



ANDREW LIND

**WEATHERING THE STORM** – With defensive end Chase Young sidelined indefinitely, defensive line coach Larry Johnson relied upon several young players to fill the void during Ohio State's 73-14 win over Maryland.

## DE Young Suspended Indefinitely For Possible NCAA Violation

By ANDREW LIND  
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

Defensive end Chase Young did not play in Ohio State's 73-14 win over Maryland on Nov. 9 and may be sidelined longer due to what the program described as "a possible NCAA issue from 2018 that the department of athletics is looking into."

The news was first reported by Lettermen Row's Austin Ward on Nov. 8 and confirmed shortly thereafter by Ohio State sports information director Jerry Emig.

In a statement released that afternoon, Young said he "made a mistake last year by accepting a loan from a family friend" whom he has known since the summer before his freshman year at Ohio State, but he has repaid the loan in full and is working with the university and the NCAA to "get back on the field as soon as possible."

Young – a junior who is just one sack shy of breaking the school single-season record – was coming off arguably the best game of his career, a four-sack performance in a 38-7 win over Wisconsin on Oct. 26. It's now unclear if or when he'll suit up for the Buckeyes again.

Tim Nevius, a former NCAA investigator who notably interviewed former Ohio State head coach Jim Tressel during the tattoo-for-memorabilia scandal in 2011, is now representing Young as his attorney. He tweeted the evening on Nov. 8 that his client "took a small loan from a close family friend last year to cover basic life expenses."

However, Bruce Feldman of FOX Sports and The Athletic reported that Young borrowed the money to fly his girlfriend to Pasadena, Calif., for the 2019 Rose Bowl and then repaid the loan in April.

Another report from Pro Football Talk's Mike Florio that evening indicated the family friend in question was an agent certified by the NFL Players Association. Feldman disputes that report, though, citing a source close to Young.

FOX Sports' Joel Klatt also reported the loan was not from an agent or booster and that he expected just a one- or two-game suspension for Young.

In the hours leading up to the game against the Terrapins, ESPN analyst and former Ohio State quarterback Kirk Herbstreit reported on "College GameDay" that the Buckeyes were expecting a four-game suspension for Young. That report was shot

## OSU Faces Adversity For First Time In 2019 Despite Blowout

By ANDREW LIND  
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

The eligibility status of junior defensive end Chase Young loomed large over Ohio State's 73-14 blowout of Maryland on Nov. 9, so much so that sports information director Jerry Emig opened up Ryan Day's postgame press conference with a statement of his own.

There had been a report earlier in the day by ESPN analyst Kirk Herbstreit stating that the Buckeyes expect Young – who is currently being held out of action as the NCAA investigates a potential violation for accepting a loan from a family friend last year – to be suspended for four games.

"That report was incorrect," Emig said. "We don't have any expectations right now regarding number of games that will be missed. The process is ongoing, and we are hopeful for a resolution in the near future."

Coming off the best game of his career, a four-sack performance in a 38-7 win over Wisconsin

on Oct. 26, Young was beginning to garner Heisman Trophy consideration on a national level. His 13½ sacks are just one shy of setting the school single-season record, as well.

Now the Buckeyes – who have yet to be challenged on the field through nine games, winning games by an average score of 51.0 to 8.6 – are dealing with their first real taste of adversity this season.

Day acknowledged Ohio State has been through difficult situations before. That includes last year, when former head coach Urban Meyer was suspended for the first three games of the season for his mishandling of domestic abuse allegations against former wide receivers coach Zach Smith. The Buckeyes went 3-0 during that stretch with Day at the helm in an interim capacity, and he's confident they'll handle this bit of adversity in a similar manner.

"Adversity reveals character, and our character was at the forefront of this game," Day

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## Buckeye Leaves

The matchup between Ohio State and Maryland was over before it started, but regardless of the lopsided margin, several Buckeyes excelled in the old-fashioned beatdown. BSB staff members doled out Buckeye Leaves to some of the top performers and asked subscribers to do the same on BuckeyeSports.com.

**Wyatt Crosher, BSB:** In a dominant win against Maryland, there are plenty of players who could have won this Buckeye Leaf. But for me, I think the player that stood out most on the defensive line in Chase Young's absence deserves it, and that was Davon Hamilton.

Hamilton has consistently been one of the most underrated members of the defense, and against Maryland he really impressed. He only had two tackles, but both were for sacks, and both came on impressive moves to get into Maryland's backfield to get one each on Josh Jackson and Tyrell Pigrome in the first and second quarters.

There's a reason the Buckeyes' defense didn't miss a beat without Young in the lineup, and Hamilton was a major contributor to that and continues to prove himself as a difference maker up front for Ohio State.

He only played a half, but Hamilton made his presence known early, started the Buckeyes out on the right foot and allowed for the domination to begin immediately.

**Joe Dempsey, BSB:** Many players were worthy of Buckeye Leaves for their performance against Maryland, but J.K. Dobbins particularly stood out.

The junior tailback gashed the Terrapins for 90 yards and two scores on the ground on just 12 carries, while adding one catch for

eight yards.

One of the game's most impressive plays came from Dobbins on a first-down run from the Maryland 20-yard line. The co-captain took a carry to his left, followed his blocking outside and cut back sharply, juking multiple Maryland defenders out of their shoes for a 20-yard touchdown.

The score marked Dobbins' second of the game and No. 33 of his Ohio State career, moving him past Pepe Pearson for 14th in school history.

Fifth-year senior tight end Rashod Berry deserves honorable mention for lining up on both offense and defense, where he served as a pass rusher.

**Andrew Lind, BSB:** In a game that was thoroughly dominated by Ohio State in all phases of the game, my Buckeye Leaf goes to kicker Blake Haubeil for a perfectly executed onside kick to wide receiver Chris Olave in the first quarter that started the rout.

Haubeil's career got off to a rough start because he struggled with directional kickoffs as a freshman, but he's shown this year why he was one of the nation's most-highly sought-after kickers in 2017 with a 55-yard field goal at Northwestern and this onside kick.

I am surprised the Buckeyes pulled this trick out of the bag in a game that didn't need any special preparation, but it's nice to know the coaching staff trusts Haubeil to get the job done in many different ways.

**Patrick Mayhorn BSB:** He only played for the first 30 minutes of the game, but sophomore quarterback Justin Fields may have had his most impressive game yet as a Buckeye. He was dominant in the air, throwing for 200 yards and three scores on 16 of 25 passes, while rushing five times for 28 yards and a score.

The Maryland defense had no answer for any part of Ohio State's offense, but the passing game led the way for the Buckeyes

in the first half and continued to excel even after Fields had left the game.

While Fields didn't put up enormous numbers due in large part to his lack of playing time, he was able to pick apart the Maryland defense in a way that isn't fully represented in the numbers.

He was decisive, confident and continued to flash his elite talent on almost every pass. There may not be a better example of that talent than his touchdown pass to Chris Olave late in the first half. The pass only went down as 2-yard completion, but Fields waited for what felt like an eternity as Olave broke free of the defense and dropped a beautiful ball right into the back corner of the end zone.

It was yet another showcase in what has been a season of massive performances from the Heisman-contending quarterback, and while the Buckeyes may have not even needed their starting quarterback to beat the Terrapins, Fields took advantage of his opportunity against a lesser defense in a big way.

**Frank Moskowitz, BSB:** In a game that was thoroughly dominated by Ohio State in all phases of the game, my Buckeye Leaf goes to kicker Blake Haubeil for a perfectly executed onside kick to wide receiver Chris Olave in the first quarter that started the rout.

### BSB Subscribers

Rashod Berry. Didn't show up in the stat sheet but what he did for the team playing both ways was very selfless and deserves recognition.

– Tiffin Buckeye

The offensive line. Fields mostly had all day to throw. And the offensive line opened up nice holes for Dobbins, Master and crew.

– mrbigbux



## From The Message Board

**Following Ohio State's 73-14 win over Maryland on Nov. 9, Buckeye Sports Bulletin asked the readers on BuckeyeSports.com, as well as staff members, for their thoughts on the Buckeyes' defensive effort without end Chase Young. Here are some of the responses:**

"Was impressed with Davon Hamilton, Zach Harrison and Tyreke Smith. Definitely miss Chase, though!"

– Tiffin Buckeye

"Hamilton set the tone with a huge sack on the second play, and the defensive line took it from there. Sure, we missed Chase but everybody picked up the slack."

– mrbigbux

"Didn't Maryland score 70 in their first two games this season? If so, entire two-deep on defense and the coaching staff deserve much credit."

– Terrier Buck

"Maybe it was a blessing Chase was out as the backups had some time in the sun. Having Chase in the game would have been like using an atom bomb on an ant hill."

– PeyoteBuck

"Seven sacks without the best sack man in the country? No complaints from me. The only thing that would have been better is if the scrubs had maintained the shutout. Too many points, too many penalties."

– Frank Moskowitz, BSB

"The defensive staff did an excellent job of scheming pressure without leaving the backfield susceptible to big plays, but a lot of that

comes from personnel. Hamilton was excellent, as mentioned, but a lot of credit should go to Al Washington and his linebackers room. They did a great job in coverage, got pressure when they needed to and have been worlds better this season than what they showed last year. The loss of Young will obviously hurt, especially against better opponents, but this defense and its staff is talented enough to cover up for the loss."

– Patrick Mayhorn, BSB

"Hamilton and Smith certainly stood out with two impressive sacks each, while Zach Harrison also recorded a sack and played well in Young's absence. Maryland was not able to test the Buckeyes much in the secondary with sound coverage from Ohio State's defensive backs. The Buckeye linebackers played excellent against the Terrapins, with Tuf Borland and Malik Harrison both contributing five tackles and one sack apiece. Malik also added two pass breakups, while Pete Werner made three solo stops."

– Joe Dempsey, BSB

"It's Maryland, so it is really hard to tell how good this defense is without Young, but the defensive ends more than held their own without the star DE in the lineup. Seven sacks overall, including two from Smith, showed just how good this defense is as a collective whole, and those 14 points Maryland did score did not come until garbage time. Rutgers will be another walk over, and even if Young's suspension takes until Penn State, this defense has shown plenty of depth to this point."

– Wyatt Crosher, BSB



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# Buckeyes Make Amends For 2018 Struggles

Almost from the moment Maryland return man Javon Leake fielded the opening kickoff and was swarmed by the Ohio State coverage unit like an army of red ants on a caramel-covered marshmallow, the outcome of the game between the Terrapins and Buckeyes was never in doubt.

Ohio State scored touchdowns on each of its first six possessions to secure a 42-0 halftime lead, the defense – despite the well-publicized absence of Chase Young – registered seven sacks and created two turnovers, and even special teams got into the act with a perfectly executed onside kick as the Buckeyes rolled to a 73-14 rout of the Terrapins.

While most of the pregame talk centered around Young's suspension for admittedly accepting a loan from a "family friend" last December before paying it back a couple of months later, his teammates appeared intent upon taking care of the business at hand – namely proving the College Football Playoff selection committee got it right when it installed Ohio State as the nation's No. 1 team in the only rankings that really mean anything.

While the offense scored virtually at will and already had piled up 363 total yards before halftime, it was the defense that still had something to prove – at least against the Terrapins. Last year, with most of the same defensive players, the Buckeyes yielded 535 yards against Maryland in a game they had to go to overtime to win by a 52-51 margin. In that game, Terrapins running back Anthony McFarland broke off an 81-yard touchdown run on the second offensive play of the game on his way to rushing for 298 yards, the second-highest total ever by an Ohio State opponent.

This time, the OSU defense showed just how far in the rearview mirror it has put its 2018 disasters.

By the end of the first quarter last year, Maryland had 204 total yards and enjoyed a 17-3 lead. This year, the Terrapins netted exactly one yard of total offense and were already in a 21-0 hole after the opening quarter. McFarland was limited to just seven yards on six carries for the game, his team was held to just 139 total yards, and the Buckeyes wound up scoring the most points against a Big Ten opponent since an 83-21 win against Iowa in 1950.

Not bad for a team that rested most of its starters for the entire second half.

The Buckeyes totaled a season-high 40 first downs (the third-highest total in program history), ran 94 plays from scrimmage and averaged 7.5 yards on each and every one of them. By the midway point of the second quarter, Maryland's players had the defeated look of a team that just wanted to get the hell out of there.

Still, things could have been worse for the Terrapins. OSU would have reached the 80-point threshold for only the sixth time in program history had a holding penalty not wiped out a 46-yard touchdown pass from backup quarterback Chris Chugunov to freshman receiver Garrett Wilson late in the third quarter – part of a sloppy second-half finish that helped Maryland on each of its touchdown drives.

The Buckeyes committed 15-yard penalties on three successive plays – an unsportsman-like conduct and two personal fouls – during the Terrapins' late third-quarter drive that ended in a 26-yard touchdown pass that finally got the visitors on the scoreboard and then were flagged for defensive pass interference ahead of Maryland's early fourth-quarter score.

Yes, I know the game was completely out of hand by then, and Ohio State was beginning to empty its bench. But the Buckeyes wound

up with 13 penalties for 141 yards, and I don't care who's on the field – teams with national championship aspirations don't commit that many penalties.

It was the most penalties called against Ohio State since it had 14 during a 44-38 win against North Carolina State in 2003 – and that game took three overtimes. Meanwhile the penalty yardage was the second most walked off in program history, surpassed only by the 150 yards in penalties the team accumulated in last year's Michigan game.

## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK Mark Rea

You can beat Maryland and Rutgers by committing that many penalties. With the talent Ohio State possesses, you can probably get away with beating Penn State, Michigan and Minnesota by committing that many penalties. But when you run up against opponents the likes of LSU or Clemson? Your mistakes had better be notably fewer and a whole lot farther between.

### Chess Vs. Checkers

A couple of days before the game, first-year Maryland head coach Mike Locksley caused a few ripples with his assertion that had he been elevated from offensive coordinator to head coach of the Terrapins back in 2016 when Randy Edsall was hired, such homegrown high school talent as Dwayne Haskins and Young would never have escaped to Columbus. They would have played their college ball at Maryland.

"No doubt about it," Locksley said.

That kind of self-assurance is equal parts admirable and astonishing for a guy whose career record is now 6-38 as a college head coach. But while you can't really fault Locksley for what he said – I mean, what would you expect him to say? – his comments are a microcosm of the state of denial in which most Big Ten football coaches reside.

Urban Meyer brought with him to Ohio State in 2012 a take-no-prisoners approach to recruiting, and the proof of his success in the living rooms of prospective players is on full display for anyone who cares to look at what happened during Meyer's tenure with the Buckeyes. It's a résumé that includes a national championship, three Big Ten titles and the production of 12 first-round draft choices among the last four NFL drafts.

Since Maryland joined the Big Ten in 2014, it is now 0-6 against the Buckeyes and has been outscored by a 350-134 margin. The Terrapins have won 10 or more games just three times over the past 43 seasons. Ohio State has achieved that feat each of the last seven years and 13 of the last 14 seasons. And while the Buckeyes have had 12 first-round draft choices in the past four NFL drafts, Maryland has produced only six first-rounders over the past 35 drafts.

And Locksley is going to tell me that he's going to be able to prevent the next Dwayne Haskins or Chase Young from jumping the fence in his own back yard?

Heck, Maryland lost three-star OL prospect Jordan White during the game against Ohio State. White, who attends the same DeMatha High School that produced Young – which is the same DeMatha High School that sits only about 20 miles away from the Maryland campus – announced he was decommitting from

Maryland about the same time the Buckeyes were heading to the locker room with a 42-0 halftime lead.

White didn't mention which school would now be his preference, and at last glance his list of favorites did not include Ohio State – at least not yet.

You know the old saying about someone playing chess while everyone else is playing checkers? Well, where recruiting is concerned, Ohio State is teaching a quantum physics class while everyone else in the Big Ten seems to be waking from their afternoon nap and looking for the milk and cookies.

### And Finally

- If a person receives a loan from a family friend and then pays it back in a timely manner, why is that anyone's business except the two people involved? I get why a student-athlete on scholarship should not be allowed to accept special benefits that are unavailable to other students. But accepting a loan from a family friend and then repaying it a few months later? Come on, NCAA. I mean, really? Cam Newton's father can auction his son off to the highest bidder and Johnny Manziel can make money signing autographs, and their suspensions lasted roughly five minutes. I guess I shouldn't be surprised, though. The so-called "Tattoogate" scandal left a sour taste in my mouth that has never really gone away, and this latest incident surrounding Young has me reaching for the Listerine bottle once more.

- How far has the Ohio State passing game evolved over the last 20 years? Justin Fields has thrown for 27 touchdowns during the first nine games of the 2019 season. National championship quarterback Craig Krenzel threw for 28 TDs during his entire college career.

- The Buckeyes topped the 70-point mark for only the 17th time in program history. Coupled with the 76-5 win against Miami (Ohio) in September, it marked only the second time an OSU team had scored 70 or more points twice in the same season. The Buckeyes began the 1996 season with a 70-7 win against Rice and a 72-0 shutout of Pitt.

- The last time Ohio State hung 70 or more on a Big Ten opponent was a 70-6 home win against Northwestern on Nov. 14, 1981. Eight different OSU players scored touchdowns that day – Tim Spencer, Jimmy Gayle, Vaughn Broadnax and Tim O' Cain ran for scores while Art Schlichter and Mike Tomczak combined for four TD passes to Gary Williams, Cedric Anderson, Victor Langley and Trent Penn. A 34-yard pass to Penn midway through the fourth quarter was the first of 32 career touchdown passes for Tomczak.

- Ohio State went over 700 total yards in a game for only the sixth time in program history and for the first time against a Big Ten opponent. The previous high against a conference rival was 688 last year against Maryland.

- It's all kind of revisionist history when fans look at Joe Burrow's accomplishments at LSU and wonder how such a talented quarterback couldn't win the starting job at Ohio State. The fact of the matter is that Burrow had beaten out Haskins to be J.T. Barrett's backup heading into the 2017 season before breaking a bone in his throwing hand in late August.

Had Burrow not suffered that injury, he and not Haskins might have been the one to have to save the day against Michigan that season, thus perhaps giving Burrow the inside track to become Ohio State's starting quarterback in 2018. But as the wise man used to say, "If ands and buts were candy and nuts, we'd all have a Merry Christmas." You just never know.





### Ohio State To Play Rutgers At 3:30

Ohio State will get a slight reprieve from noon kickoffs on Nov. 16 when it heads to Piscataway, N.J. The conference matchup will kick at 3:30 on the Big Ten Network. Fresh off noon starts against Wisconsin and Maryland and set to head into two more against Penn State and Michigan (both on Fox), the 3:30 kick will be a slight change for the Buckeyes, who have played just once at 3:30 this season, in a 76-5 win over Miami (Ohio) on Sept. 21.

Noon games have been by far the most common for the Buckeyes this season, as they've played in five such games against Florida Atlantic, Cincinnati, Indiana, Wisconsin and Maryland. Next up is night games, with three against Nebraska, Michigan State and Northwestern.

This will be the third Big Ten Network game of the season for the Buckeyes, with the first coming in that win over Miami (Ohio) and the second coming on a late change from FS1 to BTN for a blowout 52-3 win against Northwestern on Oct. 18.

Rutgers enters the game at 2-7 overall and 0-6 in Big Ten play. The Scarlet Knights fired head coach Chris Ash on Sept. 29 following a 52-0 loss to Michigan. Rutgers is 1-4 under interim head coach Nunzio Campanile.

### Matchup With Penn State Set For Noon Kick

Ohio State is set to find itself on Fox's Big Noon Saturday for the fourth time this season, with battles against Florida Atlantic, Indiana and Wisconsin all previously featured in Fox's revitalized noon slot. For a Nov. 23 matchup with Penn State, the Buckeyes will again find themselves as the marquee Big Ten game of the week, with Fox pulling out all the stops prior to the game, including a full pregame show starting at 10 a.m.

The show, featuring Rob Stone, Brady Quinn, Reggie Bush, Matt Leinart and Urban Meyer, will take place on campus, just as it did prior to Ohio State's 38-7 win over Wisconsin. As usual with Fox games, Gus Johnson and Joel Klatt will be on the call.

### Ohio State Rises In Both Major Polls

After its 73-14 win over Maryland, Ohio State received a bump in both the AP and coaches polls, climbing to No. 2 in each poll, up from No. 3 in the AP and No. 4 in the coaches. The Buckeyes sit behind LSU in both rankings.

While the big win certainly didn't hurt, Ohio State was likely most helped by LSU's 46-41 win over previously second-ranked Alabama. The Crimson Tide fell to No. 4 in both polls, while Clemson rose to No. 3 in the AP and stayed put at third in the minds of the coaches.

Georgia, Oregon, Minnesota, Utah, Penn State and Oklahoma round out the top 10 of the AP poll, while the coaches poll ended the top 10 with Georgia, Oregon, Minnesota, Oklahoma, Utah and Baylor.

Ohio State is one of seven Big Ten teams in the AP poll, joined by Minnesota, up six spots from No. 13 thanks to its 31-26 win over Penn State, while the Nittany Lions fell to No. 9. Behind them, Michigan is No. 14, Wisconsin is No. 15, Iowa is down at No. 23 after a 24-22 loss to the Badgers and Indiana, for the first time since 1994, checks in at No. 24.

The coaches gave similar respect to the Big Ten, with the Buckeyes and Gophers leading the way and Penn State checking in at No. 11 followed by No. 14 Michigan, No. 15 Wisconsin, No. 22 Iowa and No. 25 Indiana. With the addition of Indiana, Ohio State is up to three ranked wins on the year: 38-7 over Wisconsin, 42-0 over Cincinnati (No. 17 in both polls) and 51-10 against Indiana, in Bloomington.

### Maryland Close Call Motivated Ohio State

Ohio State's 52-51 victory over Maryland in 2018 was still weighing heavily on the minds of Ohio State players and coaches entering their battle with the Terps on Nov. 9 that culminated with a 73-14 win. That close call last year was a key motivating factor for the Buckeyes this season, according to coach Ryan Day.

"I think they know how dangerous the (Maryland) running game is," Day said of the Ohio State defense. "It was only a year ago they played against them - ran for 300 yards. They know that. I don't think they're proud of that. They want to do a better job this time around, for sure."

Day went on to reflect upon that game on the whole, including on how he felt coordinating the offense at the time.

"It's hard to remember exactly at the time what I was thinking," Day said. "That was a wild game. I remember that was a big game for Dwayne (Haskins) in terms of establishing himself as a runner. He ran like 12 or 13 times (actually 15). It was a tough game for him. (He) actually threw a pick-six in that game. I remember it being crazy, that's for sure."

"But it was one of those back-and-forth games. It seemed like who had the ball last

### 2019 Ohio State Football Schedule

Date	Opponent	Result/Time (ET)	TV	2019 Record
Aug. 31	FLORIDA ATLANTIC	W, 45-21	FOX	7-3 (5-1 Conference USA)
Sept. 7	CINCINNATI*	W, 42-0	ABC	8-1 (5-0 American Athletic)
Sept. 14	at Indiana	W, 51-10.	FOX	7-2 (4-2 Big Ten)
Sept. 21	MIAMI (OHIO)	W, 76-5	BTN	5-4 (4-1 Mid-American)
Sept. 28	at Nebraska	W, 48-7	ABC	4-5 (2-4 Big Ten)
Oct. 5	MICHIGAN STATE*	W, 34-10	ABC/ESPN	4-5 (2-4 Big Ten)
Oct. 18	at Northwestern*	W, 52-3	BTN	1-8 (0-7 Big Ten)
Oct. 26	WISCONSIN*	W, 38-7	FOX	7-2 (4-2 Big Ten)
Nov. 9	MARYLAND	W, 73-14	TBA	3-7 (1-6 Big Ten)
Nov. 16	at Rutgers	3:30 p.m.	BTN	2-7 (0-6 Big Ten)
Nov. 23	PENN STATE*	12 p.m.	FOX	8-1 (5-1 Big Ten)
Nov. 30	at Michigan*	12 p.m.	FOX	7-2 (4-2 Big Ten)
Dec. 7	Big Ten Championship**	8 p.m.	FOX	

\* 2018 bowl team

\*\* at Indianapolis (Lucas Oil Stadium)

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"Those who can afford to do so can help those who are less fortunate but share the same passion for Buckeye Sports Bulletin," Moskowitz said.

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would win. I remember the fourth-down conversion to Rashod (Berry). That was a huge deal. Terry McLaurin had a great game. It was a back-and-forth game.

"Sometimes when you get to this time of

year, there's some wacky games out there. You have to adapt on the move."

Day wasn't the only one to mention that scare during weekly interviews with the press. "It drives us a lot," said defensive



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## From The Pages Of BSB

**35 Years Ago – 1984**

Wisconsin outplayed Ohio State to the pleasure of 78,606 fans in Camp Randall Stadium. The result was a 16-14 win for the Badgers, their third victory in four years over Ohio State.

The win upped Wisconsin head coach Dave McClain's record to 3-3 against Earle Bruce. A former Woody Hayes assistant, McClain was the only coach in the Big Ten to have a .500 mark or better against Bruce.

Despite big plays from Heisman-contending running back Keith Byars, the Buckeyes were unable to overcome four turnovers in the game and a first half that saw them fumbling once and punting five times.

"It wasn't all their great defensive play," Byars said. "It was our lack of execution on offense. It takes 11 people to make a play go. Sometimes, we had only 10 or nine. We never really got rolling until the second half. The first half was just horrible for us."

Byars finished the day with 142 yards on 26 carries.

**30 Years Ago – 1989**

In a little over two years of substantial playing time, Ohio State junior free safety Mark Pelini had amassed enough injuries to make anyone wince.

"I've had a lot of injuries, but that just comes with playing the game," Pelini said after Ohio State's 52-27 win over Northwestern. "Football is a contact sport, and sometimes you're going to get hurt. You just have to learn to play with the pain."

If "Bo" were not Pelini's nickname, "Pain" probably would have been. While at OSU, Pelini had suffered a broken jaw, a broken collarbone, a dislocated shoulder and various other sprains and strains. Despite that, Pelini regained his starting status in time for the battle with Northwestern and put up eight tackles.

**25 Years Ago – 1994**

Top-ranked Penn State continued its march toward the Rose Bowl with an emphatic 63-14 victory over Ohio State. While the Nittany Lions celebrated their success and looked to continue their championship drive, Ohio State was left in the wake of the powerful Nittany Lions, pondering the future.

"We have three more games, 21 days to see what we're made of," said OSU offensive coordinator Joe Hollis. "We have to bull up, do the intangibles right, coach like hell, play like hell and see where we stand."

Despite the loss, the Buckeyes still didn't stand that poorly in the Big Ten. Penn State claimed a two-game lead over every other team, but Ohio State still sat in a four-way tie with Illinois, Michigan and Purdue for second place. With three games left against Wisconsin, Indiana and Michigan, the Buckeyes still had a good shot to finish second outright in the conference.

**20 Years Ago – 1999**

Archie Griffin was on the field at halftime of Ohio State's 41-11 win over Iowa because his 1974 Big Ten championship team was being recognized.

But he was stunned as athletic director Andy Geiger presented him a framed uniform jersey No. 45 and public address announcer Dave Parr announced that the university was retiring its first athletic uniform number.

"It's just such a surprise, knowing it had never been done before here at Ohio State," Griffin said moments after the ceremony. "I am really surprised. This is just a wonderful honor. I want to thank Andy and everyone involved who made this happen."

Geiger announced plans that OSU would retire the numbers of all five of the school's Heisman winners in time for them to be recognized within the stadium when renovations were complete in 2001.

**15 Years Ago – 2004**

An agreement for SBC to sponsor the Ohio State-Michigan football games in 2004 and 2005 was shot down Oct. 27, less than 48 hours after it was announced.

Both schools had sent out press releases Oct. 25 indicating that the sale of the naming rights to the traditional finale, known simply as The Game to people in both states, was imminent.

The announcement, however, was met with widespread criticism from fans of both programs. As a result of the anticipated backlash, the schools quickly pulled out of the deal.

"We were excited about the positive impact the agreement would have (had) on the department of athletics, the university and the community," said Geiger. "But as we attempted to move forward, it became apparent that this agreement could detract from the great tradition of the game itself."

**10 Years Ago – 2009**

After knocking off visiting New Mexico State in a largely anticlimactic 45-0 affair Oct. 31 in Ohio Stadium, the No. 17 Buckeyes immediately turned their sights toward the gantlet that ended the 2009 season. In a row, Ohio State was set to face Big Ten contender Penn State, undefeated Iowa and archrival Michigan.

Three wins would send the Buckeyes to the Rose Bowl for the first time since after the 1996 season. If the Buckeyes could pull it off, a lot of credit would go to sophomore quarterback Terrelle Pryor, who called a team meeting in the days after Ohio State's 26-18 loss to Purdue.

"He called an offensive meeting and just said that, 'I haven't been approaching things the way that I probably should have,'" senior offensive lineman Jim Cordle said. "He kind of joked about himself throwing interceptions

and things like that. It was a pretty cool situation where we're in there as an offense and he's making fun of himself, and at the same time, he said, 'I'm sorry for not approaching things the way I should have.' It definitely bonded the offense."

**Five Years Ago – 2014**

Ohio State took control of the Big Ten East title race and picked up its first top-10 win of the Urban Meyer era at the expense of a Michigan State team that had ruined the previous season for the Buckeyes, 49-37.

The Buckeyes did it their way, with the offense dictating the pace of the game, leaving Michigan State's vaunted defense in the dust. The Buckeye defense left the win with some questions to answer, but there was no denying that the Buckeyes better represented themselves than they did in the 2013 loss to the Spartans in the Big Ten Championship Game.

"This is one for the ages," Meyer said in the aftermath of the win. "That's how much respect we had for our opponent going into it. We saw what they did. They had one loss and were actually winning that game until it got away from them somehow out in Oregon," Meyer said of Michigan State, referencing a 46-27 loss to the Ducks earlier that season.

"We played a top-10 team, and we really played our best and on the road. Once again, I look at our players and I see how many young guys are playing for us that are going to be around here for a while. So the future's pretty bright."

**One Year Ago – 2018**

During Ohio State's 49-26 win over Indiana on Oct. 6, Meyer briefly dropped to the turf as a headache flared up. The incident sparked questions about his health and the future of his career, which Meyer clarified during the week leading up to his team's 36-31 win over Nebraska on Nov. 3.

After questions about his health came up, Meyer reassured anyone with concern that he was OK during his Oct. 29 press conference.

"I appreciate it, and I'm fine," Meyer said. "I want Ohio State to be successful in the worst way. I'm working extremely hard to make sure that's happening. I love Ohio State, I love our players, so the issue, I don't want people to worry about me."

When speaking to reporters later in the week, Meyer stressed that he had no plans to leave his post as Ohio State's head coach.

When asked about his future, he said "I plan on coaching." When asked directly if he would be the head coach in Columbus in 2019, Meyer kept it even more simple than that.

"Yes."

lineman Jashon Cornell. "Maryland's a great program, a great team."

Cornell went on to say that Maryland gave Ohio State its best shot in 2018 and that Ohio State knew it had to return the favor.

This wasn't the first time that Ohio State used its history of struggles with lesser opponents as motivation this season. Players and coaches have made reference to the 49-20 loss to Purdue on numerous occasions when stressing the importance of avoiding any sort of drop-off or falling into any of the trap games on the schedule. That's consistent with Day's message all year of staying on track.

**Hilliard Applies For Sixth Year**

After a career that has been defined by injuries at almost every turn, Ohio State linebacker Justin Hilliard is looking for one more season to make up for lost time, as he told reporters on Nov. 6. The fifth-year senior submitted a petition for a sixth year of eligibility, essentially a retroactive medical redshirt. These aren't common, but the NCAA rarely turns down injury petitions, meaning Hilliard will likely be approved.

His case is helped by the start of his Ohio State career, when he missed nearly two full seasons in 2015 and 2016 with biceps injuries, and the linebacker has struggled with leg injuries and suffered a partial Achilles tear as recently as Mar. 26.

The former five-star said that if he is approved, he would probably return to Ohio State, though the transfer portal could certainly provide ample opportunities for Hilliard if he chooses that route. Given the contributions he's made off the bench this season for Ohio State, he would certainly be in contention for a starting spot in 2020 in Columbus.

Hilliard has just five tackles on the year for the Buckeyes but has been excellent as a run-stuffing linebacker, as he showcased against Wisconsin in Ohio State's 38-7 win, when he had a tackle for loss and played much of the game.

"It means so much, having great moments," said Hilliard after that Wisconsin game. "At times when I was down and (teammates) were picking me up, it means so much."

Ohio State coaches have praised Hilliard for his play and for his leadership throughout

the season.

"Justin Hilliard, the story of him playing the way he played and being able to step up in a game like that and help us is a story that really isn't being told for whatever reason," Day said after that game. "But this is a guy, with today's day and age with portals and everything else, he stuck through it. He worked through injuries, he worked through playing-time issues, and then he steps up in a huge moment for us to beat Wisconsin and plays really well and makes some big-time tackles."

"That goes to show you what kind of a kid Justin Hilliard is. He's got character, he's got perseverance, everything about him is great. He's helped us on special teams for years, but now he's able to step up into that role and make those kind of plays for the team."

**Ohio State Schedules Georgia Home-And-Home**

Ohio State will be facing off with Georgia in 2030 and 2031, according to a release from the university on Nov. 7. The home-and-home series, kicking off with a trip to Athens for Ohio State and a return game in Columbus

in 2031, will serve as Ohio State's first regular-season matchup with an SEC opponent since 1988, a 36-33 win over LSU.

"This is going to be a terrific series for fans of both programs to look forward to down the road," said OSU deputy athletics director Diana Sabau. "This series is a testament to our commitment to scheduling and playing really good intersectional contests. It's these kinds of games that make for memorable experiences for our student-athletes."

Ohio State last played Georgia in the 1993 Citrus Bowl, a 21-14 loss.

This series will be the latest in a long line of prestigious regular-season matchups for the Buckeyes out-of-conference, going back to the series with Texas in 2005 and 2006, continuing through USC, Miami (Fla.), California, Virginia Tech and Oklahoma most recently in 2016 and 2017. Between 2019 and 2030, Ohio State is scheduled for four such series, against Oregon in 2020 and 2021, Notre Dame in 2022 and 2023, Washington in 2024 and 2025 and Texas in 2025 and 2026. The Buckeyes had a series with Boston

Continued On Page 6





# OHIO STATE INSIDER

Continued From Page 5

College scheduled for 2026 and 2027, but those games are "in process of being moved a little further out" according to a report from Eleven Warriors' Colin Hass-Hill.

## Buckeyes Lead First CFP Poll

The first College Football Playoff rankings of the season were released on Nov. 5, and Ohio State found itself in a familiar position among the nation's best. The Buckeyes sat at No. 1 in the first rankings, directly ahead of LSU and Alabama, who faced off with each other on Nov. 9. The Tigers won, 46-41, meaning that Ohio State was probably not long for the top spot.

For the Buckeyes, however, the top spot is seen as unimportant, given that the playoff isn't officially announced for another month.

"I think it's for the fans," Day said. "It

doesn't mean anything to us because if we lose this weekend, we're not going to be in the top four, that's for sure. What matters is where we're at once we're done with the season, the regular season.

"None of that really matters to us."

Justin Fields echoed the sentiment, saying that he has zero interest in any of the rankings in early November.

"I don't care if they put us at 25, to be honest," he said.

Ohio State was one of six Big Ten teams included in the first ranking, along with Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Penn State and Wisconsin. The Nittany Lions led the conference behind Ohio State at No. 4, slipping in ahead of unbeaten Clemson. Wisconsin was No. 13, one spot ahead of Michigan, while Minnesota checked in at No. 17, one spot above Iowa.

Minnesota and Penn State were sure to be on the move after the Gophers defeated the Nittany Lions, 31-26.

## Ohio State Awards Roundup

Ohio State players are racking up recognition as award season kicks into full gear. Chase Young and Fields lead the way, as they were both named as Maxwell Award semifinalists on Oct. 30. The Maxwell goes to the collegiate player of the year. Four former Buckeyes have won the award, all four as running backs.

Howard Cassady was the first to do it in 1955, followed by Bob Ferguson in 1961, Archie Griffin in 1975 and Eddie George in 1995. Three of the four went on to also win the Heisman, with Ferguson (finished second) as the lone exception. Fields and Young are two in a list of 20 finalists, representing

## Follow The Latest Chase Young Developments Online

News on the status of Ohio State defensive end Chase Young could come at any time, and the staff of Buckeye Sports Bulletin will be monitoring the situation and posting any breaking news at the electronic BuckeyeSports.com, free to all BSB subscribers. Staff members will also be discussing Young's plight with readers on the BuckeyeSports.com Forum.

The BuckeyeSports.com website is available 24/7/365 with all the breaking news posted, including the latest in recruiting. Don't miss news from Ryan Day's Tuesday press conferences or practice during the week. Also enjoy Reprint Thursdays, with stories from the BSB archives, in addition to the popular Staff Predictions feature which runs each game day with forecasts for each game's score. Subscribers can also read the entire print issue of BSB before it has even hit the post office.

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the Big Ten alongside Penn State wide receiver K.J. Hamler and Wisconsin running back Jonathan Taylor. Former Buckeye quarterback Joe Burrow also found his way onto the list and is considered a favorite to win.

Young wasn't done just being named a semifinalist for the Maxwell. He was included on the Chuck Bednarik Award semifinalist list alongside another Buckeye defender in cornerback Jeff Okudah. The Bednarik goes to the nation's top defender, and the two Buckeyes were included in a group of 16. As with the Maxwell, only two additional Big Ten stars made the list, both from Penn State: linebacker Micah Parsons and defensive end Yetur Gross-Matos.

A Buckeye has yet to win the Bednarik award in the 24-year history of the award.

The final Buckeye to receive award recognition was senior safety Jordan Fuller, who was named one of the 12 finalists for the William V. Campbell trophy which goes to the nation's best scholar-athlete and takes into account off-the-field accomplishments as well as on-the-field success.

Fuller and the other finalists received an \$18,000 postgraduate scholarship and will gather in New York on Dec. 10 for the announcement of the winner. The winner will have his scholarship increased to \$25,000. Fuller would be Ohio State's third winner of the award alongside Bobby Hoying and Craig Krenzel.

## Former Buckeye Pryor Transfers To Notre Dame

Former Ohio State safety Isaiah Pryor is transferring to Notre Dame, according to

247Sports' Tom Loy.

