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Football
Recruiting

Jeff Davidson

One of the top offensive linemen in the country, Jeff Davidson wants to create his own identity as he follows in the footsteps of his father and brother to Ohio State.

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Ceroy Robinson

It's definitely in the genes for Ceroy Robinson to jump from the nation's capital into the hearts of Buckeye football fans.

— Page 3

Erik Grimm

OSU recruiters did not stumble upon Erik Grimm. This two-way lineman comes from a strong prep program at Sistersville High School in West Virginia.

— Page 4

Steve Gresock

Accepting a challenge to play football for the Buckeyes will be small in comparison to other challenges Steve Gresock has undertaken in life.

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Tony Moore

Not quite as unknown as some would like to believe, Tony Moore was Amherst (Ohio) Steele's model of a refrigerator.

— Page 4

Tony Cupe

Starting his psychology practice a little early, Tony Cupe found out that what he wanted was available right in his hometown — at Ohio State.

— Page 6

Citing A Lack Of Support,
Miller Bows Out As Coach

By Craig James

With the troubles the Ohio State basketball team has been experiencing this year, there was growing speculation that the squad's head coach, Eldon Miller, was in trouble himself.

Miller, no stranger to pressure, has had more than his share of critics in his 10 years at OSU — folks who kept pointing out that none of his teams had ever won a Big Ten championship, that he couldn't win the big games, that he continually failed to lure the state's top high school players to Ohio State.

Matters came to a head on Feb. 3, when Miller and OSU athletic director Rick Bay announced that the former would be stepping down as coach at the end of the season, his tenth in Columbus.

The pressure seemed to be more intense this year than usual. After a good start in non-conference games, the team's youth and inexperience began to show in losses on the road. The Buckeyes beat Northwestern, the league's last place team, in Evanston, but it took an overtime period. The team played badly in the first half of games consistently and was turnover-prone. Ohio State continued to lose.

Miller's critics had seen enough when the Buckeyes lost to Minnesota on Jan. 30. It was a game that everyone expected OSU to win, considering the loss of five Gopher players due to arrests and suspensions and the resignation of Gopher coach Jim Dutcher during the previous week.

Bay happened to be traveling with the Buckeyes on that road trip. He and Miller discussed the future of the OSU basketball program in Minneapolis the night before the game. Both expressed their concerns.

But Bay was not prepared for what Miller had to say to him on Feb. 3, after the team had returned home with two more losses.

"Early this morning, coach Eldon Miller and I met and we agreed mutually that it was time to look for a new basketball coach for Ohio State University at the end of the current season," Bay said in a press conference. "Coach Miller will continue as our head coach for the rest of this year. Our search

process, which will be a national search, will begin as soon as possible."

Ironically, an article had been published the same day in the *Columbus Dispatch* in which Bay voiced support for Miller. The interview with Bay had taken place on Feb. 2.

"Yesterday at this time, there was no question in my mind that we were not going to resolve this issue or even talk about the future any further than we already had until the season was over," said Bay.

"But Coach Miller came to my office this morning and said that he felt we should resolve it immediately. It was at that time that we mutually agreed . . . to begin looking for a new head coach at the conclusion of the season."

"He said he was not going to resign, because he didn't like the word 'resign.' It was a connotation relative to quitting. I told him that I wasn't going to fire him, because I didn't like the word 'fire.' So the compromise was . . . we would mutually come to a decision that was in the best interest of Ohio State."

Miller's contract, which expires June 30, will not be renewed as a result.

Bay spoke of Miller as being a credit to Ohio State and a man of integrity and spoke about his track record.

The first question to Bay: If Miller was such a good man for the job, why was it in the best interest of Ohio State to replace him?

"I think that Eldon felt that given the lack of support (that he needed) and some restrictions that we're operating under currently in the athletic department, he just could not take the program any further," he replied. "I think I agree with that. He's been operating on a year-to-year contract, which has worked against us in recruiting."

Which was exactly the point that Miller brought up that evening on his radio call-in show. It was the first time that he had spoken publicly about his firing. He said it was clear that the OSU program "needed new leadership" and that his one-year contracts were "definitely a recruiting disadvantage."



Ohio State basketball coach Eldon Miller directs practice shortly before it was officially announced that he would step down after 10 years at OSU.

He added that since he couldn't change the conditions, he felt he couldn't recruit or compete effectively.

Bay said that the national search committee, when it is formed, will consider "everybody" as a candidate, but "I think I made a point with the university that certainly we hope to hire an established coach with a proven track record."

Award To
Sellers

Brad Sellers has been named the Haydcoy Pontiac Buck of the Month for January.

Sellers, the nation's leading rebounder, averaged 20.9 points and 12.8 rebounds a game for the month. He scored 20 points or better in seven of the Buckeyes' nine games and rebounded in double figures seven times.

Sellers is a 7-0 senior from Warrensville Heights, Ohio.

Last Of 'Pelini Pack' Can Thank Brothers

By Jim Wharton

As the youngest of eight children, Mark Pelini always had access to a ball of some shape or size.

Perhaps that could be considered a key to the baby of the Pelini Pack becoming perhaps the best athlete in the family.

Pelini, a senior at Cardinal Mooney High School in Youngstown, Ohio, recently signed a national letter-of-intent to attend Ohio State University. When he joins the Buckeyes later this summer, he will toss his name in the hat as a defensive back.

By the time his OSU career is over, Pelini would be happy to match the accomplishments of one of his four brothers, Vince, who was named the Ivy League's defensive player of the year while a senior at Columbia a few years ago.

"Maybe it was a little easier for me because my brothers brought me along," said Mark Pelini, a 6-2, 180-pounder who was selected to the AP Class AA all-state first team. "We always had a ball of some kind in our hands. Constantly."

All five of the Pelini brothers played football at Cardinal Mooney.

"He's probably the most talented — not the biggest — but the most talented of them all," said veteran Mooney coach Don Bucci. "Vince was a bigger and stronger kid, but I don't think any of them had the talent that Mark's got."

What does Mark have going for him?

"He's a great athlete," said Bucci, who also turned out Buckeye center Bob Maggs. "Probably his greatest asset is his sense for the ball, an ability to read and to break on the ball. He's the kind of kid who

will come up and put you away. He's got great athletic ability."

Mark, playing his first year at quarterback in 1985, helped lead the Cardinals to the Division II state championship game. A 6-0 loss at the hands of Galion was a tremendous setback to Pelini, although it did not diminish a season which, in playing both ways, had seen him help his team to a 12-2 record.

"That hurt real bad," said Pelini, who chose Ohio State over scholarship offers from Michigan, Michigan State and Iowa. "Especially when we felt we lost to a team that shouldn't have even been on the same field with us."

It was just one of many lessons in life. And there will be many more.

Pelini, who it is said has the potential to play major college basketball as well, also learned a lesson during the recruiting wars which went on for his services.

"It was fun at first," he said. "But it got to be a hassle at the end."

