



Flying Colors

Day, Haskins Lead Bucks To Undefeated Start Before Meyer's Return

By TIM MOODY
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

Forty-six days. One-thousand-one-hundred-and-four hours. One-hundred-and-sixty-nine points scored; 62 points allowed. Eleven touchdown passes for star quarterback Dwayne Haskins.

There are a lot of ways to quantify Ryan Day's time as Ohio State's acting head coach. He took charge in place of Urban Meyer on Aug. 1, leading the Buckeyes throughout fall camp. Then, on Aug. 22, Day found out that he'd be the top dog in Columbus for a few more weeks – including the first three games of Ohio State's 2018 season.

But, for all the numbers associated with his time keeping Meyer's seat warm – which came to an end Sept. 15 – Day was worried about only one number after fourth-ranked Ohio State came from behind to beat No. 15 TCU, 40-28, at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas.

Three.

Three games coached, and three wins for Day and the Buckeyes. The offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach did his job, making sure that Meyer will have an undefeated team in tow when he returns to Ohio Stadium on Sept. 22 to lead Ohio State against Tulane.

"Our goal was to get to 3-0 so that when Coach got back,



SONNY BROCKWAY

PASSING GRADE – Sophomore quarterback Dwayne Haskins (7) threw a pair of touchdowns and didn't turn the ball over in Ohio State's 40-28 win over TCU.

**Your Mailing Label Goes Here
Call (614) 486-2202
Today To Subscribe**

Continued On Page 8

FAN FORUM

Buckeye Leaves

BSB's new full-service website, BuckeyeSports.com, has 24/7 updates regarding all things Ohio State, including an active Forum where subscribers can chat with BSB staff members and other fans. The Forum features a live thread during every Ohio State game where staffers and subscribers can share their thoughts, opinions and analysis. We will also be handing out Buckeye Leaves after every game for standout performers, and we encourage subscribers to share their thoughts as well. Here's a sampling of what BSB staff members and subscribers had to say after Ohio State stormed back to beat TCU, 40-28, in the Lone Star State.

Joe Dempsey: Ohio State standout defensive end Nick Bosa went down with an injury, and junior defensive tackle Dre'Mont Jones stepped up in his absence.

With TCU facing third-and-5 from its own 30-yard line and Ohio State trailing 21-19 with 6:04 left in the third quarter, Jones intercepted a Shawn Robinson shovel pass and returned it for a game-changing touchdown.

The 6-3, 290-pound lineman also had teamed up with Robert Landers for a tone-setting stop on a first-down handoff during the Horned Frogs' first drive of the second half.

Jones added a tackle for loss on a first-down run later in the third quarter leading to a punt. He finished with six tackles (four solo), one sack, two tackles for loss and one pass breakup in addition to the pick-six.

James Grega: There are three different players I could feel comfortable giving my Buckeye Leaf to. Dwayne Haskins, J.K. Dobbins and Dre'Mont Jones are all deserving, but I am going with Jones, who changed the game up front.

When Ohio State needed a play on defense, he deflected passes at the line of scrimmage, came up with a critical sack and notched the play of the game, an interception returned for a touchdown on a shovel pass attempt from Shawn Robinson. His play elevated when Nick Bosa went out with an injury, and Jones showed he

is just as important to this Ohio State defense as Bosa. He gets my Buckeye Leaf.

Haskins, Dobbins and even Mike Weber made critical plays on offense as well, and they all deserve honorable mention. Haskins' performance against a Gary Patterson-coached defense was incredible, and I think Haskins is a legitimate Heisman candidate.

Tim Moody: While I was sitting in the postgame press conference after this game, I thought a lot about whom I should give a Buckeye Leaf to. And I really couldn't decide. J.K. Dobbins was great. Dwayne Haskins was impeccable. K.J. Hill, Dre'Mont Jones and Nick Bosa were dominant as well.

When I got back to the press box, though, I realized that it was an easy question: Ryan Day gets my Buckeye Leaf this week. He went 3-0 as Ohio State's acting head coach, guiding the team through the most adversity the program has seen in a long, long time. Day's work as Ohio State's top dog shouldn't go unnoticed. He's a star, and he'll be running his own program soon.

Garrett Stepien: There are actually a few players with an argument for Buckeye Leaves after Ohio State overcame TCU. From start to finish, adversity surfaced against the Buckeyes and forced several names to step up in critical situations for their eventual 27-7 run over the final 21:58 of the ballgame.

But, to me, OSU doesn't get there without Ryan Day. The acting head coach guided Ohio State to 3-0 in head coach Urban Meyer's absence, keeping the Buckeyes focused out of halftime despite their 14-13 deficit — which grew to 21-13 with less than 11 minutes left in the third quarter.

After the first two weeks saw OSU pulverize inferior opponents, we wondered what would happen when it faced adversity. With an injury to Ohio State's best player in Bosa, among other obstacles, the Buckeyes didn't flinch.

Tons of credit rightfully goes to the rest of OSU's leadership, from the upperclassmen-laden units and seven team captains onto every other coach on staff responsible for upholding the program culture during

Meyer's three-game suspension. However, the 39-year-old Day proved he was indeed "built for this" as mentor and UCLA head coach Chip Kelly stressed at the start of Day's tenure as acting head coach, navigating Ohio State to an unblemished start with an exclamation-point comeback.

Frank Moskowitz: In a big win like that, all sorts of players have to contribute, even Austin Mack, who rebounded after his bout with butterfingers. But the player of the game has to be Dre'Mont Jones, especially in light of losing Nick Bosa.

I also thought Malik Harrison had a strong game at linebacker, and don't forget the defensive ends' forgotten man, Jonathon Cooper, who held his own after Bosa went down. I also have always been high on K.J. Hill, who kind of filled the gap when Mack was struggling, finishing with six catches for 95 yards and a score.

BSB Subscribers

Dre'Mont Jones. Picking off the shovel pass for a TD and getting the huge sack late giving TCU a third-and-23. Game changers both.

– mrbigbux

Dwayne Haskins. He stayed tough in the pocket and took the hits and kept slinging it! Best part is no turnovers!

– Tiffin Buckeye

Dwayne Haskins remained calm and confident in the midst of pressure he had not experienced earlier as the Buckeye QB. He remained similarly calm and confident in the second half at TTUN last year, too, and delivered the results! He delivered when it mattered in spite of so many dropped passes! I am proud of the young man and his leadership of the offense.

– AnthonyBuckeye

I agree with Jones and Haskins, but I will go with an underrated group in the Buckeye O-line. It's supposed to be a weakness of the team, and they really played well against Gary Patterson's defense.

– Blufftonbuck

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Waiting For A Refund

BSB managing editor emeritus Mark Rea noted in his Editor's Notebook that Ohio State's victory (I'd call it a graceful trouncing) against Rutgers was the football program's 900th win, but that the actual 900th win occurred last season over Army because of the self-imposed "vacated" 12 wins from the 2010 season for the infamous "Tattoo-Gate" fiasco.

Hmm, let's see – the definition of "vacate" is to give up, relinquish, void or annul. So, since those wins were voided, that would mean that the game was annulled, right? The definition of "annul" is: to abolish, cancel or obliterate. So people couldn't have possibly attended a game that was canceled, right? So, that means everyone who attended any OSU football game in 2010 should be reimbursed for the tickets they paid for games that never happened, right?

Oh, but wait ... if, by chance, you happened to attend the OSU-Wisconsin game in Madison, Wis., that year, sorry about your luck! You won't be reimbursed because that's the only game that wasn't "vacated" because OSU lost.

Fortunately, I had forgotten just how absurd that mess was ... until I read Rea's column.

Michael S. Finks
Dublin, Ohio

All For What?

I have been a faithful Buckeye fan since 1951, but I can truthfully say that August 2018 was the worst month ever in my lifetime as a Buckeye football fan. I had the horrible feeling that Ohio State was going to do something terrible and crazy – namely fire Urban Meyer. And fire him over what was essentially nothing.

Although ESPN and others tried to destroy Meyer by comparing his negligence with Joe Paterno's willful misconduct at Penn State, Meyer's failures really did no damage to another person, unlike Paterno's failure to report Jerry Sandusky's chronic and severe child abuse.

One thing I never understood was what exactly did Courtney Smith want?

How would she have profited from the destruction of Urban Meyer's career? Zach Smith was making over \$300,000 per year, and he was barely over 30 years old. If he had been fired in October 2015, his income would have dramatically plummeted. And Courtney Smith's alimony and child support would have taken a huge dip as well. Firing Zach Smith would thus have greatly harmed him and would have surely severely penalized Courtney Smith as well. Her cooperation with the former ESPN sportswriter in 2018 reeked of pure vengeance.

If Meyer had been fired in 2018, almost all of his assistant coaches would have been fired

at the end of the 2018 season since a new head coach would have brought in his own team. Clearly Courtney Smith's vengeance would have wreaked havoc on at least seven or eight Ohio State families. And what would she have gained? Absolutely nothing.

Meyer's only major error, in my opinion, was his botched July 24 press conference at the Big Ten Media Days. I still don't understand how that happened. Mary Jo White and her team from Debevoise & Plimpton concluded that Meyer did not lie but nevertheless gave inaccurate answers to questions about his knowledge of the 2015 allegations. That conclusion seems accurate. But ironically if Meyer had answered the question accurately, an accurate answer would have been helpful to Meyer's cause. Gene Smith and Meyer were extremely interested in whether Zach abused his wife. They were willing to fire him if they believed he had struck her. But they chose to rely on whether Zach would be prosecuted by the Powell authorities. When he was not, they mistakenly thought they were justified in not going further with the investigation. They were wrong, but I don't think they were unreasonable.

Finally, I live in Newport Beach, Calif., not far from U.C. Irvine. Ohio State's current president (Michael Drake) was formerly president of that institution. People I know who worked at UCI describe him as very inflexible. I could see him firing Meyer in the manner that he fired the OSU band director several years ago without giving the band director a hearing. Fortunately, 19 of 20 members of the OSU board of trustees favored a suspension for Meyer rather than a firing. And the president had to go along.

Clearly we who love Ohio State and greatly admire Meyer dodged a bullet. There is no way he should have been put in this precarious position. Hopefully Ohio State learned from this public relations disaster. We learned an unpleasant lesson. The national media hate Ohio State. They almost got what they wanted: the destruction of a very good man and one of the greatest college football coaches of all time.

Gilbert E. Gildea
Newport Beach, Calif.

If you would like to express an opinion concerning Ohio State University sports, please send your letter to BSB Letters, P.O. Box 12453, Columbus, OH 43212, or email it to bsb@buckeyesports.com for use in BSB. Letters must be signed and include the writer's hometown and a daytime telephone number for verification. Publication priority will be given to those letters that are brief, and we reserve the right to edit letters for publication.

Buckeye Sports Bulletin (USPS 705-690, ISSN 0883-6833.) is published 24 times a year (weekly September through November, biweekly mid-March through May and January through early March and monthly June through August and December) by:

Columbus Sports Publications
 1350 W. Fifth Ave., Suite 30
 P.O. Box 12453
 Columbus, Ohio 43212
 (614) 486-2202
 bsb@buckeyesports.com

Periodical class postage paid at Columbus, Ohio, and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Buckeye Sports Bulletin, P.O. Box 12453, Columbus, Ohio 43212. Subscription rates: \$99.95/year.

PUBLISHER
 Frank Moskowitz

ASSISTANT PUBLISHER
 Becky Roberts

EDITOR
 Tim Moody

MANAGING EDITOR EMERITUS
 Mark Rea

ASSISTANT PUBLISHER EMERITUS
 Karen Wachsman 1944-1999

PHOTOGRAPHY
 Sonny Brockway Terry Gilliam
 Kevin Dye Josh Winslow

CONTRIBUTORS
 Bill Armstrong Craig Merz
 David Breithaupt Bob Roehm
 Bill Conley Julie Roy
 Joe Dempsey Mark Schmetzer
 Rich Exner Steve Siegfried
 James Grega Garrett Stepien
 Eric Loughry Jeff Svoboda
 Ryan McGlade Mike Wachsman

ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVES
 Jan Jager Dave Tebay
 Ron Friedman

2017-18 PUBLICATION SCHEDULE (VOL. 38)

| | | | |
|--------|----------|--------|----------|
| No. 1 | Sept. 8 | No. 13 | Dec. 15 |
| No. 2 | Sept. 15 | No. 14 | Jan. 19 |
| No. 3 | Sept. 22 | No. 15 | Feb. 2 |
| No. 4 | Sept. 29 | No. 16 | Feb. 16 |
| No. 5 | Oct. 6 | No. 17 | March 9 |
| No. 6 | Oct. 13 | No. 18 | March 23 |
| No. 7 | Oct. 20 | No. 19 | April 6 |
| No. 8 | Nov. 3 | No. 20 | April 20 |
| No. 9 | Nov. 10 | No. 21 | May |
| No. 10 | Nov. 17 | No. 22 | June |
| No. 11 | Nov. 24 | No. 23 | July |
| No. 12 | Dec. 1 | No. 24 | August |

The next issue (Sept. 29 cover date) will be mailed Sept. 25.

Buckeye Sports Bulletin is a privately owned newspaper and is not affiliated directly or indirectly with The Ohio State University.



Charter Member

Ohio State Has Room To Grow After Big Win

What we learned about the Ohio State football team against Oregon State and Rutgers was nothing compared to what we learned about the Buckeyes when they traveled to palatial AT&T Stadium to take on an inspired, upset-minded TCU team.

We learned the Buckeyes can take a shot to the chops – several of them, actually – and remain resilient enough both on offense and defense to secure a 40-28 victory that should keep Ohio State in the early-season College Football Playoff conversation.

It really is an entirely different animal playing a team that can match yours talent-wise, and the Buckeyes found that out quickly against the Horned Frogs. Longtime TCU head coach Gary Patterson might not be the reincarnation of Vince Lombardi that ESPN/ABC announcers Chris Fowler and Kirk Herbstreit intimated throughout the first half, but Patterson concocted an ingenious game plan to which Ohio State had difficulty adjusting.

The Flying Frogs played at a breakneck pace in the early going but fell behind 10-0 at the 7:13 mark of the first quarter before grabbing momentum midway through the second period that helped them forge a 14-13 halftime lead.

Ohio State clearly looked rattled after several miscues on offense and a couple of costly defensive gaffes, including being tricked out of position enough to allow TCU running back Darius Anderson to break off a 93-yard touchdown run – the longest play from scrimmage against the Buckeyes in program history.

Meanwhile, sophomore quarterback Dwayne Haskins appeared extremely uncomfortable in the pocket, facing pressure from a variety of angles that caused him to misfire on several occasions. Compounding problems for Haskins were repeated low snaps from first-year center Michael Jordan and a string of dropped passes from normally sure-handed receiver Austin Mack.

Then, just when things looked darkest for the Buckeyes, they lost All-America defensive end Nick Bosa early in the third quarter. Bosa had already recorded a strip sack that resulted in OSU's first touchdown of the night, and he was beginning to exert his will on the TCU offensive line when he went down with an apparent groin injury.

Shortly thereafter, Anderson scored his second touchdown of the game, this one a 16-yard dash to the goal-line pylon that pushed the Horned Frogs' advantage to 21-13 at the 10:43 mark of the third quarter.

Lesser teams might have folded at that point, and especially so when an apparent targeting call against TCU was overturned on replay, forcing the Buckeyes to punt away the ensuing possession.

But the defense remained resilient enough to force a three-and-out series by the Frogs, and on the second play of the next possession, Haskins found Parris Campbell on a simple bubble screen that turned into a 63-yard touchdown romp. That play seemed to re-energize the Buckeyes, who went on to notch three scores within a four-minute stretch, turning momentum and TCU on its ear.

The Horned Frogs landed their final haymaker on a 51-yard touchdown heave from quarterback Shawn Robinson to receiver Trevontae Hights late in the third quarter, but the Buckeyes closed things out by continually pounding on the rapidly-tiring Frogs, whose frenetic early pace finally caught up to them.

Haskins faced enough adversity to rattle

even the most experienced of quarterbacks and still managed to throw for 344 yards and two touchdowns as well as score his first career touchdown on a nifty 5-yard run early in the fourth quarter. What made the play so nifty was the beautiful fake handoff to running back J.K. Dobbins, who finished a triumphant return to his native Texas with 121 yards on 18 carries.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK Mark Rea

Despite the loss of Bosa and being caught in the wrong spot countless times by TCU's deceptive alignments, the Ohio State defense came up with big plays exactly when they were needed most.

None was bigger than when defensive tackle Dre'Mont Jones stepped in front of a shovel pass from Robinson and rumbled 28 yards for a touchdown with 5:54 remaining in the third quarter. The play, aided by pressure applied on Robinson by first-year starting linebacker Pete Werner, erased a 21-19 deficit and Ohio State never trailed again.

So, what did we learn about the Ohio State football team on a humid night in suburban Dallas? We learned the Buckeyes still are a work in progress in many facets of the game, but we also learned they are not intimidated by the big stage. We learned they can withstand the loss of a star player. And we learned they can take a punch and come right back with knockout punches of their own.

In other words, after three games of the 2018 regular season, the Buckeyes are the No. 4 ranked team in the nation and rightfully so.

Oh, yeah – one more thing we learned. No matter how savagely withering the criticism from ESPN and its various talking heads, Urban Meyer and his football program will continue to accommodate the so-called worldwide leader.

Rather than letting his team's marquee victory the night before speak for itself, and with absolutely nothing to gain, Meyer appeared with ESPN reporter Tom Rinaldi on the Sunday morning after the TCU win and once again attempted to rehash, relitigate and rehabilitate why he did what he did with regard to the Zach Smith mess.

I can think of only one reason why Ohio State would continue to allow ESPN on its campus. Perhaps you can figure out where I'm going with this and come to the same conclusion.

Fun With Numbers

- Ohio State moved its all-time record to 24-4-2 against Texas-based schools – Baylor (2-0), Houston (1-0), Rice (2-0), SMU (7-1-1), Texas (1-2). Texas A&M (4-0), TCU (4-1-1) and Texas Tech (2-0).

- The only two blemishes on OSU's all-time record against the Horned Frogs turned out all right. TCU won an 18-14 decision against the Buckeyes in the 1957 season opener and forged a 7-7 tie in Columbus to kick off the 1961 campaign. Ohio State recovered in each of those seasons to win a version of the national championship.

- TCU had 511 total yards against Ohio State, the most the Buckeyes have given up since Clemson totaled 576 during its 40-35 victory in the 2014 Orange Bowl. It was the most yardage surrendered by Ohio State

during the regular season to a nonconference opponent since California totaled 512 during its 35-28 loss to the Buckeyes in 2012.

- Anderson's 93-yard touchdown run wiped out an OSU opponent record that had been on the books for more than a half-century. Iowa halfback Larry Ferguson held the previous record for longest play from scrimmage by an opponent, running 91 yards for a touchdown during his team's 35-12 win over the Buckeyes in 1960.

- K.J. Hill's six catches for 95 yards against TCU pushed his career totals to 91 receptions for 1,013 yards. He is the 32nd Ohio State player to eclipse the 1,000-yard mark in career receiving yardage and needs nine more catches to become only the 19th Buckeye with 100 career receptions.

- Running back Mike Weber ran for 64 yards against the Horned Frogs and pushed his career rushing total to 2,003. He is the 28th Ohio State player to amass at least 2,000 career yards on the ground.

Woe To The B1G

Ohio State carried the banner admirably for the Big Ten with its nationally-televised victory over TCU. And it's a good thing for the conference that the Buckeyes notched such a high-profile win because things were not going that well for several teams across the league during the Sept. 15 weekend.

- Nebraska head coach Scott Frost is rapidly discovering the difficulties of going home. The former national championship quarterback for the Cornhuskers, who coached UCF to a perfect 13-0 season last year, is now 0-2 in his first two games at Nebraska. The Huskers dropped a 24-19 decision to Troy, putting Nebraska at 0-2 to begin a season for the first time since 1957. NU went on to finish with a program-worst 1-9 record that year.

- Sixth-ranked Wisconsin saw its streak of 41 straight home wins against nonconference opponents come to an end when kicker Rafael Gaglianone missed a 42-yard field goal in the waning seconds to give BYU a 24-21 victory. The Cougars hadn't taken down a top-10 team since a 14-13 win over third-ranked Oklahoma in 2009, and an unranked BYU team hadn't beaten a top-10 team on the road since a 20-14 win at No. 3 Pitt in the 1984 season opener.

- Purdue fell at home to unbeaten Missouri by a 40-37 count despite a 572-yard performance from QB David Blough. That was the sixth time a Boilermakers quarterback had thrown for 500 or more yards in a game, and it broke the Purdue single-game record set by Curtis Painter, who went for 546 yards during a 51-48 win against Central Michigan in the 2007 Motor City Bowl. The Boilermakers are off to a 0-3 start this year for the first time since 1996.

- Northwestern squandered a 21-3 half-time lead and lost a 39-34 decision at Akron, giving the Zips their first victory against a Big Ten opponent since moving to the Football Bowl Subdivision (Division I-A) in 1987. Since moving to the FBS, Akron had been 0-20 against the Big Ten, losing those games by an average of 25.8 points. Northwestern has now started 1-2 for the third time in five years.

- Rutgers was the victim of a 55-14 blowout at the hands of Kansas, giving the Jayhawks back-to-back wins against FBS opponents for the first time since 2009. Kansas defeated Central Michigan, 31-7, on Sept. 8. Coupled with their 52-3 loss to Ohio State, the Scarlet Knights have surrendered 107 points in two weeks. That is the most during a two-game span since Rutgers gave up 136 points in 2016 with a 78-0 loss to Michigan the week after a 58-0 defeat at the hands of Ohio State.



OHIO STATE INSIDER

Meyer Sits Down With ESPN

Just hours after Ohio State defeated TCU on Saturday night in Arlington, Texas, Urban Meyer was back in front of a camera.

In a prerecorded piece, Meyer sat down with ESPN reporter Tom Rinaldi for a one-on-one interview at his home in Dublin, Ohio. Rinaldi asked questions almost exclusively about the investigation into how Meyer and Ohio State handled 2015 domestic abuse allegations against then-wide receivers coach Zach Smith, and Meyer eventually admitted that he made a poor choice when he hired Smith to work for him at Ohio State in 2012.

"I wanted to have someone with some familiarity of my offense," Meyer said of why he hired Smith. "Zach seemed like a guy that was doing very well. And I checked on him, did background checks with the coaches he worked with. It came back very high, very

high marks, and so I made the decision to hire him at Ohio State."

Rinaldi asked Meyer what he thought about his choice to hire Smith looking back on it.

"Bad decision," Meyer replied.

Smith was arrested in 2009 in Gainesville, Fla., for his involvement in an incident involving his then-wife, Courtney Smith, but ultimately wasn't charged. Meyer admitted to knowing about the 2009 incident, yet he never informed his boss, Ohio State athletics director Gene Smith, about it when he hired Zach Smith in 2012.

"I recall I didn't tell him," Meyer told Rinaldi. "In hindsight, I should have. Once again, I can't recall why. It was several years ago. I just can't tell you exactly what my mind-set was at the time."

Meyer was also asked about the knowledge his wife, Shelley, had of the situation and how much his wife told him. Shelley Meyer and Courtney Smith, according to text messages that were included in Ohio State's two-week investigation into Meyer, had been in constant contact during Zach Smith's tenure at Ohio State. The text messages show that Shelley Meyer reached out to Courtney Smith more than once regarding the allegations and even admitted that Zach Smith scared her, yet Meyer said he was not made aware of those conversations until recently.

"The first time I heard of those texts were just recently in the last month because Shelley did not share those text messages with me. If there's imminent fear, I imagine her responsibility is to alert someone," Meyer said of Shelley and her role as an instructor within Ohio State's college of nursing.



SONNY BROCKWAY

QUESTIONS REMAIN – Ohio State head coach Urban Meyer (center) spoke with ESPN about the involvement of his wife, Shelley (left), with Courtney Smith's allegations of abuse against former wide receivers coach Zach Smith. Meyer was suspended Aug. 22 by Ohio State and president Michael Drake (right).

Donald F. Bowen DDS, & Associates

CONVENIENT LOCATION!

1264 N. High St., Columbus 43215
(Between 5th and 6th Avenues on High Street)

- All dental services including: cleanings, fillings, extractions, crowns, bridges, root canals and whitening
- We work with all insurance plans
- Medicaid accepted
- Third-party financing available
- Experienced and caring dentists
- Senior discounts available
- Dentures/immediate dentures
(dentures placed same day teeth are removed)
- Emergencies seen promptly



614-294- 6451



FOUR OTHER LOCATIONS:

1570 Cleveland Ave. 614-294-5558 • 1000 E. Broad St. 614-258-3880
1201 S. High St. 614-444-1454 • 2575 W. Broad St. 614-274-0454

FAQ Concerning BuckeyeSports.com

Q. I see in the Fan Forum feature on page 2 of each issue that you print comments from readers along with the opinion of the staff. How do I get my comments listed?

A. After each Ohio State game, one of the BSB staffers will post a thread titled "Player of the Game." Any comments by subscribers or staff members in that thread will be eligible to be printed in the paper.

In addition to the weekly "Buckeye Leaves" section during the season, we'll post Fan Forum questions from time to time, with answers from subscribers being printed in the paper. Anytime a question is posed on the BSB Forum on BuckeyeSports.com, the responses will have a chance to be printed in the paper – so make sure you participate!

If you are not already taking advantage of BuckeyeSports.com, simply email your name, address and preferred email address to subscriptions@buckeyesports.com and we will send back simple instructions on how to access the site. Don't forget, subscriptions@buckeyesports.com is our email address, not the website. We will send you directions on how to access the site.

Remember, complete copies of the print issue of Buckeye Sports Bulletin are posted on BuckeyeSports.com on Mondays during football season and Tuesdays the rest of the year. Your copy of the paper will still arrive in your mailbox at the usual time.

If you have any questions about BuckeyeSports.com, feel free to call us at (614) 486-2202.

2018 Ohio State Football Schedule

| Date | Opponent | Result/Time (ET) | TV | Record, Last Result |
|----------|-----------------------|------------------|-----|---------------------------------|
| Sept. 1 | OREGON STATE | W, 77-31 | ABC | 1-2, 37-35 loss at Nevada |
| Sept. 8 | RUTGERS | W, 52-3 | BTN | 1-2, 55-14 loss at Kansas |
| Sept. 15 | vs. TCU#* | W, 40-28 | ABC | 2-1, 40-28 loss to Ohio State |
| Sept. 22 | TULANE | 3:30 p.m. | BTN | 1-2, 31-24 loss at UAB |
| Sept. 29 | at Penn State* | TBA | TBA | 3-0, 63-10 win over Kent State |
| Oct. 6 | INDIANA | 3:30 OR 4 p.m. | TBA | 3-0, 38-10 win over Ball State |
| Oct. 13 | MINNESOTA | TBA | TBA | 3-0, 26-3 win over Miami (Ohio) |
| Oct. 20 | at Purdue* | TBA | TBA | 0-3, 40-37 loss to Missouri |
| Nov. 3 | NEBRASKA | TBA | TBA | 0-2, 24-19 loss to Troy |
| Nov. 10 | at Michigan State* | TBA | TBA | 1-1, off week |
| Nov. 17 | at Maryland | TBA | TBA | 2-1, 35-14 loss to Temple |
| Nov. 24 | MICHIGAN* | Noon | FOX | 2-1, 45-20 win over SMU |
| Dec. 1 | Big Ten Championship@ | 8 p.m. | FOX | |

* – 2017-18 bowl team

– at Arlington, Texas (AT&T Stadium)

@ – at Indianapolis (Lucas Oil Stadium)

Ohio State follows No. 3 Clemson, No. 2 Georgia and No. 1 Alabama in the AP top 25. The Tigers traded places with the Bulldogs, while the Crimson Tide maintained the top spot for the fourth straight week.

TCU fell just two spots following its loss to the Buckeyes, falling from No. 15 to No. 17. LSU, led by former Ohio State quarterback Joe Burrow, jumped from No. 12 to No. 6 following its 22-21 upset win over No. 7 Auburn. Gus Malzahn's squad dropped two spots to No. 9 in the AP poll entering week four.

A brutal day in the Big Ten resulted in embarrassing losses around the conference, but none bigger than Wisconsin's 24-21 home loss to BYU. The Badgers tumbled 12 spots down to No. 18, while the Cougars sneaked into the rankings at No. 25.

No. 10 Penn State, No. 19 Michigan and No. 24 Michigan State round out the Big Ten ranked teams while Iowa (64) just missed the cut atop the teams receiving votes.

Ohio State received one first-place vote in the coaches poll, while Clemson had two and Alabama had 60.

Martell Earns 1st Big Ten Honor

After an impressive performance against Rutgers, Ohio State quarterback Tate Martell was named the Big Ten's co-freshman of the week after the Buckeyes rolled over the Scarlet Knights, 52-3, on Sept. 8. He split the honor with Indiana running back Stevie Scott, who rushed for 204 yards in a week-two win over Virginia.

Playing briefly in the second quarter before taking over in mop-up duty, Martell

completed all 10 of his pass attempts for 121 yards and a score while adding 95 yards on the ground and another touchdown. His 47-yard touchdown scamper in the fourth quarter was the longest run play of the day and made him the leading rusher in the game for either team.

On his first drive against the Scarlet Knights, Martell connected with receiver Terry McLaurin for a 51-yard score up the Rutgers sideline. He later completed an impressive 19-yard pass to C.J. Saunders while rolling to his left in the second half.

Martell said the performance was exciting for him, adding he had waited more than a year to take the field as a Buckeye.

"I've been waiting for quite some time now ever since, I think, really the end of my senior year," Martell said. "After redshirting last year, it was just fun getting out there."

"I've improved a ton as a passer. And I want to be able to go out there and show that, and I just went out there and made plays with my legs when I had to. And obviously Dwayne is our starter. That's how it is. And I'll be there if something goes wrong. Whatever, whatever goes on with the coaches, whatever they want to do."

Despite the impressive performance against the Scarlet Knights, Martell did not see action in the 40-28 win over TCU.

Dobbins Treats O-Line To Lunch At Benihana

Following Ohio State's blowout win over Rutgers, Buckeye running back J.K.

Continued On Page 6

"I can't speak to (imminent fear) because, once again, I don't know everything that (Shelley Meyer) knew. I don't. Once again, she shared with me her reasoning and I just – I don't want to speak on her behalf."

"We talked about (how much it sounded like imminent fear), and she wanted to be as compassionate as possible," he continued. "And, once again, she has a reasoning for why she didn't react. And I'm not here to speak for Shelley, but she had a reasoning and her reasoning was what it was. That's why she did not alert me or just go anywhere else with it."

More of Rinaldi's interview with Meyer was scheduled to be released Sept. 17, the day after BSB went to press and the same day Meyer was scheduled to meet with local media in Columbus for his first Monday press conference of the season.

Meyer was suspended for three games for his handling of Zach Smith and is scheduled to make his return to the sidelines Sept. 22 against Tulane. Gene Smith was suspended, along with Meyer, from Aug. 31 through Sept. 16, meaning he was able to return to work Sept. 17 as well.

Meyer Visits Young Fan in Local Hospital

From Sundays through Fridays during his suspension – starting Sept. 3 – Meyer

was permitted to serve in his role as head coach. When game day came around, however, Meyer was absent from the sidelines.

So while his team prepared to take on Rutgers during the second week of the season, Meyer and his wife visited a local hospital to pay a visit to 8-year-old Matthew Offers, who was born with a congenital heart disease and has spent most of his life in the hospital.

His mother, Heather, posted the following on her Facebook page the day of the game, a 3:30 p.m. kickoff from Ohio Stadium:

"Matthew had a very special visitor today. It has been hard keeping this to myself. Urban Meyer and his wife came to the hospital specifically to see Matthew after hearing his story and remembers Face Timing with him during Christmas the past 2 years. They are the most humble down to earth people you could meet," her post read.

NBC4 in Columbus also reported that the Meyers donated their Ohio Stadium family suite to Matthew's family for the 52-3 win over the Scarlet Knights.

OSU Remains No. 4 In Both Major Polls

Ohio State held firm at No. 4 in the country in both the coaches and Associated Press polls following its 12-point win over TCU, with Alabama, Clemson and Georgia maintaining the top three spots.



TIM SWANSON
Certified Personal Trainer

Flat Stomach • Weight Loss • Strength Training
• Cardio Kick-Boxing •
Boot Camp

614-886-9331
foreverfitswan@yahoo.com

TAILGATE WITH SMOKED ON HIGH

CALL TODAY FOR A QUOTE



SMOKED ON HIGH
OHIO BBQ

755 S. High Street • Wed - Sun 11AM - 8PM • www.smokedonhigh.com • 614-754-9711





Continued From Page 5

Dobbins decided he was going to treat his offensive linemen to lunch. But not just any lunch.

After rushing 12 times for 73 yards and his first touchdown of the season, Dobbins treated his offensive linemen to Benihana, a steakhouse that features Japanese cuisine.

