



# Carrying On

## *Haskins, Dobbins Lift Bucks Despite 'Alarming' Issues As U-M Looms*

By TIM MOODY  
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

On one side, Ohio State played some of its best football of the season against Maryland. On the other side, the Buckeyes played some of their worst Nov. 17 in College Park, Md.

It turned out that such a combination was still good enough for a win – just barely – in overtime. Ohio State racked up 688 yards of total offense – the most ever against a Big Ten opponent – and allowed 535 yards in a 52-51 shootout win that was cemented when the Terrapins failed on a two-point conversion attempt in the extra period.

The Buckeyes had some "alarming" issues on defense, as head coach Urban Meyer put it, but the leaks were made up for largely by tough running from a likely source and even tougher running from an unlikely one.

Sophomore running back J.K. Dobbins, playing an even bigger role than normal with junior Mike Weber sidelined, set personal bests with 37 carries for 203 yards (5.5-yard average) while scoring one touchdown. Dobbins' running was key, but it was really sophomore quarterback Dwayne Haskins who carried the No. 10 Buckeyes to victory.

Haskins showed a not-yet-seen willingness to stick his nose in and get the tough yardage, setting career highs for carries (15), rushing yards (59) and



SONNY BROCKWAY

**ON THE RUN** – Ohio State sophomore quarterback Dwayne Haskins (7) set career highs in carries (15), rushing yards (59) and rushing touchdowns (three) against Maryland.

rushing touchdowns (3). Oh, and he threw for 405 yards and three more scores – but that's just another day at the office.

Haskins grew up in nearby Potomac, Md., and admitted that the homecoming – including some trash talk from opposing players – played into his attitude going in. He once had been committed to the Terrapins before choosing Ohio State.

"Probably just that competition, being back home, having those guys talk smack to me," Haskins said of his motivation. "I can run. I guess today was the first day I wanted to show I could."

After Ohio State (10-1, 7-1 Big Ten) fell behind, 17-3, in the first quarter, Haskins got Ohio State back in the game with a 68-yard touchdown pass to Terry McLaurin in the second. The Terrapins (5-6, 3-5) were ahead, 24-17, at the break and 31-24 after the third quarter. In the fourth, Haskins had a 1-yard touchdown run to tie it at 38 then hit junior receiver Binjimen

Victor to tie it at 45. In the extra period he forced his way into the end zone for a 5-yard run and what ended up being the winning score.

Haskins said he knew going in that he'd run the ball more against the Terrapins, but a three-touchdown day wasn't necessarily in his expectations. But now that he's proved what he can do in the biggest moment, Haskins' legs might join his right arm as a big part of what Ohio State does on offense.

"Running is fun, actually, so I think I might do it a little bit more," he quipped during the postgame press conference.

It wasn't just a magic switch that was flipped, though. Haskins' ability to run the ball emerged as the next step in his progression as a quarterback – adding another tool to an already well-equipped toolbox.

It also showed that he's willing to play tough and get

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# FAN FORUM

## Buckeye Leaves

*BSB's full-service website, BuckeyeSports.com, has 24/7 updates regarding all things Ohio State, including an active Forum where subscribers can chat with BSB staff members and other fans. The Forum also features a live thread during every Ohio State game where staffers and subscribers can share their thoughts, opinions and analysis. We'll also be handing out Buckeye Leaves after every game for standout performer – win or lose – 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's 52-51 overtime win at Maryland.*

**Joe Dempsey:** Dwayne Haskins, a sophomore quarterback from Potomac, Md., excelled against the Terrapins, connecting on clutch throws in a dramatic comeback victory. In a game where he broke the program records for passing yards and touchdowns in a single season, Haskins was 28 of 38 passing for 405 yards and three touchdowns.

The 6-3, 220-pound gunslinger also set multiple career highs on the ground with 59 yards and three touchdowns on 15 carries. Haskins converted a remarkable 18 first downs for the Buckeyes – 16 through the air and two on the ground. J.K. Dobbins deserves honorable mention for setting career highs in carries (37) and rushing yards (203) after the surprise absence of Mike Weber.

**James Grega:** Without Dwayne Haskins, Ohio State does not beat Maryland. In fact, it might not even have been close.

The Buckeye defense was routinely gashed from the second play of the game on, and Haskins kept Ohio State in it with crucial conversions through the air and, for the first time this year, on the ground as well.

His 464 total yards of offense were all needed to keep Maryland from getting its biggest win since joining the Big Ten in 2014. He was clutch in every sense of the word outside of a pick-six that was thrown just a second too late.

J.K. Dobbins, Terry McLaurin and Chase Young all deserve honorable-mention nods in my opinion, but without Haskins, Ohio State's Big Ten title hopes would have been dashed and the Buckeyes' goals of competing for championships in November would be over.

**Tim Moody:** Dwayne Haskins deserves this Buckeye Leaf. Maybe even three – one for each rushing touchdown in the toughest performance of his career.

Haskins isn't at his best when running – his arm is on another level – but against Maryland it was his running that helped secure an unlikely victory for the Buckeyes. He carried the ball 15 times for 59 yards and three touchdowns, including a 5-yarder that ended up being the game-winner in overtime. Most importantly, though, Haskins showed a willingness to put his head down and do what was necessary to get touchdowns and first downs. For that, he gets a leaf.

Oh, and he threw for 405 yards and three more scores. You know, just another day at the office.

**Garrett Stepien:** Without junior running back Mike Weber, whom head coach Urban Meyer said after the game was held out with a quad bruise, Ohio State asked J.K. Dobbins to step up and the sophomore running back answered the call. The 5-10, 208-pounder packed a punch the offense desperately needed as the Buckeyes came to life over the course of the contest.

Outside of a costly fumble near the goal line, Dobbins got better with each carry. OSU fed Dobbins, and he turned the increased involvement into career-high outputs of 37 rushes for 203 yards (5.5 average) with a long of 28 and a touchdown. Sophomore quarterback Dwayne Haskins was remarkable with six total touchdowns – three passing and three rushing – but Dobbins made the offense a well-oiled machine down the stretch to offset the defense's inability to stop Maryland's offense.

**Frank Moskowitz:** It would be easy to choose J.K. Dobbins. He carried the load with Mike Weber out. Deserving. It would be easy to choose Dwayne Haskins. He was cool, calm and collected while playing from behind for the bulk of the game and posted the

numbers, both through the air and on the ground. Very deserving.

But I am going to shake things up and name Demario McCall. He set up the touchdown that sent the game into overtime with a 42-yard kickoff return, and on the rare instances when Dobbins came out of the game, McCall kept the seat warm with two carries for 12 yards.

**Mark Rea:** Dwayne Haskins for his impersonation of J.T. Barrett and J.K. Dobbins for his of Beanie Wells.

### BSB Subscribers

Haskins easily. He willed us to this victory. Dobbins would be up there as well with his 200-plus rushing yards.

– Tiffin Buckeye

Dobbins. Had the fumble but really played well and toughed out the game. If I see one champion on defense that will be a joke.

– Blufftonbuck

Haskins. Not only threw for over 400 yards but ran hard for some valuable yards – something we have not seen this year. Also a shoutout to Binjimen Victor with a couple clutch catches.

– mrbigbux

It was Dobbins for me. He pulled the yoke for the entire game and looked exhausted by the end of the game. He didn't stop playing.

– PeyoteBuck

Dwayne Haskins (what a winner he is when the runs a little, too!) and J.K. Dobbins, of course, but also very good were Terry McLaurin and Rashod Berry.

Ryan Day for his play calling. His fourth-down call in overtime was awesome! He mixed up Dwayne Haskins runs at the right times! With any kind of defense, I don't see how we can lose (against Michigan) with this combination on offense.

Dre'Mont Jones and Chase Young on defense (the 500-plus yards given up were in spite of those two).

– AnthonyBuckeye

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Back To The Old Ways

I was born in 1948. I was born a Buckeye and still bleed scarlet and gray.

Woody Hayes did it right! He recruited and demanded the kids graduate from college – even the ones that left early. He hounded them until they came back and received their diploma!

Whose idea was it to have a blackout at the game a few weeks ago? Nike? Do they control the Buckeyes? Our school colors are scarlet and gray – be proud of the colors! Of course Nike sold more black shirts – and really that's what college sports has turned into – more money!

I myself refuse to buy Nike products. But that's my right.

Big Ten or 14 football sure has changed over the years, and not all for the best. I think it looks very stupid that before every offensive play the team looks to the sideline to see what play to run. Can't they look at the defense and adjust? Of course, in Woody's day, the plays were easier – three yards and a cloud of dust.

It seems to me that trying to run a hurry-up offense has slowed the game down. Hurry up and wait for the play to be called in from the sideline. And it gives time for the defense to get set.

Wouldn't it be nice to see Mike Weber and J.K. Dobbins line up together in the same backfield? Double threat! Just dreaming, I guess.

Hope the Buckeyes are wide awake and ready for "The Team Up North." They want revenge! The team better be ready to have a great first half and a great second half.

Put it together for The Game. Be proud and use your heads!

**Jim Rigby**  
Hubbard, Ohio

### Thrilling Win

It would be very difficult to explain what unfolded to a child when two football teams have put up a combined 52-51 score. We fans witnessed another Buckeye classic game as it unfolded.

We saw a basketball score that was played on turf, not a hardwood surface. A track meet confined within a 100-yard playing field instead of a running track, and Buckeye football players and their coaches giving their all to win and not lose. We've often heard that records are made to be broken, and this Ohio State vs. Maryland game proved that fact.

**Nelson Bell**  
Toledo

### Enough Is Enough

I just finished watching the game today (Nov. 17 vs. Maryland) and I am sick to my stomach. Am I the only one who has noticed the significant decline in linebacker play since Bill Davis has been patrolling the unit? We are missing Coach Luke Fickell in the worst way. This is going to start affecting the recruiting. The man can't coach his way out of a paper bag.

We have the players but they are not playing anywhere near Ohio State linebacker play, and the ones who have the speed/talent are on the sideline or special teams. They are glaringly slow, out of place, can't get off blocks and getting caught in the wash. Don't even talk about coverage. It's disgusting what I am looking at.

Tuf Borland needs to be playing at Marshall or somewhere like that. He is clearly out of his league.

I am glad we are nowhere near the playoffs because it would be another embarrassment. Why

is Coach Urban Meyer so averse to putting his QB under center and running the ball downhill? We need 1 yard and he runs a zone read with a QB who cannot run the ball. Hello? Use your 215-pound stud you have on the team.

Not to mention, why hasn't Demario McCall gotten any playing time this year? He was clearly a playmaker when he got touches.

The entire defensive coaching staff save for Greg Schiano and Larry Johnson need to go. I don't know what Alex Grinch is doing, but he clearly is lost. Taver Johnson needs to pack it up as well. The secondary has no clue when the ball is right behind their ears. I've watched so many plays where all they had to do was turn around and catch the ball but instead it's a touchdown or a big play for the other team.

Our linebackers killed us against Maryland. Pete Werner and Borland have to go. How long must this sideshow go on? Talk about a clown show – 298 yards rushing from a running back at Maryland? Disgraceful.

This defense doesn't stand a chance against that power run game against Michigan Nov. 24.

**Michael Ellens**  
Youngstown

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No. 11	Nov. 24	No. 23	July
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Charter Member

## OPINION

# Ohio State Continues To Bewilder In 2018

What to say when Ohio State reached into the jaws of defeat and somehow came away with yet another victory against yet another opponent supposedly outmanned and out-classed in the talent category?

While some in Buckeye Nation decry the apparently never-ending Zach Smith soap opera as the distraction seemingly preventing their favorite team from playing up to its lofty potential, Maryland proved how a team can compete when real adversity strikes. The Terrapins play under the cloud of the death of one of its players and the subsequent firing of coaching staff members including head coach DJ Durkin.

Yet there was Maryland, unranked and unrelenting, playing like a team that had nothing to lose as it kept throwing haymaker after haymaker at the reeling Buckeyes. Interim head coach Matt Canada played the game like a bluffing riverboat gambler who knows his cards aren't good enough to win and still nearly raked the pot before his final gambit failed.

Yes, Ohio State won a 52-51 decision in overtime, thanks in part to Canada's questionable decision to go for a two-point conversion in the first extra period despite the fact the Buckeyes had shown little propensity to stop the Maryland offense for most of the afternoon. But please do not equate an exciting finish and satisfying outcome with a game well-played.

Ohio State neither played well nor did it deserve to win.

I don't ever again want to hear the recruiting hype regarding the team speed of the Buckeyes, especially on defense. No one on that unit could catch Oregon State running back Artavis Pierce in the season opener, and no one could keep up with Maryland running back Anthony McFarland as he broke off touchdown runs of 81 and 75 yards inside the first six minutes of the game.

McFarland finished with 298 yards on the ground, only eight shy of the Maryland single-game record and the second-most ever for an Ohio State opponent. That honor still belongs to Tim Biakabutuka, whose 313 yards against the Buckeyes during the 31-23 loss to Michigan in 1995 remains one of the blackest historical marks against an OSU defense.

Not only did the Buckeyes make McFarland look like a combination of Barry Sanders, Walter Payton and Gale Sayers, Ohio State was an equal-opportunity offender on defense, making Terrapins quarterback Tyrrell Pigrome look like Tom Brady, Peyton Manning and Joe Montana all rolled into one.

Pigrome, just a sophomore and starting only because Maryland's regular QB Kasim Hill tore an ACL the week before against Indiana, connected on only six pass attempts, but he made the most of those completions, turning them into 181 yards against an Ohio State secondary that has been consistent this season only in its inconsistency.

Junior cornerback Damon Arnette started the game by getting fooled out of position on McFarland's 81-yard touchdown run and then finished regulation by getting beat on a 60-yard pass play from Pigrome to true freshman Darryl Jones. That was just one more big play given up by the Buckeyes this season, a total which has now reached 46 plays by opponents that have gained 25 yards or more. Remarkably, 18 of those plays – including five against Maryland – have gone for 40-plus yards.

Three plays after losing track of Jones, Arnette committed a pass-interference penalty on a third-down throw that sailed high over the head of another true freshman receiver named Jones, this one with the first name

of Jashaun. That gave Maryland a fresh set of downs, and the Terrapins scored a touchdown shortly thereafter to take a 45-38 lead with 1:41 remaining in regulation.

## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK Mark Rea

To be fair, Arnette was not the only OSU defender to get beat deep against Maryland. Fellow corner Kendall Sheffield let receiver Dontay Demus (another true freshman) get behind him during the first quarter, and when Jeffrey Okudah was late with coverage help, the Terrapins had a 56-yard gainer. That led to a field goal that put Maryland ahead by a 17-3 margin late in the first quarter.

Sheffield was victimized again in the fourth quarter when Jashaun Jones reeled in a 27-yard touchdown pass. The OSU defender appeared to have good coverage on the play and even tipped the ball, but Sheffield never looked back for the football – in reality, never knew where it was to make a play on it – and Jones was able to make the difficult catch to give Maryland a 38-31 lead at the time.

To be brutally honest, the mistakes Ohio State made in the game were almost too numerous to list.

After McFarland hit them right out of the box with his 81-yard score, fifth-year senior and team co-captain Johnnie Dixon failed to field the ensuing kickoff and the Terrapins recovered at the OSU 21. Other special teams gaffes included getting completely fooled on a fake punt that led to a fourth-quarter Maryland touchdown.

And there was a pointless personal foul penalty on a kickoff return against Ohio State true freshman K'Vaughn Pope when he body-slammed Maryland return man Javon Leake to the ground well out of bounds. That was one of 10 penalties committed by the Buckeyes, who have now been flagged 10 or more times in five games this season. That is the most games with at least 10 penalties against OSU in one season since at least 1960.

Want more?

Maryland, the team that manufactured only 66 total yards during last year's 62-14 loss to the Buckeyes, amassed 535 yards of total offense this time around, continuing a troubling trend during the past month. Opponents have averaged 449.5 yards against the Buckeyes over the last four games, and that includes a performance against Michigan State during which the Spartans gained only 274 yards. Worse yet, those most recent four opponents – now with a combined record of 20-24 – have averaged 6.4 yards per play.

Then, there were the turnovers – three more against the Terrapins, which means the Buckeyes have turned the ball over eight times in their last four games.

And perhaps the most bewildering of all when considering the (supposed) talent gap Ohio State enjoys whenever it hits the field: The Buckeyes have allowed 50 or more points only eight times in their 129-year history. Coupled with last year's 55-21 loss at Iowa, OSU has now surrendered 50 or more points to an opponent in back-to-back seasons for the first time since 1891 and 1892 when football was little more than a club sport in Columbus.

### What Happens Now?

I don't think I'm going out on a limb when I say that Ohio State is going to have to clean

up its act if it expects to continue its mastery over Michigan.

Indiana, despite losing a 31-20 decision to the Wolverines a few hours after the Buckeyes barely escaped Maryland, might have provided a blueprint on how to beat the No. 4 team in the country. The Hoosiers used a variety of crossing patterns mixed in with a power running attack and managed to stay with Michigan for much of the game, totaling 385 yards in the process.

That bodes well for the Ohio State offense, which featured an excellent run-pass mix that accounted for 688 total yards against Maryland. It marked the fourth time this season the Buckeyes had accumulated 570 or more total yards and the second time they had broken through the 675 mark.

With running mate Mike Weber sidelined by injury, J.K. Dobbins eagerly accepted an increased workload and turned in a career-high 203 yards on 37 carries, the most attempts for an Ohio State rusher since Chris "Beanie" Wells carried 39 times for 222 yards during a rainy 14-3 win against Michigan in 2007.

While Dobbins was doing most of the heavy lifting, quarterback Dwayne Haskins threw for 405 yards and three touchdowns. It was the fourth game this year in which Haskins has topped the 400-yard mark – notable since Ohio State had only one such game from a quarterback in its program history before this season.

In addition to padding his already-gaudy passing stats, Haskins added a dimension to his game that had gone begging for much of the season. After looking all year like a player who didn't particularly care for running the football, the sophomore QB tucked and carried 15 times for 59 yards and three touchdowns.

It was a facet of the offense that Ohio State has been lacking this season, and one for which Michigan defensive coordinator Don Brown will now have to game-plan. That is especially important because the Buckeyes remain unsure about just how and when to use Tate Martell in short-yardage situations. It also takes on greater meaning if Michigan star defensive end Chase Winovich, who injured a shoulder or collarbone during the win against Indiana, cannot go against Ohio State.

Obviously, I would have preferred Haskins not throw a pick-six against Maryland just as I would have preferred Dobbins use a little more care with the football around the goal line. One stretch got him a touchdown but another resulted in a fumble and cost the Buckeyes what might have been another six points right before halftime.

I think everyone from Urban Meyer down to the guy responsible for spreading the tiny rubber balls on the Ohio Stadium turf knows the Buckeyes must play better than they have over the last month to keep their streak going against Michigan. The prevailing thought is that OSU will play better against its archrivals primarily because it couldn't play any worse.

But for those of this current generation who have known nothing but success against the Wolverines, I would warn that recent history has no bearing on what happens this year. What matters most is how the teams have played this season, and there is simply no sugarcoating the fact that Michigan has played better – much better – than Ohio State.

Then again, a wiser man than I'll ever be once suggested that prior performance has no meaning in rivalry games. I guess we're about to find out.



# OHIO STATE

## INSIDER

### Emotional Win Sets Up Top-10 Tilt With Wolverines

Ohio State and Michigan are scheduled to face off in The Game on Nov. 24, pitting two top-10 teams against each other in one of the fiercest rivalries around.

Before the Buckeyes could get to that noon kickoff against Michigan at Ohio Stadium, though, they had to survive an emotional win over Maryland – a 52-51 overtime victory. For much of the first 60 minutes, it looked like Maryland – which ran for over 300 yards in the game – would come away with a win. The Buckeyes, though, were able to force overtime, where they held on for a win when Maryland's two-point conversion attempt failed.

With the victory, 10th-ranked Ohio State is likely to either stay at No. 10 in the College Football Playoff standings or move up after No. 9 West Virginia fell to Oklahoma State.

"To give up those kind of yards is obviously very alarming, especially after I thought we had our – you've heard this before, a great week of practice," head coach Urban Meyer said. "Regardless, we won our 10th game and get ready for our rival up next."

At Ohio State, the emotional roller coaster usually arrives for Michigan week. This time around, it came a few days early – but the Buckeyes still improved to 10-1 overall and 7-1 in the Big Ten.

"It's up and down, and is it where we need to be?" Meyer said. "It's not, but we're 10-1 and we're going to try to find a way to be 11-1."

On the other side of The Game, Michigan enters with an identical 10-1 record, but the No. 4 Wolverines are undefeated at 8-0 in the Big Ten. Their only loss came in week one against now-No. 3 Notre Dame.

Preserving the top-10 status of the 2018 edition of The Game, Michigan held on to beat Indiana, 31-20, on Nov. 17 just a few hours after the Buckeyes edged Maryland.

"We knew what kind of game this was going to be," Michigan coach Jim Harbaugh said, "what kind of game this is. When we play Indiana, it's a close game every time we play them."

"Our guys were totally into it, totally locked in."

With the win in hand, Michigan, like Ohio State, will be laser-focused on the game that will determine who represents the Big Ten East Division against Northwestern in the Big Ten title game in Indianapolis on Dec. 1.

"We will do what we do," Harbaugh said. "That's get ready for (the game). I expect our team will be really fired up to play and do what they have been doing every week of the season."

### 2018 Ohio State Football Schedule

Date	Opponent	Result/Time (ET)	TV	Record, Last Result
Sept. 1	OREGON STATE	W, 77-31	ABC	2-9, 42-23 loss at Washington
Sept. 8	RUTGERS	W, 52-3	BTN	1-10, 20-7 loss to Penn State
Sept. 15	vs. TCU#	W, 40-28	ABC	5-6, 16-9 win at Baylor
Sept. 22	TULANE	W, 49-6	BTN	5-6, 48-17 loss at Houston
Sept. 29	at Penn State*	W, 27-26	ABC	8-3, 20-7 win at Rutgers
Oct. 6	INDIANA	W, 49-26	FOX	5-6, 31-20 loss at Michigan
Oct. 13	MINNESOTA	W, 30-14	FS1	5-6, 24-14 loss to Northwestern
Oct. 20	at Purdue*	L, 49-20	ABC	5-6, 47-44 3OT loss to Wisconsin
Nov. 3	NEBRASKA	W, 36-31	FOX	4-7, 9-6 win over Michigan State
Nov. 10	at Michigan State*	W, 26-6	FOX	6-5, 9-6 loss at Nebraska
Nov. 17	at Maryland	W, 52-51 (OT)	ABC	5-6, 52-51 OT loss to Ohio State
Nov. 24	MICHIGAN*	Noon	FOX	10-1, 31-20 win over Indiana
Dec. 1	Big Ten Championship@	8 p.m.	FOX	

\* – 2017-18 bowl team

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

@ – at Indianapolis (Lucas Oil Stadium)

The Wolverines are still looking for their first win over Ohio State since Meyer took the reins in Columbus for the 2012 season.

Last year, Ohio State traveled to Ann Arbor, Mich., and came away with a 31-20 comeback victory. If the stakes on the line this year weren't enough motivation, revenge might play a factor for the Wolverines in a top-10 tilt.

"It's been a whole year of having a bad taste in our mouths," Michigan defensive end Rashan Gary said. "We've got to go out and prepare the right way and go out there Saturday and see what happens."

### Meyer Gets 80th OSU Victory

At times, it looked like Meyer would be suffering his 10th loss as Ohio State's head coach against Maryland in College Park. Instead, he came away with his 80th victory.

Meyer improved to 80-9 at Ohio State and 184-32 as a head coach overall. His head coaching career began at Bowling Green in

2001, and he went 17-6 in a two-year span with the Falcons. Meyer then went 22-2 in two years at Utah before posting a 65-15 mark in six seasons with Florida.

Meyer is fifth on the all-time wins list at Ohio State, but one more victory would put him in a tie for fourth with his longtime mentor Earle Bruce, who was 81-26-1 in nine years coaching the Buckeyes. Woody Hayes is first on the list (205-61-10 in 28 years), John Cooper is second (111-43-4 in 13 years) and Jim Tressel is third (106-22 in 10 years).

Meyer would likely have three more victories to his name, but he was suspended for the first three games of the 2018 season. Those victories are credited to Ryan Day, who served as acting head coach.

Of the coaches who have served in a full-time capacity at Ohio State, Meyer has the best winning percentage at .899. Carroll Widdoes, who coached from 1944-45, is second at .889 (16-2).

Meyer is 6-0 against Michigan so far.

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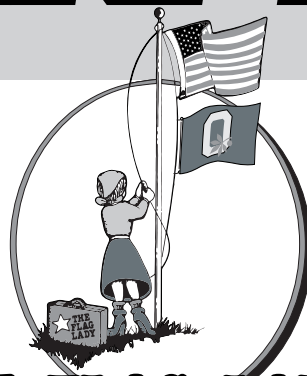
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## Only 2 More BSBs Until January

The Buckeye Sports Bulletin Michigan Wrap-up is set to be mailed on Nov. 27. There will be one more print issue of Buckeye Sports Bulletin in 2018 after that, the Bowl Preview issue, scheduled to be mailed on Dec. 12. The next issue after that will be the Bowl Wrap-up, tentatively scheduled to be mailed Jan. 15, 2019. That means there will be only one BSB mailed in a roughly six-week period.

However, there is no need for Buckeye Sports Bulletin readers to miss any of the Ohio State action, including the latest football recruiting news leading up to the early signing period which begins on Dec. 19.

Buckeye Sports Bulletin's 24/7 website, BuckeyeSports.com, features stories posted daily and will keep tabs not only on recruiting, but the men's and women's basketball teams and anything else involving Buckeye sports. Readers can also talk about the events of the day with members of the BSB staff and other Buckeye fans on BuckeyeSports.com's Forum. If you are a current subscriber and have been unable to access all features on the site please give us a call at (614) 486-2202 and we will help you gain access. Glitches do happen from time to time.

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Readers who have been experiencing postal delivery problems can also read the complete edition of each issue of Buckeye Sports Bulletin online at BuckeyeSports.com on Mondays during football season and Tuesdays the rest of the year.

Your copy of the paper will still arrive in your mailbox at its usual time.

If you have any questions about BuckeyeSports.com or your mail service, feel free to call us at the above number.

### 'College GameDay' Set For Columbus

Before Ohio State and Michigan face off, the crowds will be flocking to "College GameDay's" set on campus. The popular ESPN program announced Nov. 17 that it would make the trip to Arch City for The Game.

It will mark the third GameDay appear-

ance for Ohio State this season and first in Columbus. GameDay was in Fort Worth, Texas, for Ohio State's 40-28 win over TCU in Arlington on Sept. 15, and the ESPN crew of Desmond Howard, Chris Fowler, Lee Corso and Kirk Herbstreit were in University Park, Pa., before Ohio State's 27-26 comeback win over Penn State on Sept. 29.

GameDay last came to Columbus on Oct.

28, 2017, for Ohio State's top-10 matchup with the Nittany Lions, which the Buckeyes won, 39-38.

GameDay was last at the Ohio State-Michigan game in 2016, when the No. 2 Buckeyes beat No. 3 Michigan, 30-27, in double overtime in Columbus.

### Haskins Placed On Walter Camp Watch List

Ohio State sophomore quarterback Dwayne Haskins was included on the Walter Camp Foundation's list of 15 players to watch for the 2018 Walter Camp Player of the Year Award, the foundation announced Nov. 14. Haskins is also a semi-finalist for the Maxwell and Davey O'Brien Awards.

The five finalists for the Walter Camp Award will be announced Nov. 28, and the winner will be given the trophy Dec. 7.

Eleven games into his time as Ohio State's starter, Haskins, a Potomac, Md., native, has already set the single-season

program records for passing yards (3,685) and passing touchdowns (36). The yardage record had stood since Joe Germaine threw for 3,330 in 1998. The touchdown record was previously set at 35 last season by J.T. Barrett.

Haskins also holds Ohio State single-game records for pass completions (49), attempts (73), passing yards (470) and passing touchdowns (6, tie). He has thrown for 400 or more yards four times this season. The Buckeyes previously had only one individual passing performance of 400-plus yards in program history (Art Schlichter, 458, 1981 vs. Florida State).

Haskins will be vying to become the fourth Buckeye to win the Walter Camp Award. Running back Archie Griffin won it in 1974 and 1975, running back Eddie George won it in 1995 and Troy Smith won it in 2006. Those players also won the Heisman Trophy in each of those seasons.

Continued On Page 6



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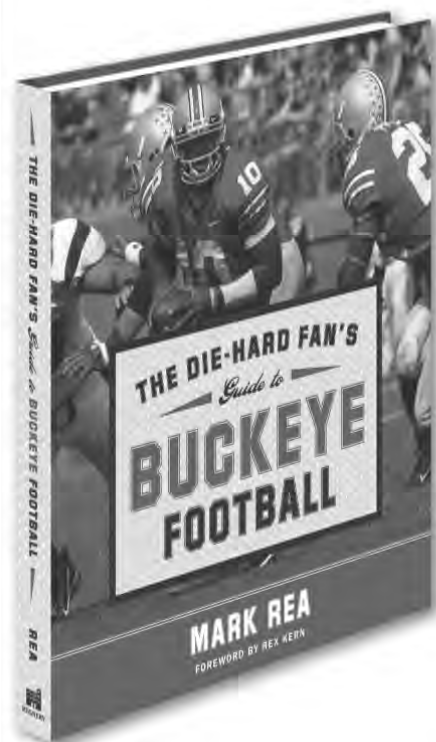
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# OHIO STATE INSIDER

Continued From Page 5

## Chrisman A Semifinalist For Ray Guy Award

On Nov. 15, Ohio State sophomore punter Drue Chrisman was named a semifinalist for the Ray Guy Award, given annually to the top punter in the nation.

The announcement came in the week following an outstanding performance for Chrisman against Michigan State. He opened that game with a program-worst 4-yard punt but responded by hitting his final five punts inside the 6-yard line against the Spartans.

The award will be handed out at the College Football Awards Show in Atlanta on Dec. 6.

Chrisman, a second-year starter, has punted 46 times so far this year with an average of 42.5 yards and a long of 65. Of those 46 punts, 25 have been downed inside the 20-yard line and 10 have gone for 50 or more



JOSH WINSLOW

**ONE OF THE BEST** – Ohio State sophomore punter Drue Chrisman (91) is a semifinalist for the Ray Guy Award in his second year as the starter.

yards. The Buckeyes have allowed just nine punt returns for 34 yards (3.8-yard overage) and a long of 12 this year.

Ohio State has had one player previously win the Ray Guy Award after B.J. Sander picked up the honor in 2003.

## Shazier Receives Courage Award

Former Ohio State linebacker Ryan Shazier was given the 2018 Ed Block Courage Award on Nov. 13th at the 26th Annual Art Rooney Courage House Luncheon at Heinz Field in Pittsburgh.

Shazier, while playing for the Pittsburgh Steelers in 2017, suffered a spinal injury during a game against the Cincinnati Bengals and underwent spinal stabilization surgery to help repair the damage. He then began a long recovery process that has seen him regain the ability to walk, but he still has a long road to a full recovery.

The Ed Block Courage Award was voted on by Shazier's Steelers teammates.

"It shows people are still watching," Shazier said. "It shows with persistence and hard work you can do anything."

"It really means a lot just to know guys

understand I have been going through a lot and I continue to push through it. It also means a lot because it's the people I play the game of football with and they know how much I care about it, and how much I still care about it. It means a lot that they feel I am the one who deserves this award."

Steelers head coach Mike Tomlin said Shazier's determination has been nothing short of amazing.

"None of us were prepared to see what we saw in Cincinnati," Tomlin said. "We just weren't. It's not a football-like injury. When I say to watch him battle this has been amazing, I don't say it in normal ways I say amazing. We are in awe of Ryan Shazier."

Shazier was drafted 15th overall by Pittsburgh in 2014 before going on to start 42 of the 46 games he played from 2014-17. He has earned two Pro Bowl nods (2016-17).

The Lauderdale Lakes, Fla., native starred for Ohio State from 2011-13, earning first-team All-American and All-Big Ten honors in 2013.

## Buckeyes Sit At 10th For 3rd Straight Week

When the third College Football Playoff rankings of 2018 were announced Nov. 13, Ohio was placed at No. 10 once again, the same spot the Buckeyes had held in each set of rankings this year.

In fact, the entire top 10 remained the same, starting with Alabama at No. 1, followed by Clemson, Notre Dame, Michigan, Georgia, Oklahoma, LSU, Washington State, West Virginia and the Buckeyes.

From the Big Ten, Penn State was ranked 14th and Northwestern was 22nd. Michigan State and Iowa both dropped out of the rankings after being 18th and 21st, respectively, a week earlier.

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# OSU Rides Dobbins In Career-Best Performance

Continued From Page 1

yards that his team needs – a step in the right direction for his progression as a leader.

Meyer said he's seen that progression

coming, and he credited offensive coordinator/quarterbacks coach Ryan Day with making sure Haskins got to that point.

"Ryan Day does such a good job with him," Meyer said. "Him and Ryan are very close and Ryan's just – he's as good a coach

as I've been around. And he's on him non-stop now, nonstop at practice, and you can see it."

Meyer said it was necessary for Haskins to be willing to put his head down and go. He proved that willingness against the Terrapins, and the Buckeyes might not have won without it.

"It adds a lot and I hope he keeps doing it," Dobbins said of the quarterback's newfound running prowess.

## The Workhorse

While Haskins ran a lot – and ran well – against Maryland, it might not have been possible without the work of Dobbins.

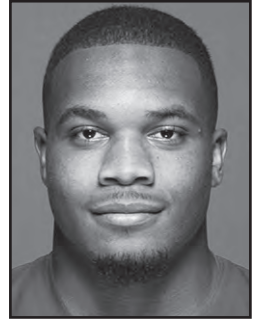
Weber had a bruised quad, Meyer said, and the Detroit native just wasn't healthy enough to play against the Terrapins despite dressing and going through parts of warmups. That led to a re-emergence

of sorts for Dobbins, who starred for Ohio State last season before the Buckeye run game struggled to get on track at times this year.

"J.K. – we rode him," Meyer said.

Normally, Dobbins and Weber rotate on a drive-by-drive basis. Against the Terrapins, though, Dobbins was on the field for nearly the entire game aside from a few cameos from sophomore Demario McCall. He said after the win that he was able to get into more of a rhythm because of that.

"When you can play more than one



J.K. Dobbins



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drive at a time, you can get into a groove,” Dobbins said. “I am an energetic guy so when I get into a groove, I get more energy.”

Led by Dobbins and Haskins, Ohio State finished with 283 yards on 56 attempts. On a day when the Buckeyes threw for 405 yards, it was those efforts on the ground that made the difference.

### The Red Flags

For the most part in 2018, Ohio State's issues have been the same. The Buckeyes give up too many big plays on defense – both in the ground game and the passing game.

Those issues were amplified from the word go against Maryland.

After the Terrapins opted to receive the opening kickoff, redshirt freshman running back Anthony McFarland rushed once for a loss of a yard before busting an 81-yard touchdown that no Ohio State player was in position to stop.

After an unusual sequence that included Maryland recovering a kickoff that Ohio State failed to field and the Terrapins fumbling it back to the Buckeyes, Ohio State kicked a field goal to make it 7-3. Maryland responded on the first play of the ensuing drive with a 75-yard touchdown run by McFarland, who broke a Brendon White tackle on his way to the end zone.

By the time the game was over, McFarland had racked up 298 yards on just 21 carries as the Terrapins rushed for 339 yards total. They also gained 196 yards passing on just seven completions (14 attempts) thanks to big hits of 60 and 56 yards.

Perhaps the most frustrating thing for

Ohio State is that the Buckeyes thought they had their issues fixed.

“You know, I thought we broke the rock a little bit the last couple weeks with the limitation on big plays,” Meyer said. “Look against Michigan State, we gave up other than the (long) quarterback run I think 18, 20 yards rushing for the whole day other than the QB got out of there. Alarming is the right word, but we won and let's go back to work and get ready for the next game.

“It's the players and coaches together,” Meyer added. “If it's a missed tackle then we're not teaching tackling enough. If it's a scheme issue, then that's a coaching issue. I can't give you the answer right now. I'll probably have a little more answer for you on Monday, but that's very alarming.”

Defensive coordinator Greg Schiano said some of the issues came down to tackling, and others came down to Maryland having a strong scheme. Whatever it was, it added up to 51 points – the Buckeyes just happened to get one last stop when it mattered most.

“Their whole scheme is to create confusion,” Schiano said. “But if you watch it, there's people there (in position to make a play). There's a couple plays where we ran a couple blitzes but not the ones that stick out in your head. And then the pass plays are one-on-one plays. Can you play the coverages different? Can you play different coverage? Sure you can.