Once a four-star recruit for the Buckeyes in the 2017 class, Pryor's career started well in Columbus when he picked up 11 tackles and a sack in limited playing time as a freshman, but things quickly soured in years two and three. Pryor spent time as a starter as a sophomore and never looked comfortable, struggling with tackling and angles on the way to a 31-tackle season. He lost his starting job to Brendon White after Ohio State's 49-20 loss to Purdue.

Pryor saw action in just three games in 2019 before announcing his intention to transfer on Sept. 24. He was passed up on the depth chart by Shaun Wade and Josh Proctor and played sparingly, accumulating just three tackles in limited time. When Pryor announced his intention to transfer, Day wished him the best.

"There wasn't much of a conversation, but we wish him nothing but the best," Day said. "We're obviously extremely disappointed he would leave the program four games into the season, but we wish him well. There are no hard feelings, and he left amicably. We hope he gets his degree, and we wish him well in the future."

The Bradenton (Fla.) IMG Academy product took just one official visit after his transfer announcement, to Notre Dame, for the Fighting Irish's 30-27 win over USC on Oct. 12. Notre Dame always appeared to lead given a longtime relationship with Pryor going back to his recruitment, and the Irish were never truly challenged to land the transfer. He'll be eligible to play starting in 2020 and has two years of eligibility remaining.

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# Other Defensive Ends Step Up In Young's Absence

Continued From Page 1

said. "I thought we came out and showed that we're made of something special here. A lot of guys on this team have been through adversity with our coaching staff, so this isn't anything new.

"Our guys didn't flinch, and there's a bunch of guys on our team like 'OK, (we've) got some adversity. Let's go. Let's pull this thing together. Let's show everybody how tight this team is and what we're really made of and show our character.' And I thought that came through today during the game."

Day, of course, was unable to discuss the specifics of Young's indefinite suspension. He did, however, show support for his star player.

"We're supporting him, and he's supporting us," Day said. "We're going to

get through it together, and he knows we have his back. And that's important. He's taking it day-to-day, and he knows that he has the support of his teammates. He's going through a tough time.

"But again, adversity reveals character. And I can tell you right now he's a special young man that's handling his business the right way, and we're all proud of him."

Ohio State did not need Young to dispatch Maryland with ease, as fifth-year senior defensive tackle Davon Hamilton and sophomore defensive end Tyreke Smith filled his void with two sacks apiece. The Buckeyes recorded seven total sacks and allowed just 139 yards of total offense. And just one year after surrendering 298 yards to running back Anthony McFarland in a 52-51 overtime win in College Park, Md., the Silver

Bullets held him to just 7 yards on six carries.

"They all wanted to show they're a team," Day said. "This is a defense and this is a defensive line unit that is more than just one person. I think they had their chests out and were proud of the way they played today, and they should have been.

"They played with an edge and something to prove. And anytime our guys come out with something to prove, we're dangerous. Overall, I thought we all had that approach, but especially the defensive line."

Though he was not on the sidelines Saturday, Young practiced with the team leading up to the win over the Terrapins. He'll do so again this week in preparation for Rutgers on Nov. 16, though there's no official timetable for a decision from

the NCAA.

With games against Penn State and Michigan to close the regular season, Young's return will be critical for Ohio State's Big Ten and College Football Playoff hopes. But Day said the Buckeyes plan to approach his indefinite suspension just like they have the rest of the season.

"We're just going to take it day-by-day," Day said.

## Wilson Emerging On Offense

Ohio State freshman wide receiver Garrett Wilson has just 18 receptions for 216 yards and four touchdowns through nine games this season. And while those statistics don't jump off the page, his ability to leap over defenders to secure a catch does – and it's something that may benefit the Buckeyes in their pursuit of a national title.

Wilson's overall abilities are similar to that of Clemson wide receiver Justyn Ross, who hauled in 12 passes for 301 yards and three touchdowns in two play-off games as a true freshman last fall. And his effort against Maryland – in which he had four catches for a team-high 82 yards and one touchdown, in addition to another 46-yard score that was called back for holding – led many to believe he could have a similar impact for the Buckeyes.

"Garrett's still real young but certainly his talent is off the charts," Day said. "I don't want to get too far ahead of ourselves, but we think he obviously had a tremendous ceiling and he's growing every week. He's understanding how to practice. He's understanding how to play within the offense. The more games we can get like this with the ball in his hands and have an opportunity to make some catches downfield (the better).

"I think the biggest thing for him is how well do you practice, how well do you take care of the ball and what kind of discipline do you have during the week. Because if he does that, then he could be as good as he wants to be."



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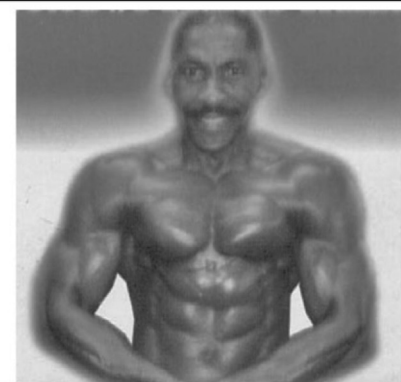
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# Buckeyes Await Response Regarding Young's Status

Continued From Page 1

down by Emig after the game.

"We don't have any expectations right now regarding numbers of games," Emig said.

Sources within the program have told Buckeye Sports Bulletin that Ohio State expects to hear from the NCAA one way or the other midway through the week the Nov. 16 Rutgers game. And if the Buckeyes don't agree with the ruling, they can and will appeal.

While the exact amount of the loan remains unknown, there have been plenty of similar cases involving college football players in recent years that could serve as precedent when determining Young's punishment.

In 2013, former Alabama and current Chicago Bears safety Ha Ha Clinton-Dix was suspended for two games for taking a loan of less than \$500 from one of the Crimson Tide's strength and conditioning coaches. He was reinstated and went on to be named a consensus All-American before being selected in the first round of the following year's NFL draft.

Former Georgia and current Los Angeles Rams running back Todd Gurley was suspended for four games in 2014 after he received more than \$3,000 in cash from multiple individuals for autographed memorabilia. In his first game back, he tore his ACL and missed the rest of the season.

That same season, former Stanford wide receiver Devon Cajuste served a one-game suspension after he received benefits from his landlord that included roughly \$3,500 in meals and movie tickets, as well as a loan for a bicycle. He repaid the loan, donated money

to charity and went on to play 22 more games with the Cardinal.

Then last fall, it was revealed that Kentucky defensive end/outside linebacker Denzil Ware had been suspended for the 2017 Music City Bowl after he accepted \$1,628 in impermissible benefits from an agent. He attended Jacksonville State as a graduate transfer in 2018 and was not required to miss any additional time.

Each NCAA case is different, however, and sources within the Ohio State football program have indicated the size of the loan and other mitigating circumstances could influence the length of Young's suspension.

A one- or two-game suspension would allow Young to return before the Buckeyes take on Penn State and Michigan on Nov. 23 and 30, respectively. But a four-game suspension would sideline him for the remainder of the regular season.

Attorney Tom Mars – who works as an "Independent Enforcement Advocate" for the NCAA's Complex Case Unit and notably helped quarterback Justin Fields gain immediate eligibility following his transfer from Georgia – told Feldman that he does not expect a lengthy suspension, however.

"I expect this matter will be resolved very quickly and that the penalty, if any, will be minimal," Mars said.

*For the latest news on the Chase Young situation, be sure to check out the electronic BuckeyeSports.com, free to all BSB subscribers. Don't forget to offer your opinion on any breaking news at the BuckeyeSports.com Forum.*



ANDREW LIND

**ONE AWAY** – Defensive end Chase Young is just one sack shy of breaking Ohio State's single-season record. His four-sack performance against Wisconsin put him at 13½ on the season.

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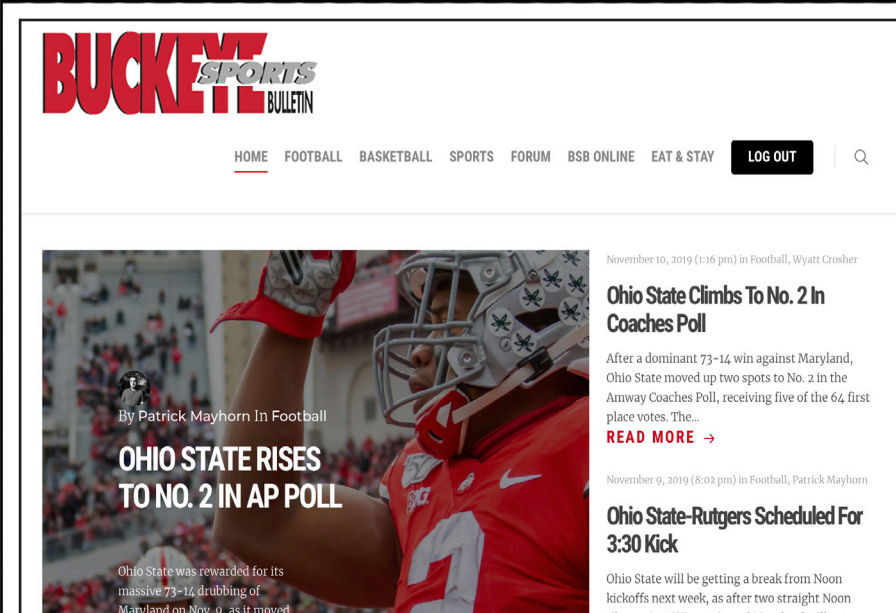
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## OHIO STATE VS. MARYLAND

# Offense Rolls Vs. UMD

Ohio State came into the matchup against Maryland with the No. 3 scoring offense in college football, putting up an average of 48.3 points per game. The Buckeyes improved on that number against the Terrapins, putting up 73 in a game that was over before the first quarter had finished.

impressed late with seven carries for 78 yards and two touchdowns.

On the whole, the Buckeyes combined for 705 yards and 40 first downs, converted 9 of 14 third-down attempts and averaged 7.5 yards per play. Not bad stats for a team that turned to the second strings in the rotation with an entire half of football still left to play.

Day understands his best offensive players are not playing the same amount of minutes as many of the others across college football. But to him, it is not the overall statistical showings that make the difference, but simply how well his stars play when they are asked to play.

"Sometimes when you look at that compared to some other guys throughout the country, you'd say, 'He only threw it for 200 yards, only played one-half of football. J.K. Dobbins runs for 90 yards, he only played one-half of football,'" Day said. "But that's a good thing, and I know that those guys are proud of the way they played."

## GAME NOTEBOOK Wyatt Crosher

While it had been known for its explosive second quarters, Ohio State wasted no time getting things started this time around, scoring touchdowns on its first six drives – half of which came in the opening quarter – on the way to a 42-0 halftime lead and the eventual 59-point beatdown.

### Buckeyes Show Aggression In Inside, Timeout Usage

Ohio State seemed to come into this game ready to send a message, and that showed with about five minutes to go in the first quarter.

Quarterback Justin Fields had a rather typical game for what he has done this season, completing 16 of 25 passes for 200 yards and three touchdowns, while adding five carries for 28 and another score on the ground.

Though Fields was taken out after two quarters of play for backup Chris Chugunov, Ohio State head coach Ryan Day liked what he saw out of his starting quarterback.

Already up 14-0, Day decided to play gutsy and – with an assist from special teams coordinator Matt Barnes, who formerly coached at Maryland – called an inside kick that caught the Terrapins off guard.

"If you look at the first half, he was 16 for 25 for 200 and three touchdowns. That's a pretty good half," Day said. "If you double that, that would be a game. That's one of the things, I think our guys, what they really are focused on is winning. They don't care about the other things."

Blake Haubeil chipped the ball 22 yards downfield, where a sprinting Olave caught the ball in stride and went out of bounds, immediately giving back possession of the football to the Buckeyes with the chance to go up three scores.

Fields, Chugunov and Gunnar Hoak all saw time against the Terrapins, and the three combined to complete 26 of their 38 attempts for 322 yards and four touchdowns, numbers that would be very impressive in a single game if done by a single quarterback.

"There was something that we saw on film, Matt Barnes saw, and we thought that we had a real shot at it," Day explained. "And the guys practiced it during the week. It wasn't one of those things that was a home run every time we did it. But you talk about competitive excellence, that couldn't have been executed any better. That was as clean as it could be. It was cool to feel the excitement in the stadium about that kick. It was, like, wow."

Day said one of the focuses this week in practice was making strides in the pass game, something he said happened against Maryland.

"From then on I just felt like the game kind of went like this. So anytime you can seal a possession in any game it's a game-changer. Whether it's a blocked punt or something like that, you still hold possession from somebody, it flips the scoreboard. We saw it, executed it and I thought it was well done all across the board."

"I would challenge the pass game this week," Day said. "And I thought that we came out aggressive. What did we, we threw it 25 times in the first half? That's pretty aggressive for us. That would be on pace for 50 in a game. That was good. We challenged the protection. We challenged the routes. We challenged everybody involved with it, the decision-making."

The strong field position resulted in an eight-play, 57-yard drive ending in a 4-yard scoring connection from Fields to Hill.

The pass game was spread through a variety of wideouts, each making an impact in the blow-out victory. Chris Olave led the team with five catches, but Garrett Wilson led with 82 yards, and those two, along with K.J. Hill and Binjimen Victor, each brought in a touchdown apiece.

The added aggression did not stop there. With 52 seconds left on the clock before halftime, Maryland had the ball and appeared ready to go into the half with a 42-0 deficit, starting its drive with a run play.

J.K. Dobbins had another strong game to add to his impressive 2019, rushing only 12 times for 90 yards and two touchdowns before also getting sent to the sidelines after halftime.

Ohio State called a timeout, stopping the clock in an effort to force a three-and-out. Again, Maryland ran the ball, and again the Buckeyes stopped the clock. After an incomplete pass from the Terrapins, the Buckeyes sent the house in an attempt to block the Maryland punt but came up just short with Sevyn Banks barely missing the ball.

Taking his place in the second half – as well as on a drive in the second quarter – was redshirt freshman Master Teague, who led the Buckeyes with 111 rushing yards on 18 carries, the second 100-yard rushing game he has had this season.

They kneeled to end the second quarter after the failed blocked punt attempt, taking the 42-point lead into halftime.

Overall, the Buckeyes rushed for 383 yards and six touchdowns on 56 carries, good for a 6.8 yards-per-carry average.

"We always want to be aggressive," Day said. "And that's just the way that we want to be around here. We did that at the end of the Northwestern game as well. But that's just our approach every week. But you know, I think when this team faces a little bit of adversity, we have an edge and want to come after you and be aggressive, and I think that's the approach."

The one setback the backfield faced was to freshman Marcus Crowley, who suffered a leg injury that forced him to leave the game after rushing eight times for 82 yards and earning his first collegiate rushing score.

He was replaced by Demario McCall, who



## Game Analysis

### What Worked Well

For starters, both the offense and the defense played incredibly well from pretty much start to finish, something that has been a common theme for the entire season.

Yet again, the heartbeat of the team came on the ground, with J.K. Dobbins, Master Teague, Marcus Crowley and Demario McCall carrying the run game to 383 yards and six scores, with each of the four primary backs running for 75 yards or more. Justin Fields also continued to perform at an exceptionally high level, throwing for 200 yards and three touchdowns while adding another touchdown on the ground.

Freshman wideouts Garrett Wilson and Jameson Williams both had one of their best games as Buckeyes so far, with each snagging four catches in the game. Wilson finished with a team-high 82 yards and a touchdown, while Williams finished with 38.

On defense, without star defensive end Chase Young, the Buckeyes managed to get into Maryland's backfield early and often. Davon Hamilton and Tyreke Smith each registered a pair of sacks as the team totaled seven on the day.

Ohio State amassed a total of 705 yards on 7.5 yards per play. It held the Terrapins to 139 yards of total offense and an average of 2.8 yards a play.

### What Didn't Work

While the Buckeyes continue to play without any major glaring faults, they did get into more trouble with penalties than any game so far this season.

After a 2018 when Ohio State had the most penalties in college football, the Buckeyes came into the game No. 31 in the country for fewest penalties allowed, giving up only 45.9 yards a game to flags.

But against Maryland, Ohio State committed 13 penalties for a costly 141 yards, which gave the Terrapins a first down on six separate occasions.

It didn't cost the Buckeyes much of anything in this game, but for a team that had corrected the ship significantly from 2018 in that category, this will be a key area of focus for the team to fix moving forward.

### Play Of The Game

Ohio State had just scored its second touchdown of the game with just over five minutes to go in the first quarter to go up 14-0. Instead of kicking the ball back to Maryland, Ryan Day and special teams coordinator Matt Barnes designed a kickoff play that had Blake Haubeil lob a 22-yard kick to the sideline where a sprinting Chris Olave could recover it, taking advantage of a hole left in Maryland's return unit.

Haubeil delivered a perfect kick – a kick that could compete with nearly any Justin Fields throw – and hit Olave in stride as the receiver went out of bounds, recovering the crafty onside kick and immediately getting the ball back while all Maryland could really do was watch in awe, totally unprepared to deal with it.

Ohio State went down the field and scored once more, making it a 21-0 game and truly ending any chances that Maryland had of sneaking back into it and making the matchup competitive early on.

– Wyatt Crosher

"I think the guys really embraced that this week, and we talked to them early. If the timing is right on the third kickoff and we have the opportunity, we'll take that. And I think the guys feed off of that aggressiveness, and it was great.

"At the end of the half say, we said, 'Listen, if we get them three-and-out, we'll go after them as hard as we could,' and Sevnyn Banks missed it, I think, by this much. We'll have to look at it on film. I think the guys like that. They feed off the aggressiveness and confidence, and they kind of build on it as the game goes on."

During the game, FOX commentators Gus Johnson and Joel Klatt alluded to the idea that Day was showing this increased desire to put extra points on the scoreboard following the events that occurred this week involving the suspension of Chase Young, a Maryland native.

Day shot down that idea entirely.

"No. Nothing like that at all. Nope. That wasn't anything, other than just we're always going to be aggressive in the first half," Day said. "I feel like when you're playing the first half of any game, anything could happen in the second half. So you do the best you can to be aggressive. And then if it gets out of hand in the second half, then you're smart about tempo.

"I thought we did that. I thought we ran the ball and kind of played slow in the second half. By no means would I ever try to run up the score at all. It's just we're letting our guys play. No, that would be completely out of line."

### Berry Plays Two Ways

Ohio State fifth-year senior tight end Rashod Berry hearkened back to an older time and found his way onto the field both in his typical tight end position and, in a new wrinkle, at both defensive end and defensive tackle.

On the first drive of the game, Berry came

in at the defensive tackle position and was then thrown in later in both halves at defensive end, nearly recording half a sack with freshman Zach Harrison in the third quarter.

"We've been looking. Rashod came in as a lineman, and he's been doing good things and came to us a couple weeks ago, and asked on the situation. We said, 'Let's put him over there,'

" Day said. "Last Wednesday he went over and did a good job. He flashed a couple times. He's very talented, and moving forward we're going to try to maybe use him in different spots."

Berry played in 10 games in 2016 as a defensive end for the Buckeyes before he was shifted to the tight end position to help fill more of a need on Ohio State's roster.

Berry was recruited as a three-star defensive end out of Lorain, Ohio, and he said that previous experience made the transition an easy one.

"I mean I did it in high school, so it was like no difference," he said. "At the beginning of the week, they threw me over there on defense to see what I could do. And they liked it, so they ran with it."

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# Buckeyes Chase Away Adversity To Pound Terps

By CRAIG MERZ  
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

Ohio State and first-year coach Ryan Day faced adversity for the first time this season, and it had nothing to do with the opponent Nov. 9 in chilly Ohio Stadium.

The top-ranked Buckeyes were hit with the news of the suspension of junior defensive end and Heisman Trophy hopeful Chase Young, which was announced the day prior to playing Maryland.

Freshman Zach Harrison got his first career start in place of Young, and the Buckeyes erased the memories of the 2018 game vs. the Terrapins with a 73-14 victory before 101,022 fans who ventured out for the 35-degree noon start.

Young was suspended indefinitely while the NCAA investigates a possible improper loan. He leads the NCAA with 13½ sacks, one shy of breaking the school record of 14 by Vernon Gholston in 2007.

He wasn't missed because the offense was unstoppable.

OSU (9-0, 6-0) scored on its first six first-half possessions (the seventh was a knee to run out the clock) and even had a successful onside kick for a 42-0 lead.

"That's all a tribute to Coach Day and (offensive coordinator Kevin) Wilson," said sophomore tight end Jeremy Ruckert. "Their game plan was strong this week. They always scheme up the best runs, the best passes for the defense we're going against."

OSU had 705 total yards (383 rushing, 322



ANDREW LIND

**MAKING HIS MARK** – True freshman wide receiver Garrett Wilson hauled in four receptions for a team-high 82 yards and a touchdown in Ohio State's win over Maryland, sparking comparisons to sophomore Chris Olave's late-season performance in 2018.

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## OHIO STATE VS. MARYLAND

passing) compared to 139 (62 rushing, 77 passing) for Maryland and led in first downs 40-16.

The Terrapins (3-7, 1-6) were unable to score against the Buckeyes' first unit after OSU held on to beat them 52-51 in overtime last season.

"We just had to prove to them that we're a different team, this is a new year," said sophomore defensive end Tyreke Smith.

Sophomore Justin Fields, playing the first half only, was 16 of 25 for 200 yards and three touchdowns and had 28 yards rushing and a score to complement the 90 first-half yards and two rushing TDs by J.K. Dobbins.

### How It Happened

Maryland did not get a first down on its first possession beginning at its 15 and punted to the Terrapins 47. OSU needed six plays and a crisp 1:48 for the 7-0 lead at 11:32.

Dobbins had an 8-yard catch and runs of 15 and 9. On third-and-1 from the 15, Fields sneaked his way to the 12. He passed 12 yards to senior Binjimen Victor on the next play for the score.

Another Terps punt allowed the Buckeyes to march 71 yards in 11 plays and 4:13 for a 14-0 lead at the 5:02 mark when Fields ran in from the 4.

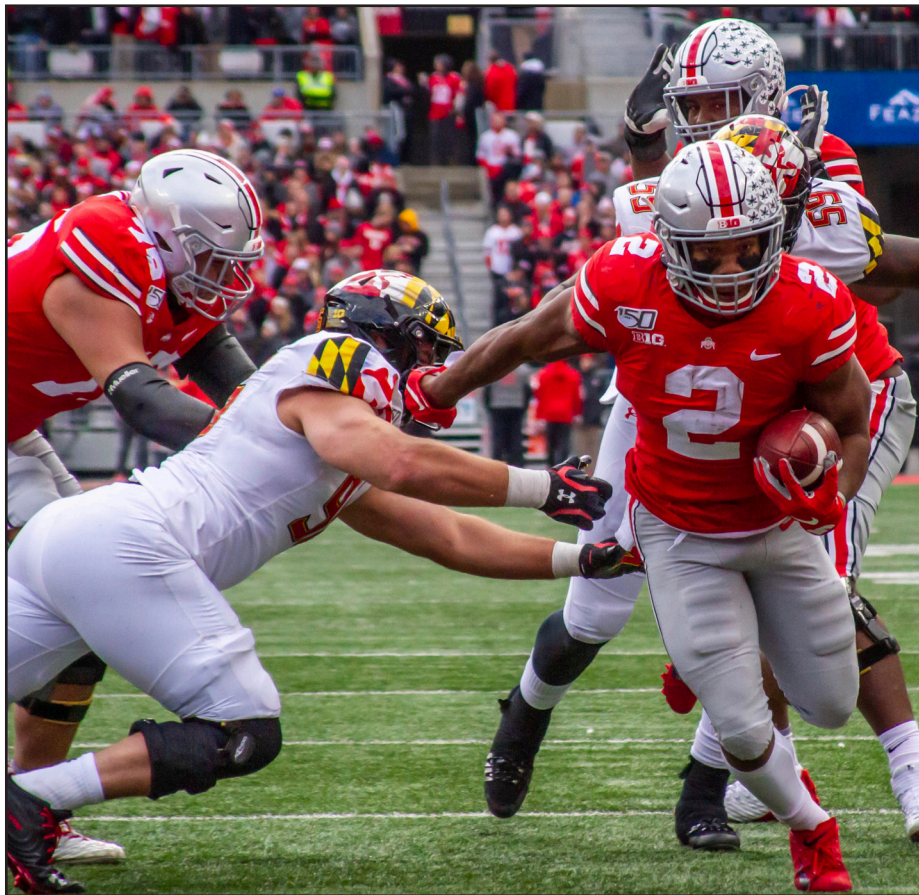
Ohio State was able to overcome two false starts on the drive by making big plays, including a 23-yard grab by Ruckert and a 33-yard reception by senior K.J. Hill to the 15. Needing 4 yards on third down, coach Ryan Day did a little trickery with a reverse to sophomore receiver Chris Olave for a 5-yard gain. Hill took a handoff for a yard before Fields faked to Dobbins up the gut and kept the ball for the score.

There was more fun on the ensuing kickoff when the Buckeyes recovered an onside kick at the Maryland 42. Junior Blake Haubeil's pooch near the right sideline was caught in stride by Olave but could not be advanced.

Of note, OSU special teams coach Matt Barnes held the same position last season for Maryland.

An unsportsmanlike conduct penalty on senior cornerback Damon Arnette after the play moved the chains back to the OSU 43 but merely delayed the inevitable, which was a scoring drive of 57 yards, using eight plays in a span of 3:13 to make it 21-0.

Fields found Victor for 13, but the key play was freshman Garrett Wilson's catch of 27 yards to the Maryland 4. Fields followed with a



ANDREW LIND

**TRUCKING ALONG – Running back J.K. Dobbins rushed for 90 yards on 12 first-half carries against Maryland, bringing his season total to 1,200 yards.**

4-yard TD pass to Hill.

The Buckeyes outgained the Terrapins 192-1 in the first quarter (passing 120-0, running 72-1) and led in first downs 10-1.

The change of quarters did not slow down the juggernaut when Olave had a 2-yard TD catch on a wide-open crossing pass at 11:25 of the second for a 28-0 advantage. Master Teague started the series with a 7-yard run followed by 15-yard catch by Olave. Then Teague ran for 30 to the Maryland 17, and Fields had a 10-yard rush to set up the score. The drive used 3:52 to move 76 yards in 11 plays.

OSU's fifth possession resulted in TD No. 5 at 4:58, a 7-yard run by Dobbins to cap a nine-play, 86-yard, 3:17 drive to extend the lead to 35-0. Hill was the catalyst again with a reception of 18 yards. Victor added a catch

for 11, and later a pass interference gave the Buckeyes another 15 yards to the 14.

After Maryland turned the ball over on downs, the Buckeyes went 54 yards in three plays, which took 28 seconds. Olave had catches for 14 and 5 yards, and the latter had a 15-yard personal foul tacked on at the end. Dobbins rushed for a 20-yard score on the next play.

Fields was replaced by Chris Chugunov to start the third quarter, and he ended the drive by fumbling the ball at the Maryland 20 after being sacked. On the Terrapins' first play, Tyrrell Pigrome was intercepted by sophomore linebacker K'Vaughan Pope at the Maryland 29, and he returned the pick a yard.

That led to a 49-0 lead at 11:28. Teague ran for 14 and Chugunov then threw a perfect ball

to Wilson in the left corner of the end zone for a 14-yard TD as the Buckeyes consumed 36 seconds to score.

Haubeil made 23-yard field goal at 7:01 to finish a nine-play, 38-yard, 3:18 drive to make it 52-0. Teague had another 14-yarder, and freshman receiver Jameson Williams added a 13-yard catch.

Ohio State's second-unit defense gifted Maryland's first touchdown to make it 52-7 with 3:00 to go in the third quarter. On successive plays the Buckeyes committed an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty and two personal fouls.

Josh Jackson took advantage for a 26-yard TD strike to Dontay Demus. The series was four plays, 64 yards and 1:20.

When the Buckeyes got the ball back, the flag fest continued. After an illegal block by Williams, Chugunov found Wilson streaking down the middle for a 46-yard TD only to have it negated by a holding call against freshman lineman Dawand Jones.

In the fourth quarter, freshman Marcus Crowley made it 59-7 with a 1-yard run at 10:04 with transfer QB Gunnar Hoak taking snaps. Crowley had 44 yards on four carries during the six-play, 63-yard, 2:14 drive.

A 70-yard kickoff return by Javon Leake to the 27 and a pass interference penalty enabled Maryland to make it 59-14 at 9:39 when Tayon Fleet-Davis rushed for 12 yards and the TD.

Crowley was injured after a 15-yard run on the Buckeyes' next scoring drive of six plays, 75 yards in 2:26. Junior Demario McCall ran for 32 yards and then 5 for the score at the 7:11 mark to make it 66-14.

McCall put the score at 73-14 with a 20-yard rushing TD with 3:47 left. McCall also had a 14-yard run on the possession. The drive was five plays, 41 yards and 2:48.

### Numbers

Olave had five catches for 43 yards and a TD. ... Wilson's 82 yards came on four catches. ... Teague in reserve duty had 111 yards on 18 carries, Crowley had 82 on eight totes, and McCall had 78 on seven. ... Chugunov was 8 of 11 for 103 yards. Hoak was 2 for 2 for 19 yards... The Buckeyes converted 9 of 14 third downs. ... The Buckeyes had 13 penalties for 141 yards. ... OSU had seven sacks for 50 yards. Smith and senior nose tackle Davon Hamilton each had two sacks, and Harrison had a tackle for loss of 6 yards.



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# BSB Quotebook: Ohio State 73, Maryland 14

**Ohio State head coach Ryan Day on not playing his starters to open the second half:** "We haven't played a whole bunch of football, when you really think about it, this year. And we had a long talk about it. But it's November. We still have a lot of football ahead of us. We thought that was the best move."

**Day on the performance of fifth-year defensive tackle Davon Hamilton:** "Davon really has had such an impact on this whole season but also the game, because he's an inside presence. And when he can push the pocket, it makes all the difference in the world. And then when he does what he did today, which is just defeat a blocker and get a sack, it changes the mentality of the quarterback. And I know, coaching quarterbacks. When you have a guy in your face, in your lap, especially early in the game, you don't want to stand in there anymore. You're not looking at the coverage. You're looking at the rush."

**Day on Hamilton's development under the tutelage of defensive line coach Larry Johnson:** "Larry's done a great job with Davon, his development over his career here. But he's one of the most improved guys on our team and was in the offseason. And now he's playing like that. It's great to see a guy who has developed and having great success."

**Day on freshman defensive end Zach Harrison's performance:** "He did a good job. Unfortunately, he gets the sack and they called the unsportsmanlike because he flexed over the quarterback. That was a learning lesson for Zach, and we have to look at some of those penalties because the amount of penalties today was embarrassing. A few of them are learning opportunities. That was one for Zach. We brought him over and the referee explained to him why he called that. He didn't even realize he did it, he was so excited about getting the sack."

**Harrison on the unsportsmanlike conduct penalty he got for taunting the Terrapins:** "I didn't even mean to flex on him or anything. I was just trying to get excited and celebrate with my teammates and everything. In the moment I didn't think anything of it."

**Harrison on earning his first start as a Buckeye after growing up in Columbus:** "It was a dream come true. As a kid, you grow up watching the Buckeyes play, and now I'm out there starting for them. It's a good feeling."

**Ohio State defensive end Tyreke Smith on the defensive line stepping up in Chase Young's absence:** "It just proves that we can get through adversity. We're resilient and we can get through anything. Nothing can put us down. We've been knocked down before, and we just keep getting back up and throwing punches. Coach J (Johnson), he coaches us all the same. He's a great coach, and everybody has a skill set to bring to the table and everybody had to come to an elite level and play at their best today. This was an opening game for everybody to notice that it can go to a different level."

**Hamilton on fifth-year tight end Rashod Berry filling in along the defensive line:** "He's been working with us all week. We went through all the blitzes with him, all the different things that can happen. He responded really well, so it helped out."

**Ohio State freshman wide receiver Garrett Wilson on his over-the-shoulder touchdown catch from backup quarterback Chris Chugunov:** "When I'm out there, I'm in the zone for sure, but I look at it like I'm just doing my job. If I'm not making that play, I'm upset with myself. Just doing my job."

**Ohio State sophomore tight end Jeremy Ruckert on converting so many third downs and keeping the offense on the field:** "I was getting tired at that point. It's definitely something where if you win third down, if you convert third downs, you're going to win the game. If you convert third downs and stop them on third down, that's one of our plans to win the game. I think that's definitely important, our execution on that end and making plays when they come your way."

**Ruckert on the pride he takes on the back-side block:** "We know how important it is. Some people watching on the TV or in the stands, they see people scoring touchdowns. But in our room, if you win that block one-on-one against a Big Ten linebacker or Big Ten D-end, we know what that means and how important it is. We really just rally off of it and get so excited. We just do our jobs, so it's exciting to do our job, have fun, score touchdowns and do everything."

**Ruckert on if he ever imagined he'd take pride in being a blocker:** "I never thought I was going to play tight end. I never did that all of high school. And I've really tried to buy into it this year, and I'm having a lot of fun – more fun than ever. Blocking someone in the Big Ten in November when the game is on the line and games like this, there's nothing better."

**Senior linebacker Malik Harrison on facing former teammate Keandre Jones and embracing him after the game:** "Me and Keandre, we're real close. He was in my class. He was my roommate when we moved off campus, and ever since he left, we still kept in contact. After the game, we were just all over him because we love him. He was a big part of us last year. He was a big bro, a leader. After the game, he told us keep our head down and win it all."



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# The Numbers Game

## Ohio State 73, Maryland 14

Nov. 9, 2019 – Ohio Stadium; Columbus, OH.

Score by Quarters	1	2	3	4	F
MARYLAND (3-7, 1-6)	0	0	7	7	14
OHIO STATE (9-0, 6-0)	21	21	10	21	73

### First Quarter

OSU – Victor, 12 yard pass from Fields (Haubeil kick), 11:32; 6 plays, 47 yards, 1:43 TOP.  
OSU – Fields, 4 yard run (Haubeil kick), 5:02; 11 plays, 71 yards, 4:13 TOP.  
OSU – Hill, 4 yard pass from Fields (Haubeil kick), 1:56; 8 plays, 57 yards, 3:06 TOP.

### Second Quarter

OSU – Olave, 2 yard pass from Fields (Haubeil kick), 11:25; 11 plays, 76 yards, 3:43 TOP.  
OSU – Dobbins, 7 yard run (Haubeil kick), 4:58; 9 plays, 86 yards, 3:17 TOP.  
OSU – Dobbins, 20 yard run (Haubeil kick), 0:52; 3 plays, 54 yards, 0:28 TOP.

### Third Quarter

OSU – Wilson, 14 yard pass from Chugunov (Haubeil kick), 11:28; 2 plays, 28 yards, 0:36 TOP.

OSU – Haubeil, 23 yard field goal, 7:01; 9 plays, 38 yards, 3:18 TOP.

UMD – Demus, 26 yard pass from Jackson (Petrino kick), 3:00; 4 plays, 64 yards, 1:14 TOP.

### Fourth Quarter

OSU – Crowley, 1 yard run (Haubeil kick), 10:04; 6 plays, 63 yards, 2:14 TOP.  
UMD – Fleet-Davis, 12 yard rush (Petrino kick), 9:39; 1 play, 27 yards, 0:14 TOP.  
OSU – McCall, 5 yard run (DiMaccio kick), 7:11; 6 plays, 75 yards, 2:21 TOP.  
OSU – McCall, 20 yard run (DiMaccio kick), 3:47; 5 plays, 41 yards, 2:48 TOP.

Att. – 101,022

Weather – 35 degrees, partly cloudy; wind SW 10 mph.

### Team Statistics

	UMD	OSU
First Downs	16	40
Rushing	7	22
Passing	3	15
Penalty	6	3
Rushes-Yards	32-62	56-383
Passing Yards	77	322
Passes (Comp.-Att.-Int.)	8-17-1	26-38-0
Offensive Plays	49	94
Total Net Yards	139	705
Third Down Efficiency	2-11	9-14
Fourth Down Efficiency	0-1	0-0
Punts-Avg.	8-37.2	2-37.0
Fumbles-Lost	1-1	1-1
Penalties	6-42	13-141
Time of Possession	23:19	36:41

### Individual Statistics

**RUSHING (Att.-Net Yds.)** – UMD: Leake 9-55; Fleet-Davis 8-44; McFarland 6-7; Jackson 3-(-20); Pigrome 6-(-24). OSU: Teague 18-111; Dobbins 12-90; Crowley 8-82; McCall 7-78; Fields 5-28; Olave 1-4; Hill 1-1; TEAM 1-(-1); Chugunov 3-(-10).

**PASSING (Comp.-Att.-Int.-Yds.-TD)** – UMD: Jackson 4-9-0-35-1; Pigrome 4-8-1-42-0. OSU: Fields 16-25-0-200-3; Chugunov 8-11-0-103-1; Hoak 2-2-0-19-0.

**RECEIVING (Rec.-Yds.)** – UMD: Cobbs 2-23; McFarland 2-3; Demus 1-26; Carriere 1-16; Mabry 1-7; Fleet-Davis 1-2. OSU: Olave 5-43; Wilson 4-82; Hill 4-56; Williams 4-38; Victor 3-36; Ruckert 2-30; McCall 1-11; Teague 1-10; Dobbins 1-8; Rossi 1-8.

**PUNTING (No.-Avg.-Long)** – UMD: Spangler 7-36.9-43; Pecorella 1-40.0-40 OSU: Chrisman 2-37.0-47.

**PUNT RETURNS (No.-Yds.)** – UMD: None. OSU: Wilson 2-(-5).

**KICKOFF RETURNS (No.-Yds.)** – UMD: Leake 7-164. OSU: McCall 2-63; Crowley 1-17.

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

**FORCED FUMBLES** – UMD: Jones. OSU: None.

**FUMBLE RECOVERIES (No.-Yds.)** – UMD: Ekey 1-0. OSU: Cage 1-0.

**INTERCEPTIONS (No.-Yds.)** – UMD: None. OSU: Pope 1-0.

**SACKS (No.-Yds.)** – UMD: Jones 1.0-7; Kulka 1.0-4. OSU: Smith 2-18; Hamilton 2-12; Borland 1.0-9; Z. Harrison 1.0-6; M. Harrison 1.0-5.

