

Walters Gave Thought To Collegiate Choice

Granville Walters has been known to talk to himself.

Now before you get the notion that Walters is ready for the funny farm, bear in mind that the tall, slender graduate of Columbus East High School was dealing with his future when he was having those chats with himself.

He had averaged 18 points and 20 rebounds a game in leading East to the Class AAA state championship as a senior and had his life in front of him. He wasn't about to make the wrong move.

Walters, who is coming into his own as the starting center for the Ohio State basketball team this season, was trying to select the college of his choice.

"I was not really certain," he said during a recent interview with *Buckeye Sports Bulletin*. "I was weighing things out as far as college goes, what my life would be, what was in the future for me and things like that."

The decision as to which school to choose also weighed heavily on Walters' shoulders. He had visited Las Vegas-Nevada, which had somewhat of a Columbus connection because one of Jerry Tarkanian's assistant coaches at the time was a former Columbus high school prep standout and later a head coach.

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"I liked Las Vegas," Walters said. "I liked the style of ball they played, I enjoyed the area and the weather was nice. But I wasn't sure about the running game."

Walters ultimately chose Ohio State and is happy he did.

The first two seasons as a Buckeye found Walters playing a reserve role behind Herb Williams. He saw action in 17 games as a freshman, averaging less than one point a game. Last season he got into 26 games, scoring 57 points and grabbing 39 rebounds.

And this year?

"I just looked at it as I'm the starting center here so I've got to produce," said the Industrial Technology major, "do whatever I can do to help the team be successful."

What does one need to do to play against Walters?

"Well," he said, icing down a knee which has a slight trace of tendonitis, after the Syracuse game. "I'd say try to block me off the boards because I'm learning how to be in there now."

To be pushing the opposition around inside, shouldn't you be of a little bulkier build. After all, a 212-pounder who stands 6-11 isn't your typical sideshow fat man. Can't you add a little weight?

"That's like trying to make the sun come up at 9 o'clock at night," said Walters. "I eat. I eat everything I get my hands on. I just can't hold it. I get up to 220 in the summer. But I need more strength."

"I've been lifting, strength gives you confidence. But I could use a little more."

Walters, who scored a career-high 13 points against Syracuse on Jan. 4, was asked if he was intent on playing great games.

"No, not really," he replied. "As long as the end result goes in the 'W' column. If you experience a loss, you look back at the things you didn't get accomplished."

At the same time, Walters was only looking to the future. He didn't want to talk about last year's disappointing 14-13 season.

"The past is the past," said Walters, who admits that pro basketball is in the back of his mind. "It's over with now. There's not much we can do about that. I think we can be pretty strong this season, pretty high up there. It's the team that's peaking at the end of the season, that could be the key thing."

Trying to get Walters off the subject of the team and back into talking about himself was like trying to get a dime off a sheet of ice. He is team oriented from the start.

But his slam dunks, often off visual contact with one of the guards, have to be discussed.

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Granville Walters

Walters Celebrates, Wins Key Buck Award

Granville Walters was celebrating. In fact, he spent all week celebrating.

While the slender 6-11 giant, who plays center on the Ohio State basketball team, spent the week of Jan. 3 celebrating his 21st birthday (Jan. 8), he by no means refrained from his ordinary duties. That is to perform as best he can against opposing college basketball teams.

And Walters' showing during wins over Syracuse, Minnesota and Wisconsin brought him the weekly Key Olsmobile/Rent-A-Wreck Key Buck of the Week award.

Walters started the week with a career-high 13 points, six rebounds and three blocked shots against Syracuse. He tallied his points on five-of-seven shooting from the floor and three-of-four from the line.

Next came the big challenge of nationally sixth-ranked Minnesota. Walters warmed to the task by scoring five points, grabbing five rebounds and blocking two shots. Even more importantly, however, was the job he did in defending against Minnesota center Randy Breuer.

