

# Jones Says University Image Healthy Despite Controversy

By Jerry Lima

OSU president Edward H. Jennings has named James L. Jones as athletic director. Jones replaces Rick Bay, who resigned Nov. 16 due to philosophical differences with Jennings over the firing of coach Earle Bruce.

Jones, 51, has been a member of OSU's athletic department for 20 years. In 1967, Woody Hayes hired Jones as academic counselor for the football team. Jones, a 1958 graduate of Kent State University, moved to assistant athletic director in 1970. In 1977, he was named senior associate athletic director.

Jones, a finalist for the job when Bay was hired in 1984, now faces the difficult task of finding a new head football coach, and restoring the image of Ohio State and its athletic program.

The following is a recent interview with Jones. He addresses Bruce's firing, his relationship with Jennings, the image of the Ohio State University, and the current status of intercollegiate athletics at OSU.

**Q. Were you disappointed that you lost on the AD job to Rick Bay in 1984?**

**A.** "Sure. I still felt the disappointment up until Monday (Nov. 16) afternoon."

**Q. Did you consider opportunities for an AD position at other institutions after losing out to Bay?**

**A.** "I had considered offers from other universities. In fact, I interviewed for those jobs (Northwestern, North Carolina, Wisconsin, Cincinnati), but we never reached a point where it was either 'yes I will come, or no I won't come.' I realized I didn't want that situation, and didn't pursue the offers further."

**Q. Did you feel a sense of reluctance taking the AD position under the circumstances surrounding Bruce's dismissal?**

**A.** "I wanted to walk out of President Jennings' office Monday with a great big smile, kick my heels, and shout out loud. But the hurt I felt for Coach Bruce and his family, our players — especially the seniors, and

Rick and Denise Bay tempered my jubilation. Nonetheless, I'm damned proud to be the athletic director here at this great institution."

**Q. Do you feel the reputation of Ohio State University and its athletic department have been dealt a serious blow by what has transpired?**

**A.** "You have to keep in mind that we're a strong university with great tradition. We can take hits that appear to be severe blows. Comments by the media that appear to hurt Ohio State will heal with time. I don't see that this university has been hurt severely. This

whether I want to or not. It's an awesome responsibility, but one I welcome."

**Q. Does the job description of AD include the hiring and firing of coaching personnel at Ohio State?**

**A.** "Yes. Choosing coaches is one of the key functions of athletic director."

**Q. How do you feel about working for a president who may go over your head to fire a coach, as in the case of Earle Bruce?**

**A.** "In every organization someone is the boss. Even the boss has a boss. We all answer to someone, whether it's this university, IBM, or Ford Motor Co.



Jim Jones

decision was made on. As far as the timing, I think that has been answered."

**Q. How do you respond to accusations that you are a "yes" man, and that you will not stand up to, or oppose President Jennings?**

**A.** "I am offended that anyone would accuse me of being a 'yes' man. Time and people will be the judge of what kind of a man I am. I guess it's easy to decide someone gets pressure from above and bows to that pressure. I don't think that means you're a 'yes' man. We all have someone to report to. Like in all businesses, the chairman of the board makes decisions. The president is the ultimate authority at this university."

**Q. There seems to be a conflict of philosophy, in terms of Ohio State University's push to emphasize academics and downplay athletics. The circumstances surrounding the firing of Coach Bruce appear to run counter to this philosophy. Do you agree?**

**A.** "This university is committed to excellence — in academics, athletics, and all other aspects of the university. Money affects all of us, even in our home lives. It's a fact of life. But this university is not run by the pressures of somebody's checkbook."

**Q. You've been through the dismissal of Woody Hayes and now Earle Bruce. Will the ill feelings associated with Bruce's firing fade with time?**

**A.** "This too shall pass, because it should pass. This institution is bigger and more important than all of us involved with it. We will all come and go, but The Ohio State University will be here a long time. The future of the university is what's important."

**Q. How do you feel about the current state of college athletics? Are the pressures of alumni contributions, television contracts, and the need to generate revenue justifiable in college athletics?**

**A.** "They're all justified. Intercollegiate athletics are not out of control, and we're not about to become another SMU. They (college athletics) have their ups and downs, and situations like what has happened here tend to distort the view. One institution should not speak for the whole of the nation."

**Q. In terms of recruiting, how badly will the football program be hurt by the change of head coaches?**

**A.** "To say that we will not be affected would be untrue, but it's difficult to say how badly Ohio State will be affected. Recruiting is the lifeblood of this program. We want to encourage people to look with favor on Ohio State."

Jennings will recommend Jones to the board of trustees at the Dec. 4 meeting.

Jones and his wife, Linda, reside in Upper Arlington, Ohio. They have two children, Bill and Lynnae.

*"You must understand, like it or not, the president runs this university. In the end, I either do what he asks or I leave."*

— Jim Jones

is a great university, and in my opinion, the athletic director job here is the best job in America."

**Q. What can you do to restore the image of Ohio State athletics?**

**A.** "My job is not to dwell or look back on what has happened. I can't judge whether or not people made the right decisions (firing Bruce). I was not privileged to that decision. I want to go forward and find the best possible coach for our program. Right now, that's what I'm concerned about."

**Q. Were you surprised at Rick Bay's decision to resign?**

**A.** "Not at all. I respect Rick Bay's intelligence and integrity. He's highly principled, and those principles would override any decision he had to make regarding the situation (Bruce's firing). I must say, though, that I never expected Rick Bay to leave here."

**Q. How does your new position differ from the associate AD position you held for the past ten years?**

**A.** "My previous position in a lot of ways afforded me opportunities to do most all of the things an athletic director does. The real difference is that I now sit at the head of the table,

The fact that the president participates in decisions does not mean he overrides other administrators. I'm sure there will be times when he does not agree with some of my decisions. We will come to a meeting of minds, and try to reach an agreement on issues. You must understand, like it or not, the president runs this university. In the end, I either do what he asks or I leave."

**Q. As a member of the search committee to find a replacement for Woody Hayes, were you in favor of hiring Earle Bruce?**

**A.** "I have never divulged that information, just as I will not divulge candidates to be interviewed to replace Coach Bruce. Let me say that we on the committee were not in opposition to hiring Earle Bruce."

**Q. Were you in favor of replacing Coach Bruce, and do you approve of President Jennings' handling of the situation?**

**A.** "I was not involved in the decision to make a coaching change. That was between President Jennings and the board of trustees. It is not my place to judge the handling of the affair. I don't know what basis the

## WHAT'S YOUR GAME?



THE BOSS

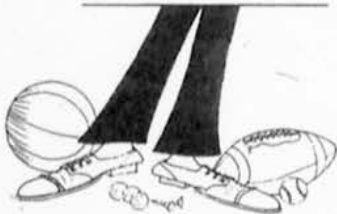
**OUR GAME IS GIVING YOU THE MOST COMPETITIVE PRICES ON ALL YOUR AWARD NEEDS.**

**THE BOSS SAYS NO ONE WILL SELL YOU FOR LESS.**

- Plaques
- Executive Gifts
- Trophies
- Ad Specialties
- Imprinted Everything

**AMERICAN AWARDS, INC.**

2380 Harrisburg Pike • Grove City • 875-1850



# BUCKEYE SPORTS BULLETIN

Celebrating Our 10th Big Year

\$1<sup>50</sup>

2ND CLASS NEWSPAPER CLASSIFICATION  
DATED MATERIAL  
PLEASE RUSH!!

Vol. 10, No. 29

"For The Buckeye Fan Who Needs To Know More"

July 1991

12802

## OSU Athletic Director Beginning Fifth Year On Job

# Jones Discusses Wide Variety Of Topics

As he prepares to begin his fifth year as director of athletics at Ohio State, Jim Jones faces a wide variety of issues.

The emergence of Penn State into the Big Ten, the need for larger and more modern facilities for several sports, fiscal responsibility and the fact that head football coach John Cooper enters a pivotal fourth season in a five-year contract are all topics that Jones must address in the coming months.

Jones, who has been associated with Ohio State since 1965 when he became a member of the physical education department, became director of athletics in 1987, succeeding Rick Bay.

In the following interview with BSB editor Mark Rea, Jones discusses the changing football bowl picture, assesses different sports programs at OSU, and gives his opinions on the graduation rate of student-athletes at the university.

**BSB:** Are you opposed to individual schools and/or conferences making deals with certain bowls such as the one currently in the works between the Atlantic Coast Conference, Big East and Notre Dame and the Orange, Cotton and Sugar bowls?

**JONES:** Right now, it looks like they're trying to get those three bowls and one more to agree to lock into the champions from those conferences as well as Notre Dame. They need one more bowl to prevent precluding themselves from a national title game. Am I opposed to that idea? No, I'm not opposed to that idea. I think they have the right to do that. That's what we've done with the Rose Bowl, although we haven't put together a parlay.

**BSB:** Because it appeared the Big Ten was spurned by several bowls last season, is there something afoot for the conference to lock its runner-up in any certain bowl?

**JONES:** Last year, in my opinion, I think some bowls made mistakes. I don't know whether it was institutions or bowls or both or neither. It appeared to me that some people jumped too fast and ended up getting something less than they might have hoped. But that's the free enterprise system in the bowl business.

**BSB:** Do we not now have a policy whereby the bowls are supposed to police themselves regarding the issuance of invitations in advance of a written deadline?