**TACKLES FOR LOSS (No.-Yds.)** – UMD: Jones 1.0-7; Kulka 1.0-4; Smith 1.0-3. OSU: Smith 2.0-18; Hamilton 2.0-12; Borland 1.0-9; Z. Harrison 1.0-6; M. Harrison 1.0-5; Jackson 1.0-2; Landers 1.0-2; Cage 1.0-1; Gant 0.5-1; Banks 1.0-0.

**TACKLES (Solo-Asst.-Tot.)** – UMD: Brooks 7-3-10; Cross 6-3-9; Campbell 2-7-9; Jones 4-4-8; Eley 1-7-8; Gater 7-0-7; Davis 3-4-7; Lewis 2-4-6; Kulka 2-2-4; Mosley 2-2-4; Capehart 2-1-3; Jones 1-1-2; Gaddy 1-1-2; Banks 1-1-2; Smith 1-1-2; Hazel 1-1-2; Oluwatimi 0-2-2; Cobbs 1-0-1; Howard 1-0-1; Petrino 1-0-1; Leake 1-0-1; Nchami 1-0-1; Olayinka 0-1-1; Brand 0-1-1. OSU: M. Harrison 3-2-5; Borland 1-4-5; Riep 3-0-3; Werner 3-0-3; Smith 3-0-3; Hooker 2-1-3; Young 2-1-3; Friday 2-0-2; Fuller 2-0-2; Hamilton 2-0-2; Williamson 1-1-2; Cage 1-1-2; Wade 1-1-2; Banks 1-1-2; Potter 1-1-2; Harrison 1-0-1; White 1-0-1; Jackson 1-0-1; Haubeil 1-0-1; Landers 1-0-1; Cox 1-0-1; Shaw 0-1-1; Gant 0-1-1; Cornell 0-1-1; Pope 0-1-1; Hamdan 0-1-1; Dever 0-1-1; Schmiesing 0-1-1.

**PLAYERS IN THE GAME** – UMD: Offense, Duncan, Christie, McKennie, Fontaine, Minor, Jackson, McFarland, Leake, Demus, Mabry, Cobbs. Defense, Kulka, Oluwatimi, Howard, Davis, Eley, Jones, Banks, Cross, Mosley, Brooks, Lewis. Reserves, Lewis, Flythe, Petrino, Pigrome, Gregory, Smith, Fleet-Davis, Pecorella, Okonkwo, Bazzie, Jones, Jones, Gotay, Brand, Nchami, Capehart, Gater, Shinsky, Campbell, Rosenberry, Olayinka, Anderson, Hunt, Lunsford, Barnes, Hill, Carriere, Hackson, Rogers, Gaddy, Spangler. OSU: Offense, Fields, Dobbins, Olave, Victor, Hill, Farrell, Munford, Jackson, Myers, Davis, Bowen. Defense, Harrison, Hamilton, Cornell, Smith, Werner, Borland, Harrison, Arnette, Okudah, Wade, Fuller. Reserves, Hoak, Berry, Crowley, DiMaccio, Malone, Teague, McCall, McCullough, Chugunov, Browning, Wilson, Williams, Mitchell, Jean-Baptiste, Johnson, Riep, Banks, Johnson, Williams, Gant, Williamson, Wint, White, Brown, Hooker, Dever, Rossi, Pope, Young, Shaw, Proctor, Cope, Schmiesing, Kacherski, Hilliard, Jackson, Friday, Wilburn, Cox, Hamdan, Cupp, Woidke, Vimahi, Landers, Togiati, Miller, Petit-Frere, Jones, Hausmann, Wiglusz, Kutscher, Ruckert, McKenzie, Chrisman, Garrett, Haubeil, Potter, Cage.

## Season Statistics

2019-20 Game-By-Game				Scoring						
Date	Opponent	Result/Time	Crowd	TD	EPK	EPR	EPRC	FG	PTS	
Aug. 31	(5)FLORIDA ATLANTIC	45-21	103,228	–	59-59	–	–	8-10	83	
Sept. 7	(5)CINCINNATI	42-0	104,089	13	–	–	–	–	78	
Sept. 14	(6)at Indiana	51-10	47,945	10	–	–	–	–	60	
Sept. 21	(6)MIAMI (OHIO)	76-5	103,190	9	–	–	–	–	56	
Sept. 28	(5)at Nebraska	48-7	89,379	5	–	–	–	–	30	
Oct. 5	(4)MICHIGAN STATE (25)	34-10	104,797	4	–	–	–	–	24	
Oct. 18	(4)at Northwestern	52-3	47,330	4	–	–	–	–	24	
Oct. 26	(3)WISCONSIN (13)	38-7	102,998	4	–	–	–	–	24	
Nov. 9	(3)MARYLAND	73-14	101,022	3	–	–	–	–	18	
Nov. 16	at Rutgers	3:30 p.m.		2	–	–	–	–	12	
Nov. 23	PENN STATE (9)	12 p.m.		1	–	–	–	–	6	
Nov. 30	at Michigan (14)	12 p.m.		1	–	–	–	–	6	

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

### Team Statistics

	OSU	Opp
First Downs	255	127
Rushing	133	63
Passing	101	46
Penalty	21	18
Average Per Game/Rush	295.2	88.2
Average Per Game/Pass	240.7	126.6
Total Offense	4823	1933
Total Plays	668	549
Average Per Game	535.9	214.8
Average Per Play	7.2	3.5
Penalties-Yards	52-508	51-452
Fumbles-Lost	12-6	16-8
Third Down Efficiency	64-110	34-132
Percentage	58%	26%
Fourth Down Efficiency	3-4	6-13
Percentage	75%	46%
Sacks-Yards	41-262	21-125
Time Of Possession Avg.	31:10	28:15

### Score

By Quarters	1	2	3	4	OT	Tot.	Avg.
Ohio State	94	189	90	86	0	459	51.0
Opponents	11	20	24	22	0	77	8.6

### Individual Statistics

Rushing	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Long
J.K. Dobbins	166	1200	7.2	11	68
Master Teague	104	699	6.7	4	73
Justin Fields	81	347	4.3	10	51
Marcus Crowley	25	237	9.5	1	53
Demario McCall	18	122	6.8	2	32
Steele Chambers	10	79	7.9	1	15
Amari McMahon	1	10	10.0	0	10
Chris Olave	2	5	2.5	0	4
K.J. Hill	1	1	1.0	0	1
Gunnar Hoak	1	-7	-7.0	0	0
Chris Chugunov	4	-10	-2.5	0	0
TEAM	10	-26	-2.6	0	0
OSU Totals	423	2657	6.3	29	73
OPP Totals	320	794	2.5	3	56

### Passing Comp. Att. Pct. Yds. TD-INT Effic.

Justin Fields	144	211	68.2	1859	27-1	183.5
Chris Chugunov	20	27	74.1	214	4-0	189.5
Gunnar Hoak	5	5	100	93	1-0	322.2
TEAM	0	2	0	0	0-0	0
OSU Totals	169	245	69.0	2166	32-1	185.5
OPP Totals	119	229	52.0	1139	5-11	91.3

### Receiving Rec. Net Avg. TD Long

K.J. Hill	34	361	10.6	5	53
Chris Olave	33	454	13.8	9	39
Binjimen Victor	22	391	17.8	4	60
Garrett Wilson	18	216	12.0	4	38
Austin Mack	15	207	13.8	2	38
J.K. Dobbins	14	140	10.0	2	21
Jeremy Ruckert	9	103	11.4	3	25
Jameson Williams	6	112	18.7	1	61
Jaalen Gill	4	13	3.3	0	9
Master Teague	3	55	18.3	0	28
Demario McCall	3	22	7.3	0	11
Luke Farrell	2	37	18.5	1	21
Rashod Berry	1	16	16.0	0	16
Elijah Gardiner	1	10	10.0	0	10
Jake Hausmann	1	9	9.0	0	9
Mitch Rossi	1	8	8.0	0	8
Marcus Crowley	1	7	7.0	1	7
Jaylen Harris	1	5	5.0	0	5
OSU Totals	169	2166	12.8	32	61
OPP Totals	119	1139	9.6	5	49

### FG Distance 0-29 30-39 40-49 50+ Total

Blake Haubeil	2-2	2-4	3-3	1-1	8-10
OSU Totals	2-2	2-4	3-3	1-1	8-10
OPP Totals	4-5	2-3	0-0	0-0	6-8

### Punting No. Yds. Avg. Bk Long

Drue Chrisman	27	1234	45.7	0	59
TEAM	1	13	13.0	1	13
OSU Totals	28	1247	44.5	1	59
OPP Totals	70	2849	40.7	2	70

### Interceptions No. Yds. Avg. TD Long

Jeff Okudah	3	0	0.0	0	0
Jordan Fuller	2	26	13.0	0	26
Damon Arnette	1	96	96.0	1	96
Tuf Borland	1	42	42.0	0	0
Josh Proctor	1	0	0.0	0	0
Amir Riep	1	0	0.0	0	0
Sevyn Banks	1	0	0.0	0	0
K'Vaughan Pope	1	1	1.0	0	1
OSU Totals	11	165	15.0	1	96
OPP Totals	1	34	34.0	0	34

### Punt Returns No. Yds. Avg. TD Long

Garrett Wilson	7	75	10.7	0	52
Demario McCall	7	51	7.3	0	35
K.J. Hill	5	38	7.6	0	16
Chris Olave	1	18	18.0	0	18
Sevyn Banks	1	5	5.0	0	5
OSU Totals	21	187	8.9	0	52
OPP Totals	6	16	2.7	0	6

### Kickoff Returns No. Yds. Avg. TD Long

Demario McCall	9	218	24.2	0	38
Marcus Crowley	1	17	17.0	0	17
Chris Olave	1	15	15.0	0	15
OSU Totals	11	250	22.7	0	38
OPP Totals	29	531	18.3	0	70

### Def. Leaders Solo Ast. Tot. TFL-Yds. Sacks

Malik Harrison	30	16	46	10.5-38	4.5-27
Jordan Fuller	32	11	43	–	–
Pete Werner	20	15	35	4.0-8	–
Tuf Borland	16	13	29	3.0-13	1.0-9
Chase Young	22	7	29	15.5-98	13.5-98
Baron Browning	12	12	24	5.0-14	2.5-11
Damon Arnette	18	6	24	1.0-3	–
Jeff Okudah	17	4	21	1.0-1	–
Jashon Cornell	13	8	21	5.0-20	2.5-10
Shaun Wade	12	5	17	3.0-15	2.0-14
Brendon White	14	3	17	2.0-3	1.0-1
Davon Hamilton	11				



# Ohio State In Midst Of Memorable Season

Following a trip to Rutgers on Nov. 16, Ohio State will embark on an important two-game stretch against Penn State and at Michigan that will ultimately determine its Big Ten and College Football Playoff fate.

With that, Buckeye Sports Bulletin staff members Wyatt Crosher, Joe Dempsey, Andrew Lind and Patrick Mayhorn sat down during the idle week – before news broke of the suspension of junior defensive end Chase Young and Penn State losing a hard-fought game to Minnesota – to talk about the Buckeyes' season to that point, as well as the team's chances of winning the conference championship and national title, among other topics.

The BSB staff followed up with their thoughts on the Young situation in the box on page 18.

## Where do you believe Ohio State has improved the most compared to last season?

**Joe Dempsey:** "On defense. Ohio State has shown its biggest improvement on the defensive side of the ball, and it's not really even close. Last season, the Buckeyes were often out of position, particularly at the second and third levels, leading to tons of big plays for opposing teams. Even though nearly all of the defensive starters returned following a disappointing season, Ohio State does not look remotely similar to the atrocity that happened at Purdue or at Maryland last year.

"I thought the defense would perform better with a year of experience and a new set of accomplished coaches, but I did not foresee the Buckeyes being so flat-out dominant on defense.

"Not only has Ohio State suffocated opposing rushing attacks, but the Buckeyes' secondary has once again become a 'no fly zone.' A large reason for Ohio State's improvement, in addition to the lockdown coverage of cornerbacks Damon Arnette, Jeff Okudah and Shaun Wade, has been the pressure applied by the defensive line led by Chase Young.

"The Buckeyes have been highly disruptive defensively, leading to lopsided wins with the outcomes rarely in question."

**Patrick Mayhorn:** "As Joe said, the defense really has to be the answer here. The 2018 version of the Silver Bullets was so poorly coached, so out of sorts and so unprepared for spread offenses. Now, just a year removed, Ohio State's defense may be the best in the country, thanks in large part to basic structural changes about the ways that the defense actually works. The addition of cover three zone looks, the decrease in pure man coverage and the movement of the linebackers back into the middle of the field rather than on the line has made a world of difference,

"Plenty of the credit should and does go to the players, obviously, but Ohio State's defense and the scheme specifically have to be the most improved thing on the team. The Buckeye defense has gone not just from a weakness to a strength, but from a unit that lost Ohio State the Purdue game and nearly brought similar fates against Nebraska and Maryland into one that could very well keep Ohio State in a game and even win one later in the season."

**Wyatt Crosher:** "I have no disagree-

ments with what Patrick and Joe said because defense is probably the right answer here. I will go with an even more general answer, though, and say it's the coaching. This seems like a wild thing to say considering whom Ohio State has moved on from, but under Urban Meyer, the Buckeyes had a tendency to show complacency toward the end, and it allowed for teams significantly less talented to compete well into the fourth quarter, or sometimes even pull out the upset.

"Ryan Day and his newly renovated staff have changed that completely to this point, and that has led to improvements on both sides of the ball, especially on the defensive ends. Big plays have almost been completely eliminated, and Ohio State has won by 24 or more in every game so far.

"Talent is a part of that, but 2017 and 2018 showed that it wasn't everything, and the coaching on the whole has made all the difference this season."

**Andrew Lind:** "Seeing as the changes implemented by the new staff have made a positive impact on the players and on-field product, I'm going to have to agree with Wyatt. It's essentially cause and effect.

"Yes, the defense is playing out of its mind just one year after being the worst statistical unit in school history. But with probable first-round draft picks in Young and Okudah – and maybe Wade, too – shouldn't we have already expected them to get better naturally?

"Maturity and experience go a long way, and talent alone would have put this defense around the national average, provided, of course, that they had a half-way competent defensive coordinator and linebackers coach this fall. But, as Patrick pointed out, the change in scheme and the ability for the team to pin its ears back and just play ball has made all of the difference.

"The defense is finally one cohesive unit, and it's because Day cut ties with everyone on the defensive staff except defensive line coach Larry Johnson – who is the best assistant in the country – and replaced them with either young, eager and relatable coaches looking to prove themselves like co-defensive coordinator/secondary coach Jeff Hafley, linebackers coach Al Washington and assistant secondary/special teams coach Matt Barnes or established and well-respected coaches like co-defensive coordinator Greg Mattison."

## Who has been Ohio State's most important player this season?

**WC:** "I'm going to start this one so that I can give the easiest answer to it. There is a very, very strong case for Chase Young to be selected for this one, as he is the most talented player on either side of the ball for Ohio State on any given Saturday. But the question is most important, and for me, that answer is undoubtedly Justin Fields.

"Fields has lived up to all of his potential and so much more for Ohio State so far this season, and the reason that he is the most important player this season is because of the sheer lack of depth at his position, which happens to be the most important position on the team, the quarterback.

"But not only is Fields filling a role that has almost no depth, he is shining in it,

putting up terrific numbers with Heisman levels of efficiency, and he is the player that would be the most noticed if he was no longer playing for the Buckeyes. Without Fields, Ohio State goes from a playoff-caliber team to one that likely doesn't win the Big Ten."

**JD:** "Well, I agree that Justin Fields is extremely valuable without a doubt. I actually think Ohio State could have conceivably won the Big Ten without Fields, however, led by a dominant rushing attack and stifling defense. And as crazy as it might seem, I don't think Fields has yet lived up to all his potential. He's been great, but somehow, I think there's another level to his game.

"I think the Buckeyes' most important player is actually Chase Young, who is also the most impactful player in all of college football. After dealing with sprains in both ankles as a sophomore, Young has emerged as the most feared pass rusher in the country.

"Remember, the Buckeyes gave up 49 points to Purdue and 51 to Maryland last year. This year, the only team to score more than 10 against Ohio State was Florida Atlantic with 21.

"Opposing offenses must gear their game plan around Young and speed up their plays because he'll make them pay if not. With 13½ sacks in eight games played, Young has been dominant at a historic pace."

**AL:** "This might be the most difficult question to answer in this entire roundtable.

"Take away Young, and you could make an argument that the defensive backfield suffers because of the lack of pressure he puts on the quarterback. Take away J.K. Dobbins and a balanced offense conceivably becomes one-dimensional. I could go down the list, but Fields stands out because there's absolutely no way that backups Chris Chugunov or Gunnar Hoak could come in and produce the same results.

"I intend no disrespect with this statement, but you're going from one of the nation's top five or so quarterbacks – who, I might add, is neck and neck with Clemson quarterback Trevor Lawrence as the greatest high school quarterback I've ever seen play in person – to graduate transfers who couldn't land the starting role at their former schools in West Virginia and Kentucky, respectively.

"They're certainly serviceable backups, but stepping into an important role is much different than mop-up duty in the fourth quarter of a blowout. Hopefully, for Ohio State's sake, Fields stays healthy and the Buckeyes never have to find out what life is like without their most important player."

**PM:** "Because everyone else has either gone with Fields or Young, I'll switch it up a bit and go with Thayer Munford. Ohio State's offensive line looks the best it has in years in both the run and passing games, and a large part of that comes down to Munford's consistency.

"He almost never gets beaten in the passing game, which is saying something for left tackle, usually the offensive line spot tasked with blocking the best rusher on the defense. That kind of protection off the blind side has kept Fields upright for much of the season and provides a massive amount of support for Ohio State's

passing attack that wouldn't be there with any potential backup that would be playing instead of Munford were he not on the team.

"We saw it with Nicholas Petit-Frere against Northwestern, when he wasn't necessarily awful but his occasional struggles did cause serious issues for the offense in the first quarter before Munford re-entered the game. Munford's ability both as a pass blocker and a force in the running game makes him the best player on the line and the driving force behind Ohio State's top-tier offense."

## What is one thing that has surprised you the most this season?

**JD:** "The offensive front for the Buckeyes has been the biggest surprise to me this season. Whenever a team loses four full-time starters from its offensive line, there is cause for concern. With only Thayer Munford returning as a primary starter, the Buckeyes had a lot of question marks along their O-line. How well these so-called question marks performed would have a large impact on the team's overall success.

"The new-look offensive line has delivered, setting the tone for the high-powered Ohio State offense. The interior of the offensive line, including center Josh Myers and guards Wyatt Davis and Jonah Jackson, has been exceptional. Myers has earned rave reviews from the coaching staff, and Davis was a midseason All-American selection. Jackson may be the most pleasant surprise for the Buckeyes, coming over from Rutgers as a grad transfer and leading the team in knockdowns.

"Branden Bowen has done a solid job at right tackle, while Munford has been excellent once again, despite dealing with injuries that have limited him. Josh Alabi even filled in admirably at Nebraska, earning player of the game honors and showing that the offensive line has more depth than anticipated."

**PM:** "I have two answers, one on each side of the ball and one that tags along a bit off Joe's answer.

"Offensively, I've been stunned by how well J.K. Dobbins has played. I was firmly off the Dobbins train after last season. I thought he was slow and playing above his comfortable weight, and I was never convinced that he would return to his freshman form. He hasn't returned to it, because he's surpassed it. Dobbins has been a legitimate Heisman-caliber back, showcasing great vision behind – as Joe mentioned – a stunningly great offensive line.

"Defensively, my answer is Damon Arnette. I was always a lot higher on Arnette than most, largely because cornerback is a very difficult position to play and as cornerbacks go, there were many that were quite a bit worse than Arnette was during his first few years as a starter.

"However, much of the criticism of him was fair, which makes his emergence as one of the nation's best corners this year that much more surprising. Like Dobbins, Arnette is at least somewhat a product of changes around him, with those new zone looks providing him the chance to showcase his intelligence and quickness much more than press coverage ever did, but Arnette deserves credit for putting in the work and likely making himself a whole lot of money in the upcoming NFL draft



in the process.”

**WC:** “I don’t care how much I was anticipating him: Chase Young surprises me with each passing game. Yes, I thought he would have a great season this year and become a top-five pick in the NFL draft. I did not expect him to become the greatest collegiate defender I have ever watched play live.

“To expect Young to be as good as either of the Bosas was a tall task that I thought was possible this year, but not a guarantee. Young looks like he is otherworldly this season and makes every offensive lineman that he goes up against his lunch.

“I get that this question is meant for positions, plays or players that we had lower expectations for, but Young took my sky-high expectations and blew the roof off them and is breaking records at a pace never seen in the history of Ohio State’s program.

“Ohio State on the whole is playing better than I ever expected, but it is Young that I look forward to seeing week in and week out, and every single time, I find my jaw on the floor at something he is able to pull off.”

**AL:** “All of these are great answers, but none of them are truly surprising to me.

“I thought Dobbins’ disappointing performance in 2018 was more so a product of a few different things, particularly running behind a lackluster offensive line in a pass-first offense and having to share the load with Mike Weber. The Buckeyes have upgraded at center and both guard positions, and being the premier back has allowed Dobbins to shine as the offense’s first option.

“I was personally pretty tough on Arnette last season, too. I mean, which cornerback didn’t repeatedly get beat last fall? But his desire to return to school and work on his craft for one more year before heading to the NFL made me believe we’d see a significant improvement from him. The talent has always been there. It was simply a matter of him getting his priorities in order.

“And when it comes to Young, I’ve long said he was going to be better than both Joey and Nick Bosa. I’m glad he’s proving me right.

“So then, what has been most surprising to me? I’m going to have to go with linebacker Pete Werner, who – alongside Tuf Borland last fall – looked like a stick-in-the-mud while trying to cover running backs or slot wide receivers. He’s playing so well now at the newly implemented ‘Bullet’ position that he’s negated any sort of playing time for Rose Bowl defensive MVP Brendon White. And seeing White’s late-season play last fall, who saw that coming?”

**Among Penn State, Michigan and a potential Big Ten West opponent in the championship game, who presents the biggest challenge for Ohio State?**

**WC:** “Michigan is starting to pick up some steam, and the potential matchup of Minnesota or Wisconsin could represent a challenge, but Penn State is – and has been – the toughest matchup on Ohio State’s schedule.

“While Wisconsin showed dominance early, it is the style that Penn State plays on both sides of the ball that makes the Nittany Lions a consistently tough team to play, especially with how impressive that defense has been. While Sean Clifford is no Trace McSorley, Penn State’s offense is much more balanced

than Wisconsin’s and should give Ohio State a harder time.

“There’s a reason the last three meetings between these teams have been decided by a combined five points, and while I don’t see any team dethroning Ohio State ahead of a potential playoff run, Penn State always puts up a fight against the Buckeyes.

“Michigan may be on the road, but even a home game against the Nittany Lions is the one that should be circled on everyone’s calendars prior to the bowl game.”

**JD:** “I have to agree with Wyatt here. Penn State is a well-coached team with a handful of NFL-caliber standouts on both sides of the ball. Nittany Lion wideout K.J. Hamler is a game-changing weapon, which was evident when Penn State beat Michigan.

“Defensively, Penn State is very solid. The Nittany Lions are especially strong against the run but also have playmakers in the back end. Yetur Gross-Matos and Shaka Toney do a great job of pressuring quarterbacks and making plays in the backfield, while former Ohio State target Micah Parsons leads a talented linebacker group.

“The Buckeyes showed Wisconsin is no match for them, and while Michigan and Minnesota are solid teams that will be fired up to face Ohio State, Penn State is better. I don’t think it will be another one-point game between the Nittany Lions and the Buckeyes, but it should be the toughest test of the regular season.”

**AL:** “I have to echo your guys’ sentiments because Ohio State and Penn State are, without a doubt, the two best teams in the Big Ten. And, as Wyatt pointed out, I’m expecting this game to be somewhat close for the third year in a row. The Buckeyes are lucky to be playing this game at home instead of in front of a raucous crowd in Happy Valley.

“The defense, led by Parsons, will challenge Fields in ways he’s not been challenged so far this season. His ability to make plays with his feet will be key for Ohio State’s offense.

“I haven’t been all that impressed with the Nittany Lions’ offense, meanwhile, but – as Joe mentioned – they’re very balanced and, unless there is bad weather, should test the Buckeyes in the passing game and with running the ball.

“Ohio State will ultimately win by a touchdown or more, but Penn State is the best team left on the schedule.”

**PM:** “It’s hard to disagree with Penn State as the choice. I’m still not entirely sold on that offense – in large part due to a lack of confidence in Sean Clifford – but Penn State is inarguably the second-best team in the Big Ten right now. K.J. Hamler and Noah Cain are both elite playmakers that Ohio State will have to scheme for.

“Defensively, the front seven will provide as many challenges as Wisconsin’s did, and that defensive backfield can’t be beaten as easily as Wisconsin’s was. As Andrew says, I still think Ohio State will win pretty handily in the end, but Penn State is the biggest challenge left on the schedule and will be the best team Ohio State will play during the regular season.

“Ultimately, this may not even be as much a statement on Penn State being great as it is on Michigan and the Big Ten West being lackluster. Minnesota doesn’t have the talent or the play in the trenches to hang with Ohio State, and Michigan is not going to be able to cover its offensive

weaknesses enough to put a dent into the Buckeye defense.”

**Do you think any of Ohio State’s Heisman Trophy candidates will make it to New York as a finalist or win the award?**

**AL:** “When it became increasingly clear that quarterback Justin Fields and running back J.K. Dobbins were going to be in the running for the Heisman Trophy, I cautioned how the two could potentially take votes away from one another.

“Adding defensive end Chase Young to the fray only makes it more difficult, though I truly believe he has the best chance of winning the award despite being a defensive player.

“Do I think he’ll win the award? It’s very unlikely. In fact, the only reason former Michigan cornerback Charles Woodson did was because he also had the opportunity to change the game on offense and special teams. Young won’t have any special offensive packages with his name on it, and unless he blocks a few more field goals in important situations, he’s not going to make an impact on special teams, either.

“That dropped interception against Cincinnati – which would have likely been returned for a touchdown – would have helped his case tremendously, too.

“That said, I do think Young is the most deserving of the three to be a Heisman finalist. He’s made a significant impact on a defense that struggled mightily last season despite being double-teamed on almost every play. He’s also on pace to absolutely shatter the school sack record and might even make a push at the NCAA single-season mark (24 by Arizona State linebacker Terrell Suggs in 2002).”

**WC:** “You know how sometimes at award shows like the Oscars or the Grammys, it feels like the nomination itself is the voters’ way of showing recognition, but that the surprise nominee almost has no chance in the world at actually winning the award?”

“That is how I see this year going for Chase Young, who is almost certainly the best player in college football, but who also has an incredibly small chance at actually winning the Heisman.

“Young just needs to keep playing how

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he usually does, and I think his shot at a trip to New York is high, but it is just so hard for a defensive player to beat out what has been so traditionally a quarterback award.

"That said, I agree with Andrew that having three Ohio State players in the running does more harm than good for either Young, Fields or Dobbins when it comes to their chances of winning it. Fields and Dobbins have chances down the stretch to make their Heisman moments – though Dobbins' might have been his explosive performance against Wisconsin – but it might just be too little, too late for a pair of offensive players who have spent more time on the sidelines than in the game in the fourth quarter so far."

**PM:** "This probably isn't a super popular opinion in Columbus right now, but of Ohio State's Heisman trio, I think Justin Fields is the least worthy of the bunch, and therein lies the issue. That isn't to say Fields hasn't been great, he certainly has been, just that he probably hasn't been Heisman-worthy. In a system where eight of the last nine Heisman winners played quarterback, Fields being Ohio State's third-best option probably ruins any chances of a Buckeye actually winning."

"Now, with regards to being there, I could see Young getting an invite. He's the most dominant and talented player in the country, and in a just college football world, he wins the Heisman in a landslide. However, defensive players are, as mentioned, essentially barred from winning the award. They are not barred from being invited, though, and I think that Young will be invited."

"Dobbins is the elephant in the room as a supremely talented player that isn't necessarily super flashy, and I think I agree with Wyatt that it may be too little too late, given how few opportunities the star back has been given at a Heisman moment as Ohio State continues to blow out every opponent it meets. Dobbins is a great player, but like Fields, I just don't see him as having the splashy plays or stats to win the award and I would be surprised if he's invited over quarterbacks like Jalen Hurts or Joe Burrow, especially if Young is invited."

**JD:** "Dwayne Haskins threw for 50 touchdowns and nearly 5,000 yards while leading Ohio State to an 11-1 record in the regular season last year. He was an afterthought when it came to the Heisman Trophy. If Haskins was not considered as a top-two candidate, I'm not sure how another Ohio State player could be."

"I actually considered predicting Justin Fields, whom I picked to win Big Ten Offensive Player of the Year, to win the Heisman, but then I remembered how incredible Haskins had played and how he was passed over last December."

"Fields has looked the part, too, but less eye-popping passing stats than his counterparts will prevent him from legitimate consideration. J.K. Dobbins has run like the best back in the country, but unless a tailback's stats jump off the page, he will probably not be seriously considered. And for Chase Young, whom I would award the Heisman through eight games, he will not win because of the heavy bias toward offensive players, primarily quarterbacks."

"I think one of the Buckeyes, probably Young, will receive an invite to the ceremony, but the award will go elsewhere this year, potentially to a former Ohio State player."

**Knowing what we do now, how do you see the season ending for Ohio State?**

## Buckeyes Chasing Championships, Heisman Without Young

Ohio State defensive end Chase Young did not play against Maryland and faces an indefinite suspension after news of a potential violation of NCAA rules regarding a loan he allegedly accepted from a family friend came to light on Nov. 8.

This, of course, has a significant impact on the Buckeyes' quest for a Big Ten title and a spot in the College Football Playoff, as well as Young's individual pursuit of a Heisman Trophy. That's why the staff of Buckeye Sports Bulletin reconvened for a roundtable discussion on how this news changes – or doesn't change – their predictions for the remainder of the season.

**Andrew Lind:** "Personally, I don't believe Young's absence will have any impact on Ohio State's Big Ten and College Football Playoff hopes. I think the Buckeyes are far and away the best team in the conference and can beat Penn State and Michigan without him."

"My first inclination is to say they can't win the national title without him. But then again, the Buckeyes did lose Braxton Miller and J.T. Barrett in the same season to then go on an incredible three-game run with third-string quarterback Cardale Jones. Not to mention, Ohio State has several highly touted players – such as sophomores Tyreke Smith and Tyler Friday and freshman Zach Harrison – who can and will have to step up if Young is out for an extended period of time."

"That said, we don't know how long Young will be out. The issue could be resolved quickly, and it's entirely possible he returns before the games against the Nittany Lions and Wolverines. If that does indeed happen, big-time efforts in those nationally televised games would – in my opinion – still earn him a trip to New York for the Heisman Trophy ceremony. It would also give the Buckeyes the push needed to win the national title."

**Wyatt Crosher:** "I can agree with Andrew's first point to an extent, which is saying that I think Ohio State can and would still beat Penn State and Michigan and whoever ends up being in the Big Ten Championship Game, but I do think that Penn State game could come down to one score and be a much, much tougher game."

"As far as a national title run, I'm not sure. The emergence of one of those young players Andrew mentioned in the upcoming weeks could sell me, but for now I don't know if this defense, without Young, can beat the likes of an Alabama, LSU or Clemson. Not impossible, but certainly a tall task."

"Now for the Heisman trophy, I already thought Young's chances were slim, but I think even if he just misses the Maryland game, his chances are down to zero. It's already near impossible to win as a defender, and almost no one wins it when they miss a game. Combining both of those things? I think Young's chances are finished."

**Joe Dempsey:** "Ohio State's depth at defensive end will definitely be tested without Young, particularly because senior starter Jonathon Cooper is also out. Like Andrew mentioned, Smith, Friday and Harrison are very capable of stepping up in their absences as well as redshirt freshman Javontae Jean-Baptiste. However, Young's shoes are not easy ones to fill."

"I think the Buckeyes are talented enough to beat the Nittany Lions, Wolverines and the eventual Big Ten West winner without Young, but he will surely be missed. And beyond the Big Ten title, beating potential College Football Playoff teams like LSU and Alabama presents a much tougher challenge without Young."

"As far as the Heisman chances for the monster defensive end, I also think an NCAA investigation is the nail in the coffin. It was already unlikely that an Ohio State player would top Dwayne Haskins' sophomore season when he finished third in Heisman voting, especially a defensive player who was suspended. But if you know Young, you know he'd take a national title over an individual trophy any day."

**Patrick Mayhorn:** "It's impossible for a team to fully cover for the loss of a player like Young, and if Ohio State has to go through the rest of the season without him, I just don't see a national title in the cards. As Wyatt said, I'm not sure this defense has what it takes to beat the best teams without Young."

"Now, with that said, Ohio State has very capable backups behind Young. Jean-Baptiste, Smith, Friday, Cooper and Harrison are all supremely talented, and I could very easily see someone like Harrison stepping up and becoming a bona fide star in Young's absence. Is that enough to win a championship? Probably not. Does it still get Ohio State to the playoff? Absolutely."

"On a more individual basis, I actually don't think that this will spell the end of Young's Heisman campaign. I don't expect this investigation to end Young's season, and I think that he has the kind of groundswell of support to still get to New York. He was never going to win because of his position, but big games against Penn State and Michigan could still easily be enough to get Young to the ceremony, though his odds of winning do go from slim to basically none."

**AL:** "Before the season, I predicted Ohio State would finish the year undefeated and make it to the national championship game. That prediction looks better than ever, seeing as the Buckeyes should be heavily favored in every game from here on out – whether it's at home against Penn State, on the road at Michigan or in Indianapolis against the winner of the Big Ten West."

"On the other hand, I expected Clemson to be much better this year and knock off Ohio State once again to win the national title. Now, that's not to say the Tigers won't make it back to the playoff or meet the Buckeyes in New Orleans, but I think the result would be much different than I initially expected."

"Ohio State is the most complete team in the country, and it's difficult to find any glaring weaknesses on paper or on film. Clemson, meanwhile, reminds me a lot of Florida State in 2014. The Seminoles were the defending national champions but looked very beatable throughout the regular season and then got blown out in the national semifinal. I think a similar fate awaits Clemson."

"There is still a lot of football left to played, so it's difficult for me to wager a guess on who the Buckeyes will meet in the first round of the playoff or the national championship. But at the end of the day, I fully expect them to be the No. 1 seed in the playoff and capture a national title in Ryan Day's first season at the helm."

**WC:** "I had Ohio State at 11-1 with a close loss to Penn State but a win in the

Big Ten Championship Game against, gulp, Northwestern with a résumé strong enough to sneak into the playoff."

"While I expect a close matchup from the Nittany Lions, I don't see anyone beating the Buckeyes before their place in the CFP. I also agree with Andrew that if Ohio State faced off against Clemson, I would like the Buckeyes over the Tigers, but I think LSU would be a very interesting potential matchup, especially with a motivated Joe Burrow against his former team."

"LSU or Alabama would be a fight, as would the Tigers, but as Andrew said, Ohio State has played almost without a weakness so far and would be hard to pick against anyone. Still, something about not playing in any meaningful fourth quarter yet could spell trouble if the Buckeyes head into the playoff almost completely untested."

**PM:** "I would be stunned if Ohio State slips up prior to the playoff. This is such a focused football team right now, and as Andrew mentioned, there's really no doubt that this is the most complete team in the country."

"Now, once that playoff rolls around, things get a little bit shakier. LSU, Alabama, Clemson and even some of the one-loss schools like Oregon, Oklahoma and Utah would be as good as anyone in the country if they can make it into those final four slots. Ohio State will have been tested more than most think with wins over Cincinnati, a better-than-expected Indiana team, Wisconsin,

Penn State, Michigan and the Big Ten West winner, but I agree with Wyatt that the lack of a close game during the season could be an issue."

"It's hard to make a definitive prediction before knowing opponents or even what the remainder of the season looks like, but right now, at even odds, Ohio State should be the favorite to win the national championship. On a neutral field, there isn't a team in the country I think is better than the Buckeyes."

**JD:** "Like Andrew, I would like to toot my own horn and start with a reminder that I predicted Ohio State to go undefeated. However, predicting the Buckeyes to start 9-0 would not have been that hot of a take. Starting 13-0 is a lot different, and the toughest games on the schedule lie ahead in a home game against Penn State and a road matchup with Michigan."

"A good sign for the Buckeyes is that while they've shown virtually no weaknesses, some of the other national title contenders have looked less impressive. Clemson nearly lost to an unranked North Carolina team, while Georgia fell in overtime to South Carolina. LSU and Alabama have been tough but do not appear to be unbeatable by any means."

"Based on what we've seen so far, Ohio State looks like it could be national champs. They don't hand out trophies in November, though, so the Buckeyes will have to prove they deserve it against the best of the best, starting with a talented Penn State team."



# Day Complimentary Of Grad Transfer Jackson

By ANDREW LIND  
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

When offensive guard Jonah Jackson emerges from the tunnel at Rutgers' SHI Stadium on Nov. 16, he'll hear the familiar sounds of the Scarlet Knights' fight song, "The Bells Must Ring." But rather than jog to the home sideline as he's done for the last four seasons, he'll be greeted with a chorus of boos as he trots across the field to Ohio State's sideline.

The 6-4, 305-pound Jackson was a team captain at Rutgers last fall but elected to pursue a graduate transfer after receiving his degree in criminal justice.

"I gave everything to (Rutgers), and that will forever be my alma mater," Jackson said during his first media availability of fall camp. "That's a place I'll consider home. But I wanted to see what else was out there."

Jackson was a three-star prospect from Media (Pa.) Penncrest who held scholarship offers from Albany, Massachusetts, Monmouth and Rutgers coming out of high school. But back on the market for one final season, he was being courted by big-time programs such as Ohio State and Oklahoma.

"It was just like a hailstorm at me," Jackson said. "I was like, 'I know where I want to go, I know the schools that get to visit.' It was kind of a headache, the amount of people that were just blowing up your phone."

After official visits to both schools, Jackson – who was honorable-mention All-Big Ten in 2018 – announced his decision to be a Buckeye on Feb. 25. It was a significant boost to a unit that was set to return just one starter this season in left tackle Thayer Munford.

Jackson's top priority when choosing a school was the chance to compete for a national championship.

