

BUCKEYE SPORTS BULLETIN

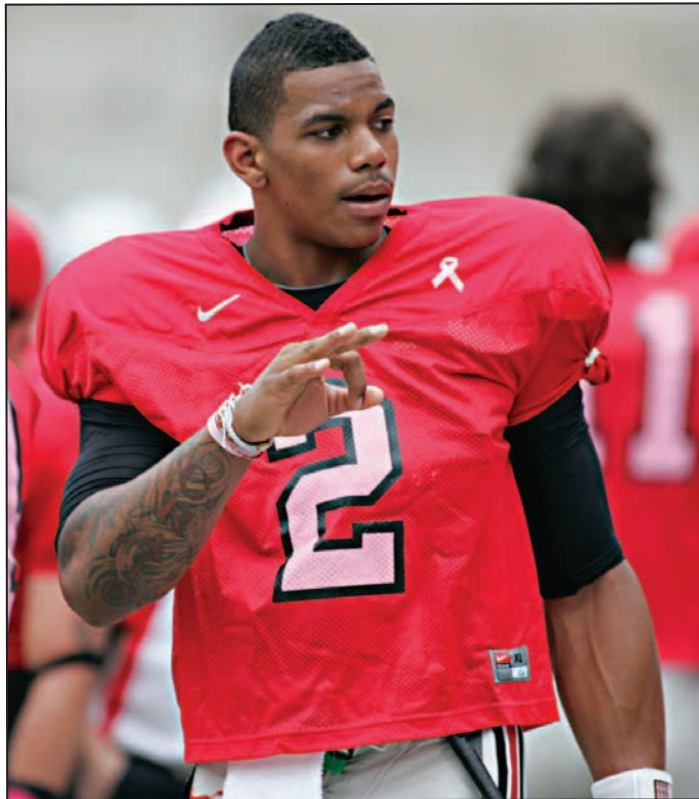
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Vol. 29, No. 25

"For The Buckeye Fan Who Needs To Know More"

May 1, 2010



JOSH WINSLOW

IN THE SPOTLIGHT AGAIN – Junior quarterback Terrelle Pryor (2) played only one quarter April 24 in Ohio State's annual spring game, but he showed an increasingly improved skill set that will help the Buckeyes contend for Big Ten and national championships this fall.

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In This Issue Of BSB

- A recap of Ohio State's annual spring game, won by the Gray on a 45-yard touchdown pass in the final minute of play (Pages 8-9)
- A feature on the spring game draft, which featured some surprising selections at different positions (Page 10)
- Reports from the final days of spring drills (Pages 12-15)
- Football recruiting news including which prospects became the latest verbal commitments for the 2011 class (Pages 16-18)
- A recap of the annual Ohio North-South All-Star Game (Page 19)
- A rundown on which Buckeyes went where in the NFL draft (Pages 20-21)
- An interview with new men's ice hockey coach Mark Osiecki (Page 22)
- News from the OSU men's basketball program (Pages 24-25)
- A recap of Ohio State's recent baseball action, which had the team atop the Big Ten standings (Pages 26-28)
- Plus reports on other sports as well as all of BSB's regular columns and features



Mark Osiecki

Pryor Wants To Show More

Junior QB Hopes To Build On Rose Bowl Performance

By ADAM JARDY

Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

Displaying a whole new level of candor, Terrelle Pryor introduced a cluster of reporters to his "girlfriend" during an April 16 interview session.

Standing on the indoor turf field at the Woody Hayes Athletic Center, the Ohio State quarterback was reflecting on how far he has come since arriving on campus during the summer of 2008 as arguably the most-hyped recruit in recent program history. In discussing his work to become a more accurate passer, he pointed across the field to a net with three pockets leaning against the wall.

"That thing over there," Pryor said as he gestured over his left shoulder. "That's my girlfriend."

No wonder Pryor's teammates and coaches spent the spring crediting the work ethic of the junior. With Pryor preparing for his third season of leading the OSU offensive attack, this spring was the beginning of a now-or-never season for the former top recruit in the nation.

The story is well known by even casual Buckeye fans to this point. After selecting Ohio State following a stellar prep career at Jeannette, Pa., Pryor seized the starting spot three games into his freshman season and helped lead the Buckeyes to a share of the Big Ten title.

His sophomore season began with talk of a Heisman Trophy in his immediate future, but instead the year became a dissection of his mechanics while Pryor went through his share of growing pains. The tipping point was an ugly 26-18 loss to Purdue in week seven that saw the QB toss a pair of interceptions and fumble the ball away two other times.

From there, head coach Jim Tressel buttoned down the offense and the Buckeyes reeled off five straight wins to close the regular season on the strength of their rushing attack and little else. Pryor attempted 17 passes in each of the final three games while OSU defeated Penn State, Iowa and Michigan to secure an outright Big Ten title.

Then came the Rose Bowl, and Pryor threw for a career-high 266 yards in the 26-17 victory against Oregon.

"We've still got to go back out this year

and prove we can do it again – that (the Rose Bowl) wasn't a one-hit wonder," quarterbacks coach Nick Siciliano said.

So how is Pryor planning to prove he is more The Beatles than The Knack? By outworking his opponents and continuing to focus on those darned fundamentals.

Back To Basics

The 65,223 fans who braved the threat of rain April 24 to attend OSU's annual spring game saw Pryor in action for only one quarter but were treated to a glimpse of what could be this fall.

After being the first player selected in the spring-game draft, Pryor began the game under center for Scarlet. Although he did not wear a black jersey signaling that he was off limits for defenders, Tressel later said Pryor was not permitted to scramble.

Pryor completed just 1 of 3 passes on his first drive and the Scarlet team was forced to punt. The Gray team then marched down the field and scored, leaving Pryor and his Scarlet teammates to answer.

It took four plays for Pryor to lead his team on a 78-yard scoring drive that tied the game. His final pass was a 12-yard touchdown to wide receiver Dane Sanzenbacher, completing a perfect 4-for-4 performance on the drive.

Pryor would get just one more drive before donning a hat on the sidelines and watching the final three quarters. After the game, Sanzenbacher – who was the spokesperson for the Scarlet team during the draft and selected Pryor – said he knew the team would have to strike quickly.

"I don't think anybody is surprised that he was able to (drive down the field)," he said. "He knew he wasn't going to play that much today and a lot of the starters weren't, so with the few reps we had we were going to have to get drives like that."

Asked why he took Pryor first overall despite knowing he wouldn't be available for much of the game, Sanzenbacher laughed and said, "For drives like that. We wanted to get the quality in when we could."

For the afternoon, Pryor completed 8 of 12 passes for 108 yards. Although he has occasionally worn a protective brace on

Continued On Page 6

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No. 3	Sept. 26	No. 17	Feb. 6
No. 4	Oct. 3	No. 18	Feb. 13
No. 5	Oct. 10	No. 19	Feb. 20
No. 6	Oct. 17	No. 20	Feb. 27
No. 7	Oct. 24	No. 21	March 6
No. 8	Oct. 31	No. 22	March 20
No. 9	Nov. 7	No. 23	April 3
No. 10	Nov. 14	No. 24	April 17
No. 11	Nov. 21	No. 25	May 1
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OPINION

It's Time For Spring Answer Man To Return

For the second year in a row, Ohio State head coach Jim Tressel welcomed members of the media to the Woody Hayes Athletic Center so they could witness his Buckeyes as they went through spring practice drills.

Practice sessions during this time of the year are usually spent as teachable moments for youngsters while veterans work their way through fundamental drills. Anyone expecting to see Tressel's team working on secret formations or looking for radical changes in offensive or defensive philosophies was no doubt disappointed.

Still, there was a lot to see this year and the Spring Answer Man makes his 16th annual visit armed with information about the key questions you want answered.

Q. Some experts have tabbed Terrelle Pryor as a preseason Heisman Trophy candidate. Has he elevated his game to the next level or is Heisman talk premature at this point?

A. Pryor is one of the up-and-coming stars of college football and we saw nothing this spring that would lead us to change our minds. He appears to have improved his accuracy, especially on medium-range throws, and didn't show any ill effects from February knee surgery.

During his first two years as the starting quarterback at Ohio State, Pryor sometimes seemed reluctant to take on a leadership role but that reticence appears to have disappeared. There is little doubt the 6-6, 233-pound junior has gotten comfortable with his status as the team's No. 1 player.

Perhaps best of all, Pryor seems no longer conflicted about when to run and when to throw. As a result, he is more than capable of putting up Heisman-worthy numbers.

Q. What are the other options at quarterback?

A. His Scarlet and Gray Game performance notwithstanding, Joe Bauserman had a much more productive spring than he did last year. He has always struggled a bit with his windup – something left over from his days as a baseball pitcher – but he is a veteran presence, has a quick trigger and also scrambles well.

Each year, someone emerges with a big spring game and this time it was Kenny Guiton. He showcased a nice, live arm during most of the practice sessions we saw and is beginning to make better and better decisions.

Guiton probably has more upside at this point than Bauserman, but make no mistake – Pryor is the man and if he gets hurt, Ohio State is in trouble.

Q. Have the Buckeyes found an every-down back or will they go with a tailback-by-committee approach in the fall?

A. Injuries conspired to mute some of the tailback competition this spring, but we feel fairly certain Tressel will open the 2010 season the same way he finished 2009 – with Dan “Boom” Herron and Brandon Saine bracketed as the starters.

Herron looked to be much the same runner who accounted for 600 yards and seven touchdowns last year, and although Saine missed some practice time with a hamstring problem, he returned for a couple of decent carries in the spring game.

Unfortunately, wild card Jaamal Berry remains just that. After an injury-plagued 2009, he seemed on the verge of breaking out until he rolled an ankle in the April 17 jersey scrimmage and was sidelined for the spring game. Where does Berry fit into the tailback mix along with Herron, Saine, Jordan Hall, Carlos Hyde and Jermil Martin? Stay tuned.

Q. Who won the battle between Mike

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

with
Mark Rea

Adams and Andrew Miller to start at left tackle?

A. The proverbial light seems to have finally come on for Adams. Still imposing at 6-8 and 300 pounds, the junior looked to have overhauled his body and his mind and apparently won the right to head into fall camp as the favorite to start at left tackle.

