

BUCKEYE SPORTS BULLETIN

Vol. 33, No. 22

"For The Buckeye Fan Who Needs To Know More"

June 2014

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

Back In Business

QB Commitment Breaks Long Cold Recruiting Spell

By BEN AXELROD
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

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

"BOOOOOOOOMMMMM!" Pantoni posted emphatically.

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

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11 that the Buckeye recruiting guru had last posted his signature post-commitment tweet, one which followed the since-rescinded pledge of Jacksonville (Fla.)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

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

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

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

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

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

Joey Football

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

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

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

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



SCOTT REED/SCOUT.COM

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

Continued On Page 8

Burrow Might Not Be Only 2015 QB Commit

Continued From Page 1

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

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

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

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

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

Top Domino

If Ohio State's excitement over Burrow's

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

And then there's the quarterbacks.

QB Carousel

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



BOWLING WITH BUCKEYES

Saturday, June 28, 2014

Doors open at 6:15 p.m.

Bowling starts at 7 p.m.

Tiki Lanes • 1521 Tiki Lane • Lancaster, Ohio 43130

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

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

Admission for non-lane sponsors:

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

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



Cordle Cares Scholarship Fund

PIZZA COTTAGE
Same Great Taste Since 1972
www.pizza-cottage.com

Lunch Special \$6.49

Buckeye Lake
4592 Walnut Rd. (Rt. 79)
740-928-1144

Circleville
23401 U.S. 23
740-474-3620

Lancaster
2223 W. Fair Ave.
740-654-2400

Newark
969 Mt. Vernon Rd.
740-366-5747

Pickerington
1000 Old Diley Rd.
614-856-3333

Zanesville
3938 Pond View Dr.
740-455-6000

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK AT 11AM

OHIO STATE FOOTBALL

Young Playmakers Shine For Record Crowd

By TIM MOODY
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

J.T. Barrett got the start, but he wasn't the one in the spotlight when Ohio State's 2016 spring game ended. He wasn't the winning quarterback, after all.

In the finale of the first spring that featured Barrett as the Buckeyes' unquestioned starting quarterback, it was backup Joe Burrow who led the Gray squad to a 28-17 victory in front of a spring game-record 100,189 spectators April 16. That unprecedented crowd provided Ohio State fans a taste of Ohio Stadium action before the sea-

son starts next fall, and it gave the Buckeye coaching staff a chance to see how young players such as Burrow, Torrance Gibson and Austin Mack responded to a game-like atmosphere.

"I'm extremely grateful to Ohio State, Buckeye Nation for doing that today," head coach Urban Meyer said in the postgame press conference. "That was awesome."

Barrett, who struggled in his half of play for the Scarlet team, noted how incredible it was to have that many fans come out to watch a practice in April.

"I appreciate our fan base," Barrett said. "It's crazy how many people come out to watch a practice, a very basic practice at that."

It just shows the love that we get from the best fans in the land, and I know as an Ohio State football player you definitely appreciate that."

The on-field competition got started with the "Circle Drill" before the game, pitting linebackers Chris Worley and Craig Fada against each other in the first matchup. After that, linebacker Jerome Baker matched up with running back Mike Weber, defensive end Rashod Berry – who switched positions from tight end this spring – took on offensive guard Matt Burrell and offensive tackle Brandon Bowen took on defensive tackle Davon Hamilton before the Buckeyes' backup quarterbacks faced off. In that final one-on-one drill, Burrow got the best of Stephen Collier, and he went on to get the best of the Scarlet quarterbacks on the field as well.

The first quarter of game action got off to a slow start, but kicker Sean Nuernberger opened the scoring with a 42-yard field goal to put Scarlet ahead, 3-0. That was still the score after the game's first 10-minute period, but Gray got rolling to start off the second quarter by way of a strong defensive play.

With Barrett leading the Scarlet offense, Gray safety Malik Hooker intercepted a deep pass over the middle and returned it 82 yards for the first touchdown of the afternoon – which was allowed to stand after a holding call against the defense was waved off.

Two plays after the touchdown Barrett threw another interception – this time to Marshon Lattimore – and Burrow took over for the Gray squad. After starting at the Gray 45-yard line, Burrow guided his squad to

the Scarlet 18 before finding Gibson with an inch-perfect over-the-shoulder pass for a touchdown, putting his side ahead, 14-3.

Barrett and the Scarlet offense stalled again on the ensuing drive – helped along by a Dre'Mont Jones sack on the possession's final play – before Burrow hit the field once again. The quarterback hit receiver Terry McLaurin for 52 yards to the Scarlet 2-yard line before finding Gibson on a pop pass for another touchdown and a 21-3 advantage in the first half.

"Joe Burrow has been coming on," Meyer said after the game. "He's a guy that last year I had my concerns. He's gotten better and better. He's a grinder."

After an incomplete pass, Barrett hit tight end Marcus Baugh for a pair of 6-yard gains to open Scarlet's response to Gray's third touchdown, moving into opposing territory in the process. Three plays later Barrett found Johnnie Dixon for 13 yards, and then he hit Baugh again for another 18 yards. Eventually a 9-yard run by Weber took Scarlet to the Gray 3-yard line, and he punched it in for a touchdown two plays later to end the half with Gray ahead, 21-10.

Weber got the call again to open the second half when he scored a touchdown from 8 yards out on the third play of the third quarter, set up by a 40-yard pass from Collier to Parris Campbell. Burrow's response for Gray was cut short in the red zone when Baker made a leaping, one-handed interception to give Scarlet the ball at its

Continued On Page 12

Spring Game Box Score

Gray 28, Scarlet 17

April 16, 2016 – Ohio Stadium, Columbus, Ohio

Score by Quarters	1	2	3	4	F
GRAY	0	21	7	0	28
SCARLET	3	7	7	0	17

First Quarter

SCARLET – Nuernberger, 42 yard field goal, 5:59.

Second Quarter

GRAY – Hooker, 82 yard interception return (Nuernberger kick), 9:06.

GRAY – Gibson, 18 yard pass from Burrow (Nuernberger kick), 6:51.

GRAY – Gibson, 2 yard pass from Burrow (Nuernberger kick), 1:51.

SCARLET – Weber, 2 yard run (Nuernberger kick), 0:07.

Third Quarter

SCARLET – Weber, 8 yard run (Nuernberger kick), 8:54.

GRAY – McLaurin, 47 yard pass from Burrow (Nuernberger kick), 1:06.

Att.: 100,189. Weather: 75 degrees, clear, sunny, Wind: E 3 mph.

Team Statistics

	GRAY	SCARLET
First Downs	16	16
Rushing	6	6
Passing	8	10
Penalty	2	0
Rushes-Yards	21-67	20-62
Passing Yards	196	256
Passes (Comp.-Att.-Int.)	14-24-1	17-33-3
Offensive Plays	45	53
Total Net Yards	263	318
Third Down Efficiency	5-10	5-10
Fourth Down Efficiency	3-3	2-3
Punts-Avg.	1-53.0	None
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	0-0
Penalties	1-5	3-29
Time of Possession	28:14	11:56

Individual Statistics

RUSHING (Att.-Net Yds.) – GRAY: Burrow 11-31; Williams 7-29; Huguely 3-7. SCARLET: Weber 8-38; Barrett 8-16; Collier 4-8.

PASSING (Comp.-Att.-Int.-Yds.-TD) – GRAY: Burrow 14-23-1-196-3; Gibson 0-1-0-0-0. SCARLET: Barrett 13-22-2-102-0; Collier 4-11-1-154-0.

RECEIVING (Rec.-Yds.) – GRAY: Gibson 6-50; McLaurin 4-111; Alexander 2-13; Stump 1-15; Hill 1-7. SCARLET: Baugh 7-64; Campbell 3-106; Mack 3-22; Dixon 2-16; Ramstetter 1-43; Weber 1-5.

PUNTING (No.-Avg.-Long) – GRAY: Johnston 1-53.0-53. SCARLET: None.

PUNT RETURNS (No.-Yds.) – GRAY: None. SCARLET: None.

KICKOFF RETURNS (No.-Yds.) – GRAY: None. SCARLET: None.

FORCED FUMBLES – GRAY: None. SCARLET: TEAM.

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

INTERCEPTIONS (No.-Yds.) – GRAY: Hooker 2-82; Lattimore 1-0. SCARLET: Baker 1-0.

SACKS (No.-Yds.) – GRAY: Hamilton 3.0-10; D. Jones 1.0-5; Ward 1.0-1. SCARLET: Cornell 2.0-10; TEAM 1.0-5; Thompson 1.0-4.

TACKLES FOR LOSS (No.-Yds.) – GRAY: Hamilton 3.0-10; D. Jones 1.0-5; Ward 1.0-1. SCARLET: Cornell 3.5-16; TEAM 1.0-5; Thompson 1.0-4; Turnure 1.0-1; Landers 0.5-2; Slade 0.5-1; Fada 0.5-0.

TACKLES (Solo-Assst.-Tot.) – GRAY: Hooker 8-2-10; Booker 4-3-7; Hamilton 5-0-5; McMillan 3-1-4; Borland 3-0-3; D. Jones 1-1-2; Hubbard 1-0-1; Ward 1-0-1; Sprinkle 1-0-1; Hill 1-0-1; Goins 0-1-1; Conley 0-1-1; Arnette 0-1-1; Lattimore 0-1-1; Worley 0-1-1. SCARLET: Baker 3-4-7; Turnure 3-3-6; Cornell 3-2-5; Fada 2-2-4; Slade 1-3-4; Thompson 2-0-2; Landers 1-1-2; Norwood 1-1-2; Henry 1-0-1; Glover-Williams 1-0-1; TEAM 1-0-1; Forte 1-0-1; Haney 1-0-1; Burrows 0-1-1; Barnes 0-1-1.

FOR THE OHIO STATE FOOTBALL FAN

Follow the 2016 Buckeyes on Away Trips
with Reynolds Travel!

Oklahoma Trip: Sept. 15-18 — Three-night air with Southwest Airlines to Oklahoma City for Thursday to Sunday with roundtrip ground transportation and accommodations at the Hilton Skirvin Hotel in downtown Oklahoma City for 3 nights including breakfast daily and all hotel taxes, city tour of Oklahoma City on Friday, roundtrip game transportation on Saturday to Norman for the game and game ticket. Price starts at **\$1575** per person based on two to a room.

Wisconsin Trip: Oct. 15-17 — Two-night motorcoach trip from Columbus to Baraboo, Wis. (1 hour north of Madison) for a two-night stay at the Ho-Chunk Hotel and Casino including breakfast daily and game-day transportation to Madison for the game along with game tickets. Price starts at **\$599** per person based on two to a room.

Penn State: Oct. 21-23 — Two-night motorcoach trip to Altoona, Pa., with accommodations at the Altoona Grand Hotel for two nights with breakfast included daily and game-day transportation to State College and game ticket. Price starts at **\$529** based on two to a room.

Maryland: Nov. 10-13 — Three-night motorcoach trip to Alexandria, Va., with accommodations at the Hotel Monaco for three nights including breakfast daily, all hotel taxes and a full-day guided tour of Washington, DC, on Friday to visit all the memorials including Arlington Cemetery and Ford's Theatre fully guided by local guide plus game-day transportation to College Park and game tickets. Price starts at **\$799** per person based on two to a room.

Michigan State: Nov. 18-21 (don't wait to book this one as it will be a sellout!) — Two-night motorcoach trip to Mt. Pleasant, Mich., (about 45 minutes north of East Lansing) with two nights accommodations at Soaring Eagle Resort and Casino with all taxes included, a \$20 per day dining credit and a \$30 per day downloadable Casino Credit plus transportation to East Lansing for the game on Saturday and game ticket. Price starts at **\$599** per person based on two to a room.

Go Bucks!

Trips fully escorted by Reynolds Travel, offering Ohio State trips since 1978.
Visit our website at www.reynoldstravel.com to see more.



8934 Commerce Loop Dr.
Columbus, OH 43240
Phone: 614-847-8008
Toll Free: 866-880-0577

OHIO STATE FOOTBALL

Weber-Led Scarlet Comeback Falls Short

Continued From Page 11

own 4-yard line on what was arguably the play of the game.

Baker noted that he's made similar plays in spring practice this year and added that he gains "a little confidence" by doing it in front of a game-size crowd.

The ensuing Scarlet comeback chance didn't last long, though, as Hooker picked off his second pass of the game after Collier attempted a deep ball on the first play of the drive. On the next snap, Burrow hit McLaurin for a 47-yard touchdown and the game's final points to cement Gray's win over Barrett, Collier and the Scarlet team.

Although his team didn't come out on top, Barrett seemed OK with how the scrimmage went. Like Meyer, he stressed the importance of seeing players make the same plays in front of a crowd that they had already made in closed practice sessions.



JOSH WINSLOW

BIG DAY – Redshirt freshman Mike Weber (20) scored two touchdowns for the Scarlet team.

"The main thing is that you have a closed practice and you see (players) make plays, so you know they're capable of doing it," he said. "It's just when all the fans are around and the lights are on you want to see if they still made those same plays that they did when nobody was around. I wasn't shocked, because I knew they were able to do it."

Barrett finished the game 13 of 22 for 102 yards through the air, and he threw two interceptions compared to no touchdowns. Burrow's stats jumped off the page at 14 completions on 23 attempts for 196 yards and three scores, while he also carried the ball 11 times for 31 yards – including a 31-yard scamper.

Weber led all players in rushing with 38 yards and eight attempts, and he and true freshman Antonio Williams (seven carries for 29 yards) were the only players to average more than 4 yards per carry in a pass-heavy display.

On the receiving end Baugh led Scarlet with seven receptions for 64 yards, while Gibson headed up Gray with six catches for 50 yards. McLaurin had four receptions for 111 yards to lead all players in yardage, and Campbell added three catches for 106 yards for the Scarlet squad. Mack, a true freshman, finished the game with three catches for 22 yards for Scarlet.

On defense the scrimmage featured nine total sacks, with three being made by Hamilton and two more by redshirt freshman defensive tackle Jashon Cornell.

All in all Meyer wasn't overly invested in the actual display on the field – at least he didn't admit it. He noted the team has a lot of room to grow, but Meyer seemed content with the final day of spring ball.

"I'm extremely proud of where we're at as a program," he said. "They're young. We won't win a lot of games right now, but we don't have to yet. I'm very pleased with where we're at right now."

Ohio Golf

Apple Valley GOLF CLUB

433 Clubhouse Drive • Howard, Ohio 43028 • 740-397-7664

In beautiful Apple Valley, 6 miles east of Mt. Vernon on St. Rt. 36. Less than an hour's drive from the north end of Columbus. 1-866-APPLEGC (277-5342)

- A Central-Ohio 'Must Play' golf course according to Golf Styles Magazine.
- Golf Digest 4 Stars • Former host of the NCAA National Championship
- Numerous tees make it fun for all ages • Senior discounts M-F
- Book tee times or get more info online at www.applevalleygolfcourse.com

WHETSTONE GOLF COURSE
"Play like a Champion"

740-389-4343

www.whetstonegolf.com
Fax: 740-389-5230
whetstonegc@yahoo.com
Cell: 937-423-4386 • Clarence Perry, Owner

5211 Marion-Mt. Gilead Road • Caledonia, OH 43314

WCC Westerville Golf Center

- Open Year Round
- PGA Golf Instructors
- Lighted Range
- Miniature Golf & Batting Cage
- The Pro Shop

(614) 882-9079 • www.westervillgolf.com
450 W Schrock Rd • Westerville
(1 1/2 blocks east of I-270 & Cleveland Avenue)

Black Diamond GOLF COURSE

Wacky Wednesday Seniors 60+ \$22 each
Foursome Special Mon-Fri, 7-9 am \$25 each
Weekend Special Sat & Sun, 7-9 am \$35 each

7500 Township Road 103 • Millersburg, OH
Contact us at (330) 674-6110.
blackdiamondgolfcourse.com

Hickory Stick GOLF CLUB

4TH ROUND FREE!
WITH PURCHASE OF
3 regular priced
18 hole green fees
with cart

Monday – Friday. Not good with any other offer or weekends & holidays. Expires 12/31/16

www.hickorysticks.com
3812 Painter Rd., California KY 41007 | 859-635-4653

Jack Nicklaus MUSEUM

Bring in this ad and receive 40% off admission!

one of the greatest collections of golf memorabilia in the world!

