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"For The Buckeye Fan Who Needs To Know More"

April 13, 1991

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**Will Bucks
Sign Another?
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Looking At The Offense

This issue of *Buckeye Sports Bulletin* covers Ohio State's spring football practice from the offensive side of the ball.

Included are features on all the offensive positions, including interviews with new assistant coaches and top returning players.

The next issue of *BSB*, scheduled to be published April 23, will cover the Buckeyes' defense.

Uzelac Seeks Leaner, Meaner, Tougher Offense Buckeyes Will 'Tough' It Out

By Mark Rea

Ohio State's new offensive coordinator, Elliot Uzelac, swears that changes he plans to implement in the Buckeyes' offense this spring will be hard for the average fan to detect.

Nevertheless, make no mistake that Uzelac expects the Buckeyes to be a much more potent offensive threat than they were a year ago when they slipped to fifth in the Big Ten in total offense from first in 1989.

For that reason, he has put former offensive coordinator Jim Colletto's playbook in the paper shredder, replacing it with one Uzelac calls "complex, but not complicated."

The Buckeyes averaged better than 312 yards and nearly four touchdowns per game last season, but the middle of that offensive punch is gone this spring.

Five starters have graduated including three-year quarterback Greg Frey, both of his favorite receivers, Jeff Graham and Bobby Olive, and the team's best offensive lineman, center Dan Beatty.

Nevertheless, Uzelac has an excellent nucleus of young talent on which to build his new offense. Included among the offensive returnees are Big Ten freshman of the year tailback Robert Smith, fullback Scottie Graham and a host of young linemen who received plenty of on-the-job training last season.

It is those linemen on whose shoulders the Buckeyes' offensive fortunes seem to rest.

"We want to be much tougher," Uzelac said. "We want to get tougher mentally and physically. I don't think people really understand that offensively Ohio State has done a lot of really good things the last few years. So it's not like we're saying what we did in the past is not right."

"People shouldn't think this is something we're doing strictly because there's a new coordinator. This is something that is done every year no matter who you are."

When OSU head coach John Cooper hired Uzelac away from Indiana, he did so mindful of the fact that his new assistant head coach had experience in a wide variety of offenses.

Uzelac served two tours of duty at Michigan under Bo Schembechler, used the triple option when he was head coach at the U.S. Naval Academy, and aired the ball out during a stint at Western Michigan.

Although he has the reputation for running a conservative offense, Uzelac says that reputation is somewhat undeserved.

"We want to find our strengths and then play to them," he said. "I'm a firm



Ohio State offensive coordinator Elliot Uzelac wasted no time putting his troops through their paces during spring football practice. Uzelac is pictured here instructing junior strong tackle Paul Sherrick (73), who is returning from back surgery.

believer in not asking my players to do something they will struggle to do. I don't believe in running uphill."

"If it's third and long, let's put the best personnel in there for third and long. When it's short yardage, let's put the personnel in there for short yardage. I want to make sure we take advantage of what the opposing defense gives us."

Last season, Colletto came under criticism in the Indiana game, a contest which Uzelac viewed as a Hoosier assistant. The Buckeyes went into the fourth quarter with a 27-17 lead and had to settle for a 27-27 tie.

Then, in the Michigan game, Frey was stopped late in the game on a fourth-and-one option keeper, setting up the Wolverines' winning field goal in a 16-13 loss for the Buckeyes.

Colletto has since moved on to be-

come the head coach at Purdue and Uzelac has taken to installing his new offensive scheme. He says he's unsure how much of Colletto's offense remains, but he's sure it's not very much.

"To be honest, I haven't really studied to see whether there's 10 percent left or 20 percent left. I don't really know," Uzelac said. "Let's put it this way: You could say I refurbished the home by blowing out all the walls."

"This offense is the offense our offensive staff and Coach Cooper have built since recruiting ended. We started from scratch because just as I approach a player, I approach a coach. Let's assume we know nothing. We started from the huddle on and let's cover every single thing."

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Bucks' Boot Camp Under Way

What a difference a year and a Liberty Bowl loss can make.

Last year's Ohio State spring football practices were intense but also had somewhat of a laid-back atmosphere to them. But that easygoing stuff is history as fourth-year head coach John Cooper, who no doubt realizes how important this spring will be, has put his team on notice that it will be strictly business on the field.

He had simple instructions for his team before it took part in the first of 15 scheduled practice drills: "I don't want any candy (bleeps) here. Let's go after it and get it done. I want this to be the best and most hard-hitting spring practice any of us have ever been in."

It is difficult to believe that Greg Frey would have been allowed to play baseball this spring as the departed quarterback did last year.

