

## OHIO STATE INSIDER



### Bush To Speak At OSU Commencement June 14

The White House confirmed May 30 that President Bush will speak at OSU's spring quarter commencement.

The university has announced that there will be tight security surrounding the event. Commencement returns to Ohio Stadium for the first time since the stadium renovation project. It had been held on The Oval the last three years.

Spring commencement ceremonies for some 5,500 Ohio State graduates will begin at 9:30 a.m. on Fri., June 14 at Ohio Stadium. Stadium security measures that were put in place after Sept. 11 will be augmented for the event, and tickets will be required for all guests.

"Spring commencement is an especially exciting tradition at Ohio State, and the steps we are taking will ensure a safe and memorable ceremony for everyone," said Ohio State President William Kirwan. "We realize that our graduates and guests will need to adjust their plans and we appreciate their cooperation."

Tickets will provide general admission for family and guests of graduates who are participating in commencement. Guest seating is first-come, first-served. With an estimated 40,000 guests of the graduates expected to attend, the event will not be open to the public or other members of the university community.

Guests are asked to arrive at Ohio Stadium by 6 a.m., and enter through gates on the east side of the facility. To assure that all graduates are assembled and guests are seated in time for the 9:30 a.m. ceremony, admittance cannot be guaranteed after 8:30 a.m.

Graduates may pick up one ticket per guest at the St. John Arena ticket office, 410 Woody Hayes Drive, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on June 10, 11 or 12. Tickets are free, but graduates must present a photo ID to obtain tickets. Graduates do not need a ticket.

All guests and graduates will be subject to security screening. Metal detectors will be in place at all open gates of Ohio Stadium and at French Field House, where graduates will gather. No one may pass into either facility without being screened. Lines may be long and personal items subject to search.

To avoid lengthy security delays, guests should not bring prohibited items to the ceremony. Prohibited items include coolers, backpacks, large handbags, umbrellas, chair-back seats, Mace and similar substances, or weapons of any type.

Items that are permitted include cameras, video recorders, unceased binoculars, small handbags, cell phones, seat cushions and clothes for weather conditions.

Graduates must report to French Field

House at 6:30 a.m. and must bring a photo ID. Only graduates will be admitted to French Field House.

Graduates may park in the lots to the north and south of French Field House. No parking will be permitted in the lots surrounding Ohio Stadium. Guests are strongly encouraged to park on West Campus and use the shuttle service.

### No Shortage Of Buckeyes In The Legal File

Here is an update on the legal file, as it pertains to a handful of current or former OSU athletes.

• **Marco Cooper** — Cooper was arraigned May 20 in Franklin County Common Pleas Court on felony charges of drug abuse and carrying a concealed weapon.

Cooper, 19, remained free on a \$5,000 recognizance bond. He was arrested on April 27, hours after OSU's Scarlet and Gray Game, as part of a traffic stop by campus police.

According to the police, they found a 9 mm Glock 19 handgun, ammunition and 12 white pills later determined to be Ecstasy. Cooper faces up to 7-1/2 years in prison if convicted of all charges.

He has been suspended from school as well as the football team pending the outcome of his case.

Cooper's case was assigned to Judge Michael Watson, though a trial date had not been set. Prosecutor Jeff Reichel will handle the case, while Cooper continues to be represented by William Meeks.

• **LeCharles Bentley and Tyson Walter** — Franklin County Common Pleas Court Judge John Connor ruled in favor of Walter May 20, granting him a summary judgment in his civil suit against his former OSU teammate, Bentley.

Walter accused Bentley of assault and battery in connection with a Feb. 17, 2000, incident during a team conditioning session inside the Woody Hayes Athletic Center. Walter claimed he was injured when Bentley punched him at the end of a workout session.

Walter's attorney, Todd Neuman, said his client was seeking about \$100,000 in damages for injuries that included a fractured nose, a fractured cheekbone and broken teeth. No date had been set for the damages hearing.

Bentley, taken in the second round of April's NFL draft by the New Orleans Saints, admitted to punching Walter during a pretrial deposition. Walter was drafted by the Dallas Cowboys in the sixth round of the draft.

• **Damon Stringer** — Stringer, 24 and a former OSU basketball player, was arrested May 23 and charged with aggravated robbery and kidnapping in connection with a May 17 incident involving Cleveland Indians pitcher C.C. Sabathia.

According to Cleveland police, Stringer and a fellow former Cleveland State basketball player, Jamaal Harris, were at a Warehouse District bar when they met Sabathia, his cousin and several women. The group went to the downtown Marriott together, where Stringer and Harris allegedly robbed Sabathia of more than \$40,000 in jewelry and cash.