2355 Olentangy River Rd.
Columbus, OH 43210
(614) 247-5959
nicklausmuseum.org

Hours:
Tue – Sat
9am – 5pm

Event Space Available

BLACKHAWK GOLF CLUB

Award-winning public golf course

8830 Dustin Road • Galena, Ohio • 43021
(740) 965-1042
GolfBlackhawk.com

\$2 OFF your next purchase of 18 holes with Card Mon-Fri only

COLUMBUS MUNICIPAL GOLF
SIX GREAT VALUES
Columbus Recreation and Parks

Six Great Courses Conveniently Located
Offering Great Golfing Experiences
All at Great Prices!

Airport, 900 N. Hamilton Rd., 614/645-3127
Champions, 3900 Westerville Rd., 614-645-7111
Mentel Memorial, 6005 Alkire Rd., 614/645-3050
Raymond Memorial, 3860 Trabue Rd., 614/645-3276
Turnberry, 1145 Clubhouse Rd., 614/645-2582
Wilson Rd., 1900 Wilson Rd., 614/645-3221

Call us to make your tee reservation or visit us at columbuscitygolfcourses.com

TABLE ROCK GOLF CLUB

740.625.6859
www.tablerockgc.com
Centerburg, OH

18 hole public golf course and 18 hole public FootGolf course

2017 Ohio State Spring Game

Memorable Touchdown Caps Spring Game

The box score for the Ohio State spring game lists the final play of the fourth quarter as an incomplete pass from freshman quarterback Tate Martell to redshirt freshman tight end Luke Farrell. Those who were in attendance or watched the broadcast on April 15 know that's not the case.

Despite the fact that the game went to

a running clock for the entire second half, the clock stopped at six seconds following Martell's incompletion. Jacob Jarvis, a 17-year-old with Duchenne muscular dystrophy, then took the field for the exhibition's final play. He lined up in his wheelchair next to quarterback J.T. Barrett as the Ohio State running back, took a handoff from Barrett and used some head fakes to get to the end zone for a 20-yard touchdown.

While the crowd was giving a standing ovation, the football team gathered around Jarvis in the end zone to celebrate his score.

"(Fifth-year senior defensive end) Tyquan Lewis and (senior defensive end) Jalyn Holmes came to me yesterday," OSU head coach Urban Meyer said after the game. "And they asked if we could do that. I wasn't sure how you would do it, but we worked it out. That was the players' idea."

Meyer, who took over as the Buckeyes' head coach prior to the 2012 season, said that gesture to recognize Jarvis represents the type of veterans he has in his locker room.

"This is one of the best groups of older players I've ever been around," Meyer said. "That shows you what kind of character we have in those upperclassmen."

Jarvis, an Ohio native, has been a fixture in the Ohio State football program since the summer of 2013. That is when he met Meyer while watching an OSU football camp from the sideline at Ohio Stadium. Jarvis has been regularly attending practices and games since the 2014 season.

"We love Jacob," said Meyer, who slapped Jarvis a high-five before the last play of the spring game. "Jacob's part of our family. He's been that way for about four years now."

Barrett, a fifth-year senior, was grateful to be the one to give Jarvis the ball on his memorable play.

"He's been around us, he's a Buckeye," Barrett said of Jarvis. "He's a kid that just loves Ohio State and loves the people around Ohio State. So, to have me hand the ball off to him was definitely an honor. To see him score, there's not a lot of feelings that can replace when you score at Ohio Stadium. I'm honored to have him."

Fifth-year senior Billy Price, who has shifted from guard to center since last season, noted that seeing Jarvis take the ball into the end zone gives everyone a chance to reflect.

"You have to be truly, truly thankful for the abilities that God has given you to be able to play ball," Price said. "Those little things that we kind of take for granted sometimes – I just cracked a joke about (junior wide receiver) Johnnie Dixon having grandpa knees. Jacob will never stand. To see those types of things, the things that we can bring as a program is just fantastic."

Dixon Breaks Out For Scarlet Squad

After three years of extensive inactivity, Ohio State Dixon finally got the chance to show what he can do on a football field in front of more than 80,000 fans.

The Florida native caught six passes for a game-high 108 yards and two touchdowns for the Scarlet in a 38-31 win over the Gray, and for the first time in his career he looked like the star wide receiver OSU recruited in the class of 2014.

After struggling with issues in both knees as a freshman in 2014, it briefly looked like 2015 would be the season Dixon made his return, as he had a key 29-yard reception in the opener against Virginia Tech. As it turned out, though, that would be his only touch of the year. Knee injuries again sidelined him for much of the season.

In 2016, Dixon appeared in a career-high seven games, catching six passes for 26 yards and scoring his lone collegiate touchdown on a 5-yard run in mop-up duty against Rutgers.

His knees continued to give him prob-

lems, however, and for the third straight season he was in street clothes for the bowl game when Ohio State fell 31-0 to Clemson in the Fiesta Bowl. As he sat in the locker room following the loss, Dixon wasn't sure if he would ever play football for the Buckeyes again, he admitted after the spring game.

"I did not think I was going to be here," Dixon said. "I didn't know if I wanted to stay or did I just want to not play anymore. It was frustrating for it to keep happening over and over again."

After taking some time to meet with the Ohio State coaching staff and his peers, Dixon decided to give it one last try in Columbus.

Since making the decision to come back for one last ride, Dixon has not missed a practice. He said he still "knocks on wood" whenever the mention of him staying healthy comes up, just in case.

Meyer said he was excited following Dixon's performance and added he wasn't sure that kind of day would ever come for him.

"He probably shouldn't have come back, if you had a career like he's had," Meyer said. "I talked to him, and he wanted one last swing. And he had the best spring – he didn't miss a practice."

"I was so happy to see him have great success today, because we really need him. And he just has to have a great summer. So he stayed healthy. That's the most important thing."

Staying healthy is something Dixon has been taking more seriously since missing the majority of the last few seasons. Dixon said following the spring game that he has stayed on top of his rehab sessions this off-season and he has noticed the results.

"At times, I got down on myself and I might skip out on rehab," Dixon said. "Now, every day after practice I make sure I am in there doing what I have to do. I feel like this time I stayed on it more than I did in the past. Every day after practice I go in and get on the machine we call blood flow. This time, I stuck with it."

The biggest focus other than staying healthy for Dixon now is trying not to become just another spring game superstar. In the past, wide receivers such as Bam Childress and Taurian Washington have had breakout performances only to fall down the depth chart during the regular season.

In order to avoid becoming the next Childress or Washington, Dixon said he will just focus on his current routine of rehab and practice in order to stay healthy and continue his growth as a player.

"Simply just stay on the same route I have been on," he said. "I feel like it is working for me. Just maybe change some things to enhance my ability, but no major changes."

Spring Game Features Fresh Faces, Aerial Attack

The spring game shootout saw plenty of new faces see their first action in Ohio Stadium, including quarterback Dwayne Haskins, who completed 26 of 37 passes for 293 yards and three touchdowns while playing for both the Scarlet and Gray teams.

Haskins split time with Joe Burrow on the Scarlet team until Barrett's day was over, at which time Haskins took over the Gray team for the rest of the contest.

Burrow also showed off his arm as he completed 14 of 22 pass attempts for 262 yards and three scores for the Scarlet team. In just three series, Barrett finished 8 of 12 for 71

Spring Game Box Score

Scarlet 38, Gray 31

April 15, 2017 – Ohio Stadium, Columbus, Ohio

Score by Quarters	1	2	3	4	F
GRAY	10	14	7	0	31
SCARLET	14	14	3	7	38

First Quarter

GRAY – Alexander, 1 yard pass from Barrett (Nuernberger kick), 6:13; 11 plays, 65 yards, 3:47 TOP.

SCARLET – Dixon, 18 yard pass from Haskins (Nuernberger kick), 3:46; 8 plays, 65 yards, 2:27 TOP.

GRAY – Nuernberger, 33 yard field goal, 1:44; 8 plays, 49 yards, 2:02 TOP.

SCARLET – Huguely, 35 yard pass from Burrow (Nuernberger kick), 0:30; 5 plays, 65 yards, 1:14 TOP.

Second Quarter

SCARLET – Dixon, 44 yard pass from Burrow (Nuernberger kick), 9:51; 1 plays, 44 yards, 0:12 TOP.

SCARLET – McCall, 40 yard pass from Burrow (Nuernberger kick), 5:40; 9 plays, 85 yards, 3:27 TOP.

GRAY – McLaurin, 30 yard pass from Haskins (Nuernberger kick), 4:29; 4 plays, 65 yards, 1:11 TOP.

GRAY – McLaurin, 22 yard pass from Haskins (Nuernberger kick), 0:20; 7 plays, 85 yards, 1:36 TOP.

Third Quarter

SCARLET – Nuernberger, 42 yard field goal, 7:08; 6 plays, 40 yards, 2:52 TOP.

GRAY – Dobbins, 1 yard run (Nuernberger kick), 0:23; 10 plays, 65 yards, 5:36 TOP.

Fourth Quarter

SCARLET – Martell, 5 yard run (Nuernberger kick), 4:48; 7 plays, 65 yards, 5:12 TOP.

Att. – 80,134. Weather – 77 degrees, cloudy. Wind – W 8 mph.

Team Statistics

	GRAY	SCARLET
First Downs	22	23
Rushing	3	8
Passing	19	14
Penalty	0	1
Rushes-Yards	11-42	20-149
Passing Yards	343	311
Passes (Comp.-Att.-Int.)	30-45-1	20-29-0
Offensive Plays	56	49
Total Net Yards	385	460
Third Down Efficiency	5-9	3-7
Fourth Down Efficiency	1-2	1-2
Punts-Avg.	1-44.0	N/A
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	0-0
Penalties	3-15	1-5
Time of Possession	18:54	21:06

Individual Statistics

RUSHING (Att.-Net Yds.) – GRAY: Dobbins 3-16; Weber 5-13; Leasure 1-11; Barrett 1-8; Haskins 1(-6). SCARLET: McCall 6-83; Williams 6-37; Martell 2-24; Dixon 1-11; Burrow 4(-1); Huguely 1(-5).

PASSING (Comp.-Att.-Int.-Yds.-TD) – GRAY: Haskins 21-32-0-255-2; Barrett 8-12-1-71-1; Weber 1-1-0-17-0. SCARLET: Burrow 14-22-0-262-3; Haskins 5-5-0-38-1; Martell 1-2-0-11-0.

RECEIVING (Rec.-Yds.) – GRAY: Glover-Williams 7-64; Campbell 5-46; McLaurin 4-80; Alexander 4-36; Victor 3-31; Leasure 3-13; Goins 1-30; Barrett 1-17; Hausmann 1-16; White 1-10. SCARLET: Dixon 6-108; K. Hill 6-62; McCall 2-48; Huguely 2-46; Farrell 2-25; Mack 1-18; Williams 1-4.

PUNTING (No.-Avg.-Long) – GRAY: Chrisman 1-44.0-44. SCARLET: None.

PUNT RETURNS (No.-Yds.) – GRAY: None. SCARLET: None.

FORCED FUMBLES – GRAY: None. SCARLET: None.

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

INTERCEPTIONS (No.-Yds.) – GRAY: None. SCARLET: Arnette 1-19.

SACKS (No.-Yds.) – GRAY: Cooper 1.0-9. SCARLET: None.

TACKLES FOR LOSS (No.-Yds.) – GRAY: Cooper 1.0-9; Hilliard 1.0-5; Williamson 1.0-3.

SCARLET: Cornell 1.0-6; Wint 1.0-1.

TACKLES (Solo-Assst.-Tot.) – GRAY: Hilliard 4-3-7; Cooper 4-1-5; Pryor 4-0-4; Williamson 2-2-4; Davis 3-0-3; Sheffield 3-0-3; Borland 1-2-3; K. Jones 2-0-2; Seme 1-0-1; Burns 1-0-1; Norwood 1-0-1; Campbell 1-0-1; E. Smith 1-0-1; Raterman 1-0-1; M. Hill 1-0-1. SCARLET: Wade 6-0-6; Wint 2-3-5; Booker 2-2-4; Fuller 2-1-3; Worley 1-2-3; Webb 2-0-2; Arnette 2-0-2; Drake 2-0-2; Cornell 1-1-2; Holmes 1-0-1; Saunders 1-0-1; Barrow 1-0-1; Forte 1-0-1; Turnure 1-0-1; Berry 1-0-1; Okudah 1-0-1; Baker 1-0-1; Backenstoe 0-1-1; Hawkins 0-1-1; Landers 0-1-1.

SPRING GAME NOTEBOOK



TIM MOODY

EARLY IMPACT – Ohio State quarterback Tate Martell (18) scored a 5-yard touchdown on his first snap in the spring game.

yards, one touchdown and one interception.

In all, the two teams combined for 74 pass attempts to just 31 rush attempts. The influence of Kevin Wilson and Ryan Day was visibly noticeable as all three quarterbacks consistently looked to push the ball downfield.

Wilson said he was encouraged with the play of all the quarterbacks, despite going up against a basic look and not facing a lot of pressure due to scrimmage circumstances.

"We tried to work on it, and you can take stats and skew it, make it look good or bad," Wilson said. "We have gotten in the ballpark where we have catchable balls. Today our defense based up a lot. There were a lot of vanilla looks and protection holds up. A good rush is out of the game really quick. The pocket was a little cleaner. It looks like we made some strides, but to me right now, we popped the pads and right now is when the passing game can take off."

In all, Ohio State quarterbacks threw for 654 yards and seven touchdowns, completing 50 of the 74 pass attempts.

Tackling Not An Option Early In Game

For the first portion of Ohio State's spring game, there was something missing: tackling. In an effort to make sure the Buckeyes' top players stayed healthy, Meyer opted to have his squad start the scrimmage on April 15 at Ohio Stadium by playing to contact, rather than ending the play with a tackle, something he called "thud tempo."

While the reasoning was clear – keeping starters healthy for the regular season – it led to a slightly unusual start to the game. At times, players didn't seem quite sure whether or not a play was over, and some of the more dynamic offensive players – such as running back Demario McCall – were whistled down in positions they almost certainly could have escaped from in live action.

The adjusted format paid off, though, as the Buckeyes didn't suffer any serious injuries in the scrimmage.

"It's either you don't play some guys or you kind of restrict the tackling and keep guys up," Meyer said. "And I wanted them to experience the crowd and play and finish a good spring."

Martell Scores On First Play As A Buckeye

Although it wasn't in an actual game, Ohio State freshman quarterback Tate Martell made his Buckeye debut in the fourth quarter of the spring game, and on his first play he scored what would end up

being the game-winning touchdown on a 5-yard scamper.

Martell also came in for the game's final series as a member of the Scarlet squad and completed one of his two pass attempts for 11 yards while also tallying a 19-yard run against the Gray defense. Martell was the only QB to not don a no-contact jersey in the contest.

Young DBs Bounce Back

It was clear that Ohio State wanted to focus on its downfield passing game during the spring scrimmage, and that wasn't necessarily a good thing for some of the Buckeyes' young defensive backs.

With starting cornerbacks Gareon Conley and Marshon Lattimore off to the NFL, Ohio State is looking for a new set of corners to rotate in 2017. Denzel Ward looks locked in as the No. 1 while sophomore Damon Arnette is poised to be in the rotation as well. Beyond that, the Buckeyes have at their disposal four early-enrollees in Kendall Sheffield, Shaun Wade, Jeff Okudah and Marcus Williamson.

Those four players got most of the playing time in the spring game – Ward played a few reps while Arnette had an early inter-

ception of Barrett after the QB was hit on the release. Sheffield, Wade, Okudah and Williamson were tested early and often, and the early portion of the game had each of them get beat down the field. At one point, Wade was even stiff-armed to the turf by walk-on running back Jordan Leasure.