Dobbins said Mike Weber and Dwayne Haskins weren't able to attend, and he joked that he was able to save money by taking the linemen out for lunch instead of dinner.

"Well, we set a time and both of them (Weber and Haskins) had things to do, so the linemen were like, 'Let's just go anyway,'" Dobbins said. "If you go at lunchtime, it's not expensive."

The lunch seemed to pay off for Dobbins and the Ohio State offense, as the Texas native had his best game of the season, rushing for 121 yards on 18 carries against TCU. Weber also carried the ball 18 times for 64 yards against TCU, and even before the game, Dobbins said he was OK with splitting reps with his running back cohort.

"I'm a team guy. It's not all about me. So whatever helps the team, that's what I like," he said. "It's better for me in the long run

because I'm more fresh, so I feel like that's a good thing about it. And then I try to do what I can with my carries."

OSU Lands Top Wrestling Commit

Daniel Kerkvliet, the No. 1 high school wrestling prospect in the country according to FloWrestling.com, committed to Ohio State and head coach Tom Ryan on Sept. 10.

Currently a high school senior from Simley, Minn., Kerkvliet was originally committed to Minnesota but reopened his recruitment twice after also once committing to Oklahoma State. He told FloWrestling.com in July that he was looking for a school that he could invest more than just his college career in.

"I am looking for the right fit for me, all of them (Ohio State, Oklahoma State, Nebraska, Penn State) are great schools not just in their wrestling programs, but academically as well," he said. "I am looking for the best environment where I can make a long-term commitment, much longer than

just the five years I will be wrestling in college."

When Kerkvliet mentions a five-year college career, he is likely hinting at the possibility of taking a redshirt year during the 2019-2020 season in order to compete in the Olympics.

Ohio State has built a college powerhouse in wrestling, winning three of the last four Big Ten championships in addition to a national title in 2015. Buckeye legend Kyle Snyder exhausted his eligibility in the spring, and Kerkvliet could end up being the next great wrestler at Ohio State, assuming he sticks with his commitment.

Ward Named NFL Rookie Of The Week With Browns

When Denzel Ward was drafted No. 4 overall in the 2018 NFL draft by the Cleveland Browns, it left many shaking their heads.

After week one of the NFL season, fewer heads were shaking and many more, at least in Cleveland, were nodding in approval.

Ward collected two interceptions off Pittsburgh quarterback Ben Roethlisberger in a week-one 21-21 tie against the Steelers in Cleveland. He added six tackles and three additional pass breakups in the tie and was named the NFL Rookie of the Week for his performance.

"I do get amazed just watching him play, not the interceptions but just him throwing his body around in there trying to tackle and making tackles," said Browns head coach Hue Jackson. "He doesn't shy away from anything. He's very even-keeled when you talk to him. He doesn't get too down. He doesn't get too high. He did a really good job last week. He has to play better again this week, and here's another opportunity for him to get better."

Ward added six more tackles, five of which were solo, in a week-two loss to the New Orleans Saints, where he was matched up with former Buckeye teammate Michael Thomas.

The former Ohio State receiver got the best of Ward in the second game of the season, catching 12 passes for 89 yards and two touchdowns, the last of which came against Ward and put the Saints ahead, 18-12 with New Orleans eventually coming away with a 21-18 victory.



**BUFFALO
WILD
WINGS**
WINGS. BEER. SPORTS.™

Convenient locations to
**DINE IN OR
ORDER ONLINE**
for the game!

www.buffalowildwings.com



Learn more about your
**LOCALLY
OWNED**
BUFFALO WILD WINGS
franchise locations at
www.LancasterWings.com

**RECHARGE
YOUR GAME
HERE**

Call
614-228-3200

BOOK NOW AT
COURTYARD.COM

**COURTYARD®
Marriott.**

COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT®
Columbus Downtown

35 West Spring St., Columbus, OH 43215
6142283200 | Marriott.com/CMHCY

We're happy to be your host for a one night retreat or for a larger group gathering. Space for meetings or private dining is available on-site. Reach out to our Sales Team at 614-228-3200 for groups of 10 rooms per night or to book your downtown meeting today!

College Traditions

**The Best Selection of Ohio State
Gifts & Sportswear!**

Order Toll Free

(800) 628-4678

Order Online

www.collegetraditions.com

18046

Women's Nike Fan Tee
S-XL \$35.00



18034

Red Nike Sideline Tee
S-XL \$35.00
2X \$37.00 3X \$38.00



18011

Red Nike Football Icon Tee
S-XL \$30.00
2X \$32.00 3X \$33.00



18027

Women's Nike Black
Heather Vault Tee
S-XL \$35.00



96443

Athletic Logo Face Tattoos \$2.99



94787

Ohio State Eye Blacks \$2.99



18068

Gray Logo Tee S-2X \$16.99



11890

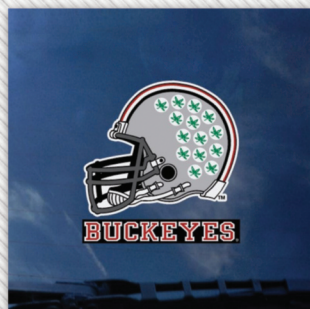
Gray OH IO
State Tee
S-2X \$16.99

Outside Application Decals \$4.99 each

95464 – Ohio People

94021 - Athletic Logo

92452 – Helmet



61802

Nike Red
Swoosh Flex
Mesh Back
Cap \$30.00



61803

Nike Black
Swoosh Flex
Mesh Back Cap
\$30.00



61826

Nike Dark Gray
H86 Cap with
Leaf.
Adjustable
\$24.00



91781

24 Can
Cooler
\$29.99



"Your Head to Toe Buckeye Source"

Haskins Shines In 1st Test As OSU's Starting QB

Continued From Page 1

he had a team that was 3-0," Day said after Ohio State topped the Horned Frogs. "That goal is accomplished, but we have a lot ahead of us."

Day admitted that he hadn't had much of a chance to reflect on the past month-and-a-half. He was thrust into action under the most unexpected circumstances – a head coach being placed on paid administrative leave just two days before the start of fall practice.

But Day seemed to take each step in stride, with his biggest bound forward coming against TCU.

Ohio State opened its season with a 77-31 thrashing of Oregon State at home. The Buckeyes followed that up with a 52-3 shellacking of Rutgers in their Big Ten opener.

But, through three weeks, both of those teams have losing records.

It was always the week-three game against TCU that would determine the success of Day's time in charge. It was the game that made Meyer's punishment for mishandling the employment of former wide receivers coach Zach Smith more than a slap on the wrist.

The final result showed that Day had equaled the highest expectations. Ohio State couldn't have hoped for anything more than a 3-0 start – win your games, and everything else will take care of itself. But, for a time, a victory against the Horned Frogs looked far from guaranteed.

Ohio State opened the game with a seven-play, 62-yard drive that ended ominously with a dropped touchdown pass from Haskins to junior Austin Mack resulting in

a 20-yard field goal for fifth-year senior Sean Nuernberger. Then TCU responded with a 12-play drive that milked 3:33 off the clock, but the Horned Frogs missed a short field goal, giving the ball back to Ohio State on downs.

That was the first break for the Buckeyes.

After a punt pinned TCU at its own 7-yard line, Ohio State defensive end Nick Bosa came free off the edge for a strip sack of quarterback Shawn Robinson. The ball bounced toward the back of the end zone, where it was eventually recovered by Ohio State junior defensive tackle Davon Hamilton for a touchdown and a 10-0 lead.

From there, though, TCU outscored Ohio State, 14-3, heading into halftime, and the Horned Frogs tacked on another touchdown after the break to take a 21-13 lead with 10:43 on the third-quarter clock.

Ohio State responded by scoring 21 points in just over four minutes, though, before adding a fourth-quarter touchdown run from Haskins for the game's final score – and the final score of Day's time as acting head coach.

"We knew there was going to be ebbs and flows in a game like this," Day said. "We talked about how everything is not going to go perfect. There were times in the two weeks previously where things really went well for us. And we knew that there were going to be times we hit adversity and that we have to stick together in times like that. I thought we did."

The win over TCU marked the first time the 2018 Buckeyes had experienced adver-

sity on the field, but they had already been through one of the most adverse fall camps in program history. Never before has an Ohio State team gone through fall camp with the head coach on paid leave, listening to people outside the program speak endlessly about that coach instead of taking instructions from him on the field. The team – led by Day and the rest of the coaching staff, in addition to strong veteran leadership among the players – stuck together the whole time, though.

Day, other coaches and all the players credited the culture of the program for getting Ohio State through fall camp without Meyer and through the first couple of games without him as well. So when adversity struck once again during the TCU game, it was that culture that helped the Buckeyes remain undefeated. What else?

"At the end of the day, how we look at it is everybody has moments and events in their life and this is a moment where we felt like maybe we were handpicked," junior defensive tackle Robert Landers said after the game. "We always talk about, as players – we are handpicked to come to Ohio State. At the end of the day, you go through what you go through, and when you weather a storm, you come out different and stronger at the end. And I feel like that's why we had to go through this week. It helped us see where we are as a team when we have to face true adversity."

Adversity encountered. Adversity handled. And Day is 3-0 as a head coach.

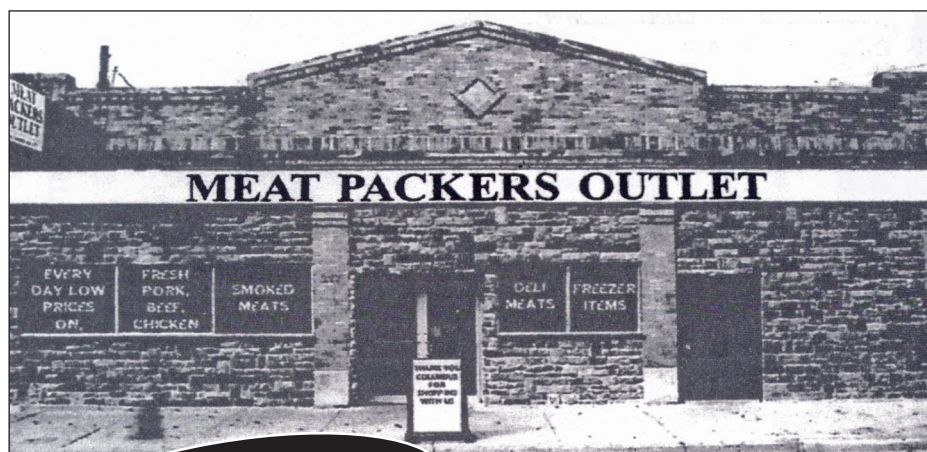
CHAMPPPS

KITCHEN + BAR



Experience the Burger

1827 OLENTANGY RIVER ROAD ■ COLUMBUS, OHIO
(614) 298-0833 ■ WWW.CHAMPPPS.COM



Retail meat market serving
Columbus since 1957

Open Tuesday-Saturday
8 am to 6 pm

614-228-9074 or 614-469-1720
317 S. Fifth St. • Columbus, OH 43215
www.meatpackersoutlet.com

OHIO STATE FOOTBALL TICKETS!

We have your seats to the season's hottest action!



For Your Ticket Connection Call:

DREAM SEATS
YOUR TOTAL TICKET SOURCE

1611 W. FIFTH AVE. COLUMBUS, OH 43212
(614) 340-8989

www.dreamseats.com

Home &
Away Games!

All NCAA & NFL
Games in Stock!

all events ★ all cities ★ all the time ★ all events ★ all cities ★ all the time ★ all events ★ all cities ★ all the time

COVER STORY

After the win, he resumed his full-time role as offensive coordinator – Meyer had been at work apart from game day since Sept. 3 – meaning he'll hold an undefeated record for the time being.

When asked if he'd simply consider retiring with that perfect mark intact, a big smile came across Day's face.

"Sure," he quipped.

In all likelihood, Day will be running his own program someday. Probably someday soon. For now, though, Day admitted that he was relieved to get through at least one big test as a head coach with another win on the board.

"I do feel a little bit of relief right now after that game and, you know, the past few weeks," he said. "But I got so much help from these players and from the coaching staff.

"(Offensive coordinator/tight ends coach) Kevin Wilson and (defensive coordinator) Greg Schiano – what Greg Schiano has done for me in the last month is something I'll never forget. He is the classiest person I've ever been around in the coaching profession, the way he's handled himself, helping me along the way, counseling me on day-to-day stuff.

"And just the way the defense played today, I couldn't have been happier for him and that defense. So (there was) a little bit of relief, but we've still got a long way to go."

Model Students

If you take the football season as a semester of schoolwork, Day's final exam was the TCU game, while it served as Haskins' first midterm of the year. It's safe to say both of them passed.

When asked to grade his position coach as a head coach, Haskins was quick with his answer: "Is there an A-plus-plus in the grade book?"

Junior defensive tackle Dre'Mont Jones gave Day the same mark.

"I agree," Jones said. "He did really good."

Little did they know, Day had entered the postgame interview room at AT&T Stadium, standing to the side waiting for two of his star players to finish their portion of the press conference. Proving the rela-

tionship he has built with the entire time, Day chimed in.

"(You said that) just because I'm standing here," Day said with a smile.

Jones and Haskins both looked up in surprise, perhaps a little embarrassed. But their assessment was honest, and fair – you can't do much better than winning all three games you coach, after all.

Haskins, on the other hand, was equally impressive through the first three games. Perhaps even more so.



Ryan Day

In his first three starts at Ohio State, the sophomore racked up the 3-0 record, those 11 touchdown passes and just one interception. Against TCU, he was 24 of 38 passing for 344 yards and two touchdowns without turning the ball over – and that includes at least five drops from his receivers. Haskins completed passes to seven different teammates and even kept the ball on a read option for the first rushing touchdown of his collegiate career.

It was a complete performance in the face of defensive pressure he had never seen before as Ohio State's starting quarterback.

"This was a test to see where he was at," Day said of Haskins. "I thought he passed. There were a couple times he scrambled, took a shot. He scored on the pulled down in the red zone, took a couple hits on a couple sacks early in the game, hung in there, made some big throws and, again, worked through some adversity along the way."

Haskins credited the Ohio State defense for preparing him for the game. Going against the Buckeyes throughout the week leading up to the game helped him to rarely miss a beat, meaning Meyer will inherit an undefeated team with a battle-tested quarterback who has the talent to match Ohio State's lofty expectations for the season.

And now Meyer, Day, Haskins and the rest of the Buckeyes know they can bounce back even after being knocked down early.

"We got punched in the mouth," Haskins said. "It's a fight, and you're going to get punched. You've still got to be able to rebound. And we did in the second half."

INTRODUCING
DONATOS PIZZA

AS A PREFERRED CATERING PARTNER OF



BUCKEYE PARK
by **TAILGATE CLUB**

Ready to book? Call 614-460-2806 or
visit our website at
www.OhioStateBuckeyes.com/TailgateClub



DONATOS PIZZA



OFFICIAL PIZZA SPONSOR OF OHIO STATE ATHLETICS.



The Strait & Lamp Group



Strait & Lamp Lumber

A Division of The Strait & Lamp Group



Dublin Millwork

A Division of The Strait & Lamp Group



Linworth Lumber

A Division of The Strait & Lamp Group



5th Ave. Lumber

A Division of The Strait & Lamp Group



S&L Contracting

A Division of The Strait & Lamp Group



Lumbercraft

A Division of The Strait & Lamp Group

www.straitandlamp.com

DE Bosa Shines Vs. TCU Before Injury Exit

Ohio State junior defensive end Nick Bosa played about two quarters in each of the first two games of the season. In week three against TCU in Arlington, Texas, Bosa didn't play much in the second half once again, but this time it was due to injury – described as a lower abdomen strain by ESPN during the game – and not a comfortable lead for the Buckeyes.

Before the injury, though, Bosa had already made a big impact on the game.

GAME NOTEBOOK

Tim Moody

With Ohio State leading, 3-0, in the first quarter, sophomore punter Drue Chrisman pinned the Horned Frogs at their own 7-yard line. After a 2-yard rush on first down, Bosa came off the edge and sacked TCU quarterback Shawn Robinson, forcing a fumble in the process. The ball bounced toward the back of the end zone, where it was eventually recovered by defensive tackle Davon Hamilton, giving the Buckeyes an early 10-0 advantage.

Bosa's injury came early in the third quarter when the Buckeyes were trailing, 14-13. Ohio State eventually fell behind further at 21-13, and he returned from the locker room in street clothes later in the half.

"We lost Nick. It was a little bit of a wake-up call because we lost our best guy," junior defensive tackle Dre'Mont Jones said. "So we had to go out there and play. I mean, there's no one to rely on. We got to rely on ourselves. We got to rely on each other. I think tonight, after a hard first half, we did."

After the game, acting head coach Ryan Day said he didn't yet have an update on Bosa's status.

On more than one occasion during the TCU game, junior starting cornerback Kendall Sheffield struggled with what appeared to be an ankle injury, leaving Ohio State without two key starters for stretches of the second half. Jones struggled with a



SONNY BROCKWAY

DOWN AND OUT – Ohio State junior defensive end Nick Bosa (97) left the game against TCU in the third quarter with an abdomen injury and did not return.

cramp during the second half as well but was able to return to the game.

Despite missing most of the second half, Bosa finished the game with five tackles (four solos) and a sack. Sheffield tallied five tackles as well, including one tackle for loss. Bosa's sack gave him at least one quarterback takedown for the sixth game in a row.

Jones Steps Up In Bosa's Absence

With Bosa sidelined, Jones became the focal point for Ohio State's defensive line. He finished the game with six tackles – including a sack and two tackles for loss – but his most significant contribution came with the ball in his hands.

After sophomore quarterback Dwayne Haskins found fifth-year senior wide receiver Parris Campbell for a 63-yard touchdown with 6:58 left in the third quarter to pull Ohio State within two at 21-19, the Horned Frogs took over at their own 25. Robinson found receiver Jalen Reagor for 2 yards on first down before running back Darius Anderson rushed for 3 yards on second to set up third-and-5. Robinson was quickly pressured after taking the snap, and he attempted a late shovel pass into a crowd. Jones caught the ball, and raced 28 yards for a touchdown to put Ohio State ahead 26-21 – and the Buckeyes never relinquished that lead.

Jones' touchdown was one of three trips to the end zone for Ohio State in just over four minutes, and Day said it was a turning point in the game.

"I would say the defensive score was the biggest one," he said. "Anytime you're playing in a game like this and you can win the turnover battle, that's our plan to win. We didn't turn the ball over, and we got three turnovers, two of them for scores. That's huge."

Jones, for his part, was a bit more understated about taking credit for swinging momentum in Ohio State's favor.

"No play is bigger than the other," Jones said. "It's all about the game momentum."

Once we found it, we hung onto it and didn't let it go."

Ohio State's third and final turnover forced came late in the fourth quarter when junior linebacker Malik Harrison intercepted Shawn Robinson on second-and-10 from the TCU 24, returning it 13 yards to the 27. After two rushes, a delay of game and two kneel-downs, the game was over.

Dobbins Tops Century Mark

Although sophomore running back J.K. Dobbins rushed for more than 70 yards in each of the first two games of the season, he didn't hit triple digits until the TCU contest.

Playing back in his home state, the La Grange, Texas, native carried the ball 18 times for 121 yards (6.7-yard average) with a long of 18 in Ohio State's 40-28 win. He added one catch for 3 yards as well.

As has been the case for the entire season so far, Dobbins split time with junior running back Mike Weber. The duo each had 18 carries, while Weber finished with 64 yards on the ground (3.6-yard average). As a team, the Buckeyes gained 182 yards on 42 attempts with one touchdown.

After the game, Dobbins stressed that he has no issue splitting carries with anyone –

EL VAQUERO
MEXICAN RESTAURANT

3230 Olentangy River Road
Columbus, Ohio, 43202
(614) 261-0900
www.ElVaqueroRestaurants.com
HAPPY HOUR 4 pm-8 pm

\$5.00 OFF
your total bill of \$25 or more
Coupon valid only Sunday – Thursday. Excludes tax and alcohol.
Dine-in only. One coupon per table. Not valid with any other offers. Valid at all locations with coupon. Expires 11/30/18

\$6.00 OFF
your total bill of \$30 or more
Coupon valid only Sunday – Thursday. Excludes tax and alcohol.
Dine-in only. One coupon per table. Not valid with any other offers. Valid at all locations with coupon. Expires 11/30/18

Frank's Classic COLUMBUS LOCKSMITH

614-236-5397 (KEYS)
www.columbus-locksmith.com

Serving Columbus for 25 years

as long as it's helping the team have success on the field.

"I'm all about winning," Dobbins said. "So whatever the team needs to win the game, that's what happened. I'm a team player. I think each and every single one of us is a team player. Whenever it's not our turn, we don't have a problem with it because we like to see our teammates thrive."

Dobbins added that it was special for him to hit the century mark in his home state.

"It's a blessing," he said. "Playing here all my life and coming back home and having a great game is a blessing."

Haskins Keeper Nets 1st Rushing TD

For much of the contest against TCU, Ohio State's ground game struggled to get rolling – at least by the Buckeyes' lofty standards. That can be at least partially attributed to a general lack of a running threat at quarterback with Haskins on the field, especially since redshirt freshman Tate Martell didn't play in the game.

Haskins, an adequate runner who can certainly be described as a pass-first quarterback, had not kept the ball on a read-option play through the first two games of the season. For much of the game against TCU, that was still true.

During the first drive of the fourth quarter, though, the Buckeyes found themselves facing a second-and-goal from the TCU 5-yard line following a sack. Ohio State called a read-option, and the defensive end crashed toward the running back – Dobbins – leaving a clear path to the end zone in front of Haskins. The signal caller pulled the ball, and ran the 5 yards for his first collegiate rushing touchdown and the game's final score.

After the game, Haskins pointed out that many of the plays earlier in the game that appeared to be zone reads were actually called handoffs for either Dobbins or Weber. Based on what the Buckeyes saw on those calls, Ohio State decided to put the ball in Haskins' hands late.

"We ran that play a lot," Haskins said. "And we saw the end was crunching in hard. So that's why we called that play."

Day credited offensive coordinator Kevin Wilson for making the call.

"(Wilson) said that two plays earlier, we called a play where the fullback came across and crunched the defensive end," Day said. "He said he was coming real hard. So Kevin says, if we call the play where he can read the guy, that we've got a chance to hit it."

"And he was exactly right. He was right on the money. The timing was right. So he pulled it, he read it. And then (junior tight end Rashod Berry) came around and led the way. Big play in the game. Dwayne beat you with his feet. That's part of his game. It's not the biggest part of his game, but it is part of his game."

Haskins had three rushes for 8 yards, including a sack for a loss of 1.

Haskins Goes Back To Mack Despite Drops

On Ohio State's second play from scrimmage, Haskins connected with his roommate, junior wide receiver Austin Mack, for a 16-yard gain and a first down. On the following snap, Haskins went deep to Mack, who reeled in the ball for a 48-yard gain – the longest catch of his career – down to the Ohio State 2-yard line.

Two plays later, on third-and-goal from the 3, Haskins looked for Mack again and found him wide open in the end zone, but the Fort Wayne, Ind., native simply dropped the ball, forcing Ohio State to settle for a field goal.

That ended up being the first of four con-

secutive drops for Mack, who is typically one of the most sure-handed players on the team.

"We are really close, so I was just saying, 'Look, play. If you mess up, I'm going to keep coming to you, throwing you the ball,'" Haskins said when asked what his conversations with Mack during the game were like. "It was hard for him having those drops like that in key moments in the game, but he kept pushing. And I relied on him again on the big moments, and he came through for me."

Despite the drops, Ohio State never removed Mack from the main rotation at receiver, and that ended up paying off. Mack added receptions of 12 and 8 yards in the third quarter, with the second helping to set up Haskins' touchdown run later on that drive. The receiver finished with four catches for 84 yards, good for second on the team in both categories. Junior K.J. Hill led the way with six receptions for 95 yards and a touchdown.

TCU's Jalen Reagor led all players with seven catches and 98 yards through the air.

Game Analysis

What Worked

The passing game, especially when junior K.J. Hill was involved. Ohio State sophomore quarterback Dwayne Haskins finished the 40-28 win over TCU with 24 completions on 38 attempts for 344 yards and two touchdowns. He didn't throw an interception, and he was sacked only once in the game. Haskins also saw his receivers drop at least five passes – including a sure touchdown throw to Austin Mack – his roommate – early in the game. That didn't end up mattering, though, as Haskins systematically broke down the Horned Frogs when it mattered most, and he did his best work when Hill was on the other end. The Arkansas native finished with six catches for 95 yards and a key 24-yard touchdown in the third quarter that gave Ohio State a 33-21 advantage.

What Didn't Work

The angles on defense. Ohio State proved in the opener against Oregon State that its defense isn't immune to the big-play bug. That was even more apparent against TCU, though, when the Buckeyes allowed a 93-yard touchdown for TCU's Darius Anderson in the second quarter that gave the Horned Frogs a 14-10 lead. Anderson should have been stopped near the line of scrimmage, but he broke through and eventually raced down the sideline with just safety Isaiah Pryor to beat.

Pryor took a bad angle toward the runner, though, and could do nothing but dive in vain at Anderson's legs as the TCU running back set records for both programs in one swipe. It was the longest rush in Horned Frogs history, and it was the longest run ever allowed by an Ohio State team. Anderson finished with 154 yards and two touchdowns on just 12 carries in the game.

Play Of The Game

Dre'Mont Jones' pick-six. After Anderson scored his second touchdown in the third quarter, Ohio State found itself down by eight points at 21-13. The Buckeyes answered with a 63-yard touchdown from Haskins to fifth-year senior Parris Campbell, but the ensuing two-point try failed, leaving the Buckeyes at a 21-19 deficit with 6:58 on the third-quarter clock. The offense didn't even need the ball back for Ohio State to take the lead, though. On the ensuing TCU possession, quarterback Shawn Robinson attempted an inside shovel pass that junior defensive tackle Dre'Mont Jones intercepted and returned 28 yards for a score, putting Ohio State ahead for good at 26-21 in the process. It was the second defensive touchdown of the game for Ohio State, and it was the second touchdown in a string of three scores in just over four minutes for the Buckeyes.

– Tim Moody

Borland Gets The Start

Ohio State sophomore linebacker Tuf Borland, who suffered an Achilles injury early in spring practice, was a partial participant in each of the first two games of the season coming off the bench. Against TCU, though, Borland was in the starting lineup at middle linebacker for the first time this year.

He finished the game with five tackles (three solo) and half a tackle for loss. Sophomore Baron Browning, who had started each of the first two games of the season, rotated in on defense but did not record a tackle.

Harrison, who finished with six tackles – including half a tackle for loss – to go with his interception, and sophomore Pete Werner (two tackles) started alongside Borland at linebacker.

OSU Gives Up Record Run

With Ohio State leading, 10-7, in the

second quarter, the Buckeyes were forced to punt around midfield. Chrisman's kick ended up pinning TCU at its own 7-yard line, and the Horned Frogs faced a difficult second-and-10 after Robinson threw incomplete on first down.

That difficult spot quickly turned into points, though, as Anderson rushed 93 yards for a touchdown, partially due to a missed tackle near the line of scrimmage and a poor angle taken by Ohio State safety Isaiah Pryor in pursuit.

The run was the longest play from scrimmage ever allowed by an Ohio State defense. It was also the longest run in Horned Frogs history, breaking the previous record of 89 yards, which TCU great LaDainian Tomlinson did once in 1999 and once in 2000. Tomlinson was in the stadium for the game as an honorary captain.

Iowa's Larry Ferguson had the previous longest run against the Buckeyes, going 91 yards in a 35-12 Hawkeye win on Nov. 12, 1960.



The ULTIMATE Ohio State

Football Trivia Q+A

Makes a great gift for your Buckeye!

"Holy Smokes! It is so comprehensive—what an amazing job you've done."

— GENE SMITH, OHIO STATE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

"Great work!"

— JIM TRESSEL, PRESIDENT, YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

\$30 each, includes shipping and handling

To purchase, contact Mike McGuire at 602.793.2383

McGuire Publications

Buckeyes Bounce Back To Top Horned Frogs

By CRAIG MERZ
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

The outcome was never in doubt when Ohio State rolled past Oregon State and Rutgers by a combined 129-34 score in the first two games. It was different on the night of Sept. 15 at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas, with the nation watching ranked opponents.

The Buckeyes faced their first (on-field) adversity of the season, trailing No. 15 TCU by eight points in the third quarter, before a couple of big defensive plays and sophomore quarterback Dwayne Haskins led No. 4 OSU to a 40-28 victory before 64,362 fans, at least two-thirds of them sporting scarlet and gray.

"How are you going to respond? You really don't know that," said OSU offensive coordinator Ryan Day in his final game as acting head coach before Urban Meyer returns from a three-game ban Sept. 22 against Tulane. "You practice every day. You think you know how you're going to respond. But to see how the guys responded today gives us something to look back on."

TCU (2-1) trailed 10-0 early but led 14-13 at the half before stretching the advantage to 21-13.

Haskins' 63-yard TD pass to senior Parris Campbell ignited the rally, and an interception return by junior defensive tackle Dre'Mont Jones gave the Buckeyes (3-0) a 26-21 lead they would never relinquish.

The Numbers Game

Haskins was 24 of 38 for 344 yards and two touchdowns through the air and one on the ground. Sophomore running back J.K. Dobbins, one of seven Texans on the OSU roster, ran for 121 yards on 18 attempts.

Junior Mike Weber rushed for 64 yards on 18 tries, and junior receiver K.J. Hill had six catches for 95 yards and a TD. Junior Austin Mack caught four passes for 84 yards but also had four drops to help prevent the

potent Ohio State offense from reaching the end zone in the first 38 minutes.

TCU quarterback Shawn Robinson was 24 for 40 for 308 yards with a TD and two interceptions. Darius Anderson had 12 carries for 154 yards, including a 93-yard touchdown for a 14-10 TCU lead with 9:08 left in the second quarter. It was the longest scoring run in TCU history and the longest play from scrimmage ever allowed by the Buckeyes.

OSU had 526 yards (344 pass, 182 rush) and amassed 29 first downs. TCU totaled 511 yards (308 air, 203 ground) and 22 first downs.

The Buckeyes won despite losing junior All-America defensive end Nick Bosa to an abdominal strain in the third quarter. He had five tackles and a sack that led to a fumble recovery by junior defensive tackle Davon Hamilton for OSU's first TD in the opening quarter.

Junior safety Jordan Fuller led OSU with eight tackles (four solo). In addition to Bosa's sack, Jones and junior defensive end Jonathon Cooper each had one.

How It Happened

Ohio State started at its 35 after the opening kickoff and drove to the TCU 2 but had to settle for a 20-yard field goal by Sean Nuernberger for a 3-0 lead at the 13:20 mark.

Haskins hit consecutive passes of 16 and 48 yards to Mack to reach the 2, but Mack had a third-down pass at the back of the end zone slip through his fingers.

TCU tried to respond, but a holding call on KaVontae Turpin nullified a 13-yard TD run by Anderson and Cole Bunce missed a 31-yard field try.

When OSU sophomore Drue Chrisman punted to the Horned Frogs' 7, OSU quickly took a 10-0 lead. On second down from the 9, Bosa stripped Robinson at the 1 and Hamilton recovered the loose ball for the touchdown with 7:13 remaining after it squibbed away from Jones.

TCU bounced back on a Sewo Olonilua 6-yard TD run to make it 10-7 at the 4:28 mark of the first quarter. The drive was aided by a pass-interference call on junior cornerback Damon Arnette that moved the ball 14 yards to the OSU 9.

Later, Chrisman again punted to the TCU 7. Robinson threw an incomplection on first down, but Anderson scored on his historic run to put OSU behind for the first time this season, 14-10, with 9:08 to go before the half.

Nuernberger made it 14-13 on a 30-yard field goal with 5:34 left in the half. Dobbins carried six times for 38 yards to help set up the three-pointer. Nuernberger would miss from 38 yards with two seconds left after the Buckeyes marched 69 yards on 15 plays.

Matters got worse for OSU early in the third when Bosa left the game with an injury after a 14-yard Jalen Reagor catch. The Horned Frogs did not score on the series, but an OSU three-and-out gave TCU possession at its 48 following Chrisman's 34-yard punt.

Anderson ran for 8 yards and Jarrison Stewart gained 28 on a catch to reach the OSU 16. Anderson ran in from there with a dive at the pylon to make it 21-13 with 10:43 left in the third.

Campbell cut the deficit to 21-19 with 6:58 remaining in the quarter. On second-and-10 from the OSU 37, he took a screen from Haskins, used his blockers, then outraced



SONNY BROCKWAY

DEFENSE PROVIDING OFFENSE – Ohio State junior defensive tackle Dre'Mont Jones (86) returned an interception for a touchdown against TCU.

everybody for the 63-yard TD pass. A two-point conversion failed when Haskins was hurried as he tried another screen.

