

BUCKEYE SPORTS BULLETIN

Vol. 33, No. 22

"For The Buckeye Fan Who Needs To Know More"

June 2014

\$2.50
 PERIODICAL NEWSPAPER
 CLASSIFICATION
 DATED MATERIAL
 PLEASE RUSH!!


SCOTT REED/SCOUT.COM

IN THE FOLD – The Plains (Ohio) Athens quarterback Joey Burrow (10) gave his verbal commitment in late May to join Ohio State's 2015 recruiting class, giving the Buckeyes their first commit since February. Burrow's verbal gives OSU three for 2015.

Back In Business

QB Commitment Breaks Long Cold Recruiting Spell

By BEN AXELROD
 Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

Ohio State football director of player personnel Mark Pantoni took to Twitter on May 27 to deliver a message that Buckeye fans had been waiting more than three months to see.

"BOOOOOOOOMMMMM!" Pantoni posted emphatically.

The message may have been indirect – per NCAA rules, it couldn't have been anything more than that – but its target was clear. Just moments earlier, The Plains (Ohio) Athens class of 2015 quarterback Joey Burrow had taken to the same social media service to announce his intention to spend his college career at Ohio State, and Pantoni could hardly wait to confirm the four-star signal caller's commitment.

If Pantoni's Twitter presence seemed to be lacking in recent months, it was for good reason. It had been since Feb. 11 that the Buckeye recruiting guru had last posted his signature post-commitment tweet, one which followed the since-rescinded pledge of Jacksonville (Fla.) Trinity Christian safety Ben Edwards. Fans and analysts alike began to question the direction of Ohio State's 2015 class, which went nearly the entire spring without adding a commitment before Burrow issued his verbal.

"Recruiting has not gone all that well to this point," Scout.com analyst Bill Greene said before Burrow's pledge. "And there's no way any logical person could say otherwise."

In that same span, Big Ten rival Penn State racked up what currently stands as the nation's second-ranked recruiting class with 15 commits, including a pair of highly sought after Buckeye targets in Jersey City (N.J.) St. Peter's Preparatory four-star quarterback Brandon Wimble and Pittsburgh Baldwin four-star offensive tackle Sterling Jenkins.

Conversely, Ohio State's class sat 47th in the country with just Canton (Ohio) McKinley four-star running back Eric Glover-Williams and Cocoa, Fla., three-star cornerback Jamel Dean committed to the Buckeyes come

Memorial Day. That ranking might have even been somewhat of a facade, as off-the-field issues have left Glover-Williams' future as a Buckeye in question.

The addition of Burrow – the nation's 26th-ranked quarterback – bumped up Ohio State only slightly, giving the Buckeyes the No. 43 class in the country. But in a process that relies so heavily on momentum, Burrow's commitment provided the Buckeyes with just that as they head into a crucial stretch of the 2015 recruiting cycle.

Joey Football

Located in the southeastern sector of the state, Ohio University is home to more than 20,000 students and perhaps more notably is rated the nation's seventh-ranked party school by the Princeton Review. But the "Harvard on the Hocking" has been more than just his hometown's primary attraction to Burrow, who grew up in The Plains as the son of Bobcats defensive coordinator and assistant head coach Jimmy Burrow.

Unsurprisingly, Ohio was one of the first schools to offer the 6-4, 210-pound Burrow a scholarship, but as he progressed through his high school career for the Athens Bulldogs, it became unlikely that he'd wind up at a Mid-American Conference school. In 2013, the junior threw for 3,732 yards and 47 touchdowns and rushed for 589 yards one year after throwing for 3,239 yards and 47 scores and rushing for 836 yards.

Those numbers earned Burrow offers from not only Ohio and Ohio State but Central Michigan, Cincinnati, East Carolina, Fresno State, Kentucky, Iowa State, Maryland, Minnesota, South Florida, Toledo, Vanderbilt, Virginia Tech, West Virginia and Western Michigan. But when all was said and done, Burrow decided that an invite from the Buckeyes was too much to pass on and accepted it on the spot.

"It was huge," Burrow said. "It was a big monkey off my back to finally commit, especially to a great school like Ohio State. The opportunity to win multiple national champi-

Continued On Page 8

COVER STORY

Burrow Might Not Be Only 2015 QB Commit

Continued From Page 1

onships is great. My family and I have talked about that over the last couple of weeks and said if they do offer, that's great, I will commit. And if they don't, so be it. But it happened."

While Burrow possesses dual-threat ability, both his numbers and game film indicate a preference to pass over run. He might be more of an Alex Smith-type in the Urban Meyer offense as opposed to the next Braxton Miller, but from his conversations with Ohio State offensive coordinator Tom Herman, it appears that's just what the Buckeyes are looking for.

"They said that they want a guy that can throw first and run second," Burrow said. "That fits my game perfectly. I think I'm going to be very successful there. I think Coach Herman and Coach Meyer both think that I'm going to be very successful there."

Given that it took until late-May for the Buckeyes to extend a scholarship offer, it's easy to infer that Burrow wasn't always Plan A for Meyer and his staff. In fact, he still may not be the top quarterback on Ohio State's board as the Buckeyes continue to pursue five-star Plantation (Fla.) American Heritage signal caller Torrance Gibson and Anaheim (Calif.) Servite four-star quarterback Travis Waller.

But in a class that always had room for two quarterbacks, Burrow has managed to lock up one of those spots. And more than a year before he'll even begin his college career, he's already proving his worth to the Ohio State faithful.

Top Domino

If Ohio State's excitement over Burrow's

commitment wasn't captured by Pantoni's "BOOOOOOOOMMMMM!" tweet, it could at least be understood from his next one – as well as a previous one.

