-American Ferguson Dies At 65

By MARK REA

Buckeye Sports Bulletin Managing Editor

Two-time All-American fullback Bob Ferguson, the man who changed Woody Hayes' offensive philosophy into "three yards and a cloud of dust," died Dec. 30 after a lengthy illness. He was 65.

Beginning in 1959, Ferguson started yardage for the Buckeyes and didn't stop until the team had bludgeoned Michigan and earned a share of the national championship during his senior year.

"When he got to Ohio State, that really kind of began Woody's love affair with using the fullback as the dominant offensive weapon," OSU football historian Jack Park told BSB. "He had done it before, but not to the extent and not with the success that he enjoyed with Bob."

Ferguson played for the Buckeyes from 1959-61, and finished with 2,162 yards and 26 touchdowns, averaging 5.1 yards per carry for his career. He was also extremely reliable, carrying 423 times and losing yardage on only one of those carries.

He earned All-American honors in 1960 and '61 and finished as the runner-up to Ernie Davis of Syracuse in the 1961 Heisman Trophy balloting. Despite losing out to Davis for the Heisman, Ferguson won the Maxwell Award that year as college football's outstanding offensive player.

Still, during his career and after his graduation, Ferguson never seemed to draw the attention from Buckeye fans that other former players did.

"I've always thought of Bob as a semi-tragic figure at Ohio State," said former longtime OSU sports information director Mary Homan. "I think he was always troubled and felt maybe he didn't measure up to other people's expectations."

"That's why I always felt really good when he won the Maxwell Award. It showed that a lot of other people around the country recognized his abilities and accomplishments."

Born Aug. 29, 1939, in Columbus, Ferguson moved with his family to Troy, Ohio, when he was a youngster and became a high school star at Troy High School, earning prep All-American honors for the Trojans. In fact, he set what were then national high school records with 5,521 yards rushing and 578 points scored.

After spending his first collegiate season on the freshman team, Ferguson immediately stepped into the starting lineup as a sophomore in 1959 and held down a position in the OSU backfield for each of the next three seasons.

During his first year with the varsity, the Buckeyes were decimated by graduation and injuries to upperclassmen and they sank to a 3-5-1 record, good enough only for a tie for eighth in the Big Ten. Playing at linebacker on defense and at left halfback on offense, the 6-0, 217-pound Ferguson had modest numbers with 371 yards, but he averaged better than 6.0 yards per carry.

The following season, OSU rebounded to go 7-2 and rose to third place in the conference. Ferguson was a big reason for that, moving exclusively to the fullback spot and carrying 160 times for 853 yards and 13 touchdowns. Although the Buckeyes were known for a grind-it-out offense behind Ferguson, he also exhibit-

ed excellent speed, breaking off four different runs of 50 yards or more during the season. As a result, he was a unanimous first-team All-America selection.

In 1961, the Buckeyes came all the way back. After being surprised by Texas Christian in the season opener with a 7-7 tie, Ohio State steamrolled over eight opponents in a row and averaged better than 30 points per game during that streak. The season was capped with a 50-20 rout of Michigan during which Ferguson scored four times.

The game was still close heading into the fourth quarter with OSU holding a 28-12 advantage. But Ferguson scored on a 1-yard run, an interception led to another score, and a punt return by Paul Warfield set up Ferguson's final touchdown. Then the Buckeyes went for a two-point conversion to make the score an even 50. Later, Hayes explained that he wanted to give longtime equipment manager Ernie Godfrey a present because he was celebrating his 50th birthday that year. But years later, when the coach was quizzed about why he went for two, he simply replied, "Because I couldn't go for three."

"Man, he wanted to take it to them," Ferguson told BSB in 1996. "Woody never liked Michigan. He respected them, but he didn't like them. If he could really beat them bad, he'd do it."

The Buckeyes finished their season at 8-0-1 and earned the right to represent the Big Ten at the Rose Bowl. But the OSU Faculty Council, fearing that athletics was overtaking academics on the campus, voted to deny the Buckeyes a trip to Pasadena. It was a bitter pill for players on the 1961 team to take, one they continue to struggle with today.