Seeing as the Buckeyes or the Sooners have participated in each College Football Playoff thus far, either program would have sufficed. But Jackson – whose head coach at Rutgers, Chris Ash, was Ohio State's co-defensive coordinator from 2014-15 – immediately felt at home in Columbus, noting how Ash attempted to model his program around the lessons he learned from former Buckeye head coach Urban Meyer.

"That was definitely something that played a big factor in my decision process," Jackson said, "how they structure everything sort of similar to Rutgers, whether it's weight room, academics, the football aspect and how Coach (Greg Studrawa's) philosophies were similar to my past coaches."

In addition to Ash, Jackson cited former Ohio State graduate assistant Drew



ANDREW LIND

**THE OTHER SIDE** – Left guard Jonah Jackson spent the last four seasons at Rutgers but will find himself on the opposing sideline when Ohio State travels to Piscataway, N.J., on Nov. 16.

Mehringer – who was Rutgers' offensive coordinator in 2016 – and strength and conditioning coach Kenny Parker, who worked under Buckeyes strength and conditioning coach Mickey Marotti for four seasons in Columbus before following Ash to Piscataway, N.J.

"They sort of brought a lot of philosophies from Coach Meyer and what they do at Rutgers. Coach Ash definitely put his own twist on things, but a lot of things (were the same), whether it was academics; how the gold, red and blue groups set up in the weight room; and how they structure the schedule of practice. We had pre-practice warmups and then we go to inside run and all that, and a lot of that was very similar."

The one thing that is considerably different from his time at Rutgers, however, is the winning.

With Ohio State's win at Northwestern on Oct. 18, the Buckeyes had won as many

games in one season as Jackson had in the last three years with the Scarlet Knights (7). And while the team did go 4-8 during his redshirt season in 2015, the Buckeyes could very well surpass his overall win total (11) with a victory at Michigan on Nov. 30.

Ohio State has beaten Rutgers by an average score of 55.3 to 1.0 in games involving Jackson. But Jackson's play was a lone bright spot for the Scarlet Knights, which is why Studrawa and head coach Ryan Day targeted him as soon as he hit the transfer portal in January. But a call to Ash shortly thereafter sealed the deal for the Buckeyes.

"Chris had nothing but unbelievable things to say about Jonah," Day said. "When he kind of gave a recommendation for Jonah, that was enough for us."

"We also watched his film, of course, and talked to our guys. Our guys played against him, and they thought he was real-

ly talented. They thought he was one of the better guys they've gone against in the Big Ten. As an interior guy, he was strong and powerful in the run game and did a good job in pass protection. Then hearing the character reference we got from Chris was excellent."

Jackson has been a perfect fit along an offensive line that has paved the way for Ohio State to rush for 2,657 yards and 29 touchdowns through nine games. He's also working his way up draft boards while putting the Buckeyes in prime position to win the Big Ten title and make a return trip to the College Football Playoff – the entire reason he transferred in the first place.

"Jonah's been nothing but unbelievable with us," Day said. "He's stepped into that room, he's a pro, he brings a certain level of maturity and stability to that line week in and week out."

"I can't say enough about what he's done since he's been here."



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# Defensive Tackle Cornell Finds Fun In Winning

By CRAIG MERZ  
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

As a fifth-year senior who's already earned a degree in family resource management, defensive tackle Jashon Cornell is in a good spot to assess why this season could be better than his previous ones for Ohio State as it heads down the stretch toward a potential College Football Playoff berth.

In the past two seasons under head coach Urban Meyer, the Buckeyes' hopes of winning a second national title since 2014 were derailed by inexplicable losses to Iowa in 2017 and Purdue last season.

Cornell (6-3, 285) said during a media session Nov. 5 that he and his teammates may have succumbed to the pressure rather than embraced it.

He thinks first-year head coach Ryan Day has set a different tone this season and the players are more relaxed.

"I think that is the one thing that's different about this team from previous years," he said before the Buckeyes hosted Maryland on Nov. 9. "Previous years, I feel like we were so stiff, but this year, we're letting it loose and letting the bullets fly. We're just having a lot of fun out there. We're enjoying playing with each other. What we have in the locker room now is really different.

"Like the love that we have for each other and the love that we have for our brothers, we just want to go out there, have fun and play and ball."

Cornell acknowledges, and Day agrees, that there is a time and place for a bit of frivolity.

"Before practice we play games, jumping around, but when it's time to practice we lock in. It's business time," Cornell said.

And business time in Columbus really kicks in when the Buckeyes are in the hunt for championships.

"We're in November," Day said. "We're relevant and there's no time for silliness right now. That's part of having fun, win-

ning games in November. There's a lot of consequences in these games. I think the guys understand that, and that's cool to see.

"What does that mean? We'll find out."

There has been an air of confidence without cockiness this season, and Cornell said that comes from being humbled last season when the OSU defense was historically bad.

This season has seen a dramatic change with the Buckeyes being one of the best in the nation in all the critical defensive categories.

"We don't think we are as good as we are," Cornell said. "We're always trying to get better each week. That's one thing that's different than last year."

Having an almost entirely new staff on the defensive side is another. Cornell credits the lone holdover, associate head coach/defensive line coach Larry Johnson, with emphasizing to his group the need to be tougher up front in order to play the simpler base packages.

"They're just letting us play," Cornell said. "It's man-on-man. It's you vs. that guy across from you. You've got to win that one-on-one battle before we do all that extra stuff. We attack that line of scrimmage. That's one thing we've done well all season is win the one-on-one battles."

He didn't directly say it, but there was a hint of some discord last season on the defense that no longer exists.

"We've learned not to be selfish," Cornell said. "Sometimes you want to play for yourself, but now the team is playing for each other. We're not arguing. We're not yelling at each other. We're not getting down on each other."

"If a player makes a mistake, we're pushing them up and saying, 'Get them the next play.' We're not worried about anything."

"This is a brotherhood now. It's a really strong brotherhood. I'm not saying we didn't have brotherhood before, but the bond we have with each other is really

different this year."

Cornell has shown his unselfishness along the way by playing wherever the coaches needed him. Last season he was moved to defensive end, but he is back on the interior line starting at three technique, or lining up on the outside shoulder of the offensive guard.

"It feels good to be back at three tech," he said in August. "I feel that's my position. With my pass-rush ability, run-block ability I feel like I'm a three-tech man."

"I fit well. If you're a defensive end, you're an edge rusher. If you're a three-technique, you can be an edge rusher, a bull rusher."

"That's my position, Jashon Cornell's position. When I was at defensive end I didn't feel as comfortable in the pass because I was switching back and forth from positions. When I'm at three technique I feel at home."

Prior to the Maryland game, he had 20 tackles (13 solo). He had five tackles for loss for 20 yards, 2 1/2 sacks for 10 yards, and a forced fumble in eight games.

Last season in 13 games, he had 15 tackles (nine solo) and two TFLs for 15 yards with one being a sack for 7 yards.

Of course, it doesn't hurt to be playing with junior defensive end Chase Young, a potential Heisman Trophy finalist.

"Chase could be anywhere on the field and be dangerous, I believe," Cornell said. Now, that's fun.

"That's been the culture since we started winter workouts," Cornell said. "We're all playing for each other. We all know where we want to be at the end of the day, and you don't want to let your brother down."

"At the same time, you want to have fun. We know when to have fun and when to lock in and be elite football players."

Day said he gives his players a little bit of leeway in that regard because they've

earned it.

"When you're having a mat drill at 5 in the morning on March 15 or something like that, or you're having a preseason meeting at 8 at night Aug. 7, you can find ways to make that fun for the guys," he said. "We always want to make sure those guys always leave here wanting more, they enjoy coming through the building, feel confident about their relationships here, it's an environment where they feel safe, want to come in and have fun every day, enjoy that."

"This time of year, fun is a little different. Fun is winning. Fun is being part of a team working towards a goal, working through adversity, those type of things. Not silly, goofy fun. There's a difference."

Cornell is enjoying his final months as a Buckeye after not meeting the expectations thrust upon him. As a junior year at St. Paul (Minn.) Cretin-Derham Hall he was rated the top overall prospect for the class of 2015 by ESPN.

Injuries and changing positions slowed his development, and it was 13 months ago that Meyer described Cornell's career as "just OK."

Cornell used those two words for motivation for this season.

"The biggest difference from last year to this year is I've been doing a really good job of taking care of my body and my mental," he said. "If you take care of your mental, stuff on the field comes easier. If you take care of your body, you feel good waking up from the practice."

An improved attitude from him and his teammates has put the Buckeyes in position to reach their goals.

"It's a different feeling we have in the locker room," he said. "You see people laughing and having fun. We're just playing loose."

"That's (the difference) between being a good football player and a bad football player. Being able to play loose and understanding what's in front of you. That's some of the issues we probably had in the past, not being able to play loose."



Jashon Cornell

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# LB Werner Embodies Defensive Improvement

By WYATT CROSER  
 Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

"Pete Werner this camp has had probably one of the best camps I've seen a guy have. I'm not just saying that."

These are the words Ohio State linebackers coach Al Washington said in August, well before the Buckeyes had played a regular-season game in 2019. They were words that came about a junior linebacker who had a sophomore season to forget.

It was a statistically fine 2018 for Werner, who tallied 58 tackles, 7½ tackles for loss, three sacks and seven pass breakups, but there were more than numbers that told the story of his 2018.

The linebacker unit for the Buckeyes was a key focus while the defense allowed some of the longest plays from scrimmage in college football, en route to 39 plays allowed of 30 yards or more, and some of the worst numbers as a unit the Ohio State defense has ever had.

Heading into 2019, some things were revamped defensively, mostly on the coaching staff. Urban Meyer left and Ryan Day came in at head coach, and every defensive coach not named Larry Johnson was swapped out.

But the major contributors on the defensive side of the ball almost all stayed the same, with the exception of a few departures such as Dre'Mont Jones and Kendall Sheffield. That meant that the same group that put up those historically bad numbers had to come back and try to turn it all round and do it with only coaching and an added level of experience as the differences.

They did it.

After nine games, Ohio State has the No. 1 scoring defense (8.6 points per game) and No. 1 total defense (214.8 yards per game) in college football, becoming the only team to average allowing single-digit points per game after the 73-14 victory against Maryland.

Day said that those changes in the staff and another year under the belt of most of the defense has made all of the difference.

"I think there are a lot of things," Day said of factors in the defensive improvement. "In terms of maturity, these guys are all a year older. That's all changed. The scheme has changed. There's a lot that goes into it. The offenses we're seeing are different. This team is hungry. I think they all really enjoy playing with each other."

Werner has continued his mostly normal statistics, totaling 35 tackles and four tackles for loss, along with two fumble recoveries so far, but it is how he has done it, and what impact it has had on the defensive side of the ball, that has made his impact felt in a much more positive way than when under linebackers coach Bill Davis and co-defensive coordinators Greg Schiano and Alex Grinch.

Before the season began, former Michigan coaches Greg Mattison, a co-defensive coordinator, and Washington had the plan to bring in a version of the safety-linebacker hybrid position used by the Wolverines named the Viper during their tenure, which was relabeled the Bullet to fit the Ohio State Silver Bullets lore.

Throughout the offseason, there was talk that Brendon White was the likely prospect for the Bullet, with Jahsen Wint being the primary backup. Both were expected to take snaps from Werner, who plays the strong-side linebacker position, also known as the Sam.

On Sept. 10, when he was asked about his position, Werner made it clear that when he was on the field, he was not playing the Bullet.

"If you look at me, my definition as a player is a Sam," Werner said. "I go by Sam. When they call in the Sam, I'm going on the field."

But through nine games of the season, a clear preference toward Werner, Bullet or not, had been shown. Werner had been on the field for 345 snaps through the Wisconsin win, while White had been in for 131 snaps and Wint only 39.

Werner may not be in the Bullet, but Mattison knows the third-year linebacker has the ability to not miss a beat when he is in instead of White or Wint.

"Pete is such a good athlete that he can do the same thing that a Bullet does,"

Mattison said.

That athleticism from a former four-star prospect has made Werner a major-impact player and someone who is thriving under the new system put in place by Washington, Mattison and co-defensive coordinator Jeff Hafley.

The athletic ability has always been there, but for Werner, he said it is those changes in the staff that have allowed him to blossom in the 2019 season.

"I think (the new scheme) fits me better," Werner said. "It fits me personally with my position and my athletic ability better. And I feel like just having a whole year under my belt last year that I'm also personally better."

But along with the help from the new coaches, the junior linebacker also said some self-improvements have made a major difference in his increased level of play.

"My footwork is better, my eyes are better, and I feel like with this position, you need your footwork and your eyes. That will help you out a bunch," he said. "I just think my athletic ability is leading to me doing well at this position."

This versatility has given Werner the opportunity to showcase his ability to play in situations unique to the linebacker, occasionally dropping back in coverage when needed.

It may be unique to Werner at Ohio State, but it is something that he said he dealt with all offseason and also while at Cathedral High School in Mount Vernon, Ind.

"We practiced it in the spring but hadn't really showcased it until (the season began)," Werner said. "It's kind of weird. It's a different feeling. I'm not used to dropping back to the middle of the field. But I like it. It brings me back to my freshman and sophomore high school days, and I kind of feel like I

have some feel with that. The coaches obviously trust me with that, and we'll go from there."

Werner is not the only player to have made strides from last season on the defense – Damon Arnette has seen an uptick in his stats while Chase Young had been putting up historically impressive numbers prior to his suspension – but Werner's turn has been more due to the coaching changes, along with that camp that Washington said is among the best he's seen in his coaching career.

"He is very athletic, very smart and highly accountable," Washington said of Werner following Ohio State's win against Indiana. "Guys like that, you know they're going to do their job."

Ohio State's defense has been worlds better than it was in 2018, and it has been done with the majority of the same players simply stepping up into their roles and playing improved football.

Werner is a key example of that and a major beneficiary of the new staff that Day has brought in, as well as from the clear work that he put into his own game as he got ready to make a difference.

With a current suspension to the best player on the defense and two of the toughest games in the regular season still yet to go, Day knows his defense needs to keep this level of play up if Ohio State wants a chance at the ultimate goal of a national title.

"The challenge is going to continue," Day said. "Every team that comes out there is going to want to score points, prove they can move the ball against our defense. So far to this point, they have played at this level. They've got to bring it every week now. It's going to be the same thing: It's only as good as you played the last week."

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# Rutgers Serves As Ohio State's Final Cupcake

By PATRICK MAYHORN  
Special To Buckeye Sports Bulletin

In the five years since Rutgers joined the Big Ten, Ohio State has played the Scarlet Knights each season. The games go pretty much the same way every year. In those five seasons, Rutgers has scored a combined 27 points, 17 of which came in the first match-up, in a season when the Scarlet Knights actually managed to win eight games, a high that they've been unable to even approach since.

In that same time frame, Ohio State has scored 271 points. On average, the Buckeyes are beating Rutgers by nearly 50 points. The Scarlet Knights have scored three points in the last three matchups combined between the two teams, nailing a field goal in the 2018 rendition to put an end to a 10-quarter scoring drought against the Buckeyes. It seems likely that there will not be a repeat performance from the Rutgers offense on Nov. 16, because a field goal would be exceeding expectations.

The Scarlet Knights are led by replacements at the two most important positions on a football team: coach and quarterback. Former head coach Chris Ash was fired in September after a 1-3 start and an 8-32 overall record through three years and four games. He was replaced by former tight ends coach Nunzio Campanile, a longtime New Jersey high school coach with one year of prior college experience, when he served as the running backs coach at Rutgers in 2018.

At quarterback, Rutgers has sifted through three starters, none of whom has found much success. Texas Tech transfer McLane Carter started the season and looked decent in a win against Massachusetts but was just 6 of 16 against Iowa, when he was pulled for Artur Sitkowski. Sitkowski played out the Iowa game, put up decent showings against Boston College and Michigan and promptly asked to be benched to preserve a redshirt for a potential transfer.

Enter the current man in charge: Johnny Langan (48 of 89 for 498 yards, three touchdowns and six interceptions). A redshirt

freshman transfer from Boston College, Langan had his first start against Maryland and has taken each snap in the four games since against Indiana, Minnesota, Liberty and Illinois. Langan's best performance of the season came in the 44-34 win over Liberty, when he tossed for 192 yards and two scores on 15 completions. He might be a better runner than he is a passer, picking up 118 yards on 21 carries against the Flames.

To be fair to Langan or any of the Rutgers quarterbacks, the offense is as bare as they come around the quarterback. Running back Isaih Pacheco is the closest thing Rutgers has to a workhorse, running the ball 124 times for 547 yards on the season, but he's yet to show any real ability as a big-play threat. He can grind for tough yardage, but he finds the second level only a few times a game.

A lot of those struggles cannot be assigned to Pacheco, because Rutgers' offensive line may be the worst in the Big Ten. It isn't for a lack of experience either, because all five starters are upperclassmen and two starters – Kamaal Seymour and Zach Venesky – have been around college football for five years.

Seymour has started 29 games over his career, but he's yet to show an ability to neutralize elite pass rushers. Center Michael Maietti has started 20, and Venesky has started 9. Right guard Nick Krimin and left tackle Mike Lonsdorf are the least experienced players up front.

The same can be said of the defensive front. Defensive end hybrid Elorm Lumor is the team's best pass rusher with two sacks, tied with backup linebacker Rashawn Battle. Outside of Lumor, there's little to no pass rush from the line. Defensive tackle Willington Previlon is the only other player up front who has flashed the ability to change games this season, largely due to his 6-5, 295-pound frame. He has 21 tackles on the season but just one sack.

The linebackers are the best unit on the team. Tyreek Maddox-Williams (32 tackles), Tyshon Fogg (69 tackles) and Olakunle Fatukasi (64 tackles) form a legitimately solid junior trio. Fogg leads the team in tackles and has the athletic ability to play coverage on tight

## Get To Know ... Rutgers

### About Rutgers

- **2019 record:** 2-7 (0-6).
- **Team Information:** Offensive Formation – Spread; Defensive Formation – 4-3; Starters Returning – Offense 8, Defense 5, Specialists 2.
- **Head Coach:** Nunzio Campanile, 1-4 in first year at Rutgers (Interim).
- **Series History:** 6th meeting, Ohio State leads 5-0-0.
- **School Facts:** Location – Piscataway, NJ; Enrollment – 67,556; Nickname – Scarlet Knights; Color – Red; Conference – Big Ten (East Division); Stadium – SHI Stadium (Surface, FieldTurf; Capacity – 52,454).

### Top Offensive Returners

Rushing	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD
Isaih Pacheco	123	541	4.4	6
Johnny Langan	92	242	2.6	2
Kay/Ron Adams	37	139	3.8	1

Passing	Comp.-Att.	Pct.	Yds.	TD-INT
Johnny Langan	48-89	53.9	498	3-6

Receiving	Rec.	Net	Avg.	TD
Raheem Blackshear	29	310	10.7	2
Bo Melton	23	312	13.6	1
Isaiah Washington	12	197	16.4	1

### Team Offensive Stats

Points Per Game – 14.7  
Rushing Yards Per Game – 136.4  
Passing Yards Per Game – 143.9  
Total Offense Avg. Per Game – 280.3

### 2019 Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time/Result (ET)
Aug. 30	UMASS	W, 48-21
Sept. 7	at Iowa	L, 30-0
Sept. 21	BOSTON COLLEGE	L, 30-16
Sept. 28	at Michigan	L, 52-0
Oct. 5	MARYLAND	L 48-7
Oct. 12	at Indiana	L, 35-0
Oct. 19	MINNESOTA	L, 42-7
Oct. 26	LIBERTY	W, 44-34
Nov. 2	at Illinois	L, 38-10
Nov. 16	OHIO STATE	3:30 p.m.
Nov. 23	MICHIGAN STATE	TBA
Nov. 30	PENN STATE	TBA
Dec. 7	Big Ten Championship	8 p.m.

### Top Defensive Returners

Def. Leaders	Solo-Ast.	Tot.	TFL-Yds.	Sacks
Tyshon Fogg	27-54	81	1.0-2	-
Olakunle Fatukasi	37-31	68	3.5-6	0.5-2
Christian Izien	25-24	49	1.0-3	-

Interceptions	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
Damon Hayes	2	8	4.0	0	8
Tre Avery	1	0	0	0	0
Avery Young	1	0	0	0	0

### Team Defensive Stats

Points Per Game Allowed – 36.7  
Rushing Yards Per Game Allowed – 198.7  
Passing Yards Per Game Allowed – 232.6  
Total Offense Avg. Per Game Allowed – 431.2

ends and running backs paired with the physicality to make plays in the trenches. Fatukasi and Maddox-Williams aren't as consistent, but both create more havoc than Fogg and will be tasked with creating pressure on Justin Fields.

Rutgers' backfield is one of the Big Ten's youngest, led by one senior in cornerback Damon Hayes (21 tackles, two interceptions), two sophomores and one redshirt freshman. Safety Christian Izien (44 tackles) is the youngest of the bunch, joined at safety by sophomore Jarrett Paul (36 tackles). Both have been surprisingly steady for the Scarlet Knights, though Rutgers has shown a tendency to allow big plays through the air. Sophomore cornerback Avery Young (27 tackles, one interception) rounds out a group with lots of potential but a propensity for mistakes.

### Players To Watch

Langan is notable not for his passing ability but for his speed. He's a solid runner, and Ohio State's defense has seen only a few of those this season, so he may be able to find some space in short-yardage situations.

Rutgers could take a run-heavy approach against the Buckeyes with Langan and Pacheco, another player for whom Ohio State will have to prepare.

Wide receiver Raheem Blackshear has done a little bit of everything, pulling in 29 catches for 310 yards while rushing for 88 yards on 29 carries. He isn't on the level of a Rondale Moore type, but Blackshear is a talented player and carried Rutgers' offense for several years. Unfortunately for the Scarlet Knights, he made the same decision that Sitkowski did, declaring his intention to redshirt and transfer following the Michigan game. Isaiah Washington has been Blackshear's primary replacement, pulling in 12 catches for 197 yards.

Bo Melton (23 receptions, 312 yards) is Rutgers' version of K.J. Hill. He complements Washington's blazing speed with his consistently good hands. When Langan does throw, it will almost certainly be to Washington or Melton.

Defensively, that linebacker trio could give Ohio State some trouble if the Buckeyes want to play horizontally with screens and outside runs, but if the Buckeyes look to run up the middle they'll be met with little resistance. The Rutgers defensive line just isn't good enough to slow down Ohio State's rushing attack. Previlon and Lumor are both interesting players along the defensive line, but neither has the star power to make a big enough impact to stop this game from being anything but a blowout.

The only answer Rutgers could really have on defense is with blitzes from those linebackers and excellent coverage from Young and Hayes. Look for Ohio State to get the reserves onto the field early and often as the Buckeyes prepare for two massive games with Penn State and Michigan to end the season.

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# Ohio State vs. Rutgers

Saturday, Nov. 16, 2019 • 3:30 p.m. • BTN  
SHI Stadium; Piscataway, N.J.



## Projected Depth Charts

### WHEN OHIO STATE HAS THE BALL...

**QB**  
8 TYSHON FOGG, 6-1, 237, JR.  
6 RASHAWN BATTLE, 6-1, 230, JR.

**RB**  
2 J.K. DOBBINS, 5-10, 217 JR.  
33 Master Teague, 5-11, 220, R-Fr.

**FB**  
1 JUSTIN FIELDS, 6-3, 223, SO.  
4 Chris Chugunov, 6-1, 208, 5th-Sr.  
OR 12 Gunnar Hoak, 6-4, 212, Jr.

**TE**  
89 LUKE FARRELL, 6-6, 250, JR.  
88 Jeremy Ruckert, 6-5, 250, So.

**WR**  
12 CHRISTIAN IZIEN, 5-10, 195, R-FR.  
15 Malik Dixon, 6-3, 213, 5th-Sr.

**OLB**  
3 OLAKUNLE FATUKASI, 6-1, 229, JR.  
11 Drew Singleton, 6-2, 233, So.

**ILB**  
9 TYREEK MADDOX-WILLIAMS, 6-0, 228, JR.  
17 Deion Jennings, 6-0, 220, R-Fr.

**DE**  
22 DAMON HAYES, 6-1, 201, SR.  
21 Tre Avery, 5-10, 188, Jr.

**DT**  
50 JULIUS TURNER, 6-0, 280, JR.  
57 Jaohne Duggan, 6-1, 295, So.

**CB**  
25 JARRETT PAUL, 6-0, 213, SO.  
4 Tim Barrow, 5-11, 190, So.

**FS**  
95 BLAKE HAUBEIL, 6-4, 225, Jr.

**LT**  
75 THAYER MUNFORD, 6-6, 310, JR.  
58 Joshua Alabi, 6-5, 305, 5th-Sr.

**LG**  
71 JOSH MYERS, 6-5, 305, SO.  
77 Harry Miller, 6-4, 310, Fr.

**C**  
73 JONAH JACKSON, 6-4, 305, 5TH-SR.  
54 Matthew Jones, 6-4, 305, R-Fr.

**RG**  
76 BRANDEN BOWEN, 6-7, 315, 5TH-SR.  
78 Nicholas Petit-Frere, 6-5, 295, R-Fr.

**RT**  
11 AUSTIN MACK, 6-2, 215 SR.  
17 Chris Olave, 6-1, 185, So.

**P**  
91 DRUE CHRISMAN, 6-3, 220, JR.

**K**  
95 JUSTIN DAVIDOVICZ, 5-9, 180, JR.  
96 Guy Fava, 6-1, 188, Fr.

### WHEN RUTGERS HAS THE BALL...

**QB**  
20 PETE WERNER, 6-3, 239, JR.  
36 K'Vaughan Pope, 6-1, 231, So.

**RB**  
1 ISAIH PACHECO, 5-11, 210, SO.  
4 Aaron Young, 5-10, 195, Fr.

**FB**  
18 BO MELTON, 5-11, 191, JR.  
5 Paul Woods, 6-1, 173, R-Fr.

**TE**  
10 MATT ALAIMO, 6-4, 237, R-FR.  
45 Brandon Myers, 6-1, 230, R-Fr.

**WR**  
25 BRENDON WHITE, 6-2, 215, JR.  
23 Jahsen Wint, 5-11, 200, Jr.

**OLB**  
32 TUF BORLAND, 6-1, 232, JR.  
OR 5 BARON BROWNING, 6-3, 248, JR.

**ILB**  
9 JASHON CORNELL, 6-3, 285, 5TH-SR.  
92 Haskell Garrett, 6-2, 295, Jr.

**DE**  
24 SHAUN WADE, 6-1, 194, SO.  
10 Amir Riep, 6-0, 195, Jr.

**DT**  
53 DAVON HAMILTON, 6-4, 310, 5TH-SR.  
67 Robert Landers, 6-1, 285, 5th-Sr.

**CB**  
1 JEFF OKUDAH, 6-1, 200, JR.  
12 Sevyn Banks, 6-1, 200, So.

**FS**  
4 JORDAN FULLER, 6-2, 205, SR.  
41 Josh Proctor, 6-2, 205, So.

**LT**  
61 MIKE LONSDORF, 6-6, 304, JR.  
71 Raiqwon O'Neal, 6-4, 305, R-Fr.

**LG**  
55 MICHAEL MAIETTI, 6-1, 291, JR.  
74 Sam Howson, 6-4, 292, Jr.

**C**  
66 NICK KRIMIN, 6-5, 309, JR.  
72 Manny Taylor, 6-5, 312, 5th-Sr.

**RG**  
54 KAMAAL SEYMOUR, 6-6, 324, 5TH-SR.  
70 Reggie Sutton, 6-4, 280, R-Fr.

**RT**  
3 DAMON ARNETTE, 6-0, 195, 5TH-SR.  
26 Cameron Brown, 6-0, 188, So.

**P**  
94 ADAM KORSAK, 6-1, 184, JR.  
91 David Broncati, 6-6, 250, Fr.

**K**  
95 JUSTIN DAVIDOVICZ, 5-9, 180, JR.  
96 Guy Fava, 6-1, 188, Fr.

## How We See It

### OHIO STATE RUSH OFFENSE VS. RUTGERS RUSH DEFENSE

With an open date to prepare for the visit by Ohio State on Nov. 16, Rutgers will have plenty of time to scheme ways to upset the gaudy Buckeyes. The Scarlet Knights could have a year and still not have a chance to pull off the upset. Their only hope is that the entire OSU roster gets suspended, but the rumor is the student managers are pretty athletic too and would put up a good fight in their stead.

There is no way Rutgers has enough talent to stop the OSU running game. The Buckeyes rank third nationally at 295.2 yards per game after pounding Maryland for 383 in the latest rout, 73-14 on Nov. 9. Rutgers is 107th of 130 teams when it comes to defending the run (198.7 yards per game) and will have to somehow corral J.K. Dobbins and Master Teague and the occasional jaunts by quarterback Justin Fields. OSU left guard Jonah Jackson is a graduate transfer from Rutgers, so he knows what it's like to be steamrolled by the Buckeyes. You can bet he will enjoy returning to Piscataway, N.J., and opening holes for his new team. **EDGE: OHIO STATE**

### RUTGERS RUSH OFFENSE VS. OHIO STATE RUSH DEFENSE

This shouldn't be very pretty if you're a Rutgers fan. The Scarlet Knights rank 99th at 136.4 rushing yards a game. The Buckeyes are eighth, allowing 88.2 yards a game on the ground. Aaron Young had a season-best 67 yards (5.2 average) in Rutgers' most recent game, a 38-10 loss at Illinois on Nov. 2. In typical Rutgers fashion, top rusher Isaih Pacheco did not play against the Illini due to a cut on his foot sustained in a mishap while removing athletic tape following a game against Minnesota two weeks earlier. He has 541 yards and six touchdowns on 123 carries (4.4 yards per). His status for the Buckeyes is unknown. **EDGE: OHIO STATE**

### OHIO STATE PASS OFFENSE VS. RUTGERS PASS DEFENSE

Fields threw for only 200 yards and three touchdowns in the mauling of Maryland. The cold weather must be getting to the Georgia transfer, right? Well, in his defense – and there was little of that shown by the Terrapins – he sat the bench the final two quarters. He continues to deliver all that is expected of him, and there are too many quality receivers to think Rutgers, allowing 232.6 yards through the air, will be able to contain the Buckeyes, who throw for 240.7 yards a game. The Buckeyes lead the country with an average of 51 points a game and are fifth in total yards (535.9) after accumulating 705 vs. Maryland. **EDGE: OHIO STATE**

### RUTGERS PASS OFFENSE VS. OHIO STATE PASS DEFENSE

Whether or not OSU's standout defensive end Chase Young returns from his NCAA suspension, it's going to be a long afternoon for the Scarlet Knights. The Buckeyes shredded Maryland for seven sacks without him and limited the Terrapins to 77 passing yards for the game. Redshirt freshman QB Johnny Langan will have the unenviable task of avoiding the rush. He replaced Artur Sitkowski, who decided to redshirt after playing three games this season. Sitkowski replaced McLane Carter, who retired after sustaining a concussion in the second game. Langan against Indiana was 5 for 13 for 1 yard – yes, 1 yard – and was sacked six times. He was sacked three times vs. Illinois and was 5 for 10 for 86 yards. **EDGE: OHIO STATE**

### SPECIAL TEAMS

The Buckeyes pulled off an onside kick leading 14-0 against Maryland in the first quarter. Why? Because they can. Blake Haubeil gains more confidence each game in his placekicking, and freshman Garrett Wilson seems to have earned the punt-returning duties. For Rutgers, Justin Davidovicz has made 9 of 12 field goals, including a 50-yarder on his only try from 50-plus. Adam Korsak averages a healthy 44.6 yards per punt. **EDGE: OHIO STATE**

### INTANGIBLES

Buckeye fans' only interest or awareness that Rutgers is in the Big Ten was following the head coaching career of former OSU assistant Chris Ash. He was fired Sept. 29 after a 1-3 start, and tight ends coach Nunzio Campanile was named interim coach. Speculation is that one-time Rutgers head coach and former Buckeye assistant Greg Schiano may return to try to resurrect the Scarlet Knights. Rutgers is a mess right now. **EDGE: OHIO STATE**

### STAFF PREDICTION

The Buckeyes have every reason to look past Rutgers to the showdown with Penn State at home on Nov. 23 even though the game lost some luster when the No. 4 Nittany Lions lost at Minnesota last week. Buckeye coach Ryan Day has done a great job keeping his team focused on the next opponent no matter how inferior. That will not change. OSU has outscored Rutgers 271-27 in the five games since it joined the Big Ten, including 116-3 in the past three. This might be the worst beating of all. **OHIO STATE, 63-7**

– Depth charts compiled by Andrew Lind and Patrick Mayhorn



# 4-Star WR Harrison Commits To Ohio State



COURTESY OF KYLE MCCORD

**PHILADELPHIA PIPELINE** – Ohio State has already landed commitments from 2021 Philadelphia St. Joseph's four-star wide receiver Marvin Harrison (left) and four-star quarterback Kyle McCord (center). The Buckeyes are also working to flip their teammate Jeremiah Trotter (right), a four-star linebacker, from his pledge to Clemson.

Ohio State landed a commitment on Oct. 31 from Philadelphia St. Joseph's Prep four-star wide receiver Marvin Harrison, the son of the NFL Hall of Famer of the same name and teammate of four-star quarterback pledge Kyle McCord.

## RECRUITING OUTLOOK Andrew Lind

The 6-4, 184-pound Harrison is considered the eighth-best wide receiver and No. 54 prospect overall in the class of 2021, as he's hauled in 36 passes for 832 yards and 12 touchdowns this season. That includes six receptions for 222 yards and four touchdowns in the Hawks' 52-7 win over Wyndmoor La Salle in the Catholic League Class 6A championship on Nov. 9.

Harrison – who first visited Columbus with McCord in February and then returned to campus for the Buckeyes' spring game in April – picked Ohio State over nearly two dozen scholarship offers from programs such as Florida, LSU, Michigan, Michigan State, Notre Dame, Penn State, Pittsburgh, Rutgers and his father's alma mater, Syracuse, among others.

Harrison became the sixth member of Ohio State's 2021 recruiting class, join-

ing McCord; Pickerington (Ohio) North five-star defensive end Jack Sawyer; Richfield (Ohio) Revere four-star offensive tackle Ben Christman; Massillon (Ohio) Washington four-star Jayden Ballard; and Ironton, Ohio, four-star linebacker Reid Carrico.

As for Harrison's father, he played 13 seasons in the NFL (1996-2008) with the Indianapolis Colts. He compiled 1,102 receptions for 14,580 yards and 128 touchdowns, the majority of which were thrown by legendary quarterback Peyton Manning.

Harrison was an eight-time Pro Bowl selection, earned three first-team all-pro nominations and helped the Colts beat the Chicago Bears in Super Bowl XLI. He was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2016.

### Georgia Tech RB Commit Gibbs Visits

Although Ohio State's Nov. 23 game against Penn State is set to be the biggest recruiting weekend of the year, the Buckeyes still hosted a handful of notable prospects for the 73-14 win over Maryland on Nov. 9.

In addition to regular visitors such as Christman; Beech Grove, Ind., three-star offensive tackle Josh Fryar; Warren (Mich.) De La Salle Collegiate three-star offensive tackle Grant Toutant; Cincinnati Elder three-star offensive tackle Jakob James; and Norwalk, Ohio, three-star offensive tackle Trey Leroux, Ohio State also welcomed Rockwall, Texas, four-star

## OSU Football Verbal Commitments

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

Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Stars	High School
Paris Johnson	OT	6-8	295	★★★★★	Cincinnati Princeton
Jack Miller	QB	6-4	210	★★★★	Scottsdale (Ariz.) Chaparral
Luke Wypler	OC	6-4	285	★★★★	Montvale (N.J.) St. Joseph Regional
Jaxon Smith-Njigba	WR	6-1	188	★★★★	Rockwall, Texas
Gee Scott Jr.	WR	6-3	207	★★★★	Sammanish (Wa.) Eastside Catholic
Jakob James	OG	6-5	275	★★★	Cincinnati Elder
Trey Leroux	OT	6-8	355	★★★	Norwalk, Ohio
Lejond Cavazos	CB	6-1	190	★★★★	Bradenton (Fla.) IMG Academy
Julian Fleming	WR	6-2	199	★★★★★	Catawissa (Pa.) Southern Columbia
Jake Seibert	K	6-1	190	★★★	Cincinnati La Salle
Grant Toutant	OT	6-7	320	★★★	Warren (Mich.) De La Salle
Ty Hamilton	DE	6-3	250	★★★	Pickerington (Ohio) Central
Clark Phillips	CB	5-11	178	★★★★	La Habra, Calif.
Cody Simon	OLB	6-1	218	★★★★	Jersey City (N.J.) St. Peter's Prep
Darrion Henry	DT	6-5	279	★★★★	Cincinnati Princeton
Joe Royer	TE	6-5	225	★★★	Cincinnati Elder
Mitchell Melton	OLB	6-3	235	★★★	Olney (Md.) Good Counsel
Cameron Martinez	ATH	6-0	183	★★★	Muskegon, Mich.
Josh Fryar	OL	6-6	305	★★★	Beech Grove, Ind.
Mookie Cooper	WR	5-9	193	★★★★	St. Louis Trinity Catholic
Lathan Ransom	S	6-1	193	★★★★	Tucson (Ariz.) Salpointe Catholic
Kourt Williams	ATH	6-1	216	★★★★	Bellflower (Calif.) St. John Bosco
Jacolbe Cowan	DT	6-5	262	★★★★	Charlotte (N.C.) Providence Day School
Ryan Watts	CB	6-3	187	★★★★	Little Elm, Texas

Players in the class of 2021 who have issued a verbal commitment to play football at Ohio State.

Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Stars	High School
Jack Sawyer	DE	6-6	220	★★★★★	Pickerington (Ohio) North
Kyle McCord	QB	6-3	204	★★★★	Philadelphia St. Joseph's Prep
Jayden Ballard	WR	6-2	175	★★★★	Massillon (Ohio) Washington
Ben Christman	OT	6-6	299	★★★★	Richfield (Ohio) Revere
Reid Carrico	LB	6-3	225	★★★★	Irontown (Ohio)
Marvin Harrison	WR	6-4	184	★★★★	Philadelphia St. Joseph's



# ASK AN ANALYST

## With Lettermen Row's Jeremy Birmingham

Scottsdale (Ariz.) Chaparral four-star quarterback Jack Miller has been committed to Ohio State since July 2018 but has fielded plenty of questions about the strength of his pledge as the Buckeyes look to add a second player at the position this cycle. Following his official visit to Columbus for the 38-7 win over Wisconsin, where do things stand in his recruitment?

