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"For The Buckeye Fan Who Needs To Know More"

May 2, 2009



JOSH WINSLOW

PASSING FANCY – Ohio State quarterback Terrelle Pryor (2) gets excellent protection during first-quarter action of the annual spring game, held April 25 in Ohio Stadium. Pryor completed 13 of 18 pass attempts for 191 yards and two touchdowns, leading the Gray to a 23-3 victory in front of an NCAA-record spring crowd of 95,722.

QB Wowes Spring-Game Crowd

By ADAM JARDY
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

Terrelle Pryor has heard the criticisms.

After taking the reins as Ohio State's starting quarterback just four games into his freshman season, the former top recruit in the country compiled an 8-1 record under center. Along the way, he earned Big Ten freshman of the year honors after leading the conference in passing efficiency at 146.5 – the seventh-best total in school history.

Numbers can be misleading, however. With the bruising Chris "Beanie" Wells serving as the focal point of the offense, Pryor was not often tasked with moving the ball through the air. His 1,311 passing yards for the season were the second-lowest mark to lead the Buckeyes in a season during the past 12 years, and he had just one game of 200 passing yards or more.

The rap was out there: the athletic Pryor was more of a runner than a passer, and the Buckeyes would likely be looking downfield less while he was at the helm of their offense.

Then, in front of the largest crowd to ever witness a spring football game, Pryor showed the more than

95,000 fans in Ohio Stadium that he was ready to prove them wrong.

He has the ability to be a top-notch passer, and this might have been his coming-out party. In two quarters of action, Pryor completed 13 of 18 passes for 191 yards and tossed two touchdowns of more than 40 yards in the span of 30 seconds. Both throws came in the face of an 18-mile-an-hour wind blowing from the south.

"I thought that was tough conditions and I thought Terrelle threw it extremely well, especially on a couple of the longer ones," OSU head coach Jim Tressel said. "That was tough conditions and it was a little bit of a base package that we did, but there was enough stuff that you're going to see those types of things as we go along the season. To have a day throwing crisp into that wind, I thought was very positive."

Pryor saw action during the first half of the spring game and was live for one of the two quarters. He carried the ball five times for a net of -17 yards, statistics that are largely the result of Tressel's desire not to have his star quarterback suffer an injury during an intrasquad scrimmage.

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COVER STORY: PRYOR STANDS OUT

Pryor's Spring Progress Could Pay Off In Fall

Continued From Page 1

After the game, Pryor said that showing the world he can throw the football was one of his two primary goals for the spring.

"I'm working to be the best, and I'm on that path," he said. "That's the way I feel. I just want this team to be successful. I'm working to be a leader, I'm working to be a pocket passer and I'm going to do both of them."

This spring, Pryor took several steps toward growing toward both goals.

Spring Game Highlights Growth

After a short press conference, head coach Jim Tressel headed out of the post-game interview room and a number of players were made available for one-on-one interviews. Of course, that is a relative term when it comes to Pryor, who had at least two dozen media members wedge themselves around him.

Seated to Pryor's left and away from the crush of bodies, senior defensive tackle/tight end Todd Denlinger was not surprised that so many people wanted to talk to Pryor.

Asked what he thought about the circus surrounding the quarterback, Denlinger laughed and said, "Usual. He's what the media likes and there's no reason he shouldn't get it. He's a great player and he made plays today. We're all used to it."

"If I was a media guy, I'd want to interview him too."

Midway through the spring, however, things were not looking so hot for Pryor. With practices open to the media, Pryor's struggles to improve on his passing attack were scrutinized and well-documented. Partially as the result of his need to improve — as well as the fact that just three quarterbacks were in uniform — Pryor had to miss a few periods of practice April 10 due to soreness in his arm.

"He's one of those guys that he's in there throwing the ball in the indoor (facility) and he's an extremely hard worker," Tressel said. "I think he overdid it a little bit. I think sometimes guys have to learn on their own that you have to pace yourself a little bit. I'd rather have guys overzealous than us having to push them."

But beginning shortly after the April 18 jersey scrimmage, things began to change for the quarterback. The game appeared to be slowing down for Pryor, and the ball was coming out of his hand with a new level of confidence.

Asked if he felt he had turned a corner during the last week of spring football, Pryor turned the question back around at the reporter.

