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*An Interview With Rick Bay***No Stadium Enlargement Planned**

First-year Ohio State athletic director Rick Bay recently fielded questions on a range of topics for the Buckeye Sports Bulletin.

By Rich Exner

BSB: Have the television contracts provided as many headaches as you expected?

BAY: It has because we find ourselves having to televise twice the number of games this year than we did a year ago in order to generate the same amount of revenue. The reason for that is once the Supreme Court ruled the NCAA plan illegal, all restrictions were off. Everyone could televise all their games if they wanted.

There are a lot more games available now to the networks than there were a year ago. So now the networks can buy the block of games they want, there are a great number of games on each Saturday.

Any time there is more of a product, the price of the product goes down. With the price down, we have to do more games to generate the same dollars we did in 1983.

BSB: Although you have to do more games to generate the same dollars and switch game times around, which isn't so good for the ticket buyer, isn't this better for the exposure of Ohio State football?

BAY: I suppose in the sense of the television viewer, it's better because there are more games to choose from but, in the end, it threatens to hurt the product that we put on the field.

If we continue to televise as many games as we are now, the people will be less inclined to buy tickets. And we make a lot more money from tickets than we do from television. If we begin to lose money on our ticket revenues, then we won't be able to support our programs to the extent we do now. So the product ultimately will suffer. That, in the long run, will not be good for anyone who is an Ohio State fan because the quality of the programs will go down for lack of funding.

BSB: Any predictions or guesses on what might happen?

BAY: Well, many people are unhappy with what has happened this year with the number of games on and the requirements to change starting times to accommodate the networks if you want the games on at all. All of those things, have been detrimental to intercollegiate football.

My only hope, and it may be wishful thinking, is that with so many people being unhappy with what is going on, that despite our philosophical differences, we'll be able to work out some sort of national plan for next year within the perimeters of the Supreme Court ruling.

We'll never have what we had before because the Supreme Court has said that we cannot, but we're going to have to come

"What I don't want to get into is people knowing that there are tickets available virtually anytime they want to go so they can wake up on a Saturday morning, check the weather, decide the importance of the game and then decide to go at that point."

— Rick Bay

together to some extent. Otherwise, we're going to saturate the market with college football to the extent that it won't be worth any money to put a game on. If it's not going to be worth any money, I'm not going to have it on very often.

BSB: How much of a chance is there of the CFA, the Pacific Ten and the Big Ten coming together?

BAY: I think that will have to happen for the purpose of putting a television plan together. Whether we come together relative to any other matter, I'm not sure. But certainly, the top 83 or 84 schools in the country are going to have to get together and agree on some sort of very basic guidelines within the perimeters of the Supreme Court ruling if we are going to solve the television situation.

BSB: What are some of the other obstacles, besides television, between the CFA and the Big Ten?

BAY: I think, by and large, that the CFA, at least to me, is somewhat of a coaches' conference that is devoted solely to football.

I think there is a little too much emphasis in the wrong places. I think we are more than football-playing schools — number one; so we need the an organization like the NCAA to oversee all of our championships. I think the coaches ought not to be in control.

What happens in college athletics should be up to the institutions as a whole. That means the presidents, the athletic directors and the faculty. Those are the people that ought to run college athletics because we're talking about the total student. We are not just talking about the athletes. I think it's a point of emphasis more than anything else.

BSB: Does it look as if non-revenue sports will suffer or will football be able to continue its support of the other sports?

BAY: It will depend on television to some degree. Anything we do that negates football revenue whether it's television money or ticket money, is going to have an impact on your whole program.

BSB: Do you anticipate having to decrease or being able to increase support of non-revenue sports?

BAY: No, I don't anticipate either. I anticipate taking it year by year because we don't know what's going to happen in television the next time around. Certainly, if our revenues drop off in football, it will have an impact on everything we do. It may not mean cutting sports, but it may mean less revenue to work with in their budgets than they had before. We're all dependent on football and men's basketball to run our entire program.

BSB: What are the possibilities of any new facilities, including a hockey arena?

BAY: We're studying that right now. That's one of my main priorities. We don't have all the facilities we need or should have to be competitive.

It ranges from football practice facilities to — well you mentioned a hockey arena. We also have to have on this campus a mid-sized arena to accommodate women's basketball, gymnastics, wrestling and volleyball. Plus, we need the practice space.