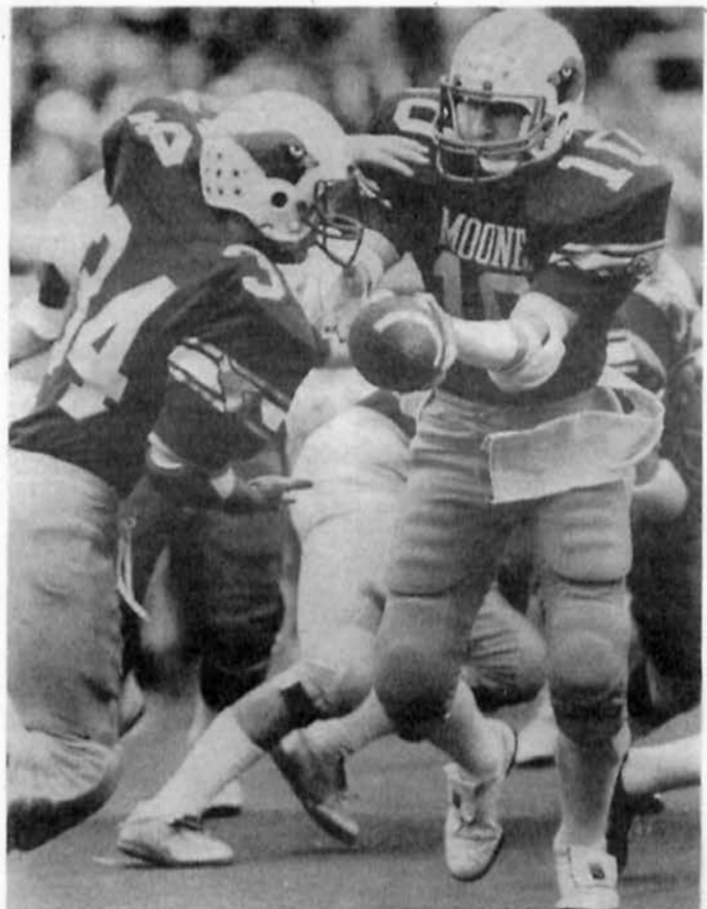
The end result, after visits to the aforementioned schools and after cancelling his final visit, was the decision to attend Ohio State.

"It was pretty tough to decide," said Pelini. "But it really came down to staying close to home. And I really liked the coaching staff at Ohio State."

Those coaches have told Pelini nothing different than they tell any other incoming freshman. Playing depends on the player.

"It's more or less up to me," he said. "The chance is there. It's just what I do with it. Hopefully, I can play just as hard as I can and hopefully I can contribute as quick as possible."

While he called the shots at quarterback as a senior, Pelini



Mark Pelini Hands Off During Title Game

says he'd rather give the shots.

"I like playing defense and I'm looking forward to playing it in college," he said. "Playing quarterback helped me but I think I'm a little better on defense."

He knows it will also be to his advantage to be at his best physically when he gets to Ohio State.

"I think I'll have to get stronger right away," he said. "That's one thing I'll have to do. I've got to work on the weights, more or less just strengthen my upper body."

Playing basketball and with the season still not over, Pelini said that he has never really been on a strict weight program.

Pelini said he is not concerned about the caliber of competition he will face in trying to get some playing time as a Buckeye.

"It will be an adjustment," he said. "But I feel like I played in a real good conference in high school and I feel I'll be further ahead than some of the kids who didn't play at the level of competition that I played."

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Regardless Of Terminology, Miller Feels He Was Canned

By Craig James

Ohio State basketball coach Eldon Miller told his side of the story on Feb. 4, one day after Buckeye athletic director Rick Bay announced that Miller's one-year contract would not be renewed after this season.

Miller said he was fired by Bay. "Rick Bay told me it was in the best interest of Ohio State not to renew my contract," the coach said. That, he added, meant the same to him as getting fired.

"I have no problem accepting the responsibility for the program," said Miller. "I felt the program is not where it should be. Rick Bay agreed. We were in agreement with that, felt that a change of leadership was necessary for the program to improve and we made the change."

"He fired me and I accepted the fact that he fired me. Everybody thinks I'm upset with (Channel 4's) Jimmy (Crum) because he called for my head after the Minnesota game. Hell, I called for my head after the Minnesota game."

Bay, meanwhile, stuck to his story, saying that Miller and he mutually agreed that a coaching change needed to be made. The athletic director had said in his press conference the day before that he didn't fire Miller and that the coach didn't resign, and that a "compromise" had been reached where a new coach would be hired to take over the basketball program next season.

There have been reports that Miller asked for and was denied an extension to his contract, an issue that the coach spoke about to reporters in terms of the future of the OSU program.

"I think it has to be done," he said. "When you talk long-term

Miller's Record

Year	W	L
Wittenberg		
1962-63	26	2
1963-64	18	5
1964-65	17	5
1965-66	12	11
1966-67	17	7
1967-68	13	13
1968-69	19	6
1969-70	20	6
Western Michigan		
1970-71	14	10
1971-72	10	14
1972-73	8	18
1973-74	13	13
1974-75	16	10
1975-76	25	3
Ohio State		
1976-77	11	16
1977-78	16	11
1978-79	19	12
1979-80	21	8
1980-81	14	13
1981-82	21	10
1982-83	20	10
1983-84	15	14
1984-85	20	10
1985-86*	12	10
Totals	397	237

* With six games remaining.

(contract), I'd say four years continuously. You don't need 10 years. A player coming in needs to know the coach is going to be there four years, or at least it has to appear as best as possible that the coach is going to be there four years. No coach can ever guarantee that, but you have to eliminate things that can be used in any way negatively against you in recruiting.

"All we're talking about is advertising. But times have changed. We have to change with the times. The words 'The Ohio State University' alone will no longer get you to the top of the mountain."

Bay said he realized that the university would have to be in a

position to offer a multi-year contract to a top candidate to replace Miller and to "offer conditions of employment that are attractive." And Bay said recently if the new coach was given a multi-year contract, he would recommend that football coach Earle Bruce be given one, too.

Such a change in policy would have to be approved by OSU's board of trustees.

"THE REASON for this situation is quite simple — we didn't win enough games," Miller said in summing up his feelings. "Winning is very important if you're in coaching. If you don't win enough, you've got a pretty good chance of getting fired."

"Did you ever get the feeling that you're standing by the 18th green and you had to get the ball in the hole in two and it was in the bunker and the only club in your bag was your driver?"

"The total picture needs to be changed. The total picture, first and foremost, has included Eldon Miller at the top. He had to be changed, too."

OSU PRESIDENT Edward H. Jennings was quoted as saying that the university would be taking applications for the head basketball coaching job and going after people as well.

"I think we should assume that every outstanding basketball coach, at this stage, would like to come to Ohio State," he said. "Now I realize that some may not, but we will be looking at the most outstanding people."

RUMORS ABOUT who will eventually wind up with Miller's job began almost immediately, so much so that Bay initiated a "no comment" policy on who Ohio State is talking to. As of Feb. 11, he hadn't talked to anybody, he said, especially Indiana coach Bob Knight who, according to a Cleveland television station, had applied for the job.

Another report said that Bay will select the new coach, rather than a university committee. A committee was used in hiring Miller 10 years ago.

