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*Cooper Pleased With Loyalty Of Ohio Players***Introducing The OSU Class Of 1992****New Group
Headed By
Defenders***By Ken Halloy*

All one has to do is scan the player personnel losses the Ohio State football team sustained after the '87 season to deduce which of the new recruits could likely make the earliest impact on the '88 team, says coach John Cooper.

"I'm reluctant to say this guy is better than another player," Cooper said. "Obviously, we think every one of them could play or we wouldn't sign them. Every one of these kids has a chance to play at The Ohio State University. If they don't work hard, none of them will play."

"The fallacy is, we're not necessarily looking for a good high school player. We're looking for that player who's going to get better on down the road two years from now. How much improvement can he make? Some kids that reach their potential right now won't get a lot better."

"Some that come out of great high school football programs probably won't improve as much as kids who come out where they don't have as many coaches — maybe the kids playing two or three sports."

"Every one of these kids has a chance to play at The Ohio State University."

— John Cooper

Cooper would especially love to see those recruits that could fill in for the vacancies left by the '87 edition of the Buckeyes excel. Gone are linebackers Chris Spielman and Eric Kumerow, defensive backs William White and Greg Rogan, defensive lineman Ray Holliman, tight end Alex Higdon and punter/quarterback Tom Tupu.

Also departed, at least temporarily, is senior-to-be outside linebacker Derek Isaman. Isaman has decided to try out for the U.S. Olympic boxing team. He is allowed to return to the football team if he doesn't make it in boxing.

"I think the thing that jumps out at you is the defensive side of the ball — the secondary, the linebackers and the line," Cooper said. "And quarterbacking, obviously, and the punting game."

Cooper and his staff recruited accordingly. Based on their high school position, seven linebackers, five linemen, three quarterbacks, two running backs, a tight end and a

OSU's 1988 Recruits

Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown/School
Dave Bals	LB	6-2	225	Willoughby (Ohio) South
Greg Beatty	WR	5-11	175	Sugar Land (Tex.) Willowridge
Tony Closson	LB	6-0	230	Delphos (Ohio) Jefferson
Nick Cochran	QB	6-2	185	Girard, Ohio
Bryan Cook	DB	6-4	185	Youngstown (Ohio) Ursuline
Derrick Foster	LB	6-5	220	Dayton Patterson
Jason Frank	QB	6-5	225	Anaheim (Calif.) Servite
Rich Frimel	DL	6-3	230	North Olmsted, Ohio
Tony Goodgame	RB	6-2	210	Roxbury, N.J.
Lenny Hartman	OL	6-2	265	Leavittsburg (Ohio) LaBrae
Judah Herman	LB	6-2	210	Chagrin Falls (Ohio) Kenston
Kirk Herbstreit	QB	6-3	200	Centerville, Ohio
Buster Howe	RB-DB	5-11	182	Zanesville, Ohio
Brent Johnson	RB	6-1	205	Bexley, Ohio
John Martin	LB	6-3	220	Watseka, Ill.
Joe Metzger	LB	6-4	220	Kettering (Ohio) Alter
Corey Pargo	OL	6-5	300	Toledo Rogers
Patrick Rogan	LB	6-2	218	Urbana, Ohio
Chris Roy	TE	6-4	235	Columbus DeSales
John Schilling	OL	6-4	260	Massillon (Ohio) Washington
Paul Sherrick	OL	6-8	285	Middletown, Ohio

**Search For
1989 Class
Underway***By Ken Halloy*

Ohio State football coach John Cooper realizes the late start he and his staff had recruiting cost the Buckeyes some top-notch prospects.

The circumstances were beyond his control, as he wasn't named coach until Dec. 31. But now he is in full control.

"Steve Pederson (OSU recruiting coordinator) today mailed out all the questionnaires to all the high school coaches for next year's recruiting. You don't ever stop recruiting," Cooper said at a press conference held Feb. 10 to announce his 1988 recruiting class.

One can only imagine what the '88 class would have been like had Cooper had a full year to prepare, as Ohio was loaded with exceptional high school talent. And though the '88 Buckeye class has been tabbed a top 20 group by national recruiting expert Tom Lemming, Cooper refuses to be content with the effort.

There were glorious victories along the way — Buster Howe, Corey Pargo, Paul Sherrick, Tony Closson, Kirk Herbstreit, Nick Cochran, Judah Herman, Rich Frimel.

"We may not ever get them all, but that's always going to be our goal."

— John Cooper

And there were some last-second sobering defeats from Ohio-bred athletes — Chuck Webb, who chose Tennessee, and John Gerak and O.J. McDuffie who gave the nod to Penn State.

Though not content, Cooper isn't about to apologize for the results either. He just wants to emphasize that he doesn't expect the Webbs, Geraks and the McDuffies of 1989 to get away.

"I think we had to make up for lost ground," Cooper explained. "I think, for example, we can have a better relationship with these players next year because we'll have summer camp and they'll come to ball games and they'll be on campus where we can talk to them three or four times in the fall. We'll have a better idea at an earlier date who we're going to offer a scholarship to."

That will come through better preparation for an athlete's visit and determining his needs beforehand — is

**Cooper's First Class Received Top 20 Ranking**

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Cochran Set To Challenge For QB Spot

By Stephanie Ewert

When Nick Cochran, a 6-3, 195-pound quarterback from Girard (Ohio) High, announced he was going to play for the Scarlet and Gray Jan. 29, many Buckeye faithful questioned OSU's recruiting — "Nick Who?"

Fellow Ohio quarterbacks Kirk Herbstreit, an All-American from Centerville High and Ryan Hockman, a Harrison High product, dominated most of the state's attention. Both were recruited by Ohio State.

Herbstreit will join Cochran in Columbus this fall, but Hockman opted for Kentucky.

Cochran's statistics prove he was deserving of OSU's attention. He chose to become a Buckeye after visiting Michigan State, Michigan, Syracuse and Penn State.

A three-year starter, Cochran directed the Indians (8-2) to a Mahoning Valley Conference championship in '87, completing 96 of 160 passes for 1,600 yards and 18 touchdowns. He also carried the ball for an additional 600 yards and 12 TDs.

Those numbers are actually better than Herbstreit's, who amassed 700 yards through the air, including seven touchdowns in '87. Herbstreit added 500 yards and 15 TDs rushing.

"At first I felt I didn't get the recognition (I deserved)," said Cochran, who has 4.6 speed. "But I wasn't ever too worried about it."

Girard coach Fred Thomas is confident Cochran will do well for Ohio State.

"He directed our offense like he always knew what was going on. He has good field vision and good mobility," Thomas said. "He hasn't received the publicity some of the others have, but he won't disappoint you when you see him play."

In addition to running the offense, Cochran played free safety.

"It was a matter of playing the 11 best people on both sides," Cochran said. "They (Girard coaches) never really worried about me getting injured playing defense, but they never would let me play special teams."

When OSU coach John Cooper passes the position sign-up sheet around to recruits in August, Cochran won't even hesitate when making his decision.

"I'd put down offense because you're the leader," he said. "And the quarterback always has the ball in his hands."

The competition for OSU's starting quarterback spot doesn't intimidate Cochran.

"I'd like the chance to start," he said. "That's everybody's goal. If not, I'd at least like to be second team. (OSU)

sophomore quarterback Greg) Frey's going to have the jump on me because of spring ball, but I'm going to have the jump on him when I come down for my eight days of freshman ball."

Cochran, who was named Trumbull County player of the year in '87, proved he can turn around an offense in a hurry.

Against Warren JFK, Girard trailed 21-0 in the first half. Within four minutes, Cochran, a team captain, threw four touchdown passes to catapult the Indians to a 28-21 lead by halftime. Girard won, 42-41, with Cochran connecting for five touchdowns and 380 yards passing.

In his final three games, Cochran called some plays from the line of scrimmage.

"Our offense was mainly reading defenses, so I thought I did a pretty good job," Cochran said of his audibles. "It was fun. I prefer to run the fly and post patterns because they are deep routes."

Cochran said he has a strong arm, his longest pass (excluding yardage gained after reception) being a 60-

yarder for a touchdown. He says his arm could be stronger.

"I've got to work a little bit more on my drop-back," he said. "The college pro set is going to be a little bit different and I have to develop myself at the college level."

"Right after basketball season I'm going to work out until Labor Day and get in shape. I'm going to go in there (OSU) and hopefully be as strong as ever."

Cochran's performance on the basketball court interested the likes of Big East power Pittsburgh. But after his senior football season, he decided to forgo the idea of a basketball scholarship and pursue football.

The night Cochran committed to OSU, the pressure was alleviated and he could enjoy the end of his final basketball season. Campbell Memorial was a victim as Cochran, a guard, scored 51 points. He connected on 11 of 16 three-point shots.

Girard had a 15-4 (10-1 in league play) record through Feb. 15. Cochran is averaging 28 points and 10 rebounds a game.

OSU Coach High On Foster's Skills

By Stephanie Ewert

Although Derrick Foster, a 6-5, 220-pound defensive end from Dayton Patterson High, was one of the last OSU football prospects to commit, he was the first recruit Buckeye coach John Cooper mentioned at the signing day press conference Feb. 10.

"Derrick Foster — you talk about an athlete. Here's a guy who's the starting center on one of the best basketball teams in the state. He's 6-5, 220, and can run," Cooper said.

Foster's all-around athletic ability impressed Cooper, who plans on moving the all-city selection to outside linebacker. The change of position doesn't intimidate Foster, who runs a 4.7 40-yard dash.

"You're basically doing the same thing — rushing the passer," said Foster, who tallied 20 quarterback sacks last season. "But you're dropping more at the outside linebacker, playing in the defensive backfield more than as a defensive end

in high school.

"My job is to attack the quarterback and, not to sound bad, I want to hurt the guy. That's how I feel. If I get a sack I want to make the guy get up slow. I want him to know I hit him. I want to do the job right."

Foster, a three-year starter and senior captain for Patterson's gridders, also makes his presence known on the basketball court. Giving into pressure, Foster tried out for Patterson's basketball squad as a sophomore and has been a starter for the Beavers since the sixth game of that season.

Nominated to the McDonald's All-American team, Foster is averaging 20 points and 10 rebounds during Patterson's 10-6 (through Feb. 11) 1987-88 campaign.

Many schools recruited Foster for his basketball talent, including the University of Michigan. But his dream was to play college football, and Foster informed interested basketball programs of his decision.