Left tackle was the final piece the Buckeyes had been seeking to cement an offensive line that could be the team's best in years. Left guard Justin Boren is one of the top five performers at his position in college football, center Michael Brewster and right guard Bryant Browning keep getting better and better, and J.B. Shugarts seems much more relaxed at right tackle.

Best of all, Ohio State can also feature some line depth for a change. Miller has starting experience, fifth-year seniors Scott Sika and Josh Kerr are valuable veterans, sophomore Marcus Hall is a star in the making and redshirt freshmen such as Jack Mewhort and Corey Linsley have bright futures.

Q. Who emerged at the receiver position this spring? Did the Buckeyes find a suitable No. 3 option behind DeVier Posey and Dane Sanzenbacher?

A. Uneven could be the best word to describe the spring performances of most of the receiving corps. There were a host of receivers who had excellent practices one afternoon followed by a mistake-riddled session the next.

Senior Taurian Washington has returned after a depth-chart tumble and had another excellent spring game. If the 6-1, 181-pound senior can regain his confidence, there is no doubt he has the ability to make an impact in the OSU passing game. So could such youngsters as Chris Fields and James Jackson.

Unfortunately, things weren't helped much by the absence all spring of sophomore Duron Carter, who everyone believes is a future star. The 6-2, 198-pounder caught 13 balls for 176 yards and a touchdown during his freshman season, but he can't seem to steer clear of academic problems. As a result, Carter has a lot of catching up to do this fall – presuming he regains his eligibility.

Q. Team observers seem mixed on this year's defensive line. The unit lost so much senior leadership as well as Thaddeus Gibson but returns a lot of talented youngsters. What is your view of OSU's defensive line heading into 2010?

A. Losing the services of such veteran performers as Doug Worthington, Todd Denlinger and Gibson would be a problem if the Buckeyes didn't have so many ready-made replacements. In fact, OSU defensive coordinator Jim Heacock probably should be embarrassed about his wealth of D-line talent.

Cameron Heyward is already one of the top defensive linemen in college football, and he will anchor a line that features Nathan Williams in Gibson's vacated spot with veteran Dexter Larimore and sophomore John Simon clogging things up in the middle.

As for the backups, there is seemingly an endless supply of young talent, including ends Solomon Thomas and Melvin Fellows as well as tackles Garrett Goebel and Adam Bellamy, who registered 1½ sacks in the spring game.

Q. Who will start at the safety positions?

A. It appears Jermale Hines and Orhian Johnson will enter fall camp as the odds-on favorites to take the spots vacated by Kurt Coleman and Anderson Russell. As always, though, it will depend upon the alignment the Buckeyes are featuring at the time.

Hines is technically a returning starter after 11 games last season at either free safety or the star position. Meanwhile, Johnson built upon his good performance last season backing up Coleman and followed through with a solid spring.

Q. What about Tyler Moeller at the star position? Is he being counted on to contribute this fall?

A. The OSU coaching staff hopes Moeller will not only contribute this fall but return as a major factor on defense. Expect for everyone to continue to err on the side of caution, however, as the 6-0, 210-pound senior returns from a serious head injury suffered last summer.

Fewer things would be more pleasing than to watch a fully healthy Moeller come out of the tunnel Sept. 2 ready to do battle against Marshall. But rest assured the team's medical staff will make absolutely certain he is at zero percent risk of reinjury before clearing him to play.

Q. What about special teams? Who will be the punter? Who will be the kicker? Who is going to return kicks?

A. Tressel has done little to hide his displeasure with last year's special teams play, and the Buckeyes spent a lot of time this spring on fundamentals.

The cold, hard truth was that the kicking specialists struggled at times although it seems Ben Buchanan has won the punting job and Devin Barclay will handle short field goals and PATs. True freshman Drew Basil should be the guy on kickoffs and perhaps on longer three-pointers as well.

In the return game, Herron and Saine seem the logical choices to return kickoffs, but will Tressel want to risk his top two tailbacks with that kind of perilous duty? Torrence, Fields and Jordan Hall may also get opportunities on kickoffs. On punt returns, Posey will likely get first crack at replacing Ray Small, who was one of the best in the Big Ten in that department the past two years.

Q. If you have to pick just one player who had a breakout spring, who would it be and why?

A. This question is never easy but you can point to several players this year and make a case for breakout performances. Adams solidified himself at left tackle, Washington had another outstanding spring-game performance, Johnson seemed to secure a starting safety spot and Guiton won himself some fans by directing the Gray's winning touchdown drive. We also heard good things about such veterans as Jake Stoneburner, Donnie Evege and Zach Domicone as well as up-and-comers like Fields, Dorian Bell and Jonathan Newsome.

But if we had to pick only one breakout player for the spring, it would be Simon. The 6-2, 270-pound sophomore is the quintessential defensive tackle whose perpetual motor is always running.

Simon is a relentless gap-plugger and sure-handed tackler who can seemingly disrupt the running game and rush the passer with equal ability. Heyward and Williams will likely get most of the defensive line headlines this fall, but keep your eyes on Simon. His presence inside may help his better-known teammates do what they do best – and that's bad news for opposing quarterbacks.

COVER STORY: PRYOR WANTS TO SHOW MORE

Knee Surgery Has Not Slowed Pryor Down

Continued From Page 1

his left knee after undergoing offseason surgery to repair a torn posterior cruciate ligament, the injury is fully healed.

"I'm just being cautious," Pryor said. "I want to keep it on to make sure it's even more stabilized. It's 100 percent by far and feels great. I'm faster than I think I've ever been."

Getting to this point in Pryor's evolution as a college quarterback has involved countless hours of quality time with his so-called girlfriend as well as time on the field with director of football performance Eric Lichter, time in the weight room and extra time in the film room.

"Terrelle works extremely hard at his craft," Siciliano said. "We're very happy that he works as hard as he does. We would hope that everybody else that's involved with our program would work as hard as him and we'll be a lot better."

One area Pryor said he has improved is his footwork. It could be argued that no part of his game has been more heavily scrutinized than what Pryor does with his feet before he delivers the ball, and the quarterback said he is starting to feel a change in his abilities.

"After working with Coach (Siciliano) so much it just feels like I finally understand why he wants me to do this stuff, why he wants me to keep my chin down and open my hip when I'm dropping (back)," Pryor said. "You can see the whole field (when you do that)."

In addition, Siciliano has worked with Pryor to improve his delivery by making a slight alteration in his throwing motion. Now when the quarterback lets go of the ball, his hand is closer to his ear than his shoulder.

Although the OSU assistant coach said the decision to tinker with Pryor's throwing motion was made both to help with his

footwork and also to decrease wear and tear on his arm, it was Pryor who has made the change and made it a success so far.

"He's the one who did all the work," Siciliano said. "I'd be lying to you if I said we had enough time in a practice session and a 20-hour work week to be able to fix all the problems that a person might have. Not that he has a bunch, but he took his time in January and February and early March and did that on his own."

Mechanics are one thing, but Pryor has been working on the mental side of the game as well. An elite runner who has been timed as fast as 4.33 seconds in the 40-yard dash during his time at OSU, he was the first player in Pennsylvania history to both rush and pass for more than 4,000 yards in his prep career.

His abilities to scramble and to turn broken plays into positive ones make him a dangerous threat, but Pryor selected OSU in part because he felt Tressel's offense would help make him a more NFL-ready quarterback. As a result, he said he realizes there have been times where he has focused too much on being a passer rather than making the play at hand.

"Last year I was just trying to please people," he said. "People were saying I couldn't play quarterback but that's not the case. I think I was trying to prove too many people wrong by standing in the pocket and doing what I don't do."

"Now I feel like I can stand in the pocket without looking at the defensive line. I can move without even looking and I can still keep my eyes downfield and find (a receiver). I feel so much more comfortable with that."

Footwork and throwing angles aside, the primary observation from those who took in spring practice this year was that Pryor simply looks like an improved quarterback compared to a year ago – his command in the huddle looks stronger, his grasp of the offense tighter and his demeanor looser.

Those are all attributes his teammates are learning to expect from him. As spring football got under way, Tressel said the program's expectations for Pryor would grow as he begins his junior season.

"To have the number of games under his belt at this point in his career is pretty good," the OSU head coach said. "Now he's a junior, and the expectations here rise a little bit within these walls with the people who are doing this every day. People outside have had expectations from day one, but our expectations certainly are rising."

That viewpoint was echoed by wide receivers coach Darrell Hazell.

"I think we have a blueprint of things that we want him to accomplish," he said. "If he stays within the blueprint, he'll be fine. We don't worry about what the expectations on the outside are. We've got to do what we think is right for him."

Grouped in along with those greater expectations are the hopes that the offense might pack some extra punch this fall. Safety Jermaine Hines said he has seen the offense do some unusual things this spring that have left the defense guessing.

That has included using the tight end more often in the passing attack and also looking to check down to running backs if the primary receivers are covered. As Pryor has grown more experienced in the pocket, he has become more adept at reading his progressions.

"Check-downs add a whole other dimension because we have great running backs," Pryor said. "You get them the ball and they can do something and make a difference underneath. Now it sets the linebackers up and you have a whole other game plan."

Hazell admitted the offensive playbook will be a bit bigger because "(Pryor) is better, which is where you have to start. I think also the offensive line is better and the receivers are a year older and the backs have been there for a while."

"But (Pryor) is so much more relaxed in the pocket right now where he's able to see the full field instead of half the field or even one receiver. He sees the full field right now and is able to find his second and third receivers. It's experience and it's also learning the game a little bit more."

Pryor added that the game is finally starting to slow down for him.

"When they say the game has slowed

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COVER STORY: PRYOR WANTS TO SHOW MORE

down, their understanding has sped up," tight ends coach John Peterson said. "That's the goal for any player, whether you're an offensive lineman or a tight end or receiver. You want them to be able to anticipate and think and be able to anticipate what's going on."

That anticipation has allowed Pryor to incorporate some new tactics into his arsenal this spring.

"You can know where you're going before the snap and then you get in the habit of using the snap count to your advantage and bring the defensive line off," he said. "There are a lot of things that are so much clearer to me."

His teammates have picked up on that as well.

"I think his decision-making has really improved," Sanzenbacher said. "He's made steps in the right direction in passing, too, but the thing I've seen most is that he's not making those mistakes that he might have made when he was younger."