Names being bantered about for the coaching position include Knight, Iowa State and former Michigan coach Johnny Orr, Tennessee coach and former Buckeye Don DeVoe, Boston College coach Gary Williams and Ohio University coach Danny Nee, to name just a few.

While DeVoe was a candidate for the OSU job 10 years ago, he is now reportedly under fire at Tennessee. In games played through Feb. 11, the Volunteers had a 12-9 record.



Eldon Miller

with a 5-7 mark for seventh place in the Southeastern Conference.

Bay said he hoped to talk to some possible candidates before the current college basketball season is over.

By the way, a spokesperson for Indiana University said the report of Knight's application was "completely unfounded." Knight later issued a statement saying he was staying put in Hoosierland.

AFTER THE NEWS of Miller's dismissal, his staff put a halt to recruiting efforts. Ohio State signed Chicago guard-forward Randy Doss last fall and has only one other scholarship to offer, so the new coach is not expected to be under too much pressure in that regard.

Doss was reportedly upset when he heard the news about Miller, but felt better after talking to the coach.

I TOLD YOU SO DEPT.: Another point Miller had been making was that the OSU basketball facilities, including St. John Arena, needed to be upgraded in order to be competitive with other Big Ten schools.

So he might have had a smile on his face when the arena roof began to leak near midcourt, stopping play for several minutes early in the second half of the OSU-Northwestern game on Feb. 6.

"You know, that is kind of appropriate, isn't it?" the coach joked later. "That might show that there's an emphasis that at least we need to fix the roof."

"Knowing our administration here, we'll get the holes plugged." They were.

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Word Of Miller Leaving Shocks Players

By Craig James

When they first heard that Eldon Miller would not be back as their head coach next season, the Ohio State basketball players were caught completely off guard.

"It's a big shock to everybody," said sophomore guard Scott Anderson the day after the announcement. "I don't know if it's really sunk in yet, but we're just going to have to keep going and play like nothing happened and try to go out and win our remaining nine games."

Carrying on seemed to be the major theme in the Buckeye camp.

"I think the fellows and myself were down yesterday," said junior co-captain Dennis Hopson, "but I know Coach wants us to go on and continue what we have to do. We wish him the best in whatever he does."

"He's a good guy and he's the main reason why I came to Ohio State. Coach Miller knows a lot about the game. He's been coaching for a very long time. I'm sure wherever he goes, he's going to have a lot of success."

Junior center Keith Wesson agreed.

"I have nothing but good things to say about Coach Miller, as a person and as a coach," he said. "I've never coached the game, so I couldn't pinpoint things he's done wrong or things that he's done exceptionally well and all that, but I have nothing but good things to say about him."

For the younger players especially, the feeling of shock was mixed with a sense of apprehension, knowing they would be taking directions from a new man later this year.

"Things happen in life where a coach decides, 'It's time to step down,'" said sophomore guard Kip Lomax. "It affects me personally, because he and I have developed a good relationship. I've grown to like him and I've grown to trust him."

"I think it's going to be hard for me in my remaining two years to try to learn a new philosophy — a new offensive philosophy, a new philosophy on life. But I think I'll manage."

"I don't think I'm worried about it too much, in terms of trying to learn a new system. For me, since I have two years left, it's going to be difficult to try to (adjust) to all the adversity the head man, whoever he may be, might bring upon us."

Anderson, for one, wasn't sure yet how he felt about the prospect of playing for a different coach and staff.

"It's almost like a nervous feeling, just thinking about who the new coach is going to be next year," he said. "I guess there's really no clear-cut candidates right now."

Lomax indicated that some of the younger players might even be happy with Miller's departure,

seeing it as an opportunity for them.

"I guess some of the players who think they deserve more playing time than those who are playing, I guess those are the ones who feel, 'Well, since he's leaving, maybe another coach will come in and see that I have talent, just like the other eight or nine people playing now. Maybe I might have a chance,'" he said.

Lomax, like other players who were asked, said he had no plans to transfer to another school.

Hopson, who like Wesson and center Clarence McGee will be returning this fall for their senior season, sees an additional job for the older Buckeyes.

"We didn't say anything about it yesterday, but I think a big concern

that the guys feel is who is going to be the new coach and what kind of person is he going to be," he said.

"I think it's kind of tough for the younger players, but the veteran players just have to keep the younger players together. We'll have to work together as a team."

If players like Lomax had their pick, they might not look any farther than their own backyard and support third-year OSU assistant coach Jim Clemons.

"Coach Clemons is respected by all the players," said Lomax. "He's one of those coaches you can really talk to. He's a Coach Miller type — he cares about you as a person more than as an athlete."

Third-year assistant coach Randy Ayers, who like Clemons and sixth-year assistant coach

Todd Landrum will also be out of a job when their contracts expire June 30, says Clemons is an excellent candidate and cites Clemons' playing experience in the pro ranks.

For his part, Clemons didn't want to elaborate on his chances.

"The only comment I would say is that as someone who would one day maybe like to be a head coach, I would consider making an application," he said. "Other than that, no comment."

In talking about the future of the Ohio State basketball program and playing under a new coach, Wesson might have summed up the feelings of the team the best.

"It's going to be interesting," he said. "(But) it's something nobody really wants to do."

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The View From 15th and High

By Frank L. Moskowitz, BSB Publisher

Recruiting Weakness Destroyed Miller

Those of you who are keen observers of *Buckeye Sports Bulletin* may have noted that I had no column in our last issue. At one point, there was a *View From 15th and High*.

But, with most of the paper done, it was learned that Eldon Miller was out as Ohio State basketball coach. This caused a lot of scurrying around the office (not to mention working until 4:30 in the morning) and rearranging of the issue. With the addition of the Miller story, something had to go and my column, essentially giving reasons why the coach needed to go, was a likely candidate, seeing as most of my points were now moot.

What I had discussed in that column was the increasing problems Ohio State was having recruiting. This, in my mind, was the real reason Eldon Miller's time at Ohio State had run out. You can't win in the Big Ten if you don't have the horses.

In retrospect, there are a lot of good things to say about Eldon Miller. His integrity is unquestioned. His won-loss record actually stacks up well versus other coaches around the league and around the country. And he took several Ohio State teams farther than perhaps they should have gone.

But there's the rub. Too many times, Miller was left with squads that had to over-achieve to make it to the NCAA tournament. And better recruiting classes did not appear on the immediate horizon.

I, for one, do not feel that lack of a multi-year contract, as has been suggested, was the real issue in the recruiting. Miller's public support had simply been too greatly eroded.

Any coach at Ohio State will be criticized. I'm one of those who says that if the legendary Woody Hayes' Buckeyes had been 11-0 when he struck that Clemson player, health allowing, he'd still be coach. But, with the Bucks posting a 7-4-1 log that year, the faithful were getting restless even with the revered Hayes.

Mention Earle Bruce, and someone will always jump to his defense. People jumping to Eldon Miller's defense were becoming almost nonexistent. If a high school basketball player hears nearly everyone he knows criticizing a coach, is he really going to come and play for that coach?

Perhaps the criticism of Eldon Miller was undeserved. But it was there.

My biggest complaint against Miller has always been a strange one, but I think it is very much a part of his problems at Ohio State. As a reporter, I've always had a

hard time coping with the fact that Eldon never realized that dealing with the media was as important a part of his job as the Xs and Os of basketball.