Tennessee and Ohio State made Foster's final cut. Traveling distance was a contributing factor, but future job opportunities finalized his decision to play for the Scarlet and Gray.

"I felt I would have a better opportunity to work in Ohio if I stayed (went to college) in Ohio," said Foster, who plans to major in business. "Ohio State offers more alumni and more job opportunities."

But throughout his search, Foster said Ohio State was not necessarily the leading candidate.

"I've always had Ohio State in the back of my mind," Foster said. "But with the coaching change, I felt a little different. I was trying to wait (to make any decision) until Ohio State named a coach. I waited and that (OSU) was my last visit (Feb. 7)."

"I wanted to take my visit to see how everyone felt about the new coach and how the system was going to work out. The (Woody Hayes Athletic) facility was outstanding, and I really felt good about the school."

Talking with senior outside linebacker Mike McCray and sophomore defensive tackle Ken Coleman, who served as Foster's host, influenced Foster.

"Ken felt real good about the school and the coach," Foster said. "All the guys I talked to felt good and looked forward to playing this year with the new coach."

"I also talked with Mike McCray and the coaches, and they said I had a good chance of playing because they lost a lot of people at that position. If I work hard I may have the chance to play (this season)."

To contend for the starting position Foster, who benches 300 pounds, plans to concentrate on increasing his strength after basketball season. Foster said a weight program was not stressed at Patterson. However, at Ohio State he will have the football weight room, occupying 8,000 square feet, at his disposal.

"I'm going to work hard this summer and play if I can (as an OSU freshman)," said Foster, who was also an offensive guard in high school. "I'm going to have the attitude that I am going to play."

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OSU Coaches Take Temporary Respite

By Ken Halloy

OSU coach John Cooper is relieved recruiting is over, at least temporarily anyway. Recruiting never ends, he assures. But there are some former recruits who need attending to for a few days.

"The first thing we're going to do now is get reacquainted with our families," Cooper said after announcing his first Ohio State recruiting class Feb. 10. He and his assistants had just completed six weeks of intense recruiting on the road. "There will be some strangers sleeping in some beds with their wives tonight throughout the country."

"I'm going to tell you right now, any coach that tells you he ain't glad recruiting's over is crazy. That's the best thing about it — it's over."

Though Cooper landed only four out-of-state recruits, due heavily to the late start, national recruiting expert Tom Lemming says Cooper was an excellent out-of-state recruiter during his tenure at Arizona State. He had to be, Lemming reasoned, because Arizona is not a hotbed for high school talent.

Cooper said there's only one way to

recruit, regardless of the school.

"You want to do what's best for the kid, what will make him happy. And you hope your school can provide that. Obviously, Ohio State can," he said.

"The first thing we're going to do now is get reacquainted with our families. There will be some strangers sleeping in some beds with their wives tonight throughout the country."

— John Cooper

"We recruited the same as we did any place I've ever coached, though I do think there's more loyalty in this state. That's why it bothers me that we didn't get them all."

Cooper is still beside himself about some of Ohio's recruits that decided to go to school outside the state.

"I asked them what they wanted. Were they looking for a place to play for a great football program, get a great education and make a name for yourself," he explained. "To me, that's an advantage of playing for Ohio State for an in-state player. You'll have a lot more opportunities when you get out of school."

Could it be the constant nagging from coaches top athletes receive every day during the recruiting season that turns them away from certain schools?

"I haven't seen anybody who's been

oversaturated with football here. I don't think we ever lose a football player by showing him too much attention," Cooper said.

One way to reduce recruiting hassles, Cooper believes, is to cut back from five to three the number of visits recruits can take.

"Kids say such and such a school is too far. I say, 'Well gosh, last time I looked it hadn't moved. It was still the same distance it was when you wanted to come visit.' They'll still take the visits, though," he said. "I don't blame the kids, I blame us. Something should be done."

Cooper also favors an earlier signing

day for those who are ready to commit.

"There's a kid we signed today that committed (verbally) to us two weeks ago and his parents and he last night spent the night in a hotel room to get away from the telephone (calls from persistent recruiters)," Cooper said.

If he had it his way, Cooper said, only assistant coaches would recruit. That would leave him time to focus on the upcoming season.

"I'd rather be here working with next year's football players, seeing that they're going to class," he said. "If a kid (current player) came in to me and wanted to talk about academics, I wouldn't have had time. I do now that recruiting's over. We'll turn our sights now to the players we expect to be playing next year."

From what little he had seen to that point, he was not impressed.

"By far the biggest disappointment I have with the football players we've got is the strength of the team," Cooper said. "We have got to get stronger. We have to spend more time on the weight program. Our kids are not as big, not as strong as the football team we had at Arizona State (1987 Rose Bowl champion team)."

Coaches Will Be Better Prepared Next Season

Continued From Page 1

the athlete just out looking for a good time? What academic field does he desire? Does he have a girlfriend in school?

The weeding out process this year came through painstaking experience. Some players who made visits weren't even offered scholarships, Cooper said. That results in lost time that could have been spent on other recruits.

If you've been keeping score all along, the '88 list consists of seven linebackers, five linemen (four defensive), three quarterbacks, two running backs, a wide receiver, a defensive back, a tight end and the nomadic Buster Howe, a jack-of-all-trades — running back, defensive back and punter.

Cooper would just prefer to categorize them all like Howe. He said each recruit will have the opportunity to try out for whatever position he wishes.

Of the 21 recruits, only four are out-of-staters. Little investigating outside the Buckeye border was done, Cooper admitted. That wasn't by design; again, it was a matter of circumstance. Texas, New Jersey, Illinois and California are represented in the class.

"Honestly, what we did when we came in here was take the recruiting list from (former) Coach (Earle) Bruce's staff and the knowledge of the coaches that were kept about the prospects, simply started and tried to get as many players as we could," Cooper said.

"I'm not going to tell you I'm extremely happy with this recruiting class because we lost some players in state we went after. And I'm not going to be totally satisfied until we get them all. We may not ever get them all, but that's always going to be our goal."

Out-of-state recruiting wouldn't be necessary if he were able to sign all the top Ohio prospects, Cooper said. "But nothing can assure you're going to get them all, so you have to go out of state," he said.

Still, Cooper was able to land many of Ohio's top players.

"We got some good ones, and I'd

rather talk about the ones we got as opposed to the players that got away. We got most of the in-state (players) that visited our campus," he said. "We felt if one of those student-athletes visited our campus and gave our coaching staff a chance, and saw the new facilities and talked to our current players, we had a chance to get them to come to school here. And most of them did."

"I think the thing that pleases me most about this job so far, about being head football coach at Ohio State, is that there were some awful good players out there, in our opinion, that wanted to come here. And that's important to me. There's maybe five or six of the top players in the state that are coming to Ohio State."

"I didn't have to do a selling job to get them to come here," Cooper continued. "That will really be important in the fourth quarter when the ball game's close, it's hot and everybody's tired and things aren't going your way. Your state pride and things like that will really be important."

Cooper said "three or four" of his new Buckeyes could fall prey to Proposition 48, though he did not reveal names. He said he and his assistants will keep close tabs on those athletes to make sure they are making sufficient academic progress.

"The only thing we can do is encourage the young man. So many of these athletes, once they sign a scholarship, have a tendency to coast and their grades go down the last semester, as opposed to accelerating and going uphill," he said.

"One of the best things that's happened is Proposition 48. I think these athletes are going to perform to the level they're expected to perform. You raise the standard, I think they're going to raise their sights a little. I think that's been proven all over the country."

"We had to drop a number of athletes with a lot of ability because they are going to be Proposition 48s. But there are fewer this year than last year and next year there will be fewer. Eventually, we'll solve the problem."

Just being coach at Ohio State

virtually guarantees a quality recruiting group, Cooper said, thus his reluctance to accept any credit. He said while selling prospects on Ohio State's tradition was useful, there are many other schools that effectively utilize the same tactic.

"It's not any different here than it is at Tennessee or any of the other states where they have excellent high school programs and where they have great tradition in colleges. I grew up as a

Webb Amuses Few With Trick; McDuffie Likes PSU Stability

By Ken Halloy

Chuck Webb says he only meant it as a joke, while O.J. McDuffie said the firing of Earle Bruce was no joking matter.

In the end, neither are Buckeyes.

Webb, a 5-11, 190-pound running back from Toledo Macomber High, signed a letter of intent to Tennessee Feb. 10. The night before, Webb telephoned the *Lansing State Journal* concerning his upcoming press conference, leading the paper to believe Webb would be committing to Michigan State. The paper sent a writer to cover Webb's media gathering.

Even Macomber coach Bill Youngs was surprised when Webb, who is considered the best player in the Midwest, announced he would become a Volunteer. Michigan State wasn't even his second choice. USC took that fruitless honor.

"I did want to surprise everyone, and I did," Webb told *BSB*. "I only told my parents late the night before. I didn't mean to make anyone angry. I know I got a lot of bad press for it."

"But there were so many rumors about where I was going. One week it was Michigan State, then USC, then Ohio State. I just got tired of hearing it all."

Youngs wasn't amused by Webb's antics.

"I don't think it was the right thing to do. He knows how I feel about it. This wasn't a game and he didn't take into consideration the feelings of others," Youngs said. "Yes, I'm disappointed."

young kid in east Tennessee, and if I had been good enough and they had offered me (a scholarship), I would have gone in a minute," he said.

"That's the way the kids are here. They grew up with Ohio State football, Woody Hayes and Earle Bruce, and they come out here and start watching them when they're eight, nine years old. And they come to camp. They come to watch a game. That's why they want to come to school here. That's great."

Webb made an official visit to OSU Feb. 6. He told *BSB* a week earlier he had narrowed his choices to Michigan State and Ohio State. After his OSU visit, he said Tennessee had reentered the picture.

"I don't know how I ever really felt about Ohio State," Webb said. "I know a lot of people wanted me to go there just because it's Ohio State, but I didn't want to listen to that. After all, they're not the ones who will be spending the next four years there. I did what was best for me."

McDuffie, a 5-11, 175-pound running back/wide receiver from Gates Mills Hawken High, chose Penn State over Michigan, UCLA and Ohio State. He had been confused throughout the recruiting season, never offering a clear-cut favorite. He wasn't even concerned about making his decision by the Feb. 10 signing day.

But McDuffie became a Nittany Lion Feb. 11 because PSU coach Joe Paterno offered something OSU coach John Cooper couldn't — stability, McDuffie said.

