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Arena Ready For Action

Some Dust Remains As OSU Opens Schottenstein Center

By STEVE HELWAGEN
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

In the final days leading up to the first event at the Jerome Schottenstein Center, it was amazing to some exactly how much progress had been made on Ohio State's new basketball/hockey arena.

"It's hard to believe that a year ago this place was still a mud hole," said an unnamed worker, one of an army of about 400 who have worked overtime to get the arena ready.

Four years of careful planning and 2-1/2 years of painstaking construction will culminate in opening night at OSU's \$110 million arena for a men's basketball exhibition game Nov. 3.

"Seeing it evolve has been the best thing," said OSU athletic director Andy Geiger, who has shepherded this project since arriving in Columbus in mid-1994.

"You have an idea and a dream and then you see it actually come through and it's better than you thought it would be — that's a wonderful feeling."

Leading a tour of media Oct. 28 at the near-complete building, Geiger's pride was easy to see and understand. The 700,000-square-foot building, which will seat 19,500 for basketball, will serve as a gateway to the campus right off state Route 315.

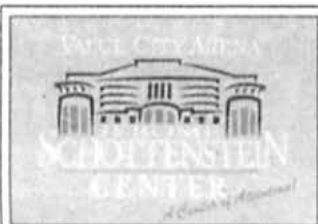
"This is a full-service building, a complex and center that the entire community will enjoy for decades to come," Geiger said.

Ohio State is primed to move both its men's and women's basketball programs as well as its burgeoning hockey program into the new building. The basketball programs wrapped up play in 42-year-old St. John Arena, which seated 13,276, last winter.

"A lot of you have wondered how this would be accepted," Geiger said at the media gathering. "I can tell you that we have already sold 13,500 season tickets for men's basketball. That is larger than the capacity at St. John Arena."

"We are now selling season tickets in the upper bowl toward the top of the building. We have the excitement of the new building as well as the excitement of the rebirth of the basketball Buckeyes."

The media tour gave Geiger perhaps his first chance to revel in the warmth and good feelings that permeate the building.



INSIDE THIS EDITION:

- Seat license purchasers enjoy first glimpse of arena (page 40)
- OSU coaches eager to move into new digs (page 41)
- A look inside The Schott (two-page photo spread, pages 42-43)
- Timeline tracks arena's progress from start to finish (page 44)
- Arena facts, figures (page 46)
- Events fill arena schedule (page 48)

ALSO:

- OSU men's basketball preview (pages 32-34)
- Big Ten men's basketball preview (pages 35-37)

"We're very excited, but I don't think we've stopped to say, 'Boy, are we very excited,'" he said. "That's because the staff is still very busy moving things."

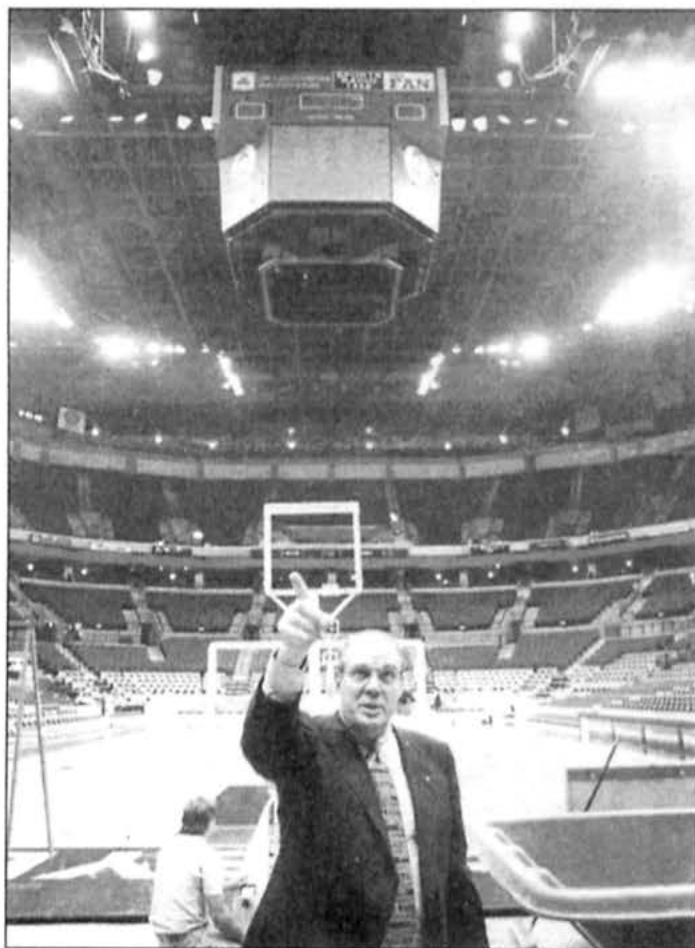
"There are 19 full-time employees that are new to the department because of this building. This is the first chance they've had to work in the building and make things happen."

Plenty Of Work To Do

Although OSU officials have declared their new arena event-ready, there are plenty of odds and ends that will continue to command attention over the next several months.

"Basically, I'd say it's 98 percent finished," Geiger said. "But we've got our occupancy permit, we've got our health permit, and all the other permits we need are coming in in good shape."

Those coming in for the exhibition game or for a free public open house Nov. 6 will notice that work continues on the terrazzo floor in one of the corner rotundas as well as a large mosaic of



JEFF BREHM

THE KING AND HIS COURT — OSU athletic director Andy Geiger presides over the unveiling of Ohio State's Jerome Schottenstein Center, the state-of-the-art home for Buckeye basketball and hockey. A media tour was conducted Oct. 28 to raves.

former basketball coach Fred Taylor. Work will continue on the balcony-level press box, and the arena shop will serve as a storage area until it's finished in January. Some meeting rooms and some of the locker facilities also need work.

"While we are substantially finished, there is some work still going on," Geiger said. "We will have work going on in here for the next few weeks."

"There is some work on the terrazzo floor and on some other areas that will be ongoing until it is finished."

Schottenstein Center director Xen

Riggs also pointed out that the building will need a thorough cleaning to get rid of construction dust and debris before the doors are open for the exhibition.

"One of the big things for us right now is getting the building clean," Riggs said. "It looks pretty clean right now, but there is a lot of dust, dirt and debris that still needs to be cleaned up."

"We are very particular about cleanliness. Andy is a stickler for it, (assis-

Continued On Page 48

OHIO STATE VS. INDIANA

Joe Rolls 300 Again

Indiana Latest To Fall Victim To Germaine's Arm

By STEVE HELWAGEN
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

Memo to Ohio State's future opponents: Quarterback Joe Germaine is on a real roll.

Germaine threw for 300-plus yards for the fourth consecutive game — unprecedented for an OSU quarterback — as the top-ranked Buckeyes rolled to a 38-7 win over host Indiana before 52,049 in a penalty-laden contest Oct. 31 in Bloomington, Ind.

Germaine ended up 31-of-45 passing for a season-high 351 yards and three touchdowns.

"For the most part our offense played tremendously well," Germaine said moments after spearheading OSU's 551-yard offensive output. "We executed our game plan very well. That's a tribute to our coaches for getting us prepared."

Germaine did most of his damage throwing to flanker Dee Miller. Miller had career highs in catches with 11 and yards with 159. Split end David Boston wasn't too shabby, either, catching nine passes for 110 yards and two scores.

"We're not stupid," said OSU coach John Cooper, whose team improved to 8-0 overall and 5-0 in Big Ten play. "If they put eight or nine men in the box, I think it's good to have guys like Dee and David to catch the ball and somebody like Joe to pass the ball."

"Then we had the added punch of David Boston returning punts."

Yes, lest we forget, Boston's improved speed was on display on a 70-yard punt return for a touchdown that opened the scoring. He earned Big Bear Buckeye of the Week honors for his efforts.

"That's obviously a very good football

team," said Indiana coach Cam Cameron. "In the first half I thought we did some good things with the exception of the punt return."

Few in the OSU camp felt Indiana (3-5, 1-4) would be such an easy out. Led by red-shirt freshman Antwaan Randle El, the upstart Hoosiers racked up 295 yards total offense.

But Randle El's 37-yard touchdown pass to Levron Williams just before halftime to make it 21-7 was essentially the day's only blemish for the OSU defense.

"Our defense probably won the game for us," Cooper said. "They did a nice job containing Randle El, especially in the second half. He is a very athletic quarterback."

Randle El, known as an option specialist, was limited to 27 yards rushing on 18 carries. But he picked it up through the air, going 16 of 31 for 218 yards.

Recounting The Fun

Ohio State forced an Indiana punt after the Hoosiers failed to score on their second possession.

Boston fielded the Drew Hagan boot on a bounce at the OSU 30. With his teammates walling off the IU coverage team, Boston sprinted to midfield. He cut back there, then avoided Hagan's last-ditch tackle attempt at the IU 40. All that was left to do was to tightrope his way down the right sideline to complete the 70-yard touchdown return, staking OSU to a 7-0 lead with 8:33 left in the first quarter.

"There were a lot of great blocks that set that play up," said Boston, who notched his second career punt return for a score. "It was 11 people's effort that made that play. I saw a seam there, so I just picked it up off the bounce and went with it."

The OSU defense helped set up the Buckeyes' second touchdown. Randle El had kept the ball on fourth-and-1 at the OSU 36 and picked up four yards, enough for a first down. But OSU linebacker Nail Diggs popped him, forcing a fumble. Teammate Gary Berry recovered it, and after an IU personal foul penalty was assessed, the



BOSTON BACK ON THE MAP — Ohio State receiver David Boston evades a lunging Drew Hagan on the way to a 70-yard punt return, the first such score for the Buckeyes since 1996, when Boston took one back against Pittsburgh.

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OHIO STATE VS. INDIANA

Buckeyes were in business at midfield.

"I was playing Randle El," Digs admitted. "If it wasn't Randle El, I may have tried to do something different. I knew he was going to try and cut it back and get the first down. I knew he was going to be in there, and I just stepped up."

It took four plays to convert the turnover and penalty into points. Germaine opened the possession by going down the right sideline to Miller for 33 yards. Three plays later Michael Wiley followed pulling guard Tam Hopkins, playing for an injured Ben Gilbert, left into the end zone on a 2-yard touchdown run to make it 14-0 with 4:04 left in the first quarter.

The Buckeyes missed a golden scoring chance on their next possession as fullback Matt Keller fumbled the ball away inside the IU 5. But, two possessions later, OSU pushed the lead to 21-0 with an 11-play, 75-yard march.

Germaine and Miller were magic on this drive, hooking up for plays of 12, 16, 13 and 14 yards.

"Once you get a confidence in Joe, he's going to keep looking for you," Miller said. "On that drive he was confident in me and kept putting the ball where it needed to be."

But facing fourth-and-1 at the IU 6, the Buckeyes burned a timeout to talk things over. On the resulting play, Germaine faked perfectly to Joe Montgomery and threw to a wide-open John Lumpkin for the 6-yard TD and a 21-0 lead with 2:41 left in the first half.

"We didn't have far to go," Lumpkin said. "We faked the ball up the middle, and they took the fake. I was wide open and Joe just got me the ball. It was a pretty basic play."