It was just a temporary setback. TCU needed 5 yards on third down from its 30 when Robinson tried a shovel pass. Jones pushed the offensive line back and intercepted the attempt and, after several nifty moves, scored from 28 yards for a 26-21 lead at the 5:54 mark.

TCU tried a trick play on the kickoff, but an illegal forward pass negated a touchdown and put the Horned Frogs at their 4. The OSU special teams then came through when a bad snap resulted in a partially blocked punt from Adam Nunez by redshirt freshman cornerback Shaun Wade. The kick went 2 yards to the TCU 25.

Weber ran for a yard before Haskins had a 24-yard scoring strike to Hill with 2:57 left in the third to make it 33-21 to cap a flurry of 20 points in 4:01.

Back came TCU when Robinson lofted a

51-yard TD pass to TreVontae Hights with 1:06 remaining in the wild third quarter for a 33-28 score.

Haskins finished an eight-play, 75-yard drive in 3:36 when he scored his first career rushing TD, from 5 yards, with 12:30 remaining in the game to make it 40-28. Key plays were 18-, 9- and 11-yard rushes by Dobbins and a 20-yard catch by fifth-year senior Johnnie Dixon.

"This was a test to see where he was at," Day said of Haskins. "I thought he passed. There were a couple times he scrambled, took a shot. He scored on the pull down in the red zone, took a couple hits on a couple sacks early in the game, hung in there, made some big throws, and, again, worked through some adversity along the way."

The game was sealed when junior linebacker Malik Harrison intercepted Robinson at the TCU 40 and returned it 13 yards with 2:37 left and OSU ran out the clock.

Help BSB Grow

Loyal Buckeye Sports Bulletin readers frequently ask us what they can do to help keep BSB vibrant in this increasingly electronic age. One of the things readers can do is introduce BSB to new readers who might find our Ohio State sports content interesting. In order to help you do that, we are offering an opportunity to send four free trial issues to potential subscribers. We will then offer your potential subscriber a very special offer to get them to join the fold of loyal Buckeye Sports Bulletin readers.

We are also offering a special \$19.95 subscription rate for gifts for our service men and women. It's nice to send a little bit of home to those all over the world who are protecting us. Don't forget to include an APO address when applicable and remember, any subscription includes electronic access to BSB, so our Buckeyes in uniform will be able to enjoy their BSB immediately, wherever they are.

This four free trial issue offer is not good for current subscribers. This offer is to introduce readers to Buckeye Sports Bulletin. You can conveniently email your names and addresses to subscriptions@buckeyesports.com or mail them to P.O. Box 12453, Columbus, Ohio, 43212.

The Numbers Game

Ohio State 40, TCU 28

Sept. 15, 2018 – AT&T Stadium; Arlington, Texas

| Score by Quarters | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | | F |
|-------------------|----|---|----|---|---|----|
| OHIO STATE (3-0) | 10 | 3 | 20 | 7 | – | 40 |
| TCU (2-1) | 7 | 7 | 14 | 0 | – | 28 |

First Quarter

OSU – Nuernberger, 20 yard field goal, 13:20; 7 plays, 62 yards, 1:40 TOP.

OSU – Hamilton, 0 yard fumble recovery (Nuernberger kick), 7:13.

TCU – Olonilua, 6 yard run (Song kick), 4:28; 7 plays, 84 yards, 2:41 TOP.

Second Quarter

TCU – Anderson, 93 yard run (Song kick), 9:08; 2 plays, 93 yards, 0:20 TOP.

OSU – Nuernberger, 30 yard field goal, 5:34; 10 plays, 48 yards, 3:27 TOP.

Third Quarter

TCU – Anderson, 16 yard run (Song kick), 10:43; 3 plays, 52 yards, 0:53 TOP.

OSU – Campbell, 63 yard pass from Haskins (Haskins pass failed), 6:58; 2 plays, 63 yards, 0:16 TOP.

OSU – Jones, 28 yard interception return (Nuernberger kick), 5:54.

OSU – Hill, 24 yard pass from Haskins (Nuernberger kick), 2:57; 2 plays, 25 yards, 0:30 TOP.

TCU – Hights, 51 yard pass from Robinson (Song kick), 1:06; 5 plays, 75 yards, 1:51 TOP.

Fourth Quarter

OSU – Haskins, 5 yard run (Nuernberger kick), 12:30; 8 plays, 75 yards, 3:36 TOP.

Att. – 64,362.

Weather – Indoors.

Team Statistics

| | OSU | TCU |
|--------------------------|---------|---------|
| First Downs | 29 | 22 |
| Rushing | 13 | 8 |
| Passing | 14 | 13 |
| Penalty | 2 | 1 |
| Rushing-Yards | 42-182 | 36-203 |
| Passing Yards | 344 | 308 |
| Passes (Comp.-Att.-Int.) | 24-38-0 | 24-40-2 |
| Offensive Plays | 80 | 76 |
| Total Net Yards | 526 | 511 |
| Third Down Efficiency | 4-12 | 7-15 |
| Fourth Down Efficiency | 0-0 | 0-0 |
| Punts-Avg. | 6-37.2 | 6-35.5 |
| Fumbles-Lost | 0-0 | 1-1 |
| Penalties | 5-39 | 5-40 |
| Time of Possession | 31:08 | 28:52 |

Individual Statistics

RUSHING (Att.-Net Yds.) – OSU: Dobbins 18-121; Weber 18-64; Haskins 3-8; TEAM 2-(-5); Campbell 1-(-6). **TCU:** Anderson 12-154; Olonilua 14-39; Robinson 8-7; Reagor 1-4; TEAM 1-(-1).

PASSING (Comp.-Att.-Int.-Yds.-TD) – OSU: Haskins 24-38-0-344-2. **TCU:** Robinson 24-40-2-308-1.

RECEIVING (Rec.-Yds.) – OSU: Hill 6-95; Mack 4-84; Dixon 4-39; Weber 4-28; McLaurin 3-29; Campbell 2-66; Dobbins 1-3. **TCU:** Reagor 7-98; Turpin 4-14; Stewart 3-37; Hights 2-57; Thomas 2-49; Barber 2-24; Anderson 2-12; Lynn 1-10; Austin 1-7.

PUNTING (No.-Avg.-Long) – OSU: Chrisman 6-37.2-42. **TCU:** Nunez 4-178-51; David 1-33.0-33; TEAM 1-2.0-2.

PUNT RETURNS (No.-Yds.) – OSU: Saunders 1-0. **TCU:** None.

KICKOFF RETURNS (No.-Yds.) – OSU: Dixon 1-38; Saunders 1-14. **TCU:** Turpin 4-56.

MISSED FIELD GOALS (Yds.) – OSU: Nuernberger 38. **TCU:** Bunce 31.

FORCED FUMBLES – OSU: Bosa. **TCU:** None.

FUMBLE RECOVERIES (No.-Yds) – OSU: Hamilton 1-0. **TCU:** None.

INTERCEPTIONS (No.-Yds.) – OSU: D. Jones 1-28; Harrison 1-13. **TCU:** None.

TACKLES FOR LOSS (No.-Yds.) – OSU: D. Jones 2.0-13; Bosa 1.0-8; Cooper 1.0-3; Sheffield 1.0-3; Fuller 0.5-1; Wint 0.5-1; Harrison 0.5-0; Borland 0.5-0. **TCU:** Gaines 3.5-3; Epley 1.0-6; Wallow 1.0-1; Dunham 1.0-1; Small 0.5-1.

Sacks (No.-Yds.) – OSU: D. Jones 1.0-12; Bosa 1.0-8; Cooper 1.0-3. **TCU:** Dunham 1.0-1.

TACKLES (Solo-Asst.-Tot.) – OSU: Fuller 4-4-8; Harrison 5-1-6; Arnette 5-1-6; D. Jones 4-2-6; Wade 4-1-5; Bosa 4-1-5; Sheffield 4-1-5; Borland 3-2-5; Landers 1-4-5; Pryor 3-1-4; Cooper 1-3-4; Wint 1-2-3; Okudah 2-0-2; Werner 1-1-2; Williamson 1-0-1; Garrett 0-1-1; Booker 0-1-1. **TCU:** Gaines 7-2-9; Wallow 6-2-8; Issahaku 7-0-7; Lewis 4-1-5; Gladney 4-1-5; Small 3-2-5; Daniels 4-0-4; Evans 1-3-4; Summers 3-0-3; Banogu 3-0-3; Simmons 1-2-3; Epley 2-0-2; Broadnax 2-0-2; Scott 2-0-2; Dunham 1-1-2; Bethley 0-2-2; Moehrig-Woodard 1-0-1; Thomas 1-0-1; Collier 0-1-1; VanZandt 0-1-1.

PLAYERS IN THE GAME – OHIO STATE: Offense, Munford, Pridgeon, Jordan, Knox, Prince, Farrell, Haskins, Dobbins, Campbell, Mack, McLaurin, Nuernberger. Defense, Bosa, Landers, D. Jones, Cooper, Borland, Harrison, Werner, Sheffield, Pryor, Fuller, Arnette, Chrisman. Reserves, Hill, Dixon, Okudah, Young, Williamson, Browning, Davis, Cornell, Victor, Berry, Gant, Wint, Wade, Weber, Pope, Hilliard, McCullough, Olave, Booker, Hamilton, Cupp, Woidke, Myers, Saunders, Garrett, Haubeil, Cage, Smith, Vincent. **TCU:** Offense, Stewart, Austin, Reagor, McKinney, Iwuagwu, Hollins, Myers, Niang, Robinson, Anderson, Olonilua, Bunce. Defense, Banogu, Bethley, Broadnax, Collier, Summers, Wallow, Gaines, Small, Issahaku, Lewis, Gladney, Nunez. Reserves, Thomas, Moehrig-Woodard, Johnson, Daniels, Simmons, Barber, Ware, Evans, Meeking, VanZandt, Demercado, Dunham, Turpin, Scott, David, Epley, Bowen, Filikitonga, Song, Ortiz, Elliott, Bolisomi, McMillon, Gaynor, Davis, Wells, Hights, Lynn, Cooper.

Season Statistics

| 2018 Game-By-Game | | | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|----------------|---------|--|
| Date | Opponent | Result/Time | Crowd | |
| Sept. 1 | (5) OREGON STATE | W, 77-31 | 102,169 | |
| Sept. 8 | (4) RUTGERS | W, 52-3 | 93,057 | |
| Sept. 15 | (4) vs. TCU* (15) | W, 40-28 | 64,362 | |
| Sept. 22 | TULANE | 3:30 p.m. | – | |
| Sept. 29 | at Penn State | TBA | – | |
| Oct. 6 | INDIANA | 3:30 OR 4 p.m. | – | |
| Oct. 13 | MINNESOTA | TBA | – | |
| Oct. 20 | at Purdue | TBA | – | |
| Nov. 3 | NEBRASKA | TBA | – | |
| Nov. 10 | at Michigan State | TBA | – | |
| Nov. 17 | at Maryland | TBA | – | |
| Nov. 24 | MICHIGAN | Noon | – | |
| Dec. 1 | Big Ten Title Game** | 8 p.m. | – | |

OSU's gameday AP ranking is in parentheses before the opponent, while the opponent's ranking is after the name.

* – At AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas.

** – At Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis.

| Team Statistics | | |
|-------------------------|--------|--------|
| | OSU | Opp |
| First Downs | 96 | 49 |
| Rushing | 43 | 18 |
| Passing | 43 | 24 |
| Penalty | 10 | 7 |
| Average Per Game/Rush | 260.7 | 156.0 |
| Average Per Game/Pass | 348.0 | 189.7 |
| Total Offense | 1,826 | 1,037 |
| Total Plays | 240 | 200 |
| Average Per Game | 608.7 | 345.7 |
| Average Per Play | 7.6 | 5.2 |
| Penalties-Yards | 22-209 | 17-161 |
| Fumbles-Lost | 2-1 | 7-3 |
| Third Down Efficiency | 25-41 | 17-46 |
| Percentage | 61% | 37% |
| Fourth Down Efficiency | 1-1 | 0-0 |
| Percentage | 100% | N/A |
| Sacks-Yards | 11-94 | 3-10 |
| Time Of Possession Avg. | 31:20 | 28:40 |

| Score | | | | | | | |
|-------------|----|----|----|----|----|------|------|
| By Quarters | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | OT | Tot. | Avg. |
| Ohio State | 45 | 45 | 44 | 35 | – | 169 | 56.3 |
| Opponents | 14 | 14 | 34 | 0 | – | 62 | 20.7 |

| Individual Statistics | | | | | |
|-----------------------|------|-----|------|----|------|
| Rushing | Att. | Net | Avg. | TD | Long |
| Mike Weber | 46 | 281 | 6.1 | 3 | 49 |
| J.K. Dobbins | 45 | 268 | 6.0 | 1 | 21 |
| Tate Martell | 10 | 99 | 9.9 | 1 | 47 |
| Master Teague | 11 | 81 | 7.4 | 1 | 33 |
| Brian Snead | 11 | 37 | 3.4 | 1 | 5 |
| Dwayne Haskins | 7 | 23 | 3.3 | 1 | 17 |
| C.J. Saunders | 0 | 8 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 |
| TEAM | 3 | -7 | -2.3 | 0 | 0 |
| Parris Campbell | 2 | -8 | -4.0 | 0 | 0 |
| OSU Totals | 135 | 782 | 5.8 | 8 | 49 |
| OPP Totals | 106 | 468 | 4.4 | 5 | 93 |

| Passing | Comp. | Att. | Pct. | Yds. | TD-INT | Effic. |
|--------------|-------|------|------|-------|--------|--------|
| D. Haskins | 66 | 91 | 72.5 | 890 | 11-1 | 192.37 |
| Tate Martell | 13 | 14 | 92.9 | 154 | 1-0 | 208.83 |
| OSU Totals | 79 | 105 | 75.2 | 1,044 | 12-1 | 194.57 |
| OPP Totals | 49 | 94 | 52.1 | 569 | 3-4 | 105.00 |

| Receiving | Rec. | Net | Avg. | TD | Long |
|-----------------|------|-------|------|----|------|
| K.J. Hill | 17 | 202 | 11.9 | 1 | 27 |
| Austin Mack | 12 | 173 | 14.4 | 0 | 48 |
| Parris Campbell | 11 | 152 | 13.8 | 3 | 63 |
| Johnnie Dixon | 9 | 138 | 15.3 | 2 | 44 |
| Terry McLaurin | 8 | 201 | 25.1 | 3 | 75 |
| Mike Weber | 5 | 31 | 6.2 | 1 | 15 |
| Binjimen Victor | 3 | 31 | 10.3 | 0 | 15 |
| J.K. Dobbins | 3 | 21 | 7.0 | 0 | 11 |
| Demario McCall | 3 | 10 | 3.3 | 0 | 7 |
| C.J. Saunders | 2 | 27 | 13.5 | 0 | 19 |
| Luke Farrell | 2 | 19 | 9.5 | 1 | 10 |
| Jaylen Harris | 1 | 15 | 15.0 | 0 | 15 |
| Jeremy Ruckert | 1 | 13 | 13.0 | 0 | 13 |
| Rashod Berry | 1 | 6 | 6.0 | 1 | 6 |
| Chris Olave | 1 | 5 | 5.0 | 0 | 5 |
| OSU Totals | 79 | 1,044 | 13.2 | 12 | 75 |
| OPP Totals | 49 | 569 | 11.6 | 3 | 51 |

| Scoring | TD | EPK | EPR | EPRC | FG | PTS |
|-----------------|----|-------|-----|------|-----|-----|
| S. Nuernberger | – | 22-22 | – | – | 3-4 | 31 |
| Mike Weber | 4 | – | – | – | – | 24 |
| Parris Campbell | 3 | – | – | – | – | 18 |
| Terry McLaurin | 3 | – | – | – | – | 18 |

| | | | | | | |
|----------------|----|-------|---|-----|-----|-----|
| Johnnie Dixon | 2 | – | – | – | – | 12 |
| Rashod Berry | 1 | – | – | – | – | 6 |
| Nick Bosa | 1 | – | – | – | – | 6 |
| J.K. Dobbins | 1 | – | – | – | – | 6 |
| Luke Farrell | 1 | – | – | – | – | 6 |
| Davon Hamilton | 1 | – | – | – | – | 6 |
| Dwayne Haskins | 1 | – | – | 0-1 | – | 6 |
| K.J. Hill | 1 | – | – | – | – | 6 |
| Dre'Mont Joens | 1 | – | – | – | – | 6 |
| Tate Martell | 1 | – | – | – | – | 6 |
| Brian Snead | 1 | – | – | – | – | 6 |
| Master Teague | 1 | – | – | – | – | 6 |
| OSU Totals | 23 | 22-22 | – | 0-1 | 3-4 | 169 |
| OPP Totals | 8 | 8-8 | – | – | 2-4 | 62 |

| FG Distance | 0-29 | 30-39 | 40-49 | 50+ | Total |
|----------------|------|-------|-------|-----|-------|
| S. Nuernberger | 2-2 | 1-2 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 3-4 |
| OSU Totals | 2-2 | 1-2 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 3-4 |
| OPP Totals | 1-1 | 0-1 | 1-2 | 0-0 | 2-4 |

| Punting | No. | Yds. | Avg. | Bk | Long |
|---------------|-----|------|------|----|------|
| Drue Chrisman | 11 | 463 | 42.1 | 0 | 65 |
| OSU Totals | 11 | 463 | 42.1 | 0 | 65 |
| OPP Totals | 21 | 833 | 39.7 | 1 | 52 |

| Interceptions | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD | Long |
|-------------------|-----|------|------|----|------|
| Dre'Mont Jones | 1 | 28 | 28.0 | 1 | 28 |
| Malik Harrison | 1 | 13 | 13.0 | 0 | 13 |
| Kendall Sheffield | 1 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 |
| Shaun Wade | 1 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 |
| OSU Totals | 4 | 41 | 10.2 | 1 | 28 |
| OPP Totals | 1 | 79 | 79.0 | 0 | 46 |

| Punt Returns | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD | Long |
|----------------|-----|------|------|----|------|
| C.J. Saunders | 6 | 34 | 5.7 | 0 | 20 |
| Demario McCall | 3 | 32 | 10.7 | 0 | 26 |
| OSU Totals | 9 | 66 | 7.3 | 0 | 26 |
| OPP Totals | 0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 |

| Kickoff Returns | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD | Long |
|-----------------|-----|------|------|----|------|
| Johnnie Dixon | 2 | 54 | 27.0 | 0 | 38 |
| Demario McCall | 2 | 52 | 26.0 | 0 | 31 |
| C.J. Saunders | 1 | 14 | 14.0 | 0 | 14 |
| OSU Totals | 5 | 120 | 24.0 | 0 | 38 |
| OPP Totals | 8 | 118 | 14.8 | 0 | 21 |

| Def. Leaders | Solo | Ast. | Tot. | TFL-Yds. | Sacks |
|--------------------|------|------|---|----------|--------|
| Nick Bosa | 11 | 3 | 14 | 6.0-43 | 4.0-39 |
| Malik Harrison | 7 | 5 | 12 | 0.5-0 | – |
| Dre'Mont Jones | 8 | 3 | 11 | 4.0-29 | 3.0-28 |
| Jahsen Wint | 9 | 2 | 11 | 0.5-1 | – |
| Jordan Fuller | 6 | 5 | 11 | 0.5-1 | – |
| Damon Arnette | 8 | 2 | 10 | – | – |
| Shaun Wade | 7 | 3 | 10 | – | – |
| Pete Werner | 7 | 2 | 9 | 1.0-6 | 1.0-6 |
| Robert Landers | 4 | 5 | 9 | 2.0-8 | – |
| Kendall Sheffield | 8 | 1 | 9 | 1.0-3 | – |
| Isaiah Pryor | 4 | 5 | 9 | – | – |
| Tuf Borland | 3 | 5 | 8 | 0.5-0 | – |
| Justin Hilliard | 6 | 1 | 7 | – | – |
| Jeffrey Okudah | 5 | 1 | 6 | – | – |
| Baron Browning | 1 | 4 | 5 | – | – |
| Jonathon Cooper | 1 | 4 | 5 | 1.0-3 | 1.0-3 |
| Chase Young | 3 | 1 | 4 | 2.0-18 | 2.0-18 |
| Dante Booker | 1 | 3 | 4 | – | – |
| Keandre Jones | 2 | 1 | 3 | – | – |
| Tommy Togiai | 2 | 1 | 3 | – | – |
| Brendon White | 0 | 3 | 3 | – | – |
| Taron Vincent | 1 | 1 | 2 | – | – |
| Jashon Cornell | 1 | 1 | 2 | – | – |
| Isaiah Prince | 1 | 0 | 1 | – | – |
| Marcus Williamson | 1 | 0 | 1 | – | – |
| Dwayne Haskins | 1 | 0 | 1 | – | – |
| Amir Riep | 1 | 0 | 1 | – | – |
| Tyler Friday | 1 | 0 | 1 | – | – |
| Tyreke Smith | 0 | 1 | 1 | – | – |
| Haskell Garrett | 0 | 1 | 1 | – | – |
| Antwuan Jackson | 0 | 1 | 1 | – | – |
| Chris Olave | 0 | 1 | 1 | – | – |
| Davon Hamilton | 0 | 1 | 1 | – | – |
| TEAM | 0 | 1 | 1 | – | – |
| OSU Totals | 110 | 68 | 178 | 19-112 | 11-94 |
| OPP Totals | 156 | 76 | 232 | 13-33 | 3-10 |
| Fumbles Forced: | 3 | – | Nick Bosa, Dwayne Haskins, Pete Werner. | | |
| Fumbles Recovered: | 3 | – | Nick Bosa 2, Davon Hamilton. | | |

BSB Quotebook: Ohio State 40, TCU 28

Ohio State acting head coach Ryan Day on Urban Meyer's imminent return to the sidelines: "We're just so excited to get Coach back next week. And, obviously, the culture that he's built here is amazing and the foundation that he's built here. And that's what got us through these first three games and through preseason. The players that have been recruited here and coaches that are here have kept this thing going."

Day on Ohio State's plethora of playmakers: "We do have a ton of playmakers. On defense, the guys rushing the pass, the guys on the back end making plays. We get defensive scores like that. It's huge. The guys on offense, we have a lot of weapons. So a very talented team that took a lot of hard work to put together."

OSU fifth-year senior receiver Parris Campbell on the team's talent: "Sometimes in practice, you just watch everybody on the team, whether it's defense or offense. Guys like Nick Bosa, J.K. Dobbins, guys like Johnnie Dixon and Dwayne Haskins. We're grateful to have all the weapons that we have. I think everyone has a work ethic to know that we have so much more room for improvement. So I think that helps a lot."

Day on keeping junior wide receiver Austin Mack in the game despite a few dropped passes: "We believe in our guys. We know what we see every day in practice. We trust that some days guys are going to maybe put one on the ground. We don't like that, but we believe in our guys. And when things don't go well, we've got to stick together."

Campbell on his conversations with Mack: "Just with Austin today with the situation today, you know, a lot of the guys were just telling him that, at the end of the day, you've got to let it go. We need every single person

on the team. We knew it was going to be a four-quarter fight. At the end of the day, we just told him he needed to clear his head. And I think he moved on that and actually had a big-time catch later on."

Day on junior wide receiver K.J. Hill: "Reliability. A guy who is going to be where you expect him to be. He catches the ball. Runs really good routes. You know, he's a clutch player, too. When you need him, he's there. He's a hard worker and very talented."

OSU junior defensive tackle Dre'Mont Jones on the Buckeyes' ability to bounce back after falling behind: "It means a lot to be able to face adversity like that and come back victorious. It really shows how strong you are as a brotherhood."

Jones on his interception of TCU sophomore quarterback Shawn Robinson: "With a quarterback like that, I know he likes to run. And on that play in particular, he was a little hesitant and running on the outside. So I sat back to see what happened, and I read it perfectly. The ball came directly towards me."

OSU sophomore quarterback Dwayne Haskins on Jones' ability with the ball in his hands: "Dre'Mont is a pretty good athlete. If he wasn't a fullback or something, we'll figure it out. Talk to Coach Day."

OSU junior linebacker Malik Harrison on TCU's speed: "We've got a couple of guys on the team with a lot of speed on offense. It still was a little different because the last two teams we played didn't have a lot of speed. We just had to come together and adjust to it."

Harrison on coming out with the win despite Meyer's absence: "It means we've got a great group

of guys. We've just got to cut down on the mental errors. When we fix those, we will destroy teams."

TCU head coach Gary Patterson on the game: "Well, I told them before the ballgame that usually in yearly games, big games, you lose them more than you win them. And so when you can't – you can't give them 21 points. But, defensively, we had to turn up the knob late. We didn't make a couple of adjustments. One touchdown was my fault. But outside of that, I thought our team played a really good football game. Ohio State is a good football team. You've got to give them a lot of credit."

Patterson on how he'd like the game to be viewed in the College Football Playoff Picture: "No. 1, I would – because I heard the other day somebody say, well, Washington lost to Auburn (earlier this season), right? First game of the season. Didn't they play them in one of the classics? And they said that they shouldn't hold it against Washington because they played a really good football team. To me, we just got beaten by the No. 3 or 4 ranked team in the nation. And so if you could win out, then I think you'd be one of those teams that should get just as much credit for playing a ballgame like this as anybody else."

Robinson on his play: "I have to be better. There were those two plays that I just can't do. On the first one, the option, the D-end made a great play. Still we can't do it. And the interception was just a horrible read. For the game, we came out and played hard. We just didn't get it done."

TCU senior defensive end Ben Banogu when asked if he'd like to play Ohio State again: "I want to play late in the season and if they are one of those teams that we play late in the season, then so be it. I don't really care who we play, but I'm hoping that we will be playing in January."



TOPSOIL VERY RICH PULVERIZED OR UNPULVERIZED "SOIL PLUS"

BLENDED SOIL WITH SAND and ORGANIC COMPOST
RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL
CRUSHED LIMESTONE, WASHED SAND & GRAVEL

ANY SIZE LOAD • IMMEDIATE DELIVERY ANYWHERE
Buy Where the Professionals Do • Delivered on Time - Every Time, It Doesn't Cost Any More!
Columbus' Largest

JONES FUEL COMPANY
350 Frank Road • 443-4611 • 1-800-TOPSOIL
www.jonestopsoil.com



Globe Window Cleaning, Inc.
Commercial, Construction, Residential

4051 Business Park Drive
Columbus, Ohio 43204
614 586-1056

Serving Central Ohio since 1941

www.globewindowcleaning.com



EMBASSY SUITES
by HILTON™

2700 Corporate Exchange Dr.
Columbus, OH 43231
For reservations:
www.columbus.embassysuites.com
614-890-8600 or 1-800-362-2779





- Newly Renovated
- All Suite Property
- 8 Story Atrium
- Complimentary Airport Shuttle
- Complimentary Wi-Fi & Parking
- Complimentary Full, Hot Breakfast Buffet & Evening Cocktail Reception
- Onsite Restaurant & Bar, Room Service
- 12 miles North of OSU, avoid the big crowds
- 5 miles to Easton Town Center & Polaris Mall

OSU FANS
Receive 10% OFF
Provide this
Corporate Account Number:
0560026353 online or
when calling in

BRIO

An Experience to Celebrate Every Day

BRIOITALIAN.COM



Browning Complementing Borland At MLB

By JAMES GREGA
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

When Tuf Borland went down with an Achilles injury in spring practice, Ohio State was looking at replacing its starting middle linebacker for the second time in as many years.

At a position that is essentially the quarterback of the defense, breaking in a new starter was not something the Buckeyes likely planned for, but it might have ended up being a blessing in disguise as it gave the team time to better develop a replacement. With Borland sidelined for the majority of spring camp, Ohio State turned to sophomore Baron Browning and junior Justin Hilliard. Both were highly recruited out of high school, but ultimately it was the younger Browning who won the job.

As the season opener against Oregon State approached, it became more apparent that Borland would be available in some capacity when the 2018 campaign began. Borland was healthy enough to receive only limited reps, sending Browning out with the first-team defense for the first time in his career when the Buckeyes opened the season against Oregon State on Sept. 1.

In his first game as a starter, Browning

collected four tackles in a 77-31 victory over the Beavers. He said the experience of starting at Ohio State for the first time was rocky at times, as Ohio State allowed three plays of 49 yards or more, but overall, he feels as though it was a good learning experience for him.

"My first game, I was kind of nervous, my first start," Browning said. "Then I felt like I played better my second game. I'm just trying to get better each week."



Baron Browning

Although he had to wait a year to make his Ohio State starting debut, Browning said that it was a blessing in disguise, as he learned the defense in practice and adjusted in mop-up duty as a freshman in 2017.

"I am glad I did have to wait, because I had to learn the defense," he said. "That humbling experience, I am glad I went through it, but it does feel good to be out there flying around."

An outside linebacker in high school, Browning also had to learn the middle linebacker, or Mike, position in addition to the defensive scheme. As the middle linebacker, Browning, or whoever is playing the position, is tasked with getting the defensive front aligned properly according to the offensive formation, as well as getting himself and the outside linebackers lined up.

He said that while he has more responsibility at middle linebacker, he is more

comfortable with it now that he has spent more than a year learning the position.

"At Mike, you have to get yourself lined up as well as everyone else," Browning said. "Make all the checks, calls and get the defensive line set. It is more of a responsibility than being outside and getting the call. You have to take care of everybody."

"That is what I have been focusing on since I have been here," he added when asked what position he preferred to play. "I know that better than the outside right now, so I will just stick with that."

Listed at 6-3 and 240 pounds, Browning has the size of a traditional middle linebacker but also possesses the speed of an outside linebacker. That athleticism has stood out to defensive coordinator Greg Schiano, who said Sept. 10 that Browning's ability to track people down from the middle linebacker spot continues to impress him.

"Baron has an unbelievable ability to cover ground," he said. "If you look at him, for a big man, or for anybody, he runs extremely well."

Despite Browning's play through the first two games, Borland continues to take more and more reps at the middle linebacker position.

After being limited to about 10 reps in the season opener, Borland actually played more reps than Browning against Rutgers, despite Browning getting his second con-

secutive start. Borland got the start against TCU in week three, while Browning rotated in but didn't record any tackles.

A rotation will continue to be deployed according to Schiano, who said that he has more than three starting linebackers in Bill Davis' room.

"I think we have more than three linebackers, so more than three will play," Schiano said. "Both those guys I think are getting better and better. Tuf, obviously, is coming back off the injury, and Baron is getting his feet underneath him as a middle linebacker. I anticipate that to continue, that they will both play."

Despite the constant competition, Browning said that because of the relationship the linebackers have within their unit, they are comfortable rotating reps and continue to help each other however they can when the other player is in the game.

"We have a ton of talented linebackers," Browning said. "It is going to be a big rotation from inside to outside. We have a lot of guys who can play, so we are going to keep rotating them in."

"We all help each other. We all know some things better than others. We all communicate and just try to help (each other). If I am in, he is watching me or I am watching him and we will correct one another. Just positive feedback. We are a brotherhood so we are always helping each other."



Tuf Borland

The Homeowner's Premium Choice Interior & Exterior



- ✓ **Master Painters** each with more than 25 years in Residential and Commercial Coatings & Applications
- ✓ **Environmentally-Friendly** coatings from Sherwin Williams and Pittsburgh Paints.
- ✓ **A Professional, Consultative Approach** focused on achieving your desired results, the BEST quality, and long lasting value.

Ask About Our
PRICE MATCH GUARANTEE



NewLook
PAINTERS, LLC



2699 E. Main Street, Ste. 103-A | Columbus, OH 43209

(614) 470-4130 | NewLookPainters.com



FOR THE OHIO STATE FOOTBALL FAN
Reynolds Travel, since 1978, is once again offering all of the Away Games for the Ohio State Buckeyes for the 2018 Season. Join us for fun trips and cheer the Buckeyes on!

Ohio State vs. Penn State: Sept. 28-30 – 2-night motorcoach trip to State College/Bedford Springs area with 2 nights hotel at the Omni Bedford Springs Resort in Bedford County, Pa., with breakfast daily and game tickets. See website.

Ohio State vs. Purdue: Oct. 19-21 – 2-night motorcoach trip to Indianapolis/West Lafayette, Ind., with hotel accommodations at the new Drury Inn located in Carmel, Ind., with breakfast daily and Drury Inn's famous "kick-back party" on Friday night with game tickets. Pricing on website

Ohio State vs. Michigan State: Nov. 9-11 – 2-night motorcoach trip to Mt Pleasant/East Lansing Mich., with accommodation at the Soaring Eagle Casino Resort and Hotel in Mt Pleasant with daily meal allowance

Trips fully escorted by Reynolds Travel, offering Ohio State trips since 1978. Visit our website at www.reynoldstravel.com to see more.



8934 Commerce Loop Dr.
Columbus, OH 43240
Phone: 614-847-8008
Toll Free: 866-880-0577

Okudah Returns To Texas Roots In TCU Victory

By CRAIG MERZ
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

When Ohio State sophomore cornerback Jeffrey Okudah stepped onto the turf at the massive AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas, on Sept. 15, he proved that you can go home again, and again.

