



# Cause & Effect

## *Stellar Punting Leads To Big Defensive Plays In Win At Michigan State*

By TIM MOODY  
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

A third-year sophomore is often the star of the game for Ohio State. Throughout the 2018 season, quarterback Dwayne Haskins has been the headliner for the Buckeyes as they opened the season 8-1.

On Nov. 10 in East Lansing, Mich., 10th-ranked Ohio State improved to 9-1 with a 26-6 win over No. 18 Michigan State. The star man was a third-year sophomore once again, but it wasn't Haskins. It wasn't anyone else on offense, either. It wasn't even a defensive player.

Against the Spartans, third-year sophomore punter Drue Chrisman stole the show and kept the Buckeyes in the game almost single-handedly – with a few assists from fifth-year senior wide receivers Terry McLaurin and Johnnie Dixon, that is.

It was the kind of performance that earns a player a postgame interview on live TV. The kind of performance you rarely see from a punter. Maybe never.

And it all started with the worst punt in program history.

Early in the first quarter, Ohio State faced fourth-and-3 at its own 31-yard line. The Buckeyes lined up to punt, and Chrisman hit what can only be described as a shank that went directly out of bounds for a net gain of just 4 yards. The previous worst punt in program history had been a 13-yarder by Jon Thoma during the Jim Tressel era.

Luckily for Ohio State and Chrisman, the mistake didn't cause any damage – Michigan State punted it back to the Buckeyes four plays later – and the punter from Cincinnati was nearly perfect from there on out. Of his nine total punts, Chrisman saw six downed inside the 20. On five



PHOTOS BY SONNY BROCKWAY

**IMPACT PLAYS** – Junior defensive end Jonathon Cooper (18, above) and the Ohio State defense came up with three turnovers thanks in part to the ability of sophomore punter Drue Chrisman (91, below) to consistently pin Michigan State deep in its own territory.



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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 will also be handing out Buckeye Leaves after every game for standout performers, and we encourage subscribers to share their thoughts as well. Here's a sampling of what BSB staff members and subscribers had to say after Ohio State traveled to East Lansing, Mich., and topped the Spartans, 26-6.*

**Joe Dempsey:** Mike Weber deserves a Buckeye Leaf for his tremendous effort against the No. 1 rushing defense in the country. Michigan State entered the game allowing just 71.7 yards per game, but Weber ran for 104 yards on 22 carries with a touchdown. The Detroit native hit the hole hard all game and dragged Spartan defenders with him on multiple runs for first downs.

Drue Chrisman deserves honorable mention for an excellent punting performance. After what was most likely the worst punt of his life, a 4-yard dud, Chrisman turned in an excellent performance. The Buckeye punter downed the Spartans inside the 7-yard line five times in the second half, setting up the Buckeye defense for a safety and defensive touchdown.

**Tim Moody:** Drue Chrisman punted nine times against Michigan State. The first one was a shocking shank that went just 4 yards. The next eight were as good as it gets.

Chrisman saw six of those final eight punts downed inside the 20-yard line, including five that were downed inside the 7-yard line in the second half alone. Helped in part by stellar

coverage from wide receivers Terry McLaurin and Johnnie Dixon, Chrisman was arguably the most important player for the Buckeyes against the Spartans. He earned his Buckeye Leaf a few times over in this one.

Had Michigan State not been pinned deep so often, the game might have been not just closer – the result might have been flipped completely.

**Garrett Stepien:** Since he sprained his ankle late in Ohio State's 27-26 comeback at Penn State on Sept. 29, Dre'Mont Jones has been banged up but still playing for the Buckeyes through the ups and downs of the past month-plus on the field.

Playing hurt paid off in a big way at Michigan State for the junior defensive tackle, who helped sealed OSU's victory over the Spartans by recovering a fumble for a touchdown with 14:03 left the fourth quarter to make the ballgame 16-6.

Earlier in the week, Jones discussed the defense's need to deliver a shutdown effort. Led by Jones' performance – two tackles, one pass breakup and two quarterback hurries – the unit got back on track with an outing it needed as Michigan on Nov. 24 looms.

**Frank Moskowitz:** This one doesn't even need explanation or justification. Drue Chrisman. Special mention to Terry McLaurin for his hustle, along with the entire punt team.

**Mark Rea:** Drue Chrisman is an obvious choice with assists from Terry McLaurin. I'd also give a leaf to Mike Weber, who became only the third opponent this year to rush for 100-plus yards against Michigan State. And one for Tate Martell, who proved he can be a valuable change-of-pace player ... if given the chance.

### BSB Subscribers

Drue Chrisman. Other than the first punt he was great!

Pinned MSU in their own territory numerous times that led to turnovers.

– Tiffin Buckeye

Drue Chrisman. Need I say more? No.

– PeyoteBuck

Drue Chrisman and his Gunner Buddy Terry McLaurin, of course, but equally good were the rushing D and the front seven, which held MSU to a total of 54 yards rushing (including the long run by Rocky Lombardi). The second half D holding the Spartans without a touchdown was also impressive. Mike Weber's great effort and results were impressive.

I wish I had at least four Buckeye Leaves to present to them.

– AnthonyBuckeye

Drue Chrisman obviously, but let me put a plug in for our DBs. Jordan Fuller, Brendon White, Kendall Sheffield, Shaun Wade, Damon Arnette and Jeffrey Okudah had really nice games.

Really impressed with Okudah and Wade as they look like lock down corners for next year.

– Blufftonbuck

Obviously Chrisman and McLaurin. Have never seen such a display of punting and covering the punt. Also a shoutout to Mike Weber. Ran hard.

And thank you Mark Dantonio for starting and reinserting a sore-shouldered QB!

– mrbigbux

It has to be Drue Chrisman. I've never seen a punting performance like that and we probably never will again.

– AcrossTheField



## From The Forum

**On Nov. 4, BSB Publisher Frank Moskowitz posed a question to staffers and subscribers regarding two rule changes from the past five years: "Which do you find more annoying, the targeting rule or the fair catch on kickoffs?" Here's what they had to say:**

Targeting for sure. Cannot stand the ejections, especially in Jordan Fuller's case against Nebraska. There needs to be a targeting with or without intent, in my opinion. Almost like the NBA's flagrant one and flagrant two.

– James Grega, BSB

Targeting. Here soon we might as well just wear flags around our waist.

– Tiffin Buckeye

Targeting because the rule is so vague and subjective. I do not think anyone knows exactly what the rule is.

On the one on Fuller, the receiver is falling into him. I do not know how he could go any lower on his tackle.

Plus, if it happens with one minute left in the first half, the player sits out a half and a minute. If it happens one minute into the second half, the players sits out 29 of that game plus 30 minutes of the next game. How is that fair?

As for the kickoff rule – kickoffs now equal a one-minute snooze on my part. A dumb rule but it does not anger me.

– mrbigbux

Targeting. A lot of kickoffs already result in touchbacks, anyway.

– Tim Moody, BSB

Targeting. I agree with James Grega that targeting without intent should not be subject to an ejection.

I thought Fuller's ejection against Nebraska was flimsy.

– AnthonyBuckeye

The kickoff rule is so absurd it doesn't even merit comment. As far as targeting, I agree with the others. There has to be intent.

– Poster That Harley Built

Targeting. The rule itself – the reason why it was implemented – I love because of player safety. But needless to say, everything about it needs to be tweaked.

– Garrett Stepien, BSB

The kickoff rule is for player safety as well, but you have to be careful you are not changing the game. You could change every play in football on the basis of player safety and just play flag football or two-hand touch. There would not be 100,000-person crowds, though. As for targeting, I'm with everyone else. The refs must look for "intent."

– Mcarr

I heartily vote for the targeting rule as much more annoying! I expect to see the day when games are started with the ball on the 25, with no kickoff whatsoever. In the interest of safety I'm not sure that would be a bad thing. I think kickoffs are the most dangerous plays in football, maybe by a large margin.

The targeting rule needs to be thrown in the garbage can. If a player commits a personal foul, mark off 15 yards. If a player intentionally tries to injure another player (e.g. toss the QB upside down into the turf, or hit a defenseless WR under the chin with the crown of the helmet) then throw the defensive player out of the game – same as fighting or throwing a punch.

The targeting rule is inconsistently enforced and often results in a penalty/ejection of a player for making what would have been considered a good hit, for, oh, about 100 years!

– Terrier Buck



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# Win Doesn't Mean OSU Is Poised For A Run

During my 60½ trips around the sun, it has been suggested from time to time that I engage in contrarianism.

It is a suggestion which I cannot deny, and you might well agree if you believe Ohio State's 26-6 victory at Michigan State on a raw Nov. 10 afternoon in East Lansing signaled the re-emergence of a team poised to make a late-season run toward the College Football Playoff.

I will concede the Buckeyes probably put together their most complete game in more than a month. The running game managed 120 yards, a modest number until you consider the Spartans featured the No. 1 rushing defense in the country. The defense limited Michigan State to a pair of field goals, the first time an opponent had failed to reach the end zone since hapless Rutgers tallied only three points in the second game this season.

And, of course, what can you say about the performance of sophomore punter Drue Chrisman other than he was unquestionably the star of the game? After nearly whiffing on his first kick of the afternoon, Chrisman proceeded to throw dagger after dagger at the Spartans, repeatedly burying them inside their own 10-yard line. (Somewhere, Jim Tressel is nodding and saying, "See? I told you the punt was the most important play in football.")

Add it all up and it was a 20-point victory on the road against an opponent who only two weeks before defeated Purdue by 10 points. Yeah, that Purdue – the same one that handed the Buckeyes their head on a plate in mid-October and has celebrated by losing two of its three games since.

Don't get me wrong. A win is a win, especially in your division on the road in November. But while it was likely Ohio State's best performance since the string of easy victories in September, it was far from a thing of beauty.

The first half featured an offensive mess as the Buckeyes couldn't decide if they really wanted to test the vaunted Michigan State rush defense. The result was a mish-mash that accounted for a paltry 147 total yards with only 14 of that coming on the ground. Perhaps the reason Chrisman was so lethal in the second half was because he got so much practice in the first half.

The only thing that finally rescued OSU was redshirt freshman quarterback Tate Martell, whose value as a change-of-pace artist immediately paid dividends. Martell gives the Buckeyes the threat of an additional running option – something Dwayne Haskins simply does not – and opposing defenses cannot load the box with no fear of the quarterback keeping the ball on a read option.

Martell entered a scoreless game in the late stages of the second quarter and promptly slithered through the MSU defense for a 5-yard pickup to give the Buckeyes a second-and-goal at the 1-yard line. Two plays later, Parris Campbell took a pop pass from Haskins, and Ohio State was finally in the end zone.

In the second half, the Buckeyes had some success in the running game, most notably from junior tailback Mike Weber, who totaled 104 yards to become only the third opponent to crack the century mark on the ground this year against the Spartans.

Truth be told, the Ohio State offensive attack was anything but spectacular. Haskins threw the ball 39 times and completed 24 of those attempts for a season-low 227 yards and a touchdown. But the sophomore's accuracy has suddenly deserted him. A couple of his attempts were dropped, but several more

weren't even in the vicinity of his intended receiver.

Perhaps Haskins is beginning to wear down. Remember, he hasn't played this many games since 2015, and it's safe to say he's seeing better competition now than he did when he was wearing the Bullis School blue and gold back in his high school days.

## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK Mark Rea

Maybe Haskins is not as comfortable throwing the ball in colder weather or maybe his receivers are not getting open as often as they did earlier this season. Haskins completed passes to eight different receivers against MSU, including little-used true freshman Chris Olave, who had a career-high two catches for 41 yards.

But Binjimen Victor and Johnnie Dixon weren't among the OSU receivers catching balls against the Spartans, and that was one week after Terry McLaurin was held without a catch against Nebraska.

Meanwhile, the running attack – for whatever reason – simply does not have the authority to dictate tempo the way one would expect from an attack that features a pair of 1,000-yard running backs. Weber might have gone over the 100-yard mark, but J.K. Dobbins was repeatedly asked to run between the tackles and netted only 28 yards for his trouble on 14 carries.

It almost seems like Ohio State doesn't know what kind of offense it wants to be. Does it want to flex its muscles and pound away at opposing defenses with Weber and Dobbins? Does it want to commit to being a pocket-passing team with Haskins chucking the ball 40 to 50 times a game? Or does it want to be some kind of hybrid with Martell subbing in at times to try to give the offense a different dimension?

At this juncture of the season, with only two games remaining in the regular season, one would have thought the Buckeyes would have long ago figured out who they wanted to be on offense.

### Better But Not There Yet

If you want to look at things with the rosiest set of glasses and praise the defense for what it accomplished against Michigan State, go right ahead. Just remember that it came against a team whose starting quarterback had a bum shoulder, a team that has lost its top receiver to injury for the rest of the year, and a team that featured no appreciable running attack whatsoever.

Throw in a couple of head-scratching decisions by Spartans head coach Mark Dantonio (who gives up an intentional safety down by a single point late in the third quarter?) and anything the Ohio State defense might have done has to be tempered against the ineptitude of the Michigan State offense.

To praise the defense is to forget a handful of obvious blunders.

How do you let a backup quarterback, a fuzzy-faced redshirt freshman with the decidedly sports-minded name of Rocky Lombardi, who entered the game with a total of 10 rushing yards for the season, get loose for a 47-yard run down the sideline? In case you're counting, the Ohio State defense has now allowed a staggering 37 plays to go for 20 or more yards this season. Perhaps even

more mind-blowing is that 15 of those have gone for 40 yards or more.

Many of those big plays have come on long passes, and the Buckeyes seem to have addressed that issue by changing how their cornerbacks play at the line of scrimmage. Rather than bumping the receiver on press coverage, OSU defenders now turn and run with the receiver in an effort to keep from getting beat deep.

I don't know if I like the new philosophy, described by Fox Sports color analyst Joel Klatt as "bail coverage," because it tends to allow opposing teams to nickel-and-dime your defense down the field. For example, Michigan State receiver Cody White had eight catches for 115 yards, the seventh receiver this season to enjoy a 100-yard performance against the Buckeyes. That's one more than the Ohio State secondary allowed in the previous three years combined.

Speaking of coverage, there appeared to be none when Dantonio reached into his bag of tricks midway through the third quarter for a flanker option pass that caught the Buckeyes completely unaware. White took a backward pass in the flat, faked like he was going to turn upfield and then threw a strike to wide-open tight end Matt Sokol for a 27-yard touchdown.

That play would have given Michigan State a 10-7 lead with 6:30 remaining in the third quarter and could have changed the entire complexion of the outcome. But the Spartans were called for an ineligible receiver downfield, wiping out the play and preserving Ohio State's lead at 7-3.

The Buckeyes eventually held MSU to a field goal, and thanks to Chrisman's field-position heroics, Sparty never seriously threatened the rest of the way.

We can debate the merits of this Ohio State football team all day long, but I continue to believe that it still has a number of deficiencies that need to be addressed against a struggling Maryland before facing what looks like the best team Michigan has put on the field in the last seven or eight years.

I will concede that the performance against Michigan State was a good start. But the contrarian in me wants to stress that it was only a start.

### Congratulations, Fitz

Congratulations to Northwestern head coach Pat Fitzgerald and his team for clinching their first Big Ten West Division championship.

I remember sitting at Big Ten Media Days in 2006 when the 30-year-old Fitzgerald was introduced as the new head coach of the Wildcats. It had scarcely been six weeks since the death of predecessor Randy Walker from a heart attack, and although he had been a two-time consensus All-America linebacker and later earned induction into the College Football Hall of Fame, Fitz had the look of a deer caught in the headlights.

I leaned over to a colleague and said, "Talk about throwing somebody to the wolves. He won't last three years."

Now you know why I refrain from making predictions.

In addition to guiding his team to its first-ever appearance in the Big Ten Championship Game next month, Fitzgerald is already far and away the winningest coach in Northwestern history (44 more than anyone else) and pushed his conference victory total to 54 when the Wildcats took a 14-10 win at Iowa.

That puts him among the top 20 Big Ten coaches all-time in terms of league wins.





### Buckeyes Get Another Noon Kick

When Ohio State travels to College Park, Md., on Nov. 17, the Buckeyes should be pretty accustomed to their morning routine. That's because Ohio State and Maryland are

scheduled to kick off at noon at Maryland Stadium on ABC, the Big Ten announced Nov. 11. The game will mark Ohio State's third noon kick in a row and fifth of the season.

In recent seasons, noon games have become somewhat rare for the Buckeyes. They'll have one more noon kick, as the regular-season finale against Michigan on Nov. 24 is scheduled to kick at 12 p.m. as well. The last time Ohio State played six games at noon was 2014.

So far in 2018, Ohio State (9-1, 6-1 Big Ten) is undefeated in noon games. The Buckeyes opened the season with a 77-31 home win vs. Oregon State before dispatching Minnesota, 30-14, in the early afternoon Oct. 13. Ohio State then beat Nebraska, 36-31, in Columbus on Nov. 3 before topping Michigan State, 26-6, in East Lansing, Mich., on Nov. 10.

### Meyer Remains Undefeated In East Lansing

Ohio State head coach Urban Meyer took over the program back in 2012, and on Sept. 29 that year, he faced his first road trip to

East Lansing, Mich., to face the Spartans. The Buckeyes came away with a 17-16 victory that year, starting a positive trend for Ohio State.

In 2014 under Meyer, Ohio State beat the Spartans, 49-37, at Spartan Stadium before winning 17-16 in 2016 and 26-6 this year. That makes Meyer 4-0 against Michigan State on the road.

In fact, Ohio State hasn't lost to Michigan State in East Lansing since a 23-7 stumble in 1999, when John Cooper was the head coach. Jim Tressel, who coached Ohio State from 2001-10, won there in 2004, 2006 and 2008 as well.

The Buckeyes under Meyer haven't fared as well outside of East Lansing against Michigan State. Ohio State lost to Mark Dantonio's team, 34-24, in the Big Ten title game in Indianapolis in 2013 and fell to the Spartans, 17-14, in Columbus in 2015. Ohio State also lost to Michigan State, 10-7, at home in 2011, when Luke Fickell was the interim head coach.

### Bowen Works With 2nd-Team Offense

Ohio State junior offensive tackle Branden

### Conley Answers Readers' Questions

Former Ohio State player and coach and Buckeye Sports Bulletin columnist Bill Conley will be fielding questions from readers on BSB's BuckeyeSports.com website each Wednesday until the end of football season.

Conley offers his expertise on all things Buckeye past and present in his insightful and entertaining way. In his most recent first session with BuckeyeSports.com readers on Nov. 7, Conley answered a diverse group of questions on such topics as his favorite recruiting story, the recruit that got away, Mark Dantonio, the early signing period and Brendon White.

Readers should watch The Forum at the BuckeyeSports.com site early each week for information on how to get their questions in the queue, and the coach will begin answering at 3 p.m. Columbus time each Wednesday.

If you are not already enjoying the benefits of BuckeyeSports.com, free with your BSB subscription, see page 5 of this issue for simple instructions on how to access the site. Or feel free to give us a call at (614) 486-2202 and we will be glad to help you.

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Bowen broke his leg against Maryland last season, and he didn't suit up for a game again until the Buckeyes hosted Nebraska this year. Bowen didn't play that week, though, but he was expected to be full go as a backup for the Michigan State game.

When the Buckeyes warmed up for the matchup with the Spartans, a healthy Bowen was seen working at right tackle with the second-team offense, replacing freshman Nicholas Petit-Frere in the lineup.

Bowen didn't appear in the game, but his return to the fold has provided a boost for Ohio State in practice and from a depth standpoint.

Fifth-year senior lineman Brady Taylor, who also recently returned from an injury, wasn't seen working with the first- or second-team offenses during pregame warmups, but he did make the trip to East Lansing.

### White Earns Top Billing In 1st Significant Action

Ohio State sophomore safety Brendon White saw the first significant playing time of his career – apart from special teams – during the Buckeyes' win over Nebraska. White replaced junior captain Jordan Fuller, who was ejected in the first half for targeting, and never looked back. He ended up being named the team's defensive player of the game for his efforts, Meyer announced the following Monday.

White, the son of Ohio State great William White, recorded 13 tackles and two tackles for loss in the game, staking his claim for a safety spot that has been unsettled for much of the season.

"Going back to springtime, safety was not a solidified position," Meyer said Nov. 5. "We have to play much better at that spot. You had some injuries this week (Isaiah Pryor was out). And obviously the targeting call. And there he is, he's in the game. And I looked out there, you had Shaun Wade at one safety and Brendon White at the other."

The following week, White made his first career start against Michigan State. For more details on White's performance against the Spartans, see Game Notebook on pages 10-11. White is also featured in a story on page 14.

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# On Mail And Online

While Buckeye Sports Bulletin publisher Frank Moskowitz reported in the last issue that postal officials had isolated the cause for delivery problems in the central Ohio area, those problems have not been completely resolved yet. Readers in Powell continue to have problems after a one-week correction, and reports have come in from other areas as well.

"The post office is working with us and now that we know what the problem is, we have a better chance of fixing it," Moskowitz said.

Buckeye Sports Bulletin reminds readers that BSB is mailed at the same time and place each week. Those who continue having delivery problems are encouraged to call the United States Postal Service complaint line at (800) 275-8777. The more readers who call, the more likely we are to get continued help around the country.

In the meantime, readers can upgrade their subscription to speedier first-class mail in an envelope for just \$8 for the rest of football season and \$18 through football recruiting season. We want to remind readers that the Michigan game falls after Thanksgiving again this year, making timely delivery difficult for even some in-state readers. We also recommend that our "snowbird" readers consider the first-class upgrade as it takes much longer for Buckeye Sports Bulletin to reach points south and west.

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 who have been experiencing postal delivery problems this season can also read the complete edition of each issue of Buckeye Sports Bulletin online at [BuckeyeSports.com](http://BuckeyeSports.com) on Mondays during football season and Tuesdays the rest of the year.

[BuckeyeSports.com](http://BuckeyeSports.com), free to all BSB subscribers, also features daily updates including the latest recruiting news. Readers can also interact with the BSB staff and other readers on The Forum. The action is sure to be spirited as the season barrels toward the Michigan game and the postseason.

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## Hartline Earns Praise From Meyer

In late July, former Ohio State wide receiver Brian Hartline took over as the team's interim receivers coach after Meyer fired Zach Smith. Hartline had been a graduate assistant for a year following a successful NFL career, but he hadn't been a position coach before this season.

Ten games into the new campaign, Hartline's players have been excelling as Ohio State marches toward record numbers in the passing game. The development of those receivers, though, is only part of Hartline's job.

In addition to being a coach on and off the field for the current players, Hartline was also tasked with stepping in for Smith – previously one of the team's top recruiters – in helping to land the top high school prospects in the nation. So far, so good, Meyer said.

"He's done very well," Meyer said, noting that he'll make a decision down the line on whether Hartline will keep the job full time.

For the 2019 class, Ohio State holds wide receiver commitments from Austin (Texas) Lake Travis five-star Garrett Wilson and St. Louis Cardinal Ritter College Prep four-star Jameson Williams. Wilson has been in the fold since April, but Williams became Hartline's first commit at the position Sept. 28. Hartline also helped land a commitment Nov. 4 from Rockwall, Texas, four-star wide receiver Jaxon Smith-Njigba in the 2020 class.

"He was thrust into a situation," Meyer said of Hartline. "And I think one of the great things he had, he had a veteran group to coach, and he has very good recruiters around here to see how it's done. He's been here a couple of years. That's a positive."

## Former WR Elected To Congress

Former Ohio State wide receiver Anthony Gonzalez's football career ended following the 2011 season, but he's just getting started on the next chapter in his life. On Nov. 6, Gonzalez, a Republican, was elected to Congress as the representative for the 16th district in Ohio. The 34-year-old was running against Susan Moran Palmer (D).

Gonzalez is succeeding republican repre-

## 2018 Ohio State Football Schedule

Date	Opponent	Result/Time (ET)	TV	Record, Last Result
Sept. 1	OREGON STATE	W, 77-31	ABC	2-8, 48-17 loss at Stanford
Sept. 8	RUTGERS	W, 52-3	BTN	1-9, 42-7 loss to Michigan
Sept. 15	vs. TCU#*	W, 40-28	ABC	4-6, 47-10 loss at West Virginia
Sept. 22	TULANE	W, 49-6	BTN	5-5, 24-18 win over East Carolina
Sept. 29	at Penn State*	W, 27-26	ABC	7-3, 22-10 win over Wisconsin
Oct. 6	INDIANA	W, 49-26	FOX	5-5, 34-32 win over Maryland
Oct. 13	MINNESOTA	W, 30-14	FS1	5-5, 41-10 win over Purdue
Oct. 20	at Purdue*	L, 49-20	ABC	5-5, 41-10 loss at Minnesota
Nov. 3	NEBRASKA	W, 36-31	FOX	3-7, 54-35 win over Illinois
Nov. 10	at Michigan State*	W, 26-6	FOX	6-4, 26-6 loss to Ohio State
Nov. 17	at Maryland	Noon	ABC	5-5, 34-32 loss at Indiana
Nov. 24	MICHIGAN*	Noon	FOX	9-1, 42-7 win at Rutgers
Dec. 1	Big Ten Championship@	8 p.m.	FOX	

\* – 2017-18 bowl team

# – at Arlington, Texas (AT&T Stadium)

@ – at Indianapolis (Lucas Oil Stadium)

sentative Jim Renacci, who vacated his seat in order to run for the U.S. Senate.

After winning the election, Gonzalez posted a short note to his campaign website, [VoteAnthonyGonzalez.com](http://VoteAnthonyGonzalez.com).

"It is with deep humility and gratitude that I accept the awesome responsibility of representing the 16th district in the 116th Congress," Gonzalez wrote. "In these divided times, my commitment is to be a voice for the enduring values that have inspired every generation of Americans since our founding days. It will be with an unyielding respect for the universal dignity and common humanity of every American that I will walk through any door to work on behalf of Northeast Ohio – our families and our workers."

Gonzalez played for the Buckeyes from 2004-06, catching 87 passes for 1,286 yards and 13 touchdowns. He was selected by the Indianapolis Colts in the first round of the 2007 NFL draft. He played for the Colts until 2011, appearing in 40 games and catching 99 passes for 1,307 yards and seven scores.

## Haskins A Semifinalist For O'Brien Award

Dwayne Haskins might not want to make any plans for Dec. 6 just yet.

Ohio State's sophomore quarterback, who has led the Buckeyes to a 9-1 start and a 6-1 mark in Big Ten play, was named a semifinalist for the Davey O'Brien National Quarterback Award, the Davey O'Brien Foundation announced Nov. 7. The three finalists will be announced Nov. 19 before the award is handed out at the Home Depot College Football Awards in Atlanta on Dec. 6.

Haskins, a Potomac, Md., native, has racked up 33 touchdown passes this season, two short of the program record set by J.T. Barrett last year. His 3,280 passing yards put him less than 100 yards behind the single-season program record of 3,330 set by Joe Germaine in 1998. He has three games of 400 or more passing yards and has set single-game records for attempts (73), completions (49) and pass yards (470). Haskins is on pace to break the school records for single-season touchdown passes, passing yards, 300-yard passing games and completion percentage while he already holds the record for completions (266).

He is also a semifinalist for the Maxwell Award, given annually to the top player in the nation.

## Buckeyes Stay At 10th In CFP Rankings

Ohio State remained at No. 10 in the second College Football Playoff rankings of 2018, which were released by the selection committee on Nov. 6.

Despite beating Nebraska on Nov. 3, the Buckeyes were passed in the rankings by West Virginia (No. 9). Alabama was first for the second week in a row and Clemson was second. Notre Dame moved up one spot to No. 3 while Michigan moved up to No. 4. The rest of the top 10, in order, included Georgia, Oklahoma, LSU, Washington State, West Virginia and the Buckeyes.

From the Big Ten, Michigan State was ranked 18th while Penn State was No. 20 and Iowa was No. 21.

The third set of CFP rankings is scheduled to be released the evening of Nov. 13.



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# Spartans Unable To Overcome Poor Field Position

Continued From Page 1

straight possessions in the second half, he had five straight punts downed inside the 6-yard line. For a reeling Michigan State offense, the field position was too much to overcome, and it was just what Ohio State needed to turn a slugfest into a 20-point win.

"That's our goal – pin them deep and then get the ball back and we'll get some points

out of it," Chrisman said. "So if we're doing our job tilting the field on them, it makes it harder on them for sure."

## The Cause

In an ideal world, Ohio State would prefer not to punt. If the offense is firing on all cylinders, then drives should end with touchdowns.

At Spartan Stadium, though, the Ohio State offense wasn't firing on all cylinders.

In the first half, the Buckeyes gained just 147 total yards while punting four times. The Spartans weren't firing, either, as they gained just 143 yards before the break.

The teams went to the locker rooms with Ohio State leading, 7-3, both searching for some sort of spark.

Nothing really changed in the third quarter from an offensive standpoint – the Buckeyes punted on each of their first five possessions. But thanks to Chrisman's right foot and the pursuit of McLaurin and his teammates in punt coverage, Ohio State began to dominate the field-position battle.

Michigan State opened its first drive of the second half at its own 5-yard line. The Spartans punted it back to Ohio State after gaining just 5 yards. The next series, Michigan State got the ball at the 6-yard line and then the 3-yard line, the 1-yard line and the 2-yard line after three more stellar punts from Chrisman.

With punting and coverage like that, an offense is bound to falter.

"That's part of our plan to win," McLaurin said. "Coach (Urban) Meyer preaches it. He calls it the 'Gospel.' We have a big board and there's like a 3 percent chance for teams to score the ball when they start inside their own 5, so we preach that, we believe in that."

It was a perfect storm for the Ohio State defense, which already had the Michigan State offense on its heels. Quarterbacks Brian Lewerke and Rocky Lombardi both struggled to get anything going, and with each successive drive starting deep in their own territory, a breakdown seemed imminent for the Spartans.

"We just kept playing the field-position game," Meyer said. "Five inside the 6-yard line, in those kind of conditions, that was to me the difference. We always talk about the offense's job in a game like this – get two first downs, get the ball to midfield and let's down it inside the 10-yard line. I can't imagine a group that works harder at that than Drue and our gunners."