Walters held the 7-3 Breuer to 16 points — four below his average — and only five rebounds.

The soft-spoken junior out of Columbus East High School closed the productive week with nine points, six rebounds and four blocked shots in Ohio State's 66-59 win over Wisconsin.

Walters is a team player, and as a spokesman, he continues to speak in terms of the team.

Asked what has made such a difference in his play this season, Walters replied: "We're winning."

Buckeyes Have Book On Orangemen

In what may have been its most impressive outing up to that game, the Ohio State basketball team scored points in bunches to win its sixth straight, a 67-57 triumph over Syracuse on Jan. 4 in St. John Arena.

When asked if his team, 9-3 after the victory, surprised him, OSU coach Eldon Miller said, "No team ever does, not if you're coaching. Basketball's such a challenge to try to get it played the way it can be played."

Miller's Buckeyes, although far from perfect, had played the game by the book, using two big scoring bursts in the second half to gain a win over a strong Syracuse team, 7-2 coming into the contest, in the final non-conference game of the season.

Granville Waiters, Ohio State's 6-11 junior center, broke a 51-51 tie with a rousing slam dunk with 3:33 left in the game to trigger a 16-8 scoring onslaught by Ohio State over the remainder of the game. Most of those markers came at the foul line.

Trailing by that 53-51 margin, and after calling a time out with 2:37 left, Syracuse promptly threw the inbounds pass away and the Buckeyes were in control. Ron Stokes, who would cash six of six charity tosses in the final 2:32, sank the first two of those for a 55-51 Ohio State lead.

The Buckeyes built their lead to 63-55 before Clark Kellogg, OSU's leading scorer with 18 points, closed out Ohio State scoring with a dippy-do slam dunk off a steal and then pulled down one of his many offensive rebounds for yet another basket.

That run of points had been the second of the second half for OSU. Earlier, trailing 43-37 after the visiting Orangemen had run off seven straight, Troy Taylor, just returned to the floor after spending some time on the bench, took matters into his own hands. The 5-11 Canton, Ohio, freshman canned a 17-foot jumper from the right side and hit a jumper from the foul line. Stokes added a basket from the right baseline and things were knotted at 43.

After Erich Santifer, Syracuse's and the game's leading scorer with 20, hit two free throws, Taylor hit from the left side, Kellogg connected on a turnaround jumper



The hustling, scrapping 1981-82 Buckeyes have not been afraid to get down on the hardwood in search of the ball. Here, Larry Huggins hits the deck in an effort to strip

Syracuse's Andre Hawkins (53) of the ball. Clark Kellogg (rear) tries to steal Hawkins' flip to Erich Santifer (40) as Sean Kerins (55) looks on.

from the right and Taylor again connected from the foul line for a 49-45 margin.

"Troy Taylor did that on his own," said Miller, obviously pleased with the effort of his first-year player. "Putting him back in the game, we wanted to move the ball a little bit before we took those shots. But he must have been feeling pretty good because he didn't hesitate at all."

Ohio State, which connected on 25 of 49 field goal attempts, had fallen from a 14-12 lead into a 24-19 deficit in the first half when full-court pressure forced it into an insecure offensive attack.

"We had people miss assignments," noted Taylor of the lapse, during which OSU committed several of the 14 turnovers it would make in the contest. "But I'm really happy that we got to play against a good pressing team."

"We're going to make a few

mistakes against a press," added Miller. "The important thing when you play against a press is not to get too excited. You may kick the ball away a couple more times but you also may be scoring some easy baskets at the offensive end. If you don't let the fact that you're going to kick it away a couple of times bother you, you're going to get a better percentage when you get the ball down the floor than you do when the team doesn't press."

After apparently solving the mystique of the Orangemen's press, Kellogg netted two straight fielders and Taylor followed with a

three-point play to catapult OSU into a 26-24 lead with 4:46 left in the first half.