The Hoosiers rallied for their only touchdown of the game just before halftime. IU moved 76 yards in six plays. The most notable was the capper on fourth-and-2 at the OSU 37. Randle El dropped back deep and threw to the back of the end zone, where Williams had gotten between safeties Berry and Damon Moore. Williams hauled in the spiral for the touchdown, trimming the lead to 21-7 with just 8 seconds left in the half.

"That was important for us," Randle El said. "We couldn't wait to get back out in the second half and get something going and get back into it."

But before that could happen, Ohio State got the ball to open the second half. The Buckeyes had other plans, driving 69 yards in eight plays to their fourth touchdown.

Wiley, who carried 16 times for 80 yards, picked up a 26-yard gain on this drive. OSU, aided by an IU pass interference penalty, moved to the Hoosiers' 9. It took three plays to reach the end zone with Germaine hitting Boston on an out pattern for the 3-yard TD and a 28-7 lead with 11:08 left in the third quarter.

"The key thing for us was stopping them on the first drive of the second half, and we didn't get that done," Cameron lamented.

The Buckeyes tacked on a 21-yard field goal by Dan Stultz early in the fourth quarter before driving to their final score midway through the period.

Germaine's 2-yard TD pass to Boston capped an eight-play, 60-yard march. Boston caught a lob pass from Germaine, all the while fighting off an IU defender, boosting the lead to 35-7 with 6:26 left.

Game Notes

• Cooper defended keeping Germaine and the first-team offense in the game until it scored that final touchdown.

"We were trying to get Joe his 300 yards," Cooper said. "That's why we stayed up top there. We got him that and we got him out of there. Of course, that was his fourth straight 300-yard game. That was what we were thinking."

Germaine said he wasn't aware of his statistics, but he did lobby to stay in the game.

"I didn't really know while I was playing the game," he said. "There was a point on

that last drive where he wanted to go ahead and take me out, but I kind of egged him on and asked if I could at least finish out that drive."

Cooper denied the move had anything to do with impressing poll voters, although OSU had a chance to score in the closing seconds. The Buckeyes had a first down at the IU 1 and, instead of falling on the ball, opted to run tailback Derek Combs. He lost a yard on the game's final play.

"If that was the case, we would have called timeout and tried to score on that last play," Cooper said.

• The Buckeyes were flagged for a season-high 12 penalties for 124 yards while IU was nailed eight times for 94 yards (see Ohio State Insider, page 4).

Included in OSU's penalty sheet were

three personal fouls and three holding penalties.

• The OSU defense extended its second-half scoreless streak to eight quarters with this game.

That streak, spanning four games, dates to the Penn State game. It discounts a safety Minnesota scored on the OSU punt team.

"It's got a lot to do with our conditioning," said defensive end Brent Johnson, who joined teammates Andy Katzenmoyer and Joe Brown in notching sacks. "We never take a play off. We might have screw-ups, and that's bound to happen, but we never have a down where we're dragging."

• OSU freshman Nate Clements notched his first career interception on Randle El in the fourth quarter.



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OHIO STATE VS. INDIANA

Red-Hot Germaine Finds Miller, Then Boston

Motivated by a perceived snub from the Bowl Championship Series, where it sat at No. 2, top-ranked Ohio State did something it hadn't done in quite some time — went to Bloomington and dominated the Indiana Hoosiers.

Thanks to another big day from quarterback Joe Germaine, who is rapidly entering the nation's consciousness, and the doubly dangerous duo of Dee Miller and David Boston, the Buckeyes seemed to solidify their position at the top of the national polls.

Boston tallied three touchdowns on the afternoon, one coming on a 70-yard punt return, while Miller caught 11 passes for 159 yards.

The Hoosiers were clueless as to how to stop the Buckeyes — their soft zone left a lot of real estate over the middle that Ohio State took good advantage of — which amounted to another 500-plus-yard day.

Miller had eight catches in the first half, Boston eight in the second.

"They were aware that Dave had two big games and they were trying to shut him out," Miller said. "We have a lot of great wide receivers, and it was just my turn to have a big half."

Boston spent much of the first half trying to shake double coverage from Indiana, which went to its nickel package early. The Hoosiers would roll a safety over to his side of the field, clamping down on Boston but leaving Miller in single or zone coverage.

The middle was there and OSU took it.

"The coverages changed, they went to a lot of different things," Boston said. "They switched around their defenses in the first and second quarter, so we took turns. He

INSIDE THE OFFENSE with Mike Wachsman

had a big first half, I had a big second half."

OSU tallied over 500 yards of offense again, the seventh time in eight games this season. Much of that yardage — 390 to be precise — was through the air. But the 161 rushing yards weren't by accident.

"It's very difficult to stop us," said tight end John Lumpkin, who scored on a 6-yard pass from Germaine. "When you've got so many weapons out there and then take into account our backfield, if you're trying to shut the pass down, we can run on you. It's very difficult for people to prepare for our team because we have so many things we can go to."

The Buckeyes even unveiled a halfback pass, with Michael Wiley finding a well-covered Lumpkin for a 15-yard connection in the third quarter.

Ohio State's diversity is what keeps it at the top of the mountain.

"Whether they are the best team in the country or not, I have no idea," said IU coach Cam Cameron, known himself as one of the game's offensive gurus. "But they are definitely one of the best. They can beat you a number of ways."

"They can spread the ball around. You look at Dee Miller today. You try and take Boston away and Miller gets 11 catches."



JEFF BREHM

IT'S DEE-LICIOUS — Ohio State receiver Dee Miller took his turn in the spotlight after waiting in teammate David Boston's wings the past few games. Miller grabbed 11 passes for 159 yards in OSU's 38-7 win over Indiana.

Building A Wall

Ohio State's offensive line, as up and down as a roller-coaster ride, played one of its best games of the season against the Hoosiers, allowing just one sack, giving Germaine plenty of time to throw, and opening some good-sized holes for the backs.

"The offensive line did a lot better job blocking today than it did a year ago," OSU head coach John Cooper said. "If you remember, Wally (IU end Adewale Ogunleye) — I call him Wally because I can't pronounce his name — he had a career day against us."

play with us. The line came out and proved they could get physical with a defense."

Play-Action Pays Off

Indiana's aggressive attitude on defense made Ohio State's decision to use play-action an easy one.

The Hoosiers had to settle back and become passive, allowing the Buckeyes to

"I know he made some plays today, but he didn't hurt us as much as last year."

Ogunleye's unique name was barely heard over the Memorial Stadium loudspeakers as he finished with a quiet three stops.

Tyson Walter stepped up big time, but the emergence of guard Tam Hopkins, summoned to the field when Ben Gilbert was injured in the first quarter, was pleasing to all.

Hopkins pulled left on Wiley's 2-yard first-quarter touchdown, giving the junior an opportunity to nearly walk into the end zone.

"There was a lot of rotation out there today," said Wiley, who paced the Buckeyes with 80 yards on 16 totes. "We must have had about eight or nine linemen play, and when they got their chance, they stepped up."

There was some challenging of the guys up front, and it seemed to light a fire.

"We've been sputtering a little the past few weeks," Miller said. "Today we were a little vocal about wanting to score some points early and not give the team any confidence that they could

Continued On Page 14



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BSB Quotebook: Ohio State 38, Indiana 7

OSU tight end John Lumpkin on the play fake that got him wide open for a 6-yard touchdown pass on a fourth-and-1: "When people get pumped up to stop the fourth-down play, they kind of forget about their responsibilities. The guy who was supposed to be with me heard the crowd roar and he started to celebrate. He didn't realize Joe (Germaine) still had the ball, and I came open in the end zone."

OSU defensive end Brent Johnson's view on Indiana's outlook after the Buckeyes extended their lead to 28-7 to open the second half: "In the second half, their spirits were broken. They didn't want to be there."

OSU guard Rob Murphy on getting points the easy way with David Boston's 70-yard punt return: "I've been here for a while and I can't remember that happening. That kind of got us up. That's an easy way to score. The offense was on the sideline slapping high-fives, and Dave just took it to the house."

Indiana coach Cam Cameron recalled what happened on Boston's punt return: "We had plenty of people down there, and they set up a wall return. We punted it right where we wanted to. We couldn't have punted it any better than that. They get a good bounce and next thing you know, right down the sideline he goes."

OSU linebacker Jerry Rudzinski on the play of teammate Andy Katzenmoyer, who tallied three tackles-for-loss: "Andy, early on, pretty much took the game into his own hands. Na'il (Diggs) and I looked at each other, shook our heads and said, 'This guy is playing possessed.' Andy has had a great year, and this was just icing on the cake for the year and career he's had."



JEFF BREHM

JOE GOES LONG — In what's becoming ho-hum for Ohio State, quarterback Joe Germaine once again went over 300 yards passing, this time against Indiana. Germaine netted his fourth straight 300-yard game and fifth of the season against IU.

OSU split end David Boston on his two short touchdown catches and the team's approach on the goal line: "Those were routine routes we run every day. When we get into the red zone, we did a lot of that (throwing the ball) last year. We've shied away from it this year. It seems like we're trying to run it in a lot."

Germaine on the Buckeye offense: "I don't know if we're unstoppable. We like to think we are if we play our best game. We've got such great talent and great coaches. As long as we do what we're coached to do and not try to impress anybody and just try to be ourselves, we don't have anything to worry about."

Diggs talked about his hit on Indiana quarterback Antwaan Randle El that forced a fumble and snuffed a Hoosier scoring threat: "For us, it's a great confidence builder and great motivation. It gets our motor going. For them, I'm pretty sure they feel like crap. They had worked hard to make plays and get down the field, but we weren't going to let up."

IU's Randle El on what happened on the first-quarter fumble at the OSU 32-yard line: "That's where I thought we were going to get it going. I was trying to get some extra yards. I put the ball out and I got hit at the same time. The ball came flying out and I couldn't believe it."

OSU tailback Michael Wiley on how Germaine and the receivers were able to carve another opponent through the air: "The offense is working really good right now. A lot of teams are trying to put people in the box to stop the run. They should be covering our passing game because our passing game is killing people right now."

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OHIO STATE VS. INDIANA

QB Rewriting Record Book

Continued From Page 12

land haymakers through the air and on the ground.

And it was all because of extra play fakes by Germaine, who continued his assault on the OSU record book with his fourth straight 300-yard game — he finished with 351 yards and three touchdowns.

"There was a lot of play-action today," Wiley said. "We knew they'd play a lot of zone, so that would freeze their DBs and allow Dave and Dee to get open."

Cooper actually left Germaine in to get his 300 yards after being alerted from coaches in the press box that the senior was approaching the magic figure.

This is certainly not a typical Ohio State

team, with passing records falling each week. But it's a welcome departure from the ground mentality so many other Buckeye teams have had. And it's making people nationwide stand up and take notice.

Even Germaine is a tad oblivious to how effective Ohio State's offense is.

"We're not going to put up the big offensive numbers like some other SEC teams," Germaine said. "We are the No. 1 team in the country, and we can run and throw the ball well. We're right where we need to be."

The logo says Ohio State and the conference says Big Ten, but there's a definite change in the prevailing wind.

"People are geared up to stop our running game, but with the way we're throwing the ball, it might shift the other way," Lumpkin said.