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### The Effect

As long as Chrisman kept hitting inch-perfect punts and the defense kept thriving, it seemed like only a matter of time before the Buckeyes would find a way to score some points. That eventually happened late in the third quarter when Chrisman pinned Michigan State at the 1 with a 39-yard boot.

Lombardi threw three consecutive incomplete passes to set up fourth down, and the Spartans had almost no room to kick. Instead of risking a fumble or a block that could lead to a touchdown, head coach Mark Dantonio instructed his long snapper to intentionally snap the ball out of bounds for a safety. That gave the Buckeyes a 9-6 lead after Michigan State had converted a field goal earlier in the quarter.

The plan worked in a way – the Spartans were allowed to kick off instead of punting, giving the ball to Ohio State at its own 50 with just a three-point deficit for the Spartans to overcome. After a quick three-and-out for the Buckeyes, though, Chrisman struck again, pinning the Spartans at the 2-yard line. On the first snap of the ensuing drive, the snap hit a motioning Laress Nelson, and it was recovered by Ohio State junior defensive tackle Dre'Mont Jones for a touchdown and a 16-6 advantage – a seemingly insurmountable deficit for a Michigan State offense that ended up gaining just 274 yards for the entire game.

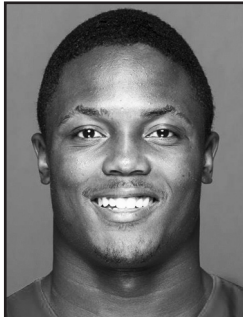
"You kind of had a feeling a little bit," Jones said after the game when asked if the defense thought a game-changing play was coming while Chrisman continually gave the Spartans difficult starting points. "The coaches kept emphasizing a lot more than usual, 'Our moment is going to come. We're going to create a turnover. We're going to create a turnover.'"

"And what seemed to be like a pass-option-read type of thing, he dropped it and we kind of wrestled for it a little bit and I came up with it."

McLaurin noted that the field position allowed the Ohio State defense to attack. That led to the big plays – and the points – that helped the Buckeyes win.

"Our defense was playing downhill," he said. "We basically got nine points off of it from the safety and the touchdown, so that was big for us."

From there, the Buckeyes had complete control. Michigan State didn't score another point while Ohio State added a field goal and a Mike Weber touchdown to ice the win, keeping itself in a position to win the Big Ten East with two more victories to close the regular season.



Terry McLaurin

### Hammering Away

Apart from his first kick, Chrisman was outstanding. McLaurin and Co. were nearly flawless in kick coverage. Jones and the defense limited Michigan State throughout the game. But the win wasn't always pretty, and it didn't need to be – at least not yet.

"We're not where we need (to be)," Meyer said after the game.

But he stressed that the Buckeyes were

moving in the right direction, and there were plenty of positives from the win. The Buckeyes ran for more than 100 yards on the No. 1 rush defense in the country, they won the turnover battle and they tackled well after struggling to get ball carriers down for the past two games. Now it's up to Meyer's team to keep grinding to improve with a road trip to Maryland standing between them and a showdown with Michigan that will likely decide which team

represents the Big Ten East in Indianapolis on Dec. 1.

"We're not there yet and we needed to play some really good defense, tackle well, create turnovers. We did that," Meyer said. "We needed to continue to run the ball. To have a tailback run for 100 yards against these guys was outstanding."

"We're just driving the nail – just keep hitting the nail as hard as you can."



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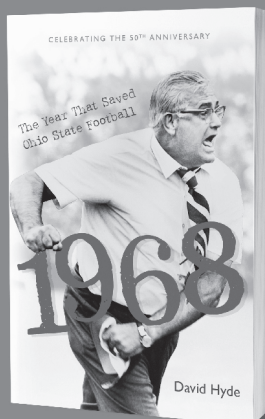
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# Special Teams, Weber Lead Buckeyes Vs. Spartans

By CRAIG MERZ  
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

In a game where yards were hard to come by, a foot made the difference.

That would be the right foot of punter Drue Chrisman, not the right arm of Dwayne Haskins, that led No. 10 Ohio State to a grinding 26-6 victory over No. 18 Michigan State at Spartan Stadium in East Lansing, Mich., on Nov. 10.

Chrisman's day started abysmally with a 4-yard punt, but he recovered to pin MSU (6-4, 4-3 Big Ten) inside the 6-yard line five times in the second half to flip the field position. The majority of the downed punts were by fifth-year senior Terry McLaurin.

Chrisman had a 37.8-yard average, but that number was insignificant.

The sophomore's punts led to an intentional safety on a Michigan State punt and a fumble recovery for a touchdown by junior defensive tackle Dre'Mont Jones to turn a precarious 7-6 lead into a 16-6 advantage early in the fourth quarter.

Ohio State then ground out the remainder of the game with more defensive plays and the running of junior Mike Weber, who capped the scoring with a 2-yard run with 1:12 to play.

OSU (9-1, 6-1) finished with 347 total yards after gaining just 147 in the first half, including 14 on the ground, on a blustery, 33-degree day that kept the crowd below the announced 74,633.

The Buckeye rushed for 120 yards total with junior Mike Weber getting 104 on 22 carries with a TD. Haskins, the third-year sophomore, was 24 of 39 for 227 yards and a touchdown without an interception.

MSU gained 274 yards (220 pass, 54 run). Brian Lewerke was 11 of 28 for 128 yards and an interception. Rocky Lombardi completed 7 of 19 for 92 yards. Cody White led both teams with eight catches for 115 yards.

Sophomore Pete Werner led the Buckeyes with seven tackles (four solo). Michigan State's Khari Willis had 15 tackles (five solo).

## How It Happened

After the Buckeyes forced a punt on the first possession of the game, which included a controversial placement for a first down on a fourth-down sneak by Lewerke for a yard to the Spartan 35, OSU went three-and-out and the punt by the usually reliable Chrisman was shanked for 4 yards.

The Spartans took over at the OSU 35. After a 4-yard loss on a fumble by Connor



SONNY BROCKWAY

**KEEP GRINDING – Ohio State junior running back Mike Weber rushed for 104 yards and a touchdown on 22 carries against Michigan State.**

Heyward and a holding call, the Spartans ended up punting from the Ohio State 34 to the 11.

Defense and poor execution were the norm early as the first six drives resulted in punts and a combined three first downs.

After one quarter, the Spartans had 75 total yards compared to 28 for the Buckeyes, including minus-7 rushing.

MSU had two first downs on its fourth possession but got nothing when Matt

Coghlin missed a 51-yard field-goal try early in the second quarter.

Ohio State finally moved the ball on its fifth series, but a penalty cost the Buckeyes to keep the game scoreless. First, though, the Spartans extended the drive after Weber was stopped shy of moving the chains on third down. MSU was offside, giving the Buckeyes a first at their 32.

Haskins went to work with completions of 25 and 16 yards to freshman Chris Olave and an 11-yard catch by McLaurin. The Buckeyes reached the MSU 17, but on second down fifth-year senior guard Malcolm Pridgeon's 15-yard hands-to-the-face penalty pushed them back to the 32. A pass to K.J. Hill regained 5 yards, but sophomore Blake Haubeil missed a 44-yard field goal with 6:55 left in the half.

After another MSU punt to the Ohio State 45, the Buckeyes marched 55 yards in 11 plays and 4:26 off the clock to take a 7-0 lead with 1:29 left in the first half.

The Spartans helped with an offside, but the big play was a 17-yard catch-and-run by Hill on third down to the MSU 33. J.K. Dobbins had three runs for 12 yards, Parris Campbell had a catch for 5 more, and third-year sophomore tight end Luke Farrell pulled in a 10-yard pass to set up first-and-goal from the 6.

Second-year sophomore quarterback

Tate Martell made his first appearance in eight games and ran for 5 yards on a keeper. After Dobbins rushed for nothing, Campbell scored on a 1-yard jet sweep.

The Spartans counterpunched when they got the ball back when Lombardi replaced Lewerke and he connected with White for two passes totaling 40 yards, but the drive stalled at the 26. With MSU needing a yard on fourth down, each team used two timeouts before Coghlin nailed a 44-yard field goal with 30 seconds left in the second quarter. The drive was seven plays, 49 yards using 59 seconds.

Punting became key in the third quarter, and after Ohio State's first two drives of the second half stalled and Chrisman buried Michigan State at its 5 and 6, the Spartans were facing a third-and-2 from their 14. Lombardi rambled 47 yards on a misdirection then went another 12 on the next play to place MSU at the Buckeye 27.

The Spartans thought they had a touchdown on a throwback to White and his pass to an open Mike Sokol in the end zone, but they were guilty of an ineligible receiver downfield in right guard Kevin Jarvis.

Coghlin four plays later made it 7-6 on a 38-yard field goal with 5:35 remaining in the third quarter. The drive was eight plays, 74 yards in 2:45.

Chrisman in the last minute of the third hit a 39-yard punt that was downed at the 1 by McLaurin.

Lombardi threw three incompletions, and then the Spartans took an intentional safety with a snap over the punter to make it 9-6 with 42 seconds left in the third quarter.

The ensuing kickoff went out of bounds to allow OSU to start at midfield. OSU did not get a first down and Chrisman's 44-yard punt was downed at the 2 by Johnnie Dixon.

On the first play, the snap hit Laress Nelson in motion causing a fumble. Lombardi tried to fall on it in the end zone, but junior defensive tackle Dre'Mont Jones recovered it for a touchdown and a 16-6 lead with 14:03 left in the game.

After the Spartans got the ball back on the kickoff, Lombardi returned it to the Buckeyes with a muffed pitch to La'Darius Jefferson and junior defensive end Jonathon Cooper fell on it at the MSU 15.

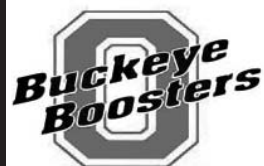
The Buckeyes hurt themselves with a false start by Farrell and relied on a 35-yard field goal by Haubeil to go up 19-6 with 12:22 left.

OSU had a chance to put the game away after starting at its 49 after a punt. Weber carried seven times, the last three with Martell taking snaps, for 36 yards, and junior tight end Rashod Berry had an 11-yard catch. The drive reached the 4, but a bad snap by junior Michael Jordan to Martell gave the Spartans the ball at the 13.

It didn't take long for Lewerke to turn it over when redshirt freshman safety Shaun Wade made an interception at the OSU 46 and returned it 12 yards to the MSU 42.

Weber had seven carries for 20 yards, and the last made it 26-6 with 1:12 left. McLaurin had a 7-yard reception and Rashod another for 15 yards on the nine-play, 42-yard, 4:03 drive.

MSU turned the ball over on downs at its 22 with 39 seconds left, and the Buckeyes went into the victory formation on the final play.



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# Martell Package Boosts Buckeyes In Red Zone

After five games spent watching from the sideline, Tate Martell gave Ohio State a spark off the bench the offense needed in its 26-6 win at Michigan State.

## GAME NOTEBOOK Garrett Stepien

Before the No. 10 Buckeyes (9-1, 6-1 Big Ten) got on the board with 1:29 left in the second quarter on sophomore quarterback Dwayne Haskins' 1-yard jet sweep to fifth-year senior receiver Parris Campbell, Martell entered two plays earlier to set up the score.

On first-and-goal from the Spartans' 6, the redshirt freshman entered for Haskins and took a delayed quarterback draw 5 yards, pushing the pile down near the goal line.

The red-zone appearance, which had been among the coaching staff's ongoing conversations around improving the offense amid the struggles inside the 20-yard line that have plagued Ohio State since its 27-26 victory against Penn State on Sept. 29, finally came to fruition.

It provided a peek into what head coach Urban Meyer's situational approach might look like down the stretch.

"It's hard yardage down there, so we're just kind of researching. He's a guy – I think we're going to do more of that," Meyer said of Martell. "When you start to get in that part of the field, it's rugged – especially against a defense like that. So I hope to use him more."

Haskins, who fought through constant pressure from MSU's defense on a frigid afternoon at Spartan Stadium, still managed to do enough in completing 24 of his 39 passes (61.5 percent) for 227 yards and a touchdown.

At the same time, his inability to pose a threat as a runner ultimately led the Buckeyes to experiment, which he admitted made coming off the field tough to deal with.



SONNY BROCKWAY

**NEW WRINKLE** – Ohio State utilized redshirt freshman quarterback Tate Martell (18) in certain red-zone packages in order to provide a running threat behind center.

"It's a little hard, but it's for the betterment of the offense," Haskins said of coming out for Martell. "It's a certain package we have that the coaches feel we need to run, so I can't complain about that. But, you know, it's a little frustrating."

Martell's brief action wasn't entirely perfect, though. Upon his return to the game

late in the fourth quarter with OSU in front, 19-6, on third-and-goal from Michigan State's 4, a poor snap led to a fumble which Martell failed to fall on, and the Spartans jumped on the loose ball for the recovery.

How much more action might Martell see on offense at Maryland (Nov. 17) and against Michigan (Nov. 24) in the next two

games? Regardless of how that question is answered, he approaches his preparation the same way.

"He's always been a competitor," Haskins said of Martell. "I didn't feel any frustration from him as far as playing a lot or whatever he voiced to Coach Meyer. But I know that when he gets in the game he's taking the things he learned from me, J.T. (Barrett), and he's going to try to compete out there."

## Weber Breaks Out In Michigan Homecoming

As Ohio State's offense overcame its sluggish start, the ground game gained steam down the stretch and wore down Michigan State's top-ranked run defense. Junior running back Mike Weber, a Detroit native making a homecoming of sorts against the Spartans, did the bulk of the Buckeyes' damage with 22 carries for 104 yards and a touchdown. The 5-10, 214-pounder's 2-yard plunge into the end zone on second-and-goal with 1:12 left in the fourth quarter added a cushion to OSU's 20-point win.

"We knew exactly what this would be and it was, and that was November football at Michigan State," Meyer said. "Mike Weber ran for over 100 yards, and I would have to say 75 percent of that was post-contact yards and he ran really, really hard."

Since his 20 carries for 186 yards and three touchdowns in Ohio State's 77-31 rout of Oregon State to open the season, Weber had been relatively quiet while the run game sputtered throughout October. He reached the end zone for the first time since that

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# Game Analysis

## What Worked Well

Aside from the obvious punting, the run defense. One week removed from a 157-yard, two-touchdown performance on just 15 carries, Spartan running back Connor Heyward managed only 1 yard on four carries. In fact, outside of quarterback Rocky Lombardi's 47-yard run on a well-designed play, Michigan State gained just 7 rushing yards on 17 attempts. The Spartans' rushing total of 54 yards marked the lowest amount allowed by the Buckeyes all season. They went into the game allowing 153.4 yards per game on the ground.

Ohio State had surrendered more than 5.0 yards per carry against Oregon State, TCU, Minnesota and Purdue but held Michigan State to just 3.0 yards per tote, including Lombardi's long rush. Ohio State set the tone from the first snap with Jonathon Cooper and Malik Harrison downing Hayward in the backfield, and the Buckeyes stifled the Spartan ground game throughout. The Buckeye secondary flew around the field making plays, led by sophomore safety Brendon White's five tackles. The linebackers filled much faster than they had in prior weeks with Pete Werner leading the way with a team-high seven tackles and Tuf Borland adding six.

## What Didn't Work

In a game where the Buckeyes weren't great, there actually weren't many glaring deficiencies. However, Ohio State's blocking up front was subpar. The Spartans were credited with two sacks and two quarterback hurries, but sophomore quarterback

Dwayne Haskins was forced to rush even more throws due to pass-protection breakdowns. On third-and-9 in the first quarter of a scoreless game, Haskins had Binjimen Victor wide open down the sideline, but Michigan State defensive end Kenny Willekes beat Isaiah Prince at the line of scrimmage and screamed toward Haskins like a missile. The Buckeye quarterback wisely threw the ball out of bounds instead of risking an interception, as he had no time to set his feet.

The blocking breakdowns also affected the running game with the Spartans tallying a remarkable nine tackles for loss in the game. The Ohio State offensive line also committed three untimely false-start penalties, including one on fourth-and-1 at the Michigan State 35-yard line, resulting in a punt with the Buckeyes leading 7-6.

## Play Of The Game

Leading 9-6 in the fourth quarter, a Drue Chrisman punt pinned the Spartans at their own 2-yard line. Michigan State botched the first-down snap, hitting Spartan receiver Laress Nelson on the hip while he was in motion. Junior defensive tackle Dre'Mont Jones dived on the ground, fought for the ball and recovered the fumble in the end zone for a touchdown. The ensuing extra point put the Buckeyes up 16-6, and they never looked back. Jones' big-time play broke Michigan State, which totaled just 32 yards **I GET 31-flm** on its next four drives, which resulted in a fumble, a punt, an interception and a turnover on downs.

– Joe Dempsey

performance against the Beavers and also built upon a nine-carry, 91-yard effort in the Buckeyes' 36-31 win over Nebraska on Nov. 3. On the campaign, Weber boasts 127 totes for 711 yards and four touchdowns in 10 games.

## McLaurin Makes History, Joins 1K Club

When Terry McLaurin wasn't racing downfield as a gunner and downing sophomore punter Drue Chrisman's kicks near the goal line to pin Michigan State on drive after drive, the fifth-year senior wide receiver was making history with his hands.

With five catches for 63 yards (12.6 per catch), McLaurin upped his career receiving total to 1,011 yards.

"When you've got a fifth-year guy, a senior, you want him to be able to do everything," McLaurin said. "So I've made some plays on the perimeter blocking, I've made some plays through the air and I've made some plays on special teams. So I pride myself on being a leader for this team and making plays when we need it no matter how tired I am."

He joined Campbell (1,378 yards) and junior K.J. Hill (1,544) to create the first trio in Ohio State history to surpass the 1,000-yard plateau while on the roster at the same time.

Despite not recording a catch for the Buckeyes against the Spartans, plagued by drops, fifth-year senior Johnnie Dixon is just 143 yards away at 857 yards.

## Olave Takes Next Step With Critical Catches

Chris Olave's two catches for 41 yards (20.5 average) weren't the first of his young career at OSU, but they were on a higher scale of importance compared to the other grabs he's had to date.

The 6-1, 175-pound freshman wide receiver flashed on Ohio State's first drive deep into Michigan State territory. Before the march fell short on sophomore placekicker Blake Haubeil's wide-right miss from 44 yards out with 6:55 left in the second quarter, Haskins had the Buckeyes moving with Olave as a big reason why.

Haskins hit a groove on a three-play sequence with consecutive first downs, starting and ending with Olave receptions while McLaurin's 11-yard grab was sandwiched in between. Olave hauled in passes of 25 and 16 yards, ultimately bringing OSU down to the Spartans' 17 before things stalled.

For the San Marcos (Calif.) Mission Hills product, the pair of catches marked his first career multi-reception game as his role continues to grow in junior wide receiver Austin Mack's indefinite absence after Oct. 22 foot surgery. Previously, Olave hauled in a grab each against Oregon State on Sept. 1 and Tulane on Sept. 22, adding up for just 19 yards. At MSU he more than doubled his season yardage total.

## White Leaves No Doubt In First Start

A week after his 13-tackle performance off the bench against Nebraska, Brendon White picked up right where he left off with five tackles and a pass breakup to lead a solid performance by Ohio State's secondary against Michigan State's quarterbacks.

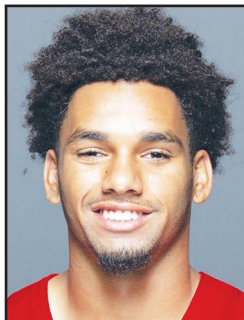
Down a safety without sophomore Isaiah Pryor, who wasn't listed on the travel roster after sitting out against Nebraska with a shoulder injury, White edged redshirt

freshman Shaun Wade for the starting spot next to junior Jordan Fuller. Wade had previously started alongside Fuller against the Cornhuskers.

While the Buckeyes turned in a solid outing on the back end, capped with Wade's second career interception on a throw by Brian Lewerke in the fourth quarter, White left no doubt about contending for a starting safety spot – a position that remained unresolved 10 weeks into the season.

"It's starting to become more real now," White said. "I'm starting to be a big part of the game plan now. So I'm having to lock in more, stay prepared, stay ready, stay focused and don't get sidetracked."

White brings an edge to safety. Part of the fuel comes from his father and former Buckeyes defensive back (1984-87), William White, who has been an inspiration since he was diagnosed in August 2017 with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. Meyer gave the game ball to the elder White via Brendon.



Chris Olave



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# BSB Quotebook: Ohio State 26, Michigan State 6

**Ohio State head coach Urban Meyer on if the mood was different for his team after the win:** "It sure was – that was a big one and we're very satisfied. I agree with you, the other ones – you kind of, people don't feel like they won. That was a great locker room. That's the way it's supposed to be, enjoy the win and get ready for the next one."

**Meyer when asked if sophomore punter Drue Chrisman influenced the game more than any punter he's seen:** "I think so, especially against this kind of environment. And we've had some great ones over the years, but I think Drue and the little Australian (former OSU punter Cam Johnston) was pretty good at it, too."

**Meyer, joking, after being asked what it was like to see his punter doing a post-game TV interview:** "I wouldn't have let him had I known that was happening."

**Chrisman on doing a TV interview:** "I didn't really even know that was a thing. I've seen guys do it after games, but never a punter at least. I've seen a kicker a couple times, hit a couple clutch field goals, but did not know it would possibly be a punter."

**Meyer, joking again, on Chrisman's first punt of the game, which went just 4 yards:** "I almost benched him. We just don't have anybody else to go with."

**Chrisman on his 4-yard punt:** "I think I didn't realize how strong the wind was, just pushed it out of my hand right off the drop. It came off the side of the foot about 10 rows deep into the bleachers."

**Chrisman on the conversation with Meyer after the short punt:** "He definitely talked to me afterwards, just asked what happened. Nobody was negative whatsoever. Everybody was really positive, the whole punt team. I knew that I was better than that, they know I'm better than that, so they just told me to keep my head up and I'm going to be needed later in the game, and it showed."

**Meyer on what the OSU defense did well:** "Tackle. We really tackled well. I felt like we covered well and tackled well."

**OSU sophomore safety Brendon White on the defense's performance:** "I think it comes down to the brotherhood. We're super close together and we're going to do it for our brothers. We're not going to try to do too extra, trying to make a play for yourself. We're going to make a play for our brothers, and if that works out, then the rest will take care of itself."

**OSU junior defensive end Jonathon Cooper on whether the performance was a turning point for the defense:** "I feel like it was. I feel like me and the defense, I'm



SONNY BROCKWAY

**DO-IT-ALL PLAYER –** Fifth-year senior wide receiver Terry McLaurin (83) tallied five catches for 63 yards against Michigan State while starring on special teams.

speaking on behalf of them, I feel like we still haven't played our best game and we still have so much more to show, so much more to work on and improve on. And we just keep getting better week by week, and that's just the main focus."

**White on the team's work in practice on tackling:** "We were more physical this week. We had more tackling drills this week. We really focused on that after missing 15 last week and 20 the week before that, we really narrowed down when we're doing scout work. We definitely worked on tackling more."

**OSU sophomore quarterback Dwayne Haskins on how the cold, windy weather impacted his performance:** "It was all right. We just had to figure out how we were going to be able to throw and catch it in the cold. It was our first game all year we played in the cold like that, but I didn't think it was too bad."

**Haskins on his performance:** "The deep ball I had to Terry (McLaurin) – I let that one go. I probably should have taken a little bit off of that one. But otherwise than that, I thought I was pretty accurate all day."

**OSU fifth-year senior wide receiver Terry McLaurin on the offense:** "We just had to keep pushing and pushing. It worked out for us because we had really good field position. The defense played outstanding today. Give them credit – they put us in really good positions to score. But we're going to continue to

try to get better in the red zone, but to be honest it came down to – I feel like we were really tough down the stretch and we didn't get tired. Our offensive line was really moving them off the ball when we needed some first downs, and we picked up some big first downs or two at the end."

**Michigan State head coach Mark Dantonio on his decision to snap the ball out of the end zone for a safety in the third quarter:** "We're down by one, 7-6, we're on our fourth punter. He's our fourth-team punter. William Prystup is his name in case anyone wants to know, but William's never punted before until this game, and it felt like coming off the goal line with only 10 yards between the snap and the punter, there's an opportunity for the punt to be blocked and it's still a one-field-goal game, and I felt like our defense was playing well enough."

**MSU co-offensive coordinator Dave Warner on the Spartans' stagnant offense:** "If you point to one specific area, we have not been able to run the football. Last week we obviously ran the football well. Other than that, we haven't had a great push out front. LJ (Scott) has been banged up all year. It would be nice to have him in there. He helps a little bit. We continue to evaluate the scheme we're using. We continue to try and find ways to be able to run the football. Obviously, we struggled today. We were backed up like five straight times there and really not able to run some of our offense."



# The Numbers Game

## Ohio State 26, Michigan State 6

Nov. 10, 2018 – Spartan Stadium; East Lansing, Mich.

Score by Quarters	1	2	3	4		F
OHIO STATE (9-1, 6-1 BIG TEN)	0	7	2	17	–	26
MICHIGAN STATE (6-4, 4-3 BIG TEN)	0	3	3	0	–	6

### First Quarter

No scoring.

### Second Quarter

**OSU** – Campbell, 1 yard pass from Haskins (Haubeil kick), 1:29; 11 plays, 55 yards, 4:26 TOP.

**MSU** – Coghlin, 44 yard field goal, 0:30; 7 plays, 49 yards, 0:59 TOP.

### Third Quarter

**MSU** – Coghlin, 38 yards field goal, 5:35; 8 plays, 74 yards, 2:45 TOP.

**OSU** – TEAM safety, 0:42.

### Fourth Quarter

**OSU** – D. Jones, fumble recovery in end zone (Haubeil kick), 14:03.

**OSU** – Haubeil, 35 yard field goal, 12:22; 4 plays, -3 yards, 1:34 TOP.

**OSU** – Weber, 2 yard run (Haubeil kick), 1:12; 9 plays, 42 yards, 3:59 TOP.

**Att.** – 74,633.

**Weather** – 33 degrees, overcast and flurries; wind WNW 14 mph.

### Team Statistics

	OSU	MSU
First Downs	21	12
Rushing	8	3
Passing	12	9
Penalty	1	0
Rushes-Yards	45-120	18-54
Passing Yards	227	220
Passes (Comp.-Att.-Int.)	24-39-0	18-48-1
Offensive Plays	84	66
Total Net Yards	347	274
Third Down Efficiency	6-18	2-16
Fourth Down Efficiency	0-0	1-3
Punts-Avg.	9-37.8	8-40.2
Fumbles-Lost	1-1	4-2
Penalties	4-30	7-46
Time of Possession	37:29	22:31

### Individual Statistics

**RUSHING (Att.-Net Yds.) – OSU:** Weber 22-104; Dobbins 14-28; Campbell 2-9; Martell 1-5; Haskins 3-(-11); TEAM 3-(-15). **MSU:** Lombardi 3-49; Lewerke 6-4; Jefferson 2-4; Heyward 4-1; TEAM 3-(-4).

**PASSING (Comp.-Att.-Int.-Yds.-TD) – OSU:** Haskins 24-39-0-227-1. **MSU:** Lewerke 11-28-1-128-0; Lombardi 7-19-0-92-0; White 0-1-0-0-0.

**RECEIVING (Rec.-Yds.) – OSU:** Campbell 6-42; Hill 6-38; McLaurin 5-63; Olave 2-41; Berry 2-26; Farrell 1-10; Dobbins 1-9; Weber 1-(-2). **MSU:** White 8-115; Stewart 4-42; Chambers 3-30; Dotson 1-12; Sowards 1-12; Heyward 1-9.

**PUNTING (No.-Avg.-Long) – OSU:** Chrisman 9-37.8-53. **MSU:** Przystup 5-46.2-52; Baringer 3-30.3-42.

**PUNT RETURNS (No.-Yds.) – OSU:** Hill 2-3. **MSU:** None.

**KICKOFF RETURNS (No.-Yds.) – OSU:** None. **MSU:** Heyward 1-8.

**MISSED FIELD GOALS (Yds.) – OSU:** Haubeil 44. **MSU:** Coghlin 51.

**FORCED FUMBLES – OSU:** None. **MSU:** None.

**FUMBLE RECOVERIES (No.-Yds) – OSU:** Cooper 1-0; Jones 1-0. **MSU:** Beesley 1-0.

**INTERCEPTIONS (No.-Yds.) – OSU:** Wade 1-12. **MSU:** None.

**TACKLES FOR LOSS (No.-Yds.) – OSU:** Borland 1.0-6; Cooper 0.5-1; Harrison 0.5-0. **MSU:** Willekes 3.5-8; Layne 1.5-5; Dowell 1.0-2; Williams 1.0-2; Reschke 1.0-1; Jones 0.5-4; Willis 0.5-1.

**SACKS (No.-Yds.) – OSU:** None. **MSU:** Willekes 1.0-4; Jones 0.5-4; Layne 0.5-3.

**TACKLES (Solo-Asst.-Tot.) – OSU:** Werner 4-3-7; Borland 1-5-6; White 1-4-5; Sheffield 2-2-4; Harrison 1-3-4; Fuller 2-1-3; Okudah 1-1-2; Cooper 0-2-2; Arnette 0-2-2; Jones 0-2-2; Young 1-0-1; TEAM 1-0-1; Hilliard 1-0-1; T. Smith 0-1-1; Cornell 0-1-1; Garrett 0-1-1; Booker 0-1-1; Landers 0-1-1. **MSU:** Willis 5-10-15; Dowell 2-12-14; Willekes 4-9-13; Layne 6-4-10; Reschke 2-7-9; Williams 1-5-6; Dowell 2-3-5; Scott 1-4-5; Bachie 0-5-5; Panasiuk 1-3-4; Jones 1-2-3; Owens 0-3-3; Beesley 1-1-2; Thompson 0-2-2; Henderson 1-0-1; Lewerke 1-0-1; Simmons 0-1-1; Long 0-1-1; Camper 0-1-1; Bullough 0-1-1; Morrissey 0-1-1; Panasiuk 0-1-1.

