

# BUCKEYE SPORTS BULLETIN

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"For The Buckeye Fan Who Needs To Know More"

May 14, 1994

*Former Maryland AD Comes To Buckeyes With Impressive Resume*

## Ohio State Selects Geiger As New Director

By MARK REA

Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

Hopscotching the United States for the past two decades, Andy Geiger had set foot inside Ohio Stadium exactly one time in his 55 years.

As athletic director at Stanford, he watched in 1982 as John Elway led the Cardinal to a 23-20 come-from-behind victory over Ohio State.

A dozen years later, Geiger has accepted the challenge of working in the shadow of the Horseshoe, agreeing to become the seventh athletic director in OSU history.

Although there have been only seven men who have occupied the post since 1912, Geiger will be the fifth since 1970 and third since 1984. While Lynn St. John and Richard Larkins were on the job a combined 58 years, Ed Weaver, Hugh Hindman, Rick Bay and Jim Jones have averaged only about six each.

And some have wondered publicly if Geiger will do anything to halt the recent trend, if his hiring is only a stop-gap measure as Ohio State tries to emerge from an NCAA investigation of its men's basketball program.

"I reject that notion," Geiger said. "Nothing has been presented to me in terms of this being that sort of appointment. I'm in for a much longer haul than that. I'm not here just for a cup of coffee."

Armed with an impressive resume that includes athletic directorships at two different Ivy League schools in addition to an 11-year stint at Stanford before becoming AD at Maryland, Geiger may be just the man to lead the Ohio State athletic department into the 21st century. The university hierarchy thinks so.

"He is considered by many people to be the finest athletic director in this country," said OSU president Gordon Gee. "Some of you have had an opportunity to talk with people at other places Andy has been, and I have been delighted that you have done so."

"In each of those occasions, several words come through: energy, ability, the fact that he is very intelligent, the fact that he makes good choices, the fact that he hires good people, and, of course, ultimately that he cares deeply about the student and he cares about the athlete. Those are the issues that we think are important for Ohio State and that are certainly the essence of this university."

There are other things that are the essence of Ohio State athletics, at least in the eyes of many alumni and fans. Geiger immediately addressed those during a press conference April 29 when



**SPRING GAME STROLL** — Ohio State president Gordon Gee (left) waves to the Ohio Stadium crowd as he ushers new athletic director Andy Geiger around during the football team's annual spring game. Geiger will take over the athletic directorship from Jim Jones, who will retire this summer. Geiger was hired from Maryland, where he has spent the last four years.

he was officially introduced to the Columbus press.

When asked what he envisioned as some of the greatest challenges ahead, he immediately replied, "Beating Michigan." Geiger also addressed the challenge of reaching out to alumni who had hoped the athletic director's job would go to one of several former OSU athletes — Rex Kern, Archie Griffin, Bill Hosket or Dutch Baughman.

"If there are hard feelings, I will work very hard to bridge those," he said. "I'm not necessarily going to apologize for who I am and where I've come from."

"At the same time, I'm honored, thrilled and delighted to accept the challenge and the opportunity of being the seventh athletic director in the long and very proud history of The Ohio State University. I realize that there is great tradition here and I also realize there are very high expectations. I pledge to you, to this great university and to the people of Ohio, my very

finest efforts to continue and build upon that reputation."

Despite having set foot on the campus only one time before being mentioned for the athletic director's job, Geiger is really no stranger to Ohio State. In fact, he has a history of hiring and working with former OSU coaches. In 1985, he hired Tara VanDerveer away from the Buckeyes to become head coach of the women's basketball team at

Stanford. At Maryland, he worked with former OSU men's basketball coach Gary Williams and also hired former OSU graduate assistant coach Mark Duffner as the Terrapins' head football coach.

A 1961 graduate of Syracuse, Geiger has risen to the top of his field since

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### Final Biweekly Issue Of BSB

This is the final issue of *Buckeye Sports Bulletin* on a biweekly (every two weeks) publishing schedule.

After this issue, *BSB* will switch to its summer publishing schedule of one issue each in June, July and August. The June issue is scheduled to be published and mailed June 7. *BSB* will return to its weekly publishing schedule in September with the beginning of the 1994 football season.