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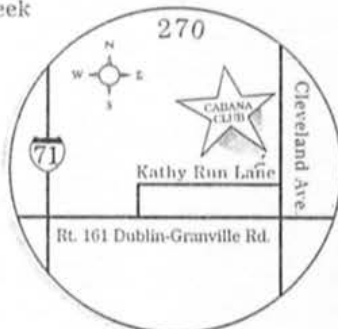


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OHIO STATE VS. INDIANA

Buckeyes Find Way To Bottle Up Randle El

See if you can follow this story line (and you should be able to since it is a weekly occurrence): Buckeyes face daunting task and all-conference candidate, Buckeyes stomp player into the ground and win big.

In this case, the target was slippery Indiana quarterback Antwaan Randle El, maybe the most dangerous foe yet. But the Ohio State defense has seen all this before and knew exactly how to accomplish its mission.

"There's no holding back," senior linebacker Jerry Rudzinski said days before the trip to Bloomington. "We have to have faith in the speed of our defense and just get all of us running to the ball, because if we don't get after this guy to the best of our potential, he'll just turn the corner on us and run right downfield."

"We've got to take good angles and avoid the cutbacks, but step one is get to the guy quickly."

Another challenge, another noteworthy afternoon. And this time OSU answered IU's rainbow sherbet (Randle El) with a vanilla defense.

"I think the defense had a good game plan," OSU head coach John Cooper said. "We played assignment football. We came over here with probably the simplest defensive game plan we've had going into any ball game this year because of the nature of their offense."

OSU ran a few Falcon stunts with two linebackers coming off the edge but otherwise had the front seven stay at home. As a result, Randle El, one of the Big Ten's top five rushers coming in, was held to 27 net yards in 18 attempts, with three of those plays counted as sacks.

INSIDE THE DEFENSE with Jeff Rapp

"They basically try to create cutback seams instead of block you out of there," defensive tackle Clinton Wayne said. "He's a cutback runner, and he's great at what he does. But we talked all week about pursuit, and I think we did a good job of pursuing him."

Added defensive end Brent Johnson, "He was real slippery. As a defensive line, we were just trying to contain him, keep him in the pocket, make sure he didn't scramble around, and make sure he didn't have time to pass."

"I don't think he's comfortable in the pocket. He likes to move around."

Defensive coordinator Fred Pagac didn't deny OSU had a very pointed game plan.

"I think the whole premise was to contain Randle El," he said. "He's probably a little more elusive in that he's real quick, but probably not as fast as (Missouri quarterback) Corby Jones. They're in two different offenses, so it's hard to compare. But they're both good players."

OSU eventually got to Jones in a 35-14 win over Missouri back in September but still had to adjust to Randle El.

"He's definitely smaller and lighter," linebacker Na'il Diggs said. "I don't know if he's as good as Corby, but he's a real challenge. He may make you look silly, but we're not



JEFF BUEHLM

WRAPPING UP RANDLE EL — Ohio State knew Indiana quarterback Antwaan Randle El (11, foreground) would be hard to stop, but OSU held him to 27 rushing yards. Gary Berry (1), Damon Moore (13), Antoine Winfield (11) and Ryan Pickett (79) all celebrate the stop for OSU.

worried about looking silly if we make the tackle. And if we miss the tackle, someone else is going to make it."

Randle El still had his moments. He connected on 16 of 31 passes and burned the Buckeyes with a perfectly lofted 37-yard touchdown just before the half.

"He had a better arm than I think we expected, and he's going to have a great

career, obviously," Rudzinski said afterward. But the respect was mutual as OSU made life difficult for the IU offense, which it held to 12 first downs.

"They're a great defense," Randle El said. "They played exceptionally well, especially when it comes to getting to the ball and forcing things."

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OHIO STATE VS. INDIANA

'Backers Heart Of It All

The OSU secondary has earned lots of publicity prior to and during the season and the defensive line had a breakout performance a week earlier at Northwestern, but the Indiana game showcased just how blessed the Buckeyes are at linebacker.

Middle man Andy Katzenmoyer produced a Butkus Award-like highlight reel with several impressive hits, and Diggs and Rudzinski picked their time to impact the game from their OLB spots.

"Their front seven is really good," IU coach Cam Cameron said. "They rotate a lot of people in there. But I think with Rudzinski, Katzenmoyer and Diggs they may have the best trio of linebackers I've ever seen in this league."

"That gives you a lot of flexibility with your defense. You can play zone, blitz your linebackers and zone blitz. Look at every game they've played. The linebackers are the key to that defense."

Katzenmoyer logged six tackles, half of them in the backfield. He also recorded his first sack of the season, nailing Randle El for an 8-yard loss.

"He played well, and that's something I think he needed," Diggs said.

Added Pagac, "I think he played pretty well, just like he's been playing all year long. We saw a different offense today, and our defense was designed to stop the option game. In that position right there he's inside out on the ball and he's going to have a chance to make those plays."

That left Randle El feeling like a bull in a bullfight.

"I think he was targeting me," the QB said of Katzenmoyer. "I wouldn't say he was the biggest hitter I've faced, but if he hits

you, you're done. With other guys you can sometimes tangle and get away. But he's stronger than a lot of other guys."

Rudzinski also had three tackles-for-loss, five overall, and Diggs had four stops, broke up a pass and forced a key Randle El fumble.

"I think the reason why we all played well is we all had a good week of practice," Rudzinski said. "We learned you can't just turn it up on Saturdays."

Keeping Their Traps Shut

The Buckeyes also are learning that they need to let their play do the talking, not their mouths. OSU was flagged for a dozen penalties on the afternoon, and this time a majority of them were on defensive players, be it on defense or special teams.

A defensive captain and gentlemanly player, Rudzinski wants to see it stop.

"The first time it happened, I wasn't all that concerned. I thought it was just the nature of that game being such a physical game," he said of the Northwestern game, also riddled with yellow handkerchiefs. "I'm all about sticking up for yourselves and your teammates, but we've got to be smart about it, and we can't afford 15-yard penalties and losing field position."

But Diggs feels the Buckeyes weren't the instigators.

"That was part of their game plan, I think," he said of the Hoosiers. "We never see a team, especially before we play them, getting so many taunting penalties until they play us. I don't respect them at all because of what they did and how they played. That's definitely not a way to play us, or beat us."

Miscellaneous Notes

- Cornerback Antoine Winfield quietly

led the Buckeyes in tackles with 10, which tightened up the seasonal race. Winfield now has a team-best 51 stops on the season. Diggs is right behind at an even 50, and Katzenmoyer is at 49. Also in the hunt is safety Damon Moore with 47.

• The lone Hoosier touchdown came with eight seconds to go in the first half as

IU receiver Levron Williams found a seam down the middle of the field and the Buckeye defenders were slow to react.

"We were in zone coverage on that," Pagac said. "We gave him too much time and we had a little bit of a slip and it was a good play for them."

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OHIO STATE VS. INDIANA

Cooper Rates IU Game Among OSU's Best

Throughout the football season, BSB is publishing excerpts of Ohio State head football coach John Cooper's postgame press conferences. Here is what Cooper had to say following the win over Indiana.

COOPER: "Again this week we're happy to get out of here with a good, solid victory. I thought we really played a good ball game today. I thought our offense executed well."

"I thought Joe (Germaine) really threw the ball well today, we got our tight end involved a little bit, Michael (Wiley) had another good day running the football. You've got to give the offensive line a little credit because we did give Joe time to throw the ball."

"But I think again today our defense probably won the football game for us. We only allowed one touchdown, and I thought we did a real nice job, particularly in the second half, of containing (Antwaan) Randle El, the quarterback, a very good athlete. We held him pretty much under control, at least during the running part of the game. He threw the ball a little better than what I thought coming over here."

"But it's good to come over here — a great crowd, a great game. It was a great day for college football today and a great victory for us."

Q: Was that your intent to throw the ball as often as you did today?

COOPER: "Well, again, a lot of that was the check-with-mes at the line of scrimmage if they play an eight-man front, which

they're going to do. It seems like everybody, including ourselves, is really setting their defense to stop the running game and there are some holes in the secondary. When you're having a good day throwing it like we were and you're protecting like we were, we've got to take advantage of it."

Q: I think there were three times on fourth down today you opted to go for it, and a couple times you were in field-goal range. Do you elect to do that maybe because of a lack of confidence in Dan Stultz?

COOPER: "Well, the first time was right before halftime. We're up 14-0 and it's about a yard to go, if I'm not mistaken, on about their 5-yard line. My thinking was if we don't make it (a first down), they're going to be on the 5-yard line and it's going to be very difficult for them to go 95 yards, and we felt like we could make the first down. We had a good play called."

"The other time it was going to be a long field goal, at least I believe it was. And it's difficult to kick with the field conditions being what they were. I don't want to hurt his confidence or ask him to kick a 47- or 50-yard field goal in that situation."

Q: You had over 500 yards again today. Is this offense virtually unstoppable right now?

COOPER: "I don't know about that. You're not going to get me to say that (laughs). We've got four more tough ball games coming up. We're getting better. If the line can keep blocking like that and give Joe time to throw the football, I think we can make things happen."

Q: How concerned were you coming over

here? No one's really blown them out, and this is a great athlete they have."

COOPER: "I was concerned coming over here. As I said this week, I think Indiana is a very, very improved football team. Cam Cameron and his staff have done a great job, and Randle El is as good as advertised. On a dry field he would really, really be hard to contain. That probably hurt them a little bit. I didn't know it rained last night. It didn't rain down where we were. But they told me it rained here, and the field was pretty muddy."

"But anyway, I think the field conditions here probably hurt them more than it did us. But I was concerned coming over here. They've played well. Even in the games they've lost, they've been very competitive."

Q: Other than the penalties, is this probably one of your best games to date?

COOPER: "Probably all around — offense, defense and kicking game. Again, there is some improvement we can make in the kicking game. We kicked the ball off out of bounds one time, we had a real short kick one time and had a 15-yard penalty on top of that and gave them real good field position."

"Our guys work hard. Hopefully we can continue to improve and get better."

Q: Can you talk about that fourth down that you went for and resulted in a (John) Lumpkin touchdown pass? Is that a play you've worked on in practice?

COOPER: "We've worked on that in practice, and we've used that play in ball games before. That's a short-yardage play where you either run the ball off tackle or, if

they've got 11 people up there, somebody's got to be open. John was wide open."

Q: Was Andy (Katzemoyer) more involved today, or did the game dictate that he make those plays in the first half?

COOPER: "Andy made open-field plays today that ... I haven't been around a line-backer that makes plays like he did. Randle El got out in the open field and *where*. It reminded me a little bit of the Rose Bowl game when Andy made plays against Jake Plummer. Andy and Na'il (Diggs) both, I thought, made some real good open-field plays, and Jerry (Rudzinski)."

"When you face a quick quarterback like Randle El, you better have some athletes on defense who can run. I think the fact that we played so many of those young linemen up front really helped us in the second half. I didn't see anybody look like they were fatigued. And they chased him all afternoon."

Q: It looks like Joe's throwing himself in the Heisman race and you've sort of allowed that to happen.