The matchup against TCU represented the second trip to the billion dollar-plus home of the Dallas Cowboys in a little more than nine months for the Grand Prairie, Texas, native.

On Dec. 29, 2017, he played a big part in shutting down Southern California quarterback Sam Darnold, now a starter for the New York Jets, in a 24-7 victory in the Cotton Bowl. He had four unassisted tackles amid a career-high 64 snaps.

Returning home was part of the reason he looked forward to the prime-time game in the Dallas area. Another was seeing his friends, many of whom now play for TCU.

"Anytime you get a chance to play in Jerry's World (the stadium was built by Cowboys owner Jerry Jones), play against some former teammates and guys that you know from recruiting, it's always a good time," he said. "I played there obviously last year against USC. On top of that, I played there twice in high school."

When asked what his record is at the stadium before the TCU game he replied, "Three games, 1-2, but the one came in college so it's all good."

Okudah was most looking forward to seeing TCU sophomore quarterback Shawn Robinson.

"Shawn's one of my good friends," Okudah

said prior to the game. "He went to DeSoto High School, we played them in football. I think he's a really elusive runner. He has a good arm. He can throw the ball down the field."

Okudah was eager to play TCU, especially since the Horned Frogs offered him a scholarship in January of 2015. By the time the South Grand Prairie High School product committed to the Buckeyes two years later, he was a five-star recruit and the No. 1 cornerback prospect nationally according to 247Sports.

He joined the Buckeyes' 2017 recruiting class that included fellow Texans in running back J.K. Dobbins (La Grange) and linebacker Baron Browning (Fort Worth). All were rated among the top six prospects in the state, and all three played significant roles against the Horned Frogs.

Fifth-year graduate right guard Demetrius Knox said playing games in Texas has helped Ohio State in recruiting the talent-rich state. The Buckeyes also defeated Oregon at AT&T Stadium in the inaugural College Football Playoff title game on Jan. 12, 2015.

"(It's) big time, because for recruits to be able to just go down the street, go to Cowboys Stadium and watch Ohio State play there in person – that's huge," he said.

From Okudah's perspective, another factor in his decision to leave home was the number of Buckeye defensive backs currently in the NFL.

"I think (OSU's) reputation really preceded them," Okudah said. "As far as my position, Gareon (Conley), Marshon (Lattimore), Eli (Apple), (Bradley) Roby."

He also mentioned Dallas Cowboys and former Ohio State star running back Ezekiel Elliott and other Buckeyes in the NFL as having an impact.

"When you see that, being in Texas, it's appealing," Okudah said. "You want to be one of the next guys in line."

Having so many Texans on the roster makes him happy.

"You don't have to worry about getting homesick," Okudah said. "You kind of feel like you brought a part of home with you to Ohio."

His upbringing in the Lone Star State made his transition to college a little easier. In Texas, it seems,

there's a five-star player on every corner.

"Playing in Texas in the area I grew up in, you're going against some of the top talent in the state every single day," he said. "It's crazy. As a freshman I had to block Myles Garrett on the punt team. That didn't go too well."

That would be the 6-4, 272-pound defensive end for the Cleveland Browns who was the No. 1 pick in the 2017 NFL draft out of Texas A&M. Okudah is listed by OSU as 6-1, 199, but he was smaller in high school.

Okudah played in all 14 games last season and in spot duty had 19 tackles, one pass break-up and a recovered fumble.

His progression into being a starter was stalled temporarily in the spring when he was

recovering from surgery on his labrum to correct a problem in his shoulder that had plagued him since high school.

"In order to compete (for a starting job) I had to have my shoulder worked on," he said.

After consulting with the coaching staff and trainers, he decided on surgery rather than endure another season with the lingering pain.

"They let me know that was probably the best decision to make," Okudah said.

Although he didn't start the season opener against Oregon State on Sept. 1, Okudah was heavily involved in Ohio State's three-man cornerback rotation and had two tackles but was flagged for two quick pass-interference penalties.

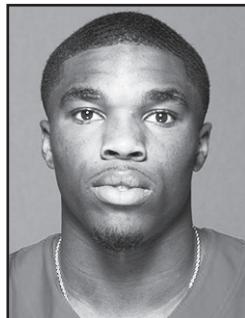
"I was disappointed because all through camp I didn't get called for pass interference, so getting two in that short time span is a little discouraging," he said.

Defensive coordinator Greg Schiano said he was pleased with Okudah's positioning but that he needed to be smarter in his defending.

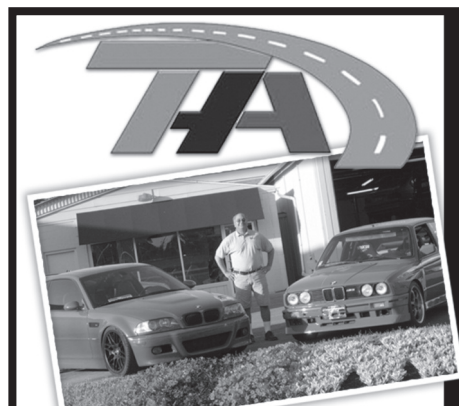
"What I try to explain to the corners is if you restrict them, now you give the official a chance to make the call," Schiano said. "And he just had his arm kind of, it's called an arm bar. We don't teach that here, but a lot of guys do it naturally. They want to make sure it's like a safety belt. We've just got to keep running and make the play."

Another lesson learned in Okudah's young career.

"After watching it on film and getting taught by Coach Schiano, it's little things that are easily fixable and will be easy to avoid down the line," he said.



Jeffrey Okudah



Tom Hatem Automotive

Serving all of Columbus' European automotive repair needs for over 18 years.

www.HatemAutomotive.com
service@hatemautomotive.com

1407 West Fifth Avenue
Columbus, OH 43212

614-486-5277

Residence Inn® Marriott



7300 Huntington Park Dr.
Columbus, OH 43235
614-885-0799
Fax 614-896-8210
www.marriott.com/cmhrw

*Your
Game Day
Home
away from
Home*



Home and Away

Der Dutchman delivers fresh-baked goods to many Columbus area restaurants, convenience stores and markets. Pick up our chocolate chip cookies, Long Johns or a morning donut without a trip to Plain City!



DER DUTCHMAN PLAIN CITY - 614-873-3414

445 S Jefferson Route 42, Plain City (Rt 161/33 exit off I-270)

DER DUTCHMAN BELLVILLE - 419-886-7070

Exit 165 off I-71 at 720 State Rt 97 W in Bellville, Ohio

DerDutchman.com

CATCH THE Reds ACTION IN SEPTEMBER!



SEPT. 6-9



THURSDAY — 6:40

FRIDAY — 6:40

Post-game fireworks show

SATURDAY — 4:10

Joe Morgan Replica Statue,
presented by Queen City Sausage
(First 20,000 fans)

Tenth Avenue North Post-Game Faith Concert,
presented by Prasco

SUNDAY — 1:10

FAMILY SUNDAYS,
presented by Klosterman Bakery

Eugenio Suárez Fathead® Wall Decal,
presented by Panera Bread
(Kids 14 & younger)

Family Sunday Ticket Offer

1 Full-Price Ticket + 3 Half-Price Tickets*!

Mascot T-Ball Game

More than 20 mascots from local schools and
businesses play on the field before the game.



SEPT. 10-12



MONDAY — 6:40

TUESDAY — 6:40

WEDNESDAY — 12:35

Cincinnati Chamber Business Day Special
\$20 includes a View Level Ticket and \$10 in Concession Credits*
reds.com/Skip



SEPT. 25-26



TUESDAY — 6:40

Bark in the Park, presented by
Rachael Ray Nutrish and Kroger

Enjoy the game with your Furry Friend!
Exclusive packages available at reds.com/DogDay

WEDNESDAY — 6:40

Senior Citizen Special, presented by St. Elizabeth Healthcare
Fans 50 and older can purchase non-premium
tickets at half price*!



SEPT. 28-30



FRIDAY — 6:40

Post-game fireworks show,
presented by Adams Recovery Center

SATURDAY — 4:10

Knock Cancer Out of the Park

Join Greater Cincinnati's cancer care, support and
survivor communities in coming together to fight cancer.

Knock Cancer Out of the Park T-Shirt
(First 30,000 fans)

2018 Reds Team Photo - Free to all fans

SUNDAY — 3:10

FAMILY SUNDAYS,
presented by Klosterman Bakery

Tyler Mahle Fathead® Wall Decal,
presented by Starfire
(Kids 14 & younger)

Family Sunday Ticket Offer

1 Full-Price Ticket + 3 Half-Price Tickets*!

Fan Appreciation Day, presented by ACE Hardware

Prizes will be given away to lucky fans throughout the game!
Postcard entries accepted.



(513) 381-REDS (7337)



reds.Com / TICKETS

*Some restrictions apply. Schedule and promotions subject to change.

Knox Has Come 'Light-Years' Since OSU Debut

By JOE DEMPSEY
Special To Buckeye Sports Bulletin

In the midst of Clemson's 31-0 thrashing of Ohio State in the 2016 Fiesta Bowl, an inexperienced lineman's name became known to thousands, but not in a good way.

Demetrius Knox struggled immensely when thrust into action at left guard after Michael Jordan sprained his ankle. Although Knox was playing just a few weeks after recovering from a broken foot, his poor performance was hard to forget. Now that the Buckeyes' starting right guard is a fifth-year senior, just how far has Knox come?

"Light-years," Knox said. "Just from the guys last year, (Isaiah Prince) and Billy (Price) and Jamarco (Jones), just helping me and pushing me along and all that stuff – I can just see the change. Going back, I watched film from a year or two ago, and the player I am now is night and day."

Knox took a big step toward realizing his potential when he stepped into an open starter role vacated by injury during the 2017 season. When Branden Bowen suffered a broken leg against Maryland, it was Matthew Burrell who initially took his place, but Knox asserted himself at practice and

earned the starting spot against Nebraska the following week.

The former four-star prospect was graded as a "champion" by the coaching staff in six of the Buckeyes' eight remaining games, including his first start against the Cornhuskers, which represented his first meaningful playing time since the Fiesta Bowl. Knox also earned "champion" honors against Wisconsin in the Big Ten Championship Game and USC in the Cotton Bowl.

"I just felt like it was my time, and then I felt like I just matured, whether it was on the field, off the field," Knox said. "And once I started taking more accountability for myself, everything just slowed down and the game became more easy."

Interestingly, while the game was slowing down for Knox, the Buckeyes have actually sped up their tempo.

"Everything we do is fast," Knox said. "If we're in the weight room, we're moving fast. If we're going between meetings, we're going fast to the next room. We're trained in this building, everything we do is fast. So when we get to the field, it's signal, down in stance,

look at the alignment of the defense, look at the front and everything – go."

If you watch film of the 2018 Buckeyes, you will see a much refined version of Knox – confident in his ability and functioning as a key cog in a well-oiled machine. This version of No. 78 is truly "night and day" from the slow-footed sophomore who appeared to be in over his head against Clemson.

For someone who came to Columbus as Rivals' No. 2 offensive guard in the country, the Fort Worth (Texas) All Saints Episcopal product did not progress quite like many top recruits.

However, the 6-4, 312-pound guard came into his own at his own pace, while understanding the depth of talent on the Ohio State roster.

"I think anybody who comes to Ohio State – the recruiting office and the coaches, they see a superstar in you," Knox said. "And everybody here, whether you're scout team or anything, they're a superstar – everybody's a superstar."

"It's just when you crack into it, when you actually can see it. Sometimes it takes others longer than others, but when it comes it's going to come."

A native Ohioan, Knox said he is glad he chose Ohio State as a highly touted recruit, but the decision did not come without hesitation. When he was just a sixth-grader, Knox's uncle told his mother he would have a better shot at getting recruited in Texas than Ohio. After mov-

ing to the Dallas/Fort Worth area, the young man soon fell in love with Southern living.

"I was born in Springfield, Ohio, but I feel like Texas will always be my home," Knox said.

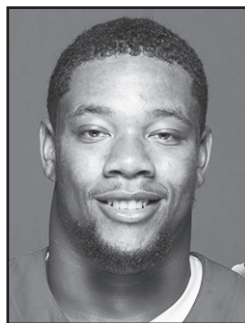
After becoming one of the nation's top recruits, Knox held offers from an abundance of national powerhouses, such as Alabama, Texas and Ohio State. Despite Ohio State having been his dream school since the second grade, Knox admitted the thought of leaving Texas made him strongly consider Texas and even TCU – but added that his decision worked out.

"This program is something different," Knox said. "Every team in the country preaches brotherhood and this is my guy, this is my brother. But here, it's serious."

"Everybody in that locker room I would go to war for. So when times are down, times are hard – you look to your left and your right and the guys next to you – they really do have your back."

Now a starter on the No. 2 scoring offense and No. 3 total offense in the nation, Knox remains humble despite gaining renown as a force on the Scarlet and Gray offensive front. He referred to TCU as a "powerhouse down in Texas," but the battle-tested young man who grew up in Fort Worth is no longer fazed by the hype. And he's even had a chance to face the school he considered back in the Lone Star State, starting in Ohio State's 40-28 win over the Horned Frogs on Sept. 15.

"We really don't look at it like it's a big stage, big game or anything," Knox said. "We prepare every game just like the last one. And that's go fast, hit people as hard as we can and just keep going."



Demetrius Knox

Press
Pub + on 5th
GOOD FOOD • FINE DRINKS

Open for lunch daily!

1505 W. 5TH AVE.
NEAR GRANDVIEW AVE.
614-817-1198

MON - THU: 11:00 AM TO 11:30 PM
FRI - SAT: 11:00 AM TO 1:30 AM
SUN: NOON TO 11:30 PM
KITCHEN 'TIL 1/2 HOUR BEFORE CLOSE NIGHTLY

Press
Grill
GOOD FOOD
fine drinks

Voted one of Columbus' Best Places to Eat at the Bar

741 N. HIGH ST.
IN THE SHORT NORTH
614-298-1014

MON - SAT: 11:30 AM TO 2:30 AM
SUN: NOON TO 2:30 AM
KITCHEN 'TIL 1 AM NIGHTLY

~ PRESSCOLUMBUS.COM ~

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY WEXNER MEDICAL CENTER SERVICE BOARD

COME PARK WITH US
FOR ALL HOME FOOTBALL GAMES!

Martha Morehouse Medical Plaza
2050 Kenny Road
Columbus, Ohio

\$20 DONATION PER CAR (price set by CampusParc)
LESS THAN 3/4 MILE WALK TO OHIO STADIUM

Funds raised through 2018 football parking will be donated to the
Jameson Crane Sports Medicine Institute.

BENEFITING



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
WEXNER MEDICAL CENTER

The Ohio State University Alumni Association

GUIDE YOUR CAREER

3,200+

active employers working with
Alumni Career Connection

4,500+

AlumniFire members
ready to network

The Buckeye Network reaches **9,000+**

active members on LinkedIn

BOND WITH FELLOW BUCKEYES

Join one of **121**
Regional Clubs

Connect with one of **48**
Societies supporting your interests



Attend special events – **168**
hosted in FY16

PAY FORWARD



More than **150** volunteer projects done by Buckeyes in 2016

TRAVEL THE WORLD

Join one of **30+** trips with Alumni Tours



GET SOCIAL

Follow along to stay up to date with The Ohio State University Alumni Association



32,515 Likes



34,300 Followers



540,000+ alumni across the globe



YOU'RE A BUCKEYE FOR LIFE



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Day, Haskins Impress, But Safety Is A Concern

The Ohio State football team opened the 2018 season 3-0 – including a Big Ten victory and a win over then-No. 15 TCU at a neutral site – despite head coach Urban Meyer being suspended for each of those contests.

Instead, it was acting head coach Ryan Day, normally the offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach, leading a young Buckeye team to an undefeated start ahead of Meyer's return to the sidelines Sept. 22 against Tulane. Meyer has been leading practices since Sept. 3 – two days after the season opener against Oregon State – but was unable to participate in any gameday activities for the Rutgers or TCU games.

Now that his suspension is over, Meyer and the Buckeyes can return to some semblance of normality.

With the adversity of the past two months in the rearview mirror, BSB staffers James Grega, Tim Moody and Garrett Stepien broke down Ohio State's season so far and what might be coming down the road.

First things first, how would you assess Ryan Day's performance over the past month and a half?

Garrett Stepien: How much better could it have been? So much has been made about the 39-year-old Day's allure as a rising-star coach, which was absolutely validated during his three-game stretch in the interim. Credit is due to Meyer's entire staff – most notably, defensive coordinator Greg Schiano – but Day deserves a round of applause. Off the culture established by Meyer, Day steered the ship from fall camp into September, and Ohio State didn't miss a beat. Talent is abundant for the Buckeyes, but Day stepped in seamlessly for Meyer and no one would have noticed the difference if cameras weren't focused on the sideline.

James Grega: It is hard to give him anything other than an A-plus. Considering he is an offensive coach, calling the plays and also managing the game, he couldn't have done a better job. The majority of Ohio State's issues right now are in the back seven on defense, and that is all on Greg Schiano, Bill Davis and Alex Grinch at this point. Day

isn't going to put much effort into correcting those issues as an offensive coach.

Dwayne Haskins has not only been prepared for each game, he has been borderline flawless, throwing just one interception to 11 touchdowns in the first three games. The running game has been consistent and the passing game has been electric, and Ryan Day's three-game job interview went about as well as both he and Ohio State could have hoped.

Tim Moody: After the TCU game, Dwayne Haskins gave Day an A-plus-plus, and I'm in full agreement with that. Under the circumstances, I don't see how he could have done any better, either.

And I'm not trying to say Ohio State has been perfect – far from it, really – but the Buckeyes are undefeated, and the offense has been humming. Ohio State has arguably looked better than it has in years, and that's saying a lot. This team was in good hands for a couple months, but with Meyer back they should be ready to make a hard run at the Big Ten. And a lot of that is thanks to Day.

What do you think is the biggest question mark facing Ohio State after its 3-0 start?

JG: For me, this is the easiest question to answer. It is clearly the safety spot next to Jordan Fuller.

Jahsen Wint has shown that he lacks the pure athleticism required by a safety at Ohio State, and he doesn't seem to have the awareness either, especially when the ball is in the air. Oftentimes, he is caught flat-footed which is usually an indication of not being confident in where he is supposed to be and when.

Rotating in with him is Isaiah Pryor, who also hasn't impressed me. While he hasn't been targeted in the passing game much by opposing offenses, he has been very poor in run support, taking multiple poor angles. The angle he took on the 93-yard touchdown

run against TCU was unacceptable by a starting safety at Ohio State, and continues to be an issue. He had two similar plays against Oregon State in the opener and hasn't shown any signs of improvement through three weeks.

Personally, I think Shaun Wade and/or Josh Proctor needs to start getting some reps in that spot. Wade has looked solid as Ohio State's nickel back and is probably the next best option. Proctor might be the most athletic of the entire group but lacks experience and has been on campus only a little more than a month. A change needs to be made here, and my money would be on Wade or Proctor.

GS: Like James said, starting safety next to Fuller is obviously Ohio State's biggest issue, especially after watching the big plays resurface during the TCU games. Whether it was Pryor's poor angle on the long run or Wint's zero awareness on Shawn Robinson's 51-yard touchdown pass to TreVontae Hights, the sophomore safeties were exposed once again.

Pryor passes the look test and appears to have correctable issues fundamentally, which could come with experience as he continues his adjustment from special teams to defense. Wint, meanwhile, was lost quite a bit and lacks the top-end speed needed by safeties as the last man to beat.

TM: I'm honestly not sure how much I can add here without being too repetitive.

Safety is a question mark outside of Fuller, and it's time to try something else. Other than that, there just aren't many issues – but missing short field goals isn't going to help Ohio State, for what that's worth.

Oh, and center Michael Jordan might need to relearn how to snap after a really iffy performance against TCU. I know he's new to the spot, but he was low on almost every play.

Is there any Ohio State player who has stood out to you in a way you didn't expect – either good or bad?

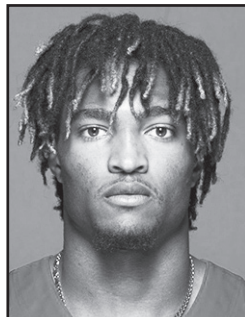
TM: I'm personally really impressed by Tyreke Smith. Not that he's really jumped out, but the fact that he's part of the Rushmen package says a ton.

Smith was always going to play this year, but playing a key role in one of the team's marquee lineups is incredibly impressive for a true freshman. Chase Young didn't even get on the field in that package last year – let that sink in.

JG: Sticking with the safeties, I thought Pryor would be much better than he has been over the first three weeks. He is a physical specimen, yet he has been very poor and I expected him to be an excellent complement to Fuller.

In addition, something that has stood out to me is how well Ohio State has balanced reps and carries between J.K. Dobbins and Mike Weber. Dobbins has carried 45 times for 268 yards while Weber has carried

Continued On Page 20



Shaun Wade

Conrads
COLLEGE GIFTS

Shop Online!
www.conrads.com
316 W. Lane Ave.
Columbus, OH 43201

Call to order today!
1-888-443-8678

Closeout Deal!

E7-96: 8 Times National Champions
Replica Ring Paperweight

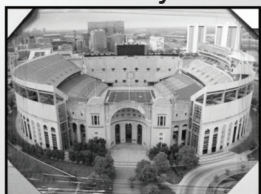
\$20 was \$89.95



Sports
POSSESSIONS

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AND USE CODE: **BSB10**
10% OFF ANY ONE ITEM
EXPIRES 12/31/18

Home of THE Largest Ohio State
Retail Memorabilia Collection
in the Country!



Visit www.SportsPossessions.com
The Mall at Tuttle Crossing • Dublin • (614) 389-1648

**SAVE WITH
THE HOME
TEAM.**

Get a quote from your
local **GEICO** office.

GEICO
Local Office



614-336-4240
7370 Sawmill Rd Columbus

Some discounts, coverages, payment plans and features are not available in all states or all GEICO companies. GEICO is a registered service mark of Government Employees Insurance Company, Washington, D.C. 20076; a Berkshire Hathaway Inc. subsidiary. GEICO Gecko image © 1999-2016. © 2016 GEICO.

DT Jackson Was Expected To Make Impact

Continued From Page 19

46 times for 281. They continue to rotate on every other offensive series and so far have been interchangeable. Through three games, I expected one or the other to have perhaps a slight advantage in the rotation, but they continue to remain even and I think Ohio State has done a phenomenal job making sure they both stay involved. So far, both players are rewarding their coaches' trust and I expect that to continue moving forward.

GS: Ohio State's defensive line is incredibly deep, but I thought Antwan Jackson would have a bigger role in his first season. When he committed last September, analysts believed he would provide an immediate impact as a top-rated recruit out of junior college.

A foot/ankle injury slowed Jackson upon his arrival, but even as he has played for the Buckeyes, there have been a couple of forgettable moments. Particularly, there was the 80-yard touchdown run by Oregon State's Artavis Pierce in the season opener, where the Beavers running back bounced off Jackson at the line of scrimmage before bouncing outside and housing his second long score of the day. I know OSU has plenty of talented freshmen also in the mix, but I didn't necessarily think rookies Tommy Togiai or Taron Vincent would overtake Jackson in the rotation as they have so soon.

Dwayne Haskins has been simply stellar at quarterback through three games. What are your thoughts on his performance so far?

JG: There's not much more to say other than that he has been brilliant.

He has an NFL arm, but what has impressed me the most is his quick release. The ball comes out of his hands so fast, and add that in with his big arm, he becomes one of the most dangerous passers in the country. The way he withstood shot after shot against TCU and yet never got rattled was impressive, especially from a guy making just his third start, and his first on the "road."

The only knock on Haskins through three games so far, at least for me, would be his hesitancy to pull the ball on zone run plays in which Ohio State leaves the back-side defensive end unblocked. He did it once against TCU, and he scored on a short scamper with Rashod Berry leaking out as a lead blocker. I am not suggesting Haskins becomes J.T. Barrett, but if he pulls a few more of those zone reads, Ohio State's run game becomes even more effective.

GS: The numbers tell enough of his story so far, but the biggest takeaway I've had from Haskins' first few performances is just how calm and collected he has been. Haskins sat back and picked apart Oregon State and Rutgers, but TCU brought tons of pressure and rattled the sophomore quarterback early in the pocket. Haskins, despite the heat from the Horned Frogs and hiccups from the Buckeyes between dropped passes and low snaps, didn't bat an eye as he performed like a fifth-year senior. Given what we saw at Michigan in 2017, his maturity shouldn't come as too much of a surprise. But to see Haskins step up again and carve up one of the best defenses in the nation the way he did is most impressive to me.



SONNY BROCKWAY

WITH HIS LEGS – Dwayne Haskins scored his first career rushing touchdown on a 5-yard run in the fourth quarter against TCU.

Arrive Early and Relax.

Vino Volo & Donatos – Concourse A

Wine Flights & Glasses | Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner | Vino Volo – 10am – 9pm | Donatos – 6am – 9pm



JOHN GLENN
INTERNATIONAL

FLYCOLUMBUS.com

TM: I've got to agree with James when it comes to the quick release for Haskins. I thought he had a longer motion when he got here, and he has obviously made huge strides in that respect.

It really stood out against TCU when Haskins was able to make some mind-blowing throws despite quick pressure from the Horned Frogs.

I've been saying it since almost the first snap of the Oregon State game, but Ohio State has quite simply never had a quarterback like this. Should be fun to watch for the rest of the year. (Oh, and Tate Martell has plenty of game, too.)

Ohio State has a lot of new starters this year. Which first-time starter has impressed you the most?

GS: Dwayne Haskins has been lights-out, which makes the sophomore quarterback the obvious answer. At the same time, didn't a lot of us expect Haskins to be as advertised? I'll go outside the box and venture to the defense with another sophomore starter. Linebacker Pete Werner has been solid since he took over on the weak side with nine tackles (one for loss), a sack and a forced fumble in his first three starts. As a freshman in 2017, Werner received rave reviews from Meyer, who played the linebacker in key roles on special teams. Ever since then, so far, Werner has made a smooth transition to doing the same for the defense.

JG: Haskins is the easy answer, but I will go with Thayer Munford at left tackle.

Left tackle, along with center, is the most important position on the offensive line, and while he hasn't been perfect, Munford has held his own protecting Haskins' blind side. When you don't hear his name a lot, that means he is doing well, and we haven't heard Munford's name mentioned much during games this season because he is simply doing his job.

As a left tackle, you often see the opposition's best pass rusher, and Munford has handled the pressure of dealing with that extremely well. Eventually, Munford is going to be an NFL draft pick, but for now, he is doing a nice job of protecting Haskins' blind side, and I think that should be noted.

TM: Like James and Garrett both said, Haskins is an easy answer. Munford is a good pick, too. But how about some love for Robert Landers at defensive tackle?

He was pretty involved last season, but he's a full-time starter now and he's incredibly disruptive, especially for a player who is way undersized compared to most linemen at Ohio State. He's also one of the best interviews on the team and a fan favorite for good reason.

I expect Landers to be one of the most important Buckeyes on and off the field come 2019.

Last but not least, what changes do you think will come with Urban Meyer's return for the game against Tulane?

JG: I think we will see a bit more of Tate Martell with Meyer back on the sideline. Meyer loves the QB run, but he is smart enough to know that it's not Haskins' skill set. He won't force Haskins to run the ball much (although I maintain he should pull the zone read a few times per game), so that means Martell will get some extra reps in meaningful situations. I thought that Martell should have played – especially in the red zone – against TCU, and I am willing to bet that if Meyer coached that game, Martell would have played at least one series. Other than that, I don't see any reason to make any other significant changes because outside of the first half against TCU, Ohio State's offense has been flawless.

GS: If it ain't broke, don't fix it. Nothing changes, really, with Meyer back on the sideline other than Ohio State getting its head coach and primary leader back for game day. Offensively, I know there were questions on whether Meyer would return and run Haskins 18 times per game. But for the past two weeks, Meyer has been game planning with the staff, which includes on offense with Day, and the results have been rewarding. Not to downplay Meyer's comeback, but outside of Day probably heading back up to the booth to call plays in col-

laboration with Kevin Wilson, I don't see anything drastic changing for the Buckeyes going forward.

TM: First of all, James is absolutely right that Haskins needs to pull the ball a few times a game.

Now, for Meyer. Nothing should be changing schematically on offense, and he doesn't have his hands all over the defense, so the casual observer probably wouldn't even know anything is different. But, from now going forward, this is Meyer's team again, and he's the guy

making the tough decisions – when to go for it on fourth, when to punt, when to go for two, all of that.

And for the time being, Ohio State is certainly much better off with Meyer making those calls than Day.

Also it's worth mentioning that recruiting visits can really ramp up now. There wasn't much reason to bring in marquee prospects if the head coach wasn't there, but now that Meyer is back, expect to see the visitor lists filling up with the best players from around the nation.

JOINING US ON THE 2019 BUCKEYE CRUISE FOR CANCER:



BILLY PRICE



REX KERN



LOU HOLTZ



JT BARRETT

WHO WILL BE NEXT?



RAEKWON MCMILLAN

BUCKEYE
Cruise for Cancer
FEBRUARY 23 - 28, 2019



**DON'T BE LEFT AT THE DOCK!
BOOK NOW! SPACE IS LIMITED!
CALL 614-792-6204 OR
VISIT WWW.BUCKEYECRUISE.COM**

Green Wave All In With Head Coach Fritz

By JAMES GREGA
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

Tulane hasn't been to a bowl game in five seasons, hasn't won a bowl game since 2002 and hasn't won a conference title since 1998. You wouldn't think all of that considering the contract extension it just gave its head coach.

Willie Fritz was hired at Tulane following the 2015 season after a successful two-year stint at Georgia Southern, in which he led the Eagles to a combined 17-7 record and a Sun Belt title in 2014. His first year at Tulane was the second year for the Green Wave's new on-campus stadium, which debuted in 2014 after Tulane spent nearly 40 years playing home games at the Louisiana Superdome, which became cavernous when the Green Wave played host.

Through two seasons at Tulane, Fritz compiled a less-than-stellar 9-15 record and finished no higher than fifth in the West division of the American Athletic Conference. Despite the subpar record, Tulane invested in Fritz again, signing him to a two-year extension in May, putting him under contract through the 2023 season and paying him just more than \$1 million per season.

The investment followed a successful recruiting class compiled by Fritz, as Tulane welcomed a 25-man 2018 haul to campus, 20 of whom were three-star prospects. Even though the product hasn't shown up on the field just yet, Tulane's administration felt comfortable investing in Fritz in order to establish consistency in a program that is attempting to build a new foundation in New Orleans.

"Great programs start with great leadership," Tulane athletic director Troy Dannen said in May following Fritz's extension. "Willie has provided that great leadership during his first two years. As a result, our students and our program are poised to achieve at a high level in the American Athletic Conference. He has led with integrity and class, while elevating anticipation and expectations for our program moving forward. Our commitment to him signals our trust and confidence in all aspects of the direction of the football program at Tulane University."

With a talented recruiting class and new facilities, the decision to sign a multiyear extension was an easy one for Fritz, who said in May that he is confident in the momentum the Green Wave has established moving into the future.

"I couldn't be more excited with the direc-

Get To Know ... Tulane

About Tulane

- **2018 Record:** 1-2.
- **Team Information:** Offensive Formation – Multiple; Defensive Formation – 3-4; Starters Returning – Offense 9, Defense 6, Specialists 3.
- **Head Coach:** Willie Fritz, 26th year, 203-91-1 (third at Tulane, 10-17).
- **Series History:** First meeting.
- **School Facts:** Location – New Orleans; Enrollment – 13,581; Nickname – Green Wave; Colors – Olive Green & Sky Blue; Conference – American Athletic Conference; Stadium – Yulman Stadium (Surface, UBU Speed Series 5M Artificial; Capacity, 30,000).