You can't go for 10 years answering questions with "yes," "no," and "we need to play with more defensive intensity." Just as Miller's job is to win basketball games, ours is to write stories. And just as it's tough to win games without good players, it's tough for us to write stories with quotes like that.

Eventually, I think the reporters around the state got tired of it and were not prone to giving the guy any sort of break. We reporters have a tremendous amount of influence over the way people think.

As an example, the *Columbus Dispatch*, that I know of, never came out and called for Eldon's job. But when the paper ran a full-page spread on Ohio high school stars who went to other schools, they effectively did the same thing. If Eldon had worked the media a little better, maybe they would have presented his plight in a more positive light.

Iowa proved that losing to a short-handed Minnesota is not totally out of the question. But when the Buckeyes lost to Minnesota in that first game after the Gophers' turmoil, Eldon Miller had to know, Rick Bay had to know, the players had to know, and the people of Ohio must have known that the Miller era at OSU was coming to an end.

Eldon, as a graduate of Ohio State let me say that you always represented our university well. You helped put our basketball program back on its feet and I wish you the best in your future endeavors. But I hope you have learned some valuable lessons from your stay in Columbus.

LET ME ADD that one of the saddest aspects of Miller's demise is the probable loss of his fine coaching staff. Jim Clemons, Todd Landrum and Randy Ayers are about as outstanding a group of men as you will find — excellent teachers, and solid examples for members of the team, as well as athletes around the state.

THIS YEAR'S grid recruiting class appears to be a good one. Many have expressed a concern that while the Buckeyes were in on several of the biggest name running backs, most of them chose to go elsewhere.

Please note that good linemen make good running backs and Ohio State got more than its share of the big guys. Don't forget that some of the better names from last year's class were also linemen and we've yet to see the likes of a Tim

Moxley.

OHIO STATE ALSO picked up some help at quarterback. Jim Karsatos should be set for 1986, but I would like to see some help in the reserve ranks.

I maintain that Tom Tupa can be an All-American and a pro as a punter. But I'm not convinced that he's the next Johnny Unitas. Tupa had a definite drop off in his punting as a sophomore and I wonder if it had to do with his added responsibilities as the second-team signal caller.

Tupa's punting average dropped from 47.1 to 41.9. His net punting average dropped from 44.1 to 39.1. In 1984, 40 percent of Tupa's punts ended up inside the 20. In 1985, the number fell to 34 percent. Even his longest punt fell from 70 to 62.

But most importantly, the Brecksville, Ohio, native struggled in critical situations. During a crucial segment of the loss to Illinois, Tupa connected on 25 and 27 yards punts. And in the loss to Wisconsin, he averaged only 36.5 yards on six tries.

Usually, a team hopes only to minimize losses when it calls on its punter. With a guy like Tupa, punting can actually become a weapon. The statistics are

definitely down. Is Tupa's presence at quarterback the variable?

WITH ALL THE talk about Proposition 48, I noted with interest the *New York Post's* report that only 41 percent of players in the NFL had graduated from college.

We in Ohio can be proud of the fact that the Cleveland Browns have the highest percentage of college graduates in the NFL with 64.4, followed by the New York Jets (62.6), Pittsburgh (56.6), Minnesota (55.4) and the world champion Chicago Bears (52.0).

The lowest percentage of college graduates played for Kansas City (20.8), followed by the New York Giants (21.8), New Orleans (24.1), the L.A. Raiders (25.0), and Houston (28.6).

When you consider that virtually every player in the NFL attended college for at least four, if not five years, it amazes me that a team could have only 20.8 percent college grads.

By the way, the combined regular season record of the five teams with the highest percentage of grads was 48-32 (60%), while the five teams with the lowest number of grads were 38-42 (47.5%), including the Chiefs at 6-10.

Is there a correlation?



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Miller Likes Potential Of UNI Post

Bay Turns Into Man Of Few Words About Next OSU Basketball Coach

By Jim Wharton

Eldon Miller didn't even have time to fill out the unemployment forms.

Fired on Feb. 4 as head basketball coach at Ohio State, Miller was hired 24 days later as head coach at the University of Northern Iowa.

"The potential of Northern Iowa basketball is really unlimited," said Miller of a school which competes in Division I in basketball and is a member of the Association of Mid-Continent Universities. "I believe that very strongly. The university has integrity. This is a university that wants to have a great basketball team."

MILLER REPORTEDLY was one of at least 65 people to apply for the job of replacing Jim Berry, who announced earlier in the season that he was stepping down after 13 years at the school.

Prior to being named to the UNI post, Miller was evasive with Columbus media.

After Ohio State's win over Iowa on Feb. 26, Miller was asked if he had been offered the job. He shrugged it off by saying: "Right now, I'm talking to a lot of people. I'm out of a job, I'll talk to anybody."

THE NEXT evening, Northern Iowa athletic director Bob Bowlsby introduced Miller at the press conference.

"We at the University of

Northern Iowa are pleased that the process to select a men's basketball coach has been completed," said Bowlsby. "This committee... has executed its charge in an expedient and efficient manner. We have sought to hire a coach with the capability to build upon our strengths of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future."

"WE HAVE carried the search process from coast to coast and from border to border and I feel that the process has clearly yielded a top-quality selection."

"The new basketball coach at the University of Northern Iowa is a man whose career has been extremely successful at each stop," continued Bowlsby. "I feel that he will provide us with exactly the kind of leadership that great programs are built upon. He is an individual who is in coaching for all the right reasons and he is a proven architect of outstanding basketball programs."

Miller received a resounding ovation from a huge audience, which included school officials and media.

"TO TELL YOU that I'm excited to be here would be an understatement," said Miller, who will finish out the season at Ohio State. "It's a great situation for us. We can't wait to get going. I've got a little work to do first, I want you to understand that. I told my kids, it's tough for me to leave Ohio State because Ohio State is my home state institution."

"But it was time (to leave). I've been there 10 years. We've had a few disagreements — nothing very serious, to be honest with you. We're leaving with a great feeling for that university. But it was time for me to change and I was looking for a particular kind of a situation. And I found it."

"I COULDN'T be happier about it."

Miller reportedly was given a five-year contract worth \$50,000 a year. He had said on his Columbus radio show earlier in the same week that he would not accept an offer unless it contained at least a four-year contract. Miller, in 10 years at the helm of the Buckeyes, worked on 10 one-year appointments.



Eldon Miller During Last OSU Home Game

After coaching his last game in St. John Arena, a 68-55 triumph over Minnesota, Miller became somewhat sentimental in his post-game remarks.

"Coaching at Ohio State has been a lifelong dream for me," he said. "It'll be something that will be a part of my life forever. There's no way I could begin to tell you what it means to me to have coached here 10 years. Those 10 years are almost over."

"BUT TO BE A part of this place for 10 years is incredible. It's first class all the way."

"They've got a lot of work to do

with the basketball program. There's some times when a coaching change takes place, it happens. It's happening at Northern Iowa. I've got a lot more to work with than my predecessor had. When I came here, I had more to work with than Coach (Fred) Taylor had and the new coach who comes in after me will have more to work with than I had. It's as common as having breakfast, lunch and dinner during the day and that's the way it should be."

