

BUCKEYE SPORTS BULLETIN

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Vol. 38, No. 6

"For The Buckeye Fan Who Needs To Know More"

Oct. 13, 2018

Good Enough To Win

Run Game, Pass Defense Struggle In 49-26 Homecoming Win Over Indiana

By TIM MOODY
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

Bad losses are common in college football, but bad wins are harder to come by. For Ohio State, a 23-point victory against Indiana probably doesn't fall into the "bad win" category, but parts of the performance were described as everything from tired to alarming during the postgame press conference.

The Buckeyes (6-0, 3-0 Big Ten) found themselves trailing 17-14 with 7:04 on the second-quarter clock. Indiana (4-2, 1-2) piled up 322 passing yards, and third-ranked Ohio State managed just 154 rushing yards on 48 attempts. The defense struggled to pressure the passer, and the back end struggled to make plays.

To some extent, Ohio State was bailed out by a huge game from sophomore quarterback Dwayne Haskins and his stable of stallions in the wide receiver corps. Haskins finished with 455 passing yards – three short of the program record set by Art Schlichter in 1981 – and six touchdowns (with two interceptions). Four different receivers caught at least one score, including two – Parris Campbell and Terry McLaurin – who had a pair each.

After the game, head coach Urban Meyer attempted to discern the positives and negatives in what ended up being a 49-26 victory that felt much closer than that for most of the contest.

"Dwayne, obviously a great night – incredible night," Meyer said.

But many of his other comments weren't quite as positive.

"We're still not doing what we need to do in the run game, and that's something that's alarming," Meyer said, referring to the offense. "So we've just got to continue to work on that."

"Defensively not what we expected in the first half. Guys are making plays on us. It's a combination of poor pass rush and not blocking on your guys. We've been fine against the run, but the pass has been killing us and that's going to bite us – something we've got to get fixed."

Good Or Bad?

So, when it was all said and done, Ohio State had 49 points on the scoreboard. The quarterback had a huge game, completing 33 of 44 passes, and he was sacked just once. Plus the Buckeyes punted only twice.

Is that a good performance? The numbers say yes. The mood of the team after the game says something else. Haskins, for one, admitted that it was a sluggish performance coming off an emotional, 27-26 victory at Penn State a week earlier.

"I'm not going to lie, we probably are still tired from last week,"



PHOTOS BY SONNY BROCKWAY

PUTTING IT TOGETHER– Sophomore linebacker Tuf Borland (32, above) and the defense allowed just 89 total yards in the second half while junior K.J. Hill (14, below) was one of nine Buckeyes to catch at least one pass as Ohio State threw for 455 yards against Indiana.



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FAN FORUM

Buckeye Leaves

BSB's 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 also features a live thread during every Ohio State game where staffers and subscribers can share their thoughts, opinions and analysis. We'll 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 overcame a sluggish start to beat Indiana, 49-26, on Homecoming.

James Grega: It wasn't always pretty, but Dwayne Haskins earned my Buckeye Leaf for the win against Indiana.

Haskins threw a pair of interceptions against the Hoosiers but also threw six touchdown passes while playing under constant duress, as Ohio State's pass protection was less than stellar for most of the game.

He also spread the wealth, with seven different players catching at least two or more passes. The rest of the Buckeye offense, outside of the receivers, looked very average on Saturday, perhaps because of the Penn State hangover. Either way, Haskins is the only one deserving of this honor today because the rest of the performance was otherwise lackluster.

Tim Moody: Dwayne Haskins was stellar against Indiana – for the most part – but the throw is only part of the equation on a passing play. In addition to Haskins'

Heisman-esque performance, he got a ton of help from his wide receivers, and fifth-year senior Parris Campbell was the best of the bunch. Campbell finished with nine receptions for 142 yards and two scores, including a 71-yarder that came about because he was the fastest player on the field.

I've said it before, but Campbell has taken a huge step forward this season and looks like a player who could be an early draft pick next spring.

Garrett Stepien: Whether it comes on punishing blocks or touchdown catches, Terry McLaurin makes an enormous difference for Ohio State. His impact was evident once again for the Buckeyes as they pulled away from Indiana, which is why he gets my Buckeye Leaf.

Dwayne Haskins spread out 33 completions to nine receivers, but when he connected with McLaurin four times – twice for six – the offense broke the defense down and thwarted the scrappy Hoosiers' upset bid. McLaurin's scores of 7 and 17 yards – both in the second half with the former coming in the third quarter to make it 28-17 and the latter happening in the fourth quarter to make it 42-26 – put Ohio State back up by double digits.

More likely than not, there were some important blocks to set up certain plays as well. He brings the effort every week, but his playmaking ability in week six was paramount to the Buckeyes' separation in the second half.

Frank Moskowitz: I'm certainly not going to give my Buckeye Leaf to anyone on defense. I could give it to Dwayne Haskins every week, but that's kind of boring so I am going to go with Parris Campbell. Nine catches for 142 yards and two TDs is almost as impressive as Haskins'

passing line, and his 71-yard TD romp to start the third quarter was a thing of beauty and set the tone for the second half.

Usain Bolt is not going to catch Parris with that much green space in front of him.

BSB Subscribers

Haskins all the way. I don't like the two picks, but he was hit both times. 455 and six touchdowns ... amazing. At 1,919 yards and 25 TDs for the season, he is going to break a ton of records.

– Blufftonbuck

Definitely Dwayne Haskins. Six TDs speaks for itself!

– Tiffin Buckeye

Binjimen Victor. His catch in the end zone this week was amazing. He definitely gets the "good hands prize" this week. Without his catch-and-run last week, I do not know whether the Buckeyes would have won against Penn State. He needs to be a regular part of our offensive schemes and plans.

– AnthonyBuckeye

Going to pick a No. 2 since Haskins is No. 1 every week. Going with Parris Campbell. Great job of yards after catch.

– mrbigbux

I think I have to give the nod to Terry McLaurin. Everyone always talks about how he does all the little things, but he tends to do some pretty big things. Two more touchdowns in another big game for Terry!

– AcrossTheField

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Pump The Brakes

To those writers at BSB who stated that this might be the greatest Ohio State team of all time, I would encourage you to watch the top of the Penn State game. To Mr. Moskowitz, who stated that Urban Meyer is "smart enough to know if it ain't broke, don't fix it" and try to force a square quarterback into his round hole (The View From 15th and High, Sept, 29), I would ask you to do likewise.

Through the first four games, Haskins carried a total of 10 times and we did not see him run the zone-read on any of them ... until Meyer returned to the sideline. Haskins showed that he is nowhere close to being ready to move on to the next level after this year. He under-threw receivers, missed reads and on the 96-yard game winning drive completed all of three passes, none of which went beyond the line of scrimmage.

If Coach Meyer insists on running his QB-centric offense at times, then maybe he should put Tate Martell into the game to run it as that is what he is best suited for. This team will most likely make the playoffs given how weak the remaining schedule is but national champions? Greatest team ever? I don't think so.

Dan Carusone
Girard, Ohio

Great Win At PSU

We just won a big game (Sept. 29 at Penn State) in the roughest environment in the country to play in on any Saturday night, and you still have some like Peter Carusone (Letters to the Editor, Oct. 6 BSB) complaining. Wow! He points out what he thinks are the team's shortcomings and says we couldn't beat a good team the way we played in the first half.

Excuse me, sir, but PSU is a really good team. Our coaches and players made adjustments at the half, and we played a great second half and won. How about giving them credit instead of bashing them? Fans like you will never be satisfied so your opinion is laughable. Go Bucks and congrats on a great win over a really good team.

John M. Masterson
Sandusky, Ohio

Archie-Esque

Watching J.K. Dobbins in the Penn State game is the first time that I have had a flashback

to Archie Griffin. With all the great backs that have played with the Buckeyes since Archie, none have reminded me more of his running style and results.

Dave Stratso
Perrysburg, Ohio

Can't Get A Yard?

I've written this letter six, seven, maybe eight times since Ohio State lost to Michigan State in the 2013 Big Ten Championship Game, and I wonder how many more times I'm going to rewrite this same letter.

How is it that we have a multimillion-dollar-a-year coach and he has no clue how to pick up a yard on third or fourth down? I'm going to put it in simple terms so that any moron can understand it! You put the QB under center and two offensive linemen in the backfield and you push! It's legal, I repeat, it's legal! And for our multimillion-dollar coach to stand at a podium and say that we can't do this because we don't practice this is the dumbest, stupidest, most moronic statement I have ever heard in my entire life! You get 15 practices in the spring, 30 more during fall camp, 60 or so during the season and an additional 15 before a bowl game – that's over 120 practices and you can't find 20 minutes to practice snapping the ball with the QB under center?

I can't even begin to put my disgust for this moronic statement into words! We lost that game to MSU because we couldn't convert, it almost happened against last week against Penn State, and when we had the chance to put this week's game out of reach we failed once again. It's only a matter of time before this inability to convert will cost us another game, maybe even a championship.

Peter M. Carusone
West Middlesex, Pa.

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.

Read BSB online! www.BuckeyeSports.com

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

ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVES
 Jan Jager Dave Tebay
 Ron Friedman

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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 (Oct. 20 cover date) will be mailed Oct. 16.

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Haskins Shines In Sometimes-Ugly Victory

Clint Eastwood, Lee Van Cleef and Eli Wallach were nowhere to be found among the 104,193 fans populating Ohio Stadium on an uncharacteristically hot Oct. 6 afternoon, but there was no shortage of good, bad and ugly on display as upset-minded Indiana threw a brief scare into Ohio State before the third-ranked Buckeyes pulled away with a 49-26 victory.

Ugly was a defensive unit that looked utterly unfocused at times, owing I suppose to something of a letdown following an emotional victory at Penn State the week before. But good teams don't allow themselves to fall into that kind of trap, the likes of which kept the Buckeyes out of the College Football Playoff last year.

The good? Dwayne Haskins and his merry band of receivers who continue to punish lesser competition, this time torching the Hoosiers for 455 yards through the air.

As difficult as it is to believe, Haskins became only the second Ohio State quarterback ever to eclipse the 400-yard mark in a single game, and he came within three yards of matching the program record, held by Art Schlichter since 1981 when he threw for 458 yards during a 36-27 loss to Florida State.

Haskins, who is elbowing his way into serious Heisman Trophy contention, threw the ball 44 times and completed 33 of those attempts, tying another OSU single-game record, this one established just last year when J.T. Barrett connected 33 times while leading his team to that thrilling 39-38 comeback win against Penn State.

There was a time when throwing for 300 yards was an anomaly for an Ohio State quarterback – it had happened only 20 times before Urban Meyer got to town – but Haskins does it now on an almost weekly basis. He has topped the 300-yard mark in four of this season's six games, and that is already good enough for third on the all-time career list. Only Barrett and Joe Germaine have more with seven each.

After just six games, Haskins is on pace to shatter every single-season record that Ohio State has on its books. So far, he has completed 142 of 198 attempts (71.7 percent) for 1,919 yards and 25 touchdowns. Give him the final six regular-season games, a spot in the Big Ten Championship Game and at least one more postseason contest, and Haskins is on pace to throw for 4,478 yards and 58 touchdowns.

Germaine currently holds the single-season yardage record at 3,330, while Barrett has the most TD passes in a season with 35. Oh ... and no Ohio State quarterback has ever completed 70 percent or more of his passes over the course of a season. Troy Smith set that record at 65.3 percent during his Heisman season of 2006.

In case you're interested, Haskins is on pace to break several Big Ten passing records as well. Curtis Painter of Purdue threw for 3,985 yards in 2006 and another Boilermakers quarterback of some note – a guy by the name of Drew Brees – set the conference record with 39 touchdown passes in 1998.

In terms of national records, Haskins is still well off the 2003 pace set by Texas Tech quarterback B.J. Symons when he threw for 5,833 yards, but Haskins is tracking the TD record set by Colt Brennan of Hawaii when he totaled 58 touchdown passes in 2006.

To say I never in my wildest dreams thought I'd be comparing the Ohio State passing attack to those employed by Texas Tech and Hawaii in the early part of the 2000s qualifies as the understatement of the century.

Helping make Haskins look good on a weekly basis is a group of ever-improving receivers, led by Parris Campbell, who is on a three-week streak that has produced 24 catches

for 349 yards and four touchdowns. Would you believe as recently as 2011, the leading Ohio State receiver had 14 catches – for the entire season.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK Mark Rea

Campbell had nine catches for 142 yards against Indiana as well as a pair of the easiest touchdowns he'll likely ever score.

The first was an 18-yarder in the second quarter that came on a simple crossing pattern during which Campbell used his speed to create a total mismatch against IU linebacker Raekwon Jones. The second came on the third play of the second half when Campbell took advantage of a total coverage bust on the part of the Hoosiers to waltz into the end zone from 71 yards away.

Terry McLaurin, Johnnie Dixon and Binjamin Victor each joined Campbell with touchdown receptions – did I forget to mention Haskins also tied OSU's single-game record with six scoring passes? – catches that had differing degrees of difficulty.

The second of McLaurin's two scores would have gotten consistent 10s from Olympic judges as he gathered in a 17-yard pass in the corner of the end zone despite Indiana safety Jonathan Crawford being draped all over him. Likewise for the fingertip grab made by Victor in the fourth quarter, a 30-yard reception made all the more remarkable since Hoosiers cornerback Andre Brown's coverage could have and probably should have drawn a pass-interference flag.

Amid all of the flying pigskins, the Buckeyes also mounted a fairly decent running attack with J.K. Dobbins and Mike Weber combining for 152 yards and a touchdown. Dobbins did most of the heavy lifting with 26 carries, but none of them accounted for more than 9 yards, which seems like a perfect segue.

The Bad, The Ugly

Sometimes it was difficult to determine the bad from the ugly although there seemed to be plenty of both from the Ohio State defense.

What does it say about your unit's initial focus when defensive coordinator Greg Schiano had to burn all three first-half timeouts in the first quarter to get his defense lined up properly? The Buckeyes took turns looking like a team simply going through the motions to one that seemed frustrated that its opponent didn't understand it was supposed to roll over and quit.

That kind of mentality led to making hobbled Indiana quarterback Peyton Ramsey look like five-time NFL MVP quarterback Peyton Manning. Ramsey completed 26 of 49 passes for a career-high 322 yards and three touchdowns despite the fact that two of his best receivers – fifth-year senior Luke Timian (who had 10 catches for 72 yards last year against the Buckeyes) and speedy sophomore Whop Philyor – missed the game with leg injuries.

If OSU linebackers, safeties and cornerbacks were consistent in any part of their pass coverage, it was their consistency in being thoroughly out of position or being completely beaten over the top. And when they were in position to make a play, they drew pass interference or defensive holding penalties – two of each during the game.

As a result, Ramsey was able to complete passes to nine different receivers. Fifth-year

senior J-Shun Harris gathered in eight receptions for 104 yards (he had only 102 yards in his previous five games this year) while junior Nick Westbrook turned five catches into 109 yards and a touchdown. It marked the first time a Big Ten opponent had a pair of 100-yard receivers in the same game against Ohio State since Braylon Edwards and Ronald Bellamy of Michigan accomplished the feat during their team's 14-9 loss to the Buckeyes in 2002.

More sloppiness included nine penalties for 82 yards, and that didn't include a handful of infractions that were declined or offset, including another unsportsmanlike conduct call against the Buckeyes. That is now more than a half-dozen of those this season, alluding to an inability to remain cool in the heat of battle. A lack of poise in pressure situations is something teams simply cannot afford if they truly have championship aspirations.

Something else title-hungry teams cannot afford is turnovers, and the Buckeyes committed three of those. Haskins pitched two interceptions, doubling his season total, while Weber fumbled away an early possession inside his own territory. I am one of Weber's biggest fans, but that was the junior tailback's seventh career fumble and four of them have been lost. Great running backs just don't put the ball on the ground.

And I know that Nick Bosa is sidelined and Dre'Mont Jones is banged-up, but the strength of the Ohio State defense remains up front, and if the Buckeyes are going to continue to play man coverage, they are going to have to mount more of a pass rush against the remainder of the teams on their schedule than they did against Indiana.

The bottom line, of course, is that Ohio State notched another victory and reached the halfway point in the regular season as one of only 11 remaining undefeated teams. But while the ugliest of wins still counts as a win, I doubt even the most scarlet and gray fan would believe the kind of performance the Buckeyes displayed against Indiana will get it done against the likes of Alabama or Georgia.

The question hanging out there for me is whether or not Ohio State is getting better, and I can honestly say I don't know the answer.

Greene Or Green?

You might have read my feature on former Ohio State quarterback Cornelius Greene in last week's issue and gotten a bit confused as to the spelling of his last name.

Greene, now 64, several years ago removed the "e" at the end of his name after some genealogical checking.

"I have done some research and found that some of my relatives spelled it 'Greene' and others 'Green,' and the latter is correct," Greene said.

So, why does BSB still spell his name with the "e" at the end? Because when he was at Ohio State, breaking records as the first African-American quarterback in program history, he was Cornelius Greene – with the "e" at the end.

"I went by 'Greene' then and I go by 'Green' now, but it really doesn't matter," he said. "With the 'e' or without it, I'm still the same guy."

Greene, who returns to Columbus a couple of times each year to attend OSU football games, keeps his hand in the game as coach of the sixth- and seventh-grade combined team at St. Albans School in his native Washington, D.C.

"I throw warm-up passes to the kids every afternoon," he said with his trademark smile. "Heck, I'm throwing more now than I ever did when I was coached by Woody."



Meyer (Jokingly) Notes QB-Sneak Suggestion

Ohio State traveled to University Park, Pa., on Sept. 29 and beat then-No. 9 Penn State, 27-26, after coming back from a 12-point deficit in the fourth quarter. The Buckeyes struggled for much of the game, though, including in short-yardage situations on offense.

After Penn State scored a touchdown to go ahead, 20-14, with 12:22 on the fourth-quarter clock, the Buckeyes took over and picked up a quick first down before stalling, eventually finding themselves facing a fourth-and-1 at the Penn State 48. Sophomore quarterback Dwayne Haskins took the snap, faked a handoff to running back J.K. Dobbins, spun and attempted to run, but he was quickly tackled for no gain and a turnover on downs. The play call and result sparked questions from fans and media members alike, and

Meyer admitted the following Monday that Ohio State has struggled in short-yardage situations without a true running threat at quarterback.

When asked why the Buckeyes don't simply put Haskins under center in such situations and run a quarterback sneak, Meyer said there were "a lot of different reasons."

"You see teams a lot, that are operating 99.999 out of the shotgun, and they go to center and they drop the ball, just because you don't do it," Meyer said. "We've had those conversations over and over again."

Meyer was then asked why the Buckeyes don't simply practice snapping under center more often.

"Duly noted," Meyer quipped with a laugh. "Thank you."

For what it's worth, junior running back Mike Weber said the fourth-and-1 play against Penn State was meant to go to the running back.

"Well, I believe it was a run play to the running back," he said. "They crashed on our running back and he was forced to pull it."

Weber added that he and Dobbins always want the call in that situation. "We want the ball all the time," Weber said. "Fourth-and-18, we want the ball."

Meyer Finds Out He Can't Appeal Targeting

In the second half of the Penn State game, Ohio State sophomore safety Isaiah Pryor, a starter, was called for targeting for a hit on Nittany Lion wide receiver KJ Hamler. The call was questioned at the time, but it stood after a review.

2018 Ohio State Football Schedule

Date	Opponent	Result/Time (ET)	TV	Record, Last Result
Sept. 1	OREGON STATE	W, 77-31	ABC	1-5, 56-37 loss to Washington State
Sept. 8	RUTGERS	W, 52-3	BTN	1-5, 38-17 loss at Illinois
Sept. 15	vs. TCU#*	W, 40-28	ABC	3-2, off week
Sept. 22	TULANE	W, 49-6	BTN	2-4, 37-21 loss at Cincinnati
Sept. 29	at Penn State*	W, 27-26	ABC	4-1, off week
Oct. 6	INDIANA	W, 49-26	FOX	4-2, 49-26 loss at Ohio State
Oct. 13	MINNESOTA	Noon	FS1	3-2, 48-31 loss to Iowa
Oct. 20	at Purdue*	TBA	TBA	2-3, off week
Nov. 3	NEBRASKA	TBA	TBA	0-5, 41-24 loss at Wisconsin
Nov. 10	at Michigan State*	TBA	TBA	3-2, 29-19 loss to Northwestern
Nov. 17	at Maryland	TBA	TBA	3-2, 42-21 loss at Michigan
Nov. 24	MICHIGAN*	Noon	FOX	5-1, 42-21 win over Maryland
Dec. 1	Big Ten Championship@	8 p.m.	FOX	

* - 2017-18 bowl team

- at Arlington, Texas (AT&T Stadium)

@ - at Indianapolis (Lucas Oil Stadium)

Since the call came in the second half, Pryor was suspended for the first half of Ohio State's game against Indiana on Oct. 6. Following the Penn State game, Meyer said Ohio State contacted the Big Ten in regard to the call, but he found out that he wasn't able to appeal Pryor's suspension.

"I didn't know that," he said.

Meyer went on to say that he saw a replay of the call after the fact and made it clear he didn't agree.

"Do I agree with it? I don't have time to argue with it," Meyer said. "The call was made. Once again, you talk about safety in players. We're all in there. There's no intent. There is no targeting, and we had a couple of those around here where the guy's going to try to wipe them out, if you watch him he's going for the ball and contact was made. No time to argue."

Bosa Showing Signs Of Progress

Ohio State junior defensive end Nick Bosa, an All-American, has been out since suffering a core muscle injury in the second half against TCU on Sept. 15 and subsequently undergoing surgery the following week.

While there is no exact timeline for his return, Bosa's parents said he would be re-evaluated in November before making a decision on his next steps.

Bosa underwent surgery in Philadelphia at the Vincera Institute. On Sept. 30, a tweet surfaced showing a video of Bosa doing agility-ladder workouts at the institute just a week after surgery. The tweet noted

that Bosa was expected to be able to start jogging 10 days after his operation.

Ohio State defensive line coach Larry Johnson said Oct. 2 that Bosa returned to



Nick Bosa

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One Postal Step Forward, One Back

Initial reports on the delivery of the Oct. 6 issue of Buckeye Sports Bulletin were excellent, with many readers who had been receiving their paper late this season letting us know that they received the Penn State wrap-up in a timely fashion, or in some cases even a day earlier than normal. However, by Friday and Saturday, reports started coming in from readers who had not been having problems previously who did not get their papers in advance of the Indiana game.

Particularly hard hit were readers in nearby Powell and in Tiffin, Ohio. It appeared that no readers in those zip codes had received their papers as of Oct. 6.

BSB Publisher Frank Moskowitz continues to work with postal officials to try to eliminate the delays.

"I want to thank BSB readers for their tremendous patience this season," Moskowitz said. "We consider it a compliment that you are looking for your paper. I want to once again reiterate that Buckeye Sports Bulletin is mailed at the same time and place each week that it has been for many years. We are trying to track down what happens from there."

While Moskowitz attempts to speed up the delivery, Buckeye Sports Bulletin is offering two additional options to readers.

Subscribers can upgrade their delivery to first-class mail in an envelope for \$16 for the remainder of football season or \$26 through football recruiting season. Simply call (614) 486-2202 and we will upgrade you immediately, or send your check or money order to P.O. Box 12453, Columbus, Ohio, 43212 and mention the "Football" or "Recruiting" upgrade.

Readers may also read the complete edition of each issue of Buckeye Sports Bulletin online at BuckeyeSports.com on Mondays during football season, a free service with your subscription.

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Columbus on Sept. 28, the day before Ohio State's game at Penn State. He was back on the sidelines at Ohio Stadium on Oct. 6 when the Buckeyes hosted Indiana.

Johnson said he had no idea if Bosa would play again in 2018 and said he'd listen to the Bosa family in regard to what will happen going forward.

"We're going to talk somewhere down the road," Johnson said. "Right now, I'm going to let them make the decision what they're going to do."

"I'm just here to listen, to give them my opinion. But I'm certainly not going to be the guy to make the decision of what he does with his future. That's up to the family."

Johnson also noted that Bosa being back around the program has had a huge

impact, even if he can't return to the field just yet.

"You've got one of the guys who's a great pass rusher, a great leader, so they listen to Nick," Johnson said of Ohio State's other defensive linemen. "Today, he just walked around watching the guys. The best he can do is to continue to encourage the guys. He can see things I can't see. They believe in him. When he talks, guys listen."

Ohio State Stays At No. 3 In AP Poll

Despite a sluggish performance against Indiana on Oct. 6, Ohio State's 49-26 victory was good enough to keep the Buckeyes

Continued On Page 6



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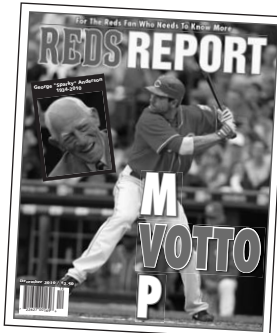
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Continued From Page 5

at No. 3 in the Associated Press top 25 for the second week in a row. Ohio State was behind Alabama (59 first-place votes) and Georgia and one spot ahead of Clemson (one

first-place vote) as the top four remained unchanged. The Buckeyes received one top vote as well.

Rounding out the top five was Notre Dame, which moved up one spot after previous No. 5 LSU fell to Florida. West Virginia (No. 6), Washington (No. 7), Penn State (No. 8), Texas (No. 9) and UCF (No. 10) completed the top 10.

Among the Big Ten, Michigan moved up three spots to No. 12 while Wisconsin was ranked 15th.

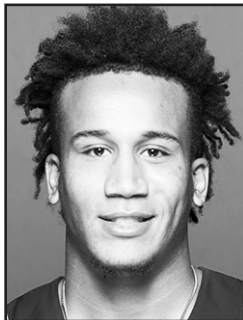
In his second year since leaving Ohio State, former Buckeye assistant Luke Fickell, now the head coach at Cincinnati, saw his team ranked for the first time at No. 25 after a 6-0 start to the season.

Michigan State, previously ranked 20th, fell out of the top 25 after losing to Northwestern. Iowa received 87 points in the poll while TCU, Ohio State's week-three opponent, received 20 points.

Ohio State remained at No. 3 with one

first-place vote in the Amway coaches poll as well. Alabama (61) and Georgia were first and second while Clemson (2) was fourth and Notre Dame fifth.

In the coaches rankings, Penn State was eighth, Michigan was 13th and Cincinnati was 25th while Michigan State, previously ranked No. 19, received just one point. Iowa (89) and TCU (33) received points as well.



L'Christian Smith

2 Buckeyes Lose Black Stripes

Ohio State freshmen L'Christian Smith and Xavier Johnson each lost their black helmet stripes Oct. 4, making them official members of the team.

Smith, a wide receiver, was a four-star prospect out of Huber Heights (Ohio) Wayne in the 2018 class. He became the 20th member of Ohio State's 25-person class to lose his stripe after appearing in his first career game against Tulane on Sept. 22. Despite that appear-

ance, Smith is expected to redshirt this season.

After losing his stripe, Smith thanked teammates and fellow wide receivers Johnnie Dixon, Austin Mack, Binjamin Victor and K.J. Hill in a tweet.

"It's a blessing being a part of the best unit in the country," Smith wrote.

Johnson is a walk-on quarterback out of Cincinnati Summit Country Day School. He was a three-star recruit but opted to join the Buckeyes despite holding several scholarship offers.

3 Buckeyes Earn Weekly Awards

After Ohio State's win over Penn State, three Buckeyes earned weekly awards nationally and within the Big Ten.

Sophomore defensive end Chase Young was named the Big Ten's co-defensive player of the week in addition to being the Bednarik Award national defensive player of the week. Haskins was the conference's offensive player of the week while sophomore punter Drue Chrisman was given the weekly Ray Guy award as the nation's top punter.