"I said when Earle Bruce was fired I didn't like what happened. I think that was wrong," he said. "I kept an open mind and talked with Coach Cooper. He's a really nice guy. But Earle Bruce was a nice guy and what did it get him?"

"Coach Paterno told me he would be there until I finished school. I need a stable program and Penn State has one. It's nothing personal against Coach Cooper. I hope he's Ohio State's coach for the next 25 years."

Bucks Fall 'Biggie' Short Of Big Ten Title

By Ken Halloy

Had the Buckeyes landed another "biggie" or two in the end, it might have resulted in a Big Ten recruiting championship for first year coach John Cooper, says national recruiting expert Tom Lemming.

Instead, Ohio State, for the second straight year, must settle for a close third, behind two-time defending kingpin Michigan and runner-up Purdue. Iowa and Michigan State round out the top five.

Last year's top five, in order, were Michigan, Iowa, OSU, Minnesota and Indiana.

"You can take the top five in the Big Ten this year, all had good classes, and you could virtually interchange them, if it weren't for a couple of big names," Lemming said. "That's how close it was this year."

Cooper had a chance at signing Toledo Macomber running back Chuck Webb, Gates Mills Hawken receiver O.J. McDuffie and Youngstown Struthers lineman John Gerak, but all declined OSU invitations.

"Ohio State would have easily had the best class if they had gotten those three. Had they gotten two of them, they might have finished a close

second or still even number one," Lemming said. "Those super players carry a lot of weight."

Still, Lemming said the 1988 OSU recruiting class is no slouch. Like '87, this group will crack Lemming's national top 20.

"This year's class might actually be better because they probably got more top players this year, whereas last year's class was a little more well-rounded, with fewer major standouts," he said. "Players like Kirk Herbstreit, Corey Pargo, Paul Sherrick, Nick Cochran, Tony Closson, Rich Primel, Buster Howe — those are kids that are going to make an impact on Ohio State's program."

"This class may be at the lower part of the top 20 but it may actually be more impressive, considering the circumstances Cooper faced."

Because of the late start don't try to draw any conclusions about how good a recruiter Cooper will be at Ohio State, Lemming warns. Cooper was an "excellent out-of-state recruiter at Arizona (State). He had to be because that state is usually weak in talent yearly," Lemming noted.

"Cooper seems pretty good, but you really can't tell at this point. He did get most of the players Earle Bruce was in

on. But at Ohio State you don't have to be a great out-of-state recruiter because 80 percent of an Ohio State recruiting class comes from Ohio and the rest comes from needs that couldn't be found in state."

"That's all you have to do at Ohio State to virtually guarantee a top 20 class," Lemming said. "That's basically what they did this year."

Michigan did the brunt of its damage this year out of state, the talent guru said. UM's class is marked by a "constant list of top names, but no superstars like Corey Pargo. It's a balanced class."

Purdue, which made a remarkable jump from its ninth place finish last year, feasted in Chicago, signing 12 notable players from the area.

"Purdue did get some superstars like Jeff Lesniewicz (quarterback) and Frank Kmet (defensive lineman). It's definitely Purdue's best recruiting class in the last 10 years."

Michigan State and Iowa "fell flat on their faces after a good start," Lemming said. He noted that neither school was able to get any of the top players it was chasing down the stretch.

"Michigan State got a couple of good

ones, but Iowa missed them all. Iowa kind of died, while Ohio State really killed Michigan State's effort this year," he said.

Earle Bruce's firing at OSU, Mike White's resignation at Illinois, and Michigan State's winning the Rose Bowl contributed to the Big Ten balance this year.

But Big Ten parity has been in the works since 1972 when the NCAA limited the number of football scholarships to 95. There was no limit prior to then.

"Kids became more interested in Michigan State, Illinois' recruiting fell apart and schools like Purdue and Ohio State took advantage, and Cooper saved face for Ohio State with some intense work at the end," Lemming said.

"But the rule limiting scholarships did it. The kids that are going to Purdue now are the same kinds of kids that 20 years ago would be sitting on the bench at Ohio State or Michigan."

"Even if Ohio State gets most of the top Ohio players, they still have to drop some good ones. That's how Iowa and Michigan State have caught up in the last few years. Now they're big-time programs and can compete with Ohio State and Michigan in recruiting."

1988 Recruiting Lists For Big Ten Schools

ILLINOIS:

Ohio Players: None.

Don Humphrey, 6-4, 245, defensive tackle, El Camino (Calif.) Junior College; Jeff Kinney, 6-2, 190, defensive back, Wheaton North (Ill.) High; Steve Mueller, 5-9, 169, wide receiver, Valparaiso (Ind.) High; Brian Williams, 6-4, 240, defensive end, Long Beach (Calif.) Community College; John Wright, 6-1, 194, wide receiver/defensive back, St. Joseph-Ogden (Ill.) High.

INDIANA:

Ohio Players: Woody Bryant, 6-2, 250, fullback, Dayton Jefferson High; Richard Delsanter, 6-3, 255, guard/defensive tackle, Euclid High; Mike Middleton, 5-11, 190, tailback/defensive back, Cincinnati Western Hills High; John Miller, 6-1, 205, defensive back/linebacker, Massillon Washington High.

Lars Anderson, 6-5, 200, quarterback, Chicago Glenbrook South High; Robert Bass, 6-2, 230, linebacker, Brooklyn (N.Y.) Tilden High; Calvin Bell, 6-3, 230, linebacker, Miami (Ind.) Edison High; Ken Berrick, 6-2, 220, linebacker, Fort Lauderdale (Fla.) Anderson High; Scott Bonnell, 5-11, 160, kicker, Newburgh Castle (Ind.) High; Shane Cannon, 6-1, 225, linebacker, Clinton (Okla.) High; Toby Cole, 5-10, 210, fullback, Carmel (Ind.) High; John DeVries, 6-5, 250, tackle, Brooklyn (N.Y.) Sheepshead Bay High; Greg Farrall, 6-2, 220, fullback, Culver Military Academy (Ind.); Steve Fiacable, 6-4, 240, linebacker, Fort Wayne Dwenger (Ind.) High; Trent Green, 6-3, 190, quarterback, St. Louis Vianney (Ind.) High; Jim Hannon, 6-2, 250, guard/nose guard, Naperville (Ill.) North High; Jason Mack, 6-3, 240, defensive tackle, Valparaiso (Ind.) High; Jerry McBride, 5-11, 200, running back/defensive back, Hannibal (Mo.) High; Larry McDaniel, 6-3, 225, defensive tackle, St. Louis (Mo.) Hazelwood East High; Raymond Potts, 6-1, 180, wide receiver, Detroit (Mich.) Gallagher High; Chris Swartz, 5-10, 182, wide receiver, Alamo (Calif.) Monte Vista High; Ernie Thompson, 6-1, 215, tailback, Terre Haute North (Ind.) High; Harry Wardlow, 5-11, 170, defensive back, Palmetto (Fla.) High; Stanley Wheeler, 5-11, 170, wide receiver, Lansing (Mich.) Sexton High; Keith Whitlock, 6-4, 245, offensive guard/defensive tackle, Louisville (Ky.) St. Xavier High.

IOWA:

Ohio Players: None.

Doug Buch, 6-1, 175, defensive back, Benton (Iowa) Junior College; John Dauskurdas, 6-5, 210, tight end, Benet (Ill.) Academy; Roderick Davis, 6-1, 240, defensive lineman, Bayside (N.Y.) High; Scott Davis, 6-4, 240, offensive lineman, Glenwood (Iowa) High; Mike Devlin, 6-3, 260, offensive lineman, Cherokee (N.J.) High; Jason Dumont, 6-4, 195, defensive end, Wellman Mid-Prairie (Iowa) High; Ted Faley, 6-3, 205, linebacker, Wahlert (Iowa) High; Mike Ferroni, 6-2, 265, offensive lineman, Union (N.J.) High; John Filloon, 6-0, 175, wide receiver, Manson (Iowa) High; Jim Hartlieb, 6-1, 210, quarterback, Marian Central (Ill.) High; Danan Hughes, 6-1, 185, wide receiver, Bayonne (N.J.) High; Marvin Lampkin, 5-9, 190, running back, East St. Louis (Mo.) Senior High; Lew Montgomery, 5-11, 205, running back, Waterloo East (Iowa) High; Jeff Nelson, 6-4, 225, defensive lineman, Stillwater (Minn.) High; Scott Neuman, 6-2, 175, wide receiver, Inver Hills (Minn.) Community College; Kevin Quast, 6-2, 225, linebacker, Rolling Meadows (Ill.) High; Bob Rees, 6-7, 240, Sioux City (Iowa) East High; Ron Ryan, 6-4, 220, tight end, Jefferson City (Mo.) High; Sean Smith, 6-1, 190, wide receiver, El Camino (Calif.) Junior College; Sean Snyder, 6-2, 175, punter/kicker, Greenville (Texas) High; Darin VandeZande, 6-3, 245, defensive lineman, Oconomowoc (Wis.) High; Ted Velicer, 6-4, 285, offensive lineman, Preble (Wis.) High; Dusty Weiland, 6-2, 215, linebacker, Peoria (Ariz.) High; Ladd Wessels, 6-5, 230, defensive lineman, Cedar Rapids (Iowa) LaSalle High; Matt Whitaker, 6-4, 215, linebacker, Ankeny (Iowa) High.

MICHIGAN:

Ohio Players: Elvis Grbac, 6-6, 210, quarterback, Cleveland St. Joseph High; Desmond Howard, 6-1, 180, running back, Cleveland St. Joseph High; Bill Shaffer, 6-4, 280, offensive lineman, Youngstown Boardman High; Randy Stark, 6-4, 225, lineman, Mentor High; Brian Wallace, 6-5, 255, offensive lineman, Parma High; John Woodlock, 6-3, 294, lineman, Washington Massillon High.

