

BUCKEYE SPORTS BULLETIN

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Vol. 20, No. 28

"For The Buckeye Fan Who Needs To Know More"

June 2001

Zwick Tabs OSU Over Michigan

Tressel Bags Ohio's Career Passing King

By GARY HOUSTEAU and STEVE HELWAGEN
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Members

Jim Tressel will not lead the Ohio State Buckeyes against Michigan for the first time as the OSU head coach until Nov. 24, but he already has secured one major victory over the Wolverines.

Instead of the gridiron, though, this victory came on the recruiting trail as highly sought quarterback Justin Zwick of Massillon (Ohio) Washington picked OSU over Michigan and a host of other schools during a May 30 announcement at a restaurant near his school.

"I feel that I have found a school that is great," Zwick told a crowd of over 100 media members, fans and friends. "It fits all the things that I've talked about."

"And that school will be The Ohio State University."

Just as he began to utter the words of his future school, Zwick casually reached below the podium and pulled out a Buckeye jersey with his No. 12 and his name already inscribed on the back.

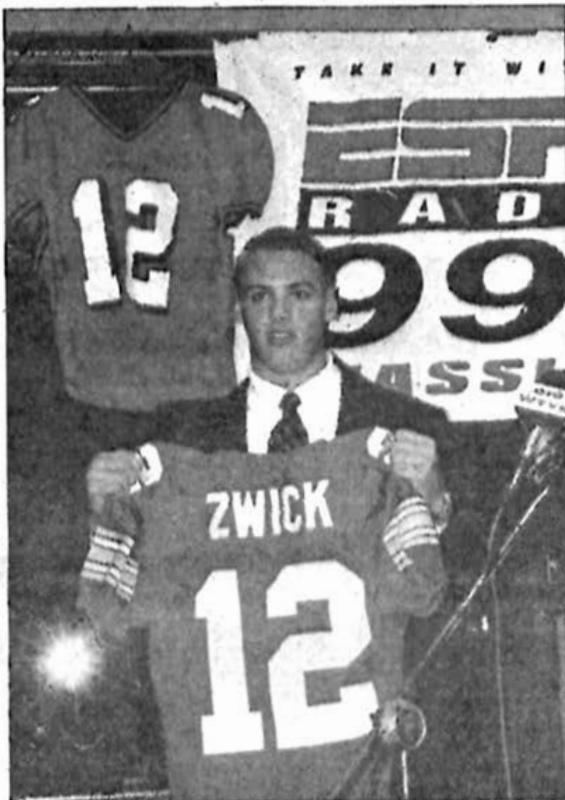
The 6-4, 205-pound Zwick is considered one of the nation's top quarterback prospects, ranking third among all junior prospects in the state by The Ohio Football Recruiting News. In three years as a starter — two at Orrville High School and one at Massillon — Zwick is already recognized as Ohio's high school career passing leader with 7,219 yards and 72 touchdowns to his credit (see graphic, page 19).

He joins Warren (Ohio) Harding running back Maurice Clarett and Van Wert, Ohio, defensive end Joel Penton as early verbals for 2002. But he likely will be seen as the cornerstone for what could be a big OSU recruiting class.

"I was a little surprised he made his decision this soon," said Bill Kurelic, who edits TOFRN. "I think it was a foregone conclusion that it was going to come down to Ohio State or Michigan, and I think most people thought it was going to be one of those old-school recruiting battles."

"But this is a huge, huge commitment for Ohio State. This could really turn into a snowball effect for the Buckeyes."

In fact, just five days after Zwick verbalized, Clarksburg (W.Va.) Byrd tight end R.J. Coleman, rated one of the nation's best at his position, committed as well to the Buckeyes (see Recruiting Outlook, pages 14-



GARY HOUSTEAU

WILL WEAR THIS NEXT YEAR — Massillon (Ohio) Washington quarterback Justin Zwick shows off his OSU jersey as he makes the announcement May 30 that he will sign in February to play for the Buckeyes.

Kennedy Resigns

Strength Coach Ends 12-Year OSU Tenure

By STEVE HELWAGEN
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

Dave Kennedy, a fixture with the Ohio State football program as the strength and conditioning coach for the last 12 seasons, abruptly turned in his resignation May 12.

The 40-year-old Kennedy, credited with producing a number of NFL stars in the Woody Hayes Athletic Center weight room, walked away from a lucrative long-term contract to "pursue other career opportunities," he said through an OSU release.



Dave Kennedy

Speculation immediately turned to a possible rift between Kennedy, who had almost full autonomy with the off-season conditioning program under former coach John Cooper, and new head coach Jim Tressel.

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Baseball Buckeyes Get NCAA Ouster From Delaware, Kent

By MIKE WACHSMAN
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

It wasn't supposed to end this way — not after all the hard work and dedication that had been put in.

But end it did for the Ohio State baseball team, which fell for the fourth time in five games on the way to being eliminated from an NCAA regional with losses to Delaware and Kent State May 25-26.

OSU coach Bob Todd may have done one of his best coaching jobs considering he had 12 freshmen and sophomores who got sizable playing time. The senior class was fairly small, and by the end of the year the youngsters had taken over.

It's not always easy to get the veterans to play nice with the pups, but that was one thing Todd



KEVIN DYE

NOT ENOUGH — Despite a homer from Doug Deeds (20), OSU lost two straight and was eliminated from the NCAA tournament.

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OPINION

Zwick Verbal A Coup For Tressel

When people ask me what Buckeye Sports Bulletin is all about — believe me, there are a few people out there who still haven't heard of us yet — I say the following:

"Well, we cover all of Ohio State's varsity sports. There are 35 of them, you know. But we really emphasize football, football recruiting and basketball."

That explanation usually gains a knowing nod and a smile before that person asks how they can obtain a copy.

All of this, of course, leads back to the fact that Massillon (Ohio) Washington wunderkind quarterback Justin Zwick committed to the Buckeyes on May 30.

That news, from where I see it, is going to have a major impact on OSU football recruiting and, ultimately, OSU football. So, according to my own definition, Zwick's verbal to the Buckeyes was a pretty big deal around here. (Do we even have to mention that Zwick picked the Buckeyes over Michigan? We do? OK.)

I know I never went on record with these pages as saying I believed this would be the end result. I did, however, do just that on our Internet site, although I admitted I had no special insight, just a gut feeling.

Zwick spent at least three days this spring at OSU watching practice and meeting with the coaches. It was easy to see the gleam in his eye whenever he was around the Woody Hayes Athletic Center and Jim Tressel.

Everything just fit perfectly, and it made total sense when Zwick ended the suspense with his verbal commitment to OSU.

What does this mean? Well, having Zwick officially (well, verbally, at least) on board means a lot for Ohio State.

We don't know for sure that he will ever lead OSU to a Big Ten championship, much less a national title (remember, the wait is now 32 years and counting on that last one). But Zwick's verbal gives everybody hope that things of that nature are in the offing.

OSU's assistant coaches now have a bona fide quarterback recruit to sell to other potential prospects.

I am not necessarily a proponent of the avalanche effect or the domino theory. Just because OSU has Zwick does not mean it can automatically expect other potentially great prospects to just jump in the boat.

If OSU succeeds in landing, say, Avon Lake, Ohio, linebacker Mike D'Andrea, whom most people are making out to be the next Andy Katzenmoyer, it will be because OSU is the best place for Mike D'Andrea.

I'm sure most OSU supporters are hopeful Zwick's verbal will help the Buckeyes land about five really good offensive linemen, the same number the Buckeyes need, by the way.

In fact, Zwick's verbal may have had a hand in West Virginia's R.J. Coleman, a highly rated tight end, finalizing his verbal to the school three

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK with Steve Helwagen

days later.

More than anything, Zwick's verbal gives OSU's first-year head coach some much needed credibility. Since his appointment, Tressel has succeeded in landing a handful of stellar prospects.

It should be noted, though, that his gets on Maurice Clarett and Zwick seemed almost preordained.

Can he sustain this kind of momentum and truly capitalize on what could be the best year for talent in Ohio in some time? I don't know, but it looks like he's off to a great start.

As for Zwick, I like the kid's moxie. His move from Orrville to Massillon a year ago created quite a stir among the locals just west of Canton.

He said some of his so-called friends in his hometown have turned their backs on him. But you know what, he did what he felt was best for him.

This is not to say that football at Orrville is not a big deal, because the Red Riders have been perennial play-off contenders in Divisions III and IV.

However, one look at Massillon's schedule tells you everything you need to know. Zwick tested his mettle against seven or more of Ohio's best high school programs last season, including longtime powerhouses Lima Senior, Cleveland St. Ignatius and Canton McKinley as well as bitter rival Massillon Perry.

This is the kind of schedule a kid needs to face to prepare to play quarterback in the Big Ten, and Zwick largely succeeded against it.

Honestly, after Scott McMullen, Craig Krenzel and Rick McFadden took turns impressing practice observers this spring, there may not be an urgency for Zwick to come in and start in 2002.

And, in making his commitment, Zwick said all the right things: He'd take a redshirt year or compete for the job, whichever Tressel chooses.

Even casual observers were impressed with the way Zwick handled the hubbub surrounding his commitment announcement.

The next big event will be the OSU

summer camp. I would look for more big developments coming out of the camp.

Also On My Mind

I was hardly surprised when word broke that Dave Kennedy had resigned his lucrative post as OSU's strength and conditioning coach.

Like Zwick's verbal, it seemed almost preordained that Kennedy's presence at OSU was coming to an end. I wouldn't say Tressel and his staff necessarily usurped Kennedy's authority, but a number of sources noted that the days when John Cooper had given the noted strength coach carte blanche to conduct workouts as he saw fit were over.

In any field, it's hard to go on when the sand shifts under your feet like that.

I am not of the mind to jump on the anti-Kennedy bandwagon now that he's gone. In the final analysis, he was good for OSU as well as the players, individually.

But Tressel clearly wanted to take things in a new direction. It looks like he is getting his wish.

It was sad to see the OSU baseball team's season come to such an unceremonious end. Bob Todd's Buckeyes worked hard to secure their birthright, the Big Ten's regular-season title.

Unfortunately, it seems that has become the biggest hurdle this program can clear. Untimely breaks proved costly in both the Big Ten and NCAA tournaments, each of which the Buckeyes hosted in the friendly confines of Bill Davis Stadium.

We know Todd is probably the best thing to ever happen to OSU baseball. It's my hunch that he will be the man who gets this program over the hump and on to Omaha.

Finally, we are proud to announce our new partnership with recruiting expert Bill Kurelic as well as with Alliance Sports, our new Internet provider.