COOPER: "Guys, I have not seen a college quarterback that's playing better than Joe Germaine right now. Now, is he in the Heisman race? You guys are the ones who vote for the Heisman. I don't know what Ricky Williams did today or anything like that, but I think Joe should be considered. Absolutely."

Q: What is he doing for you?

COOPER: "He's throwing the ball well. He's running our offense and throwing the ball well. A lot of times we'll have a play

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called and they'll have the thing covered and he may throw the out over here or go to the tight end down the middle. I mean, he goes boom, boom, boom through his reads and gets the ball to the open guy."

Q: Dee Miller had a big first half and then it was kind of (David) Boston's turn in the second half. Is that what they were giving you?

COOPER: "Coming over here we thought our flanker — that's Dee Miller's position — would be open a little bit because of the way they set their secondary up. Their strong safety is a run-support football player, and their free safety, they sort of roll their secondary and maybe their free safety favors the weak side of the formation more. We thought we could do some things if we had time to throw the ball, and, again, that's the

whole secret. The offensive line is doing a lot better job of protecting."

Q: How important was the score to open the second half?

COOPER: "I thought it was important for us to get ahead of them. Once we got ahead and scored the first touchdown of the second half, I think pretty much they had to get out of their game plan a little bit. You're not going to see as much option, you're going to force him (Randle El) into more passing situations and sprint outs and things like that. Again, our defense staff does a real good job of making halftime adjustments and we were able to contain him in the second half."

Q: You've talked about how difficult it is to play a team that can run and pass effectively. Talk about from your days as a defen-

sive coach how difficult it must be to defend you when you do that, and not only that, to be able to throw to skilled guys like Dee and David.

COOPER: "That's what we're taking advantage of now. People set a base defense that's going to stand up against most teams they play because most teams you play are

going to be one-dimensional. They can either run it real good or throw it real good and they have difficulty doing both. That's what I like about Joe Germaine right now. That's the dimension Joe gives us that we haven't had. Joe can read the coverage and get us into a better play or out of a bad situation and get the ball to open receivers."



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The Numbers Game

Ohio State 38, Indiana 7

Oct. 31, 1998 — Memorial Stadium, Bloomington, Ind.

Score by Quarters	1	2	3	4	F
OHIO STATE	14	7	7	10	38
INDIANA	0	7	0	0	7

First Quarter

OSU — Boston, 70 punt return (Stultz kick) 8:33

OSU — Wiley, 2 run (Stultz kick) 4:04; 4 plays, 50 yards, 1:14

Second Quarter

OSU — Lumpkin, 6 pass from Germaine (Stultz kick) 2:41; 11 plays, 75 yards, 3:56

IU — L. Williams, 37 pass from Randle El (Payne kick) 0:08; 7 plays, 76 yards, 2:33

Third Quarter

OSU — Boston, 3 pass from Germaine (Stultz kick) 11:08; 8 plays, 69 yards, 3:52

Fourth Quarter

OSU — Stultz, 21 field goal 11:16; 7 plays, 43 yards, 2:54

OSU — Boston, 2 pass from Germaine (Stultz kick) 6:26; 8 plays, 60 yards, 2:40

Att. — 52,049

Weather — Partly cloudy, 63 degrees. Wind 10-15 mph from NW

Team Statistics

	OSU	IU
First Downs	30	12
Rushing	8	5
Passing	20	7
Penalty	2	0
Rushes-Yards	40-161	31-77
Passing Yards	390	218
Passes (Att.-Comp.-Int.)	48-34-0	32-16-1
Offensive Plays	88	63
Total Net Yards	551	295
Third Down Efficiency	8-15	4-16
Fourth Down Efficiency	2-4	1-2
Punts	3-38.0	8-36.9
Fumbles-Lost	1-1	2-1
Penalties	12-124	8-94
Time of Possession	33:30	26:30

Individual Statistics

RUSHING (Att.-Net Yds.) — OSU: Wiley 16-80; Montgomery 8-43; Combs 4-15; Keller 2-13; Wells 4-10; Martin 1-7; Miller 1-3; C. Sanders 1-3; Germaine 3-13; IU: Floyd 8-35; A. Randle El 18-27; Hogan 2-8; Spear 1-5; Gail 2-2.

PASSING (Att.-Comp.-Int.-Yds.-TD) — OSU: Germaine 45-31-0-351-3; Garcia 2-2-0-24-0; Wiley 1-1-0-15-0; IU: A. Randle El 31-16-1-218-1; Conner 1-0-0-0-0.

RECEIVING (Rec.-Yds.) — OSU: Miller 11-159; Boston 9-110; Wiley 4-18; Lumpkin 3-29; Keller 3-24; Martin 1-16; Rambo 1-13; Cacchio 1-11; Houser 1-10; IU: Browning 6-66; L. Williams 5-105; Graham 1-11; Spear 1-11; Gail 1-9; Hogan 1-9; Floyd 1-7.

PUNTING (No.-Avg.-Long) — OSU: Bartholomew 3-38.0-49; IU: Hagan 8-36.9-47.

PUNT RETURNS (No.-Yds.) — OSU: Boston 3-72; IU: Graham 1-0.

KICKOFF RETURNS (No.-Yds.) — OSU: Keller 1-5; IU: Graham 4-72; Gail 1-16.

FUMBLE RECOVERIES — OSU: Berry, IU: Gecina.

INTERCEPTIONS (No.-Yds.) — OSU: Clements 1-0; IU: None.

SACKS — OSU: Katzenmoyer 1-8; Brown 1-6; B. Johnson 1-5; IU: Ogunleye 1-11.

TACKLES FOR LOSS (No.-Yds.) — OSU: Katzenmoyer 3-14; Rudzinski 3-9; Brown 1-6; Johnson 1-5; IU: Ogunleye 2-15; Gecina 1-4; Spencer 1-1; Czap 1-1; Rasmussen 1-1.

TACKLES (Solo-Assist-Tot.) — OSU: Winfield 7-3-10; Katzenmoyer 5-1-6; Rudzinski 4-1-5; Moore 4-1-5; Berry 4-0-4; Diggs 3-1-4; Johnson 3-0-3; Brown 2-1-3; Wayne 2-1-3; Cheatwood 1-1-2; Cotton 1-1-2; Plummer 1-1-2; King 1-1-2; Bellisari 0-2-2; Cooper 0-2-2; Clements 1-0-1; Collins 1-0-1; Bailey 1-0-1; Ross 1-0-1; LaVar 0-1-1; IU: McGrath 10-3-13; Spencer 11-0-11; Ja. Robinson 4-5-9; Yeldell 3-5-8; Smith 3-2-5; Czap 4-0-4; C. Randle El 3-1-4; Goodman 2-2-4; Rasmussen 3-0-3; Ogunleye 2-1-3; Wallace 2-0-2; Bramel 1-1-2; Schaffer 1-1-2; Gregory 1-1-2; Gecina 0-2-2; Ciriaco 1-0-1; Moffatt 0-1-1.

PLAYERS IN THE GAME — OHIO STATE: Starters: Defense, Bailey, Pickett, Brown, Johnson, Diggs, Katzenmoyer, Rudzinski, Winfield, Berry, Moore, Plummer, Offense, Boston, Walter, R. Murphy, K. Murphy, Gilbert, Burris, Lumpkin, Germaine, Keller, Wiley, Miller. Reserves: Mitchell, Rambo, Bellisari, Cooper, Garcia, King, Clements, Cacchio, Wells, Montgomery, Simpson, Ross, Martin, Bartholomew, Combs, Kirk, Stultz, LaVar, Cheatwood, Hopkins, Gurr, Fleming, Elford, Warnke, Liggins, Wisniewski, Houser, Wayne, Homa, Eisenhard, Collins, Queen. INDIANA: Starters: Offense, A. Randle El, Browning, Floyd, Gail, Bobay, Snyder, Broyles, Elisara, Robeen, Miller, Mintzer, Defense, C. Randle El, Wallace, Smith, McGrath, Ja. Robinson, Czap, Gregory, Ogunleye, Brown, A. Williams, Gecina. Reserves: Gaddis, Conner, L. Williams, Schaffer, Spencer, J. Rodgers, Graham, Yeldell, Hogan, Spear, Payne, G. Johnson, B. Rodgers, Lidy, Moffatt, Parrish, Kraft, Hagan, Goodman, Frost, Shields, Mandina, Osika, Rasmussen, Ciriaco, Bramel.

Season Statistics

Date	Opponent (AP Rank*)	W/L	Score	Crowd
Sept. 5	(1) at West Virginia (11)	W	34-17	68,409
Sept. 12	(1) TOLEDO	W	49-0	93,149
Sept. 19	(1) MISSOURI (21)	W	35-14	93,269
Oct. 3	(1) PENN STATE (7)	W	28-9	93,479
Oct. 10	(1) at Illinois	W	41-0	46,390
Oct. 17	(1) MINNESOTA	W	45-15	93,183
Oct. 24	(1) at Northwestern	W	36-10	47,130
Oct. 31	(1) at Indiana	W	38-7	52,049
Nov. 7	MICHIGAN STATE			
Nov. 14	at Iowa			
Nov. 21	MICHIGAN			

*Number in parentheses before opponent's name is OSU's game day AP ranking; number after opponent's name is opponent's game day AP ranking.

Team Statistics	OSU	Opp
First Downs	199	100
Rushing	89	42
Passing	105	50
Penalty	5	8
Avg. Per Game/Rush	209.5	83.5
Avg. Per Game/Pass	302.6	153.9
Total Offense	4097	1599
Total Plays	633	525
Average Per Game	302.6	237.4
Average Per Play	6.5	3.6
Penalties-Yards	69-635	41-351
Fumbles-Lost	20-6	10-5
3rd Down Efficiency	58-130	27-128
Percentage	45.2	21.3
4th Down Efficiency	8-12	5-14
Percentage	66.7	36.1
Sacks	20-124	18-111
Time of Possession Avg.	31:38	28:22

Score by Quarters	1	2	3	4	Tot.	Avg.
Ohio State	93	95	56	62	306	38.3
Opponents	13	44	6	9	72	9.0

Attendance	Games	Total	Avg.
Home	4	373,080	93,270
Away	4	213,918	53,495
Total	8	586,998	73,375

Individual Statistics	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Long
Rushing					
Michael Wiley	132	856	6.6	8	76
Joe Montgomery	77	469	6.1	5	30
Jonathan Wells	33	142	4.3	2	14
Matt Keller	22	42	1.9	1	12
Derek Combs	29	77	2.7	0	12
Dee Miller	3	17	5.7	0	10
Jamar Martin	6	13	2.2	0	7
Jermain Jackson	2	8	4.0	0	4
Jerry Westbrook	1	3	3.0	0	3
Charlie Sanders	1	3	3.0	0	3
Joe Germaine	34	-2	0.1	0	22
Brent Bartholomew	1	-4	-4.0	0	0
Mark Garcia	6	-13	-2.2	0	7
OSU Totals	348	1676	4.8	17	76
OPP Totals	245	665	2.7	2	35