Down the stretch, though, all four made big plays, with Wade perhaps the most impressive as he showcased his physicality.

"It was good to see the young corners kind of rebound – talking about Wade, Okudah, Williamson and Kendall Sheffield," Meyer said. "They kind of started a little slow, but – I have to go back and watch the video – but I thought they finished the game pretty good."

Wade led the Scarlet squad with six solo tackles, and he had one pass breakup. Okudah tallied one tackle and two pass breakups for the Scarlet team as well, including a couple of strong plays in the end zone.

Playing for the Gray squad, Williamson had four tackles and one tackle for loss while Sheffield tallied three solo stops.

Buckeyes Push Capacity At Spring Game

With approximately 20,000 seats out of commission due to renovations to the concrete at Ohio Stadium, Ohio State announced that capacity for the spring game would be around 84,000.

The Buckeyes announced they sold approximately 82,000 tickets for the annual spring contest, leaving around 2,000 seats available to students and faculty who could be admitted with a valid Buck-ID.

The announced attendance was 80,134, and while it wasn't quite at capacity, Ohio State still drew the largest spring game attendance thus far in 2017 with a handful of schools still to host their games.

For complete coverage of Ohio State's 2017 spring game, see the April 18 edition of the electronic BSB Quickly. For sign-up information for BSB's 36 additional electronic issues, free to all print subscribers, see page 5.

HOME OF THE BUCKEYE FAN



WHEN IT COMES TO BUCKEYE GEAR, BUCKEYE CORNER IS THE PREMIERE DESTINATION FOR HEADWEAR, APPAREL, JERSEYS AND ACCESSORIES FOR FANS OF ALL AGES. SHOP BUCKEYE CORNER AT ANY OF OUR CONVENIENT LOCATIONS OR ONLINE AT BUCKEYECORNER.COM TODAY.



LOCATIONS AT:
EASTON TOWN CENTER | FIESTA CENTER | NORTHWEST SQUARE
POLARIS FASHION PLACE

OHIO STATE FOOTBALL ANALYSIS

Campbell, Jones Step Up In Spring Practice

By TIM MOODY
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

Ohio State had a few clear goals during spring practice this year.

First of all, the Buckeyes – led by head coach Urban Meyer – wanted to put more emphasis on the downfield passing game. That project was headed by two new assistant coaches in offensive coordinator Kevin Wilson and quarterbacks coach Ryan Day.

Beyond that, the Buckeyes were looking to replace a few starters on both sides of the ball and hoping to see some new weapons emerge on offense. That all happened, to some extent at least, while some positions are still up for grabs. That's typical, but it's a good sign for OSU that clear candidates have emerged at each open spot.

Last but not least, the Buckeyes stayed relatively healthy throughout spring practice. Young linebackers Baron Browning and Malik Harrison both underwent shoulder surgery, but they'll be ready for fall camp. The same can be said for defensive tackle Davon Hamilton, who suffered a broken foot. No key players sustained injuries that will keep them out for any portion of 2017, though, and a number of contributors continued their rehab from previous knocks.

Now with spring practice in the books, the Buckeyes are still looking for one starting safety and a starting right guard, while the rotations at cornerback, defensive tackle and wide receiver could be tightened up as well. With that said, BSB took a look back at some of the top players from spring ball while hashing out some of the key questions still facing Meyer's team.

Offensive Player Of The Spring: Parris Campbell

Heading into spring practice, BSB predicted that sophomore Demario McCall would switch over from running back to H-back this spring. It wasn't a stretch, considering the player himself expected that move to materialize, but McCall spent each practice session working with the running backs.

Players On The Spot

Every year, at the start of spring, BSB lists a number of players who are "on the spot" and either need to take the next step toward stardom or solidify their spot in the lineup. Here's how this year's on-the-spot crop performed.

J.T. Barrett, 5th-Sr. QB – While Barrett didn't suddenly morph into Tom Brady this spring, he performed well throughout the practice sessions and made the improvements he and the coaches were hoping for. Barrett worked a lot on his footwork – especially in the pocket and when throwing the deep ball – and his downfield accuracy was noticeably better in practice. If that holds true in the regular season, Barrett could be heading for a huge year.

Austin Mack and Binjimen Victor, Soph. WRs – While other receivers such as Parris Campbell and K.J. Hill earned more praise from the coaching staff this spring, Mack and Victor both seem to have done enough to prove they should be in the rotation. Mack is more of a possession receiver while Victor could be a key downfield threat for the Buckeyes, and both worked with the first-team offense often in practice.

Isaiah Prince, Jr. OT – The best thing for Prince this spring might have been to be anonymous, and that's pretty much what he was. Prince took a lot of criticism for his play last season, but he performed well in spring practice and capped that off with a solid showing in the spring game. His right tackle position is not in danger heading into the summer.

Antonio Williams, Soph. RB – Williams can partially blame a hamstring issue for his lack of production in spring practice, but it didn't take long for him to fall all the way to

fourth in the running back pecking order. Starter Mike Weber, sophomore Demario McCall and freshman J.K. Dobbins are all firmly ahead of Williams at this point, and running backs coach Tony Alford was visibly upset with him during the spring game.

Dre'Mont Jones, Soph. DT – Jones might be the most improved player on the team, and he earned lofty praise from head coach Urban Meyer this spring. If Meyer is to be believed, Jones could be in for an All-Big Ten caliber season in 2017.

Damon Arnette (Soph.), Jeffrey Okudah (Fr.), Kendall Sheffield (Soph.) and Shaun Wade (Fr.), CBs – Ohio State's uber-talented cornerbacks performed about as well as possible in spring practice, with Arnette being the standout of the bunch (outside of Denzel Ward). Arnette seems to have a spot in the rotation locked down, while Sheffield performed the best of the early enrollees. Okudah and Wade impressed as well, though, and could find their way onto the field early this season.

Erick Smith, Sr. S – Smith didn't exactly fall out of the race to be a starting safety, but Jordan Fuller got more reps alongside Damon Webb by the end of spring practice. Smith is heading into his final season, so this summer and fall camp could be big in determining whether he'll have a shot as a starter.

Sean Nuernberger, Jr. K – By all accounts, Nuernberger did just fine in spring practice, but he didn't blow anyone away. This job isn't his just yet, and he'll still have to compete with incoming freshman Blake Haubeil once he arrives this summer.

– Tim Moody

Instead, it was junior receiver Parris Campbell who slid into Curtis Samuel's vacant position, and he didn't miss a beat.

Campbell played running back in high school at Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary before spending the first portion of his Ohio State career as an outside receiver. Campbell found his way back into the slot this spring and quickly earned praise from Meyer.

"He's standing out big time," Meyer said March 28. "He's one of my favorite players just because he is so unselfish and goes so hard. He deserves a great year, and he's one of the best playmakers right now."

One of the biggest knocks on Campbell throughout his collegiate career has been his inconsistent hands. He got the start in the season opener of the 2015 season against Virginia Tech – his first collegiate game – and had a chance to kick things off with a bang. Instead, Campbell dropped a sure touchdown pass from Cardale Jones early in the win over the Hokies and failed to record a reception the entire season.

He was more involved – and healthier – throughout the 2016 season, but he never really looked like a good fit as a pass-catching outside receiver. Instead, he made a

name for himself as a blocker and on special teams.

Now, Campbell looks more comfortable in the slot, and his skill set can be better utilized by getting him the ball in numerous different ways.

"Parris is really talented," receivers coach Zach Smith said. "He could play all three (receiver positions), he has played all three. He definitely has some of those running back skill sets because he played it in high school. He's a big, tough kid. Smart kid. Electric, he can really go."

Campbell agreed that he's in a more nat-



B-DUBS
FAST BREAK LUNCH 15-MINUTE GUARANTEE
OR YOUR LUNCH IS FREE

AVAILABLE MONDAY-FRIDAY FROM 11AM-2PM • STARTING FROM \$5.99

VALID FOR TABLES OF 6 GUESTS OR LESS
FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY. ASK YOUR SERVER FOR DETAILS.

Visit one of our 3 locations in the Columbus area

968 West 5th Ave 614-298-9464
5240 Bethel Centre Mall 614-459-2999
1710 Hilliard-Rome Rd 614-921-2999

TOO MANY CHOICES? Meet the expert Greg Van Horssen



Absolute
Hearing Solutions

Call today!
1-888-537-7408

Come see why patients travel from all over Ohio
to experience Absolute Hearing Solutions!

- State-of-the-art Equipment
- Beat competitors' prices by 30%-70%
- 100% satisfaction guaranteed
- Angie's List Super Service Award 2013, 2014 & 2015
- Starkey, Phonak, Siemens, Resound, & many more
- In Network with Anthem Blue Cross, Cigna, Medical Mutual, Medigold, Ohio PPO Connect, United Health Care, & many more!

Absolute Hearing Solutions • 1000 Morrison Rd, Ste H, Columbus, OH 43230
www.absolutehearingsolutions.com

OHIO STATE FOOTBALL ANALYSIS

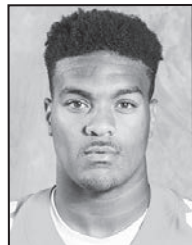
ural spot this spring, and it showed with his play on the practice field.

"For me, I think that I always had (an H-back skill set), just from high school playing running back," he said. "Being here, H-back is a premier position. So it takes being a complete receiver and also having running back tendencies."

Defensive Player Of The Spring: Dre'Mont Jones

For someone who didn't open the season as a starter, Jones made a pretty significant impact as a redshirt freshman last season. He replaced starter Tracy Sprinkle at three-technique during the season opener when Sprinkle suffered a season-ending injury, and Jones never looked back.

He completed his first season on the field with 52 total tackles and four tackles for loss. His 52 stops were good for sixth on the team overall.



Dre'Mont Jones

Heading into spring practice, Jones held down his starting spot and then took off, becoming one of the best players on the Ohio State defense.

"Dre'Mont Jones is really turning into a fine player here for us,"

Meyer said April 4.

On the field, Jones' focus this spring was on rushing the quarterback after he failed to record a sack in 2016. He improved in practice in that regard while also stepping things up off the field, defensive line coach Larry Johnson said.

"He's really grown up a lot," Johnson said. "He's locked in. He's done a great job academic wise in the classroom. He's a really smart football player, his football IQ is really high. And now just to be able to continue to grow and he's done that, he's had a great spring."

Johnson even went so far as to compare Jones to Tamba Hali, whom Johnson coached while at Penn State. Hali has gone on to be a five-time Pro Bowl selection while playing for the Kansas City Chiefs.

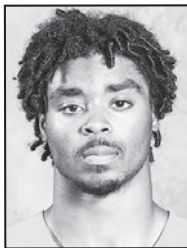
"He's close to Tamba Hali, Tamba Hali was like that," Johnson said in regard to Jones' motor. "He would run all day long, and Dre'Mont can run like a running back. He really can - very smooth, transitional player. And he's in great shape. Dre'Mont is one of the guys who's in shape all the time because he's running."

Most Improved Player Of The Spring: Damon Arnette

A number of players could fill this slot, including Jones, but Arnette gets the nod for how far he came after struggling as a slot corner last season. The Fort Lauderdale (Fla.) St. Thomas Aquinas product saw plenty of playing time last year, tallying 21 tackles and an interception, but he lost his spot as the nickel back at times down the stretch.

Heading into spring ball, the question was whether Arnette could hold off early enrollees Kendall Sheffield, Jeff Okudah, Shaun Wade and Marcus Williamson. With practice wrapped up, Arnette seems to have done that and then some.

In the portions of practice open to the media, Arnette was arguably the most physically imposing cornerback of the bunch, and



Damon Arnette

Position Battle Of The Summer: Right Guard

On the bright side, Ohio State welcomed four starters back along its offensive line this spring. On the downside, the right guard spot was up for grabs and there was no clear favorite going in.

Early in spring practice, Meyer said that Demetrius Knox had an edge over his competition - mainly Matt Burrell and Malcolm Pridgeon. Later in the spring, though, Knox missed some practice time while working through an academic issue and Burrell suddenly surged while Pridgeon struggled to learn the playbook.

"Demetrius Knox is running with the ones, and Malcolm Pridgeon is still learning the offense," Meyer said April 4. "But Matt Burrell is probably one of the most improved offensive linemen at this point."



BSB'S 2017 SPRING DEPTH CHART PROJECTION

4 JORDAN FULLER, 6-2, 207, SO. 34 Erick Smith, 6-0, 203, Sr.		17 JEROME BAKER, 6-1, 225, JR. 39 Malik Harrison, 6-3, 235, So.		33 DANTE BOOKER, 6-3, 240, JR. 5 Baron Browning, 6-4, 230, Fr.		7 DAMON WEBB, 5-10, 195, SR. 14 Isaiah Pryor, 6-2, 192, Fr.	
S		WLB		MLB		SLB	
12 DENZEL WARD, 5-11, 191, JR. 10 Kendall Sheffield, 6-0, 183, So.		77 MICHAEL HILL, 6-3, 305, 5TH-SR. 67 Robert Landers, 6-1, 283, So.		6 SAM HUBBARD, 6-5, 265, JR. 97 Nick Bosa, 6-4, 270, So.		3 DAMON ARNETTE, 6-0, 195, SO. 1 Jeffrey Okudah, 6-1, 193, Fr. OR 24 Shaun Wade, 6-1, 185, Fr.	
CB		DE		DT		DE	
59 TYQUAN LEWIS, 6-4, 265, 5TH-SR. 11 Jalyn Holmes, 6-5, 270, Sr.		86 DRE'MONT JONES, 6-3, 295, SO. 53 Davon Hamilton, 6-4, 300, So. OR 93 Tracy Sprinkle, 6-3, 293, 5th-Sr.		3 DAMON ARNETTE, 6-0, 195, SO. 1 Jeffrey Okudah, 6-1, 193, Fr. OR 24 Shaun Wade, 6-1, 185, Fr.		3 DAMON ARNETTE, 6-0, 195, SO. 1 Jeffrey Okudah, 6-1, 193, Fr. OR 24 Shaun Wade, 6-1, 185, Fr.	
WR		LT		LG		C	
74 JAMARCO JONES, 6-5, 310, SR. 76 Branden Bowen, 6-7, 312, So.		54 BILLY PRICE, 6-4, 312, 5TH-SR. 79 Brady Taylor, 6-5, 300, Jr.		59 ISAIAH PRINCE, 6-7, 310, JR. 66 Malcolm Pridgeon, 6-7, 315, Jr.		85 MARCUS BAUGH, 6-5, 250, 5TH-SR. 88 A.J. Alexander, 6-2, 252, So.	
83 TERRY MCLAURIN, 6-1, 204, JR. 9 Binjimen Victor, 6-4, 195, So. OR 1 Johnnie Dixon, 5-11, 195, Jr.		73 MICHAEL JORDAN, 6-7, 310, SO. 71 Josh Myers, 6-5, 305, Fr.		69 MATT BURRELL, 6-3, 300, SO. 78 Demetrius Knox, 6-4, 308, Jr.		85 MARCUS BAUGH, 6-5, 250, 5TH-SR. 88 A.J. Alexander, 6-2, 252, So.	
P		RB		QB		H	
91 DRUE CHRISMAN, 6-3, 212, R-FR.		16 J.T. BARRETT, 6-2, 220, 5TH-SR. 10 Joe Burrow, 6-3, 215, So. OR 7 Dwayne Haskins, 6-3, 214, R-Fr.		21 PARRIS CAMPBELL, 6-1, 208, JR. 19 Eric Glover-Williams, 5-9, 180, Jr.		14 K.J. HILL, 6-0, 198, SO. 11 Austin Mack, 6-2, 215, So.	
K		25 MIKE WEBER, 5-10, 214, SO. 2 J.K. Dobbins, 5-10, 208, Fr. OR 30 Demario McCall, 5-9, 195, So.		21 PARRIS CAMPBELL, 6-1, 208, JR. 19 Eric Glover-Williams, 5-9, 180, Jr.		14 K.J. HILL, 6-0, 198, SO. 11 Austin Mack, 6-2, 215, So.	
96 SEAN NUERNBERGER, 6-1, 225, JR.		25 MIKE WEBER, 5-10, 214, SO. 2 J.K. Dobbins, 5-10, 208, Fr. OR 30 Demario McCall, 5-9, 195, So.		21 PARRIS CAMPBELL, 6-1, 208, JR. 19 Eric Glover-Williams, 5-9, 180, Jr.		14 K.J. HILL, 6-0, 198, SO. 11 Austin Mack, 6-2, 215, So.	