"The whole team was hurt," Ferguson said. "The administration voted not to send us and we had to live with it. That was probably the one regret that I had — not ever getting to play in a Rose Bowl."

The Buckeyes had to be content with the Football Writers Association of America's national championship for '61, and Ferguson had to be content with finishing second in the Heisman balloting even though Davis had 115 fewer yards than Ferguson while playing in one more game. Davis won the Heisman by just 53 points, edging Ferguson 824-771. It remains one of the closest votes in Heisman history.

Following his college career, Ferguson was a first-round selection in both the 1962 NFL and AFL drafts. San Diego offered more money, but he decided to stay with the more established NFL and signed with Pittsburgh. He spent two seasons there backing up Steelers legendary running back John Henry Johnson then was traded during the 1963 season to Minnesota. Unfortunately, a chronic knee injury ended Ferguson's career prematurely.

He returned to Ohio State and obtained a master's degree in sociology. He worked for Westinghouse for several years and then took a job with the Columbus Parks and Recreation Department. He retired in 1990 because of health problems.

He was inducted into the OSU Athletics Hall of Fame in 1987 then received the ultimate honor when he was enshrined in the College Football Hall of Fame in 1996.

Ferguson was slowed by a stroke in 1993 and battled diabetes for the last several years. He is survived by his wife, Diana, and four children.



FILE PHOTO

ONE OF THE BEST — Fullback Bob Ferguson was a two-time All-American at Ohio State and finished as runner-up for the 1961 Heisman Trophy. Ferguson, who averaged over 5 yards per carry as a Buckeye, passed away Dec. 30 after a lengthy illness.

between the OSU quarterback and Baker. It was much the same argument Ohio State gave when the Clarett allegations were raised and even regarding former men's basketball coach Jim O'Brien and the improprieties alleged to have occurred during his tenure.

But when a reporter asked Tressel if he thought an "ignorance is bliss" defense was proper, the coach shook his head.

"I don't know that anyone inferred there was any bliss," Tressel said with a stern look. "Ignorance certainly is not bliss. Are we flawless? No, we're not. Just as we don't execute every block or

every defensive play, we are not completely flawless off the field. But I don't feel bad at all about our intentions of doing things as well as we can do them.

"We have countless informational gatherings with our student-athletes about what is proper and what isn't. Likewise, we have informational gatherings with those outside our program for the same reason. We tell them, basically, if you have to ask, the answer is no. If you wonder about being able to do something, the answer is don't do it.

"Outside of building a fort around the university and not allowing our players to leave the fort, you are going to have

interaction with people outside the university. And there is always going to be people who try to get around your program. But they have to know there are consequences for them as well. You hate to cut off anyone but if that's what it comes to, that's what we will do."

Another questioner asked Tressel if he believed there was too much attention paid to the few individuals who ran afoul of the rules and not enough paid to the majority of players who do well, maintain their eligibility and excel in the classroom.

Continued On Page 6

OHIO STATE INSIDER



Clarett Cell Phone Bill May Have Led To Smith Suspension

According to a report in the Jan. 11 edition of The (Cleveland) Plain Dealer, suspended Ohio State quarterback Troy Smith used money he accepted from a booster to pay for a cell phone his mother had obtained for former tailback Maurice Clarett.

The Plain Dealer cited multiple sources at Ohio State and close to Smith in its report on the money the quarterback received from booster Robert Q. Baker.

Ohio State athletic director Andy Geiger told the newspaper that Ohio State had investigated Clarett's use of multiple cell phones but "we did not know anything about that particular cell phone."

Geiger said federal student privacy laws prevented him from commenting on whether the Smiths got a cell phone for Clarett during the summer of 2003, after Clarett had been suspended from the team for a season.

Phone calls made by BSB to Smith,

his mother, Tracy, and Clarett's attorney Alan Milstein were not returned.

Clarett's mother, Michelle, told The Plain Dealer that she didn't know anything about the matter and didn't know how to reach her son. Baker has an unlisted phone in Springfield, Ohio.