Top Offensive Players

| Rushing | Att. | Net | Avg. | TD | Long |
|-----------------|------|-----|------|----|------|
| Corey Dauphine | 19 | 236 | 12.4 | 3 | 69 |
| Darius Bradwell | 39 | 207 | 5.3 | 1 | 31 |
| Stephon Hudson | 23 | 56 | 2.4 | 0 | 7 |

| Passing | Comp.-Att. | Pct. | Yds. | TD-INT |
|----------------|------------|------|------|--------|
| Jonathan Banks | 37-77 | 48.1 | 651 | 5-1 |

| Receiving | Rec. | Net | Avg. | TD | Long |
|-----------------|------|-----|------|----|------|
| Darnell Mooney | 18 | 308 | 17.1 | 3 | 44 |
| Terren Encalade | 11 | 248 | 22.5 | 2 | 74 |
| Jaetavian Toles | 3 | 19 | 6.3 | 0 | 13 |

Team Offensive Stats

Points Per Game – 27.7
Rushing Yards Per Game – 199.3
Passing Yards Per Game – 217.0
Total Offense Avg. Per Game – 416.3

2018 Schedule

| Date | Opponent | Result/Time (ET) |
|-------------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Aug. 30 | WAKE FOREST | L, 23-17 (OT) |
| Sept. 8 | NICHOLLS STATE | W, 42-17 |
| Sept. 15 | at UAB | L, 31-24 |
| Sept. 22 at Ohio State | | 3:30 p.m. |
| Sept. 28 | MEMPHIS | 8 p.m. |
| Oct. 6 | at Cincinnati | TBA |
| Oct. 20 | SMU | TBA |
| Oct. 27 | at Tulsa | TBA |
| Nov. 3 | at USF | TBA |
| Nov. 10 | EAST CAROLINA | TBA |
| Nov. 15 | at Houston | 8 p.m. |
| Nov. 24 | NAVY | TBA |

Top Defensive Players

| Def. Leaders | Solo | Asst. | Tot. | TFL-Yds. | Sacks |
|-----------------|------|-------|------|----------|-------|
| Zachery Harris | 13 | 12 | 25 | 2.0-3 | 1.0-1 |
| Lawrence Graham | 14 | 10 | 24 | 1.5-4 | – |
| P.J. Hall | 16 | 3 | 19 | – | – |
| Marvin Moody | 10 | 8 | 18 | 1.5-2 | – |
| Roderic Teamer | 6 | 10 | 16 | 0.5-2 | – |
| Will Harper | 9 | 5 | 14 | 1.5-4 | 1.0-1 |
| Donnie Lewis | 11 | 2 | 13 | – | – |

| Interceptions | No. | Yds | Avg | TD | Long |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|----|------|
| Donnie Lewis | 2 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 |

4 others with 1 interception each

Team Defensive Stats

Points Per Game Allowed – 23.7
Rushing Yards Per Game Allowed – 199.7
Passing Yards Per Game Allowed – 265.7
Total Offense Avg. Per Game Allowed – 465.3

tion in which our football program is headed," Fritz said. "It is an absolute joy to coach at this institution. We have total buy-in from everyone on our staff to our administration, and I know we have a bright future."

Through three games this season, Tulane is 1-2, including a blowout 42-17 win over FCS foe Nicholls State and a heartbreaking 23-17 overtime loss at home to Wake Forest on Aug. 30.

The Green Wave dropped its third game of the season to UAB on the road, 31-24, in a game where they completed just seven passes, though two of the completions went for touchdowns.

Tulane did force a pair of turnovers against UAB, picking off quarterback A.J. Erdely twice, yet still lost the turnover battle, throwing an

interception of their own in addition to losing two fumbles.

Player To Watch

Keeping with the theme of consistently building a program, Fritz' offense operates under the direction of second-year starting quarterback Jonathan Banks, a player who has finally found a home in New Orleans after playing for three separate programs in his first three years of college.

Banks' first stop out of high school came at Contra Costa College in 2014, where he led the Comets to a nine-win season. A year later, he enrolled at Kansas State, where he redshirted despite the Wildcats dealing with depth issues at the position. After head coach Bill Snyder elected to play wide receiver Kody Cook at quarterback for a portion of the season rather than pull Banks' redshirt, Banks again transferred, this time to Independence Community College in Kansas, where he spent the 2016 season as a starter.

Eligible to play in 2017, Banks started 11 of 12 games, missing the 56-14 loss to Oklahoma due to an injury suffered the previous week. He threw for 1,797 yards and 12 touchdowns to five interceptions, going 5-6 as the starter. His final game of the season was his best, as he completed 18 of 31 passes for 314 yards and two touchdowns in a heartbreaking 41-38 loss to SMU.

In addition to his skills as a passer, Banks is also an effective runner. He carried 148 times for 592 yards and seven scores in 2017 but has seen his carries and yards greatly reduced this season. Through three games, he has toted the ball just 33 times for 29 yards and a score, with sacks greatly hindering his yardage.

The focus for Banks in 2018 seems to be throwing the ball, something he did with good efficiency in his first two games but struggled mightily with in the third. After completing 30 of 53 passes for 471 yards and three scores against Wake Forest and Nicholls State, Banks completed just 7 of 24 passes in the loss to UAB on Sept. 15. He did however, add two touchdown passes to his total on the season while also throwing his first interception of the year.



Join Us as We Support the Buckeyes
on the Road & More!!

Membership Opportunities:

- Annual Kick-Off Dinner
- Travel to EVERY Football Away Game
- Annual Celebrity Golf Outing
- Meetings at the Woody Hayes Athletic Center with coaches

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____
Zipcode: _____ Telephone: _____

Mail check to: Buckeye Boosters, 921 Chatham Ln., #301F, Columbus, Oh 43221

Membership is only
\$75.00 per year!
For information, check us out
at www.buckeyeboosters.com
or call 614-326-3300.
JOIN NOW!

Hole-In-One Commemorative Ring®



Celebrate that perfect shot

The ultimate reward for the
ultimate achievement in golf.

Custom made in Gold or Silver
Includes your name and the
date of the big event.

Call or stop by today

American Awards, Inc.
2380 Harrisburg Pike
614-875-1850
www.awardsohio.com

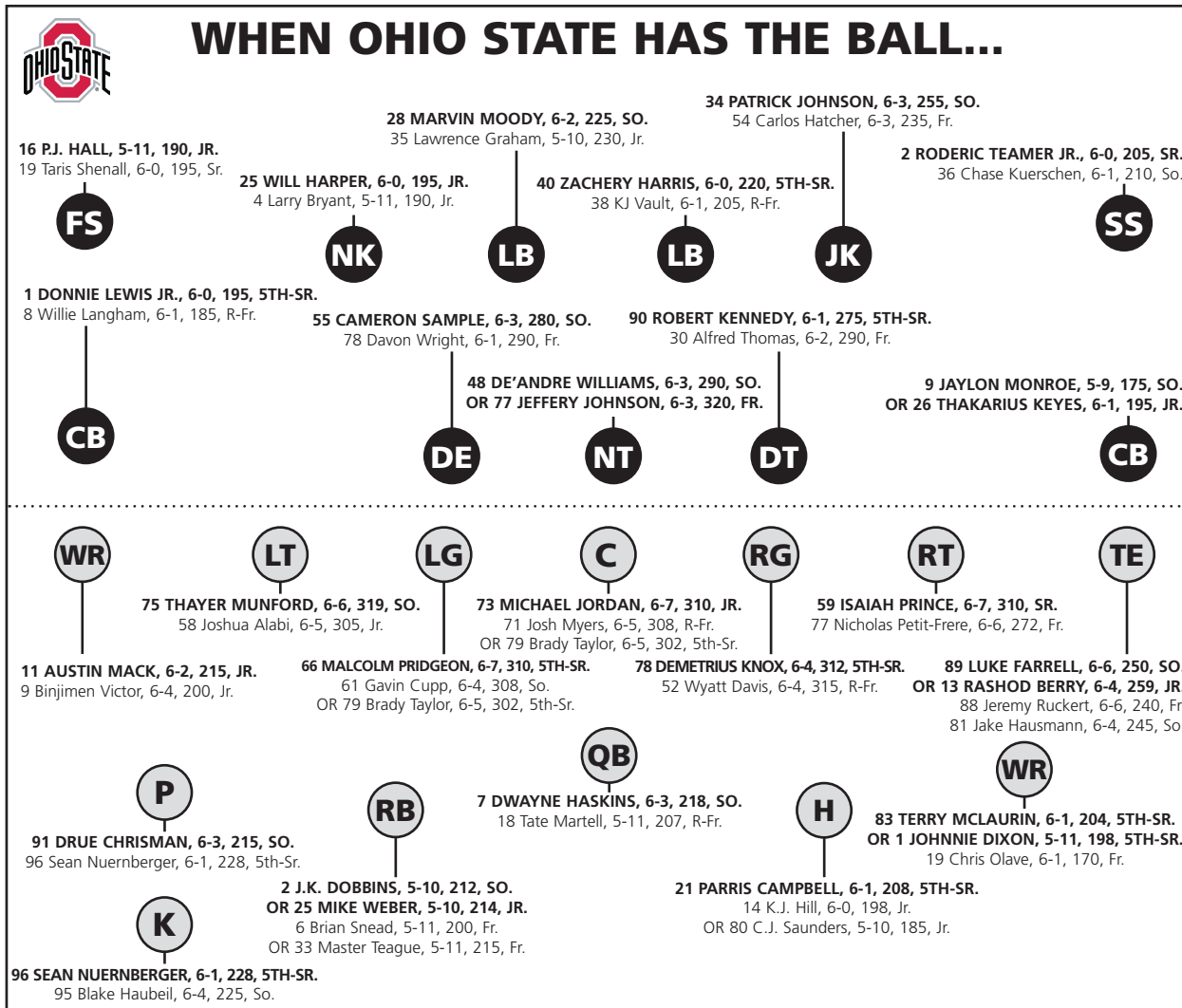


Ohio State vs. Tulane

Saturday, Sept. 22, 2018 • 3:30 p.m. • BTN
Ohio Stadium; Columbus, Ohio



Projected Depth Charts



How We See It

OHIO STATE RUSH OFFENSE vs. TULANE RUSH DEFENSE

This should be a mismatch of epic proportions. On the surface Ohio State seems to be lacking a bit in the running game because it ranks "only" 17th nationally with 260.7 yards per game. That's deceiving because OSU's passing attack is so prolific. When the Buckeyes need to run the ball, they will, and Tulane won't do much to stop it. The Green Wave is 105th in rush defense, conceding an average of 189.7 yards through three games. That's good news for Mike Weber (281 yards, 6.1 yards per carry in three games) and J.K. Dobbins (268, 6.0). Dobbins got 121 yards and Weber 64 in the 40-28 win over TCU on Sept. 15, and quarterback Dwayne Haskins had his first career rushing TD to give defenses even more to think about. **EDGE: OHIO STATE**

TULANE RUSH OFFENSE vs. OHIO STATE RUSH DEFENSE

TCU's Darius Anderson ran for a 93-yard TD. This came after Oregon State's Artavis Pierce had TD runs of 80 and 78 yards in the opener. It's no wonder the Ohio State rush defense is 72nd in the nation at 156.0 yards per game. The Buckeyes must be wary of running back Corey Dauphine, who had a 45-yard run in the second quarter vs. Alabama-Birmingham on Sept. 15 and has carries of 40-plus yards in consecutive games. The Green Wave's Darius Bradwell ran for 90 yards on 15 attempts vs. UAB, and Tulane has rushed for at least 100 yards in every game since 2016. Tulane is 52nd nationally running with a 199.3 average. **EDGE: TULANE**

OHIO STATE PASS OFFENSE vs. TULANE PASS DEFENSE

In his third career start, Haskins overcame a slow start and the first real pass rush he's faced in his young career, and the sophomore was 24 of 38 for 344 and two TDs against TCU to give him 11 scoring strikes this season to go along with 890 yards. The Buckeyes are second in the NCAA in scoring (56.3) to Alabama (56.7). OSU is ninth in passing (348.0) while Tulane is 102nd in pass defense (265.7). There is some good news for the Green Wave in that they have six interceptions this season. They had two INTs vs. UAB, both in the end zone to prevent scores. Cornerback Donnie Lewis had a pick vs. the Blazers, the seventh of his career. **EDGE: OHIO STATE**

TULANE PASS OFFENSE vs. OHIO STATE PASS DEFENSE

OSU gave up 308 passing yards to TCU, including a 51-yard TD, and was unimpressive in doing so. With All-American end Nick Bosa possibly not playing due to injury, it's important that Jonathon Cooper, Dre'Mont Jones, Chase Young and others step up to harass QB Jonathan Banks. He was sacked six times for 35 yards in the last game and lost fumbles on two of them. When Banks can get time, his favorite target is Darnell Mooney, who had 123 yards on four catches and two TDs vs. UAB. Tulane is 78th in pass offense (217.0); the Buckeyes are 48th in pass defense (189.7). **EDGE: OHIO STATE**

SPECIAL TEAMS

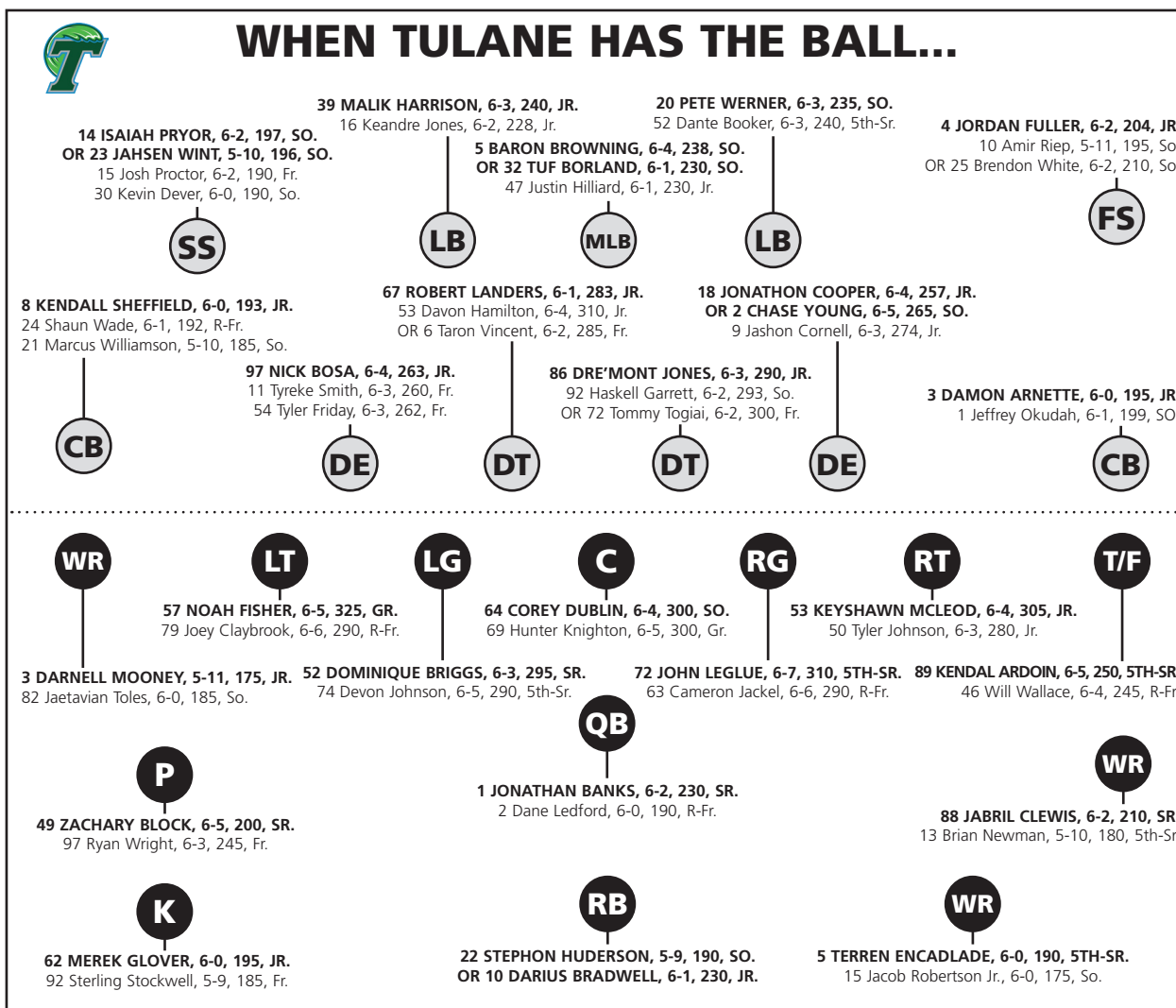
OSU punter Drue Chrisman pinned TCU deep several times but had some short boots, too short, in attempting to prevent returns. Tulane punter Zach Block averaged 47.3 yards on three punts last game and dropped two inside the 20. The Buckeyes' Sean Nuernberger had three-pointers from 20 and 30 yards but missed from 38. Tulane's Merek Glover kicked a career-long 40-yarder in the fourth quarter of the UAB game, and a Green Wave blocked punt was their first since Nov. 26, 2016, vs. UConn. **EDGE: EVEN**

INTANGIBLES

Urban Meyer returns from a university-imposed three-game ban. Although he could rejoin the team for practices and other activities Sept. 3, there will be a different feel for sure in Ohio Stadium as offensive coordinator Ryan Day relinquishes his role as acting head coach. Tulane is 1-2 and coming off a 31-24 loss to noted power (sarcasm here) UAB. The Green Wave have nothing to lose and will get a nice paycheck for their appearance. **EDGE: OHIO STATE**

PREDICTION

The only, only, hope for Tulane is that the Buckeyes are looking ahead to the massive showdown at Penn State on Sept. 29. But the season debut of Meyer and the vulnerability exposed by TCU in all facets of the game will ensure that OSU is focused not on Tulane but on making itself better. Remember, the Buckeyes did not score an offensive TD in the first half and were gashed on several long plays. Tulane's game in Birmingham was witnessed by 21,991. At least that many should be exiting Ohio Stadium after the third quarter if everything goes as planned – there might even be a Tate Martell sighting – and the Buckeyes wave goodbye to Tulane. **OHIO STATE 52, TULANE 14**



Frey Reflects On Roller-Coaster OSU Career

By JAMES GREGA
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

Greg Frey's Ohio State career is one that doesn't get as much attention as perhaps it should in Buckeye history, strictly based on the unique situations the Cincinnati native was put in.

When he came to Columbus, Frey was one of seven quarterbacks on the roster in 1986 as a true freshman. Jim Karastos and Tom Tupa were at the top of the list, but by the time the dust settled and fall camp was over, Frey found himself third on the depth chart and on Ohio State's travel roster for road games.

Despite all of that, Frey took a redshirt season and found himself as the backup as a redshirt freshman playing under Earle Bruce during what would end up being Bruce's final season at OSU in 1987. He completed 8 of 20 passes in 1987, but perhaps his most notable play that season came in The Game. With Tupa briefly sidelined, Frey completed a third-down pass to Vince Workman on a fourth-quarter drive to set up the eventual game-winning field goal. By the time the next season started, he was the starter, but under a new regime.

Frey was the starting quarterback for the first three years of the John Cooper era at Ohio State and went through numerous ups and downs from 1988-90. Adjusting to the different styles of coaching between the two

head coaches was something that took some getting used to, Frey said.

"They were significantly different," Frey told BSB. "Earle was old-school. He was pretty heavy from the standpoint of getting on you. He had a way of doing it in practice that no one was safe from it. He would get on anybody. That was his way of helping you improve. After practice was over, he loved you and he was a different person. There was a lot of Woody Hayes' influence there. That was the way they coached, and you accepted that. Practices were extremely difficult as a young quarterback because he made it that way in order to prepare you to play on Saturday."

Once Cooper arrived, however, the practices became less intense as the head coach took a more hands-off approach to the weekly preparation. Frey, who had deployed a pass-heavy offense in high school at St. Xavier, was introduced to a traditional pro-style offense in his first year as the starter.

One of the biggest differences in Cooper's leadership was his ability to recruit the best talent in the country. However, Frey said Cooper and his staff made it apparent that the players that Bruce recruited were seen in a different light than Cooper's guys.

"Cooper was more of a corporate leader," he said. "He let his coaches coach. He was

more of an overseer. He was much more loose with his players. The challenge was, he made it very clear when he came in that if you were one of Earle's guys, you were one of Earle's guys and you weren't one of his guys. And that was very difficult for someone who is 19 years old, dealing with that kind of transition."

Frey's transition from one of Bruce's recruits to a starter under Cooper got off to a rocky beginning, with the Buckeyes finishing the 1988 season 4-6-1. The year wasn't without a few highlights, though, as in just his third game as the starter, Frey helped engineer a pair of scoring drives in the final minutes to help

Ohio State to a 36-33 comeback victory over LSU at home. A 20-yard touchdown pass to receiver Bobby Olive with just 38 seconds to play sent Ohio Stadium into a frenzy. However, the Buckeyes dropped four of their next five before finishing the season with a 24-24 tie at Iowa and a heartbreaking 34-31 loss to Michigan at home.

In 1989, his second year as the starter, Frey said he earned just enough trust from the coaches that he was able to audible at the line of scrimmage. Ohio State doubled its win total from a season earlier, finishing the regular season 8-3, including another signature moment for Frey.

On Oct. 28, Ohio State traveled to

Minneapolis to take on Minnesota and, in the blink of an eye, fell behind 31-0 just before the half. Frey led the Buckeyes on a furious comeback, as Ohio State left the Twin Cities with a miraculous 41-37 win over the Golden Gophers. In that game, Frey completed 20 of 31 passes for 362 yards and accounted for Ohio State's final four touchdowns, throwing for three and adding another on the ground.

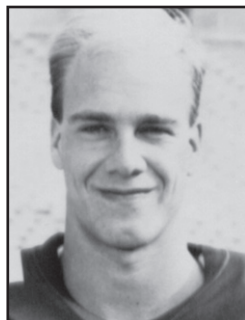
The win over Minnesota stands as the biggest comeback in program history.

Frey, who has become a coach at the high school level since his playing days ended, said looking back, he wishes he would have been given even more flexibility in the offense under Cooper.

"They coached out of fear," he explained. "They didn't want to give me as much freedom as I believe they should have and trust me more. When you put a quarterback out there, he is a coach on the field. I want my quarterback to have freedom, and I didn't have that. The older I got, I felt like the less freedom I had. They would literally say to me, and these are things I would never admit back then, but they would say, 'Greg, it's fine if you change the play, but if you mess it up you're out.' And that is a pressure no quarterback should have."

Despite that added pressure, Frey threw for 2,132 yards and 13 touchdown passes in 1989 while leading the Big Ten in average yards per attempt (8.7).

As a senior in 1990, Frey led Ohio State to



Greg Frey



ROOSTERS 2018 CHARITABLE GOLF OUTING

With your generous help we were able to raise:
"Thank you to all of our amazing supporters!"

\$130,000

BENEFITTING

**URBAN & SHELLEY MEYER
FUND FOR CANCER RESEARCH**
at the Ohio State Comprehensive Cancer
Center - James Cancer Hospital and Solove
Research Institute

The James

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
WEXNER MEDICAL CENTER



GIVING BACK
OVER
\$1 MILLION

A YEAR TO
LOCAL CHARITIES
AND
ORGANIZATIONS



| | | | | |
|----------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--------------|-----------|
| Coors LIGHT | Miller Lite | Gordon FOOD SERVICE | BUCKEYE | Coca-Cola |
| McCauley | SUNNYS | Always at your table | isaac wiles | Graffiti |
| SeibertKeck | MI The Motorists Insurance Group, You know us! | BUD LIGHT | Yuengling | |
| WAYNE FARMS | Baise | HOMETOWN | GIANT EAGLE | THEFAN |
| | Value. Quality. Expertise. | APPAREL & SCREEN PRINTING | SPORTS RADIO | vantiv |
| Columbus Car Audio & Accessories | Cheryl's | Marathon Petroleum Corporation | | |
| KARN MEATS | CASSANOS | ENVIRONMENTAL CONSTRUCTION STAFFING | | |
| CARGILL | HANDGARDS | ORLANDO BAKING COMPANY | | |
| BDO | MICELI DAIRY | LAKE ERIE FROZEN FOODS | | |
| RED GOLD | FRENCH'S | HIDDEN VALLEY RANCH | | |
| GENPAK | COLUMBUS | BYERS AUTOMOTIVE | | |
| WASSERSTROM | DISTRIBUTING | | | |
| COLUMBUS CLIPPERS | HAMILTON | | | |
| J & J Snack | COMMUNICATIONS | | | |



Official Wing Sponsor of Ohio State Athletics

WWW.ROOSTERSWINGS.COM

f t i #ROOSTERSWINGS

Frey Reprints To Be Posted

Thursday is reprint day on BSB's BuckeyeSports.com website. Each week we post reprints of interesting stories from the pages of Buckeye Sports Bulletin.

Reprints posted on Sept. 20 will include stories from the career of Greg Frey. Among the stories posted will be articles chronicling some of the highs and lows of his time at Ohio State, such as the last-minute win over LSU in 1988, the miracle comeback against Minnesota in 1989 and the heartbreaking loss to Michigan in 1990.

Reprints are archived so you can enjoy them at any time. BuckeyeSports.com is a free service to Buckeye Sports Bulletin subscribers.

a 7-2-1 record heading into Michigan week. A win against the Wolverines, combined with an Iowa loss to Minnesota, would have sent the Buckeyes to the Rose Bowl for the first time in five years.

The Golden Gophers upset Iowa, but Ohio State fell to Michigan, 16-13, at home, ultimately sending them to the Liberty Bowl where they were defeated by Air Force.

The Michigan loss came down to a critical fourth-and-1, which Cooper elected to go for. He called an option to the right and Frey was stopped for no gain, giving the ball back to the Wolverines. Four plays later, Michigan was celebrating a victory after J.D. Carlson drilled a 37-yard field goal with no time left on the clock.

Michigan's fourth-down stand is a play that Frey said he is often asked about, and while he wasn't critical of that specific call, he was critical of the play calling throughout that game.

"In the 1990 Michigan game, we scored one touchdown, and it was a play that I called," Frey said, referencing a 12-yard touchdown pass to Jeff Graham just before halftime. "I am pretty proud of that because our offensive coordinator and coaches that day, I would say they pooped the bed the

whole week of preparation with the pressure they put on the team.

"In retrospect, they blamed the players, and that was one of the poorest coaching jobs I have ever been associated with."

When Frey reflects on his Ohio State career, despite the ups and downs, he said it is mostly positive. The LSU and Minnesota comebacks are often brought up, as well as a last-second victory over No. 6 Iowa on the road in 1990 in which he connected with Olive for a 3-yard score with just a second left to pull the upset.

"The Minnesota game was huge," he said. "That was such a unique day. (Fans) will tell me what they were doing that day, and I never get tired of hearing that."

Scouting Haskins

One thing Ohio State has always been knocked for when it comes to quarterbacks is not putting enough into the NFL – or, when they do get to the next level, not experiencing much success.

Frey didn't play much after his collegiate career was over, although he did play for the Ohio Glory, a member of the long defunct World League of American Football, in 1992 and the also long defunct Cleveland Thunderbolts of the Arena League in 1993.

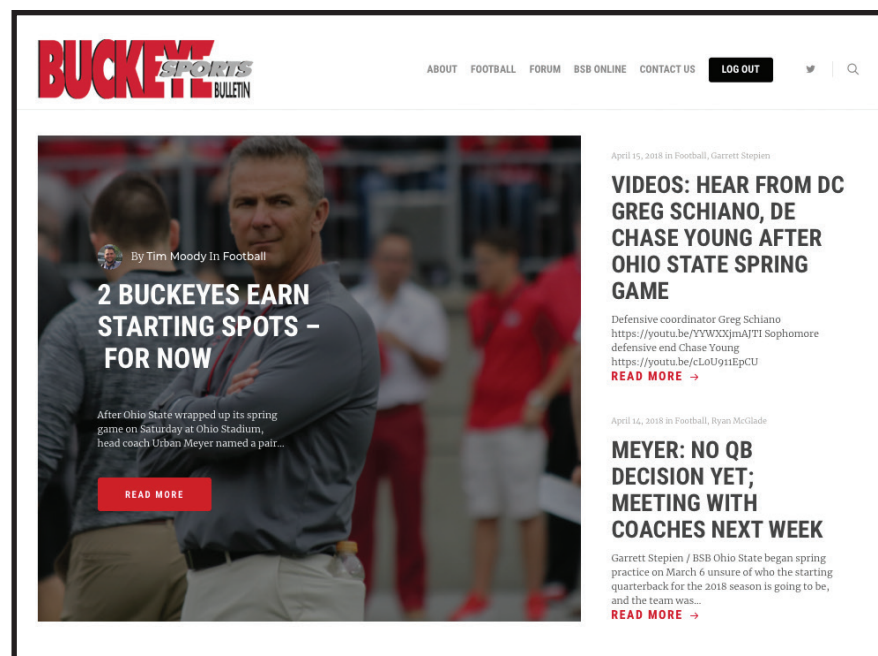
Ohio State's current quarterback, Dwayne Haskins, appears to have all the tools of an NFL quarterback. At 6-3 and 220 pounds, Haskins has the size and the arm strength to play at the next level. However, what has impressed Frey the most about Haskins is his quick release.

"I remember vividly watching him in the spring game two years ago and there are not too many quarterbacks that jump off the page, but he did to me with his release," Frey said. "It was like, 'Wow, where did they get this guy?' That spring game was his first chance to really shine. To me, he had the 'it' factor, the moment I saw him.

"The kid has a cannon for an arm, a very quick release. He is blessed with a great offensive line, great running backs and a tremendous group of receivers," Frey added. "The guy is really accurate and is blessed with a great coach in Ryan Day. He has all the resources around him to have an amazing year."

Buckeye Sports Bulletin will be running features on Ohio State quarterbacks throughout the 2018 football season.

SEE WHAT YOU'VE BEEN MISSING ON BUCKEYESPORTS.COM Free To Print Subscribers



Buckeye Sports Bulletin has expanded its online presence to a full-service website to complement the 24 annual print editions. Access to BuckeyeSports.com is free to all print subscribers and includes numerous great features like:

- Daily features, analysis and breaking news stories.
- A fan forum where readers can interact with the BSB staff and other subscribers while catching up on the latest Buckeye news.
- Rosters, scholarship charts, schedules and commit lists for the football team to keep up to date with the Buckeyes.
- Electronic versions of the BSB print editions.
- The BSB Quickly archive.

To sign up for this free service send an email to subscriptions@buckeyesports.com and we will send you easy-to-follow instructions on how to enjoy reading Buckeye Sports Bulletin online



WEST PAW design

Rugged Toys for Active Pets

MADE IN THE USA !!!



theDogWorks

DogWorkSCATS2.com

195 Thurman Ave ~ German Village

OSU Attracts Visitors Despite Neutral-Site Game

With Urban Meyer set to return to Ohio State's sideline Sept. 22 against Tulane at Ohio Stadium, the Buckeyes brought momentum from the field to the recruiting trail. With a 3-0 start to the season, the team's recruitment of several prospects picked up in the week leading up to his return.

RECRUITING OUTLOOK Garrett Stepien

Ohio State's 40-28 win over TCU took place as a neutral-site matchup at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas. Despite the venue's proximity to the Horned Frogs' nearby campus in Fort Worth, the Buckeyes took over the Lone Star State, inviting a handful of recruits to the game.

A potential commitment and possible flip for 2019, new offers out, relationships built with underclassmen and much more headline Ohio State's latest developments. As the Buckeyes hit the midway point of September, there was a slight change to their standing in the 247Sports composite team recruiting rankings.

OSU kept hold of the No. 3 spot for the 2020 class with six commitments, while its 2019 group of 14 pledges fell to No. 15. Among the other 14 in 2019, Ohio State is the only one with fewer than 15 members in its class.

To stay in the know on Ohio State recruiting, head to BSB's 24/7, full-service website, BuckeyeSports.com. A free service for Buckeye Sports Bulletin print subscribers, members can sign up by emailing their name and address to subscriptions@buckeyesports.com to receive simple instructions on further access.

2019 4-Star WR Nearing Decision
One of Ohio State's top targets at wide

receiver in 2019 could wrap up his recruitment sooner than later. St. Louis Cardinal Ritter College Prep four-star Jameson Williams took to Twitter on Sept. 9 and wrote he felt "real close to a decision."

The 6-1½, 169-pounder officially visited the Buckeyes the weekend of June 22-24. Since then, he has either taken or scheduled the remainder of his five available visits. However, according to Allen Trieu and

Steve Wiltfong of 247Sports, two of those trips might not happen.

Williams officially visited UCLA on Sept. 15 for the Bruins' 38-14 home loss to Fresno State and plans to officially visit Oregon on Sept. 22 for the Ducks' home game with Stanford. Beyond those, though, previously scheduled official visits to Nebraska (Sept. 29) and Alabama (Oct. 13) could change with Williams' potential



JOSH WINSLOW

HOLDING STEADY – Ohio State lost just one commitment during head coach Urban Meyer's suspension.

Ohio State Fans!