*Projection only includes players enrolled for spring practice

he seemed to have his spot opposite Denzel Ward locked down.

"Damon played a lot of snaps at the nickel and had two tough games," cornerbacks coach Kerry Coombs said this spring. "He gave up two catches in two weeks in a row, and that's below the standard here. We had to make a change, and he understood that. He didn't like that - he shouldn't have liked it - but he handled it and he came back swinging. He never complained, never put his head down, and he's had a great offseason and great spring."

Arnette capped his excellent spring the only way a cornerback could hope for - by intercepting Ohio State's starting quarterback J.T. Barrett for the only pick of the spring game.

By the time Ohio State lined up for the spring game, Burrell was working with the ones, but the battle was still far from over. Knox was back in the fold by the time the spring game rolled around while Pridgeon has the size and talent to be an impactful player as long as he gets a grip on the offense.

Although Burrell has the edge heading into the summer, Knox and Pridgeon have plenty of time left to make a push.

Spots Up For Grabs

• With Ward and Arnette penciled in at cornerback, one more player will need to separate himself from the pack to form the Buckeyes' preferred three-man rotation. Sheffield is the favorite here, but Wade and Okudah can't be counted out just yet.

• Damon Webb is locked in as a starting safety while Jordan Fuller and Erick Smith spent the spring battling for the other spot. Fuller ended the spring getting more first-team reps, but this battle will carry over to fall camp.

• Meyer said after the spring game that he wasn't ready to say whether Joe Burrow or Dwayne Haskins would be Barrett's primary backup.

• A number of receivers are expected to be competing for playing time, and any two of K.J. Hill, Austin Mack, Terry McLaurin, Binjimen Victor and Johnnie Dixon could be the starters on the outside in week one.

• While Sean Nuernberger was the only kicker on the roster this spring, he'll be battling incoming freshman Blake Haubeil in the summer and fall.



Join Us as We Support the Buckeyes
on the Road & More!!

Membership Opportunities:

- Annual Kick-Off Dinner
- Travel to EVERY Football Away Game
- Annual Celebrity Golf Outing
- Meetings at the Woody Hayes Athletic Center with coaches

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____
Zipcode: _____ Telephone: _____

Mail check to: Buckeye Boosters, 921 Chatham Ln., #301F, Columbus, Oh 43221

Membership is only
\$75.00 per year!
For information, check us out
at www.buckeyeboosters.com
or call 614-326-3300.

JOIN NOW!

BUCKEYE SPORTS BULLETIN

\$3.00

PERIODICAL NEWSPAPER
CLASSIFICATION
DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE RUSH!!



Vol. 37, No. 19

"For The Buckeye Fan Who Needs To Know More"

April 7, 2018

In The Hunt



COURTESY OF OSU ATHLETICS

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

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

OSU Quarterback Race Still Wide Open

By TIM MOODY
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

John, Ross or Chuck.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Continued On Page 8

COVER STORY

QB Battle Could Extend Beyond Spring Practice

Continued From Page 1

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

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

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

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

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

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

Joe "John" Burrow

Class/Elig.: Sr./Jr.

Height/Weight: 6-3/215

Hometown: The Plains, Ohio

High School: Athens

Career Notes: Redshirted as a freshman

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Who Is The Greatest Quarterback In Ohio State History?

The Options:

J.T. Barrett _____

John Borton _____

Greg Frey _____

Joe Germaine _____

Cornelius Greene _____

Kirk Herbstreit _____

Bobby Hoying _____

Stanley Jackson _____

Cardale Jones _____

Jim Karsatos _____

Rex Kern _____

Craig Krenzel _____

Tom Matte _____

Braxton Miller _____

Terrelle Pryor _____

Art Schlichter _____

Troy Smith _____

Mike Tomczak _____

Don Unverferth _____

Other _____

Instructions:

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

Comments:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dwayne "Ross" Haskins

Class/Elig.: Jr./So.

Height/Weight: 6-3/218

Hometown: Potomac, Md.

High School: Bullis School

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

Career Stats: eight games played; 40

Conrads
COLLEGE GIFTS

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

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

Closeout Deal!

E7-96: 8 Times National Champions

Replica Ring Paperweight

\$20 was \$89.95



DEW
GAMEDAY
RIGHT

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

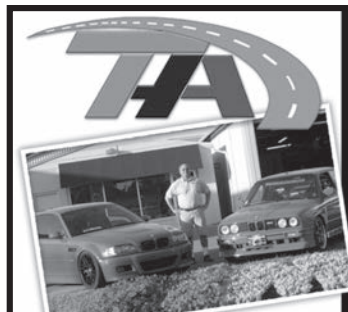
VISIT THESE NEIGHBORHOOD LOCATIONS

DUBLIN
6540 Perimeter Dr.
Dublin, OH 43017
614.799.2444

GRANDVIEW
1327 West Fifth Ave.
Columbus, OH 43212
614.487.8282

WORTHINGTON
640 High St.
Worthington, OH 43085
614.985.3333

www.deweyspizza.com



Tom Hatem Automotive

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

www.HatemAutomotive.com

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

COVER STORY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tate "Chuck" Martell

Class/Elig.: So./Fr.

Height/Weight: 5-11/207

Hometown: Las Vegas

High School: Bishop Gorman

Career Notes: Joined Ohio State as an early enrollee last year before redshirting. Was undefeated as a starter in high school.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Ryan Day

Donald F. Bowen DDS, & Associates



CONVENIENT LOCATION!

1264 N. High St., Columbus 43215
(6th Avenue & High Street)

614-294- 6451

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



Residence Inn® Marriott

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

3100 Olentangy River Road



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



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

BUCKEYE SPORTS BULLETIN

\$3.00

PERIODICAL NEWSPAPER
CLASSIFICATION
DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE RUSH!!



Vol. 37, No. 20

"For The Buckeye Fan Who Needs To Know More"

April 21, 2018



"We're going to have to make some decisions. Those decisions have not been made."

- Urban Meyer

Decision Time

TIM MOODY

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

With Spring Practice Over, Meyer Has A Choice To Make

By TIM MOODY
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Continued On Page 8



Vol. 37, No. 20
April 21, 2018
www.BuckeyeSports.com

Buckeye Sports Bulletin (USPS 705-690, ISSN 0883-6833.) is published 24 times a year (weekly September through November, biweekly mid-March through May and January through early March and monthly June through August and December) by:

Columbus Sports Publications
 1350 W. Fifth Ave., Suite 30
 P.O. Box 12453
 Columbus, Ohio 43212
 (614) 486-2202
 bsb@buckeyesports.com

Periodical class postage paid at Columbus, Ohio, and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Buckeye Sports Bulletin, P.O. Box 12453, Columbus, Ohio 43212. Subscription rates: \$89.95/year.

PUBLISHER
 Frank Moskowitz

ASSISTANT PUBLISHER
 Becky Roberts

EDITOR
 Tim Moody

MANAGING EDITOR EMERITUS
 Mark Rea

ASSISTANT PUBLISHER EMERITUS
 Karen Wachsman 1944-1999

PHOTOGRAPHY
 Sonny Brockway Terry Gilliam
 Kevin Dye Josh Winslow

CONTRIBUTORS
 Bill Armstrong Bob Roehm
 David Breithaupt Julie Roy
 Bill Conley Mark Schmetzer
 Joe Dempsey Steve Siegfried
 Rich Exner Garrett Stepien
 Eric Loughry Jeff Svoboda
 Ryan McGlade Mike Wachsman
 Craig Merz

ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVES
 Jan Jager Dave Tebay
 Ron Friedman

2017-18 PUBLICATION SCHEDULE (VOL. 37)

No. 1	Sept. 9	No. 13	Dec. 16
No. 2	Sept. 16	No. 14	Jan. 20
No. 3	Sept. 23	No. 15	Feb. 3
No. 4	Sept. 30	No. 16	Feb. 17
No. 5	Oct. 7	No. 17	March 10
No. 6	Oct. 14	No. 18	March 24
No. 7	Oct. 28	No. 19	April 7
No. 8	Nov. 4	No. 20	April 21
No. 9	Nov. 11	No. 21	May
No. 10	Nov. 18	No. 22	June
No. 11	Nov. 25	No. 23	July
No. 12	Dec. 2	No. 24	August

The next issue (May cover date) will be mailed May 1.

Buckeye Sports Bulletin is a privately owned newspaper and is not affiliated directly or indirectly with The Ohio State University.



Charter Member

OPINION

OSU Got Some Value Out Of Spring Game

After a spring game that more resembled a fire drill than a full-blown contested scrimmage, the Ohio State football program achieved a multitude of its goals.

Although threatening weather and a start time of 11:45 a.m. conspired to push official attendance figures south of 50,000, the university sold each of its 79,000 allotted tickets for the game. That figure will likely allow OSU to lead the nation for the fourth straight year in spring-game attendance.

Dozens of former players were in attendance to help bolster enthusiasm for the estimated two dozen high school prospects on official or unofficial visits, a roster that included "Rocket" Ronnie Hickman, a four-star athlete from DePaul Catholic (N.J.) Wayne, who offered his verbal commitment to the Buckeyes the night before the spring game.

Lastly, Ohio State finished spring practice in much the same fashion it finished the 2017 season after clobbering USC in the Cotton Bowl – as the program everyone else in the Big Ten is chasing for supremacy.

Michigan, Wisconsin and Indiana each canceled their spring games because of impending inclement weather, while Michigan State's nighttime spring affair was so sparsely attended that someone could have shot off a cannon in Spartan Stadium and not hit anyone in the stands. Then there's Iowa, whose choice to have its spring game on a Friday evening is so popular that even the Big Ten Network chose to telecast a softball game between third-place Nebraska and fourth-place Minnesota over live airing of the Hawkeyes' spring game.

About the only thing the Buckeyes and head coach Urban Meyer did not accomplish during this year's set of 15 spring practice sessions was to determine who would start at quarterback now that J.T. Barrett has exhausted his college eligibility.

More to the point, that mission was not accomplished if we are to take what Meyer says at face value. Something gnaws at me when a coach of Meyer's pedigree claims to be undecided about a three-man race for the quarterback position on his team. Perhaps it's the cynic in me or maybe it's just because I've seen this movie many times before during my career, and I pretty much know how it ends.

To prevent anyone from become disenchanted or disgruntled, each of the candidates is told he remains very much in the hunt for the starting position. The hard work continues, the competitive juices keep flowing, and the coaching staff evaluates which players are willing to do whatever it takes to secure the job for their own.

Playing quarterback – especially in Meyer's system – is not entirely about who has the strongest arm or quickest feet. In all of his years as a Buckeye, Barrett was never the most gifted athlete in the quarterback room. But he was always the most cerebral, and if history has taught us anything, intangibles such as leadership, thoughtfulness and an ability to see the bigger picture are every bit as important to Meyer at the quarterback position as athletic ability.

But there is something to be said about raw numbers, so it's worth discussing spring-game statistics if only because we have such small sample sizes of what the trio of prospective starting quarterbacks can do in an Ohio State uniform.

Three-Man QB Derby

Joe Burrow, set to begin his fourth year in the program, had the most impressive numbers during a truncated afternoon that featured 10-minute quarters, a running clock in the second half and no contact until midway

through the second quarter. Playing for both the Scarlet and Gray teams, Burrow attempted 22 passes and completed 15 of them for 238 yards and a pair of touchdowns.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK Mark Rea

Burrow seemed a little out of sync to begin the game, misfiring on two of his first three attempts. But he shook off that early trouble and was much sharper during his second series. He hit all four attempts during the possession, including effortless tosses to H-back Parris Campbell and tight end Luke Farrell as well as a pinpoint sideline throw to wide receiver Binjamin Victor.

Later in the game, Burrow connected on a pair of long touchdown passes to sophomore DeMarco McCall, who spent most of the spring trying to elbow his way into crowded groups at both the running back and receiver positions. McCall got himself wide open early in the fourth quarter to reel in a 50-yard touchdown pass from Burrow, and the duo hooked up again on the final play of the game, this one a decidedly more difficult pitch-and-catch that Burrow deposited over a couple of defenders and into the waiting arms of McCall for a 42-yard score.

While Burrow was proving his accuracy, sophomore Dwayne Haskins showcased the powerful arm that has most Ohio State fans assuming he will be the starter in the fall. Haskins has built whatever reputation he has so far on the howitzer he has dangling from his right shoulder as well as his relief performance in last year's Michigan game.

For anyone who might have forgotten, Haskins entered the game midway through the third quarter against the Wolverines with his team trailing by a 20-14 score and rallied the Buckeyes to a 31-20 victory. If you know anything about Ohio State football, you understand a win against Michigan banks a whole lot of fan-base capital for a quarterback. Therefore, most Buckeye Nation denizens believe that by the time the Sept. 1 season opener against Oregon State rolls around, it will be the 6-3, 218-pound Haskins under center.

Not that Haskins' spring-game performance did anything to undermine that notion. Like Burrow, he played for both teams – albeit taking fewer snaps – and completed 9 of 19 attempts for 120 yards and two touchdowns. The first of those scores was a 25-yard strike to sophomore receiver Jaylen Harris, a touch pass just over the outstretched arms of defender Marcus Williamson.

The third man in the quarterback derby is redshirt freshman Tate Martell, a wild card if there ever was such a thing.

At first glance, the 5-11, 207-pound Martell would seem to be the product of the recruiting hype machine, a frenetic ball of energy with dizzying high school numbers but whose frame appears too small to withstand the rigors of playing quarterback in the Big Ten. Then he hits the field and brings an electricity to the huddle that quite frankly neither Burrow nor Haskins seems to possess.

Martell has not yet displayed a big-time arm, completing only 5 of 16 throws for 28 yards and pitching the only interception of the spring game. His idea of a deep ball seems to be throwing the ball as far as he can and hoping the receiver can make a play on it. He overthrew targets on several occasions, didn't

seem to have much touch on timing patterns and once threw the ball away on fourth down.

Martell also appears to have a run-first mentality. Several times during the spring game, he seemed to get through only one or two of his progression reads before tucking the ball and taking off.

But when he takes off – well, that's when he excels. Martell scampered for 69 yards and a touchdown, numbers that likely would have been much higher had quarterbacks not been off-limits to contact. He seems not that dissimilar to the kind of disruptive force Johnny Manziel was when he won the 2012 Heisman Trophy as a redshirt freshman at Texas A&M.

So, Who's The Man?

Did 15 spring practice sessions determine who will succeed Barrett as the Ohio State starting quarterback? Perhaps, although Meyer went out of his way to make it seem that the issue was still up for debate.

Martell is likely not going to be the starter, but he is going to play in some form or fashion. Dating back to Josh Harris at Bowling Green through Tim Tebow at Florida and Barrett at Ohio State, Meyer has always liked a quarterback who can run the football, and it would be a safe bet to believe there will be some short-yardage and/or goal-line packages in the offensive playbook designed with Martell in mind.

As for the other two quarterbacks, it depends upon how you assess the situation.

Last season, Haskins played in eight games as Barrett's primary backup, throwing for 565 yards and four touchdowns with only one interception while completing 70.2 percent of his passes. Burrow played in just five games last year and attempted only 11 passes, completing seven of them for 61 yards.