“At the end of the day it doesn't matter the why. It all falls on me and it falls on our coaching staff because we need to get them ready to execute the techniques within the scheme that we employed for that week. We didn't do a good enough job today, but that's college football.”

### The Game

As soon as Maryland's two-point attempt failed in overtime, it became Michigan week for Ohio State. The Buckeyes are set to face a 10-1 Wolverine squad that is two wins away from making the College Football Playoff for the first time.

For Haskins, that means preparing for one of the best defenses in the nation, something he's already been doing throughout the year.

“Every week,” he said. “I watch Michigan every week.”

Michigan's defense is certainly its strength, and Haskins pointed that out. But it's the defensive issues for Ohio State that will be in focus in The Game. When asked if he felt his defense would be ready for the moment, Schiano sidestepped the question.

“How ready? Look, we're as ready as we're going to be,” he said. “We need to put together a good plan. We're going to have a good week of practice. Two very focused teams will show up on Saturday.”

That focus could be key. The Buckeyes will be driven with plenty on the line – the winner will represent the Big Ten East the following week in Indianapolis against Northwestern in the Big Ten title game. For the defense, it will be a chance to prove they can get it done on the biggest stage. For the offense, it will be another chance to shine on the biggest stage – and that's why people come to Ohio State.

Just ask La Grange, Texas, native Dobbins.

“Next week's game is what I left Texas for,” he said. “Come up to the north side, knowing it's cold up here. This is what I left Texas for.”

As far as being able to beat Michigan, Meyer made one thing clear – the team that showed up in College Park isn't going to get it done.

“We'll have to play better than we did on defense or we won't win that game,” Meyer said. “So that's going to be the message all week, and I anticipate we'll play much better.”

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# OSU Defense Gashed Again In Shootout Win

For the briefest of moments after the Michigan State game, it looked as though perhaps Ohio State had finally put its defensive woes to rest with a 26-6 victory.

## GAME NOTEBOOK

James Grega

That, however, does not appear to be the case.

The Buckeyes surrendered 535 yards of offense to Maryland in a 52-51 overtime win Nov. 17, 339 of which came on the ground as running back Anthony McFarland ran wild on the Ohio State defense.

McFarland, a redshirt freshman, rushed for 298 yards on just 21 attempts (14.2 yards per carry), including rushing touchdowns of 81 and 75 yards on two of the first three offensive possessions of the game for the Terps.

It wasn't just the run game that had success against the Buckeyes, however, as Maryland hit multiple deep shots downfield on Ohio State corners. Despite completing just six passes, quarterback Tyrrell Pigrome finished with 181 yards passing and a touchdown, leading multiple scoring drives in crucial situations.

The struggles on defense, which have plagued Ohio State all season, were described as alarming by head coach Urban Meyer, who was visibly frustrated when asked about the Buckeye defensive unit.

"It's the players and coaches together," Meyer said. "If it's a missed tackle then we're not teaching tackling enough. If it's a scheme issue, then that's a coaching issue. I can't give you the answer right now. I'll probably have a little more answer for you on Monday, but that's very alarming."

Defensive tackle Dre'Mont Jones admitted that he too had thought Ohio State's defensive struggles were behind them.

"Yes, I did. Things happen and that is a football game against a competitive team that had nothing to lose," Jones said. "It is



SONNY BROCKWAY

**BREAKING LOOSE – Maryland redshirt freshman running back Anthony McFarland (5) ran for 298 yards and two scores against Ohio State.**

disappointing for a team that shouldn't be in the same tier as us to put up 50 on us. It's upsetting, but we got the (win)."

One of the few bright spots on defense for Ohio State was defensive end and Maryland native Chase Young. The sophomore collected a pair of critical sacks against the Terps and finished with four total stops.

Young, who was high school teammates with McFarland at DeMatha Catholic in nearby Hyattsville, Md., said he was happy in a way for his old friend but also disappointed in the way the Buckeye defense played as a whole.

"It's really discouraging," Young said after the win. "But all those plays are easily fixable plays. I told them going into the game that boy Ant (McFarland) is a beast. He definitely made some money off this game and definitely I'm happy for him. That's my brother since I was in middle

school, so we go way back. He had a good game."

Ohio State collected just one turnover defensively in the game when receiver JeShaun Jones fumbled on a failed trick play while trying to catch his balance after getting tripped up. The ball was recovered by Malik Harrison, who finished the game with five tackles, two of which were for loss. Middle linebacker Tuf Borland led the team in tackles with eight, four for loss.

### Haskins, Dobbins Set Passing, Rushing Marks

Dwayne Haskins' performance against Maryland, the school he was once committed to, was arguably the best of his career and came with multiple school records.

Finishing 28 of 38 for 405 yards and three touchdowns to one interception, Haskins passed Joe Germaine to set the program's single-season passing yardage record and

moved past former teammate J.T. Barrett for the most touchdown passes in a season against the Terps. Germaine had thrown for 3,330 yards in 1998 while Barrett threw 35 touchdown passes just a season ago. Haskins has now racked up 3,685 passing yards and 36 passing touchdowns on the season.

The game was particularly special for Haskins because it came against multiple Maryland natives whom he played against in high school while at The Bullis School in Potomac.

"I know God always has a – it's always his plan at the end of the day and whether we win or lose we've got to remain strong in what we do as a group and as a team," he said. "Just being able to play in front of my family and my friends and, of course, people that I grew up with and played against in high school and were in the same class together – I knew a lot of kids on the team so it meant a lot to me to go out there and play today."

Haskins also rushed for 59 yards in the win and added three touchdowns on the ground.

It wasn't just Haskins who posted a career day, as sophomore running back J.K. Dobbins notched a career high in rush attempts and yards, toting the ball 37 times 203 yards and a score. The extended carries came due to a quad injury to Mike Weber, who did not see the field against Maryland.

The 37 attempts were the most by an Ohio State running back since 2007, when Chris "Beanie" Wells carried the ball 39 times for 222 yards and a pair of scores against Michigan in a 14-3 win. The number surpassed the career high of Ezekiel Elliott by one. Elliott's career high came in the 2015 College Football Playoff National Championship Game against Oregon, when he earned 36 carries for 246 yards and four scores. Dobbins' performance was also the first 200-yard rushing game by a Buckeye since Elliott rushed for 214 against the Wolverines in 2015.

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# Game Analysis

## What Worked Well

The offense. Ohio State racked up 688 total yards, outgaining Maryland's 535 and making enough plays to secure the 52-51 shootout in overtime. Despite the absence of junior running back Mike Weber, who traveled and dressed but did not play due to a quad bruise, the sophomore duo of quarterback Dwayne Haskins and running back J.K. Dobbins picked up the slack on the ground. The Buckeyes fed Dobbins, who tallied career-high outputs of 37 carries and 203 yards (5.5 average), while Haskins had a career-high three rushing scores.

Haskins contributed an unprecedented amount of production to the run game, but he made his mark with another dazzling performance through the air. Haskins completed 73.7 percent of his passes on a 28-for-38 clip, compiling 405 yards and throwing for three touchdowns to one interception. The pick-six put OSU down 31-17 only 45 seconds into the third quarter, but Haskins bounced back, spreading out the wealth to 10 different receivers and making tight-window throws in high-pressure situations down the stretch. Fifth-year senior wide receivers Johnnie Dixon (six catches for 102 yards) and Terry McLaurin (four catches for 118 yards) headlined Haskins' aerial assault.

Overall, the offense clicked on all cylinders in the second half. With back-to-back three-and-outs from the defense in the late third quarter and early fourth quarter, the defense's timely stops allowed the offense to ultimately go from down 14 points to tie it before the end of regulation and ultimately get the game to overtime.

## What Didn't Work

We'll keep this simple: the defense. Maryland had evident talent at skill positions, of which Ohio State head coach Urban Meyer and defensive coordinator Greg Schiano talked up during the week, but the Terrapins exposed the Buckeyes on countless big plays. If not for OSU's offense, UMD would have polished off a result similar to the 49-20 rout at Purdue on Oct. 20. Running back Anthony McFarland gashed Ohio State for 298

yards on 21 carries, an absurd 14.2-yard average, for two touchdowns of 81 and 75 yards. Maryland added three more scores on the ground between runs from running backs Javon Leake and Tayon Fleet-Davis, on top of tight end Chigoziem Okonkwo's fumble recovery in the end zone.

Dual-threat quarterback Tyrrell Pigrome completed only 46.2 percent of his passes, but the six completions he made amassed 181 yards. Pigrome's 30.2-yard average through the air was highlighted by his 27-yard touchdown to wide receiver Jeshaun Jones in the fourth quarter with junior cornerback Kendall Sheffield in coverage. Pigrome passed for 181 yards while the Terrapins rushed for 339 yards and dumped 535 yards for 51 points on Ohio State's defense. After the Buckeyes appeared to take a step in the right direction when they held Michigan State without a touchdown in their 26-6 win over the Spartans, the unit took two steps back with its performance against the Terps.

## Play Of The Game

After a 1-yard touchdown plunge by Fleet-Davis to match Ohio State's previous score in overtime, interim head coach and offensive coordinator Matt Canada made the decision to attempt the two-point conversion. With six offensive linemen down and three wide receivers out in a trips-right formation, Pigrome lined up out of the shotgun with Fleet-Davis to his left in the backfield. Rolling right, Pigrome scanned the short field. Brian Cobbs, the outside receiver, went to the back corner with Sheffield in man coverage. Taivon Jacobs and Jones, the two inside receivers, crossed and picked a pair of Buckeyes defenders in sophomore linebacker Pete Werner and junior safety Jordan Fuller. Jacobs slipped out from the inside to the flat, bringing Werner and Fuller with him, freeing up Jones from the slot up into the end zone. As sophomore safety Brendon White fought off UMD's right tackle, who arguably got away with an illegal-man-downfield penalty, near the goal line, Pigrome had Jones open over the middle but misfired to the right. The errant throw was all OSU needed to survive the 52-51 final.

— Garrett Stepien

Berry has come under scrutiny for not being able to lock down a starting job or even a solid position.

A tight end turned defensive end turned tight end again, Berry has experienced an up-and-down career at Ohio State, but he secured his signature moment in overtime of the Buckeye win. Facing fourth-and-1 inside the 20, Meyer elected to go for it instead of attempt the field goal. After a timeout, Haskins flipped a short pass to Berry in the flat for an 11-yard gain and a first down, ultimately leading to a Haskins rushing score.

The play was one that Ohio State had run, unsuccessfully, against TCU early in the season, but one Ryan Day and Haskins were confident would work.

"It's tremendous trust from the coaches to call a pass play on fourth-and-short," Haskins said. "You know, Rashod, a big, talented tight end, strong, made a play. Just to be able to do that on that first overtime series, it meant a lot of momentum for our offense going into the first-and-goal. Just having that play, and then he almost scored on it. I know it meant a lot for him. He goes through a lot here, and just for him to have that moment I know it meant the world to him."

Ohio State ran the same play on the ensuing snap, and again it was completed. However it was negated by a holding penalty.

Berry, whose only recorded touch of the game came on the fourth-down conversion, said he was grateful that the coaches trusted him to make a big play in a crucial moment.

"It means a lot, man. We all put in numerous hours just working together," he said. "Our brotherhood is so tight, and I just wanted to do what I can to help my team."

## Maryland's Failed 2-Point Conversion Ends Game

After scoring the would-be game-tying touchdown in overtime against Ohio State, Maryland interim head coach Matt Canada elected to go for two and the win. Pigrome, who completed just six passes in the game, rolled to his right and threw incomplete to a receiver who appeared to be open.

Meyer said after the game that he would

have made the same decision to go for the win if he was in Canada's shoes with not much to lose.

"I wasn't even on the headset for that one," Meyer said. "I know they ran a shovel option. I even asked their coach afterwards. It looked like a shovel option. Their shovel pass, if it's closed then you can throw a pass and that's what they run. A very unique offense, this is."

Dre'Mont Jones, who finished with four tackles, two for loss and a sack, said he was concerned because he too thought the receiver was open on the play.

"My job is to rush the passer, stop the run and whatever happens in the back end happens," he said. "I knew they were going to roll out, but that they were going to roll away from my side. So I just get penetration and luckily it was a bad pass because he looked open from my standpoint."

## Injuries Mount In Overtime Win

Already playing without backup middle linebacker Baron Browning, Ohio State was without the services of multiple key pieces for the majority of the game against Maryland.

Weber dressed and went through portions of warmups but did not play after dealing with what Meyer called a quad bruise that was suffered in the week of practice leading up to the game. He said the Buckeyes were hopeful he would be able to give it a go, but the bruise worsened as the week progressed and he wasn't able to participate.

In addition to Weber's absence, Ohio State lost left tackle Thayer Munford in the first half with an apparent knee injury. Munford was rolled up on and lay on the field for a few moments before limping off

the field aided by a pair of athletic trainers. He did not return to the game and was replaced by Joshua Alabi, who finished out the game in his place.

Jones, who has already been battling through a leg injury throughout the season, briefly left the game with a shoulder injury and missed multiple snaps before returning to action in the second half. He said the injury was simply a stinger, and while he didn't believe it was serious, Ohio State was taking precautions to limit the inflammation.

Finally, Ohio State lost Terry McLaurin in the second half after a fourth-quarter completion at the 1-yard line. McLaurin, who finished with four catches for a game-high 118 yards and a 68-yard touchdown reception, did not return. Meyer did not elaborate on McLaurin's injury but did say he expects him to be ready to play against Michigan in the regular-season finale.



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# Haskins' Big Day Leads OSU To Thrilling Win

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

Third-year sophomore quarterback Dwayne Haskins returned to his home state to pass for three touchdowns and run for three, including the deciding score, as No. 10 Ohio State avoided a stunning upset with a 52-51 overtime win against Maryland at Capital One Field at Maryland Stadium on Nov. 17.

Haskins, who had only one rushing TD prior to the game, scored from 5 yards out on the first possession of overtime for a 52-45 lead with the extra point by sophomore Blake Haubeil. Haskins had an 11-yard pass to junior Rashod Berry on fourth-and-1 from the 16 that may have saved the season.

Anthony McFarland, who rushed for 298 yards on 21 carries and two long touchdowns, ran 24 yards when the Terrapins got the ball, and Tayon Fleet-Davis' 1-yard run made it a one-point game.

Maryland (5-6, 3-5 Big Ten) went for two, but a pass by Tyrrell Pigrome to an open Jashaun Jones was off target and the Buckeyes (10-1, 7-1) escaped before an enthralled crowd of 38,177 in College Park, Md.

Haskins was 28 of 38 for 405 yards and a pick-six. He also ran 15 times for 59 yards.

He threw a 3-yard touchdown pass to junior Binjimen Victor with 40 seconds left in the fourth quarter to tie the score, 45-45. It was the Maryland native Haskins' third TD pass to break the school record of 35 in a season set by J.T. Barrett last year.

OSU trailed to that point because of a weird

play that gave Maryland a 45-38 lead with 1:41 to go in the fourth quarter. McFarland fumbled at the 1 only to have it recovered in the end zone by teammate Chigoziem Okonkwo.

The Buckeyes totaled 688 yards (283 run, 405 pass) while the Terrapins had 535 yards (339 run, 196 pass). OSU averaged 7.3 yards a play; Maryland 8.6.

In addition to the Haskins interception, the Buckeyes lost two of three fumbles and were penalized 10 times for 79 yards.

OSU sophomore back J.K. Dobbins had career highs in carries (37) and rushing yards (203) along with a TD run. Junior back Mike Weber did not play because of a quadriceps bruise, head coach Urban Meyer said after the game.

Fifth-year senior Johnnie Dixon had six catches for 102 yards, and fifth-year senior Terry McLaurin had a TD catch among four receptions for 118 yards.

Pigrome, replacing Kasim Hill after he sustained a torn ACL in the previous game vs. Indiana, was 6 of 13 for 181 yards and a TD but was sacked four times.

Sophomore linebacker Tuf Borland led the Buckeyes with eight tackles, including seven solos, with four going for losses. Maryland's Tre Watson had 12 tackles (seven solo).

Maryland stunned the Buckeyes with touchdown runs of 81 and 75 yards by McFarland in the first six minutes of the game, two of seven plays the Terps had for 15 or more yards in the first half.

The Buckeyes' season-long problems surfaced again: allowing big plays, lack of discipline and turning the ball over. Yet OSU was 7 yards

from tying the score just before the half when Dobbins fumbled the ball away as Maryland took a 24-17 halftime lead.

## How It Happened

Maryland started at its 20 after the opening kickoff return. After McFarland lost a yard on the first play, he went outside the left tackle as OSU junior cornerback Damon Arnette went inside and McFarland raced 81 yards untouched for the 7-0 lead 50 seconds into the game.

It got worse on the ensuing kickoff when it was pooched in front of Dixon and recovered by Maryland at the OSU 21. The Terrapins tried to get cute with receiver Jashaun Jones attempting a throwback pass, but he fumbled and junior linebacker Malik Harrison recovered at the 29.

The Buckeyes held the ball for 10 plays and used 4:45 but managed only a 36-yard field goal from Haubeil with 9:16 to go for a 7-3 score. Dobbins gained 43 yards on the drive including a 28-yard run to the Maryland 36.

McFarland on the first play after the kickoff took advantage of a missed tackle at the line by sophomore safety Brendon White and went 75 yards for a 14-3 lead at the 9:05 mark.

Ohio State was victimized again when Pigrome hit Dontay Demus for 56 yards to the Buckeye 22, but the drive stalled at the 19 and Joseph Petrino kicked a 36-yard field goal for a 17-3 lead with 2:06 remaining in the quarter.

Following an OSU punt, Maryland threatened to increase the lead thanks to a 52-yard scamper to the OSU 17 by McFarland, but the defense stiffened and Petrino missed a 49-yard field goal early in the second quarter.

On the next play, Haskins threw a 68-yard TD to make it 17-10 at 10:21 of the second quarter. Haskins on the play passed Joe Germaine's school record single-season yardage of 3,330 (1998).

Maryland's Javon Leake completed an eight-play, 60-yard, 4:14 drive with a 16-yard running score to make it 24-10 with 6:02 left in the half. Leake had helped set the drive up with a 26-yard kickoff return to the Maryland 40.

Dobbins made it 24-17 on a 1-yard carry with 3:13 to go with the highlight of the drive a 39-yard catch by McLaurin on a third-and-9 from the OSU 40. The series took 2:49, going 75 yards in eight plays.

Late in the half, Victor's 38-yard catch and two Maryland penalties helped the Buckeyes move to the 7, but Dobbins fumbled on the next snap and the Terrapins recovered in the end zone with 32 seconds left and the Terrapins took a knee to end the half.

The third quarter started horribly for the Buckeyes when on the second play RaVon Davis had a 37-yard interception return for a touchdown for a 31-17 lead just 45 seconds after the break.

Undaunted, the Buckeyes went 73 yards in eight plays and used 2:36 with the aid of face-mask and pass-interference penalties. There was also a 10-yard pass to freshman Chris

Olave, and Dobbins had back-to-back runs of 12 and 13 yards to the 2 where Haskins ran it in from there to make it 31-24 at the 11:35 mark.

Late in the third, sophomore punter Drue Chrisman pinned the Terps at their 6. Three plays went for negative 2 yards, and the Buckeyes, after a punt to open the fourth quarter, began at the Maryland 44.

Dobbins ripped off an 11-yard run and Haskins connected with sophomore tight end Luke Farrell on a 19-yard gain to the 5. Dobbins got 4 and no yards on two carries. Redshirt freshman QB Tate Martell came in for the goal-line package but senior right tackle Isaiah Prince was flagged for a false start. Haskins reentered and tossed a 6-yarder to K.J. Hill to cap the drive of seven plays, 44 yards in 2:30 to make it 31-31 with 12:25 left in regulation.

On the next possession, a fake punt on fourth-and-8 from the Ohio State 46 kept Maryland driving when punter Wade Lees threw to Taivon Jacobs for 15 yards to the OSU 31.

On third-and-6 from the 27, Jashaun Jones made a tightrope catch along the left sideline at the goal to put the Terrapins ahead 38-31 at the 7:50 mark. The drive was nine plays and 83 yards in 4:31.

Haskins responded with a 35-yard pass to Dixon on the first play to ignite the tying drive. There were two receptions by Hill for 20 yards as well.

On third-and-goal from the 1, Haskins took a low snap and pushed his way in to make it 38-38 with 3:41 remaining to finish the 75-yard, 12-play series in 4:09.

Leake had a 21-yard kickoff return to the Maryland 39, and Pigrome immediately hit Darryl Jones for a 60-yard gain. A false start moved it back to the 6. McFarland gained one and Pigrome lost two on a run to the 7, but on third down Arnette was called for pass interference on an incompleteness to place the ball at the 2.

Pigrome got a yard. Fleet-Davis was then stuffed for no gain, setting up the third-down fumble that was forced by sophomore linebacker Pete Werner that turned into a TD and the 45-38 lead.

A 42-yard kickoff return by sophomore Demario McCall to the 50 put the Buckeyes in business to go for the tying score with 1:32 left in the fourth. Two passes for 28 yards to fifth-year senior Parris Campbell, a face-mask call and a holding penalty on the Terrapins helped the Buckeyes send the game to overtime on the Victor catch.

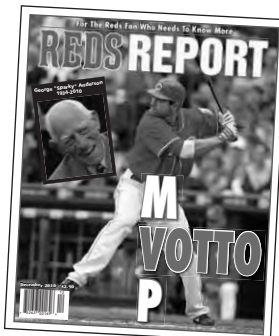
Dobbins ran for 9 yards on the first play of OT. Haskins had an incomplete pass and a run for zero yards to set up the fourth-down conversion by Berry. Fifth-year senior left guard Malcolm Pridgeon was called for a face-mask infraction that pushed the ball back to the 20 but pass interference regained all 15 yards plus a first down. That's when Haskins ran for the TD and the OT lead that would stand.

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# The Numbers Game

## Ohio State 52, Maryland 51 (OT)

Nov. 17, 2018 – Capital One Field at Maryland Stadium; College Park, Md.

Score by Quarters	1	2	3	4	OT	F
OHIO STATE (10-1, 7-1 BIG TEN)	3	14	7	21	7	52
MARYLAND (5-6, 3-5 BIG TEN)	17	7	7	14	6	51

### First Quarter

**UMD** – McFarland, 81 yard run (Petrino kick), 14:10; 2 plays, 80 yards, 0:50 TOP.

**OSU** – Haubeil, 36 yard field goal, 9:16; 10 plays, 52 yards, 4:45 TOP.

**UMD** – McFarland, 75 yard run (Petrino kick), 9:05; 1 play, 75 yards, 0:11 TOP.

**UMD** – Petrino, 36 yard field goal, 2:06; 6 plays, 57 yards, 2:07 TOP.

### Second Quarter

**OSU** – McLaurin, 68 yard pass from Haskins (Haubeil kick), 10:21; 1 play, 68 yards, 0:11 TOP.

**UMD** – Leake, 16 yard run (Petrino kick), 6:02; 8 plays, 60 yards, 4:14 TOP.

**OSU** – Dobbins, 1 yard run (Haubeil kick), 3:13; 8 plays, 75 yards, 2:49 TOP.

### Third Quarter

**UMD** – Davis, 37 yard interception return (Petrino kick), 14:15.

**OSU** – Haskins, 2 yard run (Haubeil kick), 11:35; 8 plays, 73 yards, 2:36 TOP.

### Fourth Quarter

**OSU** – Hill, 6 yard pass from Haskins (Haubeil kick), 12:25; 7 plays, 44 yards, 2:30 TOP.

**UMD** – Jones, 27 yard pass from Pigrome (Petrino kick), 7:50; 9 plays, 83 yards, 4:31 TOP.

**OSU** – Haskins, 1 yard run (Haubeil kick), 3:41; 12 plays, 75 yards, 4:09 TOP.

**UMD** – Okonkwo, fumble recovery in end zone (Petrino kick), 1:41; 6 plays, 61 yards, 1:54 TOP.

**OSU** – Victor, 3 yard pass from Haskins (Haubeil kick), 0:40; 7 plays, 50 yards, 0:52 TOP.

### Overtime

**OSU** – Haskins, 5 yard run (Haubeil kick); 5 plays, 25 yards.

**UMD** – Fleet-Davis, 1 yard run (Pigrome pass failed); 2 plays, 25 yards.

**Att.** – 38,177.

**Weather** – N/A.

### Team Statistics

	OSU	UMD
First Downs	36	18
Rushing	13	10
Passing	16	6
Penalty	7	2
Rushes-Yards	56-283	48-339
Passing Yards	405	196
Passes (Comp.-Att.-Int.)	28-38-1	7-14-0
Offensive Plays	94	62
Total Net Yards	688	535
Third Down Efficiency	9-15	4-13
Fourth Down Efficiency	1-2	2-2
Punts-Avg.	2-36.5	4-39.8
Fumbles-Lost	3-2	4-1
Penalties	10-79	9-88
Time of Possession	31:38	28:22

### Individual Statistics

**RUSHING (Att.-Net Yds.)** – **OSU:** Dobbins 37-203; Haskins 15-59; McCall 2-12; Campbell 1-8; Martell 1-1. **UMD:** McFarland 21-298; Fleet-Davis 7-37; Leake 6-30; Turner 1-3; TEAM 1-(-1); Jones 1-(-8); Pigrome 11-(-20); Okonkwo 0-0.

**PASSING (Comp.-Att.-Int.-Yds.-TD)** – **OSU:** Haskins 28-38-1-405-3. **UMD:** Pigrome 6-13-0-181-1; Lees 1-1-0-15-0.

**RECEIVING (Rec.-Yds.)** – **OSU:** Dixon 6-102; Hill 5-39; McLaurin 4-118; Farrell 4-44; Campbell 4-38; Victor 2-41; Berry 1-11; Olave 1-10; Dobbins 1-2. **UMD:** Jones 2-68; Jacobs 2-45; Jones 2-27; Demus 1-56.

**PUNTING (No.-Avg.-Long)** – **OSU:** Chrisman 2-36.5-41. **UMD:** Lees 4-39.8-43.

**PUNT RETURNS (No.-Yds.)** – **OSU:** None. **UMD:** None.

**KICKOFF RETURNS (No.-Yds.)** – **OSU:** McCall 4-78; Dixon 1-0. **UMD:** Leake 5-88; Lewis 1-14.

**MISSED FIELD GOALS (Yds.)** – **OSU:** None. **UMD:** Petrino 49.

**FORCED FUMBLES** – **OSU:** Young; Werner. **UMD:** Oluwatimi; Davis.

**FUMBLE RECOVERIES (No.-Yds)** – **OSU:** Harrison 1-0. **UMD:** Watson 1-0; Eley 1-0; Okonkwo 1-0.

**INTERCEPTIONS (No.-Yds.)** – **OSU:** None. **UMD:** Davis 1-37.

**TACKLES FOR LOSS (No.-Yds.)** – **OSU:** Borland 4.0-12; Young 2.0-20; D. Jones 2.0-8; Harrison 2.0-5; Landers 1.0-1. **UMD:** Rogers 1.0-4; Richardson 0.5-1; Savage 0.5-1.

**SACKS (No.-Yds.)** – **OSU:** Young 2.0-20; Borland 1.0-6; D. Jones 1.0-6. **UMD:** Rogers 1.0-4.

**TACKLES (Solo-Asst.-Tot.)** – **OSU:** Borland 7-1-8; Werner 5-0-5; Harrison 4-1-5; White 3-2-5; Fuller 4-0-4; Young 4-0-4; Sheffield 3-1-4; D. Jones 2-2-4; Landers 3-0-3; Garrett 2-0-2; Haubeil 2-0-2; Okudah 0-2-2; Booker 1-0-1; Hamilton 1-0-1; Pope 1-0-1; Arnette 1-0-1; K. Jones 1-0-1; Banks 1-0-1; Teague 1-0-1; Wade 1-0-1; Cooper 0-1-1. **UMD:** Watson 7-5-12; Richardson 8-3-11; Davis 6-5-11; Savage 7-2-9; Oluwatimi 4-3-7; Davis 6-0-6; Brooks 4-2-6; McLean 3-3-6; Lewis 3-2-5; Cowart 0-4-4; Howard 0-3-3; Aniebonam 2-0-2; Rogers 2-0-2; Nchami 2-0-2; Tanyi 1-1-2; Funk 1-1-2; Saine 0-2-2; Egbuaba 1-0-1; Petrino 1-0-1; Ellis 0-1-1; Campbell 0-1-1.

**PLAYERS IN THE GAME** – **OHIO STATE:** Offense, Munford, Pridgeon, Jordan, Knox, Prince, Farrell, Haskins, Dobbins, Campbell, Dixon, McLaurin, Haubeil. Defense, Young, Landers, D. Jones, Cooper, Harrison, Borland, Werner, Sheffield, White, Fuller, Arnette, Chrisman. Reserves, Hill, Okudah, Martell, Victor, Banks, Berry, Pryor, Harris, K. Jones, Olave, Wade, McCall, Proctor, Pope, Booker, Hamilton, McCullough, Garrett, Ruckert, Berry. **MARYLAND:** Offense, Gray, Christie, Jordan, Hamilton, Prince, Edwards, Pigrome, McFarland, Davenport, Jacobs, Cobbs, Petrino. Defense, Cowart, McLean, Tanyi, Aniebonam, Davis, Watson, Brooks, Davis, Savage, Richardson, Ellis, Lees. Reserves, Turner, Lewis, Gotay, Inzerillo, Jones, Demus, Fleet-Davis, Comma, Jones, Eley, Okonkwo, Leake, Jones, Nchami, Egbuaba, Funk, Underwood, Campbell, Oluwatimi, Anderson, Howard, Moore, McKennie, Plummer, Barnes, Cornwell, Saine, Rogers, Gaddy, Gaddy.

## 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	(10) at Maryland	W, 52-51 (OT)	38,177		
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	322	207
Rushing	114	76
Passing	177	106
Penalty	31	25
Average Per Game/Rush	182.4	161.3
Average Per Game/Pass	359.5	237.4
Total Offense	5,960	4,385
Total Plays	908	742
Average Per Game	541.8	398.6
Average Per Play	6.6	5.9
Penalties-Yards	86-762	65-648
Fumbles-Lost	15-7	23-11
Third Down Efficiency	77-162	47-156
Percentage	48%	30%
Fourth Down Efficiency	12-19	8-15
Percentage	63%	53%
Sacks-Yards	31-210	16-75
Time Of Possession Avg.	31:32	28:28

Score								
By Quarters	1	2	3	4	OT	Tot.	Avg.	
Ohio State	102	125	87	137	7	458	41.6	
Opponents	58	85	57	65	6	271	24.6	

Individual Statistics					
Rushing	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Long
J.K. Dobbins	194	915	4.7	8	42
Mike Weber	127	711	5.6	4	49
Tate Martell	20	127	6.3	2	47
Master Teague	17	106	6.2	1	33
Dwayne Haskins	56	93	1.7	4	17
Demario McCall	6	38	6.3	0	15
Brian Snead	11	37	3.4	1	5
Parris Campbell	9	24	2.7	0	18
C.J. Saunders	0	8	0.0	0	0
K.J. Hill	1	-3	-3.0	0	0
TEAM	15	-50	-3.3	0	0
OSU Totals	456	2,006	4.4	20	49
OPP Totals	390	1,774	4.5	20	93

Passing	Comp.	Att.	Pct.	Yds.	TD-INT	Effic.
D. Haskins	294	424	69.3	3,685	36-7	167.06
Tate Martell	23	28	82.1	269	1-0	174.63
OSU Totals	317	452	70.1	3,954	37-7	167.53
OPP Totals	186	352	52.8	2,611	13-7	123.36

Receiving	Rec.	Net	Avg.	TD	Long
Parris Campbell	66	711	10.8	9	71
K.J. Hill	62	772	12.5	5	42
Johnnie Dixon	32	482	15.1	5	44
Terry McLaurin	30	579	19.3	9	75
Austin Mack	26	331	12.7	1	48
J.K. Dobbins	18	197	10.9	1	35
Binjimen Victor	17	287	16.9	4	47
Luke Farrell	17	180	10.6	1	24
Mike Weber	16	82	5.1	1	15
C.J. Saunders	10	73	7.3	0	19
Rashod Berry	7	73	10.4	1	15
Demario McCall	6	58	9.7	0	35
Chris Olave	5	70	14.0	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	317	3,954	12.5	37	75
OPP Totals	186	2,611	14.0	13	93

Scoring	TD	EPK	EPR	EPRC	FG	PTS
Parris Campbell	9	–	–	–	–	54
J.K. Dobbins	9	–	–	–	–	54
Terry McLaurin	9	–	–	–	–	54
S. Nuernberger	–	39-39	–	–	3-5	48
Blake Haubeil	–	19-19	–	–	7-9	40
Johnnie Dixon	5	–	–	–	–	30
K.J. Hill	5	–	–	–	–	30
Mike Weber	5	–	–	–	–	30
Dwayne Haskins	4	–	0-1	0-2	–	24
Binjimen Victor	4	–	–	–	–	24
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
Austin Mack	1	–	–	–	–	6
Brian Snead	1	–	–	–	–	6
Master Teague	1	–	–	–	–	6
Keandre Jones (1 safety)						2
TEAM (1 safety)						2
OSU Totals	61	58-58	0-1	0-2	10-14	458
OPP Totals	35	31-32	0-1	0-2	10-18	271

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	2-3	1-2	0-0	7-9
OSU Totals	6-6	3-5	1-3	0-0	10-14
OPP Totals	2-2	6-8	2-6	0-2	10-18

Punting	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Bk	Long
Drue Chrisman	46	1,954	42.5	0	65
OSU Totals	46	1,954	42.5	0	65
OPP Totals	68	2,685	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	7	211	30.1	2	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	13	240	18.5	0	38
Demario McCall	6	130	21.7	0	42
C.J. Saunders	2	24	12.0	0	14
K.J. Hill	1	4	4.0	0	4
OSU Totals	22	398	18.1	0	42
OPP Totals	25	385	15.4	0	26

Def. Leaders	Solo	Ast.	Tot.	TFL-Yds.	Sacks
Malik Harrison	37	20	57	6.5-19	1.5-10
Jordan Fuller	41	14	55	1.5-2	–
Tuf Borland	24	24	48	9.0-29	3.0-16
Pete Werner	34	13	47	7.5-20	3.0-10
Dre'Mont Jones	19	15	34	12.0-63	7.5-55
Damon Arnette	22	7	29	–	–
Isaiah Pryor	18	11	29	1.0-1	–
Brendon White	14	14	28	2.0-6	–
Chase Young	18	9	27	10.5-59	6.5-49
Jeffrey Okudah	20	6	26	–	–
Kendall Sheffield	20	5	25	2.0-4	–
Jahsen Wint	20	5	25	0.5-1	–
Shaun Wade	20	3	23	–	–
Baron Browning	11	11	22	3.5-11	1.0-6
Justin Hilliard	12	6	18	1.0-7	–
Jonathon Cooper	6	11	17	4.5-13	1.5-6
Robert Landers	9	7	16	3.0-9	–
Nick Bosa	11	3	14	6.0-43	4.0-39
Jashon Cornell	6	5	11	1.0-8	–
Dante Booker	6	4	10	3.0-19	1.0-12
Davon Hamilton	5	5	10	2.5-3	–
Keandre Jones	6	3	9	1.0-1	1.0-1
<b>OSU Totals</b>	<b>412</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>636</b>	<b>80-326</b>	<b>31-210</b>
<b>OPP Totals</b>	<b>511</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>901</b>	<b>51-148</b>	<b>16-75</b>
<b>Fumbles Forced:</b> 10 – Tuf Borland 2, Pete Werner 2, Nick Bosa, Dwayne Haskins, Dre'Mont Jones, Kendall Sheffield, Shaun Wade, Chase Young.					
<b>Fumbles Recovered:</b> 11 – Dre'Mont Jones 3, Nick Bosa 2, Jonathon Cooper, Jordan Fuller, Davon Hamilton, Malik Harrison, Jeffrey Okudah, TEAM.					



# BSB Quotebook: Ohio State 52, Maryland 51 (OT)

**Ohio State head coach Urban Meyer on the win:** "What a great win and thank Buckeye Nation for supporting us and also much respect – as I told (Maryland interim head coach Matt) Canada that, wow, was that – just a back-and-forth, back-and-forth, you obviously saw it – so much respect for him and his staff and his players fighting like that, what they've been through and I made that very clear. We're very fortunate to get out of there with a win and just a phenomenal effort on offense."

**Meyer, when asked if he was relieved Maryland went for two and the win:** "Relieved we won."

**Meyer on whether he can accept winning games while giving up so many yards and points:** "No, no, no, no, no. No. Not going to accept that."