Tressel likened Pryor's progression to a lightbulb.

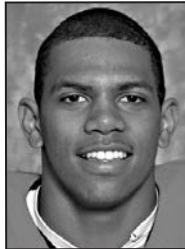
"Is the light getting brighter? Yes," the coach said. "You can see that. Did it take an extra step of brightness through the bowl preparation and bowl performance? I think so, but it's got to keep getting brighter."

Coming Off A Rough Start

Pryor may have a new sense of confidence, but it was shaken at least a bit when he first arrived in Columbus for workouts in the summer of 2008. Senior cornerback Malcolm Jenkins wasted no time letting the young

quarterback know where he stood, verbally taunting him during a 7-on-7 session.

"Terrelle walked off the field whining," Hines said. "Guys were mouthing at each other back and forth and Terrelle basically walked off the field in anger. Guys were challenging him because guys knew he was going to be playing around here pretty soon and he was going to be a leader, so you've got to make him show some toughness right off the bat."



Terrelle Pryor

Jenkins was far from the only talented player lining up against Pryor. That back seven contained the likes of James Laurinaitis, Marcus Freeman and Kurt Coleman, to name a few. It was a lineup that certainly caught Pryor's attention.

"I realized, 'Man, this is a whole other dimension,'" he said. "No one ever talked to me like that. (Jenkins) was talking trash to me and it was a new thing. I was a little nervous coming in and throwing against Malcolm and guys like that. Those guys are all-stars and doing great in the NFL now."

Several weeks later when he took the starting job from senior captain Todd Boeckman, Pryor found himself in a delicate situation where he was given the task of leading a senior-laden team as a freshman.

"I think his first year was a no-win situation," said Siciliano, who was an offensive quality control coach that season. "You replace a senior, he's a captain, you're a freshman, and you've got all these other guys that are older guys you're playing with and you've got to play up to the same level. You're more worried about

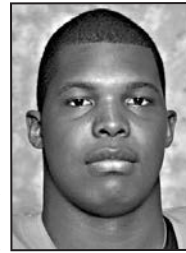
doing what you have to do to help them win rather than leading a team.

"But I think as he grows he gets better every day at (being a leader)."

Right guard Bryant Browning has been in the starting lineup for each of Pryor's starts, and now entering his senior season, the offensive lineman said he has seen growth from Pryor while in the huddle.

"He's out there having fun and keeping things light, but at the same time he's working hard to get the offense going so we can get first downs and touchdowns," Browning said after the spring game. "I feel he did a great job of being an overall leader."

"When you really don't know what's going on, you look to the sidelines to try to find the call and just get the play in correctly to get that started. Once you get things like that down, you can say things and tell us what to watch for."



Bryant Browning

In other words, it appears Pryor is growing into the quarterback he was projected to be when he signed with the Buckeyes. Expectations are high for the Buckeyes this fall and Pryor is again being mentioned as a Heisman candidate as well as a potential first-round NFL draft pick next season should he decide to leave school after his junior year.

Pryor said he is prepared for the next chapter – or at least more prepared than he was just a few years ago.

"(Expectations) jump from freshman year to sophomore year and now it's going to be even higher," he said. "I'm OK with being on magazine covers and stuff like that. It's stuff we have to handle. You also have to let your team know you're all for them because without them I'm nothing, period. I'm a team player."

"I'm very excited (for this season), and if I was a Buckeye fan I would be, too."

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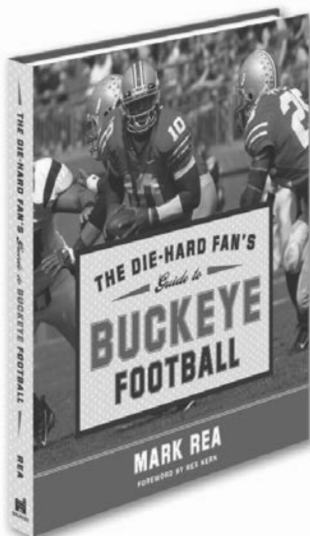
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OHIO STATE FOOTBALL

Gray Outlasts Scarlet In Hectic Fourth Quarter

By MARK REA

Buckeye Sports Bulletin Managing Editor

Redshirt freshman quarterback Kenny Guiton hooked up twice with senior receiver Taurian Washington for touchdown passes, including a 45-yarder with 55 seconds remaining in the fourth quarter, as the Gray pulled out a 17-14 victory April 24 over the Scarlet in Ohio State's annual spring game.

The last-minute play capped off a wild fourth quarter that featured three lead changes. The Gray took advantage of a 47-yard field goal from freshman Drew Basil to take a 10-7 advantage with 10:31 to go before junior walk-on tailback Bo DeLande scored on a 4-yard touchdown run with 4:48 remaining to give the Scarlet a 14-10 lead.

That set up a game-winning drive for the Gray that began at its own 11-yard line as Guiton directed an 11-play, 89-yard march for the winning score. The 6-2, 190-pound quarterback lofted a pass deep down the sideline that went just over the outstretched hand of a leaping Scarlet defender and into the waiting hands of Washington.

The Scarlet made a last-ditch effort to wrest back the victory, getting an excellent kickoff return from senior Devon Torrence and an ensuing 15-yard personal-foul penalty against the Gray to set up shop at its 47-yard line. But on the next play junior quarterback Joe Bauserman's pass intended for redshirt freshman receiver James Jackson was picked off by Gray defender Taylor Rice with only 38 seconds left.

OSU head coach Jim Tressel gave a truncated version of his usual postgame press conference but seemed to indicate the Buckeyes were able to accomplish most of their spring-time goals.

"I think we came out pretty good health-wise (and) that's always goal No. 1," Tressel said. "I think our guys and our fans and our band and everyone had fun. That's goal two.

"And hopefully we got some experiences by guys getting reps in front of the crowd and that will help us take one more step. We know we've got a lot to do between now and August, and it's up to the players to initiate



JOSH WINSLOW

END-ZONE BOUND – Wide receiver Taurian Washington (5) looks for defenders on his way to the end zone after catching a 45-yard pass from quarterback Kenny Guiton (13). The play produced the game-winning touchdown with 55 seconds left in the 2010 spring game at Ohio Stadium.

that and I know they'll do that. Our staff will do a great job of planning a good preseason in August and be ready to see if we can meet the challenge of 2010."

Tressel added that experience in Ohio Stadium in front of a representative crowd was also valuable for some of his younger players.

"Going into the last week of spring practice, we weren't sure if our depth had progressed as much as we'd like it to," the head coach said. "We worked hard all week leading up to this game to just keep getting better. You need to have a deep team to have a chance at the championship."

Overcast skies and the threat of thunderstorms kept some fans away, preventing a repeat of last year's NCAA-record spring game attendance of 95,722. Still, the announced crowd of 65,223 witnessed an entertaining game – at least in the first and fourth quarters. The two squads combined for 31 points and 511 total yards with all of the points and nearly 70 percent of the yards coming in the opening and final periods.

The Guiton-to-Washington combination worked first on a 28-yard pass at the 6:56 mark of the first quarter to give the Gray an early 7-0 lead. It was the Gray's first possession of the afternoon and covered 65

yards in only five plays as Guiton came out firing.

He nearly had a big gainer on his team's second play from scrimmage, but junior receiver DeVier Posey just missed reeling in a deep pass. The Gray got 15 yards and a first down on the play anyway thanks to a 15-yard interference penalty, and Guiton went back to work, narrowly missing another bomb downfield, this one to senior walk-on receiver Ricky Crawford.

Two running plays netted minus-2 yards before Guiton and Posey hooked up for 14 yards and a first down at the Scarlet 28. Then Guiton led Washington perfectly and the Gray receiver beat Torrence in the end zone for the touchdown.

Basil added the PAT and the Gray had drawn first blood.

The Scarlet answered less than two minutes later when junior quarterback Terrelle Pryor capped a quick-strike possession by connecting with senior receiver Dane Sanzenbacher for a 12-yard touchdown.

Pryor directed the four-play, 78-yard march by completing passes worth 10 yards or more on each play. He opened with a 23-yarder over the middle to sophomore tight end Jake Stoneburner before turning to Sanzenbacher for a 33-yard hookup down the sideline.

Sanzenbacher reeled in a 10-yard gain on the third play and then grabbed an easy 12-yard touchdown as he crossed in the back of the end zone. Senior Devin Barclay came on to add the extra point and tie things at 7 with 5:10 left in the opening period.

That was the way it stayed until the explosive fourth quarter as the closest either team came to scoring in the middle quarters was a 60-yard field-goal attempt by Basil on the final play of the first half, a try that was short and left.

The true freshman kicker redeemed himself early in the fourth quarter, finishing a short drive with the 47-yard field goal to push the Gray back in front at 10-7.

After Basil's field goal broke the tie, Bauserman directed an 11-play, 70-yard drive for the Scarlet that consumed more than 5½ minutes. The biggest plays in the drive were a 15-yard interference call against the Gray and a 12-yard completion from Bauserman to redshirt freshman receiver Chris Fields that gave the Scarlet a first down at the Gray 23.

DeLande took over from there, taking consecutive handoffs and running for 7 and 12 yards. That put the ball at the 4 and DeLande finished things with a touchdown dash around left end. Barclay added the extra point and the Scarlet pushed itself back into a 14-10 lead with 4:48 to play.

The Scarlet had a chance to put things away after the ensuing kickoff when junior walk-on Spencer Smith recovered an onside kick. Bauserman quickly moved his team into scoring position on a 43-yard pass play to Jackson. But on the next play, the junior quarterback was intercepted in the end zone by Gray junior defensive back Nate Oliver with 3:06 remaining to end the scoring threat.

Oliver brought the interception back out to the 11-yard line and that is where Guiton began what turned out to be the winning drive.

The redshirt freshman QB converted a pair of crucial plays during the march – a 15-yard completion to sophomore fullback Zach Boren on fourth-and-2, and a 16-yard connection to junior walk-on receiver Joe Cech that came on a third-and-16 play.

Finally, with the game clock ticking under one minute and his team facing third-and-10, Guiton saw Washington breaking free to his left and lofted the ball down the sideline.

