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"For The Buckeye Fan Who Needs To Know More"

September 5, 1998

The Year Of The Buckeye

National Polls, Mags Give OSU Early Nod As College Game's Best

By STEVE HELWAGEN
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

If any of the preseason magazines and polls are on target, the 1998 college football season could be one to remember at Ohio State.

The Buckeyes, whose national championship drought reaches almost 30 years back to the 1968 season, are nearly a consensus preseason pick as the nation's No. 1 team.

"For a long time, people have complained around here that Ohio State doesn't get the national attention it deserves," said OSU senior linebacker Jerry Rudzinski.

"We get to be No. 1 and now people are complaining that it will make us overconfident. You think everybody would be silenced. But now they don't like the No. 1 ranking. So we've got to play with the cards we're dealt and have fun with it."

At face value, the pundits could be looking at Ohio State as a compromise candidate in this year's race. The Buckeyes have 17 returning starters and both kickers back from last year's 10-3 team.

But strong cases could also be made for last season's co-national champions, Michigan and Nebraska, as well as the team that defeated OSU handily in the Sugar Bowl — Florida State.

But safety Damon Moore says OSU has the early top spot on merit.

"I believe, personally, we're the best team in the country," Moore said. "We should be No. 1. That's a credit to the players we have coming back and the young guys coming in to help us."

"If I'm at Michigan or Nebraska, hopefully they're feeling they should be No. 1. If not, they're not competing like they should."

"We're just going to have to go out on the field and let our play prove everything. If we are No. 1, that will show it, and if we're not, that will be shown."

Moore is one of at least three players — All-American linebacker Andy Katzenmoyer and guard Rob Murphy are others — who need to complete summer course work in order to regain their eligibility (see Ohio State Insider, page 4).

Coaches and players alike are hoping that is the only dark cloud that descends on the Buckeyes this season.

"Because we're ranked No. 1, it doesn't mean we have to do a lot of things differently," said OSU coach John Cooper, beginning his 11th year with the Buckeyes. "You can't work any harder than we've been

**BSB's
1998
FOOTBALL
PREVIEW**



JEFF BRECH

LUCKY 7-11 — Quarterback Joe Germaine (7) and corner Antoine Winfield will have the spotlight this season, leading Ohio State's offense and defense. Germaine is in his first year as a starter, while Winfield is the model of consistency on D.

'Proud And Humbled' To Be No. 1, Cooper Readies His Troops

By STEVE HELWAGEN
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

Ohio State has long been recognized as one of the nation's top football programs.

However, it had been 18 long years since the Buckeyes had reigned as the country's No. 1 team.

That drought is over, as both the USA Today/ESPN coaches poll and Associated Press media poll have named Ohio State as the No. 1-ranked team in their respective preseason polls.

"It's been 18 years," said OSU coach John Cooper, who was in his fourth year at Tulsa when the Buckeyes last topped the poll. "It's been too long. That's the obvious thing. But that's our job as players and coaches, to build the best program we can."

"I'm proud and humbled to be the football coach of the team picked No. 1 in the country. Now it's up to us to live up to that ranking."

"There is a high expectation level. Nobody is going to outwork us, that I know."

The coaches poll was released Aug. 6, while the AP poll came out Aug. 15. Cooper was happy to hear both polls reached the same verdict.

"The coaches poll came out earlier in the week and we were No. 1 in that," Cooper said. "I'm glad the sportswriters agreed with the coaches for a change."

Obviously the preseason poll is the most subjective of all. The Buckeyes do not take the field for an actual game until Sept. 5 at West Virginia, a team rated a very respectable 11th in the initial AP poll.

But the Buckeyes were picked No. 1 in a fast field that included their Sugar Bowl opponent Florida State, perennial national contender Florida, and defending co-national champions Nebraska and Michigan.

"I didn't know if we'd be No. 1 or not," Cooper said. "I thought we would be ranked somewhere in the top 10. I don't know if we should be No. 1 or 5 or 10 or not that good."

"The fact we had a pretty good team last year and

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COVER STORY: OHIO STATE AS NO. 1

OSU Ends 18-Year Drought Since Last No. 1 Ranking

Continued From Page 1

had so many people back probably figured in."

Last year's Sugar Bowl, a game that saw Florida State roll to a 31-14 win, was earmarked as the "playoff" game to decide this year's preseason No. 1 team.

"We felt like that," said OSU flanker Dee Miller.

But OSU's 17 returning starters, including All-Americans such as linebacker Andy Katzenmoyer and cornerback Antoine Winfield, probably caught the voters' attention.

"We felt we would be ranked anywhere from No. 1 to No. 3. But the media must have felt that with everybody coming back, we have enough talent to be considered No. 1," Miller said.

Even though it is just the preseason poll — the Buckeyes will need to finish in the top two to reach the national championship game in the Fiesta Bowl — the players will take it for now.

"I was naturally excited when I heard about it," said OSU cornerback Ahmed Plummer. "That's something you grow up as a kid and want to be. I know it's just preseason rankings, but maybe this might be the change we need."

"Maybe we need this little boost to believe in ourselves, work hard and

maintain that national ranking. I'm looking forward to this season."

Uncharted Waters

Since the AP instituted a preseason poll in 1950, no team has gone wire-to-wire and led the poll each week from start to finish.

However, eight teams have opened No. 1 in the preseason, lost the spot and regained it after the bowls. Florida State's 1993 team was the most recent team to do it.

Ohio State is tops in the AP poll for the first time since the preseason poll in 1980. Coach Earle Bruce's Buckeyes, coming off an 11-1 season and narrow Rose Bowl loss to USC, went out and fell behind visiting Syracuse 21-0 in their opener before rallying to a 31-21 win.

Alabama took over the top spot, although Georgia ended up as the national champion. The Buckeyes ended up 9-3 and ranked 15th.

Including 1980, this marks the sixth time OSU has been the preseason No. 1 in the AP poll, following the 1958, '62, '69 and '70 teams. OSU claimed AP poll national championships in 1942, '54 and '68.

OSU's longest stints in the top spot were eight weeks in both the 1973 and '75 seasons.

OSU's ranking will be tested right off



STEVE HELWAGEN

WRITING HISTORY — Grand expectations don't seem to faze Ohio State linebacker Jerry Rudzinski, shown here sharing a laugh with a fan at Ohio State's media day. Rudzinski is one of 17 returning starters for the preseason No. 1 Buckeyes.

the bat. A lackluster showing at West Virginia could help No. 2-ranked Florida State, which faces Texas A&M Aug. 31 at the Kickoff Classic. OSU holds just a narrow lead over the Seminoles in the initial polls.

The Buckeyes enter the year with a 43-7-1 (.853) record in games as the nation's No. 1-ranked team.

But the Buckeyes say 11 games from now — after they have also played the likes of Missouri, Michigan State, Iowa and Michigan — is when it will really count.

"All that matters is how we finish," said Katzenmoyer. "It doesn't matter how we start. It's cool, I guess. But I would rather be No. 1 at the end."

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OHIO STATE FOOTBALL PREVIEW: DEPTH CHART

Talent In Every Direction On Depth Chart

Buckeyes Boast 17 Returning Starters

By STEVE HELWAGEN
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

It is the quantity and quality of returning stars that has vaulted Ohio State to the top of the preseason polls.

But it may be the Buckeyes' apparent depth on both sides of the football that could keep them there.

