

BUCKEYE

Sports

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BULLETIN

May 1988

Vol 7, no 25

12802

Scarlet 21, Gray 16

Ohio State Wins!

By Ken Halloy

Though the two teams combined to pass 47 times in the annual OSU Scarlet and Gray game, coach John Cooper said the Buckeyes are straddling the double, solid yellow line.

"Right now I think we're a middle-of-the-road team," he said after watching the Gray overcome a 13-0 deficit to post a 21-16 win April 30 in Ohio Stadium. "Whether we move up or down depends on how much improvement we make. We've got to have the most dedicated summer conditioning we've had anyplace since I've been a coach."

For sure, Cooper wasn't depressed. He just wanted to re-emphasize, as he did throughout the spring, that the Buckeyes still need to be stronger. He was in a lighthearted mood, ready to joke about anything. He was sporting a black right eye, compliments of a collision with a sprinting Bernard Edwards during practice the day before. "Everything's all right. I checked, Bernard's fine," he laughed.

Cooper had just taken his team into the Horseshoe for the first time this spring, and was awed by the crowd of 54,302 that attended on a glorious, sunny afternoon. The figure eclipsed last year's crowd of 38,000 as the largest draw ever for the annual scrimmage.

"I was tremendously impressed when I walked out to the stadium here and saw this many people come out to watch a ball game," Cooper said, noting the largest crowd to attend a spring game in his three years at Arizona State was 20,000 at best. "The importance of football in this state is just unreal, so I'm probably more excited now about being the head football coach than anytime since I've coached here. I know what's expected and I know the support we have."

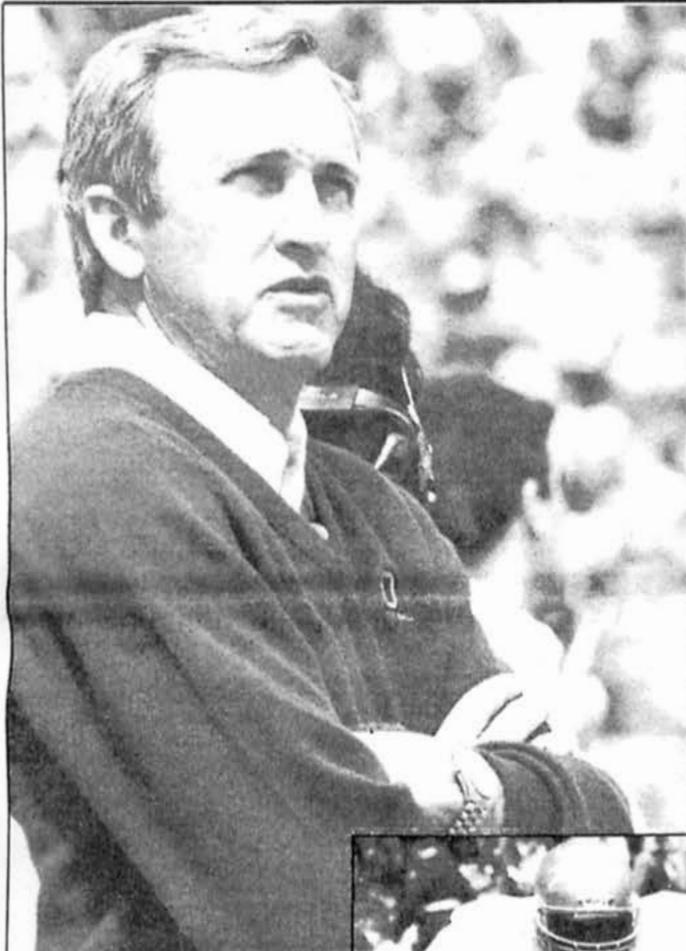
"It just makes me, our coaching staff and our players more determined than ever to go out and have a good football team next year."

In appreciation for the turnout, Cooper let the offenses open up more than planned. It was a spectator's delight, as opposed to the bland dive-play dominated spring games in recent years. There were reverses, shotgun passing, several long pass plays, an attempted flea flicker and even a quick kick.

Cooper said the Buckeyes showed between 70 and 80 percent of their entire offense to be run in the fall.

"There isn't that much more you can do than what you saw today," he said.

Continued On Page 24



Bulletin Expanding

Buckeye Sports Bulletin will expand from 28 to 30 issues a year, with two additional issues in the spring, publisher Frank Moskowitz has announced.

BSB will continue to be weekly from September through November and January to mid-March. However, following the usual 10 weekly issues during basketball season, *BSB* will publish every other week from mid-March to mid-May.

"This will allow us to better cover the basketball tournaments, basketball recruiting, spring football and such popular spring sports as baseball, softball, golf and track," Moskowitz said.

Buckeye Sports Bulletin will remain monthly in December and June through August.

Continued On Page 4



OSU coach John Cooper (above) says Bucks are a middle-of-the-road team after spring drills. (Below) Converted fullback Jaymes Bryant cuts around end for a good gainer during the spring game. See inside for complete spring coverage of all positions.

All-Americans Honored Prior To Game

In a pregame ceremony outside Ohio Stadium, three OSU All-Americans, linebacker Chris Spielman, wide receiver Cris Carter and punter/quarterback Tom Tupa, were honored with Buckeye trees planted in each of their names in the Buckeye Grove.

"Those three young men have distinguished themselves very well for The Ohio State University and we're proud of them," said athletic director Jim Jones.

Carter, dressed in an olive suit, gave a moving speech, asking the fans to forgive him for his dealings with an agent last summer which cost him his final year of eligibility. Carter now plays for the Philadelphia Eagles.

"I'd like to thank you, the fans, because without you here, it doesn't really do much for playing in that stadium," he said. "I just ask people to forgive a lot of the things that happened in the past because that's in the past and we really can't be held accountable for those things now because I know deep in my heart God has forgiven me for a lot of the things I've done. And I wish you'd do the same also."

Carter noted to the crowd that Spielman is a two-time All-American and he is only a one-time honoree.

"This is kind of a bittersweet time for me right now because I get very emotional at things like this," Spielman said. "I walked into the stadium today, they were playing that Script Ohio and I realized I'll never get the opportunity to play in that stadium again. It just makes you realize what a special place this is and what special people surround you."

"Then again, I know I've had my time and had four great years. I know it's time to move on and let somebody enjoy the things I've enjoyed. This is the greatest place in the world to play. I love this university."



Vice President George Bush Delivered The Ball For The Spring Game

Tupa was not able to attend the ceremony because he was in Phoenix, Ariz., with his new NFL team.

UNITED STATES Vice President George Bush, campaigning for the presidency in Columbus, made a pregame appearance in the stadium wearing an OSU football jacket and carrying the game football. He received a nice ovation from the crowd.

Running backs coach Ron Hudson introduced himself to the vice president on the sidelines shortly afterward. Bush was impressed by the crowd of 54,302.

"He said, 'I wish you guys a lot of luck. This is really something,'" Hudson said. "I should have asked him if he wanted to call some plays."

Though the stadium capacity is nearly 90,000 on game days, it seemed full because the South stands and the field seats were not set up.

The team captains for the Scarlet team were outside linebacker Mike McCray, offensive guard Greg Zackeroff, quarterback John Wagoner and split end Everett Ross.

Captains for the Gray team included tailback Vince Workman, quarterback Scott Powell, nose guard Mike Sullivan and center Jeff Uhlenhake.

TO PREVENT INJURIES, some rules were changed. Quarters were 12 minutes instead of 15, and there were no kickoffs, kickoff returns or punt returns.

Quarterbacks were allowed to be hit, however. At last year's spring game they wore yellow jerseys and were "tagged" instead of tackled.

Every player on each team played in the game. The Scarlet team dined on steak dinners as reward for winning, while the losing Gray squad ate franks and beans.

SOPHOMORE INSIDE linebacker Charles Keenan wants to play football. Keenan (6-2, 219) separated his shoulder the week of the spring game and was advised by team doctors, trainers and coaches to sit out the game.

Keenan, however, was given clearance to play by a personal physician. The result? He led the Gray team with nine tackles.

Two days after the game he underwent surgery on the shoulder. He will have no trouble returning in the fall.

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Buck Beat

THOUGH THE NFL draft is over, there is still Buckeye news emanating from the pros.

Former Buckeye and All-Pro safety Todd Bell has been waived by the Bears. If you recall, Bell was involved in a holdout during the Bears' Super Bowl season of 1985, and had a tough time breaking into the lineup when he returned.

Joining Bell on the waiver list is Ray Ellis, who was released by the Cleveland Browns.

REACHING THE BIG time in the college coaching ranks is former Buckeye assistant Rick Barnes. Barnes was recently named head coach at Providence after the school fired Gordon Chiesa after one season. Chiesa led the Friars to an 11-17 record.

School officials are hoping Barnes can bring Providence the success it

enjoyed in 1986, when former coach Rick Pitino led the team to the Final Four.

OHIO STATE WRESTLER Mark Marinelli has been named to the freshman All-American team by *Amateur Wrestling News*.

Marinelli, a 126-pounder, missed the early portion of the season due to an injury, but came back to compile a 20-11-2 record. Marinelli, a Columbus DeSales High product, finished third at the Big Ten championships.

Buckeye freshman Kenny Ramsey was named to the second team. Ramsey, from Columbus Bishop Ready High, tallied a 15-12-2 record at 142 pounds and finished second at the conference meet. He compiled a 3-2 record in the NCAA tournament, just missing All-American honors.

National Search On For Capable Punter

By Ken Halloy

John Cooper saw nothing special in his punting specialists in OSU's spring game. As for the place-kicking, it's "adequate."

"The punting is a mystery," said Cooper. "Right now this team does not have a punter. Obviously, we're going to lose a lot of sleep between now and when we play in the fall," added the Buckeye coach after watching three punters combine for an average of only 35.2 yards a boot. All but one punter were wobblers with poor hang time.

"The punting is a mystery. Right now this team does not have a punter."

— John Cooper

"We'll have to take a look at a couple selected walk-ons early in the fall and make a gut decision and go with the one we think is best."

The place-kicking will also continue to be under close scrutiny, though junior-to-be Pat O'Morrow has won the job outright heading into the fall.

"I think our place-kicking will be OK. Pat O'Morrow has won that job based on what we've seen right now," Cooper said. "I think O'Morrow has got a good enough leg and good enough technique that he could be adequate, (but) he's got

to get better. But he is better than any other kicker we had this spring."

And so the "Help Wanted" sign is out. Graduate assistant and punting coach Tony Caviglia said since the end of the spring game he has been swamped with phone calls and letters from athletes all over the country who want to be Ohio State's punter. He said he will try to get a decent look at five or more punters early in the fall. His search will be aided by his attendance at punting camps throughout the country beginning in June.

Prized recruit Buster Howe punted in high school, averaging nearly 40 yards his senior year. He will "be looked at very closely," Caviglia said. "If he can step in and do the job, great. But we can't look at him until the fall."

Perhaps the booming exploits of Tom Tupa the last four seasons spoiled Buckeye fans and coaches.

"We need to find somebody that will get the ball up in the air with decent hang time," Caviglia said. "It doesn't have to be 47 yards like Tom Tupa, but it has to get better than it is now."

Walk-on Jeff Bohlman got the most work with six tries in the spring game, but averaged only 31.5 yards. Running back Marc Hicks, who did the short-distance (from about the 50-yard line and within) punting at California before transferring, fared better with a 41.3 average on four attempts, and Mark Smith, who is also a backup quarterback, failed to make the most of his only try of 33 yards.

These are gross averages, as punt returns were not allowed in the game.

There was much experimenting during spring drills. Converted outside linebacker John Kacherski practiced punting a couple of days. Hicks, who practiced only on Fridays and Saturdays so that he could spend more time with his studies, punted the last two weeks of spring drills.