Stringer, apparently miffed at Sabathia's arrogance earlier in the evening, held a gun during the robbery, according to reports. The duo took a plat-



Marco Cooper

inum cross necklace valued at \$26,000, a pair of 9.4-carat earrings valued at \$15,000 and \$3,200 in cash.

Stringer pleaded not guilty to the charges and remained free on \$50,000 bond. He and Harris face two to 18 years in prison if convicted of the charges.

Former OSU coach Randy Ayers signed Stringer out of Cleveland Heights High School in November 1994. Stringer promptly went on to lead Heights to the state title game and win the state's Mr. Basketball award.

But Stringer's career at OSU ended in May 1998. He quit the team just before new coach Jim O'Brien was set to dismiss him after his arrest for assaulting a man who ran into his car.

He landed at Cleveland State, where he played one season before playing the last two years professionally in China. He was hoping for a tryout with an NBA team at the time of his arrest.

"He just seemed to be someone who was better than all that," O'Brien told The (Cleveland) Plain Dealer after learning of Stringer's arrest.

• **Jeff Graham** — The former OSU wide receiver filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court in Dayton against Montgomery County Sheriff Dave Vore April 18, claiming he was a victim of racial profiling and an illegal search and seizure Jan. 19.

It was reported nationally that Graham was charged with carrying a concealed weapon, when, in fact, he was never charged.

On top of that incident, Graham was upset that his name was linked to a federal drug investigation that resulted in the arrest of his sister, Carolyn Graham, after federal agents seized more than 100 pounds of pure cocaine with a street value of more than \$10 million.

Jeff Graham's attorney, Kenneth Lawson, believes his client was the target of a smear campaign after he filed a lawsuit against the local sheriff.

"Anytime you fight against the system and stand up, especially when it comes to racial profiling, you best believe they're going to come back at you," Lawson told the Dayton Daily News.

"Jeff has never been involved in any drug business or any drug-related activities," added Graham's mother, Grace Graham. "We are appalled at the things that are going on where they keep bringing up Jeff Graham."

Jeff Graham, an 11-year NFL veteran, played last season with the San Diego Chargers. He signed a free-agent deal with the Atlanta Falcons on April 26.

### OSU Replaces San Jose State With Marshall On 2004 Slate

San Jose State apparently will fulfill its obligation to play Ohio State in football on Oct. 12 of this year. But the Spartans have succeeded in stepping out of their agreement to play the Buckeyes in 2004.

Marshall, a Mid-American Conference

## OSU Football Schedules

2002 Schedule				
Date	Opponent	2001 Record	Time	TV
Aug. 24	TEXAS TECH* 5	7-5	2:30 p.m.	ABC
Sept. 7	KENT STATE#	6-5	12:10 p.m.	ESPN-Plus
Sept. 14	WASHINGTON STATE* N	10-2	3:30 p.m.	ABC
Sept. 21	at Cincinnati* 9	7-5	3:30 p.m.	ESPN
Sept. 28	INDIANA	5-6	TBA	TBA
Oct. 5	at Northwestern	4-7	3:30/7 p.m.	ABC/ESPN2
Oct. 12	SAN JOSE STATE	3-9	TBA	TBA
Oct. 19	at Wisconsin	5-7	TBA	TBA
Oct. 26	PENN STATE	5-6	TBA	TBA
Nov. 2	MINNESOTA	4-7	TBA	TBA
Nov. 9	at Purdue*	6-6	TBA	TBA
Nov. 16	at Illinois*	10-2	TBA	TBA
Nov. 23	MICHIGAN*	8-4	12:15 p.m.	ABC

\*-Bowl team

5-Pigskin Classic at Ohio Stadium

9-At Paul Brown Stadium

8-Alumni Band Day

N-OSU Athletic Hall of Fame Day

### Future Football Schedules

2003 OSU FOOTBALL

Aug. 30 WASHINGTON; Sept. 6 at San Diego State; 13 N.C. STATE; 20 BOWLING GREEN; 27 NORTHWESTERN; Oct. 11 at Wisconsin; 18 IOWA; 25 at Indiana; Nov. 1 at Penn State; 8 MICHIGAN STATE; 15 PURDUE; 22 at Michigan.

2004 OSU FOOTBALL

Sept. 4 CINCINNATI; 11 MARSHALL; 18 at N.C. State; Oct. 2 at Northwestern; 9 WISCONSIN; 16 at Iowa; 23 INDIANA; 30 PENN STATE; Nov. 6 at Michigan State; 13 at Purdue; 20 MICHIGAN.