John Albertson, 6-2, 185, kicker, Portage Northern (Mich.) High; Eddie Azcona, 5-10, 185, punter, St. Laurent, Quebec;

Corwin Brown, 6-2, 180, defensive back, Chicago Julian (Ill.) High; D.J. Brown, 6-2, 230, linebacker, Alexandria (Va.) Hayfield High; Joe Coccozo, 6-5, 280, lineman, Mechanicsville (N.Y.) High; Martin Davis, 6-3, 230, linebacker, Chesapeake (Va.) Indian River High; Ted Dennard, 6-0, 180, defensive back, Harper Woods Bishop Gallagher (Mich.) High; Rob Doherty, 6-5, 275, lineman, Sterling Heights Stevenson (Mich.) High; John Ellison, 6-0, 200, linebacker, Delran (N.J.) High; Perry Foster, 6-0, 173, running back/defensive back, Grand Rapids Catholic Central High (Mich.); Chris Hutchison, 6-3, 237, defensive lineman, Houston (Texas) Cypress Creek High; Levitus Johnson, 5-11, 165, running back, Chicago (Ill.) Leo High; Barry Kelley, 6-3, 215, linebacker, Bollingbrook (Ill.) High; Erik Knuth, 6-2, 232, lineman, Detroit (Mich.) Catholic Central High; Paul Manning, 6-4, 230, lineman, Birmingham (Ala.) Brother Rice High; Curt Mallory, 5-11, 200, linebacker, Bloomington (Ind.) South High; Pat Maloney, 6-3, 187, defensive back, La Grange (Ill.) High; Doug Skene, 6-7, 290, lineman, Allen (Texas) High; Jon Vaughn, 5-11, 175, defensive back, St. Louis (Mo.) McClure North High; Brian Wallace, 6-0, 180, defensive back, Willingboro (N.J.) High; Dwayne Ware, 5-10, 180, running back/defensive back, Bloomington (Ill.) High.

MICHIGAN STATE:

Ohio Players: Mike Edwards, 6-4, 245, linebacker, Marion-Franklin High; Todd Grabowski, 6-4, 225, tight end, Brunswick High; Mark Lacy, 6-4, 248, linebacker, Medina High; William Reece, 6-2, 230, defensive lineman, Cincinnati Princeton High; Tony Rollin, 6-0, 200, tailback/cornerback, Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary High; Roosevelt Wagner, 6-4, 230, offensive tackle, Ravenna High. Matthew Amacker, 6-6, 290, offensive tackle, Detroit (Mich.) Mackenzie High; Tico Tuckett, 5-10, 188, tailback, Kalamazoo (Mich.) Loy-Norrix High; Alan Heller, 5-11, 185, running back, Lansing (Mich.) Sexton High; Courtney Hawkins, 5-11, 180, wide receiver/defensive back, Flint (Mich.) Beecher High; Toby Heaton, 6-6, 250, offensive tackle, Redford Catholic Central (Mich.) High; Willie Hill, 6-2, 295, fullback, West Palm Beach (Fla.) Cardinal Newman High; Mitch Lyons, 6-5, 240, tight end/linebacker,

er, Grand Rapids (Mich.) Forest Hills Northern High; Mike Maddie, 6-3, 225, linebacker, Troy (Mich.) High; Todd Murray, 6-1, 180, tailback/defensive back, Bloomington (Minn.) Jefferson High; Kurt Prins, 6-4, 220, tight end/linebacker, Muskegon Reeths-Puffer (Mich.) High; Ernest Steward, 6-2, 195, linebacker, Flint Beecher (Mich.) High; Eric White, 6-5, 221, defensive end, Indianapolis (Ind.) Lawrence North High; Tim Bryan, 6-3, 185, wide receiver/defensive back, Tecumseh (Mich.) High; Jeff Graham, 6-6, 250, tight end, Westland (Mich.) John Glenn High; Randy Vanderbush, 6-4, 195, quarterback, Franklin (Ind.) High.

MINNESOTA:

Ohio Players: Greg Baumhauer, 6-1, 175, wide receiver, Bay Village High; Paul Hopewell, 6-4, 195, wide receiver, Cincinnati Moeller High; Ken McClintock, 6-1, 200, running back, Chagrin Falls Kenston High. Keith Balard, 6-5, 255, defensive tackle, Detroit (Mich.) Henry Ford High; Sam Cluquenoit, 6-3, 255, defensive tackle, Butler (Pa.) High; Bill Fisher, 6-3, 240, defensive tackle, Cherry Hill (N.J.) East High; Derek Fisher, 5-10, 175, defensive back, Miami (Fla.) Springs High; Marquell Fleetwood, 6-1, 165, quarterback, Decatur (Ga.) Gordon High; Ted Harrison, 6-4, 237, defensive tackle, Crystal Cooper (Minn.) High; Craig Hendrickson, 6-4, 270, offensive guard, Arizona Western Junior College; Scott Hendrickson, 6-4, 260, defensive tackle, Tucson (Ariz.) Sahuaro High; Irving Hill, 5-10, 184, defensive back, Burnsville (Minn.) High; Arthur Layton, 6-3, 255, defensive tackle, Chester (Pa.) High; Sean Lumpkin, 6-1, 199, strong safety, Golden Valley Benilde-St. Margaret (Minn.) High; Rick Meyer, 6-0, 216, fullback, Granite Falls (Minn.) High; Robert Nittolo, 6-2, 185, quarterback, Middlesex (N.J.) Immaculate High; Prince Pearson, 6-3, 250, defensive tackle, Fort Lauderdale (Fla.) St. Thomas High; Nick Peterson, 6-4, 241, defensive tackle, Coon Rapids (Minn.) High; Joel Staats, 6-3, 216, linebacker, Winona (Minn.) High; Trey Whitson, 6-4, 225, tight end, Unicoi (Tenn.) High; Ben Williams, 6-2, 225, linebacker, Belzoni (Miss.) High.

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Cooper Loads Up On QBs & Linebackers

Continued From Page 1

defensive back (potentially two, if Zanesville's (Ohio) multi-talented Buster Howe is included) comprise the list.

"Our depth chart right now, numbers-wise, is overloaded on the offensive side of the ball, particularly offensive linemen. I think we've got 19 scholarship offensive linemen coming back and only six defensive linemen coming back," Cooper figured. "Obviously we were looking for high school players out there who can run and have the chance to play defense."

Four of the new linemen played offense in high school, though Cooper said he would encourage those interested to try out for defense.

Rich Frimel, 6-3, 230, is the only new Buckeye lineman who played defense regularly in high school. Derrick Foster (6-5, 225) played defensive end but was recruited as a linebacker. The other linemen are Lenny Hartman (6-2, 265), Corey Pargo (6-3, 290), Paul Sherrick (6-8, 290) and John Schilling (6-3, 265).

"You can never have too many defensive linemen," Cooper said. "Some of these guys may be good enough to come in here and play. I don't think we told any of the offensive linemen they would probably play next year. Defensive linemen have more of a chance. I tell everyone, realistically, that they will probably redshirt. Some kids want to redshirt. The most important thing is for the kid to be happy."

The mention of Pargo makes Cooper happy.

"Corey Pargo — you talk about somebody who jumps out at you. I like Corey Pargo. I'd like Corey Pargo if he wasn't an athlete. He's a pleasant person to be around. He's got a smile on his face," Cooper said. "You just enjoy being around those kinds of people. That's who I'm looking for."

"It doesn't hurt that he's 6-5, weighs 290 pounds and runs a 5.0 flat (40-yard dash) and benches 500 pounds. I get excited about that."

Ohio State's continuing throng of excellent linebackers will apparently remain intact. Tony Closson (6-0, 230),

Football Recruiting

dubbed the second coming of Spielman, heads the list. Dave Bals (6-2, 220), Judah Herman (6-1, 205), Joe Metzger (6-4, 220), John Martin (6-3, 220), Patrick Rogan (6-2, 218) and Foster complete the corps.

"I think we did quite well at that particular position. We had some needs at the linebacking spot with the loss of Kumerow and Spielman," Cooper said.

"Tony Closson — there's a kid who wanted to come to Ohio State. I know one thing, he's dedicated. And Judah Herman is a good, tough player that made a lot of sacks. I like his attitude."

"Derrick Foster — you talk about an athlete. Here's a guy who's the starting center on one of the best basketball teams in the state. He's 6-5, 220, and can run."

The Buckeye coach is also satisfied with his new stock of quarterbacks. He said quarterback was the only position he monitored, in terms of number taken, closely. He wanted three and got three.

In-staters Kirk Herbstreit (6-2, 185), a Parade All-American, and Nick Cochran (6-2, 190) were both highly recruited nationwide, while Californian Jason Frank (6-5, 225) is considered a sleeper with unlimited potential.

"I'm excited about Herbstreit. He's a good athlete. He came out of a good program and he wants to play here," Cooper said. "Any coach in the state who played against him will tell you how good he is."

"You talk about someone who wants to work — Nick Cochran. Bo Schembechler was in his house December 1. Michigan State, Syracuse and Penn State all wanted him. But he wanted to come to Ohio State. That excites me. Let's get on with it."

"And I think Jason Frank can play," Cooper continued. "Here's another case of a kid who wants to be a Buckeye. I really like his attitude. You can tell he'll be putting all-out all the time."

Two areas Cooper did not fare well in recruiting, he readily admits, are receivers and punters. The combined total equals one — receiver Greg Beatty from Sugar Land, Texas.

The poor showing could be partly blamed on the late start recruiting Cooper and his staff faced, as most of the top prospects in these skilled areas were found out of state. By the time the prospects heard from OSU, they had already committed to another school or had already scheduled their maximum of five visits.

Though the Buckeyes return all their receivers from 1987, Cooper tried vigorously to add needed depth.

Besides veteran Everett Ross, the receiving corps is very inexperienced. Vince Workman, who moved to flanker in midseason last year, has indicated he wants to return to tailback in '88.

"We did not sign as many wide receivers as we had hoped for. We didn't go after many in state and didn't do well out of state," Cooper said. "We were in on some good ones, but I don't know why we didn't get them."

Cooper wanted three receivers. He had his sights on Tulsa's Shawn Davis and Gates Mills Hawken's O.J. McDuffie, but they went elsewhere. Cooper briefly had Beatty's teammate, Joel Scott, who was recruited nationwide. However, a few days after verbally committing to OSU, Scott decided to honor a verbal commitment he made to USC earlier.

Beatty, 6-0, 175, is considered a sleeper, though he snickers at the title.

"A sleeper is a kid major schools are not recruiting, for whatever reasons," Cooper said. "Beatty is a sleeper. But we know he can do it. We saw him catch nine passes in a playoff game when all along we thought we were watching Scott make all those catches. We were told afterwards that it was Greg."

As for a punter, Cooper only had one, Eddie Azcona from St. Laurent, Quebec, visit the campus. He since signed with Michigan.