Young picked up his award after tallying six total tackles, three tackles for loss, two sacks, two pass breakups and two quarterback hurries against the Nittany Lions. He made the tackle for a 2-yard loss on fourth-and-5 on Penn State's final offensive play of the game to seal the win for the Buckeyes.

Haskins struggled at times in Happy Valley, but he finished with 22 completions on 39 attempts for 270 yards with three touchdowns and one interception. He threw two touchdown passes in the final seven minutes to lead the Buckeyes back from a 12-point deficit.

The award marked Haskins' third weekly Big Ten honor in a row, while Young became the second Buckeye to be named the conference's top defender after Dre'Mont Jones picked up the honor Sept. 17 for his performance against TCU.

Young shared the Big Ten honor with Michigan defensive end Chase Winovich.

Chrisman played a pivotal role as the Buckeyes came back in Happy Valley. He was an unsung hero for OSU with a career-high average of 47.9 yards on nine punts, including a long of 58 and three downed inside the 20.

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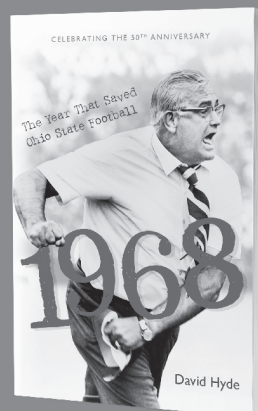
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Buckeye Defense Struggles Vs. IU's Pass Game

Continued From Page 1

Haskins said. "It definitely was a little low energy during the practice during the week. But the best thing about today, we found a way to win. Even though it wasn't pretty at all times throughout the game, football is about overcoming adversity."

But then again, the offense still gained

609 total yards. And that happened without an effective run game. If the Buckeyes can put all the pieces together, the ceiling might not exist for that unit.

After what was an off day at times, fifth-year senior wide receiver Johnnie Dixon was optimistic about what could happen for Ohio State going forward.

"It's crazy just knowing that we can get

better," Dixon said. "That's the biggest thing we're looking for right now is moving into the next week and getting better."

In some aspects, the room for improvement at Ohio State is obvious, especially on defense and in the offensive running game. If the passing game can keep improving, though, like Dixon said, then the Buckeyes' future opponents will be in for a tough time.

Against Indiana, Campbell had nine catches for 142 yards, Dixon had five for 73 and Austin Mack had five for 49. Then there was McLaurin with four catches for 59 yards and K.J. Hill with four for 46. Two other players had two catches each (Binjimen Victor, 2 for 43; J.K. Dobbins, 2 for 25) and Luke Farrell and Mike Weber each had a reception as well.

"I feel like we have a really dynamic group," Haskins said. "We have a great group of guys, great talent across the board, a lot of depth, and today was making plays when they mattered most."

For as many answers as Ohio State found in the passing game, though, there were even more questions overall.

Report Card Woes

The biggest question for Ohio State through six games is the pass defense, starting with the pass rush – normally stellar, but less than that against the Hoosiers – and going all the way to the back end. Indiana, like most of Ohio State's opponents this season, was able to pick up chunks of yardage at a time, especially in the first half, with multiple passing plays of more than 30 yards and a rush of 45 yards.

It was more of the same, really; the issues have been there all season. Through half of the regular-season slate, junior defensive tackle Dre'Mont Jones graded the defense overall with a B-minus or a C-plus. The mark against Indiana alone was even worse.

"Probably like a C-minus," Jones said when asked to grade the Ohio State defense against the Hoosiers. "They threw the ball for 330-plus, I think (actually 322), I don't know – 300 yards is too much. It's too many big plays."

The bulk of the damage was done in the first half. Before the break, the Hoosiers gained 317 total yards, including 239 through the air. They had 20 of their 26 points on the board within the first 30 minutes.

The second half was a different story – Indiana gained just 89 total yards after the break – but Jones still admitted that the offense bailed the defense out overall.

"That was a terrible first half for our defense," Jones said. "Thankfully our offense, they were able to pull out the win for us. I mean, we made some stops in the second half that changed that, but this game was on the offense."

Against Indiana, letting the offense take charge and win the game on an off day was good enough. Going forward, it might not be. And Ohio State knows that.

"At the end of the day you have to play great defense to get where you've got to get," Meyer said. "And I'm confident that we will because at times we've played great defense and we have to get everybody healthy and get back to that."

It's Nice To Know

The issues – especially on defense – are obvious for Ohio State. But that's a good thing. The Buckeyes know exactly what they need to focus on going forward, and now it's up to the coaching staff to make sure the leaks are patched before a full-on flood busts through.

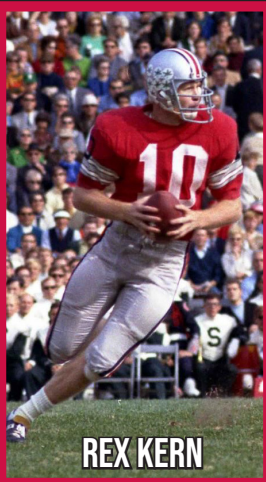
The wish list for Meyer and his staff is clear:

1. Pressure the passer on defense.
2. Tighten up the play on the back end, limiting big plays.
3. Get a better push up front on offense and get Dobbins and Weber rolling in the run game.

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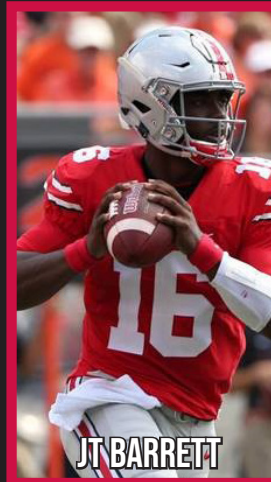
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COVER STORY

If Ohio State accomplishes those three things, it will likely contend for championships. Even if the Buckeyes don't improve, they might still be good enough to win the Big Ten – but that's not a risk Meyer plans on taking.

"Pass defense, pass pressure, rush, no it's not very good," Meyer said. "Knocking people off the ball and running the ball, I don't think it's great. I've got to watch the videotape. We're just not consistent in those areas. Those two areas are the problem child right now."

In addition to knowing what to fix, the Buckeyes have made it apparent that they feel they have the personnel to get the job done. That said, especially with continual problems in the same areas on defense, line-up and scheme changes might be coming.

Against Indiana, redshirt freshman cornerback Shaun Wade got some work at

safety, as did sophomore Amir Riep, who had played only on special teams or with the second-team defense previously. Ohio State utilized zone coverage at times as well, and Meyer said there are ongoing conversations about straying away from their typical press-man coverage going forward to try to limit the big plays.

There won't be a huge overhaul, though. It's still Ohio State, after all, and the Buckeyes feel that they have the players to execute their scheme. Now it's a matter of finding a way to improve in all aspects of the game.

"We just have to keep doing what we are doing and keep pounding away," sophomore linebacker Tuf Borland said. "Keep working at it and eventually things will go your way. I can't tell you if there is one specific thing we have to fix or what, but we will get it fixed."



Tuf Borland

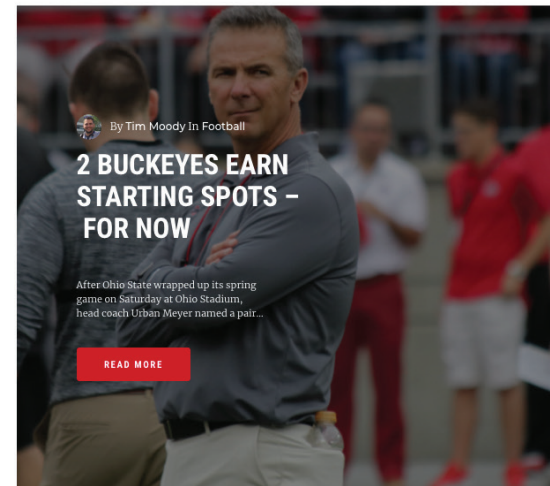
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Haskins Posts Career Day On Homecoming

To say Dwayne Haskins had a prolific game against Indiana would be an understatement.

Despite throwing two interceptions, Haskins was on the brink of breaking an Ohio State record that has stood for more than 35 years. The sophomore gunslinger completed 33 of 44 passes for 455 yards and six scores to his two interceptions, bringing him just 3 yards shy of tying Art Schlichter's single-game record for passing yards, a mark that was set in 1981.

GAME NOTEBOOK

James Grega

Haskins' six touchdown passes also tied a program record, one he now shares with former teammate J.T. Barrett and Kenny Guiton, who was the first to do so in school history back in 2013. Haskins' 33 completions also tied the school record for most completions in a single game, matching Barrett's 33-of-39 performance against Penn State last season.

His performance was one that keeps him in the thick of the Heisman Trophy conversation, and while Urban Meyer said he isn't ready to discuss the individual honor when it comes to Haskins just yet, he didn't want to take away from the start to the season Haskins is having.

"I never want to hold our players back," Meyer said. "I don't know what else is out there. I'm worried about Minnesota (Ohio State's next opponent) and I'm worried about our defense and I'm worried about our run game. And worried about getting guys healthy. But I certainly never want to take away – elite, 455 yards now. And high, high end percentage completion. It was 33 of 44. I mean, I'm not going to hold him back. But our focus is on Minnesota."

Meyer also credited Ohio State's offensive line for the production of the passing game, as Haskins was sacked just once on nearly 50 drop-backs.

"Dwayne would be the first one to tell you. And it's no different than when the run game's cooking, the offensive line is the reason why," Meyer said. "When the passing game is cooking, there's guys making phenomenal catches and runs and the offensive line is doing for the most part – I believe we gave up one sack tonight. We did have the one – we had two turnovers, awful."

Seven different receivers caught two or more passes from Haskins in the victory, while four different Buckeyes scored. Terry McLaurin and Parris Campbell each found the end zone twice, while Binjimen Victor and Johnnie Dixon each added a touchdown.

Haskins was quick to credit his receiving

corps for their showing against Indiana, also complimenting the offense as a whole.

"I feel like we have a really dynamic group," Haskins said. "We have a great group of guys, great talent across the board, a lot of depth, and today was making plays when they mattered the most, whether it was passing or throwing," he said. "Everybody did a good job executing when we needed it."

The receivers directed the compliments right back at Haskins. Campbell said that because Haskins is so accurate and the ball comes out so quick, he has to elevate his own play to make sure the Buckeyes take full advantage of Haskins' talents.

"It definitely helps because I am able to run a variety of routes knowing that the ball is going to get to me no problem

whether it is a tight window or anything like that," Campbell said. "It also challenges my game because I have to get open fast. He has a quick trigger, and he is always going to drill the ball so you have to get your head around fast."

As for what Haskins is capable of moving forward, Campbell seems to think that the third-year signal caller can be one of the greats by the time his Ohio State career is over.

"You guys are witnessing a legend in the making," Campbell said. "The things he

can do throwing the ball and the leader he is becoming, he is really developing into a great leader and the stats speak for themselves. The player he is becoming and the person he is becoming is really legendary status."

Big Plays Haunt Defense Again

Entering the game against Indiana, stopping the big play on defense was one of the main goals for the Buckeyes. That box is still left unchecked.

Ohio State allowed plays of 32, 38 and 45 yards among a handful of big hits and failed to come up with an interception for the third straight game. In the first half alone, the Buckeyes surrendered more than 300 yards of offense, something Meyer was concerned about after the 49-26 win.

"At times we played outstanding," he said, "but the big hits and we're a man coverage team. So we've got to keep evaluating, but some of those weren't even on man coverage. So we just have to keep working at it. I trust our staff. I trust our players. We're banged up a little bit. And we've got to fight through it but have to play better."

Meyer said that because of the big plays surrendered, particularly in the passing game, Ohio State has already discussed playing more zone defense.

"If you notice we do bail sometimes," he said. "We hate to give free access throws to people. I think this was – it didn't really snap at us like it did today. Penn State, guys made



Dwayne Haskins

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some plays on us. But today we really felt it. I felt it. That first half was awful."

Indiana finished the game with 406 total yards, 322 of which came through the air. Two Hoosier wide receivers, J-Shun Harris and Nick Westbrook, each finished with more than 100 yards receiving.

Wint Starts, Ends Up On The Bench

With sophomore safety Isaiah Pryor suspended for the first half of Ohio State's win over Indiana due to a targeting call from the Sept. 29 victory at Penn State, sophomore Jahsen Wint got the start in his place.

Although Wint finished with five tackles, he was caught out of place on a number of occasions and before halftime had been replaced by cornerback turned safety Shaun Wade.



Jahsen Wint

Wade, as he has all season, opened the game as Ohio State's starting nickel back, but after Wint continued to struggle in the back end of the defense, Wade was moved to safety. In some nickel situations, Wade moved back down to nickel and sophomore

Amir Riep moved to safety.

On Wade's first play at safety, the Buckeyes forced a fumble, as linebacker Tuf Borland stripped an Indiana wide receiver of the ball, a turnover that led to a Buckeye touchdown.

Pryor returned for the second half and immediately took over at safety, recording three tackles and a pass breakup.

Harrison, Cooper Carted Off

Ohio State lost a pair of starters on defense to injury during the win over IU as both defensive end Jonathon Cooper and linebacker Malik Harrison were taken off the field on a cart in the second half.

Neither was seen down on the field, but they were escorted on the cart from the Ohio State sideline and did not return to action. Meyer did not provide an update on the status of either player in his postgame press conference, saying only that both players were still being evaluated immediately after the game.

Despite the early exit, Harrison tied for the team lead in tackles with five and also added a pass breakup and intercepted a two-point conversion attempt. Cooper collected a quarterback hurry but otherwise did not record a stat.

Meyer Suffers In-Game Headache

For a brief moment during Ohio State's win over Indiana, it appeared that Meyer was dealing with a serious health issue.

Following McLaurin's second touchdown of the day early in the fourth quarter, Meyer fell to a knee just outside the coaches box and was immediately tended to by Ohio State's training and medical staff.

After a few moments, Meyer returned to his feet and removed his coaching headset as he was evaluated further by the trainers. Eventually, he put the headset back on and finished the game on the sidelines. After the game, Meyer said he was dealing with headaches throughout the game, something he has dealt with in the past. He added at no point did he consider removing himself from the sidelines.

Game Analysis

What Worked Well

The pass offense. Dwayne Haskins had somewhat of an off game as he threw two interceptions for the first time in his career, although both of those came in the face of heavy pressure, but the sophomore quarterback still turned in another Heisman-worthy performance. Haskins got Ohio State's offense going as he completed 33 of his 44 passes (75.0 percent) for 455 yards and six touchdowns. Fifth-year seniors Parris Campbell (nine receptions, 142 yards) and Terry McLaurin (four receptions, 59 yards) did the bulk of OSU's damage with two touchdowns apiece. Sophomore running back J.K. Dobbins also got involved again in the pass game, snagging a one-handed grab for 23 yards as he totaled two catches for 25 yards.

What Didn't Work

The pass defense. Peyton Ramsey torched Ohio State's secondary, taking shots downfield with four passes for 30 yards or more. He finished 26 for 49 (53.1 percent) with three touchdowns and 322 yards, a season high allowed by the Buckeyes through six games. Junior cornerbacks Damon Arnette and Kendall Sheffield each broke up two passes, but Ramsey got the best of them, as well as sophomore cornerback Jeffrey Okudah, vertically over the course of the contest. Ramsey caught Arnette sleeping on a 32-yard score to Peyton Hendershot with 10:59 left in the second quarter, going 4 of 5 for 75 yards and cutting Ohio State's lead to 14-10. On the next drive, Ramsey was 4 of 7 for 60 yards, as Sheffield's defensive

pass holding on third-and-11 from the Hoosiers' 41 set up a fresh set of downs at the Buckeyes' 49. On the next two plays, Ramsey took shots, the first going 30 yards up the seam to J-Shun Harris with sophomore safety Jahsen Wint unable to play a ball with far too much air under it. After an incompletion, the next play culminated the sequence as Ramsey dialed up a 19-yard strike to Nick Westbrook with Okudah getting beat in coverage, allowing IU to take a 17-14 lead with 7:04 left before halftime.

Play Of The Game

Haskins' second touchdown pass to McLaurin came at a critical time as they connected in the red zone to create a two-score game and allow Ohio State to pull away in the fourth quarter. On a third-and-10 from the Indiana 17, the Buckeyes lined McLaurin in the left slot with Campbell bunched next to him near the line. Haskins took a simple three-step drop and immediately looked left as McLaurin started to curl out on a post-corner route to the back-left corner of the end zone. Haskins timed it perfectly, just as senior right tackle Isaiah Prince's block released off the edge, and avoided the sack. Haskins wound up and hit McLaurin in stride as OSU pulled ahead for a 42-26 lead with 12:21 left in the fourth quarter. Ohio State tacked on another touchdown with 6:51 left when Haskins hit junior wide receiver Binjimen Victor on a 30-yard deep ball, but the strike to McLaurin earlier in the period served as the dagger.

– Garrett Stepien

During the television broadcast, there was a report that Meyer had collided with a staffer, knocking him to the ground. He

seemed to refute that report during the post-game press conference.

When asked for a clarification on the

discrepancy, an Ohio State media official told BSB, "I didn't see whether he did or didn't."



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Haskins' 6 Touchdowns Lead OSU Past Hoosiers

By CRAIG MERZ
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

The Dwayne Haskins show was in overdrive even if the rest of his Ohio State teammates weren't always firing on all cylinders.

Haskins helped the No. 3 Buckeyes overcome more spotty pass coverage and a weak running game by tying a school record with six touchdown passes while coming tantalizingly close to the single-game yardage mark as well in a 49-26 victory over Indiana on Oct. 6 in balmy Ohio Stadium.

The Buckeyes (6-0, 3-0 Big Ten) trailed 17-14 in the second quarter before Haskins erupted for his final five TDs to tie the record held by J.T. Barrett and Kenny Guiton.

Haskins was 33 for 44 for a career-high 455 yards and came within three yards of the school record set by Art Schlichter vs. Florida State in 1981.

He completed passes of 8 yards to Austin Mack and 13 to Parris Campbell on the final possession of the game that began with 5:14 left and the outcome no longer in doubt. After the passes, Haskins took two knees to end the game.

Offensive coordinator Ryan Day said he wasn't aware of the yardage record until after the game.

"We were just trying to finish out the game, milk the clock right there at the end," he said. "He's got an opportunity to



SONNY BROCKWAY

RECORD DAY – Sophomore quarterback Dwayne Haskins tied the Ohio State single-game record with six touchdown passes against Indiana.

get it next week (vs. Minnesota) so there's something to work for."

Haskins, a third year sophomore, has thrown for 1,919 yards and 25 touchdowns in his first six starts.

His favorite target was Campbell, who had nine catches for 142 yards and two TDs. Also, Terry McLaurin had two touchdown catches, and Johnnie

Dixon had five catches for 73 yards and a score.

Sophomore J.K. Dobbins ran for 82 yards and junior Mike Weber had 70, but the Buckeyes' 3.2 average per carry and 154 total yards on the ground were disappointments to head coach Urban Meyer.

So too were allowing the career-best 322 passing yards by Indiana QB Peyton Ramsey (26 of 49, three touchdowns) and several more pass-interference penalties.

The Buckeyes had 609 total yards and 33 first downs. Indiana had 406 yards but only 89 in the second half.

How It Happened

Indiana (4-2, 1-2) took the opening kickoff and went to the OSU 14 before penalties pushed the Hoosiers back to the 33 and they eventually settled for a 37-yard field goal by Logan Justus at 11:47 on an unusually hot (88 degrees) day for the first weekend in October.

OSU drove to the Indiana 39 on its first possession, staying primarily on the ground, before Weber fumbled and Cam Jones recovered it for the Hoosiers at their 38.

The Hoosiers turned the ball over on downs at the OSU 29, and the Buckeyes went 71 yards in nine plays, using 3:06 of the clock. Key plays were a 23-yard catch-and-run by Dobbins and a 13-yard pass to McLaurin that put the ball on the 1. Dobbins ran in from there for the 7-3 lead at the 2:58 mark.

Haskins engineered another nine-play drive, going 78 yards this time. Following a 12-yard toss to junior K.J. Hill, Haskins threw an arcing 39-yard TD pass to Dixon to make it 14-3 at 12:21 of the second quarter.

Ramsey wasted little time – 1:22 to be exact – and completed 4 of 5 passes for all 75 yards as the Hoosiers pulled to within a score at 14-10 at 8:37 on a 32-yard TD to Peyton Hendershot.

An interception by Indiana's Devon Matthews at the Hoosiers' 30 led to another quick trip to the end zone. A holding penalty on OSU junior cornerback Kendall

Sheffield put the ball on the Ohio State 49. J-Shun Harris then had a 30-yard reception before the scoring strike of 19 yards to Nick Westbrook to put Indiana ahead 17-14 with 7:04 to go before halftime. The drive took just 1:33.

OSU's third TD drive of more than 70 yards resulted in a 21-17 lead. Starting from the 25 after the kickoff, the Buckeyes chewed up yards with passes of 13 yards to Dixon and a 17-yard grab by Hill. Weber added runs of 10 and 21 yards to push the ball to the IU 8. A holding call pushed the Buckeyes back to the 18 before Haskins hit Campbell on a crossing pattern for an 18-yard touchdown with 4:39 to go.

The Buckeyes quickly got possession again. On the first play after the touch-back, sophomore linebacker Tuf Borland stripped running back Reese Taylor after a 9-yard pass play, and junior safety Jordan Fuller recovered at the Indiana 32. On fourth-and-1, Dobbins rushed for 3 yards to the 20. Junior Austin Mack then hauled in a 13-yarder, and Haskins tossed a 7-yard TD to McLaurin across the middle as OSU upped the lead to 28-17 with 2:16 left.

Justus booted a 37-yard field goal to make it 28-20 with 40 seconds remaining in the first half.

It took just 51 seconds of the second half for Ohio State to increase the margin to 35-20. On the third play, Campbell started in the slot and was left wide open out of the backfield for the catch at the 33 and went 71 yards down the right sideline.

Indiana threatened again thanks to a personal foul on sophomore defensive end Chase Young and a pass interference on Fuller on consecutive plays that moved the Hoosiers to the OSU 45. The defense stiffened and a 4-yard sack by junior Dre'Mont Jones resulted in a fumble, which Jones recovered at the Buckeyes' 49.

After the Hoosiers stuffed Dobbins for no gain on fourth-and-1 at the Indiana 42, they went 58 yards for a score. Westbrook had a 38-yard catch to the OSU 20 on a play that was initially ruled out of bounds. Later, Stevie Scott rushed for a yard on fourth-and-1 at the 11 to keep the drive alive, and Ramsey threw a 3-yard pass to Donavan Hale to make it 35-26. Indiana tried a two-point conversion, but it was intercepted by junior linebacker Malik Harrison.

After an OSU three-and-out late in the third quarter that started at its own 4 and a 31-yard punt by sophomore Drue Chrisman, the Hoosiers started at the 33, but three incompletions and a missed 50-yard field goal by Justus netted no points.

The Buckeyes took advantage, and Haskins accounted for his fifth touchdown with a 17-yard pass to McLaurin for a 42-26 lead with 12:21 to play. The Buckeyes used 10 plays to go the 67 yards.

Dobbins had run for 3 yards on fourth down to keep the drive going at the Indiana 44, and a pass-interference call moved the ball to the 29. Dixon had a catch of 11 yards to the 17, and Haskins' toss to McLaurin on third down gave OSU some breathing room.

His last TD was 30 yards to Binjimen Victor with 6:51 left after the Buckeyes had marched from their own 24. The drive took 10 plays and 4:18.

Indiana turned the ball over on downs at its 46 on its last drive, and Haskins and Co. finished the game at the 14-yard line.

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The Numbers Game

Ohio State 49, Indiana 26

Oct. 6, 2018 – Ohio Stadium; Columbus, Ohio

Score by Quarters	1	2	3	4	F
INDIANA (4-2, 1-2 BIG TEN)	3	17	6	0	– 26
OHIO STATE (6-0, 3-0 BIG TEN)	7	21	7	14	– 49

First Quarter

- IU – Justus, 37 yard field goal, 11:47; 7 plays, 56 yards, 3:13 TOP.
- OSU – Dobbins, 1 yard run (Nuernberger kick), 2:58; 9 plays, 71 yards, 3:06 TOP.

Second Quarter

- OSU – Dixon, 39 yard pass from Haskins (Nuernberger kick), 12:21; 9 plays, 78 yards, 3:28 TOP.
- IU – Hendershot, 32 yard pass from Ramsey (Justus kick), 10:59; 5 plays, 75 yards, 1:22 TOP.
- IU – Westbrook, 19 yard pass from Ramsey (Justus kick), 7:04; 6 plays, 70 yards, 1:33 TOP.
- OSU – Campbell, 18 yard pass from Haskins (Nuernberger kick), 4:39; 6 plays, 75 yards, 2:25 TOP.
- OSU – McLaurin, 7 yard pass from Haskins (Nuernberger kick), 2:16; 6 plays, 32 yards, 2:16 TOP.
- IU – Justus, 37 yard field goal, 0:40; 8 plays, 56 yards, 1:36 TOP.

Third Quarter

- OSU – Campbell, 71 yard pass from Haskins (Nuernberger kick), 14:09; 3 plays, 75 yards, 0:51 TOP.
- IU – Hale, 3 yard pass from Ramsey (Ramsey pass intercepted), 4:53; 8 plays, 58 yards, 2:44 TOP.

Fourth Quarter

- OSU – McLaurin, 17 yard pass from Haskins (Nuernberger kick), 12:21; 10 plays, 67 yards, 2:56 TOP.
- OSU – Victor, 30 yard pass from Haskins (Nuernberger kick), 6:51; 10 plays, 76 yards, 4:18 TOP.

Att. – 104,193.

Weather – 88 degrees, partly cloudy; wind SSW 11 mph.

Team Statistics

	IU	OSU
First Downs	22	33
Rushing	4	13
Passing	14	19
Penalty	4	1
Rushing-Yards	21-84	48-154
Passing Yards	322	455
Passes (Comp.-Att.-Int.)	26-49-0	33-44-2
Offensive Plays	70	92
Total Net Yards	406	609
Third Down Efficiency	3-14	8-16
Fourth Down Efficiency	1-3	3-4
Punts-Avg.	4-38.8	2-41.5
Fumbles-Lost	2-2	1-1
Penalties	3-35	9-82
Time of Possession	23:18	36:42

Individual Statistics

RUSHING (Att.-Net Yds.) – IU: Scott 9-64; Ramsey 10-10; Taylor 1-9; Majette 1-1. **OSU:** Dobbins 26-82; Weber 13-70; Haskins 7-7; TEAM 2-(-5).

PASSING (Comp.-Att.-Int.-Yds.-TD) – IU: Ramsey 26-49-0-322-3. **OSU:** Haskins 33-44-2-455-6.

RECEIVING (Rec.-Yds.) – IU: Harris 8-104; Westbrook 5-109; Fryfogle 3-26; Majette 3-23; Taylor 2-11; Scott 2-6; Hendershot 1-32; Dorris 1-8; Hale 1-3. **OSU:** Campbell 9-142; Dixon 5-73; Mack 5-49; McLaurin 4-59; Hill 4-46; Victor 2-43; Dobbins 2-25; Farrell 1-13; Weber 1-5.

PUNTING (No.-Avg.-Long) – IU: Whitehead 4-38-8-46. **OSU:** Chrisman 2-41.5-52.

PUNT RETURNS (No.-Yds.) – IU: Harris 1-8. **OSU:** Hill 1-1.

KICKOFF RETURNS (No.-Yds.) – IU: None. **OSU:** Dixon 2-45.

MISSED FIELD GOALS (Yds.) – IU: Justus 50. **OSU:** None.

FORCED FUMBLES – IU: Wilson. **OSU:** Borland, D. Jones.