Plus, we need improved softball and baseball facilities. We need to give a face-lift to St. John Arena. We need to provide better press box facilities than we have right now. There is a whole area of things we can point to where we can stand to improve on. We need new office space.

Continued On Page 12



Athletic Director Rick Bay

Lachey: 1984 Offensive Line Even Better Than Last Year's

By Dave Kelch

Just how hard is it to miss someone who stands six feet, six inches tall and weighs in the neighborhood of your living room couch?

In fact, Jim Lachey weighs 280 pounds, give or take a few depending on the time of day. But why is it that after laboring for three years on Ohio State's offensive line in almost total obscurity (at least in the media's eyes), the senior Buckeye guard is being showered with weekly plaudits?

Through the first six games this fall, Lachey has been honored by his coaches three times already as the lineman of the game. Week after week he has graded out in the high 70s by the coaches after viewing the game films. Anygrade in the 70s is a winning performance by OSU standards, a

very high winning performance at that.

"I thought that my junior year I had a disappointing situation where we had three guards," said Lachey of last year's revolving door at the guard spot. Lachey, Kirk Lowdermilk and Scott Zalenski all shared playing time between the right and left positions. Because of the three-guard situation in 1983, Lachey only got three starts and 170 total minutes of playing time.

But so far in 1984, Lachey is a solid starter at left guard and has played nearly every minute on offense of every game.

The coaching staff, as it had the last three years, has made extra use of Lachey's speed and quickness by playing him on most of the specialty teams. The St. Henry, Ohio native is the fastest interior lineman on the team. His

combination of size, strength and speed surely has the pro scouts drooling.

"I learned that 'Hey, this is my last go-round' and I have to show people (what he can do), — the business-marketing major said. "I wouldn't have any excuses as to why I didn't do it (when the season and his college career is over)."

The simple fact is that Lachey, although greatly overlooked his first three years, concerns himself only with how well the line plays as a group, not individually.

"I think this year our line plays better as a group," he said. "It communicates better. It's not an individual thing, we've jelled together.

"Everything we do, we know what the other guy is doing. We have a better feel for each other. The line's playing well."

But why? Why better than the group last year that included the departed William Roberts and Joe Dooley? This year's lineup reads: Lachey and Zalenski at guard, Lowdermilk in a switch to center and Mark Krerowicz and newcomer Rory Graves at tackle.

One of the keys may be Lowdermilk, truly the most versatile of all the Buckeye linemen, either on offense or defense. Lowdermilk has played several positions on both sides of the line during his four-year career.

"It's hard to put a finger on it," said Lachey of the reason for the success of the '84 line. "Kirk's done so well, but so did Joe (Dooley) last year."

Lachey credits the closeness of the line for, in part, not only its



Jim Lachey

success but for the success of Heisman Trophy candidate Keith Byars.

"For instance, someone will make a great play and everyone congratulates him," said Lachey. "We all compliment each other."

Lachey admits that the return of senior quarterback Mike Tomczak to full-time playing status has meant a lot to the team.

"When we had Jim (Karsatos) in there, we had complete confidence in him," he said. "But with Mike in there, he has so much experience. When Mike got back in there it was like, 'hey, this is our number one guy.'"

Yes, Tomczak's the top dog at quarterback, and there's more than a few knowledgeable Buckeye fans who consider Lachey the top dog on the offensive line.

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Injuries Give Cooper Chance To Play

By Rich Exner

The collegiate career of George Cooper took a giant turn for the better on Oct. 13 when the Buckeyes were rallying to beat Illinois.

Cooper, a high school All-American from Wyandanch, N.Y., had reported to Ohio State in the fall of 1983 but a shoulder injury forced him home for surgery.

He returned to Ohio State last winter but it appeared as if the 6-2, 238-pounder was going to be red-shirted this year. At least, that's the way things looked until fullbacks Roman Bates and Barry Walker were forced out of the Illinois game with injuries.

That's when the coaches turned and looked for Cooper.

"That was the last thing on earth that I thought would happen," Cooper said. "I was sitting on the bench kind of dejected because we were losing. Then, they called me to go in."

It was time for Cooper's debut. "I was nervous. At first, I could barely feel my legs. By the last drive, I was ready. I had no doubts about my blocking. I was hoping they would call plays for me to block," Cooper said.

Cooper looked like a demolition man, driving defenders away from tailbacks Keith Byars and John Wooldridge. And when the time came for the third and goal play from the three to be called, Cooper found himself to be in a key position.