Receiving	No.	Yards	Avg.	TD	Long
David Boston	55	901	16.4	9	53
Dee Miller	46	717	15.6	2	42
Michael Wiley	17	86	5.1	1	20
John Lumpkin	13	193	14.8	3	25
Reggie Germany	12	195	16.3	3	47
Matt Keller	10	85	8.5	0	15
Jamar Martin	5	68	13.6	0	17
Ken-Yun Rambo	4	68	17.0	0	39
Jimmy Reidmond	2	25	12.5	0	15
Dark Warnke	2	21	10.5	0	17
Kevin Griffin	1	14	14.0	0	14
Chad Cacchio	1	11	11.0	0	11
Jonathan Wells	1	11	11.0	0	11
Kevin Houser	1	10	10.0	0	10
Jerry Westbrook	1	7	7.0	0	7
Joe Montgomery	1	5	5.0	0	5
Steve Wisniewski	1	3	3.0	0	3
Derek Combs	1	1	1.0	0	1
OSU Totals	174	2421	13.9	18	53
OPP Totals	131	1231	9.4	5	60

Scoring	TD	EPK	EPP	EPR	FG	PTS
Dan Stultz	0	37-38	—	—	9-17	64
David Boston	10	—	—	1	—	62
Michael Wiley	9	—	—	—	—	54
Joe Montgomery	5	—	—	—	—	30
Reggie Germany	3	—	—	—	—	18
John Lumpkin	3	—	—	—	—	18

Dee Miller	2	—	—	—	—	12
Jonathan Wells	2	—	—	—	—	12
Derek Combs	1	—	—	—	—	6
Matt Keller	1	—	—	—	—	6
Joe Cooper	1	—	—	—	—	6
Na'il Diggs	1	—	—	—	—	6
Central McClellion	1	—	—	—	—	6
Jerry Rudzinski	1	—	—	—	—	6
Joe Germaine	0	—	1-2	—	—	0
OSU Totals	40	37-38	1-2	1	9-17	306
OPP Totals	8	7-7	0-1	0	5-6	72

Passing	Comp.	Att.	Pct.	Yds.	INT	TD	Rating
Michael Wiley	1	1	1,000	15	0	0	226.0
Joe Germaine	160	255	627	2214	4	17	154.5
Mark Garcia	10	22	455	168	0	1	124.6
Steve Bellisari	3	5	600	24	0	0	100.3
Austin Mohrman	0	1	0	0	0	0	0.0
Jonathan Wells	0	1	0	0	0	0	0.0
OSU Totals	174	285	611	2421	4	18	150.4
OPP Totals	131	280	468	1231	13	5	80.3

FG Distance	0-29	30-39	40-49	50+	Total
Dan Stultz	3-3	4-6	2-6	0-3	9-17
OSU Totals	1-3	4-6	2-6	0-2	9-17
OPP Totals	1-1	2-3	2-2	0-0	5-6

Punting	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Bk	Long
Brent Bartholomew	38	1590	41.8	1	57
Team	1	0	0.0	0	0
OSU Totals	39	1590	40.8	1	57
OPP Totals	73	3085	42.3	2	66

Interceptions	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
Ahmed Plummer	3	0	0.0	0	0
Central McClellion	1	60	60.0	1	60
Steve Bellisari	1	19	19.0	0	19
Na'il Diggs	1	18	18.0	0	18
Clinton Wayne	1	17	17.0	0	17
Brent Johnson	1	11	11.0	0	11
Percy King	1	3	3.0	0	3
Tim Cheatwood	1	0	0.0	0	0
Nate Clements	1	0	0.0	0	0
David Mitchell	1	0	0.0	0	0
Damon Moore	1	0	0.0	0	0
OSU Totals	13	128	9.8	1	60
OPP Totals	4	0	0.0	0	0

Punt Returns	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
Ken-Yun Rambo	19	128	6.7	0	24
Gary Berry	10	65	6.5	0	13
David Boston	11	149	13.5	1	70
Percy King	1	8	8.0	0	8
Joe Cooper	0	0	0.0	0	0
OSU Totals	46	350	7.6	3	70
OPP Totals	23	158	6.9	6	23

Kickoff Returns	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
Michael Wiley	4	105	26.3	0	34
Ken-Yun Rambo	4	90	22.5	0	26
Jonathan Wells	3	63	21.0	0	23
Reggie Germany	1	14	14.0	0	14
Matt Keller	1	5	5.0	0	5
OSU Totals	13	277	21.3	0	34
OPP Totals	39	661	16.9	0	29

Defensive Leaders	Solo	Ass.	Tot.	TFL	Yds.	Sacks
Antone Winfield	42	9	51	4-26	2-17	2-17
Na'il Diggs	40	10	50	10-43	4-27	4-27
Andy Katzenmoyer	41	8	49	9-29	1-6	1-6
Damon Moore	34	13	47	5-16	1-1	1-1
Jerry Rudzinski	23	13	36	7-31	2-17	2-17
Gary Berry	23	7	30	2-9	1-5	1-5
Ahmed Plummer	24	3	27	3-10	—	—
Brent Johnson	17	10	27	9-22	4-17	4-17
Joe Cooper	14	9	23	1-3	—	—
Central McClellion	7	9	16	—	—	—
Joe Brown	7	6	13	3-13	1-6	1-6
Tim Cheatwood	6	7	13	1-3	—	—
Ryan Pickett	9	3	12	2-9	1-3	1-3
Steve Bellisari	8	4	12	—	—	—
Nate Collins	8	4	12	1-3	1-3	1-3
Percy King	7	5	12	—	—	—
Clinton Wayne	6	6	12	—	—	—
Derek Ross	8	2	10	—	—	—
James Cotton	7	3	10	3-11	1-7	1-7

Fumbles Forced
1 — Joe Cooper, Jerry Rudzinski, James Cotton.

Fumbles Recovered
1 — Tim Cheatwood, Ahmed Plummer, Jerry Rudzinski, Na'il Diggs, Gary Berry.

Blocked Kicks
1 — Steve Bellisari, Percy King.



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SCHOTTENSTEIN CENTER: FAN REACTION

Seat License Holders Enjoy First Glimpse

By STEVE HELWAGEN
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

In the final days leading up to the initial event at the Jerome Schottenstein Center, seat license purchasers were provided an early glimpse of the facility as they picked out their seats.

Endowment Club members, who paid \$15,000 each for court-side seats, picked out their seats on the evening of Oct. 27. A day later, members of the Center Court Club, who paid \$7,500 each, got the same opportunity.

Those in the Arena Circle, who paid \$4,000 each, chose their seats over three days, Oct. 30-31 and Nov. 2.

BSB was afforded a chance to join several of the Center Court Club members as they picked out their seats and found everybody surveyed gave the \$110 million arena high marks.

"It's a great place, just look at it," said John Johnson of Columbus. "It speaks for

itself."

"It's a wonderful facility," added Grant Douglass of Columbus. "It reminds me a lot of the United Center, and I think that's a compliment."

Joe Berwanger of Columbus joined his partner, Ed Overmyer, of Berwanger Overmyer Associates, in picking out their four seats in the Center Court Club.

"It is really exciting to be here and be a part of it," he said. "These licenses go on for 40 years, and that's a real legacy, especially when you can pick seats this close to the action."

"They have really handled this (selection process) well. You can just feel the excitement building."

Matt Cincione of Columbus joined his father in selecting his Center Court seats. Matt purchased his own seats in the terrace.

"I have been in a lot of different arenas and I've been to Gund Arena in Cleveland," Cincione said. "This is certainly as nice as any of those nice arenas around the country. It's



PICKING THEIR SEATS — Joe Berwanger (left) and Ed Overmyer of Berwanger Overmyer Associates pick out their seats in Section 123 of the Center Court Club.

nicer than Gund Arena.

"This has many more seats closer to the action than Gund."

But Cincione wants to reserve judgment until he has seen a few games in the new arena before deciding on its atmosphere.

"It's hard to tell now how it will be because nobody is in here," he said. "It's hard to get a feel for it without any activity. But the seats are comfortable, and there are good sight lines."

"I also like the room on the concourses. Plus, there are increased food options. I couldn't eat the hot dogs (at St. John Arena). Now you feel like you can go with your family and get something to eat for dinner at the game."

Joan Merkle of Columbus joined her husband and son in picking out their seats.

"I think it's a wonderful, beautiful facility," she said. "I like the artwork and the architectural design. To bring all of that into a sporting facility is fantastic."

Johnson added, "The entrances are nice with the hockey player and the women's basketball players. It's impressive."

Seat license holders picked their seats as workers put the finishing touches on many of the building's features.

When asked whether she thought the building was ready, Merkle replied, "No, but they will play through the construction."

Why Buy A License?

Much has been made over the sale of seat

licenses — better than 4,500 of them — as part of the arena's funding process.

To entice potential seat license purchasers, OSU dangled the chance to get the arena's best seats and priority purchasing power for all concerts and special events in the building.

"I'm just a big Buckeye fan, and I thought this was the thing to do," Johnson said. "I believe they are going to turn the program around."

For some, having tickets to OSU basketball games is a way of life. Merkle and her family, for instance, have had tickets for 41 years.

"Our children really enjoy the games," she said. "This is nice for us to pass on to them just like my dad passed his tickets on to me."

For Berwanger and his partner, the move to the Schottenstein Center could be considered an upgrade — although it comes at a price.

"We were behind one of the corner scoreboards in St. John Arena," he said. "Those were good seats, but this gets us much closer. We just looked at it as a way to support the university and this program."

Besides the four Center Court seats, their firm also purchased four season tickets on the terrace level (balcony).

"It makes sense for us," Berwanger said. "We have a company with 180 employees."

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SCHOTTENSTEIN CENTER: COACHES' REACTION

Coaches Know Short-Term Trouble Worth It

By JEFF RAPP

Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

The good news is OSU head coaches Jim O'Brien, Beth Burns and John Markell now have the luxurious Jerome Schottenstein Center to call home.

The even better news is that their three athletic programs are only just beginning to reap the full benefit from the stunning building.

Two of our players, Chris Richards and Jeff Maund, went over to look at it the other day, and they were just in awe of it," said Markell. "But not a single recruit has seen it in its full glory yet. There are a lot of other good buildings in this league (the CCHA) and in other leagues, so you don't want to assume kids are just going to line up to commit to you."

"But obviously we're excited about being in there and creating a hockey atmosphere in it. The recruits that have been in there have seen dirt and dust and spots where seats aren't in yet. Let's see what can happen when everything is in place."

Markell and his Buckeyes, surprise semi-finalists in the NCAA tournament last year, won't be afforded that chance until Jan. 2, when OSU hosts league rival and defending national champion Michigan. The cement floor of the arena needs to be cooled and cured for close to a month, and a special blend of water will be sprayed into place and frozen sometime in December.

It will be a deliberate process, as will be the selling of the new environment. Even for the titanic match-up with the Wolverines, it's hard to imagine every one of the 17,500 seats in the hockey configuration being in use.

But Markell wants to tap into the excitement now.

"We've got a few more road trips coming up, and I imagine we'll stop the bus, walk in and look around before we head off," said the coach.

"It's exciting, but the reality is that we're not practicing over there now. We can probably use the dressing room any day, but we'd have to van over to the (OSU Ice) Rink and then go back and change. Then we'd have to van back over on Monday and Wednesday to lift weights because the weight room isn't set up over there yet."