"We have a pretty good nucleus coming back," said OSU coach John Cooper. "I like our football team. We have some real good individual players like David Boston, Damon Moore and Andy Katzenmoyer."

But the words "depth chart" have probably never had the significance they will hold this year as the Buckeyes figure to get a lot of players involved.

"I think we learned last year against Florida State that we need to be fresh and we need to play more players," Cooper said. "We need to be more competitive. Hopefully that's the lesson we learned."

"We've talked about playing more players, particularly in the defensive front seven, and being more demanding with those players who are rushing the passer or chasing the ball."

"If you're tired, come out and take a break. I go back to that Florida State game. Andre Wadsworth took himself out a lot. But when he was in there, he was 100 miles per hour and never slowed down."

With that sentiment in mind, we will examine OSU's tentative depth chart heading into the 1998 season. BSB consulted with coaches on both sides of the football to construct this depth chart, which includes as many as three or four players at some positions as directed by the coaches.

OFFENSE
Quarterback

Joe Germaine (6-2, 205, Sr.) takes over as the starter after platooning the last two years with Stanley Jackson. Although he has just one career start to his credit, the steady Germaine has thrown for 3,040 yards (sixth-best in school history) and 31 TDs (also sixth) in his career. Germaine was third nationally — trailing just UCLA's Cade McNown and Washington State's Ryan Leaf — in passing efficiency last year. "Joe is the man," Cooper said of the 1997 Rose Bowl MVP.



Joe Germaine

Mark Garcia (6-4, 215, Sr.) moves up to the backup position in his final year. The strong-armed Garcia appeared in seven games last season, completing 9 of 23 passes for 175 yards.

Austin Moherman (6-5, 215, R-Fr.) and Steve Bellisari (6-3, 210, Fr.) were dueling for the third-team job. Moherman, OSU's tallest quarterback, enjoyed a fine spring. Bellisari has been very impressive in his first fall camp.

Michael Wiley (6-0, 195, Jr.) moves into the starting lineup, replacing the departed Pepe Pearson. The electrifying Wiley served as Pearson's backup for the last 1-1/2 seasons after working at wide



Michael Wiley

Tailback

Michael Wiley (6-0, 195, Jr.) moves into the starting lineup, replacing the departed Pepe Pearson. The electrifying Wiley served as Pearson's backup for the last 1-1/2 seasons after working at wide

receiver the first half of 1996. He has amassed 764 yards rushing, including 588 on 105 carries (5.6 average) last year. Wiley's durability and inside running ability remain as questions, but his open-field running is nonpareil.

Joe Montgomery (5-11, 216, Sr.) hopes to give OSU the power running component he began to provide before a serious knee injury in 1996. His best game that year was 160 yards at Iowa, but a week later he blew out his knee and underwent reconstructive surgery. Last year he tried to come back too quickly. Now he seems fully healed and has been impressive in fall camp.

Derek Combs (6-2, 197, So.) figured to be in the regular TB rotation, but a calf injury has limited his fall camp practice time. When healthy, few have the ability to turn the corner like Combs. This former Ohio prep Mr. Football award winner rushed for 82 yards on 25 carries (3.3 average) last year.

Fullback

Matt Keller (6-0, 238, Jr.) returns for his second year as the starter. He gained another

10 pounds in the off-season and has raised his weight nearly 40 pounds since arriving on campus. He is a valuable weapon running the ball (257 yards last year) and catching swing passes (19 catches).



Matt Keller

Sean Penny (6-2, 215, So.) and Jamar Martin (6-1, 235, Fr.) are platooned as the backup. Penny is more of a true running back, although he played only sparingly last year. Martin could give OSU the kind of blocking back it has missed since Nicky Sualua left after the 1995 season.

Split End

David Boston (6-3, 215, Jr.) returns for his third year as a starter. This Fred Biletnikoff Award candidate set numerous school records last year, including a single-season mark of 73 catches. He also set the single-game mark with 14 catches against Penn State. With another big year, he could threaten all of OSU's career receiving marks. He caught 14 TDs last year, primarily using his size, leaping ability and great upper-body strength to take the ball away from opposing DBs.

Reggie Germany (6-2, 195, So.) is a star-in-waiting who will see considerable action in three- and four-wide receiver sets. He caught only one pass last year, but he worked hard in the off-season and was very impressive during the spring. This speedster also ran track for the Buckeyes in the spring.



David Boston

Kevin Griffin (5-10, 183, Sr.) played in all 13 games last year, primarily as a special teams demon. He tallied 22 tackles in that role. He also caught one pass on offense.

Flanker

Dee Miller (6-1, 200, Sr.) returns for his second year as a starter. He is the perfect complement to Boston, making important possession catches and racking up yardage after the catch.

Last year he had 58 catches for a team-high 981 yards (16.9 average) with 5 TDs. "He came into being a force for us at receiver," said receivers coach Chuck Stobart.



Dee Miller

Ken-Yon Rambo (6-1, 190, So.) has added some much-needed strength in the off-season and, like Germany, is close to stardom. He figures to build on a solid first year, where he caught seven passes for 145 yards (20.7 average) and a score. After a tough spring, he seems to have accepted the challenge nicely in fall camp.

Jimmy Redmond (6-0, 187, Jr.) figured to be in the mix last year, but he suffered a broken leg covering a punt in the season opener against Wyoming. He seems to be fully recovered and could add a speed element to the receiving corps.

Tight End

John Lumpkin (6-8, 260, Sr.) returns for his second year as a starter after catching 17

passes for 320 yards and 3 TDs last year. Viewed as one of the nation's top tight ends, Lumpkin excels at getting behind defenses and making tough catches in traffic.

Steve Wisniewski (6-5, 265, Jr.) and Kevin Houser (6-3, 250, Jr.) are bracketed as the backups at TE. Wisniewski caught 12 passes for 175 yards last year, but a back injury has slowed him in the off-season. Houser, who doubles as OSU's long snapper on kicks, has emerged and could take a regular role on offense this year.

Darnell Sanders (6-6, 265, Fr.) is a raw athlete who joined the program last January. A former high school quarterback, Sanders has added 30 pounds to his frame to become a viable TE, but he is still learning the finer points of the position.



John Lumpkin

Left Tackle

Tyson Walter (6-5, 305, So.) is back for his second year as a starter after earning the team's top first-year player award on offense last year. He started all 13 games last year and played a team-high 325 minutes. He held his own in pass blocking, protecting the

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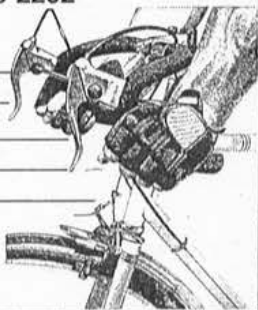
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QB's blind side, but the coaches want him to become more dominant as a run blocker.

Ben Pulfer (6-6, 270, R-Fr.) and LeCharles Bentley (6-3, 265, Fr.) are bracketed as the backups here. Pulfer came over from the defensive line to address depth problems on the OL. The coaches like his quickness. Bentley figured to be a center prospect but likewise was moved outside due to depth concerns.

Left Guard

Rob Murphy (6-5, 300, Jr.) earned some All-American honors last year and will return for a third year as a starter. He suffered a major knee injury in the Sugar Bowl that required surgery and missed much spring and off-season work. He has missed some practice time due to a back problem, but he expects to be in the starting lineup vs. WVU.

Mike Gurr (6-7, 270, So.) moved over from tight end last spring and was impressive practicing here in Murphy's absence. His versatility is a plus.