**JONES:** I'm a member of the NCAA Postseason Football Committee, and there was never any way to enforce the NCAA rule against early invitations, so we wiped it out.

**BSB:** Why couldn't the NCAA enforce that rule?

**JONES:** I want to explain that, be-



MARK REA

Ohio State director of athletics Jim Jones goes over some paperwork in his office. One of only a half-dozen men to hold the post of athletic director at OSU, Jones is entering his fifth year on the job and faces such issues in the coming years as discovering money to finance improvement of the university's sports facilities and keeping the Buckeyes competitive for league honors in all sports.

cause the media have not done a good job of being fair with us. Last year, I think it's generally believed that a lot of people jumped the gun on the picking date. What the NCAA rule said was either the bowl or the institution could be penalized for accepting a bowl invitation prior to the picking date. But we also have a rule that says because some institutions have been invited and then disinvented, that the official invitation must be in writing. If the official invitation must be in writing, then I submit to you that no one jumped the gun on the bowl date last year. But therein lies the problem of the NCAA committee to enforce the rule.

**BSB:** It sounds a lot like recruiting with verbal commitments well in advance of national signing day.

**JONES:** I think that's safe to say. I don't know whether that's good or bad, but I think it's pretty obvious that as

## Simpson Commits To OSU

Lima Senior point guard Greg Simpson, rated as the top high school player in Ohio and one of the top 10 players in the country, verbally committed to play college basketball at Ohio State.

During a press conference June 28 at his school, Simpson said he selected the Buckeyes over Michigan and Purdue. Several other schools were also in the running for his services.

Complete details of Simpson's press conference appear in this issue of BSB, beginning on page 2.



Greg Simpson

Continued On Page 6

# OSU Gets Close To Filling '92 Grid Dates

Continued From Page 1

long as it's like that, there's no way to enforce the rule. So we said let's not have it on the books and embarrass ourselves. Let's wipe it out, because they're not going to abide by it anyway. There are some bowls and some institutions that would make an agreement right now if they could. Last year was a blip in the system. I think those generally take care of themselves. The right bowls, the right institutions all get embarrassed, and eventually it shakes down until it happens again.

**BSB:** Is this ACC-Big East-Notre Dame deal with the bowls a result of last year's machinations?

**JONES:** I don't think so. The ACC

believes they have been left out of the major bowl mix for too long and now that they've taken Florida State, a major independent who is well recognized in the big bowl business, this is an attempt by them to get some credibility for their league, in my opinion. The Big East never played football until this year, when they're taking on Miami, another major independent, so naturally they want to use Miami to promote the Big East and, at the same time, take care of the Big East football playing schools. Hooking in Notre Dame is nothing more than realizing that the power of Notre Dame in the bowl business is damn strong. There isn't anybody in the bowl business, except for the Rose Bowl, who wouldn't like to have

Notre Dame if they could get them. They sell tickets, give you recognition, turn on TV sets, you name it. Notre Dame, unable to be a conference champion, wants to be in a position to play for a national title. So, if you tie them into a bowl and leave them in a bowl, they can't do that consistently.

**BSB:** Using that same logic, doesn't that hurt the Big Ten and Pac-10, since they are locked into the Rose Bowl?

**JONES:** I personally don't think that hurts your institution. I don't think hopping around just so you can have a chance to play for the national championship is the name of the game. But I guess you media folks have created that with the fans, so they think that's important.

**BSB:** Are there currently any plans at work that would automatically put the Big Ten's runner-up in a certain bowl?

**JONES:** Not that I know of. But would the Big Ten love to tie up a second team? The answer is yes. The Big Ten would love to tie up a second, third, fourth and fifth-place team if we could, but I don't think we can. That's nothing against the Big Ten. It's just the bowl business.

**BSB:** There has been some speculation that the Fiesta Bowl would like to invite a Big Ten team, but the conference is reluctant to accept such an invitation since the Fiesta is televised at the same time as the Rose Bowl. Would Ohio State ever accept a bid to the Fiesta Bowl the way things stand now?

**JONES:** The Big Ten and the Pac-10 presidents agreed we would not participate in the Fiesta Bowl as long as they were going head to head with the Rose Bowl.

**BSB:** What if the Fiesta Bowl agreed to move its starting time so as not to conflict with the Rose Bowl?

**JONES:** I'm not privy to any information that would lead me to believe they want to move their starting time. Clearly, this institution will not break

our word. I don't care what the agreement is. We will not participate in any bowl that is against our agreement with the Pac-10 and the Rose Bowl.

**BSB:** If the Fiesta Bowl is moved and the problems connected with Arizona's rejection of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday are not resolved, would Ohio State accept an invitation to play in the Fiesta Bowl?

**JONES:** The Martin Luther King decision is an important one as far as I'm concerned for this institution, and it would weigh heavily on whether or not we would accept an invitation to the Fiesta Bowl.

**BSB:** There is still an opening on the 1992 football schedule. Has it been filled?

**JONES:** I'm sorry that I don't have anything to report on that as yet. Terminology regarding these matters is difficult, but I think we're reasonably close to filling that date.

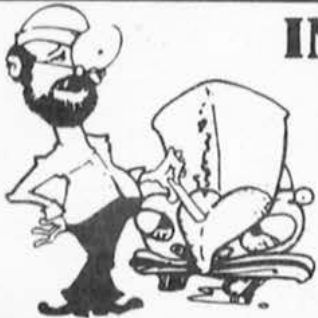
**BSB:** Is the Louisville game in 1992 still a possibility, or will the Buckeyes definitely host the Cardinals for a second straight year?

**JONES:** I think it is still a possibility, but no contract has been signed for that game. As I've said in the past, we are looking for quality opponents who will play in Ohio Stadium. We want to play as many games in our stadium as is possible, so whatever teams we play in 1992, you can rest assured we will play them in our stadium.

**BSB:** With expansion of the south stands at Ohio Stadium currently in the early stages, how many more seats can fans expect when the season opens Sept. 7?

**JONES:** The expansion of those stands is supposed to be for 5,500 seats. However, when the project is completed, I don't think we will have expanded our capacity by that many. There are several seats in the stadium that we

Continued On Page 7



## IMPORT DOCTOR


YOUR CAR IS NOT FOREIGN TO US

**JIM COWAN, Ph.D., Prop.**  
228-8637  
(A-AUTODR)  
52 East Brickel Alley  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

## ARIZONA WILDCAT FANS!

Keep up with the Cats —

CAT TRACKS gives you an inside look at University of Arizona sports, its athletes, coaches and fans. Don't miss the action. Stay on track with the most exciting and informative sports publication of its kind — CAT TRACKS!



**CAT TRACKS**  
A LOOK INSIDE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA SPORTS  
Wildcat Face Ohio State in Season's opener

1 year (33 issues) \$47.     1 year, First Class Mail \$82.  
 Check Enclosed     MasterCard or VISA  
 Credit card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Fast Credit Card Service 1-800-765-8632

**WILDCAT SPORTS HOTLINE**  
1-900-860-4682

- Ohio State Scouting Report
- Daily Wildcat Sports Page
- Coach Toney's Comments
- Game Day Commentary
- Football Recruiting
- Basketball Recruiting

24-Hour service • \$2.00 for the first minute, \$1.00 each additional minute  
 • Calls can be made from touch tone or rotary dial phones



### Houlihan's

Houlihan's serves all your favorites in a whole new light! From light entrees to romantic feasts, you'll find yourself craving our excitement again and again. Join us for a lunch or our famous happy hour cocktails and appetizers, then stay for an evening of exciting dining. Whether you love Mexican, Italian or stir-fry specialties or just a great, all-American steak, we've got it all. And on Sunday, you have to taste our incredible brunch to believe it! From healthful lunches to elegant dinners to finger food feasts—if it's hot, it's Houlihan's! Reservations and major credit cards accepted.  
**6240 Busch Blvd., facing Busch Boulevard on the west side of the Continent Shopping Center, 431-1852**

**HOULIHAN'S**

# AD Won't Speculate On Cooper's Contract

Continued From Page 6

have to address as far as selling them with a clear conscience. I'm talking about field seats right behind the benches, seats in certain sections that are, for all intents and purposes, outside the stadium. Certainly, I don't want to say that we will eliminate those seats. But we are looking at ways not only to expand our seating capacity, but also to give our fans a clearer view of the game.

**BSB:** Are there any plans in the works for construction of a basketball arena to replace St. John Arena?

**JONES:** There are no such plans because we simply don't have the money in our budget to do so. There have been other institutions who have raised money through differing types of efforts to build new basketball arenas. But, in these economic times when the university needs money in all kinds of areas, I don't think it's very prudent to be asking for money to build a new basketball arena. Clearly, I would like to have more seats for basketball. I would like to build new facilities for baseball, tennis and ice hockey. But we simply don't have the money at this time.

**BSB:** After a year, what is your impression of university president Gordon Gee?

**JONES:** I don't think there should be a score card out there, and I certainly don't think that athletics ought to be a high priority in determining what kind of president Gordon Gee is. Having said that, he's the boss. We like him and I think he'll be good for this university. He clearly likes intercollegiate athletics. From an athletic viewpoint, or from any other viewpoint on this campus, better that the president likes you than is ambivalent toward you.

**BSB:** Last year at this time, you said the football program was where you hoped it would be when you hired John Cooper as head coach. Do you still feel the same?