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OHIO STATE FOOTBALL



JOSH WINSLOW

ALMOST THE HERO – Before Taurian Washington's last-minute touchdown reception, running back Bo DeLande (35) was in line to score the game-winning touchdown when he gave Scarlet a 14-10 lead with a 4-yard score with 4:48 remaining.

Scarlet defender Nate Ebner leaped to try to deflect the pass, but the football got just over the sophomore walk-on's reach and Washington gathered it in to complete the 45-yard scoring play.

Basil tacked on the extra point for a 17-14 lead for the Gray with 55 seconds remaining.

The Scarlet had two more scoring attempts in the final seconds. The first ended with Rice's interception of Bauserman and the second fizzled when Barclay's 56-yard field-goal attempt on the game's final play was short and to the left.

Despite being on the wrong end of the scoreboard, the Scarlet managed to outgain the Gray by a 272-239 margin. Much of the combined yardage came through the air with the teams combining for 368 yards passing.

Pryor played only the first quarter and completed 8 of 12 pass attempts for 108 yards and a touchdown. Following the game, Tressel confirmed that his plan was to limit his starting quarterback's snaps as well as what he could do while he was on the field.

"I think he played a good game," the coach said. "You have to play the hand that was dealt you. He knew that he wasn't going to play too much and he knew he couldn't go live on the run part of it (but) he focused on what he could do, which was work on his footwork and his coverage recognition and decision-making. I think he did a pretty fair job."

Bauserman was 6 for 15 for 75 yards and two interceptions in relief of Pryor.

Meanwhile, Guiton completed 11 of 21 attempts for 167 yards and two touchdowns.

His backup, redshirt freshman walk-on Justin Siems, was 4 for 10 for 18 yards and an interception.

Boren was the Gray's leading receiver with four catches for 44 yards while Washington had three receptions for 83 yards and two scores. Cech added three catches for 31 yards.

For the Scarlet squad, Sanzenbacher had four catches for 61 yards and a touchdown while Stoneburner grabbed three balls for 43 yards.

With all of the passing in the game, the running attack was almost an afterthought for both teams. Bauserman led all rushers with 35 yards on five carries for the Scarlet while Dan "Boom" Herron led the Gray with 32 yards on only four totes.

The leading tacklers in the game were a pair of linebackers – junior Etienne Sabino for the Gray with seven and redshirt freshman Dorian Bell for the Scarlet with five. The Scarlet also recorded four sacks in the game, including 1½ by redshirt freshman Adam Bellamy.

Game Notes

- The game was played in a compact format with each quarter consisting of only 11 minutes. Tressel also took license with the end of the game, giving the Gray an extra play after the Scarlet seemingly took over on downs at the Gray 12-yard line with 15 seconds remaining. After Siems threw incomplete on fourth down, Tressel gave the Gray one more play it used to punt the ball away. Therefore, rather than getting a chance to tie or win the game at its opponents' 12-yard line, the Scarlet took over at the 39 and Barclay subsequently missed his 56-yard field-goal attempt.

- The threat of bad weather ended a two-year string of record spring game attendance. Ohio State established a new school record of 76,346 in 2008 before shattering that mark last year with the NCAA spring mark of 95,722.

- Tight ends coach and recruiting coordinator John Peterson gets bragging rights after serving as head coach of the victorious Gray squad. Cornerbacks coach Taver Johnson served as Scarlet head coach.

- Longtime Coldwater, Ohio, head coach John Reed was honorary head coach of the Scarlet team, which contained several of his former players including Ross and Adam Homan. Reed has been battling esophageal cancer and was unable to attend the contest.

- Members of both squads wore special jerseys with pink numbers in recognition of breast cancer awareness. The jerseys are currently being auctioned at the university athletic department's website, OhioStateBuckeyes.com, with all proceeds benefiting the Stefanie Spielman Fund for Breast Cancer Research.

- The football game was preceded for the third straight year by an Ohio State men's lacrosse game. The Buckeyes took a 10-6 decision over Air Force in front of a crowd of 31,078, breaking the school and NCAA regular-season, on-campus marks of 30,192 set last year.

Spring Game Box Score

Gray 17, Scarlet 14

April 24, 2010 — Ohio Stadium, Columbus, Ohio

Score by Quarters	1	2	3	4	F
Gray	7	0	0	10	17
Scarlet	7	0	0	7	14

First Quarter

GRAY — Washington, 28 yard pass from Guiton (Basil kick), 6:56; 5 plays, 65 yards, 2:48 TOP.

SCARLET — Sanzenbacher, 12 yard pass from Pryor (Barclay kick), 5:10; 4 plays, 78 yards, 1:37 TOP.

Fourth Quarter

GRAY — Basil, 47 yard field goal, 10:31; 8 plays, 36 yards, 3:16 TOP.

SCARLET — DeLande, 4 yard run (Barclay kick), 4:48; 11 plays, 70 yards, 5:33 TOP.

GRAY — Washington, 45 yard pass from Guiton, 0:55 (Basil kick), 0:55; 11 plays, 89 yards, 2:11 TOP.

Att. — 65,223.

Weather — 68 degrees, cloudy; wind, S 9 mph.

Team Statistics

	GRAY	SCARLET
First Downs	16	12
Rushing	4	3
Passing	9	8
Penalty	3	1
Rushes-Yards	20-54	18-89
Passing Yards	185	183
Passes (Att.-Comp.-Int.)	31-15-1	27-14-2
Offensive Plays	51	45
Total Net Yards	239	272
Third Down Efficiency	3-11	2-9
Fourth Down Efficiency	1-2	0-0
Punts	6-42.0	7-35.7
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	1-0
Penalties	4-45	6-60
Time of Possession	21:03	22:57

Individual Statistics

RUSHING (Att.-Net Yds.) — **GRAY:** Herron 4-32; Hyde 6-26; Saine 4-17; TEAM 1-(-1); Guiton 5-(-20). **SCARLET:** Bauserman 5-35; DeLande 5-28; J.Hall 4-17; Martin 4-9.

PASSING (Comp.-Att.-Int.-Yds.-TD) — **GRAY:** Guiton 11-20-0-167-2; Siems 4-10-1-18-0. **SCARLET:** Bauserman 6-15-2-75-0; Pryor 8-12-0-108-1.

RECEIVING (Rec.-Yds.) — **GRAY:** Z.Boren 4-44; Washington 3-83; Cech 3-31; Posey 1-14; Hyde 1-11; Fragel 1-3; Herron 1-0; Saine 1-(-1). **SCARLET:** Sanzenbacher 4-61; Stoneburner 3-43; Fields 2-17; J.Hall 2-11; J.Jackson 1-43; Hummel 1-5; Schwartz 1-3.

PUNTING (No.-Avg.-Long) — **GRAY:** Erwin 6-42.0-47. **SCARLET:** Buchanan 7-35.7-51.

PUNT RETURNS (No.-Yds.) — **GRAY:** Washington 1-12. **SCARLET:** J.Hall 2-18; Torrence 1-21.

KICKOFF RETURNS (No.-Yds.) — **GRAY:** Herron 1-24; Saine 1-19. **SCARLET:** Torrence 2-54; Fields 1-22; J.Hall 1-20.

FUMBLE RECOVERIES (No.-Yds.) — **GRAY:** None. **SCARLET:** None.

INTERCEPTIONS (No.-Yds.) — **GRAY:** Oliver 1-11; Rice 1-0. **SCARLET:** Maxwell 1-0.

SACKS — **GRAY:** None. **SCARLET:** Bellamy 1.5-8; Wells 1.0-5; Heyward 1.0-4; Thomas 0.5-2.

TACKLES FOR LOSS (No.-Yds.) — **GRAY:** None. **SCARLET:** Bellamy 1.5-8; Wells 1.0-5; Heyward 1.0-4; Simon 1.0-2; Bell 1.0-1; Thomas 0.5-2.

TACKLES (Solo-Assst.-Tot.) — **GRAY:** Sabino 5-2-7; Whiting 3-1-4; Jackson 1-3-4; Rice 3-0-3; Wood 2-1-3; Hines 2-1-3; Williams 0-3-3; Chekwa 2-0-2; Domicone 2-0-2; Petrella 1-1-2; Fellows 1-1-2; Oliver 0-2-2; Bain 1-0-1; Evege 1-0-1; St.Smith 1-0-1; Larimore 1-0-1; Hastings 1-0-1; Goebel 0-1-1; Blankenship 0-1-1; Britt 0-1-1. **SCARLET:** Bell 3-2-5; Gant 3-1-4; Wells 2-2-4; Thomas 1-3-4; Newsome 3-0-3; Brown 1-2-3; Simon 1-1-2; Johnson 1-1-2; Clarke 1-1-2; Bellamy 1-1-2; Klein 1-1-2; Barnett 0-2-2; Heyward 1-0-1; Mathew 1-0-1; Sp.Smith 1-0-1; Adams 1-0-1; Torrence 1-0-1; Ebner 0-1-1.

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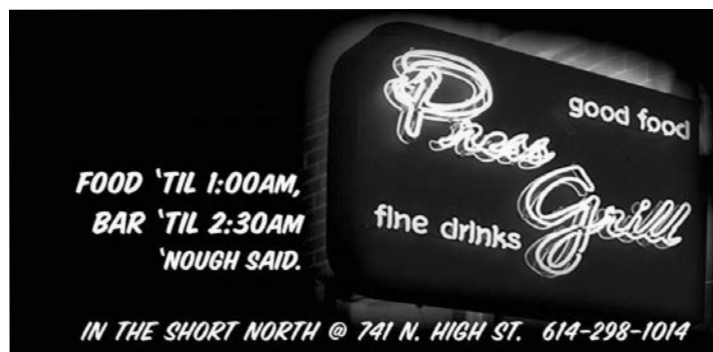
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OHIO STATE FOOTBALL

Pryor's Pick Followed By Several Surprises

By MATTHEW HAGER
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

Senior wide receiver Dane Sanzenbacher was going to get his way.

There had been discussion among Sanzenbacher and his fellow senior Scarlet teammates and coaches about what they would do with the first pick of the 2010 spring draft if they had the first choice.

The draft for Ohio State's annual spring game works in a unique way with either the Scarlet or Gray team kicking things off by selecting a position and then a player. The other team follows by picking another player at that same spot and the teams alternate picks until each player has been selected at that position. Then the other squad selects the next position and so forth.