Kellogg, who hit nine of 13 from the floor, notched 10 of his team-leading points in the first half. He also paced OSU rebounders with 10. Taylor, who was five of eight in field goal shooting, added 14 points, five assists and two steals.

Waiters, playing perhaps his best game as a Buckeye, netted a career-high 13 points, grabbed six rebounds and blocked three shots.

"If you can mentally handle making a couple of mistakes, you're going to make them pay at the other end," said Miller. "But if you get rattled, get all upset because you make a turnover, well . . . you know we haven't played any error-free games."

Was this the most impressive showing his team had made thus far in the season?

"Yes," replied Miller, "I think it is without a doubt."

Buckeyes 67, Orangemen 57

SYRACUSE — Bruin 1-4-6, Rautins 7-1-15, Hawkins 2-0-4, Santifer 9-2-20, Waldron 2-0-4, Spera 0-0-0, Payton 1-0-2, Kerins 3-0-6. Totals: 25-7-57.

OHIO STATE — Kellogg 9-0-18, Campbell 4-0-8, Waiters 5-3-13, Taylor 5-4-14, Huggins 1-4-6, Johnson 0-0-0, Kirchner 0-0-0, Stokes 1-6-8. Totals: 25-17-67.

Halftime: Ohio State 30, Syracuse 28.
Field Goals: Syracuse, 25-54, 46.3%; Ohio State, 25-49, 51%. Free Throws: Syracuse, 7-11, 63.6%; Ohio State, 17-22, 77.3%. Rebounds: Syracuse 24, Ohio State 30.

Granville Waiters Is Enthusiastic

Continued From Page 3

"I guess it's just a great play," said Waiters, who had four against Syracuse. "A high percentage shot as coach Miller would call it."

Miller, questioned after Waiters' performance against Syracuse, a performance that saw him score those 13 points, grab six rebounds and block three shots, felt Waiters was coming along.

"Granville should," said the sixth-year Buckeye coach. "He's getting stronger all the time, that's going to have to continue."

And it probably will. Waiters is just that enthused about playing for the Buckeyes.

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Three Grid Aides Dropped In Major Defensive Purge

Just over 12 hours after Ohio State had held on to sink Navy 31-28 in the Liberty Bowl, three OSU assistant coaches were wading in the waters of job hunting.

Dennis Fryzel, Nick Saban and Steve Szabo were notified by Buckeye grid boss Earle Bruce that their one-year contracts were not being renewed when they run out June 30.

Fryzel, defensive coordinator, Saban, secondary coach and Szabo, defensive line coach, were three of the four Ohio State defensive coaches. That defense, which during the 1981 season came to be known as one that could be scored on, gave up the most points (252 in 12 games) in the history of OSU football.

Outside linebacker coach Bob Tucker and offensive assistants Glen Mason, Fred Zechman, Bill Myles and Wayne Stanley, are expected to be retained when contract time rolls around.

Bruce, in Hawaii the week the firing story broke, refused to take phone calls. His wife, Jean, answered their hotel room phone by telling callers that her husband would discuss the firings upon his return sometime the week of Jan.

10. Bruce was in Hawaii to serve as head coach of the East team in the annual Hula Bowl.

Ohio State Athletic Director Hugh Hindman would make no statement on the staff shakeup other than to say "it's a post-

As this week's issue of *BSB* went to press, the university released a brief but official statement on the coaching situation from Earle Bruce:

"I decided a staff reorganization was needed for the best interests of the Ohio State University football program. It was a very difficult decision for me because of my deep appreciation and close attachment to the coaches involved. Any further comment on my part would be unfair to all concerned."

season evaluation that is normal procedure with the coaches. He (Bruce) intends to do some reorganization with his staff. It has not been finalized. It will be upon his return."

All three terminated coaches were in Houston when the story leaked. They were attending the

American Football Coaches convention, apparently looking for jobs.