And the businesslike approach seems to be working. While the practice sessions have been cloaked in secrecy, it is apparent that the players, as much as the coaches, want this to be a banner year in terms of gridiron success.

Gone is offensive coordinator Jim Colletto to Purdue, and in his place is Elliot Uzelac, a veteran coach who brings a regimented, military type of discipline to the team. That kind of intensity may be what is needed to shake up a few people.

After all, friendly teams don't win too many games. Uzelac is the kind who wants his players to be physical and intimidating and not get pushed around, something that has happened to the Buckeyes far too often in recent years.

Cooper talked a little about how the first day of practice went, and he seemed pretty pleased.

"The players went out there with a good, positive attitude," he said. "They worked for two hours in 75-degree temperatures. We looked at a lot of different people. There will be a lot of competition for spots this year, and that should make the team better and harder working in the spring."

Moving on to the players, the quarterback will be new, as Frey has used up his football eligibility and is playing baseball again.

The question for the coaching staff is do they play senior Kent Graham now, knowing he has experience and talent, or do they build for the future and start Joe Pickens, who has no experience and plenty of talent, at the outset of the year and let him take his lumps? The prevailing wisdom is that Cooper needs to win now, and it may not be the best year to give an inexperienced quarterback a baptism in such a crucial season.

Also factored into the mix will be the improved Kirk Herbstreit, who is trying to shed his all-run, no-throw tag. He has been in the system the longest and is a fighter and can't be counted out of the race.

In the backfield, Carlos Snow is back from hip and knee surgeries. He even surprised the coaching staff by working on the goal-line offense, where the most intense hitting went on. Although he will not talk to reporters this spring, Snow indicated there is no major pain with his knee or hip. If he can be anywhere near the form of his 1989 junior year, he could lead the Bucks back to the top of the Big Ten.

But where would that leave Robert Smith, who gained 1,126 yards last year? You would probably elicit some

Spring Notes with Mike Wachsman

stares and be a prime candidate for counseling if you thought Smith wasn't going to play this year. Smith will play, possibly at wingback. He said he would not be opposed to it if a move helps the team and keeps the best players on the field. It would certainly make him more of a threat, because he'd be able to run as well as catch the ball.

Scottie Graham seems to be the forgotten man after gaining 246 yards last year. Like Snow, he is not talking to the press during spring ball. "Until I have done something on the field worth talking about, I don't have anything to say," was his only offering.

The offensive line seems pretty solid, but center is a question mark as Dan Beatty has graduated. Jack Thrush will begin the spring as the center, but don't be surprised if Rod Smith, who played guard last year, eventually gets moved over to the position he played in high school.

The tackles may be Alan Kline and Jason Winrow, who both improved as the season went on last year, but Mick Shoaf is a veteran and cannot be counted out. Also watch for redshirt freshman Mike Dully to fight for one of the tackle slots.

The guards will likely be Roy Nichols, who played most of last year at one tackle position, and Len Hartman, who seemed inconsistent last year but definitely has the ability to be successful. If they don't move him to center, Smith would almost certainly be one of the starting guards.

The receivers are an interesting bunch. Brian Stablein and Bernard Edwards are the only returnees who played last year and will be given long looks. However, redshirt freshmen Joey Galloway and Norman Williams will be vying for playing time.

Greg Beatty will return in the fall to bolster this group, but he is working only on rehabbing a knee that he injured in the last practice before the season opener last year and will miss spring drills. Aaron Payne has spent much of the spring with the track team.

At tight end, Jeff Ellis looks like his old self, only much trimmer, which can only help his production on the field. He has always been a fine blocker and had soft hands, and with less weight on his frame, a return to his sophomore form when he caught 40 passes is not out of the question.

Reliable Tim Williams will almost certainly be the kicker as he missed just five field goals in his first season of work last year.

From an offensive standpoint, this should be a very interesting team. It

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Uzelac Rebuilds OSU Offense From Scratch

Continued From Page 1

"I'm a real stickler for doing the little things right. So we started from the very basics of the huddle, cadence and went all the way through to the end."

"The offense that we'll be running is very similar to what we did last year in certain aspects," Uzelac continued. "To the average fan, when you see an off-tackle play, it will look like the same off-tackle play. But there may be a different blocking scheme involved. Some of the changes are technique and/or assignment changes."

"Some of our plays will be identical, but you're also going to see some new things. A different play, a different look. It's a blend of things."

In addition to installing the new offense, Uzelac said he will be sizing up his players to determine their individual strengths and weaknesses.

"I think the most important thing for us to find out this spring is to find out individually what our players can do and what they can't do, both physically and mentally," he said.