**JONES:** I think we're progressing. I want us to get back to being competitive for the conference title. That's the name

of the game in every sport we have and football is certainly no exception. I want us to be competitive for the conference title and the Rose Bowl berth and we were last year, which means Ohio State fans ought to recognize that quality is back in the football program.

**BSB:** Do you think Cooper gets a bum rap from the fans and the media?

**JONES:** There are times when I think we deserve the criticism and there are other times when I think the criticism is unfair. But that's the kind of business we're in.

**BSB:** Is it unfair for the fans to demand so much success from Cooper and the football program?

**JONES:** I don't think so. The fact that the fans expect us to be good in football makes this a good job, both for the football coach and the director of athletics. We expect to be good. I think sometimes we lose our perspective in that we don't recognize that the days of Michigan and Ohio State dominating this league are, for all intents and purposes, over. The various rule changes have made it extremely difficult to dominate anything in any league. I still expect Ohio State to be competitive for the conference title. I think that's where Ohio State belongs. I don't think we ought to be an also-ran, and I'm never going to be happy when we are.

**BSB:** Will Cooper receive a contract extension after this season?

**JONES:** Clearly, the president has stated that he wants a recommendation from me that he can then take to the board of trustees regarding that. Whether or not we extend after the season, before the season, at the end of the school year, who knows? It's only speculation at this point.

**BSB:** Certainly you must have some criteria for determining on what you base your recommendation.

**JONES:** I do, but I don't wish to share it. Let me say this, though. I think John Cooper is doing the job we hired him to do and I expect him to be here awhile.

**BSB:** How do you assess some other programs, especially those of basket-

ball, baseball and wrestling at Ohio State?

**JONES:** Obviously, you've picked three sports in which we enjoyed tremendous success this year. I certainly don't have to expound on the job Randy Ayers is doing at this university. I think Bob Todd has done an excellent job with the baseball program and has brought it to a level of excellence that it deserves. Russ Hellickson and the job he has done with the wrestling program is another of our highlights. Those three coaches have taken their programs and, in a relatively short time, have gotten Ohio State to where it belongs.

**BSB:** Are you satisfied with the current graduation rate of student-athletes at Ohio State?

**JONES:** Satisfied is not a good word. I'm never going to be satisfied until we graduate 100 percent of our student-athletes. I'm not satisfied, but I think our graduation rate is competitive. Our graduation rate across the program is better than the student body rate at this campus, but it should be. Our student-athletes are recruited, selected, assisted and aided. We ought to do better than the average student on this campus. Am I satisfied with where we

are? Never. We can always do better academically.

**BSB:** Where do you see the Ohio State athletic department in the next decade?

**JONES:** If we can organize ourselves as far as the money is concerned, I see us improving our facilities. It's a dream of mine to have the pride of this conference as far as facilities are concerned. I don't know if we can do that, but I think we can. As far as the sports programs are concerned, I believe you can see the foundation of a pretty strong program across the board here at Ohio State. That's what I like to have. I'd like to be competitive in every sport we have. I believe that this university deserves the broadest, most comprehensive possible program it can have. Maybe that means we should add a couple of sports if we can. But I cannot tell you how we can continue for the next 10 years and have the kind of program we have on the present fiscal basis. I don't think football and men's basketball can continue to support a 31-sport program. I'm going to do all I can to see that we have the most comprehensive program, but at the same time, have the necessary funds to be competitive in every sport we have.

## You Can Count On These Services From THE QUICKPRINT CENTRE

- ✓ Printing
- ✓ Typesetting
- ✓ Art & Paste-up
- ✓ High-Speed Duplicating
- ✓ Photostats
- ✓ Resumes
- ✓ NCR Forms
- ✓ Ship UPS & FED EX
- ✓ FAX Service  
(Sending & Receiving)
- ✓ Christmas Cards
- ✓ Rubber Stamps
- ✓ Business Cards
- ✓ Wedding Invitations
- ✓ ... and much more

### THE QUICKPRINT CENTRE

1399 Grandview Avenue • Columbus, Ohio 43212  
614-488-2683 • 614-481-8700 • FAX 614-488-0059  
(Three doors north of the Tri-Village Post Office)

## ALADDIN SHRINE TEMPLE

3580 Stelzer Road, Columbus, Ohio

BASEBALL CARD & MEMORABILIA SHOW

Friday, July 19 • 12 Noon - 7 P.M.

Saturday, July 20 • 10 A.M.-5 P.M.

Sunday, July 21 • 11 A.M.-5 P.M.

### FIELDERS CHOICE



LINDA KELLY  
Friday 2:30 to 5:30  
One Free  
Autograph



PETE ROSE  
Sunday 12:30 to 3:30  
Autographs  
Flat Items & Baseballs - \$15  
Bats - \$45



BART STARR  
Saturday 12:00 to 3:00  
Autographs  
\$7

72 Dealer Tables will be \$190 per 10' table with 4' or 6' backup or 2 for \$350  
Admission Adults \$1 • Kids 12 and under 50¢

#### OUR NEWEST LOCATION

Fielders Choice  
183 S. Hamilton Rd.  
Columbus, Ohio 43213  
(614) 235-3060

Fielders Choice  
3982 E. Broad St.  
Columbus, Ohio 43213  
(614) 236-0220

Fielders Choice  
6531 E. Livingston Ave.  
Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068  
(614) 755-9233

We've been giving  
Columbus the best  
Italian food since 1945



## Florentine

for lunch or dinner

907 West Broad • Phone 228-2262

3 minutes from Broad & High

Adjacent free parking

# BUCKEYE SPORTS BULLETIN

# \$2<sup>00</sup>

2ND CLASS NEWSPAPER  
CLASSIFICATION  
DATED MATERIAL  
PLEASE RUSH!!

Vol. 13, No. 20

"For The Buckeye Fan Who Needs To Know More"

Feb. 26, 1994

12802

## Jones Reveals Plan To Retire From OSU Post

By MARK REA

Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

Taking advantage of a financial offer from the university for early retirement, Ohio State athletic director Jim Jones announced Feb. 18 that he would retire at the end of June.

Although it was no secret that the option of early retirement was a possibility, it had been formally offered to OSU faculty members for less than a week before Jones made his decision.

Rumors that he was forced out of the job he had held since 1987 began almost immediately after his announcement.

"Forced out? No, I wasn't forced out," Jones told *BSB*. "There is nothing more here than the fact that I simply saw an excellent financial opportunity as well as an opportunity for me to spend more time with my wife and my family."

"This has been a labor of love for me and a great honor to be associated with the number one university in America. But there comes a time in your life when you need to move on and this is my time to move on."

Despite Jones' assertion that he was not asked to take early retirement, university president Gordon Gee hedged a bit when reporters repeatedly asked if his athletic director was forced out.

"This is not an easy decision for him," Gee said. "He loves this university and loves what he is doing. But everyone makes a personal decision based upon personal issues of which I am not aware."

Gee mentioned that the early retirement option was discussed during a regular weekly meeting between him and Jones on Feb. 14. When he was asked who brought up the option, Gee replied, "I can't remember, and does it matter?"

The university president added, "I did not (try to talk him out of it). He had made up his mind and I think it was very clear that he had wrestled with this and, at that point, he was ready to move ahead and I supported that decision."

Unsatisfied with that exchange, reporters asked again if Jones was asked to leave.

"I think that Jim's decision really goes to the fact that he has been here a long time, it's no longer as fun to be in public life as it used to be, and this was in the best interest of him and his family," Gee replied. "If you take a look at what an early retirement means, it means, in the best sense of the word, an opportunity to go out and do other things with a sense of financial security. That, probably, is the same decision I would have made."

"You know, people will speculate

about this from now until eternity. These are not easy jobs. My job is not an easy job, his job is not an easy job. The sequence of events are just as I have described them and I don't think that sounds like a forcing."

Reports in the Feb. 19 issue of *The Columbus Dispatch* seemed to indicate otherwise and that Jones was, indeed, forced out.

*The Dispatch* quoted university sources, indicating that Jones could have been asked to leave in the wake of the interminable NCAA investigation and that Gee and the board of trustees are attempting to clean house of what could be interpreted as the "old guard" in the OSU athletic department.

*The Dispatch* quoted one source as saying university legal counsel Robert Duncan had met with NCAA attorneys and that "Jones' departure was one of the moves Ohio State had to make" to minimize possible sanctions by the NCAA and to further show that the university is addressing the problems that led to the investigation.

A university source was also quoted by *The Dispatch* as saying the timing of the buyout offer to all OSU employees and the desire of Gee and the board of trustees for a new "pro-active athletic administration" was "a pleasant coincidence."

Gee indicated there are others in the athletic department hierarchy who are eligible for the early retirement package, but "none of them have indicated their intent to retire, at least not to me."

At least four other high-ranking members of the OSU athletic department are eligible for the buyout and could choose to follow Jones and opt for

Continued On Page 11



STEPPING DOWN — Ohio State athletic director Jim Jones has decided to take advantage of an early retirement package offered by the university and will leave his post on June 30. Jones is only the sixth director of athletics in OSU history.

## Gee Intimates That NCAA's Probe May Have Been Expanded To Other Areas

By MARK REA

Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

What was last spring initially termed an infraction "secondary in nature" continues to hound the Ohio State athletic department.