Caviglia expected Bohlman to step to the forefront in the game, based on his work during the spring. Bohlman is a two-step punter with a release time of under two seconds, "which means he'll probably never have a kick blocked," Caviglia said. His kicks the last week of practice averaged more than 40 yards.

But Bohlman had never kicked before in front of a crowd of 54,302, though his first punt of 44 yards turned over nicely but bounded into the end zone for a touchback.

"You have to realize where he was coming from," Caviglia said. "It was his first time in front of all those people. He was kind of shaky. But he has the talent to be a pretty good punter if he gets some experience."

Bohlman will spend the summer in Columbus lifting weights and kicking



Pat O'Morrow

every day, Caviglia said.

Smith struggled during the spring, though he did "come on at the end." Improving his leg speed and hang time will make him a better punter in time, Caviglia said. Smith, a three-stepper, has a release time of 2.1 seconds and averaged slightly less than Bohlman the last week.

"If Mark can just become more flexible with his leg, he can really do the job," Caviglia said. "The potential is there in both of those guys. We've just got to get it out of them and that's only going to happen if they dedicate themselves to improving between now and the fall."

Hicks could be a serious candidate for the job in the fall, if he is eligible. He will have to petition OSU to gain eligibility because he will be a few credit hours short.

"Marc just gets in there and kicks it. He's all leg and all strength. We'll have to teach him technique, but he really has the leg strength to be a Tom Tupa," Caviglia said.

"But I'm not going to worry about him until he's eligible."

Putting about the punting game won't do any good, the assistant noted. He believes someone will step in by the fall and prove a dependable starter.

"We've got a lot of time. These guys have only punted 20 days this year, so a lot of improvement can and will be made by the time we tee it up in September," he said. "We just have to remain positive. We'll be all right in the fall."

Unlike Caviglia, graduate assistant and kickers coach Steve Woods has a leader in O'Morrow. O'Morrow, playing for the Gray team, made all of his field goal attempts, from 43, 23 and 19 yards.

His challengers, walk-ons Mark Klein (a barefoot kicker), Chanthavane Adethsack and Brian Eisenburg



Mark Smith

of the Scarlet team, did not get any field goal attempts, though each converted a PAT.

"Pat was the most consistent all spring," Woods said. "That was the biggest thing for him to overcome and he seems to have done that. During the last two weeks of practice he was hitting eight of nine field goals with a live rush consistently. He has the strongest leg of all our kickers."

"There were no kickoffs in the game but Woods said O'Morrow emerged the favorite for that job, as well. O'Morrow has kicked off for Ohio State the last two seasons. Woods said O'Morrow can consistently send kickoffs to the five-yard line or longer.

"We told all the kickers after about the second week of practice that they would have to beat out Pat. No one could," Woods said. "The others improved quite a bit at the end, but they all suffered from inconsistency."

And O'Morrow isn't flawless. Woods said O'Morrow is losing distance on his kicks because he isn't properly planting his left foot before accelerating through the kick.

"He'll get better though, because he is so coachable. Pat isn't set in his ways. If you tell him to correct something he'll listen to you and try to correct it," Woods said.

Woods will welcome more walk-ons in the fall to challenge O'Morrow, though he said he feels comfortable with O'Morrow as his kicker. Matt Frantz, who won the place-kicking job from O'Morrow during midseason two years ago, is petitioning for an additional year of eligibility.

"I don't know about Matt Frantz, though we hear all the time that it looks pretty good that he'll get another year. But you can't count on that right now," Woods said.

"I truly think Pat will rise to the occasion."

BUCKEYE SPORTS BULLETIN

Published 30 times a year (weekly September through November and January through mid-March, biweekly mid-March to mid-May and monthly June through August and December) by:

Columbus Sports Publications
1350 W. Fifth Ave., #25
P.O. Box 12453
Columbus, Ohio 43212
(614) 486-2202

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Second Class Postage Paid At Columbus, Ohio and Additional Mailing Offices. USPS 705-690. ISSN 0883-6833. POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to Buckeye Sports Bulletin, P.O. Box 12453, Columbus, Ohio, 43212. Subscription rates: \$28 per year for 30 issues.

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Line Experienced But Lacks Toughness

Offense Could Highlight 1988 Buckeyes

By Ken Halloy

You can sense OSU offensive coordinator Jim Colletto wants to boast about the potential of his offense. After all, he has a poised quarterback in Greg Frey, loads of talent and depth in the backfield, an established receiver in Everett Ross, dependable tight ends and veteran forces up front.

Still, Colletto displays guarded optimism. "I've learned never to get too up on anything or get too down on anything, but overall I wasn't all that disappointed with spring ball," he said. "I think we have a chance to be pretty good. I'm concerned about our toughness up front, but I think we have a lot of good skilled players. If it all jells together I think they'll be an exciting group to watch."

"Everett Ross is a big-time receiver, a very good runner after he catches the ball. I'm real pleased with the running backs, particularly the tailbacks in (Carlos) Snow and (Vince) Workman. We're trying to find some consistency at fullback and Bill Matlock did a good job."

"For the most part, our pass protections didn't go too badly throughout the spring, but in terms of them knowing all phases of the offense and being proficient in the drop-back passing game, we still have a ways to go."

Ohio State's new pro style offense is complex and Colletto said his biggest fear was trying to do too much in a short time. There are several sets including two-back, split-back, double-wideout, double tight end, option and the shotgun. Colletto said the players

responded "rather well" to it, especially in the spring game as no fumbles were lost and only two interceptions were thrown.

"It was really important that we didn't over-tax them with too much. Sometimes you try to get it all in 20 practices and then in a couple of weeks in the fall. You can really mess things up that way because it's not being absorbed properly," he said.

Though the one-back formation was the only set Colletto was unable to insert during spring drills, he said the offensive game plan will be restricted early in the season.

He said he learned a lesson during his first year (1985) at Arizona State about doing too much too soon. The players were oversaturated with plays and formations before the season. The result was a 12-3 opening day loss to Michigan State.

"I'm going to be a lot more on the conservative side to start out with this time. We've exposed them to enough things in that they've learned the overall system. Everyone's always going to expect us to bring in the big plays and the wild plays," he said, noting OSU will pass, on the average, 30 times a game in '88. "As we go through the season we'll do a little bit more and more. By the end of the season, we'll be a true, wide open offense."

Some would call it that now, after watching the spring game. About 70 percent of the entire offense was used in the final scrimmage, highlighted by a flea flicker, reverses and several long passing plays. "We do some other things no one's seen," Colletto offered with a laugh.

Like the defense, the offense will substitute freely, especially the line and the backfield.

"We've always played a lot of running backs. I'd like to use four or five all the time because they practice harder and tend not to get hurt. And fresh bodies up front can only make the offense better."

And disappointing to Colletto, who also coaches the tackles and tight ends, is the fire, or lack of it, in the offensive line. His only criticism about the

offense in the spring game was the shoddy pass protection by the tackles.

"We've got the people that can do the job, but I don't think we're as good pass blockers as I would like. We don't play as hard as I think you have to play and that's something these kids are going to have to change between now and the time we play," he said.

The line lacks toughness because its expectation level isn't high enough, Colletto said, and because drop-back passing protection is more difficult than play action.

"With play-action passing, the defense has to wait for the ball fakes. That gives the offensive line an advantage," he explained. "Now it's just straight drop back, 'me against you.'"

Unfortunately, Colletto didn't get to see Joe Staysniak practice during the spring. Staysniak (6-5, 282), who has started every game at tackle in his two seasons at OSU, missed all spring because he had infectious mononucleosis.

"Joe's injury makes it tough. If we have four tackles that can play, we'll play them all. That's what we'd like to do anyway," Colletto said. "We'll just keep working and see what combination works. We'll wait until the fall to decide what to do."

Assuming Staysniak regains his spot on the left (quick) side, Tim Moxley (6-7, 285) will probably fill the right (strong) side. Moxley started most of last season after Jay Shaffer was injured during the preseason.

"Tim had a fair spring. He has to avoid getting overweight to have the quickness necessary to be a drop-back pass protector and he needs to play a lot lower," he said. "Over the summer I hope he gets the strength work done and gets his legs stronger so he can play lower."

"I'd like to get a competitive situation where Moxley gets pushed a little more."

With Staysniak's return, Colletto would probably get his wish because Karl Coles would move back to the strong side behind Moxley. Coles (6-5, 256) ran first team through the spring on the left side in place of Staysniak.

If such were the case, Mike Kuri (6-5, 254) would back up Staysniak and Mike Shoaf (6-6, 290) would provide further depth behind Coles. Roy Nichols (6-5, 256) moved from tackle to guard during spring drills.

"They're all pretty good linemen. We just don't have a lot of them, so we may have to switch some players around up front before it's all over, but it's too early to say who would go where," Colletto said.

Depth is not a problem for Colletto at tight end, as four tight ends combined for seven receptions in the spring game. He feels he could interchangeably use Jeff Ellis, Jim Palmer and Rich Huffman. Anthony Cook (6-2, 212), a walk-on from Cincinnati, also impressed the coach. He caught a pass for nine yards in the game.

It should be noted Jay Koch, who caught two TD passes at tight end last season, moved to wideout during the spring.

Ellis has the best hands of the trio, Palmer (6-5, 235) is the best blocker, and Huffman (6-2, 228) is overall steady, Colletto said. Palmer, who had an eight-yard reception for the Gray, is listed as the top backup, with Huffman close behind. Huffman had a productive spring game with two catches for 44 yards.

Good depth here is important because of the two-tight end set.

"I'm not at a loss for any of those three — Ellis, Palmer or Huffman. I don't have any qualms putting them in there," he said. "I think tight end is going to be a fairly decent position for us. If you've got a good tight end game, you can keep people honest inside. I'd play all three at one time."

Ellis (6-4, 225) is the leader of the group. He had three receptions for 31 yards for the Scarlet. Colletto said Ellis might have benefited more by redshirting last season instead of playing.

"He's a tough kid and works at blocking. He's not a speedy guy but he's fast enough. And the biggest factor is that he catches the ball well and he can run with it. He's certainly better than the tight ends we had at Arizona State last year."

BSB Bigger

Continued From Page 1

The announcement of the expansion caps *Buckeye Sports Bulletin's* most successful year ever in terms of revenue and circulation growth. The newspaper, entering its eighth year of publication, expanded from 20 to 24 issues in 1984 and 24 to 28 issues in 1986.

"If our readers continue to support the paper, we will continue to add issues," Moskowitz said. "It is the readers who ultimately determine our growth and they have responded very positively to our recent efforts to improve and expand our coverage. This is a very exciting time at BSB."

Subscription rates will be restructured to take into account the additional issues, the recent postal increases and the continued expansion of coverage. The new one-year rate will be \$28, with the two-year rate a bigger bargain than ever at \$44. These rates are still among the lowest in the country for publications of this type.

BSB's first class mail rate will remain at \$35 until June 15, before increasing to \$40 per year.

"We want to, once again, encourage those readers, out-of-state readers in particular, who have been having trouble receiving their paper in a timely fashion to convert their subscriptions to first class mail," Moskowitz said.

Please feel free to call *Buckeye Sports Bulletin* at (614) 486-2202 if you have any questions concerning the expansion or your subscription.

Interior Line Sturdy And Reliable

By Stephanie Pauley

With Jeff Uhlenhake as the center of attention and Greg Zackeroff and Jeff Davidson guarding closely, the OSU offensive line should be sturdy and dependable in '88 based on its performance in spring drills.

"I thought the centers and guards really had a pretty good spring," said Bob Palcic, who coaches those positions. "We're really counting on Uhlenhake to be a great player next fall and Jeff Davidson, Greg Zackeroff and John Peterson will all be reliable guards that I feel we can win with overall. So I'm pretty happy."

All three starters last season return for the 1988 campaign, anchoring what could possibly be the strength for the season — the offense.

"Since we have everybody coming back, they're obviously going to be better because they have another year of experience under their belt," Palcic said. "They have maturity, they're good kids and they work hard. I'm confident we'll have a good offensive line."