Clarett was suspended for the 2003 season after he was caught lying to university and NCAA investigators about accepting gifts and extra benefits. Among those benefits was a cell phone given to him by Robert Dellimuti, who runs a catering business in Warren, Ohio.

The Plain Dealer reported that when Clarett gave up that phone, he persuaded Smith to get him a cell phone in Smith's mother's name.

Ohio State has not said how much money Smith took from Baker although it has been speculated that the amount was around \$900. Geiger also reiterated that Smith's suspension probably will stretch into next season, costing him at least the 2005 opener against Miami (Ohio).



Troy Smith

NCAA President Praises OSU For Handling Of Clarett Matter

NCAA president Myles Brand said Jan. 14 that Ohio State took "strong and transparent measures" to deal with Clarett, who claimed to have received improper benefits while playing for the school.

Brand made the remarks during a question and answer session after a speech before the City Club of Cleveland.

The NCAA started investigating Ohio State last November after Clarett told ESPN The Magazine that head coach Jim Tressel, his staff and school boosters had arranged for him to get passing grades, money for bogus summer jobs, thousands of dollars in cash and free loaner cars.

Most of Clarett's allegations had been covered as part of the NCAA probe that led to his suspension from the team in 2003.

Brand told City Club of Cleveland members that Clarett is a great athlete but may not have been prepared to go to college.

"I do think frankly that Ohio State took strong and transparent measures to deal with him," Brand said. "He was influenced by sports agents and attorneys. In that effort, I think he was exposed to some issues that he might not otherwise have been exposed to."

Brand has been president of the NCAA since 2003. Before that, he spent

nine years as athletic director at Indiana, where he is perhaps best known for firing basketball coach Bob Knight in 2000.

Brand also spent three years at Ohio State from 1986-89 as provost and vice president for academic affairs.

Search Committee Named To Find Geiger Successor

Ohio State president Karen A. Holbrook announced Jan. 13 the appointment of the committee that will conduct the search to replace Geiger, whose retirement as OSU athletic director is effective June 30.

The 15-member panel features representation from the university's faculty, staff and students as well as the board of trustees.

"The committee's makeup reflects our recognition that athletics is an integral part of the university," said Holbrook in a news release.

She added that she plans to charge the committee with conducting a timely, thorough search. However, a first meeting for the panel had not been set as of press time.

"The mission of this committee is to advise the president with respect to the qualities and qualifications of an athletic director who will best serve this university, and to identify finalists for the position," said Joe Alutto, dean of the Fisher College of Business



Joe Alutto

and chair of the committee. He said the fact that members have different levels of experience with athletics will be helpful in ensuring that different perspectives are considered.

"The successful candidate will have an extremely wide and deep range of skills and experience, and our committee is reflective of that," Alutto said.

Other members of the search committee are:

- Tami Longaberger, chair of the OSU Board of Trustees
- John Bruno, athletic faculty representative and professor of neuroscience and psychology
- Beverly Moss, academic liaison

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*-Bowl team

with athletics and professor of English

• Christian Zacher, a member of the Athletic Council, professor of English and director of the Institute for Collaborative Research and Public Humanities

• Deb Mason, Athletic Council member and vice president of Undergraduate Student Government

• Brian Joseph, faculty member at-large and Distinguished University Professor, departments of linguistics and Slavic and East European languages and literatures

• Joe Breschi, men's lacrosse head coach

• Lori Walker, women's soccer head coach

• Susan Henderson, associate director of athletics

• Archie Griffin, president/CEO of the Ohio State Alumni Association

• Janine Oman, an athletic trainer and a clinical instructor in the College of Medicine and Public Health

• Brandon Mitchell, a student-athlete on the football team

• Jackie Schardt, a student-athlete on the women's volleyball team

• Richard Hollingsworth, associate vice president for student affairs

Ex-officio members of the committee are David Frantz, secretary to the Board of Trustees and professor of English; Chris Culley, university general counsel; and Curt Steiner, senior vice president for external relations.