Tyson Walter



Rob Murphy

Scott Kuhnhein (6-6, 285, Fr.) has been working as a backup at both guard spots. This true freshman could be pressed into service if the depth problems become much worse.

Center

Kurt Murphy (6-4, 290, Jr.) returns after starting seven of OSU's 13 games

last year. When Rob Murphy (no relation) missed some time last year, Eric Gohlstein replaced him and Kurt Murphy stepped in here without missing a beat. The experiment worked so well that Gohlstein eventually moved to tackle and Kurt Murphy took over here. "He makes all the calls at the line of scrimmage for us," said OSU offensive coordinator Mike Jacobs.

Drew Elford (6-4, 300, Jr.) has practiced only sparingly this fall due to an ankle injury, but he is expected back soon and figures to be a key backup here and at guard.

Right Guard

Ben Gilbert (6-5, 295, Jr.) returns after starting all 13 games and log-



Kurt Murphy



Ben Gilbert

ging over 300 minutes here last year. The coaches like his competitiveness.

Tam Hopkins (6-5, 295, So.) was expected to push Gilbert for a starting role, but he has been slow to return from a serious ankle injury in the spring. Still, he should figure somewhere in the picture by the end of the year.

Right Tackle

Brooks Burris (6-7, 290, Sr.) will apparently regain his starting role at RT, a position he held for seven games last year. He also started one game at LG in place of Rob Murphy. He has played in 32 games in his career, the most of any Buckeye lineman.

Henry Fleming (6-7, 305, So.) figured to battle Burris for the starting job, but a stomach ailment kept him out of the first week of fall camp. Like Hopkins, it seems only a matter of time until he comes through.

DEFENSE

Defensive End
Rodney Bailey (6-3, 255, So.) returns after starting the last



Brooks Burris



Rodney Bailey

four games last year. He played more than any other true freshman and proved to be the team's most dominant DE with three sacks. He had nine tackles and a sack against Michigan.

Matt LaVrar (6-3, 240, Jr.) will open as Bailey's backup after starting 11 games at the other DE spot last year. He tallied 25 tackles and one sack. A stellar run stopper, the coaches want LaVrar to improve on pass rushing.

Kenny Peterson (6-4, 250, Fr.) is one of the most imposing true freshmen on the field this fall. A standout at state champion Canton (Ohio) McKinley last year, he could see some time this fall.

Defensive Tackle

Clinton Wayne (6-3, 275, So.) took a step toward a starting job with a strong spring after playing all 13 games as a DE last year. However, he has missed some valuable fall camp time due to class work.

Ryan Pickett (6-3, 290, Fr.) could be the first true freshman to crack the starting lineup. A USA Today first-team All-USA pick at Zephyrhills, Fla., he has been impressive in fall camp.

Paris Long (6-6, 320, R-Fr.) made a jump into the two-deep with a strong spring, but a neck sprain on the first



Clinton Wayne

Continued On Page 18

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OHIO STATE FOOTBALL PREVIEW: DEPTH CHART

Nine Starters Return On Stellar Defense

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day of fall camp has kept him on the sidelines. He was listed as day-to-day and could return any time.

Defensive Tackle

Joe Brown (6-6, 285, So.) jumped into the picture here at midseason last year, supplanting Jimmie Bell and starting five of the last seven games. He tallied 23 tackles and a sack. "He is even more of a play-maker now that he has experience," said defensive line coach Jim Heacock.



Joe Brown

Mike Collins (6-3, 290, Fr.) and Randy Homa (6-2, 285, Jr.) are bracketed as Brown's backup. Collins enrolled in the spring and was impressive after spending last fall at prep school. Homa has enjoyed a good fall camp and looks to be in what figures to be a six-man rotation at the two interior spots.

Defensive End

James Cotton (6-4, 245, Jr.) earned JUCO All-American honors at line-backer last year, but he made big headlines with his switch to DE midway through the spring. "James can make plays. He is lacking in OSU football knowledge, but that will come," ends coach Shawn Simms said.



James Cotton

Brent Johnson (6-4, 265, So.) could be the team's most improved and consistent DE. He performed well in the spring and has been impressive in fall camp. He lacks game experience, appearing for just 15 minutes over five games last year.

Julius Yeast (6-5, 280, Fr.) is another true freshman who could see considerable minutes this year. He is listed at 280 pounds but seems much closer to the 250-pound range.

Boundary Outside Linebacker

Na'il Diggs (6-4, 235, So.) has nailed down a starting job here, replacing the departed Kevin Johnson. He excelled as a spot pass rusher, notching a team-high six sacks last year. He played in all 13 games, starting two, last year. Now he figures in as an every-down player.



Na'il Diggs

Courtland Bullard (6-3, 220, So.) is an athletic LB with a nose for the ball. He played in 10 games last season. An additional 10 pounds should help him with the physical aspect of the game.

Joe Cooper (6-2, 213, So.) moved to OLB from strong safety at the start of fall camp. He is working hard and will add depth here this year after being able to only practice with the team last year due to Prop 48 status.

Middle Linebacker

Andy Katzenmoyer (6-4, 255, Jr.) is fighting for his eligibility in summer school but figures to return for a third year as a starter. He earned the Butkus Award last year as the college game's top linebacker. If eligible, he — along with Germaine and Boston — could be a legitimate Heisman Trophy candidate. Listed at 255, he says he is actually back down to the 245-pound range, where he excelled as a freshman. In two years he has 182 tackles, 36 of them for losses, and six interceptions. "He is a great player who has no physical weaknesses," said OSU defensive coordinator Fred Pagac.



Andy Katzenmoyer

Chris Kirk (6-3, 235, Jr.) will back up his close friend Katzenmoyer. Because of Katzenmoyer's durability, Kirk has seen only limited playing time. He had 18 tackles in 12 games last year, but he seems more than adequate to fill this role if necessary.

Chris Kirk (6-3, 235, Jr.) will back up his close friend Katzenmoyer. Because of Katzenmoyer's durability, Kirk has seen only limited playing time. He had 18 tackles in 12 games last year, but he seems more than adequate to fill this role if necessary.

Wide-Side Outside Linebacker

Jerry Rudzinski (6-2, 225, Sr.) returns for his second year as a starter. This Academic All-Big Ten honoree is a heady player who is rarely out of position. He started all 13 games last year, totaling 65 tackles, and has played in 32 games over three years.



Jerry Rudzinski

Jason Ott (6-4, 240, R-Fr.) and Tim Cheatwood (6-4, 215, R-Fr.) are bracketed as Rudzinski's backup. Ott had a good spring practice and his versatility — he can also play in the middle if necessary — is a plus. Cheatwood is a big hitter who was moved here from strong safety at the start of camp.

Cornerback

Antoine Winfield (5-9, 180, Sr.) returns for his second season as a starter after earning consensus All-American honors last year. He will be a Jim Thorpe Award candidate this year. He led the team in tackles with 100 and also notched 12 passes broken up, 3 sacks and 2 INTs. He has



Antoine Winfield

played in all 37 of OSU's games since his freshman year, starting 17 of them. "He loves to play and plays hard every down. He makes plays with a vengeance," said DBs coach Jon Tenuta.

David Mitchell (6-1, 195, So.) played in all 13 games last year as a backup CB and special-teamer. This athletic DB has good size and speed.

Derek Ross (6-1, 190, Fr.) was one of the few true freshmen to report for summer conditioning, and that could work in his favor. He could see time as a backup or special-teamer.