"I geared up. I knew I was going to have to hit a man," Cooper said.

He destroyed an Illini defender who had a good angle at cutting down Byars. Cooper's block sprung Byars into the end zone for the winning touchdown.

"He was playing soft; anyone could have blocked him. Besides, Keith probably would have ran him over anyway," Cooper said, down-playing the block.

"I got compliments from everyone, but it wasn't really that much of a hit."

When practice opened after the Illinois game, Bates and Walker were questionable for the Michigan State game Oct. 20. In East Lansing, just eight days after Cooper was sitting on the bench in

Ohio Stadium expecting to be red-shirted, he made his first start.

"It feels good. It makes you want to practice that much harder," he said. "It made practice go a lot faster."

The biggest adjustment for George Cooper has been learning to block. He was recruited as a 222-pound tailback after rushing for 1,324 yards with a 10.5-yard per carry average his senior year of high school.

One year later, Cooper finds himself 16 pounds heavier and blocking for Byars and Wooldridge. Although Cooper would definitely rather be running the football, he didn't mind his assignment against Illinois.

"I just wanted to win the game. With Keith running, why give the ball to the fullback? The running will come later on," Cooper said. "I know I can run. I wasn't sure of my blocking until the Illinois game."

As far as his future goes, Cooper entertains thoughts of losing 10 pounds and moving back to tailback.

"I'm hoping to get the shot my senior year," the freshman said. "Running comes easy for me. It's just the blocking that needs work right now."

While Cooper couldn't be happier about his playing time the last two weeks, there was certainly a time when he considered giving up football.

The thoughts of quitting ran through Cooper's mind when he was sent home for surgery last fall to correct a dislocated shoulder he originally hurt playing high school basketball the winter before and aggravated in a high school football all-star game in the summer.

"At one point, I thought about giving it up. I decided to stay in there. My mom told me to stay in there and get good grades," said



George Cooper Prepares To Make His Block

Cooper, a member of the National Honor Society.

Nevertheless, sitting at home and watching Ohio State play in the Fiesta Bowl on television didn't

make things any easier.

"It felt funny because it didn't seem like I was on the team."

He certainly feels part of the team now.

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The View From 15th and High

By Frank L. Moskowitz, BSB Editor

Those of you who read this column last week know that I compared Ohio State's win over Illinois to a heavyweight boxing match.

Well, here I go with a boxing analogy again.

Often times you will see fighters go to the body, as I mentioned last week, to soften up an opponent. You may not score points early with a body attack, but the body work will take its toll and become a factor later in the fight.

This strategy has been known to backfire, however.

If you remember the famed Ali-Foreman "Rumble in the Jungle," you know that Muhammad Ali leaned up against the ropes, covered up his head and allowed powerful George Foreman to slug away at his superbly conditioned midsection.

Both the temperature and the humidity were above 90 in Zaire that night, and after five rounds of using Ali's belly like a heavy bag, Foreman was punched out. Victory was Ali's in the eighth.

Now in its contest with Michigan State, the Ohio State football team never punched itself out. Nor was Michigan State able to throw the knockout (Rolf Mojsiejenko's field goal) punch.

Yet just as Ali, with his stomach conditioned by countless situps done at a 45 degree angle, was able to absorb repeated blows to the body by the powerful Foreman, Michigan State's defense absorbed all the inside punishment that the powerful Ohio State offense could dish out.

You can't blame the Buckeyes for trying. How many times have you seen a team play OSU even for a

half, and then get blown out after the intermission. A big, strong, bruising team like Ohio State just wears you down.

Yet while Ohio State went to knockout artist Keith Byars again and again against the Spartans, Michigan State never budged and almost pulled out the tie.

And when I earlier referred to the Mojsiejenko field goal as a potential knockout punch, you must agree — in terms of emotion and long-term implications, a tie would have been as good as a win for the Spartans and the same as a loss for the Buckeyes.

There were warning signals that OSU would not be able to run against Michigan State.

The Spartans came into the game ranked seventh in the country against the run, giving up only 2.3 yards a carry. As a point of

comparison, the Buckeyes, always tough against the run, came in giving up 4.1 per carry.

Oh. And there's this guy named Perles. It's rumored he knows a thing or two about defense.

Earle Bruce obviously wanted to go strength-against-strength, and judging from the score, he came out the winner.