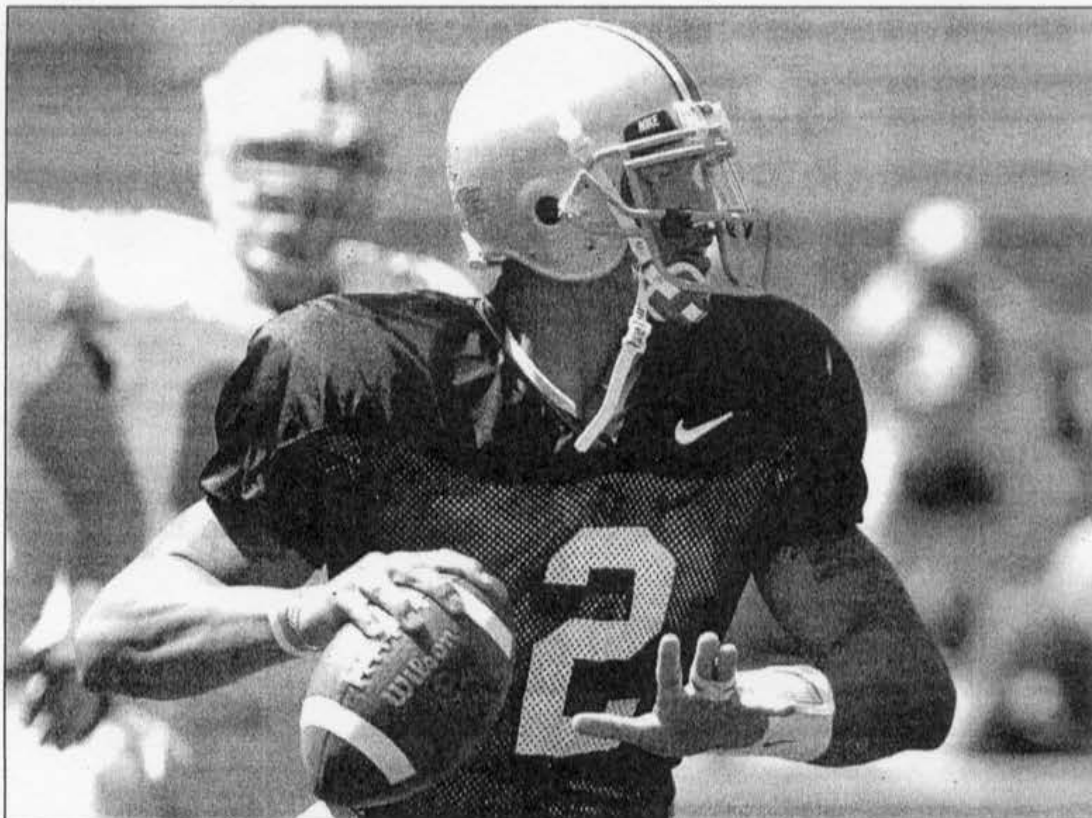
"Can you tell?" he said with a smile. "A lot. I've progressed as an individual."

"I'm just trying to get the ball to the receivers. I can run and do what I do and try to get some yards, but I like to get the receivers involved. If I don't need to, I'm not going to run."

The change was obvious to his teammates as well.

"He's throwing the ball with more confidence and he's throwing it better," senior tight end Jake Ballard said. "He really knows what he's doing."

Since Pryor's arrival on campus last June, Tressel and the OSU coaches have consistently praised his work ethic and his desire to become a more complete player. That has started in the film room, where Pryor has apparently pored over footage of his freshman season and come up with one conclusion: it stinks.



JOSH WINSLOW

'WORKING TO BE THE BEST' — Following an excellent spring-game performance, Terrelle Pryor told reporters that he was working to be the best he could be and that he thought he was "on that path." The sophomore quarterback worked so hard on his throwing this spring that he missed a portion of one practice session with a sore arm.

"It disgusts me," he said. "I can't believe how much I didn't know (then), but now I know it. Last year I didn't go through the spring process and now I'm going through it this year. It's helped me out a lot, going through the film work and getting defenses down and learning all the zone blitzes and stuff. It helps a lot."

With him every step of the way has been assistant quarterbacks coach Nick Siciliano, who has seen improvement in his star pupil. Through the first half of spring practice, much of that progress had come from a mental standpoint.

"He's done the extra work," Siciliano said April 16. "He's watched extra film. He's studied the playbook more. He's watched the tapes. He understands where to go with the football. Now it's just about making it happen. If you ask him in the classroom, 'What are you (supposed) to do when we're doing this,' he knows it. (But) it's a little different when bodies start moving against you."

It has helped that this is the first spring Pryor has gone through with the program. When the Buckeyes began spring ball last season, he had only signed his national letter of intent to join the program less than two weeks earlier.

Upon his arrival in the summer, Pryor was hard-pressed for time to learn everything he needed to know to be the starting quarterback at Ohio State. That maturation process was accelerated even further when he was thrust into the starting position in the fourth game of his career.

"I jumped right into it in camp and the coaches didn't teach me all of that because we didn't have time," he said. "We had to go."

At the beginning of spring practice, Tressel was asked for his thoughts about Pryor as a passer. Although he was pleased with the fact that Pryor tossed just four interceptions last season, he said the quarterback needed to start learning to deliver the ball more quickly.

"His priorities were he was only going to throw it if he was sure," Tressel said. "I'd rather err on that side than on I'll just throw it. To get real good you have to get to the point where 'I'm pretty sure I'm going to let it go' because then it might be on time."

Although the overall focus has been on improving Pryor as a passer, there are several other fundamentals that go into that. This spring has seen the coaches spend plenty of time working on things like his footwork that will, in turn, help him become a better passer.

After the jersey scrimmage, Tressel pointed out that both Pryor and backup Joe Bauserman still had work to do from a mechanics standpoint.