For updates on OSU sports throughout the summer, call the *BSB* Hotline at 1-900-896-0666.



# New AD Puts Together Administrative Team

Continued From Page 1

spending six years as an assistant athletic director at his alma mater from 1964-70. He was director of athletics at Brown (1971-75) and Pennsylvania (1975-78) before moving on to Stanford in 1979. During his tenure there, his teams recorded 27 intercollegiate national championships in a variety of sports.

In 1990, he left Stanford and took on the troubled program at Maryland and, in four years, has re-established the reputation of the Terrapins' athletic program following a messy NCAA investigation that resulted in a two-year probation for men's basketball.

Upon his appointment to Maryland, Geiger faced a university torn between factions loyal to three basketball coaches in a five-year period and a faculty skeptical of an athletic program since the cocaine-induced death of basketball star Len Bias. Geiger was able to bring those factions together, and just this past season, the Terrapins made the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 1988.

Now, of course, Ohio State is facing sanctions following an investigation into its men's basketball program. And although the penalties are not expected to be as severe as those incurred by Maryland, Geiger is no less committed to making sure the violations committed don't happen again.

"One of the things I will turn my attention to is a vigorous compliance program within the athletics department," he said. "We'll try to have a thorough education program and move forward in a strong way."

"It takes a full-time, ongoing program of education to have successful compliance. I will probably do something similar to what we have instituted at Maryland, which is have a large group of people called a compliance committee, which will involve representatives of various offices on campus."

"We'll break that up into sub-committees, and those will have direct

## THE GEIGER FILE

■ **Name** — Ferdinand A. (Andy) Geiger.

■ **Age** — 55.

■ **Education** — Bachelor of arts in education, Syracuse University, 1961.

■ **Experience** — Athletic director at four major universities: Maryland, 1990-94; Stanford, 1979-90; Pennsylvania, 1975-79; Brown, 1972-75. Before beginning career as athletic director, was freshman rowing coach at Dartmouth (1961), assistant athletic director at Syracuse (1964-70), assistant commissioner of Eastern College Athletic Conference (1970-71).

■ **Miscellaneous** — Was leader in the expansion for the NCAA basketball tournament and served on the NCAA men's basketball committee; has been mentioned recently as potential candidate for vacancy as commissioner of major league baseball; was considered candidate for NCAA executive director before Cedric Dempsey was announced as director last November.

■ **Family** — Wife, Eleanor, currently working at University of Maryland on a National Science Foundation grant as a research assistant in mathematics education, working on a new curriculum for middle school mathematics; two sons, Phillip, 7, and Gregory, 6.



responsibility for monitoring and educating people in regard to their particular aspect of compliance. Then, I will chair a monitoring and investigations sub-committee that will probably include representatives from the general counsel's office of the university and others."

"As far as what the NCAA's finding will be, this is something that has already been determined. I don't look back, I look forward. I think what this university does next is always the critical thing to focus upon. I think this is something we can move through with alacrity and the program will recover quickly."

During his initial press conference, Geiger tackled a variety of other issues including his authority to hire and fire coaches at his discretion, the formation of his own administrative team and the problems faced with the pending gender equity legislation.

As far as hiring and firing coaches is concerned, Geiger said that he would work in tandem with Gee and OSU vice president for student affairs David Williams II.

"I think you work in a community-type environment and I don't think President Gee or Vice President Williams will appreciate surprises," Geiger said. "By the same token, they know that I won't appreciate surprises, so we've come to some understandings with regard to that."

"We'll work together. This is the Ohio State team and we'll manage it together."

But Gee was quick to add that although Geiger will report to either him or Williams, the new athletic director is by no means under the thumb of the president's office.

"David and I have made it very, very clear that we have enormous responsibilities and we intend on carrying those out," Gee said. "Andy Geiger is the athletic director. Obviously, we want to review any recommendations as I do with the provost or any of our other administrative heads. But he's the athletic director and he will be the athletic director in terms of those types of issues."