BUCKEYE SPORTS BULLETIN

Weekly September through November
Five times from January through mid-March
Biweekly mid-March through mid-May
Monthly December, June through August

Some Ohio State sports fans need more information on the Buckeyes than they can find in their local newspaper. Buckeye Sports Bulletin is for those fans. By subscribing to Buckeye Sports Bulletin, they receive 24 issues a year featuring:

- In-depth coverage of all Ohio State sports
- The latest comments from coaches and players
- The latest in recruiting information
- Personality profiles
- Features on former Buckeye greats
- Rosters, schedules, statistics, photos
- Check us out on the Web at www.BuckeyeSports.com



☐ 1 Year, \$99.95

☐ 1 Year, First Class Mail, \$149.95

☐ 2 Years, \$159.95

☐ 2 Years, First Class Mail, \$269.95

I want to know more about Ohio State sports. I am enclosing \$ _____

☐ Money Order ☐ Check ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ Discover ☐ Amer. Express

Credit Card # and Exp. Date _____

Credit Card Orders Accepted 24 Hours A Day
Call (614) 486-2202 or (800) 760-2862

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

Mail To: Buckeye Sports Bulletin
P.O. Box 12453
Columbus, Ohio 43212
www.BuckeyeSports.com

OSU Football Verbal Commitments

Players in the class of 2019 who have issued verbal commitments to play football at Ohio State. (Star ratings reflect 247Sports composite rankings.)

| Player | Pos. | Ht. | Wt. | Stars | High School |
|--------------------|------|------|-----|-------|---|
| Jordan Battle | S | 6-1 | 187 | ★★★★ | Fort Lauderdale (Fla.) St. Thomas Aquinas |
| Steele Chambers | ATH | 6-2 | 215 | ★★★★ | Roswell (Ga.) Blessed Trinity Catholic |
| Cormontae Hamilton | TE | 6-2 | 263 | ★★★ | Memphis (Tenn.) Whitehaven |
| Ronnie Hickman | ATH | 6-1 | 200 | ★★★★ | Wayne (N.J.) DePaul Catholic |
| Ryan Jacoby | OT | 6-5 | 270 | ★★★★ | Mentor, Ohio |
| Sampson James | RB | 6-1 | 211 | ★★★★ | Avon, Ind. |
| Dwan Mathis | QB | 6-4 | 197 | ★★★★ | Oak Park, Mich. |
| Harry Miller | C | 6-4 | 310 | ★★★★★ | Buford, Ga. |
| Doug Nester | OT | 6-5½ | 295 | ★★★★ | Huntington (W.Va.) Spring Valley |
| Noah Potter | DE | 6-5 | 250 | ★★★★ | Mentor, Ohio |
| Bryson Shaw | S | 6-2 | 175 | ★★★ | Potomac (Md.) Bullis School |
| Cade Stover | OLB | 6-5 | 235 | ★★★★ | Lexington, Ohio |
| Garrett Wilson | WR | 6-0½ | 181 | ★★★★★ | Austin (Texas) Lake Travis |
| Craig Young | ATH | 6-4 | 200 | ★★★ | Fort Wayne (Ind.) Wayne |

Players in the class of 2020 who has issued verbal commitments to play football at Ohio State. (Star ratings reflect 247Sports composite rankings.)

| Player | Pos. | Ht. | Wt. | Stars | High School |
|----------------|------|------|-----|-------|-------------------------------------|
| Lejond Cavazos | S | 6-0 | 186 | ★★★★ | Bradenton (Fla.) IMG Academy |
| Darvon Hubbard | RB | 6-0 | 200 | ★★★★ | Scottsdale (Ariz.) Chaparral |
| Paris Johnson | OT | 6-7 | 285 | ★★★★★ | Cincinnati St. Xavier |
| Jack Miller | QB | 6-4 | 210 | ★★★★ | Scottsdale (Ariz.) Chaparral |
| Jake Wray | OT | 6-5 | 290 | ★★★★ | Marietta, Ga. |
| Luke Wypler | OL | 6-3½ | 285 | ★★★★ | Montvale (N.J.) St. Joseph Regional |

ASK AN ANALYST

With Lettermen Row's Jeremy Birmingham

Over the years, head coach Urban Meyer's staff has been successful at plucking priority prospects from Texas and grooming them into key contributors. How has OSU been able to invade the Lone Star State with so much success?

"They've always done a nice job of finding assistant coaches with ties to Texas. That's always been a key thing. It started with (former OSU assistant and current Texas head coach) Tom Herman. That was one of the primary reasons why they offered a job to (former Buckeyes assistant and current Longhorns offensive coordinator/quarterbacks coach) Tim Beck, and he did an incredible job in Texas. I know people around Ohio State don't particularly have fond appreciation for what Beck did as a coach, but as a recruiter, he opened a ton of doors for Ohio State. Now it's Kevin Wilson down there. So that's really been part of their M.O. – just getting coaches that are familiar with the area, that have been down there."

Ohio State pulled the four-star duo of Kamryn Babb and Cameron Brown from St. Louis Christian Brothers College in the 2018 recruiting class. In your time as an analyst, how have you seen the St. Louis area evolve with talent, and what has OSU done to create a pipeline?

"With St. Louis, obviously, being a big city, there's going to be talented kids there. Similar to what's happened in Texas, other areas, there's a vacuum there without a major college program dominating the area. Obviously, the Ezekiel Elliott success at Ohio State has played a big part of this. But the Buckeyes could have definitely had (St. Louis Trinity Catholic 2019 four-star wide receiver) Marcus Washington if they wanted him. They're likely the top contender to land (St. Louis Cardinal Ritter College Prep four-star wide receiver) Jameson Williams in the next few weeks. They've already got really good relationships with (St. Louis DeSmet four-star) Jordan Johnson, a 2020 wide receiver there, as well."

"Overall, it's just an area where they've done a great job. That was (former wide receivers coach) Zach Smith's area before, but now the real challenge is Illinois – which sounds crazy because of Illinois' hiring decision to take Trinity Catholic's high school coach (Fighting Illini tight ends coach Cory Patterson), so that's sort of a fly in the ointment. But again, it's these big cities – Chicago and St. Louis are places that don't have a real opportunity or schools. Especially in Chicago, you have Notre Dame and

Northwestern, but not a lot of kids are getting into those schools. It's a lot of talent, but nobody there. So why not go there and make that a second home?"

Meyer returns Sept. 22 for Ohio State's game against Tulane. From a recruiting perspective, how big is Meyer's return to the sideline for those making trips to campus that week?

"Obviously, it's a matter of appearances. Everybody knows he's already been back, but for just that visual – that return to normalcy – I think that's really important. I think that's also really telling when you're hearing about (Buford, Ga., five-star center) Harry Miller and (Marietta, Ga., 2020 four-star offensive tackle) Jake Wray and all of these commitments coming up from down south to be there. It speaks to what Ryan Day has talked about over the last two weeks a number of times, which is how close and how mature these commitments are. Their families have refused to be reactionary in this situation. They've really been supportive of Meyer. I imagine that, aside from just being on the field those three hours, when he gets to the stadium on Saturday morning and sees the parents and those kids, he's probably going to have a tough time with the emotions that he feels that day."

commitment – a decision currently leaning in favor of OSU.

"He has said, almost from the get-go, that the Buckeyes were the school recruiting him the hardest," Trieu said on The Notorious B1G Recruiting Podcast. "I don't see any reason for a change there. I'm sticking with them till the end of this."

"He was supposed to take an official to Nebraska at the end of this month. He told me recently that he wasn't sure that was still going to happen or if he was going to reschedule that. I think that's a good sign for the other schools involved in this mix, so expecting to hear something quite soon here within the next couple of weeks from Jameson Williams, who we think – we don't

think, we know he's one of the fastest players in the entire country."

Wiltfong echoed those sentiments, emphasizing how Williams fits what Ohio State's up-tempo offense wants out of its wide receivers.

"I'm all in on Ohio State (for Williams)," Wiltfong said. "Never felt better about Ohio State and I felt good about the Buckeyes in

this recruitment, and it is one that we can confirm will end soon. I think that he is ready to make his decision."

"UCLA – Jameson grew up an Oregon fan. (First-year Bruins head coach) Chip Kelly was the head coach. Very intrigued with that offense. He's been out to UCLA

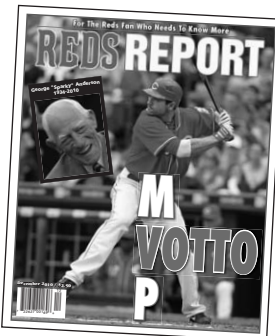
Continued On Page 28

REDS FANS!

Follow The Reds Year-Round In Reds Report

Reds Report is must reading for every Reds fan. Each information-filled issue includes player features; historical articles; extensive minor league coverage with features on top prospects, complete statistics and farm club updates; box scores and game summaries for every Reds game; complete team and individual statistics; a Reds memorabilia section and much more.

1 Year (12 issues) — \$42.95



Send to: Reds Report • P.O. Box 12453 • Columbus, Ohio 43212

☐ Please send me a one-year (12 issues) subscription to **Reds Report** for \$42.95.

☐ My check or money order is enclosed. Check # _____

☐ Charge to my: ☐ Discover ☐ MC ☐ Visa ☐ AMEX

Exp. Date _____

Card No. _____

Name _____

Address _____

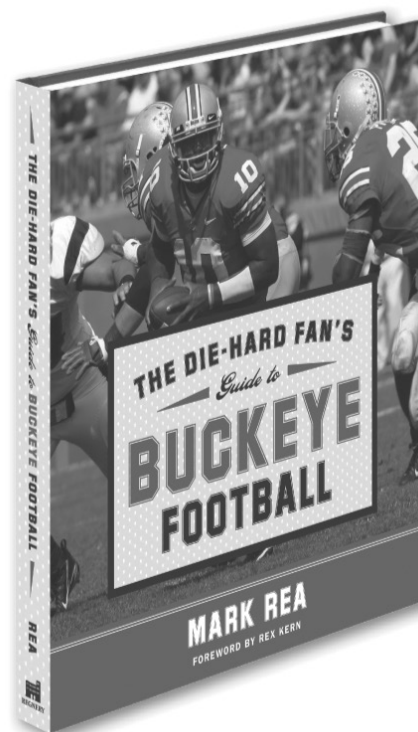
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

For Faster Service On Credit Card Orders Call

1-800-760-2862

CALLING ALL BUCKEYE FANS:

YOUR INDISPENSABLE OSU FOOTBALL GUIDE IS HERE!



Do you bleed scarlet and gray year round?

If so, then *The Die-Hard Fan's Guide to Buckeye Football* by Buckeye football expert Mark Rea is for you! This must-have book works its way "Across the Field" through nearly 120 years of Buckeye football, including complete coverage of the national championship seasons and Heisman Trophy winners

Full of color photos, amusing anecdotes, and little-known facts, *The Die-Hard Fan's Guide to Buckeye Football* is unlike any other book you've read. One minute you're reading about legendary coaches like Paul Brown and Woody Hayes and the next you're visualizing stories of the Horseshoe's greatest games and discovering who Woody Hayes referred to as his "greatest booster."

It is for you, the fans, that this book has been created—the ultimate guide for the most diehard members of the Buckeye Nation! **GO BUCKS!**

Available in bookstores, online, or call (614) 486-2202

Since 1947
REGNERY PUBLISHING, INC.
An Eagle Publishing Company • Washington, DC
www.Regnery.com

Buckeyes Expecting Visits From Local Prospects

Continued From Page 27

once (before the official visit). But unless something just moved heaven and earth on his visit to the Pac-12 school, I think you feel really good about Ohio State's chances."

Williams is the 247Sports composite's No. 129 overall prospect, No. 24 wide receiver and No. 2 player in Missouri for 2019.

"He can go," Wiltfong said of Williams. "There's a lot of upside there for Jameson from a speed standpoint. Ohio State, that's what makes them so dangerous on offense right now, is all of the speed they have. That's a priority for them at the position. They don't settle. Jameson Williams is one of the fastest players in the country, ran a (40-yard-dash time of) 4.4 on the laser at Nike (The Opening)."

OSU Offers 2020 4-Star Duo

During the week leading up to TCU, Ohio State offered two four-star prospects in the 2020 class. OSU dipped down to the Southeast when it extended scholarships to Orange Park (Fla.) Oakleaf defensive end Chantz Williams (6-4, 212) on Sept. 10 and Suwanee (Ga.) North Gwinnett wide receiver Josh Downs (5-10, 165) on Sept. 11.

Both of Ohio State's latest offers are ranked nationally by the 247Sports composite. Williams is the No. 149 overall prospect, No. 8 weakside defensive end and No. 23 player in Florida for 2020. The Buckeyes became his latest scholarship after he received an offer Sept. 1 from LSU, adding to an early list already including the likes of Alabama and Clemson and three schools from the Sunshine State – Florida, Florida State and Miami.

Downs, on the other hand, broke through in a big way with Ohio State as his first offer since the spring evaluation period. He added seven offers in May with Louisville, Michigan and Oregon among the latest. Downs is the No. 316 overall prospect, No. 63 wide receiver and No. 30 player in Georgia for 2020.

FSU Commit Sets OSU Official

As Florida State struggles on the field, one commitment for the Seminoles in 2019 has already started looking around and keeping his options open. In fact, he just set an official visit to Ohio State.

A Look Back At Recruiting From The Pages Of BSB

30 Years Ago – 1988

Despite evident academic problems, Chillicothe, Ohio, defensive tackle Chuck Jones drew interest from college football's top programs, including Ohio State.

The 6-4, 290-pounder was considered one of the nation's top defensive linemen for 1988 because of his combination of size and speed with a 40-yard dash around 4.7 seconds.

"I know Ohio State is very high on his list," Chillicothe head coach John Sines told BSB, "but there are several other ones on there, too. He's talked about Miami of Florida, UCLA and Michigan. He's being recruited by nearly everyone in the country, and he's listening to them and trying to make an intelligent (choice)."

25 Years Ago – 1993

Penn State plucked one of Ohio's top prospects, and a recruit on Ohio State's radar, when Cleveland St. Ignatius defensive end Mike Buzin committed to the Nittany Lions.

He chose PSU over Notre Dame, Syracuse, Stanford, Michigan, Virginia and the Buckeyes. However, his choice was no shocker – Buzin's father player at Penn State.

"Naturally, we're thrilled for Mike to have this opportunity," said Ignatius head coach Chuck Kyle. "In his mind, Penn State was where he felt most comfortable, and he didn't think there was any use in leading the other schools on."

20 Years Ago – 1998

Derek Smith initially aspired to play two sports in college, but he changed his mind when Ohio State offered. The 6-6, 245-pound tight end from Fort Thomas (Ky.) Highlands was an early favorite for both Mr. Football and Mr. Basketball in the state. Smith

sent out signals to schools about continuing both sports up until Ohio State entered the equation for football.

"Ohio State called and offered me a scholarship," he told BSB. "I talked to (assistant Jim) Heacock."

He was considering the Buckeyes with Kentucky, Penn State, Michigan and Tennessee in his top five. Smith's former Highlands teammate, offensive lineman Scott Kuhnhein, was already playing for Ohio State.

"I've talked to Scott, and he said the coaching staff is really nice," Smith said. "He said I should definitely give (Ohio State) a try."

15 Years Ago – 2003

Among the visitors Sept. 13 for Ohio State's triple-overtime win over North Carolina State, Bollingbrook, Ill., linebacker Kyle Williams led the pack.

The 6-2, 217-pounder was one of the few prospects in the 2004 recruiting class to earn a five-star rating by Rivals.com. As the No. 12 overall prospect and No. 2 outside linebacker in the nation, Williams was a top target for the Buckeyes and plenty of others.

He called Iowa his favorite at the time, but OSU made a notable impression on him during an unofficial visit for the victory against the Wolfpack.

"Iowa is still my favorite," Williams said. "But I think I'll make an official visit to Ohio State."

10 Years Ago – 2008

Ohio State started hot on the trail when the Buckeyes picked up their first commitment for the 2010 recruiting class in Youngstown (Ohio) Boardman defensive end J.T. Moore (6-3, 216).

tackle, is among the Buckeyes' biggest remaining targets left in the current cycle.

Local Prospects Look To Visit

After their 52-7 win over Westerville (Ohio) Central on Sept. 14, two of Pickerington North's top players told BSB they planned to take in Ohio State's Sept. 22 matchup against Tulane – Meyer's first game back on the Buckeyes' sideline.

Chris Scott and Jack Sawyer have emerged on OSU's radar for beyond 2019. Scott (6-3, 175) and Sawyer (6-5, 220) are, respectively, among Ohio's best for 2020 and 2021. Scott, a three-star wide receiver for 2020, has heard increasingly from Ohio State since the Sept. 1 quiet period began. Sawyer, on the other hand, has become the Buckeyes' biggest target early for 2021.

"They talked to me about how excited they are to have me commit," Moore told BSB. "They were glad to have me commit and be on board. It's a great experience and a great honor to be the first commit. It's just a great feeling."

Five Years Ago – 2013

Ohio State's win over San Diego State was among Urban Meyer's many victories from the weekend of Sept. 7, which resulted in a commitment from Sparta (N.J.) Pope John XXIII four-star wide receiver Noah Brown (6-2, 215) for the 2014 recruiting class.

"I knew after the game when I was having dinner with Coach Meyer and really getting a chance to speak to him and get to know him as a person," said Brown, who became the Buckeyes' 18th pledge. "Right then and there after that talk, I knew it was the place I wanted to go to."

One Year Ago – 2017

Ohio State's recruiting class of 2018 reached 18 members Sept. 12 when defensive tackle Antwan Jackson announced in favor of the Buckeyes. As the No. 3 overall prospect in the 247Sports composite's junior-college rankings, Jackson (6-2, 305) committed to OSU out of Brenham (Texas) Blinn College.

In high school, Jackson considered Ohio State before he pledged to Auburn from Ellenwood (Ga.) Cedar Grove. After his 2016 transfer to Blinn College, Jackson eventually came full circle to Columbus.

"He chose Ohio State, which does not surprise me," recruiting analyst Bill Greene told BSB. "I knew they had been in contact with him ever since he left Auburn."

As a recipient of a rare OSU offer as a freshman in high school, Sawyer looks forward to seeing Meyer on his first trip back to campus since he camped in June.

"I'm looking forward to it a lot, a lot," said Sawyer, whom Ohio State extended a scholarship to April 6. "I really like Coach Meyer and the way he coaches. Obviously, he's one of the best – probably ever – and I just can't wait. I'm excited to see him."

Sawyer is the 247Sports composite's No. 3 overall prospect, No. 1 strongside defensive end and No. 1 player in Ohio for 2021. He boasts offers from Big Ten programs Michigan (Jan. 29), Michigan State (Feb. 10) and Maryland (March 27) on top of the Buckeyes. Kentucky (Feb. 8), Pittsburgh (March 27) and Georgia Tech round out his recruitment right now.

OSU, however, has continued to stand out as both sides – Sawyer's family and Meyer's staff – have built the relationship.

"We stay in touch a lot," Sawyer said. "We call the coaches probably every other week. We just catch up, talk and then I probably want to get back to a game here soon – probably next week – when Coach Meyer returns. I have a great relationship with Ohio State, and we're just continuing to build upon it."

Scott might not have the same recruiting firepower as Sawyer, but he remains a prospect on the rise as his process begins to blow up.

"It's been great," Scott said. "With me just now going into my junior year, Sept. 1 was the date that schools could start texting me. So after that night, things just kind of started to blow up, I would say. OSU and UC contacted me. I was on the phone with Pitt, Michigan State.

"I became closer with the coaches more so than what I was last year. I was getting recruited, but I couldn't do much with me

Buckeye Sports BulletinBoard

RULES AND RATES: 20 cents per word, 10 cents for more than one insertion. Minimum order of \$5. No agency discounts. Make checks payable to Buckeye Sports Bulletin. We accept Visa, MasterCard, Discover and American Express.

All ads are uniformly set with the first two words set in boldface capital letters at no charge. However, no other words may be set in boldface. Anyone planning a larger or more distinct ad may receive our ad rate card upon request.

We reserve the right to request additional information or merchandise be submitted from advertiser prior to acceptance of an ad, and we reserve the right to refuse advertisements considered objectionable.

Deadline is one week prior to publication date. Call (614) 486-2202 or write P.O. Box 12453, Columbus, Ohio, 43212 for info.

WANTED TO buy: OSU basketball tickets/stubs from the 1960s, '70s, '80s, '90s & 2000s. Call Mike at 704-995-0414.

WANTED TO buy: OSU football memorabilia and equipment, programs, pennants, glasses, books, jerseys, helmets, ticket stubs. One item or a hundred. Will travel. Call George at (614) 506-1081.

"RIVALRY" SERIGRAPH by Leroy Neiman — 1973 limited-edition serigraph, 21-by-28, signed and numbered 81 of 300. Framed and matted. Retail \$7,000. Price \$6,500. Call (415) 602-7301.

WANTED TO buy: OSU football memorabilia, programs, tickets stubs, pennants, championship rings, gold pants, helmets, autographs, game-used equipment, small or large collections. Call Chris at (419) 957-6789.

FOR SALE — OSU-MICHIGAN Game, 1975 - original RADIO broadcast on CD! Woody's last great team & Archie's last UM game as Bucks go 11-0! Three-disk set runs 3½ hours! Listen in your car! \$25 + \$3 S & H. Call 1-630-527-8890!

CLEAN BUCKEYES – 6.3-pound cases at just \$12 per case, plus shipping! This is dry weight, as these buckeyes have been hand cleaned and dried – beautiful! Get them here first! Call (630) 527-8890!

BSB PUBLISHER Frank Moskowitz and other members of the BSB staff are available to speak at your business, social or alumni group meetings. Informative and fun. Call (614) 486-2202 for details.

being so young. So now, with me being able to text the coaches when I want and asking questions about anything, I think that's been real good. So I'm just enjoying the process right now."

Despite zero offers, Scott's upcoming visits, combined with a strong junior season, could lead to his list growing soon enough.

"This weekend (Sept. 15), I'll be at UC," Scott said. "And then next weekend (Sept. 22), I'll be at OSU. And then the following weekend, the 29th, I'll be at Louisville. So those are the three set ones right now."

"And then after that – Kentucky, Michigan State, Michigan and Penn State – I'm trying to go to where I can. It's just about whatever weekend opens up for me."

Texas Recruits Take In TCU Game

Among the announced crowd of 64,362 on Sept. 15 for Ohio State's 40-28 win over TCU, several notable targets throughout the Lone Star State in the 2019 and 2020 classes came to AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas, and watched the Buckeyes as guests of OSU.

Odessa (Texas) Permian four-star athlete Peyton Powell was perhaps the most notable. Rated the 247Sports composite's No. 348 overall prospect, No. 29 athlete and No. 40 player in Texas for 2019, Powell became an Ohio State priority after he received his May 15 offer. The 6-2, 192-pounder then released his top 10 on June 18, right before he officially visited the Buckeyes, who are looking at him as a cornerback, the week-end of June 22-24.

Powell pegged the Scarlet and Gray among his short list of favorites following the trip to Columbus, originally locking into a decision date of Aug. 13 for his commitment announcement. However, between Oklahoma's July 30 offer and uncertainty around OSU with Meyer's investigation at the time, Powell pressed pause on his process and reset his recruitment.

While the Horned Frogs have also been in the mix for Powell since their June 12 offer, it appears he trekked east from Odessa to Arlington and took in the game as a guest of Ohio State. Jeremy Birmingham of Lettermen Row report-

ed that Powell sat behind the Buckeyes' bench.

Powell has yet to provide an update since he delayed his decision, but if his timeline is any indicator, his pending choice will likely come down to OSU and the Sooners. Out of his five available official visits, Powell took trips to Virginia (June 15) and Oklahoma (Sept. 1) between the weekend in Ohio.

As for 2020, Ohio State reportedly hosted two top Texas targets for the class in Dallas Jesuit four-star all-purpose back EJ Smith and Southlake Carroll four-star safety RJ Mickens, according to Bill Kurelic of 247Sports.

Smith and Mickens are sons of former NFL players. Smith's father, Emmitt (1990-2004), starred 13 years with the Dallas Cowboys and shattered Walter Payton's career rushing record with 18,355 yards. Mickens' father, Ray (1996-2006), spent 10 years with the New York Jets, Cleveland Browns and New England Patriots.

Smith (6-0, 197) is the 247Sports composite's No. 88 overall prospect, No. 2 all-purpose back and No. 13 player in Texas. Last year, Ohio State offered Smith on

Dec. 27 while the Buckeyes were in the Dallas-Fort Worth area for the Dec. 29 Cotton Bowl. He and his parents came to Columbus the weekend of April 14 for OSU's spring game.

Mickens (6-1, 188), meanwhile, earned an Ohio State offer April 17 and returned to campus for the Buckeyes' Friday Night Lights camp on June 22. He is the 247Sports composite's No. 34 overall player, No. 1 safety and No. 5 player in Texas.

Mickens told 247Sports he had been in contact with offensive coordinator/tight ends coach Kevin Wilson and co-defensive coordinator/safeties coach Alex Grinch about getting tickets to the game.

"TCU was recruiting me, but we haven't talked lately," Mickens said. "I haven't watched TCU, but I've watched Ohio State play. They have a lot of talent with their quarterbacks, (sophomore Dwayne) Haskins and (redshirt freshman) Tate (Martell). And I'm friends with (sophomore cornerback Jeffrey) Okudah. This will be my first time seeing Ohio State play (in person)."

BUS IT TO THE BUCKEYES™

BEAT TULANE!

Ride COTA to and from the game!
Beat game-day traffic and road construction.

COTA



Proud Sponsor of Ohio State Athletics



facebook.com/cotabus



@COTAbus



@COTAbus

cota.com/osufotball

Trademarks of The Ohio State University used with permission.

2020 4-Star ATH Drennen Becoming A Priority

By GARRETT STEPIEN
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

When Dublin (Ohio) Coffman's Michael Drennen emerged from the locker room Sept. 7, he knew what he had to do. Drennen and his team trailed crosstown rival Dublin Jerome 14-10 as both squads returned to their respective sidelines for the third quarter.

With student sections from opposite sides of the metal bleachers chanting back and forth, Dublin Jerome's crowd chanted one word – overrated – at him all night long. Drennen drowned out the noise, letting his play do the talking as he bulldozed into the end zone three times, helping his team score 35 unanswered points and catapulting the Shamrocks to a 45-14 rout of the Celtics.

Drennen delivered the dagger on a

25-yard run late in the game. From the shotgun, Shamrocks quarterback Ethan Brown fed Drennen for a handoff up the middle, and the junior running back did the rest.

As the holes opened up, Drennen shot up the gap and bounced outside, throwing a stiff-arm at a defensive lineman before blowing by a cornerback, untouched, in the open field. Once he got vertical up the numbers just outside of the left hash, Drennen went full steam ahead, plowing a linebacker to his right and carrying a safety on his back 7 yards across the goal line for an exclamation point on the comeback win.

Drennen's third and final plunge into the end zone unfolded right in front of Ohio State running backs coach Tony Alford. Known for his shiftiness and speed, Drennen kicked into another gear on the emphatic score when he raced Alford's way.

Get To Know: Michael Drennen

High School – Dublin (Ohio) Coffman

Position – Running Back/Slot Receiver

Height, Weight – 5-11, 190 pounds

Rankings – Drennen is rated a four-star prospect, the No. 17 running back and No. 180 overall player in the 247Sports 2020 composite.

Player Evaluation – "Drennen has been a starter at Dublin Coffman since becoming the school's first ever freshman to start on the varsity. He is a very versatile back that can catch the football well out of the backfield, as well as run it from scrimmage." – Bill Greene, 247Sports



"I had to put the game away," Drennen said. "Sometimes, the game is on the line. I had Alford in the back. I had to show him something. Hopefully, I'm his No. 1 (target) now. I hope, I hope."

The 5-11, 190-pound Drennen's recruitment has reached new heights in his junior season. Before Drennen even participated in a practice at Dublin Coffman, where he became the first freshman ever to start for the varsity football team two years ago, his college process started with a splash when Kentucky offered him July 17, 2016, after an impressive camp performance in front of the Wildcats' coaching staff.

He still has room to grow, but his recruitment has only continued to pick up. Drennen flashed as a freshman in the fall of 2016. He drew his subsequent offers from Indiana, Cincinnati and Louisville in the 2017 spring evaluation period.

Despite a season-ending ankle injury early in Drennen's sophomore year, the Buckeyes saw enough to get into the mix and start the communication. OSU kept tabs on Drennen into the spring and summer. He camped at Ohio State on June 12 and earned an offer 10 days later.

"I probably have the tightest relationship – like, me and the coach (at any college) – with Alford," Drennen said of Ohio State's running backs coach, who has been his primary recruiter. "He's my tightest coach. I love Alford. To be honest, that's my dude."

Alford worked closely with Drennen during the Buckeyes' second one-day camp of the summer at the Woody Hayes Athletic Center, even taking time out of the lunch break to provide individual instruction. Drennen left without an offer, but the scholarship chance from OSU came June 22. Before Friday Night Lights, Ohio State's marquee camp every year, Urban Meyer met Drennen for a sit-down conversation in the head coach's office, which resulted in a game-changing offer in his blossoming recruitment.

Since then, Drennen has continued to emerge as a priority prospect on Ohio State's recruiting radar. He said Meyer, who sent a good luck text message Sept. 7 on the morning of Drennen's big game, has been in touch daily as the contact continues to increase.

The interest is mutual, but the Buckeyes are not the only ones in contention for the versatile running back and slot receiver. As a four-star recruit in the 247Sports composite, Drennen became a national prospect after his sophomore year of high school. Around the time of his OSU scholarship, he also added offers from Michigan (June 18) and Georgia (June 28).

Primarily recruited as an H-back, Drennen has heard more and more from the blue-blood trio along with several new schools. Since the Sept. 1 evaluation period started, he described the spike in communication from a handful of Power 5 programs.

"Pitt, Northwestern, I talked to LSU, I talked to Texas, I talked to Rutgers," Drennen said. "Kentucky – you know, I like Kentucky – they were (my first offer) right there."

Drennen last visited Ohio State in July but had yet to return two weeks into the season after Ohio Stadium's home games Sept. 1 against Oregon State and Sept. 8 vs. Rutgers. As he looks for a concrete date to make his return "very soon" and see the Buckeyes, Drennen has explored visits elsewhere.

"I'm going to try to get to Notre Dame, definitely go back to Ohio State this year," he said. "I want to go to Alabama. I want to go to USC. Those have been on my list for a while."

With no decision date in mind, Drennen has enjoyed the process. In the meantime, he is perfecting his craft as a multifaceted weapon on Dublin Coffman's offense.

"I've been working on running back here for three years and it's pretty tough, but I think I've got it down now," Drennen said. "Slot (receiver) just comes to me normal, to be honest. I try to look the ball in all the way like usual and I just try to stay calm, to be honest, because if I just stay calm, it's no telling where I can take it."

The original tire shop 40 years

www.SandysUsedTiresColumbus.com

SANDY'S USED TIRES

We Sell NEW Tires

\$30 & Up Installed

3595 Cleveland Ave
Columbus, Ohio 43224
614-263-3816
Mon-Sat 8am-8pm • Sunday 8am-6pm

2804 Johnstown Rd.
Columbus, Ohio 43219
614-475-3846
Mon-Sat 9am-6pm • Sunday 9am-4pm

Let our friendly staff take care of you before, during & after the game.

Enjoy your favorite team on our many HD flat-screen TVs

Shade RESTAURANTS

Friends, Fun & Great Food!

NFL Ticket

Shade on the Canal
19 S. High St.
Canal Winchester
614-837-9873

Shade on 30th St.
850 S. 30th St.
Heath
740-788-9287

Shade on State St.
994 E State St.
Athens
740-566-1009



CONRAD'S

college gifts

your
#1 stop
buckeye
shop
since
1969

NEW SEASON, NEW GEAR!

CHECK FOR MORE ONLINE! WWW.CONRAD.S.COM

**CALL OR SIGN UP
ONLINE TO RECEIVE OUR
SEASONAL FLYER!**



CONRAD'S COLLEGE GIFTS
HANDY DANDY 2018
FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

SEPT 1 - OREGON STATE
SEPT 8 - RUTGERS STATE
SEPT 15 - AT TEXAS CHRISTIAN
UNIVERSITY (TCU)
SEPT 22 - TULANE
SEPT 29 - AT PENN STATE
OCT 6 - INDIANA
OCT 13 - MINNESOTA
OCT 20 - AT PURDUE
OCT 27 - BYE WEEK
NOV 3 - NEBRASKA
NOV 10 - AT MICHIGAN STATE
NOV 17 - AT MARYLAND
NOV 24 - TTUN

Open all Home Games.
Starting at 8 AM.
Closing hours vary by
the starting time of the
game.

A1-50: Athletic O Hawaiian Print Shirt

Red, pattern.
S, M, L,
XL, or 2XL.

\$69.95



A1-48: Ohio State Buckeyes Shirt

Red.
S, M, L, XL,
2XL, or 3XL.

\$18.95



A1-49: Ohio State Buckeyes Block O Shirt

Red.
S, M, L, XL,
2XL, or 3XL.

\$23.95



B1-11: Ladies Racerback Buckeyes Tank Top

Heather black
& heather gray.
S, M, L, XL,
or 2XL.

\$24.95



B1-12: Ladies Ohio State Buckeyes Athletic Dept. Tee

Black.
S, M, L,
XL, or 2XL.

\$23.95



B1-5: Ladies Mesh Football Jersey with Athletic O Logo

Red.
S, M, L,
XL, or 2XL.

**\$58.95
to \$60.95**



D5-20: Helmet Stripes and Buckeye Leaf Hat

M-L, or L-XL.