**PLAYERS IN THE GAME – OHIO STATE:** Offense, Munford, Pridgeon, Jordan, Knox, Prince, Farrell, Haskins, Weber, Campbell, McLaurin, Dixon, Haubeil. Defense, Young, Landers, D. Jones, Cooper, Harrison, Borland, Werner, Sheffield, Fuller, White, Arnette, Chrisman. Reserves, Martell, Proctor, Gant, T. Smith, Hill, Okudah, Dobbins, Mitchell, Cornell, Victor, Riep, Banks, Berry, Olave, Wint, Wade, Hilliard, McCullough, Booker, Hamilton, Friday, Togiai, Garrett. **MICHIGAN STATE:** Offense, Stewart, Chewins, Higby, Bueter, Jarvis, Reid, Sokal, Sowards, White, Lewerke, Heyward, Coghlin. Defense, Willekes, Panasiuk, Williams, Panasiuk, Dowell, Bachie, Thompson, Layne, Dowell, Willis, Scott, Baringer. Reserves, Krumm, Henderson, Long, Przystup, Morrissey, Lombardi, Nelson, Jefferson, Chambers, Bouyer, Reschke, Brown, Simmons, Razzano, Bullough, Owens, Miller, Harvey, Armour, Rosenthal, Carrick, Arcuri, Khaleefah, Beesley, Dotson, Camper, Jones, Gianacakos, Hahn.

## 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	(3) MINNESOTA	W, 30-14	100,042		
Oct. 20	(2) at Purdue	L, 49-20	60,716		
Nov. 3	(10) NEBRASKA	W, 36-31	104,245		
Nov. 10	(10) at Mich. St. (18)	W, 26-6	74,633		
Nov. 17	at Maryland	Noon	–		
Nov. 24	MICHIGAN	Noon	–		
Dec. 1	Big Ten Title Game**	8 p.m.	–		

OSU's CFP ranking is in parentheses before the opponent, while the opponent's ranking is after the name. AP ranking used through Purdue game.

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

\*\* – At Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis.

Team Statistics		
	OSU	Opp
First Downs	286	189
Rushing	101	66
Passing	161	100
Penalty	24	23
Average Per Game/Rush	172.3	143.5
Average Per Game/Pass	354.9	241.5
Total Offense	5,272	3,850
Total Plays	814	680
Average Per Game	527.2	385.0
Average Per Play	6.5	5.7
Penalties-Yards	76-683	56-560
Fumbles-Lost	12-5	19-10
Third Down Efficiency	68-147	43-143
Percentage	46%	30%
Fourth Down Efficiency	11-17	6-13
Percentage	65%	46%
Sacks-Yards	27-178	15-71
Time Of Possession Avg.	31:31	28:29

Score							
By Quarters	1	2	3	4	OT	Tot.	Avg.
Ohio State	99	111	80	116	–	406	40.6
Opponents	41	78	50	51	–	220	22.0
Individual Statistics							
Rushing	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Long		
J.K. Dobbins	157	712	4.5	7	42		
Mike Weber	127	711	5.6	4	49		
Tate Martell	19	126	6.6	2	47		
Master Teague	17	106	6.2	1	33		
Brian Snead	11	37	3.4	1	5		
Dwayne Haskins	41	34	0.8	1	17		
Demario McCall	4	26	6.5	0	15		
C.J. Saunders	0	8	0.0	0	0		
Parris Campbell	6	7	1.2	0	18		
K.J. Hill	1	-3	-3.0	0	0		
TEAM	15	-50	-3.3	0	0		
OSU Totals	400	1,723	4.3	16	49		
OPP Totals	342	1,435	4.2	15	93		

Passing	Comp.	Att.	Pct.	Yds.	TD-INT	Effic.
D. Haskins	266	386	68.9	3,280	33-6	165.39
Tate Martell	23	28	82.1	269	1-0	174.63
OSU Totals	289	414	69.8	3,549	34-6	166.02
OPP Totals	179	338	53.0	2,415	12-7	120.55

Receiving	Rec.	Net	Avg.	TD	Long
Parris Campbell	62	673	10.9	9	71
K.J. Hill	57	733	12.9	4	42
Terry McLaurin	26	461	17.7	8	75
Johnnie Dixon	26	380	14.6	5	44
Austin Mack	26	331	12.7	1	48
J.K. Dobbins	17	195	11.5	1	35
Mike Weber	16	82	5.1	1	15
Binjimen Victor	15	246	16.4	3	47
Luke Farrell	13	136	10.5	1	24
C.J. Saunders	10	73	7.3	0	19
Rashod Berry	6	62	10.3	1	15
Demario McCall	6	58	9.7	0	35
Chris Olave	4	60	15.0	0	25
Jaylen Harris	2	22	11.0	0	15
Garyn Prater	1	13	13.0	0	13
Jeremy Ruckert	1	13	13.0	0	13
Jaelyn Gill	1	11	11.0	0	11
OSU Totals	289	3,549	12.3	34	75
OPP Totals	179	2,415	13.5	12	93

Scoring	TD	EPK	EPR	EPRC	FG	PTS
Parris Campbell	9	–	–	–	–	54
Terry McLaurin	8	–	–	–	–	48
S. Nuernberger	–	39-39	–	–	3-5	48
J.K. Dobbins	8	–	–	–	–	48
Johnnie Dixon	5	–	–	–	–	30
Blake Haubeil	–	12-12	–	–	6-8	30
Mike Weber	5	–	–	–	–	30
K.J. Hill	4	–	–	–	–	24
Binjimen Victor	3	–	–	–	–	18
Dre'Mont Jones	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	–	0-1	0-2	–	6
Austin Mack	1	–	–	–	–	6
Brian Snead	1	–	–	–	–	6
Master Teague	1	–	–	–	–	6
Keandre Jones (1 safety)						2
TEAM (1 safety)						2
OSU Totals	54	51-51	0-1	0-2	9-13	406
OPP Totals	28	25-26	0-1	0-1	9-16	220

FG Distance	0-29	30-39	40-49	50+	Total
S. Nuernberger	2-2	1-2	0-1	0-0	3-5
Blake Haubeil	4-4	1-2	1-2	0-0	6-8
OSU Totals	6-6	2-4	1-3	0-0	9-13
OPP Totals	2-2	5-7	2-5	0-2	9-16

Punting	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Bk	Long
Drue Chrisman	44	1,883	42.8	0	65
OSU Totals	44	1,883	42.8	0	65
OPP Totals	64	2,528	39.5	2	56

Interceptions	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
Shaun Wade	2	12	6.0	0	12
Kendall Sheffield	2	0	0.0	0	0
Dre'Mont Jones	1	28	28.0	1	28
Malik Harrison	1	13	13.0	0	13
Isaiah Pryor	1	0	0.0	0	0
OSU Totals	7	53	7.6	1	28
OPP Totals	6	174	29.0	1	46

Punt Returns	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
K.J. Hill	10	38	3.8	0	17
C.J. Saunders	8	50	6.2	0	20
Demario McCall	3	32	10.7	0	26
Keandre Jones	1	22	22.0	0	0
OSU Totals	22	142	6.5	0	26
OPP Totals	9	34	3.8	0	12

Kickoff Returns	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
Johnnie Dixon	12	240	20.0	0	38
Demario McCall	2	52	26.0	0	31
C.J. Saunders	2	24	12.0	0	14
K.J. Hill	1	4	4.0	0	4
OSU Totals	17	320	18.8	0	38
OPP Totals	19	283	14.9	0	22

Def. Leaders	Solo	Ast.	Tot.	TFL-Yds.	Sacks
Malik Harrison	33	19	52	4.5-14	1.5-10
Jordan Fuller	37	14	51	1.5-2	–
Pete Werner	29	13	42	7.5-20	3.0-10
Tuf Borland	17	23	40	5.0-17	2.0-10
Dre'Mont Jones	17	13	30	10.0-55	6.5-49
Isaiah Pryor	18	11	29	1.0-1	–
Damon Arnette	21	7	28	–	–
Jahsen Wint	20	5	25	0.5-1	–
Brendon White	11	12	23	2.0-6	–
Chase Young	14	9	23	8.5-39	4.5-29
Baron Browning	11	11	22	3.5-11	1.0-6
Shaun Wade	19	3	22	–	–
Jeffrey Okudah	18	4	22	–	–
Kendall Sheffield	17	4	21	2.0-4	–
Justin Hilliard	12	6	18	1.0-7	–
Jonathon Cooper	6	10	16	4.5-13	1.5-6
Nick Bosa	11	3	14	6.0-43	4.0-39
Robert Landers	6	7	13	2.0-8	–
Jashon Cornell	6	5	11	1.0-8	–
Davon Hamilton	4	5	9	2.5-3	–
Dante Booker	5	4	9	3.0-19	1.0-12
OSU Totals	365	214	579	69-280	27-178
OPP Totals	453	350	803	49-142	15-71
Fumbles Forced:	8 – Tuf Borland 2, Nick Bosa, Dwayne Haskins, Dre'Mont Jones, Kendall Sheffield, Shaun Wade, Pete Werner.				
Fumbles Recovered:	10 – Dre'Mont Jones 3, Nick Bosa 2, Jonathon Cooper, Jordan Fuller, Davon Hamilton, Jeffrey Okudah, TEAM.				



# White Living Up To His Legacy For Ohio State

By JAMES GREGA  
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

Anyone who has watched Ohio State in 2018 knows that safety play hasn't exactly been a strong point for the Buckeyes.

So it was only fitting that when Jordan Fuller was ejected for targeting in the first half of a 36-31 win over Nebraska, even Urban Meyer admitted he was concerned with what was happening in the back end of the Buckeye defense.

"I see Jordan Fuller leave the game and you're thinking, 'My gosh, here we go again,'" he said.

With Isaiah Pryor already sidelined with a minor injury, Ohio State turned to sophomore Brendon White, the son of former Buckeye William White, to replace Fuller.

On a day in which Ohio State honored the elder White in an effort to bring awareness to ALS, from which he suffers, the younger White posted a career day.

In his first significant playing time as a Buckeye, White tallied 13 tackles and was

named the defensive player of the game by his coaches. White said immediately following the game that he got emotional in the locker room, and he added Nov. 6 that the conversation he had with his father after the game was special for him.

"It was a dream come true," the younger White said. "He was super proud of me. During this whole process, it was just keeping my faith. I have had some struggles here, not being able to play. But when I got the opportunity, I wanted to make the most of it and have fun with my teammates and not try to do too much but just do my job to help the team win."

A week later, White (6-2, 210) got the first start of his career, tallying five tackles in a 26-6 win at Michigan State.

When he arrived on campus at Ohio State, White was labeled a tremendous athlete without a specific position. At nearby Olentangy Liberty High School, White played a variety of positions, including quarterback, wide

receiver, cornerback and safety. When he finally came to campus in December 2016 as an early enrollee, White was placed with the linebackers in bowl prep.

The ensuing spring, White saw time at wide receiver and even caught a pass in the 2017 spring game. Before the 2017 season had started, however, White had been moved again to safety, a position that finally stuck with a few more cameos at wideout mixed in.

With the likes of Damon Webb, Erick Smith and Fuller crowding the top of the depth chart a season ago, White rarely saw the field as a safety, though he was a consistent contributor on special teams.

When the 2018 campaign started, White was an afterthought at safety as Pryor and Jahsen Wint earned the majority of the reps opposite Fuller. After both Pryor and Wint struggled, it was cornerback turned safety Shaun Wade who got the opportunity next, not White.

Finally, against the Cornhuskers, White got his chance and didn't disappoint. He said he doesn't want to use his multiple position changes as an excuse for why he didn't play early on in his career.

"I am just really hard on myself so when I wouldn't understand plays or not get the defense down right away I would get down on myself," he said. "That would result in me not making the right plays in practice as I tried to get on the field."

One major change White said he had to

get used to was the speed of the game. He explained that not only are the athletes faster at the FBS level, but the quickness with which plays are called is unlike anything he had ever experienced.

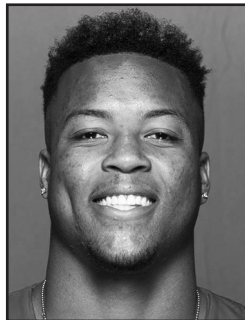
"The game is fast," he said. "You have to get plays out very fast. Different teams will do different formations at different times. Being able to get the call in and make sure it's the right play call (is important). My film study has to be more top-notch this week."

Once on the field, White brings a certain tenacity with his game, which was described by co-defensive coordinator and safeties coach Alex Grinch.

"The ability to run as a big athlete with extreme speed and a guy that has the ability to hit, the run and hit factor is certainly there," Grinch said. "He has only continued to work to master the defense. The unique part is, as you get into the season, there are tweaks as you go through each individual opponent. The trust of the coaches continues to get earned. That is where it starts."

Now that he is contending for more reps on the Ohio State defense, White said he doesn't plan on changing his routine.

"I am not going to try and change anything," he said. "I am going to keep doing what I have been doing and going hard every day, having that eagerness to want to be great and wanting my teammates to be great. At the end of the day, whoever gets the starting job, coaches made the right decision and I am going to be there for it if it's me or if it's not me. At the end of the day, I want the team to win."



Brendon White

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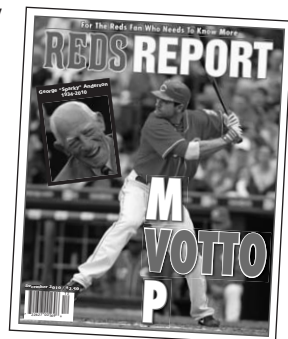
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# LB Jones Makes An Impact Any Way He Can

By CRAIG MERZ  
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

One play, good or bad, can define an athlete's career.

To even the most astute Ohio State fans, the name Keandre Jones did not come to mind as an impact player until his block of a Nebraska punt for a safety Nov. 3 in Ohio Stadium. Those were the first points of the game for the Buckeyes, putting the score at 7-2 midway through the first quarter in what would be a 36-31 victory.

The junior linebacker from Olney, Md., had an undistinguished career to that point with his biggest contributions coming on special teams, so the fandom could be forgiven for not knowing much about him.

His teammates, though, saw the block as a reward for everything he does on and off the field. Jones is known as an energetic, positive force even though his playing time is not what he or prognosticators predicted when the 247Sports four-star recruit came to Columbus from Good Counsel High School.

"We appreciate his effort and what he does for the team," said junior defensive tackle Dre'Mont Jones (no relation).

For Keandre Jones, it's a matter of making the best of the opportunity presented, whether it's showcasing his talents when he gets the chance at linebacker or seeing a gap in the punt-block coverage.

That's how the block came about, said Pete Werner, the sophomore linebacker who was on the punt defense unit with Jones.

"(Head coach Urban Meyer) preaches that everybody's got to run to that block spot, and somebody's going to block the punt," Werner said. "One of the guys blocked the guy that he was supposed to, and (Jones) was the guy that didn't get blocked and he was right there. He did the right thing and didn't take any false steps and made a great play."

Said Jones, "I was fortunate enough to be in the right position at the right time and make a good play for my team. Anytime you're able to help your team score some points, you get a good feeling. Scoring any points to help your team win a game is exciting, and (having) 100,000 fans cheering your team on is exciting."

He also had one thought when he saw the seas part in front of him for a clear path to the punter: "You better make that play."

Jones did, which is always a good thing because Meyer oversees the special units.

"I'm very involved in the kicking game, and he's done very well for us there," Meyer said. "I love Keandre. He's on all our special teams. And I don't know exactly how many snaps he's getting on defense, but that was obviously a big play, and that's how you start earning your right to get more playing time."

Jones played in all 14 games last season and had only 87 defensive snaps as the backup to outside linebacker Jerome Baker, who was chosen by the Miami Dolphins in the third round (73rd overall) of the 2018 NFL draft.

Heading into this season, Jones was expected to have bigger role, but he has yet to fulfill those expectations. Meyer said there's a simple way to get to play more.

"Perform in practice, just the same as any position," he said.

Jones said he is not frustrated.

"Not at all when you've got guys like Pete Werner, Malik Harrison and Tuf Borland,



JOSH WINSLOW

**GAME-CHANGER** – Junior linebacker Keandre Jones (16) blocked a punt for a safety against Nebraska on Nov. 3, helping Ohio State to a 36-31 victory.

my whole linebacker group," he said. "They keep me in good spirits working hard in practice. I'm being patient."

"It goes with just taking your pride, putting your pride to the side and doing whatever you have to do for this university and this team. So, I'm very patient, and my time's going to come soon."

Even without being a first-teamer, he has earned the respect of his teammates.

"He's great and I think he's going to be great," said third-year sophomore tight end Luke Farrell. "He's in my class so I was matched up with him a lot the past three years. He just plays with that kind of that attitude, that confidence that you need to play linebacker here. So I think there's a lot of great things for him, and you saw a little glimpse of it with the punt block."

"He plays fast, he plays downhill. He'll hit you in the mouth for sure when he's coming, whether you're on the edge or the inside."

Jones is known for his work ethic in practices.

"We have him going around different spots right now, so he's (had) to learn a few different positions, but he's doing a great job," Werner said. "Ke's one of those guys that whatever the coach asks for him, he's going to do it and he's going to do it as hard as he can. He's just a big effort guy, knows his stuff and really gives it all he's got every play."

Jones offers advice and encouragement plus a reminder that playing football for the Buckeyes should be fun, something that doesn't always happen with so much pressure associated with the program.

"The guy's got personality," Dre'Mont

Jones said. "Whether he's playing or not, he's not a quitter. He's going to be out there helping guys out, no matter what it is whether he's out there playing or not."

He mentioned that Keandre Jones is considered one of the leaders even though he doesn't play much.

"You do it by staying positive, bringing

the smiles around everyone I meet, keeping the young guys up, encouraging them," Keandre Jones said. "Just go hard, play hard and try to be a leader on this team."

"Just staying positive and just realizing the main focus is winning every game and coming out here with energy, that's the main goal."



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# OSU D-Line Improving After Bosa's Departure

By JOE DEMPSEY  
Special To Buckeye Sports Bulletin

When Ohio State All-America defensive end Nick Bosa went down with an injury against TCU on Sept. 15, the rest of the Buckeye defensive linemen knew they would have to step up in his absence. Then, after Bosa realized he'd have to undergo core muscle surgery and endure a lengthy rehab process, his teammates realized they would have to try to replace him for good.

Replacing a player of Bosa's stature with the impact he has on every snap is a tall task, especially considering the dominance he had displayed in just several quarters on the field in 2018. While Ohio State was defeating Oregon State and Rutgers by wide margins to open the season, Bosa spent a lot of time on the sideline with the games in hand. The Fort Lauderdale (Fla.) St. Thomas Aquinas product also left the TCU game early in the third quarter but had already impacted the game with a strip sack resulting in a Davon Hamilton touchdown.

In limited playing time through three games, Bosa recorded 14 tackles (11 solo), including six tackles for loss and four sacks with one quarterback hurry, two fumble recoveries and the one forced fumble. That is outstanding production for a defensive lineman through approximately seven quarters of football, especially considering that the likely future NFL first-round pick is on every opponent's radar.



JOSH WINSLOW

**DISRUPTOR** – Junior defensive tackle Dre'Mont Jones (86) leads Ohio State with 10 tackles for loss through 10 games.

Head coach Urban Meyer addressed the situation at his Nov. 7 press conference when asked how much losing Bosa has affected the defense.

"Well, yes," Meyer said of whether the loss of Bosa had an impact. "Whenever arguably – well not arguably, one of the probably

top five players in America is not playing – he's an inspiration, was a captain, was this, that. But that happened quite a while ago. So what's the impact? Obviously big. But you've got to move on."

Although the defense has struggled in Bosa's absence as a whole, the defensive line has not been the reason for that. The unit bonded together upon hearing that the standout end had dropped out of Ohio State to recover and then prepare for the 2019 NFL draft. The Buckeyes' defensive linemen took it upon themselves to fill the void left by one of the nation's most feared pass rushers.

"It's really competitive excellence," Hamilton, a junior defensive tackle, said Sept. 18. "We can't be down because somebody else is down. And as good as he is, we've really got to keep picking it up. We have players on the team. Everybody's talented here. You wouldn't come here if you

weren't talented. So we've just got to step up."

"The way I view it as Nick Bosa's Nick Bosa," junior defensive end Jonathon Cooper said. "He's always going to be Nick Bosa, but I feel like our motto as a defensive line has always been 'next man up' and guys just have to step up now. And I feel like the whole entire defensive line is going to step up and I feel like we're not going to miss a beat."

Although the absence of Bosa has certainly affected the defense, it is unlikely the Buckeyes would be undefeated if he were healthy, as they were trounced 49-20 by Purdue. And as they predicted, the Buckeye defensive linemen have stepped up.

Junior defensive tackle Dre'Mont Jones leads the unit with 30 tackles (17 solo), sophomore defensive end Chase Young is second with 23 tackles (14 solo) and Cooper is tied with Bosa for third with 14 tackles.

Jones has put together a solid season, leading the team with 10 tackles for loss and 6½ sacks, while also contributing four quarterback hurries, three fumble recoveries (one for a touchdown), one forced fumble, two pass breakups and an interception return for a touchdown.

Young is a force as a pass rusher, leading the team with eight quarterback hurries and ranking second on the team with 8½ tackles for loss and 4½ sacks, while adding a unit-high four pass breakups.

Cooper (4½ tackles for loss) and Hamilton (2½ tackles for loss) have also made an impact in opposing backfields. Junior defensive linemen Jashon Cornell (one TFL) and Robert Landers (two TFL) have contributed as well. Freshmen defensive linemen Tyreke Smith, Tommy Togiai and Tyler Friday have shown promise for the future while seeing increased action on Saturdays.

After a major letdown against Purdue, the defensive line had to bond together and figure out what issues the unit needed to overcome. Jones said the defense always has room to improve, but he likes the positive energy he is seeing.

"We have more energy on the sideline, and in the game we have a lot more fun," Jones said Nov. 7. "And just play recognition. I think we were able to dissect the offense a little better than usual (against Nebraska)."

"I feel like in the past we let big plays get to us a little bit, but I feel like this past game (against the Huskers) we kind of just let it go and just realized that we had to take it one play at a time."

Hamilton agreed with Jones' sentiment about the defense having more fun, saying he and his teammates have been celebrating plays in practice. He emphasized the importance of enjoying the game on a play-to-play basis.

"We kind of all sat down and assessed what we needed to do in order to be better, and that's really one of the main things we needed to focus on was having fun," Hamilton said Nov. 7. "I feel like during practice we're having more fun. That's what I feel like was missing a little bit when it comes to practice and whatnot. A lot of times it's a lot of hurry, going, going, going, but we never get to celebrate when we do good. But now this last week and even throughout the bye week, we just practiced on having fun."

"Football, it's a tense game. You should be really focused and you should go out and try your hardest, but at the same time, if you're not having fun, you're not going to want to do it. So I feel like that's a big key for us."

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# UMD Fighting For Bowl Bid Amid Adversity

By JAMES GREGA  
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

The year that Maryland has gone through is one that can be defined as a nightmare.

Before the season started, the Terrapins lost offensive lineman Jordan McNair to a severe case of heatstroke suffered during a summer workout. His death resulted in a massive investigation that ultimately led to the suspension, reinstatement and eventual firing of head coach DJ Durkin.

Through all of that, the Terrapins have managed to compile a 5-5 record heading into the penultimate game of the 2018 regular season, positioning themselves for a possible postseason game after stumbling to just a 4-8 season a year ago.

Interim head coach Matt Canada led the Terps to a season-opening win over Texas but has also suffered a 21-point loss to Temple and a 23-0 shutout defeat at the hands of Iowa.

Maryland's most recent loss came by two to Indiana in Bloomington, Ind., on Nov. 10, and the Terps will return home for the final time in 2018 against Ohio State with a bowl trip on the line.

While coming up just short against the Hoosiers, Maryland running back Anthony McFarland said the Terps aren't in the business of moral victories despite their first four losses coming by a combined average of 21.5 points.

"If we don't win, nothing I do means anything to me," McFarland, who rushed for 210 yards in the loss, said. "It doesn't matter how many yards I have, how many touchdowns I have. I care about winning more than anything."

The Terps are set to close their season against Ohio State and Penn State, with the latter game coming on the road. Despite the daunting task, Maryland linebacker Tre Watson is confident his team can put the nightmarish season behind them and reach the postseason for the second time in three seasons.

"I know Purdue wasn't favored a couple weeks ago when they put it on Ohio State," Watson said after the loss to Indiana. "I know Michigan State wasn't favored when they beat Penn State in their place. We'll have similar opportunities to do those things against both teams."

## Quarterback Injuries

A year ago, the Terps lost their top two quarterbacks in the first two weeks of the season as both Kasim Hill and Tyrrell Pigrome were lost for the year to ACL injuries.



Anthony McFarland

This season, both returned and battled for the starting job with Hill ultimately getting the nod. Hill started the first 10 games of the season but was once again knocked out of the lineup against the Hoosiers with a leg injury.

Pigrome was inserted and played well against Indiana, completing 10 of 13 passes for 146 yards and a score, leading a come-

back effort that came up just short after Indiana kicker Logan Justus connected on a 42-yard field goal with 2:32 to play to give the Hoosiers the win.

"As soon as he came in, he got everybody going," McFarland said of Pigrome. "I feel like Pig had a hell of a game as soon as he came in, and I'm proud of him."

If Hill can't go, Pigrome figures to get the nod against Ohio State. Pigrome, much like Hill, can be a dual threat when needed.

This season, Pigrome has been utilized as a runner, even though he hasn't started. He has rushed for 166 yards this season on 38 carries and found the end zone once against Michigan in a 42-21 loss.

Behind Pigrome is Max Bortenschlager, who was forced into action last season after the injuries to Hill and Pigrome. Bortenschlager got the start against Ohio State in 2017 and had the worst statistical game of his career against the Buckeyes.

He completed just 3 of 12 passes for 16 yards in a 62-14 loss to Ohio State and has yet to appear in a game this season. Freshman Tyler DuSue is also in the mix at quarterback should Maryland get into a pinch.

## Get To Know ... Maryland

### About Maryland

- **2018 Record:** 5-5 (3-4 Big Ten).
- **Team Information:** Offensive Formation – Multiple; Defensive Formation – Multiple; Starters Returning – Offense 8, Defense 5, Specialists 1.
- **Head Coach:** Matt Canada (interim), first season, 5-5.
- **Series History:** Fifth meeting, Ohio State leads, 4-0.
- **School Facts:** Location – College Park, Md.; Enrollment – 32,275; Nickname – Terrapins; Colors – Red, White, Black & Gold; Conference – Big Ten (East Division); Stadium – Capital One Field at Maryland Stadium (Surface, FieldTurf; Capacity, 51,802).

### Top Offensive Players

Rushing	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Long
Anthony McFarland	104	724	7.0	2	64
Ty Johnson	66	506	7.7	3	81
Tayon Fleet-Davis	66	287	4.3	4	30

Passing	Comp.-Att.	Pct.	Yds.	TD-INT
Kasim Hill	84-170	49.4	1,083	9-4
Tyrrell Pigrome	17-31	54.8	195	1-1

Receiving	Rec.	Net	Avg.	TD	Long
Taivon Jacobs	21	253	12.1	2	26
Jeshuan Jones	18	244	13.6	4	65

### Team Offensive Stats

Points Per Game – 28.8  
Rushing Yards Per Game – 234.9  
Passing Yards Per Game – 131.4  
Total Offense Avg. Per Game – 366.3

### 2018 Schedule

Date	Opponent	Result/Time (ET)
Sept. 1	TEXAS	W, 34-29
Sept. 8	at Bowling Green	W, 45-14
Sept. 15	TEMPLE	L, 35-14
Sept. 22	MINNESOTA	W, 42-13
Oct. 6	at Michigan	L, 42-21
Oct. 13	RUTGERS	W, 34-7
Oct. 20	at Iowa	L, 23-0
Oct. 27	ILLINOIS	W, 63-33
Nov. 3	MICHIGAN STATE	L, 24-3
Nov. 10	at Indiana	L, 34-32
Nov. 17	OHIO STATE	Noon
Nov. 24	at Penn State	TBA

### Top Defensive Players

Def. Leaders	Solo	Ast.	Tot.	TFL-Yds.	Sacks
Tre Watson	60	38	98	3.0-11	1.0-7
Isaiah Davis	38	36	74	2.0-16	2.0-16
Antoine Brooks Jr.	38	18	56	9.5-35	2.5-19
Darnell Savage Jr.	30	12	42	5.0-23	–
Jesse Aniebonam	16	21	37	5.0-30	2.0-21

Interceptions	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
Tre Watson	5	51	10.2	1	36
Darnell Savage Jr.	4	30	7.5	1	23
Byron Cowart	2	13	6.5	0	11
RaVon Davis	2	0	0.0	0	0

### Team Defensive Stats

Points Per Game Allowed – 25.4  
Rushing Yards Per Game Allowed – 161.4  
Passing Yards Per Game Allowed – 181.8  
Total Offense Avg. Per Game Allowed – 343.2

### Players To Watch

McFarland's big game against the Hoosiers was made possible because of nagging injuries to usual starting running back Ty Johnson.

While McFarland leads the team in rushing this season with 724 yards, it had been Johnson who had led the Terrapins in that category the previous two years. As a sophomore in 2016, Johnson rushed for 1,004 yards, leading Maryland to a Quick Lane Bowl appearance in the first year of the Durkin era.

Last season, those numbers dipped to just 875 rushing yards, though it was still good enough to lead the team. This year, hampered by injuries, Johnson missed the Terps' game against Michigan State and has accumulated just 506 yards on the ground, something that has frustrated him all year.

"You want to be out there and to be

able to contribute at all times," he told the Baltimore Sun. "We definitely have the team to be able to go out there and win and everything. This week it's just staying healthy, day-by-day, contribute as much as possible, whether it's running the ball, passing or special teams."

Johnson's name should be familiar to Ohio State fans, as he returned six kicks for 189 yards and a touchdown against the Buckeyes a season ago. Johnson was limited in the loss to Indiana, carrying just five times for 38 yards. McFarland figures to get the start in Johnson's place after his career day against the Hoosiers.

On defense, Maryland's best player is Watson, who entered week 10 of the season as the Big Ten's leading tackler. On the year, he has accumulated 98 tackles. His career high in tackles for a season came in 2016, when he finished ninth in the Big Ten with 102.