"I'm devastated, honest," Fryzel told one Columbus area sports-writer when contacted via telephone. "I can't believe it. I've got nothing to be ashamed of in my time here (at Ohio State)."

Fryzel, a native of Garfield Heights (Ohio) and a graduate of Denison University, had been a member of Bruce's staff since 1979. He had first hooked up with Bruce in 1972 as defensive coordinator at Tampa University. Fryzel replaced Bruce as head coach at Tampa when Bruce departed for Iowa State. Tampa dropped the grid sport and Fryzel was out of football for one year before working one year with the professional Tampa Bay Buccaneers and then one year each as defensive coordinator at Syracuse (1977) and Air Force (1978).

Saban joined the Buckeye staff in 1980 after coaching at Kent State, Syracuse and West Virginia. The Kent State grad was responsible for coaching the OSU defensive backs, a talented but young group of youngsters who

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Dennis Fryzel



Nick Saban



Steve Szabo



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Former OSU Basketball Player Now Runs Columbus Day Care Center

Waiters Proves He Was Gentle Giant All Along

By JEFF RAPP

Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

Granville Waiters earned his way to college and subsequently made his living by excelling in the war zone known simply to sports fans as 'the paint.' A basketball player with appreciable skills and a fighter's mentality, the 6-11 Waiters has seen more than his share of push-offs, elbows and hard fouls during his adult life.

As a high school standout at Columbus East, he was a dominating player inside. Life was a little rougher in the Big Ten, but Waiters survived with heart and hustle, to the delight of the Ohio State fans. Those traits carried him into a seven-year professional career on the hardwood, a career that ended when his body surrendered to the constant pounding.

Now his life is about peace. And hope. And caring.

Proving he was a gentle giant all along, Waiters now can be seen back in his hometown as the owner and operator of Granny's Child Care Center, a rapidly growing day care business on Columbus' near east side.

"It's something that had been in the back of my mind because I've always worked with young children, even while I was playing ball, in the summertime and during the season by visiting schools and working camps," said Waiters, a four-year letterwinner at OSU from 1980-83. "I just saw an opportunity and a need for a good day care in this area. There are 500 houses just in this zip code that need child care."

"I'm trying to make a difference and to get to our kids while they're young. We've got a lot of problems with our youth right now. This is a good start."

Waiters was born and raised five minutes north of the center, which is just down the street from Children's Hospital on Livingston Avenue. He bought the building in 1990 with the original purpose of warehousing. The



GRANNY'S KIDS — Pictured with eight of the children who attend his day care center in Columbus is former Ohio State basketball player Granville Waiters. After his career on the hardwood was cut short by injuries, Waiters returned to Columbus with hopes of helping inner-city youths. He came up with the unusual idea of caring for young children while their parents are working.

former Buckeye also started up Waiters & Associates, a certified minority vendor in the community.

But while his post-basketball career was taking flight, Waiters could not help but notice a recurring problem in the area. He saw regular news stories about day cares with violations and various problems. He saw troubled parents,

who were either overworked or in over their heads, and without reliable child care help. Waiters grabbed at that long-awaited chance to better the community by opening his center in August of 1993.

Enter the wonderful world of Granny.

"I had a lot of resources around me through friends and family," he said. "I found the right people to help me get started and it just went from there. A lot of people helped me out and to do things by the book as far as what needed to be in the building and meeting the code requirements for day care."

Waiters opens the center every weekday at 6:30 a.m. and usually sticks around until about 6 p.m. He spends what little spare time he has running Waiters & Associates.

"It's basically just something I've got going just to see what's out there. It's an entrepreneurial type of thing. We've

got some other ideas we're trying to develop, but right now, all my time and effort is going into the day care," he said.

Waiters has put the same type of tireless effort into keeping the day care center afloat as he did into surviving on the basketball court. To meet budget demands and to ensure the business started on the right foot, Waiters has been a man with a lot of hats. Along with acting as the chief administrator, he also takes time to play the roles of chef, teacher, baby sitter, janitor and bus driver.