Geiger has already begun to assemble his management team, promoting assistant athletic director Griffin to associate athletic director in charge of a number of varsity sports, including football.

Also staying on will be Paul Krebs, senior associate athletic director in charge of administrative affairs, and associate athletic director Bill Myles, although his job description will change

from administrator of varsity sports to a position with emphasis on an outreach toward former student-athletes and organizations of letter winners.

"I want to have as much involvement of former Ohio State student-athletes in our program as possible," Geiger said, "particularly with emphasis toward building and rebuilding relationships with young men that have gone on to professional athletics."

"I also want to place special emphasis across the board on building a program for returning student-athletes who have not completed their degree to come back and finish their work at Ohio State. It is a program we have had success with at the University of Maryland and I'm excited about beginning a new effort here."

Geiger said he would begin an immediate search for another associate athletic director with responsibility for men's and women's basketball as well as another group of sports. The position will also include senior women's administration, replacing longtime associate AD Phyllis Bailey, who will retire this summer.

As far as gender equity is concerned, Geiger stressed that non-revenue generating sports at Ohio State had nothing to fear where he was concerned. Some universities across the nation have dropped various men's athletic programs in order to comply with the NCAA's so-called "60-40" rule. But Geiger said he will not follow suit at OSU.

"The last thing you do is drop sports," he said. "If you believe in broadly-based intercollegiate athletics, as I do, you cannot diminish the opportunities."

"I was an oarsman as an undergraduate. My sport is one that is practiced in virtual anonymity and is monastic in its experience, but it changed my life. It was the best education I have ever received and I am in this profession because of the experience I had as an undergraduate student-athlete."

"I'm in favor of intercollegiate athletics and one of the things that is special about Ohio State is that we can perhaps generate the resources to expand the women's programs even further than we have so that we can maintain the men's programs and even fund some scholarships that we're not able to do now."

"Women's athletics have been the greatest boon to men's athletics. We're not defensive about whether we should have athletics at all anymore. It's not a squabble over who gets what and how much athletics you can have. But I am a great supporter of women's athletics. I believe in Title IX and I think there are some logic problems we have to work with in terms of formulas we need to deal with as far as gender equity is concerned. But I think athletics for women is proper and wonderful and I support it wholeheartedly."

Geiger is married and has two sons. His wife, Eleanor, is currently working on a National Science Foundation grant at Maryland.

Following his press conference and an appearance at the annual OSU spring football game, Geiger returned to Maryland to complete his work there.

His first official day at Ohio State was scheduled to be May 16.

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# Griffin Disappointed At Being Passed Over, But Eagerly Accepts Promotion

By MARK REA  
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

Archie Griffin never made any bones about how much he wanted the athletic directorship at his alma mater.

He also didn't try to hide his disappointment when Ohio State bypassed him and selected Maryland athletic director Andy Geiger to succeed the retiring Jim Jones.

But after meeting with Geiger and accepting a promotion that for all intents and purposes makes him the new AD's right-hand man, Griffin was pragmatic about the chain of events.

"You're always disappointed whenever you go for something and don't get it," he said. "But I gave it my best shot, and if you give something your best shot, you can always feel good about that."

Many Ohio State watchers believed Griffin was a logical choice to move up to athletic director after Jones announced his retirement in February. However, speculation was that he wasn't going to get the job because he lacked the experience necessary to head the department.

Griffin reportedly made the final cut when the university's search committee narrowed its choices to two or three, but Geiger's experience of more than two decades as an athletic director ultimately won him the job over all other candidates.

Although he has no prior connection with Ohio or Ohio State, Geiger proved himself immediately knowledgeable about the affection Buckeye fans have for Griffin.

Still an immensely popular figure nearly 20 years after winning his record second Heisman Trophy, Griffin in some ways embodies the tradition of past Ohio State football glory for many fans. In addition, he has toiled in the OSU athletic department for the past nine years, seven of those as an assistant athletic director in charge of fund raising, and Geiger wishes to pool that good will and experience, using it to the advantage of his administration.