Also, the search firm of Baker-Parker of Atlanta has been hired to assist with the search. Baker-Parker has been involved with a number of high-profile searches for the NCAA as well as for athletic directors for the University of Washington and Indiana University.

Geiger announced his retirement after nearly 11 years as Ohio State athletic director during a Jan. 5 news conference.

Ex-Buckeyes Begin To Compete In College All-Star Games

Six former Ohio State football players and Tressel kicked off the annual slate of college all-star games by com-



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In the final weeks leading up to National Signing Day Feb. 2, BuckeyeSports.com is, simply put, the only place to be. Our recruiting team, led by Bill Kurelic, Chris Nida and the Rivals staff, will have all of the breaking news covered as we head to recruiting's greatest day. Come join us at BuckeyeSports.com!

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Bucks get last shot with Wilson	Jan 23	Premium Football Recruiting	Bill Kurelic
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Will Sledge visit Ohio State?	Jan 18	Premium Football Recruiting	Bill Kurelic
Chris Wells Video Now Available	Jan 17	Premium Football Recruiting	BSB Staff Reports
Did seven ND coaches change Wilson's thinking?	Jan 17	Premium Football Recruiting	Bill Kurelic
Ashley back from PSU with good and bad news	Jan 16	Premium Football Recruiting	Bill Kurelic
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Wells let the cat out of the bag	Jan 16	Premium Football Recruiting	Chris Nida
Cagers Hit Century Mark, Loss Wild Affair At LSU	Jan 16	Premium Basketball	Jeff Rapp
Wells About All OSU Had To Cheer About	Jan 15	Premium Football Recruiting	Mark Rea
McClair's Jackson Can't Hide Affinity For OSU	Jan 15	Premium Basketball Recruiting	Jeff Rapp
McCoy Spurns Buckeyes For UT	Jan 15	Premium Football Recruiting	Mark Rea
Wells Makes It Official: It's OSU	Jan 15	Premium Football Recruiting	Mark Rea
Recruiting Flashback: Dustin Fox	Jan 15	Football Recruiting	From the Files of BSB
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OHIO STATE INSIDER



Booster Meets With NCAA, OSU Officials On Campus

Robert Q. Baker, the Ohio State booster who allegedly gave a cash-filled envelope to quarterback Troy Smith, met Jan. 21 for the first time with OSU athletic department officials and NCAA investigators.

According to Baker's attorney, the meeting was a cordial one.

"It was very conversational, a very collegial, cordial sort of meeting," attorney Jim Savage told The Columbus Dispatch of the session, which lasted approximately 90 minutes in the Schottenstein Center.

"(Baker) wants to answer whatever questions they have so they can put it behind them. Now, that doesn't suggest anything about what needs to be put behind them."

Smith was suspended for the Alamo Bowl contest after he admitted taking cash from Baker last spring. It has been widely speculated that the OSU quarterback will have to sit out one more game — most likely the 2005 season opener against Miami (Ohio) — although Ohio State has already applied for his reinstatement.

As far as the meeting between Baker, OSU officials and the NCAA was concerned, all parties involved were tight-lipped about what was discussed.

Ohio State athletic director Andy Geiger told BSB that he couldn't comment due to the ongoing investigation, while Savage said his client wanted only to speak to the university and the NCAA at this time and not make any public statements.

It is believed, however, that the university and the NCAA wanted to know about Baker's relationship with Smith and whether he had a similar involvement with any other Ohio State student-athletes.

Speculation had centered around former OSU receiver Chris Gamble and current tailback Antonio Pittman. Gamble worked for Baker's former company, PolyCare Services, during his off-seasons while Pittman was rumored to have been seen at PolyCare when Baker was still employed there.

However, university officials have indicated in the past that Gamble's relationship with PolyCare was investigated last year and nothing improper was found. Likewise, head coach Jim Tressell told reporters before the Alamo Bowl that Pittman's involvement with Baker had also been investigated and no improprieties were discovered.

Investigators also were likely to have asked Baker about his relationship with Tressell, who admitted in San Antonio that he knew Baker but didn't believe

the booster had accompanied the team on any away-game flights. Baker played football for Tressell's father, Lee, at Baldwin-Wallace.