"Then we want to build our offense around that talent. It's easy to say, 'OK, we'll run this power play.' But what if we don't have a tight end that's capable of blocking that power play? What's good for Michigan or Indiana or Illinois or somebody else in the Big Ten may not be good for Ohio State based on our personnel."

"We've watched all of last year's film hundreds of times. But still, I want to see them on the field and after we coach them with our techniques see what they can do."

"We want to improve on short yardage. We'll work on that very hard. As a matter of fact, we worked on that the very first day of practice," he added.

"We also want to improve our first-and-10 passing and we want to be a better team in the red zone. We were a real good team from the 30 to the 30 last year, but we want to improve inside the 30s."

Uzelac makes no bones about preferring power football. But he quickly added that power football doesn't necessarily mean keeping it on the ground.

"When I was at the Naval Academy, we ran the wishbone. But we did that strictly because of personnel," Uzelac said. "But when I was at Western Michigan, we broke every passing record the school ever had."

"The point I'm trying to make is that we're going to do whatever it takes to win. I'm not interested in three yards and a cloud of dust at all. We're not going to do that. I don't know how many times we're going to run or throw. It will depend on our success ratio in each area during a particular game."

"The most important thing is that we have our entire package ready," the OSU assistant continued. "We are not going to favor the run over the pass when we prepare. I'm not interested in just lining up and pounding on people."

"People probably misunderstand me when I say we have to get more physical. We have to be more physical on pass protection, too. Look at our sacks last year. Look at the way our quarterback had to run for his life. Being physical doesn't just mean you're going to smash-mouth it all the time."

While the Buckeyes attempt to get more physical, they will also be searching for a new field general. Like Colletto, Frey received plenty of criticism during his three years as the OSU starting quarterback.

Still, the Buckeyes need to find a replacement for the only quarterback in school history ever to throw for 2,000 or more yards in three consecutive seasons.

The fight involves three quarterbacks. Senior Kent Graham entered spring practice with a slight edge based on experience. He connected on 15 of 26 passes for 195 yards and three touchdowns last year in relief of Frey.

But Graham will get plenty of competition from redshirt freshman Joe Pickens, a high school All-American in 1989, and junior Kirk Herbstreit, who continues to work hard in hopes of landing the starting job.

Redshirt freshman Preston Harrison was expected to make it a four-man race, but he was switched to outside linebacker just before spring practice began.

"I think we've got some good people at quarterback," Uzelac said. "I like what I see. I think within the competition of the people we have, we'll develop a good quarterback and a good backup."

"I can't tell who will win the starting position, but I really believe we have young men at the position who are intelligent and possess leadership qualities. That's very important to me because I don't pick a quarterback based on who runs the best or who throws the best."

"Those qualities are obviously very important, but I want a guy with

leadership qualities who can move us down the field. I want a guy who makes the right decisions. I think we possess that with all three young men we have at that position."

While Graham, Pickens and Herbstreit fight it out for the quarterback spot, the Buckeyes will have the luxury of depth at running back.

Smith returns at tailback along with sophomore Butler Bynoté and junior Dante Lee. Also expected back for the fall is senior Carlos Snow, who missed all of last year following hip surgery.

Scottie Graham heads a fullback contingent that includes sophomore William Houston and senior Tyrone Harrison. There is also sophomore Raymont Harris, experienced at both positions.

Off-season talk about the possibility of moving one or more of the running backs to a different position is just that, according to Uzelac — talk.

"I'm kind of amazed about the way people talk about our running backs as if we had a hundred of them," he said. "In my mind, three tailbacks is the bare minimum for the Big Ten season."

"Now I won't rule out any position changes because we might have a need at some other spot. But I can't honestly say we're looking to move any of those backs."

Uzelac said the most important thing about spring practice on the offensive side of the ball will not be to improve as individuals. He wants the players to improve as a unit.

"I think the one thing we would like to accomplish as a team would be to improve our team unity," he said. "That means we would improve totally as a team. Because of our tightness and the way we practice, we become better on offense and defense."

"If we can get that done, then all the little things will come along with it. We want to do things right as a team. I know Coach Cooper really has been hounding on that and really wants that. So we're going to hound it, too."