We are continuing a period of transition, but once everything is in place we think this is going to be the best Internet site for coverage of OSU athletics and recruiting. In the meantime, we ask for your patience.

We will have more announcements in the months ahead. For now, check out the story on page 7 for more details.

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bend and a goalpost toss. Nearly 20 judges and 200 spectators attended the tryout.

Freshman Eric Sommer of Avon Lake, Ohio, was selected as the assistant drum major. He is the brother of former drum major Scott Sommer.

County Set To Approve Lane Avenue Bridge Plans

Franklin County commissioners were expected to grant approval June 5 for the long-awaited Lane Avenue bridge project over the Olentangy River.

The \$15.9 million bridge project will stretch over the next two years before its projected completion in September 2003.

Planners have been careful to make sure the old bridge will remain open for each home OSU football game over the next two seasons. The only game that might be affected could be the Aug. 30, 2003, date with Washington.

The new six-lane bridge, which will replace a three-lane bridge built in 1919, should be in place before students report to class in September 2003.

Construction on the new bridge will begin in August with a new span just south of the existing bridge. The old bridge will be demolished after the Nov. 23, 2002, home football game with Michigan.

But even then, pedestrians will be routed over the completed portion of the new bridge for football games or Schottenstein Center events.

The bridge will be unique with 200-foot tall columns and cable strands to give the effect of a suspension bridge.

OSU football fans who have parked along the Lane Avenue corridor were notified regarding parking changes for the upcoming season, particularly involving the St. John Arena northside RV lot.

The Lane Avenue widening project will take a number of spots from those St. John lots, relegating some who have parked there in the past into lots west of the Olentangy River.

Miscellaneous Notes

• According to reports, OSU hockey freshman R.J. Umberger had been rated as high as fifth among skater prospects by the NHL's Central Scouting Bureau and was an almost certainty to be a first-round pick in the league's entry draft, set for June 23-24.

The 6-2, 200-pound Umberger took a break from his first OSU season to represent the U.S. in the World Junior Championships in Moscow in December.

Ex-OSU AD Weaver Dead At 90

Many will remember J. Edward Weaver as the Ohio State athletic director who tried to calm down Woody Hayes and forced Fred Taylor to resign.

His friends, however, recall an old-school administrator who cared deeply for people and OSU, and who helped open the gym doors for women's athletics.

A strong presence as the OSU AD in the 1970s, Weaver died at University Medical Center May 23 at the age of 90. He was admitted to the hospital five days prior to his death.

"He was very unique; there was no one else like him," said longtime friend Dick Smith, president of Buckeye Boosters. "He had tremendous integrity. If he believed in something, there was no gray area."

"I think you would associate his period as athletic director with the coming of women's sports," former OSU sports information director Marv Homan said of Weaver. "It sort of burst out. And he certainly did his share as far as boosting women's sports. Ohio State was known at the time as being one of the leaders, not just in the Big Ten but nationally, in scholarships at that time. He really believed in Title IX."

Weaver served as AD from 1970-77, becoming just the third person to hold that post since OSU joined the Big Ten conference in 1913. L.W. St. John served as OSU's first AD from 1912-47. Richard Larkins also had a long reign from 1947-70.

Under Weaver, OSU brought on its first female associate AD in Phyllis Bailey and the realm of sports programs grew from 18 to 30. Weaver once called that growth the highlight of his career.

A native of Marysville, Ohio, Weaver graduated from OSU in 1933. He coached football for one year at Findlay College before entering into the finance business.

He served in the counterintelligence corps during World War II before beginning his tenure at OSU in 1946. His posts there included work for the alumni office and the athletic ticket office, taking the latter job in

1950 in place of retired ticket director H. Wade Kramer.

"One of my favorite stories about Ed," said OSU historian Jack Park, "was when he was ticket director in the early '50s. He took some people to the old Jai Lai restaurant on North High Street for lunch and when he came out his front windshield was soaked. There was a message written in soap, 'I can't see from my seats either. I always thought that was pretty funny.'"

Even though that particular fan recognized Weaver's mode of transportation, Weaver kept a fairly low profile, even as AD.

He left the athletic department in 1953 to become an administrative assistant to OSU's vice president of business and finance. That set up a term as associate AD that began in 1958 and lasted until he replaced Larkins as AD in October 1970.

Weaver came into power at a time when journalists began to document the ups and downs of athletes in greater detail and when Hayes was fuming with regularity.

"To be honest, I don't think the job of athletic director was what he thought it would be, being under fire all the time," Homan said. "He was always kind of bothered by that. And when the criticism came, and it does with that job, he tended to get defensive and not want to talk about it."

Weaver preferred the school's great student-athletes being in the spotlight, which is one reason he was instrumental in founding the Ohio State Athletics Hall of Fame. In fact, the Varsity "O" Association announced the development of the Hall of Fame at Weaver's retirement banquet. As fate would have it, Weaver himself was inducted in 1993.

But football was never overshadowed in the 1970s. During his eight-year tenure, OSU won at least a share of seven Big Ten titles and went to five Rose Bowls, four of them in the era of Archie Griffin, who became the only person to win two Heisman Trophies (1974, '75). Even more than before, football was king at Ohio State.

Weaver oversaw the installation of artificial turf and vinyl seat coverings in Ohio Stadium. He also approved the addition of a 10th and 11th game to the season ledger, which helped him run his finances in the black each year, with the excess going to the school's general fund.

"Ed did a lot for the football program," Park said. "I'm not suggesting it was at the expense of something else, but football sure didn't lose anything under him."

However, Weaver never cared for the volatile behavior of Hayes. Ironically, Weaver was replaced by Hugh Hindman, who was known for having a calming effect on Hayes while serving on Hayes' staff.



J. Edward Weaver

More ironic, Hindman was the one who fired Hayes at the end of the 1978 season.

Weaver, meanwhile, dealt with the backlash of the ouster of Taylor, the Hall of Fame coach who guided OSU to a national title in 1960 and seven Big Ten titles between 1960-71.

The two were said to have been at odds ever since Taylor suggested that the administration didn't react well enough to the famous 1972 brawl at Minnesota.

"I would suspect our problems started with the Minnesota thing," Weaver once told The Columbus Dispatch. "I would suspect, but I don't know for sure. But there was nothing that could be done with that we didn't do on that thing."

Weaver looked to replace the beloved Taylor by hiring little-known Eldon Miller from Western Michigan. That reportedly alienated former Buckeyes who were hoping OSU would court a Taylor protegee such as Don DeVoe or Bob Knight.

From 1976-77 to 1985-86, Miller compiled four 20-win seasons and owned a 10-year mark of 176-118 but never led OSU to a Big Ten title. During that span, Knight led Indiana to three league titles, an NIT championship and an NCAA championship.

Legend has it that Weaver died secretly meet with Knight for an interview in 1976, not long after Knight won his first NCAA title and recorded the last undefeated season (32-0) in NCAA history. But the meeting reportedly did not go well.

Weaver resigned as OSU AD in April 1977. He was hired the following year by New York Yankees owner George Steinbrenner to serve as a team vice president, a role he kept until his death. His main job in that capacity was to serve as a public relations liaison between the parent Yankees and their Triple-A affiliate, the Columbus Clippers.

Steinbrenner, a good friend of Weaver, created the post after conferring with Columbus general manager George Sisler. Steinbrenner attended Weaver's May 26 funeral at First Community Church in Columbus.

Smith, who also serves as the president of the board of the Clippers, eulogized Weaver at the service.

"We had a packed house (at the chapel)," Smith said. "I talked mostly about his legacy as athletic director and about all the good qualities he had. He was the kind of person who would ask how your family was doing and he was genuinely interested."

"At the end I said, 'I know of no better way to honor such a person than with a standing round of applause,' and they did. They clapped like hell."

Weaver is survived by a brother, Tom, who lives in Delaware, Ohio.

— Jeff Rapp

With OSU, he had 14 goals and 23 assists in 32 games despite playing with a broken jaw.

Umberger repeatedly has said he expects to return to OSU.

"The Ohio State coaches want me to come back and play again," he said. "But it will be tough if I get drafted high."

• OSU will host an athletic training workshop on campus June 24-28. Both high school students interested in attaining basic athletic training knowledge and skills and those interested in exploring athletic training as a career are encouraged to attend.

The workshop will consist of both lecture and laboratory sessions, covering a variety of athletic training topics.

Laboratory sessions will emphasize information in pertinent topics such as prevention, recognition and evaluation of athletic injuries; immediate first aid; emergency response training; and methods of taping and wrapping the athlete. Selected advanced lectures will be conducted for the student with previous workshop or clinical experience.

Resident tuition is \$325 and includes housing, meals, workshop manual, taping supplies and a camp T-shirt. Commuter tuition is \$250. For more information, call (614) 292-1164, fax requests to (614) 292-3258, or visit the OSU Camps web site at www.ohiostatebuckeyes.com.

• Former OSU receiver Terry Glenn

was arrested on an assault and battery charge after a domestic dispute May 15 at his Walpole, Mass., home.

Glenn, now a member of the New England Patriots, was reportedly involved in an incident with a Columbus woman who is the mother of his 5-year-old child.

His attorney, James Gould, said no one was hit in the incident. Glenn was released on \$1,000 cash bail.

• Former OSU defensive end Brent Johnson signed a free-agent contract with the NFL's Jacksonville Jaguars.

• Former OSU running back Vince Workman changed jobs with the NFL's Green Bay Packers. Packers coach and general manager Mike Sherman moved

OHIO STATE FOOTBALL

Tressel, Bollman Buoyed By Walter's Showing

If a sixth-year senior could ever qualify as a pleasant surprise, that would probably describe the feeling after offensive tackle Tyson Walter completed spring practice with no ill effects.

Walter, OSU's starter at left tackle from 1997-99, missed last season as he suffered from a mysterious hip infection. But he made strides this spring toward reclaiming that job, moving 2000 starter Adrien Clarke to the opening at right tackle in the process.

"He did much more than we thought he would," OSU coach Jim Tressel said of Walter's spring. "This winter, he kind of eased into it. He would do some things and then end up hurting himself.

GRIDIRON NOTES

with
Steve Helwagen

"His injury was one the doctors had never seen before. They scoured the country and found no evidence in football of somebody who had come back from this."

But that did not deter Walter, who ended up being full-go for all 15 practice sessions of the spring.

"The main school of thought when I was coming back in February and March was I probably wouldn't do much of anything in the spring," he said. "It was one of those deals where I came out and said, 'Let's see how it feels and go from there.'"

"I pushed it and sometimes I didn't tell the trainers I was going to do drills and they didn't see me until I was already doing them. We had a few discussions that they should probably be informed before I do that."