Additionally, there has been speculation that Baker would be prevented from any involvement with Ohio State athletics in the future.

"He didn't ask about that and they didn't bring it up," Savage said. "It wasn't discussed at all."

After Talking With Tigers, Snyder Will Stay At OSU

Ohio State defensive coordinator Mark Snyder quickly ended speculation that he was interested in a similar post at LSU, saying that he was happy at Ohio State and had no desire to leave the Buckeyes.

"I want to end any speculation right now. I'm staying at Ohio State," Snyder told The Dispatch.

Snyder said that he was never offered a job by new LSU head coach Les Miles, who coached Oklahoma State in its 33-7 Alamo Bowl loss to the Buckeyes.

But reports out of Baton Rouge, La., told a different story. At least one newspaper reported that Miles was interested in offering Snyder a three-year contract at \$275,000 per season to become the Tigers' defensive coordinator. Snyder's contract at Ohio State is for one year and a salary of \$185,000.

But Snyder said the so-called negotiations never got past what he traveled to LSU for in the first place — to consult with Miles and his new staff like many other college coaches do every offseason.

"I absolutely was flattered Les wanted to talk to me," Snyder said. "He is such a great guy, a great coach. What he did at Oklahoma State was very impressive, and I know he's going to do great things there at LSU."

"But hey, I'm an Ohio guy and you know how I feel about Tress. And the players we've recruited and we're coaching, there's a loyalty there both ways. We've done great things here, and we're going to do more great things."

Snyder completed his first season as defensive coordinator of the Buckeyes after spending three seasons as line-backers coach. Like the rest of the team, the OSU defense struggled during the first part of the 2004 season before coming on strong down the stretch, stifling such high-octane attacks as Michigan and Oklahoma State.

"It was a learning experience," Snyder told BSB about his first year as coordinator. "It wasn't more difficult than I thought it would be because I've been preparing for this for a long time. It was just different."

"Did we make some mistakes? You bet we did, but we tried to learn from those mistakes and I think you saw how we all improved — players and coaches — toward the end of the season. It gives you a lot of excitement heading into next year."

Matta Continues To Work Without Signed Contract

More than halfway through his first season as men's basketball coach at Ohio State, Thad Matta is working without a contract.



Mark Snyder

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"For The Buckeye Fan Who Needs To Know More"

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'Get This Over With Now'

Recruiting's Tough On Players, But Wait Till You Meet The Parents

By CHRIS NIDA
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

During the spring and summer of 2001, it wasn't unusual for the phone to ring at the home of Nick Mangold. Then a senior-to-be at Kettering (Ohio) Alter, Mangold wasn't considered a "blue-chip" football prospect, but he had already earned a number of Division I-A college scholarship offers, including one from Ohio State head coach Jim Tressel.

Recruiting services were in a race to get a scoop on the offensive lineman's potential destination. Though Mangold had always wanted to play for his home-state Buckeyes, his mother, Theresa, is a devout Catholic, and so a scholarship offer from Notre Dame gave him something to think about.

But all that thinking came to an end one Sunday in July. It was 8 o'clock in the morning when the Mangolds received a phone call from a West Coast-based follower of recruiting who had awoken at 5 a.m. searching for a scoop on a player thousands of miles away who had yet to play a game during his senior year of high school.

Call it the straw that broke the camel's back, or the final nail in the coffin. However one refers to it, that

Continued On Page 6

Sorry, But For What?

Smith Apologizes For Misdeeds, Which He Won't Reveal



BACK WITH THE BOYS — Ohio State quarterback Troy Smith (middle, no shirt) runs wind sprints with his teammates on the first day of winter conditioning drills.

Buckeye Women Are Big Ten Co-Champs



HOISTING THE HARDWARE — Caity Matter (far right) lifts the Big Ten championship trophy Feb. 27 after Ohio State clinched a share of the title, its first conference crown since 1993. For more details, see page 24.