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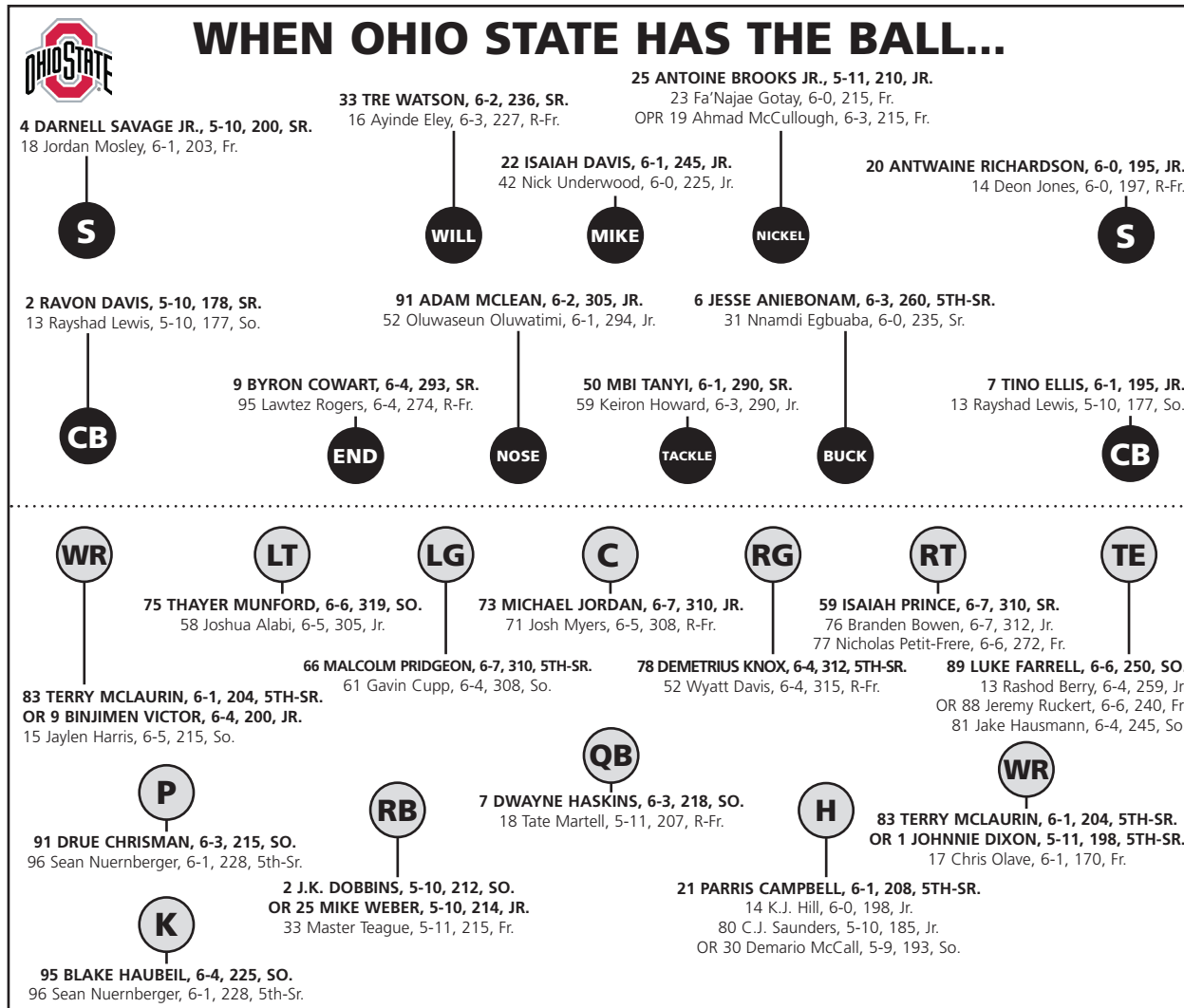


# Ohio State vs. Maryland



Saturday, Nov. 17, 2018 • Noon • ABC  
Capital One Field at Maryland Stadium; College Park, Md.

## Projected Depth Charts



## How We See It

### OHIO STATE RUSH OFFENSE vs. MARYLAND RUSH DEFENSE

It wasn't pretty but the Buckeyes' 120 yards against a stout Michigan State defense were effective enough to grind it out with the game on the line. While Mike Weber rushed for 104 yards on 22 carries (4.7 average) the team averaged just 2.7 and J.K. Dobbins never got untracked, finishing with 28 yards on 14 totes for a tidy 2.0 average. In the Buckeyes' favor looking ahead to Maryland is that they've faced the best rush defense in the country to date. The Spartans entered the game allowing only 71.7 yards per game, so Ohio State gets a passing grade. Adding quarterback Tate Martell to the mix brings back the read-option with a quarterback who can actually run. OSU rushes for 172.3 yards per game. Maryland allows 161.4. **EDGE: OHIO STATE**

### MARYLAND RUSH OFFENSE vs. OHIO STATE RUSH DEFENSE

The Terrapins had a case of Buckeye-itis in av 34-32 loss to Indiana on Nov. 10 – lots of yards but a failure to finish. Maryland had 542 total yards but had four turnovers and kicked four field goals. The Terps have a budding star in Anthony McFarland, who had 29 carries for 210 yards to become the first Maryland runner to surpass the 100-yard mark three times as a freshman. He set the school's single-game and season (724 yards) records for a frosh as well. Maryland is third in the Big Ten at 234.9 yards a game even though the Terrapins gained only 26 yards the previous game vs. Michigan State. Maryland's other backs, Ty Johnson and Javon Leake, were injured in the Indiana game. OSU is fifth in rush defense (143.5) after limiting the Spartans to 54 yards on 18 runs (3.0), including a 47-yard gallop by QB Rocky Lombardi. **EDGE: OHIO STATE**

### OHIO STATE PASS OFFENSE vs. MARYLAND PASS DEFENSE

There was a time when some folks said that Martell should bide his time because Dwayne Haskins will be in the NFL next season. Not so fast. Haskins had another solid and efficient game vs. MSU (24 of 39 for 227 yards and a touchdown) but his longest completion was for 25 yards. His passes don't seem as crisp, and he's been off target more than earlier in the season. That being said, he continues to do a good job of distributing the ball with Parris Campbell and K.J. Hill each having six receptions and Terry McLaurin five against the Spartans. Haskins continues to make use of the tight ends, and he didn't turn the ball over. Maryland will be a challenge despite its record (5-5, 3-4 Big Ten). Tre Watson has five interceptions this season, the most ever by a Maryland linebacker, and the team's 17 picks lead the nation. The Terps' pass defense is second in the Big Ten (181.8 yards allowed per game). **EDGE: MARYLAND**

### MARYLAND PASS OFFENSE vs. OHIO STATE PASS DEFENSE

Terps starting QB Kasim Hill was injured in the third quarter vs. Indiana, and his status for the OSU game is unknown. Sophomore Tyrrell Pigrome threw for 146 yards on 10-of-13 passing with a touchdown as his replacement. However, Pigrome lost a fumble in the closing minutes as Maryland was driving for a potential winning score. The Terps had four turnovers and committed 10 penalties for 93 yards. OSU yielded 220 yards through the air to Michigan State on just 18-of-48 passing with a long of 27, and Shaun Wade had an interception for the improving secondary. **EDGE: OHIO STATE**

### SPECIAL TEAMS

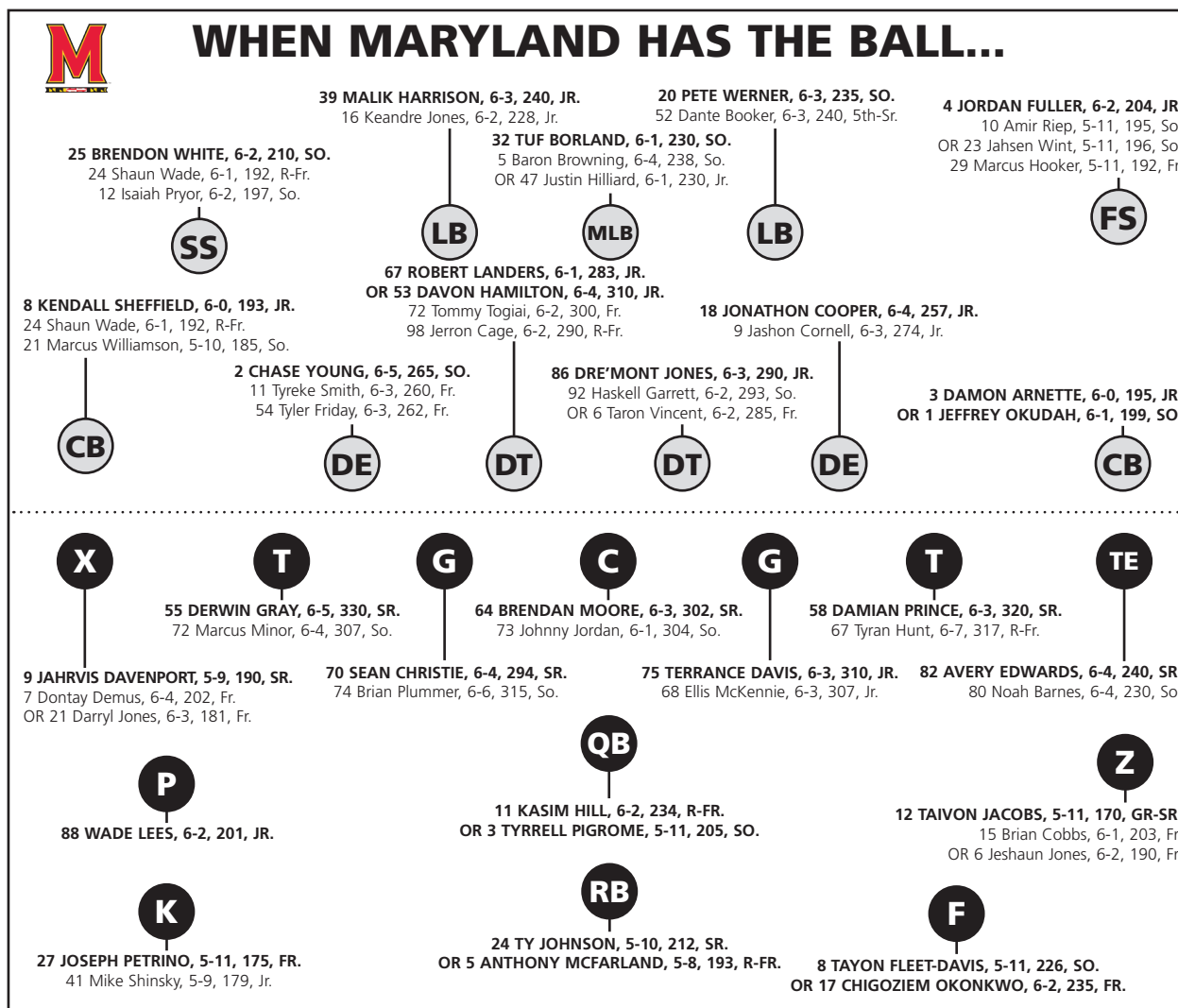
OSU punter Drue Chrisman went from spectacularly awful to spectacularly great on a cold day in East Lansing. His first punt went 4 yards officially but veered seven rows deep into the stands. That was the only place gunner Terry McLaurin couldn't down it as Chrisman pinned the Spartans inside the 6-yard line five times. Leake had a 47-yard kickoff return vs. the Hoosiers before his injury, and Maryland freshman kicker Joseph Petrino is 10 for 10 on field goals with a long of 40. **EDGE: OHIO STATE**

### INTANGIBLES

Ohio State obviously could be looking ahead to Michigan, so it will be up to the coaches and team leaders to remind the players nobody gave Iowa last season and Purdue last month any chance to beat the Buckeyes. There are enough areas that still need corrected that OSU should be focused. Maryland has gone through more trauma than any program should endure with the heatstroke death of offensive lineman Jordan McNair in June and the subsequent fallout that eventually led to the firing of coach DJ Durkin on Oct. 31. Emotions will be raw for the last home game. **EDGE: MARYLAND**

### PREDICTION

Maryland needs one win to qualify for a bowl game. Its last game is at Penn State. Ohio State will be playing a desperate and banged-up team. The Buckeyes should win this one easily, but they've underperformed so many times this season it's hard to gauge where their heads are. They better be at Capital One Field at Maryland Stadium. **OHIO STATE 45, MARYLAND 13**





# Germaine Never Had An Easy Path To The Field

By MARK REA  
BSB Managing Editor Emeritus

The first time Joe Germaine was asked to play quarterback, he quit the team.

His mother, Phyllis, thought it was about time the youngest of her five children began playing organized sports and signed up 8-year-old Joe to play in the local Pop Warner youth football league. Being a huge Walter Payton fan, the youngster naturally assumed he would be his team's starting running back, but the coach had other ideas.

When informed he would be a quarterback, Germaine was furious and promptly quit, stomping his way home in anger. But when he pleaded his case to his mother, she gave him a stern look and an ever sterner warning.

"We don't quit in this family," she said. "If you sign up for something, you see it through."

The 8-year-old went back, apologized to the coach and gutted it out.

"I was furious," Germaine admitted. "I don't know if I cried, but I probably did. When you're 8 years old, you can be pretty emotional. And that first year, man, it was a tough. I pretty much fumbled every snap I got my hands on, but I got a little better as the year went on. The next year, when I was 9, was when I really started falling in love with playing quarterback."

He loved it so much that with the help of his father, "Big Joe," he constructed his own personal field of dreams – a walled-in back yard in his Mesa, Ariz., hometown, consisting of a brown patch of desert about 25 yards long and 10 yards wide filled with cinder-block pilasters playing the role of wide receivers and budding cacti serving as members of the opposing team.

By his own unofficial count, the youngster won thousands of Rose Bowls in that back yard over the years, always rallying his Arizona State team from behind with a last-second touchdown pass. The late rally, the game-winning touchdown pass – lofty childhood dreams that would eventually come true for Germaine in the 83rd Rose Bowl Game.

Except his real-life dream had a bit of a twist to it. Rather than leading the Sun Devils to victory, Germaine plunged a dagger into the heart of his hometown team.

Germaine came off the Ohio State bench after Arizona State had taken a 17-14 lead with only 1:40 to play and led the Buckeyes on a 65-yard drive for the game-winning touchdown, connecting with freshman wide receiver David Boston on a 5-yard scoring pass with only 19 seconds remaining.

The 20-17 victory on New Year's Day 1997 was bittersweet for Germaine, who was named the game's outstanding offensive player. It robbed Arizona State – the team he had led to all of those Rose Bowl victories in his back yard and the team for which his father was a season ticketholder – of its first national championship.

But the Sun Devils had no one to blame but themselves.

Germaine was born Nov. 16, 1975, into a sprawling Mormon family that included four siblings and an untold number of aunts, uncles and cousins. He was born in Denver, the youngest of five children who were seven to 15 years older, and he tried his best to grow up quickly. His father, a gregarious cowboy hat-wearing man, earned his living as a fence and gate contractor. Germaine's mother kept the family on track and helped her husband instill a sense of respect, loyalty and love in each of their children, especially their youngest.

"I really believe that family should be the cornerstone of each person's life," Germaine said. "You should care and concentrate the most about your family because they are your family. That is how important it is to me."

By the time he reached high school, Germaine was an outstanding football and basketball player as well as an honors student. But it was as a quarterback at Mountain View High School that he received the most attention, throwing for more than 2,000 yards in each of his junior and senior seasons and leading the Toros to back-to-back state championship game appearances.

Yet despite such a successful high school career, it seemed no major college was interested in the smallish kid with the baby face and rifle arm. Neither Arizona State nor Arizona wanted him, with his only scholarship offer coming from BYU, and that only as a token gesture because of his Mormon faith. Then, when the Cougars suddenly signed an All-America quarterback prospect from California, even they decided there was no room on their roster for Germaine.

Reluctant to give up his dream of becoming the quarterback at a major college program, Germaine enrolled at Scottsdale Community College and flourished, showcasing his strong arm and pinpoint accuracy while running a high-octane offense and displaying the kind of leadership skills every coach wants his quarterback to possess.

Ohio State assistant coach Larry Coker, who was defensive backs coach on head coach John Cooper's staff in 1993 and '94, had scouted Germaine in high school and lobbied for the Buckeyes to extend a scholarship offer. Cooper wasn't exactly sold on a 6-0, 180-pound quarterback prospect, but with a roster spot open, he decided to take a chance.

OSU fans weren't so sure, either, demanding to know who the no-name prospect was and why the Buckeyes would gamble a precious scholarship on an undersized JUCO

transfer. Germaine would have to prove himself all over again as the program searched for an heir apparent to starter Bobby Hoying, one of the most prolific passers in school history. When that criticism made it back to Arizona, Germaine's junior college coach sounded off.

"They don't have a clue," Fighting Artichokes head coach Lane Jacobson told BSB on National Signing Day in 1995. "He'll be special. Bobby Hoying is a heck of a player, but before Joe is done there, people are going to forget about Bobby Hoying. But they're going to remember Joe Germaine for a long time."

Those were strong words to live up to, especially when Germaine wasn't so sure about Ohio State himself.

"I never thought much about Ohio State, to tell you the truth," he said. "Obviously, I was aware of them and saw some of their games on TV when I was growing up. But I had no exposure to Ohio or Ohio State."

Proximity to home led to an initial interest in the program at Nevada.

"I'm a homebody who really doesn't like to travel," Germaine said. "Coming out of high school, I wanted to play at Arizona State or somewhere in the Pac-12 – somewhere close to home. So, when I went on my trip to Nevada, I expected that was where I would end up. Their offensive coordinator at the time was (recently fired Louisville head coach) Bobby Petrino. He had been the quarterbacks coach at Arizona State prior to going there and, boy, he just threw the ball all over the place and naturally that was enticing to me."

"But when I took my trip to Ohio State, I just kind of was in awe of the tradition there and what it means to be a Buckeye, and all the great teams and players that have come through there. I decided then and there that I wanted to be a part of that."

When he got to Columbus, Germaine was tasked with an uphill battle to become part of that tradition. His first taste of Ohio State football was as the fifth-team quarterback.

## Battling For Position

Germaine took a redshirt during his first year at Ohio State, a transitional season that was tough on him but ultimately rewarding.

"That year was extremely different because even though I got to practice with the team and suit up for home games, I trained and worked out like it was an offseason," he said. "When the players on the team worked out twice a week to maintain (their fitness levels) and stay healthy, I worked out four times a week."

"But that was actually valuable to me because it helped me get acclimated to college life and being away from home. I think I really grew during that one year – mentally but also physically. I got a little bit bigger and a little bit stronger, and I got more familiar with Division I football."

At the beginning of spring camp in 1996, Germaine was still third on the quarterback depth chart behind Stanley Jackson and Mark Garcia, another JUCO transfer who had joined the program at the urging of then-quarterbacks coach Walt Harris. Jackson and Garcia got most of the springtime reps and then headed into fall camp to resume their battle for the starting position.

But a week before the season-opening game against Rice, Garcia suffered a

season-ending knee injury. That created an opportunity for Germaine to showcase his skills, and he quickly pulled even with Jackson on the depth chart.

"Joe had already showed what he could do that spring," Jackson said. "But it was difficult for him to get his reps until Garcia tore his meniscus. That created the opportunity for Joe to show the coaches a lot more."

The following two seasons, Germaine and Jackson battled one another for the starting position, but it was a rivalry that never seemed to produce a clear winner. Jackson was the starter most of the time, but it was Germaine who came up with the better stats.

"It was something that Coach Cooper never explained to me, but I never asked, either," Germaine said. "I know Coach was trying to do what was best for the team. The staff said they wanted someone to separate themselves, and after fall camp, they felt that no one had done that. We both had kind of earned time to play."

"They were going to use the first game against Rice as maybe another proving ground. Well, we beat Rice, 70-7. So we did the same thing in the next game and we beat Pittsburgh, 72-0. So then, I think they just kind of thought, 'This two-quarterback thing is working,' and they just kind of kept doing it."

In addition to his constant position battle with Jackson, Germaine endured a number of coaching staff changes during his OSU career.

Joe Hollis was offensive coordinator when Germaine was recruited, but Hollis left following the 1996 season to become head coach at Arkansas State. Harris also departed following the '96 campaign to take the head coaching job at Pittsburgh. Offensive line coach Mike Jacobs took over as offensive coordinator while Tim Salem, who had been offensive coordinator at Purdue, was hired as quarterbacks coach.

"I learned from all the coaches I had," Germaine said. "I think Coach Harris was the toughest on us because he demanded perfection. I remember one of my first meetings – we were in the quarterback room and Coach comes in and basically says, 'We need more quarterbacks because you guys aren't cutting it.' I'm sitting there thinking, 'Welcome to big-time football.'"

"Great coaches make great players, and I had some great coaches at Ohio State. And I'd put Coach Cooper at the top of that list. He taught me a lot about the game and about life. He was fair, and he treated his players with respect. What more can you ask for?"

While he struggled to adjust to the two-quarterback system with the Buckeyes, Germaine was also having a difficult time being away from home for the first time. Mesa is a city with a large Mormon population, while Columbus is more of a Midwestern melting pot.

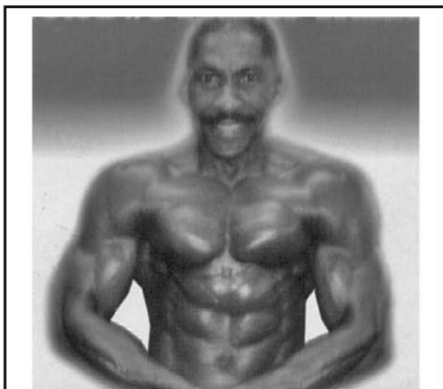
"At first, it was very difficult because of my church not being as strong in Columbus and not having as many members," he admitted. "However, my family did a good job instilling our principles and beliefs at a very early age. And it helped also that the people in Columbus were great."

His Mormon teachings as well as his mother's admonishment to finish whatever he started also helped.

"When I was a little kid, I was a roughneck," Germaine said. "I got into a lot of fights. But as you get older, you learn self-control. Sure, I'd get angry if during a game a play didn't go well, but not to the point where



Joe Germaine



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## THE OHIO STATE QUARTERBACK

I would openly vent my frustrations on my teammates.

"Everybody wants to do well. But at the same time, people shouldn't think of my personality and think I'm not competitive or someone they can take advantage of. That is definitely not true. I am one of the most competitive people I think there is. I wanted to win as much as anybody."

Germaine played well enough as a backup during his sophomore season in 1996 that Cooper rewarded him with his first college start against Michigan. Unfortunately, the Buckeyes suffered a 13-9 loss to the Wolverines, and when the team began Rose Bowl preparations in December, Cooper announced he would go back to Jackson as his starter in Pasadena.

But with only 1:40 showing on the clock, the Buckeyes were trailing by three points and in need of a miracle. When Cooper asked his offensive staff which quarterback they preferred for what would be the team's last gasp, the question was met with curious silence. After a few awkward seconds, Harris finally piped up.

"It's gotta be Joe," the QBs coach said.

Cooper just looked at Germaine and then pointed toward the field.

"We had practiced the two-minute drill every Friday that year, and when I got into the huddle there wasn't a lot of talking," Germaine said. "We just weren't going to let the game end like that. We hit a couple of crucial third-and-longs, and then came the big play. We were on the 5-yard line and sent Dimitrious Stanley to the slot on the right and David out wide to the right."

"The primary receiver was supposed to be Dimitrious, who would run a corner route. David would run inside on a hitch and then back toward the pylon. But as I dropped back, I could tell they had Dimitrious defended. They had cut him off. So I looked down at Boston, and he was wide open."

The victory propelled Ohio State to the No. 2 position in the final national polls and gave the Buckeyes one of their most memorable Rose Bowl victories.

Germaine would trade snaps with Jackson for the entire 1997 season and then finally got the position to himself in 1998 after Jackson's graduation. What followed was a record-smashing season during which Germaine set a host of new program records, including throwing for 3,330 yards, a single-season mark that remains on the OSU books, but is likely to be broken this year by Dwayne Haskins.

The Buckeyes again finished No. 2 in the final national rankings, and Germaine ended his career by leading his team to a 24-14 Sugar Bowl victory against eighth-ranked Texas A&M. His 6,370 career passing yards still ranks fourth in Ohio State history.

"Obviously, I'm proud of what we were able to accomplish when I was there," Germaine said, "but to be honest, with the way passing games have evolved in recent years, and certainly the way Dwayne Haskins has been performing this year, I'm surprised some of my records have lasted as long as they have."

### Staying In The Game

After his sterling college career, Germaine once again was forced to prove himself to skeptical pro scouts who questioned his size and arm strength. He was still on the board when the St. Louis Rams selected him in the fourth round of the 1999 NFL draft – the ninth quarterback and 101st overall player taken.

Getting a chance to play professionally had always been a dream for Germaine, but the opportunity seemed to be a double-edged sword. The Rams were mired in a streak of nine consecutive losing seasons, including

a 4-12 campaign in 1998 under second-year head coach Dick Vermeil.

"Just to have your name called was pretty awesome, and I was definitely thrilled," Germaine said. "But then I started thinking about it. At the time, the Rams were the losingest team in the '90s. But they made a lot of awesome moves for that '99 season, and what a story that was."

Behind former Arena Football League quarterback Kurt Warner and such future Hall of Famers as running back Marshall Faulk and offensive tackle Orlando Pace, the Rams went from rags to riches and won Super Bowl XXXIV with a dramatic 23-16 victory against the Tennessee Titans.

Germaine saw action in only three games that season, completing 9 of 16 passes for 136 yards and one touchdown. Still, it was an experience he wouldn't trade for anything.

"I got to the Rams at the perfect time with the perfect group of guys, and that was an awesome experience to be a part of," he said. "There are no games I was part of that were any bigger than Ohio State games, but when you start to think about the Super Bowl – there's not a bigger game on earth than that one. To be a part of that was a dream come true."

"I was able to live a dream of being able to make it to that level, and I spent five years in the NFL. That's something at the end of the day that I'm pretty proud of. I'm disappointed, too, that I wasn't able to play a lot longer. I played behind some really good quarterbacks – Kurt Warner for three years with the Rams and then I was traded to Kansas City and was behind Trent Green, who was an All-Pro. I was fortunate to be around those guys, obviously, but at the same time I wish I could have gotten some more opportunities."

Germaine finished his playing career with five years in the Arena League, including 2007 with the Utah Blaze when he set a new single-season league record with 5,005 passing yards.

Once his playing days were over, Germaine returned to Arizona and coached high school football, first as quarterbacks coach at Basha High School and later as head coach at Queen Creek, where he won a state championship in 2012.

In recent years, Germaine has been director of system operations for Axon Sports, an Arizona-based performance company with roots in neuroscience – the study of the brain and nervous system with an emphasis on cognitive training.

"These days, the game is getting faster," he said. "But we are basically training you in a way where the game feels like it has slowed down. We teach your brain to accurately anticipate things before they happen. We're forcing the brain to adapt to making high-speed decisions."

"With our program, quarterbacks can get anywhere from 100 to 250 reps in just a 10- or 15-minute window with no stress on their bodies."

Still, Germaine finds time to keep his hands on a football. Despite stepping down as head coach at Queen Creek in 2013 because of his commitment to Axon, Germaine retained ties to the program and continues to serve as offensive coordinator for the Bulldogs, who finished with a 7-4 record this season and another trip to the state playoffs.

"I've always had a passion for the game," Germaine said. "I loved practicing. I loved going to meetings. I just loved learning and playing the game. Coaching is a thrill for me. Plus it gives me a chance to go out there, throw the ball around a little bit and stay close to the game I love so much."

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

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# Ohio State Sends Out Plethora Of New Offers

Ohio State coach Urban Meyer's staff remained active on the recruiting trail in the days leading up to the contest against Michigan State.

## RECRUITING OUTLOOK Garrett Stepien

The current cycle spiced up a bit as OSU offered two players on defense. As Ohio State's search continues to fill out the class, its 2019 group consists of 15 commitments – two five-stars, nine four-stars and four three-stars – ranked No. 13 in the nation and No. 2 in the Big Ten, according to the 247Sports composite team rankings.

As for 2020, the Buckeyes' next cycle bumped up to No. 2 in the country and kept hold on No. 1 in the conference, adding a pledge Nov. 4 to get to seven members – one five-star and six four-stars – for early momentum with a star-studded class.

### Ohio State Offers Iowa Commit

After Ohio State evaluated Jestin Jacobs closely throughout the past year and into the spring, the Buckeyes finally pulled the trigger on the outside linebacker from Clayton (Ohio) Northmont.

The 6-3, 210-pounder committed May 11 to Iowa following OSU's pass and has been solid to the Hawkeyes for the class of 2019 in

the subsequent six months since. However, Ohio State's offer Nov. 5 to Jacobs might shake things up.

Extended a scholarship offer by linebackers coach Billy Davis, the four-star recruit rekindled his contact with the home-state Buckeyes and, according to Steve Wiltfong of 247Sports, locked in a visit to Columbus for Nov. 24 when Ohio State hosts Michigan.

"I am looking forward to seeing the atmosphere, talking with the coaches and the current commits," Jacobs told Wiltfong. "The offer excites me."

The significance in Jacobs' tentative trip stems from the Hawkeyes' strict policy under longtime head coach Kirk Ferentz, who typically prohibits pledges from checking out programs elsewhere and generally pulls offers if they do.

As of now, the visit is expected to be an unofficial. That means Jacobs could be back on campus for an official in December.

The offer to Jacobs is independent of what happens with Cleveland St. Ignatius four-star inside linebacker Tommy Eichenberg (6-3, 235), who reported his offer from OSU on Sept. 26. He has been committed to Boston College since June 27.

OSU currently has only one prospect committed at the position for 2019 in Lexington, Ohio, four-star outside linebacker Cade Stover (6-5, 235).

Wayne (N.J.) DePaul Catholic four-star safety Ronnie Hickman (6-1, 200) and Fort Wayne (Ind.) Wayne three-star athlete Craig Young (6-4, 200) also might end up as linebackers down the road, but nothing has been solidified for them one way or another.

Jacobs is the 247Sports composite's No.