FUMBLE RECOVERIES (No.-Yds) – IU: Jones 1-0. **OSU:** Fuller 1-0; D. Jones 1-0.

INTERCEPTIONS (No.-Yds.) – IU: Fitzgerald 1-9; Matthews 1-0. **OSU:** None.

TACKLES FOR LOSS (No.-Yds.) – IU: Sykes 1.0-8; Roof 1.0-2; Jones 1.0-2. **OSU:** Borland 2.0-6; D. Jones 1.0-4; Werner 1.0-2; Young 1.0-2; Togiai 1.0-2.

TACKLES (Solo-Asst.-Tot.) – IU: Sykes 1.0-8. **OSU:** Borland 1.0-5; D. Jones 1.0-4; Werner 1.0-2.

PLAYERS IN THE GAME – INDIANA: Offense, Cronk, Martin, Linder, Stepaniak, Knight, Harris, Westbrook, Hale, Ramsey, Scott, Hendershot, Justus. Defense, Everett, Johnson, Bowen, Stallings, Willis, Jones, Layne, Ball, Crawford, Bryant, Brown, Whitehead. Reserves, Burgess, Taylor, Fryfogle, Head Jr., Godsil, James, Johnson, Williams, Majette, Nelson, Matthews, Riggins, Fitzgerald, Brookins, Jones, Sykes, Conrad, Lloyd, Gajcak, Allen, Roof, McFadden, Barwick Jr., Samuels, McGinnis, Littlejohn, Baker, Jones, Dorris, Ziemba, Bonner, Bjorson, Smolar, Bryant, Wilson, Reece. **OHIO STATE:** Offense, Munford, Pridgeon, Jordan, Knox, Prince, Berry, Haskins, Dobbins, Campbell, Mack, McLaurin, Nuernberger. Defense, Young, Landers, D. Jones, Cooper, Harrison, Borland, Werner, Sheffield, Wint, Fuller, Arnette, Chrisman. Reserves, Okudah, Gant, Smith, Dixon, Hill, White, Browning, Mitchell, Victor, Cornell, Riep, Pryor, K. Jones, Olave, Wade, Weber, Pope, Hilliard, McCullough, Booker, Hamilton, Friday, Alabi, Cupp, Woidke, Myers, Togiai, Saunders, Hausmann, Gardiner, Ruckert, Farrell, Garrett, Haubeil.

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	(4) TULANE	W, 49-6	103,336	
Sept. 29	(4) at Penn State (9)	W, 27-26	110,889	
Oct. 6	(3) INDIANA	W, 49-26	104,193	
Oct. 13	MINNESOTA	Noon	–	
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	182	107
Rushing	72	36
Passing	95	55
Penalty	15	16
Average Per Game/Rush	201.0	143.0
Average Per Game/Pass	364.7	222.2
Total Offense	3,394	2,191
Total Plays	484	404
Average Per Game	565.7	365.2
Average Per Play	7.0	5.4
Penalties-Yards	51-485	33-315
Fumbles-Lost	4-2	11-6
Third Down Efficiency	42-84	27-89
Percentage	50%	30%
Fourth Down Efficiency	7-10	2-7
Percentage	70%	29%
Sacks-Yards	22-148	8-32
Time Of Possession Avg.	31:21	28:39

Score							
By Quarters	1	2	3	4	OT	Tot.	Avg.

Ohio State	73	94	58	69	–	294	49.0
Opponents	20	47	40	13	–	120	20.0

Individual Statistics					
Rushing	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Long
J.K. Dobbins	99	462	4.7	4	21
Mike Weber	74	420	5.7	3	49
Tate Martell	18	121	6.7	2	47
Master Teague	17	106	6.2	1	33
Dwayne Haskins	21	43	2.0	1	17
Brian Snead	11	37	3.4	1	5
Demario McCall	4	26	6.5	0	15
Parris Campbell	4	11	2.8	0	18
C.J. Saunders	0	8	0.0	0	0
K.J. Hill	1	-3	-3.0	0	0
TEAM	9	-25	-2.8	0	0
OSU Totals	258	1,206	4.7	12	49
OPP Totals	213	858	4.0	7	93

Passing	Comp.	Att.	Pct.	Yds.	TD-INT	Effic.
D. Haskins	142	198	71.7	1,919	25-4	190.76
Tate Martell	23	28	82.1	269	1-0	174.63
OSU Totals	165	226	73.0	2,188	26-4	188.76
OPP Totals	101	191	52.9	1,333	8-4	121.14

Receiving	Rec.	Net	Avg.	TD	Long
Parris Campbell	35	501	14.3	7	71
K.J. Hill	31	364	11.7	2	27
Austin Mack	23	279	12.1	1	48
Johnnie Dixon	15	218	14.5	3	44
Terry McLaurin	13	277	21.3	6	75
Binjimen Victor	9	169	18.8	3	47
J.K. Dobbins	9	125	13.9	1	35
Mike Weber	8	51	6.4	1	15
C.J. Saunders	6	42	7.0	0	19
Demario McCall	5	46	9.2	0	35
Luke Farrell	3	32	10.7	1	13
Jaylen Harris	2	22	11.0	0	15
Chris Olave	2	19	9.5	0	14
Garyn Prater	1	13	13.0	0	13
Jeremy Ruckert	1	13	13.0	0	13
Jaelen Gill	1	11	11.0	0	11
Rashod Berry	1	6	6.0	1	6
OSU Totals	165	2,188	13.3	26	75
OPP Totals	101	1,333	13.2	8	93

Scoring	TD	EPK	EPR	EPRC	FG	PTS
S. Nuernberger	–	39-39	–	–	3-5	48
Parris Campbell	7	–	–	–	–	42
Terry McLaurin	6	–	–	–	–	36
J.K. Dobbins	5	–	–	–	–	30
Mike Weber	4	–	–	–	–	24
Johnnie Dixon	3	–	–	–	–	18
Binjimen Victor	3	–	–	–	–	18
K.J. Hill	2	–	–	–	–	12
Tate Martell	2	–	–	–	–	12
Rashod Berry	1	–	–	–	–	6
Nick Bosa	1	–	–	–	–	6
Luke Farrell	1	–	–	–	–	6
Davon Hamilton	1	–	–	–	–	6
Dwayne Haskins	1	–	–	0-2	–	6
Dre'Mont Jones	1	–	–	–	–	6
Austin Mack	1	–	–	–	–	6
Brian Snead	1	–	–	–	–	6
Master Teague	1	–	–	–	–	6
OSU Totals	41	39-39	–	0-2	3-5	294
OPP Totals	15	12-13	0-1	0-1	6-10	120

FG Distance	0-29	30-39	40-49	50+	Total
S. Nuernberger	2-2	1-2	0-1	0-0	3-5
OSU Totals	2-2	1-2	0-1	0-0	3-5
OPP Totals	1-1	4-5	1-3	0-1	6-10

Punting	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Bk	Long
Drue Chrisman	24	1,065	44.4	0	65
OSU Totals	24	1,065	44.4	0	65
OPP Totals	40	1,588	39.7	1	53

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	4	133	33.2	0	46

Punt Returns	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
C.J. Saunders	8	50	6.2	0	20
K.J. Hill	4	18	4.5	0	17
Demario McCall	3	32	10.7	0	26
OSU Totals	15	100	6.7	0	26
OPP Totals	6	15	2.5	0	10

Kickoff Returns	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
Johnnie Dixon	5	118	23.6	0	38
Demario McCall	2	52	26.0	0	31
C.J. Saunders	2	24	12.0	0	14
OSU Totals	9	194	21.6	0	38
OPP Totals	12	187	15.6	0	22

Def. Leaders	Solo	Ast.	Tot.	TFL-Yds.	Sacks
Jordan Fuller	18	9	27	1.5-2	–
Malik Harrison	18	7	25	1.0-1	0.5-1
Jahsen Wint	18	5	23	0.5-1	–
Dre'Mont Jones	11	9	20	7.5-40	4.5-35
Damon Arnette	17	2	19	–	–
Tuf Borland	9	10	19	3.5-11	2.0-10
Pete Werner	15	3	18	3.0-11	2.0-8
Isaiah Pryor	11	7	18	1.0-1	–
Chase Young	10	6	16	7.0-36	4.0-27
Jeffrey Okudah	12	2	14	–	–
Nick Bosa	11	3	14	6.0-43	4.0-39
Shaun Wade	10	3	13	–	–
Baron Browning	5	8	13	2.5-10	1.0-6
Kendall Sheffield	11	1	12	2.0-4	–
Justin Hilliard	9	2	11	1.0-7	–
Robert Landers	5	5	10	2.0-8	–
Keandre Jones	5	3	8	1.0-1	1.0-1
Dante Booker	5	3	8	3.0-19	1.0-12
Jonathon Cooper	3	5	8	3.0-7	1.0-3
Jashon Cornell	5	1	6	1.0-8	–
Tommy Togiai	5	1	6	1.0-2	–
Davon Hamilton	2	4	6	1.5-2	–
Dallas Gant	2	2	4	–	–
Tyreke Smith	1	3	4	–	–
Brendon White	1	3	4	–	–
Tyler Friday	3	0	3	1.0-6	1.0-6
Johnnie Dixon	3	0	3	–	–
Taron Vincent	1	1	2	–	–

11 others tied with 1 tackle each

OSU Totals 233 112 345 50-220 22-148
OPP Totals 286 186 472 26-70 8-32
Fumbles Forced: 6 – Tuf Borland 2, Nick Bosa, Dwayne Haskins, Dre'Mont Jones, Pete Werner.
Fumbles Recovered: 6 – Nick Bosa 2, Dre'Mont Jones 2, Jordan Fuller, Davon Hamilton.

BSB Quotebook: Ohio State 49, Indiana 26

Ohio State offensive coordinator Ryan Day on sophomore quarterback Dwayne Haskins: "I think he's making a lot of progress, obviously. He's an accurate passer. We started off in the game last week against Penn State, a couple balls weren't complete in there. But the guys were catching the ball today, the protection was really good, and so it's everybody. But obviously you can see downfield, his accuracy is special."

OSU fifth-year senior wide receiver Johnnie Dixon on whether he expects Haskins to have another 400-yard passing game this season: "For sure, most definitely."

OSU head coach Urban Meyer on Haskins: "You give him time and you give him a good group of receivers, he's a dangerous guy."

OSU fifth-year senior wide receiver Terry McLaurin on Haskins as a Heisman Trophy candidate: "First of all, we're biased because he's our guy. But I feel like a guy who is a first-year starter – I'm not going to take any credit from the guys doing what they're doing at other schools, but he's beat two top-15 teams on the road in tough environments and through a lot of adversity. For a first-time quarterback to come in and do that with our offense, the numbers he's putting up, I think Coach said he was (close to) some type of record. (We are) helping him out as receivers. The more plays we make for him, the more confidence it gives him, and his ability takes over the rest."

Day on playing after a road night game: "Well I

think when you come home from a game that's so late, you got home at 5 in the morning and then with the emotions running so high you just don't sleep well for a little while, and that takes its toll throughout the week with practice and some of the recovery. These are college kids that still have to go to class. These are not NFL guys that get to sleep in after a Monday Night Football game. It takes a little time, so I think that kinds of leads sometimes to some letdowns on the road. But I thought our guys hung in there and you didn't see that letdown today."

Dixon on whether he felt a lack of energy during the week: "Yes, I did. Practice wasn't the best practices we had. I think that's just because with away night games, it's such a struggle because you finish the game late and you get back late and you still have to be up the next day for practice. So I think it pays a toll on guys' bodies and guys are beat up from all that stuff. But I think we fought through it today. It just shows development – the versatility that we have as a group to come through and fight."

OSU junior defensive tackle Dre'Mont Jones on the possibility of switching to a zone defense: "Maybe, I'm not in charge of that. I'm not a DB, I'm not a coach, so we do what we do."

Jones on the defense's second-half performance: "I liked the way our mind-set changed in the second half. They only scored six points. I don't think they rushed more than 20 yards in the second half."

Jones on his expectations of improvement

going forward: "We've got a lot of young guys still playing. It's still early in the season, we're only six games in. This is a long journey. Rome wasn't built in one day."

Jones on his health after picking up an injury Sept. 29 at Penn State: "I'm sore as hell, foot's bothering me, but I can fight through it."

OSU fifth-year senior wide receiver Parris Campbell on struggling against Indiana over the years: "Indiana is a great team. They were in the game for the majority of the game. They gave Michigan State a great game as well. I don't want to underestimate them because they put on a great show today. They competed on offense and defense. Offensively, it was slow early on because of some of the things they were doing defensively, but they are definitely a great team."

Jones on facing Indiana after playing at Penn State: "It was tough, but we know our mentality doesn't change. No matter who we played last week, we've got to go out there and play Indiana because they're a talented team. They're 4-2 now, they play like they're 7-0, 6-0. It's one of those things where you've got to stay late, get acupuncture, get some ice – just get your body right."

Indiana head coach Tom Allen on the game: "We didn't obviously execute to our standard all the time, and it cost us in certain situations, but the kids battled. I'm proud of that but obviously not good enough so we'll get better."

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OSU's Wade Fitting In Wherever He Is Needed

By JAMES GREGA
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

Shaun Wade came to Columbus as a member of the 2017 recruiting class with perhaps the most hype of any freshman at Ohio State.

A top-20 player nationally, Wade committed to Ohio State over the likes of Alabama, Michigan and Virginia Tech. Of the three players to commit to the Buckeyes on the day of their national championship victory in 2015, Wade was the only one to sign with Urban Meyer's team. The No. 2 cornerback in the country (behind only teammate Jeffrey Okudah), he was expected to make an immediate impact on the Buckeye defense, but before his college career could even get started, it came to a halt.

Wade suffered a lower abdominal injury in the spring and tried to play through it, but he ultimately needed surgery in early November and ended up taking a redshirt in 2017.

Sitting out the entire season with injury wasn't easy for Wade, who said he had multiple conversations with his parents and coaches to help him get through the season without getting too down on himself.

"Last year was a lot," Wade said. "It was a tough year. This year I just wanted to come in, work hard and get on the field some type of way. They just told me what I needed to do to get on the field. They said I have the skills and the body frame, I just needed to go hard."

Okudah, who committed to Ohio State nearly two years after Wade did, said he could see the frustration in Wade last season as he

was forced to watch from the sideline while Okudah worked his way into the cornerback rotation.

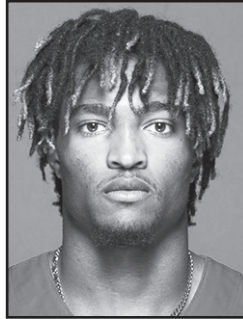
"It has been pretty cool just seeing, since he got hurt, him fighting back and grinding through the offseason and be able to make plays on Saturday," Okudah said. "I could tell he was down and disappointed that he couldn't be out there and playing with us. I just respect him so much because he did not complain one time. He just put his head down and worked every single day."

Once healthy, it became apparent that Wade (6-1, 195) was going to play early in 2018. With the loss of Denzel Ward to the NFL, there was an opening for a nickelback as Okudah earned a spot in the cornerback rotation alongside Kendall Sheffield and Damon Arnette.

A cornerback by trade, Wade won the nickel job in fall camp yet earned just nine snaps in a season-opening win against Oregon State. In that game, Ohio State surrendered a number of big plays, with the Beavers ripping off touchdowns of 78 and 80 yards in a 77-31 loss to the Buckeyes.

The next day, Wade said co-defensive coordinator Alex Grinch asked him if he had ever played safety.

Wade, who had in fact never played safety at any level of football in his life, has spent the majority of the last month in Grinch's position room, learning the safety position while still serving as Ohio State's primary nickelback.



Shaun Wade

In a 52-3 win over Rutgers, Wade collected his first career interception. A week later, he tallied a career-high five tackles in a prime-time win over TCU.

After a mundane 49-6 win over Tulane, Wade was again tested in a prime-time matchup against Penn State and, for the most part, rose to the occasion. He collected a pair of pass breakups in the victory, including one on a critical third down in the fourth quarter that set up Ohio State's game-winning drive.

It wasn't all good for Wade, though, as Penn State receiver KJ Hamler beat him off the ball on a quick slant before skating up the PSU sideline for a 93-yard score.

Wade, who is still balancing learning safety with getting reps at corner and nickel, said he knows exactly what he did wrong on the big play.

"I backed up. That was the only thing, I backed up," Wade said, describing how he gave ground to Hamler on the play. "If I didn't back up and got hands on him, then it would

have been a deflection or (an immediate) tackle."

The biggest transition for Wade when it comes to learning the safety position is playing off the line of scrimmage, he said. After playing his entire football career at corner and playing press-man coverage, lining up 8-10 yards off the ball has been a big change for him.

"Playing off has been the toughest thing," Wade said. "I have been playing press-man my whole life, and playing safety, you have to play off and catch so that is the transition."

Wade is so comfortable playing press-man, in fact, that he hasn't spent any time in cornerbacks coach Taver Johnson's unit room since the first week of the season. He said he doesn't need much additional work with the corners because he has become so accustomed to playing press-man that it has become natural for him.

With the struggles at the safety position opposite Jordan Fuller through the first half of the season, Wade is staying ready at all positions in case his number is called.

"I just want to help the team, to be honest. If they need me at safety, I will play safety," Wade said. "I like all the defensive (back) positions."

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Young Establishing Himself As A Buckeye Star

By **CRAIG MERZ**
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

Chase Young started the season as a backup to an All-America defensive end, but fate stepped in and made him part of Ohio State lore the night of Sept. 29 in a place called Happy Valley on a night that didn't turn out so happy for the locals.

Young started his second straight game for the injured Nick Bosa and finished Penn State's chances for victory when he stopped Miles Sanders for a 2-yard loss on fourth-and-5 from the OSU 43 with 1:16 left to play to preserve the 27-26 victory at Beaver Stadium in University Park, Pa.

That was the last of several big plays that earned him the Chuck Bednarik award as the national defensive player of the week. Young's efforts included six tackles, with two of his three tackles for loss being sacks, plus two pass breakups and a pair of quarterback hurries.

It was a very good night on national TV for the sophomore from Hyattsville (Md.) DeMatha Catholic.

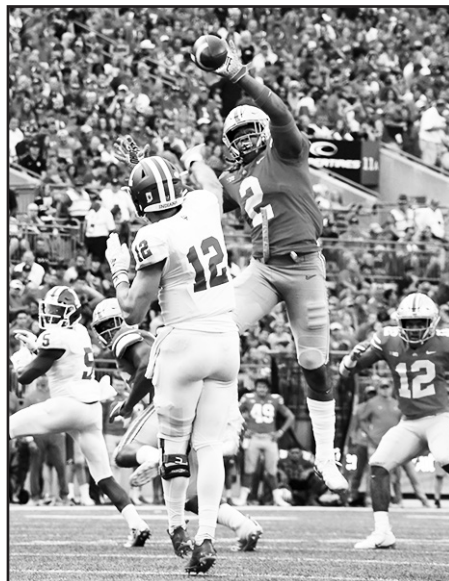
Defensive line coach Larry Johnson, who's taught some great ones, including Bosa's brother Joey, now with the Los Angeles Chargers, wasn't sure if the Penn State game was Young's breakout performance only because there's more to come.

"I don't know, everybody says that," the coach said. "I think our expectation is for all of our guys to play well in big games. Chase had a great game for us, and I think he showed that he has enough talent to be a really great, great football player. Right now, it's really just a matter of continuing to grow as we move forward."

After his big game against Penn State, Young added four tackles, including one for a loss, in Ohio State's 49-26 win over Indiana on Oct. 6.

The way Young is playing is in line with his five-star ranking and status as one of the best players in the nation regardless of position for the recruiting class of 2017.

But like many in a star-studded program such as Ohio State, the accomplishments in high school don't automatically earn playing



SONNY BROCKWAY

FILLING IN – Sophomore Chase Young (2) has started Ohio State's past three games in place of injured junior All-American Nick Bosa.

time because there are so many other players on the team with similar credentials.

He bided his time as a freshman last season behind Bosa, Tyquan Lewis, Sam Hubbard and Jalyn Holmes. Young played in 12 of 14 games and had 19 tackles, six TFLs and 3½ sacks.

"Coach (Urban) Meyer, he tries to tell us not to wait, so I think every chance I got to get on the field, I tried to put my best out there," Young said. "I thank God I had a real good game (against Penn State). It was a national stage, ABC, and I just thank God that the Penn State game was that game I had a good one."

He made good use of his time at practice and in games as he watched from the sideline his first season.

"He's a great learner, he wants to learn everything," Johnson said. "He picks Nick's brain every day on how to rush the passer, things he can learn. And I think that's what you want out of a player who's a highly competitive guy and wants to be a great player."

"He's such a young player now and the expectations get really high when a guy does

real well. There's a lot more he can learn to do, but I like where his progress is going. It started in the summer. He did really hard training.

"He's had some good mentors. He's got Nick in front of him, and (junior defensive end) Jonathon Cooper. Those guys, (junior defensive tackle Robert Landers) too, do a great job in training and showing how to get it done."

Young knows the best way to individual success is through teamwork. That's why he was quick to credit others on his game-clinching tackle. Cooper and junior defensive tackle Dre'Mont Jones had the initial surge at the Penn State line, and junior defensive end Jashon Cornell's push was enough to allow Young to get into the backfield and stop Sanders cold.

"If you look at the play, I would have never gotten there if (Jashon), if he didn't block, it was actually his hip blocked the tackle. If the tackle got his hands on me, I probably wouldn't have made the play," Young said. "If it wasn't for Jashon getting up the field like he did, I wouldn't have made the play. I thank Jashon a lot."

"I was just thankful, excited for me teammates. If they'd run the other way, Coop would have made the play. It's not about me. It's about the whole team. If Dre'Mont didn't do his job, if Jashon didn't do his job, he would have got the first down."

Johnson said Young's now-famous tackle was the result of the ultimate teamwork.

"Jashon Cornell set the play up, he set the pick on the guy and then come clean," he said. "It was all predicated on Jashon doing his job and on the back side there's Jonathon Cooper and Dre'Mont and they had a role in that play. It was one play, but four guys made it happen."

Prior to the snap, cameras caught Young saying a prayer, something he says he does often in a game.

"I think everything is in God's plan," he said. "I think they called an audible and I prayed and said 'God, if this play's coming to me, help me make it.' I sent one up and it came to me and I made it."

It helped that the call by Penn State coach James Franklin was universally panned for not putting the ball in the hands of quarterback Trace McSorley, who ravaged the Buckeyes for 461 total yards.

Young said Johnson had him and the D-line prepared for anything in that situation.

"I credit Coach Johnson for the way he

pushes us, the way he wants us to use our technique, the way he coaches us every day," he said. "He's the best coach in the nation."

Young was a bundle of energy and nerves before the game.

"I was nervous," he said. "I'm not going to lie to you. It was a big stage, going out on the field the first time. It was the biggest game I played in my life. I was nervous for sure, but I think it was good."

Afterward, Young couldn't contain his excitement that the Buckeyes went into one of the toughest environments in college football and escaped undefeated. In fact, he was so hyped viewers saw him interviewed by the Big Ten Network with his mouthpiece still in place.

That is until OSU sports information director Jerry Emig slyly came to the rescue, although some thought it was the interviewer who grabbed the piece.

"It was Jerry, it wasn't the actual reporter, from the back of the reporter that took it from my mouth," Young said. "I was hyped. I was in the moment and he took it from my mouth. I didn't care."

Young could sense that beating Penn State is always special for Johnson, an assistant coach for the Nittany Lions for 14 years until joining the Ohio State staff in January 2014.

"Everybody knows when it's Penn State week because Coach J is extra pumped up for practice and he turns into a different guy because he used to go there, just like when we play Maryland I'm going to be jacked up because I'm from Maryland," Young said. "I like it when he's jacked up like that. It gets me going, gets the whole unit going good."

Young's emotions got the better of him in the second half in the Sept. 8 game vs. Rutgers when he received two unsportsmanlike conduct penalties to earn an ejection.

The first foul was for spiking the ball in celebration after an apparent strip sack that after a review was ruled not to be a fumble. The second violation was for running onto the field to celebrate after an interception by redshirt freshman cornerback Shaun Wade.

"We want to play with emotion and not let emotion play with you. So that will be addressed," said Ryan Day, who was acting head coach at the time, following the Rutgers game.

That has been about the only blip on the season so far for Young.

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OHIO STATE FOOTBALL

If the ceiling on his potential is in a high-rise building, he feels he's still on the ground floor.

"Not close at all," he said of reaching his potential. "I made a few mistakes, and I've got to get them corrected. Obviously, you're never going to play a perfect game, but you want to try to play a perfect game and that's what I'm going to try to do."

Meyer agrees, "He's just a second-year player that's playing very well and he has unlimited potential."

Prior to playing the Buckeyes, Indiana coach Tom Allen saw film of Young and his teammates and marveled at how well they did without their best player, Bosa.

"(Young) is impressive," Allen said. "He's just so long and I thought that he really, as I watched him throughout the season on film, just keeps getting better and better. Obviously, losing Bosa is a tough blow for any team. But just the depth, the talent on their defensive line continues to impress me. I know it's a hard position to recruit to – to find those guys, they're hard to get and they just have so many of them."

"They just keep rolling them in and there's a lot of 'next man up' it seems like there, and that's what you want and that's what they're doing. The elite teams have great defensive lines and great D-linemen and great D-line coaches, so they have all the above."

Young is thriving under the pressure to replace Bosa, who underwent core muscle surgery Sept. 20 and is out at least until November. Young put Bosa's No. 97 on the tape that wrapped around his wrists for the Penn State game.

"You know, obviously I look at Nick. I study Nick's tape to try to take little things that he does that I can add to my game," he said. "I

look up to Nick. That's big bro, and I had to honor him because that's my guy."

"He saw the love. At the end of the day, I played that game for him. It's a brotherhood. He expects that. We're tight-knit, we're that close. I think it changed everybody on the unit's mind-set that we had with Nick down, the best player in college football, so we all knew we had to step it up."

With Bosa out, the spotlight has turned to Young, who said he is ready to accept the responsibility.

"I believe so, but I try not to not even think about that," he said. "I think that's what helps all the players on this team, we just have to go back to the drawing board. I definitely made mistakes in that game that I have to correct."

Johnson said Young is showing the maturity needed to pick up the slack in Bosa's absence.

"He wants the role," Johnson said. "He understands that. He and Nick are close, so they talk a lot. I know Chase. He's a competitor, so he wants to do well. He has high expectations for himself, he really does. I think that's cool. The guy really wants to be a great player. Everything he does is based on that."

As opponents get more film on Young – playing more than 70 snaps against Penn State will add to the collection – Johnson expects more attention on him, which is not a bad thing for the rest of the Buckeyes on the defensive line.

"It's tough to do that, though," Johnson said. "When you turn your protection to Chase, you've got to figure out what to do with Dre'Mont because you can't single-block him one-on-one. It creates a dilemma and teams have to change their offense. You can't do that. A lot of teams are not willing to do that for one or two players and continue to do the things they do well."



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OSU's Schiano Had Huge Influence On Fleck

By JAMES GREGA
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

Before he was a head football coach at Minnesota or Western Michigan, P.J. Fleck was a local football star in rural Illinois.

Fleck won back-to-back state championships in 1997 and 1998 at Kaneland High School in northeastern Illinois, leading the Knights in receiving both seasons. He later attended Northern Illinois University, where he was a two-time captain and a second-team academic All-American and All-MAC selection as a senior.

After spending the 2004 season on the practice squad of the San Francisco 49ers, Fleck saw his playing career come to an end due to injury in 2005. In 2006, he joined Jim Tressel's staff at Ohio State as a graduate assistant working with tight ends and special teams as the Buckeyes went all the way to the BCS National Title game.

While Fleck has spoken highly of Tressel's influence in the past, it's the impact made by a current Ohio State assistant that Fleck has leaned on.