2005 OSU FOOTBALL

Sept. 3 MIAMI (OHIO); 10 TEXAS; 17 SAN DIEGO STATE; 24 IOWA; Oct. 8 at Penn State; 15 MICHIGAN STATE; 22 at Indiana; 29 at Minnesota; Nov. 5 ILLINOIS; 12 NORTHWESTERN; 19 at Michigan.

2006 OSU FOOTBALL

Sept. 2 TBA; 9 at Texas; 16 CINCINNATI; 23 PENN STATE; 30 at Iowa; Oct. 14 at Michigan State; 21 INDIANA; 28 MINNESOTA; Nov. 4 at Illinois; 11 at Northwestern; 18 MICHIGAN.

2007 OSU FOOTBALL

Dates TBA; SYRACUSE, at Washington.

2008 OSU FOOTBALL

Date, Site TBA; USC (tentative).

2009 OSU FOOTBALL

Date, Site TBA; USC (tentative).

2010 OSU FOOTBALL

Sept. 4 MIAMI (FLA.); Date TBA; at Syracuse.

2011 OSU FOOTBALL

Sept. 17 at Miami (Fla.).

program based in Huntington, W.Va., with the highest of aspirations, was only too happy to fill that opening on the OSU slate.

The first-ever meeting between OSU and Marshall will be held Sept. 11, 2004, in Ohio Stadium.

"We feel extremely fortunate to be able to add a team of Marshall's caliber to our schedule at such a late date," said OSU athletic director Andy Geiger. "I want to thank (OSU associate athletic director) Archie Griffin and my counterpart at Marshall, Lance West, for working out the details. This should be a good game for both schools, especially given the proximity of Marshall."

Marshall was a Division I-AA powerhouse, winning national titles in 1992 and '96, before making the jump to Division I-A and the MAC in 1997. The Thundering Herd have made that move in spectacular fashion, winning four of the last five MAC titles and ranking among the winningest schools in I-A. Marshall was 11-2 last season.

Marshall officials and their fans lobbied hard to get the Herd on OSU's 2002 slate as the Pigskin Classic opponent. But ABC and the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics, the game's sponsor, opted to sign Texas Tech as OSU's opponent.

"Their people will be very, very excited about it," Geiger said. "I think it's going to be another intriguing game, fairly high risk for us. But that's OK."

This will be Marshall's second game against a Big Ten opponent. The Herd lost to Michigan State 34-24 in 2000. The school is working hard to raise its profile in hopes of an invitation to join



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Conference USA. Tennessee has agreed to a two-for-one deal with Marshall (two in Knoxville, one in Huntington) and the Herd has road dates set in the future with Virginia Tech, Miami (Fla.), Wisconsin, LSU and Georgia.

OSU is 17-1 all-time against MAC schools. The Buckeyes have played one MAC opponent every year since 1997 and will play Kent State this year, Bowling Green in 2003, Marshall in 2004 and Miami (Ohio) in 2005.

OSU head coach Jim Tressel was 2-3 against Marshall during his tenure at Youngstown State. Three of those matchups came in the Division I-AA title game with YSU winning in 1991, Marshall prevailing in '92 and YSU winning again in '93.

Earlier this spring, Ohio State announced it had agreed to terms with Miami (Fla.) on a home-and-home series. OSU will host Miami on Sept. 4, 2010, and will visit Miami on Sept. 17, 2011.

"This will be a great series for our fans and it should attract a great deal of national attention given the rich traditions of our two schools," Geiger said.

OSU and Miami (Fla.) have played twice previously. OSU won 10-0 in Columbus in 1977 and lost 23-12 in the Kickoff Classic in 1999.

The game in Miami could be played in the venerable Orange Bowl (capacity 72,319), although Miami's contract to use that facility expires in 2009. The Buckeyes defeated Colorado 27-10 in the 1977 Orange Bowl.

With the Big East coming under the ABC television package last year, Big Ten schools have been urged to set up new rivalries with schools in that conference. In that vein, OSU will play a home-and-home with Syracuse in 2007 and 2010.

The Marshall game in 2004 completes OSU's scheduling through 2005. The nearest opening for a nonconference opponent is 2006 (see graphic on previous page).

### Season Ticket Prices Reach Record High

With eight home games on the 2002 OSU football schedule, season ticket holders are paying more money than ever before for their seats.