## 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
Marcus Crowley	RB	6-1	200	★★★	Jacksonville (Fla.) Trinity Christian
Cormontae Hamilton	TE	6-2	263	★★★	Memphis (Tenn.) Whitehaven
Ronnie Hickman	S	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
Jaxon Smith-Njigba	WR	6-1	188	★★★★	Rockwall, Texas
Jake Wray	OT	6-5	290	★★★★	Marietta, Ga.
Luke Wypler	OL	6-3½	285	★★★★	Montvale (N.J.) St. Joseph Regional

362 overall prospect, No. 18 outside linebacker and No. 13 player in Ohio for 2019.

### Buckeyes Offer Kentucky Decommit

As Ohio State searches for cornerbacks in its 2019 class, the process led the Buckeyes to the Southeast where they offered Norman Park (Ga.) Colquitt County three-star Jay

Ward. The 6-1, 175-pounder reported his offer from OSU on Nov. 9 – three days after he decommitted from Kentucky.

Since he announced his original commitment to the Wildcats on June 22, Ward added an offer from LSU on Oct. 18. Over the summer, Ward was offered by Alabama after an impressive camp performance in front of the Crimson Tide's coaching staff on June 4. Indiana (May 16), Iowa State (April 20) and West Virginia (Feb. 26) are the other Power 5 programs to have offered.

Ohio State's cornerback recruiting continues for 2019 with Ward after the Buckeyes missed out on Odessa (Texas) Permian four-star athlete Peyton Powell (6-2, 182), who committed Oct. 23 to Texas, while OSU gets Apopka (Fla.) Wekiva three-star and Florida State commitment Renardo Green (5-11, 164) on campus for an official visit the weekend of Nov. 24 for the Michigan game.

While any type of visit to Columbus for Ward remains unplanned, he was slated to attend Florida's game Nov. 10 against South Carolina.

He is the 247Sports composite's No. 913 overall prospect, No. 90 cornerback and No. 92 player in Georgia. In 10 games for Colquitt County, Ward recorded 36 tackles, 10 passes defended and three interceptions.

### 2019 Florida RB Cancels OSU OV

Not by coincidence, after Ohio State took its second running back for 2019 with the commitment of Jacksonville (Fla.) Trinity Christian Academy three-star Marcus Crowley (6-1, 200) during an official visit Nov. 4, another priority prospect at the position canceled a planned trip to Columbus.

According to Marc Givler of Buckeye Grove, Bradenton (Fla.) IMG Academy four-star running back Noah Cain (5-10, 212) will no longer officially visit the Buckeyes the weekend of Nov. 24 for the Michigan game.

It was a change of plans for the Cain family, which told Lettermen Row's Jeremy Birmingham the morning of Nov. 8 that the official visit was still on before Givler reported later that day that it was off.

Cain and OSU scheduled the trip to campus shortly after Avon, Ind., four-star run-



JOSH WINSLOW

**CHANGE OF PLANS** – Bradenton (Fla.) IMG Academy 2019 four-star running back prospect Noah Cain reportedly canceled a planned official visit to Ohio State.



# ASK AN ANALYST

## With Lettermen Row's Jeremy Birmingham

**Rumors around head coach Urban Meyer's health have been ongoing for the past month now. Why has Meyer's health seemed to have altered recruiting for 2019 (15 commitments) but not 2020 (seven commitments)?**

"I think the 2019 class has been seeing it from a different perspective – a little more up close – and seeing the immediacy of results. This 2019 class wasn't great to begin with. Then it's also a smaller class to begin with. So the addition of that dramatic stuff around Urban and (former wide receivers coach) Zach Smith – those are a lot of relationships that have been built. All of a sudden, you see that crack kind of in the surface of what you either think about somebody as a person or then you add the rumors about his potential retirement and I think it's just made it difficult to find what they need because they haven't really dealt much with attrition from it yet.

"We do expect (Fort Lauderdale [Fla.] St. Thomas Aquinas four-star safety) Jordan Battle not to end up in the class, and that's the primary reason, because he and his family are not sure if Urban will be back and they're erring on the side of he won't be. So it hasn't had a dramatic effect to the guys that have committed yet, but it certainly has caused some concern for other players. You look at (four-star athlete) Peyton Powell, the (Odessa) Texas (Permian) cornerback committed now (to Texas). He was pretty much a done deal to Ohio State in July and then backed off of things. Obviously, he won't say it, because he doesn't really say anything, but (Lewis Center [Ohio] Olentangy Orange five-star defensive end) Zach Harrison

has been closer to Urban Meyer than any other coach that he's been dealing with – any other head coach.

"So Ohio State isn't shying away from the fact that this discussion is out there. Urban hasn't – despite trying to say, 'I'm definitely coming back,' but then to tell everyone the next day how serious he is – all it did was sort of put that, 'Yeah, I'm coming back, I plan to be here,' sort of colored that in a way that maybe adds to the negativity."

**Interim wide receivers coach Brian Hartline has been on the job for Ohio State since the end of July, reeling in commitments from St. Louis Cardinal Ritter College Prep 2019 four-star wide receiver Jameson Williams and Rockwall, Texas, 2020 four-star wide receiver Jaxon Smith-Njigba. Despite missing on Frankfort (Ky.) Western Hills 2019 four-star all-purpose back Wandale Robinson, who committed to Kentucky, how would you assess Hartline as a recruiter so far?**

"(The recruits) love him. Every single kid that I've talked to has been just glowing in their review of him and talking about how his NFL background and his age and how he relates to them. He's a way different personality type than Zach Smith. They're around the same age. Brian is a much more straight-edge kind of guy. Zach was a little loosey-goosey and kind of into that culture a little bit different. But you have to think that if Urban Meyer comes back, Brian Hartline has to come back because you don't see the results that he's getting and then walk away from it – especially on the field as well. I think he's helped develop these receivers a little bit differently."

**Ohio State has jumped into recruiting in-state linebackers committed elsewhere between offers out to Cleveland St. Ignatius three-star Tommy Eichenberg (Boston College) and Clayton Northmont four-star Jestin Jacobs (Iowa) over the past few weeks. How involved is linebackers coach Billy Davis, who has taken some heat from fans over the past couple of years for the lack of production or development at the position, in those recruitments and does that help or hinder the Buckeyes' chances?**

"Well, the question really is, 'Who's sending out the offers?' And in the case of Jestin Jacobs, Billy Davis was the one that extended the offer but he's not the one who's been recruiting him at his school. That was (offensive coordinator/tight ends coach) Kevin Wilson. Tommy Eichenberg has not been Billy Davis' guy either. That was more driven by (director of player personnel) Mark Pantoni and the recruiting staff saying, 'Hey, we have to offer this kid.'

"So I don't know that it hurts having the linebackers coach involved. I think you want him involved. Billy Davis has done a nice job with (Washington [D.C.] St. John's College five-star) Mekhail Sherman, the 2020 linebacker, so he's starting to work on his guys. But I think that the reality is if you're watching Ohio State's linebackers, you might think that schematically something is not being done correctly. I haven't heard any negative feedback back from recruits about it, but Billy Davis isn't the first name out of their mouth most of the time."

ning back Sampson James (6-1, 211) flipped to Indiana on Oct. 7.

However, with Crowley's commitment, Ohio State likely capped its class at the position for 2019 with Roswell (Ga.) Blessed Trinity Catholic four-star Steele Chambers (6-2, 215) pledged to the Buckeyes since April 18.

Cain is the 247Sports composite's No. 103 overall prospect, No. 6 running back and No. 14 player in Florida for 2019. He last spent time in Columbus on March 30 for an unofficial visit.

After he included OSU in his final six on July 29 – a list including Auburn, LSU,

Oklahoma, Penn State and Texas – Cain gradually scheduled official visits throughout the fall. He has taken three of his five trips to Auburn (Oct. 13), Texas (Nov. 3) and Penn State (Nov. 10).

"The most important thing is trust," Cain told Mike Roach of 247Sports on Nov. 6 – two days before the cancellation of the visit to Columbus. "Being up front and honest is important. The biggest thing for me is being comfortable there and trusting the coaching staff."

Cain's senior season recently ended as the Ascenders' leading rusher, slightly edging 2019 five-star running back Trey Sanders

(6-0, 214) in several categories. In eight games, Cain compiled 72 carries for 461 yards (6.4 average) and seven touchdowns compared to Sanders' 68 totes for 470 yards (6.9 average) and five touchdowns.

### 2020 Commit Reportedly Takes SEC Visit

Lejond Cavazos has been committed to Ohio State since June 27, but the four-star defensive back from IMG Academy reportedly took an unofficial visit Nov. 10 to an SEC school.

Bill Kurelic of 247Sports reported Nov. 8 that the 6-0, 186-pound Cavazos had been set

to take the weekend trip to Athens, Ga., to see Georgia's night game at Sanford Stadium against Auburn.

Cavazos, who suffered a season-ending lower-body injury to cut his junior campaign short in late September, kept the Buckeyes aware of the Bulldogs' visit. He remains one of OSU's seven pledges for 2020, despite taking his first trip elsewhere while being a member of the Scarlet and Gray's class.

Since he announced his commitment,

**Continued On Page 24**

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# WR Wright Commits To Purdue Over OSU, Others

Continued From Page 23

Cavazos' recruitment has otherwise been quiet up until word of the trip to UGA. He last visited Ohio State on June 12 for the Buckeyes' second one-day camp of the summer, picking up an offer from Penn State on Aug. 26.

Cavazos is the 247Sports composite's No. 184 overall prospect, No. 9 defensive back and No. 30 player in Florida.

## 2019 Kentucky WR Commits Elsewhere

Despite high-level offers from Alabama and Ohio State, among others, Milton Wright made up his mind Nov. 9 when he announced his pledge to Purdue for 2019. The 6-3, 200-pounder from Louisville (Ky.) Christian Academy went public with his commitment to the Boilermakers less than a week after wrapping up his official visit to campus the weekend of Nov. 3 for their 38-36 win over Iowa at Ross-Ade Stadium.

Wright narrowed his choices to five on June 21 with Alabama, Kentucky, Louisville, Ohio State and Purdue making the cut. He had reportedly planned to take one of his five official visits to OSU, but the commitment to the Boilermakers comes with the trip to West Lafayette, Ind., as the only one for Wright.

In the meantime, Ohio State holds 2019 pledges at wide receiver from Austin (Texas) Lake Travis five-star Garrett Wilson (6-0½, 181) and St. Louis Cardinal Ritter College Prep four-star Jameson Williams (6-1½, 169). The four-star Wright is the 247Sports composite's No. 203 overall prospect, No. 33 wide receiver and No. 3 player in Kentucky.

Wright, in 10 games, recorded 47 catches for 660 yards and seven touchdowns. He also produces in the run game, where he has gone for 189 yards and three touchdowns.

## 2019 PWO OL Commits To OSU

Ohio State picked up its second preferred walk-on pledge for 2019 on Nov. 9 when Lewis Center (Ohio) Olentangy Orange offensive guard Zach Stevenson announced his commitment to the Buckeyes.

OSU extended a non-scholarship opportunity to the 6-3, 270-pounder on Oct. 2 about a

## A Look Back At Recruiting From The Pages Of BSB

### 30 Years Ago – 1988

As Ohio State got ready to replace graduating seniors Michael McCray and John Sullivan, the majority of the Buckeyes' top linebacker targets for 1989 were scattered throughout Ohio. Among them was Nick Smith (6-3, 230) from Cincinnati Forest Park, considered by national recruiting expert Tom Lemming to be one of the top 125 in the nation.

"He is the state of Ohio's top linebacker prospect," Lemming said. "He makes tackles from sideline to sideline and loves to hit people. Nick shows great instincts for the game and is always around the ball. He is a great bet for All-American honors this fall."

Smith's high school teammate, 6-0 guard Alex Davis, had already committed to Ohio State for basketball. However, Smith said Davis' decision did not sway him to the Buckeyes.

"Ohio State is a nice institution with very good facilities," Smith said. "When you hear about Ohio State, you only hear positive things. But I just have to sit down and figure out what's best for me. Then I'll make my decision."

### 25 Years Ago – 1993

If Ohio State wanted to land its next great wide receiver, many considered Columbus Eastmoor split end and defensive back Keith Dimmy to be among the best available prospects at the position.

The 6-2, 170-pounder hailed from the same high school that produced Buckeye All-Americans Archie and Ray Griffin.

Dimmy was considering OSU with Kansas, Southern California, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Hawaii.

"I just try to mimic what Joey Galloway does," Dimmy said of Ohio State's standout wide receiver. "We're good friends, and he's helped me a lot. Joey's having a tremendous season, and I couldn't be happier for him. I think Joey and I have some same qualities. I can react well to the ball, but I love to hit. I love to catch a tight end coming across the middle. I've watched Joey and he does the same things."

### 20 Years Ago – 1998

New commit Matt Zahn embraced the idea

of following in the footsteps of Jim Lachey, another Ohio State offensive lineman from his St. Henry, Ohio, high school.

The 6-7, 350-pound Zahn gave OSU a massive pledge from St. Henry, which sent Lachey to Columbus in 1981. Zahn, who chose to stay home over offers from Notre Dame, Penn State, Michigan and Indiana, looked up to Lachey and actually sought advice from the eventual four-time letter winner and first-round NFL draft pick.

"I don't know much about his high school days," Zahn said of Lachey, "but I know he was an All-American at Ohio State. I know that he won a Super Bowl with the (Washington) Redskins and was an All-Pro several times. He's definitely someone to look up to. I talked to him at a Buckeye spring practice, and he answered a lot of questions."

### 15 Years Ago – 2003

Ohio State hosted an abundance of priority prospects for its 33-23 win over Michigan State at Ohio Stadium on Nov. 8, with the Buckeyes' lone official visitor being Ellsworth (Iowa) Community College kicker/punter David Lonie. The 6-6, 215-pounder from Australia appeared to be OSU's top target at the specials positions – particularly at punter. He was considering the Scarlet and Gray with Michigan, Illinois, Georgia and California.

"It's going to be a tough decision for me," Lonie told BSB. "I definitely enjoyed it at Ohio State more so than I did at Illinois. Michigan was a great visit, too. There were different aspects, but both places I liked. I didn't dislike anything about them."

### 10 Years Ago – 2008

Unaccustomed to losing recruiting battles with middle-of-the-pack programs in the Big Ten, Ohio State suffered a rare defeat of that type on the trail when Minnesota earned a commitment from tight end target Ra'Shede Hageman.

To the advantage of Minnesota, the senior from Minneapolis Washburn wanted to stay home, giving the Gophers a giant edge over OSU.

The 6-6, 250-pounder was Scout.com's No. 13 tight end in the nation after catching 19 passes for 547 yards and 12 touchdowns as a junior.

"I am Minnesota born and raised," he said. "That is why Minnesota sort of gets a head start. I have been in contact with all the coaches. I've got a good connection with (head coach) Tim (Brewster) and (tight ends coach Derek) Lewis. I'm from here, so I get the most love from them."

### Five Years Ago – 2013

While several top targets in the 2014 recruiting class were back on campus for Ohio State's 63-14 shellacking of Penn State on Oct. 26, it was the 2015 recruiting class in which the Buckeyes made waves during the win over the Nittany Lions.

Among the priority prospects in Columbus over the weekend, Jersey City (N.J.) St. Peter's Prep dual-threat quarterback Brandon Wimbush headlined the list. HE IS 2015?? The 6-2, 205-pounder impressed head coach Urban Meyer so much that Wimbush was informed during his trip that he had the green light to make a commitment to OSU.

"It actually goes through my mind of actually committing, but my first goal right now is a state title with my high school team," Wimbush said. "Very soon after the season I will make my decision because I know there are other quarterbacks in my class that really want to commit to Ohio State. It's like a race, really."

### One Year Ago – 2017

Ohio State hosted Franklin (Ga.) Heard County's Emory Jones for an official visit over the weekend of the Buckeyes' 39-38 victory against Penn State on Oct. 28, but the trip to Columbus clearly did not leave the coaching staff confident in the four-star quarterback's commitment. As a result, OSU offered another signal caller from the Peach State in Lawrenceville (Ga.) Central Gwinnett four-star and Kentucky commitment Jarren Williams.

The 6-2, 206-pound Williams provided Ohio State with a second option at the position while Jones (6-2½, 195) continued to consider Alabama despite being a longtime pledge to the Buckeyes. In fact, Jones took an official visit to see the Crimson Tide on Oct. 21 – the weekend before he spent his official visit at OSU.

Those included Urbana (Feb. 8), Davidson (June 6), Malone (June 7), Wheeling Jesuit (June 14), Butler (June 14), Saint Anselm (June 30), Oberlin (July 11), Carleton (July 19) and Denison (Sept. 13). He added a preferred walk-on opportunity from Akron on Oct. 1.

## 2019 Indiana WR Adds PWO Offer

Among several wide receivers Ohio State hosted Nov. 3 for the Nebraska game, no one flew more under the radar than Camdyn Childers.

The 6-0, 185-pounder spent the day at Ohio Stadium and walked away with a preferred walk-on opportunity. He holds an offer from Kent State, his only Football Bowl Subdivision offer, while an abundance of others in the NAIA have also recruited him.

Childers, out of Ft. Wayne (Ind.) Carroll, was accompanied by a pair of Lone Star State wideouts with ties to the Buckeyes in Wilson and Rockwall, Texas, 2020 four-star Jaxon Smith-Njigba (6-1, 188) at the Buckeyes' game against the Cornhuskers. Smith-Njigba committed to Ohio State the following day.

Childers is not rated in the 247Sports composite, but his numbers as a senior tell some of the story. In 10 games, he caught 62 passes for 985 yards (15.9 per catch) with a long of 69 and 11 touchdowns.

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### Underclassman Duo On Ohio State Radar

Following their visit to OSU for the Nebraska game, Charlotte (N.C.) Myers Park's underclassman duo of Drake Maye and Muhsin Muhammad III came away with heightened interest from the coaching staff.

Maye, for one, walked away with an offer from Ohio State. The 2021 quarterback, who spent time during pregame warmups talking at length with Buckeyes offensive coordinator/quarterbacks coach Ryan Day, adds to an already impressive offer list. OSU joined Tennessee (April 15), West Virginia (May 30) and North Carolina (Oct. 2) among the first four programs to pull the trigger on him. The 6-3, 180-pounder unofficially visited UNC (Oct. 13) and Clemson (Oct. 20) before the trek to the Midwest for Ohio State.

Maye's teammate, Muhammad, remains on the Buckeyes' radar despite not possessing an offer. The receiver boasts an early list of scholarships from Central Florida, Indiana, Michigan State, North Carolina, North Carolina State, Purdue, Temple, Tennessee, Virginia Tech and Wake Forest. Most recently, Nebraska got involved on Oct. 31. The 6-0, 180-pound Muhammad is the 247Sports composite's No. 157 overall prospect, No. 26 wide receiver and No. 6 player in North Carolina for 2020. He is the son of longtime NFL wideout Muhsin Muhammad II (1996-2009), who spent 11 seasons with the Carolina Panthers.

### Ohio State Offers 2020 Georgia DB

Oho State dipped down to the Southeast

on Nov. 5 and offered Tyrone (Ga.) Sandy Creek 2020 safety Brian Branch. His list includes scholarship offers from South Carolina (June 13) and Louisville (June 8) after camp performances at each school, plus Indiana (April 23) during the spring evaluation period.

He also holds offers from numerous other programs. The 6-0, 175-pounder took unofficial visits to Georgia Tech (Sept. 22) and Indiana (Oct. 20).

### Buckeyes Offer 2020 Texas DE

Ohio State already has several offers out to the top defensive ends in 2020, continuing the trend Nov. 7 when the Buckeyes extended an offer to Prince Dorbah. The four-star prospect from Dallas Highland Park is the 247Sports composite's No. 263 overall prospect, No. 12 weakside defensive end and No. 29 player in Texas.

The 6-4, 210-pounder added the OSU offer to his growing list of national programs since he started to blow up in January. Dorbah holds offers from Oklahoma State (Jan. 16), Southern Methodist (Jan. 24), Boston College (April 25), Oklahoma (May 1), Alabama (May 2), Texas (May 10) and Arkansas (May 16).

As a junior, Dorbah broke out over the fall. In eight games, he racked up 42 tackles (seven for losses) and notched 10 sacks.

### OSU Offers 2020 Arizona RB

According to reports from multiple scouting services, Ohio State was in Arizona on Nov. 8 as the Buckeyes offered running back Bijan Robinson of Salpointe Catholic in Tucson. Adam Gorney of Rivals was the first to report that the 6-0, 200-pounder had picked up an offer from OSU.

Robinson is an Arizona legacy after his uncle Paul played for the Wildcats and went on to have a six-year NFL career including four full seasons with the Cincinnati Bengals.

Robinson has been offered by Arizona (Jan. 15, 2017), Alabama (May 9) and Oklahoma (June 7) among others in the past two years. On the season, he has taken unofficial visits to Michigan (Sept. 15) and UCLA (Oct. 22), where both schools have offered him scholarships.

Robinson is the 247Sports composite's No. 36 overall prospect, No. 5 running back and No. 2 player in Arizona for 2020.

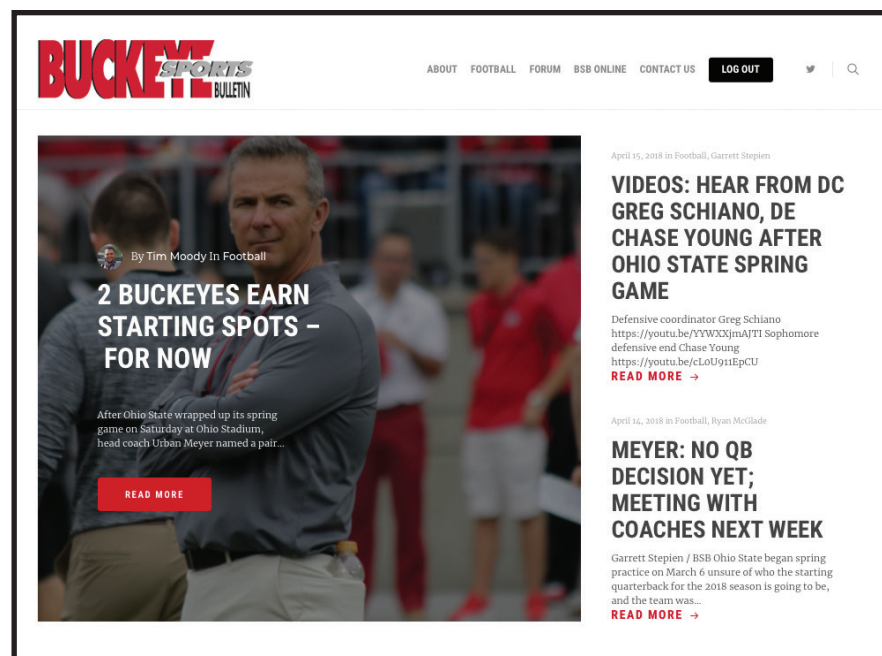
Robinson is ranked higher in the state than two of Ohio State's commitments, the Scottsdale (Ariz.) Chaparral 2020 four-star duo of quarterback Jack Miller (6-4, 210) and running back Darvon Hubbard (6-0, 200).

Also from Arizona for 2020, Ohio State is recruiting Scottsdale Saguaro five-star cornerback Kelee Ringo (6-2, 182), who unofficially visited OSU for the Buckeyes' game against Minnesota on Oct. 13.

Miller and Hubbard are Arizona's Nos. 4 and 6 players, respectively, while Ringo is the state's top-ranked prospect.

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# Northwestern Tops Iowa To Clinch B1G West

For the first time in school history, Northwestern is a division champion, as the Wildcats defeated Iowa at Kinnick Stadium, 14-10, to clinch the Big Ten West.

## BIG TEN NOTES James Grega

At 6-4 (6-1 Big Ten), the Wildcats could still lose their last two games of the season (at Minnesota, home vs. Illinois) and make the trip to Indianapolis to play for a league championship.

Northwestern, led by longtime head coach and former star linebacker Pat Fitzgerald, donned championship hats in the postgame press conference in Iowa City, Iowa, and weren't afraid to express their jubilation after the game.

"This team has overcome a ton of adversity, with a quarterback coming off of major knee surgery, fighting his way back to get ready for the opener," Fitzgerald said of starting signal caller Clayton Thorson. "We had a ton of injuries and we lost a couple games there, but the brotherhood in that locker room is the glue that kept everything together."

The last time Northwestern won or shared a Big Ten title was in 2000, when the Wildcats shared a three-way tie with Michigan and Purdue as all three schools finished 6-2 in the league. The last time the

Wildcats won the conference outright was in 1995, when Fitzgerald was the starting middle linebacker and Northwestern went all the way to the Rose Bowl before losing to USC 41-32 and finishing with a 10-2 record.

### Fleck Fires D-Coordinator

Just hours after dropping an embarrassing 55-31 loss on the road to Illinois on Nov. 3, P.J. Fleck decided to fire defensive coordinator Robb Smith after just 21 games with the Golden Gophers.

Smith was hired to Fleck's initial staff at Minnesota and had worked with Fleck at prior stops at Rutgers and with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. However, after a less-than-average year in 2017, things only got worse for the Gopher defense in 2018. Through six conference games, the Minnesota defense was surrendering a whopping 43.2 points per game in Big Ten play, and after allowing 55 to the Illini, Fleck decided to make a change.

"These decisions are always difficult, especially when they involve a close friend and colleague," Fleck said. "I want to thank Robb, Amy and their family for all the time and energy they spent helping our program grow. Robb is an elite man and will always be a dear friend of mine."

In his place, Fleck promoted defensive line coach Joe Rossi to interim defensive coordinator, and the change made an immediate impact.



Pat Fitzgerald

After losing by 24 to Illinois, Minnesota returned home and smacked Purdue, 41-10, to climb within a game of bowl eligibility at 5-5 after going 5-7 last season. The Gophers held the Boilermakers to just 233 yards of total offense and held Purdue starting quarterback David Blough to a season-low 142 yards passing. The Gophers also sacked Blough three times in the win. Minnesota also scored its second touchdown of the game on a 40-yard fumble recovery return.

The player who returned the fumble for a score, linebacker Blake Cashman, said the Gophers' defensive game plan was much simpler than in weeks past, which allowed Minnesota to play more freely.

"We simplified the game plan, which allows guys to play loose, play fast, give them that confidence out there," Cashman said of Rossi's impact. "That's really important because I think we lost some of that against Illinois when they came out and hit us in the mouth early."

Minnesota is set to close its home portion of the 2018 schedule Nov. 17 against Northwestern before concluding the regular season against Wisconsin on the road Nov. 24.

### 'TV Teddy' Out As B1G Ref

Well-known college basketball official Ted Valentine, perhaps known better by his nickname "TV Teddy" for his on-court antics, was not rehired by the Big Ten during the offseason after 34 years officiating conference games.

Valentine was suspended last year by the conference for two games after an incident in an ACC game between Florida State and North Carolina, when he turned his back on a Tar Heel player who was trying to discuss a non-call.

The 60-year-old referee spoke with Teddy Greenstein of the Chicago Tribune shortly after it was determined the Big Ten

## BIG 2018 Standings

### East Division

	Conf.			All		
	W	L	Pct.	W	L	Pct.
Michigan	7	0	1.000	9	1	.900
<b>Ohio State</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>.857</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>.900</b>
Michigan State	4	3	.571	6	4	.600
Penn State	4	3	.571	7	3	.700
Maryland	3	4	.429	5	5	.500
Indiana	2	5	.286	5	5	.500
Rutgers	0	7	.000	1	9	.100

### West Division

	Conf.			All		
	W	L	Pct.	W	L	Pct.
Northwestern	6	1	.857	6	4	.600
Wisconsin	4	3	.571	6	4	.600
Purdue	4	3	.571	5	5	.500
Iowa	3	4	.429	6	4	.600
Nebraska	2	5	.286	3	7	.300
Minnesota	2	5	.286	5	5	.500
Illinois	2	5	.286	4	6	.400

### Nov. 10 Scores

Nebraska 54, Illinois 35  
Indiana 34, Maryland 32  
Penn State 22, Wisconsin 10  
**Ohio State 26, Michigan State 6**  
Michigan 42, Rutgers 7  
Northwestern 14, Iowa 10  
Minnesota 41, Purdue 10

### Nov. 17 Games

Michigan State at Nebraska, Noon (FOX)  
Northwestern at Minnesota, Noon (BTN)  
**Ohio State at Maryland, Noon (ABC)**  
Penn State at Rutgers, Noon (BTN)  
Iowa at Illinois, 3:30 p.m. (BTN)  
Wisconsin at Purdue, 3:30 p.m. (BTN)  
Indiana at Michigan, 4 p.m. (FS1)

would not rehire him and told him he has no intentions of retiring, as multiple other conferences have offered him a contract to work.

"Let me tell you about the 'TV Ted' stuff," Valentine told Greenstein. "Don't mean nothing. Ted Valentine is always on TV, and they've got to attach a name somewhere. As I've gotten older, I laugh more, I smile more, I high-five kids. I have nothing to prove no more."

"I'll miss the (Big Ten) coaches,"

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## From The Pages Of BSB

### 35 Years Ago – 1983

For the first time in program history, the Ohio State men's hockey team was voted No. 1 in the nation after the Buckeyes started undefeated at 9-0 overall and 6-0 in Central Collegiate Hockey Association play. OSU edged No. 2 Minnesota (7-0-1) in the rankings, as well as No. 3 North Dakota (6-1) and No. 4 Bowling Green (7-1). Despite the achievement, members of the team downplayed its meaning.

"It just means more teams are out to beat us," said leading scorer Paul Pooley. "As one player told me, 'It's easier to get there (No. 1) than to stay there.'"

Head coach Jerry Welsh, who played on one of Ohio State's best teams in school history as a member of the 1971-72 squad that won a CCHA championship, did not think being atop the polls presented pressure for the Buckeyes.

"Personally, I don't feel it," Welsh said. "I've always felt that everyone shoots for us anyway. It seems everyone shoots for the Buckeyes. I think there is more pressure in the winning streak."

### 30 Years Ago – 1988

Sophomore quarterback Greg Frey was 12 of 23 passing for 206 yards and two touchdowns as Ohio State snapped its losing spell of sorts to Wisconsin in a 34-12 win Nov. 4 at Ohio Stadium.