"I've pushed it a little bit and maybe sometimes more than I should have. But it's held up well and I've made some progress."

Tressel spent some time with



BACK IN THE SADDLE — After missing the 2000 season, Tyson Walter was back at left tackle for the Buckeyes in the spring.

Walter prior to spring practice, discussing the tackle's ongoing lawsuit with teammate LeCharles Bentley stemming from an alleged assault last February. But talk about the lawsuit subsided as Walter showed he was serious about playing for the Buckeyes this season.

"My thing to Tyson was just for him to be honest," Tressel said. "I told him he didn't need to be a hero and try to prove he was a great guy because he wanted to be out there."

"But he did show me and he showed this team he is very interested in being a part of it."

Offensive coordinator Jim Bollman, who doubles as the line coach, was glad to see Walter establish himself.

"It's been a pleasant surprise," Bollman said. "Every day, he keeps getting better. I don't know that our medical people — and certainly not myself — had any idea how he would respond. It's really been OK. Honestly, more than OK."

"You can see he's played a little bit, but he's doing every single thing I've ever talked to him about or taught him. There has not been a single thing I've asked him to do that he hasn't attempted to master."

Walter spent the spring trying to hold off an array of athletic OSU ends, including Tim Cheatwood, Kenny Peterson, Darrion Scott and Will Smith. As the spring wore on and he became more comfortable, Walter held his own in those battles.

"Even in the Big Ten, you sometimes just see big guys at end who are plodders," Walter said. "These guys are speed rushers. They really help you get better."

But Walter admitted that he is not back to full strength yet.

"I'm nowhere close to 100 percent," he said. "I'm probably about 70 percent. I said that earlier in the spring, but I don't think I realized how down I really was. When I first started out, I was probably 45 or 50 percent."

"The biggest thing I notice now is burst. I'm nowhere close to where that was. Hopefully this time we're going into, the summer, will help with that."

Bollman notes that Walter's experience is a plus. If he can build his

strength in time for the fall, he could be a solid contributor.

"If he goes on and has a good summer and picks up from where he left off, he should be in good shape and ready to go," Bollman said.

Bollman On QB Battle

The story line that would not die at the end of spring practice was the battle at quarterback, where incumbent starter Steve Bellisari appeared to hold off sophomores Scott McMullen and Craig Krenzle and redshirt freshman Rick McFadden heading into the summer.

Newspapers teemed with headlines about the quarterback battle after the spring game, but Bollman said the staff never intended to bus home from the Scarlet and Gray Game at Columbus Crew Stadium with a clear-cut first-team quarterback in mind.

"That was not a plan or necessity that we had to come out of the spring making sure everything was finalized," Bollman said. "I don't feel any big concern about that."

Rather, Bollman walked away from the scrimmage pleased with the entire group.

"I think all four guys definitely contributed," he said. "I think throughout the spring Steve Bellisari has consistently showed us his toughness. We're trying to put him in some different situations where he has certain decision-making on different kinds of throws and can be on the move and that kind of stuff."

"And the other guys have continued to come along, I think, too."

Also pleased with what he saw up front, Bollman said the pregame plan to throw the ball with regularity — the two teams combined for 57 passes out of 89 plays in the final scrimmage — also could serve the offensive line down the road.

"We want to keep working the quarterbacks, and as I've been saying, the success of our passing game is going to be a huge factor in how we can run the ball," said the coordinator. "If we can't threaten some people and get some safeties out of the box, it's always hard to run the ball. I haven't figured out yet how to teach my linemen to block two guys at once."

College Previews Rampant

A number of national Internet sites and magazines are beginning to publish previews on the upcoming season. Here is a sampling of what some of these sites and magazines are saying about the Buckeyes.

• **Collegefootballnews.com** — CFN.com projects OSU as having a 7-4 record and tying for third in the Big Ten at 5-3. Michigan, projected at 9-2 overall and 7-1 in Big Ten play, is picked to win the league.

"The talent is still here and with new head coach Jim Tressel, they'll have a new attitude," CFN.com wrote of the Buckeyes. "There aren't any real weaknesses on this team, but the offense could use some punch. The defense could be amazing with an awesome back seven if the corners come around."

This site lists Bentley as OSU's top offensive player, saying he is "a serious Outland and Lombardi Award candidate with great size and durability."

2001 OSU Football

SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	2000		
		Record	Time	TV
Sept. 8	AKRON@	6-6	12:10 p.m.	ESPN+Plus
Sept. 15	SAN DIEGO STATE#	3-8	TBA	TBA
Sept. 22	at UCLA*	6-6	3:30 p.m.	ABC
Sept. 29	at Indiana	3-8	TBA	TBA
Oct. 6	NORTHWESTERN*	8-4	7:45 p.m.	ESPN
Oct. 13	WISCONSIN* &	9-4	3:30 p.m.	ABC
Oct. 27	at Penn State	5-7	TBA	TBA
Nov. 3	at Minnesota*	6-6	TBA	TBA
Nov. 10	PURDUE*	8-4	TBA	TBA
Nov. 17	ILLINOIS	5-6	TBA	TBA
Nov. 24	at Michigan*	9-3	1 p.m.	ABC

*Bowl team

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It also lists strong safety Mike Doss as the team's best defensive player, saying he is "a devastating hitter who'll be a finalist for the Jim Thorpe Award."

"The season will be a success if they beat Michigan," CFN.com wrote. "Tressel will be given a one-year pass, but they have to go into Ann Arbor and establish right away that he can, unlike John Cooper, beat Big Blue on a regular basis."

"Otherwise, the schedule is pretty easy getting Wisconsin, Northwestern and Purdue at home and missing Michigan State. A win over the Wolverines would put a new spin on the rivalry."

As for final thoughts, CFN.com wrote, "We say this for every Big Ten team, but there really isn't one team that stands out this year and the title is for the taking. An early road game at UCLA is a serious test, but the conference road slate, at Indiana, Penn State, Minnesota and Michigan, is manageable."

"Don't be surprised if they're right in the hunt for the Big Ten title, then have their hopes dashed in Ann Arbor."

CFN.com list OSU 34th nationally. Texas is the pick for No. 1. Others of note: UCLA (8), Michigan State (14), Purdue (15), Michigan (17) and Northwestern (20).

The Sporting News — TSN's Tom Dienhart left OSU out of his early top 25, picking Texas No. 1 to go with Northwestern (13), Michigan (17) and Purdue (25).

"Ohio State will have one of the best defenses in the Big Ten," Dienhart wrote. "Yes, the unit needs to develop two cornerbacks, but safeties Mike Doss and Donnie Nicky along with linebackers Matt Wilhelm and Joe Cooper are stellar."

TSN's Big Ten correspondent, Jemele Hill of the Detroit Free Press, offered a segment on what to look for in 2001:

"In addition to their coach, the Buckeyes said goodbye to 23 seniors. But some gems discovered last season should make some of the losses bearable. But there will be questions about the wide receiving unit and an offensive line that loses four (actually three) starters."

"Among the bright spots will be at tailback since Jonathan Wells will be healthy and capable of carrying the load alone."

ESPN.com — ESPN researcher Brad Edwards penned the following:

What's New?: It's always tough to succeed on the heels of success, but at least for now, new head coach Jim Tressel has the full support of the Buckeye family. He has emphasized hard work and teamwork, which might have been somewhat lacking in recent seasons on a roster full of top-level talent.

"Offensively, he used a wide range of looks in the spring to see what his personnel could do. In the fall, we'll see what he found."

Battling It Out: The tailback race is tight between senior Jonathan Wells and sophomore Sam Maldonado. Wells has the advantage in game experience, having started three times last year. Both are powerful runners with enough speed to get outside, and both showed significant improvement in the spring.

Eye Catcher (Will Smith): The previous coaching staff had high hopes for Smith, and now the new staff knows why. After seeing action as a true freshman, he had an impressive spring and is likely to take over the right defensive end spot. He has good size and strength and is very quick on his feet.

Budding Star (Adrien Clarke):

Preseason Top 25 Lists

CBS SportsLine.com	CNSI.com	College Football News.com	Football Digest	Fox Sports.com	Pigskin Post.com	The Sporting News
1. Florida	1. Florida	1. Texas	1. Oklahoma	1. Florida	1. Oklahoma	1. Texas
2. Miami (Fla.)	2. Miami (Fla.)	2. Florida	2. Florida	2. Miami (Fla.)	2. Florida	2. Florida
3. Texas	3. Oklahoma	3. Miami (Fla.)	3. Miami (Fla.)	3. Oklahoma	3. Miami (Fla.)	3. Miami (Fla.)
4. Tennessee	4. Tennessee	4. Tennessee	4. Florida State	4. Tennessee	4. Oregon	4. Oklahoma
5. Oklahoma	5. Texas	5. Virginia Tech	5. Georgia Tech	5. Oregon	5. Texas	5. Oregon
6. Florida State	6. Oregon	6. Florida State	6. Nebraska	6. Florida State	6. Florida State	6. Virginia Tech
7. Oregon	7. Florida State	7. Nebraska	7. Oklahoma	7. Texas	7. Tennessee	7. Florida State
8. Nebraska	8. Nebraska	8. UCLA	8. Nebraska	8. Washington	8. Georgia Tech	8. Nebraska
9. Georgia Tech	9. Washington	9. Oregon	9. Oregon	9. Georgia Tech	9. Nebraska	9. Nebraska
10. Kansas State	10. Virginia Tech	10. LSU	10. Kansas State	10. Nebraska	10. South Carolina	10. LSU
11. Washington	11. Clemson	11. Georgia Tech	11. Northwestern	11. Oregon State	11. Virginia Tech	11. Oregon State
12. Mississippi State	12. Georgia Tech	12. Nebraska	12. Virginia Tech	12. Kansas State	12. Kansas State	12. Georgia Tech
13. Oregon State	13. Oregon State	13. Colorado	13. South Carolina	13. Virginia Tech	13. LSU	13. Northwestern
14. South Carolina	14. LSU	14. Michigan State	14. Clemson	14. LSU	14. Northwestern	14. USC
15. LSU	15. Kansas State	15. Purdue	15. Ohio State	15. Northwestern	15. Michigan	15. Kansas State
16. Virginia Tech	16. Notre Dame	16. Kansas State	16. Notre Dame	16. UCLA	16. Oregon State	16. Notre Dame
17. Northwestern	17. South Carolina	17. Michigan	17. LSU	17. Michigan	17. Notre Dame	17. Michigan
18. Colorado State	18. Northwestern	18. South Carolina	18. UCLA	18. Mississippi State	18. Washington	18. Clemson
19. Michigan	19. UCLA	19. N.C. State	19. Colorado State	19. South Carolina	19. UNLV	19. South Carolina
20. Clemson	20. Michigan	20. Northwestern	20. Oregon State	20. Clemson	20. Georgia	20. Georgia
21. Notre Dame	21. Mississippi State	21. Washington	21. N.C. State	21. Notre Dame	21. Colorado	21. Mississippi State
22. Alabama	22. UNLV	22. Notre Dame	22. Washington	22. Colorado State	22. Mississippi State	22. Washington
23. UNLV	23. Colorado State	23. Arkansas	23. Arkansas	23. Stanford	23. Stanford	23. Alabama
24. UCLA	24. Louisville	24. Louisville	24. UNLV	24. Colorado	24. UCLA	24. East Carolina
25. Colorado	25. Pittsburgh	25. Clemson	25. Michigan	25. Alabama	25. Alabama	25. Pittsburgh

Clarke broke into the lineup in the third game of his redshirt freshman season last year and was the Buckeyes' starting left tackle the rest of the way.