**Meyer after being asked if he found the 2018 Buckeyes exasperating:** "Exasperating? No, it's not at all. It's part of – like I said, I've done this a long time and we've had situations where one side is not playing well. Last week against Michigan State, the offense was hanging on by a thread and the defense kept us in it, and so that's just part of the game."

**OSU sophomore quarterback Dwayne Haskins on how he felt after the game:** "For us to stop them on the two-point conversion and

just a whole bunch of emotions just came out of me. All that grit, all that adversity we faced in this game to come back on top, it just meant everything for myself and my teammates, for the coaches."

**OSU sophomore running back J.K. Dobbins on how he felt after carrying the ball 37 times against Maryland:** "I like it. I feel like I am a tough guy. I don't feel that sore right now, I just feel tired."

**Dobbins on sophomore Demario McCall, who served as his backup against the Terrapins:** "Demario is a talented kid. He is going to be great whenever he gets his opportunity."

**OSU sophomore defensive end Chase Young on the defense:** "I think we definitely have got to improve on a lot of things, but just knowing that my brothers are going to fight to the end, that they're always going to have my back and I'm going to have their back, that's a good feeling going into this game."

**Young on his thoughts before Maryland's two-point try:** "I thought about it, I said a quick prayer and just play, you know what I'm saying? Just play your technique."

**OSU defensive coordinator Greg Schiano on the two-point attempt:** "All those special situations, you have it game planned and you

practice it at the end of the week, that's what you do. You do the end-of-the-game play that was there and you always do the two-point plays, so it was no surprise. Kids knew what the call was going to be so we went out there and we actually got picked a little bit and we were fortunate that there was pressure in his face and he threw an errant ball."

**Haskins on the upcoming preparations for The Game:** "We've got to make every play count. So this week I'm just going to preach to the team that we're home, it's the last home (game) for the seniors in the 'Shoe,' so you've got to make it count."

**OSU junior tight end Rashod Berry on preparing for Michigan:** "We've got to just have that intent focus like we always do every week and just work our butts off and just really go out there and give it our all."

**Canada on Maryland redshirt freshman running back Anthony McFarland:** "We were blocking pretty good up front. We did a pretty good job looking at some things they did, and we had a chance to cut him loose. He's a special player."

**Maryland senior linebacker Tre Watson on the loss:** "To put it into words, we are distraught right now at this point. There are no words that can reconcile what happened to us."



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# Settled At TE, Berry Has Become A Key Player

By JOE DEMPSEY  
Special To Buckeye Sports Bulletin

With the game on the line in overtime, tied 45-45 on fourth-and-1 at the Maryland 16-yard line, Ohio State put all of its hope in Rashod Berry, and the junior tight end came through.

Less than two years ago this reality would seem much more like a fantasy, considering Berry was taking backup reps at defensive end behind perhaps the best defensive line in Ohio State history, featuring ends Tyquan Lewis, Sam Hubbard, Jalyn Holmes and Nick Bosa.

The Buckeyes weren't sure where Berry, who was also a high school basketball standout in Lorain, Ohio, would fit in when he came to Columbus. Many student-athletes could be overwhelmed by the uncertainty of his situation, but Berry remained optimistic.

"I got recruited as an athlete," Berry said. "They just put me at tight end and I wasn't doing so hot, and I played defense in high school, so they moved me to defense. I was doing well at it and we had a whole bunch of great players, and then they needed some help on the offense. So I was just doing whatever to help the team, and I just stuck with it."

Former Buckeye tight end A.J. Alexander was poised to be returning starter Marcus Baugh's backup in 2017, but his career was cut short by knee injuries. Berry made the transition back to tight end that summer after having practiced at defensive end throughout spring ball.

Although the transition from being a down lineman to a pass catcher might seem impossible for many, Berry's athleticism made him the perfect candidate to make the switch. The 6-4, 259-pound athlete helped lead Lorain High to an undefeated season and district title on the basketball court as a senior, and his coach John Rositano referred to Berry as "the best athlete I've coached."

Berry said he could have played college hoops if he wanted, but that's not where his heart was.

"I love football," Berry said. "Football first. Always."

Before Berry helped lead the Lorain High basketball program to historic heights, he did the same for the football team. Following a disappointing 3-6 junior season, Berry helped lead Lorain to the playoffs, representing the first team from Lorain to make it in 30 years. Although the Titans lost in the first round to Mentor, 49-34, Berry made an impact by scoring three touchdowns and recording a sack. Lorain head coach Dave McFarland even referred to Berry as a "dominant receiver."

When making the transition to tight end at Ohio State, Berry realized pass catching wouldn't be his issue, but his blocking needed to improve drastically.

"As a tight end in high school you don't block, really," Berry said. "It's a natural thing. If you got it, you got it. If you don't, it's going to take time. And it took time for me. But once you get it, it's muscle memory that you're not going to lose."

"For me, the transition was tough. I never blocked in high school, so I when I got here I wasn't too hot with it. But just building up that confidence over time, I got better at it."

Building up that confidence can be challenging with a lack of experience and the high pressure that comes with playing at a program like Ohio State. The blue-collar player from Lorain spent hours and hours outside of practice honing his technique with the hopes of seeing the field on Saturdays.

"Just repeated reps over time," Berry said. "Just practicing night and day. After practice getting my hands right, getting my footwork right. Just going over and over and just really getting better at it every day."

Berry's diligence paid off as he earned the co-starter title with sophomore Luke Farrell after a year of transitioning back to offense, including his time as Baugh's backup in 2017. This would not have happened had Berry not fine-tuned his blocking ability, which he attributes to his reps and mentality.

"Attitude is everything – confidence and attitude," Berry said. "If you're not aggressive, you're not going to make the block. You have to have that mind-set like, 'OK, I'm about to kill this dude,' like, literally 'I'm about to make this block.' That's really what it is."

The big-bodied tight end even made multiple key blocks that sprang his teammates for touchdowns dating back to last season. Although he's generally soft-spoken in interviews, Berry will flash emotion after throwing a big block.

"That's just really my passion for the game," Berry said when asked if showing excitement is something that must be taught. "When the game's on the line or even if it's not on the line, just seeing my teammates score is excitement for me – doing whatever I can for the team."

Berry also said that his experience playing defensive end at the Division I level helps him when he's blocking ends because he knows what their responsibilities are on certain plays. Through all of the ups and downs of his difficult transition, Berry believes all of his trials have been for a greater purpose.

"I just feel like everything's for a reason, and this is God's plan and he put me back here for a reason," Berry said of playing on offense. "And I finally noticed it and found my role, and now I'm playing to help the team."

Berry has displayed perseverance and mental fortitude in his time with the Scarlet and Gray, so it was no surprise he remained levelheaded when discussing an interception that happened at Penn State because a pass deflected off him as he turned around to catch it.

"The ball was on target, I just have to snap my head a little sooner," Berry said on Oct. 10. "But those type of plays happen to all players, so you've just got to move on from that and just keep playing the game."

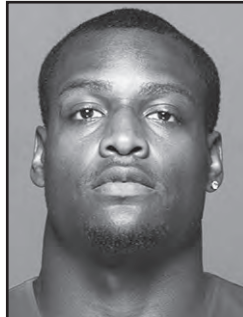
Putting that blunder in his rearview, Berry got a play called for him with the Buckeyes' season on the line at Maryland in overtime.

"I didn't know it was going to come to me," Berry said of the 11-yard catch and run on fourth down to set up Ohio State at the Maryland 5. "But when my number's called, I just had to make a play. Then, I just made a play."

The former defensive lineman certainly made a play, and its importance did not go unnoticed by Buckeye quarterback Dwayne Haskins.


"Rashod, a big, talented, strong tight end made a play," Haskins said. "Just to be able to go do that in that first overtime series meant a lot of momentum for our offense going into the first-and-goal."

"Just having that play – he almost scored on it – I know it meant a lot for him. He goes through a lot here. Just for him to have that moment, I know it meant the world to him."



Rashod Berry


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# Olave Emerging As New Threat In Pass Offense

By CRAIG MERZ  
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

Chris Olave was one of the last to commit to the recruiting class of 2018, but he's made a favorable first impression since.

The true freshman receiver wowed his teammates with his athleticism and skills from the time he came to Columbus from Mission Hills High School in San Marcos, Calif., north of San Diego.

Now, Olave is getting a chance to show everyone else what he can do after an injury to junior Austin Mack has opened the door for a spot in the rotation.

"I knew since day one when Chris stepped on the field that he was going to be a great player here," fifth-year senior receiver Parris Campbell said. "And he's going to continue to develop."

Fellow fifth-year senior receiver Terry McLaurin agreed.

"I feel like he's been ready, to be honest,

since he stepped on campus and performed the way he did in camp," the veteran receiver said.

Olave had to bide his time behind a deep and veteran receiving corps, but the foot injury sustained by Mack on Oct. 20 put the spotlight on him. After having two catches for 19 yards through the first nine games, he made two grabs for 41 yards at Michigan State on Nov. 10. Those catches occurred during a second-quarter drive. The first reception for 25 yards came on a second-and-14 from the OSU 28.

"When his number was called, he just made a play," Campbell said.

Two plays later, sophomore Dwayne Haskins passed to him for 16 yards and another first down.

"It's definitely a blessing," Olave said. "With Mack going out, I just stepped into that role (in the rotation), and it is definitely an honor to be here and to be playing."

"Right when I got here I wanted to earn the

coaches' trust and just be myself. Early on I was trying to make an impact on special teams, and then Mack went down and I stepped into that role."

Against Maryland on Nov. 17 he added another catch for 10 yards.

Olave has the length (6-1) to be an impact player, but at 175 pounds he has long way to go. On the positive side, he's already gained 15 pounds since his arrival on campus.

"You guys are going to be interested in seeing that guy grow," Campbell said. "He's a feather-weight right now. He doesn't have a whole ton of muscle mass on him. But he's electric, he's super-fast. He's efficient in his top-ends, has great hands. He's everything you want in a receiver."

Olave earned a four-star rating from 247Sports as he finished his senior season at Mission Hills with 93 receptions for a San Diego

Section-record 1,764 yards and 26 touchdowns. He was also ranked the No. 54 wide receiver.

But his recruitment wasn't without obstacles. He played his sophomore season at Eastlake High School before transferring to Mission Hills and sitting out his junior year.

"I didn't have junior highlights," he said. "About midseason (senior year) Ohio State was the first to offer. I kind of jumped on it. All other schools started to come after Ohio State came. I signed late, the week before signing day, the second period."

He was recruited by OSU quarterbacks coach and offensive coordinator Ryan Day, who had gone to Mission Hills to see Olave's QB, Jack Tuttle.

Ohio State interim receivers coach Brian Hartline was not involved in the initial recruitment, but Olave said Hartline went to bat for him to be offered after watching him on film.

"Coach Hartline, he's one of the best coaches I've had," Olave said. "He's teaching me things on the field and off the field, so he's kind of a person to look up to, knowing the things he did earlier in his career and just coming back and giving back to us is an honor."

Olave said everything about Ohio State appealed to him.

"I knew I was going to get prepared on and off the field," he said. "During the recruiting process the coaches never pressured me. They wanted me to take my visits and do everything a recruit can do. By early January I knew I was comfortable with this program and I wanted to be here."

He was not swayed by the depth among the receivers, knowing that playing time might be limited his first season.

"Coming into Ohio State, I knew all the receivers were coming back, so I just wanted to come in and get better, compete, try to get on the field on special teams or something," he said.

Word would get out occasionally to the media by the players and coaches as the season progressed that Olave was on the verge of breaking out. Playing time is earned, not given, and he worked hard on the special teams and followed the example of McLaurin.

"Terry's unbelievable," Olave said. "He's a hard worker. He comes out every day, knowing his leg hurts, doing special teams, things like that. He's a guy I look up to. He's the main guy I ask questions to."

"I've taken that role behind him on punt and taken that role on offense. I look up to him and model my game after him."

Head coach Urban Meyer has taken notice of Olave.

"Boy, he's going to be good," the coach said Nov. 14. "He's way ahead of schedule. Just on special teams, he's doing good for us and, gosh, I think he had a couple catches on Saturday (against MSU) – and one was a big one across the middle."

"He's going to be a fine player. He's tough, he's smart and very mature for his age."

Olave said the key is being a sponge around the veterans.

"They gave me a lot of lessons, and they teach me a lot still to this day," he said. "In practice, I still ask them a lot of questions and just little things that try to get me better every day."

In turn, the older players enjoy mentoring Olave.

"Our role is to make sure we're doing everything right," Campbell said. "He's in the back of the room. He's watching the leaders of the team, leaders of the receivers room. We have to stay on our toes, obviously for ourselves, but to also set an example for Chris."

"He's a fast learner. He takes what he learns in a meeting and takes it to the field."



Chris Olave

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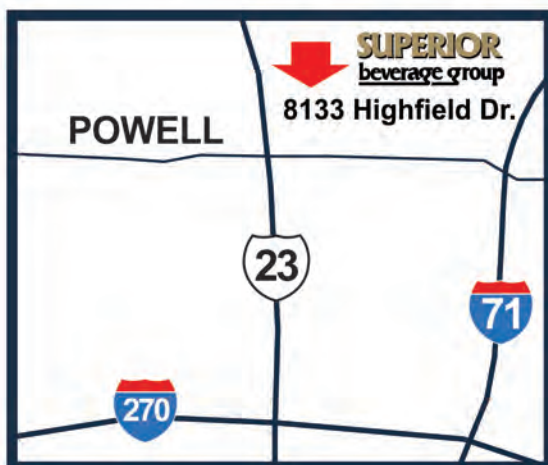


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# Michigan's 'Revenge Tour' Ends In Columbus

By JAMES GREGA  
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

The 2018 Michigan football team is one that has played with a certain edge all season and has devoted its season to getting revenge on every team that beat the Wolverines a year ago.

Since falling 24-17 to Notre Dame in the season opener on the road, Michigan has won 10 in a row and is on the precipice of its first appearance in the Big Ten title game. The Wolverines have defeated every team they lost to in 2017 (Wisconsin, Michigan State and Penn State), and the final team on the list is Ohio State.

The "revenge tour," as defensive end Chase Winovich dubbed the stretch, started with a 38-13 win over Wisconsin on Oct. 13 and spilled into a 21-7 victory over Michigan State on the road Oct. 20.

It was after that game that Winovich officially called the stretch of games Michigan's "revenge tour" and did not shy away from using the term throughout the year.

"We came in here, (and) I openly, in the public, called it a revenge tour, called them out and said that they were next," Winovich said to the Big Ten Network. "We came in here, slashed their field before the game. We still came out here and got after them every single play.

Like I said last week, the prior couple weeks were for the boys. This one was for our season.

"We knew that they couldn't hang with us," Winovich continued. "We did what we had to do. Sometimes your little brother starts acting up and you just have to put him in place. They tried. They gave it their best. It just wasn't enough. Our guys came up on top, and we're just going to continue to work and try to get better and go from here."

The following week, Michigan throttled Penn State 42-7 in the Big House, just one year after losing to the Nittany Lions in University Park, Pa., 42-13.

Michigan's final stop on the "revenge tour" is Columbus, a place the Wolverines have not won since 2000 when John Cooper was still patrolling the sidelines at Ohio Stadium.

Whether Winovich will be available to complete the four-game tour, though, remains to be seen.



Chase Winovich

Winovich left Michigan's 31-20 win over Indiana on Nov. 17 with an undisclosed upper-body injury and did not return to the game. Michigan's defensive leader, Winovich entered the Indiana game with 12 tackles for loss to lead the Wolverines and ranked fifth in the Big Ten.

"Things are progressing well with Chase," Michigan head coach Jim Harbaugh said. "X-rays were negative here at the sta-

## Get To Know ... Michigan

### About Michigan

- **2018 Record:** 10-1 (8-0 Big Ten).
- **Team Information:** Offensive Formation – Pro Style; Defensive Formation – 4-3; Starters Returning – Offense 9, Defense 10, Specialists 2.
- **Head Coach:** Jim Harbaugh, 11th season, 96-39 (fourth at Michigan, 38-12).
- **Series History:** 114th meeting, Michigan leads, 58-49-6.
- **School Facts:** Location – Ann Arbor, Mich.; Enrollment – 43,625; Nickname – Wolverines; Colors – Maize & Blue; Conference – Big Ten (East Division); Stadium – Michigan Stadium (Surface, FieldTurf; Capacity, 107,601).

### Top Offensive Players

Rushing	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Long
Karan Higdon	209	1,106	5.3	10	67
Chris Evans	66	370	5.6	4	61
Tru Wilson	52	323	6.2	1	28

Passing	Comp.-Att.	Pct.	Yds.	TD-INT
Shea Patterson	168-255	65.9	2,177	18-4

Receiving	Rec.	Net	Avg.	TD	Long
D. Peoples-Jones	32	477	14.9	7	79
Zach Gentry	30	475	15.8	2	42
Nico Collins	29	461	15.9	4	52

### Team Offensive Stats

Points Per Game – 36.6  
Rushing Yards Per Game – 219.2  
Passing Yards Per Game – 210.5  
Total Offense Avg. Per Game – 429.6

### 2018 Schedule

Date	Opponent	Result/Time (ET)
Sept. 1	at Notre Dame	L, 24-17
Sept. 8	WESTERN MICHIGAN	W, 49-3
Sept. 15	SMU	W, 45-20
Sept. 22	NEBRASKA	W, 56-10
Sept. 29	at Northwestern	W, 20-17
Oct. 6	MARYLAND	W, 42-21
Oct. 13	WISCONSIN	W, 38-13
Oct. 20	at Michigan State	W, 21-7
Nov. 3	PENN STATE	W, 42-7
Nov. 10	at Rutgers	W, 42-7
Nov. 17	INDIANA	W, 31-20
Nov. 24	at Ohio State	Noon

### Top Defensive Players

Def. Leaders	Solo	Asst.	Tot.	TFL-Yds.	Sacks
Devin Bush	37	35	72	9.5-47	5.0-36
Tyree Kinnel	38	24	62	2.0-4	–
Chase Winovich	27	28	55	13.0-52	4.0-33
Josh Ross	14	27	41	2.5-4	–
Josh Metellus	21	19	40	3.5-15	–
Rashan Gary	17	22	39	6.5-30	3.5-24

Interceptions	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
Brandon Watson	3	127	42.3	2	62
Josh Metellus	3	104	34.7	1	73

### Team Defensive Stats

Points Per Game Allowed – 13.5  
Rushing Yards Per Game Allowed – 111.6  
Passing Yards Per Game Allowed – 123.2  
Total Offense Avg. Per Game Allowed – 234.8

dium. They took him to the hospital as well – further tests, CAT scan, etc. Those came out negative. I think we're in a good place there."

Wolverine quarterback Shea Patterson added that he made sure to let Winovich know how much he means to the Michigan program with some words of encouragement as he left the field.

"I don't know the severity of his injury, but I just told him we loved him and we're behind him no matter what happens," Patterson said of Winovich. "With his work ethic and this being his last game in the Big House, I just wanted to let him know I was there and the whole team was there for him."

The winner of the 2018 edition of The Game will take on Northwestern in the Big Ten title game in Indianapolis on Dec. 1. Should Michigan win both games, it would likely earn a bid in the College Football Playoff for the first time in school history. Should Northwestern win, it would receive an automatic bid to play in the Rose Bowl for the first time since 1995.

### Players To Watch

Unlike recent years, the Wolverines have finally found a quarterback worthy of building an offense around.

Patterson, a transfer from Ole Miss, has taken the reins of the Michigan offense and has the Wolverines scoring at a more than

respectable clip, averaging 36.6 points per game.

The transfer signal caller was granted special permission to wear No. 2 at Michigan, a number that had previously been retired in honor of 1997 Heisman winner Charles Woodson. Through 11 games, Patterson has thrown for 2,177 yards and 18 touchdowns to just four interceptions. In the win over Indiana, Patterson completed 16 passes to 11 different receivers including star receivers Donovan Peoples-Jones and Tarik Black.

Peoples-Jones, a one-time Ohio State recruiting target, has been Michigan's big-play threat in the passing game, leading the team in receptions with 32 for 477 yards and seven touchdowns in 11 games. Black, whose career has been riddled with injuries, looked poised to take off in 2017 before a severe foot injury derailed his freshman campaign. He returned in 2018 ready to lead the receiver unit before reinjuring the same foot in fall camp. After catching 11 passes for 149 yards and a touchdown in three games last season, Black has appeared in just four games in 2018, making one catch for 5 yards.

Still a run-first team, the Wolverines had their first 1,000-yard running back of the Harbaugh era this season when Karan Higdon eclipsed the mark in a 42-7 win over Rutgers on Nov. 10. After rushing for 102 yards in a win over the Hoosiers, Higdon enters The Game with 1,106 rushing yards and 10 touchdowns on 209 carries.

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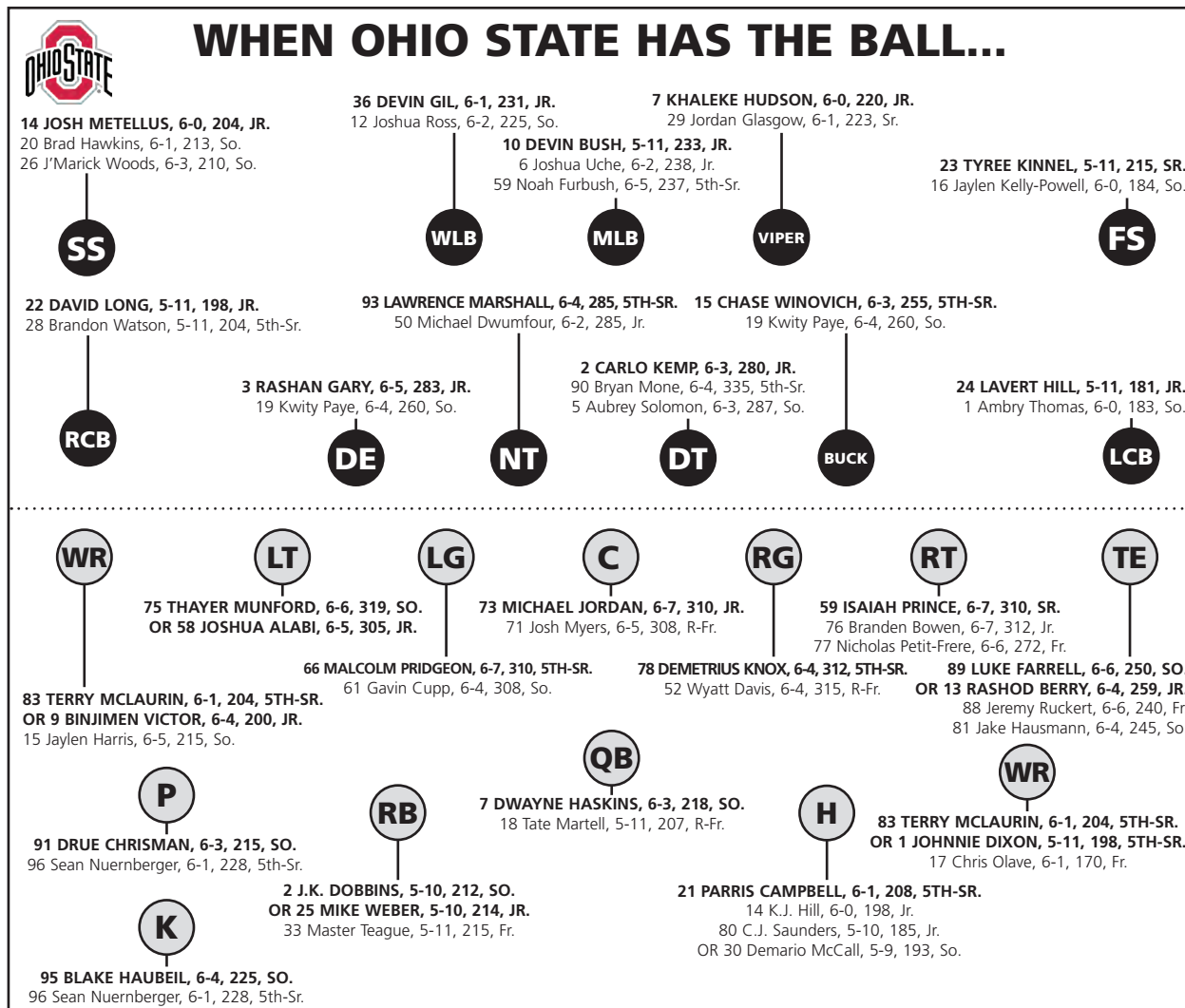


# Ohio State vs. Michigan

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## Projected Depth Charts



## How We See It

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

J.K. Dobbins had an outstanding game in the absence of an injured Mike Weber, whose status for The Game was unknown as BSB went to press. It would help to have him available to spell Dobbins against the tough Wolverines' defense. Dobbins had career highs for carries (37) and yards (203) vs. Maryland and seemed to thrive under the workload, but Michigan is a different animal and yards will be harder to come by. The shocking news from the 52-51 overtime win vs. the Terrapins was that quarterback Dwayne Haskins can run. It brings back memories of his 22-yard jaunt against Michigan in relief of Barrett last season. Haskins had a Barrett-like 15 carries and netted 59 yards and three rushing touchdowns vs. Maryland. It's not ideal to have that many runs because the quick-closing Michigan defense would like nothing better than to hammer him into the turf. The Wolverines have one of the better rush defenses in the country, but Indiana's Stevie Scott gained 139 yards in a 31-20 loss Nov. 17. **EDGE: EVEN**

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

You can't talk about the Michigan running game without first mentioning how porous the OSU rush defense is. They let Maryland redshirt freshman Anthony McFarland torch them for runs of 81, 75 and 52 yards to help him flush the Buckeyes for a robust 298 yards. Maryland had 339 rushing yards on a 7.1 average. Each week the coaches and players are trotted out in front of the media and each week they say they know there are issues and they are working on them. Right now, it's like trying to fill a gash on the Titanic. Karan Higdon is a dangerous back for Michigan, its first since 2011 to surpass 1,000 yards in a season. **EDGE: MICHIGAN**

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

Haskins has put up historic numbers and has already had success against Michigan, so he's entering the contest full of confidence. The key will be pass protection. Give him time and Haskins will be able to choose his targets. He has so many weapons that U-M will have trouble covering them all. The emergence of tight ends Luke Farrell and Rashod Berry as reliable receivers is not insignificant. Parris Campbell had a quiet game with four catches vs. Maryland but Binjimen Victor made a couple of critical grabs to go along with the steady play of Terry McLaurin (four catches, 118 yards) and Johnnie Dixon (six catches, 102 yards) in the last game. Michigan defensive end Chase Winovich sustained an injury vs. Indiana. If he can't play it would be a big blow for the Wolverines' pass rush. **EDGE: OHIO STATE**

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

Shea Patterson is efficient with 18 touchdowns to four interceptions for the Wolverines, and he can run. OSU's defensive woes don't end with the run defense. Between pass-interference calls, bad reads and poor angles, the coverage has been suspect all season, and playing against Maryland backup QB Tyrrell Pigrome did not assuage those fears. Remember that 60-yard pass late in the game? The secondary has a been a disappointment all season, but the good thing is a sterling effort in a win against U-M would ease some of the criticism. **EDGE: MICHIGAN**

### SPECIAL TEAMS

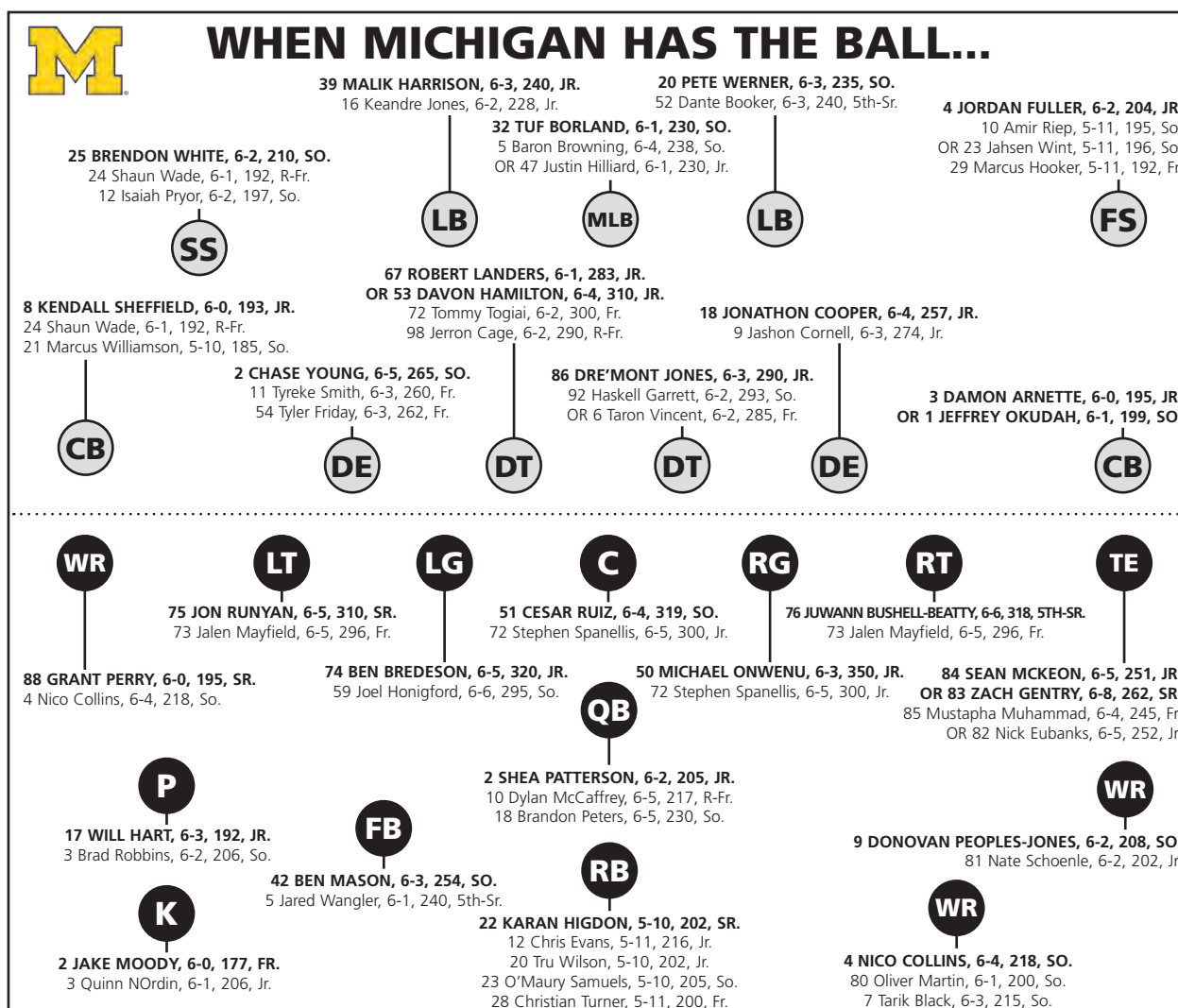
The Buckeyes let a kickoff fall at their 21 to be recovered by Maryland and allowed 102 yards on six kickoff returns (17.0) average. The Buckeyes got the return they needed when Demario McCall had a 42-yarder to set up the tying score in the final minute. Michigan's Donovan Peoples-Jones has a long of 60 and one TD on punt returns. Jake Moody, no relation to BSB editor Tim Moody, set a U-M record with six field goals vs. Indiana. If the game comes down to field position, no one is better than OSU's Drue Chrisman. The Buckeyes were fooled on a fake punt against Maryland, just as Purdue pulled off a fake field goal to perfection. You think U-M coach Jim Harbaugh would try something? Nah. **EDGE: EVEN**

### INTANGIBLES

This is Michigan's best chance to beat the Buckeyes in years. For those who have watched Ohio State all season, it's been an incredibly frustrating time seeing so much talent bumble and stumble against teams that in the past used to be easy prey. There's something that's not right with this group, yet here it is the last game of the regular season and the Buckeyes still have lot to play for, maybe even a berth in the College Football Playoff. But let's be honest, if Michigan can play well for 60 minutes – something OSU so far this season has been incapable of doing – this will be a blowout for the Wolverines. If Harbaugh guarantees a victory in Columbus again, no one would bat an eye. **EDGE: MICHIGAN**

### PREDICTION

All that being said, if home field is actually worth a few points, that is the reason the Buckeyes will win this one. **OHIO STATE 37, MICHIGAN 35**





# LB's Decorated Career Vs. U-M Had Sudden Start

By **TIM MOODY**  
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

By the time his collegiate career was over, James Laurinaitis had picked up nearly every accolade a linebacker could imagine. That included a 4-0 mark against Michigan while playing for Jim Tressel's Buckeyes, and he played a key role in each game.

The thing is, as a freshman in 2005, Laurinaitis wasn't supposed to be a major player.

Heading into the game, No. 9 Ohio State was 8-2 overall and 6-1 in the Big Ten, while No. 17 Michigan was 7-3 (5-2). The Buckeyes' starting linebackers were the star trio of A.J. Hawk, Anthony Schlegel and Bobby Carpenter. Laurinaitis, who had arrived that year as a little-known three-star recruit from Wayzata, Minn., was a contributor on special teams and that was about it.

That dynamic changed quickly on Nov. 19, 2005, in Ann Arbor, Mich.

On Ohio State's first defensive play of the game, Carpenter broke his leg while being blocked by Wolverine lineman Jake Long (more on him later). Linebackers coach Luke Fickell called for Laurinaitis, and he was thrust onto the Michigan Stadium field for the first significant action of his career.

"It was crazy," Laurinaitis told BSB. "It happened so quick that I didn't really have time to even worry about anything. You just kind of get thrown in there, and I remember Luke yelling my name. It was like, 'Why are you calling for me?'"

"Seeing Bob hurt, to be honest, my thought was just, 'Don't screw it up. Do your job.'"

Focusing on the mental aspect of the game – Laurinaitis said Fickell would forgive physical mistakes more than mental errors – the freshman finished with one tackle as Ohio State outscored Michigan, 13-3, in the final period to post the 25-21 victory. After a Santonio Holmes touchdown catch, Troy Smith hit Anthony Gonzalez for a 26-yard gain to the Michigan 4 on one of the most iconic plays in the history of The Game. Then Antonio Pittman put the Buckeyes



JOSH WINSLOW

**PERFECT RECORD** – Linebacker James Laurinaitis (33), a three-time All-American, finished his Ohio State career with a perfect 4-0 record against Michigan.

ahead for good with a 3-yard scoring run with 24 seconds left.

"It's an awesome game to be a part of," Laurinaitis said. "To see the way that we came back with Troy and Anthony Gonzalez just was remarkable. But really, all the credit goes to Luke because Luke had all of us ready."

It was a baptism by fire for Laurinaitis in the rivalry, which he had followed growing up but didn't fully understand until he arrived on campus.

As a Minnesota Golden Gopher supporter growing up, Laurinaitis even noted that he was surprised to find out that Ohio State and Michigan don't play for a trophy each year.

Minnesota plays for various rivalry trophies in the Big Ten, most notably the Little Brown Jug for its matchup with Michigan.

When it comes to The Game, though, there's no trophy. Laurinaitis found out quickly his freshman year that extra incentive wasn't necessary.

"It started way before that week," he said

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## Laurinaitis Vs. Michigan

Yr./Class	Location	Result
2005/Fr.	Ann Arbor	W, 25-21
2006/So.	Columbus	W, 42-39
2007/Jr.	Ann Arbor	W, 14-3
2008/Sr.	Columbus	W, 42-7

of the preparations for The Game his freshman year. "Every single practice you had the Maize and Blue period where you worked on – if you were on the offensive side of the ball, you worked on taking care of the football. On the defensive side of the ball you worked on trying to force turnovers.

"It was constant work, constant reminders every single day of that week. And then when that week got here, Tress would have a whole bunch of history stuff on the game. He'd have guest speakers, he would have Senior Tackle, he'd have all those things that were part of the week. We usually got to do something with the band. It was a really cool memory and (there was a lot of) importance on that game, rightfully so, because everything gets amped up, especially when Michigan is playing really well."

A year later, Laurinaitis didn't need any injuries to get him on the field. In fact, he

went on to win the Bronko Nagurski Trophy in 2006 as the nation's best defender. The Buckeyes also didn't need any extra motivation for The Game – the top-ranked Buckeyes were playing the second-ranked Wolverines with a trip to the national title game on the line in the "Game of the Century."

"That week obviously trumps them all," Laurinaitis said. "The 1 vs. 2, waking up Saturday to the fact that (legendary Michigan coach Bo Schembechler) passed away. Knowing that the emotion that was going to be played in that game, knowing the studs that were on the field in that game on both sides. And really knowing that you couldn't drop that one – that was everything. You couldn't lose the game of the century."