"As soon as those feet come to parallel and both toes are pointing down toward the goal line he's heading to, you're in trouble," the head coach said. "You need your toes pointing to the sidelines and I think we opened our hips a little bit too much."

Pryor has also benefited from simply throwing the ball more than he ever has in his entire life. Throughout spring practices, he has donned a black, non-contact jersey save for a few series in the jersey scrimmage and one quarter of the spring game.

By taking away Pryor's ability to run, the coaches are forcing him to learn how to move the ball through the air in the same

way they did with Heisman Trophy winner Troy Smith when he was at OSU.

"I'm not saying he's Troy, but if you watch Troy's progression throughout the course of time how much he ran the ball, in '04 and in '05 he ran it a little less and in '06 the ball was coming out (quick)," Siciliano said. "You've just got to give him some time. He hasn't had the time from a standpoint of he's had to grow up real fast and he hasn't been able to grow up slowly like everybody else."

Pryor admitted to feeling limited by the jersey.

"With the black jersey, if you get tapped like this you're down," he said, lightly touching a reporter. "I like to be able to move a little bit. If you have to get out of the pocket, I get out there and throw the ball and complete some passes."

During the jersey scrimmage, Pryor lobbied to be live after just one series. Those pleas fell on deaf ears until the final few series, but he said he has learned from the experience.

"As a quarterbacks, we expect more than what we do because we're perfectionists," he said. "To lead the offense, that's something you have to be. You have to want to be something better. You have to complete the ball in their chest and not just in their area. I'm a perfectionist. I love to get better and do the best I can."

As for the criticism of his throwing abilities, Pryor said he loves it.

"I laugh at it," he said. "It doesn't really bother me. I believe in my teammates. I listen to what my teammates and my coaches say. If my coaches tell me that, then we have a problem. That's all I care about."

COVER STORY: PRYOR STANDS OUT

Leading The Offense

When asked direct questions following the spring game about Pryor's progress during the spring, Tressel always referenced the quarterback in the context of the entire team.

The message was that while Pryor had grown since the 2008 season came to a close, he was still just one member of a team that has plenty of room for growth across the board.

"If you brought every position coach up and talked about every guy, they could tell you where they improved, where they should and where they need to keep getting better," Tressel said. "I thought when you put in the time and effort that Terrelle does or Doug (Worthington) or Todd (Denlinger) or Jake (Ballard) does, you're going to get some results. Terrelle's an extremely hard worker as all our guys are. We've got a long way to go and we know it, but I think we are progressing."

"Trying to see how we could come together as a team was critical because the last time we played in January, there was 28 of those seniors and three of those juniors who aren't here. This is our team now, so we wanted to grow as a team (and) just see what we do best."

During interviews, Pryor continually referred to himself as a leader of the team — at least on the offensive side of the ball.

"You've got to respect the seniors, but as a quarterback I need to take the lead with this offense and make it my offense," he said. "It's not my team on the defensive side, but on the offensive side, where we go is up to me and it's up to the linemen. Don't get me wrong: I'm not saying it's my team, but as a leader I have to make sure everybody's right. If you don't have

the quarterback as a leader, you can't be a success."

That sentiment was backed up by Worthington, a senior defensive lineman situated directly to Pryor's right during post-spring game interviews.

"He's very, very mature," Worthington said. "He knows what's expected of him, and he goes out there and plays. He's a lot more confident, and he knows the guys around him. He's a leader. TP is growing up before my eyes and I like to see how the progress is going. The sky's the limit for the kid."

As far as leadership qualities go, Pryor prefers to let his actions do the talking. During practice, he seldom interacts with his teammates while on the sidelines, instead sticking close to Siciliano to receive constant feedback.

Pryor said he seldom goes out, preferring instead to concentrate on his maturation as a quarterback even when away from the Woody Hayes Athletic Center.

"Off the field, you've got to watch what you do all the time," he said. "You have to be a leader, get on guys for academics. If you see someone slipping away, you have to be a good quarterback and leader and tell them to pick you up because we need you as a team."

Asked for his offseason goals, Pryor cited achieving a 3.0 grade-point average as being at the top of a list that included spending copious amounts of time in both the film room and the weight room.

It is a different role than the one he was asked to take on last year, when he was a freshman starter on a senior-laden team — a situation Tressel said he knew was tough for Pryor. It is a role that Pryor seems determined to fulfill, as well as one he relishes the opportunity to have.



ADAM JARDY

BRAIN TRUST — Pryor (2) has done a lot of his offseason work with assistant quarterbacks coach Nick Siciliano (left), who has helped the young QB become a more all-around player at the position. Siciliano believes Pryor now better understands what the Buckeyes expect of him.

The hope is to get a passing grade at it, so to speak.

"We're going to get touchdowns all year," Pryor said. "We don't care about the critics and analysts saying stuff about me. That's not a big deal to me. I can throw the ball and that's what I wanted to do today."

"There's a lot of things that come at you that I learned from last year that if I had known these things (then), it would've been so much easier. Once you know what the defense is doing and what they're bringing at you, it's a whole different ballgame. That's the way I look at it right now."