"We looked all over the country for a punter. I think we were too late. I think that's a position where you've got to recruit them all year long. They've got to know your need, they've got to know your situation and most of those guys commit early," he said. "We'll continue to look for one, though. I want someone who can kick it 39 (yards) in five seconds so we can cover it."

Howe and Bals have punting experience and could be pressed into duty.

"If he (Howe) wants to try out as a punter, we'll certainly give him a look," Cooper said. "They say he's a good all-around athlete and good punter, but I don't know how good he is. Somebody called in here and said he averaged 47 yards a kick. Gosh, oh mighty, he shouldn't come here. He ought to go to Denver," Cooper laughed. "He could lead the National Football League in punting."

Cooper still has five scholarships to give, if he so chooses. He would, without hesitating, expend one on a punter or receiver. But other than that, he is reluctant. He expects to save one or two for walk-on players in the fall, he noted.

"We've got to look ahead to next year. We only have, I think, 16 juniors and if we're at 95 (scholarships, which is the maximum number allowed), that will only allow us to bring in 16 next year," he deduced. "So if we sign kids now, that would mean one less for next year."

Conference Recruiting Lists

Continued From Page 5

NORTHWESTERN

Ohio Players: Tobin Buckner, 6-5, 255, offensive lineman, Akron Buchtel High; Matt Dzierwa, 5-11, 175, punter/quarterback, Toledo St. John High; Chip Morris, 6-2, 185, wide receiver, Cleveland Heights High; Butch Newhouse, 6-2, 230, fullback, Brunswick High; Brian Tichy, 6-5, 264, offensive lineman, North Royalton Broadview Heights High; Curt Zipfel, 6-2, 205, running back, Strongsville High.

Frank Boudreaux, 6-6, 230, outside linebacker, Belleville Althoff (Ill.) Catholic High; Marion Collins, 6-1, 175, defensive back, Hazelwood East (Mo.) High; David Cross, 6-6, 230, tight end, Hoffman Estates Conant (Ill.) High; Jason Cunningham, 6-5, 225, offensive lineman, Danville (Ill.) High; Eric Dixon, 5-11, 170, running back/wide receiver, Brooklyn (N.Y.) Nazareth High; David Eaton, 5-9, 180, running back/defensive back, Galena (Ill.) High; Doug Jordt, 6-4, 228, tight end, Wheaton (Ill.) North High; Kevin Krebs, 6-2, 205, quarterback, Chicago (Ill.) Lane Tech High; Bill McCann, 6-5, 275, defensive lineman, Gibsonsia (Pa.) Shady Side Academy; Craig Perry, 5-9, 175, running back, Milwaukee (Wis.) King High; Adam Schell, 6-4, 225, linebacker, Madison (N.J.) Boro High; Ed Sutter, 6-3, 210, linebacker, Peoria (Ill.) Richwoods High; Sheridan Wilks, 6-0, 178, Hazelwood East (Mo.) High; David Woolard, 6-4, 240, center, Schaumburg (Ill.) High.

PURDUE

Ohio Players: Archie Burdine, 6-0, 235, running back, Cincinnati Aiken High; Mark Vanadia, 6-5, 250, lineman, Parma Padua High.

Dan Brekke, 6-2, 225, linebacker, Elkhart Central (Ind.) High; Mike Doctor, 6-2, 220, running back, New Brunswick (N.J.) St. Peter's High; Brian Fox, 6-5, 208, quarterback, Winter Garden West Orange (Fla.) High; Ray Graham, 6-0, 185, wide receiver/defensive back, Elizabeth (N.J.) High; Kevin Janiak, 6-5, 250, lineman, Riverside (Ill.) Brookfield High; Eric Jensen, 6-5, 260, lineman, Jonesboro (Ga.) High; Terry Johnson, 6-5, 280, lineman, Snow (Utah) Junior College; Frank Kmet, 6-4, 240, lineman, Arlington Heights Kersey (Ill.) High; Eric Krabbe, 6-3, 222, tight end, Marion (Ind.) High; Jeff Lesniewicz, 6-2, 185, quarterback, Homewood (Ill.) Flossmoor High; Bryan Madden, 6-4, 280, lineman, Indianapolis

(Ind.) Broad Ripple High; Sean Majewski, 6-8, 240, lineman, Fort Wayne (Ind.) Homestead High; Lance Malesh, 6-4, 245, lineman, Nashville (Tenn.) Brentwood Academy; Nick Mamula, 6-5, 250, lineman, Hoffman Estates (Ill.) High; Bob Martin, 6-6, 250, lineman, Elkhart Central (Ind.) High; Tom McNeil, 6-3, 235, linebacker, Butler County (Kan.) Junior College; Payton Minter, 6-5, 230, lineman, Chicago (Ill.) King High; Andy Oslowski, 6-5, 218, tight end, Addison (Ill.) Trail High; Lonnie Palelei, 6-5, 255, lineman, Blue Springs (Mo.) High; Andre Reese, 5-10, 190, running back, Galveston (Texas) Ball High; Andrew Richardson, 6-0, 180, defensive back/wide receiver, Richmond (Va.) Huguenot High; Steve Sanders, 6-4, 235, lineman, Downers Grove (Ill.) North High; Jim Schwantz, 6-2, 212, linebacker, Palatine (Ill.) Fremd High; Kevin Strickland, 6-3, 200, linebacker, Ringwood (N.J.) Lakewood Regional High; Larry Taylor, 6-3, 280, lineman, Navarro (Texas) Junior College; Jeff Zgonina, 6-2, 240, lineman, Mundelein (Ill.) Carmel High.

WISCONSIN

Ohio Players: None.

Chris Ballard, 5-11, 185, quarterback, Texas City (Texas) High; Chuck Belin, 6-3, 265, offensive tackle, Milwaukee (Wis.) Vincent High; Eric Benzschawel, 6-4, 200, tight end/defensive end, Monroe (Wis.) High; Jim Bourne, 6-4, 220, tight end, Whitefish Bay (Wis.) High; Gary Casper, 6-2, 215, linebacker, Mount Carmel (Ill.) High; Tywin Claypool, 5-9, 170, running back, Kankakee (Ill.) High; Lionel Crawford, 5-11, 170, quarterback, Aldine McArthur (Texas) High; David Denson, 6-1, 175, defensive back, Chicago (Ill.) Wendell Phillips High; Damone Freeman, 5-10, 180, running back, Austin (Texas) Regan High; Jim Gnacinski, 6-4, 260, defensive tackle, Cudahy (Wis.) High; Pat McGettigan, 6-2, 205, tight end/linebacker, Darlington (Wis.) High; Eric Olsen, 6-7, 220, offensive/defensive tackle, Williams Bay (Wis.) High; Duer Sharp, 6-2, 220, outside linebacker, Woodrow Wilson (N.J.) High; Patrick Thompson, 6-4, 220, defensive tackle, Oak Park (Minn.) High; Rich Thompson, 6-2, 175, kicker, Skiatook (Okla.) High; Dennis Tillman, 6-1, 200, linebacker, Columbus (Ga.) Carver High; Troy Vincent, 6-1, 170, defensive back, Pennsbury (Penn.) High; Robert Williams, 5-10, 165, running back, Columbus (Ga.) Carver High; Sean Wilson, 5-11, 175, quarterback, Norman (Okla.) High.

The above is the list of recruits signed by Big Ten schools through Feb. 12, as compiled from USA Today and other sources.

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Southeast Gets Best Athletes

By Ken Halloy

Not even Big Ten recruiting champion Michigan will crack Tom Lemming's Top 10 list nationally, the national recruiting expert said.

"The Big Ten did not have an outstanding year in recruiting," Lemming said. "I don't believe any of them belong in the top 10 because no one had a dominant class. I would probably pencil in Michigan, Purdue, Ohio State and probably Iowa or Michigan State in the bottom half of the top 20."

The Fighting Irish of Notre Dame easily won the national recruiting title, taking eight players from Lemming's Top 100 list, including tight end Derek Brown from Merritt Island, Fla., and running back Ken Spears from College Park, Ga.

Penn State, UCLA, Clemson, Auburn, Florida, Pitt, Oklahoma, Tennessee and Texas complete Lemming's top 10.

Other notable second 10 members include USC, Nebraska, Florida State and Georgia.

Max Emfinger, a Texas-based recruiting expert, put Notre Dame and UCLA (tie) at the top of his list. In order, Penn State, Alabama, Tennessee, Florida, Miami, Oklahoma, Pitt, LSU and Texas (tie) complete his top 10.

"Nationally, it really wasn't even close this year," Lemming said. "Notre Dame ran away with it. I'm sure that doesn't surprise many people. They're near the top every year. They always get the talent. Now they need to use it."

"On the whole, it seems the rich just keep getting richer, but the poor are starting to catch up a little bit. The traditional powers always seem to have a top 20 recruiting class. I suppose that's why they're considered powers. But there seems to be more overall talent nowadays and it's spreading out a little more because of the limited scholarship rule."

Lemming said the Southeastern Conference had the best recruiting effort as a conference.

"That probably doesn't surprise many people either because most of the top players in the country are from that area and that's where those schools do most of their recruiting," he said. "LSU did get a lot of their players from Texas this year and Tennessee did a nice job in Ohio."

Tennessee got Toledo Macomber running back Chuck Webb, his teammate, nose guard Randy Gordon, Cincinnati LaSalle defensive back Lee Heath and Forest Park linebacker Bobby Davis.

"Tennessee sells their track program to the speedsters. That's probably how they got Webb this year," Lemming said. "People always want to be skeptical of Tennessee. I'm not sure why. They have a hardworking staff."

Part of the reason for the Big Ten plunge is the overall lack of talent in the Midwest, Lemming said.

"It was a down year, no doubt about it. There were a lot of big names in Ohio and Chicago but that's about it," he said. "Indiana didn't have much to offer, Iowa had a few and Michigan was unusually weak."

More stringent admission requirements among Big Ten schools again forced many of the nation's top players away.