Miller was asked if the victory in

Continued On Page 2

Bulletin To Expand

Buckeye Sports Bulletin will be expanding to include a weekly format from January to mid-March. BSB publisher Frank Moskowitz has announced.

The change will allow BSB to better cover both basketball and football recruiting, as well as increase coverage of other winter sports.

BSB's new subscription rates will be \$21 for one year and \$32 for two years. Information on a money saving offer may be found on page 3.

Search On For New Buck Cage Coach

Continued From Page 1

his home finale had any extra meaning.

"Sorry to disappoint you," he replied. "But I can't stand losing anytime. I always expect to win. When we lose, I try not to berate you with it. I just try to berate myself. I see no reason to make everybody else around me suffer because I am."

WHILE MILLER has a new job before he's actually finished with his old one, OSU athletic director Rick Bay isn't saying much about who will be hired to replace Miller.

Since all sorts of rumors began surfacing in newspapers and on radio and television, Bay has taken a "no comment" approach. "We hope to have a name by March 15th, maybe sooner," said Bay prior to the Feb. 26 game against Iowa.

Bay was asked what he was looking for in the new coach.

"Integrity, above all else," he said. "I want someone who can give Ohio State the best image possible. I want an experienced coach who can come in and command instant credibility."

Former Ohio State cager Don DeVoe, presently the head coach at Tennessee, was granted permission by UT athletic director Doug Dickey to talk with OSU officials about the vacancy. One Columbus TV station said DeVoe was in Columbus in mid-February to talk about the job.

Danny Nee, presently at Ohio University, also has been mentioned.

OU athletic director Harold McElhaney knows Nee, who has guided the Bobcats to two Mid-American Conference titles in the past four years, is a candidate.

"I don't want to lose him," said McElhaney, "but if they don't take him, they're out of their minds. I know I'm on borrowed time. I just want to lose him to the right place."

Many, many names have been suggested. One local call-in radio talk show recently took a straw vote on who the new coach should be. The first 17 callers offered 17 different names for the job. Names mentioned included Dave Bliss of SMU, Bob Donewald of Illinois State and Lee Rose at South Florida.

One name tossed into the hat quickly let it be known that he was not interested.

"I have no desire to coach," said former OSU All-American John Havlicek. "If I were going to be a coach, I would have done it a long time ago."

Havlicek, in town to pick up an award from the Columbus Touchdown Club, offered the name of former teammate Larry Siegfried as a possibility.

"Larry would give his right arm to be the new coach," Havlicek told

the *Columbus Dispatch*. "It would be a labor of love for him."

Bill Frieder, head basketball coach at Michigan, offered the name of former Wolverine boss Johnny Orr, now at Iowa State.

"Think about it," said Frieder, in an interview with the same paper. "He's a proven winner, he's won a couple of Big Ten championships, he knows the Big Ten inside and out, he plays golf in Columbus and knows a lot of the high-rollers there. He's perfect for the job."

It was suggested to Frieder that money — or lack of it — might prevent Orr from replacing Miller. After all, Orr is reportedly in the final year of a six-year contract estimated to be worth \$500,000, he has an interest-free home loan, and is bombarded with gifts of pork and beef from producers in Iowa.

"He has all the money he needs and he has enough meat in the freezer to last for the rest of his life," said Frieder.

Indiana coach Bobby Knight denied a rumor started by a Cleveland television station that he had applied for the job.

"I think I've made my position on jobs clear for a long, long time," said Knight. "I haven't had an interest in another job since I've been here, and I certainly don't now."

"Since I've been at Indiana, I've never called anyone about a job, nor would I now. I think I've made it perfectly clear that I intend to be here as long as I coach."

Purdue coach Gene Keady was asked by a local sportswriter if he would be a candidate for the OSU post.

"I'm very happy at Purdue and I'm not thinking about changing

Sellers, Hall Earn Honors

Brad Sellers and Tracey Hall have been named February's winners of the Haydocy Pontiac *Buck of the Month* and Plank's *Lady Buck of the Month* awards for their play on the Ohio State men's and women's basketball teams.

Sellers, a 7-0 senior out of Warrensville Heights, Ohio, played 270 of a possible 280 minutes in seven games during the month, averaging 21.8 points and 11.2 rebounds. He also blocked 17 shots and handed out 11 assists.

He hit on 51 of 101 from the floor and 51 of 62 from the line for the month.

For Sellers, the Haydocy honor was his second of the season.

Hall, a 6-0 sophomore from Cleveland Heights, Ohio, averaged 16.5 points and 9.2 rebounds per game as the Lady Bucks of coach Nancy Darsch went 5-2 on the month.

my job," said Keady, who has been at Purdue since the 1980-81 season. "But I'm like any coach. In this crazy business if an incredible offer is made and they go through the right channels . . . I'd listen."

"I think the job is great. It's in a state with a great recruiting base. I don't have any doubts that it's one of the top 10 jobs in the country."

THE ISSUE of one-year contracts for OSU coaches was one of Miller's reasons for stepping down.

It now appears that a new coach might be offered some sort of multiyear pact.

"My feeling is that there are certain candidates out there who we are going to have to be in the position to offer them a multiyear contract in order to attract them," said Bay. "If you're talking about getting an established coach, you're probably going to have to give him a contract that calls for more than one year."

ANOTHER REPORT had Buckeye assistant coach Jim Clemons filling in for Miller the final three games if the latter accepted the Northern Iowa job.

Bay squelched those notions by saying: "They've (the team) had to deal with a lot of changes this year and I don't see that another change at this point would be beneficial to what the team is trying to accomplish as the season comes to a close."

CLEMONS ALSO is a candidate for the job.

"I've been interviewed," said Clemons while watching a high school game in Columbus.

Clemons went on to say that while he is actively pursuing a head coaching position, be it at Ohio State or elsewhere, he would stay on as an assistant coach if asked.

"I'm going to rectify that," said Clemons when it was suggested that he could do the job at the school but that Ohio State almost had to hire an experienced head coach.

Clemons hopes to get his feet wet as a head coach and be ready the next time the Ohio State job comes open.

THE NEW Buckeye basketball coach — whoever he may be — will be rewarded with a trip overseas shortly after coming on board.

The Buck cage squad is slated to spend two weeks in Europe in August playing games in France, Switzerland and West Germany.

Only Brad Sellers and Jim Honigford will not make the trip. Sellers is not eligible because he is a senior and Honigford, although having a year of eligibility remaining, has told coach Eldon Miller that he will not return next season and will enter veterinary school.

WHILE OSU has only one scholarship left to give for next season and basketball recruiting has been placed in limbo until a new coach is hired, other schools

already picked Ohio almost clean during the early signing period last fall.

Dayton apparently has outdone everybody in picking up some of the top players available. The Flyers of Don Donohue signed 6-8 Troy McCracken of Springfield Greenon, 6-3 Norm Grevey of Hamilton, 6-6 Anthony Corbitt of Dayton Patterson and 6-5 Noland Richardson of Willard.