The NCAA turned up 17 recruiting violations committed by the OSU basketball program during 1991 and 1992 in its recruitment of Cincinnati high school star Damon Flint.

Last May, the Buckeyes were stripped of Flint's freshman eligibility

and he later signed with Cincinnati. But the loss of Flint did not end the NCAA's investigation into Ohio State.

Now, more than nine months into a probe that was supposed to take no longer than 90 days, OSU president Gordon Gee seemed to indicate what has been feared for some time — the NCAA's investigation has spilled over into other programs in the university's athletic department.

"When the NCAA comes in and looks at a major athletic program, very often they will look at other areas just simply as a matter of protocol," Gee said. "If

they see something, or if we self-report something, then that becomes an area of concern for them."

When asked if there were other violations in other programs, either uncovered by the NCAA or self-reported by OSU, Gee replied, "I'm not going to comment on that because I'm not free to do so. But let me just say that we had self-reported several things and those have initiated several inquiries."

"One of the problems when you get a

Continued On Page 11

KEVIN DYE

# BUCKEYE SPORTS BULLETIN

Buckeye Sports Bulletin is published 30 times a year (weekly September through November and January through mid-March, biweekly mid-March to mid-May and monthly June through August and December) by:

Columbus Sports Publications  
1350 W. Fifth Ave., #30  
P.O. Box 12453  
Columbus, Ohio 43212  
(614) 486-2202

Second class postage paid at Columbus, Ohio, and additional mailing offices. USPS 705-690. ISSN 0883-6833. POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to Buckeye Sports Bulletin, P.O. Box 12453, Columbus, Ohio, 43212. Subscription rates: \$42 per year for 30 issues.

**PUBLISHER**  
Frank L. Moskowitz

**ASSISTANT PUBLISHER**  
Karen Wachsman

**EDITOR**  
Mark Rea

**NON-REVENUE SPORTS EDITOR**  
Mike Wachsman

**EDITORIAL ASSISTANT**  
Julia Grubb

**PHOTOGRAPHY**  
Sonny Brockway  
Tim Caron  
Kevin Dye  
Mike Greer

**STAFF WRITERS & CONTRIBUTORS**  
Todd Harrell  
Steve Helwagen  
Rich Leonardo  
Mark Podolaki  
Jeff Rapp  
John Redd  
Bob Roehm  
Steve Siegfried  
Stacey Statholis

**ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVES**  
Wendy Craver & Associates  
Jan Jager  
Cindy Osborne

#### 1993-94 PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

No. 1	Sept. 4	No. 16	Jan. 29
No. 2	Sept. 11	No. 17	Feb. 5
No. 3	Sept. 18	No. 18	Feb. 12
No. 4	Sept. 25	No. 19	Feb. 19
No. 5	Oct. 9	No. 20	Feb. 26
No. 6	Oct. 16	No. 21	March 5
No. 7	Oct. 23	No. 22	March 12
No. 8	Oct. 30	No. 23	March 26
No. 9	Nov. 6	No. 24	April 2
No. 10	Nov. 13	No. 25	April 16
No. 11	Nov. 20	No. 26	April 30
No. 12	Nov. 27	No. 27	May 14
No. 13	Dec. 4	No. 28	June
No. 14	Jan. 15	No. 29	July
No. 15	Jan. 22	No. 30	August

MEMBER

**CSAN**  
College Sports Affiliates Network

4099 McEwen  
Suite 350  
Dallas, Texas 75244  
(214) 851-1770

## Time For Quantum Leap At OSU

Woody Hayes has been dead since 1987. I know that comes as quite a shock to a lot of you. It comes as quite a shock to a lot of people over at The Ohio State University as well.

You see, Woody roamed — some say ruled — the OSU campus for nearly 30 years, and although he never rose above the rank of head football coach, many of the principles he espoused were laid into the foundation of the way the school's athletic program has been run since the early 1950s.

Not that there is anything wrong with the old coach's philosophies of winning with people or paying forward or earning respect through old-fashioned hard work. Those are all admirable qualities, ones that are in alarmingly short supply these days.

But what worked for an athletic department in the '50s, '60s and even the '70s not necessarily work in the '90s. Unfortunately, Ohio State's athletic department continues to be run by a lot of people who cut their administrative teeth with Woody Hayes.

For that reason, it has seemed that the Ohio State athletic program has been dragged kicking and screaming toward the 21st century. Change for the sake of change is very often a problem. But failing to keep up with the times and sometimes refusing to change in favor of what has always been done is an even bigger problem.

The fact that I am writing this column and Jim Jones is planning to retire this summer as OSU athletic director is no coincidence. Jones remains a link to Woody Hayes in that Hayes was the one who initially brought Jones to Ohio State in the first place. But don't think for a minute that I am pointing my finger at Jones for the troubles with Ohio State's athletic department.

First of all, I don't think there are that many troubles at Ohio State in the athletic department. And I happen to think Jones has done a pretty good job as director of athletics for the past seven years.

But let's not kid ourselves. There can be more done. A lot more.

Ohio State has slipped badly during the past few years in terms of its image. Some believe there is a movement afoot to de-emphasize athletics at OSU. That is absurd. There is no such movement. More to the point, there is no movement to emphasize athletics at Ohio State, either.

That is not because Woody is gone or because the university messed up the Earle Bruce firing or that neither the football team nor the men's basketball team has won a national championship since the 1960s.

Ohio State has allowed itself to become a dinosaur, still roaming the world of college athletics in an Edsel while many others have already traded up for a Corvette.

Word-of-mouth simply does not cut it anymore. Flash sells and in the days of fast-moving sound bytes and MTV-like settings, Ohio State has simply been caught and passed.

Walk into any sports apparel shop in New York, Dallas, Los Angeles or Lillehammer, Norway, for that matter, and chances are you are not going to find anything with Ohio State on it. What you will find is enough Michigan apparel to make you sick.

Why is Michigan the university of

### Editor's Notebook with Mark Rea

choice in shops like those? It's not because of Gary Moeller or Steve Fisher. It's because of guys like the "Fab Five" who have enough flash to grab the MTV generation, whose attention span lasts approximately five seconds.

Say what you like about the way Michigan's basketball players yap at opposing players, coaches and officials, the way they swagger from one end of the court to the other or the way they seemingly get out of one scrape with the law into another.

That kind of stuff sells and sells big-time. And if you sell enough ball caps and T-shirts, you are selling your university.

The argument can be made that the way the "Fab Five" represents Michigan is not exactly the way you would want Ohio State represented. That is a salient point. But you also cannot overlook that Michigan has been able to attract athletes from all across the country to suit up in the Maize and Blue and the Wolverines have finished among the top 10 football teams five of the last six years and have traveled to the NCAA Final Four each of the last two.

So the argument can be turned around this way: What better way to represent your university than to reach the pinnacle of your particular sport?

While Ohio State has stood pat for most of the last few decades, other universities have taken more aggressive measures to get their messages across.

And let's give credit where credit is due: For the Buckeyes to have achieved as much athletically as they have in the past 10 years is testament to the amazing power they built up during the Woody Hayes era.

But that achievement cannot continue forever without some more ambitious vision. I am not in favor of completely overthrowing the old ways for the new. In fact, I think the perfect successor for Jones as athletic director would also serve as a link from Ohio State's past to its future.

In my mind, Rex Kern seems to be a logical choice. A native Ohioan who was the quarterback for the university's last national championship team — one that was coached by you-know-who — Kern remains fiercely loyal to Ohio State. His impressive credentials, which include a Ph.D., several ultrasuccessful business ventures, an honest persuasiveness and an instantly recognizable face and name, are all pluses that OSU would be crazy not to put to immeasurable use.

Kern would also have a ready-made right-hand man in Archie Griffin, already an associate athletic director and, nearly 20 years removed from two Heisman Trophies, still wildly popular among OSU fans and alumni.

There will be the quote-unquote nationwide search for Jones' successor. And, if university president Gordon Gee wants to continue the status quo, that search will probably net someone with lofty credentials.

But if Gee and the rest of the university are truly interested in competing with the rest of the collegiate athletic world today instead of 20 years ago, he couldn't do much better than gulp a breath of fresh air and hire Kern to be the next athletic director at Ohio State.

### IF LOU HOLTZ READS FOOTBALL NEWS IT MUST BE GOOD!



"I appreciate FOOTBALL NEWS and the information it contains. I have been an avid reader for 20 years, and time has not diminished my enthusiasm when I receive it."

—Lou Holtz, Notre Dame coach

FOOTBALL NEWS provides the most complete weekly coverage of college and pro football available anywhere in the country. And now you can order FN and save a bundle off the regular subscription price.

You can subscribe for a full season—20 action-packed issues—for just \$24.95. That's \$10.00 off the regular subscription price of \$34.95 and 58% off the newsstand price! Plus, you'll receive a FREE copy of the 1993 FN Pocket Football Guide (a \$3.95 value). This guide is a comprehensive source for college and pro preseason information.

Football News, 17820 E. Warren Ave., Detroit, MI 48224  
For Fastest Service Call: 1-800-521-8808

YES! Send me 20 issues of Football News for just \$24.95 plus a FREE copy of the 1993 FN Pocket Football Guide worth \$3.95. (New subscribers only.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ O6Z

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed - \$24.95  Charge my:  Visa  M/C  Amex

Bill me later for \$24.95. Send my FREE FN Football Guide when I pay my first invoice.