As Wimbush's recruitment heated up in late-April, Pantoni took to Twitter to post a not-so-cryptic message. Strongly stating Ohio State's need to add a signal caller sooner rather than later, Pantoni let it be known what role Wimbush could play for a class that he has already nicknamed "Elite 15."

"All great recruiting classes must have a QB as the leader to put the class together," Pantoni tweeted.

Wimbush ultimately opted to take his talents elsewhere, but that only fueled the staff's desire to add a quarterback. And once the Buckeyes finally did with Burrow, Pantoni's first post-boom tweet let it be known that the signal caller's role would remain the same.

"A leader has stepped up," Pantoni tweeted. "Let's get it started!"

Along with his not-so-subtle messages, Pantoni posted an even less cryptic picture of a circle of dominos just beginning its inevitable cause-and-effect collapse. The message was obvious; now that a committed Buckeye was back on the board for the first time since December, others should surely follow.

For his part, Burrow is already doing his best to prove Pantoni's hypothesis correct.

Less than an hour after bringing an end to his own recruitment, Burrow was playing the role of recruiter, reaching out to Cincinnati St. Xavier four-star linebacker Justin Hilliard. Once thought to be a lock to land at Notre Dame, the state's No. 1-rated player suddenly has the Buckeyes back at the forefront of his

recruitment, especially after making a visit to Columbus on May 31-June 1.

Landing Hilliard would be a big domino to fall for the Buckeyes, but there are several other highly touted prospects whom Ohio State likes its chances with heading into the summer camp season.

Although spots in this year's class are more limited compared to recent years, the Buckeyes still have a realistic chance at pulling off a top-10 – or even higher – class with the likes of Old Farms (Conn.) Avon five-star tight end Chris Clark, Memphis (Tenn.) University four-star offensive tackle Drew Richmond, Berea (Ky.) Madison Southern four-star running back Damien Harris, Hallandale (Fla.) four-star outside linebacker Sh'mar Kilby-Lane, Lakewood (Ohio) St. Edward four-star cornerback Shaun Crawford, Hubbard, Ohio, four-star running back L.J. Scott, Cincinnati Moeller four-star defensive tackle Elijah Taylor, Brentwood (Tenn.) Ravenwood four-star wide receiver Van Jefferson, Cleveland Benedictine four-star linebacker/running back Jerome Baker, Cleveland St. Ignatius four-star defensive end Dre'mont Jones, Warren (Ohio) Harding three-star center James Daniels and Suffield, Conn., four-star defensive tackle Christian Wilkins all still uncommitted.

And then there's the quarterbacks.

QB Carousel

Despite the excitement surrounding Burrow's commitment, there remains a good chance that he won't be the only quarterback in Ohio State's 2015 class. In fact, it's probably likely that another signal caller will be joining the Elite 15 class.

With Miller leaving after this season and only unproven entities remaining behind him on the Buckeyes roster, the need for quarterbacks in Columbus is high with no clear incumbent sitting behind the reigning two-time Big Ten MVP. Adding depth – or perhaps even an immediate contributor – at the quarterback position in 2015 will likely require adding more than just Burrow, who isn't the blue-chip prospect that Miller or Terrelle Pryor was when they first arrived at Ohio State.

Enter Gibson, the nation's second-rated quarterback who is in the same mold of

Miller and Pryor but is determined to drag his recruitment out to National Signing Day. For a program with such an added emphasis to the quarterback position during this recruiting cycle, the Buckeyes can't afford to gamble until then and potentially be left without a signal caller to sign on the first Wednesday of February.

It's difficult to gauge just where Ohio State stands with Gibson, who included the Buckeyes in his announced top seven May 29. In his latest rankings, Ohio State sat fifth for Gibson behind co-leaders Tennessee and Auburn as well as LSU and Oklahoma but ahead of Miami (Fla.) and Central Florida.

The five-star signal caller would be one of the biggest recruiting gets for Ohio State in recent years and would singlehandedly transform the outlook of the 2015 class. But it will be tough for the Buckeyes to stave off the likes of the SEC schools already ranked ahead of them in the race for Gibson's services, though things could change if the blue-chip prospect takes a trip to Columbus.

In the case of Waller, the situation is a bit murkier as the West Coast signal caller is currently without an Ohio State offer. But the Buckeyes remain interested in Waller, having sent Herman to the Golden State to watch him throw in person.

Whether Ohio State opts to extend a scholarship offer to Waller, the nation's No. 6-rated QB and No. 99 overall prospect, remains to be seen. For his part, Waller is hopeful that an invite does come his way as the Buckeyes – along with Oregon – are at the top of his list of potential suitors.

"There is a possibility that they will take two QBs," Waller said after Burrow committed to Ohio State. "Coach Herman said I'm still high on their board and he's going to let me know when that's official or not. I definitely still have interest and want to visit next month as planned if they want to bring in a second guy."

Much as it did a month ago, the future of the Buckeyes' 2015 class appears unclear, but the group now carries some much-needed momentum. The upcoming camp season should go a long way toward shaping the Elite 15 class as a few more "BOOOOOOOOMMMMM!" posts from Pantoni could be right around the corner.

BOWLING WITH BUCKEYES

Saturday, June 28, 2014

Doors open at 6:15 p.m.

Bowling starts at 7 p.m.

Tiki Lanes • 1521 Tiki Lane • Lancaster, Ohio 43130

Join Super Bowl champion **Jim Cordle** along with **current and former Ohio State football players** for **Bowling with Buckeyes!** This event is a fundraiser for Special Olympics in Fairfield County and the Cordle Cares Scholarship Fund.

There will be a silent auction and other raffles taking place throughout the evening. **Bowling with Buckeyes** will feature a Celebrity Bowl-Off at 7 p.m.

Admission for non-lane sponsors:

Adults – \$5 • Children under 12 (accompanied by an adult) – Free

For additional information, email us at info@cordlecares.org or go to www.cordlecares.org.