Kevin Haddock, a 6-5 forward at Columbus Wehrle, was said to have turned down a scholarship offer from Ohio State and recently announced that he would sign at Evansville.

Grevey, the younger brother of former NBA standout Kevin, tore ligaments in his knee in December and was expected to miss the rest of the high school season — perhaps never play again. But he still has plans to play at Dayton.

David Minor, a 6-6 forward who helped Cincinnati Purcell-Marion to the Ohio Class AAA state championship last March, signed with Indiana during the early signing period in November.

Joe Fredrick, a 6-5 swingman at Cincinnati Greenhills, is headed for Notre Dame while Maurice Gray, who is averaging over 25 points a game for Gates Mills Hawken, signed with Davidson.

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New Coach Will Use Entire Court

Williams To Guide Buck Cage Squad

By Frank Moskowitz

After his name had been bantered about publicly for several days, Gary Williams was officially introduced as the new Ohio State basketball coach at a press conference on March 15. And Williams, who served as coach at Boston College the last four seasons, quickly let it be known that he was happy to be in Columbus.

"I really appreciate the opportunity that President (Ed) Jennings, (athletic director) Rick Bay and the others who were instrumental in my being able to get the position at Ohio State University have given me," said Williams. "What they have given is a great opportunity to coach at a great institution that has all the weapons necessary to have a great program."

"I THINK, WITH our style of play, we'll try to be as aggressive as anyone and we'll try to play an up-tempo game, which I think will make us competitive with the type of teams that we have to play against in the Big Ten."

To hear Williams talk, a change in the style of play at Ohio State is in the offing.

"As a coach, I think that they made the court 94 feet, so you might as well use all of it. We full-court press quite a bit of the time and we use a lot of different defenses. We use both zone and man with both pressure and drop-back."

"OFFENSIVELY, WE look to run every time, but shot selection becomes very important when you play that way. The toughest thing I do in my style of coaching is to make sure everyone understands what is a good shot and when you should hold it up and get into our offense. And when we do get into our offense, we're a very inside-oriented team. We've had success doing that in the past and we look to do that here."

"My responsibility is to do the job the best I can," said Williams, who coached for four years at American University in Washington D.C. before moving to BC, "and to do it cleanly and fairly and make sure our players at Ohio State do what they're supposed to do academically, as well as on the basketball court. I think the combination of those two are what makes the great teams."

The new coach is proud of the academic success of his players, saying that all four of his seniors last season graduated and that all four of his seniors will graduate this season, as well. "At American, I was there for four years, and the guys I recruited have all since graduated."

JENNINGS, PRESENT at the press conference, is also impressed with Williams' interest in academics among other things.

"Gary Williams is an individual who



New Coach Gary Williams Addresses Media

will place academics first for the student-athlete on his team," the OSU president said. "There also is no question that he is supportive of and committed to the NCAA rules and regulations. From my own knowledge of the coaching community, I am confident that we are hiring the best young coach in the nation — and he will soon be the best coach in the nation, because he is joining the best basketball program anywhere."

"That is clearly a winning combination, and I am delighted to join in welcoming Gary to the Ohio State University community," Jennings said.

Williams, who compiled a record of 76-45 at Boston College and a 72-42 mark at American with two NIT

appearances, did not have a timetable for assuming his new duties.

"I DON'T KNOW exactly when I'll get here, but I'll get here as quickly as I can. The team is still playing (in the NIT), so I'll go back to Boston," he said, indicating he would be staying out of deposed coach Eldon Miller's way, "but I'll be back here as quickly as possible because I feel like I have a lot of things I want to accomplish in the next few weeks."

Williams becomes the first OSU coach to sign a multi-year pact, inking a five year contract with a starting salary of \$75,000 a year. Outside income could push that figure to well over \$200,000.

Williams described himself as "an intense coach. I just want to be a coach."

I don't have any other goals, in terms of where I want to be five years from now or ten years from now in terms of a profession. I enjoy my job."

"PROBABLY THE BEST part of my job is the time I spend with the players on the practice floor, where you're away from the phones. You're just there with the players. I think that's one of the things you get in coaching that you can't get in other professions."

"I don't have a lot of other outside interests, other than basketball. I play some lousy golf and lousy tennis. I run every month or so."

"Basketball just keeps you busy. It's something I grew up with and I've never lost the feeling for basketball," added Williams, a Collingswood, N.J., native who played three years of basketball at Maryland before graduating in 1968.

ONE OF THE reasons for Eldon Miller's downfall was difficulties with recruiting and there had been reports by the Columbus media that Williams was also a weak recruiter. Williams, who has taken his team to post-season play five times in eight years of collegiate coaching, denied the charge.

"I think I'm a pretty good recruiter," he said. "When I was at American University, we used to play our home games at a military base in Virginia and we were able to recruit locally and get five players who set the school record for wins. When they were juniors we won 25 games and the next year we won 22. Then the following year I went to Boston College and they still won 20 games, so I think I did a good recruiting job there."

"At Boston College I think we did a good recruiting job early. The Big East has changed to where you have to recruit nationally now and some of the things at Boston College prevent you from being competitive with Syracuse, St. Johns, Georgetown and possibly Villanova. But at the same time, given an equal opportunity, I think I can recruit with anyone."

RECRUITING AT Boston College is hampered by a small arena, in particular.

Ohio State still has one scholarship left to offer this season, and Williams indicated that he may yet ink a player.

"If we could get a line on a very good player, I would. But we're not going to give that scholarship away without making sure that the player was going to come in and have some impact on the program."

Williams, whose BC team finished 13-15 in 1985-86, indicated he would not attempt to recruit any players he had been recruiting for the Eagles.

"We're going to recruit Columbus

Continued On Page 6

Bay Feels New Coach Is 'Dynamic'

Introduces Williams To Media

The following is a complete text of Ohio State athletic director Rick Bay's introduction of Gary Williams to the press as the new OSU men's basketball coach on March 15:

Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for coming. I apologize to some of you for the timing of this announcement, although I have to say that several of you were instrumental in pressuring this decision, in bringing it about as quickly as possible. I do know that there is a lot going on around the state relative to the NCAA tournament, high school playoffs and some of you were inconvenienced in having to come a distance to cover this event today.

We really felt that the timing was essential in the sense that we get after it as quickly as possible. Frankly, we were not able to make an announcement until today, but if we had been ready, we would have been reluctant to make one yesterday, in deference to our men's team and their game in Athens. We would have been reluctant to make an announcement tomorrow because we don't want to take away from our women's game in the NCAA playoffs here in Columbus against Maryland. And of course, now on Monday night, we have an NIT game against Texas.

The season is going on. We don't



Ohio State athletic director Rick Bay (left) welcomes new basketball coach Gary Williams to Ohio State, as OSU sports information director Marv Homan (right) looks on.

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know how long it will last for Ohio State teams, but there are a lot of jobs opening up across the country. We feel we have the best coach in America here at Ohio State now and we wanted to strike while the fire was hot and get this thing taken care of as quickly as possible.

Several weeks ago when it was announced that Coach Miller would be leaving at the end of this season, I indicated we would be seeking a replacement that was an established coach with a winning record. I'm very pleased to tell you today that we accomplished that mission.