"Right now, everything seems to be as it's always been with Miller. He's stable in his commitment and locked in with the Buckeyes. He's shown no signs of wavering in his decision.

"The weekend visit for the Wisconsin game was really just a chance for both sides to talk without the noise of social media obscuring the message or the intention. It ended with Miller remaining firmly in the Buckeyes' 2020 class."

Ohio State recently offered a scholarship to Honolulu St. Louis three-star quarterback Jayden de Laura (6-1, 190). What does this mean for the staff's pursuit of a second signal-caller? More specifically, how does it impact Rancho Cucamonga, Calif., four-star C.J. Stroud's (6-3, 194) recruitment?

"The offer to de Laura is a key moment for Ohio State in this recruiting cycle because it allows the

Buckeyes to have an additional option to complement Miller and it removes the risk of having all of their eggs in the proverbial Stroud basket.

"Nothing has changed in Ohio State's pursuit of Stroud, but offering de Laura – who is committed to Washington State – allows them a chance to grow the relationship with the Hawaiian standout in the event something goes awry with Stroud."

Deerfield Beach, Fla., four-star all-purpose back Jaylan Knighton (5-9, 194) reopened his recruitment on Nov. 4, one day after Florida State fired head coach Willie Taggart. Will Ohio State and running backs coach Tony Alford renew their pursuit of Knighton, or does the staff have other targets in mind at this point?

"The relationship between Ohio State and Knighton was obviously strong enough that he was silently committed to the Buckeyes. But, as of today, there's little to no chance that Alford is going to try and rekindle it.

"There are a handful of other running backs still on the radar for the Buckeyes. The focus will remain on players like Dalton, Ga., four-star Jahmyr Gibbs (5-11, 194) and Cincinnati Winton Woods three-star Miyon Williams (5-10, 210). Maybe they'll kick the tires on Tucson (Ariz.) Salpointe Catholic five-star Bijan Robinson if things are unsettled at Texas, but

there's nothing that indicates a renewed effort to land Knighton."

Ohio State already has two commitments at wide receiver for the 2021 recruiting cycle in Massillon (Ohio) Washington four-star Jayden Ballard and Philadelphia St. Joseph's Prep four-star Marvin Harrison.

How many players do you expect the staff to bring on at the position with players such as Steilacoom, Wash., five-star Emeka Egbuka; Bellflower (Calif.) St. John Bosco four-star Beau Collins; and Fort Lauderdale (Fla.) Cardinal Gibbons three-star Troy Stellato all having significant interest in the Buckeyes?

"If things go well for Ohio State, there's a belief that wide receivers coach Brian Hartline could bring in as many as five wide receivers in the class of 2021. While that was not the initial plan, it's definitely the plan now.

"The interest and belief in players like Egbuka, Collins and Stellato is simply too high for Ohio State to turn any of them away if they want to matriculate to Columbus. It won't be easy for Ohio State to land all five, but Hartline and company have them in a favorable position with each as their junior seasons come to an end."

wide receiver Jaxon Smith-Njigba back to campus for the third time this season. He also attended the Buckeyes' wins over Cincinnati on Sept. 7 and Michigan State on Oct. 5.

The most significant visitor, however,

was Dalton, Ga., four-star running back Jahmyr Gibbs, who has been committed to Georgia Tech since May.

Ohio State is still looking to add its first running back commitment for the 2020 recruiting class, and the 5-11, 194-pound

Gibbs is among the staff's top targets to fill that position of need.

Gibbs made the trip – an unofficial visit on his own dime – with his parents. That's significant as the Buckeyes will look to bring him back for an official visit in the

coming weeks, at no expense to the prospect and his family.

Gibbs has rushed for 2,538 yards and 39 touchdowns for the 7-3 Catamounts this

Continued On Page 26

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# Day Confident Buckeyes Will Land Top-Rated RB

Continued From Page 25

season, which is why programs such as Alabama and LSU are looking to flip him from his pledge as well. He took unofficial visits to Tuscaloosa, Ala., and Baton Rouge, La., on consecutive weekends in late October, but it's worth noting the Crimson Tide already hold two commitments at the position while the Buckeyes and Tigers have none.

Ohio State's pursuit of a running back (or two) is well documented, as the Buckeyes have missed out on several highly rated prospects in recent months. The staff has zeroed in on Gibbs and Cincinnati Winton Woods three-star Miyan Williams – an Iowa State commit – as their top targets late in the cycle.

Head coach Ryan Day has no doubt the Buckeyes will finish strong.

"I think we'll be fine," he said during his Oct. 29 press conference. "J.K. (Dobbins) is having one heck of a year, and I think if you're a running back throughout the country and you're seeing the history of running backs at Ohio State and what we're doing this year and what we've done in the past, I think you'd be foolish to not give Ohio State a hard look.

"We're really confident with some of the guys we're recruiting right now, and there is a long way until (the) December and February (signing periods). We also feel really good about the guys we have in the room right now. I think it's all going to work out."



ANDREW LIND

**UNFAZED** – Ohio State does not have a running back commit in its 2020 class, but head coach Ryan Day is confident the Buckeyes will address the position in due time.

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

**30 Years Ago – 1989**

At one time, a football player of Preston Harrison's size probably would have been relegated to a life in the trenches.

At 6-5, 238 pounds, the Columbus South High School star benefited from changes in football that allowed him to play not on the line, as an end or tackle, but as just about every skill position he could find.

Harrison played safety and linebacker on defense while suiting up at tight end, halfback and quarterback on offense.

"Sometimes we run a powerhouse T-formation and I play right halfback," Harrison told BSB. "That's fun, I like that. It's a different formation, and it gives the defense something else to think about."

South head coach Don Eppert said that although Harrison could play a variety of positions, he truly belonged at quarterback.

"He's a very multitalented youngster," Eppert said. "He can play about anything, but he really likes quarterback and he runs the option well enough and he throws the ball extremely well. I think he's going to get a look at that position in Division I."

Get a look he did, receiving interest from Kansas, Michigan, Michigan State, Ohio State, Purdue and Wisconsin.

"I'm wide open right now," Harrison said. "I've nailed it down to a couple of conferences, the Big Ten and the Big Eight. Kansas and two or three other schools in the Big Eight and Ohio State, Michigan and Michigan State, Wisconsin and Purdue in the Big Ten."

**25 Years Ago – 1994**

Fremont, Ohio, product Charles Woodson looked unlikely to take a visit to Ohio State.

Woodson, one of the best athletes in the country, rated highly by nearly every recruiting service and publication, was never sold on Ohio State. Instead, he preferred the program at Michigan.

The Buckeyes had seen a faint glimmer of hope a few weeks prior to their 63-14 loss to Penn State on Oct. 29, when Woodson tentatively agreed to visit Columbus that December.

But Woodson had yet to schedule his visit, while he had scheduled trips to Michigan and Miami (Fla.) for the month already. The prevailing thought was that he would commit to Michigan on his visit to Ann Arbor.

The Buckeyes remained hopeful that they could get Woodson to visit OSU the week before his trip to Michigan.

**20 Years Ago – 1999**

There were few high school football players with more varsity experience than Ohio State commitment Willie Allen of Huber Heights (Ohio) Wayne.

The defensive back began his career at Trotwood-Madison before joining fellow Buckeye recruit John Hollins at Wayne just prior to his senior campaign. He was a jack-of-all-trades in school, playing quarterback, running back, wide receiver, strong safety and cornerback and earning quite a bit of praise from head coach Jay Minton in the process.

"He's an outstanding athlete," Minton told BSB. "An outstanding student-athlete, I should say. He has a great mental aspect of the game."

**15 Years Ago – 2004**

Ohio State hosted a significant number of top recruits for its 21-10 win over Penn State.

The list of visitors included a number of underclassmen and was headed by a pair of out-of-state running backs – Jason Gwaltney of Long Island (N.Y.) North Babylon and Anderson Russell of Atlanta Marist.

Of that duo, Gwaltney was the more highly rated, checking in as the No. 90 overall player. Gwaltney was committed to West Virginia as he entered the visit, but he admitted that his trip to Columbus would make his choice a lot harder.

"After taking this visit, it's just made it so much harder," Gwaltney told BSB. "I'm really, really, really impressed (with Ohio State)."

Not to be overlooked was Russell, an Atlanta product being recruited by Ohio State defensive backs coach Mel Tucker, as the Buckeyes looked to put more emphasis on the Georgia area in recruiting.

"I was real surprised by everything," Russell said. "All the other games I've been to, the crowd wasn't anywhere near as big. It was a real nice stadium, and I enjoyed it a lot."

**10 Years Ago – 2009**

Ohio State's class of 2011 doubled in size on Oct. 29 when head coach Jim Tressel added Steve Miller to his band of future Buckeyes. The junior defensive end from Canton (Ohio) McKinley became verbal commitment No. 2 in the 2011 class when he called Tressel and told him he wanted to be a Buckeye.

"Coach Tressel was overjoyed to hear the news," McKinley head coach Ron Johnson told BSB. "I know Steve felt strongly that Ohio State was the place for him, so he decided (Oct. 29) would be a great day to

get it done."

Miller was ranked a four-star athlete among the 100 best players in his class.

"He's got great skill, in terms of size and speed," Johnson said. "He also has great intangibles that make him really special. He takes coaching well and has a great desire to get better every day."

**Five Years Ago – 2014**

Draper (Utah) Corner Canyon three-star offensive tackle Branden Bowen (6-7, 320) committed to Utah on Sept. 20, but an Ohio State offer issued a couple of days later had him rethinking some things, at least to some extent.

The Utes commit had plenty of communication with Ohio State's staff in the two months since his pledge, and he visited Ohio Stadium on Nov. 1 to see the Buckeyes take on Illinois. Although the temperature dipped into the mid-30s, Bowen donned shorts as he stood on the field before the game.

"On a scale of 1-100, I give my trip to Ohio State a 101," Bowen told BSB. "If I had to summarize the trip in one word, it would be 'unbelievable.' I wanted to check out the gameday experience and was blown away. I don't think anywhere in the country can compare. The fans, the history, everything is really second to none."

**One Year Ago – 2018**

Just a few weeks after his flip from Miami (Fla.) to Ohio State, running back Marcus Crowley was a headliner for a packed visit weekend at Ohio State as the Buckeyes took down Nebraska, 36-31.

Ohio State played host to four-star running back Deondrick Glass, committed receiver Garrett Wilson and top defensive end target Zach Harrison, along with a number of underclassmen including wideout Julian Fleming.

The return of Harrison on an unofficial visit was significant for OSU after he had taken visits to Penn State and Michigan earlier in the season. BSB had caught up with Harrison earlier in the year to get his thoughts on the recruitment process and potential pressure around him and the local Buckeyes.

"I do (feel pressure)," Harrison said when asked about staying home. "Everybody here is a Buckeye fan, so that's where they want me to go. It weighs a little bit, but I've got to do what's best for me. If it's Ohio State, then it's Ohio State. But if not, then it's not."

**Buckeyes Offer Hawaii QB de Laura**

With Ohio State off the weekend of Nov. 2, Day sent passing game coordinator and quarterbacks coach Mike Yurcich to Honolulu to evaluate St. Louis three-star signal caller Jayden de Laura.

The Buckeyes already hold a commitment from Scottsdale (Ariz.) Chaparral four-star quarterback Jack Miller but are looking to add another signal caller this cycle for future depth purposes. As it stands now, starter Justin Fields, graduate transfer Gunnar Hoak and Miller will be the only scholarship quarterbacks on the roster next season.

Ohio State is the odds-on favorite to eventually land a commitment from Rancho Cucamonga, Calif., four-star C.J. Stroud, who unofficially visited for the Oct. 5 win over Michigan State and is set to take an official visit on the weekend of Dec. 14. But rather than put all their eggs in one basket, the Buckeyes offered de Laura before Yurcich headed back to the continental United States.

The 6-1, 190-pound de Laura – who is considered the 24th-best pro-style quarterback in the class of 2020 – committed to Washington State on Oct. 2. USC also recently extended a scholarship offer, though, which may make it difficult for the Cougars to hold onto his pledge until the early signing period in December.

All of that is contingent upon de Laura

deciding whether he wants to visit other schools before then. And while a deep state playoff run would prevent de Laura from making the long trek to Ohio State during the season, the staff is hoping to get him on campus sometime in December.

**DE Commit Sawyer Tears MCL, Needs Surgery**

The aforementioned Sawyer suffered a torn MCL in Pickerington North's 36-17 first-round playoff loss to Lewis Center Olentangy Orange on Nov. 8.

The injury occurred when the 6-5, 220-pound Sawyer – who is considered the top-rated player in Ohio and No. 2 prospect overall in the class of 2021 but also plays quarterback for the Panthers – was tackled on a designed run in the second quarter. He limped off the field and then watched the remainder of the game from the sidelines on crutches.

Sawyer will have surgery and is expected to make a full recovery in 6-8 weeks. And while that won't have an impact on his senior season or commitment to the Buckeyes, it's worth noting he'll miss a portion of Pickerington North's basketball season this winter.

"I just want to say thank you to everyone who has me in their thoughts," Sawyer said on Twitter. "I'm going to come back stronger than ever."

**WR Pledge Smith-Njigba Makes Highlight Play**

With Ohio State wide receivers coach Brian Hartline in attendance, Smith-Njigba put on a show in his final regular-season game on Nov. 1.

The 6-1, 188-pound Smith-Njigba – who is considered the ninth-best wide receiver and No. 56 prospect overall in the 2021 recruiting cycle – hauled in nine passes for 325 yards and four touchdowns in Rockwall's 66-42 win over Mesquite. That included a spectacular one-handed catch that made its way onto ESPN SportsCenter's Top 10 plays that evening.

Smith-Njigba has caught 66 passes for 1,432 yards and 23 touchdowns during his senior season, although he missed two games in October with a shoulder injury.

The Jackets finished the season with an 8-2 record and will host Killeen Harker Heights in the first round of the state playoffs on Nov. 15.

**ATH Commit Martinez Scores Seven Touchdowns In One Game**

It's highly unlikely Ohio State three-star athlete commit Cameron Martinez ends up playing running back at the next level, especially considering he has the perfect blend of size (5-11, 183) and speed (4.4-seconds in the 40-yard dash) to play the hybrid linebacker/

safety spot known in Columbus as the Bullet position.

His effort in Muskegon (Mich.) High School's 69-7 win over Marquette in the first round of the state playoffs on Nov. 2 might make the Buckeyes' staff think twice about how to best utilize his skill set, however.

Martinez – who plays quarterback in high school and is considered the 16th-best athlete and No. 375 prospect overall in the class of 2020 – rushed for 293 yards and seven touchdowns on just 17 carries to break his own school scoring record (six touchdowns against Mona Shores in 2018). He could have potentially broken the state record of nine rushing touchdowns in a game, too, but he did not play a single snap in the second half.

Martinez followed up that stellar performance with another in the district championship game on Nov. 9, rushing for 223 yards and four touchdowns in a 48-10 win over Cedar Springs. It marked the program's eighth straight district title and set up a matchup with East Grand Rapids in the regional finals on Nov. 16.

Martinez, meanwhile, is in line to become the first two-time MLive High School Player of the Year award winner, having rushed for 1,599 yards and 29 touchdowns during his senior year. He's also thrown for 1,021 yard and nine touchdowns.



# Young OSU Roster Manages Lofty Expectations

By **JOE DEMPSEY**  
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

The Ohio State men's basketball team enters the 2019-20 season with its highest expectations yet in head coach Chris Holtmann's first three seasons.

For the first time in Holtmann's tenure in Columbus, the Buckeyes entered the season as a top-25 team in the country, receiving the No. 18 spot in the AP poll and No. 16 in the coaches poll. The third-year Ohio State head coach was not particularly concerned with the preseason hype.

"I've never in my career talked about preseason rankings," Holtmann said, "not once, good or bad, just because they're based on things that your group in its entirety has not actually accomplished. Our group, as this is comprised, it's all presumption more than anything. We have not addressed it, we have not talked about it at all, nor do I think we will."

"We've been nationally ranked both years we've been here, so when we've been, we never really talked about it then, either. All our focus has been on is getting better and then improving as the year goes on and trying to find a way to get better as the year goes on. It's not really anything that's been addressed, and I don't think I'll change in how we go about it."

Holtmann makes a good point about how the hype surrounding his team and its talented freshman class comes from presumption. With only one scholarship senior on the roster in Andre Wesson and three healthy juniors, the Buckeyes will rely heavily on their three sophomores and four freshmen, who lack critical collegiate experience.

Despite his team's lack of experience, the Buckeye coach does not worry about his squad getting caught up in the elevated expectations and feeling overconfident due to favorable preseason rankings.

"They probably are aware of it to some degree or maybe more than to some degree," Holtmann said. "But nowadays, even players themselves understand that it's relatively meaningless."

Those who have listened to Holtmann in

just about any press conference are probably aware of his distaste for turnovers, which can particularly be an issue for young and inexperienced teams. The Buckeyes have four healthy scholarship guards: junior C.J. Walker, sophomores Luther Muhammad and Duane Washington Jr., and freshman D.J. Carton. Their development will need to be accelerated as they will play vital roles, and the team's success largely hinges on their performance.

"We have played a lot of young guys," Holtmann said in the preseason. "When I say young guys, I think our sophomore guards are growing into some really important roles. And that's going to determine a lot about our season. Obviously, three of our four guards are freshmen or sophomores. I won't put it all on them because it's not been all on them, it's been across the board. We've had some good moments in practice, but we're just not where we need to be."

While turnovers, especially unforced ones, will be a major area of concern for Holtmann, it is not the only question mark regarding the young Buckeyes.

Defense is where it all starts for Holtmann, who instructed solid defensive teams in each of his first two seasons in Columbus. How Ohio State is able to develop defensive continuity will be paramount to the team's success. If the Buckeyes cannot learn to defend at a high level, their season will not live up to the lofty expectations.

"Defense is so much about will and effort and a collective mind-set," Holtmann said. "And that team last year, for the most part it had that. Now our defensive numbers in the Big Ten weren't great, but on the year, we were 25th (in defensive efficiency). I'm waiting to see if this group has that too. But the moment as a coach you assume that's going to be the same is when you have a dip in your defensive efficiency, and you look at it and you're midway through the year and we're 75th in the country in defensive efficiency. So, I'm hesitant to assume that it's going to be the case this year."

Ohio State will rely heavily on its most

experienced players such as senior Andre Wesson and juniors Musa Jallow, C.J. Walker, Kaleb Wesson and Kyle Young for veteran leadership. Prior to the Buckeyes' exhibition debut against Cedarville, Holtmann mentioned the importance of those upperclassmen when asked what he is most excited to find out about his new team.

"I'm excited about a lot of things, but one thing I am excited about is that I really believe that we'll go as our leadership takes us this year," Holtmann said. "When you talk about C.J. Walker and Andre and Kaleb and Kyle and some of our older guys – I think we'll go as they take us. I'm excited to see them continuing to grow in those important roles."

Below is a position-by-position breakdown of the 2019-20 Ohio State men's basketball team from guards to forwards to wings, listed in alphabetical order including the most recent collegiate stats for each player.

## Guard

**D.J. Carton, 6-2, 190, Fr.** – Carton came to Ohio State as the No. 34 prospect and No. 4 point guard in the nation after winning Iowa Mr. Basketball. The Bettendorf, Iowa, product averaged 24.4 points, 7.6 rebounds and 6.0 assists per game in his award-winning senior season.

The athletic and talented guard possesses elite ability with the ball in his hands. Carton can cross up defenders off the dribble and shoot at a high level or drive to the basket for a bucket or assists.

In the Buckeyes' exhibition against Cedarville, Carton scored 15 points on 7-of-10 shooting with five assists against just one turnover, which made his coach proud.

"D.J., I thought, made really good reads off of some of that stuff," Holtmann said. "I think that will continue to be a theme."

Carton's ability to push the pace and score in transition is apparent, earning encouraging remarks from fellow guard Washington.

"D.J.'s explosive, his athleticism – he can get up and down the court," Washington said. "He runs like a deer, like a gazelle."

Carton has already shown solid deci-

sion-making skills for a true freshman point guard. There may be growing pains for the highly touted floor general, but the Buckeyes will benefit from his playmaking ability overall.

"Every time I get the ball, I'm going to push it just because I know that that's one of my strengths and I know we can get easy buckets like that," Carton said. "Every time I do get the ball in the position to push it, I'm going to do that, and hopefully I can clean things up in the halfcourt and be able to control the offense a little better."

**Danny Hummer, 6-0, 175, 5th-Sr.** – Hummer transferred to Ohio State from Air Force after the 2017-18 season. In two seasons at Air Force from 2015-17, Hummer played 40 total minutes.

A native of Upper Arlington, Ohio, Hummer scored his first points as a Buckeye against Minnesota on Dec. 2, 2018. His primary contribution to the Buckeyes will be leadership.

**Luther Muhammad, 6-3, 185, So. (7.6 points per game, 2.7 rebounds per game, 1.7 assists per game)** – Muhammad experienced an up-and-down freshman campaign, but the Newark, N.J., native did a lot of things well for the Buckeyes. He finished third on the team with 32 steals and second in three-point shooting at 37.5 percent (36 of 96).

Muhammad is a tenacious defender and has the ability to put the ball on the floor and score at the rim or shoot from the perimeter.

After the Buckeyes' win against Cincinnati, Holtmann spoke of Muhammad's performance, which included gritty defense against preseason AAC player of the year Jarron Cumberland as well as a timely steal.

"I thought he was really good," Holtmann said of Muhammad. "Luther had some moments where he talked to me about his turnovers; I talked to him about his foul 35 feet away from the basket. So, there are some things that he can clean up. But he gave us quality minutes, guarding Cumberland, made some shots and got to the free-throw line."

**C.J. Walker, 6-1, 195, Jr. (8.0 ppg, 2.5 rpg, 2.4 apg in 2017-18)** – Walker was forced to sit out a season after transferring from Florida State following his sophomore season in 2017-18. The all-around point guard brings a lot to the table, including tenacious defense, excellent ball handling and great leadership.

Backcourt mate Duane Washington Jr. has been impressed by Walker, who spent last season practicing with the Buckeyes despite not being eligible for games.

"C.J. is super polished," Washington said, "getting other people involved, being smart and making the right plays."

The composure and intelligence of Walker have impressed his teammates and coaches alike, with Holtmann giving the floor general from Indianapolis high praise.

"C.J. Walker is going to be one heck of a coach one day. I really believe that," Holtmann said. "Because his attitude – he brings that approach."

**Duane Washington Jr., 6-3, 190, So. (7.0 ppg, 2.5 rpg, 1.1 apg)** – Washington finished second on the team with 41 three-pointers made as a freshman, but his 30.6 percentage from deep left more to be desired.

Shooting is a large part of the Grand Rapids, Mich., native's game, but Washington also showed the ability to handle the ball and make plays for his teammates at times last

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## 2019-20 Ohio State Men's Basketball Projected Starting Lineup

<p><b>13 • C.J. Walker • G</b> Ht./Wt.: 6-1, 195 • Class: Jr.</p>  <p>Walker shot 35.5 percent from three-point range to help lead Florida State to the Elite Eight as a sophomore in 2017-18.</p>	<p><b>1 • Luther Muhammad • G</b> Ht./Wt.: 6-3, 185 • Class: So.</p>  <p>Muhammad finished third on the Buckeyes in steals (32) and second in three-point shooting at 37.5 percent from distance.</p>	<p><b>24 • Andre Wesson • F</b> Ht./Wt.: 6-6, 220 • Class: Sr.</p>  <p>Andre Wesson finished third on the team in scoring (8.6), rebounding (4.1), assists (62) and blocks (15) as a junior in 2018-19.</p>	<p><b>25 • Kyle Young • F</b> Ht./Wt.: 6-8, 205 • Class: Jr.</p>  <p>Young shot a team-high 67.2 percent from the field (78 of 116) as a sophomore in 2018-19.</p>	<p><b>34 • Kaleb Wesson • F</b> Ht./Wt.: 6-9, 225 • Class: Jr.</p>  <p>Kaleb Wesson posted a team-high 21 blocks in addition to leading in scoring and rebounding last season.</p>
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## 2019-20 Ohio State Men's Basketball Roster/Schedule

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Hometown/Previous School
0	Alonzo Gaffney	F	6-9	198	Fr.	Cleveland/Brewster Academy
1	Luther Muhammad	G	6-3	185	So.	Newark, N.J./Hudson Catholic
2	Musa Jallow	G	6-5	200	Jr.	Bloomington, Ind./North
3	D.J. Carton	G	6-2	190	Fr.	Bettendorf, Iowa/Bettendorf
4	Duane Washington	G	6-3	190	So.	Grand Rapids, Mich./Sierra Canyon
10	Justin Ahrens	F	6-5	180	So.	Versailles, Ohio/Versailles
13	C.J. Walker	G	6-1	195	Jr.	Indianapolis, Ind./Florida State
14	Justice Sueing	F	6-6	210	Jr.	Honolulu, Hawaii/California
15	Ibrahima Diallo	F	6-10	220	Fr.	Saly, Senegal/Prolific Prep
24	Andre Wesson	F	6-6	220	Sr.	Westerville, Ohio/South
25	Kyle Young	F	6-8	205	Jr.	Canton, Ohio/Massillon Jackson
32	E.J. Liddell	F	6-6	236	Fr.	Belleville, Ill./West
34	Kaleb Wesson	F	6-9	270	Jr.	Westerville, Ohio/South
40	Danny Hummer	G	6-0	175	5th-Sr.	Upper Arlington, Ohio/Air Force
42	Harrison Hookfin	F	6-5	220	So.	Lebanon, Ohio/Lebanon

**Head Coach** – Chris Holtmann (Taylor, 1994). **Assistant Coaches** – Ryan Pedon (Wooster, 2000); Terry Johnson (Lamar, 1996); Jake Diebler (Valparaiso, 2009). **Director of Professional Development** – Terrence Dials (Ohio State). **Director of Basketball Operations** – David Egelhoff (Ohio State, 2001). **Special Assistant to the Head Coach** – Mike Netti (Syracuse, 2002). **Assistant Director of Strength and Conditioning** – Quadrian Banks (Texas, 2003). **Coordinator of Recruiting and Operations** – Kyle Davis (Ohio State, 2013). **Program Assistants** – Andrew Dakich (Michigan, 2017) and Robbie Rucki (Ohio State, 2016).

### Schedule:

**Oct. 30** CEDARVILLE (exhibition), W 95-52.  
**Nov. 6** CINCINNATI, W 64-56; **10** UMASS-LOWELL, W 76-56; **13** VILLANOVA, 7 p.m.; **18** STETSON, 8:30 p.m.; **22** PURDUE FORT WAYNE, 7 p.m.; **25** KENT STATE, 6:30 p.m.; **29** MORGAN STATE, 9 p.m.  
**Dec. 4** North Carolina, 9:30 p.m.; **7** PENN STATE; **15** Minnesota, 6:30 p.m.; **17** SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE, 7 p.m.; **21** Kentucky at Las Vegas, 5:15 p.m.; **29** West Virginia at Cleveland, 12 p.m.  
**Jan. 3** WISCONSIN, 7 p.m.; **7** Maryland, 7 p.m.; **11** Indiana, 12 p.m.; **14** NEBRASKA, 6:30 p.m.; **18** Penn State, 12 p.m.; **23** MINNESOTA, 6:30 p.m.; **26** Northwestern, 6:30 p.m.  
**Feb. 1** INDIANA, 12 p.m.; **4** Michigan, 7 p.m.; **9** Wisconsin, 1 p.m.; **12** RUTGERS, 7 p.m.; **15** PURDUE 12 p.m.; **20** Iowa, 7 p.m.; **23** MARYLAND, 4 p.m.; **27** NEBRASKA, 9 p.m.  
**March 1** MICHIGAN, 4 p.m.; **5** ILLINOIS, 7 p.m.; **8** Michigan State, 4:30 p.m. **11-15** Big Ten Tournament at Indianapolis.

season.

The 6-3 combo guard was asked how important three-point shooting is to his game and referenced advice from his father of the same name, who played in the NBA for the New Jersey Nets.

"It's been a big part of my game since I started playing basketball," Washington responded. "It was a big thing that my dad taught me at a young age, just being able to shoot the ball. He would always try to explain to me how important it is and how undervalued it was getting. I think it's a big part of my game, being able to make shots, but also playmaking and distributing the ball, getting to the rim. Being a good playmaker is something I've been working on, definitely getting better at as this year's coming up."

### Forward

**Ibrahima Diallo, 6-10, 220, Fr.** – Diallo is a native of Saly, Senegal, who played at Napa Valley (Calif.) Prolific Prep. As a senior, he averaged 11 points, 11 rebounds and nearly four blocks per game.

Rim protection will be an important role for Diallo to embrace off the Buckeyes' bench, as he will be able to block or alter

shots with his 7-7 wingspan.

Muhammad mentioned how impressed he has been with the Senegal native, who is learning a lot in an expedited process.

"Lately, he's been catching on to the plays fast," Muhammad said of Diallo. "He's catching the ball and keeping it high."

Selfless in nature, Diallo is content in a reserve role to standout big man Kaleb Wesson. The long and lean freshman acts like a sponge when around the highly skilled younger Wesson brother.

"I'm going to do everything like my team needed me to do," Diallo said. "I was just on the bench watching the game, learning behind Kaleb. So, whenever my team needs me, I'm going to step up and do whatever they need me to do."

**Alonzo Gaffney, 6-9, 198, Fr.** – Gaffney came to Columbus as the No. 50 recruit in the country for the 2019 class, bringing a lot of potential with him.

The long and lanky forward won the 2017 Division III state championship with Cleveland Villa Angela-St. Joseph as a sophomore before earning All-Ohio honors at Garfield Heights as junior, averaging 18.2 points, 9.0 rebounds and 4.0 blocks.

For his senior season, Gaffney transferred to Brewster Academy, which is a prep school in New Hampshire, to prepare for collegiate hoops. Holtmann has liked what he's seen from the uber-athletic Gaffney, but like most freshmen, the Cleveland native has much room to improve.

"He's been really consistent rebounding the ball," Holtmann said of Gaffney. "He's done a terrific job rebounding the ball, but he's still got a lot of growth in that area. He's had a great attitude, great approach. Alonzo has never been a guy that has scored at a really high level at whatever level he's been at. Offensively, you're going to see some rough moments that are going to take some time, but he's done a terrific job rebounding the ball. He's picked up some things really well. But there's a lot of growth that's still got to happen there."

**Harrison Hookfin, 6-5, 220, So.** – Hookfin is a former walk-on from Lebanon, Ohio. The 6-5 forward made his collegiate debut against Iowa, playing one minute off the bench on Feb. 26. He will not likely play in games but will be important to the Buckeyes' depth in practice.

**E.J. Liddell, 6-6, 236, Fr.** – As the No. 44 prospect in the country for 2019, Liddell joined the Buckeyes with high expectations. At Belleville (Ill.) West, Liddell led his team to back-to-back state championships, earning Illinois Mr. Basketball honors as a junior and senior.

Scoring has not been an issue for Liddell, who averaged 20.2 points, 9.3 rebounds and 3.8 blocks as a senior, helping make him the eighth-best power forward in the country and No. 1 recruit in Illinois.

Holtmann has emphasized that the talented freshman needs to improve his conditioning after being limited during practices with an undisclosed leg injury.

"His conditioning was always going to be something we had to work on, but that's been a little bit of an issue for him," Holtmann said of Liddell. "I just really like his approach and attitude right now. He's done a good job of getting better and better and making steps forward, even though at times it's been frustrating for him because it hasn't come as quickly."

"But he's done a really good job scoring the ball. He's got to rebound it better, but he's done a really good job scoring the ball for us. And I'm just excited about his continual growth. He's done some good things."

**Kaleb Wesson, 6-9, 255, Jr. (14.6 ppg, 6.9 rpg, 1.8 apg)** – After earning a spot on the All-Big Ten freshman team with averages of 10.2 points and 4.9 boards in 2017-18, Kaleb Wesson took his game to the next level as a sophomore. The younger Wesson led the Buckeyes with 14.6 points and 6.9 rebounds per contest, earning honorable-mention All-Big Ten honors.

Wesson possesses solid footwork and shooting touch both near the rim and outside of the paint, but his size slowed him down and led to foul trouble. With a rigorous workout routine and diet, the former Westerville (Ohio) South big man dropped

at least 15 pounds since the spring, and Holtmann has been very impressed by the benefits.

"More movement by Kaleb, just ability to play harder, longer," Holtmann said. "I've really loved how he's moved. I love Kaleb's approach right now as much as anything. Sports can be cruel. You can have a great approach and lose all this weight, it doesn't necessarily mean you're going to see the dividends right away, but I love his approach. Kaleb is putting himself in the best position to be at his best, and that's all you can ask for."

Holtmann also mentioned how Wesson's become "such a good shooter" with "terrific touch." The body change along with his abilities as a shooter and as a passer give the Buckeyes more options in their offense because Wesson can play away from the basket more effectively.

"As long as he can continue to move at the level that he wants to move at, we want to move him around," Holtmann said after the Cedarville exhibition. "We've got to play through him outside and inside at times."

"He's worked on his body to the point where he can really move and create difficult situations for the defense."

**Kyle Young, 6-8, 205, Jr. (6.0 ppg, 4.4 rpg, 0.9 apg)** – After playing just 8.6 minutes per game and contributing 1.8 points and 1.6 rebounds as a freshman, Young contributed 6.0 points and 4.4 rebounds in 20.5 minutes per contest as a sophomore in 2018-19.

The Massillon (Ohio) Jackson product is known as a high-energy player who is aggressive in the paint and on the boards, which is a large reason that Holtmann recruited him to Butler and then Ohio State.

"When he's at his best, he's changing the game with his energy and playing off other guys," Holtmann said. "That's the way Kyle has always been."

Now a junior, Young will be relied on as an experienced player on a team featuring seven underclassmen. Young is expected to continue to make hustle plays, setting a good example for the younger Buckeyes.

"When he's at his best, he's doing that at a really high level, and I don't think that's going to change," Holtmann said. "He's shot it well in the preseason, but he's special when he's doing those things."

### Wing

**Justin Ahrens, 6-5, 180, So. (3.2 ppg, 1.8 rpg, 0.3 apg)** – Ahrens was brought in by Holtmann to be a dangerous threat from beyond the arc, and he showed he is capable of that as a true freshman last season.

Ahrens led the Buckeyes in three-point percentage at 38.8 (19 of 49), and the Versailles, Ohio, native showed his ability to get hot from the outside, highlighted by his breakout performance against Iowa. Ahrens barraged the Hawkeyes for 29 points, including 25 in the second half.

Continued On Page 30



# Buckeyes Will Go As Far As Wessons Take Them

Continued From Page 29

During what Holtmann described as a really good offseason for Ahrens, the left-handed sharpshooter suffered a back injury. Although Ahrens has returned to action, his coach admits that the injury is still limiting him.

"I think he'd be the first one to tell you that he is not what he was last year," Holtmann said. "Certainly not what he was in the spring; he had a terrific spring. What percentage he would be, I don't know. But he's clearly not physically at full strength."

With injuries to fellow wings Jallow and Andre Wesson, Ahrens will be needed to increase his production with the extra playing time, particularly at the beginning of the season.

"We're going to need him now, for sure," Holtmann said. "He's going to be asked to increase his role when it comes to that and minutes. He's getting there. He still doesn't move quite as well as he did in the spring. My challenge for a guy like Justin is you have to be elite at our defensive details. And if you can't be elite at our defensive details, it's going to affect how much that I can play you."

"Offensively, he brings some things our team needs because he is a terrific shooter, but he has to be elite in other details defensively. That's something that he can do even as he's recovering from his injury."

**Musa Jallow, 6-5, 200, Jr. (2.9 ppg,**

**2.9 rpg, 0.7 apg)** – Jallow, who played most of his freshman season as a 17-year-old, brings a lot of untapped potential into his junior season. He showed improvement from his first year to his second, increasing his field-goal percentage from 39.2 to 42.4 percent and his three-point percentage from 25.0 to 33.3 percent.

Jallow started 13 games and averaged 15.0 minutes per game as a sophomore in 2018-19, highlighted by a 12-point, six-rebound and five-steal outing against Purdue.

Where Jallow primarily earned his minutes is on the defensive end. The Bloomington, Ind., native often guards one of the best perimeter players on opposing teams, while also displaying the versatility to switch onto larger players in the paint.

Unfortunately for Jallow and the Buckeyes, the third-year wing had to undergo arthroscopic surgery on his right ankle on Oct. 18 and remains without a timetable to return.

"It's really an unknown right now as to what his availability will be at the start of the season. I couldn't tell you," Holtmann said of Jallow. "The wing position is something that we're kind of after Andre (Wesson) trying to figure out a little bit, to be quite honest with you. But we're not going to rush him back. It's not in his best interest."

**Justice Sueing, 6-6, 210, Jr. (14.3 ppg, 6.0 rpg, 2.0 apg)** – As a sophomore at California, Sueing averaged a team-high

## OSU Men's Basketball Verbal Commits

Players in the class of 2020 who have issued verbal commitments to play basketball at Ohio State. (Star ratings are from the 247Sports composite rankings.)

Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Stars	High School
Eugene Brown	SG	6-6	185	★★★★	Decatur (Ga.) Southwest DeKalb
Zed Key	PF	6-7	215	★★★	Glen Head (N.Y.) Long Island Lutheran

Players in the class of 2021 who have issued verbal commitments to play basketball at Ohio State. (Star ratings are from the 247Sports composite rankings.)

Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Stars	High School
Kalen Etzler	PF	6-8	195	★★★★	Convoy (Ohio) Crestview
Meechie Johnson	CG	5-11	160	★★★★	Willoughby (Ohio) Andrew Osborne

14.3 points and 6.0 rebounds. The talented wing from Santa Ana (Calif.) Mater Dei must sit out this season after transferring to Ohio State.

Sueing, who is a native of Honolulu, should play an important role for the Buckeyes next year.

**Andre Wesson, 6-6, 220, Sr. (8.6 ppg, 4.1 rpg, 1.8 apg)** – Andre Wesson has developed into one of the most important players on the Ohio State roster. He almost always defends the best players on opposing teams and has defended every position at a high level.

The wing from Westerville South suffered a fractured eye socket in the season opener against Cincinnati, and his recovery will be evaluated on a game-to-game basis. Holtmann emphasized the significance of losing such an excellent defender as well as a team leader.