The ensuing contest lived up to the billing. Ohio State took a 28-14 lead going into the half, but Michigan pulled it back to 35-31 early in the fourth quarter. After Smith hit Brian Robiskie for a 13-yard touchdown, the Wolverines scored with 2:16 remaining to make it 42-39. The Buckeyes rushed three times with Pittman to run out the clock, propelling them to the national championship game.

Laurinaitis finished with nine tackles – second among all players in the game – but

noted that it was the offenses that stole the show. In the high-scoring contest, he described the feeling as "just trying to survive" as a defense, staying motivated with the knowledge that one stop could be the difference.

"A lot of people were expecting a defensive battle, and the offenses just had their way," he said. "The turf was bad, I remember that. Neither defense played well. But at the end of the day I was just happy that we had Troy Smith on our team because I felt like whenever you had Troy, no matter what the scenario, you had a chance to win the game. Troy definitely bailed us out that game."

The following year, the rivalry got its defensive struggle. Ohio State traveled to Ann Arbor coming off a shocking home loss to Illinois, assuming a win would put the Buckeyes in the Rose Bowl. The 8-3 Michigan team took a 3-0 lead in the first quarter, but Ohio State running back Beanie Wells scored touchdowns in the second and third frames to make it 14-3 – the final margin.

Laurinaitis and the Ohio State defense held the Wolverines to just 91 yards of total offense, and the junior linebacker tallied six tackles and half a tackle for loss in the win. Wells stole the show on offense, racking up 222 yards on 39 carries – making up for a passing game that gained just 50 yards through the air.

It turned out to be a classic Tressel game, Laurinaitis said.

"It really felt like a total Tressel win – you're going to run the ball, it wasn't going to be too flashy," he said. "Once you got a lead, let's just kind of sit on it. Defense, special teams and running the clock out was going to be the key to success that game."

For Laurinaitis, who won the Butkus Award in 2007 as the nation's best linebacker in addition to being named the Big Ten Defensive Player of the Year for the first of two times, that 2007 contest was his last classic rivalry bout. He played Michigan again as

Continued On Page 22

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## MICHIGAN MEMORIES

# Laurinaitis Finished OSU Career 4-0 Vs. Michigan

Continued From Page 21

a senior, of course, but it wasn't the same for the three-time All-American.

In 2008, Ohio State was 9-2 (7-1) heading into the 12th game of the year. Michigan was, well, worse.

The Wolverines had a 3-8 (2-5) mark heading into Rich Rodriguez's first season in Ann Arbor. When Michigan traveled to Columbus, the expectation was that Ohio State would win in a rout. That's exactly what happened as the Buckeyes dominated from the outset and scored 28 unanswered points in the second half of a 42-7 victory.

Laurinaitis racked up 12 tackles and a sack in his final game at Ohio Stadium, but he would have preferred to face a better Michigan squad.

"My only regret about it was the fact that Michigan wasn't better," he said.

In fact, in a lot of ways Michigan wasn't the Michigan of old that week. It was a new coach running a new system, and the talent level wasn't there.

"We knew we had a chance to blow them out," Laurinaitis said. "The weird thing was that it just looked so different – it didn't look like Michigan. From everything – the uniforms, the offense they were running, it didn't look like Michigan.

"It was something that looked like an experiment, and it wasn't working at all for them and obviously set them back quite a bit. But it was just strange to see them that way, and they had lost a lot of production, too, so it was kind of a perfect storm of you make the wrong hire and lose a lot of good players, that's what's going to happen and they were never able to kind of get it going."

A quality Michigan team or not, it was a fourth win in The Game. That meant four pairs of Gold Pants and a lifetime of bragging rights for the future NFL star.

Laurinaitis was drafted by the St. Louis Rams in 2009, and he spent seven years with the team, becoming their all-time leading

tackler before playing his final season with the New Orleans Saints in 2016.

While with the Rams, Laurinaitis became close friends with Long – the man who had played a role in Laurinaitis being thrust into The Game in 2005.

"We both have daughters that were within a couple months of each other, so when they were very young we put my daughter in an Ohio State onesie and he put his in a Michigan one and as you would expect they had a full meltdown, so we have awesome pictures of them sitting by each other screaming, crying," Laurinaitis said of Long.

He added that he regularly had bets with teammates from Michigan – playful competition in a rivalry filled with intense passion and respect.

"It's always fun – usually bet a bottle of bourbon or something, or dinner, on the game," he said. "No matter what, I think that's the thing – you're so prideful in your school that when this game comes around, no matter what, anything can happen. So it doesn't matter what the spread is, who's favored, take all bets."

With his football career in the books, Laurinaitis is now a regular co-host on 97.1 The Fan in Columbus. While at Ohio State, he became one of the most decorated Buckeyes of all time, and his 4-0 mark against the Wolverines will always stand out in his mind.

"It's been a unique – look over the career and I'm just obviously thankful to be 4-0 against them," he said. "It's really when you look back and the guys that I got to play against, too, on the other team. Mike Hart, Mario Manningham, Steve Breaston and Lamarr Woodley and David Harris and Leon Hall. They had some guys, now, and it was just fun to battle with them and obviously I've got a lot of respect for the players.

"The players have always respected each other. I think that's the unique thing is that the players respect each other. It doesn't mean you like each other during those three hours, but it definitely means you respect each other."




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# Rout Of Michigan Catapulted OSU To '68 Title

By GARRETT STEPIEN  
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

When David Foley thinks back to his senior season at Ohio State in 1968, he vividly remembers the heightened sense of urgency the Buckeyes took into The Game.

At 8-0, No. 2 OSU's undefeated campaign rode on its Nov. 23 finale against No. 4 Michigan. Ohio State entered the season with unknowns up and down the roster, but when the rivalry mattered most, the Buckeyes left no doubt in a 50-14 rout of the one-loss Wolverines.

The result sent two top-five programs in opposite directions – U-M easing out head coach Bump Elliott (1959-68) after back-to-back losses and OSU into a No. 1 ranking before taking down No. 2 Southern California, 27-16, in the Rose Bowl for the national title.

"I would think that probably anybody on that 1968 team would probably tell you that that particular game was maybe – maybe, they would say – one of the greatest days of their lives," Foley told BSB. "The whole experience was beyond real. Beating Michigan that day, that was first. But the fact that we iced the right to go to the Rose Bowl and everything else that came from it – it was just a magical moment. There was no other way to describe the feeling in that day."

The exclamation point on Foley's career in Columbus was what he had dreamed of four years prior on his recruiting visit. As a senior from Cincinnati, Foley experienced The Game in 1964, and despite Ohio State's

10-0 loss while Foley was also being recruited by Michigan, that day at the Horseshoe took his interest in the Buckeyes to another level.

"It was about zero degrees," he said. "There were ice crystals in the air. When people would breathe, there would actually be ice crystals floating around in the stadium. It was a completely clear day, but it was the coldest I had ever felt just being outside."

"The kick was at the end of the game, it was so cold, we were in C deck, and it was so cold that some of these older folks could hardly stand. They needed help standing up because they had sat there, they had blankets around them, they weren't going to miss a play and I got up after the game and said, 'Man, Dad, these people, they're pretty serious football fans up here.'"

Like every freshman, Foley sat back and watched in 1965 as the sophomores, juniors and seniors played. But when Michigan week rolled around, he and his fellow first-year players had an eye-opening experience under head coach Woody Hayes in the days of practice leading up to kickoff.

"When our group was full of freshmen, we couldn't play, so we were kind of getting beaten up every day in practice," Foley said. "You make it through the whole season, you get to the end of the season and you hear about the rivalry and you're told about the rivalry and all of a sudden you go out that week and it's a special deal. Everything

speeds up. Everything is faster, everybody's hitting harder. The coaches don't really have to do too much coaching. It's like it's almost like a game condition every day – every day – during that week. Everybody is so charged up and ready to play. It would be neat if you could keep that same enthusiasm every day in practice, but I'll tell you what – it was remarkable."

OSU took care of business in Foley's freshman year, going to Ann Arbor, Mich., on Nov. 20 and pulling out a 9-7 win over the Wolverines. Foley's first taste of game experience against U-M came as a sophomore on Nov. 19, 1966, but resulted in Ohio State's 17-3 loss at Ohio Stadium.



David Foley

The next year, Foley's junior campaign in 1967, the Buckeyes bounced back with a 24-14 win at Michigan Stadium to cap a four-game winning streak and end the season at 6-3. Despite the unknowns around OSU's sophomore-laden squad in 1968, The Game catapulted the team into its unbeaten start as its winning streak from the previous year grew to 12 straight.

"Everybody thought we were going to be a good team because the prior year, we ended the year beating Michigan and we had a lot of pretty good wins the prior year – we were 6-3 – but nobody knew what the influx of the sophomore class was going to be," Foley said. "It brought so much of a new dimension to Ohio State football that we just didn't have prior to that. All of a sudden, we can do things we could never do before. So it was a remarkable time. I'll tell you, I was just very fortunate being an offensive tackle being there at that time in those couple of years."

"At the start of my career, we were 4-5 and that was my sophomore year. They had actually started playing chants in the stadium saying, 'Goodbye, Woody,' playing and dragging the sign (by airplane). Could you imagine that? It's true. And at the end, we're national champions and we could walk on water."

Before the Buckeyes rolled Michigan in 1968, Foley and OSU's captains emerged from the shadows of the Horseshoe's south end zone and met the Wolverines at mid-field for the coin toss. When he took in his surroundings, Foley's experience in the rivalry – from recruit to captain – came full circle.

"We're walking toward the center of the field, and the roar before both of the teams even came out was so great," Foley said. "I looked at my fellow captains and said, 'Have you ever seen anything like this or heard anything like this?' And these guys just shook their heads. It was crazy. It's like they were about ready to turn the lions on the Christians or something."

"We get to the middle of the field and, honest to God, I look across the field at those other captains and they looked intimidated by our crowd. The roar was so great with the enthusiasm that day that it's something that I won't ever, ever, ever experience again. In all of the games I've been to and all of the football I've ever played, it was just remarkable to see the fan experience in that particular game."

Ohio State's 14-14 tie midway through the second period with U-M turned into a 36-point blowout. The Buckeyes scored the final TD of the first half and six points in the third quarter before ripping off 23 more in the fourth quarter, embarrassing the Wolverines while everything clicked on an unforgettable day at Ohio Stadium.

"Being on a team that's that good, to be able to be national championship-caliber and being able to win the big game when it comes up, a lot of people get chances and you step up to the plate and you did the best you can," Foley said. "But when it all works out together, it really is remarkable because everything has to be right. So in that game, we had the right personnel, we had the right game plan and everything went right. I mean, in the first half, it was a hell of a game. Then we come out and we score almost every time we have the ball in the second half. It was remarkable, it really was."

After he rode off into the sunset with a win in The Game, followed by the Rose Bowl

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## MICHIGAN MEMORIES

### Foley Vs. Michigan

Yr./Class	Location	Result
1966/So.	Columbus	L, 17-3
1967/Jr.	Ann Arbor	W, 24-14
1968/Sr.	Columbus	W, 50-14

and national title, the New York Jets selected Foley with the 26th overall pick in the 1969 NFL draft. The Game rolled around that year on Nov. 22, and he watched from afar as U-M upended OSU in Michigan head coach Bo Schembechler's first year for a 24-12 final at the Big House, snapping Ohio State's 22-game winning streak and spoiling its 8-0 start to the season.

"It broke my heart," Foley said. "I knew how good our guys were. They just couldn't do it."

Foley's professional career spanned from 1969-77 with his final five seasons spent in Buffalo, where he ended up having Michigan men as teammates along the Bills' offensive line in guard Reggie McKenzie and tight end Paul Seymour. All year, they were business as usual blocking for running back O.J. Simpson – all up until their former teams squared off in The Game.

"I played six years for the Buffalo Bills, and I played between Reggie McKenzie, who was all-Big Ten as a guard for Michigan, and Paul Seymour, who was a tackle at Michigan

before they made him into a tight end for the pros," Foley said. "It was really a neat experience being right between these two Michigan guys, kind of blocking for each other and being buddies for the whole season – except for that one day during the season. Then we really didn't like each other."

Foley has been a Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company (MassMutual) agent at Skylight Financial Group in Springfield, Ohio, specializing in the qualified plan market since his days on the gridiron ended. In addition, he has been part owner of Foley Benefits Group, LLC, a firm specializing in retirement plan administration and group insurance benefit plans.

Within his day-to-day life, The Game – especially the latest edition, a top-10 matchup between the Buckeyes and the Wolverines with the Big Ten East Division on the line – stands out above the rest.

"You could never have that same experience," Foley said. "I think that's the neatest part about that particular game – and not just that game (in 1968), but that year and every year – is that it forms a memory for a lifetime for every Ohio State football player and every Michigan player, no doubt. We've been fortunate in the last 10 years to have a lot more positive memories than those guys. I think that's wonderful, and I hope we can continue."

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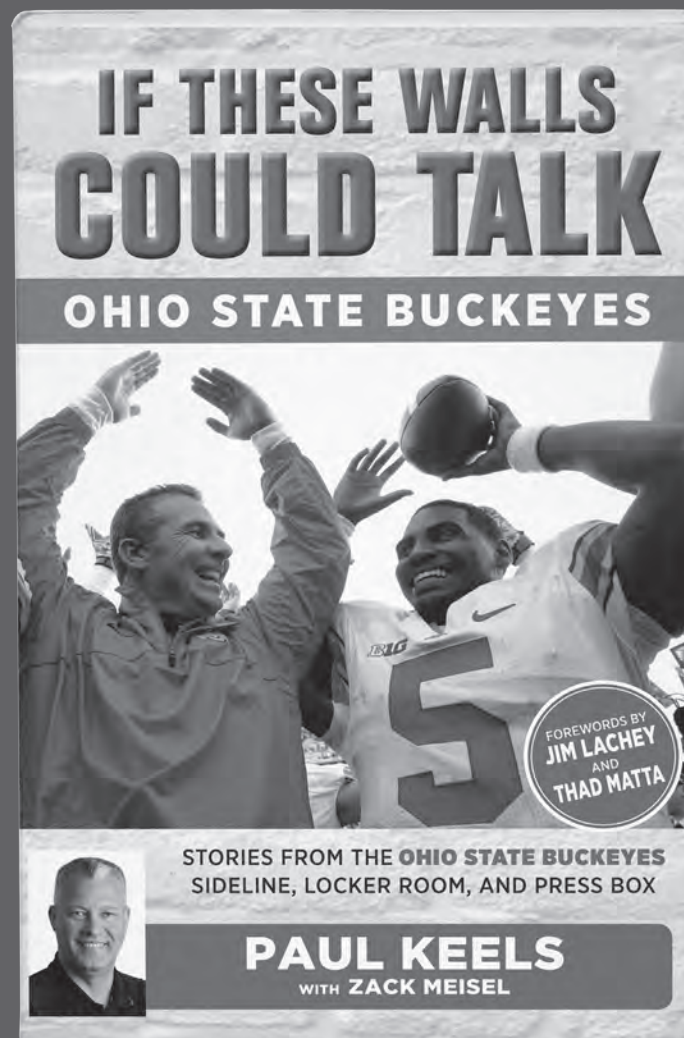
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# Mason Quickly Learned Significance Of 'The Game'

By CRAIG MERZ  
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

Glen Mason has a unique perspective on The Game having played for Ohio State in addition to being an assistant coach for the Buckeyes in the storied rivalry with Michigan.

Even now in his work for the Big Ten Network, he offers his analysis of the Border War that divides families and makes one side of the fandom miserable for a year while the other gloats.

While Mason is as well-versed in the history as anyone, it took a crash course 50 years ago to indoctrinate him to the meaning of playing That Team Up North.

"Remember, I'm from (Colonia) New Jersey," he said in a recent phone interview with BSB. "New Jersey back then was all about pro football. The exposure to college football wasn't what it is now with games on every week.

"When I arrived at Ohio State in 1968 as a freshman, I truly didn't understand the rivalry between Ohio State and Michigan, but I was soon taught each and every day."

He couldn't have come to Columbus at a better time. The 1968 team led by the "Super Sophomores" stormed the schedule, including stunning top-ranked Purdue 13-0, to an 8-0 record going into the season finale at Ohio Stadium.

With the Big Ten crown and national title aspirations on the line, the No. 2 Buckeyes embarrassed the Wolverines 50-14 to earn a trip to the Rose Bowl against Southern California and star running back O.J. Simpson.

"I probably didn't fully realize the full extent (of the rivalry) until the game in 1968 in Ohio Stadium, the build-up the entire week and not just by the coaches or the players, but really the entire student body, the entire town of Columbus," Mason said. "That experience took college football to a whole new level in my estimation."

OSU, of course, defeated USC 27-16 on New Year's Day 1969 to be crowned champions.

Michigan got revenge the next season under first-year coach and Woody Hayes protégé Bo Schembechler. That 24-12 victory for the Wolverines over the No. 1 Buckeyes – 17-point favorites – is considered one of the great upsets in college football history.

Mason, who was a linebacker, said the seeds for that upset were sown long before the game in Ann Arbor.

At the time, the Big Ten did now allow a team to go to the Rose Bowl in consecutive years so an incentive for the Buckeyes was gone. Worse, there were no alternative bowls they were permitted to play so the

team knew the Michigan game was the last of the season.

"We went through that season, I'm not going to say easily," Mason said. "We flew through the season unscathed.

"We get to the final game of the year at Ann Arbor. No Rose Bowl at stake and the assumption was, I think, by everybody was that we win that game and win the national championship, then be home eating Thanksgiving turkey while everyone else was worrying about other games."

It didn't happen. Goodbye, 22-game winning streak. Goodbye, national title.

Hello "Ten Year War."

"The thing I really learned that day is that college football is the greatest team sport that's ever been invented," Mason said. "On any given day if you take a group of guys that are less talented but play better together as a team, they always beat a team that's more talented."

"There's no doubt Michigan was an inferior team talent-wise, but they played as a team that day and quite honestly Ohio State didn't play very well and the rest is history."

Hayes became obsessed with avenging that loss, beginning the moment he walked out of Michigan Stadium for the long bus ride home.

The Buckeyes went undefeated again leading to the Michigan game, which was really a testament to the focus of the players

to take care of the task at hand because everything, everything was geared toward The Game.

"That was a year process," Mason said. "You can imagine Coach Hayes. Every day we heard, 'Michigan, Michigan, Michigan.'"

"I remember a rug with the score 24-12 in the facility. You had to walk over it every day when you went out to practice. When we went through that season it was almost like, 'Thank God, it's here.' It's like a little kid waiting for Christmas. Everybody was at a fever pitch."

OSU won 20-9.

"That day we played like Michigan played the year before," Mason said. "I won't say they weren't ready to play, Michigan I'm talking about, but it was a superior talented team playing possessed."

However, the Buckeyes saw another national title evaporate when quarterback Jim Plunkett led Stanford to a 27-17 upset in the Rose Bowl.

Mason had overcome a knee injury to be in position to start as senior in 1971 but broke his ankle a week before the opener and found himself behind standout linebacker Randy Gradishar on the depth chart when he got healthy.

The Buckeyes lost 10-7 at Michigan in a game more famous for Hayes ripping up a down marker after U-M's Thom Darden went over the back of receiver Dick Wakefield to make an interception at the Michigan 32-yard line to seal the outcome.

"It was a bad call on pass interference that cost us the game," Mason said. "I remember



Glen Mason



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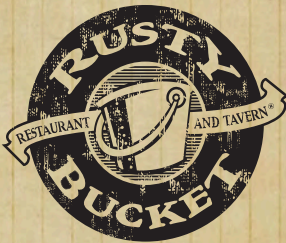

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## MICHIGAN MEMORIES

### Mason Vs. Michigan

Yr./Class	Location	Result
1969/So.	Ann Arbor	L, 24-12
1970/Jr.	Columbus	W, 20-9
1971/Sr.	Ann Arbor	L, 10-7

venturing into the football office the following Monday or Tuesday and Coach Hayes saw me and said, 'Hey, you want to be a football coach? Follow me. I want to show you something.'

"We sat down and watched that play over and over and over, and over and over and over again. 'That was pass interference,' he kept saying."

After graduating from Ohio State in 1972, Mason took assistant coaching jobs at Ball State, Allegheny College, Iowa State (for head coach Earle Bruce) and Illinois before joining Hayes' staff in 1978 as the outside linebackers coach.

Having returned to Ohio State following his coaching stints elsewhere, Mason had a different view of the rivalry with Michigan.

"It became not only between Ohio State and Michigan," he said. "It became a Woody and Bo thing because of their relationship and connection and what happened in the '69 game."

"It was as much Woody vs. Bo as it was Ohio State vs. Michigan."

The Buckeyes in 1978 lost 14-3 at home to Michigan. Little did anyone know that would be the end of the decade-long battle with Schembechler. Hayes would be fired five weeks later after punching Clemson player Charlie Bauman during the 17-15 loss in the Gator Bowl.

With his future in doubt, Mason was ready to accept an assistant's position with Tennessee when Ohio State hired his former boss, Bruce.

Mason was the Buckeyes' offensive line coach in 1979 when Bruce took them so painfully close to winning a national championship.

Ohio State entered The Game 10-0 and ranked second. No. 13 Michigan was 8-2 but led 15-12 in the fourth quarter before Jim Laughlin blocked a punt and Todd Bell scooped it and scored from 18 yards for the final points in a 18-15 win for the Buckeyes.

"The most strategic thing we did is we used the same punt block all year long but against Michigan we switched sides," Mason said. "They thought we'd come from one side, we came from the other and we blocked a punt for touchdown."

Unfortunately for the Buckeyes, a 17-16 loss to USC in the Rose Bowl denied them the title.

Mason believes there's some truth to the theory that for years the magnitude of The Game trumped all others, including bowl games.

"When you talk about that you bring up Ohio State, but you look at Bo's illustrious career," Mason said. "His bowl record was absolutely terrible (5-12)."

"Back in those days even though you were going to the Rose Bowl, everything was anticlimactic after the Ohio State-Michigan game. We won the game and kind of felt the season was over."

"There was so much pressure put into that. You looked forward to it. When it was over, if you won it was 'Thank God.' If you lost, you looked forward to next year."

"I know there's something to having to travel (to the Rose Bowl), UCLA, USC having home-field advantage, the weather, and all that but there is something to that anticlimactic feeling."

Mason was elevated to offensive coordinator in 1980 and stayed with Bruce until becoming head coach at Kent State after the 1985 season. He also coached at Kansas and Minnesota.

From a distance he's seen the tenor of The Game change, and he attributes that to the rivalry being one-sided for years.

"As of late, it's been dominated by one school or the other. For a long time when Lloyd Carr was at Michigan and Coach (John) Cooper at Ohio State, Michigan was in control," Mason said. "Then Jim Tressel came in and he controlled it the other way. Now Urban (Meyer) has controlled it."

"Most of the rivalries it gets down to it's about a 50-50 proposition and it always comes down to one team making more mistakes than the others. Maybe it's changed because it's been dominated by one school or the other. If it goes back to where it's a dogfight every year, it will be even more intense."

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The screenshot shows the Buckeye Sports Bulletin website. The header includes the logo and navigation links: ABOUT, FOOTBALL, FORUM, BSB ONLINE, CONTACT US, and a LOG OUT button. The main content area features a large image of Greg Schiano with the headline "2 BUCKEYES EARN STARTING SPOTS - FOR NOW". Below this is a "READ MORE" button. To the right, there are two smaller article teasers. The first is titled "VIDEOS: HEAR FROM DC GREG SCHIANO, DE CHASE YOUNG AFTER OHIO STATE SPRING GAME" with a "READ MORE" link. The second is titled "MEYER: NO QB DECISION YET; MEETING WITH COACHES NEXT WEEK" with a "READ MORE" link.

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# Doss Helped Turn Rivalry Tide In OSU's Favor

By JOE DEMPSEY  
Special To Buckeye Sports Bulletin

"I can assure you that you will be proud of our young people, in the classroom, in the community, and most especially in 310 days in Ann Arbor, Michigan, on the football field."

That was the statement made by former Ohio State head coach Jim Tressel in his introductory speech at halftime of a basketball game against Michigan in January of 2001. It was that very statement that

represented the beginning of Ohio State turning the tide on the rivalry between the Buckeyes and the Wolverines in the mind of former Scarlet and Gray standout safety Michael Doss.

"What the reality is, if you don't speak it into existence it will never happen," Doss told BSB. "And what Tressel did, he put it out there, he put himself out there, he put our program out there. He put Ohio State back on the map with that statement."

"He had the balls and the guts to make that statement that, 'Hey, you will be proud of our team in 310 days,' and he changed

the culture. He changed the culture of what that game meant. He changed the culture of what the reality of Ohio State football has ultimately become. Coach Tressel definitely brought a different mind-set, a different focus."

Growing up in Canton, Ohio, Doss was a fan of Ohio State who had personal experience with big-time rivalries. Doss played at Canton McKinley High School and represented the Bulldogs on the field against Massillon Washington High School in one of the biggest high school rivalries in the country. Doss played in front of more than

## Doss Vs. Michigan

Yr./Class	Location	Result
1999/Fr.	Ann Arbor	L, 24-17
2000/So.	Columbus	L, 38-26
2001/Jr.	Ann Arbor	W, 26-20
2002/Sr.	Columbus	W, 14-9

20,000 fans against the Tigers in a rivalry that began in 1894.

The Buckeyes were lucky Doss grew up an Ohio State fan because the Wolverines also recruited the McKinley standout, who ran for 1,454 yards and 22 touchdowns while recording 111 tackles and three interceptions in an all-state senior season. Doss said he had recognized the importance of Ohio State locking up the best players in Ohio because of the success he had seen from Charles Woodson and other Ohio-born Wolverine standouts.

Doss would get his first chance to face Michigan as a true freshman and a starter in 1999.

"Imagine being a freshman and being told that you're going to start in that game," Doss said. "You want to be the player on the field that makes a play, you want to be a contributor. You want to make a signature play in an Ohio State-Michigan game. You could be the GOAT (greatest of all time) or the duck getting taken advantage of, but I was excited. Leading into that game I had prepared, our team had prepared, but we just came up a little bit short."

The former McKinley star made an impact in his first experience in The Game, hitting Wolverine quarterback Tom Brady and forcing a fumble. Doss' big play was just a glimpse into the impact that the game-changing safety could have on a game, even though the Buckeyes fell to No. 10 Michigan 24-17.

As a sophomore in 2000, Doss did his

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## MICHIGAN MEMORIES



JOSH WINSLOW

**TURNING THE TIDE** – Safety Michael Doss helped head coach Jim Tressel's Ohio State teams beat Michigan in 2001 and 2002.

part against No. 19 Michigan, recording 16 tackles (11 solo), including two tackles for loss, but Ohio State lost 38-26. The loss marked the final rivalry game for head coach John Cooper, who was 2-10-1 against the Wolverines. Enter Tressel.

"When Coach Tressel actually came in that winter going into spring practice, we actually watched the previous Michigan game every Saturday of spring practice that first year," Doss recalled. "I was able to learn about The Game, learn more about the rivalry, what it meant to us and then actually evaluate certain plays and certain situations within The Game of how you could win The Game and how you could actually lose The Game."

Tressel's emphasis on beating Michigan did not stop there. Doss said the Buckeyes dedicated a portion of every practice toward preparing specifically for Michigan. Tressel's obsession did not stop there either.

"He had all these schools, all these kids, draw art posters with 'Beat Michigan' on them," Doss said of Tressel. "We came to our facility Sunday for our Sunday-afternoon

meeting going into that week of That Team Up North, and all our walls would be draped in posters from little kids, like 'Beat That Team Up North,' 'Let's Go Bucks.'

"All our hallways, our weight room, everything, was just decorated, showing that the rivalry is important. And it's not just about us as individuals, but it's about the team, it's about our community, it's about our program, it's about our state and that's how he represented it."

The Buckeyes backed up Tressel's speech with a 26-20 win against the No. 11 Wolverines in Doss' junior season with the safety rising to the occasion with two crucial interceptions. After Ohio State went three-and-out to open the game, Doss picked off a John Navarre pass at the Michigan 39-yard line and returned it 35 yards to the 4, setting up a Jonathan Wells touchdown to put the Buckeyes up 7-0.

Doss' second interception came with the Buckeyes leading 23-13 in the fourth quarter. Doss snatched another Navarre pass out of the air at the Michigan 45 and

**Continued On Page 30**

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# Doss Will Never Forget 2002 Victory Over U-M

Continued From Page 29

returned it 36 yards to the 9, setting up a Mike Nugent field goal and clinching the victory.

"I always tell kids, 'Big-time players make big plays in big games, and those are your difference makers, your special players, your go-to guys. They always make plays when they're needed the most,'" Doss said. "And being a part of that Michigan game, that rivalry, I always felt that I would rise to the occasion to help my team win."

Doss said that although the 2001 team finished 7-5 in Tressel's first season as the head coach, that win at Ann Arbor catapulted the Buckeyes' momentum into the 2002 season. Already an All-American as a sophomore and junior, Doss could have left early for the NFL draft, but he had a championship on his mind.

An undefeated Ohio State team entered Michigan week as the No. 2 team in the country in Doss' senior campaign, but its championship hopes were on the line against the No. 11 Wolverines.

"My mom was there, my dad was there, my family was there in the tunnel of pride," Doss recalled. "Everything riding on that opportunity to go out to Tempe, Ariz. That was huge. It was a great atmosphere."

"That was something I'll never forget hearing, was the roar of the stadium. It still gives me chills when I close my eyes and take myself back to that moment of Senior

Day and realizing, running down that tunnel, that this was my last go."

Doss once again rose to the occasion, helping lead Ohio State to a 14-9 victory in a defensive struggle. The senior safety recorded 13 tackles (nine solo), including two tackles for loss, and one pass breakup to help guarantee the trip to the BCS national championship.

"It felt great," Doss said of beating Michigan as a senior. "It felt great because for many years That Team Up North had spoiled opportunities for us to go to the championship. They had beaten us in '96 when Ohio State was undefeated, and you watch that game and you just see us getting pummeled and destroyed."

"So to break that curse, break that reign that they had over us in those kind of situations meant a lot because we knew that us winning that game, we would get out to Arizona and we probably would win that game as well just based off the momentum that we had as a team."

Reflecting on growing up watching the Buckeyes take on the Wolverines and his time at Ohio State, Doss said his experience went even better than expected.

"Being a fan watching that, you wanted to be a difference maker, you wanted to have your shot," Doss recalled. "And I got two pairs of gold pants out of the deal, would have loved to have four, but to get two, at least split with those guys. And my senior year, win that last game in the Horseshoe as a senior to go out – you couldn't ask for a better script if you were writing a movie."

The conclusion of that season was indeed cinematic for the Buckeyes, finishing undefeated after taking down Miami (Fla.) 31-24 in double overtime to become national champions. Doss earned Big Ten Defensive Player of the Year honors and All-American honors for a third time, but more importantly, he completed his goal of winning a championship. With all his success, Doss still remained humble, acknowledging where he came from.

Growing up in a single-parent household, Doss credits his uncle, Larry Doss, for helping raise him from a young boy to a champion. The standout safety even gave Larry Doss one of his pairs of gold pants, and the other to his father.

"My uncle that raised me since I was 6 years old," Doss said. "To get that first win against That Team Up North just meant a lot. That he blessed me with the opportunity of the game of football and taught me the game and put me into the sport, and obviously for me to go to college and play for a place like Ohio State. And have one of those signature moments for me where I look back and go, what can I give him to thank him to let him know that it was important, everything that he's done for me in my life? Those gold pants were part of it."

Doss went on to have a successful NFL career, highlighted by a Super Bowl XLI victory with the Indianapolis Colts, but has had a bigger impact in his community. In 2005, Doss founded The Michael A. Doss Foundation to assist in the advancement of

education, relief of the underprivileged and underserved youth and the promotion of social welfare by lessening neighborhood tensions, eliminating prejudice and discrimination, and combating community deterioration and juvenile delinquency.

Doss puts on the Make A Difference Youth Football Camp at Fawcett Stadium for approximately 200 children annually. He also is responsible for the Back to School Block Party for Canton City Schools students and provides local children with gifts during the holiday season. By partnering with local companies and organizations, Doss' organization has distributed goods with a total value of at least \$20,000 and counting.

Doss and his wife have also raised his younger brother, A.J. Kirk, since Kirk's mother passed away 10 years ago due to breast cancer. Kirk is a sophomore at nearby Dublin Coffman High School, and Doss likened his relationship with A.J. to his own with his uncle when he was growing up.

Kirk must be listening to his older brother/father figure because he is currently the No. 2 player in Ohio and No. 2 safety in the country for the 2021 class. Kirk has already picked up offers from Kentucky, Cincinnati, Boston College and Michigan. Doss is hopeful Ohio State will extend A.J. an offer soon because there won't be any maize and blue allowed in his house.

"I let him know even though he got that offer from That Team Up North, he can't wear anything in my house that has that on it."



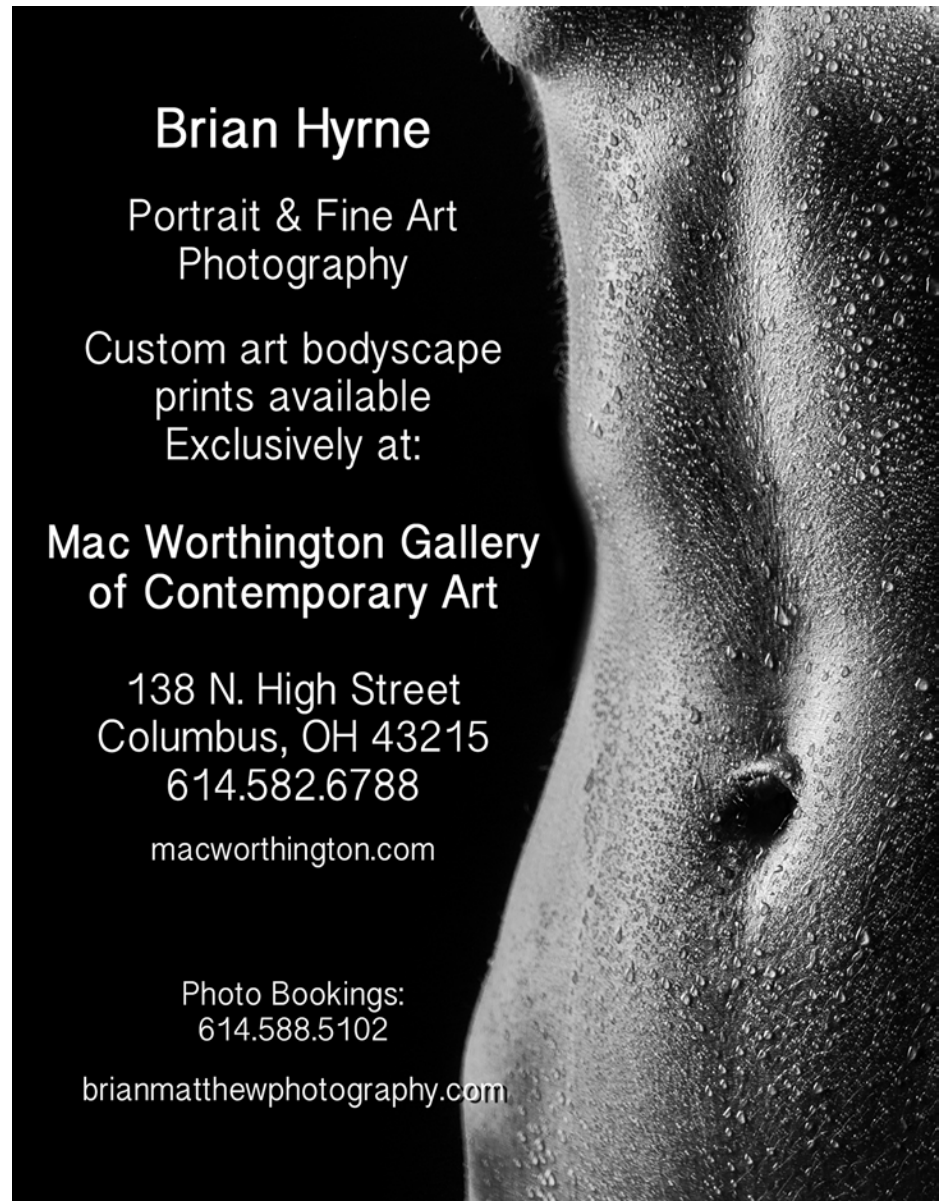
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# Grant's Final Win Over U-M Propelled OSU To Title

By JAMES GREGA  
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

When Cie Grant came to Ohio State in 1998, The Game had a different complexion than it does today. Heck, Grant was even known by a different first name.

A redshirt freshman in 1998, Grant was still listed by his given name, Willie, on the Ohio State roster after arriving in Columbus by way of New Philadelphia, Ohio, where Woody Hayes had once patrolled the sidelines.