"(Greg Schiano) is the greatest influence of my entire life," Fleck said at Big Ten Media Days in July. "He was a father when he needed to be a father to me. He was a head coach when I needed a head coach to teach me how to become a head coach. The most organized, most detailed, most accountable coach I have ever met."

So how exactly did Schiano's path cross with Fleck's? The first encounter came in 2010, when Fleck interviewed with Schiano to become the next wide receivers coach at

Rutgers. Schiano was the head coach of the Scarlet Knights at the time.

Fleck said he was hesitant to take the interview as he was in familiar surroundings, having spent the 2007 through 2009 seasons at his alma mater coaching wide receivers under Joe Novak and Jerry Kill.

Ultimately, Fleck got the job and spent the next three years of his coaching career working for Schiano with the third and final year coming in Tampa Bay, when Schiano accepted the job as the head coach of the Buccaneers in the NFL. That experience shaped Fleck into the coach he is today, he said.



P.J. Fleck

"I went out to Rutgers, and I remember asking people, 'Should I take this job?' And mentors of mine were like, 'Oh, P.J., I don't know. I don't know if you are going to fit Greg.' So what did I do? I took it. Why? Because most of the things in my life I was told not to do, I did anyway because I wanted to do it the hard way," Fleck said. "I needed to be held accountable for everything. I needed to know how to discipline players. I needed to know how to discipline myself."

Greg Schiano got me to do things I never even knew I could do in my entire life."

Fleck is now in the midst of his second season as the head coach at Minnesota, following a successful stint at Western Michigan, where he led the Broncos to a Cotton Bowl appearance in 2016. After a difficult 5-7 season in Minneapolis last year, Fleck's Gophers come to Columbus with a modest 3-2 record after losing to Iowa on Oct. 6.

An offensive-minded coach, Fleck knows that coaching against his mentor, who is now Ohio State's defensive coordinator, won't be an easy task.

Get To Know ... Minnesota

About Minnesota

- **2018 Record:** 3-2 (0-2 Big Ten).
- **Team Information:** Offensive Formation – Multiple; Defensive Formation – 4-3; Starters Returning – Offense 5, Defense 6, Specialists 3.
- **Head Coach:** P.J. Fleck, sixth season, 38-31 (second at Minnesota, 8-9).
- **Series History:** 53rd meeting, Ohio State leads, 45-7.
- **School Facts:** Location – Minneapolis; Enrollment – 51,848; Nickname – Golden Gophers; Colors – Maroon & Gold; Conference – Big Ten (West Division); Stadium – TCF Bank Stadium (Surface, FieldTurf; Capacity, 50,805).

Top Offensive Players

Rushing	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Long
Bryce Williams	79	311	3.9	1	17
Mohamed Ibrahim	48	258	5.4	0	74
Rodney Smith	25	154	6.2	0	23

Passing	Comp.-Att.	Pct.	Yds.	TD-INT
Zack Annexstad	75-144	52.1	924	8-5

Receiving	Rec.	Net	Avg.	TD	Long
Tyler Johnson	28	402	14.4	6	52
Rashod Bateman	27	257	9.5	3	29
Chris Autman-Bell	14	220	15.7	0	34

Team Offensive Stats

Points Per Game – 27.8
Rushing Yards Per Game – 145.0
Passing Yards Per Game – 196.4
Total Offense Avg. Per Game – 341.4

2018 Schedule

Date	Opponent	Result/Time (ET)
Aug. 30	NEW MEXICO STATE	W, 48-10
Sept. 8	FRESNO STATE	W, 21-14
Sept. 15	MIAMI (OHIO)	W, 26-3
Sept. 22	at Maryland	L, 42-13
Oct. 6	IOWA	L, 48-31
Oct. 13	at Ohio State	Noon
Oct. 20	at Nebraska	TBA
Oct. 26	INDIANA	8 p.m.
Nov. 3	at Illinois	TBA
Nov. 10	PURDUE	TBA
Nov. 17	NORTHWESTERN	TBA
Nov. 24	at Wisconsin	TBA

Top Defensive Players

Def. Leaders	Solo	Ass.	Tot.	TFL-Yds.	Sacks
Blake Cashman	19	15	34	6.5-23	1.0-11
Thomas Barber	18	15	33	2.0-5	–
Jacob Huff	22	10	32	0.5-1	–
Terrell Smith	19	7	26	1.0-3	–
Antonio Shenault	15	11	26	1.5-3	–
Kamal Martin	9	14	23	1.5-3	–
Antoine Winfield Jr.	10	7	17	–	–
Carter Coughlin	12	3	15	6.5-27	5.0-25

Interceptions No. Yds Avg TD Long
5 players tied with 1 interception each

Team Defensive Stats

Points Per Game Allowed – 23.4
Rushing Yards Per Game Allowed – 127.4
Passing Yards Per Game Allowed – 196.8
Total Offense Avg. Per Game Allowed – 324.2

"Anytime you go against Greg Schiano, you know what you are in for," Fleck said. "That defense is going to be creative, put a ton of pressure on your quarterback, and he is going to create turnovers. He is going to show you things you have never seen before and confuse you, and his defenses are always tough. They are just like him. Great teams take over the personality of their head coach, and the defenses they have at Ohio State take over Greg Schiano's personality. It's tough, demanding, resilient, and that is what Greg is. He knows more football than I will ever know. He is a brilliant, brilliant mind."

While the task of going up against Schiano presents a difficult challenge, Fleck said he wouldn't be where he is today without Schiano's mentorship, something he continues to be thankful for.

"He prepared me to become a head coach," Fleck added. "He gave me leather skin. You can't be sensitive if you work for Greg Schiano. He hardened me. If I would have never worked for Greg Schiano, I could have never been a head coach. I could not have handled the rigorous time commitment, I wouldn't have been able to handle discipline when you have to discipline."

"It was hard, and that is what I appreciate about him. He is the greatest influence of my entire life, and he is still involved in my personal life and I talk to him all the time."

Players To Watch

The Gophers have been bitten by the

injury bug early and often this season, losing perhaps their most dynamic players on both sides of the ball in the first quarter of the slate.

On offense, senior running back Rodney Smith was sidelined with a season-ending knee injury suffered in a 21-14 win over Fresno State on Sept. 8 in Minneapolis. Smith led the Gophers in rushing each of the previous two seasons, rushing for 977 yards in 2017 and 1,158 in 2016. As a freshman in 2015, Smith had 670 yards, which was good for second on the roster.

In his stead, the Gophers have utilized a by-committee rushing attack. Freshmen running backs Bryce Williams and Mohamed Ibrahim have accounted for 127 of Minnesota's 207 carries this season, while wide receiver Seth Green has toted the ball 28 times for five touchdowns, mainly out of the wildcat.

Defensively, the Gophers lost Antoine Winfield Jr., the son of Ohio State great Antoine Winfield, for the season to a foot injury which required surgery.

Winfield Jr. was arguably Minnesota's most talented playmaker before his injury. His interception at the end of the game against Fresno State saved a victory as the Bulldogs were going in for a game-tying score. He also returned a punt for a touchdown in a win over New Mexico State and was averaging 4.25 stops from his cornerback spot on defense before suffering the injury.

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Projected Depth Charts

How We See It

OHIO STATE RUSH OFFENSE vs. MINNESOTA RUSH DEFENSE

How do you describe the Ohio State running game during the 49-26 win against Indiana on Oct. 6? In the words of coach Urban Meyer, “alarming.” Now, it needs to be put in perspective because the Buckeyes (6-0, 3-0 Big Ten) netted 154 yards, led by the 82 for J.K. Dobbins. But his 3.2 average per carry was the same as the team’s, and the lack of quality rushes forced non-running quarterback Dwayne Haskins into seven rushes, or half the number he had in the first five games combined. Ohio State is fifth in the Big Ten (for all games) with 201.0 rushing yards a game. Minnesota is fifth in rush defense (127.4) after yielding Iowa only 106 yards on 40 carries (2.7 per carry) in the Golden Gophers’ 48-31 home loss. There was a price to pay, though. Minnesota crowded the box and dared Iowa QB Nate Stanley to throw and he did to the tune of 314 yards and four TDs. That strategy won’t work vs. the Buckeyes either as they work to restore balance to the play selection. **EDGE: EVEN**

MINNESOTA RUSH OFFENSE vs. OHIO STATE RUSH DEFENSE

The Golden Gophers are not dreadful when they try to run, but they’re not very good, ranking 11th of 14 teams in the league with 145.0 yards a game. Bryce Williams leads the team with 311 yards (3.9 a carry, 62.2 a game) in five games, but Mohamed Ibrahim has averaged 86.0 yards for his three games (261 yards, 5.4 per carry). Rodney Smith had 154 yards in two games (77.0) and was getting 6.2 yards per tote before suffering a season-ending injury. Ohio State is eighth in rush defense (143.0). **EDGE: OHIO STATE**

OHIO STATE PASS OFFENSE vs. MINNESOTA PASS DEFENSE

Minnesota coach P.J. Fleck will have to decide if it’s worth the risk of selling out for the run. Haskins can only hope so after torching Indiana for a career-high 455 yards and a program-record-tying six touchdowns. The Buckeyes are first in the Big Ten with 364.7 yards a game through the air, and Haskins has many choices, including Parris Campbell with 35 catches for 501 yards (14.3 average) and seven touchdowns. Minnesota is fourth in pass defense (196.8 per game) with five interceptions. Haskins has thrown four picks, three in the past two games. The Golden Gophers aren’t the same in the secondary since Antione Winfield Jr. sustained a season-ending foot injury in their fourth game. **EDGE: OHIO STATE**

MINNESOTA PASS OFFENSE vs. OHIO STATE PASS DEFENSE

As might be expected, true freshman quarterback Zack Annexstad has been inconsistent. Against Iowa he threw for three TDs and the same number of interceptions. For the season he’s completed 52.1 percent of his passes for 924 yards (184.6-yard average) with eight TDs vs. five interceptions. He often looks to Tyler Johnson, who has 402 yards (80.4 per game) and six touchdowns. OSU’s coverage is borderline awful, but Annexstad will feel the heat. Ohio State’s 22 sacks lead the Big Ten, and the Golden Gophers are 13th in sacks allowed with 13, including five in the Iowa game. The knock on Annexstad is that he holds onto the ball and focuses too long on his first read. **EDGE: OHIO STATE**

SPECIAL TEAMS

Minnesota has the best punt return average in the league at 32.0 yards and a TD of 76 yards by Winfield. He averaged 36.7 on three returns before being injured. One of his replacements, Sam Renner, has one return for 34 yards. Jacob Herbers averages 41.5 yards per punt for Minnesota; the Buckeyes’ Drue Chrisman is at 44.4. Minnesota’s Emmitt Carpenter has made 8 of 9 field goals (88.9 percent) with a long of 53. Sean Nuernberger of Ohio State is 3 for 5 (60.0) with a best of 30 yards. **EDGE: MINNESOTA**

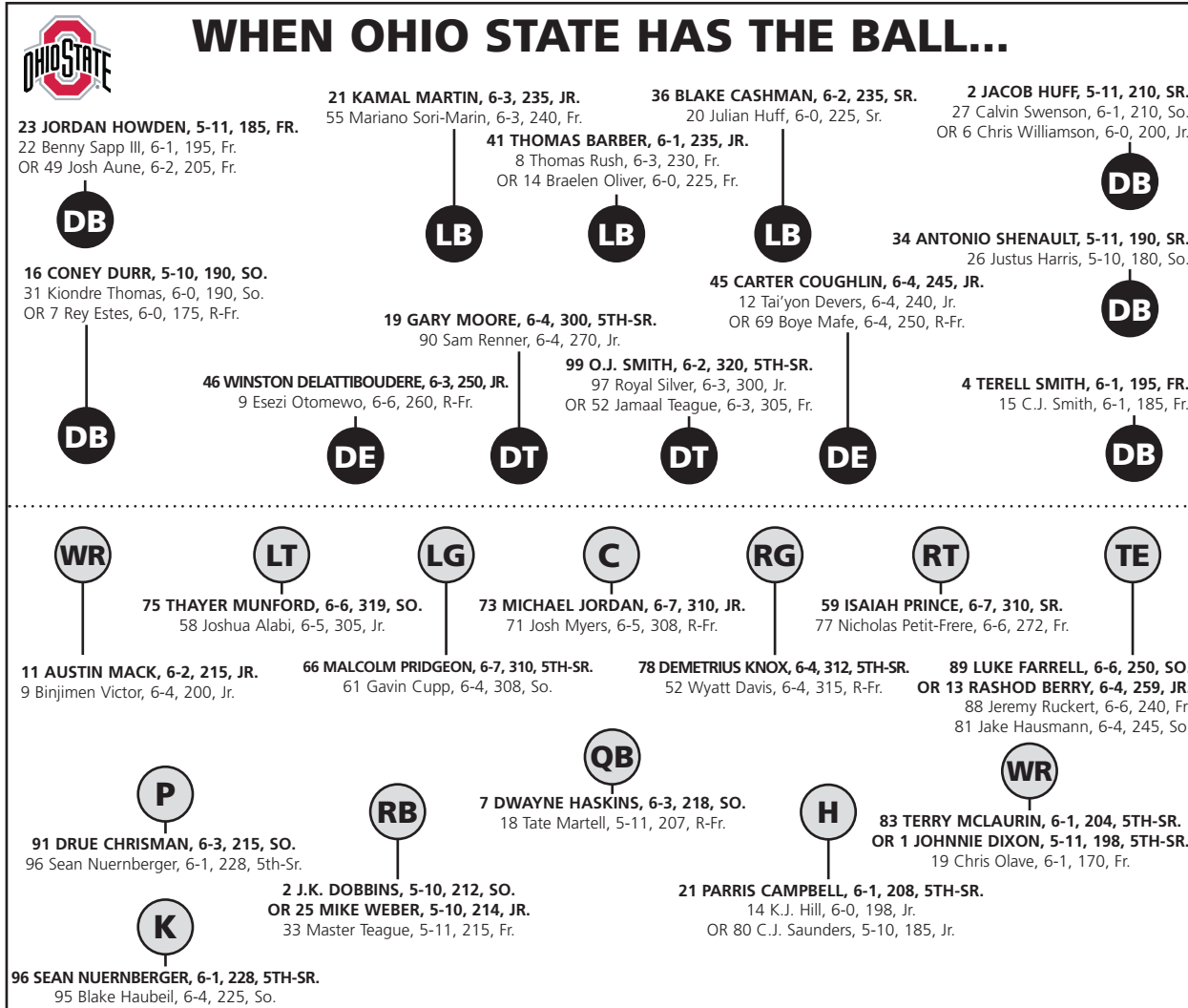
INTANGIBLES

The Buckeyes admitted to being tired after their epic 27-26 win at Penn State the previous game. They should be refreshed and eager to remedy problems with running the ball and a leaky pass defense. Minnesota has problems as well, such as Iowa’s 10-for-19 mark on third downs. Worse for the Golden Gophers is they allowed conversions of 60 (TD), 30, 26 and 25 yards and three others for 16, 15 and 12 yards. If Minnesota has any hope of hanging with the Buckeyes, it must to get them off the field at some point. **EDGE: OHIO STATE**

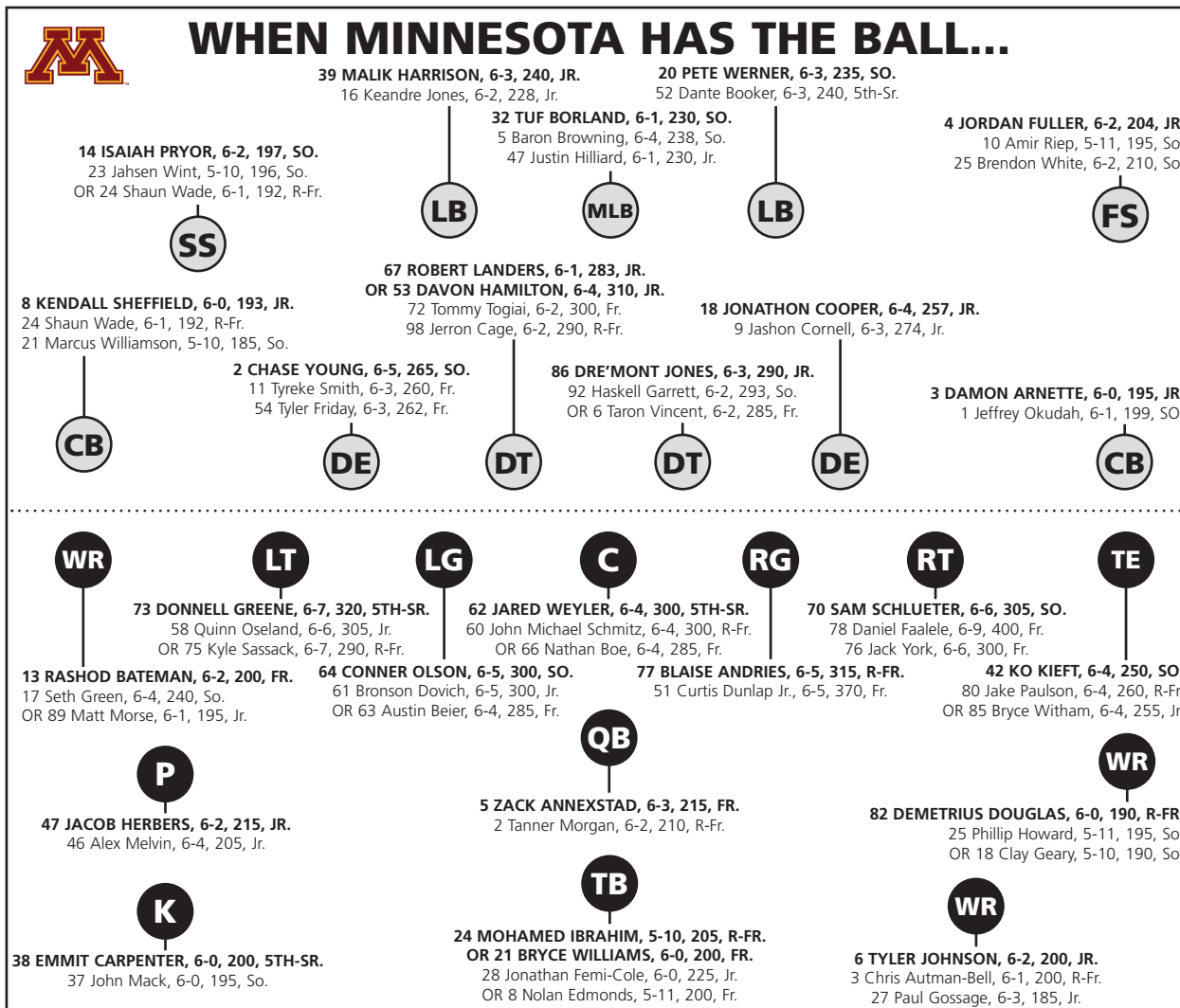
PREDICTION

It’s comforting for Ohio State to know that if it can’t re-establish the run vs. the Golden Gophers, Haskins will pick them apart. He may have to because the defense is simply not up to championship-level standards. **OHIO STATE 49, MINNESOTA 17**

WHEN OHIO STATE HAS THE BALL...



WHEN MINNESOTA HAS THE BALL...



Jackson Could Have Thrived In Spread Offense

By GARRETT STEPIEN
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

When Stanley Jackson watches Ohio State on Saturdays in the fall, the spread concepts he sees teams run stir up thoughts of what his collegiate career could have looked like had certain circumstances been different.

Jackson remains a Buckeye through and through, staying busy between broadcast journalism jobs as a radio co-host at 105.7 The Zone in Columbus and for the Big Ten Network in Chicago as well as being the founder of Buckeye State Bank in Powell. As he looked back on parts of his journey in a phone interview with BSB, Jackson asserted his professional career might have been on the gridiron.

"I always felt like if I would have gotten a realistic shot, I could have played at that level," he said. "But it's a tough business and it's not for the faint of heart, and sometimes your timing isn't right. I do believe, though, had my timing been a little different, I could have played in the NFL. I was accurate enough, I was athletic enough, but I don't think I played enough and that's a challenge."

Meant To Be

Playing quarterback, especially at Ohio State, never crossed Jackson's mind as a child. Growing up in Paterson, N.J., his older brother played at Bethune-Cookman while Jackson started out as a running back and linebacker in youth football. But when the incumbent quarterback went over the 140-

pound weight limit right before one of the seasons and was deemed ineligible, Jackson's father, who coached the team, made an executive decision.

"Game one of that season, my second year playing, he was overweight and nobody else wanted to play quarterback," Jackson said. "So my father was the head coach and said, 'Hey, you're playing quarterback today,' and the rest is history."

Jackson, a New York Giants fan as he grew up in northern New Jersey, quickly went from idolizing linebacker Lawrence Taylor – Jackson originally wore Taylor's No. 56 – to quarterbacks Warren Moon and Randall Cunningham. The inspiration was invaluable.

"They gave me hope," Jackson said of Moon and Cunningham. "Let's be honest, there weren't a lot of black quarterbacks playing. My mother's Puerto Rican, my father's African-American. Paterson is predominantly a minority community. So every quarterback I had seen around me was black or Hispanic, but not in college and not in the NFL. So watching those guys let me know, if I was good enough, I'd have an opportunity. Warren Moon wasn't really my style. He threw a great ball. But Randall Cunningham was an athletic guy, a dual-threat quarterback. All of that stuff sort of resonated with me."

Between his first three years at Paterson Kennedy and his senior year at Paterson Catholic, Jackson blossomed into a national

quarterback recruit. He flirted with the idea of Syracuse, where Donovan McNabb eventually went, in addition to receiving interest from North Carolina, Kansas, Wisconsin, Southern California and Penn State.

Rutgers recruited him. Oddly enough, though, the Scarlet Knights did so for a position other than the one for which he had racked up the national offers – strong safety.

High school football in north Jersey largely features games on Saturdays instead of the traditional Friday night lights, so Jackson's recruitment didn't include many trips around the country. He did, however, get to Columbus to see Ohio State, and it was love at first sight.

"I fell in love with Ohio State, the stadium size," Jackson said. "I thought the community was better than most schools I had visited. I was shocked to see a metropolis there, so to speak. I honestly expected, first going to Ohio, to see cows walking on the street. This was 1993. So that meant a lot to me, the fact that I could play in the Horseshoe and my (Paterson Catholic) coach (and former Buckeyes defensive back Louis Mathis) had played there. That really sealed the deal."

Jackson's journey to Ohio State followed in the footsteps of Mathis (1971-73) and former Buckeye safety great Jack Tatum (1968-70), who was also from Paterson but played high school ball at Passaic. Mathis actually supported Jackson's youth football team – the Alpha Steelers, sponsored by Alpha Alpha fraternity – when the OSU product moved back to Paterson.

'Everything Was Different'

Upon arrival to Columbus for the 1994 season, Jackson experienced immediate growing pains as he adjusted to his new life at the next level. Considered the No. 1 dual-threat quarterback in New Jersey out of high school, the days of his athleticism and legs dusting defenders on a weekly basis were gone. When he had to learn a new playbook and keep afloat with others on the roster during his battle for playing time as a freshman, Jackson felt like he was drinking through a fire hose at times.

"Everything was different," he said. "I went from being an athlete just making plays and not really having to dive in and study the game to having to study and know the quarterback position. It was totally different and I struggled with that, to be honest with you."

Not seeing eye to eye with the coaching staff didn't help. Ron Hudson was the quarterbacks coach for Ohio State from 1989-94, but in Jackson's first year, they didn't relate well. Jackson did, however, connect with wide receivers coach Mike Stock (1992-94) while

head coach John Cooper (1988-2000) figured the Paterson product's talents were too good to pass up in the recruiting process.

A crowded room created competition, but Jackson's main battles came against the coaching staff as he transitioned during his freshman season.

"You grow up in north Jersey – and in particular Paterson, New Jersey, a community of poverty – you have a chip on your shoulder because if you don't, you'll be taken advantage of," Jackson said. "So here you've got this young kid that really doesn't know much but knows he can make plays, and you've got a coach that just isn't getting along. So I fought the process for two years until Walt Harris showed up."

Harris, who coached quarterbacks from 1992-94 with the New York Jets, brought proven pedigree from the NFL and mentored the Ohio State signal callers for the 1995 and 1996 seasons.

"I thought it wasn't even close," Jackson said of the impact Harris had compared to Hudson. "Not that those other guys weren't good coaches, but Walt Harris was on another level. Obviously, that shows as he went on to be a head coach at Pitt (1997-2004) and Stanford (2005-06) and had great success there. He came to Ohio State from the Jets, where he worked with Boomer Esiason. He transformed Bob Hoying's game. I saw that firsthand. I saw him take Bob Hoying from, honestly, probably an average Big Ten quarterback in '94 to all-Big Ten in '95. I realized then, if I listened to him, I could take my game to the next level."

Ups And Downs

As a freshman in 11 games, Jackson completed only 10 of his 28 passes (35.7 percent) for 105 yards but ran 35 times for 137 yards and a touchdown. He played sparingly again as a sophomore in 1995, appearing in eight games as Hoying starred as the senior starter, but Jackson improved as a passer when he went 16 for 25 (64.0 percent) for 202 yards and two touchdowns to one interception.

Hoying's departure opened the door in 1996 for Jackson and sophomore Joe Germaine, who had transferred from Scottsdale (Ariz.) Community College. Over the next two seasons, the last of Jackson's career, he and Germaine split snaps at quarterback as Ohio State attempted to utilize both skill sets. However, it might have backfired for Jackson and Germaine, who never quite reached their full potential with the Buckeyes and beyond.

"You've got to have enough snaps under center to get yourself ready to go at that level," Jackson said. "Splitting time for years just didn't do it for me. Quite frankly, I think that hurt Joe in the long run. Joe, arguably, was probably one of the more accurate quarterbacks Ohio State has ever had. But even



Stanley Jackson

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THE OHIO STATE QUARTERBACK

for him, he split time for two years and only had one year starting. Compared to guys that played three, sometimes four years under center, it's a significant difference."

Although they battled for playing time, Jackson never saw Germaine as the competition. Jackson recalled a meeting when the coaching staff told the crowded quarterbacks room that none of the signal callers were good enough, which led Ohio State to go out and get Mark Garcia as a transfer from Modesto (Calif.) Junior College. The writing was on the wall.

"I was in a competition with the coaching staff because, remember, Joe was in the room when they told us none of us were good enough," Jackson said. "Tom Hoying and I were freshmen together. So every year, Tom and I would compete to be the backup quarterback. And then, all of a sudden, we weren't good enough and neither was Joe so they brought in the JUCO transfer. So then I found myself fighting with Mark Garcia, not necessarily Joe or Tom. Quite frankly, they moved Tom to tight end after that. Then Mark Garcia tears his meniscus in camp and now I'm competing with Joe and now they bring Tom back because they need quarterback depth."

Jackson and Germaine shone in spurts during the 1996 season, leading Ohio State to an 11-1 overall record and 20-17 victory against Arizona State in the Rose Bowl. Germaine led with 15 touchdowns, but Jackson was the leading passer with 165 attempts and 87 completions (52.7 percent) for 1,298 yards and 12 touchdowns to five interceptions and two scores on the ground. The game that comes to mind for Jackson is his performance as an 18-of-25 passer for 265 yards in Ohio State's 17-14 edge of Wisconsin that year.

The next campaign in 1997, in which

Jackson was a team captain, took a turn in favor of Germaine. Ohio State dropped its final two games to go 10-3 with a 31-14 loss to Florida State in the Sugar Bowl. Germaine tossed 16 touchdowns, while Jackson took a bit of a backseat, going 81 of 135 with 1,055 yards and eight touchdowns to three interceptions.

"I thought I had a legitimate shot probably until my senior year," Jackson said of playing in the NFL. "I just didn't play enough. It really dawned on me halfway through my senior year that I probably would have to switch positions because I didn't play enough. And even when I did play, those years, we didn't necessarily run an offense that would cater to an NFL quarterback."