Through the word of family and friends, Waiters was able to quickly find people in the area who needed day care service. But every now and then, a few walk-ins find the center is not quite what they expected.

"Most of the people, especially in the beginning, knew who I was, but there were one or two that came in and they were looking for Granny. Then they see

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this 6-11 man come out," Waiters said with a smile. "That would happen with grandparents who probably didn't follow basketball. They'd sign up their grandchildren with my administrator, who'd then introduce me as Granny and you'd get that funny look. But nobody has run out the door yet."

In fact, Granny's Child Care is growing fairly rapidly. Waiters estimates that 30-35 children come to the center regularly and total enrollment numbers 60. The ages range from 2½ to 12 years, although the center will accept children up to the age of 14.

Many of the everyday visitors come straight from school and stay until a parent or guardian can pick them up. Waiters obliges the transition by providing bus service to the center. It's a business where time investment and commitment are much more important than the almighty dollar.

"My idea was to make it affordable, but to not sacrifice the quality by making it affordable," Waiters said. "I want to offer a good day care and not just act as a baby-sitting service. We have a curriculum set up to teach the children education through basic mathematics, spelling, English and that type of thing and we also help them deal with different cultures, different people and help them with their emotional and social growth."

Of course, providing a loving and learning environment tends to be taxing on anyone, let alone someone who does it for better than 12 hours a day. But when he feels listless or a little grouchy, Waiters has one sure way to take the edge off the day.

"There are always certain days where things aren't going your way or you're not feeling your best and you go in (the center) and the kids are going to do something to you to make you smile," he said. "We have some lovely kids with a lot of different personalities. It's a difficult job, but it's a rewarding job."

Waiters learned the value of hard work and character a long time ago as a budding young basketball star. Looking well beyond his tender years, he carried East to the state title as a senior in 1979. Waiters went on to help bring excitement to the Ohio State program and was an extremely popular Buckeye, even playing alongside such talents as Herb Williams, Kelvin Ransey, Clark Kellogg and Tony Campbell.

Waiters went on to a five-year career in the NBA, playing two seasons with Kellogg in Indianapolis, one with Houston, and two more in Chicago. After that, he played two seasons in Spain, helping his team capture the Spanish Cup in his first year overseas.

Still a big follower of the game, Waiters recently cheered on Houston as it won its first NBA championship. He played for the Rockets in 1985-86 when Houston reached the NBA finals behind the strong post play of Hakeem Olajuwon and Ralph Sampson before losing to Boston in six games. Houston turned the corner this past season behind the brilliance of Olajuwon.

"I was happy for them, especially Hakeem," Waiters said. "He's worked hard to make himself a great player. You hear sometimes about starters and

All-Stars coming to practice and lolly-gagging around, but he came and worked every day. He had a goal and he achieved it this year."

Waiters wishes that more young players would follow in the footsteps of players like Olajuwon instead of those whose heads swim with glamorous fantasies of professional basketball. He sees a new-age athlete who is unprepared for reality and can only envision gobs of money and frequent appearances in MTV videos and on highlight films.

"There's more to it than that. It's a job and business," said Waiters, whose pro career ended because of a stress fracture in his foot, which caused other annoying ailments. "The owners of the teams and the organizations are looking

at one thing, especially when they're paying that kind of money, and that's W's. Wins always bring the money back in. That's the bottom line."

"It was a rude awakening for me when I did get there. Most people can only see what's on TV, but believe me, it's a business."

Waiters would like to volunteer some time to the Ohio State basketball program in the near future. But now that he is removed from the game, he has plenty to keep him busy. And because there is not enough time in the day right now, Granny, by the way, is still single.

"Right now, I'm looking to get some things done," Waiters said. "Someday I think I'd like to get a family, but I'm pretty busy right now."



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