It is worth noting, however, that Burrow had apparently won the backup role over Haskins until Burrow suffered a broken bone in his throwing hand late in fall camp. Furthermore, Burrow has three years' worth of experience in Meyer's system, and that is a huge factor in the head coach's mind. Additionally, Meyer once favorably compared Burrow to current Washington Redskins quarterback Alex Smith, who led a Meyer-coached Utah team to an undefeated season in 2004.

Still, if Burrow is not going to be the Buckeyes' starting quarterback in the fall, he has other options and should be allowed to explore them. He is on track to graduate from Ohio State this spring, and as a graduate transfer, he could move on to another program where he could start immediately.

"I love Joe Burrow," Meyer told ESPN reporter Marty Smith after the spring game. "He's a loyal soldier and I think I owe him an answer. Our staff owes him an answer. And I don't know what it is right now. (He's) a guy who gives so much to our program. I believe we've given a lot back to him, but you play quarterback to play. He's a great kid (and) he's a very good quarterback. We'll see what happens."

If I were a betting man, I would wager that Burrow will be a starting quarterback in the fall, but it will be with a different program – possibly the University of Cincinnati, where he has a relationship with Bearcats head coach Luke Fickell.

That leaves Haskins as the starter and Martell as the change-of-pace guy for the Buckeyes in 2018.

Is that a winning combination? Only time will tell, of course, but once upon a time at Florida, Meyer used that kind of swinging door at the position and Ohio State fans remain painfully aware of how well it worked.

COVER STORY

Multiple Factors Will Go Into OSU's QB Choice

Continued From Page 1

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

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

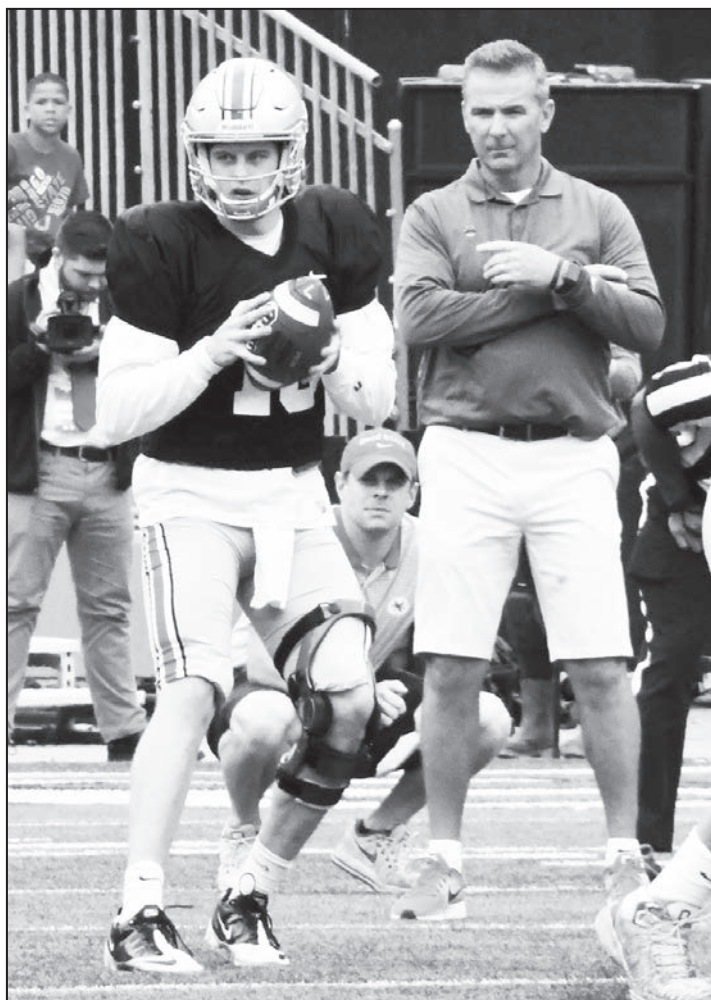
"It's something that helps you because it's also factual," Meyer said. "Intangibles are, obviously, going to be very involved in the decision."

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

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

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

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



SONNY BROCKWAY

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

Conrads
COLLEGE GIFTS

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

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

Closeout Deal!

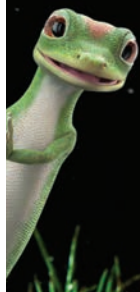
E7-96: 8 Times National Champions
Replica Ring Paperweight
\$20 was \$89.95



**SAVE WITH
THE HOME
TEAM.**

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

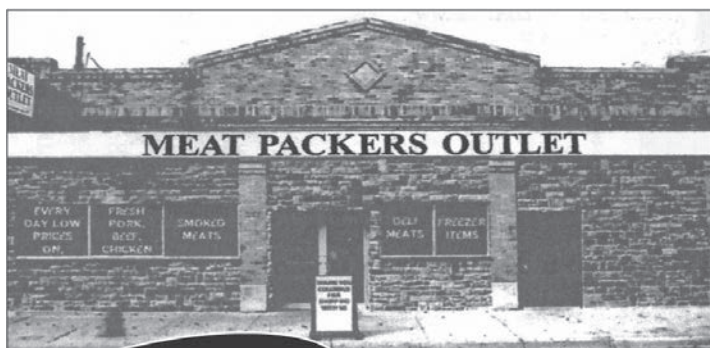
GEICO
Local Office



614-336-4240

7370 Sawmill Rd Columbus

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



Retail meat market serving
Columbus since 1957

Open Monday-Saturday
8 am to 6 pm

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

COVER STORY

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

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

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

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

In Their Own Words

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Dwayne Haskins



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

Convenient locations to
**DINE IN OR
ORDER ONLINE**
for the game!

www.buffalowildwings.com



Learn more about your
**LOCALLY
OWNED**
BUFFALO WILD WINGS
franchise locations at
www.LancasterWings.com

Help BSB Grow

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

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

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

OHIO STATE SPRING GAME

Spring Game Ends Without A Winner At Safety

Ohio State football head coach Urban Meyer said after the team's spring game on April 14 that junior Jordan Fuller will man one of the starting safety spots when the 2018 season kicks off Sept. 1 against Oregon State. As for who accompanies Fuller at the back end of the defense this fall, Meyer said he, co-defensive coordinator and safeties coach Alex Grinch and defensive coordinator Greg Schiano will have to sort that out.

SPRING GAME NOTEBOOK Ryan McGlade

"The field safety is probably our No. 1 concern on our team right now," Meyer said. "We're just not quite sure who that is. Jordan Fuller will be a starter. Who the other guy is, that's Coach Schiano and Alex Grinch. We're going to meet on probably (April 18). They're going to give me a depth chart, and we'll go from there."

Schiano said after the scrimmage that he was pleased with the progress of Fuller, who started 13 games last year.

"The field safety – we've kind of moved Jordan over there and that's kind of been the evolution a little bit," Schiano said. "Jordan performed at a very high level this spring. Now, he didn't have a lot of live contact by design. But as far as playing the position, I feel like he was excellent."

"After Jordan, it's been a real battle for the other side and for the backup positions. I know that we don't come out of spring with a clear-cut guy. So the competition will continue into training camp, and I'm confident we'll have two guys that start that game that will be really game-ready. It's developing depth behind it that will be the challenge."

As recently as April 11 while on the Big Ten teleconference, Meyer said sophomores Isaiah Pryor, Brendon White and Jahsen Wint were among the many names vying for the other starting safety post.

Pryor took the field with Fuller and the

first-team defense for the first snap of the spring game, finishing with four tackles. Wint had 11 stops while White had one. Amir Riep, who switched to safety this spring after spending his freshman season of 2017 as a cornerback, logged five tackles from his new position in the exhibition.

The Buckeyes will be adding two more safeties to the fold this summer when 2018 signees Marcus Hooker, the brother of former OSU safety Malik Hooker, and Josh Proctor join the team.

Schiano noted that he was not worried the staff had yet to determine the team's other first-string safety because many of the candidates displayed promising signs in the spring.

"I do feel like we have guys that can play, but you would always like it – it's cleaner if you come out with a guy that established himself," Schiano said. "It's not that none of them didn't show things – they did. It's just none of them showed it that much more than the other and you can say, 'That's the guy.'"

Munford, Prince Reverse Roles In Spring Game

Throughout spring practice, it was understood that senior Isaiah Prince was taking reps at left tackle while sophomore Thayer Munford occupied right tackle, where Prince started the last two seasons.

When the spring game started, those two were flipped, with Munford handling the blind side and Prince back on the right end of the line while working with the first-team offense and mainly blocking for junior quarterback Joe Burrow and sophomore Dwayne Haskins.

Meyer said Munford and Prince spent time at both positions this spring and that nothing is final yet.

"We've done both," Meyer said. "That decision hasn't been made yet. Isaiah has been playing a lot of left, too. I think we're just trying to get that rotation of who's going to be the third tackle. Obviously, we've got a good one coming in too with (five-star 2018 signee Nicholas Petit-Frere). He's a guy that's been here watching and is a very talented young man. Josh Alabi has also earned a right to maybe get in a little bit. We're just kind of figuring out what's best."

Meyer Names Starters, Discusses Other Position Battles

While one starting safety spot and the two tackle slots remain unclear, Meyer was able to confirm players at other positions who locked up starting jobs at the end of spring ball.

The coach said fifth-year senior Brady Taylor is the team's starting center heading into the summer but must prove himself again in fall camp. Meyer added that redshirt freshman Josh Myers stood out in the battle to anchor the offensive line.

Moving down the offensive front, Meyer said sophomore Luke Farrell, who only briefly played in the spring game, will start at tight end. Like Taylor, though, Meyer said Farrell will have to earn his spot again in the fall. The head coach also mentioned junior Rashod Berry and sophomore Jake Hausmann as tight ends who caught his eye. Berry did not play in the spring game because he suffered two stingers days before, Meyer said.

Defensively, Meyer said nothing is set in stone with the linebackers. Sophomore Tuf Borland would be the leading candidate to be the starting middle linebacker, but he

suffered an Achilles injury during the spring and will be out until sometime in September. Fifth-year senior Dante Booker was out all spring with shoulder injuries. The ailments to Booker and Borland gave fellow linebackers such as sophomore Baron Browning, early enrollee Dallas Gant, juniors Justin Hilliard and Keandre Jones and sophomore Pete Werner an opportunity to impress the coaches. In the spring game, Werner had six tackles, Gant had five and also forced a fumble, Browning had four tackles and Hilliard and Jones each had one.

"Linebacker is still open with the injury to Tuf Borland," Meyer said. "I thought Baron Browning played very good today. I think Hilliard is right in the middle of that thing too. We'll see."

Much like in years past, Meyer said the team will plan to employ a three-man rotation at cornerback with junior Damon Arnette, sophomore Jeffrey Okudah and junior Kendall Sheffield. Okudah had shoulder surgery in January and therefore did not play in the intrasquad scrimmage.

Meyer left open the possibility of a fourth corner breaking into the lineup.

"You know how we like to play three guys," he said. "There might be another one that pops in there if young guys keep developing."

Victor Still Working To Improve His Consistency

Binjamin Victor appears to have all of the tools necessary to transform into an elite wide receiver for Ohio State. The 6-4, 200-pounder was a four-star prospect in Coconut Creek,

Fla., and was regarded as the No. 97 overall prospect and No. 12 receiver in the 2016 recruiting class, according to the 247Sports composite rankings.

Ratings and measurables haven't translated into steady excellence on the college gridiron for Victor, though. He appeared in only five games as a freshman for Ohio State in 2016, logging four receptions for 64 yards with one touchdown. He showed flashes of his ability on that scoring grab, which went for 25 yards, at Maryland in the 10th contest of the year and on a 21-yard catch against Clemson in the College Football Playoff semifinal.

Victor then assumed a more prominent role in Ohio State's crowded wideout rotation last fall but still wasn't quite the game-breaker the team expects him to be. He played in all 14 games and caught 23 passes for 349 yards and seven touchdowns. Eighteen of those receptions came during the first seven weeks of the season, however, with the other five occurring over the second half of the campaign. He failed to record a catch against Penn State, Iowa, Michigan, Wisconsin in the Big Ten Championship and USC in the Cotton Bowl – some of the most important games for Ohio State.

In the spring game, Victor reminded everyone of the type of skill he possesses. He hauled in five balls for 91 yards, including a 43-yard snag down the sideline, and a touchdown.

"I felt like I needed to make plays today," Victor said after the scrimmage. "Coming into the spring, what I feel like I really wanted to focus on was separation, and that's



TIM MOODY

OPEN SPOTS – Sophomore Pete Werner (20) is among a handful of linebackers competing for playing time in 2018.

Attention Reds Fans

Here's a chance for Buckeye Sports Bulletin readers who are also Cincinnati Reds fans to enjoy a year of Reds Report, BSB's sister publication covering the Reds, for just \$9.95, a \$33 savings over the regular \$42.95 rate. Take advantage of this special offer for BSB readers and we will also send you a voucher good for two free tickets to your choice of select Reds games this season.

This will be another interesting year for Reds Report readers as our extensive Reds minor league system coverage becomes more critical with the team in the midst of its rebuilding project. You will also enjoy stories, columns, statistics and box scores for the major league club.

Just send your \$9.95 to P.O. Box 12453, Columbus, Ohio, 43212 or call (614) 486-2202 for credit card orders. You must mention the Reds BSB Special.

OHIO STATE SPRING GAME

Spring Game Box Score

Gray 37, Scarlet 14

April 14, 2018 • Ohio Stadium • Columbus, Ohio

Score by Quarters	1	2	3	4	F
SCARLET	0	14	0	0	14
GRAY	3	14	7	13	37

First Quarter

GRAY – Nuernberger, 40 yard field goal, 1:45; 8 plays, 53 yards, 2:56 TOP.

Second Quarter

SCARLET – Teague, 1 yard run (Nuernberger kick), 5:26; 13 plays, 85 yards, 4:16 TOP.

GRAY – Martell, 2 yard run (Nuernberger kick), 4:50; 2 plays, 65 yards, 0:36 TOP.

SCARLET – Harris, 25 yard pass from Haskins (Nuernberger kick), 2:53; 5 plays, 65 yards, 1:57 TOP.

GRAY – Williams, 3 yard run (Haubeil kick), 0:16; 11 plays, 65 yards, 2:37 TOP.

Third Quarter

GRAY – Victor, 2 yard pass from Haskins (Haubeil kick), 4:30; 5 plays, 59 yards, 5:30 TOP.

Fourth Quarter

GRAY – McCall, 50 yard pass from Burrow (Haubeil kick), 8:43; 2 plays, 72 yards, 1:17 TOP.

GRAY – McCall, 42 yard pass from Burrow, 0:00; 7 plays, 62 yards, 3:40 TOP.

Att. – 47,803.

Team Statistics

	SCARLET	GRAY
First Downs	16	14
Rushing	8	4
Passing	7	8
Penalty	1	2
Rushes-Yards	27-144	16-124
Passing Yards	135	251
Passes (Comp.-Att.-Int.)	13-30-1	16-27-0
Offensive Plays	57	43
Total Net Yards	279	375
Third Down Efficiency	2-11	1-8
Fourth Down Efficiency	3-5	3-3
Punts-Avg.	2-35.0	2-39.0
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	0-0
Penalties	2-16	3-23
Time of Possession	16:02	23:58

Individual Statistics

RUSHING (Att.-Net Yds.) – SCARLET: Teague 14-73; Martell 9-59; Rossi 3-9; Burrow 1-3. GRAY: Weber 1-63; Williams 5-47; Martell 2-10; Burrow 2-5; McMahon 2-2; Dobbins 1-(-1); Haskins 3-(-2).

PASSING (Comp.-Att.-Int.-Yds.-TD) – SCARLET: Martell 5-14-1-28-0; Haskins 4-11-0-58-1; Burrow 4-5-0-49-0. GRAY: Burrow 11-17-0-189-2; Haskins 5-8-0-62-1; Martell 0-2-0-0-0.

RECEIVING (Rec.-Yds.) – SCARLET: McCall 6-65; Harris 3-39; Gardiner 1-23; Teague 1-4; Burrow 1-3; Malone 1-1. GRAY: McCall 5-100; Victor 5-91; Campbell 4-40; Farrell 1-15; Mack 1-5.