"We don't have another guy in our program that's like Andre with his experience and his defensive versatility," Holtmann said. "Andre connects our defense as well as anybody I've coached. That value sometimes gets lost to someone just casually watching the game. He connects our defense as well as anyone, and he competes on that end."

Another downside to Wesson's injury is losing his ability to spread the floor as a vastly improved shooter.

The 6-6 wing shot 35.1 percent from three-point range as a freshman, 28.6 percent from distance as a sophomore and 33.6 percent from beyond the arc as a junior. Through the Buckeyes' first 15 practices of the preseason, he hit 41 percent of his three-point attempts, according to Holtmann.

"His numbers have been good," Holtmann said, "and his shot selection has been really good as well."

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# Buckeyes Open Season With Consecutive Wins

By JOE DEMPSEY  
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

The Ohio State men's basketball team debuted with a 95-52 exhibition victory against Cedarville before 12,656 at Value City Arena on Oct. 30.

"It was good in a lot of ways because, as we expected we might, we got exposed in some areas," said Ohio State head coach Chris Holtmann. "But a lot of good moments from our group. We obviously need to get better at a rapid pace here before (Cincinnati, Nov. 6), and we'll dive into that as a staff here, probably tonight."

Junior forward Kaleb Wesson led the Buckeyes with 23 points on 9-of-11 shooting, including 3 of 4 on three-pointers, while adding seven rebounds with two blocks and two steals. Freshman guard D.J. Carton stood out in his Value City Arena debut with 15 points on 7-of-10 shooting with five assists and two steals. Junior forward Kyle Young pitched in 10 points and nine rebounds, while freshman forward E.J. Liddell added nine points, four boards and three steals in a solid debut.

Senior forward Andre Wesson scored the first bucket of the game on a dribble drive, which he turned into an and-1. After Young split a pair of free throws, junior guard C.J. Walker converted a layup, Young finished strong inside and Walker hit two foul shots for a 10-2 Ohio State lead.

Cedarville, which had fans all around the arena, fired off six straight points, cutting the Scarlet and Gray lead to 10-8. The Buckeyes and Yellow Jackets then battled back and forth, exchanging buckets with the game within four points for nearly 10 minutes.

Cedarville took its first lead of the game at 23-22 on a three-point shot by sophomore forward Isaiah Speelman, a Hilliard native. The Buckeyes regained the lead, which the Yellow Jackets cut back down to one at 26-25 with a layup by sophomore guard Branden Maughmer from Chillicothe at 6:52.

Chris Holtmann's squad turned up its intensity with the visitors trailing by just one, ripping off a 15-0 run with eight points from Kaleb Wesson, including two three-pointers, three free throws from Young and two from Andre Wesson, and a layup from Liddell. Ohio State took a 41-27 lead into halftime.

Holtmann, in his third season as Ohio State head coach, was proud of how his team responded early, but he saw plenty of room to improve.

"You don't ever want to panic in those situations," Holtmann said. "I thought our guys played with pretty good poise. We just needed to play better and more detailed. They made some shots, but I thought that our poor attention to detail defensively allowed them to get some things."

The Buckeyes started hot in the second half, pushing their lead to 21 points at 54-33, but the visiting Yellow Jackets would not go down without a fight, cutting the lead to 11 with a 10-0 run.

The Scarlet and Gray answered with a 10-0 run of their own, with two buckets from Kaleb Wesson, a bucket by Liddell, a thunderous slam by Carton, which brought the Ohio State fans to their feet, and a Carton jumper.

Quinton Green split a pair of free throws for Cedarville before Ohio State went on a 15-0 run, highlighted by two powerful dunks from Carton, including one that came on an alley-oop lob from Liddell. Liddell complimented Carton but didn't want his fellow freshman teammate's ego to inflate after the emphatic, highlight-reel finish.

"I knew he was going to get it because D.J. can jump kind of well, I guess," Liddell said with a smile.

## Ohio State 95, Cedarville 52

Oct. 30, 2019											
Value City Arena • Columbus, Ohio											
			1	2	F						
			27	25	52						
Cedarville			41	54	95						
Ohio State											
Cedarville			Total FG FT		Reb.						
Min.	M-A	M-A	O-D	A	PF	Pts.					
TenHove	23	0-6	2-2	0-3	3	3	2				
Van Horn	13	2-3	1-1	1-2	0	5	5				
Parker	25	1-6	0-0	1-4	2	3	3				
Maughmer	27	5-9	0-0	0-2	0	0	11				
Green	28	5-8	3-4	0-4	1	1	16				
Dittmer	14	1-2	0-2	0-2	1	4	2				
Speelman	24	3-8	0-0	1-1	1	1	9				
Drees	16	0-4	0-1	3-2	1	0	0				
McKeeman	7	0-1	0-0	1-0	0	0	0				
Mantis	10	1-4	0-0	0-2	0	2	2				
Gillis	6	1-3	0-0	0-0	0	1	2				
Chaffney	2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	0				
Spurr	2	0-1	0-0	0-1	0	1	0				
Stein	2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0				
Standley	1	0-2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0				
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>19-57</b>	<b>6-10</b>	<b>10-24</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>52</b>				

**Percentages:** FG: 33.3%. FT: 60%. **3-point goals:** 8-29 (TenHove 0-4, Parker 1-3, Maughmer 1-2, Green 3-5, Speelman 3-7, Drees 0-1, McKeeman 0-1, Mantis 0-2, Gillis 0-2, Standley 0-2). **Team rebounds:** 4. **Blocked shots:** 4 (Van Horn, Parker, Maughmer, Drees). **Turnovers:** 21 (TenHove, Van Horn 2, Parker 3, Maughmer 5, Green 3, Dittmer, Drees 3, McKeeman, Mantis, Stein). **Steals:** 4 (Parker, Maughmer 2, Stein).

Ohio State											
			1	2	F						
			33	64	23	31	15	16	95		
Ohio State			Total FG FT		Reb.						
Min.	M-A	M-A	O-D	A	PF	Pts.					
A. Wesson	19	1-4	3-3	0-2	3	3	5				
Young	18	3-6	4-6	5-4	0	0	10				
K. Wesson	23	9-11	2-2	1-6	2	1	23				
Muhammad	17	1-5	2-2	0-1	2	1	5				
Walker	17	4-8	2-2	0-2	0	3	10				
Carton	19	7-10	0-0	0-2	5	0	15				
Washington	18	1-7	0-2	1-2	0	0	2				
Liddell	15	3-6	3-4	2-2	1	1	9				
Ahrens	20	1-3	0-0	0-1	1	1	3				
Gaffney	14	1-1	3-4	0-1	0	3	5				
Diallo	9	2-3	3-5	3-1	0	2	7				
Hummer	5	0-0	0-0	0-3	1	0	0				
Hookfin	5	0-0	1-2	0-0	0	1	1				
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>33-64</b>	<b>23-32</b>	<b>13-31</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>95</b>				

**Percentages:** FG: 51.6%. FT: 71.9%. **3-point goals:** 6-19 (A. Wesson 0-2, K. Wesson 3-4, Muhammad 1-3, Walker 0-2, Carton 1-1, Washington 0-4, Ahrens 1-3). **Team rebounds:** 5. **Blocked shots:** 5 (A. Wesson, K. Wesson 2, Liddell, Ahrens). **Turnovers:** 8 (A. Wesson, K. Wesson, Walker 2, Carton, Washington, Hummer 2). **Steals:** 12 (A. Wesson 2, K. Wesson 2, Muhammad, Walker 2, Carton 2, Liddell 3). **Officials:** Ek, Kueneman, Epley. **Attendance:** 12,656.

## Ohio State 64, Cincinnati 56

The Buckeyes defeated Cincinnati 64-56 after a brutal start in their season opener at Value City Arena Nov. 6, played before 13,845.

Young and Kaleb Wesson led the way for the Scarlet and Gray, with Young pacing the team in scoring and rebounding with 14 and 13, respectively. Wesson pitched in eight points and 11 boards.

"That was a good, old-fashioned rock fight there, the most physical opening game I've ever been a part of," Holtmann said postgame. "Give Cincinnati a lot of credit. They disrupted everything we wanted to do game plan-wise going into the game."

"In the first half we could not run our offense, so much so that we basically scrapped our offense at halftime and ran a variation, something we haven't run all year. And our guys were great. They just played off instincts and really responded."

Cincinnati (0-1) sloppily took a 6-0 lead across the game's first 7:40, holding Ohio State scoreless until Young threw down an emphatic dunk in transition to end the drought. Young added two more buckets before another Buckeye scored, which was Kaleb Wesson on a rebound putback to cut the Cincinnati lead to 10-8. The Scarlet and Gray seized their first lead when junior forward Andre Wesson hit a three-pointer in transition on a dish by junior guard C.J. Walker at 7:34.

"Effort is a big thing," Young said of the turnaround. "Coach preaches keep high energy, and I've got to be a guy in there that's doing those types of things, getting extra rebounds and stuff like that. Another thing is trusting in these guys that we're going to play well together, and stuff was just going in."

## Ohio State 64, Cincinnati 56

Nov. 6, 2019											
Value City Arena • Columbus, Ohio											
			1	2	F						
			26	30	56						
Cincinnati (0-1)			19	45	64						
Ohio State (1-0)											
Cincinnati			Total FG FT		Reb.						
Min.	M-A	M-A	O-D	A	PF	Pts.					
Scott	32	0-7	3-4	6-6	2	3	3				
Vogt	13	2-5	0-2	1-3	0	5	4				
McNeal	34	4-12	1-1	1-3	1	3	10				
Williams	28	5-10	1-2	2-0	0	2	13				
Jar. Cumberland	33	4-13	5-9	0-3	3	2	13				
Davenport	5	0-0	3-3	1-1	0	4	3				
Diarra	3	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	0				
Jae. Cumberland	27	1-6	0-0	1-0	1	4	3				
Harvey	2	0-1	1-2	1-0	0	0	1				
Sorolla	23	3-3	0-0	1-3	2	3	6				
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>19-57</b>	<b>14-23</b>	<b>16-21</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>56</b>				

**Percentages:** FG: 19%. FT: 60.9%. **3-point goals:** 4-21 (Scott 0-2, McNeal 1-6, Williams 2-3, Jar. Cumberland 0-5, Jae. Cumberland 1-5). **Team rebounds:** 4. **Blocked shots:** 1 (Vogt). **Turnovers:** 14 (Scott 2, Vogt, McNeal 2, Williams 3, Jar. Cumberland, Jae. Cumberland 2, Sorolla). **Steals:** 6 (McNeal 4, Williams, Diarra).

Ohio State											
			1	2	F						
			30	49	19	29	14	27	64		
Ohio State			Total FG FT		Reb.						
Min.	M-A	M-A	O-D	A	PF	Pts.					
A. Wesson	32	2-9	2-2	1-1	0	2	7				
Young	30	6-7	2-4	7-6	0	2	14				
K. Wesson	35	3-7	0-3	4-7	2	4	8				
Muhammad	23	2-5	1-3	1-2	2	2	6				
Walker	21	1-6	6-6	0-2	2	2	8				
Carton	25	3-5	2-3	0-5	2	2	9				
Washington	16	2-6	3-4	0-2	1	2	7				
Ahrens	7	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0				
Liddell	11	1-3	3-4	0-1	0	2	5				
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>20-49</b>	<b>19-29</b>	<b>14-27</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>64</b>				

**Percentages:** FG: 40.8%. FT: 65.5%. **3-point goals:** 5-16 (A. Wesson 1-4, K. Wesson 2-3, Muhammad 1-3, Walker 0-1, Carton 1-2, Washington 0-1, Ahrens 0-1, Liddell 0-1). **Team rebounds:** 2. **Blocked shots:** 2 (Young, K. Wesson). **Turnovers:** 15 (A. Wesson, K. Wesson, Muhammad, Walker 4, Carton 4, Ahrens, Liddell 2). **Steals:** 2 (Young, Muhammad). **Officials:** Kimble, Oglesby, Daily. **Attendance:** 13,845.

er, and stuff was just going in."

The Bearcats finished the first half strong, taking a 26-19 lead into the intermission.

The Buckeyes came out of the break with exceptional energy, and it translated into points as they went on a 14-3 run to open the second half. Kaleb Wesson capped the crowd-inciting run with a three-pointer on an assist from Carton to make it 33-29.

After extending their lead to 53-45 with 6:20 remaining, the Buckeyes seemed poised to maintain control and win the game. Led by preseason AAC Player of the Year Jarron Cumberland, Cincinnati roared back, trimming the Ohio State lead to just two points, 53-51, with 4:40 on the clock. The Buckeyes hit free throws and came up with timely stops down the stretch, leading by five with under a minute to play. Cincinnati was able to cut the lead to four in the final minute before Walker made four free throws to bring the game to its final margin.

After such a sloppy first half, Ohio State bounced back in the second half, shooting 55.0 percent from the field (11 of 20), 57.1 percent from three (4 of 7) and 79.2 percent from the line (19 of 24) in the final frame.

## Ohio State 76, UMass Lowell 56

Ohio State struggled once again out of the gate but bounced back and beat UMass Lowell, 76-56, at Value City Arena on Nov. 10.

Kaleb Wesson, Carton and sophomore guard Luther Muhammad stood out for the Buckeyes in the game played before 11,632. Wesson scored 13 points, grabbed 13 rebounds and dished five assists. Carton contributed 13 points and four assists on 5-of-6 shooting and 3 of 4 from distance; and Muhammad added 11 points and three assists.

Holtmann was proud of Wesson's success as a distributor in the win and referred to his contributions as "so important."

"It's a good luxury to have," Holtmann said of Wesson's playmaking. "We've worked a lot on post traps. He was disappointed with his overall numbers. They didn't have the size we're going to see in post-trap situations, but

## Ohio State 76, UMass Lowell 56

Nov. 10, 2019											
Value City Arena • Columbus, Ohio											
			1	2	F						
			25	31	56						
UMass Lowell (1-2)			38	38	76						
Ohio State (2-0)											
UMass Lowell			Total FG FT		Reb.						
Min.	M-A	M-A	O-D	A	PF	Pts.					
Henderson	7	1-5	1-2	1-1	1	4	3				
Gantz	25	2-6	1-1	2-0	1	1	6				
Lutete	31	4-12	1-3	0-9	1	0	9				
Mitchell	12	1-4	1-2	1-2	0	1	3				
Noel	35	5-10	2-4	0-4	3	2	15				
Thomas	13	1-5	1-2	0-1	0	3	4				
Withers	31	3-7	4-4	4-7	2	3	10				
Glynn	9	2-3	0-0	0-1	0	1	4				
Blunt	8	0-2	0-2	0-0	1	2	0				
Ivory	4	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0				
Maziashvili	25	1-7	0-0	3-2	2	3	2				
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>20-61</b>	<b>11-20</b>	<b>26-11</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>56</b>				

**Percentages:** FG: 32.8%. FT: 55%. **3-point goals:** 5-23 (Henderson 0-1, Gantz 1-3, Lutete 0-4, Noel 3-6, Thomas, 1-4, Withers 0-2, Maziashvili 0-3). **Team rebounds:** 2. **Blocked shots:** 1 (Glynn). **Turnovers:** 12 (Lutete 2, Noel 4, Ivory, Maziashvili 5). **Steals:** 7 (Gantz, Mitchell, Withers 4, Maziashvili).

Ohio State												
			1	2	F							
			28	57	11	22	10	34	19	76		
Ohio State			Total FG FT		Reb.							
Min.	M-A	M-A	O-D	A	PF	Pts.						
Young	15	4-6	2-4	0-4	0	2	10					
K. Wesson	26	3-7	6-8	2-11	5	1	13					
Muhammad	26	4-6	2-3	0-1	3	2	11					
Washington	27	3-7	0-1	0-3	2	2	8					
Walker	17	3-5	0-0	0-2	3	4	7					
Gaffney	17	4-6	1-4	3-5	0	2	10					
Carton	22	5-6	0-2	0-3	4	0	13					
Ahrens	18	0-3	0-0	0-0	0	2	0					
Diallo	6	0-0	0-0	1-1	0	1	0					
Liddell	18	2-6	0-0	1-4	2	3	4					
Hummer	4	0-4	0-0	0-0	0</							



# Buckeyes Will Live Or Die On Freshman Success

By WYATT CROSHER  
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

The 2018-19 season was a clear transitional year for Ohio State.

With a roster that featured a mix of freshmen and fifth-year seniors who combined for most of the impactful minutes, the plan for Ohio State head coach Kevin McGuff since Kelsey Mitchell and the rest of that starting five in 2017 had moved on was to prepare for 2019.

The end result was a 14-15 record, but a surprise fifth-place finish in the Big Ten.

"I think in general we had a successful year," McGuff told Buckeye Sports Bulletin. "We kind of had a transitional year last year, but I felt like we laid the foundation for a great culture moving forward, and we were able to recruit really well and kind of set up for what this year and the coming years can be with this group."

That hope of building comes with the No. 4 recruiting class in the country this off-season. McGuff has put his team in position to do exactly what he set out to accomplish and to make the types of runs Mitchell, Stephanie Mavunga and company did for multiple seasons during their reign.

But for McGuff's plan to fully come true, he will need the seven true freshmen he recruited to play at a high level and do so earlier than many freshmen are asked.

"It was starting over last year. It's starting over this year, but we have so many young people now," McGuff said. "This year

it's really building towards something really special."

Those freshmen will likely get a large bulk of the minutes, but so will a trio of sophomores in guard Janai Crooms, forward Dorka Juhasz and forward Aaliyah Patty, each of whom played significant minutes for the Buckeyes as freshmen a season ago.

"Janai, Dorka and Aaliyah are only sophomores, but they played a lot of minutes last year, so I kind of look at them as leaders as well," McGuff said. "They can't really be sophomores. They've got to be more like juniors and seniors, because we just don't have a lot of upperclassmen. They've done a really good job."

Below is a position-by-position breakdown of the 2019-20 Ohio State women's basketball roster, listed in alphabetical order with the most recent collegiate stats for each player.

## Forward

**Savitha Jayaraman, 6-2, Sr. (0.0 points per game, 0.0 rebounds per game)** – After seeing time in 19 games and tallying 10 total points during her first year with the Buckeyes, Jayaraman was not able to find a way onto the stat sheet in any of the three games she played a season ago.

It is not likely that the senior forward will find much of an impact role on the court this season. But with the Buckeyes being one of the youngest teams in the country, a veteran voice in Jayaraman could find her impact felt more behind the scenes.

**Dorka Juhasz, 6-4, So. (11.7 ppg, 9.0 rpg)** – Last year was a breakout one for the then-freshman Juhasz, who led the team in both scoring and in rebounds. The forward from Pecs, Hungary, was on the Freshman All-Big Ten and the All-Big Ten second team for her efforts and was selected by coaches on the preseason All-Big Ten watch list ahead of her second season.

The sophomore forward knows she has to step up as even more of a leader this season, both on and off the court, and she said she is ready to take on that challenge, even with just a season in North America under her belt.

"I'm trying to look at it like, 'OK, that was my freshman year, so I need to give more and more this year,' and I'm really preparing to show even more, and I know what the game is like here now," Juhasz said. "I have higher expectations for myself, and I want to be a leader."

After shooting 45.8 percent from the field but only 25.4 percent from three, Juhasz has focused on improving her shooting from midrange and from deep.

Expect Juhasz to be a major contributor this season, and she will certainly remain a starter, just as she was for 25 of the games a year ago.

**Rebeka Mikulasikova, 6-4, Fr.** – Mikulasikova is one two Ohio State first-year players from Europe. Mikulasikova comes to Columbus out of Slovakia with loads of experience as one of the youngest players on multiple teams in Europe.

Matching Juhasz's height at 6-4, Mikulasikova is likely to be a strong force in the paint for Ohio State, but she also possesses an outside game that was grown by her experience in Europe.

"She's got a very unique game because she's about 6-4 and she's got strength that she can be successful around the basket, but she also shoots the ball really well around the perimeter," McGuff said. "She's a unique player, and I think she's got a chance to be really special."

Mikulasikova did not play in the team's exhibition game due to a minor injury, but it is not expected to be anything that will make her miss significant time.

**Aaliyah Patty, 6-3, So. (6.2 ppg, 3.8 rpg)** – Patty is another sophomore who found time in her first year with the Buckeyes, though she didn't make quite the level of impact that Juhasz did. Patty played in 29 games and started nine of them as a freshman, shooting 46.3 percent from the field and finishing No. 2 on the team in blocks with 25.

Her key area to improve is the same as Juhasz's: shooting. Though Patty has a shot that usually can make her a deep threat who can stretch the floor, she hit only six of her 32 attempts for an 18.8 three-point percentage that was worst on the team for anyone who took multiple shots from behind the arc.

Patty led the team with 10 rebounds in the exhibition against Urbana and added 10 points and two blocks to give herself a double-double.

**Aixa Wone Aranaz, 6-3, Fr.** – Wone Aranaz is other freshman in Ohio State's 2019 class to come over from Europe, with the 6-3 forward a native of Spain. There, she played for a wide variety of national teams, including a run this year on the under-19 team, where she averaged 8.7 points and 6.4 rebounds per game, helping the team to a third-place finish.

Wone Aranaz is clearly the most athletic forward on the Buckeyes' roster, and she showed that in the exhibition against Urbana with her ability to go up and down the floor with impressive speed.

"She plays really hard, she runs the floor, she plays with toughness, she defends, she rebounds," McGuff said. "I just really, really liked her intensity and how hard she played."

In the 2019 U19 FIBA Tournament for Spain, Wone Aranaz showed her versatility by shooting 9 of 19 from three, good for a 47.4 percent success rate from deep. That perimeter shooting will be an added bonus for an Ohio State team that likes to move quickly up the court and space out opposing defenses.

During the exhibition, Wone Aranaz scored 11 points on 5-of-9 shooting and brought in six rebounds in 26 minutes of play.

It may have taken an extra year for Wone Aranaz to make her journey across continents to Ohio State due to paperwork issues, but she comes in with another year of experience under her belt and could be a difference maker right away.

## Guard

**Kierstan Bell, 6-1, Fr.** – The highest-rated member of Ohio State's recruiting class, Bell comes in with the expectation that she will be ready to perform for the Buckeyes from day one.

With lofty averages of 28.8 points per game, 7.9 rebounds, 4.4 blocks per game and 3.8 steals during a senior season in which she was often double- or triple-teamed, there's a reason that Bell won three straight Ohio Ms. Basketball awards.

Nicknamed "She-Bron" for her game's resemblance to another Ohio product, LeBron James, the expectations are sky high for Bell out the gate.

"She's got a tremendous amount of skill, and she also really knows how to play the game," McGuff said. "She's got a great IQ for the game, and she really loves to play, too, so she plays hard and she really likes to compete."

The five-star guard has plenty of shooting ability from the outside but also has an impressive knack for finishing around the rim. She has plenty of ability on the defensive end as well, consistently breaking up passes and shots which gives her a multitude of forced turnovers.

Her skill on both sides of the ball was shown off against Urbana in the exhibition. Bell tied for the team lead with 25 points, shooting 10 of 14 and hitting on 3 of 7 attempts from three while also nabbing four steals and one block defensively.

**Jensen Caretti, 6-1, Sr. (2.8 ppg, 1.4 rpg)** – Caretti came into Ohio State as an Ohio Ms. Basketball winner in 2016 and a five-star guard, but after sitting behind Kelsey Mitchell to start her collegiate career, the now-senior has struggled to return to her star form from high school.

Caretti played in 23 games last season and has played in 69 total throughout her three seasons but shot only 35.4 percent from the field last season and 24.1 percent from three, a number that bettered only Patty.

The talent is clearly there for Caretti, but she has failed to put it together at the college level and now has only one season left to do so. Regardless, she is a veteran presence who can become a true leader for

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# OHIO STATE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

## 2019-20 Ohio State Women's Basketball Projected Starting Lineup

<b>3 • Janai Crooms • G</b> Ht.: 5-10 • Class: So.  Shot a team-best 46.5 percent from three-point range during her freshman season for the Buckeyes in 2018-19.	<b>4 • Braxtin Miller • G</b> Ht.: 5-11 • Class: Jr.  A transfer from Oklahoma State that left the program with the ninth-most three pointers in program history.	<b>24 • Kierstan Bell • G</b> Ht.: 6-1 • Class: Fr.  A three-time player of the year in Ohio, only the second player in the state to do so, the other being LeBron James.	<b>11 • Aixa Wone Aranaz • F</b> Ht.: 6-3 • Class: Fr.  Comes to Ohio State from Spain with experience on a variety of Spanish national teams.	<b>14 • Dorka Juhasz • F</b> Ht.: 6-4 • Class: So.  Led Ohio State in scoring and rebounding in her freshman season and was picked as a Preseason All-Big Ten member by the coaches.
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## 2019-20 Ohio State Men's Basketball Roster/Schedule

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.	Hometown/Previous School
0	Madison Greene	G	5-8	Fr.	Pickerington, Ohio/Central
1	Rikki Harris	G	5-10	Fr.	Indianapolis, Ind./North Central
3	Janai Crooms	G	5-10	So.	Cranston, R.I./ St. Andrews
4	Jacy Sheldon	G	5-10	Fr.	Dublin, Ohio/Coffman
5	Kaelynn Satterfield	G	6-0	Fr.	New York, N.Y./ Christ The King
10	Braxtin Miller	G	5-11	Jr.	Dayton, Ohio/Oklahoma State
11	Aixa Wone Aranaz	F	6-3	Fr.	Pamplona, Spain/I.E.S. Joaquim Blume
12	Savitha Jayaraman	F	6-2	Sr.	Powell, Ohio/Olentangy Liberty
14	Dorka Juhasz	F	6-4	So.	Pecs, Hungary/P.T.E. Babits
23	Rebeka Mikulasikova	F	6-5	Fr.	Nitra, Slovakia/Piaristicke Gymnasium
24	Kierstan Bell	G	6-1	Fr.	Canton, Ohio/McKinley
32	Aaliyah Patty	F	6-3	So.	Lombard, Ill./Montini Catholic
33	Jensen Caretti	G	6-1	Sr.	Clarington, Ohio/River

**Head Coach** – Kevin McGuff (St. Joseph's (Ind.), 1992). **Assistant Coaches** – Carla Morrow (Tulsa, 2002); Carrie Banks (Detroit Mercy, 2000); Tamika Jeter (Connecticut, 2002) **Director of Basketball Operations** – Beth Howe (Ohio State, 2005). **Athletic Trainer** – Jennifer Novak (Kent State, 2005; Ohio State, 2007)

### Schedule:

**Nov. 3** Urbana (exhibition), W 131-50; **10** Valparaiso in Springfield, Ohio, W 89-38; **13** Cincinnati, 7 p.m.; **17** OHIO, 2 p.m.; **21** Kent State, 7:30 p.m.; **24** UCONN, 3 p.m.; **29** South Dakota in Las Vegas, 6:30 p.m.; **30** Northern Iowa in Las Vegas, 8:45 p.m.

**Dec. 5** LOUISVILLE, 8 p.m.; **8** RADFORD, 2 p.m.; **15** Stanford, 8:30 p.m.; **17** Sacramento State, 10:05 p.m.; **28** PURDUE, 12 p.m.; **31** Minnesota, 5 p.m.

**Jan. 6** Maryland, 7 p.m.; **9** MICHIGAN, 6 p.m.; **12** PENN STATE, 2 p.m.; **16** Michigan State, 6 p.m.; **19** ILLINOIS, 2 p.m.; **23** Iowa, 8 p.m.; **30** MARYLAND, 6:30 p.m.

**Feb. 2** Nebraska, 3 p.m.; **6** Illinois, 8 p.m.; **9** WISCONSIN, 2 p.m.; **13** MINNESOTA, 7 p.m.; **16** Indiana, 2 p.m.; **19** NEBRASKA, 7 p.m.; **22** Rutgers, TBA; **25** NORTHWESTERN, 6 p.m.; **29** Purdue, 4 p.m.

**March 4-8** Big Ten Tournament in Indianapolis.

a young team this season.

**Janai Crooms, 5-10, So. (8.8 ppg, 3.5 rpg)** – Crooms was a consistent performer for the Buckeyes in her freshman season, finishing third in points per game and second in total assists (64). Where Crooms really made her mark was from beyond the arc, where she shot 46.5 percent, a number significantly better than anyone else on the team a season ago.

In her second year, Crooms knows a big area where she needs to step up is off the court.

“Just trying to be a leader to them because I have experience from last year,” Crooms said of what she needs to contribute. “Just try to tell them to keep the energy high, communicate and all the little intangibles.”

Another area of focus this season will be on turnovers: Crooms' 93 led the team last season. But with assist leader Carmen Grande gone, Crooms will be looked at as the key playmaker for Ohio State and likely the main player running the point.

**Madison Greene, 5-8, Fr.** – After a flip from Penn State, Greene was the final player to join Ohio State's 2019 class, and she will be a welcome addition.

Along with Crooms, Greene will be a major facilitator, as she finished her high school campaign with more than 400 total assists, averaging 5.8 assists per game to go with 16.0 points and 5.6 rebounds in her senior season.

“She's been a great addition,” McGuff

said. “I really like her, and I'm happy she's here. I think she's going to have a very bright future for us.”

Along with her strong statistics, Greene was the key contributor for Pickerington (Ohio) Central during a state title run in 2018 as well as a runner-up finish in 2019, so she knows a thing or two about crucial games.

In the Urbana exhibition, Greene finished with seven points, eight rebounds, two assists and two steals.

**Rikki Harris, 5-10, Fr.** – One of the three five-star prospects from this year's class, Harris has about as much potential as any player on this Ohio State team. She is a versatile guard who can shoot and get to the basket, but only when she is healthy.

Two ACL tears, a trapped nerve in her foot and multiple dislocated shoulders plagued Harris' high school career, so the Buckeyes will likely take everything slow when it comes to potential injuries with the talented freshman.

That is why Harris was unavailable for the exhibition and could be seen only in small bunches until the medical staff is 100 percent on her health.

But when she is able to play, expect Harris to make a major impact.

“I saw her at a young enough age and was able to kind of really look at the attributes she had that I love which is her toughness, her intelligence as a basketball player, being a great teammate and really just making other people around her bet-

ter,” McGuff said.

**Braxtin Miller, 5-11, Jr. (14.7 ppg, 4.2 rpg)** – Just two days before the season opener against Valparaiso, Ohio State announced that former Oklahoma State guard Braxtin Miller's waiver has been approved and she will be able to play for the Buckeyes in the 2019-20.

This is a huge victory for the Buckeyes, not only for the talent that Miller possesses but for the added experience from a player who was a consistent starter while at the other OSU.

The 5-11 junior finished No. 2 for the Cowgirls in scoring last season with 14.7 points per game. She also added 4.2 rebounds and 3.5 assists while starting in all 30 games as a sophomore.

Miller was a two-time All-Big 12 honorable mention and was on the Big 12 All-Freshman team, and she is a strong deep threat for the Buckeyes, as her 109 threes already ranked ninth in Oklahoma State history through just two seasons.

The Dayton native will want to get her shooting percentages up on the whole, though, after shooting 32.7 percent from deep and 31.9 percent overall.

Regardless, Miller's availability this season is a big boost for the Buckeyes.

**Kaelynn Satterfield, 6-0, Fr.** – After being a five-star for much of her recruitment, Satterfield comes to an Ohio State as an official four-star recruit, but that does not minimize all the talent she is bringing.

The daughter of former Cincinnati star Kenny Satterfield, Kaelynn is one of the strongest guards the Buckeyes have, but she also holds a deadly three-point shot when given the opportunity.

“She's really versatile,” McGuff said.

“She can play around the basket; she can play on the perimeter. The thing I really love about her is she makes other people better, and she has a great understanding of the game.”

Satterfield put all her talent on display in the exhibition, putting up 22 points on 7-of-8 shooting, including hitting 2 of 3 three-point attempts, while nailing all six free throws. The rest of the team shot only 50.0 percent (10 of 20) from the charity stripe.

**Jacy Sheldon, 5-10, Fr.** – Sheldon is a five-star guard from Dublin (Ohio) Coffman who is almost certainly the best shooter Ohio State has immediately upon entering the program. Sheldon broke her program's records for points, assists, steals, field goals made, threes made and free throws made, and she was the runner-up to Bell the past two seasons for Ohio Ms. Basketball.

She can be seen shooting from everywhere and anywhere before practices start and is going to be consistently counted on this season to hit from deep.

But Sheldon is not by any means one-dimensional. She averaged 5.3 steals per game in her senior season and recorded an 11-steal game in the process.

“One of the things that stood out very early on is her speed and quickness,” McGuff said. “She's a really tough defender, so I think she's going to really be impactful on both ends of the floor for us.”

That impact was shown against Urbana, where Sheldon tied Bell with a team-leading 25 points and added eight rebounds, five steals and three blocks just for good measure.

Bell is the most talked about freshman, but Sheldon is another five-star who is ready to make a similar immediate impact.



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# Ohio State Handles Valparaiso In Season Opener

By WYATT CROSER  
 Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

After rolling to an 81-point win in its exhibition game, Ohio State kept the hot streak moving into the regular season, thoroughly dominating Valparaiso, 89-38, in the Buckeyes' 2019 season opener on Nov. 10.

Playing in Springfield, Ohio, as a part of the Ohio Basketball Hall of Fame Classic, the Buckeyes started out slow but began to take control in the second quarter before outscoring the Crusaders by 27 in the third quarter to really put the game away in front of 1,857 in Pam Evans Smith Arena.

"I was certainly anxious to kind of see how we'd be," OSU coach Kevin McGuff said. "With so many new people, we're a big work in progress. I thought overall we played really hard today, we played together, we did a lot of positive things. We have a long, long, long way to go. At least I think you can kind of see where this could go."

Dorka Juhasz led all scorers with 16 points on 4-of-6 shooting while also bringing in a game-high seven rebounds. Four Buckeyes scored in double figures, and all 10 Ohio State players who saw game action managed to hit a basket in the 51-point victory.

The Buckeyes shot 52.2 percent from the floor and 33.3 percent from three, hitting 8 of 24 attempts from behind the arc. Juhasz and Kierstan Bell each hit two of those shots from deep, both going 2 for 4 on their attempts.

Bell scored all 10 of her points in the first half and added three rebounds, an assist, a steal and a block.

Ohio State did not start out as hot as it did in the Urbana exhibition, scoring only 15 points in the first quarter and leading by just four points over Valpo through the first 10 minutes, 15-11, riding Bell's seven points as the primary scoring threat.

McGuff said the problems early came from some jitters and the desire to play too fast.

"One of the things that we do is we

try to make a play in the first five seconds of the shot clock on either end, and especially defensively, we kind of settled down and kind of stuck to the plan and did a much better job in the second half," he said. "In the beginning we were just real anxious, going for steals and getting beat off the dribble, and once we kind of got that going, it allowed us to get some stops, get some steals, get in transition, and everything else kind of fell into place at that point."

A 25-11 second quarter gave the Buckeyes a 40-22 advantage at halftime, with Juhasz leading the way with 11 points at the break.

The Buckeyes took that 18-point lead and turned it into a rout on the back of a 23-0 run in the third quarter. On the whole, Ohio State outscored the Crusaders 31-4 in the third and took a 71-26 score into the final frame before eventually taking the 51-point win.

Ohio State held Valparaiso to 23.1 percent shooting (12 of 52) and allowed only two made three pointers on 25 attempts (8.0 percent) while the Crusaders committed 25 turnovers.

The Buckeyes made those turnovers into 32 points while also outscoring Valpo 54-20 on points in the paint. Nearly half the scoring, 44 points, came from the bench.

## Ohio State Torch Urbana In Exhibition

Ohio State won its lone exhibition against Urbana Nov. 3, 131-50, highlighted by a pair of 25-point performances from Jacy Sheldon and Bell.

"Getting all our nerves out, that was really fun," Sheldon said. "Our first time playing a real game was really cool, and I think we learned a lot, so we have a lot to build on."

Sheldon earned her 25 points on 11-of-19 shooting and added eight rebounds and five steals in almost 31 minutes of play, with the Buckeyes outscoring the Blue Knights by 60 with her on the floor, marking the highest differential on the team.

Bell was slightly more efficient at 10

for 14 and earned four steals in just over 22 minutes.

"We've worked hard in the preseason, so I'm just happy to see our kids take some of that stuff we've done and put it onto the court today," McGuff said. "We still have a long, long way to go, but at least I think you could see some of the talent that we have. And we're very young, so we made a lot of youthful mistakes, but I'm excited about what this team could ultimately end up being."

The Buckeyes opened the game on a three from Bell on the first possession and never looked back, never losing the lead on their way to shooting 66.3 percent from the field and 42.9 percent from three.

Urbana committed 27 turnovers in the game, which turned into 49 points for Ohio State. McGuff said the team improved in a variety of areas in the past week since a closed scrimmage against Eastern Michigan.

"We shot the ball better, we were more efficient on offense and just executed a little bit better, also rebounded a little bit better," he said. "I thought we got better from last Sunday to this Sunday, and that's the key for us. With so many new people, we still have a long way to go, but if we just keep improving, I think we'll end up in a good place."

Even after being up 66-25 at halftime and being up 98-36 after three quarters, the Buckeyes never took their foot off the gas, something Sheldon said became a focus as the game grew more and more out of hand.

"We focused a lot on staying focused with our play," she said. "Our game, rebounding, defense are some things we have to get better on. We tried to stay focused on that to stay in the game."



SONNY BROCKWAY  
**LEADING THE CHARGE – Sophomore forward Dorka Juhasz scored a team-high 16 points in Ohio State's win over Valparaiso.**

Ohio State played Urbana in an exhibition back in 2017, and that team, led by five starting seniors including eventual three-time Big Ten Player of the Year Kelsey Mitchell, won by the same margin, defeating the Blue Knights 135-54.

## Ohio State 89, Vaparaiso 38

Nov. 10, 2019  
 Pam Evans Smith Arena • Springfield, Ohio

	1	2	3	4	F
Valparaiso (0-1)	11	11	4	12	38
Ohio State (1-0)	15	25	31	18	89

Valparaiso Total FG FT Reb.