**Cordle Cares
Scholarship
Fund**

PIZZA COTTAGE

Same Great Taste Since 1972

www.pizza-cottage.com



OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK AT 11AM

Buckeye Lake

4592 Walnut Rd. (Rt. 79)

740-928-1144

Circleville

23401 U.S. 23

740-474-3620

Lancaster

2223 W. Fair Ave.

740-654-2400

Newark

969 Mt. Vernon Rd.

740-366-5747

Pickerington

1000 Old Diley Rd.

614-856-3333

Zanesville

3938 Pond View Dr.

740-455-6000

BUCKEYE SPORTS BULLETIN

\$3.00

PERIODICAL NEWSPAPER
CLASSIFICATION
DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE RUSH!!



Vol. 37, No. 19

"For The Buckeye Fan Who Needs To Know More"

April 7, 2018

In The Hunt



COURTESY OF OSU ATHLETICS

NEXT IN LINE – Junior Joe Burrow (10), sophomore Dwayne Haskins (7) and redshirt freshman Tate Martell (18) are competing to be Ohio State's starting QB.

OSU Quarterback Race Still Wide Open

By **TIM MOODY**
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

John, Ross or Chuck.

One of those three will be the starting quarterback for Ohio State in 2018, not J.T. Barrett. But in those names alone, Barrett's legacy can still be felt in Columbus.

John, of course, is Joe Burrow, a rising junior who is on track to graduate this spring. Ross is Dwayne Haskins, a third-year sophomore who became an Ohio State legend when he led the Buckeyes to a comeback win over Michigan in place of an injured Barrett just a few months ago. Chuck is the redshirt freshman Tate Martell, who has earned early fame with a confident personality on the field and on social media.

The nicknames stem from Burrow's freshman year in 2015. Barrett – or Joe Thomas Barrett, who spent that season in what seemed like a week-to-week battle with Cardale Jones, decided there was room for only one Joe among the signal callers, so he opted to call the new guy John instead. The following year, Haskins arrived, and Burrow gave him the nickname of Ross – it's not a reference to David Schwimmer's character on the popular TV show "Friends," though.

Last spring, Martell arrived, and he was dubbed Chuck by his teammates.

For what it's worth, early enrollee quarterback Matthew Baldwin, a four-star recruit out of Lake Travis in Austin, Texas, has been nicknamed Burt – although the correct spelling is as yet unconfirmed.

Now Barrett – the original nickname-giver – is gone after a record-setting career with the Buckeyes, and one of his former teammates will take his place.

This spring serves as an open competition, according to the coaching staff, so they'll all get their chance.

"The guys are working hard, and we're splitting up the reps," offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach Ryan Day said March 22. "Right now, we've only had two (full) practices under our belts with pads on. So it's really early and we're still installing stuff, but the guys are working at it, they're working on trying to get better at it. That's really our focus right now."

Each of the three quarterbacks brings a different skill set to the table.

Burrow, who has the most experience in the program, blends solid running ability with an above-average arm. Haskins is less mobile, but he has the strongest arm on the team and can make throws the other two can't. Martell is an X-factor with the ball in his hands, showcasing the ability to extend plays and make players miss, while he has an adequate arm as well.

Not only are Burrow, Haskins and Martell different from each other, but they all bring a skill set to the table that hardly compares to Barrett. The latter was a distributor who utilized his experience, leadership and rushing ability to lead the Buckeyes. On paper, at least, the three competing now have much more physical talent. How that translates into the Ohio state offense is still an unknown.

"Nobody is quite like Tate or Joe or Dwayne," Day said. "Again, that's what we're working on right now. I would say that when you look at Tate's running ability, he's maybe a little bit quicker than J.T. J.T. was a little bit thicker, stronger and had really good running skills."

"Joe is kind of like that. He's a big, strong guy who has worked great in the weight room. When you defend Joe, he can run, he can throw, he can do a lot

Your Mailing Label Goes Here
Call (614) 486-2202
Today To Subscribe

Continued On Page 8

QB Battle Could Extend Beyond Spring Practice

Continued From Page 1

of things. He has a lot of versatility that way, which is good.

"Dwayne is a good enough runner to get himself out of trouble, and a gifted passer.

"Those are their skill sets, but who can move the team down the field, who can be a leader and the guys rally around? Those types of things are really what we're focused on right now."

As of April 2, head coach Urban Meyer said nobody had separated himself in the competition just yet. He noted that Burrow was the best player in one scrimmage, but Haskins quickly caught up not long after that. Martell, he said, had a great practice to open the month of April as well.

For now, it's unclear whether Meyer will be able to name a starter by the end of spring, but he certainly knows what he's looking for.

"Just lead the team, and there's got to be a separation at some point, and right now there is not that separation," Meyer said. "Just when one starts going, the other one comes up, and the other one drops a little bit. And I'm talking about (all) three."

Joe "John" Burrow

Class/Elig.: Sr./Jr.

Height/Weight: 6-3/215

Hometown: The Plains, Ohio

High School: Athens

Career Notes: Redshirted as a freshman

in 2015 before serving as Barrett's backup the following season. Battled with Haskins for the No. 2 job last spring and fall but lost out when he broke a bone in his throwing hand just before the season started.

Career Stats: 11 games played; 29 of 39 (.744) for 287 yards passing; two touchdowns, no interceptions; 15 rush attempts for 53 yards; one rushing touchdown.

Going into spring practice, most outside the program expected Haskins to be the front-runner, and there's good reason for that. He was Barrett's deputy last year, and he proved himself in crunch time against the Wolverines.

At the end of the day, though, Haskins might never have been the No. 2 had Burrow stayed healthy in fall camp. At the time, Burrow was the incumbent backup, and he has plenty of talent – if not the cannon arm of Haskins.