\$24.95



B6-4: Ladies Sparkle Block O Adjustable Hat

\$22.95



B6-3: Ladies Starlight Athletic O Adjustable Hat

\$22.95



A10-64: Brutus Buckeye Socks

S-M,
or L-XL.

\$19.95



M3-25: Ohio State Scarlet and Gray Mini Football

\$10.95



J6-10: Twilight Script Ohio Poster Print

14 3/4" by 36".

\$10.00



Check in on Instagram
[instagram.com/CONRAD.SOSU](https://www.instagram.com/CONRAD.SOSU)



Follow us on Twitter
[twitter.com/CONRAD.SOSU](https://www.twitter.com/CONRAD.SOSU)



Friend us on facebook
[facebook.com/CONRADSCOLLEGE GIFTS](https://www.facebook.com/CONRADSCOLLEGE GIFTS)

316 West Lane Avenue, Columbus Ohio, 43201

614-297-0497

osu@conrads.com

1-888-443-8678

www.conrads.com

Big Ten Suffers 7 Losses To Unranked Teams

Ohio State's win over TCU on Sept. 15 was a signature victory not only for the Buckeyes, but for the Big Ten Conference, which needed a pick-me-up of sorts after a horrendous Saturday on the football field.

BIG TEN NOTES

James Grega

Seven Big Ten teams lost to unranked opponents Sept. 15, six of which came at home. The most shocking of all might have been BYU defeating No. 6 Wisconsin in Madison, 24-21, as a field-goal attempt to tie the game in the final minute went wide left for the Badgers, possibly ending their hopes at a playoff bid.

The Cougars held superstar running back Johnathan Taylor in check for the majority of the contest and held him out of the end zone for

the entire matchup. It was the first time Taylor hadn't found the end zone this season. He still managed 117 yards on 26 carries, though, keeping him atop the Big Ten rushing rankings.

As a result, the Badgers plummeted from No. 6 to No. 18 in the Associated Press top 25.

Meanwhile, Purdue fell to 0-3 on the season with a 40-37 loss to Missouri at home. All three losses to start the season for Jeff Brohm's squad have come at Ross-Ade Stadium.

Despite the loss, quarterback David Blough threw for a Purdue single game-record 572 yards, completing 39 of 55 passes for three touchdowns and an interception. Missouri kicked a last-second field goal to bury the Boilermakers.

Staying in the West division, Illinois allowed 18 unanswered, fourth-quarter points to South Florida, and the Illini dropped their first game of the season, 25-19, at home.

Former Alabama and Arizona State transfer Blake Barnett threw for 411 yards, two touchdowns and two interceptions in the victory

for South Florida, with both scores coming in the fourth quarter. His final touchdown pass was the eventual game-winner when he found receiver Darnell Salomon for a 50-yard touchdown with just 2:24 to go in the game.

Meanwhile in Lincoln, Neb., Scott Frost is still looking for his first win as the Cornhuskers head coach. In 27 starts as Nebraska's quarterback, Frost lost just twice and won a national championship in 1997. His head coaching tenure at Nebraska has already matched that loss total.

A week after losing to former Big 12 foe Colorado at home, the Huskers were stunned by Troy, 24-19. It is the second win against a Power-5 opponent in as many seasons for the Trojans, who upset LSU in Baton Rouge a season ago.

The Cornhuskers had to play without starting quarterback Adrian Martinez who was injured in the fourth quarter of the loss to the Buffaloes. In his place, walk-on Andrew Bunch threw for 170 yards and two touchdowns but also threw two costly interceptions in the loss. Nebraska also fumbled four times, yet lost only one to the Trojans, who came away with the victory despite picking up just 12 first downs.

Also in the West, Northwestern blew a 21-3 halftime lead against Akron in a stunning 39-34 loss to the Zips on Sept. 15. Wildcat quarterback Clayton Thorson threw a pair of pick-sixes while Akron signal-caller Kato Nelson was a consistent 17 of 28 passing for 277 yards and a pair of second-half touchdown passes to give Akron its first win against a Big Ten opponent since 1894, when the Zips defeated Ohio State, 12-6. For reference, the Big Ten was not created until 1896.

The two newest additions to the Big Ten, Rutgers and Maryland, each lost games in embarrassing fashion on Sept. 15, losing to Kansas and Temple respectively by a combined 62 points.

The Scarlet Knights, the lone Big Ten team to lose on the road in week three, were blasted by Kansas 55-14 in Lawrence, Kan., as the Jayhawks intercepted Rutgers starter Artur Sitkowski three times before he was eventually benched in favor of senior Gio Rescigno.

In total, Rutgers turned the ball over six times, while its defense did not force one take-away. The Scarlet Knights scored just one offensive touchdown, the other score coming on a blocked field goal returned for a touchdown in the first quarter.

BIG 2018 Standings

East Division

| | Conf. | | | All | | |
|----------------|-------|---|-------|-----|---|-------|
| | W | L | Pct. | W | L | Pct. |
| Ohio State | 1 | 0 | 1.000 | 3 | 0 | 1.000 |
| Indiana | - | - | - | 3 | 0 | 1.000 |
| Penn State | - | - | - | 3 | 0 | 1.000 |
| Maryland | - | - | - | 2 | 1 | .667 |
| Michigan | - | - | - | 2 | 1 | .667 |
| Michigan State | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | .500 |
| Rutgers | 0 | 1 | .000 | 1 | 2 | .333 |

West Division

| | Conf. | | | All | | |
|--------------|-------|---|-------|-----|---|-------|
| | W | L | Pct. | W | L | Pct. |
| Northwestern | 1 | 0 | 1.000 | 1 | 2 | .333 |
| Iowa | - | - | - | 3 | 0 | 1.000 |
| Minnesota | - | - | - | 3 | 0 | 1.000 |
| Illinois | - | - | - | 2 | 1 | .667 |
| Wisconsin | - | - | - | 2 | 1 | .667 |
| Nebraska | - | - | - | 0 | 2 | .000 |
| Purdue | 0 | 1 | .000 | 0 | 3 | .000 |

Sept. 15 Games

Penn State 63, Kent State 10
 Kansas 55, Rutgers 14
 Indiana 38, Ball State 10
 Temple 35, Maryland 14
 Troy 24, Nebraska 19
 BYU 24, Wisconsin 21
 Michigan 45, SMU 20
 Minnesota 26, Miami (Ohio) 3
 South Florida 25, Illinois 19
 Missouri 40, Purdue 37
 Iowa 38, Northern Iowa 14
 Akron 39, Northwestern 34

Ohio State 40, TCU 28

Sept. 21 Game

Penn State at Illinois, 9 p.m. (FS1)

Sept. 22 Games

Boston College at Purdue, Noon (ESPN2)
 Buffalo at Rutgers, Noon (BTN)
 Minnesota at Maryland, Noon (BTN)
 Nebraska at Michigan, Noon (FS1)
Tulane at Ohio State, 3:30 p.m. (BTN)
 Michigan State at Indiana, 7:30 p.m. (BTN)
 Wisconsin at Iowa, 8:30 p.m. (FOX)

Finally, the Terrapins were defeated 35-14 at home by Temple, just two weeks after their upset of Texas in the season opener.

Maryland completed just 8 of 21 passes for 63 yards, accumulating just 195 yards of total offense in the loss, while Temple more than doubled that pace, finishing with 429 total yards.

Maryland's offense failed to generate any points against the Owls, as the Terps scored on special teams and defense. In the second quarter, Maryland defensive back Darnell Savage returned an interception 23 yards for a score before defensive lineman Jesse Aniebonam scooped up a blocked punt in the fourth quarter, returning it 27 yards for Maryland's final touchdown of the day.

The Big Ten wasn't without some success on Saturday, however.

Penn State recorded its second straight blowout win, blasting Kent State 63-10 at home after dispatching Pittsburgh 51-6 a week earlier.

Michigan rolled over Southern Methodist 45-20 while Indiana made easy work of in-state foe Ball State, 38-10. Meanwhile, Minnesota and Iowa picked up the only two wins in the West division. The Golden Gophers defeated Miami (Ohio), 26-3, while the Hawkeyes cruised past Northern Iowa, 38-14.

B1G Player Of The Week

Blough's performance against Missouri was special, even in defeat, but our Big Ten Player of the Week, outside of Ohio State, goes to Michigan's Donovan Peoples-Jones.

Last week, Peoples-Jones broke Michigan's year-long drought of a receiver not catching a

Tickets To Events Anywhere

Concerts • Theatre • Sporting Events



"Your Ticket Solution"



(614) 488-9957 • 888-842-5877

www.ticketsohio.com

1350 W. Fifth Ave., Ste. 24

We Buy OSU Football Tickets!

OSU Football & Basketball

Cleveland Browns

Blue Jackets

Nationwide Arena

Schottenstein Arena

NFL • NBA • NHL

PRINTING & GRAPHICS
Advance

PRINTING • COPYING • GRAPHICS • MAILING

- STATIONERY
- BROCHURES
- HIGH SPEED COPIES
- DIGITAL PRINTING
- CD REPRODUCTION
- SCANNING TO DISK

1349 Delashmut Avenue • Columbus, OH 43212

Phone: 614-299-9770 • Fax: 614-299-9786

www.advancecolumbus.com

From The Pages Of BSB

35 Years Ago – 1983

Ohio State's 24-14 win at Oklahoma was seen by many, including BSB, as perhaps Earle Bruce's best at the time with the Buckeyes. The fifth-year head coach denied Sooners head coach Barry Switzer his 100th career victory, leading No. 6 OSU over No. 2 OU and providing hope for a program that had not been to the Rose Bowl since Bruce's first year in 1979.

"By far the best team game – both offensively and defensively – that we've played since I've been here," Bruce said.

30 Years Ago – 1988

Cris Carter pleaded guilty to federal charges of mail fraud and obstruction of justice and agreed to help authorities with their case against sports agents Norby Walters, Lloyd Bloom and David Lueddeke.

The U.S. attorney in charge of the case said he would recommend a prison sentence up to 10 years. U.S. District Judge Brian Duff in Chicago, however, did not talk tough. He told Carter not to let the impending sentence affect his play on the field.

Carter was ineligible for the 1987 season and beyond after he admitted to signing a representation contract and promissory note for \$5,000 to Walters and Bloom at World Entertainment and Sports, Inc. Carter had also accepted \$150 per month for roughly the next year after he signed with the agency on May 1, 1986. NCAA rules prohibited an athlete from signing agency contracts until eligibility ends.

25 Years Ago – 1993

Bruce made his return of sorts to Ohio State when he joined WTVN Radio in Columbus. The former Ohio State head coach was hired as an analyst to on the station's pre- and postgame shows. While WBNS Radio was OSU football's flagship station at the time, it did not have any former Buckeye coaches on staff.

Bruce had been away from Columbus since he was fired in 1987. He coached at Northern Iowa in 1988 before spending the next four seasons with Colorado State.

20 Years Ago – 1998

Head coach John Cooper called out athletic director Andy Geiger on academics after linebacker Chris Kirk and defensive lineman Paris Long missed Ohio State's season opener at West Virginia due to credit issues.

Cooper complained that the university's plan for an academic Success Center on Neil Avenue was lagging while other projects around athletics seemed to get priority with Geiger.

"We've got a new baseball stadium, a brand-new arena, they're renovating the stadium, and we've got a hole in the ground for academics," Cooper said. "I'm not talking behind anyone's back now. And we've been talking about this since John Cooper's been the head coach. We're going to build a new Success Center, but when?"

Cooper publicly pleaded for a special wing for academics at the Woody Hayes Athletic Center, where football players would be able to receive help before or after practices.

"Ideally for us, you come over to Woody Hayes, you practice, you go to study hall, you eat and then you go home," Cooper said.

15 Years Ago – 2003

Ohio Stadium hosted its longest game Sept. 13 when Ohio State outlasted North Carolina State, 44-38, in three overtimes. After the NCAA eliminated ties with the overtime rule in 1996, the Buckeyes had played in only two overtime games. They had won extra-period games against Illinois, 21-13 in one overtime, and Miami (Fla.), 31-24 in double overtime, in their final three contests of 2002 when they won the national championship.

"I think there is a comfort level in our ability and confidence when we get in these situations," said senior quarterback Craig Krenzel. "We have been in that position so many times now that we feel like we're comfortable with it."

10 Years Ago – 2008

Without junior running back Chris "Beanie" Wells for the second straight game, Ohio State suffered in a 35-3 loss at Southern California on Sept. 13.

Head coach Jim Tressel thought earlier in the week that

Wells would be ready to go, but the plan for the star tailback did not pan out after a foot injury continued to sideline him. As a result, the Buckeyes struggled with 34 rushes for 71 yards.

"We were hoping that he would edge up closer to 90 (percent) as opposed to 75 (percent)," Tressel said.

Five Years Ago – 2013

In place of injured junior Braxton Miller, fifth-year senior Kenny Guiton guided Ohio State at California by going 21 of 32 passing for 276 yards with four touchdowns as the Buckeyes topped the Golden Bears, 52-34, on Sept. 14 in Berkeley, Calif.

Guiton, who added 14 rushes for 92 yards, earned the Walter Camp Football Foundation's National Offensive Player of the Week honor for his heroics in his first career start.

"Surprised? Not at all," Guiton said. "I prepared hard. I watched a lot of film. I killed myself with that film because I wanted to know everything Cal could do, everything they could show me. You know, when you're nervous about something, it makes you prepare even harder."

Guiton's day included a 90-yard touchdown pass to Devin Smith, marking the school record for the longest play from scrimmage. Smith finished with 149 yards on just three catches while running back Jordan Hall added 168 yards and three scores on the ground.

One Year Ago – 2017

Ohio State quarterback J.T. Barrett totaled three touchdowns in the Buckeyes' 38-7 win over Army, breaking the Big Ten record of 106 touchdowns responsible for set by former Purdue signal caller Drew Brees (1997-2000).

"What I keep on thinking to myself with all these records broken that I have, I never really thought about it, honestly," Barrett, a fifth-year senior, said. "One thing that I go back to is coming from Wichita Falls, a little city on the map. I just wanted to come out here, win a lot of football games, be around a great group of people doing it."

"This was something that came along the way as far as the records being broken so it's a tremendous honor. I didn't picture it when I committed to Ohio State, but just credit to all the people involved."

touchdown pass, and against SMU, Peoples-Jones caught three touchdown passes in the 45-20 win over the Mustangs. He finished the day with four receptions for 90 yards, scoring

on plays of 35, 45 and 7 yards. His quarterback, Shea Patterson, was an efficient 14 of 18 for 237 yards in the win, adding another 20 yards on the ground.

Other notable performances included Penn State's Trace McSorley accounting for five scores in a blowout win over Kent State and Minnesota receiver Tyler Johnson

recording three touchdown receptions in a win over Miami of Ohio. Johnson finished with nine receptions for 133 yards in the victory.



Save on Buckeye
fan gear at the
AAA travel store.



Members save up to 55%
on Delsey luggage and your
favorite Buckeye gear in stores
and online at AAA.com/Shop



Ohio State Volleyball Reloads Roster For 2018

By GARRETT STEPIEN
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

Reality set in for Ohio State women's volleyball coach Geoff Carlston after his team dropped its 2017 season finale in five sets against Illinois on Senior Night at St. John arena.

OSU had fallen flat on the finish line of its campaign, dipping under .500 at 15-16 overall and slipping to 8-12 in Big Ten play. But just two months prior to the stinging defeat at the hands of the Fighting Illini, Ohio State was surging in its conference slate off the high of an upset on the road against then-No. 13 Purdue. Following a stretch of peaks and valleys throughout October, however, the Buckeyes ultimately stumbled to the end of November, losing four of their final five matches.

So as Carlston and OSU were preparing to take Interstate 70 to western Ohio for the Flyer Invitational in Dayton on Sept. 14 and 15, they went into the weekend with the goal of making a statement in the last stretch of their 2018 non-conference slate.

"It would be huge," Carlston, who is in his 11th year at the helm, told BSB on Sept. 11. "The Big Ten is what it is – it's a beast in itself – but your preseason matters, more than I think most sports. Our preseason really dictates kind of your RPI (ratings power index) and momentum. Last year, we came out of preseason 7-4. We didn't get to play a couple of matches (Sept. 8 and 9 at the canceled Coastal Carolina Classic) because of (Hurricane Irma). Then, at the end of the year, there you go. It kills you. So we don't take preseason for granted."

The young Ohio State squad struggled in the weekend tournament, though, but started with a bright spot in a 3-1 win over Evansville on Sept. 14. The following day, the Buckeyes fell to Tennessee (3-1) and Dayton (3-2).

The Buckeyes lost their top two seniors after Ashley Wenz and Luisa Schirmer graduated, leaving Carlston to count on the program's incoming freshmen to step in right away as key contributors. More importantly, though, he needed two sophomores to help lead the way.

Sophomores Hannah Gruensfelder and Becca Maurer had to grow up fast. And so far, they appear to have answered their head coach's call. In fact, Gruensfelder grabbed her first career Big Ten Defensive Player of the Week Award on Sept. 10 after she starred with 48 digs over OSU's 3-0 stretch Sept. 7 and 8 at the Towson Invitational.

What seniors such as Wenz and Schirmer preached at the end of the 2017 campaign was in the back of Gruensfelder's mind throughout the 2018 season's first few weeks.

"It's always going to be challenging and hard, but you have to push through," Gruensfelder, a defensive specialist and libero, told BSB. "I think that they kind of helped me feel like, even though we were playing really hard teams and things didn't always go our way all the time, we still had each other from team chemistry and it was still a lot of fun. They were always like, 'You know, you're just going to get better. Even

if we're losing this match, you got better.' So it was like that mentality. We didn't necessarily get where we wanted to be, but because of them, we're able to be on the track that we are this year, which is a lot from them."

On the same train of thought, Maurer noted how the seniors set the example. With significant time on the floor her freshman year, where she started the last six matches of the campaign and dished a career-high 56 assists against Illinois, Maurer made sure to carry the momentum as a full-time starting setter into her sophomore season.

"In the spring, it was kind of like, 'All right, it's on us,'" Maurer told BSB. "We were a young group in the spring and we're still a young group now. It's kind of been a learning process from what the seniors did last year and just trying to keep my voice consistent because I think that really helps with the younger players and trying to lead by example. But it's been great to kind of be in that role. I think Hannah and I bounce a lot off of each other like our energy does."

On top of Ohio State's star sophomores and talented freshmen, the Buckeyes gained key additions from the transfer market. A pair of players from Kentucky, sophomore middle blocker Jordan Fry and senior setter Olivia Daily, provided Carlston and company an immediate boost in January after setter Taylor Hughes medically retired. The rest of the Buckeyes, Gruensfelder noted, fed off the arrivals of Fry and Daily.

"We definitely got a lot of new players, both in transfers and in freshmen, so some of the other girls and I are probably some of the more experienced players here and I'm still a sophomore," Gruensfelder said. "So I've defi-

nately had to take on a leadership role, but it's something that I enjoy and I really like. I like pushing others and myself. So it's definitely been a big role that I've had to take on but it's something that we've been trying to push out of each other. I've been trying to help other people lead, and they're trying to help me lead. So it's definitely been a challenge but a lot of fun at the same time."

The four freshmen – defensive specialist Camryn Moeller, outside hitter Mia Grunze, opposite hitter Vanja Bukilic and outside hitter Adria Powell – have had to accelerate their growth. Since they stepped on campus, though, Carlston has seen their character shine through on the floor.

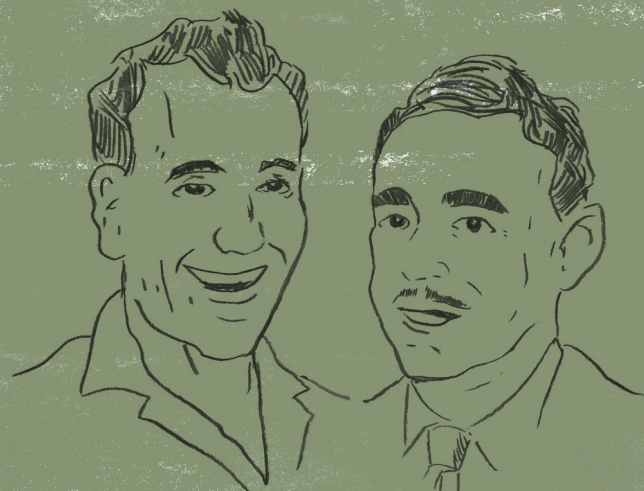
"We're up and down – don't get me wrong, that's going to come with the territory – but for the most part, when we've needed to lock it up and fight and kick and scratch, this team's been able to do that," Carlston said. "So give me that, give me that – almost give me that over talent. We have a very talented team. But for as young as we are, this team has battled, and we're going to need that, obviously, in the Big Ten."

The conference opener is set for Sept. 19 at Wisconsin, and OSU's new-look squad has to take it up a notch. But if last season's finish served as any reminder, Carlston knows to judge Ohio State by how it finishes – not how it starts.

"I think we're ready," Carlston said. "We're going to be hopeful to have some of our older kids back, but our young kids are growing. They're just gaining experience and in a way that you can only get on the court. Our group of freshmen are better than I thought they were going to be. I knew they were going to be really good, but they're even better. Their curiosity and their willingness and their work ethic is off the charts. So it's been fun, it's been fun to coach this group a lot."



Hannah Gruensfelder



LUNCH • DINNER
HARVEY & ED'S
COCKTAILS

NOW OFFERING
CATERING & DELIVERY
CALL FOR DETAILS.

SHORT NORTH ARTS DISTRICT
LUNCH & DINNER DAILY | WEEKEND BRUNCH
614.641.4040 | 698 N. High Street | CameronMitchell.com

OHIO STATE FOOTBALL TICKETS

All Games Available
Reserve Your Seats Today!

Dependable
and Courteous
service since 1991

CALL:

614-889-2989

OR FIND US ONLINE AT:

USAsseats.com

TICKETS
Galore



ACCREDITED
BUSINESS

BBB Rating: A+

58 South High Street, Dublin, Ohio 43017
614-889-2989 1-800-829-8457

Cole Has Buckeye Field Hockey On The Rise

By JOE DEMPSEY
Special To Buckeye Sports Bulletin

Senior midfielder Casey Cole earned Big Ten Offensive Player of the Week honors following multi-goal performances in victories against No. 19 Boston University and Ball State and a one-goal outing in a 5-0 rout of Lehigh while playing only 28 minutes, Sept. 3-9.

"That's super cool," Cole said. "It's exciting. I'm glad I'm able to score and help the team out. It's a cool honor."

During her standout week, Cole was able to help her team, scoring five goals and leading the No. 22 Buckeyes to three victories, including their second win against a ranked opponent this season.

However, it hasn't always been that way for Cole in Columbus. Entering this season, the senior from Nuangola, Pa., had just four goals to her name despite playing in all 55 games from 2015-17. Additionally, Ohio State struggled against top competition in her first three seasons, going 3-22 against ranked opponents.

"We hit the low and now we're going to the highs," Cole said. "So it's like we know we've hit that, so we know that we don't want to be anywhere down there again. We know we have to really push it to get to the top."

The Buckeyes went 0-15 against ranked opponents throughout Cole's first two seasons but were able to win a trio of games

against top-tier talent a season ago. Ohio State defeated then-No. 9 Louisville 2-1 on a game-winning goal by Cole in overtime in early September, snapping the Buckeyes' 19-game losing streak against ranked teams.

A few weeks later when Cole's second and final goal of the 2017 season hit the back of the net, Ohio State celebrated a 3-2 overtime victory against then-No. 11 Stanford. The Buckeyes also took down then-No. 18 Rutgers and finished last season 3-7 against ranked opponents.

Ohio State second-year head coach Jarred Martin has noticed Cole's uncanny ability to rise to the occasion in high-pressure situations.

"Casey is a competitor at her core," Martin said. "I think she's somebody that you can expect come game time – especially when things get tough – she's going to be the one that steps up and really helps the team out with her attitude, energy and just aggressiveness."

Fast-forward a year and the Buckeyes are 4-4 with wins against No. 8 Louisville and No. 19 Boston University. Cole attributed the team's perseverance to the players' willingness to work hard for each other, comparing their closeness to a familial bond.

Beyond the team unity and work ethic, Martin credits both Cole's physical ability

and mentality for her success in between the white lines.

"I think on the field you'll notice her stick skills," Martin said. "She's a really good passer. You put her in the attacking circle or give her an attacking opportunity, she's going to be one that really goes to finish."

Martin added that the senior midfielder pushes everyone on the team to compete harder and demonstrates how to show up every practice and give one's best effort no matter what. One Buckeye who has followed Cole's lead is freshman forward Jessica Hourihane. She said Cole has helped ease her transition to the collegiate level while also motivating her to excel.

"I think that she's an awesome leader," Hourihane said. "She really pushes each player and each of us on the field during practice and at the games. She's always expecting more from us, and we just want to work harder to show her, and everybody else and the coaches, that we can be the best players we can be."

Hourihane's freshman campaign is off to a good start with two goals and one assist through the Buckeyes' first eight games. She attributes her success and motivation in part to Cole's hands-on guidance and high standards.



Casey Cole

"She'll tell me to do something and if I mess up, she'll pull me aside off the field and just explain how to do it or explain what I should have done," Hourihane said. "And I think it's just little things like that really help me out. And even on the field, she's just expecting more from the group and then I take that personally too. So I want to push myself more to show her and everybody else that I can be the best that I can be."

Cole came to an Ohio State field hockey program that lacked an identity and consistently lost against tough competition. During Cole's time in Columbus, Ohio State has become a hardworking team constantly pushing each other to get better. And now the Buckeyes even beat ranked teams too.

"She's been a great mentor," Martin said. "I think she is somebody that on the field you know what you're going to get, but off the field she is a great teammate. She really cares about this program. She wants to make sure that when she leaves here it's in a better place than when she started."

In order to better introduce BSB readers to Ohio State's Olympic sports teams and athletes, we have shifted to more feature-oriented coverage of the various squads. Buckeye Sports Bulletin will provide a round-up of all the games, matches and meets involving OSU's teams each Monday on our BuckeyeSports.com website, free to all print subscribers.

You Can Count On These Services From

THE QUICKPRINT CENTRE

1399 GRANDVIEW AVENUE • COLUMBUS, OHIO 43212
614-488-2683 • FAX 614-488-0059 • qpoh@aol.com

| | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Offset-Printing | Digital Color Copies | Digital B&W Copies |
| Typesetting | Ship UPS | Rubber Stamps |
| NCR Forms | Fax Service | Business Cards |
| Laminating | Announcements | Binding |
| Brochures | Wedding Invitations | Labels |

...a full service graphics facility

Residence Inn® Marriott

Residence Inn Columbus University Area
614-261-7994 | ResidenceInnOSU.com

3100 Olentangy River Road



Marriott Columbus University Area Inn
614-447-9777 | OSUMarriott.com



PEACE LOVE & LITTLE DONUTS

Feed Your Inner Hippie™



656 High St.
Worthington
614-440-4121

peaceloveandlittledonuts.com

ON THE ROAD

JOIN TRAVEL PARTNERS
SPECIALTY TOURS AS WE
HEAD ON THE ROAD DURING
THE 2018 FOOTBALL
SEASON!

PACKAGES INCLUDE:

- ROUND TRIP TRANSFERS ON DELUXE MOTOR COACH
- DRIVER'S GRATUITIES
- SNACKS
- PRE-GAME TAILGATE INCLUDING ADULT BEVERAGES
- OHIO STATE GAME TICKET
- HOTEL & HOTEL TAXES WHERE APPLICABLE
- BREAKFAST WHERE APPLICABLE
- FULLY ESCORTED BY TRAVEL PARTNERS SPECIALTY TOUR STAFF

| TEAM | DATE(S) | COST PER PERSON | COST WITH OVERNIGHT HOTEL |
|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| @PENN STATE | SATURDAY, 9/29-9/30 | -- | \$469* |
| @PURDUE | SATURDAY, 10/20 | \$299 | -- |
| @MICHIGAN STATE | SATURDAY, 11/10-11/11 | \$394 | \$449* |

*PRICES ARE BASED ON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY IF HOTEL IS NEEDED; SINGLE, TRIPLE, AND QUAD RATES AVAILABLE

CALL 614-792-6204

TO BOOK YOUR RESERVATION OR FOR MORE INFORMATION!

BUCKEYE SCOREBOARD

FOOTBALL (3-0, 1-0 BIG TEN)

Sept. 1 OREGON STATE, W 77-31; **8** RUTGERS, W 52-3; **15** vs. (15) TCU at Arlington, Texas, W 40-28; **22** TULANE, 3:30 p.m.; **29** at Penn State, TBA.

Oct. 6 INDIANA (Homecoming), 3:30 OR 4 p.m.; **13** MINNESOTA, TBA; **20** at Purdue, TBA.

Nov. 3 NEBRASKA, TBA; **10** at Michigan State, TBA; **17** at Maryland, TBA; **24** MICHIGAN, Noon.

Dec. 1 Big Ten Championship Game at Indianapolis, 8 p.m.

CROSS COUNTRY

Sept. 1 Queen City Invitational at Highland Heights, Ky., Men: 6th/10; Women: 1st/10; **8** (Men) Golden Eagle Invitational at Cookeville, Tenn., 1st/4; **15** Commodore Classic at Nashville, Tenn., Men: 8th/14; Women: 1st/19; **29** Loyola Lakefront Invitational at Chicago.

Oct. 13 Pre-Nationals at Madison, Wis.; **28** Big Ten Championships at Lincoln, Neb.

Nov. 9 NCAA Regionals at Terre Haute, Ind.; **17** NCAA Championships at Madison, Wis.

FIELD HOCKEY (4-4)

Aug. 24 (9) DELAWARE, L 3-2; **26** at (8) Louisville, W 3-2 (OT).

Sept. 1 vs. (25) Maine at Boston, L 2-1 (OT); **3** at (19) Boston University, W 4-2; **7** BALL STATE, W 6-0; **9** LEHIGH, W 5-0; **14** (6) PENN STATE, L 3-2; **16** MIAMI (OHIO), L 2-1; **21** at Maryland, 1 p.m.; **23** at Rutgers, 1 p.m.; **28** INDIANA, 4 p.m.; **30** IOWA, Noon.

Oct. 5 at Northwestern, 3 p.m.; **7** OHIO, 1 p.m.; **12** JAMES MADISON, 4 p.m.; **14** at Kent State, Noon; **19** MICHIGAN STATE, 3 p.m.; **21** MICHIGAN, Noon.

MEN'S GOLF (FALL)

Sept. 15-16 Northern Intercollegiate at Sugar Grove, Ill., 4th/14 (881); **24-25** Bearcat Invitational at Cincinnati; Inverness Intercollegiate at Toledo.; **30-Oct. 2** Nike Collegiate Invitational at Fort Worth, Texas.

Oct. 8-9 JACK NICKLAUS INVITATIONAL at Dublin, Ohio; **22-23** Muskies Classic at Cincinnati.

WOMEN'S GOLF (FALL)

Sept. 16-18 East & West Match Play at Ann Arbor, Mich.

Oct. 1-2 Windy City Collegiate at Chicago.; **12-14** Tar Heel Invitational at Chapel Hill, N.C.; **28-29** Jim West Challenge at San Marcos, Texas.

MEN'S SOCCER

(1-5-1, 0-1 BIG TEN)

Aug. 24 WOLSTEIN CLASSIC vs. FURMAN, L 2-0; **26** WOLSTEIN CLASSIC vs. HOFSTRA, W 1-0; **31** Dayton Classic vs. Marshall, L 1-0.

Sept. 2 Dayton Classic vs. Milwaukee, L 1-0; **7** USF, L 1-0; **11** BOWLING GREEN, T 1-1 (2OT); **16** at Penn State, L 3-1; **21** NORTHWESTERN, 7:30 p.m.; **25** at Michigan, 7 p.m.; **30** RUTGERS, Noon.

Oct. 5 CLEVELAND STATE, 7 p.m.; **8** at Syracuse, 7 p.m.; **12** MICHIGAN STATE, 5 p.m.; **16** KENTUCKY, 7 p.m.; **19** at Maryland, 7 p.m.; **24** INDIANA, 7 p.m.; **28** at Wisconsin, 4 p.m.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

(3-4)

Aug. 16 at (3) Duke, L 2-0; **19** at (6) North Carolina, L 2-0; **24** at Florida, W 1-0; **26** DUQUESNE, Cancelled; **30** MOREHEAD STATE, W 8-0.

Sept. 2 at Notre Dame, W 1-0; **7** FLORIDA GULF COAST, L 1-0; **14** at Penn State, L 4-0; **20** at Illinois, 8 p.m.; **23** at Northwestern, 1 p.m.; **27** IOWA, 7 p.m.; **30** NEBRASKA, 2:30 p.m.

Oct. 5 at Michigan, 7 p.m.; **7** at Michigan State, 1 p.m.; **12** RUTGERS, 7:30 p.m.; **14** MARYLAND, 2 p.m.; **18** at Purdue, 6 p.m.; **21** WISCONSIN, 2 p.m.