Still, Markell said his squad will move some equipment and assign lockers to players any day now.

Hoops Coaches Eager To Get Going

Similarly, the basketball teams are going through a major logistic transition.

Men's basketball secretary Debby Cacchio, for example, was relocated from the St. John Arena office to the Schottenstein Center Oct. 23, going without necessities such as a fax machine, a printer and filed information for several days.

Most offices are cluttered with boxes, and furniture is shoved into corners. Almost no

pictures are on the walls as yet.

"We're even dealing with things like making sure to tell our kids which door to come into because they can't access all of them," O'Brien said. "There are just a lot of little things to iron out."

But it's a welcome change nonetheless. O'Brien estimated his team now has an area that is roughly twice as big as what it got used to at St. John.

The Buckeyes were scheduled to conduct their last practice in the old digs on Halloween, then creep down Lane Avenue to make the Schottenstein Center their new home for good on Nov. 1. Both cage teams continued to work out in St. John throughout October because the auxiliary gymnasium did not yet have scoreboards and shot clocks.

The men get to christen the building Nov. 3 with an Election Day exhibition game with the Worldwide All-Stars. The women have a similar exhibition with Rota Banaka Slovakia on Nov. 11. That means recruits will soon be invited. The men's coaches have scheduled an Underclassmen Day for Nov. 7, which should get the ball rolling with in-state recruits.

"I don't even know if we've gotten the full benefit of it in our recruiting because all of the kids that we are recruiting have not seen the finished product," O'Brien said. "Of the three kids that are committed to us already, none of those three kids took an official visit. They committed after unofficial visits. The building I'm sure had a lot to do with that."

"It's a very, very attractive building, and I just think we are yet to see the big benefit from having and playing in a facility like that. It's just going to go a long way in helping the perception of our program."

Burns was typically giddy on the subject of the new arena.

"To me, it is a building that is so phenomenal. ... I've told our team that our challenge is to match our product with this magnificent new structure that we're in," said the women's coach. "We will be reaping the benefits from it for the years to come. It is something that people from all over the Midwest are going to want to come to be a part of. It's that different."

Plenty Of Bells And Whistles

Coaches have long been gushing about the plush nature of the new arena. But the recent unveiling of the Schott showed they weren't just whistling a happy tune.

The auxiliary gym in the southwest corner houses 10 basketball courts to practice at the same time, if necessary. The downstairs weight room is carpeted and large enough to accommodate all three teams. Meeting rooms, extra showers, locker areas for managers, and lounges are sprinkled throughout. And the locker rooms for all three sports, home and away, are impressively designed.

"Our dressing room is probably nicer than the Fleet Center over in Boston," Markell said. "Some locker room areas I've been in look grander with the weight training facility set up

right inside. But with our dressing room, lounge and equipment room, I can't think of a single place, NHL or otherwise, that's better."

"In my mind, I cannot imagine a nicer on-campus facility in the country," O'Brien told reporters at the Oct. 25 Big Ten media day in Chicago. "It's going to go a long way toward helping to move along things for us, and we're just ecstatic about getting a chance to play in the new Schottenstein Center."

Burns was given the option to keep her team in St. John, if she so desired. But she eagerly accepted the notion of moving into the new arena.

"This building is simply premier all the way through," she said. "There's nowhere I'd rather be. It's absolutely spectacular in its outward appearance, and you cannot even describe to someone how impressive it is on the inside."

The men's staff spent several years coaching in the Big East at Boston College and regularly trekked to places such as the Spectrum, MCI Center and the Meadowlands. The Schott holds a candle to all of them.

"We were talking the other day," associate head coach Rick Boyages said, "and you could honestly say this place is nicer than a pro



John Markell

arena because of how complete it is. A lot of those places don't have great weight rooms or lounges and things like that."

Added O'Brien, "I've told our kids that they need to appreciate what they have, and I don't ever want coming over there to be hum. This is an extraordinary place, and I don't ever want us to get where it's something we take for granted."

Other Coaches Also Excited

On Oct. 28, when the media and school dignitaries took their first official tour of the arena, many Olympic sport coaches were seen peeking in on the arena. Included in that group were Russ Rogers (track), Linda Kalafatis (softball) and John Daly (men's tennis), who all have outdoor facilities.

Also on hand was men's volleyball coach Pete Hanson, who will remain in venerable St. John but was curious just the same.

"This is my first time over here, and this is a beautiful building," he said. "It's just gorgeous. I think something like this can play a huge part for recruiting. Anytime you can show a young person something along these lines, they've got to be impressed. I mean, St. John Arena makes an impression on the kids we recruit, so I can only imagine what this does. It takes my breath away."

But if you think Hanson is jealous, think again. For one, he plans to bring recruits over to the Schott to enhance their impression of the campus.

"When you can showcase and use a multipurpose facility like this that has these types of amenities, it's a benefit to the whole university," he said.

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SCHOTTENSTEIN CENTER: THE TOUR

A Look Inside The Schott

OSU's New Arena Has Plenty Of Neat Features

By STEVE HELWAGEN
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

A quick tour of the Jerome Schottenstein Center reveals that a visitor needs more than just a quick tour to see everything that is unique about Ohio State's brand new \$110 million basketball and hockey arena.

OSU athletic director Andy Geiger and his staff welcomed a group of about 100 media members into the new arena Oct. 27 for a guided tour which lasted close to two hours.

During that time, the media saw everything from the luxury suites to the coaches' offices to star dressing rooms for the likes of Billy Joel — he plays The Schott Nov. 10.

Highlights of the building include the following:

- The Hall of Fame Heritage Room and displays that will ring the arena's first and third floors similar to the current display in St. John Arena. Although construction on the Heritage Room and these displays continues, it's clear this will be one of the building's key features.

"The history of the program will be told throughout the building on the first and third floors," Geiger said.

The Heritage Room will include four big-screen TVs depicting great OSU moments or the ongoing game inside. Plus, interactive kiosks will be placed throughout the room to track the school's athletic history. The concourse display will include a complete timeline of the history of OSU athletics.

Former sports information director Steve Snapp helped assemble the displays, while Mills James Productions and Jack Roush Co. assisted with video work.

- The Huntington Club, which stretches around the building's second level behind the luxury suites.

"The Huntington Club will be the concierge level of the arena," Geiger said. "That area is for a lot of people who believed in the building. That is a place where those people can come before, during and after a game."

The building also includes 14 meeting rooms with capacities ranging from 14 to 1,500.

"It's also a place where anybody can come and have a catered meeting at any time during the year," Geiger said.

This area, which includes four sports bar/restaurant areas, will cater mainly to seat license holders and suite owners and their guests.

That level also features the building's 52 luxury suites. Forty-six of those suites have been sold with the remaining six — which are actually three large ones that can be divided as needed — sold on a game-by-game basis.

- The building's terrazzo floors, which depict women's and men's basketball, hockey and legendary coach Fred Taylor.

Work continues on several of these floors, including the Taylor mosaic.

"We're very proud of those," Geiger said. "We got a \$1 million gift from the Nationwide people for that and we spent \$2 million on the terrazzo artwork because we wanted to make a special statement, not only about the history of our program but also about our place in the university."

- The arena's center-hung scoreboard with big-screen video boards and four corner-hung message boards.



WIDE-ANGLE VIEW — This is the viewpoint from one of the luxury boxes on the east end of the Schottenstein Center.



OSU'S HERITAGE — Similar to how photos of OSU's great athletes in every sport have been displayed at St. John Arena, displays like this one, at left, will adorn the walls on the first and third floors of the Schottenstein Center.

Photos by
Jeff Brehm

PRACTICE GYM — One of the interesting features of the Schottenstein Center is this practice gymnasium, consisting of two full courts and 10 baskets. At right is where the Buckeye basketball teams will be able to practice while ice is in the main arena.



"Those will be like TV sets with replays," Geiger said of the middle boards. "The feed they are seeing outside will be shown in here."

"In the corners, we have four message boards like we have in the middle at St. John. Those will have statistics and animations."

"There are also scoreboards on the fascia at each end and on both sides so you can see the time and score from anywhere in the arena."

- The practice gymnasium in the south-west wing, where the Buckeye basketball teams can practice when the ice is in the main arena.

"That is an important feature," Geiger said. "It gives our programs some flexibility."

Plus, it provides an area for entertainment possibilities."

OSU wisely excavated well below the practice gym for storage space.

"When you convert from hockey to basketball, you need a lot of storage," he said.

- A large area for workers to bring equipment for shows in and out of the arena.

"This is where the shows come in and unload," Geiger said in the west-end garage area. "We can get as many as seven semis in here. It's sunken. You can't see it from the street."

- Besides spacious locker rooms for OSU's

men's and women's basketball teams and the hockey squad, there are two spacious locker rooms for visiting teams.

Those locker rooms can also be divided into two separate locker facilities for state basketball tournaments.

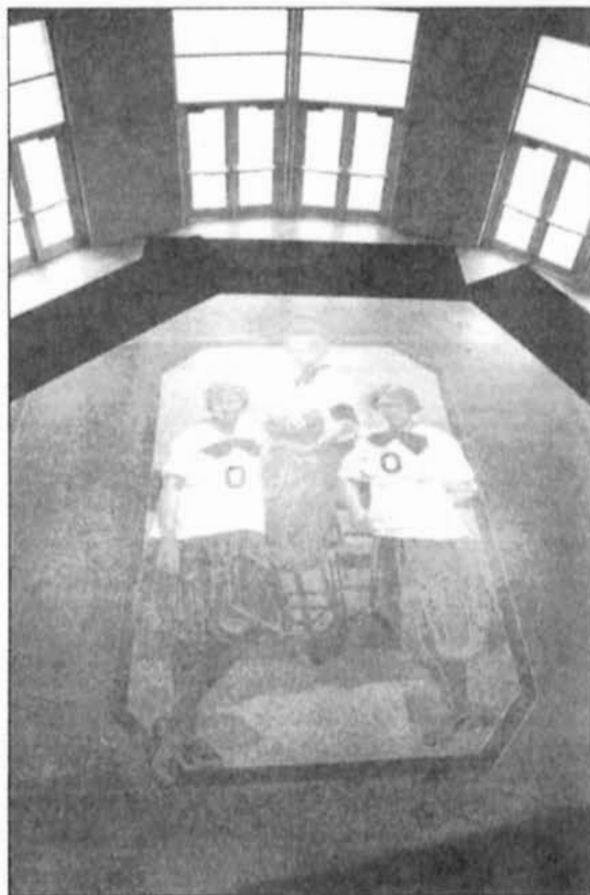
Plus, on the same level, there are four adjacent "star rooms" where entertainers can prepare for their performances.

- Other aspects of the building include an arena store (to open in January), two outdoor terraces on the upper level for football pregame parties or fresh air during arena events and some 250 television monitors throughout the building.