Being recruited to play at Ohio State was a dream come true for Grant, who was pursued by defensive coordinator Fred Pagac and, of course, head coach John Cooper. However, Grant was well aware of Ohio State's lack of success against Michigan. Part of the pitch to be a Buckeye was to help reverse that trend.

"It was definitely a big deal," Grant said of being recruited to play for the Buckeyes. "(But) those numbers kept coming out. Ohio State would have success throughout the regular season, but there was always that sense of 'hold your breath' when it came to The Game. Being recruited throughout this time, I wanted to be a part of The Game and I wanted to be a part of changing that."

An Ohio native from the town where Hayes had spent his early coaching years, Grant said he was aware of the rivalry, and its intensity, at an early age.

"Being from New Philadelphia, you learned about The Game," he said. "I learned

about it prior to getting on campus at Ohio State. When you're a young kid and you hear about The Game – I remember having The Game parties. High school friends and teammates would gather around to watch The Game."

Entering the 1998 season, Ohio State was on the wrong end of a three-game losing streak to the Wolverines and had lost eight of the last 10 (the two teams tied in 1992). Despite losing a heartbreaker to Michigan State earlier in the year, the Buckeyes rallied the troops in 1998 and defeated Michigan 31-16, the second and final win over the Wolverines in the Cooper era.

Although he didn't play that season, Grant said he felt that he made a significant contribution to that game while playing on the scout team.

"I didn't have a whole lot to do with the game," said Grant, who was a cornerback at the time. "Our preparation as a redshirt throughout the week was just giving our guys a good look. I held my shoulders up like, 'One day, I am going to get an opportunity to get my hands dirty in this rivalry.'"

His first experience, a rare victory in the 1990s, was special for him to witness because it sent out seniors, who had primarily been dealt losses by Michigan, with a win.

"I think about that senior class and guys like Antoine Winfield and Damon Moore. It was breathtaking seeing the tunnel of pride," Grant said. "To run through there and see faces like Archie Griffin, Eddie George, Kirk Herbstreit just to name a few – I knew at that point that (The Game) was something spe-

cial. It almost moved me to tears watching it all unfold."

The next year was filled with disappointment after disappointment, and Ohio State missed out on a bowl game in 1999, a season that was capped by a 24-17 loss to Tom Brady and Michigan in Ann Arbor. Grant played special teams in that game but did not record a stat. In fact, he tallied just six total tackles that year as a reserve defensive back.

A year later, Ohio State found much more success and entered The Game ranked No. 12. The Wolverines, ranked No. 19, once again spoiled a Senior Day in Ohio Stadium, though, defeating the Buckeyes 38-26.

Grant tallied just one tackle in the loss, playing behind the likes of Nate Clements and David Mitchell at corner.

Grant described the attitude going into The Game under Cooper as timid, with the Buckeyes often playing with a reserved attitude.

"As that game drew closer under Coach Cooper, it seemed like we got uptight," Grant said. "Hindsight is 20-20, but I felt at the time that instead of embracing The Game, it was like we felt that pressure and never felt like we embraced it."

After losing the 2001 Outback Bowl to South Carolina, Cooper was fired and a successful coach from Youngstown State was hired to lead the Buckeyes.

Jim Tressel, a northeast Ohio native and son of a coach, had won four national championships with the Penguins at the NCAA

## Grant Vs. Michigan

Yr./Class	Location	Result
1998/Fr.	Columbus	W, 31-16
1999/R-Fr.	Ann Arbor	L, 24-17
2000/So.	Columbus	L, 38-26
2001/Jr.	Ann Arbor	W, 26-20
2002/Sr.	Columbus	W, 14-9

Div. I-AA (now FCS) level and immediately made an impact on his first Ohio State team.

In a moment now famous in the rivalry's storied history, Tressel gave his impassioned "310 days" speech in front of a packed crowd at the Schottenstein Center. That moment still stands out as a turning point for Grant, who said he was taken aback but also impressed with Tressel's statement concerning The Game.

"He's an Ohio guy and he knows exactly what (The Game) means," Grant said. "Instead of shying away from the pressure, he embraced it before we embraced it. That night at the basketball game – when you have a guy who is from Ohio, and before you can even get to know the guy, he goes out there and puts his neck out there and his word out there, I think that is where the change really came."

Ohio State's 2001 season wasn't anything to brag about, as the Buckeyes entered Ann Arbor, a place they had not won since Earle Bruce's final game in 1987, with a 6-4 record.

Continued On Page 40



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# Corner-Turned-Linebacker Was Key For Bucks

Continued From Page 39

Unranked and playing a No. 11 Michigan team that was in contention for a BCS bowl bid (the Rose Bowl was out of reach as it served as the national title game that season), the Buckeyes kept true to Tressel's word and pulled the upset, defeating Michigan 26-20 in the Big House. The Buckeyes took a 23-0 lead into halftime behind three touchdown runs from Johnathan Wells and a safety before holding off a furious Wolverine comeback in the fourth quarter and adding a Mike Nugent field goal.

In his first start against the Wolverines, Grant tallied four tackles and a pass breakup from his corner spot. It was a pedestrian game for Grant, but it was a breakthrough game for his 1998 classmate Wells, who rushed for 129 yards in the upset.

"I thought going into that game, 'OK, now we have to back up Coach's words. This is where it comes full circle,'" Grant said. "That was the first year I felt like we embraced the pressure. We understood when we got off the bus up there that it was us against the world. We had a strong senior class. I was a redshirt junior, but those were the guys I came in with. You wanted to get the win for those guys who put blood, sweat and tears into the program.

"It was sort of an out-of-body experience. Wells was running like a madman that day, and he was running behind one of the best fullbacks to come through Ohio State with Jamar Martin," Grant continued when remi-

niscing about the 2001 win. "We played old-school, Woody Hayes football."

The win would have made Hayes proud, as the Buckeyes attempted 50 runs to just 18 passes. Ohio State's leading receivers were tight end Darnell Sanders and Martin, each catching three passes while OSU wide receivers combined to make just three receptions.

Ohio State would go on to once again lose the Outback Bowl to South Carolina, but Grant said the win over Michigan still gave the Buckeyes confidence going into the 2002 season.

"That win there put a pep in our step, even though we came up short in the Outback Bowl," Grant explained. "It showed not only ourselves, but That Team Up North that, 'We're here.'"

The 2002 season, Grant's fifth-year senior campaign, is one that will forever be remembered by Buckeye fans everywhere.

The Buckeyes had survived five one-score games heading into the 13th contest of the year, including wins over Cincinnati, Wisconsin, Purdue and Illinois on the road and Penn State at home. Ohio State entered the 2002 edition of The Game as the No. 2 team in the country and one win away from playing for its first-ever BCS national title.

Like so many years before, questions swirled around Columbus. Would Michigan once again dash Ohio State's hopes at playing for a championship as it had throughout the 1990s?

Ohio State hadn't exactly impressed anyone in its previous two games, needing a

last-minute heave from quarterback Craig Krenzel to Michael Jenkins to beat Purdue and overtime to beat an Illinois team that finished 5-7. Yet all Ohio State needed to do was beat the Wolverines and it would head

to Tempe, Ariz., to play for a championship.

While there was plenty of skepticism on the outside, Grant said he had witnessed a change in culture within the program from 1998 to 2002 and said he and the rest of the



FILE PHOTO

**PROVIDING A BOOST** – Cie Grant converted from cornerback to linebacker as a fifth-year senior and helped Ohio State beat Michigan in 2002.

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seniors refused to let the Wolverines continue their tradition of upsets, especially in Columbus.

"I remember looking back like, I got here in 1998 and the pressure then was, can we beat Michigan? We hadn't done it and we just wanted to get over the hump," Grant said of his early years at OSU. "Now, it was like, can we beat them for a different reason? The tables had changed in that 4½, five years. We went from being the underdog to the big dog, but we hadn't been the big dog that long."

The week of practice leading up to that game was intense, especially for Grant who said he grew tired of seeing the maize and blue helmets on the scout team. Members of the scout team that year included the likes of future Ohio State stars Troy Smith and Antonio Holmes.

"When you have coaches like Mark Dantonio (who was the defensive coordinator in 2002), there's a standard," he said. "It was no-nonsense and very straightforward. There was a seriousness, but it wasn't uptightness. That whole week I remember walking into the Woody Hayes Athletic Center and seeing those ugly maize and blue colors that (the scout team) was wearing. We went all-in. I remember us older cats, we wanted to make sure that everyone understood their roles and understood this was important."

By 2002, Grant had moved from cornerback to outside linebacker, where he finished fourth on the team in tackles with 71 by year's end.

That edition of The Game featured a low-scoring affair that saw Michigan take a 9-7 lead into the fourth quarter. With less than five minutes to play, sophomore tailback Maurice Hall found the end zone on an option pitch from Krenzel, which gave Ohio State a 14-9 lead.

The Wolverines had one last chance at the end zone. Safety Will Allen stepped in front of a John Navarre pass with no time remaining in the south end of Ohio Stadium, sending Ohio State to the desert.

The Buckeyes of course, went on to win the national title in an upset win against Miami (Fla.), knocking off the defending national champion Hurricanes 31-24 in double overtime. The game ended on a play Ohio State fans likely remember Grant for the most, as he flung Miami quarterback Ken Dorsey to the ground on a fourth-down blitz, sending Dorsey's pass into the heart of the Buckeye defense. Safety Donnie Nickey knocked the ball to the ground, giving Ohio State its first undisputed crown since 1968.

That title would not have been possible had it not been for the win over Michigan in late November in Columbus, a game that will forever be looked back on with fond memories for Grant, who added he played every game not only for Ohio State, but for his hometown.

"I am playing for New Philadelphia, Ohio," Grant said. "There are not many guys from Quaker-land that get the opportunity to play for the Scarlet and Gray. Woody Hayes coached at my high school. You understand what you're getting into. I am not just playing for me or my teammates, I am playing for New Philadelphia. I have to go home. I don't want to hear about (losses) or do an interview 15-16 years later talking about what went wrong."

While two of his first three years didn't go the way he wanted, Grant finished his career at Ohio State as strong as you possibly can. As significant as the 2002 game was, he said he looks back at the 2001 game as the one that set the tone for what has transpired in the rivalry over the last decade and a half.

"If you're building a house, you have to

have a great foundation," he said. "I look at the 2001 game as putting in the foundation."

The Buckeyes have lost just twice to the Wolverines since Grant graduated from Ohio State in 2002, compiling a 13-2 record since 2003.

## Looking Ahead

Ohio State's 2018 season has been anything but perfect, and while the Buckeyes enter the newest edition of The Game with an identical 10-1 overall record, the Wolverines seem to have the momentum on their side.

Michigan has won 10 straight after dropping its season opener to Notre Dame, and Grant said he sees a script that has flipped and one that is eerily similar to the early 2000s.

"I am a straight shooter," Grant said. "The table has been turned. We have had great success against that team, but knowing the other side and knowing what that team is going through each and every year, if they care about that game as much as we do, that hurts. It has to hurt. My word for the team this year is, we better not be com-

placent. No matter what adversities we have gone through, you can either shy away from adversity or embrace it, and I have been proud of the way they have handled things that have not been in their hands."

Grant, who now resides in New Stanton, Pa., with his wife and kids, said he plans on returning to Columbus for the 2018 game with his son, who is now in seventh grade. It won't be the first time Grant's son has been in attendance for the game, and Grant has already instilled in him the importance of The Game from the Ohio State perspective.

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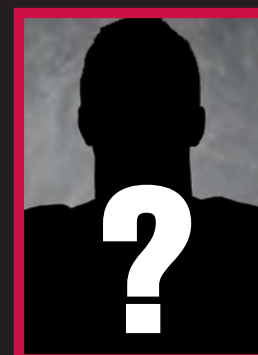
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# N.C. Native Lewis Never Lost To Wolverines

By JAMES GREGA  
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

When Tyquan Lewis was being recruited to play at Ohio State, he didn't know all that much about the rivalry between the Buckeyes and the Michigan Wolverines.

Lewis, who grew up in Tarboro, N.C., was in the heart of Tar Heel country when he committed to be a Buckeye in the fall of 2012, Urban Meyer's first year at Ohio State.

Already committed, Lewis was in attendance for Ohio State's 26-21 victory over Michigan in Columbus as fans stormed the field to celebrate the Buckeyes' undefeated 2012 season. (The NCAA had imposed a bowl ban for that year.) Lewis said that the 2012 game was his first experience in the rivalry and it only foreshadowed what was to come in his career.

"That atmosphere was crazy," Lewis said. "A totally different atmosphere. I can't even explain it. After witnessing the rivalry, you have to go play in that game."

Lewis was redshirted in 2013, his first year on campus, but was dressed on the sideline for the 2013 edition of The Game in Ann Arbor, Mich. The Buckeyes entered the Big House undefeated but needed every second to hold off a hungry Wolverine squad. Ohio State escaped with a 42-41 win after Tyvis Powell intercepted a two-point conversion attempt that would have given Michigan the lead with under a minute to go.

That game also featured an on-field fight that resulted in the ejections of three players, including Ohio State offensive lineman Marcus Hall and receiver Dontre Wilson.

Lewis didn't play that day but said he experienced firsthand what the rivalry was all about, especially while watching some of Ohio State's in-state players get extra amped up during the week.

"It was crazy. You witness all the guys who really don't like Michigan, I mean really hate Michigan," he said. "That fight broke out on the kickoff and you really see it all. Who wouldn't want to be a part of this rivalry? It is something you would really die for."



JOSH WINSLOW

**UNDEFEATED** – Defensive end Tyquan Lewis (59) was on the roster for wins over Michigan for five straight seasons, including a double-overtime victory in Columbus in 2016.

In 2014, Lewis became a rotational player on Ohio State's defensive line, collecting nine tackles, 2½ for loss, and a half sack as a redshirt freshman. In the week leading up

to the Michigan game, Lewis said he saw a noticeable difference in the way Meyer carried himself.

"Everything gets amped up," Lewis said.

"You better go a little bit harder every day in practice. He will tell you to button up your chinstrap a little tighter and get ready to go. Everything is a little more crisp, and you

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## Lewis Vs. Michigan

Yr./Class	Location	Result
2013/Fr.	Ann Arbor	W, 42-41
2014/R-Fr.	Columbus	W, 42-28
2015/So.	Ann Arbor	W, 42-13
2016/Jr.	Columbus	W, 30-27 (2OT)
2017/5th-Sr.	Ann Arbor	W, 31-20

definitely feel a little more pressure. It is all fun though, but it's also business."

The 2014 game pitted the No. 6 Buckeyes against a Michigan team that was fighting to get into a bowl game, in what ended up being Brady Hoke's final game as the Wolverines' head coach. Lewis played but did not record a stat in the 2014 game, which was a close affair for a while.

Ohio State was nursing a 28-21 lead against Michigan when redshirt freshman quarterback J.T. Barrett went down with an ankle injury, forcing Cardale Jones into action. Lewis, who was a classmate of Barrett's, said he had every bit of faith that Jones could help the Buckeyes seal the win.

"It was hard to grasp in the moment," Lewis explained. "Our quarterback just went down, and you are thinking, 'What's next?' But then we also have Cardale and everybody knew Cardale was an extreme talent so everybody just came together more as a team and everybody bonded more. And we all know what we accomplished."

The Buckeyes, of course, went on to win the 2014 national title with Lewis recording a tackle in the championship game against Oregon.

A year later, the Buckeyes steamrolled Michigan behind a punishing ground game with Ezekiel Elliott and Barrett leading the way as Ohio State came away with a 42-13 win in the Big House. Lewis got his first career start in The Game and accumulated four tackles and a half sack in the blowout win. Despite that, Lewis said it was the following year's contest that will always stand out when he reflects on his experiences in The Game.

The 2016 game had the Buckeyes and Wolverines meet as the No. 2 and No. 3 teams in the country, respectively – the highest ranked game between the two in 10 years after they met as No. 1 and No. 2 in 2006.

With the winner a virtual lock to participate in the College Football Playoff, the two teams battled to a low-scoring tie at 17 apiece after Tyler Durbin converted a 23-yard field goal with just a second left on the clock, sending the game to overtime.

The game will forever be remembered for a fourth-down spot, as Barrett kept around the left side and appeared to, just barely, pick up a first down. Had he been marked short, Ohio State would have lost the game after Michigan had converted a field goal on its possession of the second overtime period. On the next play, Curtis Samuel scooted 15 yards for the game-winning score, and fans once again stormed the field.

"That one was tough and totally different," Lewis said. "That game was amped up to the max. Whoever was in there, the best (players) were on the field."

To Lewis' point, 21 of the 44 starters in the 2016 game were drafted into the NFL, including Lewis, who was drafted in the

second round by the Indianapolis Colts this year.

Unfortunately for both teams, the 30-27 double-overtime thriller wasn't an indicator of future success. Both teams went on to lose their bowl games. Ohio State was walloped 31-0 in the College Football Playoff semis by Clemson, and Michigan fell to Florida State in the Orange Bowl.

The 2016 season overall was particularly positive for Lewis individually, as he was named the Big Ten Defensive Lineman of the Year after leading Ohio State in sacks with eight for the second straight season. Despite the loss to Clemson and the success against Michigan, Lewis decided he needed one more year in Columbus, which provided him a chance at a fifth pair of gold pants.

For the fifth time in as many tries, Lewis came away with a win against the Wolverines, this time by a score of 31-20 in Ann Arbor – his third victory in enemy territory in the rivalry.

Going out with a win over Michigan as a senior, combined with wins over Wisconsin

and USC in the Big Ten title game and Cotton Bowl, respectively, was especially gratifying for Lewis, who went out as one of the more decorated members of the 2013 class – next to Barrett, of course.

As for his five gold pants, Lewis said his mother, Tyronda Whitaker, has two pairs, he himself has two and one of his closest friends has the fifth pair.

Now playing in the NFL, Lewis said he hasn't been able to watch as much of the Buckeyes as he would like in 2018. Lewis has been in attendance or played in every Michigan game since 2012, so not being able to be in Ohio Stadium on Nov. 24 (the Colts play at home against Miami the next day) will be a drastic change for Lewis.

"It's hard separating yourself because everything about Ohio State still lives within you," he said.

Lewis, who made his first NFL start Nov. 18 in a win over Tennessee, said that while he won't be able to be in attendance on Nov. 24, he will be glued to the TV when the ball is kicked at noon.




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# Bruce: 'Real And True' Buckeyes Dislike TTUN

To note the passing of legendary coach Earle Bruce on April 20, we are reprinting his *Michigan Memories*, originally published in the Nov. 20, 1993, edition of *Buckeye Sports Bulletin*.

By JEFF RAPP  
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

Former Ohio State football coach Earle Bruce has remained true to his school. That has been evident as much this year as any during his 1979-87 tenure as head coach in Columbus, as Bruce is back in town giving daily affirmations of his OSU loyalties.

Bring up the subject of Michigan to Bruce, now an outspoken radio personality for WTVN Radio, and his Buckeye pride flaunts like a peacock's feathers.

"I've got so many memories from that game," said the former OSU student, assistant coach and Buckeye boss. "That was always a very easy week to coach. The senior tackle, beating Michigan, the gold pants, the Rose Bowl – it all tied in together. And the beauty of the game is that the records never matter."

Bruce is among those who still enjoy the old-school, head-knocking feel of the game, something he learned as a coach that was hard to overcome.

"We've tried some trick plays in the past, and they never seemed to work," he said. "The team that wants it the most always seems to win the game."

Bruce's last personal encounter with The Game concluded with a 23-20 upset win in Ann Arbor in 1987 and a truly bittersweet ride on the shoulders of his players. Sensing a lost season

and sure embarrassment in Michigan Stadium, Ohio State's brass had already turned away all bowl representatives, and it had already been announced that Bruce had been fired.

As it turned out, though, Bruce's last game as OSU head coach was perhaps his most impressive win.

"Certainly that was a day I'll never forget," he said, "but I think anytime you beat them it's special. When you win, it's a memorable time."

In nine years at the helm of the Buckeyes, Bruce earned his share of memories. His record against the school up north was 5-4 and included a 3-2 mark in Ann Arbor.

The good fortune began in his first year, 1979, as Ohio State broke a three-year touchdown drought against the Wolverines and preserved an unbeaten regular season with an 18-15 win. Todd Bell's late return of a blocked punt was the difference. Bruce said that game-winning break represents his single most memorable play of the series.

Other highlights of the Bruce era include Carlos Snow's long catch and carry for a touchdown in 1987, a diving Mike Lanese catch in 1984's Rose Bowl-clinching win, the Marcus Marek-led pounding of Michigan wideout Anthony Carter in 1982, and a 14-9 win in 1981 with its clutch game-winning drive and Art Schlichter TD run on fourth-and-9.

"We won a great, great football game up there that year when everybody in the world thought we were going to lose," Bruce said of the 1981 classic. "They were picked to be national champs that year, but we came through."



Earle Bruce

Bruce is still surprised at how much weight seems to be put on the home-field advantage in the Michigan game. To him, there is no such thing.

"It is unusual that we could go up there and do well, but I don't think the field makes much difference in that game," he said. "There is too much emotion and enthusiasm in that game to think the crowd will intimidate one team."

Ohio State was a heavy underdog in 1967, the year of Bruce's first trip ever to Ann Arbor. Before that game, he quickly learned of the genuine hatred felt by his former boss, head coach Woody Hayes, toward Michigan.

"Woody hated coming out of the same tunnel they did," Bruce said. "In '67, there was nearly a fight because Woody said, 'If we're going to lose to Michigan, let's lose to them in the damn tunnel.'"

That was a big win for us that year, one that saved our jobs," he said of the game in which the Buckeyes prevailed, 24-14.

The following year, of course, the Buckeyes won the national championship, pounding Michigan 50-14 along the way.

This year, the Buckeyes are sure to be a favorite. While Bruce is among those who think OSU will field the better team, he knows the rivalry does not allow for a mail-in.

"As far as this year's game, I think if we play up to our ability, we're a winner. But if we don't and they play above their ability, then it's a whole other story. That's what's so tough about this game," he said. "If you're an underdog, you

## Bruce Vs. Michigan (Head Coach)

Yr.	Location	Result
1979	Ann Arbor	W, 18-15
1980	Columbus	L, 9-3
1981	Ann Arbor	W, 14-9
1982	Columbus	W, 24-14
1983	Ann Arbor	L, 24-21
1984	Columbus	W, 21-6
1985	Ann Arbor	L, 27-17
1986	Columbus	L, 26-24
1987	Ann Arbor	W, 23-20

can take a heck of a lot more chances in this game.

"Our 1980 team was picked by some to win the national championship and we had them at home, but they won 9-3. They played so hard, and we weren't ready for what they did."

Bruce said hostility and pure ill-will add to the cycle of the series.

"If you're a real and true Buckeye you've got to have a little dislike for them. You don't play football for the love of the other team," he said. "Sure, you always respect them and have to be aware of what they can do, but you can't like them."

"This is a game where you've got to remember what has happened in the past, and that's got to burn. You can be sure the community won't let you forget. And no one who competes likes to have something stuffed in his face."

"Anyone who thinks revenge and hate can't act as great motivators in sports is crazy. Love thy neighbor is fine when you're talking about religion and church and all that stuff, but this is football."

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# '69 Loss Prompted Stillwagon's Drive For 'Revenge'

To note the passing of Jim Stillwagon in February of this year, we are reprinting his Michigan Memories, originally published in the Nov. 20, 1993, edition of Buckeye Sports Bulletin.

By TODD HARRELL  
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

When Jim Stillwagon thinks about the Ohio State-Michigan game, he thinks of 1969 and the word "revenge."

"I don't think I was ever involved in a game that I or my teammates wanted to win more badly than the Michigan game in 1970," the former All-American middle guard says.

Stillwagon was the anchor of the Ohio State defense during the time period in OSU football history better known as the "Super Sophomores" era.

As a sophomore in 1968, Stillwagon and company compiled a perfect 10-0 record, won the Big Ten championship and took home the unanimous national championship.

Perhaps more importantly to some, the Buckeyes routed Michigan at home that year 50-14.

But that '68 clash pales a bit for Stillwagon in comparison to what happened the next two years when the Bucks faced the Wolverines in Ann Arbor in 1969 and the following year in Columbus in 1970.

Stillwagon and the '69 Buckeyes rolled into Ann Arbor as the No. 1-ranked team in the country with a perfect 8-0 record and were being touted as being not only OSU's greatest team ever but also possibly the greatest team to ever play the game of college football.

Then something happened. The 7-2

Wolverines, under first-year head coach Bo Schembechler, did what was thought to be impossible. They defeated the Buckeyes 24-12.

The Wolverines' victory that year not only sent Michigan to Pasadena, but it also crushed the Buckeyes' national championship hopes and ended their 22-game winning streak.

"What can I say? They just outplayed and outcoached us and came out and won the game," Stillwagon said. "We were always an attacking, swarming defense, and the only two times that we did not really attack our opponent was that game against Michigan and against Stanford a year later in the Rose Bowl."

Stillwagon said he heard stories through the years from some former Michigan players that the Wolverines felt like they would win the game if they had the lead at halftime.

"Former U-M offensive guard Dan Dierdorf once confided in me and told me that before that game, Bo had told his team that if they came out and would happen to outplay us for the first 30 minutes, that they would win the game," Stillwagon remembered.

"Apparently, Bo told his players that Woody was predictable and by watching us in the first half, they would pretty much know which way and what plays we would run in the second half. As it turned out, Bo was pretty much right."

Interestingly enough, the halftime score in 1969 was 24-12. Neither team would score any more points the rest of the afternoon, and the final score would forever be etched

in Stillwagon's mind as well as in the minds of his teammates.

"We just played against ourselves," he said. "Ohio State was just not geared up to play catch-up football, and we were just taken out of our game plan."

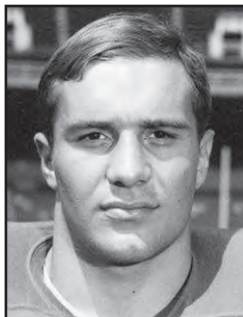
More vividly than the game itself, Stillwagon said he remembers what happened when the game ended and thousands of Michigan fans came pouring onto the field.

"People were spitting on us and throwing mixed drinks in our faces as we were leaving the field, and the police were not helping us out at all," he said. "They wouldn't give us a police escort out of the place or anything, and that whole experience was something that I think burned in all of us and made us anticipate the game for the following year."

In 1970, both teams came into the game with perfect records – Ohio State at 8-0, Michigan at 9-0 – and a possible national title on the line. But the records and titles were secondary in Stillwagon's mind.

"Revenge," he said. "It was a game of revenge. I think every player to a man, even down to the OSU ball boys, wanted to win that game."

Everyone's wish came true as Ohio State



Jim Stillwagon

## Stillwagon Vs. Michigan

Yr./Class	Location	Result
1968/Sr.	Columbus	W, 50-14
1969/Jr.	Ann Arbor	L, 24-12
1970/Sr.	Columbus	W, 20-9

won 20-9. Despite the bitterness of losing in '69 and the shabby postgame treatment the Bucks endured, Stillwagon said the Buckeyes still respected the Wolverines.

"We actually sort of got along and respected most of the Wolverine players," he said. "It was just the people around them, their fans. That was really who we wanted to exact some revenge on in 1970."

Stillwagon had such an outstanding game against Michigan in that fabled 1970 contest that he was named Sports Illustrated's defensive player of the week.

Looking back, he said he thinks the reason the OSU-Michigan game is so important is the history behind the rivalry.

"It's the pride and the tradition between the two schools that I think makes it as great as it is," Stillwagon said. "It's about bragging rights, about the schools' fans. It's about everything. It's just a great, great event."

Stillwagon's advice for the 1993 Buckeyes as they prepare to try to capture the outright Big Ten title with a victory over Michigan: "When you get the opportunity, just take it."

In '70, Stillwagon and the rest of the Buckeyes did just that.

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# Burger's Lone Start Came In Top-3 Tilt With U-M

By **TIM MOODY**  
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

He'll call it a technicality, but linebacker Joe Burger started in one of the biggest games in the history of the Ohio State-Michigan rivalry. That contest came in 2016, and just a handful of years earlier the Cincinnati native really didn't understand The Game.

Burger grew up a Notre Dame fan, you see, pulling for the school that his father and brother had both attended.

"That was who I cheered for," Burger told BSB. "So unfortunately I can't really speak on the past too much in the rivalry. It didn't hit me how big it was until I got there."

To fully understand how Burger eventually started in the 2016 Ohio State-Michigan game, which pitted the No. 2 Buckeyes against the No. 3 Wolverines, you first have to understand how easily he could have ended up at another school.

Burger was recruited out of high school mainly by Mid-American Conference squads. He was considering an offer from Miami (Ohio) and even received a late offer from Cincinnati – his biggest scholarship opportunity.

When it came down to it, though, he was truly considering two options – walk on at Notre Dame or walk on at Ohio State. He was set to be a college freshman in 2012, the same year Urban Meyer took over as the head coach in Columbus. Burger was being recruited by Kerry Coombs at Cincinnati,

Tim Hinton at Notre Dame and Luke Fickell at Ohio State – three coaches who all ended up on Meyer's staff.

The relationships and comfort level that Burger had with those coaches led him to Columbus, and he walked on at Ohio State for the 2012 season.

As a player who didn't know much going in, he was educated on the rivalry quickly.

"I think it was probably the best day of the week – or not the best day, they kind of hit you in the face on that Sunday when you walk in the building after the 11th game of the year and Coach Meyer goes overboard with it," Burger said. "You walk around campus, all the M's are crossed out, and in (the Woody Hayes Athletic Center) we only played one song, 'It's Time for War.' I know every word of that song by LL Cool J."

"Really it's just unbelievable how much importance is placed on that game."

The Cincinnati LaSalle product redshirted in 2012 but still got his first pair of Gold Pants after Ohio State came from behind to beat Michigan, 26-21, to finish the season 12-0.

In Ann Arbor the next season, Burger didn't play a role, but Ohio State won again, 42-41. In 2014, Burger had a role on special teams as the Buckeyes beat the Wolverines, 42-28, before going on to win the national title.

By the 2015 season, Burger had earned respect as a key special teams player for the Buckeyes. As far as The Game is concerned, though, he wasn't set to play a big role just yet. In fact, for his first few seasons, Burger



JOSH WINSLOW

**EARNING HIS SPOT** – Linebacker Joe Burger walked on at Ohio State in 2012 and became a team captain in 2016.



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## Burger Vs. Michigan

Yr./Class	Location	Result
2012/Fr.	Columbus	W, 26-21
2013/R-Fr.	Ann Arbor	W, 42-41
2014/So.	Columbus	W, 42-28
2015/Jr.	Ann Arbor	W, 42-13
2016/5th-Sr.	Columbus	W, 30-27 (2OT)

was wearing maize and blue for Michigan week as a member of the scout team.

"The scout-team helmets are decked out in Team Up North colors," he said.

"I think I played special teams my third year in the program, my redshirt sophomore year, but I think I was still on the scout team my first three years there so my helmet and jerseys were unfortunately in the wrong color."

In 2015, coming off a heartbreaking home loss to Michigan State to derail an undefeated season, Ohio State traveled to Ann Arbor and thrashed the Wolverines, 42-13. Burger didn't make a tackle, but he played in the game before he found himself in a completely different role for his fifth year in the program.

Before the 2016 campaign, Burger was put on scholarship and his teammates voted him a captain. He was still set to play mainly on special teams – although he played extensively in the season opener in place of an injured Dante Booker – but he was a key piece for the Buckeyes no matter what.

"It was really neat," Burger said of becoming a captain at Ohio State. "For me, the goal wasn't always to play in the NFL but to earn the respect of your teammates. That was always one of my highest goals, and to get that – I don't want to say validated – but to get that confirmed with being nominated captain, obviously that's extremely special and something I'm really proud of."

"So that was really neat and that always was a top goal of mine and something I look back on and I think I'll cherish forever, really."

By the 12th game of the year, Ohio State was sporting a 10-1 (7-1) record – the same mark as the Wolverines. Both teams were in the top four, and the winner, it seemed, would be in the driver's seat to earn a bid to the College Football Playoff.

Among a string of seasons when Michigan had been off the pace, it was billed as the biggest matchup between the Buckeyes and Wolverines since the "Game of the Century" exactly 10 years earlier.

"Everybody was trying to build up the Urban vs. (Michigan coach Jim) Harbaugh feud," Burger said. "It was Harbaugh's first really, really good team. It was the first time that they'd been at that level for a period of time. It was like they've got a butt-kicking defense. Everybody talked about (Michigan star) Jabrill Peppers, even talked about him for the Heisman a couple times."

"And we all knew that whoever won that game – it was 2 vs. 3 in the playoffs it looked like – we knew that if we win, we had a very good chance of getting in the playoff and if they win they were probably going to be the Big Ten representative."

"That was like the Mecca. I've never seen a team like it. I think we prepared as hard as we could, put in maximum effort, and I think it was probably an unhealthy amount from our coaching staff just kind of preparing for that game because we knew that was it."

Here's where the technicality comes in – at least that's what Burger called it. Michigan utilized a lot of 22-personnel – as in two tight end and two running back sets. To combat that formation, the Buckeyes often took safety Damon Webb off the field and inserted Burger as a fourth linebacker. They

went with that lineup for the first defensive play of the game so, officially, Burger had the only start of his career on the biggest stage, finishing with one tackle.

"I got my most playing time on defense, and it came in the biggest rivalry," he said. "Obviously it was a pretty pressure-filled situation, but that's where you've got to maximize all the preparation that we can do that week so that was really an insane week for us."

The contest lived up to the billing. After regulation, the game was tied at 17. Ohio State struck first in overtime when quarterback J.T. Barrett scored on a 7-yard rush. Then the defense forced a fourth-and-goal at the 5-yard line.

"When I look back at Ohio Stadium, I don't think it's ever been louder than that fourth-down play," Burger said. "You look back, like, 'Holy ...' That place was shaking."

The Wolverines ended up scoring on a pass from Wilton Speight to Amara Darboh, forcing a second extra period.

In that second overtime, Michigan kicked a field goal to take a 27-24 lead. Then

Ohio State faced a fourth-and-1 at the 16 after H-back Curtis Samuel reversed field to gain 9 yards on third down. Barrett took the rush and plowed forward, seemingly gaining the first down by the smallest of margins.

The play was reviewed, though, and everything stood still in Ohio Stadium for a few long moments.

"You're just sitting on a knee waiting for this ref to review a spot thinking about your entire season depends on what this guy says," Burger said. "So that was – I remember sitting there, I'm like, 'Oh my gosh, I don't know how do you respond to this news and it's so close?' That's the one thing that I remember more than anything is just sitting there, nervous as can be."

The play was ruled a first down, and on the next snap, Samuel rushed to the left and scored a 15-yard touchdown to win the game and chaos ensued at the Horseshoe.

After the game, Harbaugh griped about the fourth-down call, but Burger contends still that the right decision was made. But it doesn't matter.

"I mean, it is what it is," he said when asked about Harbaugh's complaints. "I would still say he got it but you're never going to be able to prove it, but it doesn't really matter. That's all that matters is we got the first down and then the next play they kind of caved."

For a player like Burger, who had gone from walk-on to captain to starter in The Game, it was quite a senior day. It also earned him a fifth pair of Gold Pants, which all went to his mom.

It was a long way to come for the one-time Notre Dame fan. He had helped continue Meyer's undefeated streak against Michigan and, in fact, had continued his own undefeated streak against the Wolverines – as Burger will tell you, Ohio State has never lost to Michigan since he became a Buckeye.

"Ever since I've been an Ohio State fan, knock on wood, we're 6-0 since I've been an OSU fan," Burger said. "I don't know what it feels like to lose this game. We have to find a way to win it again this year."

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# Northwestern Coach Angry With Underdog Status

The Big Ten East champion will be decided in Columbus in the 2018 edition of The Game on Nov. 24, but the Big Ten West champion had been decided by Nov. 10. The West division

## BIG TEN NOTES James Grega

champions, though, were not thrilled with their status as an underdog in week 12 of the college football season.

After clinching the West division in a win

over Iowa, Northwestern entered its Nov. 17 game against Minnesota as an underdog in Minneapolis. The Wildcats came away with a 24-14 win over the Golden Gophers despite Minnesota being favored by two points entering the game.

Northwestern head coach Pat Fitzgerald did not hold back in his comments after the victory.

"It was insulting," Fitzgerald said in his postgame comments. "We come up here as underdogs? Are you kidding me? That's a joke. To me, that was a joke. Quite frankly, it pissed me off. I started the week getting asked questions about our guys not being focused to play and that was insulting. It pissed us off and that's the way we approached (the game)."