Even if those outside the program felt Haskins had a leg up this spring, though, Burrow is confident he's getting a real crack at the job.

"It's a mixture of how I'm treated and how the reps are going," Burrow said. "The reps are going really well and really fair so far."

Out of the three quarterbacks competing, Burrow might have the most on the line. He's the oldest, meaning he can't lose the job and wait for one of the other two to leave either as seniors or early for the NFL. If he doesn't win the job this year, it

Who Is The Greatest Quarterback In Ohio State History?

The Options:

J.T. Barrett ____

John Borton ____

Greg Frey ____

Joe Germaine ____

Cornelius Greene ____

Kirk Herbstreit ____

Bobby Hoying ____

Stanley Jackson ____

Cardale Jones ____

Jim Karsatos ____

Rex Kern ____

Craig Krenzel ____

Tom Matte ____

Braxton Miller ____

Terrelle Pryor ____

Art Schlichter ____

Troy Smith ____

Mike Tomczak ____

Don Unverferth ____

Other ____

Instructions:

Number your picks 1-10 (feel free to write in any players we left off the list) and mail this ballot to Buckeye Sports Bulletin, P.O. Box 12453, Columbus, OH 43212. Lists can also be emailed to bsb@buckeyesports.com. Please provide your name, age and any additional comments regarding your ballot. Copies of the ballot are accepted and voters are welcome to attach additional paper if more space for comments is needed.

Comments:

Conrads COLLEGE GIFTS

Shop Online!
www.conrads.com
316 W. Lane Ave.
Columbus, OH 43201

Call to order today!
1-888-443-8678

Closeout Deal!

E7-96: 8 Times National Champions
Replica Ring Paperweight

\$20 was \$89.95



DEW GAMEDAY RIGHT

Join us at Dewey's and we'll show you a great time with our handcrafted gourmet pizzas, fresh hand-cut salads, local seasonal brews and more.

VISIT THESE NEIGHBORHOOD LOCATIONS

DUBLIN
6540 Perimeter Dr.
Dublin, OH 43017
614.799.2444

GRANDVIEW
1327 West Fifth Ave.
Columbus, OH 43212
614.487.8282

WORTHINGTON
640 High St.
Worthington, OH 43085
614.985.3333

www.deweypizza.com



would be a safe assumption that Burrow will never be the starter at Ohio State, barring injury.

That said, he has plenty of options. Since Burrow is on track to graduate this spring, he could transfer to another school and play right away with two years of eligibility remaining.

Burrow has acknowledged the possibility of transferring in the past, but he's also grown annoyed with questions about it – as yet, nothing is guaranteed.

"I get all these tweets, 'Where are you going? You're going to transfer. You never play.' I see them," he said. "I don't say anything, but I see them."

When Day was asked about Burrow's potential departure, he referred back to last fall when the Athens product was firmly in the mix to be Barrett's backup. Now, he's firmly in the mix once again.

"Joe, if you really followed him from last preseason, he had a great preseason," Day said. "He really was coming on towards the end, but then he broke his hand. So that really hurt him in terms of his development early on last season, and then we got into the rhythm of the season."

"Now his hand is better so now he's worked in the offseason to get stronger, and now he's going to go after this thing."

Dwayne "Ross" Haskins

Class/Elig.: Jr./So.

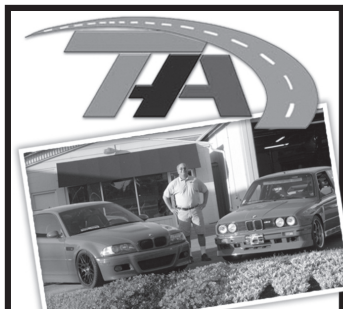
Height/Weight: 6-3/218

Hometown: Potomac, Md.

High School: Bullis School

Career Notes: Redshirted in 2016 before winning the No. 2 job last season, most notably replacing Barrett in the comeback win over Michigan.

Career Stats: eight games played; 40



Tom Hatem Automotive

Serving all of Columbus' European automotive repair needs for over 18 years.

www.HatemAutomotive.com

1407 West Fifth Avenue
Columbus, OH 43212
614-486-5277

COVER STORY

of 57 (.702) for 565 yards passing; four touchdowns, one interception; 24 rush attempts for 86 yards.

As mentioned, those outside the program have long had Haskins as the leader. Going into spring camp, he took the approach that it was his job to lose as well.

"I hold myself to a high standard, and in my opinion, that's what I think," he said. "If I lose the job, it's because of me. So I'm just going to keep working hard, pushing myself, pushing my teammates and studying the film and my playbook and prove every day that I'm the guy."

Of the three options, Haskins is the only one with meaningful game action under his belt – as in he's played in a collegiate game that was still on the line.

Against the Wolverines last year, Haskins entered in the second half with the Buckeyes trailing, 20-14. He promptly led Ohio State on a scoring drive that include a key third-and-13 pass to Austin Mack and a 22-yard scramble to set up J.K. Dobbins' 1-yard touchdown. The Buckeyes scored 10 more points with Haskins at the helm as he completed 6 of 7 passes for 94 yards.

Reflecting on that performance – which was his final appearance of the season – Haskins said his confidence was boosted after leading the Buckeyes in The Game.

"Just having the opportunity to play in the biggest rivalry in all of sports and just being able to go in there and not really worry, just play one play at a time," Haskins said of his experience. "Being able to go out and win puts a lot of confidence in you just because your team saw you do it, the world saw you do it and it just gives you a lot of confidence going forward."

Haskins will be hoping that performance gives him the inside track to win the starting job, but Day has tried to keep expectations steady, noting that he's trying to look at all three quarterbacks on a clean slate this spring.

"He did a nice job in that game, but this is a new year and these guys have got to come out and compete," Day said. "Just like anything else, what have you done for me lately? So he's got to improve and prove himself to be the starter just like the other guys."