"I don't think you could find a finer representative for this institution than Archie Griffin," OSU's new athletic

director said. "I don't think you could find a finer representative for the collegiate student-athlete than Archie Griffin. I have urged him to stay as a senior member of my administrative staff and I am pleased that he is going to do so."

Griffin will receive a promotion from assistant to associate athletic director and his duties will change from fund raising, marketing and development to administrative oversight of more than a dozen varsity sports, including football. He will now be in charge of team budgets, schedules, travel and the evaluation of coaches.

It is a promotion he welcomes with enthusiasm.

"I feel really comfortable with this," Griffin said. "I had a good initial talk with Andy and discussed a lot of things. The promotion was one of the points of the conversation and I feel good about it."

"After talking with Andy and getting to know him a little bit, I feel that we have found an outstanding athletic director and that's what this whole search was all about — making sure we got the best person available — and I really believe Andy will do a tremendous job for us. He is very well experienced, as his resume reads. He has been a lot of places, done a lot of good things, and I think he'll be good for Ohio State."

Still the Buckeyes' all-time leading rusher as well as the only two-time Heisman Trophy winner in history, Griffin retains a fierce loyalty to his alma mater. And, as an alumnus of Ohio State, he admitted that he thought the job would go to someone with some sort of Ohio background. However, he was confident that Geiger would be successful at bridging the gap between those who wanted an Ohio native or OSU grad and those who simply want the athletic department to move ahead.

"You'll get some comments about Andy not being from Ohio, but if his true concern is about The Ohio State University, people who like Ohio State or alumni of Ohio State are really going to accept him into the family," Griffin said.

"Personally, I really like the fact of

having Ohio ties, but that's not always the way you can go. This search was geared toward getting an outstanding athletic director and getting someone who has a lot of experience as a director, and I think we've gotten that. I think this guy fits the bill and can really do a great job for us."

Neither OSU president Gordon Gee nor vice president for student affairs David Williams II would comment on whether Griffin would have been their second choice had Geiger turned down the job.

"All of the candidates that were nominated were given very serious consideration," Gee said. "Archie was someone that we thought very highly of and someone who was given very serious consideration."

"In the end, the decision was not made against someone. It was made on the fact that we believe that, in Andy Geiger, we have hired the premier person in the country."

Williams added, "Archie is well thought of here, a very good friend of mine and a wonderful person. I think Archie is going to be very, very happy because I think he is going to get some extremely strong mentoring opportuni-



Archie Griffin

ties with a man who has been athletic director at five universities over 23 years."

And when it comes time to search for Geiger's successor?

"You never know," Williams said. "I can't say if I'll be here or who will be here, but I can say one thing: If I had to pick a next athletic director, someone would have to come up with something special that I cannot even imagine for it not to be Archie Griffin."

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## New Athletic Director Wasn't Even Going To Interview For Post

## Gee's Sales Pitch Sold Geiger On Ohio State

By MARK REA  
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

Three weeks before accepting the athletic directorship at Ohio State, Andy Geiger wasn't even interested in the job.

Working on completing the fourth year of a five-year contract at Maryland, Geiger had been mentioned in the last six months for several jobs, including executive director of the NCAA and commissioner of major league baseball.

So, tired of the conjecture, Geiger gave a polite "no thanks" when Ohio State asked him if he would entertain the thought of becoming its next athletic director.

"That was a very hysterical moment for all of us," OSU president Gordon Gee recounted. "Andy was someone that we definitely wanted to pursue and it appeared he wasn't interested."

However, Gee took it upon himself to get Geiger interested.

The 11-person search committee had convened in Chicago with the intention

of interviewing Geiger in mid-April. However, two days before the preliminary interview was scheduled to take place, Geiger sent Ohio State a fax telling Gee he would not consider the job.

"At first, I was a reluctant candidate," Geiger admitted. "I was asked if I would be interested to come and talk and I said that I would, and then I said that I wouldn't. But then I learned about Gordon Gee's persuasiveness."

After discussing the matter with search committee chair Nancy Zimpher, Gee decided he would call Geiger personally.