Fitzgerald's frustration with the perception of his team didn't stop there, as he said he also made a point to let quarterback Clayton Thorson know what those outside the program thought of him. Thorson, a senior quarterback, has had an up-and-down season, throwing multiple interceptions in five games this year.

On the year, he has thrown 12 touchdown passes and 12 interceptions, yet Fitzgerald wanted his signal caller to know how much faith he has in him.

"The haters won't be hating as much this week," Fitzgerald said after Thorson's performance against Minnesota in which he finished 15 of 21 for 230 yards with zero touchdowns or interceptions. "Fiftieth start, all-time winningest



## BIG 2018 Standings

### East Division

	Conf.			All		
	W	L	Pct.	W	L	Pct.
Michigan	8	0	1.000	10	1	.909
<b>Ohio State</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>.875</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>.909</b>
Penn State	5	3	.625	8	3	.727
Michigan State	4	4	.500	6	5	.545
Maryland	3	5	.375	5	6	.455
Indiana	2	6	.250	5	6	.455
Rutgers	0	8	.000	1	10	.091

### West Division

	Conf.			All		
	W	L	Pct.	W	L	Pct.
Northwestern	7	1	.875	7	4	.636
Wisconsin	5	3	.625	7	4	.636
Purdue	4	4	.500	5	6	.455
Iowa	4	4	.500	7	4	.636
Nebraska	3	5	.375	4	7	.364
Minnesota	2	6	.250	5	6	.455
Illinois	2	6	.250	4	7	.364

### Nov. 17 Scores

Nebraska 9, Michigan State 6  
Northwestern 24, Minnesota 14  
**Ohio State 52, Maryland 51 (OT)**  
Penn State 20, Rutgers 7  
Iowa 63, Illinois 0  
Wisconsin 47, Purdue 44 (3OT)  
Michigan 31, Indiana 20

### Nov. 23 Game

Nebraska at Iowa, Noon (FOX)

### Nov. 24 Games

**Michigan at Ohio State, Noon (FOX)**  
Purdue at Indiana, Noon (ESPN2)  
Illinois at Northwestern, 3:30 p.m. (BTN)  
Maryland at Penn State, 3:30 p.m. (ABC)  
Minnesota at Wisconsin, 3:30 p.m. (ESPN2)  
Rutgers at Michigan State, 4 p.m. (FOX)

quarterback (in school history). The guy is the best. I had one of my staff members pull up all the (things) that had been said about Clayton the last month, and I haven't showed it to him yet, but it's why he is a pro. It's why he is one of the best quarterbacks to ever play in this conference. He doesn't listen to the outside noise. He just works hard to get better."

The Wildcats forced three Minnesota turnovers and never trailed in the 10-point win to improve to 7-4 (7-1 Big Ten) on the season. The Gophers fell to 5-6 (2-6) with the loss and will have one last chance to become bowl-eligible in their season finale against Wisconsin on the road.

Northwestern will conclude its regular-season schedule with a home game against in-state rival Illinois before taking on the winner of the Ohio State-Michigan matchup in Indianapolis on Dec. 1 for the Big Ten championship.

### Stringer Gets 1,000th Career Win

Legendary women's basketball coach C. Vivian Stringer won her 1,000th career game Nov. 13 as her Rutgers team defeated Central Connecticut State, 73-44. She became the fifth Division I women's basketball coach to accomplish the feat, joining UConn's Geno Auriemma, Tara VanDerveer (Idaho, Ohio State, Stanford), Sylvia Hatchell (Francis Marion, North Carolina) and the late Pat Summitt (Tennessee). She is the first African-American coach to accomplish the feat.

Stringer's head coaching career started in 1972 at Cheyney University in Pennsylvania, where she put together a 251-51 record. From there, Stringer spent 12 seasons as the head coach at the University of Iowa from 1983-95, compiling a 269-84 record. After her stint with the Hawkeyes, she went to Rutgers where she has been since 1995, winning 480 games to 267 losses. She has led her teams to four Elite

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## From The Pages Of BSB

### 35 Years Ago – 1983

The Ohio State-Michigan game was a top-10 matchup between the No. 10 Buckeyes (8-2) and the No. 8 Wolverines (8-2). The Game's latest victor was in line to take a series lead of sorts. Since 1913, when OSU joined the Big Ten, its record against U-M stood at 31-31-3. Head coach Earle Bruce, however, preferred to look at another mark in the rivalry.

"I always look at the modern era," he said. "If you go from 1936 on with Michigan, or 1935 on with Michigan, Ohio State's pretty good – pretty daggone good. In fact, I think you'll find out we've led the series since that time."

Bruce was right. Ohio State at the time led Michigan, 24-21-3.

### 30 Years Ago – 1988

John Cooper's first season as head coach took another odd turn Nov. 12 when Ohio State settled for a 24-24 tie with Iowa, entering its Nov. 19 game against No. 12 Michigan at 4-5-1 overall.

OSU outplayed the Hawkeyes throughout the majority of the second half, but its 24-21 lead vanished when redshirt freshman placekicker Jeff Skillett drilled a 40-yard field goal with 16 seconds left to force a deadlock.

Ohio State's first Big Ten tie since 1973, a 10-10 stalemate against the Wolverines, doubled as Cooper's third in 134 career games as a college head coach.

"What good is a tie?" Cooper said. "What good is a tie to us the way our season has gone? A tie doesn't do us any good, doesn't do (Iowa) any good."

### 25 Years Ago – 1993

With the Buckeyes at 9-0-1 headed into The Game against Michigan (6-4) on Nov. 20, Ohio State head coach John Cooper was among four finalists for the Football Writers Association of America's 37th annual College Football Coach of the Year award.

Florida State's Bobby Bowden, Auburn's Terry Bowden and Bill Snyder of Kansas State joined Cooper as finalists.

Cooper had won the award once before as head coach at Arizona State in 1986 when he led his Sun Devils to a 10-1-1 record and a Rose Bowl win over the Wolverines.

### 20 Years Ago – 1998

Unlike past years, Ohio State's annual Senior Tackle ceremony was not going to take place prior to the Nov. 21 Michigan game.

According to sports information director Jerry Emig, head coach John Cooper had decided instead to move the ceremony to the team's final practice before its bowl game in December.

Emig indicated that the ceremony would be public after Cooper's decision in 1987 to make Senior Tackle closed caused an uproar from Buckeyes fans.

The ceremony, which dates to 1913, had been done at OSU's last practice before the annual tilt with the Wolverines since The Game became its final regular-season contest in 1935. Throughout the 1980s, Senior Tackle became a public event and culminated with a crowd estimated in the 20,000s at Ohio Stadium in 1996.

### 15 Years Ago – 2003

Before what was, at the time, the second-largest crowd in Ohio Stadium history – 105,286 – 26 seniors went out the right way as No. 4 Ohio State overcame No. 11 Purdue for a 16-13 triumph in overtime.

The victory boosted the Buckeyes to 10-1 overall and 6-1 in the Big Ten, remaining 8-0 in the Horseshoe and ending the regular season in Columbus by extending the home winning streak to 16 games after OSU's squad had gone 8-0 the year before.

"I just think it was a great experience," said senior defensive end Will Smith. "My four years of being here went from being an average team to being a great team. We've been a lot of places and seen a lot of people, and it's just been a great experience for me, personally. Coming back to end on this note, undefeated at the 'Shoe the past two years, is great."

### 10 Years Ago – 2008

Former Ohio State offensive lineman T.J. Downing was arrested Nov. 9 in Grandview Heights, a Columbus suburb, after he was stopped by police who found drugs and a gun in his car.

Downing, 24, was reportedly pulled over for driving with tinted windows and no front license plate. Officers smelled marijuana in Downing's vehicle, leading to a search that found drug paraphernalia, prescription pills, marijuana, cocaine and a loaded Smith & Wesson .40 caliber pistol. Authorities charged Downing with drug possession and trafficking and brought up a gun charge – all felonies – before he was released Nov. 11 on a \$10,000 bond.

"Even though you are no longer playing, you should know, sir, you will always carry that banner, and you should remember that you always represent the Ohio State University," Franklin County Municipal Court Judge Amy Salerno told Downing after he entered his not-guilty pleas.

Downing was a 28-game starter on the Buckeyes' offensive line as an All-Big Ten guard, having a successful career collegiately before going undrafted in 2007 and ending up with the Arizona Cardinals for preseason camp. He left the franchise without explanation before the start of the season, working with OSU's official team website during the fall and

mostly staying out of the public eye before getting his degree in family resource management during the university's 2008 spring commencement.

"Even if it's alleged, that just puts a knot in your stomach and it just reminds you that it's a difficult transition," head coach Jim Tressel said of Downing's legal situation.

### Five Years Ago – 2013

The termination of two Ohio State assistant cheerleading coaches May 23 after sexual harassment accusations later led to the removal of one of the accusers from the team, according to a report by The Columbus Dispatch.

Cody Ellis, a cheerleader, reportedly complained to the school and it led to the firing of assistant coaches Eddie Hollins and Dana Bumbrey. However, right before the 2013-14 season, Ellis was removed from the team. He claimed it was a revenge-motivated move made by head coach Lenexa Buchman.

According to the Dispatch, Buchman survived termination only because she agreed to attend her suggested sexual harassment training. John Camillus, the lawyer of Ellis, told the Dispatch that the move stemmed from the firing of the two assistant coaches.

Ohio State spokesperson Gary Lewis Jr. refuted the claims but cited privacy laws in his response to the Dispatch that he could not release the reason Ellis was banned from the team without written consent from the cheerleader.

### One Year Ago – 2017

Ohio State routed Illinois 52-14, but not without an interesting twist. On a soggy Senior Day at Ohio Stadium in Columbus, the Buckeyes were cruising 38-0 over the Fighting Illini in the third quarter.

With the first-team offense pulled, redshirt freshman quarterback Dwayne Haskins and the backups entered, but Haskins fumbled and Ahmari Hayes took the loose ball for a 54-yard touchdown. In the pouring rain, head coach Urban Meyer made the decision to send OSU's starters – including some who had already removed their braces and tape – back onto the field for the ensuing drive.

"I just didn't want it to turn into a clown show, which it looked like it for a minute," Meyer said.

Fifth-year senior quarterback J.T. Barrett, who totaled three touchdowns, was among the 19 seniors honored. He thought his day was over, despite the 31-point lead after the fumble for 6.

"Did you see Coach on the sidelines?" Barrett said. "He was very upset. I saw him and then it was like well, he's definitely known for saying the starters are back in, so let me go find my knee brace and go find my helmet because I didn't have any of those things."

Eights, two Final Fours and a national runner-up finish in 2007 with the Scarlet Knights.

Stringer, now 70 years old, was visibly overcome with emotion after collecting her 1,000th career victory as more than 4,500 fans in attendance celebrated the accomplishment postgame with signs that displayed her name.

"Let me tell you something," Stringer said. "Sometimes people ask how did I accomplish these things? This was only done with my family first of all, and they mean everything in the world. They lifted me up."

South Carolina head coach Dawn Staley and her assistant Jollete Law were in attendance for the milestone victory. Law played for Stringer at Iowa and also served as an assistant under Stringer at Rutgers before leaving for the same position with the Gamecocks.

Stringer said she was touched that so many of her former players came to Piscataway, N.J., to share the moment with her.

"I know that Coach Law fooled me this morning saying she couldn't come to the celebration because she had to scout," Stringer said. "One of the young ladies came from Hawaii. She flew in and is going to fly back. Maybe I'm doing some things right. People genuinely do care. Something my father said a long time ago, don't give me flowers when I'm gone. Let me know what you feel now."

### Big Ten Dominates Gavitt Games

For the first time since its inception in 2015, the Big Ten came away with a 5-3 edge in the Gavitt Games, a yearly basketball series played between the Big Ten and the Big East, similar to the Big Ten/ACC Challenge.

After splitting the first three seasons 4-4, the Big Ten finally got the first win in the series, edging the Big East 5-3.

The Big Ten victories came from Ohio State, Michigan, Wisconsin, Nebraska and Indiana with Penn State, Rutgers and Illinois accounting for the losses.

The Buckeyes topped Creighton on the road 69-60 (more on page 55), the Badgers defeated Xavier in Madison, Wis., 77-68, while No. 18 Michigan rolled No. 8 Villanova 73-46 in a rematch of the 2018 national championship game played in Ann Arbor, Mich.

Nebraska dominated Seton Hall, 80-57, in Lincoln, Neb., and Indiana stomped No. 24 Marquette, 96-73, in Bloomington, Ind. DePaul edged Penn State, 72-70, in overtime in Chicago while St. John's steamrolled Rutgers, 84-65, in Piscataway, N.J. Illinois lost at home to Georgetown, 88-80.

Prior to the win over Creighton, Ohio State had participated in the Gavitt Games just once, when the Buckeyes defeated Providence 72-67 at Value City Arena in 2016.

### B1G Players Of The Week

Redshirt freshman running back Anthony McFarland's performance against Ohio State would normally have been enough to warrant BSB Big Ten player of the week honors. However he was somehow outdone by Wisconsin sophomore running back Jonathan Taylor.

Taylor, the reigning Big Ten Freshman of the Year, rushed for 321 yards on 33 carries and three touchdowns in a 47-44 triple-overtime win over Purdue on Nov. 17. Overall, the Badgers

ran for 385 yards on 51 attempts and four touchdowns, the other ground score coming from fullback Garrett Groshek.

McFarland rushed for 298 yards and two scores on 21 carries in a 52-51 overtime loss to Ohio State in College Park, Md.

Purdue quarterback David Blough also



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# Big Visit Weekend Set For 'The Game' In Columbus

With an outright Big Ten East Division title on the line, The Game reaches a different magnitude on the field Nov. 24 when a top-10 tilt takes center stage in college football.

## RECRUITING OUTLOOK Garrett Stepien

But as Ohio State enters its matchup with Michigan in the regular-season finale for both squads, the noon kickoff will bring equal importance on the recruiting trail, considering the abundance of prospects expected to be in attendance.

Sifting through the long list of visitors representing multiple cycles projected to take in the Big Ten battle between the Buckeyes and Wolverines, a handful of top targets in the 2019 class stand out, while priority prospects in the 2020 class follow on the totem pole.

Going into the weekend, OSU has a chance at flipping several recruits currently committed elsewhere.

Before the Buckeyes host their final gameday group in Columbus this fall, Ohio State's 2019 class contained 15 commitments – two five-stars, nine four-stars and four three-stars – to place 13th in the 247Sports composite team rankings. That

ranking puts OSU one spot ahead of Penn State (No. 14 with 17 commits) and trails only Michigan (No. 9 with 25 commits) in the Big Ten.

Ohio State's 2020 class still sits second nationally, trailing just the 10 pledges possessed by Miami (Fla.), while sitting atop its conference with seven members including one five-star and six four-stars.

The following is a breakdown of OSU's top targets – committed elsewhere and uncommitted – primarily in the 2019 class who are expected to attend the clash with U-M.

### Cavon Butler, DT Toledo Whitmer

On the Ohio State recruiting radar for quite some time now, the three-star Butler transitioned from offer candidate to priority prospect on Oct. 6 when he was offered by the Buckeyes during his unofficial visit for the Indiana game.

And since he watched OSU's 49-26 win over the Hoosiers at Ohio Stadium, his recruitment has taken a bit of an interesting twist.

Butler has been committed to Kentucky since Aug. 3, but the Wildcats are clawing with Ohio State and Michigan State to keep him in their 2019 class.

The 6-2½, 285-pound Butler started to blow up June 23 when he camped at Alabama and earned his biggest offer at the time from the Crimson Tide. Three days later, UK offered and Butler announced his commitment to the 'Cats just over a month later.

After the Buckeyes offered him, the

## 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

process picked back up when he took an official visit to East Lansing, Mich., to see the Spartans play Michigan on Oct. 20. Two days later, OSU defensive line coach Larry Johnson reportedly stopped by Butler's high school.

"I talk to Coach LJ every day," Butler

told Bill Kurelic of 247Sports after Whitmer's 43-20 loss to Dublin Coffman in the state playoffs on Nov. 9. "I talk to (director of player personnel Mark) Pantoni every day, too. It's a good relationship with the coaches. (Pantoni) is a really funny dude. He just talks about

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# ASK AN ANALYST

## With Buckeye Grove's Marc Givler

**As he told you on Nov. 8, Bradenton (Fla.) IMG Academy 2019 four-star running back Noah Cain will no longer take his official visit with Ohio State for the Michigan game. If the Buckeyes are in fact capped at running back, which position on either side of the ball becomes the biggest need?**

"As of today, I would say offensive tackle. I think they certainly need to add an offensive tackle body to the class. I don't look at the roster right now and see a ton of depth there when you factor in that (senior right tackle) Isaiah Prince is leaving after this year. There are certainly ones out there, and you can never have too many linemen. Right now, that's an area where I look at next year and think, 'Gosh, what if (sophomore left tackle) Thayer Munford gets hurt?' With something like that, what are they going to do? So they need some bodies there. I think that's the major thing.

"I would somewhat argue defensive end. Obviously, I think (Lewis Center [Ohio] Olentangy Orange five-star) Zach Harrison (6-5½, 243) is their top priority, but I don't know that it's their biggest need. On paper, they're still bringing back a lot of their defensive ends next year and they're all young talent guys that we should expect to improve.

"Not to go too far off the rails here, but keeping (Fort Lauderdale [Fla.] St. Thomas Aquinas four-star safety) Jordan Battle (6-1, 187) is a big part of this as well because if they lose Jordan Battle, I reserve the right to change my opinion to defensive back because they're going to need some guys back there. But as things stand today, with

the class as the way it looks today, I would say offensive tackle."

**On the subject of defensive backs in 2019, Ohio State does not yet have a cornerback committed. With an offer out to Norman Park (Ga.) Colquitt County three-star target Jay Ward (6-1, 175) and a Nov. 24 official visit set for Apopka (Fla.) Wekiva three-star Florida State commitment Renardo Green (5-11, 164), how would you assess where the Buckeyes stand at that position?**

"For me, it's going to be interesting to see what (juniors) Damon Arnette and Kendall Sheffield do because I think that really impacts what they do here down the stretch these next three months, trying to add another corner or two. If you look at the roster right now, even if one of Arnette or Sheffield were to leave, they bring all of those guys back. You have (redshirt freshman) Shaun Wade, you have (sophomore) Jeff Okudah. You have the young guys they just brought in this last (2018) class, plus (sophomore) Marcus Williamson. It's not as huge of a need.

"Then you look at 2020 and just the list of options they have in 2020 right now. I mean, they're in on the top two or three (list of choices) for five elite players that can all play corner. So I just don't see it as quite the priority as other positions. I think they're trying to juggle, 'OK, it would be nice to have another body there,' but they're trying to juggle the Jordan Battle situation with the upcoming decisions of Sheffield and Arnette. I think there's a lot of moving parts there. I think it's hard to give a clear picture

when I don't think we have all the information we need yet."

**Speaking of The Game, an abundance of recruits from several classes are expected to flock to Ohio Stadium Nov. 24. Out of the projected visitors for that weekend, which ones intrigue you the most and why?**

"I'll give you one in '19 and one in '20. This one isn't set in stone yet, but I think it's going to happen. I think (Springfield [Ill.] Sacred Heart Griffin three-star and Ole Miss commitment) Nick Broeker (6-6, 283) is going to be on campus for that game. And if so, I think there's a really good chance he flips. And that would answer one question in this class, that they need an offensive tackle. So that's one to watch for me.

"But maybe the biggest one is (Washington [D.C.] St. John's College outside linebacker) Mekhail Sherman (6-3, 234), the five-star. I think he's going to be a defensive end, but whatever you want to call him, he is a very, very special player. I think Ohio State is in a good spot. He's told me Ohio State is in his top two. He won't say the other school, but I have good reason to believe it's Alabama. I have good reason to believe Ohio State leads right now. That's going to be a huge visit for that kid.

"I don't think he's going to commit. I think he's going to go through things a bit, try to take some official visits in the spring. But this is the type of visit where you could put yourself in the driver's seat here, and he's a major, major talent. That's why I think, personally, I'm most curious about him."

what Urban Meyer says. I talk to Coach Meyer all the time."

Butler was supposed to return to Lexington, Ky., for Kentucky's game against Georgia, but he did not make the Nov. 3 trip due to logistics. Then his offer from MSU came on Nov. 5.

As he takes his official visit to Ohio State for The Game, the in-state trip down to the Horseshoe might be the Buckeyes' best shot for a flip – should the staff push for a commitment.

Whether he decides on Ohio State, Kentucky or Michigan State, Butler is ultimately unsure of his future right now. Butler's rescheduled official visit to see the Wildcats' staff remains a work in progress, and he doesn't know if he'll sign his national letter of intent early on Dec. 19 or during the traditional period on Feb. 6.

"One of the signing days – I'm not even really sure yet," Butler said. "Actually, I really don't know. I'll probably know in probably about a month or two."

Butler is the 247Sports composite's No. 831 overall prospect, No. 56 defensive tackle and No. 39 player in Ohio for 2019.

### Tommy Eichenberg, LB Cleveland St. Ignatius

In possession of an Ohio State offer since Sept. 26, the four-star Eichenberg remains among the Buckeyes' top targets for 2019 but has been committed to Boston College since June 27.

The 6-3, 225-pound Eichenberg is being recruited by Michigan as well after the Wolverines extended a scholarship offer Oct. 3. He followed up immediately with U-M and went to Ann Arbor, Mich., for its game against Penn State but has yet to check out OSU since the Buckeye offer.

That is slated to change when Eichenberg visits Ohio State for The Game, although it's unknown whether his trip to Columbus for the Michigan game will be an official or unofficial.

Eichenberg is the 247Sports composite's No. 358 overall prospect, No. 19 inside linebacker and No. 13 player in Ohio for 2019.

### D'Von Ellies, DT Owings Mills (Md.) McDonogh

Last in Columbus on June 16 for Ohio State's final one-day camp of the summer, the four-star Ellies originally included the Buckeyes among four top choices July 18. He trimmed his list to OSU, Rutgers, West Virginia and Virginia Tech. On July 19, he told BSB why Johnson and the coaching staff at Ohio State were near the top of his handful of choices.

"The program speaks for itself," the 6-2½, 280-pound Ellies said of Ohio State. "The development of the players, that just speaks for itself. Coach Johnson is kind of like a legend of the industry. On top of that, I know a couple of people that go there (such as Hyattsville [Md.] DeMatha Catholic product and sophomore defensive end Chase Young) and they have nothing but good things to say about it. It's a great program. It's nothing but hard work, honestly. The reward speaks for itself."

While he continues to keep the Buckeyes in high regard before an official visit for the Michigan game, his recruit-

ment has changed entirely. Ellies, whom OSU offered on May 16, is closing in on 30 offers after camps at Florida (July 27) and Penn State (July 29) led to scholarship offers from the Gators (July 28) and then the Nittany Lions (July 30).

Ellies unofficially visited University Park, Pa., for PSU's game against Ohio State on Sept. 29, and he returned to Beaver Stadium for his official visit the weekend of Nov. 10 for the Wisconsin game. Between those trips to Happy Valley, he made his return to Gainesville, Fla., when UF hosted LSU on Oct. 6. Southern

**Continued On Page 52**

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# Florida State CB Commit Among Top Visitors

Continued From Page 51

California became the latest school to enter his recruitment with an offer on Nov. 8, one week after McDonogh's season ended.

Ellies is the 247Sports composite's No. 249 overall prospect and No. 16 defensive tackle. As the No. 5 player in Maryland, with the four others ahead of him committed to their respective schools, he is his state's top uncommitted recruit for 2019.

## Renardo Green, CB Apopka (Fla.) Wakiva

Committed since April 16 to Florida State, where he was offered by the Seminoles two days after an unofficial visit and committed on the spot, the three-star Green has been open about his interest in Ohio State. On Sept. 12, he set his official visit to see the Buckeyes play Michigan.

OSU entered the 5-11, 164-pound Green's recruitment June 8 during an unofficial visit and remained in what has become a two-school race with FSU. As of BSB's press time, Ohio State was the only school Green had set an official visit for.

Green is the 247Sports composite's No. 462 overall prospect, No. 46 cornerback and No. 60 player in Florida for 2019.

## Jared Harrison-Hunte, DT Middle Village (N.Y.) Christ The King

Similar to Ellies, the three-star Harrison-Hunte last came to Columbus over the summer for a camp visit. The 6-4, 286-pounder's performance in front of Ohio State's staff at Friday Night Lights on June 22 landed him an offer after the Buckeyes evaluated him during the spring period and into the camp circuit.

Christ the King offensive coordinator Bruce Eugene told BSB in August before the season that Harrison-Hunte had wanted to focus on his senior season – only his second in football – before scheduling any official visits, and he did. The converted basketball player did, however, see some action on the trail as he picked up offers from Virginia (Aug. 28) and Michigan

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

### 30 Years Ago – 1988

As Ohio State recruiters sifted through defensive backs, the Buckeyes didn't have to go too far for one of the best in the class. According to national experts such as Tom Lemming, Cincinnati Forest Park's Carlton Gray was among the top secondary prospects in the country.

"At safety, he excels at man-to-man coverage and comes to the ball like a pro," Lemming said.

The 6-2, 180-pounder was considering OSU with recent offers from Michigan, Notre Dame, Penn State, Stanford and UCLA throughout the fall.

"I want to sit down and decide where I should take my visits," Gray said. "After that, I'll sit down with my family, and we'll try to decide what's best for me."

### 25 Years Ago – 1993

No. 11 Ohio State beat No. 19 Indiana, 23-17, on Nov. 13, marking Ohio Stadium's last gameday visits for several prospects on OSU's recruiting radar.

With an abundance of top targets in high school playoffs, Ohio State recruiting coordinator Larry Petroff noted his hands were tied as he tried to make the most of the final contest at the Horseshoe.

"We had 23 recruits here, which is actually a good number considering the playoffs are going on," Petroff said. "We'd like to have more, of course, but that's not bad."

Cleveland St. Ignatius quarterback Scott Mutryn, considered one of the best signal callers in the country, headlined the roster of visitors. He told BSB the Buckeyes were being considered with Boston College, Florida State and Penn State at the top of his list.

### 20 Years Ago – 1998

With a couple of openings projected at wide receiver, Ohio State was looking at the junior college ranks to help fill the void. The Buckeyes were in contact with Orange Coast (Calif.) College wideout/tight end Ivan Mercer (6-7, 235) as an option after he caught 37 passes through seven games of his second season at the JUCO level.

Mercer was considering OSU with Texas

A&M, Miami (Fla.) and Tennessee. He had visited the Aggies and planned to see the Volunteers for a game in November, while also setting confirmed trips to check out the Hurricanes on Dec. 4 and the Buckeyes on Dec. 11.

"There are a lot of things I like about Ohio State," Mercer told BSB. "Any school I'm looking at, I have two main goals. First, I want to get my degree, and second, I want to have a shot at the NFL."

### 15 Years Ago – 2003

The wildness of No. 4 Ohio State's 16-13 overtime win over No. 11 Purdue on Nov. 15 netted the Buckeyes a commitment from Riviera Beach (Fla.) Suncoast's Dajuan Morgan.

The 6-1, 190-pound wide receiver told BSB shortly after his official visit that he planned to tell tight ends coach and recruiting coordinator Bill Conley of the decision when the two spoke over the phone.

"Coach Conley's supposed to call me back to see I made it home safe, and that's when I was going to tell him," Morgan said.

As the No. 21 wide receiver in the nation, according to Rivals.com, Morgan gave OSU an enormous boost to its 2004 recruiting class. The trip to Columbus was highlighted by another wideout from the Sunshine State in Antonio Holmes, who hosted Morgan over the weekend.

"Santonio just told me if I want to be able to get on the field, I have to be able to block well and play my assignments," Morgan said. "Coaches like it if you can make plays."

### 10 Years Ago – 2008

Ohio State's 2009 recruiting class shrank by one when longtime local commitment Bradley McDougald had a change of heart. The 6-1, 190-pound athlete from Dublin (Ohio) Scioto had been pledged to the Buckeyes since June 23 but reversed the decision and set official visits elsewhere. McDougald was unavailable for comment, but Scioto head coach Karl Johnson confirmed the decommitment to BSB.

Rated by Scout.com as the No. 45 safety in the 2009 class, rumors of McDougald's status swirled into the 2008 season, and he admitted to having interest in other schools. Those

four on his list of preferences were Colorado, Illinois, Kansas and Wisconsin.

### Five Years Ago – 2013

Ohio State suffered a loss in its 2014 recruiting class Nov. 11 when Gary (Ind.) West Side three-star wide receiver Lonnie Johnson took to Twitter and announced his decommitment from the Buckeyes. The 6-3, 180-pounder had originally picked OSU in May.

"I've officially decommitted from OSU," Johnson's tweet read. "Sorry fans but it happened."

Johnson was entertaining several offers while he was still committed, so his decision didn't come as a total shock. He told Derek Young of Scout.com that his official visits were set, starting Nov. 16 with Western Michigan.

"It really just comes down to me and my parents wanting to see other schools," Johnson said.

### One Year Ago – 2017

When Ohio State played its final home game Nov. 18 against Illinois, a 52-14 romp, Ohio Stadium welcomed its last wave of recruits for the regular season. Among those were three official visitors in Lawrenceville (Ga.) Central Gwinnett four-star quarterback Jarren Williams (6-2, 206), Ramsey (N.J.) Don Bosco Prep four-star defensive tackle Tyler Friday (6-3, 263) and San Marcos (Calif.) Mission Hills three-star wide receiver Chris Olave (6-1, 170).

With the Buckeyes having only one wide receiver committed at the time in Huber Heights (Ohio) Wayne four-star L'Christian "Blue" Smith (6-6, 205), Olave was viewed as a big priority. His national interest started to spark near the end of his senior season when he collected offers from Michigan (Oct. 30) and Southern California (Nov. 2) after OSU (Oct. 7).

"I spent a lot of time with multiple coaches out there," Olave said. "I met with (wide receivers coach Zach) Smith, (offensive coordinator/quarterbacks coach Ryan) Day and (head coach Urban) Meyer and I got along well with them, and I think they really liked me as well. Coach Meyer is all business, and I love that about him."

State (Nov. 9) with an unofficial visit to Penn State (Sept. 29) in between.

Harrison-Hunte's campaign concluded on Nov. 4 and he took his first official visit the next weekend, heading out to Arizona State

for the Sun Devils' Nov. 10 game against UCLA. For his second and third official visits, Harrison-Hunte has Nov. 24 for OSU vs. Michigan and Dec. 7 at Penn State locked in.

From there, however, he has options.

With hopes to wrap up his process by the early signing period, Harrison-Hunte is considering officials four and five to Tennessee and Georgia, but those dates have yet to get finalized.

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Access to BuckeyeSports.com is free to all BSB subscribers. For simple sign-up instructions see page 5 of this issue or give us a call at (614) 486-2202 and we will be glad to answer any of your questions or assist you with your access. Remember, BuckeyeSports.com is part of your enhanced, 24/7 Buckeye Sports Bulletin experience.

Harrison-Hunte is the 247Sports composite's No. 547 overall prospect, No. 35 defensive tackle and No. 4 player in New York.

### Jestin Jacobs, OLB Clayton (Ohio) Northmont

Jacobs committed to Iowa on May 11, but an offer from Ohio State on Nov. 5

creates the potential for a status-altering unofficial visit to see the Buckeyes face Michigan.

"(The offer) was not a huge surprise," Jacobs told Jeremy Birmingham of Lettermen Row on Nov. 12. "They did ask me to come to a camp (over the summer), but being committed I did not go to one. I am hearing from (Ohio State linebackers coach) Bill Davis and (offensive coordinator/tight ends coach) Kevin Wilson a couple times a week. The offer is exciting to get. It has been a goal of mine, being a kid in Ohio."

The 6-3, 210-pound Jacobs isn't the only recruit committed elsewhere and expected to attend The Game. However, the Hawkeyes have a traditionally strict policy for pledges under longtime head coach Kirk Ferentz, who recently elaborated on the general understanding he has had with his commits in the past.

"I mean, everything's case by case," Ferentz said Nov. 12 at his weekly press conference with local media. "But as a rule, it's just – commitment means commitment. And we try to encourage, when players do commit to us, we try to encourage them to embrace that, that concept. So what they do, their actions – like anything in life, your actions kind of dictate what your intentions might be. So if we see something that might be a little contradictory to a commitment, then we'll have to consider it and talk about it, et cetera, and visit with the prospect about it."

According to Jacobs, though, Iowa's coaching staff hasn't intervened with his plans to check out OSU.

"It wasn't tough making the decision to visit, because when I got the offer I knew

I would visit," Jacobs said. "The Iowa coaches did not encourage me not to, they are understanding of why I wanted to visit."

Jacobs is the 247Sports composite's No. 312 overall prospect, No. 16 outside linebacker and No. 7 player in Ohio for 2019. Behind only Holstein (Iowa) Ridge View four-star offensive tackle Ezra Miller, Jacobs is Iowa's second-highest-rated commitment in its class for the current cycle, which ranks 34th in the 247Sports composite team rankings with 16 pledges – three four-stars and 13 three-stars.

"Every year, that's a concern – a reality, I guess, I should say," Ferentz said of poaching prospects. "Probably the one observation that I have is the poaching is going to happen now in November or October instead of January. It used to be January with the eventual February signing. So like everything in recruiting, that's moved up and forward and accelerating with the quote-unquote poaching period."

"I know we've had a couple guys that have been offered by schools that are the quote-unquote elite type of programs. So anything's possible. We're hopeful everybody that is committed to us is committed for the right reason and will stick with us. But with all that being said, too, it's like anything else – you don't want somebody to join your team that's not both feet in. That's not good for anybody."

### 2020 D.C. Dynamic Duo Announces Return

While the current cycle headlines Ohio State's visitors for the Michigan

game, a pair of priority prospects from Washington, D.C., leads the pack for 2020.

In the week leading up to the Maryland game, the St. John's College duo of outside linebacker Mekhail Sherman and wide receiver Rakim Jarrett individually announced on Twitter that they had set unofficial visits to see the Buckeyes battle the Wolverines on Nov. 24.

Jarrett and Sherman last came to Columbus on an unofficial visit the week-end of July 27-28, and they have continued to be top targets for OSU ever since.

Jarrett received an offer from Ohio State on July 2 and appeared to be trending for the Buckeyes heading into his unofficial visit before he ultimately reset his recruitment, stating he was open to more offers from other schools as they discovered him. The 6-0, 182-pounder has since hauled in offers from West Virginia (Sept. 2), Ole Miss (Sept. 3), Auburn (Sept. 6) and South Carolina (Sept. 28). He is the 247Sports composite's No. 42 overall prospect, No. 6 wide receiver and No. 2 player in D.C. for 2020.

Sherman, on the other hand, is arguably OSU's top target for the next cycle. Although a torn ACL ended his junior season early, he remains among the top 15 players in the country for 2020 as the 247Sports composite's No. 13 overall prospect, No. 2 outside linebacker and No. 1 player in D.C. He added an offer from LSU on Sept. 4, but his recruitment appears likely to come down to Ohio State and Alabama, which offered him on June 2 during his unofficial visit.

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# Ohio State Hoops Passes 1st Tests Amid 4-0 Start

Ohio State's first three games of the season featured road games against two NCAA Tournament teams from a year ago and a mid-major team that beat Indiana in Bloomington, Ind., by 20 last season. The Buckeyes weathered that storm, coming away 4-0 through the first two weeks of the season.

## COURT REPORT

James Grega

Prior to defeating Creighton, 69-60, on Nov. 14, Ohio State had received just 14 total votes in the Associated Press poll and was unranked as of Nov. 18 with the next poll coming out the following day, after BSB went to press.

Chris Holtmann, who had routinely discussed the difficulty of Ohio State's first three games, said that for the Buckeyes to come through that stretch unscathed, they would have to be balanced and play stellar defense, something his team has accomplished and then some.

"We needed to have consistent defensive effort, and I think in the bulk of the games, we have had that," he said Nov. 18. "I would say our balance to our team, which can be a strength, would need to be evident."

That balance, especially on offense, has

shown through four games. Four Buckeyes are averaging double-digit points this season, and only two of them are starters. C.J. Jackson leads the team with 12.8 points per game through four contests and has Ohio State's best game of the season scoring-wise after he tallied 25 points against Purdue Fort Wayne. Behind Jackson is Kaleb Wesson at 12.5 points per game, Duane Washington at 12.3 and Jaedon LeDee at 10.7. Washington and LeDee have both come off the bench this season, and LeDee did not play in the season opener against Cincinnati.

Just missing out on double digits in the scoring column are freshman Luther Muhammad (9.8) and graduate transfer Keyshawn Woods (7.5). Woods scored 19 in a win over Creighton but did not score against South Carolina State on just two shot attempts in 14 minutes of action.