PUNTING (No.-Avg.-Long) – SCARLET: Chrisman 2-35.0-36. GRAY: Chrisman 2-39.0-51.

MISSED FIELD GOALS (Yds.) – SCARLET: None. GRAY: None.

FORCED FUMBLES – SCARLET: None. GRAY: Gant.

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

INTERCEPTIONS (No.-Yds.) – SCARLET: None. GRAY: Wade 1-0.

SACKS (No.-Yds.) – SCARLET: Young 1.0-2. GRAY: Hamilton 1.0-5.

TACKLES FOR LOSS (No.-Yds.) – SCARLET: Young 1.0-2; Johnson 1.0-1; Landers 1.0-1; Cornell 1.0-1. GRAY: Hamilton 1.0-5.

TACKLES (Solo-Assst.-Tot.) – SCARLET: Pryor 4-0-4; Wa. Davis 3-0-3; Sheffield 2-0-2; Banks 2-0-2; Johnson 2-0-2; Werner 1-1-2; Young 1-1-2; Togiai 1-1-2; Cage 0-2-2; Fuller 1-0-1; Jones 1-0-1; Landers 1-0-1; Hilliard 1-0-1; Cornell 1-0-1; Arnette 1-0-1; White 0-1-1. GRAY: Wint 8-3-11; Riep 4-1-5; Gant 3-2-5; Werner 4-0-4; Browning 3-1-4; Hamilton 2-2-4; Jester 2-1-3; Banks 2-0-2; Hamdan 1-0-1; Cox 1-0-1; Dever 1-0-1; Williamson 1-0-1.

what I did. In the summer, I've just got to keep improving in that."

Victor stayed in the exhibition much longer than other first-team wide receivers such as Parris Campbell, Johnnie Dixon, K.J. Hill, Austin Mack and Terry McLaurin. Meyer said that was by design.

"Vic, I kept him in there because he has to just keep getting better," Meyer said. "He's still got a ways to go. That's one of the most talented receivers we've ever had. It's consistency and fight and those kinds of things (that need to improve). When he does (have consistency and fight), it's fun to watch. He's a very talented guy."

Victor agreed with his head coach saying he still has room for improvement. The junior also said that he views Meyer calling him one of the most talented players at his position to come to Ohio State as motivation.

"I have a little way to go, but I feel like he says that because he sees what kind of player I am and what kind of player I could be in the future," Victor said. "I've just got to keep working at that and meeting that high expectation."

Victor added that the consistency Meyer referred to applies to more than just having a presence in every game, something he struggled with during his first two years on campus. Victor said the consistency pertains to every day in practice as well.

"Don't have up-and-down days," he said. "Every day has got to be a good day. I feel like that's what I need to work at as well. I'm really looking forward to this summer and making that happen in the fall."

While there is much focus on where Victor can further develop his game, the Floridian has made strides as a Buckeye. Since signing with Ohio State in February 2016, he has put on 27 pounds and has seen his part in the offense increase each season.

When asked to reflect on his OSU career to this point, Victor was candid in how challenging it has been.

"The journey has been pretty up and down with the playing level, the meeting rooms, gaining weight and all of that," he said. "But that's what football is about. It's not an easy sport. I've just got to go through it and maintain like I can."



DONATOS
Every piece is important.™

**OFFICIAL PIZZA SPONSOR
OF OHIO STATE ATHLETICS**

ORDER WITH THE APP OR AT DONATOS.COM



DONATOS
Every piece is important.™

OHIO STATE

OFFICIAL PIZZA SPONSOR OF OHIO STATE ATHLETICS.

OHIO STATE FOOTBALL ANALYSIS

Haskins The Leading Pick Among BSB Staffers

Ohio State's 2018 spring practice was wrapped up with the annual spring game on April 14, allowing media and fans one last look at the Buckeyes before the end of the academic year.

The Gray team topped Scarlet, 37-14, although the rosters were mixed and matched throughout the contest, so the true winners are hard to determine.

As expected, the quarterbacks were front and center, with Joe Burrow and Dwayne Haskins showcasing their arm talent while Tate Martell showed what he can do with his legs. Demario McCall also had a feature role as an H-back, catching 11 passes for 165 yards and two touchdowns, including a 42-yarder from Burrow on the last play of the game.

With the spring game – and spring camp – in the books, BSB editor Tim Moody and staff writers Ryan McGlade and Garrett Stepien took some time to analyze the Buckeyes' spring camp and their performance at the Horseshoe.

Let's just get this out of the way – who do you think should be the starting quarterback and who do you think will be the starting quarterback?

Garrett Stepien: Dwayne Haskins and Dwayne Haskins. I believe that from both sides, I said it before the spring and I'm sticking to it now. Despite an applaudable effort from Joe Burrow, who left everything he had on the field in the spring game, Haskins flashed the same promise he showed in his spurts of action during the 2017 season.

Among the three of them, Tate Martell's performance confirmed he clearly isn't there yet. He does, however, have a place in this offense with the special packages catered to his dynamic athleticism — which he showed off on a few of the big read-option runs he ripped off in the spring game. Not only do I believe starting Haskins with Martell off the bench was the plan from the jump for Ohio State, but I also think it works out best for the offense in 2018 with the returning personnel in the unit.

Tim Moody: I agree with Garrett that Haskins will start, but I don't agree that he should.

While Haskins brings a stronger arm and the ability to make a few throws that Burrow can't, the junior from Athens, Ohio, can still make all the throws necessary to run the offense, and he does so more accurately and more consistently from what I've seen. Burrow is also a better runner, and he makes better decisions when throwing the ball.

At the end of the day, though, Ohio State will have a star at quarterback next season, and whoever doesn't win the job will have success on the football field eventually – whether it be in Columbus or at another school.

Ryan McGlade: I guess I'm kind of in the middle between Garrett and Tim. I certainly think Haskins will get the nod, largely because of what he did at Michigan last year. I also would *probably* say Haskins should get the starting job. You can't deny Haskins' cannon of an arm. But like Tim said, Burrow can make all the necessary throws to run the offense. I thought it was important that Urban Meyer said after the spring game that intangibles such as leadership and toughness will play a large role in the coaches determining the starting quarterback. I would say Burrow has the edge in that department. But in the end, I think Haskins' performance at the Big



TIM MOODY

STRUTTING HIS STUFF – Sophomore quarterback Dwayne Haskins (7) threw a pair of touchdowns in Ohio State's spring game.

House last fall and his ability to take the top off the defense with his arm will lead to the coaches going with him.

Martell looked really good running the ball but was just 5 of 16 with an interception as a passer. What role do you see him having in 2018?

RM: The coaches hinted multiple times throughout the spring that they were working on a package for Martell to be used as a running back and/or receiver. I truly believe that if we see Martell in the fall, that is what we'll see him doing. He still has a long way to go to be a polished passer, so I would be very shocked if he throws much in 2018. He redshirted as a true freshman last year, and Meyer will not want to waste the type of talent Martell possesses. Expect the Las Vegas native to be a wild card in the Buckeye offense this coming season.

TM: I was honestly surprised by how poorly Martell threw the ball in the spring game. I knew he wouldn't be a perfectly

polished passer, but I expected him to be a bit further along.

That said, I was impressed by his running ability, as he proved to be even more of a game-breaker than I expected. Like Ryan said, Martell's role in the offense will be complementary to the starting quarterback, but there will be a role. To me, Meyer should look back to his Florida days at how he used

Tim Tebow as a freshman, complementing Chris Leak on the way to a national championship for the Gators. Martell needs to be on the field, and he needs to be given the ball with a chance to make plays in space. He should get sets as the quarterback and should also have a few plays where he's on the field with the starter.

My best guess would be 8-10 snaps per game for Martell, which should lead to some highlight-reel moments for the Buckeyes.

GS: Not to say Haskins can't do it at all, but he sure isn't able to duplicate what Martell brings to the inside run. Martell might have some situations on the rare chance where he lines up at receiver in the slot just to throw defenses off, but I wouldn't bet on serious involvement outside of coming in and running the read option. As he showed in the spring game, he has the IQ to make the quick decision to tuck it and run, which is an overlooked element to that approach beyond only athleticism. If his special packages involve plays like those, he has the speed and acceleration to make a defender or two miss on his way to a house call – something Haskins can't do – that only opens up the offense further beyond the skill players it already has.

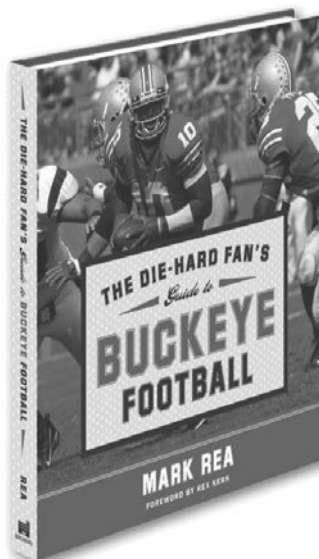
With spring practice in the books, which player made the biggest step forward in your mind?

GS: Damon Webb will quietly be a tough act to follow for whoever replaces him beside

Continued On Page 14

CALLING ALL BUCKEYE FANS:

YOUR INDISPENSABLE OSU FOOTBALL GUIDE IS HERE!



Do you bleed scarlet and gray year round?

If so, then *The Die-Hard Fan's Guide to Buckeye Football* by Buckeye football expert Mark Rea is for you! This must-have book works its way "Across the Field" through nearly 120 years of Buckeye football, including complete coverage of the national championship seasons and Heisman Trophy winners.

Full of color photos, amusing anecdotes, and little-known facts, *The Die-Hard Fan's Guide to Buckeye Football* is unlike any other book you've read. One minute you're reading about legendary coaches like Paul Brown and Woody Hayes and the next you're visualizing stories of the Horseshoe's greatest games and discovering who Woody Hayes referred to as his "greatest booster."

It is for you, the fans, that this book has been created—the ultimate guide for the most diehard members of the Buckeye Nation! **GO BUCKS!**

Available in bookstores, online, or call
(614) 486-2202



Train to be the BEST you can be!
Designing fitness programs to
meet your personal needs.

Personal Training

Group Fitness Training

Sports Specific Training

Owned and Operated By:

Brent Johnson
614-570-9918
B-fit.training@hotmail.com

Located at 2378 East Main Street in Bexley, Ohio

Since 1947
REGNERY PUBLISHING, INC.
An Eagle Publishing Company • Washington, DC
www.Regnery.com

OHIO STATE FOOTBALL ANALYSIS

DE Young Dominated Ohio State's Spring Game

Continued From Page 13

Jordan Fuller at safety, but Isaiah Pryor has all of the tools to make for a seamless transition at the position. The coaches have said Jahsen Wint, Brendon White and incoming signees Josh Proctor and Marcus Hooker are still in the mix, but I put more stock in comments from Fuller and Alex Grinch on Pryor earlier in the spring. The 6-2, 207-pound sophomore has the physical and mental makeup to form a dynamic duo on the back end of the defense with Fuller.

RM: I think I'll have to say Baron Browning. The sophomore linebacker had four tackles in the spring game, but what caught my attention more is the praise Meyer had for him throughout the spring. The head coach went so far as to say in late March that Browning is "as talented a linebacker as has ever walked through these doors." That without a doubt raised my eyebrows. Browning is right in the thick of the linebackers race, so I would not be shocked to see him excel on the field this fall.

TM: I'm sure there are guys who didn't play last year who have taken a big step forward, but it's hard to say how far they've come since we had yet to see them on the field.

That said, I'll go with a guy who actually redshirted last year, but we've already seen a lot of him for the Buckeyes: Demario McCall.

He was limited last year before taking a medical redshirt after a few appearances, but he seems to be right at home – finally – as an H-back in Ohio State's offense. He's a perfect fit for the position, and he looks

bigger, stronger and faster than ever. McCall is a star in the making, and his performance this spring proves that the coaching staff will have to find a way to get him on the field this fall.

The spring game isn't the best time to evaluate defensive players, but we take what we can get. Which defensive player stood out the most to you?

TM: First of all, they need to either play with flags or play tackle football. Playing the weird two-hand-touch brand in the spring game makes it almost impossible for defensive players to go full speed, which limits what they can do.

That said, Chase Young might have had five sacks if it had been a live game. He was credited with only one, but I'm not sure even the best offensive linemen Ohio State has can block him, and the Buckeyes have some pretty good players up front. Young combined with Nick Bosa will be a freakish tandem on the field, and that's in addition to guys like Dre'Mont Jones and Jonathon Cooper.

I'll also give a shout-out to redshirt freshman cornerback Shaun Wade. He lost his first season to injury issues, but he's every bit as talented as Jeffrey Okudah, and probably more talented than Damon Arnette. He showed off that skill set with a really nice interception on the sideline, and he should find his way onto the field in some capacity this season.

GS: Chase Young handled Thayer Munford, a pretty darn good offensive lineman, so easily that it's impossible for me to ignore. The defensive line is sure to miss guys like Jalyn Holmes and Tyquan Lewis on the ends, but any indications that Young is a star in the making were confirmed when he dominated the spring game. Young is bigger, faster and only going to get better with summer workouts before he returns for fall camp ahead of his second season. The more Young improves, the easier it is for someone like Bosa or Cooper on the defensive line, which looks like it very well could be even better than it was last year.

RM: Allow me to make it 3 for 3 – Chase Young. He manhandled any offensive lineman who lined up across from him, which is pretty impressive considering the talent OSU has along its offensive front. We all thought Nick Bosa and Sam Hubbard coming off the edge was lethal last year. I don't know the word to describe what it will be like to watch Bosa and Young rush the passer in 2018. One thing is for certain, Ohio State's offensive tackles should become some of the best in the country going up against guys like Bosa, Young and Cooper in practice every day.

Now that you've seen them on the field, do you think any of the early enrollees will have a real role this season?

RM: I couldn't help but notice Master

Teague in the spring game as he pounded out 73 yards and a touchdown on 14 carries. Though he should be wrapping up his senior year of high school right now, Teague looks like he's already been in Mickey Marotti's strength program at OSU for a couple of years. With Teague being a running back, though, it'll be tough for him to earn significant playing time with J.K. Dobbins and Mike Weber ahead of him on the depth chart.

GS: A ton of coach speak comes out of spring camp, especially when we ask about early enrollees, but I really think defensive tackle Tommy Togiai has a strong chance to crack the defensive line as a true freshman in 2018 after the spring he had. From the viral video of him dominating the circle drill to the rare removal of the black stripe as an early enrollee and ultimately the heavy bulk of first-team reps he received throughout the spring game, Togiai solidified his positioning for time at a spot where depth has been a slight concern after the slow recovery of Antwan Jackson from surgery on a broken left foot.

Togiai's big spring drew rave reviews from his teammates to Meyer. With all of that, why shouldn't he be on equal footing with the others involved – except for someone like a returning starter in Dre'Mont Jones – on the inside entering fall camp?

TM: Teague had a great spring, but he could very well end up redshirting behind Dobbins, Weber, Antonio Williams and, potentially, Brian Snead. Togiai has looked great as well, but he'd have to get in front of one of four returning players – Dre'Mont Jones, Haskell Garrett, Robert Landers and



Chase Young

Arrive Early and Relax.

Vino Volo & Donatos – Concourse A

Wine Flights & Glasses | Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner | Vino Volo – 10am – 9pm | Donatos – 6am – 9pm

ANALYSIS

Davon Hamilton – to crack the primary defensive tackle rotation.

Offensive tackle Max Wray is solid as well, but his contributions probably won't extend beyond special teams, which can be said for linebacker Dallas Gant as well. Then there's the corners, Tyreke Johnson and Sevyn Banks, who are future studs but won't have a defensive role this season in all likelihood.

That's all a roundabout way of saying that I don't see any of the early enrollees making a huge impact this fall, but there are a bunch of them who will see the field and have a chance to make their mark on special teams.

Looking back at spring camp, how would you assess the Buckeyes overall?