"I called on a Sunday afternoon and Andy said he had decided not to come for the interview because he really felt a commitment to his program and the president at Maryland," Gee said. "I offered to call the president of Maryland (William Kirwan), who is a very good friend of mine, and ask him if Andy could at least have conversation with us. Andy agreed and I did that."

"At that point, Andy did visit with the committee and then we aggressively pursued him from that point on. It was

readily apparent to everyone that this was our (favorite) candidate, so we went flat out."

It was a scenario that was not supposed to happen, at least if you believed the initial rumors. Immediately after athletic director Jim Jones announced in February he would retire this coming summer, former OSU quarterback Rex Kern was rumored to be the university's number one choice as successor.

"I don't think that's right," said OSU vice president for student affairs David Williams II. "There were a lot of people that had made Rex our first choice or at least thought so. I'm sure there were people on the search committee who viewed Rex very highly."

"But what I can say is that I had a chance to talk with Rex. I can say he is a wonderful person who has a love for this university. Quite honestly, I think Rex could have done a good job. But I can guarantee you that at no time during our deliberations was Rex number one. He was going to have to go through the process. And as you look at things now, he would have been stacked up against some real tough competition."

Gee also bristled at the notion that the search was cut and dried before it ever began.

"This was a search that was very open," he said. "Many people thought this was a search that had started and been completed before the sounding gun. That was not the case."

"Our determination was to find the very best person that we possibly could in this country. We believe we have found that. We believe that we have found the person to match the mountains of Ohio State and we're blessed in that regard."

"We have found an individual that was the consensus choice of our search committee, our athletic council, the vice president for student affairs, the president, and he was the choice of the trustees."

"I say that only because it is so rare that we have unanimity in higher education that I think we should mark this as a very special occasion indeed. And to have that choice choose us is something for which I am very grateful."

Geiger admitted that he thought he would never leave Maryland for another athletic director's post. However, when he compared the scope of the two departments, taking over at Ohio State was a challenge he had to accept.

"The enormity of this program, the most comprehensive, the most broadly based program in the country, a \$30 million budget, facilities that are outstanding in many ways with tremendous opportunities to improve," he said.

"I just found the scope of this program, the traditions of this program, very compelling."

"I think the persuasiveness and the enthusiasm of the top administration of this university, the commitment toward an absolutely first-rate intercollegiate athletics program — all of these things were very strong factors for me."

"This is one of the first four or five names out of one's mouth when you talk about leadership programs in intercollegiate athletics in the United States."

In fact, once Gee got Geiger interested in the job, the rest was easy. There were no protracted contract negotiations. Geiger was vacationing with his family at Disney World in Florida when he was offered the job. When Gee and Williams asked if he could give them an answer when he returned from vacation, he replied that he had already reached a decision.

"That was one of the most pleasant parts of this whole issue," Gee said. "When we offered the job to Andy, we indicated to him we were willing to talk about details, and he said he would accept the job and all he expected was to be compensated fairly."

"He mentioned he would hope that the package he had at Maryland would be met. Well, that package puts him in the middle of the Big Ten, so Andy, quite frankly, you didn't negotiate very well. We were prepared to go way higher, but too late now."

Geiger will receive a one-year letter of appointment with a base salary of \$130,000. The rest of the financial package has not been determined. His contract at Maryland paid him a reported \$125,000 per year with an additional financial package which included an annual annuity of \$15,000 and the use of two cars.

The base salary will place Geiger somewhere in the middle of the pack among Big Ten athletic directors. It does, however, represent about a 20 percent increase over the \$108,000 annual salary that Jones receives.

Despite the fact he had a multiyear deal at Maryland, Geiger said he was comfortable with a one-year agreement.

"The first time I ever worked under a contract was at Maryland," he said. "All of my other positions have been at the pleasure of whomever I reported to. Frankly, I prefer the latter. I perhaps have some ideas that are a little bit different. I just don't think it's fair or proper under a circumstance like this to put things on a financial basis. Being the object of some sort of an auction, as egocentric as that sounds, was very distasteful to me."

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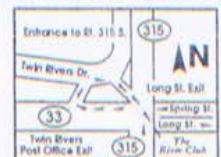
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# Reaction To New Athletic Director Is Positive From Former, Future Coaches

By MARK REA

Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

If first impressions are any indication, athletic director Andy Geiger should have no trouble relating favorably to the various head coaches at Ohio State.