Our new head basketball coach at the Ohio State University is Gary Williams. He comes to us from Boston College. As I said earlier, we were not prepared to do this until today, because frankly, the offer that we made to Gary, and Gary eventually agreed to, took place last night in a phone conversation about 1 a.m. after I returned from Athens and the NIT tournament. I'll be happy to respond to any questions you might have relative to how all this unfolded later on.

But for the time being, let me tell you a little bit about Gary Williams.

He's a coach who has won at virtually every level of competition. He coached a state high school championship team in Camden N.J., won a conference title at a smaller college, American University in Washington, D.C., and earned two NIT berths in the process. And in four years at Boston College, he's taken two teams to the NCAA's final 16 and one other team to the NIT. He won the 1983 Big East regular season championship and finished third that year in the Associated Press's balloting for coach of the year.

He has gone head to head against some of the nation's outstanding coaches and done it successfully.

Several of those coaches are in his own conference. In four years, for example, he has won three times against Rollie Massimino at Villanova, four times against Lou Carnesecca at St. John's, he beat Jim Boeheim at Syracuse three times, he beat John Thompson at Georgetown and he's beaten Mike Krzyzewski at Duke in the NCAA playoffs.

And despite this most recent season, he has a winning record at Boston College of 76-45 and a career collegiate coaching mark of 148 wins and 87 losses.

Gary Williams was attractive to us at Ohio State for many reasons. First, and perhaps foremost, he is highly recommended across the country. Among those schools presently seeking coaches, he was listed among the top three candidates, virtually across the board.

In fact, I've had many athletic directors call me already, asking me where we were in our negotiations with Gary Williams because he was a candidate they wished to approach if Ohio State was out of the picture.

While Gary, himself, may not wish to comment upon this, it is my information that he could have well had the job last year at Wake Forest, Arkansas, and he has already turned away many opportunities this year as he has continued down the road with us, in trying to negotiate what has come to pass this afternoon.

In the east, he was recommended by many people, as well, not the least of which was John Thompson of Georgetown and perhaps, most notably to Ohio Staters, by John Havlicek, who took the initiative in a conversation that I had with him to identify Gary as the finest young coach in America. He said to me that if we could get Gary Williams, we would be doing a great service to Ohio State University and its basketball program.

He is dynamic, intense, he's articulate and he is popular, both with the eastern press, and more importantly, with his own players. He has accomplished all of his achievements in the face of overwhelming odds, I might say, at Boston College, where basketball is probably the third most important sport in their program, behind football and ice hockey.

He has been extremely effective as a recruiter, despite the fact that Boston College's basketball facility seats just over 4,000 fans and the Big East conference has mandated that starting next year, BC must play all of its Big East games in the Boston Gardens, essentially a neutral site.

In addition, he has had to recruit outside the state of Massachusetts, where the talent is not nearly as great as it is in New York, Washington D.C., or Philadelphia, the home cities of BC's most important Big East rivals.

Most importantly to the Ohio State University, however, is that Gary's integrity is unquestioned and he is dedicated to the principals of keeping the proper perspective between academics and athletics.

We were further impressed by the style of basketball that he plays, which I believe Ohio State fans will find extremely exciting. His teams play a pressure full-court defense virtually the entire game and on offense they are a fast breaking team with a great emphasis on the inside game.

And I think I was most impressed when I asked him why he wanted to come to Ohio State. Gary Williams said, "It is a great school and affords me the vehicle and opportunity I need professionally, to win the national championship."

All of that, and as a fairly close source to the Ohio State University athletic program, I introduce to you our new head coach, Gary Williams.

New Coach

Continued From Page 1

first, then the whole state of Ohio. We just have to do a very good job of that. That was one of the attractions of the Ohio State program to me. Here's a situation where if you do a great job in the state of Ohio, and I realize I have to work hard and prove myself here, the talent is here. Ohio, nationally, is known as a great basketball state and there's no reason that, if we do our job, it can't be helpful to us.

"At the same time," Williams, whose appointment must still be approved by the OSU board of trustees, continued, "if there's a great player in Washington D.C., or there's a great player in Chicago, we'll go after him."

While Williams kept using the word "we," he said he had not made any decisions on assistant coaches yet.

"I'm in the process of trying to put together the best staff I can, a staff that will be not just a good recruiting staff,

but a staff that will be a teaching staff to the players, and people that I can trust and the university will be proud to have working for them.

"I'm completely open now in terms of who that might be," said Williams, adding that he might consider somebody already on the OSU staff.

Williams' club defeated Ohio State handsily, earlier this season, yet despite the fact that only Brad Sellers and seldom-used Jim Honigford are graduating, he was reluctant to talk about Buckeye personnel.

"You prepare for any game and you get a look at the talent, but I'll probably know better about the talent by the time we start practice next fall. I think Ohio State has some good players in the program. Brad Sellers is a very good player and to lose a player like that hurts a little bit.

"At the same time, I think to be competitive in the Big Ten you have to get the best possible players that fit in with the goals of the school. That's what we're looking to do in recruiting is get a couple impact players and go from there.

"But I think there is some pretty good talent here. I don't feel that there's really a dearth of talent," said Williams, who once coached Woodrow Wilson High School in Camden, N.J., to a state championship.

One thing that might aid Williams in his recruiting at Ohio State is improved facilities for the Buckeyes. However, he was quick to point out that, while improving facilities at OSU has been a constant topic of discussion, the facilities in Columbus are an improvement for him.

"I've never had facilities that are as good as those at Ohio State. But I know that to be competitive in a Big Ten situation, you have to do a good job with your facilities for recruiting purposes, for the general feeling of your players, that they're getting first class treatment. I'm sure that, with the cooperation of the athletic department, we'll do whatever has to be done to make sure we're competitive, facility-wise.

As mentioned, Williams' hiring at OSU had been a matter of public speculation for several days, with athletic director Rick Bay staying tight-lipped on the issue. At the press conference some light was shed on the negotiations.

"I was never in Columbus," Williams said. "We talked mostly on the phone, quite a few times, mostly with Rick. We did meet a couple of times in out-of-the-

Williams' Record

Year	School	W	L
78-79	American U.	14	13
79-80	American U.	13	14
80-81	American U.	24	6
81-82	American U.	21	9
82-83	Boston Col.	25	7
83-84	Boston Col.	18	12
84-85	Boston Col.	20	11
85-86	Boston Col.	13	15
Totals		148	87

way places. They must have been out-of-the-way places because you guys (the media) didn't find out where we were.

"Basically it was a matter of meeting each other and mostly, I think, Ohio State getting to know me. I think that was the important thing and I think we hit it off really well. I'm really happy the way it worked out."

Bay indicated that Ohio State came to its decision after a second meeting, which took place the previous Monday in Pittsburgh and involved President Jennings.

"I had recommended Gary for the job, but we were not able to pull everything together relative to an offer and coming to a total agreement on a contract until one o'clock this morning. That was done by phone and we were able to bring all those things together in written form about an hour ago."

Williams said that he had one other firm offer this year, but would not comment on from which school it came.

"As soon as Rick contacted our athletic director," said Williams, "I felt that Ohio State was a place where I'd like to coach."