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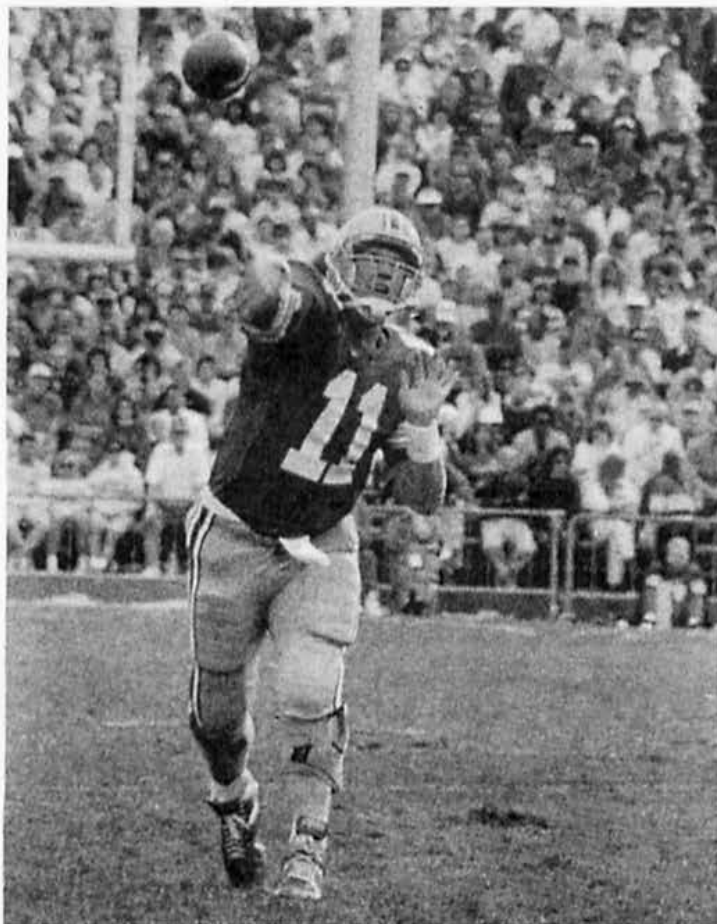
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*Graham, Herbstreit, Pickens Vying To Replace Frey***Three Ready To Race In QB Sweepstakes**

Ohio State senior quarterback Kent Graham (11) goes into spring practice with an edge in game experience at the position. Last season, Graham completed 15 of 26 passes (57.7 percent) for 195 yards and three touchdowns.

By Mike Wachman

Last year, quarterback was one of the few stable positions on the Ohio State football team. Greg Frey was a three-year starter and knew the offense like the back of his hand.

This year, though, Frey has graduated, leaving a wide open race for the starting position. Three players — senior Kent Graham, junior Kirk Herbstreit and redshirt freshman Joe Pickens — all vying for the spot could cause a dilemma for OSU quarterbacks coach Ron Hudson, but he sees it as a challenge to his coaching mettle.

"Greg was a three-year starter, so it will be very difficult to replace him," Hudson said. "But that's why they call me coach. It's my job to bring another guy around who can maybe be a long-time starter and give us some security at the position."

"The basics will be stressed, especially with Kent and Kirk," Hudson said. "The offense is the same, but there has been a terminology change. They have to learn that and that takes time. That will be the biggest thing they have to pick up immediately."

The candidates for the vacant quarterback spot are:

- Graham (6-5, 235), who completed 15 of 26 passes for three touchdowns and 175 yards last year,

- Herbstreit (6-2, 212), who threw only one pass off a botched field goal attempt, which was intercepted, and

- Pickens (6-4, 215), who did all of his work with the scout team.

"They're all going to get repetitions and they'll all get a chance to show what they can do," Hudson said. "Because the terminology is new and because the total understanding of the running game will be emphasized a little bit more, it will be necessary for a guy to understand several things."

"He will have to grasp not only his role as quarterback in terms of execut-



OSU junior Kirk Herbstreit (4) is hoping to make his presence felt in the race for the starting quarterback slot.

ing the offense, but also understand that when he gets on the field without me out there, he'll be on his own and he'll have to move the team."

Graham is the early choice to take over the starting role, as he came in for Frey on a number of occasions last season. He possesses a strong arm and seems to have a handle on the offense after having a full year of the system under his belt. He also lost 15 pounds over the winter, enhancing his quickness.

"Kent just can't make some of the mistakes he made last year," Hudson said. "His biggest thing is consistency in running the offense in the framework of the offense. That's what he has to do more than anything else."

"Losing weight doesn't change the strength factor because they threw during the winter and they lifted hard. The fact that he lost weight will only enhance his quickness. When we backpack and then take that thing off, how much lighter do we feel? That's what it's like."

Graham feels that the playing time he received last year will help him in his quest for the starter's role.

"There is a little advantage for me coming into the spring," he admits. "I was really the only one who got to play besides Greg, and every little bit of experience helps. The coaches have told us we're all coming in even and the best player will play. I like to think in my mind that I'm the best player at the position. You never want to be a back-up, you want to start."