"Now that Tyson Walter is back from his season-ending injury, Clarke might move to the right side, but he will definitely have a place in the starting lineup. He is an excellent pass blocker with his good agility and great size (6-4, 340)."

In a separate story, ESPN.com contributor David Albright got a small dig in at the Buckeyes when he discussed Northwestern's schedule for the upcoming season.

"Northwestern catches a bit of a break on the scheduling front as it loses Michigan and Wisconsin from its Big Ten schedule and replaces them with Ohio State and Penn State," Albright wrote.

CBS SportsLine.com — Senior writer Dennis Dodd issued his Big Ten overview recently. Of OSU, he wrote:

"The Buckeyes finished one game out of the three-team jumble at the top of the conference. They also won at least eight games in nine of the last 10 seasons."

"That was enough for Ohio State to fire John Cooper. As outlandish as it looked then, it's looking like a wise decision. The whole program seems refreshed by new coach Jim Tressel."

"The league has been warned. The Buckeyes were never far from the top under Cooper, but seemed to lack that certain something — an emphasis on beating Michigan. Tressel is counting the days until the teams next meet."

"Tressel is known as somewhat of a quarterback guru. He'll pull off a coup if he can get more out of inconsistent Steve Bellisari."

Dodd adds his reason why they can win it: "It's Ohio State. They're used to it."

PigskinPost.com — National columnist Darrin Donnelly lists Oklahoma as his early No. 1 pick. Others of note: Northwestern (14), Michigan (15), UCLA (23) and Ohio State (24).

Of OSU, he wrote, "A new coach and a new attitude for Ohio State this year. They could really surprise some folks in 2001, but I'll give them a moderate start for now."

Football Digest — Joe Donatelli penned the 2001 college preview for this venerable monthly, ranking Oklahoma No. 1. Others of note: Northwestern (11), Ohio State (15), UCLA (18) and

Michigan (25).

Of OSU, he wrote, "First-year coach Jim Tressel couldn't ask for a better start to his Buckeyes career. Six starters return on each side of the ball, the roster is loaded with John Cooper's recruiting gems and the Big Ten is down."

"If OSU can get consistent production from quarterback Steve Bellisari (if he winds up the starter, that is), the Buckeyes just might have something."

TV Times Set For 5 Games

In mid-May, OSU and the Big Ten announced starting times and TV assignments for five of OSU's 11 regular-season games for 2001.

As outlined in the May 12 edition of BSB, ABC will televise the Nov. 24 season finale at Michigan with a 1 p.m. starting time. That is a departure from the last two decades, as the OSU-Michigan game has typically begun in the noon hour.

Another major departure this season will be the first-ever Big Ten night game at Ohio Stadium as the Buckeyes host defending co-champion Northwestern Oct. 6. That game will be televised by

ESPN with a 7:45 p.m. start.

As part of the 10-year contract extension signed between the Big Ten, ABC and ESPN in 1997, one or more conference games each year have been moved to nighttime settings.

OSU is 4-0 in night games at the Horseshoe with wins over Pittsburgh in 1985, Washington in '93, Wyoming in '97 and UCLA in '99.

The Sept. 8 season opener with Akron will be televised by ESPN-Plus on regional syndication with a 12:10 p.m. start. The Sept. 22 game at UCLA and the Oct. 13 game with Wisconsin will each be televised at least regionally by ABC with 3:30 p.m. start times.

It seems likely that OSU's games at Penn State (Oct. 27) and Minnesota (Nov. 3) and home dates with Purdue (Nov. 10) and Illinois (Nov. 17) would be attractive TV games for either ABC or ESPN.

All 11 OSU games should be televised. Start times and TV assignments for the remaining September games — Sept. 15 with San Diego State and Sept. 29 at Indiana — should be announced by early July.



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COVER STORY: KENNEDY RESIGNS

Tressel Wants To Find A Replacement Soon

Continued From Page 1

Other than the OSU release, Kennedy has not been available for comment on his resignation.

"I made this decision a while ago but chose to stay until this time to ensure as smooth a transition as possible while the team began preparation for the upcoming season," Kennedy said in the release.

By all accounts, Tressel has taken a more hands-on approach to everything involved with the OSU program, including the off-season conditioning program.

But he admitted that he was caught off guard by Kennedy's resignation, especially since the critical summer conditioning period begins in June.

"I had a pretty busy schedule planned out for the month of May with alumni club meetings and recruiting responsibilities," Tressel told BSB. "Then this happened and it suddenly became a priority as well."

When asked what the timeline was to hire a new strength coach, Tressel said, "Fast. We are subject to the regular university procedures on hiring, but we're building a case to do this as quickly as we can. We have a solid list of people we're looking at and the reality is any position at Ohio State will have tremendous interest."

"I would like to have someone here and in place by mid-June. We'd like to have somebody here in time for our youth camp. The strength and conditioning training are a big part of the camp and there is also the safety factor when you have young players using your facilities."

But just because there is some urgency, Tressel is in no hurry to hire just anybody.

"I look at that job as being on par with a coordinator's job, like our offensive, defensive and special teams coordinators," he said. "I've been making as many as 20 phone calls a day, talking to people about our various candidates."

A Hard-Earned Reputation

Cooper brought Kennedy to OSU in June 1989 from Nebraska, where he served as the assistant strength coach at his alma mater.

Kennedy soon built a reputation as one of the nation's most innovative strength and conditioning gurus. He also became a confidante for a number of OSU players.

As the years passed, a number of former Buckeyes — most notably Joey Galloway, Eddie George, Robert Smith and Chris Spielman — put their NFL careers in Kennedy's hands by spending much of their off-season time with him at the WHAC.

"The thing I think people need to understand is that Coach Kennedy takes a lot of pride in the fact that there is more to his program than just building your bench, your squat and lowering your 40 time," said former OSU quarterback Kirk Herbstreit, who remained close with Kennedy after his playing days.

"It also involved nutrition and the conditioning factor. Whatever it was, he raised the bar every year. He'd say, 'We did this last year, so this year we're going to do this.'"

"He also helped players with their mental approach to the game and how they dealt with things in their personal lives. The players went to him for counseling. He was with the players all year."

At Cooper's behest, OSU twice upped the ante to keep Kennedy in Columbus. The University of Florida came calling several years ago, while coach Bill Belichick and the NFL's New England Patriots made a serious bid for Kennedy's services a year ago.

Kennedy's new deal covered five years with five easily attainable one-year extensions tacked on. He made \$120,000 in the first year of the deal and was due \$10,000 raises each year for the life of the contract. Had he stayed at OSU through 2009, Kennedy would have been in line to make as much as \$210,000.

The deal also protected Kennedy in case of a coaching change. Under the contract, Kennedy was to report directly to athletic director Andy Geiger and was to "confer" with the head coach on all administrative and technical matters.

If a new coach wanted to make a change, Kennedy would have been in line for a new assignment in the athletic department. Had he refused that assignment, he would have received two years of severance pay to find a new job.

Instead, Kennedy simply walked away from OSU and left all of that money on the table.

"Dave has been an integral part of the program the last 12 years and we wish him the very best," Geiger said in the OSU release. "He is a terrific strength coach and a sensational person."

Handwriting On The Wall

Upon his hiring on Jan. 18, Tressel admitted that he had sent his strength

coach from Youngstown State to obtain ideas from Kennedy. He said he was interested in seeing Kennedy "work his magic" with OSU's returning players.

But it became apparent very quickly that Tressel was shaking up every aspect of the program, including the strength and conditioning program.

The new coach had been on the job just over three weeks when he fired the first public salvo, saying at a high school coaches clinic that he'd like to see a provision on access to the WHAC weight room for former players: They would either need to have a degree or be pursuing one to work out alongside the current players.

That seemed to be contrary to the open-door policy Kennedy had been allowed to have under the Cooper regime.

Then Tressel and his assistants — in an effort to get acquainted with their players — conducted three weeks' worth of early-morning conditioning workouts at the end of winter quarter. Some saw the move as an intrusion on Kennedy's turf.

"Over the course of time under Coach Cooper, (Kennedy) grew into a role as a guy who was always there," Herbstreit said. "I think he grew accustomed to the freedom Coach Cooper had granted him."

"Coach Tressel came in and was more hands-on. He maybe wanted some of the responsibilities Coach Kennedy had. Maybe that had a hand in this decision."

Close observers of the program also noted that in a number of interviews on the subject, Tressel always stopped short of endorsing Kennedy's long-term status with the football program.

"I kind of thought something like this might happen when Coach Tressel was hired," Herbstreit said. "The one thing I noticed from afar was whenever he broke down the staff he always seemed to mention that Tim Spencer, Jim Heacock and Bill Conley would be sticking around."

"But when Coach Kennedy's name came up, he said he was monitoring

things to see what (Kennedy) was doing.

"Well, (Kennedy's) reputation speaks for itself. He's regarded as one of the best strength coaches in the country."

Herbstreit said a sector of former players may feel alienated by the program after what they perceive as shoddy treatment of Kennedy.

"With the whole NFL aspect and the fraternity he built, it will be interesting to see what happens and whether those players will continue to support the program. I know a lot of them are pretty upset right now," he said.

"But the program is bigger than any individual and I know Coach Tressel would love to have all of those guys continue to come in there."

Tressel defused the notion of a rift between him and Kennedy.

"I was a little bit surprised until I listened to Dave's thoughts," Tressel said. "This is a whole different change for him, and I don't necessarily think a negative one. I think it became an appropriate time for him."

Moving Forward

Kennedy's future remained up in the air.

He did not seem to be in a hurry to latch on with a college or NFL team in time for the upcoming season. He may, in fact, take this season off to assess his options.

Kennedy could then have his choice of opportunities at season's end. Or he could opt to open his own service for pro players and college standouts prepping for the draft.