A probable All-Big Ten candidate, Uhlenhake isn't disappointing Palcic. Palcic said the 6-4, 256-pound senior-to-

be was so impressive in spring drills that he could be one of the best centers in the country this season.

Backing up Uhlenhake are Dan Beatty (6-4, 256), Mike Huddleston (6-5, 260), Tom Scholl (6-1, 224) and Dan Hirneise (6-3, 262). Huddleston was a 1987 recruit who was sidelined for the year by a preseason injury.

Returning to a starting position after suffering a broken leg against Illinois (fourth game) last season, Davidson has shown no signs of deficiency. Davidson, a 6-6, 280-pound junior-to-be, is the front-runner for the quick (left) side guard position.

Zackeroff (6-5, 270) has a hold on the strong (right) side. A three-year starter, Zackeroff has proven to be a steady performer on the OSU line.

Peterson (6-2, 282) is a converted tackle who missed most of last season after dislocating his elbow against LSU. Palcic is encouraged by Peterson's progress in the new position.

"Peterson is our third guard and he's 100 percent. I think he's playing pretty well," he said. "I just think he missed a lot of time last fall which cost him valuable experience. But with him

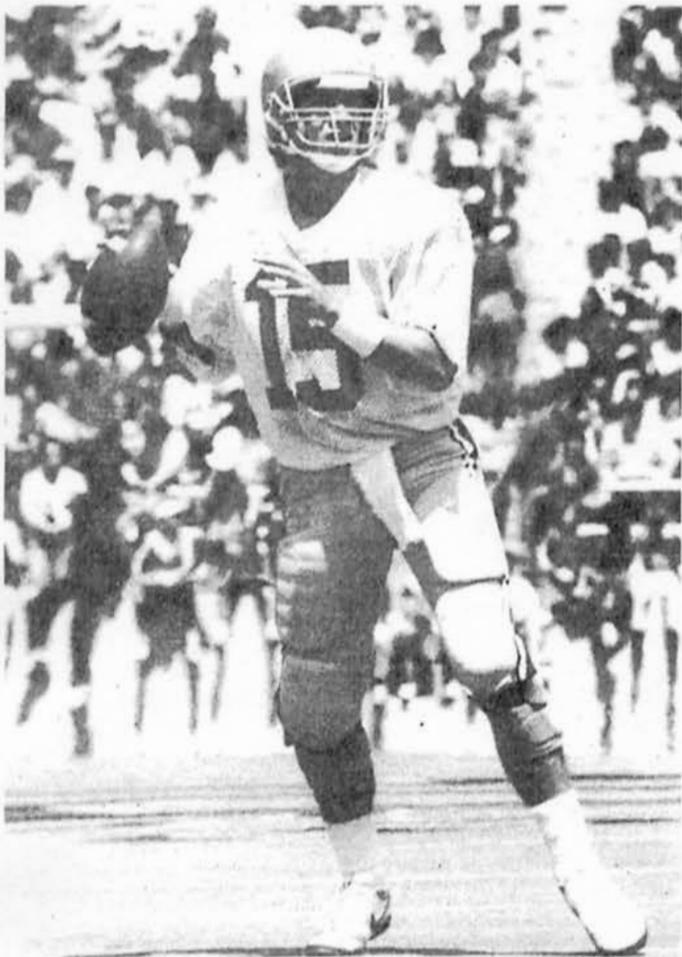
working out hard this summer and coming back in top condition, he can still push Davidson and Zackeroff for the starting position."

Ken Voll (6-3, 263), Steve France (6-5, 270) and Eric Grimm (6-4, 256) provide more depth at guard.

Palcic was concerned with how well the line would adapt to the new offensive system featuring the drop-back pass. Although he wouldn't have minded a few more practices, Palcic said he was able to work everything he planned into 20 sessions.

"The practices in the fall are going to be very important to put the finishing touches on things," he said. "It would've been great if we could've had 40 practices. But I think they picked up the offense pretty well. With the offensive line we were concerned with the transition to the drop-back pass system. I saw steady improvement but we still need more. Also, what these players do over the summer in terms of improving their strength will be very important."

"I feel good about our offense and I like the things we've been doing. I'm confident about our ability going into the fall."



Greg Frey Finished Spring Ball As The Top QB

Pro Style Offense Fits Frey's Style Perfectly

By Ken Halloy

Do you think Greg Frey likes Ohio State's new pro style offense, which features the quarterback and includes the shotgun?

As a senior at St. Xavier High (Cincinnati) in 1985, Frey, operating almost exclusively from the shotgun and calling many of the plays at the line of scrimmage, completed 28 of 55 passes for 487 yards and four touchdowns in a tough-luck, 56-42 loss to perennial power Moeller High.

Silly question.

"I love this offense," Frey said. "I think this offense can make me a better quarterback. It revolves around my strengths. It's almost exactly what we did in high school. When the quarterback's out there, he runs the show. I like controlling what's happening."

Frey is now in control. Remaining consistent throughout the spring, Frey staved off a late charge by John Wagoner and, as expected, is the number one quarterback going into the fall.

"It's really not a lock-up yet. I have to come back in the fall and prove myself again," he said.

Frey was sharp in the spring game. Though he completed only six of 16 passes for 61 yards, he had four passes dropped.

"I think I played decent; I don't think I made any critical mistakes."

Frey won't draw rave reviews for his ability to run the option. He's not fast. But he's proficient.

"If there was one thing that really

stood out during the spring, it was Greg Frey at quarterback," said offensive coordinator Jim Colletto. "He has the confidence and the poise and the ability to make us a good football team. He had a very good spring."

Frey agrees, mainly because he was working with a familiar offense and with the notion the quarterback job was his to lose. He said except for different terminology and more complex plays, he ran virtually the same offense at St. Xavier.

"It's been all attitude. I went into the spring with the attitude that this is my chance. I had a couple of bad days of practice, but I made myself forget about it and came back strong the next day," he said.

"I felt comfortable from day one of spring practice. There's really nothing about this offense I can't handle. It definitely fits me more," he said. "The passing game is diversified. It attacks any part of a defense. We can do anything."

Frey (6-2, 190) is a calm, cool, collected customer. "I get nervous," he insists, "but the longer I've been here, the more relaxed I've been." Built from the Mike Tomczak mold, Frey, like his predecessors Tom Tupa and Jim Karsatos, waited his turn. He redshirted his freshman year in 1986, before subbing for Tupa last season.

His numbers won't turn many heads — eight completions in 20 attempts for 94 yards — but his ability to deal with pressure last season has many Buckeye faithful predicting he will be a three-year starter.

Mentally Sharp Frey Claims QB Position

By Ken Halloy

Greg Frey didn't play a lot last year. Still, the limited experience was enough this spring to help him forge ahead of the group vying for the starting quarterback position.

"Greg is just keener mentally than the other guys," said quarterbacks coach Bill Dudley. "That has a lot to do with maturity and experience. Nothing seems to faze him."

Dudley says can run all facets of OSU's complicated offense.

"I was pleased overall with the way Greg played. He assumed the controls of the offense and played with a lot of confidence, and played like a guy who's played there before," Dudley said. "He's very sharp mentally, and with our offensive scheme, the quarterback really has to be a mental gymnast."

"Greg is just keener mentally than the other guys. That has a lot to do with maturity and experience. Nothing seems to faze him."

— Bill Dudley

Frey survived a late spring charge by John Wagoner, who ignited the Scarlet to a 21-16 come-from-behind victory over Frey's Gray team in the spring game.

Unfortunately, Chris Stablein, a redshirt transfer from John Carroll, sprained his arch the last week of practice and was unable to play in the game.

"The one disappointing thing about the spring game was that Stablein wasn't able to take any repetitions," Dudley said. "I was really looking forward to seeing what he could do in front of a large crowd."

Stablein, a "pure drop-back passer," was supposed to split time with Wagoner for the Scarlet squad. Stablein had vastly improved over the course of the drill season and was challenging Wagoner as the top backup.

Still, neither could outdo Frey, whom

"If we put a good unit around him, I'll be surprised if he doesn't do very well this year."

Frey's top billing emerged as expected by many, while Wagoner showed that OSU does have dependable depth at the position. Stablein's injury proved a second life for Wagoner because Wagoner played all but the last series in the game, having the opportunity to redeem himself after a bumpy start.

Wagoner threw two interceptions in the first quarter and a half and was berated by offensive coordinator Jim Colletto on the sidelines after each miscue.

Before it was over, however, Wagoner led the Scarlet to TD drives of 63, 75, and 70 yards, respectively. For the game he completed 13 of 23 passes

Continued On Page 27

He knows Ohio State fans will feel the same, especially after a 6-4-1 season. Last year was a learning experience off the football field as well.

"I learned that everyone likes to point the finger, and the quarterback at Ohio State is really under the microscope," Frey said. "You lose, and they tell the quarterback everything he did wrong. I learned that you just have to go out there and play your game. Whatever happens, happens. You can't worry about it. People will always complain."

Frey would like to envision his situation being different from Tupa's last season, when the Buckeyes were considered contenders for the national title. But with the coaching change and the quality of seniors lost, few know what to expect.

"I'd really like to go in as an underdog. I don't want people looking at us. When you're ranked high, everyone wants to knock you off," he said. "But I think we'll be ranked high again, but if we're not, all the better. I'd rather start off low and work our way up than start at the top and go down."

But can this offense get them to the top?

"It's hard to say. It may take a game to get it all down. Talent-wise, I think we can have one of the best offenses in the country. We have all kinds of experience coming back on the line, we've got a lot of receivers back and you couldn't pick a better crop of backs."

"This is Ohio State. It's national championship potential. I'm supposed to think that way."

"I went up to the line of scrimmage and I felt calm and relaxed. I looked around the stadium and thought 'wow.' All I can remember is throwing the pass and going down. I looked up and saw Workman make the catch," he said. "I was all fired up. I wanted to take them in for the score."

And now he wants more, and expects more, especially with the new offense.

Workman 'Receives' Top Spot At Tailback

By Stephanie Pauley

Vince Workman found out protecting the quarterback is the best way to protect his starting tailback position going into fall drills.

Workman (5-11, 194), who established himself as a capable receiver after moving to flanker last season and catching 26 passes for 354 yards and a touchdown, and the rest of his counterparts are learning there is more to being a running back than carrying the football in OSU's new pro style offense.

"The running back has to understand pass patterns and conversions of these pass patterns," said running backs coach Ron Hudson. "They have to know the pass routes as well as carry the ball."

And that includes blocking on passes. It's Workman's ability to pass block that forged him ahead of Carlos Snow. The two ran neck and neck throughout spring drills, Hudson said, but Snow faltered on some key pass plays in the spring game.

"Vince and Carlos both ran hard (in the spring game)," Hudson said. "Carlos made some mistakes in protection and that's why the quarterback (John Wagoner) had to scramble a couple of times. But that's just lack of experience and nervousness in the new system."

Both backs did fare well carrying the ball. Workman gained 81 yards on 15 carries (5.4 avg.) for the losing Gray team, with his longest run being 15 yards. Snow picked up 28 yards on seven carries, highlighted by a 17-yard TD run in the fourth quarter which gave the Scarlet the victory. On the play, Snow used a magnificent stutter fake inside at about the 10-yard line, before darting back outside for the score.

Workman also caught three passes for 27 yards and Snow hauled in one for seven.

With Workman and Snow the front-runners by far, it will be difficult for the other tailbacks to gain ground by the season opener Sept. 10. Still, Hudson will try to exploit each individual's talent to fit the game situation. For example, Snow, because he is only 5-9, 194, and makes for a small target, probably won't be used as a receiver out of the backfield on long yardage pass plays. A taller back would be used instead.

California transfer Marc Hicks, '87 recruit John Spencer, and Lance Price will continue to provide good competition for Workman and Snow in the fall, Hudson said. Hicks' potential debut is especially intriguing, as he was hailed as "the best running back I've ever seen" by Washington coach Don James three years ago.

Hicks (6-1, 208), who will not mathematically earn enough credit hours to gain his eligibility in the fall, will appeal to the OSU review board for an exception to the rule. He has said his grade-point average has risen from well below a 2.0 to a 2.3. He has taken 22 credit hours spring quarter and will carry about the same load in the summer.

To allow more time for his studies, Hicks was allowed to practice on only Fridays and Saturdays. That's why he saw only limited action in the spring game, head coach John Cooper said. Hicks did rush for 16 yards on three attempts, displaying form of the power-running back he has been tabbed.

Hicks also punted for the Gray team after volunteering for the job the last



John Spencer Is Elated After Scoring On Four-Yard Touchdown Burst

two weeks of practice. He led all punters with a 41.3-yard average on four tries, including a 52-yarder that bounded the final 19 yards to the end zone for a touchdown.

Spencer (6-0, 206) carried four times for 12 yards for the Scarlet team, and scored the team's first points on a four-yard burst off right guard late in the first half.

Price (6-1, 186), who wavered between receiver and tailback going into spring drills, was consistent in picking up 25 yards on six carries as his longest gainer was seven yards.

There is also a flip-of-the-coin battle going on at fullback where Bill Matlock (5-9, 219) has the slight edge on converted tailback Jaymes Bryant (6-0, 214), Hudson said.

Statistically, Bryant outdistanced

Matlock in the final scrimmage, bullying his way for 51 yards on 10 carries. He flashed signs of his tailback abilities with an 18-yard gainer on a draw play in the second quarter.

Matlock rushed for only 24 yards, but carried only six times. He did, however, have one reception, gaining all 17 yards after the catch.

"He (Matlock) doesn't make any mistakes," Hudson said. "He's very strong and runs hard. He's not a great runner but he's consistent and he's a good blocker."

As for Bryant, "He's been doing OK. It's a new position for him, so it's been a difficult transition learning all the different keys. Now he's up front in a three-point stance versus the tailback in a two-point stance. But he's getting

better at it."

Like the tailback situation, there is also a strong supporting cast at fullback in Jim Graham (5-10, 207) and Chris Boddie (6-2, 231). Graham was impressive, rushing for 22 yards on five attempts. Boddie picked up 12 yards on four tries.

For the most part, Hudson is satisfied with the progress his backs made in the spring. He said a few new formations and the goal-line offense were the only things he failed to introduce to the players that he had planned.

"We didn't introduce the entire offense. We still have a ways to go. But you've got to take it slowly. You can only go as fast as your slowest guy," Hudson said.

Huey Is Confident With Receivers

By Stephanie Pauley

OSU wide receivers coach Gene Huey is the eternal optimist.

When only one receiver with substantial experience, senior-to-be Everett Ross, reported to spring drills March 29, Huey remained confident his players would hold up their end of the Buckeyes' new offense.

And though the receivers combined for only nine receptions in the spring game, Huey still does not question the outlook at the position.

"I have enough people to get the job done and there's some talent there," Huey said. "They are some fine athletes. They're just going to have to work hard and be very conscientious and disciplined. They are going to have to really work above their abilities."

"I wish we had three more weeks of spring practice because of the new system, but I felt it was a good spring. I could feel the enthusiasm."

Ross (5-11, 180) proved the most consistent player throughout the spring and led all receivers in the game with four receptions for 72 yards and a touchdown.

"I was glad to see that Everett had a pretty decent day," Huey said. "I would've liked to have gotten him the ball a few more times but I was pleased with his productivity. He made a couple of difficult catches where the ball was underthrown and he made the effort to come back inside and make the catch."

"I have enough people to get the job done and there's some talent there."
— Gene Huey

"Everett Ross will be a standout. He certainly has the ability. I'd like to see him become more of a take-charge person. I think that with that he will become a better player."

Last season Ross stood out for the Buckeyes, pulling in 29 receptions for 585 yards and five touchdowns.

Backing up Ross at split end in the fall will be Wes Siegenthaler (6-0, 182). Injuries have slowed Siegenthaler's OSU career but Huey found the

Massillon, Ohio, native impressive during spring drills. He caught two passes for 53 yards, including a 36-yarder from receiving mate Bernard Edwards on the Gray's first play from scrimmage. Edwards had taken a reverse handoff from quarterback Greg Frey before making the pass.

"He (Siegenthaler) was on the other side (during the spring game) but I saw him catch the ball on the sidelines and he was tough. That was very promising," Huey said. "He's a very intense player who should make his presence known this fall."

"He needs to work on running his routes. But they all need to be more consistent. I don't want just one or two guys catching the ball. It has to be all six or seven."

One player who was not consistent in spring drills was 1987 recruit Bernard Edwards (6-5, 195). Playing flanker, Edwards failed to make a reception, and dropped four passes, including two sure touchdowns. But

Snow Not Storming, Wants Others Happy

By Jerry Lima

Carlos Snow may be small in size, but he's big at heart. So big is his heart, in fact, that he considered sitting next season out so a few of his teammates could have some playing time in the Ohio State backfield.

Snow (5-9, 194), the highly heralded freshman from Cincinnati, seriously entertained thoughts of redshirting next fall because, as far as he is concerned, some other players deserve to play ahead of him — particularly Vince Workman. Workman moved back to tailback this spring after switching to flanker out of necessity the middle of last season.

"We've got a lot of talented tailbacks; Vince Workman is one of them," Snow said. "He's going into his senior year and wants a lot of playing time, and he deserves it. He's been around awhile. Marc Hicks and Jim Bryant are another couple of great backs here, but I really just want the best for Vince Workman."

Snow, who logged considerable playing time at tailback last season and rushed for 381 yards and scored four touchdowns, has changed his mind about redshirting. Ironically, Workman is the one responsible.

"Vince sat down and talked to me about the situation," said Snow, a former All-Ohio and All-American tailback at CAPE High. "He said he couldn't play a whole game, and that the team needs other good people to fill in."

"You know some teams are built around one guy, and when that one guy gets hurt, the whole team goes down the drain. We won't let that happen here because we've got plenty of good backs."

Despite his size, Snow has great speed and balance. In the Scarlet and Gray game, Snow scored the Scarlet's winning TD in the fourth quarter on a 17-yard run. He juiced a defender and came nearly to a complete stop at the 10-yard line, before racing in for the score untouched.

He rushed for 28 yards on seven attempts for the game.

The coaching staff says Workman has a slight edge over Snow for the starting spot. Running backs coach Ron Hudson said Workman is the better pass receiver, and Snow has had difficulty pass blocking.

Snow agrees.

"I'm confident as a pass catcher, but Vince is a bit better. I mean, after all, he did play flanker last year, so you know he can catch," Snow said.

"Pass blocking is the biggest downfall in my game. I can block if I know who I'm blocking, but the defense moves all over, and trying to find out who's going where is difficult. I usually end up going after the wrong guy. I've got a lot of work to do to improve."

But Snow can be a dangerous receiver, especially after the catch. He caught nine passes for 172 yards and two TDs last fall. In the season finale at Michigan, Snow caught a pass in the left flat, sidestepped one Wolverine, paused while another ran past, tightrope the sideline, and raced to a 70-yard touchdown.

To say competition at tailback should be brutal next fall would be a huge understatement. With Snow, Workman, Hicks and Lance Price, not to mention incoming recruits Buster Howe and Brent Johnson, the Bucks

certainly have depth and talent at the position.

Snow said he wishes they could all play because they're all team players and encourage one another every day.

"We all put our pants on the same way," Snow said. "They're as much a part of the team as I am, so I cheer for them, especially Vince and J.B. (Bryant, who is now at fullback). Those two helped me out a lot last year. They helped me learn the offense."

With the likelihood of Workman starting the season at tailback, Snow will be forced to live with his role as a backup, but he insists that situation won't bother him.

"Right now I don't think about it," said Snow, who was also a gymnast in high school. "After the Michigan game last year most everyone thought Vince would stay at flanker and I would play tailback. But Vince feels he's best at tailback, so I don't mind playing behind him."

"As long as we're winning, and I only get to play a quarter or half a quarter, I wouldn't get upset because I'm a team player — on and off the field. No one person can win a game for you. It takes all of us."

Snow, who rushed for 7,856 yards and scored 104 rushing touchdowns during his four-year career at CAPE, said, however, his goal is to be the starting tailback by the 1989 season.

"I have to eliminate my mental mistakes, get better at pass blocking, take my coaching points, and read blocks better. If I can get through the line of scrimmage I'll just let my God-given ability take over from there," he said.

Some of that natural talent surfaced in last year's Homecoming game against Minnesota, when Snow erupted for four touchdowns in the Buckeyes' romp over the Golden Gophers. It just so happened Snow celebrated his 19th birthday that afternoon, and even surprised himself with the performance.

"My roommate Vince Clark (Snow's teammate at CAPE and current Buckeye) had all of this Minnesota stuff hanging in the room the night before the game, and he had a lot of the freshmen up to the room to wish me a happy birthday," Snow recalled.

"Vince (Clark) and I had a long talk, and he got me psyched up to score a touchdown," he continued. "So I pictured it in my mind."

"I was thinking one touchdown on my birthday would make me happy. I was shocked after the first one. When the next ones came, well . . . I didn't know how to describe the feeling."

Snow became an instant celebrity around the OSU campus, but it hasn't been all glamour. He was fingered as the instigator of a brawl in a campus bar recently. Snow denied involvement in the incident, but he had to appear at a court hearing over the matter.

"It's still hard for me to believe," Snow said. "I don't understand the whole situation. I never threw a punch, but there are people saying I hit this guy in the face. It's a bunch of baloney. They didn't know anybody else, but they knew I was Carlos Snow, so they pointed the finger at me."

Snow is scheduled to appear in court for another hearing June 22. He said the situation has been a big distraction, and he'll be glad when it's all over.

Looking ahead to next season, Snow said he and his teammates are excited



Carlos Snow Races 17 Yards For Winning TD

about the new coach and his system, especially the offensive line.

"We're basically running a pro offense," he said. "I think it's something new to the Big Ten. Michigan seemed to have trouble with it against Arizona State in the Rose

Bowl ('87). They hadn't seen that type of offense before."

"I think it's going to be difficult to stop the Buckeyes this year."

It may be difficult to stop Carlos Snow as well. That is, if he isn't too generous.

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OSU Defense To Wear Down Opponents

By Ken Halloy

Two against one is a mismatch. That's the type of situation Bill Young is trying to establish with his defense by the season opener. The Buckeyes defensive coordinator said the defense will be solid if it can go two deep at every position.

"Being able to go two deep was one of our biggest goals of the spring and we did pretty well at achieving it," Young said.

Obviously, there is much to be gained by having the luxury of using 22 players on defense. Young feels emphasizing a two-deep chart will urge the entire defense to practice harder because each player *must* be prepared to play. And if someone gets hurt, "we won't be throwing a guy in there who hasn't played a down before in his life," he said. Also, the defense will be fresher in the fourth quarter, and lastly, the morale of the team will improve.

"There's the saying, 'you don't care if the stock market goes up or down if you don't have anything invested.' Well, these guys are going to invest a bunch," Young said. "We're going to demand a lot from them. In turn, they're going to feel like they're contributing to the football team. I think it will bring them closer together. It will mean more to them."

There are no Chris Spielmans — players who can be counted on to make constant, outstanding individual plays — on the defense, the coach said, though he singled out as outstanding the spring performances of veteran outside linebacker Mike McCray and free safety David Brown.

"This team is really going to have to scramble and hustle around and gang tackle to get the football," he said. "We're not going to have the ability to be able to sit back and wait for one individual to stop a drive."

Still, he is encouraged by what he saw during the spring. Young said both teams played only basic zone defenses in the spring game because the focal point of the drill season was to develop individual techniques. Each defense gave up about 300 yards, and there was a combined total of three quarterback sacks and nine tackles for losses in the tussle.

"We've improved and overall, I was pleased with what I saw in the game. I think we probably missed some tackles, but for 20 practices I'll take it," he said. "This is going to be a fun team to coach. (Assistant coaches) Gary Blackney and Fred Pagac told me one thing about this group is that when they tee it up for the Scarlet and Gray, they play 'lights out.' And they did in the spring game. I like our attitude."

"In the long run we'll be all right on defense. But we have to stay healthy. An injury here or there could really hurt our defensive scheme. We're not buoyed down because of a lack of talent. We just don't have numbers."

Including walk-ons, only 35 defensive players suited up for the spring game. Young will, however, be reinforced with the debuts of defensive backs Vincent Clark and Tim Rutledge (Proposition 48 players) and several incoming freshmen.

The weaknesses of the defense haven't changed. It still lacks strength up front, and needs depth at inside linebacker and in the secondary. Establishing backups for the latter two and for McCray is the immediate concern. Young said he will feel relieved when inside backers Andy Gurd and John Sullivan, and defensive

back Zack Dumas return. He is also hoping for the successful transfers of Gary Lickovitch from tight end to inside linebacker, and Srecko Zizakovic and John Kacherski from tackle to outside linebacker.

Gurd suffered a pinched nerve midway through spring drills and missed the spring game. Sullivan is still recovering from off-season knee surgery, and Dumas is struggling academically.

"An injury here or there could really hurt our defensive scheme. We're not buoyed down because of a lack of talent. We just don't have numbers."

— Bill Young

Young said the "bend but not break" philosophy will remain intact, though the defense's tendency to roll the dice will hinge on the play of the linebackers and secondary.

"We would normally like to blitz an outside linebacker and a safety, and we've got them in McCray and Brown. We'd also like to blitz the inside linebackers too, like they did with Chris (Spielman) last year," he said. "But you can only do that if you've got corners (backs) that can slip up and play man coverage and other linebackers that can cover more ground."

Linebackers Are Solid On Outside

By Ken Halloy

From the outside, OSU's linebacking situation looks good after spring drills. Good for the inside will have to wait until the fall.

Linebacker coaches Fred Pagac and Gary Blackney had mountains to rebuild. Pagac had to replace first-round NFL draft pick Eric Kumerow at outside linebacker and Blackney needed a fill-in for two-time All-American Chris Spielman inside.

The mountain for Pagac is nearly complete, while Blackney is going into the fall with a modest-looking hill. Both, however, feel they have potentially strong workers coming in to finish the job.

Lack of depth was the major deterrent during spring drills for the coaches. Pagac had only four scholarship players and Blackney five. Besides Kumerow, Pagac lost senior-to-be Derek Isaman, who in the off-season decided to train for the Olympic boxing team. He may still return if boxing doesn't work out.

Blackney was without the services of 1987 starter John Sullivan, who was recuperating from knee surgery. Sullivan is expected to regain his position in the fall. Also, Andy Gurd, the only other returnee with appreciable experience, pinched a nerve in his neck the last week of practice and missed the spring game.

To offset the lack of numbers during the spring, nose guard John Kacherski and tight end Srecko Zizakovic moved to outside linebacker and tight end Gary Lickovitch moved to the inside spot. All have adjusted well and will remain at those positions. In fact, Kacherski is the front-runner for the starting job in the fall, while Zizakovic trails him only slightly.

Pagac feels blessed to have a healthy big-play man in Mike McCray to

"Right now, we're kind of limited, but hopefully that will change if we get the players back that we need. We won't know that until the fall."

Young, who personally handles the defensive line (nose guard, tackle and end), knows he has the needed depth and talent on the line. The group is slower than he'd like, so more line stunts may be inserted to compensate.

Again, Young points out that multiple substitutions will eventually wear down opposing offensive lines, which could provide the answer to OSU's listless pass rush in recent years.

"We'll play a bunch of people up front. We'll end up running two defensive lines against one offensive line," he said. "We don't have any outstanding pass rushers but they're good, tough guys with the right mental frame of mind."

Lining up at nose guard for the second year as a starter is Mike Sullivan (6-0, 249). Sullivan had seven tackles, one for a loss, for the Gray team in the spring game. Pat Thomas (6-1, 233), who has played primarily on special teams during his career, is Sullivan's backup. Thomas had five stops for the Scarlet.

"Mike really had a good spring, he is a bona fide player and I'll line him up against anybody and feel good about it," Young said. "And Pat will play a lot this year. He's just plain good. He works hard in the weight room, he has quick feet and he can change direction easily."

provide leadership to the entire defense. He said McCray (6-3, 232) will be one of the nation's best at his position this season, and that the defense will feature McCray as much as possible.

"Mike had a great spring," Pagac said. "He's versatile, he can play man coverage on the tight ends. He plays zone and is excellent against the run."

"Really, he can do it all. He doesn't have a lot of size, but he's got the quickness and he's smart. You show him something one time, that's all you show him."

The sophomore-to-be Kacherski (6-3, 245) is the strongest player on the team with a bench press of 440 pounds. With a little polish in the fall, Pagac says McCray and Kacherski could provide an un-passable (and un-runnable) duo.

Zizakovic (6-6, 242) originally entered OSU as an outside linebacker and defensive tackle before moving to offense last season.

Pagac is extremely excited about Tom Lease (6-5, 229), a 1987 recruit who missed all of last season because of a shoulder injury. Lease can play either side and would likely step in before Zizakovic if either Kacherski or McCray was sidelined.

"Tom is our third backer. He's got too much talent not to be playing next year and we'll use him," Pagac said. "Tom, Mike and John give us three solid players. If they stay healthy all season, we'll be in good shape."

Mike Chancey (6-4, 212), who came to OSU as a quarterback two years ago before moving to defense last year, completes the scholarship group at outside linebacker. Walk-on Stormy Warner, a 6-1, 193-pound freshman, impressed Pagac with a five-tackle effort in the spring game and will be on the squad in the fall.

Derek MacCready (6-5, 255) has emerged as the starter at the end position. MacCready, who played sparingly last season with a strained instep, appears ready to live up to his high expectations after transferring as a junior college All-American. He started two games last fall and had five tackles against the Gray.

MacCready's support will come from Ken Coleman (6-2, 244), who started six games last season and totaled 11 tackles.

"They are two solid performers. They are aggressive players that don't get pushed around," Young said.

Mike Showalter (6-4, 260), who started five games last season and totaled 24 tackles, is the number one man at tackle. He was impressive in the annual scrimmage, making eight tackles and batting down a pass.

"He plays with a good level of confidence. He has good technique and individual skills," Young said. "We need him to come through."

Batting behind Showalter are Tony Moore (6-4, 271) and Paul Long. Moore, who lost 25 pounds during spring drills, saw action in two games last season. Long (6-5, 245) enrolled in school for the first time winter quarter after missing all last season because of an injury.

"They are both very good football players. Tony lost all that weight during the spring so that shows you the kind of dedication he has," Young said. "Paul is here for the first time, but he did some really good things in practice. He can help us out in the fall."

Blackney isn't sure who his starters will be in the fall, basically because of Sullivan's and Gurd's absence in the spring. If healthy, both will probably be starters.

"Those two have the most experience, so you'd have to like their chances," he said. "Andy was having a very good spring before he was injured."

"The fact is, there is a dropoff in talent from last year after that."

Still, Blackney watched with admiration as throngs of upstarts fought for the openings during the spring.

"For the way these kids worked, I have nothing to complain about. They gave it all they had, and that's all we ever ask," he said. "There are some kids there that I expect to play for us."

Notably, Brian Benio (6-2, 229) and Charles Keenan (6-2, 221) led their teams in tackles in the spring game. Keenan topped the Gray squad with nine stops, while Benio had a game-high 14 for the Scarlet.

The gutty Keenan played with a separated shoulder. He had surgery performed two days later and will have no problem returning in the fall.

Keenan's desire is indicative of the work ethic of the entire unit, Blackney said. Orlando Craig (6-1, 225), Frank Hoak (6-2, 222) and Lickovitch (6-3, 226) complete the inside group. Craig had nine tackles in the spring game, Lickovitch seven.

"Gary has the temperament we like, but on the whole, the entire group is about at the same level," Blackney said. "That makes it nice because there's no dropoff when you have to replace someone. We don't have any real standouts, but the attitude is very good. I think we'll be all right. Someone will emerge as a leader for us in the fall."

Kacherski Primed For Fall Competition

By Ken Halloy

John Kacherski didn't consult a temporary service when he decided to change jobs from defensive nose tackle to outside linebacker during spring drills.

"If someone thinks they can come in and play above me, then it's just going to be one of those August fights. I'm sure I'll get challenged, but somebody's going to have to sit because I don't plan on giving this up," the sophomore-to-be vowed. "I want to start for three years. I have to play."

Kacherski, a 6-3, 245-pound brute from Riverhead, N.Y., has an ego bigger than his bench press, which, by the way, is 440 pounds, highest on the team. Still, his conceit isn't distasteful, it's refreshingly contagious.

Kacherski is confident and ambitious. He "busted his gut" all spring making what he called the "mentally frustrating" switch to linebacker. He moved because he wanted to be a three-year starter and knew there was no challenging veteran starter Mike Sullivan at nose tackle.

He lost a chance to redshirt last year when, due to lack of depth up front, he filled in at tackle in limited duty. He's not bitter about it but considers last season "lost time. It's over and there's nothing you can do about it now."

And now that he's made the switch successfully, he just wanted to send out a message to those on the team who will battle him in the fall, along with any incoming freshmen. Should he be relegated to backup, he won't complain if his demotion is justified.

"Outside linebacker was a lot harder than I thought it would be, but I've got the hang of it now. If somebody's good enough to play over me, then I'll be more than happy to move," he promised.

But don't count on that happening. Outside linebackers coach Fred Pagac said Kacherski's change was perhaps the best position change of any player this spring.

"We're really glad we moved him," Pagac said. "He's got the ability. He's strong and covers the ground. And he's a worker. He is really determined. If it wasn't for his determination, he may not have made it."

Kacherski will play the "Leo" position, opposite senior-to-be Mike McCray, who will man the "Buck" job. Kacherski's duties sometimes call for a kamikaze rush on the quarterback, which he does almost instinctively, aided by his 4.7 speed. "When you've played nose tackle, you learn to just go all-out from the snap of the ball," he said.

But the position also requires patience and finesse at other times. He must read coverages, watching every move the tight end makes. If the tight end releases, he must do the same. If the tight end holds his ground, Kacherski must fight his way around but be careful not to get sucked too far inside.

That didn't come so easy, not at all at first. And Kacherski's perfectionist attitude didn't help. He "blew a gasket" several times during the first three weeks of spring ball.

"I spent a lot of time in the off-season lifting weights. I feel like I should be able to manhandle any tight end out there. It's an ego thing. I can't be driven off the ball. And I wasn't doing that because sometimes I have to wait and do what the tight end does. You can't be overly aggressive. Sometimes you have to let the play come to you," he explained. "That was hard for me to deal with. My biggest strength was my strength and I couldn't always use it."

But Kacherski, who spent his final two years of high school at Millford Prep Academy in Connecticut, refused to fold. Practices went into a half-hour overtime for him and Pagac. Pagac, a former tight end in the NFL, would simulate a tight end and Kacherski would react. What resembled a game of tag in a sandbox was actually a lesson in footwork and reading coverages.

Kacherski also spent several hours alone at night going over the various assignments over and over in his mind. For the first two weeks of practice, nothing changed.

"I almost asked to go back to nose tackle but Coach Pag (Pagac) kept telling me to stay at it, that it would come to me," he recalled. "Besides, going back to nose tackle would have been the same as giving up and my pride couldn't handle that."

Finally, the resurrection began about the 12th practice, he remembers. The overreactions and misreads began to occur less often. During a scrimmage a week before the spring game he came up with a couple of quarterback sacks.

Confidence consumed him the last week of practice. It carried over into the game as he made six tackles for the Gray team. Two of his stops were for yardage losses, including a sack. He walloped Scarlet quarterback John Wagoner as he released the ball on two other occasions.

"I can't say I'm ecstatic about my spring, but I'm happy with my spring game," he said.

The effort earned a passing grade from head coach John Cooper, who said, "I like Kacherski. He can really help this team as a pass rusher. He really puts everything he has on every play. I think he'll be a good linebacker for us."

Kacherski is now careful not to let his confidence turn into contentment. After all, he is replacing All-Big Ten and NFL first-round draft pick Eric Kumerow. Still, he is encouraged and his expectations are high. He believes he can play as well or better than Kumerow at the position, despite having changed positions. He points out that Kumerow began his OSU career as a quarterback.

"Pags would tell me about Eric's first days here and that we were in the same boat," Kacherski said. "Filling Eric Kumerow's shoes isn't the easiest thing in the world to do, but my goal is to be better and above what Eric was here. I don't want to play in his shadows."



John Kacherski Put Hit On QB John Wagoner

Receivers Improving

Continued From Page 6

Huey said the rough day may have taught Edwards a valuable lesson.

"You play how you practice and he's dropped the ball in practice," he said. "There have been some inconsistencies in the reception area but sometimes you have to have those situations happen to you in order for you to concentrate a lot more. Then you know what's required in catching the football out there."

"I have no reservations about him. He does have great work ethics and he'll do well. For the most part he's very in tune to what's going on out there in all parts of the game but he's still a young player at that position. He certainly has the frame and size you like in a receiver and I like the way he carries himself. But I really just want to see him become a lot more productive and more consistent. I think he'll be an outstanding receiver for us someday."

Sophomore-to-be Bobby Olive (6-0, 155) is running neck-and-neck with Edwards for starting honors. A walk-on last season, Olive caught three passes in the spring game for 35 yards.

"I like the energy he's got," Huey said. "He's kind of a scrappy player. He's aggressive, not timid or shy. He takes charge of things out there. He can do all things — run, catch and block."

Midway through spring drills Jay Koch (6-4, 199) moved from tight end to flanker, giving Huey additional depth.

As a freshman last season, Koch nabbed four receptions for 48 yards and two touchdowns. Huey said Koch just needs to adjust to the wideout position.

"He's not quite at ease yet running routes and catching the ball," Huey said. "It's just the nature of the position. When you're sitting there on the outside you have to be a lot more fluent and graceful athlete. He's not the fluent athlete the other two are in front of him (Olive and Edwards) but they have been there (at the position)."

"He's caught between body types of a wide receiver and a tight end as far as his weight and speed. He needs to work on his speed and I think he'll make some progress over the summer. If you're an athlete you should make the adjustments and I think he will."

Senior-to-be flanker Gary Clift (6-2, 193) was expected to miss all of spring drills because of a hamstring injury. However, he did return the final week for limited action.

"I was very pleased seeing him back and trying to participate because he didn't have to," Huey said. "He has the hands and concentration but his speed's not the greatest. The hamstring really hindered him somewhat. But if he's healthy in the fall he can go in there and compete."

Huey is also optimistic about the addition of Jeff Graham, a 1987 recruit and Proposition 48 casualty. Huey said Graham will be behind; but if he proves he has talent he will see some action.



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Brown Teaches On Field

By Stephanie Pauley

Ron Zook may have the title of defensive secondary coach, but he has a volunteer assistant.

But you won't find his name on the coaching staff page of your 1988 OSU football program. He is David Brown (6-0, 188), Ohio State's two-year starting safety and self-proclaimed "coach on the field."

The junior-to-be will be looked upon to lead the defensive backfield which is rebuilding from the loss of 1987 senior starters William White, Ray Jackson and Greg Rogan.

"Coach Zook says you can see what is going on (in the secondary) through your peripheral vision. You can see who's in trouble or where your weaknesses are," Brown said. "He said his job as a coach is to know every player's weakness so they stay out of that position as much as possible. I have to notice that on the field."

"I also make sure they know what's going on and I try to reassure them. I reassure them that the coaches have confidence in them because they're putting the best four players out there. And I let them know I have confidence in them, so maybe they'll just go out and play. Then that allows me to play my game."

Brown has taken his new role seriously, always thinking about what he can do to ease the new players' adjustment to a starting role.

"I remember in critical situations when we needed a big play and William used to yell 'let's go' or challenge other players. He'd say, 'Let's see you make this play' or things like that," Brown recalled. "Throughout the spring I caught myself doing that. It's kind of funny because I've seen that person in me but it's never just come out like that."

Brown would also like to stress to the new members of the secondary there is no time for self-pity.

"One thing I'd like to teach them is how to handle pressure. I'm always comparing it to when I was a freshman and I just moved to defensive back," Brown said. "There's a tremendous amount of pressure because on one pass you can be humiliated. If you can't handle that pressure and it (humiliation) happens in the first quarter, you could be of no use the rest of the game."

"But I also want them to learn how to put pressure on themselves. There's nothing that motivates me more than failure and pressure. Those are my two biggest fears."

Zook said because Brown is so concerned with everyone else, he may neglect himself.

"You have a guy here who is a whale of a football player," Zook said. "He's a good person to be around. But he could get to where he is so concerned about the other guys, he forgets to take care of himself. I've told him never to think he's not just as important. He's mature enough to know that I have to spend more time with other players."

Prior to the spring game Zook joked with Brown, who was on the opposing team, that he knew Brown's weaknesses. That didn't bother Brown as he intercepted a pass and deflected another. "I don't know what



David Brown

he thinks my weaknesses are now," Brown laughed.

Brown believes the new defensive system implemented by coach John Cooper will make him an even better football player. In two seasons, Brown has recorded seven interceptions, returning one for a 100-yard touchdown, and he's totaled 122 tackles.

"The system they put in is a lot simpler than what we were accustomed to in the past," Brown said. "The disguises are just as complicated but the terminology is easier to pick up. With everything being simpler, I won't have to concentrate on what we're going to do against them but what they're going to try to do against us. I think that, in turn, will make me a better football player because it will be like second nature."

Last season the Buckeyes defense was the bright spot, but in 1988 the offense is featured. However, Brown is not discouraged by the lack of attention.

"This year's defense is basically going to be a defense of no-names because there are no All-Americans or next year first-round draft picks. So I think this year's defense should be better as a unit because there's no one person everyone can turn to," Brown said.

"I remember at critical times last year everyone turned to (Chris) Spielman or Eric (Kumerow) to make the play and they generally did it. This year everyone's going to be looking around and it will be 'This is it. I'm going to have to make the play.'"

And Brown welcomes opposing quarterbacks to 'pick on' the inexperienced secondary.

"Coach Zook is pushing us that our only goal is to get the ball for the offense. So the more times they challenge us and the more times we come up with the play, the more opportunities our offense has to score," Brown said. "But they won't want to give our offense this year too many opportunities to score."

Brown said he and most of the defensive backs will stay in Columbus over the summer, allowing them time to work on coverages, one-on-one techniques and view practice films. Brown will also spend time in the weight room, trying to improve his 340-pound bench press.

"We will definitely surprise some people. The attitude of all the players, I've never seen it like this," Brown said. "Everyone is so excited with what has happened and what's in front of us. There's nothing to fall back on from last year. All we can do is build on that."

Secondary Is Young; Welcomes Challenge

By Ken Halloy

Expect opposing quarterbacks to try to dissect Ohio State's young, inexperienced defensive secondary this fall. But those quarterbacks will find a heart as big as Ohio Stadium, says secondary coach Ron Zook.

"I hope teams come right at us because this group we've got will like the challenge, I believe. I hope teams put it up against us because that's the only way to get interceptions. You can't get interceptions if they don't throw it," said Zook, whose backs came up with two thefts in the annual spring game.

"I want my guys to believe that way. I love going against teams with great receivers because a lot of times if you get up for it, you can play above your head. Our kids have been working hard and they really seem to want it."

Zook wasn't sugarcoating his true feelings. He's had to replace three starters in the secondary, cornerbacks William White and Greg Rogan, and rover Ray Jackson. Jackson and White were drafted into the NFL and Rogan was a four-year starter. The '88 secondary probably won't be as talented or as successful as last season's, which produced 13 interceptions, caused two fumbles and broke up 27 passes.

"There's no substitute for experience," Zook said. "At this time, we're not plugging in the same kind of talent that we've lost. We've got to get better and you have to have a good attitude to do that."

Still, Zook likes the returning cast led by veteran David Brown. The group is short on numbers and was decreased even more when Mark Pelini suffered a separated shoulder early in spring drills and did not return. That left only five secondary scholarship players on the roster to fill four positions. Also, cornerback Zack Dumas practiced only on Fridays and Saturdays to allow more time with his studies. He will be battling to maintain his eligibility in the fall.

Crucial to Zook is the return of Pelini in the fall, a steady dose of contribution from senior-to-be backup Sean Bell, and the instant emergence of Proposition 48 players Vince Clark and Tim Rutledge.

"Vince and Tim will have to step in and help us out, no question about it," he said. "But again, they're really only freshmen, just a year more mature than true freshmen."

If the season were to begin June 1, Zook said converted receiver Tony Cupe and Dwight Smith would start at the corners, mainly because they've had more practice time than Dumas. "But Zack would be right at my side," Zook said. Jim Peel would fill in at strong safety and, of course, Brown is locked in at free safety.

Cupe's successful switch was a combination of his athletic ability and willingness to learn, Zook said.

"What I feel so glad about is that we did it (the change) in the spring instead of the fall. He's got an entire spring in now. That's a big plus," Zook said. "He's made the typical mistakes that are made, but he's to the point now where he knows he's made a mistake. Now it's just a matter of repetitions and it will all take care of itself."

That was apparent in the spring game. Cupe, who played for the Scarlet squad, was beaten badly by the Gray's Bernard Edwards on a long sideline pattern in the first quarter. Edwards,

however, dropped the pass. On the identical play on the next snap, Cupe stayed with Edwards step for step and broke up the pass.

"The thing I worry about will be early in the season next year," Zook said. "It will take Tony time to settle in, and you just hope that time isn't costly to the team."

Ditto for Smith. Though he played in 10 games last season for a total of 28 minutes, and made six tackles and broke up a pass in the spring game, Zook said, "Dwight has worked very hard, but he has to start thinking like a starter. At times he's eager to make the play, other times he's too tentative. He has to learn to play with the same intensity all the time, like a starter should."

That's where Zook is counting on Brown to provide the necessary leadership and emotional lift to the inexperienced. Brown, who with Dumas provided the game's interceptions, will be featured in some pass coverages to take full advantage of his talents.

"David is a real winner. We are fortunate to have him back there," Zook said. "He's well-respected and the players seem to turn to him. He'll make things work for us."

Peel, who intercepted a pass for each team in the spring game last season, has been a model of consistency and appears to be ready to step in.

"I'm very, very happy with the way he finished spring ball," Zook said. "The last two and a half weeks, he really came on. He put himself in position to make plays, and he made plays. To me, that's the bottom line."

Bell could be a utility felder, the assistant said, because of his athletic ability. Bell had seven tackles in the game.

"He's been around for a while and I really feel like he made some strides at the end. He started getting himself into position to make plays. Now he has to make them," he said. "Once he gets over the hump, he'll be tough. He's a heck of an athlete."

Of several walk-ons participating in spring drills, Zook said safety Brady Pugh (5-11, 160) stood out. Pugh, a freshman from Lima, Ohio, played the entire game for the Scarlet and was the team's second-leading tackler with nine stops.

On the whole, Zook said the secondary is only an average group of hitters, unlike the crew of "Smurfs" that manned the area in recent seasons.

"Obviously, I wish we were better and had more depth. But I don't and we go on," he said. "We just have to work hard and get these kids ready to win next year. That's the bottom line. We'll be good enough so that we'll win."

Subscribe



To

BSB

Spring Game Rosters

Gray Squad

Head Coach: Gary Blackney

Assistant Coaches: Bob Palcic, Bill Dudley, Bill Young, Ron Hudson

No.	Name	Hgt.	Wgt.	Elig.	Hometown
2	Edwards, Bernard, FL	6-5	185	Fr.	Ft. Myers, FL
4	Siegenthaler, Wes, SE	6-0	182	Fr.	Massillon
6	**O'Morrow, Pat, PK	5-11	183	So.	Radford, VA
8	Smith, Mark, PK-QB	6-2	212	Fr.	Canton
9	Veley, Ed, DB	5-8	156	Fr.	Stone Creek
12	McAllister, David, QB	6-2	195	Jr.	Athens
13	**Powell, Scott, QB	6-4	212	Jr.	North Canton
15	Frey, Greg, QB	6-2	190	Fr.	Cincinnati
16	Chancey, Mike, OLB	6-4	225	Fr.	Syracuse
18	**Clift, Gary, SE	6-2	190	Jr.	Brunswick
19	Vaughn, Dorian, DB	6-0	196	Fr.	Cleveland
21	**Dumas, Zack, CB	6-2	190	So.	Deptford, NJ
23	Hicks, Marc, TB	6-1	208	Jr.	Davis, CA
26	Lombardo, Joseph, WR	6-2	173	Fr.	Lima
27	**Brown, David, S	6-0	184	So.	Utica, NY
29	Dawson, John, WR	5-11	168	Fr.	Grand Rapids
30	Greer, Steven, WR	5-11	163	So.	Delaware
37	Hoyt, Bob, K	6-1	150	So.	Strongsville
38	*Boddie, Chris, FB	6-2	218	Fr.	Toronto, Can.
41	**Bryant, Jaymes, FB	6-0	216	So.	Harrisburg, PA
42	***Workman, Vince, TB	5-11	193	Jr.	Dublin
43	Osborne, Scott, K	5-7	170	Fr.	Iselin, NJ
45	Ntukogu, Chris, DB	5-10	189	So.	Nsukka, Nigeria
46	*Peel, Jim, ROV	5-11	191	Fr.	Beaver Falls, PA
47	Torok, James, WR	5-10	161	Fr.	Youngstown
48	#*Pelini, Mark, S	6-2	186	Fr.	Youngstown
49	#*Gurd, Andrew, LB	6-3	204	Fr.	Chagrin Falls
53	Long, Paul, DL	6-5	245	Fr.	Highland Heights
60	#Hirneise, Dan, C	6-3	260	Fr.	Marion
62	*Keenan, Charles, LB	6-2	219	So.	Steubenville
65	Grimm, Erik, OG	6-4	255	So.	Sistersville, W.Va.
66	**Coles, Karl, OT	6-5	290	So.	Gahanna
67	***Sullivan, Mike, NG	6-0	249	Jr.	Timberlake
68	***Uhlenhake, Jeff, C	6-4	275	Jr.	Newark
69	Carpenter, Joe, ILB	6-1	225	So.	Somerset
70	France, Steve, OG	6-5	265	So.	Lancaster, PA
71	Huddleston, Mike, OT	6-5	260	Fr.	Wooster
72	Dutch, Walter, DT	6-2	234	Fr.	Forestville, MD
74	**Moxley, Tim, OT	6-7	300	So.	Barnesville
75	*Peterson, John, OG	6-4	278	Fr.	Middletown
77	Lutz, Travis, C	6-4	220	Fr.	Bucyrus
81	Lease, Tom, OLB	6-5	229	Fr.	Kenton
82	*Koch, Jay, SE	6-4	199	Fr.	Cincinnati
83	**Hoak, Frank, LB	6-2	222	Jr.	Richeyville, PA
85	Palmer, Jim, TE	6-5	235	So.	Loudonville
86	*Lickovitch, Gary, LB	6-3	230	Fr.	Solon
87	Huffman, Rich, TE	6-2	228	Fr.	Salem
92	*Coleman, Ken, DT	6-2	241	Fr.	Dayton
95	*Kacherski, John, OLB	6-3	246	Fr.	Riverhead, NY
97	Moore, Tony, DT	6-4	274	Fr.	Amherst

* letters won # Injured

Scarlet Squad

Head Coach: Gene Huey

Assistant Coaches: Jim Colletto, Fred Pagac, Ron Zook

No.	Name	Hgt.	Wgt.	Elig.	Hometown
1	*Price, Lance, TB	6-0	186	Fr.	Toledo
3	**Bell, Sean, ROV	6-2	198	Jr.	Middletown
5	**Ross, Everett, SE	5-11	183	Jr.	Columbus
7	Klein, Mark, PK	5-7	149	Fr.	Houston, TX
9	Chanthavane, Adethsack, K	5-7	135	So.	Mobile, AL
10	Tucker, Chris, QB	6-1	191	Fr.	Lewisburg
11	*Matlock, Bill, FB	5-9	215	Jr.	Columbus
14	#*Stablein, Chris, QB	6-3	210	So.	Erie, PA
17	*Wagoner, John, QB	6-3	203	Fr.	High Point, NC
20	**Smith, Dwight, CB	5-11	183	Jr.	Middletown
22	*Cupe, Tony, CB	6-0	188	Fr.	Columbus
24	Eisenberg, Brian, PK	5-10	165	Fr.	Bloomfield Hills, MI
25	*Snow, Carlos, TB	5-9	196	Fr.	Cincinnati
28	Spencer, John, TB	6-0	195	Fr.	St. Clairsville
31	Halveland, Uwe, DB	5-11	218	So.	Langley, VA
31	Giesler, Mike, CB	5-11	180	Fr.	Woodville
32	Hilsenroth, Troy, ROV	6-2	175	Fr.	Avon
33	Bohman, Jeff, P	6-3	205	So.	Centerville
35	Graham, Scotty, FB	5-10	208	Fr.	Long Beach, NY
36	Kostival, Knstofer, LB	5-11	209	Fr.	Chauncy
37	Warner, Stormy, OLB	6-1	193	Fr.	Columbus
39	*Olive, Bobby, FL	6-1	155	Fr.	Atlanta, GA
40	Pugh, Brady, S	5-11	160	Fr.	Lima
44	Susec, Otto, OLB	6-2	217	Fr.	Maple Heights
45	St. John, Scott, TE	6-1	189	So.	Mineral Ridge
50	**Davidson, Jeff, OG	6-6	280	So.	Westerville
51	***Zackeroff, Greg, OG	6-5	270	Jr.	Warren
52	***Moore, Tom, C	6-3	223	Jr.	Orrville
54	*Thomas, Pat, NG	6-1	255	So.	Centerville
55	Saunders, Robert, C	6-3	243	So.	Newark
56	*Craig, Orlando, LB	6-1	225	So.	Detroit, MI
57	***Sullivan, John, LB	6-0	230	Jr.	Timberlake
58	Scholl, Tom, C	6-1	218	Jr.	Columbus
59	Pauli, Tim, LB	6-2	232	So.	Arlington Hts, IL
61	Voll, Ken, C	6-3	267	Fr.	Lakewood
63	Nichols, Roy, DT	6-5	276	Fr.	Jeannette, PA
64	Kuri, Mike, OT	6-5	266	So.	Martins Ferry
76	*Beatty, Dan, C	6-4	262	Fr.	East Liverpool
78	Shoaf, Mike, OT	6-6	270	Fr.	Orwell
79	**Staysniak, Joe, OT	6-5	280	So.	Elyria
80	Fenstermaker, Tony, FL	6-2	192	So.	Powell
88	Cook, Anthony, TE	6-2	212	So.	Cincinnati
89	*Ellis, Jeff, TE	6-4	241	Fr.	Louisville, KY
91	*Benio, Brian, LB	6-2	232	Fr.	Roswell, GA
93	*MacCreedy, Derek, DT	6-5	255	Jr.	Montreal, Can.
96	*Zizakovic, Srecko, OLB	6-6	242	So.	Weston, Can.
98	**Showalter, Mike, DT	6-4	268	So.	Bay Village
99	***McCray, Mike, OLB	6-3	221	Jr.	Dayton

* letters won # Injured

The Numbers Game

Scarlet 21, Gray 16

GRAY	13	0	0	3	16
SCARLET	0	7	7	7	21

GRA — O'Morrow 23 field goal 5:56
 GRA — Boddie 1 run (O'Morrow kick) 3:29
 GRA — O'Morrow 43 field goal 0:19
 SCA — Spencer 4 run (Eisenberg kick) 0:27
 SCA — Ross 13 pass from Wagoner (Klein kick) 4:53
 GRA — O'Morrow 19 field goal 11:16
 SCA — Snow 17 run (Chanthavane kick) 8:03
 Att. — 54,302

	GRA	SCA
First Downs	19	17
Rushing	13	6
Passing	5	11
Penalty	1	0
Rushes-Yards	40-167	34-119
Passing Yards	147	171
Passes	24-10-0	23-13-2
Offensive Plays	64	57
Total Net Yards	314	290
Third Down Eff.	2-10	5-11
Punts	5-39.6	6-31.5
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	0-0
Penalties	3-15	3-10
Time Of Possession	24:33	23:27

Individual Statistics

RUSHING (Att.-Net Yds.) — GRAY: Workman 15-81; Bryant 10-51; Frey 5-24; Hicks 3-16; Boddie 4-12; Powell 1-0; Edwards 1(-6); McAllister 1(-11). SCARLET: Snow 7-28; Price 6-25; Matlock 6-24; Graham 5-24; Spencer 4-11; Wagoner 3-6; Tucker 1-3; Halveland 2(-1).
 PASSING (Att.-Comp.-Int.-Yds.-TD) — GRAY: Frey 16-6-0-61-0; Edwards 2-2-0-63-0; McAllister 2-1-0-6-0; Powell 4-1-0-6-0. SCARLET: Wagoner 23-13-2-171-1.
 RECEIVING (Rec.-Yds.) — GRAY: Workman 3-27; Siegenthaler 2-53; Huffman 2-44; Hicks 1-11; Palmer 1-8; Boddie 1-4. SCARLET: Ross 4-72; Olive 3-35; Ellis 3-31; Matlock 1-17; Cook 1-9; Snow 1-7.
 PUNTING (No.-Ave.-Lg.) — GRAY: Hicks 4-41.3-52; M. Smith 1-33.0-33. SCARLET: Bohlman 6-31.5-44.

PUNT RETURNS (No.-Ave.-Lg.) — None Allowed.
 KICKOFF RETURNS (No.-Ave.-Lg.) — No Kickoffs In Game.
 DEFENSIVE FUMBLES RECOVERED BY — GRAY: None. SCARLET: None.
 INTERCEPTIONS — GRAY: Dumas, Brown. SCARLET: None.
 TACKLES FOR LOSS — GRAY: Kacherski (2), M. Sullivan, Lease, Coleman. SCARLET: Zizakovic, McCray, Warner, MacCreedy.

TACKLES (Solo-Ass.-Tot.) — GRAY: Keenan 1-8-9; Dumas 3-4-7; M. Sullivan 3-4-7; Lease 3-4-7; Lickovitch 3-4-7; Kacherski 2-4-6; Coleman 1-4-5; Brown 1-2-3; Carpenter 2-1-3; Hoak 1-2-3; Chancey 1-1-2; Osborne 1-1-2; Peel 1-1-2; Veley 1-0-1; Vaughn 0-1-1; Long 0-1-1; Dutch 0-1-1; Ty Moore 0-1-1. SCARLET: Benio 3-11-14; Pugh 1-8-9; Craig 3-6-9; Showalter 1-7-8; Bell 1-6-7; Zizakovic 3-4-7; D. Smith 2-4-6; McCray 2-4-6; Warner 1-4-5; Thomas 0-5-5; MacCreedy 4-1-5; Cupe 1-2-3; Kostival 1-2-3; Hilsenroth 0-2-2; Ross 1-0-1; Pauli 1-0-1.