	Min.	M-A	M-A	O-D	A	PF	Pts.
Frederick	35	0-1	1-2	0-4	3	0	1
Stoller	25	3-10	5-8	2-4	1	3	11
Weinman	22	0-5	0-0	0-1	0	1	0
Hales	22	1-5	0-0	1-0	0	2	5
Morrison	23	1-4	0-0	0-3	0	4	3
Meredith	6	0-0	2-2	0-1	0	0	2
White	22	3-10	1-2	2-3	1	0	7
VanKempen	11	0-4	0-0	0-0	0	1	0
Cowan	3	0-0	1-2	0-0	0	0	1
Pitts	9	2-3	0-0	0-0	0	0	4
Proffitt	7	0-0	0-0	0-1	0	0	0
Ellenson	15	1-5	2-2	0-0	0	2	4
Dickison	1	0-0	0-1	0-0	0	0	0
<b>Team</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>12-52</b>	<b>12-18</b>	<b>5-17</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>38</b>

Percentages: FG: 23.1%. FT: 66.7%. Three-point field goals: 2-25 (Frederick 0-1, Stoller 0-3, Weinman 0-3, Hales 1-5, Morrison 1-4, White 0-3, VanKempen 0-3, Pitts 0-1, Ellenson 0-2). Team rebounds: 0. Blocked shots: 2 (Morrison 1, White 1). Turnovers: 25 (Frederick 4, Stoller 3, Weinman 1, Morrison 3, Meredith 1, White 5, Cowan 1, Pitts 2, Proffitt 1, Ellenson 1). Steals: 9 (Frederick 2, Stoller 2, Morrison 2, Meredith 1, VanKempen 1).

Ohio State Total FG FT Reb.

	Min.	M-A	M-A	O-D	A	PF	Pts.
Crooms	17	4-5	3-5	0-3	3	0	12
Miller	20	2-5	1-1	0-4	2	3	5
Wone Aranaz	20	1-4	0-0	0-5	2	2	2
Juhasz	26	4-6	6-8	3-4	0	1	16
Bell	16	4-8	0-0	1-2	1	2	10
Greene	25	3-6	0-0	0-0	3	2	7
Sheldon	27	5-9	1-2	0-2	0	2	12
Satterfield	23	4-8	0-0	0-4	2	2	9
Mikulaskova	13	4-6	0-0	3-1	0	0	8
Patty	19	4-10	0-0	2-4	2	3	8
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>35-67</b>	<b>11-16</b>	<b>9-29</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>89</b>

Percentages: FG: 52.2%. FT: 68.8%. Three-point field goals: 8-24 (Crooms 1-2, Miller 0-2, Wone Aranaz 0-1, Juhasz 2-4, Bell 2-4, Greene 1-1, Sheldon 1-3, Satterfield 1-3, Mikulaskova 0-1, Patty 1-3). Team rebounds: 0. Blocked shots: 4 (Crooms 1, Juhasz 1, Bell 1, Greene 1). Turnovers: 18 (Crooms 2, Miller 1, Wone Aranaz 2, Juhasz 2, Bell 3, Greene 1, Sheldon 2, Satterfield 3, Mikulaskova 1, Team 1). Steals: 11 (Crooms 1, Miller 1, Wone Aranaz 2, Bell 1, Greene 1, Satterfield 1, Mikulaskova 2, Patty 2). Officials: Enlund, Miles, Baker. Attendance: 1,857.

## Ohio State 131, Urbana 50

Nov. 3, 2019  
 Value City Arena • Columbus, Ohio

	1	2	3	4	F
Urbana (0-0)	19	6	11	14	50
Ohio State (0-0)	42	24	32	33	131

Urbana Total FG FT Reb.

	Min.	M-A	M-A	O-D	A	PF	Pts.
James	27	8-16	0-0	5-4	1	3	17
Draughn	26	5-10	0-0	2-0	0	1	11
McEldowney	26	1-5	2-4	0-1	3	2	5
Knippen	17	1-5	0-0	0-1	4	2	3
Minnich	24	1-8	0-0	2-2	0	2	2
Heath	19	0-3	0-0	1-1	1	3	0
Johnson	12	0-6	3-4	1-0	1	1	3
Love	12	0-4	0-0	0-0	0	1	0
Wright	13	0-5	0-0	0-2	1	0	0
Koenig	13	1-3	2-2	0-0	0	1	5
Smith	10	1-1	2-2	0-0	0	1	4
Garberich	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Dickison	1	0-0	0-1	0-0	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>23-64</b>	<b>16-22</b>	<b>13-27</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>50</b>

Percentages: FG: 26.9%. FT: 75.0%. Three-point field goals: 5-26 (James 1-1, Draughn 1-4, McEldowney 1-3, Knippen 1-3, Minnich 0-5, Johnson 0-3, Love 0-2, Wright 0-2, Koenig 1-2, Dickison 0-1). Team rebounds: 6. Blocked shots: 0. Turnovers: 27 (Draughn 3, McEldowney 2, Knippen 7, Minnich 3, Heath 2, Johnson 2, Love 4, Wright 3, Koenig 1). Steals: 3 (James 3).

Ohio State Total FG FT Reb.

	Min.	M-A	M-A	O-D	A	PF	Pts.
Wone Aranaz	26	5-9	1-4	4-2	0	2	11
Juhasz	21	7-12	2-4	4-3	1	3	17
Crooms	26	7-9	0-1	0-4	8	2	14
Sheldon	31	11-19	1-2	3-5	2	2	25
Bell	22	10-14	2-3	1-1	2	2	25
Patty	25	4-6	1-2	2-8	2	3	10
Satterfield	26	7-8	6-6	1-2	3	2	22
Greene	23	2-3	3-4	4-4	2	2	7
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>53-80</b>	<b>16-26</b>	<b>20-35</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>131</b>

Percentages: FG: 66.3%. FT: 61.5%. Three-point field goals: 9-21 (Wone Aranaz 0-1, Juhasz 1-2, Sheldon 2-6, Bell 3-7, Patty 1-2, Satterfield 2-3). Team rebounds: 7. Blocked shots: 9 (Crooms 2, Sheldon 3, Bell 1, Patty 2, Satterfield 1). Turnovers: 12 (Wone Aranaz 2, Juhasz 1, Crooms 5, Patty 3, Satterfield 1). Steals: 17 (Wone Aranaz 1, Juhasz 1, Crooms 3, Sheldon 5, Bell 4, Patty 1, Greene 2). Officials: Suffren, Steratore, Jefferson. Attendance: 3,476.

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# Bell Highlights Class With 'She-Bron' Potential

Motivators are key to the success of any player in any sport. It can be as simple as a drive to be great or maybe to make a family member proud or to prove everyone who doubted them wrong.

As a second-grader, Kierstan Bell's motivation was something a little simpler: money.

## DOUBLE DRIBBLE Wyatt Crosher

"My stepdad, he used to bribe me with money," Bell told Buckeye Sports Bulletin. "Money used to give me everything, so when I played basketball, he used to be like, 'If you drop this many points and get this many rebounds, I'll give you this much money.'"

That motivation from stepdad B.J. Cunningham – which, according to Bell, was \$100 – gave the second-grader, who was already playing well above her age in a church league against middle schoolers, all the confidence and inspiration that she needed to drop 50 points against those nearly double her age.

But even that was not the first time Bell – who was a five-star prospect and a three-time Ohio Ms. Basketball Player of the Year and who was given a nickname due to her similarities to one of the best players to ever pick up a basketball – knew that she was born to be a talented athlete.

"I picked up a ball when I was really young, and my mom said my first word was 'ball,'" Bell said. "They knew I was going to get into sports."

Basketball was not Bell's only sport for much of her life. The now-Ohio State freshman dabbled in gymnastics, track, softball and even football, which she played against boys until she started high school.

While playing softball, Bell said parents didn't like her because of her size and the fact that she "was hitting home runs all the time," but in football, it was again the money that created some of her most impressive performances.

"I told him one game in football, 'If I score three touchdowns, you owe me \$100, and I'm going to tell you how I'm going to get them, too,'" Bell said. "I told him, 'I'm going to run the ball, get an interception and catch a pass,' and I did all of them in a row and I scored all of them."

Eventually, all the other sports took a back seat to basketball, and while Bell was at Canton McKinley, basketball is what turned the OSU guard into a true phenom who garnered national attention.

After a freshman season averaging 20.4 points, 10.0 rebounds, 3.5 steals, 2.9 assists and 1.9 blocks per game, a year that Bell described as a time when she was "just getting used to things" but was facing pressure to perform from coaches who saw her potential, she used that potential for an explosive sophomore season.

In her second year for the Bulldogs, Bell put up averages of 26.2 points per game, 8.9 rebounds, 4.2 steals, 3.0 assists and 2.3 blocks, and she became the first sophomore to win Ohio Ms. Basketball in the award's history.

"That was a big accomplishment as a sophomore; that was really big because I didn't expect it," Bell said. "Coming from a small town, I didn't think these types of awards existed. So, when they say Ms. Basketball is a big thing, and then when I won it, it was like, 'Wow, this is amazing.'"

Sophomore year was also when Bell believes she was first called her nickname: She-Bron.

The name is made in reference of LeBron James, who played high school basketball at St. Vincent St. Mary's in Akron and is currently on the Los Angeles Lakers. James is a three-time NBA champion, a four-time MVP and a 15-time All-Star and is often in the conversation for the best player in NBA history.

Bell earned the nickname for her similar style of play to the future Hall of Famer.

"It was a huge accomplishment," Bell said of earning the nickname. "I wasn't trying to have a big head about it. I usually let other people talk about me. Instead of me being cocky, I like to just be humble and let other people do the talking."

"That's one of the players that my game, I really play like. I can shoot; he can shoot. He drives to the basket, gets to the bucket; I could do the same thing. Helping his teammates – passing is one of my biggest things, and he's really good with passing to his teammates and getting his teammates involved, and that's really how my game is."

Eventually, after more hype and more impressive performances, it was time for LeBron to see what She-Bron was all about.

On Jan. 24, 2017, during her junior season, in a game against Massillon Jackson, James was in attendance to watch Bell. She responded by putting up 38 points, eight rebounds and five steals in a Canton McKinley win.

"I didn't even know he was in the gym," Bell said. "We were standing for the national anthem, and we were just standing there, and everyone's like, 'LeBron's here,' and I'm like, 'Y'all lying,'" Bell said. "I'm like, 'What corner is he in?' and they were like, 'In the top,' and I'm like, 'OK.' I look up, I was like, 'Wow, I really see LeBron,' and then I saw his wife, so I was like, 'Yeah, he's in the gym for real.'"

Having LeBron in the crowd was only the tip of the iceberg for highlights in Bell's third year for the Bulldogs. During her second straight season winning Ohio Ms. Basketball, she put together a stat line of 33.3 points, 9.6 rebounds, 5.0 steals, 3.9 assists and 2.5 blocks per game while shooting 52.7 percent from the field.

Bell said the success came because of the tenacity that both the coaches and herself put on making her the best player she could be.

"High school basketball was really tough because of the coaches, they really just pushed me every day, the running, the conditioning," Bell said. "The conditioning and running is a little bit comparable to Ohio State's conditioning, so I was a little bit prepared, but just to get in the extra work and getting the extra shots up."

Before she even began her final season at Canton McKinley, Bell had already made her decision to commit to the Buckeyes, officially making the commitment on Aug. 25, 2018, largely due to her relationship with Ohio State head coach Kevin McGuff.

"They've been with me for a long time, since I was young," Bell said. "I love McGuff, and I knew a lot of people would come here, so as you see, I played against some of them, and I played with them, so we just had a good chemistry and I just liked the team."

Some of those players Bell had played with or against included Jacy Sheldon, another five-star Ohio guard who battled Bell while she was at Dublin Coffman, Kaelynn Satterfield, whom Bell played against in an event in New York, and then Madison

Greene, whom Bell said she played against during a summer in her freshman or sophomore season.

McGuff said he saw Bell at an early age because of all the accolades and her proximity to Columbus, and he said it was her offensive prowess that really started garnering the attention nationwide.

"Recruiting is really competitive, and certainly I knew it was going to be the same with her," McGuff told BSB. "She can really score in bunches. She put up a lot of points and her stats are really gaudy, so I think that just created a lot of awareness about how good she is."

But all the success eventually got the attention of not only James, the media and Ohio State. It also got the attention of opposing teams, who were double- or triple-teaming Bell by her senior year.

"At the beginning of the double-teams, I didn't know how to handle it, but my coaches were setting up plays and getting me open to where I can work around double-teams," Bell said.

After a whole year of being the center of attention at Canton McKinley, Bell's numbers dropped to a less gaudy 28.8 points per game, 7.9 rebounds per game, 4.4 blocks per game and 3.8 steals per game. They were enough to win her a third straight Ohio Ms. Basketball trophy, edging out her current teammate in Sheldon.

Bell joined James as the only two players in the state's history to become a three-time player of the year. It didn't take three state awards for McGuff to know she was a player he wanted for this program.

"As an Ohio kid, we want to keep as many of those home as we can, that makes sense and really fit our program," McGuff said. "I just really liked the way she plays. We really play fast and teach our kids how to play and then let them play, and I think that kind of fits her."

Bell is the highest rated of seven freshmen in Ohio State's No. 4-ranked recruiting class in 2019 and the one who has garnered the most attention.

She said that the offseason heading into live game action has been a positive and that

the chemistry has been strong, even for a team lacking much experience.

"We started jelling really early, so I think that's just going to be the main thing is just being able to jell with the team and just being together," Bell said. "We're just learning, getting used to McGuff's style of play, but we all have good basketball IQs and I think that's going to be a big part of our game, so just continuing to have chemistry."

After all the talk of the potential that Bell possesses, she had her first opportunity to turn all the expectations into reality in an exhibition against an overmatched Urbana team.

She capitalized, tying with Sheldon for a team-leading 25 points on 10-of-14 shooting and 3-of-7 shooting from three, while also tallying two rebounds, two assists and four steals with zero turnovers.

But even with those numbers – numbers that were reminiscent of the gaudy figures she put up in high school – Bell came out of the exhibition unsatisfied.

"The first scrimmage was a little iffy because it was our first time on the court," she said. "But once we got into practice, we really focused on defense."

The sky is the limit for a player known for her comparison to perhaps the best basketball player to ever come out of Ohio, and she will be the face of one of the most talented freshman classes in the country.

Bell has had to face heightened expectations for the better part of the past two years and has yet to bend to the pressure, simply answering "nope" when BSB asked if outside pressure ever gets to her.

Whether it be \$100 from her stepdad, an intense work ethic from her high school coach or an inner drive to be the best player on the court every time she steps on it, Bell – who goes by "Dot" after being called K-Dot in middle school and having the "K" dropped by her high school coach – has made a name for herself, and is now bringing She-Bron with her to Ohio State.

*The Fresh Seven is a seven-part series on the seven freshman players joining the Ohio State women's basketball team in the upcoming season.*

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# U-M Honors Scholarship For QB With Heart Condition

Michigan coach Jim Harbaugh will honor the scholarship of recruit J.D. Johnson, who is a quarterback in the Wolverines' 2020 recruiting class, even though Johnson chose to retire from football due to a heart condition.

Johnson said he was diagnosed with coarctation of the aorta when he was 12 and is scheduled to undergo a procedure in December to adjust the stent that was inserted in his heart when he was younger.

## BIG TEN NOTES Joe Dempsey

"Upon receiving this news, I was not only in shock, but I was terrified as to what this meant about my future at Michigan," Johnson posted to Twitter. "In mid-December 2018, I took an unofficial visit to the University of Michigan, where I found a true TEAM environment that was perfect for me. I wanted nothing more than to be a Michigan Man!"

"Coach Harbaugh called after receiving the news of my test results. Unsure and scared to what the conversation was going to be, Coach, without hesitation, said that my scholarship would be honored and offered me a position to join the Wolverine staff and helping any way that I can. I am witness to coach Harbaugh's character and integrity in a situation where he has every reason to tell me 'good luck with the future.'"

Johnson gave specific details about his condition in his Twitter post.

"After going through a battery of tests and a complete evaluation of my cardiovascular system, the doctors discovered that I have some issues that cannot be corrected through additional surgery," Johnson wrote. "I was told that I did not meet the clearance standard to continue playing a contact sport for fear that my aorta could rupture, or that not enough would get to my brain causing an on-field stroke."

Johnson (6-4, 215) was the No. 384 overall prospect and No. 16 pro-style signal caller in the nation for the 2020 class. The three-star recruit from Phoenix Pinnacle chose the Wolverines over Arizona, Oregon, Oregon State and others.

## Minnesota Extends Fleck For 7 More Seasons

Minnesota committed to head coach P.J. Fleck for the long term.

After an 8-0 start, the Golden Gophers extended Fleck's contract through the 2026 season, including an increase in his base annual salary of more than 25 percent from his current salary and an eight-figure buyout for the first year to cover the university if he were to leave.

Fleck signed his new deal on Nov. 5, which will pay Fleck \$4.6 million in 2020 with a \$50,000 raise scheduled for each of the following seasons.

"This is a very fun team," Fleck said. "It's a very fun culture, very different, but I love these young men. I love them as my own sons. A lot of times it's easy for coaches to pick up and leave, go different places. These are very, very special people. I believe in what we can do here."

Like Kirk Ferentz at Iowa, Pat Fitzgerald at Northwestern and Paul Chryst at Wisconsin, Fleck wants to establish coaching continuity at Minnesota, where it has been lacking for decades.

Senior linebacker Thomas Barber, whose father and two older brothers also played for the Golden Gophers, said his family has been associated with seven head coaches.

"That contract extension is pretty awesome for me to see, just having stability in the program and seeing what he's built up right now," Barber said.

The Gophers took on Penn State on Nov. 9, marking the first time they had been part of a game with two top-15 teams in the AP poll in 15 years, since Michigan visited Minnesota in 2004. Minnesota emerged victorious over the Nittany Lions, 31-26, improving to 9-0 (6-0 Big Ten) and moving up to No. 7 in the AP poll.

The incredible start makes Fleck an attractive name on speculative lists of potential candidates to fill vacancies of high-profile jobs at the end of the year. Fleck came from Western Michigan just three seasons ago.

"I didn't want to be a transitional program," Minnesota athletic director Mark Coyle said.

Fleck and his wife, Heather, who have four children, have made a point to proclaim he is not using the Golden Gophers as a steppingstone to get a bigger job.

"Do you want to make a living, or do you want to live a life? Here you can live a life, plus have the job you love, in the area

you love, with people that you love working with," Fleck said. "It's a tremendous combination. I think we're starting to see all over the country how hard that is, how quickly coaches can leave, get fired. Things can go sideways quickly."

Fleck was making \$3.6 million in 2019, and he will move from 10th to seventh in the 14-team conference in total compensation. Fleck's original contract also called for a \$1 million payment to Minnesota per remaining season on the deal if the coach were to skip out, but now it would cost him \$10 million to do so anytime before Dec. 31, 2020. The buyout for a departure by Fleck drops to \$4.5 million in 2021, \$3.5 million in 2022, \$3 million in 2023 and \$2 million in 2024 or 2025.

Fleck is 21-13 overall at Minnesota, including an 11-game winning streak that started on Nov. 24, 2018, with a victory at Wisconsin, marking the Gophers' first triumph over the Badgers since 2003. The Gophers are tied with Baylor for the third-longest active winning streak in the FBS, behind only defending national champion Clemson (25) and defending Big Ten champion Ohio State (15).

With a winning percentage of .618, Fleck is fourth in Gophers history among head coaches with 30 or more games and the best since Bernie Bierman, who last coached at Minnesota in 1950 and led the Gophers to five national championships.

## MSU Standout LB Suspended By Big Ten

Michigan State senior linebacker and captain Joe Bachie was declared ineligible by the Big Ten for a failed drug test.

According to the university, Bachie tested positive "for a substance that is classified as a performance-enhancing substance banned by the league." Michigan State filed an immediate appeal with the Big Ten regarding the testing, according to the Detroit Free Press.

Michigan State head coach Mark Dantonio addressed the loss to the program in a statement.

"Joe Bachie has built himself into an All-Big Ten middle linebacker and two-time team captain through his incredible work ethic and leadership skills," Dantonio said in a statement. "This situation breaks my heart, but I know Joe is resilient and accountable. No one feels worse than Joe does, a sentiment he expressed when he spoke to the team earlier today."

Bachie is a three-year starter at middle linebacker who leads the team with 71 tackles despite missing the Spartans' matchup with Illinois. The Brook Park, Ohio, native has 8½ tackles for loss, 3½ sacks, three quarterback hurries, four pass breakups and an interception through eight games.

"All my career I've done my very best to represent Michigan State in a positive manner on and off the field," Bachie said in a statement. "I plan to appeal, but to all of those affected, from my coaches to my teammates and to the fans, I apologize for putting them through this situation. I will always be a Spartan."

While Dantonio is naturally upset to lose his leading tackler and two-time captain, he expressed some optimism in Bachie's situation.

"This does not define Joe as a player and, more importantly, as a man," Dantonio said. "He will graduate in December and has a very bright future ahead of him, both

## BIG 2019 Standings

	Conf.			All		
	W	L	Pct.	W	L	Pct.
<b>Ohio State</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1.000</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1.000</b>
Penn State	5	1	.833	8	1	.889
Indiana	4	2	.667	7	2	.778
Michigan	4	2	.667	7	2	.778
Michigan State	2	4	.333	4	5	.444
Maryland	1	6	.143	3	7	.300
Rutgers	0	6	.000	2	7	.222

	Conf.			All		
	W	L	Pct.	W	L	Pct.
Minnesota	6	0	1.000	9	0	1.000
Wisconsin	4	2	.667	7	2	.778
Illinois	4	3	.571	6	4	.600
Iowa	3	3	.500	6	3	.667
Purdue	3	4	.429	4	6	.400
Nebraska	2	4	.333	4	5	.444
Northwestern	0	7	.000	1	8	.111

### Nov. 2 Scores

Purdue 31, Nebraska 27  
Michigan 38, Maryland 7  
Illinois 38, Rutgers 10  
Indiana 34, Northwestern 3

### Nov. 9 Scores

Purdue 24, Northwestern 22  
Minnesota 31, Penn State 26  
**Ohio State 73, Maryland 14**  
Illinois 37, Michigan State 34  
Wisconsin 24, Iowa 22

### Nov. 16 Games

Massachusetts at Northwestern, 12 p.m.  
Michigan State at Michigan, 12 p.m.  
Wisconsin at Nebraska, 12 p.m.  
Indiana at Penn State, 12 p.m.  
**Ohio State at Rutgers, 3:30 p.m.**  
Minnesota at Iowa, 4 p.m.

on and off the field. As a program, we plan to appeal immediately and will continue to support Joe however we can."

## U-M Agrees To Football Series With Notre Dame

Michigan agreed to another home-and-home series with Notre Dame. The Wolverines and Fighting Irish will face off on Sept. 3, 2033, in Ann Arbor and Sept. 2, 2034, at Notre Dame.

The first matchup will be nearly 14 years from the Wolverines' 45-14 demolition of Notre Dame on Oct. 26 of this year, marking the third-longest hiatus of football games between the two programs. The longest hiatus was 35 years between 1943 and 1975, and the second-longest lull was from 1909 and 1942.

In 33 all-time meetings, the series is tied at 16-1-1.

Notre Dame director of athletics Jack Swarbrick released the following statement: "I want to thank (Michigan director of athletics) Warde (Manuel) and Coach (Jim) Harbaugh for helping us to secure the future of the series and continuing to work with us as we look for additional dates when Notre Dame and Michigan might play.

"College football is at its best when its top programs square off. This is an example of that, as are Notre Dame's recently completed series with Georgia, future series against Alabama, Arkansas, Michigan State, Ohio State, Texas A&M and Wisconsin, and our annual rivalry games with USC and Stanford.

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## BUCKEYE SCOREBOARD

## FOOTBALL (9-0, 6-0)

**Aug. 31** FLORIDA ATLANTIC, W 45-21.  
**Sept. 7** CINCINNATI, W 42-0; **14** at Indiana, W 51-10; **21** MIAMI (OHIO), W 76-5; **28** at Nebraska, W 48-7.  
**Oct. 5** MICHIGAN STATE, W 34-10; **18** at Northwestern, W 52-3; **26** WISCONSIN, W 38-7.  
**Nov. 9** MARYLAND, W 73-14; **16** at Rutgers, 3:30 p.m.; **23** PENN STATE, 12 p.m.; **30** at Michigan, 12 p.m..  
**Dec. 7** Big Ten Championship Game at Indianapolis, 8 p.m.

## MEN'S BASKETBALL (2-0, 0-0)

**Oct. 30** CEDARVILLE (exhibition), W 95-52.  
**Nov. 6** CINCINNATI, W 64-56; **10** UMASS-LOWELL, W 76-56; **13** VILLANOVA, 7 p.m.; **18** STETSON, 8:30 p.m.; **22** PURDUE FORT WAYNE, 7 p.m.; **25** KENT STATE, 6:30 p.m.; **29** MORGAN STATE, 9 p.m..  
**Dec. 4** North Carolina, 9:30 p.m.; **7** PENN STATE; **15** Minnesota, 6:30 p.m.; **17** SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE, 7 p.m.; **21** Kentucky at Las Vegas, 5:15 p.m.; **29** West Virginia at Cleveland, 12 p.m.  
**Jan. 3** WISCONSIN, 7 p.m.; **7** Maryland, 7 p.m.; **11** Indiana, 12 p.m.; **14** NEBRASKA, 6:30 p.m.; **18** Penn State, 12 p.m.; **23** MINNESOTA, 6:30 p.m.; **26** Northwestern, 6:30 p.m.  
**Feb. 1** INDIANA, 12 p.m.; **4** Michigan, 7 p.m.; **9** Wisconsin, 1 p.m.; **12** RUTGERS, 7 p.m.; **15** PURDUE 12 p.m.; **20** Iowa, 7 p.m.; **23** MARYLAND, 4 p.m.; **27** NEBRASKA, 9 p.m.  
**March 1** MICHIGAN, 4 p.m.; **5** ILLINOIS, 7 p.m.; **8** Michigan State, 4:30 p.m. **11-15** Big Ten Tournament at Indianapolis.

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL (1-0, 0-0)

**Nov. 3** Urbana (exhibition), W 131-50; **10** Valparaiso in Springfield, Ohio, W 89-38; **13** Cincinnati, 7 p.m.; **17** OHIO, 2 p.m.; **21** Kent State, 7:30 p.m.; **24** UCONN, 3 p.m.; **29** South Dakota in Las Vegas, 6:30 p.m.; **30** Northern Iowa in Las Vegas, 8:45 p.m.  
**Dec. 5** LOUISVILLE, 8 p.m.; **8** RADFORD, 2 p.m.; **15** Stanford, 8:30 p.m.; **17** Sacramento State, 10:05 p.m.; **28** PURDUE, 12 p.m.; **31** Minnesota, 5 p.m.  
**Jan. 6** Maryland, 7 p.m.; **9** MICHIGAN, 6 p.m.; **12** PENN STATE, 2 p.m.; **16** Michigan State, 6 p.m.; **19** ILLINOIS, 2 p.m.; **23** Iowa, 8 p.m.; **30** MARYLAND, 6:30 p.m.  
**Feb. 2** Nebraska, 3 p.m.; **6** Illinois, 8 p.m.; **9** WISCONSIN, 2 p.m.; **13** MINNESOTA, 7 p.m.; **16** Indiana, 2 p.m.; **19** NEBRASKA, 7 p.m.; **22** Rutgers, TBA; **25** NORTHWESTERN, 6 p.m.; **29** Purdue, 4 p.m.  
**March 4-8** Big Ten Tournament in Indianapolis.

## CROSS COUNTRY

**Aug. 30** Miami (Ohio) at Oxford, Ohio, Men 2/5; Women 1/5.  
**Sept. 14** Commodore Classic at Nashville, Tenn., Men 7/15, Women 2/20; **28** Ohio State Invitational at Columbus, Ohio, 4/8.  
**Oct. 18** Wisconsin Invitational at Madison, Wisc., Men 4/8; Women 13/36.  
**Nov. 3** Big Ten Championships at Columbus, Ohio, Men 11/12, Women 5/14; **15** NCAA Regional Championships at Madison, Wisc.; **23** NCAA Championships at Terre Haute, Ind.

## MEN'S ICE HOCKEY (6-3-1, 2-2-0)

**Oct. 6** WESTERN (exhibition), W 5-2; **11** Western Michigan at Toledo, T 2-2; **12** RIT at Toledo, W 3-1; **18** OMAHA, W 3-2; **19** OMAHA, L 2-1; **25** Mercyhurst, W 7-2; **26** Mercyhurst, W 3-1.  
**Nov. 1** MICHIGAN, W 3-2; **2** MICHIGAN, W 2-1; **8** Notre Dame, L 3-2 (OT); **9** Notre Dame, L 2-1; **22-23** Penn State; **30** MICHIGAN STATE, 5 p.m.  
**Dec. 1** MICHIGAN STATE, 2:30 p.m.; **6** MINNESOTA, 8 p.m.; **7** MINNESOTA, 8 p.m.; **27** COLGATE, 7 p.m.; **28** COLGATE, 5 p.m.  
**Jan. 3** Cornell at Las Vegas, 11 p.m.; **4** Army at Las Vegas; **10-11** Wisconsin; **17** NOTRE DAME, 6 p.m.; **18** NOTRE DAME, 5 p.m.; **24-25** Minnesota; **31** Michigan.  
**Feb. 1** Michigan; **7** PENN STATE, 7 p.m.; **8** PENN STATE, 5 p.m.; **21-22** Michigan State; **28** WISCONSIN, 6 p.m.; **29** WISCONSIN, 8 p.m.  
**March 6-8** Big Ten Tournament First Round; **14** Big Ten Tournament Semifinals; **21** Big Ten Tournament Championship.

## WOMEN'S ICE HOCKEY (7-3-2, 5-3-2)

**Sept. 27-28** ST. LAWRENCE, W 4-1; W 3-2.  
**Oct. 4** St. Cloud State, W 5-2; **5** St. Cloud State, W 6-2; **11** WISCONSIN, L 3-0; **12** WISCONSIN, L 3-1; **18** Minnesota State, T 1-1; **19** Minnesota State, T 3-3; **25** MINNESOTA, W 4-3; **26** MINNESOTA, L 4-2.  
**Nov. 1** Bemidji State, W 4-3 (OT) **2** Bemidji State, W 3-1; **15-16** MINNESOTA DULUTH; **22-23** Colgate; **29-30** CORNELL.  
**Dec. 14-15** Princeton at Las Vegas; **17-18** Minnesota; **24-25** QUINNIPIAC; **31** BEMIDJI STATE.  
**Feb. 1** BEMIDJI STATE; **7-8** Minnesota Duluth; **15-16** Wisconsin; **21-22** ST. CLOUD STATE; **28-29** WCHA First Round.  
**March 1** WCHA First Round; **7-8** WCHA Final Faceoff; **14** NCAA Quarterfinal; **20** NCAA Frozen Four; **22** NCAA Championship.

## FIELD HOCKEY (9-9, 3-6)

**Aug. 17** OHIO (exhibition); **25** at Michigan (exhibition); **30** UMASS, W 7-0.  
**Sept. 2** BOSTON, W 3-2; **6** at James Madison, W 3-0; **8** at Virginia, L 2-1; **13** CENTRAL MICHIGAN, W 11-0; **15** LOUISVILLE, L 2-1; **20** NORTHWESTERN, L 4-1; **27** at Iowa, L 3-1; **29** at Indiana, W 6-2.  
**Oct. 6** at Ohio, W 6-1; **11** MICHIGAN, L 2-1 (OT); **13** STANFORD, L 3-1; **18** RUTGERS, L 1-0; **20** MARYLAND, L 3-0; **25** at Penn State, W 2-1; **27** at Kent State, W 4-0.  
**Nov. 2** at Michigan State, W 3-0; **7** Big Ten Tournament Quarterfinals vs Iowa at State College, Pa., L 4-1.

## MEN'S SOCCER (7-11-1, 2-6-1)

**Aug. 17** XAVIER (exhibition), T 1-1; **20** MT. VERNON NAZARENE (exhibition), W 7-1; **24** at Butler (exhibition), L 2-1; **30** WOLSTEIN CLASSIC vs. CSUN, L 4-3.  
**Sept. 1** WOLSTEIN CLASSIC vs. UIC, W 1-0; **6** Dayton Classic vs. Dayton, W 1-0; **8** Dayton Classic vs. EIU, W 3-2; **13** at Bowling Green, W 2-1; **17** at South Florida, W 2-0; **21** PENN STATE, L 2-1; **24** WEST VIRGINIA, L 4-1; **27** at Northwestern, T 0-0.  
**Oct. 2** MICHIGAN, L 2-0; **6** at Rutgers, W 1-0; **12** CLEVELAND STATE, L 3-2; **16** at Kentucky, L 1-0; **19** at Michigan State, T 1-1; **25** MARYLAND, L 2-0; **29** at Indiana, L 5-1.  
**Nov. 3** WISCONSIN, L 1-0; **9** Big Ten Tournament Play-In Game vs Rutgers at Bloomington, Ind., W 1-0; **10** Big Ten Tournament vs Indiana at Bloomington, Ind., L 2-0.

## WOMEN'S SOCCER (4-10-4, 2-6-3)

**Aug. 22** LOUISVILLE, L 2-1; **25** MISSOURI, L 3-1; **28** at UCF, T 1-1.  
**Sept. 1** at South Florida, Cancelled; **6** at Texas A&M, L 1-0; **8** at TCU, L 3-2; **13** MIAMI (OH), W 1-0; **15** OHIO, W 3-1; **19** MICHIGAN STATE, W 1-0; **22** MICHIGAN, L 2-1; **27** at Wisconsin, postponed; **29** at Minnesota, L 1-0.  
**Oct. 3** MARYLAND, W 1-0; **6** PENN STATE, L 3-2; **10** at Purdue, T 0-0; **13** at Indiana, L 1-0; **17** NORTHWESTERN, T 1-1; **20** ILLINOIS, T 0-0; **27** at Iowa, L 2-1 (OT); **30** at Wisconsin, L 2-1.  
**SWIMMING & DIVING**  
**Oct. 18-19** Texas A&M, Men, L 153-147; Women, L 174-124.  
**Nov. 1** Virginia Tech & Penn State at State College, Pa., Men L 97-70, W 91.70-74.50; Women L 174-124, L 102-65; **2** Virginia Tech & Penn State at State College, Pa., Men L 185-168, W 193.50-158.50; Women W

247-106, W 198-155; **8** KENYON, Men, W 207-87 **8** KENYON & AKRON, Women W 213-85, W 254-40; **15** DENISON, 6 p.m.; **21-23** OHIO STATE INVITATIONAL.

**Dec. 4-7** AT&T Winter National Championship at Atlanta.

**Jan. 3-4** KENTUCKY; **18** MICHIGAN; **24-25** Shamrock Invitational at South Bend, Ind.; **31** Pittsburgh.

**Feb. 14-16** OHIO STATE WINTER INVITATIONAL; 19-22 Women's Big Ten Championship at Iowa City, Iowa **26-29** Men's Big Ten Championship at Bloomington, Ind.

**March 1** LAST CHANCE MEET (women's); **8** LAST CHANCE MEET (men's); **14-16** CSCAA National Invitational at Cleveland & NCAA Zone Diving at West Lafayette, Ind.; **19-21** NCAA Championships (women's); **25-28** NCAA Championships (men's).

## WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL (13-13, 6-8)

**Aug. 30** LEHIGH, W 3-0; TEXAS TECH, L 3-2; **31** VCU, 3-1.  
**Sept. 6** at Pittsburgh, L 0-3; **7** vs. Duquesne at Pittsburgh, Pa., W 3-0; vs. Green Bay at Pittsburgh, Penn., L 3-1; **13** vs. Tulane at Bowling Green, Kent., L 3-1 2 p.m.; vs. Western Kentucky at Bowling Green, Kent., L 3-0; **14** vs. Bowling Green at Bowling Green, Kent., W 3-1; **19** MIAMI (OH), W 3-0; **20** ILLINOIS STATE, W 3-0; DAYTON, W 3-1; **25** at Maryland, W 3-1; **29** at Michigan, L 3-0.

**Oct. 4** MICHIGAN STATE, L 3-0; **6** MICHIGAN, L 3-0; **11** at Rutgers, W 3-0; **12** at Penn State, L 3-0; **16** IOWA, W 3-0; **19** PURDUE, L 3-2; **23** RUTGERS, W 3-1; **26** at Illinois, L 3-0; **30** at Minnesota, L 3-2.

**Nov. 2** MARYLAND, W 3-0; **8** WISCONSIN, W 3-1; **10** MINNESOTA, L 3-0; **15** at Purdue, 7 p.m.; **16** at Indiana, 5 p.m.; **22** NORTHWESTERN, 7 p.m.; **24** ILLINOIS, 1 p.m.; **29** at Iowa, 8 p.m.; **30** at Nebraska, 8 p.m.

## WRESTLING (1-0)

**Nov. 2** Michigan State, NTS; **10** STANFORD, W 29-6; **15** Pittsburgh, 3 p.m.; **17** VIRGINIA TECH, 12 p.m.  
**Dec. 1** CORNELL, 2 p.m.; **6-7** C.K. Invitational at Las Vegas.  
**Jan 3-5** ARIZONA STATE, 7 p.m.; **10** RUTGERS, 7 p.m.; **17** Wisconsin, 9 p.m.; **19** ILLINOIS, 1 p.m.; **24** Iowa, 9 p.m.; **26** Minnesota, 8:30 p.m.; **31** MARYLAND, 7 p.m.  
**Feb. 2** Nebraska; **9** NORTHWESTERN, 2 p.m.; **15** Penn State, 7:30 p.m.  
**March 7-8** Big Ten Championship; **19-21** NCAA Championship.

Kelly's tenure, Notre Dame remains committed to the uniquely national schedule that has long defined us."

## Top Performers Across The Big Ten Conference

Minnesota sophomore quarterback Tanner Morgan was one of the top performers across the conference, excelling in the Gophers' 31-26 upset win against Penn State. The sophomore signal caller completed 90 percent of his passes (18 of 20) for 339 yards and three touchdowns.

Morgan's favorite target, sophomore wideout Rashod Bateman, hauled in seven catches for 203 yards and a 66-yard touchdown to open the scoring.

Wisconsin junior running back Jonathan Taylor took 31 carries and gained 250 yards while adding one reception for 8 yards in a 24-22 Badger triumph against Iowa.

Purdue freshman wide receiver David Bell continued his tremendous season for the Boilermakers, snagging 14 receptions for 115 yards and one touchdown in a 24-22 victory against Northwestern.