Free Safety

Gary Berry (6-0, 195, Jr.) returns for his second season as a starter. He improved dramatically as last season wore on, although he started all 13 games and notched 48 tackles and 5 INTs. "He is the best athlete in the secondary," Tenuta said.



Gary Berry

Percy King (6-4, 210, Jr.) is pushing hard for playing time after a stellar spring. He and Central McClellion will work as the nickel backs this year.

Strong Safety

Damon Moore (5-11, 200, Sr.) is striving to regain his eligibility in summer school, but also figures to be on the field Sept. 5. He went through a similar scenario last season, leading to what became a tough year. He enjoyed a stellar sophomore year as a starter (89 tackles, 5 INTs) but finally made first-team All-Big Ten primarily on reputation last year (67 tackles, 3 INTs). This year he says he has lost some extra weight and seems primed to return to his sophomore form, provided he makes the grade. He has started 24 games and played in 37 in three years.



Damon Moore

McClellion (5-11, 190, Sr.) has gotten oodles of reps in fall camp with Moore in class. This versatile DB could spell either safety or either corner. He tallied 28 tackles between defense and special teams last year.

Cornerback

Ahmed Plummer (6-0, 190, Jr.) returns for his second year as a starter after notching 43 tackles and 5 INTs last year. He grabbed picks in OSU's first three games, then returned one 83 yards for



Ahmed Plummer

a score against Illinois and had a big one to prevent a TD against Florida State. A devout Christian, he is one of the team's spiritual leaders.

Nate Clements (6-0, 185, Fr.) has jumped into the two-deep as a true freshman, impressing the coaches with his coverage ability and competitiveness in fall camp.

Rolland Steele (5-11, 170, So.) was slowed by a shoulder injury in the spring but has rebounded nicely. He played in 10 games last year and was a valued special-teamer.

SPECIALISTS Kicker

Dan Stultz (6-0, 195, So.) took over the place-kicking chores as a redshirt freshman with solid results. He nailed 47 of 48 extra points, but was just 15 of 25 on field goals. A bright spot was his 55-yard field goal against Indiana, the longest ever by an OSU kicker in Ohio Stadium. He has added weight and worked hard on consistency.



Dan Stultz

Punter

Brent Bartholomew (6-2, 210, Sr.) returns for his fourth season as OSU's punter. He is considered one of the nation's top punters, averaging 45.2 yards per kick (10th-best, nationally) last year. Also OSU's holder on place kicks, he could be in the hunt for All-American honors.



Brent Bartholomew

Kick/Punt Returns

Boston and Berry figure to handle punt return chores. The sure-handed Boston returned 47 punts for 392 yards (8.3 average) last season.

Wiley and Rambo will likely handle kick returns. Wiley averaged 26.5 yards on his 13 returns last season, including a 100-yarder for a touchdown against Bowling Green.

COACHING STAFF Head Coach

Cooper, 61, begins his 11th year as Ohio State's head coach with a record of 86-32-4 (.721). Cooper was national coach of the year in 1986 at Arizona State and a finalist for the award in 1993 when OSU claimed a share of the Big Ten title. He began his coaching career at Tulsa in 1977, winning five straight Missouri Valley



John Cooper

OHIO STATE FOOTBALL PREVIEW: DEPTH CHART

Conference titles. Cooper's contract currently runs through 2001, and his career coaching record is 168-72-6 (.695) in 21 seasons.

Offensive Coaching Staff

Jacobs, 48, embarks on his fourth year as an OSU assistant and his second as offensive coordinator. Jacobs spent 15 years as an assistant at West Virginia, including seven as the Mountaineers' offensive coordinator. Prior to WVU, the Berea, Ohio, native and Wittenberg graduate worked as an assistant at Bowling Green, Ashland and Toledo.

Bill Conley, 47, is in his eighth year on Cooper's staff and in his second as the tackles and tight ends coach. Prior to that, Conley served five years as defensive ends coach. He served as OSU's recruiting coordinator in 1991 and has that role again as the on-staff coordinator. He previously worked as the linebackers coach under Earle Bruce from 1984-87. Conley lettered as a walk-on reserve offensive lineman for the Buckeyes under Woody Hayes in 1970-71.

Tim Salem, 36, is in his second year as OSU's quarterbacks coach. He spent the previous six years as an assistant at Purdue, including two as the offensive coordinator. Prior to that, he coached at Colorado State and Phoenix Junior College. The Minneapolis native played QB collegiately at Minnesota for his father, Joe Salem, and at Arizona State.

Tim Spencer, 37, returns for his fifth season as OSU's running backs coach. Spencer is a former OSU star who ranks third on the school's all-time rushing list, behind Heisman Trophy winners Archie Griffin and Eddie George. Spencer played professionally for nine years, including six with the San Diego Chargers. The St. Clairsville, Ohio, native returned to OSU in 1992 to complete his undergraduate degree and worked as a volunteer assistant coach in the strength and conditioning program.

Stobart, 59, returns for his fourth year as OSU's wide receivers coach. He spent the previous six years as the head coach at Memphis, building that program from a perennial loser to 6-5 finishes each of his last three seasons. The Middleport, Ohio, native and Ohio University graduate also served as head coach at Toledo and Utah and as an assistant at Marshall, Cincinnati, Miami (Ohio), Michigan, Pittsburgh, Arizona and USC.

Defensive Coaching Staff

Pagac, 46, returns for his third year as Ohio State's defensive coordinator. He is the senior assistant on the OSU staff, beginning his 20th season as a Buckeye coach. In addition to his coordinator duties, Pagac coaches OSU's linebacking corps. He was a starting tight end for OSU from 1971-73 and spent five years in the NFL, with Chicago and Tampa Bay, before joining the OSU staff as a graduate assistant in 1978. He was elevated to full-time status by Bruce in 1982.

Heacock, 50, returns for his third year as defensive line coach after spending the previous eight seasons as head coach at Illinois State. The Muskingum College graduate has also served stints at Bowling Green and Washington.

Simms, 35, returns for his second

year with the Buckeyes, coaching defensive ends. He spent the previous two years as an assistant at Illinois after prior stops at Toledo, Miami (Ohio), Oberlin and Heidelberg. The Fremont, Ohio, native was an All-MAC linebacker at Bowling Green in the mid-1980s.

Tenuta, 41, is back for his third year coaching the defensive secondary. An Upper Arlington (Ohio) High School graduate, Tenuta went on to play and coach at Virginia. He has served as an assistant at Maryland, Vanderbilt, Marshall, Kansas State, Southern Methodist

and Oklahoma.

Support Staff

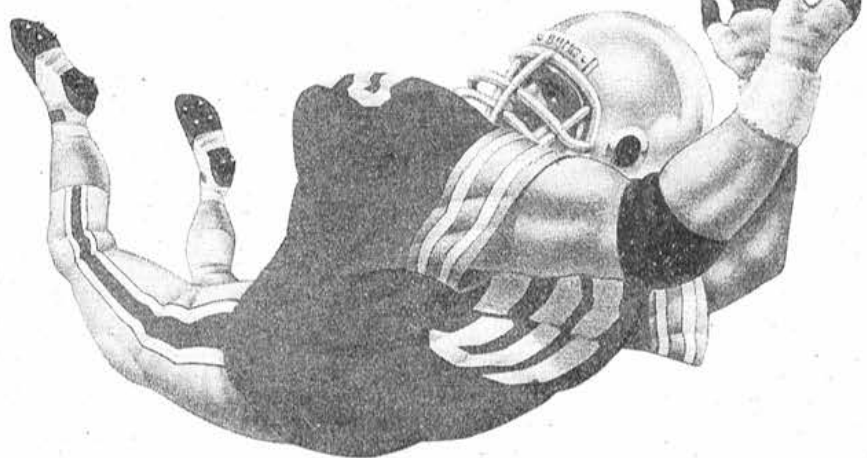
Dave Kennedy, 37, is in his 10th year as Ohio State's strength and conditioning coach. Kennedy's winter and summer conditioning programs have been credited for OSU's success in recent years. Prior to joining the Buckeyes, Kennedy was the assistant strength coach at Nebraska for seven seasons.