Sanzenbacher, Scarlet's official spokesman during the draft, earned the right to make the first pick when Scarlet won a coin toss. The Scarlet brain trust huddled for roughly 30 seconds before the senior receiver stood and made his team's decision known.

"We're picking TP," Sanzenbacher said, referring to junior quarterback Terrelle Pryor.

According to Sanzenbacher, Scarlet debated several options before finally settling on the former No. 1 high school recruit in the nation.

"We discussed doing D-line first, but I was obviously biased," the 5-11, 180-pound receiver said. "I wanted quarterback first, so we went with Terrelle."



Kenny Guiton

The selection of Pryor as the first pick was not entirely shocking, but there were a couple of surprises as the draft progressed. The first of those came immediately when the Gray picked third-string quarterback Kenny Guiton instead of backup Joe Bauserman. Bauserman was then taken by the Scarlet to back up Pryor, leaving walk-on Justin Siems to play alongside Guiton for the Gray.

The pick did not go along with the depth chart, but Ohio State head coach Jim Tressel said he was not surprised.

"Nothing surprises you when guys that are 20 years old are picking, but nothing surprises you when those 50-year-olds are picking in the NFL draft (either)," Tressel said. "People have their opinions and their buddies and that kind of thing."

Gray senior linebacker Brian Rolle was not concerned about how the quarterbacks were divided.

"Guiton makes great decisions and I'm pretty sure he'll do that (in the spring game)," the senior linebacker said. "He doesn't have live game experience, but I'm sure he'll do a great job of leading our offense."

While the Scarlet team may have gained an advantage at quarterback, it could have been argued the Gray grabbed one at tailback. Senior Brandon Saine had already been assigned to the Gray before the draft, and the squad opened the tailback position late in the draft by selecting starter Dan "Boom" Herron. Scarlet followed by tak-



ADAM JARDY

AND THE PICK IS... – Jim Tressel (left) waits for senior members of the Gray squad to make a selection April 21 during the spring draft at the Woody Hayes Athletic Center.

ing Jordan Hall. The Gray deviated from the depth chart again by taking Carlos Hyde ahead of Jaamal Berry, who left the April 17 jersey scrimmage with a minor injury. Jermil Martin went next to Scarlet, followed by Berry to Gray and veteran walk-on Bo DeLande to the Scarlet.

"They got a bunch of young guys at linebacker, and I think we can take advantage of that with our running backs," Rolle said, referring to Scarlet linebackers Jonathan Newsome, Dorian Bell, Storm Klein and Chris Maxwell.

Senior Ross Homan, who was assigned to Scarlet, did not sound worried about the tailback distribution.

"It's going to be a challenge for our defense against two very, very good running backs (in Saine and Herron)," he said, "but it's a challenge we're looking forward to."

Both teams went for linemen after picking through the quarterbacks. Gray opened the center position with junior starter Michael Brewster. Scarlet followed with redshirt freshman Corey Linsley, and Gray finished the position with redshirt freshman Jack Mewhort.

Scarlet then opened the defensive tackle position and took sophomore John Simon, who was arguably the most valuable player of the April 17 jersey scrimmage after scoring a touchdown and recording a pair of sacks. Gray picked Garrett Goebel, with Adam Bellamy, Evan Blankenship and walk-ons Jon Lorenz and Dalton Britt finishing the position in that order.

Homan said the draft went exactly as he and his Scarlet mates were hoping it would.

"Our philosophy was to start with the quarterback and then base our foundation off our O-line and D-line and expand from there," Homan said. "I'm real comfortable about where we wound up."

As usual, the draft occasionally did not go according to conventional wisdom. For example, the first offensive tackle taken was not incumbent starting right tackle J.B. Shugarts. Instead, Scarlet opened the position by picking junior Mike Adams, who split first-team reps this spring with senior Andrew Miller, who was assigned to Gray before the draft. Shugarts was taken by the Gray, followed by sophomore

Marcus Hall and redshirt freshman Sam Longo.

Redshirt freshman Dominic Clarke was picked at cornerback ahead of Donnie Evege, who has seen time with the first-team defense when returning starter Chimdi Chekwa was out of several spring practices because of injury. Redshirt freshman Nate Oliver was the first safety taken by the Gray, ahead of spring first-teamer Orhian Johnson, and sophomore tight end Nic DiLillo was the fourth tight end selected behind Jake Stoneburner, Reid Fragel and walk-on Spencer Smith.



Dominic Clarke

Unlike most years, neither squad made any trade requests and both sides sounded happy with their selections following the draft. The lighthearted taunting that takes place during most spring drafts was also missing, save for a comment from Sanzenbacher after the draft.

"I think looking at the board we've got a pretty good draft," he said. "We're excited to see what's going to happen. We

can't guarantee victory, but we'll see. Our board speaks for itself."

Spring Draft Notes

- In addition to the players, Ohio State assistant football coaches were divided among the teams. Cornerbacks coach Taver Johnson was in charge of the Scarlet team, and tight ends coach John Peterson was tabbed to lead the Gray staff.

Also, an honorary head coach was selected to Scarlet. Longtime Coldwater, Ohio, head coach John Reed was to lead a team that featured three of his former players – Homan, sophomore fullback Adam Homan and walk-on redshirt freshman receiver Tony Harlamert. Each of the three was assigned to the Scarlet team before the draft.

Ross Homan said he was eager to be teamed with his high school coach yet again.

"He's one of the most inspirational people I've ever met in my life," the OSU linebacker said.

- Tressel said he did not expect to have any of the quarterbacks in black noncontact jerseys for the spring game, but that did not necessarily mean Pryor would be full-go.

Rolle hoped Pryor would not be restricted, making the game as close to a real one as possible.

"We've got to make it like a real game," Rolle said. "In a real game, Terrelle can't wear a black jersey and he'll have the ability to run. It makes it better for us as a defense."

- The draft served as the first appearance of the special pink-themed uniforms the Buckeyes wore in the spring game. The seniors of the Scarlet and Gray squads wore the uniforms while drafting their teams. The uniforms looked like scarlet and white practice jerseys with no sleeve stripes with pink numbers and black trim. A pink breast cancer ribbon joined the standard Nike logo on the chest of the jersey.

The jerseys were to be auctioned following the spring game with the proceeds going to the Stefanie Spielman Fund for Breast Cancer Research.

The Spring Draft: Pick By Pick

Here are the results of the 2010 Ohio State spring game draft, listed in the order in which positions were selected. Senior members of the team were previously allocated.

Quarterback – Terrelle Pryor (Scarlet), Kenny Guiton (Gray), Joe Bauserman (S), Justin Siems (G).

Center – Michael Brewster (G), Corey Linsley (S), Jack Mewhort (G).

Defensive Tackle – John Simon (S), Garrett Goebel (G), Adam Bellamy (S), Evan Blankenship (G), Jon Lorenz (S), Dalton Britt (G).

Safety – Nate Oliver (G), Orhian Johnson (S), Zach Domicone (G), C.J. Barnett (S), Jamie Wood (G), Nate Ebner (S), Vincent Petrella (G).

Tight End – Jake Stoneburner (S), Reid Fragel (G), Spencer Smith (S), Nic DiLillo (G), Bryan Corkery (S).

Wide Receiver – DeVier Posey (G), Chris Fields (S), Joe Cech (G), James Jackson (S), Chris Roark (G).

Offensive Tackle – Mike Adams (S), J.B. Shugarts (G), Marcus Hall (S), Sam Longo (G).

Defensive End/"Leo" – Nathan Williams (G), Solomon Thomas (S), Melvin Fellows (G), Keith Wells (S), Stewart Smith (G), William McCary (S), Cavin Green (G).

Cornerback – Dominic Clarke (S), Donnie Evege (G), Corey Brown (S), Taylor Rice (G), Drew Mathew (S).

Strongside Linebacker – Etienne Sabino (G), Jonathan Newsome (S), Tony Jackson (G), Chris Maxwell (S), Dan Bain (G).

Weakside Linebacker – Dorian Bell (S), Jim Hastings (G).

Fullback – Zach Boren (G), James Georgiades (S).

Middle Linebacker – Storm Klein (S), Jordan Whiting (G).

Tailback – Dan Herron (G), Jordan Hall (S), Carlos Hyde (G), Jermil Martin (S), Jaamal Berry (G), Bo DeLande (S).

Punter – Ben Buchanan (S), Derek Erwin (G).

Kickoffs – Drew Basil (G).

Long Snapper – George Makridis (S), Garrett Dornbrook (G).

Injured but drafted: Travis Howard (G), Andrew Sweat (S).

OHIO STATE FOOTBALL

Jersey Scrimmage Highlights Action

Although tens of thousands of fans pack Ohio Stadium for Ohio State's annual spring game, the high point of the spring for those close to the program is the jersey scrimmage.

This year's installment took place April 17 on a cold, blustery morning in the Horseshoe, and film from that scrimmage will be among the most heavily weighted from among the 15 spring practices.

BSB was on hand for the scrimmage as well as a handful of other practice sessions open to the media during the week leading up to the event. Read on to get our notes, quotes and observations from spring practice as the Buckeyes continue their quest for another Big Ten title.

April 13

Sunny skies and warm temperatures greeted the team as it took to the outdoor practice fields. Taking advantage of the weather, the Buckeyes engaged in lots of scrimmaging while wearing full pads.

The offense continued to operate almost exclusively out of the shotgun and saw the rotation at left tackle continue. Andrew Miller earned the first-team reps with Mike Adams working on the second unit, but it was a rough afternoon for Miller.

Facing a starting defensive front

that included Cameron Heyward, Nathan Williams, John Simon and a combination of Dexter Larimore and Garrett Goebel, Miller allowed what would have been four sacks had linemen been allowed to hit the quarterbacks. Williams in particular had a strong afternoon with two sacks.

SPRING DIARY

with

Adam Jardy

Heyward had his way with the second-team line as the starting line went against the second-team offense. On one play, he bull-rushed right tackle Marcus Hall and shoved right guard Jack Mewhort out of the way at the same time.

Veteran offensive lineman Evan Blankenship appeared to be former offensive lineman Evan Blankenship as he remained on the defensive line. Also back for limited work was cornerback Chimdi Chekwa, who wore a blue jersey (signifying noncontact for players returning from injury) and took part in some drills.