As for Ohio State, Kennedy's assistant Dave Langworthy (see sidebar) was working to finish the spring quarter weightlifting program.

And Tressel was trying to find a suitable successor.

"In anything you do, you're disappointed when change occurs," Tressel said. "But I see this as a situation where we can make something positive happen."

Langworthy, Mannie Among Possible Choices

As BSB was going to press June 5, there had been no announcement on a possible successor to OSU strength and conditioning coach Dave Kennedy, who resigned May 12. However, a source close to the situation said he expected a new coach to be hired by June 10.

Since Kennedy's departure, his former assistant, Dave Langworthy, has been overseeing the football team's spring strength training program at the Woody Hayes Athletic Center.

"We've had guys in here every day since spring ball," Langworthy told BSB. "Attendance has been just about perfect. There's been no lack of dedication from anyone."

Langworthy said players were expected to be at the WHAC sporadically the week of June 5-9 due to final exams, but that head coach Jim Tressel expects them to lift and run four days a week throughout the summer. Langworthy should be there, too. In fact, he has interviewed for Kennedy's position.

"I've been in control so far," he said. "As to what is going to happen here soon, it's Coach Tressel's decision and I'll abide by it. I'm just looking at it that I'm taking care of business and doing my job."

"I would assume the fact that I'm still here is an indicator of good things. Whether they are really entertaining the idea of me as the new head guy, I don't know."

When asked whether Langworthy was a candidate to replace Kennedy, Tressel replied, "Absolutely."

"I've spent a lot of time with him," Tressel said. "I've probably spent more time with him than anybody else on our staff the last few weeks."

Tressel, himself, was working hard to interview strength coach can-

didates, meaning the new coach likely will fall back under the supervision of the head football coach. Kennedy's last OSU contract allowed him to answer to athletic director Andy Geiger.

Langworthy is in his 11th year at OSU, including the last four with the football program. Prior to that, he served seven years as the head strength coach for the men's basketball team under Randy Ayers.

A native of Miami, Langworthy earned bachelor's degrees in pre-law from Indiana in 1983 and in exercise science from Florida State in 1989. He served three years as an assistant strength coach at FSU.

According to reports, Tressel has interviewed at least one other coach for the position — Michigan State strength coach Ken Mannie.

Mannie has served as the MSU football strength coach for the last six seasons. A native of Steubenville, Ohio, Mannie played college football at Alton.

Mannie worked alongside Tressel at OSU, where Mannie was a graduate assistant in 1984 as he finished his master's degree in health, physical education and recreation. He also spent nine seasons as the strength coach at Toledo prior to arriving at MSU.

Mannie has authored nearly 70 articles on athletics, conditioning and anabolic drug abuse. He is the host of "Roid Roulette: A Dangerous Game," an NCAA-recommended educational video on the hazards of steroid use.

As for Kennedy, he is still looking into his options and has not yet made plans to leave central Ohio.

"He's doing great," said Langworthy, who has stayed in touch. "He's happy. He's enjoying life. I think he's really enjoying spending time with his family right now."

— Steve Hohwagen and Jeff Rapp



Dave Langworthy



Ken Mannie

OHIO STATE FOOTBALL PROFILES

Talented Duo Duels At Defensive Tackle

Thompson Puts Past Setbacks Behind Him During Big Spring

By STEVE HELWAGEN
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

After all the starts and stops in his OSU football career, defensive tackle David Thompson was hard to get stopped during spring football.

The 6-5, 280-pound Thompson made sure the coaching staff would go into the long, hot summer with a good impression of him by notching a combined five sacks in the team's last two scrimmages.

Those two scrimmages were a fitting end to a spring that saw Thompson finally put himself into position for playing time after a star-crossed three years at Ohio State.

Jim Heacock, Thompson's position coach on the defensive line, definitely took notice.

"He's just active," Heacock said. "It's mainly effort. He's giving great effort, a good second effort sometimes. He's got his motor running, trying to do what we want him to do. He's playing low and using his hands. He's taking coaching and trying to get better."

Thompson had a nice spring showing a year ago. But the Paterson, N.J., product was then sidetracked by academic problems that cost him his sophomore season.

"This has been on my mind for a very long time," Thompson said. "Unfortunately, I wasn't able to compete last season. But I took care of all my business off the field and got everything squared away. I'm ready to play football right now."

According to Thompson, just one poor grade in one class cost him a chance to play last season.

"I was only off by that much," Thompson said, holding two fingers close together. "It's a long story. It was a miscommunication between me and one of my professors. There was nothing else I could do about it. I tried my best to (be eligible), but I let that stop me."

"I came back (winter) quarter and hit the books really hard and did very good. Now I'm back."

Without the daily grind of football practice last fall, Thompson said he buckled down on his academics and worked hard on his own to stay in shape.

"I was out here at the weight room, doing everything I had to do to stay in shape and get back," Thompson said. "I knew I had to prepare myself for winter conditioning."

"When winter conditioning started, I knew that was my time and I had to get it done."

Thompson was recruited to OSU in 1998 but redshirted that season. He then played only sparingly in five games as a redshirt freshman. He was primed to back up starting tackle Ryan Pickett last year before his grade problems cropped up.

But where Thompson could have fallen through the cracks, he earned respect for sticking with the program,



STEVE HELWAGEN

SERVING NOTICE — After losing last season to academic woes, defensive tackle David Thompson, chatting here with assistant coach Jim Heacock, posted a strong spring.

paying his own way and regaining his eligibility.

"He was out last year with academic problems," Heacock said. "He fought through those things and paid his own way. He's had some adversity. I think he learned a valuable lesson. He's working really hard."

"The nice thing about David is he's gotten a little bit better each day. He's worked his way into a place where we think he is close to being ready to play for us."

Back in the fold, Thompson took advantage of the chance to make his mark this spring.

"This is my best spring so far, but I think I was really competing hard last summer and in fall camp," Thompson said. "I was getting ready for the season. Unfortunately, I didn't get to play."

"I think I really competed well this spring to try and get a starting position and help the team."

As spring practice ended, it appeared that sophomore Tim Anderson had nosed out Thompson for the starting nod at tackle alongside three-year starter Mike Collins. That decision could be due, more than anything, to the fact that the coaches know Thompson must continue to produce in the classroom to maintain his eligibility for the fall.

"I think those guys are real close right now," Heacock said. "Mike (Collins) is probably a little bit ahead of them. But those two guys are really competing. David is still a little behind, but he's making progress."

"David just needs to have a great off-season and work hard on his conditioning."

Thompson said the competition with Anderson makes him work even harder.

"If I see him stepping his game up, I know I have to compete harder and step my game up," he said. "That competition, I think, is helping both of us. The better the defense, the better the team as a whole."

Anderson Makes Bid To Follow Pickett As Starter

By RICH LEONARDO
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

The adage that every time a door closes for one person it opens for another appears to hold true, especially where the defensive line of the Ohio State Buckeyes is concerned.

When stalwart defensive tackle Ryan Pickett opted to leave the Buckeyes early for the fame and fortune of the NFL, he left what appeared to be a major void for the team to fill.

By the conclusion of spring practice, though, sophomore Tim Anderson had stepped forward in an effort to fill Pickett's shoes and the vacancy on the defensive line.

"When Ryan declared for the NFL draft, I knew that I'd have an opportunity to really show what I could do," Anderson said. "In the past, with Ryan and Mike (Collins) in there, it was tough to get a lot of playing time and consequently gain much experience because both those guys are such great players."

As impressive as Pickett and Collins have been, Anderson's pedigree is equally solid. Anderson came to Ohio State following a stellar prep career at Clyde (Ohio) High School, where as a senior he recorded 59 tackles and seven sacks. He was honored as a first-team all-state selection, a USA Today Honorable Mention All-American and one of the top 100 prospects in the nation by The National Recruiting Advisor.

"Tim's a tough competitor and when you put him in a competitive situation, he usually steps up his performance and really comes through strong," OSU defensive line coach Jim Heacock said. "We have a lot of good battles going on within the defensive line and Tim has done more than hold his own."

For the 6-3, 289-pound Anderson, battling for a starting position is something he both understands and is more than ready to participate in.

"While Ryan going on to the NFL definitely opened the door for me, it didn't guarantee me a thing," said Anderson, who appeared to edge out David Thompson for the starting nod by the end of spring practice. "I still have to go out and battle hard every day because we have a lot of talented players on this team who are all very capable and ready to make the most of any chance they might get."

Prior to this spring, Anderson's chances to play were somewhat few and far between. Last season while seeing limited playing time, Anderson totaled six tackles and two sacks.

The drastic difference between Anderson's performance last season and his efforts this spring is a testament to his hard work and dedication.

"Since the end of last season, I've done a lot of work on my own to better prepare myself for this year,"

Anderson said. "I've lifted diligently, I've worked on my hand and foot speed and just overall worked incredibly hard. I have no problem with doing that because that's what it takes to be successful at this level."

Anderson's nose-to-the-grindstone work ethic certainly has not gone unnoticed by his coaches.

"Tim is so much better now than he was a year ago that it doesn't surprise me that he's running with the starters right now," Heacock said. "Tim's a self-made man and what I mean by that is that the effort he gives every day is relentless."

"Tim Anderson has improved 100 percent and he'd be playing some this year whether Ryan Pickett had left or not. Tim's in there because he's earned the playing time, not due to default."

Under new coach Jim Tressel's regime, players who earn their playing time appear to be the rule rather than the exception.

"Under Coach Tressel there's no place for anyone who thinks they're going to go half-speed at anything at anytime," Anderson said. "A lot of our practices include live scrimmages, which is really a lot of fun but can also expose someone's weakness or shine a light on a player looking to break out of the pack."

To say that Anderson had a breakout spring would be quite the understatement. The team began spring practice not knowing how they would replace Pickett and ended it with the defensive tackle position being one of the strengths of the defense.

"Things went pretty well this spring," Anderson said. "I worked very hard in practice and while I did accomplish some good things, I still have a lot of room for improvement."

As Anderson improves, it would seem that so, too, will the entire Buckeye defensive unit.

"We are striving to be the top defense in the country," Anderson said. "Hopefully we can come together as a unit, work hard and have some fun."



STEVE HELWAGEN

VOID FILLED? — Sophomore defensive tackle Tim Anderson is hoping to take over for the departed Ryan Pickett.

OHIO STADIUM RENOVATION

Despite Rain, Stadium Project Still On Course

By DARRELL DAWSON
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

Though parts of the Ohio Stadium renovation project were still able to be worked on in late May despite the seemingly constant downpours in the Columbus area, Mike Dolan expressed the same sentiment as Jack Nicklaus and Big Ten baseball coaches have recently: Enough's enough with the wet stuff.