Account # \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Gee Hopes To Name New Director Quickly

Continued From Page 1

early retirement. They are:

• Phyllis Bailey, 67, associate director in charge of women's athletics. Bailey has been with OSU for 39 years.

• Bill Myles, 57, associate director in charge of men's athletics. Myles has been with OSU for 18 years.

• Dick Finn, 60, special assistant to the director in charge of NCAA rules compliance. A former OSU baseball coach, Finn has been at the university for 23 years.

• Dick Sloan, 57, special assistant to the director in charge of scheduling for facilities. A former OSU swimming coach, Sloan has been at the university for 20 years.

All four, as well as Jones, are members of the State Teachers Insurance Retirement Plan and qualify for the five-year buyout that Ohio State is offering eligible faculty members as part of the university's restructuring program.

Under terms of the agreement, those within five years of regular retirement can take an early leave, with Ohio State paying the final five years into the retirement plan so that eligible members can leave early with full pensions.

According to Jones, the offer was just too good to pass up.

"There was a similar offer three years ago, but I didn't feel ready to accept it then," he said. "I do now. This offer may not come along again, so I want to take advantage of it now."

Under terms of the agreement, Jones will receive approximately 80 percent of his current salary of \$108,000, which reportedly ranks in the lower half of his Big Ten counterparts. Still, that comes out to approximately \$86,400 annually for the rest of his life.

"I have enjoyed this job tremendously," Jones said. "On one hand, I could do it for seven more years. But there comes a time when you have to look at your future and decide what is best, not only for you but for the loved ones around you."

Taking over the OSU athletic department in 1987, Jones was faced with damage control on the public relations front in the wake of the resignation of his predecessor, Rick Bay, who quit in protest of the way the university handled the firing of head football coach Earle Bruce.

Jones immediately headed up a search committee and hired John Cooper to replace Bruce. Jones has also been responsible for hiring six other OSU head coaches, including men's basketball coach Randy Ayers and track coach Russ Rogers.

A native of northern Ohio, Jones

graduated from Kent State in 1958 and earned a master's degree from Ball State in 1964. A year later, he became a physical education instructor at Ohio State and has been at the university ever since.

Woody Hayes made him an athletic academic counselor in 1967, and Jones became an assistant athletic director in 1970. He was promoted to associate AD in 1977 and then succeeded Bay a decade later.

Fiercely proud of his tenure and steadfastly loyal to Ohio State — Jones still can't bring himself to refer to the University of Michigan as anything but "That Institution Up North" — he is scheduled to remain with OSU through the end of the calendar year in an advisory capacity.

However, Gee indicated that Jones will have little other input on naming his successor.

"I think it would not be in the best interest of the new athletic director that the old athletic director had been the person who had named him or her," Gee said. "I think that would not be something we would want to have happen."

What will happen is a nationwide search for potential candidates, a process the university president said would begin immediately.

"I feel compelled to move quickly on this," Gee said. "First of all, athletic directors are important positions. Secondly of all, it always creates a lot of speculation as to who it is going to be and who isn't it going to be and I think that it's important to move quickly on this. Third, as you well know, we have had a continuing NCAA investigation and I think it's important to name an athletic director as quickly as possible to help us through that particular transition."

Gee indicated that he has no preconceived notions who the new athletic director will be. But he has very strong convictions about what qualifications are necessary.

"Indeed, we'll hunt for the very best person," he said. "Let me just say the athletic director at Ohio State is one of the prime positions in college athletics. We will not lack for candidates. The question for us is going to be a choice among many, many good people."

"Saying that, my own view is . . . that it ought to be a fairly wide search. It shouldn't come from just the ranks of athletic departments, but, as you know, some of the most successful athletic directors in the Big Ten that have been recently appointed have come out of the private sector. The nature of athletics is changing the nature of leadership in athletics."

"I tend to believe we ought to have someone who has a strong identification

and strong belief in the values of a Big Ten university and certainly someone who understands the nature of Ohio State."

Gee added that the search for Jones' successor may include several candidates from Ohio State.

"We have some very capable people within this university, and not simply within the athletic department," he said. "When you're talking about a university with 30,000 faculty and staff, we have a lot of very capable people that surely could be candidates."

"I'm looking for someone to run the largest athletic program in the country with 33 intercollegiate sports and nearly a \$30 million budget, and who understands and values athletics, who understands and values that athletics does report to the university and is part of the university and not separate, and who also understands that we have a high expectation in terms of values and

in terms of consequences. That person can be found in a variety of areas."

Stressing that potential candidates will not be limited to those already employed at Ohio State, Gee indicated that the person who is ultimately named athletic director will likely have a working knowledge of what is expected.

"You have a university president who has very high expectations in terms of students coming here and graduating," Gee said. "I have very high expectations in terms of winning, but winning in the right way. I want some national championships here in a number of our sports."

"Also, we need someone who knows the nature of Ohio State. This is a unique environment, nearly unique in the country. I think we would not be well-served by someone who does not understand the type of environment in which they would operate."

## Gee Denies Speculation That Jones Was Forced Out Due To NCAA Probe

Continued From Page 1

potential violation, as we had in our basketball program, is that it then opens the university for further investigation. It's like the IRS. When they find one year that they think they have a problem with, they go back for five years or 10 years. This is kind of the bureaucratic equivalent on the athletic side. That is what has happened to us and that's why I think it's taking so long."

When OSU athletic director Jim Jones announced he would accept an early retirement package from the university, speculation was that Jones was forced out, primarily due to the NCAA investigation.

"I have heard that speculation and the answer is no," Gee said. "This has been a long, dreary saga. None of us are happy about it."

"I'm never satisfied with the issue of whether we are doing enough. I think in this particular area, we need to be ever-vigilant. That's not an issue of Jim. That's an issue of all of us in the department. I count myself among those."

"Let me just note that this NCAA investigation is occurring on my watch and I can say in all candor that I've never had that happen to me as a university president. I have presided over two other major universities with two very large athletic departments and so this is not something that has been very happy for me."

The men's basketball program has had its problems since the NCAA investigation was announced. Flint was the only player in the 1993 recruiting class for the Buckeyes and his departure has left this year's team thin at the guard position.

Any further sanctions against the Buckeyes could range from a simple slap on the wrist to a reduction of available scholarships or prevention of appearing on television or in the NCAA Tournament. At least one potential recruit said the cloud over the program caused him to drop Ohio State from the running for his services, and the Buckeyes were able to give only one of three available scholarships to a high school prospect in the early signing period.

S. David Berst, assistant director for enforcement and eligibilities appeals for the NCAA, would not respond to questions about whether the investigation into Ohio State's basketball program had been expanded to other sports, including the men's track program as has been speculated.

"It is our policy not to comment on investigations that are ongoing," Berst told BSB.

Gee said that he anticipates the NCAA investigation will come to a close and findings will be announced within the next four to six weeks. For that reason, he said he wants to move forward quickly on naming Jones' successor as athletic director.

"Obviously, when you name someone, it doesn't mean they will be on board," Gee said. "But I think it's important for someone to be part of the final conclusions and discussions on that issue."

# Planks

**Bier Garten**  
at Whittier & High

Book Your  
Next Party  
With Us...



It's Cheaper  
Than You  
Think!

445-8333

Planks Garten  
at Whittier & High



### You Can Count On These Services From THE QUICKPRINT CENTRE

- ✓ Printing
- ✓ Typesetting
- ✓ Art & Paste-up
- ✓ High-Speed Duplicating
- ✓ Photostats
- ✓ Resumes
- ✓ NCR Forms
- ✓ Ship UPS & FED EX
- ✓ FAX Service  
(Sending & Receiving)
- ✓ Christmas Cards
- ✓ Rubber Stamps
- ✓ Business Cards
- ✓ Wedding Invitations
- ✓ . . . and much more

### THE QUICKPRINT CENTRE

1399 Grandview Avenue • Columbus, Ohio 43212  
614-488-2683 • 614-481-8700 • FAX 614-488-0059

(Three doors north of the Tri-Village Post Office)

# Hayes Led Jim Jones To Athletic Department

By GARRETT STEPIEN  
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

When Jim Jones graduated with his degree in mathematics from Ball State, he never envisioned the path it would put him on.

With his foot in the door at Ohio State via the physical education department, Jones ended up on the football team's radar as head coach Woody Hayes sought out improved academics for the Buckeyes.

Jones became an academic advisor – or, as Hayes called it, the 'brain coach' – and embarked on an unexpected career in OSU's athletic department.

How did he go from support staffer to administrative assistant and, eventually, one of just eight athletic directors in the department's rich history?

Jones, who held the position from 1987-94, revealed his unique path to prominence in a recent interview with Buckeye Sports Bulletin.

**BSB: You started out in Ohio State's physical education department. How did that opportunity arise? Did you ever think you would end up in your job as an academic counselor?**

Jones: "I went to Ohio State to get my Ph.D. It's a long story, but I'm not a phys. ed. grad. I'm a mathematics graduate. But for whatever reason, my connections from Ball State, where I came from, got me a position in the (Ohio State) physical education department.