Tate "Chuck" Martell

Class/Elig.: So./Fr.
Height/Weight: 5-11/207

Hometown: Las Vegas

High School: Bishop Gorman

Career Notes: Joined Ohio

State as an early enrollee last year before redshirting. Was undefeated as a starter in high school.

Martell is probably the betting underdog in the quarterback battle this spring. He's the youngest of the three and has yet to appear in a collegiate game.

Really, though, Martell having a legitimate shot in the race is a testament to both his ability and the confidence the coaching staff has in him as a player.

"I mean, I think I have a legitimate chance because if you're the best player you should play," Martell said. "If not, that's not up to me, but they have to play

the best player if they want to win a national championship. We'll see who it is. (The coaches) have to make that decision."

Early in spring camp, Meyer was sure to note that Martell is in the running, and the quarterback himself has felt that since then.

"We all get pretty much even reps," Martell said. "I mean, I don't notice any difference in reps."

Day, when asked whether Martell really had a chance, admitted he understood why there would be a question. He also stressed that anyone would be in the race if he proved to be the best option.

"It's not just a two-person race," Day said. "Whoever is out there moving the team down the field is going to play."

While Burrow and Haskins have more experience at the collegiate level and have the more prototypical frames for a quarterback, Martell brings a different run-

ning ability to the table. He's the fastest and shiftest of the three, and Meyer has even noted there are some similarities to Barrett, who was an accomplished runner for the Buckeyes.

That skill set means Martell brings different factors into play when he's on the field, and he says he's been told that there will be packages to showcase that talent even if he doesn't win the job. That could mean Martell will replace the quarterback at times, or it could mean he'll get on the field in different spots on occasion – the details are not yet ironed out.

Meyer was asked about playing multiple quarterbacks at the same time and stressed that it's easier said than done – you can't simply throw a guy out there at wide receiver just to get two quarterbacks on the field. Martell isn't just any quarterback, though.

"The one thing is Tate's got an incredible skill set," Meyer said. "There is some conversation about that, because he is a gifted guy."



Ryan Day

Donald F. Bowen DDS, & Associates



CONVENIENT LOCATION!

1264 N. High St., Columbus 43215

(6th Avenue & High Street)

614-294- 6451

- All dental services including: cleanings, fillings, extractions, crowns, bridges, root canals and whitening
- We work with all insurance plans
- Medicaid accepted
- Third-party financing available
- Experienced and caring dentists
- Senior discounts available
- Dentures/immediate dentures (dentures placed same day teeth are removed)
- Emergencies seen promptly



Residence Inn® Marriott

Residence Inn Columbus University Area
614-261-7994 | ResidenceInnOSU.com

3100 Olentangy River Road



Marriott Columbus University Area Inn
614-447-9777 | OSUMarriott.com



Four other locations: 1570 Cleveland Ave. 614-294-5558 • 1000 E. Broad St. 614-258-3880
1201 S. High St. 614-444-1454 • 2575 W. Broad St. 614-274-0454

BUCKEYE SPORTS BULLETIN

\$3.00

PERIODICAL NEWSPAPER
CLASSIFICATION
DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE RUSH!!



Vol. 37, No. 20

"For The Buckeye Fan Who Needs To Know More"

April 21, 2018



TIM MOODY

LOOKING FORWARD – Ohio State head coach Urban Meyer is tasked with picking a new starting quarterback for the 2018 season.

With Spring Practice Over, Meyer Has A Choice To Make

By TIM MOODY
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

There are no more spring practices. There's no more data to be gathered. There's no spring game left to evaluate the quarterbacks battling to be the next starter at Ohio State.

There's nothing left for head coach Urban Meyer to do other than meet with his coaches, talk to the players, evaluate all aspects of the battle and, eventually, make a choice.

"I know I'm going to get a bunch of questions about the quarterback," Meyer said after the Buckeyes completed their annual spring scrimmage on April 14. "I'll go ahead and answer one of them right now, and that is we're going to have to make some decisions. Those decisions have not been made."

That scrimmage presented junior Joe Burrow and sophomore Dwayne Haskins – and, to some extent, redshirt freshman Tate Martell – with one final chance to prove themselves on the field in front of the coaching staff. Unless the battle spills over into fall camp – which is unlikely for a variety of reasons – all the quarterbacks can do is sit back and wait for a decision to be made.

That process will include various steps for Meyer, who was initially scheduled to meet with the media for a post-spring press conference on April 16 before the event was canceled that morning. It's safe to assume he had other things on his mind.

"You've got Joe Burrow and Dwayne, obviously, competing right now, along with Tate," Meyer said. "Next week – I want to take the weekend off (because) we've got recruiting and that – but Monday (April 16), Tuesday, we're going to have some very good meetings and productive meetings. I

want to see all of the statistical data – we have everything charted – and go from there."

Throughout spring practice, as Meyer said, the Buckeyes kept track of everything. Every throw made by every quarterback. Every snap, every little thing that might impact the decision.

That data will play a role in the choice, which is ultimately up to Meyer, but he'll receive plenty of input from others as well. After the spring game, he said he was scheduled to meet with offensive coordinators Ryan Day and Kevin Wilson later that same day for a quick update before an in-depth meeting the following Monday.

He was certainly going to meet with the players themselves, he was going to evaluate that data, and he was going to weigh all other aspects.

Meyer also noted that he wants to make sure he makes a choice that is, first, best for Ohio State, but also best for the players. That's where a spring decision comes into the mix.

Throughout camp, the coaching staff made it clear that the battle was neck-and-neck between Burrow and Haskins, and that idea was certainly held up in the spring game.

Burrow and Haskins both played mainly for the Gray squad that won, 37-14, although all three quarterbacks played at least some for both sides in the scrimmage.