According to the Dayton Daily News, the average ticket price at OSU this season is \$45. Additional parking fees can cost as much as \$25 a game. After fees for shipping and handling are added, a book of two tickets and parking privileges can run close to \$1,000.

But OSU ticket director Richelle Simonson told the newspaper the additional cost of purchasing extra games has not affected ticket sales.

"It obviously impacted the total cost of season tickets," Simonson told the Daily News. "We thought we might get little ramifications from that. But we haven't heard anything concerning the price of the season ticket."

"From what we've heard, people are happy we're having eight games instead of six."

In some circles, the right to park near Ohio Stadium is even more precious than the game tickets themselves. That figures since OSU has only 5,000 season parking passes at its disposal. The rest of the lots are sold on a day-of-game basis.

"You can buy a parking pass from us for \$25 a space," Simonson said. "Half a block away, someone's charging you \$30 to \$35 to park. It's all a matter of how you look at it and your perspective."

"As hard as it is to get tickets, it's probably harder to get a parking permit. And

they do actually end up having more value. Parking is at a premium."

According to the report, OSU averaged 103,532 attendance in its six home dates in the renovated Horseshoe last year. That average ranked fourth nationally.

### Carter Calls It Quits, Joins HBO's NFL Show

Former OSU wide receiver Cris Carter has become well-known for sharing his opinions in his role as the Minnesota Vikings' elder statesman in recent years.

Now, after the 36-year-old Carter could not find an NFL team willing to pay him \$1 million or more for 2002, he has decided to retire and actually will get paid to talk about football.

Carter has agreed to join HBO's "Inside the NFL" as a co-host alongside Bob Costas, Dan Marino and Cris Collinsworth.

"It's a tremendous ride," Carter said in announcing his retirement May 21. "And that ride comes to a stop."

Carter spent 12 of his 15 years in the NFL with the Vikings after the team paid the \$100 waiver fee to pick him up from Philadelphia. The Eagles drafted Carter in the 1987 supplemental draft after he had been declared ineligible for accepting money from an agent prior to his senior year at OSU.

With the Vikings headed in a new direction with new coach Mike Tice, Carter shopped around for a new team. He was courted by St. Louis, Miami and Cleveland, among others, but never found a deal to his liking.

He leaves the game as one of the NFL's all-time leading receivers and a surefire future Hall-of-Famer. His 1,093 receptions and 129 touchdown catches rank second in history to only Jerry Rice, still active with Oakland. His 13,833 yards rank third behind Rice and James Lofton.

Carter had his string of eight straight 1,000-yard seasons snapped in 2001, when he caught 73 passes for 871 yards and six touchdowns. A year after reaching the NFC title game, the Vikings went 5-11 and coach Dennis Green, a longtime Carter supporter, resigned.

"My career has exceeded my expectations," Carter said. "It'd be nice to say, 'Yes, I won a championship.' But, no, I don't feel that because I didn't win a championship that I wasn't successful."

Carter was an All-American at OSU in 1986, capping a successful three-year career with the Buckeyes.

### Top Moments Recalled As Columbus Celebrates Sports

The Greater Columbus Convention and Visitors Bureau will celebrate the greatest moments in the city's rich sports history at "Columbus Celebrates Sports" June 27 at Nationwide Arena.

The event will pay homage to some of the great moments in the city's sports history and will serve as a fund-raiser for the Columbus Sports Commission.

The GCCVB surveyed more than 50 local media members to determine finalists for the balloting. After all votes are cast and counted, the 10 most popular events in the city's sports history will be featured at the June 27 event.

A wide range of OSU and university-related events were on the ballot, includ-

ing Jesse Owens winning four gold medals in the 1936 Berlin Olympics, the 1950 Snow Bowl with Michigan, the 1960 men's basketball national championship, the 1968 Rose Bowl/national championship win over USC, Griffin's second Heisman Trophy win in 1975, Jack Nicklaus' sixth win at The Masters in 1986, the 1997 Rose Bowl win over Arizona State and the 1999 men's basketball appearance in the Final Four.

Celebrities expected to attend include Griffin, Tressel and former OSU greats Jim Jackson and Keith Byars. Greg Gumbel of CBS Sports will serve as the emcee.

The event also will include a silent auction of one-of-a-kind sports memorabilia and packages.

Tables of 10 (\$5,000 and \$2,500) are available and individual seats (\$145) are available for a pre-event reception, dinner and the awards program. To order tables or inquire about corporate sponsorships, call (614) 222-6128.