During a brief get-together with several of the heads of OSU varsity sports, Geiger tried to lay out his vision of the immediate future and beyond.

"I met with as many coaches as I could, as many as were on campus today and did not have out-of-town games," he said. "I think it was a good first meeting and I will be meeting with the coaches on an individual basis when I come back and officially begin my duties."

That will be May 16 and hopefully after the NCAA infractions committee has announced its findings in the investigation into the Ohio State men's basketball program.

There has been speculation that the February announcement of OSU athletic director Jim Jones' early retirement was in some way connected to the NCAA investigation. Furthermore, the conjecture has been that Geiger's experience in helping clean up after Maryland's brush with an NCAA probe was one of the reasons he was pursued so vigorously by Ohio State.

However, although Geiger took great pains to outline a comprehensive plan he will implement for rules compliance at OSU, the pending NCAA ruling never came up in his first face-to-face meeting with head basketball coach Randy Ayers.

"Basically, it was just a get-to-know-you type meeting with a lot of other sports in the department," Ayers told BSB. "We didn't put anything on the table as far as the program or the NCAA was concerned."

For the time being, Ayers and the rest of his head coaching counterparts will have to formulate their own opinions regarding their new boss.

"He seems to be very in-tune with Ohio State so far and I enjoyed talking to him," football coach John Cooper told BSB. "I have talked to some other people who have worked with him and they all say the same thing: He is a hard worker who really wants to see his school succeed. I think that's what all of us want."

The paths of Cooper and Geiger will likely cross several times in the coming months. Cooper is set to begin the next-to-last year of a contract he signed prior to the 1992 season. Geiger mentioned one of the challenges he sees in taking

the Ohio State job is "beating Michigan," a feat that has eluded Cooper in six previous tries with the Buckeyes. He is the first OSU head coach in history to go winless in six straight attempts against the Wolves and retain his job.

Ayers is also on the hot seat due to back-to-back subpar seasons, several well-publicized off-campus scrapes with the law by players and the NCAA investigation. Still, eager to begin a sixth year as head coach and armed with a contract through the 1998-99 season, he is ready to begin work with Geiger.

"I think Andy comes across as very straightforward and very honest," Ayers said. "Of course, everyone is impressed with his background. I think he is going to be good for Ohio State athletics."

Ayers said he consulted a couple of friends for their opinions when it appeared Geiger was going to get the job. He called former Ohio State and current Maryland head coach Gary Williams as well as former Stanford assistant and current Iowa head coach Tom Davis for their impressions.

"Gary told me a lot of very positive things," Ayers said, "so we're looking forward to working with him."

"Also, Tom Davis and I had some conversation. Tom worked for Andy at Stanford and was very impressed with him there. Tom thinks Andy will bring a lot of positive things, not only to Ohio State, but to the conference as well."

The public perception in College Park was that Geiger and Williams did not get along well. Williams had already been hired away from Ohio State before Geiger arrived at Maryland in 1990 and their relationship has been described as a "peaceful co-existence."

When it was apparent that Geiger would receive the OSU job, columnist Jon Eisenberg of *The Baltimore Sun* wrote, "(Geiger) gets to avoid working with Williams, who is fast becoming the king of College Park. Geiger and Williams co-existed peaceably enough, and with mutual respect, but there was tension there. And it's never easy for an athletic director when a coach gets as bullet-proof as Williams is about to get."

Their relationship became tenuous from the beginning when Williams wanted to bring in Donyell Marshall and Lawrence Moten, two subpar academic recruits who later went on to become big stars at Connecticut and Syracuse, respectively.

Undoubtedly, Marshall and Moten would have made the Terrapins a markedly better team much earlier in their rebuilding process, but Geiger wanted success without compromising standards. Both were denied admission

to Maryland.

Nevertheless, Williams has had nothing but glowing praise for Geiger during the four years he worked with him.

"I think you're going to like Andy Geiger," he told BSB. "He has high standards and lofty goals and I think the coaches, players and fans at Ohio State are going to be pleased with the choice."