Williams was asked if he thought coaching at Ohio State would be a high-pressure job.

"It's probably considered a high-pressure job because in the Columbus area, it's the main show during the winter. But at the same time, I've always put pressure on myself to do the best possible job.

"I enjoy meeting people and being out. It doesn't bother me if people want to come up and talk basketball because that's what I like to talk about.

"As far as dealing with members of the media, I understand that you have a job and I have a job. Part of that job is talking to me so I think you'll find I'm pretty accessible."

Williams does not feel that the OSU job is necessarily more high-pressure than his job at BC.

"That Big East is a little crazy back there. Those guys are all nuts except for me — Boheim and those guys. They're crazy.

"There's a different focus. More people will care about how we do out here than at Boston College. But in terms of myself, I know how hard I worked there and I'm going to do the same thing here."

An obvious question for Williams is how he compares the Big Ten to the Big East.

"In the Big Ten, they play a lot more of a half-court game than the East does. In the East they play a little more pressure defense, a little more up and down basketball. I think you see a lot more man-to-man here. The Big East is almost totally zone.

"You have to learn the league. I think that's a tough job I have. You have to learn the style of the coaches. But we've played a few Big Ten teams in the last few years — Wisconsin, Michigan State, Ohio State. So I think I've had a chance to see the style of play."

Jennings Lauds Bay For Search Process

Ohio State University president Edward Jennings praised athletic director Rick Bay's efforts in finding a new basketball coach.

"I am very pleased with Rick's success in recruiting Gary Williams for Ohio State," Jennings said. "Throughout the entire process, I have been impressed by the thoroughness with which Rick has conducted the search."

"He has been in contact with every major basketball authority in the country, seeking out for Ohio State the most outstanding talent available in the nation. He has succeeded in bringing the top talent here."

BAY HAD TROUBLE remembering that his final meeting with Gary Williams took place in Pittsburgh, when Williams was introduced to the press.

"Sorry," he apologized after struggling with the city. "You've had me in a lot of places over the last few weeks, so I've forgotten where I've really been and where I was reported to have been," he said, referring to the constant speculation by the Columbus media.

Bay would not say how many candidates OSU actually interviewed.

"I don't want to put a number on that because it just leads to more speculation, but it's sufficient to say we interviewed a handful of candidates. Not a lot. By that I mean interviewed personally. We did an awful lot of work on the phone both with candidates and with people I consider experts in the area of basketball, from coast to coast.

"It was truly a national search," the AD continued. "We personally interviewed people from the West Coast, East Coast, the Midwest, and I can tell you unequivocally, that Gary

Williams is the only person we offered this job to.

Was Bay glad the search was over? "You bet!"

WHILE BAY maintained that only "a handful" of coaches were interviewed there were far more than a handful of names mentioned by members of the media as potential replacements for Eldon Miller.

According to the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, for instance, the top four candidates were Williams, current Buckeye assistant Jimmy Clemons, former Buckeye Don DeVoe, now coach at Tennessee, and Dr. Tom Davis of Stanford. *Plain Dealer* sportswriter Wayne Cheeks claimed in a March 2 article that all four had interviewed with Bay and he also listed Cleveland State's Kevin Mackey, Akron's Bob Huggins, North Carolina assistant Ed Folger, Paul Evans of Navy, Pat Foster of Lamar, Pete Gillen of Xavier and Danny Nee of Ohio University as possible candidates.

Nee's name was a common one in discussions concerning the OSU vacancy.

One big name that popped up late was that of Syracuse's Jim Boheim. The *Columbus Dispatch* reported that Boheim was offered the job, but he turned it down. It was speculated that Boheim, a Syracuse grad in his 10th year on the Orangemen bench, may have been trying to improve his position at his alma mater by negotiating with Ohio State.

The *Dispatch* also seemed to be pushing Purdue's Gene Keady for the job, but he withdrew his name from consideration, as did DeVoe and Virginia's Terry Holland.

Bucks Lasso Texas In NIT

Ohio State was hosting Texas in a second-round NIT game on March 17 and Buckeye basketball coach Eldon Miller was not quite ready to pack the family car and depart for his new job at Northern Iowa University.

"I'll have to delay my move for a little while," said Miller after his squad had branded the Longhorns, 71-65, in front of a small but vocal St. John Arena crowd of 7,208.

"I'm willing to delay it," continued Miller, who, with his 401st coaching victory, extended his OSU stint at least one more game. "I'm not ready to leave yet. This is becoming fun. It's fun to win."

Winning and the fun that goes with it might have been the furthest thing from Miller's mind with five minutes left in the first half. Texas held a 24-12 lead and the Buckeyes were looking somewhat lackadaisical. But Miller wasn't about to sell the ranch.

Dennis Hopson scored. Curtis Wilson picked off a Longhorn pass and drove in for a layup. Wilson added the front end of a one-and-one. Brad Sellers banked one off the glass from in close. All of a sudden the Bucks (16-14) trailed only 24-20.

John Brownlee cashed a free throw and a baseline jumper around a long-range bomb by the Buckeyes' Jay Burson and Texas led 27-22 with 1:18 left. Burson canned two more jumpers in the final minute and it was a new ball game.

After nine lead changes and a pair of

ties in the first 10 minutes of the second half, the Buckeyes began cracking the whip.

A 14-6 OSU run was capped by a Sellers slam off a feed from Wilson and the Bucks led 54-46. Texas (19-12) crept back to within two by running off six in a row, but accuracy by the Bucks at the foul line (9-of-11) down the stretch, coupled with two inside hoops by Hopson had the Longhorns lassoed.

Texas (65)

Player	mn	fg	ft	rb	a	pf	tp
Fairs	38	7	14	4	5	9	0
R.Davis	34	5	10	1	2	4	1
Brownlee	36	6	15	5	6	3	2
Thomas	19	1	4	0	0	2	0
Willock	37	5	8	1	2	2	3
Broadway	24	1	4	0	0	5	3
Perryman	9	1	3	0	0	5	3
Green	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
G.Davis	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Novak	1	0	1	2	2	1	0
Totals	200	26	59	13	16	34	8

FG%: 1st half, .481 (13-27); 2nd half, .406 (13-32); Game: .441. FT%: 1st half, .500 (1-2); 2nd half, .857 (12-14); Game: .812. Team rebounds—3. Deadball rebounds—6.

Ohio State (71)

Player	mn	fg	ft	rb	a	pf	tp
Sellers	39	10	21	5	6	10	1
Francis	10	0	3	0	1	0	0
Wilson	25	0	0	0	0	2	0
Hopson	36	6	13	2	3	9	2
Lomax	21	0	1	0	0	0	2
Wilson	34	4	6	9	13	4	2
Burson	22	4	8	3	5	2	2
McGee	12	0	2	4	5	3	0
Honigford	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Totals	200	24	54	23	33	32	17

FG%: 1st half, .462 (12-26); 2nd half, .429 (12-28); Game: .444. FT%: 1st half, .667 (2-3); 2nd half, .677 (21-31); Game: .696. Team rebounds—2. Deadball rebounds—4.

Halftime: Texas, 27-26.

Attendance: 7,208.