Bill Myles, 61, is in his first year on the OSU staff — under Cooper — but served stints as an assistant under both Hayes and Bruce, serving as an OSU assistant until 1985. Myles'

duties include day-to-day operations of the program. A 1962 graduate of Drake, Myles has made one prior coaching stop, at Nebraska, serving as offensive line coach from 1972-76. Myles began his coaching career in the high school ranks in Kansas City, Mo.

Other members of the OSU football support staff include head team physician Dr. John Lombardo, director of athletic training Bill Davis, equipment manager Danny Swain, graduate assistants Dave Everson (defense) and Jim McDonald (offense), and sport associate Tim Patillo.

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OHIO STATE FOOTBALL PREVIEW: THE QUARTERBACKS

QB Slot Is Germaine's And Germaine's Alone

By MIKE WACHSMAN
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

All eyes in Ohio Stadium will once again be on the quarterback position, but unlike previous seasons, only one arm will grab the attention.

Gone are the days of the two-headed QB monster. Here is the time for level-headed Joe Germaine to put his indelible stamp on the Ohio State Buckeyes in what could be a season of destiny.

"It's a great opportunity for me," Germaine said. "I'm very excited about it. It seems like I've been waiting for a long time to be the starter here. I just want to get things started."

OSU quarterbacks coach Tim Salem is technically breaking in a new starting QB, but Germaine has played enough the past two years that he's really considered a returning starter.

"One thing that's always nice is when you have an offense with a lot of experience and a lot of returning players," Salem said. "The quarterback position is even more important, so we're blessed to have Joe coming back."

The Buckeye offense has been humming early in camp, with the passing game looking unstoppable at times. Germaine looks confident taking control of the reins, and his timing and touch have been almost flawless.

When you're calling the signals at Ohio State, the spotlight is on you. Germaine doesn't mind that, and Salem believes his QB will thrive, given the nature of the OSU offense. Familiarity breeds admiration in this case.

"It's not how I respond to Joe or how he responds to me," Salem said. "It's how those other players look at him. The offensive players are all very appreciative of him and look to him no matter what his demeanor is."

Germaine To The Equation

If the Buckeyes are to flourish offensively, Germaine will be the catalyst. He finished last season ranked third in the country in passing efficiency — behind UCLA's Cade McNown and first-round draftee Ryan Leaf of Washington State — posting a gaudy 151.88 rating, tossing 16 touchdowns against nine interceptions.

And Germaine is no ordinary Joe. He's a detail-driven perfectionist who tries to get the most out of a situation. So he's not 6-4. Doesn't matter. He's got the understanding of a coach, the heart of a warrior and the touch of Midas.

Everything could indeed be golden this year.

"Joe Germaine is one of the toughest football players I've been around," Salem said. "The quarterback position is different because the ball leaves his hand and travels downfield, and the crowd goes with that and doesn't see what happens to the quarterback."

"He stands there like a totem pole and gets his ass knocked off. Joe is tough mentally and physically, he doesn't let mistakes linger, and he's got a physical presence about him that says he won't let anyone wear him down."

As usual, Germaine shifts the attention to his teammates, content in the idea that if he does his job effectively, they'll be the ones to reap the glory.

"We've got a lot of weapons," Germaine said. "Hopefully we can get everybody a lot of catches. We have great receivers, a lot of depth there, a lot of running backs. We just have to execute our offense and do what we're supposed to do. That should make us successful."

There is talk of implementing some shotgun this year, and don't be surprised if Germaine gets the snap, drops back three steps and fires. There will be instances where three and maybe even four receivers take the field at the same time, but most of the offense should be



OPEN UP A SIX-PACK — Though Joe Germaine (7) is the starter, OSU has new depth at quarterback this year, including, front, left to right, Steve Bellisari, coach Tim Salem and Ty Masciarelli, and, back, Austin Moherman, Mark Garcia, Germaine and David Priestley.

familiar to astute Buckeye followers.

"We're not going to change the offense very much," Germaine said. "To get where we want to be, we have to be able to run the ball and throw it. We can't be one-dimensional."

The unflappable Germaine rarely shows emotion, preferring to let his actions do the talking. Careful observation shows, though, that there's an extra spring in his step, a purpose to his gait and even a smile creasing his boyish face.

"He's very excited," Salem said. "He's had a grin on his face since we started summer conditioning back in June. He's been anxious to get started and is looking forward to the challenge of playing this fall."

Joe Is Not Alone

While the QB race is a one-man affair, attention will be given to the backups, too.

Veteran Mark Garcia is still itching for a chance to play, and though his spring concluded on a sour note with a poor performance in the Spring Game, he seemed to pick up the offense and understand progressions much better than in past seasons.

"I think if I was given the opportunity to play I could do the job," Garcia said. "It's just a matter of getting that opportunity and making the most of it when it happens."

Garcia, who threw for 175 yards and a TD last year in spot duty, has been hit-and-miss early in camp, looking precise on one throw and off-kilter the next. Though a veteran, he has to hear young footsteps coming up behind him.

Not only does redshirt frosh Austin Moherman look the part of quarterback, he's been up to the challenge of playing it, too. His throws have zip, though they don't always hit the intended target, and he doesn't seem fazed by the youthful mistakes he makes.

Classmate David Priestley has been up and down, showing more arm strength but not always the best recognition. The effort is definitely there, though, and Salem likes to see that.

If all three keep improving, there may

be some playing time in the cards.

"The one thing in spring ball we did was give the four quarterbacks we had all equal turns in reps," Salem said. "The situation there was to get them all better, improve each individual. We're happy with their progress."

Freshman Steve Bellisari, a tall lefty, could throw a monkey wrench into the works. He's shown great poise for a rookie — though none should be surprised after watching his brother Greg — and makes throws that no one else on the squad can. He has a rocket for an arm and looks comfortable in the offense, showing all the makings of a future star.

"Steve understands the game and has a lot of intangibles you learn from growing up around the sport," Salem said. "We're happy he's around and he's going to be a nice addition to our group."

Experience The Best Teacher

Germaine definitely has some unfinished business to take care of this season — namely piloting the Buckeyes for a complete season and wiping out the memory of his one previous start — the 1996 Michigan game, a 13-9 Ohio State loss.

He's looking forward to the challenge game by game, beginning with West Virginia Sept. 5, and Salem feels his maturation process will be a huge benefit.

"The step up that's taken place is due to the fact he became a senior," Salem said. "Along with the other seniors we have on this team, Joe is an important part of this team. We have seniors that work very hard, and this is the last hurrah for them. Joe is one of those guys that knows we've played and competed at a high level, and now we have to find a way to go just a little higher. He's responded to that."

Germaine admits that it feels like yesterday when the Buckeyes offered him a scholarship out of Scottsdale Community College in Arizona, and though he made a name for himself there, he wants his final chapter as a college quarterback to be the best.