Williams was reportedly irked this past March when Geiger attended the Atlantic Coast Conference's women's tournament instead of the Terrapins' regular-season finale against Virginia, a win the team needed and received to get into the NCAA Tournament for the first time in six years.

"He wasn't at some of our other games, so that wasn't that big a deal," Williams said. "I'm sure there was pressure on him to be at the women's tournament."

"Look, I would never call our relationship close. But that didn't mean we didn't respect each other."

Another former Ohio State coach who does consider her relationship with Geiger close is Stanford women's basketball coach Tara VanDerveer.

Lured from the Lady Buckeyes to Stanford by Geiger in 1985, VanDerveer has flourished with the Cardinal, winning two national championships and placing her program among the best in the country.

"I think Andy will be great for Ohio State," VanDerveer told BSB. "I enjoyed working with him here because he sort of recruited me to come to Stanford. He has an excellent sense of fairness and he cares about the program he's involved with. I'm excited for him to be going to Ohio State and I'm excited that Ohio State had the chance to get him."

"He's from the outside, so I hope



Gary Williams

people who follow Ohio State don't just judge him too quickly. But if people are willing to give him a chance, he can do great things. He's a no-nonsense person. He has high expectations for the coaches and staff, and if they aren't willing to toe the line, they won't be there. I just think it's a great fit for everyone involved."

She added that Geiger is a champion of non-revenue sports, something he admitted during his initial press conference at Ohio State. But VanDerveer also said that he was cognizant of the fact that football and men's basketball generally keep athletic departments solvent.

"He's definitely a supporter of all athletics, regardless of gender," she said. "But he's also realistic about what pays the bills. He just likes watching young people compete under the banner of the school."

Geiger hired another ex-Buckeye at Maryland, giving former OSU graduate assistant Mark Duffner the head football coaching position. In two years, though, Duffner has posted only a 5-17 record with the Terrapins.

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# The View From 15th and High

By Frank L. Moskowitz, Publisher

## Despite No Ohio Ties, New AD Represents New Blood, New Ideas

I admit it. A couple of weeks ago, I didn't even know who Andy Geiger was. But everything I've heard about him since he emerged as the new athletic director at Ohio State seems to be positive. Unfortunately, there still seems to be some grumbling that the job didn't go to someone with an Ohio State background.

Personally, I think the job should go to the best person available, regardless of background. If the best person is an Ohio State person, so much the better. Putting emphasis on Ohio State roots above other qualifications, however, might have been a recipe for continued problems in the OSU athletic department.

It is the view from this corner that what Ohio State needs most is some new blood, new ideas, not more of the same old way of doing business.

OSU president Gordon Gee might just agree. The resume of Oregon State

athletic director Dutch Baughman seemed impressive enough and he had the strong Ohio State ties for which many long. It seemed that he was a leading candidate for the job before quickly dropping out of the picture. The rumor persists that Baughman fell into disfavor when he acknowledged that he has been influenced by outgoing OSU athletic director Jim Jones.

How well Geiger does in his new job remains to be seen. But the process that led to his selection seems indicative of the type of problems he will have to contend with at Ohio State.

It first appeared that former OSU great Rex Kern was the choice to replace Jones. The selection process was to be just a formality. Then Kern seemed to sour on the job or the powers that be soured on Kern — or both. Don't put too much stock in the stories about money or the former quarterback's health being the deciding issues.

After Kern was out of the picture, it seemed like Ohio State had no backup plan and the selection process appeared to be in turmoil. And all along, there was the question of what to do about Archie Griffin, who seemed to become a less and less likely choice as the weeks went on.

University officials deny that Kern was the predetermined choice and seem to indicate that Geiger was the favorite for some time. That may be true. But that's not the way things appeared.

And that's part of the problem. Appearances can be everything. The Ohio State athletic department at least appears to be in disarray. It's up to Andy Geiger to demonstrate that his new department is the leader in collegiate athletics that many believe it is or should be.