"It's not a game stopper in terms of getting the project completed," said Dolan, the assistant athletic director for facilities, "but it has hampered some of the outside concrete work and outside coating on decks.

"But we're still within the scope of time for completion."

With just over two months to go until the beginning of the 2001 football season, there is still plenty to be done with the imposing new press box/suite level on the Horseshoe's west side.

"The level of suites are under construction and we're working on the interior of the press box itself," Dolan said. "At this moment, we want to get the roof on so we can get it weather-tight so we can finish it for this season.

"We're just waiting for the right conditions. It's a big building, so we'd like to have one-third of it weather-tight by June 15, then by the middle of July 100 percent so it can be completed."

Aside from that large structure, a glance at the new club level of seats is sure to be striking because it's totally different from anything seen inside the stadium before.

Also on the west side, the club section will consist of about 2,600 vibrant red chair seats — believed to be a first for the 'Shoe. That premium area of seating will stretch between the 35-yard lines.

"It's its own element; it's a block of massive red," Dolan said. "It's very strong, but it's such a beautiful red, it looks neat."

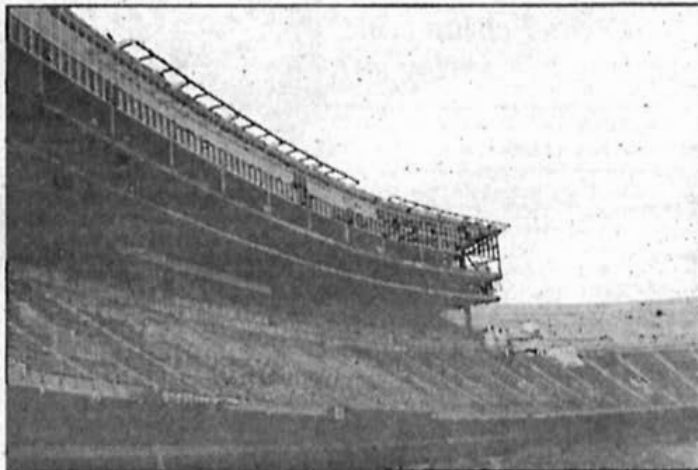
Perhaps less glamorously, work has also been done on the bowl's concrete itself. The decks have been checked out for any major problems and were repaired and restored. All that's left to be done is the coating, which was slowed by rain. Then the installation of the new bench seats — which has already begun in some areas — will be completed.

On June 1, stadium project personnel were busy "sounding" the concrete that makes up the beloved north archway. Anything that is not solid will be removed and replaced.

"What I'm saying at the moment is it's not extreme, but there are areas that need to be addressed," Dolan said. "They're being taken care of."

Much like last summer around this time, when the east-side phase of the project was in full force, the west-side concourses are being tended to so that everyone has somewhere to walk during half-times this fall. In addition to restrooms and concession areas on each level, work on the A-level ticket office and B-level stadium club is also going on.

Completion of the B-Deck luxury boxes, also along the west side, is within sight. The drywall has been finished and the



Photos by DARRELL DAWSON

COMING ALONG — A look at Ohio Stadium at the beginning of June shows the progress made with the lengthy renovation process. Above, work is still being done on the press box and suites, as well as on concrete restoration. Below is an exterior look at the southwest corner of the Horseshoe.

woodwork has been installed. All that's left is about 20 percent of the work, such as putting fixtures in the ceiling and other comparatively minor tasks.

The landscape outside the stadium is beginning to take shape. Tree planters, on which people can sit and relax for a spell, will go all around the complex, as will the commemorative bricks that corporations and individuals sponsor for placement along the stadium.

Dolan said some of the 8-by-8-inch bricks available to the public already have been engraved and put in along the east side, as have some of the more expensive 12-by-12 alabs. Sometime during the first week of June, the big-ticket 24-by-24 blocks of granite are scheduled to be placed up front by the rotunda.

"The color of the brick and the green of the trees makes it subtle," Dolan said. "It's a very comfortable area to be in."

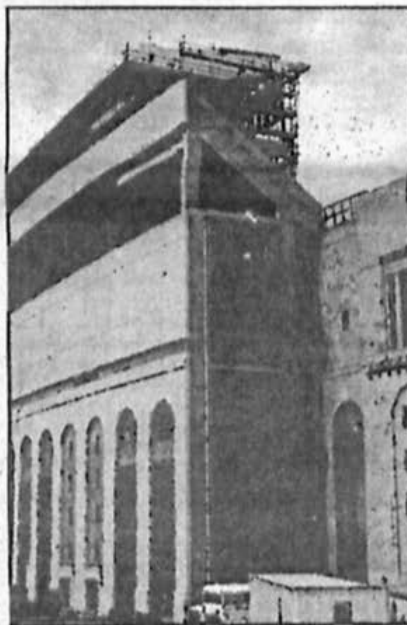
Bricks are still available. The consumer-level 8-by-8s (\$500 each) and 4-by-8s (\$150 each) are currently available by calling (866) 4-A-BRICK. The money raised will go to support OSU student-athlete programs. The amount spent on bricks is fully tax-deductible.

On the 8-by-8 bricks, purchasers are allowed six lines of 15 characters (including spaces), while 4-by-8 bricks are cut to three lines of 15 characters. You can also buy replicas of either size for \$50 each to put in your den, bathroom or car.

Another interesting development regarding the stadium's internal aesthetics came about as BSB went to press.

Tom Hof, OSU associate athletic director for development, told BSB that Motorists Insurance will pay \$2 million to cover three 13-by-20-foot rectangular pieces of stained glass art that will be placed inside the north rotunda.

The center panel will feature a Block-O and the two others will portray offensive and defensive plays. They are being designed by an agency out of Powell, Ohio, and should be completed in time for kickoff. The artwork, when illuminated, will be vis-



ible from St. John Arena.

"Originally in the stadium, those (spaces) held some regular glass," Hof said. "But no one really knows how long ago that glass was taken out."

"They're (going to be) very striking, really a dream piece of art."

While sales are going strong, the installation of the club seats themselves produced an extra 150 seats that are now available. Hof said there are between 400 and 500 remaining, as of June 4.

"We've had a great deal of interest and inquiries based on ads that we've run in the Dispatch and the (Cleveland) Plain Dealer and a lot of the interest came from outside of central Ohio," Hof said. "That's what we expected because people outside of Columbus aren't as aware of the program."

Club seat inquiries may be directed to Bill Jones, the director of club services, at (614) 688-5842.

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COVER STORY: ZWICK COMMITS TO OSU

Zwick By The Numbers

Here is a look at Justin Zwick's statistics from his junior season at Massillon (Ohio) Washington, his statistics from his first three seasons as a high school quarterback and how he rates all-time in the annals of Ohio high school passers.

Date	Opponent	Score	PASSING					RUSHING		
			Cmp.	Att.	Yds.	TD	INT	Att.	Yds.	TD
Aug. 25	Akron Buchtel	W, 40-7	18	32	187	5	0	2	(-7)	0
Sept. 1	Lima Senior	W, 67-35	19	31	402	3	0	3	(-16)	0
Sept. 8	Akron Garfield	W, 51-26	29	43	375	2	2	4	5	0
Sept. 15	Mansfield Senior	W, 27-7	17	27	132	3	2	0	0	0
Sept. 22	at Austintown Fitch	W, 21-9	12	27	142	2	0	2	(-7)	0
Sept. 29	Cleveland St. Ignatius	L, 36-21	27	60	360	3	1	5	(-31)	0
Oct. 7	Massillon Perry*	L, 31-17	19	38	222	2	2	1	3	0
Oct. 13	Fremont Ross	W, 35-0	13	24	178	2	0	2	5	1
Oct. 20	at Lakewood St. Edward	W, 28-27	16	29	248	1	0	3	61	0
Oct. 28	Canton McKinley	W, 13-9	13	18	100	0	1	6	25	0
Nov. 4	Marion Harding#	L, 17-13	8	17	114	0	1	3	56	1
Season Totals (8-3 record)			191	346	2,460	23	9	31	94	2

*At Canton's Fawcett Stadium; # Division I regional quarterfinals at Massillon.

Year	School	ZWICK'S HIGH SCHOOL CAREER PASSING STATISTICS								
		Record	Cmp.	Att.	Pct.	Yds.	TD	INT	Playoffs	
1998	Orrville	13-1	135	269	502	2,202	20	17	Div. IV champs	
1999	Orrville	11-3	165	327	505	2,557	29	13	Div. III semifinalist	
2000	Massillon Washington	8-3	191	346	552	2,460	23	9	Div. I qualifier	
Career Totals		32-7	491	942	621	7,219	72	39	7-2 playoff rec.	

Player	School(s)	OHIO'S HIGH SCHOOL CAREER PASSING LEADERS#	
		Years	Yards
Justin Zwick*	Orrville, Massillon Washington	1998-2000	7,219
Britton Crates	Kenton	1990-92	7,190
Scott McMullen	Granville	1995-98	7,027
Jose Davis	Bellaire	1993-95	6,769
Chris Wallace	Springfield North, Springfield South	1990-93	6,724
Tyler Dysert	Celina	1996-98	5,974
Nathan Poole	Grove City	1997-99	5,849
Ben McDaniels	Canton McKinley	1995-98	5,830
Darlan Miskewycz	Brunswick	1992-95	5,734
Ben Mauk*	Kenton	2000-01	5,636
Nathan Keller	Tiffin Calvert	1996-99	5,624
Ty Masciarelli	Bellaire	1995-97	5,603
Greg Neuendorf	Sylvania Southview	1996-98	5,505

*Underclassmen (Zwick will be a senior this fall, while Mauk will be a junior).
#Source: Doug Huff, National High School Football Record Book.

The Massillon Ties That Bind

In examining Ohio State's recruitment of standout Massillon (Ohio) Washington quarterback Justin Zwick, it was hard to ignore the various ties and relationships at work.

For starters, there is the pipeline between Ohio State and the storied Massillon program, which trails only Valdosta, Ga., as the country's all-time winningest prep football team. There were also strong connections between newly hired OSU coach Jim Tressel and Zwick's brother, Jared, and his high school coach, Rick Shepas, who each played for Tressel at Youngstown State.

When Zwick enrolls at OSU in September 2002, he will be the first Buckeye recruit from Massillon Washington since tailback Travis McGuire signed with the Buckeyes in 1992. McGuire's Massillon coach, Lee Owens, became an OSU assistant that same season before moving on to Akron as the head coach in 1995.