"It's gone by real fast," Germaine admitted. "It's been a great time I've spent here. Hopefully we can finish with a bang."

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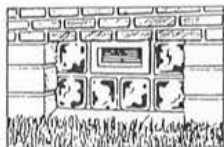
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COVER STORY: THE YEAR OF THE BUCKEYE

Buckeyes Want To Hang On To No. 1 Ranking

Continued From Page 1

working.

"How do you approach it? We're shooting for No. 1. We talk about it. I'm one of those guys who believes in setting your goals high. We talk to the players about trying to be the best.

"But nothing has changed. Just because we're No. 1, people aren't suddenly going to be up for us. I don't know if we've ever caught anybody on an off day when we played them."

Players Like Top Spot

The rankings and the publicity are all fine, but a number of Buckeye players believe that will have little impact on their season.

"That's not going to affect us one way or the other, I think," said Joe Germaine, who will take over as the starter at quarterback after sharing duties with Stanley Jackson the last two years.

"It's something we accept, and we're happy about it. But we know we're going to have to earn everything we get. Nothing's going to be given to us, so we're pretty humble at the same time."

Beginning Sept. 5 at 11th-ranked West Virginia, the Buckeyes know they will be the hunted.

"Everybody's coming for you, but at the same time I like it," Rob Murphy said. "I like playing under pressure. I like going out every week and having everyone take their best shot at you."

Senior flanker Dee Miller, who joins split end David Boston in forming one of the nation's top receiving tandems, has noticed some extra emphasis on this year.

"Here at Ohio State you could be ranked 15th in the preseason and there will still be a lot of fan support," Miller said. "Now you're No. 1 and everybody wants to know what you have to say and how you're going to do every Saturday."

"It's going to be a lot of pressure, but that's something you have to get used to at Ohio State."

But, as the old adage goes, you're either getting better or you're getting worse — you never stay the same.

"It's kind of a blessing, but when you start out No. 1 the only way you can go is down, so you really have to be on your toes," said offensive tackle Brooks Burris.

One key to this year's success will be leadership. But with so many returning starters, Miller said that should not be a problem.

"I have to step up," Miller said. "Joe Germaine has stepped up. Damon

Charting The 1998 Buckeyes

- **Coach:** John Cooper (11th year at OSU, 86-32-4; 22nd year overall, 168-72-6).
- **1997 Record:** 10-3 (lost to Florida State in Sugar Bowl); **Big Ten:** 6-2/2nd (tie).
- **Key Losses:** Pepe Pearson, TB; Eric Gohlstein, OT; Stanley Jackson, QB; Winfield Garnett, DT; Jimmie Bell, NG; Kevin Johnson, BLB.
- **Starters Returning: Offense (8):** Tyson Walter, LT, 6-5, 305, So.; Rob Murphy, LG, 6-5, 300, Jr.; Kurt Murphy, C, 6-4, 290, Jr.; Ben Gilbert, RG, 6-5, 295, Jr.; John Lumpkin, TE, 6-8, 260, Sr.; David Boston, SE, 6-3, 215, Jr.; Dee Miller, FL, 6-1, 200, Sr.; Matt Keller, FB, 6-0, 238, Jr. **Defense (9):** Rodney Bailey, DE, 6-3, 255, So.; Joe Brown, NG, 6-6, 285, So.; Matt LaVrar, DE, 6-3, 240, Jr.; Andy Katzenmoyer, MLB, 6-4, 255, Jr.; Jerry Rudzinski, WLB, 6-2, 225, Sr.; Antoine Winfield, CB, 5-9, 180, Sr.; Gary Berry, FS, 6-0, 195, Jr.; Damon Moore, SS, 5-11, 200, Sr.; Ahmed Plummer, CB, 6-0, 190, Jr. **Kickers (2):** Dan Stultz, K, 6-0, 195, So.; Brent Bartholomew, P, 6-2, 210, Sr.
- **Other Key Returnees:** Joe Germaine, QB; Brooks Burris, RT; John Lumpkin, TE; Michael Wiley, TB; Joe Montgomery, TB; Derek Combs, TB; Reggie Germany, SE; Ken-Yon Rambo, FL; Tam Hopkins, RG; Henry Fleming, RT; Clinton Wayne, DT; Na'il Diggins, BLB; Brent Johnson, DE; Courtland Bullard, BLB; Central McClellion, SS; Percy King, FS.
- **Key Newcomers:** Mike Collins, DT; Paris Long, DT (RS); James Cotton, DE (JUCO); Steve Bellisari, QB; Nate Clements, CB; Jamar Martin, FB; Austin Moherman, QB (RS); Jason Ott, LB (RS); Kenny Peterson, DE; Ryan Pickett, DL; Darnell Sanders, TE; Jonathan Wells, RB.
- **Schedule:** See Ohio State Insider, page 4.

Moore, John Lumpkin, we have a number of leaders who have stepped up. People keep questioning our leaders, but we're going to be all right.

"We have a lot of guys who speak up vocally and a lot of guys who lead by example."

Is This Team Coop's Best?

Cooper was asked whether he feels this is his best OSU team.

"The team two years ago, defensively, seven of those guys have made NFL rosters. You knew they were going to be good on defense," he said.

"Can this team be that good? I don't know that or not. I think our skilled people are good. Our wide receivers are good, our quarterback will be real good, our running backs are not — we don't have a Robert Smith or Raymont (Harris) or Eddie (George). But I think collectively those guys will be OK."

Cooper noted how OSU's offensive line needs major improvement over last year.

"Depth was a factor in the offensive line, big time," he said. "When we went to New Orleans for the Sugar Bowl, we ran the first day we were there. I looked over to the sideline and Tyson Walter, Ben Gilbert, Rob Murphy and Eric Gohlstein were all on the sideline standing there. Tam Hopkins wasn't with us."

"We had nobody else to play, and we played about like that. The offensive line failed to show up against Florida

State."

Cooper shared his No. 1 concern with this year's team.

"The No. 1 thing we have to do, we have to be a more physical football team than we were last year," he said. "We couldn't slow Penn State down last year. Florida State manhandled us up front. We've got to be more physical on both sides of the ball than we were last year."

"It's been a long time since we've had a big, strong, physical fullback, and that has hurt us a little bit. I can't tell you how many times we had third-and-short or fourth-and-short and don't get it."

"I like Matt Keller, I like Sean Penny, but we do not have the 260-pound fullback we've had in past years."

"We've got to be able to run the football in running situations and be successful. If it's third-and-short or fourth-and-short, you've got to be able to run off tackle and get the first down. Last year we didn't do that."

Miller pinpointed some of the team's problems from last year, when the Buckeyes also dropped narrow decisions in Big Ten showdowns with Penn State and Michigan.

"We have to get on the same page. A couple of losses last year, we weren't on the same page," he said. "We have to come in and do it week in and week out."

"Everybody's coming for you, but at the same time I like it. I like playing under pressure. I like going out every week and having everyone take their best shot at you."

• Rob Murphy, OSU offensive guard

"Sometimes our offense got predictable last year with Stan and Joe alternating. Joe is going to be the No. 1 man this year. This is his job. We should benefit from having one person in it for the whole game."

Summing Up

When asked if he was on top of the world because of the lofty ranking, Cooper said, "I can't have any more bounce. I'm feeling as good as I've felt in 10 or 15 years. I wanted to come in at 185, my playing weight, and I came in at 184."