Tom Lemming's Top 100

Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown/School	Commitment Or (Visits)
Rico Brogna	QB	6-2	186	Watertown, Conn.	CLEMSON
Mark Brunell	QB	6-0	185	Santa Maria (Cal.) St. Joseph	WASHINGTON
Michael Carr	QB	6-0	178	Amite, La.	CLEMSON
Herbert Casey	QB	6-1	180	Foley, Ala.	AUBURN
Jerry Dunn	QB	6-1	190	Denver Mullen	FLORIDA
Darian Hagan	QB	5-11	195	L.A. Locke	COLORADO
Kirk Herbstreit	QB	6-3	195	Centerville, Ohio	OHIO STATE
Scott Hoffman	QB	6-3	200	Elgin, Ill.	FLORIDA
Bret Johnson	QB	6-1	175	El Toro, Cal	UCLA
Preston Jones	QB	6-3	175	Anderson (SC) Hanna	GEORGIA
Jeff Lesniewicz	QB	6-1	185	Flossmoor (Ill) Homewood	PURDUE
Corey Lewis	QB	6-2	200	Gallatin, Tn	AUBURN
Todd Marinovich	QB	6-4	211	Mission Viejo (Ca) Capistrano	SOUTHERN CAL
Tony Sacca	QB	6-5	200	Delran, N.J.	PENN STATE
Tyrone Ashley	RB	5-11	190	Miami Hialeah	MISSISSIPPI
Anthony Barbour	RB	5-9	170	Garner, N.C.	NORTH CAROLINA STATE
Xavier Crawford	RB	6-0	206	Memphis Trezevant	(Okla, MemSt)
Reggie Finch	RB	6-0	200	Irving (Tex) MacArthur	OKLAHOMA
Ngalu Kelemeni	RB	6-2	190	Pueblo (Col) Centennial	OREGON
Lance Lewis	RB	5-11	195	Scott City, Kan.	NEBRASKA
Willy McClendon	RB	6-1	210	Jacksonville Univ. Christian	FLORIDA
O.J. McDuffie	RB	5-11	175	Gates Mills (Ohio) Hawken	PENN STATE
Glyn Milburn	RB	5-9	175	Santa Monica, Cal.	STANFORD
Dexter McNabb	RB	6-1	222	Defuniak Springs (Fla) Walton	FLORIDA
William Prince	RB	6-3	190	Vicksburg (Miss) Warren Central	MISS. STATE
Kenyon Rasheed	RB	5-11	230	Kansas City (Mo) Rockhurst	OKLAHOMA
Rod Smith	RB	6-1	185	Roseville, Minn	NOTRE DAME
Alex Smith	RB	6-0	205	College Park (Ga) Lakeshore	AUBURN
Ken Spears	RB	6-2	215	College Park (Ga) Woodward	NOTRE DAME
Chuck Webb	RB	5-11	190	Toledo Macomber	TENNESSEE
Kevin Williams	RB	6-2	190	Spring, Texas	UCLA
Robert Wilson	RB	6-1	225	Houston Worthing	TEXAS A&M
Paul Bland	WR	5-10	175	Hazelwood (Mo) East	MISSOURI
Fred Gilbert	WR	5-9	170	Huntsville, Texas	UCLA
Raghib Ismail	WR	5-10	160	Wilkes-Barre (Pa) Meyers	NOTRE DAME
Ron Johnson	WR	5-9	165	Lamarque, Texas	HOUSTON
Rodney McCoy	WR	6-0	170	Villa Rica, Ga	ALABAMA
Carl Pickens	WR	6-3	185	Murphy, N.C.	TENNESSEE
Leslie Shepherd	WR	6-0	178	Forrestville, Md	MIAMI, FLA.
Derek Brown	TE	6-6	235	Merritt Island, Fla	NOTRE DAME
Gerald Dixon	TE	6-4	210	Rock Hill, S.C.	Junior College
Eric Gash	TE	6-3	217	Hendersonville, N.C.	NORTH CAROLINA
Charles Steward	TE	6-2	218	Valdosta, Ga.	Junior College
Scott Davis	OL	6-4	230	Glenwood, Iowa	IOWA
Tony DeLazio	OL	6-4	255	Whitehall, Pa.	PITTSBURGH
Jason Dilaberry	OL	6-5	240	Orange Park, Fla.	FLORIDA STATE
Rob Doherty	OL	6-5	275	Sterling Hts. (Mi) Stevenson	MICHIGAN
Randy Hall	OL	6-5	276	Knoxville (Tn) Halls	TENNESSEE
Ed King	OL	6-4	272	Phenix City (Ala) Central	AUBURN
Lindsay Knapp	OL	6-6	235	Deerfield, Ill.	NOTRE DAME
Mike Lustyk	OL	6-5	245	Bellevue (Wa) Interlake	WASHINGTON
Kevin Mancini	OL	6-4	261	Brandon, Fla.	FLORIDA STATE
Gene McGuire	OL	6-5	275	Panama City (Fla) Mosley	NOTRE DAME
Corey Pargo	OL	6-5	300	Toledo Rogers	OHIO STATE
George Rooks	OL	6-5	270	White Plains, N.Y.	SYRACUSE
Ray Smoot	OL	6-5	260	Leesville, La.	LOUISIANA STATE
Alphonzo Bellamy	DL	6-2	235	Conway, S.C.	Junior College
David Brooks	DL	6-4	230	Tulsa (Ok) Washington	OKLAHOMA STATE
Deondri Clark	DL	6-4	251	Winter Garden (Fla) W. Orange	FLORIDA STATE
Tim Cromartie	DL	6-2	262	Tallahassee (Fla) Godby	AUBURN
John Gerak	DL	6-5	232	Struthers, Ohio	PENN STATE
Ted Harrison	DL	6-5	255	Minneapolis Cooper	MINNESOTA
Dave Jensen	DL	6-5	260	Omaha (Neb) Creighton Prep	NEBRASKA
Tom Jeter	DL	6-5	235	Deer Park, Texas	TEXAS
Mario Johnson	DL	6-4	275	Hazelwood (Mo) Central	MISSOURI
Frank Kmet	DL	6-4	242	Hersey (Ill) Arlington Hts.	PURDUE
James MacLin	DL	6-2	265	Covington, Tn.	MEMPHIS STATE
Tyrone Malone	DL	6-4	217	Sugarland (Tx) Willowridge	LOUISIANA STATE
Tony Matesic	DL	6-2	242	Oradell (Nj) Bergen Catholic	PENN STATE
Chester McGlockton	DL	6-4	260	Whiteville, N.C.	CLEMSON
Payton Minter	DL	6-5	235	Chicago King	PURDUE
Paul Moriarty	DL	6-6	270	Conroe (Tx) McCullough	TEXAS
Lonnle Palelei	DL	6-5	253	Blue Springs, Mo.	PURDUE
Kurt Barber	LB	6-4	210	Paducah (Ky) Tilghman	SOUTHERN CAL
Mike Barrow	LB	6-2	210	Homestead, Fla.	MIAMI, FLA
Rocky Biegel	LB	6-2	220	Wisconsin Rapids	BRIGHAM YOUNG
Joe Bowden	LB	6-1	240	N. Mesquite, Tx.	OKLAHOMA
Curtis Bray	LB	6-3	222	Monroeville (Pa) Gateway	PITTSBURGH
Tim Canada	LB	6-1	225	Spotsylvania (Va) Courtland	Junior College
Mike Chaleski	LB	6-5	237	Kenilworth (Nj) Brearley	PITTSBURGH
Jeremiah Clark	LB	6-4	220	Mesa, Ariz.	NEBRASKA
Todd Collins	LB	6-3	225	Dandridge (Tn) Jefferson	GEORGIA
Willie Crawford	LB	6-2	205	Beverly Hills, Cal.	UCLA
Curt Douglas	LB	6-1	230	Lincolnton (Ga) Lincoln County	GEORGIA
Matt Gee	LB	6-3	228	Arkansas City, Kan.	SOUTHERN CAL
Ivory Gethers	LB	6-4	200	John's Island (SC) St. John's	PENN STATE
Carlton Miles	LB	6-3	230	Daytona Beach Father Lopez	FLORIDA
Eric Renkey	LB	6-3	230	Pittsburgh North Hills	PENN STATE
Wayne Simmons	LB	6-3	210	Hilton Head, S.C.	CLEMSON
Mike Smalls	LB	6-3	215	Rialto (Cal) Eisenhower	NOTRE DAME
Tyrone Byrd	LB	6-0	180	Chandler, Ariz.	NEBRASKA
Robby Green	DB	6-1	180	Marrero (La) Shaw	LOUISIANA STATE
Courtney Hawkins	DB	5-10	180	Flint (Mi) Beecher	MICHIGAN STATE
Buster Howe	DB	5-11	180	Zanesville, Ohio	OHIO STATE
Baron Jackson	DB	6-1	180	Baton Rouge (La) S. Lab	(LSU, UCLA, Neb)
Graylin Johnson	DB	6-4	205	Port Arthur (Tx) Austin	NOTRE DAME
Arnold Laws	DB	6-0	195	Rancho Cordova, Cal.	ARIZONA STATE
Tyron Mouzon	DB	6-2	210	Dunedin, Fla.	CLEMSON
Adam Shinnick	DB	6-2	195	Walpole, Mass.	PENN STATE
Jon Vaughn	DB	5-11	175	St. Louis McCluer North	MICHIGAN

The information above was gathered from Tom Lemming's January, 1988 Prep Football Report and other sources.

Continued On Page 17

Recruiting For Cooper Just Beginning

John Cooper had a fairly decent recruiting season considering that he had less than six weeks to decide who he wanted and to lure them to Ohio State.

Cooper says he got 12 of the 15 best players in Ohio, with two of the biggest losses being a pair of running backs — Toledo Macomber's Chuck Webb to Tennessee and Gates Mills Hawken's O.J. McDuffie to Penn State.

But good or bad, don't look at Cooper's first recruiting season as a barometer of what the future holds.

Some of the recruits would have gone to Ohio State regardless of who the coach was. It's a chance to play in front of 90,000 people for the team they grew up rooting for, the only major college football program in Ohio.

Others made up their minds during last football season or last summer when Earle Bruce was doing the recruiting, although they hadn't made their intentions known.

And Cooper didn't get a real opportunity to evaluate the talent — toss out the players he didn't like and concentrate on the ones he really wanted.

Cooper admitted that since he wasn't

named coach until the last day of last year he had no choice but to work from the list of prospects Bruce's staff had put together.

In Ohio the players Ohio State wanted were obvious, but Cooper might have concentrated on certain out-of-state prospects. And maybe Ohio State, instead of UCLA and Notre Dame, would have been lauded for having the best recruiting classes.

In McDuffie's case, for instance, Ohio State really didn't have a chance after the firing of Bruce. Instead, the kid who had 7,000 career all-purpose yards picked Penn State.

"He (Bruce) was not having a great season, but an all right season," McDuffie told reporters when he announced his decision Feb. 11. "I don't know how stable the program is. I don't want to play in an unstable program."