Other observations from the afternoon session:

- Blankenship received a welcome-to-the-defensive-line moment during one drill. With the quarterbacks taking shotgun snaps from near their own end zone, one blocker engages the center while the quarterback holds the ball before throwing it away. Quarterback



SONNY BROCKWAY

PREPARING FOR 2010 – Ohio State head coach Jim Tressel led his Buckeyes through 15 spring practices, including the April 17 jersey scrimmage and the April 24 spring game.

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OHIO STATE FOOTBALL

Terrelle Pryor would zip the ball to anyone standing nearby, and on one occasion he let one loose that connected with Blankenship's midsection. After that, Blankenship knew to pay attention.

- Injured linebacker Andrew Sweat was clearly itching to get back in the action. Sweat suffered a torn ACL last season and is about a month from being fully cleared for action, but that did not stop him from jumping into a linebacker drill involving hitting. Linebackers coach Luke Fickell was about to blow the whistle before he spied Sweat, clad in his yellow jersey (for injured players), waiting to take part. Fickell quickly motioned for Sweat to get out of line, and when Sweat headed back he was greeted with a slap on the head and a grin from graduate assistant and former OSU linebacker Marcus Freeman.

- Prior to scrimmaging, the team took part in some 8-on-8 drills that saw the offense go without wide receivers and the defense without cornerbacks. Pryor connected downfield with tight end Jake Stoneburner, but the drill also saw some emotions boil over between linebacker Dorian Bell and tight end Reid Fragel. After Fragel ran a deep route, Bell punched Fragel's helmet and the tight end retaliated. The two traded blows for a few seconds before they were separated by teammates.

- The defensive line saw one change in the depth chart as Melvin Fellows took Keith Wells' spot as a second-team end.

- Running backs coach Dick Tressell attempted to use the gathered media as motivation for his charges. As his players were stretching at the beginning of practice, Tressell told them, "These people said you guys are an issue!" As he talked, he snatched several looks at the reporters and flashed a grin.

- The team's kicking battle continued with Devin Barclay and Ben Buchanan get-

ting the majority of the reps. With all the kicks coming from 24 to 37 yards, Barclay was 4 for 4, Buchanan was 2 for 3 and early enrollee Drew Basil connected on his lone attempt from 33 yards.

- Larimore left practice early but did not appear to be injured. He was replaced by Goebel among the starters.

- Fickell offered some sage advice while overseeing a punt protection drill. Yelling at one blocker after a punt, "I don't care if he goes outside. I don't care if he goes inside. Beat him up."

- Running back Jermil Martin was back in action and showed some rust as he fumbled an exchange with quarterback Kenny Gupton.

- Wide receivers Grant Schwartz and James Jackson were back at practice without the yellow jerseys they had been wearing, but fellow receiver Chris Fields was held out with what was later described as an asthma attack.

April 15

The warmest day yet of the spring saw two of Ohio State's position groups go through a bit of role reversal.

The team's wide receivers and defensive backs were constantly locked in battle against one another, and this practice was no different as the groups lined up for some one-on-one action. This time, however, the defensive backs lined up on offense while the wideouts attempted to play defense.

The main benefit of the drill, cornerbacks coach Taver Johnson said, was to break up the monotony of camp for at least one period.

"It keeps you from falling in the rut of practice, practice, practice," he said. "Those guys have fun with it. I was just making sure they didn't get hurt more than anything. That's something that (head coach Jim

Tressell) likes to do - just mix it up and keep the spring going."

The drill afforded Devon Torrence a peek into his own past. As a true freshman, Torrence saw the field as a wide receiver

before being converted to the defensive backfield as a sophomore.

Continued On Page 14

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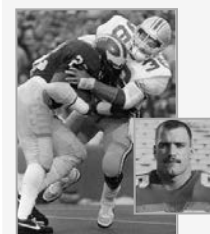
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OHIO STATE FOOTBALL

Special Teams Continued To Be Focal Point

Continued From Page 13

"I loved that (drill)," he said. "That was so much fun. I wish I could get back over there. I'm waiting for Coach Tressel to give me the call to go back over there and play some receiver. It's always fun when you get out there and besides all the attention and focus in practice to have some fun."

Torrence came up with a catch against Ricky Crawford, who threw the cornerback to the ground by grabbing his neck during the tackle. Torrence yelled at him to get the ball and not his head, to which wideout Taurian Washington replied, "Now you see how we feel!" while another chimed in, "Don't act like you haven't done that a couple of times!"

Torrence also got open while being defended by wide receiver Dane Sanzenbacher by faking to his left and then cutting to his right. Torrence made the catch, but Sanzenbacher had the final word.

"You always say, 'Oh, we've got a safety over there,'" Sanzenbacher said with a laugh.

Wideout DeVier Posey enjoyed the drill so much he successfully lobbied Tressel to let him take part in one final rep.

Here are other notes and observations from OSU's practice.

- Offensive lineman Connor Smith suffered a left knee injury while scrimmaging. He limped off the field and was then carted into the Woody Hayes Athletic Center. He was replaced by Corey Linsley as the second-team left guard. Running back Jordan Hall also suffered an undisclosed injury to his left shoulder early in practice after being tackled by linebacker Ross Homan, and he sat out the rest of the afternoon with a bag of ice on the shoulder.

- The second-team defensive line consisted of Solomon Thomas standing at one end, Fellows at the other end with his hand on the ground and Wells and Goebel lining up inside.

- Nate Oliver was absent from practice, and afterward Torrence said he was sick although safeties coach Paul Haynes did not

clarify his whereabouts. In his place, Jamie Wood served as the star (linebacker/safety hybrid) on the first and second units while Etienne Sabino took a few reps as the third-team star.

- Adams was the first-team left tackle and Miller was with the second unit.

- The offense worked on red-zone efficiency with a drill that started with the unit facing second-and-8 from the 18-yard line. Running back Jaamal Berry broke off an 18-yard touchdown run with the second unit with Hall on the sidelines, and Pryor was picked off by Wood in the end zone after facing third-and-5 from the 13. Safety C.J. Barnett broke up one pass intended for Stoneburner, and Sanzenbacher showed some shiftness as Wood attempted to bring him down behind the line of scrimmage on a bubble screen.

- Offensive lineman Scott Sika inadvertently had his bell rung on one drill. Matching up one fullback or tight end against a linebacker, the quarterback would take a snap from the center and try to complete the pass. After Sika snapped the ball to Guiton, he took a moment before running back into line. As a result, he was in the line of fire as the next unit started and quarterback Justin Siems' pass connected squarely with Sika's helmet. Momentarily stunned, Sika looked at Siems and raised both arms as if to say, "What are you doing?" before getting back in line.

- In the latest kicking battle, Barclay was again perfect on his three attempts ranging from 32-39 yards. Buchanan was 3 for 4 with his lone miss coming from 37 yards, while Basil hit a 24-yarder and also closed practice with a 38-yarder. As he attempted the shorter of his two kicks, Basil couldn't find his customary holder and was told by Tressel that he was "stuck with Sanzenbacher," who holds for Barclay.

- Basil also again handled the kickoff duties as the special teams worked on downfield coverage.

- Martin was back in action and again coughed up the ball. Also back in action was wideout James Jackson, who showed some nice speed on a few bubble screens.

- Former Buckeyes Cris Carter, Jim

Cordle, Tyson Gentry and Thaddeus Gibson were all on hand. Carter spent time on the sidelines tutoring defensive backs Chekwa and Travis Howard, telling them the two best ways to stop a wide receiver – getting a pass rush and/or playing tight coverage.

- The running backs practiced their blitz pickup against the cornerbacks, which led to a few impressive collisions. Martin tossed Dominic Clarke to the ground while Donnie Evege flattened Berry.

- Walk-on defensive back Taylor Rice came up with an interception of a Guiton pass.

- Fields remained in a yellow jersey, part of a list that also included Howard and Sweat. Offensive lineman Dalton Britt, safety Tyler Moeller, running backs Carlos Hyde and Brandon Saine and Chekwa were all wearing blue jerseys.

- Posey and Torrence each struggled as they worked on returning punts, and at one point each had to do 20 push-ups as punishment.

April 16

With the jersey scrimmage looming less than 24 hours away, Ohio State kept things close to the vest for a Friday afternoon practice.

The biggest rumblings to emerge came courtesy of a driving rainstorm that moved through the area, advance warning of which led the Buckeyes to conduct the entire practice on the indoor field at the Woody Hayes Athletic Center. That wreaked havoc on the team's punters, who consistently banged their kicks off the ceiling of the indoor practice facility. To simulate an unimpeded kick, an OSU assistant stood near midfield with a football and tossed it in the air once the actual kick drew contact with the roof.

With the team in helmets but no pads, here was a glimpse of the action.

- Linebacker Jonathan Newsome made his first appearance of the season after dealing with what Tressel implied was an academic situation. As the linebackers went through pre-practice stretching, Fickell looked at Newsome – who wears

No. 55 – and yelled, "Holy cow, 'Double Nickel!' " Newsome worked as a second-team linebacker along with Storm Klein and Tony Jackson.

- After suffering an injury during the previous day's practice, Smith watched the proceedings from the sidelines while on crutches. Also wearing yellow jerseys were Hall, Howard, Sweat and Fields while Saine, Chekwa, Hyde, Moeller and Britt wore blue jerseys.

- Former Buckeye Mike Doss was on hand. Tressel shook his hand and called him "Dr. Doss."

- While on the sidelines, Howard and Chekwa worked on catching footballs from a Jugs machine with Doug Davis, coordinator of strength and conditioning. The goal for each was to make 10 catches in a row, and both hit the mark several times.

- The quarterbacks engaged in a drill where they had to hit a receiver at a certain point while warming up. Pryor fared better than Guiton, but Guiton hit tailback Dan "Boom" Herron right in his hands from about 45 yards. After being teased for dropping a pass, Herron replied, "That's why they call us running backs. We run."

- Williams deflected a pass that wound up in the hands of offensive lineman Bryant Browning, who attempted to rumble with the ball before the whistle was blown.

- The special units worked on directional kicking and also practiced some onside kicks. Veteran long snapper Jake McQuaide even tried his hand at the task, but his lone attempt only went about 3 or 4 yards.

- After missing the previous day's practice, Oliver returned and was the first-unit star.