"I wake up every day with a smile on my face. Life's too short to be unhappy."

But will being No. 1 change things dramatically for the Buckeyes?

"You can't have any more pressure than we've had," Cooper said. "At Ohio State, everybody expects you to win every game you play, so nothing has changed."

While some have already pointed to the team's high ranking and the season-ending showdown with Michigan Nov. 21, Cooper and his staff are working hard to keep the team focused on the task at hand — beginning with West Virginia.

"You're fooling yourself if you think (the players are) not looking at that (Michigan and the rankings)," Cooper said. "But we'll talk to them about it. You better get ready for West Virginia. Give me great effort in practice. Give us the great work ethic we're used to having."

"We need to keep our eye on the bull's-eye, probably more than in the past. Concentrate on West Virginia, then Toledo and Missouri, and then the conference will take care of itself."

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THE VIEW FROM 15TH AND HIGH

Time To See If Season Lives Up To Its Billing

It seems like the entire John Cooper tenure at Ohio State has been building up to this 1998 season. Throughout Cooper's stay in Columbus, there have been hints of that magical season which all football fans live for. Unfortunately, that type of season has eluded the Buckeyes for 30 years.

Now it seems that the players are in place, the coaching staff is in place, the schedule is favorable, and — maybe — even the stars are properly aligned for a run at the national championship. Virtually every pollster in the country seems to agree, as the Buckeyes are a solid preseason No. 1.

I'm not going to get too hyped up about this lofty preseason ranking. This time of year the Buckeyes always look strong to me. And when you consider how many times in the '90s the Bucks have been knocking on the national championship door well into November and fallen short, I'm not going to buy my tickets, to Tempe just yet. There's a lot of football to be played between now and Jan. 4.

Still, on paper at least, you have to think the Buckeyes have as good a chance as anyone to finish the season No. 1.

Fred Pagac has turned the Ohio State defense from a tentative group and a team weakness to an attacking strength. And with nine starters back from last year's unit that was seventh in the country in total defense, there is no reason — barring academic casualties or injuries — to think the Buckeyes won't again be among the nation's best.

The starters in the secondary, led by Antoine Winfield, are outstanding, and the depth should be stronger this year as the backups all have an added year of experience and a newcomer such as Nate Clements might also lend an immediate hand.

At linebacker, Andy Katzenmoyer won the Butkus Award last year while only a sophomore, which pretty much speaks for itself. Jerry Rudzinski is steady on one side and the addition of the speed and athleticism of Nail Diggs on the other should keep this a unit in the tradition of Ohio State linebackers of years past. Only a lack of experience among the reserves is a potential problem here.

The line was the weakest link of the defense last year and probably remains the unit's biggest question mark. Fortunately for Pagac, he has a wealth of young, talented athletes to shuttle in and out this year so at the least the line will be fresher this season.

Converted linebacker and junior college transfer James Cotton seems to be a wild card here. If he and the other young linemen can put more pressure on opposing quarterbacks this season, it will be very tough to score on the Buckeyes.

On offense, you have to be excited about the OSU passing game. Joe Germaine finally gets the quarterback job to himself and he has an unlimited selection of receivers to throw to. Germaine has already proven that he can be virtually unstoppable through the air with his touch, ability to see all receivers, and willingness to stay in the pocket, even under intense pressure. His trademark cool demeanor is bound to come in handy in some tight spot down the road.

David Boston's and Dee Miller's numbers are concrete proof they are among the nation's elite. They are a handful for any secondary. But if Germaine and the Buckeyes want to really stretch out a

THE VIEW FROM 15TH AND HIGH
Frank Moskowitz, Publisher

defense, they can add the likes of potential stars Reggie Germany or Ken-Yon Rambo or a host of other fine receivers to the line-up along with Boston and Miller to truly create a nightmare for opposing secondaries.

The Buckeyes can also give more freedom to Miller and Boston by making better use of John Lumpkin as a receiver this season. The huge tight end looks like NFL material and should be another asset for Ohio State.

Even with all that aerial firepower, a Buckeye team is never going to go too far without a strong running attack. The three players primed to get the most carries have — combined — gained over 500 yards less in their careers than Eddie George did alone in his Heisman Trophy season. Yet it would seem that among Michael Wiley, Joe Montgomery and Derek Combs, there is more than enough talent to provide ground balance to the vaunted Buckeye air attack if they get any kind of blocking from the offensive line.

And there lies the potential Achilles' heel of the 1998 Ohio State football team.

The good news is that all five projected starters were starters for part or all of last season. That's also the bad news, as the offensive line was the team's weakest link in 1997.

While Rob and Kurt Murphy, Ben Gilbert, Tyson Walter and Brooks Burris all should be improved with another year under their belts, they still have to prove that they are a national championship-caliber unit. They — along with the graduated Eric Gohlstein — certainly didn't look to be of that caliber against perennial contender Florida State in the Sugar Bowl.

And take a look at the depth chart. Unless a couple of up-and-comers get healthy, there's not a lot for the Buckeyes in reserve.

I really believe the offensive line to be the key to the season for Ohio State. I don't care how good Germaine and his receivers are. You can't pass if you're on your back. And, as mentioned, the running backs will need a solid performance from the line if they are to be effective.

If the offensive line plays up to the level of some of the great OSU lines of the past, well, maybe the Buckeyes will end up No. 1 in the only poll that really counts, the one after the Fiesta Bowl.

On The Spot

The guys on the offensive line aren't the only Buckeyes on the spot. Here are some others I see as needing to prove something this year if the Buckeyes are to go all the way:

• **Germaine** — Many have clamored for Germaine to be the full-time starter for the past two seasons. It's his show now. Will he be as effective now that defenses can prepare just for him? He has yet to beat Michigan, and despite all his yardage against Penn State last season, the Buckeyes lost.

• **Katzenmoyer and Winfield** — Buckeye fans will tell you that they are the best at their positions in the country. But the two need to step up and make the big plays in big games that can put those contests in the win column for the Buckeyes,

the type of big plays that helped earn Michigan's Charles Woodson the Heisman Trophy. Solid play is great, but plays like the hit Katzenmoyer put on Missouri's Corby Jones last year to turn that game win championships.

• **Mike Jacobs** — Now in his second season as offensive coordinator, Jacobs has to prove that the Buckeyes didn't lose a beat when Walt Harris, still thought by many to be OSU's offensive guru during his stay in Columbus, left for Pitt. The weapons are there. Will Jacobs leave his mark on OSU offensive football?

And, of course:

• **John Cooper** — Cooper's defenders are quick to point out that Tom Osborne at Nebraska and Bobby Bowden at Florida State were often the bridesmaids, yet they are still considered among the coaching elite. However, there is one difference between Cooper and Osborne and Bowden. The latter two both eventually won national championships.

Is this the year Cooper joins them in winning it all, finally proving his detractors wrong?

Follow The Bucks On The Road

As many of you know, the Buckeye

Boosters trip to Illinois has been canceled. However, Prime Tours and San-Dar Tours are both offering unique trips to the game on Oct. 10. The San-Dar trip includes a side trip to the Indy 500 Hall of Fame, while the Prime trip features Prime's patented "guaranteed OSU victory."

For details on the Prime Tours trip to Illinois or trips to Northwestern or Indiana, call Uniglobe Travel Resources at (614) 459-5455. San-Dar Tours can be reached at (800) 743-8345.