"He had such a tremendous game last game, and this game he didn't play a whole lot and part of that was because of a stomach bug," Holtmann said after the win over S.C. State. "Part of that was just other guys (scoring). His leadership on the bench was phenomenal, and that is a good example for the other guys."

After getting through the first tests of the year, Ohio State's next challenge becomes maintaining the momentum as the Buckeyes are now in the midst of a five-game homestand that started with an 89-61 win over S.C. State on Nov. 18.

Holtmann said – more than anything



KEVIN DYE

**KEY PIECE** – Through four games, Ohio State sophomore forward Kaleb Wesson (34) is averaging 12.5 points per contest.

else – he wants to see his team consistently improve over the next four games at home, a stretch that ends with contests against Syracuse and Minnesota.

"Continue to try and build the habits that we want to play with on a consistent basis," he said of what the team needs to do. "That is the only way you consistently get better. The team embraces that and guys understand what we have to do on each possession to play a certain way."

"The biggest thing we want to continue to challenge our guys with is that winning

doesn't get in the way of progress. I think that our guys understand that you can win and still not play quite like we need to play and sometimes you can lose and that gets clouded because you maybe played better. We are trying to make sure winning doesn't get in the way of progress and growth. I think that is important for a young team and a young season."

## Potter Visits Wisconsin

Shortly after the Buckeyes' victory over S.C. State, it was reported by Evan Flood of 247Sports that Micah Potter, who had announced his transfer from Ohio State two days before the start of the season, had visited Wisconsin during the weekend of Nov. 17-18.

According to Flood, Potter was in attendance for Wisconsin's 96-59 win over Houston Baptist on Nov. 17 and was on campus for a two-day official visit.

"It was a great visit," Potter told Badger247. "I look forward to continuing my relationships with Wisconsin as I go through the rest of my recruitment."

Flood also reported that Clemson, Kansas State, Nevada, Middle Tennessee State, Charlotte and UW-Milwaukee are the schools of interest right now for Potter, although Flood acknowledged Potter declined to give a formal interview other than the brief statement above.

Out of high school, Potter was recruited for Wisconsin by former coach Bo Ryan, who retired midway through the 2015-16 season. Potter, a former three-star center, eventually committed to the Buckeyes in the 2016 class, joining the likes of Derek Funderburk, Andre Wesson and JUCO transfer Jackson in what would be Thad Matta's final full recruiting class at Ohio State.

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## Late Run Propels Bucks Past Creighton

For the second time in three games, Ohio State took to the road to play in a hostile environment and for the third time in as many games came away with a victory.

The Buckeyes defeated Creighton on Nov. 15, 69-60, thanks to a 13-0 run to end the game and 19 bench points from graduate transfer Keyshawn Woods, who according to coach Chris Holtmann had been under the weather during the week leading up to the game in Omaha, Neb.

"Keyshawn the whole game was phenomenal. Phenomenal. And he had the flu two days ago. I told him we might start practicing him every other day because he missed practice two days ago," Holtmann joked. "His shot making and decision making were phenomenal."

Woods scored 15 of his 19 in the first half off the bench as the Buckeyes weathered a 10-2 start by Creighton, eventually carrying a 37-25 lead into the halftime locker room in a game played before 17,146 at the CHI Health Center.

However, the Bluejays rattled off a 14-2 spurt in the second half to tie the game at 48 with 9:47 to play.

Creighton proceeded to take its first lead of the second half at 55-54, with 5:40 to play on an offensive put-back from forward Martin Krampelj. The Bluejay lead extended to four with 2:57 to play on a three-pointer from guard Mitch Ballock. However, those were the last points the home team scored.

Ohio State closed the game on the 13-0 run, started by back-to-back three-pointers by Duane Washington and C.J. Jackson. Jackson's jumper accounted for his first three points of the game, after he had missed his previous seven shots to open the contest.

A two-handed slam from Kyle Young off a feed from Woods gave Ohio State a two-possession lead at 64-60 with 1:21 to play, which was followed by a Jackson hook shot in the lane. From there, a free throw by Jackson and two more from Andre Wesson closed the scoring.

Jackson, after scoring a career-high 25 points against Purdue Fort Wayne, finished with just six against Creighton, while Washington finished with 12 off the bench. The freshman had poured in

### Ohio State 69, Creighton 60

Nov. 15, 2018 CHI Health Center Omaha • Omaha, Neb.												
	1	2										F
Ohio State (3-0)	37	32	-									69
Creighton (2-1)	25	35	-									60
Ohio State	Total	FG	FT	Reb.								
	Min.	M-A	M-A	O-D	A	PF	Pts.					
A. Wesson	32	2-6	2-2	0-4	1	1	8					
Young	23	3-5	0-2	4-2	0	2	6					
K. Wesson	21	4-7	0-0	0-3	1	2	9					
Muhammad	24	2-6	0-0	2-2	3	4	4					
Jackson	29	2-9	1-2	0-4	4	3	6					
Jallow	11	0-1	1-2	2-0	1	2	1					
Washington	23	4-6	1-2	0-2	1	3	12					
LeDee	5	2-2	0-0	2-1	0	1	4					
Woods	32	7-13	2-2	1-2	4	0	19					
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>26-55</b>	<b>7-12</b>	<b>11-23</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>69</b>					
<b>Percentages:</b> FG: 47.3%. FT: 58.3%. <b>3-point goals:</b> 10-21 (A. Wesson 2-4, Young 0-1, K. Wesson 1-2, Muhammad 0-1, Jackson 1-4, Washington 3-4, Woods 3-5). <b>Team rebounds:</b> 3. <b>Blocked shots:</b> 2 (K. Wesson, Jackson). <b>Turnovers:</b> 13 (Jackson 5, K. Wesson 3, Washington 2, LeDee 2, Muhammad). <b>Steals:</b> 4 (Muhammad 2, Jackson, Washington).												
Creighton	Total	FG	FT	Reb.								
	Min.	M-A	M-A	O-D	A	PF	Pts.					
Krampelj	21	2-4	0-1	5-2	0	5	4					
Jefferson	20	1-2	0-0	0-4	0	4	2					
Mintz	34	4-8	2-2	1-3	2	3	12					
Alexander	30	6-14	1-3	1-5	3	2	16					
Ballock	31	2-6	0-0	0-3	3	1	5					
Cashaw	8	1-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	2					
Zegarowski	23	3-9	0-1	1-1	1	2	8					
Joseph	9	1-2	0-0	0-0	1	0	2					
Froling	9	1-2	0-0	0-0	0	0	2					
Epperson	15	2-4	2-2	1-0	0	2	7					
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>23-52</b>	<b>5-9</b>	<b>10-19</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>60</b>					
<b>Percentages:</b> FG: 44.2%. FT: 55.6%. <b>3-point goals:</b> 9-25 (Krampelj 0-1, Jefferson 0-1, Mintz 2-4, Alexander 3-7, Ballock 1-4, Zegarowski 2-6, Epperson 1-2). <b>Team rebounds:</b> 2. <b>Blocked shots:</b> 4 (Krampelj 2, Mintz, Froling). <b>Turnovers:</b> 14 (Krampelj 3, Jefferson 3, Froling 3, Mintz 2, Alexander, Epperson, TEAM). <b>Steals:</b> 4 (Krampelj, Jefferson, Ballock, Cashaw). <b>Officials:</b> Boroski, Szelc, Pfeifer. <b>A:</b> 17,146.												

a career-high 20 in his previous showing against the Mastodons.

The late run that led to the victory was a combination of multiple things, Holtmann said, although those things were pretty simple.

"They had to miss a couple shots, but we had to tweak our ball-screen coverage a bit there late," he said. "We were able to stem the tide a little bit. They missed a couple shots and our guys made a couple. We did tell them, 'Hey, let's get this to a one- or two-point game at the under-four media timeout. If we do that, I like where we're at. I feel like we can close the game.' Our players made the plays to win the game."

Ohio State was 26 of 55 from the floor (47.3 percent) including a solid 10-of-21 mark (47.6) from beyond the arc.

Ty-Shon Alexander led Creighton with 16 points, and Davion Mintz was also in double figures at 12.

— James Grega

## K. Wesson Leads OSU Against S.C. State

Ohio State tipped off a five-game home-stand with an 89-61 throttling of South Carolina State on Nov. 18 to move to 4-0 on the season before 10,935 at Value City Arena.

The Buckeyes were led by sophomore Kaleb Wesson, who scored 17 of his game-high 18 points in the first half. Wesson's output was just one shy of his career high, which came in a win over Wisconsin last year. The Westerville, Ohio, native played just 21 minutes in the victory and added five rebounds to his stat sheet.

Wesson also converted on 3 of 4 shots from behind the arc, a career high for him. His combination of size and skill was something South Carolina State head coach Murry Gavin said his team doesn't see often.

"I haven't seen that before where a post player that big, it's almost like Shaq in the late '90s," Gavin said of Wesson.

The Ohio State big man also drew 12 fouls and went 7 of 11 from the charity stripe.

Unlike the first three games, South Carolina State (1-4) did not elect to double-team Wesson early, which allowed him to get off to a hot start, scoring 12 of Ohio State's first 17 points.

"I just felt like I had it going early," he said. "My teammates kept finding me, and I wouldn't have been able to do that without my teammates."

It wasn't just Wesson who had a big game for Ohio State, however, as four other Buckeyes scored in double digits against the Bulldogs. Freshman guards Luther Muhammad and Duane Washington poured in 12 and 14 points, respectively, while freshman forward Jaedon LeDee chipped in 12 on a perfect 3-for-3 performance from the floor. He also shot 6 of 8 from the free-throw line. Wesson's older brother, Andre, scored 11 points on 4-of-5 shooting.

Since Micah Potter's departure two days before the start of the season, LeDee has received more playing time than perhaps some expected, and he said he was prepared for the opportunity.

"I just like to always be ready," he said. "That is what Coach always tells me. You know, stay locked into the game. I just saw (Potter's departure) as an opportunity to do what I've got to do for the team. I think I have done fine. We have been winning, and I am having fun out there with my brothers."

After not playing in the season-opening win over Cincinnati, LeDee has played in Ohio State's last three wins and is averaging 10.7 points and 4.3 rebounds per contest.

In addition to Ohio State's success in the post, the Buckeyes have continued

### Ohio State 89, S.C. State 61

Nov. 18, 2018 Value City Arena • Columbus, Ohio												
	1	2										F
South Carolina St. (1-3)	21	40	-									61
Ohio State (4-0)	43	46	-									89
Ohio State	Total	FG	FT	Reb.								
	Min.	M-A	M-A	O-D	A	PF	Pts.					
Fields	7	0-3	0-0	0-2	0	5	0					
Kinard	20	0-2	4-4	0-1	1	3	4					
Applewhite	31	6-10	2-3	3-3	0	4	15					
Neal	20	3-6	1-1	0-2	0	3	7					
Powell	28	2-8	0-0	2-0	1	0	4					
Hill	21	5-9	0-1	1-5	0	2	11					
Banks	18	0-2	0-0	0-1	1	4	0					
Hatchett	16	0-1	4-4	1-2	0	4	4					
Dawkins	3	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0					
Etienne	16	2-12	0-0	1-1	0	2	4					
Bottenberg	8	2-2	0-0	2-0	0	1	4					
Slater	9	3-6	1-1	0-0	0	1	8					
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>23-62</b>	<b>12-14</b>	<b>10-17</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>61</b>					
<b>Percentages:</b> FG: 37.1%. FT: 85.7%. <b>3-point goals:</b> 3-19 (Kinard 0-2, Applewhite 1-2, Neal 0-1, Hill 1-1, Banks 0-2, Hatchett 0-1, Dawkins 0-1, Etienne 0-5, Slater 1-4). <b>Team rebounds:</b> None. <b>Blocked shots:</b> None. <b>Turnovers:</b> 14 (Neal 3, Hatchett 3, TEAM 2, Fields, Kinard, Hill, Banks, Etienne, Slater). <b>Steals:</b> 4 (Powell 2, Kinard, Slater).												
Ohio State	Total	FG	FT	Reb.								
	Min.	M-A	M-A	O-D	A	PF	Pts.					
A. Wesson	23	4-5	3-5	1-5	1	2	11					
Young	14	2-4	0-0	0-5	2	2	4					
K. Wesson	21	4-7	7-11	2-3	0	2	18					
Muhammad	25	5-9	1-1	1-2	4	1	12					
Jackson	20	2-6	2-2	0-0	1	2	7					
Jallow	22	1-2	4-4	2-5	3	0	6					
Washington	25	5-10	3-4	0-2	1	1	14					
Ahrens	11	2-3	0-0	0-1	0	1	5					
Lane	4	0-0	0-0	0-0	1	1	0					
LeDee	17	3-3	6-8	1-5	1	4	12					
Woods	14	0-2	0-0	0-2	4	1	0					
Hummer	4	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0					
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>28-51</b>	<b>26-35</b>	<b>9-31</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>89</b>					
<b>Percentages:</b> FG: 54.9%. FT: 74.3%. <b>3-point goals:</b> 7-19 (K. Wesson 3-4, Muhammad 1-3, Jackson 1-4, Jallow 0-1, Washington 1-4, Ahrens 1-2, Woods 0-1). <b>Team rebounds:</b> 3. <b>Blocked shots:</b> 3 (Jallow 2, LeDee). <b>Turnovers:</b> 15 (K. Wesson 3, Washington 3, LeDee 2, Hummer 2, A. Wesson, Young, Jallow, Lane, Woods). <b>Steals:</b> 4 (Muhammad, Jackson, Ahrens, LeDee). <b>Officials:</b> McCarthy, McLunkins, Kueneman. <b>A:</b> 10,935.												

to have balance on the perimeter. After scoring 19 points in a win over Creighton, graduate transfer Keyshawn Woods was held scoreless against S.C. State, but other players picked up the slack.

Muhammad and Washington combined to shoot 10 of 19 from the floor while C.J. Jackson added seven points on 2-of-6 shooting and did not commit a turnover. Although he finished without a point, Woods dished out four assists and corralled a pair of rebounds in 14 minutes of action.

The Buckeyes took control early, scoring the game's first five points and going on a 12-0 run to take a 24-8 lead at the 10:12 mark of the first half. Washington had five points in the run. The Buckeyes ultimately took a 43-21 lead into halftime. Ohio State stretched the lead to as much as 35 in the second half.

The Buckeyes shot 54.9 percent from the floor (28 of 51) while holding the Bulldogs to just 37.1 (23 of 62).

Damani Applewhite paced South Carolina State with 15 points, and Armani Hill added 11.

— James Grega

## OSU Men's Basketball Commitments & Signees

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

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

Potter never made it clear why he left Ohio State, although Holtmann said he and Potter had an "honest discussion" before his departure.

In two seasons at Ohio State, Potter appeared in 59 games, including 16 starts. He averaged 4.1 points and 2.8 rebounds as a Buckeye.

### Gaffney Signs; Carton, Liddell Up Next

Holtmann's 2019 recruiting class currently stands as the No. 8 class in the country, according to 247Sports, with the

likes of DJ Carton, Alonzo Gaffney and EJ Liddell all committed to play for Ohio State.

However, on the first day commits were eligible to sign their letters of intent, two of the three players had yet to sign.

The one player who did sign on Nov. 14 was Gaffney, who did so at a small ceremony at the Brewster Academy in New Hampshire, where he is finishing out his prep career after transferring from Garfield Heights High School near Cleveland.

According to a report from The Columbus

Dispatch, Carton is expected to sign his letter at a ceremony at Bettendorf High School in Iowa. Liddell was expected to sign on Nov. 15 at his high school in Belleville, Ill. However a snowstorm in the area pushed the ceremony back to Nov. 19, he confirmed on Twitter.

Despite the delays, Holtmann said at a press conference on Nov. 14 that he does not expect any surprises.

"We will have paperwork in in a timely fashion, and some of that is you let kids do it in the way they want to do it," he said. "I'll be able to comment publicly on that sooner rather than later."

### St. John Arena Game Sold Out

For the first time in nearly a decade, Ohio State is set to return to St. John Arena for a men's basketball game, and fans are apparently excited.

The university announced Nov. 16 that the Nov. 23 game against Cleveland State was sold out, although tickets can still be purchased on the secondary market. Ohio State last played a men's basketball game at St. John Arena on Dec. 12, 2010, an 85-60 win over Western Carolina.

Continued On Page 56



# Ohio State Students Get In Free For Syracuse Tilt

Continued From Page 55

The last time St. John Arena was sold out was March 24, 2008, when Ohio State defeated California, 73-56, in the second round of the National Invitation Tournament.

As of Nov. 18, tickets on the secondary market were selling for as low as \$13.

## Free Student Tickets For 'Cuse Game

Ohio State is set to host No. 15 Syracuse on Nov. 28 at the Schottenstein Center as

part of the Big Ten/ACC Challenge, and the school is offering free tickets to students in an effort to create a more upbeat atmosphere.

Last season, the Buckeyes presented students with a similar offer for a home game against Clemson, a contest the Tigers won, 79-65.

The Orange are 2-2 through their first four games with home wins over Eastern Washington (66-34) and Morehead State (84-70) and losses to UConn (83-76) and Oregon (80-65). Both losses came as part of the 2K Empire Classic played at Madison Square Garden in New York City.



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# Ohio State's West Coast Weekend Canceled

Right as Ohio State was slated to head west for the weekend, the Buckeyes put their trip on hold Nov. 15 when it was announced the following day's game against Sacramento State had been postponed.

## DOUBLE DRIBBLE Garrett Stepien

In an afternoon release from the athletic department, OSU cited an "unhealthy air quality index in the Sacramento, Calif., area" for its decision to call off the women's basketball team's clash with the Hornets at Colberg Court.

In its announcement about Sacramento State, Ohio State added that it was moni-

toring the air quality of Palo Alto, Calif., as well with the Camp Fire in Paradise, Calif., continuing to rage into the weekend.

The tilt Nov. 18 against the No. 7 Cardinal at Maple Pavilion was just over 200 miles away from the Camp Fire, resulting in that game being canceled as well. In the updated announcement about Stanford on Nov. 17, the Buckeyes added that their game against Sacramento State had also been canceled entirely and would not be rescheduled. For both nonconference contests, OSU expressed its hope to reschedule the opponents for the 2019-20 season.

In a statement, associate athletic director of sport administration and student-athlete development Carey Fagan addressed the decision on Ohio State's behalf.

"With the current state of the air quality in and around the Sacramento area and in consultation with our medical staff, we

determined that it was in the best interest of our student-athletes' health and wellness to postpone the game," Fagan said. "We have a responsibility to our student-athletes and parents to ensure maximum safety."

Leading up to the cancellation, Sacramento State had been closed for three days and counting due to unhealthy air quality levels. The campus is located 99 miles away from Paradise, where the Camp Fire wildfire had been burning since Nov. 7 with its smoke polluting the surrounding towns throughout the northern region of the state.

As of BSB's press time, the disaster tragically caused 76 deaths in Butte County with 1,276 missing to become California's deadliest wildfire ever, according to multiple reports. While the Camp Fire was at 55 percent containment when BSB went to press, its damage was done additionally in the form of 12,794 structures destroyed (including homes) and 149,000 acres burned.

While the two teams stated plans to continue to work together and reschedule the game, Ohio State's change of course with the Hornets and the Cardinal could cause

the Buckeyes to go 18 days without game action on the hardwood prior to their Nov. 29 contest against North Carolina. OSU's last game was its 85-53 loss to No. 2 Connecticut on Nov. 11.

## OSU Signs Nation's No. 3 Class For '19

The early signing period ran from Nov. 14-21, but Ohio State needed only the week's first couple of days to officially secure all five of its commitments in the class of 2019.

Indianapolis North Central point guard Rikki Harris (5-11); Pamplona, Spain, forward Aixa Wone (6-2); Dublin (Ohio) Coffman guard Jacy Sheldon (5-7); Canton (Ohio) McKinley guard Kierstan Bell (6-1); and Middle Village (N.Y.) Christ the King wing Kaelynn Satterfield (6-0) each signed national letters of intent.

Head coach Kevin McGuff's class shapes up to be one of his best since he took over in Columbus in 2013-14. Ohio State has four top-50 commits – Bell (No. 6 overall), Harris (No. 24 overall), Satterfield (No. 39 overall) and Sheldon (No. 41 overall) – in the 2019

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## OSU Women's Basketball Commitments &amp; Signees

Players in the class of 2019 who have signed letters of intent to play basketball at Ohio State. (Star ratings reflect ESPN.com rankings.)

Player	Pos.	Ht.	Stars	High School/Hometown
Kierstan Bell	G	6-1	★★★★★	Canton (Ohio) McKinley
Rikki Harris	G	5-11	★★★★★	Indianapolis North Central
Kaelynn Satterfield	W	6-0	★★★★★	Middle Village (N.Y.) Christ The King
Jacy Sheldon	G	5-7	★★★★★	Dublin (Ohio) Coffman
Aixa Wone	F	6-2	★★★	Pamplona, Spain

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
Anysa Jones	G	5-9	★★★	Westerville (Ohio) South

ESPN HoopGurlz Recruiting Rankings prepared by Collegiate Basketball Report's Dan Olson.

"I am extremely excited about our signing class and the future of our program," McGuff said. "All five have the skill and athleticism to positively impact our basketball system. More importantly they are high-character individuals who will be terrific representatives of the Ohio State University."

Wone, who committed to the Buckeyes on May 23 in the class of 2018 and originally planned to join the team for the 2018-19 season, was ranked by ProspectsNation.com as a four-star recruit and the No. 15 overall prospect in the world. International hurdles with visa paperwork halted her arrival to campus in time for the fall semester, so she moved to OSU's class of 2019 instead.

Despite missing out on two of Ohio's top talents in Columbus Africentric guard Jordan Horston (6-1, No. 2 overall), who committed to Tennessee on Oct. 3, and Toledo Rogers guard Zia Cooke (5-9, No. 7 overall), who committed to South Carolina on Nov. 5, McGuff made the most of his class, filling it out with four top-50 recruits.

As of BSB's press time, Ohio State's five-member class ranked No. 3 nationally and No. 2 in the Big Ten, according to the HoopGurlz rankings. With four members each, only No. 1 South Carolina and No. 2 Maryland sat ahead of the Buckeyes.

OSU is also in contention for Worcester (Mass.) Academy forward Aliyah Boston (6-4), the No. 3 overall prospect, who officially visited Columbus the weekend of Sept. 22. She followed with trips to South Carolina the weekend of Oct. 27 and Connecticut in early November, after previously taking an official visit to Notre Dame the weekend of Sept. 1.

Boston's potential commitment carries weight with the chance to catapult Ohio State atop the national rankings for the No. 1 spot. Boston is making her decision between the Buckeyes, UConn, Notre Dame and South Carolina – a top four she announced on Aug. 4.

As for 2020, OSU's class already has a pair of commitments from Westerville (Ohio) South after guard Anyssa Jones (5-9) and forward Gabby Hutcherson (6-2) issued pledges in October.

#### Freshman Forward Brings Post Presence For Bucks

When Aaliyah Patty decided on Ohio State, she went forward on her commitment to the Buckeyes with the assumption that she would need to make an immediate impact upon her arrival in Columbus. And through OSU's first few games, the 6-3 freshman forward has already answered the call.

In Ohio State's 55-41 win over Detroit Mercy on Nov. 9, Patty's post presence made a difference for the Scarlet and Gray. Taking the court for just the second time as a Buckeye, she paced OSU with a game-high 16 points on 8-of-11 shooting.

"We're all new, so we're all still trying to find our roles," Patty said. "That's kind of how we're going to get better is us working together and building and everyone knowing what they're good at and us recognizing what they're good at. We all just need to find our roles, and that will make us a better team."

With almost all of those points coming in the post, Patty sparked a 42-22 outburst against the Flyers in the paint. As the new-look squad largely built up by graduate transfers and freshmen comes together, Patty's development is a key piece to how fast the group finds an identity on offense in the post-Kelsey Mitchell era.

"Even though they're new to what we do, they happen to have a lot of experience as basketball players, so they've picked things up very quickly," McGuff said. "Just their experience and maturity, they don't get down on themselves when they make a mistake, which is really important."

Patty picked Ohio State over Missouri, Penn State and Wisconsin among her finalists when she became the Buckeyes' first commitment in McGuff's class of 2018. The pledge packed a much-needed punch for OSU's recruiting efforts after the program swung and missed on the class of 2017, but Patty embraced the idea of coming in and making a difference.

"I'm going to do whatever I can to help

my team out," Patty said. "Whether that's getting as many rebounds as I did points or as many points as I need to or as many steals as I need to or as many blocks, I'm going to do whatever I can to help my team."

The transition hasn't been without its struggles. Before and after Patty's 16-point performance with four rebounds and three blocks in 28 minutes against Detroit Mercy, she posted just four points on 2-of-6 shooting in the 71-47 loss to then-No. 22 South Florida on Nov. 6 and went scoreless on an 0-for-4 mark from the field in the 85-53 defeat at No. 2 Connecticut on Nov. 11.

Learning to navigate the peaks and valleys of her rookie season, Patty hasn't become too high or too low as she tries to take the next step ahead of the winter, growing into a consistent contributor.

"The adjustment was easy," Patty said. "There's a lot of support, so it's not hard. There's a bunch of people helping you out. I love it here. Everything's great – the coaches, the players. It's like a different family. Everyone makes you feel at home."



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# Goalie Rotation Working To Near Perfection

Tommy Napier and Sean Romeo present different styles of play and personalities, but the Ohio State goaltenders have something in common: They each do a very good job of stopping the puck.

## IN THE CREASE Craig Merz

That was never more evident than the weekend of Nov. 9-10 when the Buckeyes went to Colgate and posted back-to-back shutouts with the senior Romeo making 19 saves for a 3-0 win followed by Nappier, a junior, posting 24 stops in a 1-0 triumph the next night.

The whitewash was the second straight for Romeo on a Friday night only to sit the next game as the coaching staff has decided to split the duties so far this season.

"Everybody wants to play, but that being said, Nap's been playing great," Romeo said. "The team's in good hands."

The rotation continued Nov. 16-17 with almost equal success. Romeo stopped 32 Wisconsin shots for his third straight shutout, the first OSU goalie to ever accomplish that feat, for a 4-0 win in the opener. The third straight team shutout tied the program mark.

In the rematch, Nappier kept the Badgers off the board until 5:30 of the third in the 3-1 win. The consecutive games shutout streak ended, but prior to the Badgers' goal he held them off long enough to establish an OSU team record of 231:42 without allowing a goal.

Nappier is 4-1-1 with a 1.27 goals-against average and a .958 save percentage. Romeo is 4-2-0 with a 2.13 GAA and a .918 save percentage.

Romeo, whose whitewash vs. the Badgers was his fifth in 43 career games for the Buckeyes, was the workhorse in 2017-18, his first at Ohio State after sitting out the previous season per NCAA rules following his transfer from Maine.

He started the first 10 games last sea-

son and played 37 of 41 games to help the Buckeyes reach the national semifinal for the first time in 20 years.

Romeo was 22-10-5 with a 2.06 goals-against average and a .927 save percentage to earn second-team All-Big Ten honors. He was also a semifinalist for the Mike Richter Award as the top goalie nationally, a first for the program.

As well as Romeo played last season, it's taking some getting used not being between the pipes game after game.

"It's not my decision," he said. "I just go out there and play."

It takes two to have a competition, and Nappier, a St. Louis native, is a worthy challenger.

In six games (four starts) last season he was 4-0-0, including a 31-save shutout vs. Wisconsin. His goals against was 1.33, and he had a .956 save percentage to be tabbed for the conference's All-Freshman Team.

In his first start this season he made 27 saves for his second career shutout, 3-0, at Arizona State on Oct. 13.

His third blanking vs. Colgate earned him the Big Ten Third Star of the Week. The previous week Romeo was the second star for shutting out Notre Dame.

"I feel we have one of the best tandems in the country," said volunteer assistant coach and former Buckeye goalie Dustin Carlson.

The "battle," as it were, for playing time has remained civil.

"We're really good friends," Nappier said. "It helps every day going against (Romeo) in practice. He's a great goalie, makes you better every day."

Associate head coach Steve Miller likes the arrangement.

"We're fortunate to have two really good guys that push each other, challenge each other in practice," he said. "You know you have to come and challenge each other every single day because there's another guy there doing the same thing who's playing at a high level. I think it's a real big positive for the guys."

"It's that mentality that whoever is playing is going to give you his best game."

The Buckeyes were very good defensive-

ly for 10 of the first 12 games through the Wisconsin series. They allowed two or fewer goals in 10, but in the other two they gave up 14 goals in a 6-3 loss to UMass on Oct. 19 and an 8-2 defeat against Bowling Green a week later. Romeo started both games.

Against BG he stopped four of eight shots in the first 11:24 before being pulled. That's the last goal Romeo has allowed. Nappier replaced him and stopped five of seven shots in 15:40, and sophomore Evan Moyse made 11 saves on 13 shots in 32:56 in his OSU debut.

The next night at Bowling Green, Nappier made 28 saves in a 2-2 tie. That meant Romeo had to stew a week before playing again, and he rebounded with the shutout at Notre Dame.

"It was a lot of time to think about what happened," he said.

"He had a couple of rough games, but we didn't give up on him," Carlson said. "We put him right in against Notre Dame, and he answered the bell."

He's happy with the rotation for now.

"Romes by the end of last season was suffering some injuries and stuff because we rested everything on his shoulders," Carlson said. "Tommy played phenomenal last year the times when he went, and we felt why not play them both?"

"It's a huge advantage. For teams that pre-scout they've got to deal with two different goalies. You can't really set up for one or the other. One's going to be in your face. The other is going to more methodical so what do you do?"

Romeo (6-1, 185) is cerebral.

"Romes is a very routine guy, very methodical, very technical," Carlson said. "At the same time, he balances his game out. He wants to be in position on the angle for the initial shot, but he can battle you too."

Nappier (6-3, 220) likes to use his size to challenge shooters to find an opening.

"Tommy is more a time and space guy," Carlson said. "If he's got time to get in your face and take away everything, he's going to do it. There's no stopping point for that where Romes is going to come out two or three feet then hit the brakes."

"Tommy's going to come out until he's on top of you then go from there. He has a good sense of where he is in relation to the net, so he can go a little crazy. They're both good at tracking the puck, but Romes would rather it hit him square in the chest and hang onto it where Tommy would actually look to make a hand save. He'll look to get a glove on it and flash a little leather."

The difference is that Romeo, from Cary, N.C., is not as good handling the puck as Nappier but he's vastly improved from last season.

"For Tommy it's already in his repertoire," Carlson said. "He loves to have it on his tape. He can do whatever he wants with it. It's more about for him to occasionally let his D do the work for him back there, but he can throw a long bomb out there, cause some chaos for the other team."

## Buckeyes Break Badgers

In taking the 4-0 victory to start a four-game homestand, senior Brendon Kearney had his first career two-goal game. Junior Tanner Laczynski had a goal and an assist, and freshman Gustaf Westlund had two helpers at Value City Arena on Nov. 16.

The Buckeyes scored twice in 25 seconds in the final minute of the first period on goals by Laczynski (power play) and Kearney for a 2-0 lead. Mason Jobst made it 3-0 on the power play in the second, and Kearney added another at 10:51 of the third.

The No. 6 Buckeyes (8-3-1, 3-1-0-0 Big Ten) then won their fourth straight with the sweep of the Badgers (5-7-0, 1-3-0-0).

Freshman Quinn Preston scored his first career goal, and defenseman Gordi Myer got his first of the season late in the first with a power-play marker. Jobst scored with the man advantage for his seventh goal in the second period before Sean Dhooche broke the Buckeyes' shutout streak for the 3-1 final against Nappier, who made 27 saves.

OSU hosts Penn State on Nov. 23 (5 p.m.) and Nov. 24 (8 p.m.).

*For a complete recap of Ohio State's series with Wisconsin, go to BSB's BuckeyeSports.com website, free to all Buckeye Sports Bulletin subscribers.*

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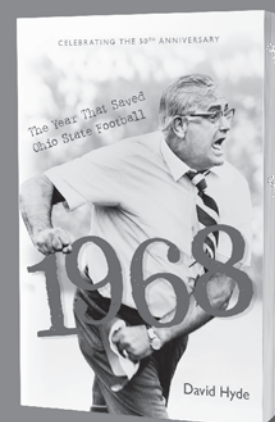
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# OSU Turned To Unusually Experienced Frosh In Goal

By JOE DEMPSEY  
Special To Buckeye Sports Bulletin

The Ohio State women's hockey team enjoyed its best season in program history last year, winning a program-best 24 games and making its first NCAA tournament appearance.

The Buckeyes lost in the Frozen Four to the eventual champion, Clarkson, in a heart-breaking 1-0 decision. Following the season, All-America goaltender Kassidy Sauvé left Ohio State via transfer to the school that had knocked the Buckeyes out.

Ohio State head coach Nadine Muzerall turned to a freshman goaltender to fill the void in net. Fortunately for the Buckeyes, Andrea Braendli is not a typical freshman.

Braendli, who is 21 years old, came to Columbus with plenty of experience for someone who is considered a first-year player. She played men's hockey in her native country of Switzerland and also represented her nation in the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea. Braendli told BSB that representing Switzerland in the Olympics was "a dream come true" and that the experience helped her prepare to compete at Ohio State.

"It really helps me in situations where I don't know how to react at this level," Braendli said of her Olympic experience helping her adjust to the NCAA. "Before I came into the university I had no idea what to expect from the level (of competition). But I knew how the national teams from other countries are so I knew that they are pretty good, and that helped me a lot to get used to the level, speed and how they play."

Muzerall said that her goaltender's experience is extremely important because of the strength of the women's Western Collegiate Hockey Association, the conference in which Ohio State competes. The WCHA has produced a record 15 NCAA Frozen Four titles (and one ACHA crown), seven Patty Kazmaier Memorial Award winners (top player in the country) and 83 Olympians in just 19 seasons.

Muzerall is well aware of Braendli's international pedigree, saying the goalie's experience benefits her in net and in the locker room.

"Playing at the Olympic level, she's competing against the best in the world, and she's earned it," Muzerall said of Braendli becoming the Buckeyes' starter between the pipes. "Not just because of her performance, but because of her desire to be the best. And she wanted the No. 1 spot."

Since becoming the starting goalie, the freshman netminder has performed well, ranking fifth in the conference in goals-against average (1.85) and third in save percentage (.937). A diligent work ethic can be credited for Braendli's success.

"Hard worker," Braendli said when asked to describe herself. "And it's team first. So I will do everything for the team. I will do everything to succeed."

Muzerall has taken note of her goalie's work ethic and team-first mentality.

"She's very intense in drills and tactical," Muzerall said of Braendli. "And if she's not in the net for a particular drill, she's behind the scenes working on her angle and she's always moving. And she's very much of a go-getter. She really wants to bring her game to the next level."

Braendli has already proved she can compete at an elite level, earning Best Goaltender of the IIHF Ice Hockey U-18 Women's World Championship Division 1 honors. When asked what it meant to earn such a prestigious award, the Ohio State goalie deflected the praise like an oncoming slap shot.

"It's a huge honor to get this, but it's not only the goalie that did this, it's the whole team," Braendli said. "I mean it is nice to get those things, but it's not that I only play hockey to earn titles, I want to win as a team."

Although Braendli made the transition from international hockey to collegiate hockey look easy, the adjustment from living one's entire life in Switzerland to attending one of the largest universities in America

can be challenging. The Buckeye goalie has embraced the change.

"I love it here," Braendli said. "It was hard at the beginning to get used to everything because it was a huge experience for me and totally new because America is so big for me. I'm from Switzerland, so everything's so big. That was the thing that I had to get used to, like everything around us – but hockey is hockey. I love to play here. It's so amazing."

Joining a new team can be scary. Joining a team with championship aspirations as a freshman from Switzerland who is vying for a starting job can be especially daunting. Braendli credits her teammates for helping her adjust to American culture and said she loves to play with fellow young women after playing in men's leagues.

"They just were like really friendly right at the beginning and they treat me like friends," Braendli said of her teammates. "So when I came into the team, I was already in it. I wasn't on the outside, so that was really cool."

While Braendli has made such a massive transition look seamless, Muzerall credits the fact that she's not the typical freshman at 21 and that she's someone that people want to be around.

"She brings in some maturity and she's just so kind and smiley," Muzerall said. "And she's not as much of an extrovert, but when she talks it's intelligently and people listen."



Andrea Braendli

Her experience at the Olympic level will do that.

"She's very infectious and people really like her a lot. I know she's helped a couple of people with their German homework. But people really get along with her. She's a great team player."

The Buckeyes have found their goalie of the present and the future in the freshman from Zurich, Switzerland. And the Buckeyes aren't losing sleep over Sauvé's decision to transfer.