**THERE SEEM** to be three schools of thought concerning Griffin.

There are those who believe that the former Buckeye great should have been selected for the athletic director's job, especially after Kern withdrew his name from consideration. Others believe that Griffin wasn't qualified for the job — at least not yet. And then there were those who wondered why Griffin, one of the most popular figures in OSU sports history, would even want a job where there's always going to be somebody mad at you.

I don't think you get to be the type of athlete Griffin was if you don't have a competitive nature. And if you are truly competitive, you are going to want to rise to the top of your field. So it's pretty easy to understand why Griffin, an OSU administrator for about a decade now, would want the top job at his alma mater.

As far as whether he was qualified for the job, if you compare his resume to that of Geiger or Baughman — well, there's really no comparison. Griffin's strongest qualifications for the job seemed to be his popularity and ties to Ohio State, the reasons many favored him for selection.

My parents always taught me that you have to eliminate all potential objections if you want to try and assure yourself of something. A legitimate case can be made that Griffin was not yet qualified for a job of OSU's magnitude. By immediately promoting Griffin, Geiger has given the new associate AD a chance to eliminate the objection of not being qualified.

In his first act at OSU, Geiger also may have pulled off a public relations coup, appeasing those Buckeye backers committed to Griffin's selection and hopefully paving the way for the continued presence at Ohio State of one of its greatest assets.

**THERE HAS** been a tremendous proliferation of sports publications in recent years. Nearly every major college (and some not so major) has a paper similar to *BSB* now and newsstand shelves are loaded with preseason annuals.

But when I was growing up, there was only one preseason annual that was a must-have, regardless of sport but especially for college football, and that was *Street & Smith's*.

As a somewhat confused youth, I always marveled at the fact that Paul

Hornung was able to run, kick and throw the option pass for the Green Bay Packers and also write the Midwest report for *Street & Smith's* college yearbook.

Of course, I ultimately figured out that the Packers' "Golden Boy" and *The Columbus Dispatch's* Hornung were two different people. But as a displaced Midwesterner living in Washington, D.C., I continued to read Hornung the scribe's reports on Big Ten football religiously.

Years later, as my own career in sportswriting was beginning, I had the opportunity to work part-time at *The Dispatch*. Much as a green rookie up for a cup of coffee in the majors must have felt sitting in the dugout with a Mickey Mantle or Willie Mays, so I felt working with one of the noted writers of my youth.

Hornung, who passed away on May 2, was definitely winding down his career by then, a throwback to an era when far fewer sporting events were televised and a beat reporter was often a fan's eyes and ears to his or her favorite team. He had been taken off his beloved Ohio State beat after perhaps handling the Woody Hayes firing story from the heart rather than from the facts and had been pretty much put out to pasture. But I was still thrilled to be working with a man who was more intimate with three of the biggest figures in sports history — Hayes, Jack Nicklaus and Paul Brown — than any reporter.

The younger reporters at the paper made fun of him, much as a high-flying basketball player of today might make fun of a star of yore whose bread and butter was the two-handed set shot. Maybe, along with cynicism and negativity, a part of the new wave in journalism was also a lack of respect for those who paved the way before us.

A few years after that, I started *BSB*. It was quite a thrill for me when Hornung began contributing stories to our paper. It made me feel like we had really arrived. He had a wealth of OSU sports knowledge to draw on. At one point, he had covered 326 straight Ohio State football games before being assigned to cover the Cincinnati Reds in the 1975 World Series. He had an anecdotal writing style that was both interesting and informative and often quite humorous. Perhaps the thing that stood out most in his writing, however, was his affection for Hayes.

In a time when jeans and tennis shoes are not uncommon in the press box, he would show up at our office to turn in his stories dressed in a snappy sport coat, crisp shirt and tie. He would inevitably say something like, "I hope this story is good enough."

His humbleness would often show through in his stories. The magnitude of his contribution to this community, however, was illustrated by the guest book at his funeral, a veritable who's who of the Columbus athletic, journalistic and civic community.

As our way of remembering Hornung, we reprint one of his contributions to *BSB* on page 29 of this issue. We hope it brings back memories for you — memories of Hornung, his good friend Hayes and of another era.

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