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OHIO STATE FOOTBALL

Pryor's Spring Game Was Frame-Worthy

By MARK REA

Buckeye Sports Bulletin Managing Editor

On a picture-perfect April 25 afternoon in Ohio Stadium, sophomore quarterback Terrelle Pryor threw a pair of picture-perfect touchdown passes while leading the Gray to a 23-3 victory over the Scarlet in Ohio State's annual spring game.

Pryor started slowly but warmed quickly in front of a sun-splashed NCAA-record spring crowd of 95,722 that basked in 80-degree temperatures. The 6-6, 235-pounder had connected for only 46 yards on a variety of short flips until late in the second quarter when the sophomore suddenly jumped on the gas pedal.

With his team holding a 3-0 lead in what had been a lackluster game to that point, Pryor got a little electricity going when he flipped a 15-yard pass to junior receiver Taurian Washington and converted a third-and-4 play. Three plays later, on third-and-3, the quarterback went back to Washington for a 16-yard gain.

And three plays after that, this time facing third-and-18, Pryor lofted a high-arcing pass against a gusting wind as Washington beat Scarlet cornerback Chimdi Chekwa down the far sideline. Washington cradled the pinpoint throw in the end zone for a 44-yard touchdown, giving the Gray a 10-0 lead with 0:31 left until halftime.

Then came a little springtime gamble from the Gray. Assistant coach Chad Rogosheske called for kicker Aaron Pettrey, who had booted a 31-yard field goal in the first quarter to begin the scoring, to try an onside kick. The kick was executed so perfectly and took the Scarlet by such surprise that Pettrey recovered it himself at his own 41.

Two plays into the possession, Pryor went back to Washington for a 17-yard pickup to move into Scarlet territory, and then the QB stopped the clock by spiking the ball with 16 seconds remaining. After



JOSH WINSLOW

HEADING TO THE HOUSE – Gray receiver Ray Small (82) sheds Scarlet defender Rocco Pentello (25) and prepares to do the same to Austin Spitler (38) en route to a 42-yard touchdown. Small caught four passes in the spring game for 74 yards and helped lead the Gray to a 23-3 victory.

a misfire to Washington along the sideline, Pryor converted another third-down play and did it with style.

Senior receiver Ray Small, who had lost Scarlet cornerback Andre Amos along the sideline, against the grain just as Pryor let

loose with the football. The frozen-rope pass hit Small between the jersey numbers, and the fleet-footed senior eluded defenders Rocco Pentello and Austin Spitler as he zigzagged his way to the end zone.

The 42-yard play capped a five-play, 59-yard drive that took 30 seconds and gave the Gray a 17-0 advantage heading into halftime. It also brought a smile to the face of Ohio State head coach Jim Tressel.

"I like a game format for a spring game rather than a scrimmage because all of a sudden the kicking game has a lot to do with it," the coach said. "It probably wouldn't have been the score it was if it wasn't for that onside kick and the touchdown right before the half."

"We've got to grow together as a team and grow to complement one another and do all the things it takes to have a good team ... (and) the type of momentum you get from a play like that proves how we need to mesh all three of those offensive, defensive and special teams units."

Tressel was pleased with the kicking game in general, especially since his specialists were dealing with a steady 18-mph wind that sometimes gusted above 35 mph. In addition to his early three-pointer for the Gray, Pettrey added field goals of 41 and 23 yards in the third quarter while the Scarlet's lone points came on a 43-yard field goal from walk-on kicker Devin Barclay. Meanwhile, Gray punter Jon Thoma averaged 40.7 yards on three attempts while Scarlet redshirt freshman Ben Buchanan punted twice for an average of 38.0.

"That wind was pretty nasty for those kickers," Tressel said, "and I thought they came out and handled those situations well."

Despite the coach's well-known affinity for special teams play, most of the record crowd was eager to see how much Pryor had progressed from a poor passing performance against Texas in the Fiesta Bowl.

They must have walked away happy as the sophomore QB finished the game with an efficient 13 completions on 18 attempts for 191 yards and the two touchdowns.

Asked to relive the touchdown passes, Pryor shrugged and replied, "I don't know – that's just natural. I just read defenses and see where the receiver is. When I see the opening, I try to zoom in there."

Later, the normally self-critical quarterback allowed that he is making progress.

"I think I played exceptionally well today," Pryor said. "(I'm) getting better at those little things – footwork, throwing the ball in there and learning the offense."

Washington was on the receiving end of four of Pryor's throws, good for 92 yards, including the 44-yard score. Small also had four receptions for the Gray, turning them into 74 yards which included the 42-yard touchdown. Junior receiver Grant Schwartz added three catches for 17 yards for the Gray.

About the only hole on the quarterback's game résumé was in the running department. Pryor was sacked three times for a total of 17 yards in losses, but in his defense, he wore a black jersey (symbolic of no contact) throughout the first quarter, and the OSU coaching staff indicated a pregame desire to have Pryor make the conscious effort to throw more during the game.