"The rest is history because shortly thereafter, a friend of mine told me that Coach Hayes had heard about me. I don't know if that's logical or who told him or what, but at any rate, he had heard about me and wanted to talk to me. 'Would you be interested?' And I said, 'Yes, I would.' For one reason, I don't know anybody that had ever played or coached in Ohio, which I didn't, who wouldn't want to say they had on their resumé that they interviewed with Woody Hayes. So I did.

"He did a very interesting thing in the first talk. It turned out that first talk was an interview, but I didn't know that. He was an unusual bird in that, normally, if you interview with somebody, they ask you for recommendations or whatever. He didn't ask me for anything like that. What he did was he made notes to himself about the conversation we had, such as, 'Who is your best professor?' or 'Whom did you work for?' Well, subsequently, when I went back, maybe four or five weeks after that, he had called all those people. So he got his own recommendations without asking me who to call (laughs), which is an interesting idea. Most people would ask for recommendations, so I'd give them my minister or my best friend or whatever, so I know that the recommendations would all be good. Well, that wasn't what he was looking for. But at any rate, he hired me.

"He and Darrell Royal, who was the long-time football coach at Texas, were very good friends. They had been talking – I don't know how long, but I know they had been talking – and each of them had the idea that they'd like to have somebody on their staff to worry about the academic side. And so Woody beat Darryl to the punch, turns out, because I was Woody's first what he called 'brain coach.' They didn't have such a thing in the university's staff directory (laughs). And eventually, I became the athletic counselor. And now, it's a number of people. But at any rate, I was hired as the 'brain coach' on the football staff. Period. And unbeknownst to Woody, behind his back, I helped in two or three other sports because, originally, he had told me football first. So eventually, I made the job into something more than just football.

"I was the 'brain coach' and assistant to the

freshman coach. In those days, freshmen were not eligible, so freshmen were separate from the varsity in practice and everything else. So I was the assistant to the freshman coach and a 'brain coach' and I operated what (Hayes) wanted for academics for football."

**BSB: As an academic advisor or 'brain coach' for the Ohio State football team right before the 1968 national championship season, what did you think of Woody initially? What did Woody think of academics?**

Jones: "(Laughs.) I don't know how to answer the first question. Academics were very, very important to Woody. Woody used to tell (the varsity players), along with every freshman with me, 'We are going to get your football out of you, we know more about how to get a good education than you do and we're going to see you get an education.' And that was his goal. He gave everybody a hard time.

"As a result, we started, I guess, what they call study hall now. We called it study table. So four nights a week, I met with all the freshmen for two hours and made sure that they spent time studying. In other words, I was, I guess, a poorly paid proctor for a study hall. And it was my job, eventually – and my idea – to start hiring tutors. So I would bring a math tutor in or an English tutor or whatever because, in those days, you had to write themes. I don't even know what they do now. The first quarter in English then was writing themes. The second one was term papers. And the third quarter was poetry. At any rate, I would bring in a tutor to help players write themes. Not very many freshmen that I ran across came to school prepared to write one- or two-page themes. I guess everybody emphasizes that now in high school, but in those days, they didn't.

"I have a former student who was a physician who treated me for sleep apnea. They put you in a room. He came down, knocked on the door and stepped in and he said, 'Hi, Coach.' And I said, 'Wait a minute, Jeff. My name's Jim. I'm your patient, remember?' And he said, 'I need to remind you of something. My first day on campus, as a freshman football player, Coach Hayes had all of us in a room with him and you, and he gave us this lecture about academics, and he said that this man's name is either doctor, Mr. or coach. No first names. So God damn it, for the rest of my life, you're going to be one of those three.' So we laugh about it now."

**BSB: What do you think about the way academic emphasis has evolved through the years? Support staffs seem to have grown exponentially, especially for academics in athletics.**

Jones: "No question. It's getting bigger and bigger and bigger, and part of it's because of the emphasis and how they want to emphasize it with the players and the public. And part of it's because of the way they spend money now. We couldn't, in the old days. Money is nothing anymore in athletics. That's a terrible quote, but they have a lot more money to spend than I had.

"As I think back, I got hired as the 'brain coach.' The next day, (Hayes) came into my office. He said, 'I just came from the director of athletics and I got you more money than I thought I could ever get.' And I said, 'Coach, that's great. How much?' You ready for this? Sixty-eight hundred dollars. Period. (Laughs.) In those days, I think the top assistant coach was only making \$13,000 and Woody never made more than 50 (thousand dollars annually) the whole time he was with us. But I made \$6,800 in 1965 as the 'brain coach' – working a lot more than 40 hours a week."

**BSB: Circling back to the '68 national champions, did you think that team would**

**be so great? What do you remember from that season, being around for Ohio State's historical run?**

Jones: "There are probably a lot of assistants out there that would shudder at my answer, but you have to remember, in 1967, we recruited a great group of freshmen. But we had had two bad years in a row. And in 1967, we went up to Michigan State, which was the defending national champion, and beat Michigan State in East Lansing.

"Coach Hayes said we had been told that we were gone – that was the whole football staff – and we came back from Michigan State. Now, we hadn't played Michigan yet. But we came back and (Hayes) convinced the powers that be and the board that we had this great freshman class and we deserved an opportunity to coach them, and if we couldn't win with them, then we ought to be fired. Yeah, we thought that they were pretty good, but we didn't realize that they were going to be that good.

"As I recall, in 1968, the starters – I want to say there were 18 or 19 of them – were sophomores. And obviously, that's how we saved our jobs. They were a great offensive football team, which is not what Ohio State was known for."

**BSB: What are some of your favorite stories? Favorite players?**

Jones: "My first answer would be I didn't have any favorites. I was close to various ones. I was close to the quarterback, Rex Kern.

"(Kern) has a story that he loves to tell the people about me because Coach Hayes came into this staff meeting – I always sat at the foot of the table with the defensive coordinator – and (Hayes) asked me, at the start of the meeting, if I read for pleasure. And I said, 'Yes, I do.' Remember, now, all the assistants are sitting at the side of the table. And he threw this book at me and it slid across the table and fell in my lap. And he said, 'Well, then read this book, because we have a great freshman in there and he's got to pass this goddamn class.' It was psych 100 and it was the textbook for psych 100 that (Hayes) wanted me to read. And he was talking about Rex Kern. So Rex still laughs about that story."

**BSB: After you were hired as an assistant director of athletics in 1969, Ohio State replaced Hayes with Earle Bruce in 1979. How did you move up, and why did Bruce make the most sense to replace Hayes?**

Jones: "(The administrative move) came right after the national championship year in '69. The director of athletics retired, Dick Larkins. His associate, Ed Weaver, took over and two of us off the football staff, Hugh Hindman and Jim Jones, moved up to administration. And in those days, unlike now where you advertise the damn job for 47 people and interview a lot, there's no advertising of the job. The new director of athletics chose Hugh Hindman and me to take over in administration. So that was done in 1969.

"No, I did not (envision athletics administration). That was not where I thought I was headed. I got this call from Ed Weaver, the associate director of athletics. He needed to see me. I went to see him and he closed the door and he said, 'I think you should know that Friday I'm going to be named the director of athletics, OK?' It hadn't been announced that Dick Larkins was stepping down. He just told me that that's what was going to happen. And he said, 'When I am, it's my intention to make you an assistant.' I said, 'OK, fine.' So I'm going to be an assistant director of athletics. It's just a different title. Still working for the department.

"The rest, I guess, is history because I became a part of it. I remember telling Ed, 'Can I tell Woody?' And he said, 'No, he works for

the department. I'll tell Woody, OK?' I don't know how he told Woody or what Woody said. I know that Woody wasn't real pleased with me leaving the staff. I continued on doing somewhat the 'brain coach' and the new job for a while. I probably took three or four months into the summer.

"And then Ed (1970-77) stepped down after seven years, Hugh (1977-84) became the director of athletics, and he moved me up to senior associate, which, to my knowledge, nobody in the country had one of those, either, at the time. Well, that was his way of designating (duties). Technically, I was going to be – in today's business world, I'd be known as the chief operating officer because everybody in the department answered through me to the director of athletics and he didn't worry about anything but the big problems.

"Subsequently, Woody was dismissed and I was the No. 2 guy. Both Hugh and I had worked for Woody, and Hugh had played for Woody at Miami (Ohio). At any rate, (Hayes) was dismissed at the (1978) Gator Bowl and I was the No. 2 guy at the time. That's when we went out and hired Earle Bruce. Subsequently, Rick Bay came."

**BSB: You were involved with the head-coach hire of Earle in 1979 and, ultimately, his dismissal. What do you remember from each process?**

Jones: "Well, No. 1, if you remember, Earle and I were on the football staff at the same time with Hindman. In my opinion, there was no better offensive football coach, offensive mind than Earle Bruce. He did one heck of a job for us. Obviously, I participated in (hiring Bruce) with Hugh being the director of athletics. And then, of course, Rick Bay (1984-87) came. Rick is the person that dismissed Earle at the behest of the president and the board of trustees. At that point in time, Rick was not a happy camper, and he stepped down when we dismissed Earle. And they named me the director of athletics."

**BSB: Right in the middle of Ohio State firing Bruce in 1987, you became athletic director. How chaotic was that stretch?**

Jones: "Well, it was very hectic and it was quick. Of course, I was close to Rick and I knew everything that was going on politically. Rick was a strong supporter of Earle Bruce, and for whatever reason, Earle was crossed with the president or the board – who knows. I was not part of that decision. Rick and the president discussed what was going to happen and eventually dismissed Earle. And when that happened, because he was a strong supporter of Earle's – and rightfully so, I might add – (Bay) left. He resigned. And I became the director."