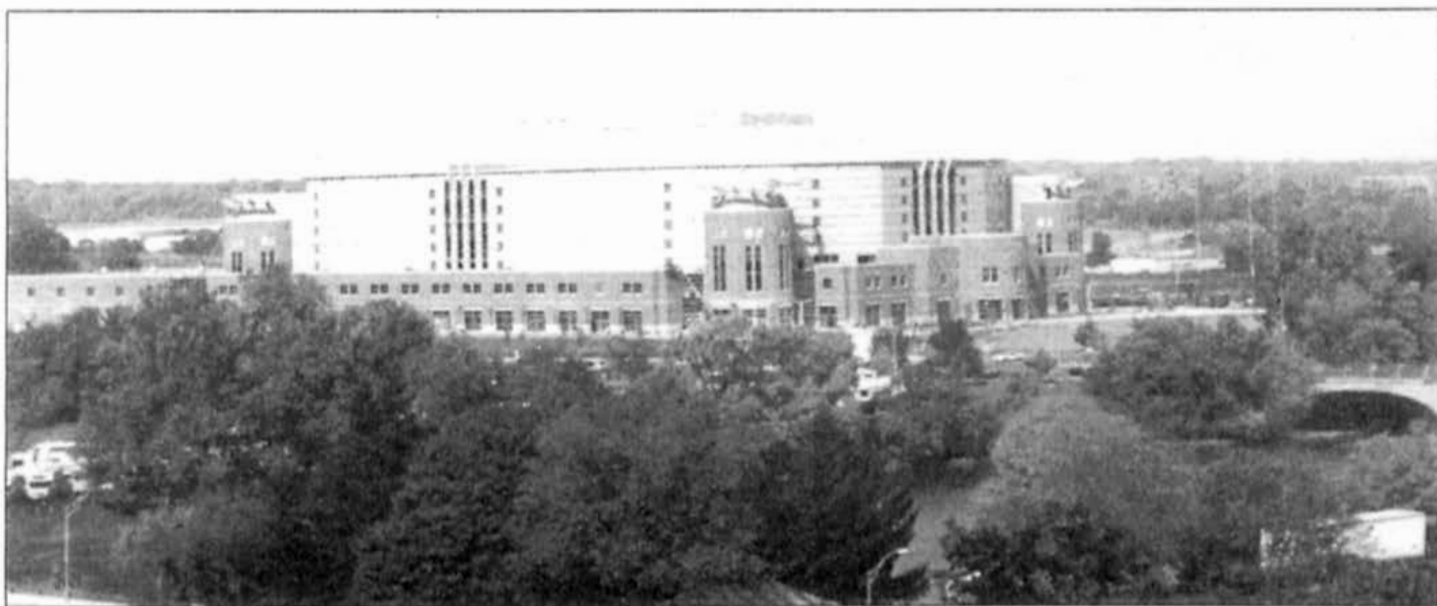
SCHOTTENSTEIN CENTER: THE TOUR



NEW DIGS — Above, reporters got a firsthand look inside the new locker room for the men's basketball team.



DIFFERENT VIEWPOINTS — Above, each of the entry rotundas will feature a special terrazzo floor depicting a piece of OSU's athletic history. Here, OSU's first women's basketball team in 1916 is featured. At left, this will be the center-hung scoreboard at the Schottenstein Center, complete with a video board with replay capability. Four message boards are hung in the corners of the building, and additional scoreboards are on the facade of the balcony level. Below, this is the view from the C-deck of Ohio Stadium, looking across the Olentangy River toward the Schottenstein Center.



The Jerome Schottenstein Center Timeline

Here is a look at the timeline involved in the construction of the Jerome Schottenstein Center:

• **Late 1980s** — Gary Williams rejuvenates the OSU men's basketball program, which regularly begins playing before sellout crowds of 13,276 at St. John Arena.

• **Feb. 17, 1991** — Ohio State, led by Big Ten MVP Jim Jackson and coach Randy Ayers, knocks off Indiana 97-95 in double overtime before a sellout crowd at SJA. Former sports information director Steve Snapp estimates OSU could have sold 20,000 or more tickets to the game, matching the nation's No. 2- and No. 4-ranked teams.

• **March 1992** — OSU fans and officials alike enjoy a weekend watching NCAA regional tournament basketball at Kentucky's 22,000-seat Rupp Arena. Everything was enjoyable except the final result — the top-seeded Buckeyes lose to Michigan and miss a Final Four berth.

Speculation begins that Ohio State and/or the city of Columbus would construct a new basketball arena either on or near the campus.

• **Sept. 14, 1994** — OSU president Gordon Gee and Columbus mayor Greg Leshutka appear at a press conference to announce that the university and city would pursue separate arena projects.

Initial estimates are for OSU to have a \$65-75 million facility with the initial \$15 million coming from the state of Ohio.

"It came down to both sides sitting down and asking the question, 'Could one arena serve the needs of both the city and the university?' They very quickly came to the realization that would not work, particularly if the city were to get a professional sports team," said OSU lobbyist Herb Asher, who helped broker the deal.

As part of the deal, the university agreed not to pursue luxury suite sales. Eleven sites were under consideration, but the Lane Avenue/Olentangy River Road site was viewed as the best choice.

• **February 1995** — The state of Ohio officially appropriates \$15 million in seed money for OSU's new arena. This money will be used for architectural studies and the planning phase of the arena project.

As part of the process, a collection of OSU officials tour arenas across the country to gather ideas. The group sees the Thomas & Mack Center of Nevada-Las Vegas; the Arrowhead Pond in Anaheim, Calif.; the Delta Center in Salt Lake City, Utah; and the San Jose (Calif.) Arena.

• **June 2, 1995** — Plans for the \$75 million, 21,000-seat arena are unveiled at a meeting of OSU's board of trustees.

The design, by Moody/Nolan Ltd. of Columbus and Sink Combs Dethlefs of Denver, was hailed by Gee.

"All across the country they are building arenas that look like spaceships," Gee said. "This one looks like a campus building — one that belongs on our campus."

• **Oct. 5, 1995** — Ohio State unveils plans to sell roughly 4,500 of the arena's best seats through seat licenses. Endowment Club members would pay \$15,000 for a 40-year lease on court-side seats, while Center Court Club members would pay \$7,500 and those in the Arena Circle would pay \$4,000.

• **Nov. 15, 1995** — Schottenstein Stores Corp. and Value City Stores pledged \$12.5 million for naming rights for OSU's

new arena. The building proper will be referred to as the Schottenstein Center, while the playing arena will be named Value City Arena.

• **April 2, 1996** — OSU officials are joined by family members of the late Jerome Schottenstein for the official groundbreaking ceremony for the arena at the Olentangy/Lane site.

Advances in fund raising — 56 percent of the 4,500 seat licenses had been sold — caused OSU officials to raise the arena's price tag to an estimated \$84 million.

"It is thanks to the generosity of the Schottenstein family and our many friends that we are able to undertake this project," Gee said.

Much of the first year of construction is spent excavating the site and installing the utilities.

• **March 1997** — OSU athletic director Andy Geiger fires basketball coaches Ayers and Nancy Darsch. Boston College's Jim O'Brien replaces Ayers as the men's coach while San Diego State's Beth Burns succeeds Darsch as the women's coach.

• **April 14, 1997** — OSU announces the hiring of Xen Riggs, the former director of Assembly Hall at the University of Illinois, as the director of the Schottenstein Center. Riggs will be paid \$93,000 annually to run the new arena.

• **May 6, 1997** — Franklin County voters turn down a ballot issue for a 0.5 percent sales tax increase for a downtown arena and soccer stadium. Gee helped campaign for the project, but as soon as it failed, OSU moved ahead with plans to build luxury suites in its arena.

"We had an agreement which indicated that we would not move forward on these amenities until after the vote was taken," Gee said. "But the agreement had been torn up sometime earlier and it had already been determined — win or lose — that we would move forward with the so-called sky boxes."

Within a matter of days, OSU announced it had commitments for 14 of the building's 52 luxury suites.

• **May 13, 1997** — Huntington Bancshares Inc. donates \$5 million for naming rights for the arena circle concourse. This concourse, which will include amenities for seat license holders, will be called The Huntington Club.

• **June 1997** — The Kroger Co. donates \$2.5 million for the creation of the OSU Athletic Hall of Fame in the new building. Also, at mid-year, Gee announces he is leaving to become the president at Brown University.

• **July 21, 1997** — Motorist Marvin Brian Kuhn, 45, of Columbus was killed instantly when a crane at the arena construction site toppled and crushed his moving car in the west-bound lane of Lane Avenue at about 7:20 a.m.

• **Aug. 28, 1997** — Members of the media attend a tour of the facility prior to the OSU-Wyoming football game. Construction is roughly 30 percent complete with concrete forms showing where the risers will eventually be.

• **Sept. 5, 1997** — The OSU board of trustees passes a resolution to rename the rebuilt Fyffe Road between Lane Avenue and Ackerman Road as Fred Taylor Drive, recognizing OSU's Hall of Fame basketball coach.

• **Nov. 3, 1997** — OSU announces its Buckeye Fan Plan, allowing fans to use a payment plan of \$100 a month — with a \$500 deposit up-front — to purchase Arena Circle seat licenses. OSU already had sold over 71 percent of its seat licenses.



NAMING RIGHTS — Jay Schottenstein joins OSU president Gordon Gee in November 1995 to announce his company has purchased the arena's naming rights.

Fund raising had topped \$37 million for the now-\$93 million project.

The arena is beginning to take shape with masonry work rising on the balcony level.

• **Feb. 6, 1998** — The OSU board of trustees approved a name change of the new arena to the Jerome Schottenstein Center, in memory of the founder of the Schottenstein Stores Corp.

• **April 14, 1998** — OSU announces it has sold 84.7 percent of the 4,562 seat licenses it had for sale.

Eighty percent of the gigantic steel trusses and 20 percent of the main roof are in place. The building's price tag is now in the \$105 million range.

• **July 1998** — Work is completed on the arena's roof and workers focus on the building's interior.

Riggs and his growing full-time staff set about booking the building beginning in November.

• **Oct. 28, 1998** — Media members take one last guided tour through the arena, now 98 percent complete, according to Geiger. Remaining work includes the arena shop, some terrazzo floors, the terrace level press box, painting and cleanup.

According to Geiger, OSU has leased 46 of the available 52 luxury suites. The remaining six will be held for game-by-game use. OSU has also sold roughly 95 percent of the seat licenses. He estimates the building's final price tag at \$110 million.

• **Nov. 3, 1998** — The OSU men's basketball team is scheduled to make its Schottenstein Center debut by hosting the Worldwide All-Stars in an exhibition game.

— Photos and story by Steve Heiwagen



NOVEMBER 1997 — The Schottenstein Center begins to take shape.

The Schottenstein Center, in memory of the founder of the Schottenstein Stores Corp.

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THE FINISHED PROJECT — Here is a look inside the Schottenstein Center during the Oct. 28, 1998, media tour. The building is "98 percent done," athletic director Andy Geiger says.



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SCHOTTENSTEIN CENTER

Arena Facts, Figures

Here are some interesting facts and figures on OSU's new Jerome Schottenstein Center.