By CHRIS NIDA
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

On the gridiron, Ohio State quarterback Troy Smith often earns praise for his ability to elude tacklers. The morning of Feb. 22, when he and his teammates kicked off winter conditioning drills for 2005, he proved his elusiveness spreads to the media as well.

Instead of a pump fake or a well-timed juke, all it took for Smith to dodge the questions thrown at him by a dozen or so reporters was simply, "I don't want to get into that."

Smith used those seven words — or some variation thereof — when asked about virtually anything relating to the specifics of why he was under team suspension and the nature of his relationship with so-called booster Robert Q. Baker. What he did offer up was an apology to those who had been affected, directly or otherwise, by his actions.

"First and foremost I'd like to apologize to my team, the fans of Ohio State, my family, my community back home, for the poor decision that I made," Smith said. "Just being back out here with the guys is what it's all about."

Continued On Page 10

COVER STORY: SORRY, BUT FOR WHAT?

Continued From Page 1

It has been widely reported that Smith's suspension was a result of the quarterback accepting an illegal benefit — in this case, cash — from Baker. That got Smith suspended for the Alamo Bowl victory over Oklahoma State and may also cost him the 2005 season opener against Miami (Ohio).

Various reasons have been put forth for Smith taking the money. The (Cleveland) Plain Dealer reported Jan. 11 that the money was needed to pay for a cell phone used by Maurice Claret on an account in the name of Smith's mother. Meanwhile, The Columbus Dispatch quoted Smith's high school coach, Ted Ginn Sr., in a story published Feb. 21 as saying that Smith accepted the money under the assumption that he would be later employed by Baker, although Ginn said that the booster never again contacted Smith.

Smith himself would not comment on either of those reports. Often returning to his aforementioned phrase of choice, the OSU quarterback refused to say how he had met Baker, whether their introduction was made by a teammate or whether the incident was in any way related to Claret.

As to the scenario put forth by Ginn, Smith once again refrained from comment.

"I don't even want to get into any of that, the stipulations or however you want to put it with that story," he said. "Just being back out here with the guys is what I'm all about right now."

Smith was adamant in one area, though, saying that this was "the first, last and only time" that he had accepted money.

It is not the first time, however, that Smith has been involved in an off-the-field incident during his time as a Buckeye. As a redshirt freshman in 2003, he and teammates were involved in a late-night incident outside Morrill Tower on the OSU campus which later led to his suspension for the first part of the 2003 Ohio State-Michigan game.

Some have wondered whether Smith is now operating with two strikes on his record, so to speak. But the man who matters most with regard to the situation doesn't appear to view Smith in that light.

"Am I making predictions? No," Ohio State head coach Jim Tressel said. "But Troy Smith is a good kid and I don't spend time worrying if we're going to have repeat mistakes. I think he's a real solid kid who made a mistake, who's admitted he made a mistake and who wants to move on."

Smith looked to be doing just that early on the morning of Feb. 22. Like all the rest of his healthy and eligible teammates, he was participating in winter conditioning drills with his position group, running sprints and working on agility drills.

Afterward, he claimed that the Baker situation was the furthest thing from his mind.

"That's not even in the top three things that I think about when I get up in the morning, especially not one now after a hard 6 a.m. workout," Smith said. "This is our first workout. If you paid attention today our team worked very hard. We're getting ready for the new season."

Where On Totem Pole?

What Smith's role will be when that

Tressel Not Tipping His Quarterbacking Hand



TERRY GILLIAM

KNOCKING OFF THE RUST — Troy Smith participates in one of many agility drills during the first day of winter conditioning for Ohio State. Smith returned to the Buckeyes for the first time since his December suspension for reportedly taking improper benefits from a booster.

season commences appears uncertain.

At the time of the quarterback's suspension, Tressel told reporters that Smith understood he would begin at the bottom of the totem pole upon his return to the team.

But confronted at the beginning of conditioning drills with the scenario of placing Smith third on the current depth chart behind classmate Justin Zwick and redshirt freshman Todd Boeckman, the coach hedged a bit.

"I suppose that if we had a game today he might be (third-string), but we don't," Tressel said. "Obviously, there are a lot of things that have to be answered as to the finality of what his sanction is, and we've got a lot of practices."