Other pieces of the OSU-Massillon connection include:

- The legendary Paul Brown, who left his alma mater once to first attend OSU and then again in 1941 to become the head football coach of the Buckeyes.
- Former OSU head coach Earle Bruce, who led the Tigers to a 20-0 record in 1964-65 before Woody Hayes hired him as an assistant with the Buckeyes.
- Linebacker Chris Spielman, who became a national schoolboy legend for the Tigers in the early 1980s before becoming an All-American and Lombardi Award winner at OSU.
- Even Tressel, himself, lived a short while in Massillon as a youngster while his dad, Lee, coached there. Lee Tressel compiled a record of 16-3 while the head coach at Massillon from 1956-57.

"We are very fortunate here at Massillon to have the opportunity to be a part of this process," Shepas said at the May 30 press conference where Zwick announced his choice.

"An experience like this hasn't taken place in Massillon in probably some 17 or 18 years. Obviously you would remember Chris Spielman who played for the Tigers and had a great career here and ended up having a great career in college and in the pros."

In fact, Bruce and Spielman each had a chance to meet Zwick at OSU's Scarlet and Gray Game. But Zwick said he never felt pressure to follow in anybody's footsteps.

"It wasn't too bad actually," Zwick said. "I talked with Chris Spielman a couple of times I was down at Ohio State for practices or what-not."

Tressel inherited Shepas, who played for the Penguins from 1983-86. The two have reportedly remained close and Tressel has followed Shepas' career as he moved from Poland (Ohio) Seminary to Seneca Valley, Pa., and on to Massillon three years ago.

"I just talked about the relationship that Justin will have for the rest of his life with a guy like Jim Tressel," Shepas said. "He won't have a relationship that's just an on-the-field relationship. Jim Tressel will be a part of his life forever."



GARY HOUSTEAU

PLAYERS OF JT'S PAST AND FUTURE — Ohio State head football coach Jim Tressel (right) speaks with Justin Zwick (center) and Zwick's brother, Jared, at the OSU spring game this past April. Jared Zwick played for Tressel at Youngstown State.

And, of course, Zwick's brother, Jared, played quarterback and receiver for Tressel at YSU from 1996-99.

"That helped me a lot," Justin Zwick said. "My brother was always throwing and he was always dragging me outside to catch his balls. I was always throwing them back. Ever since I could throw the football, I was doing it with my brother."

"Even when he was at Youngstown I was always over there working out with him. I got to know Coach Tressel through that, too."

Jared Zwick believes his brother will be in good hands.

"Having Coach Tressel be a guy that's running around the field, he's doing drills with the quarterbacks, he's intimately involved with the offensive game plan and the development of the quarterbacks," Jared Zwick said. "There's probably not a better situation."

Jared Zwick's advice for his brother: "Be focused, work hard, do what the head man says and things will work out."

It will help as well that Jared Zwick is in dental school at OSU after graduating from YSU in four years with a 3.75 GPA. Justin Zwick said his brother can expect to see him show up on his doorstep.

"How my family is going to be involved with me is another reason why I chose OSU," Justin Zwick said. "My brother is going to be right around the corner if I ever need anything. I can call him up and go out and get dinner or something."

"My family will be able to drive down, an hour-and-a-half shot down to Columbus to catch games, whatever. If I'm going through a rough time or something, I can call them up and they will be there."

— Gary HoustEAU and Steve Helwagen

ability to recruit at this level, he is answering them."

A Strong Three Seasons

Zwick initially burst on the Ohio prep scene as a freshman, when he stepped in for an injured starter and led Orrville to a 13-1 mark and the Division IV state championship.

"I've kind of grown up with it ever since my freshman year," Zwick said. "I started as a freshman at Orrville so I've kind of been having pressure on me ever since then and it's just gotten more intense through the years. So I've kind of gotten accustomed to it. It's something that you don't really worry about. You just go out and do what you have to do."

He became a part of Ohio prep legend in the title game, where he led the Red Riders on a 70-yard scoring march in 56 seconds. The touchdown came on a 31-yard pass to Michael Robinson with 30 seconds left to cap a 23-21 win over Coldwater and give Orrville its first state football playoff title.

"That's something that I'm never going to forget my whole life," Zwick said. "My freshman year getting the chance to play quarterback for Orrville and going to the state. I'm always going to remember that and I'm always going to remember the relationships I had in Orrville. Those are things I'm never going to forget, no matter where I am."

A year later, Zwick threw for 2,557 yards and 29 touchdowns against 13 interceptions to lead Orrville to an 11-3 mark and a berth in the Division III state semifinals.

The following spring, though, word began to circulate that Zwick would pursue a transfer to the Massillon district. His father, Bill, accepted a job as the assistant superintendent at the Massillon district, and Justin decided the commute of 15 minutes each way would be worth it to play at

the Division I level.

"It was a tough decision to make, but I think that in the long run it was going to help me out more," Zwick said. "I wanted to erase any doubt there was that I could play college football. I had a great run at Orrville. Coach Mac (Bill McMillan) gave me the chance to start as a freshman and play."

"I wanted to come over here and test myself. A lot of people would say I wouldn't be able to play D-1 high school football and compete with the guys in big atmospheres. I think this has helped me prepare for college."

Zwick still lives in Orrville but said the transfer has had an impact on his personal life.

"To tell you the truth, my friends don't talk to me anymore," he said. "I have a few select people that talk to me every now and then but most of them, the guys I played football with, they really don't talk to me that much anymore."

Orrville's loss was Massillon's gain as the Tigers went 8-3 and qualified for the Division I playoffs. Zwick threw for 2,460 yards and 23 touchdowns against nine interceptions.

"Obviously, we were very excited to have a quarterback of that caliber," Shepas said. "You want to make sure you do all the right things for a kid in that situation just like you'd do for any other. I just looked at it as a situation as where he would have been recruited coming out of Orrville for sure, but he's a no-doubt recruit with the competition that we play here. He became a national recruit by coming here."

During the regular season, Massillon faced four Division I playoff qualifiers and one that made the Division II tournament.

"After coming here last year, they've really accepted me well," Zwick said. "Coach

Shepas has been working real hard on the things I need to do to be better.

"There's been a lot of learning going on. The offense we have here at Massillon is very complex. We have so many different routes, so many different formations, we had to work so hard over the summer."

A Date With Destiny?

According to the National High School Football Record Book, just 11 high school quarterbacks have eclipsed the magical 10,000-yard mark in U.S. prep history. With a big senior season, Zwick can put his name alongside the likes of J.R. House, Brock Berlin and Tim Couch as one of the game's all-time most prolific passers.

"He will have the opportunity to be one of the more special quarterbacks that ever

played in the state of Ohio," Shepas said.

"Justin has evolved and developed into the top quarterback in the Midwest. As coaches kept watching him, they started to say, 'We better go out and get this guy.'"

"I think Coach Tressel felt the same way, but Coach Tressel kind of handles the recruiting process a little bit differently. He wants individuals to want to be where he is."

Shepas believes Zwick's biggest days are in front of him.

"I think he can improve greatly," the coach said. "He's yet to experience some of the defenses that he's going to see."

"He comes from a very solid family and I can't help but understand the reason why he has been so successful. He's blessed with outstanding talent."

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COVER STORY: OSU OUSTED FROM NCAA TOURNAMENT

Despite Early Exit, OSU Wasn't An Afterthought

Continued From Page 1

said was never a problem with his team.

That's why the Buckeyes exiting in the fashion they did hurt so much.

"We didn't make the plays when we needed to," Todd said of his squad, which closed the season with a 43-18 record, shortly after his team's exit. "It came down to doing the little things during the course of the game, and we didn't do them."

Todd cautioned, however, that this season should not be looked at as a disappointment.

With a retooled outfield and some questions about generating power, the Buckeyes were believed to be an afterthought in this year's Big Ten race. One preseason publication even tabbed OSU fifth in the conference.

Though that may have been realistic, it served as a motivator for the players, who put in extra time and sweat in the off-season.

"We were not chosen to do much of anything, and that was probably realistic," Todd said. "We had so many young players who hadn't been tested that it was hard for people to get a gauge on how well we might do. Our freshmen matured and our veterans provided solid leadership."

The 43 victories were the sixth most in school history and the most since the 1993 team won 44. The fact that OSU won 12 of 16 down the stretch in the regular season to claim the Big Ten championship was almost satisfying enough to salve the wound of being ousted from the regional.

But Todd said the Buckeyes had opportunities and simply didn't capitalize.

"We had been good most of the season in taking care of the little details, and we didn't do that for about the last three weeks," he said. "Our pitching wasn't as good as it had been and we continued to leave runners on base. At some point that catches up with you, and it did in this tournament. People are going to remember the last thing you did. That's the nature of the beast."

"In my mind, though, we had a very good season."

While Todd expressed disappointment at the final destination, the journey seemed rewarding.

"We could not have asked any more of our players this season," Todd said. "They worked hard and listened to us, and we were on the right end of things more often than not. Everyone matured and began believing in themselves, and that's what you need sometimes. We didn't have a lot of proven talent, so finding that chemistry went a long way for us."

The Buckeyes looked finished on a number of occasions, sitting in third place as late as the middle of April, but things turned around for the better following a four-game home sweep of then league-leading Minnesota April 28-30.

That series as much as anything gave Ohio State the confidence it needed to break the tape in first place at season's end.

"That was a really big weekend for us," Todd said. "We had split a couple of series and had won three of four other times. But to sweep a team like Minnesota, which was picked to be either first or second, really said a lot about what kind of team we had."

OSU got great efforts this season from a host of players, including record setters

Mike Harris and Nick Swisher. Harris set the school single-season mark for stolen bases with 35 while Swisher established a school and Big Ten standard for walks in a season with 60.

Swisher, who batted .322 and clubbed 15 homers, will be back next year, but he's the only member of the starting infield who can say that. Gone are Harris, Trent McIlvain and John Mayor, as well as Mike Check, who began the year in center field but moved to second late in the season.

Big Ten Freshman of the Year Doug Deeds will return in the outfield and should ease some of the pain after blasting 14 homers and knocking in 55 runners. Freshman pitcher Josh Newman was strong, finishing 8-3 with a 3.50 ERA, tops among OSU starters, and getting better as the year went on.

Also departing are pitchers Kevin Goodrum and Cory Cox, but the Buckeyes have enough young arms from a staff that put up a collective 4.04 ERA to have minimal worries there.

Todd has established himself as the premier coach in the Big Ten since coming to Ohio State in 1987, with this year's title being the seventh under his watch.

The Buckeyes hung with Nebraska in the season opener (a 10-5 loss) and defeated Stetson, a 2001 NCAA participant, in a Florida tournament.

But they also lost nonleague games to Eastern Michigan and Akron, showing just how schizophrenic the whole assimilation process can be for young players.

