

Chris Holtmann Previews No. 5 Ohio State's Matchup With No. 6 Kentucky



No. 5 Ohio State will travel to Las Vegas to take on No. 6 Kentucky on Dec. 21 and head coach Chris Holtmann spoke to members of the media two days earlier previewing the showdown.

- Kentucky is a really, really good team and a tremendous program with a Hall of Fame coach. Kentucky will be one of the best
- I know John Calipari just briefly. We've never faced each other. I saw him on the road a few times though. I told him how much my family in Kentucky loves having him there. He's the perfect Kentucky coach. He's smart and innovative.
- Playing teams like Villanova, UNC and Kentucky is significant. Cincinnati and West Virginia, too. WVU has turned into one of the best teams in the country.
- When we tell the players that we want to put together a tough nonconference schedule with elite opponents on a national stage, we need to be able to back up.
- Coaching against Jay Wright, Roy Williams, John Calipari and Bob Huggins? 'Those are four Hall of Famers right there.' It's a fun challenge.
- When I was getting started in coaching, I watch anything and everything. I watched Huggins' defensive tapes. I watched some of John's dribble-drive motion, I watched Roy's Carolina break and read Jay's stuff, too.
- You grow up in Lexington, Kentucky, you've got no choice. Basketball is a part of your blood there. It's front-page news.
- Utah made a lot of shots against Kentucky. The Wildcats have always been extremely well-coached defensively.
- We have not talked about validating ourselves against Kentucky. But you're always trying to prove yourself. More than anything, we're trying to learn from this past week.
- We've got to be more disciplined. It's going to be a road atmosphere. We've got to be tougher, more committed to how we need to play.
- When you're talking about programs that are traditionally blue bloods, you're typically remembering decades like 50-70 years. We have great possibilities here as a basketball program.
- We have to play relaxed and control the turnovers that we can eliminate. We have to address guys that are carelessly committing turnovers.
- I stayed up watching the Kentucky-Utah game after putting together our practice plan. The energy opponents bring against
- Turn the volume up or mute it when Bill Walton is on the call? I love Bill Walton. He might

overwhelm me if I listened to him more than once a week, but I love Bill.

- Kentucky guard Ashton Hagans is fantastic. He's so disruptive, his ability to get his hands on the ball and make plays, I don't know if we'll see someone like him all year.
- All four schools are in favor of the CBS Sports Classic event. It's a great event.
- No update on Duane Washington, just taking it day to day.

For four free issues of the weekly print edition of Buckeye Sports Bulletin, no card required, sign up at the link here: <http://www.buckeyesports.com/subscribe-4issue-trial/>

[divider line_type="Full Width Line" line_thickness="2" divider_color="default"]
[nectar_btn size="jumbo" button_style="regular" button_color_2="Accent-Color" icon_family="none" url="http://www.buckeyesports.com/boards/" text="Join The Conversation"]