TM: How Ohio State's season pans out pretty much comes down to how the 11 new starters fare, and it's tough to accurately project that in the spring. From what I've seen, though, I expect a lot of new names to step up and thrive in prominent roles.

To me, the offensive line will be key – the defense is going to be very good and very fast, but the offense won't be able to do anything if the five guys up front struggle. Brady Taylor might be the biggest question mark, but it will be interesting to see who slots in at left tackle as well. Isaiah Prince spent most of spring camp in that spot, but he was back on the right in the spring game with Thayer Munford on the left. Both are capable players, but neither has started on the blind side for Ohio State before.

RM: Like Tim said, I think it's hard to accurately gauge the Buckeyes from the handful of times we saw them in spring practice and then at the spring game. There are a few positions I think the coaches have to spend little time fretting over as we head into the summer – cornerbacks, defensive line, running backs, tight ends and wide receivers.

We all know the quarterback situation, so I won't spend time on that here. Like Tim mentioned, offensive line is a bit of a mystery. Ohio State seems to have plenty of depth at the position with Branden Bowen, Matthew Burrell, Michael Jordan, Demetrius Knox, Thayer Munford, Malcolm Pridgeon, Isaiah Prince and Brady Taylor. It's just a matter of everyone playing up to their potential. The starting safety spot opposite Jordan Fuller is the other glaring issue with spring camp now complete. Isaiah Pryor seemed to be the leading candidate, but Meyer indicated that defensive coordinators Alex Grinch and Greg Schiano have some work to do to decide who joins Fuller at the back end of the defense.

GS: For what the team lacks in leadership it had last year, Ohio State makes up for it with the talent the Buckeyes bring into next season. Even in the few times we were able to see OSU throughout the spring, it looks every part of a contender, notably because of the depth they have across both sides of the ball.

Of course, offensive line is undoubtedly the biggest concern, but the abundance of skill players spread out across the unit should make life easier for the group as it finds its footing after some of the shuffling. I'm interested to see how the new starters, from quarterback to the trenches, enter the fold with Ryan Day expected to have more of an influence on the offense. I think Tim summed it up best when he said new names are going to step up in prominent roles. The talent is certainly there, and it will be fun to watch the development from the start of fall camp and into the season.



**Join us in
imagining a world
with zero hunger
and zero waste.**

**It's our vision.
And we have a plan.**

**Follow our journey at TheKrogerCo.com
and [#ZeroHungerZeroWaste](https://twitter.com/ZeroHungerZeroWaste).**

©2018 The Kroger Co.



**ZERO
HUNGER
ZERO
WASTE**

OPINION

Starting QB Will Be Deserving No Matter What

Another Ohio State spring practice is in the books, and it doesn't appear that fans are any closer to having answers to their questions.

THE FACTS MAN Mike Wachsman

The most pressing, of course, centers around the quarterback position. Holdovers Dwayne Haskins and Joe Burrow did their level best to take the job, while freshman Tate Martell showed some brilliance in running the football. It's safe to say that it's a two-man race, but whether or not there will be a definitive starter divulged to the public remains to be seen.

OSU coach Urban Meyer didn't appear to be in any real hurry following the Buckeyes' spring game on April 14.

"We're going to have to make some decisions," he said. "Those decisions have not been made."

That could cause some anxious moments, for fans and players alike.

Fans want to know that someone has taken the job and will head into fall camp with the position in hand. They know that having a battle continue into the season would be a detriment to the team, because when you have two quarterbacks you really have none.

The players involved want to know, for reasons not only centered on improvement, but on their immediate future.

Burrow is in an especially tricky spot. He graduates in May and has two years of eligibility remaining. Should he get the OSU job, he would obviously stick around in Columbus. But if Haskins gets the nod, Burrow would likely – and rightly – look at his options, which include transferring.

"That would be a discussion in the meetings we have," Burrow said after the game. "I'm not sure yet. I'm happy with how I played and how the situation was handled this spring."

For what it's worth, Burrow appeared to outplay Haskins in the spring game, though not by a ton. And that means Haskins could get the job, because you have to "knock out the champ" to gain supremacy, and having a slight edge is not a knockout.

Burrow looked good on the long ball, including a 42-yarder to Demario McCall on the final play of the scrimmage. Burrow appeared to have command of the offense,

which is a big thing for Meyer. The coach wants to have the ultimate trust in his quarterback – wants to know that in crunch time he can be counted on.

Haskins had his moments, too, including a beautiful back-shoulder 43-yard strike to Binjamin Victor, quite possibly the prettiest pass of the day by anyone. The coverage was there, but Haskins threaded the needle.

Martell had been touted as the wild card and was reportedly close. But after seeing his problems throwing the football, it's safe to say that his role in 2018 will be limited, likely to short-yardage and red-zone packages. He does have speed and elusiveness handling the football, and if his passing improves he could legitimately be in the mix down the road.

Although Meyer wasn't ready to declare a winner in the quarterback derby, he feels the Buckeyes as a whole are progressing nicely.

"I'm pretty pleased with where we are at," Meyer said. "We're not where we were last year. That was a veteran team."

There really isn't any secret formula to decide a starter, though Meyer says a number of things will go into the decision, with leadership being the top component.

As for the rest of it?

"Data is second," he said. "It's something that helps you, and it's also factual."

There is also a little bit of "feel," that nebulous thing that you just know.

"Thirty years of gut (feeling)," Meyer added. "That will be part of it too."

However things shake out, the quarterback position appears to be in good hands. But until a winner is announced, fans have reason to be just a bit apprehensive.

Young Stars On Display

It's pretty easy to see why many believe the Buckeyes will once again be in the thick of the hunt for a College Football Playoff berth, despite having questions at quarterback.

There's a crazy amount of talent on hand in Columbus, and a lot of it showed in the spring game. It should be noted, however, that nothing can be gleaned from a single scrimmage, even if it mirrored (sort of) game conditions.

A few performances stood out over others, but it should be noted that these were not the only solid players on the day. These were the most notable, at least to these bespectacled eyes:

DE Chase Young – Will be a beast, especially as teams focus on stopping Nick Bosa. His speed off the edge is jaw-drop-

ping, and if he can amass a collection of pass-rush moves, he will be close to unstoppable.

WR Binjamin Victor – Looks to have his body control down pat, making some excellent catches. He was able to reach over defenders to snag several passes and looks stronger than he did last year.

LB Baron Browning – Difficult for a defender to stand out in this "touch football" format, but the sophomore was around the ball a lot. He flowed straight ahead very well, and his side-to-side quickness was also good.

H-Back Demario McCall – It's nice that OSU is looking to get the speedster involved. McCall is what they thought Dontre Wilson was going to be, only with actual ability and availability. He could be a real playmaker in 2018, and it appears that he will be used quite a bit. You do wonder a little whether he will cut into Parris Campbell's workload, but maybe the coaches can get creative and put both on the field at the same time.

RB Master Teague – He has a great name, is a physical runner and seems to love contact. It wouldn't be a shock if he takes third-team honors in a crowded, talented backfield. Teague was especially effective putting his shoulder down and initiating contact.

CB Marcus Williamson – Sort of a forgotten player, he was good in coverage and seemed to at least make the coaches take notice. The corner jobs look to belong to Kendall Sheffield and Damon Arnette, with Jeffrey Okudah and Shaun Wade waiting to pounce. But Williamson is not going to go away, and he played well enough to keep himself on the coaches' radar.

Ready To Shine

Victor has everything coaches could want in a receiver – talent, size and an innate ability to go up and get the football. He could be the next big star from the OSU receiving corps, but it isn't quite etched in stone yet.

"He's one of the most talented receivers we've ever had," Meyer said. "But he's still got a ways to go."

Victor grabbed five passes for 91 yards

and score, and he said that his arrival is going according to plan.

"I felt I needed to make plays today," the junior-to-be said. "Coming into the spring game I felt like what I really wanted to focus on was separation, and that's what I did. I thought I had a pretty solid day. It could have been better. There were a lot of coaching points where I'll watch film and make corrections."

Victor isn't the only talented receiver the Buckeyes have, but he's the one who looks most like a star-in-waiting – sort of like Michael Thomas did early in his career. There are a couple of things that need some tinkering, though.

"Consistency – that's been up and down," Victor said. "I've got to keep maintaining and stay focused on having consistency through the whole fall camp."

Glad To Be Home

It was cool to see a host of former players on the sideline, even if it was just an exhibition.

Most notable was the presence of Ryan Shazier, who suffered a serious spinal injury late in the NFL season. He was standing on his own and received a thunderous ovation from the fans in attendance.

He still feels a part of the Buckeye program and hinted that he wouldn't have missed the opportunity to return to Columbus.

"Me and Coach Meyer talk often," he said. "He asked me if I was feeling up to it, if I would be able to be (an honorary) coach, and I felt it was an honor to just be here. I just couldn't say no."

Malcolm Jenkins, fresh off a Super Bowl title with the Philadelphia Eagles, also served as a coach for the game, but it was Shazier who got the bulk of the attention – something he's been used to ever since the injury.

"It's been outstanding support," he said. "I still get letters to this day. It's so much mail that I can't even read it all. I'm just thankful to everybody for all the support and all the prayers. I just want to say thank you to everybody because I wouldn't be able to be doing so well if it wasn't for all the support."

A Home for Hands that Build.

The Strait & Lamp Group

Strait & Lamp Lumber Dublin Millwork Linworth Lumber

5th Ave. Lumber S&L Contracting Lumbercraft

www.straitandlamp.com

Buckeye Boosters

Join Us as We Support the Buckeyes on the Road & More!!

Membership Opportunities:

- Annual Kick-Off Dinner
- Travel to EVERY Football Away Game
- Annual Celebrity Golf Outing
- Meetings at the Woody Hayes Athletic Center with coaches

Membership is only \$75.00 per year!

For information, check us out at www.buckeyeboosters.com or call 614-326-3300.

Join Now!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zipcode: _____ Telephone: _____

Mail check to: Buckeye Boosters, 921 Chatham Ln., #301F, Columbus, Oh 43221

QB Competition Looks As Close As Advertised

When Urban Meyer said all spring that none of his quarterbacks had separated himself from the others, I wondered if that was just coach-speak. Coaches don't like to give up too much to the media and public, and they also like to encourage competition by claiming that position battles are still open.

After watching the spring game, however, I was left wondering if Meyer wasn't being perfectly candid. All three QBs had their moments. None from the group of Dwayne Haskins, Joe Burrow and Tate Martell, however, appeared to step up and grab the job. On the positive side, Ohio State's quarterback room – at least for now – is loaded.

I am sure Meyer and his staff have seen a lot more in practice than we as media and fans were able to see in the spring game, given such factors in the game as split squads, key players sitting out, and most importantly, the constantly changing rules – especially the one that made much of the scrimmage a touch football game. It's also hard to evaluate what a quarterback is going to do in Meyer's offense when the signal callers are off limits as far as contact goes.

Here's my quick take on what I saw from the quarterbacks:

If you are looking for a rifle arm, Haskins has the edge over the other two, no questions asked.

He displayed it on a 25-yard TD pass to Jaylen Harris in the second quarter and a 43-yarder to Benjamin Victor that set up another score in the third period. For Haskins to really excel, the Buckeyes are going to have to develop a receiver willing to go up and get the 50-50 balls, a la Devin Smith, because Haskins is going to put it out there. Maybe Harris or Victor can fill that role, as they showed a willingness to mix it up with DBs during the exhibition.

Haskins did nothing to hurt his status during the spring game.

Burrow, on the other hand, probably helped his standing the most during the scrimmage. He may not possess a howitzer, but he showed the ability to throw the long ball, leaving the crowd with the final impression with a 42-yard TD bomb to Demario McCall on the game's last play after connecting with McCall earlier for 50 yards and another score. Both Haskins and Burrow appear stronger going deep than J.T. Barrett, the man they hope to replace.

In addition to the long throws, Burrow connected on a variety of other passes, finishing the day a combined 15 of 22 (68.2 percent) for both squads, good for 238 yards and the pair of scores to McCall. That is consistent with his passing line in real games, where he is 29 of 39 (74.4 percent) for 287 yards and two scores without a pick in his mop-up appearances as a redshirt freshman and sophomore.

While the conventional wisdom after the spring game is that there was no separation among the quarterbacks, that may not actually be true. Martell seemed to lose ground on the veteran QBs with his 5-for-16 passing performance for just 28 yards with the game's only interception. But in fairness to the redshirt freshman, if the scrimmage had not been a touch football game, he might have been the star of the day. His dazzling running ability was on full display, and even with the patty-cake format, he was credited with 69 yards and a touchdown on 11 carries. And if you go back and look, you will see that his passing line was affected by several drops.

Martell has that breakaway ability that is more reminiscent of Braxton Miller than Barrett, who was a more than competent runner, but not a threat to go all the way every time he touched the ball. Let's face it, in Martell's favor, Meyer loves his quarterbacks to run the

THE VIEW FROM 15TH & HIGH Frank Moskowitz, Publisher

football. The QBs – led by Barrett's 165 carries – ran 192 times last year, and in Meyer's first two years in Columbus – with the dynamic Miller at the helm – the QBs averaged 232 carries, including 236 in the penalty-shortened 12-game 2012 season.

Just some random thoughts, purely my own, on who might ultimately get the nod at QB.

Let's say Burrow and Haskins are equal. Burrow is set to graduate this spring – a feather in his cap as it demonstrates work ethic and organizational skills. As any Buckeye fan knows, that would make him eligible to transfer and play at another school right away. Haskins has less flexibility.

Would Meyer and staff be better off giving the starting position to Burrow, which might leave a better chance of keeping Haskins, making the Buckeyes as strong as possible in the quarterback room?

If Haskins gets the nod, is there any chance that Burrow would stay?

You can take a look at two of Ohio State's national championship teams and see that you have to have quarterbacks in waiting.

The Buckeyes needed Ron Maciejowski – a QB who could have started at most schools but caddied for Rex Kern all three of his years – to win the national championship in 1968. They even got a lift from former starter Bill Long, who lost his job to Kern but helped the Buckeyes defeat a powerful Purdue team in one of the biggest games of the season.

And let's not forget 2014. Miller, the reigning two-time Big Ten Silver Football winner as conference MVP, was injured just days before the start of the season. Barrett stepped in as the starter and got the Buckeyes to the brink of the postseason before suffering a season-ending injury in the Michigan game. Next man up. Cardale Jones led the Buckeyes on their magical three-game run to the national championship.

So just because you don't win the starting job doesn't mean you won't end up playing or contributing – maybe even contributing to a championship.

As fans, we like to think that there is no place greater than Ohio State and wonder why anyone, even someone on the bench, would want to go anywhere else. We hope Burrow – or any of the QBs – would stay, but Burrow has to do what is best for him, and between his growth as a quarterback and progress toward graduation, he has earned the right to make that choice.

Do you ever wonder if the quarterback situation would be different if Haskins had not threaded the needle to Austin Mack for that key completion against Michigan? If Brandon Watson had swatted the ball away or, worse yet, intercepted it, would we be having the same conversation right now? Watson and fellow DB Tyree Kinnel were that close to possibly altering the course of OSU football history.

There was more than one play to Haskins' performance in the Big House, however. Two plays later he rushed 22 yards to the U-M 1-yard line to set up the go-ahead score, and he was 6-of-7 passing for 94 yards for the game without an interception. Still, the bullet to Mack is the play we remember and the play that, in the eyes of many Buckeye fans, gives Haskins the edge in the QB battle.

Here's a final thought. I believe that, with

things appearing to be this close, the coaching staff would rather have the battle continue over the summer and into fall camp. Burrow's situation, however, forces their hand.

I suspect that other staffs would be less sympathetic to Burrow's plight.

Spring Game Notes

Speaking of Burrow, he was involved in a fantasy football special in the second quarter of the spring game. He threw a pass that apparently bounced off of another player back to him, which he caught and advanced 3 yards. He got credit for both a completion and a reception on the same play. The play showed good field awareness on the part of the quarterback.