While questions about this year's team were many, there seems to be little doubt about future editions of the team.

"This is probably the best class Coach Todd has brought in here," McIlvain said. "They came in and from day one they listened to what we said and wanted to go out and help us win games. You don't always see that with freshmen, but this group was great."

Mayor echoed McIlvain's sentiments and believes there will be more championships in OSU's future.

"It was great to work with these guys," Mayor said. "Sometimes you feel like a father figure to them, but they were the ones who went out and did the job. I know I'll enjoy coming back here in two or three years and watching these guys grow up and play some more baseball."

Ohio State has not been to the College World Series since 1967, a string of 34 years. Though Todd has done his part in making the Buckeyes a benchmark organization for the Midwest (along with Notre Dame), one of these days the team will have to break through if he is to truly get full credit for establishing a "program."

Todd knows this, and that's why the work for next year has already started.

"We want to win as badly as anyone, but sometimes the breaks aren't there," he said. "Our goal is to always win the Big Ten — that's first. We also want to beat the Ohio teams we play, and we want to host a regional if at all possible."

"We've done that twice, and last time we came within a game of making it to Omaha. So it can be done. We've got a lot of kids who feel, despite the preseason predictions, that we didn't have a great year. That's a good thing to see in a year when you win over 40 games. That tells me they're going to do what they can to be even better next season."

THE MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT

Ex-Buckeye Stars Early, But Tiger Roars Again

By JEFF RAPP

Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

As only seems fitting in the PGA tournament founded and hosted by the great Jack Nicklaus, several Buckeyes have had their moments in the 26-year incarnation of The Memorial.

Guys like Chris Perry, Ted Tryba and Joey Sindelar who are not normally media darlings have attracted throngs of reporters after stellar early rounds at the Muirfield Village Golf Club, located on the outskirts of Dublin, Ohio.

This year it was Chris Smith's turn.

Who?

Chris Smith, a forgotten son who starred at OSU from 1988-91 but has struggled to stay on tour, followed up a solid spring with some outstanding golf at Muirfield May 31-June 3. Or at least the first two days.

Teeing off in his first Memorial and in the first group on Thursday, Smith zipped through the course in a 6-under-par 66 and owned a share of the lead with Scott Verplank. The following day, he overcame bogeys on the first two holes to shoot 71 and remained just two shots off the pace set by Paul Azinger.

Several players began to take notice of Smith, including Nicklaus.

"That young man has an awful lot of talent," Nicklaus said. "I watched him play alongside (son) Gary in college. I thought he would get here sooner, but I think it's great."

"For me, this is almost a major," Smith said after day one. "I was looking forward to playing the tournament someday, and to be able to do it this year is really neat. It's like teeing off in the U.S. Open."

The next day he added, "I'm having fun. Hopefully I'll hit the ball the same way tomorrow and figure these greens out."

Smith was so enthusiastic that after answering dozens of questions on Friday he uttered the ultimate no-no phrase in sports: "I'm just happy to be here."

Oops.

Sure enough, the slippery Muirfield turf came out from under Smith's feet on the weekend. He finished 81-76 and fell way off the leaderboard at 6-over-par 294.

While Smith and others fell by the wayside, Tiger Woods promanaded to the victory circle for the third straight year.

The 32-year-old Smith, did, however, pocket \$9,225. That left him just shy of \$700,000 in earnings this season, in which his best finish was a tie for third at the BellSouth Classic.

He also enjoyed one of his best experiences in golf, this from a guy who was a four-year All-Big Ten selection and ripped a 427-yard drive in the 1999 Honda Classic.

"There's nothing negative that could come out of this week," he said.

Jack-Built, Tiger-Owned

Woods once again was nothing short of remarkable in victory. He blistered the already rain-worn course with a 66 on Sunday and won by a record seven shots with a 271 (17-under). As if everyone else was shell-shocked by his final-day charge, no other golfer in contention broke 70.

Woods took the trophy from Nicklaus for the third straight time, marking the first time someone had three-peated in a PGA event since Tom Watson won the Byron Nelson in 1978, '79 and '80.

"He's a living legend," former Buckeye John Cook said of Woods.

Clearly Woods was born to play the course Nicklaus designed. In his last three years at Muirfield (216 holes), Woods has played it in 51-under. This year alone he was 14 shots under par on the par fives. His 66 tied the best fourth-round score by a champion at The Memorial.

Azinger started the final round one stroke ahead of Woods and birdied the first hole, but the tide turned at the par-5 fifth hole as Azinger suffered a bogey and Woods carded an eagle 3 after hitting a 249-yard approach to within 6 feet with a 2-iron.

Azinger, who earlier in the week gave a tender speech in memory of honoree Payne Stewart, raised eyebrows with a first-round 68 and went into the clubhouse with the second- and third-round leads, causing many in the galleries to back his every move.

While he insisted he wasn't playing for the ghost of his buddy, something magical appeared to be in the air for Azinger, who has not reached a top-10 level since overcoming lymphoma in his shoulder several years ago. Then Woods kicked it in gear.

"He's a phenom," Azinger said of Woods. "I apologized to him that I didn't play better for him."

Other Buckeyes Have Ups, Downs

Cook and Gary Nicklaus joined Smith as Buckeyes who made the cut. Cook, who received a special sponsor's exemption to make the field, was a steady 285 for 3-under. He won \$47,765.

"I wasn't high enough on either money list to get in, so they gave me a spot," Cook said. "That was nice of them to do that, but then the pressure is on to play good. I'm glad I was able to do that. I don't know how many of these I have left."

The younger Nicklaus one-upped Cook with a birdie on the final hole and finished 4-under, good for \$65,600 and a top-20 finish. "Little Bear" shot consecutive 72s in the first two rounds and 70-70 on the weekend.

Father Jack missed the cut by one stroke with a 4-over-par, two-round total of 148. Perry had no fun at all. Bothered by tendinitis in his left knee for weeks, Perry shot 9-over (153) on his first two rounds. His second round included a quadruple-bogey 9 on No. 15.

"I wasn't going to withdraw," said Perry, admitting he was in pain while walking the course.

Tourney Notes

- The ceremony for 2001 honoree Stewart was filled with many lighthearted remembrances and a few tears. His widow, Tracey, received a standing ovation after addressing the gathering, which appeared to be even larger than the one for Jack Nicklaus last year.

- Stewart and five others died aboard a charter plane that lost cabin pressure and crashed in North Dakota on Oct. 25, 1999, just four months after the flamboyant Stewart won his second U.S. Open title.

- Azinger was a natural to speak at the ceremony. The two were very close friends and finished 1-2 at the 1993 Memorial. Azinger stole that victory from Stewart by holing a bunker shot on the 72nd hole, a chip he called "the most dramatic moment of my career."

- "I proceeded to my locker after that and found a banana stuffed way up in the tippy-toes of my shoes," Azinger said, eliciting laughter from the crowd. "But if you remember, he did go into that press room over there and held his head high."

- Kathy Whitworth, the all-time victo-



Photos by STEVE HELWAGEN

BUCKEYES ABOUND — Among the former Ohio State golfers playing at former Ohio State golfer Jack Nicklaus' Memorial Tournament were Chris Smith (above left, at right) and John Cook (above right). Standing with Smith is his caddie, Matt Minister, who also played for the Buckeyes.

ry leader in the history of the LPGA, and the late Bobby Locke have been announced as next year's co-honorees.

- Rain once again took a toll on the premises as several fans needed to be towed from muddy parking spots and play was delayed repeatedly. The leaders, in fact, had to finish up several holes from their third round on Sunday before heading back to No. 1 for the final round.

- When asked if there was a better time to stage the tournament and avoid all the inclement weather, Jack Nicklaus bristled. "We're (in) the week we should be, the first week in June. Call it luck or unluck, but we just seem to get rain for the Memorial Tournament. We've had a drought all year and now it's rained for two weeks and hasn't stopped."

- The tournament, however, will shift back to a week earlier next year — May 23-26.

- Among the many noteworthy shots throughout the tournament was Hal Sutton's first-round ace of No. 12, generally one of the toughest holes on the course. A former champion (1986), Sutton fired a 71 on the day.

- Another old favorite, two-time winner (1990, '95) Greg Norman, didn't have as much success. Just days after it was announced he was voted to the World Golf Hall of Fame, Norman shot an opening-round 82 and never came close to the cut.

- With the OSU men's golf team out of the running for the NCAA title, longtime coach Jim Brown was able to attend The Memorial and encourage some of his former players.

- "I saw Coach Brown earlier today," Cook said June 1. "I think he can hold his head high. He has had some good teams and he did a good job with us. I think he's going to be able to turn that program around."

- Smith said he talks regularly with Brown.

- "He encourages me all the time," he said.

- Former OSU golfer Matt Minister (1995-96) served as Smith's caddie for the tournament.

- Organizers of the Jack Nicklaus Museum hosted a reception for the media the night before the tournament began in an attempt to spread the word about the project. The museum, located on OSU

property just north of the Schottenstein Center on Olentangy River Road, is expected to be open in the fall.

- BSB will have more on this project in an upcoming edition.

- Minnesota head football coach Glen Mason attended the tournament to watch second-round action and to catch up with some old friends. He also stopped by the WBNS-AM (1460) on-site booth to chat on the air with Kirk Herbstreit.

- Mason is a former Buckeye who admitted disappointment when he was not hired as OSU's new football coach in January.

Quotable

- Cook on Smith leading after his first round ever at The Memorial — "I didn't think that was quite fair. This was his first trip around here and this is my 21st."

- Jack Nicklaus on the current state of his old college course, OSU Scarlet — "You go over there today and guys tell me it's just embarrassing to go play it. What they don't understand is that they've got one of the great jewels in the country. They've got a wonderful golf course at the Scarlet. All they've got to do is take care of it. They just don't take care of it."

- "What they ought to do is go to all the alumni of Ohio State, people who play the game, and say, 'OK, people, you know this is what it is.' Create a fund for it. I'd be happy to donate to that. I'm sure that (Tom) Weiskopf would, Joey Sindelar, Cook, Gary, all the guys would because they'd love to see the Scarlet get the reputation it should have."

- Azinger on his good friend Stewart during the pre-tournament ceremony — "I can't tell you how many people have come up to me and told me Payne Stewart was their favorite golfer. I don't believe any of us realize the magnitude or how far-reaching Payne Stewart was on and off the course."

- "If you're going to wear knickers and you're going to have that look, you had to have some game to back that up, and he did. He was willing to pay the price to be great."

- Nicklaus, who choked up during the ceremony, on Stewart — "He loved life and lived every minute of it. That's all you can ask."