Looking Back, Looking Forward

From career passing yards (2,660, No. 14) to single-game completion percentage (86.7, No. 4), parts of Jackson's legacy live on in Ohio State's record books. NFL dreams were out of reach, but he made the most of his professional aspirations in five years with three different teams in the CFL between 1999 and 2004. After he hung up his cleats, Jackson realized how high the level of play was in the pros.

"Everybody's good," Jackson said. "The speed of the game, the knowledge of the game and now it's a job. So you get to spend eight to 16 hours without worrying about class and everybody's better, faster and stronger. There's very little margin for error."

When he looks at his career in comparison to other quarterbacks from Ohio State through the years, Jackson sees a trend from college to the pros.

"I think the reason why Ohio State doesn't have a lot of quarterbacks in the NFL is the same reason a lot of big schools don't have

quarterbacks in the NFL, because you get so used to your receivers running so wide open that you never have to throw it into a window," Jackson said. "You don't have to develop elite timing and accuracy because your guys are so open because they're so much better than everyone else."

Past and present, Jackson developed an affinity for Ohio State signal callers over the years. Troy Smith, Cardale Jones and Braxton Miller were among those who come to mind. But none had a bigger influence than Cornelius Greene (now Green), the first African-American quarterback ever for the Buckeyes, making Jackson's career in Columbus possible.

"For me, it was important what Cornelius Greene was able to do," Jackson said. "He was the first black quarterback to play at Ohio State, so that was significant. If not for that, I wouldn't have ever played there. I was the third black quarterback, first Hispanic – my mom was Puerto Rican, my dad was black – and so that was important. So he stands out because he was a trailblazer as someone that (did something) nobody else did."

Jackson has made his appreciation for J.T. Barrett known many times on the airwaves, but he reiterated why last year's starter for Ohio State remains among his all-time-favorite Buckeyes.

"I pick J.T., for a number of reasons – forget about the fact that he stuffed stats like nobody else in this new era, won a bunch of games, undefeated vs. Michigan," Jackson said. "I know what it's like to be in that position and hear boos and have people not really appreciate the effort that you're going through. And for some reason, with all the games J.T. Barrett's won, all the numbers he's put up, there's a percentage of the Ohio State

fan base that just doesn't give him the respect he deserves. For me, that raises him up on my list. It's hard to do."

Jackson added that sophomore quarterback Dwayne Haskins, OSU's first-year starter currently lighting college football on fire, would have a spot after he completes his career with the Scarlet and Gray. Jackson has watched Haskins and redshirt freshman Tate Martell flourish in spread concepts that he wishes had been around during his time in Columbus.

"The run-pass option is not a progression offense, so you don't have to necessarily read through it," Jackson said. "You don't have to be as accurate at times because you have guys open in space. It doesn't necessarily translate at the next level, at least not yet, until teams decide that they want to pay quarterbacks less and let them run more. But for me, I think I could have gone down as one of the best with better numbers. It's no question it would have hurt Bob Hoying, Tom Hoying, Joe Germaine, but it would've enhanced what I did."

Jackson's passion for the Ohio State program and the sport will never waver. His in-season schedule gets hectic between travel to and from Chicago for in-studio work with BTN, but he still chucks the rock around quite often.

In fact, his oldest son is scheduled to attend Westerville (Ohio) Central next year while his middle son plays in a youth league in the Columbus-area suburb. Both are following in his footsteps as he provides the same inspiration the likes of Mathis, Moon and Cunningham once instilled in him.

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

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2019 4-Star RB Flips From OSU To IU After Visit

In more ways than one, it was a busy week for Ohio State recruiting. Before, during and after the Buckeyes' 49-26 victory against Indiana on Oct. 6 at Ohio Stadium, they extended a flurry of offers to prospects in the classes of 2019 and 2020.

RECRUITING OUTLOOK Garrett Stepien

For 2019, OSU made progress with its sole official visitor and extended an offer to an in-state prospect at a position of need. At the same time, though, Ohio State surprisingly lost a commitment from one of its earliest pledges in the class.

Now at 14 members, the Buckeyes' group for the current cycle stands at No. 14 in the 247Sports composite team rankings with a pair of five-stars, nine four-stars and a trio of three-stars. As for 2020, OSU remains third in the nation with six pledges – a five-star and five four-stars.

To keep in the loop on Ohio State recruiting, stay tuned on Ohio State recruiting, stay tuned on BSB's full-service website, BuckeyeSports.com. A free service for Buckeye Sports Bulletin print subscribers, members can

sign up for the site by emailing their name and address to subscriptions@buckeye-sports.com to receive simple instructions on further access.

James Drops From 2019 Class

Avon, Ind., four-star running back Sampson James decommitted from Ohio State's 2019 recruiting class with interest in Indiana, Kyle Neddenriep of The Indianapolis Star reported Oct. 7, after he made his latest unofficial visit to campus a day earlier for the Buckeyes' 49-26 win over the Hoosiers.

James made his flip official later that day, confirming the rumor when he took to Twitter and released a statement saying he planned to be a Hoosier.



Sampson James

"First off I want to thank God for the ability to play the game of football," James' tweet read. "It has been a crazy process and I just want to thank my family, friends, and all the coaches that believed in me as a player and a young man. With that being said I will be decommitting from Ohio State and committing to Indiana University. Excited for an opportunity to become a part of a great program."

The 6-1, 211-pounder was originally OSU's third pledge for the current cycle when he announced his commitment March 19 after an unofficial visit over the weekend of March 17-18.

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
Dwan Mathis	QB	6-4	197	★★★★	Oak Park, Mich.
Harry Miller	C	6-4	310	★★★★★	Buford, Ga.
Doug Nester	OG	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
Jameson Williams	WR	6-1½	169	★★★★	St. Louis Cardinal Ritter
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

James joined Huntington (W.Va.) Spring Valley four-star offensive guard Doug Nester and Mentor, Ohio, four-star offensive tackle Ryan Jacoby at the time as Ohio State started to build its class in the spring.

Roswell (Ga.) Blessed Trinity Catholic four-star Steele Chambers (6-2, 215) – the 247Sports composite's No. 250 overall prospect, No. 9 athlete and No. 29 player in

Georgia – is now OSU's only commitment at running back for 2019. Chambers, who also unofficially visited Oct. 6 for the game and actually spent time with James, had announced his pledge April 18.

After James' departure, Ohio State's 2019 recruiting class fell to No. 14 in the country, according to the 247Sports composite team rankings, and No. 3 in the Big Ten behind

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With Lettermen Row's Jeremy Birmingham

In the past two weeks, Ohio State has offered a pair of three-star prospects from northeast Ohio (Cleveland St. Ignatius linebacker Tommy Eichenberg and Strongsville offensive guard J.D. Duplain) as the Buckeyes look to fill areas of need for their 2019 recruiting class. What stands out about those two players and the level of competition up there?

"They're both playing at the high D-I programs, programs that are big schools and really competitive football schools, especially Tommy Eichenberg at St. Ignatius. Duplain over there at Strongsville, they're really big, nasty dudes, kind of your traditional northeast Ohio grind-it-out football players and I think it's the type of players Ohio State fans growing up in Ohio are going to want in the program.

"Tommy Eichenberg is committed to Boston College, picked up an offer from Michigan (Oct. 3), so you're looking at a guy that's really starting to pick up his interest, I think. It'll be interesting to me to watch what happens with (Boston College head coach) Steve Addazio, who's one of Urban Meyer's best friends, but I've talked to Eichenberg's dad and he's said they've talked to Urban Meyer pretty much every day, so that's moving quickly. They just really want to get him on campus.

"The problem is all of St. Ignatius' games are Saturdays, except for their game against St. Edwards Friday night the 26th of October. Ohio State's off Oct. 27, so they're just having a little trouble finding the right time to get a visit set up with him. So with that, it's really about getting a visit.

"Duplain, they've offered offensive linemen around the country. With Duplain, he's a Michigan State commit. He's a guy who's a true interior guy, not one of the guys who's in or out like (four-star commitment) Doug Nester (from Huntington [W.Va.] Spring Valley) and Ryan Jacoby (of Mentor, Ohio). I think they've just really realized their going to need four or five offensive linemen in this class. Right now, they only have three.

"He's probably the second-best uncommitted or non-committed to Ohio State in the state, in my opinion, behind (Akron Hoban four-star offensive guard) Nolan

Rumler, who's committed to Michigan. But he's kind of the big, grinding, mauler type and I think he will flip from Michigan State to Ohio State. I'm just not entirely sure how that's going to transpire. But I don't think the Buckeyes would've offered it if they didn't have some idea that he would be perceptive."

South of the border, Kentucky is off to a 5-1 start, largely on the backs of Ohio kids like junior running back Benny Snell. What do you remember from Snell's recruitment and which names from the 2019 class come to mind as potentially the next to have a big career if Ohio State passes on them?

"I think the thing that Snell, the reason why people didn't recruit him – and when I say didn't, I'm talking the bigger schools in the region – he's just never been a burner guy and he's from a local school in Westerville Central. In the 2016 class, Ohio State had Demario McCall, they had a long-term commitment from Kareem Walker. So they were pretty set at the position very early. It's just one of those things where you can't project every single player.

"Benny Snell, his best offer was Kentucky or Iowa. You're talking about a guy that, in the state of Ohio, wasn't offered by West Virginia, wasn't offered by Michigan State. So I don't think it was an Ohio State miss, necessarily, but you watch as players grow and develop. He's a big, physical back and that's always going to work at the collegiate level. The speed is what it is. Ohio State looks for elite-level talents and guys that run in that 4.4 range and he was not that guy.

"It's an unfortunate thing when you look back on it, and I know people want the narrative of, 'Ohio State passed this guy up and now he's pissed about it,' but you can't offer everyone when you already have really good prospects like Demario McCall and Kareem Walker, and eventually Antonio Williams committed in that class. And then you obviously already had Mike Weber as a freshman that year, so they weren't in a huge bind for a running back at that time.

"When you're talking about in Ohio for 2019, there's a couple of players I really like. The one that I like the most is Jestin Jacobs from down in Clayton, he's committed to

Iowa. Something about him I feel like he's going to be that type of player that the Buckeyes regret not taking as just one of those big, fast dudes. And the other player I really like is (three-star athlete) Marshawn Rice from Reynoldsburg, who's headed to Purdue. I think that he's a player who would be a very good defensive back in college."

St. Louis Cardinal Ritter College Prep four-star wide receiver Jameson Williams ended Ohio State's commitment drought Sept. 28, but the Buckeyes' 2019 recruiting class still isn't ranked as highly as it has been in recent years. Despite a long way to go until the signing periods, is this cycle underwhelming or are OSU fans spoiled from the 2017 and 2018 classes?

"It's a little underwhelming – nationally, for Ohio State. It's a class where you'd look at it completely different if (Lewis Center [Ohio] Olentangy Orange five-star defensive end) Zach Harrison was committed to Ohio State and not still on the fence and looking at Penn State and Michigan. They'd have three five-star commits in the class. You're waiting on Ohio's best player, you're waiting on some good news and you're looking at the positions of need in this class. The offensive line, the wide receivers, the defensive line, defensive ends especially and you're just not seeing the numbers.

"I think there's reason for people to look at that and be a little bit puzzled. But ultimately, if the Buckeyes are able to get Zach Harrison and land (Frankfort [Ky.] Western Hills four-star all-purpose back) Wandale Robinson or someone like that and with Jameson Williams, they would already have jumped back ahead of Michigan for the lead in the Big Ten despite the fact that Michigan has more commits than they do.

"It's not the blitzkrieg we've seen from them in the past few years, but they're setting up really nicely for 2020 and looking for those system guys that they're really looking for now. They've had two of the best classes in program history, capped by 2018, and it does make it difficult to put three of those in a row together because kids are looking at it, saying, 'Hey, why would I want to go there if I have to sit behind all these dudes?'"

Penn State (No. 11, No. 2) and Michigan (No. 9, No. 1).

On the trail, Ohio State has offers out to two uncommitted running backs from Bradenton (Fla.) IMG Academy among its potential prospects at the position – five-star Trey Sanders (6-0, 214) and four-star Noah Cain (5-10, 212). According to the 247Sports composite, Sanders is the No. 7 overall prospect and No. 1 running back while Cain is the No. 104 overall prospect and No. 6 running back.

Sanders originally committed April, 16, 2016, to Alabama, but he reopened his recruitment Jan. 1 and the Buckeyes offered Jan. 13. Among his five official visits, he took the first Sept. 15 to Texas for the Longhorns' 37-14 win over Southern California. So far, Sanders has only one other official visit set –

Nov. 24 to Alabama when the Crimson Tide host Auburn in the Iron Bowl.

Cain, on the other hand, has held an OSU offer since March 4, 2017. The most recent unofficial to Columbus occurred March 30 when Cain took a trip up to Ohio State during spring camp. He included the Buckeyes in his final six July 29. Since then, he set two of his five available official visits to Auburn (Oct. 13 vs. Tennessee) and LSU (Nov. 3 vs. Georgia).

Another name to watch is Katy, Texas, four-star Deondrick Glass (5-11, 200). The No. 231 overall prospect, No. 14 running back and No. 30 player in the Lone Star State told Buckeye Grove's Marc Givler of contact with running backs coach Tony Alford and plans to set an official visit.

As the 247Sports composite's No. 163

overall prospect, No. 8 running back and No. 3 player in Indiana, James boosts the Hoosiers' 2019 recruiting class to 16 members. His commitment gives IU its top-rated prospect and second running back. James joins Hayti, Mo., three-star Ivory Winters (5-11, 206).

Eight games into his senior season at Avon (6-2), James has taken 73 carries for 1,011 yards and 10 touchdowns. He has added seven receptions for 32 yards and a touchdown.

Priority Prospects Return For OSU-IU Game

Headlined by official visitor Wandale Robinson, Ohio State saw a host of priority prospects return to Ohio Stadium as the Buckeyes dispatched Indiana.

Robinson, a four-star all-purpose back from Frankfort (Ky.) Western Hills, received the red-carpet treatment from OSU. From Skull Session at St. John Arena to pregame warmups on the field in the Horseshoe, Cincinnati St. Xavier 2020 five-star offensive tackle commitment Paris Johnson was seen hanging with Robinson throughout the visit. After Ohio State ended its first round of position drills without pads on, interim wide receivers coach Brian Hartline, Alford, assistant wide receivers coach Keenan Bailey and director of player personnel Mark Pantoni talked at length with Robinson and his family.

The 5-9½, 179-pounder picked the Buckeyes as his fifth and final official visit,

Continued On Page 24

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4-Star TE Strange Chooses PSU Over Buckeyes

Continued From Page 23

leaving Columbus with a tentative decision date of Nov. 1 in mind.

"I'm going to sit down and talk with my family about my future and the best place for me," Robinson told 247Sports.

His commitment choice comes down to OSU, Alabama, Kentucky, Michigan, Nebraska and Purdue. He took official visits to every school except home-state Kentucky, which he last unofficially visited Sept. 29. Robinson is the 247Sports composite's No. 325 overall prospect, No. 4 all-purpose back and No. 8 player in Kentucky.

Several prospects from the 2020 class rounded out the list of notable names on campus: Cincinnati's Princeton's four-star duo of defensive end Darrion Henry and outside linebacker Jaheim Thomas, Cincinnati's Elder offensive guard Jakob James and Suwanee (Ga.) four-star wide receiver Josh Downs.

OSU Offers 2019 3-Star DT

Among the few 2019 recruits in attendance Oct. 6 for the Indiana game, Toledo Whitmer three-star defensive tackle Caven Butler took the trip down to Ohio State and returned to the northwest region of the state with an offer from the Buckeyes.

"Blessed and honored to receive another offer from The Ohio State University," Butler's tweet announcing the offer read.

The 6-2½, 285-pounder committed Aug. 3 to Kentucky but becomes an interesting offer for OSU at an area of need for the current cycle. Ohio State does not yet possess a pledge at defensive tackle in its 2019 recruiting class.

Butler, who picked up offers from Kentucky (June 26) and Alabama (June 23) before he initially chose the Wildcats, since scheduled three of his five official visits. He plans to officially visit Michigan State (Oct. 20 vs. Michigan), Kentucky (Nov. 3 vs. Georgia) and Ohio State (Nov. 24 vs. Michigan) before his final decision.

A Look Back At Recruiting From The Pages Of BSB

30 Years Ago – 1988

One of the top prospects in the country was right in Ohio State's back yard at Columbus Independence High School, where wingback and defensive back Roger Harper (6-4, 215) had the hometown Buckeyes among his favorites as he navigated his recruitment.

Harper narrowed his choices down to several colleges from the original list of 100-plus programs in contact, including OSU, Michigan, Southern California, UCLA and Notre Dame.

"If I went to Ohio State, Mom and Dad will be able to see me play," he said.

25 Years Ago – 1993

Family ties put Ohio State in firm position to land one of Ohio's top prospects as Cleveland St. Ignatius offensive lineman Eric Gohlstein (6-6, 318), a cousin of redshirt freshman lineman Juan Porter, was considering the Buckeyes.

"My parents are leaving the decision up to me," Gohlstein said, "but they really like Ohio State. I visited Juan down there last year, and I really liked it."

OSU was in contention with Indiana, Boston College, Kentucky and Pittsburgh.

20 Years Ago – 1998

Franklin Lakes (N.J.) Ramapo quarterback Chris Simms, the son of former New York Giants quarterback Phil Simms, became a top target for Ohio State with the Buckeyes trying to secure an official visit from the No. 1 pro-style quarterback in the country.

Simms (6-5, 210) had set an official visit to Texas for the weekend of Oct. 3, but the trip was canceled due to poor weather conditions in the Lone Star State. As he scheduled an official visit Oct. 24 to Tennessee, his interest remained in potential trips to Ohio State, Penn State and Pittsburgh.

"I really enjoyed getting to see the

campus," Simms said of a June summer camp at Ohio State. "The Ohio State tradition has always been kind of intriguing to me. I love their offense and how they've done this year. It's very exciting. They're a fun team to watch."

15 Years Ago – 2003

Orlando (Fla.) Evans linebacker Brandon Siler, the No. 15 outside 'backer in the country, according to Rivals.com, was considering Ohio State among his handful of favorites as he was winding down the process.

In the mix with Southern California, Notre Dame, Florida, Auburn and LSU, the Buckeyes appeared likely to be one of the last standing as he mulled final visits.

"Most likely one of (the visits) will be to Ohio State," the 6-3, 220-pound Siler said. "They call quite often."

10 Years Ago – 2008

With almost a full recruiting class of 2009 in the fold as 25 prospects had issued verbal commitments, Ohio State looked ahead to its 2010 recruiting class when it hosted several top targets for the next cycle earlier in the season, including Darryl Baldwin.

The Solon, Ohio, defensive end/tight end held offers from the Buckeyes, Michigan, Illinois, West Virginia and Akron. Among the early contenders, though, OSU had caught the attention of Baldwin (6-6, 245) at a camp over the summer.

"I really like it up there," Baldwin said of Ohio State, where he unofficially visited Aug. 30 for the 43-0 win over Youngstown State. "I like the program, and the coaches seem like they're really good."

Five Years Ago – 2013

Ohio State hosted more than 50 high-quality prospects Sept. 28 for its 31-24 win over Wisconsin, including Memphis (Tenn.)

University offensive tackle Drew Richmond. A four-star recruit in the class of 2015 and the No. 9 offensive tackle, Richmond considered the Buckeyes among his early favorites following the trip to Columbus.

"I talked to the (class of 2014) commits a lot," the 6-6, 290-pound Richmond told Scout.com. "I know Jalyn Holmes, Demetrius Knox and Stephen Collier, and I met Jamarco Jones and he's very cool. They all introduced me to the 2015 commit they have, and Eric (Glover-Williams) was a really cool dude."

One Year Ago – 2017

While Ohio State prioritized its 2018 recruiting class, the Buckeyes got ahead of the game for the 2019 cycle as they stayed in contact with a bevy of prospects, particularly on the defensive side of the ball within the Ohio borders.

Two of those with mutual interest in the Buckeyes were Mentor defensive end Noah Potter and Lexington outside linebacker Cade Stover.

Potter (6-6, 250) felt he was on the verge of an offer from OSU.

"They are recruiting me, and they're trying to get me to come to every game they play at home," said Potter, whose older brother, Micah, was a sophomore center for the men's basketball team. "But I have to see how everything works out with my schedule."

Stover (6-5, 235), on the other hand, had an Ohio State offer and was considering the Buckeyes with heavy contact from Alabama, Oklahoma, Notre Dame, Georgia and Penn State.

"I've thought about being a player that got recruited since I was a little kid, and now that it's here, I want to enjoy this process," said Stover, who unofficially visited Columbus on Sept. 8 for OSU's 31-16 loss to Oklahoma. "I'm only going to be in the position for the next two years, and I'm going to enjoy it."

home uniforms and pads as they took photos on the field.

Earlier in the day, the Buckeyes extended scholarships to both Scott and Adams, adding to their growing list of national offers. In the 247Sports composite for 2020, Scott is the No. 68 overall prospect and No. 12 wide receiver while Adams is the No. 340

overall prospect and No. 28 running back. In the state of Washington, Scott is No. 2 and Adams is No. 6.

2019 4-Star TE Target Chooses PSU

When Ohio State offered four-star tight end Brenton Strange after the Buckeyes' second one-day camp of the summer June 12, the Parkersburg, W.Va., prospect told BSB how Meyer pushed for his commitment in the head coach's office at the Woody Hayes Athletic Center.

Strange held off on any immediate decision. While he stayed on OSU's radar with mutual interest into the fall, his recruitment wrapped up Oct. 1 when he took to Twitter and announced his commitment to Penn State.

"Thank you to all the universities that have recruited me. ... Ever since I stepped on campus, I had a feeling that this was the one," part of Strange's tweet read.

After he earned his offer from Ohio State, Strange's recruitment blew up. About a week after he impressed at the Buckeyes' camp, his unofficial visit June 18 at Notre Dame resulted in another offer from a powerhouse program. Strange returned June 22 to OSU as a spectator for Friday Night Lights, but nothing materialized. Within the next month, he camped July 29 with the Nittany Lions and left Happy Valley with an offer.

The 6-5, 210-pounder returned to Ohio State on a surprise unofficial visit to Meyer's first game back after his suspension Sept. 22 against Tulane and spent time with Oak Park, Mich., four-star quarterback commitment Dwan Mathis, among others. The next weekend, though, he trekked to University

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Park, Pa., for an official visit as PSU played the Buckeyes at Beaver Stadium. Penn State dropped the 27-26 final, but Strange saw enough coming out of the weekend that he made up his mind that Monday morning.

"How they use their tight ends, how they move them around so much, it really fits my skill set," Strange told 247Sports. "How they used their tight ends, I felt it was the perfect fit for me. The coaches wanted to see me in person. They always treated me nicely and right. They've always been straight up with me. That's why I wanted (the offer) so bad."

Buckeyes Offer 3-Star Guard

In the offseason, Ohio State looked closely at one of the top offensive linemen in the state. As the Buckeyes evaluated J.D. Duplain, though, they ultimately cooled and their focus shifted elsewhere.

In the time since, the Strongsville, Ohio, native committed Aug. 1 to Michigan State. However, with only three offensive linemen in its 2019 recruiting class, OSU rekindled its interest in Duplain. The three-star offensive guard reported an offer Oct. 2 from Ohio State.

The 6-5, 295-pounder possesses a laundry list of offers – including four others from the Big Ten outside of the Buckeyes and the Spartans. He is the 247Sports composite's No. 851 overall prospect, No. 38 offensive guard and No. 39 player in Ohio for 2019.

OSU Offers '19 3-Star OT

The search for offensive linemen didn't stop in Ohio with Duplain. In fact, the day before Ohio State offered Duplain, the Buckeyes identified another committed prospect in the 2019 recruiting class with an Oct. 1 scholarship offer to Springfield (Ill.) Sacred Heart Griffin three-star offensive tackle Nick Broeker.

Like Duplain, Broeker pledged to another Power 5 school over the summer. The 6-6, 288-pounder issued his commitment June 14 to Ole Miss and has since made unofficial visits to campus Sept. 15 and Oct. 6.

Originally, the Rebels beat Illinois and Michigan State among the Big Ten schools involved for Broeker's pledge. Although his

commitment to Ole Miss stands after the most recent trip to Oxford, Miss., Broeker told 247Sports he hears regularly from the Buckeyes and Indiana.

Meyer and offensive line coach Greg Studrawa extended the offer on behalf of OSU, which looks to fill out further depth in the trenches for the current cycle.

Broeker has not taken any of his five official visits, including Ole Miss, but he could schedule trips to see the Rebels and Ohio State if plans materialize. He is considered the 247Sports composite's No. 893 overall prospect, No. 87 offensive tackle and No. 15 player in Illinois.

2020 D-Linemen Get OSU Offers

Ohio State now has offers out to the top two defensive ends in 2020, extending a scholarship offer Oct. 3 to Baltimore St. Frances five-star Chris Braswell. The 6-3, 211-pounder is the No. 19 overall prospect, No. 1 weakside defensive end and No. 2 player in Maryland. In the latter two categories, the 247Sports composite ranks

Braswell behind only Damascus, Md., five-star Bryan Bresee, another target in the trenches for the Buckeyes, who unofficially visited OSU most recently on Sept. 22, as the No. 1 strongside defensive end and No. 1 player in Maryland for 2020. Braswell holds early offers from Texas A&M (Sept. 6), Notre Dame (May 24) and Alabama (May 22), among others.

Also on Oct. 3, Ohio State offered Port Huron (Mich.) North 2020 three-star defensive end Braiden McGregor, who camped with the Buckeyes at their second one-day position camp of the summer June 12.

"Absolutely I'm interested," McGregor told 247Sports. "It's a great program and they put a lot of guys in the NFL. (Defensive line coach Larry) Johnson and I hit it off when I was down there."

OSU kept the 6-5, 235-pounder on its radar. He added offers in the spring from Notre Dame (April 10), Michigan (April 22), Michigan State (April 30) and Wisconsin (May 17) as his list eventually grew to double digits before Ohio State's involvement. So far in the fall, McGregor has taken

unofficial visits to Notre Dame (Sept. 1) and Michigan State (Oct. 6) while adding offers Sept. 5 from Pittsburgh and Louisville. He is the 247Sports composite's No. 349 overall prospect, No. 18 strongside defensive end and No. 8 player in Michigan for 2020.

OSU Offers 2019 Ohio PWO CB

Ohio State extended a preferred walk-on offer Oct. 5 to Stow (Ohio) Stow-Munroe Falls cornerback Bryce Sheppert. The 5-8½, 177-pounder earned the same opportunity June 10 from Penn State in addition to his Division-II offers from Notre Dame College, Urbana University and Wheeling Jesuit.

Under the radar, Sheppert was among the top performers May 5 at The Opening Regional in Canton, Ohio. His time of 4.06 seconds in the agility shuttle registered the fifth-best result among the defensive backs.

For the latest in Ohio State football recruiting, be sure to check out BuckeyeSports.com, free to all BSB print subscriber, daily. For simple sign-up information, see page 5.