- Miller worked as the first-team left tackle and Adams was on the second unit. Homan was given a rest at one point and was replaced by Bell.

- Midway through practice, periods were shortened from five minutes each to four.

April 17 Jersey Scrimmage

Back within the warmth of the WHAC, Tressel reflected on the semi-annual intra-squad scrimmage played on a raw morning inside Ohio Stadium between the team's offensive and defensive units.

"That's probably the most lopsided jersey scrimmage score I've ever seen," the head coach said.

The defense maintained possession of the coveted scarlet practice jerseys with a 78-24 victory in a game that uses a modified scoring system.

On the first play, Pryor had Sanzenbacher open deep down the right sideline but underthrew him by several yards. That turned out to work in the offense's favor when cornerback Evege collided with Sanzenbacher as he slowed to try to make the catch. A 15-yard defensive pass-interference penalty ensued, but the offense failed to take advantage.

After Pryor completed a 9-yard pass to Sanzenbacher on the second play, the defense dominated throughout, beginning with a sack by Torrence on second down of that series, a drive that was further doomed by an offensive penalty that soon followed.

The second series between the No. 1 units started positively with a 17-yard pass from Pryor to fullback Zach Boren, but it quickly fizzled as linebacker Brian Rolle knocked down a first-down pass from Pryor and defensive tackle Simon flushed Pryor and forced him to throw the ball away on second down. On third down, Pryor threw incomplete on a pass that fell short of receiver Washington.

Offensive Players On The Spot

- **Terrelle Pryor, quarterback** – The junior capped a productive spring with an efficient 8-for-12 passing performance in the Scarlet and Gray Game that included 108 yards and a touchdown. After a shaky start, he calmly controlled the offense, looking solid in his drops and quick with decisions. He threw accurately and on time. That meant fans got to see much the same thing reporters witnessed during open practices throughout April. Pryor looks ready to assume command of what could be a diverse, potent attack.

- **Mike Adams, left tackle** – The big junior gave plenty of indication he is ready to assume the job of protecting Pryor's blind side. Adams followed a widely praised winter of conditioning by using his leaner, stronger body to regularly control Ohio State's plethora of talented end rushers throughout spring. Like Pryor, Adams also performed well in the spring game, including regularly neutralizing dangerous defensive end Nathan Williams. The depth chart might not indicate it until the season opener, but Adams looked like the winner of the left tackle derby at the end of spring.

- **Jaamal Berry, running back** – Those in attendance for the April 17 jersey scrimmage were treated to a plethora of impressive jukes and jaunts from the shifty redshirt freshman, who picked up 76 yards on 17 carries running behind the No. 2 offensive line most of the day. Unfortunately, Berry was not able to finish



Jaamal Berry

the scrimmage because of a sprained ankle that also prevented him from playing a week later in the spring game. On one hand, Berry flashed the running ability to answer the question of why Jim Tressel seemed so ready to burn his redshirt even late last season, but on the other questions arose again about the Floridian's ability to stay healthy long enough to contribute.

- **Taurian Washington, wide receiver** – Much like Berry, Washington played his spring mostly to the script from the past. At times the senior from Michigan flashed the combination of size and speed that made him a highly regarded prospect coming to OSU, but those positives were consistently marred by a tendency to drop passes with alarming regularity. The third receiver spot was wide open at the start of spring ball, and by all indications that remains the case at the end of April as well.

- **Jake Stoneburner, tight end** – Ask wide receivers coach Darrell Hazell why Stoneburner is the man to end Ohio State's much-lamented lack of passes to the tight end for most of the Tressel era, and Hazell will tell you the key is speed. Simply put, Stoneburner brings a different kind of threat to the middle of the field. He showed good hands, including the ability to catch the ball in traffic, throughout spring and looks like the real deal.

– Marcus Hartman

OHIO STATE FOOTBALL

When the No. 2 units took the field, the script remained much the same.

Thomas streaked in from the offense's left side to sack Joe Bauserman for a 2-yard loss on first down, and two subsequent Bo DeLande runs yielded only 11 yards.

Bauserman was hit again to start the following series, but instead of a sack, the contact produced a wobbly pass over the middle that landed in the arms of Barnett.

That was the first of five turnovers on the day, a key stat for the defense in the scoring system the coaching staff utilizes that rewards big plays and stops for the defense and first downs and regular scoring plays for the offense.

"We feel like it's kind of slanted for the offense to win most of the time, so to get as many points as we did shows signs of how well we played," Torrence said.

The defense won the jersey scrimmage for the third consecutive time and will continue to wear the scarlet practice jerseys until at least the next jersey scrimmage during pre-season practice.

Most of these events feature significant swings in the scoring as Tressel gets creative with field position to keep things close, but the head coach said he did not contemplate such a move this time.

"I've been accused of manipulating scrimmages if that's where you're going with this, but never to that degree," Tressel said.

At least one of his players begged to differ. "He always does that," Torrence retorted later. "Don't let him fool you. He always messes with the results just to keep things competitive. We always expect it."

The defense knocked down seven passes and got consistent pressure on every quarterback, particularly when the second and third teams were on the field, but the offense did not do a lot to help itself.

Five passes were dropped and six times there was a botched exchange between a center and quarterback. Three times the defense recovered those fumbles, including one in the end zone by Simon after Pryor could not handle a shotgun snap from Brewster.

That play was the only touchdown of the day for either side and a 12-point score for the defense that swelled its lead to 45-14.

The passing numbers accurately reflected how the offense performed all day.

In unofficial stats, Pryor completed 5 of 16 passes for 45 yards, while Bauserman was 4 for 12 for 73 yards and an interception and Gupton hit 5 of his 14 throws for 37 yards.

Sanzenbacher, who caught two passes for a game-high 34 yards, was among those surprised by what transpired.

"It was definitely very frustrating – just a lot of little things going wrong," the senior receiver said. "Maybe it was some calls (and) people weren't focused. Maybe our offense as a whole just wasn't ready to go, but I think it's a good thing to be able to make those mistakes now in the spring so we can get a lot of good film to look at and get it fixed."

The performance marked a considerable contrast from earlier spring drills when the offense had mostly looked crisp.

"I was very surprised by our lack of development in the plays and lack of execution because I feel – like a lot of people have seen during the spring – that we haven't looked like that," Sanzenbacher said. "It kind of looked like a new team."

On the bright side for the offense, there was room to run for several running backs.

The offensive star of the day was easily Berry. Playing mostly with the second unit, the shifty redshirt freshman ran for 76 yards on 17 carries before exiting late after rolling an ankle. DeLande totaled 54 yards on 14 carries while Martin had 43 yards on 11 totes. Herron started and ran four times for 12 yards.

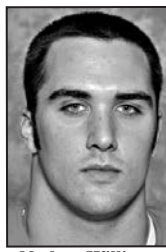
"I thought (Berry) looked pretty good,"

Defensive Players On The Spot

• **Etienne Sabino, outside linebacker** – The junior entered the spring as the heir apparent to Austin Spitler at strongside linebacker in Ohio State's base defense, and he appeared to do nothing during spring drills to lose that spot. The key to his ability to grasp the position, according to linebackers coach Luke Fickell, is a willingness to avoid overthinking while letting his natural athletic ability take over. Sabino turned in a solid three weeks of work, although he rarely stood out in either a positive or negative manner.

• **Nathan Williams, defensive end** – Another junior who appears ready to move into the starting lineup, Williams has all the tools to terrorize quarterbacks as he takes over for Thaddeus Gibson in Ohio State's defense. Quick and powerfully built at 6-3, 260 pounds, Williams' tendency to find the backfield in passing situations was hard to miss throughout spring ball. He also looked solid in coverage when asked to drop, including flashing the ability to run step for step with a tight end. Based on cameos from the past two seasons, Williams was expected to step in capably for Gibson, and he met those expectations this spring.

• **Orhian Johnson, safety** – Johnson, a sophomore, took nearly every rep with the first team during practice sessions open to the media. He displayed a firm grasp of the defense by calling out signals every play and



Nathan Williams

helping make sure his teammates were lined up correctly. He also passed the look test as a long, lean defender patrolling the last line of defense. What's next is for Johnson to show he has the same knack for making plays as three-year starter Kurt Coleman.

• **John Simon, defensive tackle** – On the first day of practice, usually reserved defensive line coach Jim Heacock raved about Simon's ability and lumped him in with the group of players from which Heacock knew he could count on big things this year. The sophomore proceeded to flash his ability repeatedly throughout spring drills, showing great quickness and strength. On the last day of spring practice before the spring game, Heacock reportedly told a group of high school coaches in town for a clinic that he expects the 2010 defensive line to be the best ever to play at Ohio State. There is little doubt Simon's expected impact has a lot to do with that belief.

• **Ben Buchanan, punter** – The sophomore was only so-so in the Scarlet and Gray Game as he averaged 35.7 yards on seven punts, but throughout most of the spring he excelled at booming big punts. Most left spring ball believing Buchanan has a good chance to be an upgrade over 2009 punter Jon Thoma, who averaged only 37.9 yards on 58 attempts last year.

– Marcus Hartman

Tressel said, noting he was not sure of the severity of the redshirt freshman's ankle injury. "It looked to me like he's got an ability to burst. That was really the first time he was able to get in there and get rolling."

Berry missed the spring game a week later.

The only other player noticeably injured during the scrimmage was starting left guard Justin Boren, who said he had a foot stepped on. He did not finish the scrimmage but said later the injury was not serious.

Tressel sounded happier to have gotten through the day without suffering any other injuries than he was worried about how the offense looked.

"I don't get upset about things," the coach said. "They are what they are. You have to watch them and evaluate them and come up with a rationale as to why they got that way and then what you have to do to fix it."

Meanwhile, the defense was feeling justifiably satisfied with its work as the unit works to replace five starters.



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THE VIEW FROM 15TH AND HIGH

Some Nuggets To Take From Spring Game

Ohio State fans are always going to look forward to the Buckeyes' annual spring football game.

For some who find themselves shut out during the regular season, it's a chance to gain entrance to the hallowed Ohio Stadium, maybe even sit at the 50-yard line. And any fan – rich or poor, season ticket-holder or not – hopes to get a glimpse of who might be emerging to take the place of departed starters and see whether others have improved since the previous season.