If you live in the Champaign, Ill., area or want to drive over for the Illinois game, Ohio State's alumni association will be having a brunch four hours before kickoff and game tickets are included in the cost of the brunch. The event will be held at the Clarion Hotel, formerly the Chancellor Inn, at 1501 Neil St. and costs \$50 with game ticket or \$25 without. For more information, call Doak Ewing at (630) 527-8890.

Alumni brunches for the West Virginia and Northwestern games are sold out, but tickets still remain for the Indiana and Iowa alumni events. These brunches include tickets to the game also. For more information, call the alumni association at (614) 292-2500.

There is also still space available for Buckeye Boosters' one-day charter air trip to Iowa on Nov. 14. This is a great way to see a big game on the road but not spoil your entire weekend. For more information, see the Boosters ad on page 34 or call Carole Miller at (614) 895-5525.

BUCKEYE SCOREBOARD

FOOTBALL

The football schedule appears on page 4 with Ohio State Insider.

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Sept. 1 INDIANA STATE, 7 p.m.; 4 at Hawaii Tournament vs. Florida; 5 at Hawaii; 6 at Hawaii Tournament vs. UCLA; 11 BUCKEYE INVITATIONAL vs. XAVIER, 7 p.m.; 12 BUCKEYE INVITATIONAL vs. OREGON STATE or NEBRASKA, 5 or 7 p.m.; 15 MARSHALL, 7 p.m.; 16 PITTSBURGH, 7 p.m.; 20 CLEVELAND STATE, 2 p.m.; 23 at Penn State; 26 at Minnesota.

Oct. 2 at Purdue; 3 at Illinois; 9 WISCONSIN, 7 p.m.; 10 IOWA, 7 p.m.; 16 MICHIGAN STATE, 7 p.m.; 17 MICHIGAN, 7 p.m.; 23 at Northwestern; 24 at Indiana; 30 ILLINOIS, 7 p.m.; 31 PURDUE, 7 p.m.

Nov. 6 at Iowa; 7 at Wisconsin; 11 PENN STATE, 7 p.m.; 13 MINNESOTA, 7 p.m.; 20 at Michigan; 21 at Michigan State; 27 INDIANA, 7 p.m.; 28 NORTHWESTERN, 7 p.m.

FIELD HOCKEY

Sept. 2 LOUISVILLE, 5 at Virginia; 7 at St. Louis; 19 at St. Joseph's; 20 at Temple; 25 NORTHWESTERN; 27 IOWA; 30 CENTRAL MICHIGAN.

Oct. 4 PENN STATE; 9 at Michigan; 11 at Michigan State; 14 MIAMI (OHIO); 16 at Northwestern; 18 at Iowa; 23 MICHIGAN STATE; 25 MICHIGAN; 28 at Kent.

Nov. 1 at Penn State; 6-8 Big Ten Tournament at Michigan State.

MEN'S SOCCER

Sept. 1 DAYTON; 4 EVANSVILLE; 6 FURMAN; 11 at Butler; 13 BOWLING GREEN; 18 at Eastern Illinois; 20 at Northwestern; 25 at Creighton vs. Drake; 27 at Creighton; 30 at Wright State.

Oct. 4 WISCONSIN; 7 XAVIER; 11 MICHIGAN STATE; 18 at Penn State; 25 INDIANA; 28 CLEVELAND STATE.

Nov. 1 CINCINNATI; 7 at Virginia; 13-15 Big Ten Tournament at Northwestern.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Sept. 1 at Evansville; 6 at Louisville; 9 at Dayton; 11 PURDUE; 15 XAVIER; 18 ILLINOIS; 20 at Indiana; 25 MICHIGAN STATE; 27 MICHIGAN.

Oct. 2 at Penn State; 7 WEST VIRGINIA; 9 at Iowa; 11 at Minnesota; 16 WISCONSIN; 18 NORTHWESTERN; 23 WISCONSIN-GREEN BAY; 25 DETROIT; 27 at Wright State; 31 ARKANSAS.

Nov. 6-8 Big Ten Tournament at Penn State.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

See Court Report on page 64.

ICE HOCKEY

Note: Home games after Dec. 5 played in Jerome

Schottenstein Center.

Oct. 2 WILFRID LAURIER, 7 p.m.; 9 at Ice Breaker Invitational vs. Boston College at Minneapolis, 4 p.m.; 10 at Ice Breaker Invitational vs. St. Lawrence or Minnesota at Minneapolis 5 or 8 p.m.; 16 at Lake Superior, 7 p.m.; 17 at Ferris State, 7 p.m.; 23 at Notre Dame, 7 p.m.; 24 at Michigan State, 7 p.m.; 31 at Niagara, 5 p.m.

Nov. 6 at Michigan State, 7 p.m.; 7 at Western Michigan, 7 p.m.; 13 MICHIGAN STATE, 7 p.m.; 14 NORTHERN MICHIGAN, 7 p.m.; 20 MIAMI (OHIO), 7 p.m.; 21 at Miami (Ohio), 7 p.m.; 27-28 at Alaska-Fairbanks, 7 p.m.

Dec. 4-5 NOTRE DAME, 7 p.m.; 27 at Mariucci Classic vs. Boston University at Minneapolis, 4 p.m.; 28 at Mariucci Classic vs. Princeton or Minnesota at Minneapolis, 4 or 7 p.m.

Jan. 2 MICHIGAN, 7 p.m.; 7 LAKE SUPERIOR, 7 p.m.; 9 LAKE SUPERIOR, noon; 12 at Miami (Ohio), 7 p.m.; 15 at Cornell, 7 p.m.; 17 at Colgate, noon; 21 FERRIS STATE, 7 p.m.; 23 MICHIGAN, 8 or 9 p.m.; 29-30 WESTERN MICHIGAN, 7 p.m.

Feb. 5 at Bowling Green, 7 p.m.; 6 at Michigan, 7 p.m.; 12-13 at Northern Michigan, 7 p.m.; 19 FERRIS STATE, 7 p.m.; 20 ALASKA-FAIRBANKS, noon.

March 2 BOWLING GREEN, 7 p.m.; 6 at Bowling Green, 7 p.m.; 12-14 CCHA Quarterfinals at campus sites; 19 CCHA Semifinals at Detroit; 20 CCHA Finals at Detroit; 26-27 NCAA East Regional at Worcester, Mass.; 27-28 NCAA West Regional at Madison, Wis.

April 1 NCAA Semifinals at Anaheim, Calif.; 3 NCAA Finals at Anaheim, Calif.

1999 OSU FOOTBALL

Sept. 11 UCLA; 18 OHIO U.; 25 CINCINNATI.

Oct. 2 WISCONSIN; 9 PURDUE; 16 at Penn State; 23 at Minnesota; 30 IOWA.

Nov. 6 at Michigan State; 13 ILLINOIS; 20 at Michigan.

2000 OSU FOOTBALL

Sept. 2 FRESNO STATE; 9 at Arizona; 16 MIAMI (OHIO); 23 PENN STATE.

Oct. 7 at Wisconsin; 14 MINNESOTA; 21 at Iowa; 28 at Purdue.

Nov. 4 MICHIGAN STATE; 11 at Illinois; 18 MICHIGAN.

2001 OSU FOOTBALL

(Non-Conference Only)

Sept. 8 AKRON; 15 TBA; 22 at UCLA.

2002 OSU FOOTBALL

(Non-Conference Only)

Sept. 7 KENT STATE; 14 TBA; 21 at Cincinnati (at Paul Brown Field).