**BSB: So that decision with Earle, it was out of both your guys' hands?**

Jones: "Well, it was definitely out of my hands. The president and the board of trustees were the discussion people."

**BSB: And Rick stepped down because he didn't agree with that move?**

"That's correct. That's correct."

**BSB: Ultimately, it led to your hire as director of athletics. You said you never envisioned yourself going on that type of path. What was your reaction when you finally reached the heights of that position? With how fast it all transpired, was there ever a moment when that realization hit you?**

Jones: "Oh, yeah, there was that moment. The faculty rep was a good friend of mine, and he had been talking to the president, unbeknownst to me, and I think he knew that the president was not going to have a big-time search like they do now. The president talked

Continued On Page 14



# Ayers, Cooper Part Of Jones' Tenure With Buckeyes

Continued From Page 13

to the board, got the approval, called me in and said, 'I've talked to the board this afternoon.' This is the same day or next day after Rick stepped down. He said, 'I've talked to the board and I'm going to name you the director of athletics.' And here I am.

"It happened so fast and so confusing that there wasn't an opportunity to sit around and think about, 'Well, do you want this job?' Or, 'How do you want to do this job?' Or, 'What would you like to ask for?' There wasn't any opportunity to worry about all of that. It just happened so fast that I'd all of sudden ended up there. To a degree, with Hindman, I'd somewhat been a director of athletics as its chief operating officer. So I was familiar with the job and what needed to be done and so on. But I didn't anticipate, one, I was going to be the director of athletics and, two, it was going to happen the way it did."

**BSB: What route did you originally see yourself going before eventually ascending up the ladder of Ohio State's athletic department? Hard to imagine director of athletics was the plan all along.**

Jones: "(Laughs.) No, it wasn't the plan. You're right. (Laughs.) Well, when Ed Weaver moved me from the football staff – which, I thought, was probably going to be the pinnacle of what I accomplished in my life – I got moved into administration and Ed Weaver changed my life quickly. Everything happened pretty fast after that. I didn't have an opportunity to think about, 'Well, how do I get out of this?' Or, 'Well, what else should I do?' Especially when you think about it – director of athletics, there

are a lot of those jobs. Up to the time that I had been named director of athletics, there had only been four predecessors in the history of the university — L.W. St. John, Dick Larkins, Ed Weaver, Hugh Hindman and then me. It just so happened, we didn't go outside. Everybody was always an inside person. It's just the way it was. So there was no opportunity for me to think about all of that.

"When things did die down, I sat in that red chair and thought about it. I had a strong assistant, Bill Myles, who we brought on from the football staff. He was a strong assistant, and he used to tease me about two or three things. Well, No. 1, if a kid would come in complaining or questioning a decision, he'd bring them down the hall, stand outside my office and he would say, 'You see that big red chair in there? Until you have sat in that big red chair, you will not understand the job that the director of athletics has.'

"And secondly, he used to tease me a lot because he said, 'You realize being the director of athletics at Ohio State is one of the two or three or five powerful jobs in the state of Ohio?' If you go back and look at the history book, L.W. St. John started it all and all the other successors were in the department. In L.W.'s days, the legislature used to come up to Ohio Stadium on Saturday morning to pick up their football tickets to go to the game. That made the director of athletics pretty damn strong, when you've got the legislature coming in to see you to get their tickets."

**BSB: John Cooper replaced Earle. You chose Cooper, an outsider from Arizona State. What stood out about him as a candidate?**

Jones: "Well, the process, first of all – the board of trustees had an idea of how they wanted the search done and what they wanted me to do and whom they wanted me to look at and find. For one thing, the board, in those days, wanted no part of anybody who had worked for or was associated with Earle Bruce. So that restricted, obviously, what we could do. Then it was my job – and I met with the president.

"We eventually had a three- or four-man committee. But Bill Myles and I, essentially, chose whom the candidates were going to be that we were going to interview. I met with the board of trustees, explained to them what we were doing and what we were looking for because they were very interested in making sure that whomever we chose had nothing to do with Earle Bruce. I'm not sure I understand that, to this day, but it is what it is.

"So it was my job, with Bill Myles, search out four or five candidates and then we had a search committee. The search committee was the president, secretary of the board of trustees, Bill Myles and myself and a faculty representative and that was it. We interviewed five or six or seven or eight (candidates) and it was my job to select one and convince the president that that's what we wanted to do. And that was John Cooper.

"The downtown people, in those days, had done their research, obviously. The Wolfe family (owners of The Columbus Dispatch) was strong in Columbus and still is, and they were effusive in their praise for John Cooper. They did their research. John, I think, was a good football coach and a damn good recruiter. Unfortunately, he had two or three things going against him. One, he had a Southern accent.

Two, he didn't beat Michigan, which doesn't help you in Ohio. In fact, I don't think, until John Cooper, any football coach had ever survived more than two losses in a row to Michigan. And of course, it was my job to convince the board – well, the athletic board as well as the board of trustees – that we were progressing and that we were on the right track. I guess they believed me – for a while, at least – because he was still the football coach when I left. (Laughs.)"

**BSB: Cooper got off on the wrong foot with the Ohio State fan base in 1988, going 4-6-1. How much did that hinder his tenure as head coach? How stressful was it for you?**

Jones: "Well, it was very stressful. And on top of it, you obviously want your choice to be successful. And when we weren't, it was stressful. I kept looking for reasons why that was happening, were we going in the right direction and so on. I think subsequent years turned that to be the case. You know, John's a good football coach. John had some good wins.

"At any rate, John was out of a different mold than Ohio State football coaches had been known for. He was much more open. When he came to us from Arizona State, he had done the coach's show in the stadium after the game. Woody Hayes had the longest-running coach's show in the country. For 28 years, he did it in Columbus, Ohio, on Saturday night after the home games. He did it for different reasons than anyone else. He did it because he thought it was expected of the Ohio State football coach. A lot of those people that succeeded him, one of the things that they wanted for that was some extra money, which is typical. That was not what Woody was interested in."



## Reynolds Travel "On the Road Again" for 2019 Ohio State Football Away Games

**OSU vs. Indiana: Sept. 13-15** – 2-night motorcoach trip with accommodations at the French Lick Resort and Casino, breakfast daily, game tickets and enroute to French Lick enjoy a cruise on the Ohio River in Louisville with lunch. \$699 pp based on two to a room. Land-only package available also.

**OSU vs. Nebraska: Sept. 25-30** – 5-night motorcoach trip with 1 overnight in each direction: 1 night at Juner's Castle Casino in Rock Island, Ill.; 3 nights at the Embassy Suites in Omaha, Neb., with breakfast daily, city tour of Lincoln, game tickets and transportation; and 1 night on return at the Marriott Pere Marquette in Peoria, Ill. \$1,199 pp based on two to a room. **Also offering air trip Sept. 26-29** with roundtrip air from Columbus to Omaha and 3 nights at the Embassy Suites in Omaha with breakfast daily, game tickets and transportation, and city tour of Lincoln. \$1,449 pp. Land only package available for Omaha portion.

**OSU vs. Northwestern: Oct. 17-20** – 3 nights motorcoach trip to Chicago with game on Friday nights permitting extra free time in Chicago with 3 nights in downtown Westin Magnificent Mile Hotel in the center of downtown Chicago with breakfast daily, game tickets and transportation and Mafia themed tour of Chicago. \$979 pp based on two to a room. **Also offering air trip Oct. 17-20** with 3 nights in Chicago at the

Westin Magnificent Mile Hotel in the center of downtown Chicago with breakfast daily, game tickets in Ohio State section with transportation, roundtrip airport transportation and Mafia themed tour of Chicago. \$1,289 pp based on two to a room. Land only package is available.

**OSU vs. Rutgers: Nov. 14-17** – 3 night motorcoach trip to New York with 3 nights accommodations in the heart of Manhattan at the Sheraton Times Square with breakfast daily, Tour of Hudson River Valley, game tickets with transportation. \$1,149 pp based on two to a room. **Also offering air trip from Nov. 14-17** with 3 nights at the Sheraton Times Square with breakfast daily, airport transportation roundtrip, tour of the Hudson River Valley game ticket and transportation. \$1,589 pp based on two to a room. Land only package is available.

**OSU vs. Michigan, "Big Game in the Big House": Nov. 29-30** – 1 night motorcoach trip with accommodations for Friday night at the MGM Resort and Casino in Detroit including breakfast on Saturday and game ticket with return to Columbus after the game. \$609 pp based on two to a room.

**Reds vs. Indians trip: July 6-7, 2019** – motorcoach trip and overnight in Cincinnati including two games with club seating. \$489 pp based on two/room.

*Trips fully escorted by Reynolds Travel, offering Ohio State trips since 1978.*

*Visit our website at [www.reynoldstravel.com](http://www.reynoldstravel.com) to see more.*

**Reynolds Travel, LLC**

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

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!



PRESENTED BY  
**Dinsmore**

New for 2019, the Reds Hall of Fame and Museum is proud to announce **FREE** general admission for all active and retired military personnel, courtesy of the Sargent Family Foundation.

Visit [REDSMUSEUM.ORG](http://REDSMUSEUM.ORG) for more information.