JSC BY THE NUMBERS

- 1 — Toilet for every 47 guests.
- 9.5 (feet) — Height of shower heads in men's basketball locker room.
- 12 (miles) — Refrigerated pipe used in ice floor.
- 20 — Ticket windows.
- 35 — Full-time staff members at JSC.
- 52 — Private suite boxes.
- 136 (feet) — Height from floor to rooftop.
- 250 — Television monitors positioned throughout arena.
- 400 — Average number of construction workers on site prior to opening.
- 1,800 (square feet) — Size of "The Winning Schott" novelty store (opens in January).
- 3,688 — Cement truck loads poured during construction.
- 5,652 — Light fixtures.
- 15,000 (square feet) — Size of the auxiliary practice gymnasium.
- \$15,000 — Price per court-side seat for seat licenses in the Endowment Club.
- 17,500/19,500/20,000 — Seating capacity for hockey, basketball and concerts, respectively.
- \$45,000 to \$65,000 — Price range of the luxury suites.
- 700,000 (square feet) — Total square footage of the center.
- 11.1 million — People who live within 2-1/2 hours driving distance of JSC.
- \$12.5 million — Donation by the Schottenstein family to obtain naming rights for the facility.
- \$75 million — Initial estimated price tag of the Schottenstein Center in 1995.
- \$110 million — Final estimated price tag of the Schottenstein Center.

JSC FUN FACTS

- JSC will be the first university venue to contain an exclusive donor area such as The Huntington Club and will have more suite boxes than any other.
- The River Watch Tower, across from St. John Arena, could fit entirely into the structure of the Schottenstein Center.
- The facility would be able to hold 17,714,000 basketballs.
- If stretched out in a straight line, the building's wiring would stretch from the Schottenstein Center to Cleveland and back.
- There are over 400 toilets and women's restrooms outnumber men's 2 to 1.

NATION'S 10 LARGEST ON-CAMPUS ARENAS*

Arena, School	Capacity
Carrier Dome, Syracuse	33,000
Thompson-Boling Arena, Tennessee	24,535
Rupp Arena, Kentucky	23,000
Marriott Center, BYU	22,700
Dean Smith Center, North Carolina	21,572
Pyramid Center, Memphis	20,142
Schottenstein Center, Ohio State	19,500
Bud Walton Arena, Arkansas	19,200
Thomas and Mack Center, UNLV	18,500
University Arena, New Mexico	18,018

*On-campus or immediately adjacent to campus facilities. Source: The Sporting News College Basketball Yearbook.

BIG TEN BASKETBALL ARENAS

Arena, School	Capacity
Schottenstein Center, Ohio State	19,500
Assembly Hall, Indiana	17,357
Kohl Center, Wisconsin	17,142
Assembly Hall, Illinois	16,450
Carver-Hawkeye Arena, Iowa	15,500
Bryce Jordan Center, Penn State	15,261
Breslin Center, Michigan State	15,138
Williams Arena, Minnesota	14,625
Mackey Arena, Purdue	14,123
Crisler Arena, Michigan	13,562
Welsh-Ryan Arena, Northwestern	8,117

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COVER STORY: THE JEROME SCHOTTENSTEIN CENTER

Workers Go Overtime To Get Arena Ready

Continued From Page 1

tant director) Vicki (Chorman) is a stickler for it, and so am I."

Rush To The Finish Line

Geiger recognized the building's contractors for working together to get the building ready on time.

"I would like to express my appreciation to P.J. Dick, P.K. Williams, Radico and to Romanoff for the extraordinary work they have done, particularly in the last couple of months, to make sure we could go forward with our first event," he said.

He also lauded senior associate athletic director Paul Krebs for overseeing the project and former sports information director Steve Snapp, now the director of external programs, for coordinating the building's exhaustive Hall of Fame display and timeline.

"Paul has done unbelievable work," Geiger said. "He, along with the university architect's office, ran the job and ran it impeccably."

"Steve has helped us preserve and display the history and heritage of Ohio State athletics."

According to Geiger, Krebs worked tirelessly as a go-between with all of the project's interested parties.

"What you end up doing is facilitating issues, whether it's with the architects' office or taking an issue our coaches or building managers may have and taking it back to the architects," Krebs said.

"Or it could be the contractors who say 'We need to do this differently,' or 'We need to change that.' A lot of little things were involved like seating arrangements and making sure the seat numbers were on the seats in time."

Getting everybody to work together was a challenge, but one OSU was able to meet, Krebs said.

"I think one of the big things was sequencing of work," he said. "We ended up having to give them priorities and say 'We have to have this done before we can do this.'"

Riggs was also complimentary of the team effort that led to the final product.

"Without the staff we have it would be scary," he said. "We have such an incredible staff, and I can't say enough about Vicki Chorman. She has just been incredible the last couple of years."

Inside The Numbers

The arena had an original price tag of \$75 million when it was unveiled in June 1995.

But strong fund-raising efforts, coupled with cost overruns, raised the bar subsequently to \$85 million, \$93 million, and \$106 million this spring. The total actually inched ahead \$4 million more in the closing months, partially because OSU had to cover heavy overtime wages to get the building done on time.

But Geiger has reason to smile: OSU has raised over \$40 million through the sale of naming rights — including \$12.5 million from the family of the late Jerome Schottenstein and Schottenstein Stores Corp.

Other naming gifts such as the \$5 million Huntington Club, \$2.5 million from the Kroger Co. for the Hall of Fame, and \$1.5 million from Nationwide Insurance for the terrace floors also helped. Advertising sign

Schottenstein Center Event Schedule

The Jerome Schottenstein Center will be a busy place to be, beginning with an OSU men's basketball exhibition game Nov. 3.

OSU's brand-new arena is booked 23 of November's 30 days. Things will get even more hectic beginning in January when the building becomes ice-capable.

Schottenstein Center director Xen Riggs and his staff are ready to polish their juggling act.

"I've known this since I've been here," said Riggs, who arrived at OSU in April 1997. "When I got here, my marching orders from Andy Geiger and David Williams were 'Book the building, book it 365 days a year if you can.'"

"We haven't gotten to that yet. But we've booked the month of November certainly."

On top of its ambitious athletic event schedule, OSU has piled on a number of entertainment events. But Riggs does not feel the school is saturating the market.

According to Riggs, the arena sits in the middle of a metropolitan area estimated at 1.4 to 1.7 million people. Moreover, there are 11.1 million people within a 2-1/2 hour drive of the arena.

"It's no different than what Polaris has going in the summertime," Riggs said. "It is a big market here, and the events we have are of the broadest spectrum. Billy Joel people are not WWF people and they're not Neil Diamond people."

"You can look at the number of events, but when I'm balancing a calendar I tend to look more at how many events we have that appeal to this market."

The building's versatility is a plus. For example, BSB has learned that Billy Joel will play his concert "in the round" on Nov. 10.

Here is a look at the Schottenstein Center schedule for the first six weeks as well as other special events scheduled through next spring.

• Nov. 3 — Men's basketball vs. Worldwide All-Stars, 8 p.m.

• Nov. 6 — Public open house, noon to 7 p.m. (free).

• Nov. 8 — Neil Diamond in concert, 8 p.m. (\$30, \$42.50).

• Nov. 9 — Men's basketball vs. Marathon Oil, 8 p.m.

• Nov. 10 — Billy Joel in concert, 8 p.m. (\$39.50).

• Nov. 11 — Women's basketball vs. Rota Bank Slovakia, 7:30 p.m.

• Nov. 13 — Men's basketball vs. Oakland University, 8 p.m.

• Nov. 14 — Bill Cosby, 7 p.m. (\$12-25).

• Nov. 15 — Men's basketball vs. Alabama, 4:30 p.m.

• Nov. 17 — World Wrestling Federation

"Raw Is War" television taping, 7:30 p.m. (\$13-25).

• Nov. 18 — Men's basketball vs. Robert Morris, 8 p.m.

• Nov. 19 — Women's basketball vs. Kentucky, 7:30 p.m.

• Nov. 20 — Men's basketball vs. Penn State, 8 p.m.

• Nov. 21 — Alan Jackson in concert with special guests The Wilkinson and Clint Daniels, 8 p.m. (\$24).

• Nov. 22 — Men's basketball vs. Army, 2 p.m.

• Nov. 23 — Women's basketball vs. Xavier, 7:30 p.m.

• Nov. 24 — Men's basketball vs. Tennessee Tech, 8 p.m.

• Nov. 25-29 — Sesame Street Live "Elmo's Coloring Book" (\$9.50-18).

• Nov. 30 — Women's basketball vs. Cal Berkeley.

• Dec. 4 — Kings of Comedy featuring Guy Torry, Steve Harvey, Bernie Mac and Cedric the Entertainer, 8 p.m.

• Dec. 5 — KISS in concert, 8 p.m. (\$50, \$35).

• Dec. 10 — Amy Grant Christmas Tour featuring CeCe Winans, Michael W. Smith and the Nashville Symphony, 7:30 p.m. (\$36, \$26).

• Dec. 12 — Bill Gaither presents Christmas Homecoming, 6 p.m. (\$24.50, \$17.50).

• Dec. 13 — Andy Williams Christmas Show, 7 p.m. (\$35, \$27.50).

• Jan. 18 — World Championship Wrestling "Monday Nitro" live television.

• Jan. 22 — Champions On Ice with Michelle Kwan, Dorothy Hamill, Oksana Baiul, Brian Boitano, Victor Petrenko and Nicole Bobek, 8 p.m. (\$50, \$35, \$25).

• Feb. 10-15 — FELD Entertainment presents "The Wizard of Oz" on ice.

• Feb. 27-28 — U.S. Hot Rod Thunder National Monster Truck Exhibition.

• March 4-7 — Ohio high school state wrestling tournament.

• March 17 — Harlem Globetrotters.

• March 20 — Discover Stars on Ice presented by Smuckers.

• March 25-27 — Ohio high school boys state basketball tournament.

• June 1999 — Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus.

• Ticket information — Call (800) GO-BUCKS or check the Internet at www.schottensteincenter.com.

In mid-November, tickets will be available in person at the new OSU ticket office in the arena's southeast rotunda. Tickets are also available through Kroger Ticketmaster outlets, charge-by-phone (614) 431-3600 or online at

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revenue, luxury suite leases, and seat license sales have accounted for the rest.

OSU has leased 46 of the building's 52 luxury suites for \$45,000 to \$65,000 a year. Geiger said roughly 200 of the building's 4,500 seat licenses remain. Seat license purchasers paid \$4,000, \$7,500 or \$15,000 for the right to buy season tickets.

"We're confident," Geiger said. "We're in good shape financially."

The initial \$15 million for the project came from the state of Ohio. OSU, which will use no tuition money or general funds to finance the project, will sell bonds to cover the final \$55 million. Future revenues will be used to pay off the debt service on those bonds for the next 30 years.

During the media tour, Geiger addressed the issue of alcohol sales at the new arena.

"There will be some events where alcoholic beverages will be sold throughout the building," he said, referring to likely beer sales for concerts and other entertainment acts. "For Ohio State events, it will only be available at the Huntington Club level. Then there will be some events where there won't be any at all."

But whether it's been the arena's controversial name — the interior playing arena has been dubbed Value City Arena at the Schottensteins' request — alcohol sales, seat license sales or construction delays, Geiger has taken all of the bumps in the road in stride.

The proactive AD even cracked a smile when a reporter incredulously asks whether this state-of-the-art building is actually located on the campus of the once-staid Ohio State University.

"We are still learning," he said. "It's a great time at Ohio State."