Even without their elusive quarterback running the ball – and backup Justin Siems being sacked three more times for 30 yards in losses – the Gray managed to pile up 106

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OHIO STATE FOOTBALL



JOSH WINSLOW

STAR POWER — OSU quarterback Terrelle Pryor (2) topped off a productive spring with an excellent spring-game performance. Pryor helped the Gray to a 23-3 victory by completing 13 of 18 attempts for 191 yards and a pair of touchdowns.

yards on the ground, thanks mostly to a 75-yard, third-quarter bolt by veteran walk-on Marcus Williams. The 5-10, 202-pound senior finished with a game-high 98 yards on only seven carries.

Fellow Gray running back Brandon Saine added 55 yards on six carries, including three straight carries to kick off the third quarter that netted 17, 21 and 10 yards.

While Pryor played all of the first half for the Gray, sophomore Joe Bauserman went most of the way for the Scarlet team. Bauserman struggled a bit with the swirling winds, finishing with 10 completions on 21 attempts for 119 yards with one interception. He was also sacked four times.

Siems, a native of Charlotte, N.C., who walked on to the team this spring, saw playing time for both the Scarlet and Gray squads during the contest and was a combined 3 for 6 for 21 yards with the three sacks.

Sophomore tailback Dan "Boom" Herron led the Scarlet's running attack with 43 yards on 10 carries, and a pair of veteran walk-ons — Bo DeLande and Joe Gantz — got four carries each and totaled 16 and 12 yards, respectively.

Sophomore DeVier Posey was his team's leading receiver, catching five balls for 46 yards for the Scarlet. True freshman James Jackson added three receptions for 51 yards, including a 27-yarder from Bauserman late in the fourth quarter.

Defensively, the Scarlet was led by junior linebacker Tyler Moeller, who totaled eight stops, including two for loss and a sack. Amos, Spitzer, safety Anderson Russell and defensive end Willie Mobley had four tackles apiece, and Spitzer and Mobley each recorded a sack.

Junior defensive end Thad Gibson also had a pair of sacks for the Scarlet, senior defensive tackle Doug Worthington had a fumble recovery and walk-on lineman Dalton Britt had a sack.

For the Gray, linebacker Brian Rolle had a game-high 11 tackles and fellow linebacker Etienne Sabino registered nine. Rolle also logged a sack as did Gray teammates Cameron Heyward, Solomon Thomas and Todd Denlinger. Freshman linebacker Storm Klein added four tackles, including

1½ for loss.

Also, junior linebacker Ross Homan, who spent much of the spring nursing a hamstring problem, recovered a fumble on the game's first play from scrimmage and walk-on defensive back Chris Maxwell had the only interception of the afternoon, picking off Bauserman late in the game and returning it 51 yards.

Second-Quarter Fireworks

The record crowd coupled with Pryor's performance made for a near-perfect afternoon.

Things didn't start out that way, however, as Scarlet return man Lamaar Thomas bobbled the opening kickoff and was forced to take a knee in the end zone. Then Bauserman fumbled the center exchange from Jim Cordle on the first offensive play from scrimmage, and Homan recovered for the Gray at his own 22.

Pryor couldn't get anything going, though, and the Gray had to settle for a 31-yard field goal from Pettrey and a 3-0 lead with 10:23 remaining in the opening quarter.

The Scarlet tried to respond when it got the ball back, and Bauserman converted a pair of third-down plays. The first came on a 13-yard pass to Posey and the second was a 3-yard scramble on a third-and-1 quarterback draw.

But the Scarlet could get only as far as the Gray 33 before being forced to punt the ball away into the wind.

Neither team mustered much offense in the first quarter, and the Scarlet's best chance to score came early in the second period when Buchanan's 52-yard field-goal try fell short.

It wasn't until the 5:20 mark of the second quarter that Pryor got untracked. Even then, he started slowly with a 5-yard run over right end and a completion to Schwartz that netted only 1 yard.

But then Pryor started finding Washington with regularity, and their hookup for 15 yards on third-and-5 got the ball rolling. Pryor was good for a trio of third-down conversions on the drive and completed 6 of 7 passes for 81 yards, culminating in the 44-yard scoring strike to Washington.

After Pettrey tacked on the extra point for a 10-0 lead with 31 seconds remaining until halftime, the Gray decided to go for the jugular. Rogosheske — the graduate assistant who normally is in charge of the OSU kickers — called for the onside kick that Pettrey recovered at his own 41.

From there, Pryor took his team 59 yards in only 30 seconds, connecting with Small on the 42-yard catch-and-run play. Pettrey added the PAT with 0:01 showing on the clock for a 17-0 halftime lead for the Gray.

The lead reached 20-0 at the 7:00 mark of the third period when Pettrey knocked home a 41-yard field goal, and the Scarlet finally got on the board with 4:17 left when Barclay booted his 43-yarder. Pettrey closed the scoring with a 23-yard chip shot for the Gray with 2:24 to go in the third quarter.

About the only suspense remaining was how much Pryor could pad his statistics, but Tressel reversed a pregame decision to allow his quarterback to play in three of the four quarters.

When the OSU head coach was later quizzed by reporters, he maintained that he had thrown Pryor out of the game prior to the fourth quarter.