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

(9-3)

Aug. 24 ALBANY, W 3-1; **25** OHIO, W 3-0; TEXAS A&M, W 3-0; **31** vs. Southern Miss at Oxford, Miss., W 3-2; at Ole Miss, L 3-2.

Sept. 1 vs. Samford at Oxford, Miss., W 3-0; **7** vs. Princeton at Towson, Md., W 3-0; **8** vs. Missouri at Towson, Md., W 3-1; at Towson, W 3-0; **14** vs. Evansville at Dayton, W 3-1; **15** vs. Tennessee at Dayton, L 3-1; at Dayton, L 3-2; **19** at Wisconsin, 7 p.m.; **22** PENN STATE, TBA; **26** INDIANA, 7 p.m.; **29** at Maryland, 7 p.m.

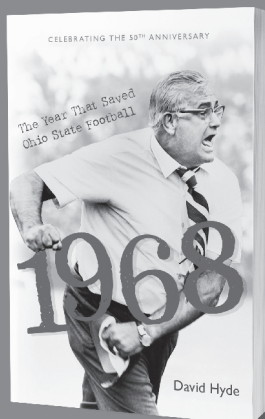
Oct. 5 at Rutgers, 7 p.m.; **6** at Penn State, 7 p.m.; **12** MICHIGAN, 7 p.m.; **14** MICHIGAN STATE, 1 p.m.; **19** at Indiana, 7 p.m.; **20** at Purdue, 7 p.m.; **24** NEBRASKA, 7 p.m.; **28** at Northwestern, 2 p.m.

Nov. 2 ILLINOIS, 7 p.m.; **4** NORTHWESTERN, 1 p.m.; **7** at Michigan State, 7 p.m.; **10** MARYLAND, 7 p.m.; **16** WISCONSIN, 7 p.m.; **17** MINNESOTA, 7 p.m.; **23** at Nebraska, 8 p.m.; **24** at Iowa, 8 p.m.



*\$5 Game Day
Cocktails*

2973 N. High St. • Clintonville, OH
blunchcolumbus.com • (614) 641-7501



A GOODREADS BEST
FOOTBALL BOOK

Now available in paperback
\$22.00

Order your copy today
at orangefraser.com
or amazon.com

HOST THE BEST TAILGATE
IN TOWN

THE BEST
TAIL-G8
PARTY IN TOWN

Byers
CHEVROLET

NOBODY SELLS
CHEVYS FOR LESS

(614) 441-4912

WWW.BYERSCHEVY.COM

1-71, EXIT 97, 5887 N MEADOWS DRIVE, GROVE CITY, OH 43123

FIND NEW ROADS™

CHEVROLET



Haskins, D-Line Shine In Lone Star State Victory

The matchup between Ohio State and TCU in AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas, on Sept. 15 had all the makings of a real Texas shootout with a ton of side story lines.

COACH'S CORNER With Bill Conley

First, a duel between two quarterbacks, one with a rocket arm who had thrown nine touchdowns in the two opening contests and another who had scored seven touchdowns, but three of those were with his feet.

Ohio State's Dwayne Haskins and TCU's Shawn Robinson are two exceptional athletes who have shown tremendous leadership qualities as well as very strong on-the-field performances. The question going into the game was could Haskins be as effective against the Horned Frogs throwing the football as he was against Oregon State and Rutgers.

TCU has quicker and more athletic linebackers and defensive backs than anyone he had faced this season, but most importantly could the Buckeye offensive line, which has been rock-solid so far in 2018, give him the necessary time to throw the football?

The TCU defense has led the Big 12 the past two seasons in sacks, and Ohio State's offensive coaches anticipated the Horned Frogs would be sending the house at Haskins for four quarters. For Robinson, he would be facing devastating pressure and heat from Nick Bosa, Dre'Mont Jones, Chase Young, Robert Landers and a host of other defensive linemen wearing scarlet and gray.

The task for those defenders and the rest of the Buckeye defense was to shut down a mobile quarterback who would just as soon run the ball rather than pass. Robinson is a load to bring down at 230 pounds, and he shows elusiveness as well as the ability to break tackles. The advantage going into the game for the Ohio State defense was the fact the TCU offensive line had to replace three starters from last season. The task was going to be monumental for the Horned Frogs' offensive front five.

The other big matchup was going to be on

the sideline. TCU coach Gary Patterson went into the game with an impressive 162-57 record as the head coach of the Horned Frogs. In the offseason he anticipated going up against Urban Meyer, not Ryan Day.

Patterson is a defensive-minded coach, and his defense ranked 15th in the nation against the score in 2017 giving up only 19 points per game. The four-quarter chess match would now be between a seasoned veteran head coach against a younger offensive quarterbacks coach who had the title of acting head coach after his name. Day has done a truly remarkable job the past month both in organizational skills and gameday performance. A victory against TCU and Gary Patterson would earn him even more notoriety than he has already received.

Wake-Up Call

Both teams came out of the locker room with a mission, running plays at high tempo to limit the opportunities for the opposition to substitute along with trying to find and exploit mismatches in terms of personnel.

Ohio State struck quickly with a long pass to Austin Mack but was unable to score a touchdown even with it being first-and-goal from the 2-yard line. OSU jumped off to a quick three-point lead with a Sean Nuernberger field goal, but it felt like a huge opportunity missed.

TCU answered with a quick and nearly mistake-proof drive of its own, but they too were unable to put the ball in the end zone and, to add insult to injury, missed the chance to score when their field-goal attempt went wide.

All seemed right in the world when Bosa caused a fumble by stripping Robinson of the football in the Horned Frogs' end zone. Defensive tackle Davon Hamilton recovered the fumble for a touchdown, and the Buckeyes took a 10-0 lead.

Credit TCU coach Patterson for a well-executed defensive scheme that kept the Buckeye offense off-balance the remainder of the first half. Ohio State tallied nearly 300 yards of total offense but managed only another three points before the second quarter ended. Tight man coverage by the TCU secondary along with a barrage of dropped passes by Ohio State receivers made it apparent the Buckeyes were going up against aggressive and talented defensive

athletes unlike they had seen in the previous two weeks.

After a record-breaking 93-yard touchdown run by TCU running back Darius Anderson, the Buckeyes went into the locker room realizing they were in the fight of their lives.

Defense Wins Championships

Even the best offenses in college football can't come out of the gate firing on all cylinders every game. Such was the case for the Buckeye offense. It wasn't until Haskins hit Parris Campbell on a 63-yarder late in the third quarter that the Buckeye offense scored its first touchdown of the night.

It is true that the Buckeyes were racking up a lot of yards, but they were having trouble getting the old pigskin into the end zone. To the rescue came the pride of the Ohio State football team, the defensive front.

Jones intercepted a shovel pass from Robinson and scampered 28 yards for a second touchdown of the game for the men in the trenches. Bosa had gotten dinged up earlier in the quarter and was out for the rest of the game, but his teammates stepped up to the challenge. The Ohio State defensive front is not only good, they have the needed depth at the position it takes to win a championship.

There are plenty of things to work on at the back end of the defense. The Buckeyes have to still get better at not giving up the long pass, improve openfield tackling, and maintain leverage on opposing ball carriers. Credit is due to Robinson for great placement of the football on fade routes and to the Horned Frogs receivers for making some acrobatic catches with OSU defenders draped all over them. At the same time, it is apparent the linebacking and secondary units need to pick it up a notch.

Good Hands Teams

Who should get the award for the best hands of the week? K.J. Hill could be a nominee with his six receptions for 95 yards. Previously mentioned Jones with the interception of the shovel pass would obviously be a nominee, or even C.J. Saunders for his clean handling of punts.

Linebacker Malik Harrison had a very timely interception that sealed the Horned Frogs' fate, so he should also warrant nomination. But wait,

there is somebody else to consider. I feel the award should go to Haskins for playing shortstop, fielding errant and low snaps from the center.

Poor execution of the pistol or shotgun snap forces the quarterback to take his eyes off the defense for a split second, which could be disastrous for the passing game. A bad snap also messes up timing in the run game. It's only due to the poise and athleticism of Haskins that the football wasn't put on the ground several times Saturday night. He definitely made the Allstate good hands team and mine too. The Buckeyes ended up plus-three in the turnover margin, and that was the result of throwing no interceptions, clean handling of the football in the kicking game, and no fumbles of way too many poor snaps from center, a problem that reared its ugly head this week but should be easy enough to fix by the Tulane game.

Working Day

Day walked off the football field with his head held high. He had outcoached and outfoxed one of the very best defensive coaches in college football.

He made smart decisions at crucial times to help his team win a huge, nationally televised game against a ranked opponent, an opponent that is definitely good enough to win the Big 12 this season.

Ryan Day did not choke under pressure, he played field-position football and took sure points instead of forcing the issue on fourth down. He made much-needed adjustments in the second half which allowed the offense to get on track.

Day finished his reign as acting head coach undefeated. He handled the entire situation with class and resolve and did his job without seeking attention or praise. Day has made himself a very hot commodity in college football by doing the task he was asked to undertake to the best of his ability. The Buckeyes are lucky to have him for however long they can keep him.

Known as one of the top recruiters in college football, Bill Conley is a national championship-winning coach and player at Ohio State who suited up for Woody Hayes and spent 17 years on the staffs of Earle Bruce, John Cooper and Jim Tressel.



SUMMIT
PERFORMANCE  INSTITUTE

Train to be the BEST you can be!
Designing fitness programs to
meet your personal needs.

Personal Training

Group Fitness Training

Sports Specific Training

Owned and Operated By:

Brent Johnson
614-570-9918
B-fit.training@hotmail.com

Located at 2378 East Main Street in Bexley, Ohio



CAZUELAS MEXICAN CANTINA

**SKIP THE LINE,
ORDER ONLINE**
ordercazuelasgrill.com





2321 N. High St. Columbus
614-884-0755



This Could Be Ohio State's Most Talented Team

Have you ever seen an Ohio State football team loaded with more talent?

I hadn't given that a thought until receiving a text from a football-savvy friend making just that statement toward the end of the rout of Rutgers.

EXNER POINT Rich Exner

Pretty bold, maybe premature? That was my initial reaction. But it didn't take long for me to come to the same conclusion. What was being suggested was not whether this is the best Ohio State team in recent memory. The most talented teams don't always win the most games. And it's too early to know how this season will turn out.

But in terms of talent, I've not seen more talent and depth on an Ohio State roster as long as I can remember, which goes back to the late 1970s. The Eddie George and David Boston teams during separate parts of the 1990s were pretty talented at the top end, but they didn't have this kind of depth. Same goes for those teams with Troy Smith and Ted Ginn in the 2000s.

Ohio State this season probably has two of the top five quarterbacks in the Big Ten (even after a third transferred to start at LSU) and two potential All-Big Ten running backs, with capable talent behind them.

The receiving group might not have All-

America talent, but it has incredible depth of very good talent. The offensive line appears to be coming around. And the defensive line has multiple All-America candidates, including potentially the first pick in next year's NFL draft. Add to that a coaching staff rich with experience.

But talent does not always equate to victories.

That's why the win over TCU told us so much more. TCU, which entered the game ranked 15th in the country, was better than advertised.

TCU forced Ohio State to claw its way to a victory. The Buckeyes had to harvest their talent in a way that wasn't necessary against Oregon State and Rutgers.

They learned how to win. They got better in the process. And in the end, superior talent prevailed.

Opening The Cage Door?

No one, of course, was comfortable after seeing Nick Bosa go down with an injury. And Bosa's play, assuming he does return to full health, will be pivotal in Ohio State's run toward a national championship. He could be the best defensive lineman OSU fans have ever witnessed.

But, looking back, will the loss of Bosa in the TCU game be viewed as a turning point for this defense in avoiding more games of allowing 28 points? OSU did give up 14 more points with Bosa out. But some added blitz schemes and an overall uptick in aggressive play from more players seemed to follow Bosa's departure.

Maybe they all discovered a little more about themselves without Bosa on the field. Maybe the coaches were more likely to try aggressive packages. Maybe the temporary loss of Bosa will make the defense even better when he returns.

Dre'Mont's Dream Season

Fourth-year junior defensive tackle Dre'Mont Jones was pretty good before this season. He was a third-team All-Big Ten choice a year ago. But he's really showed some special things this season. And he's proved to be yet another game-changer on the Buckeyes' defensive line.

His interception and 28-yard return for a touchdown, showing some nifty running along the way, lifted Ohio State to an important lead in the third quarter.

But nearly as important was a sack a few minutes later. Down 40-28, TCU had driven into what was likely four-down territory. That was before Jones sacked Shawn Robinson for a 12-yard loss, creating a third-and-23 situation.

When TCU failed on third down, the Horned Frogs with too many yards to go were forced to punt the ball back to the Buckeyes with just 8:51 left in the game.

That pretty much sealed it for Ohio State, thanks in large part to Jones.

1,000-Yard Watch

The march continues toward Ohio State having two 1,000-yard rushers for just the third time in school history.

The 121 yards rushing against TCU for J.K. Dobbins upped his season total to 268, which places him on pace for 1,251 yards over a 14-game season, or 1,161 yards in 13 games.

Mike Weber added 64 yards to his season total, giving him 281 yards through three games. That puts Weber on pace for 1,311 yards in 14 games, or 1,218 yards in 13 games.

Passing Record(s)

The Ohio State media guide lists just 28 300-yard passing games in school history. That total now stands at 30.

Dwayne Haskins has two such games in just his first three starts.

J.T. Barrett had three all of last season.

Joe Germaine had a school-record seven 300-plus games in 1998.

There's good reason to believe that Haskins will top that school record.

Additionally, Germaine's school record of 3,330 yards passing in a single season could be in jeopardy. Haskins' 344 yards against TCU gives him 890 yards through three games. That pace would give him 4,153 yards in 14 games, or 3,857 yards in 13 games.

Dream Matchup

Joe Burrow, the guy Haskins beat out for the Ohio State job this year, is off to quite a

start after transferring to LSU. He's already defeated two teams ranked in the top 10 at the time of the games – No. 8 Miami (Fla.) and No. 7 Auburn.

Through three games for the undefeated LSU Tigers, Burrow is 36 of 78 passing for 540 yards and three touchdowns, without an interception. Those aren't Haskins numbers, but they are very good considering the competition.

So here's my dream matchup in the College Football Playoff: Ohio State against LSU, Haskins against Burrow. That would be a lot of fun.

National Outlook

Ohio State, Alabama and a few other teams are really starting to separate themselves from the rest of the country. That's not to say they are sure bets. Good teams slip up every year. And key injuries at the wrong time can play havoc with the loftiest of expectations.

But some groupings appear to be forming.

- Top tier: Alabama, Ohio State, Georgia and Clemson have been quite impressive, though Alabama and Georgia haven't been seriously tested yet and Clemson did just sneak past Texas A&M.

None has had as impressive a win against a solid opponent as Ohio State's victory over TCU.

Yet, these teams look like they are a cut above the rest of the country and, except when playing each other, would be favorites head-to-head against anyone else.

- Not far behind: A case could be made to place LSU in the first group, but the Tigers don't appear to be there just yet. The wins have been very good. But they look beatable.

- Group to watch: Stanford, Notre Dame and Penn State. All have looked good at times. But both Notre Dame and Penn State have struggled at other times. And we won't get a good read on Stanford until the next two weeks against Oregon and Notre Dame. Just a notch, add Oklahoma to this grouping.

- Hoping to rebound: All nine schools listed above are undefeated. But one loss will not be too many by the end of the season.

It was laughable to hear one national television commentator say Wisconsin's playoff hopes might have ended with its loss to BYU. If Wisconsin can run the table, including a win in the Big Ten Championship Game, a one-loss Wisconsin team most certainly would have a very strong case for the playoffs.

Auburn, Washington and Wisconsin all have potential to do so. And their schedules with potential top-tier opponents remaining give each a chance for a big résumé builder.

- The rest: It would take a big surprise for a school other than those listed above to make the four-team playoff.



KW KELLERWILLIAMS.
CONSULTANTS REALTY



Brian Hyrne
Real Estate Consultant

Serving Central Ohio
Real Estate Needs since 2006

614.588.5102
bhyrne@kw.com

5400 Frantz Rd., St# 100
Dublin, OH 43016



brianhyrne.kwrealty.com

Each office is independently owned and operated



www.theredbricktapandgrill.com

292 E. Gates St.
Columbus
(614) 444-2742

HAPPY HOUR 3-8pm Mon-Fri
Half off all 30 drafts • Half off select appetizers
Craft bottle specials all day

100 Craft Beers!

New Food & Cocktail Menu

Newly Renovated Patio with Fire Pit

Handmade Pizzas & In-House Smoked Meats

OSU's Strengths, Flaws On Display In Victory

The really great college football teams have strong offenses, defenses and special teams, and Ohio State displayed all three in a matter of minutes to turn a tense game into a rousing victory over a TCU team that was much better than many – or at least your publisher – anticipated.

The Horned Frogs had to like their position, leading the No. 4 team in the country, 21-13, with under five minutes gone in the third period. But in the span of 4:01, the Buckeyes flexed their big-play muscle, scoring on offense (a 63-yard pass from Dwayne Haskins to Parris Campbell), defense (a 28-yard interception return by Dre'Mont Jones) and with the aid of special teams (a 24-yard pass from Haskins to K.J. Hill set up by a punt block from Shaun Wade).

Just like that, Ohio State led 33-21. The Horned Frogs probably didn't know what hit them.

In fairness and respect to TCU, the Frogs somehow managed to respond to the third touchdown with a 51-yard scoring bomb from Shawn Robinson to TreVontae Hights, but the momentum had already firmly swung to the Buckeyes and they were not going to be denied on this night.

As in any big victory, there was plenty of praise to pass around.

With superstar defensive end Nick Bosa out for most of the pivotal second half, defensive tackle Dre'Mont Jones stepped up and looked like a superstar himself, recording six tackles with two tackles for loss, an important 12-yard sack and a pass breakup to go along with his game-changing touchdown. Linebacker Malik Harrison had a half dozen tackles as well, participating on a TFL and providing the game-clinching interception. Fellow linebacker Tuf Borland returned to the starting lineup, stabilizing the second line of defense while recording five stops, including a TFL participation.

I also wanted to point out the forgotten man along the defensive line, end Jonathon Cooper from nearby Gahanna, who has been somewhat lost in the shadow of Bosa and phenom Chase Young. With Bosa out, Cooper played a more prominent role and finished with four stops, a sack and a quarterback hurry.

On offense, there were all sorts of contributors as the Buckeyes racked up 526 yards against a TCU team coached by defensive guru Gary Patterson, a figure that could have been higher if the Buckeyes hadn't suffered a supreme case of the dropsies, led by veteran receiver Austin Mack.

Mack still reeled in several key receptions and finished the game with four catches for 84 yards. Hill led Buckeye receivers with six catches for 95 yards, and Campbell did what he does best, turning a short, well-blocked pass play into his 63-yard touchdown.

The offensive line held its own against Patterson's Horned Frog defenders, though newly minted center Michael Jordan struggled throughout the game with snaps.

Those snaps were to Haskins. You can't talk about the Buckeye offense without praising the sophomore signal caller.

We were all a little spoiled by his play in the first two games this season, and maybe his performance in the first half – where he put up a solid line of 16 of 28 for 196 yards without leading the team to an offensive touchdown – seemed a little pedestrian after his video game numbers of the previous two weeks. In the end, however, he posted winning numbers of 24 of 38 for 344 yards and a pair of scores and added the first running TD of his career. More importantly, at least to me, was the fact that in his first big game as the starter, a game that found the Buckeyes trailing, he did not throw a pick.

THE VIEW FROM 15TH & HIGH Frank Moskowitz, Publisher

He also showed a willingness to throw the ball away or even eat the ball and take a hit, rather than cough it up, though he was charged with only one sack.

Unless I am wrong, along with a whole bunch of other observers much more football savvy than I, Haskins is the real deal, and barring injury he will rewrite the OSU record books – at least the single-season record books, because I am not certain how long he will remain among the college ranks.

Not that I am offering only praise over what I found to be a thoroughly entertaining and important victory.

On defense, while the line, without Bosa, is among the best in the country and while the linebackers seemed to make progress, the defensive secondary still has a long way to go. Robinson passed for over 300 yards, including the 51-yard strike to Hights that could have put the Horned Frogs right back into the game if the Buckeyes hadn't already turned their juice up a notch. And the angle that Isaiah Pryor took on his ill-fated pursuit of Darius Anderson on his record 93-yard run was reminiscent of the pursuit angles of the Buckeyes in the Oregon State game, when Artavis Pierce scored on runs of 80 and 78 yards.

The secondary struggles should have little effect on the game with Tulane, but I suspect that the Penn State offensive staff and quarterback Trace McSorley are already dissecting film of the Buckeye secondary against TCU in advance of the OSU-PSU showdown on Sept. 29. Hopefully the problems back there are fixable.

It's difficult to wrap up the TCU game and the first three weeks of the season without saying something about now-former acting head coach Ryan Day. What an outstanding job he did both on and off the field, holding the team together in what had to be a difficult time and allowing the Buckeyes to still be in contention for conference and national honors upon the return of Urban Meyer.

The question with Day is the same as with Haskins. How long will he remain with the Scarlet and Gray after such an outstanding audition on so many levels for a head coaching position of his own? Of course Day could not have done such an outstanding job, as he has repeatedly admitted, without players who have bought into the team culture and an outstanding coaching staff beyond Day himself.

I was struck with something Day said as he essentially made his farewell speech as head coach of the Buckeyes.

"What (defensive coordinator) Greg Schiano has done for me in the last month is something I'll never forget," Day said. "He is the classiest person I've ever been around in the coaching profession, the way he's handled himself, helping me along the way, counseling me on day-to-day stuff."

"And just the way the defense played today, I couldn't have been happier for him and that defense."

Schiano has had a tough time of it recently, having been turned away from the head job at Tennessee, a job that he was offered and accepted, following a fan revolt. The fan reaction was allegedly because of possible involvement by Schiano in the Jerry Sandusky scandal at Penn State. I've always felt the real reason behind the

adverse reaction was that Vol fans thought they could get a bigger name coach.

Maybe Schiano was their guy.

Moskowitz's QB Rankings

Many thanks to all the BSB readers who sent in their ballots as we tried to determine the greatest Ohio State quarterback of all time. It was my idea to conduct the poll, based on all the discussion about J.T. Barrett's place in Buckeye QB history. It got me to wondering who was the greatest OSU signal caller of all time. It's an interesting position in Ohio State's annals because it's not a position for which Ohio State is known.

As it turns out, Troy Smith was the winner hands down and the other contenders were pretty clear cut, but as you got down the ballot, things were less clear-cut and, not surprisingly, Barrett was all over the map among voters.

Now that the dust has settled, here are my votes. The complete results of the voting are chronicled in the August Football Preview Issue of BSB, which is archived for your information and enjoyment at BuckeyeSports.com, free to all print subscribers.

1. Troy Smith. Obviously his Heisman is a factor, but I was more impressed with his play against Michigan. A great Buckeye in The Game.

2. Art Schlichter. Without Schlichter Ohio State might still be running the "three yards and a cloud of dust" offense. One could make the case that the modern era in Ohio State football started with Schlichter's recruitment. One of the best all-around athletes to play QB at Ohio State.

3. Rex Kern. The field general of arguably the greatest football team in Ohio State history. What more need be said?

4. Braxton Miller. If anyone could have challenged Smith for the top spot, it might have been Miller if he hadn't been injured. Miller is what Smith would have been if they had allowed him to run the ball his senior (Heisman) year.

5. Terrelle Pryor. Hate him if you wish and there was no way he could live up to the expectations following his recruitment, but the guy could just do things that others couldn't. Would have loved to see him under Urban Meyer/Tom Herman. Great bowl-game player.

6. Joe Germaine. One of the great passers in Ohio State history who led the Buckeyes to their Rose Bowl win after the 1996 season. Would be much more highly regarded if he hadn't split so much time with Stanley Jackson. Tough guy who stood in and took a beating from Florida State in the Sugar Bowl after the '97 season.

7. Cornelius Greene. The perfect quarterback for the Archie Griffin era, one of the most successful eras in Ohio State football.

8. J.T. Barrett. Many of his numbers were racked up because of longevity and the system he played in, but he owns those numbers and was a leader, a clutch player and a winner. Not the greatest quarterback in OSU history but didn't deserve the abuse he received from too many Buckeye "fans."

9. Craig Krenzel. Not as gifted as many of the others on this list but has the ring to earn him a spot among the top 10. His TD toss at Purdue during the 2002 championship season is one of the greatest – and most important – plays in Ohio State history.

10. Bobby Hoving. A great passing quarterback at Ohio State who might be ranked higher if his teams hadn't underachieved so often – not necessarily his fault.

That's my ranking. I will post this list on The Forum at our BuckeyeSports.com website, and I welcome your comments.

QB Ranking Notes

I was always one of Barrett's biggest backers, but I ranked him much lower than both the fans and the media in our poll, who both ranked him third. In looking at various stats as I made my picks, I kind of chuckled because the knock against Barrett was that he couldn't pass. Yet his passing line for his senior year was among the most impressive in OSU history.

Barrett was 240 of 371 passing for 3,053 yards and 35 touchdowns against just nine interceptions. Those are pretty good passing numbers. His passing efficiency rating was 160.1, eighth in the country and tops in the Big Ten. Oklahoma's Baker Mayfield led the nation at 198.9. Penn State's McSorley was next in the conference at 153.7.

I ranked Miller and Pryor higher than most because of what I thought they would have accomplished if they had quarterbacked their senior seasons. Just for grins, I tried to project where they might have been had they played all four years. Chances are they would have improved as seniors, but you can't assume that. So in my assumption – it's my column – I averaged the two seasons they started full time and counted that as their senior totals.

If you accept that premise, Pryor and Miller would have finished right up there with Barrett and others in Ohio State's career record book. In completions, Pryor (666) would have been second and Miller (550) third to Barrett's 769. In passing yardage, Pryor (8,610) would be second and Miller (7,359) fourth to Barrett's 9,434. Schlichter would be third at 7,547.

Pryor (80) would have been second and Miller (72) third to Barrett's 104 touchdown passes. In total offense, Miller (11,583) and Pryor (11,541) would have been second and third, respectively, to Barrett's 12,697. And in rushing, Miller would have been second only to Archie Griffin (5,589) with 4,224. Pryor would have been 15th in rushing with 2,931 yards.

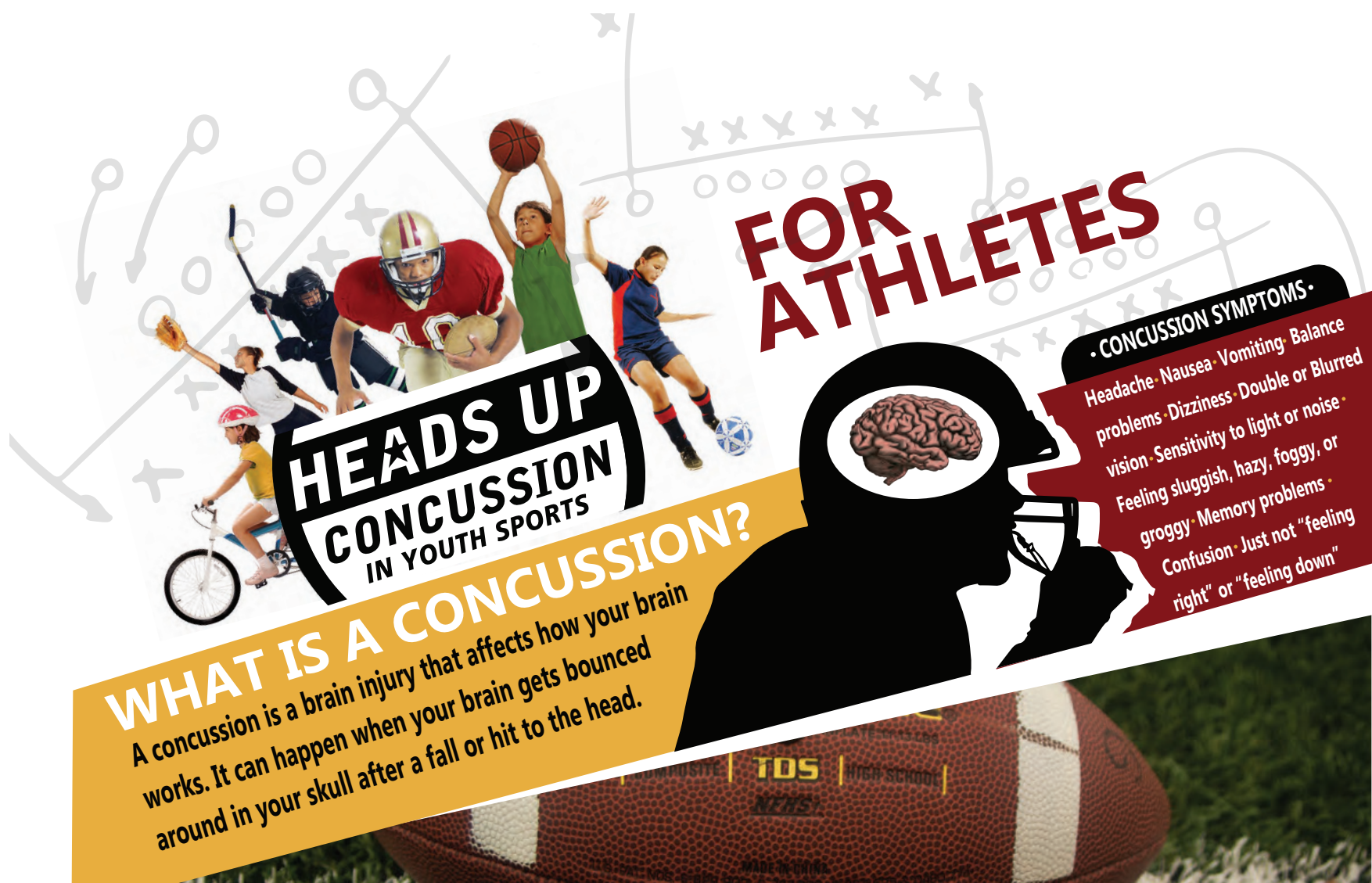
Obviously, Miller and Pryor did not play quarterback for all four years, so this is just my projection, but you get an idea of why I ranked them so highly.

Why Wait For BSB?

As postal service seems to get worse and worse, I just wanted to remind BSB readers that there a couple of ways to read BSB more quickly than you might be right now.

The complete issue of Buckeye Sports Bulletin is posted on Mondays during football season on our BuckeyeSports.com website, free to all subscribers. Not only can you read the latest Buckeye news at the same time the paper is going into the mail, but you also can enjoy updates and special features throughout the week. Subscribers can also participate in the BuckeyeSports.com Forum, where readers interact with the BSB staff and among themselves and where tidbits from the staff and readers are available.

If you want your actual print edition delivered more quickly and consistently, you can also upgrade to first-class mail in an envelope for the remainder of football season for just \$24 or through football recruiting for \$34. Give us a call at (614) 486-2202 to be upgraded immediately, or send your check or money order to P.O. Box 12453, Columbus, Ohio, 43212. Mention "Football" or "Recruiting" upgrade.



FOR
ATHLETES

HEADS UP
CONCUSSION
IN YOUTH SPORTS

WHAT IS A CONCUSSION?

A concussion is a brain injury that affects how your brain works. It can happen when your brain gets bounced around in your skull after a fall or hit to the head.

- CONCUSSION SYMPTOMS:
- Headache
 - Nausea
 - Vomiting
 - Balance problems
 - Dizziness
 - Double or Blurred vision
 - Sensitivity to light or noise
 - Feeling sluggish, hazy, foggy, or groggy
 - Memory problems
 - Confusion
 - Just not "feeling right" or "feeling down"

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I THINK I HAVE A CONCUSSION?

REPORT IT. Tell your coach, parent, and athletic trainer if you think you or one of your teammates may have a concussion. It's up to you to report your symptoms. Your coach and team are relying on you. Plus, you won't play your best if you are not feeling well.

GET CHECKED OUT. If you think you have a concussion, do not return to play on the day of the injury. Only a health care provider can tell if you have a concussion and when it is OK to return to school and play. The sooner you get checked out, the sooner you may be able to safely return to play.

GIVE YOUR BRAIN TIME TO HEAL. A concussion can make everyday activities, such as going to school, harder. You may need extra help getting back to your normal activities. Be sure to update your parents and doctor about how you are feeling.

WHY SHOULD I TELL MY COACH & PARENTS ABOUT MY SYMPTOMS?

Playing or practicing with a concussion is dangerous and can lead to a longer recovery.

While your brain is still healing, you are much more likely to have another concussion. This can put you at risk for a more serious injury to your brain and can even be fatal.

GOOD TEAMMATES KNOW: IT'S BETTER TO MISS ONE GAME THAN THE WHOLE SEASON

<http://www.healthy.ohio.gov/concussion>



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention