

BUCKEYE SPORTS BULLETIN

\$1⁵⁰

2ND CLASS NEWSPAPER
CLASSIFICATION
DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE RUSH!!

Vol. 9, No. 25

"For The Buckeye Fan Who Needs To Know More"

April 14, 1990

12802

Will Stress Work With Players, Not Plays

No Fancy Spring Plans For Colletto

EDITOR'S NOTE: This issue of *Buckeye Sports Bulletin* covers Ohio State's spring football practice from the offensive side of the ball. The next issue, due to be published April 24, will cover the defense.

By Mike Wachman

Although defense may determine the success or failure of a football team, if a team stops its opponents, yet fails to score itself, it won't win many games.

In charge of Ohio State's offensive fortunes in 1990 will be offensive coordinator Jim Colletto, entering his third season in that position, as well as that of assistant head coach under John Cooper.

The Buckeyes averaged 28.3 points per game last season on the way to an 8-4 campaign.

The Buckeyes amassed 2,717 rushing yards and 2,180 passing yards to secure the Big Ten total offense crown, averaging 408.1 yards per game, 18th best in the country.

While many fans felt Colletto's arrival in Columbus meant wide-open football, which would have been in stark contrast to the conservative style of former coach Earle Bruce, the Bucks have shown a pretty equal balance between passing and running the last two seasons.

And Colletto says if fans are waiting for the team to run all sorts of gadget plays and options and the like, they may get a bit impatient.

"We are going to go with what got us to this point," Colletto said. "Spring is the time when you look at how people kept themselves in shape and just reacquaint them with the basics of our philosophy. There won't be anything earth-shaking worked on this spring, because we want to concentrate on the players rather than the plays."

Besides, offense is often based on what opponents will give you and Colletto wants to instill that into the young offense.

"Our offense is more of what the opponents will do," he said. "We're not going to change a lot of what we've done in the past. We may emphasize a few more things that we really didn't do last year, but we're not going to play any differently. The biggest thing is the physical part of football."

"We're not going to be a bunch of Fancy Dan guys. We're going to be guys who knock people around and that's the way we're going to play."

The biggest question mark will likely be the offensive line, where four starters from last year's team will have

to be replaced. The only returnee is senior center Dan Beatty.

"I know people have questions about our offensive line, but they will become a cohesive unit this season," Colletto said. "We're not so complicated that guys can't learn what to do. The biggest thing for these guys is learning to play at the intensity level that it takes to win. They don't know how good the guys are that they are going to play against. That's the biggest problem."

"It's hard to alleviate that in the spring because they're playing against their own people. When you get into a game it's different. You play the game against a guy you don't know and a guy you'll never see again except for those three hours. That's where the problem lies."

Colletto feels secure with Beatty at center and he has confidence in his guard prospects. His biggest concern appears to be with the inexperience of the tackles.

"The two guys who are doing the best by far are Danny Beatty and (guard) Len Hartman," he said. "Mike Huddleston (at guard) has made great improvement. Those three guys are doing the best so far. John Peterson has come back well from his injuries. Our guard situation should be pretty good."

"We've got Alan Kline, Roy Nichols, Mick Shoaf and Jason Winrow at the tackle positions, guys who haven't really played very much. Those are the guys we have to get to come along by the end of the spring."

Also eagerly awaited by Buckeye fans will be the first season of play from redshirt freshman guard Rod Smith, a highly rated player from Cleveland St. Joseph High School.

"Rod will be fine. He just needs to learn how to play," Colletto said. "We'll leave him at guard, because he's 310 pounds and runs like crazy and when he hits you, you stay hit. He just needs the experience. We'll probably have Jack Thrush and Paul Long as the backups to Danny at center."

"We're practicing everybody out there and we're not even deciding who is first, second, third and those things right now. We might not even do that the whole spring, until maybe the final three or four days."

Colletto knew that senior running back Carlos Snow would be held out of drills while allowing his knee to heal. As it turns out, Snow will miss the entire 1990 season while recovering from surgery to remove a tumor from his hip. Even without Snow, who led the team in rushing last year with 990



Ohio State offensive coordinator Jim Colletto gives instruction to linemen Len Hartman (52) and Roy Nichols (63) during the Buckeyes' spring practice drills. Hartman and Nichols are two candidates to fill four line vacancies this season.

Continued On Page 14

BUCKEYE SPORTS BULLETIN

Buckeye Sports Bulletin is 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

PUBLISHER
Frank L. Moskowitz

ASSISTANT PUBLISHER
Karen Wachsman

EDITOR
Mark Rea

NON-REVENUE
SPORTS EDITOR
Mike Wachsman

PHOTOGRAPHY
Tim Carson
Liana Coutts
Richard Stelts

CONTRIBUTORS
Andrea Ardito
Dana Dunn
Rich Exner
Steve Helwage
Chris Jones
Brent LaLonde
Rich Leonardo
Craig Merz
David Myers
Bob Rochm
Steve Siegfried
Kati Wade

ADVERTISING
REPRESENTATIVE
Wendy Craver & Associates

MEMBER

CSAN
Collegiate Sports Advertising Network

908 South Hull Street, Montgomery, AL 36104
(205) 834-6802 / FAX (205) 263-0407

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

Spring Grid Drills Bring Chills

Although the calendar says it's Ohio State football spring practice time in Columbus, Mother Nature has been making it feel more like winter practice in Alaska. However, head coach John Cooper is a big believer in building character and has kept the players outside.

The windy conditions have played havoc with some of the quarterbacks, a position that is squarely in the spotlight this spring.

Despite the fact that Cooper has voiced his displeasure with incumbent Greg Frey's decision to journey to the baseball team this spring, the starting job is Frey's to lose come fall. He attended one practice session as a spectator and seemed unaffected by the swirl of controversy over his decision to play baseball this spring.

It would have been much more of a detriment to Frey and the team had he decided to play baseball last year. But the ultimate effects will be seen once fall practice begins.

The quarterbacks who are in attendance have had different measures of success.

It appears Kirk Herbstreit has the slightest of edges over transfer Kent Graham. But that's only midway through spring practice. I expect that to change by the end of the drills, as does Cooper. The OSU head coach remarked, "I would say it's Herbstreit over Graham right now, but that's now. I think it will be Graham over Herbstreit by the end, but you never know."

Herbstreit is throwing the ball much better than last year. He has more zip on his passes and has developed a nice, if somewhat inconsistent, touch.

Jason Frank's elbow is still bothering him and the evidence is revealed in his throwing. On one throw he'll look fine, but on the next, especially if it's a crossing pattern, the throws will either end up short or behind the receiver. He did show improvement at the team's controlled scrimmage April 7, but his arm problems may preclude him from challenging Herbstreit and Graham.

Graham has been highly touted ever since he arrived at Ohio State from Notre Dame and people were talking about what a howitzer he had for an arm. Let me say that after two weeks, it's all true. The guy wouldn't have a career completion percentage of around 66 if he couldn't throw.

His one flaw, which could be worked out with repetitions, is that he will occasionally throw behind receivers on crossing patterns, a big portion of the Buckeyes' pass routes last year.

One noticeable difference between Graham and the others, though, is his approach to the season. Herbstreit and Frank have said that they are fighting hard to be the best backups to Frey that they can be. Graham has essentially said he came here to start.

I don't think it will happen this year, but don't be surprised to see the coaches go to a second-stringer much more quickly this year, especially if Frey is having a subpar game.

The running game should be fine, especially in the capable hands of Scottie Graham. As long as he is on the field, opposing coaches have to worry that he will break a play for a score. He has as much big-play ability as any running back in recent memory and can play tailback as well as fullback. That may

Spring Notes with Mike Wachsman

come in handy with the loss of Carlos Snow.

The other two tailbacks are Dante Lee, who has beefed up a bit to 187 pounds, and Raymont Harris, who, despite nursing a nagging ankle injury, is showing a very fluid style and good power. He may also be the best receiver out of the backfield for the team.

At fullback, linebackers taking on William Houston better be set for a collision, because at 235 pounds, he can hit. Most of the coaches say he is the best blocking back on the team. Tyrone Harrison has also shown improvement, especially when it comes to finding the holes.

Before the passers can pass and the runners can run, however, the Buckeyes need to replace four-fifths of one of the best offensive lines in the nation.

While the coaching staff has said it will be hard to judge the offensive line until it can look at films, to the naked eye, Dan Beatty could certainly be one of the top centers in the nation this year. His year of experience will help and he will be the anchor for the line this year.

Other linemen doing well include sophomore guards Len Hartman and Mike Huddleston. Redshirt freshman Rod Smith was also looking good as well until he suffered a sprained knee April 4.

There's reason to believe the receiving corps can improve on last year's numbers.

Though top receiver Jeff Graham will miss the spring with a chronic groin injury, the other regulars have been impressive. Bobby Olive and Bernard Edwards have even bettered their blocking skills and are back to contending for starting roles.

When Jeff Ellis returns, if he is anywhere near his ability before the injury last season, the tight end position will be in good shape.

It would seem that redshirt freshman Tim Williams will be given every opportunity to win the kicking duties from the graduated Pat O'Morrow. He has a good outlook on things and doesn't seem to really feel too much pressure despite the fact walk-on Jon Berger is also getting a look from the coaching staff.

All in all, this offense could and should be among the nation's best in 1990.

Notes and Quotes

There have been some defections for the Buckeyes, most at the linebacker position.

Jersey number 44 has served as somewhat of a jinx. First, Tony Clouson quit the team, then JUCO transfer Mick Barsala got the number. After six practices, he, too, decided to quit. He returned to California, reportedly telling some teammates he missed his girlfriend more than he thought he would.

Cooper said the distressing thing about the Barsala situation was that he "indicated to us a long time ago that this is always where he wanted to go to

school and that football was his love. Then he comes here and, after about a week and a half, he leaves."

The injury situation for the Buckeyes is not as bad as some may think.

Snow will be out all season, but most of the injuries are of the minor, nagging variety and should heal pretty fast.

Graham's groin injury and defensive back John Wagoner's sprained knee ligaments will cause both of them to miss the spring.

Linebacker Chris Stabilein strained his neck and may be able to return later this spring. Linebacker Andy Gurd is participating in everything but contact.

Other early spring injuries included linebacker Judah Herman (sprained back), Lee (bruised abdominal muscle), linebacker Jay Koch (hamstring pull), defensive linemen Kenny Coleman (bruised knee) and Mark Bean (pneumonia) and receiver Greg Beatty (shoulder bruise). Beatty was injured when Vinnie Clark tackled him out of bounds and knocked him into some metal bleachers which were only about five yards from the sideline.

Sophomore defensive back Darrell Lewis was also shelved with a sprained ankle and a hernia.

SOME POSITION changes of note have Wagoner and freshman receiver Roger Harper moving to the secondary.

Harper is being tested at strong safety and is doing a good job so far picking up defensive schemes. If he keeps growing, he may find a permanent home at linebacker or tight end.

Paul Long has moved from defensive line to center (and had his number changed from 93 to 66), and freshman Jack Thrush, who was recruited as a guard, is working as Dan Beatty's backup at center. Alonzo Spellman is making waves at defensive lineman and the coaching staff is moving him from side to side.

The experiment to move returning junior John Kacherski to defensive line lasted less than two weeks and he is back at his more familiar outside linebacker spot.

IN ATTENDANCE at some practices were graduates Mike Showalter, David Brown, Tim Moxley and Jeff Davidson.

Brown, Moxley and Davidson are readying themselves for the upcoming NFL draft. Scouts have told Moxley they like his size, while Davidson, who is up to 310 pounds, ran a 5.01 40-yard dash in a recent scouting combine.

Brown, who was a noted track star in high school in New York, ran consecutive 4.38 and 4.42 40s for scouts recently, possibly enhancing his draftability.

Also seen at spring practice was former OSU tailback Vince Workman, currently with Green Bay. He is in school this quarter, trying to finish work on his degree.

THE QUOTE of the spring so far has come from the always animated Ron Zook, the Buckeyes' defensive backfield coach.

Zook was chastising sophomore Buster Howe, who is challenging for playing time after missing the last two seasons, for not breaking on the ball quickly enough.

"He's not going to run to you. You have to get in there and get him," Zook yelled. "I want to see smoke coming out of your (butt) when the guy catches the ball."

*Graham, Herbstreit, Frank Get Work At QB***Trio Benefits From Absence Of Frey**

By Steve Helwag

With incumbent Ohio State quarterback Greg Frey shagging fly balls for the Buckeye baseball team this spring, three players are vying for a role as his backup — or perhaps for his job — during OSU's spring football practice.

OSU quarterbacks coach Ron Hudson has junior Kent Graham and sophomores Kirk Herbstreit and Jason Frank in camp and learning to guide the OSU offense.

"They are all coming along nicely," Hudson said. "Jason may be a little behind because he had surgery on bone chips in his arm, but the other two are neck and neck right now."

Frey, who was hitting .328 as OSU's regular left fielder as of April 4, threw for 2,132 yards in leading OSU to an 8-4 record last season. He was the Big Ten's passing efficiency leader last year.

For his career, Frey has completed 304 of 559 of his attempts for 4,254 yards and 21 touchdowns. In all four categories — completions, attempts, yards and TDs — Frey ranks fourth on the Buckeyes' career passing list.

Yet, despite his position among OSU's top passers, there are skeptics who think Frey's absence this spring may hurt him. Hudson does not view the situation that way, though.

"Whenever you miss a chance to practice it doesn't help," he said. "But most of what we're doing is mental stuff and he has already had most of this."

"He's hitting .330 for the baseball team so he is certainly contributing there. And to start saying that we're hurting without having Greg here is not entirely true," Hudson said.

The 6-5, 235-pound Graham, who transferred to Ohio State from Notre Dame a year ago, is one of the players Hudson has to work with.

"Kent is a big kid with a good arm," Hudson said. "He's fundamentally sound, but right now we have to get him to hone his ability."

Graham was a *Parade* magazine All-American at Wheaton (Ill.) High School, leading his team to a 27-2 record in three seasons.

He played the 1987 and '88 seasons with the Fighting Irish, completing 33 of 50 passes for 402 yards with five interceptions and one TD in those two years. Playing behind option quarterback Tony Rice, though, Graham knew he had to leave Notre Dame if he wanted to play.

"I knew I was going to leave last spring," Graham said. "I went through spring practice there and I announced it the Monday after the Blue-Green Game in the spring."

"The main reason I left Notre Dame was the offense. The OSU offense is more suitable to my talents as a drop-back passer. I also wanted to go somewhere where I would have a shot to play two years," he said.

Graham said he is not sure what effect Frey's absence will have in the fall.

"I don't know what will happen. The coaches told me the best quarterback will play," he said. "I'm doing well, improving daily and trying to get the little things right."

"I like the Ohio State system. It's more of a pro-style attack. I like playing in a system that suits my talents."

After a redshirt season in 1988,

Herbstreit served as Frey's backup last year.

The 6-2, 212-pound Centerville, Ohio, native was virtually untested. He played in six games, completing four of his nine passes for 48 yards with an interception.

"Kirk is a tremendous athlete and he's gotten a lot better at throwing the ball," Hudson said. "He worked real hard this winter and his passing has improved a great deal."

Herbstreit, who came to OSU with a reputation as a good option quarterback, agrees his passing is improving.

"Before, I was better running than passing, but now my passing is catching up with my running," he said. "In a year or two I think I'll be capable of starting at Ohio State."

He said the backup role served to mature him last year.

"At first I was all excited about being the backup, but I only got into a few games. As the season went on, I think I matured some," he said.

Herbstreit said Frey has probably earned the chance to hold on to his job.

"Greg has proved himself. He's had 23 games as the starter and there is no reason why he should not come back as the starter," he said.

Frank was injured last fall and has missed some of the spring as he continues to recover from surgery on his throwing arm.

"Things aren't going that well," Frank said. "If I had time to rest and be normal with my arm until the fall, I might be able to play. But, by then, it's too late. In Division I football, if you wait you lose."

Frank, a 6-3, 225-pounder from Anaheim, Calif., made a splash in last year's spring game by completing eight of 11 passes for 119 yards. His forte is the drop-back passing attack.

"I had never played in the option before and I'm just trying to keep improving at it," he said. "I'm used to the drop-back and the rollout."

Hudson's job will expand in the fall when Frey returns and three freshman recruits (Cleveland St. Ignatius' Joe Pickens, Columbus South's Preston Harrison and Cincinnati's Princeton's Johnny Mattress) enter the fold.

"This will be the first time since I've been here that the program will have the kind of numbers at quarterback that a program like this should have," Hudson said.

While names have not been placed with specific roles yet, how many quarterbacks OSU will use has already been decided.

"In the fall, we will coach three," Hudson said. "Two of them will be on the (practice) field, while the third one will listen," Hudson said. "The rest of them will have to learn by osmosis or on the scout team."

"The freshmen will likely redshirt. There is just too much for quarterbacks to learn in that first season," he said.

Bexley Candy Shoppe

541 S. Drexel Ave. at Main
Bexley, Ohio 43209
235-8510

"Featuring Ben Heggy Chocolates"

RICHARD STELTS



Ohio State junior quarterback Kent Graham (11) is trying to make a name for himself in a Buckeye uniform this spring. Graham is experiencing his first spring practice at OSU after transferring from Notre Dame following the 1988 season.

Join The Buckeye Boosters And Support Athletics At OSU

Free Admission To:

Spring Practice Game, Quarterback Club Meetings, "Meet The Team Day" In August. Buckeye Boosters sponsors five away trips plus a bowl trip, including flights to Boston College, Iowa and Wisconsin and bus trips to Indiana and Purdue.



Annual Membership: \$25 Family _____
 Name _____
 Address _____
 Phone _____ Amount Included _____
 Mail check to: Buckeye Boosters, 1855 E. Dublin-Granville Rd.,
 Columbus, Ohio 43229
 Questions? Call our office at 614/431-2323

Line Candidates Eager To Impress Staff

Continued From Page 1

yards, Colletto is confident that the running game that was so heavily relied upon last season will come through again in 1990.

The tailbacks getting the most work are sophomore Dante Lee and redshirt freshman Raymont Harris, while the fullback slots have been occupied by junior Scottie Graham and redshirt freshman William Houston.

"Raymont and Dante can hold their own. It's just a matter of them getting their turns," Colletto said. "Scottie and William Houston are not bad, so at this point, I'm not real concerned about that. We'd like to have Carlos, but we knew we wouldn't have him to begin with."

At the receiver positions, the Buckeyes boast a potential All-American in senior Jeff Graham. He is sitting out practice while nursing a nagging groin injury which occurred last season. Playing in place of Graham have been senior Bobby Olive and junior Bernard Edwards, who have both improved their blocking skills.

The other side will have sophomores Greg Beatty and Brian Stablein.

"Beatty and Stablein will be the Xs (split end), as they were last year, and Olive and Bernard and Jeff Graham will be playing over at Z (flanker)," Colletto said. "We'll go from there. With the tight ends, they're (Gary Lickovitch, Rich Huffman and Joe Metzger) all competing, but there's no one who is out ahead of the pack. We're looking for guys who can be our second and third tight ends."

The all-important quarterback spot is making news for the Buckeyes, as much for who is not at practice as for who is.

Incumbent Greg Frey is playing baseball this spring and will miss all drills. That narrowed the competition, for the most part, down to junior Kent Graham and sophomore Kirk Herbstreit. Herbstreit played some last year, but mostly in a mop-up role.

"Kirk's really improved," Colletto said. "I'm as happy with what he has done as anyone. Kent's got a lot of the talent. He just has to get settled into what we're doing. They're both good players and we'll be all right with them."

"Jason (Frank) is there, but he has such a problem with his elbow that it's hard for him to do a heck of a lot."

"Greg has done things a lot of times and we're not doing anything different than what he's used to. It shouldn't take him too long to get back into the swing of things."

The Buckeyes relied heavily on the running game at different junctures last season, but that may not be the case this year. However, fans looking for bombs bursting in air should temper their enthusiasm, Colletto explains.

"We'll probably throw deep a little more than we did last year because everyone seems comfortable with it now," he said. "But we won't do it just to do it. If it's there, we'll do it."

"You'll probably see a little more option football than you saw last year. We'll run the reverse game a little more. But it isn't going to be wild, flipping the ball all over. We're not that kind of team."

"We have big linemen and good running backs and quarterbacks who can throw it. The games will tell us what we have to do. Against Minnesota we had to throw it and a few other games we didn't. We'll see what happens when we hit the field."



A familiar sight for Ohio State during the past two seasons, quarterback Greg Frey (15) is not participating in spring practice drills this season. Frey is instead playing baseball for the Buckeyes this spring.

A BOOK FOR ALL SEASONS: ALL STAR "QUOTES"

2000 Comical quotes of over 1200 people in the world of sports in 360 pages of laughter.

"Guaranteed to tickle the funny bone..."
... columnist Bob West

"ALL STAR 'QUOTES' would make Bob Hope envious..."

... Bum Phillips

A sampling of just a few of the 2000 side-splitting quotes from people who play the games, coach the games, and reports the games!

"Woody Hayes grew up to be the man his father told him not to associate with."

... Dick Otte

"The only thing the media can quote with absolute accuracy is silence."

... Bobby Knight

"We plan absentee ownership. I'll stick to building ships."

... George Steinbrenner

"He was so ugly as a child, his parents had to hang pork chops around his neck to get the family dog to play with him."

... Lee Trevino

"I understand Doug Moe gave his wife a waterbed for Christmas, but she call's it the Dead Sea."

... Frank Layden

Order Today
Not Available In Stores

Rush Me My Copy @ \$13.95 each plus \$2.95 for postage & handling - Total \$16.90

☐ CHECK ENCLOSED (Make payable to ALL STAR BOOKS)

☐ CHARGE TO MY VISA

☐ CHARGE TO MY MASTER CARD

NAME _____

Signature _____

TELEPHONE _____

Expiration Date _____

ACCOUNT NUMBER _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY-STATE-ZIP _____

MAIL TO: Buckeye Sports • 1350 W. Fifth Av. • Columbus, OH 43212

ALLOW 3-5 WEEKS FOR DELIVERY

Talitas

brownsville, texas style mexican food

- Also Featuring Vegetarian Dishes
- All Legal Beverages Served
- Off Street Parking

2977 N. High St.
262-6000

OPEN LUNCH & DINNER

Talitas Backs the Buckeyes



Talitas

brownsville, texas style
mexican food

Buy One Dinner
Get Second Dinner

FREE

Dining Room Only nsn

Proud to be imitated, sorry we can't be duplicated

*Is Early Season Team Leader In Batting***Frey Settling In On Buckeye Diamond***By Mike Wachman*

Greg Frey the Ohio State quarterback has established himself as the man to beat on the gridiron. However, Greg Frey the left fielder is still trying to establish an identity away from the sport that has brought him his fame as a Buckeye.

Considering the fact that he had been away from the diamond for over three years, he is doing a good job making a mark in baseball, hitting a team-leading .328 through April 4.

Frey played baseball at Cincinnati St. Xavier, being named all-state at first base in his senior season. He was recruited by Ohio State football coach Earle Bruce and the door was left open to play baseball at some point in his career. With the coaching change from Bruce to John Cooper, Frey was uncertain as to whether or not those plans would change.

He had just led the Buckeyes to an 8-4 season and improved measurably as a signal caller. Playing baseball after three years away from the sport is not the easiest undertaking in the world. But Frey had his mind made up.

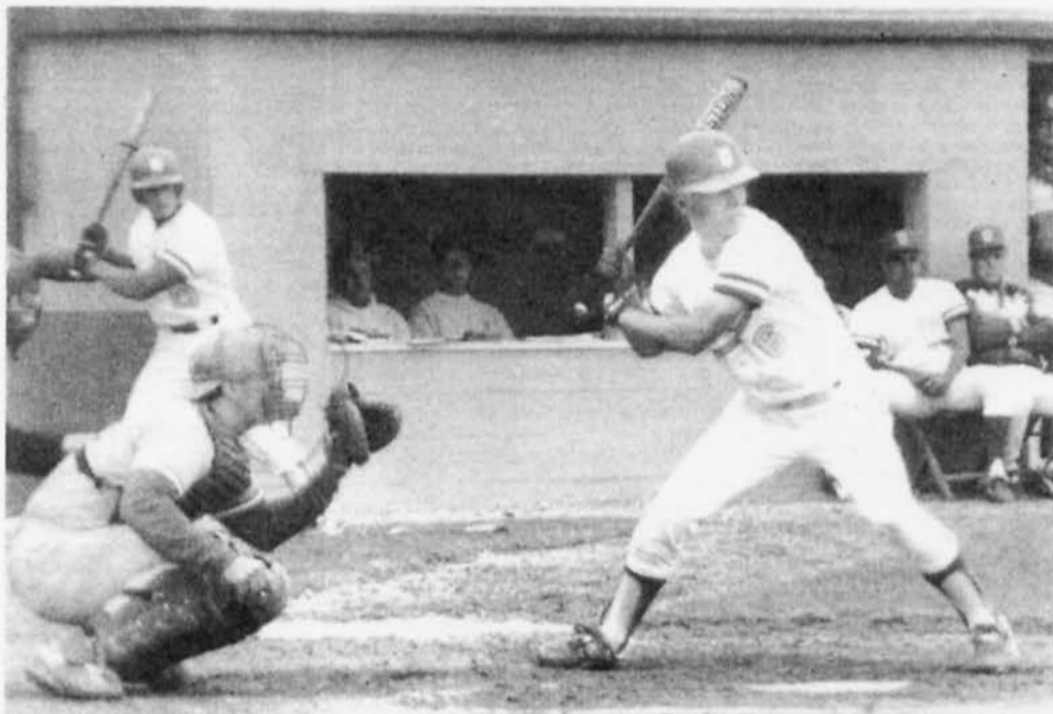
"I wasn't really sure that I'd be able to follow through with my baseball plans," Frey said. "It was something I had in mind, but I wanted to go to football first and see how that went. Now the opportunity has presented itself and I decided to take advantage of it."

Initially, head baseball coach Bob Todd was a bit skeptical in regards to Frey's chances to really contribute, but after seeing Frey play, all doubts were removed.

"There's no way to predict whether he would be successful, especially early," Todd said. "Greg realized that if he was going to stay with baseball, he would need to make an impact rather quickly. When we first saw Greg, our reaction was that he showed good athletic ability and that he has been competing from a mental standpoint. He also showed us that he was away from baseball for a long time. We're pleased with the way he has played to this point in the season."

Frey felt that baseball is among the toughest sports to be away from totally and then get back into. So his shining batting average came as somewhat of a surprise to the junior left fielder.

"No, I really didn't think it would come back that quickly," he said. "I really wasn't sure how I was going to react to things. I was always a good hitter, so it's something that I've been comfortable with. But, I wasn't planning on it coming back so soon. Hopefully I can stay on an even keel the rest of the season."



RICHARD STELLS

Ohio State junior left fielder Greg Frey (6) prepares to take a cut during Big Ten action against Wisconsin March 31 at Trautman Field. Frey, a two-year starting quarterback on the Buckeyes' football team, is missing spring practice this year to play baseball. Through the early part of the season, Frey was leading the Buckeyes in hitting with an average of nearly .330.

son."

Frey did say that while there was an adjustment in moving from the infield to the outfield, it was less of an adjustment than coming back to the game after three years away.

Head football coach John Cooper has intimated that it would have been beneficial for both the grid team and Frey if he had participated in spring drills. But Frey sees it differently.

"There's always the possibility that doing this could hurt my football season," Frey said. "From my standpoint, I knew the risks that were involved by doing this. It's 20 practices, but I feel I can make that up. I have three years of game experience and when the (baseball) season is over, the big thing for me is to get back in shape and get ready for football."

Todd makes it clear that he received Cooper's blessing in regards to letting the signal caller try his hand at baseball.

"We did go to John when Greg told us he wanted to play," Todd said. "At that point in time, John kind of made a comment that he would love to have Greg at spring ball. Greg had his blessing, provided he was going to be competitive and help us. Since then I have told John that Greg has done a good job. For selfish and obvious reasons, John would like to have Greg there, because it would give him the continuity."

When a high profile athlete from another sport attempts to delve into a second sport, there is always the possibility of resentment among his new teammates, since that player is already a star.

"I was a little worried about that," Frey said. "I wondered if I would fit in on this team or not. But these guys are great. They gave me a chance and a fair shot and they have treated me well. If I need to ask their advice they'll help."

Though he hasn't been a part of the Buckeye baseball team for that long, he feels that a winning attitude has been instilled into the unit, and he is glad to be sharing in the experience.

"I see a lot of success for this team down the road," he said. "I'm just glad I'm a part of it now. There are a lot of young guys on the team, but they are talented. We made some mistakes earlier, but the big plays have been coming around more now. We figured that would come with experience, and hopefully I've helped in that area."

Though this is his first year as a player, Frey is no stranger to college baseball.

"My brother played baseball at

Xavier University and I used to go to all of his games. So I have been involved in college baseball for a while and it is something I enjoy a great deal."

Frey is in contact with the OSU grid coaches on a daily basis and hopes to attend a few practices as a spectator to pick things up.

With the success of the OSU football program somewhat weighing on Frey's shoulders, it would have been easy for him to fail at baseball. But he knew that with hard work, he would be able to make a contribution to the squad.

"I did want to establish myself as a baseball player," Frey said. "There wouldn't be any sense in playing if I didn't want to start. My goal from the start was to get a starting job and I've done that so far. I want to keep that going. I haven't set any initial goals. It's one hurdle at a time and at the end of the season, I'll look back and see how I did and then take it from there."

How does becoming the Big Ten's version of Bo Jackson and Deion Sanders affect the personable player from Cincinnati?

"It is something I've wanted to accomplish for a while and it does help my outlook on things," he said. "Not many people have done it in college sports. It's not easy to do. It's tough to balance your time with one sport, let alone two. It's a challenge and I like challenges. If I got drafted I would have to choose one or the other. Playing two sports as a pro is really pushing it. It's a job really, and at that point I'd have to make a decision. But it sure would be nice to have the opportunity to have to choose between the two."

You Can Count On These Services From THE QUICKPRINT CENTRE

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| ✓ Printing | ✓ Resumes | ✓ Christmas Cards |
| ✓ Typesetting | ✓ NCR Forms | ✓ Rubber Stamps |
| ✓ Art & Paste-up | ✓ Ship UPS & FED EX | ✓ Business Cards |
| ✓ High-Speed Duplicating | ✓ FAX Service | ✓ Wedding Invitations |
| ✓ Photostats | (Sending & Receiving) | ✓ ... and much more |

THE QUICKPRINT CENTRE

1399 Grandview Avenue • Columbus, Ohio 43212

614-488-2683 • 614-481-8700 • FAX 614-488-0059

(Three doors north of the Tri-Village Post Office)

*Herbstreit, Graham Deadlocked At Backup***Despite Absence, Frey Is Still Starter**

By Mark Rea

At first glance, it seems that 20 spring practice sessions at Ohio State did nothing to settle the quarterback issue.

Despite sitting out the spring to play baseball, senior quarterback Greg Frey (6-2, 195) is still the clear-cut number one choice to return for a third year as the starter.

And, as in previous years, there is a struggle behind Frey between players who would like to be his backup.

Sophomore Kirk Herbstreit (6-2, 212) and junior transfer Kent Graham (6-5, 235) went head to head throughout the spring for the right to take on Frey in the fall for the starting job.

When the smoke cleared, there was no individual winner in the Herbstreit-Graham battle. However, the Buckeyes may have benefited as a team.

"The thing that is really obvious to us now is that both guys have shown the ability to have what it takes to play at this level," said Ohio State offensive coordinator Jim Colletto. "It's particularly gratifying with Herbstreit because a year ago we were not sure that he could play quarterback. But he has improved dramatically."

"Graham has a great arm. He has some technique things he has to improve because he's erratic at times throwing the ball. Plus, he's like all big, strong guys. He wants to throw it right between 10 other guys. But he's a good one and it's going to make for an interesting situation in the fall."

Frey was recruited in 1986 by former head coach Earle Bruce with the agreement that Frey could play baseball for the Buckeyes.

When he decided to exercise that option this spring, his decision did not sit particularly well with the OSU coaching staff.

"I certainly was not going to go back on a promise that was made to him," said Ohio State head coach John Cooper. "But, at the same time, we let Greg know that we felt he was making a mistake by letting those other quarterbacks get 20 more days of practice on him."

According to quarterbacks coach Ron Hudson, Frey's absence this spring allowed the players behind him to get the experience they need to challenge him in the fall.

"It gave Herbstreit and Graham the opportunity to get repetitions," said Hudson. "If Greg had been here, they probably would not have gotten the amount of work they did with him gone."

"They are obviously not yet where we want them to be right now because of the mental part. Physically, they are fine, but they're struggling with the mental part. But it's tough to recognize blitzes, make line checks, make protection changes and things like that."