As I watched the 2010 spring event, I was reminded in the second and third quarters how boring these affairs can be not to mention how irrelevant the proceedings can be with regard to what actually happens in the fall.

One of the things that stood out most in this year's game was the improved play of quarterback Kenny Guiton and the inconsistent play of veteran backup QB Joe Bauserman. But given head coach Jim Tressel's preference for experience, one can't assume Guiton's play will move him past Bauserman as Terrelle Pryor's primary backup come fall.

Certainly, Guiton added to his credibility with his game-winning performance which included an 11-for-21 showing in the passing department for 167 yards and a pair of touchdowns with no interceptions. I'm sure the coaches had a sense of what Guiton could do, but many fans considered him a late throw-in to the 2009 recruiting class as the Buckeyes needed a warm body at quarterback. That position had been difficult to recruit because of the presence of Pryor, who was heading only into his sophomore season.

It remains to be seen what contribution Guiton will make during his Ohio State career, but fans will probably now concede it was not a wasted scholarship. And even if Guiton doesn't move past Bauserman on the depth chart, the coaching staff should be more confident sending the redshirt freshman into action if the need arises after his play before the 65,223 fans in Ohio Stadium.

Then there are the cases of tight end Jake Stoneburner and fullback Zach Boren. Fans clamoring for some added spice to an offense perceived as Tressel vanilla had to be thrilled when Stoneburner reeled in three passes for 43 yards and Boren banged, jumped and ran his way to 44 yards on his four receptions. That's as much production out of the tight end and fullback positions as one might see from Ohio State in several weeks during a typical Tressel season.

Do the eight catches and 87 yards mean more of the same this fall? In trying to predict the future, I would put more stock in a comment made by Tressel than the offensive outburst by Stoneburner and Boren.

When asked about the preponderance of passing over running in the spring game, Tressel replied, "We're trying to trick the alumni into thinking we're going to pass it a little more."

The comment seems to indicate two things. One, Tressel is obviously aware fans of his team want him to open up the offensive playbook a little more, while the flip nature of the remark also seems to indicate he doesn't really care what the fans think.

Once the season begins, he is going to do what he thinks will have the most success and that might be another year of Tresselball. Or maybe not. You just can't tell from what happens in the spring game.

You also can't tell if spring-game performances are going to carry over into the fall.

Last spring, Taurian Washington had a big game, catching four passes for 92 yards,

THE VIEW FROM 15TH AND HIGH

Frank Moskowitz, Publisher

including a 44-yard touchdown reception. Then, in the opening game of the 2009 regular season, he dropped a couple of passes against Navy and wasn't really heard from again until the Rose Bowl when he moved back up the depth chart when senior Ray Small and freshman Duron Carter were left behind for off-the-field reasons.

Does Washington's big day in the 2010 spring game – three catches for 83 yards and a pair of touchdowns – portend a big season for the senior, or is he looking at another season on the bench?

Speaking of dropped passes, I have said it before and I will repeat it again. If DeVier Posey wants to go down as one of the great Ohio State receivers alongside the likes of Cris Carter, Joey Galloway, David Boston and others, he needs to stop dropping so many passes. He couldn't handle a fine Guiton pass on the Gray's second offensive play of the game, though his miscue was negated because of a Scarlet interference penalty, and he was unable to reel in a couple of other catchable passes over the course of the game.

Posey is a fine talent who will win the Buckeyes some games just as he did in the Rose Bowl last season. But a Posey drop could cost Ohio State somewhere down the line as well. He needs to work on his pass-catching consistency.

On the positive side, I liked the way Pryor looked passing the ball in his brief appearance – and I applauded the fact that his appearance was brief as only bad things could have happened if he had stayed in the game any longer.

Everyone in the country knows he can run the football with the best of them, so it is more important to see him passing the ball well since that is where he needs to continue to develop. I especially liked the way he responded to a first-quarter Gray touchdown by crisply leading his Scarlet team on a four-play, 78-yard touchdown march during which he completed all four of his passes for the entire yardage.

Judging from how he looked this spring and how well he threw the ball in the Rose Bowl victory over Oregon, Pryor's passing is coming along. As stated, we know he can run with the football.

The key to Pryor's success next season could be the play of the offensive line. How the line is faring is difficult to glean from a spring game. For one thing, offensive lines perform as a unit and it's hard to play as a cohesive unit when the line has been split in two to stock both the Scarlet and Gray squads. For another thing, the defenses were limited in what they were allowed to do in the spring game, further hindering an accurate evaluation of the line play.

Football, for all its sophistication, is still a game that is won in the trenches, and the offensive line will bear observation this fall – as it does every year, especially during the Tressel era.

By the way, Pryor has proved to be a bit of a spring passing whiz. This year, he had eight completions on 12 attempts for 108 yards and a touchdown without an interception. Last season, in his first spring game, he was 13 of 18 for 191 yards and two touchdowns without an interception.

For his two springs, Pryor has 21 completions on 30 passes, good for a 70.0 completion

percentage, 299 yards and three TDs without an interception.

On the defensive side of the ball, in a spring game I watch and listen to hear whose name is called a lot. That usually indicates players who are frequently around the ball and accordingly in on the action. This year, it seemed like the names of linebacker Etienne Sabino and defensive lineman Keith Wells were called frequently. Sabino finished with a game-leading seven tackles, including five solos, while Wells was credited with four tackles and a sack.

Probably the biggest disappointment for me coming out of the game was that with all the passing we didn't really get to see the highly touted stable of young running backs do their thing. I wanted to see which of those backs had a leg up on the others and if any of them have the goods to compete with Brandon Saine or Dan "Boom" Herron, backs who are already quite familiar to Buckeye fans.

Carlos Hyde carried six times for the Gray, racking up 26 yards while Jordan Hall and Jermil Martin each carried four times for the Scarlet, with Hall gaining 17 yards and Martin only nine. Jaamal Berry did not play due to an ankle injury.

Come the Marshall game, I expect it will be back to veterans Herron and Saine barring injury. It would have been nice, however, to get a glimpse at the Buckeyes' future in the backfield.

Spielman And You To The Hall

Every once in a while, a trip or product crosses my desk that I find particularly interesting and worth sharing with our readers.

Of course we see Buckeye road trips and bowl trips all the time, but Travel Partners, the organizers of the popular Buckeye Cruise for Cancer, has put together a unique trip for Buckeye fans. They are taking a group to South Bend, Ind., to see Ohio State legend Chris Spielman receive induction July 17 into the College Football Hall of Fame.

Participants will travel via deluxe motor coach departing from Dublin, Ohio, on July 16 at 7:30 a.m. With so many Buckeye Sports Bulletin readers located in northwest Ohio, a nice feature of the trip is that a stop is going to be scheduled in that area to pick up Buckeye fans who want to join the "Spielman Haul to Fame," as it is being billed.

Along the way, participants will enjoy snacks and beverages and play Spielman trivia.

The trip includes accommodations at the Courtyard by Marriott with breakfast as well as a two-hour visit to the Notre Dame campus, taking in such famous sights as the Grotto, the Golden Dome, Touchdown Jesus and the Basilica of the Sacred Heart.

The group will also attend the Hall of Fame Block Party on the night of July 16. The party features a rib fest, activities with the inductees and fireworks at the end of the evening.

Here's my favorite part of the trip: Each person in the group will get a No. 36 Spielman jersey and will sit together in a special reserved grandstand during the Hall of Fame parade the morning of the induction ceremonies, thus able to show their support for Spielman and to everyone else in attendance as he passes by. Participants will also sit together in special reserved seating for the induction ceremonies.

The tour returns to Ohio following the ceremonies.

For more information on this great trip or the next Buckeye Cruise, call Travel Partners at (614) 792-6209.

Card Collectors Reconvene

After a one-year hiatus, our good friend Joel Linnabary and the rest of the Buckeye Ballcard Collectors have decided to get together again to buy, sell and trade cards of their beloved Buckeyes.

The group will meet at Linnabary's home in New Concord, Ohio, starting at noon May 16. Dealers, collectors and Buckeye fans are invited to attend.

Linnabary alone will have more than 100,000 cards to trade, including autographed cards. Those interested in attending should contact Joel by calling (740) 826-4669 or e-mailing him at jlinn3@juno.com.

Summer Schedule Ahead

This is the last biweekly issue of Buckeye Sports Bulletin for our spring publishing schedule. The next issue of BSB is scheduled to be mailed June 1.

We continue to encourage you to sign up to receive our electronic newsletters. We will be posting newsletters on May 4, 11, 18 and 25, covering any recruiting news and other Ohio State sports happenings between print issues of BSB. The service is free to current BSB print subscribers.

To gain access to this new service, subscribers should e-mail their name, address, telephone number and preferred e-mail address to subscriptions@buckeyesports.com. We will send you simple instructions on how to not only enjoy the newsletters on your computer, but also how to read the complete print edition of Buckeye Sports Bulletin as soon as it is published – Mondays during football season and Tuesdays the rest of the year.

Buckeye Sports Bulletin is planning additional newsletters during the summer. Watch your June BSB for the exact dates.

Buckeyes And The Draft

Thaddeus Gibson is one of those players who probably would have benefited from staying at Ohio State for his senior year. Given Gibson's athletic ability and what he has shown so far, it is doubtful he would have gone any worse than the fourth round – the spot in which he was taken by Pittsburgh. If you aren't assured of going in the first round, I say stick around.

On the other hand, assuming Gibson makes the Steelers, he will make more money as a fourth-rounder than he did playing for the Buckeyes; so if he was tired of college and ready to play for pay, I guess he made the right decision.

I believe that the selection of Kurt Coleman by the Philadelphia Eagles in the seventh round will prove to be a steal.

I'm sure I said this last year about James Laurinaitis, who was a second-round choice by St. Louis despite his highly decorated career as a Buckeye, and I have been saying it since Spielman fell to Detroit in the second round in 1988. I think pro scouts put too much stock in a player's measurables – size, 40 time and bench press – and not enough stock in football savvy and play-making ability.

Some guys like Spielman, who went on to an All-Pro career and made the Pro Bowl four times, and Laurinaitis, who started all 16 games for the Rams as a rookie and led the team in tackles, just make plays. Coleman is the same kind of player. They know where the ball is and they go after it.

I predict Coleman will open some eyes in the NFL.