In the midst of what was known as the "Badger Jinx," OSU had fallen to UW in five of its past seven meetings. But with Wisconsin having a down year, dropping to 0-9 overall and 0-6 in Big Ten play, Ohio State (4-5, 2-4) got back in the win column and inched closer to .500 after its 20-10 loss at Michigan State on Oct. 29.

"Nothing comes easy around here but they all count so we're happy to win the ballgame," head coach John Cooper said after the game. "You're not going to hear me complain about a win. I'm not disappointed in a win. Are you kidding?"

### 25 Years Ago – 1993

Ohio State still had one more home game to go, but Ohio Stadium went ahead with its late-season renovation when the Horseshoe had nearly 5,000 square feet of new sod installed Nov. 5 to replace parts of the playing field chewed up during the Penn State game Oct. 30.

University officials considered reseeding the area that had turned into mud, largely between both 40-yard lines and near midfield, but the 50-yard line's inability to dry properly forced the Buckeyes to go another route.

"We just felt like we couldn't go with it the way it was," said OSU assistant athletic director Paul Krebs. "We had to make a decision quickly, and we think this was the right decision under these circumstances."

The new sod was seen as a stopgap measure for getting through the campaign, which had one more contest in Columbus on Nov. 13 against Indiana.

### 20 Years Ago – 1998

Ohio State's undefeated season came crashing down Nov. 7

at Michigan State when the Buckeyes dropped a 28-24 stunner to the Spartans at Ohio Stadium.

"We shocked the world!" MSU tailback Sedrick Irvin exclaimed as his teammates tore up pieces of the Horseshoe's south end zone in celebration.

No. 1 OSU fell to 8-1 overall and 5-1 in Big Ten play with the upset against Michigan State (5-4, 3-2), sliding to seventh in the polls after the result.

"We came in here with the attitude that we were the squirts in the neighborhood who had to go up and pick a fight with the bully – not that we wanted to pick one," Spartans head coach Nick Saban said. "It was on the schedule, so we had to do it."

MSU pulled off the unthinkable despite entering the contest as a heavy underdog, all but killing Ohio State's national title hopes in the process.

"Every day since last summer, every time we've broken it down, we say, 'National champs,'" Buckeyes flanker Dee Miller said. "Today all we could say was, 'Hard work.' That hurt a lot. We've put in so much hard work, and we've worked hard year in and year out. There was just a missing element today that we didn't have, and we took an 'L.'"

Down 28-24, OSU failed to score on four pass plays after the Buckeyes picked up a first down at the Spartan 15-yard line with 1:29 left.

### 15 Years Ago – 2003

Maurice Clarett was facing new hurdles if he wanted to rejoin Ohio State's football team in the future, with academic trouble in two classes. The suspended tailback had been barred from attending a five-hour African-American studies class and was flunking a two-hour physical education class.

According to a report from The Columbus Dispatch, Clarett missed five African-American studies classes in September and October, dozing off in several other sessions, leading to professor Viola Newton prohibiting him from continuing the course. Clarett's attorney, Percy Squire, told the Dispatch that his client did not plan to withdraw from either class and planned to enroll at the university for the winter quarter.

If Clarett were to have dropped the classes, though, he would have been considered a part-time student. Therefore, the Buckeyes' last three games of the season would not have counted toward his suspension. So, were he to have been reinstated, his disciplinary action would carry over to that subsequent campaign. Clarett had been suspended for accepting improper benefits.

### 10 Years Ago – 2008

Ohio State's offense broke out Nov. 8 in its 45-10 rout of Northwestern – despite the Buckeyes missing one of their top weapons.

Junior wideout Ray Small, who was second on the team in receptions and led the Big Ten in punt-return average before OSU's win over the Wildcats, did not make the trip from

Columbus to Evanston, Ill., due to an indefinite suspension issued the previous week.

Ken Small, the Cleveland Glenville product's father, confirmed the disciplinary action to BSB the evening of Nov. 5 and indicated that he did not believe his son would ever suit up again for the Scarlet and Gray.

"This thing goes back and forth, but we thought we had resolved all the issues with the coaching staff at Ohio State," Ken Small said. "Ray's biggest problem was while he was in the so-called doghouse earlier it was because he was late to a couple classes and late to a team meeting and I think he fell asleep in one of those meetings."

### Five Years Ago – 2013

In light of Texas athletic director DeLoss Dodds' retirement set for Aug. 31, 2014, one of the rumored names on the Longhorns' short list of candidates was Ohio State athletic director Gene Smith. After the Austin American-Statesman reported Oct. 31 that UT planned to interview Smith for the opening, the eighth-year AD of the Buckeyes vehemently shot that notion down.

"I have the greatest respect for the University of Texas and one of my mentors, DeLoss Dodds," Smith said in a statement. "I am fortunate to have the opportunity to be the athletics director at The Ohio State University. Reports of me interviewing at the University of Texas are inaccurate."

Following Smith's denial, Kirk Bohls, the author of the report, amended his story when he said that Smith was considered for the position but would not be one of the three candidates interviewed. West Virginia AD Oliver Luck was considered to be an overwhelming front-runner for the opening.

### One Year Ago – 2017

Off the emotional high of its 39-38 triumph against Penn State on Oct. 28 at Ohio Stadium, Ohio State's season was turned upside down seven days later when the Buckeyes were blasted by Iowa in a 55-24 blowout loss on Nov. 4 at Kinnick Stadium.

Fifth-year senior quarterback J.T. Barrett went 18 of 34 (52.9 percent) with 208 yards and three touchdowns to four interceptions, throwing a pick-six on OSU's first play from scrimmage and never recovering from there.

After the game, head coach Urban Meyer was at a loss for words, repeating the same phrase, "I don't know," throughout his brief press conference.

With the rout at the hands of the Hawkeyes, Ohio State fell to 7-2 overall and 5-1 in Big Ten play. At the time, any hope of the College Football Playoff appeared to be wiped away, although the Buckeyes still controlled their destiny for the conference championship game.

"I didn't see it," Meyer said about signs of an OSU letdown heading into the game. "I tried to watch very closely like I normally do, and I didn't see the signs. Usually I do see signs. If I do, I address them and move forward, but I didn't see them."

Valentine added. "I'll probably shed a tear when I see a couple of them ... (Michigan State's Tom) Izzo because he's a funny dude and he has called me his friend. Bo Ryan was zany and cool and I understood him. Thad Matta, Gary Williams, Clem Haskins. I had Lou Henson's last game. Gene Keady, Dr. Tom Davis.

"I was 26 years old when I started, and the Big Ten made me tough."

One of Valentine's signature moments came in 1998, when he assessed three technical fouls to Bobby Knight at Indiana in one game, ejecting him in the process. Valentine was not hired to work the NCAA Tournament last season and was pulled from Ohio State's upset win

over No. 1 Michigan State after the UNC incident.

The ACC, SEC and AAC have all rehired Valentine to work conference games in 2018-19.

### B1G Players Of The Week

In a losing effort, running back Anthony McFarland put together an impressive performance for Maryland in a heartbreaking 34-32 loss to Indiana on Nov. 10.

McFarland, filling in for the banged-up Ty Johnson, rushed for a career-high 210 yards on 29 carries in a losing effort. McFarland leads the Terrapins in rushing this season with 724 yards on 104 carries as a freshman.

Other notable performances included Nebraska quarterback Adrian Martinez throwing for 290 yards and three touchdowns while adding another 55 yards and score on the ground. He was complemented

by running back Devine Ozigbo who rushed 11 times for 162 yards and three scores, and wide receiver Stanley Morgan Jr., who caught eight passes for 131 yards and a pair of scores in a 54-35 win over Illinois.

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# Potter Departs 2 Days Before Season Opener

Just two days before Ohio State was set to open the 2018-19 season, the second of the Chris Holtmann era, the Buckeyes were informed that junior center Micah Potter would be transferring.

## COURT REPORT

### James Grega

Potter, who led the Buckeyes in scoring in their 81-63 exhibition win over UNC Pembroke on Nov. 1 with 13 points, played

in 59 career games for Ohio State (16 starts), averaging 4.1 points per game.

"We appreciate Micah's contributions to our program, and we wish him the very best moving forward," Holtmann said in a statement.

Potter started the 2017-18 season in the post before an ankle injury sidelined him for most of the nonconference schedule and opened the door for Kaleb Wesson to start. Wesson went on to cement the starting role by the time Potter came back healthy and never relinquished it.

The news of the transfer stunned other Ohio State players, who were made aware of Potter's departure before practice on Nov. 5.

## Balanced Scoring Leads OSU Past UC

Ohio State invaded enemy territory in Cincinnati for the first time in nearly a century on Nov. 7 and came away with an impressive 64-56 victory over the Bearcats in the grand reopening of the renovated Fifth Third Arena.

The team's most recent trip to the Queen City to face the Bearcats had been a 35-13 win back in 1920.

The Buckeyes, playing without Keita Bates-Diop, Jae'Sean Tate, Kam Williams and Micah Potter for the first time, led by as many as 16 in the victory with four of Ohio State's five starters scoring in double figures.

Ohio State was led by its big man Kaleb Wesson, who finished with a team-high 15 points and seven rebounds. The sophomore accounted for multiple key baskets, including a three-pointer and his first dunk of the year, a play that was particularly gratifying for him.

"A lot of people get on me about dunking so it was good to throw it in y'all faces," Wesson said with a smile.

The dunk extended Ohio State's lead to 16 with 6:23 to play in the second half before the Bearcats came storming back to cut the lead to four with just 1:00 to play. At that moment, the Buckeyes turned to their senior leader C.J. Jackson, who came up with a clutch basket.

Jackson, letting the shot clock wind down, converted a layup with 29 seconds remaining to push Ohio State's lead to six. After a missed Cincinnati shot at the other end, Jackson then converted a pair of free throws to salt the game away. He finished with 13 points and said that last year's heroics against Indiana in a double-overtime victory over the Hoosiers helped prepare him for his moment against UC.

"Just being an experienced guy and going against tough crowds like that," he said of how he was able to cap the victory. "I just want to be the guy that young kids can lean on and show them how to react in certain situations."

Young players reacting a certain way in certain situations was something of a storyline against Cincinnati in both a positive and negative manner. Playing and starting in his first career game as a Buckeye, freshman guard Luther Muhammad put together a solid performance.

The New Jersey native scored 11 points on 4-of-10 shooting and canned a pair of three-pointers against the Bearcats, the second of which resulted in a major turning point in the game.

Muhammad buried a three-pointer on a feed from Keyshawn Woods to put Ohio State, which had led 27-18 at the half, up 55-39 with just 5:23 to play. It was the last time the Buckeyes would lead by 16. However, he was assessed a technical for taunting a Cincinnati defender after the basket. From there, the Bearcats went on an 8-0 run over the next 1:54, bringing the

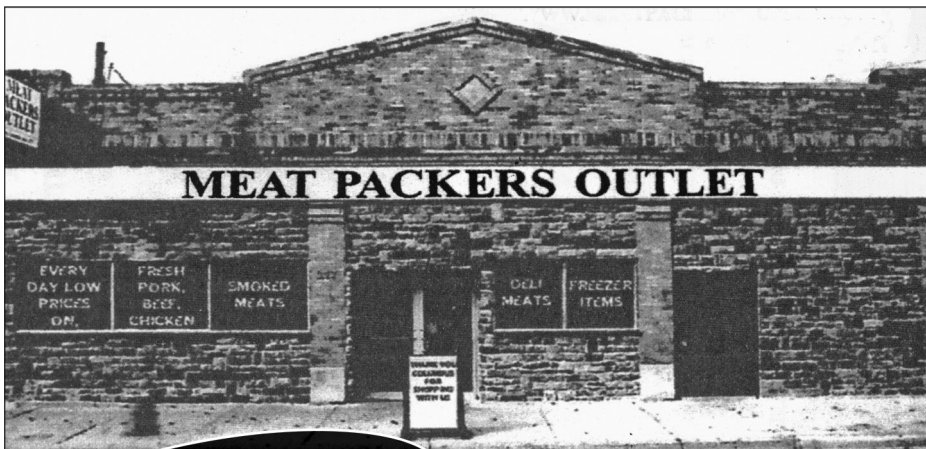
### Ohio State 64, Cincinnati 56

Nov. 7, 2018 Fifth Third Arena • Cincinnati, Ohio												
		1	2									F
Ohio State (1-0)		27	37	-								64
Cincinnati (0-1)		18	38	-								56
Ohio State	Total	FG	FT	Reb.								
	Min.	M-A	M-A	O-D	A	PF	Pts.					
A. Wesson	17	2-3	0-0	0-2	0	4	6					
Young	36	2-2	6-7	3-5	0	0	10					
K. Wesson	28	5-9	4-6	2-5	0	3	15					
Muhammad	29	4-10	1-2	0-2	1	4	11					
Jackson	33	3-10	5-6	0-0	1	1	13					
Jallow	11	1-3	0-0	1-1	0	3	2					
Washington	19	1-3	0-0	0-4	0	3	3					
Woods	27	2-7	0-1	0-2	5	4	4					
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>20-47</b>	<b>16-22</b>	<b>8-25</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>64</b>					
<b>Percentages:</b> FG: 42.6%. FT: 72.7%. <b>3-point goals:</b> 8-20 (A. Wesson 2-2, K. Wesson 1-3, Muhammad 2-3, Jackson 2-7, Washington 1-2, Woods 0-3). <b>Team rebounds:</b> 6. <b>Blocked shots:</b> 5 (K. Wesson 2, Jallow 2, Muhammad). <b>Turnovers:</b> 13 (K. Wesson 4, A. Wesson 2, Muhammad 2, Jackson 2, Woods 2, Young). <b>Steals:</b> 2 (K. Wesson, Woods).												
Cincinnati	Total	FG	FT	Reb.								
	Min.	M-A	M-A	O-D	A	PF	Pts.					
Scott	29	2-5	3-4	2-4	2	2	8					
Brooks	24	3-6	1-2	4-2	0	5	7					
Jenifer	27	2-8	0-0	0-2	5	2	5					
Broome	28	1-10	2-2	2-0	2	1	5					
Cumberland	23	7-17	5-7	0-2	2	2	22					
Johnson	10	0-2	2-2	0-0	0	2	2					
Williams	13	1-6	2-2	1-2	0	1	4					
Moore	18	1-5	0-0	0-2	0	1	2					
Fredericks	14	0-2	1-2	1-1	0	1	1					
Nsosome	14	0-1	0-0	2-4	1	2	0					
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>17-62</b>	<b>16-1</b>	<b>19-20</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>56</b>					
<b>Percentages:</b> FG: 27.4%. FT: 76.2%. <b>3-point goals:</b> 6-26 (Scott 1-3, Jenifer 1-4, Broome 1-4, Cumberland 3-7, Johnson 0-1, Williams 0-2, Moore 0-3, Fredericks 0-2). <b>Team rebounds:</b> 8. <b>Blocked shots:</b> 7 (Scott 2, Brooks 2, Johnson 2, Williams). <b>Turnovers:</b> 10 (Cumberland 4, Scott 2, Brooks, Jenifer, Williams, Nsosome). <b>Steals:</b> 4 (Jenifer, Cumberland, Williams, Moore). <b>Officials:</b> Oglesby, Kimble, Ek. <b>A:</b> 12,012.												



KEVIN DYE

**MOVING ON** – Junior center Micah Potter (0) informed Ohio State that he had decided to transfer just two days before the 2018-19 season began.



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capacity crowd at Fifth Third Arena to a fever pitch.

Ohio State head coach Chris Holtmann admitted he wasn't pleased with Muhammad's antics but added he doesn't want the young guard to stop playing with the fire he has already become known for.

"It was an interesting conversation, and it was pretty one-sided," Holtmann said of his talk with Muhammad on the bench. "But listen, he realized it. You can do a lot of that stuff in AAU. It's different here. Luther is a tremendous competitor and he recognized he made a mistake in that situation, and that is all I wanted to communicate to him."

The final Buckeye to score in double figures was Kyle Young. The sophomore, also making his first start as a Buckeye, dropped in 10 points and corralled a game-high eight rebounds. He converted on both of his field-goal attempts and was 6 of 7 from the charity stripe.

"Kyle's motor was pivotal tonight for us," Holtmann said of Young's performance. "We challenged our guys – we're going to play with high motor. They are in scramble mode the way they defend, so that freed him up to get to some loose balls."

*A full recap of Ohio State's win over Cincinnati can be found on BuckeyeSports.com, BSB's full-service website. Sign-up instructions for the site, which is free to all print subscribers, can be found on page 5.*

– James Grega

"Everybody found out yesterday before practice," fifth-year senior guard Keyshawn Woods said Nov. 6. "We didn't know anything before practice. We were all pretty shocked."

Both Woods and sophomore forward Kyle Young, the players made available to preview Ohio State's matchup with Cincinnati, said

neither of them had spoken to Potter since his departure.

While Holtmann declined to get into specifics about Potter's transfer, he did say that he and the Mentor, Ohio, native had an "honest conversation" prior to his exit.

"It happened here recently in the last day or two and we had a really honest con-



## Jackson's Career-High Highlights Romp

Ohio State didn't play a perfect game but might have played a perfect half in a 107-61 win over Purdue Fort Wayne on Nov. 11.

After leading by just seven at halftime, Ohio State broke the dam in the second half, holding the Mastodons to just 30.0 percent shooting in the final 20 minutes, outscoring PFW 66-27 in that span.

The Buckeyes were led by senior guard C.J. Jackson, who finished with a career-high 25 points in 30 minutes of action. He was 8 of 11 shooting, with all three of his misses coming from behind the arc (4 of 7). His previous career high was 23, which came in a Nov. 24, 2017, win over Stanford in the PK80 Challenge.

Jackson attributed his and Ohio State's big day to a good few days of practice following a 64-56 win over Cincinnati on Nov. 7.

"It is just a good feeling," Jackson said. "We had to string a good couple of practices together because we knew they were going to come in and make some tough shots. We focused on the defensive end first and then executed our plan."

It wasn't just Jackson who had a big offensive night, as all but two Buckeyes who played against the Mastodons got on the scoreboard. Freshmen Luther Muhammad (12), Jaedon LeDee (16) and Duane Washington (20) all scored in double figures against PFW, with freshman Justin Ahrens and walk-on Danny Hummer the only two Buckeyes who didn't score.

A good portion of Ohio State's points came from behind the three-point line, as the Buckeyes converted on a blistering 15 of 28 shots from beyond the arc, including 11 of 18 in the second half.

Holtmann said after the game that he doesn't expect that to be the norm moving forward but added that because PFW went underneath numerous ball screens, the Buckeyes were able to get off easier shots.

"I don't know that 28 (three-point shots) is going to be a normal night," Holtmann said. "That is a pretty high number, but I think some of those were (taken) late (in the game). We are going to shoot more this year than we did last

### Ohio State 107, PFW 61

Nov. 11, 2018 Value City Arena • Columbus, Ohio										
		1	2			F				
Purdue Fort Wayne (0-2)		34	27			-	61			
Ohio State (2-0)		41	66			-	107			
PFW		Total FG	FT	Reb.						
	Min.	M-A	M-A	O-D	A	PF	Pts.			
Carl	14	3-5	0-0	1-1	0	5	8			
Holba	29	4-13	1-2	2-2	1	3	10			
Harrell	31	5-12	3-3	1-3	1	1	13			
DeBerry	21	1-5	0-0	0-2	0	2	3			
Konchar	37	6-15	0-2	4-5	3	4	13			
Godfrey	19	1-7	1-2	1-4	1	0	3			
Montgomery	10	1-2	2-2	0-0	0	1	5			
Inkumsah	3	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	1	0			
Weir	14	0-3	2-2	0-0	0	2	2			
Benford	18	1-2	2-4	1-1	0	2	4			
Grundy	2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0			
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>22-65</b>	<b>11-17</b>	<b>12-18</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>61</b>			

**Percentages:** FG: 33.8%. FT: 64.7%. **3-point goals:** 6-27 (Carl 2-3, Holba 1-7, Harrell 0-2, DeBerry 1-3, Konchar 1-4, Godfrey 0-4, Montgomery 1-2, Weir 0-2). **Team rebounds:** 2. **Blocked shots:** None. **Turnovers:** 15 (Carl 3, DeBerry 3, Konchar 3, Holba 2, Harrell 2, Godfrey, Weir). **Steals:** 3 (Konchar 2, Harrell).

Ohio State										
	Min.	M-A	M-A	O-D	A	PF	Pts.			
A. Wesson	15	1-4	0-0	0-1	2	4	2			
Young	17	3-3	0-0	0-2	3	1	7			
K. Wesson	19	3-5	2-2	1-6	2	3	8			
Muhammad	28	4-8	3-4	0-1	2	2	12			
Jackson	30	8-11	5-6	0-6	5	2	25			
Jallow	15	2-2	0-0	2-3	0	1	5			
Washington	21	7-11	0-0	0-3	1	0	20			
Ahrens	6	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0			
Lane	6	2-2	0-0	0-2	3	0	5			
LeDee	13	2-2	12-14	2-2	0	2	16			
Woods	24	2-7	2-2	1-3	2	1	7			
Hummer	5	0-0	0-0	0-0	1	2	0			
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>34-56</b>	<b>24-28</b>	<b>6-33</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>107</b>			

**Percentages:** FG: 60.7%. FT: 85.7%. **3-point goals:** 15-28 (A. Wesson 0-1, Young 1-1, K. Wesson 0-1, Muhammad 1-3, Jackson 4-7, Jallow 1-1, Washington 6-9, Ahrens 0-1, Lane 1-1, Woods 1-3). **Team rebounds:** 4. **Blocked shots:** 5 (LeDee 4, K. Wesson). **Turnovers:** 11 (A. Wesson 3, K. Wesson 3, Jackson 2, Muhammad, Jallow, Ahrens). **Steals:** 6 (Muhammad 2, Young, K. Wesson, Woods, Hummer). **Officials:** Wymer, Beaver, Eppley. **A:** 12,040.

year because we have more three-point shooters and more guys that can shoot it."

Another reason Ohio State was able to get off so many three-pointers was because PFW made a concerted effort to contain Kaleb Wesson in the paint. The sophomore big man finished with eight points and seven rebounds against the Mastodons and was routinely double-teamed in the post.

*A complete recap of Ohio State's win over Purdue Ft. Wayne can be found on BuckeyeSports.com.*

— James Grega

## OSU Men's 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

versation," Holtmann said. "Micah is a great kid and we wish him well in his next move. Generally on transfers, we all know that is very much a part of our game. As a coach you would love to be able to start all 13 guys and have everybody play as much as they want. We know that is not possible. It is our job to try to figure out what we feel like is best at the time."

In his stead, freshman Jaedon LeDee figured to get added playing time. The true freshman out of Texas was a four-star forward in the 2018 cycle according to 247Sports and had routinely been praised for his athletic ability and his willingness to rebound at a high level.

"I think his attitude has been tremendous," Holtmann said of LeDee. "He has got to get in better shape, and he has to

continue to learn what our expectations are and how we want him to play on both ends. The thing that translates for Jae right now is he pursues the ball at a really high level. He always has. He pursues (rebounds) with two hands."

However, in Ohio State's 64-56 win over Cincinnati in the season opener, LeDee did not see the court as Young finished with a game-high 36 minutes. Young played well, tallying 10 points and eight rebounds in his first career start, but Holtmann said he doesn't expect Young to play such high minutes moving forward.

"Not necessarily. I do think that his minutes and getting Jae ready are affected by Micah's absence, for sure," Holtmann

Continued On Page 30

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# Freshmen Making Early Impact For Ohio State

Continued From Page 29

said. "There is no question about that. He wouldn't have played quite those minutes if Micah was with us. It was probably too much, but it was just in that game, he was very effective and he will be very effective in those kind of games with his motor. He was playing well and we had some foul

trouble so it was hard to pull him off the floor."

## Freshmen Make OSU Debuts

Ohio State brought in a class of four new players in the 2018 cycle, and it didn't take long for all of them to see their first action as Buckeyes.

Luther Muhammad got the start in the season-opening win over Cincinnati and finished with 11 points on 4-of-10 shooting. He followed that up with a 12-point performance on Nov. 11 in a 107-61 blowout win over Purdue Fort Wayne on 4-of-8 shooting in 28 minutes of action.

Fellow freshman guard Duane Washington also played significant minutes

against the Bearcats but scored only three points in the season opener. Washington, though, exploded in his second career game as a Buckeye, finishing with 20 points against PFW on 7-of-11 shooting, including 6-of-9 from beyond the arc. Two of his perimeter jumpers against the Mastodons came near the end of the first half, which helped Ohio State separate from the visitors just before heading into the locker room, 41-34.

That stretch particularly stood out to Holtmann, who praised Washington's ability to make plays in critical moments.

"Duane's two threes were monumental for us," Holtmann said. "Without Duane's two threes there late in the first half, it's a tie game or a one-possession game. It just gave us a little bit of life."

After not playing in the win against Cincinnati, both LeDee and Justin Ahrens made their official Ohio State debuts in the win over Purdue Fort Wayne.

LeDee was the first of the two to check in against the Mastodons and finished his first career college game with 16 points, 12 of which came from the charity stripe on 14 attempts. Fifteen of his 16 points came in the second half. However it was the four minutes he played in the first half that Holtmann was most pleased with.

"The play in the first half is what was good for him," Holtmann said of LeDee's performance. "The minutes he gave us where he didn't turn it over, he didn't have any offensive fouls, he did his job and he rebounded with activity. He finished a couple plays or got fouled and is a very good free-throw shooter. I think those minutes in the first half are critical for him and for us moving forward."

LeDee had a point, a rebound and a block without any turnovers in 3:20 of action during the first 20 minutes. He converted on both of his field-goal attempts against PFW, a layup and a jump shot from the top of the key.

Ahrens played the final six minutes of the blowout win and was one of only two Buckeyes to not register a point against the Mastodons. He attempted just one shot, a three-pointer, which missed. Walk-ons Joey Lane and Danny Hummer also got time against PFW with Lane converting on both of his field-goal attempts, finishing with five points. Hummer did not attempt a shot in five minutes of game action.

## Wesson Dealing With Minor Knee Injury

Ohio State's starting big man played with a brace on his right knee throughout the Buckeyes' win over the Bearcats on Nov. 7, though it didn't seem to restrict him at all.

Wesson finished with a team-high 15 points and hauled in seven rebounds against Cincinnati, and Holtmann said the brace was a precautionary measure after Wesson "banged knees" with a teammate in practice in the week leading up to the battle of in-state foes.

"It limited him in practice for the next day or two, but our training staff did a great job," Holtmann said. "We were concerned about it, but they saw it as more of a precaution and a bone bruise, which it was. He had X-rays and everything was all right."

Wesson played 28 minutes against the Bearcats and committed three personal fouls in the season opener. He played just 19 minutes against PFW, scoring eight points and grabbing seven rebounds.

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# Buckeyes Examine Options As New Squad Jells

As the Ohio State women's basketball team completed its preseason slate of practices, capped by a scrimmage Oct. 21 against Louisville and a 72-50 win Oct. 28 in an exhibition against Division-II Indiana University of Pennsylvania, head coach Kevin McGuff mostly remained unsure of how to hand out minutes between the starting lineup and the bench rotation.

## DOUBLE DRIBBLE Garrett Stepien

Three games into the season, the first week of action started to show some clarity for the Buckeyes (1-2).

In each of those contests, OSU went with

the same starting five – Carmen Grande, Adreana Miller, Carly Santoro, Makayla Waterman and Dorka Juhasz – while the rotations split up time on the floor evenly for up to four others off the bench.

Including the starting lineup – which McGuff made sure to note, after the opener, is not necessarily finalized – eight of Ohio State's nine rotation members are averaging between 18.7 and 30.3 minutes per game.

"That's been sort of our best lineup so far," McGuff said of Grande, Miller, Santoro, Waterman and Juhasz. "I'm not necessarily tied to anything right now, but that's been what's kind of giving us the best chance on both ends of the court so far."

The first five out – three graduate guards, a fifth-year senior forward and a freshman forward – have given the Buckeyes balance. OSU's offense is finding its footing, but the unit projects to operate far differently than



SONNY BROCKWAY

**SLOW START** – Head coach Kevin McGuff and the Ohio State women's basketball team opened the season 1-2 in the first week.

the past four years when the program's all-time leading scorer, Kelsey Mitchell, was running the show.

"This group – a lot of them, this is a bigger stage than they've played on,"

McGuff said. "So there are a lot of nerves that we're dealing with. I think the biggest thing for us – and I've told this and

**Continued On Page 32**

## OSU Women's Basketball Verbal Commitments

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

Player	Pos.	Ht.	Stars	High School
Kierstan Bell	G	6-1	★★★★★	Canton (Ohio) McKinley
Rikki Harris	PG	5-9	★★★★★	Indianapolis North Central
Kaelynn Satterfield	W	6-0	★★★★★	Middle Village (N.Y.) Christ The King
Jacy Sheldon	G	5-10	★★★★★	Dublin (Ohio) Coffman

Players in the class of 2020 who have issued verbal commitments to play basketball at Ohio State. (Star ratings reflect ESPN.com rankings.)

Player	Pos.	Ht.	Stars	High School
Gabby Hutcherson	F	6-2	★★★	Westerville (Ohio) South
Anyssa Jones	G	5-9	★★★	Westerville (Ohio) South

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# Santoro Emerging As Ohio State's Top Scorer

Continued From Page 31

preached this to them – is we have to continue to get better. I've not coached a team, since I've been here, that has a higher ceiling from where we are now to where we could be. But it's just going to be a tough road to get there, especially with our schedule."

In the post-Mitchell era, Ohio State's high-octane approach under McGuff has yet to take off. Three games – including a high level of competition between top-25 matchups with No. 22 South Florida on Nov. 6 and No. 2 Connecticut on Nov. 11 – make for a small sample size, but the Buckeyes sit at No. 275 in scoring offense (51.7 points per contest) among 309 teams in Division I – a stark contrast from OSU's 2017-18 squad, which ranked fourth nationally after regularly running away from opponents with 85.0 points per game.

"It's certainly different – that's why I think we had such an electric offense fueled by Kelsey and her speed, quickness and aggression," McGuff said. "It's going to be a little different this year and be more about execution in general and then getting other people involved and making other people around them better. They're not going to be able to manufacture and generate points like Kelsey did. Nobody can because she's so great at it. But they're going to have to be good at execution – getting other people involved, making sure they're in the right place so that we execute to get good shots."