Please note that while Byars was held to 121 yards on 40 carries, and John Wooldridge gained just 44 yards on 14 carries, Byars caught four passes for 81 yards and Wooldridge two passes for 43 yards.

THE OSU OFFENSE has been hurt by a lack of production from the tight end spot. In the three games since Ed Taggart was injured, Buckeye tight ends have not caught a pass.

Diamonds To Remain At Remote Sight

Continued From Page 1

It remains for us to begin to formulate a master plan, which we are doing, set some priorities, and then see how far down that list of priorities we can go, based on how much money is available out there through fund-raising.

BSB: One of the problems that has come up with baseball is that students find it tough to get to the games. But, is there any feasible way to bring baseball or anything else closer to the main campus?

BAY: I don't think so unless the university is willing to give us space, which is really ear-marked more for intramurals, club sports and general athletic activities. There is only so much green space around the stadium and Larkins Hall.

I suspect that while there are those that would like to be able to get to the baseball games easier, and we sure would like to have some of our facilities more centrally located, there are also those students who would like to have their intramural or club sports facilities closer to the central campus. Either way, you are going to have some people that are for or against whatever you decide.

BSB: You mentioned St. John Arena. What type of things are you looking at as far as improvements there?

BAY: I think that, for example, it's costly even to paint the inside of St. John Arena. But, I think that we can do some things to spruce the place up — everything from our trophy cases to the inside of the arena itself. It's a reasonably old building by today's standards, and we need to have a more attractive facility if we can pull one together.

BSB: About every two or three years, talk comes up about enlarging the size of Ohio Stadium. It always gets knocked down. Has that come up in your first few months?

BAY: It's been asked of me. My only feeling is that we have a stadium that's about the right size for this community because tickets are at a premium, people for the most part do want to get in and there's a waiting list for season tickets.

I think it's good to have that kind of demand. If your stadium is too big, then the premium on seats in the stadium becomes not as great. Let us say Ohio Stadium seated 120,000 people. Maybe on one game or two you could get 120,000 people, but I doubt you would have 120,000 people for certain teams — maybe Northwestern, Minnesota or some of the less attractive teams.

What I don't want to get into is people knowing that there are tickets available virtually anytime they want to go so they can wake up on a Saturday morning, check the weather, decide the importance of the game and then decide to go at that point.

In order to maximize income on a season basis, we need a premium for tickets; so I think our stadium is about right size. We didn't sell out for the first game this year because the students weren't back. I'm fairly comfortable with the size of our stadium.

BSB: So where you may increase revenue through ticket sales, you may lose in other areas where you can now ask for donations in exchange for the opportunity to buy tickets?

BAY: That's exactly right. The seating location is tied to donations. If there are a lot more

seats available, people are going to be less apt to contribute to athletics if they know they don't have to in order to get a seat in the stadium.

BSB: The Mayor has spoken about the idea of having a domed stadium in Columbus. Has he or anybody else approached you about this idea?

BAY: I've not talked to the Mayor. I've talked to a couple of other people, a couple of businessmen who have a possible interest in a domed stadium. I don't have anything particularly against a domed stadium for Columbus. Although, right now, I'm not sure what benefit it would have to Ohio State University. That's my main concern.

I do get a little bit concerned about the possibility of having a pro team here because I think there is only so much money out there in terms of the athletic entertainment dollar. If a pro team would be here, we would be in competition to some extent. As to the stadium itself, it's hard for me to imagine us not playing in the Horseshoe, although I guess anything is possible.

BSB: What is the future of the Ohio State athletic program?

BAY: Our future is connected with the future of intercollegiate athletics in general.

We're spending an awful lot of money. Maybe, we're pricing ourselves out of business in the long run in terms of comprehensive programs because we only have two sports that generate more money than they spend. Yet, we're trying to support a program here that has 31 sports.

I think we're going to have to depend a great deal on fund raising in the future. We have been generating just about all the

money we can out of ticket revenues. The future of television is really questionable. So fund raising will become increasingly important not only for facilities, but also for the regular operating budget.

Unless we get more national controls on the number of scholarships we give to all sports and the money we spend on recruiting, we'll get in a position where we will be hard-pressed to finance large programs.

BSB: How do you decide, when looking at a non-revenue sport, that this sport gets four scholarships and this sport gets one? For instance, volleyball here at Ohio State has been real successful but, yet, doesn't get the scholarships that other non-revenue sports do.