The mental part of being quarterback at Ohio State is one part of the game in which Frey excels, but he's not too bad at the physical part either.

He has passed for more than 2,000 yards during each of the last two seasons, joining Jim Karsatos as the only OSU quarterbacks to accomplish that feat. With 4,254 career yards, he ranks behind only Art Schlichter (7,547), Mike Tomczak (5,569) and Karsatos (5,089) on the Buckeyes' all-time passing list.

His 21 touchdown passes is also fourth on the career list behind Schlichter (50), Karsatos (36) and Tomczak (32).

Perhaps his most valuable attribute, however, is his command of Ohio State's intricate offensive scheme.

"That's where Greg, with his experience, is ahead of the other two," Hudson said. "But they are definitely knocking on the door. If Greg doesn't come in here next fall in the kind of condition he should and doesn't pick up where he left off, we're going to have a real interesting fall."

"That's not to say Greg Frey is not our starting quarterback. That wouldn't be fair. But the other two kids got a lot of repetitions and we got a lot accomplished with them."

"Greg has to step to the next level of making those big plays against the Michigans and the USCs and the Auburns. We believe that is where he would have benefited had he been here this spring."

Graham is bidding to overtake Frey for the starting job at Ohio State after a transfer from Notre Dame. He was number two behind quarterback Tony Rice during the Fighting Irish's national championship season in 1988. In two seasons at Notre Dame, Graham completed 33 of 50 passes for 402 yards and one touchdown. He also had five interceptions.

"Kent has the feeling he can throw the ball anywhere across the field," Hudson said. "He doesn't stay with progression at times. He tries to make big plays all the time instead of just taking what the defense gives him."

"The lack of experience in a drop-back passing game has hurt him, too. But we think he can be a big-play quarterback for us."

Herbstreit's action was limited to nine attempts last year in mop-up duty behind Frey. He completed four of those passes for 48 yards.

"Kirk's main problem is the fact that he can't see sometimes because he isn't as tall," Hudson said. "You get those big guys up in front of you and sometimes you can't execute like you might like to. But he has improved a lot over the last year."

"Both do a nice job in running the team. The main problem is the fact that you're dealing with a bunch of young kids in the offensive line and there's nobody taking over. They're trying to learn, too, so the quarterbacks are kind of caught between a rock and a hard place."

Two other quarterbacks in camp this spring are seemingly out of the running for playing time.

Sophomore Jason Frank (6-3, 225) continues to recuperate after surgery on his throwing elbow, while senior Chris Stablein (6-3, 215) would be used only in the case of an emergency.

"Right now, Jason is out of the picture," Hudson said. "His elbow simply has not recovered from surgery and he can't throw. Chris is a kid who will do as much as he can for the program, but we aren't counting on him at all next fall. He knows that."

Providing more depth in the fall will be three incoming freshman quarterbacks — Joe Pickens (6-4, 212), Preston Harrison (6-4, 230) and Johnny Mattress (6-1, 205).



Ohio State junior quarterback Kent Graham (11), shown here taking snaps from backup center Paul Long (66), spent his first spring practice in a Buckeye uniform locked in a battle for the number two job with sophomore Kirk Herbstreit.

Pickens was one of the most highly sought quarterbacks in the nation after leading Cleveland St. Ignatius to back-to-back state championships. He threw for more than 4,500 yards in his junior and senior seasons.

Harrison is one of the top athletes in the Midwest who can run and throw with equal ability. He rushed and threw for more than 1,700 yards last season.

Mattress missed three games as a senior and still managed to throw for more than 1,100 yards. He has a strong arm and also is adept at eluding opposing rushers.

Hudson doesn't expect to have to use any of the recruits. He believes the Buckeyes' shot at a Big Ten championship and Rose Bowl berth lies squarely on the shoulders of Frey, Herbstreit and Graham.

"I think we can win with all three of

those kids," he said. "Greg is obviously our number one quarterback going into fall practice and unless something drastic happens, I expect him to be the starter in our first game against Texas Tech. But, by the same token, I don't think we'll have any hesitation to bring the hook out in the event that Greg is having a bad game. That's the beauty of competition."

"In the past, quite frankly, Greg has waltzed right through this thing. Two years ago, he was a very, very average player. There just wasn't anybody to take over for him. Last year, he had a good year, but he still knew that he was going to be there."

"But now he has some competition and we think that's going to bring out the best in all of our quarterbacks. Competition makes for better players and better players make for better team results."

RICHARD STELTZ

*Injuries, Absences Hinder Improvement***Huey Laments Holes In Passing Game**

Ohio State sophomore wide receiver Greg Beatty (3) will share the split end position with fellow sophomore Brian Stablein again this year. The duo combined to catch 16 passes for 263 yards and one touchdown last season.

By Mike Wachsman

With two vital cogs of the Ohio State passing game missing from spring drills, wide receivers coach Gene Huey thought the Buckeyes' passing game was far from what it should be.

Senior flanker Jeff Graham (6-2, 195), the team's leading receiver last season with 32 catches for 608 yards and three touchdowns, missed all of spring ball with a chronic groin injury he suffered last season.

Add to that the fact senior incumbent quarterback Greg Frey missed spring drills to concentrate on baseball, and it is easy to see Huey's concern.

"We did not accomplish what we set out to do at the beginning of the spring," he said. "There are a lot of things that will have to be worked on before fall camp. Jeff's injury didn't really play a major factor, because we knew we wouldn't have him around."

"There are some individual things that need to be worked on during the summer and hopefully that will put some of these players at the level we had hoped they would reach this spring. Once we get those things ironed out, we'll look a lot better going into that first game. But we're not where we want to be yet."