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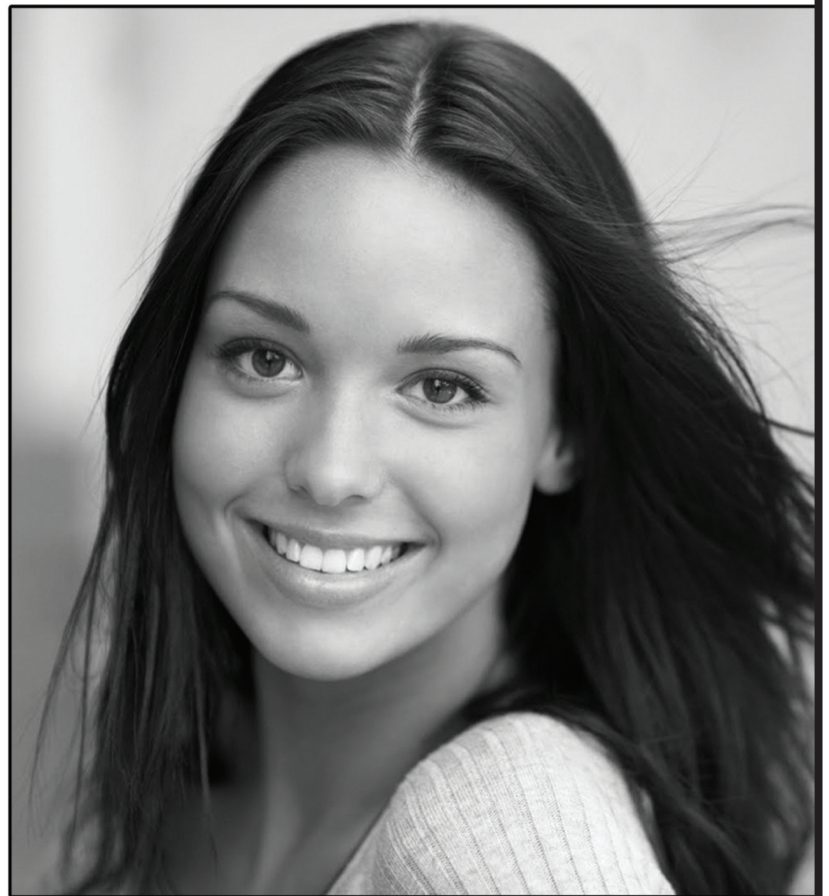


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Former OSU Commit Transfers From Nebraska

Nebraska wide receiver Tyjon Lindsey, a one-time Ohio State commit in the 2017 class, is leaving Lincoln, Neb., after about a season and a half

BIG TEN NOTES James Grega

Lindsey, who caught 12 passes last year as a true freshman, was removed from the official team roster shortly after Nebraska's 42-28 loss to Purdue on Sept. 29. In three games with the Huskers in 2018, he caught just three passes for 22 yards. Because of the NCAA's new rule that allows players to participate in up to four games without burning a redshirt, Lindsey will be able to take a redshirt this season and return in 2019 as a sophomore with immediate eligibility at his next school.

By Oct. 6, Lindsey had reportedly enrolled

at Oregon State, where former Nebraska head coach Mike Riley now serves as an offensive analyst for the Beavers. Lindsey is the third Husker to transfer to Oregon State since new coach Scott Frost's arrival on campus this season, joining quarterback Tristan Gebbia, who left in August after losing the quarterback battle with freshman Adrian Martinez, and former Nebraska linebacker Avery Roberts.

Although he is serving in a smaller role now, Riley was the head coach at Oregon State from 1997-98 and again from 2003-14 before he left for Nebraska, where he lasted just three seasons.

Lindsey was a U.S. Army All-American and former high school teammate and classmate of Ohio State quarterback Tate Martell. He committed to the Buckeyes on Aug. 22, 2016, along with Florida native Trevon Grimes. Lindsey eventually decommitted on Jan. 11,



Tyjon Lindsey

2017, shortly after Martell and Ohio State's other 2017 early enrollees began class. Grimes played two games at Ohio State before eventually transferring to Florida to be closer to family.

Millen Stepping Away From BTN

Longtime college football and NFL color analyst Matt Millen announced he is stepping away from the TV booth on Oct. 2 as he continues to battle and pursue treatment for amyloidosis.

Before he was an All-Pro linebacker in the NFL with the Oakland Raiders, Millen played his college football at Penn State from 1976-79. He won four Super Bowl championships during his NFL career (1980-91) – he also played for San Francisco and Washington – and served as the president and CEO of the Detroit Lions from 2001-08.

"We will certainly miss seeing Matt this fall, but his health is the clear priority for everyone involved and we plan to support him in any way possible," said Mark Hulsey, senior vice president of production and executive producer at BTN.

Millen called Ohio State's win over Rutgers earlier this season and spent the first five weeks of the year in the booth with BTN play-by-play man Kevin Kugler. Former Illinois linebacker J Leman replaced him on BTN's color commentary lineup.

According to the Mayo Clinic, amyloidosis is a rare disease that occurs when an

BIG 2018 Standings

East Division

	Conf.			All		
	W	L	Pct.	W	L	Pct.
Ohio State	3	0	1.000	6	0	1.000
Michigan	3	0	1.000	5	1	.833
Penn State	1	1	.500	4	1	.800
Maryland	1	1	.500	3	2	.600
Michigan State	1	1	.500	3	2	.600
Indiana	1	2	.333	4	2	.667
Rutgers	0	3	.000	1	5	.167

West Division

	Conf.			All		
	W	L	Pct.	W	L	Pct.
Wisconsin	2	0	1.000	4	1	.800
Northwestern	2	1	.667	2	3	.400
Iowa	1	1	.500	4	1	.800
Illinois	1	1	.500	3	2	.600
Purdue	1	1	.500	2	3	.400
Minnesota	0	2	.000	3	2	.600
Nebraska	0	3	.000	0	5	.000

Oct. 6 Scores

Michigan 42, Maryland 21
Northwestern 29, Michigan State 19
Illinois 38, Rutgers 17
Iowa 48, Minnesota 31
Ohio State 49, Indiana 26
Wisconsin 41, Nebraska 24

Oct. 13 Games

Iowa at Indiana, Noon (ABC/ESPN2)
Minnesota at Ohio St., Noon (BTN or FS1)
Nebraska at Northwestern, Noon (ABC/ESPN2)
Rutgers at Maryland, Noon (BTN or FS1)
Michigan St. at Penn St., 3:30 p.m. (BTN or FS1)
Purdue at Illinois, 3:30 p.m. (BTN or FS1)
Wisconsin at Michigan, 7:30 p.m. (ABC)

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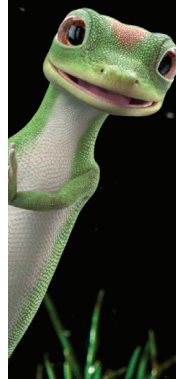
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From The Pages Of BSB

35 Years Ago – 1983

Sophomore running back Keith Byars became the first Ohio State player since 1949 to record a “double 100” when he surpassed the century mark in yards rushing (135) and receiving (120) as the Buckeyes edged Purdue by a 33-22 margin Oct. 8.

“Pass receiving kind of comes natural for me,” Byars said. “I was a tight end in high school until my junior year, when they switched me to tailback. I have a little background catching the ball.”

Ray Hamilton was the OSU player who had previously pulled off the “double 100” last with 101 rushing yards and 111 receiving yards.

30 Years Ago – 1988

Ohio State suffered its third and worst loss of the season to date Oct. 8 when Indiana handed the Buckeyes a 41-7 beating at Memorial Stadium in Bloomington, Ind.

OSU had no answer for Hoosiers junior running back Anthony Thompson, who sliced its defense for four rushing touchdowns.

“I don’t think I have ever been so puzzled about a team in all my life,” said head coach John Cooper. “I don’t know what you have to do to get a team ready.”

For IU, it was the program’s first home victory over Ohio State since 1904.

25 Years Ago – 1993

Robert Kasperek an offensive lineman from Deerfield, Ill., bounced back from a devastating knee injury in 1992 and prepared to join Ohio State after the 1993 season.

The 6-4, 275-pounder was set to enroll at the university for the winter quarter with the intent to be ready by the start of Buckeye spring practice in 1994.

Offensive line coach Lee Owens stayed in touch with Kasperek, who had undergone reconstructive surgery to repair torn ligaments in his right knee, leading to OSU

taking a chance after he rehabilitated with a top-notch team of doctors. Former surgeons for the Chicago Bears performed the procedure, while the franchise’s physical therapist, Mike Kordecki, oversaw three workouts per week with Kasperek.

“I feel very good about the future,” Kasperek said. “I believe I still have a chance to play college football.”

20 Years Ago – 1998

Ohio State’s fifth game of the campaign, a 41-0 rout of Illinois on Oct. 10, was Chris Kirk’s first. The linebacker was ruled ineligible to start the season, stemming from his decision to switch majors from sports and leisure to sociology.

After three appeals and a conference call in which Kirk was able to plead his case to Big Ten officials, they settled the misunderstanding of rules regarding progress toward degrees.

“My teammates have been supporting me through this whole thing,” Kirk said. “It felt great to be back here with them.”

15 Years Ago – 2003

After a torn pectoral muscle during a weightlifting accident in the summer, junior fullback Brandon Joe returned to action Sept. 27 against Northwestern in a slightly different role.

During the Buckeyes’ 20-0 blanking of the Wildcats, Joe actually lined up at tailback – the position he had played in high school. His only touch went for 4 yards, but the comeback from the injury served as a significant boost of confidence for him as OSU tweaked its looks in the backfield, primarily out of the power-I formation.

“It just felt good (to look) down and see grass stains on my pants,” Joe said. “I’ve kind of had my point of view the last few weeks watching my guys make mistakes. I got to make my own mistakes, and that feels good.”

10 Years Ago – 2008

Despite three games sidelined with an injured right foot,

Chris “Beanie” Wells was optimistic about his chances for the Heisman Trophy as he tried to become Ohio State’s seventh winner of the award.

“It’s all about who’s the best player in college football, not who runs for the most yards or most touchdowns,” the 6-1, 237-pound Wells said. “Who’s that dominant player who you can say is the best player on the field in the game?”

After running for 168 yards in the Buckeyes’ 20-17 win over Wisconsin on Oct. 4, Wells was averaging 128.3 yards per game on the ground, placing him ninth in the nation and third in the Big Ten. He was on pace for 1,155 yards if he were to play in OSU’s final six games.

Five Years Ago – 2013

With senior safety Christian Bryant sidelined, presumably for the rest of the season, after an ankle injury, junior linebacker Ryan Shazier decided to honor his teammate by wearing his number in Ohio State’s 40-30 triumph at Northwestern on Oct. 5.

Bryant didn’t make the trip to Evanston, Ill., so Shazier, who finished the game with 10 tackles, donned No. 2 instead.

“I wore No. 2 to honor Christian Bryant because he’s out right now,” Shazier said. “I wanted it to seem like he was still out there with us. He’s one of our leaders and we need him.”

One Year Ago – 2017

While Ohio State surged further into the midway point of the season and improved to 5-1 overall and 3-0 in Big Ten play with its 62-14 rout of Maryland on Oct. 7, the Buckeyes lost starting sophomore right guard Brandon Bowen for the rest of the year after he broke his left leg.

Rolled up on during a pass play in the first quarter, Bowen was carted off the field, leading to OSU calling on sophomore offensive lineman Matt Burrell as its next man up at the position.

“We’ll see if there’s any competition at that spot,” said head coach Urban Meyer. “That’s alarming, but Matt played OK (against Maryland). So, we’ll see what happens there.”

abnormal protein builds up in the organs. It can affect different organs including the heart, kidneys, liver, spleen, nervous system and digestive tract.

Harbaugh Holds Out Pair Of Star Players

Michigan won its home matchup against Maryland on Oct. 6 without a pair of its best players, who were held out due to precautionary reasons according to head coach Jim Harbaugh.

Defensive lineman Rashan Gary and running back Chris Evans were present for the 42-21 win over the Terrapins but did not see the field. Gary did not dress while Evans suited up for warmups but did not play.

“I decided not to play him this week,” Harbaugh said of Gary. “He’s most likely ... we’ll see where he’s at as the week goes on. But it’s not a long-term thing.”

Gary is dealing with a shoulder injury that has forced him to miss parts of the Wolverines’ wins against Northwestern and Nebraska. In five games, Gary has collected 22 total tackles, 4½ tackles for loss and two sacks.

A junior, Evans finished second on the team in rushing each of his first two seasons. He finished with 614 yards on just 88 carries in 2016 and accumulated 685 on 135 carries last season. Evans’ numbers have dipped in 2018 as he continues to deal with a nagging lower body injury. In four games this season, Evans has carried 30 times for 172 yards and a pair of scores.

“Chris practiced two days this week, and ultimately we thought it best not to suit him up today,” Harbaugh said. “Hopefully we’ll get some guys back next week.”

The Wolverines are set to return to action Oct. 13 at home against Wisconsin.

Pair Of Games In Michigan Delayed

Both Michigan and Michigan State’s home games against Maryland and

Northwestern, respectively, were delayed Oct. 6 as severe weather rolled through the Great Lakes State.

Fans attending both games were forced to wait outside the stadiums as both teams, playing noon games, delayed their contests with thunderstorms in the area.

Both games eventually got under way with Michigan beating Maryland 42-21 and Northwestern upsetting Michigan State, 29-19.

B1G Players Of The Week

After back-to-back weeks in which he was held in check, at least by his standards, Wisconsin running back Jonathan Taylor

re-established himself as one of the top running backs in the country.

The sophomore gashed Nebraska for 221 yards and three scores on 24 carries in a 41-24 win over the hapless Huskers, who fell to 0-5 on the season. Taylor’s big day included an 88-yard scamper in the second half to all but put Nebraska away for the game.

“We just had to clean some things up and get everybody on the same page,” right guard Beau Benzchawel said after the game. “We knew that if we did that – get everybody where they needed to be – we’d make big plays.”

Through five games, Taylor leads the nation in rushing yards with 849 on 126

carries. He has found the end zone eight times this season, which leads the Big Ten and ranks tied for seventh nationally. Last season, Taylor was named the Big Ten Freshman of the Year.

An honorable mention goes to Iowa quarterback Nate Stanley, who completed 23 of 39 passes for 314 yards and four touchdowns in a 48-31 win over Minnesota on Oct. 6.

The four touchdown passes were the most for Stanley since throwing five against Ohio State in an upset 55-24 win in Iowa City last season. Through five games, Stanley ranks fifth in the Big Ten in passing yards per game, averaging 230.6 yards through the air per contest.

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Liddell Solidifies OSU's Highly-Ranked '19 Class

Recruiting is at the heart of most success in college athletics, and for Ohio State basketball, Chris Holtmann hasn't wasted any time building for immediate progress.

COURT REPORT

James Grega

After compiling a four-man 2018 class that ranked 27th in the country, according to 247Sports, in just a few months on the job, Holtmann really flexed his muscle in the 2019 cycle.

Ohio State earned a commitment from the No. 1 player in the state of Ohio in April when Alonzo Gaffney of Garfield Heights outside Cleveland committed to play for the Buckeyes. That commitment started the momentum for a class that could end up being one of the best since the "Thad Five" arrived on campus in 2007 – a group that included future first-round draft picks Greg Oden, Mike Conley and Daequan Cook.

Three months after Gaffney's commitment, the No. 2 point guard in the country, DJ Carton, announced his commitment to Holtmann and the Buckeyes, giving Ohio State at the time two of the top 30 players in the country, according to 247Sports.

Gaffney transferred to the Brewster Academy in New Hampshire to play his senior season, but that wasn't the last bit of recruiting news by a long shot prior to Holtmann's second season. Ohio State's head coach solidified his 2019 class by earning a commitment from Belleville (Ill.) West four-star forward EJ Liddell on Oct. 1. Liddell picked the Buckeyes over the likes of Missouri and home-state Illinois, giving Ohio State the No. 5 recruiting class in the country as of Oct. 5.

A 6-7, 220 pound forward, Liddell is the reigning Mr. Basketball in the state of Illinois and the No. 48 overall prospect in the nation, according to 247Sports.

Liddell told BSB that he picked Ohio State because of its winning tradition and

the culture that Holtmann has already established in Columbus.

"I have had a love for Ohio State for a long time," Liddell said. "It was sort of a dream school, because I always loved their sports. They have been good in basketball and football and to have an opportunity to play there is a blessing. Coach Holtmann and the team he has brought in and the team that was already there, they are great guys and they are bought into winning. Their offense also fits into my playing style with versatile forwards."

Liddell specifically mentioned what Ohio State was able to do with Keita Bates-Diop last season as something that excites him about playing for the Buckeyes. A player with a similar build (6-9, 223) to Liddell's, Bates-Diop won Big Ten Player of the Year last season, averaging 19.8 points and 8.7 rebounds per game.

The Belleville native said he sees a lot of similarities between himself and Bates-Diop, adding he can even handle the ball if needed.

"I am a three or a four guy," he said. "I can post up a lot. I feel like that is where I am most comfortable at. I can dribble the ball, and I am a great rebounder. I can guard all five positions. And I block shots. That is my main thing on defense."

For a guy that stands 6-7, Liddell's handles are advanced enough to where he will bring the ball up the floor for Belleville West this season, according to head coach Joe Muniz.

"He has got to do what makes him special, and sometimes that is down in the post. He is an absolute mismatch nightmare for people. You put a smaller guy on him, he is going to destroy him in the post. You put a bigger guy on him, he can take him off the dribble," Muniz said. "EJ is our biggest player, but he will play away from him basket some. EJ handles the ball for us. He may be our backup point guard, he might be our (starting) point guard. He can play all over the court. EJ can do a lot of things that I don't think people realize he can do."



EJ Liddell

OSU Basketball Verbal Commitments

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

Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Stars	High School
DJ Carton	PG	6-1	189	★★★★★	Bettendorf, Iowa
Alonzo Gaffney	SF	6-9	190	★★★★	Wolfeboro (N.H.) Brewster Academy
EJ Liddell	PF	6-7	220	★★★★	Belleville (Ill.) West

With a Big Ten-ready frame, Liddell is working on expanding his offensive game before he arrives on campus next summer. He said the biggest thing Holtmann and Ohio State's coaching staff want him working on during his senior season is expanding the floor on the offensive end.

"I can shoot the ball from every spot, but I am most comfortable shooting at the top of the key," Liddell said. "They want me to be able to consistently shoot from any spot on the court."

Once his senior season is over, Liddell is set to join up with what figures to be one of the most talented rosters in the country and arguably the best in the Big Ten.

Ohio State will likely return both Wesson brothers (Andre and Kaleb), an experienced Kyle Young and Musa Jallow and a veteran in Florida State transfer C.J. Walker, and the Buckeyes will add what now stands as a top-five recruiting class.

Liddell said he sees himself fitting in well with both Carton and Gaffney and added that despite he and Gaffney (6-9, 190) having similar size and skill sets, he believes the two can supplement each other well on the floor.

"Both of those guys wanted me to come (to Ohio State) bad. They talked to me all the time about it, asking me when I was going to commit. Those guys are winners. DJ is a great point guard. He is not really a selfish point guard. He passes the ball a lot and can score anytime," Liddell said of Carton. "Alonzo, me and him complement each other well. I can play in the post and he can play on the wing, or if he wants to go in the post because he has a mismatch or something, I can play on the wing also. It's a hard thing to guard with all three of us (on the floor)."

With a roster that is full of versatile players who can play and or guard multiple positions, Liddell said he expects big things from the 2019-20 Buckeyes.

"It is going to be a hard thing to guard, and we are competing to win big," he said.

Team 120 Opens Practice

Sept. 27, the day after Ohio State held its media day, the 120th edition of the Buckeye basketball team opened practice for the 2018-19 season.

Holtmann called the upcoming campaign the most challenging of his career in part because of how much production the Buckeyes have to replace from last season, both on and off the court.

Bates-Diop is gone to the NBA, Jae'Sean Tate has begun his professional career overseas, and Kam Williams and Andrew Dakich also graduated, leaving the Buckeyes without four veterans and leadership that will have to be replaced, even though Dakich remains around the program as a graduate assistant.

"This next four- or five-week period is a grind, but it's a lot of fun for coaches and players," Holtmann said. "We are super excited about team 120. We talked about as a staff, we have as many challenges as we have ever had as a coaching staff. When you look at our early schedule in particular, and the contributions of our guys who have graduated, we have some challenges ahead of us."

"(But) we are super excited about digging in with this group and getting to know our guys. Obviously we have a lot of new faces and returning guys as well. I can't wait to get rolling."

For the most part, Holtmann is opening practice with a healthy roster, but he added at media day that a handful of players are dealing with nagging, albeit minor, injuries.

Junior forward Micah Potter has been dealing with a thumb injury that limited him in practice early on while graduate transfer point guard Keyshawn Woods has been battling a minor hamstring injury that also limited him for the first few days of practice.

Walker, who is not eligible to play this season due to NCAA transfer rules, has also been dealing with an undisclosed injury. Holtmann said that Ohio State was "waiting for some testing" on Walker but did not comment further on his status. Walker was in attendance at media day for the team photo but was not made available to the media.

Holtmann said the new players on the roster might be in for a rude awakening during fall practice but that it will pay off when the Buckeyes open the season Nov. 7 on the road against Cincinnati.

"There will be long days for our guys," the coach said. "They will be tired. It is not going to be like it was in the summer where we are in and out of here in an hour. We are going to have to pay the price in order to play well early in the year, and that requires a lot of work between now and November."

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Women's Hoops Team Adjusting To New-Look Roster

As the one-month mark to the Nov. 7 season opener against South Florida at Value City Arena neared, the Ohio State women's basketball team took the floor Sept. 25 as practice officially resumed for the fall semester.

DOUBLE DRIBBLE Garrett Stepien

When Kevin McGuff met the media Oct. 3 after the Buckeyes wrapped another workout, a reporter asked the head coach about which players have stood out in the early going.

"That's been hard because I'm still learning the players," he said with a laugh. "So we're still figuring out who's good at what and figuring out how we can put them in the best position possible to be successful. I'd say we're probably further along defensively than offensively right now, and that just has to do with commitment, the work ethic the kids have. But it's my job to figure out how to put them in the best position possible on the other end of the floor as well."

McGuff and his staff are tasked with the latest challenge of keeping their program competitive as OSU enters the 2018-19 season. Following the graduation of five seniors and the top returning scorer's late-summer transfer across the conference, Ohio State aims to maintain its standard with an influx

of newcomers after the Buckeyes were Big Ten champions in 2017-18.

McGuff knows guard Kelsey Mitchell, forward Stephanie Mavunga, guard Linnae Harper, forward Alexa Hart and guard Asia Doss are off to the next chapter of their lives as the first four of the five are set to head overseas for the winter to continue their professional careers. Sierra Calhoun, meanwhile, will reappear on the opposite sideline when OSU plays Rutgers on Feb. 14 and March 3 as she prepares for her fifth-year senior season with the Scarlet Knights.

The scramble led to a mass recruitment of freshmen (three) and graduate transfers (five), totaling eight new faces on the practice courts as Ohio State establishes an identity on both ends of the floor. While there's still work to do, McGuff noted that the hard part – off the floor – has already been taken care of.

"Our chemistry and our culture are in a good place at this point," he said. "I'm trying to figure out a lot of strengths and weaknesses with so many new faces, but I like the team so far and I appreciate everything they've done so far in terms of their work ethic."

"That was one thing that I was real mindful of. The kids that we brought in here, we're only going to have some of them for a year and we just wanted to make sure that we have kids from a character standpoint, and that's proven to be true so far, so I'm excited about that."

Guards Carmen Grande (Ball State), Ashanti Abshaw (Cleveland State), Carly

Santoro (Bowling Green), Adreana Miller (LaSalle) and Najah Queenland are the one-year additions while forward Aaliyah Patty, guard Janai Crooms and forward Dorka Juhasz make up the first-year players. Sophomore forward Savitha Jayaraman and senior guard Karlie Cronin, the former walk-on duo, round out the roster with junior guard Jensen Caretti and fifth-year senior forward Makayla Waterman.

"I'm actually excited," Waterman said. "We don't have a lot of All-Americans, but we have a lot of people that are buying in and a lot of people that are really willing to dive on the floor and get loose balls and work hard for each other and for Coach McGuff. So I think that's exciting for me."

"Not that our teams in the past haven't worked hard, but I think this team especially is going to have to work 10 times harder. The Big Ten's a tough conference, and none of them have played in the Big Ten before. So just seeing the toughness of the teams in the Big Ten, I think I'm excited, interested to see how our team matches up with them."

While the adjustment on the hardwood is difficult for the four returners and the eight newcomers, the coaches have just as much on their plate to put them in the best position possible as they creep closer to tipping off the campaign against the Bulls early next month. OSU follows up with Connecticut, Stanford and North Carolina among its subsequent five matchups in November.

"We've got to commit to the process," McGuff said. "I don't think it takes a rocket scientist to figure out we probably have to be better late than early. It's tough, we have a really hard schedule, but that's OK. I just think it's going to test us early, but we can come out of that in a better place because of those early challenges."

Waterman Embraces Leadership Role

Appearing in 32 games last season, Waterman averaged 18.2 minutes – seventh on the team – as a key cog in Ohio State's rotation. She logged 3.5 points per game, coming back from a neck injury late in the campaign and closing out March on the floor for the Buckeyes as they made their run through the Big Ten tournament and into NCAAs.

Now, a new role is expected for Waterman. As the longest-tenured player in the program entering a fifth and final year in Columbus, the Kettering, Ohio, native is being looked at as a leader by McGuff and her teammates.

"I'm pretty vocal, and naturally I talk a lot," Waterman said. "I say what's on my mind, so it just comes to me. Not that I necessarily asked to be a leader, to lead, but people ask me and I have no problem telling people what they need to hear, what they don't want to hear. I just think this year I'll start leading more on the court as well as off the court."

"People always joke and they call me mom or grandma because I have to say the tough things sometimes, the stuff they don't want to hear, but I don't mind doing it."

Despite the lack of starting experience, leadership comes naturally. After all, her grandfather Ben Waterman was a former assistant for the men's basketball team, and she is pursuing a master's degree in sports coaching in the College of Education and Human Ecology.

"Kay Kay could be a great coach," McGuff said. "She's got a mind for the game, she's a good communicator and she's a hard work-

er. So I think that she has a very bright future as a coach."

Caretti's Time Comes Now

Caretti came to Ohio State looking to leave her mark, and now she has a legitimate chance. A former Ohio Ms. Basketball as a senior in 2015-16 at Clarington (Ohio) River, Caretti played sparingly in 17 games as freshman, and she didn't carve out a big role on the team as a sophomore either. She hoped for more, but her role never cemented itself off the bench. With a fresh start, though, Caretti enters the season with a chance to rewrite the script.

"I feel like the main things is my confidence," she said. "Freshman and sophomore year was hard for me. I didn't get much playing time so I lost a lot of confidence, and I'm gaining it back now. It's not all the way there, but it's definitely higher than where it was."

McGuff mentioned multiple times last season how he had hoped for Caretti to come into her own. His expectations have heightened now with uncertainty scattered around the potential rotations and spots.

"Jensen's certainly come a long way, and I have high expectations for her this year as somebody who's been in the program now for a couple of years," McGuff said. "She's got talent, she's a good kid and she's someone who's made flashes early on. For the newcomers, Jensen knows a lot of the things that we've done and so she's kind of helping some of the new kids make sure that they're doing the right things."

Caretti appeared in 29 games, averaging 2.4 points but shooting 46.4 percent (26 for 56) from the floor. She added a 42.9-percent (9-of-21) clip from three-point range.

"I have to feel the game," Caretti said. "If I go in and my first shot's really bad, then I'm trying to think, like, 'OK, onto the next one,' trying not to lose my confidence right away. But sometimes if I start off with a good shot or if I make two, I'm really hyped. But that's the same with everybody."

Ohio State Adds 2020 Commit

McGuff and his staff got ahead of the game Oct. 1 when 2020 prospect Anyssa Jones committed to the Buckeyes. The guard from Westerville (Ohio) South chose Ohio State among a long list of scholarship offers that included Florida State, Marshall, Purdue, Miami (Fla.), Michigan State and Maryland.

Jones does not yet have a profile currently on ESPN's HoopGurlz Recruiting Rankings as they have only released the top 60 so far.