Part of the problem, McGuff thinks so far, has been Ohio State's inconsistency with turnovers plaguing the production. The Buckeyes have given the ball up 51 times in their first three games, an average of 17.0 per contest.

"That's the thing, too – we turn the ball over and have a lot of travels," McGuff said. "I think we're just kind of trying to play a little bit too fast in the half court and we're just trying to take our time and execute what we're trying to do."

OSU's search for a go-to scoring option is another piece of its slow start out of the gate. Juhasz has flashed versatility inside and outside to complement her 6-4 frame, but she remains raw as the adjustment to becoming an immediate starter continues.

"It's the first game and we're playing for the first time together," Juhasz said after the USF game. "I think a lot of these things we can work on. I'm pretty positive about this team."

Santoro, a graduate transfer from Bowling Green, has given Ohio State the surest option as far as instant production goes. After she averaged 12.8 points and 8.7 rebounds in 2017-18 with the Falcons in the Mid-American Conference, her first impression as a Buckeye – leading the team in scoring with 14 against the Bulls and 20 vs. the Huskies – has given a glimpse of her potential.

"Carly's a great kid," McGuff said. "She plays really hard, and she certainly is going to have to be a big part of what we're doing."

In three years at BG, Santoro notched

## USF Blasts Buckeyes, 71-47, In Opener

Ohio State fell behind early and failed to climb back into its season opener against No. 22 South Florida as the Bulls blew the Buckeyes out 71-47 on Nov. 6 before 3,472 at Value City Arena.

The Buckeyes shot 16 for 54 from the field (29.6 percent), going 3 of 19 (15.8 percent) from three-point land. Graduate guard Carly Santoro had a team-high 14 points on 5-of-8 shooting.

OSU (0-1) registered its lowest output since Jan. 16, 2014, when head coach Kevin McGuff's squad dropped a 66-42 result at Penn State. Santoro and freshman forward Dorka Juhasz, who pitched in a double-double performance with 10 points and 10 rebounds, posted more than half of the team's scoring.

Moments after Juhasz controlled the tip for Ohio State, she got the Buckeyes on the board from graduate guard Carmen Grande's left-handed feed on the low post for a 2-0 lead 26 seconds into the game. South Florida (1-0) answered on the other end with the next seven points behind Beatriz Jordao's three-point play on the ensuing possession, followed by consecutive layups from Sydney Harvey and Jordao for a 7-2 advantage.

Santoro connected on a triple to cut the deficit to 7-5, but that was the closest OSU got the rest of the contest. USF went on an 8-0 run and pushed its lead to 15-5. Juhasz ended the drought with a jumper, but Kitija Laksa responded from long range to push the lead back to double digits. Harvey (16 points), Jordao (17 points) and Laksa (17 points) went on to combine for 50 points.

USF opened the second quarter with a 7-0 run on Harvey's basket, Laksa's triple and Jordao's jumper to widen the margin to 28-11 at the 7:44 mark. OSU answered with the game's next four points with Juhasz's layup and graduate guard Najah Queenland's basket – her first career points as a Buckeye – at the 5:08 point to cut the deficit down to 13.

In the final five minutes, though, South Florida started to pull away. The Bulls closed out the last 4:13 of the first half on

### South Florida 71, Ohio St. 47

Nov. 6, 2018 Value City Arena • Columbus, Ohio										
	1	2	3	4						
South Florida (1-0)	21	16	22	12						71
Ohio State (0-1)	11	8	17	11						47
South Florida	Total FG FT Reb.									
	Min.	M-A	M-A	O-D	A	PF	Pts.			
Jordao	22	8-9	1-1	4-6	0	4	17			
Rader	26	1-5	1-2	4-8	0	2	3			
Harvey	30	4-10	7-8	0-1	3	2	16			
Ferreira	35	1-6	5-6	1-6	1	3	8			
Laksa	36	4-16	7-8	0-5	3	2	17			
Pehadzic	6	1-3	0-0	0-0	0	0	2			
Pinzan	10	1-4	0-0	0-1	0	1	3			
Kestner	3	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0			
Leverett	14	0-0	3-4	1-2	0	3	3			
Henshaw	12	1-2	0-0	4-0	0	1	2			
Rozentale	6	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	1	0			
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>21-57</b>	<b>24-29</b>	<b>16-32</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>71</b>			

**Percentages:** FG: 36.8%. FT: 82.8%. **3-point goals:** 5-22 (Rader 0-1, Harvey 1-4, Ferreira 1-3, Laksa 2-6, Pehadzic 0-2, Pinzan 1-4, Kestner 0-1, Rozentale 0-1). **Team rebounds:** 5. **Blocked shots:** 2 (Jordao 2). **Turnovers:** 16 (Harvey 5, Laksa 5, Rader 2, Jordao, Ferreira, Leverett, Henshaw). **Steals:** 2 (Ferreira, Pehadzic).

Ohio State										
	Min.	M-A	M-A	O-D	A	PF	Pts.			
Juhasz	28	4-11	2-3	2-8	0	1	10			
Waterman	27	0-4	2-6	2-0	0	3	2			
Grande	26	1-9	0-0	1-1	2	4	3			
Santoro	32	5-8	3-6	0-3	1	3	14			
Miller	24	1-6	2-2	2-1	0	3	5			
Crooms	19	1-7	1-2	0-1	2	4	3			
Queenland	24	2-3	2-2	1-2	1	4	6			
Patty	20	2-6	0-0	0-3	0	1	4			
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>16-54</b>	<b>12-21</b>	<b>9-23</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>47</b>			

**Percentages:** FG: 29.6%. FT: 57.1%. **3-point goals:** 3-19 (Juhasz 0-5, Waterman 0-3, Grande 1-2, Santoro 1-3, Miller 1-3, Queenland 0-1, Patty 0-2). **Team rebounds:** 5. **Blocked shots:** 4 (Patty 2, Waterman, Crooms). **Turnovers:** 13 (Waterman 3, Patty 3, Juhasz 2, Santoro 2, Crooms 2, Miller). **Steals:** 6 (Waterman 3, Patty 3). **Officials:** N/A. **A:** 3,472.

a 9-4 spurt, started by Harvey's pair of free throws and capped by Tamara Henshaw's layup with 47 seconds left in the second quarter to put OSU in a 37-19 hole at halftime.

After the break USF led by as many as 25 points before the Buckeyes showed some fight with five points from freshman guard Janai Crooms' layup and a Juhasz three-point play to cut it to 46-26 with 5:45 left in the period. OSU still trailed by 20-plus points, though, down 59-36 heading into the final 10 minutes.

Ohio State was outscored only 12-11 by South Florida in the fourth quarter.

– Garrett Stepien

seven 20-point performances. If her first few appearances with OSU are any indication, she might double that number by the end of her only campaign in Columbus.

Regardless of which way her role develops, though, Santoro leads by example and keeps the focus on Ohio State's new-look squad settling in. The Buckeyes have a long way to go, and Santoro knows it, but they

knew these challenges were going to be faced at one point or another.

"We're an entirely new team," Santoro said. "Everything's new, so I think it's all of us out there learning new things. But it's a building process each game."

### Motivated By Family, Juhasz Makes Debut

When Juhasz made her collegiate

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## Buckeyes Bounce Back To Beat Titans

Behind 30 points and 14 rebounds from the freshman forward duo of Dorka Juhasz and Aaliyah Patty, Ohio State downed Detroit Mercy on Nov. 9, 55-41, before 3,937 at Value City Arena, boosting the new-look Buckeyes to their first victory.

With 14 points and 10 rebounds, Juhasz picked up right where she left off in the season opener, recording her second double-double outing in as many games. Patty, meanwhile, broke out to score 16 and grab four boards, pacing OSU (1-1) with her game-high point total.

The Titans (1-1) took advantage of Ohio State's sluggish start and held a one-point edge at the end of the first quarter. The Buckeyes got on the board first when graduate guard Carmen Grande fed one of her game-high seven assists to fifth-year senior forward Makayla Waterman, who totaled six points and collected two rebounds, on a layup 28 seconds into the game. Detroit Mercy scored the next five points for a 5-2 lead at the 6:59 mark. OSU fought back, regaining an 11-10 lead at the 3:02 point when graduate guard Najah Queenland's steal led to freshman guard Janai Crooms' layup on the other end. But the Titans ended the opening period up 12-11 after Brittney Jackson, who pitched in 11 points, made a layup of her own.

Patty drew first blood for Ohio State in the second quarter on a layup 34 seconds in. Queenland added a bucket in the paint at the 8:44 mark and Detroit Mercy called timeout with the Buckeyes leading 15-12. After the Titans pulled to 25-21 with 1:01 left in the frame, junior guard Jensen Caretti – making her season debut after she sat out the season opener due to an unspecified team rules violation – drilled a three-pointer with six seconds left to give OSU a 28-21 halftime lead. Caretti chipped in five points on 2-of-8 shooting.

Patty, who scored 12 of her 16 points in the first half, cooled off a bit in the third quarter, but Ohio State picked up the slack. Juhasz scored the first two of her 10 second-half points on a layup nine seconds into the frame. The Buckeyes got going from there as Juhasz added another layup at the 9:09 mark to make it 32-21 – OSU's first double-digit lead of the

### Ohio St. 55, Detroit Mercy 41

Nov. 9, 2018 Value City Arena • Columbus, Ohio										
	1	2	3	4	F					
<b>Detroit Mercy (1-1)</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>41</b>					
<b>Ohio State (1-1)</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>55</b>					
Detroit Mercy	Total	FG	FT	Reb.						
	Min.	M-A	M-A	O-D	A	PF	Pts.			
Miller	36	2-3	0-0	0-4	0	2	4			
Tobel	30	4-12	3-3	0-1	2	1	12			
Bellman	36	1-3	3-4	2-9	1	3	5			
Jackson	32	5-13	0-0	2-1	1	1	11			
Oatis	32	4-11	1-3	1-0	2	4	9			
Brown	15	0-3	0-0	0-1	1	1	0			
Ristovski	6	0-2	0-0	0-1	0	1	0			
Shears	9	0-1	0-0	0-2	1	1	0			
Bicknell	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0			
Burr	4	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0			
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>16-48</b>	<b>7-10</b>	<b>7-21</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>41</b>			

**Percentages:** FG: 33.3%. FT: 70.0%. **3-point goals:** 2-15 (Tobel 1-3, Bellman 0-2, Jackson 1-5, Oatis 0-1, Brown 0-1, Ristovski 0-2, Shears 0-1). **Team rebounds:** 4. **Blocked shots:** 4 (Bellman 3, Oatis). **Turnovers:** 21 (Jackson 6, Tobel 4, Bellman 2, Oatis 2, Brown 2, Shears 2, Miller, Ristovski, TEAM). **Steals:** 3 (Bellman 2, Miller).

Ohio State	Total	FG	FT	Reb.						
	Min.	M-A	M-A	O-D	A	PF	Pts.			
Juhasz	24	7-17	0-0	3-7	0	3	14			
Waterman	28	3-8	0-0	0-2	4	4	6			
Grande	21	0-2	1-2	0-2	7	1	1			
Santoro	24	1-3	0-0	3-3	3	1	2			
Miller	13	0-3	1-2	0-1	1	2	1			
Crooms	22	2-4	0-0	1-2	2	2	4			
Queenland	21	3-3	0-0	2-5	2	1	6			
Patty	28	8-11	0-1	0-4	0	4	16			
Caretti	20	2-8	0-0	0-0	1	0	5			
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>26-59</b>	<b>2-5</b>	<b>13-27</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>55</b>			

**Percentages:** FG: 48.1%. FT: 40.0%. **3-point goals:** 1-11 (Juhasz 0-1, Grande 0-1, Santoro 0-1, Miller 0-2, Crooms 0-1, Patty 0-1, Caretti 1-4). **Team rebounds:** 5. **Blocked shots:** 6 (Patty 3, Caretti 2, Juhasz). **Turnovers:** 17 (Crooms 5, Waterman 2, Miller 2, Queenland 2, Patty 2, Caretti 2, Juhasz, Grande). **Steals:** 10 (Santoro 3, Queenland 3, Juhasz 2, Crooms, Patty). **Officials:** Grinter, Enterline, Garland. **A:** 3,937.

contest – before Waterman's layup at the 8:34 point forced Detroit Mercy to call a timeout down 34-21.

Grande netted her only point of the game on a 1-for-2 trip to the free-throw line with four seconds left to give Ohio State a 43-31 advantage heading into the fourth quarter. Over the final 10 minutes, the Buckeyes led by as much as 20 – 53-33 at the 5:14 mark and 55-35 at the 3:39 mark – before the Titans scored the last six points and cut it to the 55-41 final.

OSU went 1 of 11 (9.1 percent) on three-pointers but shot 44.1 percent (26 for 59) from the field, including 42 points in the paint and 21 points off turnovers. Detroit Mercy was much colder from the floor on a 16-of-48 clip (33.3 percent).

Lexey Tobel paced the Titans with 12 points and Jackson added 11.

– **Garrett Stepien**

debut in Ohio State's 71-47 loss to USF, she provided the Buckeyes a bright spot with a double-double on 10 points and 10 rebounds.

Her next time out, she upped that performance with another double-digit outing in points and rebounds, posting 14 and 10 to lead OSU past Detroit Mercy in a 55-41 win.

During both games, Juhasz had enough motivation to make a strong first impression. In September 2017, she suffered a torn ACL that required surgery and had to work all the way back to earn a spot in Ohio State's starting lineup.

"It was amazing," Juhasz said. "I was waiting for that for about a year because I had my surgery and had to miss a year, so I was really excited to be back. I was a little bit nervous because it's like a different level, but it truly helped me that my family's here. That gave me some extra motivation."

Juhasz received an added jolt of energy when she looked into the stands at Value

City Arena. Her parents made the journey from Pecs, Hungary, to Columbus for the week and saw their daughter in action for the first two home games. She averaged 12.0 points and 10.0 rebounds in those contests as the Buckeyes split the home-stand.

"They're here until Sunday (Nov. 11)," Juhasz said Nov. 6 with a smile. "So it's pretty exciting."

"She's a great player," McGuff said of Juhasz. "She's very skilled. Different from a lot of kids we've had in terms of post players. She's got a chance to be really special here. She's coming off an injury. She didn't play her senior year of high school. So this is only the second (year) she's been on the court, so it's good to see a lot of good things from her."

Despite the positive signs, Juhasz still expects more – from upping her strengths to sharpening her weaknesses. While she averages 10.0 points and 7.7 rebounds, Juhasz brings a sense of urgency to every

## Ohio State Suffers Blowout Loss Vs. UConn

On the road for the first time, Ohio State was overmatched Nov. 11 at Connecticut as the No. 2 Huskies handed the Buckeyes an 85-53 loss before 8,828 at Gampel Pavilion in Storrs, Conn.

In the loss for the Buckeyes (1-2), who played their second top-25 opponent of the campaign, graduate guard Carly Santoro and fifth-year senior forward Makayla Waterman provided the bright spots as the duo combined for 31 points and 20 rebounds.

Santoro scored a game-high 20 points on 6-of-9 shooting (3 of 5 on three-pointers). Waterman added her first career double-double on 11 points and a game-high 12 rebounds, which doubled as a career-high total.

The Huskies had four scorers notch double digits between the 69-point quartet of Katie Lou Samuelson (19), Crystal Dangerfield (18), Napheesa Collier (17) and Megan Walker (15).

OSU fell behind quickly against UConn (1-0), which took early command of the contest with a 30-12 lead at the end of the first quarter. Ohio State kept Connecticut somewhat in check for the first half of the opening period. But after Santoro knocked down her first triple of the game to make it 18-10 at the 4:34 mark, the Huskies ended the final 4:05 on a 12-2 run starting with Samuelson's pair of free throws and ending on Walker's layup with 20 seconds left.

OSU, which shot 29.3 percent (17 of 58) from the field and 28.6 percent (6 of 21) from deep, struggled in the second quarter with seven points. UConn, meanwhile, piled on 19 points for a 49-19 half-time advantage. The Huskies shot 58.1 percent (18 for 31) in the first half and forced 15 turnovers, eventually finishing 51.7 percent (31 for 60) overall after the second half and collecting 21 takeaways on the game.

After the break, the Buckeyes showed some signs of life as Santoro scored eight points in the frame, during which OSU outscored the Huskies, 22-19. The surged started with OSU scoring 10 of the period's first 13 points, highlighted by threes from Waterman at the 7:39 mark and Santoro at the 7:06 mark to make it 52-29.

Graduate guard Adreana Miller rounded out Ohio State's double-dig-

aspect of her game, especially shooting (13 for 36 from the field and 0 for 10 on three-pointers).

"Even if I had 10 rebounds, I think that I can get more," Juhasz said. "First of all, I think I can improve on offense. I have to shoot on my own terms. So sometimes I felt like I was nervous and that's why I missed shots. I just really need more hustle and to work more on defense. But we'll get back in the gym, work for it and be ready for the next games."

"I think that's my expectation – to get a double-double every game. But I'm not really satisfied with my outings on the offensive end and shot percentage. I think I can improve on that. These are just things where I have to go to the gym and shoot more and more."

### OSU Gets Ahead, Offers Underclassmen

While Ohio State has five commitments for 2019 and two pledges in 2020, the

### Connecticut 85, Ohio State 53

Nov. 11, 2018 Gampel Pavilion • Storrs, Conn.										
	1	2	3	4	F					
<b>Ohio State (1-2)</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>53</b>					
<b>Connecticut (1-0)</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>85</b>					
Ohio State	Total	FG	FT	Reb.						
	Min.	M-A	M-A	O-D	A	PF	Pts.			
Juhasz	20	2-8	2-2	2-1	0	3	6			
Waterman	36	4-9	2-2	7-5	0	1	11			
Grande	36	1-12	0-0	1-2	2	3	2			
Santoro	30	6-9	5-8	1-7	2	2	20			
Miller	22	3-10	2-2	1-4	1	4	10			
Crooms	15	1-4	1-2	1-1	0	5	3			
Queenland	13	0-1	1-2	1-2	0	1	1			
Patty	22	0-4	0-2	0-1	0	2	0			
Caretti	6	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	1	0			
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>17-58</b>	<b>13-20</b>	<b>15-25</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>53</b>			

**Percentages:** FG: 29.3%. FT: 65.0%. **3-point goals:** 6-21 (Juhasz 0-4, Waterman 1-1, Grande 0-3, Santoro 3-5, Miller 2-5, Queenland 0-1, Patty 0-1, Caretti 0-1). **Team rebounds:** 3. **Blocked shots:** 3 (Waterman 2, Patty). **Turnovers:** 21 (Waterman 5, Santoro 5, Grande 4, Miller 2, Queenland 2, Juhasz, Crooms, Caretti). **Steals:** 6 (Grande 3, Juhasz, Crooms, Patty).

Connecticut	Total	FG	FT	Reb.						
	Min.	M-A	M-A	O-D	A	PF	Pts.			
Walker	28	6-11	2-2	1-5	2	2	15			
Collier	26	7-10	3-4	0-4	1	2	17			
Dangerfield	31	8-12	0-0	0-5	4	4	18			
Williams	28	2-6	3-4	1-1	2	2	7			
Samuelson	30	5-12	6-7	0-7	5	3	19			
Coombs	17	1-3	0-0	0-0	2	2	2			
Bent	11	0-1	0-0	1-1	2	1	0			
Nelson-Ododa	5	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	2	0			
Irwin	13	2-2	0-0	2-0	1	0	5			
Camara	6	0-0	1-2	0-2	0	2	1			
Gordon	4	0-2	1-2	0-0	0	0	1			
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>31-60</b>	<b>16-21</b>	<b>6-28</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>85</b>			

**Percentages:** FG: 51.7%. FT: 76.2%. **3-point goals:** 7-22 (Walker 1-2, Collier 0-1, Dangerfield 2-6, Williams 0-2, Samuelson 3-7, Bent 0-1, Irwin 1-1, Gordon 0-2). **Team rebounds:** 4. **Blocked shots:** 2 (Samuelson, Nelson-Ododa). **Turnovers:** 10 (Dangerfield 4, Samuelson 2, Collier, Williams, Coombs, Nelson-Ododa). **Steals:** 11 (Williams 3, Samuelson 3, Walker 2, Collier, Bent, Irwin). **Officials:** Enterline, Smith, Camy. **A:** 8,828.

it scorers with 10 points, finishing 3 of 10 shooting and 2 for 5 from long range and sinking a pair of free throws while also pulling down five boards. She got involved in the third-quarter spree, knocking down five points on a pair of free throws at the 4:26 mark and a triple with 39 seconds left.

But with a 68-41 deficit by the end of the quarter, the hole was too deep for the Buckeyes to climb out of. Connecticut maintained control of the game in the fourth quarter, holding a 17-12 edge against OSU on the way to the 85-53 final.

Graduate guard Carmen Grande logged 36 minutes, tied with Waterman for the game-high, but struggled mightily with a 1-of-12 mark from the field, going 0 for 3 on triples while dishing out two assists and collecting three rebounds.

– **Garrett Stepien**

Buckeyes are already dipping into the next couple of recruiting cycles.

The first of the recent offers came Oct. 27 when OSU offered Mya Petticord, a 2022 guard from Detroit Edison Public Academy. Petticord, a 5-8 guard, also holds an early offer from Michigan.

Also in 2022, Ohio State extended an offer to Bridgewater (Mass.) Bridgewater-Raynham Regional forward Shay Bollin. The 6-2 forward also boasts early offers from Louisville, Wisconsin, Harvard, Penn State, Massachusetts, Saint Joseph's, Virginia Tech, North Carolina State, Georgia and Boston College.

Not as far in the future, the Buckeyes entered the race Oct. 29 for a top 2021 prospect in Las Vegas Centennial's Taylor Bigby. The 5-11 guard is a four-star recruit on ProspectsNation.com with offers from Louisville, Texas Tech, Southern California, Georgia, Washington, Oregon, Georgetown, Arizona, Michigan, Georgia Tech, UNLV and Liberty.



# OSU's Myer Makes Big Impact With Rare Points

He plays D but seems to be lacking some E's.

Ohio State junior defenseman Gordi Myer often has both his first and last names misspelled for lack of a vowel.

## IN THE CREASE Craig Merz

If you're a hockey player it must be Gordie, right? As in Gordie Howe.

"I always ask my mom about that," Myer said. "I'm named after my grandfather, her dad. I don't think he spelled it Gordie because everyone calls him Gord. My mom's side of the family calls me Gord, without an I or E on the end."

As for his last name. Well, you can't be a Buckeye fan without thinking of Urban Meyer. Heck, Myer has a teammate named Carson Meyer.

"It's funny you mention the 'Meyer' because my best friend growing up, his name is Meyer. Now we have Carson," Myer told BSB. "Earlier this season for the Saturday night against UMass, I was starting the game and I was skating out and I looked up at the video board. I saw they had my name spelled wrong on the board – it was Meyer.

"I've been struggling with that for a while."

Myer, however you want to spell it, is

a non-flashy defenseman who helped the Buckeyes reach the NCAA tournament the past two seasons who also has a penchant for scoring at key times.

The Toledo native played 22 games as a freshman and had nine assists and one goal. It came in the third period of the West Regional vs. Minnesota Duluth to tie the game. The Buckeyes would lose in overtime in their first tournament appearance in nine years.

Myer last season played 39 games and had 11 assists, and again, one goal. He scored a power-play marker vs. Michigan in the Big Ten semifinal at Nationwide Arena in downtown Columbus as the Buckeyes defeated the Wolverines in overtime.

Defensively, in two games at last season's Midwest Regional he was plus-4 (on the ice for more even-strength goals scored than allowed), going plus-1 vs. Princeton and plus-3 against Denver when OSU reached the Frozen Four for the first time in 20 years.

Myer (5-10, 179) has one assist in 10 games this season.

He came to Columbus from Green Bay of the junior-level United States Hockey League where he had 18 points (three goals, 15 assists) in 59 games in 2015-16.

That was his first full season with the Gamblers after he was acquired in a trade from Tri-City during the 2014-15 season.

This is where it gets interesting. The assistant coach for Tri-City (Nebraska) at the time of the deal was JB Bittner, now in his second season as an Ohio State assistant.

So, was there any awkwardness when Bittner joined the Buckeyes' staff?

"We joked about it," Myer said. "He said it was the head coach that traded me. Apparently, he had nothing to do with it.

"Actually, I was excited he was coming. He's a great coach but also a good guy to be around, really personable and easy to relate to because he went to school here."

Myer grew up watching the Toledo Storm of the ECHL in the venerable Toledo Sports Arena (since torn down). It was a place where the ice surface was smaller than regulation and fans would lean over the low glass and punch players and vice versa in a bygone era.

The old barn held about 5,000 fans, but a thousand more would cram in and make thunderous noise off the low ceiling.

"My best friend down the street had season tickets right on the glass," Myer said. "I used to be the little kid that would stand up on the glass during warmups.

"I miss the Sports Arena. That was the best memories getting to play there when I was younger. Those games had great atmosphere. I remember people used to smoke in the building and there'd be a cloud over the rink."

He was fortunate to grow up in a region where hockey is big.

"We're getting a lot of kids from the area that are really good," Myer said. "My age group is kind of the first to get a couple of kids that ended up going to the USHL or college."

Myer left Toledo to play for the Cleveland Barons program when he was 16.

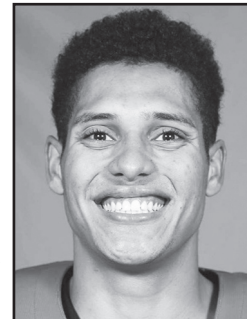
"It was tough leaving your family and friends, but it was fun, this beginning of a long journey," he said. "I met a lot of lifelong friends there. I lived there for two years and graduated from high school there."

It was with the Barons that he got serious about playing in college.

"I definitely set it as a goal," he said. "When I first got there it was kind of far off. My senior year it was kind of more realistic. That's actually when I got an offer from Ohio State. I committed my senior year."



Gordi Myer



Dakota Joshua

Current Buckeyes Freddy Gerard and Tommy Parran were teammates in Cleveland.

"I think I committed first," Myer said. "I remember texting Freddy when he got an offer from Ohio State saying you should come here. Me and Freddy talked about how much fun it would be, and now we're roommates."

But first came two years in the USHL to develop his skills. Once Myer arrived on campus, he was able to reunite with his twin sister, Lori.

"We see each other quite a lot, especially my freshman year because she was a junior at the time," he said. "She had a car. It was nice to be able to share a car."

"We're pretty close so we'd get lunch or breakfast or sometimes go home to Toledo together. It's nice for our parents because they can come down and we're both here."

Yes, they do have that twins' intuition.

"I know a couple of times we'd text each other at the same time, something like that," he said. "We definitely have a little telepathy going on."

## Brushing Aside Colgate

The No. 7 Buckeyes completed their five-game road trip with a Nov. 9-10 sweep of Colgate (2-6-1), winning the opener 3-0 behind two goals from junior Tanner Laczynski and 1-0 on a score by senior Dakota Joshua at Class of 1965 Arena in Hamilton, N.Y.

OSU (6-3-1) continued its goaltender rotation to perfection as senior Sean Romeo made 19 saves in the opener for his second consecutive shutout. Sophomore Tommy Nappier stopped 24 shots the next night for his second blanking of the season.

Laczynski, who had missed the previous three games because of injury, followed a first-period goal by junior Ronnie Hein with a goal with 14

seconds left in the second period against Colgate and added an empty-netter with 17 seconds remaining in the game for his fourth goal of the season.

Joshua got the winner in the rematch with 9:52 left in regulation.

"It was a great job by the boys to hold on and win a tight game," he said.

The Buckeyes return home to Value City for Big Ten play against Wisconsin on Nov. 16 (7 p.m.) and Nov. 17 (5 p.m.).

*For a complete recap of Ohio State's series with Colgate, go to BSB's BuckeyeSports.com, free to all Buckeye Sports Bulletin subscribers.*

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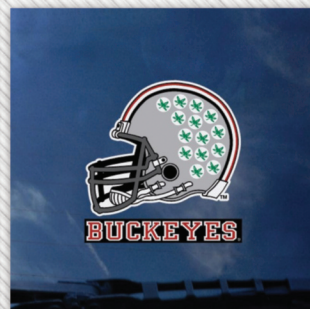
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# BUCKEYE SCOREBOARD

## FOOTBALL

### (9-1, 6-1 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, W 30-14; **20** at Purdue, L 49-20.

**Nov. 3** NEBRASKA, W 36-31; **10** at (18) Michigan State, W 26-6; **17** at Maryland, Noon; **24** MICHIGAN, Noon.

**Dec. 1** Big Ten Championship Game at Indianapolis, 8 p.m.

## MEN'S BASKETBALL

### (2-0)

**Nov. 1** UNC PEMBROKE (exhibition), W 81-63; **7** at Cincinnati, W 64-56; **11** PFW, W 107-61; **15** at Creighton, 7 p.m.; **18** SOUTH CAROLINA STATE, 2 p.m.; **20** SAMFORD, 7 p.m.; **23** CLEVELAND STATE at St. John Arena, 8 p.m.; **28** SYRACUSE, 7 p.m.

**Dec. 2** MINNESOTA, 7 p.m.; **5** vs. Illinois at Chicago, 7 p.m.; **15** BUCKNELL, Noon; **18** YOUNGSTOWN STATE, 7 p.m.; **22** vs. UCLA at Chicago, 3 p.m.; **29** HIGH POINT, TBA.

**Jan. 5** MICHIGAN STATE, Noon; **9** at Rutgers, 7 p.m.; **12** at Iowa, 2:30 p.m.; **18** MARYLAND, 6:30 p.m.; **23** PURDUE, 7 p.m.; **26** at Nebraska, Noon; **29** at Michigan, 9 p.m.

**Feb. 2** RUTGERS, Noon; **7** PENN STATE, 7 p.m.; **10** at Indiana, 1 p.m.; **14** ILLINOIS, 7 p.m.; **17** at Michigan State, 1 p.m.; **20** NORTHWESTERN, 8:30 p.m.; **23** at Maryland, 2 p.m.; **26** IOWA, 7 p.m.

**March 2** at Purdue, 2 p.m.; **6** at Northwestern, 9 p.m.; **10** WISCONSIN, 4:30 p.m.; **13-17** Big Ten Tournament at Chicago.