"He was ejected," Tressel said with a straight face.

When that was met with blank stares, the coach turned to Worthington.

Spring Game Box Score

Gray 23, Scarlet 3

April 25, 2009 — Ohio Stadium, Columbus, Ohio

Score by Quarters	1	2	3	4	F
Gray	3	14	6	0	23
Scarlet	0	0	3	0	3

First Quarter

GRAY — Pettrey, 31 yard field goal, 10:23; 4 plays, 8 yards, 1:07 TOP.

Second Quarter

GRAY — Washington, 44 yard pass from Pryor (Pettrey kick), 0:31; 9 plays, 80 yards, 4:31 TOP.

GRAY — Small, 42 yard pass from Pryor (Pettrey kick), 0:01; 5 plays, 59 yards, 0:30 TOP.

Third Quarter

GRAY — Pettrey, 41 yard field goal, 7:00; 10 plays, 56 yards, 5:00 TOP.

SCARLET — Barclay, 43 yard field goal, 4:17; 7 plays, 37 yards, 2:35 TOP.

GRAY — Pettrey, 23 yard field goal, 2:24; 5 plays, 77 yards, 1:53 TOP.

Att. — 95,722.

Weather — 80 degrees, clear; wind, SW 18 mph.

Team Statistics

	GRAY	SCARLET
First Downs	11	15
Rushing	4	5
Passing	6	9
Penalty	1	1
Rushes-Yards	24-106	27-57
Passing Yards	191	140
Passes (Att.-Comp.-Int.)	20-13-0	26-13-1
Offensive Plays	44	53
Total Net Yards	297	197
Third Down Efficiency	4-11	6-12
Fourth Down Efficiency	0-0	0-2
Punts	3-40.7	2-38.0
Fumbles-Lost	1-1	2-1
Penalties	1-15	2-20
Time of Possession	21:47	22:13

Individual Statistics

RUSHING (Att.-Net Yds.) — GRAY: M.Williams 7-98; Saine 6-55; Martin 2-2; TEAM 1-(-2); Pryor 5-(-17); Siems 3-(-30). SCARLET: Herron 10-43; DeLande 4-16; Gantz 4-12; L.Thomas 1-5; Bauserman 8-(-19).

PASSING (Comp.-Att.-Int.-Yds.-TD) — GRAY: Pryor 13-18-0-191-2; Siems 0-1-0-0-0; TEAM 0-1-0-0-0. SCARLET: Bauserman 10-21-1-119-0; Siems 3-5-0-21-0.

RECEIVING (Rec.-Yds.) — GRAY: Washington 4-92; Small 4-74; Schwartz 3-17; Saine 1-8; Martin 1-0. SCARLET: Posey 5-46; J.Jackson 3-51; A.Homan 1-11; Crawford 1-10; L.Thomas 1-10; Gantz 1-6; DiLillo 1-6.

PUNTING (No.-Avg.-Long) — GRAY: Thomas 3-40.7-43. SCARLET: Buchanan 2-38.0-43.

PUNT RETURNS (No.-Yds.) — GRAY: None. SCARLET: Posey 2-16; L.Thomas 1-12.

KICKOFF RETURNS (No.-Yds.) — GRAY: Torrence 1-17. SCARLET: L.Thomas 2-36; Russell 1-30; A.Homan 1-4.

FUMBLE RECOVERIES (No.-Yds.) — GRAY: R.Homan 1-0. SCARLET: Worthington 1-0.

INTERCEPTIONS (No.-Yds.) — GRAY: Maxwell 1-51. SCARLET: None.

SACKS — GRAY: S.Thomas 1-0-17; Rolle 1-0-8; Heyward 1-0-5; Denlinger 1-0-3. SCARLET: Gibson 2-0-11; Moeller 1-0-13; Mobley 1-0-12; Spitzer 1-0-10; Britt 1-0-8.

TACKLES FOR LOSS (No.-Yds.) — GRAY: Klein 1-5-1; S.Thomas 1-0-17; Rolle 1-0-8; Heyward 1-0-5; Denlinger 1-0-3; Sabino 0-5-1. SCARLET: Moeller 2-0-15; Gibson 2-0-11; Spitzer 1-5-11; Mobley 1-0-12; Britt 1-0-8; Amos 0-5-1.

TACKLES (Solo-Assst.-Tot.) — GRAY: Rolle 8-3-11; Sabino 2-7-9; Heyward 3-3-6; Coleman 0-5-5; Klein 1-3-4; R.Homan 0-4-4; Domicone 2-1-3; Howard 2-1-3; Maxwell 2-0-2; S.Thomas 1-1-2; Torrence 0-2-2; Denlinger 1-0-1; Rice 1-0-1; Wood 1-0-1; Matheny 0-1-1; McQuaide 0-1-1. SCARLET: Moeller 5-3-8; Mobley 2-2-4; Amos 2-2-4; Russell 1-3-4; Spitzer 1-3-4; Gibson 2-1-3; Barnett 1-2-3; Johnson 0-3-3; Larimore 0-3-3; Chekwa 1-1-2; Sweat 0-2-2; S.Smith 1-0-1; Worthington 1-0-1; T.Jackson 1-0-1; TEAM 1-0-1; Britt 1-0-1; Dziak 0-1-1.