Nothing Cooper could have said, it seemed, could have swayed McDuffie's mind.

Other recruits who picked Ohio State, such as Middletown linebacker Paul Sherrick, considered the stability provided for in Cooper's contract.

"I'm sure the football program didn't

Inside Look

With Rich Exner

fall apart when Coach Bruce was fired, but it was scary," Sherrick told BSB earlier. "But when Coach Cooper signed a five-year contract at Ohio State, I figured that's perfect. I'd be there five years. If he leaves after that, I'll be gone."

The real test for Cooper as a recruiter at Ohio State begins now.

He must sort through the hundreds of standout high school juniors in Ohio, listen to virtually every high school coach in the state who believes he's got a major college player, and watch hours of film.

He's got to sort through the thousands of prospects outside Ohio to determine which ones he wants and will have a decent chance of landing.

Cooper has to make contacts, gain reliable sources and maintain his reputation as a positive leader of the Ohio State program.

Early contacts within the NCAA rules are a must in his second year. And he has to carefully select which Friday night football games to attend this fall, not to see a player (he can do that by watching film), but to show a genuine interest in the top prospects.

But the biggest recruiting tool of all is the 11 football Saturdays and a likely bowl game next season. Not only must Ohio State win to impress the high school talent, but the Buckeye players must also look like they're having a good time winning for their coach.

Gary Williams has put the fun and enthusiasm in Ohio State basketball and, as a result, has a good chance at signing any basketball player in Ohio and a lot of recruits nationally who would have never considered Ohio State under Eldon Miller.

Cooper inherited a lot better situation than Williams and he can improve it with an exciting, successful season.

If that happens, recruiting will be a lot easier. High school stars in Ohio will want Ohio State. The choice will be Cooper's, not the recruit's.

THE LATE START in recruiting might have worked against Cooper in some cases but he benefited by the late resignation of Illinois coach Mike White and the instability in Champaign.

Fullback Tony Goodgame of Succasunna, N.J., and linebacker John Martin of Watseka, Ill., had planned on going to Illinois, but changed their minds and picked Ohio State amid White's firing and the controversy at the school.

New Illinois coach John Mackovic must have had a terrible time throwing together a recruiting class. He got started four weeks after Cooper.

THE BEST PART about Cooper's first Buckeye recruiting class is the number of quarterbacks.

Newcomers Kirk Herbstreit of Centerville, Ohio, Nick Cochran of Girard, Ohio, and Jason Frank of Anaheim, Calif., along with returnee Greg Frey are just what Ohio State needs — a number of quarterbacks competing for playing time.

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Coach Pleased With Sterner's Progress

By Mike Wachsman

At Miami (Ohio) University, Scott Sterner was a big fish in a little pond. He wanted to be a big fish in a big pond, so he transferred, along with Mark Coleman, to Ohio State.

Sterner, a sophomore eligible, is wrestling for the Buckeyes at 150 pounds, having won the final wrestle-off for the position over senior Dan DeCarlo. He has compiled a 4-4-1 record through Feb. 11, but he will take that record because he is at Ohio State.

"I came here because I wanted to be part of a top-notch program," the Massillon, Ohio, native said. "I wasn't going to wrestle in my freshman year in college. I decided to go out for it, and that's when I met Mark (Coleman). I started talking with him, and he said he was going to transfer to Ohio State. I decided to go along with him, and I don't regret it."

"Miami didn't offer me a chance to be the best I could be. You can wrestle and win all your matches, but if you're not



Scott Sterner

wrestling against the top competition, then it really doesn't mean anything. I could have been the best in the country at 150, but being at Miami, no one

would have known."

Sterner isn't quite the best in the country, but he is getting better as he gains more experience. A preseason ankle injury slowed him, forcing him to miss the first two matches of the season.

"I feel I'm starting to come on a little bit," Sterner said. "I won my position and then hurt my ankle. That set me back a little, but when it healed, I came back strong. I feel that I'm getting better with each match, and it's just a matter of time until I get where I want to be."

Sterner compiled an impressive 26-6 record in his senior year at Massillon High, mainly due to his take charge style.

"If I'm going to win a match, I have to come out and be aggressive from the outset," Sterner said. "I've suffered before by not being aggressive, so I try to get on top immediately. In high school I wrestled the same way. Coach (Russ) Hellickson has taught me to be a little more aggressive, but I had a lot of that anyway."

Hellickson says all Sterner really needs is the experience of wrestling in the Big Ten.

"He just broke into varsity, so I'm pleased with the progress he's made," Hellickson said. "He doesn't have enough experience, and sometimes that can lead to a lack of confidence. His aggressiveness is apparent and his explosiveness helps him tremendously. The tools are there, he just needs some seasoning."

Sterner, a secondary education major, would like to coach in wrestling after college, but for now, he feels he

needs work on his confidence.

"After I hurt my ankle, I did get kind of down," Sterner said. "I had worked hard and then I got hurt. I didn't think that was fair. I'm coming through that phase, though, and I can concentrate on getting down to wrestling."

"Winning a match is all in your head. You have to believe that you're better than your opponent, because he'll sense it if you're not confident. You can't let your opponent psyche you out."

DeCarlo was redshirted last year and was favored to win the position this year. Sterner says although he beat DeCarlo, there is no animosity, only friendly, but intense competition between the two.

"Me and Dan are really close," Sterner said. "I felt kind of sorry for him in the beginning because he was a senior. He's not going to get another chance to wrestle, unless I get hurt. But he's been great. If he sees something I'm doing wrong, he'll tell me. It's all to help the team win."

Sterner has definite plans for himself and the team in the coming two seasons.

"I'd like to be an All-American before I'm done," Sterner said. "I'm not sure if I can do it this year, but I'm going to try. I think wrestling for Ohio State is one of the best experiences I could hope for."

"The main reason I got into this sport was because of my older brother. He sort of pushed me into it, but I liked it right away. You can get so much from the sport. There's no better feeling than winning a match, knowing all your hard work has paid off."

Wrestlers Roll On Road

By Mike Wachsman

With a loss to Iowa hindering plans for a Big Ten title, it was up to Ohio State's 15th-ranked wrestling team to complete the remainder of its road trip unscathed. The Buckeyes won three big matches, defeating Notre Dame, Northern Illinois and eighth-ranked Wisconsin. The wins moved OSU's record to 15-4 overall, 5-1 in the Big Ten.

Against the Fighting Irish Feb. 12, Ohio State won 23-13. Winners included 126-pounder Mark Marinelli, a 19-6 decision; Scott Sterner (150) 11-7; Andrew Skove (158) 16-8; number one ranked Mark Coleman (190) 26-11, and heavyweight Eric Schultz 9-3.

Ron Gharbo (177) lost 10-6 to junior Chris Geneser, who was 28-4 last year and qualified for the NCAAAs.

Buckeye coach Russ Hellickson thought the score was a pretty good indication of the talent differential.

"We beat a good team in Notre Dame," Hellickson said. "They were ranked early in the year, and they've got some guys who went to the NCAAAs last year. I have to be pleased with our performance, but we could have won a few more."

Facing off against the Huskies Feb. 13, Ohio State won by a 23-12 score.

Recruiting

Continued From Page 7

"If you look at a number of the big powers — Oklahoma, Auburn, Clemson, Miami (Fla.) — they do well because they take the bad students, whereas most Big Ten schools can't," Lemming said. "You don't hear a lot of people talk about it because it's embarrassing to the schools, but it's obviously true. (Auburn coach) Pat Dye even admits now that he doesn't mind taking half a dozen to a dozen Proposition 48 kids."

Lemming believes Northwestern and Wisconsin have the stiffest admission requirements in the Big Ten, with Ohio State and Michigan closely behind.

"That shows you right there. Wisconsin and Northwestern usually finish at the bottom of the Big Ten every year because they have to settle for student-athletes instead of just athletes," Lemming said. "That's the way it should be."

closer than expected. It should be noted that Danny George (167), Gharbo and Coleman didn't wrestle. George had a shoulder injury, Gharbo injured a rib against Notre Dame and Coleman was held out because the NCAA limits the number of events a person can wrestle in to 21. He needed to be saved for upcoming big events.

The big test was to come against Hellickson's former school, Wisconsin, on Valentine's Day. The Badgers were ranked in the top 10 and the meet was in Madison. OSU wrestled very well and came away with a 21-14 victory. It was the first time since February 1971 Ohio State defeated Wisconsin.

Winning for OSU was Range, 12-6 over Charlie Irick; Mendicino, 6-4 over eighth-ranked Tom Fitzpatrick; Ramsey, 20-5 over Bart Kasten; Gharbo 3-2 over Scott McKernan; and Coleman 3-0 over 1987 Big Ten runner-up Kyle Richards.

A surprise was the 150-pound match in which Sterner drew 7-7 with 1987 NCAA fourth place finisher Jeff Jordan. Marinelli also drew, 5-5, with ninth-ranked Grady Penager.

"Going back to Wisconsin was very emotional," Hellickson said. "The alumni were there and the fans. It was all very nice."

"We wrestled better than we have all year. I was a little worried it would be tough to get up for the meet, but I look at it this way — if you can't get up for three matches in three days, then how will you win the NCAAAs? An extensive road trip can be tough sometimes, but that's what this team needs. We rose to the occasion and wrestled very well."

"The guys may have been a little more intense because our coaching staff is from Wisconsin. After the match, Danny George and Andrew Skove came up and congratulated me. It was good to be on the winning side against Wisconsin. Usually, I was on the winning side with Wisconsin. Now it's good to be on the winning side with Ohio State."

Individual records through the Wisconsin match Feb. 14: 118, Range, 16-11; 126, Marinelli, 13-7-2; 134, Mendicino, 13-7 and Brad Gintert, 11-2-2; 142, Ramsey, 9-8-2 and Kevin Kutler, 9-5; 150, Sterner, 6-4-2 and Dan DeCarlo, 7-6-2; 158, Skove, 21-6-2; 167, George, 21-5-3; 177, Gharbo, 22-6; 190, Coleman, 38-2, and heavyweight, Schultz, 19-9-2.

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Recruiting Profiles:

Dave Bals

A 6-2, 220-pound linebacker from Willowby (Ohio) South High. Bals, who runs a 4.6 40-yard dash, tallied 95 tackles, including 10 quarterback sacks in '87. A versatile athlete, he was also used as a receiver, and threw passes on tailback options. He also led the Greater Cleveland Conference in punting, averaging over 40 yards.