General admission tickets are \$35 for individuals with discounts for families and groups in excess of 20. Tickets are available through the arena ticket office and Ticketmaster or by calling (614) 431-3600.

### Miscellaneous Notes

• On Sat., June 22, OSU strength and conditioning coach Anthony Glass will present the All Sports Intensive Development Series at French Field House.

Open to any boy or girl who will be enrolled in grades 6-12 this fall, the clinic will consist of two separate sessions. The All Sport Intensive Weightlifting Technique Clinic will run from 7:00-11:30 a.m., followed by the All Sport Intensive Agility/Speed Development Clinic, which will run from 12:00-4:00 p.m.

Preregistration before June 15 is \$20 per session for participants, \$15 for parents and/or coaches accompanying an athlete, and \$25 for parents and/or coaches not accompanying an athlete. Athletes preregistering for both sessions pay \$30. After June 15 or at the door, the cost is \$25 per session for athletes and their parents or coaches and \$35 for parents and/or coaches not accompanying an athlete.

For more information on the clinic, write Glass at The Ohio State University, Jerome Schottenstein Center, 555 Borror Drive, Columbus, Ohio 43210 or call (614) 292-0657.

• Former Ohio State standout Bill Hosket was recently selected as this year's recipient of the Ohio High School Athletic Association Ethics and Integrity Award, to be presented at the OHSAA Scholar-Athlete Scholarship Banquet June 21 at the Wyndham Dublin Hotel in Dublin, Ohio.

Hosket experienced success at every level of his basketball career. He led Dayton Belmont to the 1964 state basketball championship before heading to OSU, where he was team captain and MVP on the 1968 squad that won the Big Ten championship and placed third at the Final Four.

For his Buckeye career, he scored 1,441 points and pulled down 910 rebounds, twice was a first-team all-Big Ten selection, and was later selected to the Ohio State Athletics Hall of Fame and the OSU

All-Century Basketball Team.

He went on to win a gold medal as a member of the U.S. basketball team at the 1968 Olympic Games in Mexico City and an NBA world championship in 1970 as a member of the New York Knicks. Hosket has served as the color commentator on OSU basketball telecasts for two decades.

The OHSAA Ethics and Integrity Award is presented annually to an Ohioan who has displayed outstanding traits of ethical behavior and integrity in the performance of duties and responsibilities and is a role model for others. In addition to receiving the award June 21, Hosket also will address the 40 OHSAA scholar-athlete scholarship recipients.

Past winners of the award include several others with Columbus ties, including Griffin and longtime WCMH-TV, channel 4 sports director Jimmy Crum.

• The NCAA Board of Directors recently got together to consider a number of different proposals, including lending top players \$20,000, and also began its search to replace president Cedric Dempsey on Friday.

Soon-to-be former OSU president Brit Kirwan serves as chairman of the board, and he was skeptical that the proposal concerning player loans would be passed.

"We're asking the NCAA to move away from one of its founding principles," Kirwan said. "Given that fact, it's made it a really difficult issue."

He also expressed doubt that every proposal would make it through, though he admitted some could.

"I think it's risky to predict, but I think it's possible some elements could be pulled out and passed and others tabled," Kirwan said.

Kirwan ended up looking prophetic, as only one proposal became official as a result of the meetings. That measure allowed high school athletes to enter a draft but still go to college without losing eligibility provided they don't sign a contract with a team or an agent.

• In other news related to Kirwan, OSU's student newspaper, the Lantern, recently reported that former Ohio State president Edward Jennings is likely to return to that position on an interim basis when Kirwan leaves June 30 to become chancellor of the University of Maryland school system.

Jennings himself would not confirm the report.

"I don't have an offer," he told The Lantern. "They can't make the decision until next Friday (June 7, at the Board of Trustees meeting)."

Jennings served as OSU president from 1981 to 1990. Many football fans remember him as the man who ordered then-athletic director Rick Bay to fire Earle Bruce the week before the Michigan game in 1987. Bay then resigned in protest.

• A year after its best-ever Sears Directors' Cup finish, OSU will likely finish in the second 10.

Ohio State, which finished sixth a year ago, was ranked 16th in standings released May 31. Those totals do not include championships in softball, baseball, men's golf and track and field, which had not been completed.

Michigan was tops in the Big Ten at sixth, but seventh-place Minnesota was expected to vault into the top five after winning the men's golf title at OSU's Scarlet Course. Penn State checked in at No. 12. In all, the Big Ten placed eight among the top 30.

The final standings are due out June 25.



Cris Carter



Bill Hosket