Illinois junior quarterback Brandon Peters engineered a comeback victory after trailing Michigan State, 31-10, through three quarters. The Michigan transfer threw for 369 yards and three touchdowns with one pick in the Illini's 37-34 win.

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# Quick Quinn Makes OSU's Opponents Quiver

Quinn Preston earned a reputation for having highlight plays as a freshman forward for Ohio State last season, but he's out to prove there is more than flash to his game.

## IN THE CREASE Craig Merz

"I need to be more confident with the puck on my stick, take my chances when I have them, use my teammates but not pass up an opportunity when I have it," he said. "That's the big thing. You're not going to get a lot of opportunities, not a lot of space."

Preston (5-11, 182) scored his first goal last season in the Buckeyes' 12th game on Nov. 17, a toe-drag that left the Wisconsin defender sliding by him before he snapped a shot.

The move was the NCAA Play of the Week as was his no-look, behind-the-back pass to set up Mason Jobst for a goal on Jan. 8 at Michigan State.

Preston had several other slick plays throughout the season as well, all set up by his speed.

"When someone's going that fast, as a defender it's hard to read," said OSU senior defenseman Gordi Myer. "He's here one moment then he's there the next. It's an unpredictable kind of thing, like pulling the puck back. You're going for the puck, and he's able to pull it back and change directions quick."

Myer speaks from experience after going against Preston in practice.

"One-on-one if you give him space, he's going to take advantage of it," Myer said. "I'm glad he's on our team."

Preston got off to slow start as a Buckeye, not uncommon for a rookie, but picked up the pace after the Christmas break.

"I felt at the beginning of the year I wasn't confident enough," he said. "It kind of showed. As the year went on, I had more confidence, and I played more. Things clicked for me, and I tried to keep that going and carry it on throughout the year."

He had a goal and three assists in the first series of the new year vs. Michigan State, scored the winning goal against Michigan on Jan. 12 and had two helpers at Wisconsin a month later. He finished the season with 14 points (five goals, nine assists) in 35 games.

He has two goals and two assists through 10 games this season.

Ohio State coach Steve Rohlik said Preston created a good foundation at the end of last season.

"Guys have successful freshman years where they keep getting better," he said. "We talked about Quinn being quiet the first half, then, boom, all of a sudden there's his second half. Now where is he his sophomore year?"

"College hockey is tough sometimes. You think you've accomplished what you need to after your first year, then it knocks you back down."

Rohlik likens Preston's pace to that of former OSU forward Anthony Greco, now playing for the Florida Panthers' top farm club in the American Hockey League in Springfield, Mass.

"(Preston) can create goals because of his speed," Rohlik said. "It's like when Greco was here. Suddenly, he would change the game by himself because of the speed and opportunity."

"That's a lot like Quinn is, but Quinn can also be more involved offensively making plays and putting pucks on the net. That's what I'm looking for him to do a little bit more instead of that one-and-done chance."

The Buckeyes need more from Preston this season due to the gradu-

ation of several top players and recent injuries to key forwards.

"He's been put in a bigger role of responsibility, playing with confidence handling the pucks and limiting the giveaways," Rohlik said. "Those are all part of his game that can get better because at any moment you could see a big-time goal out of him. His consistency needs to be better."

In the third game this season vs. Omaha, Preston broke a tie in the third period to give the No. 10 Buckeyes a 3-2 victory. Against Michigan on Nov. 1 he tied the score 2-2 early in the third of the 3-2 win.

"Obviously, there's some slack that needs to be picked up not only with the points but with my leadership," Preston said. "Some young guys are coming in and they're learning. I'm learning as well, but I have to teach more this year. That's a role I have to step into and do as well as possible as soon as possible."

Even though Preston grew up in Trenton, Mich., he was a fan of Sidney Crosby and the Pittsburgh Penguins, who split Stanley Cup finals vs. the Detroit Red Wings in 2008 and '09.

So it was a dream come true when Preston was invited to the Penguins' development camp this past summer where he got to play with some of the organization's top prospects even though he was undrafted by the NHL.

"I can see where I'm at against guys considered pros already, gauging myself against them and seeing where I need to develop my game," he said. "They give you a lot of positive feedback."

Rohlik was happy that Preston got a look. "It shows that people are recognizing his potential," he said. "It gives him a chance to compete against some of the best kids out there, and he can see where he fits."

"It pushes Quinn to get better when he goes to something like that to understand what it takes to get to the next level."



Quinn Preston

Nov. 1, when junior Austin Pooley potted the winner at 3:52 of the third and junior goalie Tommy Nappier made 20 saves before a crowd of 6,317.

The Buckeyes took the second game the next night for their fourth straight win to the delight of 7,517 thanks to goals from freshmen Michael Gildon and Tate Singleton and 25 saves by Nappier.

Gildon got his first career goal at 10:15 of the second period. The lead held until Michigan (3-4-1, 0-2-0-0) tied it at 16:02 of the third, but Singleton's second goal of the season at 18:29 from an assist by junior defenseman Grant Gabriele was the difference as Nappier stopped 25 of 26 shots.

### No Luck Vs. The Irish

Notre Dame won the opener on a goal by Pierce Crawford with 61 seconds left in overtime before an attendance of 4,740. It was the first time OSU lost in OT since a defeat to the Fighting Irish in the 2018 Big Ten championship game.

Nappier made 32 saves for the Buckeyes, including 17 in the middle period. Cale Morris had 25 saves in the Irish net.

In the rematch, OSU carried a 1-0 lead into the third on a second-period goal by sophomore Gustaf Westlund, but the Irish (7-0-1, 3-0-1-0) got goals by Jake Pivonka at 8:32 and Cam Burke at 12:05 for the win. Nappier had 27 saves, and Morris made 24 in front of 4,858.

### Next

The Buckeyes are off the weekend of Nov. 15-16 before playing at Penn State Nov. 22-23.

### Mr. October

Nappier had never started both games of a weekend series before this season but played all six games over three weekends in October, going 4-1-1 with 1.66 goals-against average and .940 save percentage – the latter two figures each ranking in the top 10 nationally – to earn the Varsity Club Icer of the Month award.

Nappier made a career-high 44 saves in regulation and 5-on-5 overtime to help the Buckeyes to a 2-2 tie with Western Michigan in the opener then stopped 4 of 5 shots as OSU won the shootout against the Broncos.

He did not allow more than two goals in any game of the six games.

For a complete recap of Ohio State's series against Michigan and Notre Dame go to BSB's [BuckeyeSports.com](http://BuckeyeSports.com) website, free to all Buckeye Sports Bulletin subscribers.

## VARSITY CLUB ICER OF THE MONTH For October



Tommy Nappier  
Junior Goaltender  
St. Louis, Mo.

### Two From The Blue

OSU split four games in similar fashion since BSB last went to print. The Buckeyes took two from Michigan at home by 3-2 and 2-1 scores and lost at No. 5 Notre Dame 3-2 (overtime) and 2-1 on Nov. 8-9.

The Buckeyes (6-3-1, 2-2-0-0 Big Ten) have allowed more than two goals only once this season, that being the OT game vs. the Fighting Irish.

OSU overcame a 2-0 deficit to Michigan



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#### REMAINING 2019 SCHEDULE

- Nov 9 - Maryland Terrapins
- Nov 16 - at Rutgers Scarlet Knights
- Nov 23 - Penn State Nittany Lions
- Nov 30 - at TTUN
- Dec 7 - Big 10 Championship at Indianapolis, IN

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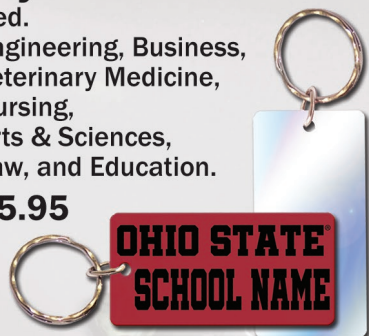
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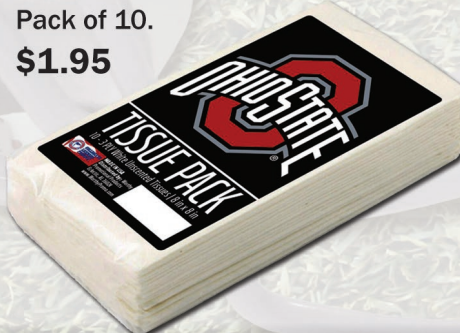


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## OHIO STATE WRESTLING

# Sasso Turning Into Star

By PATRICK MAYHORN  
Special To Buckeye Sports Bulletin

It was a tumultuous month for an Ohio State wrestling program that wants nothing more than stability as it looks to compete as one of the nation's best teams. On Oct. 10, former Buckeye and international star Kyle Snyder departed from the Ohio Regional Training Center for Penn State, leaving Ohio State without one of its best training partners. Then, on Nov. 1, top recruit Greg Kirkvliet entered the transfer portal just two days prior to Ohio State's season opener at the Michigan State Open.

With a young roster, and with turmoil around the program and at the Ohio RTC, head coach Tom Ryan found much needed team leadership from a surprising spot: redshirt freshman 149-pounder Sammy Sasso. Sasso is a relatively new face around Ohio State, but he's already begun his role not as a contributor, but as a star. As Ryan tells it, Sasso's talent comes from a true passion for the game.

"He loves the sport," Ryan told BSB. "He deeply loves wrestling. You can be the most wonderful, hardworking, warm, loving, caring human being, straight A student, but if you're not – on match day – a savage competitor, you have a problem.

"Sammy is a savage. Sammy is a competitor, so that is absolutely something that we have seen from day one. He loves the sport, he's a savage competitor, he's a consummate learner, so he has so much knowledge of the sport."

For Sasso, the love of wrestling and the competitive spirit come naturally. The leadership comes naturally. He was a top-five recruit in 2018, a lifelong wrestler and a perfect fit into Ohio State's highly competitive program that enters the season ranked No. 3 according to the InterMat NCAA team rankings. He felt no pressure to adapt to the college level, because he doesn't know anything but success. There's no off switch, meaning that the challenge of a more demanding level didn't mean Sasso had to change what he was doing, just that he had to learn and adapt.

"It started at a young age," Sasso told BSB. "I love the sport. I invested my life into this and I'm here, I'm here to scrap. I come in and I'm just working my hardest to improve every day. I'm not setting goals other than the fact that I get better every single day, I improve at wrestling."

As a reward for his hard work and effort last season and in the offseason entering 2019, Sasso was included in Ohio State's newest tradition, the black shirt program.

"The black shirt is just an outward appearance of an inward lifestyle," Ryan explained. "A clean lifestyle across the board. The two captains (Luke Pletcher and Kollin Moore) got the black shirts initially. We've seen them for four or five years, so we know who they are. In Sammy's case, he's a redshirt freshman. We saw him all last year, and he was an easy one for us to move from gray to black.

"When you walk into our room watching Ohio State wrestling practice, you'll see all of our student-athletes in gray, you'll see the coaches in red, and you'll see a handful of guys in black. The thing

about the black shirts is that it's not to diminish the guys in gray. Being part of the team is a noble thing."

The black shirt comes with a role of responsibility. It's not quite being named a captain, but wearing the black around the Jennings Wrestling Facility brings with it the weight of expectations and the weight of setting an example for everyone else on the team. It's a role that Sasso embraces, though he recognizes that he isn't alone as a leader.

"(Being recognized) was pretty cool," he said. "It's a cool little tradition that we started, that we've got going on. I think there are other guys that are on their way there. We've got a good program here. Guys come in and they work hard, so I'm happy with where the team is going.

"I try to be a leader, but I don't have to be, really. We have a lot of guys in here that work really hard, and I do what I can to help. We have a young team this year, but we scrap hard and we get after it."

While Sasso has climbed to a spot among the best wrestlers on the team, as he proved with a dominant showing at the Michigan State Open rattling off five wins in five tries, his head coach says that it isn't his talent that truly makes him shine – it's his ability to learn.

"The last thing about Sammy is, as I said, he's a learner," Ryan said. "He corrects mistakes. If he does something wrong, he assesses it and he moves forward from it with a plan. He's pretty unique, Sammy."

On top of his wit and intelligence as a wrestler, Sasso has a tendency to deflect praise. He's confident in his ability, but he's the first to credit his teammates and coaches over himself. It shows off the mat in interviews and on it, when he can be seen cheering on his teammates as loud as anyone in the newly built Covelli Center, the home of Buckeye wrestling.

"The other thing I love about Sammy is that he loves the team," Ryan said. "He's a team guy, he screams and yells in the corner for the guys, and he wants them to win as much as he wants to win."

For Sasso, the ceiling is hard to quantify.

As a 19-year-old with one year of college under his belt, he's already one of the nation's best wrestlers. He's the No. 8 wrestler in the nation at 149 pounds, one of just three freshmen in the top 20 and the highest ranked of the bunch. He's a UWW Junior Freestyle Champion, an OSU Scholar-Athlete and a two-time Pennsylvania AAA state champion. The talent, the intelligence, the leadership, it's all there. As his head coach sees it, Sasso deserves mention in rarefied air with some of the Buckeye greats.

"We've had a lot of great freshmen here," Ryan said. "We had (Nathan) Tomasello, Lance Palmer got it going as a freshman, Nate won (a national title), Myles (Martin), Logan Stieber won it and Kyle (Snyder) was second. I don't think there's any question that at this point – and we'll see how things turn out for the next four or five years – but, as of right now, he's as good as any freshman I've ever seen."

*In order to better introduce BSB readers to Ohio State's Olympic sports teams and athletes, we have shifted to more featured-oriented coverage of the various squads. Buckeye Sports Bulletin will provide a roundup of all games, matches and meets involving OSU's teams each Monday on our BuckeyeSports.com website, free to all print subscribers.*



# Adversity Creates Opportunity In Day's World

Most college football teams that had just been notified their player wouldn't be able to play in an important conference game just days before kickoff would be in a panic mode.

Especially if that player was, arguably, the very best player in all of college football.

The loss of a guy who will likely be the first or second pick in the NFL draft would be devastating to most programs, and the coaching staff would make vast changes to the game plan to compensate for the situation.

## COACH'S CORNER Bill Conley

That is just what happened to head coach Ryan Day and the Buckeye staff last week when they got smacked in the face with the news Chase Young was going to be suspended indefinitely.

The response by Day was quite a bit different from what one would expect. There was no panic, no major adjustments, no massive changes to the Maryland game plan, and no changes to a routine that had just landed the team into the very top spot in the first week of the College Football Playoff system.

### The Right Culture

Ryan Day is one of those unique individuals who wears his coaching philosophy on his sleeve. The "next man up" scenario is no joke for him, it's reality.

As a former player, assistant coach and now head football coach of one of the very best football programs in the country, Day truly understands that a starter can be lost to a team at a moment's notice.

Whether due to injury, disciplinary action, a special family situation or a temporary suspension like with Young, a team has to respond in a way that doesn't create anxiety or have a negative effect on the way a squad performs in practice, during team meetings and especially on game day.

Behind the scenes may be differ-

ent, but in front of his team and the eyes of the fan base, the coaching staff exudes the same confidence, conviction and "business as usual" attitude as if no special problem even existed.

Adversity also creates opportunity in Day's world. There is no "woe is me" attitude allowed in the Woody Hayes Athletic Center. Just as Woody believed, there is no time to feel sorry for yourselves. It's time to knuckle down and get the job done.

"Let the fans worry, we have to get to work."

Day expects every one of his players to perform at a high level when they get on the field, no matter if they're first or fourth team. As we saw Saturday against Maryland, defensive linemen such as Tyreke Smith, Zach Harrison and Davon Hamilton more than made up for the loss of Young by making big plays on a defense unit that recorded seven quarterback sacks and 11 tackles for loss for the afternoon.

The entire defense seemed to rally around the adversity of the week by completely dominating a team that had gashed them with multiple big plays a year ago in College Park.

The linebacking corps probably played their best game of the season by shutting down those same running backs who had embarrassed them last season. Maryland was able to muster up only 62 rushing yards for the day compared to what seemed to be a track meet in 2018.

The key to the Ohio State performance, both offensively and defensively against Maryland, was not so much how well the team responded to the loss of their teammate, but how they well they performed due to coaching staff expectations.

The culture created by Day is one of "team first" and play to high standards whatever position you play irrelevant to your spot on the depth chart.

That's old-school coaching philosophy that still holds true for success even today. It's enlightening to see a football team with that type of unselfish attitude and centralized focus.

### Staying Aggressive

Day likes to come out of the gate aggressively. It's not necessarily keeping plays on the shelf till needed but,

instead, throwing the entire arsenal at the opponents from the opening gun. The Buckeye offensive staff adheres to the "punch them in the mouth" from the onset philosophy and makes opponents defend multiple personnel groupings, multiple formations and a multiplicity of plays regardless of down and distance as well as field position.

This makes it very tough for opposing teams to call defenses aggressively. The unpredictability of the Ohio State offense along with its complexity is a true nightmare for opposing defensive staffs.

This type of aggressive play calling is not limited just to the offense. Defensively, the Buckeyes do not just rely on strength and athleticism alone.

They are constantly moving the front with different stunts and schemes, blitzing linebackers when necessary and disguising coverages throughout the four quarters of play.

The perfectly executed onside kick by Blake Haubeil to Chris Olave proves that the aggressive nature of play is not limited to just the offense either.

The attempted blocked punt call just before half is another example of how Ohio State puts continued pressure on opponents even on special teams.

Unlike many teams that will try to "milk" a lead if they are ahead in the second half or late in the game, this has no place in Day's world. It's the same game plan and attitude no matter when or who's in the game.

There's no special game plan for the "next guys in." Players coming off the bench are demanded to execute the offensive and defensive calls to perfection, no excuses.

Just because the team has a lead doesn't mean it's a time to relax but a time to attack. Like a heavyweight boxing match, keep punching till the bell rings and the opponent is in complete submission.

As a head football coach at the collegiate level, you must deal with player and coaching egos, mastering the art of discipline along with diplomacy, making the vast number of working hours productive, constant recruiting, and planning for a new and different style opponent each week.

To be successful in one of the most competitive lines of work that exists takes a special person. It's tough to keep winning streaks alive and a team focused and content. Day seems to have the right formula at a place where expectations are very high.

The most important reason the Day philosophy is working, is very simple: The players have bought in, completely.

*Known as one of the top recruiters in college football, Bill Conley was 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. His column will appear throughout the season in BSB.*



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# Young Steals Headlines From Buckeyes' Win

The marquee may have said Ohio State vs Maryland, but it was a different piece of Maryland that was on the minds of Buckeyes fans around the nation.

It was pretty much a given that the visiting Terrapins wouldn't offer much resistance to the OSU locomotive that has destroyed each opponent this season, and after the dust had settled, the Buckeyes walked away with a 73-14 victory.

## THE FACTS MAN Mike Wachsmann

But the game took a back seat to the spotlight that surrounded star defensive end and Maryland native Chase Young, who was being held out by the coaches after it was learned that he had potentially violated an NCAA rule last year after reportedly seeking a loan to help his girlfriend fly out to the Rose Bowl.

Initial reports had OSU fans on edge – the money was from an agent, Young would be out the rest of the season, the national championship hopes were dashed. As the story began to take shape, it was much less dire and, based on what is currently known, appears to be a mere bump in the road.

According to reports, Young borrowed money from a family friend to buy a plane ticket for his girlfriend, and the loan was paid back this past April. So there is no outstanding balance, which is a good thing. Young owned up to the mistake after the coaches were alerted about it shortly after the Wisconsin game – he didn't try to duck or hide, even taking to Twitter to explain his side of things. By all accounts, he has been extremely cooperative with the school and NCAA, and though the standard suspension for the amount of money he borrowed – believed to be in excess of \$700 – is four games, the school is confident that he will return in time for the Nov. 23 game against Penn State.

Whether or not Young should be in trouble for all of this is a debate for another day (though the thought from here is that he

shouldn't be). The potential distraction from all of this was a real worry, but Ohio State handled it like a big-time program should: It went out and handled its business.

"Our guys didn't flinch," Buckeyes coach Ryan Day said. "There's a bunch of guys on our team, OK, got some adversity, let's go, let's pull this thing together. Let's show everybody how tight this team is and what we're made of, show our character. And I thought that came through today during the game."

Young is the most impactful defensive player in America, and the thought was Ohio State might not be able to affect Maryland's quarterbacks as much as they would if Young were playing. So it was nice to see OSU with seven sacks against the Terps, as it reinforced the point Day hammered home.

Day was caught a bit off guard by the news but gathered his bearings and set about telling the team how it was going to handle things.

"We were surprised by it all and just tried to communicate to the team the best we could when it was appropriate," he said. "And we're just going to take it day by day."

"I don't think you overthink it. Chase is dealing with a situation that we're all supporting him through, and once we get some clarity on what's going on, we'll go from there. We're supporting him, and he's supporting us. We're going to get through it together, and he knows we have his back. And that's important."

Young is a team captain and as such is looked upon for leadership and support. The roles are now reversed, but Day is confident that Young won't change once he returns.

"He's going through a tough time," Day said. "But adversity reveals character. And I can tell you right now he's a special young man that's handling his business the right way, and we're all proud of him."

You can bet Young will be full of fire once he's cleared to return, and that could be bad news for Penn State or Michigan or whomever else the Buckeyes play.

I know that I wouldn't want a snarling, angry Chase Young lined up across from me.

### Put The Fear Into 'Em

A lot was made of the Buckeyes pulling off one of the great inside kicks you'll ever see as

Blake Haubeil hit it to where it looked almost like a pass, and Chris Olave gathered it in and scampered up the sideline to put the Buckeyes in great field position, leading 14-0.

It was great, for two reasons. It took advantage of a scheme weakness by Maryland, which has had one of the better special teams units in America this season according to ESPN Efficiency metrics, and it gave opponents something to think and worry about. Some might ask, why show it in this game when you didn't have to? I completely disagree. Make foes wonder when you might try to pull this off – just one more thing they will have to game plan for.

The aggressiveness from Day is a welcome sight, as the Buckeyes have been dispatching teams in a hurry. That does two things – allows the reserves to get valuable reps and keeps the regulars focused and sharp. They like making a statement, burying foes before they are able to get their wits about them.

"We always want to be aggressive," Day said. "That's just the way we want to be around here. That's our approach every week. I think the guys really embraced that this week, and we talked to them early. If the timing is right on the third kickoff and we have the opportunity, we'll take that. The guys feed off that aggressiveness, and it was great."

A few random social media posts after the game called the Buckeyes poor sports and said they ran up the score. Nothing could be further from the truth as Day emptied the bench starting in the third quarter, and OSU ran the majority of the time rather than passing downfield. There were a few instances where he wanted to give the backups a chance to run the regular offense, but it was mostly the ground attack in the final 20 minutes or so of the game.

But you know what? Even if Day was running up the score it would have been fine, because Maryland was talking all week about being confident against Ohio State, based largely on last year's 52-51 overtime nail-biter. What the Terps apparently failed to understand is that this year's team – especially the defense – is night and day from last year. So if you're going to talk, you need to bear the responsibility of a beatdown.

### Unsung Heroes

Anyone who has followed OSU this season knows about Justin Fields and J.K. Dobbins and Chase Young and Jeff Okudah – all guys who have been talked about for All-America honors and award candidates.

Those guys are great, but the players toiling in relative obscurity are what make this Ohio State team so dangerous.

Without Young there was a worry that Maryland's explosive rushing attack might be able to exploit the Buckeyes' front seven. But a number of Buckeyes stepped to the forefront and made sure that Maryland wasn't going to get its offense going.

Chief among them was defensive tackle Davon Hamilton, who has played well all season but is finally getting noticed. Robert Landers came into the season as the most publicized of OSU's interior players, but Hamilton has put together an All-Big Ten campaign. He was ferocious against Maryland, making two stops – both sacks – and collapsing the inside of Maryland's protection numerous times, forcing backs to bounce plays to the outside, where a host of Buckeyes were waiting.

"Davon has had such an impact on this whole season but also the game because he's an inside presence," Day said. "When he can push the pocket it makes all the difference in the world. And then when he does what he did

today, which is just defeat a blocker and get a sack, it changes the mentality of the quarterback. When you have a guy in your face, in your lap, especially early, you don't want to stand in there anymore. You're not looking at the coverage, you're looking at the rush."

Tyreke Smith had a solid game at one end spot, netting three tackles and a pair of sacks. Freshman Zach Harrison picked up a sack and flashed his immense potential. Tuf Borland had maybe his best game of the season with five tackles and a sack, and Malik Harrison was an impact player from the get-go, running all over the field (five tackles, one sack, one TFL) and impressively knocking down two passes.

Harrison came to OSU from the Columbus City League, which isn't considered one of the top areas for high school football. He was quick but not yet filled out, but he was really athletic. He played basketball as well, and it showed when he put his big paw on the football and swatted it harmlessly to the ground. Harrison has improved by leaps and bounds and turned himself into a legitimate NFL draft candidate. He seldom gets out of position, has great explosion to the ball and plays with an edge.

Harrison is a leader, one of many who has kept the team focused and hungry. That may be Day's favorite thing about this Buckeye squad.

"There's great leadership," he said. "We're playing with an edge, and we have to continue to bring it each week, and we challenge the guys to do that. Our defense was tired of hearing about 52-51 from a year ago, an absolute fight to the fourth quarter. It was fresh on their minds."

### Dandy Dozen

I wasn't sure how to approach the Penn State/Minnesota game.

On one hand, I hate Penn State because it turned a blind eye to the Jerry Sandusky stuff, and I also think that James Franklin isn't quite the coaching genius he thinks he is. On the other, Penn State coming into Columbus unbeaten would have set up a marquee showdown for the Buckeyes, and it would have been great to watch the Nittany Lions' dream die on the Ohio Stadium turf. Penn State disappointment is one of the great joys of life, and despite what their fans might tell you, this team was not going to beat the Buckeyes this season.

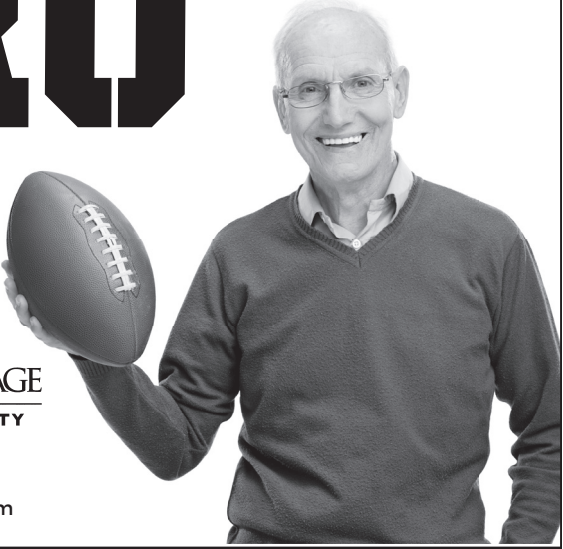
The final reconciliation was that it was fine that Penn State lost, as long as it doesn't start them down the road to a three-loss season – because that would impact OSU's "good wins" component in the College Football Playoff rankings. An unbeaten or one-loss Minnesota in the league championship game would help, but the Gophers don't have it easy, with Iowa and Wisconsin among their final three contests.


It was difficult putting the Buckeyes at No. 2 in my latest rankings because I do believe they are the most complete team in America. But at some point, results matter, and LSU has played a comparable schedule and has more marquee victories. Going into Tuscaloosa and dominating Alabama is hardly ever done, but the Tigers did it. For that they are the top team.

1. LSU (9-0)
2. Ohio State (9-0)
3. Clemson (10-0)
4. Oregon (8-1)
5. Georgia (8-1)
6. Minnesota (9-0)
7. Alabama (8-1)
8. Baylor (9-0)
9. Utah (8-1)
10. Florida (8-2)
11. Oklahoma (8-1)
12. Auburn (7-2)

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# Buckeyes' Defense Still Shines, Even Without Star

## THE VIEW FROM 15TH & HIGH Frank Moskowitz, Publisher

Things were going way too smoothly for the Ohio State football team this season. There had been no major injuries, no inexplicable losses to teams like Iowa or Purdue. No rogue assistant coaches to deal with. Just solid – indeed more than solid – victories week after week, turned in by a likeable team that is amid a remarkable turnaround on defense that has caught the fancy of even the most casual of Buckeye fans.

Let's face it. Things just don't go that way at Ohio State. It's always something.

This year we found out in week nine that Chase Young, possibly the biggest star among a galaxy of stars on the team and arguably the best player in the nation, was suspended from the team for taking a loan late last season.

In what we should have come to expect from this version of the Buckeyes, the team did not miss a beat, thrashing Maryland 73-14. For good measure, the defense, without its star sack machine, still turned in seven sacks, two more than it had against the Badgers the game before, and held the Terrapins to just 139 yards after yielding 535 yards to the same team last season.

Ohio State gave new meaning to its motto of "next man up."

Unfortunately, Maryland is not Penn State or Michigan, or any of the other teams that might be on the horizon after those two clubs round out the regular season following what should be little more than an exhibition game against Rutgers.

However, Buckeye Nation has developed much higher expectations than a Big Ten championship with each passing week this season, and subsequently there has been a lot of hand-wringing in the last few days – I think much more among fans than the team itself. These guys are a highly confident, motivated and focused bunch – not to mention loaded with talent at every position, especially along the defensive line.

Buckeye fans worry about how quickly Young will be back, if he will be back at all. And all of this because of what most Buckeye fans seem to believe are draconian rules by the NCAA and an innocent loan from a "family friend."

First, I believe the Buckeyes can still reach the College Football Playoff, even without Young. I remember the hand-wringing when Braxton Miller went down right before the 2014 season. We all know what happened that year. As mentioned, this is an extremely talented team with a gifted coaching staff and one of the best collective frames of mind I have seen in 40 years of covering college football.

Would the path to another national championship ring be easier with Young – the most disruptive player in the game today – on the field? Of course. But the Buckeyes are in a better position to lose Young than quarterback Justin Fields. I remain supremely optimistic about the outcome of this season.

The thing that has surprised me most, as I read posts on our Forum at BuckeyeSports.com, hear the talking heads on radio and hear the chatter around the water cooler, is that most believe this is all about the big, bad NCAA and outdated rules. I seem like the only one who wants to hold Young accountable. I'm sure I'll take grief for this, but it strains credulity to think that Young didn't know the rules, whether they are fair or unfair, and that he was breaking them.

Compliance staffers at Ohio State go over the guidelines again and again with players, and Young is not a wide-eyed freshman. I have been to dinners with Buckeye Boosters, where as much time was spent explaining improper benefit rules to boosters as was spent introducing the team.

I heard someone on the radio make an analogy. He pointed out that there are all sorts

of streets and roads with inappropriately low speed limits. But if you are caught going 20 miles over that unreasonable, posted speed limit, you are going to have a hard time arguing your way out of a ticket. Fair or unfair, the NCAA has rules too.

One thing that makes me a little squeamish about Young's situation is that the "family friend" who lent him the money, by Young's own admission, became a "family friend" just before Young joined one of the most powerful football programs in the country. Most of my family friends, ones who might lend me money, have known me since childhood.

Suspicious? Maybe, maybe not.

By the time you read this, Young's fate may have already been determined. I keep hearing "two-game suspension" being tossed around. That would put Young back in the thick of things for Ohio State's stretch drive. My only caution to Buckeye fans is this: I don't think it is just our paranoia that the Buckeyes seem to get harsher treatment than other programs. It seems to frequently be the case.

So prepare for the worst and be happy with a positive outcome.

Young honestly strikes me as a good guy. But good guys, especially young good guys, make mistakes and must live with the consequences. When you are a high-profile athlete at a high-profile program, your teammates and thousands of fans must live with those consequences as well.

Regardless of what happens, Young will survive, the team will survive and so will we. And don't be surprised if the Buckeyes keep on rolling, with or without their star defender.

The Buckeyes are that type of team.

Please note also that the BSB staff sat down for a roundtable discussion about all things regarding the football team that appears on pages 16-18 of this issue. The chat took place before Young was suspended and before Minnesota knocked off Penn State. The roundtable runs in its original form and provides insight into the significance of Young's presence on defense and the importance of the game with Penn State.

We hope you will enjoy it, despite the changes that have taken place since the staff gathered. The guys also reconvened the roundtable for a Young update.

### Cornell Gives A Clue

I enjoyed Craig Merz's story on Jashon Cornell, found on page 20 of this issue. Cornell gives a hint as to what might be a difference between this year's Buckeye defense and last year's disaster.

"I think that is the one thing that's different about this team from previous years," Cornell said. "Previous years, I feel like we were so stiff, but this year, we're letting it loose and letting the bullets fly. We're just having a lot of fun out there. We're enjoying playing with each other. What we have in the locker room now is really different.

"Like the love that we have for each other and the love that we have for our brothers, we just want to go out there, have fun and play and ball."

I think there was the same camaraderie among the Buckeyes under Urban Meyer. But Meyer was way more intense than Ryan Day, and when coupled with former defensive coordinator Greg Schiano, also intense, I think last year's defense was tense, in addition to playing

in what now seems a misguided scheme.

Cornell talks more about differences on the team this year, and I highly recommend reading the story, if you haven't done so already.

### That's My Guy

From time to time I find myself rooting for a certain player, and I have made no secret that I have been pulling for Demario McCall this season. When he finally got a little playing time against Maryland, after Marcus Crowley was knocked out of the game, he did not disappoint. McCall carried seven times for 78 yards, good for a sparkling 11.1-yard average and two TDs to close out Ohio State's scoring. He tacked on a 38-yard kick return for good measure.

He and Crowley made a dynamic late-game duo as the freshman carried eight times for 82 yards, a 10.3-yard average and a score of his own before leaving the game midway through the fourth quarter with an injury.

### The Last Time We Saw Georgia

Ohio State announced that the football team would be meeting SEC staple Georgia in a home-and-home series in 2030 and 2031.

As part of our Reprint Thursday at the electronic BuckeyeSports.com, we ran reprints from the Jan. 16, 1993, issue of Buckeye Sports Bulletin, chronicling the last – and only – time Ohio State squared off against the Bulldogs. The Buckeyes dropped that contest at the Citrus Bowl, 21-14.

The columns written in this space and by BSB managing editor emeritus Mark Rea in that issue reveal a lot about the state of the Ohio State program at the end of the fifth year of the John Cooper era.

As you may recall, the Buckeyes traveled to the Citrus Bowl following a 13-13 tie with Michigan, the first time Cooper and his Buckeyes had not lost to the hated Wolverines.

"It would have all been so much easier if Ohio State had defeated Georgia in the Citrus Bowl," I wrote. "The tie with Michigan, while a solid performance by the Buckeyes, was really a swing game. If they had defeated the Bulldogs, fans would be talking about how the Buckeyes closed with strong performances against highly ranked Michigan and Georgia, performances to go along with their strong early-season showing against Syracuse (a 35-12 Buckeye victory).

"With the loss to Georgia, however, instead of remembering the fine performance against the Wolverines, many are left recalling that the Bucks under Cooper have yet to beat Michigan or win a bowl game.

"And I think those fans concerned with the state of the Buckeye program have a legitimate beef. You have to begin to wonder, after five years under Cooper, if the team has reached the level they are going to reach with him at the helm. The records are starting to seem so similar – 8-4, 7-4-1, 8-4 and 8-3-1, following a 4-6-1 campaign in Cooper's first year. It's taken five years to get back to within a half-game of the 9-3 level that used to be unacceptable at Ohio State."

I recall that Mark was generally a little more positive toward Coop than I was. Following the loss to Georgia, it was running back Robert Smith – who had announced his decision to leave for the NFL after three seasons, one of which he sat out to concentrate on academics – toward whom Mark leveled his criticism. As an explanatory note, I should mention that Smith

was never particularly popular at BSB, especially after he refused to address the assembled media following a game with Indiana unless members of the BSB staff departed.

"He left the team just before the 1991 season began under circumstances that remain a bit cloudy to this day. I continue to defend his decision to leave," Mark wrote. "If he truly thought that he was being forced to decide between academics and athletics, he had every right to do what he did. Every athlete at every school in America has that same right.

"What I do not defend is the way he went about leaving the team. He trashed everything and everyone in sight, laying the Ohio State program to waste in nearly every major newspaper in the country."

After flirting with Southern Cal and Stanford, Smith eventually returned to the Buckeyes for his junior year. Mark lauded his play in 1992, which included 819 yards rushing and 25 carries for 112 yards and Ohio State's only two scores in the Citrus Bowl, but complained about his second departure.

"Just as the way he left Ohio State the first time leaves a bad taste, this time leaves an equally sour taste. Here is a guy who repeatedly said how much an education meant to him – and even left football for a year to concentrate on that education – and now he has decided to shuck that schooling for a while to pursue a professional sports career.

"Ohio State football was here long before Robert Smith came on the scene, and I suspect the Buckeyes will be playing football long after Smith's career is over."

Another side note, BSB generally publishes the names of graduating athletes after each quarter or semester. To my knowledge, Smith has never graduated.

As far as the home-and-home series scheduled with Georgia, one of our regular posters on the Forum at BuckeyeSports.com, "mrbigbux," pointed out that Ohio State has scheduled other games with SEC teams, agreements that ultimately have fallen through.

In fact, a quick check of the record book shows that Ohio State has played only 10 games against traditional SEC schools on non-neutral fields. By traditional SEC schools I mean schools other than Johnny-come-latelies Missouri and Texas A&M and even Arkansas and South Carolina, both of whom joined the conference in 1992.

Of those 10 games on campus, eight (Auburn, 1917; Kentucky, 1895, 1919, 1935; Vanderbilt, 1908, 1909, 1931, 1933) were played before 1935. Only LSU has met the Buckeyes on campus in the modern era with a home-and-home in 1987 and '88.

Ohio State has played a total of 20 games against traditional SEC competition, 10 on neutral sites including eight bowl games. Ohio State has never played Mississippi or Mississippi State.

### The Big Games Are Coming

The games with Penn State and Michigan are rapidly approaching. If you have been having trouble with timely delivery of your Buckeye Sports Bulletin, you can upgrade your subscription to speedy first-class mail in an envelope for the rest of football season for just \$10. Recruiting buffs can upgrade through the Recruiting Wrap-Up in February for \$20.

Don't forget that the Michigan game comes after the Thanksgiving postal holiday, making timely delivery by regular mail even more difficult. Just give us a call at (614) 486-2202 and we will get you upgraded right away, or send your check, money order or credit card information to BSB at P.O. Box 12453, Columbus, Ohio, 43212.





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