Tallying up their overall stats, Burrow was best on paper after going 15 of 22 for 238 yards and two touchdowns, including strikes of 50 and 42 yards to sophomore H-back Demario McCall in the second half, the latter coming on the final play of the game. Haskins was 9 of 19 for 120 yards and two more scores, and he made some eye-opening throws, including a 25-yard laser to

Continued On Page 8

Your Mailing Label Goes Here
Call (614) 486-2202
Today To Subscribe

Multiple Factors Will Go Into OSU's QB Choice

Continued From Page 1

sophomore Jaylen Harris for the game's first passing touchdown. As a passer, Martell was clearly third best, completing just 5 of 16 attempts for 28 yards while being picked off once by redshirt freshman cornerback Shaun Wade. Martell, a redshirt freshman out of Las Vegas, acquitted himself nicely with his legs, though, making some of the game's most energetic plays while running for 69 yards and a touchdown on 11 attempts – numbers that would likely have been even better had the scrimmage been live. Instead, Martell was called down by contact in numerous situations where the defender would have struggled to make a tackle.

All of those numbers will be added to the data package Meyer will evaluate, but data is second best when it comes to making his final decision.

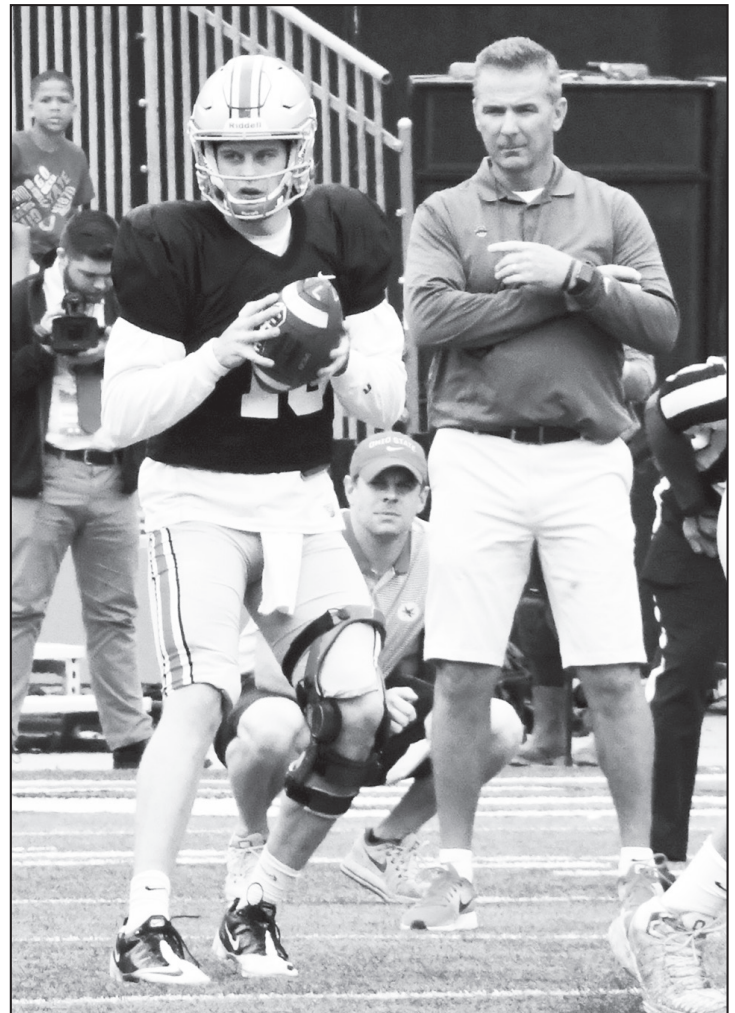
"It's something that helps you because it's also factual," Meyer said. "Intangibles are, obviously, going to be very involved in the decision."

Meyer's "30 years of gut" feeling will play a role as well, he added.

Based on the available data, the battle was certainly close this spring, which in typical circumstances would lead to it continuing into the fall. For Ohio State, under these circumstances, though, that's unlikely.

The best thing for the team might be to continue the battle, but Meyer has acknowledged that's not what would be best for the players – specifically Burrow.

The Ohio native from Athens High School is set to graduate this spring after just three years in Columbus. With his degree in hand, Burrow would have the option to transfer to another school and play right away with two years of eligibility



SONNY BROCKWAY

LAST LOOK – Head coach Urban Meyer (right) had his last chance of the spring to evaluate Joe Burrow (10) on the field at the spring game.

Conrads COLLEGE GIFTS

Shop Online!
www.conrads.com
316 W. Lane Ave.
Columbus, OH 43201

Call to order today!
1-888-443-8678

Closeout Deal!

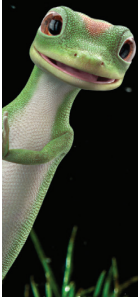
E7-96: 8 Times National Champions
Replica Ring Paperweight
\$20 was \$89.95



SAVE WITH THE HOME TEAM.

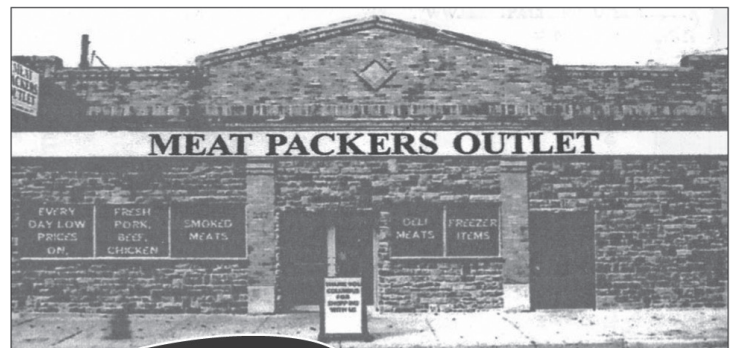
Get a quote from your local **GEICO** office.