She plays on the same high school team as another target for the Buckeyes in three-star forward Gabby Hutcherson, who also holds an offer from OSU. According to ESPN's HoopGurlz Recruiting Rankings, Hutcherson is the No. 60 overall player and No. 16 forward in the country for the next cycle. She also holds double-digit offers from Florida, Florida State, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisville, Maryland, Miami (Fla.), Michigan, Michigan State, Minnesota, North Carolina and Tennessee, among others.

Ohio State now boasts four pledges for 2019 and 2020. Canton (Ohio) McKinley's Kierstan Bell (No. 6 overall, No. 2 guard), Indianapolis North Central's Rikki Harris (No. 24 overall, No. 6 point guard) and Dublin (Ohio) Coffman's Jacy Sheldon (No. 41 overall, No. 10 guard) are the Buckeyes' trio of top-50 commitments in 2019.



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OSU Ignoring High Ranking Ahead Of New Season

By CRAIG MERZ
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

The Ohio State men's hockey team scoffed at the preseason polls last season when they felt underappreciated after earning a bid to the NCAA tournament for the first time in eight years.

A year later, they don't think much of the predictions but for a different reason. Coming off the program's second Frozen Four appearance (the first was 1998), Ohio State is the favorite to win the Big Ten and ranked third in the USCH.com national preseason poll.

"It's nice to be recognized, but at the same time it's preseason polls and all that garbage," junior forward Tanner Laczynski said. "That's what it is, garbage. It only matters where you're at toward the end of the season."

Head coach Steve Rohlik added, "I don't really care what the polls say now. I care what they say in March."

Nonetheless, the rankings are justified because the Buckeyes are loaded with the talent and experience to make another run at a first national title.

It's a far cry from the previous year's pick as fifth of seven teams in the conference and No. 19 in the nation.

"I don't care where we're at now, to be honest," said senior goaltender Sean Romeo. "We were ranked fifth at the beginning of last year. That stuff means nothing. Everyone starts 0-0. It's what you do when the season starts."

"If you have to use stuff like that to motivate yourself, you're in the wrong sport."

The Buckeyes open Oct. 12-13 at Arizona State before the first home series Oct. 19-20 vs. UMass at Value City Arena. The first two of 24 Big Ten games are Nov. 2-3 at national runner-up Notre Dame, which defeated the Buckeyes in overtime in the conference title game.

Notre Dame lost the Frozen Four final to Minnesota Duluth after the Bulldogs advanced with a 2-1 win in the semifinals over the Buckeyes.

It's a defeat that still resounds in Columbus. UMD knocked the Buckeyes out in the first round of the tournament in 2017 and did it again in April thanks to a pair of goals in the first 3:04 of the game.

"It's not going to happen again. I'll tell you that," said junior defenseman Matt Miller. "We wanted to beat them so we'd play Notre Dame because we owe them something too."

The thought of letting the Minnesota Duluth game slip away still burns six months later.

"A lot of those guys here now were in the locker room after getting beat by Duluth," Rohlik said. "When you chase that as long



KEVIN DYE

AIMING HIGH – The Ohio State men's hockey team enters the 2018-19 season as one of the nation's top teams after making the Frozen Four last year.

as all of us have, when you get that close, the sting doesn't go away, and it hasn't gone away.

"The group I have understands that. They haven't accomplished anything yet."

Still, they acknowledge that being so highly ranked does mean something for a program that doesn't receive much attention or respect in college hockey circles.

Despite being the No. 1 seed in the Midwest Regional, the Buckeyes were given little chance of reaching the Frozen Four with defending NCAA champion Denver in the bracket. But Ohio State proved critics wrong by beating Princeton 4-2, then pounding the Pioneers 5-1.

"There's a swagger, a little bit of confidence now," senior forward Mason Jobst said. "The last couple of years we were pissed off. We think we're really good and we're going into the regional the No. 1 seed and still no one's giving us a shot – Denver this, Denver that. They'll never give us credit."

"This year being that top dog will be interesting for sure because I don't think any of us have been there."

The USCHO.com preseason ranking is the highest ever for the Buckeyes, bettering their fourth in 1988-89. The only other time an OSU squad was picked to win the conference was in 2005-06 as a member of the Central Collegiate Hockey Association.

"People are starting to realize that we have

a hockey program here and hopefully will continue that for a long time," Rohlik said. "A lot of people have put a lot into this program for a number of years, and they've had success in the past and will have success here, and they do have the support of the alumni."

A Look Back & Ahead

The Buckeyes return 21 players from last season when they were 26-10-5 overall and finished second in the Big Ten regular season with 14-8-2-1 record.

OSU was first nationally in penalty kill (.894), third in scoring defense (2.07) and sixth in power play (.239). The goals-against average was a program record, breaking the mark of 2.21 by the 2002-03 team. The Buckeyes also finished 10th in NCAA scoring average (3.2).

Six seniors departed the program, but only Matthew Weis (third with 12 goals, 25 assists for 37 points) was among the top nine scorers. The Buckeyes were led by Laczynski, a second-team All-American in 2018, with 47 points on 17 goals and 30 assists. Jobst was next with 43 points (21-22), and Dakota Joshua was fourth with 26 points (15-11) as a junior.

The experienced defense is led by seniors Sasha Larocque and Tommy Parran and juniors Wyatt Ege, Miller and Gordi Myer.

Romeo was 22-10-5 with a 2.06 goals-against average, a .927 save percentage and two shutouts in his first season with the Buckeyes after transferring from Maine. Tommy Nappier (4-0-0, 1.33, .956 and one shutout) made the Big Ten's all-freshmen team.

There are six freshmen and two transfers – sophomore Collins Peters, who started his collegiate career at Northern Michigan, and junior forward Carson Meyer, a Columbus Blue Jackets draft pick (179th in the 2017 NHL draft) from the Columbus suburb of Powell who played two seasons at Miami (Ohio).

Jobst, who opted to return instead of going pro, likes the way the program has progressed during his time.

"Freshman year we miss making the tournament," he said. "Sophomore year we make it to the tournament. Junior year we make the Frozen Four."

"We really haven't taken a step back. We really, truly have improved each year. I don't see why we can't continue that this year and win it all."

Forwards Score

There should be no lack of firepower for the Buckeyes.

Jobst, a 24-year-old from Speedway, Ind., is the leading returning scorer in the country with 128 points (52-76) in 114 games. He leads all active players with 20 power-play goals and is tied for fourth with four career shorthanded goals despite being 5-8 and 180 pounds.

Continued On Page 32



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Buckeyes Return Plenty Of Offensive Firepower

Continued From Page 31

The two-time captain weighed his options before not signing a professional contract.

"The success we had last year definitely was a huge factor in my decision," he said. "It's very important that I get my degree. We're returning everybody so we're going to have a very good team. All the coaches are back so it's going to be a lot of fun."

"We seemed like we accomplished a lot last year, but we came up short in every aspect. We don't have anything to show for it."

Many thought Laczynski (6-1, 193) would leave after his sophomore season to sign with the Philadelphia Flyers, who drafted him 169th overall in 2016. He has 79 career points (27-52).

Unfinished business and a chance to improve his game were factors in his return.

"It was a decision I had to make with my family," he said. "I decided that playing college hockey another year wouldn't hurt

me and I'd get something out of it, and I can become even more of a dominant player at this level, just give me more confidence hopefully going to the next level."

"When your team's good, it's obviously a lot easier to come back and help the organization. We've got just as good a team this year, that's another reason why I came back. If it was different circumstances, maybe not. I like where we're at and I like where the team is at and the coaching staff is at. We're like a unit."

"I like the culture and identity we have, and obviously I want another shot at a national championship."

Rohlik is happy to have him back.

"Tanner realized he can take advantage of another year of college, get better, have the puck a lot and be a part of something, do something special, mature and be more of a leader," he said. "Everything he does prepares him for the next level. If he does that this year, then whenever he decides to

move onto the next level he's going to be that much closer."

Joshua has the size (6-2, 200) but has been inconsistent throughout his career. Something clicked during the tournament run last season for the Toronto Maple Leafs draftee (128th, 2014), though.

"When Matty Weis got hurt last year, we obviously could have gone one of two ways as a team," Rohlik said. "Dakota said, 'Coach, put me against the top lines.' I was like, 'What?' He said, 'Play me against the top lines, I'm ready, I can do it,' and he went out and proved it."

"I played him against the best lines in the country at the end."

Joshua was named to the Midwest Regional All-Tournament Team as he shut down Denver's best line, played physical, scored a goal and won key faceoffs.

"Maybe that's the spark he needed," Rohlik said. "That was exciting for me with maybe his next step in his maturity."

Of Joshua's 26 points last season (15-11) he tallied 11 goals and six assists in the last 19 games.

Senior Freddy Gerard (5-11, 185) was the beneficiary of earning playing time on the top line. He went from 14 points (4-10) his first two seasons to 24 points (12-12) as a junior to finish fifth on the team in scoring.

"Our depth was our key last year, and I don't know if we necessarily have a first line," Rohlik said. "What could make us a very competitive team is I think we have a lot of lines that are equal. That could make us dangerous."

"I don't think I necessarily need to load one line up because I've got the depth to go out there with three, four lines that are fairly equal."

Senior John Wiitala (6-0, 195) was sixth in scoring with 19 points (8-11).

"He's played a lot of minutes for us – power play, penalty kill," Rohlik said. "Maybe we played him more minutes as a

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OHIO STATE MEN'S HOCKEY PREVIEW

2018-19 Ohio State Men's Hockey Roster/Schedule

No.	Name	Pos.	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown
3	Sasha Larocque	D	Sr.	6-0	206	Calgary, Alberta
5	Gordi Myer	D	Jr.	5-10	179	Toledo, Ohio
6	Tommy Parran	D	Sr.	5-11	186	Shaker Heights, Ohio
7	Wyatt Ege	D	Jr.	5-11	174	Elk River, Minn.
8	Dakota Joshua	F	Sr.	6-3	200	Dearborn, Mich.
9	Tanner Laczynski	F	Jr.	6-1	193	Shorewood, Ill.
10	John Wiitala	F	Sr.	6-0	185	Lakeville, Minn.
11	Kamil Sadlocha	F	Fr.	5-11	185	Carpentersville, Ill.
12	Miguel Fidler	F	Jr.	6-1	198	Edina, Minn.
14	Austin Pooley	F	So.	6-2	210	Dublin, Ohio
15	Freddy Gerard	F	Sr.	5-11	171	Rocky River, Ohio
16	Quinn Preston	F	Fr.	5-11	182	Trenton, Mich.
17	Sam McCormick	F	Jr.	5-10	170	De Pere, Wis.
18	AJ Vanderbeck	F	Fr.	5-11	190	Monument, Colo.
19	Matthew Jennings	F	Fr.	5-8	173	Buford, Ga.
20	Collin Peters	F	So.	6-0	185	Sheboygan, Wis.
21	Eugene Fadyeyev	F	So.	5-11	170	Kiev, Ukraine
23	Michael Rounds	D	So.	6-1	180	Mt. Pleasant, Mich.
24	Ryan O'Connell	D	Fr.	6-1	185	Manotick, Ontario
25	Brendon Kearney	F	Sr.	6-0	201	Northville, Mich.
26	Mason Jobst	F	Sr.	5-8	180	Speedway, Ind.
29	Gustaf Westlund	F	Fr.	6-0	175	Stockholm, Sweden
30	Sean Romeo	G	5th-Sr.	6-1	185	Cary, N.C.
31	Evan Moyse	G	So.	6-2	180	Olmsted Falls, Ohio
37	Tommy Nappier	G	So.	6-3	220	St. Louis, Mo.
40	Ronnie Hein	F	Jr.	6-0	188	Chelsea, Mich.
50	Matt Miller	D	Jr.	6-1	209	East Palestine, Ohio
61	Grant Gabriele	D	So.	6-2	185	Brighton, Mich.
72	Carson Meyer	F	Jr.	5-11	185	Powell, Ohio

Head Coach – Steve Rohlik (Wisconsin, 1990).

Associate Head Coach – Steve Miller (St. Mary's, 1988). **Assistant Coach** – JB Bittner (Ohio State, 2005). **Volunteer Assistant Coach** – Dustin Carlson (Ohio State, 2011). **Goaltending Consultant** – Dave Caruso (Ohio State, 2006). **Equipment Manager** – Tim Adams (Ohio State, 1997). **Director of Hockey Operations** – Layne Lebel (Michigan Tech, 1994). **Athletic Trainer** – Jason Rule (Purdue, 2006). **Conditioning Coach** – Lee Harris. **Strength & Conditioning Coach** – Jeremy Hoy (Slipery Rock, 2000).

Schedule:

Oct. 12-13 at Arizona State, 9:05 p.m.; 9:05 p.m.; **19-20** MASSACHUSETTS, 7 p.m.; 5 p.m.; **26** BOWLING GREEN, 7 p.m.; **27** at Bowling Green, 7:07 p.m.

Nov. 2-3 at Notre Dame, 7:30 p.m.; 7:30 p.m.; **9-10** at Colgate, 7 p.m.; 4 p.m.; **16-17** WISCONSIN, 7 p.m.; 5 p.m.; **23-24** PENN STATE, 5 p.m.; 8 p.m.; **30-Dec. 1** at Minnesota, 8 p.m.; 5 p.m.

Dec. 28-29 MERCYHURST, 7 p.m.; 8 p.m.

Jan. 4-5 at Michigan State, TBA; 8 p.m.; **11-12** MICHIGAN, 7 p.m.; 7 p.m.; **18-19** at Penn State, 7 p.m.; 7 p.m.

Feb. 1-2 NOTRE DAME, 7 p.m.; 8 p.m.; **8-9** at Wisconsin, 8 p.m.; 8 p.m.; **15-16** MINNESOTA, TBA; 6 p.m.; **22-23** at Michigan, 6:30 p.m.; 6 p.m.

March 1-2 MICHIGAN STATE, 6:30 p.m.; 5 p.m.; **8-10** Big Ten Tournament First Round; **16** Big Ten Tournament Semifinals; **23** Big Ten Tournament Finals; **29-31** NCAA Regionals.

April 11/13 NCAA Frozen Four at Buffalo, N.Y.

younger player than – if we were in the position we're in now – we should've, but he's taken the advantage of that."

Senior Brendon Kearney (6-0, 201) is a solid, two-way player who helped shut down Denver and contributed an assist in the game. Last season he had career highs in goals (five), assists (13) and points (18).

Junior Ronnie Hein (6-0, 188) has been hampered by injuries and played only 43 games the past two seasons. Last season he had 12 points (4-8) in 27 games.

"He's not the fastest skater out there," Rohlik said. "He doesn't maybe look the prettiest out there, but at the end of the day, when he's healthy and at his best he makes everyone around him better. That's the type of player he is."

Rohlik also expects contributions from junior Sam McCormick (5-10, 170), who had seven points (2-5), and sophomore Austin Pooley (6-2, 210). Pooley played the most of any of the freshman skaters and had five points (2-3) while playing every game.

Pooley is the son of former Buckeye hockey standout Perry Pooley and the nephew of Paul Pooley, an OSU Athletics Hall of Fame member.

The other rookie forward last season was Eugene Fadyeyev (5-11, 170), who had a goal in five games as a freshman.

"All I ask of these guys is they be the best they can be," Rohlik said. "Go out and do what you do best, don't try to be somebody else."

A not-so newcomer is fourth-year junior Miguel Fidler (6-1, 198), who missed last season with a lower body injury that required surgery. He was the 143rd pick of the Florida Panthers in 2014. His father, Michael, played eight seasons in the NHL.

Meyer (5-11, 185) is intriguing. He suffered an illness last season that greatly affected him, and he decided to transfer from Miami. Meyer received clearance from the NCAA to play this season without sitting out per transfer rules. He had 36 points (26-20) in 66 games for the RedHawks.

"I told him to come in, work as hard as he can, fit in and be a piece of the puzzle," Rohlik said. "I don't know where that fit is right now. I do know he's going to be a big part of this program."

Peters (6-0, 185) started the 2016-17 season with Northern Michigan before returning to junior hockey. He had 17 points

(8-9) for Lincoln (Neb.) in the United States Hockey League last season.

The freshman forwards are Matthew Jennings (5-8, 173), Quinn Preston (5-11, 182), Kamil Sadlocha (5-11, 185), AJ Vanderbeck (5-11, 190) and Gustaf Westlund (6-0, 175).

Rohlik said it will be hard for most of the sophomores and freshmen to crack the lineup on a regular basis, but they need to be patient.

"They understand where we're at," he said. "Big picture they're a huge part of this program, a huge part of what we do and what we want to continue to do. What people don't realize is all the work they do in practice to make everybody better."

Defensive Position

The defensemen are good at shot blocking and can get the puck up ice to the forwards quickly.

"We have good, quality experience back there," Rohlik said. "People look at us and maybe there's not the wow factor, but top to bottom we've got good mobility, we move the puck well. If at the end of the game people aren't talking about our D a ton, I think we've had a good night."

Miller (6-1, 209) led the Buckeye defensemen with a career high 18 points (7-11) and is a force on the power play with his booming shot from the point.

"The first thing everybody thinks about is his shot," Rohlik said. "He's got an unbelievable one-timer. He can really shoot the puck. He can come up with a goal in a heartbeat off a faceoff."

The younger brother of Tampa Bay Lightning forward J.T. Miller likes that Ohio State is going to be among the hunted this season because of its high rankings and expectations.

"That's awesome," he said. "It also puts a target on your back. I absolutely love it. Love being the bad guy, so to speak."

Larocque (6-0, 206) was a second-team All-Big Ten selection in 2018 when he had a team-high 76 blocked shots in addition to nine points (2-7).

"You know what you're getting with him every night," Rohlik said. "He's a warrior, unbelievable teammate, plays a ton of minutes. He's a guy that's overlooked. He's not flashy but he gets the job done for us."

Parran has filled in nicely throughout his career whenever he's called upon. He had four assists in 28 games last season.

"Tommy's as strong as an ox," Rohlik said. "He can play physical, he can skate with anybody. We just need him to move pucks at times."

Ege (5-11, 174) was coming into his own at the end of last season after sitting out the 2016-17 season because he transferred from Alaska Anchorage. He had 18 assists last season with nine coming in the final nine games.

"It's a double-edged sword with Wyatt because of his calmness," Rohlik said. "That's what makes him so good, but people at times watch our games and wonder what was he thinking?"

"That's what he is. He has tremendous talent, a feel for the game. If I can just get him a little more edge to his game, a little more fire at times."

Myer (5-10, 179) picked a great time to score his only goal last season, a power-play marker early in the win vs. Michigan in the Big Ten tournament semifinal. He also had 11 assists in 39 games.

"His skating is at different level," Rohlik

said. "His ability to move the puck and make some passes has been fun to watch. He's cut down on some of those big turnovers he had as a freshman."

With seniors Matt Joyaux and Janik Moser playing last season, Michael Rounds (6-1, 180) played in only five games and Grant Gabriel (6-2, 185) didn't see any action in their freshman year.

The lone freshman on the back end this season is Ryan O'Connell (6-1, 185).

"He thinks the game very well plus he has some offensive instincts," Rohlik said. "He's kind of tall and gangly right now as a freshman. He needs to put on weight. I really like his game. He can be a real good addition for us."

Net Work

Romeo (6-1, 185) had an outstanding first season for the Buckeyes but will be pushed by Nappier (6-3, 220).

"As soon as you get satisfied with something, you get passed up," Rohlik said. "That's certainly not Romeo's mentality. He comes to work every day. He's prepared on and off the ice."

Romeo is on the watch list for the 2019

Mike Richter Award, given annually to the most outstanding goaltender in Division I.

He looks forward to playing games in the Big Ten, which had OSU, Notre Dame and Michigan in the Frozen Four.

"It's awesome," Romeo said. "Every week we have a ranked team coming here or we're going to a ranked team, so when you're going against Denver, we hadn't seen them all year, but we played top-10

teams all year, so it was nothing we weren't used to."

Nappier made the most of his limited ice time. He made 31 saves for his first career shutout vs. Wisconsin on Feb. 24.

"We're in a great spot," Rohlik said. "Romeo had a great year, but people forget how well Tommy played when he was in there. Romeo carried pretty much all of the minutes. We saw a small sample of Tommy. They're both very good goalies. That's why they're both here."

Sophomore Evan Moyse (6-2, 180) did not get into any games last season.



Sean Romeo



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New Facilities Add To Momentum For OSU Tennis

By JAMES GREGA
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

Over the years, the name Ty Tucker has become almost synonymous with Ohio State tennis.

The former No. 1 college player in the country, Tucker lettered at Ohio State from 1988-1991 and was a two-time All-American. He spent a handful of years playing professionally before coming back to Columbus to earn his degree in 1998. One year later, he was named head coach of the men's tennis program.

The rest, as they say, is history.

In the last 20 years, Ohio State's men's tennis team has reached two team national championship matches, earned 16 All-America nods and won 12 consecutive Big Ten regular-season titles dating back to the 2006 campaign.

With a résumé that includes 13 Big Ten Coach of the Year awards and the 2009 National Coach of the Year award, Tucker got perhaps his biggest honor to date in September when Ohio State announced it has begun plans to construct a \$21.9 million indoor tennis facility in the

Athletics District, just north of the Woody Hayes Athletic Center. The name for the new building? The Ty Tucker Tennis Center.

"Obviously, it means a lot to my parents and family and things like that. I've gotten some great messages. The best ones are from people who thought I had died," Tucker said with a smile, referencing the fact that names on buildings usually go to donors or people who have since passed. "You have the Woody Hayes (Athletic) Center, the Covelli Arena that is going up, and now you're going to have the Ty Tucker Tennis Center. It's a little embar-

rassing, humbling and cool all mixed up into one."

Currently, the Ohio State men's and women's teams play their home indoor matches at the Varsity Tennis Center, which is located roughly four miles north of the outdoor tennis courts and the future location of the Ty Tucker Tennis Center.

Prior to that, Ohio State used to play its home tennis matches at the Jesse Owens West Tennis Center, a building that contains just four indoor courts.

"It will be nice to be back on campus," Tucker said. "When you're four miles off campus, you don't get the full flavor of what Ohio State is, and that's the best athletic program in the country. We have got everything."

Tucker has helped build not only the men's program, but the women's program as well. In 2012, he was named the director of tennis at Ohio State, putting him in a role where he would provide assistance and leadership to the women's program in addition to his men's team.

Tucker played a role in promoting Melissa Schaub to head coach of the women's team in 2013, after she served as an assistant (2011-12) and the interim head coach (2012-13) her first two seasons in Columbus.

Since becoming head coach of the women's team, Schaub has elevated the women's program to heights never before seen at Ohio State. In 2017, led by the nation's top player, Francesca Di Lorenzo, the Buckeyes advanced all the way to the NCAA semifinals before being topped 4-3 by Stanford. Ohio State finished with a program-record 32 team wins to just three losses, went undefeated in Big Ten match play and outscored league opponents 73-1 on the season.

Since helping promote Schaub, Tucker said he has been thrilled with the direction of the women's team, which will share the new facilities once they are completed.

"Melissa has done a fantastic job," Tucker said. "She really has the heartbeat of her team and knows what is going on at all times. I couldn't be more happy with what Melissa has done. She was

quite an athlete in her own right. She is a hard worker, and we are lucky to have her here."

Schaub, who is entering her sixth season as head coach of the women's program, said that Tucker's guidance combined with Ohio State's support of the tennis program should only help the Buckeyes continue to build what has already become a national title contender in both men's and women's tennis.

"It shows how invested people here are in tennis," she said. "I don't think that is the way it is everywhere in the country. It just goes to show a lot to the (recruits) we are trying to bring in. It's not all about the big-money sports that you always hear about.

We feel pretty special here, too."

Schaub told BSB that no one deserves their name on the front of the new tennis center more than Tucker.

"He is from Ohio, and I think it means a lot for him to be here," she said. "I have known him for a long time, so for me, it is really special to get to see that for him and get to work with him every day and learn a lot from him about what it takes to be successful. He is one of the hardest workers in the country, if not the hardest worker."

"It is really special to feel like you're a part of that and get to learn from someone who has been so successful and done things his own way. It's good to see."

The new 75,000-square-foot facility will house six indoor courts and will reside next to Ohio State's existing 10 outdoor courts. It will include new locker rooms for both the men's and women's programs as well as offices for both coaching staffs.

Once the building is complete, though, Tucker said that it is business as usual for Ohio State, which continues to try to win its first-ever team national title.

"I've got a goal to coach for as long as I can without being shown the door," Tucker said. "You've got to win. It's tough not to be shown the door at some point in your career."

Schaub agreed: "You have that mentality where it is always about the next practice and the next match and the next recruit, and you put your head down and just go to work. Sometimes when you're in it, we are going to walk in there for the first time and it's going to be unbelievable and then it's, 'Get ready for practice.'"

Schaub played her college tennis at Tennessee but played against Ohio State when the Buckeyes were still playing matches at Jesse Owens West. To see where the program is now creates even more excitement for the Buckeye tennis programs.

"I think there is a sense of pride to see where they started from, but knowing where they started from and where we will get to train, it is an unbelievable feeling," she said.

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 roundup of all the games, matches and meets involving OSU's teams each Monday on our BuckeyeSports.com website, free to all print subscribers.



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BUCKEYE SCOREBOARD

FOOTBALL (6-0, 3-0 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, W 49-6; **29** at (9) Penn State, W 27-26.

Oct. 6 INDIANA (Homecoming), W 49-26; **13** MINNESOTA, Noon; **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, Men: 9th/26 (248); Women: 3rd/33 (85).

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 (8-6, 3-3 BIG TEN)

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 (3) Maryland, L 1-0; **23** at (17) Rutgers, W 4-3; **28** INDIANA, W 1-0; **30** IOWA, L 2-1.

Oct. 5 at Northwestern, W 2-1; **7** OHIO, W 5-2; **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, Cancelled;

Inverness Intercollegiate at Toledo, NTS; **30-Oct. 2** Nike Collegiate Invitational at Fort Worth, Texas, 10th/15.

Oct. 8-9 JACK NICKLAUS INVITATIONAL at Dublin, Ohio; **22-23** Muskies Classic at Cincinnati.

WOMEN'S GOLF (FALL)

Sept. 16 East & West Match Play at Ann Arbor, Mich., Stroke Play: 4th/8 (585); **17** East & West Match Play at Ann Arbor, Mich., vs. UC Davis, L 3-2; **18** East & West Match Play at Ann Arbor, Mich., vs. Oregon State, W 3-2.

Oct. 1-2 Windy City Collegiate at Chicago, 7th/14; **12-14** Tar Heel Invitational at Chapel Hill, N.C.; **28-29** Jim West Challenge at San Marcos, Texas.

MEN'S SOCCER (1-8-2, 0-3-1 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, T 0-0 (2OT); **25** at Michigan, L 3-1; **30** RUTGERS, L 3-2.

Oct. 5 CLEVELAND STATE, L 2-0; **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 (7-5-1, 4-2-1 BIG TEN)

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, W 2-0; **23** at Northwestern, W 1-0 (OT); **27** IOWA, W 2-0; **30** NEBRASKA, T 1-1 (2OT).

Oct. 5 at Michigan, L 1-0; **7** at Michigan State, W 1-0; **12** RUTGERS, 7:30 p.m.; **14** MARYLAND, 2 p.m.; **18** at Purdue, 6 p.m.; **21** WISCONSIN, 2 p.m.

MEN'S ICE HOCKEY

Oct. 12-13 at Arizona State, 9:05 p.m.; 9:05 p.m.; **19-20** MASSACHUSETTS, 7 p.m.; 5 p.m.; **26** BOWLING GREEN, 7 p.m.; **27** at Bowling Green, 7:07 p.m.