Also missing some time was senior flanker Bobby Olive (6-1, 160), who had to sit out the last three practice sessions with a staph infection on his right elbow. He also missed every Wednesday session throughout the spring because he was in class.

This time last year, Olive and junior Bernard Edwards were sharing time as the Buckeyes' number one flanker. Both fell into the coaching staff's doghouse midway through the regular season, though, when the team turned to a ball-control offense.

Graham was moved from the split end position to flanker, moving Olive and Edwards to the sideline. Olive managed to redeem himself late in the season and wound up the Buckeyes' third-leading receiver last year with 23 receptions for 379 yards and one touchdown.

However, his missed practice time this spring may have given Edwards an opportunity to move back onto an even keel for a shot at being Graham's top backup. In fact, the 6-5, 200-pound junior was cited by Huey as being the most improved of the wideouts in the spring drills.

"Bernard has been that kind of a player for us this spring," Huey said. "He's had a pretty good spring and has been doing everything we asked of him. He's been spending a lot of time out there by himself working on things and wants to get better."

"He has gotten a good attitude about himself and improved probably more than anyone else in the spring. He could finally become the ballplayer we thought he would be, but he still has to keep working. But this is a good sign. If everyone improves like Bernard did, we'll be in good shape."

At the split end spot, sophomores Greg Beatty (5-11, 175) and Brian Stablein (6-1, 180) will share the starting duties.

Both had excellent springs to solidify their positions. Beatty reeled in an 80-yard touchdown pass during the team's

final scrimmage of the spring, while Stablein, who came to the Buckeyes as a walk-on, was awarded a scholarship for the 1990 season.

"We think Greg can become a big-time football player for us," Huey said. "He runs disciplined routes and has good hands. He just needs to get a bit more consistent with some other things."

"Brian is one of the hardest workers we have. He came up big last year and now he will be right in there fighting for that starting job. We would not hesitate to use him at all."

Huey is hoping that an infusion of youth, arriving in the fall in the form of three recruits, will be of further help to the Buckeye receiving corps.

Arriving to add depth to the Buckeye aerial attack will be recruits Norman Williams (6-0, 180), Chris Sanders (6-1, 165) and Joey Galloway (6-0, 165). All possess game-breaking speed, but since they were not available for spring ball, Huey was hesitant to comment on the trio.

"We're certainly hoping that they can come in and give us some depth," he said. "But unless there is a big rash of injuries, I don't see any of them contributing in a major way. The established players will certainly have the edge on them. They would really have to be outstanding to move into the two-deeps, but you never know about these things."

"Last year, Brian Stablein was not expected to play a great deal and he ended up making some big plays for us. Now he's one of our better receivers, so anything is possible. But since the freshmen are not here yet, I don't want to really make judgments on them, except to say that it would be safe to assume that the returning starters certainly have a leg up on them."

Because of the absence of Frey, there were more repetitions for quarterbacks Kent Graham and Kirk Herbstreit, which Huey said may ultimately work out to help the passing game.

"Everybody has gotten a lot more work that they maybe wouldn't have gotten," Huey said. "There isn't that much of a difference between quarterbacks. The things they do are essentially the same. There just might be a few subtle things the quarterbacks do differently."

Other receivers vying for playing time this spring were walk-ons Allen DeGraffenreid (6-2, 178), Homer Thompson (5-11, 175), Billy Peterman (5-11, 175) and Patrice Stewart (6-0, 175), as well as redshirt freshman Aaron Payne (5-8, 165). Payne's progress was slowed a bit by some missed practice time because he was competing on the Ohio State track team as a sprinter.

Although Huey was not totally pleased with the production from the receivers in the spring, he was pretty certain that he knows how his starting lineup should look when the opener against Texas Tech takes place Sept. 8.

"Jeff is our starting flanker, no question about it," Huey said. "We will try to establish solid players at the other positions, whoever they may be. Greg and Brian will be the top split ends and we'll try to find the top backup at flanker."

The earliest and best information on next season's top high school prospects in Ohio and OSU's 1991 recruiting class comes from right here in suburban Columbus. "Buckeye recruiting is our specialty."

THE OHIO FOOTBALL RECRUITING NEWS

-Early Bird Issue - Mailed Immediately!

(Profiles of Ohio's Top Prospects and Schools That Interest Them)

The following and more will be included:

- Inside look at Ohio's top prep players before, during, and after their final prep season. Profiles/info on over 200 prospects.
- Feature interviews with the top "Blue-Chip" players in Ohio, including their thoughts on possibly becoming a Buckeye, as well as other schools that interest them.
- In-depth coverage of OSU recruiting, both in-state and out-of-state. We look at OSU's recruiting needs, profile and interview out-of-state prospects and give you all the inside info on OSU recruiting.
- Our Ohio "Top 30" and what college they may be headed to.
- Photos of Ohio's top prospects and some out-of-state recruits.
- An accurate list of Ohio's top players' 5 official visits.
- A summary of OSU recruiting, including profiles of all their signees. Plus a list of the college choices of all Ohio prospects.
- A look and comparison of how the Big Ten teams did recruiting.
- Michigan, Colorado, Tennessee, Stanford, Purdue and Boston College are among our subscribers.

THE OHIO FOOTBALL RECRUITING NEWS

281 Bruce Court, Westerville, Ohio 43081

TWO PACKAGES AVAILABLE. CHECK THE ONE YOU WANT:

- ☐ \$11.98 for 5 issues (April, July, October, early Jan., February)
☐ \$15.98 for 7 issues (April, July, Oct., Nov., early Jan., late Jan., February)

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____