GEICO
Local Office



614-336-4240
7370 Sawmill Rd Columbus

Some discounts, coverages, payment plans and features are not available in all states or all GEICO companies. GEICO is a registered service mark of Government Employees Insurance Company, Washington, D.C. 20076; a Berkshire Hathaway Inc. subsidiary. GEICO Gecko image © 1999-2016. © 2016 GEICO.



Retail meat market serving
Columbus since 1957

Open Monday-Saturday
8 am to 6 pm

614-228-9074 or 614-469-1720
317 S. Fifth St. • Columbus, OH 43215
www.meatpackersoutlet.com

COVER STORY

remaining. If he chose to stay at Ohio State without winning the job, there's a chance he would never end up as a collegiate starter, even though he has the talent to start and star at that level.

Haskins is a year younger than Burrow, meaning he could lose out on the job and stay while still becoming the Buckeyes' starter down the line. Haskins would also have to sit out a year while losing a season of eligibility if he transferred since he's already used his redshirt. The same applies to Martell, the youngest of the bunch.

With Burrow's future at the school in question depending on the result of the battle, Meyer said he'd like to see all three signal callers back in Columbus this fall, but he knows that's not a guarantee.

"I hope so," he said of having all three back. "I'll just leave it there. I hope so."

In Their Own Words

With the on-field portion of the competition likely over, both Burrow and Haskins left spring practice feeling confident. Martell is confident as well, but this has all the signs of a two-man race, while the Bishop Gorman product is more likely to find his way into the fold with special packages showcasing his athletic skill set next season.

For now, the decision for Meyer and the staff looks like a choice between Burrow and Haskins. Both look good enough to start, and both feel they can deliver if called upon – but they had very different ways of articulating their thoughts after the spring game.

Burrow, for one, was confident in his own ability but understood that there's not much more he can do.

"I think this was the best offseason that I've had since I've been here," he said. "Last fall, last spring, all of this, I think I took a big step this spring."

"Now some decisions have to be made. You've got to step back and evaluate everything. You've got to meet with the coaches and see what they're thinking, what you're thinking, and you have to kind of meet in the middle."

For Burrow, the decisions aren't limited to who will start, but also where he'll be playing football this fall.

Haskins, on the other hand, was much more direct in saying where he feels he stands, but he acknowledged that any player would feel the same way.

"Everybody has the right to feel that way," Haskins said when asked if he thought he should be the starter. "I feel like I should be the guy. I'm going to keep doing so until it's proven."

"I feel like I've done enough, but enough is never enough. You've got to keep going. So I'm going to keep pushing myself, keep pushing my teammates."

For now, Burrow and Haskins are both waiting, but their mindsets are unlikely to be the same going forward. Haskins feels he has the job won, but losing the battle would likely delay his time as the starter at Ohio State rather than eliminate it.

Burrow feels he's good enough to start as well, but losing the competition would likely

end his hopes of ever being the guy for the Scarlet and Gray.

"I came here to play," Burrow said. "I didn't come here to sit on the bench for four years. I know I'm a pretty darn good quarterback, and I want to play somewhere."

Playing at Ohio State has always been choice No. 1 for Burrow, but he's known for a while that playing elsewhere was a possibility. He said he loaded up on classes the past three semesters in order to make sure he graduated in time to transfer and play right away.

Even though he laid the groundwork for a transfer, Burrow doesn't want to leave. He chose Ohio State for a reason, and being the quarterback in Columbus is what he wants.

"It would be really hard for me to leave," Burrow said. "I've put so much into this. I've put my heart and soul into it. If I were to leave it would be pretty devastating for me."

At the same time, I would understand how they went."

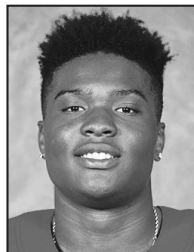
If Haskins is the choice, his superior arm strength would likely put him over the top. It's something he said adds a "really great dimension" to Ohio State's offense.

If Burrow wins the job, he said he feels his intangibles – namely toughness and leadership – will make his case.

"If they were to go with me, I think that would be the area that put me over the top," Burrow said. "Dwayne has an arm you don't see a lot. I have a pretty good arm, too, but I think my leadership and my intangibles really came alive this spring."

Leadership or not, strong arm or not, the quarterbacks can't do much more than wait for a decision. They've stated their cases, and the ball is in Meyer's court.

"Now you just kind of sit back and relax," Burrow said. "You know the body of work you have. I know I played very well. I took a big step as a leader this spring as well. I'll kind of just sit back and see how it plays out."



Dwayne Haskins



**BUFFALO
WILD
WINGS**
WINGS. BEER. SPORTS.™

Help BSB Grow

Loyal Buckeye Sports Bulletin readers frequently ask us what they can do to help keep BSB vibrant in this increasingly electronic age. One of the things readers can do is introduce BSB to new readers who might find our Ohio State sports content interesting. In order to help you do that, we are offering an opportunity to send four free trial issues to potential subscribers. We will then offer your potential subscriber a very special offer to get them to join the fold of loyal Buckeye Sports Bulletin readers.

We are also offering a special \$19.95 subscription rate for gifts for our service men and women. It's nice to send a little bit of home to those all over the world who are protecting us. Don't forget to include an APO address when applicable and remember, any subscription includes electronic access to BSB, so our Buckeyes in uniform will be able to enjoy their BSB immediately, wherever they are.

This four free trial issue offer is not good for current subscribers. This offer is to introduce readers to Buckeye Sports Bulletin. You can conveniently email your names and addresses to subscriptions@buckeyesports.com or mail them to P.O. Box 12453, Columbus, Ohio, 43212.