Nov. 2-3 at Notre Dame, 7:30 p.m.; 7:30 p.m.; **9-10** at Colgate, 7 p.m.; 4 p.m.; **16-17** WISCONSIN, 7 p.m.; 5 p.m.; **23-24** PENN STATE, 5 p.m.; 8 p.m.; **30-Dec. 1** at Minnesota, 8 p.m.; 5 p.m.

Dec. 28-29 MERCYHURST, 7 p.m.; 8 p.m..

Jan. 4-5 at Michigan State, TBA; 8 p.m.; **11-12** MICHIGAN, 7 p.m.; 7 p.m.; **18-19** at Penn State, 7 p.m.; 7 p.m.

Feb. 1-2 NOTRE DAME, 7 p.m.; 8 p.m.; **8-9** at Wisconsin, 8 p.m.; 8 p.m.; **15-16** MINNESOTA, TBA; 6 p.m.; **22-23** at Michigan, 6:30 p.m.; 6 p.m.

March 1-2 MICHIGAN STATE, 6:30 p.m.; 5 p.m.; **8-10** Big Ten Tournament First Round; **16** Big Ten Tournament Semifinals; **23** Big Ten Tournament Finals; **29-31** NCAA Regionals.

April 11/13 NCAA Frozen Four at Buffalo, N.Y.

WOMEN'S ICE HOCKEY (3-1)

Sept. 28-29 at Quinnipiac, W 3-2; W 3-2. **Oct. 5-6** COLGATE, W 4-3; L 5-2; **12-13** MINNESOTA STATE, 6:07 p.m.; 1:07 p.m.; **19-20** at Minnesota, 8:07 p.m.; 5:07 p.m.; **26-27** at St. Lawrence, 6 p.m.; 3 p.m.

Nov. 2-3 ST. CLOUD STATE, 6:07 p.m.; 3:07 p.m.; **9-10** at Bemidji State, 4:07 p.m.; 4:07 p.m.; **16-17** MINNESOTA DULUTH, 6:07 p.m.; 1:07 p.m.

Dec. 1-2 at Minnesota State, 7:07 p.m.; 3:07 p.m.; **15-16** MERCYHURST, 3:07 p.m.; 1:07 p.m.

Jan. 5-6 MINNESOTA WHITECAPS, 3:07 p.m.; 12:07 p.m.; **11-12**

WISCONSIN, 6:07 p.m.; 3:07 p.m.; **18-19** at Minnesota Duluth, 8:07 p.m.; 5:07 p.m.; **25-26** at Minnesota, 6:07 p.m.; 3:07 p.m.

Feb. 1-2 at St. Cloud State, 4:07 p.m.; 4:07 p.m.; **8-9** BEMIDJI STATE, 6:07 p.m.; 3:07 p.m.; **22-23** at Wisconsin, 8:07 p.m.; 4:07 p.m.

March 1-3 WCHA Quarterfinals; **9-10** WCHA Final Faceoff at Minneapolis; **16** NCAA Quarterfinals; **22/24** NCAA Frozen Four at Hamden, Conn.

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL (11-7, 2-4 BIG TEN)

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 (6) Wisconsin, L 3-0; **22** (4) PENN STATE, W 3-1; **26** INDIANA, L 3-1; **29** at Maryland, L 3-2.

Oct. 5 at Rutgers, W 3-2; **6** at (9) Penn State, L 3-0; **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.

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Signal Callers Stand Out For Buckeyes, Hoosiers

The Indiana Hoosiers came into Ohio Stadium with no fear of the third-ranked team in the country. They weren't intimidated by the hometown crowd or the high number of four- and five-star athletes that Ohio State has a stockpile of on the roster.

COACH'S CORNER With Bill Conley

The Hoosiers have a substantial amount of Ohio high school talent on their squad, very good football players who simply were not recruited or offered by the Buckeye coaching staff due to the numbers game which allows only 85 players to be on scholarship. Recruiting is nothing more than an educated guess at whether a young man has the size, speed, athleticism or football skills to fit into your program. At Ohio State that means being an elite athlete who has the high potential to be an impact player early in his college career.

A program like Ohio State has to often turn down in-state players who do not quite pass that elite evaluation tag. In a different era when schools had more scholarships to offer, a college program could afford to take a few players who could develop over a season or two. Woody Hayes was known to take a large number of in-state high school players so he wouldn't have to play against them on Saturdays on opposing teams. That was one of those different eras.

Players on other college rosters who are native to Ohio have a chip on their shoulder when they get a chance to go up against their home-state powerhouse. They seem to play a little harder because they have something to prove. Such was the case Saturday afternoon when the Hoosiers came to Columbus. One of those players for Indiana was quarterback Peyton Ramsey, a graduate of Elder High School in Cincinnati and the son of a football coach. Ramsey came ready to play, and he performed at an elite level that day.

Hoosier Game Plan

Offensively, the Indiana coaching staff came up with a very aggressive game plan against the Buckeyes. They ran plays at a high tempo and put their fate into the hands of Ramsey.

The first half of the game started off like a track meet instead of a football game with both offenses lighting up the scoreboard by putting up more than 650 total yards and 48 points combined in the first half. Ramsey was executing the game plan to perfection by connecting on crossing and rub routes underneath the Ohio State safeties and then mixing in deep fades to stretch the Buckeyes vertically – in other words, challenging the Buckeyes' man coverage skills. Ramsey showed a mastery of the Hoosier offense and showed the stadium crowd why he was averaging over 70 percent in pass completions going into the game.

After the Ohio State defensive coaches made important halftime adjustments, the Hoosier passing attack was all but negated for the rest of the game. Ramsey ended the night with

an impressive 322 yards passing and three touchdowns. The absolute reality, however, is that as well as Ramsey performed, he was the second-best quarterback on the field.

Haskins Is Special

In all my years of coaching I have never seen a first-year starting quarterback play at the level of Dwayne Haskins. It seems that every game is a chapter in the saga of what could end up being the life of one of college football's greatest quarterbacks.

Haskins makes difficult passes seem routine. He puts just the right touch and velocity on the football whether throwing downfield, across the middle, or tossing the pigskin to his teammates on a variety of screen passes. Against the Hoosiers, he proved he could also take a hit and get right back up and still perform at a level never seen before in the Horseshoe.

Every week that Haskins takes the field, he makes breaking records commonplace, to the amazement and pleasure of the Ohio State faithful.

Obviously, a major reason Haskins can have as much success as he is having is the great supporting cast around him. That means outstanding receivers who can turn a short reception into a big play and an offensive line that gives him plenty of time to perform his wizardry. He also has the support of an offensive coaching staff that brings out the very best of his talents.

The only thing that will keep Haskins from breaking a ton of college football passing records is the fact he may not be here long enough. All of us should appreciate his talents for however many games he will play for the Buckeyes. As good as Haskins is as a quarterback, he seems to be an even better person. He displays humility, leadership and a true appreciation of those around him. He is a proud Buckeye, and all Buckeyes are proud of him.

New Redshirt Rule

In June of this year the NCAA adopted a new policy regarding Division I redshirting for college football. To understand the positives and the concerns over the new rule, it is important to understand the initial rule and the way it has changed.

Old rule: Players had five years to complete four years of eligibility, and if they appeared in

any game in a season, that season would count as a year of eligibility. There were injury exceptions in which players could apply for an extra year of eligibility had they played only briefly early in a season.

New rule: Players still have five years to complete four years of eligibility, but they can participate in as many as four games in one season – at any time and in any order, consecutive or not – without forfeiting a year of eligibility. If they play in a fifth game, that year counts toward the four years of eligibility. Basically, a player will have four years of eligibility, plus an additional four games in a fifth season. The new rule also eliminates the need to apply for a medical hardship waiver.

On the surface the rule change seems positive for football programs and for athletes, and in some ways that is the case. For the players, they could get valuable playing time in game situations without using up a season of eligibility. The coaching staff could realize a player needs more time to develop after seeing him in game action early in the season. Coaches might also wait and play an athlete late in the schedule as a catapult for the following season. In some ways, the new redshirt rule promotes an atmosphere of opportunity for the athlete. The player may work hard and stay engaged because he sees the chance to play at some time in the first year of eligibility.

As many coaches say, "For every good thing, you get a bad thing." While the new rule seems very positive, there are also potential negatives which can occur. If a player who has been heavily recruited out of school doesn't continue to get the playing time he thinks he deserves after the four-game rule, he may pull the transfer card out. Coaching staffs, in that situation, have a problem they have to deal with to keep the young man on the team. If the player does decide to transfer, the program will now have to replace that player the upcoming recruiting season. This could be a nightmare for continuity in the program.

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.



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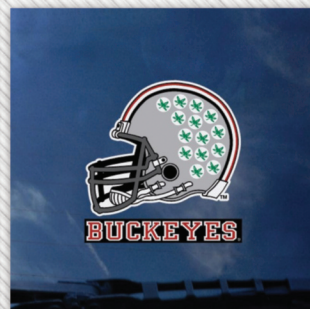
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On 2nd Thought, Buckeyes Aren't That Far Off

It's funny how a second look will change your perspective on things.

For whatever reason, Mrs. Facts Man violated the edict that yours truly set for the football season – no family events on Saturdays. It cuts into my football watching time, which makes me watch on Sunday, which pushes back my “honey do” list. Cause and effect, friends. Cause and effect.

THE FACTS MAN Mike Wachsman

Anyway, while catching the Buckeyes' victory over Indiana in snippets at a family function, it appeared that they truly struggled with the Hoosiers. The score looked good enough, but the Hoosiers scoring 26 points was worrisome, especially since the OSU defense has been underwhelming all season.

On second look, it really wasn't as bad as it appeared.

Sure, there are things that need to get cleaned up. The Buckeyes are still allowing big runs, and the safety play in zone coverage has been abysmal. There were also a few instances where the offensive line broke down against Indiana, and the energy wasn't there for most of the first half. That was a big reason the Hoosiers were able to hang around. But the good news is, nearly all of this is fixable.

OSU boss Urban Meyer knew it was an uneven game, but anytime you can win it's a good day.

“At times we played outstanding,” Meyer said. “But the big hits (plays), and we're a man coverage team. So we've got to keep evaluating. But some of those weren't even on man coverage. So we just have to keep working at it. I trust our staff. I trust our players. We're banged up a little bit. And we've got to fight through it. But we've got to play better.”

Funny thing is, the secondary coverage in man really wasn't that bad.

Damon Arnette does seem a step slow and allows guys to get behind him too often, and that needs to be addressed. But favorite fan whipping boy Kendall Sheffield? He was actually pretty good. He had tight coverage most of the day and was whistled for what may be the worst defensive holding call I've ever seen. His tackling isn't bad, and he has good recovery speed on the rare times he is beaten.

The safety play got much better when Isaiah Pryor – suspended from the first half for a bogus targeting call a week earlier against Penn State – entered the game. The Hoosiers' big plays decreased, and the throwing windows were much tighter. He and Jordan Fuller may be the best safety combo in the Big Ten.

Because the refs are so out of position and seem to call the most innocuous things as pass interference, teams have become emboldened to throw it deep against the Buckeyes, hoping to draw a flag. That's not really poor play as much as it is bad officiating. So a pass should be given there.

The Buckeyes did seem a bit sleepy early in the game, lacking energy and effort. The players even said this wasn't the best week of practice. But the mark of a good team is one that can play maybe a 50 percent game and still win convincingly.

“I guess the question is if that's a bad game, do we still win like that, that's a pretty good football team out there,” Meyer said. “We don't look at it like that out there. We're going to enjoy the win like we just did. We're going to go back and start giving up close to 300 yards passing in that first half. We did make some adjustments in the second and played much better.”

Most Ohio State teams in the Meyer era have been more physical at the point of attack than this one is. It seems that if the pass rush doesn't get there, opponents break off big plays. Or if a linebacker is out of position – which is too often, unfortunately – a runner gets it to the second level and beyond.

There's no question the Buckeyes possess one of the most dynamic offenses in America. But to really be part of the championship mix, the defense is going to have to step up and prove itself.

“At the end of the day you have to play great defense to get where you have to get,” Meyer said. “And I'm confident that we will – because at times we've played great defense and we have to get everybody healthy and get back to that.”

One bright spot for the defense was linebacker Baron Browning, who finally seems to be hitting his stride. A touted recruit out of Texas in 2017, Browning played sparingly a year ago. But he looks much more confident now, and even though he finished the day with just two tackles, he was a presence on the field. And maybe it's just me, but he reminds me more than a little bit of another No. 5 who roamed the middle of the OSU defense recently – Raekwon McMillan. We'll see if he can end up as accomplished as McMillan, but the Indiana game was a good start.

Armchair Coaches

One of the good things about social media is that you can follow what people are talking about – which games and players they are most interested in, their thoughts on a certain play or outcome, whatever.

But that also leads to a lot of uninformed banter, and nowhere was that more on display than after OSU's win over Penn State.

Fans from all over peppered social media with thoughts that Dwayne Haskins was exposed, that he's not nearly as good as he looked early on, that he can't complete passes over 10 yards, etc.

It's exhausting to follow, at times, but it also shows media people what they're dealing with.

Haskins didn't have a great game against the Nittany Lions, to be sure. But he also didn't get rattled by the subpar performance, and when he needed to deliver the goods, he did just that. That's the mark of a winner, and I'll take that every day and twice on Sunday.

The line play wasn't nearly as good against PSU as it had been in other games, and it's natural that a quarterback will struggle against a constant pass rush. It happens to all of them – Aaron Rodgers, Tom Brady, you name him. Every quarterback will be better in a clean pocket than he will against a rush.

As for the “can't throw it more than 10 yards” – there is only some validity to that.

OSU's passing game is filled with crossing routes and slants and quick hitters to the sideline, which allow the receivers to make plays in space. That's been Meyer's way of doing things since he got into coaching. Haskins has a lightning-quick release, and the coaches take advantage of that with a wealth of athletes.

One thing that was overlooked in the Penn State game was the number of drops. Although it wasn't quite as bad as the TCU game, I counted at least four – and the interception charged to Haskins went right off the hands of the receiver and was perfectly placed. Not much more Haskins could have done with it.

I charted the game and each of Haskins' passes, noting the distance traveled in the air. I counted four that went 15 yards or more, including Binjimen Victor's game-changing catch and touchdown run. Air yards shows you just how strong a quarterback's arm is. While counting from the line of scrimmage is useful (and easiest), it's not always representative of just how good a throw a quarterback made. A rollout to the right and then a throw back to the left sideline may only cover 5 yards of real estate on the field but may actually travel closer to 20 yards when everything is factored.

So don't tell me Haskins can only throw

short, because it shows me that you haven't been paying attention. Want to see a perfect representation of just how good Haskins' arm is? Look at his TD strike to Johnnie Dixon against Indiana or his long pass to Austin Mack that set up a score against TCU. You won't find many better deep throws.

Haskins is comfortable with the Buckeyes' rhythm offense and likes distributing the ball quickly.

“That's definitely what we do on offense,” he said. “People are in blitzes, they blitzed a lot today, a lot of coverage. So we've gotta be able to find plays where we can get rid of the ball fast.”

The Buckeyes had 609 yards of offense against Indiana, so it might sound funny to hear them say that there are things that need work.

But when an OSU team averages just 3.2 yards per carry, that thought has some truth behind it.

“The offense is continually getting better,” Terry McLaurin said. “Our defense stepped up when we needed to get stops. We didn't play our best. But at the end of the day we got the W. And that's all we care about.”

Dandy Dozen

It's been well chronicled how I feel about the poll voters and their methodology – a team wins, it stays the same, never mind how poorly it played.

That will probably come into play with the next poll release, as many voters will see that Ohio State won by 23 and assume that it cruised to an easy win. Heck, the crawl on ESPN said as much. But anyone who watched the game knows the Buckeyes were sloppy and didn't look like a top-four team. But they were in the top four last week, they won, so they didn't drop.

Fortunately for college football fans and America, I do drop teams if they struggle in a victory. And I sometimes keep a team the same if it loses a heartbreaker. It's called paying attention, and not enough voters do it.

Anyway, rant over.

These are the 12 best teams in America at this moment, based on a combination of analytics, eye test and strength of schedule and record.

1. Alabama
2. Notre Dame
3. Georgia
4. Clemson
5. Ohio State
6. West Virginia
7. Washington
8. Texas
9. Florida
10. Michigan
11. N.C. State
12. UCF

In The Mix: LSU, Penn State, Oklahoma, Kentucky, Colorado, Oregon, Miami (Fla.).

Ohio State really shouldn't be challenged again until the season finale against Michigan. Yeah, yeah, some will bring up Michigan State in East Lansing a couple of weeks prior. Have you seen Sparty? There is no explosiveness, no big-time playmakers. So even if Michigan State is successful at limiting Ohio State's scoring, I don't think it has enough offensive firepower to win the game.

How that soft remaining schedule impacts the rankings remains to be seen. The teams ahead of OSU all have similarly easy remaining slates, so it may be tough to move up. But OSU can only control its play. Do that, and things usually have a way of falling into place.



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OSU Can Be Elite, But There's Work To Be Done

For the Ohio State football team, is the glass half full or is the glass half empty?

The Buckeye offense racked up 609 yards of total offense against Indiana and scored 49 points, and that's with the team's vaunted rushing attack, led by J.K. Dobbins and Mike Weber, stuck in second gear. If those two get untracked – which I believe they will – and budding star quarterback Dwayne Haskins continues on his record-setting pace such as he did against IU with 455 aerial yards and six TD tosses, the sky is the limit for this offense.

That glass is half full.

On the other hand, the Buckeye defense yielded 406 yards to the Hoosiers, including 322 through the air, and 26 points. More glaring was the lack of progress that the Ohio State defenders appear to be making. Big gains by the opposition continue to be the norm.

In fact on Indiana's very first possession, freshman Stevie Scott ripped off a 45-yard run to the OSU 14. I'd like to say the defense stiffened there, but actually the Hoosiers were guilty of a pair of penalties that stalled the drive and they had to settle for a field goal and an early 3-0 lead. Three other Hoosiers went on to record plays of 30 yards or more in the game including Peyton Hendershot, who reeled in a 32-yard touchdown pass from Peyton Ramsey early in the second quarter.

Now to add a little bit of liquid to the half-empty glass, it should be noted that the Buckeye defense buckled down in the second half. It allowed only 89 yards and six points in the second stanza, with Ramsey hitting on just 9 of 20 passes for 83 yards in the final 30 minutes.

I felt a key turning point in the game came late in the third quarter with the Buckeyes leading, 35-26. Indiana used a punt to bury the Buckeyes at their own 4, and Drue Chrisman was eventually forced to punt from his 2. His short kick was downed at the Buckeye 33, giving IU a good chance to make it a one-score game. The Buckeye defenders forced three straight incompletions, Logan Justus badly missed a 50-yard field-goal attempt and Ohio State dodged a major bullet thanks to the defense.

Ohio State tacked on touchdown passes from Haskins to Terry McLaurin and Binjimen Victor to seal the 23-point victory, a margin that will make it look to the casual observer like a much easier win than it was.

You can add in the nine Buckeye penalties for 82 yards as flavor to the drink in the half-empty glass.

One thing I do know: At this point, Ohio State is not a championship-caliber team. Oh, the offense will be able to keep the Buckeyes in most games, but the penalties and the porous defense could catch up with Ohio State in *any* game. Sure, there's probably enough to win the Big Ten crown, especially with the game in hand against Penn State. But to think the Buckeyes are ready take on the elite, to use one of Urban Meyer's favorite words, is at this point unrealistic. The Buckeyes have plenty of time to work out some of the problems, but it would be nice to see a little progress.

Jim Tressel, who led teams to five national championships, always tried to have his squads peak in November. The 2018 Buckeyes can do that, but the improvement on defense and return to dominance with the running game have to start now to meet that timetable.

Other Indiana Thoughts

Former Buckeye coach John Cooper used to say, "One week you're sipping the wine, and the next week you're stomping the grapes." Such seemed the case for Ohio State defensive end

Chase Young, who was the darling of Buckeye Nation after his breakout game against Penn State – and rightfully so.

Unfortunately, he was virtually nonexistent in the win over Indiana, ending the game with a quiet four tackles. I thought he might take charge when he barreled through for his lone tackle for loss early in the third period. On the next play, he came charging into the backfield again but was called for roughing Ramsey, and that was pretty much the last we heard from him. Young's youthful enthusiasm is an element of his greatness, but it has come back to bite him too many times this season with unnecessary penalties.

The miscue gave IU a first down on a third-and-7 play. Fortunately the Hoosiers were unable to convert the penalty into a score.

Two Buckeye receptions also stand out to me.

The first was Parris Campbell's 71-yard touchdown early in the third quarter that gave Ohio State a 35-20 lead and set the tone for the second half. The play was well-conceived and so well-executed that there was no need for any of Ohio State's patented down-field blocking by the other receivers. There wasn't a Hoosier within 10 yards of him and none in front of him. There is no way you are going to catch the speedy Campbell with that much green space ahead.

I was also impressed with Victor's 30-yard TD reception to cap the scoring. Victor had to get open, corral the pass, get his foot down in the end zone and then maintain possession while falling out the back. It was pretty spectacular. Victor was the least visible of the vast stable of Buckeye receivers in the early going but seems to be coming into his own, and then some.

And finally, is Meyer getting soft in his old age? On the final possession of the game, he had his team drive to the IU 12, with the final two plays passes. He then had Haskins run out the clock with two plays from the victory formation. In the old days, Meyer would have absolutely gone for the score, ever aware of the need for playoff style points.

Did he call off the dogs out of respect to the Hoosiers and the spunk they showed on this particular afternoon? Or maybe Ryan Day was calling the plays.

No Darkest Day This Time

Though the Buckeyes overcame their sluggish start to defeat the Hoosiers this time, they were not so lucky 30 years previous almost to the day. On Oct. 8, 1988, Ohio State was crushed by Indiana, 41-7, in a game that was quickly dubbed "Darkest Day II." While the game does not have as much notoriety as its namesake from the year before, it was equally ugly and was the first win for IU over the Buckeyes in Bloomington, Ind., since 1904.

The Buckeyes got a little too much of Indiana running back Anthony Thompson and not enough of Ohio State quarterback Greg Frey in the game. Thompson carried 32 times for 190 yards and four touchdowns while Frey was just 7 of 22 passing for 101 yards and four interceptions. Ohio State trailed 35-0 before Jaymes Bryant scored in the third quarter to avoid the shutout. Bryant was a rare bright

spot, rushing 20 times for 98 yards in place of an injured Carlos Snow.

The loss dropped the Buckeyes to 2-3 on the season, with all three losses coming by 19 points or more.

"Just as some points of reference, the last time Ohio State lost three games in a season by 19 points or more was in 1947," I wrote in this space in the Oct. 15, 1988, Buckeye Sports Bulletin. "Earle Bruce was in his eighth year at OSU before his team suffered a loss by that margin. The type of whippings the Buckeyes have been taking are the type of whippings that Buckeye fans are used to seeing OSU dish out, and I'm not sure how long the fickle faithful are going to stand for this."

First-year coach John Cooper was beside himself after the game.

"I don't think I have ever been so puzzled about a team in all my life," he said. "I don't know what you have to do to get a team ready. I really don't want to rip our players, but you saw the game. I don't know what else to do. I can't play. The coaches can't play."

He had particularly blunt words about Frey. "All I know is that he threw the ball to the wrong-colored jersey," the coach said. "He threw four interceptions, and a couple of them he threw to the wrong guy. I don't think he got sacked one time all day so you can't blame the rush."

Thompson was a bit of a Buckeye killer. He had rushed for 126 yards and a touchdown on 34 carries in the Hoosiers' upset the previous season. As a freshman in 1986, he carried seven times for 30 yards and scored late as IU nearly pulled off the upset, falling 24-22 in Bloomington, and as a senior in '89, he rushed 34 times for 177 yards and three TDs as Indiana, under former Buckeye assistant Bill Mallory, took Ohio State to the limit again, falling 35-31.

Thompson, at 5-11, 207, was an old-school pound-the-ball back. Despite racking up an average of 130.8 yards in his four tries against the Buckeyes, his long gains in each game were 7, 21, 15 and 15 yards respectively from 1986-89.

I maintain that he doesn't really get the respect he deserves in Big Ten annals, perhaps because he had limited success in the pros where he had a modest three-year career, primarily with the then-Phoenix Cardinals. Thompson is still fourth among Big Ten career rushing leaders with 5,299 yards, trailing only Ron Dayne (7,125), Archie Griffin (5,589) and Justin Jackson (5,440).

As for Mallory, his two Darkest Day wins and a 27-27 tie with the Buckeyes and Cooper in 1990 make him the only IU coach to have a win or tie with the Buckeyes since 1951. Ohio State is currently on a 23-game winning streak over the Hoosiers.

Mallory, who was a coach alongside Bruce with OSU's 1968 national championship team, had a record of 69-77-3 with Indiana for a .473 winning percentage, and that was with an 0-11 record his first year after taking over from Sam Wyche in 1984 and records of 2-9 and 3-8 his final two years in Bloomington in 1995 and '96, respectively. In between those down years, his teams played hard-nosed football and went to six bowl games, recording IU's last postseason win over Baylor in the Copper Bowl in 1991.

The best winning record for an Indiana coach since then is current coach Tom Allen's .474, posted over only a season and a half with games against such schools as Iowa, Penn State and Michigan left on this year's slate. Among the other coaches in Bloomington since Mallory, who like Bruce passed away this spring, Terry Hoeppner had the highest winning percentage at .391, followed by Bill Lynch (.388), current OSU assistant Kevin Wilson (.356), Cam Cameron (.327) and Big Ten Network analyst Gerry DiNardo coming up the rear at .229.

Buckeye Quarterbacks

We continue our series on Ohio State quarterbacks in this issue with a look at the career of Stanley Jackson. Jackson, who was locked in a battle for playing time with Joe Germaine for much of his tenure in Columbus, gives interesting insight into the quarterback room under Cooper while the two QBs were each working to see the field and how the competition affected each of their careers.

"Splitting time for years just didn't do it for me," Jackson said. "Quite frankly, I think that hurt Joe in the long run. Joe, arguably, was probably one of the more accurate quarterbacks Ohio State has ever had. But even for him, he split time for two years and only had one year starting. Compared to guys that played three, sometimes four years under center, it's a significant difference."

And looking to another former Ohio State quarterback great, we will be running reprints from stories in the very primitive Oct. 10, 1981, issue of Buckeye Sports Bulletin covering the game in which Art Schlichter set the OSU record for passing yardage with 458 as part of our Reprint Thursday on BuckeyeSports.com on Oct. 11. Haskins nearly broke that record against Indiana. Access to BuckeyeSports.com is free to all BSB subscribers.

And finally, the quote of the issue goes to the subject of our quarterback series in the last issue of BSB, Cornelius Greene (now Green). Greene now coaches at St. Albans School in Washington, D.C.

"I throw warmup passes to the kids every afternoon," Greene says in Mark Rea's Editor's Notebook on page 3. "Heck, I'm throwing more now than I ever did when I was coached by Woody."

On a personal note, your academically challenged publisher once attended summer school at St. Albans, trying to make up for a failed Algebra I class. While I passed the summer school class, you might check the stats in this column for accuracy.

It's At Notre Dame, Too

I had to chuckle (it was an unfortunate chuckle) when I saw a note in our sister publication at Notre Dame, Blue and Gold Illustrated, concerning postal issues this fall that was virtually verbatim to what we have been running in BSB. Obviously we are not the only ones having delivery problems.

As we have, the folks at Blue and Gold assured readers that the paper has been going out on time and reiterated that the paper is being mailed at the same time and place as it has for many years. As we have, the Notre Dame folks encouraged readers to either upgrade to first-class mail service or read the paper online while waiting for its arrival.

In an interesting piece of additional information, they noted that new postal guidelines for periodicals class mail call for "expedient service *when available* (my italics)." That's a pretty significant disclaimer by the post office.

For our current note on the postal situation, see page 5 of this issue.

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