

Noah Ruggles Gives Thanks In First Comments Since Peach Bowl



Ohio State kicker Noah Ruggles thanked his friends, family, coaches and fans in a social media post on Saturday announcing his plans to pursue the NFL.

"We all have a vision, an imaginary path we believe is our destiny. As clear as the vision can be at times to ourselves, only God knows the true path, the true, the absolute plan," he said. "If there is one thing I've learned from my journey, it is no matter how dark life seems at times, moments of adversity have provided me an opportunity for unimagined growth, humility and appreciation.

"I am grateful to my teammates and coaches who have inspired me through their own trials; to my family who has sacrificed, loved and supported me; to all the people behind the scenes who serve others selflessly; to the media who tell the stories of failures and comebacks that inspire us; and to the true fans of The Ohio State University who are the backbone of this great football program."

Ruggles' career at Ohio State came to an end this past season after he missed a 50-yard field goal with just seconds remaining that would have lifted the Buckeyes over Georgia in the Peach Bowl. He had previously converted on two field goals in the College Football Playoff semifinal before his final kick sailed left.

"From my very first kick as a Buckeye to my very last, I put my faith in God, praying to give him all the glory," he said. "Though I may not see what he is going to do next, I have learned to trust him with all of it. I'm a Buckeye for life."

Ruggles leaves Ohio State having converted on 37 of 41 field-goal attempts and all but one of his 149 extra-point attempts over the last two seasons, and his field goal percentage (90.2 percent) is the best in program history for the Buckeyes.

"The Lord makes no promises that our paths will be easy. However, I remember God has a plan, and I trust Him. He has given me this ability," he said. "For this reason, I will be pursuing my next goal to make an NFL roster. To those of you who have given me unwavering support, I hope to make you proud. Thank you."