Herbstreit is the quickest of the quarterbacks, but has not shown that he can do the job on a consistent basis. When he gets outside the pocket, he can be dangerous, but the coaches would like him to stay in a little bit longer before taking off on a run.

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Passing Game Won't Change Dramatically

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"Kirk has got experience," Hudson said. "He knows the offense, but he doesn't have game experience. He just has to move the team and execute the offense in all phases. Whether it's drop-back or sprint-out, there has to be total understanding. With him being in the program so long, he should be right in the middle of things."

Although his running is what initially got the interest of the Buckeyes, the option skills Herbstreit possesses are something he is trying to put behind him.

"That's a trademark I'm trying to get rid of," he said. "Whenever you hear the name Herbstreit you think, boy, the guy can run, but his throwing is suspect. I've been working on throwing from the pocket and trying to dissect the defenses."

"I have been in the system the longest and I'd like to think I'll get to show what I can do this year. Whether I start or not, whoever is playing quarterback will have been in a battle for the job."

Pickens came to the Buckeyes last year from Cleveland St. Ignatius as one of the top prep prospects in the nation. He has the physical skills, but his being able to handle the mental aspect of quarterbacking at the college level could be a question.

"With Joe, it's more mental," Hudson said. "We don't know how he'll react when he's put out in front of that many people, or with so many checks and automatics. How will he react when things aren't going well? That's what we have to find out. You never do find out until you throw them out there in those situations."

Pickens feels he can be a legitimate contender for the starter's role, but he knows work needs to be done to reach that goal.

"I'm just learning right now," he said. "Kent and Kirk have a lot of experience on me. I'm going to have to work real hard this spring. I have to learn the offense and work a lot on my footwork. This year, the quarterback is also going to have to know a lot more about the running game, so that will be new, too. I think I can challenge, but it won't be easy."

The Buckeyes will not change a great deal from last year, running basically the same offense with a few more screens and long passes thrown in. The air attack stems from having a good ground assault, and Hudson says that won't change.

"Every passing game starts with a good running game," the OSU assistant said. "If we can run the ball, I think our passing game will be sufficient. It's fair to say we'll try to pass the ball 40 percent of the time and run it 60 percent."

"We're not a team that will try to make mass changes because we were so close last year. We have to make sure that those one or two mistakes that caused the downfall against Michigan don't happen again."

Frey was criticized for not going deep often enough.

"It all depends on your personnel," Hudson said. "If you have the personnel to go deep, then you can do it. We'd like to think we can throw the ball deep. Greg threw a good deep ball, but we just didn't throw it that much. I don't foresee us doing much more than last year."

"Maybe from a play-calling standpoint we might try to stretch coverages. People like the bombs and passes of that nature, but you really don't complete that many of them."

The goal coming out of the spring is not necessarily to have one player be far ahead of the others, but to have all the competitors get an understanding of what needs to be accomplished.

"If there is an understanding by the quarterbacks at the end of spring, then we have been successful," Hudson said. "Of all the positions on offense, we have to replace the quarterback and the wide outs. That is a crucial objective we have to attain."

"If they come out with the proper intensity and the kind of character that we're looking for in terms of commitment, then I think we're going to be pretty good."



Redshirt freshman quarterback Joe Pickens (12), shown here during a practice session, is a highly touted prospect out of Cleveland St. Ignatius. During his prep career, Pickens completed passes for 5,140 yards and 40 touchdowns.