Buck Boss Says Much Work Still Needed

Continued From Page 1

On the Gray's initial play from scrimmage, wideout Edwards, a former high school quarterback for one season, took a reverse handoff from quarterback Greg Frey and then threw a perfect strike to Wes Siegenthaler over the middle for a 36-yard gain.

On the first play of the next possession, Frey bounced a 25-yard lateral near the sidelines to Edwards, who then completed a 27-yard pass to tight end Rich Huffman.

Frey threw two perfect deep passes to Edwards on the Gray's third possession, but Edwards dropped a sure TD on the first and the second was broken up by converted defensive back Tony Cupe.

"I thought it was an entertaining game from the fans' standpoint," Cooper said.

Cooper found as many positives from the game, and spring drills overall, as negatives. Assessing the intrasquad game was a chore because "any time you see a good play offensively, you can turn that right around and say that was a bad play defensively."

The teams nearly evenly divided over 600 yards in total offense, but Cooper didn't want to accept that at face value.

"We're real thin on the defensive side of the ball, that's quite obvious. When you divide up your squad like we did today, that really magnifies the lack of depth that you have," he said. "That's one reason I think offensively we had several drives and we moved the ball

nine, 10, 11 plays."

He was pleased the game was played virtually mistake-free. There were only six penalties, all for five yards; two interceptions, both by Scarlet quarterback John Wagoner, though one was a result of a tipped pass; and one fumble, but the Gray retained possession.

"I didn't see any major penalties in the game. If you do that and you play good defense, chase the football and have a sound kicking game, you have a chance to win any ball game you play," Cooper said.

Half of the kicking game appears sound. Junior-to-be Pat O'Morrow made all three of his field goals, the longest from 43 yards, and an extra point, while each of three walk-ons converted PATs.

But atrocious to Cooper is the punting game. Four punters, including tailback Marc Hicks, who surprisingly led the group with a 41.3 average, combined to average about 35 yards a kick.

"The glaring weakness on this football team is quite obvious—it's the punting game. That's the most disturbing thing about this football team right now," he said. "We have not had anyone punt the ball consistently all spring. Right now this team does not have a punter."

Frey and Wagoner were impressive. "I was encouraged with both quarterbacks," Cooper said. "I like the way they held themselves under game conditions. I thought Greg Frey did an outstanding job running his offense and I thought John Wagoner was

equally as impressive."

As expected, Frey concluded the spring as the top gun, though Cooper said Wagoner still could overtake him in the fall, pending the progress the two make over the summer.

Frey got the Gray off to a fast start, with two field goals and a TD on its first three possessions. The drives were 74, 53 and 23 yards, respectively. His six completions on 16 attempts for 61 yards are deceiving because Edwards dropped four passes.

Wagoner took a little longer to settle in, as he gave up both thefts in the first half. He did, however, regain his poise with the aid of a sideline tongue-lashing from offensive coordinator Jim Colletto, and drove the Scarlet 63 yards for its first score late in the half to cut the deficit to 13-7.

Wagoner, who completed 13 of 23 for 171 yards for the game, then capped a 75-yard drive in the third quarter with a 17-yard strike while on the run to Everett Ross in the right corner of the end zone. The conversion gave the Scarlet its first lead at 14-13.

Then, trailing 16-14, Wagoner orchestrated a 70-yard march in the fourth quarter for the winning points when tailback Carlos Snow darted 17 yards for the score.

Distressing to the Buckeye coach was the Gray's failure to protect its lead.

"You've got to take advantage of the situation when you've got another team down. You've got to put them away," Cooper said. "That didn't happen and I hope it's a lesson to some of the guys on this football team."

Mention of the running backs brought a broader smile to Cooper's face. Vince Workman emerged as the slight front-runner over Snow. Workman rushed for a game-high 81 yards on 15 carries and Snow totaled 28 on seven.

"I like the running backs," Cooper said. "I think that ought to be the

strength of our offense. Vince does a lot of good things. He comes out of the backfield and catches the ball. He's a polished back. Carlos is a very exciting runner. Obviously, I liked the touchdown run."

Continuing along the roller coaster, other than Ross, who caught four passes for 72 yards, and the tight ends, Cooper isn't overwhelmed with the receiving corps.

"I was not very pleased with some of the other receivers today. To be honest with you, I think we dropped some passes we had to catch," he said.

On the Gray's last chance to pull out the victory late in the game, on fourth-and-nine from the Scarlet 30, Frey tried to connect with Edwards in the corner of the end zone, but Cupe got in the way at the last second.

"You've got to make those kinds of plays. Those are the kinds of plays that win ball games," Cooper said.

Though it was a rough day for Edwards, Cooper said all the players will be judged based on their overall spring performance. And overall, Cooper seemed satisfied. For now.

"I was encouraged all spring with the attitude and work ethic of our football team. They did what we asked them to. Obviously, you'd like to have more time to practice in the spring. Usually I think 20 practices is enough, but when a new staff comes in there's a lot we could work on and a lot of polishing we could use," he said. "I think it will help us in the fall when we'll have three ball games before school and we'll have our football players all day and keep repeating the game plan and the plays."

"The major thing we've got to work on between now and the fall is, we've got to live in the weight room. We've got to come back and be in fanatical condition. We've got to eliminate our mistakes in the fall and we've got to stay healthy because we don't have a lot of depth on the football team."

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The View From 15th and High

By Frank L. Moskowitz, BSB Publisher

Big Crowd Indicative Of Football Excitement

The big story coming out of Ohio State's annual spring football game may have been the excitement that seems to be surrounding the program right now. It's not every day that more than 54,000 people show up for what is basically a scrimmage — no kickoffs, no punt returns, 12-minute quarters.

John Cooper has apparently caught the fancy of the Ohio State faithful and they proved it by turning out in force. Ohio State fans have proven through the years, however, that what they ultimately want is winning football, and the Buckeyes will have a tough way to go in Cooper's first season with opening games against Syracuse, Pitt and LSU before the always-grueling Big Ten slate.

But the Buckeyes showed during the spring game that they are hardly what former coach Earle Bruce used to call the "Sisters of the Poor."

One thing the Bucks demonstrated clearly is that they are loaded with running backs.

Vince Workman celebrated his return to tailback with an 81-yard day for the losing Gray team. Workman has already proven himself, with a 1,000-yard season under his belt, and should go into the fall as the starting tailback on the strength of his experience, pass catching prowess and his ability to quickly pick up the new system.

But don't look for Workman to lug the ball 40 times a game this fall. Everyone knows how explosive Carlos Snow can be and you can't keep that

type of firepower on the bench for too long. His 17-yard, game-winning touchdown run for the Scarlet was vintage Snow, as he threaded his way through the defense untouched for the six.

There's more, though.

Lance Price gained 25 yards on six carries. Fullbacks Jaymes Bryant and Bill Matlock each had productive days with 51 and 24 yards, respectively. Scotty Graham had 23 yards on five carries and John Spencer had a touchdown to show for his 11 yards.

And there's always the chance that the highly-touted Marc Hicks will be eligible, making a deep backfield even deeper. Hicks carried three times for 16 yards and caught a pass for another 11.

With Workman moving back to tailback, Everett Ross is going to have to carry the load at wide receiver. The senior-to-be, who grabbed 29 passes for 585 yards and a strong 20.2-yard average last season, turned in a solid spring game performance with four receptions for 72 yards and a score. Some of his supporting cast did well also, as Wes Siegenthaler racked up 53 yards on two catches (26.5 average) and Bobby Olive pulled down three catches for 35 yards. Bernard Edwards appears to still need some work, though his arm looks just fine with two pass completions on two attempts for 63 yards.

Look for the Buckeyes to use the tight end more this season, as it may be one of the deeper positions on the team. Jeff Ellis grabbed three passes, Rich

Huffman two and Jim Palmer also had a reception.

Greg Frey did nothing to lessen the probability that he will be over center when the Bucks take the field against the Orangemen in September. John Wagoner's stock probably went up after the spring game, however. Despite a shaky start with two interceptions, Wagoner showed the sun-drenched crowd some excellent zip in his passes.

Couple all of these components with an experienced offensive line and you should see the Buckeyes put some points on the board in the fall.

The defense is a bigger question mark. OSU is absolutely lacking in numbers on the defensive side of the football, but there is quality among those there.

Look for Mike McCray, who is a slightly shorter version of Eric Kumerow, and David Brown to lead the defensive charge in 1988. Both had good spring games. McCray had six stops, including a sack and Brown had three tackles and an interception.

Other standouts on defense included several players at new positions. New outside linebackers John Kacherski

and Srecko Zizakovic were active. Former middle guard Kacherski had six stops, including two for losses and Zizakovic, who's been at several positions, most recently tight end, had seven stops, including a sack. Former tight end Gary Lickovitch had seven tackles at inside linebacker and Tony Cupe, who caught eight passes last season, broke up two passes and was in on three tackles in his debut as a defensive back.

Ohio State just might be able to put itself together a decent football team by next fall.

THE FIRST winners of the Mr. and Miss Basketball in Franklin County awards that we co-sponsor with American Awards are certainly worthy choices. Lawrence Funderburke averaged 28.2 points and 13.9 rebounds while leading Wehrle to a state crown as a junior this past season. He will be one of the most sought-after players in the country next season.

Jai Jones, who will be attending Ohio State in the fall, averaged 19.2 points and a surprising 14.8 rebounds despite being only 5-8.

Congratulations to both players.

Frey Top Quarterback

Continued From Page 5

for 171 yards, including a 13-yard scoring strike to Everett Ross.

"After the first quarter, John really settled down and played well," Dudley said. "I wasn't surprised because I knew he had the ability. He showed the ability to make plays. It's a good sign when a kid makes a few mistakes early but can shake them off and come back and play well."

That well describes the type of spring it was for Wagoner and Stablein. Both were battling rustiness. Wagoner, blessed with a strong arm, had returned to quarterback after moving to flanker last season, while Stablein had earned little practice time as a member of the scout team.

"The two guys in competition for number two showed signs of good things all spring, but then in turn showed signs of inexperience," Dudley said. "John's been away from the position for a while and Chris is just getting back into the swing of things. Hopefully, their inconsistency just came about because of their lack of experience."

Scott Powell, who moved to outside linebacker last season but sat out because of a preseason shoulder injury, slid down the depth chart during the spring, mainly a victim of his eligibility status. Powell will be a senior in the fall, while Wagoner and Stablein will be only sophomores.

Powell received fewer repetitions the last three weeks of practice. Still, Dudley isn't ruling Powell out as a

contender for playing time in the fall. Powell played the second quarter of the spring game and had a six-yard completion in four attempts.

"We just felt we couldn't run four quarterbacks so much. We needed to get the other guys more repetitions. Greg needed more turns and the other guys showed a little bit more controlled ability," Dudley explained. "It was hard for Scott, but he did well when he got in there. He's a guy who could come in in a tight situation and help us out in the fall. He's not totally out of the picture."

Walk-ons Chris Tucker and David McAllister each played a series of downs in the game, and will likely be on the team in the fall. McAllister, showing nimble feet, completed a pass for 17 yards and had another dropped. Tucker didn't attempt a pass, but wisely ran for three yards on a planned pass play.

Seemingly the only issue to be solved in the fall is who the backup quarterback will be. Dudley gives Wagoner the edge.

"John has to get himself to be the best backup possible because he's only a play away from being a starter," he said. "He essentially has to prepare himself to be a starter."

"It's important for Chris to come back sharp because he never got a chance to play in the game and because John came out of that game with a lot of confidence. And Chris looks like the kind of kid who will come back and work hard."

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