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

### (1-2)

**Oct. 28** IUP (exhibition), W 72-50.

**Nov. 6** (22) USF, L 71-47; **9** DETROIT MERCY, W 55-41; **11** at (2) UConn, L 85-53; **16** at Sacramento

State, 11:30 p.m.; **18** at Stanford, 4 p.m.; **29** NORTH CAROLINA, 7 p.m.

**Dec. 2** CINCINNATI, 2 p.m.; **5** at Washington, 11 p.m.; **16** FLORIDA at St. John Arena, 1 p.m.; **20** vs. Virginia Tech at West Palm Beach, Fla., 12:15 p.m.; **21** vs. Butler at West Palm Beach, Fla., 12:15 p.m.; **28** at Purdue, 4 p.m.; **31** NEBRASKA, 1 p.m.

**Jan. 5** at Maryland, 4 p.m.; **10** INDIANA, 6 p.m.; **14** MICHIGAN STATE, 7 p.m.; **17** at Penn State, 7 p.m.; **20** at Michigan, 3 p.m.; **24** MARYLAND, 8 p.m.; **28** at Minnesota, 7:30 p.m.; **31** ILLINOIS, 7 p.m.

**Feb. 3** at Northwestern, 4:30 p.m.; **6** PENN STATE, 7 p.m.; **10** IOWA, 4 p.m.; **14** at Rutgers, 7 p.m.; **17** WISCONSIN, 2 p.m.; **21** at Michigan State, 6 p.m.; **28** at Wisconsin, 9 p.m.

**March 3** RUTGERS, TBA; **6-10** Big Ten Tournament at Indianapolis.

## 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., Men: 31st/34 (814); Women: 13th/35 (389); **28** Big Ten Championships at Lincoln, Neb., Men: 11th/12 (350); Women: 8th/14 (232).

**Nov. 9** NCAA Regionals at Terre Haute, Ind., Men: 21st/29 (544); Women: 7th/32 (265); **17** NCAA Championships at Madison, Wis.

## WOMEN'S SOCCER

### (10-5-4, 6-2-3 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, T 0-0; **14** MARYLAND, T 1-1 (2OT); **18** at Purdue, W 2-1; **21** (19) WISCONSIN, W 2-1; **28** BIG TEN TOURNAMENT QUARTERFINAL vs. NEBRASKA, T 0-0 (PKS: L 3-2).

**Nov. 9** NCAA Tournament First Round at Winston-Salem, N.C., vs. Wake Forest, L 1-0 (OT).

## MEN'S ICE HOCKEY

### (6-3-1, 1-1-0 BIG TEN)

**Oct. 12-13** at Arizona State, W 3-2; W 3-0; **19-20** MASSACHUSETTS, L 6-3; W 3-1; **26** (15) BOWLING GREEN, L 8-2; **27** at Bowling Green, T 2-2 (OT).

**Nov. 2-3** at (5) Notre Dame, W 1-0; L 2-1; **9-10** at Colgate, W 3-0; W 1-0; **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, 7 p.m.; 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, 6 p.m.; 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

### (9-5-0, 5-3-0 WCHA)

**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, W 4-0; W 2-1 (OT); **19-20** at Minnesota, L 3-0; W 3-2; **26-27** at St. Lawrence, L 3-2; W 6-1.

**Nov. 2-3** ST. CLOUD STATE, W 3-2; W 3-2; **9-10** at Bemidji State, L 2-1; L 4-2; **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

### (12-16, 3-13 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, L 3-2; **14** MICHIGAN STATE, W 3-0; **19** at Indiana, L 3-0; **20** at Purdue, L 3-0; **24** NEBRASKA, L 3-1; **28** at Northwestern, L 3-0.

**Nov. 2** ILLINOIS, L 3-1; **4** NORTHWESTERN, L 3-1; **7** at Michigan State, L 3-1; **10** MARYLAND, L 3-0; **16** WISCONSIN, 7 p.m.; **17** MINNESOTA, 7 p.m.; **23** at Nebraska, 8 p.m.; **24** at Iowa, 8 p.m.

## WRESTLING

### (1-0)

**Nov. 3** vs. Navy at Owings Mills, Md., W 28-9; **11** Ohio Intercollegiate Open at Cleveland, NTS; **16** at California Baptist, 10 p.m.; **18** at Arizona State, 2 p.m.; **30-Dec. 1** Cliff Keen Las Vegas Invitational, TBA.

**Dec. 9** WISCONSIN, 4 p.m.

**Jan. 6** N.C. STATE, 6 p.m.; **11** at Indiana, 7 p.m.; **13** MICHIGAN STATE, 2 p.m.; **25** MICHIGAN, 7 p.m.

**Feb. 1** at Illinois, 9 p.m.; **3** at Northwestern, 1 p.m.; **8** PENN STATE, 8:30 p.m.; **15** at Purdue, 7 p.m.; **17** NEBRASKA, 2 p.m.; **22** at Cornell, 6:30 p.m.

**March 9-10** Big Ten Championships at Minneapolis; **21-23** NCAA Championships at Pittsburgh.

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# Ohio State's Win At MSU Was Physical, Not Flashy

Michigan State is one of those football programs that prides itself on being physical, especially on the defensive side of the football. Even though the Buckeyes led in the overall series against the Spartans 31-15 going into the game in East Lansing, Mich., on Nov. 10, Ohio State knew it was in for a tough four quarters of play in Spartan Stadium. The question for the Buckeyes would be if the newly found running game which emerged against Nebraska could be effective against the nation's very best defense against the run.

## COACH'S CORNER With Bill Conley

It looked as if the answer would be a resounding "no" after the first half of play. Both defenses stole the show in the first 30 minutes of the game with both offenses being practically nonexistent. Neither team could mount a drive till late in the second quarter when the Buckeyes put together a touchdown march with Parris Campbell taking it in from a yard out to put Ohio State ahead 7-0. Although the Spartans would get a field goal right before half to narrow the margin to four points, both teams ended the first two quarters with a combined 24 yards rushing.

The tenacious defensive play of the Buckeyes along with outstanding field position due to the Ohio State punting game finally took its toll on the Spartans, who found themselves unable to move the football with two different quarterbacks at the helm throughout the game.

The Buckeyes finished the day with 15 more minutes of possession time than the Spartans, resulting in a worn-down Michigan State defense that eventually succumbed to the Ohio State running game in the fourth quarter. It was only fitting that Michigan native Mike Weber would lead all rushers with 104 yards and the Buckeyes would end up with 120 yards on the ground for the day. That's not an overly impressive number but not bad against a defense that was giving up just over 71 per game going into the slugfest against Ohio State.

### Drue The "Shoe"

A specialist really has to set the world on fire to be considered for player of the game. Drue Chrisman earned that honor with his performance against the Spartans as he and the punting unit of Ohio State continually pinned the home team deep inside its 10-yard line.

Shaking off an early 4-yard shanked punt, Chrisman would go on to boot the ball eight more times with great hang time and placement. Because most of the punts were from around midfield, the Spartans never really tried to block them fearing a possible fake. This allowed Chrisman to hold the football a second longer, allowing the Buckeye gunners to get down the field and down the punts before the football crossed the goal line.

Chrisman also used the "nose down" punting technique to perfection. By punting the football nose down instead of flat, the ball has backspin similar to a golfer, which causes it to bounce instead of skipping off the grass and immediately going into the end zone.

### Confidence Builds

The loss at Purdue was a wake-up call for the Buckeyes. Problems that had been repeating themselves throughout the early games finally took their toll in West Lafayette that night. Ohio State was still winning games, but too many times it took the Buckeyes until the second half of play to put the opposition away. The Buckeye coaching staff couldn't do anything about the injury situation, but they could definitely fix some of the issues concerning the running game on offense and the giving up of too many big plays on defense.

The offensive coaches realized the run-pass option concept was not nearly as effective as it was in the past. Dwayne Haskins' role is a passer, not a runner, and the zone read is designed to force the defense to account for both the running back and the quarterback as potential ball carriers. The coaching staff has all but abandoned the zone read for a running attack that is more "downhill" oriented – in other words, a running attack that allows the offensive line to come off the football more aggressively while using a combination of schemes with two tight ends in the game for extra blocking. Even though we didn't dominate the Spartans with our ground game Saturday, the constant pounding against the Michigan State defensive front paid off late in the game.

Since Purdue, the defensive staff has been working to prevent big plays both via the air and on the ground. Defenders are doing a better job of keeping the ball in front of them which allows better convergence on the ball carrier who breaks the line of scrimmage or the receiver who catches the pass in the underneath zones.

There have not been nearly as many missed tackles or big plays against the Buckeye defense the last two games, and it's very important that this trend continues in order to win the Big Ten championship.

Michigan State had one big run and one pass over 20 yards and never crossed the Buckeyes' goal line. That type of defensive performance needs to be the norm, not the exception.

### How The West Was Won

Northwestern clinched the Big Ten West with its win over Iowa on Nov. 10. The Wildcats have a 6-1 conference record and have won five straight Big Ten games since losing to Michigan in late September. They have a chance to run that streak to seven straight if they can handle Minnesota and Illinois in their final two regular-season games.

Wildcat head football coach Pat Fitzgerald is, without a doubt, one of the best coaches in the country. He and his staff get the very best out of players who aren't as athletically gifted as most of their competition. Fitzgerald, a former Wildcat linebacker, has had many chances to leave his alma mater for higher profile jobs, but his loyalty to Northwestern keeps him at home – an admirable trait in today's world of college football.

### Recruiting Concerns

Ohio State is well on its way to another outstanding recruiting class in 2019 and even 2020. Urban Meyer and staff have done a truly remarkable job of bringing four- and five-star players to Columbus on a regular basis.

Under Meyer, Ohio State has become a national football recruiting power. Ohio

State has a great thing going, and that's why I was shocked by the interview a couple of weeks ago when Coach Meyer indicated his future as the head coach at Ohio State is uncertain due to his health.

College football coaching is extremely stressful, and the hours are long year-round. To add to Meyer's issues was the preseason turmoil over the Zach Smith situation and the cranial cyst that has bothered him for years. He indicated that he loves Ohio State and wants to be here for a long time, but it depends on his health.

It is a very up-front and honest statement, but it is not one which recruits want to hear. Opposing programs were already using the internal problems from this summer against the Buckeyes as well as the health issue after Urban went to his knees on the sideline at the Indiana game. The latest comments the Buckeye head coach used throwing some doubt over his future at Ohio State added more fuel to the fire in terms of negative recruiting used by other schools. It will be interesting to see if the early signing period in December will be affected by the Urban Meyer health controversy.

*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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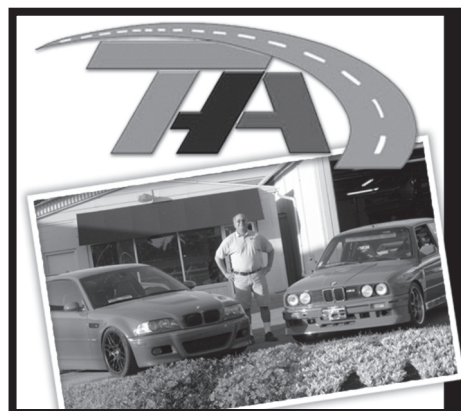
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# Buckeyes Look Like They're Rounding Into Form

I am not quite certain who said, "October is for pretenders, November is for contenders" – possibly Winston Churchill or John F. Kennedy – but it has proved to be on point since the beginning of football time.

## THE FACTS MAN Mike Wachsman

If that is indeed the case, Ohio State may yet be able to realize its championship aspirations.

Playing their best defensive game of the season – admittedly against an offensively challenged foe in Michigan State – the Buckeyes crept to the periphery of the College Football Playoff discussion. OSU dispatched the Spartans like week-old garbage and finally looked like the team so many had hoped for.

True, the offense had its struggles. But that will happen against a team that entered the game ranked No. 1 nationally against the run, and which has hung its hat on defense for most of Mark Dantonio's tenure. The Buckeyes did not abandon their game plan and gained momentum in the second half, finally breaking through to finish with a 26-6 victory.

Two defensive scores – counting an intentional safety by MSU – highlighted the day, which was perfect for football and even better for the Buckeyes, who had not lost in East Lansing since 1999.

The Buckeye defense had taken its share of criticism this season – much of it justified. So it was a bit surprising that the defense is ultimately what got Ohio State through.

Spartan averaged just over 4 yards per play and was especially bad on the ground. Other than a nifty 47-yard burst by backup quarterback Rocky Lombardi, OSU did not allow any big plays over land.

A good measure of how a defense is playing is what it does on first down. That is, in theory, when an offense has its most flexibility. It can run, it can pass, it can do pretty much what it wants to, so most defenses will play their base look on first down. Depending on the outcome of first down, the defense can then change its approach based on down and distance.

Michigan State ran the ball 10 times on first down, averaging minus-0.1 yards per carry. That's right – Michigan State had positive yardage on just four carries, and more than 2 yards on just three of the totes. OSU's linebackers, maligned from the beginning of the season as the main culprits for the explosive plays from the opposition, were excellent. Pete Werner led the way with seven stops, and Tuf Borland was right behind with six. Malik Harrison added four tackles and a couple of pass deflections. The unit played easily its best contest of the season – whether it was simply better play, a scheme that helped put them in position to succeed, whatever – it was good enough to make Michigan State look like a junior high school offense.

"We knew exactly what this would be, and it was. I mean that was November foot-

ball at Michigan State," OSU coach Urban Meyer said. "Everything about that was really hard against that defense, and I'm really ecstatic for our defense the way they came out and played."

The Buckeyes had their share of tough sledding on first down, as well, averaging just 1.75 yards per carry on eight first-half runs. But persistence paid off, as those 2-yard runs turned into bigger gains in the second half. OSU averaged 5.4 yards per carry on 17 second-half totes on first down, and when you can do that you can open the playbook and take a few more chances. Getting ahead of the chains on first down is among the two or three most important things an offense can do, so its no coincidence that the Buckeyes began to pull away in the second 30 minutes.

While the power and determination aspect of the Buckeyes' performance can't be overlooked, there were still a number of times when OSU failed on third-and-short. Ohio State was passing on third-and-2 – something you would have never seen the last four years with J.T. Barrett at the controls. The Buckeyes would have lined up in an empty set, split receivers out wide, and relied on Barrett to get the six feet. And he would do it, just about every single time. It may not have been pretty, but it kept the offense moving. And that was something there wasn't enough of against Michigan State.

Inconsistency on offense won't hurt you against a team as offensively anemic as Michigan State, but if you can't string together some first downs and keep the chains moving against a team like Michigan, you aren't going to win. Not only can the Wolverines play defense, but they now have the offense to make teams pay for not punching the ball into the end zone. So OSU has about two weeks to get things humming.

Saturday in East Lansing was a solid starting point.

### Getting A Leg Up

It's funny, but I was in the BSB World Headquarters just recently and mentioned to fearless leader Frank Moskowitz how much I loved Tom Tupa back in the day. He could flip the field at any time and was a valuable weapon for Ohio State.

So it warmed my heart to see Drue Chrisman basically win MVP honors for the Buckeyes against Sparty.

He had five punts downed inside the 7 and averaged nearly 40 yards per boot despite his opening punt traveling just 4 yards.

Just when there was an opportunity for Sparty to gain offensive momentum, Chrisman pinned them deep.

"You're getting punts on almost every drive, which is not what we want," Chrisman said of preferring scores. "You just get comfortable, into that groove and then, you're just able to do whatever the team needs of you."

One of the deep punts resulted in a safety for Ohio State, while another ended up leading to a defensive touchdown as a bad snap in the end zone allowed Dre'Mont Jones to fall on the football.

There is an art to the special teams game, and it's something that brings a wide smile to Meyer's face since he has long been in charge of the specialty units at OSU.

"I'm really ecstatic for our defense, our punter and Terry McLaurin," Meyer said. "You go back to Bradley Roby, Devin Smith, Denzel Ward, Gareon Conley. We call them the 'gunners.' Terry is as good as there is. He's taken over the title of the best I've

ever had because of what he's done for our program. He's blown out now, he almost couldn't go, but he knew how important it is to down the ball inside the 5-yard line."

McLaurin was asked after the game whether he felt better about making a big reception or pinning an opponent deep in its own territory. He said he liked both, then went on to put the team in the spotlight instead of himself.

"We had to keep pushing it, and it worked out for us because we had really good field position," McLaurin said. "The defense played outstanding today, so give them credit. To be honest, I really think it came down to us being tough down the stretch. We did not get tired and our offensive line was moving them off the ball when we needed first downs. We picked up some big first downs at the end."

Constantly pinning Michigan State deep put a burden on an already feeble offense, and Jones felt that it was only a matter of time before the Buckeye defense made Sparty pay.

"The coaches kept emphasizing a lot more than usual, just like 'Our moment's going to come, we're going to create a turnover, we're going to create a turnover,'" Jones said. "On what seemed to be like a pass-option-read type of thing, he dropped it, and then we kind of wrestled for it a little bit and I came up with it."

### Dandy Dozen

With the weeks dwindling, the College Football Playoff picture is coming into better focus. There are only a few more opportunities for the top teams to stub their toes, and based on the way they are playing, Alabama and Clemson look to have filled half of the playoff field.

That leaves roughly six teams vying for two spots – Notre Dame, Georgia, Michigan, Ohio State, Oklahoma and West Virginia, with Washington State having more of an outside shot.

It's still perplexing to me that Ohio State can even be considered given its 29-point loss to Purdue, but pundits are saying if the Buckeyes win out and get a little bit of help they are right there. I guess so. I just know that the largest loss suffered by a CFP team was 23 points, last year by Georgia against Auburn. Auburn ended up being a good team, playing in the SEC title game. Purdue will not do the same in the Big Ten, so it seems as though the Buckeyes have less ammunition for inclusion.

Personally, I would rather see OSU in the Rose Bowl, against Washington State, with a chance to end the season on a high note. Because based on what I know of the team at this moment, I don't think a playoff berth would end well.

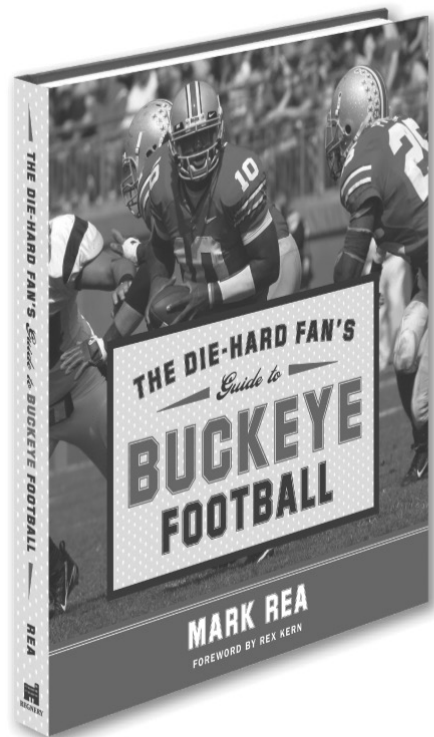
Oh well. They say these things have a way of working themselves out.

1. Alabama
2. Clemson
3. Notre Dame
4. Michigan
5. Georgia
6. Oklahoma
7. West Virginia
8. Washington State
9. Ohio State
10. UCF
11. LSU
12. Penn State

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# Tressel Would Have Been Proud Of Slugfest Victory

When Jim Tressel used to say that the punt was the most important play in football, everyone would roll their eyes or chuckle. It seemed such an absurd statement, though so like something Tressel would say.

But every once in a while you find yourself thinking about Ohio State's national championship coach and you chuckle again, because maybe he was right. Ohio State's 26-6 win at Michigan State on Nov. 10 was one of those times. Buckeye punter Drue Chrisman and his mates on the punt team carried the day.

When I woke up to brisk temperatures on Nov. 10, I was excited because given the match-up against Mark Dantonio's Spartans, I just had a feeling it was going to be an old-fashioned, November-in-the-Big-Ten slugfest that would turn on special teams play, field position, turnovers, running the football and hard hitting and good tackling. That's exactly how the game played out, and none of those old-time virtues was more important than the punting.

Ohio State took a narrow, 7-3 lead into the second half against MSU and took the kick to start the stanza. After a modest six-play, 37-yard drive, Chrisman was forced to punt and buried the Spartans at their 5-yard line. It would be the first of five straight times Chrisman and the Buckeye "gunners" pinned Michigan State inside its 6.

I have to admit I was getting a little antsy when the Buckeyes failed to take advantage of the first three punts, which landed at the 5, 6 and 3. In fact on the second punt, Michigan State was actually able to turn the bad situation into points. Quarterback Rocky Lombardi, aided by his own run of 47 yards – the longest play of the game – marched to the Buckeye 20 on eight plays before the Spartans had to settle for a Matt Coghlin field goal to bring MSU within one, 7-6.

A strategic decision by Dantonio after the fourth Buckeye pinpoint punt backfired, and Ohio State finally took advantage of its field position. After Chrisman buried MSU at the 1-yard line and Lombardi threw three incomplete passes, the veteran Dantonio had the Spartans snap the ball out of the end zone for a safety to avoid a possible touchdown for Ohio State, making the score 9-6.

The strategy started to go awry when Michigan State booted the ensuing kick out of bounds, giving OSU the ball at the 50. Though the Buckeyes were unable to record a first down, Chrisman again came through, pinning the Spartans at their 2.

On MSU's first play from there, the snap hit a motioning Laress Nelson and Dre'Mont Jones was able to pounce on the loose ball in the end zone, allowing the Buckeyes to finally take charge of the game at 16-6.

From there it was good, old-fashioned, Woody Hayes-style smash-mouth, grind-it-out football – perfect for a traditional November day in Big Ten country.

Mike Weber carried 14 times in the final 11:19 of the game, helping the Buckeyes control all but 1:50 of that time. He might as well have been Jim Otis, Matt Snell, Bob Ferguson or Bob White, battering his way to 56 yards and four first downs, with no run longer than 13 yards and none for negative yardage, before scoring the game-clinching touchdown with just 1:12 left.

In that span, Dwayne Haskins threw just three passes, all three of them going for first downs.

Weber, who had three carries for zero net yards in the first half, finished the game with 104 yards on 22 carries for a rugged 4.7 yard average and a long of 18. It was the third time in three tries he had bettered 100 yards against his home-state Spartans, but it was a far cry from the first two performances, which were highlighted by a

## THE VIEW FROM 15TH & HIGH Frank Moskowitz, Publisher

run of 52 yards in 2016 and TD jaunts of 47 and 82 yards last season.

Haskins has been a mere mortal in the past few games, but he was solid against Michigan State, completing 24 of 39 passes for 227 yards with a score, numbers that would have been considered outstanding before he started rewriting the Ohio State record book. Most importantly in this old-style game, he did not commit a turnover.

Interestingly, Haskins had one of his better runs of the season in the second quarter. As he came around end, he looked like he considered sliding for a moment then put his head down and banged out a couple of extra yards for a 12-yard gain. Unfortunately, the play was nullified by holding. There were other instances where it appeared he could have run, but elected to go ahead and pass. He might not have broken off a long one on those plays, but he might have improved down and distance.

It's pretty clear the gunslinger is not comfortable running the ball.

Tate Martell, on the other hand, is comfortable running. However, I am not exactly sure what it is the coaching staff is trying to do with him after they finally briefly used Martell following a five-game hiatus.

I know lots of pundits and fans are clamoring for his use to spark the running game, but I can't believe that a coaching staff that includes offensive gurus Urban Meyer, Ryan Day and Kevin Wilson can't come up with an offense that allows Haskins to excel at the passing game and Weber and J.K. Dobbins to run the ball effectively, all at the same time. With all that firepower, they shouldn't have to bring in Martell to ignite the fuse.

Finally, let's give some props to the much maligned – and appropriately so – Ohio State defense. I know the Michigan State offense was dysfunctional, but lesser offenses have had little problem moving the ball against Ohio State this season.

The Buckeyes held MSU to a paltry 37.5 percent completion mark on 18-of-48 passing, just 54 yards rushing and only two conversions on 16 third-down attempts. That's pretty good defense against any team. More importantly, it was the first time that the Buckeyes showed improvement on that side of the ball from one game to the next all season.

BSB staffer James Grega predicted that this was the type of slugfest where oft-criticized linebacker Tuf Borland might excel, and Borland didn't disappoint, logging six tackles, including one for a 6-yard loss.

It's also kind of amazing what a difference the insertion of Brendon White into the safety rotation has made. I know the coaches are at practice every day and I am not, but you have to wonder where White has been all season.

Let's see if the Buckeye defenders continue their improvement against Maryland. If so, I will feel better about Ohio State's chances against archrival Michigan on Nov. 24.

I know this much. I was really worried about the Buckeyes' chances heading into the game with Michigan State. If you had told me I could have a 20-point victory, I would have taken it in a heartbeat.

### Conley Comments

There were some good questions on Nov. 7 for our live chat on the BuckeyeSports.com

Forum with Buckeye Sports Bulletin columnist and former Ohio State player and coach Bill Conley.

Two of the BuckeyeSports.com readers asked an associated pair of questions for Conley. One wondered, "Who was the favorite recruit you personally recruited and why?" While another asked, "Which recruit that got away still gnaws at you and why?"

"It would be tough to find a better recruiting story than Eddie George," Conley responded. "Eddie wasn't being recruited very heavily when I first called him at Fork Union. Only Louisville had offered him a scholarship. Once I offered him other schools did right afterwards. He visited campus the second week of December and committed on the visit. We got a real diamond in the rough with Eddie."

"Eddie was a real competitor who worked harder than anyone else in the offseason. He was a real leader by example. He was also an outstanding student, a real high achiever."

Conley was a little more succinct about the fish that got away.

"I really wanted Kellen Winslow, but he visited when we were in the midst of hiring a new coach."

Winslow, a tight end, instead chose Miami (Fla.) and had a big day against the Buckeyes in the 2002 national championship game, grabbing 11 passes for 122 yards, and went on to a nine-year career in the NFL.

Another question I found interesting was posed by BSB editor Tim Moody. Tim asked what player he coached would Conley add to the current roster if he could.

Tim and I speculated on whom the former coach might choose. Given the Buckeyes' problems at linebacker this season, I correctly predicted Chris Spielman, who was a member of Conley's position group. Tim's prediction was a good one, however, in Orlando Pace. What offensive line – particularly this year's Ohio State offensive line – could not use Pace?

Conley also mentioned defensive lineman Mike Vrabel.

Conley's next session on BuckeyeSports.com will be on Nov. 14. Watch for information on the Forum as to when you can post your questions. His first two sessions are archived for your information and entertainment.

### Reprint Thursdays

While Conley appears on BuckeyeSports.com each Wednesday, on Thursdays we run reprints from past issues of BSB, generally relevant to the news of the day. The week of the Michigan State game, we ran reprints from the Nov. 14, 1998, issue of Buckeye Sports Bulletin covering Michigan State's huge, 28-24, upset of the top-ranked Buckeyes. The Spartans were coached that year by current Alabama coach Nick Saban.

"Funny things happen in football and that's why we play these games," said Saban, whose Spartans entered Ohio Stadium as 28-point underdogs. "When a team plays possessed and is inspired about what they can do – we have good football players and they have good football players. They probably have more than we do, but ours made enough plays today to win."

Interestingly, the Buckeyes were led that game by quarterback Joe Germaine, who just happens to be the subject in this issue of our ongoing series

about the Ohio State quarterback. Germaine was coming off four straight 300-yard passing games, unheard of at Ohio State at the time. But in this particular game he had two fumbles and an interception and was sacked five times.

Still, he had the team in position to pull out a victory, just as they had with Germaine at the helm in the Rose Bowl two seasons earlier.

The Buckeyes took over at their own 49 following an MSU punt with 1:39 left. Germaine connected on passes of 16 yards to David Boston and 20 yards to John Lumpkin to give Ohio State first down at the Spartan 15 with 1:29 still left to play. But after three incompletions and then an interception by Renaldo Hill, the Buckeyes' fate was sealed.

Ohio State coach John Cooper was never one to mince words.

"They outcoached us, they outplayed us, their defense was better than ours, their offense was better than ours, their kicking game was better than ours and, of course, they came away with the victory," Cooper said.

Germaine hoped his team would regroup after the stunning upset.

"We felt we had a great team this year, and I still feel that we do," he said. "But right now we can do one of two things. We can learn from this, go on and finish the season strong, or tuck our tail, put everything in the bag and do that. We're going to find out what we're made of."

Ohio State did the former, crushing Iowa 45-14 the next week before scoring one of only two wins under Cooper against Michigan, 31-16. The Buckeyes went on to down Texas A&M in the Sugar Bowl to finish No. 2 in the country, but the loss was really the start of the end for Cooper at Ohio State and he was fired following the 2000 season.

After Brendon White's coming-out party against Nebraska, we also reprinted BSB stories about his father, defensive back William White, from his freshman season and his senior campaign.

In the article from the beginning of his freshman year in the Sept. 22, 1984, BSB, the elder White received praise and a prediction of success from a highly reputable source.

"I think he could possibly help us early because he'll learn the system quickly," said none other than Tressel, who was an assistant coach back then and recruited White out of Lima, Ohio. "Freshmen sometimes have trouble learning it, but he won't. It's very unusual. His maturity level is so much greater than others."

Tressel was right. White started all 12 games in that Rose Bowl season, leading all defenders with 333.5 minutes. He had 48 tackles and three interceptions, including one he returned for a touchdown, and he led the team with seven pass breakups from his cornerback spot.

All reprints are archived at BuckeyeSports.com, free to all subscribers. Click on the "BSB Online" tab at the top of the page and then on "BSB Reprints" on the drop-down menu. Don't forget we are also running reprints from Buckeye Sports Bulletin's 25th Anniversary Yearbook for the 1968 national champions in honor of that team's current 50th anniversary.

One last note about Germaine and Cooper. In the feature on Germaine in this issue, he has praise for his coach.

"Great coaches make great players, and I had some great coaches at Ohio State," Germaine says. "And I'd put Coach Cooper at the top of that list. He taught me a lot about the game and about life. He was fair and he treated his players with respect. What more can you ask for?"

It's funny, but you don't necessarily hear a lot of players praising Cooper. I'm not saying they don't respect him. I'm just saying you don't always hear the praise.



# 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