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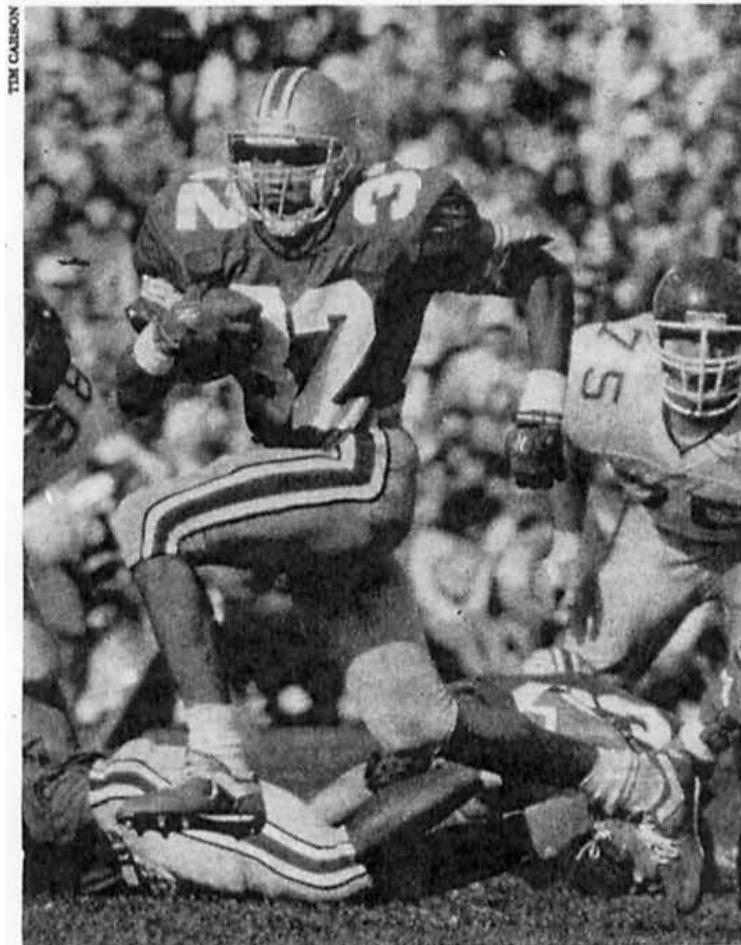
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*Liberty Bowl Was Bitter Pill For Tailback To Swallow***Smith Prefers To Dwell In Past For Now**

Ohio State sophomore tailback Robert Smith (32) set a school rushing record for freshmen last season when he gained 1,126 yards. This season, Smith will try for a second 1,000-yard season in a row, a feat last accomplished in 1983-84 by Keith Byars.

By Mike Wachsman

It is usually best to avoid living in the past, but according to Ohio State sophomore tailback Robert Smith, it may not be such a bad idea for the Buckeyes to remember some recent history when striving for future success.

"Obviously, the Liberty Bowl was a big embarrassment for us," Smith said. "It's definitely already served a purpose somewhat in the winter training program, and I don't see why it would stop once we get into the spring."

"There's no way we can forget about that. It's one of the biggest upsets ever in college football and there's no way it will ever leave our minds."

Of course, the 6-2, 195-pounder speaks of the 23-11 upset loss by the Buckeyes to Air Force in the 1990 Liberty Bowl. The game, which came on the heels of a tough 16-13 loss to Michigan and the loss of three assistant coaches, ended the season on a bitter note.

But Smith is looking forward to having a good spring and working hard on the new offense of coordinator Elliott Uzelac.

However, with the new offense, Smith insists that the fight should be that much harder for jobs, even for a tailback who topped the 1,000-yard mark as a freshman.

"With the new offense of Coach Uzelac, we're all at ground zero," Smith said. "That's good, because it's even better for the competition. It's been interesting. They have said that no jobs are guaranteed and that's probably the way it should be."

"Just because I gained 1,000 yards last year doesn't mean I'll be the best this year. Whoever is the best should play. Competition makes a better team and makes better players."

With Carlos Snow scheduled to return for his senior season after sitting out last year with a hip injury, there have been rumors that Smith could be

moved to a wingback position, similar to the one Raghib "Rocket" Ismail played for Notre Dame.

The sophomore, who gained 1,126 yards from his tailback slot last year, said if it will help the team, he is not opposed to it.

"I'm not going to say no to them," Smith said. "When it comes right down to it, they're the ones who control those things, anyway. They'll do what they want to do. I definitely wouldn't be against it. It would be senseless for me to be against it because I have no say in that matter. I'm not out there to coach the team. I'm out there to play."

When Smith came to Ohio State, it was known that, in addition to his gridiron duties, he wanted to also run track. He spoke last year of possibly trying out for the 1992 U.S. Olympic team in the decathlon. However, the bowl game changed his mind and made him more focused on his football chores.

"The chances for 1992 are pretty slim now," Smith said. "I didn't want to run track this year after the Liberty Bowl. That game turned my attitude around quite a bit. I definitely don't want to take away anything from my personal advancement and the team advancement in football."

"I thought it was better to stay with the spring practice drills and maybe next year start practicing the decathlon, and maybe look toward (the) 1996 (Olympics)."

"If we had won in the Liberty Bowl it might have been a different scenario. That game was a big eye-opener. It showed how much advancement we do need. I want to be there and make sure I'm part of it."

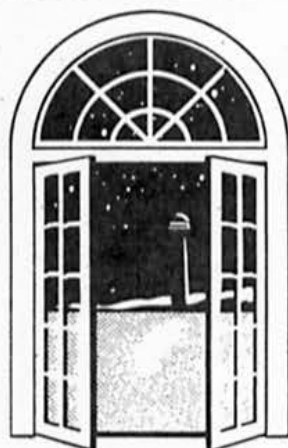
Despite the fact that the winter conditioning was a hit and spring practices were intense during the first few days, there is no guarantee of success in September.