"He was talking trash and got ejected, right, Doug?" Tressel said.

"Sure was," Worthington replied.

"You tossed him?" a reporter asked.

"Tossed him," Tressel said, a smile beginning to creep onto his face. "Tired of his stuff." Later, after reporters had been let in on the joke, Worthington said he believes OSU's opponents are going to see a much-improved Pryor this fall.

"He is getting very, very confident," Worthington said, "and when you have confidence with all that talent, it's going to be a great, great combination."

Game Notes

- The game was played in a compacted format. The first three quarters consisted of 12 minutes while the fourth quarter lasted only eight minutes.
- Ohio State broke its own spring-game

attendance record of 76,346 set just last year. This year's crowd also broke the NCAA spring mark of 92,138, which was set by Alabama in 2007.

- Linebackers coach and co-defensive coordinator Luke Fickell gets bragging rights after serving as head coach of the victorious Gray squad in a battle of Columbus DeSales High School graduates. Cornerbacks coach Paul Haynes, also a DeSales alum, served as Scarlet head coach.

- The football game was preceded for the second straight year by an Ohio State men's lacrosse game. The Buckeyes dropped a 14-8 decision to third-ranked Notre Dame, but the crowd of 30,192 established a new school record for attendance and also broke the NCAA regular-season, on-campus mark of 29,601. The old record was set last year when OSU hosted Denver before the spring football game.

OHIO STATE FOOTBALL

Chance To Nab Pryor Irresistible For Gray

By MATTHEW HAGER

Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

A live Terrelle Pryor – even for only two quarters – was too much for Kurt Coleman to resist.

Coleman was one of the senior spokesmen for the Gray team at the April 22 spring game draft at the Woody Hayes Athletic Center. Once the cornerback learned that Pryor, as well as backup quarterback Joe Bauserman, would be live for two quarters, he knew what he wanted to do if his squad got the first pick.

He got his wish when Ohio State head coach Jim Tressel's coin flip was won by the Gray. Coleman didn't hesitate in naming Pryor his first pick when Tressel opened the draft.

"It's always important to solidify the QB position," Coleman said. "It's the captain of the offense. It was really a question of how many live quarters there were going to be. Once we figured out they were going to be live two quarters, we had to get Terrelle. He's made so many plays with his feet and with his arm."

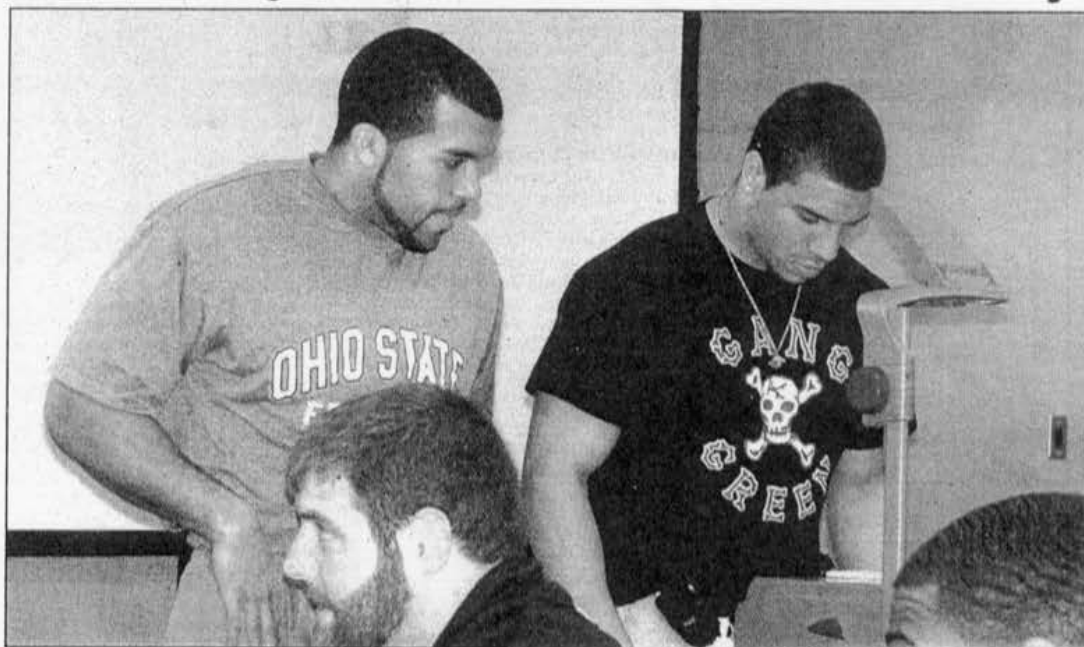
"It was a no-brainer."

The rules were set so Pryor would wear a black non-contact jersey in the first quarter for the Gray. The same went for Bauserman, a member of the Scarlet team. Pryor would be live in the second and fourth quarters, and Bauserman would be live in the third and fourth quarters. Walk-on Justin Siems would play for Scarlet in second quarter and Gray in the third quarter and would be live the entire game.