"He has a rifle for an arm," said Rebels coach Dan Hoffman. "I was thinking about moving him to quarterback. That's how good he is. But he's a two-way player and we really needed him on defense. I really don't believe in my quarterback playing defense."

Greg Beatty

A 5-11, 175-pound wide receiver from Sugar Land (Texas) Willowridge High. Although he is considered a sleeper, Beatty hauled in 21 receptions for 231 yards and five touchdowns last season. He runs a 4.5 40 and has a vertical jump of 35 inches.

"He was a standout on our team, but he would have been noticed more somewhere else," said Willowridge coach John Pearce. "You get caught on the same ballclub with some of these guys and you get overlooked. Joel (Scott, also a highly recruited receiver for Willowridge) was an all-state selection, and with that many (251) teams in our division, you're not going to see two kids from the same school on the all-state team."

Tony Closson

A 6-0, 230-pound linebacker from Delphos (Ohio) Jefferson High. Named the small school linemen of the year for the second consecutive season, Closson runs a 4.55 40-yard dash and benches 375 pounds.

"Closson has a great knack for being in on the play," said recruiting expert Tom Lemming, who considers Closson the top linebacker in Ohio. "He's a strong hitter and he loves to hit. He's not big, but he makes up for it with his tenacity."

Nick Cochran

A 6-3, 195-pound quarterback from Girard (Ohio) High. Named Trumbull County's player of the year in 1987, Cochran completed 96 of 160 attempts for 1,600 yards and 18 touchdowns, adding 12 TDs and 600 yards on the ground. Cochran has a 4.6 speed.

"Cochran is one of the top three quarterbacks in Ohio behind (Kirk) Herbstreit and (Ryan) Hockman," Lemming said. "Cochran moves well, is a good athlete and efficient quarterback. He gets things done."

Bryan Cook

A 6-4, 185-pound defensive back from Youngstown (Ohio) Ursuline High. He did not play high school football until his senior year. He earned first team All-Steel Valley Conference honors, along with UPI all-state special mention recognition. Cook, who has a 4.6 speed, had planned a college career in basketball.

"His ability to read the run and pass really impressed the coaching staff," said Irish coach Richard Angle. "He can play the pass all the way or come up quickly on the run. Cook's a thoroughbred. He's a pure safety who can play strong or weak (side)."

Derrick Foster

A 6-5, 220-pound linebacker from Dayton Patterson High. Named all-city defensive end in '87, tallying 20 quarterback sacks, Foster is expected to challenge for the outside linebacker position in the fall. Foster runs a 4.70 40-yard dash and benches 300 pounds.

"My job is to attack the quarterback," Foster said. "And not to sound bad, but I want to hurt the guy. I want to make the guy get up slow. I want him to know I hit him. I want to do the job right."

Jason Frank

A 6-5, 225-pound quarterback from Anaheim (Calif.) Servite High. Overshadowed by fellow state quarterbacks Bret Johnson and Todd Marinovich, both All-Americans, Frank received minimal national attention. As a two-year starter, he passed for more than 3,200 yards and 23 touchdowns.

"I think you work a lot harder for what you want when you want to go to a place," he said. "And I love Ohio State — always have. Out in California there are a couple of good quarterbacks that were very good. They got everything, all the honors this year. But I'm going to sneak up on people. I always have. I don't think it will be a gamble to the (OSU) coaches in the end."

Rich Frimel

A 6-4, 242-pound lineman from North Olmsted (Ohio) High. He earned first team All-Ohio honors in '87, amassing 107 tackles and four quarterback sacks. Frimel, who runs a 4.9 40 and benches 350 pounds, was the first lineman to be named MVP of the Southwestern Conference.

"Frimel is one of the top linemen in the Midwest," Lemming said. "Rich is one of those kids who could make an impact on the program right away. He's a future starter for sure, perhaps by his sophomore season."

Tony Goodgame

A 6-2, 210-pound running back from Roxbury (N.J.) High. Considered by many the best running back on the East Coast, Goodgame rushed for 842 yards last season, averaging six yards a carry, and scored 14 touchdowns. He also caught 10 passes for 138 yards and two TDs.

Goodgame had committed to Illinois until coach Mike White resigned Jan. 18.

"Tony could have rushed for 1,500 yards for us this year, easily," said Roxbury coach Jim Fiorello. "But we've got another good runner on this team, so we liked to use them both effectively. Tony has the speed (he runs an 11.1 100 meters) and strength (360-pound bench press) to do it all. And he has deceptive moves. He is incredibly dangerous once he gets by the line of scrimmage."

Lenny Hartman

A 6-2, 265-pound offensive guard/defensive tackle from Leavittsburg (Ohio) LaBrae High. Named Trumbull County lineman of the year for the second straight year in '87, he is projected as an offensive guard or center for the Buckeyes.

"They'll find out where I'll play when I get down there and they see what I do on the field," Hartman said. "I just want to play football. But I imagine I'll play offensive guard because they're looking at a weak spot there. And I've never played center before in my life."

Kirk Herbstreit

A 6-3, 200-pound quarterback from Centerville (Ohio) High. He is considered by many recruiting experts the top quarterback in the Midwest. After a successful junior year, the 1987 season began with three consecutive losses and Herbstreit felt the heat. He ended his senior season rushing for 500 yards and 15 touchdowns, and passing

for 700 additional yards and seven TDs. He was named a Parade All-American.

"Kirk is ready for college football," said Centerville coach Bob Gregg. "He has a strong arm, and more important, is intelligent. He doesn't force passes. He knows when to tuck it away and go. He had a valuable learning experience in how to handle the pressure of winning. I'm sure that will really come in handy at Ohio State."

Judah Herman

A 6-2, 210-pound linebacker from Chagrin Falls (Ohio) Kenston High. As a junior, Herman recorded a USA Today-reported national record 274 tackles in 14 games. He posted 113 of that total in four state playoff games. In 1987, Herman, who has a 4.6 speed, notched 184 tackles, recovered two fumbles and intercepted one pass.

"There isn't much depth there (inside linebacker), so even if I don't win a starting spot, I still figure I'll get to play a lot," Herman said. "That's a pretty positive situation to be faced with. I plan on taking advantage of it."

Buster Howe

A 5-11, 182-pound defensive back/running back from Zanesville (Ohio) High. Ohio's first Mr. Football, he rushed for 1,717 yards and scored 34 touchdowns in '87. Howe also passed for 431 yards, completing 29 of 58 passes and four touchdowns. He kicked 38 extra points and two field goals. He scored 248 points as a senior. He also kicked off and did the punting, averaging 41 yards.

"I want the chance to run the ball, but I wouldn't mind playing more than one position," Howe said. "Coach Cooper said I could try out for any position I wanted. I just intend to try out for more than one."

Brent Johnson

A 6-1, 205-pound running back from Bexley (Ohio) High. After posting back-to-back 230 and 259 yard efforts midway through last season, Johnson became a hot prospect. His efforts earned him Division III back of the year honors. He rushed for 1,962 yards, averaging more than six yards a carry. He scored 23 touchdowns and led central Ohio in scoring with 142 points. Johnson runs a 4.5 40 and benches 275 pounds.

Howe influenced Johnson's decision to become a Buckeye.

"Buster told me that I would get just as good of an education here (at OSU) as I would at Michigan State. And since I had always been a Buckeye fan, the best thing to do would be to go here. That made sense."

John Martin

A 6-3, 220-pound linebacker from Watseka (Ill.) High. He also committed to Illinois before White's resignation. A knee injury plagued him his senior season, but as a junior, Martin tallied 170 tackles and had 22 receptions and scored one touchdown as a tight end. Martin played only two and one-half games in '87, finishing with a 22-tackle, two fumble recovery performance.

"Basically I liked Ohio State and Illinois for the same reasons — good academics and coaches," Martin said. "Ohio State is a football school and I've always watched them on TV. I always thought it would be cool to play there."

Joe Metzger

A 6-4, 220-pound linebacker from Kettering (Ohio) Alter High. Metzger will vie for the outside linebacker position. Last season Metzger, who has

4.65 speed, compiled 124 tackles.

"I think the position could be mine and I'm going to think that way until someone beats me out for it next fall," he said. "The fact is, I just have to work hard over the summer because I'm sure there are other guys coming in with the same attitude as mine. I can't wait."

Corey Pargo

A 6-5, 300-pound lineman from Toledo (Ohio) Rogers High. He runs a 5.0 40 and benches 500 pounds.

"There may not be a better lineman in the entire country," Lemming said. "He is very strong, and for an athlete his size he has phenomenal speed. He is a definite future starter with unlimited potential for success. Predicting him as a future All-American is a reasonable assumption."

Patrick Rogan

A 6-2, 218-pound linebacker from Urbana (Ohio) High. With a 4.6 speed, Rogan will compete for the outside linebacker position. He was rated one of the state's top tailbacks prior to his senior season. A thigh injury in game four ended Rogan's season. However, he had rushed for 506 yards on 73 carries and eight touchdowns in three games.

"I like outside linebacker because you get a lot of one-on-one coverage on the tight end," Rogan said. "And I like to see an outside linebacker blitz to get an open shot on the quarterback."

Chris Roy

A 6-4, 235-pound tight end from Columbus DeSales High. Roy, who runs a 4.65 40 and benches 380 pounds, was named a first team all-state selection after averaging 14.6 yards on 30 receptions in '87.

"Coach Cooper recruited me heavily, so I assume they think highly of my ability," Roy said. "If there's only one guy in front of me, that's not bad. I know I could be playing behind him for three years, but then again, I'm only one play away from being a starter."

John Schilling

A 6-4, 260-pound offensive lineman from Massillon (Ohio) Washington High. A special mention All-Ohio performer, Schilling is expected to compete for the offensive guard position.

"John became a dominant one-on-one blocker this year and has turned out to be an excellent scheme blocker," said Washington coach John Maronto. "He's very advanced and an excellent pass blocker. We've used him as our pulling guard on power sweeps. He's very mobile."

Paul Sherrick

A 6-8, 285-pound offensive tackle from Middletown (Ohio) High. Lemming tabbed Sherrick, who runs a 5.1 40-yard dash, one of the Midwest's best linemen.

"Getting Sherrick is fantastic for Ohio State," Lemming said. "He's a guaranteed future starter and an impact player with the potential to be dominant. He's not incredibly fast but has good mobility for a kid his size."