"You could have a great winter and spring, but if you don't have the attitude when it's time to play, then it doesn't do you any good," Smith said. "I really don't think this team has that kind of attitude. The way we've been practicing and conditioning all winter long, I don't think we're going to let up at all when it comes time to play the games."

Smith set an OSU freshman rushing record and was named national freshman of the year by *United Press International* last season. That would lead one to believe he has his position sewn up. However, Smith sounds more like an incoming freshman than the team's top returning rusher.

"Coming out of the spring, it will be a big enough prize for me to win a number one running back spot, let alone any other award given by some sort of media," Smith said. "With the talent we have here, that is a major accomplishment. That would be my first goal, to win that spot. I just want to be in there and do what I can to help this team."

"If I got all the individual awards that are out there and we never made it to the Rose Bowl, I'd be very unsatisfied as a football player. Conversely, if I was part of a Rose Bowl championship team and I didn't win any individual awards, I wouldn't be upset at all."



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Big Ten Working On Major Bowl Package

According to a *Dallas Morning News* story, the Big Ten wants to put its runner-up into a major bowl as part of a bowl package.

The Atlantic Coast Conference, the newly formed Big East, and Notre Dame are working on a deal to tie in with the Cotton, Sugar and Orange bowls. The champions of the ACC and Big East, along with the Irish, would fill the at-large bids for the bowls.

The Big Ten is working on a similar plan, exclusive of the other one, in which its runner-up would have an automatic invitation into one of the three major bowls. Big Ten commissioner Jim Delany said he wants progress made to put his conference's runner-up into one of the three bowls "in the next 60 to 90 days."

The forming of the Big East conference and the move of Penn State to the Big Ten and Florida State to the ACC has made bowl representatives take notice.

One of the reasons for the proposals as far as the Big Ten is concerned is to avoid a scenario which has occurred during the last two years. Because the Big Ten race for the Rose Bowl had not been decided, requests to hold off issuing invitations were reportedly turned down both by the Cotton and Sugar bowls.

Delany has also indicated that by 1993 and 1994, Big Ten teams might be playing only six conference games. Therefore, lining up agreements now with major bowls would increase the chance of a highly ranked and 6-0 co-champion of going to one of the major bowls.

The Orange Bowl has said it has no interest in the Big Ten proposal, while the Cotton Bowl has agreed to listen.

"In our judgment," said Jim Brock, executive director of the Cotton Bowl, "when you get invited by the Big Ten to discuss options, we thought it would be a mistake to decline."

Minnesota

More problems befell the Gophers athletic programs as the football team was put on probation and will not be eligible for a postseason bowl game next year.

There was no ban put on television broadcasts of games, and the Gophers are still allowed to have expense-paid recruiting visits and off-campus recruiting.

The school was penalized mainly due to the actions of former coach Lou Holtz and administrator Luther Darville.

Holtz admitted to the NCAA that he had given \$250 cash to an athlete to pay for a course that kept him eligible and had given between \$25 and \$40 to Roselle Richardson, who lost his wallet on a recruiting trip.

Most of the penalties stem from the actions of Darville, who served as acting director of the Office of Minority and Special Student Affairs.

He was found to have given out approximately \$3,700 to athletes from his office's special loan account, around \$6,700 in benefits to 10 athletes through the manipulation of journal voucher payments, and at least \$9,000 in other loans and payments to other athletes.

Darville was later convicted of three counts of theft by swindle and served prison time.

Because the school launched its own investigation, and was cooperative with

Big Ten Notes with Mike Wachsman

the NCAA, the penalties were not nearly as severe as they could have been.

In addition, the NCAA ruled on March 27 that the Gophers basketball team will lose one scholarship and that the wrestling team loses its right to interact with a campus wrestling club.

Minnesota could have lost more scholarships, could have been banned from the postseason in all three sports, and been kept off television.

Michigan

The Wolverines have been forced to move their spring game, but for a different reason than the Gophers.

The game will be played at Ann Arbor Pioneer High School's Holloway Field April 13. The move is because Michigan, like several other schools, has joined the wave of schools returning to natural grass fields.

Like Ohio Stadium, Michigan Stadium is getting Prescription Athletic Turf, and the school joins Purdue, Iowa and OSU as Big Ten institutions going back to grass.

Pan Am Invites

The Big Ten had its fair share of representation when the list of Pan American Games basketball invitations was

released April 5.