Convenient locations to

**DINE IN OR
ORDER ONLINE**
for the game!

www.buffalowildwings.com



Learn more about your

**LOCALLY
OWNED**

BUFFALO WILD WINGS
franchise locations at

www.LancasterWings.com

With Burrow Gone, Buckeyes Are Haskins' Team

By RYAN McGLADE
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

When Urban Meyer walked away from the lectern following Ohio State's spring game on April 14, the quarterback situation was still as foggy to the public as it was when spring practice began on March 5.

In his press conference immediately after the intra-squad scrimmage, Meyer said he and offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach Ryan Day and offensive coordinator Kevin Wilson would meet in the week that followed to evaluate the spring as a whole and then meet with Joe Burrow, Dwayne Haskins and Tate Martell to give some kind of private assessment of where everybody stood.

Burrow, who graduated on May 6 with a degree in consumer and family financial services, provided clarity to the matter when he announced on May 8 that he was transferring from Ohio State. Ten days later, he revealed that was headed to LSU as a graduate transfer with two years of eligibility remaining.

Speaking at the Pro Football Hall of Fame Luncheon Club on May 14 in Canton, Ohio, Meyer confirmed what Burrow's transfer means: Haskins, who will be a third-year sophomore in the fall, is in position to be the Buckeyes' starting quarterback for the 2018 season.

"This is really the first time I've talked about this since the spring game, but as of now it looks like Dwayne Haskins will get the first opportunity to be the starter," Meyer said at the luncheon, according to The (Canton) Repository.

The head coach noted how Haskins took over for the injured J.T. Barrett in the third quarter of the game at Michigan last season with OSU trailing, 20-14, and led the team to a 31-20 victory. On Haskins' first drive of that game, he threaded a 27-yard pass between two Michigan defenders to Austin Mack to convert a third-and-13, which was set up because of back-to-back false start penalties. Two plays later, Haskins scampered for 22 yards before J.K. Dobbins punched it in from a yard out to give Ohio State the lead for good. Haskins (6-3, 218) finished the contest completing 6 of 7 passes for 94 yards with no touchdowns or interceptions while running three times for 24 yards.

"Dwayne is a young guy that came in against our rivals and did a heck of a job," Meyer said. "You go back and watch that again, he came in on the first drive and took us down the field and scored on that first drive against that defense. So he's got a great release, he's got good size and he's a mobile-enough quarterback. It is going to change how we attack defenses."



TIM MOODY

HIS TEAM – After competing with Joe Burrow and Tate Martell in spring practice, Dwayne Haskins (7) enters the summer as Ohio State's undisputed starting quarterback.

While Meyer talked about what Haskins will bring to the squad, he made sure at the luncheon to share his feelings toward Burrow, who broke a bone in his throwing hand during fall camp last year.

"He's a very good player," Meyer said of Burrow. "I love Joe. I love his family. He did everything the right way. I have nothing but good things to say about him. Joe and I are extremely close."

Haskins came to Ohio State as a four-star product out of Potomac (Md.) Bullis School, where he racked up 5,308 yards and 54 touchdowns in his high school career. He threw for 1,963 yards and 24 touchdowns as a junior in 2014, when he was named the Maryland Gatorade Player of the Year. He then completed 170 of 286 passes as a senior for 2,217 yards and 20 scores. The New Jersey native helped Bullis to consecutive Interstate Athletic Conference titles as a sophomore and junior.

Directly observing Haskins' development as a prepster, Bullis head coach Pat Cilento told BSB that Haskins has more than earned

his shot at being the starting signal caller for the Buckeyes.

"The kid deserves it," Cilento said. "He's one of the hardest-working kids that we've had come through here. I've never seen a kid so in-tune to football. I'm not going to say he's the hardest worker in the weight room or anything like that, but I've never seen a kid perfect his craft the way he has. He would leave practice, he would go throw in the indoor facility because he didn't like the way the ball was coming out. He didn't stop working until he had it down to where it was perfect throwing the ball."

Cilento said Haskins routinely returns to Bullis to work with the quarterbacks

currently playing for the high school or to throw with the receivers. In fact, Cilento said Haskins was back in town in early May for six days, three of which he spent working out with the quarterbacks.

Cilento said Haskins' latest visit is just an example of how much the student-athlete has grown over the years.

"The biggest change that I've seen over Dwayne in the last three or four years is his maturity level," Cilento said. "It just continues to grow and grow, and he gets more and more serious about it every time I see him. Since he was here, it was football and school. That was it. There were no distractions. You can just see he's got more focus now than he ever has."

TOPSOIL



VERY RICH PULVERIZED
OR UNPULVERIZED
"SOIL PLUS"

BLENDED SOIL WITH SAND and ORGANIC COMPOST
RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL
CRUSHED LIMESTONE, WASHED SAND & GRAVEL

ANY SIZE LOAD • IMMEDIATE DELIVERY ANYWHERE
Buy Where the Professionals Do • Delivered on Time - Every Time, It Doesn't Cost Any More!
Columbus' Largest

JONES FUEL COMPANY

350 Frank Road • 443-4611 • 1-800-TOPSOIL
www.jonestopsoil.com



Voted one of
Columbus' Best
Places to Eat at
the Bar

good food
fine drinks

Open for lunch daily!

1505 W. 5TH AVE.
NEAR GRANDVIEW AVE.
614-817-1198

MON - THU: 11:00 AM TO 11:30 PM
FRI - SAT: 11:00 AM TO 1:30 AM
SUN: NOON TO 11:30 PM
KITCHEN 'TIL 1/2 HOUR BEFORE CLOSE NIGHTLY

~ PRESSCOLUMBUS.COM ~

741 N. HIGH ST.
IN THE SHORT NORTH
614-298-1014

MON - SAT: 11:30 AM TO 2:30 AM
SUN: NOON TO 2:30 AM
KITCHEN 'TIL 1 AM NIGHTLY