- We already knew that the quarterback room was loaded. We got a reminder that there is no shortage of running backs either. The team features two 1,000-yard runners in J.K. Dobbins and Mike Weber, who barely played in the scrimmage and really didn't need to as the coaches already know what each of them can do.

We did get a look at freshman early-enrollee Master Teague, who put on a bruising demonstration with 14 carries for 73 yards, a total which would surely have been higher if the action had been live. I'm not sure where Teague might get carries, with the presence of Weber and Dobbins, but for a player who looked like a bit of an afterthought during recruiting, it was a solid day.

And speaking of bruising running, Antonio Williams had a couple of powerful runs once tackling started, including his 9-yard run followed by a bullish 3-yard touchdown at the end of the second quarter. Williams, a 5-11, 208-pound junior-to-be, finished the game with five carries for 47 yards and is yet another back in front of Teague.

And speaking of Weber, the knock on him during his big freshman season was he couldn't pull off the long run, frequently getting caught from behind. As he got healthier in his sophomore season last year, he started to show more breakaway speed, and on his only touch of the spring game he took off for 63 yards on what surely would have been a TD in live action.

And all this talk of running backs doesn't even take into account Demario McCall, who may have been the breakout star of the spring game. Although all of his yards – all 165 of them – came on receptions, he started his OSU career as a running back and has carried 63 times for 381 yards and a 6.0 average with four touchdowns in his brief career. After his receiving performance in the spring game, he is looking more and more like an H-back, but he, too, should get his carries and still could end up as a running back.

It's an abundance of riches at that position.

- In what proved to be a fairly dull affair, I think I was most entertained by the battle, throughout the afternoon, between Harris and cornerback Marcus Williamson. These two really went at it, and little separated them on any pass to Harris. The receiver may have won the battle with his three catches for 39 yards and the highlight-reel touchdown, but Williamson may have won the war with his blanket coverage.

Frankly, I knew little about either of the players coming into the game, and it is just one more example of how much talent Meyer con-

tinues to stockpile. Players graduate or go on to the pros, and there is always someone else, frequently someone you had forgotten about or never really paid that much attention to, there to replace them.

At the least, Meyer and his staff have to give Harris and Williamson A's for spring-game effort.

BSB Goes 24/7

I have a saying about Buckeye Sports Bulletin in this instant news world in which we now live. If Urban Meyer were to resign today, you would read about it next week in BSB – in two weeks if you live in Indiana (those of you who live in the Hoosier State, our worst mail state, sadly get the joke).

Well having to wait for your Buckeye news is no longer necessary. We have recently revamped our website, BuckeyeSports.com, and you will now be able to access Buckeye sports news as it happens, along with all sorts of other timely features and a few bells and whistles such as videos, photo galleries, rosters, schedules and more. And it's all free with your BSB print subscription and only available to BSB subscribers.

BuckeyeSports.com is the perfect complement to your Buckeye Sports Bulletin and even more so as we approach our monthly summer publishing schedule. You will no longer have to wait 30 days or more for news and features from all of your favorite Buckeye Sports Bulletin writers.

One of the most exciting new features of all is the addition of the BSB Forum. This will allow you to communicate with BSB staff members, guest experts and other Buckeye Sports Bulletin readers. The Forum is where the action is as everyone has the ability to contribute news or opinions and share their love of the Buckeyes. This is especially useful for those Buckeyes who live out of state and are unable to speak to other Buckeyes on a regular basis. Now you can communicate with those who share your passion anytime.

Again, this exciting new service is free with your subscription. If you have already signed up to read the electronic BSB Quickly, you are signed up for BuckeyeSports.com. You will have the same user name and password and sign in the same way, though the login boxes are in a slightly different place.

If you have not already signed up for our electronic offerings, simply email your name, address and preferred email address to subscriptions@buckeyesports.com and we will send you back simple instructions on how to access the site. Once you are signed up, jump in and play around. You'll get the hang of it pretty quickly, as I did and I am no Bill Gates. Don't forget to put your two cents' worth in on the Forum. And watch, because sometimes the Forum is where you will find the breaking news. If you hear something, say something. The Forum gives BSB correspondents all over the country!

Hats off to Blufftonbuck, who waded through some of the early glitches to become the Forum's first poster. Don't forget to register your Forum name. Otherwise your posts will be listed under your BSB record number – not very descriptive. Just go to "edit profile" on the Forum page. You can even add your picture if you so desire.

The last edition of BSB Quickly will be posted on April 24. But remember, the new BuckeyeSports.com will be even better and always up-to-date.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to call as at (614) 486-2202 during regular business hours.

OHIO STATE FOOTBALL

With Burrow Gone, Buckeyes Are Haskins' Team

By RYAN McGLADE
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



TIM MOODY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

TOPSOIL

VERY RICH PULVERIZED
OR UNPULVERIZED
"SOIL PLUS"

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

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

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

Press
Pub + on 5th
GOOD FOOD • FINE DRINKS

Open for lunch daily!

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

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

Press Grill
good food
fine drinks

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

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

~ PRESSCOLUMBUS.COM ~

Thoughts On Many Sides To OSU's QB Situation

Let me ramble a little bit about the Ohio State quarterback situation and Dwayne Haskins and Joe Burrow. Rambling is really all I can do because I have so many thoughts on this it is hard to organize.

First of all, Buckeye fans seems to fall into any number of camps when it comes to Haskins and Burrow.

There is the one group that decided, that fateful day last November when Haskins threaded that needle to Austin Mack to put the Buckeyes back on track to beat archrival Michigan, Haskins was their man. After four years of watching J.T. Barrett and what they perceived was – rightly or wrongly – a weak arm, they were ready for Haskins – the next Cardale Jones and the key to a wide-open, vertical offense.

There was another group that, in the limited look it had at Burrow and Haskins, was comfortable with either QB. Let them battle it out and may the best man win.

Then there were those who believed that losing Burrow was the worst thing to happen in Urban Meyer's tenure at Ohio State. A coach's son, Burrow was the best suited to run Meyer's offense. He offered the ideal combination of passing and running skills. And don't forget, his backers remind, he was Barrett's backup until injuring his hand, and who's to say he wouldn't have led the Buckeyes to victory over the hated Wolverines.

And there was the group that figured, if Burrow and Haskins were close in the competition, go with Burrow because Haskins' situation was such that he would be more likely to stay in Columbus if he didn't win the starting job, giving the Buckeyes a stacked quarterback room.

Which leads into the last group, those Buckeye fans who can't figure out why Burrow would take his talent elsewhere, even if he might never have a chance to start. This is Ohio State. If you were a player even on the scout team at OSU and had a chance to start at, say, an SEC power, surely you would stay in Columbus and get your brains beat out in practice every day just for the pride of being able to say you wore the scarlet and gray.

I guess I was/am among the group that was comfortable with either quarterback. Even with Haskins' performance against Michigan, I'm not sure we had seen enough of either QB to make an unequivocal choice. Nor, perhaps, had Meyer and his offensive brain trust. Don't forget there was also the Dwayne Haskins last year who telegraphed an ill-advised interception against UNLV that was returned 65 yards for a score. The two, for the most part, appeared equally talented and equally untested.

I know that some of you think that I am on the horn with Urban all the time and he shares with me the intimate details of the quarterback competition and the selection process. Unfortunately, that is not the case. I don't know that Meyer and Co. made a firm choice of Haskins after spring ball. They may have still considered the competition extremely close and wanted the battle to continue into fall camp.

For Burrow, that would be pretty much the same as choosing Haskins as the starter. If Burrow were going to move on, he had to do it sooner rather than later so that he could begin competing for the starting job at whatever school he chose – which was ultimately LSU.

Now I am of the school that says that Burrow took care of business, graduated from Ohio State, and earned the right to do whatever was best for him and his family. He determined that to be to move on. It's hard to argue against his choice. By virtue of his college degree he will always be a Buckeye. He never did anything

to embarrass Buckeye Nation, and we should wish him the best and be proud of what he accomplishes going forward. I hope he beats Alabama any chance he gets and hope, by luck of the postseason draw, he never faces Ohio State. Awkward!

Which brings up an interesting thought.

Haskins will still be competing with Burrow, even though the Athens, Ohio, product has moved on to the Bayou. Buckeye fans will be watching how their wandering quarterback does and comparing it with Haskins' play, each and every week. I personally hope they both do well. But if Burrow shines and Haskins struggles, Ohio State message boards, including ours at BuckeyeSports.com, will light up all across the Internet.

Burrow's departure has already started hand-wringing among the "glass half empty" group of Buckeye fans. All of the sudden, Ohio State is lacking in quarterback depth. Those who were looking forward to seeing special packages inserted specifically for the young Tate Martell back when the depth chart was loaded with quarterbacks are now suggesting that Meyer not play Martell for fear of him getting injured.

You can't coach that way.

You have to do what gives you the best chance of winning now. If changing things up and bringing Martell in for certain situations helps the Buckeyes win this season, then do it. Players can get injured in practice or even walking to class. You can't coach to prevent injuries. You coach to win.

And who's to say the Buckeyes don't have depth in the quarterback room? Who knew about Kenny Guiton before Braxton Miller got injured? Who knew about Barrett until Miller got injured? And who knew what Jones or Haskins could do until Barrett was knocked out of separate Michigan games? Freshman Matthew Baldwin needs to work hard and be ready. Players are recruited to Ohio State to play. Next man up.

There's one thing I do know, now that Haskins appears to be the chosen one. He is destined for mediocrity if the offensive coaching staff doesn't implement an offense that is built around Haskins and the assemblage of athletes around him. The Buckeyes have a strong-armed quarterback, a whole fleet of receivers eager to live up to their potential and two 1,000-yard running backs. If the quarterback ends up running the ball 30 times a game, I will scream and so too, I am sure, will many of you. And I doubt the Buckeyes will win the national championship.

Assuming the offensive line comes around, if allowed to this offense should be one of the best Buckeye units in recent years, with a nice mix of running and short and downfield passing.

I can't wait!

Finally, BSB editor emeritus Mark Rea had an interesting appearance on Louisiana sports legend Bobby Hebert's New Orleans radio show after Burrow announced his decision to attend LSU. While on hold before joining Hebert on the air, Rea listened as a giddy LSU fan noted that the SEC has had great success with transfers, pointing in particular to Cam Newton, who transferred from Florida via Blinn College to Auburn, where he won the 2010 Heisman Trophy.

When Mark took to the air with Hebert, the host wondered if Burrow had a mental aspect to the game similar to that of someone like Peyton Manning in terms of seeing the field, reading defenses and understanding the playbook. Mark reminded Hebert, who quarterbacked the New Orleans Saints to their first NFL playoff appearance, that Burrow, to date, had a limited body of work to evaluate, but assured the Cajun Cannon that if Burrow were already as good as Newton or Manning, he would be starting at Ohio State right now.

Dobbins For Heisman?

While out in Las Vegas each spring for the College Sports Publishers Association convention, I always pick up the odds sheets for teams to win the college football and basketball national championships. I found something a little different this year in addition to the traditional championship odds – odds to win the Heisman Trophy. With Vegas sports books ready to take action on virtually any proposition, I am sure these odds existed in the past, but I had never seen them on a futures sheet previously.

I first saw the Heisman sheet at a small sports book on the strip, William Hill. Ohio State's J.K. Dobbins opened on March 7 with 10-1 odds, third best behind Stanford's Bryce Love and Wisconsin's Jonathan Taylor at 8-1 each to win the Heisman. By my late May arrival in Vegas, Dobbins' chances had fallen to 11-1 and he trailed Love and Taylor, now at 7-1, and Tua Tagovailoa of Alabama at 10-1.

Vegas seems to believe Haskins also has a shot at the Heisman. He opened at 25-1 but has since dipped to 28-1. If you want to play a long shot, put a few bucks on Nick Bosa, who is a 100-1 shot to win the Heisman Trophy.

I later found a more well-known book's take on the Heisman action with MGM Resorts being less bullish on the Buckeyes.

Dobbins is listed at 15-1 behind Love (4-1); Taylor, Arizona's Khalil Tate and Georgia's Jake Fromm (6-1); and Tagovailoa and Jarrett Stidham of Auburn at 10-1. Penn State's Trace McSorley joins Dobbins at 15-1.

MGM has Haskins at 30-1 and Bosa at the same 100-1.

Personally, I think it will be hard for Dobbins to win the Heisman because he will be splitting carries with Mike Weber. In fact, Weber, not listed on either of the sheets I found, might be another long shot. Who's to say, if he gets off to a hot start, that he might not get more carries than Dobbins? I like Dobbins' chances better next year, when he will most likely have the bulk of the carries to himself.

As for the national championship, Meyer's Buckeyes opened in February at 6-1, tied with Clemson for the second-best odds behind Alabama's 5-2. The Tide was still at 5-2 upon my trip in late May, and the Buckeyes were grouped with Clemson and Georgia at 5-1. I raised an eyebrow over Michigan being next at 12-1. Jim Harbaugh seems to continually mesmerize experts and fans alike, even though I am not sure what part of his performance in Ann Arbor, so far, people find so impressive. Michigan's move to the fourth-best odds came at the expense of Penn State, which fell from 10-1 in February to 15-1 in late May in the odds posted by MGM Resorts.

Big Ten fans who are lottery-minded might consider placing a wager on Indiana or Rutgers, who have the worst odds of the 52 schools listed at 750-1. Indiana dropped from an opening of 400-1, while the Scarlet Knights have stayed consistent at 750-1.

As for basketball, Ohio State still has a long way to go in the eyes of the odds-makers. The Buckeyes opened at 40-1 in April and were drawing the same odds in late May along with Butler, OSU coach Chris Holtmann's previous coaching outpost. Kansas and Duke led the way at 6-1, followed by Kentucky and defending champion Villanova at 10-1. Michigan State (18-1) and Michigan (20-1) had the best odds among Big Ten schools. Of the 119 schools with assigned odds, Rutgers again brings up the rear in a group with 1,000-1 odds to win it all. Among schools that Vegas deems having a better chance to win the national championship than Rutgers are St. Mary's (300-1), Harvard (400-1), Middle Tennessee State and Grand Canyon (500-1) and Northern Kentucky and Belmont (750-1).

As for the College Sports Publishers convention itself, survival seems to be the order of the day.

Publishers at Purdue and Michigan State recently stopped producing their print products entirely and are now online only. Such outlets as Michigan and Penn State still put out print products but had already scaled back to monthly publishing only.

Buckeye Sports Bulletin seems to be the only publisher among Big Ten schools committed to putting out a weekly print edition, supplemented by a 24/7 Internet product offered exclusively to its print subscribers.

Reaction to our new BuckeyeSports.com website has been extremely positive, and we are now in a position to offer up-to-the minute Ohio State sports news between print publishing dates. The print edition of BSB, however, remains our core product.

As for BuckeyeSports.com, we are especially excited about our new electronic fan forum, which allows BSB readers to interact with members of the BSB staff as well as Buckeye fans from around the world. In fact, the BuckeyeSports.com forum has allowed BSB readers to contribute content for the benefit of all readers as they post Buckeye items that they have found on their own.

As we like to say, we now have correspondents in all 50 states. If you see something relevant to Ohio State sports, be sure and post it on the forum. Our motto is the purloined, "If you see something, say something." This might include news on a prospective recruit or a former Buckeye in your area or just news of Big Ten or general interest.

And of course, if you have an opinion or just want to vent about Ohio State sports, now you have the place. If you disagree with a poster, tell Buckeye Nation why. If you have a question of a BSB staffer, ask it.

If you have not already signed up to enjoy BuckeyeSports.com, simply send your name, address and email address to subscriptions@buckeyesports.com. We will send back easy instructions on how to get to the site and to enjoy the full benefits of your Buckeye Sports Bulletin subscription.

We are confident that this combination of print and online coverage will keep Buckeye Sports Bulletin a viable product for Buckeye fans for years to come, and the competitive nature of our staff makes us proud of the fact that we are offering a more comprehensive product than such on-field rivals as Michigan, Michigan State and Penn State!