Of the 66 players invited to the April 25-29 tryouts in Colorado Springs, eight were Big Ten players.

Player of the year Jim Jackson of Ohio State was invited, as was teammate Mark Baker. Joining the two Buckeyes were the Indiana trio of Eric Anderson, Calbert Cheaney and Damon Bailey, Michigan State's dynamic duo of Matt Steigenga and Mike Peplowski, and Iowa's Acie Earl.

Gene Keady of Purdue will be presiding over the fortunes of the men. He won Big Ten coach of the year honors in 1990 after guiding the Boilers to a 22-8 season. Serving on his staff will be this year's Big Ten coach of the year, Randy Ayers of Ohio State.

Spring Football Notes

Continued From Page 3

showed last year that it could be a dominating unit at times, but other times, it bogged down and missed crucial opportunities.

If the dismal performance in the Liberty Bowl can be used as a springboard for a successful 1991 season, then maybe it isn't the worst thing to ever happen to the Ohio State football program.

THERE HAVE been a number of new faces in new places and old faces that won't be back this spring.

Perhaps the most interesting position change occurred when Preston Harrison, who said last year that he wanted to someday play quarterback for Ohio State, moved to an outside linebacker spot and took part in all drills on the first day.

Harrison is a very imposing sight on either side of the ball at 6-4, 242 pounds, but he said he thinks that he has the mentality for hitting and playing defense.

His high school coach at Columbus South, Don Eppert, was a frequent visitor to practice last fall and was one person who wanted to make sure Harrison got a fair shake at quarterback.

"Preston came to us and asked if he could move to linebacker," Cooper said. "We weren't trying to hide that from (the media). I was trying to hold that until I talked to his high school coach. We recruited him with the understanding that he could play anywhere he wanted to play, and our thinking was that he would be a quarterback. When he said he wanted to move to linebacker, we said, 'Wait a minute.'"

"I talked to his dad that night on the phone and had not been able to get in touch with Coach Eppert, because he was on spring break. But he was at practice today and he is in total agreement with whatever Preston wanted to do. I just wanted to make sure that his high school coach knew and that his daddy knew that there was no pressure from the coaching staff for him to move."

One face that won't be back is outside linebacker Jason Frank. Oddly enough, he also began his OSU career as a quarterback, but arm and elbow injuries cut his QB career short. He worked a little at tight end and then moved to linebacker, where it appeared

he would finally find a home. But he had a pinched nerve in his neck and now injuries have forced him out of the game he appeared to have a great deal of love for, never having played a down for the Buckeyes.

Another face who has not been around is walk-on punter Andy Mahle. He was a recruit in 1990, but there were no scholarships left, so he was told that if he walked on and won the punting job, he could possibly work his way into a scholarship, much like Jeff Bohlman did.

However, the Buckeyes recruited Michael Crispy from Florida this year as a scholarship punter, and maybe Mahle saw the writing on the wall. For the spring, Tim Williams is working on the punting chores, too.

Craig Griffey, who made something of an impact last year if only for his bloodlines, appears to have played his last down for the Buckeyes, at least for this season. He is reportedly having grade problems and will not be around for spring ball, and probably not for fall camp, either.

It is not the first time he has been sidelined by the books.

He couldn't play his senior year at Cincinnati Moeller because of grade troubles, and he walked on at Ohio State. He did not play his first year in order to concentrate on his studies. He played predominantly on special teams last year and seemed to have a good shot to play this season because of the dearth of bodies in the secondary.

Griffey is the son of former Cincinnati Red Ken Griffey and the brother of Seattle Mariners star Ken Griffey Jr.

SOME FAMILIAR faces were at practice the first day as Bowling Green head coach Gary Blackney and former Buckeye assistant Fred Zechman were in attendance.

When asked how things were going in the Mid-American Conference, Blackney quipped, "This is the easy time of the year. We're undefeated right now and I love it. Ask me after the season and I might give a different answer."

Zechman gained a measure of success as the high school head coach of Art Schlichter at Miami Trace High School.

He was an OSU assistant from 1979-82 under Earle Bruce and was later head coach at New Mexico State. Zechman is currently out of football and is an insurance agent in the Dayton area.

WHEN SPRING arrives, you can almost always count on new numbers to be prevalent in early practices.

Robert Smith has changed his jersey number for the third time, to his high school number of 26. He began fall camp last year with 28, then switched to 32. He wanted 26 originally, but it was occupied by Bohlman.

Also switching numbers was Galoway, who came in last year and was issued 27 but has changed to 7, which was worn by Vinnie Clark, and defensive lineman Mark Bean, who has gone from 98 to 75, which was used last year by guard John Peterson.

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