Smith's teammates appeared to be approaching the situation under the assumption he would eventually pick up where he left off in 2004 — as the starting quarterback at Ohio State.

"Nobody on the team is really looking at him as a bad person right now," receiver Antonio Holmes said. "We're looking for him to come back and compete with Justin just like he did at the beginning of the season last year and probably become our starting quarterback."

"I'm pretty sure that's probably what the coaches are thinking."

Before Smith returns to the field in

the scarlet and gray, however, his suspension situation needs to be clarified. Ohio State applied to the NCAA for Smith's reinstatement after holding the quarterback out of the Alamo Bowl, but in typical fashion, the NCAA has yet to decide whether Smith will be forced to sit out any more games as a result of his violation. In fact, Smith said that he had not even spoken with anybody from college athletics' governing body yet.

The current speculation is that the NCAA will require Smith to miss the Buckeyes' Sept. 3 season opener with Miami (Ohio), but both the quarterback and Tressel said that they had not heard that officially and were still uncertain as to whether Smith would be required to miss additional time.

"I don't have that understanding (that he'll have to sit out another game)," Tressel said. "I've heard it said and people have said they've read it. But I've never heard that from an official source."

"I'm not saying that's a poor suggestion, but I think that comes from case precedent. They are saying that when this type of thing has happened in the past, this is what it has meant. That's why back in December we got together and decided the best thing for us to do was suspend Troy for the bowl game based on case precedent. I think some

people think that (one-game suspension) may suffice, but I don't know that anyone has been told anything officially. I know I have not."

However, should Smith indeed be suspended against the RedHawks, it could make for a sticky situation. Zwick is the obvious choice as starter with Smith gone, but the week after the Miami game — when Smith figures to regain his eligibility — features the Buckeyes' much-anticipated showdown with Texas, the first-ever matchup between two traditional powers who figure to be ranked among the early top 10.

The question is, if Smith sits out against Miami, could he be ready to take the starting reins against the Longhorns in his first game action in more than nine months?

"I think that's not unreasonable," Tressel said.

Zwick put forth a solid effort in the Alamo Bowl, leading the Buckeyes to a 33-7 victory by completing 17 of 27 passes for 189 yards and a touchdown despite playing much of the game with a pulled hamstring. Still, it was a far cry from the legendary numbers turned in by Smith against the Wolverines, which included 386 yards of total offense and three touchdowns.

"There was no one else on the edge of their couch who was pulling more for Justin or the team during that time," Smith said. "The guys went out there and executed our game plan as if I was still there."

Smith's teammates share his feelings. Though they willingly admit that the QB needed to suffer the consequences of his actions, they're also quick to point out that as soon as the Alamo Bowl was over, all was forgiven.

"That's how a lot of guys are feeling," said safety Nate Salley, one of Smith's closest friends on the team. "He might not have been out there with us in San Antonio, but once we got back we all accepted him right back. It wasn't any major thing. Everybody makes mistakes. You can't fault one person when they make a mistake because you never know when you might mess around and make a mistake. You don't want everybody to ostracize you and for you to be an outcast."

Smith's transgression was just the latest in a string of off-the-field concerns that have popped up for the Buckeyes over the past few years. Instead of serving as distractions, though, the team often seems to thrive in the face of adversity as the Buckeyes did in their demolition of Oklahoma State despite ESPN's insistence on reshaping Smith's problems.

"We're kind of immune to it, I would have to say, because Coach Tressel does such a good job keeping us focused on the task at hand," offensive lineman Rob Sims said. "We had a lot of things these last couple of years ... but it's been amazing how we've been able to keep it together and just keep striving forward."

Suffice it to say, though, that Smith is not happy that his name has been added to the list of adversities that the Buckeyes have overcome.

"I was angry with myself in that coming from the area that I come from, I'm a trailblazer for guys coming up after me," he said. "I feel as if I let my community down, my family. When you go out there, you've got two names — you've got Ohio State and your family on the back of your jersey. I let those two down."