BAY: I really haven't made any decisions like that. I inherited what has been traditional here, and it will take me a while to really see our program in action and decide later on whether or not some sports should have more priority than they now have.

BSB: Did the rumors flying around before you came in about the possible firings make it tougher for you starting out?

BAY: They didn't affect me at all. I think it probably created some anxiety within the department because people were hearing rumors and they didn't know Rick Bay at that point. But I told the staff that there was nothing to it, that I didn't come in here with any mandate or any pre-conceptions.

All of the stuff out of Dallas with Bob Hitch, I'm certain, caused some people anxiety, but it didn't affect me at all.

Linebacker Follows In Uncle's Tracks**Ridder Becomes Part Of Defense***By Craig James*

More than a year ago, Fred Ridder was reflecting on his decision to come to Ohio State to play football. Like every incoming freshman, he had hoped to get some playing time during his initial collegiate grid season.

"I want to come out and play some ball," he said then. "I think they'll give me a shot. If I prove myself, they should have to give me a shot."

Ridder, an inside linebacker, quickly discovered that he was in for a bit of a wait. But after sitting out the 1983 season as a redshirt, he is now getting his shot to play. He saw considerable game action in OSU's come-from-behind win over Illinois, followed by a starting role next to Thomas "Pepper" Johnson in the Buckeyes' narrow victory at Michigan State last Saturday.

Ridder has been playing well enough lately to move up to second-team status, helped along by an injury to freshman Chris Spielman in the Iowa contest.

He proved that he deserved the confidence of his coaches after being credited with the goal-line hit on Illini fullback Thomas Rooks that prevented a touchdown

in the fourth quarter of that key Big Ten battle.

Illinois had just worked seven minutes off the clock during a long drive, reaching the Ohio one-yard line where it was faced with a third down and one situation. The Illini selected Rooks to dive over the pack for the score, but he was met in mid-air by Ridder and Johnson for no gain.

Illinois settled for a field goal, tying the score at 38-38.

"I looked at Rooks in the backfield and it looked like he was going to come up over the top," Ridder recalled. "Pep and I both read it right and we both came up over the top and made the hit on him."

"I just didn't want them to score. I would rather have them kick a field goal than score. So we knew we had to stop them there. I thought they'd go for it on fourth down, but they didn't."

Ohio State then went on to put together its winning touchdown drive.

"I played good, but I can play a lot better," said Ridder, in assessing his performance. "There are some things I have to work on, but overall, I played pretty well for a first time."

**Linebacker Fred Ridder Finds Playing Time**

Ridder's chance to get playing time, as well as a starting assignment in the Michigan State contest, came about primarily when Larry Kolic suffered a moderate concussion in the Illinois game. After quickly being inserted into the action, Ridder said he didn't have time to be nervous.

"You don't think about it," he said. "You just go in and do it and do everything the coaches told you in practice. Hopefully, you'll do well."

Ridder did well by almost any standard, chalking up seven tackles, four of them solos against Illinois. Following the clash with the Spartans, his season tackle total improved to 15.

The 6-1, 230-pounder has never been one to stand idly by on the sideline. At Eaton (Ohio) High School, where he was a fullback as well as a linebacker, he won 11 letters in three sports. In wrestling, he made two trips to the state meet, finishing in sixth place in Class AA in 1982 and fifth the following year. The highlight of his track career was the state shot put championship title in '83.

"Track was fun, because there wasn't any pressure on you to do anything," he said. "In track, you just went out and pretty much did

your own thing and enjoyed it. It was more of a relaxing sport than football or wrestling to me."

But after all that activity in high school, it was tough for him at first to accept the redshirt decision last fall. Now he can view the move as well as his progress at OSU in a more positive frame of mind.

"Last year, I was kind of slow in coming around," he said. "But this year, I think I had a really good fall camp. I worked really hard and I developed a lot of things that I didn't do last year."

"I think (the redshirt year) helped me. It let me grow up a year in college and mature that much more."

Ridder was prepared for all of the competition he would have to face for playing time at OSU from what he learned from his uncle, William Ridder, a former Buckeye (1963-65).

"It was good having him play here," he said. "He told me a lot about it and a lot of the tradition and the respect people have for Ohio State. He had a good deal to do with me coming here."

Now that Ridder has been able to tuck some game experience under his belt, he may never be satisfied with a seat on the sideline again.

"You start to get a little taste of playing in your mouth," he smiled, "and you want more and more."

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