The spring draft works in a specific way.

Seniors are divided into teams before the actual draft, and they draft the rest of their rosters on a position-by-position basis. After Pryor was chosen, Bauserman was then selected by the Scarlet. The Scarlet then opened another position, the "Leo" defensive line spot, and chose last year's first pick, Thaddeus Gibson. The only remaining Leo on scholarship, Solomon Thomas, went to Gray.

The Gray opened the offensive line position next and the draft continued until all positions and players had been chosen. Even players who did not participate because of injury – Zach Boren, K.C. Christian, Nic DiLillo (who was listed as questionable), Aaron Gant, Tom Ingham, Nate Oliver (questionable), Rob Rose (questionable), Dane Sanzenbacher, J.B. Shugarts, Keith Wells and Lawrence Wilson – were placed on teams.



MATTHEW HAGER

SCOPING THE ROSTER – Seniors Marcus Williams (left) and Kurt Coleman (right) look at the Gray roster on an overhead projector during the annual spring game draft April 22 at the Woody Hayes Athletic Center. Coleman chose sophomore quarterback Terrelle Pryor with the first pick of the draft.

No trades were made following the draft despite an apparent surplus on both rosters. Gray had tight ends Jake Ballard and Jake Stoneburner, leaving only Spencer Smith and DiLillo for Scarlet. The Scarlet squad had the bulk of players who can play offensive tackle in Jim Cordle, Mike Adams, Bryant Browning and Andrew Miller. The Gray's offensive line had only two experienced tackles in Chris Malone and Josh Kerr along with early enrollee Jack Mewhort.

Cordle said his Scarlet team did not feel a need to make a deal. Both teams took part in some talks following the final draft pick, but no trades were made.

"I'm sure (talks) were serious on their part," Cordle said. "You need a tackle. We don't need a tight end. They were in the need position. It's basic (economics)."

Coleman was not worried about his team's potential tackle deficiency.

"We've got a couple of guys we can move around there," Coleman said. "Even though we don't have many tackles, we have players that can play that position."

It was not until after the draft ended and everyone had left the WHAC that some late moves were made, although none involved tight ends or offensive tackles. In a cornerback swap, C.J. Barnett went to Scarlet in exchange for Travis Howard. Linebacker Andrew Sweat was sent to Scarlet for Etienne Sabino.

The spring draft is usually filled with light-hearted trash talk, and the 2009 version was no different. The first verbal jab came from Scarlet safety Anderson Russell. After the draft, Tressel had an offensive and defensive spokesman speak on behalf of their teams. That is when Russell made a bold prediction. He said the Scarlet defense would hold the Gray team to less than 50 yards rushing.

Coleman scoffed at the notion.

"Do you really think that's going to happen?" Coleman said. "We have Terrelle Pryor. We have Marcus Williams. We have (Brandon) Saine. Plus we have a great offensive line."

"I want to make a promise right now. If they hold us to 50 yards ... I will do anything – anything – if they hold us to 50 yards."

Cordle said he might have Coleman buy him dinner following the game.

"We're easily going to hold them (to less than 50)," Cordle said. "We've got Dexter (Larimore), Doug (Worthington), Thaddeus and just look at our linebackers (Austin Spitzer, Brian Rolle, Andrew Sweat, Storm Klein and Ross Homan). We've got a really good defense."

Naturally, Cordle said Scarlet's strength was in the trenches.

"It's definitely the line, and that's

where it starts every game," Cordle said. "We've got a good start with the guys we got."

Coleman was happy with the Gray offense, especially with his team's selection of Pryor and its tight end haul.

"We have great tight ends, great running backs and then we have the QB to really handle the whole offensive scheme," he said. "That was kind of our main focus, to just really solidify the ends and the QB spot. We can run the ball. We can throw the ball. The possibilities are endless."

Tressel's assistant coaches were divided as well. The head coaching matchup was between a pair of Columbus DeSales products. Safeties coach Paul Haynes was in charge of the Scarlet staff, while Luke Fickell headed the Gray. The honorary coaches for both teams were made up of Block "O" board members and members of the Ohio State wrestling team.

"We feel good about the choices we made," Haynes said of his team. "We're good and solid up front, which is a start. We're just looking forward to a good game."

Fickell said he was happy with the Gray seniors' game plan in the draft.

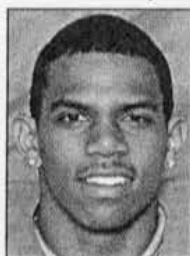
"I thought they were well-organized coming in," Fickell said. "They did a great job."

Following the draft, Tressel admitted that having Pryor and Bauserman play live for two quarters was a gamble but that it was one he was hoping would pay off.

"We need to get better," Tressel said. "If we don't get better, that's a gamble as well. And I've got feeling they'd play live even if we had black shirts on them. We might as well make it real."

Tressel said his goal for the game was the same as it always is.

"Our goal for every spring game is to have fun and end it competitively so we can say we had 15 days that moved us forward toward becoming a good team," Tressel said.



Terrelle Pryor

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