\*Does not include collectible gift

**BSB: The morning of the Michigan game in 1991, Ohio State announced a three-year contract extension for Cooper. The Wolverines won 31-3, though, leading to criticism of the move. Looking back on the decision, what do you think about the optics of it? Do you ever wish you could do it differently?**

Jones: "No. Nope. I did it the way we should have done it. It just didn't all work out. The president wanted to talk to me about it and he was getting a lot of pressure, as was I, and obviously John was not the most popular guy in Columbus. And I said, 'Mr. President, you need to understand. No. 1, in my opinion, Ohio State embarrassed themselves by the way in which we got rid of Earle Bruce.' I said, 'I don't think that we should do that a second time. And my contention is we gave this guy five years, and I think we should live out the five years, OK? I don't think we ought to do it any different than that. And one additional thing. I think we need to add three years to his contract.' And of course, the president said, 'Oh, my God. I'll never sell that to the board.' I said, 'Well, here's the way you sell it to the board, because here's the way it ought to be looked at.'

"We were going to add three years. What I was interested in was John Cooper and his staff, as much pressure as they were getting, be able to go into a recruit's home and say, 'You don't have to worry, because Coach Cooper has a four-year contract, through your four years, OK?' That was my thinking in why we wanted to add. I think that was logical, so I've never gone back and thought any differently. Obviously, it didn't come off well in the press and the result of the game didn't help it, but nevertheless, we survived it.

"That particular Michigan game, the president – behind my back – had a PR guy release it to the press just before the kickoff that we were adding three years to the contract. Clearly, that did not sit well with the press. They didn't want to get it at the last minute. They wanted to cover the game and on and on and on. And it is what it is. I would not have released it that way, no. I was never asked, so I never had to answer that question from any press people I know of, but he decided that's the way he wanted it done and it was released – not by me – that we were adding three years to the contract. And of course, the press guys, that's not what they wanted to cover right there. They wanted to cover the game."

**BSB: On the court, head men's basketball coach Gary Williams (1986-89) left Ohio State for Maryland – his alma mater – after three years. But things seemed more complicated. Why do you think Williams left?**

Jones: "Well, Gary Williams was a good basketball coach. If I were to criticize him after the fact, the only criticism I have of the way he coached the team was he wound them up tighter than a ball of string. It was difficult to play for Gary Williams, and that's just how he ran his operation. I think that took its toll on our players, but that's just me.

"Why did he leave? I think part of it was he got sold a bill of goods by Rick Bay when we hired him, but I don't know that that's fair in that he came from a school, Boston College, where football was more important and hockey was more important than basketball. And I don't think he was looking for that to happen again. And it turned out that's exactly what happened.

"I told Gary this once – and no one knows this – but we had this discussion. I was in his office, and I said, 'Gary, I want you to look out the window and then I want you to take a walk with me.' We were in St. John Arena. He said, 'Well, where are we going?' I said, 'Well, we're going out and we're walking around that stadium. There is no university that I know of that has a 90,000-seat stadium in the middle of

their campus. So don't think for one minute that anything is going to be more important than football at Ohio State. That's foolish to think that way. That doesn't mean you can't be as important as football, but you're never going to outshine football in Columbus, Ohio. Fred Taylor did a super job with our men's basketball program and our basketball program was very good, but you've got to understand my point."

**BSB: Did you ever feel like Williams was uncomfortable at Ohio State or grew tired of basketball being second to football?**

Jones: "I don't have any idea. I never discussed that with him. He played at Maryland and he got that opportunity, but he had interviewed at more than one place. And I finally told him, 'You know what, Gary? You've got to decide where you want to be.' I said, 'I can't keep going to the president and telling him that I'm giving you permission to interview someplace. Because at some point in time, he's going to ask me, well, do you have the wrong guy?' And I didn't think we had the wrong guy, but I don't think he was ever comfortable at Ohio State. And Maryland, of course, was going home. Obviously, he did a hell of a job at Maryland. After the fact, they thought highly of him."

**BSB: You ultimately promoted Randy Ayers, an assistant for Williams for all three seasons, to head coach in 1989. What went into the decision to hire him?**

Jones: "Well, two or three things. You're talking to an old traditionalist, who had been at Ohio State for a long time and Ohio State means a lot to him, Jim Jones.

"However, when Gary Williams left us, it was late in the summertime, so that it was going to be difficult to get anybody with any kind of a job to interview at Ohio State. Because if you had done a pretty good job, you don't want it to get out, just before school starts, that you're looking to leave. That's one. You don't want that to leak out, so that made it difficult to get somebody, and that was a major problem. And (promoting Ayers) had nothing to do with other than the fact that Gary decided to leave and it was late. Most of the guys that had pretty good jobs had agreed to stay where they were and they weren't looking, so it was difficult for us. But yes, we did interview some other people. And in the end, I decided that Randy Ayers was the guy. And I think Randy did a good job with us. Subsequently, I don't know what my successors thought after I left.

"I watched Randy as an assistant to Gary and

I watched him in recruiting. You've got to look at what's important when you're hiring a coach. It's can they recruit, how's the public image and so on. He had checked all the boxes for me. The only thing that you wished that he'd had was experience. He had never been a head coach. Up till then, he had done all the other things. He had played, he been at a high level, he had been a No. 1 assistant, he had done a lot of recruiting. So he did all of those things."

**BSB: Ayers got off to a good start at Ohio State, eventually clashing with Indiana and Bobby Knight, rekindling a rivalry between the Buckeyes and Hoosiers. What did you think about the rivalry between OSU and IU at that time?**

Jones: "Indiana and Ohio State had a rivalry way back to Fred Taylor. Bob Knight is a good friend of mine. He was a student (playing forward for the Buckeyes from 1959-62). He had his feelings about Ohio State. I think, at one point in time of his career, I bet you he would have loved to succeed his coach, who was Fred Taylor, at Ohio State. But I don't know that. That adds fuel to the fire of the rivalry. And clearly, if you're sitting where Randy is, you don't enjoy anybody making comparisons to somebody else's program as compared to yours."

**BSB: Drama came in 1993 when there were minor recruiting violations for Ohio State's pursuit of Cincinnati Woodward guard Damon Flint, who ended up signing with Cincinnati. Did it seem minor at the time?**

Jones: "Well, I don't know what you want me to think. It was a minor thing. In today's world, they probably wouldn't have even looked at it. In all kinds of ways in recruiting, with what you're allowed to do and where you're allowed to take recruits and so on, today (has changed drastically).

"Part of the thing that blew up with the Damon Flint situation was because he was being recruited by Cincinnati, which is not one of the favorite schools for Ohio State and, two, we were accused of taking him to lunch over at that restaurant on Olentangy River Road, which is less than a mile and a half from the (athletics) office. I don't remember now why we went there. I don't remember now why school was closed. But at any rate, in those days, you weren't supposed to take them any place, I guess, and we did – that is, Randy's staff did."

**BSB: How much did the Flint probe wear you down? Did it at all?**

Jones: "No. Nope. Because I thought we

did everything that we were supposed to do. I responded to the NCAA and it is what it is. If they decide there's a violation, tell me what the violation is and what the penalty is. That didn't bother me. Obviously, it must've bothered Andy Geiger or he wouldn't have let (Ayers) go."

**BSB: You ultimately resigned. Was there a buyout involved? What went into the decision to step down?**

Jones: "Well, No. 1, I didn't get a buyout. No. 2, I had the maximum number of years in the retirement system already. The president and I weren't on the same wavelength, and I determined that I couldn't continue working for him and I'm sure he thought the same thing. So I just stepped down."

**BSB: Did you feel like you were forced out?**

Jones: "It was my decision to leave. I guess I could have fought it a little longer to see if I was going to be forced out. I didn't think about that. I just couldn't get on the same wavelength as the president. Therefore, it was up to me to leave. My predecessor, if you recall, got into a catfight with the board of trustees and the president. I was determined that I wasn't going to be one of those kinds of people.

"But I didn't get any buyout. I wish that I had, now that I look at all these numbers. (Laughs.) When I look at the fact that Gene Smith (makes a lot) – well, go back to Andy Geiger. Andy Geiger, his first salary was way more than my best salary ever. And Gene Smith, you know, makes my salary look like a custodian's salary."

**BSB: How much do you pay attention to Ohio State athletics today?**

Jones: "I pay a lot of attention to Ohio State and the decisions, where they go and so on. I go to all the football games, and I go to a few basketball games before I go to Florida (for the winter). I just happen to go to Florida, so I don't see many basketball games."

**BSB: What are your thoughts on Gene and what he's done throughout the course of his tenure as athletic director since 2005? You were someone who was in his shoes – obviously, at a different time. But you know what comes with sitting in that red chair.**

Jones: "Well, No. 1, I believe that the predecessor has no business judging your successor. Secondly, I don't see that he's done anything wrong, offensive, whatever. He's done it different. It's his ideas as opposed to what I might have done or what other people might do. I think he's done fine. He's clearly got the department in good financial shape."

*Hole-In-One Commemorative Ring®*



Celebrate that perfect shot

The ultimate reward for the ultimate achievement in golf.

Custom made in Gold or Silver  
Includes your name and the date of the big event.

Call or stop by today

**American Awards, Inc.**  
**2380 Harrisburg Pike**  
**614-875-1850**  
**www.awardsohio.com**