"Andrea encompasses everything, not just being a solid goaltender, meaning performance, she encompasses the team-first mentality, she encompasses the mental state, the reliability," Muzerall said of Braendli. "She's at practice every single day, she doesn't complain. So as a whole, she encompasses everything. And we haven't had that in years past."

While some might say Braendli has big shoes to fill with Sauvé's departure, the first-year Buckeye goaltender is confident her own shoes fit just fine.

"I know what I can do," Braendli said. "And I know that I can do the same that she did last year. So I don't want to be a second Sauvé, I want to be the first Andrea."

*In order to better introduce BSB readers to Ohio State's Olympic sports teams and athletes, we have shifted to more feature-oriented coverage of the various squads. Buckeye Sports Bulletin will provide a roundup of all the games, matches and meets involving OSU's teams each Monday on our BuckeyeSports.com website, free to all print subscribers.*

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# BUCKEYE SCOREBOARD

## FOOTBALL

### (10-1, 7-1 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, W 52-51 (OT); **24** MICHIGAN, Noon.

**Dec. 1** Big Ten Championship Game at Indianapolis, 8 p.m.

## MEN'S BASKETBALL (4-0)

**Nov. 1** UNC PEMBROKE (exhibition), W 81-63; **7** at Cincinnati, W 64-56; **11** PFW, W 107-61; **15** at Creighton, W 69-60; **18** SOUTH CAROLINA STATE, W 89-61; **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, canceled; **18** at Stanford, canceled; **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.

## MEN'S ICE HOCKEY (8-3-1, 3-1-0 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, W 4-0; W 3-1; **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 (11-5-0, 7-3-0 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, W 3-1; W 4-1.

**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 (12-18, 3-15 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** (7) WISCONSIN, L 3-0; **17** (3) MINNESOTA, L 3-2; **23** at Nebraska, 8 p.m.; **24** at Iowa, 8 p.m.

## WRESTLING (3-0)

**Nov. 3** vs. Navy at Owings Mills, Md., W 28-9; **11** Ohio Intercollegiate Open at Cleveland, NTS; **16** at California Baptist, W 42-0; **18** at Arizona State, W 22-17; **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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# Buckeyes Find A Way To Survive In College Park

Somebody forgot to tell the Maryland Terrapins they were underdogs Nov. 17 in College Park, Md. The Terrapins came out of the gates on fire and played their hearts out for four quarters, forcing the Buckeyes into overtime.

## COACH'S CORNER With Bill Conley

A team that had pretty much gone downhill since its opening win over Texas, and only had victories over lower-echelon teams in the Big Ten and Bowling Green, played like a team possessed. Behind the running of back Anthony McFarland, the Terrapins took it straight to a Buckeye defense that had the "deer in the headlight look" after two long breakaways for touchdowns. McFarland alone put up 298 rushing yards against an Ohio State defense that had shown signs of improvement the last two weeks against Nebraska and Michigan State.

In reality, it was the Buckeye defense that had given up a ton of big plays and massive yardage to its opponents in earlier games this season that reared its ugly head at Maryland Stadium. If it wasn't for the heroics of quarterback Dwayne Haskins and Co., the Buckeyes would have suffered one of their most devastating upsets of the past decade.

A win is a win but this one is hard to swallow. The weaknesses of the Ohio State defense are glaring, and they must be addressed immediately if the Buckeyes are to beat Michigan in Columbus.

### Out-Schemed

The Maryland offensive coaches came in with a great game plan to move the ball against the Buckeyes. They used an unbalanced line along with motion to the field to get the Ohio State defense to roll its coverage toward the motion, making the Buckeyes weak in terms of run support to the boundary. In other words, Maryland ran the ball to the weak side of its formation where the Buckeye secondary had spun its coverage away from on the motion.

To make matters worse for the Buckeyes, the corner who had contain responsibility to the boundary jumped inside on McFarland's first breakaway, giving up contain as the speedy Maryland running back broke the ball outside and went the distance for the Terrapins' first score. McFarland would repeat his heroics again minutes later with another long run, this time due to a missed tackle by Buckeye safety Brendon White and poor pursuit angles taken by other defenders.

It wasn't just on defense that the Buckeyes were out-schemed. Right after Maryland's first touchdown, the Ohio State kickoff return unit was caught napping and didn't field the football on the pooch kickoff. Fortunately, the Maryland offense fumbled the ball right back, but it became apparent early in the game it was the Terrapins who came ready to play.

The Buckeye special teams were burned later in the game when the Ohio State punt return unit was fooled by a Maryland fake punt. The Maryland punter, Wade Lees, completed a pass to Taivon Jacobs in Ohio State territory, keeping the Terrapin drive alive and leading to a Maryland touchdown.

Ohio State should have kept its defensive unit on the field instead of bringing in the punt return unit because of field position. The ball was on the Ohio State 46-yard line – in other words, in an area where a fake punt must be honored on fourth down. A punt return would be unlikely due to the condensed field, so a fake punt has to be anticipated in this situation. Only a Demario McCall kickoff return late in the fourth quarter would be a highlight for the Buckeyes on special teams.

### Haskins Homecoming

Haskins had to be excited coming back to the area he went to high school with friends and family eager to watch him perform in familiar territory. It was expected he would break the Buckeye all-time passing yardage and touchdown record in this game, and he would more than meet that expectation. Early in the second quarter when Haskins completed a pass to Terry McLaurin for a 68-yard touchdown, the yardage record was broken and this thoroughbred of a quarterback was off to the races.

Haskins is truly one of the greatest quarterbacks to wear the scarlet and gray. He played the game at Maryland like a seasoned veteran even though he is still in his first year as a starter. He not only threw the ball for over 400 yards but kept bringing his team from behind time after time. He also proved he could run the football when needed. Haskins was responsible for six touchdowns, three by air and three with his feet.

It was one of the most remarkable performances by a Buckeye ever, and a great homecoming for a fine young man.

### Adversity Bowl

Few would argue that the two teams that faced off in College Park had more combined adversity this season than any other teams in the nation. The Buckeyes had gone through a preseason of program embarrassment over the Zach Smith firing and all the bad publicity that came with it, along with the suspension of its head coach for the first part of the season.

The team then lost its best player and a surefire first-round NFL draft pick in Nick Bosa, leading to a much-weakened defense, a defense with a lot of youth and inexperience at key positions. A team that, remarkably after all their problems, has a 10-1 record and an outside chance to make the College Football Playoff. Urban Meyer and staff have to be credited with holding this team together through very tough times.

The Maryland Terrapins have experienced the greatest tragedy of all in losing one of their players prior to the season. The death of Jordan McNair due to heatstroke led to a series of investigations and accusations surrounding the Terrapin medical and coaching staffs. Head football coach DJ Durkin was put on paid leave for the biggest part of the season then reinstated only to be fired about 24 hours later. It's truly amazing that this team would be 5-6 at this point in the year. Interim head coach Matt Canada has put a team on the field that has performed admirably despite these adversities and that has had its own share on injuries throughout the season.

The Ohio State and Maryland fans can be very proud of their schools, their teams and their coaches for showing all of us that the game of football is not as important as the lessons of life you learn from it. Teamwork, pride, respect, dedication and, most importantly, fighting through adversity are the things that athletes take away from the experience. Both the Ohio State and Maryland programs know wins and losses are important but not nearly as significant as the emphasis placed on that final score at the end of the day.

### 'The Game'

Once more the final game between the Buckeyes and "The Team Up North" is for all the marbles in the Big Ten East, an opportunity to play for the Big Ten title and even a shot at making the playoffs. It's notable that these two teams again end up being the standouts of the conference. The Ohio State-Michigan rivalry is second to none in the country.

Michigan has steadily improved after an early loss to Notre Dame. The Wolverines have a transfer quarterback in Shea Patterson who has brought balance back to the offense. They have shown the ability to put long drives together along with big play potential. No longer does the talented Michigan defense have to be on the field as much as it has the past few seasons. The Michigan faithful are anticipating their first ever victory over an Urban Meyer-coached Buckeye team.

The Buckeyes, despite performances that have been as up and down as the "Beast" at Kings Island, have fought through issues of their own to make it to the title game.

## Conley Answers Readers' Questions

Former Ohio State player and coach and current Buckeye Sports Bulletin columnist Bill Conley will be fielding questions from readers on BuckeyeSports.com 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 session with BuckeyeSports.com readers on Nov. 14, Conley answered a diverse group of questions on such topics as Ohio State's offensive scheme, taking an intentional safety, Jack Tatum and his coldest game as a player and coach.

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.

Despite very poor defensive play at times and an early-season less-than-stellar running attack, the Buckeyes find a way to win.

The Buckeyes have two things going into the Michigan game which give them a real chance to defeat the Wolverines. First of all, Ohio State has better athletes than Michigan. I know they are young and haven't always played up to their abilities, but the skill level is there. Saying that, we all know they have to play at a very high level for four quarters against Michigan.

Secondly, playing in Columbus is a huge advantage for the Buckeyes. The Buckeye fan base will be at a fever pitch and will come out in droves to cheer their team on to victory.

This game will probably go down to the fourth quarter and even possibly the very last drive of the game. Two college football heavyweights will battle it out like they have so many times in the past, and that's the way it should be in the greatest rivalry in college football.

*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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# Ugly Or Not, OSU Has Played An Entertaining Slate

If you're one of those Buckeye fans wrapped up in despair because things haven't always gone as expected this season, you've missed the enjoyment of some pretty entertaining football.

## EXNER POINT Rich Exner

The 52-51 overtime win at Maryland was a thriller packed with drama and excitement.

Ohio State didn't take its first lead until overtime. Dwayne Haskins passed for 405 yards, setting two single-season OSU records along the way (for passing yards and TD passes). J.K. Dobbins had the first 200-yard rushing game of his career.

Set aside the expectations of being a 14.5-point favorite, the game itself was as entertaining as it gets for a road win in the Big Ten.

Just one week earlier, Ohio State faced nasty wind and cold (not a good combination for a passing team) at Michigan State and came away with a 26-6 road Big Ten victory against a team that entered the game ranked 18th nationally. OSU toughed out a tight game for three quarters before pulling away at the end.

Unlike the high-scoring circus of the Ohio State-Maryland game, the win at Michigan State was a throwback to the old days, when defenses dominated and little things (or mistakes) mattered. In one of the most improbable stories for a college football game, a punter was the star of the game, as Drue Chrisman time after time pinned the Spartans close to the goal.

Flaws?

Of course, even the casual observer of Ohio State this year knows there have been problems. Some which may still be fixable. Some that need to be covered up somehow (Ohio State's lack of speed in the defensive backfield to run down breakaway ball carriers has been clear from week one).

Maybe there are people who crave the days when the Big Ten was the Big Two and Little Eight. That's when the seasons were mostly boring prequels leading up to Woody Hayes-Bo Schembechler showdowns in the late 1960s and 1970s.

But for a football fan willing to set aside expectations or the need for perfection, November has been pretty good.

### Reality Check

Ohio State is 10-1.

There are 65 schools playing big-time football, counting the 64 in the five major conferences, plus Notre Dame.

Only three – Alabama, Clemson and Notre Dame – are undefeated heading into the final week of the regular season. Only five schools have one loss – Ohio State, Michigan, Oklahoma, Washington State and Georgia.

Fifty-seven schools are worse off.

This list includes once marquee programs like Auburn (7-4), Miami, Fla., (6-5), Florida State (5-6), USC (5-6), Nebraska (4-7) and UCLA (3-8).

### Clinging To Contention

No, it doesn't look good for Ohio State going forward. But strange things happen in college football. And at least Ohio State has done enough to stay in the hunt.

Buckeye fans should know this, as 2014 isn't too long ago.

Ohio State staggered into the 2014 Michigan game after unimpressive wins over unranked Minnesota (31-24) and unranked Indiana (42-

27). Indiana was only 3-7 when the Hoosiers faced the Buckeyes that year.

But with just one loss, even if unimpressive in mid-November, Ohio State entered The Game positioned to still make a run at the title. The Buckeyes were ranked seventh at the time, close to where they are ranked this year.

Things, of course, went right in the Michigan game, and very much so the rest of the way with Cardale Jones coming off the bench to lead OSU to the national title.

### Look Around

Ohio State's slip in the eyes of those behind the rankings after the win at Michigan State was puzzling. Michigan State at the time was ranked 18th by the College Football Playoff selection committee. Ohio State won on the road in difficult weather by 20 points against a top-20 team.

But after that game, Ohio State fell from eighth to 10th in the AP poll. OSU stayed at No. 10 in the playoff rankings, even after higher-ranked Kentucky lost. OSU was jumped by West Virginia.

The schools that matter to Ohio State are not undefeated Alabama, Clemson and Notre Dame, but rather the other one-loss teams OSU or Michigan would likely be competing against for a fourth playoff spot.

The same day OSU was beating MSU, No. 6 (committee rankings) Oklahoma edged unranked Oklahoma State (now 6-5) by a 48-47 score. A week earlier, Oklahoma slipped by unranked Texas Tech (now 5-6) by a 51-46 score.

Washington State's record includes a 19-13 win against unranked Cal (now 6-4) and a 41-38 win over No. 24 at the time Stanford (now 6-4).

And while Ohio State was struggling, but winning, on the road against 5-5 and unranked Maryland, Michigan was doing the same at home against 5-5 and unranked Indiana, finally winning, 31-20.

### Résumé Check

Should Michigan win out, one would assume the Wolverines would be a lock for the playoffs. Same goes for one-loss Georgia, considering the fact that Georgia in that scenario would be closing out with a SEC championship victory over No. 1 Alabama.

So if Ohio State wins out, the discussion for the fourth playoff spot could come down to Ohio State vs. Oklahoma vs. Washington State. All could be one-loss champions of major conferences.

Ohio State's wins against ranked opponents would stack up nicely against this group. Michigan likely would remain in the top 10. Michigan State, Penn State and Northwestern would likely remain in the top 25 after all the league title games are played Dec. 1. That would be four wins against final top-25 teams for Ohio State.

The win over Michigan would be better than anything Oklahoma or Washington State can still obtain.

As for losses – Ohio State lost to Purdue (now 5-6). Washington State lost to USC (now 5-6). Oklahoma lost to Texas (8-3 and still ranked).

### Top 10

Here's my top 10 and thoughts on the playoff chances for each.

1. Alabama (11-0) – Likely in the playoffs, even with a loss down the stretch.
2. Notre Dame (11-0) – Likewise, probably in the playoffs, even with a loss against USC. The safe harbor for the Irish is that they don't have to risk playing in a league title game.
3. Clemson (11-0) – Among the top three,

Clemson probably can least afford a loss. Remember, league titles are factored in the criteria.

4. Michigan (10-1) – Despite struggling against Indiana, Michigan is the odds-on favorite among those ranked here or below to finish out with just one loss and make the playoffs.

5. Oklahoma (10-1) – The Sooners deserve to be ranked fifth now but probably have less chance to win out than Washington State or even Ohio State. Oklahoma is at hostile Morgantown to play West Virginia the day after Thanksgiving. Then there would be a potentially tough Big 12 title game.

6. Georgia (10-1) – Closing out with wins over Georgia Tech (7-4) and Alabama (11-0) would put Georgia in the playoffs. Don't expect it.

7. Washington State (10-1) – For now, I have Washington State above Ohio State, but that likely would change if both win out. Ohio State's wins down the stretch (10-1 Michigan and 7-4 Northwestern) would be better than Washington State's (8-3 Washington and 8-3 Utah).

8. Ohio State (10-1) – Two wins would give OSU a very good chance to move ahead of Oklahoma (I expect a loss by the Sooners) and Washington State.

9. West Virginia (8-2) – Positioned to have the best shot as a two-loss team, if Michigan, Oklahoma, Washington State, Georgia and Ohio State all lose.

10. LSU (9-2) – No chance at the playoffs but deserves to be ranked 10th above undefeated UCF, which likely won't have any wins against teams ranked in the final top 25.

### Numbers Counting

Urban Meyer's streak of having a 1,000-yard rusher in each season at Ohio State is all-but-guaranteed to be extended, even with the run-game problems this season.

Dobbins enters the Michigan game with 915 yards. Including the Michigan game, OSU has at least two games left.

Interestingly, Meyer never had a 1,000-yard rusher before Ohio State.

In 10 seasons at Florida, Utah and Bowling Green, his leading rushers ranged from Jeff Demps (551 yards at Florida in 2010) to Brandon Warfield (976 yards at Utah in 2003).

In his first six seasons at Ohio State, Meyer has had seven 1,000-yard rushers: Braxton Miller (1,271 yards) in 2012; Carlos Hyde (1,521) and Miller (1,068) in 2013; Ezekiel Elliott (1,878) in 2014; Elliott (1,821) in 2015; Mike Weber (1,096) in 2016; and Dobbins (1,403) in 2017.

As for the passing numbers, the most incredible thing about Haskins setting OSU single-season records for yards and TDs is that he did it in the 11th game.

Haskins is on pace to easily top 4,000 yards passing. He has 3,685 yards through 11 games, just the fourth OSU player to reach 3,000 yards.

The previous record of 3,330 yards by Joe Germaine was compiled over 12 games in 1998. Bobby Hoying in 1995 passed for 3,269 yards in 13 games. And J.T. Barrett last season threw for 3,053 yards in 14 games.

Haskins has 36 TD passes so far. The previous record of 35 was set by Barrett over last year's 14-game season.

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# Haskins Took Important Step Forward Vs. Terps

When a team allows one player to rush for 298 yards and gives up 51 points, it shouldn't win the game. That is unless that same team happens to have one of the best offensive performances in program history.

## MOODY MUSINGS Tim Moody, Editor

That's exactly what happened for Ohio State against Maryland on Nov. 17. The Buckeyes racked up 688 yards of total offense – the most ever against a Big Ten opponent – and overcame a big day from Maryland back Anthony McFarland, who had touchdown runs of 81 and 75 yards in the first quarter.

Quite frankly, it was a bad performance for Ohio State – the worst defensive performance in a season filled with issues on that side of the ball. It was the kind of performance that doesn't lead to a win if you don't have some heroic performances on the other side.

That's what the Buckeyes got from J.K. Dobbins, who ran for a career-best 203 yards

and a touchdown on 37 carries. That's what they got from receivers Johnnie Dixon and Terry McLaurin, who each went over the century mark. That's what they got from quarterback Dwayne Haskins as a passer as he threw for 405 yards, breaking the single-season program records for passing yards and passing touchdowns in the process.

But none of that was the most impressive thing for Ohio State.

For me, Haskins' ability to run is what won the Buckeyes the game. At long last, he showed a willingness to put his head down and pick up the necessary yardage. He showed the determination to find the first-down marker or the end zone no matter what.

Haskins needed to have a performance like that.

"He needed to take that step," head coach Urban Meyer said after the game. "That's the next step in his career is the toughness, the leadership, and then obviously he threw the ball (well)."

For much of this season, I didn't think we'd ever see a performance like that from Haskins. He often seemed almost afraid to run, fearing the big hit that could potentially impact his ability to be a first-round pick

in the upcoming NFL draft. That's what it looked like at least.

He would either refuse to run at all – taking sacks when scrambling or throwing it away would have been better – or, when he did run, he'd slide well before contact could be made. Even his slides looked ungraceful for a high-level athlete.

He just wasn't a runner, and he often didn't look like a hard-nosed football player.

He had shown flashes of that against Michigan State a week earlier, but playing near his hometown against the Terrapins, Haskins finally showed the toughness and leadership that helped J.T. Barrett carry the Buckeyes to win after win over the past four years. It was good to see for a player who might be only a one-season starter at Ohio State.

Without his tough running, Ohio State doesn't beat Maryland. The Buckeyes wouldn't be in position to win the Big Ten and go to the Rose Bowl (or maybe the playoff, but more on that later). But because Haskins took the necessary strides – both literally against Maryland and figuratively in his development – the Buckeyes are still in the hunt for what could go down as a very successful, if slightly underwhelming, season.

### Playoffs? Maybe Next Year

After Ohio State lost to Purdue a few short – or maybe long, depending on whom you ask – weeks ago, I wasn't shy about saying that I thought the Buckeyes would be back in the College Football Playoff if they won out. A lot of people told me I was wrong, and I'm here now to tell you that you were right.

This Ohio State team isn't going to the playoffs unless some pure pandemonium ensues over the next couple of weeks. That's certainly possible – remember 2007? – but it's not likely.

As things stand, I'd say Alabama is a lock for the playoff, even if the Crimson Tide lose a game (which isn't going to happen). Clemson is pretty much a lock as well, as is Notre Dame. That leaves one more spot that will go to Michigan if the Wolverines beat

Ohio State and Northwestern – they'll be favored in both of those games. If not, then a one-loss Oklahoma or a one-loss Georgia (if the Bulldogs do beat Alabama) would get the last spot.

So, in summary, even if Ohio State wins out, the Buckeyes would need Notre Dame or Oklahoma to struggle the rest of the way. That's not likely.

But even if Ohio State doesn't make the playoff, the Buckeyes are still in position to have a heck of a season. For a team with a subpar defense – one of the worst in recent (or distant) memory – the Buckeyes could still end up as Big Ten champs playing in Pasadena on New Year's Day.

That would be a pretty good season, but there's a long way to go.

### Bad Call

I think I'm in the minority here, but I will never agree with Maryland's decision to go for two and the win in overtime. I get the sentiment – the underdog wants to shock the world without giving the world-beater a chance to stay in the game. But why would you ever let a game like that come down to just one play if you can avoid it?

To me, teams should always live to fight another day.

After the game, Meyer explained that he would have done the same in that situation, but to me his thoughts were counterintuitive.

"I would've probably done the same thing if I was that coach the way they were gaining yards on us," he said.

He's right. Maryland was gaining yards at will. So why would you leave the entire game up to one play where so many things can go wrong instead of giving your offense an entire drive to score again?

One mistake ends the game on a two-point try. One mistake could mean nothing if you go to a second overtime instead.

Ohio State might still have won in a second extra period, but Maryland interim coach Matt Canada made a mistake by going with the aggressive call.

Do you think Ohio State would have gotten the stop in the second OT? I sure don't.



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# Meyer's Right, That Was An 'Alarming' Performance

I'd love to tell you that Ohio State's performance against Maryland was a ploy to lull Michigan into complacency. Ah, life should be that simple.

Ohio State's play against the Terrapins was "alarming," to parrot a word Buckeye coach Urban Meyer used after the game. I would go so far as to say that even though Ohio State ended up a 52-51 winner, this was more alarming than the 49-20 loss to Purdue almost a month ago. I say that because, one, the game against the Boilermakers should have served as a wake-up call for the rest of the season and, two, the Ohio State defense had appeared to take a couple of steps forward since that debacle in West Lafayette.

The play by the defense against the Terps was beyond one step forward and two steps back. This was multiple steps back to the big-play-yielding days of the opener against Oregon State and Artavis Pierce, who had TD runs of 80 and 78 yards. Maryland's Anthony McFarland seemed to one-up Pierce with his scoring jaunts of 81 and 75 yards to help him post 298 yards and a 14.2 yards per carry average (Pierce tallied only 168).

Here I go again, quoting former Buckeye coach John Cooper:

"One week you are sipping the wine, the next week you're stomping the grapes," Coop used to say.

Ask safety Brendon White about that. White was given credit for almost single-handedly righting the Buckeye defensive ship following his play against Nebraska and Michigan State.

Yet there he was taking the bad angle and chasing McFarland down the field on his first touchdown (though the coaches were seen chastising cornerback Damon Arnette) and then missing the tackle that freed the back for his second long score. White settled down to record five tackles, but he got a welcome to the reality of playing defense for Ohio State.

McFarland's play shouldn't have been a complete surprise. After all, he had racked up 210 yards the week before against Indiana.

But adding to the cause for concern were the long passes from quarterback Tyrrell Pigrome, who completed only six passes in the game but averaged better than 30 yards on each of them. Included among them were a 56-yarder to Dontay Demus to set up a field goal in the first quarter and a 60-yarder to Darryl Jones to help put Maryland up 45-38 in the closing minutes of the game.

But what may have been most troubling to me was the 30-yard pass after Ohio State came back to tie the game, which almost gave the Terps the chance to kick a game-winning field goal (or more). You would think that the defense would have made some sort of attempt to deny a shot to win the game.

After special teams, led by Drue Chrisman, carried the day against Michigan State, even that unit had its struggles against the Terps. I am still trying to figure out how the Buckeyes let that kickoff in the first quarter fall in for what was described as an "onside kick" that Maryland recovered at the OSU 21. Luckily for the Buckeyes, Maryland fumbled the ball back on the following play.

Later, Maryland would very successfully convert a fake punt. I'll give the Buckeyes a little bit of a break here because the play was really well conceived and executed and it was like the game-turning fake field goal at Purdue, where the underdog has so little to lose in going for broke.

At least Chrisman was able to drop one of his two punts down at the Maryland 6. Ohio State then got the ball back at the Maryland 44 to set up a 6-yard touchdown pass from Dwayne

## THE VIEW FROM 15TH & HIGH Frank Moskowitz, Publisher

Haskins to K.J. Hill to allow the Buckeyes to tie the game at 31 early in the fourth quarter. Kudos also to Demario McCall, whose 42-yard kickoff return to the 50 set up Ohio State's touchdown that forced overtime.

Haskins and the offense were, of course, the lone bright spot for Ohio State. The QB from Maryland looked like the Haskins of earlier in the season, breaking several more school records while going 28 of 38 for 405 yards and three scores, looking cool, calm and collected as he led the Buckeyes to their 52 points and 688 yards while playing from behind for most of the game.

As good as his passing was, that was not the storyline of the day for Haskins in his homecoming. Rather, it was the fact that he ran 15 times for 59 net yards and three scores and looked comfortable and hard-nosed doing it. Let's face it, for whatever reason (I hope he wasn't protecting himself for the pros), Haskins had shown little to no desire to run the ball in the previous 10 games.

We knew he could run. He proved it with his critical 22-yard carry in his breakout game against Michigan last season. Now the Wolverines are going to have to worry about him toting the ball again.

For all his 464 total yards and six touchdowns responsible for, Haskins had his problems too in this alarming afternoon. He threw a pick-six to start the second half, giving Maryland a 31-17 lead, and later in the quarter fumbled the ball away at midfield to stifle a drive with Ohio State trailing 31-24.

The other Buckeye stalwart on offense was J.K. Dobbins, who was forced to carry the load with Mike Weber out and responded with career highs of 37 carries and 203 yards rushing. Dobbins on the ground was the perfect complement to Haskins through the air. But even Dobbins cost the Buckeyes, fumbling the ball near the goal line as Ohio State was preparing to score before the half to tie things at 24 heading into the locker room.

On Ohio State's second play from scrimmage after that, the second play of the third quarter, Haskins threw his pick-six, making the game 31-17 instead of, at the least, 24-24. Those back-to-back miscues by the Buckeye bright spots changed the complexion of the game, forcing the Buckeyes to continually play catch-up in a game where the OSU defense showed little ability to stop the Terrapins.

As is the case in games like this, the ball also seemed to bounce Maryland's way. With the scored tied at 38 late in the game, linebacker Pete Werner forced a fumble near the goal line which could have changed the course of the contest but instead was recovered by Chigoziem Okonkwo in the end zone for a Terp touchdown. And I am still trying to figure out how linebacker Tuf Borland lost control of that fumble he pounced on late in the second quarter. Maryland didn't score on that gift, but Ohio State would have taken over deep in Terrapin territory, trailing 24-17.

Put it all together and you have reason to utter the word "alarming."

I think there was a feeling among Buckeye fans that Ohio State backed into this victory, winning only because Maryland interim coach Matt Canada went for the win in the first overtime and Pigrome did not complete his two-

point conversion pass to a wide-open receiver. However, I don't feel like they backed into the win because they had repeatedly battled back to even be in the position to have Maryland "lose it" in overtime.

As stunningly awful as the Buckeye defense was and has been, this team has a certain grit that allows them to overcome adversity on the field – most of its own making – and overcome adversity off the field – not of their own making – and Ohio State finds itself at 10-1. Many Buckeye fans seem to want to minimize that record, but Ohio State is 10-1 – just the same as Oklahoma, Washington State, Georgia and, of course, Michigan.

Do I think the Wolverines can thrash the Buckeyes? Of course. Do I think they will thrash the Buckeyes? I don't think so.

Do I think the Buckeyes are going to win? It's The Game, so don't count them out.

### Michigan Memories Continue

It's no secret that our ongoing Michigan Memories series, published annually in our Michigan Preview issue, is one of my favorite features of each publishing year. The series had a humble beginning, with a lone feature on former Buckeye player and coach Fred Pagac's experiences in The Game in the Nov. 24, 1990, issue of BSB. That story must have been popular because by the next Michigan Preview issue, the feature had blossomed to include a blockbuster cast of Heisman Trophy winner Vic Janowicz, Ike Kelly, Rex Kern, Randy Gradishar, Art Schlichter, Cris Carter, Greg Frey and Carlos Snow all sharing their experiences in The Game. Wow!

Since then many more Ohio State greats and some lesser-known Buckeyes, as well as some off-the-field types associated with Buckeye football, have shared their memories. I think this year's subjects are another outstanding and interesting group of Buckeyes.

What struck me about this year's Memories was something that was recounted by two players from Ohio State's 2002 national championship team, something that didn't happen on the field. Both Cie Grant and Mike Doss emphasized the significance of Jim Tressel's famous "310 Days" speech given at halftime of a basketball game with Michigan, ironically enough, on the day of his hiring in January of 2001.

"He's an Ohio guy and he knows exactly what (The Game) means," Grant said of Tressel. "Instead of shying away from the pressure, he embraced it before we embraced it. That night at the basketball game – when you have a guy who is from Ohio, and before you can even get to know the guy, he goes out there and puts his neck out there and his word out there, I think that is where the change really came."

Doss also noted the courage that it took for Tressel to make such a bold statement and how that affected the Buckeyes heading into their game with the Wolverines 310 days later.

"What the reality is, if you don't speak it into existence it will never happen," Doss told BSB. "And what Tressel did, he put it out there, he put himself out there, he put our program out there. He put Ohio State back on the map with that statement."

"He had the balls and the guts to make that statement that, 'Hey, you will be proud of our team in 310 days,' and he changed the culture."

He changed the culture of what that game meant. He changed the culture of what the reality of Ohio State football has ultimately become. Coach Tressel definitely brought a different mind-set, a different focus."

That mind-set, that focus led to a 26-20 victory over Michigan that first season, the first Ohio State victory in Ann Arbor since Earle Bruce's famed win in his last game at the helm in 1987. The win started a 9-1 run in The Game under Tressel.

"I thought going into that game, 'OK, now we have to back up Coach's words. This is where it comes full circle,' " Grant said. "That was the first year I felt like we embraced the pressure. We understood when we got off the bus up there that it was us against the world. We had a strong senior class. I was a redshirt junior, but those were the guys I came in with. You wanted to get the win for those guys who put blood, sweat and tears into the program."

Grant had no problem contrasting that attitude with the way things were in the Cooper era, which ended with the Hall of Fame coach posting just a 2-10-1 mark against Ohio State's archrival.

"As that game drew closer under Coach Cooper, it seemed like we got uptight," Grant said. "Hindsight is 20-20, but I felt at the time that instead of embracing The Game, it was like we felt that pressure and never felt like we embraced it."

Sadly, two of the true titans of Ohio State football passed away in 2018 in Bruce and Jim Stillwagon. In honor of their memory, we are running reprints of their Michigan Memories which both appeared in the Nov. 20, 1993, issue of BSB.

Despite playing in three of the Ohio State-Michigan games that launched the fabled 10-Year War, Stillwagon claimed that the teams had a mutual respect for each other.

"We actually sort of got along and respected most of the Wolverine players. It was just the people around them, their fans. That was really who we wanted to exact some revenge on in 1970," Stillwagon said about the Buckeyes' 20-9 win in the senior year of the Super Sophs. Michigan, under first year coach and Woody Hayes protégé Bo Schembechler, had stunned the Buckeyes, 24-12, the year before in Ann Arbor, setting Wolverine fans into an anti-Buckeye frenzy.

Although he played against Michigan four decades after him, Buckeye linebacking great James Laurinaitis agreed with Stillwagon about the respect between the two teams.

"The players have always respected each other," Laurinaitis said. "I think that's the unique thing is that the players respect each other. It doesn't mean you like each other during those three hours, but it definitely means you respect each other."

But leave it to Bruce, who carried on the intensity of The Game after Hayes' demise, to add a little spice to the rivalry.

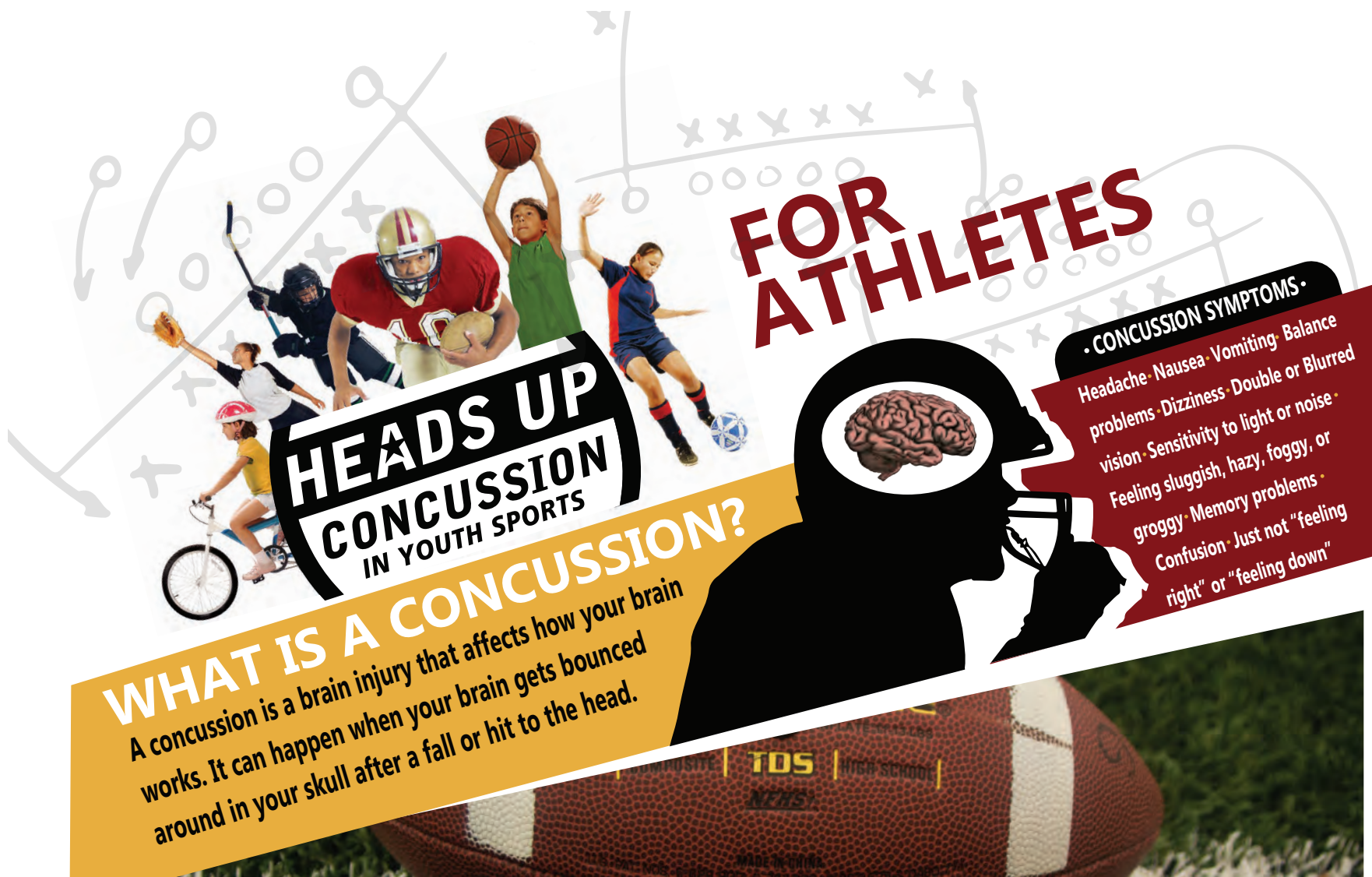
"If you're a real and true Buckeye you've got to have a little dislike for them," the late coach said of the Wolverines. "You don't play football for the love of the other team. Sure, you always respect them and have to be aware of what they can do, but you can't like them."

"This is a game where you've got to remember what has happened in the past, and that's got to burn. You can be sure the community won't let you forget. And no one who competes likes to have something stuffed in his face."

"Anyone who thinks revenge and hate can't act as great motivators in sports is crazy. Love thy neighbor is fine when you're talking about religion and church and all that stuff, but this is football."

I'll leave Earle with the last word.





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